



Body ID'd, suspect arrested

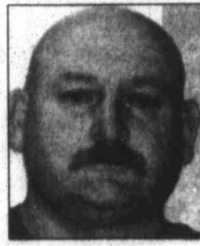
By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A Coahoma man was arrested late Thursday evening after admitting he killed an oilfield worker whose body was discovered in northern Howard County last week.

John Michael Hays, 50, was arrested at his home on Midway Road and charged with murder after investigators identified the body recovered from a ravine six

miles north of Coahoma Jan. 11. The victim, who was identified as 20-year-old Roland David Dickinson, had lived in the Big Spring area for less than six months, according to Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker.

"The victim moved to the Big Spring area within the last six months to work in the oilfield," said Walker. "His last known place of employment was with S&S Well Service. It was learned



Hays



Dickinson

the victim failed to pick up his paycheck, which was issued Dec. 29, and had not been heard from

since.

"Through a teamwork approach, investigators and deputies with the sheriff's office worked numerous hours and shared information to develop a suspect on the case. The suspect, who also worked for S&S Well Service, was interviewed late Thursday evening and he advised he had killed Dickinson

See **BODY**, Page 3A

Knockout postponed

The Rock the Desert battle of the bands known as The Knockout slated for Saturday evening at the Municipal Auditorium has been postponed due to weather issues. The show has been rescheduled for Saturday, Jan. 27. Contact show promoter Jim Koerber at 213-3232 for more information.

Laptop debate heats up

Some trustees and teachers wonder if plan is moving too fast

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

As the Big Spring Independent School District nears a decision on whether to purchase laptops for each high school student and teacher, some advocates of a "go slow" approach are beginning to be heard.

The district recently announced its desire to spend more than \$1 million to provide laptop computers for each high school student and teacher for the 2007-2008 school year. The major motivation behind the plan is several studies which show that students — particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds — benefit from access to technology based instruction.

While no trustee has announced outright opposition to the plan, some are wondering if it is proceeding too rapidly.

Noting that the laptop purchase would eat up approximately 20 percent of the district's reserve fund, Trustee Mike Dawson wondered during Thursday's board meet-

See **LAPTOPS**, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Col. Jim Little, U.S. Air Force retired, and local volunteer Jo Beth Corwin pose shortly after being named the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Man and Woman of the year.

Corwin, Little earn accolades at chamber fete

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Two Crossroads area standouts got the chance to shine Thursday night, as Col. Jim Little and Jo Beth Corwin were honored as the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce 2006 Man and Woman of the Year.

Corwin, who received the award for 2005 Woman of the Year Diane Wood, said the award simply left her "speechless."

"Anyone that watched the Golden Globes award will understand that I'm speechless. I have no speech," said Corwin with a grin, much to the amusement of the audience. "This is very humbling."

Corwin, who was described by Wood as a perfect example of volunteerism, has given of her time with the Big Spring

"It's a tremendous honor and I feel like I'm trying to fill a lot of really big shoes and follow in the footsteps of the many people who have been in this position before."

—Col. Jim Little

State Hospital, Howard County Fair and the Heritage Museum. She also volunteers her time with First United Methodist Church and the state hospital's Chalet.

"She is always saying, 'Yes, I'd love to do it,'" said Wood, describing

See **BANQUET**, Page 2A

Tumbleweed professes love for Crossroads community

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

To say local author and radio personality Tumbleweed Smith is proud to be from Big Spring might be the understatement of the year.

Smith, who is known by his friends and family as Bob Lewis, was the guest speaker during Thursday night's Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet at the Dorothy

Garrett Coliseum, amusing the masses with his stories and recordings of people from all over the Lone Star State.

And while laughter may very well be the best medicine, Lewis was anything but shy about how he feels about the city nicknamed the Crossroads of West Texas.

"I came to Big Spring in 1960. I had just got out of the Army and was looking for a place to start a life," said Lewis. "I

remember driving around the square that first day and just soaking up the atmosphere. Downtown was busy and it was just exciting for me. I felt energized... I said, 'Oh boy, I'm going to live here. This is what I've been looking for.'

"I found in Big Spring perhaps the three most important things in life: a love, a work and a place. If Neil Clark Warren of E-

See **CROSSROADS**, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Local author and radio personality Tumbleweed Smith turns on the West Texas charm Thursday night,

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Funtastic Fourth to focus on God, country

Annual Battle of the Bands will be scrapped in favor of Christian music

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Apparently, it's never too early to plan for the Fourth of July.

Organizers for the Funtastic Fourth downtown celebration met Thursday to begin mapping plans for this year's event, and a major shift in tone is definitely in the works.

"We noticed that what we were doing was not completely family oriented," Downtown Revitalization Association President Allan Johnson said of recent Funtastic Fourth events. "We wanted an event that would bring the entire family out in force."

To accomplish that, organizers will concentrate on what they consider the real

reasons for the holiday.

"We want to bring the event where it should be — honoring our country and honoring our God," Johnson said.

Several mainstays of past events — food and games, booths and an event-ending Laser light show — will remain, but the biggest change will be in form of musical entertainment.

Gone will be the Battle of the Bands and in its place will be music that's completely gospel-oriented, Johnson said.

The headline act of the evening will be Stellar Kart, a group specializing in alternative Christian rock music. In addition, organizers hope to have musical groups from

See **DRA**, Page 3A



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Obituaries

Emil Zilai

Emil Zilai, 75, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007, in a Midland hospital. Memorial services will be held 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, 2007 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Pastor Wayne Frost, of St. Paul Lutheran Church, officiating.

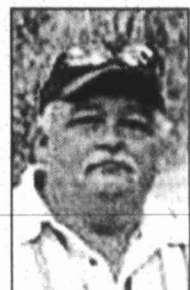
He was born March 25, 1931, in Martin's Ferry, Ohio. Emil had lived in Big Spring for 37 years and had retired from the Big Spring State Hospital as hospital administrator. He served in the United States Navy as a hospital corpsman and was a member of the VFW. He enjoyed traveling.

Survivors include two sons, Zachary Zilai of Fairbanks, Alaska and Mike Zilai of Houston; one brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Arlene Zilai of Martin's Ferry, Ohio; a niece and nephew.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, c/o Carolyn Brooks, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721-2121.

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

Ricky Gamble



Ricky Gamble, 48, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. The Rev. Clydel Chapman, pastor of North Side Baptist Church in Odessa, will officiate, assisted by Ulis Johnson. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ricky was born June 22, 1958, in Big Spring to Pat and Prentice Gamble. He graduated from Big Spring High School and attended Howard College. Ricky married Lesa Huckabee, Feb. 14, 1991, in Big Spring. He owned Rick's Auto Shop for nine years. Ricky was an automotive master technician and was also a carpenter. He loved anything mechanical. Ricky had a God given talent and passion for fixing anything, starting with cars at age 10 and motorcycles at age 13. Ricky's family said he was "Mr. Fix-it." He loved fast cars, motorcycles, muscle cars and his John Deere Tractor. Ricky was a Baptist.

Ricky is survived by his wife, Lesa Gamble of Big Spring; two sons, Kenneth Gamble of Flower Mound and Kasey Huckabee of Big Spring; one daughter, Kendra Carlile of Big Spring; one granddaughter, Paige Carlile of Big Spring; father, Prentice Gamble of Big Spring; and one brother, Randy Gamble of Midland.

Ricky was preceded in death by his mother, Pat Gamble.

Pallbearers will be Joe Mansfield, Kevin Crawford, Kenny Davis, Gary Fuqua, Lance Telchik, Todd Darden, Michael Gamble, and Tommy Payne.

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

Paid obituary

Mary Alice Rush

Mary Alice Rush, 87, of Lubbock, formerly of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007, in a Dallas nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Arthur "Art" Madewell

Arthur "Art" Madewell, 79, of Big Spring, died Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Lee Daves

Lee Daves, 74, of Big Spring died Friday, Jan. 19, 2007, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

CROSSROADS

Continued from Page 1A

Harmony.com had paired me up with Big Spring with a computer, he would have found it to be a perfect match."

Lewis described Big Spring residents as having a "quiet sophistication," full of a rich culture only found in West Texas.

"Right after I got here I started meeting the people," said Lewis. "Wow. They made me feel right at home. Their smiles were wide and sincere. Big Spring people were generous, helpful, friendly and easy to get to know."

"I have visited with people here whose roots go back a long time. Their conversations are filled

with wonderful stories that are rich and humorous, and full of life, and reflects the true joy of living here. They appreciate the dignified Texas life and enjoy the most majestic sunsets on the planet."

Also speaking during the banquet was outgoing Chamber President Virginia Belew, who thanked her fellow board members and countless volunteers who served the local organization over the past year.

"We could not have accomplished all that we accomplished over the past year without the time and efforts from each of you," Belew told the audience.

Incoming President Lee George also took the stage, reminding those in attendance the reason the Chamber and so many

BANQUET

Continued from Page 1A

Corwin's flair for volunteer work. "And then she does it well. She's also a favorite among the substitute teachers at Big Spring schools, even though she's retired. She also sings, during Pops in the Park, the Living Christmas Tree, with the Big Spring Symphony Choir and all of the singing she does on Valentines Day for the state hospital.

"She serves faithfully and energetically on the board of the Heritage Museum and on the volunteer council at Big Spring State Hospital. Among her many efforts at the state hospital, she and her husband devote many hours each week to the operation of the downtown Chalet, a great benefit to hospital patients as well as the community.

She will also be found working in the background at Denim and Diamonds."

A retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, Jim Little received the award for Man of the Year, which was presented by 2005 Man of the Year Terry Hansen.

"This is a great honor and a great surprise," said Little. "It's a tremendous honor and I feel like I'm trying to fill a lot of really big shoes and follow in the footsteps of the many people who have been in this position before."

"Everything I have been involved with has not been a single effort. It has been an effort for a lot of people, a number of people that makes things happen. There are a lot of great people living in this community, and we have enjoyed living here and I thank you very much."

Little, who is the direc-

tor of the McMahon Wrinkle Airpark and the Big Spring Airport, moved away from Big Spring many years ago, but returned shortly after retiring from the military.

Little's accomplishments include, among others, delivering meals and visiting homebound seniors and serving on the Big Spring Area Foundation Trustee Board, the Alon Citizens Advisory Panel and various other civic organizations.

According to Hansen, Little has been instrumental in planning and executing the annual Hang Gliding Championships held at the airport, and has been a major force in developing the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

"As difficult as it is to define the traits found in the Man of the Year, there is a notable characteristic

found in each and every one of them," said Hansen. "They care deeply for their community. They perform outstanding work and exert extraordinary efforts to make their communities better."

"He coordinated the development of Big Spring's air terminal, a facility described by many TxDOT officials and dignitaries as perhaps the most outstanding architectural example in any Texas city our size. He was one of the organizers and promoters of the hugely successful Webb Air Force Base Reunion, which repeatedly brings hundreds back to Big Spring for extended visits. But what is extraordinary about these achievements is that he did all of this before he became our city airport director, while he was a private and retired Big Spring citizen."

LAPTOPS

Continued from Page 1A

ing if the timing was right for the plan.

