

BIG SPRING

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

THURSDAY

August 21, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 70°-72° TOMORROW 94°-96°

Dawson Co. woman killed in U.S. 87 wreck

HERALD Staff Report

A Dawson County woman was killed early this morning when the vehicle she was driving rolled over approximately 16 miles north of Big Spring on U.S. Highway 87.

Soila Martinez, 57, of Lamesa was pronounced dead on the scene at 7:40 a.m. by Howard County Justice of the Peace Bennie Green.

Green ruled the cause of death as accidental and said an autopsy will not be ordered.

Martinez was an employee of the Big Spring State Hospital and was reportedly on her way home from work when the accident occurred.

BRIEFLY

FINAL POOL HOURS SET

Comanche Trail Park Pool will be open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, and again Saturday, Aug. 30 through Monday, Sept. 1, Labor Day. The pool will be closed during the week.

COMING SUNDAY

American Profile

Old barns and other historic farm buildings are a resource to be saved, and a number of barn savers are working to do just that through rebuilding and rehabilitation of these uniquely American structures.

INDEX

- Classified 2-3B
- Comics 4B
- Features 6-7A
- Local 3A
- Obituaries 2A
- Sports 1B

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Find us online at: 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.



U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, reviews a stack of petitions he received from Big Spring High School student Logan Churchwell, left, before adding his signature.

Neugebauer promises he'll fight for veterans

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer reiterated his pledge Wednesday to fight against a recommendation by the Department of Veteran Affairs Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission that could result in the closure of the Big Spring VA hospital.

"This is a No. 1 priority in our office right now," the Lubbock Republican told a group of community leaders gathered for a brief conference at city council chambers. "It's important for two reasons. It's important to the veterans that they get the best care that we can possibly give. It's important to Big Spring.

"This has been a great partnership for a number years. There's

"I think we are poised here to expand this facility, not to realign it. If there is a demand out there that's not being met, what we need to do is ramp up to meet that demand."

U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer

no way there should be a separation in this great marriage that has existed for a number years."

A national draft plan for realigning the Department of Veteran's Affairs' medical service includes a

See VETERANS, Page 5A

He's the fair's 'tall order'

Dick Helms has enjoyed being on the board for years

Editor's note: Nancy Koger is a regular contributor to the Herald during the Howard County Fair.

To say that Dick Helms stands head and shoulders above other members of the Howard County Fair board is no exaggeration; the six-foot, five-inch manager of Athletic Supply is the one to call at the fair when an extended reach is required.

"I've been on the board 10 or 12 years now, and I'm glad I was asked to join. I like the focus of the fair, which is local people and products," he said. During his association with the fair, Helms has gone to the state convention for fairs and events, which he found to be a great place for new ideas and meeting people who are doing the same thing in other towns and counties. Helms has never served as president of the local



Victoria Mocham, right, and Ashley Hodge enjoy one of the many rides at the Howard County Fair Wednesday evening. Tonight's entertainment will feature the Colgate Country Showdown.

fair board because his business prohibits him from being at the fair every day.

"I think the president needs to be there all during the fair," he explained.

That Helms never does anything halfway was attested to by family's being named Big Spring's Family of

See FAIR, Page 3A

Counselor-turned-administrator will rely on experience

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

Big Spring High School Assistant Principal Susan Palmer is settling into her new job quickly.

"I'm just really excited to be here," Palmer said. "I want the kids to know that I care about them."

Palmer sees her years of counseling with the Big Spring Independent School District as going "hand-in-hand" with her new responsibilities.

"I will be disciplining them but the main thing is I think my counseling background is going to be of great benefit," said the

mother of two. "You've got to understand where kids are coming from."

A 1978 Big Spring High

"I will be disciplining them but the main thing is I think my counseling background is going to be of great benefit."

School graduate, Palmer's journey to become an educator took a few turns along the way.

After graduation and a

year of college, Susan married a neighborhood boy, Clarence Palmer, who later enlisted in the military.

The military life allowed Clarence and Susan to travel to several countries during the 1980s. Between duty station postings, Susan finished her associate of arts degree at Howard College.

While stationed in Germany, she worked as an aide in special education.

"I really enjoyed it," she said. "I enjoyed trying to figure out what type of

See PALMER, Page 3A



Susan Palmer, the new Big Spring High School assistant principal, visits with junior Amanda Pina after school. Palmer is quickly adjusting to the position.

County to lose Extension agent, but gain a public school educator

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County is losing an extension agent, but gaining a future educator.

Texas Cooperative Extension agent for family and consumer science Katy Walker announced this week she is resigning, effective Aug. 31, in an effort to complete her education.

"I want to go back to school and get my elementary (teaching) certification," said Walker. "I plan to stay in the Big Spring area while I attend classes at the University of Texas Permian Basin, so it's not like I'm leaving Big Spring."

Walker has served the Howard

See WALKER, Page 3A

Attracting, retaining members becomes priority for chamber

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has weathered some tough economic times through the years, and as the statistics begin to look up both locally and nationally, the effort to keep area merchants in business is still top priority.

"Our biggest concern is with

our existing members," said Debbye ValVerde, executive director for the chamber. "Of course it's always good to invite others to join in, and get involved, but that's not our main focus. We want to keep our members that have been loyal to us for so many years.

See CHAMBER, Page 5A

AUGUST 21 2003

Obituaries

Juanita Mayhall



Juanita Mayhall, 92 of Big Spring, died at a local nursing home following a long illness.

