

Coahoma ISD bond issue fails at the polls

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A proposed \$11.9 million bond issue for Coahoma Independent School District failed Saturday evening with only 42 percent of the voters casting their ballot in the election supporting the measure.

The bond issue failed with 171 voters casting their ballots in favor of the bond, which would have been used for massive renovations at various CISD campuses, and 235 against the

issue.

The final tally came as a marked difference from early voting totals, which had the bond issue in a favorable light with voters 77 to 32.

Coahoma ISD Superintendent Jerry Johnson said the flip-flop nature comparison between the two totals was surprising, but not totally unexpected.

"I was surprised, but in a situation like this you never really know what's going to happen," said Johnson. "The peo-

ple that waited the three or four days between early voting and election day had more time to think about the issue, and a lot of times they get into groups, but I really can't see any one specific thing that pushed it one way or another between the two."

The majority of the funds represented by the bond issue — \$6.8 million — would have been used for renovations and construction at Coahoma High School, a new library/media

"There's wasn't any fluff involved in these plans. Everything we were asking for is a legitimate need that will have to be addressed. We may have to go back and prioritize those needs and decide where to go from there."

—Jerry Johnson, CISD superintendent

center, two additional science labs, 21 classrooms, new restrooms and locker rooms and an air conditioning system for the high school gym. The school board had also

See COAHOMA, Page 3A

Twins found dead

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

An autopsy has been ordered in the Sunday death of twin infants in south Howard County.

At approximately 9:27 a.m. Sunday, dispatchers at the Howard County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from "frantic" woman saying that her babies were dead, according to information released by the sheriff's office.

HCSO deputies and Emergency Medical Service technicians responded to Dawson Road in southern Howard County soon afterward.

Upon arrival, the 3-month-old twin infants — Christopher Ryan Petree and Nomi Michelle Petree — were found dead in the home, the information stated.

Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman ruled the infants dead at the scene at 11:50 a.m. Sunday and subsequently ordered an autopsy to determine cause of death.

The autopsies were performed this morning at the Texas Tech University forensics center in Lubbock, Wiseman said.

Officials with the sheriff's office declined to release any other names or details of the case, saying that it remains under investigation.

Funeral arrangements for the infants are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home in Big Spring.

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

PEEK OF NATURE'S BEAUTY



Area farmers aren't the only ones benefiting from recent rains as these "revitalized" morning glories peek out to greet the morning sun.

Energy audit on city agenda

Improvements would be funded by energy conservation income

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The go-ahead for a detailed energy audit from mega-corporation Siemens could get its first nod from the Big Spring City Council Tuesday.

The council is expected to hear first reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a notice of intent with Siemens Building Technologies for a detailed energy audit.

This comes on the heels of a budget session presentation from Siemens Account Executive Chad Nobles, who brought a program to the Big Spring City Council that would allow the city to make improvements based solely on money saved through energy and utility conservation.

Nobles described a 12-year contract between the city and Siemens that would include an estimat-

Council sets budget, tax rate hearing

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is set to hold a public hearing concerning the property tax rate for 2005 during its Tuesday meeting, with final reading of the 2005-2006 budget topping the agenda.

The budget has no increase in the tax rate, but does include some increases in utility rates.

The council recently presented the tax rate at 71.63 cents per \$100 valuation — the same rate adopted in 2004 — dur-

See BUDGET, Page 3A

ed \$5.5 million loan paid for through renovations to the city's infrastructure, including facilities.

See CITY, Page 3A

Symphony to begin season on Oct. 1

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

It's almost time to strike up the band — or orchestra, in this case.

The Big Spring Symphony Association is preparing for a season that orchestra leader Keith Graumann promises to be one of the best ever.

The symphony's season begins Oct. 1 at 8 p.m. in the municipal auditorium. For the fifth consecutive year, John Giordano, conductor emeritus of the

Fort Worth Symphony, will be guest conductor.

Also featured that night will be Italian pianist Davide Cabassi, a recent finalist in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, who will perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3.

Under Giordano's baton, the orchestra will perform Tchiakovsky's Symphony No. 4.

Giordano, Cabassi and Big Spring Symphony conductor Graumann will host a special children's program at 9:30 a.m. Sept.

30 in the auditorium.

"We want to help students understand symphonic music," Graumann said. "This is something we try to do a couple of times a year. Symphonic outreach is a very important part of what we do."

The season's second concert will be by the symphony's annual Christmas program, scheduled for Dec. 7. The orchestra will perform traditional holiday musical favorites, including the Nutcracker Suite.

On Feb. 4, 2006, the symphony will hold a Happy Birthday, Mozart concert.

Mozart's Symphony # 40 and his Eine Klenie Nachtmuzik will be performed by the orchestra, while featured soloist Peng Peng, a 13-year-old pianist from China, will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 20 in D Minor.

The symphony season concludes on April 8, 2006, when the orchestra, symphony chorale and other invited choirs perform Giordano's adapta-

tion of George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess.

"I think we've planned a season our audience will really enjoy" Graumann said. "Each year, we seem to be able to produce better concerts for the citizens of Big Spring."

Season ticket prices are \$50 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$15 for students. Individual performance prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$5 for students.

For more information on season tickets, contact Lane Bond at 263-4033.

INDEX

Classified 3-5B

Features 5A

Obituaries 2A

Opinion 4A

Sports 1-2B



TONIGHT 66-69° TOMORROW 90-93°

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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



The Friends of the Library needs good condition books for its annual sale.

Paperbacks and large print items are especially needed. Donated books can be delivered to the library weekdays during

regular operating hours. If you are unable to bring the books to the library, call 263-4980 and request a pick up. All money from the sale goes to purchase items not included in the library's regular budget.

BSHS OPEN HOUSE

Big Spring High School will hold an open house today from 7 p.m. until 8:15 p.m.

Students and their parents are asked to report to the student's first period classroom no later than 7 p.m. to meet the teachers and to receive information on academic planning and general school policies.

According to Principal Mike Ritchey, parents will also have the chance to meet all of their children's teachers during a student walk-through.

Anyone needing more information is asked to call 264-3641.

UW DINE OUT DAY

Herman's Restaurant on Gregg Street is the Dine Out Day restaurant Friday for United Way of Big Spring and Howard County.

A portion of the restaurant's proceeds that day will be donated to United Way.

The following Friday, the Dine Out Day restaurant will be Spanish Inn. Future Dine Out Day restaurants are Domino's, Sept. 30; Christene's, Oct. 7; Greg's Grill, Oct. 14; Gale's Sweet Shoppe, Oct. 21; and La Posada, Oct. 28.



Obituaries

Tillman Shoults

Tillman Shoults, 93, of Forsan died Saturday morning, Sept. 10, 2005, at Woodland Heights Hospital in Lufkin. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Jeff Jansa officiating. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Nov. 12, 1911, in Howard County to Hentz and Martha Shoults. Tillman married Ima Anita Huff Sept. 10, 1932, at Carlsbad, N.M. She preceded him in death July 22, 1996.

He was a lifetime resident of Howard County until 10 months ago, when he moved to Lufkin. Tillman owned and operated Shoults Construction in Forsan from 1936 until retiring in 1973. He was an avid fisherman and hunter, especially coon hunting.

He is survived by two sons, Jimmie Shoults and his wife, Vesta of Forsan and Jackie Shoults and his wife, Cindy of Snyder; three daughters, Patsy Girdner of Granbury, Judy Grigg and her husband, Buster of Lufkin and Joyce Alexander and her husband, Mack of Houston; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and wife, Tillman was preceded in death by three brothers and three sisters.

Pallbearers will be grandsons Steve Girdner, Kevin Girdner, Jim Shoults, Theron Grigg and Phillip Alexander.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Paid obituary

Larry Don Scott



Larry Don Scott, 56, of Midland died Thursday, Sept. 8, 2005, in a local hospital after an extended illness. Graveside services were 2 p.m. today, Sept. 12, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Bob Porterfield officiating.

He was June 1, 1949, in Big Spring to Dan and Roxie Scott. He served in the U.S. Navy as a corpsman, stationed in Florida. He worked for Richard's Texaco in Midland.

He is survived by his son, Jeffery Don Scott; sisters Sue Keller of Houston and Gwyn Horbath of Tulsa, Okla.; a granddaughter; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory in Midland.

Christopher Ryan Petree

Nomi Michelle Petree

Christopher Ryan Petree and Nomi Michelle Petree, 3-month-old twins, died Sunday morning, Sept. 11, 2005, at their residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Margarita Garcia

Margarita Garcia, 88, of Big Spring died Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005, in a McCamey hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Weather

Tonight — Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 11-21-23-36-42. Bonus Ball: 30.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$5 million.

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Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-13-16-17-18.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$34,053.
Winning tickets sold in: Austin.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

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The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order:
8-2-8

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon, in order: 3-7-4

Police blotter

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

- **BRITTANY VAUGHAN**, 26, 2911 W. Highway 80, was arrested on a Howard County warrant.
- **STACY PENDLETON**, 30, 1405 Sycamore, was arrested on Howard County warrants.
- **ROBERT BAKER JR.**, 31, 407 Donley, was arrested on charges of parole violation and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **JOHNNY REYES**, 17, 538 Westover, was arrested on two capias warrants.
- **DONALD LEACH**, 46, Lubbock, was arrested on two citation warrants.
- **DANIEL LEMON**, 37, 104 N.W. Fourth, was arrested on two local warrants.
- **AMBER MACKE**, 21, 802 S. Nolan, was arrested on local warrants.
- **JOEL RAY PEARSON**, 49, 1012 W. Third, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **THOMAS FAY**, 65, 2400 Alabama, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **MARK ANTHONY MOLINA**, 40, 502 E. 11th Pl., was arrested on charges of DWI second offense and driving while license invalid, enhanced.
- **ASSAULT BY THREAT** was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild and the 1900 block of Wasson Road.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 300 block of Brown.
- **ASSAULT ON A PUBLIC SERVANT** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING** was reported in the 1000 block of Main.
- **ABANDONMENT/ENDANGERMENT OF A CHILD** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED** was reported on the 200 block of Galveston.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place and the 1100 block of Lamesa Highway.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Seventh and Douglas streets. Two persons were transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Drexel. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of Interstate 20. One person was transferred to VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **TRASH FIRE** was reported in the 3600 block of Calvin. The blaze was extinguished.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabaugh. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of Johnson. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of Lindon. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 4600 block of S. Highway 87. Service was refused.
- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 1600 block of Lark.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 5000 block of Dawson Road. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 200 block of W. 17th. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2400 block of Rockhouse Road. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 900 block of Magnolia. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of W. 19th. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of State. One person was transferred to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in 18th and Gregg streets. One person was transferred to SMMC.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.
- Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
- Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacients meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
- Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY

