



Hot dog!

Forsan ISD to get new building for concessions

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

FORSAN — If all goes to plan, supporters of Forsan High School athletic programs will have a "one-stop" concession stand next school year.

Forsan Independent School District trustees discussed plans to construct a new concession stand during their regular meeting Monday evening.

Superintendent Randy Johnson estimated the cost of a new facility at between \$75,000 and \$100,000. It will be erected on the fence line separating the football and baseball fields and will serve those two areas, as well as the softball field.

Aside from modernizing the concession area, the move will also address existing accessibility concerns, Johnson said.

In other business, trustees:

- Learned there will not be much space to accept new student transfers into the district in the 2007-2008 school year.

- "It's looking like there will be space in our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes, and in grades 5 and 6," Johnson said. "All other grades look like they'll be full next year."

- Announced plans to open the swimming pool to the public again this summer. The pool, located at the high school campus, traditionally

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HOOP IT UP!



HERALD file photo
Christopher Berry cheers his team on during the 2006 "Hoops, Dreams and Goals" basketball tournament at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The third annual event helps West Texas Centers for MHMR celebrate Mental Retardation Awareness Month. This year's tournament is set for March 30 and will begin at 9 a.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

Sexual assault trial opens

Jones faces possible life term if convicted

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man indicted last year on charges of sexual-based crimes involving children saw his trial begin this morning in 118th District Court, facing a possible life sentence if convicted.

Daniel Ray Jones, 38, of 2507 Peach St., was indicted in November on charges of indecency with a child and two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child.

Jones was arrested and taken into custody in January by the Howard County Sheriff's Office after having been detained by Midland law enforcement officials approximately two months after being indicted by a grand jury.

Jones is on trial for one count of indecency with a child and two counts of aggravated sexual assault

of a child. Indecency with a child sexual contact is a second-degree felony, punishable by two to 20 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000. Aggravated sexual assault of a child is a first-degree felony, punishable by five to 99 years to life in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

According to law enforcement officials, the offenses — which involved two female victims, ages 10 years and 7 years of age — took place over an extended period of time during 2006.

Jury selection in the trial began Monday, with a five-man and seven-woman jury seated.

Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr is to present the state's case, while Jones is represented by attorney Tray Keith of Sweetwater.

BSSH fund-raiser takes new approach

By VALERIE AVERY
Special to the Herald

The Volunteer Services Council's Annual Denim and Diamonds fund-raiser did the trick, year-in and year-out.

Reliably raising more than \$20,000 for the patients at Big Spring State Hospital, volunteers were able to build a walking track, an Animal Assisted Therapy classroom, purchase two patient trams and add courtyards to patient buildings.

As the 100-member organization's largest fund-raiser of the year, the volunteers could not

"We always ask our employees what is the greatest need of our patients. And, almost emphatically they suggested a meditation garden for patients to go and sit and sort out their thoughts."

argue with its success. The annual Gala hosted a barbecue and country and western music giving attendees a chance to kick up their heels.

But several years ago, the council ushered in Stacy Barr with her high-pitched enthusiasm and it slowly began the beginnings of a much-needed tweaking.

The main set-up stayed true to its roots but a street dance hosted in adjoining rooms and back-



—Billie Christie-Morgan

yards was the first change. This year, she introduced the Cars and Stars Bonanza, making the largest change to date.

"We wanted to continue the tradition of Denim and Diamonds but give it a new flavor," Barr said. "We chose 'Cars & Stars Bonanza' which will still feature good food and great fun, but give attendees a chance to win some great prizes."

Each \$100 tax-deductible donation gives each ticket holder and his or her guest a buffet dinner, door prizes and all the other

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

RATTLESNAKE ROUNDUP

The American Business Club (AMBUCS) of Big Spring will hold its 44th Annual Rattlesnake Roundup March 23-25 at the Howard County Fairbarns.

Professional snake handlers will educate and entertain the public.

The event includes a free arts and crafts fair and flea market both Saturday and Sunday.

Hours will be 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children age 4-11 and available at the door.

Proceeds will benefit the AMBUCS Scholarship Fund for Therapists.

A&M SCHOLARSHIPS

The Howard County A&M Club is accepting scholarship applications for the 2007-2008 school year.

Scholarship application deadlines are April 2 for Howard County graduating high school seniors and June 1 for enrolled college students.

Applications can be printed from the scholarship application link at the A&M Club's Web site: clubs.aggienetwork.com/howard-countyama/webhome.htm. Applications should be mailed to Jerry Foresyth, 2909 MacAuslan, Big Spring 79720.

For more information, contact Diana Newton at 263-4204 or 816-4331.

COMMUNITY FLEA MARKET

The date is set for the Third Annual "Spring Clean Community-Wide Flea Market" set for 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at the Big Spring Mall parking lot.

Keep Big Spring Beautiful invites everyone to be involved — all clubs, organizations, businesses and individuals.

Pick up an application for booth space at the Mall office or the Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third. Prices for 10x10 spaces are \$25, 12x12 spaces are \$45 and 24x12 spaces are \$65.

Call 263-8235 or 263-7641 for more information. Mail applications and checks to: Keep Big Spring Beautiful, P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring 79721

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Obituaries

Marcos Chavera



Marcos Chavera, 52, of Big Spring died on Sunday, March 18, 2007, in the Hospice Inpatient Unit of Midland Memorial Hospital. A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. today, Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Deacon Johnny Arguello of Sacred Heart Catholic Church officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born on Jan. 1, 1955, in Frio County. Marcos was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and was a farmer. He liked to dance and work in the garden and enjoyed being outdoors. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Manuela Rivas of Big Spring; four sons, Manuel Chavera, Billy Chavera, Fabian Chavera and Marcos Chavera Jr.; two daughters, Ortencia Hernandez and Criselda Chavera; six step children; 29 grandchildren; two brothers, Rodrigo Chavera and A.C. Chavera; and six sisters, Yolanda Gutierrez, Mary Louisa Gutierrez, Irene Flores, Gloria (Chavera) Guiardo, Erminia Chavera and Chelo (Chavera) Rodriguez.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one son, Albert Chavera.

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

Paid obituary

Bennett William Huston

Bennett William Huston, the infant son of Jennifer and Steven Huston of Martinez, Ga., died Thursday, March 8, 2007 at Medical College of Georgia. Bennett was born on Jan. 19, 2007.

Survivors in addition to his parents include his sister, Anna Morgan Huston; his maternal grandparents, William T. and Judy Morgan of Montgomery, Ala.; and his paternal grandparents, Dr. James W. and Sandra Huston of Big Spring.

A memorial service was held at 1 p.m. Monday, March 12, 2007, at First Baptist Church of Augusta with the Rev. Dr. Greg DeLoach officiating.

Thomas Poteet & Son Funeral Directors had charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Medical College of Georgia, 1120 15th Augusta, Ga. 30912 or to First Baptist Church of Augusta, 3500 Walton Way, Augusta, Ga. 30909.

A. A. Cooper

A. A. Cooper, 83, of Big Spring, died Monday, March 19, 2007, in a Midland hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-2-8-30-32.
Number matching five of five: none.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 17-18-21-30. Bonus Ball: 13.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-0-4.

Support Groups

TUESDAY
• The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

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

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

WEDNESDAY
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

• Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard County Library Basement Community Room. DRA is a 12-step meeting for those who have a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs and also have a mental or emotional illness.

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage. For more information, call Deldra F. at (432) 816-3033. Leave a message if you get voice mail.

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

Police blotter

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

- **MARK SANCHEZ**, 20, of 4107 Dixon, was arrested Monday on charges of driving under the influence by a minor and racing on the highway.
- **KAYCIE SAUCEDO**, 20, of 5015 Wasson, was arrested Monday on charges of driving under the influence by a minor and racing on the highway.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1200 block of Mulberry.
- **RACING ON HIGHWAY** was reported in the 1700 block of Gregg Street.
- **DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE BY A MINOR** was reported in the 1700 block of Gregg Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 600 block of State.
 - in the 200 block of Marcy.
 - in the 1200 block of Gregg Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1700 block of Owens.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 61 inmates at the time of this report.
- **JOEL BRENT HOWARD**, 45, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated - second offense.
 - **SHERRY LYNN DRIGGER JOHNSON**, 40, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated.
 - **LEVI PATRICK CARTER**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.
 - **AARON WAYNE HENSLEY**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, theft/violation of probation and theft of service.
 - **MARK ANTHONY SANCHEZ**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving under the influence by a minor.
 - **TYRONE DEION SMITH**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less, possession of a controlled substance (two counts), failure to identify as a fugitive from justice and Midland County warrants for aggravated robbery and failure to appear.
 - **LANA DOWER MARTINEZ**, 33, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.
 - **KAYCIE RENAE SAUCEDO**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving under the influence by a minor and racing on the highway.
 - **CHARLENE RENAE STRAGALD**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
 - **SAMANTHA DIANE CASTRO**, 22, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of military desertion - hold for the Army.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of W. Second Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of Rannels. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

• **IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH** will have Stations of the Cross Friday at 6 p.m. A fish fry will follow in the church hall. Plates are \$5 per adults and \$2.50 per child.

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7808.

• **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES** Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

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Bulletin Board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

- TODAY**
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
 - Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
 - Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- WEDNESDAY**
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
 - Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
 - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

- THURSDAY**
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
 - Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

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

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 60. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds around 20 mph.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and thunderstorms. Locally heavy rainfall possible. Highs in the upper 60s. South winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Friday...Cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with showers and thunderstorms likely. Locally heavy rainfall possible. Lows in the upper 50s. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs around 70.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 40s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

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News briefs

Saddam Hussein's former deputy
Taha Yassin Ramadan hanged

BAGHDAD (AP) — Saddam Hussein's former deputy was hanged before dawn Tuesday, the fourth man to be executed in the killings of 148 Shiites following a 1982 assassination attempt against the former leader in the town of Dujail.

Taha Yassin Ramadan, who was Saddam's vice president when the regime was ousted, went to the gallows on the fourth anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq.

Bassam al-Hassani, an adviser to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, said the execution went smoothly, although Ramadan appeared frightened and recited the two shahadahs — a declaration of faith repeated by Muslims — "There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his Prophet."

Man says he's innocent

LIVINGSTON (AP) — Condemned prisoner Charles Anthony Nealy says he wasn't even in Texas on an August evening almost 10 years ago when two men were gunned down during the robbery of a convenience store just south of downtown Dallas.

"It's not me," Nealy says of a grainy videotape image from a security camera

that shows one man carrying a shotgun and another with a pistol taking money from a cash register and then grabbing a bottle of wine and a couple of six-packs of cold beer. "Two kids — that's what I see. Possibly teenagers. And I wasn't one of them."

A Dallas County jury believed otherwise.

Nealy, who would be 43 later this week, faced lethal injection this evening in Huntsville for the death of one of the men, store owner Jiten Bhakta, 25.

Opinion could bring funds
for 9 men in Tulia drug sting

AUSTIN (AP) — Nine more men pardoned in the discredited 1999 Tulia drug busts could receive compensation for their wrongful imprisonment under an opinion issued Monday by the Texas Attorney General's Office.

The opinion says Jason Paul Fry, who was among 46 people arrested in the sting that civil rights leaders say was racially motivated, is entitled to about \$36,500 in compensation for serving more than a year in prison.

The Tulia case, in which 39 of those arrested were black, cast an international spotlight on this small ranching town of about 5,000. The sting involved

one white undercover agent who worked alone without audio or video surveillance.

