

Three BSHS grads earn Advanced Placement

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Three former Big Spring High School students received credit for college calculus before they ever set foot on university soil.

Mitchell Lowery, Rochelle McMeans and Braden Burchett, who all graduated from BSHS earlier this year, earned credit for the courses by earning high marks on their Advanced Placement national calculus test, High School Principal Mike Ritchey said.

On a grading scale of 1 to 5, Lowery and Burchett recorded perfect scores, while McMeans registered a 4, Ritchey said.



BURCHETT LOWERY McMEANS

Those high scores ensured that the trio would receive immediate credit for first-year calculus at Texas Tech University, where the trio will attend classes this fall.

Advanced Placement courses are part of the BSISD Gifted and Talented program and help prepare students for col-

lege classes. The national AP test was taken in May, and results were only recently released.

Ritchey said having three students score so high on the exam was remarkable.

"It's just a great achievement," he said. "A score of 3 is considered passing. Getting a 4 is great and getting a 5 is just exceptional ... It's a very rigorous course. It takes a lot of work, not only on the part of the student, but the instructor as well."

Ritchey praised the work of Dr. Mo Seghier, who also teaches AP physics courses at BSHS, for his work in preparing students for the test.

Ritchey said this marks the first time

during his tenure that more than one BSHS student aced an AP national test.

For most people, calculus was a course they avoided at all costs in high school or college. However, for Lowery — who was valedictorian of the BSHS Class of 2006 — the test was no more or less difficult than other exams he took during his high school career.

"The test is doable if you put forth the effort in class," he said. "If you slacked off in class, you'd get a 1 or a 2 on the test. It all depended on how hard you studied in class, just like with your other courses."

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



Auctioneer Bob Price reels through a series of items during Friday's annual Howard County A&M Club Scholarship Auction at the Big Spring Country Club. More than 85 items were auctioned to raise money for the fund, which managed to bring in more than \$40,000 during the event.

Go-ahead

Increased valuation lets school board consider 'large item' projects

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The restraints are off on many long-delayed projects at Big Spring Independent School District.

A dramatic increase in property valuations and state financial aid has combined to make a situation in which BSISD trustees will likely give the go-ahead to almost \$2 million worth of projects that have been put off for years and, in some instances, decades.

Those "large item" projects range from pay raises for district personnel to electrical upgrades at two elementary schools to more buses for the district's aging fleet.

For years, district officials have talked about the necessity of these projects, but have had to put them off because of budgetary constraints — but all of that has changed, at least for this year.

BSISD Business Manager Sandra Waggoner said there were two reasons for the good financial news.

First, property valuations have risen sharply

within the district. Waggoner is estimating an increase of at least \$62 million — and perhaps as much as \$70 million — in valuations this year, which means more tax revenue for the district.

Secondly, state financial aid has sharply risen because of school finance reforms passed during the recent special session of the Texas Legislature. Because of those reforms, "property poor" schools (which includes BSISD) will receive more funding in the future.

"Those two things put together have really made a difference in this year's budget," Waggoner said. "I don't know if this kind of thing will happen in the future ... but it's a good budget this year."

Among the many special projects that will receive attention this year are:

- Personnel salaries — Approximately \$300,000 has been earmarked for raises to teachers and other personnel within the district. The teacher raises are over and above the \$2,500 annual raise

See BSISD, Page 3

Council expected to pass 'safe zones' ordinance

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Sex offenders living within city limits will likely have a whole new set of rules to contend with, as the Big Spring City Council is expected to pass final reading of a new ordinance that will create "safe zones" during its Tuesday meeting.

The ordinance, which would amend Chapter 14 of the city code by adding

an article entitled "Sex Offenders," would make it an offense for convicted sex offenders to reside within 1,000 feet of schools, daycare facilities and city parks.

The council unanimously in favor of the ordinance approximately two weeks ago.

"The city of Big Spring is going on record saying we're not going to allow sex offenders to live in these locations and in

these approximations to children," said Mayor Russ McEwen. "And if they choose not to adhere to that, it puts some teeth into the law and could be a reason for revocation of their probation or parole."

"I feel like it's absolute-ly justified," he added.

"There's a sacred trust between adults and children, and when people break that trust how can there be anything worse to that. You heard it

tonight. There were people suggesting we include 1,000 feet from every bus stop. People care about it and it's justified because these are children. You and I can't understand a sexual offense against a child, but it happens and we need to do everything as a community to make sure we do everything we can to protect these children."

According to Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie

Smith, provisions within state law allows for ordinances

"The Texas Code of Criminal Procedures provides for the court to provide certain provisions on the release of sex offenders," Police Chief Lonnie Smith told the council. "One of these is a child safety zone, which covers the playgrounds and schools, similar to what we're looking to pass on this city ordinance. This

would make it a violation of city ordinance if they moved within that 1,000 foot range."

Smith told the council the ordinance would help police officials keep watch on local sex offenders, making the community safer for children.

"We have two investigators that their duties include keeping a check on registered sex offend-

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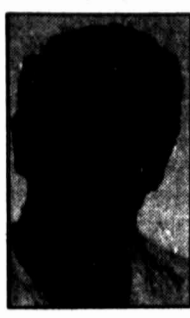


Ten-year-old Amy Winters receives an award from Heather Wallace for her grand prize drawing in the Hangar 25 Air Museum Kids Klub contest. The drawing was chosen to be the official 2006 Kids Klub T-shirt design. For her effort, Amy received a T-shirt, a gift certificate from the Hangar 25 gift shop and other items. She is the daughter of Roger and Becky Winters and will attend Gollad Intermediate School in the fall. Wallace is the museum director.

Courtesy photo

Obituaries

Ismael Juarez Sr.



Our husband, daddy, and "PoPo," Ismael Juarez Sr., 66, of Big Spring passed away peacefully Friday, July 21, 2006, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Prayer service will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Lighthouse Restoration Center, 604 E. 13th Street in Big Spring, with Rev. Reynaldo Bennett, pastor, officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial

Park.

Ismael S. Juarez Sr. was born Sept. 13, 1939, in Big Spring to Francisca and Leandro Juarez. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring.

He married Dora Arispe on Dec. 20, 1957. He was employed by West Texas Roofing for over 25 years and worked at Fiber Flex. He enjoyed life with his family and was an avid sports fan, especially for the Dallas Cowboys and the Forty-niners.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 48 years, Dora Juarez of Big Spring; a son, Ismael Juarez Jr. of Big Spring; four daughters, Virginia Diaz, Sara Martine; and her husband Esteban, Adela Hernandez and her husband Max, and Viola Salgado and her husband Jamie, all of Big Spring; a sister, Delfina Leos of Big Spring; 19 grandchildren, Ted Diaz, Tricia Castillo, Terry Diaz, Monica Marquez, Morris Hernandez, Jessica DelBosquez, Marcelo Hernandez, Eric Hernandez, Erica Cepeda, Kimberly Hernandez, Jesse Hernandez, Stephanie Juarez, Anthony Juarez, Cecily Juarez, Derrick Juarez, Jamie Salgado Jr., Zackery Salgado, Matthew Salgado and RuAnn Martinez; and 27 great grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed, but will live in our hearts forever.

Pallbearers will be Esteban Martinez, Theodore Diaz, Jamie Salgado, Max Hernandez, Manuel Hewetty and Cruz Juarez.

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

Paid obituary

Ross J. Callihan



Ross J. Callihan, 86, of Big Spring, died Friday, July 21, 2006, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 26, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Rev. Don Snipes, pastor of Baptist Temple Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Dec. 6, 1919, in Howard County and married Mildred Cauble on July 8, 1945, in Big Spring.

Ross was a lifelong resident of Big Spring and had worked for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company as a switchman. He served in the United States Army during World War II.

He was a member of the Baptist Temple Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred Callihan of Big Spring; two sons, Lawrence Bradley Callihan and Alton Gordon Callihan; one daughter, Sherri Wigington of Big Spring; one sister, Geneva Roberts of Big Spring; and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; an infant son, Ross Jerrell Callihan; a sister, Lillian Brown; and a brother, Leon Callihan.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Troy Hogue Memorial Fund at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring 79720; or to Baptist Temple Church, 400 E. 11th Place, Big Spring 79720.

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

Roger Wayne Park



Roger Wayne Park, 62, of Big Spring, died Saturday, July 22, 2006, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 26, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton, Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

A private family interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home for a visitation from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, 2006.

Roger was born July 9, 1944, in Big Spring to Henry and Estill Park. He married Linda Smith on July 31, 1975, in Big Spring. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was a graduate of Forsan High School and had worked in the oilfield for 41 years in Odessa, Snyder, and Big Spring. He was a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Linda Park of Big Spring; a daughter and son-in-law, Lori and Mike Speck of Big Spring; a son, Kevin Park of Midland; two grandsons; two step grandsons; his in-laws, Jake and Jean Smith of Big Spring; three brothers and sisters-in-law, John and Pepita Park of Beverly Hills, Fla., Steve and Judy Park of Big Spring and Fred and Diane Park of Lubbock; two sisters-in-law and their husbands, Diane and Randy Biggers of Levelland and Debra and Mike Lowder of Midland; two bothers-in-law and their wives, Jay and Brenda Smith of Levelland and Randy and Donna Duncan of Lovington, N.M.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Eva Park; and two brothers-in-law, Terry and Woody Duncan.

The family suggest memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, Relay for Life c/o Diane Woods, P.O. Box 254, Coahoma 79511; or Home Hospice, 111 E. 7th St., Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

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

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 10 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- **JODY DAWDY**, 42, of 1406 Young, was arrested Saturday on a Randall County warrant.
- **ISAI GARCIA**, 30, of Garden City, was arrested Saturday and held for immigration.
- **JOSEPH COOK**, 27, of 1506 Wood, was arrested Sunday on six local warrants and a Howard County warrant.
- **ABEL PESINA**, 20, of 1002 Lancaster, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION** was reported in the 100 block of Third Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
 - in the 600 block of Bell.
 - in the 800 block of FM 700.
 - in the 1000 block of Wood.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1600 block of Sycamore.
- **THEFT** was reported: in the 200 block of Marcy and in the 900 block of Willia.

Sheriff's report

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

- **SUGGAR TATRO**, 25, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of tampering with government records.
- **ERNESTO REQUEJO**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated and striking an unattended vehicle.
- **DAVID GRIJALBA MORALES**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for a parole warrant and a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- **REYNALDO GONZALES**, 18, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of ride not secured by a safety belt.
- **LLOYD ALLEN MAULDIN**, 34, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of criminal mischief - family violence and theft by check.
- **CODY WELCH**, 32, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container.
- **ADELAIDO MARTINEZ**, 54, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid and a parole violation.
- **ERNESTO MARQUEZ MUNIZ**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance, bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana - more than two ounces less than four ounces.
- **JESUS C. HERNANDEZ JR.**, 21, was arrested Sunday by TABC on charges of purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor and a Travis County warrant for bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **NICHOLAS CRAIG MILLS**, 26, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.
- **DONNA KATHERN ZAMORA**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a Dawson County warrant for failure to appear - possession of marijuana.
- **JORDAN THOMPSON RICE**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone and unlawfully carrying a weapon.
- **JIM BOB WHITE**, 39, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of Lloyd. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1700 block of East Third Street. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of East 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 7200 block of Kyle Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3600 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 300 block of East Third Street. Service was refused.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1000 block of Lamesa. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of Tulane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3000 block of Abilene. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1300 block of Mesquite. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1400 block of East Sixth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- 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.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Spring City Senior Citizens Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

Take Note

- **THE ACKERLY WIND ENERGY PROJECT** is holding a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, at Pal's Corner in Ackerly. All landowners are invited and encouraged to attend.

Weather

Today — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Tonight — Partly cloudy. Lows around 70. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Tuesday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
Tuesday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s. South winds around 10 mph.
Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.
Thursday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 90s.
Thursday night — Partly cloudy.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 16-19-23-24-40-42. Number matching six of six: none. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night's drawing: \$11 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-11-14-20-35. Number matching five of five: none. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 0-6-0

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Tano Chavarria prepares to putt on the ninth green at Comanche Trail Golf Course Sunday. With temperatures easing somewhat the past few days, golfers once again hit local courses. Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Plans move forward for spaceport to be located in W. Texas

By MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

EL PASO — An environmental study facing scrutiny this week offers a tantalizing glimpse into the secretive West Texas private spaceport project being bankrolled and developed by Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos.

Under the banner of a Seattle-area company called Blue Origin, a spacecraft dubbed the New Shepard Reusable Launch Vehicle would take off vertically, like NASA's space shuttle. But unlike the shuttle, which glides to earth and lands like an airplane, the spaceship would land vertically.

The craft would hit an altitude of about 325,000 feet before descending and restarting its engine for a "precision vertical powered landing on the landing pad" located in sparsely populated Culberson County.

Those were among the plans detailed in a 229-page draft of an environmental review filed with the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA has responsibility to issue permits and licenses for Blue Origin to go ahead with its launch plans.

A public hearing on the environmental review was scheduled Tuesday in Van Horn, the closest center of population to the space base. Bezos, the 42-year-old billionaire who built Amazon into an Internet sales giant, won't be attending the hearing, Blue Origin spokesman Bruce Hicks said.

