

Officials reminding parents of child passenger safety

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

This week is National Child Passenger Safety Week with both local and national safety and emergency response officials taking aim at how well children are restrained when they get in a vehicle, including seat belts and car seats.

Unrestrained and improperly restrained children continue to be problems in the Crossroads area, according to Big Spring Fire Chief Brian Jensen, who is



JENSEN

asking area motorists to take a hard look at how their child passengers are protected. "It's very important that you make sure the children riding with you are properly restrained, whether that means seat belts or a car seat," said Jensen. "I really don't know how we can better get that across to the drivers. It's obvious how dangerous the alterna-

tive can be."

Jensen said making sure you have the proper type of car seat for your child passengers is only half of the battle — making sure it's installed in the vehicle correctly can be harder than it looks when it comes to the plethora of seats being used.

"Car seats built after the year 2000 are pretty much no-brainers when it comes to installing them," said Jensen. "Unfortunately there are so many seats floating around out there, being passed from one

family to another, that were built before then that it's hard to have one standard."

"We took a course on car seats in Lubbock a few years ago. They had a tractor-trailer full of car seats, and all of them installed differently. I remember seeing a room with more than 100 different seats as well, many of which were very complicated in how they were supposed to be installed.

"You wouldn't believe how many people simply set the car seat in the car and that's it," he

added. "They don't attempt to buckle the car seat in at all. Those are the ones that really scare me."

The fire chief said the course also involved a quick class in physics, dispelling the common idea that someone in the car can simply "hold" a child in place in the event of an accident.

"We looked at the physics of a car wreck," said Jensen. "In a car wreck, a child that isn't

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Council

City ready to take first steps toward issuing certificates

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to hear first reading of a pair of ordinances issuing general obligation bonds and certificates of obligation Tuesday evening, as the city prepares to move forward with several improvement projects.

The council is expected to approve first reading of an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation bonds, McEWEN levying an annual ad valorem tax to pay for the bonds.

Voters approved \$9.2 million for street and roadway improvements in November, including much of Main and Scurry streets and parts of Nolan and Johnson near the downtown area. Also included in the scope of the project is landscaped islands on Main Street from Second to 10th streets.

"It will enhance the downtown area, which is something the voters are saying is important to them," said Mayor Russ McEwen shortly after the bond was passed.

Voters also gave the go-ahead for slightly more

than \$5 million to finance improvements and additions to city parks, including recreational and sports facilities.

Within the scope of the project is upgrades and expansion of the Roy Anderson Sports Complex, including renovations to existing fields and the addition of football, soccer and baseball fields.

