



Study: Hotel conference center not feasible for private developer

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

If you build it, they may not necessarily come — of course, there's the whole matter of building it first.

That was the message Paul Sajovec, senior vice president with Chicago-based HVS Convention, Sports & Entertainment Facilities Consulting, brought to the Dora

"...if we were to begin construction today, there would be a deficit in terms of what the private developer would expect on his return."

—Paul Sajovec, HVS senior vice president



Roberts Community Center Monday.

Sajovec said the feasibility study his company was asked

to prepare would place a hotel-conference center in Big Spring, and although the economic impact on the city would

be enormous, there was simply no way to make it work from a private developer standpoint.

"It's feasible, but that particular facility concept would probably require public assistance to make it financially feasible," said Sajovec. "In other words, a private developer probably isn't going to come in from the outside and build that facility concept entirely on their own. They need some sort of public

assistance to make that feasible at this time."

Describing the facility the firm studied, Sajovec said he looked at all sides of the design, gauging its impact both locally and in the region.

"The feasibility oasically looks at the financial feasibility of developing a hotel-conference center in Big Spring," said

See **CENTER**, Page 5A

PwC options for VA cover the spectrum

Public hearing set Sept. 1 to address the six proposals

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Six options with no clear answers.

That's what consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) released late last week in a data-exhaustive list of possible fates for the Big Spring VA Medical Center, which is currently among several Veterans Administration facilities being reviewed by the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) project.

The options were released in preparation for Local Advisory Panel (LAP) hearing slated for Sept. 1 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The first "option" listed in the report, termed BPO (business plan option) 1, calls for little or no change to the facility and

the services it offers.

"Current state projected out to 2013 and 2023 without any changes to facilities or programs, but accounting for projected utilization changes, and assuming same or better quality and necessary maintenance for a safe, secure, and modern health care environment. Inpatient medicine and nursing home are provided at Big Spring VAMC," the study cites.

"Domiciliary are not served by other VAMCs. "Inpatient surgery and psychiatry are purchased from local community or referred to tertiary VAMCs. Most ambulatory services and Outpatient Mental Health service provided at the Big Spring VAMC. Inpatient surgery and psychiatry are purchased from local

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Rhonda Campbell, director of the Spring City Senior Citizens Center, discusses the corrective action plan for the facility with Howard County commissioners Jerry Kilgore, right, and Bill Crocker.

Corrective action strategy approved for Senior Center

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

A plan of action. That's what Rhonda Campbell, the newly appointed director of the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center, presented to the Howard County commissioners Monday, as center officials continue to correct problems identified earlier this year.

Campbell presented the commissioners with a comprehensive corrective action plan, which was approved by the court and will be forwarded to the Area Agency on Aging, one of the center's major

"It all circles around making sure the seniors are safe and making sure the food they are getting quality food and the environment is pleasant."

Rhonda Campbell,
Senior Center director

through and look at each individual problem and see what's been done to correct it through immediate correction. Sometimes you have to do a Band-Aid approach. After that's done, we turn around and do preventative action so we can make sure it doesn't happen again.

"It all circles around making sure the seniors are safe and making sure the food they are getting quality food and the environment is pleasant. Making sure it's just a great place to be."

Problems with the center began

See **SENIORS**, Page 3A

FAIR TIME AGAIN



The Howard County Fair begins Wednesday and to help get the word out, Suzanne Markwell has designed a Web site at howardcountyalloffexas.com. See Page 3A for details.

City council to consider 2005-2006 budget

Lengthy agenda to greet council during today's 5:30 p.m. meeting

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Public hearings concerning the 2005-2006 tax rate and municipal budget top the agenda for today's meeting of the Big Spring City Council.

City council members voted by a show of hands two weeks ago to keep the

tax rate at 71.63 cents per \$100 valuation following an open and shut public hearing — similar to the hearing being held today — that yielded no comments from the public.

"The tax rate is going to be set at what it currently is, and I don't see any way it's going to be higher than that," said Mayor

Russ McEwen following the meeting.

The council is also expected to hold a public hearing concerning the 2005-2006 city budget, which includes pay raises for employees, the city's cemetery fund and a number of other items that have come under fire recently.

In an effort to cut the current operating deficit proposed for the 2005-2006 budget, which is approximately \$100,000, council members have pored over a number of items — the most prevalent being the municipal cemetery fund — during several budget

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TONIGHT TOMORROW
8/23-24
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Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

Do you support the CISD bond issue?

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of weekly articles in which the Herald asks citizens how they feel about a particular topic.

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Several residents seem ready and willing to vote for \$11.9 million worth of renovations at the school district.

In an informal poll conducted last week, several residents expressed strong to moderate support for the bond issue, which would finance construction and renovation at all three district campuses.

People were asked the question: "Do you support the Sept. 10 school bond election, and why?"

Bill Milliken of Coahoma was straightforward in his support of the issue.



Milliken

"We need it. We need to upgrade our schools badly," Milliken said. "It's been way too long. I'm all for it."

Cindy Klaus also expressed support for the bond.

"I'm going to vote for it," she said. "My child goes there, and they definitely need (improvement). The



Klaus

classrooms are the same as they were ... 32 years ago. It's going to be expensive, but it's needed."

Donna Jennings said she was still making up her mind on the issue.

"Right now, we're undecided," she said. "My husband and I are still thinking about

See **ELECTION**, Page 5A

Obituaries

Richard M. Bain Jr.



Richard M. Bain Jr., 62, of Big Spring died Sunday, Aug. 21, 2005, in a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services are 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel.

He was born Jan. 12, 1943, in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1961. He served in the United States Army. He worked in the aircraft industry in the Dallas area and

had worked for the City of Big Spring for a number of years. He was a member of Airport Baptist Church.

Survivors include one son, Richard Bain III of San Angelo; two daughters, Kimberly Bain and Kerry Bain, both of Arlington; three sisters, Mary Railsback of Big Spring and Merle Spurlock and Myrna Cobb, both of Hobbs, N.M.; three brothers, J.T. Fulcher of Giddings, Bill Fulcher of Midland and Albert Fulcher of Big Spring; and two grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to Odyssey Hospice, 1003 E. FM 700, Big Spring 79720.

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

Marlene R. Miller Keyes

Marlene R. Miller Keyes, 66, of Duncan, Okla., formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2005, at Oklahoma University Medical Center, Oklahoma City. Services were 1 p.m. today, Aug. 23, 2005, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fremont, Neb. with the Rev. Phillip Vance officiating. Interment follows at Memorial Cemetery in Fremont, Neb.

She was born Oct. 19, 1938, in Leigh, Neb. to John H. and Bessie Miller and married David Keyes Aug. 30, 1975, in Fremont, Neb. She received her master's degree in speech and hearing education and taught at several deaf and hard of hearing schools, a university as well as for a federal prison in Big Spring as an audiologist. She was an active member of the Missouri Synod Lutheran churches that she attended.

She was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband, David Keyes; a daughter, Megan and her husband, Fredrick Widmayer of Baltimore, Ohio; three sisters, Jeannette and her husband, Gerald Mather of Duncan, Okla., Mary Ann and her husband, Jerry Cate of Palm Desert, Calif., and Carolyn and her husband, Lee Nielsen of Fremont, Neb.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Lutheran School for the Deaf at Long Island, N.Y., the American Cancer Society or the New Hope Lutheran Church in Midlothian, Va.

Arrangments were under the direction of Moser Memorial Chapel in Fremont, Neb.

Roy Glen Webb

Roy Glen Webb, 74, of Burleson died Thursday, Aug. 18, 2005 in Alvarado. Graveside services are 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2005, at Fairview Cemetery in Memphis with the Rev. Johnnie Snider officiating. Interment follows in Fairview Cemetery in Memphis, Texas.

The family had a memorial service Monday, Aug. 22, 2005, at Laurel Land Funeral Chapel in Dallas.

He was born June 23, 1931, in Vernon to the late Roy Webb and Peggy (Hill) Webb and married Glenda Childress Dec. 27, 1956, in Phillips. She preceded him in death June 3, 2000. He served in the U.S. Navy in Korea and lived in Big Spring before moving to Burleson in 1974. He worked as an electrical engineer for TXU for 30 years.

He was also preceded in death by a son, David Glen Webb Dec. 14, 2004.

He is survived by one daughter, Angela Gaylord of Burleson; two brothers, Bud Webb of Kingsland and Jerry Don Webb of Lubbock; and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the American Lung Association, P.O. Box 470773, Fort Worth 76147, or your local VFW Post.

Arrangements are under the direction of Hughs Funeral Home in Memphis, Texas. Send condolences online to www.hughsfuneralhome.com.

Frank Hodge

Frank Hodge, 76, of Big Spring died Saturday, Aug. 20, 2005, at a local hospital. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Keden Lee Rodriguez

Keden Lee Rodriguez, infant son of Jose and Jessica Rodriguez of Coahoma died Saturday, Aug. 20, 2005, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Graveside services are 10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2005, at the Coahoma Cemetery with the Rev. James Plagens officiating.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his grandparents, Benny Henderson of Coahoma, Sherrie Pickering of Mesa, Ariz., Ricardo Rodriguez Sr. of Big Spring and Josefina Rodriguez of Coahoma. He is also survived by several aunts, uncles and cousins.

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

Support groups

THURSDAY

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

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

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

FRIDAY

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

Weather

Tonight—Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows in the upper 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Thursday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

Friday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

Friday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

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

Saturday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

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

Sunday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

Monday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC 4791 meets at 6 p.m. in the YMCA board room. Anyone interested in learning more about Howard County LULAC is encouraged to visit the site bigspring4791.blog.com or call 268-9155 and ask for Janey, LULAC 4791 secretary.

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1105 Birdwell Lane. For more information, call Tracey Pounds at 268-4948.

Police blotter

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

• JESSICA BLANCO, 23, of 1500 Sycamore, was arrested Monday on six local warrants and a charge of driving while license invalid.

• EDWARD HURRINGTON, 51, of 4100 Dixon, was arrested Monday on a charge of criminal mischief.

• JERRY DON DUFFER, 18, of 5511 Midway Road, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft.

• WILLIAM VANDERPOOL, 44, of 1202 S. Johnson, was arrested Monday on four local warrants and four local capias warrants.

• ADRIAN VANDERPOOL, 25, of 1202 S. Johnson, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.

• DAVID HUMPHREY, 40, of 1607 Lark, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of criminal mischief/family violence.

• LANA MARTINEZ, 32, of 1905 Wasson, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• FERMIN FLORES, 55, of 600 N.W. Seventh Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.

• THEFT was reported:
- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.

• CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF A HABITATION/SHELTER CENTER was reported in the 300 block of Circle.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 900 block of Fourth Street.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild.

• ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported in the 2600 block of Fairchild.

Sheriff's report

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

• VICTOR HILARIO, 21, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated and a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• IZAIHLL JACKSON, 19, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license suspended/invalid and a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

• TRAUMA was reported in the area of North FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of West Martin Luther King Boulevard. Service was refused.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1100 block of Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of Interstate Highway 20 and Business 80 West. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 1200 block of Lloyd. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported in the area of North Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-10-18-27-31.

Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$32,863.

Winning tickets sold in: Amarillo.
Matching four of five: 101. Prize: \$146.

Matching three of five: 3,290. Prize: \$10.
Matching two of five: 32,662. Prize: \$2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 13-16-26-27. Bonus Ball: 20.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Prize per winner: \$225,000.

Winning ticket sold in: Pflugerville.
Number matching four of four: 8. Prize: \$1,225.

Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 20.
Prize: \$60.

Number matching three of four: 837. Prize: \$20.
Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 584.
Prize: \$19.

Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 3,583.
Prize: \$7.

Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 6,343. Prize: \$5.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$200,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-8-8

Around town

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

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

• 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.

• HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

• FRIENDS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY have scheduled a used book sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Thursday in the new building across from the White Ford Motor Company, near the post office. The sale benefits the restoration of a library building. For more information contact Bud Lindsey at 756-2306.

