

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a proud community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY
October 13, 1999

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT 50°-52° THURSDAY 84°-87°

'Shakespeare' performances set for weekend

Howard College theater production of "The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged)" will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets for the show are \$3. The play, a fast-paced synopsis of Shakespeare's works mixed with modern commentary on politics, television, lifestyles and morality, features the talents of three Howard College students — John McDiffit III, Jonathan Hull and Ray Stech.

Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8 p.m. The Sunday matinee begins at 2 p.m.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third.

THURSDAY

□ Gideons International Big Spring Camp No. 4206, 7 a.m., Hermans.

□ Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for 55 and older.

□ Big Spring Newcomer's Club meets 11:30 a.m. at Big Spring Country Club.

□ Christmas in April, noon, Lion's Club Den, 1607 E. Third.

□ Friends of the Library, noon, Howard County Library.

□ Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

□ American Legion Auxiliary, 7 p.m.

□ Masonic Lodge No. 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.

□ Big Spring Newcomers Club contact Pat Mireles for time and location, 267-8741.

FRIDAY

□ AMBUCS, noon, Brandin' Iron Restaurant.

□ Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All seniors invited.

SATURDAY

□ The Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

□ The Pottion House, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 to 5 p.m. A one-time admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens are encouraged.

□ American Legion Post

See **WHAT'S UP**, Page 2A

INSIDE TODAY...

Abby 3B
Classified 4-5B
Comics 6B
General 3A
Horoscope 3B
Life 5-6A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-2B

Vol. 96, No. 299

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Businesses, individuals encouraged to 'Make A Difference'

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Organizers for the third annual Make A Difference Day stand ready to accept registration of any community project that benefits someone else.

"While Make A Difference Day is Oct. 23, pro-



JONES

jects do not have to be done that day or done at the Salvation Army to count as part of the community's effort," said Nancy Jones, Retired Senior Volunteer Program director and an organizer with Make A Difference.

"Time is getting short, and we cannot take anyone's participation for granted. All efforts, all projects will be counted, and we need to know in advance what to expect so we can make proper arrangements to accommodate everyone," she said.

Make A Difference Day, a national volunteer effort to help

make a difference in someone's life, is an opportunity to do something for someone that is not an ordinary part of every day life, she said.

Projects might include mowing an elderly neighbor's lawn, or grocery shopping for someone who cannot shop themselves, she said.

And Jones complimented the city for getting involved in Make A Difference Day.

"The Mayor is going to issue a proclamation declaring Oct. 23 Make A Difference Day at the next city council meeting, and

he has said all the work the Wilderness Camp inmates do this month will be counted toward Make A Difference," Jones said.

Jones and fellow organizer Danelle Castillo, social services director for the Salvation Army, have mailed more than 160 invitations to local businesses and organizations, seeking reservations for the event at the Salvation Army.

A Health Fair will be conducted at the Salvation Army Oct. 23, and all types of health screenings from blood pressure

to glucose to eye exams will be available, free of charge.

Also, flu and pneumonia shots will be free for those who attend, and diabetes checks and cholesterol tests will also be available, she said.

"The Citizens Police Academy alumni will be fingerprinting children, and because of a donation from Radio Shack, video tapes of all the children will also be available," Jones said.

Video tapes of children provide excellent identification

See **DIFFERENCE**, Page 2A

It's getting spooky at Settles Building

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

The framework has been completed and work is under way on the second annual Friends of the Settles Haunted House, which will be held in the historic Settles Building on Oct. 26, 28-30.

"What we're doing now is putting up the black plastic to create the hallways and rooms," explained FOS member Mel Prather.

"We'll get that done in the next few days." Prather, along with John Walker, is co-chairing the haunted house. Proceeds from the project will be used to help with the renovation of the building.

In addition to the haunted house, a Fall Fair will be held in the former restaurant in the Settles. Non-profit groups or organizations can rent booth space in the Fall Fair for \$25.

"We discovered last year that this can be a pretty good fundraiser for groups," Prather said. "After they pay the registration fee, all the money they raise is theirs to keep for their group."

FOS thinks as many as 5,000 to 10,000 persons could come through the haunted house, which will be held Oct. 26 and Oct. 28-30.

"We will get posters out this week," Walker said. "We plan on distributing them in all of our area communities and as far out as Lamesa, Andrews and Midland."

Prather said persons came from Lamesa, Andrews and Colorado City last year, when the haunted house was held at Moorhead Transfer and Storage.

"What we need now is to have a meeting with the persons who have said they will participate in the haunted house so that they can begin to



HERALD photo/Rick McLaughlin

Inmates work on the interior of the Settles Building, site of the Tower of Terror Haunted House on Oct. 26 and 28-30 in downtown Big Spring. A Fall Fair will be held in conjunction with the event.

To Participate

Haunted house: call John H. Walker at 263-7331.

Fall Fair: call Mel Prather at 263-7690.

lay out their rooms," Prather said. "We will have that meeting next week."

Because of manpower, FOS has asked groups and organizations to participate in the project.

"We need four or five more groups willing to commit to taking a room and manning it through the haunted house," he said.

"It won't run as long on Tuesday night, but will proba-

bly be five hours long on Thursday and as many as six or seven hours on Friday and Saturday."

Still, he added, most rooms only require one or two people — unless a group comes up with an elaborate idea.

Organizations that have committed to help with the project include the Vietnam Memorial Committee, Western Container and Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The Big Spring Herald and KBST are the media sponsors of the event.

Persons or groups interested in taking a room in the haunted house should call Walker at 263-7331.

Groups wanting to participate in the Fall Fair are asked to call Prather at 263-7690.

Council to consider closing Moss Creek Lake during winter

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

Moss Creek Lake is losing money and one solution might be to close the facility five months out of the year. At least that's an idea.

Big Spring City Council will consider two weeks from now, in its next scheduled meeting.

A history of pumping general fund revenue into the small lake has prompted city officials to consider solutions to the problem. The lake lost about \$17,000 last year. Expenses will outdistance revenues \$16,000 for 1998-99, it has been estimated.

"It's lost money for a number of years, or maybe ever since we (the city) got it," Emma Bogard, assistant city manager, told the council Tuesday.



BIDDISON

Even closing the lake November through March will not get the lake to a break-even point, but statistics show it would narrow the gap considerably. During those five months in 1996-97, the lake lost \$13,270. It lost \$12,158 over the same period in 1997-98, and \$10,800 in 1998-99. The lake caretaker's salary is approximately \$10,000

over that period. He wouldn't be paid during that time if the facility were closed.

"During the time it is closed, we could look at some things we might do to boost attendance, and have it ready to open again in April," Bogard said. She suggested the difference in loss the city would incur by closing for five months might be used for

enhancing the lake grounds.

Bogard added that recent availability of city water to the RV area is expected to help attendance eventually, and noted that the city is considering putting in a dump station at the lake.

City Councilman Oscar Garcia suggested officials contact some other lakes to see

what they are doing to make lake operations successful. He specifically mentioned Lake Livingston and Possum Kingdom.

Bogard said contacting other lakes could be helpful, and agreed with another Garcia suggestion that federal grants be

See **LAKE**, Page 2A

Permian Building demolition contract awarded

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

Legal maneuvers appear to be the only obstacles in the way of the Permian Building's long-awaited demolition, and city officials are working on those.

"The owner has requested that we forgive

about \$2,800 in back taxes. Legally, we can't forgive those, but we have (attorney) Drew Mouton working to get us from the point we are now to the point we need to be," Big Spring City Manager Gary Fuqua said Tuesday, minutes after the council accepted a bid for demolition of the structure. "I think everyone is in agreement to forgo the back taxes; we just have to have the means to do it."

Once the paperwork is in order, the city can take possession of the building and demolition can begin.

"The contractor has said it can be completed in 45 days from the time they get the signed contract, so I am still optimistic we can get the building down and cleared by the end of the year," Fuqua added.

Big Spring City Council on Tuesday awarded demolition of the Permian Building to Midwest Wrecking Co. of Fort Worth, which had the low bid of \$89,450. Fuqua admitted he was sweating the bidding process a

bit.

"We opened a bid of \$216,000 and I thought 'oh no,' then a bid of \$214,000. But then came one of \$167,000 and then we opened Midwest's bid," he said.

Midwest's bid — which includes demolition and hauling away the debris — fits into the project's \$128,000 budget. Those funds come from a cooperative effort by several entities. Both the city and Moore Development for Big Spring,

See **CONTRACT**, Page 2A

StarTek

Incentive pact signed, sealed and delivered; renovations under way

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

StarTek USA signed an incentive agreement with Moore Development for Big Spring, Inc. this week, and plans to have a call center opened in Big Spring by Dec. 1.

"We are playing this like it is a go, although there are still several documents that have to be signed," said Kent Sharp, executive director of Moore Development.

Sharp declined to disclose the details of the incentive agreement until other legal documentation, such as a lease agreement, has been signed.

"We're hoping to have a copy of the lease agreement and a copy of their contract with Southwestern Bell on our desks this week," Sharp said.

Then a promissory note and a

security agreement will be signed, and the deal is done, he said.

"The promissory note is a loan we are making them, and the incentive agreement is an economic development document we all start with," he said.

He added that the negotiation stage has concluded, and now the joint effort has moved into legal documentation and agreements.

StarTek USA is planning to secure a lease with US Royalty for the old TG&Y building in College Park Shopping Center. Remodeling inside the building is now under way, Sharp said.

He also said Kevin Cory, human resources director for StarTek, has been in Big Spring since Monday night, interviewing individuals for management positions currently advertised in the Big Spring Herald.

"We've had great interest in the management positions. He has a full schedule of interviews Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and maybe into

See **STARTEK**, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Rick McLaughlin

Work has begun to transform the former TG&Y building at College Park Shopping Center into a call center for StarTek USA. The Colorado-based company is planning to open the facility Dec. 1.

OCT 13 1999

OBITUARIES

Branden Guzman

Branden Guzman, 5, of Big Spring, died Monday, Oct. 11, 1999, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock following a short illness. A rosary will be 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral service will be 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 15, 1999, at St. Thomas Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens and Deacon Horace Yanez officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.