At issue in the opinion was whether Fry could receive the money despite serving a concurrent sentence at the time for an unrelated arrest, which would deny his eligibility under state law. But since Fry's other sentence — for violating his probation on an unrelated drug offense — was solely triggered by his wrongful arrest, the attorney general ruled that he can be compensated.

Lawmakers say Perry order
may jeopardize TYC investigation

AUSTIN (AP) — A House committee looking into allegations of rampant abuse in youth prisons asked the attorney general's office on Monday to determine whether Gov. Rick Perry had the authority to appoint a special master for the Texas Youth Commission.

Lawmakers wanted Perry to appoint a conservator to overhaul the troubled agency, which incarcerates the state's most dangerous, incorrigible or chronic juvenile offenders.

Instead, he appointed special master Jay Kimbrough to investigate the problems and directed the commission's six-

person board to hire acting executive director Ed Owens to restructure the agency.

The problem, according to some members of the House corrections committee, is that a conservator's powers and duties are outlined in state law and a special master's aren't.

Bill Richardson says he'd meet
Chavez, leaders of Iran, Syria

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Democratic New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said Monday that U.S. foreign policy's concentration on the Middle East cost the country progress on other important issues and that Latin America has been virtually ignored.

"My point is that Latin America is a very important part of the world," Richardson said, noting that he would meet with leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez as part of a broader Latin American policy plan.

Calling President Bush's recent trip to the region "a little late," Richardson said the U.S. needs to be "associated with policies of democratic populism in Latin America."

"We're not," he said. "We have to pay more attention to Latin America by being there."

Moore Development hires consultant

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The board of directors for Moore Development of Big Spring approved a contract with Lubbock-based personnel consultant Laurin Prather last week in hopes of finding — and hiring — an executive director for the economic development firm.

Larry McLellan, Moore Board president, said the group approved the contract during a special meeting Thursday.

"We met with Laurin to look at the services (of a consultant)," said McLellan. "We decided to retain his services. He is with Lubbock BCD Inc. Laurin will work along side the Moore Board to help us find an executive director. We agreed to pay

him \$3,000 initially, and another \$3,000 once phase one is completed. So the entire package deal is \$6,000."

McLellan said Prather is planning to do some research on the matter that falls outside of what the board might consider.

"He said he plans to meet with city officials, as well as other local officials from Howard College and the school district, to see what they would like to see in an executive director," said McLellan. "He also plans to meet with each of the members of the Moore Board individually to see what they expect."

McLellan said the next step in the search for a new director will be to work with the names and

resumes the board has already gathered.

"We currently have a pair of prospects we're looking at," said McLellan. "We'll work with those first, and if they don't pan out we'll scrap the whole thing and start over with Laurin helping with the recruiting."

Moore Development has been without an executive director since long-time director Kent Sharp announced he would be resigning in August 2006.

As Moore Board attempts to move forward in the hiring of a director, McLellan said the group is also hoping to move forward with its assistance in the renovation of the historic Settles Hotel. "The meeting hasn't

been officially set yet, but we're currently working on rescheduling our regular meeting next week to Monday," said McLellan. "Brint Ryan (manager of the Settles Hotel Development Company) said he will be in town and wants to meet with the board. This would be a really good time for the public and the media to have a chance to meet Mr. Ryan, so we're in the process of trying to make that happen."

Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. directors voted unanimously Dec. 8 to provide up to \$3 million to help Ryan, manager of the Dallas company and the founder and CEO of Ryan & Company — renovate the Settles Hotel, which he agreed to

purchase for \$75,000 from the city of Big Spring.

According to city officials, Ryan has not yet paid the \$75,000 tab for the historic building, which was expected to be paid for in full by the end of December.

SHDC announced plans for a \$12 million renovation

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BSSH

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activities during the evening.

Proceeds from the gala will support the plan to build a meditation garden, Billie Christie-Morgan, Big Spring State Hospital director of community relations said.

"We always ask our employees what is the greatest need of our patients," Christie-Morgan said. "And, almost emphatically they suggested a meditation garden for patients to go and sit and sort out their

thoughts. Our patients attend classes and live in their dorm rooms, so it's good for each patient to get some quiet time away."

"With our greenhouse where patients work and nurture plants and flowers, it just seemed like a perfect marriage of the two. The greenhouse staff and the patients can keep up the garden during their classes and the patients can use it for reflective time."

The Bonanza will be April 27 at the Big Spring Country Club.

For more information, call 268-7535, 268-7536 or 268-7271.

Tickets are available at Bob Brock Ford, Pollard Chevrolet, Shroyer Motor Co. and the Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Office.

Tickets also can be obtained from Cars and Stars Committee members: Stacy and Mark

Barr, Doris Huibregtse, Casey Bobbitt, Jeanie and Kurt Coor, Lucy Flores, Robin Hallman, Suzanne Markwell, Erin and Scott MacKenzie, Sara and Justin Myers, Jamie and Heather Weaver and Williams.

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FISD

Continued from Page 1A

opens around Memorial Day.

High school coach Robert Hillger will manage the facility this summer, and the district is now looking for life-guardians, Johnson said.

Learned that enrollment is holding steady compared to the previous school year. Johnson said 332 students are enrolled at Elbow Elementary, while 349 students are signed up at the junior high/high school campus.

Voted to renew all recommended teacher contracts for the 2007-2008 school year.

Accepted the resignation of Assistant Band Director Emmanuel Madrid.

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

For those people who want to win the battle over Acid Reflux Disease, we'd like to say "Bravo."



The area's only Bravo pill system is now available at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for the treatment and diagnosis of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (also called GERD). The new Bravo pill procedure allows you to monitor your acid levels without the insertion of tubes or cameras, and without drinking unpleasant barium solution. It's as simple as wearing a pager and as easy as using a TV remote. Talk to your doctor or call 432-263-6018 for more information.



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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Hangar 25's contest needs children's art

Parents, the call has gone out from the Hangar 25 Air Museum that it needs your children's artwork. That's right, in part of its effort to get the youth in Big Spring and Howard County excited about the museum and its exhibits, it is conducting an art contest that deserves attention. But there's not much time left to get entered.

The museum is sponsoring the local art contest for youth between 5 years and 18 years of age, touting the theme "Hangar 25 ... Representing 65 years of local, state and national history."

It's an effort that museum officials hope will address two goals with one project.

Museum Director Heather Wallace and Assistant Director Vicky Nutter are seeking different ways to encourage art in the area, as well as get young people interested in the museum.

"We feel like it's something the community should try to support," Nutter noted. "So Heather came up with the contest as a way to not only encourage art, but to also help educate the community about the Hangar 25 Air Museum."

The contest is open to young people in three different age groups — 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years and 15 to 18 years.

Artwork submitted for the contest needs to be on a piece of 8.5x11 white paper. The name, age and contact information for the artist on the back of the entry, and must be turned in at the Hangar 25 Air Museum in person or mailed to P.O. Box 2925, Big Spring 79720 by 4 p.m. Monday.

First, second and third places in all three age divisions will receive prizes, and all entrants will receive a certificate of participation. The overall winner, however, will have his or her design placed on the 2007 Hangar 25 Kid's Klub T-shirt.

For more information on the museum or the contest, call 264-1999.

We here at the *Herald* want to encourage parents in our community to encourage their children to enter the Hangar 25 contest.

Furthermore, if you haven't taken your children to visit the museum — or worse still, haven't visited it yourself — now is the perfect time to plan a trip to Hangar 25.

The museum is not simply geared toward the older veterans in our community. It's a glimpse at an important part of this community's history, as well as an eye toward the future.

We really think you and your family should check it out.

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

Your realism, Lord, is just what we need in our life.

Amen

Inexcusable mistakes were made

By his own lights, U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales should resign. As Gonzales wrote in USA Today last week, he asked seven U.S. attorneys to resign in December — he left out an eighth, who was invited to resign earlier and replaced by former Karl Rove aide Tim Griffin — for reasons that were "performance-related" and because they "simply lost my confidence." By that standard, it is time for Gonzales to go.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

It is hard to imagine how the Bushies could have bungled the situation more — considering how avoidable this scandal was.

Bush has a right to fire any U.S. attorney, as all serve at the pleasure of the president. If the Bushies simply had announced that they pushed out the eight federal prosecutors after they had served their four-year terms for their own reasons, they would have been at least within their political rights — although they could hardly complain if critics questioned whether the personnel changes represented a political purge.

Didn't the fair-haired boys on Team Bush learn anything from Travelgate — the brouhaha that followed when the Clinton administration fired travel office staffers in 1993? Clintonia smeared travel staffers rather than admit the administration simply wanted to replace them with patronage hires. For no good reason, the Bushies followed the textbook case on how

not to replace people. Many Democrats argue that Team Bush fired some of the U.S. attorneys — most notably New Mexico's David Iglesias and San Diego's Carol Lam — for political reasons. Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., had complained that Iglesias was slow in going after a corruption case involving Democrats, while Lam had successfully prosecuted GOP Rep. Duke Cunningham on bribery charges. The administration's lack of candor on these firings bolsters critics' suspicions. I now see why Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein was adamant in investigating the issue.

It doesn't help that top Bush aides seemed to see the U.S. Department of Justice as their toy — that they didn't have to share.

Thus, then-White House Counsel Harriet Miers suggested in early 2005 that the White House consider firing all 93 U.S. attorneys. (A newly released White House memo shows that Rove entertained the idea in January 2005.) The White House has suggested that some prosecutors were failing to take up immigration and voter-fraud cases — and any president has the right to direct staff to focus on his priorities. But getting rid of all the top prosecutors would have hindered all federal casework.

As former Gonzales Chief of Staff Kyle Sampson wrote to Miers, "There are practical obstacles to removing and replacing U.S. attorneys." Such as, "Wholesale removal of U.S. attorneys would cause a significant disruption to the work of the Department of Justice."

And replacing them would be really, really messy.

Sampson resigned last Monday, after the Justice Department released memos that showed how he reviewed all 93 U.S. attorneys based on whether they were effective prosecutors who "exhibited loyalty" or "ineffectual managers" who "chafed against administration initiatives."

If Gonzales had been forthcoming early on, he could have sold this story: Flush with victory in 2004, some overeager Bush aides wanted to axe all U.S. attorneys. Cooler heads prevailed. After a full review, the Department of Justice office decided to make some changes. The administration rewarded Griffin and replaced some bad eggs (like San Francisco prosecutor Kevin Ryan, whose performance reviews found high office turnover and low morale).

White House spokeswoman Jeanie Mamo said she thinks it important for the public to remember that the White House didn't act on bad political advice. "The idea to replace all 93 U.S. attorneys was not pursued. DOJ did an evaluation, based on policy and performance considerations, which was absolutely appropriate," she told me.

But it is not enough for President Bush to mumble, "Mistakes were made." Right now, U.S. troops in Iraq need Bush to sell his surge policy to the public. The president has to safeguard his credibility. He has to let Gonzales go. America wants to see a White House that puts performance before loyalty.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunder@sfchronicle.com.

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Obama, Israel and Al Sharpton

It wasn't exactly a Sister Souljah moment, but recognizing the suffering of the Palestinians on the eve of his maiden address as a presidential candidate before AIPAC, the national pro-Israel lobby, as Barack Obama did this week, was certain to get the notice of the crowd.



SUSAN ESTRICH

"Nobody is suffering more than the Palestinian people," is what Obama said in Iowa on Sunday. "Awarding first place in the suffering matrix is odious and infelicitous," is what Rabbi Steven Silver of Redondo Beach, Calif., told a reporter interviewing delegates to the AIPAC meeting on Monday. "I think a lot of Americans would find that comment offensive, too." His son, a Clinton partisan, was reportedly spreading the word to others about Obama's comments.

