

Forsan ISD enrollment up; Coahoma's slightly lower

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Enrollment figures are coming as a pleasant surprise to Forsan public school officials, although the same can't be said for Coahoma schools.

As of Aug. 31, Forsan ISD had 708 students enrolled district-wide, an increase of more than 50 from the same date a year ago, Superintendent Randy Johnson said.

Coahoma schools, on the

other hand, have experienced a slight drop from the previous year.

Administration Secretary Judy Dobbs reported that, as of Aug. 31, CISD had a total enrollment of 759, down from 792 at the same time last year.

Coahoma Elementary had 388 students enrolled, the same number as the previous year, while the junior high had 129 students, down six from Aug. 31, 2004.

The high school has experi-

enced the sharpest drop in enrollment, down 27 from last year, Dobbs said.

"We had a huge senior class last year," she said. "And we have two classes (this year at the high school) which have only about 50 students each."

At Forsan, The increase is divided among the two campuses. The high school/junior high reported 372 students on Aug. 31, an increase of 14 from the previous year, while Elbow Elementary had 336 students

enrolled, up 39 from the same time last year.

Johnson said part of Elbow's gain can be attributed to the institution of a pre-kindergarten program, which added 23 new students to the district's rolls. The reason for the rest of the increase, however, remains a mystery, albeit a pleasant one.

"We really don't know what to point to for the rest of the increase, but we're happy with it," he said.

Aside from the pre-K program, Elbow officials have had to add an additional teacher for the second grade, giving that grade level four classes. All other elementary grade levels have three instructors, Johnson said.

Both Dobbs and Johnson expect enrollment figures to remain fairly stable for the rest of the school year.

"I think, in our case, that the

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Celebrating our diversity

Heritage Festival a big hit

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Combining Diez y Seis, a Hispanic holiday, and Oktoberfest, a German-style festival, may seem slightly strange at first glance, but those attending the Heritage Festival in downtown Big Spring said it was downright fun.

Vendors selling everything from German sausage to fajitas lined the walkways at Heart of the City Park Friday and Saturday, celebrating the ethnic diversity of West Texas and Big Spring.

"Texas has been pulling together to save other people and you think we're all Texans," said Kelly Zant, spokeswoman for the West Texas Producers and Farmers Market, who along with LULAC Council No. 4791 sponsored the event. "This gives us a chance to reflect on what our particular brand of being a Texan is. In Texas, we're Hispanic. We're German. We're Polish. We're Austrians and Scottish. We're red, yellow, black and white, and this occasion was put together to celebrate that. You are who you are, and we're celebrating who we



Sally Munoz, left, and Amy Hernandez take in the sights and sounds of the Heritage Festival in Downtown Big Spring along with 23-month old Johnny Munoz.

are as Texans."

Joe Zant, president of the West Texas Producers and Farmers Market, said pooling resources with

the other groups made the event much easier to put on.

"We basically had two events — Diez y Seis and

Oktoberfest celebration — going on at the same time," said Zant. "The two events fell so close together that we decided

to combine them and get both cultures involved and just get more people

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Council

Tax rate, hike in water rate top agenda

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Several items will be up for final approval during Tuesday's meeting of the Big Spring City Council, including increases in the city's water rates and adoption of the ad valorem tax rate for 2005.

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



McEWEN

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, during a meeting two weeks ago with no comment coming from the public.

Big Spring Mayor Russ 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

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Book signing slated for Friday at Hangar 25

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

What does it take to make it through Air Force pilot training and fly a KC-135 jet tanker?

According to former Big Spring resident Ron George, it's "Airspeed, Altitude and a Sense of Humor," the title of his book

detailing his days as a pilot training at Webb Air Force Base in the mid-1960s.

George, who spent five years in the Air Force flying a tanker jet, will be at the Hangar 25 Air Museum Friday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. signing copies of his book, which the author describes as a chrono-

logical account of his time involved with flight.

"It takes you from my time as a little boy in North East Texas, when I saw my first airplane and knew I wanted to fly, all the way through pilot training and flying a KC-135 tanker out of Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene," said George.

George said the idea for the book came from friends and family.

"I've been telling these stories for about 30 years now," said George with a laugh. "Every so often someone would tell me I ought to write a book about them. It took a while, but that's exactly what I did."

George said it took four years to write the book, which includes many stories from Big Spring's own Webb Air Force Base.

"I flew the T-37 and the T-38 while I was at Webb," said George. "I got to see all of Big

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CISD students applying civics class

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Call it practical application of things learned in civics classes.

Coahoma Independent School District students will fan out across the community Thursday to collect trash from city streets and roads, Superintendent Jerry Johnson said.

Students and professional staff from all grade levels will be involved in the project. Children in grades pre-kindergarten through four will concentrate on

school district grounds, while students from the other grade levels will be spread throughout the community, Johnson said.

The trash collection will be done between 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. that day, he added.

Johnson, who came up with the idea, said it would be a good way for CISD students to show good citizenship.

"The city will provide the trash bags, and we'll provide the labor," he said. "Hopefully ... we'll do this once in the fall and once in the spring. This is our

way of giving something back to the community."

The initial clean-up effort will not involve going onto private property, and no large item pick-ups are scheduled, Johnson said. As the program expands, such activities may be included.

"This is the first time for this. We're basically just getting our feet wet, going out and doing it this way," he said.

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

Obituaries

Lottie V. Morgan



Lottie V. Morgan, 81, of Big Spring died Friday, Sept. 23, 2005, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. E.C. Wilson officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

She was born Oct. 7, 1923, in Gilmer and married Earnest Steve Morgan Dec. 24, 1948, in Tyler. He preceded her in death May 29, 1990.

Lottie was a dedicated educator for Hamlin and Big Spring independent school districts and was a member of Retired Teachers Association.

She was a member of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, where she served as a volunteer in the cafeteria and was a member of the Mission Society. She was also a member of the Heroines of Jericho.

Survivors include two sisters, Bernice Daniels of Big Spring and Helen Elbert of Odessa; one brother, Charles Hargest of Gilmer; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Candice Morgan in 1961.

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

Paid obituary

David Wooten



David Wooten, 44, of Bryan, formerly of Garden City, died Friday, Sept. 23, 2005, in Bryan. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005, at Garden City Cemetery with the Rev. Steve Paris, pastor of First Baptist Church of Garden City and the Rev. Herb McPherson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Big Spring officiating.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Jan. 21, 1961, in Big Lake to Ervin and Bertie Wooten. He lived in Garden City until 1980, when he moved to Bryan to go to Texas A&M. He was a mechanic, working for the city of Bryan until retiring three years ago due to ill health. David was a Baptist.

He is survived by one son, Brit Wooten of Bryan; his parents, Ervin and Bertie Wooten of Garden City; two brothers, Joe Wooten and his wife, Judy of Minooka, Ill., and Gerald Wooten and his wife, Donna of Sheffield; several nieces and nephews; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Stuart Wooten Sept. 1, 1976.

Pallbearers will be Mike Hillger, Mark Halfman, Kevin Hirt, Cecil Pearce, Lonnie Pruitt and Donnie Cypert.

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

Paid obituary

Rebecca Sue Neel

Rebecca Sue Neel, 52, of Carrollton, died Sept. 20, 2005. Services were 2 p.m. today, Sept. 26, 2005, at the Reformed Church in Plano.

She was born April 4, 1953, in San Angelo and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1971. She worked as a registered nurse and office manager for 34 years in her husband's medical practice in Carrollton.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Tom L. Neel.

She is survived by her daughters, Beth Neel of Belleville, Ill., and Cindy Neel of Wheeler; her son, Thomas Neel of College Station; her mother, June Patton Boyd of Alpine; her brothers, John Patton of Bryan and Vic Patton and his wife, Kasey of Bells; her sister, George Ann Kinser and her husband, Wayne of Costa Rica; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be sent to the Tom and Becky Neel Memorial Scholarship Fund, 2237 High Country Dr., Carrollton 75007.

Arrangements were under the direction of Dignity Memorial Funeral Home.

