

Twins' preliminary autopsies show no trauma or abuse

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Preliminary autopsies on twin infants found dead Sunday show "no obvious signs of trauma or abuse," according to Howard County Justice of the Peace Kathryn Wiseman.

Wiseman said the preliminary reports were received Tuesday afternoon and failed to shed any additional light on the death of 3-month-old Christopher Ryan Petree and

Nomi Michelle Petree.

"Both preliminary reports show no obvious signs of trauma or abuse," said Wiseman. "That means we'll have to wait for the toxicology, histology and several other reports before we can determine the cause of death."

Wiseman said the reports can take as long as three months to complete.

"It's a very lengthy process," said Wiseman.

According to reports issued

by the Howard County Sheriff's Office, the twins were found dead at their home on Dawson Road in south Howard County.

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

HCSO deputies and Emergency Medical Service technicians responded to the

home, where the infants were found dead.

Wiseman pronounced the infants dead at the scene at 11:50 a.m. Sunday and immediately ordered an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

"I'm remanded by law to have an autopsy performed when a child under the age of six years dies," said Wiseman. "It's normal procedure."

The autopsies were performed Monday morning at the Texas Tech University forensics cen-

ter in Lubbock, according to Wiseman.

Child Protective Services has begun an investigation of the parents, 21-year-old Chris Petree and 27-year-old Lisa Riffe, according to Texas Department of Family and Protective Services spokesperson Marleigh Meisner.

Meisner said Riffe has voluntarily placed her other children with relatives pending the out-

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Float and Fly set for Saturday

Participants expected to come from many cities

By THOMAS JENKINS

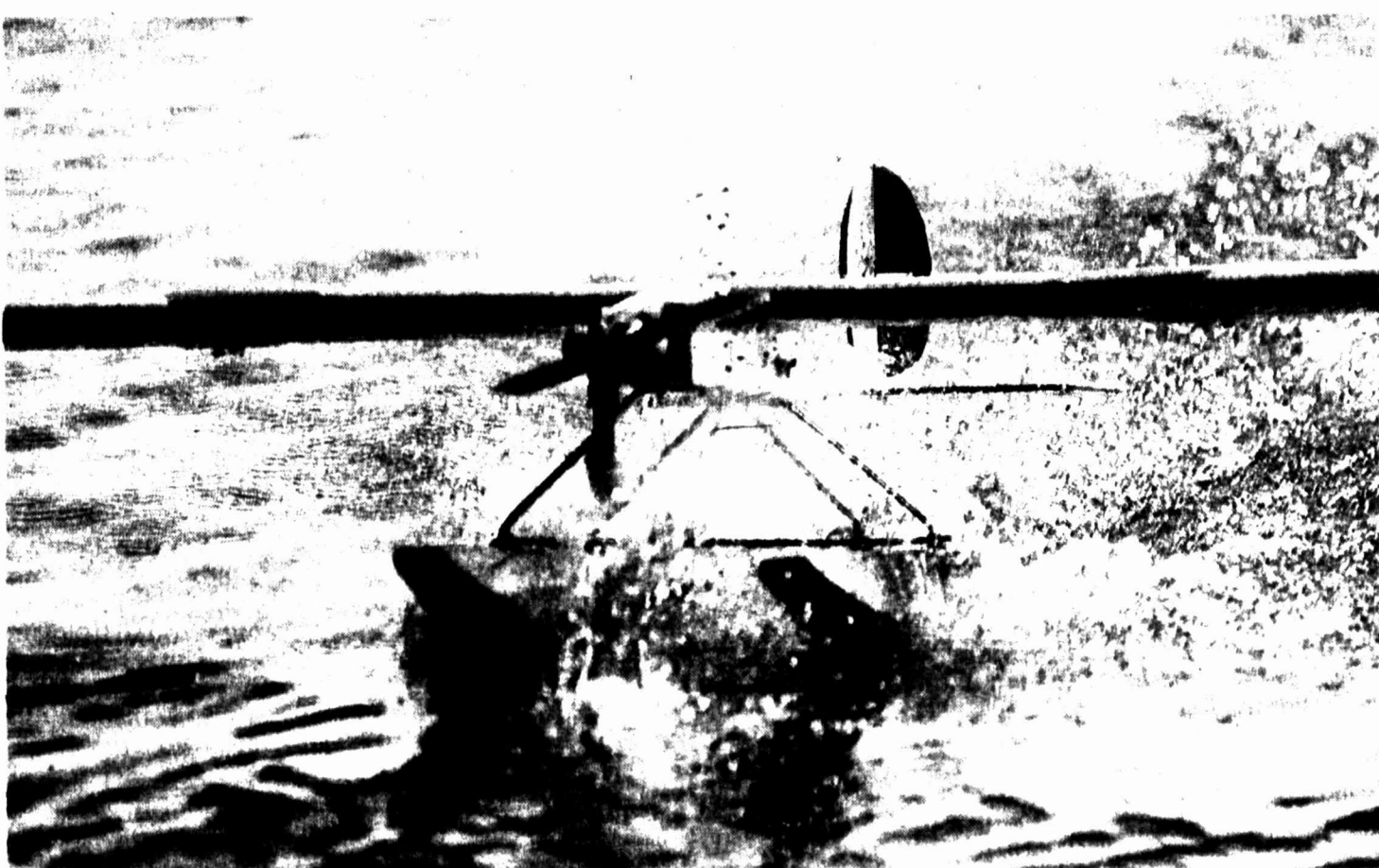
Staff Writer

Bees aren't the only things that will be buzzing around Comanche Trail Lake Saturday and Sunday, as the 13th Annual Don McKinney Float and Fly gets ready to go from water to air in an amazing display of model aircraft.

McKinney said the event draws pilots from all over West Texas and beyond.

"We have people coming up from San Antonio, and they really love it here," said McKinney. "There will also be people from New Mexico, Lubbock and other cities and states."

"The Float and Fly is a two-day event," he continued. "The Big Spring Model Aircraft Association is putting the event on and we'll get started Saturday at around 9 a.m. with registration. We'll fly until



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

This model aircraft makes going from air to water look easy during the 2004 Don McKinney Float and Fly. The annual event will once again get under way at 9 a.m. Saturday at Comanche Trail Lake, near the Dora Roberts Community Center.

about 4 p.m. that day and we'll start things back up Sunday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

"There will be exhibitions with all sorts of planes, including flying off of the water. At noon on both days we'll have a

brisket lunch, which is being prepared by Robert Walker, who just does an excellent job with brisket. Plates are \$5 and we want to invite the public to come out and have lunch with us."

McKinney said the

funds raised help cover the operating costs of the model aircraft association and offers area residents the chance to learn more about the hobby.

"The funds we raise will go to the operation of the club," said

McKinney. "This is one of our biggest fund raisers of the year and it helps us perpetuate things."

"If someone is interested in flying, they will get

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BSISD

Enrollment figures show first increase in many years

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

For the first time in more than a decade, Big Spring public schools have reason to celebrate enrollment numbers.

Big Spring ISD schools are on track to show an increase in enrollment over the previous year, the first time that has happened since 1991.

As of Wednesday, there were 3,827 students enrolled in Big Spring schools, which already surpasses last year's top figure by more than 20, Superintendent Michael Downes said.

"And that's just for the fourth week of school," Downes said. "Those are not our final numbers."

The news is especially good considering the district is coming off a school year that saw a decline of more than 100 students.

In fact, Big Spring schools are overdue for some kind of good news.

See SCHOOLS, Page 3A

Council approves 71.63-cent tax rate for 2005-2006

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The final public hearing concerning the 2005-2006 tax rate for the city of Big Spring came and went without opposition Tuesday, as the Big Spring City Council passed the measure on a unanimous vote.

The city's budget for 2005-2006, however, didn't elicit such rave reviews.

The council passed first reading of the tax rate, which is currently proposed at 71.63 cents per \$100 valuation, the same rate adopted in 2004, with

no comments for or against the rate coming from the audience.

McEwen said the rate is good news for property owners that didn't see a higher appraisal this year.

"There are going to be some people that have appraised values that are higher than they were last year and will have to pay somewhat more," said McEwen. "But if you have the same appraised value, you're going to pay exactly the same amount."

And while the tax rate seemed to receive

approval from around the room, the budget it will financially support didn't.

Final reading of the city's 2005-2006 budget passed on a 5-2 vote, with council members Greg Biddison and Jo Ann Staulcup voting against the plan.

Staulcup said she voted against the budget because of the provisions included in the document that support California-based Evos Homes in its pursuit to study — and possibly renovate — the Settles Hotel into.

"I voted against it because it includes the

provisions for Evos Homes," said Staulcup. "I also voted that way because I felt like there were some areas where we should have cut the costs a little closer."

Things like overtime, which I know we can do better on. Subscriptions and memberships and other things we need to look at. It's a belt-tightening process, and I just can't support the budget wholeheartedly without those things in there."

The contract between Evos Homes and the city of Big Spring calls for the city to finance a number

of studies to determine the viability of turning the aging structure into a home for retail businesses and low income housing.

The contract puts a total spending limit on study the city will finance at \$55,000.

The council also addressed a serious shortfall created by rising water rates during Tuesday's meeting, increasing water rates for both commercial and residential customers.

"The cost of water supplied by the Colorado River Municipal Water District is increasing by

approximately 9 percent," City Finance Director Peggy Walker told the council. "These increases will simply pass that increase, along to the city's water customers."

CRMW is expected to increase the cost of water to the city by an amount slightly more than \$200,000 for the next fiscal year. The council unanimously approved first reading of two ordinance amendments that would increase water rates to both commercial and residential customers.

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SELIGER HERE TODAY

Big Spring residents will have a chance to talk back to their state senator this afternoon.

State Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) will host a town hall meeting at 4 p.m. in the Hangar 25 Air Museum, his staff recently announced.

This is one of a series of town hall meetings that Seliger is conducting in the 26 counties in his district, said Seliger aide Stefanie Wilkerson.

Seliger will discuss issues relating to the recently completed special session of the Texas Legislature, as well as answer questions from the audience, Wilkerson said.

UW DINE OUT DAY

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

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

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



THIS WEEKEND

Cover Story Singer Amy Grant is taking a new direction in her career as host of the new NBC show "Three Wishes." Grant leads a team of experts to a small town to "grant" wishes to help make the hopes and unbelievable dreams of deserving people come true. Viewers will follow some of the town folks' deeply personal and heartwarming stories as Grant and these hopes are transformed into a life-changing reality.



Obituaries

Michael Coskey

Michael Coskey, 62, of Big Spring died Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005, in an Odessa hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take note

• **JESUS JAMS FOR JAYDE**, a fund-raiser to send 14-month-old Jayde Garcia to physical therapy in Alabama, is set for 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday at the Old Settler's Pavilion in Comanche Trail Park. Area praise bands are performing, an auction starts at 1 p.m., food, games and other booths scheduled. Call 264-0712 for more information or to donate.

• **BLOOD DRIVE AT MARANATHA BAPTIST ACADEMY**, 903 Johnson, is set for 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Friday. Call 263-7696. Walk-ins welcome.

• **FISH FRY** at the American Legion Post No. 506, 3203 W. Highway 80, begins at noon Saturday. Call 263-2084. Delivery set for 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Carry-out available.

• **THE BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1952** will have a mini-reunion Saturday at 13th and Owens streets from 9 a.m. until we get tired. There will be coffee and sweet rolls and doughnuts for those interested and a catered noon meal. An RSVP is needed for the noon meal. A dutch treat meal is planned following the parade. For information, contact Nila Bailey Allen at 263-1152 or 816-3301.

• **DENISE ZUBER** was born Aug. 8, 1968, to a Gonzales family in Big Spring and placed for adoption. She now lives in Minnesota and hopes to contact relatives in Big Spring. Anyone with information may e-mail her at nan_del@earthlink.net with Big Spring Adoption in the subject line. Or write to her, Denise Zuber, 9173 Vincent Ave So., Bloomington MN 55431-2155.

• **THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY** need good condition books for an annual sale. Paperbacks and large print items are especially needed. Donated books can be delivered to the library weekdays during regular operating hours. If unable to bring the books to the library, call 263-4980 and request a pick up. All money from the sale goes to purchase items not included in the library's regular budget.

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

• **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 LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1995 10-YEAR REUNION** is set for Homecoming weekend. For information about the events, contact BSHS 1995@yahoo.com or call Amanda or Stacie at 267-1353.

• **CLASS OF 1970 35th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING** set for Saturday. All classmates should send an e-mail address to Clarinda Harris Wright at richardwright@cox.net. For more information, visit www.bshsalumni.com/SiteMap/htm.

• **THE BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL OLD-TIMERS** (those who graduated before 1940) are planning a reunion for the annual BSHS Homecoming Friday-Saturday. Anyone able to attend a reunion Saturday should call 432-267-2900 and leave phone and address information.

Support groups

THURSDAY

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

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

• Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8-9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

Police blotter

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

- **MARISA OLIVAS**, 23, of 1419 Wood, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **JASON PAUL BOLT**, 19, of 1810 Monticello, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of disorderly conduct - language.
- **DANIELLE RAWLS**, 23, of 1011 N. Gregg Street, was arrested Tuesday and held for the HCSO.
- **TRUDY LEANN EVANS**, 40, of Kansas, was arrested Tuesday and held for the HCSO.
- **TANYA RENA WILLIAMS**, 29, of 214 N. Johnson, was arrested Tuesday on two local capias warrants.
- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1900 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
 - in the 700 block of 11th Place.
 - in the 3600 block of Connally.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY AS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE** was reported in the 900 block of Anna.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1300 block of Stadium.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1300 block of Stadium.