In Obama's speech to the conference, the Illinois Senator went out of his way to affirm his support for Israel. "I am pro-Israel," he said. He and Hillary said all the same things about fighting terror and supporting Israel's security. But Hillary never mentioned the Palestinians in her well-received speech, while Obama said: "All of us are committed to two states living side by side in peace." Even more troubling to his critics was Obama's inclusion of cynicism as

an obstacle to peace in the Middle East. "One of the enemies we have to fight," Obama said, "is not just terrorists, it's not just Hezbollah, it's not just Hamas — it's also cynicism."

Many supporters of Israel are skeptical of anyone who is not sufficiently cynical about the prospects of peace; the idea is that it's only realistic to be cynical. There was, reportedly, much murmuring about Obama's attack on cynicism and what it portends for Israel, particularly when coupled with his earlier recognition of Palestinian suffering.

In truth, there is nothing new in any of Obama's comments. He's running on hope and optimism, after all. It's not as if he's singled the Middle East out. And as for the suffering of the Palestinians, I've heard similar comments from Israel's best friends in pointing out the price of their failed leaders. And sure enough, that is precisely the context in which Obama made his remarks. "If we could get some movement among the Palestinian leadership, what I'd like to see is a loosening up of some of the restrictions on providing aid directly to the Palestinian people." Nothing necessarily wrong there.

Of course, all of this was happening even as Obama was being dragged into an even more public tussle with Rev. Al Sharpton, the high-profile New York activist to whom Obama has apparently been insufficiently solicitous. Sharpton has made clear that he is not nec-

essarily going to endorse his fellow black, and has loudly denied the increasingly obvious explanation that his political judgments are driven by his ego. Obama's willingness to stand up to Sharpton may or may not cost him in the black community — my guess is it will ultimately cost Sharpton more, which Al is smart enough to figure out — but it certainly generated attention to the rift.

You can see in Obama's moves signs of either the sort of independence that could win this race for him or the sort of inexperience that could lose it for him. Hillary was a hit at AIPAC. In a roomful of donors for whom Israel is the number one issue, she left no doubt as to her commitment. She gave them what they wanted, which is what you would expect her to do. The conventional step for her opponent would be to do precisely the same thing. Hillary has made her peace with Sharpton. Many expect him to endorse her.

But Obama is not going to beat Hillary at the conventional game. That's her hand. If he's going to win, not to mention preserve his integrity in the process, he has to be who he is.

Whether that is viewed as naivety in action or the insight of a new generation of leaders is the judgment voters will ultimately have to make.

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Bird & Rel

The Afri- you teen knew for release open coun well award lation the hawk unt bird's clov and sepi its breast, ing as its Rufous tir would soo Even for youngster hawk was and heavy Taking fli bird seem gish. The of its win almost av in compa other rap it gained and altitu ever, the ness of it became e nous haw of the sk; Through summer, hunting; ground s rabbits a well sup snake or plentiful its diet. I patience hunter, I could be at the en Eventua would sl seized ir talons. As col warned ferrugin journey raptor h western time, th some of 8.5 by the s jackrab during an easy Eventu: 20 degr dust str The rap depend additio

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Bird Poop:

Rehabilitated, young hawk freed for fall migration

The time had come. After months of feeding and exercising the young hawk, the volunteer knew the raptor was ready for release. Taking the bird to open country, the man was well aware of the rodent population that would sustain the hawk until migration. The bird's clove brown upper parts, and sepia spots on the sides of its breast, were as fresh looking as its white underparts. Rufous tints and buff feathers would soon fade to white.

Even for a youngster, the hawk was large and heavy. Taking flight, the bird seemed sluggish. The flapping of its wings was almost awkward in comparison to other raptors. As it gained speed and altitude, however, the gracefulness of its species became evident. The ferruginous hawk had become a part of the sky.

Throughout the rest of the summer, the hawk honed his hunting skills. With abundant ground squirrels, prairie dogs, rabbits and mice, the bird was well supplied. An occasional snake or skunk, along with plentiful insects, rounded out its diet. Developing the patience needed by any skilled hunter, the hawk learned it could be successful by waiting at the entrance to a burrow. Eventually, a prairie dog would show its head and be seized in the raptor's powerful talons.

As cold Canadian winds warned of winter's arrival, the ferruginous began its southern journey. By November, the raptor had arrived in the vast western plains of Texas. Over time, the hawk learned that some of its food could be found by the side of a road. When jackrabbits were hit by cars during the night, the bird had an easy source for food. Eventually, cold fronts brought 20 degree days, and day-long dust storms with high winds. The raptor became even more dependent upon securing the additional food it needed by



Seen from below, the white underside of a ferruginous hawk's tail leads many observers to think that it is a bald eagle.

Courtesy photo

searching the seemingly endless miles of asphalt.

The last day of January brought a call from Barney Hise. Twenty miles south of Midkiff, 12 miles northeast of Rankin, he had seen a very large hawk in a bar ditch. Stopping to see if it were injured, he realized the bird favored one side. Perhaps its leg was out of joint.

"Something else," he added. "There's a band on its leg." Thin and unable to stand, the ferruginous hawk had not only a broken leg, but wing as well.

Both breaks on the same side of the bird indicated the possibility of having been hit by a vehicle.

Too often were such injuries seen on birds of prey that seek food near pavement. Additionally, the effect of strong wind gusts could have slowed the bird's efforts to leave the roadway. On the band was printed Washington, D.C. 1207-35107. This information was called in to a wildlife center volunteer, who notified the proper agency.

After receiving a liquid avian

supplement, the hawk was offered beef heart and mice. It devoured them readily. The next day the raptor was delivered to Lubbock. The impact the bird had sustained also caused a dislocated hip. Since the bird's severe injuries could not be repaired, euthanasia ended its brief life.

From the agency came information that the hawk had received the band prior to release from Belgrade, Mont., on June 19.

It was important that the center volunteers note the

bird's health, injuries, and final outcome before notifying the person who had applied the leg band.

Grateful to learn that the ferruginous had been successful in making its fall migration, the man said he would always remember the release date. Not only had he had the privilege of raising the bird, but had watched it sail in widening circles until lost in the clouds.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.



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Bedtime Stories

LITTLE LUCI AND MRS. PEABODY

Luci was a little girl who had always dreamed very big dreams. She dreamed that she was a lawyer. She dreamed that she would be a state governor. She dreamed that she would be the very first lady president. Do you dream? Would you like to be the President of the United States? Is it okay to dream these dreams? Sure it is! Do you think Luci could ever be a lady president? Sure she could! Just like men presidents, she would have to remember her dream and work very hard to make it come true. But, it can happen.

Luci thought about being the first lady president most of her life. She wanted to be president and help make the whole world just a little bit better. She wanted everyone to work hard and love each other. She



was special. When she was just a little girl, and decided that she would someday be the first lady president, she couldn't wait to tell all her friends. She was so excited. The next day of school would be the best time to tell them. Morning came. Luci woke up with her great big smile, and ran to school, huffing and puffing all

the way. She decided to wait until all of her friends were in the classroom and tell all of them at the same time. Soon, the bell rang. All of her friends were there that day. All of the children stopped their chattering. It was time for Mrs. Peabody, their teacher, to enter the classroom. The classroom became very quiet. In came Mrs. Peabody. She was smiling her same, warm, beautiful smile. You could just see that she loved her students. And they loved her. Mrs. Peabody was very

special too! "Good Morning, children," she said to all of them, "I hope everyone feels wonderful today. Do any of you have anything new to tell us today?" Mrs. Peabody always asked this same question each and every morning. Little Luci had never stood up and told Mrs. Peabody and the class any news before. Today would be so different. Up flew Luci's hand, eagerly wanting to tell everyone about her dream. "Yes Luci," said Mrs. Peabody, "And what would you like to tell us this morning?"

"I am going to be the very first lady President of the United States," she said, in a voice that seemed just a little louder than her normal voice. It was okay because the excitement made her speak that way. Luci's excitement soon turned to disappointment when all of the other children laughed at her. "You?

President?" one of them said. "It will never happen," said another. "Everyone laughed at poor Little Luci!" Everyone but Mrs.



Peabody! Mrs. Peabody asked all of the children to please stop laughing at Luci. "It is okay for Luci to have these great dreams," she said, "If no one ever had great dreams, we would never have airplanes, or cars, or tv's, or telephones, or nice homes, or bicycles, or anything else we all love. I hope all of you have great dreams like Luci!" After Mrs. Peabody fin-

ished talking to all the children, they started thinking too. Mike had always wanted to be a baseball player. Joe had always wanted to be a race car driver. Penelope had always wanted to be a lawyer. Maybe they shouldn't have laughed at Luci!

Mrs. Peabody also knew that they shouldn't have laughed at Luci. Mrs. Peabody knew lots of things. No one had ever asked her how she knew almost everything, but she seemed to. No one had ever asked Mrs. Peabody if she was a fortune teller. Mrs. Peabody had never told anyone that she was indeed, a fortune teller and could see everything that would happen in the future. She had looked into the future many times. She saw the very reason that no one should have laughed at Little Luci for wanting to be the first president. She saw Big Luci, all grown up, sitting in an oval shaped office. On her

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desk was a very big nameplate. It said "President Of The United States."

Mrs. Peabody had known all along that Little Luci was going to be the first lady president. She didn't tell Luci because she knew that if Luci didn't know, she would have to work, and work very hard to be a good president and if she never knew what hard work was, then she could never be a great president.

Can you keep a secret? Let's never tell anyone about Mrs. Peabody. This is only a bedtime story anyhow, and Mrs. Peabody isn't real. Is she? Let's get to sleep and dream those big, wonderful dreams. Good Night!

★★★★
★★★★
★★★★

Internet security: Cold, hard truth is we're never really safe

In the cloak and dagger world known as the Internet, there's one truth hard-core security experts and hackers alike will agree on: Online security is an illusion we cling to like Linus of Peanuts fame would cling to his blanket even today.

We have three different anti-virus programs on our personal computers — all running at the same time, and we can't imagine why we're having problems — a half-dozen spyware killers and God only knows how many registry cleaners.

And, as the computing day comes to a close and our PCs are nicely disinfected — I envision Mr. Clean's smiling mug even as I write this — we think we're safe.

The cold, hard truth of the matter, however, is we're never really safe. Of course, companies like Symantec, McAfee and the thousands of other antivirus and security minded companies that have popped up over the last ten years would have you believe different.

"Use McAfee and you're protected!"

"Norton Antivirus is the most comprehensive program on the planet."

You hear the boasts non-stop, with all of the companies claiming to be No. 1 in some and all respects, but the plain truth of the matter is Internet attacks are much like terrorist attacks: Unpredictable and damn near impossible to prepare for.

And while the guys and gals trying to hock their products to a massively undereducated and overpaid — I say this by simply looking at the price of the software — society that will not only pay through the teeth for the illusion of freedom, they're even willing to give up many of the civil liberties for the exchange.

Think I'm just being cynical toward the Silicon Valley software gurus?

OK, so when was the last time you checked your computer hardware for malicious code?

What, you say? PC hardware compo-

nents can provide a way for hackers to sneak malicious code onto a computer, a security researcher recently warned.

That's right. I bet you thought software was the only way for hackers to get viruses, Trojans and worms onto your computer.

Every component in a PC, such as graphics cards, DVD drives and batteries, has some memory space for the software that runs it, called firmware.

Even most cell phones have firmware now. Go figure.