GUZMAN

Branden was born May 18, 1994, in Big Spring. He was a student at Anderson Kindergarten Center who enjoyed Hot Wheels, low riders, trucks and motorcycles. He is survived by his mother, Virginia Martinez of Big Spring; his father, Henry G. Guzman Jr. of Big Spring; maternal grandparents, Lucy Gomez of Big Spring and Ray and Dorothy Martinez of Odessa; paternal grandparents, Henry Guzman Sr. of Midland and Dora Perches of Big Spring; one brother, B.J. Perez of Big Spring; two sisters, Jeannie Guzman and Stacey Guzman, both of Dallas; maternal great grandmother Nancy Sanchez of San Angelo; and a number of aunts, uncles and cousins.

He is preceded in death by an uncle, Kenny Guzman Sr., on Sept. 5, 1996.

Pallbearers will be Fred Escovedo, David Canales, John Ramirez, Mike Guzman, Kenny Guzman Jr. and T.J. Saldivar. Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel.

Paid obituary

Louise Spradling

Louise King Spradling, 84, of Big Spring, died Tuesday, Oct. 12, 1999, at her residence. Service will be 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, 1999, at First Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Flynn Long, retired Presbyterian minister, officiating. Graveside service will be 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, 1999, at Dougherty Cemetery in Emory.



SPRADLING

She was born Oct. 6, 1915, in Point and married Lev Dolby Spradling on May 9, 1937, in Greenville. He preceded her in death April 26, 1988.

She received her bachelors and masters degrees from East Texas State University and began her teaching career in 1933 in the County Line community. She moved to West Texas in 1937 and taught in O'Donnell and Brownfield. She then moved to Big Spring in 1951 and taught third grade at College Heights Elementary until retiring in 1980.

Mrs. Spradling was a member of First Presbyterian Church and was a 50-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was also a member of the American Association of University Women and the Retired Teachers Association.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Jeff Morris of Colleyville; one son, Robert Spradling of Saginaw; one sister, Maureen Davis of Baytown; and four grandchildren, Chris Spradling, Justin Morris, Mark Spradling and Matthew Morris.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Michael Spradling. The family will receive friends today from 6:30-8 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. They will receive friends at the funeral home in Emory Friday from 10 a.m.-noon.

Local arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Arrangements in Emory are by Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

DIFFERENCE

Continued from Page 1A

tools in the event of an unexpected problem, she said.

And each child will be videotaped for several minutes to get an accurate voice recording as well as picture, and each child will stand in front of a board that shows their height.

"So these videos are good records of how a child grows, if a parent will bring this video back each year for us to continue recording on the same tape," she said.

The Howard County Literacy Council and the Big Spring Herald will have a table at the Health Fair, promoting literacy. Volunteers will read to children throughout the day, she said.

And Seniors and Law Together (SALT) will have the File of Life material available. Jones said this is a program for seniors to record all their medical and medication history, along with next of kin information, for emergency personnel to locate.

"The information is filled out in pencil, so it can be changed, and put in a folder which is hung on the refrigerator. There is also a bill fold card to be carried with a driver's license," she said.

Make A Difference Day will have many other businesses and health-related industries available for information and assistance, she said.

For more information or to confirm reservations call Jones at 264-2397 or Castillo at 267-8239.

STARTEK

Continued from Page 1A

Friday. He'll have interviewed about 30 people by the end of today," said Lydia Perez, Texas Workforce Commission area

assistant manager.

Cory is interviewing for four positions this week. They are human resources manager, human resources office manager, human resources recruiting manager and information technology manager, she said.

"These are the only ones he's interviewing for this week," Perez said.

Cory, who conducted the information sessions for StarTek in June, is interviewing those individuals who applied for management positions at that time, Perez said.

"Initially he is hiring those from the information sessions, as he promised he would," Perez said.

Perez said 100 individuals would be hired every 15 days to man the telephone lines in the call center, beginning Nov. 15. Ultimately the center will employ about 300 full-time and 200 part-time workers, she said.

"The people they are most interested in are those who have a flexible schedule. Their peak times are evenings, beginning about 2:30 in the afternoon, and on weekends and holidays," she said.

StarTek is an international company that provides outsourced support for computer manufacturers. The call center is a central location for incoming calls of those customers who have questions about recently purchased or existing equipment or software.

LAKE

Continued from Page 1A

pursued to help promote tourism at Moss Lake.

"Could we privatize it and break even and still keep the lake open?" said Mayor Tim Blackshear.

Bogard said bidding the lake out for privatization is a possibility.

Asked about arrangements for the lake caretaker, Floyd Earls, Bogard said that if the facility were closed during the winter the Earls family could still live there, providing they paid their own utilities. She told the council that Earls is contemplating what he will do if the lake is closed. She also said he had been invited to appear before the council Tuesday to make comment, but declined.

City Councilman Joann Smoot said the one negative she has heard about the lake were complaints from nearby residents over loud parties. She wondered if that problem might increase if no caretaker were residing at the area during winter months.

Officials noted that the gates would be locked, but conceded that might not stop some people from finding a way in.

One councilman who spoke against closing the lake was Greg Biddison.

"I don't think this is a good time to close it," he said. "I think we need to look at other alternatives, plus there is a chance that there will be increased vandalism if we do and no one is out there to oversee it."

Bogard said one of the problems the lake has is its limited use.

"It is a small lake. You can't

A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

do boating. You can't do skiing. Its main attraction is fishing," she said.

That didn't deter Biddison. "Lots of us can't afford boats. But it is a good place to go and just relax for awhile," said Biddison. "It's a place a lot of people go just to get away for an afternoon. I'm not in favor of closing it."

Blackshear suggested that the item be placed on the next council meeting for consideration. The council meets again Oct. 26.

Meanwhile, some activity will be going on at the lake. The Wilderness Camp inmates are scheduled to work there on Friday and Bogard said volunteers will hold a cleanup day Saturday to help enhance the lake's appearance.

TEXAS LOTTERY

PICK 3: 6,0,2
CASH 5: 14,23,28,36,39

Lottery numbers are unofficial until confirmed by the state lottery commission.

MONDAY

Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teachers Association, 10:30 a.m. coffee and social, and 11:30 a.m. lunch, Howard College Cactus Room.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 47, 6:30 p.m., VAMC room 212.
Big Spring Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 E. Third.

BRIEFS

A FUND HAS BEEN set up for the family of Branden Guzman, 5-year-old Big Spring resident who died of a viral infection in Lubbock Monday. The fund, at State National Bank, will go to help with funeral expenses and medical expenses. For more information, call Bertha Rodriguez, 264-0905.

MARKETS

Dec. cotton 53.90 cents, up 10 points; Nov. crude 22.74, up 44 points; cash hogs \$1 higher at 35; cash steers \$1 higher at 71 even; Oct. lean hog futures 47.10, up 42 points; Oct. live cattle futures 71.62, up 22 points. Other markets were not available by presstime.

FIRE/EMS

Following is a summary of Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reports:

- TUESDAY**
- 1:34 a.m. — 1600 block Hilltop, medical call, patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- 7:54 a.m. — 1100 block Lloyd, medical call, service refused.
- 8:29 a.m. — 1700 block State, medical call, service refused.
- 9:09 a.m. — 700 block W. 18th, medical call, patient transported to VA Medical Center.
- 12:45 p.m. — 100 block E. 17th, medical call, service refused.
- 1:50 p.m. — 200 block Lancaster, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.
- 2:30 p.m. — 2600 block Wasson, medical call, service refused.
- 5:32 p.m. — 400 block Dixon, medical call, service refused.
- 8:02 p.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

CONTRACT

Continued from Page 1A

Inc. have contributed \$50,000 while Cornell Corrections, Inc. has given \$25,000 and Big Spring Main Street, Inc. added \$3,000 for demolition of the building, which is located north of Howard County Courthouse.

In other business Tuesday, the council made a handful of appointments to local boards. Terri Newton, Steve Bibbs and Will Rangel were named to the Planning & Zoning Commission, replacing Hayes Stripling, Mike Evans and Monroe Casey.

Named to the Parks & Recreation Board were Carl Smoot and Mickey Sanchez. They replace Jeff Gunselman and Daniel Flenniken.

Two of four spots on the Animal Control Board were filled. Selected to serve were Dr. Scott Burt and Bebe McCasland. Two other spots remain open.

The council also nominated Randy Gee to serve as director of the Howard County Joint Tax Appraisal District board.

No names were submitted for an appointment to the Howard County Appraisal Review Board.

Council members approved a request to close Rannels between Second and Third Streets from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Oct. 29 to coincide with the haunted house at the Settles Building.

WHAT'S UP

Continued from Page 1A

No. 506 fish fry, noon to 3 p.m., 3203 W. Hwy 80. The cost is \$6 per plate and carry out is available. Call 263-2084 to order.

Eagles Lodge pot luck supper, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third.

Dance 8:30 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third. Members and guests welcome.

Big Spring Squares call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-82188
Branden Guzman, 5, of Big Spring, died Monday. Rosary will be 7:30 PM, Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services are 11:00 AM, Friday at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Interment will be in Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

Louise Spradling, 84, died Tuesday. Services will be 10:00 AM Thursday at First Presbyterian Church in Big Spring. Graveside services will be at 2:00 PM Friday at Dougherty Cemetery in Emory, Texas.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center

1601 W. 11th Place 263-1211
Big Spring Herald ISSN 0746-6811 USPS 0055-940 Daily except Saturday. BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere. The Herald is a member of the Associated Press, Audit Bureau of Circulation, American Newspaper Association and West Texas Press. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas, 79720-9998.

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas, 79720.

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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MEL PRATHER

Thre

PLEASANTON law officers w Tuesday in ambush in a rur authorities said.

Two Atasc Sheriff's Depart and a Texas Stat gunned down w ered rifle.

They were shifed gunman lured authoritie home south of with a 911 call.

The gunman other officers b himself, state I Public Safety sp Cox said.

