



**BIG  
SPRING**

# HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

**MONDAY**

June 30, 2003

## WEATHER

**Tonight:**



**TONIGHT TOMORROW**  
67°-69° 94°-97°

## BRIEFLY

### Buyer's Guide

The Howard County Buyer's Guide, distributed each Wednesday, will continue to be delivered to residences as well as to local convenience stores, motels and restaurants.

### IMMUNIZATIONS OFFERED

The Texas Department of Health is offering special immunization hours from 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Thursday from now until July 29.

Parents need to bring their child's shot record or a letter from their school or daycare. The TDH is located in the College Park Shopping Center, 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28B.

### FORSAN '80s REUNION

Anyone who graduated from Forsan High School in the period of 1980 to 1989 is invited to an all 1980s reunion that will take place Aug. 1-2.

Tentative activities include individual class get together on Friday, Aug. 1, and a golf tournament, tennis tournament and "Black and White Ball" on Aug. 2.

Some of the activities will be fund-raisers for the Forsan High School scholarship fund.

Any who graduated from Forsan during the period or knows someone who did, is encouraged to call Carole Madry at 268-9191 or email Rick Hope at chalfmhr2@aol.com.

### SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

A juvenile diabetic support group is now forming.

Anyone interested in learning about diabetes in children, please call Bruce and Martha Myers 267-4994.

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[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

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.

# Not surprisingly, unemployment takes a hike

By **ROGER CLINE**

Staff Writer

Local unemployment in May was up almost a full percentage point since May 2002.

Unemployment figures released Friday by Big Spring's Workforce Network also showed that unemployment rose slightly since April.

Howard County had 702 people out of a 14,627-person workforce unemployed last month, a 4.8 percent unemployment rate, while April's figures showed that 675 of 14,519 people — 4.6 percent — were out of work.

In May of last year, 555 of 14,250 were jobless, or 3.9 percent.

**"We have had fewer summer job openings this year and it seems the youth are having a more difficult time than usual."**



Virginia Belew, Workforce Network area manager

The city of Big Spring's unemployment figures were about half a point higher all around.

The city saw 5.4 percent unemployment

last month, while 5.2 percent of Big Spring workers were unemployed in April. In May 2002, only 4.3 percent of the city's workforce were jobless.

"Both employment and unemployment tend to increase in May," said Workforce Network Area Manager Virginia Belew. "This May is no different as employment rose and unemployment grew by two-tenths of a percent."

Unemployment rose similarly across the Permian Basin. In May, 5.6 percent of the basin's workers were out of work, while in April, 5.4 percent were jobless.

See **HIKE**, Page 3

## Special people, special awards

### 200 attend banquet in Big Spring

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

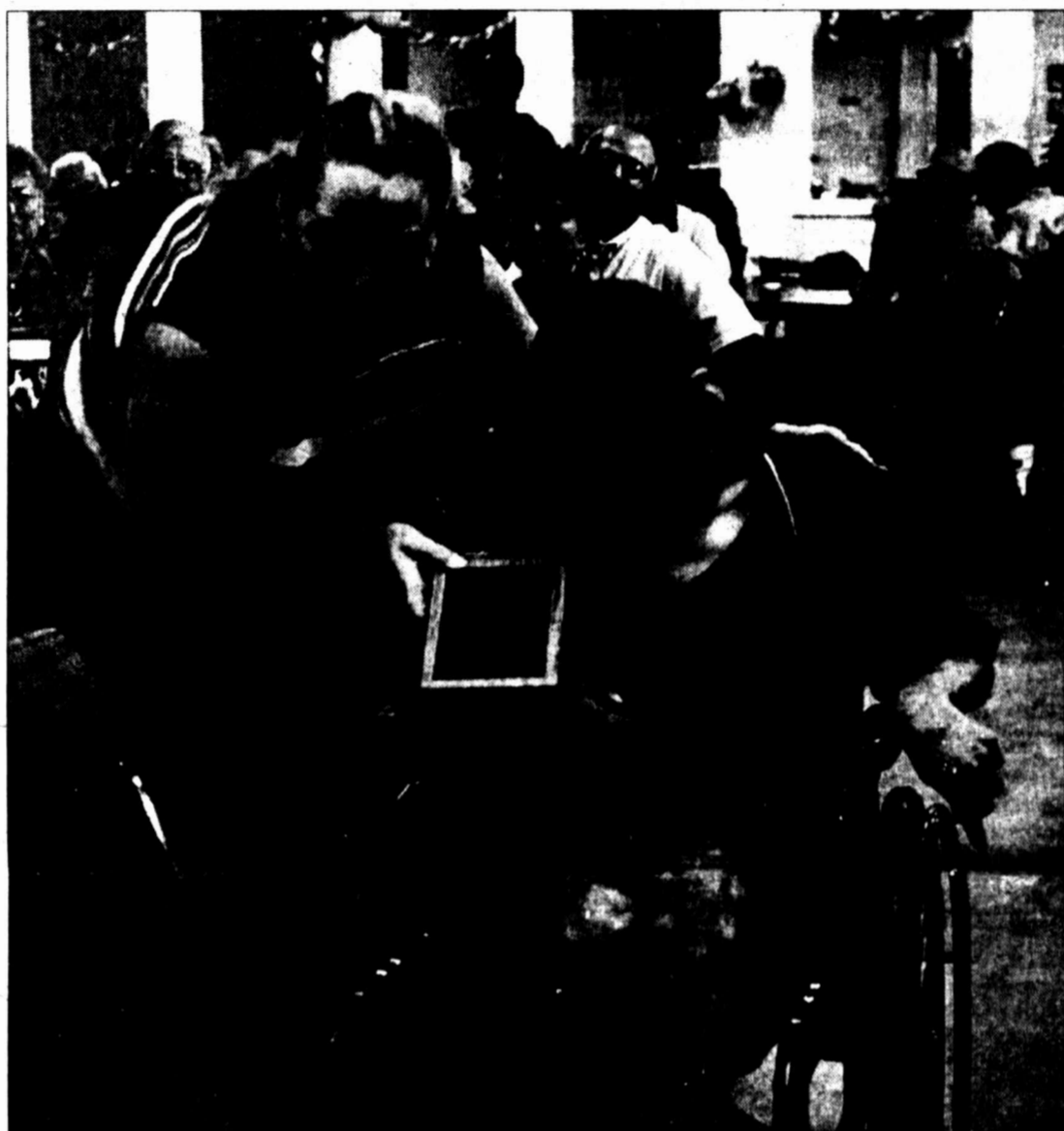
Arturo Rios of Big Spring was named the Texas Special Olympic Area 18 2003 Male Athlete of the Year Saturday.

Rios and Odessa Nikki Sims, 2003 Female Athlete of the Year, were among 14 people and businesses honored during an awards banquet held in Big Spring at the ARC building.

"We're here to honor those volunteers who have given up their time so you all can have a lot of fun," Master of Ceremonies Jay Hendricks said to the crowd of Special Olympic athletes, their families and coaches.

Hendricks, KWES 9 news anchor and long-time Special Olympics volunteer, had the crowd cheering and clapping with his humor before he announced the awards.

Others awards presented were: outstanding service from print media, *Big Spring Herald*; outstanding service for civic service, the ARC of Howard County; coach of the year, Jesse Terrazas of Fort Stockton; volunteer of the year, Daniela Carrasoc of Midland; family of the year, Deaune & Karen Elliot of Midland; outstanding service from a corporation,



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody  
Arturo Rios of Big Spring receives a plaque from Kathy Garcia, program director for Area 18, naming him the Texas Special Olympic Area 18 2003 Male Athlete of the Year. The presentation was made at an awards banquet held in Big Spring Saturday. The banquet, which was held at the ARC building, drew around 200 athletes, family members and coaches.

SouthWest Bank of Odessa; and outstanding service from electronic media, KWES-TV of Midland.

Also, volunteer for fund-raising, Brenda Gardner and the Odessa Police Department; outstanding service from civic leader, Jay Hendricks of Midland;

outstanding service from public relations, Quality Document Solutions of Odessa and Alpha Dox of Midland; outstanding volunteer for sports and competition, Sandy Phillips of Odessa; and outstanding for outreach, Mindy Briley of Ozona.

More than 200 people from the Area 18's 19-

county service area enjoyed a barbecue lunch catered by Al's and Son Bar-B-Q at the banquet, which was held in Big Spring for the first time. The ARC of Howard County provided all the arrangements.

"We had a great See **SPECIAL**, Page 3

## CARING

Program aimed at helping those who help others

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

Elderly parents, a brother with Alzheimer's, a father with

Parkinson's, a daughter with terminal cancer — providing full-time care for a family member suffering from a debilitating disease can threaten to consume the primary caregiver's life.

Yet, caregivers are not alone. That's the message the Big Spring Retired & Senior Volunteer Program and the Area Agency on Aging of the Permian Basin will try to convey at a program entitled "Caregiving: Solutions. Support and Relief."

"The purpose of the program is to provide information to the general public about information caregivers need to know," said Nancy Jones, RSVP director. "This program is vitally important to all of us. If we are not caregivers now, there will most likely be a day when we become a caregiver."

The afternoon program held in conjunction with an ice cream social is set

See **CARING**, Page 3

## Mission Possible plans to give away donated bears at Pops in the Park

By **ROGER CLINE**

Staff Writer

Got a teddy bear that's ready to serve his country?

Mission: Possible, a group of local citizens dedicated to providing support for local troops stationed throughout the world, wants your bear to drop and give them 20.

The event is the "Motivated Bear Project." Former Marine Sgt. Tonia Sparks of Coahoma explained:

"We're asking anybody that wants to do it to get a bear and decorate it in a military manner," Sparks said. "We're asking them to donate a bear and get it dressed up and bring it to Hangar 25."

Any size bear will do, she added.

"We have about six

The deadline for donations of bears is today. Call 264-1999 for more information.

bears right now, and I know one of them is probably about three feet tall and another one is about six inches," she said. "It can be a new bear, an old bear, it doesn't matter. We just want them decorated in a motivated military way."

The military bears will be given away at Big Spring's annual July 3 patriotic display, Pops in the Park. Tickets will be sold for \$1 each at the group's booth at Pops.

"It's just a little something to get the spirits of

See **BEARS**, Page 3



HERALD photo/Roger Cline  
Mission: Possible founder Emma Bogard, left, and Motivated Bear Project coordinator Tonia Sparks show off a teddy bear decorated by Ginger Metcalf of Coahoma in honor of her son, Marine Pfc. Chad Bales, who died in Iraq. The praying angel bear — which says the "Now I lay me down to sleep..." prayer when his hands are pressed — will be given away along with several others to a lucky recipients at Pops in the Park July 3.

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# A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

## Obituaries

### Lowis Miller



Lowis Miller, 93, of Big Spring, died on Saturday, June 28, 2003, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Monday, June 30, 2003 at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park Big Spring with Dr. Claude Craven, a retired Baptist minister, officiating. She was born on Jan. 22, 1910, in Hill County and married Ernest C. Miller on Oct. 29, 1954, in Lovington, N.M. He preceded her in death on April 19, 1958.

She had worked as a licensed vocational nurse at Hall-Bennett Hospital for 11 years. Mrs. Miller was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Survivors include three grandchildren, Rebecca Bryant of Big Spring, Raymie Whitley of Stanton and Allen Wheeler of Midland; nine great-grandchildren, Brittany Bryant, Lauren Bryant, Leland Pechacek, Taylor Pechacek, Brandi Pechacek, Scott Wheeler, Josh Wheeler, Steven Wheeler and Shaun Wheeler; and two great-great grandchildren.

She is also survived by her daughter-in-law, Patricia Dennis of Garden City, and four sister-in-laws, Rosy Lee Miller, Rachel Shaffer, Neva Shaffer and Maxine Shaffer, all of Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Juanita Wheeler and two sons, Raymon Dennis and an infant son.

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

*Paid obituary*

### Manuela "Meme" Sarmiento



Manuela "Meme" Sarmiento, 64, of Austin, formerly of Big Spring, died on Saturday, June 28, 2003, in a Lubbock hospital. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Monday, June 30, 2003, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 1, 2003, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, officiating.

Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born on July 27, 1938, in Big Spring and married Salvador Sarmiento on July 21, 1962 in Big Spring. Mrs. Sarmiento was a Catholic.

Survivors include her husband, Salvador Sarmiento of Austin; a son, Michael Sarmiento of Austin; one daughter and son-in-law, Danette and Barry Propes of Dallas; her father, Elauterio Valencia; a brother and sister-in-law, Santiago and Lilly Valencia; and a sister and brother-in-law, Eva and Manuel Gonzales, all of Big Spring.

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

*Paid obituary*

## Correction

Sunday's Big Spring Herald incorrectly identified the parade marshal of the upcoming Coahoma Freedom Parade as Pete Allen. The marshal is actually Korean War veteran and former Howard County Commissioner Paul Allen. The parade, scheduled for 10 a.m. July 5, will make its way from Bulldog Stadium down Broadway in Coahoma.

## Take note

ANYONE WHO GRADUATED from Forsan High School in the period of 1980 to 1989 is invited to an all 1990s reunion that will take place Aug. 1-2.

A schedule is still in the planning stages, but tentative activities include individual class get togethers on Friday, Aug. 1, and a golf tournament, tennis tournament and "Black and White Ball" on Aug. 2.