Miscreants could use this space to hide malicious code that would load the next time the PC — or phone — boots, John Heasman, research director at NGS Software, said in a presentation at last week's Black Hat event.

"This is an important area and people should be concerned about this," Heasman said. "Software security is getting better, yet we run increasingly complicated hardware. Unless we address hardware security, we're leaving an interesting avenue for attack."

Translation: We're only covering half our PCs.

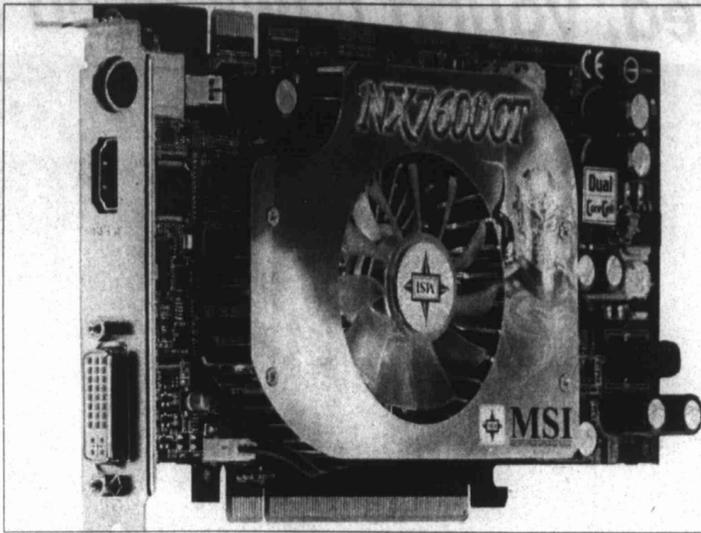
Malicious code delivered via the memory on hardware components poses a rootkit threat since it will run on the PC before the operating system loads, Heasman said.

This likely will hide it from security software and other protection mechanisms, he added. Such low-level malicious code is known as a rootkit.

Moreover, because the malicious code is stored on the hardware component and not a PC's hard disk, reinstalling the operating system or otherwise wiping the disk won't remove the threat.

Isn't that just a lovely thought?

In his research, Heasman focused on graphics cards inserted in the PCI, PCI Express or AGP slots on a PC motherboard. He found that it is possible to load



a few kilobytes of additional code onto the memory of such cards. An attacker could do this by tricking the user into opening a malicious file, for example, he said.

"The PCI bus was developed by Intel in the 1990s. And as we all know, security wasn't in high respects at that time," Heasman said. "On a well-run network, administrators know which machines are on their network, but do they know what PCI devices are on their network? In most cases I'd imagine that the answer is no."

The concept Heasman presented is not new. Other security researchers have highlighted the risk before. And the industry has responded through the Trusted Computing Group and the Trusted Platform Module, which performs additional checks. However, the Trusted Platform Module isn't on every PC and its capabilities aren't always used, Heasman noted.

For increased protection, Heasman recommends scanning the memory on PC expansion cards and other hardware components and analyzing what the code stored there does.

Considering most PC users don't even know what a PCI slot is or where it's located — much less how to test it or read the code stored

inside — I'd say we're on the precipice of a brand new form of infiltration.

And if we're waiting on the government to save us, we're in deeper trouble than anyone thought possible.

Cyberinvestigators are nearly drowning in the massive amounts of digital data seized from criminal suspects, a government official said recently.

As digital evidence increases in importance, authorities seize anything that can hold data. This includes computers, CDs, USB keys, MP3 players, cell phones and game consoles, Jim Christy, a director of the U.S. Department of Defense Cyber Crime Center, said in a presentation at the same Black Hat DC event.

"This is everything that you got and gave for Christmas," Christy said. In one case, investigators found child pornography on a modified Xbox, he said. "The challenge is that with digital proliferation, the data volume is tremendous these days."

A single terabyte of

a legal case, but efficient tools to sift through massive amounts of data don't exist today, Christy said.

"I want to call out to the industry to create tools to help us investigate large volumes of data in a forensic manner," he said.

Cybercrime investigators need more tools because they are stretched thin. There are only about a dozen accredited digital-forensics labs in the United States.

While it may appear differently on popular TV police dramas, digital evidence is used in many more cases than DNA analysis, for example, which appears in only 1 percent of U.S. criminal cases, Christy said.

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



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IN BRIEF

Hawk highlights in baseball

The Howard Hawks men's baseball team swept two from Barton County Community College Monday afternoon.

In the first game the Hawks won a tight game 5-4 and in game two they cruised to a 6-1 victory.

Howard is 21-6 on the season and they travel to play a doubleheader against Clarendon College Friday.

Tim Siegel slates Tennis Camps

Tim Siegel, the Big 12 Tennis Coach of the Year in 2005, will be conducting overnight tennis camps June 2-6 and June 17-21.

The camp is for children ages 8 to 17 and is open to players with all ability levels.

Siegel has been Director of the TTU Tennis Camps since 1993. For additional information, contact Siegel at (806) 742-3355 ext. 277.

April softball classic update

The Midland Softball Association is hosting the April Classic Softball Tournament at the Bill Williams Softball Complex in Midland, April 14-15.

USSA Registration is required and there will be a men's and women's division.

Entry fee is \$180 with a Tuesday, April 10 deadline. For more information, call Mario Gonzales at (432) 889-7625 or visit www.midlandsoftball.com

Rangers home field becomes Rangers Ballpark

The Texas Rangers ended their stadium naming rights deal with Ameriquest Mortgage Co. on Monday, severing a 30-year contract with the struggling lender just three years after Ameriquest Field debuted.

The stadium will be called Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, the team said in a statement.

Ameriquest's deal with the Rangers, announced in 2004, was reportedly worth \$75 million. The parent company of the subprime lender, ACC Capital Holdings Corp., announced last week that it was slashing its work force for the second time in less than a year.

In a statement, Rangers president Jeff Cogen said the team approached Ameriquest last year in order to reclaim the Ballpark name for a new branding strategy.

Prior to the contract with Ameriquest in 2004, the stadium was known as The Ballpark in Arlington.

The renaming comes 2 1/2 years before the scheduled opening of the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium nearby.

Waltrip stalls as season starts

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — It's hard not to feel sorry for Michael Waltrip.

Between the Daytona 500 cheating scandal and atrocious on-track performance, Waltrip's having a horrendous start to the season.

He failed to make the field for the last three Nextel Cup events. And the cars he fields for Dale Jarrett and David Reutimann are nothing more than backmarkers, frustrating for a car owner who can't put a competitive product on the track.



JENNA FRYER

What was supposed to be Waltrip's dream season has become his worst nightmare — the kind you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy.

Sponsors are getting restless, Toyota officials are scratching their heads and fans are finding it hard to root for someone who's not even in the race.

An embarrassed and humbled Waltrip is desperately trying to keep things together.

"We're not hitting it in many different ways," said the two-time Daytona 500 winner.

So, Waltrip's asking for help.

He's asked Toyota Racing Development to send some engineers to the shop. Even NASCAR is getting into the act. After three weeks of struggling through the inspection line, NASCAR had an official spend a day at Waltrip's



Dale Earnhardt, Jr. (8) is bumped by Michael Waltrip (55) late in the first of the Gatorade Duel races at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, last month. Earnhardt Jr. and Waltrip used to be teammates before Waltrip bolted to race for Toyota.

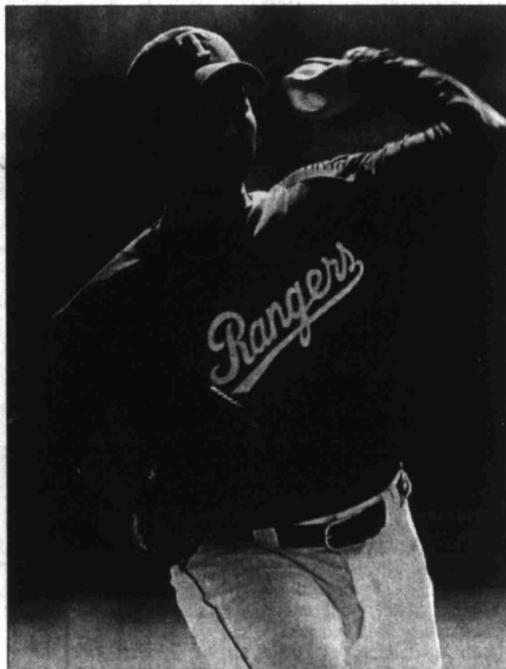
shop to try to figure out why the organization isn't building cars that fit the templates.

"We've just got to look at every piece and part of our team to see how to improve," Waltrip said. "We really just have to adjust what we are doing as a team." But is it too little, too late?

It's only four races into the season, but Waltrip admits NAPA, primary sponsor of his No. 55 Camry, is less than pleased. The sponsor had a happy relationship with Dale Earnhardt Inc. and found the ultimate pitchman when DEI teamed the company with

Waltrip. A goofball who tends to not take himself too seriously, Waltrip clowning his way through commercial after commercial

See NASCAR, Page 2B



Texas Rangers starting pitcher Bruce Chen throws off the mound during the Rangers' spring training. Chen is trying to become the fifth starter for the Rangers after struggling with the Baltimore Orioles last season.

Three pitchers seek fifth spot

Rangers starting rotation almost set for season

(AP) — Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington still has a tough decision to make for the fifth starter in the rotation.

He doesn't mind too much, though, because all three remaining candidates have been pitching well in spring training. "Hopefully, it goes down to the last meeting that we have to have to do it," Washington said. "If they keep pitching the way I feel they are capable of pitching, whatever guy we leave out of here with, I feel we'll be all right."

Before the Rangers' only off day of the spring Monday, left-hander Bruce Chen and right-handers Kameron Loe and Jamey Wright continued their impressive springs in consecutive starts.

"Ron has a very tough decision to make," Chen

said after throwing three scoreless innings Sunday to lower his spring ERA to 0.77 in four games.

"There's been separation," Washington said. "Loe, Chen and Wright have separated themselves from the pack."

Loe, who came out of last spring in the rotation before being sidelined by a sore elbow, hasn't allowed an earned run in 13 2-3 innings over four games this year. He threw five shutout innings Saturday.

"I'm feeding off the competition," Loe said. "I've got a little more fire knowing I have to earn my spot."

Wright gave up his first earned runs Friday night, but still has a 2.16 ERA over 8 1-3 innings in three games. He has six strikeouts and two walks.

John Koronka (12.00

ERA) and Josh Rupe (15.43 ERA), solely a reliever last season but considered a starting candidate this spring, were sent to the minor leagues Sunday.

Edinson Volquez, who ended last season in the rotation, was in the first group of cuts last week.

John Rheinecker hasn't even pitched this spring because of back spasms and Washington said it would be impossible now for Rheinecker to start the season in the rotation.

Washington made it clear from the beginning that performance would determine who joined the rotation with Kevin Millwood, Vicente Padilla, Brandon McCarthy and Robinson Tejeda.

Wright and Chen are

See RANGERS, Page 2B

Lane goes deep twice to lead Astros past Marlins

Houston wins, 4-2 over Florida

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

JUPITER, Fla. — Jason Lane is trying hard to reclaim his right-field job with the Houston Astros.

Lane hit two home runs, including a three-run shot off reliever Mike Koplove in the sixth inning that put the Astros ahead to stay in their 4-2 win over the Florida Marlins on Monday.

Lane also hit a solo homer in the second off starter Scott Olsen.

"I've just maintained an approach where I'm going to try to get myself ready to play for opening day," Lane said. "I think I can get myself prepared for the season. The results will be there."