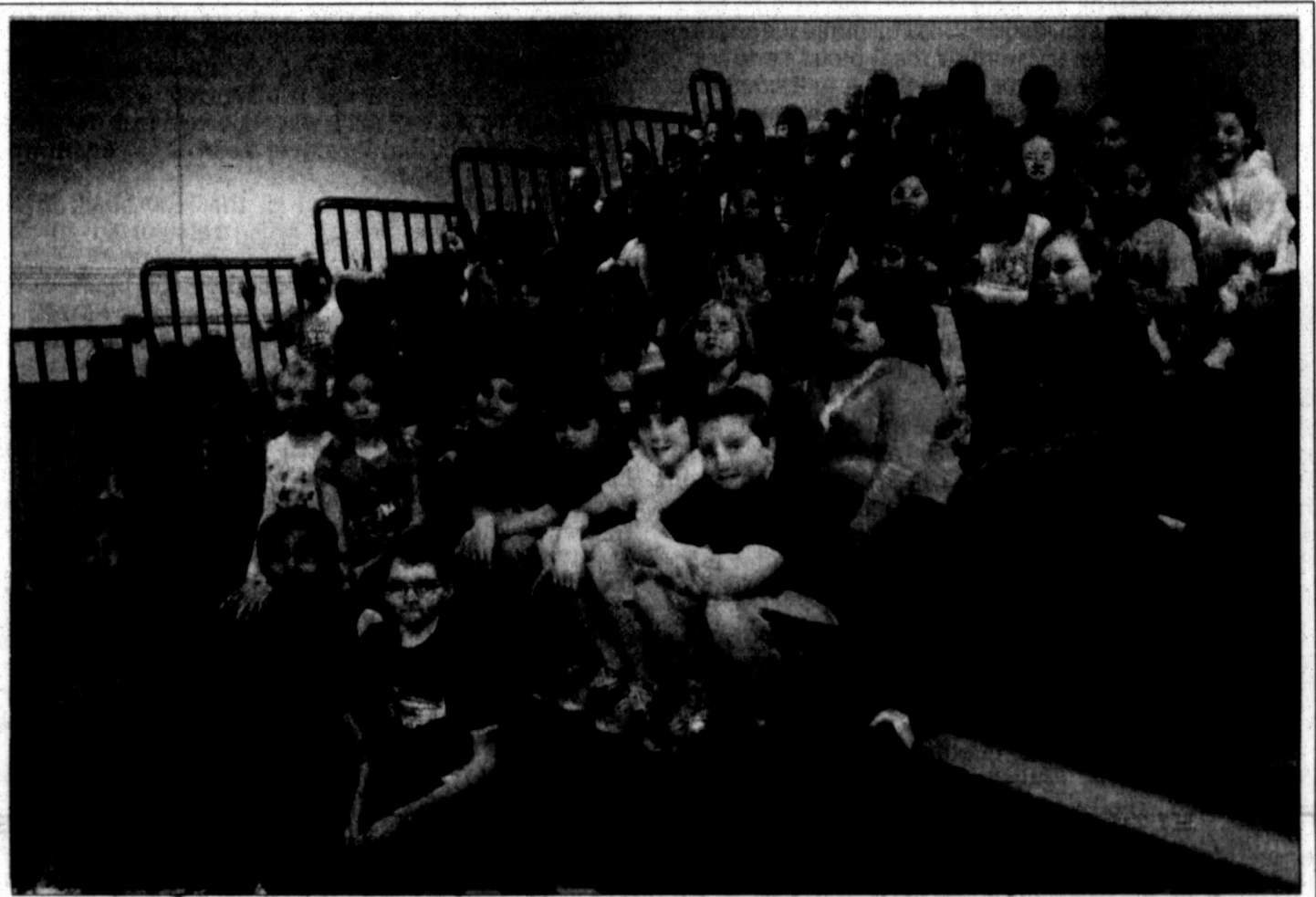
"The people (by their vote) are interested in doing this to provide great facilities for our kids and to draw tournaments into our community for the first time," said McEwen, who said he is pleased with the public's support.

"It's a neat thing in my mind and a good thing for Big Spring in my estimation, but more importantly in the voters' estimation because they voted to fund these projects," he said.

The council is also expected to approve first reading of an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of combination tax and revenue certificates of obligation, levying an annual ad valorem tax to pay for the bonds.

The bonds, which did not go before the voters in November, include approximately \$1 million to build an annex for the

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Members of the Elbow Elementary School Academic Team pose after having taken first place in overall competition in the north zone of District 11-A. It was the fifth straight year the Elbow team has won the district title.

Still the best

Elbow students claim another academics title

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Elbow Elementary School students once again proved themselves the cream of the district academic crop this year.

The school was crowned University Interscholastic League academic champion in the elementary division for the north zone of District 11-A this season, according to information provided by Ashley Glass, the UIL coordinator for the

school

This marks the fifth year in a row that Elbow students have won the zone competition, school officials said.

Students who were honored at the recent 2007 Elbow Elementary Awards Assembly for their performance in UIL competition were:

Art
(Coached by Debby Seal)
Fourth grade — first place team
Ryan Armstrong — fourth
Hannah Thompson — third

Alicia Hernandez — first (tie)
Zachary Long — first (tie)
Fifth grade — first place team
Falon Newton — fourth
Elizabeth Rhodes — fifth
Ali Knight — first (tie)
Chandler Freeman — first (tie)

Creative Writing
(Coached by Mindy Zant)
second grade
Allison Tannis

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CISD saving money on bonds

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — Taxpayers got a little bit of good news when Coahoma school officials sold \$13.9 million in bonds recently approved in November by district voters.

School trustees met earlier this week to greenlight the sale of the bonds and discovered that taxpayers will not have a slightly less financial burden than originally anticipated.

CISD Superintendent Jerry Johnson said high-end property owner will pay,

on average, about \$200 a month less than originally forecast to pay off the bond debt.

The reason for the tax break is that interest rates to pay off the bond will be lower than forecast, down from the predicted 5.6 percent to 4.5 percent for the 30-year life of the bond payout.