- Howard-Glasscock Counties American Cancer Society director's meeting in the dining room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center at noon. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

WEDNESDAY

- Senior Leadership class begins.
- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- 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.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Monday:

- **FRANCIS MAURICE OVERTON**, 21, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on local warrants.
- **FRED EDWARD TURNER JR.**, 32, was arrested on a warrant charging theft.
- **RICHARD AARON DILLS**, 39, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, second offense.
- **CIMARRON Y. PARKER**, 22, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a motion to revoke probation for theft, a parole violation warrant and a charge of evading arrest.
- **STEPHANIE ANNE YANEZ**, 27, was arrested on a charge of theft of service.
- **ROCKY SANCHEZ**, 18, was arrested on a charge of theft.
- **DAVID SHAWN MENDEZ**, 19, was sentenced on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.
- **JOSE HGERMINIO RAMIREZ**, 42, was arrested on a bondsman off bond warrant for DWI third or more offense.
- **BOBBY LENN SIMMONS**, 37, was arrested on a warrant charging theft by check.
- **MARIO MARTINEZ**, 30, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- **BENJAMIN DEANDA III**, 18, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.
- **ROCKY ROBLES YANEZ**, 23, was arrested on a charge of DWI.
- **THOMAS FAY**, 65, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of DWI.
- **MARK ANTHONY MOLINA**, 40, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of DWI.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 4200 block of S. Highway 87.
- **HARASSMENT** was reported in the 1100 block of Highway 176.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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A special tour for a special event.

BirthPlace Tour: Monday, September 12 at 7:00pm

For over fifty years, little Midlanders and their families have counted on Midland Memorial Hospital... for life.

Meet us at the first floor lobby to take part in our special BirthPlace Tour. Visit our Postpartum, Labor, Delivery, Nursery, and our new Breast Feeding Shoppe, *Beautiful Beginnings*. Meet our outstanding staff and find out what to expect when your special time arrives.

The smallest details matter most to us. Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and *Beautiful Beginnings* in The BirthPlace at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus.



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Little in way to block Roberts as Senate hearings open

By **JESSE J. HOLLAND**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — On the opening day of confirmation hearings, Senate Republicans advised Supreme Court nominee John Roberts against responding to probing questions from Democrats on divisive issues: "Don't take the bait," said Texas Sen. John Cornyn.

vacy, election rights, capital punishment, judicial activism and the powers of the presidency and Congress. President Bush chose Roberts to be the nation's chief justice, and at age 50, the appellate judge has the potential to shape the high court for decades. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said the Senate must determine whether Roberts "has demonstrated a commitment to the constitutional principles that have been so vital in

advancing fairness, decency and equal opportunity in our society." Republicans warned Roberts against responding to "litmus-test questions." "Don't take the bait," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, in his prepared statement. "Do exactly the same thing every nominee, Republican and Democrat alike, has done. Decline to answer any question you feel would compromise your ability to do your job. The vast majority of the Senate, I

am convinced, will not punish you for doing so." Roberts smiled and said merely, "Good morning," as he left for the hearings from his suburban Maryland home Monday. Outside the Supreme Court, across the street from the Capitol, several dozen demonstrators carried signs that said "Confirm Roberts" and "Stop Abortion Now." Court officers stood shoulder-to-shoulder to keep demonstrators at a distance. Lawmakers were devoted

ing the first day of the weeklong hearings to opening statements. Less than three years after first donning a judge's robe, Roberts seemed on a path toward speedy confirmation. A turbulent week that included the funeral of William H. Rehnquist, his mentor and the man he hopes to replace, Roberts' renomination for chief justice and controversy over the government's tardy response to Hurricane Katrina didn't seem to cause any new

problems for the nominee. Liberal, civil rights, civil libertarian and abortion rights groups have come out against him, but not one of the Senate's 100 members has declared opposition. "I expect these hearings will show that you have the appropriate philosophy to lead our nation into the future," said Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, and a Judiciary Committee member, in a written copy of his opening statement.

Hopelessness begins to lift from New Orleans as cleanup continues

By **BRETT MARTEL**
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Burnt-orange rubble from terra-cotta tiles, wrenched from roofs and scattered about the French Quarter, wait in neat piles for collection along the curb. Bourbon Street is cleaner than it ever is during Mardi Gras. And Donald Jones, a 57-year-old lifelong resident, is no longer armed when walking his street.

now I don't carry it," Jones said, starting to laugh. "The only people I meet is military." Though 50 percent of New Orleans remains flooded and teams are still working to recover the dead, there are signs that hopelessness is beginning to lift two weeks after Hurricane Katrina plowed ashore. "Each day there's a little bit of an improvement," Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad W. Allen, commander of the New Orleans relief efforts, told NBC on Sunday night.

"And in the end run, maybe a week, two weeks from now, someone's going to wake in the morning and have something they didn't have the day before, and that's hope." President Bush was scheduled to get his first up-close look at the destruction in New Orleans today. He started the day with a briefing aboard the USS Iwo Jima after spending the night aboard the amphibious assault ship, anchored in the Mississippi River. Bush also planned to

tour the devastated town of Gulfport, Miss. The waters in New Orleans, which once covered 80 percent of the city, have pulled back far enough to allow for a scenic drive down Esplanade Avenue, past the handsome, columned two-story home where French painter Edgar Degas once lived to the New Orleans Museum of Art in City Park.

beauty of the Greek Revival and Victorian homes, fronted by a canopy of live oaks, overwhelms the sight of the debris piled along the road. "I think it's livable," said John Lopez, who moved to New Orleans from the New York City area about a year ago. "If they got running water to all these buildings that are obviously inhabitable, they could get the city cleaned up a lot faster because people would be cleaning up their own blocks and their own

neighborhoods." Lopez and others are among those in the city who survived the hurricane at home, refused the subsequent order to leave and have started to clean up their neighborhoods. While they are worried about authorities forcing them to evacuate, there so far have been no reports that has happened. Starting Monday, businesses owners in the central commercial district will be able to get temporary passes into the city so they can retrieve vital records or equipment.

BUDGET

Continued from Page 1A

ing an open and shut public hearing that yielded no comments from local residents. Tuesday's public hearing will mark the second and final public hearing on the matter, as required by state law. "It's reasonable," said Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen. "We didn't raise the tax rate. Because the value in our community went up somewhat, there are going to be some people that have appraised values that are higher than they were last year and will have to pay somewhat more. But if you have the same

appraised value, you're going to pay exactly the same amount." Although the tax rate will remain static, McEwen said skyrocketing fuel and energy prices are definitely going to have a negative impact on the city's budget. "It's obviously going to take a bite out of the budget because we don't see those kinds of increases in our taxes because of the reserves being valued at a higher level," said McEwen. "We're just talking about property values when it comes to the city of Big Spring. So it's going to be tough on us." "However, the one thing you have to look at is with the oil economy doing as well as it is, our

economy is percolating better. You can see that in the form of sales tax and it positively affects us." Also on Tuesday's agenda is final reading of an ordinance adopting the annual budget for fiscal year 2005-2006, which passed first reading on a 5-2 vote during the Aug. 23 meeting of the council, with council members Joann Staulcup and Greg Biddison voting against the budget. Following that vote, McEwen said he felt the budget was strong despite the lack of a unanimous agreement from the council. "We had a 5-2 vote on it tonight and it passed by a very strong majority," said McEwen. "I feel like

it's a very strong budget. One more reading and we're ready to go on down the road with it. It's like I've said before: The most important thing we do each year is our budget. I think we've put together a good one and now it's time to move on." The council is looking at passing a deficit budget — somewhere in the neighborhood of \$100,000. In earlier workshops, the council did agree on measures to keep that deficit from going any higher. For one, they elected to pass on a rate increase from the Colorado River Municipal Water District directly to customers. CRMWD has told the city it will have to increase the cost of water

by an amount slightly more than \$200,000 for the next fiscal year. The council is expected to pass that on, which means all city customers will incur a 12-cent increase in their consumption rate per 1,000 gallons of water. According to city officials, the average city water customer uses approximately 8,000 gallons per month, which will loosely translate into a 96-cent increase in their monthly bill. Also, facing more than \$230,000 in repairs at the wastewater treatment plant during the coming year, the council has also decided to target businesses for a rate increase. The council is expected

to approve a \$5 increase in commercial customers' base rate, plus an additional 50-cent hike on consumption rates. That would bring the base rate for commercial customers to \$16.75 and the consumption rate to \$1.70. Together, the fees for 770 commercial accounts would bring in an additional \$233,700. The meeting will get under way at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1A

planned to put aside \$2.3 million for the elementary school, which would have included the installation of a fire alarm and sprinkler system. Plans also called for new carpet and ceilings, restroom

renovations and replacement of the original heating, ventilation and air conditioning units. And while the bond issue is defeated, Johnson said the school district's needs aren't diminished in the least. "We'll go back to the board and look at our options from here," said Johnson. "There's wasn't

any fluff involved in these plans. Everything we were asking for is a legitimate need that will have to be addressed. We may have to go back and prioritize those needs and decide where to go from there." High end estimates of the cost of the bond issue would have added approximately 38 cents per \$100

valuation to property owners' annual tax bills. Owners of property valued at \$35,000 would likely have seen their tax bills increase by \$133 annually, while owners of property valued at \$100,000 would have seen an annual hike in their tax bills of about \$323. Johnson said the tax hike — coupled with

unsure economic times both in the city of Coahoma and in West Texas — could have played a strong role in the outcome of the election. "I think the economic climate could certainly have played a role in the defeat of the bond issue," said Johnson. "Anytime taxes go up it's a major concern for people."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Tillman Shoults, 93, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6 until 8 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Christopher Ryan Petree and Nomi Michelle Petree, 3 month old twins, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

buildings and the municipal water services. "This allows the city to improve its buildings — meaning lighting, air conditioning and water meters — without the need to increase capital or budget. Without having to raise tax rates, raise water rates. We're doing it all out of your current operating budget," said Nobles. "The beauty of the process is we guarantee you, as a city, the results. If we don't make those savings that we promised here today then we have to cut the city a check for the difference."

gram, which would allow the city to accomplish several projects in eight months that it has struggled with for several years, is exciting. "I'm obviously very excited about it because it will allow us to implement some programs that we've wanted to implement without any kind of cost to our taxpayers," said McEwen. "There will be no increase in rates or taxes. That's the number (\$5.5 million in project funding) we're talking about right now. But that's very preliminary because we have to do the detailed audit, at which time we can identify the particular programs."