Funeral services is 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22, 2003, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Jim Binnix, pastor of Midway Baptist Church officiating. Burial will be held in Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ellna Pitts Byrd



Ellna Pitts Byrd, 93, of Big Spring, died on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2003, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, 2003, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel, Big Spring, with Chaplain Joe Torres of Home Hospice, officiating. Entombment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park Mausoleum.

She was born on Jan. 23, 1910, in Lancaster and married Alex Clifford Byrd on Aug. 25, 1930, in Durant, Okla. He preceded her in death on May 25, 1994. She came to Big Spring in 1945 from Clayton, N.M. Mrs. Byrd worked as a nurse for 40 years, retiring from Hall-Bennett Hospital. She received her pilot's license at the age of 55. She loved to fly and to ride motorcycles. She was a member of First Baptist Church. Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Gloria and Bobby McDonald of Big Spring; one son and daughter-in-law, Leon and Cheryl Byrd of Austin; four grandchildren, Andy Duncan of Brande, Miss., Dana Duncan of Midland, Cydni Manning of Temple, and Russell Byrd of Austin; three great grandchildren and one brother, Howard Pitts of Plano. The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 600 Gregg, Big Spring 79720. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Linda R. Torres

Linda R. Torres, 60, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2003, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support groups

- THURSDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 noon to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.
 - Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Support Group meets at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.
- FRIDAY**
- AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.
- SATURDAY**
- Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night, No Smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.
- SUNDAY**
- Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 to 6 p.m.

Police blotter

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

- JANIE AGILAR**, 36, of 708 Johnson, was arrested Wednesday on four traffic charges and a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.
- BETHANY COLLINS**, 32, of 1429 East Sixth Street No.20, was arrested Thursday on charges of theft of service.
- TRACIE MONTANEZ**, 28, of 825 West Sixth Street, was arrested Wednesday on four traffic charges.
- ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 39, of 1023 Stadium, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- REYES CASTENADA**, 44, of 311 West Fifth Street, was arrested Wednesday on charges of evading arrest, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice and parole violations.
- LAURIE AVILA**, 29, of 1905 Wasson Drive No.71, was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving while license suspended.
- TERRI A. COLLINS**, 31, of 1425 East Sixth Street #20, was arrested Thursday on traffic warrants.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported:
 - in the 2100 block of Grace Street.
 - in the 700 block of Abrams Street.
 - in the 4200 block of Burch Ave.
 - in the 700 block of West Interstate 20.
 - in the 1200 block of East 15th Street.
- DISTURBANCE OR FIGHT** was reported in the 1400 block of Harding Street.
- MAJOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 3400 block of East Highway 350.
- THEFT** was reported in the 1400 block of Lincoln Ave. An air conditioner valued at \$250 was reported stolen.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 800 block of West Marcy Drive. Damages were reported at \$45.
- ASSAULT** was reported:
 - in the 1500 block of Kentucky Way.
 - in the 700 block of West Seventh Street.
 - in the 1500 block of East 17th Street.
- ASSAULT BY THREATS** was reported in the 1000 block of North Main Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- ANIMAL PROBLEM** was reported:
 - at Forsan High School.
 - in the 3400 block of Old Colorado City Highway.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported at the intersection of Driver Road and Riva Ridge.
- MAJOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Highway 350 and Old Colorado City Highway.
- LOOSE SHEEP** was reported at the intersection of Highway 350 and FM 700.
- SHOTS FIRED** was reported in the 2200 block of Oasis.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-10-14-27-34. Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-11-14-36-41. Bonus Ball: 25. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 1. Prize: \$15 million. Winning ticket(s) sold in: Hebbronville. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$4 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-1-0

Take note

- A FUND HAS** been set up to help defray the medical expenses of KBYG News Director Brian Michaelz that occurred from complications of appendicitis. The fund is set up at Woodforest National Bank located in Wal-Mart.
- BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane, 267-6479.
- Duplicate Bridge Club, 1 p.m., Big Spring County Club, Driver Road.
- Howard County Fair, 4 p.m.-10 p.m., Howard County Fair Barns. Scheduled events includes: at 6 p.m., domino tourney, breakaway roping and carnival opens; 7 p.m. Colgate Country Showdown and county roping.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association, 5:30 p.m., RSVP office, 501 Rannels.
- American Legion Post 506, 6 p.m., 263-2084.
- Rackley-Swords 379 Vietnam Vets of America, 7 p.m., 309 S. Main, Sparenberg Building.
- Masonic Lodge 1340, 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- AMBUCS, noon, La Posada, 206 NW Fourth Street.
- Duplicate Bridge Club, 1 p.m., Big Spring County Club, Driver Road.
- Howard County Fair, 4 p.m.-10 p.m., Howard County Fair Barns. Scheduled events include: at 6 p.m., carnival opens; 7 p.m., Carl Shiflet and Big County Show.
- Spring City Senior Citizens Center Country & Western Dance, 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., 1901 Simler. All area seniors or invited.

SATURDAY

- Hangar 25 Air Museum, McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Howard County Fair, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Howard County Fair Barns. Scheduled events include: at 10:30 a.m., Kountry Kids, 1 p.m., antique tractor pull, 7 p.m., Howard College Battle of the Cheerleaders.
- Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

SUNDAY

- Hangar 25 Air Museum, McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

MONDAY

- Senior Circle Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 4 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place. People age 50 and older are invited to participate, 268-4721.
- Coahoma's Lions Club, 6 p.m., Coahoma Community Center on North Avenue.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. South winds around 10 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 90s. Southwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the southeast in the afternoon..Friday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows around 70.

Saturday...Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. Highs in the lower 90s.

Monday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows around 70. Highs in the lower 90s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Lows around 70. Highs in the lower 90s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Lows around 70. Highs in the lower 90s.