Weather

Today — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. Light and variable winds becoming northeast 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight — Increasing clouds. Lows around 60. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs around 90. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs around 90. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Thursday — Partly cloudy with a slight chance showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 60. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Velma Sheats

Velma Sheats, 93, of Big Spring died Saturday, Sept. 24, 2005, in a lubbock hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Oma L. Herm

Oma L. Herm, 84, of Big Spring died Sunday, Sept. 25, 2005, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory.

Carmen Manriquez

Carmen Manriquez, 85, of Big Spring died at 12:35 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25, 2005, at Mountain View Lodge. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Cathy Kinman

Cathy Kinman, 46, of Knott died Sunday, Sept. 25, 2005, at her residence. Services are pending in Monahans. Local arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Eula Clanton

Eula Clanton, 96, of Mineola, formerly of Big Spring, died at 11:45 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, 2005, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sheriff's report

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

- ROMAN WOLFE HINES, 32, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on charges of theft and failure to identify.

- ANGELA SUZANNE COKE MAYHALL, 36, was arrested on a charge of giving a false report to a peace officer.

- DAVID VILLAREAL JR., 18, was sentenced on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a building.

- RODOLFO HERNANDEZ JR., 34, was sentenced for driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.

- PETER MARCELLO ROGERS, 22, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of fictitious or counterfeit inspection sticker.

- DAVID FIERRO, 32, was transferred from BSPD after his arrest on a capias warrant, a motion to revoke probation for failure to identify and unauthorized use of a vehicle.

- JAMES EVERETTE ROBERTS, 36, was transferred from BSPD after being arrested on a charge of theft by check.

- LAURA LYNN ARCHULETA, 24, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.

- JARROD LEE MEJIA, 25, was arrested on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and theft by check.

- SHONI HILDEBRAND, 36, was arrested on a charge of theft by check.

- JOHN EHRLICH CRUZ, 58, was transferred from BSPD after his arrest on a charge of assault/family violence.

- STEVEN ALLEN SAVELL, 20, was transferred from BSPD after his arrest on a charge of driving while license invalid.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-10-16-22-33. Bonus Ball: 42.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 1. Prize: \$4 million.

Winning ticket sold in: Pasadena.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$4 million.

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Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-11-28-33-37.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

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The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 2-0-2

Around Town

- RAILROAD MUSEUM at the corner of Second Street and Main Street is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Saturday. Free admission. Call 432-559-3409 for more information.

- POTTON HOUSE, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

Police blotter

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

- LORI MARIE WHITE, 28, 2105 Scurry, was arrested on a hold for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

- AMBER KAY ALEXANDER, 26, 1907 Runnels, was arrested on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

- LAURA LYNN ARCHULETA, 24, was arrested on a hold for the HCSO.

- BERNARDO JACINTO HILARIO, 18, 1703 W. third, was arrested on a charge of interfering with a peace officer's duties.

- FRANCISCO JESUS NIETO, 26, 1901 Hilltop, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, third or more offense, and driving while license invalid.

- JOHN EHRLICH CRUZ, 58, 18600 Highway 87, was arrested on a Tom Green County warrant.

- CHRISTOPHER ALTON RANEY, 33, 1603 Donley, was arrested on a charge of theft.

- FRANK GARZA JR., 32, 4206 Hamilton, was arrested on a charge of criminal mischief.

- LAURA ALICIA LEOS, 37, Odessa, was arrested on a hold for the HCSO.

- DENNIS EUGENE SCROGGINS, 43, 3100 Oasis, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- SHONI JOYCE HILDEBRAND, 36, 1200 Stanford, was arrested on a Taylor County warrant.

- STEVEN ALLEN SAVELL, 20, 538 Westover, was arrested on a charge of driving while license invalid.

- ASSAULT was reported in the 1200 block of Sycamore and the 1000 block of Main.

- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 2900 block of W. Highway 80.

- ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 500 block of Goliad.

- DEADLY CONDUCT was reported in the 2911 block of Highway 80 and the 1900 block of Runnels.

- VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER was reported in the 600 block of 18th Street.

- BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported in the 1500 block of FM 700.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 4200 block of Hamilton, the 300 block of Circle, Courtney Place, the 600 block of Elgin and the 600 block of 18th.

- THEFT was reported in the 900 block of Willia, the 1400 block of Highway 87, the 2600 block of Highway 80, the 1200 block of Third and the 1800 block of Gregg.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Cragmont. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3700 block of Wright. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2800 block of Lynn. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Langley. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of East 13th. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 600 block of Caylor. Service was refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1000 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 600 block of Caylor. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Lorilla. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 3300 block of Maple. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of Winston. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAUMA was reported in the 1200 block of Sycamore. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.

- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported on the 179 mile marker of Interstate 20. One person was transported to SMMC.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Johnson. Service was refused.

- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of Andrea. Service was refused.

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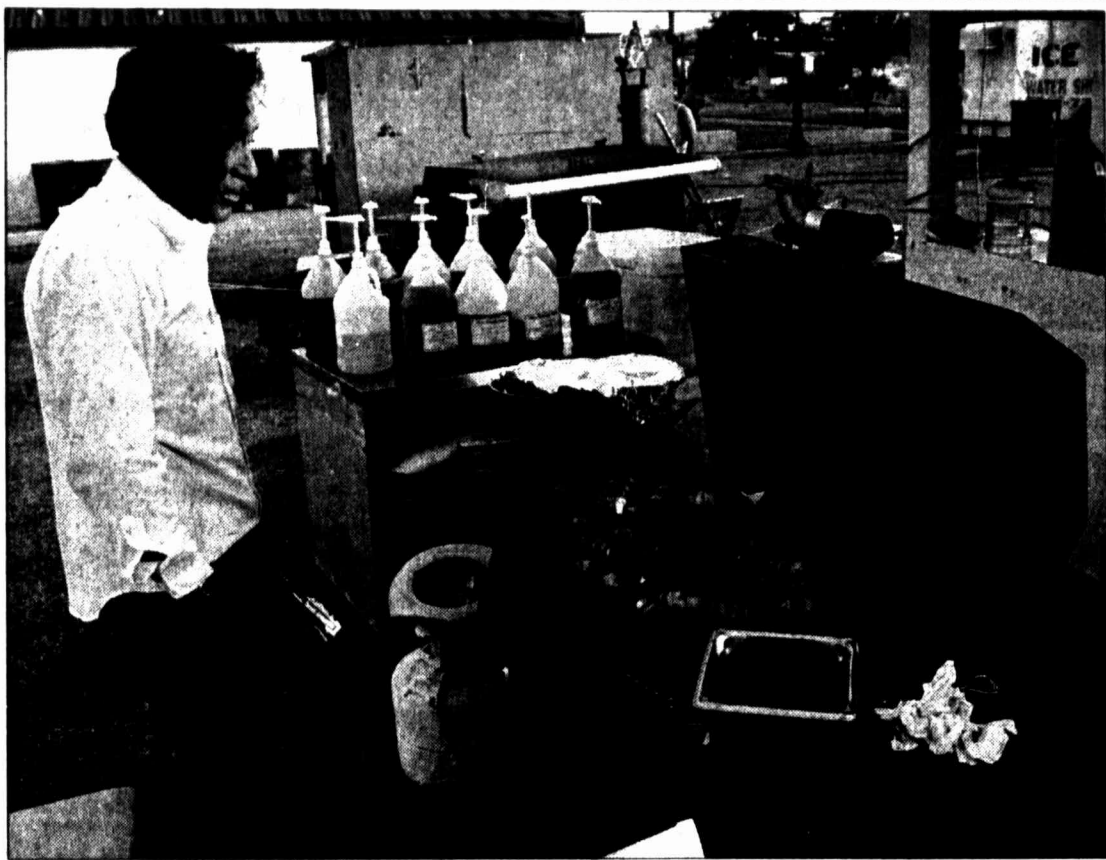
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Juan Cacaes grills up a tasty treat during the Heritage Festival, which was held over the weekend in downtown Big Spring. Affectionately called "armadillo eggs," Cacaes gets the jalapenos — which are stuffed with cheese and wrapped in bacon — ready to go from the grill to a plate.