"I don't reme like this since W

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WASHINGTON House officials a sional Republica for credit

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Report among

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It's the first su survival rates o who enter trans lists, offering a comparison of 10 heart transplant c

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At the Univers Medical Center, people awaiting

Network

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Shr 4 Pon

Three law officers killed, sniper dead

PLEASANTON (AP) — Three law officers were killed late Tuesday in an apparent ambush in a rural trailer park, authorities said.

Two Atascosa County Sheriff's Department deputies and a Texas State Trooper were gunned down with a high-powered rifle.

They were shot by an unidentified gunman who apparently lured authorities to his mobile home south of San Antonio with a 911 call.

The gunman wounded two other officers before shooting himself, state Department of Public Safety spokesman Mike Cox said.

"I don't remember anything like this since Waco," Cox said.

"Except that there's really been nothing where there's been so many officers killed in Texas in my memory."

The deputies approached the Atascosa County home and were met with shots from within the trailer, Cox said. They died immediately.

"And it gets worse," Cox said. The shooter apparently grabbed a pistol from one of the fallen officers, crossed a dirt road and hid himself in underbrush.

When the trooper arrived at the scene, he sent out a radio call that officers were shot. But before he could remove his seat belt, the gunman shot him dead while he sat in his vehicle.

As other police arrived, offi-

cers used searchlights and a police helicopter at the scene. Meanwhile, the suspect continued to snipe from his roadside hiding place, Cox said.

"It's very disturbing," Bexar County sheriff's deputy Clyde Ross told the San Antonio Express-News. "It was a very bloody scene."

The gunfire wounded a bailiff with the Marshal Service and a Pleasanton police officer. The two were moved to University Hospital in San Antonio.

The wounded were identified as Carl Fisher, 60, an Atascosa County deputy, and Pleasanton police Officer Luis Tudyk, 30.

The bailiff was in surgery early this morning. Both were listed in fair condition early

today. At one point during the attack, in an attempt to block some of the sniper's bullets, officers parked a fire truck beside the trailer and crept closer.

"They were trying to get to the other officers, because they didn't know yet they were dead," Cox said.

Officers fired back in the direction of the brush, but it was the sniper who eventually shot himself with the stolen pistol.

Texas Rangers are investigating the attack.

The killed deputy had a wife and two children, Cox said. No other details or identities were available.

Country singer's murder case going to jury today

UVALDE (AP) — Country singer Johnny Rodriguez led life in the fast lane in the 1970s, with Top 10 hits, television show appearances and friendships with big names in music.

Today, his fate is in the hands of a South Texas jury.

"I'm tired, but other than that I'm just glad that we're close to making a decision here," Rodriguez said outside the courtroom Tuesday as testimony in his murder trial came to an end.

Closing arguments and jury deliberations got under way this morning.

Defense lawyers rested their case without calling Rodriguez to the witness stand to explain why he shot and killed Israel

"Bosco" Borrego in his family's home in Sabinal on Aug. 29, 1998.

His attorneys said there was no need to call Rodriguez because others sufficiently told his story — that he shot Borrego in darkness in the early morning hours because he thought he was a burglar.

One of those testifying on Rodriguez's behalf was his older sister Antonia Contreras.

Ms. Contreras testified family members talked about Borrego as a suspect in an earlier burglary at their home, but that the break-in was not reported to police. She said she warned Rodriguez not to hang around with Borrego because of his criminal past.

CBO sees \$1 billion surplus, sans Social Security

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House officials and top congressional Republicans are vying for credit after the Congressional Budget Office said it thinks fiscal 1999 ended with a \$1 billion federal surplus, excluding Social Security.

If accurate, Tuesday's estimate by Congress' nonpartisan fiscal scorekeeper would mark the first time since 1960 that the government had balanced its books after discounting Social Security's big surpluses.

The projection came amid a budget fight in which President Clinton and Republicans are both claiming they don't want to use Social Security's surpluses to help pay for fiscal 2000's spending bills.

"Because Republicans held the line on spending, we were able to stop President Clinton from spending Social Security

and were able to put the needs of seniors ahead of the needs of bureaucrats," said House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas.

The 1999 surplus would have been even larger had congressional Republicans and Clinton not agreed to \$21 billion in "emergency" spending for dozens of domestic and defense programs last autumn, and \$15 billion for Kosovo, aid to U.S. farmers and other items last spring.

White House economic adviser Gene Sperling credited Clinton's repeated calls to protect Social Security and deficit-cutting packages of 1993 and 1997 for the development. He also said GOP tax cut plans, vetoed by Clinton, would have eroded the surplus.

"Actions speak louder than words, and their actions are

they're choosing to drain billions from the Social Security surplus, rather than join the president in making tough choices" to find other ways to save money, Sperling said.

Clinton has said that extra spending for education and other administration priorities should be paid for by raising tobacco taxes and other tax and fee increases.

Senate Republicans said little about the projections, reflecting a belief by some that a year-end compromise with Clinton might involve using some Social Security money.

Fiscal 1999 ended Sept. 30. A final figure should be available later this month.

The distinction between cash the government raises from Social Security's payroll tax and from income and other taxes is little more than an

accounting device. Funds the government collects from almost all sources is used to pay for the full range of federal activities.

Spending some of Social Security's surpluses has no effect on the program's benefits. That is because the pension system converts its cash surpluses into Treasury bills before the Treasury Department uses the cash for spending, reducing the national debt or other purposes.

Nonetheless, in a bid to cast themselves as protecting Social Security, politicians have promised to not touch its surpluses.

Report discovers wide disparities among nation's transplant hospitals

WASHINGTON (AP) — Offering a wealth of new data for transplant patients, a government report documents striking differences among hospitals in the likelihood patients will die while awaiting a new heart or liver.

It's the first study to examine survival rates of all patients who enter transplant waiting lists, offering a head-to-head comparison of 106 liver and 128 heart transplant centers.

"If you're a patient, your chances of survival depend enormously on where you get your transplant," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who requested the data from the Department of Health and Human Services.

At the University of Kansas Medical Center, 89 percent of people awaiting liver trans-

plants got them within a year. But in Baltimore, just 21 percent of patients at the University of Maryland and 23 percent at Johns Hopkins Hospital got them in a year.

There were some disparities even among transplant centers in the same cities, though these differences were generally less pronounced than regional variances. In Boston, for instance, about 18 percent of liver patients at Massachusetts General Hospital and 17 percent of patients at the New England Medical Center died while waiting. But it was 33 percent at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, also in Boston, the report found.

Officials cautioned that patients must consider many factors when choosing a transplant center.

"It should prompt questions rather than conclusions," said Campbell Gardett, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services.

Still, Gardett said, the report may be useful to many people.

"This answers the questions a transplant patient would have: Will I get a transplant? Will I be alive a year from now?" he said.

Several factors explain the national variation, experts say. They include policies for distributing scarce organs, a community's willingness to donate and the effectiveness of the local organ bank in collecting organs. They also include a transplant surgeon's medical skills — both in keeping patients alive while awaiting organs and in operating on and treating those who get transplants.

Network accused of mailing deceptive postcards

DALLAS (AP) — A reporter for a Texas television network was placed on probation after mailing registered sex offenders postcards purported to be from the state Department of Public Safety.

News of Texas president Bob Rogers said reporter Brian Collister, who used "Texas Department of Public Safety" in the postcards' return address without his editors' permission, was put on probation.

"It was a complete surprise," Rogers said. "He made an error in judgment."

However, Rogers defended the project, saying it "was for the greater good."

"The public is better informed than before the story, and we are going to stick to that story," he said.

The San Antonio Express-News reported Tuesday that the network with 26 affiliates had sent thousands of postcards last week asking offenders to confirm their addresses.

The San Antonio-based network hoped to reveal that many of the state's 18,000 registered sex offenders have given authorities fake or outdated addresses, Rogers said, noting that the information gathered is public record and available on the Internet.

"If their (the state's) concern is that the offenders be anonymous, then why are they putting the names on the Internet?" he said. "A postal carrier would probably be glad to know they were delivering mail to a sex offender."

DPS spokesman Tela Mange

said the postcards were deceptive because they bore no mark showing they were from a news organization and used the agency's name in the return address.

She also said the postcards exposed offenders to potential embarrassment and harassment and eroded the agency's credibility.

The news agency faces possible federal charges of mail fraud and state charges of impersonating a government official and tampering with government records, Ms. Mange said. FBI agents directed calls to the U.S. postal inspector for San Antonio, who did not return calls.

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EDITORIAL

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

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

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OUR VIEWS

We refuse to let setbacks derail positive attitude

The emotional well-being of a community is tied to the number of businesses within its boundaries and the number of people employed by those firms, regardless of their size.

And Tuesday, for the third time in the past few months, Big Spring's ego took a hit with the announcement that Signal Homes would finish the work on the floor and shut its doors.

Signal's announcement comes on the heels of Walls Industries' elimination of 95 jobs and Hirschfeld Steel's decision to close.

But the community's emotional well-being also received a lift on Tuesday when Moore Development for Big Spring executive director Kent Sharp announced the incentive package sent to StarTek had been signed, sealed and delivered.

No community likes to hear the news of jobs being lost — and Signal Homes, Walls Industries and Hirschfeld Steel were all good employers.

Walls has been in Big Spring for more than two decades and the 95 jobs lost there have nothing to do with our community. They were lost because the firm, founded in Texas but now owned by an out-of-state group, can contract the work to Mexico.

The positive news with Walls is the fact the plant is still open, despite the initial news that it would close on Sept. 1.

No, it probably won't make it until the end of October, but the facility is still producing goods and employing people in the economy.

When Signal co-owner Bud Ledingham told employees the plant would close when current work was completed, the local facility became the fifth manufactured housing plant to close in Texas in less than a month.

Briefly, it's tough times in that industry.

We hate to lose Bud and the folks at Signal because they have worked hard to be good corporate members of the community. The employees wore their Signal shirts with pride and they were proud of their product ... and they were proud to be in Big Spring.

