



BIG SPRING HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

MONDAY

July 26, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT TOMORROW
71°-73° 92°-93°

BRIEFLY

Open house set at New Hope School Tuesday

An open house for New Hope Christian School, 118 Cedar Road, is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesday.

The community is invited to meet new and returning teachers for the 2004-2005 school year and visit the new toddler classroom for children 18- to 24-month-olds.

New Hope offers early childhood development classes and a self-paced, computer assisted education program for kindergarten through 12th grade.

Immunizations being given at health clinic now

The Texas Department of Health is providing free "back to school" immunizations from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. today through Thursday.

All students registering for school in the Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan school districts, from Head Start through high school, must have up-to-date immunization records.

Each student receiving immunizations the week before school registration will receive a free gift.

There will be no charge for immunizations received during that week. The Health Department office is located in the College Park Shopping Center, 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28B.

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Vol. 100, No. 207

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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Remapping of Big Spring

Time to update the city map; plans to include Coahoma, Forsan

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

It's time to update the city map, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce officials say, and they're in the process of doing just that.

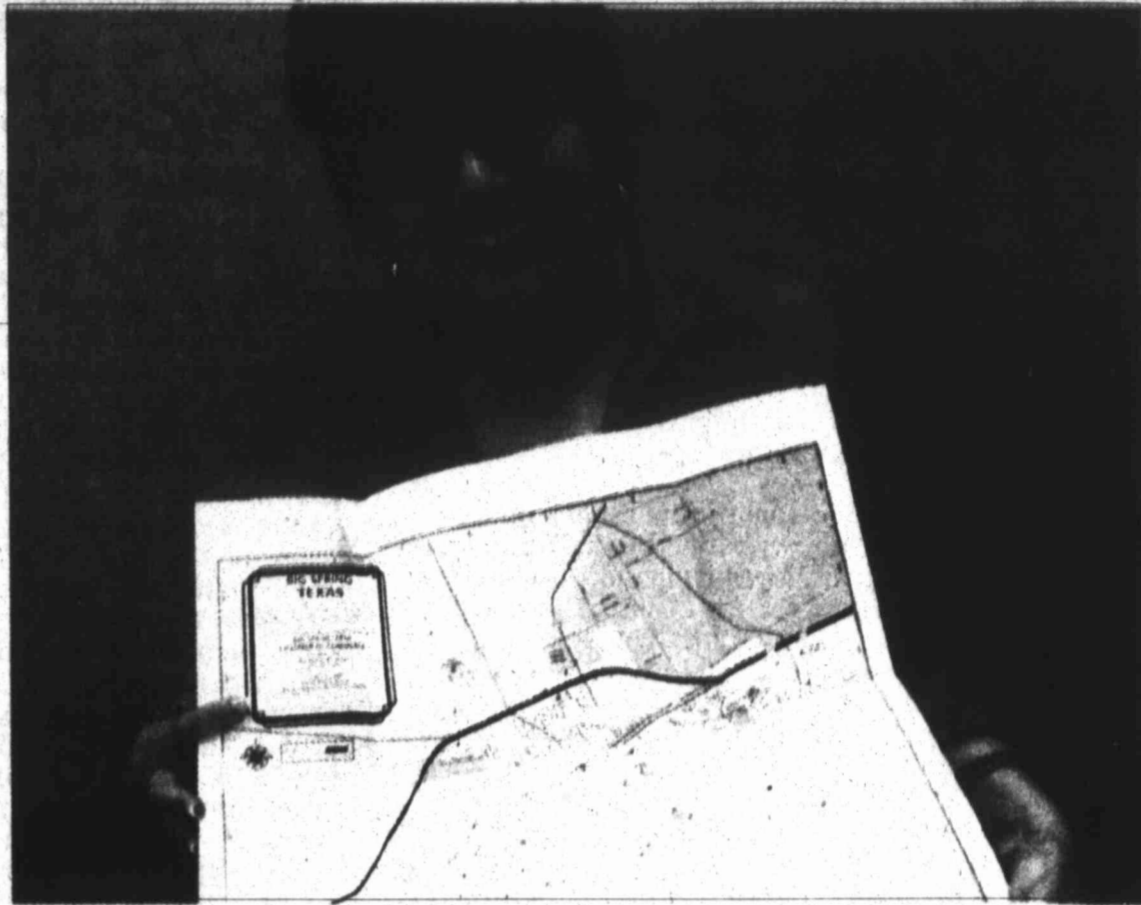
"We need a map that includes the new developments and new streets created in the last several years," said Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde, who noted the current map was created about four or five years ago. "We're working closely with the city of Big Spring's direc-

tor of public works, Todd Darden, and Tommy Sullivan from the Howard County 9-1-1 Board to make the map as accurate as possible."

This map, ValVerde said, will include not only an updated blueprint of the city's physical layout but will encompass the cities of Coahoma and Forsan.

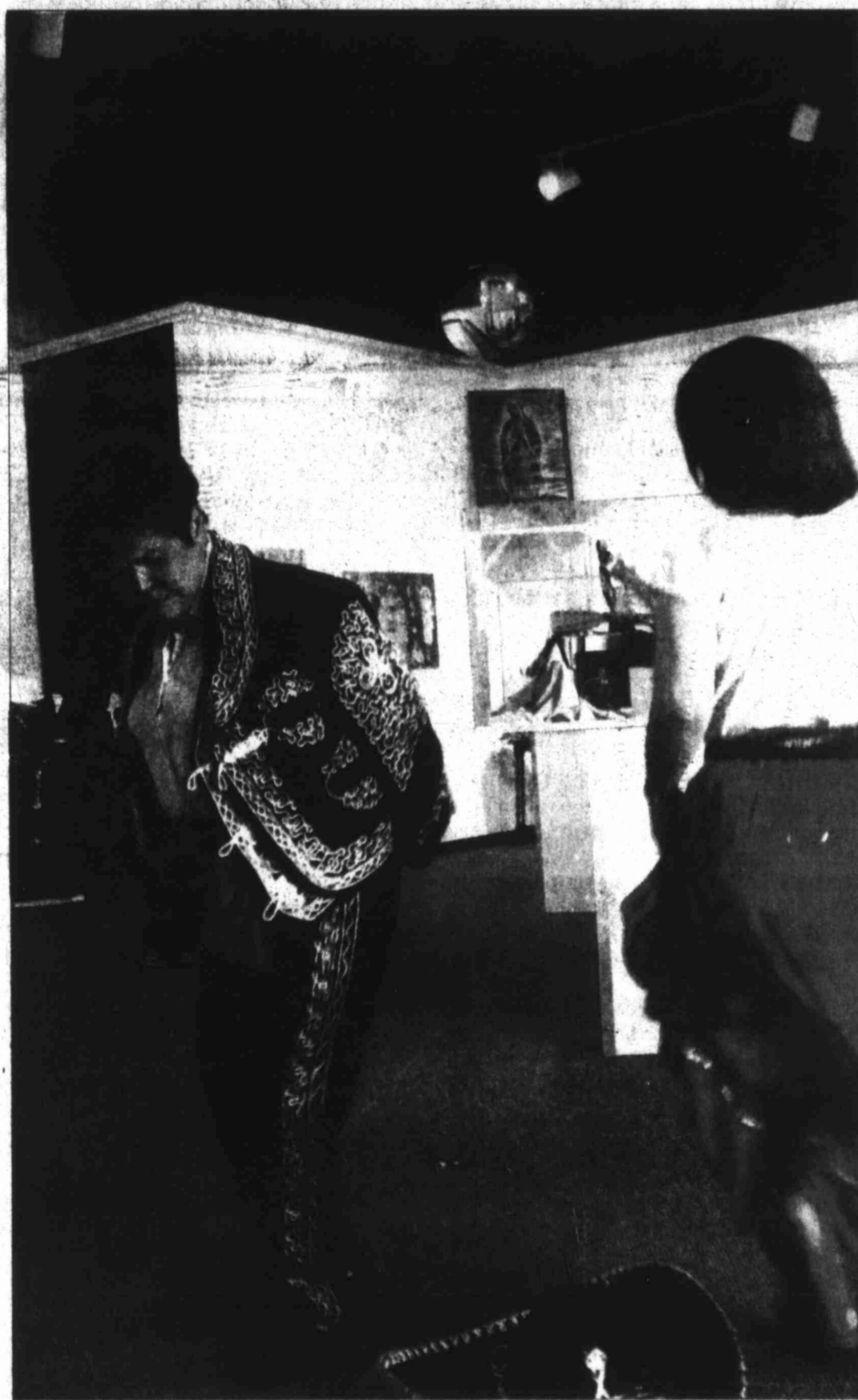
"I believe this is going to turn out to be a very useful map for our residents and newcomers to Big Spring," she said.

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Remapping Big Spring is on the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's agenda this year. Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde displays the old map created more than four years ago. By January, the organization hopes to replace it with an updated version that includes Coahoma and Forsan.

HISPANIC HERITAGE



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Mary Paradez, left, and Lydia Molina perform a traditional dance at the Heritage Museum's premiere of its newest exhibit on local Hispanic culture Saturday night. The event drew a large crowd and also featured performances by Danzation from the Dance Gallery and singer Cindy Chavez. The exhibit will be on display through Sept. 25 at the museum, 510 Scurry.

Federal judge throws out Cruz lawsuit

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A lawsuit filed against Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker came to an end this week, as U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings threw out a former dispatcher's wrongful termination suit.

In a 16-page summary judgment issued July 15, Cummings said former Howard County Sheriff's Office dispatcher Gerlena Cruz's claim that she was terminated out of "retaliation for the plaintiff's exercise of her First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and freedom of expression" was "ripe for summary judgment."

"The summary judgment evidence establishes that plaintiff was terminated because her actions hampered the efficient running of the Howard County Sheriff's Department; she was rude to persons calling into the Sheriff's Office; she lied to other law enforcement agencies and her supervisors; and divulged confidential information that threatened an investigation and the safety of officers involved," Cummings stated in the summary. "The evidence submitted by the defendants (HCSO) shows that the plaintiff (Cruz) was on a probationary period, which she violated,

resulting in her discharge."