The report was assembled by Blue Origin and Tetra Tech Inc., a Pasadena, Calif.-based engineering and technical consulting firm.

The environmental assessment process is "only one of the steps

prior to obtaining an experimental permit for a launch operator's license," FAA spokesman Hank Price said. "We have received permit applications from Blue Origin and are evaluating them for safety and other considerations as well."

As many as 10 flight tests lasting as long as a minute and reaching an altitude of about 2,000 feet could be launched this year from the site north of Van Horn on the 165,000-acre Corn Ranch purchased by Bezos. Over the following three years, as many as 25 launches would be made annually, growing in altitude to 325,000 feet and in duration to more than 10 minutes.

Commercial flights, a goal of the project, could begin in 2010, according to the timetable in the document, with as many as 52 a year.

"The flight rate would depend on market demand," said the document filed to the FAA.

The launch site is about 25 miles north of Van Horn and 35 miles south of Guadalupe Mountains National Park on the Texas-New Mexico border. The park contains many of the highest mountains in Texas, including the signature 8,085-foot El Capitan. It can be seen from a distance on Bezos' property amid desert and cattle-grazing terrain and salt

See PROJECT, Page 5

Final arguments set in Yates trial

By ANGELA K. BROWN
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — For much of the past four weeks, jurors in Andrea Yates' murder trial have heard about how she spiraled from a dedicated nurse to a catatonic mental hospital patient, how she thought cartoon characters spoke to her through the television — and how on one summer morning she drowned her five children in the bathtub.

They heard an audiotape of Yates in a flat, emotionless voice answer a detective's questions a few hours later. The jury also saw segments of her videotaped interviews — at times emotional — with several state and defense psychiatrists who talked to Yates, one as recently as May.

On Monday, before jurors begin sorting through the evidence and testimony from 40 witnesses, they will hear once more from defense attorneys and prosecutors who each have two hours for their closing arguments.

Defense attorneys say Yates suffered from severe postpartum psychosis when she killed 6-month-old Mary, 2-year-old Luke, 3-year-old Paul, 5-year-old John and 7-year-old Noah in June 2001. They say that in her delusional state, Yates thought Satan was living inside her and believed she had ruined the children so much that she had to kill them to save them from hell.

Prosecutors say that although Yates may be mentally ill, she fails to

meet the state's definition of insanity: that a severe mental illness prevents someone who is committing a crime from knowing it is wrong.

They say she planned the crime for the small window of time when she'd be alone with the youngsters, after her husband went to work and before her mother-in-law arrived to help care for them.

Then Yates called 911, led police to the bodies and told a detective she was a bad mother and wanted to be punished, according to testimony.

Yates, 42, is being retried because an appeals court overturned her 2002 conviction on the grounds that some erroneous testimony may have influenced jurors. Yates is charged in only

three of her five children's deaths.

If found innocent by reason of insanity, Yates will be committed to a state mental hospital, with periodic hearings before a judge to determine whether she should be released — although by law, jurors are not allowed to know that.

Yates, who was her senior high school class valedictorian, will be sentenced to life in prison if convicted of capital murder.

A capital murder conviction in Texas carries either life in prison or the death penalty. Prosecutors could not seek death this time because the first trial's jurors sentenced her to life in prison, and authorities found no new evidence.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1

mandated by the legislature, Waggoner said.

- Vehicles — The district's aging transportation fleet will get a facelift this year, with about \$386,000 allotted to pay for school buses and other student-transport vehicles, as well as pickups for the maintenance department.

- "We really need to update our fleet," Waggoner said. "We still have some buses from the 1980s in our fleet, so this is a really good thing."

- Electrical upgrades —

To better position campuses to handle computer technology, Waggoner said \$145,000 has been appropriated to finance upgrades of electrical systems at Moss and Marcy elementary schools.

"Marcy needs a computer lab, and we can't do that until we upgrade the electrical system there," she said. "Moss is in a little better shape, but they need an upgrade, too."

When these two campuses receive upgrades, Bauer Magnet School will be the only district school in need of such action, Waggoner said.

- Bleacher repairs — State inspectors have

been telling district officials for years that repairs have to be made to athletic facilities to address safety concerns. The district has been effecting those repairs in bits and pieces, but has not been able to afford full-scale action until now.

Waggoner said \$120,000 has been earmarked for bleacher repair at all district athletic facilities, including Memorial Stadium, Blankenship Field and the various gyms and baseball and softball fields.

Speaking of Blankenship, it will receive a new track at a

cost of \$95,000 in the near future.

- Parking lot construction and refurbishment — More than \$200,000 is scheduled to be spent to resurface both major parking lots at Big Spring High School. Those lots have not been touched in decades, and work there cannot be put off for much longer, Waggoner warned.

"That resurfacing has been needed for awhile," she said. "If we don't do it soon, we'll have to take them out and rebuild them entirely."

In addition, \$35,000 has been penciled in for construction of parking lots

at Marcy and Moss elementary schools.

If valuations come in even higher than expected, Waggoner said trustees will seriously consider adding an air-conditioning system to the high school gym, a project estimated to cost between \$200,000 and \$250,000.

The new school district budget will be formally adopted on Aug. 31, Waggoner said.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 267-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

ers in Big Spring," said Smith. "For your information, we have 41 sex offenders living within the city limits. Of those, 31 involve victims that were 16 years old or younger. That's why I see a definite need for a child protected zone, something these investigators can use to keep these neighborhoods and schools safe."

Also on the agenda are:

- Acceptance of minutes from the McMahon Wrinkle Airpark Development Board and Moore Development for

Big Spring board of directors.

- Approval of late home-stead exemption refunds for the month of June.

- Presentation of Howard County 9-1-1 Communication District's proposed 2006-2007 budget and management audit for fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2005.

- Consideration of extending the present lease to the cell site located on the top of Settles Hotel to the Cingular.

- Consider a resolution

approving resolutions to be submitted to the Texas Municipal League.

The council is also expected to adjourn into executive session during the meeting, in accordance with Section 551.087 of the Texas Government Code regarding economic development negotiations relating to potential economic development prospect.

The meeting will get underway Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

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Delia Cevallos, 74, died Friday. Funeral Mass will be at 2 p.m. Monday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Ismael Juarez, 66, died Friday. Prayer Service will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Lighthouse Restoration Center, 604 E. 13th Street, Big Spring. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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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

Salvation Army's newest program fills definite need

With local Salvation Army officials already pleased with the success of their Boys and Girls Club of America summer program — participation has far exceeded expectations — it appears nothing but good things are in store for the new program.

That's because the Big Spring Boys and Girls Club of America isn't just a summer activity, it is a year-round program designed to provide activities that will keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.

More importantly, the program is designed for both boys and girls.

While the Boys Club of Big Spring has long been a source of stability for many boys in our community, there has been no similar program with girls. And in today's world, it's clear that many girls in our community and those throughout the nation need direction and a safe haven during the times they're not in school or being supervised at home by their parents.

The camp will run throughout the summer school holiday with services offered between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, according to Capt. Linda Keeney.

What's more, the Salvation Army is keeping the cost of participating in the program to a minimum — charging \$1 per month for membership.

Once the summer break is over, the Boys and Girls Club of America will be offering services throughout the school year, operating from 3:30 p.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

That means the community will now have a program that serves both boys and girls that need some place to be and activities to do during the hours between the end of the school day and the time their parents get off work.

For more information on the program, contact Keeney at 264-0455.

We here at the Herald hope parents will make the most of this opportunity to provide their children with the safe, structured program provided by the Boys and Girls Club, not only this summer, but once classes resume at local schools.

And, as always, we encourage those in our community who have the financial ability, to support this program and the others provided by the Salvation Army with their monetary donations.

We have no doubt we'll all be the better for it.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, thank You for all Your assistance, Lord, even when we don't realize we have it.

Amen

Democrats' version of John McCain

Months ago, I was lunching with some savvy Democrats, when one of them asked me: What is the problem with all those Republicans who can't stand maverick GOP Sen. John McCain? As a McCainiac, I warmed to the subject.

I disagree with McCain on illegal immigration and other issues, but I like the fact that McCain appeals to Democrats and independents and that he can work with senators on the other side of the aisle. I appreciate McCain's efforts to curb Washington's runaway spending and wish more Republicans followed his lead on fiscal restraint.

What is more, I think McCain in the White House could go a long way in healing the country's ugly partisan divide.

Then again, I added, Democrats have their own maverick — Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman. Unlike Dems who ran from their support of the Iraq resolution, Lieberman has remained stalwart. He has forged relations with the Bush White House and joined McCain and Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., in fighting pork-barrel spending.

That's when the table got quiet. It is one thing for Democrats to feel superior to rube Republicans who don't like McCain because he is not sufficiently doctrinaire. When, however, a Democrat gets along with Republicans and espouses moderate positions, well then, he is a turncoat, plain and

simple. The episode demonstrated how voters value bipartisanship — from the other side, only.

And that was before rich-guy and cable exec. Ned Lamont waged his primary challenge to Lieberman, who is serving his third term in the Senate. Just six years ago, Democrats hailed Lieberman as Al Gore's running mate — a position that spoke of the party's confidence that the Connecticut senator was qualified to take over the presidency, should something happen to a President Gore. Now, among the Democratic base, his name is mud.

A new Quinnipiac poll shows Lieberman trailing Lamont, garnering 47 percent of likely voters in the Aug. 8 Democratic primary, compared to Lamont's 51 percent. The poll also showed Lieberman handily winning a general election, if he runs as an independent against Lamont and Republican Alan Schlesinger, as well as Lamont beating Schlesinger in a two-man race, if by a lesser margin than Lieberman would enjoy.

Of course, Connecticut Democrats have every right to reject Lieberman because they disagree with his policies. The fact that he is an incumbent does not mean that he should own his Senate seat for life.

That said, Lieberman is a cut above the routine D.C. politician who habitually runs from difficult votes and unpopular positions. While his constituents have soured on the war in Iraq, Lieberman is sticking by his early support of the war — even if it costs him re-election.

He has shown a dedication to principle that voters like to think

they want. Except that the Nedheads — as Lamont's supporters are called — object to Lieberman's support of President Bush. As the Weekly Standard's Matt Continetti reported, the most popular campaign button among Nedheads features Dubya's embrace of Lieberman after his 2005 State of the Union address.

They are incensed that Lieberman is not a Bush hater. Indeed, the Nedheads are so angry about the Big Hug that they are willing to torpedo a man who campaigned against Bush in 2000. Hoover Institution fellow Morris Fiorina told me it scares him to watch the extremes dominate each party as they chase moderates out of office. In this case, Connecticut Dems may be "willing to sacrifice" a shot at taking control of the U.S. Senate from the GOP — Lieberman would be the surer bet to win in November — "for the sake of their ideological purity."

While many Democrats say they want to see an end to partisan rancor, Fiorina added, Lamont's supporters "are the kind of people who thrive on partisan rancor." Where moderates see bipartisan bonhomie, they see a traitor.

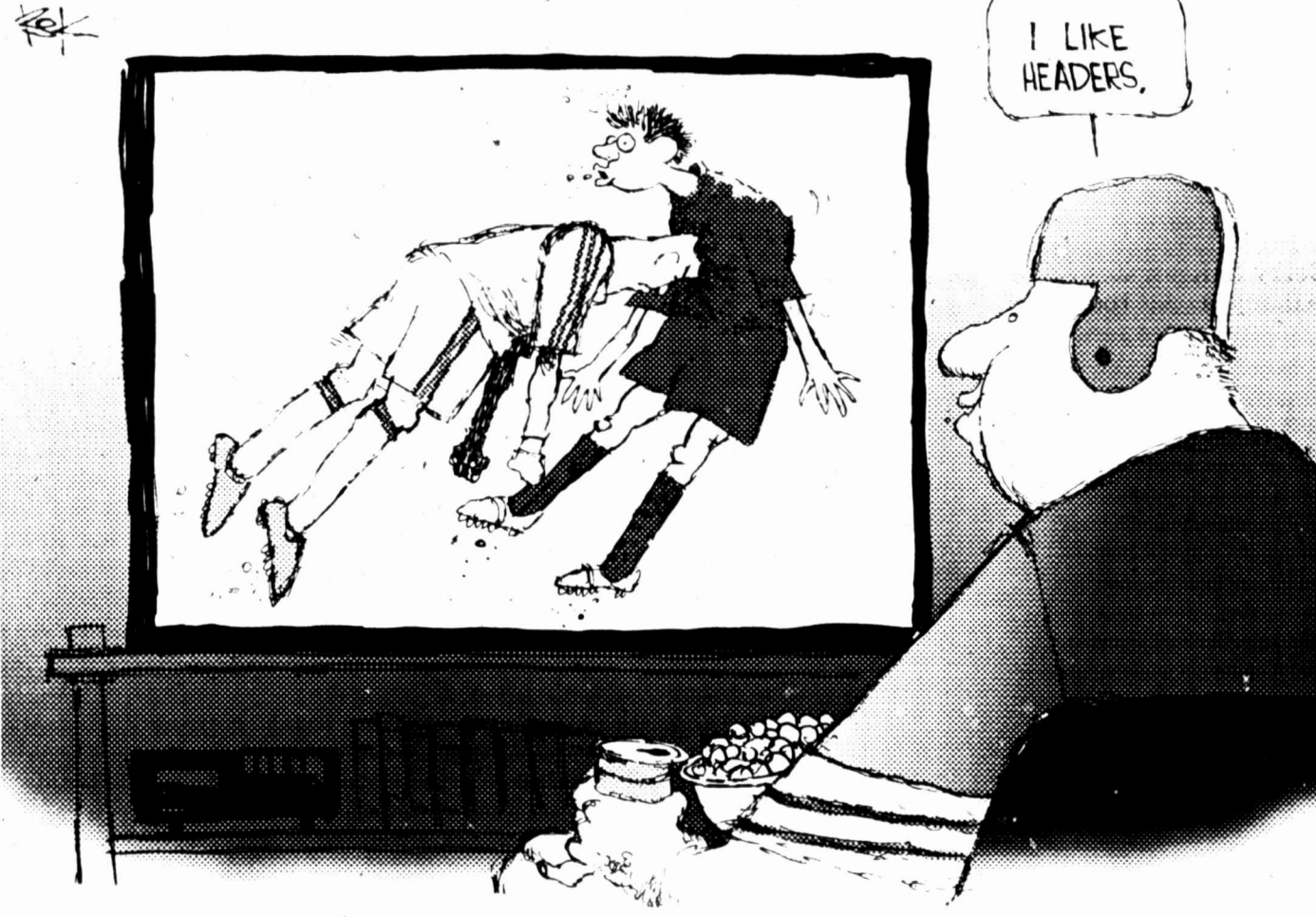
As Fiorina sees it, when busy moderates sit out primaries, they "abandon the field to all those people who have extreme views." You can forget all those "re-elect Gore" bumper stickers so dear to the angry Left. Because Lieberman gets along with the president of the United States, they have a new slogan: Dump Joey.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.
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DEBRA SAUNDERS

