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BIG SPRING

HERALD



INSIDE

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Page 7

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 209

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Alon unhappy over refined appraisal

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Howard County's largest taxpayer will see its tax bill go up significantly, but not as significantly as appraisers had recommended.

The three-man county tax appraisal review board decided Wednesday that the Big Spring Alon USA refinery property will be valued at \$130 million this year, an almost three-fold

increase from the previous year and almost twice what refinery officials proposed to the board.

However, that figure is significantly less than a \$260 million valuation Capitol Appraisals Group assessed on the refinery earlier this year.

With such a wide variance between the property valuation refinery officials proposed (\$62 million) and the appraiser's figures, board members knew that few people would be happy with

their decision.

"Some people are not going to like this," review board member Clarence Hays said. "There's no way we can reach a decision that's amicable ... There's just too much difference."

However, Hays noted that making people happy wasn't necessarily the board's job.

"The whole purpose of this board is to try to make sure that everything is as equitable



"Their figure is about two times as much as last year's valuation ... and that seems excessive to us. We will have to consider our options right now and make a decision as to which way to go."

Joe Conciencie, Big Spring Refinery manager

as possible," he said. "I'm not worried about (the appraisers) and I'm not worried about (the refinery). The only thing I'm worried about is the communi-

ty." Total valuation of the refinery — including property and

See ALON, Page 3

Money watch

Moore directors sign off on investment policy

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

When it comes to investing money, risk is not an option for Moore Development for Big Spring.

The Moore board of directors approved a continuation of their investment policy during their regular monthly meeting Wednesday afternoon.



Sharp

State law prohibits agencies from taking too many risks when investing taxpayer money, and Moore takes even fewer, Executive Director Kent Sharp said.

Statutes require that Moore Development keep at least 25 percent of its totals funds liquid at all times. For the most part, the remainder is invested in low-risk certificates of deposit.

Other investment options open to Moore directors are U.S. obligations, such as treasury bills, treasury bonds and treasury notes, and repurchase agreements.

Sharp said he prefers to continue with low-risk, low-maintenance options such as CDs, even if they don't bring as much return as other options.

"If we went with a repurchase agreement, that would give us an extra quarter-to-half-point of interest," Sharp said. "But if we did that, we'd have to have someone up here constantly keeping track of how the rate was fluctuating. And it's just not worth it."

"Secondly, we want to keep that money locally if at all possible," he added.

See MOORE, Page 3



Young Carl Price finds an ideal way to beat the heat Sunday as he makes use of the water slide at the city pool in Comanche Trail Park.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

CRMWD

Water deliveries rise with mercury

Special to the Herald

Water deliveries are rising with summer temperatures across the Colorado River Municipal Water District and the trend is likely to continue as the oil-driven economies appear to be attracting an increasing number of residents to West Texas.

"Our peak consumption always comes in summer with landscapes, pools and summer water drawing heavily on water supplies. It is amplified this year as we may be seeing some population growth in West Texas," said John Grant, CRMWD general manager.

San Angelo deliveries have historically been strong since the Ivie transmission system was constructed. The pipeline to Abilene is now complete and drawing some water from Ivie while

deliveries in the west end of the district's system are also on the rise.

Odessa-Midland has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state and that fact seems to be fueling population growth. Daily water deliveries to Odessa for the month of May since the drought began around 1993 have averaged about 784 million gallons. The May they were in excess of 798 mgd. This increase in usage amplifies the district's efforts to provide water today and for the future.

Grant said long-term water planning and development efforts are constantly in progress as the district looks for new sources to meet growing water demands. In the short term, CRMWD crews spent the winter months maintaining and improving the system. In April they filled all available storage in preparation for a busy summer. "Every winter of

See CRMWD, Page 3

Jury: Yates was insane

HOUSTON (AP) — Shortly before announcing they had found Andrea Yates not guilty by reason of insanity, the jury asked to see a picture of her five young children, then sat in silence for 10 minutes — 2 minutes for each child — remembering the victims, the jury foreman said Thursday.

"I honestly feel so peaceful right now that we made the right decision," said foreman Todd Frank, a 33-year-old marketing manager with his own young son.

"We understand that she knew it was legally wrong. But in her

"We understand that she knew it was legally wrong. But in her delusional mind, in her severely mentally ill mind, we believe that she thought what she did was right."

Todd Frank, jury foreman

delusional mind, in her severely mentally ill mind, we believe that she thought what she did was right," he told ABC's "Good Morning America."

Andrea Yates' acquittal means she won't spend her life in prison for the bathtub drownings of her children, but she will be

committed to a state mental hospital.

Yates will learn Thursday where she will be held until she is no longer deemed a threat. It likely will be North Texas State Hospital in Vernon, a maximum-security state facility, said her lead attorney, George Parnham.

Yates' ex-husband, Russell Yates, called the verdict "a miracle."

"This means a woman who we perceive to be also a victim in this, just like our children are, is going to get a better quality of life for herself for the balance of her life," he said outside the courthouse.

Four years ago, another jury convicted Yates of the 2001 murders, but an appeals court overturned the conviction last year because of erroneous testimony from a prosecution witness.

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COAHOMA HS REGISTRATION

July 31-Aug. 1
9 a.m.-3 p.m., Pick up registration packets at the high school office and new student registration.

Aug. 2
Senior registration, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., with packet only.
Junior registration, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., with packet only.

Aug. 3
Sophomore registration, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., with packet only.
Freshman registration, 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m., with packet only.

ELECTION HELP NEEDED

Howard County is in need of poll workers for the November election.

This election could be a large one, possibly containing county offices, a jail bond issue, city of Big Spring bond issue and Coahoma ISD bond issue.

Bi-lingual workers are especially needed.

Workshops will be held in September to train workers on the voting equipment as well as procedures for conducting the election.

If you would be interested in serving as an election judge or poll worker, contact the elections office at 264-2273 or stop by the county courthouse to learn more.

BEER-SWILLING PIGS

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — A pair of beer-swilling pigs has embroiled an Australian pub in an animal cruelty debate.

Visitors to "Pub in the Paddock" in the island-state of Tasmania are invited to pour bottles of beer down the willing throats of resident pigs Priscilla and P.B.

Pub owner Anne Free said Wednesday she was outraged that the tourist attraction had been attacked as cruel in the latest edition of a magazine published by animal welfare group Choose Cruelty Free. Free said the pigs liked beer. She also watered the beer down to ensure they never got drunk.

Obituaries

Estella Munoz Martinez



Estella Munoz Martinez, 82, of Grand Saline, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, July 24, 2006 in a Grand Saline hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, July 28, 2006 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Big Spring, with the Rev. James Plagens, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

A rosary will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel.

She was born Aug. 19, 1923, in Marfa and married Eduardo G. Martinez Sept. 16, 1941, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on April 3, 1985.

She was a longtime resident of Big Spring, moving to Fort Worth in 1998.

She worked at Malone and Hogan Hospital as a housekeeper, at Medical Arts Hospital in food service and at Howard College in food service. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Survivors include four daughters and sons-in-law, Beatrice and Richard L. Nipp of Alba, Lydia and Manuel Chabarría of Van, Stella Martinez of Mesquite, and Mary and Michael J. Buchanan of Lake Ford; three sons and daughters-in-laws, Eduardo and Beth Martinez of Espanola, N.M., Alfredo and Olivia H. Martinez of San Antonio, and George and Susie Martinez of Corsicana; one brother, Jose Munoz of Big Spring; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Paula and A.G. Martinez of Big Spring, Natalia Heredia of Midland, and Librada and Jose Lopez of Big Spring; 21 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, Matilda Irvin, and several brothers and sisters.

The family suggests memorials be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 508 N. Aylford, 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

Mildred Phillips

Mildred Phillips, 81, of Stanton, died Wednesday, July 26, 2006 at her residence. Services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Fund-raiser

• **BARBECUE PLATES AND PIES** will be available Saturday at the Power House Church of God in Christ at 1311 Goliad. Brisket, chicken, ham or sausage plates will include potato salad, beans, cole slaw, bread and dessert for \$6. Also available will be lemon pies, coconut cream pies and chocolate cakes for \$6. Delivery can be arranged by calling 263-6239.

• **THE MITCHELL COUNTY REUNION** will be held Sept. 30 in the Colorado City Civic Center, 157 W. Second St. Reservations may be made with the Colorado City Area Chamber of Commerce, at 325 728-3403. The speaker will be Elsie Ann (Ramsdell) Scaife, a former Mitchell County resident and a member of the 1944 graduating class.

• **SANDS-ACKERLY EX-STUDENTS HOMECOMING 2006** will be Sept. 30. The committee is in the process of updating address files. Contact Dorothy Rogers at 1608 W. FM 2230, Big Spring, or call 432-399-4312. We need correct mailing addresses for the homecoming letters. We would also like to have ex-teachers' addresses.

• **MEMBERS OF THE BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1996** are planning a 10-year reunion and are seeking information on the following missing classmates: Desmond Acosta, Richard Balcazar, Molly Balthrop, Stephanie Barraza, Kim Barton, Amanda Bingham, Ainee Cantu, Justin Cole, Riley Dorton, Clint Edmondson, Tony Everett, Trenton Fuqua, Mandy Gamble, Catalina Gonzales, Tammy Gonzales, Tony Greene, Betsy Gross, Rosa Gutierrez, Ryndi Hamby, Jorge Hernandez, Nick Hernandez, Valerie Hernandez, Ralph Herrera, Derek Hicks, Rober Hilario, Aaron Hubbard, Kim Klaus, Jennifer Leos, Juliana Leite, Manuel Lopez, Richard Lopez, David Mayes, Alisha McGee, Shenikqua McGee, Heidi McIntyre, Erika Mendoza, Jason Metcalf, David (Brad) Moore, Alex Padilla, Zoila Parra, Jason Pittman, Wes Platte, Tim Rios, Sally Rodriguez, Sarah Rowan, David Salgado, Amy Sanghavi, Ib Simpson, Craig Turner, Barnaby Urias, Leticia Valencia, Michael Watson, Ryan Wilkerson, Danielle Wilson, Zac Womack, Matt Woodall and Stephanie Yanez.

If you have information concerning any of the missing classmates, please contact Mindy Sedberry by e-mail at msedberry@yahoo.com.

• **THE COAHOMA ALUMNI REUNION WILL BE HELD AUG. 5** in the Coahoma Elementary School Cafeteria.
9:30 a.m. - Coffee and donuts
10 a.m. - Business meeting

Police blotter

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

- **THEFT** was reported in the 900 block of Willia.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 300 block of Ninth Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 600 block of Bucknell.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 500 block of 14th Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **TIMMY WAYNE ROGERS**, 26, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility and violation of a promise to appear.
- **JOSEPH DICKEY YOUNG**, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of speeding - 90 MPH in a 65 MPH zone and violation of a promise to appear.
- **SABRINA GUTIERREZ PEREZ**, 31, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance.
- **YESENIA GARZA PENA**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported approximately two miles north of Big Spring on North Highway 87.
- **MAJOR ACCIDENT** was reported on North Highway 87 near Highway 846.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 300 block of Main Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2600 block of East 24th Street.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of State. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of State. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported approximately two miles north of Big Spring on North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported approximately 10 miles north of Big Spring on North Highway 87. Service was refused.
- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 1600 block of Avion. Fire was out upon arrival.

