



INSIDE
San Antonio
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VOLUME 101, NUMBER 141

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Flight training program short list remains on hold

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

For anyone that's been involved in governmental or military affairs, it's a common theme — hurry up and wait.

According to Kent Sharp, executive director of Moore Development for Big Spring, that's the message from the federal government concerning the "short list" for a proposed

Air Force Introductory Flight Training (IFT) program, which could be located at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

"It's kind of an extension on a previous delay," said Sharp. "The list was originally due out on May 6, but they delayed it a week. Now they are telling us just to be patient and they will have it out as soon as they can. When that will be, however, is totally up in the air."

Sharp said the anticipation directed at the list may be reaching a fever pitch as an undisclosed number of cities hold their economic breath, but it's still not the end of the process.

"Essentially it's a short list, but the Air Force calls it a competitive range," said Sharp. "All of the proposals that have been submitted for the project will be narrowed down to those

that fall within a competitive range.

"The list is designed to weed out the offers that simply aren't competitive. I don't know how many have been submitted — information like that is being kept secret — so there's no way of knowing how long that 'short' list is going to be."

Efforts to bring the program to Big Spring began in mid-2004, when Moore Development,

the city of Big Spring and several other local agencies joined forces to bring the program to the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

The program is expected to involve initial flight screening of up to 1300 aircrew training candidates each year, with screening of the initial class of students expected to begin in October of 2005. The initial con-

See **DELAY**, Page 3A

Moore Board to eye VAMC impact study

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Moore Development for Big Spring's board of directors is expected to consider financing an economic impact analysis on the effect the Big Spring VA Medical Center closure could have on the community.

Moore Development Executive Director Kent Sharp said he will request the agency finance such a study, which represents a considerable "blind spot" in the feasibility study being conducted.

"I spoke with the subcontractor that's handling the economic side of the study, and they informed me an economic impact analysis of what will happen if the facility is closed isn't a part of the study's scope," said

Sharp. "We think this is really a no-brainer, so I'm going to request we have the analysis done ourselves."

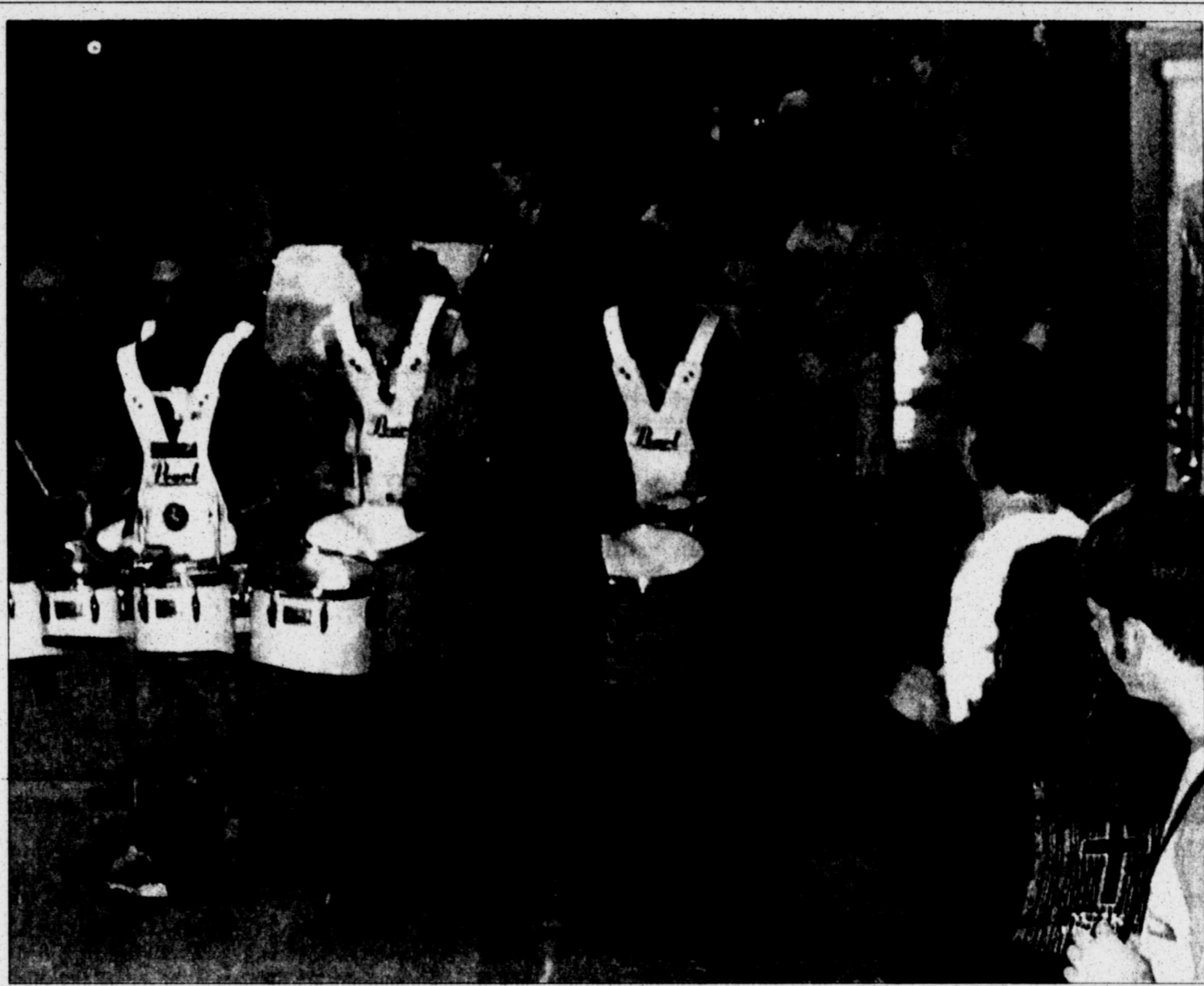
Sharp said the analysis should cost approximately \$1,000.

"I've been shopping around, and for the most part it's not a very expensive study," said Sharp. "We already have all of the information needed for the study, it's just a matter of putting it all together."

Once completed, Sharp said the results of the analysis will be turned over to the CARES Local Advisory Panel (LAP), which would then submit it to be included in the study.

In December 2002, former Veterans Affairs

See **STUDY**, Page 3A



Big Spring High School students line the hall as the BSBS Band's drum line leads the way during Tuesday's State March at the high school. State March is an annual event in which BSBS students who qualified for state-level events are paraded through the school.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan



Richard Light, right, director of curriculum for the Big Spring Independent School District, talks with Shelley Smith, center, and Cindy Smith, during a reception in his honor at the high school board room recently. Light is retiring effective June 5 after 31 years in education.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

BSISD trustees to handle personnel matters during special Thursday session

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Personnel matters will constitute a big portion of business when the Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees holds a special meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes said it is standard operating procedure for the district to hold special meetings late in the school year to address last-minute personnel needs.

"It's not unusual for us to have special meetings in May or June," Downes said. "When you have the opportunity to hire top-quality candidates, you have to do it as soon as possible."

Topping the list of potential hires is Darrell Ryan, who has been selected to replace the retiring Richard Light as director of curriculum/federal programs for the district. Ryan, who has 38 years experience in the education field, is expected to assume his duties on June 6.