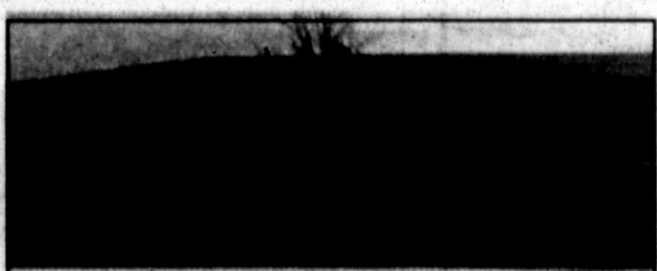
The bond money will finance renovation projects at all three district campuses and administration building.

With the money now coming in, officials can turn their attention to getting the renovation projects up and running.

Johnson said architects are still working on final plans for the multiple projects and those should be completed within the next month.

"Then, we'll put the plans out for bids to contractors, which should be a three or four week process," Johnson said. "Once the bid is accepted, hopefully, we'll see actual work start within three or four weeks."

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



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Obituaries

Russell T. Mauldin



Russell Travis Mauldin, 59, of Texarkana, Texas, died Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007, at his residence.

Mr. Mauldin was born on Feb. 17, 1947, in Roswell, N.M. and was a former resident of Big Spring. He was retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, was a member of the a Baptist church and was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps, having served in the Vietnam War.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Travis Mauldin, and a brother, Tommy Allen Mauldin.

He is survived by his wife, Becky Brady Mauldin; two sons, Kelley Mauldin and Casey Mauldin and his wife, Alisa, and their children, Casey, Dusty and Misty; two daughters, Stacey Spears and her husband, Mark, and their children, Randee, Carlee and William, and Amanda Cinard and her husband, Robert and their children, Donovan, Macey, Bailey and Paige; his mother, Marjorie Mauldin Shulze; two sisters, Carolyn Bingham and Annette Coker; and a number of other family members.

Memorial Services will be 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007, at the Mandeville Baptist Church in Texarkana, Ark., with the Rev. Bob Petten and the Rev. Allen Peebles officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Texarkana Funeral Home.

Those wishing to memorialize Mr. Mauldin may make contributions to Opportunities Inc, 6101 N. State Line Ave, Texarkana, Texas 75503 or make a donation of blood in his memory to their local blood services.

The family will be at 4104 Olive Street in Texarkana. Online registration at texarkanafuneralhome.com.

Paid obituary

Corene O'Neill

Corene O'Neill, 92, of Midland died on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007, in a Big Spring nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. today, Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland.

Viewing was from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home, 3800 N. Big Spring St. in Midland.

She was born on April 26, 1914, in Lamesa and married Jim O'Neill on Nov. 25, 1989 in Midland.

She lived most of her life in Big Spring and enjoyed horseback riding and dancing. She also enjoyed buying residential real estate and improving it for resale. She moved to Midland in November of 1989 after marrying Jim O'Neill. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Big Spring.

Survivors include her husband, Jim O'Neill of Midland; four sisters, Nina Bryant, Ina Tillman, Martha Shortes and Patsy Watkins; and two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Larry Shortes and Jerry Shortes, and by three brothers, Charles Gill, Shelby Gill and Mike Gill.

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

Levona McNeese

Levona McNeese, 82, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, at a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Donald Spence

Donald Spence, 76, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• **IMMACULATE HEART AND SACRED HEART YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS** are hosting a Valentine's Dance on Saturday from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Hall, 1009 Hearn. Cost is \$5 per person, adults only; no one under 18 will be allowed in. Joel Perez will be the DJ. Door prizes, donated by local businesses, will be given away. Funds raised will go to help the church's youth groups. For more information, contact Merlinda Moron at 816-1231 or Bonnie Loya at 213-1356.

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

• **SAY IT WITH CAKE FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT RELAY FOR LIFE** orders are being taken through Friday. Personalized heart-shaped cakes in either 8-inch size for \$5 or 5-inch size for \$3.50. Your choice of chocolate or vanilla. Delivery is available. Contact Angel Sosa at 264-4108 or Georgia Torres at 267-1312.