The 30-year-old Lane was the Astros' starter

in right last year, but was replaced by Luke Scott after a dismal first half. Lane hit .205 before the All-Star break, but Scott batted .336 with 10 home runs and 37 RBIs in 65 games after getting called up for the second half of the season.

And when Lane got a chance to play after his demotion, his struggles continued.

He was actually worse following the break, hitting .188 and finishing the year at .201 in 112 games — which meant he entered this spring as an underdog in the chase for an everyday spot. But after some offseason work, including slimming down a bit and adding more flexibility, he's in position to per-

form.

See ASTROS, page 2B



Phillies pitcher Cory Lidle pitches to Houston Astros batter Jason Lane during first inning action in a spring training game. The Phillies defeated the Astros, 4-3, at the Bright House Networks field in Clearwater, Fla.

Lady Aggies stumble against George Washington

By ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — With star post player Jessica Adair on the bench for much of the game and a step slow when she was in it, George Washington won with smallball.

Kimberly Beck scored 18 points and made a 3-pointer that put the game away with 1:40 to play and fellow guard Sarah-Jo Lawrence added 12 points as fifth-seeded George Washington beat fourth-seeded Texas A&M 59-47 Monday in the second round of the Dallas Regional.

It is the first time in five straight trips to the tournament that the Colonials (28-3) have made it to the round of 16.

George Washington will face either No. 1 seed North Carolina or ninth-seeded Notre Dame, which play Tuesday night, next weekend.

It will be the Colonials' first trip to the round of 16 since 1997. Takia Starks had 15 points for the

Aggies (25-7), who had won their first tournament game since 1994 with a 58-50 win over Texas Arlington in Saturday's first round.

The 6-foot-4 Adair picked up her fourth foul with 15:02 to play and sat out nearly nine minutes. She had 10 points and five rebounds after getting 15 points and a career-high 21 rebounds in George Washington's first round win over Boise State.

The Colonials relied instead on perimeter jumpers and breakaway layups from the gangly, 5-8 Beck.

She shot 6-for-12 from the field and scored seven points during a 15-5 run to close the first half that gave George Washington a 23-21 halftime lead.

A jumper and a 3-pointer from Starks, cousin of former Knicks sharpshooter John Starks, just after Adair sat down tied it at 29 with 13:47 left.

But the Colonials outscored the Aggies 23-11 over an eight-minute span in the middle of the second

half, capped by a layup from a resurgent Adair and another from Kenan Cole to take an 11-point lead 54-43 with 8:25 to go.

George Washington is now 16-13 all-time in the tournament, but 11 of those wins had come in first round games.

They reached the round of eight in 1997 by defeating top-seeded North Carolina.

In a sluggish first half that saw as many turnovers as field goals, the Aggies rebounded their way to an early lead, hitting the offensive boards hard and taking advantage of a slow start from Adair on the way to a 16-8 lead.

Adair hardly touched the ball early. She didn't score for nearly six minutes and didn't have a rebound for over six minutes to start the game.

Adair's sister, Jazmine, played in her place for much of the game and went 4-for-6 from the field for eight points.

NASCAR

Continued from page 1B

and never missed an opportunity to slip "NAPA" into a sentence.

NAPA had every reason to believe leaving DEI for Waltrip's startup was a wise investment.

The move was not something that was popular amongst racing fans and is obviously being questioned now.

Maybe it still is. Waltrip's everywhere on TV, from commercials to stints in the broadcast booth, where he plugs NAPA several times a weekend.

But chances are the auto-parts retailer would rather see its logo racing for the lead than on a hat Waltrip's wearing back in the pack and far from the action.

Keeping the sponsor happy is NASCAR's No. 1 rule.

If NAPA reaches its breaking point, Waltrip is in far worse trouble than he ever imagined.

Even without NAPA, he still would have three heavyweight sponsors — UPS for Jarrett, plus Burger King and Domino's Pizza for Reutemann. But he must find a way to make their cars competitive before company officials start asking for some money back.

Meanwhile, there are plenty of people who are all too happy to sit back and watch Waltrip struggle.

At his emotional news conference in Daytona — where he said he had no idea how a fuel additive that will enhance a race car's performance, found its way into his gas tank when he was struggling to turn fast laps and keep up with the rest of the field — detractors were convinced they were witnessing the best performance of Waltrip's life.

And plenty of people still aren't convinced Waltrip wasn't an accomplice to the cheating that took place.

But how low and how far must Waltrip sink before he's paid the price?

He can't seem to catch a break, proven in Saturday's Busch race when he wrecked twice in the first 16 laps and finished in last place.

Maybe Waltrip was too ambitious this year, his first as a full-time car owner.

Maybe he should have fielded two Cup cars instead of three, and maybe he should be spending more time in the shop and less in front of the TV cameras.

Something that even his long-time fans and supporters have been wondering and whispering after his poor start.

Mistakes have certainly been made and it's up to Waltrip to correct them. This is his chance to prove he's cut out for the business-side of NASCAR, and he's got 32 races to figure it out. If not, there is no telling where his future will lead him.

ASTROS

Continued from page 1B

haps win the job back.

"He had to hit those balls pretty doggone good to get them out — and he did," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "He powered that last one. I think he's been swinging good and I'm delighted he's getting some results out of all the work he's been doing."

Olsen probably wasn't delighted, but had to be at least satisfied with his day.

The left-hander allowed three runs and four hits in 5 1-3 innings, striking out five. Olsen threw 87 pitches, 52 for strikes.

"I felt good," said Olsen, who tossed five shutout innings against Baltimore in his previous start. "The changeups were more consistent today, more were down in the zone than up. Fastball location was not as good as the last start but still good enough. I need to stay back over the rubber and my arm will work and everything will be fine."

Hanley Ramirez scored a run, drove in another and stole a base for the Marlins, who lost for only the second time in their last seven Grapefruit League decisions.

"The wins and losses, those things will take care of themselves in spring training, but I like the way these guys have been playing the last five or six days, seven days," manager Fredi Gonzalez said. "I thought that the pitching has always been there and now we're starting to do some situational hitting — and the pitching is still there, which is good."

Lane's first homer of the day tied the game in the second inning.

Ramirez scored the Marlins' first run on Josh Willingham's single in the first inning, then drove in Miguel Olivo — a catcher who had just stolen third — with a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

But four Houston relievers combined to throw five innings of one-hit baseball and protected the lead.

Astros starter Fernando Nieve, who's competing for a rotation spot on the opening day roster and who has looked shaky at times this season, allowed five hits and a run in four innings.

Before the game, the Astros optioned right-hander Miguel Ascencio to Triple-A Round Rock and reassigned left-handed pitcher Scott Sauerbeck to minor league camp. After the game, Houston reassigned RHP Paul Estrada and catcher Lou Santangelo, while optioning Brooks Conrad to Round Rock.

RANGERS

Continued from page 1B

experienced pitchers in camp as non-roster invitees. Wright, a first-round pick by Colorado in 1993, has started 237 games over 11 major league seasons with five teams. Chen has 237 appearances (112 of them starts) over nine seasons with eight different teams.

If not on the 40-man roster at the end of spring training, Wright and Chen can become free agents. Loe, with 65 appearances (24 starts) over the past three seasons, still can be optioned to Oklahoma without being exposed to other teams.

Wright made San Francisco's rotation last spring as a non-roster invitee and was 5-3 before losing seven of his last eight decisions. He went to Seattle's camp in 2003 on a minor league con-

tract and was with the Chicago Cubs in 2004, but was released at the end of each spring.

"I'm just trying to simplify everything," explained Wright, who has changed his delivery and worked on his mechanics this spring. "Everything is about mechanics. It's pretty refreshing to have a pitching coach tell me that I want you to forget about everything else, go out there let the ball go, air it out."

After winning 13 games for Baltimore in the 2005 season, Chen was 0-7 with a 6.93 ERA for the Orioles last season.

The Rangers signed him to a minor league deal after he had a solid winter in Puerto Rico.

"If I end up making the club because I'm throwing the ball good, then that's good. If I'm not making the club but I'm still throwing the ball

good, it's OK. I know I have a shot, either here or somewhere else," Chen said his solid outing. "The most important thing for me is to go out there and get back to the form where I was in in 2005."

That is exactly what the Rangers were hoping for when he arrived at spring training.

If he continues to pitch well the fifth and final spot on the rotation will likely be his to lose when opening day arrives. If not Chen will likely end up on another team based on his performance he has turned in already.

PUBLIC NOTICE BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT SPECIAL ELECTION MAY 12, 2007

PROPOSITION 1 (SJR 13)

SJR 13 would amend the Constitution to authorize the legislature to adjust the public school ad valorem tax or tax rates for taxpayers who are aged 65 or older, or are disabled, and who are owners of an exempted homestead. The amendment would thereby allow the legislature to provide tax relief to such elderly or disabled taxpayers who did not receive tax relief as a result of the school tax rate reduction passed in the 79th Legislature, 3rd called session.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for public school purposes on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction in the rate of those taxes for the 2006 and 2007 tax years."

Published by Secretary of State Roger Williams.

Contract Bridge

Point, Counterpoint

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ A Q 6
♥ 8 3
♣ 7 5 2
♦ A J 9 5 3

WEST

♦ 9 5 3
♥ J 9 7 6 2
♣ 10 8 3
♦ 7 6

EAST

♦ 8 7 4 2
♥ A Q 4
♣ K J 9
♦ Q 10 2

SOUTH

♦ K J 10
♥ K 10 5
♣ A Q 6 4
♦ K 8 4

The bidding:

East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — six of hearts.

Point count can sometimes be used to find the most effective defense. Take this case where West leads a heart against three notrump.

The normal play for East to make with A-Q-x in his partner's led suit would be to win with the ace and return the queen. This is in keeping with the usual practice of playing "third-hand high."

But observe what happens in the actual deal if East blindly follows this principle. Declarer allows East's queen to hold the second trick, then wins the next heart with the king. South then cashes the club king and leads a club to the jack. East wins with the queen, but does not have a heart to return, so declarer makes his

contract, scoring four clubs, three spades, a heart and a diamond.

This outcome is not likely to occur if East plays the queen of hearts on the first trick rather than the ace. South will almost surely take the queen with the king, fearing that West may have started with A-J-x-x of hearts. In that case, if South ducks the first heart, he will lose the first five heart tricks after East returns a heart at trick two.

Once South takes his king at trick one, he is a goner. The best he can do is score eight tricks. Whenever East gains the lead, he can play the ace and another heart to defeat the contract.

In general, the play of the queen from A-Q-x on partner's lead against notrump is correct for the reasons cited. But in the given case, East knows declarer has the king of hearts and should want to force him to win the trick.

The location of the king of hearts is known because East is looking at 11 points in dummy and 12 points in his own hand. Since there are only 17 points left for South and West to hold, it is impossible for West to have a king, as this would leave declarer with less than 15 points.

Finally, even if South cheated by a point or two during the bidding and lacked the king of hearts, no harm would come from playing the queen first. After the queen held, the ace and another heart would sink the contract.

Tomorrow: The step-by-step approach.
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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-
couraged to apply.
2111 Gregg St.
Or Email resume:
cassie@clearwire.net

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY.
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
Spring. Qualify 23 with class A
& One year driving experience.
Inquire about Sign-on Bonus
up to \$4000. Call Jay at
888-527-7221.

EVENING DISHWASHER su-
pervisor. Apply in person 2401
S. Gregg. Good pay to the right
person.

FIBEROD HAS an immediate
full time opening for an experi-
enced Housekeeper.
Monday-Friday 7am
to 5:00pm. Must be dependable
and trustworthy. Please apply
in person, no phone calls.
Fiberod, 3604 Bethel Drive.