McEwen said he could not yet see any "pitfalls" in the program, but it's hard to say until the necessary detailed audit is completed. "The only pitfall is if they do the detailed audit and find out we don't have the savings they've projected," said McEwen. "And it might be a situation where we have to have the program longer (than 12 years) or it's just not feasible. But if they are able to do this and tell us what the savings are, I just can't see a downside to it." If the detailed audit, which is expected to cost approximately \$30,000, is completed and the project

is determined to be non-feasible by Siemens, Nobles said the city would only be responsible for the materials involved, estimated at \$7,000 to \$8,000. However, if the city decides to back out once the audit is completed, it will have to foot the entire \$30,000 bill.

The meeting will get under way at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

Nobles told the council by updating many of the electrical and water devices taken for granted on a daily basis — water faucets, lighting fixtures, air conditioning units and even insulation — the city can save more than \$500,000 a year, which would more than cover the annual cost of the overall loan, which would come through third-party financing. McEwen said the prospect of such a pro-

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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

Our community should protest AETC decision

Without question Moore Development for Big Spring Executive Director Kent Sharp has issued a call to arms. In answering an editorial question concerning the rejection of Big Spring's bid to win the United States Air Force, Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Introductory Flight Training (IFT) program, Sharp made it clear he believes circumstances surrounding the decision need a full and public airing.

The Big Spring proposal, developed by a team of unmatched professionals at The Boeing Company, as the prime contractor, and Durango Aerospace, Christiansen Aviation and Howard College as partners, was rejected by the AETC without so much as a visit to McMahon-Wrinkle Airport.

We agree that Sharp's candor in answering the question is anything but "sour grapes" at losing.

It is, however, about fairness and honesty.

That's the stance Sharp took in his response, saying, "I believe this was not a fair and honest competition — not done in accordance with U.S. government procurement rules."

It is not feasible to detail the concerns voiced by Sharp in this space, but we encourage our readers to check the specifics laid out in Sunday's edition of the Herald.

Why is that important?
Sharp made that clear in noting that we don't have the money here in Big Spring to hire lawyers and file a protest with the government. And Boeing, as a matter of policy, does not protest contract bid results.

However, the Air Force should immediately stop all activity on this contract award until questions have been investigated and answered.

"What's needed here is some daylight and honesty," Sharp said.

We agree.
Sharp says he will continue to be asking questions involving the process and the people of Big Spring should do the same.

Once again, here are the people we as a community should ask and expect answers from:

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael Dominguez, 1670 Air Force Pentagon, Room 4E1020, Washington, D.C. 20330-1670

Gen. William R. Looney III, Commander, Air Education and Training Command, United States Department of the Air Force, 100H Street, Suite 4, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4331. Telephone: (210) 652-5512.

USAF Inspector General, Col. Thomas F. Berardinelli, United States Department of the Air Force, 9700 G Avenue SE, Kirtland AFB, N.M. 87117-5670 Telephone (505) 846-2342. Fax: (505)846-2726 Email: thomas.berardinelli@kirtland.af.mil

U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, 429 Cannon HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. Telephone: (888) 763-1611. Fax: (202) 225-9615.

Marion Blakey, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Attn: David Mandell, Chief of Staff, United States Department of Transportation, 800 Independence Avenue SW, Room 1010, Washington, D.C. 20591. Telephone: (202) 267-3111. Email: david.mandell@faa.gov

According to the adage, it's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease.

And Big Spring, as a community, needs to squeak as loud and as loudly as possible.

Sharp's response in Sunday's paper and this opinion piece won't create any ripples in Washington, but a few hundred telephone calls, faxes and letters just might.

A marriage of convenience

In passing a law to legalize same-sex marriages, Democrats in the state Legislature sent a clear message to California voters: You don't count. And I say that as someone who was in the minority in 2000. I voted against Proposition 22, an initiative that outlawed same-sex marriage, but 61 percent of state voters supported the measure.

On the one hand, it was courageous for Democrats — only Dems, but not all Dems, voted for the same-sex marriage bill introduced by Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco — to ignore the will of the voters and vote their conscience. But the vote also was arrogant, because it flouted California law.

Bob Stern, an expert on the initiative process with the Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles, noted that "California is the only state in the country that says a statutory initiative cannot be either amended or repealed by the Legislature without a vote of the people."

And it was reckless, too. GOP Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger promises to veto the bill. He has said he wants the courts or the voters to decide, not the legislators. He's wrong about the courts. If they should overrule Proposition 22 — which is hardly a given — then voters will see the move as more judicial arrogance.

It would have been "more appropriate" for Leno to have included a provision to bring the same-sex marriage issue before the voters, Stern said.

Then, the governor would not be able to veto it. And the governor,



DEBRA SAUNDERS

who always would rather that voters settle issues, would have signed it.

What's more, AB849 is dishonest in that it pretends to exist outside of Proposition 22. Leno has long argued that Proposition 22 only addresses out-of-state marriages because the measure's authors inserted their language into Section 308.5 of the state's family law code, which addresses out-of-state marriages.

Baloney. And Leno knows that is not the way California voters saw it. Proposition 22 stated, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Voters didn't care which statute it amended — they wanted to send a clear message about their opposition to same-sex marriage.

Proposition 22 supporter Randy Thomasson scoffed at Leno's logic: 4.6 million Californians voted "to keep marriage between a man and a woman." Those folks weren't voting against out-of-state same-sex marriage.

I expect e-mail from gay couples who see this as strictly a civil-rights issue and want to legalize same-sex marriage by any means available. Leno argued over the phone Wednesday: "I would never proactively put our civil rights on a ballot. That's why we have three branches of government." And no civil rights advocate would hand over such areas to "the tyranny of the majority."

Supporters of same-sex marriage should ask themselves if they want to win their cause without public support or — even if it takes a little longer — with public support.

Leno believes public opinion is changing rapidly, and cited a Public Policy Institute of California poll that shows 46 percent of likely California voters favoring same-sex marriage, with

46 percent of likely voters opposed. That gives Sacramento an added reason to ask the electorate to change its position on same-sex marriage, rather than imposing a life-altering law by fiat.

As Karen Hanretty, spokeswoman for the California Republican Party, noted, same-sex marriages would alter the cultural face of the nation; the issue should not be decided "without a great deal of public debate" in the "dark of night."

If voters should approve same-sex marriage, the issue will be settled. If they do not, domestic-partner laws can fill some of the gap, while advocates work to woo more votes.

For his part, Leno argues that his bill is democratic because voters, if outraged, will be free to oust lawmakers who supported his measure. Stern noted the courage of lawmakers like Assemblyman Tom Umberg, D-Santa Ana, whose more conservative Democratic district might not appreciate his yes vote. The worst of it is Umberg's career might suffer for a bill that never had a chance from the get-go.

The Democratic leadership opted for an end-run around the voters. They could have pushed to put on the ballot an anti-Proposition 22 initiative. You have to figure they didn't want another initiative because it might fail; worse, it might hurt their bids for re-election.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfcronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:
The Howard County Fair has closed its doors for another year. It leaves behind memories of entertainment, numerous exhibits, excellent food, awards and good old down-to-earth socializing.

We praise the Fair Association for its fine job in putting this event together for us to enjoy.

Special recognition should go to the group in charge of the tractor pulls. Gene Adams, Marion Newton, Russell Parum and other team workers whose names we do not know did a superb job in supplying this entertainment for all ages.

To all of you, our many thanks for a job well done!

JIMMY AND WANDA LOCKHART
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:
I am afraid I am not the same person as I was last week. And I do not think I will ever be quite the same again.

Like you, I watched as Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast like a hammer. A Category 5 hurricane of tremendous power that acted like a buzz saw, chewing up everything in its path.

Like you, I watched as reporters in the Superdome showed the roof coming off and the devastation of the flooding of New Orleans.

Like you, I watched as New Orleans police officers struggled with the impossible task of trying to maintain order. I listened as the mayor of New Orleans pleaded for help, frustrated beyond belief. I watched as hundreds of people stranded in the devastation chanted over and over, "help, help, help, help!" with tears on their faces.

I watched as our president stood before the cameras and said, "This is unacceptable."

And I have to say that this is not so.

This is beyond "unacceptable," as to be downright criminal. The demonstration of ignorance displayed by high-ranking officials who should have anticipated the outcome and been prepared is enough to actually make me physically ill.

It is said that the true test of a man's character is how he acts in a crisis.

The same might be said of administrations.

There will be a lot of armchair quarterbacking for the next few years about what should have been

done. Hindsight is 20-20.

But none of that will bring back those people whose lives were lost simply because our administration was slow to act.

And the real question is — what are we as citizens going to do about it?

Just continue to watch our televisions while the pundits discuss this and that, while the current administration puts whatever spin it can to downplay its colossal failure to protect and aid our fellow countrymen, our neighbors, our relatives — fellow citizens who were caught in the path of a monster that destroyed everything they knew?

You know, it could have happened to any of us.

So, you may ask, what can I do? You can do what you can.

Me? I am going to do what I can.

I am going to pick up my pen, one of the mightiest weapons I know and wrote to those elected officials expressing my displeasure and disgust.

And when election time rolls around, I will remember.

TROY L. AXTENS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:
I would like to remind everyone, including our city leaders and county officials of an old saying: "Look before you leap!"

I am referring to the recent discussion of absorbing 300 to 500 victims of the Hurricane Katrina disaster into our area.

Everyone understands that these people have suffered and been traumatized by their ordeal. Any additional external pressures placed upon them is cruel. Hardships, trauma and bitter disappointment have long term emotional effects. Their new safe-havens, homes and surroundings should reflect an atmosphere of familiarity, continuity and "belonging."