Sheriff's report

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

- **BILLY NELSON**, 33, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- **TIMOTHY CHRISTOPHER OVERTON**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **ARNULFO CHAVERA JR.**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **VIRGINIA LOUISA DUENEZ**, 36, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of theft of service.
- **EUGENE S. RODRIGUEZ**, 32, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and bondsman off bond for failure to register as a sex offender.
- **FAUSTINO VARGAS ALFARO**, 36, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear.
- **MARISA OLIVAS**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **JOHN CAROL RUTHERFORD**, 19, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a local bench warrant.
- **JASON DEMETRIUS GODFREY**, 32, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on two charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- **BENNY ISLAS**, 41, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felonies and bondsman off bond for criminal non-support.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 300 block of East 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of West 18th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1100 block of North Lamesa Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• West Texas Gluten-Free Support Group (Celiacs Helping celiacs) meet from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Odessa Regional Hospital. For more information, contact Barbara at 432-694-3614 days, or 432-520-2119 evenings.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group - All widows and widowers are invited to a covered dish dinner beginning at 6 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels streets. Enter through the north door. For more information, call 398-5522.

TUESDAY

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m., a new time, the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Big Spring High School homecoming
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- Blood drive at Maranatha Baptist Academy from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Call 263-7696. Walk-ins welcome.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Weather

Today - Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms this afternoon may produce damaging winds and large hail. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may produce damaging winds and large hail. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds around 10 mph shifting to the northeast in the afternoon.

Thursday night - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s. East winds around 10 mph.

Friday - Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs around 90. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday night - Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the upper 60s.

Saturday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

Saturday night - Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 60s.

Sunday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

Sunday night - Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s.

Monday - Mostly sunny. Highs around 90.

Monday night - Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s.

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

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 12-13-23-27-28.

Number matching five of five: 3.

Prize per winner: \$9,816.

Winning tickets sold in: Angleton, El Paso and Houston.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night, in order:

5-0-9

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday afternoon, in order:

7-9-8

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West Texas Food Bank



Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief

Donations are being accepted at any Western National Bank location in Midland, Odessa and Big Spring. For a list of items needed, go to www.wtxfoodbank.org.

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Council approves resolution on energy savings contract

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Siemens Building Technologies claims the city of Big Spring can implement more than \$5 million in municipal improvements over an eight month period without raising taxes or a bond election.

Tuesday night, the Big Spring City Council told Siemens to put its money where its mouth is, approving first reading of a resolution that will execute a notice of intent with the corporate giant to conduct a detailed energy audit.

The decision — which made it's way through first reading on a unanimous vote — is the result of a budget session presentation from Siemens Account Executive Chad Nobles, who brought a program to the Big Spring City Council that would allow the city to make improvements based solely on money saved through energy and utility conservation.

Energy savings is expected to come through reduced utility costs generated by such simple items as light fixtures,

water faucets heating and cooling materials.

City Manager Gary Fuqua said the idea itself seems "too good to be true," but plenty of research has shown city officials it not only can be done, but is already being done in other cities, including Desoto, Collins County and at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene.

"The remarkable thing is we'd be able to do these things and we wouldn't have to raise taxes," said Fuqua. "The cost to do these projects would come out of the savings from the operation budget, and Siemens will guarantee those savings. So if we don't reach those marks, they write us a check."

"It's a really neat concept and it's one of those that really sounds too good to be true. However, we've talked to other communities that have done this and it's actually possible."

Nobles described a 12 year contract between the city and Siemens that would include an estimated \$5.5 million loan that would be paid for through renovations to the city's infrastructure, including facilities, buildings and the

municipal water services.

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

Fuqua said he's interested to see what will end up on Siemens' project "menu."

"It could be very substantial. They gave us a preliminary audit and showed us several areas where they believe we can save money and make these improvements through cost savings," said Fuqua. "The council gave the go-ahead for a more detailed audit, so we'll be able to see exactly how much we will save on."

"At that point the council can pick and choose — kind of like a cafeteria menu — and say what they would like to do and what they would like to hold off on."

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said he couldn't yet see any "pitfalls" in the program, but it's hard to say until the necessary detailed audit is completed.

"The only pitfall is if they do the detailed audit and find out we don't have the savings they've projected," said McEwen. "And it might be a situation where we have to have the program longer (than 12 years) or it's just not feasible. But if they are able to do this and tell us what the savings are, I just can't see a downside to it."

If the detailed audit, which is expected to cost approximately \$30,000, is completed and the project is determined to be non-feasible by Siemens, Nobles said the city would only be responsible for the materials involved, estimated at \$11,900.

However, if the city decides to back out once the audit is completed, it will have to foot the entire \$34,200 bill.

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

Houston woman set to die for slayings of husband, children

By MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

HUNTSVILLE — Condemned inmate Frances Newton didn't deny putting a gun in her 7-year-old son's knapsack and stashing the bag at an abandoned house in Houston.

But she and her lawyers were arguing in the courts that the weapon she hid was not the one used to fatally shoot her son, 21-month-old daughter and her husband at their Houston apartment some 18 years ago.

Newton, 40, faced lethal injection Wednesday evening for the triple slaying of Adrian Newton, 23, and their children, Alton and Farrah.

She would be the 13th prisoner executed this year in the nation's most active capital punishment state but only the third woman in Texas — and the first black woman — since the state resumed carrying out capital punishment in 1982. Nationally, she would be the 11th woman executed since the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976 allowed the death penalty to resume after a decade-long hiatus.

Newton spent Tuesday visiting with relatives at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Mountain View Unit outside Gatesville in Central Texas, where the state's condemned women are held. It's about 140 miles northwest of Huntsville, where her lethal injection was scheduled for after 6 p.m.

Her attorneys awaited word from the Supreme Court, where they filed an appeal Monday after Texas courts and lower federal courts rejected their appeals and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles rejected a clemency request.

In their appeal to the high court, lawyers contended Newton was innocent, her trial attorneys were incompetent and that evidence used at her trial improperly was destroyed. They also argued the gun linked to the slayings was not the only weapon recovered by police and that she has not been a problem inmate, disputing trial evidence she would be a continuing danger and deserved to die.

They also asked Gov. Rick Perry to invoke his authority to issue a one-time 30-day reprieve.

"It's distressing because there are so many questions in this case,"

Newton told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "And you'd hope, I hope, our court system would want to know the answers other than just saying: 'Oh, we believe we're right in this.'"

Newton, accompanied

by a cousin, found the bodies the evening of April 7, 1987. Her husband had been shot in the head, the two children in the chest, all with a .25-caliber pistol.

The bag, which Newton acknowledges hiding, contained a .25-caliber

handgun and was recovered by police. Ballistics tests showed it was the gun used in the triple slaying, but her attorneys argued it wasn't the same weapon Newton left there, that police actually recovered a second or third weapon and the guns

were switched.

Newton said she found the gun in a drawer at home and hid it to keep her husband from getting into trouble. Adrian Newton had a drug history, and the couple was having marital problems. Both had been engaged in

extramarital affairs.

The cousin with Newton when they discovered the bodies told police about the bag.

Officers didn't record the serial number or any distinguishing features and when shown the weapon at Newton's trial.

TWINS

Continued from Page 1A

come of the investigation. "We expect the investigation to take approximately 30 to 45 days," said Meisner. "The investiga-

tion we're performing differs from the one law enforcement is currently pursuing. We have to determine what happened and how it happened so we can make sure it doesn't happen again.

"We will be working

from the civil end of things, while law enforcement works on the criminal side. Our main concern is for the safety of the other children in the home."

Meisner said CPS completed an investigation of

the family in August 2004, following allegations of physical abuse.

"We opened a case that took between two and three months complete," said Meisner. "The case did not involve the twins. The mother was very

cooperative and completed parenting classes and various forms of therapy."

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

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1A

as least as far as enrollment figures are concerned.

In the past 40 years, BSISD enrollment has dropped from a peak of 7,812 in 1965 to the current numbers. The biggest factors were the

closure of Webb Air Force Base, which resulted in the loss of 1,500 students in a three-year period, and the oil bust of the early 1980s, which cost the district another 400 students over a two-year span.

Since 1991, enrollment has shown a steady decline — until now.

Enrollment gains also

are good news in a financial sense. Since state aid to local districts is tied to average daily attendance, more students mean more money, Downes said.

The growing enrollment numbers are good news for both the school district and the community, he added.

"Population trends can be predicted by using

enrollment figures for public schools, especially in rural communities," Downes said. "The fact that we have increasing numbers indicates we have a growing community. Granted, we're looking at one year only, but a population growth trend has to start somewhere." Enrollment should continue to climb for the next

week or so, before leveling off or even declining slightly the rest of the school year, Downes said. "We'll probably end up in the neighborhood of 30 to 35 students ... ahead of last year," he said.

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

EVENT

Continued from Page 1A

the chance to talk to people who have been involved with model aircraft for sometime. We don't normally put people on trainer cords, also called buddy boxes, when we're flying out over the lake because there are so many people around. I've never had a plane crash in all of the years I've

been instructing people, but you just never know. We want to keep things real safe so everyone can enjoy it."

McKinney said getting started with the hobby isn't overly expensive and is something the entire family can enjoy.

"We welcome anyone who is interested in it to come visit with us," he said. "I've had two people get involved with it just here lately. You can get a

new plane for about \$300 to \$350, or if you find a used one, even cheaper.

"It's a family-oriented club. The entire organization is set up for youngsters and adults. The rules that we use don't allow any alcohol or drugs in it, so it's a really good hobby for the entire family to enjoy."

As for the name of the annual event, McKinney professes no knowledge of how he became the annu-

al "headliner" for the Float and Fly.

"I don't know how it ever became the Don McKinney Float and Fly," said McKinney with a grin. "I was gone for a little while, and when I came back that's what they had named it."

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

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

If the council gives the measures final approval, all city customers will incur a 12-cent increase in the consumption rate, increasing from \$2.25 to

\$2.47 per 1,000 gallons of water.

According to city officials, the average city water customer uses approximately 8,000 gallons per month, which will loosely translate into a 96-cent increase in their monthly bill.

The council is also approved first reading of a \$5 increase in commercial customers' base rate, plus an additional 50-cent hike on consumption rates. That would bring the base rate for commercial customers to \$16.75 and the consumption rate

to \$1.70. Together, the fees for 770 commercial accounts would bring in an additional \$233,700.

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Christopher Petree and Nomi Michelle Petree, 3 month old twins, died Sunday. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Birdwell Lane Church of Christ.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Hurricane victims will need our help for a lengthy time

It's already beginning to happen. Floodwaters begin to recede in New Orleans, the Senate begins confirmation hearings for a new chief justice of the United States Supreme Court and slowly but surely, Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath will quickly fade from being the lead story on front pages and newscasts.

While we still see and hear plenty of news stories about the Gulf Coast's start down the long road to resurrection, it won't be long before other new "hot" stories grab the attention of most of the American public.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Katrina will have long passed into memory for most in this nation before Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama come anywhere close to recovering from the damage she spawned.

And that means those whose lives have been altered by the storm — some 1 million or so people, will be needing help from not only federal, state and local governmental entities, but also from their fellow American citizens.

In the initial wake of the storm we all asked, "How can I help?"

And that is a question we need to continue asking. And when the call comes, we need to continue answering.

The Salvation Army and American Red Cross are going to need financial support for their ongoing efforts in the region for months and even years. That's because both organizations will be on the scene of other disasters — large and small — long before they're finished with relief efforts on the Gulf Coast.

And we can't forget that Big Spring has become home to about 75 people evacuated from the area and the community has done an excellent job in assisting them.

There's still a need for donations of cash, clothing, food and household items to help on the local front.

Again, cash donations are important and are being accepted by a fund established through the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Trust for tax-deductible contributions. Checks payable to the Big Spring Katrina Relief Fund can be mailed to the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1391, Big Spring 79721 or dropped off at the chamber office at 215 W. Third St.

Other donated items — bottled water, non-perishable packaged food, canned goods, baby items, clothing and hygiene products — are being accepted at the Alert Hangar at McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

Hours of operation at the donation center are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, and from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Sundays.

This effort also needs volunteers. If you can help with giving time to the effort, call the chamber 263-7641.

We can all pray for those whose lives have challenged by Katrina.

But let us also pray that we don't forget that about 1 million of our fellow Americans are going to need our help and generosity long after the news media spotlight fades.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May our dispositions today, Lord, be upbeat in knowing You are there for us.

Amen

Remembering Big John Price

Big John died the other day. He was buried in his overalls.

John Price was the proprietor of Big John's Feedlot, a barbecue place in Big Spring. If there ever was a typical barbecue place, it's Big John's. It has a screened-in back porch area that has just been designated the smoking section. The main dining area has tables and chairs that don't match, a barber chair, a broken juke box, a wood burning stove, all kinds of memorabilia on the walls, some of them plaques Big John earned for his gaming ability in Nevada and Louisiana. He always took a couple of weeks off to go play the slots and do yard work and gardening.

John was unassuming and always the same. He greeted his

customers warmly and visited with them when they paid out at the cash register. Denise, the waitress and lately the barbecue cook, seldom wrote down an order. So many customers ordered the same thing every time she simply asked them if they wanted the usual. Big John's operates on the honor system. Customers never get a bill. At the cash register, you tell what you had to eat and are charged accordingly. To get to the cash register, you walk through the kitchen area. The ceiling of the room where you pay out is covered with business cards. Newspaper write-ups of customers' accomplishments are posted on the walls. Some people write comments about this or that and stick them on any available space.