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

Dick Helms years. He'd l as manager ing the volun

FAIR
Continued fro

the Year by Samaritan C Center seven ago. He and his Connie, who technology t ers of Big Sp have three g Jason, his w daughter Ke Seguin; Jare married this works for the Corporation Louisville, K James, who a one year at H College and h completed M basic training Diego, Calif. Currently a the ex-basket is responsible relations, wh includes bill

Howard

TODAY
2 p.m.-4 p.m. Citizen Ice Cr 3 p.m. Stee 6 p.m., Carn domino tourn away roping 7 p.m., Colg Showdown, c

FRIDAY
9 a.m. to no tours 1 p.m.-3 p.n grade 1 p.m., Wel 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Lambs 6 p.m., Carr 7 p.m., Carl Big Country S

Reserva accepte Ackerly/ homeco
Reservations accepted Sands/Ackerly ing, which w Saturday, Sep Registration at 9 a.m. th lowed by a bus ing at 10:30 a auditorium. lunch will be noon in the Visitation wil in the afterno To make r for the meal, Jones at 432 jsjones@ape The deadline Sands Musta playing Wes Friday night, Mustang Field

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HERALD photo/Tommy Wells
Dick Helms has been on the fair board for more than 10 years. He'd like to serve as president, but says his work as manager of Athletic Supply would keep him from giving the volunteer job the emphasis it deserves.

FAIR

Continued from Page 1A

the Year by the Samaritan Counseling Center several years ago.

He and his wife Connie, who teaches technology to the teachers of Big Spring ISD, have three grown sons: Jason, his wife and daughter Kelly live in Seguin; Jared, who was married this summer, works for the Humana Corporation in Louisville, Ken.; and James, who attended one year at Howard College and has just completed Marine Corps basic training in San Diego, Calif.

Currently at the fair, the ex-basketball player is responsible for public relations, which includes billboards,

advertising, and working with the media. He was formerly in charge of outside vendors, another task he enjoyed for the relationships he made with those people.

"That's one of the best parts of working at the fair — the great relations you have with the local folks and those that come in every year," he said.

He admitted that the fair is hard work but that the payoff in enjoyment and friendships make it worthwhile.

"I keep working at the fair because it's a fun project and it's good for everyone in the community," asserted Helms. "I think the fair is the best dollar entertainment value in the area. I just wish more people would volunteer to work on it."

Howard County Fair activities

| | |
|---|--|
| TODAY 2 p.m.-4 p.m., Senior Citizen Ice Cream Social 3 p.m. Steers arrive 6 p.m., Carnival opens, domino tourney, break-away roping 7 p.m., Colgate Country Showdown, county roping | SATURDAY 8 a.m., Lamb showmanship 9 a.m., Lamb Show 10:30 a.m., Kountry Kids 1 p.m., Steer showmanship, antique tractor pull 3 p.m. Goats arrive 7 p.m., Battle of the Cheerleaders 9:45 p.m., Quilt drawing |
| FRIDAY 9 a.m. to noon, free tours 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Pre-K-4th grade 1 p.m., Weigh steers 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Receive Lambs 6 p.m., Carnival opens 7 p.m., Carl Shifflett and Big Country Show | SUNDAY 9 a.m., Weight cards due for goats 11 a.m., Goats showmanship 1 p.m., Goat show |

Reservations accepted for Ackerly/SHS homecoming

Reservations are being accepted for the Sands/Ackerly homecoming, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 27.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. that day, followed by a business meeting at 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium. A catered lunch will be served at noon in the cafeteria. Visitation will take place in the afternoon.

To make reservations for the meal, notify Billy Jones at 432 267-7732 or jsjones@apex2000.net. The deadline is Sept. 18.

Sands Mustangs will be playing Westbrook on Friday night, Sept. 26, at Mustang Field.

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FINES

Continued from Page 1A

"We have more than \$262,000 out just in delinquent fines," she said. "That's just the delinquent ones. We have an estimated \$373,000 out in fines all together, so you can imagine the effect this has on the county."

Wright said the letters will go out soon, and those who are behind in their fines may soon find

themselves behind bars. "When a fine is given, you've got to follow through with the punishment," said Wright. "Once these letters go out, we'll start issuing capes fines, which will in turn give the sheriff's office the go-ahead to issue warrants for them."

Lockhart said the creation of a full-time position to follow up on delinquent fines is in the works.

"The auditors are currently setting up a system so everything is integrated," he said. "This could help us generate more funds, and right now we could certainly use that."

Lockhart said the position could more than pay for itself through the funds generated by collecting over-due fines, with the possibility of adding a second and third position over time.

Wright said she hopes these letters will get people in gear, especially if

they're not sure where they stand.

"We got a call the other day from a gentleman out of state," said Wright. "He thought all of his fines were clear and they weren't. He saved himself a lot of trouble by sending us a money-order and clearing things up."

"It doesn't matter how much you owe. If you have fines you haven't paid, then you need to pay them."

WALKER

Continued from Page 1A

County area for nearly two years, and said she's enjoyed it immensely.

"It's been great," said Walker. "I've had the chance to meet so many people and be involved with a lot of really fun projects since I took the position."

When asked what she thought her greatest accomplishment was during her time with the extension agency, Walker said the answer is in her decision to stay in Big Spring.

"Since I came here from Teague, I've met so many nice people," said Walker. "That really makes Big

Spring feel like home, and I think that's probably the most important thing I've done.

"I've had the chance to work on a lot of great projects, such as the Health Fair, and groups like the 4-H Club. I've also served on the ALON USA Advisory Panel, so I've had the chance to be really involved in the community."