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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 0085-940 ISSN 0748-8811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).
MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

HOWARD COUNTY FAIR 2005 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday

8 a.m.- 6 p.m. Booth set-up
 8 a.m.- 6 p.m. Entries for Creative Arts, Fine Arts, Photography, Baked Goods, Canned Goods, Produce
 6:30 p.m. Judging for Creative Arts, Baked Goods, Canned Goods and Produce

Wednesday

10 a.m. Judging for Fine Arts and Photography
 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Ag in the Classroom
 4 p.m. Fair Opens
 6 p.m. Cooking Demonstration-BBQ
 7 p.m. & 9 p.m. Jody Nix performs in the Event Tent

Thursday

1 p.m.-3 p.m. Ice Cream Social & Bingo, Show Arena
 3 p.m. Steers Arrive in the Steer Barn
 4 p.m. Fair Opens
 6 p.m. Dominos
 6 p.m. Cooking Demonstration-Cake
 7 p.m. Colgate Country Showdown, Events Tent

Friday

1 p.m.-7 p.m. Lambs Arrive in the Sheep Barn
 4 p.m. Exhibits and Vendors Open
 6 p.m. County Roping in the Rodeo Bowl
 6 p.m. Cooking Demonstration-Crepes
 7 & 9 p.m. Quebe Sisters perform in the Events Tent

Saturday

8 a.m. Lamb Showmanship, Judging Arena
 9 a.m. Lamb Show, Judging Arena
 9 a.m. Tractor Pull Registration, Tractor Pull Track
 10 a.m. Exhibits and Vendors Open
 10:30 a.m. Kountry Kids in the Events Tent
 11 a.m. Tractor Pull, Lawnmower Races, Tractor Pull Track
 1 p.m. Steer Show in the Steer Barn, Steer Showmanship after show
 2 p.m. Washer Tournament, register before 2 p.m.
 3 p.m. Goats Arrive at the Sheep Barn
 6 p.m. Cooking Demonstration- Spanish Tacos
 7 p.m. Battle of the Cheerleaders, Rodeo Bowl
 9:45 p.m. Quilt Drawing
 10 p.m. Fair Closes
 10-11 p.m. Pick up entries

Sunday, Aug. 28

11 a.m. Goat Showmanship at the Sheep Barn
 Noon Goat Show at the Sheep Barn
 1-3 p.m. Pick up entries

For the first time, Howard County Fair can be located on the World Wide Web

The 2005 Howard County Fair has an Internet Web site mainly

because fair board vice-president Suzanne Markwell couldn't give a positive answer to the most-often asked question at the annual Texas



NANCY KOGER

Association of Fairs and Events convention: "Do you have a Web site?"

Markham, who has been on the local board going on four years, had attended the TAFE before, but she was struck by the insistent references to having an Internet site to advertise the county fair. As soon as she returned to Big Spring, she began to compile the information needed to promote the fair. Discovering that there is a Howard County in Maryland that already had the howard-

countyfair title, she elected to use howardcounty-fairfortexas.com as the local Web site address.

Working with webmaster Lane Bond, the Las Vegas transplant to Texas produced a place on the World Wide Web for anyone to get all the information, including photos, about the event which begins Wednesday.

Markwell and her husband came to Big Spring after his retirement from nuclear testing work in Nevada because they were looking for a place to get a few acres on which to build an experimental, environmentally-friendly house. They have three Quonset-type buildings and no water well; they use a water collection system — which, thanks to the recent abundant rains, is full.

Retirement has given Suzanne time to volunteer for many causes — the Big Spring State Hospital, Crime Stoppers, Citizen's Police Academy, Community

Emergency Response Team, the Symphony Guild and the Howard County Fair board.

Working at the fair is one of her favorite pastimes because, "They're a nice bunch of people."

She admits that she knew almost nothing about Texas agriculture when she joined the board, but says she enjoys learning and has learned a lot. Stating that she likes to work hard, Markwell points out, "Being on the fair board entails two or so months of hard work, mostly concentrated for a week or two before, during, and after the fair."

Working in the creative arts area, Markwell happily reports more room and security to display quilts and afghans. She notes a change in entry rules this year in that if an entry has won a prize at the fair, it cannot be entered for judging again. To help enforce the rule justly, pictures of each winning entry will be taken for compar-

ison next year. Some additions she would like to see are things to get more young people to the fair and the promotion of more ethnic diversity.

Markwell would encourage anyone to volunteer at the fair, who, like her, likes to "see people have fun, see the entries come in, visit with other board members in the office and work hard."

Nancy Koger writes a regular column for the Herald during the fair.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Keden Lee Rodriguez, infant son of Jose and Jessica Rodriguez, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 10:00 AM Wednesday at the Coahoma Cemetery.

Frank Hodge, 76, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

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SENIORS

Continued from Page 1A

to surface earlier this year when the center failed several health and safety inspections, prompting commissioners to appoint a board of directors for the facility.

Including in a report issued by Perry J. Williams, inspector with the Texas Department of State Health Services, questionable food temperatures for both prepared and stored foods came under fire, as well as a sink that was draining into an open pit and lack of hot water in food preparation areas and rest rooms.

The presence of "numerous fresh rodent excreta pellets in storage areas" was also addressed in the report.

Board chairperson Bebe McCasland addressed commissioners in March concerning the health and safety violations, citing state reports as well as a report from Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray, which listed several safety issues, including exit lights and emergency lighting that were not functioning properly, out of date fire extinguishers and several improper or unsafe electrical wiring conditions.

Former Senior Center Director Bobbie Leonard's employment was terminated in May, in what commissioners deemed a need for a "different direction in order

to better serve our senior citizens."

Campbell said the majority of the problems identified by the inspections have been corrected, with several others still in the works.

"It's how you have to do these jobs. You have to get in and with the board that we have, they got me up to speed even before my first day," said Campbell. "Once I stepped in I had a solid background on what was going on. So it was really easy to know what I was dealing with. I didn't have to go in blind."

Campbell was quick to acknowledge the hard work of the center's staff in correcting the problems, including Assistant Director Yolanda Mendoza, who filled in following Leonard's dismissal.

"I think we really have a wonderful staff," said Campbell. "They truly care about the seniors, and that's my whole focus. If my staff cares about the seniors and I worry about them, they'll be OK. The rest of it will come around and we can make it work."

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Get involved
in the county
fair this year

Whether you're a "watcher" or a "doer," you'll find something to do at the 33rd edition of the Howard County Fair, which officially opens Wednesday.

For those who are "doers" and want to enter something in the fair — you'll need to do that today, before 6 p.m.

One thing we know is that Howard County has some wonderful cooks, great gardeners and superb craftsmen. This is the best time of the year to show off your talents. Whether it be photography — did you know there are categories to enter pictures of your pets? — cross stitching, wood burning, doll making or whatever, this is the perfect venue.

It's also a great family activity. Dad can enter his woodworking project, Mom can submit her tote painting, little Tommy his photo of Bowser, Susie the doll she made, Grammy her banana 'creme pie and Grandpa that wood carving of the cowboy he's so proud of.

Then, after all the entering is done, it will be time to relax and take in the sights, see what everyone else has entered, visit all of the booths and take in some of the nightly entertainment — Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys Wednesday, the Colgate Country Showdown Thursday, the Quebe Sisters Friday and the Battle of the Cheerleaders Saturday. Don't forget the Kountry Kids Contest, tractor pull and the lamb, steer and goat shows. Did we mention there are lawn mower races this year? There sure are!

We hope you'll take part in this year's Howard County Fair. It's great family fun with your friends and neighbors.

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

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we be an unexpected blessing
to someone today, Lord.

Amen

King Gillette and the metric system

SIMON SAYS: If you remember when suits came with two pairs of trousers, you're a lot older than me. You need to own a Wonder Bar. No, not the kind you eat, the kind you pry things and whack things with.

Do people with personal shredders really think anybody cares about 'their garbage'? I'll bet you don't know how high your speedometer goes. Mine goes to 160 mph. Why do automakers do that? Whom do they think they are kidding? My car couldn't get to 160 mph with a 100 mph tailwind.

How come only high school teachers and drug dealers understand the metric system? (A gram, by the way, is about the weight of a paperclip. Or so I am told.)

I was wondering why computer printers had gotten so cheap — some are now, essentially, free — when a friend told me: "They are giving you the printer in order to hook you on the cartridges." It seems to me King Gillette did the same thing with safety razors and blades about a hundred years ago. This is part of a national movement: In your cell phone, create an entry named "Ice," which stands for In Case of Emergency. Then enter the number of the per-

son you would want called in emergencies. Law enforcement agents or emergency medical personnel can then check your cell phone if you are in an accident and can't communicate.

Remind me again: At the beach, what was the enjoyment of being buried in the sand?

Judging by its trailer, "The Constant Gardener" looks like it might really be good. The book by John LeCarre was excellent.

Whatever happened to all those Rubik's Cubes? Are they in landfills someplace? (And if you actually got all the colors to line up properly, there may be something wrong with you.)

My wife recently bought a food scale (no, I don't know why), and so now I weigh all sorts of stuff. Here is a sample:

- September issue of Vanity Fair magazine: 1 pound, 13 ounces.
- U.S. News & World Report baseball cap: 2.4 ounces.
- iPod, 20 gigabyte: 5.5 ounces.
- Kalamata olive (with pit): 0.15 ounces
- Can of Pepsi: 13.65 ounces.
- McDonald's Quarter Pounder: No result. I ate it on the way home to weigh it.

I don't think I have ever seen a hospital room on TV or in a movie that looks like a real hospital room.

Things I learned by watching television: Hallmark adds a sweetener to the glue on the envelopes of its greeting cards so it tastes better when you lick it. It's lo-cal,

though — only about a half-calorie per card.

Things I learned by watching the movies: Nicole Kidman is left-handed.

How old does a kid have to be before you can swear in front of him?

I admire the devil-may-care attitude of people who have a cell phone and no home phone.

The chief contribution that Cindy Sheehan has made by camping outside George Bush's ranch in Crawford is to demonstrate there actually is an antiwar movement in this country.

If you need a reason to hate teenagers, watch "My Super Sweet Sixteen" on MTV.

Mary Janes (the kind you eat) are just as good as they ever were. It would be hard to find a better writer than Charles Baxter.

I admire anybody who can row a boat in a straight line.

Liberals are such wimps. They fell all over each other to denounce the NARAL Pro-Choice America ad attacking Supreme Court nominee John Roberts. But how many conservatives denounced those Swift Boat Veterans for Truth ads attacking John Kerry?

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

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When cops are the law-breakers

Back in April and May, when two publicity-hungry, small-town police chiefs in New Hampshire decided to become the poster boys of immigrant bashers, everyone knew that what they were doing was wrong, stupid and quite unconstitutional.

But the media made a big deal of it, and the two chiefs got the attention they needed.

It didn't really matter that they were obviously misinterpreting their own state law and overriding federal law by arresting illegal immigrants for "trespassing" into their jurisdiction. What mattered was that these local chiefs were "taking federal laws into their own hands" and becoming folk heroes for those who enjoy persecuting illegal immigrants.

At least eight immigrants — from Mexico, Brazil and Colombia — were arrested for criminal trespassing in the towns of New Ipswich and Hudson during the last few months. Since federal immigration officials have an understandable priority of pursuing criminals and terrorists, and since they don't normally bother to pick up illegal immigrants being held by local police for minor traffic violations, the immigrants were given a summons and released.

But the chiefs got a chance to go on TV to express their frustration with federal officials. They said they were protecting their citizens and doing the job the feds would not do. They were praised and criticized by politicians, advocacy groups and law enforcement officials who quickly took sides on the issue.

Ironically, everyone knew that trespassing laws are meant to apply to private property. Everyone also knew that enforcing immigration laws is up to federal — not state or local — authorities. Yet all over the country, immigrant bashers were looking

to New Hampshire as the place that could set a precedent, the place they thought was about to develop a new tool for fighting illegal immigration.

The fact that the tool was potentially illegal didn't seem to faze them. From coast to coast, some police chiefs were getting ready to use trespassing laws to bust illegal immigrants in their own states.

But all their xenophobic fantasies came to a screeching halt on Aug. 12, when a judge finally brought some sense into this senseless case.

This judge said what everyone already knew, that "the criminal charges against the defendants are unconstitutional attempts to regulate in the area of enforcement of immigration violations."

Unfortunately, that's what some Americans were willing to ignore in the interest of getting rid of illegal immigrants with expediency.

"And what part of 'illegal' don't you understand?" — they often ask me in their letters.

They are so obsessed with riding this country of illegal immigrants that they are willing to do illegal things to achieve their goal. It's getting scary!

In New Hampshire, what had been described in the media as a "novel strategy" to combat illegal immigration, was thrown out by Judge L. Phillips Runyon III of the Jaffrey/Peterborough District Court. Runyon not only dismissed charges against the three immigrants he had in a case before him, but against all who had been arrested under this strategy in the two towns.

"If each state could establish its own system of offenses and penalties for immigration violations, it would undermine Congress' power to carry out a uniform national policy in that area," Runyon wrote in his decision.