Hirschfeld's decision to leave was different, because it wasn't based on the economy or the workforce. It was based on the fact the city and Moore Development wouldn't pay the firm to stay.

Yes, the jobs were important — but we think it's important to understand that there are limits to what a community can and should do to keep jobs. Saying "no" to what we consider economic blackmail was the right thing to do.

The good news that comes with StarTek's agreement to come to Big Spring is that 300 full-time and 200 part-time jobs are less than 45 days away.

This entire year, Big Spring and Howard County has maintained the lowest unemployment rate in the Permian Basin.

Despite the doom and gloom poured forth on a daily basis from the Midland/Odessa media, our workforce has continued to grow ... our jobs have increased ... our businesses have continued to expand.

We think it's that "Positively Big Spring" attitude that has helped make the difference. It's the toughness developed over the years after what once seemed to be an endless line of adversity. It's refusing to let those naysayers get us down. It's taking the time to care and working to make a difference.

And that's a full-time job for each and every one of us.

It's how you paint them that matters

Not since Michelangelo needed a chiropractor has there been such a creative challenge. Few are privy to artistic calculations. And I'm not sure many would want to be. It's a little disconcerting, like seeing the sausage being made. In a red-brick country church on a bright fall day, Oxford, Miss., artists Deborah Freeland and Rod Moorhead squat in an aqua fiberglass baptismal pool and ponder logistics. They measure, scratch their heads, think some more.

Their angel painting-in-progress is for the baptistery and must be hung so that everyone in little Springfield Missionary Baptist Church can see it. Otherwise, the church has wasted its money. And no artist wants a botched commission on his conscience.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON

A mirror hangs above this lower-than-normal baptistery; the mirror allows the congregation to watch the baptizing. "We can't lose the mirror," Rod says, thinking aloud, "though maybe the frame can go."

So the angel in oil — a gorgeous celestial specimen holding a pinchably plump baby — must fly over and around the mirror, but not out of sight. For now she remains at the studio, waiting for finishing touches and an unveiling date.

The angel's flight pattern has been the hardest part of this job. A mutual friend had written me about this creative collaboration. Deborah is primarily a portrait artist with formal training and a realistic style. Rod is primarily a sculptor and potter who deals more comfortably with abstracts. Both are respected regional artists with work in private collections and galleries.

But this work for the small community church in a neighborhood not their own has their undivided attention now. Outside the church, dogs bark, neighbors shout howdy, husbands roll in from work. And

two earnest artists try to agree on an answer to a question about the hazards of collaborating.

"It's hard," Rod says. "Really? You think that?" Deborah says. "We've only had one fight. ..."

Neither had done a baptismal pool painting before — though Rod has sculpted a crucifix or two in his career — but both were intrigued by the request of a church member who works in Deborah's husband's law office.

They saw the church, took the job and had hoped to have the angel flying in time for Springfield's recent revival. That deadline proved unrealistic. Still, just a few more lilies at the angel's feet ...

Back at Deborah's home studio, I study the impressive painting. It fills a wall, and the angel soars, trailing vivid colors. I'm no art critic. But it looks light years better, I declare, than the painting in the baptistery at my own childhood church.

"The River Jordan?" Rod asks. "Most churches back then had the River Jordan."

Both artists grab a brush, unable to resist daubing while

we talk. Side by side they work, putting finishing touches on a black angel. Deborah, darkly beautiful with Native American roots. Rod, a lean, serious, artistic-looking white man. Contrasts and complementary colors. The scene works.

It's a little like that old ride at Walt Disney World that plays "It's a Small World" while guests float by waving, smiling, automated children of dozens of different nationalities. All are happy, peace-loving friends. If only real life were a ride by Disney.

I'd like to be at Springfield in Abbeville for the unveiling of the angel painting, whenever it happens. It would be nice if the Rev. Willie James Lumpkin could drum up a baptism to show how the pool's reflection in the mirror will become a part of a painted azure-and-rose sky. And that sky will hold an angel holding a baby, which, I predict, should hold the attention of everyone present.

Maybe the painting will suggest a sermon. Life is a canvas, the preacher might say, studied with obstacles. It is how you paint around them that matters.

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(Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.
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- BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL**
THE BLACKSHEAR, mayor — Home:
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8456.
- GREG BIDDISON** — Home: 267-
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Cards, dominoes and inventing 42

A religious loophole helped create the domino game of 42. The game started in 1887 in a tiny place called Trappe Spring, Texas between Weatherford and Mineral Wells. That little hamlet is now called Garner, named for Ab Bumgarner, a gin operator.

In those days, strong religious beliefs controlled the moral climate of such communities. Baptists were the law and card-playing was the devil's work. But if you want someone to do something, especially kids, tell them it's against the rules.

Two young boys in Trappe Spring, 12-year-old William Thomas and 14-year-old Walter Earl, liked to play cards. They found the game of dominoes (legal in Baptist circles) boring. The two boys often hid in the hayloft and played cards. One day they were caught by one of their parents. The other three

parents were summoned, the cards were burned and the boys were spanked.

But William and Walker, being the clever boys they were, set out to change things. They didn't try to rewrite the Baptist rules. They simply reached a creative solution. If dominoes were okay, why not play cards with dominoes?

For about four months, they revised and fine-tuned the rules for a card game with dominoes. It was called 42. For the boys, it meant they could play unmolested. No more haylofts. No more whippings.

They taught the game to their families, friends and neighbors and before long 42 became a popular game around Trappe Spring. William delivered fruit from his father's orchard to nearby Mineral Wells and he taught the people there how to play 42. Later, the Thomases and Earls moved to Fannin County in northeast Texas and introduced the game there. The game spread like wildfire.

During World War II, Texas military men taught the game to their fellow troops and the game went world wide.

The oldest domino sets date from 1120 AD. They appear to be a Chinese invention. They

were apparently derived from dice, which was introduced into China from India.

Each domino originally represented one of the 21 results of throwing two dice. One half of the tile is set with the dots from one die and the other half contains dots from the second die. Chinese domino tiles are made of wood, ivory or bone. They are called "bone tablets" in China. Over time, Chinese dominoes evolved into the tile set used to play Mah Jong.

Dominoes made their way to Europe in the early 18th century, making their first appearance in Italy. In doing so, the game changed. Seven additional dominoes were added. One is completely blank. Six of those are half blank with the resulting numbers from throwing a single die on the other half.

Perhaps this was done for symmetry's sake so each of the resulting suits would contain seven tiles.

The word domino derives from the Latin dominus (lord). In the 16th century the word was used to denote a priest's black and white cloak. The name came to be applied to the game through the custom of calling "faire domino" when winning with the last piece.



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Mallard Fillmore by **BRUCE TINSLEY**

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AND REMEMBER, COUNTRIES WHO CONTRIBUTED TO MY CAMPAIGN MAY BE N.T.O.-ELIGIBLE!

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Buck

How many of when you get into as well as my kid I even buckle up. You can still be the car in an accident you are in the back seat. I really hate to car wrecks when thrown out of the car they were not just don't get it: I wear a seatbelt, are those who risk every time they car.

In my opinion, risk your life.

More

DALLAS (AP) — Wendy McGahey's third child.

But for the first hospital knowing relatively pain-free anesthesia.

Like Mrs. McGahey opting for pain relief delivery. Doctors s' painkilling technique feeling less pressure tough out the pain.

Researchers at the Colorado School of in large hospitals, anesthesia — epid techniques — triple 1981 to 66 percent.

Mrs. McGahey's went into labor five first son, she decided — until it was too mind.

Women spiritual sisterhood in 'Circle'

BEAUMONT (AP) — ters have claimed booth and the attendees by diners attracted spirited conversation.

The seven women speaking, keeping with a reassuring fingertips, a quick hug and lavish k across the table.

Their easy conversation shared laughter women who care each other.

They are The Sisters women with no but unbreakable spirit.

Five years ago, administrative su tant to the community department of University, was a fessional, a single full-time student, music at her church music teacher look to be as fulfilled as she was professional.

She found it American Women Conferences.

The organization gatherings around States each year self-help and workshops for bl Empowerment wa word, and sharing of like minds was t Ms. Black was with the message: ended by the close re

See CIRCLE, Page 6

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How discuss Some author Next Dillard the 13 Dixieland Builder For r

QUICK TRIVIA

◆The hottest place on earth is Dallol, Ethiopia, with an annual mean temperature of 94 degrees.

◆The term flagstone comes from the Norse word *flagga*, meaning to flake. True flagstone was flaked into flat pieces for paving.

Got an Itch?

Do you have a story idea for the *life!* section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 236.

Buckle up, and be sure your children do the same

How many of you buckle up when you get into the car? I do, as well as my kids.

I even buckle up if I'm in the backseat of someone else's car. You can still be thrown out of the car in an accident, even if you are in the backseat.

I really hate to read stories of car wrecks where a child was thrown out of the car because they were not buckled up. I just don't get it: It's the LAW to wear a seatbelt, but yet, there are those who risk their lives every time they get into the car.

In my opinion, if you want to risk your life, at least don't

risk your child's. Especially if your child is too young to make that decision.

Here are some statistics.

• In 1998, 3,576 were killed and 338,661 received injuries in motor vehicle crashes.

• Motor vehicle crashes are the number one



GINA GARZA

killer of children age 14 and young with 219 children losing their lives in crashes in 1998.

• If the driver is unbuckled, 70 percent of the time children in that vehicle won't be either.

• The Texas Transportation Institute reports safety restraint use in Texas by drivers and front-seat passengers at 77 percent in 1998.

• The use of safety restraints with children aged 5 and under in 1998 was 67 percent.

As of Sept. 1, a new Texas law took effect. It requires children ages 4-14 to be restrained by a safety belt in a motor vehicle whether they are in the

front or the back seat. Children under age 2 must ride in a safety seat, and children ages 2 and 3 may ride either in a safety seat or secured with a safety belt.

All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat, and infants up to age 1 should be in rear-facing safety seats in the back seat of a vehicle.

Another issue we should be concerned about is bicycle safety — all of us should wear a helmet when riding a bike.