Organizers have taken great pains to reach as many students as possible but are still missing many. Any who graduated from Forsan during that time period or knows someone who did, is encouraged to call Carole Madry at 268-9191 or email Rick Hope at [chfrhrt2@aol.com](mailto:chfrhrt2@aol.com).

THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, we need you.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from noon Saturday until 8 a.m. today:

• **JACOB REIMER HILDEBRAND**, 36, of Seminole was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **HECTOR RUBEN CERVANTES**, 19, of 2911 W. Highway 80 was arrested Sunday on city traffic warrants.

• **STEPHANIE STRAUGHTER**, 32, of 803 Lorilla was arrested Saturday to hold for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

• **LARRY DALE KING**, 20, of 4201 Oak was arrested Saturday on city traffic warrants.

• **TERRY MORON CERVANTES**, 58, of 4009 Piper Road was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

• **ESPERANZA GARZA**, 33, of 601 N.W. Fifth St. was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

• **ALFREDO PAREDEZ**, 40, of 809 Father Delaney St. was arrested Saturday on charges of possession of a controlled substance less than one gram and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

• **SANTIAGO CERVANTES**, 33, of 3233 Duke was arrested Sunday on charges of resisting arrest and assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

• **MATIAS VIDAL CISNEROS**, 19, of 1603 E. 11th Place was arrested Sunday on a charge of minor in consumption of alcohol.

• **FREDDIE SOSA**, 20, of 511 N.W. Eighth St. was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving under the influence by a minor.

• **MIGUEL ANGEL REYES JR.**, 25, of 4106 Dixon was arrested Sunday on charges of interfering with an emergency call and assault class C/family violence.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C** was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild Drive.

• **LOUD PARTY/NOISE** was reported in the 2900 block of East Interstate 20 and the 1500 block of Stadium Avenue.

• **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 2600 block of Crestline Road, the 1500 block of East Fourth Street and the 1100 block of South Gregg Street.

• **FIREWORKS** were reported in the 1400 block of Park Avenue, the 600 block of McEwen Street, the 400 block of South Bell, the 1200 block of Dixie Avenue, the 1700 block of State Street, the 800 block of Settles Street, the 100 block of Northeast Ninth Street and the 800 block of Douglas Street.

• **SHOTS FIRED** was reported in the 500 block of North Goliad.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in person at the police station and in the 2600 block of Ent Drive, the 4200 block of Birch, the 1900 block of South Scurry Street and the 4100 block of Dixon.

• **DISTURBANCE OR FIGHT** was reported in the 600 block of South Gregg Street and the 1600 block of Settles Street.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of Northeast 12th Street. Heavy construction or industrial materials worth \$256 were reported stolen.

• **THEFT OF A FIREARM AND BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** were reported in the 4200 block of Muir Street. Audiovisual recordings worth \$1,210 and two firearms worth \$600 and \$750 were reported stolen from a blue 2000 Dodge.

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in person at the police station. A maroon day planner worth \$10, six Social Security cards and \$6 in change was reported stolen from a maroon 1997 GMC.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 100 block of Lockhart. Electronic home entertainment equipment worth \$75, a microwave oven worth \$50 and two toy stuffed dogs worth \$40 were reported stolen. A plaster statue of a leopard reportedly sustained \$15 damage in the incident.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASSING** was reported in the 400 block of South Douglas. Clothes worth \$1 were reported stolen and recovered in connection with the incident.

• **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 600 block of West Interstate 20. A white 1995 Mercury worth \$3,000 was reported stolen.

• **CRUELTY TO ANIMALS** was reported in the 1800 block of Hamilton.

## Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. East winds 5 to 15 mph.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s. Light winds...Tuesday night...Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

Thursday...Mostly clear. Lows near 70. Highs in the mid 90s.

Independence day...Partly cloudy. Lows near 70. Highs in the mid 90s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. Highs in the mid 90s.

## Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald Features Desk at 263-7331, ext. 238 or email [jmoseley@crcom.net](mailto:jmoseley@crcom.net).

### TODAY

Sr. Circle Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 4 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place. People 50 years old and older are invited to participate, call 268-4721.

Evenings Lion's Club, 6:30 p.m., La Posada, 206 Northwest Fourth St.

### TUESDAY

Intermediate Line Dance class, 9 a.m., Spring City Senior Center, 1901 Simler, 267-1628.

Big Spring Rotary, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Alzheimer's Association, Greater West Texas Chapter, 2 p.m., Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

Gospel singing, Kentwood Activity Center in Kentwood.

Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 2013, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.

Sheriff's Posse, 7 p.m. Clubhouse on Andrews Highway.

American Red Cross, 7 p.m., Canterbury South, 1600.

Big Spring Chapter 67, Order of the Eastern Star, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

### WEDNESDAY

Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Sr. Circle Stretch & Tone, 10 a.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place.

Line dancing, 1 p.m., Spring City Senior Center, 1901 Simler, 267-6966 or 267-1628.

Duplicate Bridge Club, 1 p.m., Big Spring Country Club, Driver Road.

## Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 19-24-26-27-31.

Number matching five of five: none.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-21-24-29-30. Bonus Ball: 16.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: none. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$15 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-4-6

## Sheriff's report

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

• **TRUCK LEAKING ASPHALT** was reported near the intersection of Highway 350 and FM 700. Deputies were unable to locate the truck.

• **THEFT OF FIREWORKS** was reported on Highway 350.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 3900 block of Gail Highway. A lawnmower was reported stolen in the incident.

• **VEHICLE TRAVELING THE WRONG WAY** was reported near mile marker 188 eastbound on Interstate 20.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported near the intersection of College and Culp. The parties were separated.

• **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported near mile marker 178 on Interstate 20 and near the 186 mile marker westbound on Interstate 20 near Salem Drive.

• **SUBJECTS REFUSING TO LEAVE** was reported at a Town and Country convenience store.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1000 block of Richie Road. Windows were reportedly damaged in the incident.

• **BREAK-IN** was reported in the 5700 block of East Midway Road.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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Reflecting A Proud Community

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**HENRY BACKES**

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity: a tank battery was touched off by lightning.

## Tank battery

HERALD Staff

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity: a tank battery was touched off by lightning.

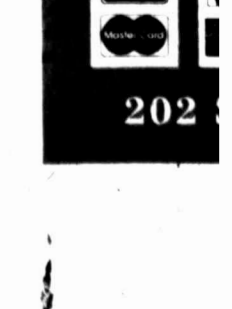
Volunteer fire used hydrocarbon to extinguish fire located on North

## HIKE

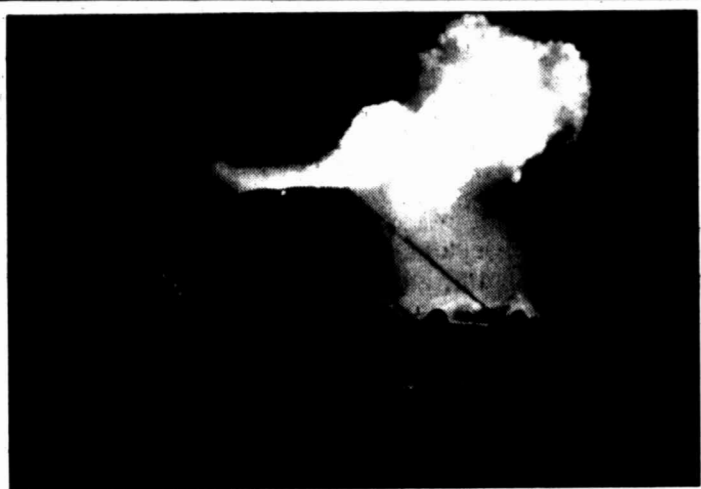
Continued from P

Jobless rates in Permian Basin include: Andrews, 10.5%; Borden, 11.5%; Dalhart, 7.5%; Ector, 6.7%; Glasscock, 3.7%; Martin, 3.7%; Midland, 4.4%. Statewide unemployment rose from 4.1 percent in April to 4.2 percent in May.

Across the States, unemployment remained constant at 4.2 percent.







*Courtesy photo*  
The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department responded to a tank battery fire Sunday night about two miles east of Vincent on County Road 48. The fire was caused by lightning.

### Tank battery fire extinguished

**HERALD Staff Report**

The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department responded to a tank battery fire touched off by lightning Sunday at about 8:30 p.m.

Volunteer firefighters used hydrocarbon foam to extinguish the blaze — located on North County

Road 48 east of Vincent — in about 15 minutes. "After we got all our units out there, the actual extinguishing of it was about 15 minutes," said HCVFD Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan. "We basically have just one shot at it, so we wait to get all our units there and then hit it all at once."

### HIKE

Continued from Page 1

Jobless rates for other Permian Basin counties include: Andrews, 5.4 percent; Borden, 1.1 percent (down from 3.1 percent); Dawson, 7.5 percent; Ector, 6.7 percent; Glasscock, 3.5 percent; Martin, 3.7 percent; and Midland, 4.4 percent.

Statewide unemployment rose from 6.2 percent in April to 6.5 percent in May.

Across the United States, unemployment remained constant at 5.8 percent.

Area youth are continuing the hunt for summer jobs, Belew said.

"Most want an opportunity to earn money to meet their expenses when school starts again in the fall," she said. "We have had fewer summer job openings this year and it seems the youth are having a more difficult time than usual. It is important for young people to explore career opportunities in Big Spring so that they can plan a future that includes staying here. Summer jobs and part time jobs for youth address this issue very well."

### CARING

Continued from Page 1

for July 17 at the Dora Roberts Community Center in Comanche Trail Park from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Presenters will provide information on topics ranging from where to find respite support, answers to financial and legal issues, planning for the future and managing medication.

"We are trying to give them some real concrete answers to problems that all long-term caregivers have in common," Jones said.

Taking care of loved ones can completely consume a person's life, sometimes for years.

The afternoon program held in conjunction with an ice cream social is set for July 17 at the Dora Roberts Community Center in Comanche Trail Park from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

"The thing we see happen a lot of times is you become so removed from the outside world," Jones explained. "If your loved one can't leave the home, your world can shrink to become those four walls and visits to the doctor's office."

"It's difficult to go to church, go to the store, go get your hair done," she continued. "Caregivers can't take care of their daily needs because they are caring for their loved ones. Caregiving is a stressful situation and

can go on for years." But they don't have to make the journey alone, Jones stressed.

"One of the things we are going to discuss is a respite grant that people can apply for through the Area Agency on Aging," Jones said. "The agency gives \$600 grants for respite care to hire someone to come in and provide care. This allows time for the caregiver to get some rest or out of the house."

Presenters for the event include Raynetta

Williams, Area Agency on Aging caregiver coordinator; Jones; Patti Lindsey, Area Agency on Aging benefits counselor; Janet Cross, Alzheimer's Association program coordinator; Dr. Fakhar Ijaz, internal medicine practitioner for Scenic Mountain Medical Center; and Justin Docker of New York Life. The program is sponsored by Area Agency on Aging, Alzheimer's Association, Canterbury Retirement Homes Inc., Mountain View Lodge, New York Life Insurance Company and Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at [newsdesk@crcom.net](mailto:newsdesk@crcom.net)

### BEARS

Continued from Page 1

everybody up," Sparks said.

Deadline for donations of bears is today. All proceeds from the sale of tickets will be used to support the area's troops, she added.

Anyone interested in joining Mission: Possible should call Hangar 25 at 264-1999.

"(The war in Iraq's) not over," she said.

"We still have many people deployed over there, so we're not going to stop. This is going to be an ongoing process."

### SPECIAL

Continued from Page 1

turnout," said Kay Wylie, Special Olympics head coach for Howard County. "Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves."

Following the brief awards ceremony, tables and chairs were cleared away to pave way for the real fun, the dance. Music was provided by Odessa D.J. Johnny Martinez.

Special Olympics is able to provide sports competitions for special needs persons through efforts of volunteers and donations. The competitions are open to special needs persons who are eight years old and older.

The non-profit agency supports various sporting competition throughout the year for special needs people including track and field meets, aquatics, softball tournaments, soccer meets and bowling tournaments.

For more information on becoming an athlete or to volunteer, call Kathy

Garcia, program director for Area 18, at (432) 684-5024

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at [newsdesk@crcom.net](mailto:newsdesk@crcom.net)

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JUN 30 2003



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.

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Salvation Army's back-to-school drive investment in education

One of the most important resources we can give our children is an education. With that in mind, it's time again to be thinking about another school year. Soon, many of us will be debating what our younger children should wear to school, how many shirts, trousers, dresses and pairs of shoes to buy. Unfortunately, however, many families in Big Spring stop far short of those decisions. They simply cannot afford what many of us take for granted — necessities such as paper, pencils, notebooks, crayons, scissors, rulers and the like.

That's where the Salvation Army steps in. Last year, this wonderful non-profit organization handed out school supplies to 325 Big Spring children from kindergarten to eighth grade. Without those items, a lot of children would have been at an immediate disadvantage when the first class bell rang in the fall.

Imagine, not being able to afford notebook paper or an eraser — simple things, yet ones that are necessary in our society to help form the building blocks of a good education. Imagine too, the embarrassment of a little boy or girl who doesn't even have the basic supplies.

These children deserve the opportunity to have a good education. And it is our best interest to see that they do. A helping hand at this early stage goes a long way in making that individual a productive citizen later in life.