Reunions

10:30 a.m. - Visitation
Noon - Lunch with keynote speaker C5 Galaxy Pilot Major Helm (Class of 86)
2:30 p.m. - Awards and memorials
3 p.m. - Auction to benefit the community scholarship fund for High school seniors
4 p.m. - Concert by Jody Nix (Class of 70) and the Texas Cowboys
5 p.m. - Class meetings
Tickets covering the meal and all activities are \$10 for alumni, \$7 for spouses and \$5 for children.
Early ticket sales will end July 22, but tickets will also be available at the door.
Send check to Rae Nell Best, PO Box 77, Coahoma 79511
Updates are available at www.coahomaisd.com. For more information, contact Bob Fishback at 457-2264.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL Class of 1991** is looking for fellow classmates for the 15-year reunion. If you or anyone you know has not been contacted by the reunion committee members please get in touch with us. Kendra (Williams) Rutledge 263-9955, Kim (Bailey) Rios 264-6129, or Kerry (Burdette) Rodriguez 263-6100.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL STEER BAND 10-YEAR REUNION** for classes 1970 to 1980 is planned July 28-29. Send name and addresses to Steer Band Reunion P.O. Box 103 Big Spring. 79721 or go to the Web site www.bigspringsteerbard.org. For more information or to leave a message, call 263-2205.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1986 20th REUNION** needs addresses and contact information for classmates. Call Kelly at 816-4540.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1996 10th YEAR REUNION** needs addresses and contact information for classmates. Call Mindy at 267-6524 or 267-7631.

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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
• Staked Plains Lodge 598 will have a social meeting, Scottish rite program at 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.

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.

SATURDAY
• Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.
• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
• Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY
• 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.

Support Groups

MONDAY
• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled for June 5. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

TUESDAY
• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. The next meeting is March 28. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

WEDNESDAY
• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Tena at 267-1883 or Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

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

FRIDAY
• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles.

Weather

Tonight: Clear to partly cloudy. Low 74F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.
Tomorrow: Sunny along with a few clouds. High near 95F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.
Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy skies. Low 72F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph.
Saturday: Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.
Sunday: Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.
Monday: A few clouds. Highs in the upper 90s and lows in the mid 70s.

Lottery

Lotto Texas: 2-7-8-24-39-51
Pick 3 Night: 9-2-0
Cash Five: 1-2-13-33-35

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Gaze in the same direction

CRMWD

I thoroughly enjoy reading Steve Reagan's Random Thoughts columns. Each time I read them I am stimulated to remember my own random thoughts.

I can remember my grandpa used to tell me that every day is a new day. It has been given to us to use as we desire. We can waste it or use it for some good cause. And whatever we do with it, we are exchanging a day of our lives for it.

When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever and in its place will be whatever I leave behind.

Now there is a degree of stress with that thought but it is so true. I must live everyday knowing that I am exchanging a day of my life for this particular day. I sure hope the exchange is worth while and beneficial.

Speaking of the stress in one's life leads me to think of the stress and social pressure that our children face on a daily basis. Our children experience social pressure every time they are with people! Social pressure can be exerted or manifested in a number of ways, including verbal pressure from adults who criticize or challenge; physical

pressure from bullies or siblings; expectation pressure from teachers or parents; social-judgment pressure from peer groups or adults or self-pressure.

Our children may be more susceptible to negative social pressure if they are filled by personal insecurities, personal independence, fears of peer-group rejection, personal status, the need for excitement, the need to be noticed, the need for an identity or approval and the feeling that they must achieve success no matter what the cost.

We can help insulate our children from the negative affects of social pressure by following these five steps:

a. Identify risk factors. Keep our eyes and ears open and discover the types of social pressures that easily influence our children.

b. Be protective. Find ways to lessen the amount of time our children are left unsupervised around sources of negative social pressure.

c. Be a teacher. Empower our children with the skills to help them deal with stressful and pressure-packed situations.

d. Monitor and plan. Make sure our children can have their needs (acceptance, excitement, etc.) met, including maximizing time spent with positive social influences, and

e. Communicate. Talk with our children to keep our relationship

Parent's Corner

strong. Share our thoughts and emotions, our likes and dislikes and why we feel that way, but also trying to understand the thoughts and emotions, likes and dislikes of our children and why they feel as they do and not be critical or overbearing.

Carl Sandburg once said, "Sometimes even to live is an act of courage!"

Let us be wise enough to realize that our children are performing acts of courage everyday as they are learning to live in the society that we have created. May we support them and teach them and provide avenues for their personal growth.

I love a quote I once read, "Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking together in the same direction!" For the sake of our children and our society, may we learn to gaze in the same direction.

Darrell Ryan, is the director of curriculum for Big Spring Independent School District.



DARRELL RYAN

Continued from Page 1

crews overhaul pumps and do all we can to have the system in peak condition for summer deliveries," he explained. "We work to fill every available storage tank or reservoir in the system and prepare our well fields for summer operations. During the past winter and spring, we have been able to save on power costs by pumping at night when rates are lower but we no longer have that option. We try to draw from the closest source but when deliveries spike, we have to keep the water moving."

Last summer, thanks to timely rains and moderate temperatures, CRMWD only had to use the Ward County Well Field about six days to meet peak demands Grant said.

"This year, we ran it some to in April to help Odessa while they serviced their water treatment plant but overall, it had already pumped 53 days through the end of June. July is hot and dry

with more of the same." Water users can help by using water wisely. "Water is a precious resource that we should never waste," Grant said. "There are dozens of small ways we can all make a difference like watering in early morning when the water will soak in rather than blow away or evaporate and not watering the sidewalks."

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ALON

Continued from Page 1

inventory — now exceeds \$170 million.

Refinery Manager Joe Conciencie, who saw the property valuation of the facility almost triple from last year's \$55 million figure, was understandably displeased with the review board's decision.

"We're disappointed they could not reach a more reasonable solution," Conciencie said. "Their figure is about two times as much as last year's valuation ... and that seems excessive to us. We will have to consider our options right now and make a decision as to which way to go."

Brett McKibbin, chief appraisal for the county, said the refinery has the option of filing a lawsuit in district court within 45 days of the review board's decision.

Reaction to the news

was mixed from county taxing entities.

James McFarland, assistant business manager with Big Spring Independent School District, said the new refinery valuation would have no effect on the district's preparations for a new budget year.

"We knew about the appeal, and we took that into account when we began preparing the new budget," McFarland said. "It won't make any difference to us."

Howard County Auditor Jackie Olson, however, said the revised valuation could inch the county's effective tax rate — the rate needed to raise the same amount of money as last year — a bit higher than projected.

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

MOORE

Continued from Page 1

In other business, the Moore board entered into a "letter of engagement" with the attorney firm of Brown and Hofmeister of Dallas. The firm will pro-

vide Moore Development with legal opinions on an as-needed basis.

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

YATES

Continued from Page 1

Yates' attorneys said she suffered from severe postpartum psychosis and, in a delusional state, believed Satan was inside her and was trying to save the children from hell by drowning 6-month-old Mary, 2-year-old Luke, 3-year-old Paul, 5-year-old John and 7-year-old Noah.

"It's this simple: This lady never did anything, anything wrong in her whole life," defense attorney Wendell Odom said. "She's mentally ill. She wakes up one morning. She drowns her five kids. Come on — we all know she's insane, and it's a shame that it took us this long to finally get the

right verdict." Prosecutors had maintained that although Yates was mentally ill, she failed to meet the state's definition of insanity: being so severely mentally ill that she did not know her actions were wrong.

"I'm very disappointed," prosecutor Kaylynn Williford said. "For five years, we've tried to seek justice for these children."

Yates "made a decision that what she did was right," said prosecutor Joe Owmy. "That is an untenable position."

It will be difficult for Yates to be released. Getting released, or transferred to a lower-security hospital, requires a complicated and comprehensive evaluation process.

Let's Go Dancin' At The Eagles!

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* Saturday Night *

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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
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Bill McClellan
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OUR VIEWS

Those violating probation must not get free ride

There's no "may" to it — a chink in the county's new pre-trial bonding program's armor has definitely been found. It's a problem County Court Coordinator Mike Barton pointed out during the Howard County Commissioners Court's meeting Monday morning.

Barton noted his office is running into a definite problem with people who have been arrested on a motion to revoke probation.

"A lot of these people that are getting arrested for violation of probation," said Barton. "We've already given them a chance to make payments on their fines and they haven't paid us. So we issue a warrant to have them picked up and they go to jail. After that, we're giving them a second chance and telling them, 'OK, we're going to let you out on a 3 percent bond because the commercial bondsmen won't get you out because you didn't pay them properly to start with.'"

Then Barton asked commissioners a question we should all be asking.

"If they already owe us \$1,000 in fines and court costs, aren't we throwing good money after bad money by letting them out again? Because a month from now we're going to have them right back up here for a hearing, probably revoke their probation because they still haven't paid us and lock them up in jail."

That's what you call a "good point."

While it is true the program was adopted by the county several months ago in an bid to relieve jail overcrowding and thereby save money, there's no question in our collective mind that allowing those who've failed to live up to probation requirements to have a second chance at being bonded out of jail delivers not a "mixed" message, but a bad one.

And yes, Commissioner Gary Simer was correct that in some cases the program does more than just put offenders back on the streets. In some cases, people are finding jobs or being put in drug treatment programs.

But as Barton noted, in many probation revocation cases, the defendant has no intention of paying fines and simply ends up a jail inmate a month later than they would without the aid of the pre-trial bonding program.

And we all need to remember that cases Barton cited are those were people have been convicted and charged with a fine. That's called not paying the price for your mistakes.

We can't afford to all that. Those people need to be in jail ... period.

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
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- 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

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- 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.
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- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We can prevent a snafu when we walk in heavenly steps, Lord, through Your word.

Amen

Resisting the propoganda tendency

Last week the Washington Post gleefully reported that serious fault lines are developing among conservatives over President Bush's foreign policy. While I don't deny the president has been under strong criticism from the right and that significant disagreements exist among conservatives, the rifts are far from fatal.

The antiwar right has long since given up on Bush, but the Post is talking about attacks from so-called "neoconservatives," who, until recently, have been among Bush's staunchest supporters on the Iraq war.

Lately, however, they have criticized him for not being aggressive enough in Iraq and, more recently, toward Iran and North Korea. And they are upset by his guarded response to the attacks against Israel.

The Post, while delighted, seems perplexed by these divisions. It refers to this criticism of the administration "from its own side of the ideological spectrum" as "an odd irony for a president who has inflamed liberals and many allies around the world for what they see as an overly confrontational, go-it-alone approach."

It is not an "odd irony" at all. It's just that liberals have mischaracterized the president as an extreme, war-hungry imperialist, when, in fact, he is motivated not by any desire to expand America's global influence but a duty to safeguard our national interest.

Indeed, all of those who have glibly labeled President Bush a "neocon" or a puppet of the "neo-conservative cabal," present company excluded, have egg on their faces. I've long said that President Bush didn't fit into that category.



DAVID LIMBAUGH

He attacked Iraq because he believed it to be a threat to our national interest, a menace to world peace and a habitual violator of its post-war treaties. He talked about the domino effect of a democratized Iraq as a collateral benefit of our deposing Saddam Hussein, but he never would have attacked it solely to spread democracy in the Middle East.

In fairness, neoconservatives would probably not be in favor of initiating wars against nations not perceived as posing any threat to America's interests either. But they do appear to favor a more aggressive approach toward countries they believe to be inevitable threats to the United States in the foreseeable future, like North Korea, Iran and perhaps Syria. And they tend to be more convinced of the inevitability of these threats. They also have less patience for diplomatic avenues, especially when these rogue states use "negotiations" to take us off guard while they proceed with further mischief.

Unhappily for the Post and other liberals, the differences between President Bush and neoconservatives are of degree rather than kind. They each share the same jaded perception of our enemies and have the same goals.

Neoconservatives may be disenchanted with President Bush sometimes, but they will always support him against our enemies and never undermine our cause in this global war.

The same cannot be said of the antiwar left, which refuses to appreciate the depraved nature of our enemy and reserves its ire for President Bush. The strike against Israel should be a wakeup call for those oblivious to the terrorist mindset.

The left is always quick to excuse naked acts of terrorist aggression against Israel as morally equivalent to Israel's actions in

defending itself. The terrorists and their sponsoring states greatly benefit from this moral and intellectual recklessness. For no matter how many times terrorists have proven that acts of appeasement — such as ceding land for peace — simply whet their appetite for further aggression in their quest to wipe Israel off the face of the map, the left continues to apologize for the aggressors.