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

**3-Day Work Week with Full
Time Pay in Big Spring, TX!**
Compass Group, the world's
largest contract food service
company, is now hiring several
motivated individuals for our
food service operation @ the
Big Spring Correctional Com-
plex. Great career opportunity,
wages for qualified food ser-
vice people start @ \$12.50. Out-
standing company. Paid bene-
fits, paid training, supplied uni-
forms. Unlimited advancement
in a global company. Food
service background not re-
quired. Must 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

"GET OUT of the house while
your kids are at school. BSISD
Food Service taking applica-
tions for cashiers, cooks, ser-
vers. Benefits, school holidays,
summers off. Apply in person
@ 708 E. 11th Place."

HEB IS currently taking appli-
cations for a full time experi-
enced meat cutter. Please pick
up an application at HEB or
see Carmen or Rod.

Help Wanted

KNOW HIRING all Positions.
Driver, cooks, cashiers and
dishwasher Apply in person,
Papa Georigo's Pizza, 2602 S.
Gregg. No phone Calls.



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 BREAKFAST Host.
Monday- Friday. Pick up appli-
cation at Holiday Inn Express,
1109 N. Aylesford

**NEED PHEBOTOMIST &
PHARMACY TECH** 30 Hours
per week. Certified & Experi-
enced. Call 1-800-469-4467.

NEED RELIABLE, honest peo-
ple. Housekeeping positions
(\$5.50/hour), sales associates
(\$6.00/hour + Bonus). Apply in
person, Comfort Inn, 2900 East
I-20, Big Spring. No Phone
Calls please.

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:
GENERAL
SUPERINTENDENT
PO BOX 60708
MIDLAND, TX 79711

NOW SEEKING Full Time Posi-
tions for Martin County Home
Health
* Full Time RN/LVN with sign
on Bonuses. Competitive
Benefits Included, Full Bene-
fits. Bilingual Preferred.
* Part Time/ Full Time Positions
for Receptionist/ Data Entry.
Competitive Benefits also In-
cluded, Full Benefits. Bilingual
Preferred.
If interested in any of these po-
sitions please contact Allison
Williams, RN @ 432-756-3259
or fax Resume to
432-756-4510.

NURSES UNLIMITED, Inc.
Needs Attendants days &
weekends to assist with per-
sonal care, meal prep, and light
housekeeping. Part-time. Call:
Maria 1-800-458-3257.
Mon.-Thur. 8-5. & Fri. 8-12,
E.O.E.

OPENING FOR Certified
Nurses Aide, 3-11. Paid holi-
days, sick time, health insur-
ance, vacation. Excellent work
environment. Contact Stephe-
nie Potter, RN DON Valley Fair
Lodge, (325)728-2634.

P.H.I.C. - John Deere Dealer of
Big Spring, TX in need of Ser-
vice Technicians. Pay is based
on exp. Fax resume: Attn:
Justin Parker, Serv., Mngr.
(432)267-2757 or call
(432)263-8344 Benefits In-
clude: Health Ins., 401K; Pd.
Vacation.

Help Wanted

**PARKPLACE RETIREMENT
LIVING** is hiring Front Desk
Staff. Half night shift and half
day shift. Please apply in per-
son at 501 W. 17th Street, Big
Spring, Texas.

**PARKVIEW NURSING
& REHABILITATION**
Now hiring for the following po-
sitions:
* LVN - morning shift
* Nursing Assistants
Experience preferred, but not
required. Great working envi-
ronment and competitive sal-
ary. Please apply in person at
3200 Parkway Rd.

PARTS AGENT. Parts order-
ing for heavy equipment and
inventory organization. Com-
puter skills required. Competi-
tive salary & benefits. Fax re-
sume to Price Construction
432-267-1694. E.O.E.

PAY ROLL Position. Daily im-
port, data imports, weekly pay-
roll reporting, government com-
pliance reporting. Competitive
salary & benefits. Fax resume to
Price Construction
432-267-1694. E.O.E.

PEST CONTROL Technician
Needed. No experience neces-
sary. Will Train. Must apply in
person, 2800 Birdwell Lane.
(432)263-6514.

PIZZA HUT is now hiring for
delivery drivers, cooks and wait
staff. \$5.75- \$6.00 per hour,
plus tips. Apply in person,
2601 S. Gregg.

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

POLLARD CHEVROLET is
taking applications for Body
shop repair/ technician. Experi-
ence required. Must have on
tools. Benefits: Health & Life in-
surance, 401(k). Apply to
Bob Keleman at 1501 East 4th
St. No Phone Calls.

POLLARD CHEVROLET is
seeking a Finance & Insurance
Sales person. Sales experi-
ence required. Benefits, 401K,
'Health Ins.. Apply in person at
1501 East 4th.

POST OFFICE now hiring.
Avg. Pay \$20/ hour or \$57K
annually including Federal
Benefits and OT. Paid training,
vacations. PT/FT.
1-800-584-1775 Ext. 6901
USWA.

**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.

TexasStone Quarries is hiring
full time laborers to work in the
plant and also in the quarry.
Benefits available. Apply in
person 1400 Sherrod Road,
Garden City or call
432-354-2569.

THE MARTIN County Hospital
District of Stanton is seeking a
full time Insurance Biller. Hos-
pital and Physician Billing pre-
ferred
Please contact Alison Isreal,
CFO or Gwen Hawkins, Busi-
ness Office Supervisor at 610
N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas
or call 432-756-3345 ext. 226.

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

**The City of Big Spring is
seeking career-oriented
personnel to fill the
following positions:**
**Police Officers Cert. & Non
Animal Control Officer
Jailer
Parks Maintenance Worker
Utility Service Worker
WW Treatment Plant Operator**

We offer
EXCELLENT BENEFITS
Including 100% paid
Employee Health Insurance,
and retirement after
20 yea.s of service
Inquire to:
Human Resources
City of Big Spring, Texas
Phone: (432)264-2346
Fax: (432)264-2387
For more details go to
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us
EOE

THE MARTIN County Hospital
District of Stanton is seeking a
full time receptionist for a Rural
Health Clinic.
Please contact Alison Isreal,
CFO at 610 N. Saint Peter,
Stanton, Texas or call
432-756-3345 ext. 226.

THE MARTIN County Hospital
District of Stanton is seeking
Registered Nurses, for full-time day po-
sitions. Please contact Rance
Ramsey, DON at 610 N. Saint
Peter, Stanton, Texas or
(432)756-3345 ext. 228.

THE MARTIN County Hospital
District of Stanton is seeking a
**FULL TIME NURSE FOR A
RURAL HEALTH CLINIC.**
Please contact Paul McKinney,
CEO at 610 N. Saint Peter,
Stanton, Texas or Call
(432)756-3345. ext. 225.

**GENESIS
OIL CO., L.P.**
We are currently seeking
drivers for the
Lamesa, Ackerly area.
We offer Excellent Pay,
Quarterly and Annual bonus.
A \$1,500.00 sign on bonus.
We also offer paid holidays,
paid vacation, 401k,
medical and dental
insurance.
Come in and apply at:
GENESIS CRUDE OIL
4017 S. County RD 1283
Odessa, TX. 79765
Office: 432-561-8223
Monday thru Friday
8am-5pm

Lost and Found
FOUND AROUND Howard
College, black female Cocker
Spaniel. Call 205-331-3236 to
identify.

Miscellaneous
1999 28' Bumper Pull Coach-
man RV Trailer. Excellent con-
dition. \$9500.00. Call
432-816-5757 or
432-816-1361.

A KING PILLOWTOP Mattress
Set. Must Sell \$249. Brand
New still in Plastic. Full Factory
Warranty. **NASA MEMORY
FOAM** Mattress Set. Sacrifice
\$350.00. New in plastic.
432-349-4043.

ADJUSTABLE BED base,
hand remote, new, never used
with warranty, \$899.
DARK SLEIGH bed w/dresser,
mirror, chest, nightstand and
bed & pillow covers. List
\$2500, sell \$999.
806-549-3110.

BRAND NEW Queen pillow top
mattress set. In wrapper. War-
ranty. Must Move. Sacrifice
\$175.00. **NEW CHERRY**
Sleigh bed \$259.00. Midland.
Call 432-349-4043.

Miscellaneous

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversa-
ries, Quinceanarios, Arches,
Candelabras and florals. FREE
DELIVERY. Call Grishams
(432)267-8191.

**MICROFIBER SOFA &
LOVESEAT** New \$549. **NEW
LEATHER SOFA &
LOVESEAT** Lifetime warranty.
\$869. 432-349-7945.

NEW BEDROOM SET
5 pieces. Still in boxes. Sell
\$550. **DINING ROOM SET** Ta-
ble, chairs. New and boxed.
Sacrifice \$475. Can deliver.
432-349-7945.

ROLLING BAR for serving
guests. Hand painted, NEVER
USED ONCE! RETAIL \$1377,
sell \$595.
COFFEE TABLE SETS and
sofa tables, \$99, \$139, \$199,
\$299. **DISTRIBUTOR LIQUI-
DATION**, 806-549-3110.

On the Farm

TRACTOR FOR sale: 1966
FORD 4000. Runs on Lpg.
\$3000.00. Call 432-816-5757.

Real Estate for Rent

South Plains Apts
Efficiency, 1 & 2 Bdrms

New Appliances &
Fixtures
Dish Network w/300+
Channels Incl 34 Latino
Hi-speed Wireless
Internet
Picnic/BBQ Area
New Laundry & Vending

3304 W. Hwy. 80
(432) 714-4840

\$393/MO! buy a three bed-
room, 2 bath! 5% down, 20
years, 8% APR. For listings
800-544-6258 ext F086.

1011 W. 4th, Shop/Storage Ap-
proximately 15x40 overhead
door \$200.00 a month, \$200.00
deposit. Call 432-213-2319.

1418 STADIUM. 2 bedroom, 1
bath, CH/A, \$450. month, \$250
deposit. Call (432)263-1792,
816-9984.

1503 SCURRY, large 1 bed-
room. All bills paid. \$450.
month, \$150. deposit. Call
(432)264-6611.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes.
Pool, 24 hour maintenance,
Central Heat and Air, stove, re-
frigerator, dishwasher, fur-
nished. Washer/ dryer connec-
tions. (432)263-3461 -Tom.

304 EAST 20th. 2 Bedroom, 1
bath, A/C Window Units, Newly
remodeled, \$380.00 month,
\$295.00 deposit. Call
(432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

405 GALVESTON Very Clean
2 Bdrm ceramic tile floors, wa-
ter paid. Need references.
\$400. Deposit, \$400. month.
Call (432)213-2319.

622 STATE 2 Bedroom, 1
bath, CA/CH with garage.
\$450.00 month, \$250.00. Call
(432)270-3848.

CONVENIENCE STORE for
lease in Big Spring. Great op-
portunity. Call (325)658-7521.

RENTAL CLERK needed for
apartment complex with experi-
ence in Excel, Word, phone eti-
quette, office duties and cus-
tomer service. Fax your re-
sume to 1-800-323-8481.

THE OFFICE Building, 710
Gregg Street, for lease, excel-
lent space for a medical doctor
or lab available, also have in-
dividual offices starting @ \$250.
per month with bills paid. Call
(432)770-5656
or
(432)517-0038. Broker/ Owner.

Real Estate for Sale

1.05 ACRE, 305 Driver Rd.
Water well, great view. Forsan
District. \$7,500.00. Call
(432)213-2400.

1111 E. 14th. 3 bdr. 1 bath with
1 car garage. \$25,000.00. Will
owner finance with \$1500
down. \$300 per month. Call
432-816-5757 or
432-816-1361.