Walker said she's quite proud of the Food Protection Management course she's developed, as well.

"The course is required for anyone wanting to open a restaurant in the area," said Walker. "It's designed to teach the basics of food prep and safety and has been a lot

of fun."

A replacement has not yet been named for Walker's office.

"The County Extension Agency likes to wait a little while and advertise for the position," said Walker. "They will probably have someone new in

the position about a month or so after I leave."

Walker said she's excited to be going back to school, and once her certification is completed she plans to begin her teaching career in Howard County.

PALMER

Continued from Page 1A

learner they are and why they can't process it from here to there. That just fascinates me and I decided to go that way."

Clarence was discharged from the military in 1987 and the couple returned home where Palmer continued her college education.

In 1990, she earned her degree from the University of Texas at the Permian Basin and secured a job with BSISD as a teacher at the former College Heights Elementary.

From there Janice (Rosson) Bond, her former high school counselor who was now principal of College Heights, began to guide the young teacher.

"It was so neat I started with her," Palmer said. "She had a lot of input in my life on education."

Palmer earned her counseling degree from Sul Ross University in 1995 and her mid-management degree in 1999.

She has served as a counselor for Goliad Intermediate, Kentwood and the former Anderson Kindergarten.

Contact Staff Writer

Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson
267-8288

Juanita Mayhall, 92, died Monday. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30. Services will be 10:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial in Trinity Memorial Park.

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AUGUST 2003

Thanks, Howard County

I would like to extend my thanks to the community for the support you have given. For the past year and a half I have served Howard County as the Family and Consumer Science



KATIE WALKER

County Extension Agent. On Aug. 11, I turned in my resignation. August 29 will be my last day in the office. Over the past year and half I have met many new people and made numerous friendships. The support that the community has given me is greatly appreciated.

Serving as a Howard County Extension Agent you get the honor to work with various committees and panels. Some of the ones that I worked with are the Health Fair Committee (you guys do an awesome job, keep up the good work), ALON Advisory Panel, RSVP Advisory Panel (Nancy and Becky you two kept me on track, I will truly miss you both), advisor to the Howard County Meals on Wheels, Ag Expo, Family and Consumer Science Committees, Howard County Quilters Guild and the Howard County Fair Board. I have learned so much from each of you and thank you for all your encouragement and support.

To the Howard County 4-Her's and 4-H parents, without you we could not get all the work done. You have been a great help to me over the past year and a half. To my co-workers, I will miss you all and hope you the best in whatever and wherever life takes you. I would also like to thank the Howard County Commissioners Court; without your support there would not be a Howard County Extension staff.

To those of you that I might have left out, thank you. Working in Howard County has been a great opportunity and pleasure. I only hope that in future jobs that I can meet as many new people, have a community that is so supportive, and make as many friendships as I have working for Howard County.

May God Bless each and every one of you.

Foster families are needed in Howard, area

Howard and surrounding counties are in need of foster families. For information on becoming a foster/adoptive family, please contact the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669 or 1-800-233-3405. Foster parents are the caretakers of the children in the community who have been abused and neglected.

VETERANS

Continued from Page 1A

recommendation to close inpatient surgical care at the Big Spring facility and conduct a feasibility study to shift many of the services provided on the Big Spring campus to the Midland/Odessa area.

"I want you to know that I going to be aggressively working on bringing this matter to a resolution," Neugebauer said. "I think we are poised here to expand this facility, not to realign it. If

there is a demand out there that's not being met, what we need to do is ramp up to meet that demand."

In a letter Neugebauer sent to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi, the congressman referred to the Big Spring facility as the "perfect example of the 'hub and spoke' concept being promoted by the Cares Commission."

To illustrate that point, Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Michael Downes, a former math

teacher, pointed out some of his calculations based on veteran population data in this area.

"If it is relocated as close down the road as Midland, it would cost our veterans more than 700,000 additional miles just this year," Downes said. "What skews this so much is the 13,000 veterans that live in Abilene. It's almost a no-brainer. The Big Spring VAMC needs to be here."

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said he was proud of the area's response to this situation.

"The gratifying thing that has happened — this is a district-wide support for keeping our facility open," McEwen said.

McEwen said he has received support from area community leaders, including Ector and Midland counties as well as the state Speaker of the House Tom Craddick, R-Midland.

At the beginning of the meeting, Big Spring High School student Logan

Churchwell, who is spearheading a petition drive to keep the facility open, presented Neugebauer with a stack of petitions and asked for the congressman's signature. "We're going to keep it open," Neugebauer said as he signed his name.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

Who to contact

**Department of Veteran Affairs
Capital Asset Realignment for
Enhanced Services (CARES)
Commission:**
Department of Veteran Affairs
(OO CARES)
810 Vermont Ave. N.W.
Washington D.C. 20420
E-mail:
carescommission@mail.va.gov
Web address:
<http://www.carescommission.va.gov>

United States Senate:

**Honorable Kay Bailey
Hutchison**
500 Chestnut, Suite 1570
Abilene 79602
Fax: 325-676-2937
E-mail: <http://hutchison.senate.gov/>

Honorable John Cornyn
1205 Texas Avenue, Suite 812
Lubbock 79401

Fax: 806-472-7536
E-mail:
<http://comyn.senate.gov/>

United States Congress:

Honorable Randy Neugebauer
3800 East 42nd Street, Suite
605
Odessa 79762-5941
Fax: 432-550-0852
E-mail:
<http://www.house.gov/writerep>

CHAMBER

Continued from Page 1A

"I think that's the only way you're going to see your membership dues, whether it's in business development, health or agriculture."