Yolanda Hernandez of Crane shows off the various hats she sells during the Heritage Festival, held in downtown Big Spring over the weekend. Hernandez said she sells more University of Texas Longhorns hats than anything else... Take that, all you Aggies and Red Raiders!

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

involved. It makes it a lot easier to put it together with more than just one group."

And while the festival was certainly a hit with those in attendance, who spent both Friday and Saturday dancing the nights away, don't be fooled. There were some doubts about combining the two culturally-diverse festivals into one big event.

"Early on, we had our doubts about combining the two events," said Zant with a smile. "But as we worked together, it just got to be a better and better idea. I think it's wonderful."

"We've been wanting to put on an Oktoberfest for a while now. The problem with this part of the country, however, is you just can't do it in October. Everyone is working so hard in October. So at this point, we're planning on doing it in September again next year."

Local resident Sally Munoz said she and her family decided to attend the festival for several different reasons.

"I came out because I wanted to help support the community," said Munoz. "It's fun to come out and see what's going on. It gives us somewhere to go and something to do. If I wasn't here right now, I'd probably be at home watching television."

Amy Hernandez, who spent part of the day strolling among the vendors with her 23-month-old nephew Johnny Munoz, said the event



Marion Newton samples some nachos during the Heritage Festival in downtown Big Spring. Newton was just one of many area residents to take time to visit the festival and taste both the German and Hispanic foods.

turned into a family affair for her.

"I came with my sister and my grandmother. They called me up and I told them I'd be here," said Hernandez with a laugh. "My favorite part of the festival is the music. I really like Hispanic music."

Producer of the Year Marion Newton didn't miss out on the fun either, sampling some of the event's cuisine.

"We're a part of the Farmer's Market and we always try to put something special like this on during the year," said Newton, between bites of nachos. "It's really a great time for everyone."

Kelly Zant said she enjoyed coordinating the

event and is already looking toward 2006.

"We had a lot of fun putting this together," said Zant. "We had a lot of people that joined together with us, melding the two groups — the West Texas Producers and Farmers Market and LULAC Council No. 4791. Now it just seems like old hat."

"There are a multitude of ethnic backgrounds in our community, and over the next year we're hoping to pull everyone together to bring even more diversity to the festival in 2006."

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

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

amount."

The council is also expected to address a serious deficit created by rising water rates with final reading of a pair of amendments that will increase 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."

CRMWD 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 the amendments during its previous meeting on Sept. 13.

If the council gives the measures final approval Tuesday, 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 expected to approve final 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.

The council is also expected to entertain final reading of a resolution that will execute a notice of intent with Siemens Building Technologies to conduct a detailed energy audit.

The decision — which made its 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 council that would allow the city to make improvements based solely on money saved through energy and utility conservation.

Nobles claims the city can implement more than \$5 million in municipal improvements over an eight-month period through the program without raising taxes or holding a bond election.

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, Collin 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.

If the detailed audit, which is expected to cost approximately \$30,000, is completed and the project is determined not to be 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.

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Elnora Morrison, 81, died Wednesday. Graveside Services will be at 11:30 AM Monday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

David Wooten, 44, died Friday. Graveside Services will be at 10:00 AM Tuesday at Garden City Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 9:00 PM Monday.

Cathy Kinman, 46, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Carmen Manriquez, 85, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Eula Clanton, 96, died Saturday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Tuesday at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

AUTHOR

Continued from Page 1A

Spring's great sites in the 1960s both from the ground and from the air. It was a great experience."

And while his time in the Air Force is the focus of the book, George said it's not the first book he's

written.

"I stayed in the Air Force for about five years," said George. "I was involved in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. After I got out of the military, however, I became a wildlife biologist, which is what I've been doing for the past 33 years. I wrote a book on

wildlife biology, so I had a good idea how to approach this book."

George, who now lives in the Austin area, retired from his wildlife position less than a month ago.

"I'm really looking forward to being in Big Spring," he said. "It will be nice to see the city again."

FIGURES

Continued from Page 1A

figures will probably drop down to about 700 students," Johnson said. "It will remain somewhat stable, I would guess."

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Be sure to make book signing at Hangar 25 Friday

Want to know what it was like to train at Webb Air Force Base here in Big Spring during the 1960s? Or maybe you'd like to know what it's like to go through Air Force pilot training or maybe fly a KC-135 jet tanker?

Well, those are just a few of the things former Big Spring resident Ron George has included in his book, "Airspeed, Altitude and a Sense of Humor."

And on Friday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., George will be back here in Big Spring to sign copies of his book at the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

George says his book spans the time when as little boy in Northeast Texas, he saw his first airplane and knew he wanted to fly, through pilot training and flying a KC-135 tanker out of Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene.

During that span, George spent time in Big Spring, flying T-37 and T-38 trainer jets at Webb.

George, who has made his living the past 33 years as a wildlife biologist, had already authored a book on that subject, but this latest biographical work came at the proddings of friends and family members. George said the idea for the book came from friends and family.

Now retired and living in the Austin area, George said he is looking forward to being in Big Spring during the Webb Reunion scheduled for that weekend.

We encourage our readers to go out to Hangar 25 on Friday and welcome George back to Big Spring. And history buffs ought to make sure to include George's latest book to their library. It will certainly give a glimpse of a time that many consider our community's heyday.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I wanted to make the readers of this newspaper aware of a practice in China I have been recently made aware, which both breaks my heart and makes my blood boil.

In China, there are no animal welfare laws. Most of the garments you see in stores now come from fur farms in China. What you may not know is that the animals — rabbits, raccoons, fox, etc. — are skinned alive. There are a couple of very disturbing videos on the PETA web site (peta.org) you can view to see for yourself. They are very graphic so please don't view them around chil-

dren.

I have always been very vocal about my feelings on the fur trade in general. It is all cruel and inhumane, but this is way over the top.

If you have a heart and a conscience, I would ask you not only to refrain from buying any item with fur on it, but also boycott any store that sells it.

Is your vanity (or your bottom line, if you are a retailer) worth the pain and suffering these animals endure?

Think twice before you buy.

SUZY STEINBERG
BIG SPRING

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 we all pray for everyone who has lost loved ones, Lord, and pray and help everyone affected by Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

Amen

What really went wrong with Katrina

If you want to know what went wrong with the federal response to Hurricane Katrina, just examine the following statement by Dick Cheney.

When asked by a reporter why he did not return from his vacation earlier than last Thursday, three days after the hurricane hit, the vice president replied, "I came back four days early."

And you can see why Cheney is so testy. He had to miss four days of his vacation to help a bunch of people who probably had never voted Republican in their lives.

The same sense of irritation was noticeable in the initial post-Katrina public appearances by President Bush (though his handlers now seem to have him under control).

It was a sense of "Why me?" Wasn't a quagmire in Iraq enough of a burden? In addition to his own manmade disaster, did he have to deal with a natural disaster, too?

Bush, his supporters once bragged, was a president in the mold of Ronald Reagan: a man who knew how to delegate, knew how to pick good people and let them do their job.

Michael Brown, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), was one of those good people.

Brown had no actual qualifica-

tions for the job save one: He was the buddy of Joe Allbaugh, a Bush crony, who along with Karl Rove and Karen Hughes, formed part of the Texas "iron triangle" that helped Bush get elected to the presidency.

Hiring political hacks and cronies has always been a presidential prerogative. But these hacks used to be dumped in places like the old Post Office department (which goes a long way to explain why the mail has always been screwed up).

But dumping hacks and cronies in an agency in charge of federal emergency management? Isn't that a recipe for disaster?

Well, yes. George Bush is out of the Ronald Reagan school: disengaged, affable, dependent on and loyal to his subordinates.

So even when it was clear that Brown had done a terrible job in helping people after Katrina, what was the reaction of George Bush?

"Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job," Bush said on Friday, Sept. 2.

A week later, Brown was booted back to his desk in Washington by Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, and Brown quickly resigned.