AK-FRDN LEAGON JOURNAL © 06



WORLD CUP U.S. TV RATINGS SOAR.

Another team rape takes place

This is not the Duke lacrosse team. There are no fancy lawyers, no committee set up to support the players, no Bob Bennett on board to spin the press. There have been no national press conferences, no visiting anchorpeople clamoring for interviews. The team isn't ranked, the players weren't stars — no one has any money. And it's ugly.

When six prospective members of the Fresno City College football team arrived at the Fresno, Calif., Police Station to be questioned about the alleged rape of an 11-year-old runaway, the only advice they had came from a lawyer whose son once played for the team.

For free, he told them that if they didn't do anything wrong, they should provide statements to the police — and if they had done "something to be concerned with, even if it was consensual, or if they had done something to abet or aid, they might want to exercise their Fifth Amendment rights." This, according to the local paper.

The police do not always get roadmaps so easily. The Duke boys didn't give them statements. They don't give roadmaps to the

police. They never talk to the police without having their own lawyers present.

Two men have already been arrested and are in custody. The Duke defendants are all out on bail.

The police were called that Saturday night after the girl left an apartment that had apparently been rented for the players, most of whom come from out-of-state, where two-year colleges routinely don't offer football. The sheriff has said that evidence at the scene supported the girl's story. According to the lawyer, the boys said "she was tall and had some development. ... They all said she 'looked like she was 18 or 19 to me.'"

Maybe so. But as the lawyer told them, it's no defense to child molestation that you don't know it's a child — and no defense to oral copulation with a child under 18 that you don't know her age.

The girl had run away from a group home. Her life no doubt wasn't very good to begin with. For the boys, convictions will likely ruin the chance they had to escape. The two-year college scholarship might have led to another one, to a four-year school, to a degree, to a different life.

All for what? Stupid. Stupid. Stupid. It wasn't a party. They were going back and forth between apartments.

According to the sheriff, "as many as 10 men" may have been involved in the assault.

Ten men and one girl.

It doesn't matter if she's tall or small. It doesn't matter if she looks older than her age or not. Practice was scheduled to begin in August. These guys had everything to lose and so little to gain.

Why would 10 men assault one girl?

They're football players. She's a girl. There are 10 of them and one of her.

Why would anyone do nothing and let it happen?

Can we teach this?

Yes, of course, she shouldn't be there, the group home should be better, someone should be helping her — but she is there, and is there one of them who has a sister, who can see a disaster, a horror show, a human spectacle about to unfold? Is there one human being who stops a travesty from happening not only because it will end up ruining their lives, but also because it will ruin hers?

How many stories like this have to happen, how many teams have to go down, how many chances have to go up in smoke, first?

In that respect, it is like Duke, only these boys will pay and pay.

Will conservatives defend them, too?

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Highway sniper kills one, injures another in Indiana

By CHARLES WILSON
Associated Press Writer

SEYMOUR, Ind. — Investigators scoured hundreds of miles of highway for clues to a killer after two sets of sniper attacks within hours of each other left one man dead, another wounded and four vehicles peppered with bullet holes.

A day after the attacks, police were still trying to identify potential suspects and searching for any witnesses who might have seen the shooter in the act.

Electronic highway signs across the state flashed a message to motorists Monday morning: "Report suspicious overpass activities — call police."

Near the shooting sites, state Police asked businesses for surveillance video from the hours surrounding the Sunday morning attacks, and they asked motorists who had been through the Seymour area in the past week to check their vehicles for bullet holes.

Indiana State Police Sgt. Jerry Goodin said investigators were comparing bullet fragments to determine if the two sets of attacks, about 100 miles apart on Interstates 65 and 69, were related.

"We're keeping an open mind," Goodin said. "Wherever they're from, we're going to go after them."

The first bullet killed Jerry L. Ross, 40, of New Albany as he rode in a pickup truck on I-65 near

Seymour, about 50 miles south of Indianapolis, authorities said.

The shooting was reported about 12:20 a.m. Sunday.

As state police were investigating, the Seymour Police Department received a call from a gas station just off I-65 reporting a second shooting.

The driver of the second pickup, Brandon Bonnesen of Anita, Iowa, said he and Robert John Otto Hartl, 25, of Audubon, Iowa, were driving to Florida for construction work when he heard a loud noise.

"I cussed a little bit and looked at my friend. He was all bent over and I said 'You all right?' He said 'I'm OK, keep going,'" Bonnesen said.

The bullet had grazed Hartl's head near his left ear, Bonnesen said.

Police closed a 14-mile stretch of I-65 for eight hours after the Seymour shootings.

The north-south highway through Indiana is heavily traveled at all hours and is the most direct route between Chicago and the Southern states.

About two hours after the shootings in southern Indiana, bullets struck a semitrailer and an unattended sport-utility vehicle about 100 miles to the northeast on Interstate 69.

No one was injured in those shootings.

Goodin said authorities were considering the shootings to be linked "until proven otherwise."

President Bush remains opposed to cease-fire despite Saudi pleas

By NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — White House officials said President Bush remains opposed to an immediate cease-fire to stop violence in the Middle East, despite personal pleas from ally Saudi Arabia that he help stop the bloodshed.

Saudi King Abdullah beseeched Bush to intervene in Israel's military campaign against Hezbollah in Lebanon, where the death toll is approaching 400 after less than two weeks of bombing. Abdullah's request was hand-delivered to Bush by Saudi officials who requested a meeting Sunday at the White House.

"We requested a cease-fire to allow for a cessation of hostilities," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal told reporters as he departed the West Wing.

"I have brought a letter from the Saudi king to stop the bleeding in Lebanon, and there has been an agreement to save Lebanese lives, Lebanese properties and what the Lebanese have built, and to save this country from the ordeal it is facing," Saud said.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also participated in the Oval Office meeting before making a surprise visit to Lebanon on Monday in a show of support for that country's weakened democracy, which is struggling to contain the fighting between the Hezbollah militia and Israel.

"We all want to urgently end the fighting. We have

"The problem isn't that people haven't talked to the Syrians. It's that the Syrians haven't acted."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

absolutely the same goal," Rice told reporters traveling with her.

It was the first U.S. diplomatic effort on the ground since Israel began bombing Lebanon on July 12. The fighting has killed hundreds in Lebanon and dozens in Israel.

The Bush administration has refused to press for an immediate cease-fire in the conflict.

"Our position on an immediate cease-fire is well known and has not changed," said White House national security spokesman Frederick Jones.

On the way to a refueling stop in Ireland, Rice discussed the possibility of working with Syria to resolve the crisis. In recent weeks, the Bush administration has blamed Syria, along with Iran, for stoking the recent violence by encouraging Hezbollah to attack northern Israel.

"The problem isn't that people haven't talked to the Syrians. It's that the Syrians haven't acted," she said.

"It's not as if we don't have diplomatic relations," she said. "We do."

Officials from the United Nations, Europe and other Arab countries have already urged an end to the fighting. Rice and Bush have rejected calls for an immediate cease-fire, saying it does not make sense if the terrorist threat from Hezbollah is not addressed. They have said Israel has a right to

defend itself from terrorism and Hezbollah must return two captured Israeli soldiers and stop firing missiles and rockets into Israel if they want the fighting to stop.

For years, the Saudis have been among the United States' closest allies in the Arab world, despite strains from U.S. pressures aimed at increasing democracy in the conservative kingdom.

Nail al-Jubeir, a Saudi embassy spokesman, said the Saudis would not release the letter or get into other details of the proposal because it was a private communication between Abdullah and Bush. Asked whether the Saudis requested that Bush directly pressure Israeli leaders for a cease-fire, al-Jubeir said they cannot tell the president whom to telephone. But he noted Bush has a unique influence to negotiate with Israel.

"The U.S. has the authority, it has the clout with Israel," he said. "For us to go and talk to the Israelis isn't going to do anything."

A White House spokes-

woman, Eryn Witcher, would not comment on the Saudi proposal. She said Bush and the Saudis have "shared goals of helping the people of Lebanon and restoring sovereignty of the government of Lebanon and building stronger Lebanese armed forces."

"They discussed the humanitarian situation and reconstruction and putting conditions in place for an end to violence," Witcher said.

Witcher said participants in the meeting including Saudi Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the secretary general of the Saudi national security council; Prince Turki al-Faisal, the Saudi ambassador to the United States; Adil al-Jubayr, the counselor to Abdullah; and Rihab Massoud, the deputy secretary general of the Saudi national security council.

Rice plans meetings in Jerusalem and the West Bank with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. In addition, she will go to Rome for sessions with representatives of European and moderate Arab governments, including Saudi Arabia, with the goal of shoring up the weak democratic government in Lebanon.

PROJECT

Continued from Page 3

lake beds.

Construction would cover 223 acres with buildings, launch and landing pads, storage tanks and parking lots, but that's just over 1 percent of the land. New fencing would be needed to enclose the actual launch site area, defined as some 18,600 acres of desert scrubland and grassland now in use as a private wildlife management area.

Within that fenced area is the likely landing area if something goes wrong with a flight.

"In some rare cases, the vehicles may land outside the fence line," the report says. "However, in nearly all cases, the vehicles will stay within the boundaries of private land controlled by Blue Origin and present no danger to the public."

Some space industry publications and Web sites have reported the New Shepard spacecraft is named for Alan Shepard, who in 1961 became America's first man in space. Hicks, the Blue Origin spokesman, said he didn't think that was correct.

Bezos, who spent summers on his grandfather's ranch in South Texas as a child, has talked in the past of building spacecrafts that can orbit Earth and possibly lead to colonies in space.

According to its Web site, which offers few details, Blue Origin "is developing vehicles and technologies that, over time, will help enable an enduring human presence in space."

"We are currently working to develop a crewed,

suborbital launch system that emphasizes safety and low cost of operations," the Web site says.

Blue Origin has been renovating a suburban site in Kent, Wash., south of Seattle, to design and build spacecraft and engines.

According to the environmental statement, the craft to be launched from West Texas includes one module for propulsion and one "capable of carrying three or more space flight participants to space." The two would be stacked atop one another to form a conical-shaped vehicle about 50 feet tall and 22 feet in diameter at the base.

The reusable propulsion module would have its own avionics and operate autonomously with onboard computers. The crew module would have similar computers and avionics and be equipped with small rocket motors for use in emergencies.

In a second launch and landing scenario, the two modules would separate, with the propulsion module performing a vertical landing but the crew "using devices to induce atmospheric drag, such as parachute," the report said.

A third scenario, for emergencies, would separate the modules and "a parachute or other drag system would deploy and return the crew capsule to

the launch site recovery area." Impact would be mitigated by "airbags, crushable structure, or some other decelerator device."

In this area of West Texas, where the population and economy have been in decline for the past decade, the project does not appear to provide a significant economic boost. The construction work force would average 45 people a month, peaking at 70, but "virtually all the workers would have permanent residences outside of the immediate area," according to the report.

Once built, staffing for daily operations is expected to be about 20 to 35 people, with most of them "imported" professional staff.

"It is reasonable to assume that few workers within the two counties (Culberson and adjacent Hudspeth) have the required skills," the report said.

The study also offers a picture of the conditions of the area where the complex is planned. Water comes from eight wells because there is no permanent naturally occurring surface water. Average annual rainfall is 11 inches.