The terrorists' primary motivation is their unmitigated anti-Semitism, a malignant force that has terrorized Jews for thousands of years. Earlier this week, I visited the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. and saw disturbing evidence of it.

Among the displays was a haunting reminder from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower on April 15, 1945, as he recorded the horrors he witnessed at the Nazi concentration camps. Eisenhower wrote, "The things I saw beggar description. The visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty and bestiality were overpowering. I made the visit deliberately in order to be in a position to give firsthand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to 'propaganda.'"

One of the principal ringleaders against Israel today, Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is denying the Holocaust just as Eisenhower predicted, as he prepares to launch another one, and in the meantime feeds his fellow terrorists currently attacking Israel. Let us heed Eisenhower's sober warning and resist the tendency to charge these allegations merely to "propaganda."

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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More immigrant bashing on the way

While the rest of you were celebrating life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, I was keeping an eye on Karl Rove — because someone has to.

A "Bush Signals Shift in Stance on Immigrants" headline is the early warning sign that we're about to get an all-out immigrant-bashing campaign for the fall, complete with xenophobia, racism and blaming the weakest, least powerful people in the country for everything that's wrong with it.

House Republicans, who know a good socially divisive issue when they see one, are perfectly happy to blame illegal workers for everything.

Trade policy, repealing taxes for the rich, corruption in Congress — it's all done by illegal workers.

Everywhere you look in this society, there's a bunch of people named Gomez and Ramirez, all of them making decisions from the top — in charge of the Pentagon, heading the military-industrial complex, deciding the rich need tax relief, in charge of this stupid war, making decisions on Wall Street.

What do you mean, the only people you know named Gomez and Ramirez push brooms and pick cantaloupes? Can't you see that everything that's wrong with this country is because of illegal aliens? It's all their fault. The people in charge have nothing to do

with it.

Besides, immigrant-bashing is such an old American tradition. Back at the time of the Revolution, many Anglo-Americans worried about the terrible number of Germans engulfing the country (see, Karl?).

Since then, we've managed to work up a snit over the Irish, the Jews, the Polish, the Swedes, Bolivians, Bavarians, Bosnians, Russians, Italians, Sicilians, a great variety of Africans, Indians, Pakistanis, Maltese (sorry you missed that one — the Maltese once overran New York City deli counters), Cubans, Puerto Ricans and so forth.

If you haven't been here long enough to get upset about at least one other group moving in, you must still owe the coyote (as immigrant-smugglers are called). Think of the rich verbal history of ethnic insults — Bohunks, Krauts, Polacks, Micks.

I don't see why we should stop blaming newcomers for our troubles just because they're not in charge of anything.

You gotta admit, prejudice is as American as apple pie.

I hear tell these Mexicans keep crossing the border so they can get on welfare and get health care and all these goodies.

Funny, we don't have goodies in Texas, but they keep moving here to work anyway.

Bush was planning to take a stab at resolving the problem, particularly on the Mexican border, with a guest-worker program. But the House Republicans had a hissy fit, claimed it was an "amnesty program" and demanded harsher

measures, militarization of the border, a big fence.

Not gonna work, y'all. Build a 50-foot fence, and they'll build a 51-foot ladder. Hire Halliburton with a no-bid contract to build the fence, and it will hire illegal workers to do it.

The catch-and-release program currently run for Mexicans by the U.S. government is damn silly.

So what will work? If you want to stop Mexicans from crossing the border to work here, put Americans who hire them in jail.

Since the Americans who hire them are also often (not always) large donors to the Republican Party, you will have to take that up with them.

Fixing Mexico certainly does NOT involve interfering in their elections. I had to laugh at the number of American pundits who solemnly lectured the Mexicans on how their tied election was such a delicate situation for their democracy.

Like it never happened to us? Helping to fix Mexico involves, in my opinion, redoing NAFTA, so that labor and environmental standards can be included. I've always liked Lou Dobbs, who at least cares about middle- and working-class Americans. But to some extent, he's got the immigrant issue by the wrong end.

If you don't want Mexicans walking into this country, make sure no one is offering them jobs. You could even pass a law about it. You could even enforce the law. Don't blame them.

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Contract Bridge

You Don't Need a Slide Rule

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♦K J 10 9 4
♥Q 10 9
♠6 2
♣6 4 3

WEST
♦7 2
♥K 8 6 5 3
♠J 7 4
♣Q 10 5

EAST
♦A 8 5 3
♥7 2
♠Q 10 9 5
♣J 9 8

SOUTH
♦Q 6
♥A J 4
♠A K 8 3
♣A K 7 2

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3♦ Pass
3 NT

Opening lead — five of hearts.

The importance of planning the play can never be overemphasized. To play first and think later is to put the cart before the horse, and all too often a hasty declarer will have reason to regret a mechanical reaction on an earlier play.

For example, consider this deal where West led a heart against three notrump. Dummy's nine won the first trick, and declarer led a spade to the queen, which also won. The next spade went to East's ace, and he returned a heart.

South played the jack, won by

West with the king, and the heart continuation was taken by South's ace. At this point, declarer found himself staring forlornly at dummy's three good spades, and with no way to reach them, he eventually finished down one.

Declarer's undoing can be traced to his play at trick one. He should have assumed the opponents would not cooperate by winning the first round of spades, and then sought a solution before proceeding.

Had he done that, he would have found a simple way to make the contract. All he had to do was to win the opening lead with the ace of hearts and force out the ace of spades. Dummy's Q-10 of hearts would have constituted an absolutely certain entry to dummy to cash the established spades, and declarer would have finished with an overtrick.

Superficially, it seems absurd to win the first trick with the ace of hearts when you can win it with the nine. But when you stop and look at the hand as a whole, it becomes clear that winning with the ace is right and winning with the nine is wrong. Although most of the time you win a trick as cheaply as possible, that doesn't mean you always do so.

Occasionally you get a chance to prove that reasoning is more reliable than woodenly following the line of least resistance.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

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Squeezetones to play at JnR's

9 p.m. Saturday
1310 W. Fourth St.
\$3 cover

Herald Staff Report

International musician and song writer Ponty Bone will perform with the Squeezetones at JnR's Sports Bar here Saturday night.

For more than two decades, the acclaimed accordion player has led the Squeezetones to popularity throughout the Southwest, the U.S. and Europe.

Born in 1939 in Dallas, Bone began taking accordion lessons at age 5. By the mid-1960s he was in Lubbock, playing with Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Joe Ely, Jesse "Guitar" Taylor and others. Throughout the years, he has shared the stage and studio with rock stars such as The Clash and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Texas accordion king Flaco Jimenez and country rock star Linda Ronstadt.

His resume of musical associations reads like an honor roll of Texas music, including Gilmore and Ely, Butch Hancock, Terry Allen, Jerry Jeff Walker, Robert Earl Keen, Gary P. Nunn, Omar and the Howlers, Terri Hendrix,

PONTY BONE
and the
SQUEEZETONES



Courtesy photo/D. Scheindlin

Ponty Bone and the Squeezetones will perform at JnR's Sports Bar Saturday night.

Lloyd Maines, Doug Sahm and many others.

He performed with the Joe Ely Band through five albums and countless tours in the U.S. and Europe before forming the Squeezetones in early 1982. Through the years, the band has

had many different members. In a 1992 reunion, some 70 musicians were invited to celebrate the band's legacy.

The band has released four albums — "Easy As Pie," "My, My, Look At This" and "Dig Us on the Road Somewhere" and its latest, "Fantasize."

Playwright, actor and musician Sam Shepard writes, "I slip Ponty Bone and the Squeezetones into the tape deck and roll up the tinted window ... Things are turned around now ... Cruising to the Squeezetones, I set the cruise control dead on 70 ... I love this open road."

Ponty and the Squeezetones will be cruising to Odessa Friday for the city-sponsored "Hot Summer Nights" concert series, then to JnR's Sports Bar Saturday in Big Spring and on to the Lexello Hotel in San Antonio Sunday.

JnR's Sports Bar is located at 1310 W. Fourth St. The Squeezetones are to take the stage at about 9 p.m. Cover is \$3 per person.

News in brief

Kansas father pleads guilty to killing sons

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A man accused of setting fire to a camper as his two young sons slept inside pleaded guilty Wednesday to reduced murder charges, sparing him the death penalty.

One day into his retrial, Robert Fox admitted he caused the deaths of Chance Fox, 6, and Rowdy Fox, 4. The boys lived with their mother in Hooker, Okla., and were visiting their father in southwest Kansas when they died March 27, 2004.

Initially charged with capital murder and first-degree murder, Fox pleaded guilty to two counts of reckless second-degree murder. He faces nine to 41 years in prison on each count.

Attorney General Phill Kline said the defense has agreed not to request a lesser sentence, and prosecutors will ask that the terms be served consecutively at a hearing to be set later this week.

Fox, 55, is accused of killed his sons because of a fight with their mother, Angie McCane, according to earlier testimony.

Claude Burns, the boys' maternal grandfather, was unhappy with the plea agreement. "I'd rather see (Fox) buried," Burns told The Hutchinson News.

Fox's first trial ended in a mistrial in February after prosecutors realized they did not have a report from a fire detective.

Prosecutors described Fox then as a man who was familiar with fire. A week before the deadly blaze, he had taken Chance to a fire station and asked for a tour.

But the defense portrayed him as an overmedicated man who mixed drugs with alcohol after finding out he had colon cancer. He was in the camper when it caught fire and escaped with burns.

Tractor-trailer crashes into train; 6 hurt

DENVER (AP) — A tractor-trailer slammed into a train carrying tourists in southern Colorado on Wednesday, injuring at least six people and leaving dozens of passengers stranded, authorities said.

Sheriff's officials were investigating what caused the truck to strike the San Luis Express in Blanca around 4:30 p.m. and catch fire.

"We felt the impact, and all the debris started coming in the windows," said passenger Connie Frick of Aurora. "When everything came to a stop, the fire was right in front of us. It was a massive fire."

Ed Ellis, president of Rio Grande Scenic Rail Excursions, which runs the train's trips, said five of the 56 tourists aboard were treated for bumps and scrapes and released from a hospital. Ellis said the driver of the truck was hospitalized with undisclosed injuries.

The train was traveling 30 mph and was about 250 feet from the crossing when crew members noticed the truck heading toward the tracks and used the emergency brakes, he said.

"He wasn't going to stop," Ellis said.

Dozens of tourists packed into Lu's Main Street Cafe to wait for buses to take them to Alamosa, said Salina

Pacheco, said a waitress at the restaurant.

The San Luis Express departs from Alamosa and passes through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on its way to La Veta before it returns back to Alamosa.

Blanca is about 160 miles south of Denver.

Woman cleared in retrial of son's death

CARLYLE, Ill. (AP) — A woman who spent about two years in prison for the stabbing death of her 10-year-old son was acquitted at her retrial Wednesday, after the defense insisted the murder was carried out by a masked intruder, possibly a Texas death-row inmate who has confessed.

Julie Rea-Harper stood as the verdict was read then collapsed and began sobbing after she was cleared of two counts of first-degree murder in Joel Kirkpatrick's death in their Lawrence County home early Oct. 13, 1997.

"We are tremendously gratified by the verdict," her attorney Ron Safer said, clutching Rea-Harper's arm outside the Clinton County courthouse. "This has been a nightmare nobody should have to live through."

The boy's father, Len Kirkpatrick, angrily left the courthouse after the verdict and declined to comment.

Rea-Harper, 37, was convicted in 2002 and sentenced to 65 years in prison. The trial didn't include a confession by Texas inmate Tommy Lynn Sells to the child's slaying. Prosecutors dispute the credibility of the confession.

Two years later, an appeals court dismissed her conviction on a technicality and ordered a new trial.