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

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Police blotter

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

- **GABRIEL SANCHEZ**, 19, of Richland Hills, was arrested Saturday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage and held for immigration.
- **CHAVELLO YANES**, 51, of Mexico, was arrested Saturday and held for immigration.
- **CRYSTAL COBLE**, 19, of 2710 S. Anderson Road, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **FREDDY RODRIGUEZ**, 19, of 601 E. 17th Street, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **IRMA MEDRANO**, 42, of 607 Caylor, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1400 block of U.S. Highway 87.
- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 900 block of Fourth Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1900 block of Winston.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 500 block of 11th Place.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of FM 700 and Westover Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1600 block of S. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported near the intersection of FM 700 and Westover Road. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of N. Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. Service refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Third Street and Birdwell Lane. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2400 block of Monticello. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 4900 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near RR 33. Service refused.

Weather

Today — Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers in the morning. Patchy fog in the morning. Windy. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph increasing to west 25 to 30 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the mid 30s. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tuesday — Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. North winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tuesday night — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows in the mid 20s. Northeast winds around 15 mph.

Wednesday — Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or snow. Highs in the mid 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows in the mid 20s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-11-22-27-35-48.

Number matching six of six: 0.
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$39 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 1-7-21-29-33.

Number matching five of five: 0.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 5-9-4

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon, in order: 6-1-5

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Bulletin Board

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

- TODAY**
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
 - Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
 - Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 263-2786 for more information.
 - Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
 - The Christian Motorcyclists Association meets at 7 p.m. at TravelCenters of America truck stop.
 - Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
 - Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
 - Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacipients meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
 - Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- SATURDAY**
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
 - The Big Spring Evening Lions Club will hold at adult eyeglass clinic from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at the Event Center, 1607 E. Third St. This provides recycled eyeglasses for adults who cannot afford to pay for an eye examination or buy eyeglasses. For information, contact Bob Noyes at 267-6095.

Support Groups

MONDAY

- Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

TUESDAY

- The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

- Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

- Dual Recovery Anonymous (DRA), 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard County Library Basement Community Room. DRA is a 12-step meeting for those who have a desire to stop drinking and/or using drugs and also have a mental or emotional illness.

All meetings are non-smoking and coffee is not available but members can bring their own coffee or non-alcoholic beverage. For more information, call Deidra F. at 263-0027, ext. 236 during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Compensating bilingual workers gaining popularity

By ANABELLE GARAY

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — As the only Spanish-speaking staffer in his division, Dallas city employee Norman Herrera takes at least one call a day from a resident en español.

The questions range from where to pay a parking ticket to how to get trash pick up on a day other than Thursday.

"We get those calls in English all the time. When you get those in Spanish, you want to answer them," said Herrera, a special assistant to the Dallas mayor. "If we can't communicate with them ... I don't think

we're doing our job."

Demand for bilingual employees like Herrera is growing across the U.S., at schools, hospitals, courthouses and other government offices, said Kevin Hendzel, spokesman for the American Translators Association. Many are recruiting and rewarding bilingual workers with extra pay.

The city of Austin, for example, will soon begin paying some employees an extra \$150 a month if they speak Spanish or are fluent in sign language. Employees must work in a department where the languages are in demand and prove their abilities

through testing. "The point of the city government is to provide service to taxpayers, even if they speak another language," Ralph Goring, organizational development manager for Austin. "It just makes all the difference in the world when it comes to customer service."

Federal rules require cities with large non-English speaking populations to offer language assistance. An executive order in 2000 began requiring agencies that get federal money to make sure programs and services are being provided to anyone with limited English skills.

Since then, legislation favoring bilingualism has been gaining momentum. For example, New York has passed a law requiring hospital systems to have interpreters and California is limiting use of children as translators for their parents, Hendzel said.

"It's basically a civil rights issue," he said. "It's been a long time in development."

In Los Angeles police and firefighters receive bilingual premiums; Oakland requires some city workers dealing directly with the public to be bilingual and Phoenix covers the cost of employees' language classes.

The extra pay a bilingual worker receives can vary, and is often linked to the specific language skills needed for the job.

In Dallas, bilingual employees receive stipends of \$110 or \$150 a month, depending their level of proficiency. San Antonio pays employees an additional \$50 monthly if using a second language helps them perform their duties. The police department in Montgomery County, Maryland, offers its bilingual officers an extra \$1,000 to \$4,000 each year. And some state employees in Washington can earn an extra five percent of their base salary for their

language skills. "What happened is more of an evolution. It was our employees saying, 'Wait a minute, this is valuable skill. We are doing skills we weren't hired to perform,'" said Tim Welch, a spokesman for the Washington Federation of State Employees, a union which covers 38,000 workers.