During Wednesday's monthly meeting, Membership Development Vice President Joe Conciene said preparations are being made for a membership drive in October, and, if past statistics hold true, the group could get a definite boost.

"Last year we signed up 56 members during the drive," said Conciene. "Out of that 56, only 13 have dropped out. We currently have 385 members of the chamber and the membership visits are going very well."

ValVerde said she was looking for something different for the chamber to do for its members, and the new membership visits have filled the bill.

"I attend an institute, which is a four-year program through the chamber, and that was one of the ideas that was brought during one of my classes, and I wanted something different for us to do to include our members," said ValVerde.

"For so long we've gone

to our members asking for contributions to this or that. Now, in turn, our board members and myself are going out and seeing for ourselves what's going on."

ValVerde said the response so far has been excellent.

"We ask them how things are going, and how is the chamber doing, and I think they really like that," said ValVerde. "It's been very educational and very enlightening. We have some that are struggling with the current economic situation, but otherwise they are doing well."

ValVerde said another tool for business retention and improvement is the Business After Hours program, and although it's offered through the chamber it's not limited to members.

"We really want people to know the Business After Hours program isn't just for our members," she said. "Bring your business cards and get to know everyone there."

The next Business After Hours program is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at Home Hospice, 600 Gregg Street.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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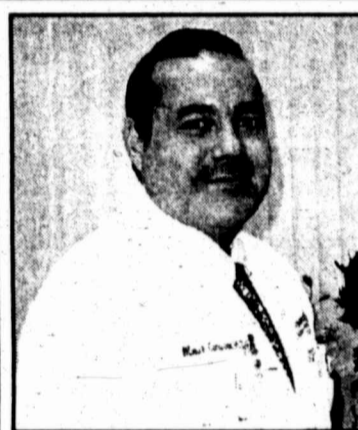
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AUG 21 2003

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

Parcells heads into game unhappy camper

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Bill Parcells and Bill Cowher appear to be auditioning for the roles of grumpy and grumpier.

Concerned their teams aren't close to being ready as the NFL season draws ever closer, Parcells and Cowher each displayed their famous tempers going into tonight's exhibition game at Heinz Field.

The Cowboys-Steelers matchup coincides with the 25th anniversary of their Super Bowl meeting after the 1978 season, but neither coach is in the mood to celebrate the accomplishments of a distant past.

Parcells was so displeased earlier this week, he walked out of practice, leaving his players to finish the final hour of their workout alone. Countless high school and college coaches have used this motivational ploy, but it's one seldom seen in the

every-minute-counts world of the NFL.

Cowher, trying a different tack to shake up a team that has neither played nor practiced well since camp opened, called off practice Tuesday morning and took his players to the movies.

He probably wishes now he had used the time to watch game tapes; later in the day, he said they practiced as if they still were relaxing in a theater. He then called off the talent show that rookies traditionally perform for veterans at the end of camp.

Cowher sent an even more pointed message to his team Wednesday by benching running back Jerome Bettis and tight end Mark Bruener, two of his most productive players for years. They will be replaced as starters for the final two exhibition games and the Sept. 7 opener at Baltimore by running back Amos Zereoue and tight end Jay



Riemersma.

The Steelers, starters and backups alike, played terribly in a 26-13 loss at Detroit on Aug. 8 — mostly because an injury-disrupted offensive line was awful.

What more concerns Cowher is that his starters were outplayed again — and on their home field — in a 21-16 loss to Philadelphia on Saturday.

The Steelers (0-2) haven't had a winless preseason in 38 years, or since going 0-5 under Mike Nixon in 1965, but that's a possibility should they lose Thursday. They close out exhibition play Aug. 29 at Carolina.

If they do go winless, it could be an ominous sign; that 1965 team went on to win only two of 14 games.

Parcells watched the Cowboys

play poorly in a 13-0 loss to Arizona and much better in a 34-6 victory over Houston, so he expects to get a better feel for where they are Thursday.

Most coaches don't like long trips for a game that doesn't count, but Parcells welcomes the long trip to Pittsburgh because of the Steelers' enthusiastic fans.

"I like going to Pittsburgh and Green Bay in the preseason because I think they're the closest things to regular-season games that you can get," Parcells said. "I told them I thought Pittsburgh was a good place to play because it's kind of a raucous place."

As it has been throughout the Cowboys' camp, the quarterback issue remains the top priority. Chad Hutchinson and Quincy Carter will play, with Hutchinson likely to start. Undrafted rookie Tony Romo is expected to play in the fourth quarter.

IN BRIEF

HC cheerleading camp set for Sept. 6

The Howard College cheerleading squad will host its annual mini cheer camp on Sept. 6, at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and cost is \$25. The camp is open to first through eighth graders.

Cheer/dance class runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants are asked to bring a lunch, tennis shoes, a water bottle and place their name on all their belongings.

All mini cheer campers will have a chance to perform at one of the Hawk basketball games.

For more information, call Linda Berry at 264-5024.

'Meet the Bulldogs' set for Monday

The Coahoma Booster Club will be holding a "Meet the Bulldogs" event on Monday in the Coahoma Elementary School cafeteria.

The event will begin at 7 p.m.

Youth bowling league sign-up to be Sept. 6

The YABA-sanctioned Youth Bowling League will begin registering bowlers for this season at 10 a.m. on Sept. 6 at the Bowl-A-Rama.

A parent's meeting will be held at 9 a.m.

YMCA slated to hold Putt Putt tournament

The Big Spring Family YMCA will hold a putt putt golf tournament on Aug. 30 at the Big Spring Putt Putt course on Highway 87 south of the city.