"We've got a lot of other needs, and I feel this is a lot of money to spend in one fell swoop," Dawson said. "What is wrong with bringing this in gradually, making sure we've got all the bugs out, before bringing it fully online?"

Several high school teachers also have expressed skepticism about the plan, as referenced by a recent survey conducted by the district's technology department.

Aside from personally trying to assuage those doubts, District Technology Director Corey Wood said he has personally contacted more than 40 school districts across the country that have conducted similar computer purchases. Not one of those districts, Wood stated, have regretted the decision.

"In fact, if those schools did anything, they expanded the program to lower grades," Wood said.

As for a gradual implementation of the purchase, Superintendent Michael Downes said that might put students without computers at a disadvantage.

"You won't see improvement because students can't expect students to do (Internet-based) work until all students have access to it."

High School Principal

Mike Ritchey admitted there was some resistance to the plan from teachers.

"I think there's apprehension. Anytime you have change, there's apprehension," Ritchey said. "There's a lot of the unknown, but there's a lot of excitement, too."

Ritchey was quick to add that he believed his staff would be able to successfully implement whatever plan the board finally approves.

"I think that if we commit to this, there's no doubt we can make it work," he said. "We can make anything work. It's just a matter of digging our heels in."

Trustees Phil Furqueron and Irene Galan said they support any plan that helps BSISD students.

"Our major focus should be on what's going to put the most students in a position to succeed," Furqueron said. "I feel that if we do this, we're going to be helping more of them to succeed."

"The important thing is that we will provide (students) with a technology they will use," Galan said. "The bottom line is that we're providing a service to our children."

Time is starting to become a factor, if the district hopes to implement the plan by the start of next school year. Wood said a decision has to be made by early February for the district to have enough time to make the necessary preparations before September.

Board President Tony Kennedy said public concerns mean there might not be a "right" time to purchase the computers.

"This is going to be a tough sell, regardless of what we decide to do," Kennedy said. "This is a

big step and I want to make sure we make the right decision."

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

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
The driver of this vehicle was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center with undisclosed injuries after being involved in a multi-car accident on the 1000 block of West Third Street Thursday afternoon. The driver of another vehicle involved in this accident refused treatment, records show.

Four indicted for aggravated assault

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

A social gathering that turned violent resulted in four men being indicted on aggravated assault charges during Thursday's session of the Howard County grand jury.

Christopher Delbosquez, Eric Delbosquez and Rosendo Franco, all of Big Spring, along with Filomeno Franco of Cedar Park, were indicted on aggravated assault charges stemming from an incident that occurred Oct. 22, 2006.

"It appears that the victim was riding in a car with the four individuals

en route to a get-together," District Attorney Hardy L. Wilkerson said. "In the course of the ride, an altercation occurred which resulted in a brutal beating of the victim."

The victim, Geraldine Rodriguez, received injuries to her jaw and scalp as well as serious bruises to several portions of her body, Wilkerson said.

Aggravated assault is a second-degree felony, punishable by a term of between 2 and 20 years in prison and a fine not exceed \$10,000.

Others indicted during Thursday's session of the grand jury include:

- Jose Alfredo Jimenez, 46, 3910 E. Highway 350, for burglary of a building, a state jail felony.
- Andres Aguilar Lopez Jr., 31, 4004 Parkway, for failure to stop and render aid, a transportation code felony, and driving while intoxicated, a Class A misdemeanor.
- John Albert Lopez, 23, 401 E. Eighth, for driving while intoxicated with a child passenger, a state jail felony.
- Richard S. Martinez, 28, 1611 Harding, for evading arrest, a state jail felony.
- David G. Morales, 30, 207 S. Benton, for criminal mischief, a second degree (enhanced) felony.
- Lana Munoz, 43, 1902

Mittel, for evading arrest, a state jail felony.

- Raymond Puga Nunez, 57, 1205 E. 17th, for driving while intoxicated, a first degree (enhanced) felony.
- Demetrious Lynn Pruitt, 40, 1402 Wood, for possession of a controlled substance, a state jail felony.
- Jamie Rae Smith, 30, 2900 S. Anderson, for burglary of a habitation, a second degree felony.
- Juan Luiz Valbuena, 29, 705 S. Aylesford, for evading arrest, a state jail felony.
- Jason Whitmore, 29, 1106 Lamar, for debit card abuse, a state jail felony.

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

Chili cook-off set Saturday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

If the cure for cold weather is a bowl of classic Texas chili, area cooks will be ready and willing to ward off the shivers Saturday as the 18th annual Boss Hogg Chili Cookoff gets under way.

The Big Spring Harley Davidson Shop — located at 908 W. Third Street — will once again host the competition, which pits chili cooks from all over West Texas and abroad against one another for the title of Boss Hogg.

And while prize money will most certainly be on the minds of competitors, Harley Shop owner and event coordinator Howard Walker said it's not the main focus of the men and women who brave the cold weather each year in hopes of claiming top honors.

"It's all about bragging rights, plain and simple," said Walker. "The cooks around here take this competition deadly serious, but it's all in fun."

The competition, which is rumored to have begun in the late 1980s, was named after former Big Spring Mayor Max Green, according to Walker.

The competition is expected to begin at 8 a.m. when chili teams will fire-up their implements and begin putting the spicy stew together. Each team is expected to prepare at least five pounds of chili, from which they will turn in a sample to the judges at noon.

"The entry fee per team is \$20, and for those that would rather eat instead of cook, tickets will be \$5. They can sample as much

as they would like." First prize for the cook-off is \$150, with second place garnering \$75 and third placing bringing in \$50, with the remaining profits set to go to a worthy cause.

"In the past, we've used the funds for the Harley Owners Group once all the bills were paid," said Walker. "The Harley Owners Group has pretty well dissolved, so we'll look at donating the money we raise this weekend to an organization like the Salvation Army or some other local charity."

"We'll be offering 10 places on this chili cookoff. It's going to be a lot of fun for everyone. It's really a very festive atmosphere. So if you

want to enjoy some great chili and live music, it's going to be the place to be."

For more information on the cookoff, contact Walker at 263-2322.

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

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DRA

Continued from Page 1A

several local and area churches perform throughout the day.

"Anyone who wants to be part of honoring God and this great country he blessed us with ... we want them here," Johnson said.

BODY

Continued from Page 1A

after the young man had been hateful and disrespectful to the suspect's family."

Walker said efforts to identify Dickinson's remains took a positive turn when family members contacted the sheriff's office.

"We received calls from the family, and they were able to provide us with information regarding the victim's tattoos that weren't released to the public," said Walker.

"However, we were very hesitant to make a positive identification based solely on that. We later received some records from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice that not only provided a description of the tattoos, but also provided photos of them."

Preliminary autopsy results showed the cause of death to be blunt trauma to the head. The body, which was found wearing

To that end, organizers will be contacting area churches within the next few weeks to solicit their support for both the DRA and the Funtastic Fourth.

"We want to get the word out that we want people to join us. (The DRA) is open to everyone," Johnson said. For more information, contact Johnson at 267-6278.

only a pair of underwear and a white T-shirt, showed signs of a brutal assault, according to Walker.

"To start out with nothing, the case came together very quickly," said Walker. "At times it developed so rapidly it was hard just to keep up. We greatly appreciate all the assistance we received from the Big Spring Police Department, TDCJ and the Texas Department of Public Safety. We're extremely glad to have closure on this case. I feel like we were very fortunate."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Ronnie Carter, 60, died Sunday.

Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ricky Gamble, 48, died Wednesday.

Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lee Daves, 74, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Publisher

John A. Moseley
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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

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

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

This week we salute:

- Big Spring High School band members Malle Carrasco and Ryan Harris on being named to the Texas Music Educators Association Class 4A All-State Band. Ditto for Forsan High School band member Eric Ellis, who was named to the Association of Texas Small School Bands All-State Band.

- The men and women representing area law enforcement and healthcare — from the Department of Public Safety troopers to sheriff's deputies, city police officers, radio dispatchers, emergency medical services and doctors and nurses — for handling the overwhelming number of traffic accidents and victims of vehicle crashes, falls and other maladies in the ice and snow. Did we mention the Texas Department of Highways, city and county crews? No doubt we will miss some, but again, thanks to all of those "responders" to the difficulties this type of weather brings.

- Thanks too, to those who drive a little more cautiously and a little more courteously in extreme conditions, which for some reason seems to bring out a large dose of stupid in some people.

- All of the men and women and boys and girls it takes to put on two annual events wrapping up this weekend, the Howard County and Martin County junior livestock shows. Good work, guys.

- And finally, our 2006 Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Man and Woman of the Year, Col. Jim Little and Jo Beth Corwin. Congratulations on an honor well-deserved!

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, You are the peace we are given.

Amen

Free the Border Patrol two

Prison doors clanged shut Wednesday night, leaving two Border Patrol agents locked up among the very types of felons they once helped put away. The agents' families have been wiped out financially, their kids will grow up without a father watching over them, their freedom has been stripped from them. What was the terrible crime that put agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean behind bars for sentences of 11 years and 12 years, respectively?

They fired at a drug smuggler, who had been driving a van with 743 pounds of marijuana, as he ran toward the border to avoid arrest. They say they did not know they wounded him in the buttocks, so they picked up their shells and filed a false report that didn't mention the shooting.

For that, Johnny Sutton, the U.S. attorney for Western Texas, prosecuted the agents. After a two-and-a-half-week trial, a jury found them guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon, discharge of a firearm during a violent crime, obstructing justice, lying about the incident and willfully violating the Fourth Amendment right to be free from illegal seizure of Osvaldo Aldrete-Davila, the Mexican drug smuggler, who, incidentally, is suing the Border Patrol for \$5 million because his civil rights were violated.

Sutton isn't happy about granting the smuggler immunity, but as he told me over the phone, he didn't have enough evidence to prosecute Aldrete-Davila.

Sutton hates being called "an overzealous prosecutor." As he said in a statement, "In America, law enforcement officers do not

get to shoot unarmed suspects who are running away and file official reports that are false." And, "It is shocking that there are people who believe it is OK for agents to shoot at an unarmed suspect who is running away."

As for the long sentences, they are the doing of Congress, which tacked 10 years onto federal sentences for crimes committed with guns — and there is no exemption for law enforcement officers.

Let me say this: Border Patrol agents do not have a right to — and should not — shoot at unarmed suspects. When and if they do shoot unarmed suspects, they should be disciplined — and that includes firing them.

In this case, however, Ramos and Compean say they thought the suspect was armed. Sutton says that's not true. Ditto the drug smuggler — but he has 5 million reasons to lie.

Two of Aldrete-Davila's family members, who asked not to be named for fear of retaliation, told the *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin* that the smuggler had been dealing drugs since age 14 and, according to one, he "wouldn't move drugs unless he had a gun on him."

Sutton responded, "There's this impression that all these dopers carry guns," but mules — smugglers such as Aldrete-Davila — "almost never carry guns," because federal law "tacks on five years to their sentence."

Even if everything Sutton says is true, Ramos and Compean most certainly should not spend 11 and 12 years behind bars. I don't think they should spend a single night in prison — not for what was a mistake (if the smuggler was not armed) made in the heat of the moment, even if it was followed with a cover-up.