Police said Rea-Harper stabbed her only child as he slept in bed. She had recently lost custody of him to her former husband.

Rea-Harper told police she wrestled with a masked

intruder who attacked her son. Her attorney argued that evidence demanding an acquittal included the absence of Joel's blood on her hands, arms, legs and clothes at a crime scene where the killer, forensic experts testified, would have been saturated with the boy's blood.

Prosecutors told the jury there were no signs of a struggle or that anyone had entered the house.

Special prosecutor David Rands called Sells "a red herring thrown up by the defense" and said he was not a suspect.

Teen pleads not guilty in Indiana shootings

BROWNSTOWN, Ind. (AP) — A teenager accused of killing a man and wounding another in a series of highway shootings had argued with relatives during a hunting trip and drove off in anger shortly before the attacks, a prosecutor said Wednesday.

Zachariah Blanton, 17, pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges of murder, attempted murder and three counts of criminal recklessness. He stared at the sidewalk as officers led him into the Jackson County Courthouse where Circuit Judge William Vance set a tentative Dec. 13 trial date.

Blanton could face life in prison without parole.

Police believe that after the hunting trip argument, Blanton drove to a nearby overpass outside Seymour early Sunday, aimed his rifle over the trunk of his vehicle and fired at trucks on Interstate 65 about 60 miles south of Indianapolis.

One bullet killed a passenger in a pickup and another wounded a man. Two hours later, a tractor-trailer and unoccupied sport utility vehicle were hit by bullets about 100 miles to the north, close to the teenager's hometown of Gaston.

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Photo courtesy Cadillac/AutoDeadline/MCT

From its gleaming grille to its rear-video system, the new 2007 Escalade takes Cadillac's iconic luxury SUV to a new level.

Bigger, better, shinier

Luxury SUVs reach new heights with 2007 Escalade

By Mark Phelan

Detroit Free Press
The king of bling gets bigger, better and shinier with the all-new 2007 Cadillac Escalade.

From its gleaming grille to its rear-video system, the new Escalade takes Cadillac's iconic luxury SUV to a new level.

Escalade prices start at \$53,850 for a rear-drive model and \$56,405 for the all-wheel-drive version that accounts for more than 50 percent of sales. I tested a very well-equipped AWD model with a DVD entertainment system, heated and cooled seats and other options, adding \$8,830 for a sticker price of \$65,235. All prices exclude destination charges.

The Escalade joins the Mercedes-Benz GL 450 as the two best big SUVs you can buy. The two vehicles are clearly superior to all their key competitors: the Infiniti QX56, Lexus LX 470 and Lincoln Navigator.

The Escalade and GL 450 have just enough shortcomings that I couldn't quite bring myself to give either a four-star rating, but they're a lap ahead and drawing away from the rest of the luxury SUV pack.

Each of the two class leaders excels at different things. The Escalade wins hands-down on power, interior appearance, ride and handling.

I also love the new 'Slade's brazen styling, from its bold chrome grille and proud Cadillac badges to the chromed fender vents and the optional 22-inch chrome wheels gleaming beneath the one I tested.

The GL is more space-efficient and has a much more usable third-row seat.

Fuel economy is essentially a draw, which tickled the geek in me, because the engineering for the vehicles is quite different.

The Escalade's 6.2-liter pushrod V8 — the latest in General Motors Corp.'s decades-old family of small-block V8s — generates 403 horsepower. It's linked to GM's new six-speed automatic transmission. The GL 450 has Mercedes' newest V8, a 4.5-liter, 32-valve overhead cam powerplant producing 335 horsepower

and linked to the company's new seven-speed automatic transmission. A rear-drive Escalade is available for buyers south of the Snow Belt, while the GL 450 is available only with all-wheel-drive.

The AWD Escalade I tested weighs in at a significant 416 pounds heavier than the GL 450 — 5,665 pounds to 5,249 — but its EPA fuel-economy rating of 13 mpg city and 19 highway is virtually indistinguishable from the GL 450's rating of 14 city/18 highway.

That's in spite of the Escalade's quicker 0-60 mph time — 6.5 seconds, versus 7.4 for the GL 450 — and greater towing capacity — 7,700 pounds vs. 7,500.

There's more than one way to skin a cat, and the Escalade gets the nod for ingenuity, thanks to using a simpler engine but still beating the DOHC GL 450 on all major performance criteria and essentially matching its fuel economy.

The Escalade also has a nimbler handling, thanks to a suspension that keeps the big SUV flat through fast curves and quick lane changes.

The Escalade's suspension also does a very good job of absorbing the

impact from rough roads, although there's noticeably more wind noise in the Cadillac than the GL 450.

The Escalade also has a far more luxurious and attractive interior than the Mercedes.

The black leather, warm wood and satin-finish aluminum trim look and feel terrific, and the fit of all the pieces was excellent. The blue- and white-lit gauges have a simple and elegant design, although the lovely jewelry-style analog clock in the dashboard is attractive but illegible.

Its ornamentation rather than a timepiece, as evidenced by the digital clock immediately below it in the user-friendly, eight-inch touch screen for the optional navigation system, rear video, audio and other systems.

As attractive as the dashboard is, GM's antiquated four-position tilt steering wheel has no place on a luxury vehicle, which should offer a power tilt and telescope wheel, preferably linked to the seat and mirror memories. The Escalade also should offer Bluetooth connectivity for hands-free use of mobile phones and other

electronics.

The cramped seat would not be noteworthy if the GL 450 hadn't just rolled out of Mercedes' Alabama plant with an acceptable amount of legroom.

Big SUVs don't sell much anywhere outside the United States, and they're the traditional domain of U.S. automakers.

2007 Cadillac Escalade

Vehicle type: All-wheel-drive, seven-passenger, full-size luxury SUV

Base price: \$56,405 (excluding destination charges)

As tested: \$65,235

Standard equipment: Antilock brakes; electronic stability control; curtain air bags; ultrasonic rear parking assist; tire pressure monitor; power locks and windows; road-sensing suspension; automatic rear leveling; 17-inch, full-size spare tire; 14-way power front seats; second-row bucket seats; three-passenger third-row seat; leather upholstery; driver information system with vehicle personalization; XM satellite radio; Bose 5.1 surround sound; power liftgate with lift glass; remote start; high-intensity discharge headlights; rear audio controls; power folding heated mirrors; adjustable pedals memory for seats; rain-sensing wipers; steering wheel audio controls; three-zone automatic climate control

Specifications as tested

Engine: 6.2-liter, OHV 16-valve V8

Power: 403 horsepower at 5,700 rpm, 417 pound-feet of torque at 4,300 rpm

Transmission: Six-speed automatic

Fuel economy: 13 mpg city/19 mpg highway

Wheelbase: 116.0 inches

Length: 202.5 inches

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Sports

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

Page 7
Thursday, July 27, 2006

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, which is for high school-level students only, will take place Tuesday, Aug. 1, at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center at 7 p.m.

For more info, 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.

Holt announces Steer football camp

Big Spring head football coach Tim Holt and his staff will conduct a camp for grades kindergarten through ninth this week.

The camp started yesterday and will run through Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon both days. The cost is \$25.

For more info, call 264-3662.

Junior high football coaches announce equipment hand out

Junior high football coach John Richard Sparks has announced that football players in seventh and eighth grade will be issued equipment Aug. 10 and 11.

The eighth graders will get theirs the first day from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the seventh grade will go the second day at the same time.

For more info, call 264-4135.

To submit a sports item, contact the Herald at 263-7331

Berkman powers Astros past Cincy

By CHRIS DUNCAN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Lance Berkman talked his way into the lineup Wednesday night and Houston manager Phil Garner was glad he did afterward.

Berkman homered twice and Craig Biggio added a solo shot as the Astros rallied from a 5-1 deficit to beat the Cincinnati Reds 8-5.

Berkman was a game-time decision for Garner after injuring his left groin in Sunday's win in

New York. Garner thought Berkman looked gimpy running the bases during batting practice, but Berkman persisted.

"When we watched him, the first couple of times he ran, we weren't sure he was going to be able to play," Garner said. "He continued to talk and he talked me into it."

Berkman made sure he didn't have to do much baserunning.

His first homer, a three-run shot to right-center, capped a six-run fifth inning off Reds starter Bronson Arroyo (9-7).

Berkman added a solo homer to center field in the seventh for his fourth multi-homer game of the season.

"I told him I could go and I showed him I could go," Berkman said of his conversation with Garner.

The Astros came back from four runs down for the second time this season and snapped a four-game losing streak at Minute Maid Park.

They also ended a four-game skid to the Reds, who've lost seven of their last nine road games.

Houston is still five games under .500 and five games behind Cincinnati — with five teams in between — in the race for the NL wild card.

"You just start playing well and you hope it lasts," Berkman said. "If we come out tomorrow and fall flat, this doesn't mean anything."

Arroyo dropped to 0-4 since winning at New York on June 19. He tied a career high by giving up three homers.

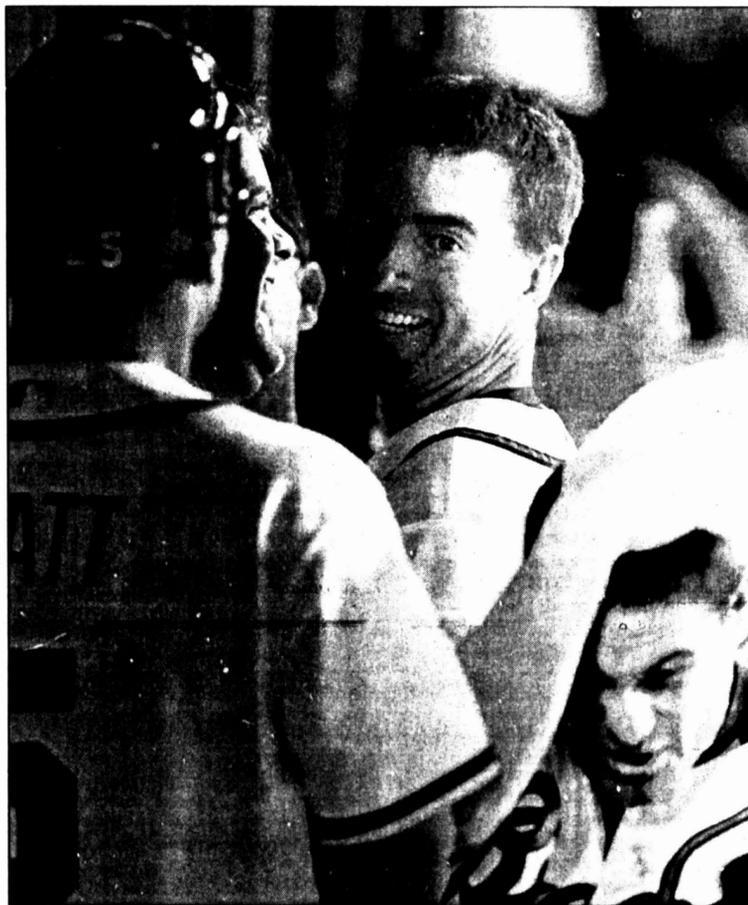
Arroyo was virtually unhittable for three innings after Biggio

launched his fourth pitch into the left-field seats. Biggio's sixth leadoff homer of the season was the 50th of his career, which trails only Rickey Henderson's 80.

Astros starter Andy Pettitte (9-10) couldn't hold the lead long. Rich Aurilia hit his 13th homer of the season in the second, the 21st home run given up by Pettitte this year.

Aurilia led off the fourth with a single to right and Adam Dunn followed with a double off the fence in left-center.

HAPPY HITTER



Atlanta Braves first baseman Adam LaRoche is all smiles after hitting a home run in the eighth against the Florida Marlins Wednesday. The Braves defeated the Marlins 6-5 at Turner Field in Atlanta.