Are we doing the right thing to offer our comfort and help to these evacuees by injecting them into an area where they will feel so out of place? They had been living in a large city with its 24-hour activities, excitement, traditions and beliefs. They are accustomed to the wetlands, its foodstuffs, its sights, sounds and the camaraderie of their unique French-flavored culture.

To rip these people up and bring them to Big Spring is like flipping

a fish from its warm water home to bake in the desert. We need to help and we must help, but wouldn't it be more generous and compassionate to help relocate them to the larger cities in those states that have a similar climate and flair they are used to?

Cold hard cash would go a long way in assisting our neighbor flood victims in rebuilding their lives in Shreveport, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Atlanta, Savannah, etc.

Big Spring is going through some rough times right now, especially for those seeking good secure employment. Jobs are not plentiful. We must be realistic and consider what is truly best for all, not just for Big Spring, now and in the future.

PATRICIA VINES
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

After 25 years of service to Howard County's children, a great person has been driven out of business by the IRS. Profit Day Care was shut down yesterday by order of the IRS, because of back taxes and fines.

During her battle with breast cancer, Linda Profit got behind on her taxes. The original IRS agent was working with Linda, but unfortunately she had a personal tragedy and had to resign her job.

The new agent was a young woman who was afraid to even let the children touch her because they were "dirty." It took this woman only 21 days to decide that Linda Profit was not worth working with. She told Linda that she was costing the government too much money and that she was going to shut her down.

They have given Linda until October to sell her building, so that she might get enough money to pay them and have enough left over to put in the bank. If she does not, they will sell it only for what she owes.

I am asking our community to get behind her and lend her some support. We need to help her some in some way.

Linda is being very brave about this, but she is hurting. This is just one more thing that cancer has robbed from her.

I hope our community will support her in some way.

MICHELLE SALAZAR
BIG SPRING

A

By JANE
Knight-R

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A fountain of youth, at least for mice

By JANE GLENN HAAS
Knight-Ridder

Here's one you've heard before:
"The supreme irony of life is that hardly anyone ever gets out of it alive."
I thought of that old saw the other day when the news trumpeted the discovery of klotho, a naturally occurring hormone that evidently extends a mouse life by 30 percent.
Can klotho do for humans what it does for rodents?
It's a sure bet that R&D teams are working on that right now. Finally, a real fountain of youth — although with side effects. Klotho does decrease fertility and increase susceptibility to diabetes.
Decreasing fertility, however, could be a benefit in a world where individuals may take up

space longer than any time in recorded history.
Just add 30 percent to our current average life spans — let's use age 80 for ease of calculation — and you get about 104.
Without klotho, 70,000 of us reached centenarian status by the time of the most-recent U.S. Census, in 2000.
And our proclivity to live long continues to make news. The Census Bureau estimates that 265,000 to 834,000 Americans will be centenarians by 2050.
That's a lot of elders collecting Social Security and Medicare (which could be the

ultimate irony, given the national debate on these issues).
The question, of course, isn't how long will you live but how well will you live long.
The answer, as always, is that much depends on diet and exercise.
And here we get a boost. Worms and mice live up to 50 percent longer on a starvation diet, but caloric restriction won't help humans live super-long, two biologists have said.
Being "underfed and emaciated" could add only one or two years to your life, UCI biologist Michael Rose says.
So forget being malnourished. Instead, look into the lifestyle diet proposed by Dr. Michael T. Murray and Dr. Joseph Pizzorno, natural-medicine authorities, in their new book,

"The Encyclopedia of Healing Foods," (Atria, 2005).
Tucked inside this doorstop-size volume of more than 900 pages are such goodies as this: A study of phenols in various cocoa and chocolate products reveals that a 1.5-ounce piece of milk chocolate contains nearly the same amount of phenols as a 5-ounce glass of red wine, with an antioxidant effect equal to or greater than wine.
Plus chocolate may be an aphrodisiac and an antidepressant.
A chunk of chocolate or a couple of extra years of life spent sucking celery? I don't see a big choice.
Not that the doctors are prescribing excessive amounts of sugar.
"We need to get back to basics and increase our consumption

of whole, natural foods," Murray says. "We need to increase our intake of plant foods as a natural, disease-fighting diet."
The emphasis here is on healthy and healing foods, not a bad prescription for those of us muddling toward elderhood without benefit of klotho.
Long and short of it: There will never be a "magic pill" to prevent aging.
You might live longer but there's a big difference between years and quality of life.
And in the end, the irony is no one I know ever got out of here alive.

Jane Glenn Haas is the author of "Time of Your Life: Why Almost Everything Gets Better After Fifty." She writes for The Orange County Register.



JANE GLENN HAAS

Ex-Marine teaches male belly dancers

By LAUREN SMILEY
Knight-Ridder

You gotta try pretty hard to stand out at Yaa Halla Y'all. Upon entering the Grapevine Convention Center for a weekend of belly-dance performance and workshops, women named Phyllis and B.J. become "Soraya" and "Tambra." A guy hawking DVDs suggests the new release Lights! Camera!
Bellydance!
Backstage, the bellies waiting their turn to shimmy in the spotlight run from smooth to cellulite-pocked, alabaster to cinnamon, surgery-scarred to roll-layered. Actually, there are so many you stop paying attention, until you see this one: Hairy. No hips. All man.



Bill Riddle, left, shows James Brantley a new move during their practice at Isis and the Star Dancers Studio in Bedford.

Look up and there he is, the one the dancer in the lobby must have forgotten when she called the subculture a "sisterhood."
This is Drakon, what you'd call a male belly dancer. (He's really Danielle barAbba, 54, of Austin.)
Drakon wears a fringed skirt, blue shiny pants, curly red hair down his back.
Minutes before going onstage, he's stressing because a woman dancer before him is using the same drum solo he is.
Drakon executes some body waves, then throws in a couple of hip shimmies while gripping the cane above his head, smiling widely the entire time.

equal opportunity spin on the dance long associated with beaded bras, genie pants and coy femininity.
So what if women rave that belly dancing is great for toning childbirth muscles? Turns out some men like figure-eighting their hips, too.
The spectator reviews were mixed. One man used the word "fantastic."
But Los Angeles-based drummer Ziad Islambouli who performed at the convention, said such theatrical dancing would not go over in his home country of Lebanon.
"In America, I respect it 'cause it's an American thing," he says. "America is way more open."
"But in the Middle East, I wouldn't accept it. It's all about the woman and beauty, and it's a very feminine thing."
Actually, male belly dance performance has a long precedent in North Africa and the Middle East, says Anthony Shay, a dance historian at Pomona College in California, and co-editor of "Belly Dance," a book due out this month. For centuries, professional males dressed in a sexually ambiguous costume, working the same hip swivels as women.

men's belly dance a scandal to Victorian morality and stamped it out (allowing women to continue).
But both men and women still "belly dance" at domestic social gatherings as they have throughout history, Dr. Shay says, although strict Islamic societies forbid women from dancing in front of men not related to them.
Dr. Shay says the West's "pink and blue syndrome" when it comes to dance moves isn't shared by other regions of the world, pointing to the similarities in female and male movements in salsa and Polynesian dancing.
"The idea that these movements are only appropriate to women's bodies is wrong," he says. "We think when a male articulates his torso he is somehow being effeminate, but that is really a culturally specific notion held by Anglo-Americans."
But guys aren't always welcomed in the Arab community, either. Marios Hedary, owner of Byblos Lebanese Restaurant in Fort Worth, says he hires a male folkloric dancer who "complements" the female belly dancers. But once, at a Thursday audition night in which amateurs can come try their talent on the restaurant stage, a man showed up wearing what Hedary recalls regrettably as an "I Dream of Jeannie" outfit.
"Sometimes you're not brave enough to stop something," he remembers. "I was very shocked, very embarrassed. It was

Cinderella. It was hip shaking. It was very, very weird."
Hedary says he paced the restaurant until the dancer's half-hour performance was over, after which the dancer asked him what he thought.
"I said, 'Listen, you are not a woman. You are a man. Do not dance like a woman ... that's not right. You're embarrassing everyone.'"
Bring on the naysayers, say the dancers: Breaking out of expectations is part of the allure.
Jeff Halpin of San Francisco identifies himself as a "typical man." He said his donning a black cloak and gold headdress at the event is "no different than a Cowboys fan getting into their blue and silver dress" at a game.
Halpin says he was hesitant for years to start belly dancing, and when he would inquire about male classes, he didn't feel welcome.
"Just as female belly dancers have to get past

the stereotype that they're strippers, male belly dancers have to get past the stereotype they're doing something girlish." But now, after five years of lessons, he says the dance "gives you the strength to feel more of who you are."
Pull up to Isis' Star Dancers Studio in Bedford, Texas, on any given Tuesday night, and a Ford F-150 is parked outside the window display of bejeweled bras and harem pants. A sign hanging from the license plate reads: "Once a Marine, Always a Marine."
Yep, the instructor of the male belly-dancing class is James Brantley of Fort Worth, Texas, ex-Marine and current Air Force computer specialist, or as he goes by in class, Shadig.
But he makes it clear that he is not dancing like a woman: Even in the tiny world of male belly dancing, there is a continuum of styles.
Men from the studio performed a staff dance at the convention, but Islambouli, the Lebanese drummer, says he wouldn't consider that belly dance, but folkloric dance, and "anything that doesn't have the feminine dress is OK."
"That would be acceptable" even in the most conservative societies," he says.
Brantley started taking classes six years ago after he was pulled up onstage by the studio's owner at his wife and daughter's recital, and she said the hip-hop dancer and martial-arts student had potential.
Once he enrolled in class, he learned to adapt the women's movements into a more masculine form: stepping flat instead of tiptoeing, keeping his

fingers together instead of "dainty fingers."
While women at the studio learn to embody emotions while dancing — joy, sadness, anger — Brantley learned the male personas: the powerful sultan, the regal pharaoh and the aggressive warrior.
Not all were able to handle the belly-dance boot camp: He remembers eight men started the class, but only he graduated.
After a year of classes, Brantley was finally ready to reveal his passion to people at the base: He said he was studying "Middle-Eastern dancing."
"When they give you a kind of deer-in-the-headlight look, I told them 'belly dance,'" Brantley says. "They weren't ready for it."
But now he has no qualms about saying he performs numbers called Lulu and Super Belly Dance.
He pops his hips during class warm-up with his head held high and can pull off a mean belly roll with his muscular gut. Brantley says he feels masculine while dancing, sometimes even using a sword or staff in his routines.
He even did a solo at a friend's Air Force retirement party.
"I like to be up there and ham it up. I need to do more to get the publicity out there that men actually do this."
Women belly dancers seem to have differing opinions on men encroaching on what many see as their art: One dancer at the convention recalls a male belly dancer in sequins and fringe being "the sexiest man I have ever seen in my life."