Big John's has beef, pork, turkey, beans, potato salad, pecan pie and banana pudding. No frills. But to most everybody who eats there, all barbecue is measured by the taste of meat at Big John's.

His place is a landmark. People who are passing through Big

Spring on a regular basis make it a point to stop there. Once a couple of big cars pulled into the parking lot and guys in suits got out. It happened to be the governor of Texas and his entourage, all hungry for some of Big John's barbecue.

For a decade or more, my wife and father in law ate lunch at Big John's every Friday we were in town. It was a ritual, almost a ceremony, to watch my father in law and Big John joke at the cash register. The drawer was usually open and my father-in-law went to the drawer and acted like he was going to start taking out the dollar bills. Customers waiting to pay out had to be patient while Big John and my father-in-law had their weekly visit.

When a plate of food is ready to be delivered to a customer, Janie or whoever prepares the food, yells out "Order Up!"

Big John's remains open. Denise bought the place. I, along with all of Big John's fans, wish her well.



TUMBLEWEED
SMITH



Roberts may become a moderate

The polls don't matter because George Bush isn't up for re-election, argued conservative author Mark Levin, in response to my suggestion that the president should elevate John Roberts to be chief justice and appoint Joy Clement (a woman from New Orleans, no less) to his place.

Conservatives favor someone like Michael Luttig, a hardliner, which they call an "originalist." I'd been arguing that the president had lost political strength in the storm, and Levin and his conservative cohorts would have no part of it. Chief Justice Rehnquist had barely been dead an hour, and we were discussing his legacy on Fox News.

There is a battle going on for control of the court — but for now, it's going on inside one man's head.

This should be the best of times for conservatives. Two openings on the court, a real friend in the White House and control over the Senate should mean two true believers on the United States Supreme Court. Isn't that what Democratic candidates have been warning voters about with increasingly dire urgency for the last six or so election cycles? I seem to recall writing some of these speeches myself. They never worked. No one in politics ever cares very much about the Supreme Court.

I'm optimistic that John Roberts will be a much more moderate

chief justice than he thinks he will.

Now, moderate on this Court is not moderate in any other area of life. Justice Stevens always laughs with me when I describe him as liberal, because that is not how he sees himself. He has always seen himself as a moderate, as someone who decides each case on a case-by-case basis, with an open enough mind that he could generally go either way. That is not how Justice Rehnquist did it — you could always predict his vote if you knew the parties.

One reason I think Justice Roberts will end up as a moderate is because he will want to be a leader, and that's the only place on the court where you can find five votes (that is, "a court") consistently. It is also where some of the people I think he will find most collegial, intellectually and personally — Steve Breyer, David Souter and, without question, the fatherly figure, my old boss, John Paul Stevens, who people forget was appointed by Gerald Ford and began as a moderate.

But I also think he'll be comfortable there. The fact that Justice Roberts could help moot a colleague in a gay rights case is impressive to me, and telling. I know the boilerplate argument about being a professional lawyer and all that, but I imagine a colleague arguing to overturn *Roe v. Wade* — would I do the moot? Could I effectively help? No.

Could I help Ken Starr if he needed a moot court judge to get ready to challenge a pro-gay rights law? I would politely decline. I take it as a very good sign that John Roberts is more "moderate"

in the best judicial sense than I am: He can keep his mind open.

You cannot criticize a man for that. But if I were a conservative, of course, I would worry.

Which leaves the second slot. Joy Clement is no Clarence Thomas. Or a Scalia. She's a conservative, but no one suggests she's a proven hard-core ideologue.

The argument is that if Stevens holds out (he looked great the last time I saw him), this could be Bush's last appointment — that if the Democrats want to fight, better to fight about values than Katrina; and anyway, the Court is for life, and O'Connor was the swing vote.

Which is why they want someone like Michael Luttig, not a moderate woman, not Alberto Gonzales, not the flavor of the week chosen for political, rather than ideological, reasons.

Presidential power, Richard Neustadt wrote in what became the Bible of the Kennedy administration, is the power to persuade. A president today is engaged in what former Clinton adviser Sidney Blumenthal termed the "endless campaign." To persuade requires political capital, which is earned and spent every day.

It's up to the president to decide how much capital he will spend on the Supreme Court. I'm still betting on Joy Clement.

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

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• **HOWARD COUNTY**
OFFICE — 264-2200.

• **BEN LOCKHART, COUNTY JUDGE**
— Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.

By JESSI

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Roberts: Congress can trump court on cities taking property

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By JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice nominee John Roberts said Wednesday that Congress has the right to counter a divisive Supreme Court ruling and decide whether cities have the broad power to seize and raze people's homes for private development.

"This body and legislative bodies in the states are protectors of the people's rights," Roberts said on the third day of his confirmation hearings to be the nation's 17th chief justice.

Republicans and many Democrats reacted angrily earlier this year when a sharply divided Supreme Court said cities can take and bulldoze people's homes in favor of shopping malls or other private development to generate tax revenue. The decision drew a scathing dissent from Justice Sandra Day O'Connor as favoring rich corporations, and Republican lawmakers have criticized it as infringing on states' rights.

Congress has been working on legislation that would ban the use of federal funds for any project that gets a go-ahead relying on the Kelo v. City of New London, Conn., decision.

"It's not simply a question of legislating to address particular needs, but you obviously have to also be cognizant of the people's rights and you can protect them in situations where the court has determined, as it did 5-4 in Kelo, that they are not going to draw that line," Roberts told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., had noted a concern of many Americans after the controversial court ruling: that it had become "much easier for one man's home to become another man's castle."

Roberts reiterated his opposition to the use of foreign law in rendering U.S. court decisions, but he rejected the notion that judges who do so are violating their oaths as some conservatives have argued.

"I wouldn't accuse judges or justices who disagree with that, though, of violating their oaths. I'd accuse them of getting it wrong on that point," Roberts said.

Roberts declined to answer a question on the legal status of the unborn, using the oft-repeated answer he had given the committee on Tuesday.

If confirmed, Roberts, 50, would be the youngest chief justice in 200 years. He would succeed William H. Rehnquist, who died Sept. 3 of cancer at the age of 80.

President Bush had originally nominated Roberts, a federal appeals court judge and conservative lawyer in the Reagan and first Bush administrations, to succeed O'Connor, who announced in July that she would retire. Upon Rehnquist's death, Bush chose Roberts for chief justice.

The second day of committee hearings on Roberts' nomination had shed less light on contentious issues than many Democrats had wanted.

"Some answers have raised other questions," Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the committee's senior Democrat, wrote in his weblog. "In some ways, it seems the more he's asked and the more he answers, the less clearly the real John Roberts is in focus."

Despite the Democratic frustration, it appeared Roberts had done nothing to diminish his strong chances for confirmation to replace Rehnquist before the high court convenes Oct. 3.

Democrats are just wasting their time trying to make Roberts commit himself to positions on divisive court cases, said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.

"I think they're coming to the realization that there's no way they're going to make any headway," Hatch said.

Roberts sparred briefly with two Democrats, Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Joseph Biden of Delaware, when they tried to pin him down.

Roberts struck sparks with Biden when he indicated his refusal to answer certain questions was based in part on a precedent of "no hints, no forecasts, no previews" that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg set at her confirmation hearing a dozen years ago.

"That is not true, judge," interrupted Biden, who later accused Roberts of filibustering.

Roberts also rebuffed Kennedy's attempts to draw him into a discussion of his views on lawsuits under the Voting Rights Act.

Specter had to jump in both times to stop the senators from interrupting Roberts' statements, urging Kennedy twice, "Let him finish his answer."

Roberts flashed his wit occasionally, announcing with a smile that he had reconsidered his long-ago support for term limits for judges. If confirmed, his appointment would be for life.

Roberts refused to let Republicans label him as another Rehnquist, or as an originalist, a constructionist, a perfectionist or any of the oft-repeated legal definitions that analysts and activists apply.

Second wave of Katrina legislation hitting snag

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

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WASHINGTON — A spate of bills to cut federal red tape and otherwise make it easier to get aid to victims of Hurricane Katrina has hit a slow patch as lawmakers wrestle over how to shape their response.

Congress zipped through bills providing \$62 billion in emergency aid to hurricane victims but the broader legislative response is a work in progress.

Included in this second phase are proposals to provide Medicaid health benefits to those made homeless by Katrina, lift work rules for welfare recipients, and implement tax changes to help hurricane victims and charitable donors. More comprehensive bills are to follow.

Republicans are starting to voice complaints that Democrats are seeking to seize upon the tragedy to pass more ambitious legislation than they otherwise could expect to achieve in the GOP-dominated Congress.

"In some instances, (Democrats are) trying to up the ante and use this crisis to accomplish goals that maybe they wouldn't have otherwise been able to accomplish without a natural disaster," Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said. Grassley is at the center of the storm as he negotiates over taxes, welfare and Medicaid.

For example, a House-passed bill to temporarily ease rules requiring that welfare recipients work 30 hours a week for their benefits and extend the welfare program is still pending before the Senate, despite a big push by Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., to clear it for President Bush's signature.

Outgunned House Democrats have settled on a far-reaching Katrina response plan, including housing vouchers, increases in unemployment insurance payments and full Medicaid coverage for hurricane victims.

NEW ORLEANS — Homicide charges were filed against the husband-and-wife owners of a nursing home where 34 elderly patients are believed to have died during Hurricane Katrina, the first major criminal case related to the storm's still rising death toll.

For Louisiana alone, the toll surged by more than half Tuesday to 423, and officials fear the numbers could climb as floodwaters recede and more of the city becomes accessible to search teams. Including deaths in four other states, Katrina's overall death count stood at 659.

"It's the water. Everything is driven by the water," said Lt. Col. Mike Thompson of the Oklahoma National Guard.

Authorities said the toll would be lower if Salvador and Mable Mangano, owners of the St. Rita's nursing home in town of Chalmette, had heeded warnings to evacuate their patients as Katrina came ashore Aug. 29.

"The pathetic thing in this case was that they were asked if they wanted to move them and they did not," said Louisiana Attorney General Charles Fott. "They were warned repeatedly that this storm was coming. In effect, their inaction resulted in the deaths of these people."

The Manganos were released on \$50,000 bond each; each of the 34 counts against them carries up to five years in prison. Their attorney, Jim Cobb, said his clients were innocent and had waited for a mandatory evacuation order from the officials of St. Bernard Parish that never came.

Cobb said the Manganos were forced to make a difficult decision as Katrina approached: risk the health of the patients in an evacuation, or keep them comfortable at the home through the storm.

Tom Rodrigue, whose mother died in the home, was not satisfied. "She deserved the chance, you know, to be rescued instead of having to drown like a rat," he said.

The attorney general is also investigating the discovery of more than 40 corpses at flooded-out Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans. A hospital official said the 106-degree heat inside the hospital as the patients waited for days to be evacuated likely contributed to their deaths.

A day after President Bush took responsibility for the fitful federal response to the devastation, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin was asked if he took responsibility for the city's response.

"I'm going to be a man about this. Whatever I did, whatever I could have done better, I'm going to stand up and history will judge me accordingly," he told ABC's "Good Morning America" in an interview broadcast Wednesday.

"But let's make sure that as we analyze what Ray Nagin as mayor did, let's look at what everybody in authority (did) so that this never happens again in this country."

The updated Louisiana death toll was released as Gov. Kathleen Blanco lashed out at the federal government, accusing it of moving too slowly in recovering the bodies. The dead "deserve more respect than they have received," she said.

Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesman David Passey said the state asked to take over body recovery last week. "The collection of bodies is not normally a FEMA responsibility," he said.

Not all the news was grim. The New Orleans airport reopened to commercial flights, the port resumed operations far earlier than expected, and Nagin said dry sections of the city could be reopened as early as Monday, provided the Environmental Protection Agency determines the air is safe to breathe.

"We're bringing New Orleans back," Nagin said. "We're bringing this culture back. We're bringing this music back. I'm tired of hearing these helicopters. I want to hear some jazz."

Nagin said the city doesn't have the cash to keep paying its employees and was working "feverishly" with banks and federal officials to secure a line of credit to get the city through the end of the year.

Authorities have been issuing more passes allowing residents to return to the city for the day to check on their businesses, save vital records and retrieve data from computers.

Nagin hoped other evacuees also would return, despite speculation some would prefer to settle in their new towns rather than face rebuilding in New Orleans.

Nursing home owners charged as death toll rises

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

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IN SUNDAY'S
BIG SPRING HERALD

American Profile
Wishes

Amy Grant's dream job

This week, singer Amy Grant comes to network television with a new reality show that grants three wishes to deserving people across America. For Grant, it has become her dream job. Plus, headache triggers and Angie's pepper chicken.

Amy E. Reese
D.D.S., P.C.
432-267-4102 10874

Amy E. Reese
D.D.S., P.C.
432-267-4102 10874

PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

SPECIAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 8, 2005

PROPOSITION 1 (HJR 54)

HJR 54 would create a Texas rail relocation and improvement fund in the state treasury and would authorize grants of state revenue and issuance of public debt to relocate, rehabilitate, and expand privately and publicly owned passenger and freight rail facilities and to construct railroad underpasses and overpasses.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment creating the Texas rail relocation and improvement fund and authorizing grants of money and issuance of obligations for financing the relocation, rehabilitation, and expansion of rail facilities."