Cummings went on to address Cruz's belief that she was terminated due to her political affiliation and loyalty to former sheriff Bill Jennings.

"The summary judgment evidence establishes that the plaintiff was not satisfactorily performing her job," explained Cummings. "Nor is there any evidence that the sole ground for her discharge was because of her political beliefs."

"For the reasons stated, the plaintiff's charge of retaliatory harassment and discharge are ripe for summary judgment."

Walker said the county's defense in the lawsuit was solid from the beginning and he's glad to see the case thrown out before it could cost taxpayers more than it already had.

"Howard County was very well documented and prepared for this," said Walker. "We stood by what we have always said, and that was that she was dismissed because of policy violations. She released information of a confidential nature concerning a criminal investigation that not only put the officer's life in danger, but also the lives of the informants in danger. That was also noted by the judge in the summary judgment."

Walker said he was very upset when he found out about the lawsuit but remained confident in his

See SUIT, Page 3A

Proposed tethering law back for second vote

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to approve the final reading of an ordinance banning the chaining and tethering of dogs during their Tuesday evening meeting, bringing several months of consideration on the matter to a close.

The issue, which was originally brought before the council by Councilman Woody Jumper almost three months ago, has raised some heated debate from citizens. However, Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen said it was an issue that needed to be addressed and that

5:30 p.m. Tuesday at City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth St.

eliminating chaining and tethering is the most humane thing to do.

"If we are a humane society then we need to be in a position where we step out and say we're not going to allow that," said McEwen shortly after the council made the decision to move forward with the ban. "What we're saying to our citizens, if this ordinance passes, is if you have a dog you're going to have to have an enclosure that will restrain that ani-

mal where it can't get out. And if it does get out and cause havoc, then you're going to be fined. But you cannot do that by using a tether or chain.

"It's something that we needed to look at and had to address. As you look at all side of the issue — you're looking at humane treatment of animals and you're looking at protection of the public. There are volumes of information that says tethering dogs is inhumane at best. You have to come to a point where you say we've allowed tethering and every one of us has had instances where

See TETHERING, Page 3A

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Obituaries

Ascencion "Chon" Yanez



Ascencion "Chon" Yanez, 58, of Big Spring died Sunday, July 25, 2004, at his residence. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. today, July 26, 2004, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 27, 2004, at the St. Thomas Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born Nov. 28, 1945, in Big Spring. Chon was a lifelong resident of Big Spring. He farmed for 23 years, worked for the First National Bank for five years, then worked for Price Consturction for two years as an equipment operator. He enjoyed bowling, playing pool and playing the guitar.

He was a member of St. Thomas Catholic Church, had served as an usher and was also a member of the St. Joseph Society.

Survivors include one son, Junior Yanez and wife, Karmen, of Wilson, Okla.; two daughters, Diane Viera and husband, Joe Jr., of Big Spring and Lisa Yanez of Arlington; his mother, Rosaura Lopez of San Angelo; one sister, Kathleen Yanez of Fort Worth; four brothers, Pros Yanez, Oscar Yanez and David V. Yanez, all of Big Spring and Jimmy Yanez of San Angelo; seven half sisters, Mary Alice of El Paso, Rosalinda, Corina, Margie, Rita, Nora and Delia, all of San Angelo; three half brothers, Victor, Mauricio and Danny, all of San Angelo; two grandsons, R.J. and Chon Gonzales of Big Spring; and two granddaughters, Kagney and Kelcey Yanez of Wilson, Okla.

He was preceded in death by his father, Clarence Yanez Sr., one brother, Clarence Yanez Jr.; and a son, Jimmy Yanez.

Pallbearers will be R.J. Gonzales, Joe Viera Jr., Oscar Yanez, David V. Yanez, Pros Yanez and Timmothy Yanez. Honorary pallbearers will be Chon Gonzales and Tony Flores.

There will be a luncheon at St. Thomas Hall after the services for family and friends. Anyone wishing to bring food may bring it to the hall on the day of the service.

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

Paid obituary

Octavio A. Loya



Octavio A. Loya, 74, of Big Spring died Friday, July 23, 2004, in a local hospital. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 27, 2004, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 28, 2004, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Oct. 3, 1929, in Big Spring and married Urena Martinez on Dec. 26, 1956, in Hobbs, N.M.

Mr. Loya was a lifelong resident of Big Spring and worked at the Big Spring State Hospital for 19 years. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Urena Loya of Big Spring; six sons, Sammy Lujan Loya of Odessa, Octavio Loya Jr. of San Jose, Calif., Robert Loya of Dallas, Cary Loya of Merced, Calif., Sammy Loya of Mesquite and Frank Loya of Weatherford; four daughters, Sandy Para, Judy Gomez and Mary H. Loya, all of Big Spring and Rosa Ramos of Grand Prairie; 24 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters and two brothers.

The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 600 Gregg St., Big Spring 79720.

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

Support groups

MONDAY

□ All widows and widowers are invited to attend the Encourager's Support group meeting at 6 p.m. Call 398-5522 for more information.

TUESDAY

□ The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

THURSDAY

□ Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8 to 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 to 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

□ The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department responded to the scene of an automobile fire that occurred in the 3600 block of Dixon during the early morning hours of Sunday. According to BSPD Public Information Officer Sgt. Roger Sweatt, a 1997 Lexus was set on fire by unknown individuals who sped away from the scene. The case has been turned over to the Big Spring Fire Marshal, Carl Condray, for further investigation.

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

- MELISSA VALLES WILTSIE, 30, of Stanton, was arrested Saturday on charges of driving while license suspended - enhanced, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice and a traffic warrant.
- IZAIHLL JEROME JACKSON, 18, of Midland, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- MYRON HALL, 43, of 801 W. Marcy, was arrested Saturday on a charge of failure to identify.
- PAULA BAKER, 39, of 801 W. Marcy, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JAMIE RENTERIA, 41, of 406 Johnson, was arrested Saturday on charges of driving while intoxicated - second offense and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- JOHNNY JUAREZ, 22, of 634 Caylor, was arrested Sunday on a charge of criminal mischief.
- CHARLES LYDIA, 44, of 538 Westover Road, was arrested Sunday on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon/family violence.
- RUSTY CHARLES SHAW, 24, of Odessa, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- CODY THOMPSON, 18, of New Mexico, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication of a minor.
- ROBERT LOUIS YORK, 24, of Monahans, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- MICHAH LEVI PEARSON, 18, of 538 Westover Road, was arrested Sunday on local traffic warrants.
- DANIEL RAY JONES, 35, of 2507 Peach, was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- JOHN HENRY GUZMAN, 25, of 811 Willia, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOE ERIC CANALES, 29, of 811 Willia, was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of marijuana - 2 ounces or less.
- JERMAINE LAMAR MOORE, 30, of 1100 Sycamore, was arrested Monday on local traffic warrants.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - 2 OUNCES OR LESS was reported in the 200 block of Runnels.
- ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY TO A FAMILY MEMBER - ENHANCED was reported in the 2200 block of Lynn.
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY AS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE was reported:
 - in the 300 block of Fourth Street.
 - in the 1700 block of E. Fourth Street.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE was reported in the 1100 block of Ridgeroad.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1200 block of Johnson.
- UNATTENDED DEATH was reported in the 400 block of S. Benton.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported:
 - in the 600 block of Caylor.
 - in the 2900 block of Cactus.
- ARSON was reported in the 3600 block of Dixon.
- POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA was reported in the 900 block of Fourth Street.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1800 block of Choctaw.
- DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED - SECOND OFFENSE was reported:
 - in the 900 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.

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

- JASON MICHAEL VALDEZ, 24, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- RYAN WAYNE O'HARA, 18, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- PRICILLA DELEON, 32, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft by check.
- ROY CERVANTES, 24, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of contempt of court - disobedience of a court order.
- JESSIE H. FIERRO JR., 34, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on motions to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated and evading arrest/detention with a vehicle, and charges of driving while license suspended/invalid and fleeing police officers/imminent danger with a child under 15 years of age.
- CHARLES ALLEN ROBINSON, 42, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid and driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- ISIDRO HERNANDEZ, 34, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of non payment of child support.
- GREGG MARTINEZ, 30, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on two charges of bailman off of bond for driving while license suspended/invalid.
- MARK EDWARD WEBB, 54, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- NARCISCO JACOBS RODRIGUEZ, 38, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.
- JAIME RENTERIA, 41, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- JOHNNY LEE JUAREZ, 22, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
- DANIELLE MARIE RAWLS, 21, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of possession of a controlled substance and driving while license suspended/invalid.
- LUIS RANGEL DIAZ, 32, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- ARACELI CERVANTES SAUCEDA, 42, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported:
 - in the area of Ranch Road 33.

Take note

□ CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

□ MANNA RELIEF, a non-profit ministry that provides glyconutritional supplements to critically ill children, is accepting donations for the program. Call Gene or Robbie Froman at 263-0385.

□ A MEMORIAL FUND FOR THE FAMILY OF TERRY STRICKLAND, who died June 15, 2004, has been established at the Big Spring Educational Employees Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 1110, Big Spring 79720.

□ A FUND FOR ALAN AND MITZI KNIGHT, whose house on Oasis Road burned, has been established at the First Big Spring Banking Center. The home and all the family's belongings were lost.

□ BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1989 15-year reunion is set for Oct. 8-9. For information or to update your name or mailing address, contact Christy Alexander at 972-567-8037 or Shanette Johnson at 972-874-9308.

□ 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.

□ HERITAGE MUSEUM, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY
• 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.

• Retirement reception honoring Jane Moore at the Knott Coop Gin is set for 2-4 p.m. Public invited.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

• Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

BIG SPRING HERALD
www.bigspringherald.com
Reflecting A Proud Community
432-263-7331 (Main switchboard) 432-263-7335 (Circulation calls only)
(Fax) 432-264-7205

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The Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press, Texas Press Association, Inland Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Newspaper Association of America, Small Newspaper Federation, Southern Newspaper Publishers Association and American Newspaper Association.

Published afternoons Monday through Friday and Sunday mornings, except Christmas Day. All materials copyrighted. Postmaster: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas. USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6611
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$6.85 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).
MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

TEXAS NEWS

Texas Dems: BOSTON (AP) Texas Democrats Democrats (statewide offic chamber of the Democratic go 1994 by Republ before he ma House.