The vast valley, some 10 miles wide and at nearly 4,000 feet of altitude, has only about a dozen homes, the nearest about

7 miles from the launch site.

The main north-south road that borders the site on the west, Texas Highway 54, averages less than 200 vehicles a day.

Studies showed no threatened or endangered species in the project area. Also, 14 Native American tribes that may have cultural ties to the area were contacted, but none indicated impact by the project.

On the Net:
FAA Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation
<http://ast.faa.gov/>
Blue Origin:
<http://www.blueorigin.com>

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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Paying nurses to learn

Big Spring State Hospital program a success

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

Unable to take on additional job responsibilities — limited by her lack of a nursing degree, Kirstin Lujan's career was at a standstill.

Although, pleased with her job as a mental health worker at Big Spring State Hospital, she knew she was capable of and desired more.

"I wanted to be a nurse," Lujan said.

Jonathan Morales never got off the educational track. Psychiatric nursing was his calling and he kept plowing ahead until he first earned his LVN and later his RN degree.

"I came here with a master plan — I wanted to be an RN," the one-time direct care worker said.

When one of Katricia Carson's daughters graduated from RN school and the other entered nursing school, they goaded their mother into changing her degree title from LVN to RN.

It didn't take much persuasion, particularly after her husband gave her the green light. "He has been my rock," she said.

Jeanette Silva needed to draw a salary while enrolled in school. Studying, books and classes for a year seemed like a natural to Jeanette Silva who is advancing her career by graduating with an RN degree while continuing to draw most of her salary. "I thought, 'Why not take advantage of it since it's available?'"

"We found that we were stuck in a catch-22 situation." Big Spring State Hospital Superintendent Ed Moughon said of his desire to grow nurses of his own but not depleting the current supply needed to operate the 200-bed psychiatric hospital.

"Our nurses wanted to earn additional degrees, but to do that they needed to spend substantial hours away from the hospital for classes and for studying.

"At the same time, we needed them to work and they needed their salaries to support themselves."

Moughon and the hospital's team leaders brainstormed and developed the state hospital nursing stipend program. The program allows employees to continue to earn a large portion of their salary while attending school.

In return, the stipend students work several days a month — usually



Courtesy photo
Jeanette Silva, front, Katricia Carson, Jonathan Morales and Kirstin Lujan are the four most recent graduates of Big Spring State Hospital's stipend program, which allows employees to continue to earn a large portion of their salary while attending school.

on weekends when the need is the greatest — and sign a contract to continue working for BSSH upon graduation.

Lujan, Silva, Carson and Morales are the four most recent graduates of the stipend program.

Different levels of educational assistance programs exist, ranging from flex time to accommodate a few hours off to the full nursing stipend program which includes most of their salary to attend school, said Martha Long, RN, Big Spring State Hospital assistant chief nurse educator — operations.

The Volunteer Services Council funds the tuition and books for two LVN students each year and a committee carefully screens and chooses the applicant after much deliberation, said Billie Christie-Morgan, state

hospital director of community relations.

Typically, if the hospital pays for one year of schooling, they are bound to work for the hospital for two years, Long said.

"We have found that the investment we put into helping our employees pays back the hospital many times over," said Stormy Ward, RN, MSN, chief executive nurse.

"It is just an awesome program," Carson said. "It builds allegiance. It's a huge morale booster. It's an inspiration to others we work on the floor with. We have so many mentors encouraging us all the way."

"I had so many nurses who encouraged me to do it," Lujan said. "They have been so supportive."

And the nurses, who all said they feel as if their call is psychiatric nursing have earned accolades

from their educators. Morales was named LVN Student of the Year, and most recently, the RN Student of the Year at Howard College.

Silva was named the Outstanding Nursing Student for the Sweetwater campus of Vernon College.

"I just love mental health," Carson said. "I feel right at home caring for the patients. Being able to attend school and continue working allowed me to stay in the loop."

"I could not have done this and would not have had the financial means to do this if I didn't have this program," Morales said.

Big Spring State Hospital is a 200-bed state psychiatric hospital that serves people with mental illness in a 58-county area in West Texas and the Texas Panhandle.

Living Well



By
Kori
Myers

Higher credit card rates not a figment of your imagination

You open your credit card bill and notice your interest rate has increased from last month. "Why?" you ask. "I made my payment on time. I made at least the minimum payment. I received no notice from my credit card company of a rate hike. What's going on?"

For many people asking this question, it may be due to a little known provision in credit card contracts called "universal default."

"Universal default provisions state that a credit card company can increase the credit card rate it charges you based on how you handle OTHER credit accounts," Myers says. "So, if you make ANY credit payment late, not just the payment to that credit card company, your interest rate on the credit card may increase—perhaps by two or three times your old rate."

A recent national credit card survey conducted by Consumer Action, a consumer advocacy organization based in San Francisco, found that about 45 percent of banks now include universal default policies in their credit card agreements. Advance notice of such increases is not required by law, and often consumers don't know until they receive an account statement reflecting a higher rate. Asking the credit card company why their rate increased introduces the consumer to "universal default."

You might wonder how your credit card company knows about a late payment to another creditor. Dr. Joyce Cavanagh, Associate Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist with Texas Cooperative

Extension, explains that "credit card companies monitor the credit reports of their customers. When a late payment shows up or your credit score decreases, a higher universal default interest rate can kick in."

And if you think only late payments to other creditors can increase your rate, think again! Many credit card companies impose "penalty rates" for making a late payment, going over your credit limit, or bouncing a payment check on their credit card. And the rate increase is in addition to other fees for a late payment, going over your limit, or bouncing a check. According to the Consumer Action survey, the average penalty rate was 24.23 percent in 2005, up from 21.91 percent in 2004.

How do you know if your credit card company has a universal default policy or penalty rates? "You need to read the credit card policy statement that periodically comes in your billing statement," Myers warns. "All changes to the terms and conditions of your agreement are included in that little booklet, including interest rates, fees, and the conditions under which they can change."

So, the next time you get one of those booklets, get out your magnifying glass, locate a comfortable chair, and READ! Remember: "Raising kids, eating right, spending smart, living well."

Kori Myers, M.Ed., is the Cooperative Extension Service Family and Consumer Services agent for Howard County. She can be reached at krmymyers@ag.tamu.edu

To your health

If you have health news or columns you would like to submit to the Herald, e-mail them to newsdesk@bigspringherald.com



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Expectations of empty nest syndrome often worse than reality, psychologist says

By NANCY KOLSTI

UNT News Service

Your youngest son or daughter graduated from high school recently, and in a few short weeks, he or she will trade his or her bedroom in your home for a college residence hall. You're starting to dread the future silence at home and are wondering you will fill the hours that you previously spent with your son or daughter and attending his or her school and sporting events.

Take heart — the empty nest "is often worse in anticipation than in day-to-day practice," says University of North Texas psychologist Bert Hayslip Jr.

Hayslip, who has studied retirement adjustment and other aging issues for more than 20 years,

points out that, more often than not, children who leave do not completely cut off contact with their parents. He advises parents to think of the empty-nest syndrome as a series of life events, instead of a sudden change, but to realize that an empty nest can cause bigger problems to surface "if a couple hasn't tended their marriage while raising their children."

"Some couples may find

they no longer have anything in common once the children are out of the house," he says.

Thinking of an empty nest as the loss of children who are "irreplaceable," he says, makes the adjustment more difficult.

"With the empty-nest syndrome, parents typically are dealing with the loss of the parenting role, not with having really lost their child," Hayslip says. "They're just having to find a new way to

relate to their child."

Relating to their college sons and daughters in this new way, he says, will usually come easily to parents as the months pass.

"As with many things, the passage of time heals the pain of loss," he says.

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IN BRIEF

Softball touney set for this weekend

The first-ever Ball Busters co-ed softball tournament will take place at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park Friday through Sunday.

The entry fee is \$125 per team. There will be first, second and third place trophies awarded and T-shirts will also be given out as prizes.

For more information, contact Jessica Dunn at 264-0816 or Amador Rios at 325-201-1365.

New volleyball coach sets parent-player meeting

New Big Spring volleyball coach Amanda Whitaker has announced a parent-player meeting with anyone planning on being involved with the high school volleyball program this upcoming season.

The meeting will take place Tuesday, Aug. 1, at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center at 7 p.m. There will be an ice cream dinner, as well.

For more information or questions, call coach Whitaker at 325-864-1467.

Big Spring ISD sets dates for buying football tickets

Fans of the Big Spring Steers football team who have had season tickets in the past can begin purchasing tickets for the upcoming season at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center.

Previous ticket holders have until Aug. 10 to purchase tickets. The general public may purchase tickets starting Aug. 14.

Tickets can be purchased through Kay Cook at the ATC from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

For more info, call Cook at 264-3662.

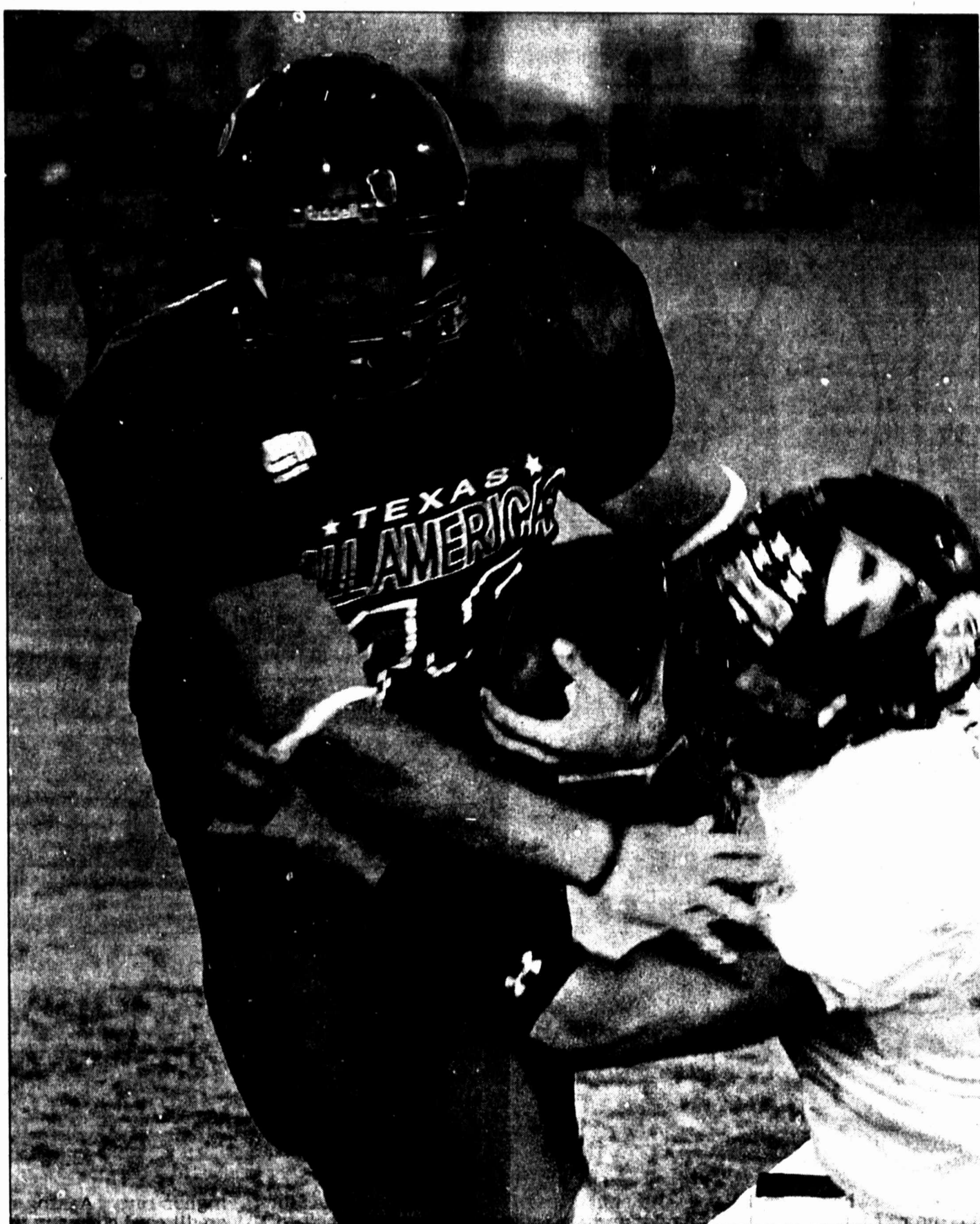
Mavericks, Pacers exchange point guards in trade

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Pacers will send point guard Anthony Johnson to the Dallas Mavericks for veteran floor leader Darrell Armstrong and two other players, Armstrong's agent said Sunday.

Dallas will send Armstrong and forwards Josh Powell and Rawle Marshall to the Pacers. The sign-and-trade deal can't be completed until NBA offices open Monday.

The Mavericks picked up a pass-first point guard to back up Jason Terry and Devin Harris, while the Pacers added a veteran leader to help shape a young team.

The 38-year-old Armstrong is a 12-year veteran with career averages of 10.1 points and 4.4 assists.



