

Fourth suspect arrested in Dickinson murder

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A fourth arrest has been made in the murder case of 20-year-old Roland David Dickinson, as investigators with the Howard County Sheriff's Department continue to unravel the Aryan Circle conspiracy that led to his death.

Billy Wayne Haynes, 30, of Houston was taken into custody

during a routine traffic stop in Winkler County Saturday night, according to Sheriff Dale Walker.

"Haynes has been charged with first-degree murder," said Walker. "His bond has been set at \$500,000 and he remains in custody in Winkler County. The warrant for his arrest had been out there for a few days, it was just luck that someone came across him when they

did."

Dickinson's body was recovered from a ravine six miles north of Coahoma on Highway 820 Jan. 11. He had lived in the Big Spring area for less than six months, according to Walker, having moved to the area to work in the oilfield, where he was most recently employed by S&S Well Service.

Haynes' arrest came only days after law enforcement offi-

cials arrested Christopher David Lovett, 33, who has also been charged with first degree murder.

Also arrested and charged with first-degree murder are Kirk Douglas Flanary, 35, and John Michael Hays, 50, who was arrested at his home on Midway Road and charged with murder as well.

Dickinson's body remained unidentified for more than a

week before family members positively identified his remains. Walker estimates the body had been at the location near Coahoma for approximately three to four days.

Preliminary autopsy results showed the cause of death to be blunt trauma to the head. The body, which was found wearing only a pair of underwear and a

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TAKING CARE OF THOSE TEETH



Samantha Wiseman, right, shows young Medista Baker the proper way to brush during the Howard College Dental Hygiene Department's Dental Health Fair Saturday morning at the Horace Garrett Building on the college campus.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Big Spring sales tax rebates fall

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

After months of positive sales tax rebates, Big Spring took a bit of a bath this month, posting a decline of 8.47 percent compared to last February.

According to statistics from the State Comptroller's Office, Big Spring received \$544,549.05 this month compared to \$594,991.45 in February of 2006. For the year, the city has received \$914,942.25, just a scant 0.12 percent ahead of last year's receipts at this point.

Coahoma enjoyed a strong increase in tax rebates for February, pulling in \$11,770.16 this month compared to \$6,914.06 a year ago. The result is an increase of 70.23 percent. For the young year, Coahoma has received \$18,317.01, an increase of 64.53 percent. Likewise, Forsan

brought in \$7,922.03 for February, a 44.09 percent increase compared to the \$5,497.76 received 12 months earlier. For the year, Forsan has collected \$14,528, up 43.81 percent.

Witnessing a much smaller increase — but an increase nonetheless — was Abilene, which raked in \$3,598,943.15. Compared to the \$3,540,745.29 check received in February 2006, the Key City posted slight hike of 1.64 percent. Abilene has brought in \$6,085,881.95 for the year, up 4.65 percent.

Brownfield also wrapped up a small increase, 0.22 percent, comparing the \$114,201.96 received this month to the \$113,943.56 received in February 2006. For the brief year, Brownfield has received \$180,446.13, and is behind last year's totals by 2.36 percent.

See REBATES, Page 3A

Police still seeking suspect in armed robbery

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A woman believed to be responsible for the Feb. 5 robbery of the Dollar General store in the College Park Shopping Center is still at large, according to local law enforcement officials.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public informa-

tion officer with the Big Spring Police Department, no arrests have been made in the case at this time.

"The case is still open," said Everett. "However, we have not made any arrests at this time. The investigation is ongoing, but things are moving pretty slowly at this

point."

According to police reports, a woman entered the Dollar General store — located at 501 Birdwell Lane — shortly after 1 p.m. Feb. 5, demanding money from the business' cashier.

"According to witnesses, the woman went up to the cashier with a knife

and told her she had a gun in her pocket, demanding money," said Everett. "The clerk feared for their life and gave the suspect the money, after which she fled on foot."

Everett said the suspect is described as a Caucasian female, approximately 5 feet, 2 inches tall in her late 20s

to early 30s, with auburn hair. Witnesses said she was wearing a camouflage cap, maroon and green shirt and blue jeans.

Whether or not the woman had a gun in her pocket at the time of the robbery is of little consequence as far as the law is concerned, according to

Everett.

"Anyone with information regarding this crime is urged to contact the police department at 264-2550."

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

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To reach us:

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

TAX HELP TUESDAY

Because today is President's Day, the local Senior Center is closed, and along with it, the AARP Tax-Aide program. However, those needing help with their taxes can come to the center Tuesday this week only from 8 a.m. to noon, officials say.

The free program is open to anyone but targets seniors, people with disabilities, those who do not speak English and those with low-to-moderate income.

The program is held each Monday through April 9.

The Senior Center is located at 1901 Simler Drive. Those who are homebound can get assistance by calling 263-6733.

WTAMU BAND COMING

The West Texas A&M University Symphonic Band is coming to Big Spring. The band, directed by Don Lefevre, associate professor of music, and Russ Teweleit, assistant professor of music, will perform at Big Spring High School at noon Tuesday, Feb. 27.

The concert program includes works by Jean Baptiste Arban, James Barnes, Donald Grantham, Johan de Meij, Arnold Schoenberg and John Philip Sousa.

Dr. William Takacs, assistant professor of music, will be a featured trumpet soloist.

The concert is free to the public. For more information, call 806-651-2840.

AHA GALA IS SATURDAY



Need to get away? How about a trip to Ruidoso?

The Big Spring chapter of the American Heart Association is holding its annual gala Saturday at the local country club and you are invited.

See Page 5A

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Obituaries

Edith Earlyne Williams



Edith Earlyne Williams, 78, of Sweetwater died Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007, at Rolling Plains Hospital in Sweetwater. Services will be held Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007, at 10 a.m. in Trinity Baptist Church in Sweetwater with the Rev. Ward Hayes officiating.

The family will receive friends at McCoy Funeral Home in Sweetwater today, Feb. 19, 2007, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Williams was born May 17, 1928, to Hillary and Grace Driver in Stephenville. She married David M. Williams Aug. 30, 1953, in San Antonio.

She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church and was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She attended Karnes City schools and had lived in Sweetwater since 1998, having also lived in Lamesa for 18 years.

Survivors include her husband, David M. Williams, of Sweetwater; a daughter, Beverly Maners and husband, Larry, of Salisbury, N.C.; three sons, Wayne Williams and wife, Mary, of San Angelo, Charles D. Williams of Abilene and Kenneth Williams and wife, Angela, of Fort Worth; a sister, Blanche Hedtke of Karnes City; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Williams was preceded in death by a sister, Dean White; a grandson, David Nelson Williams; and her parents.

Memorials may be made to Trinity Baptist Church, 1506 Santa Fe, Sweetwater 79556.

Arrangements are by McCoy Funeral Home of Sweetwater.

Paid obituary

Marjorie Brazeal Goodwin

Marjorie Brazeal Goodwin, 83, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 19, 2007, at her residence. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Mildred Gamble

Mildred Gamble, 79, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

• **NORTH BIRDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** Angelfood Ministry pickup date is Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 2702 N. Birdwell. Doors close at 1 p.m. and all orders not picked up will be donated.

• **BIG SPRING SYMPHONY CHORUS REHEARSALS BEGIN** at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, at the first United Methodist Church upstairs choral rehearsal room. The rehearsals are for the April 21 concert and will feature spiritual music and Mozart.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE OFFERING THE EXIT LEVEL TAKS RETEST**, Feb. 20-23. Please report to the high school library at 8 a.m. Bring a picture I.D. February 20, ELA (English Language Arts); Feb. 21, Math; Feb. 22, Science; Feb. 23, Social Studies. For more information, call 264-3641, ext. 133.

• **THE 5TH ANNUAL RELAY RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ** will be held at 10 a.m. Feb. 24, in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Entry forms are available at KBST and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Entry deadline is Feb. 20.

• **MY WAY, A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA**, will be held at Howard College's Hall Center for the Arts at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26-27 and 7:30 p.m. March 5-7.

• **MOSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** will host a retirement party for Kaye Clawson from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the school's library.

• **THE POWWOW COMMITTEE OF BIG SPRING** is planning its 2007 Powwow and is in need of new members and volunteers. Anyone interested in Native American dancing or just interested in helping to bring an exciting weekend event to Big Spring is encouraged to contact Robert Downing at 263-3255 or Randy McKinney at 267-4843.

• **CHRIST COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP IS COLLECTING INFANT CAR SEATS AND CARRIERS.** These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

Police blotter

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

• **JUAN MIGUEL LERMA**, 19, of Lamesa, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **EARNEST WILLIAM CLARK**, 66, of 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **SHERRY ANN MINTZ**, 31, of 703 Edwards, was arrested Saturday on a local warrant.

• **CHANCE HAYS HANSON**, 19, of 3300 Fordham, was arrested Saturday on five local warrants.

• **NICK RODRIGUEZ VALENCIA**, 23, of 1104 S. Nolan, was arrested Sunday on charges of disorderly conduct - language and aggravated assault.

• **PHILIP EUGENE WILKINS**, 43, transient, was arrested Sunday on a charge of theft.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.

• **FORGERY OF A FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT** was reported in the 400 block of FM 700.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
- in the 1000 block of Main Street.

- in the 1400 block of Oriole.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
- in the 1800 block of Settles.

- in the 2900 block of Highway 80.

- in the 700 block of Aylesford.

• **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT** was reported in the 1000 block of 12th Street.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 49 inmates at the time of this report.

• **GERMAN GASPER ADAN**, 53, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of parole.

• **ADOLFO HUANTE LOPEZ JR.**, 34, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a Midland County warrant.

• **DANIEL ALBERTO SANTIESTEBAN**, 20, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

• **ASHLEY DAWN SMITH**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of violation of a promise to appear, no driver's license and minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

• **JAMIE RAE SMITH**, 30, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for driving while license suspended/invalid with a previous conviction and burglary of a building.

• **WILLIAM SCOTT SIMPSON**, 44, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of burglary of a habitation, no driver's license and no liability insurance.

• **DAVID CHARLES PATTERSON**, 30, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on charges of theft, theft by check, a motion to revoke probation for public lewdness and motion to revoke probation for issuance of a bad check for child support.