PROPOSITION 2 (HJR 6)

HJR 6 would provide that marriage in Texas is solely the union of a man and woman, and that the state and its political subdivisions could not create or recognize any legal status identical to or similar to marriage, including such legal status relationships created outside of Texas.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing that marriage in this state consists only of the union of one man and one woman and prohibiting this state or a political subdivision of this state from creating or recognizing any legal status identical or similar to marriage."

PROPOSITION 3 (HJR 80)

HJR 80 would provide that local economic development program loans or grants (other than debts secured by a pledge of ad valorem taxes or financed by the issuance of any bonds or other obligations payable from ad valorem taxes) do not constitute or create debt. Any provision of state constitutional law that may prohibit or limit the authority of a political subdivision of the state to incur debt does not apply to those loans or grants.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment clarifying that certain economic development programs do not constitute a debt."

PROPOSITION 4 (SJR 17)

SJR 17 would authorize a district judge to deny reinstatement of bail or new bail to a person accused of a felony, if the person's bail had been revoked or forfeited as a result of the person's violation of a condition of release related to the safety of a victim of the alleged offense or to the safety of the community.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the denial of bail to a criminal defendant who violates a condition of the defendant's release pending trial."

PROPOSITION 5 (SJR 21)

SJR 21 would authorize the Legislature to exempt commercial loans from state usury laws that set maximum interest rates. "Commercial loans" are loans made primarily for business, commercial, investment, agricultural, or similar purposes and not primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment allowing the legislature to define rates of interest for commercial loans."

PROPOSITION 6 (HJR 87)

HJR 87 would increase the size of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct from eleven to thirteen members by increasing from four to five the number of public members and by adding a constitutional county court judge. The additions would ensure that the commission has an odd number of members, which is required by another provision of the state constitution.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to include one additional public member and a constitutional county court judge in the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct."

PROPOSITION 7 (SJR 7)

SJR 7 would authorize new options for reverse mortgage agreements for senior homeowners allowing the borrower to advance at unscheduled intervals, if and when needed, and only in the amounts needed, during the loan term. These are in addition to options that would allow a lump-sum payment after settlement or regular periodic, predetermined equal amounts over a term of years or the lifetime of the homeowner. Additionally, SJR 7 would: (1) prohibit the agreement from requiring the use of a credit card, debit card or similar device to obtain an advance; (2) prohibit the charge or collection of a transaction fee solely in connection with any debt or advance, after the time the extension of credit is established; and (3) prohibit the lender or holder from unilaterally amending the extension of credit.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing line-of-credit advances under a reverse mortgage."

PROPOSITION 8 (SJR 40)

SJR 40 would clear individual land titles by relinquishing and releasing all claims of state ownership interests, including mineral interests, in two local areas, namely: a roughly 4,600-acre area located roughly 14 miles southeast of Gilmer, Texas, and a separate 900-acre area located north of Tyler, Texas.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for the clearing of land titles by relinquishing and releasing any state claim to sovereign ownership or title to interest in certain land in Upshur County and in Smith County."

PROPOSITION 9 (HJR 79)

HJR 79 would authorize the Legislature to provide staggered six-year terms of office for board members serving on regional mobility authorities, with no more than one-third of the board positions being appointed every two years.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a six-year term for a board member of a regional mobility authority."

Secretary of State Roger Williams, www.sos.state.tx.us, 1.800.252.8683

Library News

Remember that the Friends of the Library are still taking donations of books, paperbacks, videos, music cassettes on compact disc and books on tape or CD.

We just do not have the space for National Geographic magazines or condensed books. The book sale is 10 a.m. until to 6 p.m. Oct. 7 and from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Oct. 8-9. We really have gotten quite a few books in along with books on tape and videos.

Marcia Muller is the author of the acclaimed series starring P.I. Sharon McCone. She has returned to North California where the Perdido River runs deep and cold to the Pacific.

It is a pristine wildlife and recreational area that brings tourists to the days of the Gold Rush. When threatened by a corporation who wants to import the crystal clear water to thirsty cities in southern California, the residents rise up to stop the juggernaut.

"Cape Perdido" is filled with skullduggery, lobbyists and environmental groups all with their own agenda. The story line is

reminiscent of the fight here in Texas over ownership of our underground aquifers and what will happen when they are drained dry. This is a good book, fast moving and exciting.

On a lighter note, Monica Ferris in "Crewel You," a needlework convention turns nasty when a thoroughly disliked needlework shop owner plunges to her death during convention.

Shop owner Betsy Devonshire first thinks that it was all a terrible accident, but soon finds out differently and of course she pulls all the "threads" together to solve the mystery.

We have Ferris's "Unraveled Sleeve," the first book in the series. Another favorite author is Margaret Maron and her Deborah Knott series.

In "Rituals of the Season," Judge Knott is about to marry Deputy Dwight Bryant when the festivities are interrupted by, you guessed it, murder.

Two excellent books on raising healthy girls and boys, or young women and men, are "Stressed-Out Girls: Helping Them Thrive," by Roni Cohen-Sandler and "Raising Boys Without Men," by Peggy Drexler.

Cohen-Sandler, a clinical psychologist, has written other timely, well-received titles about par-

enting adolescent girl. In this book she builds on her previous material that helps parents understand the unique, intense pressures their daughters face.

After introducing common sources for contemporary girls' anxiety, Cohen-Sandler defines the characteristics of perfectionists and other profiles of girls at risk.

Final sections include a troubleshooting chapter that discusses therapy and when to change schools. Cohen-Sandler writes in clear, encouraging, straightforward language, and she effectively bolsters her points with anecdotes drawn from interviews with nearly 2,300 girls.

This is an eye-opening, up-to-the-minute resource for all adults who work with teen girls.

Drexler's book addresses the more than 10 million single mothers, problems in raising healthy, young men. Single or gay mothers, whom Drexler dubs "maverick moms" are "real" parents, in case anyone needed reminding.

The families they create are "as real and as legitimate as any other." The author, an assistant professor of psychology in psychiatry at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, bases her book on an extensive research study she conducted.

She interviewed a variety of lesbian mothers, single mothers, sons of single moms and sons of two-mother families. The results of her survey serve as a refreshing antidote to critics who insist that family life today is on the verge of being atomized.

In an upbeat but never preachy tone, Drexler retells anecdote after anecdote illustrating her point.

The book is mostly narrative in structure, with bulleted points at the end of each chapter explaining what "maverick moms" do that makes them successful parents — they encourage their sons to participate in a wide variety of activities; they actively recruit male figures from their families and the community to be in their sons' lives; they model the behavior they want their sons to emulate, and set examples of strength and compassion, etc.

This important work will serve as a beacon to the country's nearly 10 million single mothers. I was not able to read the two books reviewed for the column, these reviews are from Booklist, a book review magazine.

This is a book that I put on my "list" to read: "Stealing God's Thunder: Benjamin Franklin's Lightning Rod and the Invention of America," by Philip Dray. I have not

read it yet and I found this review in Publisher's Weekly.

Ben Franklin's invention of the lightning rod and his revelation of the mysterious workings of lightning and thunder made him one of the foremost scientists of his day.

As Dray points out, Franklin made his reputation as a scientist long before he established himself as a statesman.

He began his experiments with electricity in the mid-18th century and he wondered whether the properties of lightning were the same as those of electricity.

He established a rodlike device on a hill that attracted lightning from a passing thunderstorm and conducted the current away from houses and farms and into the ground.

In 1751, Franklin published a widely popular book on his observations of electricity, which won him admiration throughout Europe.

Dray observes that Franklin was the first to espouse an atomic theory of electricity, which he saw as an elemental force of nature contained in all objects.

The author provides both a masterful glimpse of this aspect of Franklin's work but also a captivating cultural history of Franklin's America. Excellent book.

The Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. until to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday.

The internet/video room closes one-half hour earlier and is closed from noon until 1 p.m. Saturdays.

The library is located at 500 S. Main St. The phone number is 264-2260.

The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. The catalog is online.

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.

Give the gift of life

Blood drive set for Friday

In an effort to stock hospital shelves with blood and assist United Blood Services centers in Louisiana and Mississippi, Big Spring's next blood drive will be hosted by Maranatha Baptist Academy from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday in the UBS bloodmobile at 903 Johnson St.

By giving blood, a donor helps replenish a community resource used by a neighbor, relative, friend or stranger.

The donation gives tomorrow's patient the same recovery opportunity as today's patient, because it assures that blood is on the hospital shelf when it's needed.

Only when a significant number of people donate on a regular basis can a community maintain adequate blood supplies. Blood must be available

at all times in sufficient amounts to meet the needs of our community and communities across the country.

United Blood Services is this area's non-profit community blood provider. The United Blood Services network is one of the nation's oldest and largest non-profit blood service organizations and is a founding member of America's Blood Centers and the AABB.

Potential donors may call 263-7696. Maranatha Baptist Academy to sign up for Friday's blood drive.

Or they may visit the blood mobile from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. to donate.

Volunteer blood donors must be at least 17, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health.

Museum Christmas tree gala postponed

Heritage Museum board of directors have postponed the Christmas Tree Gala fund-raiser that was set for November to allow greater focus on the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts and Operation Big Heart.

The fund-raiser will be rescheduled for 2006.

For more information, contact the museum at 267-8255.

St. Lawrence annual fall festival set

The 49th annual St.

Lawrence Fall festival is set for Oct. 2 at the St. Lawrence Church St. Thomas Mission, 10 miles south of Garden City.

Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Tickets for the luncheon, set for 10:30 a.m. through 2 p.m. are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

Authentic German sausage will be available for purchase for \$4.50 per pound after 10:30 a.m.

Various booths are scheduled to be available, including a silent auctions.

For more information, call Martha Schwartz at 432-397-2268.

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Guitar collector scores rare finds

By GEORGE ESTRADA
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE — Peter Blecha calls himself a rock 'n' roll archaeologist.

Blecha has traveled the globe acquiring the rarest, most historic, most innovative specimens ever made.

He has helped to assemble one of the world's most significant collections of historic guitars and other rock memorabilia, highlighted by more than 100 of the world's earliest and "first-ever" electric guitar specimens.

Now Blecha, the former chief curator at the Experience Music Project, is sharing his quest in "Rock & Roll Archaeologist: How I Chased Down Kurt's Stratocaster, the 'Layla' Guitar, and Janis's Boa," to be published in November by Seattle-based Sasquatch Books.

The memoir offers anecdotes about the high-rolling world of rock memorabilia auctions and the flea-market crawls that sometimes unearth historical wonders.

"I was in the right place at the right time," Blecha said of his eight-year dream gig at the rock museum co-founded by

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. "I was put in charge of telling the history of electric guitars."

Experts from around the world are impressed with Blecha's work.

"EMP indisputably has a phenomenal collection," said George Gruhn, an internationally known author, collector of vintage guitars and owner of Gruhn Guitars, Inc., based in Nashville, Tenn. "He put his heart and soul into it. He was very, very careful in his selection of instruments that showcased the evolution and history of the electric guitar."

While working for EMP, Blecha outbid two other well-heeled collectors in a 1999 Christie's auction for the brown 1956 Fender Stratocaster played by Eric Clapton in the anguished-laden Derek and the Dominoes version of "Layla." Blecha had to go to \$497,000, then a record for the most expensive guitar in history.

"It was exciting," Blecha said. "I was bidding in increments of \$100,000."

Ward Meeker, editor of Vintage Guitar magazine, said the record price has since soared. The modified black Stratocaster

that was Clapton's favorite in mid-career sold for \$950,000 after commission last year.

Blecha also found for EMP what was thought to be the world's first electric bass guitar — an Audiovox model made in Seattle in 1935 — at a local garage sale. It is now

on display at the EMP's gallery of historic guitars.

The inventor, Paul Tutmarc, was the first to envision an electrified stringed bass that was shorter, could be played horizontally, and had frets like a six-stringed guitar.

Blecha's 1995 discovery

shocked music historians who had credited the renowned Fender company with building the first electric bass in 1951.

"The discovery of this bass changed history," Blecha said. "Tutmarc clearly broke the mold."

Blecha has since found another Audiovox electric bass guitar that may predate the one on display at EMP. He bought it in an eBay auction from an antiques dealer in Eugene, Ore. It is painted a different color and has a brass logo plate on its peghead, similar to models that can be seen in the earliest photos of Tutmarc and his invention.

Chasing down the story of the Audiovox bass guitar has proven an intriguing challenge for Blecha.

"Tutmarc sold a few of them up here, but there are no known production figures," Blecha said. "And there is no known paperwork from the company."

Solving the Audiovox riddle is just a part of Blecha's lifelong mission to write the history of the Northwest's role in the evolution of rock 'n' roll. Before joining EMP, Blecha founded the Northwest Music

Archives and collected 20,000 pieces, spanning from the 1880s to grunge. Many of these pieces were later acquired by EMP.

Since leaving the museum in 2001, Blecha has started rebuilding his personal collection, and has acquired a couple of dozen previously undiscovered regionally made guitars and amplifiers, and 4,000 records featuring music from the Northwest.

Blecha's first book, "Taboo Tunes: A History of Banned Bands and Censored Songs," had a significant chunk of local history.

It includes a social history of "Louie, Louie," the raunchy early-1960s hit that had its origins in the Northwest.

Blecha's passion for all things rock 'n' roll began in the early 1970s, when he was growing up in Seattle and Olympia. He was primarily a drummer with a side interest in guitars but no particular allegiance to any one brand.

"I came into it as a non-partisan historian," Blecha said. "I just wanted to find guitars that represented significant steps in the evolution of design."