Blaming the federal government for failing to act against illegal immigrants, New Ipswich Police Chief W. Garrett Chamberlain and Hudson Chief Richard Gendron had based their unlawful approach to law enforcement on very vague language in New Hampshire state law.

"A person is guilty of criminal trespass if, knowing that he is not licensed or privileged to do so, he enters or remains in any place," the law states.

In court, the immigrants' lawyers had argued that the law was designed to apply to people intruding in private property, and that only the federal government has the power to enforce immigration laws. And the judge agreed.

Nevertheless, in the New Hampshire state legislature, some Republican supporters of Chamberlain and Gendron are still vowing to craft a new measure that will make it clear that the trespassing law can be applied to illegal immigrants. And they are moving ahead with this insanity in spite of the fact that Runyon clearly believes that using state trespassing laws to crack down on illegal immigrants is inherently unconstitutional because federal law would still take precedence over state law.

Runyon noted that even if the state trespassing law had been intended to be used against illegal immigrants, police efforts to enforce such a law would still be illegal, because "its application in that manner violates the supremacy clause on the United States Constitution, and is thus barred."

And while saying they respect the authority of the court, the two police chiefs are still refusing to get off their publicity-hungry high horse. Gendron issued a statement noting that his department "still believes it was acting in the interest of its citizens and in the interest of Homeland Security." And Chamberlain, the chief who started the "novel strategy" in April, told reporters that he will look for other ways to bust illegal immigrants.

Some people are prone to break the law, even when they are law officers.

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

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ROGER
SIMONMIGUEL
PEREZ

CENTER

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Sajovec. "And what we've done is look at different alternatives and decided to test it based on a facility concept of a limited-service hotel-conference center with 80 rooms and a ballroom of 6,000 square feet with some additional breakout meeting space.

"We ran demand projections, financial revenue and expense projections based on that facility concept and came up with an operating performer for a hotel-conference center that size.

"That's not to say that two or three years down the road, if the market picks up a little bit and there's additional demand and not a lot of additional hotel development in the market, that it couldn't be financially feasible at some point. In the here and now, if we were to begin construction today, there would be a deficit in terms of what the private developer would expect on his return."

Sajovec said the overall cost

of the model facility is unclear at this point.

"We don't have an estimate yet," said Sajovec. "That's not part of our scope, to come up with a specific construction cost estimate. We've worked with the committee to give them some broad ranges so they can make some decisions about what size facility to look at. But until you get into a much more detailed facility concept and some diagrams, it's hard to pin a precise construction cost on a facility like this."

How much would it take in terms of incentives and subsidies to make the model work? "It would take some additional analysis to determine exactly how much in subsidies," said Sajovec. "Would land be enough? Some additional tax breaks or other incentives? We would have to determine what it would take to get it to the point it's financially feasible. We're confident, given the numbers that we have, that it's not financially feasible from a private developer standpoint."

And while it's not feasible to expect a private developer to

build a hotel-conference center at this time, Sajovec said there are still options on the table worth exploring.

"It goes all the way up to municipalities owning these types of facilities and contracting a private firm to manage it for them," said Sajovec. "It's increasingly more common because private equity for hotel development is becoming scarce."

"So a lot of communities across the country are turning to public assistance or public ownership to get projects like these done. It's sort of viewed as a last resort in a lot of cases, but if it's the only way to make it possible, a lot of communities decide rather than just give a lot of money to a private developer and hope everything turns out well, they can take an ownership role.

"If they're going to put a lot of resources into it, they would just as soon have an ownership role and contract with a private firm to manage it. Some cities are even managing it themselves. It all depends on the city and what their capacity is to take on

that type of operation."

Ben Bancroft, who represented the local committee that commissioned the feasibility study, said he felt the group should redirect its efforts in light of the study's results.

"I think it's obvious at this point that a hotel isn't feasible," said Bancroft. "My thoughts are that if we have a conference center, then in four or five years it could create the demand for a hotel."

And while the facility may not be feasible at this time, Bancroft was steadfast on the idea it should be a first-class facility — if it's ever built.

"When our committee met last year, one of the first things we decided — at least in our opinion — is if we're going to build a conference center, let's not build a second-class facility," said Bancroft sternly. "Let's go first-class. Something that's better than Midland for a change. Maybe not bigger, but better."

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



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Paul Sajovec, senior vice president with Chicago-based HVS Convention, Sports & Entertainment Facilities Consulting, goes over a hotel-conference center feasibility study his company performed on the Big Spring area.

OPTIONS

Continued from Page 1A

community or referred to tertiary VAMCs. Most ambulatory services and outpatient mental health service provided at the Big Spring VAMC.

The first option goes on to cite the excellent condition of the facility and the relationship between the local VA hospital and the private sector. However, it does look at the utilization of property at the facility.

"Seven acres, approximately 22 percent are vacant representing a financial burden to the VA and taxpayers," the report cites.

The second option calls for a new VA Medical Center to be built in the Midland/Odessa area, with renovations made to the Big Spring facility's CBOC (Community Based Outpatient Clinic).

"Renovation of existing CBOC in Big Spring. Existing CBOC in Midland/Odessa.

Inpatient medicine and psychiatry, nursing home and domiciliary services provided in new hospital built in Midland/Odessa," the document cites. "All other services remain at current location of provision."

"Puts a newly built hospital in a larger population area. The employment pool is larger supporting recruitment of staff. The hospital would have cutting edge technology and would support Homeland Security requirements as well as the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards. The new facility would have adequate square footage to accommodate future ambulatory and outpatient volumes through 2023."

The third option calls for inpatient services to be purchased from local

community providers with ambulatory and outpatient mental health services remaining in Big Spring.

"(This option) vacates the out parcel buildings making them available for reuse," the study reads. "Future ambulatory and outpatient volumes for Big Spring would be accommodated. Avoids significant capital expenditures needed to bring facility to modern, safe and secure."

The fourth option in the study calls for additional domiciliary services to be added to existing services at the Big Spring VA Medical Center. This option would require renovation to the facility to accommodate the new domiciliary with all other services remaining at their current locations.

The fourth option is also in compliance with the proposal recently submitted to PwC by Big Spring Area Chamber of

Commerce Taskforce.

The fifth option calls for the addition of inpatient psychiatric and domiciliary services to the Big Spring VAMC's roster of services. This option would require renovation and possible new construction to house domiciliary services.

"(This option) has substantial stakeholder support and provides unmet needs for domiciliary and psychiatric services," the study cites.

"Alternatively, there is limited improvement in overall cost effectiveness and increased capital investment. There would also be a continued reliance on local

providers for inpatient surgery."

The sixth option in the study calls for the VA to vacate its current location and lease space at a local facility to provide all inpatient services except long-term care and domiciliary.

"Community Based Outpatient Clinic in community," the report reads. "Inpatient medicine, surgery, psychiatry, and nursing home services are provided by VA staff in leased beds in Big Spring, Midland/Odessa, or both. Domiciliary services provided by other VAMCs. A CBOC is established in the Big Spring community."

Midland/Odessa CBOC remains.

"No foreseeable use for the hospital building unless it is demolished. In vacating the buildings, the only cost is to maintain the existing buildings until a reuse option is exercised."

The Sept. 1 hearing is slated for 8 a.m. until 6 p.m., the second of four such meetings planned to help gather public comment on the realignment effort.

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

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1A

it, but right now, we're just not sure."

Patty Mitchell also expressed reservations about the issue.

"I think there's some good and bad about it," she said. "But I like that they're going to try to improve those schools ...



White

"I'll probably vote for it."

A n d C o a h o m a school district employee Teri White also sees good and bad in the bond issue.

"I do see the reasons for it — we do need it," White said. "But it's a lot of money ... I don't want to see my taxes go up any

more, so I'm really split down the middle as a homeowner."

Early voting in the election begins Wednesday and runs through Sept. 6 at the school district administration office.

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

work sessions.

And while a great deal of concern was given to the budgetary deficit during the meeting, McEwen said it could be a moot point when the city re-evaluates its progress in six months.

"I really shouldn't call it a deficit," said McEwen. "Because we're going to have to use part of our fund balance if the revenue projections are what they are. But we always project revenue very conservatively, and there's a strong reason to believe it's going to work out just fine and have a balance budget."

The council is also expected to consider first reading of the annual budget during the meeting.

The council will also hold a public hearing on a zone change and specific use permit that would allow a children's day

care center in the 1500 block of W. Second.

Also on the agenda are resolutions authorizing repairs to a runway and a metal building at the airport and final reading on an ordinance providing expenditures for construction of rest rooms at Comanche Trail Park.

Contracts with the Heritage Museum, Victim Services and Howard County are also before the council, as is final approval of a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute documents relating to the activities authorized by the development agreement with EVOS Homes Inc. for development of the Settles Hotel.

The measure was approved 4-2 during the last council meeting, with council members Greg Biddison and Joann Staulcup dissenting and councilwoman Stephanie Horton not present.

The contract between the city and the California-based land developer for a feasibility

study of the Settles Hotel squeaked by the city council in June, garnering a 4-3 approval vote in final reading.

The contract calls for the city to finance a number of studies to determine the viability of turning the aging structure into a home for retail businesses and low income housing.

Evos Homes first approached the council in January, requesting funding to conduct a structural analysis of the building. The contract puts a total spending limit on study the city will finance at \$55,000.

The council is also expected to fill the two seats on the Moore Development board of directors which expire on Sept. 30, currently held by board president Tommy Churchwell and Ben Bancroft.

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

Notice of Vote on Tax Rate

The Howard County Junior College District conducted public hearings on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Howard County Junior College District from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 7.9 percent on August 15, 2005 at 12:30 PM and August 22, 2005 at 12:30 PM.

The Howard County Junior College District is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on August 29, 2005, at 12:30 PM at EAST ROOM IN THE COLISEUM BUILDING ON THE HOWARD COLLEGE CAMPUS, 1001 BIRDWELL LANE, BIG SPRING, TX 79720.

Wendys
2311 Gregg St. 263-6663

Blums Jewelers
Inside Big Spring Mall
10-6 Monday-Saturday
267-6339

TURFALLO
Exclusively available at
JOHANSEN NURSERY
700 Johansen Rd.
267-8375

The reality about those Internet petitions

If you're an avid instant messenger user — there's several out there, including Yahoo!, MSN and AOL, just to name a few — you've no doubt gotten messages claiming these Internet giants are going to discontinue free messenger services in favor of premium (that's a fancy word for overpriced, just ask your cable company) services.

Oh, but wait! There's a light at the end of the tunnel! If you copy and paste this message to everyone in your friends list, it will constitute a petition that will stop these corporate giants in their tracks!

Yeah, right. Whether or not you've fallen for this Internet-driven urban legend — and I have several friends who will claim they haven't, even though I've received messages like this from them in the past — you've no doubt been on the receiving end of at least one of these messages. So how did it come about?

Don't kill the messenger!

Note: The following is taken from actual e-mails. "Dear America Online and Instant Message users: Our America Online staff is planning to take away our Instant Messages. If you want to keep your Instant Messages free of charge, send this mail to everyone you know. It will be used as a petition. Each person you send this to, counts as one 'signature.' If this petition gets 100,000 'signatures,' our Instant

Messages will still be available at no extra charge.

"If America Online does not receive 100,000 'signatures,' Instant Messages will still be available, but only to those who pay an extra \$15 a month. If you do not care about not getting any future Instant Messages, please send this for the sake of those who want to keep their Instant Messages free of charge. Thank you for your time and consideration. Robert McDoggan, America Online Assistance Director."

As the ubiquitous "free money and merchandise for forwarding e-mail" hoax has demonstrated time and again, no Internet-based commercial jape is so absurd but that it can't be revived by simply changing the company name and a few other details.

The AOL version of this hoax began appearing in inboxes during the summer of 1998. In June 1999 it was reprised by hoaxsters who had twiddled with the number of signatures required and the date action had to be taken by. Same leg-pull though, just new numbers. This same basic message is periodically updated with new deadlines and set loose to throw a scare into AOL users anew.

2001 saw the hoax directed at new targets as well as at AOL (which continues to have this rumor thrown about). These latest incarnations claim MSN or Yahoo! are about to impose a set fee per month for their free MSN Messenger or Yahoo! Messenger services unless petitions festooned with a speci-

fied number of "signatures" reach them by a named date.

"MSN is planning to take away MSN Messenger by September 14th, 2005. If you want to keep our MSN Messenger free of charge, send this email to everyone you know. It will be used as a petition. Each person you send this to counts as one signature. If this petition gets 500,000 signatures they will keep MSN

AOL, MSN, and Yahoo! may be the butt of many Internet jokes, but they didn't get to be the huge companies. they are by being that clueless.