Salvation Army will be taking applications for school supplies on July 22. If you know of a family in need of help, encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity to obtain basic school supplies for their children. Applicants will need to bring some information such as Social Security cards, proof of residency, income and expenses.

Finally, donations to the Salvation Army school supplies program are an investment. They are an investment in education, and investment toward that child's future and an investment in the future of our community.

To make application for the program or to make a contribution, Salvation Army is located at 811 W. Fifth.

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
  - Sign your letter.
  - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
  - We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
  - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
  - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
  - We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
  - Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
  - Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to [jmoseley@cscom.net](mailto:jmoseley@cscom.net)

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We can set a good example by honoring you, Lord Amen

GOP can do better in California

Here's my question for the political team at the White House:

How many elections do California Republicans have to lose because the White House is afraid that certain candidates and issues will cost the GOP wins elsewhere in the country or in the future?

As Chuck Todd reported in the National Journal, "Republicans this side of the White House lawn" are opposed to efforts by Californians to push former Gov. Pete Wilson to run against Sen. Barbara Boxer.

It doesn't matter that Wilson has won four statewide runs for office. Or that Republicans lost bids for every statewide office in November. The Bushies fear that Wilson will alienate Latino voters.

Forget Wilson for a second: It's the attitude that really bites. The Bushies are free to write off California as impossible to win in 2004 — if they choose to ignore the Field poll that found 61 percent of California voters approve of Bush's job performance.

But it's not their place to discourage the one Republican most likely to win in California.

Especially when their objection is that Wilson supported a 1994

initiative — Proposition 187, which sought to deny benefits to illegal immigrants — that 59 percent of state voters supported.

Note to Karl Rove: Popularity wins elections.

A few words about Prop. 187: It's the bogeyman tale GOP strategists tell their clients to keep them up at night. Once upon a time, Wilson's support for Prop. 187 chased Latinos away from the GOP because he made the GOP look racist.

Nonsense. Prop. 187 passed not because Californians were anti-immigrant, but because they objected to paying for benefits for illegal immigrants. In fact, a Los Angeles Times exit poll found that 23 percent of Latino voters supported Prop. 187.

Latino California Assemblyman Robert Pacheco noted with regret that Democrats have managed to turn Prop. 187 into a "wedge" against Republicans.

Fair enough, but I doubt that Boxer wants to remind Californians that Wilson backed the same measure that a majority of them backed — only to see it overturned by the courts. Not when California has suffered a \$38 billion budget shortfall and L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich complained recently that the county was becoming "an HMO for illegal immigrants."

Word is that the White House won't take sides in the primary. It seems that the Bushies learned their lesson with former L.A. Mayor Dick Riordan, whom they

coaxed into the governor's race only to watch him lose the primary to the bumbling Bill Simon.

Still, party solons have floated the name of U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin, a Latina who worked for seven years in the allegedly racist Wilson administration. Marin announced her resignation this morning. Rep. George Radanovich, R-Calif., and Simon have looked at the race. Former Los Altos Hills Mayor Toni Casey has announced. No disrespect is intended, but these folks are learning how to crawl, while Wilson has won the marathon four times.

The GOP hasn't won a top California statewide office since Wilson won in 1994. There's no Republican to greet President Bush when he comes off the plane here.

When Bush came to Santa Clara this month, he had to reach into the Central Valley to find a Republican he could even name, Rep. Richard Pombo.

Even if President Bush doesn't try to win California, he'll be coming to the state to raise money. Do White House biggies really want to risk Bush running for re-election with his arm draped around another bumbler?

To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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DEBRA SAUNDERS



Stereotype lowans 'friendly'

Stereotypes are evil and unfair and should be avoided at all costs. Unless they are true. And the stereotypes about Iowa are true.

Quick, what do you think of when you think of Iowa?

I know, I know, you don't usually think about Iowa at all. But if you were a political reporter, you would have to not only think about Iowa, but go there ... a lot.

And that is because Iowa holds the first presidential contest in the nation, and all the candidates go there to be judged like hogs at a county fair.

So what do you think of when you think of Iowa?

No, not hogs. You think of friendly, smiling, helpful people.

I always have, anyway. And that is because every time I go to Iowa, I have found that the people there will do things for you that other people won't.

These kind of things: Once, on deadline and before the invention of cell phones, I knocked on a door in a small town in Iowa and asked the woman who answered where the nearest pay phone was.

What would the answer have been in New York? Or Los Angeles? Or Miami?

How about a hail of gunfire?

OK, OK, a slight exaggeration. But anyway, the woman who opened the door told me she didn't know if the town had a pay phone.

"Maybe the tavern has one, but I've never been in there," she said but she invited me in to use her phone and wouldn't even let me use a credit card because she "was

happy to help."

Want more? I know a foolish reporter who stood on a street corner in a small Iowa town trying to hail a cab. Why was he foolish? Because this town did not have cabs.

Anyway, after a few minutes, a pickup truck stopped and the driver asked him what he was doing, and the reporter explained he had gotten left behind by the motorcade of the candidate he was following and had to get to the next town.

And what happened to this reporter? Was his body found in a shallow irrigation ditch three months later?

No. The guy in the pickup gave him a lift and, of course, refused all remuneration for his troubles.

But these charming tales happened years ago, you say. People in Iowa are just like people anywhere else by now, you say. Which is to say hurried and harried and suspicious of strangers.

So listen to what happened to me a few days ago: I dropped off the Steve Forbes campaign in Knoxville, in south central Iowa, and caught a lift with a reporter to Des Moines.

The reporter was heading to the airport, and I was heading to the Des Moines Art Center to meet a friend (and to discover it is one of the country's great art museums, so add that to the stereotype).

"I'll drop you off at the State Capitol," the reporter said. "You ought to be able to catch a cab from there."

Which, of course, was absolutely untrue. Which meant I was standing on a street corner vainly looking up and down for a cab when the two cops approached me.

Did I mention the temperature was about at the melting point of zinc? It was.

So these two cops approach me,

and I figure they are going to arrest me for trying to hail a cab on state property, but instead, one of them says: "Do you need something? Can we help you?"

A show of hands here: How many of you have had a cop say that to you lately?

Uh, I need a cab, I say to the cop, who turns out to be a member of the Capitol Police force.

"Oh," he says. "I'll call one for you. But why don't you let my partner take you some place that is air-conditioned, and I'll have the cab pick you up there?"

And he did. And the other cop waited with me until the cab came.

OK, big deal, you are saying. And you are also saying: I'll bet you can find lousy people in Iowa, too, if you just look hard enough.

And you can.

In fact, I will admit I once met a bad person in Iowa. It was a few years ago, and I was making a turn out of a garage in Des Moines, and this motorist must have thought I was going to scoot in front of her, because when she passed me, she stuck her hand out the window and gave me the finger.

I wrote a column about this, and I got a flood of mail and a late night phone call from a man who lived in Ottumwa.

"That woman wasn't from Iowa, he said. "She was from Des Moines! She was city folk!"

So I guess those two cops who helped me at the Capitol must have been from out of town.

Roger Simon can be e-mailed at [WriteRoger@aol.com](mailto:WriteRoger@aol.com). To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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# Lawmakers return to Capitol for special session

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas lawmakers were returning to the Capitol today, less than a month after they packed their bags and left town after a 140-day regular session.

Gov. Rick Perry this month called state legislators back for another 30 days to take try to take care of the redrawing of congressional districts, a topic that remained unresolved when lawmakers adjourned June 2. The issue prompted a Democratic walkout in the House in May.

In a letter announcing the session, Perry said elected officials, not federal judges, should be responsible for drawing district lines.

Lawmakers during the 2001

legislative session could not agree on how to draw the districts so the current map was drawn by federal judges. Democrats now have a 17-15 majority in Congress.

Republicans argue, however, that Texas should have more GOP representatives in Congress, noting that every statewide office in Texas is ruled by a Republican.

The map that was pushed during the regular session, which Democrats objected to, would have probably given Republicans as many as 20 seats. The walkout by the Democrats killed the redistricting bill.

This time around, Republicans are hopeful for a

better outcome.

Rep. Phil King, R-Weatherford, filed a redistricting bill during the regular session and said he plans to file another map Monday.

"I don't think there will be a walkout," King said.

"I would expect an awful lot of acrimony but I do expect the Legislature to pass a new plan," said Rep. Mike Krusee, R-Taylor.

House Democratic Caucus Chairman Jim Dunning called the redistricting attempt a "totally partisan power grab."

"I don't know how you undertake a blatantly partisan issue without partisanship," Dunning said.

Dunning said last week that

the House Democratic Caucus had not yet met to discuss its strategy. He also said he expected that enough Democratic state senators would oppose a redistricting bill to block it from debate.

Republicans rule the Senate 19-12 but under the chamber's rules, set by the senators, two-thirds of the chamber's 31 members must agree to bring an issue to the floor for debate. That means 11 votes would be needed to kill the bill.

The Senate Democratic Caucus has not yet counted votes to see if it has enough support to block the measure, said Caucus Chairwoman Sen. Leticia Van de Putte.

"Our hope is that we won't

have to deal with this," said Van de Putte of San Antonio.

Redistricting already has emotions running high.

A House subcommittee meeting on redistricting last week in Brownsville fell apart when too few members showed up to make a quorum and the crowd shouted: "Shut it down! Shut it down!"

House redistricting subcommittee meetings were scheduled throughout the state last week. The Senate held a redistricting hearing in Laredo on Saturday and more are scheduled this week across the state.

The special session will be the first since Democratic Gov. Ann Richards called one on public education in late 1992.

## Multimillion-dollar lotteries woo Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Which multistate lottery is best-suited to deliver the \$101 million that Texas officials predict would be generated for the state treasury and help get the state out of its revenue shortfall?

Officials of Powerball, a consortium of 25 individual lotteries, and from the 10-state Mega Millions lottery brought presentations to the Texas state capitol today, each group hoping to entice the Texas Lottery Commission into casting their lot with them.

Going into Monday's hearing, neither side would discuss its proposal in advance. The commission will also hear testimony from anyone who wishes to discuss the matter, lottery commission chairman C. Thomas Clowe said.

"Texas is a real attractive state for either one of them," Clowe was quoted

in Monday's editions of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "That's why I intend to listen very carefully to what they'll have to say, and I'll probably have some questions that I'll want them to answer."

"I don't see anything right know that's a negative 1/8to joining a multistate game 3/8," Clowe said. "But I'm open-minded on it."

In Texas, lawmakers convened the legislative session in January under the cloud of a \$9.9 billion shortfall and with instructions from Gov. Rick Perry and other top leaders that a tax increase would not be tolerated.

Despite his objection to expanded gambling, Perry did signal that he'd accept joining a multistate lottery because the state has been operating its own lottery since 1992.

The Texas Legislature voted recently to allow the lottery commission to

join a multistate game, a decision made easier after Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn certified that the move would bring the treasury \$101 million during the 2004-05 budget cycle.

James LeBas, chief revenue estimator for the comptroller's office, said the revenue projection takes into account any drop-off in sales for other lottery games.

LaBas said that by joining a multistate game, Texas would see a resurgence in interest by players who may have become bored with the 11-year-old Lotto game.

"I think the excitement of a new game would rejuvenate the old, tired game," LeBas said.

Multistate lottery games are designed to generate jackpots into the hundreds of millions of dollars, creating a frenzy of ticket purchases across the country. Participating

states get a cut of the tickets sold within their borders.

The Mega Millions jackpot — which currently is \$16 million — hit \$180 million on June 21, when it was won by one ticket sold in Maryland. The Powerball jackpot is now \$165 million.

The push to join a multistate lottery comes as Lotto Texas, the state's signature game, continues to suffer from depressed ticket sales. This spring, lottery officials overhauled the game by adding a so-called bonus ball into the mix, which drove the odds against winning a jackpot from one in 25 million to nearly one in 48 million.

The higher odds mean that a player is less likely to hit the jackpot, pushing up the prize amount. The higher the payoff rises, the more interest it generates — and the more tickets are sold.

## President blitzing Florida for senior votes

CRAWFORD (AP) — President Bush has a two-pronged aim as he heads to Florida to push his reelection: completing an initial \$30 million fundraising drive and promoting efforts to help older Americans pay for prescription drugs.

Adding a drug benefit to Medicare has long been a demand of a powerful voting bloc, the millions of elderly enrolled in the health care program.

With the White House aiming to tie success on the issue directly to Bush's prodding, the president was to visit a senior center in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood on Monday to urge lawmakers to quickly reconcile the differences between Medicare bills passed last week by the House and Senate.

If Congress produces Medicare legislation for Bush to sign, it would likely become a prominent feature of his reelection campaign. Perhaps even more important, it could remove a potent weapon from the Democrats' election season arsenal.

Bush's Medicare event was added to an already busy day of 2004 campaign fund raising in Florida. He was to appear at a \$2,000-a-plate luncheon at a Miami airport hotel and a more upscale though priced the same dinner across the state at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay.

Campaign spokeswoman Nicole Deventish declined to say in advance how much the events would bring in, but local Republicans expect each to garner more than \$1 million.

That would bring Bush's haul to about \$17

million over seven events in less than two weeks.

First lady Laura Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney have added more from another seven fundraisers — including Cheney's appearances Monday in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Akron, Ohio.

Adding proceeds from direct mail and the Internet since the Bush campaign's launch six weeks ago, officials projected the total raised through Monday would be nearly \$30 million.