• **NICK RODRIGUEZ VALENCIA**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• **JUAN MIGUEL LERMA**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

• **MELISSA ANN HERNANDEZ**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear - aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• **ERIC I. URANGA**, 21, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **DAVID YBARRA JR.**, 20, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of public intoxication.

• **JOHN MARIANO GRANADOS JR.**, 20, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **DANIEL JESUS LEMON**, 38, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of public intoxication and failure to identify.

• **ABEL ABUNDEZ**, 20, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• **GABRIEL PAUL PAREDEZ**, 20, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **CARL GENE BURLESON**, 45, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of contempt of court - disobedience of a court order and driving while license suspended/invalid.

• **JOE MICHAEL CANALES**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated - open container and driving while license suspended/invalid.

• **CHARLES ROY BURKE**, 48, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a motion to revoke probation for contempt of court - disobedience of a court order and no liability insurance.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• 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

• American Legion Post 506 fish fry from noon to 3 p.m. at 3203 W. U.S. Highway 80. orders can be delivered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The public is invited. Delivery orders can be made by calling 263-2084.

• Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.

• Big Spring Symphony presents "Music of Europe" at 8 p.m. in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

• 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

• The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

• 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. at the Event Center, 1607 E. Third St.

• DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.

• Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.

• 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, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall.

Weather

Today — Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the mid 70s. South winds 10 to 20 mph shifting to the south. west 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight — Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows around 40. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Thursday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. Thursday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Friday — Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.

Friday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Saturday — Mostly sunny. Cooler. Highs in the mid 60s.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Sunday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-18-28-30-37-50.

Number matching six of six: 0.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$42 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-16-18-26-36.

Number matching five of five: 2.

Prize per winner: \$17,568.

Winning tickets sold in: Plano and Mabank.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 6-1-9

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811

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City working to expand coverage on Channel 17

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Lights! Camera! Government! That's the focus officials with the city of Big Spring are working to expand, as the municipality continues efforts to televise local governmental meetings on Sudden Link's Channel 17 public access channel.

"Work on the channel is going well," said John Medina, information technology manager for the city. "We've been working with a lot of the different governmental entities, from the school board to the county commissioners to be able to get those meetings on the channel, and there's more to come in the near future."

Medina said working with the channel has been

a learning experience for everyone involved.

"There's been some bugs to work through," said Medina. "We had some problems getting the video to play correctly and at the right times. We also struggled with some sound issues, including the public address system used at the city council meetings, but we've been able to get those things in line. We've also been able to upgrade some of the hardware and software we use, which has also helped."

Medina said the city is currently developing a pilot program that could offer a large boon for the area's schools and junior college.

"We've started a pilot program with the Big Spring Independent School District that will

involve football games," said Medina. "We're also working on some projects that will utilize the school's journalism class. We're also working with Howard College to get them on board."

Medina said Big Spring City Council meetings are currently being recorded and shown live on the second and fourth Tuesday each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The same meetings are replayed Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Meetings held by the Moore Development Board of Directors are also recorded and aired Fridays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., and again on Saturdays and Sundays at 4 p.m.

Howard County Commissioners Court is also part of the channel's programming, with its meetings slated for Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays at 4 p.m.

"With the county commissioners meetings, we're currently showing the regularly scheduled meeting, directly followed by any special meetings regarding jail issues," said Medina. "We're also airing Hangar 25's Veteran of the Month program, and we're working on developing a new community video to promote Big Spring. There's a lot of projects currently in the works."

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

Rockin'

Gem and Mineral Show scheduled for March 2-3

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Pardon the pun, but the Big Spring Prospector's Club plans to "rock" the house when the annual Gem and Mineral Show returns March 2-3.

Rocks and the things you can make with them will be the focus of several activities held in association with the 38th annual show, which will be held at the Howard County fairbarns.

"We'll have quite a few demonstrations," said Club Secretary/Treasurer Lola Lamb. "We'll have people showing how to make arrowheads and spears as well as demonstrations on wire-wrapping, cabochons, faceting and bead making."

All but three of the demonstrators will be local club members and all demonstrations are free to the public. Lamb said they would have something for novices, as well as skilled lapidarists (rock handlers).

Thirteen dealers from Texas, New Mexico and Alabama will be on hand to display their wares, Lamb said.

"The theme for this year's show is 'Rocks: A Lapidarist's Dream,'" Lamb said.

Lamb said. "The shows always give me an appreciation what Mother Nature created, and what can be made from an ordinary piece of rock."

For more information on the show, contact Lamb at 263-3340 or Jerald Wilson, show chairman, at 263-4662.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Margaret Aken Creeley Nixon, 79, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.
Mildred Gamble, 79, of Big Spring died Sunday, February 18, 2007, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Rescuers battle bad weather trying to reach climbers

By SARAH SKIDMORE
Associated Press Writer

GOVERNMENT CAMP, Ore. — Three climbers who fell from a ledge on snowy Mount Hood were huddled in their sleeping bags early Monday as rescuers waited for daybreak to zero in on their position despite blowing snow and ferocious winds.

Rescuers reached the general area where the three climbers had found

shelter behind rocks earlier Monday, a day after the climbers fell, said Russell Gubele, who was coordinating communications for the rescue operation.

"They're not far away from the climbers," he said.

But the rescue teams decided to camp out and resume their push at daybreak Monday because they can't see anything,

Gubele said, and "it's extremely treacherous up where they are. One false step could be not good."

Battling winds up to 70 mph and blowing snow, rescue teams had worked through the night trying to locate the climbers. They were also hoping to beat a snow storm expected later in the day.

Rescuers hadn't made visual contact with the three climbers — two

women and a man — but were in cell phone communication with them.

The three had gotten into their sleeping bags to stay warm.

"They also have a Labrador dog with them that is cuddled up with them to help them keep warm," Gubele told AP Broadcast News. "My understanding is that they are experienced rock climbers."

REBATES

Continued from Page 1A

Colorado City received a modest hike of 5.8 percent, comparing the \$60,710.06 the Mitchell County seat rang up this month to the \$57,380.43 it tucked away in February of 2006. For the first two months of 2007, Colorado City has received \$99,353.07, up 4.74 percent.

Fort Stockton took in \$196,158.57 this month, an 11.98 percent upswing when compared to the \$175,169.65 received in February 2006. For the year, the home of Paisano Pete has brought in \$346,369.26, up 13.33 percent.

Dawson County's largest community, Lamesa, pulled in \$126,514.34 this month, up 5.34 percent compared to the \$120,100.78 it received in February 2006. So far for 2007, Lamesa has received \$203,785.24, up 9.97 percent.

Like most West Texas cities, Lubbock received a small increase when comparing one February to another. The home of Texas Tech University received \$5,086,971.52, up 1.4 percent when compared to the \$5,016,454.71

taken in during February 2006. For the year, Lubbock has pulled in \$8,723,397.08, up 6.05 percent.

Midlanders enjoyed a positive increase of 11.22 percent, comparing the \$3,643,614.99 received this month to the \$3,275,796.89 taken in for February 2006. For the year, the Tall City has pulled in \$6,110,671.59, up 12.03 percent.

Monahans, which boasts the ever-changing Sandhills State Park, posted one of the more dramatic increases, at 21.57 percent. The Ward County seat received \$146,202.24 this month compared to \$120,254.35 a year ago. For 2007, Monahans has taken in \$249,314.26, up 18.3 percent.

Odessa received \$2,349,977.30 this Valentine's month, an 11.06 percent increase compared to the \$2,115,793.64 taken in a year earlier. For 2007, Odessa has received \$3,979,076.97, up a healthy 21.98 percent.

Pecos, self-proclaimed home of the world's first rodeo, drew a 14.39 percent increase in rebates this month, comparing receipts of \$110,141.39 to

\$96,282.47 a year ago. For the expanse of 2007, the Reeves County seat has pulled home \$188,829.14, up 14.01 percent.

Posting an 8.46 percent increase comparing last February to the present was San Angelo. The city received \$2,053,080.08 this month and \$1,892,822.55 in February 2006. For the year, the home of Angelo State University and a Howard College campus has received \$3,367,999.06, up 7.75 percent.

Snyder, of white buffalo fame, witnessed a slim increase — 0.57 percent — when comparing this February's rebates of \$206,371.82 to last February's rebates of \$205,184.19. For the year, the Scurry County seat has received \$344,442.84, an increase of 8.44 percent.

And finally, Sweetwater, home of the "World's Largest Rattlesnake Roundup," was snakebit for the second month of the year. Sweetwater received \$283,277.28, some 0.04 percent less than the \$283,402.49 it took in during February 2006. For

the year, however, the Nolan County seat has

taken in \$478,334.74. That's up 3.17 percent.

ARREST

Continued from Page 1A

white T-shirt, showed signs of a brutal assault, according to Walker.

According to investigators, Hays confessed to the murder, saying Dickinson had been hateful and disrespectful to a family member.

All four suspects are believed to have ties to the Texas prison affiliated gang known as the Aryan Circle, according to Walker.

"It has been confirmed

that Haynes is a part of the Aryan Circle, and he allegedly played an active role in the death of Dickinson," said Walker, who declined to comment further on the motive for the brutal slaying.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Ronnie Cupstid
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Texas lawmakers must get to work on new reservoirs

I support legislation that establishes more than 20 reservoir sites in statute because securing viable water supplies is vital to the future of the state.

—Gov. Rick Perry

It was only one sentence in his State of the State speech, but it packed a punch. Mr. Perry signaled legislators that he's on board for designating reservoir sites if they give him legislation to sign.

The task now moves to GOP Sen. Kip Averitt, who heads the Senate Natural Resources Committee, and Democratic Rep. Robert Puentes, who heads the House Natural Resources Committee. Their committees share responsibility for drafting water legislation.

The issue could turn bloody since some Texans don't want more reservoirs. They believe conservation and other strategies could supply enough water for the state's future needs.

What's more, some Texans object to turning bottomlands, farmlands and other large parcels into lakes.

In some cases, their objections are understandable. Lands may have been in families for years. Or they may contain coveted resources, such as hardwood forests.

But here's the dirty little secret: Texas can't conserve enough water to guarantee future supplies. Nor are there enough fail-safe alternatives to give up building more reservoirs. Not with Texas likely to add 10 million residents over the next 25 years.