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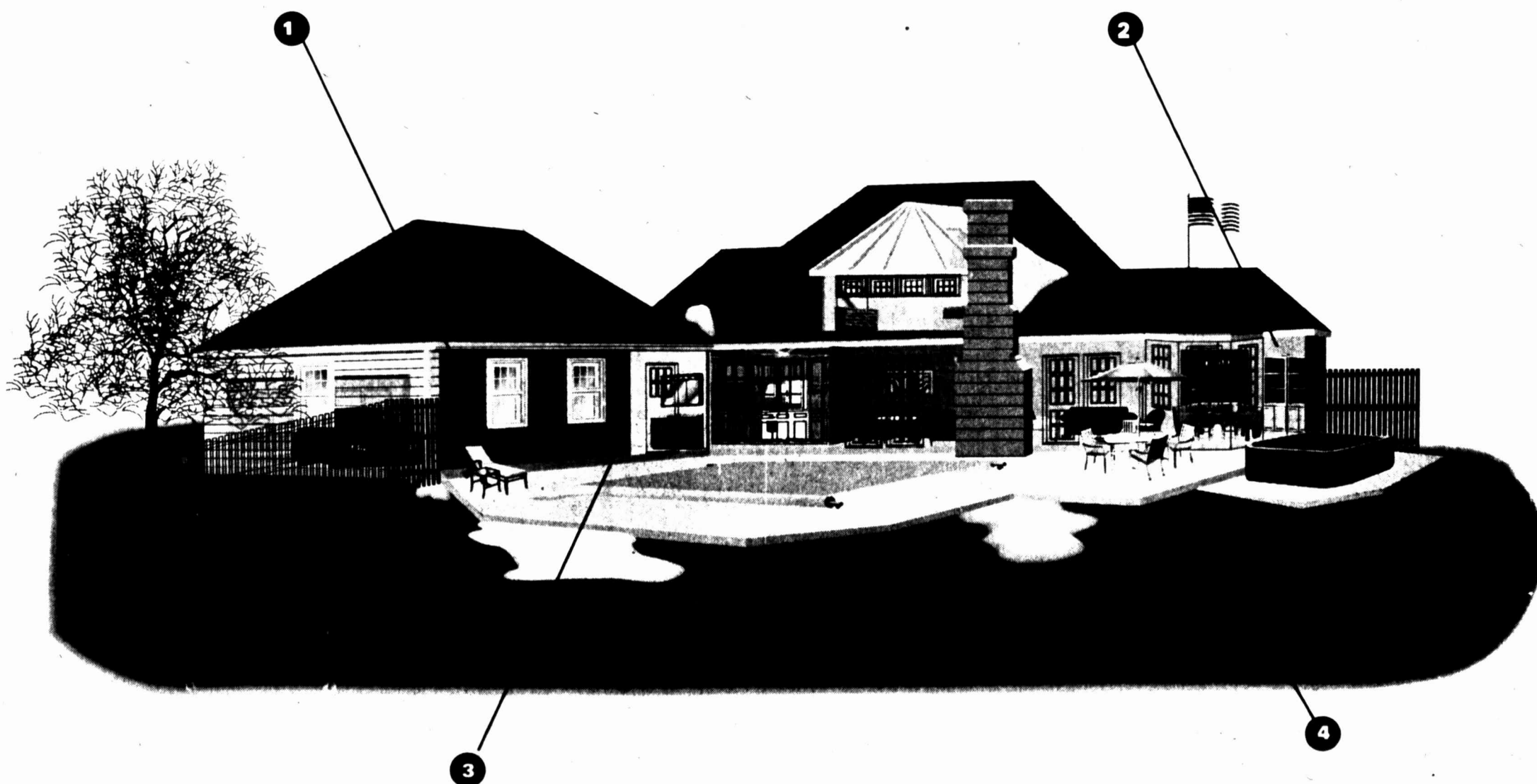
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Briefly

Webb reunion set

The Webb Air Force Base reunion is set for Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

Highlights of the reunion include a vintage car show, "War Story Telling Time," tours of Big Spring, an air show and golf.

Also, a Mexican Fiesta dinner and casino night and a reunion dinner and dance are scheduled.

Call 264-1999 for more information.

BSHS class of 1985 seeks classmates

The Big Spring High School class of 1985 committee for the 20-year reunion is searching for these classmates. Contact co-organizers Dana Kohl Rodriguez at drodriguez@wfisd.net or call 940-733-6789 or Sheila Kuykendall Shanks at sashanks@apex2000.net or call 432-349-7527. The reunion is Friday and Saturday.

Lucy Alvarado-Eason, Martin Anguiano, Sherry Bailey, Jamie Bartley, Charles Boland, Clint Bollier, James Carrillo, Iris Cervantes, Bruno Chavarria and Grace Chavez-Duncan.

Fred Cole, Travis Crockett, Rhonda Davila, Don DeFlitch, Gregg DeKeyser, Toby Dupre, Sherry English, Ernestina Espinoza, Scott Evans and Thomas Fauver.

Martha Flores, Irene Garcia, Margie Garcia, Maria Rosie Garcia, Cindy Garcia-Ramos, Rita Gillis, Hector Granados, Juan Griego, Robyn Groves and Mark Anthony Gutierrez.

Jamie Hernandez, Nancy Hernandez, Kenneth Hewett, Arthur Hilario, William Hogan, Mike Howie, Catherine Jones, Marianne Jorgensen, Joe Lomas and Tammy Lucas.

Vera Mathews, Curtis McCain, Verna McVea, Rose Meier, Robert Mendoza, Manuela Montez, Greg Nelson, Gloria Olivas, Humberto Olivas, Anita Osburne and Teri Pace.

Steve Phillips, Cynthia Puente, Martin Ramirez, Ty Rangel, Mark Read, Jeff Reed, Terri Reyes-Salazar, Juan Rodriguez, Luis (Domingo) Rodriguez Jr., and Isidro Rodriguez.

Rebecca Ross, Billy Russell, Robyn Sanders-Riggs, Teresa Schmidt, Veronica Smith, Yvette Smith, Yvonne Smith and Teresa Smith.

John Tubbs, Margaret Vanderbilt, Modesta West-Valencia, Kenneth Whitehead, Aron Williams, John Woodall and Terri Yanez.

BSHS classes of 1920-1930 coffee set

Big Spring High School 1920-1930 graduates are invited to a homecoming reunion coffee at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Heritage Museum. Call Ruth Gilliam Robinson at 267-6876.

The BSHS Class of 1935 included Inell Curtis, Ehtel Lomax, Doris Shuttlesworth, Helen Thompson, Elizabeth McCrary, Bertha Wray, Dorothy Maxwell, Elmo Phillips, Emma Joe Reidock, Dorman Kinard, William Cochran, Don Anderson, Wanda Owen, Ethel McNew, Bill Thomas, Willie May Witte, Eugene Peters and Jewel Cates.

Also Margaret Smith, Oleta Sliger, Oleta Ward, Juanita Sliger, Jack Courson, Bobby Mills, James Jones, Hal Woodward, J.D. Cauble,

Louise Davis, Christine Brown, Dorothy Coleman, Bob Flowers, Geraldine McClendon, Jane Thompson, Mary Lindley, Winona Prescott, Lula Ashley and James Winslow.

And Jack Proctor, Louise Squyres, Altus Phillips, Quintan Martin, Robert Hafley, Morlan

Smith and J.W. Jackson, M. Simmons, Dorothy Koover, Fay Yates, Robert Anderson, Oecal Nabors, Hazel Stephens, Mary Pond, Roberta Hanson, Edna Stroughon, Junia Johnson, Fern Smith and Ambros Fitzgerald.

And Addie Brown, Radford Yates, Maralee Hull, Caroline

McCleskey, Ruth Gilliam, Wayne Burch, Jimmie Felton, Beatrice Health, Mary Holmes, Gladys Phillips, Jack Gulley, Melvin Legge, Bobbie Gordon, Chloe Stuteville, Edward Stagg, R.J. Michael, James Vines, William Edwards and John Compton.

Also George Neel, Fred

Savage, J.R. Dillard, Agnes Bugg, Richard Gibson, J.C. Douglass and Nancy Lockridge.

Lamesa Players set performance

The Lamesa Community Player's next production will be one of the all-time favorites,

"Arsenic and Old Lace." Production dates are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Lamesa Community Playhouse, 214 N. Austin Ave. in Lamesa.

The director is Virginia Leonard. Reservations can be made by calling 806-872-2705. Tickets are \$7.



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Big Spring's Wrightsil earns conference honor

Special to the Herald
PULASKI, Tenn. — A Texas star is shining bright in middle Tennessee.

LaKenya (Kim) Wrightsil, a 5-8 outside hitter for the Martin Methodist College RedHawks volleyball program, is stepping up and taking the lead as a first-year player for MMC. Wrightsil, a native of Big Spring, is emerging as the offensive leader for the NAIA team coached by another Big Spring native, Rose Magers-Powell.

"It's been a joy to have Kim be a part of our program, especially with her being from my home town and having the

opportunity to have watched her grow," said Magers-Powell.

Wrightsil added, "It's such an honor to play for Rose, being from the same hometown, knowing about her my whole life, and playing in the same gym that she played in ... it's definitely an honor."

The RedHawks opened their 2005 season last week with a 4-1 record, defeating a challenging TranSouth Athletic Conference opponent in Cumberland University to open the week, and then taking three victories against tough competition in their annual MMC Volleyball Tournament over the weekend. Their one loss came to the No. 25 team in NAIA, Indiana

University Southeast, in a hard-fought, five-game match.

Wrightsil led the way in all of the matches, averaging 5.41 kills per game and only 0.18 errors per game stat line, along with a kill percentage of .509, which earned her the weekly honor of TranSouth Conference Player of the Week Monday.

"It's a great honor," said Wrightsil, "but it would have been better to have won that last match and win the award."

Magers-Powell also agrees the honor is big.

"To see her in action this week with such confidence, skill and ability was wonderful. Plus, making player of the

week is a huge honor for her, and for me also," said Magers-Powell with a genuine excitement of sharing her hometown with one of her players.

Wrightsil came to MMC this fall from Texas Southern University and became an immediate starter for the RedHawks.

"I came in a little down. I knew that I'd be able to play like this, but I actually shocked myself when I came out against Cumberland," said Wrightsil, who had 24 kills and 11 digs in her RedHawks debut Sept. 6.

Wrightsil credits a good deal of her success this week to her setter, Sofia Zuluaga, who also earned TranSouth honors, as being named the Setter of

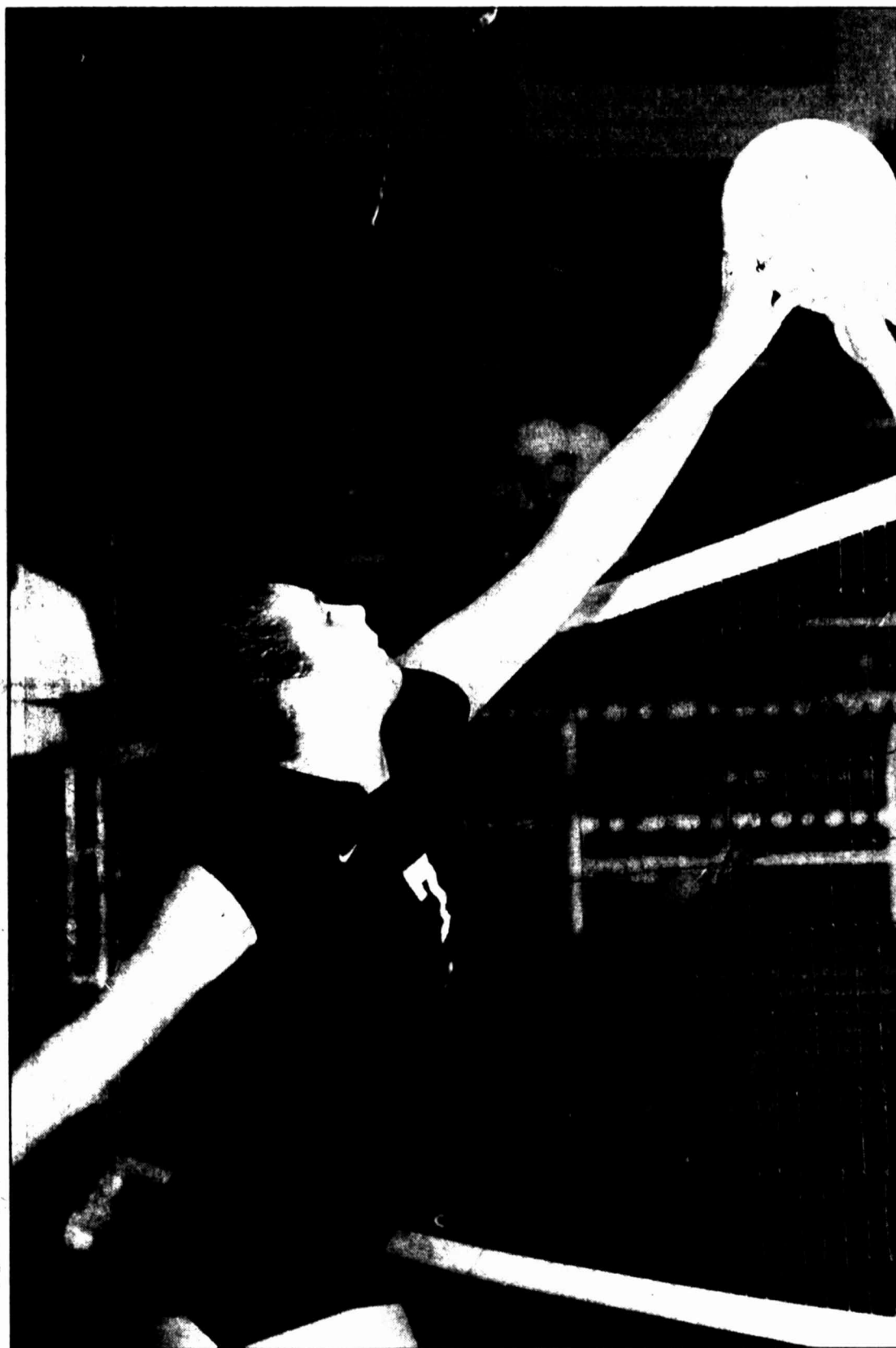
the Week Monday.