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS:

Texas Dems seek national role

BOSTON (AP) — Some might call the Texas Democrat a dying breed.

Democrats don't occupy a single statewide office or a majority in either chamber of the Legislature. The last Democratic governor was defeated in 1994 by Republican George W. Bush before he marched on to the White House.

Most consider it a foregone conclusion that Bush will carry his home state again in November, but that doesn't dissuade the more than 260 delegates arriving in New England this week for the Democratic National Convention to appoint Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry as their nominee for president.

"I believe that the Democratic Party of Texas is going to emerge from the convention with an exciting outlook about the future of Texas and where we must go from here," said Diane Gonzalez Cibrian, a first-time delegate from San Antonio. "We are strong and we are confident. The critical issues facing our country will be what will vault our party."

The Texas delegation has been relegated to a hotel that's an underwater tunnel ride away from the downtown convention center. Only one Texas Democrat has a speaking role at the convention, and it's not even in prime time.

Study to focus on water park

FORT WORTH (AP) — A study of the downtown water garden where four tourists died is expected to explain factors in the deaths, including a strong

underwater suction and why the water level was more than twice as high as recommended.

The report analyzing the Fort Worth Water Gardens, with recommended changes in how the facility operates, was scheduled to arrive Monday at City Hall from Freese and Nichols Inc., an engineering firm.

Three children and an adult from Chicago drowned on June 16 in a 9-foot-deep pool in the Water Gardens, a park that is not intended for swimming.

The Freese and Nichols report was to be made public after the document is presented to the City Council during a closed session on Tuesday morning.

"Because of the complex nature of the Fort Worth Water Gardens in its design, hydraulics and its pumping systems, the city is looking to experts in the field of engineering to provide an operational assessment of the Water Gardens' Active Pool and the conditions under which it operated," Eileen Houston-Stewart, a city spokeswoman, told The Dallas Morning News in Monday's editions.

AG rules on preventive care

HOUSTON (AP) — While hospital districts in Texas can provide non-emergency health care to illegal immigrants, they are not required to do so, state Attorney General Greg Abbott has said in a legal opinion.

In February, the Montgomery County Hospital District's board members argued over whether they were forced to provide such health care under a new state law. They put a decision on hold and asked Abbott for an opinion.

But the legal debate of the issue in

Texas goes back to 2001, when then-Attorney General John Cornyn ruled that a federal welfare overhaul five years earlier prohibited states from offering non-emergency, preventive health care to illegal immigrants unless a specific law allowed it. Texas had no such law then.

Federal law requires all hospitals, public or private, to treat emergency room patients.

Cornyn issued his ruling after the Harris County Hospital District in Houston asked him for guidance. Harris County and others around the state continued providing such health care while Montgomery County, located north of Houston, and some others stopped.

Heavy rains wash out bridge

SANDERSON (AP) — A campground at Big Bend National Park was closed early Monday as the Rio Grande rose above flood stage following heavy rains that also stranded some West Texas residents and washed out part of a bridge.

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning Monday for Terrell County, where flood waters washed out part of a bridge and dumped a mound of gravel on a farm-to-market road. A group of gas plant employees were stranded by the high water after 4.5 inches of rain fell.

A flash flood watch was posted earlier for 24 West Texas counties, including the Big Bend area where the Rio Grande was expected to crest at 18.6 feet at Johnson's Ranch in the central part of the park early Monday. The river stood at 14.7 feet at 8:15 p.m., just below flood stage of 15 feet, according to the NWS in Midland.

The Rio Grande was expected to crest at 14.5 feet Monday morning downstream at the Boquillas River gauge, where flood stage is 13 feet.

The Cottonwood campground in the western part of the Big Bend park was also closed, said Jessica Erickson, telecommunications equipment operator. Flooding also had closed some roads, she said.

Abuse investigators overworked

DALLAS (AP) — Investigators with Texas' child and adult protective services are greatly overworked and their agencies lack sufficient financial support from the state so they can properly do their jobs, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Last year, child-abuse investigators had an average of 56 cases while case-workers who investigated problems with adults outside of nursing homes averaged 48 cases. Accreditation agencies and professional groups recommend 12 to 18 cases per worker.

In 2000, the state spent \$7.04 on adult protection for every elderly or disabled resident, slightly below the \$7.53 average in 28 states that answered a survey by the National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators.

The state ranked 48th in spending on child protection — \$110 per child in the state, or \$167 less than the national average — in a 2001 survey by the Urban Institute, a social policy research organization.

To catch up with the average in 15 other Southern states, Texas would have had to increase by 70 percent the \$650 million it spent on child protection four years ago.

TETHERING

Continued from Page 1A

we've seen inhumane tethering of animals, and we have to prevent that."

The council voted 6-1 in favor of the ban during its last meeting, with Councilwoman Stephanie Horton the lone dissenter.

Horton was adamant about her opposition to the ban and said she believes it will put more citizens at risk in the long run.

"I feel that some dogs are used for fighting," said Horton following the first reading of the ordinance. "I feel that some dogs are vicious, even if they're not used for fighting. And I feel that some dogs can get out of what they are proposing to put up to hold the dogs, and I don't want to see people get bitten. I have a feeling we're going to get to see people getting bitten, and I'm sorry, but that's the way I feel."

Local veterinarian and Animal Control Committee member Scott Burt said he believes the

council's decision is in the best interest of everyone, and although it might cause hardship on some dog owners, safety and the treatment of the animals has to win out over money.

"I believe this really will help protect the community and the dogs," said Burt. "I'm really proud that they stood up and did that. You feel sorry for the people that can't afford a fence, and your heart goes out to them, but we're looking at safety and animal welfare. I think what the council did was the best thing that could have been done."

Upon receiving final approval from the council, the ban will take effect on Nov. 1, following a 90-day grace period. McEwen said will give local dog owners to make the necessary arrangements.

The new ordinance, which is based on a similar ordinance adopted by Lawton, Okla., is expected to make the following stipulations:

The ordinance reads:

"No person shall, at any time, fasten, chain or tie any dog or cause such dog to be fastened, chained or tied while such dog is on the owner's property or on the property of the dog owners' landlord. (Exception - A dog may be tethered to allow for the cleaning of the dog's enclosure or while the owner is outside with the dog and is in visual contact of the animal at all times to prevent injury to the dog.)

"Any dogs confined within a fenced yard must have adequate space for exercise based on a dimension of at least 100 square feet. Provided, further that where dogs are kept or housed on property without a fenced yard, the owner of such dogs or persons having custody of such dogs shall provide an enclosure for such dogs meeting the 100 square feet dimension. Such enclosure shall be constructed of chain link or similar type materials with all four sides enclosed. The enclosure shall be of sufficient height to prevent the dog

from escaping from such enclosure. The top of the enclosure shall be covered with materials to provide the dog with shade and protection from the elements. Shelter to allow the animal to remain dry and protected from the elements. Such shelter shall be fully enclosed on three sides, roofed and have a solid floor. The entrance to the shelter shall be flexible to allow the animal's entry and exit, and sturdy enough to block entry of wind and rain. The shelter shall be small enough to retain the animal's body heat and large enough to allow the animal to stand and turn comfortably. The enclosure shall be structurally sound and in good repair."

Police Chief Lonnie Smith said he expects a "rough" time once the ordinance is approved, but over time expects to see many of the problems animal control wardens have been dealing with for the past several years eliminated.

Three telephone calls to Cruz went unanswered as the Herald went to press.

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

months to a year I feel like we'll be more than busy responding and enforcing this ordinance," said Smith. "However, in 1 1/2 to two years, I think a good many of the animal problems that we're currently experiencing and have experienced for the past several years will be eliminated."

Also on the council agenda is: • Final reading of an ordinance amending Article 9 entitled "political signs." • Final reading of an ordinance amending Article 9 entitled "sign regulations." • Presentation of delinquent tax collections. • First reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to execute an interlocal agreement with the Big Spring Independent School District for drug dog services. • Appointments to the

Moore Development for Big Spring Board of Directors for the expired terms of Terry Hansen and Duane Thomas.

Executive session to discuss negotiations on Airport property.

The meeting will get under way at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

Guadalupe O. Villa, 54, died Friday. Funeral Mass was at 11:00 AM Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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SUIT

Continued from Page 1A

reasons for terminating Cruz.

"I was very upset when I found out about the lawsuit," said Walker,

"because I knew the reason she was terminated. I was furious at first, because I knew it was a good reason."

"Summary judgments are a great thing. It says that there's nothing there to even go to court on.

This had dragged on for entirely too long. It's been over a year since it was filed. This is a great relief for me and a great relief for Howard County and I believe the judge made it very clear why it was kicked out."

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

Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

MAP

Continued from Page 1A

A salesperson with Illinois-based Community Link will be contacting Chamber members to offer paid advertising space on the map, ValVerde said.

"We want our members to know we are working in conjunction with the company," she said.

Once the maps are printed, sometime in January, the Chamber will begin issuing them in city promotional packets and to individuals interested in relocating to Big Spring.

"Businesses that advertise on the map will also receive copies," she said. "We'll also place them in packets we make up for

area businesses that have employees relocating to the area."

For more information,

call the Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641.

Contact Staff Writer

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JUL 26 2004

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

OTHER VIEWS

HHSC mess still another wake-up call

The political fuss over the \$20 million overpayment by the state's health and human services agency to an insurance contractor has Capitol tongues wagging when their heads should be fixed on finding solutions.

Gov. Rick Perry, whose appointees run the Health and Human Services Commission, harrumphed appropriately when the news broke, as did Albert Hawkins, the agency's commissioner. Reform was promised, and the apparent \$20 million overpayment to Clarendon National Insurance Co. was referred to the attorney general's office. Maybe the state's top lawyer could get the money back.

We wish Attorney General Greg Abbott better luck than his predecessor John Cornyn had in collecting multiple millions in claimed overpayments to Electronic Data Services. EDS was another state vendor lucky enough to score a contract with the human services agency. That dispute continues.

It's real lives and real money on the line when a human services contract is managed poorly. The social implications, however, don't play well with the current state leadership.