Americans should not put men in frustrating and dangerous law-enforcement positions, then lock

them up and throw away the key if those men do one wrong thing, especially of the sort that angry, scared men sometimes do. It is not as if Ramos and Compean were crooked agents running criminal enterprises and betraying their fellow agents. If they were, they'd probably be facing a shorter sentence.

As T.J. Bonner of the agents' union, told me: "It's going to be terrible. These are good cops going to prison. It's not as if they're bad cops who are going to be accepted into the community. The very people they put away are going to be in the next cell to these guys."

Asked if President Bush would pardon the agents last Friday, White House spokesman Tony Snow noted that a jury had convicted them after a long trial. "We also believe that the people who are working to secure that border themselves obey the law."

Bonner looks at Bush's decision not to pardon the two men as a signal that Dubya doesn't particularly care about securing America's borders.

It is not as if Bush has too many friends and too much public support. I've heard from many Americans who are outraged at these excessive sentences and don't understand why Bush has not used his pardon power to commute the sentences of agents who were just doing their jobs.

If anything happens to these men while they are behind bars, then what will America think of George W. Bush?

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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• **EMMA BROWN** — Home: (432) 517-0707.

• **JERRY KILGORE** — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

• **BILL CROOKER** — Home: 263-2566.

• **GARY SIMER** — Home: 263-0260.

No better idea than Bush's for Iraq

President Bush's plan to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq has not, to put it kindly, been well received. But does anyone have a better idea?

Should we just declare defeat and go home? Not even most leading Democrats are willing to go that far. At least not yet. Most instead talk of gradually drawing down forces and possibly redeploying them either to Iraq's borders or to other bases in the region. There is something to be said for this strategy. But it also entails huge risks.

If the U.S. is seen as retreating — which is how it would look even if it were labeled "redeployment" — the fragile Iraqi security forces might completely disintegrate. U.S. advisers with Iraqi units could be imperiled. An all-out civil war could break out. Neighboring states such as Jordan could be destabilized by massive refugee flows. Western Iraq could become a Taliban-style haven for Sunni terrorists. Southern Iraq could become a launching pad for Shiite extremists bent on liberating their oppressed brethren in Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states.

It is doubtful that an "over the horizon" presence of U.S. forces could do much to mitigate these catastrophic effects. Iraq is a big country — about the size of California. You cannot police Los Angeles from San Francisco any more than you can police Ramadi in western Iraq from Irbil in northern Iraq, much less from Kuwait.

It sounds reassuring to say that

U.S. forces could be positioned on its borders to "contain" Iraq's civil war, but it's not clear what they would do there. Sure, they could prevent Iranian or Syrian troop formations from entering Iraq. But a conventional invasion is unlikely. U.S. soldiers would have much less success stopping the influx of foreign terrorists, cash and arms that goes on now disguised as normal commercial traffic. Besides, is it really politically possible for U.S. troops to cavalierly sit by while a few miles away ethnic cleansing or even genocide is being perpetrated?

Such a dire outcome is by no means foreordained if U.S. troops start withdrawing. Perhaps, as some advocates of drawdown suggest, the Iraqi government will succeed in establishing law and order on its own. But that's not the way I'd bet. And that's not the way Bush is betting.

After years of taking a rosy view of the war, he has finally acknowledged that conditions are grim and require more troops. Ironically, he is being pilloried for this stance by many of the same people who have been saying for years that we didn't have enough troops in Iraq.

Perhaps the objection now is that 21,500 troops won't make much difference. It's true that, according to the new Army-Marine Counterinsurgency Manual, effective operations generally require at least one soldier or police officer per 40 or 50 inhabitants. That would suggest doubling our current force of 132,000 to secure Baghdad and the entire Sunni Triangle (population 13 million). But it would be difficult to find that many soldiers in the overstretched and undersized U.S. armed forces.

That doesn't mean, however, that the reinforcements Bush is

sending are useless. As called for under a plan formulated by military historian Frederick Kagan and retired Army Gen. Jack Keane, the five newly arriving brigades should be deployed alongside Iraqi units to live in Sunni and mixed Sunni-Shiite neighborhoods in Baghdad. This is a classic counterinsurgency approach focused on securing the populace, and it has never really been tried before in the capital. It could work, especially if the surge is long lasting and if it's coupled with other vital steps — such as increasing the number of American advisers in the Iraqi security forces, instituting a biometric identity card to make it easier to detain terrorism suspects and enhancing the capacity of the Iraqi legal system to incarcerate more violent offenders.

If everything goes right, large swathes of Baghdad could gradually be brought under control. Then American and Iraqi units could pursue a "spreading inkblot" strategy — another classic counterinsurgency concept — to increase the pacified zone outward.

Of course that's a big if. It may be that we still don't have enough troops to successfully carry out this strategy. It may be that we don't have the will to see it through. It may be that we don't have enough reliable Iraqi partners. But considering the massive investment we have already made in Iraq, and the lack of good alternatives, it seems worth one final effort to see if we can salvage something from this dire situation.

— Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and author of "War Made New: Technology, Warfare, and the Course of History, 1500 to Today."



MAX BOOT

Church News

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Spring Tabernacle

"It's the Anointing" is the theme for a Jan. 26-28 weekend of special services at Spring Tabernacle, located at 1209 Wright St.

The Canadians are coming. Bro Terry Miller and Bro. Brian Hannigan will be with us from northern Canada. They'll be joined by Bro. Robert Persaud from South America and Bro. Rick Yskewitz from North Carolina. These are spirit-filled men bringing an anointed word.

Everyone is invited to these special services. They begin Friday night, Jan. 26, at 7. Saturday and Sunday services, Jan. 27 and 28, will be at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

People are expected from long distances, including other states and Canadian provinces. These meetings are sponsored annually by Sharon Children's Homes and Schools of Global Missions (Canada), courtesy of Spring Tabernacle. Sharon Schools is the site of a great revival that has impacted Christianity worldwide.

It's going to be quite a time in the old Spring Tabernacle. For more information, call Sis. Mona Lu Tonn at 270-0160.

Christ's Community Church

God's Family continues to grow at Christ's Community and we want you to become a part of it. We meet on Sunday at 10 a.m. for class and 11 a.m. for service and 6 p.m. for the evening service. Wednesday at 7 p.m. is youth from 7th to 12th grade.

We have home study groups Tuesday at the Plews, Wednesday at the Portocarreros and Thursday at the Hornsbys. Phone 263-5683 for more information or come by 1008 Birdwell Lane, across from the college.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

Come visit with us at 1512 Birdwell Lane. The church exists for the sole purpose of glorifying Jesus Christ and being a blessing to you and your family. Sunday worship services are at 10:55 a.m. and at 5 p.m. Midweek services are at 7 p.m. Wednesday. All services are informal with good gospel singing, plain Bible preaching and a friendly atmosphere. A nursery is provided.

For further information or a ride to church, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

Salem Baptist Church

Salem Baptist Church meets Sundays for Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning service and Young People's church at 11 a.m. and evening service at 6 p.m. Nursery service is available for all Sunday services. Wednesday evening service is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m.

Salem is located at the corner of Old Colorado City Highway and Salem Road. Bro. Monroe Teeters is the pastor. Please call 394-4655 for further information.

First United Methodist Church

Sunday, Dr. Shane Brue will continue his sermon series Family First. This week's subject will be "Image of God; Male." You are urged to take part in inspiring worship and to hear God's Word regarding the family.

Sunday worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. with Sunday school classes in between. A nursery is available.

Sunday evening is "Night Out" for a young adults get-together; Ages 20s-40s meet in Garrett Hall from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Adults bring pot luck; children bring a sack supper.

Kid's Club meets Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. We can always use help — come join the fun.

Saturday, Feb. 10, we get a big treat. The Brazos Brothers will be performing good old southern gospel music at First Methodist at 7 p.m. and will be a part of both worship services Sunday morning.

The Senior Adult Ministry (SAM) is planning a trip to Midland Community Theatre to see "Beauty and the Beast" Feb. 18. Registration is available in the church office. Be sure to sign up soon.

If you need a church home we have a place for you at First United Methodist Church located in the heart of downtown Big Spring at Fourth and Scurry streets.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

For more information about St. Mary's, call 267-8201 or visit www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

St. Paul Lutheran Church is located at 810 Scurry Street. The pastor is Wayne Frost.

Worship services are at 9 a.m. Sunday school and Bible classes are at 10:15 a.m.

This is Sanctity of Life Sunday. It is also the 34th anniversary of Roe vs Wade. Let us all remember the life God gave us and help us to help anyone who is facing a pregnancy and doesn't know what to do.

Lutheran Social Services helps those in need and if they decide on adoption, they do an excellent job of matching babies and new parents.

There have been a number of families here in Big Spring who have adopted children through Lutheran Social Services.

Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church

Elder Steve Clark of Comanche will be the visiting minister for the Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship service at the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St.

Counting his blessings

Steve Moses has been music minister at Trinity Baptist for a quarter of a century and he still loves it

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

Steve Moses has been minister of music at Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring for 25 years. Well, almost.

He and his family arrived in the Spring City on Jan. 21, 1982. A quarter century later, he's still carrying a smile on his face.



Moses

"Big Spring has been very good to us," he said of the Moses family, which includes wife Paula and sons Ben and Ryan. "God has really blessed us. We've been blessed by being involved in a great church with great people. I work with

Visitors are always welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Bible study and prayer meeting are scheduled for Wednesday at 7 p.m.

You may call John Wayne Metcalf at 394-4067 or Dennis Walker at 935-3196 for more information on these services.

East Side Baptist Church

Sunday worship is held at 10:45 a.m. At 1:45 p.m. is Family Foundations study. We have Bible classes for all ages on Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m.

Youth, 10 years old through teens, meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday and Bible study follows at 7 p.m.

The Tracy Dartt Family will be in concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30. This family travels full time singing and proclaiming the Gospel. They have written hundreds of songs through the years including "God On the Mountain," and the Cathedral Quartet hit "The Last Sunday" as well as "We'll All Be Green and Moldy A Hundred Years From Now."

A nursery for 4 years old and younger is provided for all services.

First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Matthew Miles, minister, will speak on text taken from Luke 4:14-21 at worship service Sunday. Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. and Take Ten begins at 10:35 a.m.

Opportunities for the week: Monday, the Session meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday, the Women's

people who do anything I ask them to. It's been a blessing."

Moses was born in Oklahoma City, raised in Abilene and graduated from Abilene Cooper.

"Do not put down Abilene High or I'll be upset," he said with a laugh.

He received his bachelor's degree at Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Mo., which is where he met Paula.

Then he went to work. "I was tired of school and ready to do something," he recalled.

It's been 25 years since Moses arrived at Trinity Baptist, but he's near his 30th year of ministry, having started in 1977.

"The Lord called me into the ministry when I was a senior in high school," he said.

At Trinity, he is in charge of all of the choirs, but directly works with the adult choir and leaves the others in equally capable hands. He also teaches a singles adult class.

"I've worked with two great pastors, Claude Craven and Randy Cotton, and I'd like to stay here awhile longer if they'll let me. I've made lots of friends. This is our home," said Moses.

Besides, there is nothing he'd rather do.

"I love to get up in the morning and go to work, I really do. I am blessed by the fact that I have a job that I love," he said.