"She's definitely the best setter I've ever hit from," said Wrightsil. "I have the easy part. She hits her spots great and is a threat because at 6-3, she can set or attack."

Wrightsil looks forward to the season to really get underway.

"My teammates and I all think that we have a very good chance of being one of the great NAIA volleyball teams this year. Our eyes are set on nationals, but we know we must take it one game at a time," she said.

The RedHawks will play Freed-Hardeman University Thursday at 7 p.m. Freed-Hardeman is another conference foe from Tennessee.



Big Spring senior Brenn Swinney goes up for the block against a hitter from Lubbock Coronado during the Lady Steers' three-game loss to the Lady Mustangs. Swinney had seven kills in the match.

Lubbock Coronado tops B.S. in three, big battle looming

• Lady Steers take 8-15 record into District 4-4A play Saturday

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Last year's Class 5A state finalist Lubbock Coronado visited Big Spring last night and took down the Lady Steers' volleyball team in three games.

Big Spring, which fell to 8-15 on the year, started off slow in the match, losing 25-12 in Game 1, but battled through the final two games and nearly pushed the match to four games. They lost Game 2 25-19 and were defeated in Game 3 25-22.

"I think we played well despite what the score may look like," said Big Spring head coach Jason McAden.

"Lubbock Coronado is just stinking good."

The Lady Steers came out a bit flat in the opening game and never really got anything going offensively. They got down 8-1 early, but really beat themselves on most of those points.

"We made too many mistakes in the first game," said McAden. "They had eight points on us before they recorded a single kill."

They cut the lead to 8-4, but then were stuck on

six for awhile. It was 10-6 at one point and then quickly got out of hand after that. Lubbock Coronado pushed its advantage to 22-6 and then 19-12 before scoring the last six points of the game.

"We tried to hit around their blocks too much and I think we should have tried to hit through them more," said McAden.

Big Spring started the second game off with a service error, but quickly got back into the game after a service error by Lubbock Coronado and a combo block by senior Brenn Swinney and sophomore Amanda Caskey. Freshman Shelbi Stewart tied the game at 5-5 with another block, but a hitting error right after that put the Lady Mustangs back in front.

A few points later, the Lady Steers took their first lead of the match. Senior Raegan Ritchey smashed home a kill to give Big Spring the 8-7 advantage. She later put her team up 10-9 with another kill and then gave Big Spring a 12-10 lead with the help of Swinney on a block.

Big Spring eventually got up 16-13 before Lubbock Coronado took over the game.

The Lady Mustangs tied

See VOLLEYBALL Page 2B

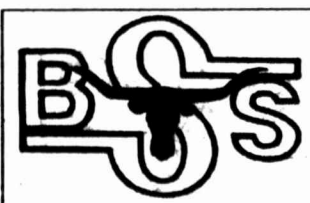
Big Spring seventh-grade grabs second at host tournament

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Big Spring junior high volleyball teams took part in its host tournament this past weekend and each team gave great efforts with the eighth-grade team finishing fourth and the seventh-grade team taking the consolation.

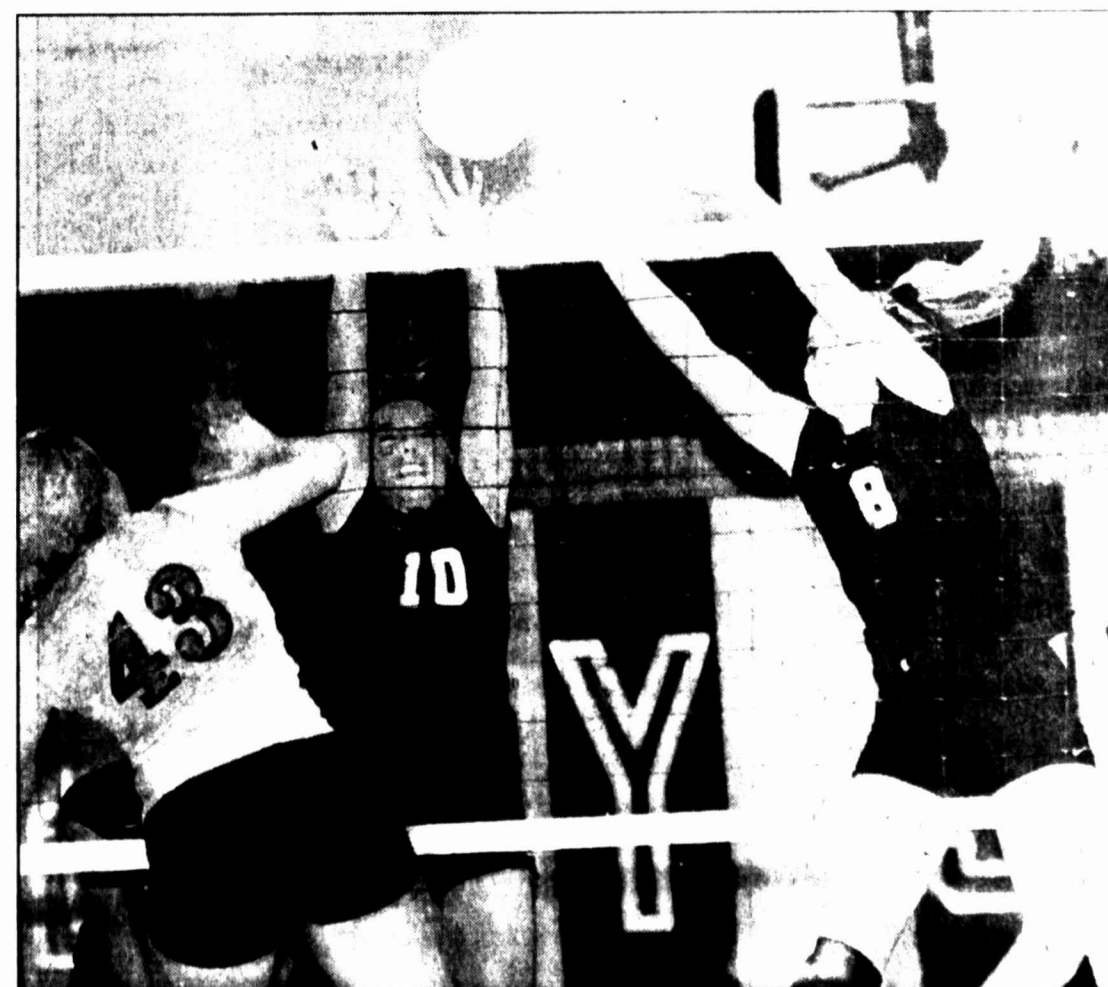
The eighth-grade team opened the tournament with a win over Greenwood in two games 25-23 and 25-21 and then lost to Snyder in two games before falling to Lamesa in the third place game.

The seventh-grade team opened with a loss to Sterling City. The Lady Steers lost in



three games. They followed that up with a three game win against rival Andrews. Big Spring battled Snyder in the consolation and won that match in three games.

Monahans took the championship in both the seventh- and eighth-grade divisions. Sterling City won seventh-grade third place and Lamesa won eighth-grade third place. Sweetwater won eighth-grade consolation.



Big Spring junior Mallory Dunn, center, and senior Raegan Ritchey, right, each try to get their hands in on a block during action at the Steer Gym Tuesday. The Lady Steers begin District 4-4A play Saturday in San Angelo against the Maidens of Lake View.

VOLLEYBALL

Continued from Page 1B

the game at 16-16 and 17-17 before pulling away late. They scored the final five points of the game and won 25-19.

"Our middle blockers and middle backs played phenomenal defense tonight," said McAden. "I was really happy with the way Raegan, Shelbi and Katy (Abner) played."



STEWART

"Everything we do goes through our middles at some point."

The third game was much like the second game for Big Spring. The game was close throughout and Big Spring found a lead as well.



MCADEN

The Lady Steers got down early, but following a Mallory Dunn tap shot, Swinney recorded two straight points on a kill and a block. Another kill by Swinney cut the Big Spring deficit to 7-6. Then, another Dunn point and a Lubbock Coronado error gave the Lady Steers their first lead at 8-7.



ABNER

Big Spring continued to hold the lead through much of the middle part

of Game 3. Ritchey came through with two straight kills for Big Spring and both shots put the Lady Steers up two (12-10 and 13-11). Then her third straight attack shot pushed the Big Spring lead to three at 15-12.

Stewart then got into the action with back-to-back kills and Big Spring led 17-13 before eventually pulling ahead 19-13.

"We learned tonight that we can make mistakes and still be in games," said McAden. "We used to think about our mistakes several points later but we are starting to forget about them now."

A Lubbock Coronado timeout allowed the Lady Mustangs to regroup and get back on track. Following the break, they rolled off four straight points and got within 19-17 before a Swinney kill pushed the lead back to three for Big Spring.

"The girls are starting to learn to play every ball regardless of the team we play," said McAden.

The final point of the match for the Lady Steers was scored on a kill by Ritchey. That point put Big Spring up 22-19, but another timeout by Lubbock Coronado proved to again be beneficial as the Lady Mustangs scored the final six points of the game and won 25-19.

Ritchey led the team with 16 kills, 11 digs and six blocks, while Lewis and Swinney added seven kills each. Lewis also added three blocks. Abner came away with a team-high 16 digs.

"I felt like Katy did an excellent job on defense last night," said McAden. "She played like a true



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring senior Carmen Lewis bumps the ball over the net against Lubbock Coronado Tuesday at the Steer Gym. The Lady Steers lost the match in three games. They begin District 4-4A play Saturday in San Angelo against Lake View, last year's champion.

libero and it was exciting to watch her."

After fielding a "Class 5A non-district schedule," McAden feels comfortable about his team heading into District 4-4A play Saturday on the road against defending champion Lake View.

"We have already played them once and they beat us, but we played terrible and they have nothing to really

scout us on," said McAden. "The only thing that scares me is the fact that it is homecoming. We don't practice Friday afternoon and the girls will be out until 1 a.m. at the dance. I don't want to take that memory away from them and I have every bit of confidence they will take care of business despite it being a little bit of a distraction."

H.S. participation still tops in Texas

• California, New York continue cutting into state's large lead

By STEVE HERMAN

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — California and New York continued cutting into Texas' huge lead, and Michigan moved ahead of Illinois and Ohio in the number of high school students participating in sports.

Total student participation for all 50 states and the District of Columbia, meanwhile, rose 1.6 percent from 2003-04 to a record 7 million in 2004-05, according to an annual survey by the National Federation of State High School Associations. It was the 16th straight year the NFHS reported an increase in the number of high school athletes.

"The fact the numbers continue to rise confirm to us the interest in school-based athletic programs is still there," NFHS spokesman Bruce Howard said Tuesday. "Certainly, there are some emerging sports that help that, such as bowling and lacrosse. A lot of the routine major sports continue to be pretty steady year to year."

Texas, with 740,052 participants, is still the national leader but has dropped more than 39,000 since 2000-01, including almost 15,000 in just the past year, according to the NFHS figures. California remains second, with an increase of

almost 26,000 to 678,019, and New York is still third at 350,349, an increase of almost 14,000.

Michigan's increase from 302,648 to 311,814 moved it from sixth to fourth. Illinois fell to fifth, Ohio dropped to sixth and Pennsylvania remained seventh. The only other position change among the top 10 states was by Minnesota, which moved ahead of New Jersey into eighth. Florida again was 10th.

Football again had the most participants and the largest increase among all boys' sports. Basketball remained the leading sport for girls, but track and field showed the biggest gain. In terms of percentage increases, bowling and lacrosse had the biggest gains for both boys and girls.

Another emerging sport, mainly in California, Maine and Vermont, is snowboarding.

Total participation for boys was 4.1 million, including just over 1 million in football and about 545,000 in basketball. The total for girls was a record 2.9 million, including some 456,000 in basketball and about 428,000 in outdoor track and field.

The Indianapolis-based NFHS represents about 18,000 U.S. high schools and some 13 million students. The participation survey is based on figures supplied by each member state association.

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Qualifications:

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Mail resume or come by 1011 W. Washington Ave. Midland, Tx 79701 or email to kim@aprotex.com.

MINIMAL PHYSICAL LABOR! Truckdrivers needed. Must be able to travel. No need to relocate. Two years truckdriving experience required. Class A CDL and good driving record a must. Call 1-800-588-2669 Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm.

NOW HIRING mental health aide for assisted living facility. Call Amanda at (432)263-2559 between 8am and 4pm for details.

OPENING FOR one hair stylist at The Ladybug. Call (432)267-6509 or come by 2112 Scurry.