Nancy Staudt, a visiting professor at Northwestern University School of Law and a specialist in how government institutions make decisions, said in a release: "At the time Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, Michael Chertoff, the DHS secretary, and FEMA Director Michael Brown did not have the necessary expertise to undertake

emergency relief efforts."

Expertise? Who said anything about expertise? This is government.

Bush's polls continue to nose-dive. ABC reported on Monday that "more than six in 10 say the administration lacks a clear plan to handle the situation caused by the hurricane and subsequent flooding. The percentage of Americans who think there's no clear plan is somewhat higher now than it was in an ABC News/Washington Post poll on Sept. 2, when 80 percent of New Orleans was underwater."

In other words, even with the waters receding, even with the horror shows at the Superdome and New Orleans Convention Center over, the public's view of how Bush handles emergencies is going down.

Further, "independents are about twice as likely to strongly disapprove as to strongly approve" of Bush's performance post-Katrina.

As ABC's political newsletter, The Note, wryly observed, "That will be read with some concern among those GOPers whose names will be on ballots next November." Georgie, you're doing a heck of a job.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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Reasons to be hard on the president

My fans are angry with me. I'm supposed to be fair and balanced. I'm a Bush critic, not a Bush Hater. I'm the one who always smiles and laughs. So why am I so tough on the Man?

To say that I've been getting a lot of mail lately is an understatement. Most of it makes certain points that are, of course, valid. Yes, I know:

- that Bill Clinton didn't build the levees to withstand more than a Category 3 storm, either;
- that both the governor and the mayor are Democrats;
- that they were responsible for ordering and conducting the evacuation, which clearly did not go as it should have.

- that in the end, whatever committees or commissions look into this will find plenty of mistakes, incompetence, bureaucracy and blame to go around.

So why give George W. Bush such a hard time? It isn't George Bush's fault that Louisiana's luck ran out when he was president. It could have happened under his father, or under Bill Clinton. It certainly isn't his fault that administration after administration chose to bet on the 99 percent chance that New Orleans would not face a Category 5 hurricane, instead of the 1 percent chance that it would.

The question is what a president should do when he knows that the gamble has been lost. That is what everyone knew on Sunday, Aug. 28. That is when the Democratic mayor ordered a mandatory evacu-

ation of a city where the poor people had no way to leave, and the Democratic governor asked George Bush for help. By the next day, she was begging for "everything you've got."

The next day, George Bush left his vacation ranch in Crawford, Texas, where he had been biking past protesting mother Cindy Sheehan for weeks, to travel to the beautiful vacation island of Coronado, Calif., off San Diego, to speak about democracy in Iraq.

With thousands left behind because they could not leave the city, with the governor and the mayor begging for help, with the levees breaking, with people drowning, with mounting food and water shortages at the Superdome, with law and order breaking down, the president stood before his beautiful, made-for-television backdrop and did not utter a single word about the human tragedy in our own country.

That's why I am angry. He buzzed New Orleans in a 747, while the rest of us were paying nearly \$50 to fill up our tanks, and on the ground, seniors were dying in nursing homes, mothers and children were gathered on rooftops, pets could not even be taken into account.

Newsweek even reporting that as late as last 10 days after the disaster Bush's staff had to make a DVD for him of the television coverage so that the president could appreciate the extent of the suffering of his fellow citizens.

Why was that so hard for him to grasp? The so-called "suffering" of a long-brain-dead young woman was something he was acutely sensitive to, but the misery, complete loss and devastation suffered by tens of thousands of very much alive Americans was something

the president needed three trips and a DVD even to begin to grasp.

What is wrong with this picture?

We used to joke about Bill Clinton feeling everyone's pain. Does George W. Bush only feel pain when the Christian Coalition is feeding it?

My friend Maureen says the critical thing to understand about President Bush is that, psychologically speaking, he is really just a teenager with a grown-up wife/mother. He is busy with his war. Weather is for mayors and governors. So of course he didn't want to interrupt his vacation and take responsibility for a devastating mess that in his book (ask any mother of a teenager about this logic) was simply not his fault.

Why should he, when he had other plans? Only when absolutely forced to do so has he been willing to accept the first rule of politics: that the public will forgive you for anything, but first you have to take responsibility. So yesterday, Bush said: I'm responsible. And now he will say: Let's all pull together and rebuild. What else can he say?

But just remember: It's your teenager talking. Does he really think he did anything wrong? I don't think so. And that's what makes me angry. A president's first obligation is to the welfare of his citizens, regardless of race, color or income. At least, if he's a grown-up.

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.

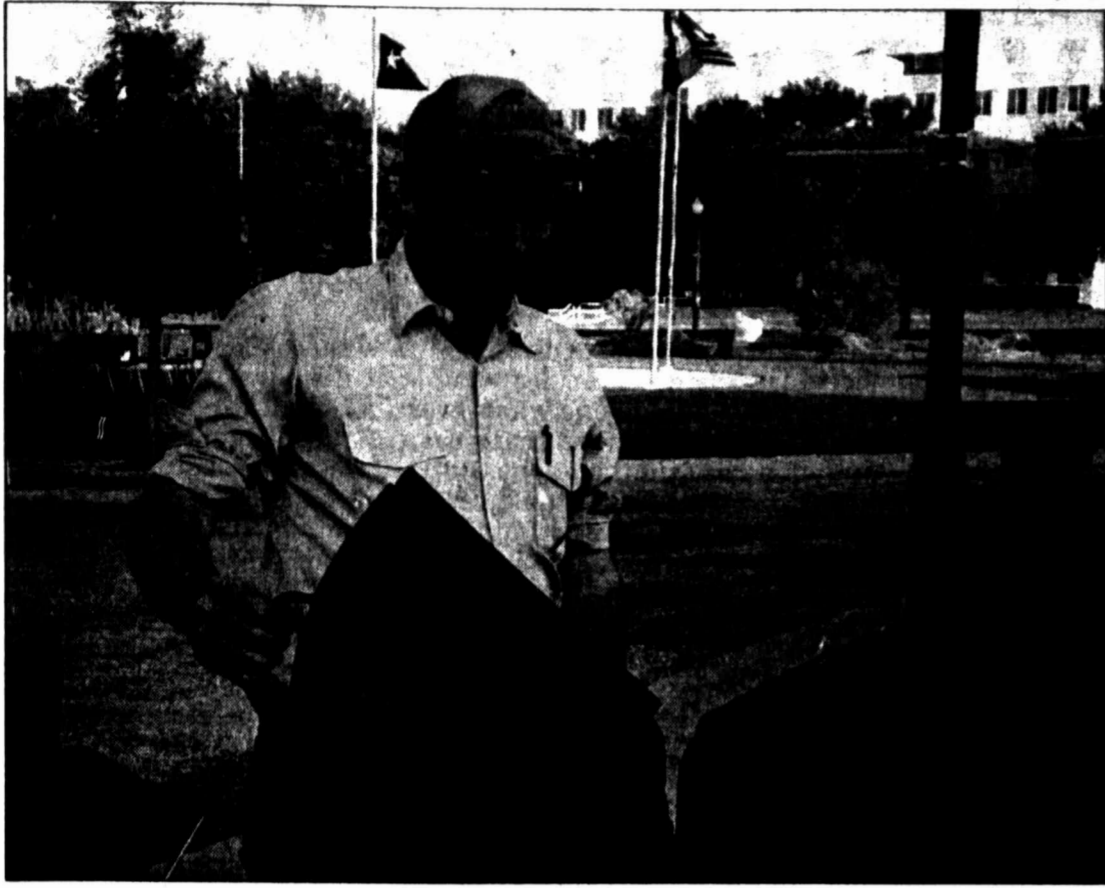
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ROGER SIMON



SUSAN ESTRICH



Clockwise from top left: Joe Zant checks on some German sausage he was cooking during the Heritage Festival in downtown Big Spring Saturday; Roxanne Ybarra and her daughter, Jessenia, perch themselves on a bale of hay during the annual Harvest Saturday hayride at the Big Spring State Park; Vietnam Memorial Committee vice president Randy McKinney takes his turn grilling hot dogs and hamburgers during a benefit dinner and silent auction for the VMC at the Eagles Lodge; and 2-year-old Alyssa Martinez gets ready to snap some shots during the Harvest Saturday hayride.