THOMAS JENKINS

Messenger. If they do not receive 500,000 votes you will have to pay \$25 per month to have Messenger. If you don't care about this then please for everyone's sake help out a little. Thank you for your time and consideration and please help MSN beat their vote."

In a Yahoo! version of the leg-pull, the message borders on begging, if for nothing more than entertainment value.

"Yahoo is planning to take away Yahoo Messenger by Aug. 25th 2005. If you want to keep out Yahoo Messenger free of charge, send this to every-

one you know. It will be used as a petition. Each person you send this to counts as a 'signature' If this petition gets 1,000,000 signatures they will keep Yahoo Messenger free of charge. If they do not receive 1,000,000 votes you will have to pay \$10 per month to have Messenger. If you don't care about this then please for everyone... copy and paste this message to everyone!"

How terribly unoriginal. It's the same hoax, just different companies and services named. And there's still nothing to it. In a press release from Yahoo! users are encouraged to ignore the messages.

"Recently, some Yahoo! members have reported receiving either an email or an instant message that claims to be from Yahoo! and instructs the recipient to forward the message on to everyone in their address book or on their friend list. Some of the messages falsely state Yahoo! has run out of resources and will be closing the accounts of anyone who does not forward the message.

"Please be assured that this is a hoax. There is simply no truth to this message, and your Yahoo! account will not be deleted because you do not forward the message. If you receive such an email or instant message, the best way to deal with it is to simply delete or ignore it."

What fun would it be to ignore it?

Real-time messaging was and continues to be a key component of AOL's success; start laying in additional charges

for this service, and subscribers may well go elsewhere.

Likewise, MSN and Yahoo! would be risking their market shares if they were to begin charging for what is freely available elsewhere. Other companies also bundle instant messaging capability into their basic service packages, and if AOL, MSN, or Yahoo! were to begin charging for a popular feature that others are providing for free, they could find themselves with an eroding subscriber base.

Similar phony warnings frame the same type of message about services other than instant messaging: If we don't collect enough signatures, a well-known service provider is going to start charging for a particular key feature, such as web page access.

All these warnings are based on the premise that these large Internet presences have no idea their plans to saddle nearly all their users with new or extra charges will be quite unpopular, but if just a few thousand users (out of several million) complain in advance, they will see the light and rescind their proposed fee impositions or rate increases.

AOL, MSN, and Yahoo! may be the butt of many Internet jokes, but they didn't get to be the huge companies they are by being that clueless.

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

Think a secret's safe? Buddy, you better think again

By LIZ DOUP

Knight-Ridder

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Chances are, you don't know Scott Houchins, a choral director at Wellington's Palm Beach Central High.

But you can read about him on ratemyteachers.com, a Web site where students critique instructors.

You probably don't know Mark Greenberg of Coral Springs, Fla., either.

But you can read about him on cheaternews.com, a Web site where scorned lovers vent about alleged misdeeds.

Thanks to the Internet, your private life is no longer private. With Web sites and Web logs multiplying like fruit flies, your family, friends and enemies can blab about you, anonymously, to millions of people worldwide.

Not long ago, comments — good or bad — about a teacher, boyfriend or spouse found a limited audience. Someone shared thoughts with family and friends and it ended there.

No longer. Log onto ratemyteach-

ers.com and you can read how Houchins' former students feel about him.

"He gets a little picky and mean but overall he's (sic) a good guy," one writes. From another: "He cares a lot about kids."

Or check out cheaternews.com and catch the drama of Mimi and Mark Greenberg's broken 40-year marriage.

Mimi, 60, of Royal Palm Beach, Fla., recently blistered Mark online, accusing him of multiple misdeeds, including cheating, which he denies.

"He made a fool out of me and everybody knows it," she says. "Why does he deserve privacy?"

But what if a person disputes what's being written?

Their recourse is the same as someone libeled offline, says David McGuire, communications director of the Center for Democracy and Technology, a Washington, D.C.-based civil liberties group. They can sue.

"But there's a big burden of proof within libel laws," he says. "The balance is in favor of free speech."

Nonetheless, venting on



KRT photo/Mark Randall, South Florida Sun-Sentinel
Mimi Greenberg of Royal Palm Beach, Fla., wrote about her ex-husband's cheating ways on CheaterNews.Com

the Internet can have negative repercussions beyond the courtroom.

Case in point: The media recently detailed the saga of Nadine Haobsh, an associate beauty editor at Ladies Home Journal.

Writing anonymously in her blog as "Jolie in NYC," she described her work life and included not-so-flattering comments about the bosses.

She eventually was "outed" and lost her job. Mimi Greenberg wasn't thinking about repercussions when she wrote about her ex.

"Writing it on the Web site helped me," she says. "I let it all out and felt better."

As for her ex-husband: "It hurts me, but I'm not mad at her," Mark Greenberg says.

His reaction wasn't to

call a lawyer, although he thinks his privacy was violated.

"A lot of that stuff isn't even true," he says. "As bad as I am, I'm not that bad."

Houchins, 35, is accustomed to students' critiquing teachers — publicly and privately.

"It goes with the job," he says. "Kids are going to talk, and this is how they communicate. At school, you see them text messaging on their phones or they're IM-ing."

Those behind the tell-all Web sites say they give a voice to people who aren't always heard, especially younger people.

That might explain the popularity of ratemyteachers.com and a similar Web site for college goers, pickaprof.com.

"It's all about what's happening in the classroom, and that should be open to the public," says Michael Hussey, who, with two teachers as part-

niers, started ratemyteachers.com. "Students have valid opinions, too."

So, apparently, do hundreds of women who recycle the men in their life by way of great-boyfriends.com. They post pictures and comments about past loves, though, according to Web site co-founder and Elle magazine advice columnist E. Jean Carroll, guys must give permission.

Greatboyfriends.com is a love fest and a sharp contrast to Web sites now springing up to out alleged cheaters.

Tasha Joseph, a Miami public relations consultant, started dontdatehim-girl.com in July. A month before that, Detroit marketing consultant Jim Warren started cheaternews.com, after seeing a TV program on Web sites that link cheaters.

"I thought if they're bad and bold enough to cheat, we should be bad and bold enough to respond," he says.

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Heart healthy Enjoy bowlfuls of fresh, healthy onions

Warmer weather takes people outdoors to ball games and picnics, weddings and reunions.

With a busy schedule, getting the daily-recommended serving of fruits and vegetables can be a snap with salads.

Today's salads are so much more than just a heap of greens topped with some diced tomato.

The combination of ingredients is endless. From pastas to veggies and fruits, salads are bowlfuls of bright colors and tasty textures.

Onions, recently recognized as one of the 12 healthiest foods in Rodale, Inc.'s "The 12 Best Foods Cookbook," add flavor, texture and healthful benefits to salads and sandwiches.

Dana Jacobi, author of cookbook said, "Have a heavy hand with onions — they are so good for the heart."

With a higher water content and delicate flavor, spring and summer fresh onions are ideal for salads.

Retailers across the United States will have a selection of fresh yellow, red and white onions from through September.

* Extra onion can be kept up to one week in a refrigerator in a sealed container to use in salsas, marinades, sandwiches or

other salads.

Smoked Chicken Salad With Onions and Dried Cherries

- 4 1/2 cups diced smoked chicken
- 1 1/2 cups diced celery
- 2 1/4 cups diced fresh onions
- 2 1/4 cups dried tart cherries, chopped
- 1 cup fresh basil, minced
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- 3 tablespoons fresh orange juice

Place all ingredients in mixing bowl, and stir gently until well combined. Refrigerate until ready to place on mixed greens or to prepare sandwiches. Makes 12 servings.

Gazpacho Salad

- 1 large tomato, cut in 12-inch slices
- 1 large cucumber, peeled in strips and cut in 12-inch slices
- 3 large white mushrooms, sliced
- 1 medium green bell pepper, seeded and cut in 12-inch rings
- 1 medium onion, sliced and separated into rings*
- 8 green or red leaf lettuce leaves

- 8 pitted kalamata olives, halved lengthwise, for garnish

Dressing

- 1/2 cup tomato juice
- 1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon sweet paprika
- 1/2 slice white bread, crust removed
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

In wide bowl, layer tomato, cucumber, mushrooms, pepper and onion.

For dressing, in mini food processor, whirl tomato juice with vinegar, garlic, mustard, paprika and bread. Season dressing to taste with salt and pepper. Pour dressing over layered salad, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.

To serve, arrange lettuce leaves on 4 salad plates. Divide chilled salad equally over lettuce. Spoon dressing onto salad and garnish with olives. Makes 4 servings

Recipe from *The 12 Best Foods Cookbook* by Dana Jacobi © 2005 by Rodale, Inc. Permission granted to National Onion Association by Rodale, Inc., Emmaus, Penn., 18098.



Smoked chicken salad with Onions and dried cherries, above and Gazpacho Salad below.



Features policies

Wedding, 50th anniversary, engagement, quinceañera and birth announcements with color photos are published within three months of the event in the *Herald's* weekend edition at no charge as space permits.

Who's Who and In the

Military, with or without photos are also published.

All photos submitted must be of good quality and color.

All articles are edited for style and content and should be typed.

Articles are due in the *Herald's* office by noon each Wednesday for weekend publication.

Forms are available at the newspaper offices, 710 Scurry or online at www.bigspringherald.com

Forms with photo may be mailed to P.O. Box 1431 Big Spring 79720 or e-mail to life@bigspringherald.com.

For more information, call 263-7331.

Bedtime Stories

WHAT WE THINK

This story is not going to be like other bedtime stories. It will be about what you, or I, or anyone else, or anything else thinks. This sounds strange for a bedtime story, doesn't it? But, listen to it very carefully and then at the end, tell me if you like it.

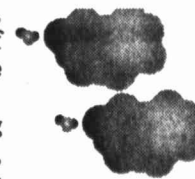


The story is not about any one person or about any one thing. It is about everyone and everything. It is about you and me. It is about any bird. It is about any animal. So, here we go with, "What we think!"

The little boy standing on the ground, looks up into the sky. He sees a great big eagle flying very close to the clouds. He sees the eagle nosedive into a big river and when he goes back up into the air, he sees that the eagle has a big fish in his talons. He sees the eagle flying back to his nest to eat the lunch he just caught. He sees the eagle soaring again, gliding as if he would never have to flap his wings to stay up there in those

clouds. This time, it looks as if he is above the clouds. He is a beautiful sight to see. The little boy wishes that he had been born an eagle, instead of just a little boy!

The big eagle, while he is soaring near the clouds sees the little boy standing on the ground. He sees the little boy throw some rocks into the river, watching them skipping merrily across the glassy water. He sees the little boy walking all around the river, collecting pretty rocks. He sees



the little boy running up the river bank, chasing a butterfly, trying to capture its beauty. He hears the little

boy shouting to his friend to come play with him. He sees that the little boy always has a nice, warm bed to sleep in every night. He sees that the little boy has people that love him. He wishes that he had been born a little boy, instead of just a great big eagle!

The lovely horse standing in the pasture sees the pretty brown cow in the next pasture, chewing her cud. He sees the smile she always seems to have on her face. He sees the farmer coming to milk her and collect the wonderful tasting

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milk for everyone to enjoy. He sees the brown cow, with her big eyes, looking towards him. He hears her mooing and wishes he could make sounds like that, for he thinks it is pretty. He wishes that he had been born a brown cow, instead of a lovely horse.

The brown cow sees the lovely horse. She watches him majestically stride towards the fence. She watches him prancing around the pastures. She loves his long mane. She likes to watch him running, faster than the wind! She



watches him jump very high things. She watches as the farmer puts a saddle on him. She sees the farmer smiling while he is riding

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the lovely horse. She knows that just about everyone loves a lovely horse. She wishes that she had been born a lovely horse instead of just a pretty brown cow! The little girl sees the pretty face on the girl next door. She sees the pretty girl with her pretty clothes. She sees

the pretty girl always smiling. She sees the pretty girl looking at her! She sees the pretty girl smile at her. She smiles back! She wishes that she had been born the pretty girl instead of just the little girl.

The pretty girl sees the little girl. She sees the little girl's beautiful hair. She sees the little girl's pretty skin. She sees the little girl riding a bike so gracefully. She loves the natural smile that the little girl always seems to have on her face. She wishes that she had the little girl's pretty nose. She wishes that she had the little girl's pretty fingers. She wishes that she had been born the little girl, instead of just the pretty girl.