We have pleaded the case for insuring the health of children of the working poor repeatedly and consistently over the years, pleading equity, but also because the future work force has to be healthy to maintain the state's economic viability.

After all, an ounce of prevention costs about \$78 per child per month (\$97 a month if you throw in prescription medicine), according to figures provided by state Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn. She noted that a pound of cure an average hospital stay costs \$6,700. Seton Health Network figures show that the average hospital stay for CHIP patients is 3 1/2 days. But appeals to conscience or even basic facts and figures on prevention have had all the effect of a cry for help in outer space.

So, here we are. If they can't work up any empathy for the people on the receiving end, maybe they'll pay attention to the management of the fruits of taxpayer labor.

Obviously, there are problems with vendor contracts issued by state government. The EDS and Clarendon contracts are high-profile examples. The EDS mess was big enough that the Legislature directed the comptroller and other agencies last session to look into reforming the writing and oversight of state contracts. It was a great idea. Too bad it has generated no action.

Perry promised another look at state contracts, and Hawkins promised tighter controls. That's fine as far as promises go, but as privatization of state functions continues, it is obvious that somebody needs to represent the taxpayer in the negotiations.

If nothing else, the latest fiasco involving the lax oversight the kindest characterization we can muster at the moment is a wake-up call to kick-start and put some urgency into the review of the state's obviously flawed approach to writing and overseeing contracts.

The American-Statesman
Austin

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

Forgiving ourselves and others, Lord, as you have done, frees us to love.

Amen

Kerry's war stance a problem

When Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., cast his vote in favor of the Senate resolution authorizing military force against Iraq in October 2002, he made his bed. Now, the president's political guru, Karl Rove, is preparing to tuck Kerry snugly inside those sheets.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

In Sacramento Friday, Rove laid out the problem with Kerry's position — or positions — on Iraq: "If Sen. Kerry now wants to come out and say, 'I looked at the intelligence ... I said (Saddam Hussein) was a danger, I said he had weapons of mass destruction. But the president is a liar for saying the same thing.' That's going to be a hard sell to the American people."

I noted that Kerry told the San Francisco Chronicle in a February editorial board meeting that he would not have voted for the resolution had he known that much of the intelligence upon which Washington relied came from Iraqi National Congress leader Ahmed Chalabi.

Rove responded, "If (Kerry) had doubts, he should have voted no. If he had doubts, he shouldn't have written that wonderful op-ed on Sept. 6, 2002, in The New York Times in which he said it is imperative to go to the Congress and ask for a resolution of support, it is imperative that the president go to the United Nations and secure the backing of the U.N. Security Council. He said it was imperative then that we issue an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein and that we require immediate and full compliance, and if Hussein doesn't, the United States must be prepared to go in and ... if need be, largely alone remove Saddam Hussein from power."

In fairness, the Kerry op-ed didn't quite suggest that the evidence against Hussein was so overwhelming that President Bush should rush to war with or without the United Nations. But Kerry did write that the Bush administration should "offer a clear ultimatum" to Iraq and asserted that America could go to war if the U.N. "Security Council fails to act."

Kerry's main criticism of Bush then was that the president failed to present a conclusive argument. He faulted Bush for suggesting that the need for regime change was sufficient excuse for war.

(Note to other critics: This undercuts your claim that Bush only used the regime-change argument after allied forces failed to find WMD.)

Kerry then argued that it was incumbent upon Bush to convince Congress and the United Nations that America "had no choice" but to go to war, "that this was the only way we could eliminate a threat we could not afford to tolerate."

Kerry also wrote, "There is also no question that Saddam Hussein continues to pursue weapons of mass destruction, and his success can threaten both our interests in the region and our security at home."

"No question"? Those words, I presume, were written upon much consideration, staff vetting and exposure to Kerry's much-vaunted "nuance."

As it turns out, "no question" is the giant chink in U.S. intelligence — or so news stories on "groupthink" in the CIA say. (So now that everyone agrees that "groupthink" misled intelligence operatives completely, I'm waiting for new stories that suggest the intelligence was not completely wrong. This just in: In 1999, Iraq may well have been shopping for

uranium in Niger.) Here is where Rove is right: Kerry boasts that he is the international community's darling and that he has been steeped in intelligence and foreign intrigue for decades. And, sacre bleu, he's practically French.

Yet the senator said in a primary election debate, "I don't regret my vote. I regret we had a president who misled the nation and broke every promise he made to the Congress of the United States."

"Broke every promise" apparently is longhand for "Bush lied."

Bush lied. Those two words have become such a mantra that it is hard to know how to begin addressing them. There's the awful knowledge, which makes me want to vomit, that U.S. intelligence was severely flawed — and those flaws fueled a war. It was Hussein's flouting of the U.N. cease-fire agreement that made the war not only possible but justifiable. Still, war was more avoidable than America knew.

"I think every premonition I had about the downside of this war was proved prescient," Kerry also told the Chronicle, "and it comes out of the experience that I personally had when we lost the consent and legitimacy of our nation in the war that I fought in."

And yet Kerry voted for this war. How can a man so savvy and sophisticated — so prescient, if he does say so himself — have been misled by that simpleton Bush?

"Proved prescient," yet "misled." Now that is nuance.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Democrat's Boston labor problem

Thomas M. Menino usually is a happy warrior who has loved being mayor of Boston for the past 11 years, but he is plainly irritated these days. He is furious with the local police union. He is contemptuous of Democratic leaders around the country who worship at the altar of organized labor. And he is even peeved at his long-time comrade in the Massachusetts political wars, John Kerry.



ROBERT NOVAK

Mayor Menino caught the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association napping Monday when a state commission forced through an expedited arbitration procedure that will settle a long-pending contract dispute just in time for the Democratic National Convention's opening Monday. However, the threat is not gone. Police union leaders are so angry that they vow to send protesters to the Fleet Center. Calling the arbitration a "political bag job," union president Thomas Nee said: "We're absolutely going to protest, now more than ever."

His call for volunteer protesters from "around the country" deepens the problem for Democratic politicians who devoutly observe labor picket lines.

An aide refers to Menino as "the last of the lunch pail Democrats," but that has not stopped him from crossing many union picket lines over the years in order to go about his business. He realizes that only a small portion of today's working men and women belong to labor unions, and not all those members

take orders from their union leaders by any means. Nevertheless, to most Democrats, the link between the party and organized labor is sacred and indissoluble.

Tom Menino, no conservative, is a firm ally and admirer of the state's senior senator, Edward M. Kennedy. Boston's first Italo-American mayor (following a long succession of Irishmen) opposes private school choice and complains that George W. Bush as president has crippled urban programs begun by Bill Clinton. But he has publicly called Sen. Kerry's campaign "small-minded" and "incompetent" and feels that he will be elected as the next president in spite of himself.

Kerry's refusal to walk past police pickets when Menino addressed the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Boston last week still rankles the mayor. He was not alone. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, who is known to have minimum regard for Kerry, and Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, whose enthusiastic support in a swing state may be needed by the Democratic candidate, both felt Kerry blundered in honoring the picket line. Mayors who have to deal with government unions on a daily basis may have a more realistic view of labor than senators and state party chairmen.

Art Torres, the California Democratic chairman whose intemperate comments last year helped elect Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger as governor, has announced he will walk out of the convention when Menino delivers his welcoming address and the California delegation will not attend the mayor's party. Ohio Chairman Dennis White, who was

running a truck freight company in Columbus when he took over the state party two years ago, has taken the same position as Torres.

What particularly upsets Menino is that Kerry, Torres, White and other assorted Democrats are taking sides against him on behalf of a labor organization whose political loyalties are at least unclear. The Boston police union supported the elder George Bush against then Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis for president in 1988, and the mayor contends it has backed Republicans more than Democrats at the local level. While Menino's suspicion of Republican inspiration for the current crisis seems doubtful, there is no question that the union timed the trouble to coincide with the Democratic convention.

This situation transcends Boston and even the party's national convention. With the dalliance between the Bush White House and James Hoffa's Teamsters now ended in mutual recriminations, labor unions have affirmed their commitment to the Democratic Party. In reciprocation, the party leaders tend to take an uncritical view of organized labor's demands.

Surely none of the police union's protesters will still be around when John Kerry arrives at the Fleet Center to accept the nomination. But before that event, disrespect will be shown the host mayor of Boston because of the Democratic Party's credo that whatever labor wants, labor gets.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Expanding the reach of emergency treatment

There is no question West Texas relies heavily on agriculture for much of its economy. As a result of this, many live and work on farms or ranches away from the crowded cities. But what happens when disaster strikes these rural communities? In most cases — waiting.

Rural communities are in need of more emergency medical personnel in order to cut down the amount of time between an accident and the start of treatment. Too often patients must wait for EMS to get to their location. Then, the long drive into a hospital capable of handling the emergency begins, which often results in more waiting.

The Golden Hour is the first hour after an accident in a rural community. The goal is to have the patient to a treatment center or hospital within an hour of calling EMS. Because of a lack of rural trauma centers and EMS, many areas within this region are outside the reach of the Golden Hour. The arms of the Golden Hour need to be expanded so we can better serve our rural neighbors when they are in need of emergency health care.

Increasing the number of EMS workers is vital to better care in rural communities because the death rate in trauma cases is twice that of urban areas. We need more people to join volunteer EMS and fire departments to provide quicker first response to these accidents.

Many times, the volunteer services within a community fall short of a fast response because of a lack of personnel. The answer is to get more volunteers and to

continue training them with the latest technology and life-saving skills.

Cell phones are another advancement that has brought the country closer to the city, but



DR. PATTI PATTERSON

cell phones are not always reliable in rural areas. Having a cell phone can help in case of an accident. It should not be the only form of help, however.

Another option is to get training to the workers in these rural communities. When an accident occurs, the chances of the accident victim drastically improve if someone on the scene can provide basic first aid before EMS arrives. Farmers and ranchers should have a good knowledge of first aid in case of an emergency. Anything can happen in the country, especially with people working around heavy machinery and large farm animals.

If we can teach farm workers how to perform basic life support measures such as CPR, applying pressure to a severe cut or making a splint for a broken arm or leg, this will reduce the amount of time between the incident and first response treatment. It could be enough to stretch the arms of the Golden Hour and help it reach farther across the South Plains.