Prison looms for Bonds' personal trainer

By PAUL ELIAS
and
DAVID KRAVETS

Associated Press Writers

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds' personal trainer could be headed back to prison if he refuses to cooperate with the grand jury investigating his childhood friend for perjury and tax evasion.

Lawyers for Greg Anderson say he has no intention of testifying Thursday in the case against the San Francisco Giants slugger and is prepared for his third prison stay in less than a year.

"He's resigned to do whatever it takes to maintain his integrity," said Paula Canny, an attorney and close friend of Anderson, fresh off a 15-day stint behind bars for refusing to cooperate in an earlier phase of the probe.

Anderson was released from prison last week on the same day prosecutors announced a grand jury investigating Bonds had expired without issuing an indictment. The new grand jury quickly was

assembled, and Anderson received what was believed to be the first subpoena — ordering him to appear before the panel Thursday.

Authorities are investigating whether Bonds lied under oath when he told an earlier grand jury he didn't know whether the substances given to him by Anderson were steroids. The probe also reportedly is focused on whether Bonds paid taxes on the sale of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of sports memorabilia.

Bonds' attorney, Michael Rains, says his client is guilty of nothing more than being famous.

If Anderson again refuses to testify, he'll be hauled in front of a federal judge who'll demand to know why he should be excused from testifying to a grand jury, a requirement even the president of the United States has to honor.

Since Anderson's legal arguments remain largely the same, the judge likely will send the trainer back to prison.

Late Yankees' rally downs Texas

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — While Shawn Chacon has pitched himself out of the starting rotation, he got the New York Yankees out of a jam — and helped them gain ground in the AL East.

After Texas scored four times to go ahead in the eighth inning Wednesday night, Chacon got three outs facing two batters — stalling a line drive to start an inning-ending double play — and the Yankees went on to win 8-7 on Jason Giambi's two-run homer in the ninth.

"He kept us in position to do what we did," manager Joe Torre said of Chacon (5-3), who made his fourth relief appearance.

The first six batters in the eighth reached for Texas, which went ahead 7-6 after Michael Young hit a two-run single and scored on Hank Blalock's single. With the bases loaded and no outs, Chacon came on as the third pitcher in the inning.

He struck out Mark DeRosa. Brad Wilkerson then hit a liner back up the middle, and the pitcher caught it and doubled up Kevin Mench at first base.



Texas Rangers catcher Rod Barajas and third baseman Hank Blalock catch New York Yankees runner Johnny Damon in a run down in the first inning of play at Amerquest Field in Arlington Tuesday. The Yankees defeated the Rangers, 8-7.

"I was dancing around looking for a base to throw to. It happened to work out for us," Chacon said. "I stuck my glove out, it was there, and my feet did the rest."

Derek Jeter led off the ninth with a single up the middle against closer Akinori Otsuka (2-4) and Giambi followed with his 29th homer. It was Giambi's first homer in nine games and came after a 6-for-36 slump.

"If Jason was saving up for a hit, that was it," Torre said.

"Derek and I were talking in the on-deck circle. I told him to get me an opportunity," Giambi said. "I haven't been swinging the bat well but this makes up for it. My legs are beat up, my knee is sore, but you have to find a way to contribute."

New York (59-40) completed a six-game season sweep at Texas and got

within 1-1/2 games of first-place Boston in the AL East. The Red Sox lost 5-1 at Oakland earlier Wednesday. The Yankees also moved a half-game ahead of Minnesota and the Chicago White Sox in the wild card chase.

It was the first time since 1992 that Texas was swept at home in a season series of at least six games. That had never happened at Amerquest Field.

Ex-Mav to play in Indy

By CLIFF BRUNT

Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Darrell Armstrong plans to retire at the end of the upcoming NBA season, but it's not because of doubts about his 38-year-old legs.

Armstrong wants to enter coaching after next season.

In the meantime, he's preparing to play as many minutes as needed for the Indiana Pacers.

Armstrong came to Indiana from Dallas in exchange for Anthony Johnson in a swap of point guards.

Armstrong averaged 2.1 points and 1.4 assists last season with the Mavericks, but he said it's not because his skills have diminished. He had no problem deferring to Dirk Nowitzki, Jerry Stackhouse, Josh Howard and Jason Terry, among others.

"To me, it's no decline," he said Wednesday.

That's Racin'

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Go online and check out www.thatstracin.com for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.

"He didn't live up to what he preaches, and that's move over and let a faster car go ... He came down on us a little bit. I came up on him a little bit, and we hit."

— Ryan Newman, on his crash with Tony Stewart in Sunday's Lenox 300.



Busch

THIS WEEK'S RACE

PENNSYLVANIA 500

Where: Pocono Raceway, a 2.5-mile triangular-shaped paved flat track located in Long Pond, Pa.

When: Sunday at 2:10 p.m. (all times ET).
Qualifying is 3:40 p.m. Friday.

TV: TNT.
Radio: Motor Racing Network.

Purse: \$4,936,658.

Last year's winner: Kurt Busch.

Worth mentioning: Brian Vickers has five straight top-10 starts at Pocono, the longest current streak.

Jeff Gordon has competed in 27 races at Pocono and led 841 laps in those races, the most of all drivers.

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Who do you think is the best driver of this season's Nextel Cup rookie class?

Cast your vote at:
www.thatstracin.com

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Danica Patrick's future — whether it's with NASCAR or not — has been in the headlines a lot. If it were your call, which way would you help steer her career?

Number of votes: 5,848

Response	No. of votes	Percent
What's the deal? She still has a lot to prove on the track.	2,493	42%
Patrick should stay where she is, in open-wheel racing.	1,157	20%
NASCAR would be her best bet.	1,101	19%
Doesn't matter to me. Let's just line 'em up and race.	1,031	18%
Maybe she can hook up with a Formula One team.	66	1%

STOP 'N' GO

WHO'S HOT

■ **Matt Kenseth:** Second in points. A year ago he was 16th. Now that's progress.

■ **Kyle Busch:** May still have some growing up to do, but should be considered a serious championship contender.

■ **Jeff Burton:** Has done everything but win this season and that should come soon.

WHO'S NOT

■ **Tony Stewart:** Those who thought some drivers were "locks" for the Chase need only look here.

■ **Jamie McMurray:** Is this really one of the Roush Racing teams?

■ **Joe Nemechek:** Even when he runs good this season he finishes bad.

— Jim Utter

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 drivers as of July 15:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Jimmie Johnson	2789	21. Scott Riggs	1905
2. Matt Kenseth	2721	22. Reed Sorenson	1897
3. Jeff Burton	2478	23. Martin Truex Jr.	1883
4. Kyle Busch	2455	24. Dale Jarrett	1817
5. Mark Martin	2451	25. Bobby Labonte	1775
6. Kasey Kahne	2445	26. Jeff Green	1738
7. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2428	27. J.J. Yeley	1736
8. Kevin Harvick	2408	28. Robby Gordon	1709
9. Jeff Gordon	2342	29. Dave Blaney	1621
10. Greg Biffle	2342	30. Joe Nemechek	1614
11. Tony Stewart	2331	31. Kyle Petty	1571
12. Denny Hamlin	2324	32. Sterling Marlin	1556
13. Carl Edwards	2196	33. Jeremy Mayfield	1555
14. Kurt Busch	2136	34. Ken Schrader	1506
15. Casey Mears	2091	35. David Stremme	1420
16. Clint Bowyer	2024	36. Michael Waltrip	1366
17. Jamie McMurray	1985	37. Travis Kvapil	1252
18. Brian Vickers	1974	38. Scott Wimmer	1129
19. Ryan Newman	1966	39. Tony Raines	1123
20. Elliott Sadler	1963	40. Terry Labonte	891

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-20 drivers as of July 15:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Kevin Harvick	3092	11. Jason Leffler	2075
2. Carl Edwards	2784	12. John Andretti	2042
3. Clint Bowyer	2705	13. Jon Wood	1975
4. Denny Hamlin	2667	14. Ashton Lewis	1965
5. J.J. Yeley	2636	15. Todd Kuever	1951
6. Greg Biffle	2398	16. Reed Sorenson	1918
7. Paul Menard	2373	17. David Green	1908
8. Kyle Busch	2311	18. Stacy Compton	1858
9. Johnny Sauter	2220	19. Burney Lamar	1851
10. Kenny Wallace	2140	20. Danny O'Quinn Jr.	1828

NEXT RACE: Saturday, Goody's 250, Martinsville, Va.

TRUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of July 15:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. Todd Bodine	2161	6. Ron Hornaday	1805
2. David Reutimann	2044	7. Jack Sprague	1898
3. Johnny Benson	1998	8. David Starr	1872
4. Rick Crawford	1830	9. Terry Cook	1864
5. Ted Musgrave	1913	10. Dennis Setzer	1838

NEXT RACE: Aug. 4, Power Stroke Diesel 200, Indianapolis.

Good, but not great

Assessing the performance of the 2006 Nextel Cup rookie class

BY JIM UTTER
McClatchy Newspapers

This year's Nextel Cup Series rookie class was touted as possibly one of the best ever.

So far, the original seven-member group has been successful, but not spectacular.

Joe Gibbs Racing's Denny Hamlin became the first member of the class to earn a Cup win, taking a victory in June at Pocono Raceway, site of Sunday's Pennsylvania 500. Hamlin also has two Busch Series wins this season.

So far, Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr., who won the Busch race at Talladega, Ala., are the only drivers of the class to earn any victories in NASCAR's top three series in 2006.

It has been a bumpy but memorable season for most.

Brent Sherman, who started the year with BAM Racing, didn't make it past the season's eighth race. Hamlin, who grew up on the short tracks of Virginia, has been the surprise top performer, while all but David Stremme has at least one top-10 finish.

Hamlin is also the only rookie who appears in contention for a spot in the Chase for the Nextel Cup, the 10-race playoff that determines the series champion. Since his win last month at Pocono, he has flirted in and around the top 10 in points, which guarantees participation.

"I think it's tough because everyone who's doing that in and out thing (of the top 10) every week, they're running the same position every single week. So it's just whoever is going to eliminate bad luck is going to get in there," said Hamlin, 25.

"We're trading spots every single week. I think in years' past there's kind of been a gap of the top-10 guys, then there is everybody else, 11th through 15th. There's going to be a lot of good guys that are not going to make it."

The rookies continue to make strides. Two weeks ago at Chicagoland, three rookies finished in the top 10 — Reed Sorenson (seventh), Clint Bowyer (ninth) and J.J. Yeley (10th) — for the first time this season.

Richard Childress Racing's Bowyer, 27, and Sorenson, a 20-year-old native of Peachtree City, Ga., who drives for Chip Ganassi Racing, have been close on Hamlin's heels.

Bowyer started the year with a sixth-place finish in the Daytona 500 and earned a career-best fifth at Phoenix. He has struggled in qualifying, with seven starts of 30th or worse.

"It's been a lot of ups and downs but we're starting to get things smoothed out," Bowyer said. "We've had a rough month-and-a-half where we ran good but just didn't get a good finish."

"We've had the speed. It feels good to finally get things turned around in the last couple of weeks."

Sorenson and his Chip Ganassi Racing teammate, Stremme, both appeared headed to strong finishes last weekend at New Hampshire utiliz-



Nextel Cup rookie Denny Hamlin celebrates his victory in the Pocono 500 at Pocono Raceway.

RANKING THE NEXTEL CUP ROOKIES

A comparison of the 2006 Nextel Cup rookie class:

Driver	Team	Wins	Top 3s	Top 10s	Series points	Rookie standings
Denny Hamlin	Joe Gibbs Racing	1	3	7	12th	1st
Clint Bowyer	Richard Childress Racing	0	1	5	16th	2nd
Reed Sorenson	Chip Ganassi Racing	0	1	4	22nd	3rd
Martin Truex Jr.	Dale Earnhardt Inc.	0	0	1	23rd	4th
J.J. Yeley	Joe Gibbs Racing	0	0	2	27th	5th
David Stremme	Chip Ganassi Racing	0	0	0	35th	6th



Denny Hamlin



Clint Bowyer



Reed Sorenson



Martin Truex Jr.