The latest three-month reporting period for federal campaigns ends Monday. The totals in those reports are closely scrutinized to gauge candidates' strength.

The trip was to be Bush's 15th to Florida as president — his most-visited state behind Pennsylvania, another coveted presidential election prize. Florida, where Bush's brother, Jeb, is governor, was the site of the controversial post-election drama in 2000

that only ended with a Supreme Court decision in his favor.

Bush's day began in Texas, where he spent the weekend in seclusion at his ranch after a long day of fund raising in California on Friday.

For his talk on Medicare, Bush chose the Activities and Nutrition Center in Miami's Little Havana.

The center's former president and a founder, Cuban-born Josefina Carbonell, is the administration's assistant secretary for aging at the Department of Health and Human Services. As the largest Hispanic geriatric health and human service organization in the nation, it has more than 55,000 clients served at nearly two dozen sites.

With negotiations pending on reconciling House and Senate prescription-drug measures, Bush has made no demands other than insist the final product incorporate choice and reform and reform in

### Suspect in slaying of funeral director ID'd

ARLINGTON (AP) — Arlington police have identified a suspect in the slaying of Fort Worth funeral director and pastor Gregory Wayne Spencer.

Spencer's body was found last week in a south Arlington motel room.

Police are not commenting on the suspect or the suspect's identity and said that releasing details would compromise their investigation, according to Sunday's editions of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Police recovered Spencer's navy blue 1999 Mercedes last Friday unoccupied beside an abandoned house in southeast Fort Worth.

Now, officials are examining phone records and a tape from a video surveillance from the motel where Spencer's body was found hogtied and gagged with a towel.

### Tropical Storm Bill influences weather

Skies were clear to partly cloudy across Texas on Monday with temperatures in the 60s and 70s and winds variable at less than 5 mph. Texans kept a wary eye at Tropical Storm Bill, moving along the Gulf Coast throughout the Southeast.

The National Weather Service said coastal sections of Texas were expected to see thunderstorms from the storm system. A stationary front was to bring rain during the day to the Texas Panhandle.

Overnight readings ranged from 60 at Dalhart to 78 at McAllen and Galveston.

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# Katharine Hepburn dies at age 96

OLD SAYBROOK, Conn. (AP) — Her backyard acting blossomed into a career for the ages: Four Academy Awards, 12 nominations, 60 years of stage and screen brilliance, a lifetime of feisty independence.

But Katharine Hepburn always thought she could do more.

"I could have accomplished three times what I've accomplished," she once said. "I haven't realized my full potential. It's disgusting."

That perfectionism was balanced by grace and sheer joy in being alive.

"Life's what's important," she once said. "Walking, houses, family. Birth and pain and joy — and then death. Acting's just waiting for the custard pie. That's all."

The lights on Broadway will dim at 8 p.m. on Tuesday in honor of Hepburn, who died surrounded by friends and family Sunday at her childhood waterfront home in Old Saybrook. She was 96.

Hepburn, who had been in declining health in recent years, died of old age, said Cynthia McFadden, a close friend and executor of her estate.

"Through her films generations to come will discover her humor, her grace, her keen intelligence," McFadden said in a statement from the family at a news conference near Hepburn's home. "She was and always will be an American original. She died as she lived, with dignity and grace."

Her mark of 12 Academy Award nomina-

tions stood as a record in the acting categories until Meryl Streep surpassed that total in 2003. Her Oscars were for "Morning Glory," 1933; "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," 1967; "The Lion in Winter," 1968; and "On Golden Pond," 1981.

New England family, was forthright in her opinions and unconventional in her conduct. She dressed for comfort, usually in slacks and sweater, with her red hair caught up in a topknot.

She married only once, briefly, and her name was

the vote for women.

Her father built a theater in the family's backyard, where young Katharine's career took root.

"My parents were much more fascinating, as people, than I am," the actress once said. "Mother was really left of center; women's suffrage was her great cause, and I remember appearing at all the local fairs carrying huge flocks of balloons that said 'Votes for Women.' I almost went up with them."

Young Kate was educated by tutors and at private schools, entering Bryn Mawr in 1924. After graduating, she joined a stock company in Baltimore.

She made her New York debut in "These Days" in 1928, the same year she married Philadelphia socialite Ludlow Ogden Smith. She divorced him in 1934 and later remarked, "I don't believe in marriage. It's bloody impractical to love, honor and obey. If it weren't, you wouldn't have to sign a contract."

Her Broadway role in "Warrior's Husband" brought a movie offer from RKO, and she went to Hollywood at \$1,500 a week to star opposite John Barrymore in the 1932 film "A Bill of Divorcement." The lean, athletic actress with the well-bred manner became an instant star. The voice Tallulah Bankhead once likened to "nickels dropping in a slot machine" became one of Hollywood's most imitated.



An icon of feminist strength and spirit, Hepburn brought a chiseled beauty and patrician bearing to such films as "The Philadelphia Story" and "The African Queen."

"I think every actress in the world looked up to her with a kind of reverence and a sense of 'oh boy, if only I could be like her,'" actress Elizabeth Taylor said in a statement.

Hepburn, the product of a wealthy, freethinking

linked to Howard Hughes and other famous men, but the great love of her life was Spencer Tracy. They made nine films together and remained close companions until Tracy's death in 1967.

She was born in Hartford on May 12, 1907, one of six children of Dr. Thomas N. Hepburn, a noted urologist and pioneer in social hygiene, and Katharine Houghton Hepburn, who worked for birth control and getting

# 12 people die when porch collapses

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

CHICAGO Twelve people died and at least 57 were injured early Sunday when a third-floor apartment porch collapsed under the weight of summertime partygoers, taking down the two porches below, authorities and witnesses said.

The wood porches and the people, many of them college students and friends from their high school days, smashed to the ground shortly after midnight in the Lincoln Park neighborhood, where thousands of students and young people live among families in two- and three-floor buildings converted into apartments.

As many as 9 people had crowded onto the third-floor porch, officials said, the second-floor balcony also held revelers.

# Grocery bagger kills two, wounds three

IRVINE, Calif. — A man wielding a samurai-style sword killed two people and wounded three others at a supermarket here Sunday before his bloody rampage ended with a fatal volley of police gunfire.

Witnesses said the deadly attack occurred about 9:30 a.m. inside the Albertsons at Culver Drive and Irvine Boulevard when Joseph Parker, a 30-year-old bagger known for erratic behavior, entered the market where he worked and began slashing at employees and customers.

Wearing a green beard and a long dark coat, the Irvine man pulled out a sword with a 3-foot blade and calmly attacked in silence, almost beheading one of his victims. As he roamed the store, employees armed with barbecue utensils, mayonnaise jars

Most of those killed had been on the second-floor porch and were crushed by the weight from above.

Neighbors and patrons from a neighborhood tavern were the first on the scene. They found victims pinned beneath lumber, much of which had fallen into a stairwell and was spread across the lawn.

Rick Frommeyer was walking his dog when he passed by the building about 12:15 a.m.

"I could see the porches were full, they were crowded," he said. "About five minutes later, all hell broke loose — screaming, chaos, kids running. There were people lying

on the ground all around. There was a fair amount of blood."

As police and ambulances began pulling up, Frommeyer sprinted to the nearby Burwood Tap, and, along with customers and bartenders, returned with ice and a linen bathroom towel roll, cutting the cloth with a key to make bandages.

Eleven people were pronounced dead at the scene, city officials said, and another died later at a nearby hospital. Ambulances transported 45 people to the hospital, and at least another dozen were taken by friends or family members for treatment.

Most of those killed had been on the second-floor porch and were crushed by the weight from above, said Larry Langford, a spokesman for the city's Office of Emergency

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Management and Communications.

The wood, brick and fittings from the collapse were so compacted that, after using chainsaws to free people, firefighters had to employ a thermal-imaging device that detects variations in heat to make sure they hadn't missed anyone.

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## 'Sidewinder' raids continue in Iraq

CAMP BOOM, Iraq (AP) — A massive sweep that has already netted at least 60 suspects in 20 lightning raids across central Iraq entered its second day Monday, as U.S. forces tried to capture Saddam Hussein loyalists and curb a wave of attacks on American soldiers.

The raids by the 4th Infantry Division and Task Force Ironhorse troops began early Sunday. On Monday, planners of the Fourth Infantry Division — the most high-tech unit in the army — used an array of electronic tools to plan out further raids on militant supporters of the deposed regime.

The operation, dubbed "Sidewinder," is taking place across an area of central Iraq stretching from the Iranian border to the areas north of Baghdad, and is expected to last for several days, according to military officials in Camp Boom, near Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad.

## Israel begins pullout of troops

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli troops and tanks withdrew from part of the Gaza Strip after leading Palestinian groups declared a limited cease-fire, boosting chances for a U.S.-backed peace plan plagued up to now by unrelenting violence.

Early Monday, Palestinian security forces took control of Beit Hanoun, setting up three checkpoints inside and controlling the entrance and exit to the northern Gaza town.

On Sunday, the militant Islamic Jihad and Hamas groups called a three-month cease-fire, and the mainstream Fatah followed with a six-month truce declaration. The cease-fire declarations apply to settlers and soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza as well as to Israel, a key Israeli demand.

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The Big Spring Herald will be closed Friday, July 4th in observance of Fourth of July. Deadlines for Classified and Retail Advertising are:

### RETAIL

Deadline for Sunday, July 6th is Thursday, July 3rd, 12 noon. Monday, July 7th is Thursday, July 3rd, 3 p.m.

### CLASSIFIED

No "Too Late To Classify" for Friday, July 4th. Deadline for Sunday, July 6th is 3 p.m. Thursday, July 3rd - No "Too Late To Classify".

Office re-opens at 7:30 a.m. Monday, July 7th.

### CIRCULATION PHONES

263-7335 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. 263-7335

July 4th edition will be delivered on a normal schedule.

# Sp

## IN BRIEF

### Crossroads cheer sign-ups begin to

Registration for 2003 Crossroads Football League, ball and cheerleader squads will get way today at the Spring Mall.

Registration cheerleaders will held from 5:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. through the week, and noon to 4 p.m. on ends. Registration through July 14.

A copy of each birth certificate report card will needed at the registration.

The cost for leading is \$65 per son.

For more information, contact Campbell at 268-96

### Midland duo win Cloverleaf tour

Trina Albright Lettia Collins Midland were the gross winners in championship flight the Cloverleaf Tournament stage the Big Spring Club, edging out Dickson and Bakes.

Low net winners were Joy Harlan Cathy Cowan. La Guelker and Horton were run up.

Comanche golfers dominated first flight. Ge Newsom and Tar Depauw took low honors, while Co Fowler and Jenkins were second. Farris Pebble Corbell the low net score, v Patsy Sharpnack Norma Pyle were ond.

Margo Lauder and Rosen Hernandez had the gross score in the ond flight, edging L Guelker and L Archer. The net winners were Jo Hilger and Leonardi. Ben Stewart and D Cockrell were seco

### July 4 tournament slated for Coah

The annual Coah Fourth of July Ra Tournament will held at the Coah Softball Park, beginning at 5 p.m.

Teams or individuals interested in fundraiser should up for a booth. The per booth is : Deadline to sign u booth space is Jun

For more information, please call L Martin at 466-1950.

### ASC's golf pass now available loc

The Amer Cancer Society's T Golf Pass ent golfers more than rounds of golf at participating cou throughout the sta

For more information call 1-800-ACS-234 go online at www.ascgolfpass.com.

### Texans will host tournament at M

The Texans softball squad will be holdi softball tournament Cotton Mize Soft Field on June 2 Entry fee for the test is \$110 per team. Trophies will be sent to the top t teams.



Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Tommy Wells at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: newsdesk@crcom.net

### IN BRIEF

#### Crossroads cheer, sign-ups begin today

Registration for the 2003 Crossroads Little Football League football and cheerleading squads will get under way today at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration for cheerleaders will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. throughout the week, and from noon to 4 p.m. on weekends. Registration runs through July 14.

A copy of each child's birth certificate and report card will be needed at the time of registration.

The cost for cheerleading is \$65 per person.

For more information, contact Stacy Campbell at 268-9634.

#### Midland duo wins Cloverleaf tourney

Trina Albright and Lettia Collins of Midland were the low gross winners in the championship flight of the Cloverleaf Tournament staged at the Big Spring Country Club, edging out Jo Dickson and Becky Hakes.

Low net winners were Joy Harlan and Cathy Cowan. La Nell Guelker and Nita Horton were runners-up.

Comanche Trail golfers dominated the first flight. Georgie Newsom and Tammie Depauw took low gross honors, while Connie Fowler and Dee Jenkins were second. Marty Farris and Pebble Corbell posted the low net score, while Patsy Sharpnack and Norma Pyle were second.

Margo Lauderdale and Rosemary Hernandez had the low gross score in the second flight, edging Ester Guelker and Linda Archer. The net winners were Jo Ann Hilger and Gus Leonardi. Ben Ella Stewart and Daury Cockrell were second.

#### July 4 tournament slated for Coahoma

The annual Coahoma Fourth of July Ragball Tournament will be held at the Coahoma Softball Park, beginning at 5 p.m.

Teams or individuals interested in a fundraiser should sign-up for a booth. The cost per booth is \$100. Deadline to sign up for booth space is June 26.

For more information, please call Laura Martin at 466-1950.