Drakon wears a fringed skirt, blue shiny pants, curly red hair down his back. Minutes before going onstage, he's stressing because a woman dancer before him is using the same drum solo he is. Drakon executes some body waves, then throws in a couple of hip shimmies while gripping the cane above his head, smiling widely the entire time. While two belly dancers from Oklahoma let out a tongue trill of appreciation, a wide-eyed woman in a back row looks as if she is witnessing a jig of the Antichrist.

No you are not at a male strip club, and you better not laugh: To the small and still underground band of male followers, belly dance is about serious artistic expression.

Thirty years after Mikhail Baryshnikov proved that men could do ballet and John Travolta discoed his way into sex-object status, Drakon is one of the male aficionados who are putting an

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They were even included in the 1893 Chicago's World Fair, where an American entrepreneur first coined the term "belly dance" to introduce the art form to the both titillated and scandalized U.S. public.
But colonial powers strengthening their dominance in the Middle East after WWI considered

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Types of Hurricane Katrina scams already reported

Phishing scams

Many fraudulent Web sites have already been set up pretending to be legitimate Hurricane Katrina relief organizations. These sites request charitable donations, but in fact steal financial information and may be used for identity theft as well. Contributions, of course, go into the pockets of the scammers rather than to help people who desperately need it.

Viruses and Trojans

Spam is sent that includes photos of disaster areas or individual survivors, and these attachments contain computer viruses. For example, the Trojan known as Cgab is now related to a Hurricane Katrina e-mail that is currently making the rounds. It provides the Trojan's author full access to the victim's computer. According to recent reports from CNN, the e-mail headlines include: "Re: Tropical storm flooded New Orleans" and "Re: 80 percent of our city underwater."

Varlants of the Nigerian scam

Unsolicited e-mail is sent with the supposed purpose of retrieving large amounts of money tied up in areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Investment and security scams

According to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), e-mails are already making the rounds that tout specific stocks on the basis of activity related to Hurricane Katrina. For example, one e-mail says that investors could more than double their money in just days on certain penny stocks because of "refinery glitches."

Reports have also included misleading e-mails trying to take advantage of the disaster to sell unrelated products.

Requests for individual donations to help family members

Basically, these bogus requests usually look like this: "My (brother, sister, family, parents, etc.) lost everything in Hurricane Katrina. Please send me money."

Hate Web sites

Sadly, a lot of hate Web sites are popping up that characterize the disaster as the "wrath of God" — and then they naturally ask people to donate to them.

Chain letters

According to officials, the first e-mail hoax was a request to forward the hoax because fifty cents would supposedly be donated to help victims for every copy of the e-mail forwarded.

Note: This report was compiled utilizing information provided by scambusters.org.

Amy E. Reese
D.D.S., P.C.
432-267-4102



Jonathan Gomez, a student at Howard College, sorts through clothing donated to Operation Big Heart, a local effort aimed at helping the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Gomez was one of many Howard College students — many of them athletes — who have helped with the effort.

"It's really important to us because we want to know if scams like these are running in town. If one person has fallen for it and sent the money off, you can bet that other people have, too. Embarrassment is the reason that scams have been under-reported for years. People don't want others to know they've fallen for something like that. That's how these scam artists make a living. They make these things really believable and tempting."

—Sgt. Roger Sweatt,
Big Spring Police Department

Worst comes out with Katrina, too

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

While relief efforts across the nation — including Big Spring's own Operation Big Heart — continue to showcase humanity at its very best, it would seem the worst are using the information highway to profit from the disaster wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

A number of different Internet-based scams have popped up — some coming within only hours of the hurricane — using virtually ever means at hand to profit on the nation's willingness to give.

According to Kelly Warner, public relations director for the Salvation Army's Texas operations, a fraudulent e-mail supposedly from the charity is already making its way through the world's inboxes.

"A fraudulent e-mail is being circulated via the Internet soliciting funds for The Salvation Army," said Warner in a press release. "The e-mail is from americansalvation-army_reliefs@yahoo.com. This is not a valid Salvation Army e-mail address."

"The e-mail suggests it is from The Salvation Army's national headquarters and instructs donors to give donations through money transfer, mail or credit card. The address for money transfer or mail is to a Joseph Bonn in Palmbay, Fla. Joseph Bonn is not associated with The Salvation Army. It also instructs donors to reply to the e-mail with their credit card information."

Warner said computer users receiving these false e-mails should know there are certain things their organization will never ask for by e-mail.

"The Salvation Army

never asks for credit card information to be sent to the organization via e-mail," said Warner. "No one should donate funds through any of the methods suggested in the fraudulent e-mail."

"The correct way to make a credit card donation is through The Salvation Army's secure Web site www.salvationarmyusa.org or by calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769). Donations by mail should be addressed to the local Salvation Army office or to The Salvation Army, Texas Division, PO Box 36607, Dallas 75235. If anyone questions an e-mail received they can call their local Salvation Army or 1-800-253-1868."

Warner said the fraudulent e-mails have been reported to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has compiled a list of reputable voluntary organizations that urgently need cash donations to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina in Gulf Coast states. The list can be found online at www.fema.gov/news.

Internet scam watchdogs at www.scambusters.org report many different scams based around Hurricane Katrina are making the rounds, including virus-laden e-mails and investment and security scams.

According to information released by FBI assistant director Louis M. Reigel, by mid-day Thursday, there were 2,300 Katrina-related Web sites, double the number two days earlier. Of the 800 the FBI had reportedly investigated, approximately 60 percent were presumed to be bogus.

Because of the electronic anonymity afforded by

the Internet, Big Spring Police Department Sgt. Roger Sweatt said most scam cases get turned over to the FBI, but because of the sheer number of scams being run and the financial magnitude of some of the more serious cases, results can sometimes be slow or non-existent.

"The FBI requests that we send most of these to them," he said, "because they are more able to track things like this. They aren't actively working most of them because the amounts are too small, however."

"The FBI doesn't generally mess with these with losses of \$500 to \$600 dollars. They're more concerned with the ones that have netted \$10,000 and

more. That's kind of the threshold that they work with," Sweatt continued.

While the embarrassment of being duped by a scam artist has kept many people from coming forward and reporting the crime,

Sweatt said it's important to remember how many people have fallen for the same trick.

"It's really important to us because we want to know if scams like these are running in town," said Sweatt. "If one person has fallen for it and sent the money off, you can bet that other people have, too. Embarrassment is the reason that scams have been under-reported for years. People don't want others to know they've fallen for some-

thing like that. That's how these scam artists make a living. They make these things really believable and tempting."

"We encourage people not to be embarrassed by it because there have been hundreds and thousands of people that have fallen for these before, and a lot of them have gone unreported because of embarrassment. If we know a scam like this is going on, we can go to the media and put the word out. Even if people want to report it to us anonymously, we want to know about it."

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

You deserve a factual look at . . .

Racism in the Islamic World

How can peace prevail in the Middle East in the face of Islamic bigotry and hate? When will moderate Muslims speak out?

For years, the U.N., led by Islamic and Arab nations and their sympathizers, has accused Israel of racism, but the world consistently turns a blind eye to open, seething anti-Semitism in Islamic society.

What are the facts?

In one of the most astonishing propaganda coups ever, a United Nations conference on racism, which took place in Durban South Africa in 2001, declared that Zionism is racism. No wonder the U.S. and Israel walked out of the meeting, which was dominated by representatives of Islamic and Arab states and other anti-Israel forces, and whose conclusions were predictable from the outset.

The supreme irony of this conference was that it accused no other nation of racism—only Israel. In truth, Israel is perhaps the most racially and ethnically diverse and tolerant country in the world. More than half of Israel's Jewish population consists of people of color—blacks from Ethiopia and Yemen, as well as brown-skinned people from Morocco, Iran, Syria, Egypt and Israel itself. In addition, Israel's population includes more than one million Arabs, who enjoy the same civil rights as Jewish Israelis. In Israel hate speech is banned, and it is against the law to discriminate based on race or religion.

In contrast, anti-Semitism—a poisonous form of racism directed specifically against the Jewish people—is rampant in most all Islamic societies. Not only is anti-Semitism commonplace in Muslim nations, but it is propagated shamelessly by their leaders, in state-sponsored media, and by Muslim clergy.

For example, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed declared in a 2003 speech to the Organization of Islamic Conference that, "today Jews rule the world by proxy. They get others to fight and die for them." Imagine if an American president had made a similarly sweeping and bigoted statement about blacks, Latinos or any other race—what a justifiable uproar, perhaps even an impeachment, would ensue. Yet there was no condemnation by the Muslim world of Mohamed's comments. Rather, virtually all of the conference's Muslim leaders actually voiced their approval.

In response to a terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia in May 2004, Crown Prince Abdullah declared that "Zionism is behind [these] terrorist actions in the kingdom." (Zionism

is the code word often used by Islamic anti-Semites for Jews.) U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos called the Prince's assertion "an outrage . . . blatant hypocrisy," but Islamic leaders were silent. In fact, millions of Muslims still insist that Zionists were behind the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

Anti-Semitism is expressed so freely and ubiquitously in most Islamic societies that no citizen can escape it. During Ramadan in 2002, Egypt's state-controlled TV aired "Horseman Without a Horse," a program based on the notorious forgery, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, in which Jews allegedly use the blood of non-Jews to make Passover matzo. In Iran, a TV series, "Zahra's Blue Eyes," portrays "Zionists" kidnapping Palestinian children and harvesting their organs.

Perhaps nowhere is the hatred of Jews more virulent than among the Palestinians. Most perniciously, Palestinian children are taught in school that Jews are descended from apes and pigs and that the most noble thing they can do is to kill Jews. Muslim clerics like Imam Ibrahim Madaris, an employee of the Palestinian Authority, declared in a 2005 television sermon, "Jews are a cancer" and later that, "Muslims will kill the Jews . . . [and] rejoice in Allah's victory." No surprise, then, that the 1982 doctoral dissertation of Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas makes the astounding claim that "Zionists" collaborated with the Nazis to annihilate the Jewish people in order to drive the survivors to Palestine.