Bill McClellan can be contacted by phone at 2-7331, ext. 235 or by e-mail at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

Meeting will begin at 2 p.m. It is titled "Celebration of Women." Wednesday, the youth group will meet from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Also on that day, Bible study will be held at 5:17 p.m. and choir practice begins at 6 p.m.

Please join is for any of the previously mentioned activities. Everyone is always welcome at First Presbyterian Church, located on Rannels between Seventh and Eighth.

Friends of Unity

As a season dedicated to non-violence begins, Friends are committed to seeking ways of thinking and acting which promote greater harmony and peace.

Beginning on Martin Luther King's birthday, this time of concentration on handling disappointments and anger constructively reminds participants to become more conscious of how to express feelings in helpful ways. It leads to more

thoughtful conversations and behavior.

The Tuesday noon study facilitated by the Rev. Jim Sims, offers an opportunity for deepening spiritual awareness. Based on spiritual interpretation of scripture, this time is exciting for participants. All view points are respected. The Unity Center is located in the east box car in the Railroad Plaza, next door to Beans' World Cafe. The phone number is 267-8783.

North Birdwell Lane

Delivery day for Angel Food Ministries will be Saturday, Jan. 27, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Remember, if you are not there before 1 p.m. you will not be able to pick up your food and the order will be donated.

Orders will be distributed at North Birdwell Lane UMC located at 2702

North Birdwell Lane. To reach the church go under the I-20 overpass on North Birdwell Lane, over the tracks and travel about 2 miles north. The church is located on the right.

The February menu will be available on pick up day and you may place your order at that time. There will be scheduled order days announced later. There is no qualifying to participate in this program. It makes available \$70 to \$90 of restaurant quality food for \$25. A \$25 box of food will include meat, vegetables, dry foods and usually eggs or egg products.

The menu change from month to month and Angel Food Ministries does make substitutions on occasion.

You may view the menu at www.angelfoodministriesofbigspring.com. You must pay for the order in cash at the time it is placed. There is also a link to take you to an order form. The current menu will be posted on the Web site shortly after distribution day of the month before.

Sunday worship services are 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday school for all ages is available at 10:30. A Bible study group meeting is held on the first and third Wednesday and United Methodist Women meet at 4:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday. For more information on any of the programs and services offered, call 267-4082.

Special Mass

SAN ANGELO — To mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision on abortion, Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, will offer a special Pro-Life Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, at noon Sunday here.

In the Mass, the bishop will pray for all women struggling with difficult pregnancy issues and for a new respect for human life at all stages of life.

Send your Church News to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

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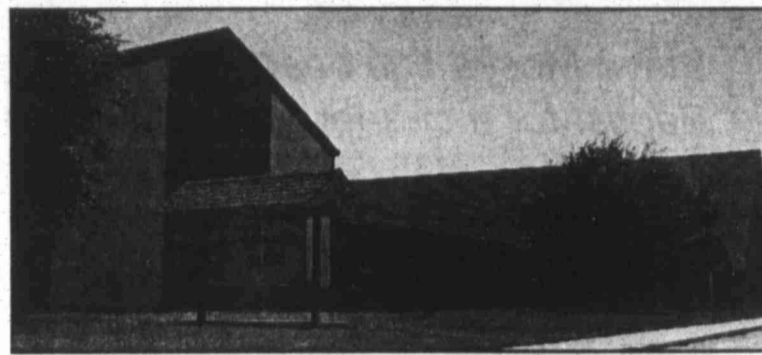
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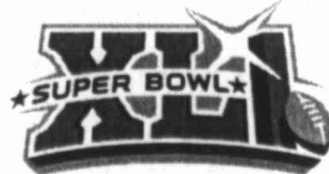
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► Texas briefs

Smoke in the water: State ratchets down mulch fire fight

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Environmental officials ordered a contractor to scale back firefighting efforts on a massive mulch fire northwest of here after two nearby residents found cloudy, smoky-smelling water pouring from their taps.

The residents were drawing water from private wells, not the public water system, but they draw from the same aquifer that feeds water to San Antonio and nearby counties.

Terry Clawson, a spokesman for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, said officials decided Thursday to await water test results before continuing the effort to extinguish the blaze outside of Helotes.

The closest San Antonio Water System well is five miles from the site of the burning wood pile, but SAWS spokeswoman Anne Hayden said officials want to be sure the firefighting effort isn't creating another environmental

headache.

Truck driver sentenced to life in prison for deadly smuggling

HOUSTON (AP) — A truck driver was spared the death penalty and sentenced to life in prison Thursday for his role in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt — a journey that ended in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants crammed in a tractor-trailer.

Tyrone Williams, 36, was convicted last month on 58 counts of conspiracy, harboring and transporting immigrants. A jury deliberated for a little more than 5 days before sentencing Williams, himself an immigrant from Jamaica.

Jurors had been debating a sentence on the 20 counts that were death penalty eligible — 19 for transporting immigrants and one for conspiracy. The panel issued a sentence of life without parole for each of these transporting counts but decided to let U.S. District Judge Lee Rosenthal decide punishment on the conspiracy count.

Rosenthal will sentence Williams on Aug. 23 for the remaining 38 counts of harboring and transporting immigrants and for the conspiracy count, which also has a maximum sentence of life in prison without parole.

Williams looked down as the verdict was read and gave no visible reaction. His attorney, former U.S. Rep. Craig Washington, wept and wiped his eyes with a tissue.

In May 2003, his tractor-trailer was packed with more than 70 immigrants from Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic. As temperatures skyrocketed inside the airtight refrigerator truck, the immigrants kicked walls, clawed at insulation, broke out taillights and screamed for help.

Nineteen of the immigrants died from dehydration, overheating and suffocation during the smuggling attempt from South Texas to Houston. Williams, apparently frightened at the sight of the dead bodies strewn inside his truck, abandoned the trailer at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest

of Houston.

Jurors to deliberate again today in Clara Harris case

HOUSTON (AP) — Attorneys on both sides of an emotional civil trial pitting an elderly couple against the former daughter-in-law who killed their son in a rage expect jurors to reach a verdict today, although none are prepared to guess what that verdict might be.

Gerald and Mildred Harris, 77 and 73, are suing Clara Harris, their former daughter-in-law, for at least \$5 million, saying she inflicted mental anguish on them and deprived them of their son's companionship and financial support when she drove over him three times and killed him in July 2002.

No one disputes that Clara Harris used her Mercedes-Benz to strike and kill David Harris in a suburban Houston parking lot after finding him at the hotel with his mistress. Clara Harris was convicted of murder in 2003 and is serving a 20-year prison sentence.

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IN BRIEF

Lady Steers defeated by Maidens by 30

After falling behind the Lake View Maidens 29-20 at the half, the Lady Steers managed only 11 points in the second half and lost 64-40.

Big Spring JV boys route Lake View

The Steers outscored the Chiefs 14-4 in the first quarter and never looked back as they cruised to a 62-44 victory.

The Steers (17-4, 1-1 in district) were led by freshman Matt Ritchey and Cade Hollandsworth. The duo combined for 27 points.

"We just took our time and made the right passes tonight," said freshman point guard Tyler Tannehill. "We're a good team and if we can protect the basketball and stay in control ... I like our chances to win district this year."

According to coaches Tannehill ran the offense with precision and ended the game with 10 points and 8 assists.

Mavericks roll past Los Angeles Lakers

Josh Howard had 29 points and 11 rebounds Thursday night in the Mavericks' 114-95 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers, the only team they have beaten in the past 6 1/2 weeks.

See Page 2B

Texas Rangers offer deal to Sosa

Sammy Sosa and the Texas Rangers kept up negotiations on a minor league contract Thursday, working their way toward a deal. The Rangers and Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, have exchanged a couple of proposals. While they could finalize a deal this week, Katz said Thursday that the sides had not reached an agreement.

Texas has offered Sosa a deal that would require him to earn his spot on the roster during spring training. The 38-year-old former slugger, 12 short of 600 home runs in a 17-season career that began with the Rangers in 1989, didn't play in the major leagues last year.

If completed, the contract likely would be worth about \$500,000 if Sosa is placed on the 40-man roster. He would have the chance to earn additional performance bonuses.

Rice University hires coach David Bailiff

Texas State coach David Bailiff accepted the head job at Rice on Thursday night, replacing Todd Graham who left the Owls just days after signing a contract extension. "We hate the fact that we are losing him, but we want our people to be successful and this is a wonderful opportunity for David. We wish him all the success in the world," Texas State president Denise M. Trauth said in a news release.

Big Spring Steers scalp Lake View Chiefs

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

The Big Spring boy's basketball team (16-10) picked up its first district win of the season last night.

In the comfy confines of the Steer Gym, with the student body shouting, "dribble, dribble, dribble — pass..." late into the fourth quarter to harass the visiting Lake View Chiefs, the Steers won 54-49.

In the first quarter the two varsity teams came out applying full-court pressure. The result was easy baskets at both ends of the court and a high scoring and entertaining opening eight minutes of basketball.

"We really didn't generate any turnovers in the first quarter," Steer's coach Joey Martin said after his first District 4-4A victory. "We gave up 17 points and that's just too many to be giving up that early in the game."

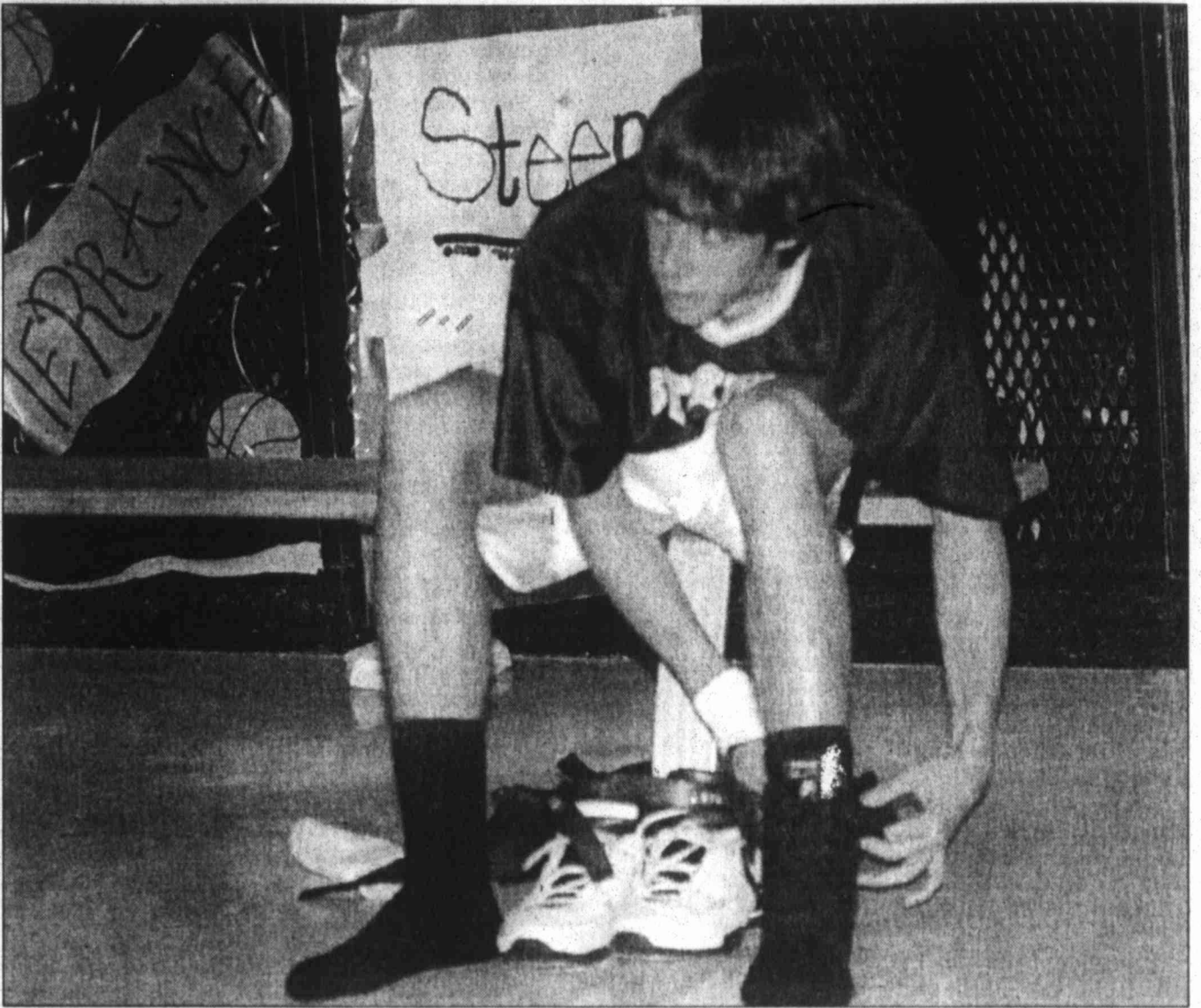
At the first break the Steers were behind, 17-13.