The little boy should have been happy just being himself. He had no way of knowing the great big eagle wanted to be just like him. The great big eagle should have been happy just being himself. He never knew that the little boy wanted to

be him. The brown cow had no way of knowing that the thing that she wanted to be had his own thoughts of wanting to be her. The lovely horse should have been happy just being a lovely horse. He never knew how much the brown cow wanted to be him. The brown cow wanted to be the horse. But she shouldn't have wished that. She was loved just for being a pretty brown cow.

The little girl should have been happy just being a little girl. The pretty girl should have been happy just being a pretty girl. We all think we would like to be someone else. Did you know that someone else wants to be you? Let's all be happy with who we are. I think you are pretty nice just the way you are!

Do you like this story? The little boy, the great big eagle, the lovely horse, the brown cow, the little girl, the pretty girl, and the farmer said to tell you they like you just the way you are, too! Don't change anything! They also said, "Good Night!"



Tomorrow's Horoscope

It's the first full day of the sun in Virgo. Improvements must be made — we can all agree on that. But what should we work on first? Put "feeling good" at the top of the list. In fact, trade in that "things to do" list for a "things to feel" list. Include: Healthy, joyful, grateful, etc. Without the anchor of good health, the rest of your plans falter!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you react to daily frustrations by yelling, it's a symptom of a bigger problem — your higher self feels neglected. Spend some time and energy getting centered through some sort of meditation, reading or art.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Begin your day with the end in mind. This morning, figure out what you must have done by sundown in order to feel productive. If you're open to it, people around you

(especially little ones) bring your smiles and adoration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). This is no time to let things go, or they may spiral out of control. Stress between you and a loved one should be eliminated as quickly and thoroughly as possible. These moments are creating your future together.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's getting rather serious around the workplace. Remind your colleagues that you have a sense of humor. This is proven by how well you take a joke, not how well you make one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll field more positive reports about that lovely person in your circle. Who you choose to hang out with says so much about you. The fact that you're not jealous means you're a true equal with your popular friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What you need to have in order to keep up with the competition will be apparent. But with the powers of imagination, you can compensate for whatever you lack. Mind power trumps money power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're no beast of burden, and you refuse to lumber around like one with too much work and too many worries packed on your back. The inspiration of something beautiful (that you would love to own) will propel you forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sharpen your thinking skills via games, vitamins or new experiences — whatever it takes to get you thinking on all four cylinders. A smart financial move could make a

difference for years to come.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's not hard to figure out where you fit in to the picture at work, though you might not like the role you've been taking on. Just because you agreed to something in the beginning doesn't mean you

have to keep agreeing. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Perhaps you should be doing something for the sheer love of it, but this is hard when your expectations are so high. You love the idea of creating a buzz, a lot of hype and some rave reviews. And you deserve that result!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Shortcuts lead to unexpected obstacles. It's better to go the well-trodden path — just for today. Also, learning a tradition-

al way of working will earn the respect of clients, bosses and potential investors.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Though you know everyone doesn't believe in the same things you do, it's still disappointing not to get your way. Really sell your point today to make sure you've got enough support to push things through.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I've been divorced for 19 years and have only had a handful of relationships since. I haven't dated at all in four years and wonder if there is an imaginary bubble around me that I can't see. Now that summer is here, I'm really feeling it more than ever. My birthdate is Oct. 15, 1962. Is there hope for me, and if so, when?"

Neptune, ruler of all escapist mermaids, transits in a retrograde direc-

tion for about five months out of every year. The current retrograde of Neptune will last until October 26. You'll feel that imaginary bubble around you bursting around that time, and you are more likely to let your dream of the world merge with someone else's. In the meantime, there's no reason why you can't operate a decent romance from inside your bubble. It provides a protective layer between you and the object of your affection. In some ways, this is an ideal situation! It's so much easier to flirt when you believe you can't be hurt. Online dating will be quite lucky if you set up your profile well. Pisces, Scorpio and Cancer are fantastic partners for you.

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Annie's Mailbox®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I've been married to "Joe," a wonderful man, for eight years. A year ago, I came across an old letter (from 10 years back) from a friend, "Mike." Joe knows that I had a crush on Mike, but we never dated. In the letter, Mike (who is married, and was at that time he wrote it) said he wanted to catch up on lost time and said I should write or call "any time."

thought her friend was stealing money from her purse during her facials.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Annie, since the discovery of the letter, I think about Mike all the time. I don't want to cheat on Joe. I just want to know what Mike is up to these days. We were great friends back in the day.

I want to write Mike and possibly get together, with our spouses, but I have a feeling Joe won't be too keen on the idea. He doesn't know about the letter. Is it realistic for two people of the opposite sex to remain friends even though the spouses don't know each other? — Contemplating a Reunion

Dear Contemplating: If your intention is simply to find out what happened to an old friend, it shouldn't have all this skulduggery attached to it. Meeting up, with your spouses, is perfectly fine, as long as you are honest about it. The problem is, you have been fixated for a year on this old letter, which tells us you may be fantasizing about Mike. Don't plan anything you'll regret.

Dear Annie: I am a basketball cheerleader, make decent grades, am a nice person and popular. Here's the problem: Guys don't seem to like me. I mean, yeah, sure they like me as a friend, but nothing more.

I am going into seventh grade and would like to have a boyfriend. Every single one of the popular girls in my grade has had a boyfriend, but not me. I am not fat, nor am I ugly. Is there something wrong with me? — Young but Single

Dear Young: There is nothing wrong with you. In fact, you are better off without a boyfriend. This is a time for you to develop yourself instead of worrying about pleasing someone else. You will have plenty of opportunities for boyfriends, and it will help if you have a stronger sense of self when you find one. Hang in there.

Dear Annie: This is for "Robbed Blind in San Mateo, Calif.," who

The theft needs to be documented for two reasons. First, "Robbed Blind" needs to know for sure if her friend is stealing from her. Second, the thief needs to be caught and stopped. "Robbed Blind" should record the serial numbers of the bills in her wallet before she goes to the salon. Then, after departing, she should check to see if any money is missing. If so, she should call the police and report the theft. The thief will have a bill with a recorded serial number.

If "Robbed Blind" simply decides to stop going for facials, then the thief is free to steal from other people. — Ex-Cop in West Virginia

Dear Ex-Cop: When a family friend is involved, people are less likely to get the police involved, but thanks for your expert advice. Here's more:

From Illinois: I once worked for a man who used to snoop around when I would leave to run errands. He read my mail and rummaged in my desk and purse. After several incidents, I left a note inside my desk drawer. It simply read, "Please get out of my desk." I never had a problem again. Sometimes actions will cease when people realize they are not getting away with it.

Florida: There is a powder that can be sprinkled on a surface, such as a wallet, and if a person's hand makes contact with the substance, a purple dye will permeate the skin. The dye won't come off for several days. It is messy to work with, but it's a sure-fire way of finding out the answer to the question.

Dear Annie: I married a generous, kind and funny man three years ago. "Brent" has no children, but I have two sons from

my abusive previous marriage who are now 18 and 15. Their father has little to do with us, and I've had my share of problems raising the boys. We have attended counseling many times.

The problem is that Brent cannot see anything positive about my children. He expects perfection and cannot forgive them for any mistakes. He also believes they are guilty unless they can prove themselves innocent.

Brent is a very giving person when it comes to everyone else, but he feels my children don't deserve anything from him. My older son has asked to borrow tools when working on his car, and Brent says no. Last year, we attended counseling as a family, but unfortunately, Brent has forgotten much of the advice.

I have considered ending my marriage on more than one occasion, but I do love this man and am more happy with him than not. Right now I am — At Wits' End in Hawaii

Dear Hawaii: These are your children. If Brent refuses to treat them with greater kindness and civility, we wonder why you think he is so wonderful. Your 18-year-old is probably ready to move out, but the 15-year-old is going to be living with you for a few more years. You must work this out now.

Go back to family counseling and inform the counselor that Brent has difficulty sticking to the program. Then make sure Brent realizes how crucial this is for the health of your marriage. Any man who professes to care for his wife should make a genuine effort to get along with those whom she loves.

Dear Annie: I am an 18-year-old female and recently attended a music festival in my area. Some friends asked if I would drive a group of us to the festival since it was more than 35 miles away. Reluctantly, I agreed.

The festival cost \$21 as an entrance fee, along with food and a parking fee, not to mention gas. Each of the three passengers in my car agreed to pay a portion of the \$11 parking fee, but when it came time to pay up, I was given only a dollar or two by each one, leaving me to pay the rest. When I asked them to pitch in a few dollars for the \$20 gas

bill, they acted offended. Was it too much for me to ask for gas money in return for the ride? — Broke in California

Dear Broke: Of course not. Your cheapskate friends should have offered to split the gas and parking fees equally. Real friends would have insisted on it.

Dear Annie: Millions of children will head back to school this fall without one essential item: health care coverage. Many of the 8.4 million uninsured children in the United States are eligible for low-cost or free health care coverage through

Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Unfortunately, their parents may not realize their children qualify for this coverage. That's why

Covering Kids & Families, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is getting the word out to parents that these programs are available and their kids may be eligible. Although eligibility varies, on average, a family of four earning up to \$38,000 a year or more may qualify.

As kids everywhere head back to school, let's

get the word out. Parents can call toll-free 1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669) to find out if their children are eligible. Thank you for helping us connect kids with the health care coverage they need. — Sarah Shuptrine, National Program Director, Covering Kids & Families

Dear Sarah Shuptrine: We're glad to do it. If any of our readers think their children may qualify for this program, we hope they will call today or visit www.coveringkidsandfamilies.org.

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Scenic Mountain Medical Center
invites you to join our...

August 2005 Activities

<p>August 19 • Friday * Pot Luck & Bingo - 11:30 am Senior Circle Activity Room</p> <p>August 22 • Monday * Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)</p> <p>August 23 • Tuesday * Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)</p> <p>* Supper Club - Spanish Inn - 5:30 pm</p> <p>August 24 • Wednesday * Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)</p> <p>August 25 • Thursday * Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)</p> <p>* Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am</p> <p>August 29 • Monday * Games - 2:00 pm * Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)</p> <p>August 30 • Tuesday * Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)</p> <p>* Supper Club - Cowboy's - 5:30 pm</p> <p>August 31 • Wednesday * Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Scenic Mountain Medical Center Volunteer Fundraiser For Alzheimer's Memory Walk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hospital Lobby 7:00 AM - 7:00 pm THURSDAY • 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM FRIDAY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Volunteer/Senior Circle Director Anita Cline • 268-4721</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px;"> <p>Senior Circle Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px;"> <p>Free Pregnancy Testing Every Day 9:00 am - 6:00 pm OB Department, 2nd Floor, Results in 4 Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donna Mills, RN. Director Of Women's Services OB Dept., 268-4550</p> </td> <td style="width: 33%; padding: 5px;"> <p>Road To Recovery (Transportation For Cancer Patients)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LaWanda Ham, 263-7827</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Senior Circle Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>Free Pregnancy Testing Every Day 9:00 am - 6:00 pm OB Department, 2nd Floor, Results in 4 Minutes</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Donna Mills, RN. Director Of Women's Services OB Dept., 268-4550</p>	<p>Road To Recovery (Transportation For Cancer Patients)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LaWanda Ham, 263-7827</p>
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IN BRIEF

Coahoma sets booster club dates

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

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

Howard sets mini cheerleading camp

Howard College will hold a mini cheer camp Saturday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum for grades first through six.

Registration will take place at 8 a.m. and the cheer/dance class session will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Participants are supposed to bring a lunch to eat at noon and bring a water bottle and wear tennis shoes. They are also supposed to put their names on their belongings.

All registered participants will also compete at the Battle of the Cheerleaders at the Rodeo Bowl that night during the county fair.

The cost of the camp is \$25.

For more information, call 264-5024.

Quarterback club sets remaining weekly meetings

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

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

Signups for football to occur all summer

The Crossroads Youth Football Association signups are currently underway and will continue throughout the summer.

For more information, call Daphne Castilaw at 714-4688.

MCA to host youth volleyball league

The Big Spring YMCA is holding registration for youth volleyball through Aug. 20. The registration fee is \$40 per player and covers all expenses including a team jersey and player awards.

For more information, contact Pete Thiry at 267-8234.

Forsan to host pep rally tonight

Forsan ISD will be holding a community-wide pep rally at the Forsan football field tonight beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The event will introduce the football team and cheerleaders and the band will be performing.

Lady Steers find win column at Abilene tourney

By TROY HYDE

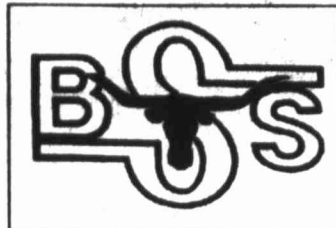
Sports Editor
ABILENE — The Big Spring volleyball team got into the win column Friday at the Bev Bell Classic in Abilene as they defeated Lubbock High and Crowley to advance to Saturday's championship bracket.