#### ASC's golf pass is now available locally

The American Cancer Society's Texas Golf Pass entitles golfers more than 670 rounds of golf at 281 participating courses throughout the state.

For more information call 1-800-ACS-2345 or go online at www.texasgolfpass.com.

#### Texans will host tournament at Mize

The Texans softball squad will be holding a softball tournament at Cotton Mize Softball Field on June 27-29. Entry fee for the contest is \$110 per team.

Trophies will be presented to the top three teams.

## Baylor teammates await word on missing player

By ANGELA K. BROWN  
Associated Press Writer

WACO — After a weekend of silence by police, questions continued mounting about the disappearance of a 6-foot-10, 230-pound Baylor basketball player feared dead — and what his teammates may know about it.

Patrick James Dennehy, 21, hasn't been heard from in more than two weeks. His sport utility vehicle, its license plates missing, was found abandoned in a mall parking lot in Virginia last

week. Waco police planned a Monday afternoon news conference. Authorities have refused to comment since late Friday, when they said Dennehy may have been killed in the Waco area and that the list of potential suspects could include his teammates.

Rene Salinas, a spokesman in the FBI's San Antonio office, said Sunday that the FBI was helping Waco police in the investigation. He declined further comment.

John Cunningham, a speech communications professor at

Baylor, said Dennehy was working on an independent study project for his class this summer.

"It's been unbelievably hard," Cunningham said Sunday. "Right now, the hardest part is not knowing. We're trying to stay positive, but it's been hard as more time passes."

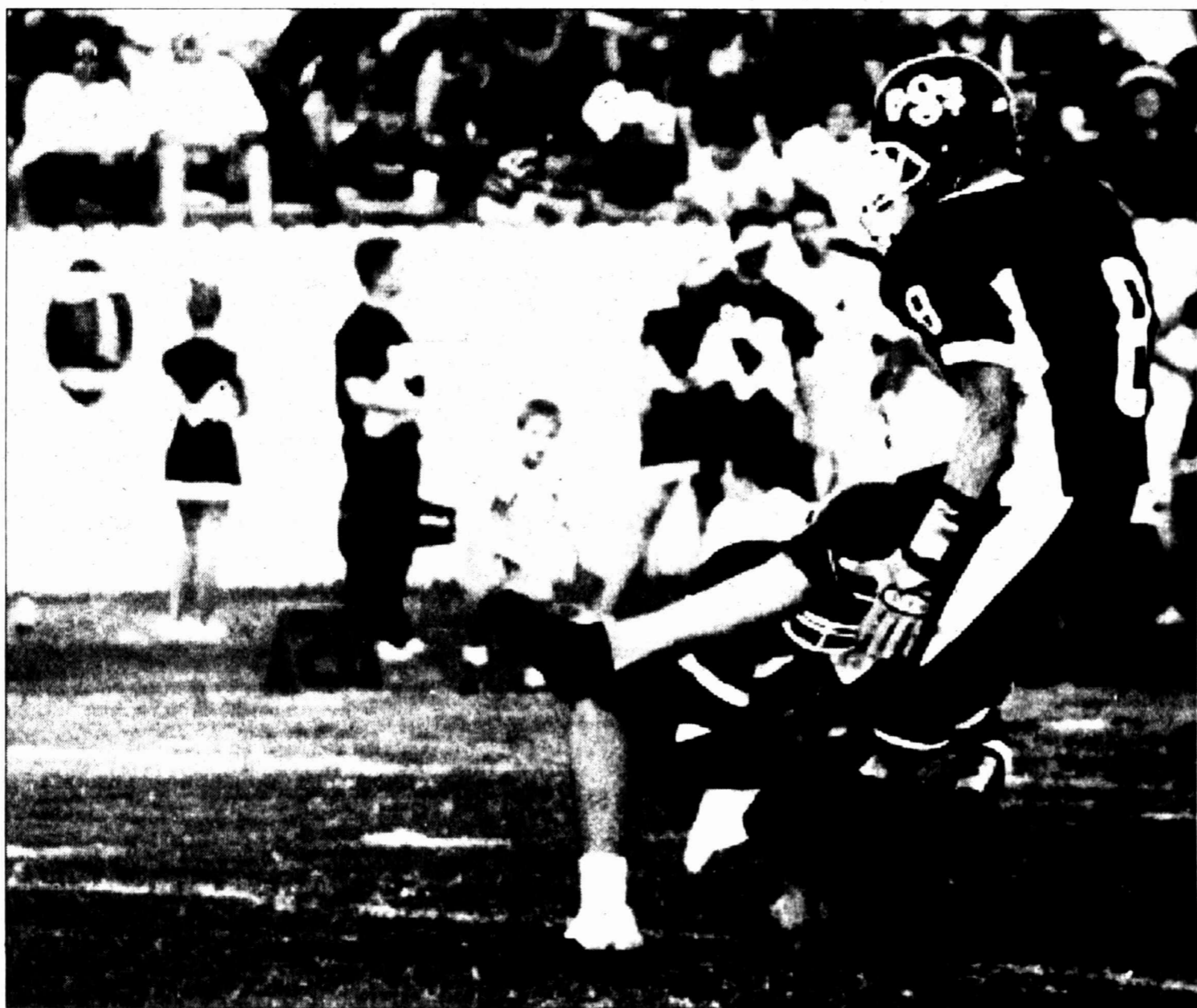
Cunningham said Dennehy was a "solid B student" who dreamed of playing for the NBA and then working in public relations for his favorite team, the Sacramento Kings.

Dennehy often sat in the front

row so he could concentrate and didn't talk much to his teammates, who sat in the back, Cunningham said. But the professor said he was surprised about reports that basketball players may be suspects.

"I've taught those guys, and there's no way in my mind that any of them are capable of doing anything like that," Cunningham said.

The center, a junior speech communications major from Santa Clara, Calif., transferred last fall from New Mexico.



Big Spring's Jordan Cobb will help Big Spring try and kick its way into the state playoffs again this fall. The Steers, according to Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine, are picked to finish third in the District 4-4A race. Big Spring advanced to the third round of the Class 4A playoffs last season.

## Rangers thump Astros

By MICHAEL A. LUTZ  
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Houston center fielder Craig Biggio held himself responsible for Texas' decisive eighth-inning rally.

Biggio fell down trying to catch Alex Rodriguez's tiebreaking two-run triple as the Rangers beat the Astros 8-5 Sunday.

"I don't know what happened," Biggio said. "I slipped and fell. It was a terrible play. I would have caught it if I hadn't fallen down. I feel horrible. The situation was it was a tie game so if you want to blame this one on me, I'll take the heat."

Houston led 3-2 before Rafael Palmeiro's 509th homer tied it in the seventh. The blast tied Palmeiro with Sammy Sosa for 17th on the career list.

In the eighth, Octavio Dotel (6-3) allowed a single to Michael Young and walked Hank Blalock before Rodriguez tripled over Biggio's head. Although Biggio fell down trying to chase the hit, Rodriguez wasn't sure the center fielder could have caught it.

"I don't know if he would have had it, but I don't think so," Rodriguez said. "I hit it pretty well. It landed about 12 feet from him so it would have been a great play for him to catch it."

Dotel allowed three hits, three earned runs and two walks in the inning.

"Ask him if he could catch it, not me," Dotel said. "I just control myself and the ball that I throw to home plate. Sometimes you lose, sometimes you win. I felt good today, very good."

The victory didn't help the Rangers win the Silver Boot, which goes to the winner of the season series. The Astros took four of six games this year and lead the series 2-1.

Houston starter Ron Villone didn't allow a baserunner until he walked Gonzalez to start the fifth inning. After Palmeiro popped out, Kevin Mench hit a two-run homer over the Rangers' first hit, giving Houston a lead to 1-0.

"He had a perfect game going into the fifth," Rangers manager Buck Showalter said. "I think that bases on balls got us going. Then, Mench's home run got us to thinking we could win."

"It was pretty ugly before that."

The Astros took a 3-0 lead in the first inning off Mario Ramos, who got his first major league victory in his last start. Ramos couldn't find his control this time. He threw 39 pitches.

# ANOTHER RUN?

## Big Spring expected to make another push for Class 4A playoff berth in '03

By TOMMY WELLS  
Sports Editor

During the off-season, the Big Spring Steers looked a lot like the state budget: Losses here and there and everywhere. Since the end of last season, the Steers have waved goodbye to their starting quarterback (Tye Butler), the starting tailback (Josh Mathews), their top two receivers (Brandon Mendoza and Curtis Woodruff), an all-state lineman (Kyle Newton) and a handful of coaches.

About the only thing the Steers haven't lost as they head into the new year is the respect of the football prognosticators. The Steers, despite their subtraction, are still expected to battle for a playoff berth this fall.

"I think it's far too early to think about that right now," said Steers head coach Dwight Butler. "We're going to be very young at the skill positions. We are going to have to have some of the younger players to step up and fill some key holes for us."

Big Spring, which advanced to the Division II regional finals last year for the second time in three seasons, is scheduled to open two-a-day practices in August with just six younger players than in 2003. Butler will open the year with just six offensive returnees — four of which are on the offensive line.

The team's experience in the trenches is a plus, according to Butler, who will be entering his 12th year as the Steers' head coach.

"We're going to be young at a lot of positions, but we will have a solid offensive line. That, I think, will be our biggest strength early

### Crossroads Football

- Mon: Big Spring Steers
- Tues: Coahoma Bulldogs
- Wed: Forsan Buffaloes
- Thurs: Stanton Buffaloes
- Fri: Garden City Bearkats
- Sun: Grady/Sands/ Borden

on because they can give our younger players the extra second or two they need.

"I you are going to be young at the skill positions, it's good to have an experienced line," he said.

Back to anchor the BSHS line are David Partlow, Jeff De Los Santos, center Kaniel Miramontes and Jeff Stanley.

According to Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine, Big Spring is expected to battle Wolfforth Frenship, and Andrews for the District 4-4A title this year. Frenship, the defending district champion, was the preseason publication's odds-on favorite to win the district title despite returning only three starters from a team that went 12-1 a year ago.

Andrews, now in its second year under coach Blaine Springston, will be one of the more experienced squads in the district. The Mustangs bring back six starters from last fall's 4-4A runner-up, including quarterback Matt

Gardner and wide receivers Elton Powell and Eddie Carrasco.

"You have to expect those two to be solid every year," said Butler. "Over the years, they have played well. I wouldn't expect anything different from them."

The San Angelo Lake View Chieftans were picked to finish fourth in the district race by the magazine, which hit newsstands last week. The Chieftans, under new head coach Joey McQueen, bring back six starters from a squad that went 1-7 in 2002. Back to pull lead the Chieftans is quarterback Matt Phillips, who passed for more than 1,000 yards last season.

Despite possessing a "five-gene improvement" over 2002, the Levelland Lobos aren't expected to make an impact on the 4-4A race. The Lobos lost all world running back Christian Coronado to graduation.

Quarterback Rocky Hartline will headline the Lobos' efforts this fall. He passed for almost 1,000 yards last season, helping Levelland get off to a 1-0 start.

The Lobos stumbled down the stretch, losing five of their final six games.

The Lubbock Estacado Matadors are again picked to dwell in the district's basement. Estacado heads into the fall with six starters returning on each side from a team that went 1-9.

Melvin Irving and District 4-4A Newcomer of the Year Tony Glynn will once again spark the Mats' offense. The strong-armed quarterback threw for 1,054 yards. Glynn rushed for 665 yards after being called up from the junior varsity midway through the season.

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Office or retail. 108 Marcy. 263-6844 or 634-1272

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LEGAL AUTHORITY Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code as amended, Title 4 of the Texas Natural Resources Code as amended and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing within fifteen days of publication to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Drawer 12967 - Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967 (Telephone: 512-463-6792)

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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a 16-year-old girl and just recently began dating. This is a confusing time for me for several reasons, but one of them is that I do not want to be sexually active with any of the boys I've dated. In fact, sex is not a consideration. Sometimes, I don't even want to kiss them. What I'd really like is a guy friend to hang out with and comfort me if I ever need someone.

It seems all of my friends DO want to try physical things with different guys, so I'm not sure I'm normal. I plan on saving my virginity for my future husband, but I realize many teenagers don't feel the same way. I know most boys think about sex a lot, but is it normal for girls NOT to?

Is it OK that I don't want to "experiment"? Please reassure me that I am a normal teenage girl, no different than anyone else my age. Confused in Kentucky

Dear Confused: You are perfectly normal. It's simply that the "raging hormones" of adolescence apparently haven't hit you yet. Assuming there is no history of sexual abuse, you may change your mind down the road. Don't let your worries push you into doing something you aren't ready for. Finding friends among the boys will serve you better than any "experimenting" you might do.

Dear Annie: I received a letter from my cousin stat-



ANNIE'S MAILBOX

ing that she, her sister and brother are giving a surprise 50th wedding anniversary party for their mother. The problem? Their father passed away 13 years ago.

I thought once one of the partners in the marriage dies, there are no more anniversary celebrations. Please advise if this is something new that is happening or if my cousins have gone off the deep end. - Not Sure in California

Dear California: What exactly are they celebrating? While it is kind to acknowledge the anniversary date of a surviving spouse, it is way out of line to have a surprise party to mark the occasion. If your aunt were aware of the party and in favor of it, that would be skirting the edge of acceptability. However, to make it a surprise party is over the top and in poor taste.