Dr. Patti Patterson is vice president for rural and community health at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Chinese pain relief method just might be your cup of tea

By LISA GUTIERREZ

KRT Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — They were the hickey marks seen 'round the world.

Photographs circulated around the world of actress Gwyneth Paltrow at a movie premiere in a black strapless top with big, dark, circular marks marching across her back.

A beating? A weird skin condition? Had she been mugged by an octopus? Nope.

She'd been cupped, and lots of other folks are walking around with similar marks on their bodies.

Cupping is an ancient Chinese procedure performed by acupuncturists to treat everything from lower back pain and arthritis to lung congestion, even infertility. Think of it as an intense, vigorous massage — with a whole lot of suction action.

During a cupping procedure, heated cups are placed over the skin and left there for anywhere from a few minutes to as long as 30. As the air inside the cup cools, the skin and underlying tissue is "sucked" up into the cup — thus the marks — increasing blood circulation to the area.

Like Paltrow, 69-year-old Hal Cowan of Overland Park, Kan., is a cupping devotee. He's had the procedure done on and off for five years now to alleviate the pain of a persistent shoulder problem. The procedure doesn't hurt, he says, and the pain relief is immediate.

"People will say 'What is this, mysticism?'" says Cowan, a retiree and busy volunteer at Church of the Resurrection. "No, it isn't. This has been done



KRT Photo by Delores Johnson/Kansas City Star
Kim Grogg receives a cupping treatment from an acupuncturist in Kansas City, Mo. Cupping is an ancient Chinese procedure that treats pain and other ailments by placing hot cups on the body.

in China for thousands of years."

Earlier this week acupuncturist Mary Zhang demonstrated flash-fire cupping, a common version, on a willing co-worker, Christie Yerby, medical director of Robin Chiropractic and Acupuncture Center in Overland Park.

Zhang learned acupuncture in China more than 10 years ago and has taught classes on Chinese medicine at several local hospitals and colleges.

Most of her cupping clients have some type of chronic pain, though she also pairs the procedure with acupuncture on women who are having trouble conceiving.

Yerby lay face down on a massage table, stripped to the waist. Zhang picked up a cotton ball with a surgical clamp, dipped the cotton in alcohol and set it afire with a lighter. Next she picked up a small glass cup shaped like a tiny fish bowl.

Zhang pushed the cotton-ball torch inside the cup, pulled it out and swiftly plopped the bowl onto an acupuncture point on Yerby's back.

Because the heat depressurized the air inside the

cup, creating a vacuum, the cup stuck tightly to Yerby's back. Within seconds, the skin underneath the cup began to slightly darken as blood rushed to the spot.

Cupping doesn't always involve fire. Another method of suction involves cups with valves. A small, hand-operated pump attached to the cup's valve is used to suck the air out.

People who've been cupped say that it doesn't hurt, that it feels like a gentle squeezing, or tightening, of the skin.

"What I've experienced with it, you don't even feel it," Cowan says. "You just lay there after the cups go on. You begin to get relief pretty immediately."

Kansas City acupuncturist Kathleen Coleton finds that cupping is most

muscle aches, especially on the back and across the shoulders. She likens the suction treatment to grabbing onto a muscle and not letting go of it until it relaxes and releases its tension.

"I don't think cupping is appropriate for every part of the body," says Coleton, a member of the Missouri Acupuncturist Advisory Committee, which licenses and regulates all acupuncturists in the state. "It's very limited in terms of what it's good for."

For instance, cupping wouldn't work on something like Parkinson's disease, because "it doesn't affect the neurological system" Coleton says. And someone with fibromyalgia, who may be physically weak and especially achy, "a lot of times can't take a real aggressive treatment" of cupping, she says.

"And at certain points of the body there's not enough muscle. You probably wouldn't want to do it on the front of the neck ... but on the back of the neck where people get tension headaches."

Depending on how many cups are applied, a procedure can take anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour. A standard fee for a one-hour treatment in Kansas City is about \$60.

The first thing acupuncturists tell their clients is that the procedure will leave marks, which typically disappear after three to six days.

"First and foremost, you don't cup people until you tell them this is going to leave a mark," says Kansas City acupuncturist Greg Boyle. "And as a result, most Americans don't want it because of that."

Coleton learned long ago to warn clients first about the tell-tale marks. "I've told people not to wear bikinis after they've had this done."

Drugs to combat alcoholism are beginning to gain acceptance

HARTFORD, Conn. (KRT) — Medication that alters the brain's response to alcohol could change the treatment of problem drinking so that it more closely resembles the type of care now routine for diabetes, high cholesterol and depression.

Researchers say the medications — some already available, others nearing FDA approval — could help lift the social stigma that prevents many problem drinkers from seeking help.

The availability of a pill or a shot could bring alcoholism out of the national closet in the same way that drugs in the Prozac family have made depression a legitimate and treatable disease for millions of people in the United States.

With the revolution in anti-depressant medication, "people are much less likely to view depression as the fault of the person like alcoholism is now," said Dr. Henry R. Kranzler, professor of psychiatry and an alcoholism researcher at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington.

Although several drug companies are working to develop new medications for alcoholism, at least one has been available for 10 years. Naltrexone is a pill that appears to work by blocking chemicals in the brain that make people feel good when they drink alcohol. Because it blunts the pleasure sensa-

tion in people with alcohol addictions, it may reduce their urge to drink.

"Believe me, naltrexone has changed the lives of some alcoholics," said Dr. Charles O'Brien, vice chairman of psychiatry and director of the Center for Studies of Addiction at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

One problem is nobody is certain about whom it helps and whom it does not help. There is some evidence that naltrexone is most effective for people with a certain genetic blueprint. It also seems to help men more than women.

But a new study by a biotechnology company developing a once-a-month naltrexone injection found that a high-dose of the drug reduced the rate of heavy drinking dramatically in most of the patients who tested it.

Early next year, the company plans to apply to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for approval to market Vivitrex. It could be available by 2006.

But naltrexone obvious-

ly will not help all of the estimated 17 million people in the United States who battle problem drinking, Kranzler and others said. Several drug companies are testing new formulations that could alter the brain's reaction to alcohol in different ways.

Two of the drugs are approved for treating other conditions but also show promise for alcohol addiction. Topiramate is an anti-seizure drug, and aripiprazole is an anti-psychotic that regulates the release of dopamine, the same brain chemical affected by alcohol.

Another drug, acamprosate, which is widely used in Europe to help calm alcohol cravings in newly sober people, is under review by the FDA for eventual use in the United States. In addition, at least one completely new drug is on the drawing board.

"We are really on the verge of a kind of expansion in the kinds of medications available for patients," said Stephanie O'Malley, director of the Division of Substance Abuse at the Yale School of Medicine.

VIAGRA	DIET PILLS
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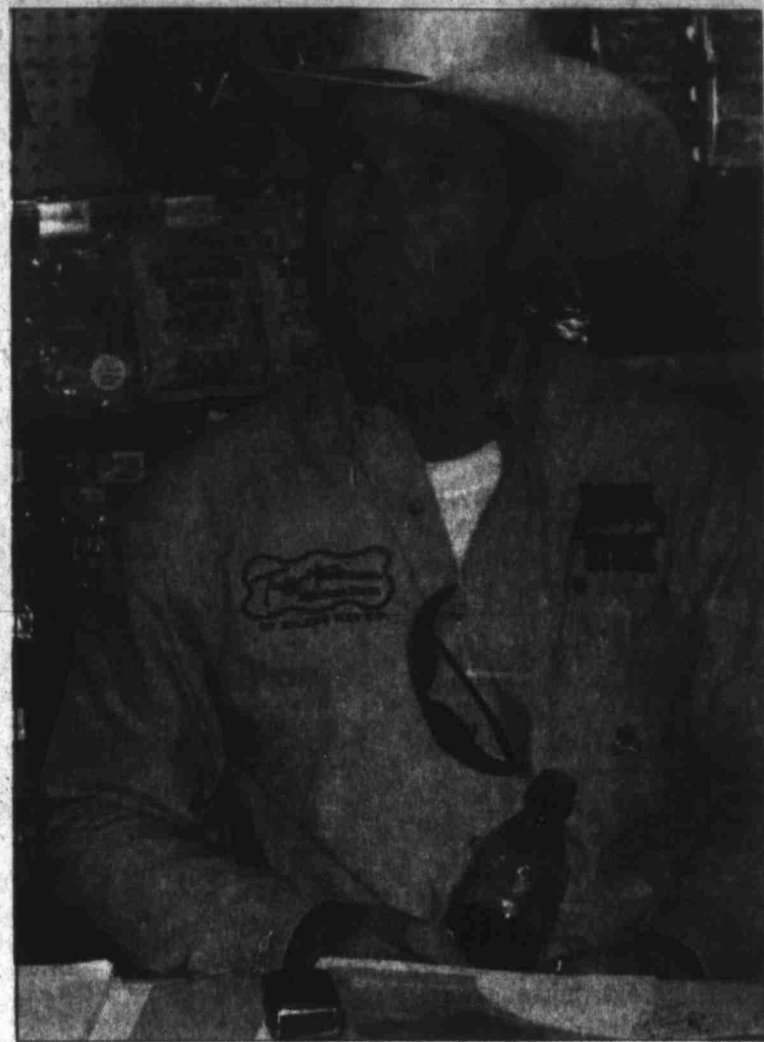
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Crystal Wingert of Big Spring, left, and K.K. Kellar of Coahoma, both incoming freshman at Texas A&M University, rearrange one of the many items that were up for sale at the Howard County A&M Club Auction and Reunion Saturday night at the Big Spring County Club.



Rodeo fans flocked to the Big Spring Wal-Mart Saturday afternoon to visit with world champion bull rider Tuff Hedeman who was signing autographs and posing for pictures. His visit was sponsored by the Frito Lay Company. Below, Hedeman visits with Jim Walters.



Tiffany Garcia, a member of the group Danzation of the Dance Gallery, performs at the Heritage Museum's premiere of its newest exhibit on local Hispanic culture Saturday night.