That's why the state's 50-year water plan proposes 17 major reservoirs and two minor ones. Planners can't get started with them, however, until legislators authorize the sites. Without a specific designation, the land could go to purposes other than securing our water supply.

Mr. Puentes's committee heard a presentation about this last week.

We hope members were paying full attention when a Texas Water Development Board representative testified that 45 percent of Texans may lack sufficient water if another major drought strikes over the next three years.

We also hope they heard the economic realities: If legislators don't start acting on the long-term plan, Texas could lose \$9.1 billion in economic activity by 2010.

That's just three years away, during which time we could encounter another withering drought.

And the numbers only get worse over the long run. Without putting into place the water plan's range of strategies, the state risks losing \$98.4 billion in economic activity by 2060.

We can avoid these human and economic calamities with smart, courageous action. Reservoirs aren't the only answer.

But we strongly encourage the House and Senate to follow Mr. Perry's lead and designate the sites.

Texas can't meet its long-term water needs without them.

Proposed reservoirs are as follows: North/Northeast Texas: Marvin Nichols, Lake Ralph Hall, Lower Bois D'Arc, Muenster, Ringgold; East Texas: Lake Fastrill, Bedias; Central Texas: Goldthwaite, Wheeler Branch, Brushy Creek, Little River, Little River Off-Channel, Tehuacana Creek; Southeast Texas: Texana; South Texas: Nueces Off-Channel, Brownsville Weir; West Texas: Lake 07, Lake 08, Cedar Ridge.

THE MORNING NEWS
DALLAS

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:

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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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we not be deceived by the world, Lord, but know the truth that You want us to know.

Amen

Barack Rodney King Obama

Barack Obama's glib announcement in declaring his candidacy for the presidency provides clues about the man and reminds us, contrary to his stated message, of the great chasm that separates people of different political orientations.

Mr. Obama appears to have fallen prey to the wave of public adulation accompanying the media's hype about him — to the point that he broke his recent promise not to seek the presidency at this early stage in his inexperienced political career.

I realize many politicians, like Hillary Clinton, break similar such pledges. But with Obama it's a bit different. He actually seemed to believe his earlier admission that he hadn't yet accumulated sufficient miles in government to prepare himself for what is not an entry-level position. On the surface his confession reflected a degree of humility, or at least an awareness that the public wouldn't seriously consider someone so green.

But his formal announcement, by contrast, evinced an abrupt graduation from any hint of his previous humility. He even acknowledged as much, admitting "there is a certain presumptuousness in this, a certain audacity. I know I haven't spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington."

Many interpreted Obama's follow-up remarks as lofty and uplifting. I think they are further evidence of his arrogance, either newfound or previously concealed, or his abject insincerity. While not quite portraying himself as a messianic figure, he did project that he, personally, was needed at this time to deliver our society

from its ailments.

He said, "Divided we are bound to fail. But the life of a tall, gangly self-made Springfield lawyer tells us that a different future is possible. He tells us that there is power in words. He tells us that there is power in conviction, that beneath all the differences of race and religion, faith and station, we are one people."

Do you suppose Obama really believes the Rodney King philosophy he espoused: "Why can't we all — as "one people" — just get along?" Does he mean the problems of America and its people will disappear if we just realize we are "one"?

That's hard to believe when you understand that "E Pluribus Unum" ("Out of many, one") is as foreign to the modern liberal mindset as the notion that there is anything redeeming about big corporations.

Instead of promoting a common culture with a common language to unite us "as one people," they worship at the altar of multiculturalism and preach an inherently divisive diversity that is preoccupied with race and gender consciousness.

Obama's message is even harder to believe when you consider his allusion to the possibility of a "different future." By longing wistfully for "a different future" is Obama not making a commentary on the misery of our present circumstances?

Indeed, when liberals look at America they don't see a land of robust prosperity and outward benevolence. It is a nation where wealth is unfairly distributed and one that imposes its will on the world through oppressive imperialism. It stirs up terrorism, wreaks havoc in an otherwise peaceful Iraq and tortures its military prisoners.

If liberals and conservatives don't see or envision the same

America; if we can't even agree on the problems we face, how easy will it be for us to reach consensus on proposed solutions?

When I see Obama proposing a number of genuinely conservative ideas, I'll reconsider the ludicrous possibility that he values bipartisanship and getting along more than advancing his liberal vision for America.

Let's put Obama's professed longing for harmony among the people to the acid test. Let's tell him that we hawkish conservatives are not going to feel real chummy with him and his colleagues as long as they are telegraphing to the enemy that we're ready to surrender in Iraq by withdrawing our troops by March 2008.

If we convince him our condition for breaking bread is that he forthwith withdraw his withdrawal idea, then we'll see how much he truly values breaking bread over breaking faith with America's cause in the war on terror. We'll see how much he truly believes in "the power in conviction" when that conviction concerns ideas he considers abhorrent.

While it goes without saying that we should treat each other respectfully and seek to work together, it is the height of folly to believe that people of different worldviews see America and its problems through wholly different lenses.

Let Obama vigorously advocate, through his power of conviction, his vision. But couldn't he please spare us the empty platitudes about our "oneness," so that we can get on with the national debate?

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

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Giuliani just playing a game

In the last presidential campaign, Republicans delighted in attacking John Kerry as a flip-flopper. They took every effort by Kerry to explain his voting record and turned it into a crude somersault. The fact that he was both for and against the war was the biggest laugh line of all.

Now the joke's on them. Mitt Romney makes Kerry look like a model of consistency. Rudy Giuliani's efforts to have it both ways make Kerry seem like a man of uncommon fortitude. Is this the best Republicans can do?

Appearing on Larry King Live, former New York City Mayor and longtime abortion rights supporter Rudy Giuliani refused to say whether it would bother him if the Supreme Court were to overturn Roe v. Wade. "I don't think it would hurt me or help me," he said.

Given his age and gender, that is both true and beside the point. Abortion is not a pressing issue for 60-year-old men, speaking personally, but it is an important issue for the Supreme Court and for many voters. Was he really trying to say he didn't care?

"It would be a matter of states making decisions." What decisions? Asked whether his recent stated preference for "strict constructionists" as judicial

appointees meant that he would be picking those who do not support Roe, Rudy was even more obtuse: "I don't know that. You don't know that."

So what does he know? What is his point in invoking "strict construction" as a standard for judges? If it doesn't mean no Roe, what does it mean? Whatever you want?

Imagine if Republicans were to catch Hillary playing these kinds of games. They'd eat her for lunch, claiming she was avoiding tough questions; that she would say anything, believed in nothing, cared about no one.

Et tu, Rudy? At least Mitt Romney has owned up to changing his positions on abortion and gay rights now that he's changed the audience of potential voters who will decide his fate. You can accuse him of opportunism, but at least you know where he stands. Not so the former mayor.

Mr. Giuliani sells himself as a tough guy, a straight shooter, the crime fighter who led New York out of the darkness. But ducking and weaving on issues that many people care passionately about — even if he doesn't — is hardly the MO of a straight-shooting tough guy. It insults people on all sides of the issue.

Nor has the former New York mayor found his footing in dealing with the war. John Kerry's efforts to put himself on both sides might have been a laugh line, but what

about Rudy's?

Last year, Giuliani was unrelenting in arguing that Democrats who opposed the war in Iraq did not understand the war on terror. Now the former mayor is taking on nation-building and claiming the Bush administration didn't know how to wage the war the right way. "I would remove Saddam Hussein again," he told Larry King. "I just hope we'd do it better and we'd do it in a different way."

Same war only better and different? Come again?

"There was a real doubt as to whether we could do this nation-building," he said of the effort to rebuild Iraq, and "we're not going to do it." So what are we going to do?

Plainly, Rudy isn't ready to answer. "I'm running," he told King, as he had implied to Sean Hannity last week. King pressed, "Do you make a formal announcement, or is this it here, right now?" The former mayor's response? "I guess you do one of these things where you do it four times or five times in a day."

Is Rudy above such mundane matters as having a platform and positions on issues, not to mention having to make a major speech?

Rudy is in, but he isn't really running, at least not yet. He's playing. The only question is how long this game will last.

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Bobby R. Scenic M. for Satur

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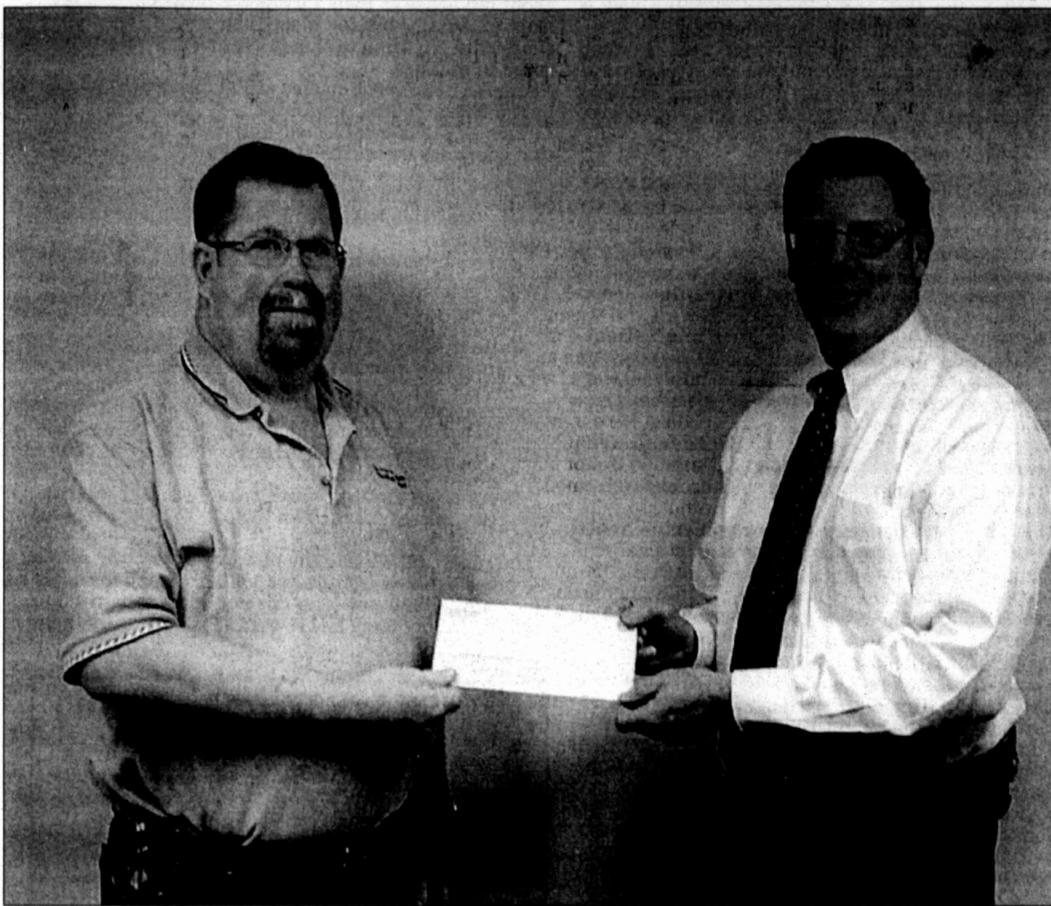
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GETTING READY FOR A BIG WEEK



Bobby Roevers, left, a board member of the American Heart Association, receives a check to the George Parsley, CEO of Scenic Mountain Medical Center. SMMC is the presenting sponsor for the American Heart Association Gala scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Big Spring Country Club.