In addition, trustees are expected to hire two teacher/coaches for the high school, a diagnostician at the high school, and a district-wide technology technician.

In other business, trustees will consider adding 30 minutes to the school day effective for 2005-06.

Downes said the measure, which trustees began looking at a year ago, would allow teachers more time to prepare stu-

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AMERICAN PROFILE



Memorial Day is a special occasion in Waterloo, N.Y. (pop. 7,866), where residents as far back as 1866 have closed their businesses and decorated the graves of fallen soldiers with

flowers and flags. The town, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson in 1966, has become known as the Birthplace of Memorial Day — a title that residents proudly accept.

RELAY A SUCCESS

The 11th Annual Relay For Life was declared a success during the organizers' wrap-up party Tuesday night.

Event co-chair Phyllis Turney said this year's Relay has raised \$176,558 to date for the American Cancer Society. That marks a decrease of about \$25,000 from last year, but that did nothing to dampen Turney's appreciation of organizers' efforts.

"Ya'll are an awesome group of people, and this is one awesome committee," Turney said.

See Page 3A

BLOOD DRIVES

Thursday, May 26
— Big Spring VA Hospital, 300 Veterans Blvd., Room 219, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. To register, call Iva Jo Hanslik at 264-7135.



Friday, May 27
Big Spring State Hospital Health Fair, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 97, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. To sign up, call Melvin at 268-7372.

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Obituaries

Mac Haymes



Mac Haymes, 83, of Odessa died Sunday, May 22, 2005, at his residence. Funeral services are 10 a.m. Friday, May 27, 2005, at Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

There will be a visitation 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday at Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home.

He was born Aug. 20, 1921, in Munday to Floyd and Emma Haymes. He worked for TU Electric for 38 years and retired in 1986. He was a member of Highland United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Carrie Neal Russell in 1984, and two brothers, Floyd Lee and Robert Haymes.

He is survived by his sons, Tommy Lee Haymes of Lubbock and Russell Mac Haymes of Athens, Greece; sisters, Flo Nobles of Big Spring and Helen Cox of Corpus Christi, six grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Parkinson's Association.

Arrangements are under the direction of Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home in Odessa.

Roger Lee Evans



Roger Lee Evans, 63, of Big Spring died Saturday, May 21, 2005, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Friday at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church with the Rev. E.C. Wilson of Terrell officiating. Burial will be in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church following the services.

He was born July 12, 1941, in Anson to Frankie and Jasper Evans Sr., and moved to Big Spring in 1955 from Brady. He was employed for more than 20 years for Steere Tank Lines. He was a member of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church.

He is survived by five brothers, Thomas Evans of Big Spring, Charles Evans of Denver, Colo., Leonard Evans of Big Spring, Herman Evans of Midland and James Labrew of Big Spring; four sisters, Ruth Akins of Midland, Debora Collins of Sherman, Margie Belvin of Amarillo and Deidra Avery of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by one brother, Samuel T. Evans and one sister, Dorothy Ann Sherman.

The family will be at 1313 Kindle. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Arthur Monroe Gafford

Arthur Monroe Gafford, 92, of Bastrop, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, May 23, 2005, in an Elgin nursing home. Graveside funeral services with Masonic Rites are 10 a.m. Thursday, May 26, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Bob Hopkins, associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Midland, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. today Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Weather

Today — Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 90s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Tonight — Increasing clouds. A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday — Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Not as warm. Highs in the upper 70s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday night — Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. East winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Friday — Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night — Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Saturday — Partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Sunday — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Sunday night — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Memorial Day — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Monday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s.

Support groups

THURSDAY
• Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. today:

- MAURICE NEAL, 22, of 1708 W. Third Street, was arrested Tuesday on three local warrants.
- RICKIE DELL HAIR, 31, of 803.5 E. 14th Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- HEATHER ATKINSON, 25, of 110 Scout Hut Road, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of a controlled substances and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- PATRICK KESLER, 26, of 1105 Mulberry, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- LAVON RENE HAGGARD, 36, of 706 Andree, was arrested Tuesday on two local warrants.
- STEPHEN SCOTT BROWN, 55, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- LANDA COPELAND, 32, of 1400 E. 14th Street, was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving while intoxicated/open container - third or more offense and driving while license suspended.
- THEFT was reported in the 3800 block of Calvin.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported:
 - in the 800 block of Baylor.
 - in the 1500 block of Kentucky.
- POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 800 block of Baylor.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
 - in the 1200 block of Runnels.
 - in the 800 block of Owens.
- ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported in the 2000 block of Goliad.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. Wednesday:

- PAMELA GAIL HUITT, 36, was arrested on charges of attempting to take a weapon from an officer and resisting arrest.
- ALAN CATON POWELL, 31, was arrested on a charge of assault/family violence.
- ABEL GOMEZ, 28, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- FRANCISCO JESUS NIETO, 26, was transferred from the Big Spring Police Department after his arrest on a charge of driving while intoxicated, second offense.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported on the 300 block of W. Fourth Street.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. Wednesday:

- MEDICAL was reported on the 2000 block of Virginia Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported on the intersection of Highway 80 and Interstate 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported on the 175 mile marker of Interstate 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported on the 900 block of East 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported on the 1300 block of West Second Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported on the 1300 block of Utah Street. Service was refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported on the 1500 block of Wood Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

The winning numbers from Tuesday's multi-state Mega Millions lottery drawing: 9, 28, 39, 40, and 45. The Mega Ball number was 24. Number of winning tickets: None
Jackpot increases to \$80 million for Friday's drawing.

•••
The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery: 2-7-20-21-37

•••
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night, in order: 9-8-6

•••
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday afternoon, in order: 7-0-7

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Bulletin board

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

- TODAY**
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
 - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

- THURSDAY**
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
 - Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
 - Special meeting of the Big Spring Independent School District trustees to discuss personnel issues at 5:15 p.m. in the board room.
 - Forsan High School graduation. Call Forsan ISD at 457-2223 for more information.
 - Coahoma High School graduation in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Call Coahoma ISD at 394-4290 for more information.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
 - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Big Spring High School graduation in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Call Big Spring ISD at 264-3600 for more information.
 - Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

- SATURDAY**
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

- MONDAY**
- Memorial Day holiday.
 - The 39th annual Splash In and Movies in the Park is 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. in Comanche Trail Park. The movie, "The Incredibles" will start at 8 p.m. in the Amphitheatre. Free admission to the pool and the movie.

- TUESDAY**
- Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
 - Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 14th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.

- WEDNESDAY**
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
 - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
 - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

- THURSDAY**
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

Holiday Hours

The Big Spring Herald office will be closed Monday, May 30, 2005 in observance of Memorial Day

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEADLINES ARE ADJUSTED AS FOLLOWS:

- Deadline for Monday's paper, Friday 3 p.m.
- Deadline for Tuesday's paper, Friday 4 p.m.

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Relay declar during

By STEVE RE/ Staff Writer

The 11th Annual For Life was success during nizers' wrap Tuesday night.

Event co-chair Turney said Relay has raised to date for the Cancer Society marks a decade about \$25,000 year, but that appreciation efforts.