HERALD photos/Thomas Jenkins



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The mind-body connection

Complexity in weight loss can work against you

You can't eat your way into healthy thinking, but you can probably think your way into healthy eating, which in turn, actually could make your thinking healthier; if only you could figure out where to start.

There was a time when people regarded the physical body as a system quite separate and distinct from the mental realm. The conventional wisdom of cultures throughout the world typically acknowledge and honor a connection between the mind and body, but in the realm of Western science, emotional and cognitive activity has been held as though it exists almost independent of the flesh.

Yet anyone who's ever gone for the chocolate when they were feeling blue knows, intuitively, that it's all connected.

And in the last 25 years or so, science has been getting a grip on the physiology underlying the profound connection between our minds and our bodies, and coming up with ways to help us not only understand it, but use it effectively to improve our health and habits, including the habits that have led to the national obesity crisis.

Mind-Body Interplay
Disease and stress

research in particular have yielded vast evidence of the inter-related nature of our minds and bodies, showing how people who endure high-pressure lifestyles can experience both acute and chronic health problems because of it.

But our daily lives are full of simpler examples of the mind-body connection, and it's not always a problem: consider how certain words can make you blush; a sad scene in a movie or song can bring you to tears; a phone call or email from a special someone can make your heart go pitty-pat. Your thoughts are affecting your body chemistry and creating distinct physical responses.

And obviously, it works the other way, too, when what your body experiences produces responses in the brain. A particular smell can stimulate a nostalgic memory. Tickling and rough-housing a grumpy child will often cheer him right up. These are such familiar examples that it's hard to imagine anyone ever disputed the connection.

But what science has been able to prove in the last couple decades is just why—neurologically—that tickling works to cheer the child. It's not merely that you've distracted him from whatever got his goat. In truth, both laughter and physical exercise cause the release of mood-elevating chemicals in the brain. Laughter really is the best medicine, and you've just given him a double dose.

On the other hand,

To your health

research has proven that a stimulus such as anxiety—a feeling—can trigger the release of nerve-fiber chemicals, which then tell the immune system what to do to help protect the body in a time of emotional stress.

No body (part) is an island
Pioneering scientists say that other systems in the body are also connected in this way, together creating a virtual telephone network of transmitters and receptors, and that's changing the way we look at how our thinking and habits influence disease, including obesity.

Diseases that used to be studied just within their own body system are looked at more comprehensively now. Diabetes was traditionally considered to be a disease of the endocrine system. But it's now also understood as an autoimmune disorder—an immune system attacking itself—that typically results from specific lifestyle choices.

Is it any wonder then that the treatment of obesity is so complex? There are powerful forces at play, in a problem that used to be reduced to a simple formula: "too much in, not enough out." With emotional

influences on behavioral choices resulting in physical changes that cause physiological adaptations, how could anyone think it's a simple problem?

That doesn't mean you have to become a psychoneuroimmunologist in order to drop a few pounds. But if you have struggled futilely with an excess weight and the health problems associated with it, you can take some real encouragement from the advancing scientific understanding of the challenges you live with.

Because if physical activity can change your brain chemistry, affecting how you think and feel, and thoughts can affect your body's responses, then there's real hope that you can train your body to train your mind, and vice versa.

The whole nine yards
It's all one wonderful machine, and comprehensive bariatric weight-loss treatment takes that into account. Even the most nutritionally sound dietary plan cannot be effective in producing lasting weight loss if it's not coordinated with developing new thinking

and habits. Obvious, right?

Yet anyone who's ever dieted knows that's easier said than done. But what if you could reprogram your neural pathways so that your body automatically supported your new thinking, and your thinking automatically defaulted to healthier dietary choices?

And what if that could happen without all the constant emotional struggle? What if you could just lose your taste for the sweets you crave today? What if exercise was your automatic answer to sadness, instead of chocolate?

It can be done, but it's no simple matter of developing a menu. That's why bariatric specialists have to approach obesity from all fronts.

We work with patients to discover their motivations and values. We can consider the chemical imbalances that may be present and how best to address them, whether with activity or medicine or diet or a combination thereof.

We can explore the importance of defining and refining goals, of learning self-nurturing habits and healthy new routines, of cultivating an attitude that maximizes the mind-body connection to its best effect.

People are so surprised when they learn they can control cravings, eat better and enjoy exercise, but for most of us these things have to be learned.

At some point, we learned that eating

chocolate can alleviate the blues. There are solid chemical reasons for how it does that, and it's a lesson that sticks in our bodies as well as our minds. It's tough to overcome. But we can teach our bodies new lessons.

As science and medicine get better at deciphering the ways our minds and bodies work together, bariatric treatment develops better and better strategies for teaching those lessons.

And when you see that, you almost can't help but feel—and think, and do—better.

Through Thick & Thin
If you maximize the potential of the mind-body connection, you've got a powerful tool working in your favor. If you dismiss or ignore it, you're handicapped before you even start.

Dr. Caroline J. Cederquist is a board certified family physician and a board certified bariatric physician (the medical specialty of weight management). She specializes in lifetime weight management at the Cederquist Medical Wellness Center, her Naples, Fla., private practice. You can also get more information about Dr. Cederquist and her weight management plan by visiting www.DietToYourDoor.com

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Immunization is easy method for helping your children grow

Childhood immunization is an easy way to help your children grow healthy. On-time vaccinations protect against many contagious diseases encountered during childhood that can present serious threats to your child's health.

Shots are now available that provide protection against hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type b, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, chicken pox and polio.

Massive vaccination programs worldwide have substantially reduced many of these diseases to the point that they no longer pose serious threats and consequences. It is very important to complete your child's vaccinations as recommended by medical authorities.

Childhood immunization should begin during the neonatal period and, for the most part, be completed by age two. Unnecessary risks, sometimes even death, can result when parents opt to wait until children enroll in school to complete their vaccination programs. This is because children are more susceptible to contagious diseases, or their complications, during the first two years of life.

Public health clinics in your community provide free immunizations or services at reduced cost. To immunize your child is a small step to see him or her grow healthy. Immunize your child

today!

This information is provided as a service. For specific

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YMCA s skatebo
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IN BRIEF

Coahoma sets booster club dates

The Coahoma Athletic Booster Club will meet each Monday at 7 p.m. in Coach Kim Nichols' classroom through the football season. The meetings after football season will take place only when needed.

For more information, contact Donna Wright at 267-6723.

Quarterback club sets remaining weekly meetings

The Big Spring football booster club (quarterback club) will meet every Monday at 7 p.m. at the ATC through the football season.

For more information, contact Gene Piercefield at 816-1134.

Big Spring starts junior tennis league

Big Spring tennis pro Ted Olesen has announced the start of a junior tennis league.

League play will take place every Monday for the next six weeks. It will take place at the Figure 7 Tennis Center inside Comanche Trail Park and will last from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. each night.

The league is for children in grades four through six (ages 8-12).

Participants should bring a racket. Provided rackets will be limited.

For more information, contact Olesen at 806-236-8901 or visit bigspringtennis.com.

YMCA sets final skateboard contest

The Big Spring YMCA has announced the final skateboard contest of 2005 will take place Saturday, Oct. 1, at the YMCA Skate Park.

The contest is scheduled to begin at noon. Participants can enter one of two age groups — 15 and under or 16 and over.

The registration fee is only \$15 and awards will be presented to the top two finishers in each age group.

Interested skaters can register at the YMCA. For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234.

Midland Rotary Club sets golf tourney

The Midland Daybreak Rotary Club has announced its second annual golf tournament.

The tournament will take place Monday, Oct. 3, and will start at 1 p.m. at the Green Tree Country Club. The entry deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 28. The tourney is limited to 32 teams with four people to a team.