As BSHS went to man-to-man coverage in the second quarter, the Chiefs struggled to score and the Steers outscored them 7-5, to head into the locker room tied at 24-24.

The Steers were led in scoring by senior Scott Fankhauser as he popped the Chiefs for 15 points, 9 rebounds and 2 blocked shots on the night.

Jason Walker added 14 points and 8 rebounds and Rondell Trevino added 12 points — none more important than a 3-pointer late in the fourth quarter.

"I hate to put pressure on these kids," Martin said, as the stands emptied. "There are times in life when they are going to have deal with some pressure and tonight I



Steer's senior Scott Fankhauser prepares for the basketball game in the BSHS locker room before Thursday night's district game against the Chiefs. Fankhauser is leading the Steers in scoring and rebounding through district competition and he had 15 points and 9 rebounds to go along with 2 blocked shots in the 54-49 win. The boy's team is now 16-10 on the season.

HERALD photo/Mike Grimes

decided it was time to apply some. We were 0-for-8 in 3-point shooting in the first half and I challenged the team. I told them they were going to have to step up and make plays if they want-

ed to win this game."

As the third quarter began, the teams struggled to find any offensive rhythm until the Chiefs came up with a 3-pointer and a steal that resulted in a 5-point

lead.

With over four minutes off the clock in the quarter, the Steers had scored only 2 points and

See STEERS, Page 2B

Parcells keeping Cowboys waiting about 2007 return

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Nearly two weeks after the Dallas Cowboys' season ended, Bill Parcells still hasn't decided whether he wants to keep coaching.

Jerry Jones has told Parcells to take all the time he wants. At least, until the Feb. 1 deadline that's in his contract.

Fans aren't as patient. Their need for an answer, one way or another, grows each day. His status remains the most-talked-about topic on local sports radio, with shows treating it like a hostage situation: Day X of Dallas under siege. (Thursday was No. 12.)

With no word directly from Parcells, inquiring minds are left to read between the lines. That's led to theories such as:

He's staying because he keeps showing up for work every day. If he was quitting, he'd be out by now; Tom Landry had the job for 29 years and needed only a few hours to gather his belongings.

He's going because he let trusted assistant David Lee leave to become the offensive coordinator at Arkansas. Parcells has known Lee more than 30 years, and he's widely credited for

developing Tony Romo's throwing mechanics.

He's staying because of Romo and the chance to have a full season with him as the starting quarterback. Parcells himself said last season that the combination of "a fiery coach and a young quarterback ... that ought to be enough to perk you up for a while." Besides, he could replace Lee with an even closer friend, Dan Henning, recently fired as offensive coordinator in Carolina.

He's going because he's supposedly thinking about other jobs, like being general manager of the New York Giants.

He's staying because of how outraged he was to have been linked to that opening.

He's going because Pat Summerall, one of Parcells' best buddies locally, said so on a radio show.

He's staying because Parcells stopped speaking to Summerall after hearing about it.

He's going because Phil Simms said so, although he admitted he was just guessing.

He's staying to spite Simms.

See DALLAS, Page 2B



Dallas Cowboys head coach Bill Parcells yells at a wide receiver on the sidelines during the NFC Wild Card game at Qwest Field in Seattle, Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007.

MCT photo/Ron Jenkins/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Serena moves to 4th round; champion Federer advances

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Serena Williams got a lesson in how the rest of women's tennis has closed the one-time power gap that she and her sister created.

Then she showed she still has some superior skills, advancing to the fourth round of the Australian Open by knocking off fifth-seeded Nadia Petrova 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 Friday.

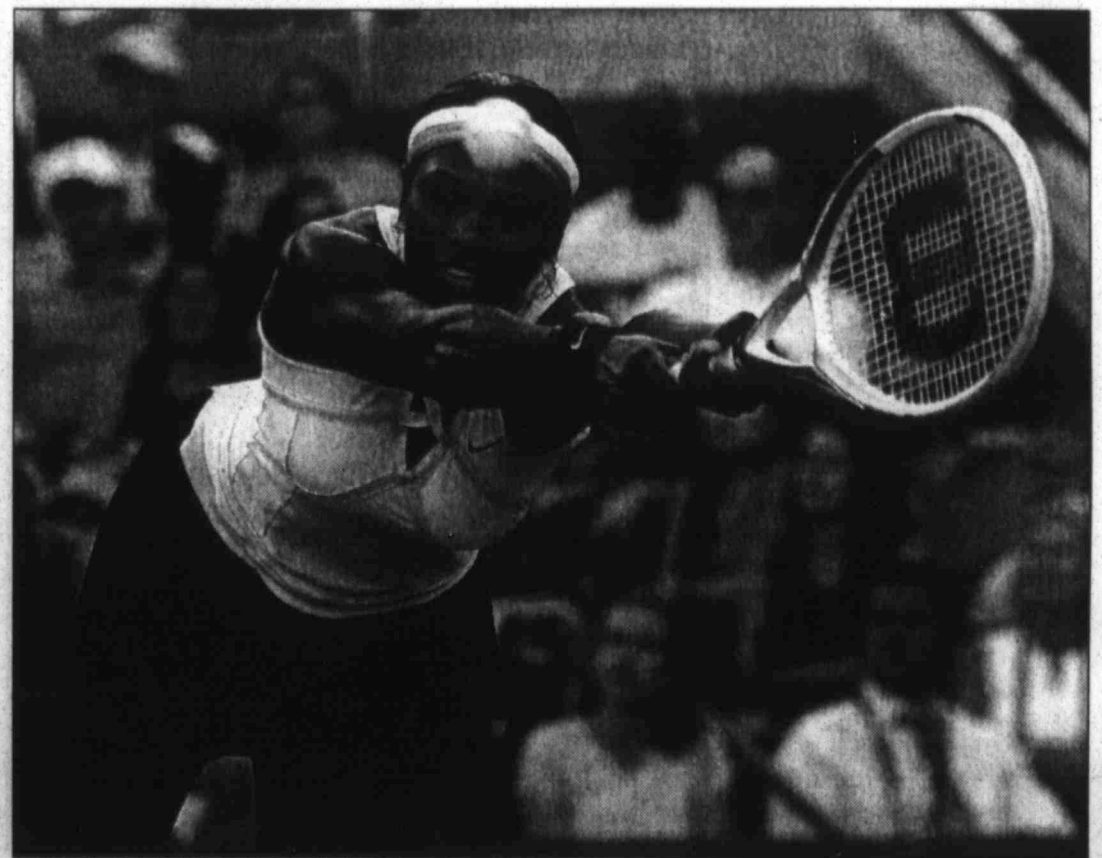
Top-ranked Roger Federer had an easier time against 25th-seeded Mikhail Youzhny, beating last year's U.S. Open semifinalist 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Second-seeded Amelie Mauresmo, the defending women's champion, beat

the Czech Republic's Eva Birnerova and next plays Lucie Safarova, who won the first set before Anastasiya Yakimova retired with a back injury. No. 3 Svetlana Kuznetsova beat fellow Russian Maria Kirilenko and No. 7 Elena Dementieva advanced over Maria Elena Camerin of Italy. Also advancing were No. 10 Nicole Pietrangola and No. 16 Shahar Peer.

The victory over Petrova was impressive for Williams, who is unseeded after playing only four tournaments last year due to a chronic knee injury and dropped out of the top 100 for the first time since 1997

See TENNIS, page 2B



Serena Williams stretches to try to return a shot in the U.S. Open in 2005. A chronic knee injury has kept Williams out of tennis during most of the 2006 season.

MCT photo/Paul J. Bereswill/Newsday

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OR
432-559-5075

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All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home.
Call **263-8285**

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NO JOB IS TOO SMALL!
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Scoggin Lawn Service

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Pedicure: \$21.99
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REPAIR AND SERVICE
ALL MAKES & MODELS
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All Work Guaranteed

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Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel.
All type of repairs!
Work Guaranteed.
Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and
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Free Estimates!!
Big Spring & Surrounding Areas.
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Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured & Bonded
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AAA Mini-Storage
1/2 Off First Month
No Deposit
New Accepting Visa & Mastercard
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FAST CASH
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TAX ASSOCIATES
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CALL **(432) 264-6134**
"Se Habla Espanol"
"With RAL Approval"

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LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING
More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal.
Call **Lupe Villalpando 432-268-6406**

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Car Ports • Fences
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COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
SERVERS & COOKS
NEEDED.
All shifts available
Apply at:
1710 East Third Street
E.O.E.



Delivery Drivers needed!
Earn CASH Daily
Drivers Avg. \$14-\$18 per hour
18 yrs and older
Full and Part time openings
Day Shifts & Night
Shifts available
Flexible schedules
Experience not necessary
Senior citizens & students en-
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Coastal Transport is a leader in
transport of LPG Asphalt & Pe-
troleum Products. Coastal
serves high profile accounts &
needs dedicated professionals
to join our growing team in Big
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& One year driving experience.
Inquire about Sign-on Bonus
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DRUG AND alcohol abuse
counselor, intern or LCDC.
Pass background and UA
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Odessa, TX 79761. EOE, M/F.

FIBER GLASS Systems on the
Lamesa Hwy is hiring 15 pro-
duction workers for a new pipe
rcw. Great benefits, starting
wages at \$9.50, \$1 shift differ-
ential for nights. All job appli-
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the Workforce Network of Big
Spring and present their refer-
ral card to the Human Re-
sources Administrator at Fiber
Glass Systems for considera-
tion.