The Lady Steers took down Lubbock High in three games, winning 10-25, 25-22 and 27-25.

Senior Raegan Ritchey led the way again for Big Spring as she finished with six kills, 12 digs and 10 total blocks. Senior Krista Chesworth had a team-high eight kills and 11 digs. Senior Brenn Swinney and sophomore Amanda Caskey each had five blocks, while junior Katy Abner added nine digs. The Lady Steers got 31 team blocks in the game.

"We obviously scored most of our points on blocks rather than kills," said Big Spring coach Jason McAden. "The girls showed a lot of heart. We got drilled in Game 1, but battled back to take the final two games."

The Lady Steers had a fairly easy game against Crowley, winning 25-21



and 25-10.

"I thought as a team we executed well," said McAden. "Mallory did an excellent job of spreading the ball around and she made steps in a positive direction this weekend."

Caskey, Ritchey, Chesworth and seniors Carmen Lewis and Brenn Swinney all had five kills apiece. Ritchey added eight blocks and seven digs, while Abner contributed a team-high nine digs.

The first two wins of the tournament put the Lady Steers in the championship bracket, which consisted of the top four teams (16 teams total). However, Big Spring lost its third match Friday.

The Lady Steers lost to El Paso Franklin in straight sets 25-19 and 25-19.

"We let our guard down here," said McAden. "We are still struggling with missed serves despite working hard on it in

practice. We lost by 12 points and gave them nine points on missed serves."

Ritchey, Chesworth and Lewis had five kills each and Chesworth also added a team-high seven digs.

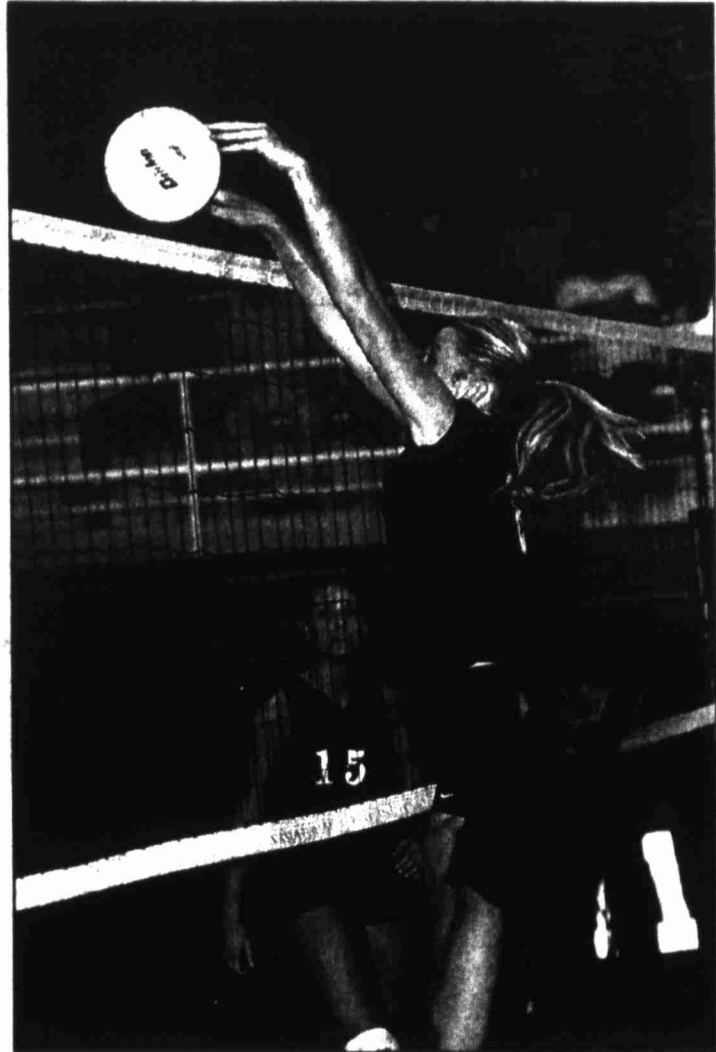
Big Spring struggled in its first two matches Saturday. They lost to El Paso Burgess in two sets 17-25 and 15-25 and then got beat by Tyler Lee 23-25 and 18-25.

"Both of our Saturday morning matches were not two of the best," said McAden. "Missed serves were again an issue, but even more than that was our inconsistency."

The Lady Steers did get a win Saturday as they knocked off Lubbock Monterrey in straight sets 26-24 and 25-23. Freshman Shelbi Stewart got six kills for Big Spring to lead the way. Ritchey, Chesworth and Swinney each added five. Lewis had a team-high 11 digs, while Ritchey and Abner each added 10.

"This was probably the best match we have played as a team," said McAden. "I made some changes in the lineup and

See BIG SPRING, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring senior Raegan Ritchey goes up for the block against Midland High last Tuesday at the Steer Gym. The Lady Steers got their first win of the season at the Bev Bell Classic in Abilene over the weekend. They went 3-3 in the tourney and are now 3-6 overall. They play tonight at the Steer Gym starting at 7:30 p.m.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Members of the Big Spring varsity cheerleading squad get fans off their feet at the community pep rally Monday at the amphitheater inside Comanche Trail Park. The Big Spring football booster club conducted the pep rally as every fall sports team, cheerleaders and the Big Spring band were introduced to the community. The football team kicks off its season Friday at Memorial Stadium against Odessa High.

Oswalt, Berkman lead Astros to win, wild card still up for grabs

By BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer
SAN DIEGO (AP) — With one well-placed curveball, Roy Oswalt changed the complexion of the game and helped the Houston Astros take the wild-card lead.

Oswalt struck out Xavier Nady with runners on first and second and no outs in the sixth inning, dodged a bases loaded jam and led the Astros to a 6-2 victory over the NL West-leading San Diego Padres on Monday night.

Oswalt, who won his 15th game, and three relievers combined on a five-hitter, and Lance Berkman hit a two-run homer for the Astros, who moved a half-game in

front of Philadelphia and Florida in the wild-card race.

The Padres fell to 61-63 but continued to lead the division by four games over Arizona, which lost 4-1 to the New York Mets. This is the latest a team has led a division with a losing record.

Oswalt (15-10) held the Padres to two runs and five hits in six innings to win for the first time in five starts.

"My last three starts, I've been grinding through it, and I was able to keep it low-scoring," Oswalt said.

Holding a 3-2 lead, Oswalt got into trouble in the sixth by allowing a leadoff single to Brian Giles and walking Mark

Loretta. Nady had an 11-pitch at-bat, working the count full before fouling off four straight pitches, including one that catcher Brad Ausmus dropped.

Nady then struck out looking at a 62 mph curveball that replays showed was outside.

"What could have been a disaster, he stopped it," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "It didn't look so good, and he battled to get out of the inning."

Said Oswalt: "Three-two, I threw him a few fastballs that he fouled off, then I threw a curveball over that I started high enough that he gave up on it and I was able to drop it in there for a strike."

Padres manager Bruce Bochy disagreed with the call.

"He's got no chance to hit that pitch," Bochy said. "That ball didn't come near to catching any part of the plate. That's a huge call. He had bases loaded with nobody out versus first and sec-

Dallas rookie Ware tears up Seattle's offense in victory

• First team offense improves as Cowboys take down Seahawks

By TIM BOOTH

Associated Press Writer
SEATTLE (AP) —

Neither the starters nor the reserves on the Seattle Seahawks offensive line could keep their quarterback protected.

Seattle's pass protection struggled under constant pressure by Dallas' defense in the Cowboys' 18-10 preseason win Monday night. The Seahawks gave up four sacks, but none was more notable than the one allowed by Pro Bowl guard Steve Hutchinson.

Two minutes in, Hutchinson was beat by rookie linebacker Demarcus Ware, who stripped the ball from quarterback Matt Hasselbeck and fell on the fumble at the Seattle 33.

The turnover led to the first points of the game, a 44-yard field goal by Dallas' Jose Cortez.

"I just think we've got to get a little better at picking stuff up," Hutchinson said. "We work on the blitz every day. When you get into a game situation, you've got to be able to see it coming and pick that up."

It was a sloppy game in many areas for the Seahawks (1-1), and a complete turn from last week's impressive 34-15 win over New Orleans.

Seattle had two turnovers and was penalized 12 times for 105 yards — including a fumble return for a touchdown called back on an illegal block.

"We're not a highly penalized team and we had way too many," coach Mike Holmgren said. "We had a couple of turnovers, and we dropped a couple of interceptions that could not have been easier. We were careless with the

football." Dallas (1-1) scored on a safety with 5:40 left, after Seattle quarterback David Greene was pressured by safety Justin Berialt and linebacker Eric Ogbogu, and ran past the end line at the back of the end zone.

Seattle also had a fumble return for a touchdown by cornerback Jordan Babineaux called back on a penalty, with the Seahawks trailing 18-10.

"I think it's good to have mistakes during preseason games," said running back Shaun Alexander, who finished with 26 yards rushing on six carries. "I think it's good to get all those things in now, so you can see it on film."

Ware forced two fumbles, had his first interception, a sack and three tackles in one half of play. He was the 11th pick in the draft and played defensive end at Troy, but is making the switch to outside linebacker with the Cowboys, who are moving from a 4-3 to a 3-4 defense.

"I was a little more comfortable with the defense and what the guys are doing," Ware said. "On a scale of 1 to 10, I'd say it was an eight."

Late in the first quarter, Ware showed his ability in pass coverage. After Hasselbeck connected with tight end Jerramy Stevens on consecutive plays, Ware dived in front of Stevens, corraling the interception. Ware said it was his first interception ever.

Late in the first half, Ware made perhaps his most athletic play. With reserve quarterback Seneca Wallace scrambling out of the pocket toward open field, Ware dived and jarred the ball from Wallace's right

See ASTROS, Page 2B

See COWBOYS, Page 2B

Academic All-State Softball

Big Spring — Chelsea Abner
Neisha Heinis
Kate Smiley
Heather Vassar

Coahoma — Cheyenne Grice

Finley meets with Heat

By STEVEN WINE
AP Sports Writer
MIAMI (AP) - Free-agent swingman Michael Finley met Monday in his hometown of Chicago with Miami Heat president Pat Riley and coach Stan Van Gundy to discuss a possible contract.

The Heat were the first team to meet with Finley since he was waived a week earlier by the Dallas Mavericks, Thomas said. Meetings with other

teams are planned. Miami can offer Finley the full \$5 million mid-level exception.

A two-time All-Star, Finley averaged 15.7 points last season, his lowest average since joining the Mavericks in 1996.

The Detroit Pistons and Denver Nuggets are among other teams holding onto their mid-level salary cap exceptions, and each is believed to have interest in Finley.



KRT photo/Harry E. Walker, Knight Ridder Tribune
Washington Redskins safety Matt Bowen at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., wams up prior to a preseason game against the Cincinnati Bengals Friday.

COWBOYS

Continued from Page 1B

hand, knocking the fumble out of bounds.

Cortez connected from 37 and 46 yards in the third quarter for Dallas.

Hasselbeck's interception broke a string of 10 straight completions to start the game. Hasselbeck was 12-of-15 for 135 yards.

He led one scoring drive, completing six passes on the 80-yard march. He found second-year receiver D.J. Hackett in the back of the end zone for a 7-yard TD that gave Seattle a 7-3 lead.

Dallas quarterback Drew Bledsoe played into the second quarter and was 7-of-11 for 56 yards. Julius Jones had 12 carries for 58 yards, 44 coming on Dallas' lone touchdown drive of the half. Bledsoe threw an 11-yard TD pass to fullback Lousaka Polite with 5:45 left in the second quarter.

Dallas played without defensive end Jason Ferguson (ankle) and guard Marco Rivera (hamstring), both free-agent signings.

BIG SPRING

Continued from Page 1B

it worked for us. Mallory showed a great deal of confidence and took over the match and Shelby Stewart was outstanding for us.

"Overall, I feel like we made some progress this weekend and I am excited to see where we go from

here. If we can take what we did against Monterey and use that as our current level of play and then improve from there, our chances of beating quality teams will increase tremendously."

Ritchey was named to the all-tournament team. "That speaks volumes for her and for our team," said McAden. "She made some great blocks at opportune times and really hammered some kills."

The Lady Steers get back at it tonight at the Steer Gym beginning at 7:30 p.m.

ASTROS

Continued from Page 1B

and one out. Definitely changes the game."