"You'll see a group of people is one awesome," Turney said. "They're out there having fun. They're having fun. They're appreciating the money is the Relay."

For fellow country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

"My reward was watching Survivors' La referring to 1 of the Relay was survivors mandatory track. "We a this year."

The Turney down as ever sons, figurating the baton and Vickie St will head n Relay.

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STUDY

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Relay for Life co-chairs declare 2005 a success during wrap-up party

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The 11th Annual Relay For Life was declared a success during the organizers' wrap-up party Tuesday night.

Event co-chair Phyllis Turney said this year's Relay has raised \$176,558 to date for the American Cancer Society. That marks a decrease of about \$25,000 from last year, but that did nothing to dampen Turney's appreciation of organizers' efforts.

"Ya'll are an awesome group of people, and this is one awesome committee," Turney said. "How do we keep raising so much money for cancer research in this small, financially strapped town? It's the teams ... They're out there having garage sales. They're having cake sales. They're having car washes. We appreciate our underwriters tremendously ... but team money is the meat of Relay."

For fellow co-chair Jeff Turney, the highlight of this year's event was one he couldn't place a price tag on.

"My reward this year was watching the Survivors' Lap," he said, referring to the portion of the Relay when cancer survivors make a celebratory lap around the track. "We added to it this year."

The Turneys now step down as event chairpersons, figuratively handing the baton to Howard and Vickie Stewart, who will head next year's Relay.

"I've had a wonderful

two years," Phyllis Turney said. "It's very bittersweet giving this up to Howard and Vickie. I've loved every step of the way ... and without Jeff, I couldn't have done it."

Underwriters for this year's event, and their contributions, included:

- Wal-Mart and HEB Grocery Store — \$5,000.
- Choate Well Service and Wells Fargo Bank — \$1,500.
- Area Wide Phone Book — \$1,400.
- ALON USA — \$1,250.
- Home Hospice, State National Bank, Western National Bank, Parks Agency, Red Mesa Grill and Big Spring Independent School District — \$1,000.

Outstanding team fundraising efforts were also recognized by the presentation of Starz of Texas medals. Medal-winning teams included:

- Bronze medals (for teams that raised more than \$200 per member) — Team Presbyterian, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Rocking Team, Big Spring Banking Buddies, and Fuzzy's Crew.
- Silver medals (for teams that raised more than \$350 per member) — Wal-Mart, Reba's Bosom Buddies, and the Yellow Dog Dare Devils.
- Gold medals (for teams that raised more than \$500 per member) — Big Spring State Hospital and The Roughriders.

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

Lawmakers move closer to agreement on versions of school finance bills

By APRIL CASTRO
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — House and Senate negotiators inched closer to an agreement Tuesday on what tax plan they hope to adopt to lower school property taxes and increase education funding.

With less than a week left in the legislative session, tax writers were down to a few major differences on how they'll raise money for schools and property tax cuts.

"They're making progress. I think they're down to fewer issues that had them apart days ago, so everything is on schedule," said Gov. Rick Perry.

Republican Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who presides over the Senate, spent almost two hours Tuesday afternoon with House Speaker Tom Craddick discussing the outstanding issues.

The main stumbling block still seemed to be how much money they'll get from Texas businesses, which now use loop-

holes to largely avoid paying any state taxes.

"We can't get past the number one issue and that is how much businesses should pay," said Sen. Kim Brimer, a Fort Worth Republican.

Late Tuesday night, the Senate approved a separate revenue bill, attaching some measures that would raise money for schools. That bill closes the so-called Delaware and Geoffrey loopholes in the business tax, expected to generate about \$864 million over the next two years. The measure still must be approved by the House to become law.

Making sure that the final legislation does not push the business tax burden onto consumers is a prime focus for the Senate, Dewhurst said.

"That's not fair, just as it's not fair to move consumer taxes onto businesses when we're trying to grow the economy and create new jobs," he said.

Negotiations had been stalled as the House waited for numbers from the comptroller's office on an

alternate business tax plan. Dewhurst said repeatedly this week that an agreement on the business tax could be reached in a matter of hours, given the opportunity to sit down with a "motivated counterparty."

Craddick would not talk with reporters following his discussion with Dewhurst.

Both the House and Senate proposals would tighten the loophole-ridden franchise tax to require all businesses to pay. Each bill also gives employers an option of the tax formula they like best.

Another sticking point has been the amount both sides want to increase the sales tax, which is now 6.25 percent. House members want to go up a penny, while senators are adamant about keeping it lower.

"We can make some adjustments there, but we're not willing to go to a full penny on sales tax like they are," Brimer said.

Both sides seemed to

agree to scrap a proposed 3 percent tax on snacks, but still differed on including a new excise tax on alcohol.

Lawmakers from each side also said they agreed on the amount of property tax reduction from the current maximum \$1.50 per \$100 of property value to \$1.15 in 2006 and \$1.10 the next year. That's a lower rate than both chambers originally proposed.

Later, however, Dewhurst said a consensus on property tax reduction had not yet been reached.

"I think the speaker understands that time is passing and we need to focus on resolving these few outstanding issues," he said.

Both sides have said that without a school finance compromise by Thursday, its chances of happening this session dim considerably. The session ends Monday and Perry has expressed reluctance for calling a special session on the issue.

Bill would change college financial aid requirements

By BRANDI GRISSOM
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — It would be a little easier for students to keep state grants to attend public universities under a bill the House tentatively approved late Tuesday to lower the grade point average needed to maintain the grants.

During debate on the bill, the House also reaffirmed its commitment to allow public universities to set their own tuition rates, a power the Legislature granted them

in 2003.

For the grants, current law requires university students to maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher to keep their TEXAS Grant, which pays tuition and fees for financially needy students. Students who receive the Texas Equalization Grant, a similar program for private schools, need maintain only a 2.0 GPA.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Geanie Morrison, R-Victoria, would require students receiving the

grants for either public or private schools to have a 2.0 GPA to maintain eligibility. Originally, the legislation would have increased the standard for both to a 2.5 GPA, but critics worried that doing so would eliminate grants for 3,700 private school students.

"I just don't want to kick kids off of financial aid when they need it," said Rep. Sylvester Turner, D-Houston.

The legislation also prohibits students at private

universities from receiving both the TEXAS Grant and the Texas Equalization Grant.

The bill would require students to take at least 12 credit hours per semester to maintain either a TEXAS Grant or a Texas Equalization Grant. Currently, students must only complete 75 percent of the courses they register for to keep the grants.

STUDY

Continued from Page 1A

Secretary Anthony Principi established the Capital Asset and Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission to provide an independent

review of the draft national plan to realign the DAV's health care system. The commission suggested a feasibility study concerning the Big Spring facility be conducted.

Principi approved the award of the contract in January to conduct the business plan studies at 18 sites, including Big

Spring and Waco, identified by the CARES decision made in May of 2004.

According to information released by the VA, study recommendations — including those from stakeholders — will be reviewed by the VA Under Secretary for Health and CARES Implementation Board,

consisting of senior VA officials who will make recommendations to the secretary.