Anti-Semitism and the prospects for peace: Islamic anti-Semitism permeates the Arab Middle East and creates an atmosphere in which Jews are reviled and represented as subhuman. How can the Palestinian people embrace peace with a people represented by their religious and political leaders as dehumanized, "evil beings"? Even more importantly, how can Israel be expected to trust a so-called peace partner who expresses abject hatred and murderous intent toward Jews on a daily basis? Yet the U.S. and many European nations continue to demand that Israel make one-sided sacrifices for peace with a people steeped in racism and committed to its destruction.

Until Islamic leaders muster the integrity to relentlessly condemn anti-Semitism (and its evil twin, anti-Zionism), we can't expect Israel to accept a forced peace with the Palestinians. Likewise, until moderate Muslims reject racism in all forms, they can't expect Islam to enjoy full respect as a political and spiritual force among the world's people.

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Big Spring harriers dominate top 10 again

By TROY HYDE

LUBBOCK — The Big Spring cross country team got a pretty good idea of where they stand after running at Lubbock Saturday.

Both the boys and the girls will run in Lubbock for the district and regional meets. And if they finish the way they finished Saturday, things will be just fine for the

Steers and Lady Steers.

The boys team took care of business once again and grabbed six spots in the top 10. Junior Michael Rodriguez did not win the race like he did last week, but the 2004 state qualifier came in second with a

time of 16:46. Junior Chris Salazar and sophomore Zack Dawson came in third and fourth, respectively, with times of 17:04 and 17:11. Jessie Sanchez placed sixth with a time of 17:36, while freshman Jordan Valle came across ninth in 17:55. Junior Chris Martinez finished just behind Valle with a time of 18:03. Freshman Shane Allen crossed in 16th, as well.

The girl's cross country team is made up of just two girls. Sophomore Esther Tobar crossed in eighth with a time of 13:45, while sophomore Mistie Aguilar finished in 12th with a time of 13:48. The junior varsity boy's

were led by freshman Kade Parker's second place finish. His performance, which was labeled by Big Spring head coach as the best overall, was clocked in 18:15. Dylan Yarbrough came in third with a time of 18:32 and Nick Mendez was 12th with a time of 19:56. The Steers and Lady Steers will run in the Big Spring Invitational Saturday starting at 10 a.m.



AGUILAR

Forsan gets first victory in Sweetwater against Hawley

By JEFF LANE

SWEETWATER — Forsan Buffalo head coach Tommy Thompson took his football team to Sweetwater Saturday night looking for its first win of the season.

They found that win and a lot more as they beat the Hawley Bearcats, 32-24, to close out the first annual Sammy Baugh Classic at the Mustang Bowl.

The Buffs (1-2) played inspired football for a full 60 minutes, finishing off Hawley in the final second with an interception by senior Tye Baker.

"It feels great to get this win," said Baker, who also threw for 154 yards

and two touchdowns. "Coach (Thompson) has been telling us all along to play with heart. We knew we had to do it tonight."

Forsan opened up strong in the first quarter and appeared well on its way to a blowout.

Junior Wesley Newcomb opened the scoring for the Buffs finishing off a 10 play drive and finding paydirt from 15 yards out. Forsan opted for the two point conversion with senior Josh Paradez hauling in a pass from Baker to go up 8-0.

After a Hawley turnover six plays later, the Buffs looked to the air to widen the margin as Baker found senior Justin Forshee for an incredible

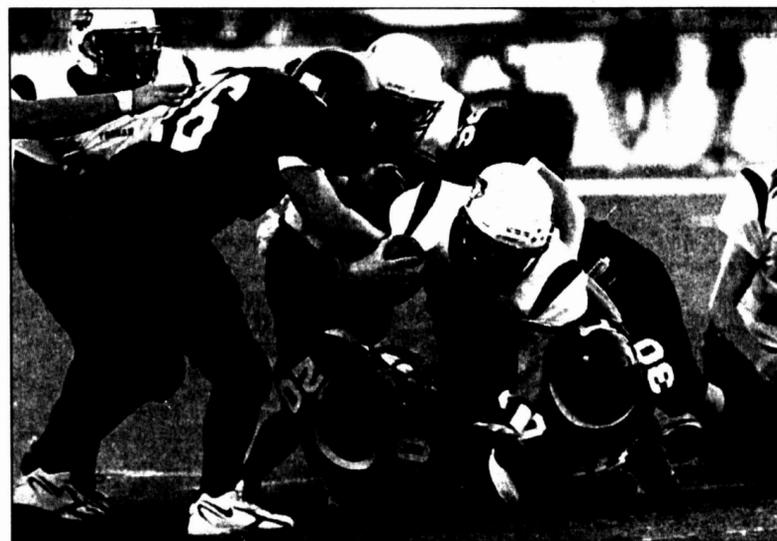
21-yard touchdown. "That was a huge catch for our ball club," Thompson said. "Justin really concentrated to catch a ball that had been tipped. It was a big-time play."

The Buffs again went for two and saw Baker run it in for a 16-0 lead with 3:29 left in the first quarter.

Forsan got the ball again late in the first on a fumble recovery by senior Tyler Phillips.

They looked poised to score again as they drove to the Hawley 17-yard line only to see senior Mitchell Murray lose a fumble giving the Bearcats possession.

See RIVALRY, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Left: Forsan's Mitchell Murray fights for extra yardage against Hawley Saturday night during the Buffaloes' win over the Bearcats. Above: Justin Wilson catches a touchdown pass and gives the Buffaloes a 16-0 lead in the first quarter. Forsan battled throughout the game and wound up winning 31-28.

Bledsoe leads Dallas to upset win over S.D.

By BERNIE WILSON

SAN DIEGO — Except for one particularly brutal series, Drew Bledsoe's reunion with Bill Parcells is off to a wild and impressive start.

Hit and harassed all afternoon, Bledsoe responded like the veteran he is, throwing three touchdown passes, two to Keyshawn Johnson, to lead the Dallas Cowboys to a 28-24 win over the defending AFC West champion San Diego Chargers Sunday.

"It is the best feeling in the world to have a close game come down to just a couple of plays and you are able to do it," said Bledsoe, who became the 10th player in NFL history to throw for 40,000 yards.

Bledsoe threw the winning 2-yard touchdown pass with 3:06 left as Johnson beat cornerback Sammy Davis on a quick out.

"That third-down completion to Keyshawn for the touchdown ... I live

for this stuff," Bledsoe said.

The Cowboys didn't get to celebrate, though, until Aaron Glenn intercepted Drew Brees' throw in the end zone with 24 seconds left. Brees kept alive a desperation drive with a 33-yard completion to Eric Parker to the Dallas 7 with just more than a minute left. Then Brees' fourth-down pass bounced off Parker and Glenn came down with it.

"When it got tipped in the air I knew it was going to be either me or him that was going to get it," Glenn said.

Signing the 33-year-old Bledsoe on Feb. 23 was part of a sweeping off-season makeover after the Cowboys went 6-10. While with New England, Parcells made Bledsoe the first overall pick in the 1993 draft.

"This game was very, very important for us, not only to win it but to win it the way that we did," Bledsoe said.

Dallas' winning drive

See COWBOYS, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Paul Maz and Jessica Bravo were voted as the Big Spring Band Beau and Sweetheart, respectively, Friday night during halftime festivities of the Steer football game at Memorial Stadium. The couple has also been dating for three years. The honors are given annually to a boy and girl in the Steer band.

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Continued from Page 1B

Murray finished with 72 yards on 16 carries.

After the recovery, Hawley mounted an 11 play, 82-yard scoring drive also adding a two point conversion, making the score 16-8 with 7:37 left in the half.

The Buffaloes were unable to get much going on the ensuing drive and were forced to punt.

The Bearcats again were able to sustain a long, time consuming drive, but Forsan held them short of the end zone, forcing a field goal. The Buffaloes still led at half-time, 16-11.

As the third quarter got under way, the Buffs forced a three and out, but were unable to capitalize on offense as Baker was intercepted in the endzone, giving the Bearcats the ball at their own 20.

On the very next play, they sent sophomore Seth Keith up the middle for a 59-yard gain from scrimmage, and again from 16 yards out for the go-ahead touchdown.

The two point try was no good as Hawley led 17-16 with 6:53 left in the third quarter.

After the kickoff, Forsan mounted a 10 play drive to the 50-yard line, but was forced to punt.

Justin Wilson punted and

the Buffaloes were able to pin the Bearcats back to their own one yard line.

Unfortunately for the Buffaloes, their defense was put back on its heels and Hawley raced 99 yards in 14 plays to take a 24-16 advantage.

Thompson assembled his team on the sideline imploring them to trust each other and play with heart.

"We told the kids it was time to focus and be mentally sharp," said Thompson. "We all knew it was simple really. It was time to go to work."

And go to work they did.

The offensive line pushed hard helping Murray and Newcomb grind out the yardage down to the Bearcat 28-yard line.

On the eighth play of the drive, Baker dropped back to pass and found sophomore Adam Bailey behind the line-backers and he bulled ahead for the touchdown.

The Buffs used a great catch by Wilson from Baker to convert the two point try as they knotted

the score at 24-24 with 5:04 left in the game.

"Again we told the kids it was time to remember what we practiced," Thompson said. "We reminded them to play with heart and determination."

Hawley began at their own nine yard line opening up with a 20-yard jaunt by Keith again.

The Bearcats ran the ball twice, setting up a first down on the 39-yard line.

The Forsan defense stiffened on the next play as Newcomb busted through the line, tackling the Bearcat ball carrier for a 1-yard loss.

Hawley was unable to convert on a fourth-and-seven and the Buffs took over on downs in Hawley territory.

"Everyone knew the situation we were in," said Thompson. "There really wasn't much that had to be said. We encouraged them to trust each other and play like they knew how."

With that, the Forsan offense took the field with a look of determination that said they would not taste defeat tonight.

Murray ran two yards off tackle to open the drive.

Then Baker found Newcomb loose in the secondary for a 21-yard gain to the Hawley 23-yard line.