Golfers can register to play in either the Youth division (12 and under), Teen (13-17) or Adult (18 and over). Trophies will be awarded to the top three finishers in each division. The entry fee is \$10 per player for the 18-hole event.

Entry forms are available at the course or at the YMCA.

BSHS season tickets now on sale at ATC

Big Spring High School football season tickets are on sale at the ATC. Tickets can also be purchased for individual games.

For more information contact Kay Cook at 264-3662.

Football officials needed for '03

Football officials are needed for the upcoming 2003 season. Persons interested should call Delvin Guinn at (432) 267-9729.

Longhorns to host softball tourney

The Big Spring Longhorns will host the Hook-Em Ups For LULAC Softball Tournament on Aug. 23-24 at Comanche Trail Park.

For more information, call Sally Grant at 393-5237 or Mike Hilario at 267-6619.

ON THE AIR

| Sports Broadcast Schedule | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Event, Time | Station |
| Rangers vs. White Sox, 6:30 p.m. | 1490 |
| Aug. 21 | |
| Event, Time | Station |
| Cowboys vs. Steelers, 6:30 p.m. | 95.7 |
| Aug. 21 | |

Baylor vows to stay in Big 12

WACO (AP) — A player killed, NCAA violations and an attempted coverup of misdeeds by the head coach have raised questions about the future of Baylor men's basketball and whether the school needs to stay in the Big 12.

But even after a summer of scandal, it appears unlikely the Big 12's smallest and only private school will leave the conference, either on its own or forced out by the league.

"Our commitment certainly is to remain in the Big 12," Baylor President Robert Sloan Jr., said this week. "The answer is not to run away from problems but to face them. Very clearly, we face some problems."

Baylor's football and men's basketball teams — typically the money makers of any athletic program — routinely finish at or near the bottom of the league. The football team has won four Big 12 games in seven seasons. The *Waco Tribune-Herald* has reported the athletic program ran a deficit of \$9.1 million last year.

While Baylor's troubles have become a hot topic of Texas editorial pages, Internet message boards and radio talk shows, Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg said he's heard no rumblings of discontent from the league's other members.

"We've received no calls from (members) suggesting Baylor should go," Weiberg said.

Big 12 bylaws require nine members to vote to expel a school, something several school presidents have said is unlikely.

"I don't think that would be a good idea," Kansas President Robert Hemenway said. "My personal feeling is they have a very tragic situation."

Even if the league wanted to dismiss Baylor, that would mean finding a replacement school, which comes with its own complications because of scheduling and contractual obligations. And if Baylor wanted to leave on its own, where would it go?

Under even normal circumstances, leaving the Big 12 would be a difficult decision.



The Big Spring Steers will make their final preseason outing of the year this afternoon against the Lamesa Golden Tornadoes. The Steers, who are set to begin the scrimmage at 4:30 p.m. in Lamesa, will open the 2003 season next Friday at home against Odessa High.

Steers end preseason with scrimmage against Lamesa

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers will put to rest another preseason this afternoon when they get the chance to go head-to-head in a controlled scrimmage with the Lamesa Golden Tornadoes.

The scrimmage, which is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m. in Lamesa, will be Big Spring's final tune-up bout before beginning preparations for the 2003 season

opener against Odessa High next week. The Steers scrimmaged El Paso Socorro last week at Memorial Stadium.

This afternoon's scrimmage will mark the final opportunity for several players to nail down preseason starting roles. Big Spring head coach Dwight Butler, who is entering his 13th year as BSBS' mentor, heads into next Friday night's opener needing to plug in new players at quarterback, running back, wide receiver and

defensive tackle.

Quarterback Jerry Doport and Andy Lasater both performed well last week against Socorro. Doport completed six straight passes for 76 yards — including a 44-yard strike to Mike Ornales for a score — and rushed for 40 yards. Lasater threw for more than 60 yards.

Marcus Gray, Taviance Clemons and Dennis Kimble are vying for the featured running back position.

Americans capture gold at World Championships

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The United States won the gold medal at the World Gymnastics Championships, the first gold in history for the Americans — men or women — at the biggest international event this side of the Olympics.

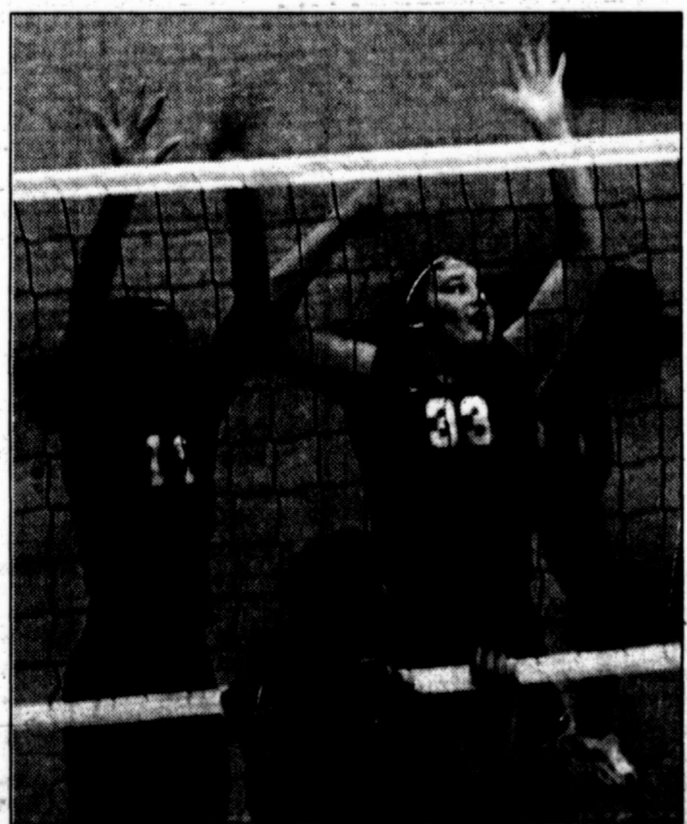
Romania took the silver medal and Australia took bronze. Chellsie Memmel, the alternate pressed into service late last week, is now 8-for-8 on routines in the team prelims and finals.