WANTED 29 Serious people to work from home using a computer. \$500 to \$5,000.00 PT/FT. www.earnathomebiz.com

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2401 South Gregg
No Phone Calls

CITY OF Big Spring is accepting applications for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic through October 12, 2005. Testing will be on Saturday October 15, 2005. Applications may be obtained at City Hall (432-264-2346) 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or from website: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us The City of Big Spring is EOE.

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Just makes stretch cosmic and gracef own instan- once and fe provid oppor for fortun Don't afraid return past situati and it w new more appro ARI 19). I who v we'd drinki gasoli vitam meet partne comes moder TAU 20). S spend

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

Just as seeing a ballet makes one want to leap, stretch and spin, the cosmic dance of the sun and Mars inspires graceful action in our own lives. The very instances in which you once failed and fell will provide the opportunity for good fortune. Don't be afraid to return to a past situation and rectify it with a new and more honest approach.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Twenty years ago, who would have thought we'd pay more for drinking water than gasoline, eat cookies with vitamins in them and meet potential marriage partners online? Luck comes in the form of a modern convenience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Some celebrities are spending thousands of

dollars to get their force fields balanced. Meanwhile, you quite naturally send out just the vibrations that draw all you need right to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'd love for the whole world to hear your voice. In contrast, some people are embarrassed to hear the sound of their heels clicking on the floor. Be a friend to those who could use a little social acknowledgement and nurturing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Though more practical issues press, it's the matters of style that get your attention. You're drawn to quality, but your money is wasted if it has no flavor. Call in the help of an eclectic Aquarius or Libra.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can rise above a rut with a little ingenuity and a few connections. Opportunity meets you for lunch. Don't let it pay! Show you are interested and willing to go the extra mile by taking responsibility for the tab.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). You'll find yourself in the midst of a favorable financial circumstance. It's a chance to build up your mad stash of cash. You do this more easily when you're working toward a purchase.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're thinking, "There must be more than this!" There is, but you have to ask for it. Don't be too shy to request special treatment, ask for the discount rate and demand the premium goods.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Journey to where you don't know your way around. Find a beautiful place to get lost. Then take the time to sit back and think about what you've seen. This can be done in half an hour, so don't say you have to work instead!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is no known antidote to the travel bug, so you're dealing with a lifetime affliction. If you're not away from home now, then in the back of your mind, you're planning

your next getaway. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's no surer way to find out how you really feel about someone than to go into business together. Even the most minor arrangements, a joint purchase, for instance, will be very telling.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a challenge to come to an agreement with someone who is from a very different background than you are. Start by talking about what you have in common — more than you think. After all, the sky is blue everywhere.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Investments show great potential, but you can't eat potential. Ask for all the tangible evidence you can get. Your best luck involves money you earned in a way that makes you happy.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My husband and I have been together for 26 years. We have so much in common from the birthmark on

our right pinky to the music we like. Could it be that both of our horoscope signs have a lot to do with water? He's a Pisces, and I'm an Aquarius. It seems to me that it wouldn't make sense for a person who is a Leo to be with a person who is a Cancer. Where would they build their relationship? One lives in the water, and the other lives on land."

People assume that Aquarius is a water sign because the name has the word "aqua" in it. But Aquarius is actually an air sign. The name means "water bearer," and Aquarius is a person who brings water back to the village — an altruist and life-giver. Pisces and Aquarius are a beautiful match though, sharing many of the same ideals. Pisces is compassionate, and Aquarius is a giver. It's a very agreeable match. But Leo and Cancer can be a good match, too. Though people of the same element have much in common, people from

different elements have much to teach each other. Both can work, but it's how they work that varies.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: "American Idol 2" winner Ruben Studdard sings gospel and soul to sold out shows this year, but he and other Virgos born in 1978 must clear up past business in order to see due profits. A few legal issues have cropped up along Studdard's career path in the past few years. Attracting trustworthy people and weeding out the rest are skills that Virgos can master in order to conduct lucrative business.

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. Twww.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a 68-year-old widow, and I care very much for a 68-year-old divorced gentleman. We don't want to get married because it would upset our families, and there also are financial considerations against it.

"Dennis" and I both feel a strong sexual need for each other, but his religious beliefs say it is morally wrong to have sex outside of marriage. I'm a Christian, but I personally don't believe it is wrong, as long as our behavior is not hurting anyone.

I could do without the sex if I had his affection. However, he is incapable of showing affection without it leading to sex, so he wants us just to be

good friends. I don't think I can be just friends. I need to be held and loved. I am very unhappy, yet I think I'd be even more unhappy if I were to give up contact with him.

Is there any answer? — Lonely and Frustrated

Dear Lonely: If you push Dennis into a sexual relationship, he may feel regretful and resent you for it. Since he is unwilling to express affection without sex, you are at an impasse. If you truly do not wish to marry, you will have to consider Dennis a good friend and look for the affection you crave elsewhere. Sorry.

Dear Annie: I married a wonderful woman with two teenage children. Let me start off by saying

they are both very smart, good students and have never had problems with drugs, alcohol or the law. I love them like they were my own. The problem is their ability to listen.

When asked to do something, neither of these children seems able to complete the task, or do it correctly. Dishes, chores, homework, you name it, it's a neverending fight to get things done. I retired



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

from the Army and am used to having people do what I tell them. My wife, however, believes that as long as something gets done, it doesn't matter when or how well.

We fight constantly over this. My wife is even

talking about separating. My younger stepson tells her I don't love him, and that he hates being at home when I am here because I am always riding him about stuff. I admit it, I do, because at

age 14 he can't be counted on to do his homework or even feed his dog. He can spend hours on the computer, and when asked to do anything, it takes four or five requests to get him to comply.

My daughter is coming to live with us this summer, and my wife is afraid it will create an even wider rift. We have been to counseling in the past. I am willing to go again. Tell me what to do. — A Stepfather in Trouble

Dear Stepfather: Discipline issues in stepfamilies must be worked out carefully. Your military attitude was fine for the Army, but it isn't working here. You need to be more

flexible, and you and Mom must be on the same page. Go back for counseling with someone who deals with blended families. Also, you can find useful information at the Stepfamily Association of America (saafamilies.org), 1-800-735-0329.

Dear Annie: You made my day! Your reply to "John" about men wearing skirts was very much on target. It is almost certainly a passing fad. As a Scottish Rite Mason and a charter member of The Order of the Thistle of the Knights of Saint Andrew, I wear a kilt that is subdued McDonald in design.

By the way, we do not use the term "going commando." If you see a man wearing a kilt and have to know whether or not he is wearing his unmentionables, just ask him if he is "regimental." Being regimental means he is not wearing anything between what you can see and what you can't. — Gerard in Guam

Dear Gerard: You made our day, too. We always wondered about those kilts.

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

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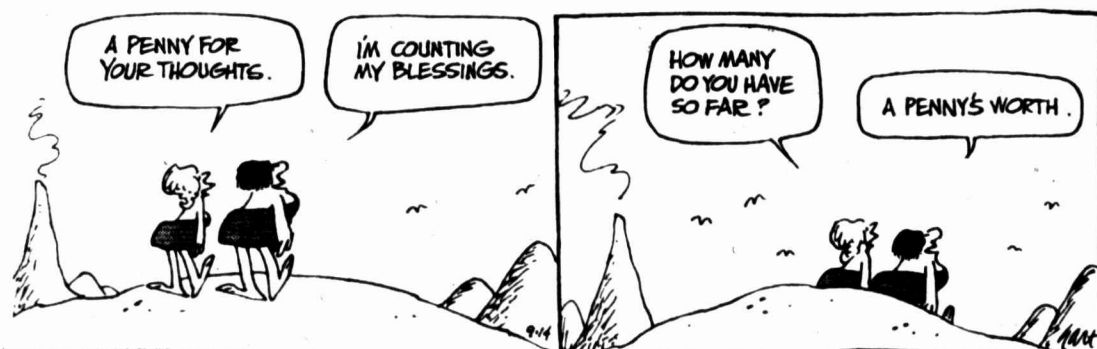
WEDNESDAY

	WFAA(2)	KMD(3)	UNI(4)	KPEJ(5)	KOSA(7)	KYLE(8)	KWES(9)	WTBS(11)	KMLM(12)	KOCV(13)	DISC(20)	AMC(21)	SPICE(22)	TNT(23)	BET(24)	DISN(27)	ESPN2(28)	ESPN(29)	SCFI(30)
6	News (CC)	News (CC)	Innocent de Ti	My Wife-Kids	News (CC)	Ent. Tonight	News (CC)	Sam Peak	News-Lahor	American	Discovery	Classics	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live Music	Disney	With Smith	MLB Baseball	Sci-Fi
7	George Lopez	George Lopez	Contro Viento	You Can	Sneak Peak	El Cuerpo del	Outingous	Update/anal	Roadshow FYI	MythBusters	MythBusters	Movie: Two	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	The Parkers	Movie: Inspector	WWSA	Announced	Ghost Hunters
8	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	La Espozos	Head Cases	Rock: INGS	Los Plateados	Law & Order	Light of the	American	MythBusters	MythBusters	Movie: The	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Girlfriends	Gadget 2	Final Game 1	Announced	Ghost Hunters
9	News (CC)	News (CC)	Don Francisco	My Wife-Kids	CSE NY	El Principe	Law & Order	Sex and City	Visions	Top Gear	Top Gear	15 Movie: When	Most Amazing	Movie: The	Classic	Phil of Future	MLB Baseball	Announced	Ghost Hunters
10	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias	News Tonight	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	MythBusters	MythBusters	15 Movie: Met	Most Amazing	Movie: The	Nightly News	Tha's-Raven	Announced	Announced	Ghost Hunters
11	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora	Becker (CC)	Letterman	La Late	Al Rojo Vivo	Booker	Sign Off	MythBusters	MythBusters	15 Movie: At	Most Amazing	Movie: The	BET's Top 10	Phil of Future	ESPN Holly	SportsCenter	Twilight Zone
12	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Amigos y	Becker (CC)	Show The Insider	King of the Hill	Conan O'Brien	Men (CC)	Update/anal	Top Gear	Top Gear	15 Movie: Blind	Most Amazing	Movie: The	Classic	Lizzie McGuire	ESPN Holly	SportsCenter	Twilight Zone

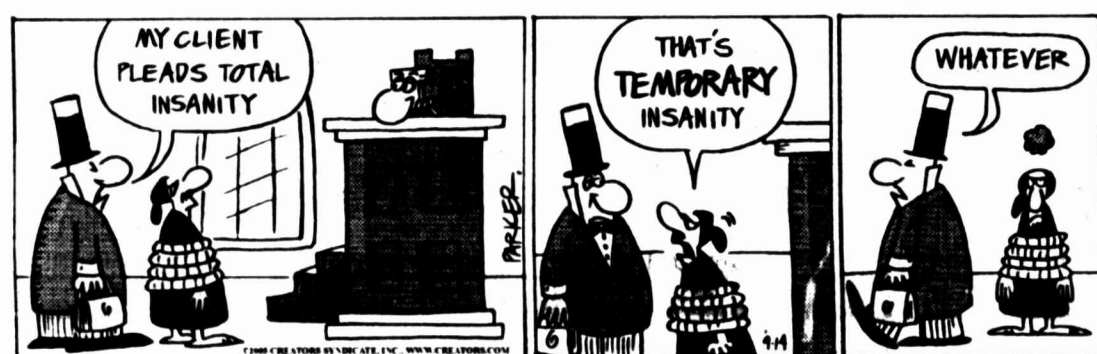
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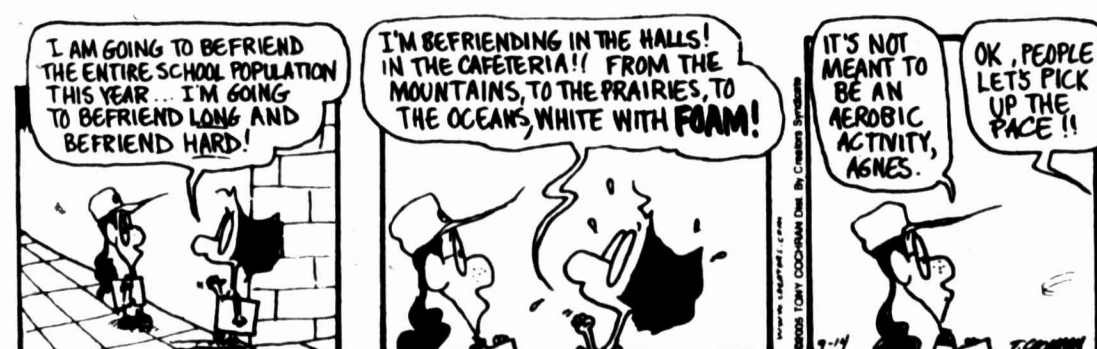
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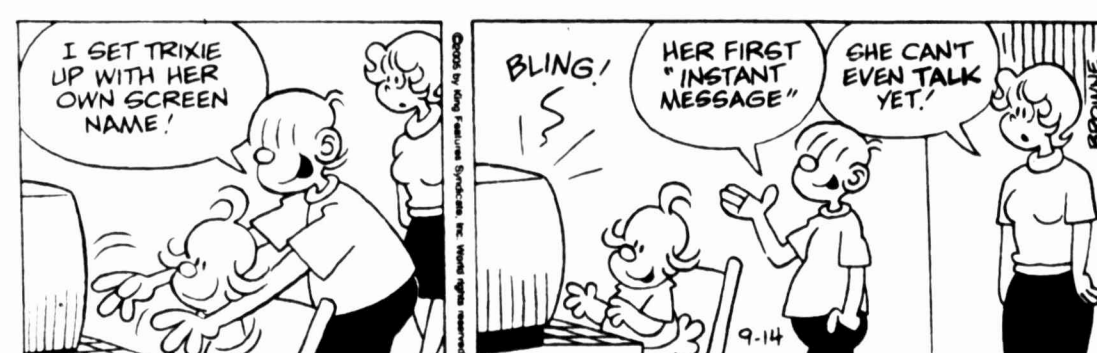
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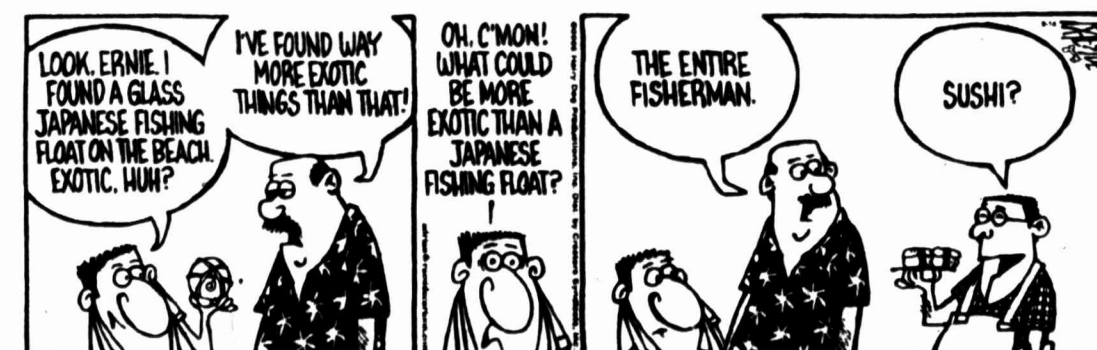
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THE OTHER COAST