Garden City's Cory Multer, left, gets taken down by a member of the World team after he recovered a fumbled ball on defense Saturday night during the All-Americas Texas versus the World six-man football game in Garden City. Texas won the game, 30-28, after scoring the game-winning touchdown with two minutes to go in the game.

Late TD propels Texas past World

• Undefeated streak still in tack for Texas after victory

By TROY HYDE

GARDEN CITY — The 11th annual All-Americas six-man football game came down to a final possession Saturday night, but Texas remained undefeated in the long-running series.

Texas got a touchdown reception of 25 yards from Cole Martinson with 1:59 to play in the fourth quarter and defeated the World all-stars, 30-28, at the Garden in Garden City.

The win extended Texas' record in the series to 10-0, but this year's game was much closer than previous years.

The World took two leads in the game, but both times Texas responded with touchdowns. Texas scored first in the game and led 16-6 after the first quarter, but a touchdown by the World in the second quarter made it 16-14 at halftime.

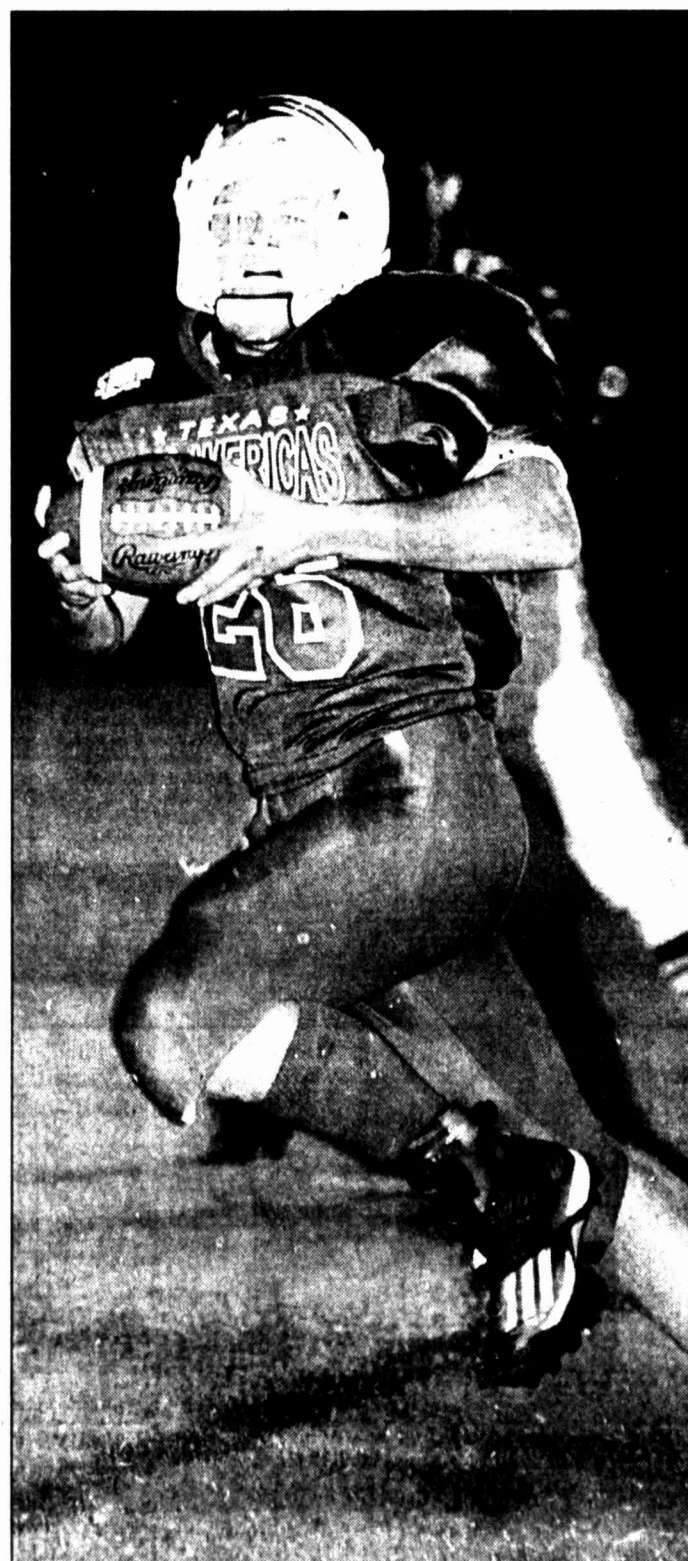
The World took its first lead of the game with a touchdown in the third quarter as Steven Lopez of Faith Christian Academy in El Paso scored his second TD of the game to make it 22-16.

Texas responded with a fast three-play drive on its next possession to tie the score. It got a big 25-yard reception from Santa Anna's Patrick

Kerr and also got 15 yards tacked on to the play after the World committed a 15-yard facemask penalty. Then, one play later, Sands standout running back Cevan Smithson scored from 18 yards out as time expired in the third quarter and the game was tied 22-22.

The World punted on its first possession of the final quarter, but Texas gave the ball right back after a long drive ended with an interception. The World capitalize on the mistake and regained the lead after a 10-play drive ended with a 5-yard touchdown run by Greenville Christian's Bryan Moyer. Three big plays — a 19-yard catch by Kurt Grant of Levelland, a 14-yard catch by Round Rock's Sean Clampitt and a 14-yard run by Lopez — led to the touchdown.

The World missed the PAT try, but still led 28-22 with 3:53 to go in the game. It turned one of Texas' two turnovers into points, while Texas failed to score on four World turnovers. The biggest denial by the World came in the first quarter when Texas got an interception and started its drive on the World 4-yard line. The World denied Texas on four plays and then Lopez scored a few minutes later to make it 8-6. Clampitt had three catches on that drive for 51 yards.



Sands running back Cevan Smithson crosses the goal to tie the score at 22-22 Saturday night in Garden City during the 11th annual All-Americas six-man football game. Smithson's touchdown was from 18 yards out.

See FOOTBALL, Page 12

Tiger's back

• Three straight birdies sends Woods to back-to-back British Open crowns

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer
HOYLAKE, England — Tiger Woods had an answer for everyone Sunday on another methodical march to victory in the British Open.

One month after missing the cut for the first time in a major, Woods was ruthless as ever on the brown-baked links of Royal Liverpool, making three straight birdies to turn away a spirited challenge by Chris DiMarco and win golf's oldest championship for the second straight year.

He closed with a 5-under 67 and became the first player since Tom Watson in 1982-83 to win consecutive titles.

Woods tapped in for par for a two-shot victory over DiMarco, and pent-up emotions tore through his lips as he screamed "Yes!" He then buried his head in caddie Steve Williams' shoulder and sobbed, his chest heaving.

This was his first victory since his father, Earl Woods, died May 3 after a brutal bout with cancer. Some questioned whether Woods could regain his focus, especially after he was sent packing after two rounds at Winged Foot in the U.S. Open.

His face was contorted in raw emotion as he walked off the green and sobbed again while hugging his wife, Elin, and his trainer, Keith Klevin.

"I could not stop it," Woods said. "I miss my dad so much."

Through it all, no one could stop Woods from winning his 11th career major at age 30. He is tied with Walter Hagen for second on the career list and is one step closer to the 18 professional majors won by Jack Nicklaus, the only mark that matters to Woods.

But there were doubts that followed him around Royal Liverpool, host of the British Open for the first time in 39 years.

Not only did he miss the cut at the U.S. Open, dominance in the majors was slowly shifting to rival Phil Mickelson. And even with Mickelson out of the picture and Woods clinging to a one-shot lead over a strong cast of contenders, Woods was grilled about his conservative style of play because he hit driver only once all week.

The answer was in his hands, the silver claret jug.

American Landis is champion in France

PARIS (AP) — Floyd Landis won the Tour de France on Sunday, keeping cycling's most prestigious title in American hands for the eighth straight year.

The 30-year-old Landis

See LANDIS, Page 12

MONDAY

Table with 28 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows (6-12 PM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

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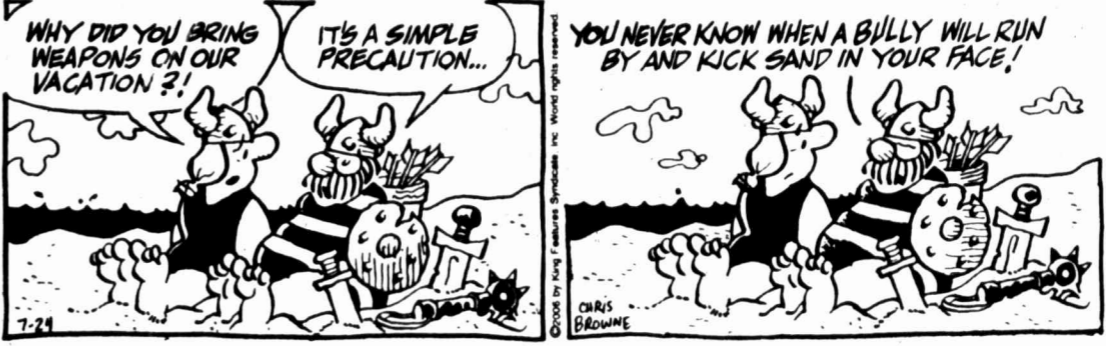
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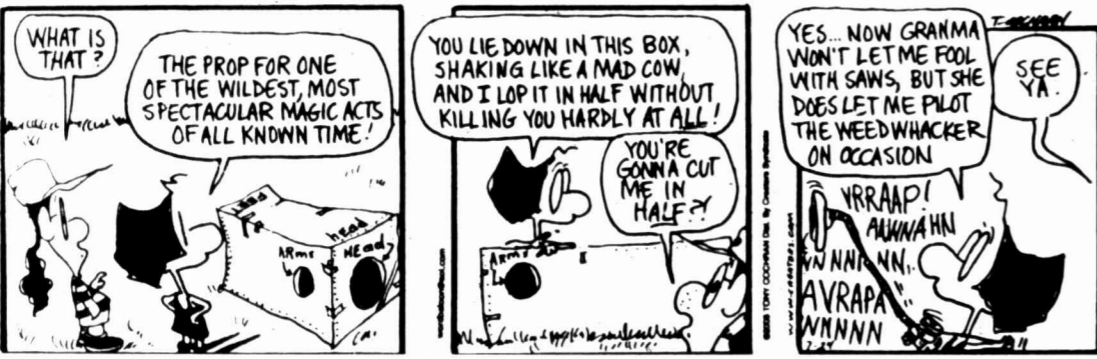
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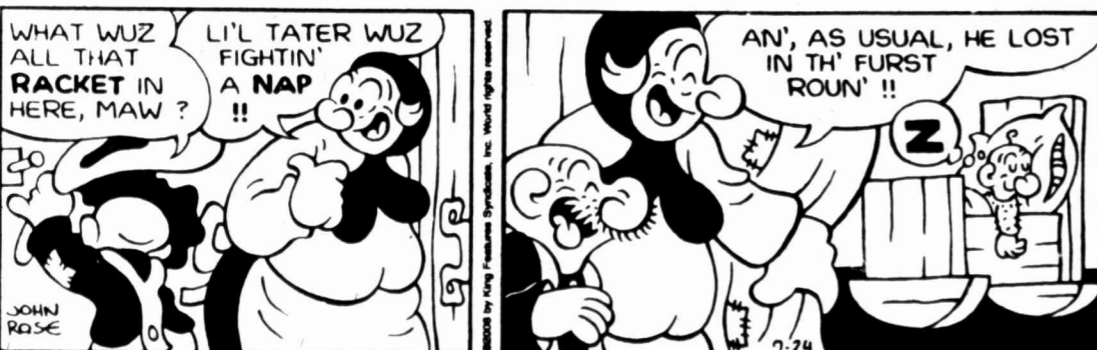
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, July 24, the 205th day of 2006. There are 160 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 24, 1866, Tennessee became the first state to be readmitted to the Union after the Civil War. On this date: In 1783, Latin American revolutionary Simon Bolivar was born in Caracas, Venezuela. In 1862, the eighth president of the United States, Martin Van Buren, died in Kinderhook, N.Y. In 1929, President Hoover proclaimed the Kellogg-Briand Pact, which renounced war as an instrument of foreign policy. In 1937, the state of

Alabama dropped charges against five black men accused of raping two white women in the "Scottsboro Case." In 1959, during a visit to the Soviet Union, Vice President Richard M. Nixon engaged in a "Kitchen Debate" with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev at a U.S. exhibition. In 1969, the Apollo 11 astronauts — two of whom had been the first men to set foot on the moon — splashed down safely in the Pacific. In 1974, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that President Nixon had to turn over subpoenaed White House tape recordings to the Watergate special prosecutor. In 1975, an Apollo spacecraft splashed down in the Pacific, completing a mission which included the first-ever docking with a Soyuz capsule from the Soviet Union.

In 1991, Nobel Prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer died in Miami at age 87. In 2002, nine coal miners were trapped in a flooded mine in western Pennsylvania; the story ended happily three days later with the rescue of all nine. Today's Birthdays: Movie director Peter Yates is 77. Actress Jacqueline Brouckes is 76.