On first down, Murray again rushed ahead for a



Forsan junior Wesley Newcomb breaks off several tacklers from Hawley Saturday during the Buffaloes' win over the Bearcats at the Sammy Baugh Classic in Sweetwater. Newcomb led Forsan with 118 rushing yards and 75 receiving yards. He also had two touchdowns.

short gain and then Forshee got 16 yards on a pass completion from Baker. He was taken down at the 5-yard line.

Baker, on first-and-goal, handed the ball to Newcomb, who along with several of his blockers smashed into the end zone with only 37 seconds on the clock.

After a furious last few seconds, Hawley came up short as Baker picked off a hail mary pass as time

expired. "We knew they would break some plays," said Thompson. "But we contained them and we finished strong."

Newcomb led Forsan on the ground with 118 yards on 18 carries and 75 yards on two catches.

Bailey had two catches for 46 yards and a TD and Forshee had two catches for 38 yards and a score.

Defensively, senior Clint Stanley led the way

with 14 tackles and two sacks.

Senior Shelby Lefever had 10 tackles and junior Derrick Colegrove had six tackles and also forced a fumble.

Thompson added, while it is sweet to get the "monkey off our back" it will be back to business come Monday as Forsan turns its attention to the Christoval Cougars.

Forsan will host Christoval Friday.

No. 1 Federer spoils Agassi's miracle run

By STEVE WILSTEIN
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — Andre Agassi has, battled the champions of three eras — Pete Sampras, Boris Becker, John McEnroe, Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl — and now he puts Roger Federer above them all.

"He's the best I've ever played against," Agassi said after falling to Federer 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (1), 6-1 Sunday in the U.S. Open final. "Pete was great. No question. But there was a place to get to with Pete. You knew what you had to do. If you do it, it could be on your terms. There's no such place like that with Roger."

"He plays the game in a very special way that I haven't seen before."

Federer, a player of panache and unparalleled perfection in finals, withstood Agassi's spirited upset bid to capture a second straight U.S. Open and sixth Grand Slam title.

Federer responded to his few moments of pressure by reeling off seven straight points in the tiebreak that turned the match around, then blew Agassi away in the fourth set to run his stunning record in finals over the past two years to 23-0. He has never lost in a major final.

"This is probably the most special Grand Slam final in my career," Federer said. "To play against Andre in New York, it's a dream."

Federer moved into a tie with Becker and Stefan Edberg for Grand Slam titles among Open era players, and one behind McEnroe and Mats

Wilander. Sampras holds the record with 14 Grand Slam titles, but at 24 years old Federer could well have a shot at that.

"That's fantastic," Federer said of tying Edberg and Becker. "Tying your idols — isn't that great? It's every boy's dream and I made it come true today in a memorable final."

Federer shrieked and leapt in the air when Agassi's backhand return looped long on the championship point. The two men, who have the highest of respect for each other, shook hands warmly at the net.

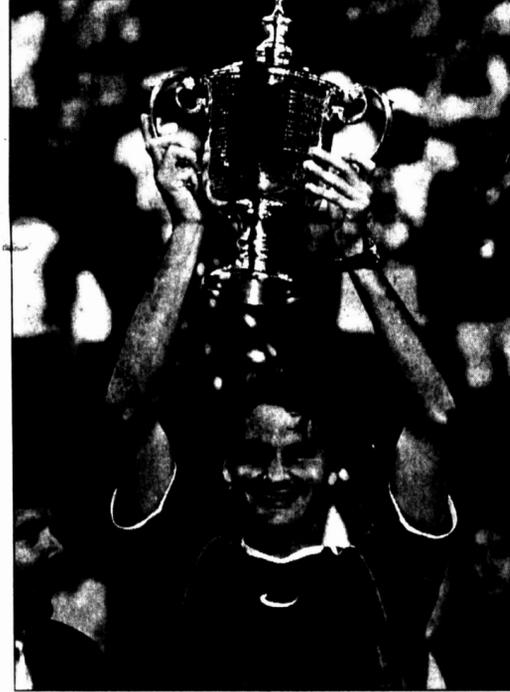
"It's been a tough road, but it's been a great road," Agassi told the cheering crowd. "Roger played way too good today. Congratulations Roger, well done."

Though the 35-year-old Agassi was the oldest U.S. Open men's finalist in 31 years, age had less to do with the difference in this match than Federer's sheer strength, variety of serves, and superior balance of attacks from the baseline and the net that wore down Agassi.

An 8-1 underdog, Agassi was just a few months removed from a career-threatening back injury that shot crippling pain down his right leg, led to his loss in the first round of the French Open and caused him to skip Wimbledon.

Federer became the first man in the Open era, which started in 1968, to win Wimbledon and the U.S. Open back-to-back in consecutive years.

Federer beat Agassi for the eighth straight time over the past two years



KRT photo/David L. Pokress, Newsday

U.S. Open tennis champion Roger Federer holds the winners' trophy Sunday after defeating Andre Agassi at the National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, N.Y. Federer won in four sets.

after losing their first three meetings. Three of Federer's victories in that streak have come at Grand Slam events, including the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open last year and the Australian Open this year.

Federer drew first blood when he broke Agassi for a 4-2 lead in the first set, but putting that set away wasn't easy. Agassi fended off three set points in his next service at 5-2, and won it with an ace.

Rather than shrink away, Agassi briefly showed the stuff that helped him win eight major titles. He broke Federer for a 2-0 lead in the second set, hammering a forehand return crosscourt that came back to Federer faster than his 111 mph serve.

This was a crafty, sharp Agassi, sometimes creeping five or 10 feet inside the baseline to surprise Federer with short-hop returns, sometimes serving and volleying. Agassi lobbed for some points, won others with drops.

The crowd had been on Agassi's side from the start, greeting him with chants of "Let's go Andre" and chanting his name.

Agassi and make him think back about his trip to get this far — possibly ending his Grand Slam journey in New York.

"They can't ever take away from what I'm leaving here with and that's the memory of thousands of people pulling for me and showing appreciation for something I care deeply about," he said.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

started on the San Diego 44 after Mike Scifres' shanked punt went only 18 yards. It was kept alive when cornerback Quentin Jammer was called for holding on third-and-16 at the 37. After three carries by Julius Jones, Bledsoe hit Johnson.

Bledsoe passed the 40,000-yard mark on a 15-yard completion to Terry Glenn on the first play of the fourth quarter. Bledsoe was 18-of-24 for 226 yards, giving him 40,034 yards in his career. He was sacked four times and wasn't intercepted.

"Bledsoe was pretty accurate," Parcells said. "When we were open, he hit it, pretty much."

San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson, who wants to break Eric Dickerson's NFL single-season rushing record of 2,105 yards, was held to 72 yards on 19 carries. He scored on a 2-yard run in the first quarter, his 13th straight game with a TD rushing to tie the NFL record held by John Riggins and George Rogers.

Brees threw two touchdown passes to Keenan McCardell and was intercepted twice. He was 18-of-35 for 209 yards. McCardell had nine catches for 123 yards.

Chargers All-Pro Antonio Gates missed the game as he finished his three-game suspension for missing a team-mandated deadline to end his training camp holdout.

While coach Marty Schottenheimer downplayed the absence of Gates, Tomlinson said it hurt. "I'm sure Bill said, 'If we stop the run, we have a great chance to win the game because they don't

have their All-Pro tight end,'" Tomlinson said.

Brees faulted himself for the interception at the end.

"We had four shots at it. I've got to come through," said Brees, who led San Diego to a 12-4 record last year.

Bledsoe rallied Dallas after a monumentally ugly second series, when the Cowboys were whistled for three holding penalties and two false starts, although one holding call was declined after the Chargers sacked Bledsoe at the Dallas 1.

Mat McBriar punted to the 50, and Dallas forced San Diego into a three-and-out, including a 13-yard sack of Brees.

Bledsoe hit Patrick Crayton for a 32-yard gain on third-and-9 from the Dallas 21, then hit a wide-open Crayton for a 20-yard touchdown to tie it at 7.

Terence Newman intercepted Brees three plays into the next Chargers drive, at the San Diego 34. Five plays later, Bledsoe threw a 13-yard pass to Johnson, who reached back for the ball and fell into the end zone for a 14-7 lead.

San Diego tied it on Brees' 20-yard pass to McCardell.

Rookie Darren Sproles had consecutive kickoff returns of 49 and 49 yards in the second half to set up San Diego scores: a 17-yard touchdown pass from Brees to McCardell and Nate Kaeding's 33-yard field goal.

In between those scores, Dallas' Julius Jones scored on a 5-yard run to tie the game at 21. The drive was kept alive when Chargers rookie lineman Luis Castillo was penalized for hitting Bledsoe on the helmet with his right hand. Bledsoe also had completions of 25 and 18 yards to Johnson.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Capricorn moon cools the raging fire inside without killing the ambition at its heart. An impulsive mood transforms to a strategic one. When the goal is this clear, it's hard to be distracted. Responsibility is the value that will separate the men from the boys. The winner is the one who doesn't make excuses or pass the buck.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The stars encourage risk-taking, especially where creativity is concerned. Think about what you can do to showcase your abilities. Put out the word about your vision. If you must speak in public, you'll be spectacular.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Be very careful about who you add to your life

today. The wrong person will influence you badly, and the right one will motivate you. Look for someone bold, dynamic and totally unique.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's a triple-star day! Your energy electrifies those close to you. They get with your program or they go off on their own with new inspiration. Either way, you win fans.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Someone who is trying to persuade you to do things their way to be successful is actually selling a recipe for mediocrity. Go about things in your own maverick way, and you'll get much better results.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're an expert at living and thinking large. (Being careful, conscientious and realistic is so retro!) When you get what you want, it's good for everyone else, too. Winning puts you in a generous mood.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). With so much going

on in your social life, it's a miracle you're accomplished in other areas. While the stars cheer on friends, family and partying in general, balance is key. Set aside a few nights this week for quiet time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You operate under a radically different set of principles. This is how you win over more conservative individuals. Tonight, your love life faces a moment of critical decision (disguised as a mundane question).

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In a world of e-mail, handwriting is becoming a lost art. But you attract luck (especially in the area of finance) by writing out a personal card or two. The sentiments you convey on paper are sincere and truly appreciated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll enjoy and excel at anything that includes high stakes. If the task doesn't have the potential to make a fool of you, it's probably not

worthy of your participation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Job stresses have you reconsidering your choice of occupation. You need your professional life to include a creative outlet. Advice and perspective on the situation is offered by an impartial mentor-type.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The power of friendly connections is highlighted — but for you, when isn't it? A business proposition between pals is inevitable if basic principles are agreed upon in advance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Seeing a co-worker promoted or otherwise advance because of their talents gets you thinking, "I could have done that!" Take on extra work, particularly projects that highlight your unique abilities.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What do you think about object

2003 UB313? Is it really another planet in our solar system? If it is, what sign will it rule? What will it be called? And are there other undiscovered planets in our solar system?"