I keep telling my son to put his on. He always responds by saying, "But Mom, no one else wears one."

I made a point to tell him that I cared for him and loved too much to see something bad happen to him. He agreed to wear it.

To find out more information how to select a child safety seat, determine if their child's safety seat has ever been recalled and prevent bicycle injuries, check out The Safe Riders Traffic Safety Web page at www.tdh.state.tx.us/injury or call 1-800-252-8255.

Gina Garza, features assistant for the Herald, writes a weekly column of family information and tips.

Timing key when shopping with kids

Some parents find it exhausting to take their young children to go grocery shopping. The trip can turn out to be a battleground. How can parents make grocery shopping with kids a more pleasant experience?

Consider everyone's needs before shopping. If the children are hungry or tired, feed them a snack before heading out. Also, children get irritable when they get tired, so it might be a good idea to wait and take the trip another time.

If you have had a bad day, or are stressed out from work, a minor flare up at the store might add to your stress. Your tolerance level might be low, so again, it might be better to take the trip at a different time.

Have you planned ahead? Do you have a shopping list, which will help speed your shopping time? Be sure before you step into the grocery store that you tell your children what you expect of them, how you want them to behave. Be sure you explain the rules so they are clear, and be especially clear about the rule that they are to stay within your sight. If your children are older, age 4 and up, they can be good helpers by getting some of the lighter grocery items for you.

Can you even make the grocery shopping trip fun? Give children the opportunity to participate.

Discuss which food groups the foods you are buying fall into, and allow them some input into purchasing some items. They can also learn the names of new foods you see in the store. Have children count items as they put them in the basket. This can help with counting skills.

If your child has helped you, don't forget to show them your appreciation.

Tell them how they have helped. If they have followed the expectations you set before you went into the store, tell them so. Let them know they have been "good shoppers" and follow with a hug. On occasion, let them also pick out a snack as a reward.

One last reminder: If you put your children in a shopping cart, keep an eye on them at all times.

It is very easy for a youngster to fall out of the cart when trying to move around or climb out.

Shopping isn't something we always enjoy, but it is necessary. Some of these tips may help shopping with your preschooler become a more pleasurable trip. Plan ahead, take some precautions, and be creative — it can be a learning experience for both of you.

Dana Tarter is Howard County Extension Agent — family and consumer science.



DANA TARTER

More women opt for pain relief during childbirth

DALLAS (AP) — In about two weeks, Wendy McGahey is due to have her third child.

But for the first time, she'll go to the hospital knowing what to expect — a relatively pain-free delivery, thanks to anesthesia.

Like Mrs. McGahey, more women are opting for pain relief during labor and delivery. Doctors say they have refined painkilling techniques, and women are feeling less pressure from society to tough out the pain.

Researchers at the University of Colorado School of Medicine found that in large hospitals, the use of regional anesthesia — epidurals and other spinal techniques — tripled from 22 percent in 1981 to 66 percent in 1997.

Mrs. McGahey said that when she went into labor five years ago with her first son, she decided against anesthesia — until it was too late to change her mind.

"My biggest fear was getting a needle in my back," she said. But before long, "they could have put a pitchfork in my back. It was intense misery and I couldn't see an end in sight."

Two years later, the Hurst, Texas woman entered the hospital to give birth again, and wary from her first delivery, asked to try an epidural.

"It was instant euphoria," she said. "There was no pain. And when the baby came I felt rested."

Mrs. McGahey, 28, said the experience was so enjoyable that she has no fears about giving birth to her next child — due on Halloween.

"This time I'm not afraid," she said. The survey results, gathered from 750 hospitals around the nation, were to be presented in Dallas today during the annual meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists.

The survey found that in midsize hospitals, those with between 500 and 1,499

births per year, 55 percent of women opted for regional anesthesia in 1997, compared to 13 percent in 1981.

A huge increase was also reported at hospitals with less than 500 births per year. The percent of women receiving regional anesthesia went from 9 percent in 1981 to 42 percent in 1997, the survey found.

Dr. Joy L. Hawkins, who led the research, said the increase at small hospitals partly can be attributed to an increased number of anesthesiologists on staff in obstetrical units. In the past, some obstetricians provided anesthesia care.

Dr. Hawkins said many patients in the survey also opted for narcotics to ease the pain during labor and delivery.

Only 11 percent of obstetrical patients at large and mid-size hospitals opted for no analgesia of any kind in 1997. In small hospitals, 17 percent of women had no pain relief.

But some doctors and mothers-to-be believe epidurals and other pain-relievers greatly raise the chances of a Caesarean section by slowing labor and inhibiting the mother's ability to push.

Amy Miller, a birthing assistant, or a doula, says her clients "have a strong belief in the natural process."

"They believe it's safer for their babies and safer for them," said the Dallas resident, who is certified.

Childbearing techniques like Lamaze and the Bradley Method first gained popularity in the 1960s and 1970s, advocating relaxation techniques and abdominal breathing to ease pain.

Dr. Hawkins said medical advances have made anesthesia safer. The development of ultra-fine needles reduces the incidence of headaches to less than one percent, she said.

"We have better needles and better drugs. We can provide pain relief where you can still walk around."

Women find spiritual ties, sisterhood in 'Circle'

BEAUMONT (AP) — The sisters have claimed the corner booth and the attention of nearby diners attracted by their spirited conversation.

The seven women take turns speaking, keeping close contact with a reassuring touch of the fingertips, a quick celebratory hug and lavish kisses blown across the table.

Their easy conversation and shared laughter mark them as women who care deeply about each other.

They are The Sistah Circle — women with no biological ties, but unbreakable spiritual ones.

Five years ago, Cheryl Black, administrative support assistant to the communication department of Lamar University, was a working professional, a single mother, a full-time student, director of music at her church and a music teacher looking for ways to be as fulfilled emotionally as she was professionally.

She found it in African American Women on Tour Conferences.

The organization offered six gatherings around the United States each year, focusing on self-help and motivational workshops for black women. Empowerment was the buzzword, and sharing with women of like minds was the means.

Ms. Black was impressed with the messages and heartened by the close relationships

See **CIRCLE**, Page 6A

Transplant recipient treasures two miracles

LAKE JACKSON (AP) — Denise Minnear, of Lake Jackson, doesn't see it as just a blessing. She sees it as a miracle.

Most people, she said, don't even think about it until it has happened to them, or one of their loved ones. As the 41-year-old survivor sits wearing a little green ribbon, she tells the story of how a teen-age girl's family gave her another shot at life.

"The need is unexplainable," Minnear said as she thumbed through photos of her guardian angel. "It's a blessing to get the first transplant. It's a miracle to get the second. Now my purpose is to spread the word to others." And that is exactly what Minnear has done since she received a liver transplant last January.

Minnear's miracle came a day after 17-year-old Stacy Soltys of Spring died in a car accident. Though Stacy's mother, Cheryl, mourns the death of her daughter, Stacy's life is celebrated through the saved lives of five transplant patients. The donor's family donated her bone marrow, cornea and heart as well as her kidneys, liver and tissue.

"People don't think about it until they're slapped in the face with it," Minnear said adding that families should talk to each other about organ donation beforehand. In 1991, she was diagnosed with hepatitis C and cirrhosis of the liver. Traditional medication didn't help; her only option was a liver transplant, Minnear said.

With the support of family, friends and a group called "The Lucky Livers," Minnear slowly accepted reality. She waited on the transplant list. In the meantime, she recorded the experience for all to later read via the Internet.

"During the time I was waiting, Mickey Mantle was placed on the list in Dallas. We had the same blood type but he was much sicker than me," Minnear said. "He got his liver

and died while I was waiting. Meanwhile, my family and I waited for the call. My friends picked dates of when they thought it would happen. Most of those days came and went."

In March 1996 she received a liver transplant, only to find out later the liver would cause problems. She was given a second try at life in January 1998 when Cheryl Soltys donated her daughter's organs. The two families have stayed in contact every since then.

It's not common for recipients to meet their donor families, let alone carry on lasting friendships with them.

But this time it was different. "I just feel that had I met her under different circumstances that we probably would've still been the best of friends," Soltys said of her relationship with Minnear. "I told them (all recipients of Stacy's organs) that on Jan. 11, we lost a child to massive head injuries, and that I loved to hear from them."

Soltys contacted each recipient through Houston's LifeGift Organ Donation Center, an organ procurement agency. In April, Soltys said, she first corresponded with Minnear. It was Organ Donation Month, she recalls. Minnear wrote back immediately.

"LifeGift was very precise about blackening out names and phone numbers on the back of photos," Soltys said. "But someone forgot to black out the name on one photo." So Soltys put two and two together, contacted Lake Jackson directory assistance, and two weeks later the two talked on the phone for the first time.

"Losing your 17-year-old daughter is devastating. It's a difficult experience," Soltys said. "But hearing Denise's voice, and knowing because of Stacy's gift she was alive ... It had an effect on me."

"I could hardly talk, I would cry just hearing her voice."

See **MIRACLES**, Page 6A

Hospice marks decade of caring for AIDS victims

McALLEN (AP) — In 1989, a crisis spawned by AIDS was brewing in the Rio Grande Valley. Many who were gay and had left the Valley to seek solace in larger cities were now returning to the Valley to die.

But when they did return, they were not always welcomed with open arms.

"When they came home, a lot of the families didn't accept them. I told the bishop we needed to do something," said Sister Marian Strohmeier, a registered nurse with a master's degree in public health and pastoral studies.

Sister Strohmeier had the idea of start-

ing a place where family and friends could relinquish the responsibility of patient care. Instead, they could spend the time remaining comforting or talking with their loved ones, coming to terms with their impending death.

And so, from death, was born Comfort House, the first not-for-profit hospice in the Valley devoted to the care of AIDS and cancer patients.

Those without family or money were welcomed with open arms by Comfort House staff and volunteers. Religion was never pushed. Death was taught to be a friend, not an enemy.

"One thing we all have in common is we are going to die," said Sister Strohmeier, now director of Comfort House. "Part of our mission is to get ready."