Hollie Vise had to compete with her participant number scrawled on a piece of paper in black marker and taped to her leotard.

The Chinese women were docked .2 points, costing them the bronze medal at the meet, because an athlete warmed up on the podium before judges cleared her to step onto it.

The .2 points dropped the Chinese to 110.259 points, leaving them .076 behind Australia.

Rangers win eighth straight game
DETROIT (AP) — R.A. Dickey threw a six-hitter for his first major league shutout, and Alex Rodriguez homered for the third straight game as the Texas Rangers beat



Carmen Lewis (11) and Leina Braxton go for a block during the Lady Steers' win over Brownfield. Big Spring will make its home debut Tuesday in the Steer gym.

AUG 21 2003

| THURSDAY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| | KMID (2) | KPEJ (3) | KERA (3) | F:AM (3) | KOSA (7) | WFAA (3) | KWES (9) | WTBS (1) | UNI (3) | NASH (3) | TMC (3) | SHOW (3) | TLC (2) | HBO (2) | KMLM (3) | A&E (3) | DISC (3) | TNT (3) | DISN (3) | |
| 6:30 | News Midland | King of the Hill | Cyberchase | 7th Heaven | News (CC) | News (CC) | Seinfeld (CC) | Seinfeld (CC) | El Manantial | Blind Date | 10 Movie: Rare Birds | Happen? 25 Movie: Crossroads | Medical Detect | Showtime (CC) | Joe McGee John Hayes | American Justice | How Detectives | Law & Order (CC) (DVB) | Sister, Sister | |
| 7:30 | All ABC Bloopers | NFL Preseason | Suzie Qman: The Laws of Suspect | Amazing Race | All ABC Bloopers | Friends (CC) | Scrubs (CC) | Movie: Red Water (CC) | Velo de Nova | Star Trek: Next | " | " | Secrets of Fo- | Movie: The Last Castle | Update/Israel | Biography: Tom Hanks | Critical Rescue | Law & Order (CC) (DVB) | Movie: Jett Jackson: The Movie | |
| 8:30 | Extreme Makeover | Dallas Cowboys at | Money, The Lessons of | CSI: Crime Scene | Extreme Makeover | Will & Grace | Scrubs (CC) | " | Nina... Amade | Elimination | Domestic Disturbance | Movie: Novocaine | Crime Scenes | Flight 587: Disaster | " | Movie: Wolf (CC) | Before-Ruled | Movie: The Pledge | Movie: The Pledge | |
| 9:30 | Primetime Thursday | Pittsburgh Steelers | Best of Pledge | Whose Line? Whose Line? | Without a Trace (CC) | Primetime Thursday | ER (CC) | MLB Baseball: at San Francisco | Aqui y Ahora | Run & Slinky | Gary the Rat | Movie: The Smokers | Movie News | Flight 587: Disaster | Make- | " | " | " | " | Sister, Sister |
| 10:30 | News Nightline | 70s Show Raymond | " | 70s Club (CC) | News Late Show | News (CC) Nightline | News Tonight | at San Francisco | Primer Impacto | Stripperella | Run & Slinky | Smokers (CC) | Boxing: Showtime | Secrets of Fo- | Real Sex 24 (CC) | Hour of Healing | Third Watch (CC) | Critical Rescue | Movie: The Pledge | |
| 11:30 | Jimmy Kimmel | Susan Raymond | American Soundtrack: Rhythm, Love | Caroline Rhea | (CC) | Ent. Tonight Jimmy | (CC) Late Night | Glenia (CC) | En las Mejoras | Blind Date | Blind Date | Movie: The Eternal (CC) | Championshi | Crime Scenes | Greenlight Real Sports | Sam Peak Jesse Lee | Biography: Tom Hanks | Before-Ruled | Pledge | |
| 12:30 | AM Paid Program | AM Paid Program | Blind Date Beyond | Rhythm, Love | Goldin Sports | Late Late Show (CC) | Live (CC) Oprah | Fraser (CC) | 12:10 Movie: Top Gun | Highlander (CC) | " | Play-Mate of | 12:15 Movie: What's Love | Disaster | Movie: Update/Israel Warning | Warning | Movie: Columbo | Before-Ruled | " | |

DENNIS THE MENACE

MR. WILSON DOESN'T LIKE ANYBODY BUT HIMSELF WORKIN' IN HIS OLD GARDEN.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

Uh-oh! I think I'm in trouble. Mommy just called me 'young man.'

HAGAR

THE KING DOESN'T WANT YOU TO THINK OF HIS TAX COLLECTORS AS CRUEL, HEARTLESS MONSTERS...
AS A MATTER OF FACT...
THE KING DOESN'T EVEN WANT YOU TO THINK!