About 4 percent of the U.S. population speaks little or no English, according to Census figures. And many may need help in their first language when doing anything from asking about their water bill to calling 911 for assistance.

ELBOW

Continued from Page 1A

Sterling Freeman - second
Blaze Yeater - fourth
Ashton Voight

Dictionary Skills
(Coached by Tammy Lockhart)

Fifth grade - first place team
Ali Knight - second
Elizabeth Rhodes
Chandler Freeman - first
Tyler Evans - fourth
Matthew Mims

Listening Skills
(Coached by Zane Yeater)

Fifth grade - second place team
Taybor Flores
Breanna Martinez - fourth
Beth Warnick
Aaron Salazar - fifth

Maps, Graphs and Charts
(Coached by Mary Ellen Schafer)

Fifth grade - first place

team
Ali Knight - first
Corbin Foster - fourth
Kelcy Truskowski
Chandler Freeman - second

Music Memory
(Coached by Sandy Tucker)

Third grade - second place team
Sadie Wheeler - fourth
Kaitlyn Creswell
Cody Tanis
Abby Saucedo - sixth
Fourth grade - first place team

Nicole Nicklasch - second
Breana Madry
Emily Hatfield - fifth
Mason Coor - sixth
Fifth grade - first place team

Kiowa Spears - third
Ali Knight - first
Chandler Freeman - second

Number Sense
(Fourth grade coached by Jean Kelso; fifth grade coached by Amanda Olson)

Fourth grade - first place team

Ryan Pearson
Christopher Mims - third

Garrett Willard - fifth
Nick Williams - first
Fifth grade - third place team

Kade Fannin
Vanessa Highfield
Yanci Yeater - sixth
Matthew Mims - third

Oral Reading
(Fourth grade coached by Tabitha Madry and Jeanette Lindsey; fifth grade coached by Stacy Park)

Fourth grade
Ale Preciado
Breana Madry - sixth
Kaleb Stanley
Yanci Yeater - second
Fifth grade
Elizabeth Rhodes
Ali Knight
Jamie Armstead
Tyler Evans - sixth

Ready Writing
(Third grade coached by Tammi Jones; fourth grade coached by R. Newsom, D. Seal, J. Barker and T. Jones; fifth grade coached by

Tammi Jones and Diana Newton)

Third grade
Christina Gaw - sixth
Aliscia Howard
MacKenzie Kennedy - first
Alexis Roach
Maddie Munsell - second
Fourth grade
Christina Gamble
Emily Hatfield
Dalton Taylor
Zachary Long
Fifth grade
Ali Knight - first
Eindra Lwin - fifth
Tyler Evans
Chandler Freeman - second

Spelling
(Third grade coached by Connie Eggleston; fourth grade coached by Regina Newsom; fifth grade coached by Tracy Newton)

Third grade - first place team
Kaylee Kemper
Maddie Munsell - second

Caden Davidson - fourth

Alexis Roach - fifth
Fourth grade - second place team
Darby DePauw - fifth
Hannah Minchew
Hannah Thompson - second
fifth grade - first team
Colton Wheeler - fourth
Matthew Mims - fifth
Elizabeth Rhodes - third
Falon Newton

Storytelling
(Coached by Patti Adams and Carole Madry)

Second grade
Cayla Rosenbaum - first
Kendall Phillips
Braxton Coor - fifth

Hannah Hancock
Third grade
Lindsey Boeker - sixth
Karrissa Garrett
Walker Park
Dylan Carrell (not shown)

Social Studies
(Coached by Maryellen Schafer)

Kolby Self
Covan Davidson - fifth
Maria Ortiz - second
Kiowa Spears

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

SAFETY

Continued from Page 1A

restrained is moving with the force of a sack of cement dropped from a third-story window. Obviously, putting your arm out in front of them isn't going to do a thing to

keep them out of harm's way. There's just too much energy involved in an accident.

"I really don't know what else we can do to get the message across to people," he continued. "The statistics and the severity of the injuries speak for themselves, yet people

still don't do it. I think the knowledge is out there. I just don't think people realize what can happen if children aren't properly restrained."

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

current municipal animal shelter on Midway Road and repairs and paint the Northside Elevated Reservoir.

Also during the meeting, the council is expected to discuss:

• Final reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute a contract with Maximus, Inc.