What began in 1989 as a small three-bedroom house run by the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville and the Sisters of Mercy with a \$54,000 grant from the Meadows Foundation, expanded in 1993 into a second four-bed residence to care for terminally ill children. In 1997, Comfort House completed an addition to the second house and converted the original home into office and

See **VICTIMS**, Page 6A

COMMUNITY NEWS

Howard County Library's Monday Night Book Club reports the October meeting to discuss Steve Martini's legal thriller "Undue Influence" was an unqualified success. Some of the comments about the book were, "I must read other books by this author," "A can't-put-it-down thriller" and "the author has a message to convey."

Next month's meeting, scheduled for Nov. 1, will include discussion of Annie Dillard's "An American Childhood." The author describes her childhood growing up in the 1950s. She was taught about American culture the way her father knew it: Dixieland jazz, the Great Depression, the World's Fair in Chicago and the Chrysler Building in New York.

For more information about the book club, call the library at 264-2260.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

BIG SPRING DOWNTOWN LIONS Club will sponsor its annual hamburger supper Oct. 15, 5-7 p.m. in the Big Spring High School cafeteria. Cost is \$5 per person and carryout is available. Call 263-4295 for more information, or see any Downtown Lions member.

...

AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 506 will have a fish fry, noon to 3 p.m. Saturday at 3203 W. Hwy 80. The cost is \$6 per plate and carry out is available. Call 263-2084 to order.

THE LAST WORD

What's a book? Everything or nothing. The eye that sees it is all. **Emerson**

Have more than thou showest, speak less than thou knowest. **Shakespeare "King Lear"**

When you put down the good things you ought to have done, and leave out the bad ones you did do, that's memoirs. **Will Rogers**

1999

Family violence

Victim struggles to put pieces of life back together

JACKSONVILLE (AP) — Sharon Derrington knows why the caged bird sings — because she lived in a cage for five years.

American poet Maya Angelou wrote, "his wings are clipped and his wings are tied so he opens his throat to sing," in her poem "Why the Caged Bird Sings."

Mrs. Derrington began to lose her voice.

The cage she dwelled in, she said, was beautiful — with all the material possessions of which most wives dreamt. But she remained locked inside a nightmare until her ex-husband went too far one night.

"He held a knife to my neck and he said he was going to kill me," the Gallatin resident said. "We fought over something stupid. He wanted to watch the same movie over and over again when he was drunk."

"He broke the VCR and I couldn't fix it, so he beat me, turned over the couch while I was sitting on it, held the knife to my throat and said, 'You're gonna die.'"

"The 'he' she spoke of was her former husband. A man who, three years later, she still rarely calls by name. Instead, Mrs. Derrington refers to her ex-husband as "he" or "him."

She lived in a small southeast Texas town outside Houston with this man, she said, who beat her senseless almost daily.

"I began to know when it was coming," Mrs. Derrington recalls. "It was always something so silly — dinner wasn't perfect, he didn't like what I was wearing, or something equally insignificant."

They appeared to be the perfect couple. They were both in their mid-30s when they met. Following a quick courtship, the two married seven months after meeting at a country store in Sealy.

Even before they were married, however, she said she saw the signs. But they were so subtle she thought she could overlook them, or, she said, maybe change him. That never happened.

"When we were dating, he got drunk. While backing out of my driveway one day, he ran over my puppy," Mrs. Derrington recalled. "I was hysterical, and he became irate. I was so small, about 90 pounds. And he was 6-foot-4, and big. He was an ex-Marine."

"He got out of the Suburban, walked across the yard and pushed me. I went flying about 15 feet."

The abuse began in earnest once they married.

Many times, she said, he broke ribs or other parts of her body, but he never let her go to the hospital for fear that someone would find out their secret.

When she went in public, bat-

tered and bruised, she reeled off a spiel of excuses.

"I had a riding arena at my house and acres and acres of land," Mrs. Derrington said. "I told people that I fell off my horse or that I was kicked by one of the animals."

The secret and her ex-husband's extreme jealousy left her isolated from family and friends.

After all, she said, "if I had no one to talk to, I had no one to tell our secret."

Mrs. Derrington made two attempts at leaving, but it wasn't until the third try that she proved successful.

"March 4, 1996," she said without hesitation. "When he threatened my life, I knew it was time to get away or else die."

To this day she remains baffled at how she had the courage to defy him.

She cowered under the bedclothes waiting for him to pass out. Once he did, she picked up the phone and called her mother.

"My mom wanted to pick me up right away," Mrs. Derrington said. "But I told her no. This was something I had to do myself."

And once her mind was made up, her actions followed.

"I got up the next morning and began packing," she said. "It was like I was possessed."

Still in pain from injuries inflicted on her the previous night, she pushed her battered body to the limit — packing up her Gooseneck trailer, renting a storage building and throwing as many of a lifetime of possessions as she was able into garbage bags and boxes from the liquor store.

"I had to stop on the way out of town, and I was so scared because I had cut it close," Mrs. Derrington said. "A wire had broken on my trailer and I had to get it fixed."

But once the repairs were made, she got back on the road. She moved to Gallatin and she never looked back.

"He beat me down badly," she said. "'You're ugly; no one will ever want you,' he told me over and over."

"When someone does that to you every day, you begin to believe it. I don't believe it anymore."

Three years later, Mrs. Derrington looks people in the eye, something she believed she could never do again. And her eyes have a sparkle that makes her appear happy, even while relating her tragic past.

Happily remarried, she laughed and said, "Kelly (her new husband) grew up here. I hope people don't read this and think it's him."

She professes to have only one real regret — that she didn't do it sooner.

VICTIMS

Continued from Page 5A

meeting space.

Today, 10 years later, Comfort House Services Inc. has blossomed into a homey 10-bed special care facility where patients can die with dignity, surrounded by a group of dedicated volunteers and staff at their side to hold their hands and calm their fears.

A sunny deck lined with benches and native plants joins the two houses. The gentle murmur of a small waterfall can be heard pouring into a pond as a family of chachalacas scurries across the deck.

Patient rooms at Comfort House are bright and open to a central room where they can visit with family members or watch birds from an air-conditioned sunroom down the hall.

There are no doors on patient rooms, which creates an atmosphere where patients do not feel alone or closed off from the world. It is a place for people to come to die without medical treatment. Pain medication, however, is provided with the help of an interdisciplinary team of certified nursing assistants and a volunteer doctor.

Over the years, Comfort House has cared for more than 500 residents, 60 percent with cancer, 20 percent with AIDS and another 20 percent with other diagnoses such as heart and respiratory diseases, degenerative diseases and birth anomalies. There is no charge for services, and families are never left with a bill.

"That doesn't mean they are free," Sister Strohmeier said. The house depends on the generosity of community members, foundation grants and family members for its services.

With only three paid staff members, nine caregivers six who are paid, three who are full-time volunteers and between 50 and 70 volunteers working part time at various times, Sister Strohmeier said the house has intentionally remained small to retain the emphasis on patient care.

"We're not here to maintain administrative staff. Our focus is to care for the residents," she said. "If we broaden our mission, we dilute our purpose."

Enequina Garcia has been a volunteer at Comfort House since it opened in 1989.

"I had never taken care of a sick person, never seen a sick person," Ms. Garcia said.

Ms. Garcia observed other volunteers as they talked with patients, rubbed their backs and helped prop their pillows.

"As time went on, I was picking up things I learned just by watching or improvising," she said. Today, Ms. Garcia can be found working with patients every Thursday.

"She loves it. She feels a big loss if she can't come in for her shift," said Elizabeth Jamsa Gearhart, volunteer coordinator for Comfort House.

CIRCLE

Continued from Page 5A

the workshops fostered. When one of her friends, Janice Wingate, was about to begin an exercise program for her church two years ago, Ms. Black enlisted the help of other friends. The women surprised Ms. Wingate with a party.

They sat on the floor in a circle and presented Ms. Wingate with cards and letters of encouragement and small keepsakes. Ms. Black gave each of the women a handmade handkerchief of African cloth sewn by one of the group.

Each member brought a healthy dish, and they shared a potluck supper. They talked about their lives, then passed around a candle and, one by one, gave statements of positive encouragement meant to send Ms. Wingate on her mission with more confidence than she could produce on her own. They presented the candle to Ms. Wingate at the end of the evening.

The night was representative of empowerment parties the women now give on a regular basis and the beginning of what Ms. Black calls her "Sistah Circle," a group of women who meet once a month for dinner and follow two requirements: they are supportive and they respect confidences.

"Whatever we say at the cir-

cle, stays at the circle," Ms. Black said. "We keep it close to the table."

All of the women attend the same church, West Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church. They also share the kind of closeness seen in sisters, even if they are sisters of the heart.

Each of the women say the group fills a need that can't be found elsewhere. For Ms. Black, it's the physical closeness to those who know her well.

"I don't have any siblings here. They live in Dallas, Houston and California. I wanted to have some of that support here to lean on, and to know that they've got my best interest at heart."

As Ms. Black said, "We've got each others' backs."

The group offers advice on relationships, support during times of crisis, and shares birthday and other celebrations.

Sharon Bibbs, 34, said, "I look so forward to being with my sisters. I want to encourage them."

Each of the members has something to add.

Diane Drew, whose 35-year-old husband died of a heart attack recently, "It has been a blessing to be with them."

Janice Wingate: "The group helped me work through rela-

tionships, and to get focused." Anne Bowman, the newest member of the group: "I am a lady who works all the time. This is time I have for myself, and I really look forward to it."

Georgia Hiltz: "Being with them is a joy, knowing that they love and care for me."

Beverly Moore: "I come from a small family. I have two older sisters. These ladies are true sisters. You can call them late at night or early in the morning."

Ms. Black's father, J.B. Black Jr., a United Methodist minister for almost 50 years, was always passing along small bits of advice to her as she was growing up. He told her it was "advice to live by, not to die by," and that she would appreciate it after she was grown.

His wisdom proved true. Ms. Black began writing the sayings down and passing them to friends on bits of paper. She eventually added other pithy sayings she collected. In January, Ms. Black mailed out her first newsletter to 11 friends.