AHA gala Saturday local at country club

Herald Staff Report

Need to get away? How about a trip to Ruidoso?

The Big Spring chapter of the American Heart Association is holding its annual gala Saturday at the local country club and you are invited.

Funds raised from the evening event go to help with research and education to prevent heart attack and stroke.

The gala is an opportunity to "win and dine" with friends, dance to Los Gringos and bid on an array of auction items. It will begin at 8 p.m.

Two of the top items up for bid are passes to the Byron Nelson Golf Tournament and a two-night, three-day trip to Ruidoso, N.M.

The event is sponsored by Scenic Mountain

Editor's Note: The AHA Learn & Live Luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the country club.

Medical Center with key help from State National Bank, Alon USA, LP, Park Place Retirement/Parkview Nursing, H-E-B, Partee Drilling Inc., Fraternal Order of the Eagles, St. Jude, Wells Fargo, Dr. Manish Shroff, Home Realtors and Rudy Haddad.

Admission is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple.

All proceeds benefit the American Heart Association.

Tickets will be available at the door.

For more information or to make reservations, contact Brenda Thomas at 213-0918 or Vicki Cole at 213-1112.

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Enjoy good nutrition by keeping your teeth!

Dr. Charles Mayo, co-founder of the world famous Mayo Clinic, is quoted as saying "People who keep their teeth live an average of ten years longer than those that lose their teeth." What do teeth have to do with a long life?

Think about people and their relationship to food. Food, and the enjoyment derived from being able to eat well, increase as we age. Eating may be an afterthought to young adults. The taste, texture, temperature and presentation of the meal are increasingly noted by people as we mature into middle age. By the time we are elderly it may be the highlight of our day.

What if dentally we can't enjoy that meal due to sore or missing teeth? What if we have to struggle to chew that food because even excellent dentures are poor substitutes for real teeth? And poor dentures are a real nightmare. Is nutrition going to suffer? Yes!

A recent article in the Journal of the American Dental Association discussed dental implications of "metabolic syn-

drome" — a combination of obesity, high cholesterol and triglycerides, high blood pressure and high blood sugar. These people need to be exercising as well as eating a diet rich in fibrous fruits and vegetables. Studies have shown that maintaining the natural teeth are critically important for people with metabolic syndrome.

The reason is that as people progressively lose teeth, they will often alter their food selection. The fewer back teeth are present, the harder time they have eating a healthy diet. Instead, they tend to select foods that are softer and higher in saturated fat, trans-fat acids and cholesterol. Therefore they get less of the fruits, vegetables, healthy fats, carotene, folate, potassium and vitamins C, E and B6 that they need.

Along the same lines, studies show that more back teeth that people are missing, the greater the likelihood of having a high a Body Mass Index (being fat or obese). Again, food selection tends to change for the worse as more teeth are lost.

So, you may ask, won't dentures or partials correct this problem? Unfortunately the answer is no. The reason is that most people can't bite near as hard with dentures or partials because these sit on the soft

gums. It is impossible to chew hard, crunch, firm or fibrous foods near as well as with real teeth.

So what are the solutions for this problem? Keep your teeth! Go see your dentist regularly. Realize that you will not be able to detect problems yourself until they are severe, whether cavities or gum disease. Brush and floss your teeth well. Avoid constant sipping or nibbling on sweet things.

If you are already missing some teeth, replace them, if at all possible, with implants or bridges. These are securely fixed into the bone or onto adjacent teeth so you can chew just as well as with natural teeth.

Finally, if you already have dentures or partials, at least make sure they have been relined within the last five years so they can work as well as possible. Much better would be to either replace them or support them with dental implants. These will greatly increase your chewing ability and help preserve your jawbone!

Dr. David Ward practices family dentistry in Big Spring at 1500 Scurry. He is currently president of the Permian Basin Dental Society. He is also a member of the Texas and American Dental Associations and the Academies of Cosmetic Dentistry and Gp Orthodontics.



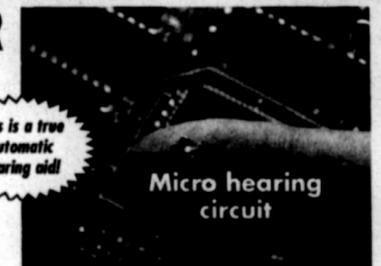
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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Three Fort Hood soldiers killed in Iraq

FORT HOOD (AP) — Three soldiers from Fort Hood were killed in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle, the Defense Department said.

The Army said Sgt. John D. Rode, 24, of Pineville, N.C., Sgt. Carl L. Seigart, 32, San Luis Obispo, Calif., and Spc. Ronnie G. Madore Jr., 34, of San Diego, died in the blast on Feb. 14 in Baqubah, Iraq.

The three men were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood.

Mexico extends anti-drug operations

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The Mexican government will expand its anti-drug raids to two states across the border from Texas, deploying more than 3,000 soldiers, sailors and federal police, officials said Sunday.

The raids will cover Nuevo Laredo, a town across the border from Laredo, Texas, that has been bloodied by turf wars between drug gangs in recent years.

Officials also said that in the two months since intensive raids began in central and western Mexico, they have destroyed almost as many opium fields as plots of marijuana, long Mexico's principal drug crop.

The raids began Dec. 8 in the western state of Michoacan, and have since been expanded to several other states.

Retired Morning News publisher dies

DALLAS (AP) — James M. "Jimmy" Moroney Jr., who helped shape Belo Corp. as one of the country's largest publicly traded publishing and broadcasting companies, died Sunday at the age of 85.

Moroney was chairman emeritus of the Belo board at the time of his death. He served on the board for a record 48 years. During his career, he held almost every senior management job at the company, including president and CEO of The Dallas Morning News and president and CEO of Belo, parent company of The News.

He was the last surviving grandson of George Bannerman Dealey, who founded The News in 1885.

"He loved the newspaper business, and he loved the TV business — he really did. And he liked people," said his son, James M. Moroney III, publisher and chief executive officer of The News.

James Moroney Jr. was remembered by others in the business as a farsighted business leader who understood that media companies had to expand into new markets and launch new products.

Former Hidalgo County clerk arrested

MISSION (AP) — A former Hidalgo County district clerk has been arrested in Mexico and brought back to the United States after authorities issued a warrant for his arrest on charges of sexually assaulting a minor.

police said.

Omar Guerrero was arrested Saturday evening in Reynosa in the Mexican border state of Tamaulipas, Mission Police Chief Leo Longoria said. He was returned to the U.S. early Sunday morning and is expected to be arraigned Monday afternoon.

Guerrero had been missing since Dec. 6 when Mission police issued a warrant for his arrest in connection with the sexual assault of a teenager. He faces up to 99 years in prison if convicted of the first-degree felony.

Map would place neighborhoods in flood zone

EL PASO (AP) — The Federal Emergency Management Agency is preparing a new map of El Paso designating much of the city as a flood plain, a spokeswoman said, which would push thousands of homeowners with mortgages into buying flood insurance.

Officials with the city and the International Boundary and Water Commission say the levee system protecting the city from the Rio Grande has been compromised by neglect and a buildup up silt in the river channel.

Spokeswoman Sally Webb said FEMA will soon release a revised flood plain map of El Paso and Dona Ana counties that "basically removes the levees from the flood maps."

"They can't be shown as providing protection from a 100-year flood if they can't do it," she said. "Part of this is to make residents aware of their potential risk."

The preliminary map will be open to public review and comment before it's finalized, which could take up to a year.

The IBWC, which oversees water issues on the U.S.-Mexico border, stopped regularly dredging of the river in 1994.

FEMA certification requires the levee to stand at least two feet above the estimated 100-year flood mark, officials said. Parts of the levee don't reach that minimum while other areas lack any levee protection.

IBWC Commissioner Carlos Marin said it would cost \$250 million to dredge the river and build up the levees. That's not feasible, he said, but the commission should be able to bolster the levees within six to nine months to bring them within FEMA compliance for about \$500,000.

U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes of El Paso said in a statement that he has tried to make FEMA aware of the commission's planned maintenance work.

Alan Shubert, El Paso's development services director, said dredging silt from the Rio Grande would be more productive than building up the levees. Silt contributed to the flooding that hit parts of city during heavy rains in August, he said.

TYC officials accused of molesting inmates

DALLAS (AP) — An internal investigation by the Texas Youth Commission accused high-ranking officials at an isolated state juvenile prison of molesting young male inmates, according to a copy of the report

released to The Dallas Morning News.

The West Texas State School located in Pyote, houses 250 males inmates.

Reports say many prison staffers there complained about the abuse to their immediate bosses and to officials in Austin, but for more than a year, no one in charge did anything to stop it. No one has been prosecuted in the case.

Some say similar problems afflict many prisons run by the Texas Youth Commission.