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words: AMITABLE, RECOVER, BANNITIES, EXAMINE, ARSENIC, RIPS OFF, STOPS, AMUSE, LOU, HILIT, BLUNT, BERT, ENIGMA, SCANCE, DISSECTED, RATED, EASE, TROUT, UTTER, STANDSPAT, PRIDES, RICE, RUE, DIBS, INANE, MORN, APE, SLUMP, LIMOS, TOTALED, IRONORE, ELATING, PESETAS, DINETTE, EVEREST

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Income-tax experts: Abbr., 5 Minor arguments, 10 Swelled heads, 14 Poison-ivy reaction, 15 Trial locale, 16 Doll's word, 17 In addition, 18 Come into a room, 19 Applaud, 20 Talking too much, 23 Female deer, 24 Vegas cubes, 25 Had leftovers, perhaps, 28 Cowboy rope, 30 Shoemaker's tool, 33 Alaska city, 34 Family room, 35 Saudi (Mideast nation), 37 Exerting pressure, 40 Minor arguments, 41 Young fella, 42 Short distance, 43 Fractions of a mi., 44 Ziti shapes, 46 Watermelon throwaways, 47 Sensible, 48 Sounds of satisfaction, 49 Kidding, 56 Stood up, 57 Base before home plate, 58 Full of grease, 59 Nodder's phrase

- 60 Blake of jazz, 61 Package of paper, 62 Highest-quality, 63 Bottoms of wine barrels, 64 Solar-system centers, DOWN: 1 Complainer, slangily, 2 Drained of color, 3 Trade grp., 4 Most carelessly done, 5 Vista, 6 Ping-, 7 Parking-space filler, 8 Signs of the times, 9 Singer Barbra

- 10 Banquet host, 11 Big party, 12 Actor Sharif, 13 Maple product, 21 Charged atom, 22 Sports-report info, 25 Fidgety, 26 Pulled from behind, 27 Gives off, 28 Author Deighton, 29 Ulterior motive, 30 Ease off, 31 Did electrical work, 32 Night-table devices, 34 Separated, 36 Local tax authorities, 38 Sum up

OUT OF SHAPE by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 39 W. Hemisphere alliance, 45 Heston film with a chariot race, 46 That woman, 47 Frozen rain, 48 South American mountains, 49 Prepare for a photo, 50 Takes off the shelf, 51 Taunting remark, 52 Not a duplicate: Abbr., 53 In ___ of (instead of), 54 Gusto, 55 Exercise centers, 56 Beef cut

15x15 crossword grid with numbered squares for the Newsday Crossword puzzle.

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Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and
Doctor of Repairs!
Free Estimates!!
Big Spring & Surrounding Areas.
267-1110

ROOFING

PALACIOS ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT
Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured & Bonded
Home Phone#
432-263-5430
Cell#
432-213-0363

ROOFING

Permit Bonded Quality Jobs Composite, Wood Roll 90 Lowest Prices
Clayton Roofing
of Big Spring, Snyder, Colorado City
FREE ESTIMATES
Ricky Clayton
Bus.: 325-573-2218
Cell: 325-207-6202

STORAGE

AAA Mini-Storage
Special 1/2 OFF On Select Units
Now Have Large or Small Units Available, We Store It All!!
Now Accepting Visa & Mastercard
3301 E. FM 700 263-0732

TREE TRIMMING

LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING
More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal.
Call
Lupe Villalpando
432-268-6406

Help Wanted

MIDWAY BAPTIST Church is looking for a part time Music Director. Send resumes attention Dot Ditto 6200 S. Service Road Big Spring, Tx. 79720.

MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.

Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & \$175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas.

MUDLOGGER - GEOLOGIST W. TX, E. NM, Min 3yrs Exp Excellent Pay & Benefits. Resume to: Career@RileyGeo.com or call 432-238-8066.

CARY SERVICES
Heating Air Conditioning & Building Automation

NEED AN experienced HVACR technician for the Big Spring area. Refrigeration and Ice Machine experience a plus. Willing to pay top dollar for the right person. Guaranteed work, benefits package, sick leave, paid vacation, 401K and profit sharing. For confidential consideration please call 888-229-1757 and ask for Tony Cary.

NEED BODY Tech with experience and own tools. Must be I-Car or ASE certified. Call or apply at Gillihan Paint and Body, 821 West Fourth Street, Big Spring, TX. (432)264-6528.

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now Hiring for Certified Nursing Assistant. Great Working Environment and Competitive Pay. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

Help Wanted

NEED IMMEDIATELY Certified Diesel Mechanics. Must be able to pass drug test. Company offers health insurance & benefits. Apply at Cowboy Construction, 9400 South Service Rd., Coahoma.

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required. Mail resume to: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT PO BOX 60708 MIDLAND, TX 79711

NURSING OPPORTUNITIES

LVNs - Day Positions Earn up to \$2,560 per month (DOE)

LVNs - Evening & Night Positions Earn up to \$2,816 per month (DOE)

RNs - Day Position Earn up to \$4391 per month (DOE)

RNs - Evening & Night Positions Earn up to \$5,018 per month (DOE)

An additional bonus program is offered to all RNs. **Direct Care Workers** All Shifts

Beginning Salary up to \$9.00/hour

Our benefit package includes: Paid Vacation, Sick Leave, Holidays, Insurance, Retirement and Nursing Educational Stipends.

Contact our Job Center 432-268-7341 or 432-268-7298 **Big Spring State Hospital** 1901 North Highway 87 Big Spring, TX 79720

Help Wanted

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now Hiring for Laundry position. Experience preferred. Great Working Environment. Please apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway Rd.

PIZZA INN Drive for the Best. Our Delivery Drivers earn \$10-\$12 per hour. Up to \$100 hiring bonus. Must be 18 yrs. old with clean driving record. Apply in person at 1702 Gregg St.

PIZZA INN Now Hiring wait Staff Must be dependable, hard working. Apply in person at 1702 Gregg St. No phone calls.

SPORTS EDITOR to cover high school and college sports for The Big Spring Herald. The candidate should have writing experience and the ability to take photos and design pages using NewsEdit Pro and QuarkXpress. Salary based on experience. Benefits. Please email resume and writing clips to editor@bigspringherald.com or mail to John A. Moseley, Managing Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

STATE REST Area Attendant needed in Westbrook, I-20. Part-time. Contact David (432)213-5279.

TBC-HOWARD COLLEGE Bookstore is hiring a part time cashier to work an average of 25-30 hours a week with up to 40 hours possible during peak sales periods. Prior cashier experience preferred. Excellent customer service skills and the ability to lift 50 lbs required. Applications are available at Howard College Bookstore inside the Student Union Building on the Howard College Campus or online at www.howardcollege-bookstore.com

WANTED: 29 Serious people to work from home using a computer. Up to \$1500 or \$5000 PT/FT. www.DMHomebiz.com

Help Wanted

TRANSIT MIX CONCRETE MATERIALS COMPANY is now hiring MIXER TRUCK DRIVERS. CDL license is required. We offer competitive wages along with an excellent benefit package including medical, dental, 401(k) profit sharing and a pension plan. EOE/AA

Please apply in person at the following location: **Transit Mix Concrete** 605 North Benton St. Big Spring, TX 79720

TRANSIT MIX Concrete a leader in the ready mix industry, currently has an opening for a Loader Operator. Must be able to run loader, general maintenance of plant and pit. CDL a plus. Apply at Transit Mix Concrete, 605 N. Benton, Big Spring (432)267-6348. Transit Mix Concrete is an EOE/AA employer.

WANTED - Mature, dependable woman to work overnight shift in group home. Must be willing to work weekends, have GED or High School diploma. Excellent pay for the right person. For info, contact Teresa (432)263-1408.

Items for Sale

HUGE SAVINGS on Furniture, Electronics and Appliances. Come by 501 E. Birdwell Lane #14 or call (432)263-0076.

LAST CHANCE to buy your Welding Equipment at our prices... Starting in August, prices will be increasing.

Airgas

You Need Power Tools!

SPECIAL PURCHASE! 10'X16' Storage Buildings. Delivery/Financing Available - In Stock Only! 432-563-3108.

STORAGE SHED in good condition, 6x8. \$275.00. Call (432)267-7564.

Items for Sale

WHY PAY Rent? 10'x12' Storage Buildings \$49.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

Jobs Wanted

WILL SIT with Sick or Elderly. Call (432)270-2542.

Lost and Found

HELP - 2 Horses strayed from Richie Road. Call (432)263-1934 or 263-0047.

REWARD for Two Bore goats #61 & 63 lost at N. Birdwell Lane & 700. Call (432)267-1852.

Miscellaneous

BRAND NEW NEVER USED Microfiber sofa & loveseat. Matches everything! Sacrifice \$479. 806-549-3110.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarias, Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

DISPLAY HOT-TUB - \$74.00 a month. Full warranty, will deliver. 432-563-3108.

JUNQUE MART Thrift Store 600 Lamesa (432)264-0542 Mon-Sat. 10:00-5:00 Like a Giant Garage Sale Every Day. Books 25¢-50¢, all clothes 50¢-\$1.00, Hundreds of movies.

KING PILLOWTOP set \$249. Queen orthopedic mattress set \$139 still in plastic, warranty. 806-549-3110.

QUEEN PILLOWTOP set \$149. Full orthopedic mattress set \$129. Brand new, warranty. 806-549-3110.

YOUR CHOICE - 12'x16' Workshop/Storage/Barn Only \$74.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

National Ads

\$\$\$ ALL CASH BUSINESS! \$\$\$ Local candy vending route. \$50K/yr potential. 30 machines + candy. Special \$5,995 LIMITED TIME ONLY!! Call Now! 1-800-704-5414.

\$0 DOWN HOMES! NO RENT! Gov't & Bank Repo's! No Credit OK! For Listings, 1-800-746-4890.

******\$500-\$75,000++ FREE CASH GRANTS! **2006!*** Never Repay! Personal/Medical Bills, School, New Business/Home etc., Live Operators! Avoid Deadlines! Listings, Call 1-800-270-1213 Ext. 179.

******\$750-\$100,000++ 2006!** FREE CASH GRANTS! Never Repay! Personal/Medical bills, School, Housing, Business. AS SEEN ON T.V. Live Operators, Listings, Call 1-800-270-1213 Ext. 176.

****FREE CASH GRANTS!*** \$500-\$75,000++ 2006 Never Repay! Personal, Medical, Business, Real Estate, School. No Credit check! Same Day processing! Live Operators! Listings 1-800-274-5086 Ext. 175.

A YOUNG married (41/38) couple - seeks to adopt. Will be full-time mom & devoted dad. Financial security. Expenses paid. Hilary & Craig. (as for erin/adam). 1-800-841-0804.

ARE YOU seriously looking for a lucrative business? Start Today! 1-800-947-4258 www.BelieveItAndProsper.com

BUILDINGS, SHEDS for Sale STEEL BUILDING SALE! We'll Beat All Competitor Bids Spec for Spec or we'll send you a check for \$200.00! 1-800-973-3366. www.premiersteel.org

BUYING - Used Dish Network (NOT DIRECTV) Satellite equipment. Have equipment with you. Tollfree (866)642-5181.

CASH NOW we pay top dollar for structured settlements, future payments, annuities, life payments, sweepstakes and lotteries. Rapid Settlements, Ltd. www.rapidsettlements.com Call toll-free 1-877-850-5600.

CONSOLIDATE BILLS. Bad Credit Welcome. From \$3,000 - \$150,000. 8% APR. Save Money Now. 1-888-999-6184.

EARN UP TO \$550 WEEKLY Working through the government PT No Experience. Call Today!! 1-800-488-2921.

MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

Maintenance Technician - for immediate hire. Must have a superb work ethic, reliable transportation, availability for 24-hour call and willingness to work weekends. Advanced maintenance skills (incl. sheet rock repair, painting, plumbing, & electrical) required. HVAC certified preferred but not required. We offer vacation and sick leave, health ins., profit sharing and 401(k) plan.

Apply In Person M-F, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm 1 Courtney Place Big Spring, TX 79720

National Ads

DATA ENTRY! Work From Anywhere Flexible Hours. Personal Computer Required. Excellent Career Opportunity. Serious Inquiries Only. 1-800-344-9636 Ext. 600.

DEBT FREE. Let GENESIS help you with your credit card debt troubles. Lower payments, lower interest, stop fees and collection calls. CALL NOW!! 1-877-205-5179.

DRIVERS - A earn as you learn career! England Transport now offers on the job CDL training. No credit check, no co-signers, No down payment Toll Free 1-866-619-6081.

EARN \$12-\$48/HR GOVERNMENT JOBS. Full Benefits/Paid Training. Many Government Positions Available. Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife and more! Call 7 days. 1-800-320-9353 ext 2501.

EARN 200K a year without personal selling. No following up, No closing, No chasing prospects. The professional team does all for you. Visit www.perfectbiz.info

EARN EXTRA income assembling CD cases from home. Start Immediately No Experience Necessary 1-800-267-3944 Ext. 3 www.easywork-greatpay.com

FAMILY HEALTH CARE w/ Prescription Plan! \$69/mo. Incl. Dental, Vision. All Accepted. Call 800-961-3284.