Her newsletter, "The Comfort Zone," now goes to 323 subscribers across the country.

The newsletter offers words of encouragement, beauty hints, celebratory announcements, poems, music recommendations and quotes.

FALL REVIVAL
1st United Methodist Church
 Oct. 17 - Oct. 19th
DR. JORDAN GROOMS - SPECIAL SPEAKER
SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30 AM EVENING SERVICE (MON. & TUES.) 7:30 PM
BROWN BAG LUNCH MON. & TUES. NOON
EVERYONE INVITED
1st United Methodist Church
 4th & Scurry 267-6394

ANNIVERSARY SALE EVENT

Tire Time Rentals
 is celebrating its
5th Anniversary!!
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SUPER LOW CASH PRICES ON EVERYTHING IN THE STORE!!

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PRICES TOO LOW TO MENTION!!

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 1301 Gregg 263-8473

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MIRACLES

Continued from Page 5A

Soltys said. "It was just fantastic. We talk at least once a week back and fourth."

The two families first met in person at a Donor Candle Lighting Ceremony last December. "I just can't think anybody in the world would know how God has taken care of things in my life since she died," Soltys said adding that meeting Minnear's family was just remarkable. She recalled Minnear's daughter saying "Stacy is your daughter, and my mom has your daughter's liver. Does that mean we're related?"

"It was like we had always known each other," Minnear said noting that she gave Cheryl a Halo Beanie Baby. "What a beautiful night."

Since then three of the donor recipients have met Soltys, and they get together often. Bobby Jackson, who received Stacy's heart, and Tommy Roquemore, who received a kidney, are both doing well, Minnear said. During April, the group even participated in Donor Night at the Dome in Houston. Soltys threw the first pitch to Minnear with Jackson and Roquemore standing nearby.

The pitch, she said, represented the life given to each recipient.

"I try to make every month Organ Donation Month," Minnear said. She hopes that Cheryl's and Stacy's gift of life will make others think about becoming organ donors.

"For me, it's been a huge part of my healing, and going on

with my life. Of course, I want people to know how important organ donation is," Soltys said.

"It is extremely important to know what you want to do, and discuss it with your family. Nothing can bring your loved one back, but it (organ donation) can help with your healing."

"Keep Your Eyes On Jesus"
 Message From the Book of Hebrews

Gospel Meeting
October 17-20
SUNDAY:
 9:30 AM - Help In Times Of Our Need
 10:20 AM - No One Like Jesus
 6:00 PM - Victory Over Death
MONDAY
 Let Us Encourage One Another
TUESDAY
 Never Give Up
WEDNESDAY
 The Eternal Jesus

Speaker: Ted Kell from Brownwood, Texas

Everyone is invited to stay for lunch on Sunday.

Coahoma Church of Christ
 Sunday: 9:30 & 10:20 AM & 6:00 PM
 Monday - Wednesday: 7:00 PM
 311 N. Second 394-4277

TAKE TIME OUT FOR YOURSELF READ THE BIG SPRING HERALD

IN B

Bulldogs boot another carava
 As a show their 5-1 Bulldo Club are prom to Friday's gam
 All those int ing the carava at 4:30 p.m. Fr Stadium. The leave at 5 p.m.
 Fans are encor ate their veh

Big Spring C sets 80 & ov
 An "80 and tournament h uled for Oct. 2 Spring Country. Fees will be plus cart renta Play begins start at 1 p.m. meal will be Saturday's rou For more in the BSCC pro 5354.

Tickets for h on sale at B
 Advance tick Spring High 3 coming game able at the B Office.
 Student tick \$2 each and \$5 each.
 The office will 8 a.m. to noon to 4 p.m. thro and from 8:30 a Friday.

Lady Hawks plans benefi
 Howard Co Hawks softball conduct a clinic United Girl Association of Sunday at the Complex.
 "Coach" Andy Lady Hawks p vide instruct players during Youngsters school will ta p.m. to 2:30 while junior h work between p.m.
 High school attend a 4 p.m. sion.
 The fee for per player.

Howard Coll 'Meet the T
 Howard Co department w the Teams" n p.m. Tuesday Dorothy Garre The Hawks' basketball tea staffs will be lowed by a squad scrimm Refreshmen and 1999-2000 will be availa

Irvin in goo visit in Dall
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ON T

Television MAJOR LEAG
 7 p.m. — A Championship Boston Red S Yankees, FOX NATIONAL HO 6 p.m. — S Detroit Red W 7:30 p.m. — at Dallas Sta

IN BRIEF

Bulldogs boosters plan another caravan to game

As a show of support for their 5-1 Bulldogs, members of the Coahoma Athletic Booster Club are promoting a caravan to Friday's game in Post. All those interested in joining the caravan should meet at 4:30 p.m. Friday at Bulldog Stadium. The caravan will leave at 5 p.m. Fans are encouraged to decorate their vehicles.

Big Spring Country Club sets 80 & over scramble

An "80 and Over" scramble tournament has been scheduled for Oct. 23-24 at the Big Spring Country Club. Fees will be \$65 per player plus cart rental. Play begins with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. both days and a meal will be served following Saturday's round. For more information, call the BSCC pro shop at 267-5354.

Tickets for homecoming on sale at BSISD offices

Advance ticket sales for Big Spring High School's homecoming game are now available at the BSISD Business Office. Student tickets are priced at \$2 each and adult tickets are \$5 each. The office will be open from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. through Thursday and from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday.

Lady Hawks softball plans benefit clinic

Howard College's Lady Hawks softball program will conduct a clinic to benefit the United Girls Softball Association of Big Spring on Sunday at the Roy Anderson Complex. Coach Andy Mace and his Lady Hawks players will provide instruction to young players during three sessions. Youngsters in elementary school will take part in a 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. session, while junior high players will work between 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. High school players will attend a 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. session. The fee for the clinic is \$5 per player.

Howard College slates 'Meet the Teams' night

Howard College's athletic department will host a "Meet the Teams" night event at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Hawks and Lady Hawks basketball teams and coaching staffs will be introduced, followed by a 10-minute intersquad scrimmage. Refreshments will be served and 1999-2000 team schedules will be available.

Irvin in good spirit during visit in Dallas locker room

IRVING (AP) — Not even a frightening neck injury can dim Michael Irvin's high-voltage personality. After a night in a Philadelphia hospital, Irvin visited the Dallas Cowboys' locker room Monday evening and was as jolly as possible — wearing a neck brace and suffering from a swollen spinal cord and herniated disc. "We had a great visit," coach Chan Gailey said. "He was in really good spirits. It really made me feel better." Irvin was injured early in Sunday's 13-10 loss to the Eagles. A visit to a spine specialist today should determine how long he'll be out. The 12-year veteran is expected to return this season.

ON THE AIR

Television
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
7 p.m. — American League Championship Series, Game 1, Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees, FOX, Ch. 3.
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
6 p.m. — St. Louis Blues at Detroit Red Wings, ESPN, Ch. 30.
7:30 p.m. — San Jose Sharks at Dallas Stars, FXS, Ch. 29.

Braves open NL Championship Series with 4-2 win

ATLANTA (AP) — After all the sniping between the Atlanta Braves and New York Mets, Greg Maddux gave both teams something to agree on — that pitching wins in the postseason. Maddux put an end to the offensive madness that ruled recent playoff games, and the Braves kept on beating New York with a 4-2 victory Tuesday night in the opener of the NL Championship Series. "What happened last year, the last 10 years, who cares?" Maddux said. "What matters is now." Of course, pitching has always been the ticket in October. And after Boston and Cleveland combined for 50 runs in two AL playoff games this week, Maddux restored order from the mound.

"We need three more games. We're on the right track so far," Maddux said. Maddux worked seven innings, allowing only one run against a Mets lineup that once again had Mike Piazza. A day earlier, Maddux admitted he did not know what was being said in the clubs' trash talking — he said he was too busy watching "Franklin," a cartoon show about a turtle, with his kids. "He's Greg Maddux. He doesn't have all those trophies because he's lucky," Mets manager Bobby Valentine said. "He did a great job." Maddux, Mike Renteria and John Rocker combined on a six-hitter as the Braves beat New York for the 10th time in 13 meetings this year. Atlanta, which sent the Mets into a late tailspin that

almost cost them the wild-card spot, has defeated them in 14 of the last 15 matchups at Turner Field. "Better pitching," Mets third baseman Robin Ventura, explaining the disparity. Piazza came back after missing the final two games of the first-round win over Arizona because of a swollen left thumb. He drove in the Mets' only run against Maddux with a groundout, and finished 0-for-4. Piazza did not hit the ball out of the infield. The Braves also stole three bases against the All-Star catcher — he made a poor throw on one attempt and didn't even make a throw on another. "It doesn't get any easier for us," Piazza said. "They know it's not going to be an easy series."

A crowd of 44,172 — 6,000 short of capacity, perhaps held down by an all-day rain that caused a four-minute delay at the start — saw Atlanta win the opening game of the NLCS at home. The previous two years, the Braves lost Game 1 at home and eventually lost the series. Every year since 1991, the team that won Game 1 went on to win the NLCS. Atlanta has been in every one of those best-of-7 series. "It's better to win the first game," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "You like to win the first one." Game 2 is this afternoon, with Kevin Millwood, who pitched a one-hitter against Houston in the opening round. See **BRAVES**, page 2B

Lady Steers' playoff hope dims after Andrews win

By JOHN A. MOSELEY
Sports Editor

After seeing Big Spring's Lady Steers dominate their first game in a crucial District 5-4A volleyball match against Andrews, few could have imagined the Lady Mustangs would rebound and literally run the Lady Steers out of their own gym. When all was said and done Tuesday night, Andrews was headed home with a 3-15, 15-9, 15-4 win that really wasn't as close as the score would indicate.

In the process, the Lady Mustangs dashed any hopes the Lady Steers had for qualifying for the Class 4A playoffs later this month. Perhaps that's why Lady Steers head coach Traci Pierce found it difficult to talk about her team's performance following the loss.