**Food Service - Great People -
Real Opportunities
SUPERVISORS**

**3-Day Work Week with Full
Time Pay in Big Spring, TX!**
Compass Group, the world's
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company, is now hiring several
motivated individuals for our
food service operation @ the
Big Spring Correctional Com-
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wages for qualified food ser-
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creasing to \$14.25 upon suc-
cessful completion of 6 months
probation. Outstanding benefits
include paid Health, Dental &
Vision insurance premiums and
unlimited advancement. Must be
18yrs old, pass drug test,
background check & have a
clean or repairable credit re-
cord.

Opportunity is a call away!
Call Don Hood @
432-263-2366
EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

FULL TIME LVN needed for
Martin County Home Health.
With benefits, medical, dental
and vision. PRN/CNA needed
in Midland-Odessa area.
Please call Allison Williams,
DON at (432)756-3259 or fax
resume to (432)756-4510.

LOOKING FOR dependable
people to work in a local cotton
deinting plant. Starting wage
\$8.50, unless more qualified.
Apply in person at Stoneville,
4701 N. Highway 87. Call
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MIDWEST FINANCE CORP
now hiring Part-time Help for
days. Apply in person, 600 S.
Gregg. No Phone Calls!

MORNING POSITION 7:30
a.m.-1:00 p.m.. Apply at Jack &
Jill Child Care, 1708 Nolan.

Help Wanted

MOBILE MEALS Director
needed. Monday thru Friday.
Call Evelyn Elrod
(432)263-7828 or Rose Stukel
(432)263-1952.

MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE
is accepting applications for the
following opening: CNA's, 6-2
and 2-10 shift. Monday through
Friday. Contact Joy at (432)
263-1271.

NEED OPERATOR with CDL
to run pulling unit in Big Spring
area. Good pay based on expe-
rience. Paid holidays and
bonuses. Call (432)207-0858
or 207-0846.



NEED AN experienced
HVACR technician for the Big
Spring area. Refrigeration and
Ice Machine experience a plus.
Willing to pay top dollar for the
right person. Guaranteed work,
benefits package, sick leave,
paid vacation, 401K and profit
sharing. For confidential con-
sideration please call
888-229-1757 and ask for Tony
Cary.

NEED BACKHOE operator
w/CDL. Good driving record.
Need one year experience.
Must pass drug test. Call
(432)394-4161.

NEED MATURE lady for child
care. Monday thru Wednesday,
2-7pm and Friday mornings
9:30am to 2pm. Must be reli-
able. Call (432)816-7740.

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

**NOW HIRING
COMMERCIAL
CONSTRUCTION**

JOB SUPERINTENDENT
must be professional and
experienced in all phases of
construction.
Drug test, pre-employment
physical and travel required.
Mail resume to:
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SUPERINTENDENT
PO BOX 60708
MIDLAND, TX 79711

NOW HIRING Ophthalmic
Tech. for busy doctor's office.
Must be reliable & organized.
No exp. necessary. Apply at
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OTR TRUCK Drivers needed.
Must have a CDL Class A with
12 months experience. Com-
pany offers excellent pay and
benefits. Guaranteed weekly
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**PARKVIEW NURSING
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Come join our team! Be part of
our devoted staff providing
resident care. Now Hiring for
LVN's, which offers competitive
pay, great benefits and a fan-
tastic working environment. Ap-
ply in person at 3200 Parkway
Rd.

**PARKVIEW NURSING
& REHABILITATION**
Now hiring for Charge Nurse
2-10 shift. Offer great benefits
and competitive pay. Please
apply in person at 3200 Park-
way Rd., Big Spring, TX 79720.

**PARKVIEW NURSING
& REHABILITATION**
Be a part of our devoted staff
providing resident care. Now
Hiring for Certified Nursing As-
sistant's, which offers competi-
tive pay, great benefits and a
fantastic working environment.
Looking for reliable and caring
CNA's to join our team. Apply
at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PIZZA INN
NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSI-
TIONS. APPLY IN PERSON
AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE
CALLS.

VACUUM TRUCK driver
needed at Westbrook, TX. CDL
& tanker endorsement. Please
call JD's Services
(325)575-0851.

Help Wanted

**POLICE OFFICERS/
FIRE FIGHTERS**
Are you the Best?
Can you make the grade?
Wanted only the top 10%.
If so come apply.
Firefighters
\$26,499.00 to \$35,162.00
DOEC
Deadline for Applications
5:00 p.m., Wednesday
January 24, 2007
Testing 8:00 a.m., Saturday
January 27, 2007
Police Officer Certified
\$14.40
Utility Service Worker
\$9.94
Contact:
Human Resources
City of Big Spring
Phone: 432-264-2346
Fax: 432-264-2387
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

Pollard Chevrolet is seeking an
ACCOUNTING CLERK. Ac-
counting experience required.
Pay based on experience and
ability. Apply in person at 1501
East 4th.

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING.
Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K an-
nually including Federal Bene-
fits and OT. Paid training, vaca-
tions. PF/FT. USWA
1-800-584-1775
Ref#P6901.

RN I POSITION
**Tired of shift work & working
holidays!** The Texas Depart-
ment of State Health Services
is recruiting for an RN I to be
responsible for providing com-
prehensive public health nurs-
ing services to the residents of
Howard County. Serves as the
Team Leader for Family &
Community Health Services at
the Big Spring Field Office
Clinic. Perform clinical duties
for the following programs:
Child & Adult Immunizations,
Family Planning, Child Health,
HIV/STD and TB Elimination.
Perform population based,
community focused health pro-
motion and disease prevention
activities. Duties require inde-
pendent clinical a leadership
skills. Participate in regional
emergency response plan.
Work hours M-F 8-5. Travel re-
quirements: 10% day, 5% over-
night. Monthly salary:
\$2,773.00-\$2,838.00. Current
license to practice as a Regis-
tered Nurse in the State of
Texas. Apply at website:
https://
accesshr.hhsc.state.tx.us.
Position Requisition #47606 or
complete application at 501
Birdwell Lane, Suite 28-B in
Big Spring. For additional infor-
mation, contact Melony Ben-
nett at (432)571-4132.
EEO/ADA.

ROSE DRYWALL & Acoustical
Const. now hiring and taking
applications for const. helpers,
journeyman drywallers, and
metal bidg installers Must pass
drug test and have transporta-
tion. Starting pay at \$10 to \$15
per hr. depending on experi-
ence. We are looking for men
to run crews, pay negotiable.
Call 432-570-1259 or come by
#12 East Industrial Loop, Mid-
land, Texas between 7:30 a.m.
to 5:00 p.m.

**STATE LICENSED
JOURNEYMEN
ELECTRICIANS and
HELPERS**

Local Company Seeks Quali-
fied applicants for LOCAL
work. Paid holidays, Vacation
and Sick Time. Weekends Off.
All interested applicants,
please phone (432)263-3939.

THE MARTIN County Hospital
District of Stanton is seeking a
Physician Assistant for employ-
ment in a Rural Health Clinic.
Please contact Paul McKinney,
CEO or Alison Israel, CFO at
610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton,
Texas or call (432)756-3345.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY
Wanted for local Rental Store.
Benefits include paid vacation,
retirement & health insurance.
Requirements are back ground
check, drug screening, good
driving record and be at least
21 years old. Starting pay
\$8.50 per hour. Apply in per-
son, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

Help Wanted

TRIO FUELS
A UNITED
FUEL & ENERGY COMPANY

**EXPERIENCED
DRIVER NEEDED!!**
We have developed a new
compensation structure and we
are willing to pay for your expe-
rience. Our Drivers are impor-
tant to us. In addition to com-
petitive pay you will also re-
ceive an excellent benefit pack-
age. It's not just a job, it's your
career.

Come join our TEAM today!
Apply in person at 3112 N.
HWY 87, (432)267-9434.

TRUCK DRIVER

Helena Chemical Company, a
national agricultural-chemical
company, has an immediate
opening for an experienced
truck driver. This position will
make deliveries, load and un-
load product, utilize a forklift,
and perform general ware-
house duties. Requires high
school diploma or equivalent
CDL with HAZMAT endorse-
ment. We offer an excellent
working environment and out-
standing compensation and
benefits package. For consid-
eration, please apply in person:
Helena Chemical Company
100 S. St. Peter
Stanton, TX 79782
Pre-employment
drug screen required.
EOE M/F/V/H

WATER QUALITY Technician
The Colorado River Municipal
Water District has an opening
for a Water Quality Technician
in Big Spring.
District benefits include paid
vacation and holidays, sick
leave, retirement plan, and
group insurance. EOE
Applications are required to be
considered for employment
and are available at the Dis-
trict's Office, 400 East 24th
Street, Big Spring, Texas or by
calling 432-267-6341.

Items for Sale
**FIREWOOD. PREMIUM OAK
FIREWOOD.** Satisfaction
Guaranteed. \$275.00 Full Cord
& \$150.00 Half Cord. Delivered
and Stacked. Call
325-648-2818 or
512-913-8297.

ONE ONLY! 14'x24' Barn/
Workshop. \$119/month. Deliv-
ery/ Financing Available.
432-563-3108.

SLIGHT DAMAGE - 12'x16'
Storage/ Workshop. Will Del-
iver. 432-563-3108.

Jobs Wanted
**NEED A Personal Nanny or
Baby Sitter.** Many years expe-
rience and references available.
Call Amber at 214-663-9634
for more information.

Lost and Found
\$400 REWARD for return of
black 2002 Polaris 4 wheeler
taken from 101 Broken Bow on
December 24th. No questions
asked. Call Virgie at
(432)263-1847.

LOST CAMEL Color
Shar-Pei by Comanche Trail
Park. Please Call
(432)263-6306.

POMERANIAN FOUND in the
1700 block of Purdue. Call
(432) 935-6168 with descrip-
tion.

Miscellaneous
2001 AT D5M, 3 way blade
on front, rippers on back. Air
conditioned, new belts and pul-
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(432)267-3126.

BLACK IRON canopy bed with
Night table. In boxes. \$179.
806-549-3110.

BRAND NEW double/full size
mattress set. \$119. TWIN mat-
tress set. \$99. Both new with
warranty. 806-549-3110.

BRAND NEW Queen pillow top
mattress set. In wrapper. War-
ranty. Must Move. Sacrifice
\$175.00. 432-349-4043.

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(432)267-8191.

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Call Yvonne at (432)264-0796
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to 6 person, \$79.00 a month.
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Miscellaneous

DINING ROOM table, 4 chairs.
Cherry mirror finish, NEW in
box. List \$779, Sell \$229.
806-549-3110.

2005 NITRO Bass Boat. 150
Mercury, dual console, C.D.
player, radio. Will sell for
Pay-Off. Call (432)935-2011 If
no answer leave message.

INCOME TAX Refund Buys
MORE Furniture & Mattresses
Here. 806-549-3110.

KING PILLOWTOP Mattress
Set. Brand New still in Plastic.
Full Factory Warranty. Must
Sell. \$249. 432-349-4043.

LEATHER SOFA, loveseat, 3
pc Table set. New with lifetime
Warranty. \$799. 806-549-3110.