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Horoscope

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Ideas, when they first occur, aren't finished products but fragile entities that need love and devotion in order to grow. Singles find love at the library - really! There is an endless supply of conversational topics on the shelf.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). New ways to market yourself are featured. After all, if you don't sell yourself, who will? A situation tonight could cement a romantic bond. Old appliances and possessions may break down - time to make a change!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). At work, the challenge continues. How hard you try is rooted in how often you try. Commit yourself to racking up some rejections. Every job you don't apply for is a job you're certain not to get.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

STRAIGHTEN UP your environment, and your mind gets straightened up in the meantime. If you feel everything around you has a useful purpose, your confidence soars. Arguments clear the air between loved ones.

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LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Higher-ups make it known that you'll have to go outside your comfort zone to get the results that are required now. Personality opens doors faster than appearances, skill or anything else will.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Dropping certain foods or drinks could help you gain mastery over your body. Physical craving ceases when emotional needs are met. Your leadership is called on at work. Delegate responsibility to only the most qualified person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). People near you respect your power. In fact, they are in awe of you. Don't take it for granted. Using machines to accomplish creative aims is favored. Confide in a sweetie, a new level of trust is established.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A million different paths lead to your destination, each teaching something different. If you aren't passionate about the actual business you're building, get one that you are passionate about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Get out and see all you can. It's an idea deficit, not a cash deficit, that you come up against while trying to balance the budget. The wicked good idea you have around noon solves a financial problem.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March

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West Texas

# Business, Health

# Agriculture

- Wind power
- The economy
- In the cotton fields
- Expecting your first child
- West Nile Virus concerns

Special supplement to the Big Spring Herald and Sweetwater Reporter



## Cover story

# WIND POWER:

## Nolan County expecting to get \$400 million wind turbine project

**N**olan County Commissioners have taken a large step toward economic development with the approval of allowing a Houston firm, DKR Developers, to begin building a \$400 million wind turbine project.

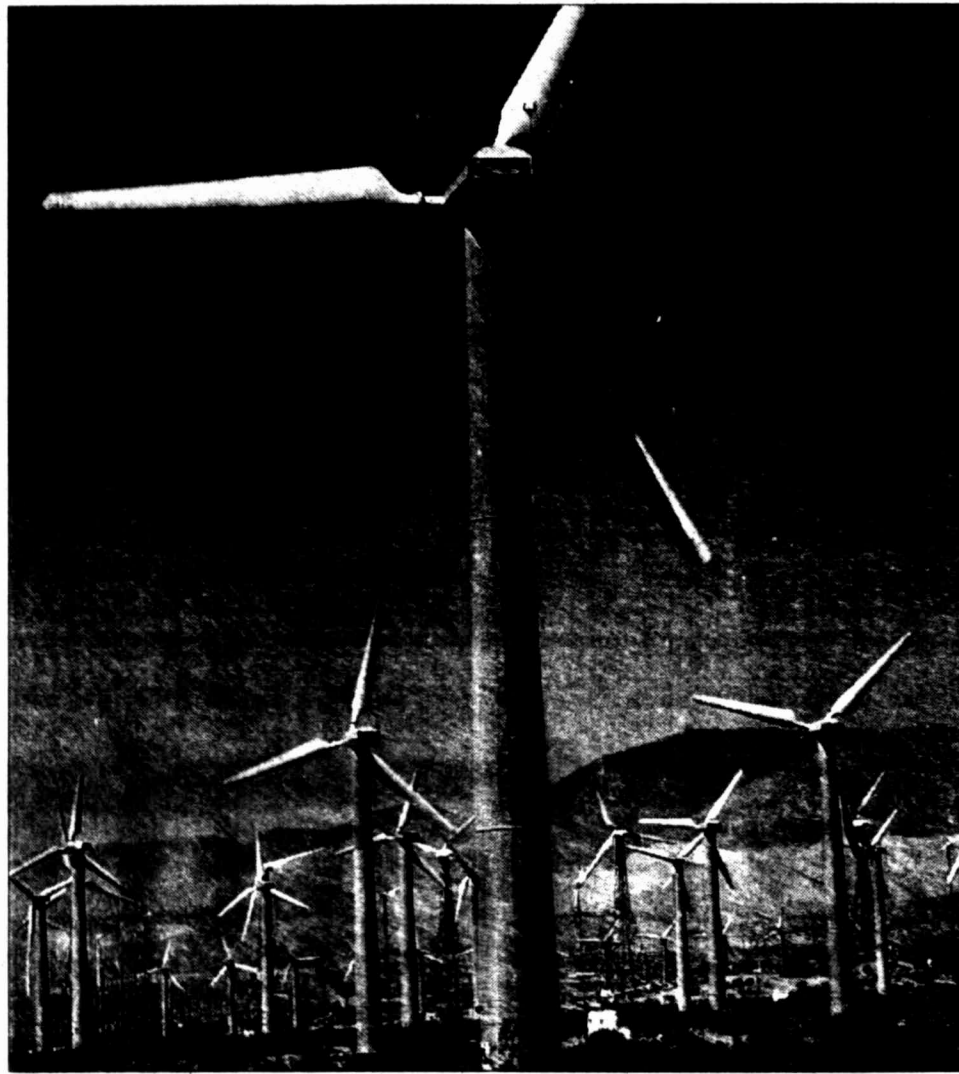
The project will join a growing list of wind power projects in West Texas, including existing facilities near Big Spring and Sweetwater.

"We had a lot of opposition from several groups in the county," said County Judge Tim Fambrough. "But we listened to their opinions, took them into consideration and even used many of those opinions to develop an even more beneficial contract that has better percentages than any other county has with partial tax abatements."

In the beginning, DKR presented a proposal for tax abatement on March 24 for the building of wind turbines to supply a more economical means of electricity to the area around Nolan County.

On April 21, Robert Kelly of DKR made a revised proposal that included the school districts of Sweetwater, Highland and Blackwell would receive "a state offset" through House Bill 1200.

See TURBINES, Page 8



Nolan County taxing entities have approved limited tax abatements for developers of a \$400 million wind turbine project similar to that pictured here.

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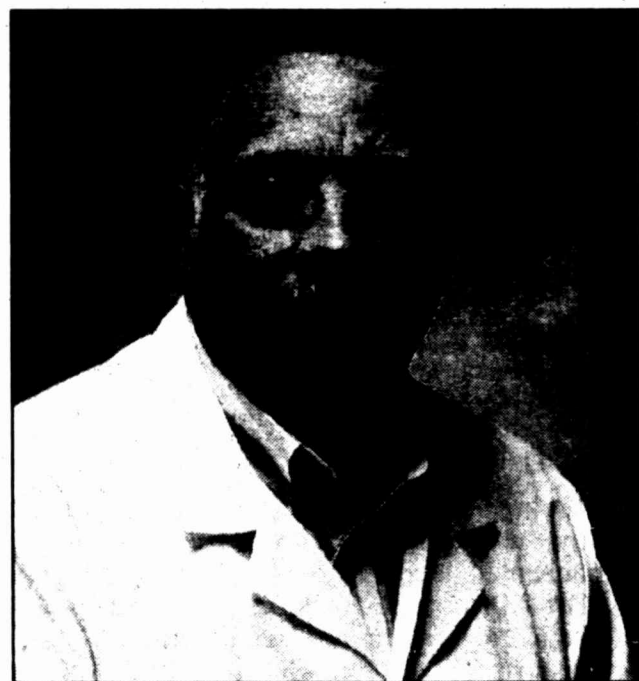
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## Health

## Threat of West Nile Virus again looms for West Texas

The threat of the dreaded West Nile Virus looms once again this year, and health officials are stressing the importance of taking the proper health and safety measures.

Don Ware, director of the Nolan County Health Department urges residents to use prevention as their best defense against the main carrier of the disease, mosquitoes.

"This year will probably be worse in the case of West Nile because it is already becoming an issue early in the year," he said.

"If we all remember the 'Four D's' we will be ahead when it comes to disease prevention - take precautions in dusk and dawn, dress in long sleeves and pants, drain areas with standing water, and use repellents with DEET."

According to the Center for Disease Control the more DEET a repellent contains the longer time it can protect you from mosquito bites. Always choose a repellent that provides protection for the amount of time you will be outdoors. The repellent should be sprayed on clothing as well since mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing.

The CDC recommends wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors; placing mosquito netting over infant carriers when taking infants outdoors; consider staying indoors at dawn, dusk and in the early evening, which are peak mosquito biting times; and repair window and door screens so that mosquitoes cannot get inside.

Standing water serves as a breeding ground for the insects and the



Sweetwater Reporter photo

A city of Sweetwater employee drives through the streets spraying in an effort to keep down mosquito populations.

CDC also suggests draining sources of standing water to reduce the mosquito egg laying sites. Areas to pay close attention to include: Flower pots, pet food and water bowls, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels and cans. Periodically clean out clogged rain gutters, removed discarded tires and other items that

could collect water; and check containers or trash in places that may be hard to see such as underbushes or under your home. The CDC claims natural repellents, such as the use of Vitamin B and "ultrasonic" devices, are not effective in preventing mosquito bites.

"When we receive verification of a bird being dead because of the

virus, that is a big indication that humans are in danger as well," said Ware. "Last year we turned in many sick or dead birds, but none of them tested positive."

Nolan County did experience deaths in horse populations because of the virus, five in all, and Ware suggests having horses properly vaccinated each year.

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# Becoming a new mother: The first trimester

**N**ow that I am pregnant with my first child, I feel that my body is transforming in many ways and I also feel exceptionally special since I have the privilege of carrying a child, one of the most sacred gifts given to woman. Some of my transformations are emotional while the more noticeable changes are physical.

Now I feel much more drained even if I get my normal amount of rest at night. I now need a daily nap or I will be bad-tempered and whiny until I get to bed. All I do is contemplate what I do and how I do it so that my baby



TATIANA CASTANEDA

will be unharmed. I love to read books on pregnancy and ask my doctor many questions about what my baby should be going through and what I should be expecting of my own body.

The first trimester is by far the most important of the three, since the expectant mother has to be extra careful in everything she does in regard to her baby.

During my first month of pregnancy I knew I was pregnant but I hadn't yet taken any sort of test because I wanted to be sure.

*I began to use cocoa butter on my stomach to prevent the appearance of stretch marks, but was very uncomfortable with it because it made my clothes stick to me. I began to use regular lotion and I haven't had any stretch marks yet.*

month of pregnancy. I was just very careful of my actions such as lifting heavy objects or being around people who were smoking. I don't drink, smoke or eat sushi anyway, so the baby was just great in that sense.

According to some of the readings I found, once I discovered I was pregnant, I needed to eat a well-balanced diet of small (not larger), more frequent meals and drink plenty of liquids.

The expectant mother should avoid foods that cause indigestion, heartburn or bloating; get plenty of rest; exercise moderately; and choose a doctor. I did most of those things on a regular basis anyway, so I wasn't worried about my baby's health.

Another fun thing to start doing is to measure oneself to watch how the baby makes you grow.

For the expecting mother, the first month of pregnancy has little change until the middle of the month when the hormone levels in the body begin to rise. Some women experience nausea and

the morning just knowing that I was going to be a mother soon.

Morning sickness varies from woman to woman. Good health and hygiene of the expectant mother is also crucial during the first month.

During the second month of pregnancy, some things you should do are drink at least eight glasses of water daily and maintain a well-balanced diet. Exercise to strengthen the muscles of the pelvis and moisturize dry skin.

I began to use cocoa butter on my stomach to prevent the appearance of stretch marks, but was very uncomfortable with it because it made my clothes stick to me. I began to use regular lotion and I haven't had any stretch marks yet.

Plenty of rest is also important. For those who experience morning sickness, eating a light snack before bedtime and increasing sugar intake can help to prevent or lessen the awful feelings.

As for the tiny peanut growing inside, the lenses of its eyes will begin to form, the lymphatic system begins to develop and the

three different parts — the forebrain, midbrain and hindbrain. Cups are formed in the baby's face that will contain the eyes and the nasal pits are now distinct. The cartilage and bones begin to form and its arms will lengthen and begin bending at the elbows. By now the baby should measure about one inch in length.

Most women won't notice much change in their own bodies in the first two months, but when they start to show, a bulge develops in the lower abdomen beneath the belly button. That is where the uterus is situated. I was still wearing the same dress size that I was wearing before I became pregnant at this point. It wasn't even recognizable that I was pregnant.

If the expectant mother is still feeling nauseous around food, a smart thing to do is avoid rich or spicy foods and strong smelling foods such as fried foods. It may also help to eat more starchy foods such as pastas and potatoes. She will also feel more tired than usual. I did.

She may experience a mild degree of irritability or depression during the early months of pregnancy due to biochemical fluctuations. The mother's skin may dry out or break out. My skin breaks out every once in a while. Just make sure to cleanse the face every night and every morning to reduce the risk.

—PREGNANCY

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## Farm News

# Cotton forecast:

*Optimism expressed throughout area despite rains that forced late planting*

It's called a "Catch 22" situation. At least that's the term Howard County Cooperative Extension Agent Tommy Yeater used in describing the weather area cotton farmers have experienced since the start of the planting season.

Early June rains were finally giving farmers the moisture they needed to plant cotton, but there was so much of it that they couldn't get into the fields. And blowing sand played havoc with cotton that was already coming up.