The CARES LAP recently held the first of four meetings on the subject, including a presentation on how the feasibility study is being conducted. Tonight's meeting is expected to get under way

at 5:15 in the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Board Room, located at 215 W. Third Street.

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

DELAY

Continued from Page 1A

tract has option periods extending out to 2015.

In mid-January, Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen announced Big Spring's McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark was cho-

sen by aero-engineering giant Boeing as the sight for a U.S. Air Force Introductory Flight Training (IFT) program.

If Boeing ultimately receives the government contract, construction and renovations at the airpark could begin as early as mid-October, according to information

previously released by the government.

Whether or not the recent delays will effect that timeline is currently unclear, according to Sharp.

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

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

dents for mandated testing such as the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

"With increased curriculum requirements, our principals didn't feel

like they had enough time during the day to teach the things our kids needed to know ... to pass the TAKS," Downes said.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Patience a must when it comes to planning jail

With one county commissioner calling for a quick halt to the design phase of a proposed joint law enforcement center for Howard County, it's time to suggest a little patience.

Patience on Commissioner Gary Simer's part, that is.

Simer says the last time commissioners went through the design phase of a jail proposal, they spent \$400,000 in architectural fees and no jail was built.

That's true, but that was because the commissioners court decided not to proceed with the project.

So now Simer says he wants to proceed with a "ballpark figure of what the jail is going to cost" and take the issue to the vote of the public. He also says "someone" suggested building a new jail across the street from the courthouse.

The concept of taking the project for approval by voters is a good one, but they can't vote on probabilities or "ballpark figures."

That might be the way landscape contracts are handled, but it's no way to handle governmental projects with \$10 million price tags.

Simer has said he'd like to see the firms explore a second idea — the construction of a jail facility that doesn't include new offices for the Howard County Sheriff's office and Big Spring Police Department.

While other commissioners made little or no comment on Simer's suggestion during and after Monday's session, Phil Furqueron said stopping the design process for a joint law enforcement center could lead to a failed bond issue.

Although we have disagreed with Furqueron on other subjects in the past, there's no question we agree with his comments before the commissioners court.

"I think you have to educate the public on this, and part of that is giving them the graphics — the pictures and designs — to make a choice on," said Furqueron. "I think if you stop now, before you have those graphics, it could seriously hurt the chances of this bond election succeeding."

Certainly there's a possibility of having commissioners provide different options for the public. But different options would require additional architectural planning ... not less.

We all need to recognize that fact. Knee-jerk reactions are not a solution to Howard County's very real need for a new jail.

Yes, indeed. It's time for patience. It's much too early in the planning phase for the project for commissioners to make any final decision.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We can bloom with You, Lord.

Amen

A university course in rock & roll

"It's just amazing to watch kids grow musically. And they do it so quickly."

Dr. Dan Keast teaches music at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin in Odessa. He has been involved with music a long time.

"I started in Elementary School playing clarinet and pretty soon I became a tuba player because the school needed a tuba player. And from there I just enjoyed every weekend going somewhere to perform a solo, to march, to play in a band. I just found a home in music."

Dr. Keast is new to the University. He's just finishing his first year. The school had a music program years ago, but it was discontinued.

"I've been working with the University administration and



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

looking over the cultural opportunities here in Odessa. It's really amazing what's here. It's quite a lot. I think we're going to offer a wide range of music courses and focus on Mariachi music and Jazz music."

The University has fifteen courses in music now.

"A lot of them are individual classes. I'm the only fulltime music professor here, so if a student comes in and wants to play guitar, I'll place that student with a person who is extremely competent on that instrument. Our music appreciation course is quite popular. We've got a band now at the University and we're working on some ensemble singing groups."

Since UTPB has no practice rooms, Dan will play a variety of instruments in his classroom. The doors to the classroom are open, so people nearby hear music from a piano, trumpet or drum. Dr. Keast says plans are underway to get some state of the art practice rooms.

One course being offered this

summer is titled Jazz, Pop and Rock & Roll.

"I put it on the course docket hoping it would fill up," says Dan. "I taught it back in Nebraska a few years when I was teaching in public school and I taught it at the University of Missouri while I was working on my doctorate."

"We start off with jazz history and we do it the same way we do music history. We start at the very roots of it, Ragtime, and we trace it to New Orleans, to swing bands, bop music, cool music and then all of a sudden we have the splinters of jazz, going into jazz fusion and jazz rock and all these other little splinters, then into the neo-classic stuff that we're enduring today. We spend the third week of the course in popular songs, such as Tin Pan Alley, and how that music exploded into Rock and Roll in the 1950's."

"I like to cover how society reacted to rock & roll. Time magazine referred to it as the most hideous form of music ever conceived by the mind of man."

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL ©05



Duck and cover time in Austin

Here in the National Laboratory for Bad Government, it's Duck and Cover time — the Legislature is in session. The Can't-Shake-Your-Booty bill passed the House, saving us all from the scourge of sexy cheerleaders. But nothing else is getting done. The state is being run by people who do not know how to govern. Keep in mind that based on past form, whatever lunacy is going on in Texas will eventually sweep the country.

Rarely are the words of one state legislator worth national attention, but when Senfronia Thompson, a black representative from Houston, stalks to the back mike with a certain "get-out-of-my-way" look in her eye, it's, Katie, bar the door. Here is Thompson speaking against the Legislature's recent folly of putting a superfluous anti-gay marriage measure into the state constitution:

"I have been a member of this august body for three decades, and today is one of the all-time low points. We are going in the wrong direction, in the direction of hate and fear and discrimination. Members, we all know what this is about; this is the politics of divisiveness at its worst, a wedge issue that is meant to divide."

"Members, this is a distraction from the real things we need to be working on. At the end of this session, this Legislature, this leadership will not be able to deliver the people of Texas fundamental and fair answers to the pressing issues of our day."

"Let's look at what this amendment does not do: It does not give one Texas citizen meaningful tax relief. It does not reform or fully

fund our education system. It does not restore one child to CHIP [Children's Health Insurance Program] who was cut from health insurance last session. It does not put one dime into raising Texas' Third World access to health care. It does not do one thing to care for or protect one elderly person or one child in this state. In fact, it does not even do anything to protect one marriage."

"Members, this bill is about hate and fear and discrimination. . . . When I was a small girl, white folks used to talk about 'protecting the institution of marriage' as well. What they meant was if people of my color tried to marry people of Mr. Chisum's color, you'd often find the people of my color hanging from a tree. . . . Fifty years ago, white folks thought interracial marriages were 'a threat to the institution of marriage.'"

"Members, I'm a Christian and a proud Christian. I read the good book and do my best to live by it. I have never read the verse where it says, 'Gay people can't marry.' I have never read the verse where it says, 'Thou shalt discriminate against those not like me.' I have never read the verse where it says, 'Let's base our public policy on hate and fear and discrimination.' Christianity to me is love and hope and faith and forgiveness — not hate and discrimination."

"I have served in this body a lot of years, and I have seen a lot of promises broken. . . . So . . . now that blacks and women have equal rights, you turn your hatred to homosexuals, and you still use your misguided reading of the Bible to justify your hatred. You want to pass this ridiculous amendment so you can go home and brag — brag about what? Declare that you saved the people of Texas from what?"