FEDERAL POSTAL JOBS! Now Hiring! Earn \$12 - \$48 per hour / No Experience Full Benefits / Paid Training 1-866-409-2663 ext. 103 Closed Sundays.

GOV'T FORECLOSED Homes! No Rent! Gov't & Bank Repos! No Credit OK! \$0 to low down! Listings, 1-800-728-6701.

HIRING 2006 POSTAL JOBS! \$18/hour Starting, Avg. \$57K/year Benefits, No Experience Needed! 1-800-584-1775 Ref #P7701.

LOOKING TO OWN LAND? Invest in rural acreage throughout America: Coastal, mountain, waterfront properties, 20 to 200 acres. For FREE Special Land Reports: www.landbuyersguide.com/acn

OWN A Computer? Put it to Work! Earn \$1500-\$7500/mo. PT/FT FREE info package online. www.QISglobal.com

SAWMILLS FROM only \$2795.00-Convert your LOGS TO VALUABLE LUMBER with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.norwood-industries.com FREE Information: 1-800-578-1363-Ext:200-U.

SECRET ENCOUNTERS 1-800-442-MEET .69 p/m Ladies Free!! 1-800-201-TALK VISIT -singles.com

STOP FORECLOSURE Now! We can help you keep your home. Call for Free Consultation Mortgage Settlement Advisors. Call Bob 1-866-865-7044. msaloanfix.com Call Us First!

TRUCK DRIVERS Wanted-Best Pay and Home Time! Apply Online Today over 750 Companies! One Application, Hundreds of Offers! ttp://hammerlanejobs.com

VISA/MASTERCARD NEW unsecured credit card! \$7,500 Guaranteed Approval!!! Bad Credit, Bankruptcy OK!! 1-800-601-4233.

Pets

THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the Classified ads. Before investing money in a pet ad with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

JENDAY CONURE Parrot with cage; bird is approximately 12" long; waves and says hello and bye bye. \$200.00 firm. Call (432)267-6069.

Real Estate for Rent

2 BEDROOM 1 bath - central air/heat. Central location. Call (432)267-8840.

MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL

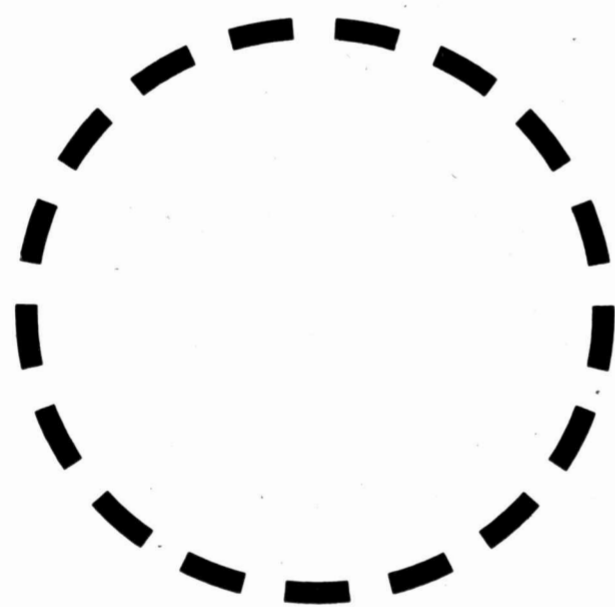
Maintenance Technician - for immediate hire. Must have a superb work ethic, reliable transportation, availability for 24-hour call and willingness to work weekends. Advanced maintenance skills (incl. sheet rock repair, painting, plumbing, & electrical) required. HVAC certified preferred but not required. We offer vacation and sick leave, health ins., profit sharing and 401(k) plan.

Apply In Person M-F, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm 1 Courtney Place Big Spring, TX 79720



BARCELONA APARTMENTS
\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
ALL BILLS PAID
538 Westover 263-1252 1-866-265-4104
Housing Assistance Accepted

PUT YOUR COFFEE CUP RIGHT HERE.



NOW TRY TURNING THE PAGE.

Don't you wish your advertising could stop consumers that effectively? Let's face it, most of the time it gets lost in the shuffle.

It takes a certain ingenuity to stand out in a crowd. You've got to be provocative. Unpredictable. A little smarter than the next guy. And you've got to have a real feel for the medium you're working in.

We put those talents to work for our advertisers everyday...and at no extra cost. It works for them. And, you'll have to admit, it just worked for you!

BIG SPRING HERALD

Let us be your advertising specialists.

Call today!

432-263-7331

1514 WOOD room two b \$200. depo One bedroo month, \$1 (432)264-66

432- Efficient One Two w/ (432)267-5179

DRIVERS - A earn as you learn career! England Transport now offers on the job CDL training. No credit check, no co-signers, No down payment Toll Free 1-866-619-6081.

EARN \$12-\$48/HR GOVERNMENT JOBS. Full Benefits/Paid Training. Many Government Positions Available. Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife and more! Call 7 days. 1-800-320-9353 ext 2501.

EARN 200K a year without personal selling. No following up, No closing, No chasing prospects. The professional team does all for you. Visit www.perfectbiz.info

EARN EXTRA income assembling CD cases from home. Start Immediately No Experience Necessary 1-800-267-3944 Ext. 3 www.easywork-greatpay.com

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STOP FORECLOSURE Now! We can help you keep your home. Call for Free Consultation Mortgage Settlement Advisors. Call Bob 1-866-865-7044. msaloanfix.com Call Us First!

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JENDAY CONURE Parrot with cage; bird is approximately 12" long; waves and says hello and bye bye. \$200.00 firm. Call (432)267-6069.

Real Estate for Rent 2 BEDROOM 1 bath - central air/heat. Central location. Call (432)267-8840.

MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL Maintenance Technician - for immediate hire. Must have a superb work ethic, reliable transportation, availability for 24-hour call and willingness to work weekends. Advanced maintenance skills (incl. sheet rock repair, painting, plumbing, & electrical) required. HVAC certified preferred but not required. We offer vacation and sick leave, health ins., profit sharing and 401(k) plan.

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1514 WOOD room two b \$200. depo One bedroo month, \$1 (432)264-66

432- Efficient One Two w/ (432)267-5179

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Real Estate for Rent

1514 WOOD Large Four bedroom two bath. \$350. month, \$200. deposit. 104 W. 13th. One bedroom, 1 bath. \$300. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

South Plains APARTMENTS
432-714-4840
Efficiency Apt. • \$200*
One Bdr. • \$250*
Two Bdr. • \$350*
w/6 Mo. Lease
(\$300 Deposit)
• All Utilities Except Electric Paid
• Free High Speed Wireless Internet
• New Appliances & Fixtures
• Security System In Place
• New Laundry & Vending
• Housing Assistance Accepted
3304 W. Hwy 80

1205 YOUNG. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath, \$260. month, \$200. deposit. **2523 DOW.** 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, \$435. month, \$200 deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

1220 EAST 16th- 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. CH/A. \$650 Month, \$325. deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

1418 STADIUM. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, \$385. month, \$200 deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

1607 SYCAMORE. Clean 2 bedroom, 1 bath. CH/A, fenced yard. \$400. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/ dryer connections. **(432)263-3461 -Tom.**

3 BEDROOM, 1 1/2 bath, CH/A, garage, fenced yard. \$550 Month, \$300. deposit. 1800 Wallace. Call (432)270-3848 for more information.

4221 HAMILTON. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

600 SQ. ft office/shop in a very high traffic area. To let. Call (432)267-8840.

HORSE STALLS - circle pen - good location. Call (432)267-7877.

MOREN @ (432)267-7380. 3 Bedroom @ 1410 Robin, 2 Bedroom @ 1401 Virginia & 2 Bedroom @ 1210 Wood. Call for more information.

SEVERAL OFFICES available. Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038, (432)770-5656.

STOP RENTING! Buy HUD Home. 1-3 Bedroom from \$7,000.00. For listing 800-749-8106 ext F906.

SUNSET RIDGE APTS
Family Friendly
Playground!
No Water Bill
Paragon Security
24 Hour Laundry
On-Site Mgr & Maint
Move-In Special
1st Month Free
2 Bdrm \$295
1 Bdrm \$245
(432)263-2292

TWO BEDROOM for Rent. Stove & Refrigerator furnished. Deposit \$600 required. Call (432)267-6179.

Real Estate for Sale

\$26,500. NEWLY remodeled Duplex: 706 E. 13th St. Each side: 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, central air/heat, washer/dryer connections, new paint/carpet, refrigerator/gas stove. Fenced backyard. Great investment property. Call (432)935-6163.

1313 OIL Mill Road. 3 Bedroom with apartment in rear, CH/A, fenced yard. \$50s. Call (432)267-5759.

1801 ALABAMA 3 bedroom, large den/fireplace, fenced back yard, central heat/air, garage. Call: (432)263-1281.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call **Maria (432)263-3461.**

5020 WASSON Road - House and land. AS IS - Lots 9-14. Call (432)263-6208 leave a message. No Owner Finance.

517 FOSTER Custom Built (Coahoma), 2400 sq. ft. 3/2.5, Ranch style, fireplace, metal roof, large master bedroom & bath includes Jacuzzi bath. \$180k. (432)517-0604, 394-4924.

AWESOME HOME \$51,000! 3 Bedroom, 3 bath. Bank Foreclosure. For listings 800-749-8106 ext. F:086.

BANK FORECLOSURE. Three bedroom, two bath. \$22,050. For Listings 800-749-8106 ext. S-384.

FORSAN ISD 3 bedroom, 2 bath. 209 West 7th. \$38000.. Call (432)816-1671.

Real Estate for Sale

FORSAN BRICK 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large den, with cathedral ceiling, satellite tile, wood floors, new carpet, new plumbing and deck. Large Light. Great family home. Call 325-575-2773/ 325-573-8638 or 469-438-7257/ 972-492-9646 for appointment to view.

FOUR BEDROOM. Foreclosure, \$29,900. For listings 800-749-8106 ext. S-382.

OWNER FINANCE 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, wood floors, fireplace. \$32,500. Easy Terms. Call (325)893-1973.

Vehicles

(2) New 2005 7 Passenger Vans \$9,500 Off!

Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 11th 267-7121

1995 F150- Black, 5 speed. Needs minor work. \$2500 OBO. Call (432)263-3255.

1997 SATURN SC, \$550. Drives great, dependable! For Listing, 800-749-8104 ext. A-106

1999 FORD F150, 4 Door, super cab, automatic, Red with matching tool box. \$7,000.00 Cash. Call (432)267-6903 or 816-7339.

CARS FROM \$500. Hondas, Toyotas, etc. Police Impounds. For Listing, 800-749-8104 ext. N-237.

DONT LET SOMEONE MAKE YOUR DECISIONS FOR YOU. VOTE!

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT Help STOP Sexual Assaults Call 263-3312 Rape Crisis Services Big Spring

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Puzzles by Pappoocom
ANSWERS
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9 1 4 2 8 3 6 7 5
8 3 7 5 1 6 2 9 4
3 8 1 7 5 2 4 6 9
7 5 2 4 6 9 1 3 8
6 4 9 1 3 8 5 2 7
1 7 3 6 9 4 8 5 2
2 6 5 8 7 1 9 4 3
4 9 8 3 2 5 7 1 6

Tomorrow's Horoscope

It's the new moon in Leo tonight, so make your royal plans! Upgraded vacation packages are happening all over the globe, and by the end of tomorrow, there will be no more room in the first class section of the airplane, either. Imagine what life would be like if you truly felt you were the king or queen of it — then make those imaginings happen.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). On creative, free-flowing days like today, the idea of "scheduling" is a joke. Submit to the whim of your muse. It's amazing how quickly your ideas come to fruition when you act on them immediately.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As a Venus-ruled sign, there are certain environments, resources and people you must have around you in order to be your very best. The world provides when you're specific about your needs.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You achieve a state in which you're compelled to do what is best for you. This feels strange and selfish. Maybe it's about time. The heavens sing when you follow your bliss.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Go with what you naturally sense is

important. Otherwise, you're going with what's important to someone else — and that's where it all goes wrong. Assume you're worthy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your desire to be a part of a family is highlighted. You can instruct and enlighten the younger members as to the history of the older members. You're the bridge between generations and indeed worlds.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What happens is like a scene out of a movie. You feel like a bit player, but you're actually the star. Deliver your lines with conviction. All eyes are on you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may as well label yourself an "unsticker," because anyone who is stuck will be promptly unstuck after coming into contact with you. It doesn't take much — your famous compassion does the trick just fine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Experience the energy flow. You're just about the only one who can see it. Others are stymied, without a clue as to "what just happened." Later, you'll have a lot of explaining to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're the great appreciator of the zodiac. You admire those who create beauty, but you forget that you have that power, too. This is your opportunity. Be magnificent.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're

discovering new ways to bond with your team. They want desperately to be a part of what you're doing but will require instruction. Dare to be bossy — it won't be interpreted as such.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). With tremendous empathy, you'll raise your loved ones up. It's not your responsibility to make others feel better, but rather, it's your pleasure — you might even say it's your "calling."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Everyone needs encouragement from time to time — and your time is now. Anyone who doesn't cheer you on will stick out like a sore thumb. Push the "eject" button — you'll attract a new supporter in his or her place.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I've met someone who shares the same birthday as I do — May 11, though I was born in 1976, and he in 1960. We're from different continents, but our connection was magical as soon as it started, although we had known each other all our lives. Sadly, we had to part. Please enlighten me on the cosmic connection between same-birthday people, and if this means anything at all."