"The TYC has established a dynasty of corruption that condones the mistreatment of youth in its care," Randal Chance, a retired inspector general for the agency, said in a story in Sunday's edition of The News. "Staff are being paid your tax money to rape your children."

Agency officials were stunned when they learned the Texas Rangers had substantiated charges of abuse at the Pyote facility in 2005, according to TYC Executive Director Dwight Harris.

"Quite frankly, it was a shock and a surprise to us that this could ever happen," Harris said.

However an internal investigation, "Summary Report for Administrative Review," released last week to the newspaper, said that a West Texas caseworker raised the issue in a letter to Harris five months before the Rangers' investigation.

"There are definitely places where we had opportunities we missed," said Tim Savoy, TYC spokesman. "We regret doing that."

The report released to the newspaper said the abuse stemmed from a culture in which prison officials could abuse their power, punish children who tried to complain about them and reward those who gave them sexual favors.

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Public gets first chance to testify on HPV mandate

By LIZ PETERSON

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Doctors, public health experts and cervical cancer survivors are expected to testify on Monday at a public hearing on legislation aimed at overriding the governor's anti-cancer vaccine mandate.

The bill by state Rep. Dennis Bonnen, a Republican from Angleton, would bar the state from requiring schoolgirls to be inoculated against the human papillomavirus, or HPV.

The hearing marks the first chance for the public to comment on Gov. Rick Perry's Feb. 2 mandate, which directed the Health and Human Services Commission to adopt rules requiring the vaccine for girls entering sixth grade as of September 2008. The shots protect girls and women from the HPV strains that cause most cases of cervical cancer and genital warts.

"This is an issue where Texans deserve a chance to be heard, regardless of which side of the issue they may take," said state Rep. Dianne White Delisi, a Republican from Temple who chairs the public health committee.

Perry's order prompted a flood of criticism from conservatives who say it contradicts Texas' abstinence-only sex education policies and strays too far into the lives of families. Critics also balk at the \$360 cost for the three-shot series and said the vaccine, called Gardasil, is too new to force on children as young as 11 or 12.

But the governor and the mandate's supporters say the vaccine offers a unique opportunity to fight a cancer that kills 3,700 American women annually.

"This is about saving someone's life," said

Jacqueline Golson, a 52-year-old cervical cancer survivor from Houston. "It is not about promiscuity, having sexual partners. It's about life."

The public health committee also will hear testimony on a bill by Democratic state Rep. Joe

Deshotel of Beaumont that would direct state health officials to create and distribute brochures about the virus and the vaccine.

Sixty-four state representatives have signed on as co-sponsors of Bonnen's bill.

Contract Bridge

Famous Hand

East dealer. East-West vulnerable.

<p>NORTH</p> <p>♦ A Q 4 ♥ A K Q 5 3 ♦ K 6 ♠ A 9 6</p> <p>WEST</p> <p>♦ 10 7 6 ♥ 10 8 4 ♦ 10 8 4 3 2 ♠ Q 7</p> <p>SOUTH</p> <p>♦ J 3 2 ♥ 9 ♦ A Q J 7 5 ♠ K J 8 2</p>	<p>EAST</p> <p>♦ K 9 8 5 ♥ J 7 6 2 ♦ 9 ♠ 10 5 4 3</p> <p>West</p> <p>♥ 10 8 4 ♦ 10 ♠ Q 7</p> <p>East</p> <p>♥ J 7 6 2 ♦ 10 5</p> <p>South</p> <p>♥ 9 ♦ 7 ♠ K J 8 2</p>
--	--

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	4NT
Pass	5♦	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	6NT

Opening lead — six of spades.

he next led the king and another diamond to the ace, the diamonds turned out to be divided 5-1.

Undaunted, Belladonna cashed the Q-J of diamonds and ace of spades, producing this position:

The A-K-Q of hearts were next cashed, declarer discarding a club and a diamond. The A-9 of clubs were then played. When East followed with the ten, Belladonna had to decide whether to finesse the jack or play the king. As usual, he guessed correctly, going up with the king to make the slam.

Unfortunately, Belladonna's fine effort proved to be totally wasted! Soon afterward, it was discovered that the hand had been brought to his table in error from the women's championship being conducted simultaneously nearby. So Belladonna's result did not count — but he might have been well rewarded for his effort had he been playing in the women's event!

Strange things sometimes happen in world championships. Consider this deal from the 1972 Olympiad where Italian stars Walter Avarelli and Giorgio Belladonna got to six notrump against France.

Belladonna, South, followed low from dummy on the spade lead, East winning the trick with the king and returning a spade to the queen. To Belladonna, there didn't seem to be much to the rest of the play, but when

Tomorrow: Getting your ducks in order.
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IN BRIEF

Howard Hawks athletic schedule

The Howard Hawks men's basketball team will play in Roswell, N.M. against New Mexico Military Institute today at 7:30 p.m.

The women's basketball team will return to Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Thursday, when they host New Mexico Junior College.

The women's game is scheduled for 6 p.m.

The women's softball team will be hosting Barton County Community College today at 1 p.m.

The Hawks baseball team will be hosting Frank Phillips College to open conference play on Friday (1 p.m.) and Saturday (noon).

Hawks fundraiser has been set

Tuesday, Feb. 27, the Howard College Rodeo team will conduct a Cow Pattie Bingo fundraiser.

The event will be held at 1:30 p.m. on the east grounds of the Student Union Building and all squares are \$ 10. Tickets are now available.

For more information contact Coach Greg Kernick at 816-3477.

Big Spring girl's softball registration

The Big Spring Girl's Softball Association will be holding sing-ups to register for the upcoming 2007 season.

Females from ages 4 to 7 (as of Jan. 1st) are eligible to participate in the league.

Sign-ups will be held each Saturday, beginning Feb. 24th, through March 17th at the Big Spring mall.

The registration fee is \$40 and there is a discount for the second child. This fee will cover all uniforms.

A division for boys between 4 and 6 years old will be available this season.

For more information contact Ron Shafer at 213-3747.

Tech gets win in Midland Classic

Ben Baker and Willie Rueda each drove in a run in the bottom of the eighth inning to help Texas Tech to a 7-5 win over Saint John's in Midland College Classic on Sunday. The Red Raiders (7-3) broke the tie in the third inning with Doug Thennis' sacrifice fly to left field. Baker's and Rueda's hits in the eighth extended the lead to 7-4.

Saint John's (0-3) scored on Monaghan's sacrifice fly in the ninth, but Tech's Collin Auten struck out Mahoney to end the game, earning his third save of the season.

Harvick wins wild Daytona 500



Kevin Harvick (29) crosses the finish line just ahead of Mark Martin (01) to win the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Sunday.

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.

— So focused was Mark Martin on hard-charging Kevin Harvick, he had no inkling of the chaos unfolding behind him.

With less than a mile to go in the Daytona 500, Kyle Busch's car was spinning. Clint Bowyer's was upside down and on fire. Five other cars bumped and banged, careening into one another in a smoke-filled mass of twisted metal.

With the checkered flag in sight, Martin simply came up short — a mere length of a car hood — in a wild, wreck-filled finish.

Harvick beat the sentimental favorite to win NASCAR's premier race Sunday, six years to the day after Dale Earnhardt was killed on the final lap. Just days after his death, it was Harvick who was hired to replace him, and he rewarded Richard Childress with the car owner's second Daytona 500 victory — Earnhardt won the other in 1998.

"This had to be the wildest Daytona 500 I've

ever watched," Childress said. "I kept my eyes shut there for a little while it was so wild."

It took several moments for NASCAR to declare the winner, finally giving it to Harvick and spoiling what would have been the biggest victory of the 48-year-old Martin's career.

"I really wanted to win that thing," Martin said. "They were going to have to pry it out of my fingers, man."

Harvick did just that, never letting off the gas as he charged from 29th to first in 22 laps.

"My go-kart experience over the winter paid off, because I didn't let off the floor and we just kept hitting things and the wall and bouncing off everything," Harvick said. "But man, this is the Daytona 500. Can you believe it?"

After a cheating scandal nearly ruined the Great American Race, it was just the finish NASCAR needed to put racing back in the spotlight.

Five teams were busted for breaking the rules

See DAYTONA, Page 2B

Martin loses as caution flag is not waved

By Ed Hinton

The Orlando Sentinel

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.

— It took NASCAR three days to decide the winner of the first Daytona 500. It took NASCAR five seconds to decide the winner of the 49th. History may see little difference in the controversies.

If Sunday's wildest running of NASCAR's showcase race could be summarized in a single sentence, winner Kevin Harvick said it all in a trembling breath: "This is what makes stock car racing what it is."

Good and bad.

Glorious and notorious. Wild, close, fraught with wrecking — finished off with judgment calls by officials that leave controversies open-ended, never to be fully answered.

For the final five seconds, the outcome hung in the balance, not just with Harvick and long-suffering sentimental favorite Mark Martin racing side-by-side to the

checkered flag.

The outcome also hung in the officials' tower, with a split-second decision at hand: when to throw the caution flag with cars wrecking every which way just behind Harvick and Martin.

By current NASCAR rules, a caution instantaneously freezes the field.

At the moment the wreck occurred, and for a moment or two afterward, Martin was ahead. But no caution came out. The field wasn't frozen, so the most respected driver of all, by his peers, remains 0-for-23 in Daytona 500 starts.

As the two Chevrolets crossed the finish line with Harvick's ahead by a hood, the safety lights finally turned yellow. Freezing the field didn't matter then. The race was over.

"They waited! They waited! I can't believe they waited!" Martin yelled to his crew via radio. "I really thought that thing was ours, guys.

It still might be."

But after some minutes to consider, Martin knew there was no use arguing. NASCAR decisions, monumental and/or questionable as they might be, stand.