"Persons of the same sex cannot get married in this state now."

Texas law does not now recognize same-sex marriages, civil unions, religious unions, domestic partnerships, contractual arrangements or Christian blessings entered into in this state — or anywhere else on this planet Earth.

"If you want to make your hateful political statements then that is one thing — but the Chisum amendment does real harm. It repeals the contracts that many single people have paid thousands of dollars to purchase to obtain medical powers of attorney, powers of attorney, hospital visitation, joint ownership and support agreements. You have lost your way. This is obscene. . . ."

"I thought we would be debating economic development, property tax relief, protecting seniors' pensions and stem cell research to save lives of Texans who are waiting for a more abundant life. Instead we are wasting this body's time with this political stunt that is nothing more than constitutionalizing discrimination. The prejudices exhibited by members of this body disgust me."

"Last week, Republicans used a political wedge issue to pull kids — sweet little vulnerable kids — out of the homes of loving parents and put them back in a state orphanage just because those parents are gay. That's disgusting."

"I have listened to the arguments. I have listened to all of the crap. . . . I want you to know that this amendment [is] blowing smoke to fuel the hell-fire flames of bigotry."

Then they passed the amendment.

To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Great

Celebrate su night of the inviting friend ly over for a c party. Treat y to a delightf that's easy to p filled with big vors straight grill.

Mixing gre food and good a foolproof rec door entertaini Grilled Chick Vegetable Ka 1/4 cup olive 2 tbs white w gar

2 tsp McCorn Mates Montrea Seasoning 1/2 tsp McCoi Italian Seasoni 1 pound bone less chicken br Assorted vege pieces

Combine f ingredients in closing plasti glass bowl. C into 1.5-inch c bag or bowl. M refrigerator 30 longer for ex Remove chic marinade; di made. Spear c vegetables on i ers.

Lightly sprin en and veget additional ch soning. Grill k 15 minutes, t quently.

Makes 6 serv



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Grilled Chicken and Vegetable Kabobs

1/4 cup olive oil
2 tbs white wine vinegar

2 tsp McCormick Grill Mates Montreal Chicken Seasoning

1/2 tsp McCormick Italian Seasoning
1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast
Assorted vegetable pieces

Combine first four ingredients in large, self-closing plastic bag or glass bowl. Cut chicken into 1.5-inch cubes; add to bag or bowl. Marinate in refrigerator 30 minutes or longer for extra flavor. Remove chicken from marinade; discard marinade. Spear chicken and vegetables on metal skewers.

Lightly sprinkle chicken and vegetables with additional chicken seasoning. Grill kabobs 10 to 15 minutes, turning frequently.

Makes 6 servings



Grilled Chicken and Vegetable Kabobs

Sunset Patio Pasta

4 to 5 cups assorted vegetable pieces (such as zucchini, yellow squash, bell pepper, mushrooms and onion)

4 tbs olive oil, divided
3 tsp McCormick Grill Mates Montreal Chicken Seasoning, divided
2 tbs lemon juice

8 ounces penne pasta, cooked and drained

Toss vegetables with 1 tablespoon oil and 1 teaspoon chicken seasoning. Place vegetables in grill basket or on skewers; grill until tender, about eight to 10 minutes, turning frequently. In small bowl, combine lemon juice, 3 tablespoons oil and 2 teaspoons chicken seasoning. In large bowl, toss lemon juice mixture with cooked pasta and vegetables. Serve warm or chilled. Makes 6 servings

Zesty Red Wine and Herb Steak

1 tbs McCormick Grill Mates Montreal Steak Seasoning

1 tbs McCormick Italian Seasoning
1 tsp McCormick Garlic Powder
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce

1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 cup red wine
2 pounds top round steak, 1-inch thick

Combine first six ingredients in large, self-closing bag or glass bowl. Add steak and marinate in refrigerator 30 minutes or longer for extra flavor. Remove steak from marinade; discard marinade. Grill or broil steak 8 to 12 minutes per side or to desired doneness. Slice on diagonal and serve. Makes 6 servings

For more recipes visit www.mccormick.com



Zesty Red Wine and Herb Steak

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Do you have what it takes to dethrone the reigning Kikkoman Teriyaki Ultimate GrillMan?

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"My earliest memory of grilling is with my dad and brothers, buried in the snow of a Northeast winter. My mom wasn't the best cook, so we'd spend hours creating new marinades, since basically everything we ate had to be grilled," remembers "Grillman" Al.

To make Al's winning recipe, whisk 1 cup Kikkoman Roasted Garlic Teriyaki Marinade & Sauce, 1 cup dry sherry, 1 tablespoon maple syrup and 1/2 cup tomato paste.

Flatten 2 pounds of flank steak with a mallet; spread with scallions, season with salt and pepper. Roll up; marinate. Slice into pinwheels, skewer, grill and baste.

Al's preparation for steak is guaranteed to satisfy!

And, if you're a serious griller like Al, enter the Kikkoman Teriyaki Ultimate GrillMan Contest at ultimategrillman.com for a chance to win exciting prizes such as grills, BBQ accessories and Kikkoman Teriyaki Sauces and Marinades! The contest runs from May 30 through Sept. 5.

To enter:

- Submit your favorite grilling recipe that uses any Kikkoman Teriyaki Sauce or Marinade.

- Tell us why you use the Kikkoman Teriyaki that's featured in the recipe.

- Provide a unique grilling tip or "secret."

- Present the UPC code from any bottle of Kikkoman Teriyaki Sauce or Marinade.

For more information,



Al Weiner

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Check out the Kikk Up The Flavor Sweepstakes for a chance to win a trip to New York or San Francisco, a new 42-inch plasma screen TV or a \$500 shopping spree.

Look for sweepstakes information on specially marked bottles of Kikkoman Teriyaki Sauces and Marinades.

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including an entry form and complete contest rules, visit ultimategrillman.com or write to Kikkoman Teriyaki Ultimate GrillMan Contest, 1050 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111. Void in Vermont, Maryland and where prohibited.

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Library News

The library will be closed Saturday through Monday for the Memorial Day holiday.

We will reopen Tuesday. The library will be closed Saturdays for the months of June, July and August. Saturday hours will resume Sept. 10.



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

Registration for "Go Wild, Read!" will begin June 1 and will continue until June 3.

Cookies and punch will be served from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. on those three days to those who register.

Programs will be Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Wednesdays are for pre-schoolers and children who have completed the first grade.

Thursdays are for children in second through fifth grades.

I am repeating the Howard County Library's unattended child policy.

While we love to have children of all ages come to the library, please remember the following:

Children under the age of 6 should never be left alone in any area of the library; they must be accompanied by an adult or other chaperone.

If the responsible adult

cannot be found, staff will call the appropriate child welfare office (Howard County Sheriff's Department or Big Spring Police Department) and report an abandoned child.

School age children may use the library unattended, subject to all policies and procedures of the library. The complete policy is posted in the children's area and by the circulation desk.

I have gotten on a kick of reading mysteries that take place during Medieval times.

Authors who write this genre include Margaret Fraser — her character is Dame Frevisse. Dame Frevisse is a woman, as I understand, not quite a nun, not quite a layperson, in a convent in England.