Damian Jackson then popped weakly to second. Oswalt hit Olivo to load the bases to bring up pinch-hitter Robert Fick, who grounded weakly to first on the first pitch.

Oswalt struck out five and walked three. He improved to 6-1 in his career against San Diego. He also beat the Padres on a five-hitter on July 4, 4-1 at Houston.

Relievers Chad Qualls, Dan Wheeler and Russ Springer held the Padres hitless over the final three innings.

Berkman homered to right-center field on a 3-2 pitch from reliever Rudy Seanez with one out in the seventh, his 13th, for a 5-2 lead. Willy Taveras was aboard on a leadoff single. Berkman also hit an RBI double in the ninth, giving him three hits and three RBIs.

Berkman also got a wild out at first base to end the eighth. Jackson hit a liner off Berkman's ankle and the ball caromed to second baseman Craig Biggio, who threw it back to Berkman, who was sprawled on the ground but got one hand on the bag to force Jackson.

"His pride's hurt and his ankle is, too," Garner said. "Somebody said that Biggio said that that's the shortest first baseman he's ever thrown to."

The Astros had five hits in the fourth inning off Woody Williams (6-10), a Houston native, to take a 3-2 lead. Williams struck out Morgan Ensberg leading off the inning, then allowed four straight hits.

Jason Lane tripled into the gap in right-center and Chris Burke drove him in on a double to left-center. Burke then scored from second on an infield single by Adam Everett, whose grounder glanced off the glove of a diving Nady and rolled into shallow right. Brad Ausmus singled to center, advanced on Oswalt's bunt that forced Everett at third and scored on Taveras' single.

San Diego had taken a 2-0 lead in the third on consecutive two-out RBI singles by Giles and Loretta.

Williams allowed three runs and nine hits in six innings.

B.S. Softball Association

The Big Spring Softball Association will be having fall ball this year.

The games will be on Saturdays, beginning Sept. 10 and athletes can sign-up from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 20 and 27 at the Big Spring Mall. The cost is \$35.

For more information, contact Ron Shafer at 432-213-9747.

Softball tournament set to benefit LULAC

The La Raza Unidos softball tournament, which will benefit the LULAC scholarship, will take place Friday and Saturday at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

The entry fee is \$110 per team and the tournament begins Friday evening.

For more information or to enter a team, contact Janey at 263-6351 or leave a message at 263-9155.

Henson Memorial fund-raiser set

The Second Annual Pfc. Clayton W. Henson Memorial Scholarship Fund-raiser golf tournament has been set for Sept. 10.

The tournament will be a four person scramble and will cost \$80 per person.

It will take place at the Phoenix Golf Club in Stanton.

Tee times be from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Wally Hazelwood at 756-2424 or the Phoenix Golf Club at 756-2556.

Local bowling leagues now forming

Bowling leagues at Bowl-A-Rama Lanes are now being formed.

There will be several leagues throughout the week.

A senior league will take place Fridays at 6 p.m. for players 55 and over.

The league meeting will take place Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. and the league will begin Sept. 9.

Also, a children's league will take place Saturday mornings at 10 for bowlers aged 4 through 17.

For more information, call 267-7484.

B.S. travel football team now forming

The Big Spring Youth Football Travel League is now being formed for anyone in grades three through six who would like to play.

If interested, contact Randy Phillips at 267-7141 or Denise Carillo at 816-1685 or 263-1945.

Quarterback club sets remaining weekly meetings

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

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

Pigskin Pick Football Contest



Jake

700 Auto Sales

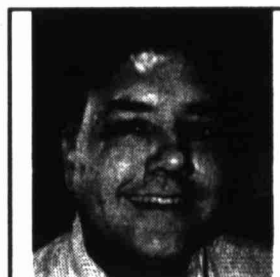
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Gary Harris

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Enter To Win \$75 At These Participating Merchants

Rules: Find this week's games in the merchants' ads on this page. Choose the teams you think will win. Clip and fill in the official entry blank on this page with your team choice. The entry with the most correct picks will win \$75. You must be 18 to enter. Only official entry forms accepted. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will determine the winner. Guess the winner and the combined scores for the total points. Decisions of the judges are final. Employees and families of employees of The Big Spring Herald are ineligible. All entries must be received at one of the participating merchants by 1 p.m. Friday of the week played. Winners will be announced in the Big Spring Herald the Tuesday following the games.

Pigskin Picks Entry Form

Team

1. _____ Name: _____
2. _____ Address: _____
3. _____ Phone Number: _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____ Tie Breaker - Circle the winner and note total points scored
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8. _____
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10. _____ Total Points _____

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7. Garden City vs. Grandfalls

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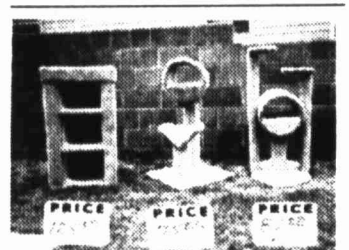
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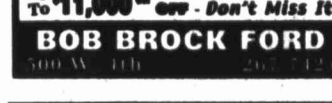
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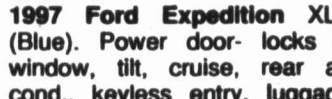
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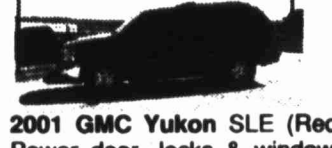
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	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (24)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (30)
6	News (CC)	News (CC)	Spanish (CC)	King of the Hill (CC)	News (CC)	Amelia Al (CC)	News (CC)	Playmond (CC)	Booker (CC)	News-Lover (CC)	Discovery (CC)	Classics (CC)	Spice TV (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Black Ent. (CC)	Disney (CC)	Sports (CC)	Sports (CC)	Science Fic. (CC)
7	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Wheel-Fortune (CC)	Apuesta por un Amor (CC)	El Cuerpo del Delincuente (CC)	News (CC)	Meet Miller (CC)	Friends (CC)	Updates/Real Van Inge Press (CC)	Novel (CC)	Novel (CC)	Deadliest Catch (CC)	Movie: For Your Eyes Only (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Hitch (CC)	That's Raven (CC)	Baseball: World Series - 2005 World Series of Poker (CC)	Baseball: World Series - 2005 World Series of Poker (CC)	Stargate (CC)
8	Accord-Jim (CC)	Accord-Jim (CC)	La Madrastra (CC)	Big Brother 6 (CC)	News (CC)	Loe Plateados (CC)	Tommy Lee (CC)	Sex and City (CC)	Light of the Southwest (CC)	P.O.V. (CC)	Going Tribal (CC)	Movie: Red Dawn (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	25 Hottest Men (CC)	Buzz-Maggie (CC)	WNBA Shootaround (CC)	WNBA Shootaround (CC)	Stargate (CC)
9	News (CC)	News (CC)	Casos de la Vida Real (CC)	70s Show (CC)	Rock Star: INXS (CC)	El Principe Azul (CC)	Law & Order: SVU (CC)	Friends (CC)	The Hour of Healing (CC)	Deadliest Catch (CC)	For Your Eyes Only (CC)	Wicket Police (CC)	The Closer (CC)	Highly News 106 & Park (CC)	That's Raven (CC)	Lynx at Sparks (CC)	Streetball (CC)	Streetball (CC)	Stargate (CC)
10	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto (CC)	70s Show (CC)	News (CC)	Noticias Laura (CC)	News Tonight Show (CC)	10 Movie: Unhailu (CC)	Joe McGee (CC)	Charlie Rose (CC)	Daily Jobs (CC)	Video: Wildcat (CC)	Video: Wildcat (CC)	BET's Top 10 Live (CC)	Sister, Sister (CC)	Kim Possible (CC)	Lizzie McGuire (CC)	Proud Family (CC)	Stargate (CC)
11	News (CC)	News (CC)	Amigos y Rivales (CC)	Spin City (CC)	Letterman (CC)	Letterman (CC)	Letterman (CC)	10 Movie: Unhailu (CC)	Joe McGee (CC)	Charlie Rose (CC)	Daily Jobs (CC)	Video: Wildcat (CC)	Video: Wildcat (CC)	BET's Top 10 Live (CC)	Sister, Sister (CC)	Kim Possible (CC)	Lizzie McGuire (CC)	Proud Family (CC)	Stargate (CC)
12	News (CC)	News (CC)	Amigos y Rivales (CC)	Spin City (CC)	Letterman (CC)	Letterman (CC)	Letterman (CC)	10 Movie: Unhailu (CC)	Joe McGee (CC)	Charlie Rose (CC)	Daily Jobs (CC)	Video: Wildcat (CC)	Video: Wildcat (CC)	BET's Top 10 Live (CC)	Sister, Sister (CC)	Kim Possible (CC)	Lizzie McGuire (CC)	Proud Family (CC)	Stargate (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'M SORRY, YOUNG MAN, BUT WE DON'T GIVE FREE REFILLS TO PIGGY BANKS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Play some Christmas carols, Mommy, and cool us off."

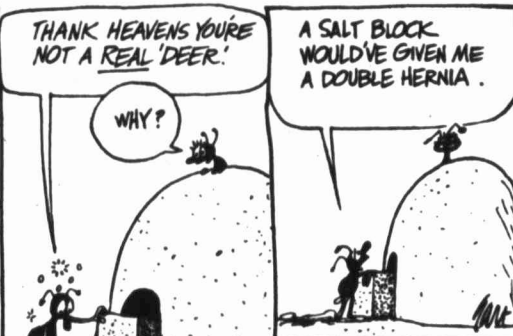
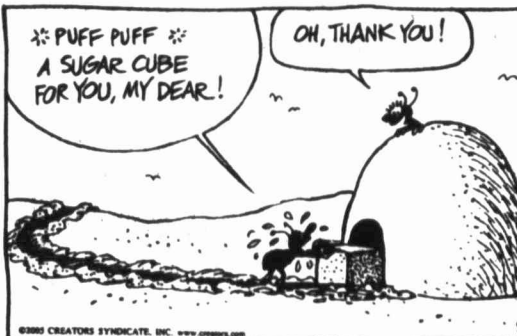
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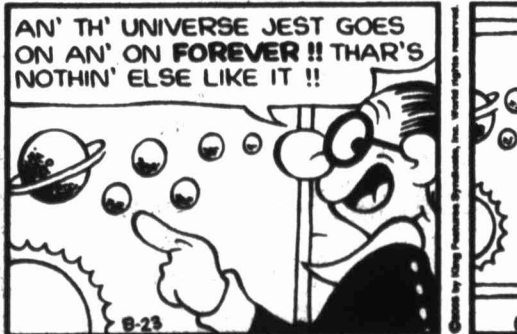
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 23, the 235th day of 2005. There are 130 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 23, 1927 Italian-born anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed in Boston for the murders of two men during a 1920 robbery. (Sacco and Vanzetti were vindicated in 1977 by Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis.)

On this date: In 1754, France's King Louis XVI was born at Versailles.

In 1914, Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

In 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression treaty.

In 1944, Romanian prime minister Ion Antonescu was dismissed by King Michael, paving the way for Romania to abandon the Axis in favor of the Allies.

In 1979, Soviet dancer Alexander Godunov defected while the Bolshoi Ballet was on tour in New York.

In 1982, Lebanon's parliament elected Christian militia leader Bashir Gemayel president. (However, Gemayel was assassinated some three weeks later.)

In 1989, in a case that inflamed racial tensions in New York City, Yusuf Hawkins, a 16-year-old black youth, was shot dead after he and his friends were confronted by white youths in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn.

Five years ago: An estimated 51 million viewers tuned in for the finale of CBS' reality series "Survivor," in which contestant Richard Hatch won the \$1 million prize.

One year ago: President Bush criticized a commercial that had accused Democrat John Kerry of inflating his own Vietnam War record, more than a week after the ad stopped running, and said broadcast attacks by outside groups had no place in the race for the White House.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Robert Mulligan is

80. Political satirist Mark Russell is 73. Actress Barbara Eden is 71. Ballet dancer Patricia McBride is 63. Former Surgeon General Antonia Novello is 61. Country singer Rex Allen Jr. is 58. Actress Shelley Long is 56. Actor-singer Rick Springfield is 56. Country singer-musician Woody Paul (Riders in the Sky) is 56. Queen Noor of Jordan is 54. Rock musician Dean DeLeo (Stone Temple Pilots) is 44. Actor Jay Mohr is 35. Rock singer Julian Casablancas (The Strokes) is 27.

Thought for Today: "No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helps you." - Althea Gibson, American tennis champion (1927-2003).