Sydney T. Clark, Texas A&M Class of 1949, enjoys hors d'oeuvres with his wife Andre at the Howard County A&M Auction and Reunion held Saturday night at the Big Spring County Club.



Lydia Molina, left, takes a bow after her dance performance with and Mary Paradez, right, at the Heritage Museum's premiere of its newest exhibit on local Hispanic culture Saturday night.



Dance instructor Stevi Bingham surrounded by her students finishes off a performance at the Heritage Museum's premiere of its newest exhibit featuring local Hispanic culture held Saturday night. The group, Danzation from the Dance Gallery, performed several modern Spanish dances to a very large crowd.



Danzation from the Dance Gallery, performed several modern Spanish dances to a very large crowd.

S

IN B

Forsan and week-long

Forsan has announced skills training will take place through Friday. The camp is open to anyone in grades through 12. A section for seventh- and eighth-graders will be held from 6-7 p.m. The cost is \$25 per school session. Sessions take place on Friday, 6-7 p.m. and Wednesday, 6-7 p.m. To register, contact Tonya Vespa at 879-8343 or Connie Edwards at 432-267-6911.

Crossroads sign-up dates

The Youth Association announced sign-up dates for the 2004-2005 football season. Football sign-up will take place on Friday, July 23, from 6-7 p.m. on Friday, July 23, and Saturday, July 24, from 6-7 p.m. The league cost for sixth graders is \$25. For more information, call Robert at 879-8343.

BSISD annual volleyball

Big Spring ISD announced volleyball sign-up dates for the 2004-2005 season. Sign-up will be held on all Mondays from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, July 22, and Thursday, July 29, from 6-7 p.m. at the junior high gym. For more information, contact Daggett at 879-8343.

Herald annual golf tournament

The Big Spring Herald announced the annual Comanche Course golf tournament. The tournament is open to all men or women. The fee is \$25, which includes a green fee, cart, and lunch. The tournament will be held on Friday, July 23, from 8-11 a.m. For more information, contact Comanche Course at 879-8343.

ON T

Event, Time, Location, Contact Information

Sports

**BIG
SPRING HERALD**

 Page 1B
 Monday, July 26, 2004

IN BRIEF
Forsan announces week-long clinic

Forsan High School has announced an all-skills tennis clinic will take place today through Friday.

The camp is open for anyone in grades six through 12.

A section for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders will take place from 6-7 p.m. and the cost is \$25. The high school section will take place from 7-9 p.m. and will cost \$35.

To register, contact Tonya Vess at 432-268-8798 or 432-559-5822 or Connie Eggleston at 432-267-6913 or 432-517-0749.

Crossroads football sign-up dates set

The Crossroads Youth Football Association has announced the sign-up dates for the upcoming season.

Football sign-ups will take place at the Big Spring Mall. Football players can sign up through Aug. 21 on Fridays (5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.) and Saturdays (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) only.

The league is for kindergarten through sixth grade.

The flag football league costs \$30, while football division 1 and 2 costs \$55, respectively.

For more information, call Stacie or Robert at 432-268-9634.

BSISD announces volleyball open gyms

Big Spring will hold volleyball open gyms on all Mondays and Thursdays for the summer from 6-8 p.m. at the junior high.

There will also be lifting and conditioning both Mondays and Thursdays after open gym from 8-9 p.m.

For more information, contact Revis Daggett at 432-816-9560.

Herald announces golf tournament

The Big Spring Herald has set its annual City Golf Championships for Saturday and Sunday at Comanche Trail Park.

The tournament is open to all residents — men or women — of Howard County and annual members of Comanche Trail Golf Course and the Big Spring Country Club.

There is a \$35 entry fee, which includes green fee, but not carts. The tournament will be flighted by handicap and trophies will be awarded to flight winners.

For more information, contact Comanche Trail Golf Course at 264-2366.

ON THE AIR

Event, Time	Friday	Station
Rangers @ Angels, 6:30 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1400
Event, Time	Tuesday	Station
Angels @ Devil Rays, 6:40 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1400
Event, Time	Wednesday	Station
Rangers @ Angels, 6:30 p.m.	1:40 p.m.	1400

Parcells looks to build off playoff season

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Bill Parcells has already laid a winning foundation, needing just one season to get the Dallas Cowboys back into the playoffs.

Never in his three previous coaching stops, where he also took over teams coming off losing records, had Parcells gotten to the postseason so quickly. The breakthrough had always come in year two.

So now, in Parcells' second season, he isn't planning to spend a lot of time repeating himself or re-teaching.

"In a lot of respects I will be less patient this year because my expectations are that the players should know a heck of a lot more than they did going in last year," Parcells said. "These guys that have been here for a year, they need to know what to do."

Returning players know Parcells' no-nonsense approach. He doesn't tolerate a lackadaisical approach or silly mistakes, especially from players who've been with him before.

"There's no surprise," defensive tackle La'Roi Glover said. "You know what to expect. You know how the routine of practice is going to be go, how training camp is going to be run. It eliminates a lot of excuses ... Get the job done and let's go about our business."

That means being ready from the get-go July 31, the start of 11 sets of two-a-day practices over the first 12 days of camp in Oxnard, Calif.

But have the Cowboys done enough to better — or even equal — last year's 10-6 record? Especially in the NFC East that now has coach Joe Gibbs back in Washington and Terrell Owens with other big additions in Philadelphia.

While some needs were filled, Dallas wasn't a big offseason spender even with plenty of money under the salary cap.



New Dallas Cowboys running back Eddie George sits with his son, Jaire, in the team's dressing room Friday, June 23. George signed a one-year deal with Dallas this past weekend.

Two quarterbacks were added, 40-year-old Vinny Testaverde and former pro baseball player Drew Henson. Defensive end Marcellus Wiley was signed and receiver Keyshawn Johnson — like Testaverde a former Parcells player — came in a trade from Tampa Bay for Joey Galloway.

The Cowboys made a splashy move Friday, signing running back Eddie George to a one-year, incentive-filled deal. To cash in, he'll have to beat out second-round draft pick Julius Jones, who heads into camp hoping to become Dallas' first rookie starting running back since NFL career rushing leader Emmitt Smith 14 years ago.

Quarterback Quincy Carter started all 16 games last year. But Testaverde signed expecting a chance to start while serving as a mentor to Carter, Henson and Tony Romo.

"(Quincy) earned the starting job here last year. He was the best guy at that position last year," Parcells said. "I play that

best guy. They all know that. They have been told that. It's not shrouded in secrecy."

Chad Hutchinson, a former pro pitcher, probably eliminated himself by playing poorly in NFL Europe. He's not expected to be in camp.

Johnson provides the possession-type receiver the Cowboys have missed since Michael Irvin was forced into retirement by injury five years ago. After some contentious times in Tampa Bay, and being deactivated before last season ended, Johnson is ready to play again for Parcells.

"Once I got away from that situation, it was kind of like, have a good time, have fun again," Johnson said. "(Parcells) is the only head coach that I like to play for."

Perennial Pro Bowl offensive lineman Larry Allen didn't enjoy his first season for Parcells, often clashing with the coach and being singled out for his poor conditioning. Allen was even on the trading block and not part of offseason work-

outs until he got in better shape.

Antonio Bryant remains, even after being kicked out of a June workout when he threw his jersey into Parcells' face. Parcells hasn't publicly addressed the issue but also hasn't cut the young receiver, who was reportedly upset about his lack of work behind Johnson and Terry Glenn.

Bryant is meeting soon with Parcells and team owner Jerry Jones. His job status will be determined before camp opens. Jones wouldn't indicate Friday which way he was leaning, but Bryant's agent said he was confident Bryant would make amends.

The NFL's top-ranked defense hopes to solve its biggest weakness with the addition of Wiley (41 career sacks).

"I think it can be real beneficial, helping each other," said defensive end Greg Ellis, who had a team-high eight sacks last year. "If we can do what we did last year and improve, we've got a lot of

good chances to get to the quarterback."

Linebacker Dexter Coakley made his third Pro Bowl last season but found himself behind second-year player Bradie James during a mini-camp. That doesn't mean Coakley won't start, but Parcells likes the 243-pound James, who impressed on special teams as a rookie.

The secondary, already questionable at cornerback, got a blow Friday with the announcement that Darren Woodson will miss training camp because of a back injury. Surgery is likely and he could miss the first two games of the season.

The Cowboys held their last two camps inside San Antonio's Alamodome, but were summertime regulars in California before moving camp back to their home state in 1990. They did spend two weeks in Oxnard three years ago to escape the suffocating heat of Wichita Falls.

But the players can't go anywhere to escape Parcells' heat.

Former Longhorn calls it quits after five NFL seasons

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — Ricky Williams has decided to retire at the peak of his career, stunning the Miami Dolphins and leaving an enormous void in their backfield less than a week before the start of training camp.

The 27-year-old Williams, who rushed for 3,225 yards in two seasons with the Dolphins, told them this week of his decision before leaving town, a team source told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Sunday.

His retirement after just five NFL seasons was first reported Sunday by The Miami Herald.

"You can't understand how free I feel," Williams told the Herald in a cell phone interview Saturday before boarding a plane in Hawaii and heading to Asia to begin several months of travel.

Long ambivalent about life in the spotlight, Williams said there's no chance he'll change his mind, and he plans to file his retirement papers with the NFL Monday or Tuesday. He told coach Dave Wannstedt of his decision Friday and said

Wannstedt tried to persuade him to reconsider.

Miami opens camp Friday.

Williams told the Herald marijuana tests he failed had a minor influence on his decision, but were only one of many factors. In May, three South Florida newspapers reported that Williams tested positive for marijuana and faced a fine of at least \$650,000 for violating the league's substance-abuse policy for a second time since joining the Dolphins.

His attorney, Gary Ostrow, said there was no violation, and a ruling on Williams' appeal was pending. But Williams told the Herald he has gotten around drug tests in the past by taking a special liquid players all over the league consume to avoid detection.

Williams, who is single but has three young children, was to make about \$3.5 million this season.

After winning the Heisman Trophy at Texas in 1998, Williams joined the New Orleans Saints when coach Mike Ditka used all of his draft picks to acquire the standout running back. Ditka said Sunday he hasn't spoken

with Williams in about six months and was shocked by the retirement news.