"It's good, but then it's bad," Yeater said of what some might have expected to truly please West Texas farmers. "It's caused a lot of grief as far as getting things planted. And those who did get planted are having to replant in some cases. But... well, you have to have the rain."

The rains occurred throughout much of West Texas, ranging from a few inches to more than 10. Some parts of Mitchell County — where planting continued until the June 15 deadline — received up to 12 inches.

But a week can make a lot of difference. Most farmers have finished planting or replanting, or are in the process of finishing.

"We're probably 80 percent done," Yeater said. The northeast section of the county is a little behind the rest, due to the extra water they got. We are still in good shape as far as planting though. They should be OK."

June 15 was the end of the late planting period for cotton, at least in the Big Spring area. Except for special circumstances, a cotton crop that isn't in the ground by then won't be insured.

As it is, farmers planting a new crop have been losing one percent per day in insurance coverage since June 10.

Those replanting cotton aren't impacted, since their cotton was already covered — and that made up a fair amount.

"I'd say we had about 50 percent of the fields planted (before the rains). Of that, 30 to 40 percent had



Big Spring Herald photo

Irrigated cotton stands knee high in a field near Elbow, southwest of Big Spring. Most of the Howard County cotton crop, however, was only planted — or in some cases replanted — following rains early this month. Extension agents throughout the area are optimistic that the rains will help the crop get off to a good start.

to be replanted," said Yeater.

But the late planting has been tempered with optimism. This was the best planting rain most farmers have seen in years.

"I'm really optimistic about this year's crop," said Stephen Biles, insect pest management agent for Nolan, Mitchell, Scurry and Jones counties. "It's been a while since we've been able to plant with this type of soil moisture. If we get another good rain toward late July or early August, we're going to be doing really well."

"It looks pretty good with this last week of sunshine and the warmer temperatures. It's starting to look a lot better," added Warren Multer, Extension IPM for

See **COTTON**, Page 11

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## Industry

# Plastics: *Big Spring's Western Container facility literally makes millions of bottles for soft drink industry*

**M**any people in Big Spring know that Western Container's Big Spring facility makes high-quality plastic containers for the Coca-Cola Bottling System. But do you know how many bottles they make each year?

"During the first 12 months of operation, the Big Spring facility shipped 29.6 million bottles," said General Manager Pat Chesworth. "Total bottle shipments from the Big Spring plant in 2002 were approximately 767 million, with company-wide distribution reported at over 4.4 billion bottles. The Big Spring plant is projected to produce 901 million bottles in 2003, with company-wide shipments of approximately 5 billion bottles."

The Big Spring facility is the company's flagship location, founded in July 1980. It continues to be the central distribution point for the company's nationwide distribution. The local plant — located at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark — currently employs 125 people.

The company provides bottles for Coca-Cola bottlers as far east as Montgomery and Mobile, Ala., and as far west as Los Angeles. In addition to the Big Spring plant, Western Container has blow-molding facilities in Houston; Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.; Benicia, Calif.;



Western Container employee Thomas Estrada operates an injection molding machine on the Big Spring plant's production line. The Big Spring facility — the company's first, founded in 1980 — plans to produce more than 900 million bottles this year.

Courtesy photo

See **PLANT**, Page 13

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## Opinion

## Consumers, suppliers facing natural gas challenge

American families and manufacturers are beginning to experience rising energy prices. During the last five years, I have been traveling throughout Texas discussing the challenges facing the Texas natural gas industry. The challenges facing natural gas consumers and suppliers have prompted U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham to call last week's National Gas Summit in Washington, D.C.



CHARLES MATTHEWS

Energy experts and even Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan are beginning to become concerned about the possible train wreck in the natural gas market. Demand for natural gas is increasing rapidly as manufacturers and electric generators move to cleaner burning gas fired plants.

Since 1999, Texas alone has added nearly 20,000 megawatts of new electric generating capacity, and is expected to add another 7,500 megawatts over the next two years. As this demand has

increased, we have continued to see the tightening of natural gas supplies.

Over the last 10 years, state and federal governments have encouraged the use of natural gas, as an environmentally friendly fuel.

Unfortunately, at the same time little attention was being paid to increasing the domestic production of natural gas. It is easy to understand, therefore, why demand for natural gas has far outpaced our ability to produce gas domestically.

Texas has consistently been a leading producer of natural gas for more than 80 years and currently produces about a third of all the natural gas in the United States.

However, Texas is seeing a decline in the number of companies exploring for natural gas. Much of this decline has been caused by a shortage of capital and skilled labor, and by volatile prices.

Recently, the price of natural gas fluctuated from a high of \$10 to a low of \$1.50 in an 18-month period. These unstable gas prices are not good for producers, investors and consumers.

Producers are having difficulty in raising capital for new drilling projects due to the unstable

prices. Consumers are also having difficulty in planning energy costs for the same reason. This presents an opportunity for Texas producers.

It is now evident that current prices will make it easier to increase the amount of capital needed to drill new wells. Without new capital it is impossible to stimulate production and insure that the necessary infrastructure to move gas safely to consumers remains available.

Labor shortages have plagued the industry over the last decade. Increased interest in the industry will result in more students seeking geology and petroleum engineering degrees. The entry of these professionals into the industry will increase exploration activity and production of natural gas.

In an effort to address the challenges facing the natural gas industry, President George W. Bush has repeatedly called for a national energy policy. The policy envisioned by the Bush administration would help balance supply and demand, bringing stability to the natural gas market.

The challenges confronting natural gas market are challenges for the entire country. Texans are uniquely positioned to help solve

the nation's natural gas shortage: we are leaders in oil and gas exploration and production and in the technologies needed to maximize energy supplies in safe and environmentally sensitive ways.

As a railroad commissioner, it is my responsibility to do every thing in my power to ensure that we are producing hydrocarbons in a reasonable and environmentally sound manner while creating an economic environment to encourage oil and gas production.

We need federal policies and incentives for promoting the energy industry. With the right leadership and policies in Washington, American families and businesses can continue to enjoy affordable power with the reassurance that enough clean-burning natural gas is available to meet electric and human needs.

*Railroad Commissioner Charles Matthews was elected to the Commission in 1994 and is the current senior member. In November of 2000, he won re-election to a second term. For additional information on Commissioner Matthews log onto his website at [www.rrc.state.tx.us/commissioners/matthews](http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/commissioners/matthews).*

## Medicines in development offer hope in war on cancer

This year, some 56,500 Americans are expected to die of cancer—more than 1,500 people a day.

Right here in Texas, 33,296 died from cancer in 2000. The last year for which statistics are available. In Howard County the number was 77, making it the second highest fatal illness after heart disease with 115 dead.

Even one death from cancer is too much. Pharmaceutical researchers are working on 395



ALAN HOLMER

new medicines for cancer. Many of these are high tech weapons that fight the disease in new ways, while some involve research on new ways to use existing medicines. The research is being conducted by 161 pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and by the National Cancer Institute.

The medicines in development, all of which are either in clinical trials or under review by the Food and Drug Administration, include 70 for lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer death in the United States; 49 for breast cancer, which is expected to strike 200,000 American women in 2003; 48 for colon cancer, the third most common cancer in

both men and women in this country; and 48 for prostate cancer, which is expected to kill 29,000 American men this year. Additional medicines target kidney cancer, pancreatic cancer, brain cancer, skin cancer, ovarian cancer, and others. In addition, companies are working on medicines to improve the quality of life for people undergoing cancer treatment.

This commitment to research promises to continue and accelerate the remarkable progress made against cancer in the past decade, which led to declines in both cancer cases and cancer deaths. Death rates for eight of the top ten cancers were level or declining during the 1990s, according to

a report published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. These encouraging statistics raise hopes for an eventual victory in the war on cancer. Said Dr. Leonard Saltz of New York City's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center: "I don't think we're going to hit home runs, but if we can get a series of line-drive singles going and put enough singles back to back, we can score runs."

In the past few years, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies have made progress against cancer by bringing cutting-edge new cancer treatments to patients. These include:

- A breakthrough drug for a

See **DRUGS**, Page 10

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**Finance**

# Our economy: *Commodity-based market creates problems for area*

**W**est Texans are used to suffering through the highs and lows of a commodity-based market, but the trend to more technology-driven trades is leaving its mark on the region.

According to the Perryman Group, a Waco-based economic research firm, the population of Texas grew by almost four million persons between the years of 1992 and 2002 with 71.7 percent of the gain in the state's six largest metropolitan areas.

Yet, in the last 20 years, much of West Texas has seen a decline in population as the population seems to be shifting more toward metropolitan areas, according to Kent Sharp, executive director for Moore Development for Big Spring Inc.

Compared to the population with most of state, West Texas is quite sparsely populated.

Out of all the communities in five councils of governments in West Texas, only six cities have a population count of 100,000 or more if Midland and Odessa are included as one area, Sharp said.

Big Spring and Plainview are the only towns with a 20,000 plus population in the area.

In his June 13 column, Dr. M. Ray Perryman of the Perryman Group said the slowest growth change generally was concentrated in mid-size cities such as Abilene,

Beaumont-Port Arthur, Odessa Midland and San Angelo.

Perryman went on to say many of those areas were hampered by weakness in petroleum and refining segments of their economies.

In the Permian Basin, which is largely dominated by the energy producing field, a change in commodity prices can clearly impact

the area's economy. "A \$5 rise or drop in the price per barrel of oil on 166 million barrels can have an \$800 million impact on the area's economy. And that is at the producer level which does not take into consideration the value added processes and numerous service sectors associated with oil production."

The fluctuation creates a domino

"Military bases and governmental agencies are on the endangered species list now, making the future even more uncertain," Sharp noted.

"Midland and Odessa are an anomaly," he explained. "They have the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, but that became a four year university only a few years ago. The area grew because of oil and gas. It is so dependent that when oil and gas take a hit the Permian Basin hurts badly."

An exception to this rule, Sharp added is Howard County, the third largest in the Permian Basin's 17 county area.


With an established state mental health hospital, federal veterans health care system and five prisons, a strong portion of the county's work populous is employed in some type of governmental or government related job.

"In the Permian Basin, Big Spring is generally one of the only insulated communities from the primary base driver like oil and gas," Sharp said.

According to Perryman, the most rapid population growth in Texas during the 10 year period occurred in large cities with a heavy technology component to their economies or the border region.

"That's a phenomenon in the nation and it's really magnified in Texas and even more magnified in West Texas," Sharp said. "People are moving toward the suburbs."

**"A \$5 rise or drop in the price per barrel of oil on 166 million barrels can have an \$800 million impact on the area's economy. And that is at the producer level which does not take into consideration the value added processes and numerous service sectors associated with oil production."**



**SHARP**

the area's economy.

"For instance, in 2001 the 17 counties comprising the Permian Basin produced almost 166 million barrels of oil," Sharp said. "The top four producing counties in 2001 in the Basin were Gaines County at 33.3 million; Andrews County at 26.2 million; Ector County at 21.8 million; and Midland County at 11.4 million.

"Howard County was the eighth largest in terms of oil production at 7.5 million barrels," Sharp con-

tinued. "A \$5 rise or drop in the price per barrel of oil on 166 million barrels can have an \$800 million impact on the area's economy. And that is at the producer level which does not take into consideration the value added processes and numerous service sectors associated with oil production."

But commodities do not completely rule West Texas.

Major West Texas cities such as Lubbock, Amarillo, San Angelo, Abilene and Wichita Falls all used to have two things in common when it came to economic stability

a university or college and governmental/military institutions that helped insulate the effects of the agriculture and energy markets' swings, Sharp said.

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June 30, 2003

# COTTON

Continued from Page 6

Glasscock, Reagan and Upton counties. "The moisture was the positive thing. We hadn't seen that in about 10 years."

Across the area:

**Borden County** — "A lot of our cotton has been replanted," said County Agent Dennis Pool. "You know, forever and ever we waited and finally most everybody tried to dust it in. Then we got rain and high winds. About 30 to 35 percent of our acreage was replanted."

Some of the earlier planted cotton was salvageable.

"We've got a good start, a good stand of cotton. If we can hold on to it and let it get a little more mature, we'll be in good shape," said Pool.

In some areas of Borden County, planting continued for another week.

It might even be longer because some fields in the Lake J.B. Thomas/Vincenr area were still under water during the third week of June.

"The boys that got hay grazer in

(planted), they are tickled to death. Hopefully we'll have a good hay crop," Pool added.

**Glasscock County**

"Everything should be planted by today," Multer said June 20. "We might have a few acres left to plant but it's not much."

**"In terms of where we were moisture-wise 30 days ago, it is a drastic improvement. If we can just get a crop in and get it up to stand without any severe weather, we'll have a great start on a crop. This rain is not going to be enough to carry us through, though, but it's a great start."**

John Senter  
Mitchell County Agent

Farmers in Glasscock County got an early start, with an estimated 40,000 of 70,000 acres planted before the rains fell.

"We have cotton planted as early as late April through the week," said Multer. "Some of the older stuff should be booming in 10 days to two weeks."

About 35 percent of the crop that was planted had to be replanted, but the outlook is optimistic.

**Mitchell County** — "Most guys are just now getting to plant," said

John Senter, Mitchell County Extension agent for agriculture.

Senter said the early June rains amounted to the first significant moisture this year for the county:

"Some areas received as much as 12 inches of rainfall," said Senter.