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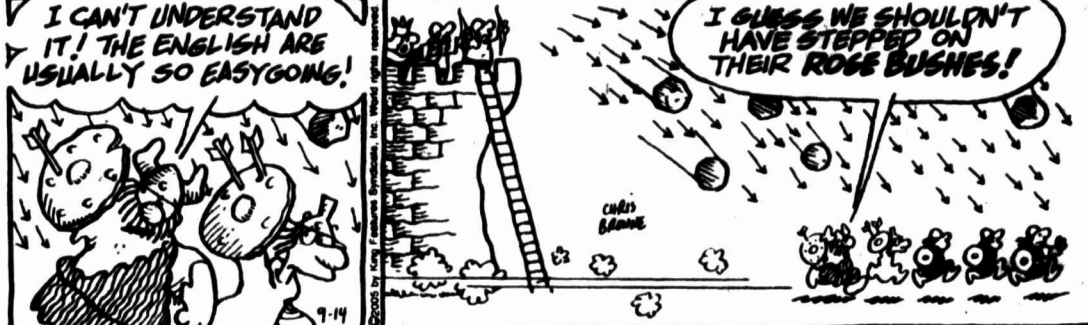
BEETLE BAILEY



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 14, the 257th day of 2005. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote his poem "The Star-Spangled Banner" after witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry in Maryland during the War of 1812.

On this date: In 1901, President McKinley died in Buffalo, N.Y., of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice, France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of her sports car.

In 1940, Congress passed the Selective Service Act, providing for the first peacetime draft in U.S. history.

In 1959, the Soviet space probe Luna 2 became the first manmade object to

reach the moon as it crashed onto the lunar surface.

In 1975, Pope Paul VI declared Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton the first U.S.-born saint.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly actress Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before.

In 1982, Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel, was killed by a bomb.

In 1985, Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon released the Rev. Benjamin Weir after holding him captive for 16 months.

One year ago: President Bush told veterans in Las Vegas he was proud of his time in the Texas Air National Guard as he sought to deflect questions about his Vietnam-era service.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zoe Caldwell is 72. Actor Harve Presnell is 72. Feminist author Kate Millet is 71. Actor Walter Koenig is 69. Actor Nicol Williamson is 67. Singer-actress Joey Heatherton is 61. Singer Jon "Bowser" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 58. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 50. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen

Chapman is 49. Actress Mary Crosby is 46. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 46. Country singer John Berry is 46. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 35. Actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 34. Rapper Nas is 32. Actor Adam Lamberg is 21.

Thought for Today: "America has been called a melting pot, but it seems better to call it a mosaic, for in it each nation, people or race which has come to its shores has been privileged to keep its individuality, contributing at the same time its share to the unified pattern of a new nation." - King Baudouin I of Belgium (1930-1993).

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Answer to previous puzzle

MASC	PAINTY	LOCO
ACME	BACON	OVEN
STICKS	SHIP	GENE
SETIN	SEA	DANTS
DELIS	RISER	
FED	RECITAL	
LIMBER	UP	MOTIVE
ODOR	VERDIT	HMOS
SERAPE	ORNAMENT	
TANNER	SOX	
CADED	RIELE	
PATHS	DOAN	OLIVE
OLEO	MATCHMAK	
MENU	INTRO	TERR
POST	ASVET	USTS

Newsday Crossword

ECONOMY SIZE by Daniel R. Stark

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

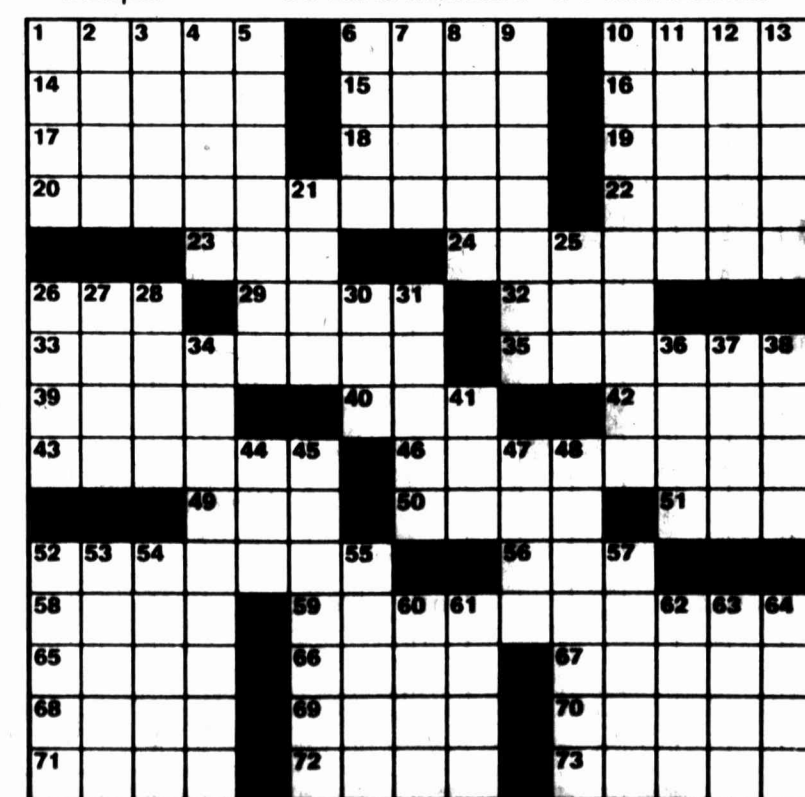
- 1 "Time is money," e.g.
6 She preceded Mamie
10 Kid around
14 Fit for a king
15 Mandolin cousin
16 A law ___ itself
17 Romance, in Rome
18 Face-to-face exam
19 Bearing
20 Fairy-tale menace
22 Sternum or clavicle
23 Out ___ limb
24 Dressing gowns
26 Night flier
29 Vegetable-oil spread
32 Took a load off
33 Headway
35 Usher in
39 Garr or Hatcher
40 Bro or sis
42 Popular cookie
43 Creeps furtively
46 Simplicity
49 After taxes
50 Ballgame spoiler
51 Had a meal
52 Miss Saigon's homeland
56 Mao ___tung
58 Addition column
59 Eye-friendly, as books
65 Rudely abrupt

DOWN

- 66 Sandusky's lake
67 Tennessee ___ Ford
68 Moffo solo
69 Housecat's perch
70 Prepares beef, perhaps
71 Bold look
72 Sandals' lack
73 Take out to dinner
7 Multi-nation currency
8 Rhubarb unit
9 Egocentric
10 Stadium video screen
11 Pizza topping
12 Trial figure
13 Makes sharp
21 Broad valley
25 Ginnie or Fannie follower
26 Withdraws, with "out"
27 Brown songbird
28 Traditional knowledge
30 Hairpin curve
31 Willow shoot
34 Arcturus or Aldebaran
36 Land measure

37 In case

- 38 Two tablets, maybe
41 Meadow murmur
44 Purview
45 Least fresh
47 Venue
48 Look over
52 Not shy
53 Get acclimated
54 Like a haunted house
55 Hockey great Lemieux
57 Bad move
60 Tick off
61 Some toothpastes
62 Regarding
63 Foch or Ricci
64 Trial balloon



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We offer a competitive salary and benefits (health, dental & life insurance, vacation avail). EOE. Fax cover letter & resume, with salary history to: (432)586-9321, mail to Administrator, KERMIT HEALTH CARE CENTER, 2000 East School St., Kermit, TX 79745.

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- * Mitchell County Hospital is taking applications for RNs on the med surge floor, one night position and one-day position. Twelve hour shifts.
- * Wallace Medical Prison Unit is taking applications for a Medical Records Clerk.

- * These are full-time positions with benefits and competitive pay. Pick up an application at Mitchell County Hospital at 997 West I-20. See Human Resources Director or call 325-728-3431, extension 7105. You may send verification to Mitchell County Hospital at the above address.

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Racism in the Islamic World

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

What are the facts?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Facts and Logic About the Middle East
P.O. Box 580359 ■ San Francisco, CA 94159
Gerardo Joffe, President

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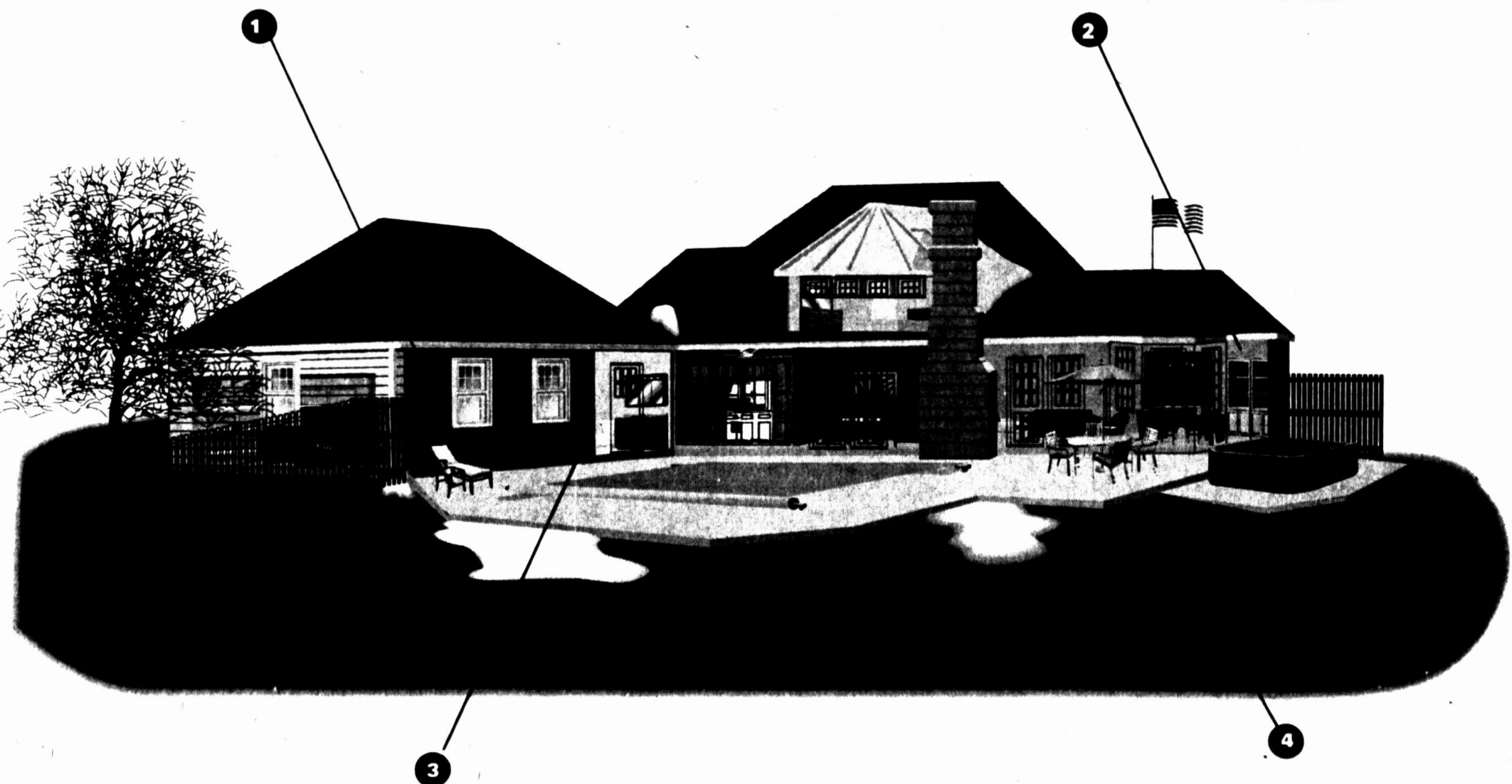
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Real Estate for Rent

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