On June 29, astronomer Mike Brown of Caltech announced the discovery of an object in our solar system. It is 10 billion miles away and is estimated to be about one and a half times the size of Pluto. Is it a planet? There is a controversy over what constitutes a planet. Some astronomers still won't qualify Pluto as a planet. Either way, it will get a name. If it is qualified as a planet, it will likely rule one of the signs that is currently sharing a planetary ruler. Mercury gets both Virgo and Gemini. Venus gets Taurus and Libra. Taurus is the likeliest candidate! I believe there are still more undetected planets in our solar system, which is much larger than we once thought it to be and also ever-

expanding.
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Fiona Apple could mix business with pleasure and get great results this year. Her new record "Extraordinary Machine" was held up indefinitely in record company limbo land, but October 4 is the reported release date. Virgo artists have integrity that others envy. There is nothing light, fluffy or compliant about their work. Their rules for themselves are often more rigid than any outside influences.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: There is a family that lives around the corner from my house. I've lived in this town all my life. They have been here only about five years. This is not a crime-riddled area, but it's not exactly the most peaceful neighborhood, either.

This couple has two young children. One is a boy who looks to be about 4 years old. Every summer, they let their young son play in the front yard completely naked. He is, of course, supervised by one or both of his parents when he is playing, but we do not live in a safe age anymore.

Pedophile incidents are becoming frighteningly too common these days. As far as I know, there aren't any pedophiles in this neighborhood. But it is not a tight-knit neighborhood, so I can't say for sure.

I am not going to speculate as to why this couple allows their child to be naked in public. I

don't know them. I don't even know their names. I was thinking of sending them an anonymous note, asking them to please be more careful with their son. I certainly don't want them to think I'm a prude. I believe the human body is nothing to be ashamed of. But I just don't feel this is a safe or wise thing to do.

Is it OK to send an anonymous note? Am I just being paranoid? Please let me know what you think. — Concerned in Massachusetts

Dear Concerned: Don't send an anonymous note. That would scare the living daylights out of them. It's true that pedophiles would consider naked children attractive targets, but mostly, pedophiles look for children who are easy prey. Those kids are being supervised closely by their parents.

Why don't you make friends with your neighbors? One of those nice days when they are sitting outside, go over

and say hello. You can then voice your concern about pedophiles, who, by the way, live in every kind of neighborhood.

Dear Annie: My daughter was asked to be a bridesmaid at a wedding this fall, and she purchased a gown at the cost of \$200. Lo and behold, the wedding was cancelled. The bride-to-be did not even have the courtesy to inform my daughter. We found out when a shower was cancelled.

When my daughter called the bridal shop, she was told no refund would be forthcoming. She attends college part time and works to pay her tuition. Needless to say, she can ill afford to pay for a dress she will



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

never wear. Is there a protocol to follow under these circumstances? Shouldn't the bride reimburse her bridesmaids? Also, it seems to me the bridal shop should have been able to stop the alterations with six weeks' notice. — Peoria, Ill., Mom

Dear Peoria: The bride should have personally notified her bridesmaids that the wedding was cancelled, but, sorry, she is not responsible for the cost of the dress. Many bridal shops require only a deposit until the dress is finished, so your daughter might check the fine print on the order form to see if she can get a partial refund.

Dear Annie: I'd like to respond to "Let's Just Wave, OK?" who suffered from osteoarthritis and dreaded shaking hands at church. A hint in an etiquette book saved my life -- or at least my hand: Go in for the handshake "web first" (the web is the space between the thumb and index finger), and shake web-to-web. It makes it much harder for someone to get a bone-crunching grip on you. To avoid shaking hands at church, I always keep my Bible in my right hand, so with minor body language, it's easy to avoid a handshake. Just smile winningly and perhaps touch the greeter's arm with your left hand, and you're home free. Hope these suggestions help others as much as they've helped me. — Willing but Unable

Dear Willing: Thank you. Our readers came through with several suggestions for avoiding those excruciatingly painful handshakes.

Here's more: From Butler, Pa.: Many people in the church I attend are elderly and have arthritis, so they just smile and say, "Peace be with you." Congregants understand that these parishioners are extending them peace but don't wish to shake because of their sore hands.

East Coast: Tell "Let's Just Wave" to spray WD-40 on her hands three times daily, and in about three days her hands will feel better. It works for my knee.

Midwest: Perhaps when this person is offered a hand to shake, the arthritic person could take the offered hand between both palms and smile, thus preventing another person from exerting any pressure.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.
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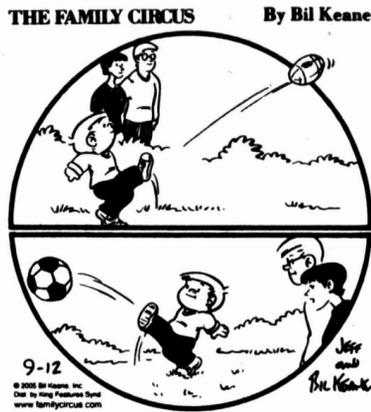
Table of TV listings for Monday, September 12, 2005, including channels like WFAA, KMLD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISH, ESPN2, ESPN, and SCFI.

DENNIS THE MENACE



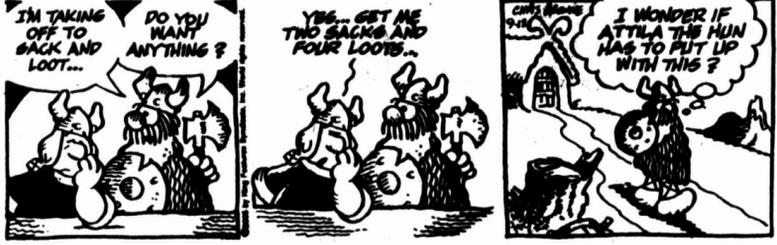
"AS LONG AS I KNOW MY ABCs, WHY DOES IT MATTER WHAT ORDER THEY'RE IN?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I knew before he was born that he'd be good at kicking things."

HAGAR



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BC

Lunatic



WIZARD OF ID



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HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2005. There are 110 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 12, 1609, English explorer Henry Hudson sailed into the river that now bears his name. On this date: In 1938, Adolf Hitler demanded self-determination for the Sudeten Germans in Czechoslovakia. In 1943, German paratroopers took Benito Mussolini from the hotel where he was being held by the Italian government. In 1944, during World War II, U.S. Army troops entered Germany for the first time, near Trier. In 1953, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier in Newport, R.I. In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy addressed the issue of his Roman Catholicism, telling a Protestant group in Houston, "I do not speak for

my church on public matters, and the church does not speak for me." In 1974, Emperor Haile Selassie was deposed by Ethiopia's military, after ruling for 58 years. In 1977, South African black student leader Steven Biko died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry. In 1986, Joseph Ciccipio, the acting comptroller at the American University in Beirut, was kidnapped; he was released in December 1991. In 1988, Hurricane Gilbert slammed into Jamaica, killing 45 people and causing damage estimated at up to \$1 billion. Five years ago: Dutch lawmakers gave same-sex couples the right to marriage and all the trappings, including adoption and divorce. One year ago: U.S. Airways Group Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection for the second time in two years. Ten people were killed in an apartment fire just outside Columbus, Ohio. Today's Birthdays: Actress Irene Dailey is 85. Actor Dickie Moore ("Our Gang") is 80. Actor Freddie Jones is 78. Actor Ian Holm is 74. Actress Linda Gray is 65. Singer Maria Muldaur is 62. Actor Joe Pantoliano is 54. Actress Rachel Ward is 48. Actor Darren E. Burrows is 39. Rock singer-musician Ben Folds (Ben Folds Five) is 39. Rock musician Larry LaLonde (Primus) is 37. Rock singer Liam Gallagher (Oasis) is 33. Actor Paul Walker is 32. Actor Benjamin McKenzie is 27. Singer Ruben Studdard ("American Idol") is 27. Singer Jennifer Hudson ("American Idol") is 24. Thought for Today: "While the world is yet unspoken, you are master of it; when once it is spoken, it is master of you." - Arab proverb.

Newsday Crossword A LITTLE INSURANCE by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS: 1 Writing tablets, 5 Burst of wind, 9 Clumsy ones, 14 Assist in a crime, 15 One of the Great Lakes, 16 Tear into pieces, 17 Game on horseback, 18 Guy, 19 "And Jill came tumbling down", 20 Cockpit device, 22 Short-tempered, 23 Eagle's claw, 24 Command to Fido, 26 Sound of relief, 29 Gets out of bed, 33 Sun-dried brick, 37 Two semesters, 39 Drug enforcement agent, 40 Bride's ride, 41 Local or express, 42 Singer Fitzgerald, 43 Opera solo, 44 Grasp, 45 Late-blooming flower, 46 Avoid a trial, 48 Leak slowly, 50 Camera part, 52 Takes it easy, 56 Heavenly rings, 59 Baseball pentagon, 63 Regions, 64 Actor Baldwin, 65 State openly, 66 Playground fixture, 67 Apartment expense, 68 "Out of the way!", 69 Sheriff's group, 70 Pea holders, 71 Raw metals, 10 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, 11 Chooses, with "for", 12 Song for two, 13 Agile, 21 Sit for a portrait, 25 Merit, 27 Greek sandwich, 28 Becomes well again, 30 Pretzel topping, 31 Author Stanley Gardner, 32 Lasting impression, 33 "Oh, dear!", 34 Desperate, 35 Leave out, 36 Oodles, 38 Office assistant, 41 At that time, 45 Each, slangily, 47 One paying, 49 Votes into office, 51 Pointy, 53 Texas landmark, 54 Party keepsake, 55 Kitchen appliance, 56 Door fastener, 57 Folk singer Guthrie, 58 Hawaiian wreaths, 60 Butter alternative, 61 Make repairs to, 62 Meadow moms

Crossword grid with numbers 1-71 and creator information: CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2005 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 9/12/05

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