She is a liaison between the secular world and the cloister.

Anyway, she is called upon to help solve mysteries that come her way. The library has several volumes.

A new author is Michael Jecks, who writes the Knights Templar mysteries. The book we have is "A Moorland Hanging."

Simon Puttock becomes involved with tin mining and the rights of miners in this mystery.

Murder, love and avarice all play a part in the conundrum.

A third writer is Peter Tremayne who writes the Sister Fidelma mysteries. These take place in

Ireland just when Christianity has taken hold, although some of the old religion still remains.

The library only has two of his books, but they are well worth picking up at any book store.

Another author is Sharon Kay Penman who writes of King Richard II, Eleanor of Aquitaine, etc. Justin deQuincy is her main character.

Justin is a "Queen's Man" for Queen Eleanor and takes on various projects that usually pertain to murder for Eleanor.

The latest book about Scott Peterson has arrived.

Written by former judge and current Court TV host, Catherine Crier, it is titled "A Deadly Game: The Untold Story of the Scott Peterson Investigation" (364.152 CRI C).

Although much of the information in this book has been reported previously or revealed at trial, anyone looking for a comprehensive overview of the case will find it here.

The authors chart not only the police investigation and trial but the personal and family history of Scott and Laci.

A more balanced examination of the case is all that's missing to make this book really stand out.

Had the authors started from a presumption of innocence and turned a critical eye on the investigation, which yielded more circumstantial than

solid forensic evidence, the book would have been more compelling, but its thoroughness will draw many readers nonetheless. This review is taken from the Amazon.com website.

Do you watch "The Medium" on television? Allison Dubois is the woman who inspired that NBC television series.

"Don't Kiss Them Good-Bye" (133.910 DUB A) is the story of how Alison began to fully realize her abilities to sense feelings and communications from those who have died.

Pope John Paul II made

a tremendous impact of people's lives.

In "Memory and Identity: Conversations at the Dawn of a Millennium" (282 POP J), the Pope's viewpoints about global politics, his views on freedom and democracy and his request for a dialogue between religions and civilizations is recorded for the first time.

This is a thought-provoking book and a unique look at a person who led the Catholic Church through some turbulent times.

The Howard County Library is open from 9

a.m. until to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday and is closed Saturday for the summer.

The Internet/video room is closed from noon to 1 p.m. and closes one-half hour earlier than the library each day.

The library is located at 500 S. Main St.

The phone number is 264-2260.

The Website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; the catalog is online; the e-mail address is howard-countylibrary@hotmail.com.

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.



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IN BR

Big Spring's 2005 black tennis tournament

The 2005 Black Gold tennis tournament will take place at the Spring Junior Center through June 12. All players are invited to participate in three events limited to 16 players. All entries due seven days before the tournament begins.

The division boys' and girls' are 12 and under, and under-18 and under-19.

There will be adult singles for both men and women. The tournament is limited to the singles division. The cost to play is \$15, and three events are \$25 and \$35, respectively.

All matches will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Sarah Corse at 432-263-2277.

BSISD announces annual tennis tournament

Big Spring School has announced its annual tennis tournament will be held at the Figure Courts in Comanche Trail from June 6 through June 12. The camp will be held at 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day.

The cost to play is \$15, and three events are \$25 and \$35, respectively.

For more information, contact Smiley at 432-263-2277 or Ted Oleson at 432-263-2277.

Justin Cowbell's FunD tournament

The Big Spring Rodeo has announced a golf tournament to benefit the Justin Crisis Fund.

The tournament is scheduled for June 17. The event costs \$100 per player and includes lunch and prizes for the top three golfers.

For more information, contact Blasnigame at 432-263-2277.

Howard announces first of three camps

The Howard County women's tennis program will begin its summer camps.

The first camp will take place June 13 and is for seventh and eighth grade girls. The camp will move to June 14 for the shooting camp.

Registration for the camp will take place Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. The camp will be held from June 16 to June 18.

For more information, call head coach Diddle at 432-263-2277 or assistant coach Rodewald at 432-263-2277.

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Troy Hyde at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

IN BRIEF

Big Spring sets up 2005 black and gold tennis tournament

The 2005 Black and Gold tennis circuit will take place in Big Spring June 10 through June 11.

All players may enter three events, but are limited to two divisions. All entries are due seven days before the tournaments begins.

The divisions for boy's and girl's singles are 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under and 18 and under.

There will also be an adult singles division for both men and women. The divisions for doubles competitors are the same as the singles and there will be a mixed doubles division, as well.

The cost to play one event is \$15, while two and three events are \$25 and \$35, respectively.

All matches will be two out of three sets and only a tiebreaker in set No. 3.

For more information, contact Sarah Corse, Big Spring Tournament Director, at 432-263-2275.

BSISD announces annual tennis camp

Big Spring High School has set up its annual tennis camp for June 6 through June 9 at the Figure 7 Tennis Courts inside of Comanche Trail Park.

The camp will begin at 8 a.m. Monday and 8:30 a.m. all other days and will end at 11:30 a.m. every day.

The cost is \$100 and it includes a T-shirt.

For more information, contact Dennis Smiley at 263-3848, Sarah Corse at 263-2275 or Ted Olesen at 806-236-8901.

Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund tourney set

The Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo has announced a golf tournament to benefit the Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund.

The tournament is scheduled for Friday, June 17. The tournament costs \$50 per player and the fee includes lunch and fine prizes for top golfers.

For more information, contact Eddy Blassnigame at 263-8421.

Howard announces first of three camps

The Howard College women's basketball program will be hosting three camps this summer.

The first camp will take place June 13-16 and is for seventh-12th grade girls and is a shooting and offensive moves camp.

Registration will take place Monday, June 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. The camp goes from 9 a.m. to noon through June 16 and the cost is \$60 per person.

For more information or to pre-register, call head coach Earl Diddle at 432-264-5043 or assistant coach Eric Rodewald at 432-816-4327.

Hidalgo's big bat leads Rangers past Royals

ARLINGTON (AP) — Richard Hidalgo is starting to earn the \$5 million contract he received from the Texas Rangers last December.

Hidalgo homered twice to back Ryan Drese, and the Rangers beat the Kansas City Royals 4-3 Tuesday night to stretch their winning streak to a season-best four.

In the second inning, Hidalgo's two-run homer off the left-field foul pole gave Texas a 2-0 lead.

Hidalgo, a streaky hitter during seven seasons in the National League, added a solo drive in the seventh to make it 4-2.

Hidalgo, who has three homers in his last three games, raised his average to .216.

Barajas and Drese were involved in a confrontation in the Texas dugout in the middle of the sixth inning, apparently over pitch selection. Teammates and manager Buck Showalter separated

the pair, who were on the ground, and Barajas and Drese later shook hands when Drese was pulled from the game after the seventh.

After the game, Showalter acknowledged the episode, but downplayed it. Barajas and Drese refused to comment.

Drese (4-4), who had lost three of his previous four decisions, allowed two runs and seven hits in seven innings.

Francisco Cordero got three outs for his major league-leading 15th save in 17 chances, helping the Rangers (25-20) move five games over .500 for the first time this season.