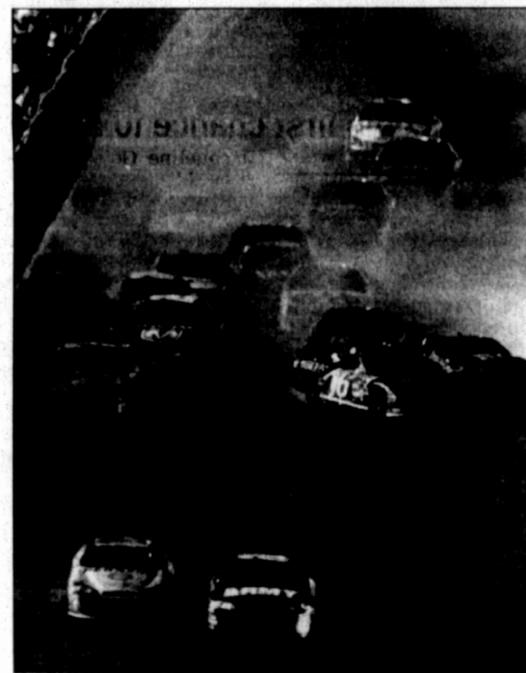
And so he resigned himself.

"This is what it is," said the 48-year-old who almost retired after last season but decided to take a part-time ride with Ginn Racing this season. "And that's it. That's the end. Their decision. They made that decision and that's what we're gonna live with."

All that was clear about Sunday's race was that Harvick had made it to the line ahead. Even beyond the timing of the last caution, much else about the race was open to argument.

It was the closest 500 finish — .02 of a second separated the top two cars — since the advent of electronic scoring came

See MARTIN, Page 2B



Mark Martin, right in the 01 car, is slightly ahead of Kevin Harvick as cars wreck behind them on the final stretch of the last lap of the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway.

NBA All Stars shoot it out in Vegas, West defeats the East

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS — From Kobe Bryant to the last blackjack dealer, everybody believed the NBA was a big winner after gambling on a 72-hour All-Star extravaganza in Sin City.

Sure, the main event was a bit of a bust, but the All-Star game is always a crapshoot.

Bryant had 31 points, six assists and six steals in his second MVP performance at the league's mid-season showcase, and the West set All-Star records for assists and field goals in a 153-132 win over the East on Sunday night.

Nobody could bet on this game in the local casinos — the favored West covered the 4 1/2-point spread — making the result even more inconsequential than usual. Instead, this outlandish weekend will be remembered for its setting — the first All-Star game held outside an NBA franchise city, and the first with a flock of bedazzled showgirls flanking Wayne Newton for a pregame rendition of "Viva Las Vegas."

"No doubt about it, we definitely enjoyed Las Vegas," said Phoenix's Amare Stoudemire, who had 29 points and nine rebounds. "I hope the All-Star game comes back here soon, because it was a lot of fun."

After an appropriately decadent performance featuring acrobats, a juggler, Elvis impersonators and the usual All-Star hijinks from 24 NBA stars, Bryant emerged as the game's best player in front of the southern Nevada fans who adopt the Lakers as their team.

With the crowd chanting "M-V-P" in the final minute, Bryant roared through the lane and threw down a vicious dunk over Chris Bosh's head. The weekend went a whole lot better for Bryant than his previous MVP outing in 2002 in Philadelphia — where his hometown fans booed his every move.

"As players, we always want to feel like we're appreciated for what we do," Bryant said. "To have this type of reaction here in

See NBA, Page 2B



West All-Star Josh Howard of the Dallas Mavericks, scores in the first half of the NBA All-Star Game at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.

New Rangers manager stressing fundamentals in Spring

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — While Ron Washington has an easygoing manner and disposition, there are a few things the Texas Rangers' rookie manager won't tolerate on the field.

"Baseball is about fundamentals and players must take fundamentals seriously," Washington said. "I will not tolerate poor fundamentals and poor execution, and that's in a practice drill or any game, including a spring training game."

For 28 Rangers pitchers and catchers, that started Sunday in their first official workout of spring training. Washington, the former Oakland Athletics third-base coach and infield instructor, stressed to them that "teams win because of execution."

After a light throw-and-catch session, the team had fielding drills focused on

the pitchers covering first base, with Washington emphasizing footwork and body position.

Washington has already reminded the players of the fielding problems that plagued Detroit pitchers in last year's World Series, when they had five errors against the St. Louis Cardinals.

More than three months after replacing the fired Buck Showalter, Washington was finally on the field for the start of spring training. He liked what he saw on the first day.

"Good attitude among all the guys," he said. "Top notch. They all know the situation here. I suspect they will go out and compete. That's all I want."

The Rangers have had only one winning season and haven't finished above third place in the AL West since making their last playoff appearance in 1999.

Among the pitchers taking part Sunday was Eric Gagne, the 2003 NL Cy Young Award winner who was limited to 15 2-3 innings pitched the past two seasons because of elbow and back injuries. Gagne wasn't scheduled to throw until Monday, but took part in the infield drills and ran on the first day of camp.

"At this point, I feel good and it's really good to say 'good,'" Gagne said. "I like being around the players and everything associated with the game. Being out of the last two years, and now back, showed me what I missed and how much I love this game."

The 31-year-old Gagne signed a \$6 million, one-year deal to be the Texas closer, a move that returns Akinori Otsuka to the eighth-inning setup role the Rangers envisioned for him when they

got him before last season.

From 2002-04, Gagne had 152 saves for the Los Angeles Dodgers, including a major league-record 84 straight. His deal with Texas gives him the chance to earn an additional \$5 million in performance bonuses.

"He is almost back to where he was," catcher Gerald Laird said. "It looks like he's never been hurt. Just talking with him, you can feel the leadership and his presence. If he comes back to his previous form, this will definitely be an exciting time for Texas."

Otsuka took over as the Texas closer last season after Francisco Cordero set a major league record with five blown saves in April. Otsuka converted 32 of 36 save chances.

NBA

Continued from 1B

this All-Star game is very humbling. I just feel very blessed to be able to come out and put on a really good show."

Most everybody knew the real show went on in the dozens of casinos and hundreds of clubs around the Las Vegas Strip, where athletes, celebrities, groupies, entourages and old-fashioned basketball fans partied the weekend away in a hip-hop hoop summit. The fun never stopped and the crowds never thinned for three days and four nights in a city that loves an outrageous time.

The weekend heated up Saturday when Boston's Gerald Green won the dunk contest with a much-needed injection of originality, and Miami's Jason Kapon was crowned the top 3-point shooter with a record-tying final performance.

By Sunday night, the glorified exhibition was all that remained — and the NBA's biggest stars rolled through a fairly nondescript contest featuring plenty of points and almost no defense. Some things don't change, even in Vegas.

"We got here at 2 o'clock," said Shaquille O'Neal, who played point guard and showed off a shimmy-shake move against Mehmet Okur on one fourth-quarter possession. "There's a lot of stretching and standing around. We were all kind of stiff, so the game was a little lopsided. But that's OK. They came here to see a show, and they got a show."

Celebrities were all over the front row: Diddy, Jay-Z, Beyonce, Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Eva Longoria, Ludacris, Prince, Dave Chappelle, Chris Tucker, Steve Carell, Jeremy Piven, Cameron Diaz, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver. Paris Hilton and Barry Bonds were among those who couldn't get on the floor.

The West jumped to a big early lead with sharp outside shooting and solid ball movement. Perhaps Phoenix's Mike D'Antoni, the West coach, managed to inject a bit of his Suns' philosophy into his stars despite the injury absence of catalysts Steve Nash and Allen Iverson.

Bryant's team led by 33 points before coasting to victory during the East's 44-point fourth quarter. Stoudemire was outstanding in a performance that cemented his comeback from microfracture knee surgery, and Denver's Carmelo Anthony scored 20

points in his first All-Star game.

"Kobe Bryant is a guy I definitely love competing against, and he probably feels the same way about me," LeBron James said. "You always have fun on All-Star weekend. It's a time you get an opportunity to come together for the fans."

su | do | ku

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

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DAYTONA

Continued from 1B

during Speedweeks — including two-time winner Michael Waltrip, who broke the NASCAR code by tampering with his fuel before qualifying and humiliated Toyota in its Nextel Cup debut.

The scandal put the sport in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons, and NASCAR ratcheted up its penalty process to prevent its biggest race from turning into a joke.

Finishes like this one might fix everything.

"Anytime there's a good race on the racetrack, it helps mend things," Harvick said. "But I think it's still going to take a little bit to get over some of the issues that happened."

For at least one night, the talk will be of the victory Martin had in his sight and the way Harvick

yanked it from him.

Martin, making his 23rd attempt at a 500 win, could see the checkered flag when Harvick barreled along the outside of him. Just as Harvick pushed into the lead, Busch wiggled behind them and bumped into Matt Kenseth to start a melee.

Kenseth was spinning and Greg Biffle was, too. Bowyer flipped onto his roof and through the grass, flames shooting through the windshield.

But Harvick and Martin continued to race side by side, waiting for NASCAR to call for a caution. When it finally came, Harvick and Martin were at the finish line, and Harvick was just barely ahead. The winning margin was .020 seconds, and NASCAR had to review the tape just to be sure who was going to Victory Lane.

Harvick never doubted the outcome.

"I got so excited at the end of the

race, and I knew we had won," he said. "I just didn't realize how excited I was, and I punched the dang mirror out of the car. Just overexcited, I guess. Knocked the mirror right out."

Martin finished second, followed by Jeff Burton, Harvick's teammate, and Mike Wallace, who raced his way into the 500. Fifth place was rookie David Ragan, the kid who replaced Martin when he left Roush Racing this winter after 19 seasons.

Martin left the powerhouse Roush team because he wanted to ease his way into retirement, and he got the opportunity to do it with a partial schedule at Ginn Racing — a second-tier team bought last year by a Florida land developer trying to satisfy his love of NASCAR.

The decision was questioned by those who wondered if Bobby Ginn could give the ultra-competitive Martin cars capable of winning.

Boy, did he ever.

MARTIN

Continued from 1B

to NASCAR in 1993. But history cannot know whether it was the closest 500 ever because there was no definitive photo of Lee Petty and Johnny Beauchamp crossing the line in '59. That's why it took three days for NASCAR to view various photos from different angles and declare Petty the winner.

Was this the wildest? Probably.

"I've seen a lot of these Daytona 500s, and this has to be the wildest Daytona 500 I've ever watched," said Harvick's team owner, Richard Childress, who drove here himself in the 1970s before fielding cars for the late Dale Earnhardt and his many heartbreaks and one Daytona 500 win, in 1998.