I'm inclined to take any coincidence as a sign that I'm in a groove with my destiny, including meeting someone who shares my birthday, my husband's birthday, the same name as my cat, the street number that's the last four

digits of my cell phone number — but that's just me. I would consider dating someone with the same birthday a very strong indicator of being in a solid cosmic groove. Astrologically speaking, though your birth charts are different, you're both Taureans with love planet Venus in Taurus as well. So romantically, there is an ease that comes from speaking the same love language. Does it mean you should have stuck together? No, but I think it means your quest for love is unfolding perfectly for where you are in your life now.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: For superstars like Jennifer Lopez, playing the tabloid-ridden game is half the fun. Lopez knows the world is watching, so why shouldn't she live as fabulously as she possibly can? The ambition never stops for this Leo lioness, but I see a different type of dream for her being fulfilled this upcoming year, when she finally finds herself pregnant with her first child.

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. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My 16-year-old daughter's ex-boyfriend, "Rob," has a drug problem. They dated for three months, and she broke up with him because she sensed something was not right. She knew Rob had experimented with drugs and alcohol in the past, but she thought he'd stopped. While they were together, he swore to her that he was no longer using, but she found out he was lying.

For the first month or so after the breakup, they talked periodically. During one of their conversations, Rob told her he was heavily using marijuana and other drugs. She's tried several times to help him, but he just pushes her away. His best friend confided to her that Rob was really off the deep end with his drug use. Both of them have tried to help, but Rob tells them to back off and leave him alone.

We are all worried for this young man, but no one is sure what to do. Rob's dad is aware of his son's drug use. He told me he had suspected Rob was

using drugs because his grades were slipping, he was skipping school, fighting more with both parents, etc. My daughter says Rob hates his home life and his parents, and uses drugs to escape. She still wants to help him, but how can you help someone who is stubborn and won't admit he has a problem?

I've told my daughter she's done all she can and shouldn't blame herself for the way things turn out, but is there anything more we can do? — Not Sure How To Help

Dear Not Sure: You are right that Rob must want to be helped and your daughter is not responsible for what happens, but she apparently needs to feel more proactive. She can

contact Naranon, for family and friends of drug users, at 22527 Crenshaw Blvd., 200B, Torrance, CA 90505 (naranon.org).

Dear Annie: I've been married for 16 years to "Dennis." Over the years, Dennis has done numerous nice things for his mother, but she doesn't treat him like a son. She has other children, but Dennis is her eldest.

Just this past year, Dennis remodeled her home so she could live better. Yet when Christmas and birthdays come around, there are no cards from her for anyone in our little family. She won't even call to say "happy birthday" to her own grandchildren.

Of course, she treats Dennis' sister and those grandchildren like royalty. No matter how badly they

treat her, she prefers them and sends gifts and cards to that side of the family for each and every holiday.

Currently, Dennis and his mother haven't spoken for five months. I refuse to get in the middle, but I'm sure she blames me anyway. Is there anything we can say that will sink into her head? — Stir-Crazy in Florida

Dear Florida: Probably not. Dennis has been trying to buy his mother's love for years, and it hasn't worked. He can work up the courage to tell her directly that her blatant favoritism is damaging their fragile relationship, but it may not have any effect. We're glad Dennis has you and the children as a source of support.

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. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARC Y SUGAR**

The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper. One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck. Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."

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FOOTBALL

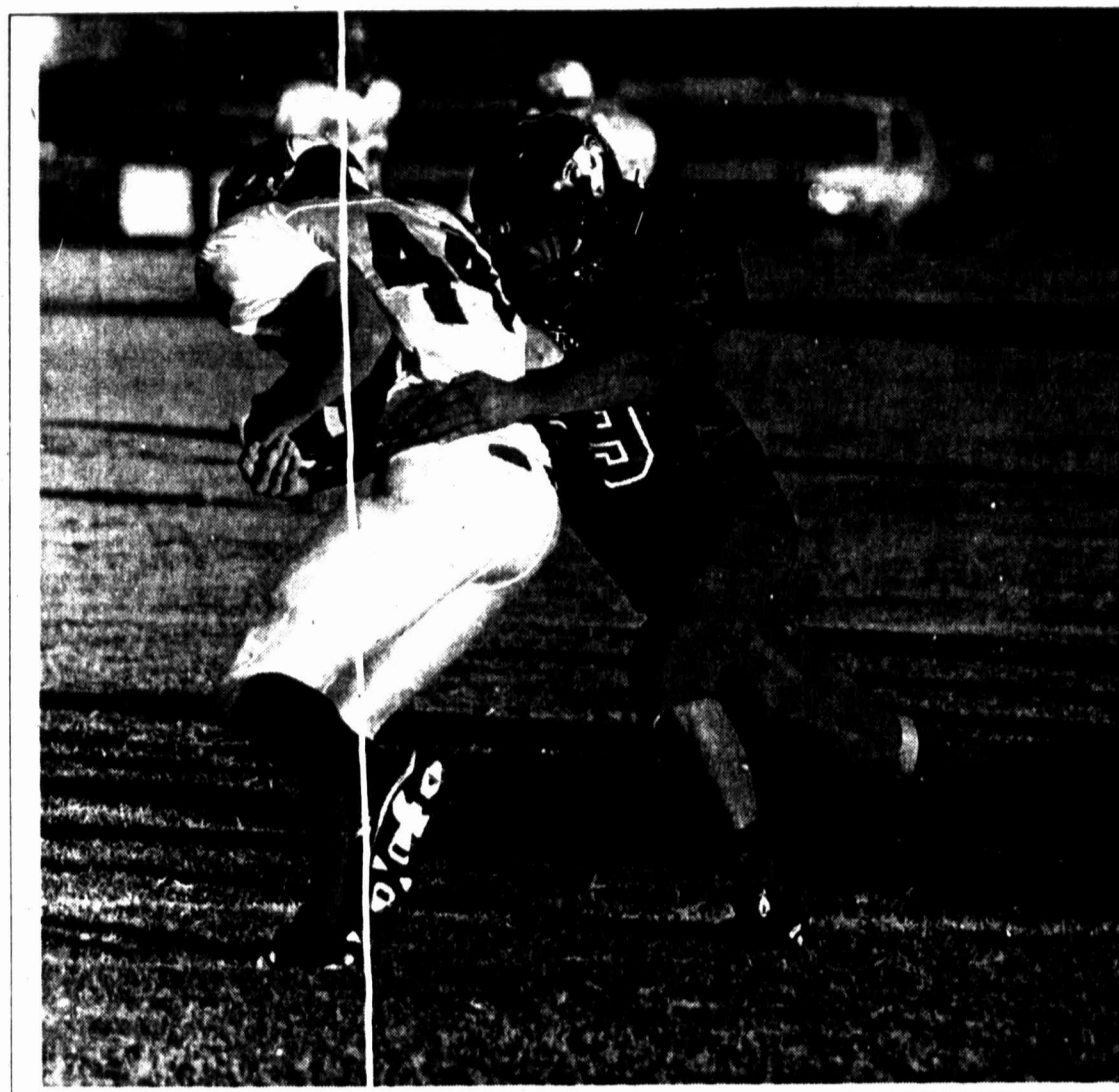
Continued from Page 7

Texas failed to score on its next possession following the World's touchdown late in the game. It got a first down on third and 15 after Martinson made a 21-yard grab. Texas was helped out again by a 15-yard face-mask call, but Clampitt made an interception three plays later to give the ball back to the World with the lead and only 2:38 to go in the game.

The World, however, went three plays and out on the next series. It also gave Texas great field position as a shanked punt put the ball on the World's 25-yard line. Texas needed just one play to take the lead back as Martinson scored on a 25-yard pass from Cody Barrett. The two-point kick made it 30-28 with just less than two minutes to go in the game.

The World threw four incompletions on its final possession and Texas escaped with the narrow win. Throckmorton's Dillon Rankin, who played for the Texas team, took home offensive MVP honors for the game, while Richland Springs' Tyler Fox was named defensive MVP.

Texas running back Emery Dudensing of Rule scored the game's first touchdown and Barrett threw another touchdown



Garden City's Cade Doss, right, takes down a runner from the World team during the All-Americas six-man football game Saturday night in Garden City.

pass early in the game as he hooked up with Tully Brown of Rule in the first quarter. The other touchdown scored in the game came after Clampitt pulled down a 38-yard reception from St. Alban's Episcopal's Mike Poriotis.

Grandfalls-Royalty's Robby Garcia and Texas defensive MVP Josh Reich of Blanket each had an interception, while Garden City's Cory Multer recovered a fumble.

Besides Multer and Smithson, Cade Doss and Dusty Walker, both of Garden City, also played in the game.

This year's contest featured a lot less scoring and much better defense. Texas won last year, 60-46.



Garden City's Dusty Walker, center, attempts to get a block for his teammates during the All-Americas football game Saturday night in Garden City. Texas won, 30-28.

LANDIS

Continued from Page 7

cruised to victory on the Champs-Elyses, a day after regaining the leader's yellow jersey and building an insurmountable lead in the final time trial.

Landis picked up where another American left off last year, when Lance Armstrong completed his seventh and final Tour triumph.

With the victory, Landis becomes the third American — joining Armstrong and three-time

winner Greg LeMond — to win the Tour.

Sunday's champagne and Landis' fifth yellow jersey of the Tour were possible thanks to a once-in-a-lifetime ride Thursday in the Alps that put the Phonak team leader back in contention, one day after a disastrous ride dropped him from first to 11th, more than eight minutes back.

Oscar Pereiro of Spain finished second overall at 57 seconds back, and Germany's Andreas Klöden was third.

Sprinter Thor Hushovd won the final stage Sunday.

Contract Bridge

Famous Hand

North dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ Q J
♥ J 10 6
♦ K Q 7 4
♠ A K 5 3
WEST
♦ K 9 8 5 3
♥ 5 3 2
♦ A 2
♠ J 8 6
EAST
♦ 10 4 2
♥ K Q
♦ J 10 9 5
♠ Q 10 7 2
SOUTH
♦ A 7 6
♥ A 9 8 7 4
♦ 8 6 3
♠ 9 4

The bidding:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3♥ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.
It isn't easy to see how South can make four hearts after West starts out by leading the ace and another diamond. Declarer apparently must lose a spade, a heart, a diamond and a diamond ruff and go down one against best defense.

But Albert Dormer, British expert who has probably written more about bridge in all its facets than just about anyone else, managed to make the contract after reaching four hearts on the bidding shown.

Moreover, he found the way to make 10 tricks in a rather simple fashion. He led the heart jack from dummy at trick three and, when East covered with the queen, won the trick with the ace. However, instead of continuing with a trump, which seemed the natural thing to do, he first cashed the A-K of clubs and ruffed a club.

Dormer then led a trump to East's king, and the remarkable effect of this sequence of plays was that East was on lead in a helpless position. If he returned a spade, declarer would finesse, losing to the king, but South's only losers in that case would be a spade, a heart and a diamond.

If East returned a diamond at trick eight instead of a spade, the outcome would be the same. After ruffing, West would find himself on lead, also in a no-win position. He would have no choice but to return a spade, and Dormer would then lose only a diamond, a heart and a diamond ruff.

By playing three rounds of clubs before leading the second round of trumps, declarer had left West with no safe exit card if he got the diamond ruff he was looking for. At the same time, Dormer demonstrated that extra touch of class he has so often written about.

Tomorrow: Poetic justice.
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Berkman injured in Houston's win

NEW YORK (AP) — Houston Astros outfielder Lance Berkman was forced to leave Sunday's game against the New York Mets when he strained his left groin running out a fifth-inning

double. Berkman, who came into the game batting .316 with 87 RBI, one behind league leader Andruw Jones, pulled up as he neared second base on his double. He was replaced

by pinch runner Luke Scott.

Berkman's hit drove in Mike Lamb with Houston's go-ahead run and knocked out Mets rookie starter Mike Pelfrey. Houston won, 8-4.

Hamlin wins second race at Pocono, now in hunt

LONG POND, Pa. (AP) — Denny Hamlin completed the Pocono sweep Sunday, blowing away the field for an easy second victory that pushed the rookie into championship contention.

While Hamlin, who is now eighth in the point standings, was cruising around Pocono Raceway, teammate Tony Stewart nearly self-destructed and Dale Earnhardt Jr. took another hit in his pursuit of the Nextel Cup title.

Stewart, the two-time and defending Nextel Cup champion, was black-flagged early in the race for intentionally wrecking Clint Bowyer.

Stewart still worked his way to a seventh place finish, good enough to move back into 10th in the Chase for the championship standings.

Earnhardt, meanwhile, is out of the top 10 after a hit from Dave Blaney sent him into the wall and out of the race. He now sits in 11th.

Kurt Busch finished second and was followed by Jeff Gordon, Brian Vickers, Kevin Harvick and points leader Jimmie Johnson.

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