MATTRESS CLOSEOUT
Brand New
Still in Plastic
Twin Set \$99.00
Full Set \$119.00
Queen Set \$139.00
King Set \$239.00
432-416-0261

NASA MEMORY FOAM Mat-
tress Set. Conforms to body.
New in plastic. List \$1399.00
Sacrifice \$399.00.
432-349-4043.

NEW CHERRY Sleigh bed
\$259.00. Midland. Call
432-349-4043.

SELLING QUEEN pillowtop
mattress set, in plastic, war-
ranty. \$125. 806-549-3110.

SPECIAL PURCHASE - 8'x12'
Storage Buildings. \$39.00 a
month. Delivery/ Financing.
432-563-3108.

WHY PAY Rent? 10'x12'
Storage Buildings. \$51.00 a month.
Delivery/ Financing.
432-563-3108.

On the Farm

FRESH #1 hay for sale. \$70
per bale. Call (432)268-3083,
(432)268-3084.

Pets

THIS NEWSPAPER is not re-
sponsible for the specific con-
tent of the Classified ads. Be-
fore investing money in a pet
ad with which you are unfa-
miliar, please call the National
Better Business Bureau at
703-276-0100 or visit
www.bbb.org

ADORABLE AND Tiny Cassie
is a little doll with her gorgeous
babydoll face Yorkie!! She is
an excellent display of her
breed!! She had a great little
personality and will mature to
around 4 to 4.5#s! Current on
all vaccines and dewormings
and fully guaranteed.
walter_walker101@yahoo.com

AN ADORABLE female bul-
ldog for sale. She is AKC Reg-
istered and has all shots up-
date. She is in good health
condition, vet check and ready
for her new family home. Email
me at
mercy_jenson@yahoo.com for
more info.

I CURRENTLY have Two
Beautiful AKA Male and Fe-
male English Bulldog puppies
available for adoption, Cham-
pion bloodlines and come with
health certificate, wormed, up-
dated shots, small baggie of
puppies food and full AKC
Registration and 1 year health
guarantee. The puppies avail-
able now is for \$550 only.
Viewable pictures availabl-
Puppy available now for more
information please contact
Anita Smith Email:
anitabulldogfarm@yahoo.com

YORKIE FOR Sale: Health
guaranteed, shipping is avail-
able, delivery. Contact for more
information:
petsbreed01@yahoo.com

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**BEAUTIFUL
GARDEN
COURTYARD**
• Swimming Pool
• Private Patios
• Carports
• Appliances
• Most Utilities
Paid
• Senior Citizens
Discount
• 1 & 2 Bedroom
Unfurnished
**PARKHILL
TERRACE
APARTMENTS**
800 W. Marcy Drive
263-5555 267-5444

3 BEDROOM 2 bath home on
1/2 acre in Sand Springs. Water
well. \$69,500. Call
(325)625-2876 or 214-0195
leave message or call after 5.

711 N. Tubb Rd. Three bed-
room, two bath, one acre, wa-
ter well, remodeled. \$32,000.
Call (432)213-4460.

**CITY LIVING/ COUNTRY
FEELING** on almost an acre of
land. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath in
Kentwood Elementary School
District. Call for details Home
Realtors (432)263-1284.

FORECLOSURE! 3 Bedroom,
2 bath, only \$41,200! Spacious
Must See! For listing Call
800-544-6258 ext F906.

GREAT STARTER Home! 2
Bedroom, 1 bath beautifully up-
dated home on corner lot with
rent house. 453,000. Call
(432)263-8616 or 213-5238.

**I'M MAD... AT BANKS WHO
DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS
BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT,
PROBLEMS OR NEW EMP-
LOYMENT. I DO, CALL L.D.
KIRK, HOMETOWN MORT-
GAGES, (254)947-4475.**

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**LOVELY
NEIGHBORHOOD
COMPLEX**

Swimming Pool
Carports,
Most Utilities Paid,
Senior Citizen
Discounts
1 & 2 Bedrooms &
1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished

**KENTWOOD
APARTMENTS**
1904 East 25th Street
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South Plains Apts
Efficiency, 1 & 2 Bdrms

New Appliances & Fixtures
Dish Network w/ 300+
Channels incl 34 Latino
Hi-Speed Wireless Internet
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Ask about our
Move-In Special
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(432) 714-4840

1998 COLORADO City Home
3 Bedroom, 2 bath. No Qualify-
ing Lease / Purchase. 100%
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2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes.
Pool, 24 hour maintenance,
Central Heat and Air, stove, re-
frigerator, dishwasher, furni-
sheds. Washer/ dryer connec-
tions. (432)263-3661 -Tom.

608 HOLBERT, 3 bedroom, 1
bath, CH/A. Required one year
lease, application, references,
first & last months rent,
\$475.00 month. Contact infor-
mation at location.

712 GOLIAD, 2 Bedroom, 1
bath. Washer & dryer connec-
tions, CH/A. \$550. month,
+deposit. No HUD. No Bills
Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

BILLS Paid- 3 room & bath.
\$400. month, \$100 deposit.
Call (432)263-3855 or
263-7648.

FOR LEASE 207 North Gregg,
40x100 Building with offices.
\$600.00 Month plus deposit.
Call (432)263-5000.

FOR LEASE: Large Building.
Beautiful Location. Perfect for
Home Health or Medical Sup-
ply Company/ Store. Call
(432)263-4528 or 296-0277.

SEVERAL OFFICES available.
Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038,
(432)770-5656.

SPACIOUS DOWNTOWN
One bedroom + upstairs studio.
Near Church/ Grocery. Central
air, refrigerator/ stove. Smok-
ing/ pets prohibited \$285..
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Legals

Notice of Application for Fluid
Injection Well Permit

Millennium Resources LP, P.O.
Box 390, Big Spring, TX 79721 is
applying to the Railroad Commis-
sion of Texas for a permit to inject
fluid into a formation which is pro-
ductive of oil and gas.

The applicant proposes to inject
fluid into the San Andres/ Guita 23
Lease, Well Number 1. The pro-
posed injection well is located 8
miles NW of Big Spring in the Varel
(San Andres) Field, in Howard
County. Fluid will be injected into
strata in the subsurface depth inter-
val from 3136 to 3154 feet.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27
of the Texas Water Code, as
amended, Title 3 of the Texas
Natural Resources Code, as
amended, and the Statewide Rules
of the Oil and Gas Division of the
Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing
from persons who can show they
are adversely affected or requests
for further information concerning
any aspect of the application
should be submitted in writing,
within fifteen days of publication,
to the Environmental Services Sec-
tion, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad
Commission of Texas, P.O. Box
12967, Austin, Texas 78711 (Tele-
phone 512/463-6792).
#5216 January 19, 2007

Want to have the
adventure of a
lifetime
without all the fuss?
Read!

Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Aquarius moon
foretells adventures to
come, and tomorrow the
sun follows her into the
realm of the future. If
there's a technological
advance you've wanted to
make, it's the ideal time to
research. Also, the stars are
right for padding your
network with lighthearted
and loose
ties. Go for
quantity
without
worrying
about getting
too deep.



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES
(March 21-
April 19).
Loving is a
risk. It's
risking your
own idea of
yourself and
daring
someone to change it —
which they certainly will.
You're a risk-taker, and you
go into relationships with
courage.

TAURUS (April 20-May
20). You enjoy sharing your
opinion if others ask for it,
but you're not about to
impose your views on the
general public. Your
restraint is appreciated,
especially by someone
powerful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).
Events happen that cause
you to rethink what you're
doing with the bulk of your
time. If your work makes
you dreary, you're either
not approaching it right, or
it's not for you.

CANCER (June 22-July
22). Your prejudice has been
unconscious, until today.
Everything is illuminated.
Now, believing in the same
way is a choice, not a
reaction. Capricorn and
Pisces friends are ideal
advisers.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).
When you believe in your
talent, you teach others
how to believe in you as
well. It's not arrogance —
really! Having the right
attitude toward yourself
allows you to be
compassionate toward
others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).
If you're wondering
whether a loved one's sweet
gesture is enough to erase
this person's wrongdoings
from your memory for
good, here's the answer: No,
it won't. Getting to the
heart of the problem is
imperative.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).
Cravings or obsessive
thought patterns are signs
that a basic need has yet to
be met! If you satisfy the
need, your symptoms
finally abate. Tonight,
there's a significant
breakthrough.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.
21). A prize lands on your
turf — but everyone else
wants it, too. It's like a
soccer team for 5-year-olds.
Everyone huddles around
the ball instead of playing
his or her position. Your
maturity prevails.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-
Dec. 21). The creative well
is dry. You need inspiration
as much as you need food
and air. Go into the world
as a sponge ready to soak
up all the artistry you
encounter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.
19). You're on a cosmic
timeout — not a
punishment, but a time to
reflect on the events of the
past two months. Regrets?
You have a few — "but then
again, too few to mention."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb.
18). If "play" is an art form,
today you become a fine
artist. Use mischief to add
excitement to a
relationship, cement a
friendship or put an
intriguing flair into your
creative work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March
20). Instead of resolving to
take the good with the bad,
just improve the bad.
Everyone is better off for
your effort. Confrontation
isn't something to avoid at

all costs after all!
WEEKEND LOVE
FORECAST: With the
Aquarian astral mood of the
weekend, friendship has
increasing importance.
Connecting in casual ways
over shared interests is the
start of something that has
meaning over time. It also
helps that potential loves
show who they are right up
front. ARIES: Take the
initiative. Others fall into
the groove you establish.

TAURUS: A lack of
communication between
you and a partner could
result in hilarity or mishap.
Be even more clear than
usual. GEMINI: You're
looking for amusement,
though someone else may
be looking for commitment.

CANCER: Partners will
treat you better once they
see how well you cherish
yourself. LEO: Self-
development is essential to
evolving a relationship.

VIRGO: Honor your feelings
by sharing them. LIBRA:
Your heart is big enough to
give love to anyone in your
life who needs it. SCORPIO:
The presence of a certain
person makes you oblivious
to everything else.

SAGITTARIUS: Let your
love be the star, and you'll
get all the attention when
you need it the most.
CAPRICORN: Love is as
love does. So don't declare
your undying devotion —
show it. AQUARIUS:
There's a playful electricity
around you. PISCES: You
feel other people's needs
and react to them before
they even realize what they
are!

COUPLE OF THE
WEEKEND: Scorpio and
Virgo duos are anything
but tame. If ever there were
a lack of passion in life,
these two can whip up an
emotional frenzy in the
time it takes to boil an egg.
Directing emotional
currents skillfully is the
key to making this
relationship lasting and
pleasant. If they can stay
positive and refrain from
picking on each other, they
enjoy a more heightened
experience of romance.

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WHEN A FRIEND NEEDS TO INTERVENE

Dear Margo: My friend
"Paul" repeatedly molested
his niece when he was
younger. It was never
reported to the police, but
he did pay for his sister's
and his niece's therapy, and
went for several years
himself.

Two years ago, Paul
became involved with
"Mary," who had a 1-year-
old daughter. Paul told me
last year that he wasn't
certain he'd stay with Mary
because she wanted another
child, and he did not want to
father a child; she thought
Paul would not know what
he was missing unless he
became a
father.