The proceeds will benefit local youth scholarships to college, Rotary Diabetes Camp and Rotary Youth Leadership Camp.

Gift certificates to the Green Tree Country Club will also be awarded to the top three teams.

Big Spring shows worth against regional runners

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
LUBBOCK — Big Spring head cross country Randy Britton and the Steer runners got a good look at how their team stacks up against other regional teams Saturday as they took part in the Lubbock Invitational.

The Steers got great news after running to a second place finish and

ousting most of their regional competition. Big Spring finished with 100 points and grabbed second place third-ranked Fort Worth North Side, which placed third at last year's state meet.

Dumas came in third with 128 points and Hereford was fourth with 160. Frenship took 11th and Andrews came in 13th.

North Side's Saldivar Armando came in first overall with a time of 15:33 and defeating Big Spring junior Michael Rodriguez by more than one minute. Rodriguez was the first Steer to cross as he came in 10th with a time of 16:48.

The Steers consistency might have won them second place as Chris Salazar, Zack Dawson and Jessie Sanchez finished back-to-back-to-back in 18th, 19th and 20th, respectively. There was a four second difference between the three runners.

Junior Chris Martinez came in fifth for Big Spring and 34th overall with a run of 17:51. Mike Salazar was 65th as he crossed in 18:32.

Sophomores Esther Tobar and Mistie Aguilar ran well for the Big Spring girl's. Tobar, who was defeated last Saturday at the Big Spring Invitational by Aguilar, was able to get back on top this week with a 42nd place and 13:32 finish. Aguilar was 47th as she finished in 13:39.

Hereford won the girl's meet with 51 points. El Paso Del Valle, Frenship, Dumas and Fort Worth Brewer came in second, third, fourth and fifth, respectively. Andrews took ninth, Plainview was 14th and Lake View was 15th.

Two boy's from the Big Spring junior varsity ran Saturday, as well. The duo ran against 157 other runners and Dylan Yarbrough finished third with an 18:03 and Kade Parker was eighth in 18:38.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring freshman Jordan Valle runs in the Big Spring Invitational last Saturday. The Steers took second in Lubbock this weekend behind only third-ranked Fort Worth North Side.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring's Jessie Sanchez runs last week in Big Spring. Sanchez placed 20th this past Saturday in Lubbock with a time of 17:16. The Steers took second in the meet, which featured a lot of top regional teams.

Cowboys score late, sneak past feisty SF

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In a rivalry with this much history, it was only fitting for Keyshawn Johnson to borrow a move from a former great to score the dramatic winning touchdown.

Only the Dallas receiver's inspiration played for the other team — which could make the furious 49ers even more frustrated.

Johnson caught a 14-yard touchdown pass from Drew Bledsoe with 1:51 to play, and the Cowboys rallied from a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter for a 34-31 victory over San Francisco on Sunday.

Johnson's score capped a precise 76-yard scoring drive by the Cowboys (2-1), who fell behind early but rallied late in their third straight nail-biting game of the season. After losing their composure and their 13-point lead in the final 4 minutes of last Monday's loss to Washington, Johnson's catch finished an impressive display of late-game poise.

Johnson said the play was a "speed-out."

"I think it's taken out of Jerry Rice back in the day," he said.

Bledsoe, the veteran acquired for his calm leadership as much as his arm, was 24-of-38 for 363 yards, passing Joe Montana for eighth place on the NFL's career yards passing list with his first 300-yard game since Sept. 14, 2003. Terry Glenn had

137 yards receiving and Julius Jones rushed for two scores for the Cowboys, who would love a relaxing game any weekend now.

"I can't take too many more of these. That's three in a row," Jones said.

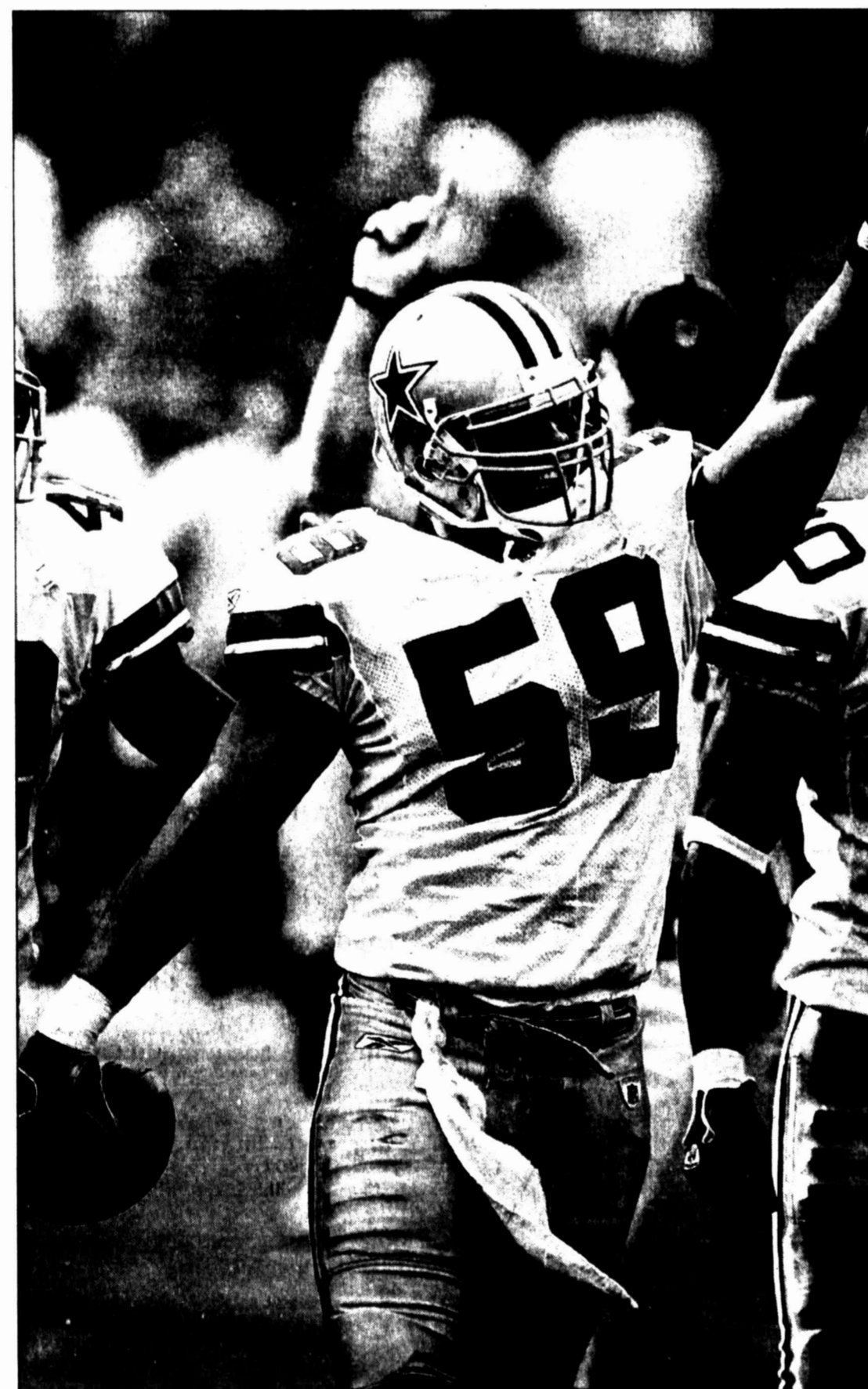
Dallas won its opener with an end-zone interception on the final play at San Diego, but Washington rallied for a 14-13 win last week.

"I think we proved we can take a punch and still win in the end," Dallas coach Bill Parcells said. "You take 'em any way you can. That's three of these right to the wire. Usually, you're only supposed to have four (decided by) three points or under the entire season, so we're almost right up against our quota right now."

Johnson also caught a 2-point conversion pass after his TD, and Dat Nguyen intercepted Tim Rattay's tipped pass at midfield with 54 seconds left.