There was some erosion damage

to terraces, but the agent said planting should be completed in a week to 10 days.

"In terms of where we were moisture-wise 30 days ago, it is a drastic improvement. If we can just get a crop in and get it up to stand without any severe weather, we'll have a great start on a crop. This rain is not going to be enough to carry us through, though, but it's a great start."

**Noian County** — "We were on hold, waiting for a rainfall when

this last couple of weeks happened," said Biles. "For the most part, everyone either is planting or has finished up. The crop ranges from still being planted to pinhead to match head squares."

Only about 5 percent of the acreage in the area had been planted prior to the rains. Some of that had to be replanted, Biles said.

**Scurry County** — "We're rocking and rolling," said Greg Gruben, Extension agent. "Some are through planting but we will have guys planting all the way up to the deadline."

The late start — only about 10 percent of the Scurry County crop was planted early and of that, 5 percent had to be replanted — has been offset by optimism.

"We're later, but this is probably as positive a start as in the last two years. We're two rains away from having a real nice crop. Of course, we've been in this situation before. Mother Nature has been shutting off the faucet after June and that has killed us," Gruben noted. "Right now though, everybody is optimistic. Maybe by being late we missed some of those hailstorms we tend to have."

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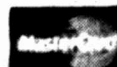


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## TURBINES

Continued from Page 2

that allows for school districts to get a return financially from state taxes.

Superintendents Bill Hood of Blackwell and Jim Allison of Highland attended as many meetings as possible to voice their schools' needs for the development.

The revised proposal from DKR Development was canceled and rescheduled for discussion on April 28.

That April 28 meeting led to a public hearing on May 12 for establishing an enterprise zone and the possible approval of a newly proposed partial tax abatement for the DKR wind power generating facility.

The public hearing included discussion from DKR and the some public opinions about the future of Nolan County and the revised partial tax abatement for the development of the wind turbines.

The discussion from area residents, businessmen and town officials centered on the possibility of

another financial loss through tax abatement — like that experienced through a co-op proposal that was approved several years ago and never was profitable, losing many tax dollars.

The hearing also included discussion of establishing an enterprise zone, an essential element for future tax abatement discussion, even partial tax abatement, involving DKR Development and the construction of wind energy turbines.

DKR's Robert Kelly and consultant Clint Terrell spoke about the proposed \$400 million wind turbine energy project. They also introduced a formal application for the partial tax abatement.

"It would be \$1.4 million for the good of Sweetwater," said Kelly. "Each school district would receive substantial benefits."

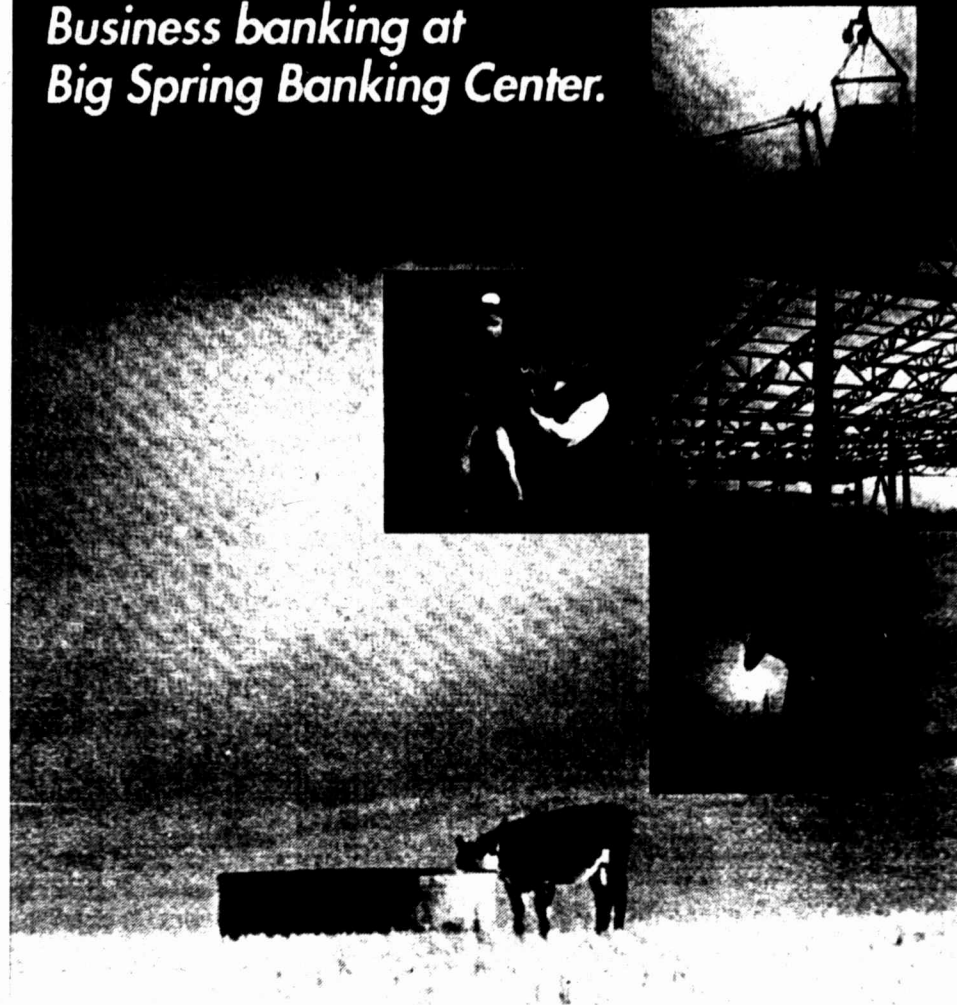
DKR's desire for immediate approval was discussed as an incentive needed to guarantee new investment into the county.

Hood addressed how school systems would benefit from the wind turbine project. "It's a good oppor-

See **WIND**, Page 15

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## PLANT

Continued from Page 7

Hattiesburg, Miss.; and Tolleson, Ariz. All told, the company employs about 750 nationwide.

"Western Container Big Spring continues to strive for excellence," Chesworth said. "Our plant has maintained its status as the most efficient plant in the system by receiving the Plant Efficiency Award for the last four years. In 1997, our plant efficiency was at 95 percent, but as a direct result of the skills and talents of our members, the plant is currently operating at over 97 percent efficiency. The members of the Big Spring facility continue to strive to increase equipment production, as well as improve processes.

"We at the Big Spring Plant take great pride in the fact that we have the oldest facility and some of the oldest equipment within the company, but continue to outperform the other plants consistently," he added. "This fact can be attributed to our membership—their pride in a job well done and personal initiative. Our people are the differ-



Courtesy photo

Aaron Harland, an employee at Big Spring's Western Container plant, keeps a close watch on the facility's blow molding machine. The Big Spring plant has won the company-wide Plant Efficiency Award the past four years and is currently operating at 97 percent efficiency.

ence and the reason we continue to set ourselves apart from the other facilities. We continually encourage the personal growth and development of our membership in

order to maintain this distinction.

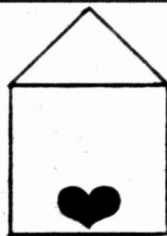
As part of its quest for efficiency, the company is committed to operating on the cutting edge of tech-

nology in its field, Chesworth added.

"Of primary importance is the company's commitment to maintaining close ties and collaborations with equipment manufacturers," he said. "This commitment has resulted in Western Container's leading the way in both blow molding and injection technology."

And the hard work has paid off.

The year 2002 marked the culmination of a five-year effort to become the first Western plant to become a certified supplier for Coca-Cola North America, he said. In April 2002, the Big Spring facility became only the eighth certified supplier worldwide to complete the arduous five-phase process. This distinction makes us a preferred supplier for Coca-Cola. Additionally, in August 2002, the Big Spring facility completed the Coca-Cola Lab Acceptance Program, enabling us to conduct on-site product testing. Western Container Big Spring is one of only five manufacturing facilities nationwide to be approved to perform its own testing."



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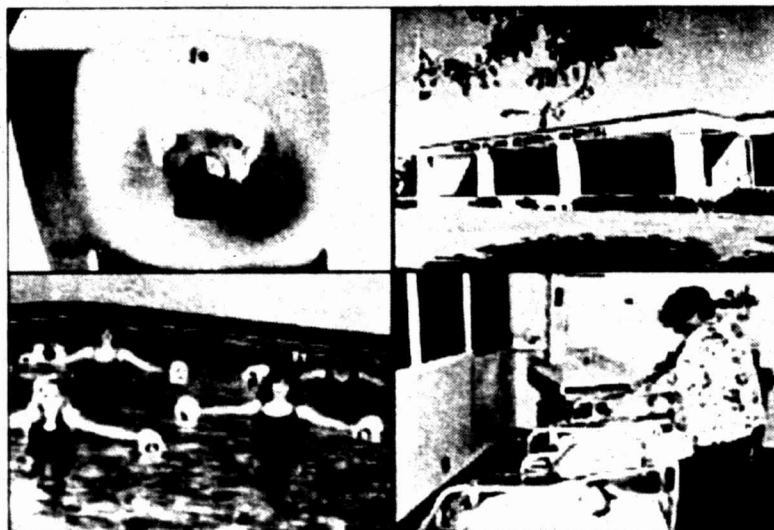
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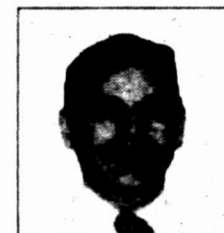
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## WIND

Continued from Page 12

tunity for the community," said Hood. "It would be in the best concern for the children."

Kyle Lawrence of Lawrence Management Service gave the members a business perspective.

"We just don't want a situation like a co-op gin," said Lawrence.

In order for the property tax abatement to be given, the county must create a designated enterprise zone. The enterprise zone would be located just west of Lake Sweetwater, as north as Arizona Street, and stretch along the southern part of Nolan County south of Sweetwater.

Opposition came from Pat Gerald of Sweetwater Enterprise for Economic Development (SEED), who strongly urged the county commissioner's to seek legal assistance before approving of a project this size.

"You need an attorney to negotiate the contract on abatement," said Gerald.

Another opposing viewpoint came from Sweetwater City Commissioner Larry May.

"It sounds like a great project," said May. "I'm asking the (county) commissions to do their diligence. Take your time on this."

That view was echoed by other business people, who claimed the wind turbine project is a large project, with large revenues, that doesn't hold much promise for job opportunities.

The commissioners agreed to seek legal representation and to make sure the contracts with DKR will benefit the county.

"The real-world financial constraint is that we need to get those first turbines in the ground before

the end of the year," DKR's Kelly said in response to another setback in development time.

"Our biggest risk is if the project does not happen," said Commissioner Randall Smith said before adjournment.

The approval was finalized on June 9.

The wind power project will generate enough electricity for several counties, not just Nolan, and along with House Bill 1200, the school districts of Nolan County will profit from the tax abatement allowing them guaranteed money back from the development.

Commissioners incorporated Rod Wetsel and Lance Hall to help with the legalities and fine tune the contract.

"The Trent-Mesa project was built without an abatement," said May. "Projects like this go through without abatements."

May suggested commissioners Nolan County taxpayers a tax cut of 40 percent instead of the abatement saying, "the businesses would profit, be able hire more people and everyone could benefit from the effects."

"We are in a shrinking economy," said Gerald. "DKR has options to close a deal and sell the deal afterward."

"Everybody wants something from this project, we've been fighting hard to get this \$77 million to benefit Nolan County," said Kelly.

"We tried to draft a contract as tough as we could," said Wetsel. "The project is definitely a benefit to our county. The contract is not just about percentages."

"We've met on two occasions with the city leaders about the contract and more than half were for the development," Wetsel added. "I've gotten calls late at night from people that were con-

cerned or wanted to know more about this project."

Wetsel and Hall agreed that DKR's contract will give \$2.5 million to Sweetwater schools in incremental benefits.

"The schools need it, we need it. I'm tired of waiting for what could've already been possible for our students," Blackwell ISD's Hood added. "These investors are here to make money, I say let them make money. As long as we're going to making money too."

Terrell stressed the benefit millions from the project will bring to Nolan County.

"It will be one of the largest wind power projects in the world," said Kelly. "We've been through some long negotiations with making this project the best it can be for Sweetwater."

"There will be construction jobs available, your local businesses will be used for building materials, as long as they are competitive, and there will be larger tax revenues to the hospitals, the school and that will benefit the farmers," said Kelly.

Commissioners gave approval of the enterprise zone and the partial tax abatement, allowing DKR to

begin development of the wind turbine project.

"The county granted 100 percent tax abatement on the co-generation plant years ago," noted Fambrough. "That co-op ended up filing a lawsuit against the appraisal district after seven years of operation. They ended up not paying taxes for at least a year. So when talking tax abatement, even partial tax abatement, it's very controversial among our citizens."

"Many people were against the tax abatement, and we understood their views and opinions. But, with a declining economy and a decline in population, we felt Nolan County needed this."

"The first request was for 100 percent tax abatement for up to 10 years. Our final contract is at 60 percent tax abatement for the first five years and 40 percent tax abatement for the second five years. It was the best deal in our part of the state," Fambrough noted.

The enterprise zone covers approximately 31,000 acres. There will be 30 wind turbines built this year and 10 employees to start with. By the year 2005, there will be 400 wind turbines and 35 employees to run them all.

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