A few
months later, Paul called to
say Mary was pregnant. He
was planning to marry her
even though he expressed
shock about the news. A
mutual friend and
I
discussed the
double betrayal involved in
this pregnancy, and then he
told me Paul had never
revealed his abuse history to
Mary. I think she deserved
to know this early in their
relationship, and for her not
to know now seems to place
two children at risk.

Paul acknowledged he
hadn't told Mary because
"she is not ready to hear
this information," and he
claimed he is "healed and
would never do it again." I
don't trust Paul anymore,
because if he were truly
healed, he would have told
Mary soon after meeting
her.

My dilemma is: Should I
tell her? If I remain silent,
two children will be
potentially at risk. If I tell
her and she dumps him
now, his child may not have
a relationship with its
father. I don't worry about
Paul's feelings, but I am
concerned about what is
best for his child and Mary's
daughter. — Judgmental?

Dear Judge: Ordinarily,
I'm a believer in one of my
mother's favorite sayings,
"MYOB." But pedophilia is a
special case, in that it is
rarely curable and has a
high recidivism rate. The
fact that Paul didn't reveal
his history to Mary is not a
good sign.

I am told there's a
tremendous amount of
denial that goes along with
this perversion, and people
in treatment for child
molestation have the
absolute necessity for
confession drummed into
them. This makes Paul's
withholding such
information a meaningful
omission.

I suggest this: Share your
ethical dilemma with Paul,
making sure to praise him
for his efforts to change and
make amends. Ask him to
tell Mary about his past, and
if he refuses, tell him that
you will, as a matter of
conscience. Point out to
Paul that it's never a good
idea to build a relationship
on a hidden secret.

The added surveillance (by
Mary) will probably be a
good thing in that it's
another deterrent. And
maybe all of you should see
the movie "The Woodsman."
— Margo, immediately

AN IDEA FOR
SOMETHING A COUPLE
CAN DO TOGETHER!
Dear Margo: After reading
"Sag Lady's" letter a while
back about her husband
hinting about breast
augmentation, I had to
write. I, too, am 46 years old
and breastfed our two
children. My husband also
suggested I consider getting
my breasts enlarged.
(Always, of course, saying
he was "only joking.")
Much to his surprise, I
said, "You know, that is a
wonderful idea!" He was
flabbergasted when I finally
said, "I'll call and get a
consultation right away, and
I want you to come with
me." My husband thought
he had died and gone to
heaven with the prospect of
my getting the size and
shape he wanted.

I then said, "We both will
get exactly what we want."
He looked at me, slightly
confused, until I explained
that while we were there, I
was going to inquire about
getting his penis enlarged at
the same time. Funny... he
never mentioned it again. —
And That Was That
Dear And: Hats off to you

for a stellar rejoinder, and
finding the perfect way to
finesse the situation. I do
not often print response
letters, but yours was too
wonderful not to pass along.
To defuse a situation with
humor is a real knack. —
Margo, admirably

WHEN YOUR MOTHER
IS A WITCH
Dear Margo: We are
Catholic, but about eight
years ago, my mother
decided she was a Wiccan. I
have tried very hard to
accept it, but I cannot.

I find it humiliating for
people to know because it's
embarrassing. She does,
however, respect my need
for it to be kept quiet.

The major issue is that I
am pregnant and engaged to
be married. My fiancée is
from Costa Rica, and his
family is VERY religious,
and in our religion, Wicca is
the same as devil worship. I
have not told my fiancée
because I am afraid of what
his reaction would be.

For years my mother tried
to educate me about her
religion and persuade me to
convert. I had to kindly, but
forcefully, tell her to stop.
My little sister is very
confused (she is 5, I am 23)
as she cannot differentiate
between being magical and
riding brooms, and real life.

I do respect my mother's
choice to be Wiccan, but I
don't want it in my life, and
I don't want my future in-
laws to find out. I feel like I
am denouncing a part of
her, and I feel guilty for that.

Plus, my stepfather likes
to make comments about it
that make me very
uncomfortable, and he
usually makes these
comments in front of my
fiancée, to put me on the spot
and force me to tell him the
truth.

PLEASE HELP!!!! —
Guilty in New Jersey
Dear Guilt: Even without
your stepfather trying to
push your buttons, you
should tell your fiancée of
your mother's conversion,
because this man is going to
be your husband.

It should be enough to tell
him that you are Catholic
as ever, and you might also
tell him that the broom
business is nonsense, along
with believing Wiccans to
be devil worshippers. (This
is the same kind of claptrap
that says the Jews killed
Christ.)

The belief system your
mother has chosen is
actually benign and
humane, if you read a little
about it. Because your
mother sounds sympathetic
to your problems with her
being Wiccan, in this case I
think the sin of omission is
permissible: Allow your
future in-laws to believe
your mother is Catholic.
There is no point in stirring
the cauldron. (Joke.) —
Margo, spiritually

NOT TO ASK OR
NOT TO ASK?
Dear Margo: My close
friends and I know
everything about one
another. We share intimate
details and embarrassing
moments, as friends do.

However, one of our
friends, a man in his early
20s, leaves part of his life a
mystery. We don't hear
about his love life, or even
exes (he had one or two
girlfriends in high school,
but hasn't dated since).
When romance is brought
up, the subject is changed.

He is flirtatious with both
men and women, and we are
all going crazy wondering —
IS HE GAY OR WHAT? We
all want to ask but know
that he will freak out if we
aren't tactful. How do we go
about facilitating that kind
of conversation without
overstepping boundaries? —
No Name Here, Please

Dear No: I do not think
there is a tactful way to ask
someone who never
discusses his love life, but
listens to all of you discuss
yours, if he's gay. Since you
seem to know for a fact that
he has not dated since high
school and flirts with both
sexes, it's a fair bet that
either nothing is going on,
or he doesn't wish for you to
know exactly what is going
on.

To quiet your curiosity,
assume he's either gay or
asexual, and stop obsessing
about something he chooses
to keep to himself. And it is
possible that maybe he
hasn't made up his mind. —
Margo, unconcernedly

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

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLN, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 5 rows representing time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM, listing various programs and their genres.

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



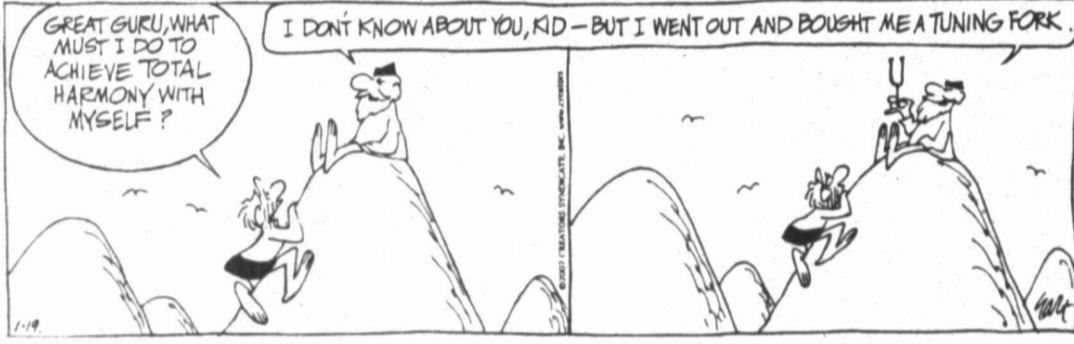
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Jan. 19, the 19th day of 2007. There are 346 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: Two hundred years ago, on Jan. 19, 1807, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was born in Westmoreland County, Va. On this date: In 1853, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Il Trovatore" premiered in Rome. In 1861, Georgia seceded from the Union. In 1937, millionaire Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record by flying his monoplane from Los Angeles to Newark, N.J., in seven hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds. In 1944, the federal government relinquished control of the nation's railroads following settlement of a wage dispute. In 1955, a presidential

news conference was filmed for television for the first time, with the permission of President Eisenhower. In 1966, Indira Gandhi was elected prime minister of India. In 1970, President Nixon nominated G. Harrold Carswell to the Supreme Court; however, the nomination was defeated because of controversy over Carswell's past racial views. In 1977, in one of his last acts of office, President Ford pardoned Iva Toguri D'Aquino, an American who'd made wartime broadcasts for Japan. Today's Birthdays: Actress Jean Stapleton is 84. Actor Fritz Weaver is 81. Actress Tippi Hedren is 77. Former PBS newsmen Robert MacNeil is 76. Movie director Richard Lester is 75. Singer Phil Everly is 68. Actor-singer Michael Crawford is 65. Actress Shelley Fabares is 63. Country singer Dolly Parton is 61. ABC newswoman Ann Compton is 60. TV chef Paula Deen is 60. Rock singer Martha Davis is 56. Singer Dewey Bunnell

(America) is 55. Actor Desi Arnaz Jr. is 54. Comedian Paul Rodriguez is 52. Actress Katey Sagal is 50. Reggae musician Mickey Virtue (UB40) is 50. Actor Paul McCrane is 46. Actor William Ragsdale is 46. Tennis player Stefan Edberg is 41. Rock singer Whitfield Crane (Ugly Kid Joe) is 39. Singer Trey Lorenz is 38. Actor Shawn Wayans is 36. Rock singer-musician John Wozniak (Marcy Playground) is 36. Actress Drea de Matteo is 35. Actress Marsha Thomason is 31. Actress Jodie Sweetin is 25. Actor Logan Lerman is 15.

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Answer to previous puzzle: CHEF SWAT MARLO ROAR PANE OCEAN ALTO AREA TRADE MYSTERYWRITER HAS COSMOS CHI GENESIS APE RANGE ALEE AMEN UNDERCOVERAGENT IDES AMID TONER SEC ATTISSUE TRY EDIBLE PAR SECRETADMIRER ALITO DIVA DORA DIVOT EDIT EPIC SPENT NEVE REEK

Newsday Crossword

RHYME SCENE by Richard Silvestri Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: ACROSS 1 Puts two and two together, 5 Cartoon skunk, 9 Impudent, 14 Sugar source, 15 Begin the bidding, 16 Way to go, 17 Disinterested, 19 Make fit, 20 First-rate galloping sound?, 22 Sundial reading, 23 Bring to mind, 24 Shoe part, 27 Shade of green, 31 O'Casey and Lennon, 32 Olympia artist, 34 Pine product, 35 Works on hides, 36 Patsies, 37 Actress Blanchett, 38 Addams family cousin, 39 Struck out, 40 Main artery, 41 Ancient vehicle, 43 Joined by treaty, 44 Courtyards, 46 Took charge, 47 Rapper's reversal of opinion?, 53 Beatrice's love, 54 Courageous person, 55 Box-score entry. DOWN 9 Wall fixture, 10 Window-shade holder, 11 Graph starter, 12 Move a foot, 13 "Love Madly" (Doors tune), 18 Muddies up, 21 Apples and pears, 24 Natural suffix, 25 Below, to Byron, 26 Annual visitor, 28 Pong maker, 29 Espresso alternative, 30 Anticipate with alarm, 32 Contents of a certain table, 33 Make like Rio (African region), 37 Lack of confidence, 39 Nervous, 40 Beth's predecessor, 42 Toronto basketballer, 43 Makes straight, 45 Blazing, 47 Rough up, 48 Regarding, 49 Mississippi pol, 50 Refrain syllables, 51 Approximately, 52 Sch. groups, 53 Around 60.