16X80 2006 Trailer House. 3
Bedroom, 2 bath. \$27,000.00.
with \$3,000.00 Down. Call
(432)517-0261.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick
Homes. No Down Payment.
Owner Financing. Bad Credit
OK. 6 Month warranty.
Call Maria (432)263-3461.

2106 JOHNSON - Owner fi-
nance with 10% down, P & I
Payment \$400.00, 15 years
pay off. Interior freshly painted,
Beautiful Hardwood Floors,
New vinyl in kitchen, Separate
Din. Room, Central Heat/Air,
Exterior Care free siding, 2
bedrooms, Attached Garage
w/opener. Drive by and look in-
side. Joe Lopez Broker Owner
Call (325)721-1162, Office
(325)673-8100.

2306 RUNNELS. 3 bdr. 2 bath.
\$25,000.00. Will owner finance
with \$1500 down. \$300 per
month. Call 432-816-5757 or
432-816-1361.

603 AVONDALE, 4 bedroom,
2 bath, 2 car garage. Large
family room with vaulted ceiling
and fans. Shop and green
house. Call (432)267-6885 or
559-8491.

A SPACIOUS Foreclosure!
\$49,487! 3 Bedroom, 2 bath!
For listing Call 800-544-6258
ext F906.

BY OWNER: 2307 Brent Drive,
4 Bedroom, 2 bath, sunroom,
inground pool, 3 car detached
garage with shop. 2181 sq. ft.
Asking \$159,000.00. Call
(432)268-9436.

LAND for Sale- 32.41 Beautiful
acres near Country Club. Good
water well. \$95,000.00 Call
(432)816-3927.

OWNER FINANCE, \$4000
down. Four to choose from.
Call (432) 264-9907.

**OWNER FINANCE- Tough
Credit OK DOWNPAYMENT
AS LOW AS \$500.** Homes
from \$49,900. Call
(432)687-2696 or pick up a list
1611 W. Texas Ave., Midland.

SOLITAIRE OF Big Spring has
now opened a factory direct re-
tail sales center located at
3408 East 11th Place. Come
by and look at our model
homes on display at factory di-
rec prices. Phone
432-263-8605. Open Monday
thru Saturday 9-6. RBl 34612
Factory Tours
Available by Appointment

'MOBILE HOME, 2 year old
doublewide, great area, car-
port. Excellent condition!
Owner transferring, priced for
quick sale! Serious inquiries
only! Assumable Loan.
(432)213-3235, (432)213-0917.

Services Offered

CHILD CARE in my home.
Loving mother of 3 would like
to care for your child. Anytime,
any day. 2508 Ent. Call
(806)549-4484.

RON'S HANDYMAN Roof Re-
pair, don't replace it, fix it. 17
years exp. Please leave mes-
sage if no answer
(432)935-9486 or email:
edwaw8@aol.com

Vehicles

**Several New 2006 Models
To Choose From
Huge Discounts!**
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 1th 267-7121

\$400 TO \$1,000 PROFIT PER MONTH

**I've got a
demanding boss.
Me.**

But the rewards are great! I work for myself and
make a good living. I take responsibility for my performance.
It's all up to me. A lot of people depend on me, and I
wouldn't have it any other way.

Contracts are available now for motor route
carriers. For information, call 432-263-7531.

**BIG
SPRING HERALD**

**SNYDER
Healthcare Center**
is currently hiring for a variety of positions!
• CNAs • LVNs
Full or Part Time!
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE! Apply in person,
Mon.-Fri., 9:00am to 3:00pm at
5311 BIG SPRING HIGHWAY • SNYDER
EOE/MFDV 27609

BSE NUNN ELECTRIC
A Division of Border States
Warehouse Associate
Nunn Electric, a division of Border States Electric, is
seeking an individual for our warehouse. Electrical
systems, product knowledge, and prior warehouse
distribution experienced preferred.
Competitive pay & benefits.
Apply in person at 3202 IS-20 E.,
Big Spring or email: cmiller@border-states.com
EOE/Drug Free Workplace 27500

BARCELONA APARTMENTS
\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL * APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
ALL BILLS PAID
538 Westover 263-1252 1-866-265-4104
Housing Assistance Accepted

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(432) 263-1284 Big Spring, Tx. 79720 110 W. Marcy
Call One Of Our Professional Associates
For All Of Your Real Estate Needs
**KENTWOOD 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH BRICK HOME WITH
WB FIREPLACE, CENTRAL HEAT/REF. AIR, RANGE,
REFRIGERATOR, WASHER/DRYER, DEEP FREEZE,
COVERED PATIO AND 2 CAR CARPORT.**
**CALL LINDA BARNES @263-1284
AND HAVE A LOOK TODAY!!!**

2206 LYNN - \$79,000. 27414

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800-544-1...
1997 GM...
sion Van...
Captions...
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Miles. \$3...
(432)816-...
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Vehicles

\$500! Chevys from \$500! Buy police impounds! For Listings 800-544-1092 Ext. A106.

1997 GMC SEVANAH Conversion Van. Good Condition. 4 Captions chairs, rear bench seat converts to bed. 123K Miles. \$3,800.00 Firm. Call (432)816-9848.

2000 CHEVY Blazer LS. 4WD, \$5900. Good condition. High mileage. Call 264-7212, leave msg.

2000 KAWASAKI KX125 Dirt Bike. 2003 POLARIS Trail Blazer 250 4-wheeler and 2000 27ft Prowler Travel Trailer, bumper pull. Excellent Condition., Call (432)264-2910.

2001 FORD Expedition. Black with leather interior, tinted windows, 20 inch custom wheels, 75,000 miles. Asking \$13,000. Call (432)267-7603.

EXCELLENT CONDITION Toyota Sequoia Limited 2003. Loaded, black w/tan leather. 77,000 miles. \$17,995. Call (432)267-8143.

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ANSWERS

9	3	7	2	4	8	1	5	6
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We Can Save You Money By Advertising Your Business In Our Professional Service Directory! Call 263-7331 for more information.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Shroyer Motor Co. Best Deals In Town!



2002 GMC Extended Cab 2WD, Red/Tan Cloth, All Power, 64K. \$12,995



2003 GMC Ext. Cab SLE - White, Tan Cloth, 5.3 Liter V-8, All Power, One Owner. \$12,995



2001 GMC Reg. Cab Sierra - 5.3 Liter V-8, Auto., All Power, Maroon, Cloth, EXTRA CLEAN, One Owner. \$10,995



2006 Buick Lucerne CX - 4 Door Sedan, White w/gray Cloth Interior, All Power, 17K. \$19,995



2007 GMC Reg. Cab Canyon - 2.9 Liter, 4 Cyl., Trailer Hitch, Cruise/Tilt, A/C. MSRP \$15,590 SALE \$14,650 + tax

PONTIAC GMC 424 E. 3RD • BIG SPRING, TEXAS 263-7625 • 888-263-0017

HOME OF THE NICEST USED CARS IN HOWARD CO. See Our Ad In The Area Wide Phone Book

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSAL

The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive competitive sealed proposals until 4:00 p.m., April 4, 2007, on the following:

Technology Immersion Hardware, Software, Content and Professional Development Package, (1200 units)

Request for proposal documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Proposals will be publicly opened and reviewed immediately following the deadline for receiving the proposals in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Participating vendors are invited to be present at the proposal opening. Proposals received after the opening date and time will not be considered. Proposals will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on April 12, 2007, at 5:15 p.m. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. #5292 March 13 & 20, 2007

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene Contract 0908-00-064 for THERMOPLASTIC MARKINGS & RAISED MARKERS IN TAYLOR COUNTY, etc will be opened on April 11, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 22994

State Office

Constr./Maint. Division 200 E. Riverside Dr. Austin, Texas 78704 Phone: 512-416-2540 Dist/Div Office(s)

Abilene District District Engineer 4250 N. Clack Abilene, Texas 79604-0150 Phone 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. #5298 March 20 & 27, 2007

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

It's the first day of spring as the sun's rays touch the early degrees of Aries. If you listen closely you can almost hear the refrain of Vivaldi's Concerto No. 1 in E major, Op. 8, "La Primavera" (Spring) breaking through the clouds. All is promising, all is new and all is vibrant with possibility. What are you choosing for this new season?



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're in harmony with the season, and the sun shines on seedling ideas stirring inside you. The freshness you bring to the table enlivens everyone around you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Springtime wakes you up with promise and simultaneously makes you want to sleep. It's not some kind of voodoo; you've got your own natural rhythm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's party season, the time of year when twins busily plan out the days of their lives on their BlackBerries and Day-Timers. Your success doubles when you invite your friends along.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're surrounded by big egos vying for the same thing — recognition and the satisfaction of being right. Multiple

social opportunities are available, but it's better to initiate your own activity than to say "yes" to today's invitations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're heading up a search team looking for signs of intelligent life in the universe. And you'll find what you seek — there are witty people just waiting to converse with you at the corner coffee shop.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Periodic physical fasts can flush out food toxins, but emotional fasting can be troublesome. Don't deny yourself the nourishment you need, whether it's the pat on the back of friendship or the heat of passion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're a born appreciator, sprung from the womb with a gift for knowing what the other person needs to hear. Flattery will get you to your desired destination every time. The one you love is all ears.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What you want takes a backseat to what the situation calls for. Zen masters know how to surrender personal desires for service — schoolteachers and parents do, too. With maturity, you make the right choice.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Spring fever has officially possessed you. Lurking behind the guise of "work," grinning archers point and click away on travel websites. Who needs an invitation to play?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're grounded, but it's for your own good. There's nothing more pressing right now for you to do than spend time at home with the people who make up the cornerstones of your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Curiosity may have killed the cat; luckily, you haven't been given the same fate. Follow your whim. Look around you for clues into your next glorious escapade.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're picking up radio signals with your cavities, and it sounds a lot like financial strategist Suze Orman. You'll be getting a grip on your cash flow in the coming month. Listen to messengers of wealth.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "How often do new relationships such as friendship and romance happen to an adult who is basically settled in life?"

The current transit of Uranus suggests that even adults who are "settled" can be surprised by a plot twist. Random relationships can shake things up, people close to you can change, and new life choices can bring you into a fresh circle of interesting characters. Uranus is a slow-moving planet that takes seven years to transit through one sign of the zodiac. You may have heard that people completely change their cells in a seven-year span, and the correlation between changes in humans and the cycle of

Uranus is strong. This planet urges us not to believe in the status quo, because all things are temporary. Uranus also warns us against atrophy. The universe is either growing or shrinking; it never stays static. So there really is no "settled." What this word often really means is "shrinking." Use the current planetary climate to turn your life on its ear by reaching out to someone new or taking on a new relationship challenge.

CELEBRITY PROFILE: Matthew Broderick is an Aries with his moon in Libra, the sign of partnerships. Whether teaming up in work (with Nathan Lane in the hit "The Producers") or in life (with Sarah Jessica Parker), Broderick is a dream counterpart. His chart also reveals a knack for breaking complex problems down to an elemental level. If he weren't an actor, he might have been a top mathematician!

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: After 40 years of marriage, my sister's husband kicked her out with nothing but the clothes on her back. "Peggy" is an alcoholic and a heavy smoker who doesn't care what she looks or smells like. She lost her driving privileges years ago for multiple DWI convictions. She doesn't have a job.