The turnaround between the match's first and second games was simply too devastating to comprehend.

Big Spring never trailed in the first game, and when senior Monica Rubio stepped to the service line with the score tied at 2-2, the Lady Steers promptly took control.

Rubio rattled off nine straight points — a big kill by classmate Cathy Jaure seemed to startle Andrews and brought a huge Big Spring crowd to its feet with a thunderous roar.

Jaure and Lacey Anderson added two more kills and Jaure combined with sophomore Latrishia Rollins in blocking Andrews' Rani Robins.

Those plays seemed to put enormous pressure on the Lady Mustangs and they wilted under the onslaught.

Andrews managed just one more point before Anderson served out the match.

Just as quickly, however, the shoe was on the other foot — the Lady Mustangs jumping out to an 11-0 lead in the second game behind the lead of outside hitter Maria Martinez.

Although the Lady Steers battled back to some extent and extended the match, Big Spring never again showed the strong serving game and return of service it had shown in the first game.

Pierce was at a loss to explain that turnaround. "That's hard to answer ... I



Big Spring's Lacey Anderson (left) and Nina Evans put up a double block against Andrews' Rani Robins during the second game of the Lady Steers' loss Tuesday night.

really can't explain it," Pierce said. "That's happened a lot this year." The bottom line, Pierce said, is that her team simply made too many mistakes. "Sometimes it's hard for us to read somebody," she added, "and that was the case with (Martinez). We had trouble with her at the net and we really had problems with her serve. That was a big difference."

In the rubber game, however, it was Robins' service that was Big Spring's downfall.

Robins stepped to the line with the game tied at 1-all and rattled off four straight points. Andrews never looked back.

Martinez followed and turned a 5-2 Lady Mustangs lead and moments later Rosie Ruiz rat-

ted off three more to make it a 9-2 Andrews lead.

When Robins returned to the line, she made certain to nail the coffin on the Lady Steers, serving five straight points to make it a 14-2 lead.

Karli Bane, the daughter of Lady Mustangs coach Penny Bane, closed out the game with a serve that Rollins couldn't handle.

While loss did not leave the Lady Steers mathematically eliminated from playoff contention, it leaves them with a 3-5 record in district play with two matches remaining.

Big Spring could still tie for a playoff berth by winning their final two games, but that would require knocking off the dis-

See **LADY STEERS**, page 2B

Five Crossroads players get spots on AP honor roll

From staff and wire reports

Big Spring tailback Colby Ford, who returned the opening kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown in sparking the Steers' 59-7 thumping of Fort Stockton on Friday, headlines a list of five Crossroads Area players who earned spots on this week's Associated Press high school honor roll.

Area standouts joining Ford were Sands' Cesar Martinez, Borden County's Ed Rodriguez, Grady's Frankie Garza and Stanton's Jeremy Hull.

In addition to this game-opening touchdown, Ford rushed for three more scores while posting for 132 yards on just 16 carries.

Ford would have finished the night with more than 200 yards to his credit had it not been for penalties that negated two long runs.

Martinez also opened the Mustangs' 53-24 win over Ira with a touchdown on the kickoff, as he returned a Bulldog fumble for a quick Sands lead.

He followed that by rushing for 124 yards and four touchdowns, kicked three two-point conversions and passed for a point after.

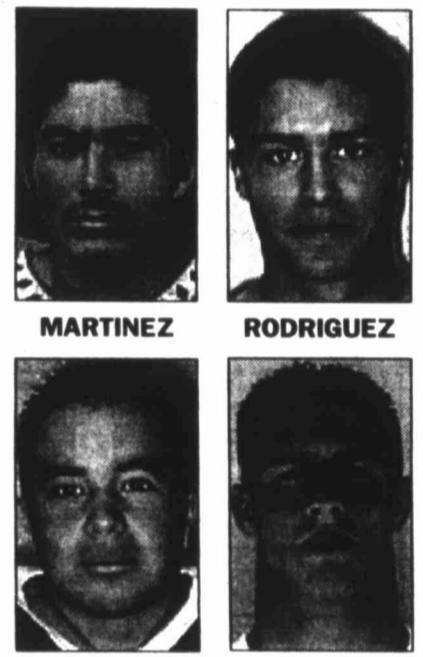
Rodriguez rushed for 77 yards and two touchdowns, threw a touchdown pass, and returned a fumbled punt for another score, all in the first half of Borden County's 62-8 win over Westbrook.

The first half was all the Coyotes needed, since the game was called at the intermission on the six-man game's 45-point mercy rule.

Garza earned mention by rushing 27 times for 245 yards and five touchdowns in the Wildcats' 54-38 victory over Hermeleigh.

And last, but certainly not least, Hull carried the ball just 15 times for the Buffs, but piled up 203 yards and two touchdowns in Stanton's 32-8 demolition of Plains' Cowboys.

Elsewhere, a three-pronged rushing attack at San Angelo Central and a doubly-dangerous



quarterback at Wortham drew attention. Some of last week's best performances across the state included:

ALL-AROUND EFFORTS

—Damien Dixon rushed for 223 yards and two touchdowns and passed for 276 yards and five touchdowns in Wortham's 69-9 victory over Fruitvale.

—Dustin Long rushed for 105 yards and two touchdowns and passed for 165 yards and another score as Port Neches-Groves beat Port Arthur Lincoln 30-24.

—Jarod Bowen rushed 46 times for 335 yards and seven touchdowns in six-man action as Highland beat Midland Trinity Christian 60-40. Bowen also had 12 tackles and a fumble recovery on defense.

—Isaac Shaw accounted for three touchdowns while rushing for 187 yards and passing for 110 yards in Dawson's 54-7 victory over Axtell.

—Quan Cosby had 166 yards of total offense, returned a punt 66 yards for a touchdown and ran back a kickoff 75 yards for another score as Mart beat Hubbard 54-7.

—Aaron Mickens rushed for three touchdowns and scored on a 24-yard fumble return as Copperas Cove beat Leander 42-10.

—Jackie Brown passed for 189 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 75 yards and another score for Killeen Ellison.

See **HONOR ROLL**, page 2B

In retrospect, everything in Chamberlain's life was XXL

You hear the news — Wilt Chamberlain dead at age 63 — apparently from a heart attack, and the first thought is that it must have been a massive one. If only because everything else in his life was XXL.

Chamberlain's body, his boasts, his talent, his clothes, his NBA records and struggles at the free-throw line — even the door jams in the house he had custom built were oversized.

Maybe that's why the greatest player of his era had to go through life as the least sympathetic. There was nobody else to cast, no way around it; Wilt always got stuck playing Goliath. "And I once told him," recalled Jerry West, a former teammate and now the Lakers vice president, "that nobody roots for Goliath." Nobody indeed. During his playing

days, Bill Russell stood 6-foot-9 and weighed 220 pounds. But standing next to Chamberlain — 7-1 and 275 — made him look almost normal. That was the strange thing about what was probably the greatest rivalry ever in sports. The Boston Celtics always surrounded Russell with better players. They had better coaches and the best organization and they won all the time, too.

Even so, rooting for Russell to beat Chamberlain time and again felt like rooting against Microsoft and for the underdog. Always. Because deep down, it never seemed fair that anybody had to play Wilt, especially by himself. "I guarantee you, if you could give me 10 points in all those seventh games against the Boston Celtics, instead of Bill Russell having 11 rings, I could've at least had nine or eight," Chamberlain said.

The NBA changed its rules to force him farther away from the basket. Before the hack-a-Shaq defense came into vogue, opponents fouled Wilt all the time to put the ball in his hands at the one spot where he could do the least

damage. It made you wonder what he might have done with some help.

In one game against Russell, Chamberlain pulled down 55 rebounds. In another, against the Knicks, he put up 100 points. He led the NBA in scoring seven straight years, in rebounding 11 of the 14 he played, and even once in assists. He averaged 50 points per game over the course of an entire season. In the middle of another season, he entertained fighting Muhammad Ali.

And all the while he entertained women, so many women that if Chamberlain is to be believed he would have had sex, on average, with 1.2 women a day every day since he was fifteen years old. The boast won him no more fans than any of his other scoring records had. It was one of the few marks he came to regret.

"We're all fascinated by the numbers, as we were about the 100 points," Chamberlain said. "... So I thought of a number that was a round number that may be close and may be whatever, and I used that number. Now according to the average person, that number is so

preposterous that I can understand them not believing it.

"But the point of using the number was to show that sex was as great part of my life as basketball was a great part of my life."

True or not, his appetite for the rest of life seemed just as voracious. He excelled at math as a kid growing up in Philadelphia, at music as a college student at Kansas, and while moonlighting on the track team his junior year, he was good enough to win a conference title in the high jump. He played competitive volleyball after walking away from basketball, then ran a marathon and his physical conditioning was such that the New Jersey Nets talked to him about returning at age 50.

Friends said Chamberlain was learning to play the saxophone recently and working on a screenplay about his life. Without knowing much else about the work-in-progress, the only way to do it justice is with a big finish.

Jim Litke is the national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

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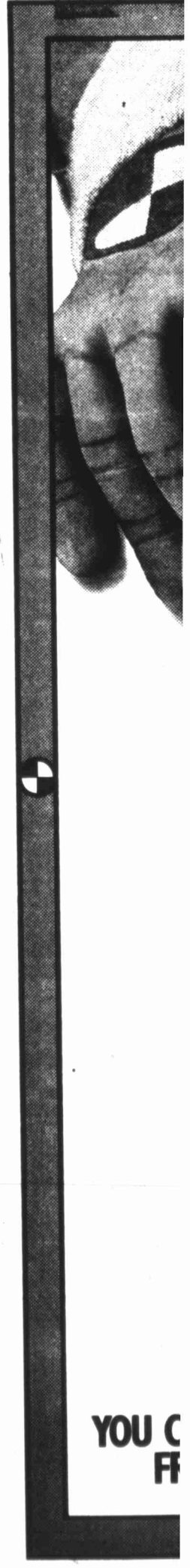
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