BLONDIE

WHAT A GREAT NAP! I FEEL LIKE A FIREBALL, READY TO TAKE ON THE WHOLE WORLD!
H.M. I WONDER WHERE EVERYONE IS?
Z-Z-Z

BC

RADIO THERAPY

THE SOLUTION TO TV BOREDOM

WIZARD OF ID

HOW LONG HAS THE JURY BEEN SEQUESTERED?
THEY'VE BEEN LOCKED UP AT THE PLAZA FOR TWO MONTHS, SURE!
GET THEM TWELVE ROOMS AT SOME FLEA BAG

AGNES

YOU SHOULDN'T WRITE A BOOK ABOUT HOW TO MAKE JUST YOU HAPPY... YOU SHOULD WRITE A BOOK TO HELP EVERYONE BE HAPPY.
LOOK... IF I'M NOT HAPPY, I CAN'T LOVE MYSELF, AND IF I CAN'T LOVE MYSELF, HOW CAN I LOVE OTHERS?
YOU ARE QUITE THE HUMANITARIAN.
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, LOVE YOURSELF FIRST, THEN YOU CAN BRANCH OUT INTO THE REST OF THE SLAG.

HI AND LOIS

LOOK AT ALL THE STUFF I FOUND ON THE ROOF, TRIxie!
SANTA MUST HAVE DROPPED IT ALL ON HIS WAY TO THE CHIMNEY!

MR. HOUSEWIFE

ARE YOU DOING OK?
YES.
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?
NO.
SEE? I CAN DRESS MYSELF.

SNUFFY SMITH

I GOT A FISH BONE STUCK BACK THAR, DOC!!
MY!! THAT'S A BIG 'UN!! I'LL REMOVE IT ON ONE CONDITION...
TELL ME WHAR YA CAUGHT THAT WHOPPER SO I CAN GO TRY MY LUCK!!

BEEBLE BAILEY

OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, HOW DID I GET STUCK WITH A SLOB LIKE SARGE?
WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN COMMON

This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Aug. 21, the 233rd day of 2003. There are 132 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
One hundred twenty-five years ago, on Aug. 21, 1878, the American Bar Association was founded in Saratoga, N.Y.

On this date:
In 1831, former slave Nat Turner led a violent insurrection in Virginia. He was later executed.
In 1858, the famous debates between senatorial contenders Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas began.
In 1940, exiled Communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky died in Mexico City from wounds inflicted by an assassin.
In 1945, President Truman ended the Lend-Lease program that had shipped some \$50 billion in aid to America's allies during World War II.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Melvin Van Peebles is 71. Singer Kenny Rogers is 65. Actor Clarence Williams III is 64. Rock-and-roll musician James Burton is 64. Singer Harold Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 64. Singer Jackie DeShannon is 59. Actress Patty McCormack is 58. Actress Loretta Devine is 54. TV host Harry Smith is 52. Singer Glenn Hughes is 51. Country musician Nick Kane is 49. Actress Kim Cattrall is 47. Actress Carrie-Anne Moss is 33. Rock musician Liam Howlett (Prodigy) is 32. Actress Alicia Witt is 28. Singer Melissa Schuman (Dream) is 19. Actress Hayden Panettiere is 14.

Answer to previous puzzle

| | | |
|------------|---------|--------|
| SCOTS | RAMB | TDS |
| IONIA | ABIT | SWAT |
| DOUBLEDARE | PINE | |
| ELSE | LID | ELANCE |
| REMO | SPENCER | |
| ADMITS | PELOSI | |
| BEAUS | GOVEN | TAB |
| LATS | SOLES | PILE |
| ENC | SIREN | GRETA |
| MAILED | NEESON | |
| ADMIRED | POTS | |
| LEADEN | SAT | TILT |
| LUKE | COPY | EDITOR |
| ACED | EVAN | AGOGO |
| HER | DATE | DENET |

Newsday Crossword

WHAT'S IN A NAME by Bob Peoples
Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS

- 1 Sprinter's goal
- 5 Dog's warning
- 10 Satirist Mort
- 14 Bailiwick
- 15 City on the Platte
- 16 Burn balm
- 17 Bill Clinton biography
- 20 Hire
- 21 Johnny-come-latelies
- 22 Brand of building blocks
- 24 Ft. Wayne's home
- 25 Swimmer's regimen
- 28 Greet the day
- 31 Software test version
- 35 Khan's title
- 36 Book part
- 37 Italian isle
- 38 Politically moderate
- 41 NFL great Hirsch
- 42 Spill the beans
- 43 Live and Let
- 44 Be unsteady
- 45 1992 presidential candidate
- 46 Fax button
- 47 Hotel freebie
- 49 Make a trade
- 51 Sales points
- 56 European plane maker
- 60 Speech-ending phrase

DOWN

- 1 Teddy Roosevelt successor
- 2 Donizetti ditty
- 3 Fringe benefit
- 4 Art stands
- 5 Losing control
- 6 DDE's veep
- 7 Pearl Harbor locale
- 8 House bigwig
- 9 TV canine
- 10 Restaurant offering
- 11 Winglyke
- 12 Party thrower
- 13 Not as much
- 18 Large digit
- 19 Package: Abbr.
- 23 Baltimore bird
- 25 Less plausible
- 26 Lively
- 27 Mission priest
- 29 Surmise
- 30 Donnybrooks
- 32 Lyric poem
- 33 Get in shape
- 34 Helped out
- 36 Foxy
- 37 100 yrs.
- 39 "Talk to the Animals" doctor
- 40 Big trouble
- 45 Read carefully
- 46 Slather on
- 48 Den dweller
- 50 Be under the weather
- 51 Lay an egg
- 52 Roof overhang
- 53 "Pronto!"
- 54 Haiti seasons
- 55 Tizzy
- 57 Indonesian island
- 58 Manipulative sort
- 59 Manuscript marking
- 61 Singleton

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