When Peggy became homeless, she came home to her family — two sisters and a few nieces and nephews. She said she needed a place for a couple of weeks, but it's turned into 11 months. She goes from one of our homes to another, sleeping on sofas.

All those years when Peggy was ruining her life with alcohol abuse, my other sister and I were working and making our lives better. We have finally retired and want to relax and do things we couldn't get around to before. Now here comes Peggy who refuses to get a job, so we have to support her while she sits around all day watching TV and opens up a smart mouth if you say anything about it. We need our lives back. Please help. — Fed Up

Dear Fed Up: There's no incentive for Peggy to get a job or contribute to the household if she can live with you, free of rent and responsibility. We know you care about her, but she is an alcoholic, and your family is enabling her to continue. Please contact Al-Anon (al-anon-alateen.org) at 1-888-4-ALANON (1-888-425-2666) and find out when and where the next meeting will take place. All the family members should attend.

Dear Annie: Recently, I was discussing baby names with my new sister-in-law, "Amber." I told her I've always dreamed of naming a little boy "Alex." It's the name of my late paternal grandfather, and I also love the way it sounds.

A week later, Amber announced she was pregnant and said if it's a boy, she wants to name him Alex. I reluctantly agreed



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

that, since my brother was the only one carrying on the family name, they could use Alex. After all, I'm not even married and I have no rights to the name.

Unfortunately, the more I think about it, the more upset I get. My boyfriend and I do plan on getting married, and he, too, likes the name "Alex." I talked to my brother and told him that despite what I originally said, I am still having a hard time with it. It has been suggested that we both use the name, but I really like the idea of having a name that isn't shared by other family members.

I am thrilled that my brother and Amber are having a baby, but I can't get past the name issue. I've dreamed about having a child with this name. Should I tell them again how upset I am? Am I being irrational? — What's in a Name?

Dear What's: While it would have been nice for Amber to choose another name, the fact remains that you don't have a monopoly on this one. You were gracious to tell your brother it was OK with you. Please don't create hard feelings now. If you still want to call your child "Alex," by all means, do so. Many cousins share a name. But we hope you will be open to other possibilities.

Dear Annie: I'm 22 years old and a very attractive young lady. I find that when most guys take me out, they pay the bill for the evening. On occasions where I pay for myself, it

is awkward.

I always thought the person who asks for the date should be the one to fork over for the bill. Am I correct? — Need the Answer in Pennsylvania

Dear Pennsylvania: On a first date, the person who asks should also pay. For future dates, however, it's not unusual to split the costs. As the woman, you should offer to do so (and be sure you have enough money with you), but don't create a fuss by fighting over the check. It's also OK to treat your date once in a while.

Dear Annie: I am married and have two beautiful children. Recently, I was cleaning out my bedroom closet and found some photos printed off the Internet. One was of a female in trashy lingerie, and the other was of a woman in a sexual position with her hair strategically covering her breasts. I was shocked to find these photos, but even more horrified when I turned over one of the photos and found that my 7-year-old son had traced his handprints on it.

I immediately confronted my husband, and he said he didn't know where the pictures came from and even suggested that my son might have accidentally printed them. I kept at him, and last night, he finally admitted he printed the photos. He said he had never done it before and would never do it again. But I feel betrayed and inadequate. I really believed our marriage was something special.

What should my next step be? If I didn't have children, I would be out the door, but the kids absolutely adore their father. I'm trying very hard to keep my emotions in check so my children won't know there's a problem. I am too embarrassed to talk to my pastor, and don't feel I can trust my friends and family. Can you help me? — Heartbroken

Dear Heartbroken: Please try not to overreact. It is not uncommon,

nor unusual, for men to look at pictures of women in lingerie or other racy attire. It does not mean he doesn't love you or find you attractive. Two photos of partially covered women is not a reason for divorce, and we urge you not to make too much of this. Frankly, we'd worry more about whether your son's handprints were on the paper before or after Dad printed the pictures. Please try to forgive your husband for his lapse in judgment. We think he deserves another chance.

Dear Annie: My friend "Patty" is the envy of many. At age 45, she is in terrific shape. She eats healthily and exercises religiously. Her "fat" pants are size 4.

Pat's daughter, "Mary," is almost 14 and has recently gotten bigger than her mother. Over the holidays, Mary told her mother that her size 4 pants were too tight, and she wanted bigger pants. Instead, Pat gave her some diet and workout tips. Pat later told me, "I'm not buying her a bigger size just because she won't take care of herself."

I understand Pat only wants the best for her daughter. Is it OK for a mom to decide that her teenage daughter can't get any bigger than a size 4? I feel Mary could be several sizes bigger and still be perfectly healthy. — Plus-Size Friend

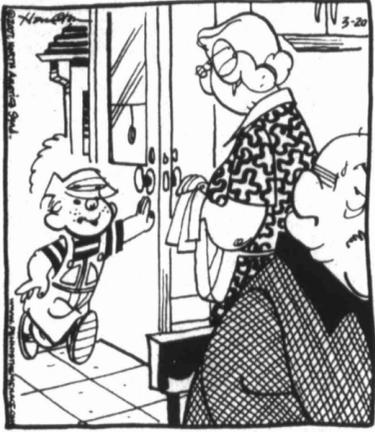
Dear Friend: If Mary is eating healthy foods and exercising regularly, she needs to be the size her body frame dictates — not the size Pat wants her to be. And a growing teenage girl needs a higher caloric intake than an adult woman. Suggest to Pat that she discuss this with Mary's pediatrician and perhaps see a nutritionist. The last thing Mary needs is a mother fixated on her weight.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net.

TUESDAY

Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 12 rows of program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I THOUGHT I HEARD YOUR OVEN DOOR OPEN."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Kids living in a lighthouse are lucky. They never have to sit in a corner."

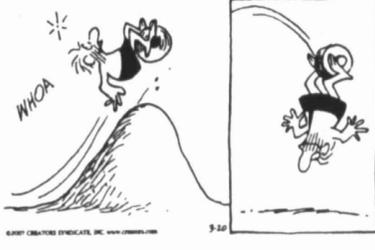
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 20, the 79th day of 2007. There are 286 days left in the year. Spring arrives at 8:07 p.m. EDT. Today's Highlight in History: On March 20, 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte returned to Paris after escaping his exile on Elba, beginning his "Hundred Days" rule. In 1413, England's King Henry IV died; he was succeeded by Henry V. In 1727, physicist, mathematician and astronomer Sir Isaac Newton died in London. In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel about slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was first published. In 1956, union workers ended a 156-day strike at Westinghouse Electric Corp. In 1977, voters in Paris chose former French Prime

Minister Jacques Chirac to be the French capital's first mayor in more than a century. In 1985, Libby Riddles of Teller, Alaska, became the first woman to win the Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race. In 1987, the Food and Drug Administration approved the sale of AZT, a drug shown to prolong the lives of some AIDS patients. In 1995, in Tokyo, 12 people were killed and more than 5,500 others sickened when packages containing the poisonous gas sarin were leaked on five separate subway trains by Aum Shinrikyo cult members. Today's Birthdays: Producer-director-comedian Carl Reiner is 85. Actor Hal Linden is 76. Singer Jerry Reed is 70. Former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney is 68. Country singer Don Edwards is 68. TV producer Paul Junger Witt is 64. Country singer-musician Ranger Doug (Riders in the Sky) is 61. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby Orr is 59. Blues singer-musician Marcia Ball is 58. Actor

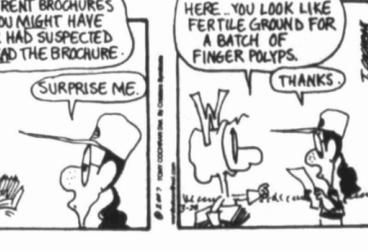
William Hurt is 57. Rock musician Carl Palmer (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 57. Rock musician Jimmie Vaughan is 56. Country musician Jimmy Seales (Shenandoah) is 53. Movie director Spike Lee is 50. Actress Theresa Russell is 50. Actress Vanessa Bell Calloway is 50. Actress Holly Hunter is 49. Rock musician Slim Jim Phantom (The Stray Cats) is 46. Actress-model Kathy Ireland is 44. Actor David Thewlis is 44. Rock musician Adrian Oxaal (James) is 42. Actress Liza Snyder is 39. Actor Michael Rapaport is 37. Actor Alexander Chaplin is 36.

Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like ACID, BEET, WAGON, CODE, ESPN, ALIVE, TOOL, SKIP, NEVER, SPLITTICKET, END, SEEM, RAM, ESPLADOS, IDWHO, FLOOR, DISC, VALE, FIFTYDOLLAR, BULL, SPAT, OGLE, BEERIE, BTERM, BEA, BEE, RAH, PRIG, AHA, DOUBLECHECK, RABBI, KEEN, OMEN, CURBS, ELSA, SIDE, SLASH, SASS, TREE

WIZARD OF ID



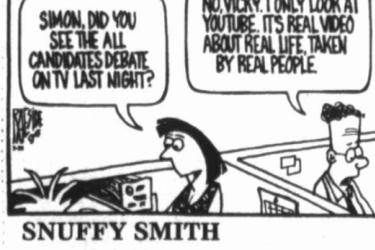
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Wrestling surfaces 5 Hoops star Shaquille 10 Firearm filler 14 Very much 15 Regard highly 16 Real-estate document 17 Evaluate 18 Lloyd Webber musical 19 Detest 20 Be capable 23 Glum 24 List-ending abbr. 25 "Honest" president 28 Some porch chairs 32 Health club 35 Hamilton's bills 37 Resistance units 38 Drakes and boars 40 Enthusiastically 43 Feel the same way 44 On the house 45 Suffix for leather 46 The Bridge of San Luis 47 Member lists 50 Distress signal 51 Australian bird 52 Amer. alliance 54 Performs well 52 Composer Johann Sebastian 63 Restrict 64 Cleveland's lake 65 Stare at 66 In flames

- 67 Objectives 68 Goldilocks story beast 69 Did electrical work 70 Lone Ranger's wear DOWN 1 Test grade 2 Economist Greenspan 3 Wizard of Oz dog 4 Simmers 5 Kitchen-range part 6 Church area 7 Yale students 8 Coupe or sedan 9 Lower in fat 10 Kind of committee

- 11 Cruel 12 New York baseballers 13 Poem of praise 21 Boating blade answer 22 "Who's there?" 25 Doing battle 26 Brown shade 27 Sweepstakes mail-in 29 Meal preparers 30 Penney competitor 31 Lauder of cosmetics 32 Narrow cuts 33 Green sauce 34 Fireplace remnants 36 That woman 39 British brew

- 41 Bacteria 42 Sent a different way 48 Bad guy in westerns 49 ___ in "Siberia" 51 Erstwhile anesthetic 53 Radiator output 54 Menagerie enclosure 55 USC rival 56 Stereo device 57 Mideast bigwig 58 Swampy ground 59 Diva's solo 60 Canyon edges 61 Piece of office furniture 62 Comic Newhart

Crossword grid with numbers 1-70.

By ST... Staff V... After... Alon... Conci... aside... steppi... Conc... Tuesd... has... Foster... Refini... the ne... Big Sp... tive A... Fost... 1993 a... matio... has se... busin... capaci... operat... planni... Conc... Big Sp... ensur... tion fo... then... By BI... News... The... can in... of the... the re... most... deal o... runnin... not fro... this w... er. It's t... Spring... Rattle... — the... in fac... once... Howa... FM 70... "It's... educa... Ray... Busin... IN... Classi... Featu... Obitua... Opinik... Sports... To n... Pleas... a.m. 1... If you... 263-7... noon... The... adv... Info...