• Final reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to execute a contract with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the supply of water to the Big Spring State Park.

• First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a lease agreement with Abusaab Companies.

• First reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to enter into an agreement with TxDOT for the purpose of updating and airport layout plan.

• First reading of an ordinance calling for a general election to be held May 12.

• First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement for continuing

disclosure services with FSC Disclosure Services, a division of First Southwest Company.

• First reading of a resolution authorizing and directing the mayor to execute a contract agreement with Western Container Corp.

• Appointment to the city's Conventions and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors.

• Discussion of a U.S./Mexico sister city program.

The meeting is slated for 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

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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.

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Managing Editor

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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Be sure to get your Valentine a gift this year

Valentine's Day is just two days away. That's right, all your lead time has melted away. But don't worry, even if you've procrastinated, there is still time to do something special for the love of your life.

One of the easiest and best ways we've found is to let the Volunteer Services Council at Big Spring State Hospital take care of it for you.

It's an annual fund-raiser for the hospital volunteer group, which makes it kind of special — knowing that part of the money you spend is going to help patients who really need it.

If you aren't familiar with the Council's Valentine's Day fund-raiser, it goes like this. You pick from a variety of available gifts and the volunteers deliver them for you on Wednesday.

Each year, the gift list gets longer, and this time we're not going to name every item in this forum. We'll hit a few highlights though.

For as little as \$10 you can send someone a beverage mug with snacks. For a few dollars more, you may choose a green plant or a small stuffed animal and candy. Add a couple more dollars and you can purchase a wire basket with candy, a note pad and a pen.

For \$20, there's our all-time favorite, a singing telegram with a heart-shaped box of candy. There are also \$25 and \$40 gifts.

You can purchase these gifts and deliver them yourself if you like, or let the Volunteer Services Council do it for you. They'll deliver them to a home, office, restaurant — just about anywhere. What could be easier than that?

Maybe you want to get a dozen red roses from the florist or an elegant bracelet from a jewelry store for that special someone.

That's great.

We definitely want to see our readers do business with our local merchants.

If, however, you need some help, we strongly encourage you to give the Volunteer Services Council a call at 268-7536 or 268-7271. It's easy, it's thoughtful and it will keep you out of the doghouse.

And yes, do it now.

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@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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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 so inspired by Your word, Lord, that we bring it to others.

Amen

Finding a heckler's paradise

What is San Francisco State University teaching that makes student leaders think that if they don't like what other students say, they can use student organizations to stifle those with dissenting views? Do they even know about the First Amendment?

This story starts with an "anti-terrorism rally" held last October on campus by the College Republicans. To emphasize their point, students stomped on Hezbollah and Hamas flags. According to the college paper, the Golden Gate (X)Press, members of Students Against War and the International Socialist Organization showed up to call the Republicans "racists," while the president of the General Union of Palestinian Students accused the Repubs of spreading false information about Muslims.

In November, the Associated Students board passed a unanimous resolution that, the (X)Press reported, denounced the College Republicans for "hateful religious intolerance" and criticized those who "premeditated the stomping of the flags knowing it would offend some people and possibly incite violence."

Now you know that there are students who are opposed to desecrating flags on campus — that is, if the flags represent terrorist organizations.

But wait — there's more. A student filed a complaint with the Office of Student Programs and Leadership Development. OSPLD Director Joey Greenwell wrote to the College Republicans informing them that his office had completed an investigation of the complaint and forwarded the report to the

Student Organization Hearing Panel, which will adjudicate the charge. At issue is the charge that College Republicans had walked on "a banner with the word 'Allah' written in Arabic script" — it turns out Allah's name is incorporated into Hamas and Hezbollah flags — and "allegations of attempts to incite violence and create a hostile environment," as well as "actions of incivility."

At an unnamed date, the student panel could decide to issue a warning to, suspend or expel the GOP club from campus. Maybe SFSU should just put up a sign that reads: Conservatives need not apply. The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a group that stands up for free speech on campus, has taken up the College Republicans' cause. FIRE sent a letter to SFSU President Robert Corrigan that urged him to "spare SFSU the embarrassment of fighting against the Bill of Rights."

The letter noted, "Burning an American flag as part of a political protest is expression protected by the First Amendment." And, "Speech does not constitute incitement if a speaker's words result in violence because people despise what the speaker said and wish to silence him or her."