The clubs have one of the NFL's most enduring rivalries stretching to the early 1970s, when they met in the first of six NFC championship matchups through 1994. Five years ago Saturday, Terrell Owens celebrated two scores at Texas Stadium on the star logo at midfield, stirring bad blood between the teams.

There was no bad behavior in this one — only bad late-game execu



KRT photo/Ron Jenkins, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dallas Cowboys linebacker Dat Nguyen (59) celebrates with teammates after he returned an interception late in the fourth quarter against the San Francisco 49ers. The Cowboys defeated the 49ers, 34-31, at Monster Park in San Francisco, Calif., Sunday.

RIVALRY

Continued from Page 1B

tion by the 49ers.

Brandon Lloyd caught an 89-yard touchdown pass and another scoring toss from Rattay for the 49ers (1-2), who seemed ready to match their win total from last season, when they finished with the NFL's worst record.

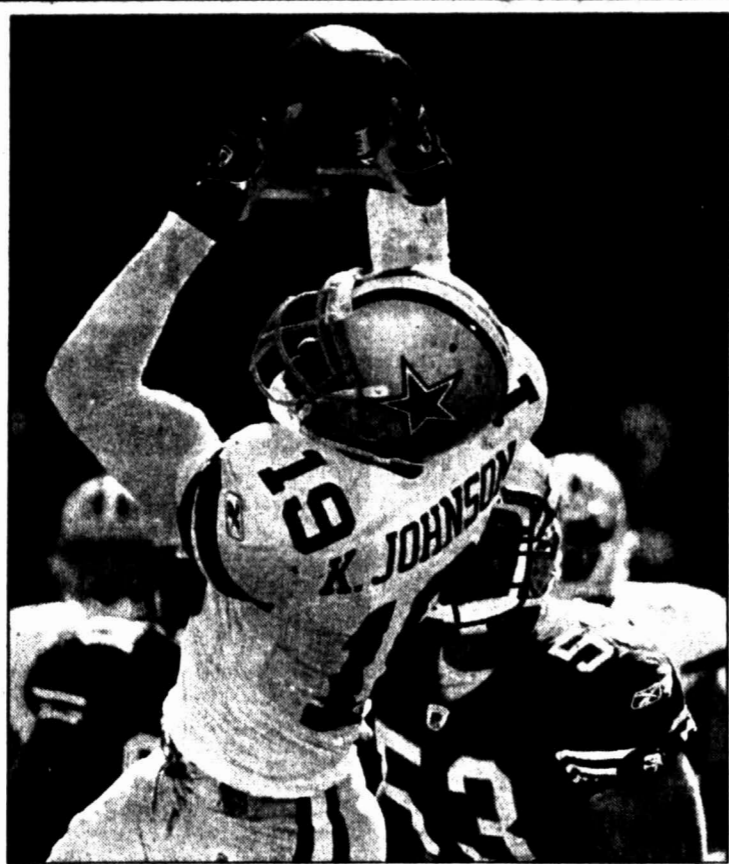
Instead, coach Mike Nolan was enraged by his first home defeat.

"It's unacceptable to lose that game," Nolan said. "They ought to feel the same way. It's unacceptable. We're not a 2-14 football team. When you all of a sudden think that you're a 2-14 football team, that's an OK performance."

Nolan also criticized unnamed players for a lack of "trust" in the game plan and their teammates, intimating that personnel changes could come soon.

"When you call a play, you can do what you're supposed to do on that play, or you can think you know better and try to do what you want," he said. "One is called trust, one is called distrust. ... The ones that trust, and who I believe are champions, will remain here."

Safety Tony Parrish returned one interception 34 yards for a score, and his second pick set up



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson catches a Drew Bledsoe pass over the San Francisco 49ers defense in the third quarter. The Cowboys defeated the 49ers, 34-31, at Monster Park in San Francisco, Calif., Sunday.

Lloyd's 13-yard TD reception late in the third quarter to put San Francisco up 31-19. Rattay was 21-of-34 for 269 yards and three TDs, but the 49ers scored just once after a second-quarter flurry similar to their impressive effort two weeks ago against St. Louis.

"We never felt it slipping away," Rattay said. "We felt good and confident. I couldn't make any plays near the end, and I

take full responsibility for this loss."

In addition to his prolific passing numbers against the 49ers' suspect defense, Bledsoe had just his seventh TD rushing in 13 NFL seasons in the second quarter. Dallas made two lengthy scoring drives in the first half, starting inside its 20 both times — but early on, the Cowboys' consistency couldn't match the 49ers' knack for big plays.

College football's winningest team falls out of top 25 poll

RALPH D. RUSSO
AP Sports Writer

The winningest team in the history of college football team is unranked for the first time in more than seven years.

Michigan fell out of The Associated Press Top 25 Sunday, ending a streak of 114 straight weeks in the rankings, which was the longest in the nation. The last poll that didn't include the Wolverines was Oct. 18, 1998.

Southern California extended its streak of No. 1 rankings to 23 in the latest media poll. The Trojans picked up two first place-votes after wiping out an early 13-point deficit and blowing out Oregon 45-13 on Saturday, a win that knocked the Ducks out of the rankings.

The Wolverines lost at Wisconsin 23-20 to fall to 2-2. Michigan's two wins came against Northern Illinois and Eastern Michigan of the Mid-American Conference. The Wolverines' other loss was to Notre Dame. Michigan started the season ranked No. 4.

The Wolverines' fall comes a week after another traditional power,

Oklahoma, fell from the rankings for the first time since 1999.

No. 9 Miami now has the longest current streak at 93.

USC received 59 of a possible 65 first-place votes. No. 2 Texas received the other six first-place votes.

Virginia Tech moved up a spot to No. 3 after a 51-7 romp over Georgia Tech. The Yellow Jackets fell 10 spots to No. 25. LSU, which plays Tennessee on Monday night, dropped a spot to fourth.

The Volunteers remained No. 10, and voters will next week have to judge them and the Tigers on two games. Tennessee plays Mississippi in Knoxville on Saturday and LSU is at Mississippi State.

No. 5 is Florida, followed by Florida State and Georgia.

The seventh-ranked Bulldogs give the Southeastern Conference four top-10 teams for a second straight week.

Ohio State, one of five ranked teams in the Big Ten is No. 8. But Iowa, considered the league's other power team in the preseason, joined Michigan by dropping

from the rankings for the first time this season. The Hawkeyes lost 31-6 at Ohio State.

No. 17 Wisconsin and No. 18 Minnesota from the Big Ten moved into the rankings for the first time this season. Michigan State moved up six spots to No. 11.

The unbeaten Gophers beat Purdue 42-35 on overtime, and the Boilermakers fell 11 spot in the rankings to No. 22. Purdue's tumble wasn't as far as Louisville's. The 24th-ranked Cardinals dropped 15 spots after a stunning 45-14 loss to South Florida as the two former Conference USA members played their first Big East game.

No. 12 California is followed by Notre Dame and Arizona State, and No. 15 Alabama gives the SEC five teams in the Top 25.

No. 16 Texas Tech is followed by Wisconsin, Minnesota, No. 19 Virginia and No. 20 UCLA.

Boston College rejoined the rankings at No. 21. The Eagles fell out for a week but moved back in with a win over Clemson. No. 23 Iowa State dropped a spot after surviving a scare at Army.

Cubs make life tough for Astros after win

By NANCY ARMOUR

AP National Writer
CHICAGO (AP) — The Houston Astros must like drama.

The offense wasted several scoring opportunities and reliever Mike Gallo gave up a two-run homer to Jeremy Burnitz in the seventh inning, giving the Chicago Cubs a 3-2 victory Sunday that cut Houston's NL wild-card lead to one game over Philadelphia.

Derrek Lee also connected for the Cubs, who took two of three from the Astros.

The Astros have an off day before a two-game series in St. Louis, then finish the season with four home games against the Cubs. The Phillies host the New York Mets

for three games before traveling to Washington for their last three.

Pettitte waited out a third-inning rain delay and pitched a gem, walking none and scattering two hits over six innings. The Astros couldn't give him any support while he was in the game, but they took a 2-1 lead on Willy Taveras' sacrifice fly in the seventh and turned it over to the bullpen, which hadn't given up a run since Wednesday.