"I'd love to talk to him and try to talk him out of it," Ditka said from Chicago. "It seems kind of foolish to me, but I don't know what's on his mind. You're just destroying a great career. He's a talent. To let that all go to waste doesn't make a lot of sense."

Williams played three seasons for New Orleans but didn't blossom until he was dealt in 2002 for two first-round draft picks to the Dolphins.

It was Miami's biggest trade since 1970, and at times it looked like a steal. Williams led the NFL in 2002 with 1,853 yards rushing and broke nine team records. Last season he ran for 1,372 yards despite little offensive support.

In some ways Williams' decision to retire in his prime was not a surprise, because he was never the stereotypical football player. His passions include shopping and photography, and in 2001 he was diagnosed with social anxiety disorder, a condition contributing to his extreme shyness.

While with the Saints, he often conducted interviews while wearing his helmet. He said he felt like a weirdo in New Orleans but professed to be happy during his two seasons with Miami.

A vacation this offseason to Australia may have whetted his appetite for more travel. He returned from that trip sporting a shaved head instead of his distinctive dreadlocks.

He's not the first running back to retire at or near his peak. His friend Jim Brown quit at 30, Barry Sanders retired at 31 and Robert Smith quit at 28.

And now, due to the timing of Williams' retire-

ment, the Dolphins head into training camp with few options for filling the position. Eddie George, who might have been a possibility, signed with the Dallas Cowboys this week. For the moment the job belongs to three-year backup Travis Minor, who has yet to start an NFL game.

John Bianco, assistant director for media relations at Texas, said Williams told him a few weeks ago he expected to make this season his last. Bianco said he anticipates that Williams will return to Texas to earn his degree in education and pursue work with children.

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JULY 26 2004

IN BRIEF

BSYFL and Cowboys to host competition

The Big Spring Youth Football League and the Dallas Cowboys will be hosting the local Pepsi/NFL punt, pass and kick competition Aug. 21, at the field north of the ATC.

The registration starts at 8 a.m. and the contest is free to boys and girls 8-15.

The eight winners from Big Spring will perform at sectionals in Lubbock in October.

For more info, contact George Lopez at 264-7313 or by e-mail at BSYFL@msn.com.

San Angelo Concho Classic announced

The Fifth-Annual Concho Classic one-pitch softball tournament in San Angelo has been set for Saturday.

There will be a men and women's open.

The entry fee to participate is \$100 per team and each team has a 12 player limit. The deadline to enter is Wednesday.

The first place team receives individual bat bags, while second and third place teams get team trophies. There will also be an all-tournament team and MVP announced, as well. There will be no home run limit.

To enter, call Chris at 325-277-0628.

Softball tournament in Snyder announced

A men's softball tournament in Snyder has been set for Aug. 7-8 at Winston Field.

For more information, call Luis 325-573-7321.

Big Spring Shrine Club sets toumey

The Big Spring Shriner's Club has moved its annual golf tournament to Sept. 25-26 after originally scheduling for July 17-18. The tournament could not be held on the original date due to another tournament taking place at the same time.

The tournament will take place at the Big Spring Country Club.

BSISD sets football season ticket dates

Big Spring ISD has scheduled its dates for football season ticket sales.

Previous season ticket holders may purchase 2004 season tickets starting today through Aug. 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).

The general public may purchase season tickets from Aug. 9 through Aug. 20 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.).

However, all Friday sales are from 8 a.m. to noon only.

For questions, call Kay Cook at 264-3662.

It's official; Texan wins unprecedented sixth straight Tour

By JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press Writer

PARIS — Lance Armstrong raced onto the crowd-lined Champs-Elyses as a yellow blur, bathed in the shimmering light of a 24-carat, gold-leaf bike, a golden helmet and the race leader's yellow jersey.

Earlier, he let up on the pedals long enough to sip some celebratory champagne.

Nothing but the best for cycling's best.

Armstrong rode into history Sunday, winning a record sixth Tour de France and cementing his place as one of the greatest athletes of all time.

Never in its 101-year history has the Tour had a winner like Armstrong — who just eight years ago was given less than a 50 percent chance of overcoming testicular cancer that spread to his lungs and brain.

His streak of six straight crowns has helped reinvigorate the greatest race in cycling, steering it into the 21st century.

And the Tour, as much a part of French summers as languid meals over chilled rose, molded Armstrong into a superstar.

Taking advantage of the leisurely pace of the final stage, Armstrong sat up in the saddle and held up all five fingers on his black-gloved right hand and the index finger on his left.

Counting to six was never so sweet for the 32-year-old Texan.

"It might take years. I don't know. It hasn't sunk in yet. But six, standing on the top step on the podium on the Champs-Elyses, is really special," he said.

The ride into Paris and its famous tree-lined boulevard was a lap of honor Armstrong savored with the champagne. Even Jan Ullrich, his main adversary in previous years, gulped down a glass offered by Armstrong's team manager through his car window.

"The last laps there, I thought, 'Ah, I want to get this over with,'" Armstrong said. "But then I thought to myself, 'You know, you might want to do a few more laps, because you may not ever do it again.' And you can't take it for granted."

President Bush called soon after his fellow Texan crossed the finish line. "You're awesome," Bush told him.

With the Arc de Triomphe in the background, Armstrong put his yellow bicycle cap over his head during the raising of the American flag and playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." It might be his last time on the podium, at least for a while.

Armstrong opened a new page for the Tour in 1999, just one year after the race faced its worst doping scandal, ejecting the Festina team after police caught one of its employees with a stash of drugs.

Armstrong's victories and his inspiring comeback from cancer have drawn new fans to a race that has been won five times by four other riders.

His professionalism, attention to detail, grueling training regimens and tactics have raised the bar for other riders hoping to win the three-week cycling marathon.

"He's changed the Tour forever," fellow American rider Bobby Julich said. "He has set the blueprint for success, and he deserves all the success that he is getting."

Eye-catching in the bright yellow shirt he works so hard for, Armstrong donned a golden cycling helmet for a relaxed roll past sun-baked fields of wheat and applauding spectators into Paris from Montreaux in the south-east.

He rode a \$10,000, carbon-fiber, gold-leaf bike, which Trek will sell in stores later this year.

Armstrong joked and chatted with teammates who wore special blue jerseys with yellow stripes. They stretched in a line across the road with their leader for motorcycle-riding photographers to record the moment.

The team was the muscle behind Armstrong's win, leading him in grueling mountain climbs, shielding him from crashes and wind, and keeping him stoked with drinks and food.

Last year, Armstrong beat Ullrich by just 61 seconds — by far his narrowest victory. He now admits he was not in great shape.

"I paid the price and learned a valuable lesson, and I won't ever make that mistake again," he said.

This year, he roared back with renewed fire.

"It's as if I was with my five friends and we were 13 years old and we all had new bikes and we said, 'OK, we're going to race from here to there,'" he said. "You want to beat your friends more than anything."

With five solo stage wins and a team time-trial victory with his U.S. Postal Service squad, this was Armstrong's best Tour.

But it was also one in which he was forced to defend himself against claims he might be taking performance-enhancing drugs.

Armstrong still hasn't decided whether he will back next year to compete in the race he loves above all others, for which he trains relentlessly, leaving his three children in Texas, with former wife Kristin, while he pounds the roads in Europe.

"I don't know what I'll do next summer. I suspect I'll be here," he said.

"It's too big of a race. My only hesitation is I think the people and the event perhaps need a change, new faces, a new winner."

"If I'm here," he added. "I race to win."



DC United's Mike Petke, right, advances the ball against the Galaxy's Carlos Ruiz during the first half of their game at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., Saturday, July 17.

Bush tells Tour De France winner, "You're awesome"

By SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writer

CRAWFORD — President Bush called Lance Armstrong on Sunday to congratulate him on a sixth straight Tour de France title.

"You're awesome," Bush told Armstrong.

Bush "congratulated him on behalf of the nation, and told him his country was proud of him and that he was an outstanding athlete," White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan said.

Bush spent the morning clearing brush at his ranch but came into his house about the time his fellow Texan crossed the finish line, Buchan said. The president watched TV coverage after the race's finish.

Bush took up mountain biking this year as his knees grew more painful from years of running.

Democratic candidate

John Kerry told supporters at a campaign appearance in Columbus, Ohio, that he is proud of the six-time winner of the Tour de France.

"Three weeks on a bike, riding those kinds of miles at that kind of speed," said Kerry, also a cycling enthusiast. "The level of athleticism, the level of fine-tuning of the human body and the mental commitment, mental focus and discipline and courage to go through that kind of pain and that kind of effort is, in my judgment, just extraordinary."

Officials of the U.S. Postal Service, which has sponsored Armstrong's team since 1996, were thrilled with his latest win in Paris, shouting to be heard via cell phone from the Champs-Elyses over music and cheers of the crowds.

"Lance just made history, bringing home the sixth straight victory in the Tour de France. The team today rode into the history books, and we couldn't be more delighted," Anita Bizzotto, senior vice president and chief marketing officer of the Postal Service. Bizzotto said she hoped Armstrong would try for a seventh straight victory, "as long as he feels he can keep winning, and be an inspiration to people all around the world."

The Discovery Channel, which will take over sponsorship of the team next year, also hopes to have Armstrong on the squad. "In days and weeks ahead, we'll talk about the 2005 schedule and roster and certainly our hope and expectation is Lance will continue to ride for years to come," the Discovery Channel's David Leavy said.

Houston Texans training camp capsule

Houston Texans (last year: 5-11)

Open Camp: July 31, in Houston

Last Year: Second-year expansion team progressed according to plan, taking all but one home game to the wire despite having the league's 31st-ranked offense and defense. Fourth-round pick running back Domanick Davis was one of the league's top rookies.

Important Additions: DE Robaire Smith, OT Todd Wade and two top draft picks in CB Dunta Robinson and LB Jason Babin.

Important Losses: DT Steve Martin, LB Steve Foley, OT Greg Randall and RB Stacey Mack.

Camp Needs: A revamped defense must deal with several new faces and position changes. The unit will feature the rookie first-rounders, Robinson and Babin, a new veteran in Smith. Of special interest will be Marcus Coleman, a ninth year player moving to free safety from cornerback.