Answer to previous puzzle

LACE NORBLE ORIA
OBOE ORION AURA
COOLASACUCUMBER
HOP NETS MESAS
ERASE AJAR
TORAH DARE ATIT
ABATE MILED ADE
GETS INTO PICKLE
USE MOON SCREEN
PEST REEF STANDY
OLES ALAMO
SLOPE BLOT TAP
WITHGREATRELISH
ASIA OWNED ACID
PAST BEERS MESS

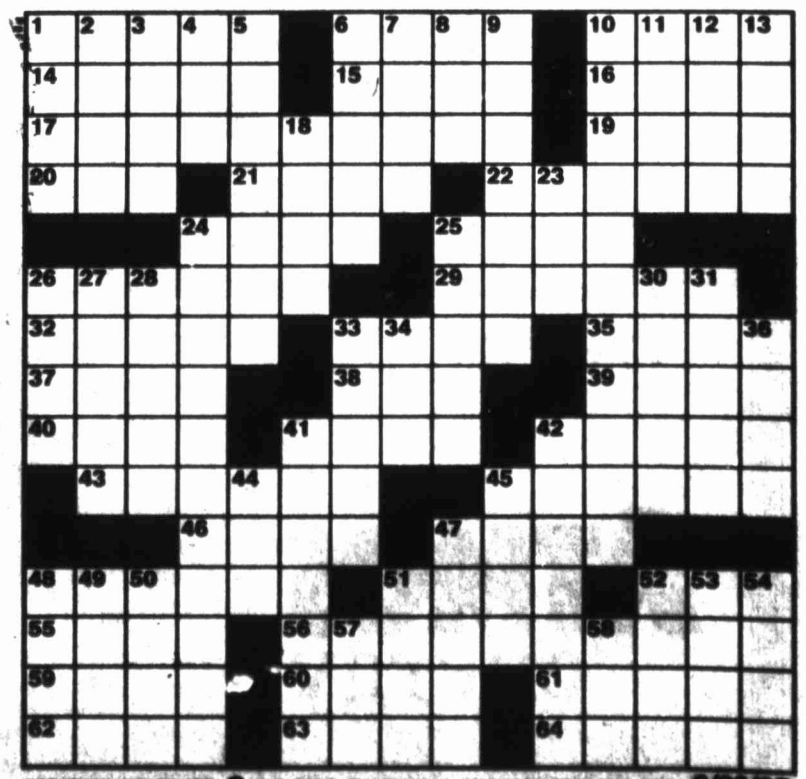
Newsday Crossword

SHIP AHOY by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 56 Cooped-up uneasiness | 9 Casual tops | 34 Had lunch |
| 1 Took a chance | 59 Subtle quality | 10 Rummy player's pack | 36 Quench fully |
| 6 Story line | 60 Astronaut Shepard | 11 Right now, in memos | 41 Miniature racing vehicle |
| 10 Over hill and | 61 Less restrained | 12 Sorenstam's links org. | 42 Advance alerts |
| 14 Likeness | 62 Small songbird | 13 Looked at | 44 Debtor's note |
| 15 "I dropped it!" | 63 Sunbeams | 18 Work with clay | 45 Plant with fronds |
| 16 Catch sight of | 64 Faxes or e-mails | 23 Teachers' org. | 47 Destroys |
| 17 Talkative one, slangily | | 24 Paula Zahn of CNN, e.g. | 48 Cabbage salad |
| 19 Parakeet's home | DOWN | 25 Hollywood award | 49 Serve coffee |
| 20 Tee preceder | 1 Small coin | 26 Magician's stick | 50 Steak preference |
| 21 Not timid | 2 Cookiemaker Wally | 27 Spiny houseplants | 51 Internet auction site |
| 22 Rubber-stamp refresher | 3 "Damn it!" | 28 Attain | 52 Not odd |
| 24 Has the flu | 4 Self-image | 30 Got along | 53 Garden nuisance |
| 25 Sandwich cookie | 5 Domelike hats | 31 Swipe | 54 Messes up |
| 26 Alerted | 6 Places to swim | 33 Participate in a bee | 57 Pie __ mode |
| 29 Office teams | 7 Like a cheering crowd | | 58 Before, in verse |
| 32 Baldwin and Guinness | 8 Make a choice | | |
| 33 Anatomical pouches | | | |
| 35 Lions and tigers | | | |
| 37 Ark builder | | | |
| 38 School grp. | | | |
| 39 Neighborhood | | | |
| 40 Art __ ("20s style) | | | |
| 41 Psychic reader | | | |
| 42 Dog's reward | | | |
| 43 High-pitched | | | |
| 45 Square-dance instrument | | | |
| 46 Sweater material | | | |
| 47 Sales agents, briefly | | | |
| 48 Brussels __ (vegetable) | | | |
| 51 Italian currency | | | |
| 52 Meadow mom | | | |
| 55 Rich soil | | | |



Wacky Facts

A 30-foot-long Trash-o-saurus greets you at the door of The Garbage Museum in Stratford, Conn. The center offers a firsthand look at what happens to your garbage after it leaves your house.

— World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"I'm not one of those real intense sports dads. I want the kids to have fun. Of course, I want them to win because then they are happy. But I have taught them the 'it's not whether you win or lose' thing."

— Billy Bob Thornton on watching his kids play sports, on *SI.com*.

In The News

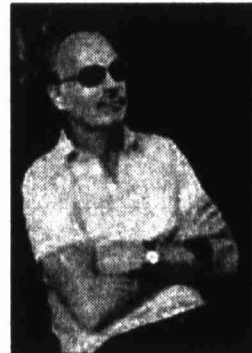
Good news from a 'Bad News Bear'

Sammi Kraft has been playing baseball since she was 3 years old. Over the years, she has worked hard to be "pitcher" perfect. This summer, her skills on the mound have landed her a new career. Kraft was chosen to play the part of pitcher Amanda Wurlitzer in the remake of "Bad News Bears." (The movie is rated PG-13 for language.)



Kraft took a break from playing sports to speak with Time For Kids about what it was like to star in her first major movie.

TFK: How does this movie compare with the original "Bad News Bears"? Did you watch the original as a kid?



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT
Billy Bob Thornton is coach Buttermaker.

SK: Well, nothing can really compare to the original, so we just took the original and put it into our generation. I did watch it growing up ... I mean it's a classic baseball movie, and I grew up basically on a baseball field.

TFK: Are you at all like the character you play, star pitcher Amanda Wurlitzer?

SK: Sure I am ... I always struck out boys. Also the boys are exactly like the boys from baseball teams I've been on. They would give me a tough time in the beginning, then I would pitch and they became intimidated.

TFK: Who is your favorite team?

SK: I am a Yankee fan and I'm not afraid to scream it! I'm a New Yorker.

TFK: How did you train to throw the ball so hard in the movie?

SK: I have been playing since I was 3 years old. I worked out with my dad practicing pitching even after I switched to softball. I have progressed and gotten better. And now I throw 75 mph. Practice makes perfect.

TFK: What was it like to work with a famous actor like Billy Bob Thornton?

SK: It was really cool for my first movie and he was really helpful with everything. He helped me with acting and he taught me how to throw a knuckle-curve.

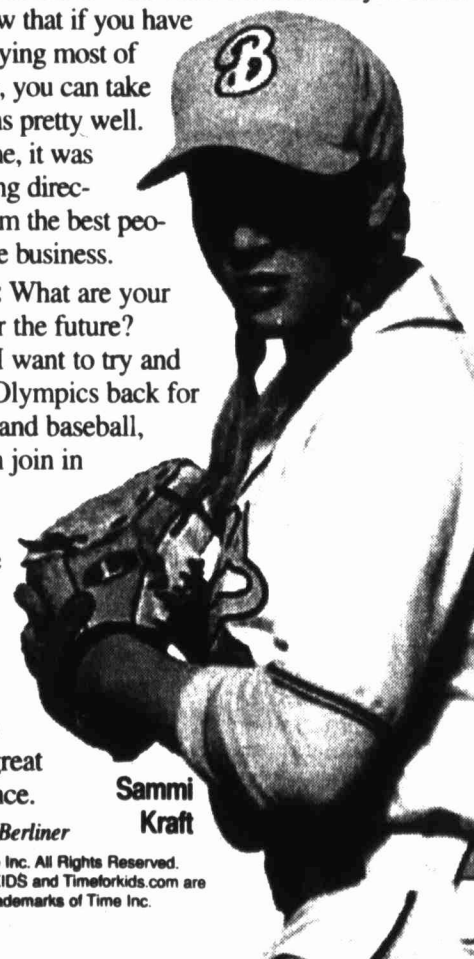
TFK: How is acting different from sports?

SK: For me it wasn't that different. Any athletes will know that if you have been playing most of your life, you can take directions pretty well. So for me, it was just taking directions from the best people in the business.

TFK: What are your goals for the future?

SK: I want to try and get the Olympics back for softball and baseball, and then join in them. I would also like to do more movies because this was such a great experience.

— Allison Bertiner



Sammi Kraft

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You can make one-of-a-kind school supplies

BY PATRICIA LONG ALLBEE
The Dallas Morning News

It's fun to have brand-new school supplies to start the new year, but you can also transform leftovers from last year into something even better. Here are some ideas for one-of-a-kind school supplies your friends won't be able to find in stores:

CRAZY COLORS

Do you need crayons for art supplies? Using leftover stubs and "shorties," you can make colors even your art teacher hasn't seen before. The **Crayola Crayon Maker** will help you safely melt old crayons and shape them into new ones using standard molds as well as animal-shaped ones. The kit includes blank labels and boxes to name your new colors. The sky's the limit — our new box includes "Funky Skunk," "Lime Soda," "Tiki Hut," "Lipstick" and "Mr. Greenjeans." (The Crayon Maker is \$22.99 at Toys "R" Us.)

MAGNETIC PERSONALITY

For the best locker magnets in your hall, make silhouettes. Take photos or magazine pictures glued on cardboard and cut away the background. Images printed off the computer onto cardstock paper will also work. Cut pieces from flat "sheet" magnets to fit, and glue to the backs of the silhouettes. Self-adhesive magnetic sheets and strips can be purchased in craft stores, but you might ask your parents for a few small magnets from your refrigerator door (the flat ones that came free from local businesses and restaurants). If the magnet is as large as the photo, glue the photo on before you begin cutting.

(Cardstock from a copy shop runs about 9 cents per 8 1/2-by-11-inch sheet. Magnetic sheets cost 99 cents for a 1/2-inch-wide 30-inch roll or \$9.99 for a 1-by-2-foot sheet.)

A PEN BY ANY OTHER NAME ...

Turn your pens into a bouquet of roses using red and green duct tape. Instructions for the roses, as well as for a two-pocket folder and pencil holder, can be found at www.ducktape.com. (Find duct tape for \$3.49 for five yards at Ace Hardware.)

PENCIL POWER

Slightly used pencils can go from drab to dramatic by adding pencil wraps made with chenille sticks and a few beads. Cut standard chenille sticks in half using a wire cutter or craft scissors, thread beads onto them,

then tightly twist them around the top half of the pencil, beginning about a half-inch below the eraser.

(Chenille sticks cost 89 cents for a pack of 25 mixed colors and beads cost as little as \$3 for a 1-pound assortment. Check craft stores for both.)

UPDATED LUNCHBOX

While you might die from embarrassment carrying a "Bob the Builder" or "Barbie" lunchbox into the cafeteria, don't toss them yet. Plastic lunch kits with big decals on the front can grow up with you.

Peel off as much of the decals as you can (don't forget the decal on the thermos), then soak whatever's left in a sinkful of water overnight. Scrub off the remaining decal, and dry the box and bottle thoroughly. You can also use a product called Goo Gone to remove the decal but you'll need a parent's help. Pick a new design from magazine cutouts or color copies of photos or stickers.

Brush a thin coat of Mod Podge decoupage glue-sealer on the front of the box, then press the cutouts on top, smoothing out bubbles (it's OK if you don't get them all out). Then brush on a second coat of Mod Podge to seal and waterproof the design. If you use stickers for your design, skip the first Mod Podge layer and use the stickers' own adhesive, then cover over it with the Mod Podge.

(Mod Podge at craft stores is \$4.29 for 8 ounces, matte or gloss; \$5.99 for 8 ounces, sparkle finish.)

NOUVEAU NOTEBOOKS

Got leftover spiral notebooks, folders or binders? Transform their covers using the new types of Con-Tact brand self-adhesive paper, including metallic brights, velour, faux stone and neon solids. You can cover the entire front with one piece or cut and overlap shapes for a collage effect.

(Con-Tact paper can be found at craft stores and can vary in price from \$5 to \$10.)

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