Terrence Long hit a one-out single, took third on Ruben Gotay's double and scored when second baseman Alfonso Soriano bobbled the relay throw for an error.

With Gotay on second, Cordero struck out Angel Berroa, then ended the

game by throwing a called third strike past David DeJesus.

Kevin Mench's RBI double in the sixth against Runelvys Hernandez (2-6) broke a 2-2 tie. Soriano had a two-out single, stole second and scored on Mench's liner beyond third baseman Mark Teahan.

Hernandez gave up three runs and five hits in six innings for Kansas City, which dropped to 6-15 on the road.

In control

• Spurs go up 2-0, win another game in Phoenix

By BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Experienced, talented and poised, the San Antonio Spurs are well on their way to squashing the feel-good story of the NBA season.

Those fast, fun Phoenix Suns were given a playoff lesson in fourth-quarter basketball again Tuesday night. The result was a 111-108 victory by San Antonio that sends the Spurs home up 2-0 in the best-of-seven Western Conference finals.

No team has lost the first two at home and come back to win in the conference or NBA finals.

This time, it wasn't that Phoenix played poorly down the stretch.

"At some point, you have to say they deserved to win and they played better than us in the fourth quarter," the Suns' Steve Nash said. "Experience maybe gives them a lot of confidence, and maybe they do some little things."

After Nash's 3-pointer had given Phoenix a 102-100 lead, Robert Horry lived up to his reputation as "Big Shot Bob" with a 3-pointer, on a pass from Manu Ginobili, that put the Spurs ahead for good 103-102 with 2:31 to play.

Then, Ginobili turned magician, virtually making the ball disappear with a behind-the-back move for a reverse layup to make it 105-102.

The Suns' Amare Stoudemire missed a layup, then Ginobili sank an 18-foot jumper. San Antonio led 107-102 with 1:05 to play, and Phoenix was finished.

Tim Duncan, saddled with foul trouble in a miserable five-point first half, came back to score 25 in the second half, 14 in the fourth quarter.

Ginobili scored 26 points, and Tony Parker 24 for the Spurs.

The Suns again got big games from Nash and Stoudemire. Nash had 29 points and 15 assists, and Stoudemire scored 37.

Nash became the first player to have at least 25 points and 10 assists in four consecutive playoff games: Michael Jordan and Oscar Robertson did it three games in a row. Nash played 46 minutes, and his only break was for 1:45 in the fourth quarter.

For the second time in as many games, the Suns led entering the fourth quarter, then watched it slip away in the final minutes. And for the second time, the Spurs shot better than 70 percent (71



San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan pulls down a rebound in front of Phoenix Suns' Jim Jackson during second half action at America West Arena as the Spurs beat the Suns, 111-108, to win Game 2 in Phoenix, Ariz.

percent, 12-for-17) in the last quarter.

With the acquisition of Nash, the Suns used a turbocharged version of "small ball" to go from 29 victories to an NBA-best 62, the third-biggest turnaround in NBA history.

But the Suns' got a big dose of playoff reality against the Spurs, losing consecutive games for the first time since April 8-9.

See SPURS, Page 2B

Agassi falls at French, downplays retirement

By STEVE WINE

AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Andre Agassi, the oldest player at the French Open, felt his age Tuesday.

Hobbled by an inflamed nerve in his back that dates back months, Agassi lost in the opening round for the second year in a row. He didn't request treatment from a trainer but rarely ran after shots in the final two sets and lost to Finnish qualifier Jarkko Nieminen 7-5, 4-6, 6-7 (6), 6-1, 6-0.

The 35-year-old Agassi said the injury flared up in the third set.

"The nerve in my back started getting inflamed and sending pain all the way down my leg, and it was getting worse by the minute," he said. "To serve was painful, to move, to stand and even to sit. It was getting worse and worse."

Agassi said a cortisone injection he received in February alleviated the symptoms for a while, but his back began to bother him again about a month ago. He said he might need another shot to compete at Wimbledon.

"I have every intention of playing," he said. "Something tells me I'm at the stage of my career where I'm going to be liv-

ing with these injections."

Coincidentally, Agassi set an Open era record for men by playing in his 58th major event. He has lost in the opening round nine times. At Roland Garros, he failed to reach the third round for the seventh time in 16 appearances, but he won the tournament in 1999 to complete a career Grand Slam.

Also eliminated was Gustavo Kuerten, a three-time French Open champion who has battled hip trouble for years.

The unseeded Kuerten, who has won just two matches in 2005, lost to David Sanchez 6-3, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1.

No. 2-seeded Andy Roddick improved his modest career record at Roland Garros to 4-4 by beating French wild-card Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

The No. 6-seeded Agassi looked out of sorts from the start, and double-faulted four times in one game.

He overcame a set point in the tiebreaker and won it with a forehand return winner.

But even with the lead, he said he considered defaulting before deciding against it.

"I almost shook hands at two sets to one," he said. "I didn't want to leave that way."

Agassi sought relief by taking Advil but said a trainer could have done nothing to help him. Instead, he moved stiffly and suffered through the final two sets.

"It's disappointing not to be in a position to be competitive out there," he said.

Houston bullpen implodes as Astros fall to Cubs in Chicago

By RICK GANO

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Roger Clemens was breezing and then suddenly he was out of the game, forced to leave after five brilliant innings because of a groin injury.

Without the Rocket, the Houston Astros couldn't hold on, crumbling when closer Brad Lidge couldn't find the plate as the Chicago Cubs rallied with four runs in the eighth for a 4-2 victory Tuesday night.

"It's more than a mild strain, but I know my body and I didn't tear it," Clemens said. "I'm OK. It's iced down and numb and we'll start treating it tomorrow."

Clemens had retired 10 straight batters before walking Enrique Wilson

with two outs in the fifth. Manager Phil Garner and a trainer then ran to the mound to talk with Clemens, who stayed in the game and got the final out of the inning.

Jeromy Burnitz hit a two-run single with the bases loaded and two outs in the eighth off Lidge (1-2), who threw two wild pitches and walked two in blowing the save.

"No excuse. It was very frustrating for me to go out there and blow it for him," Lidge said. "I just had trouble putting my slider in the strike zone."

Clemens allowed two singles, walked one, struck out six, lowered his major league-best ERA to 1.19 and extended his scoreless streak on the road this season to 26 innings.

Chicago made it 2-1 in the eighth on a double by Jason Dubois and RBI single by pinch-hitter Todd Hollandsworth off Chad Qualls.

Lidge replaced Qualls and had control problems immediately, throwing a wild pitch to move Hollandsworth to second and then walking Jerry Hairston.

After getting Neifi Perez to hit into a short-to-third forceout, Lidge walked Derrek Lee to load the bases. Burnitz then sent a single to right to give the Cubs the lead. Lee later scored on Lidge's second wild pitch of the inning.

The struggling Astros, who had scored just 16 runs in Clemens' previous nine starts, gave him a working margin with two runs in the fourth.