J.J. Yeley



David Stremme

ing new short-track cars.

Sorenson led 31 laps and was running third but ran out of fuel when a late-race caution forced a green-white-checkered overtime finish. Stremme finished 11th — his career best.

Both drivers say they have faced unexpected circumstances this season.

"I think the competition in Nextel Cup is kind of one of the things that is kind of an eye opener for me," Sorenson said. "Each and every week if your car is not awesome you're really struggling to get in the top 15 or top 10."

Said Stremme: "Probably the biggest thing is how guys show lack of respect on the track but

then they get out of the car and they're like, 'Oh, I'm sorry.' I got wrecked at Martinsville and all of a sudden I'm turning right and I get told 'I'm sorry.'"

Though J.J. Yeley's has just two top-10s and a best finish of eighth at California, he has been in contention for several Busch Series wins this season.

Truex, a two-time Busch champion, has not been able to capitalize on the success enjoyed this season by Dale Earnhardt Jr., his teammate at Dale Earnhardt Inc. Truex's best finish was eighth at Texas.

RANKINGS

THAT'S RACIN'S TOP PICKS

1. **Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48):** The next stretch of races is where this team has lost momentum the past couple years. Last week: 1.

2. **Matt Kenseth (car No. 17):** Yes, he got a raw deal at Chicagoland, but it's time for us to move on. Last week:

3. **Kasey Kahne (car No. 9):** Becoming accomplished at making bad days decent ones. Last week: 5.

4. **Jeff Burton (car No. 31):** If this team can ever win a race, it would legitimize it as a championship contender. Last week: 6.

5. **Kyle Busch (car No. 5):** Finally found just enough patience at Loudon to convert a good run into a victory.

6. **Greg Biffle (car No. 16):** Only finished worse than 11th once since Talladega. Last week: 7.

7. **Mark Martin (car No. 6):** Fourth at Loudon got him back a few of the points that had got away in recent races. Last week: 9.

8. **Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8):** Driver put on good face after his engine failed at New Hampshire. No

need to panic yet. Last week: 4.
9 & 10. **Tony Stewart (car No. 20), Kevin Harvick (car No. 29), Jeff Gordon (car No. 24) and Denny Hamlin (car No. 11):** Right now it seems like these are the guys who're fighting for the final two positions in the Chase. Don't count Carl Edwards out quite yet, either. Last week: 3, 11, 11 and 12, respectively.

For the rest of the top-40 rankings, go online and visit www.thatstracin.com.

Patience pays off for race winner Kyle Busch

One of the most fascinating elements of auto racing is just how often patience equates with success.

That, of course, could not be more counterintuitive. The whole point of the sport is to go faster than everyone else. But sometimes, that's absolutely the worst thing a driver can try to do.

Sunday's Lenox 300 at the New Hampshire International Speedway illustrated that point in two ways.

Late in the race, Kyle Busch found himself seventh on a restart behind six cars that hadn't pitted in apparent hopes that the fuel in their cars would miraculously regenerate. It was already an established fact that Busch's Chevrolet was the strongest car on the track. At the least, the strongest one left with a chance to win after other challengers had gone out with mostly self-inflicted wounds.

Busch, who is barely 21 years old, hasn't always been able to control his youthful exuberance and find the right mixture of aggressiveness and patience. There were times Sunday

when he pushed the issue a little more than necessary.

"I know we had a great car, and I knew whoever got to the front first was going to have the best shot at winning the race," Busch said. "You want to make sure that you bid your time, but you're patient enough that you don't get yourself in trouble, but you're aggressive enough to where you can get there first."

Busch was getting pressure from Greg Biffle and Denny Hamlin, too, but once he got far enough in front of them to feel comfortable, he settled in. Busch wasn't back to the lead yet, but he figured he'd get another caution. If those in front of him stopped for fuel, he wouldn't have to pass them. If they didn't stop, Busch figured — correctly — he'd get them



DAVID POOLE

anyway.

Earlier in the afternoon, on the other hand, Tony Stewart found himself with Ryan Newman in his rearview mirror.

Newman had made a pit stop and had fresh tires, so he was trying to use the tires to make up ground. Stewart, who was leading the race, knew Newman had fresh tires.

But in Stewart's mind, Newman had made his Dodge difficult to pass in the early laps when Stewart's Chevrolet was significantly faster. Therefore, Stewart decided he would not cut Newman any slack as Newman tried to get back one of the laps he was down.

The result? Stewart and Newman wrecked.

The crash dashed Newman's hopes for climbing back into the Chase picture. For that reason alone, he should have done more to avoid

the incident.

But Newman had only an outside shot at the Chase anyway. Stewart, on the other hand, certainly had a much better chance to win Sunday and almost certainly was strong enough to finish in the top five.

Instead, Stewart finished 37th and is now outside the top 10 in the standings.

Stewart undoubtedly doesn't see it this way, but it doesn't matter whether he's right about Newman not giving him enough room before the Lap 90 incident ruined his day. It doesn't matter whose fault the wreck was, because the fact that Stewart didn't avoid it was far more costly.

Stewart and his team won the championship last year by racing with intelligence and consistency. Consistency requires patience. The teams that are most consistent and patient over the next two months are going to be the ones who advance into the Chase.

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710 Scurry

263-7331

www.bigspringherald.com

Announcements

Didn't Get Your Paper?
Call 263-7335
Mon-Fri. 8am-7pm
Sun 8am-noon
HERALD
16162

Freebies

FREE PALLETS. Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

Business Opportunity

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

Cemetery Lots

2 SPACES at Trinity Memory Part near Flag Pole. \$1000. each OBO. Call (432)399-4438.

Garage Sales

3 FAMILY Garage Sale. Lighted running boards, weight set, clothes. 501 North 5th Street (Coahoma), Saturday 7:00-5:00.

4 FAMILY Garage Sale. 109 Jalico (Sand Springs), Saturday & Sunday 8:00-3:00. Furniture, carpet, new & used clothing, tools, birdbath, household items, lots of misc.

Garage Sales

4 FAMILY Sale: 3304 Drexel. Furniture, carpet, dishes, clothes - men & women; knick-knacks, shoes, golf shirts, more. Friday & Saturday 8:00-?

Backyard Sales, 5211 Longshore (off Wasson), Friday & Saturday 8-1. Computer, desk, Sony surround sound, 12 foot by 4 foot pool, lawn mower, plus size women's clothes, lots of misc. items & toys.

COMMUNITY GARAGE Sale, Saturday 7:00am-? Farmer's Market -Heart of the City Park. Many individuals. All types of Items!

GARAGE SALE, Friday & Saturday, 8:00-1:00. 2504 N. Birdwell. Shelves, house stuff, bedroom suite.

GARAGE SALE, 1724 Yale, Thur., Fri. & Sat. 8:00-? Lots of clothes, jewelry, sunglasses, toys, movies- DVD & VHS, CD's, books, Playstation games, misc. items.

GARAGE SALE: Go-carts, toys, books, bikes, lots of nice clothes (children's, men, ladies), lots of misc. 2408 Robb Drive (Kentwood area), Saturday 8:00am till ??

GARAGE SALE: Saturday 8-1, 1905 Donley. Baby items, kids clothes, adult clothes, exercise equipment, furniture and dryer.

SALE: POWER House Church 1311 Goliad St., Saturday 8:00-?

YARD SALE JULY 28 and July 29 8:00am - 6:00 pm at 1301 Settles.

Garage Sales

HUGE BACKYARD/MOVING Sale. Too much to list. All must go. 2208 Morrison, Friday 7:00-7:00 & Saturday 7:00-3:00 Men's - woman's - teens clothes, lots of jeans, shoes to size 11, scrubs, nurse and careplan books, small appliances, decorations all holidays. Thousands of sports cards and comic books, fishing tackle and toys.

MUST SEE. Multi-Family Garage Sale: Home-interior, home/holiday decorations, home/baby furniture, baby gear, clothing, toys. Friday & Saturday 9:00-3:00. 1011 Wilson Road (take Midway follow signs!) (432)935-6335.

Help Wanted

EVENING CASHIER full time/part time at WES-T-GO. Vacation and benefits available. Starting pay \$5.15 per hour. Apply in person, 1800 Gregg.



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.

Help Wanted

118TH JUDICIAL District Juvenile Probation Department is accepting applications for the position of Juvenile Probation Officer. Texas Human Resources Code Sec: 141.061 outlines the minimum requirements necessary:
1) Must be 21 years of age or older on the date of hire
2) Be of good moral character
3) Must have a Bachelor's Degree from accredited college university,
4) and have either:
(A) One year of graduate study in Criminology, Corrections, Counseling, Law, Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, or other field of instruction approved by the state, or;
(B) One year of work experience in Case work, Counseling, Community Corrections, Group work with offenders or other disadvantaged persons.
5) Must be able to pass a drug test and criminal history check
6) And must reside in Howard County or be willing to relocate
Resume's may be mailed to: 118th Judicial District Juvenile Probation Department PO Box 2262 Big Spring, Tx 79720

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED for Big Spring Oil Company. With Holidays and Limited Benefits. Monday thru Friday 8:00-5:00. Please send resume to P.O. Box 1888, Big Spring Texas 79721.

HIRING FOR 2006! POSTAL JOBS \$18/hour starting, average pay \$57K/year. Federal benefits paid training and vacations NO Experience needed! 1-800-584-1775 ref#P6901.

Help Wanted

CANTEEN CORRECTIONS now hiring for Supervisor positions. Starting pay is \$9.37. Training provided, 3 or 5 day work week. Excellent Benefits! Must be able to pass background check and have a relatively clean credit report. Contact Debby Greer at (432)263-2366 or TWC 432-263-8373 ext. 215.

CPA FIRM has position available for experienced Bookkeeper or Junior Accountant. This is a position with growth opportunity. Please reply to P.O. Box 1431/146, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

CUSTOMER SERVICE Rep needed part-time and full-time positions available. Sales and office experience a plus. No insurance experience required will train. Fax resume 432-334-7848.

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.

Help Wanted

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

DRIVERS NEEDED- must have CDL-A with Hazmat Tanker endorsement; at least 1 yr. oilfield experience preferred; Must be able to travel- \$100.00 sign on bonus.... Call TW Service LLC (432)570-9200 for information.

HAUL TRUCK DRIVER needed. Full time position with Transit Mix Concrete & Materials Co., a leader in the ready mix industry in Texas. Full benefit package & new pay scale. Must have good driving record and CDL license. Experience a plus. Apply at Transit Mix, 605 North Benton, Big Spring, Texas (432)267-6348. Transit Mix Concrete is an EOE/A employer.

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
BENT TREE APARTMENT HOMES

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

\$1.89 Per Day; 6-Month Contract \$1.58 Per Day

Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!