Expectations: There's little doubt the Texans are on the rise, although they're in a division with Indianapolis and Tennessee. An 8-8 season would fit nicely into the team's four-year playoff plan and would be a major step for a franchise that's yet to even win two straight games.



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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
The Scorpio moon tunes us in to the subtleties that shape our environment, and with Mercury now in Virgo, it's even easier to home in on the microscopic details we missed earlier — the clues that will give us that exhilarating "aha!" moment tonight. The moon shifts into Sagittarius, and it's difficult to get to sleep.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Synergy: Your life needs it, and your special project won't fly without it. So find people or organizations you work well



Joyce Jillson

with because it can't happen on your own. A minute adjustment to your personal life makes a big difference.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Phone calls from a distance both cheer you and fill you with curiosity. What do the callers want, you may wonder. Presume innocence, and you can have a good old time chatting away. Tell someone how grateful you are for help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your intentions may be clear to you but not so to the people around you. State where you're going. You'll get more help, especially from a powerful person. Your family could bombard you because you have the best solutions!

CANCER (June 22-July

22). In the morning, you arise remembering the things that you forgot to do yesterday. Was it somebody's birthday? Did you overlook an assignment? Whatever the misstep, correct it before noon, and the damage is minimal.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Capture the respect of those under you at work. Even if it's not "your job," pitching in to show that you're not above doing what it takes to make the team run smoothly will earn you all the esteem you desire.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Close relationships are your main focus, though you don't want them to be. Big issues make it impossible for you to go along your

merry way — your mind is tied into either worrying or scheming about how to make it all work out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's no reason to be jealous of friends who always seem to be taking trips and exploring new parts of the world. Get on the Internet, and book something! It's not as expensive as you might think. Invest in children.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're so content with your own little bubble of a world that it's hard to let anyone in. But a little change or, better yet, conflict will actually be good for you. Stop screening your calls, and make some daring ones of your own.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a long list of things that have to happen in order for you to pull off a big plan. But don't you worry: Your creativity and bubbling enthusiasm act as a magnet to draw whatever is needed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your efforts (and your efforts alone) will determine your financial status. This might be hard to accept when it feels like higher-ups have all the power over the size of your paycheck. This is only an illusion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Some think love is a game; others

think it is a dance — lately, you see it as an equation to be solved. Your analytical look at love seems to give you more options. If one way doesn't work, there are 1,000 other solutions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Money luck is on the rise. Opportunities to earn more include physical labor, not just coming up with ideas, but you're feeling strong (and can use the exercise). Let go of a nagging and unfulfilling obligation.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "How often would you suggest a person go to an astrologer? I don't know when to get updates since sometimes I get information that won't happen for years, I'm sure."

I suggest a person go an astrologer at times when he or she has more questions or needs to make decisions about the direction life is taking. I believe a live astrological reading should not merely be about delivering information based on your chart but should be a dialogue that helps you make wise choices based on your particular set of strengths and weaknesses. Unless you're in the throes of a divorce or major job change, every six months to a year is common for many of my clients. If you have no questions and your life is going well, you may not

want to go at all, and that's common, too. Should you be in a major life change and you want extra charts done of a new romantic interest, potential new boss or possible new job, then extra sessions might be called for. Never feel obligated to go to an astrologer. Of course, if you have the money, multiple readings can be fun and invigorating.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Leo is the sign of royalty, and Kate Beckinsale recently appeared as a behind-kicking princess in "Van Helsing." The role brought out her cat-like physical prowess. This year, an associate with a royal connection could serve as the inspiration or financier for her next project. For Leos born in 1973, the luckiest months for undertaking new projects are September and November.

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

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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: You recently printed a letter about a single father who seemed overly familiar with his 14-year-old daughter. I have a similar problem.

"Milo" and I have been dating for a year. He has two daughters, and I am concerned about the relationship he has with the older one, who lives with him. I understand that Milo is close to both his daughters because he has raised them as a single parent for the past 16 years. But "Emily" is 23, and something is not right.

Whenever I visit Milo at his place, Emily is usually cuddled up to him in a fashion I would call intimate. She strokes his hair and rubs her foot up and down his leg. Maybe I was raised wrong, but I never touched my father in this manner, and neither do most women I know.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Milo's younger daughter, who lives on her own, does little more than kiss her father on the cheek when she visits. Both girls date, so I'm surprised Emily doesn't save this stuff for her boyfriend. I am not comfortable seeing Emily touch her father in this way and would like to bring it up to him. Should I, or is it none of my busi-

ness? -- Too Close for Comfort

Dear Too Close: Does Emily behave like this all the time, or only when you are visiting? It seems she is "marking her territory," so to speak, and letting you know that she will always come first in Daddy's life. The fact that Daddy doesn't mind is what disturbs us.

Yes, you can bring this up to Milo, but gently. Let him know you find such father-daughter intimacy unusual, and that Emily seems rather possessive when you are around. Tell him it makes you uncomfortable. If he values your relationship, he will ask Emily to cool it. If not, at least you'll know where you stand.

Dear Annie: I have a question about proper hand towel etiquette. When there is a cloth roll for drying one's hands in a public bathroom, is it better to pull the roll down to a fresh piece when you are finished or leave it alone?

I'm a janitor and would prefer not to have to change those rolls so often. -- Throwing in the Towel in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada

Dear Alberta: This isn't so much about etiquette as it is about hygiene. Electric hand dryers and disposable paper towels are less likely to transmit germs. For the cloth roll, we think each person should pull down a fresh piece after drying his or her own hands, instead of leaving a soiled area for the next person to yank at. The important thing is to wash your hands thoroughly and try not to touch too much.

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

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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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MONDAY

JULY 26

Table with 25 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLN, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, TMC) and rows for different times of the day (6:00 AM to 12:00 AM) listing various programs.

DENNIS THE MENACE



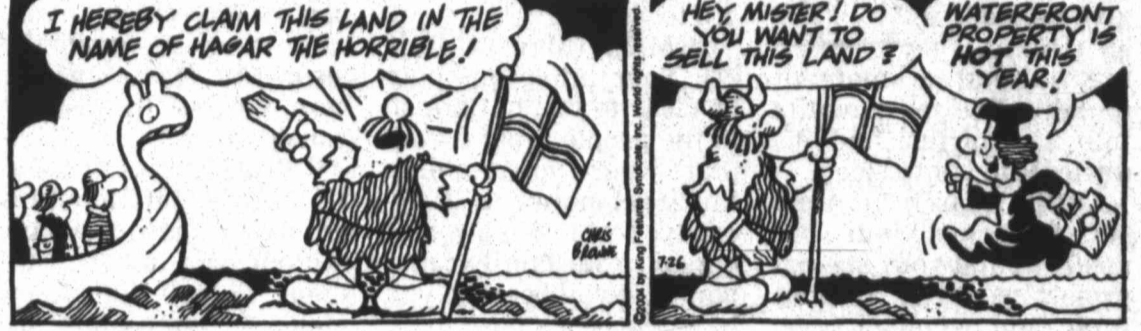
"THESE ARE DELICIOUS, DENNIS. THE FROSTING IS SO SMOOTH." "THAT'S BECAUSE I LICKED 'EM."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Why not?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 26, the 208th day of 2004. There are 158 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 26, 1947, President Truman signed the National Security Act...

In 1948, President Truman signed a pair of executive orders prohibiting discrimination in the U.S. armed forces and federal employment. In 1952, Adlai E. Stevenson was nominated for president by the Democratic national convention in Chicago...

Governor Gray Davis held a boisterous celebration at the state Capitol in Sacramento, more than two months before the Oct. 7 recall election. Today's Birthdays: Movie director Blake Edwards is 82. Actor James Best is 78. Singer Dobie Gray is 64...

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword puzzle grid with words filled in, including CHARISMA, ERRATA, RELATION, REUBEN, ELECTRON, AUBURN, WERE, SLOG, PEDRO, ENTRY, AYAH, HAT, LASSO, EVE, NAPA, LEADER, OBIT, SKULKED, IMAGINE, MAINE, KIDNEY, OLIO, EEO, SERIAL, OAF, GRUNT, SUMMA, THOSE, SARA, SPUR, HARKED, TELLTALE, ERMINE, ENTAILLED, DISMAL, STACCATO.

Newsday Crossword

GOING SOLO by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS: 1 Canyon sound, 5 Spanish miss: Abbr., 9 Balance-sheet plus, 14 Persuade, 15 Lettuce purchase, 16 Nut tree, 17 Person with, no siblings, 19 Long look, 20 "Take your paws off me!", 21 Robin's retreat, 23 Reunion attendee, 24 City in Oklahoma, 26 Coffee containers, 28 Office-memo specification, 33 Hosp. workers, 34 Pastoral place, 35 Like a lot, 37 Solemn statements, 40 Piña colada ingredient, 42 Equip anew, 43 Boy Scout unit, 44 Short sleep, 46 King Kong, e.g., 47 Nickname for Texas, 52 Whirlpool, 53 News clipping, 54 Depend (on), 57 Quick look, 59 Synagogue leader, 63 Suspect's story, 65 Brief jokes, 67 Safe spot, 68 Gumbo ingredient, 69 Pass out cards, 70 Glossy, 71 Poet Ogden, 72 Johnson of Laugh-In, 10 Place in reserve, 11 Marine mammal, 12 Hosiery hue, 13 Those people, 18 Capitol Hill grp., 22 Singing syllable, 25 Not feeling well, 27 Tenn. neighbor sci., 28 Traffic tie-up, 29 Playground retort, 30 Steam bath, 31 Diet-food label phrase, 32 Complain, 33 Go bad, 36 Summer, in France, 38 Hive inhabitant, 39 Went fast, 41 Sailors, 45 Seattle clock setting: Abbr., 48 Radical '60s org., 49 Powerful business-person, 50 Actress Garr, 51 Blake of Gunsmoke, 54 Stadium sounds, 55 Airline to Israel, 56 Not taped, 58 "Puppy Love" singer, 60 Bar brew, 61 Pesky kid, 62 Capri, e.g., 66 --di-dah

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 72 indicating the starting positions for the clues listed in the adjacent block.