What had been a yawner for the first 150 laps exploded into nonstop wild driving and major wrecking for the final 50.

The bedlam was detonated with 48 laps left. Pre-race favorite Tony Stewart, in his dominant Chevy, had worked his way toward the front after being sent back to 40th as a penalty for speeding off the pit road.

Stewart held the lead when Kurt Busch nicked Stewart's left rear bumper, sending them

both crashing out of the race. With the two best cars in the race out, it was almost anybody's contest.

And the rest of the field behaved that way. All the fury of restrictor-plate racing broke out—not just the Big One, as drivers call the nearly inevitable multicar pileup in a plate race, but the Big Four: five cars on Lap 174 . . . five on 189 . . . three on 196 . . . seven on Lap 202.

Yes, 202. The race had been thrown into "green-white-checkered" overtime by the wreck on 196, and even then the wrecking didn't stop.

After the checkered, Clint Bowyer's car tumbled upside down and afire across the finish line.

A moment earlier, with Harvick and Martin across the line, Bowyer's car had gone sideways, and that, NASCAR said, was when officials decided to throw the caution.

"When the 07 (Bowyer) went sideways on the track, the yellow came out," NASCAR

spokesman Ramsey Poston said, apparently reading a statement from officials. "At that time the 29 (Harvick) was ahead of the 01 (Martin) and declared the winner."

Trouble was, there'd been lots of wrecking in the moments before Bowyer went sideways. NASCAR's response, Poston said, was that "the vehicles that were in the earlier part of the incident were already off the track and on the apron."

But it didn't appear that NASCAR officials could have anticipated the wrecking wouldn't continue, or that cars might not spin back onto the track.

And the wrecking had started early enough off Turn 4 that Martin fully expected Kyle Busch to be behind him, giving him a push coming to the flag. But Busch had detonated the final wreck, taking out Matt Kenseth, who'd been pushing Harvick up alongside Martin.

Martin hugged the bottom of the track coming off the corner and

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- Laborers**
- Forklift Operators**
- Equipment Operators (Dozer, Blade, Excavator, Roller)**
- Water Truck Drivers (must have CDL)**
- NCCCO certified Crane Operators**

Qualified applicants are encouraged to apply at the Workforce Center, 606 E. Broadway St., Sweetwater; apply on-line at HYPERLINK www.dhblattner.com; or call 1-888-356-2307 to request an application.

Women and Minorities are encouraged to apply
EOE

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. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

DRIVERS WANTED

Find out why our Average Length of Driver Employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a Family Owned Company dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring Professional Drivers in West Texas. Requirements include Class A CDL with tank and hazmat endorsements. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by Check or Direct Deposit. Benefits include Family Health & Dental Insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Life insurance and Long Term Disability is available thru Group Coverage. 10 Days Vacation starting First Year plus 10 Paid Holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Please come by the Duncan Disposal office/yard at 1104 N.W. Broadway, Coahoma, Tx - Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please.

The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri.; with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer.

EXECUTIVE CHEF Midland, TX. Retirement Community. Upscale neighborhood. Modern Kitchen. Great Benefits-401K, sick leave, vacation. Phone (432)682-5772 for appointment or fax resume (432)682-2478.

EZMONEY ONE of the fastest growing signature loan companies is in search of experienced retail/service industry CSRs. Starting wage is based on experience to a max of \$9.50/hr. Associates will work a 40 hr week. Stores are closed on Sunday and work a limited schedule on Saturday. Mon-Fri hrs of operation are 9am-7pm. E-mail resumes to roger_primera@ezcorp.com

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED part-time for Assisted Living facility. Marcy House is now accepting applications. Experience in institutional house-keeping a plus. Part-time, flexible hours. Applications accepted in person at Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Rd., Big Spring, TX. Background check required.

Help Wanted

FIBER GLASS Systems on the Lamesa Hwy is hiring 15 production workers for a new pipe row. Great benefits, starting wages at \$9.50, \$1 shift differential for nights. All job applicants must be processed thru the Workforce Network of Big Spring and present their referral card to the Human Resources Administrator at Fiber Glass Systems for consideration.

GREAT PAY! GOOD BENEFITS!

A Great Career Opportunity. Now Hiring Drivers for: Pump Trucks, Transports, Hot Oiler, Vacuum Trucks. Requirements: Valid CDL, 21 years of age, Clean MVR. Must pass drug screen. Call 432-756-2875. Apply in person at Key Energy, West I-20 South Service Road, Stanton, TX.

HOWARD COLLEGE Bookstore, a Texas Book Company Store, is looking for a highly motivated individual to fill the position of accounting clerk. Prior experience in an accounting environment and attention to detail are a must. Proficiency in MS Office and Excel as well as the ability to learn new software quickly are also required. Must be customer service oriented, a team player and be willing to go the "extra mile." Salary depending on experience. For a full job description and to apply online go to www.texasbook.com/career.html.

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IMMEDIATE OPENINGS for Roustabout Helpers, Pushers & Filled Drivers with CDL License. Apply at Rusty's Oilfield Service in Stanton. 1 Mile West of Stanton on North Service Road of I-20 Monday thru Friday 8-5. (432)756-2821.

NEED GRAPHIC designer and office help. Apply @ 217 E. 3rd.

NEED WAREHOUSE help & delivery. Apply @ 217 E. 3rd.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

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StarTek is offering Great NEW pay rates and benefits. Come by 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 30 or call 432-264-2700

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

WIS INTERNATIONAL is now hiring for Inventory Clerks. Starting pay \$7.00/hr. up to \$9.00/hr. for Crew Managers. No experience required for inventory clerks. Must have some management experience for Crew Manager. All who are interested please call Natasha, (806)543-1778. Apply, Monday, Feb. 19, 9:00-5:00, at the Workforce Network of Big Spring.

Help Wanted

NOW HIRING Customer Service Reps for TravelCenters of America (TA). Full-time and part-time. All shifts available. Starting wage \$7.25 and up DOE with merit increases at 90 days, 180 days and 1 year. Benefits include medical/dental/vision insurance, holiday pay, vacation pay, 401k w/company match and employee discounts. Must pass pre-employment drug test and have demonstrated history of reliability/dependability. Serious inquiries apply in person at I-20 and Highway 87.

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OTR TRUCK Drivers Needed. Excellent Pay and Benefits. Quality Home Time. For more information call 1-800-624-5919 ext. 116 or visit our web page at www.taylorxpressinc.com

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PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation now hiring for Cook position. Experience preferred, but not required Full time position, evening shift. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PERSONAL SERVICE attendant/ care giver desired for an Assisted Living. Responsibilities include providing quality service to the such elderly such as housekeeping, meal services, social-recreational activities and delegated tasks. Apply in person, Marcy House, 2301 Wasson Rd. Background check required.

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The Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (PBRPC) is seeking applications for the position of Engineer/Solid Waste Coordinator to monitor and direct municipal solid waste management related services and support activities for the 17 county Permian Basin region. Requires a minimum of Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering and 8 years of engineering experience, including solid waste, and possession of, or ability to obtain registration as a Professional Engineer in State of Texas. Salary commensurate with experience.
Send resume to: PBRPC
Attn: Director of Personnel
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THE MARTIN County Hospital District is seeking Registered Nurses, for full-time high positions. Please contact Rance Ramsey, DON at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or (432)756-3345 ext. 228.

TRUCK DRIVERS needed - 2 years experience, current CDL Class A, current DOT physical, clear record. Apply at Price Construction 2701 North Hwy. 350, Big Spring, TX.

VACUUM TRUCK driver needed at Westbrook, TX. CDL & tanker endorsement. 6 Months experience a plus. Please call JD's Services (325)575-0851.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Starting pay \$8.50 per hour. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

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FOR SALE, 1995 Maroon Ford Van with inside lift, \$9,600. Triple white dresser & nightstand, \$450. (4) arm chairs on rollers, tan, like new. (432)393-5712.

Miscellaneous

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HOUSE TO be moved. 3 bedroom 1 bath, brick. Call (432) 393-5517.

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For a listing of homes available. Call 432-687-2696, ext. 4 or pick up a list at 1611 W. Texas Ave., Midland.

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The day has two distinct tones: first cautious, then carefree. As the moon shifts from Pisces to Aries, it's as though she has a shot of espresso in the transition. What seems wise in the morning may feel downright old-fashioned by the afternoon. When reflecting on this day, the question most asked may be, "What was I thinking?"



HOLIDAY
MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's normal to have a hard time accessing your emotions. When you don't want to cry, the tears flow, and when you try to cry, you can't. But today you take control and feel how you want to feel.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You make friends with the powerful. Don't accept everything offered to you, and maintain a casual distance. You'll be respected and seen as someone who also has assets to contribute.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've always wanted to live the

glamorous life and create it using ingenuity and imagination. Those qualities will take you further than mere dollars are able. Trust your whims.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're connecting with just the right people to stitch your magic plan together. Sagittarius and Pisces people are especially helpful. Tonight, embrace the unknown and kiss the inexplicable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your intuition is keen. When the universe gives you a sign, read it. If a spider walks across your desk while you're doing business over the phone, this is no coincidence. Attribute meaning to the action.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You could get a lot of bills paid and errands run. Or you could devote your time to weaving secrets, singing your passions and painting colorful tales. In the end, the latter will be more productive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It is said that each person carries the memories of thousands of ancestors before him. You're so connected to your humanity now. You can

practically dream the dreams of your great-grandmother.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A new project starts. Right after your initial wave of enthusiasm comes fear and anticipation. They're all valid feelings. Power through in spite of your apprehension, though. Create momentum.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In all things, make sure the coast is clear before you proceed. Impatience is dangerous. Take your time so that your way is smooth and your manner delightful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your eyes are wide open to the full range of beauty and ugliness in the world. Ultimately, you are responsible for what you see. Look toward the sunny side of the street.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's review time, a ritual to take seriously. Go over your victories and mistakes. Put new rules in place that'll help you repeat what worked. Leave the negative behaviors in the past.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're a pro among amateurs. You've got something valuable to teach. You're more

desirable because of your talent, too. Don't hold back. A Scorpio person is especially receptive to you.