AUTO PARTS

WESTEX
Since 1947
• 14 Acres of dismantled vehicles
• 20,000 sq ft. of Warehouse storage
• Specialize in late model quality auto parts
• Foreign and domestic parts for cars, trucks, mini-vans, 4x4 and sports utility vehicles
Hrs. 8 a.m.-5:30 Wk/day 8 a.m.-12 p.m. SAT
1511 Hwy 350 • (432) 263-5000

CARPET

Teal Carpets
* Ceramic Tile
* Laminate
* Wood
* Vinyl
* Carpet
We carry all your carpet supplies
2810 E. FM 700 • 268-0008

CONCRETE

STUCCO DRIVEWAYS SIDEWALKS BLOCK FENCES
Chico and Sons Concrete
(432) 466-0573
(432) 816-6561
621 Sgt. Pareder Big Spring, TX 79720
Fred Rubio

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J. T. Builders
Remodeling • Drywall
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Driveways • Sidewalks
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JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ
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CONCRETE

All Types Concrete Work
Block & Brick Repair
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Campbell Concrete Contractors
Call-Tommy Campbell
Concrete Contractor
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2006 Runnels Big Spring, TX 79720

DIRT WORK

DECKER'S FARM SUPPLY & NURSERY
We do Dirt Work.
Brush Hog, Backhoe, Bulldozing, Small Grubbing Jobs and Will Clear Lots.
432-756-3444

FENCES

CHAINLINK METAL • CEDAR DOG KENNELS ORNAMENTAL IRON
B & M Fence Co.
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
GET OUR PRICE & COMPARE
FREE ESTIMATES
ROBERT MARQUEZ
263-1613 •
1-800-525-1389
1006 Lamesa Hwy. • Big Spring

FENCES

Quality Fence Co.
Jimmy Marquez-Owner
Finest In Fencing
Wood & Chainlink
Free Estimates
432-267-3349

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Day & Day Builders
Custom Building • Remodeling • Roofing
Tile • Garage Doors • Cabinets
Vinyl Siding
D. W. Day (432) 457-2289
Cell (432) 270-8783
Dennis Day (432) 816-4842
Box 266
108 West 7th
Porsan, TX 79733

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Gibbs Remodeling
New home Construction •
Room Additions
Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing
Ceramic Tile • Installation & Repair
All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home.
Call 263-8285

HOME IMPROVEMENT

DOORS/ GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS
Home Repair • Carpentry
Sheet Work
Repaired/Replaced
Kitchen & Bath
BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK
409 E. 3RD 267-5811

HOME IMPROVEMENT

R S HOME REPAIR
Custom Wood Decks, Remodel, Carpenter, Painting, Plumbing, Minor Electrical
FREE ESTIMATES
Garage door repair, Appliances installed
816-3030

LAWN SERVICE

Quality Lawn Care
* Lawn
* Hedging
* Tree Trimming
* Clean Lots
Justin McCrea
263-5808
Cell
816-1671

LAWN SERVICE

MOWING • ALLEYS HAULING • TILLING TREE TRIMMING STUMP REMOVAL
CALL
432-267-5460
CELL
816-6150

LAWN SERVICE

S & L Lawn Care
• Lawns
• Hedging
• Tree Removal
Michael Shankles
(432) 267-4015
For Affordable Lawn Care

LAWN SERVICE

J & Son's Lawn Service
Lawn Mowing
Tree Trimming
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Cleaning Lots
Light Hauling
Jerry DoPorto
816-3756 cell

NAIL SALON

Pro Spa Nail Salon
Pedicure: \$21.99
Manicure: \$11.99
Full Set: \$20.00 & up
Refill: \$13.99 & up
SPECIAL
Manicure & Pedicure: \$31.99
111 E. Marcy Dr. Ste 110 (432) 263-6245

PEST CONTROL

SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL
Since 1954
432-263-6514
2008 Birdwell Lane
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www.swa1pc.com
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RENTALS

VENTURA COMPANY
432-267-2655
Houses • Storages
Commercial Buildings
1003, 07, 11 E. 11th Pl.
For rent/sale
1301 Johnson
610 Steakley
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JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING
Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and
Doctor of Repairs!
Free Estimates!!
Big Spring & Surrounding Areas.
267-1110

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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

GREATER OPPORTUNITIES OF THE PERMIAN BASIN INC. Project Head Start has the following position available:

Teacher: Must have a degree AA or BA in Early Childhood Education, Child Development or related field or a CDA Credential.
Teacher Aide: Must be 18 years of age and have a High School Diploma or GED. Must be able to attend training and participate in child development classes and occasionally attend out-of-town training.
Bus Driver: Must be 21 years or older, have a CDL and a good driving record and a High School Diploma or GED. This position is 6 hrs per day M-F and includes a full benefit package.

Health Aide: Must have CNA License, will assist nurse with Children's Health needs. Must be computer literate. Must be able to lift 30 lbs.
All applicants must be 18 or older.
Pass a pre-employment drug screen.
Post-employment Criminal History check must be clear of felony convictions to continue employment with the agency.

Agency offers OJT, benefit package for all full and part-time employees. Applicants may apply at Lakeview Head Start 1107 NW 7th St. Big Spring, Tx. Will begin taking applications Aug. 1st. Positions will be opened until filled. Applications available on line www.gopb.org. All interviews will be held at the Administration Office at 206 W. 5th in Odessa, Tx.

HOWARD COUNTY Equipment Operating is looking for a mechanic helper, to assist the mechanic and do oil changes on County equipment. Apply at Room 305, Howard County Court House, July 31st, through August 4, 2006. From 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

HOWARD COUNTY is looking for an experienced Heavy Equipment Mechanic with tools. Good pay and benefits. You may pick up applications at Howard County Equipment Operating Dept., Room 305, Howard County Court House, Starting July 24, 2006 through August 4, 2006.

IMMEDIATE JOB Opening. Part-time position for a housekeeper. Hours are expected to be 20 hrs. per week, Monday thru Friday, 1-5 pm daily. Competitive applicants will have dependable work history and good references. Apply in person at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. 3rd Street, Big Spring, Tx.

Job Opening(s) Part-time positions for Wellness Trainer(s), early morning and afternoon hours will be considered. Successful applicants will be fitness-minded and dependable. Experience is not necessary but preferred. Responsibilities include assisting with wellness classes and programs, educating new members, equipment and department upkeep. Apply in person at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. 3rd Street, Big Spring, Tx.

LIKE WORKING with Seniors? Looking for flexibility in your schedule? We are a small home-like Assisted Living looking for an RN to work 15 to 20 hours as our Wellness Director. Responsibilities include coordinating the health care needs of our residents, training staff, communicating with families, MDs and discharge planners. To learn more about this unique, exciting opportunity, please call 432-268-9041 or fax resume to 432-268-9092.

Looking for a Doctor's Office Opportunity? I love this job but I received a promotion and must find someone to replace me. Our practice requires someone who is organized with attention to details, likes serving the public and has computer skills. If you have a sunny, energetic "I can" attitude and a good sense of humor, Call (432)267-1992.

PRICE CONSTRUCTION, in Big Spring TX is now hiring for a Service Truck Driver and a Haul Truck Driver. Service Truck requirements are CDL and Haz Mat and 1 yr. exp with Heavy Equipment. Haul Truck requirements are CDL license and 1 yr. exp hauling heavy equipment. Please fax resumes to 432-267-1694 or apply in person at 2701 N. Hwy 350 in Big Spring. Good benefits including 401k, vacation, and insurance. Salary DOE. Price Construction is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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.

Help Wanted

LVN II

Texas Department of State Health Services is recruiting for an LVN II to be responsible for performing clinical duties for the following programs: Immunizations, Family Planning, Maternity, HIV/STD and TB Elimination. Will administer child and adult immunizations. Will provide clerical support as needed, Quality Assurance activities, client education/counseling, and outreach activities within the community. Bilingual English/Spanish. Travel requirements: 5% day, 2% overnight. Must possess a current Texas Class C driver's license. Monthly salary: \$2,021.00-\$2,690.00. Current license to practice as a Licensed Vocational Nurse in the State of Texas or eligible for Texas license. If eligible for Texas license, must obtain prior to employment date. Apply at website: accesshr.hssc.state.tx.us. Position Requisition #33041 For additional information, contact Melony Bennett at (432)571-4131. Closing date: 8-3-06 EEO/ADA

MANAGEMENT TEAM wanted for apartment complex. Need to be handy. Call Ron (432)935-1273 or 267-5444 to set-up interview.

MARTIN COUNTY Hospital Home Health (Stanton) is looking for a full time registered nurse. \$1000-\$1500 sign on bonus. Bilingual preferred, but not required. Hours are Mon-Fri, 8:00-5:00. Some call. Please call Allison Williams, DON at (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

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. (325)573-2013.

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

NEED COOK & Waitress, some evenings and weekends. Top Pay in town. Must pass drug test. Apply in person, Phoenix County Club, 301 West Bell, Stanton.

NEED DAYTIME Cook & Cashier, will train right person. Apply within, ask for Mary or Kelly. 1315 E. FM 700. No Phone Calls Please!

NEED EXPERIENCE drillers & roughnecks for Big Spring oil company. Must be able to pass drug test. Call (432)238-3832.

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**

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

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

Help Wanted

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

THE CITY OF Big Spring is taking applications for Communications Officer, Airport Maintenance Worker, and Utility Service Worker. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 310 Nolan, (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

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.

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

Items for Sale

1/2 PRICE - Demo/Display Hot-Tub, 56 Jets. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

ELECTRIC LIFT chair and king size Craftmatic electric bed & mattress. Individual duel controls. Both in excellent condition. (432)263-6528 or 213-0484.

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

We Carry Power Tools!
SPECIAL PURCHASE! 10'x16' Storage Buildings, While They Last! Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

WHY RENT when you can own? \$50 Dollars a month, 12 months 0% interest. \$999.00. Special orders available. G&R Buildings - next to Bowl-A-Roma. (432)466-3134.

Lost and Found

LOST OF set of keys, around HEB. Call (432)263-0020.

ATTENTION

THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS
Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Miscellaneous

BASEBALL HITTING Machine & loader, netting and helmets. 25 Feet aluminum bleachers and 800 feet off pipe - make offer. 1210 E. 4th. Bill Chrane (432)213-0426.

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

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

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.

ONE ONLY! 14'x24' Barn, Roll-up Door, \$124.00 a Month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

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

SLIGHT DAMAGE - 12'X24' Garage/Workshop. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

TWO REMAINING - 12'x16' Workshop/Storage Buildings \$74.00 a Month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

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

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

1102 LANCASTER. Two bedroom, one bath. No pets. Call (432)267-3841, 517-0642.

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

1507 AUSTIN- water paid. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath, \$285. month, \$100. 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.

Real Estate for Rent

407 East 8th- 1/1 bath. Stove & refrigerator. \$275. month, \$175. deposit. CH/A. No HUD and no pets. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

602 1/2 GEORGE- Close to College. 1 Bedroom House. Stove & refrigerator, carport, CH/A. \$350.00 month plus deposit. No pets. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

MOREN @ (432)267-7380. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath Homes @ 3006 Cherokee, 501 East 13th, 807 Anna and 1310 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, one bath, \$350 month, \$150. deposit. References required. Call (432)267-5952.

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.

2911 NAVAJO Drive, 2 or 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, 20x20 shop/carport, fenced backyard on oversized lot. Move in Ready. Call (432)263-0369 leave message Cell 816-6021.

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.

711 N. Tubb Rd. Three bedroom, two bath, one acre, water well, remodeled. \$32,000. Call (432)213-4460.

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

FOUR BEDROOM Foreclosure. Only \$29,000!! For listings call 800-749-8106 ext. F-086.

I'M MAD... AT BANKS WHO DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT, PROBLEMS OR NEW EMPLOYMENT. I DO. CALL L.D. KIRK, HOMELAND MORTGAGES, (254)947-4475.

THREE BEDROOM, two bath, foreclosure. Only \$20,500. For listings 800-749-8106 ext. S-382.

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\$9,500 Off!
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7124

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

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

REBUILDERS DREAM. 1973 Chevy Shortbed, 350 with 4BBL, 76K. First \$1,000 gets it. Call (432)268-8823.

VERY NICE, good shape RV trailer. For Sale! \$6,000. 600 East 16th.