But Chad Qualls got in trouble quickly, allowing a leadoff single to Lee. With two outs, Gallo (0-1) relieved. He hadn't allowed a run in 5 1-3 innings spanning eight outings, but Burnitz sent a 2-2 pitch over the wall in left-center for his 24th

homer. It was Burnitz's first homer in more than a week, and it snapped an 0-for-12 streak.

Corey Patterson robbed Michael Lamb of what would have been at least a base hit in the eighth with a snowcone catch, and Ryan Dempster retired pinch-hitter Jeff Bagwell with a runner on for his 31st save.

Jerome Williams (6-9) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings, walking a season-high six and striking out three.

Pettitte had won his last seven starts, matching his career best, and was impressive against the Cubs. His only mistake was Lee's first-inning homer, his 45th of the season.



Astros' starting pitcher Ezequiel Astacio pitches against The Cubs in the first inning of their game at Wrigley Field in Chicago, Ill., Saturday.

Draper scores two goals as Red Wings defeat Stars in NHL exhibition contest

• Arnott, Miettinen record two goals for Dallas in defeat

DETROIT (AP) — Kris Draper scored two third-period goals to lead the Detroit Red Wings to a 4-2 win over the Dallas Stars in an exhibition game on Sunday.

Dan Cleary had a goal and an assist, Brendan Shanahan added a goal and Kirk Maltby finished with two assists for the Red Wings, who won the for third time in five pre-season games.

Jason Arnott and Antti Miettinen scored for the Stars.

With the game tied at 2-all, Draper scored 5:05

into the third period and added an insurance goal with 7:43 remaining.

Cleary scored a short-handed goal with 7:32 left in the second period to give Detroit a 2-1 lead. Miettinen tied it 2:03 later.

Shanahan scored for Detroit in the first period, and Arnott scored for Dallas.



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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

When Venus and Mars oppose each other, it's the cosmic equivalent to parents arguing in the next room. The tension seeps through the celestial household, and before you know it, the children fight amongst each other, the dog attacks the cat, the bird pecks the mouse, etc. Whatever you can do to de-escalate the drama is extremely beneficial.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Fate is on your side. Even though it feels like the stars have aligned to limit your opportunities lately, this is not the case. Everyone needs structure sometimes. You're better off playing by the rules.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You surpass your peers but not without comment. Expect anything from kidding to criticism in regard to your latest accomplishment. Sacred time is needed tonight. Graciously decline the demands of the outside world.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are footprints on the moon and robots on Mars. Therefore, the sky is clearly not the limit. Remember this when someone hides under a corporate policy and tells you, "It can't be done."

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's your turn, and you show up strong with a little help from your friends. They will have tips and suggestions and be completely blunt with you, just the way you like it. P.S.: You can know your weaknesses without

accepting them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Forces of nature or random accidents have caused less than optimal aesthetics such as the weather damage on the ceiling or the crack on the windshield. Handle any disasters now, and you'll set off a lucky chain of events.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A central relationship feels like a prolonged effort in the face of unfriendly odds. But it's so worth it! It's helpful to look back at past patterns as long as you don't stare for too long.

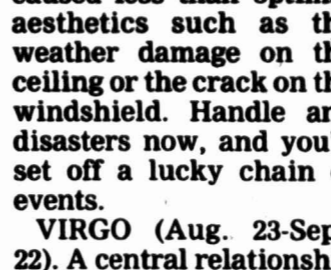
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Regarding your current job: Perhaps there is a better place for your particular specialties to shine. But that's not keeping you from doing the thing at hand with gusto. You're in line for a stellar bonus.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The dynamic between you and your romantic hopeful is getting interesting/humorous/annoying. The more you ignore this person, the more he/she adores you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Contrary to your previous assessment, you currently have all the tools necessary to make a project fly. Delegate your regular work to someone who would get a thrill from helping you. Such a person does indeed exist.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your possessions don't define you, but they do inspire new folks to put you into a category. Whether it's a category you want to be included in could be an issue. Make sure your stuff is sending the right message.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When someone is gossiping about you, you feel it in your solar plexus.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Any publicity is good publicity now. Know that you have what others want, and work a little harder to charm the opinion makers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The stars have you speculating about how you can make more money. Call those rich friends of yours, and ask for tips. You'll feel tingly and light when you hear an idea that will really work for you, too.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I want to know more about the concept of spiritual names. My sister was given a spiritual name by a certain very famous guru. She says that it's important to know your spiritual name and that it's different from the name your parents gave you. I'd like to know my spiritual name, but I'm not sure I want to invest the kind of time and money that my sister does. What do you think?" The idea behind spiritual names is that souls, in a pure energy form, have an eternal name that God

and other souls know them by. They whisper a different name, a worldly one (which is often some version of their spiritual name), to their mother or father for the lifetime they are about to embark on. The spiritual name can be a source of power and a way to get in touch with the so-called higher self. But it's your name, and you should already know it! No guru is going to tell you your spiritual name, no matter how wise and evolved he or she is, how much time you spend with him or her, or how much money you give. More on this tomorrow ...

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I'm writing to urge women to take advantage of National Depression Screening Day on Oct. 6, when free mental health screenings will be available across the nation. I believe it is one step that can save women from struggling endlessly with a serious illness that only in recent years has begun to receive much-needed attention — postpartum mood disorders.

I suffered from a postpartum disorder that left me sad, irritable, obsessive and unable to sleep or eat. I had fleeting thoughts about hurting my newborn son. I loved him dearly, but I'd find myself thinking about smothering him or dropping him down the stairs. I had no idea where these thoughts came from. I was confused, and sank deeper and deeper into misery and fear. I thought if I told anyone, they would lock me away forever. But they didn't. They told me my illness had a name and that it would go away. This was a tremendous relief.

People often look at postpartum depression and think it is a woman's problem. But it is a family's problem. It affects husbands, partners and, most of all, our babies. These free screenings provide women a chance to see what, if anything, is wrong. Anyone participating will meet with an informed professional and can get help immediately. Sincerely — Katherine Stone, Georgia

Dear Katherine Stone: Thank you for your frank and helpful letter. National Depression Screening Day is Thursday, Oct. 6. Although this year's focus is on postpartum disorders, the program also screens for other mental health disorders, including depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety and post-traumatic stress. All screenings are free and confidential. You will fill out a questionnaire, have the opportunity to hear an educational presentation, receive pamphlets and brochures, and follow up privately with a mental health professional, if necessary. To find a screening site, our readers can call 1-800-437-1200, or visit www.MentalHealthScreening.org. The lines are open now.

Dear Annie: My sister's granddaughter, "Nina," is getting married. My sister's entire family lives 600 miles away, and I've seen Nina twice in her



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

life. When she was a teenager, I tried to get to know her better, even inviting her to come to Europe with me. She turned down all my requests, so I gave up.

When Nina graduated high school, I sent her a generous check. It was cashed, but I never received a thank-you. I don't want to hurt my sister or her son (my nephew), with whom I have an excellent relationship, but I don't want to give Nina a gift for her wedding. What do you say? — Trying To Be Absent-Minded in California

Dear California: We say no dice. While many great-nieces would have jumped at a trip to Europe, most teenagers are reluctant to spend time with a relative they barely know. Nina was rather young when you last attempted to reach out to her. She's going to be a married woman now. Please give her one more chance.

Dear Annie: It galls me to hear people speak ill of mothers-in-law. I met mine the day before I married her daughter, and we connected immediately. In 32 years of marriage, my mother-in-law never said an ugly word to me. She was an awesome lady, my friend and mentor.

The last 10 years of her life, she had a stroke and dementia, and I let her live with us, where I knew she would have excellent care. I had the privilege of holding her hand when she took her last breath. I think a lot of people are simply selfish and have a poor attitude toward their in-laws. — A Happy Son-in-Law, USA

Dear Honey: Your letter should inspire mothers-in-law everywhere. Thank you.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net.

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