Big Spring Playoff Softball

Class 4A Regional Final

No. 3 Big Spring (27-2) vs. Andrews (24-7)

8 p.m. Thursday at Mugs Field inside the Freddie Ezell Softball Complex in Midland

Regional Semifinal results:

Big Spring defeated Cleburne, 2-1

Andrews defeated White Settlement Brewer, 2-1

Coahoma Playoff Softball

Class 2A Regional Final

No. 6 Coahoma (23-11) vs. Tuscola Jim Ned best-of-three series

Game 1: Friday, noon at Snyder

Game 2: Saturday, 5 p.m. at Snyder

Game 3 (if needed) will be played 30 minutes after Game 2.

Regional Quarterfinal results:

Coahoma defeated Holiday, Jim Ned defeated Seymour

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IN BRIEF

C.G.A. sets annual scholarship tourney

The Chicano Golf Association has announced its 15th annual scholarship golf tournament will take place Saturday, June 11, through Sunday, June 12, at the Big Spring Country Club (Saturday) and Comanche Trail Park (Sunday).

The tournament will be a two person pick your partner scramble and costs \$75 per person. Proceeds will be used to help send local high school students to college.

For more information, contact Willie Mendoza at 267-7977 or Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

B.S. Country Club announces parent-child tournament

The Big Spring Country Club will host a parent-child golf tournament June 4 through June 5.

There will be a trophy division and an open division for the two person scramble. There will be a shotgun start both days as the tournament will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday and at 1 p.m. Sunday.

The entry fee is \$80 for the trophy division and \$30 for the open division plus the cost of a golf cart (private carts are welcome).

For more information, call 267-5354.

Milwaukee earns top selection at lottery

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer
SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP) — The Milwaukee Bucks not only beat the odds in winning the NBA draft lottery, they also improved their chances of keeping unrestricted free agent guard Michael Redd.

"I don't know if I'll sleep tonight," general manager Larry Harris said Tuesday after the Bucks jumped over five teams to earn the right to pick first in the June 28 draft.

Winning the pingpong ball lottery also offers the Bucks other options.

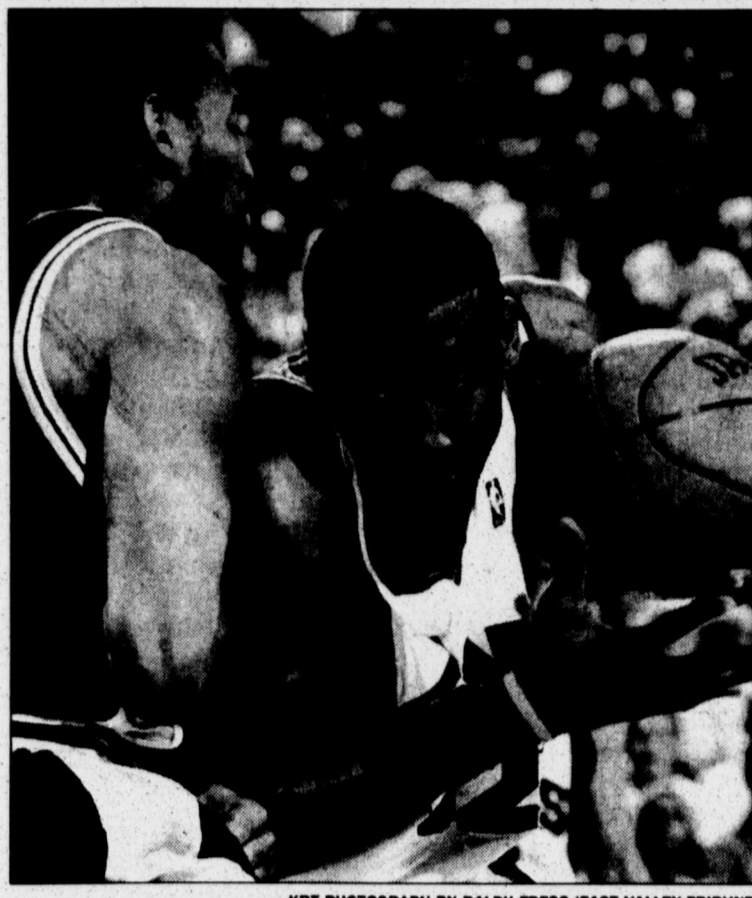
Milwaukee simply could use the pick to take a talented player such as center Andrew Bogut, forward Marvin Williams or point guard Chris Paul.

Having one of them could convince Redd to return. He has told Harris he wants to play for the Bucks again, but only if the team is able to contend.

Atlanta, which won a league-low 13 games and had the best chance of securing the No. 1 pick, will instead have the second choice.

Portland made the other big move in the lottery, jumping from No. 5 to third.

The big losers were New Orleans, Charlotte and Utah, which all dropped two spots in the order.



KRT PHOTOGRAPH BY RALPH FRESO/EAST VALLEY TRIBUNE
Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire lowers his shoulder as he tries to drive the lane on the San Antonio Spurs' Robert Horry during second half action at America West Arena as the Spurs beat the Suns 111-108 in Game 2 Tuesday.

NBA labor talks to continue

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer
SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP) — Just a week after suspending talks on a new collective bargaining agreement, the NBA and its players' union are returning to the negotiating table.

NBA commissioner David Stern said Tuesday that contract talks will resume soon.

Stern acknowledged before the NBA draft lottery that the league has spoken with the players' association since negotiations were suspended last week.

Stern laid out the framework for a new collective bargaining agreement Tuesday. He said the

league will guarantee that the players receive 57 percent share of the revenues, the same amount they currently get under the agreement negotiated in 1999. He said the league will raise the salary cap three percentage points and minimize the level at which the luxury tax clicks in.

If the players accepted the framework, Stern said the only key areas left to be negotiated would be non-economic — the length of player contracts, drug testing and minimum age.

The maximum current length of player contracts is seven years. The league wants it lowered to a possible five years.

SPURS

Continued from Page 1B

Horry's 3-pointer came from the corner on a pass from Ginobili, who had penetrated on the dribble. Popovich said it was a play called during a timeout. Ginobili said he didn't remember it that way.

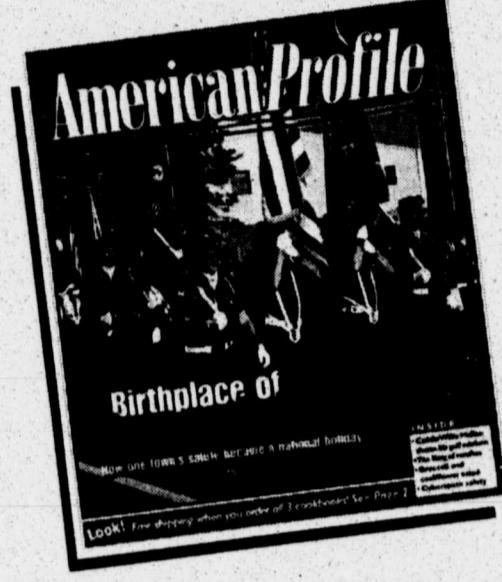
As for the behind-the-back maneuver for the reverse layup, Ginobili said it was a decision

made on the fly.

Nash had a shot to tie it at the end after Ginobili only one of two free throws with 4.2 seconds left. But the Spurs clamped on the defense, and the Suns' point guard was forced to take an off-balanced shot that was on the line but short.

Neither team will practice Wednesday. Workouts will resume Thursday with Game 3 not until Saturday night.

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



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