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ANSWERS

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Is cleanliness really next to godliness? Under the Virgo moon, a case could certainly be made. Additionally, organization and luck go hand in hand. I myself once cleaned a closet under the Virgo moon and got a book deal the next day. Put it to the test tonight. Clear a clutter pile, and wait for good fortune to drop into the well-ordered space.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's the opportunity for gift giving, which causes your social barometer to go wild with apprehension — what if you give the wrong thing or don't like what you receive? Get centered, come from your heart, and it all works out fine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The static between



HOLIDAY MATHIS

what you want and what you have can be absolutely deafening. You tune your ear to the murmur of what it is you truly need and find the quiet you've been longing for.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're no follower. Just because others around you tell you they smell smoke doesn't necessarily mean there's a fire. Open the door, and see for yourself whether it's time to panic or continue about your business. Hint: Never panic!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your life is like a long-awaited vacation. Overplan, and you'll probably be disappointed. Go with the flow instead, and discover a hidden paradise you didn't know existed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're up to some exciting business and will need frequent breaks to calm yourself between conversations. Plans that have been in the works for ages and ages now seem to be coming together

brilliantly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Mentally, you're powerful even if you're in a lackadaisical mood physically. You may even feel like taking a kindergarten-style nap in the middle of the day. This saves you from getting sick later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Taking time to think carefully before you make your move is the difference between success and failure. Taking too much time is the difference between failure and success. As always, your sense of balance is brilliant.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Well, you have been dealt a lousy hand recently, but the ups and downs of life are unavoidable. Knowing when to "hold 'em" and "fold 'em" is still key. You'll be back on top of your game sooner than you think.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). "When in doubt, throw it out" is a fine credo for cleaning out

your closet, but not for career opportunities. You'll see one that is tailor-made for you with just a few minor alterations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A close relationship reaches nearly telepathic heights today. You'll find yourself acting in synchronicity with this person even though you haven't communicated your plans verbally. Creativity is strong tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You dream of a perfect life. Swap your sleep life for your waking one by finally implementing the changes that will soften the lines between fantasy and reality.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). For you, intimacy is a drive to know someone's mind — to think their thoughts and feel their feelings, even if only for a moment. Such intimacy is yours before the day is through.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm looking for a new pet for my 5-year-old

son. He wants a dog. I don't know if I can commit. I think I'll be the one cleaning up after the pooch, even though I plan to get the animal in order to start teaching my son about the responsibility of pet ownership. What should I get? I'm a Pisces, my son is a Cancer, and my husband is an Aries."

With all that water-sign energy flowing through your family, maybe you should try a fish or a hermit crab for starters! Your Aries husband will be disappointed, but you can be sure that he won't be pitching in for pooch duty — he loves dogs, but is as responsible as your 5-year-old son when it comes to indoor pets. He's best with very independent and quirky animals — if you have land, he would be better with a goat or a llama. Your son will be thrilled with a crab if you teach him the amazing habits of these fascinating creatures. If he proves himself an accountable pet owner,

perhaps you can add a dog to your family in a few years. I recommend a medium-small mixed breed. Perhaps some form of Bichon Frise.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: He's come a long way from "The Terminator" and "Total Recall," but now Arnold Schwarzenegger is contributing to pop culture by governing the great state of California. Leos are natural-born leaders. Not one to look away from adversity, I predict Schwarzenegger, in his political future, will continue toward Washington, D.C. Saying it can't be done is what makes this fierce lion persevere.

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 www.creators.com.

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am 23 years old and the youngest of five children. Today, I found out that my father has been having an affair. My mother caught him. Dad admitted to having a relationship with a younger woman and said he wants a divorce.

I grew up with my parents always yelling at each other. Our home was in constant turmoil, so this situation does not surprise me. However, I am confused about my feelings and want to avoid taking sides. I worry how my mother will get through this, if there's a wicked stepmother in my future, and how we will manage. Part of me is upset with my father, but another part feels sorry for him. I know my mother hasn't been the best wife. I realize this doesn't excuse the affair, but still.

My older siblings are concerned about me since I'm the youngest and I still live with my parents. However, I just purchased my own home and will be moving out in a few weeks.

I feel like my world has been turned upside down. Even though I'm an adult and will soon be completely independent, I don't know how to behave. Please help. — No Need For a Name

Dear No Need: When parents divorce, it is hard on the kids, no matter what age they are. It is important for you to remain neutral and refuse to get involved in their disputes. You can sympathize with Mom without trashing your father. You can be friendly with Dad without letting him exorcise your mother. If they try to force you into the middle, tell them, "Sorry, I'm not going to do that." You can find help and resources online through Adult Children of Divorce (acod.net).

Dear Annie: I am 12 years old. I don't have a big bra size, and I have a flat butt. The way I look never really bothered me until this year. "Benny," a kid in my class, constantly makes fun of me and says I'm flat-chested. His remarks are lowering my self-confidence a lot.

My mom says he does it because he likes me, but I beg to differ. I've asked him to stop, but then he makes fun of me even more. What should I do? — Confused in Illinois

Dear Confused: First of all, you are not finished growing, and that includes your chest and



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

your butt. In a couple of years, Benny will have to find something else to tease you about — and he will, because he is very interested in getting your attention. In the meantime, put a big smile on your face and tell him that, right now, you are putting all your effort into expanding your brain. Suggest he do the same.

Dear Annie: I would like to respond to "Midwest Mom," whose ex-husband is receiving their kid's sports-related permission slips. She was baffled about this, since she receives other information from the school in a timely fashion.

At the elementary level, most notices and information are distributed through the classroom teacher. However, extracurricular notices are sometimes distributed by Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) mem-

bers, coaches or others who make incorrect assumptions about who gets the information.

I suggest "Midwest Mom" send a letter to the principal, requesting that both she and her ex-husband receive copies of all permission slips. Indicate that payments are her responsibility, but she wants both parents to be aware of upcoming events. Enclose a set of self-addressed, stamped, legal-sized envelopes, and ask the principal to share your request with office staff, PTO officers and coaches. This way, she will appear to be looking out for the best interests of her child and not involved in a power struggle with her ex. — Third-Grade Teacher in Indiana

Dear Indiana: We hope parents in this situation will take the time to follow your advice, but in this day and age, people ought to know better than to make such assumptions.

Dear Annie: When my husband came to this town to be the minister of our church, the elders told him they had no constitutional way of persuading a pastor to move on if they were not satisfied with his work. They asked him to sign a contract that would expire in seven years. My husband balked at this, saying it would not show good faith on their part or his. He

also told them he never stayed in one church for more than seven years, so they didn't need to worry.

We have now been here 15 years. My husband resents anything he has to do for the church, and spends most of his time working at a homeless shelter he helped found. We have lost a number of devoted members of our congregation in the past five years because my husband insists he does not have time to counsel them.

I have suggested that, since he is so unhappy, it might be time to move on. He responds that he's invested too much time and energy in this community to pick up and leave.

The people of our church used to be welcoming and involved. Now, our congregation consists of disinterested, lethargic and mostly elderly people. Counseling is not an option, because my husband does counseling and feels he knows best. He blames everyone and everything but himself for the slide our church has taken.

I have been very supportive, but I wonder if this is the best way to respond. What should I be doing? — Worried Pastor's Wife

Dear Pastor's Wife: You should be convincing your husband that he'd be

better serving his church if he allowed someone else to take over as pastor, and he can then devote more time to the homeless shelter. Your husband is in deep denial, and more importantly, his avoidance of his duties indicates some depression. If you can't convince him to leave, we recommend you seek counseling without him. And his church ought to seek legal help.

Dear Annie: I would like to know your opinion about little boys (age 3) who like touching themselves. My grandson's doctor said it is normal as long as he does it privately. That bothers me, and I don't think children should be encouraged in any way or given the impression that this is OK. — Concerned Grandmother

Dear Grandma: We hope you will listen to the pediatrician. It is perfectly normal and natural for young children to "touch themselves," because it feels good.

When a child masturbates, he or she should be told, calmly, that this is something best done in private. If it becomes excessive, parents might want to distract the child with another activity, but they should neither encourage nor berate, embarrass or punish the child.

Dear Annie: The letter

from "At Wits' End in Los Angeles" really struck a chord with me. She said her husband, "Stan," had let his hair grow and she wanted him to cut it for their son's wedding.

I, too, am getting married this year, and my 63-year-old father, a well-respected and accomplished health director, a lector at his church, and a volunteer in numerous community groups, sports a silvery-white ponytail. I would never dream of asking Dad to cut it off for the wedding.

Dad's hair is neat and looks good. It is also a way to embrace his Native-American heritage. You should see him in his regalia volunteering to tell stories at the elementary schools. I also have long hair, and it is one of the connections I have with my father.

"At Wits' End" should be proud of Stan's hair. I won't look back at my wedding pictures and laugh. I will look back and be proud. — Tressed for Success in Connecticut

Dear Tressed: We don't think Stan's reasons for growing his hair bear any resemblance to your father's, nor does his hair, but we like your attitude.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

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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THURSDAY

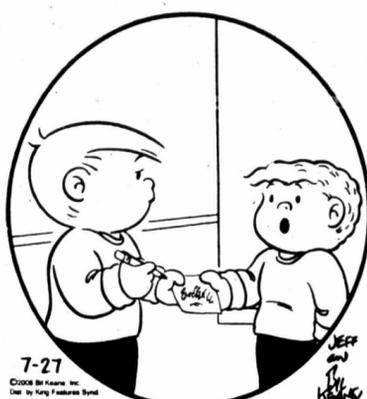
Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, etc.) and rows representing different time slots (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) with program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"WAS DAD YOUR FIRST CHOICE, MOM?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Daddy, is Billy's autograph worth anything?"

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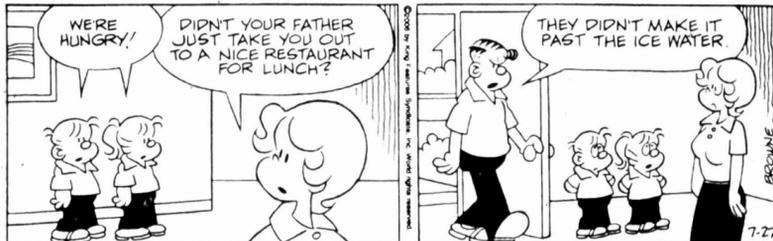
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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, July 27, the 208th day of 2006. There are 157 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 27, 1789, Congress established the Department of Foreign Affairs...

Nixon was nominated for president at the Republican national convention in Chicago. In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted 27-11 to recommend President Nixon's impeachment... Answer to previous puzzle: SHAM STAB SEDER, POLO TOGA TAUPE, ABET APER ATSEA, ROSI ETHE RIVETER, FLEA EDEN, SAP ESTATES CAB, ALIEN PTA DODO, SINBAD THE SAILOR, SNUB URI LEARN, YEP FEUDING SEE, ARTS CIAO, DENNIS THE MENACE, EMOTE IAMB SILL, BISON ETAL ERAS, TREND RENE TYPE

Newsday Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include 'Metal bar', 'Computer lists', 'Wind dir.', 'Hercule's', etc.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'BIG SPRING', 'Fai', 'boo', 'off', 'exp', 'By BIL', 'Herald', 'Show', 'sell yo', 'word o', 'didacy', 'Whate', 'presen', 'of the', 'a lot o', 'amour', 'through', 'year's', 'Fair.', 'The', 'Wedne', 'through', '30, an', 'activi', 'attract', 'potent', 'voters.', 'Amo', 'music:', 'tracto', 'Kids c', 'Cheer', 'shows', 'nival.', 'cours', 'tional', 'goods', 'work,', 'and cr', 'Also', 'the fa', 'Expo', 'lunch', 'held', 'Howa', 'Barn', 'Dorot', 'Colise', 'That', '30, is', 'for 1', 'Schoo', 'more', 'and th', 'Fair', '\$150 f', 'foot', 'reserv', 'first-s', 'can b', 'p.m. a', 'Sept.', 'p.m. v', 'offici', 'Wedn', 'Eac', 'given', 'Addit', 'purch', 'office', 'You', 'tables', 'them', 'chair', 'One', 'note', 'are n', 'fair', 'some', 'overh', 'For', 'call 4', 'Con', 'Bill M', 'ext. ;', 'news', 'ald.ca', 'IN', 'Clas', 'Feat', 'Obit', 'Opin', 'Spor', 'To', 'Plea', 'a.m.', 'If yc', '263-', 'noo'