PERSONALITY OF A PLANET: URANUS: Uranus is named for the Greek supreme deity of the heavens -- the father of Saturn. He's faintly greenish and glowing, like a mood ring, due to his mysterious, smoggy, gaseous atmosphere -- which allows him to reveal nothing of his surface to astronomers. But perhaps his most unusual feature is that one pole of Uranus is always in darkness and the other always in light. Thus he's a planet of extremes! Contrast! Smoke and mirrors! (And exclamation points!) He's never subtle. His primary influence involves wizardry, surprise, rebellion and luck. It used to be that Saturn was thought to be the only planet with rings, but not so. Uranus has them, too, making it seem like Saturn is a chip off the old block. Though Uranus is named after the father of Saturn, his personality is certainly not of the dad one finds rooting for his son at the ball game. He's more of a

Bill Gates kind of dad -- revolutionary in his contributions, forward moving, affecting change. As one of our outermost planets, he moves through the zodiac slowly, so his effect on an individual's chart is generational.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Cindy Crawford could tap into her Pisces powers this year by promoting a product that deals more in the spiritual aspects of beauty than in the physical ones. She could indeed be the start of a new trend in beauty, helping people transform their outsides by creating new internal thought processes. If people can think themselves thin, why shouldn't they be able to think themselves beautiful?

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

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am in my late 40s and have been married 28 years. Shortly after our first child was born, my husband informed me that he did not find me physically attractive. I wasn't voluptuous enough. I have always been petite and still wear a size 4. We separated briefly, but reconciled and raised two children together.

Our marriage is agreeable enough, but there has never been a lot of passion. In 28 years, my

husband has never paid me a compliment, but he often points out my deficiencies. He sleeps on the couch, and the only time we are intimate is if I initiate it. I've pretty much given up on sex and have tried to find fulfillment in other areas.

A couple of years ago, I became acquainted with "Wayne" through my job. We have a lot in common. Wayne is single and close to my age. He's told me that he finds me attractive and is always complimenting me on how I look. I must admit I've enjoyed the attention tremendously. He recently went so far as to suggest taking the relationship further. At the time, I laughed it off, but I can't stop thinking about being intimate with him. I know it's wrong, but I long to be with someone who is truly attracted to me and tells me so.

My husband is comfortable in our marriage and would never agree to a divorce. He tells me he loves me and I believe him, but he loves me like a sister. I want to have one passionate moment before it is too late. Is this just menopause? What can I do to get these fantasies out of my head? -- Having Hot Flashes

Dear Hot Flashes: Fantasies are normal, but when your married life is so unsatisfying, it means you are more vulnerable to an affair. The best thing would be to build a fire under your marriage, but we worry there is no flame to ignite. Your husband's lack of interest in you is peculiar and may suggest an underlying problem. Please get counseling, with or without your husband, and see what's going on.

Dear Annie: Can you help solve a dispute? My aunt, my father's sister, passed away over a year ago. She is survived by her husband of more than 30 years. I still think of him as my uncle, even though he is not related by blood. My mother says I shouldn't. Is it still appropriate to refer to him as my uncle? -- M.H.

Dear M.H.: Absolutely. For as long as you like.

Dear Annie: I would like to clarify the response to the letter from "Concerned in Madison, Wis.," who fractured her hip and said all readers over 40 should get a bone density scan.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Bone density screening is indicated for persons under the age of 65 only under certain circumstances. Those who should have a bone density test are women aged 65 and older; postmenopausal women under 65 if they have risk factors; men aged 70 and over; adults with a fragility fracture; adults with a disease or condition associated with low bone mass or bone loss; adults taking medications associated with low bone mass or bone loss; or anyone being considered for pharmacologic therapy.

Patients and society have limited resources to screen for disease, and most patients have difficulty deciding which screenings are important when they get recommendations from multiple sources. This frequently leads to patients making unwise choices, and putting off an important or necessary test in favor of something they read about in the paper. To decide which screening tests a patient should have, the best resource for patients is a discussion with their primary care physician during a scheduled health maintenance exam. -- Donald T. Stewart, M.D., Diplomate, American Board of Family Practice, International Society of Clinical Densitometry, Certified Clinical Densitometrist

Dear Dr. Stewart: Many thanks for the clarification. We appreciate your sharing your expertise with our readers.

Dear Annie: Last year, my wife decided she couldn't be a pastor's wife anymore and left. She hooked up with another guy fairly quickly, and they now go to a different church and pass themselves off as this

great Christian blended family. She keeps telling the kids that as soon as the divorce is final, "Stan" will be their new stepdad.

This has completely devastated our four children. My 12-year-old son does not like Stan, nor does he want a new stepdad. My daughters don't feel they fit into this new family because Stan already has two daughters the same age. But here is the biggest problem: My 9-year-old boy is the son Stan never had, and he and my wife spoil him, which is causing a huge rift between the 9-year-old (who defends Mom), and the other three (who want no part of this new family).

As the dad, what do I do? In all honesty, I am jealous and angry with Stan and my wife for destroying our family, so it is becoming increasingly difficult to talk nicely about the two of them when my kids get into arguments every weekend about how unfairly three of them believe they are being treated.

How do I help my children recover when I'm still trying to recover? How do I train them in what's morally right without saying horrible things about their mother? I would never have condoned their behavior in my church. How can I condone it now? -- Confused and Angry in Michigan

Dear Confused: You don't have to condone it, but you do need to guide your children so they can navigate these difficult circumstances and maintain a civil relationship with their mother. As a pastor, surely you recognize the value of counseling. Please get some for yourself and your children, and if you can convince Mom to participate as well, it would be beneficial all the way around.

Dear Annie: I have an insane amount of back hair. Aside from being extremely unattractive, it is also a huge hassle to keep tamed down.

I'm a frequent beachgoer in the summer, and I'm not exactly rushing to take off my shirt. What are the best ways to get rid of back hair that are both cost effective (I'm on a fixed income) and show the best results? -- Gorilla Warfare

ways are shaving, waxing, depilatories, and professional electrolysis or laser hair removal. The first three are fairly inexpensive, but the last two have more permanent results. Shaving is the easiest, but the hair grows back quickly, and you'd have to do it often (and there would be stubble). Waxing can be painful (we've all seen the movie), and we recommend trimming the hair with scissors first, but you'd only have to do it every four to six weeks. Depilatories fall somewhere in between. Pick one, find a friend to help you, and give it a try.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Nina in New York," who has Crohn's disease. For the past five years, I have been in a wonderful relationship with a woman who developed Crohn's as a young adult, and she suffered for years. She was finally diagnosed properly and has been wearing "Clyde" for close to 20 years. I love Clyde! Without "him," I wouldn't know this wonderful woman. We even celebrate Clyde with a Happy Life Anniversary.

When we first began dating, my partner was very upfront about Clyde. There was a curiosity factor, and she was very patient with me. I've watched her change Clyde, and was able to ask her questions during the process. Now, I forget Clyde is there altogether.

I guess what I'm trying to tell "Nina" is that people really will love you for who you are. My gal is the most beautiful woman I have ever known. -- A Very Happy Partner in Kentucky

Dear Partner: Many of our readers expressed similar sentiments. We hope your gal sees this letter. Thanks.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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ANSWERS

6	4	9	2	7	1	3	8	5
7	2	8	5	9	3	4	1	6
5	1	3	6	4	8	7	9	2
1	8	5	4	2	7	9	6	3
3	7	6	8	5	9	1	2	4
2	9	4	3	1	6	8	5	7
4	3	1	9	6	5	2	7	8
8	5	7	1	3	2	6	4	9
9	6	2	7	8	4	5	3	1

MONDAY

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

DENNIS THE MENACE



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"I'm going to need a little help throwing this snowball."

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HAGAR



BLONDIE



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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2007. There are 315 days left in the year. This is Presidents' Day. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 19, 1945, during World War II, some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima...

installed in Austin, with J. Pinckney Henderson taking the oath of office as governor. In 1878, Thomas Edison received a U.S. patent for "an improvement in phonograph or speaking machines."

In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved an international treaty outlawing genocide, 37 years after the pact had first been submitted for ratification.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 67. Singer Bobby Rogers (Smokey Robinson & the Miracles) is 67. Singer Lou Christie is 64. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath, Heaven and Hell) is 59.

Answer to previous puzzle: BOTCH NOWAY JOSE ACHOO OVEREATER CHEWS REDRAWING HOMETOWN RESTS IDEA RAND AHS SHUTEYE SAT TUFTSUNIVERSITY ELIA ELI SOAP ACTIONADVENTURE MES BESEECH XIS DEWY OLAF ETHEL CONTRAST CHERISHED EULER TRANSCEND ALLEE OUTSKIRTS MESSY

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Up and about 6 Informal conversation 10 Minor chess piece 14 Run after 15 Christmas season 16 Hand-cream ingredient 17 Advance to first base, perhaps 19 Angry 20 Before, poetically 21 Part of the eye 22 Sampled, as soup 24 Very unfortunate 26 Annoying one 27 ___ and outs 28 Combat vessel 31 Part of USA: Abbr. 34 That woman's 36 Spooky 38 Takes it easy 40 "Welcome" item at the door 41 Game for little sluggers 42 Orlando-area attraction 43 IRS experts 45 Takes advantage of 46 Holy places 48 Tic___toe 50 Detective's lead 51 Case on a necklace 54 Professional occupation 57 Chimney dust 58 Mauna ___ (Hawaiian volcano)

SMALL BILLS by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 7 Affectionate embraces 8 Everyone 9 Move unsteadily 10 Shift blame to someone else 11 Considerably 12 Was dressed in 13 Can't do without 18 Dublin-born 23 Balance-sheet listing 25 The President's plane 26 Alternative to rice 28 Shawls and stoles 29 Tax-deferred accts. 30 Heap 31 Stein contents 32 Floor-washing implements 33 Apiece 35 Game-show host 37 Overhead trains 39 Subway-entrance barrier 44 Got up 47 Hospital employees 49 Role players 51 Miners' finds 52 Comic DeGeneres 53 Breakfast bread 54 Soft drink 55 Actor Baldwin 56 Package of paper 57 Agitated state 59 Region 62 "Roses ___ red..." 63 Meadow