"By punishing students on the basis of how harshly, violently or unreasonably others might react to their words," the letter argued, "SFSU would create an incentive for those who disagree to react violently, conferring a 'heckler's veto' on speech to the least tolerant members of the community."

The university's response? Spokesperson Ellen Griffin told me, "The university stands behind this process." And: "I don't believe the complaint is about the desecration of the flag. I believe that the complaint is the desecration of Allah."

To which FIRE Vice President

Robert Shibley responded, "It really doesn't make any difference whether it's the flag or a religious figure."

If the College Republicans had denigrated Allah, I would defend their right to do so, while noting I have no use for the gratuitous Islam-bashing endemic in certain circles.

But it is not the students' fault that Allah is on the Hamas and Hezbollah flags — in a language they don't read. Besides, every freshman should know that students have a right to say what they will about any religion, while believers enjoy the right to talk back.

"I'm confident that in the end of the day, the Constitution will vindicate us," SFSU junior Leigh Wolf of the College Republicans told me. Wolf is well aware of the double-standard on campus: Left-leaning students hide behind the First Amendment, while trying to silence any conservative voices that dare to be heard.

Yumi Wilson, who teaches journalism at SFSU and previously worked at The San Francisco Chronicle, told me: "My belief is that people should be able to have the freedom of expression, whether it is popular or not. That's what makes my country different from other countries." After all, she added, "if I don't like them, I can walk away."

As for the students who want to punish the College Repubs, they might want to consider how their actions reflect on SFSU. A university is supposed to be a place of learning and a forum made more vibrant by the free exchange of ideas, but this exercise makes SFSU look like a playground where bullies rule.

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Just call it 'plane' old politics

Dennis Hastert, the former speaker of the House, didn't fly commercial when he went home to his district in Illinois. He flew securely on a military plane, nonstop, often accompanied by two to three staff members, two members of the Capitol Police and his wife. And no one said a word.

But Nancy Pelosi? Forget about it.

How dare she expect a ride home from the military, nonstop no less? How dare she even ask about bringing family with her on the flights? Mothers! What does she want, a "flying Lincoln bedroom," as one Republican called it in a much-quoted comment?

Last week, in the midst of a meeting with Iraqi war veterans, Pelosi was forced to respond to criticism that she and her staff had overreached by expecting the military to treat the Democratic female speaker with the same courtesy, not to mention concern for security, they had routinely afforded her Republican male predecessor.

"Nancy Pelosi can now fly in style at your expense," Lou Dobbs crowed, not once, but repeatedly, one of many from the conservative side who have tried to fan the flames on this one.

Funny, I never heard him complain about Dennis Hastert traveling in style in the military's version of a corporate jet. Who even

knew that the speaker got a plane, until they tried to say no to the first woman ever to ask? And the first Democrat.

In fact, since 9/11, the rule has been that the speaker of the House, who is second in line for the presidency, is transported by the military for security reasons. Until recently, the speaker had been a Republican male, and you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone questioning his entitlement to the extra protection of a military plane. Imagine what they would have said about a Democrat who argued that Hastert didn't need a jet.

Wasn't it Karl Rove in the last election who accused Democrats of having a pre-9/11 mindset?

Of course, Dennis Hastert was only flying to Illinois to get home, whereas Nancy Pelosi lives in California. As anyone who has ever traveled across the country can attest, different planes are generally used for cross-country travel.

Is this rocket science?

So offering Pelosi the same plane provided to Hastert, which is what the military did, means she can't get here from there unless the weather's right.

Do they think she's too dumb to realize that? Or that she has so much free time, it doesn't matter?

She's not supposed to fly commercial, because she is, after all, right behind the vice president in the order of succession for the presidency. But they don't want to give her a plane that can fly across the country nonstop because they have more important

people to ferry. Like themselves. The big planes are used by the military brass, as well as the Cabinet and congressional junketeers.

So what should be an easy request becomes a federal case. And who gets blamed?

Not the military, but the woman.

Who does she think she is, expecting to travel in a plane that is described as an "office in the sky"?

Imagine, the speaker of the House needing an office in the sky! And wanting to fly nonstop? The nerve of her.

Does she really think she has more important things to do than sit on airport tarmacs waiting to refuel?

But the folks with the real "chutzpah" here are over at the Pentagon.

The president has requested \$623 billion for the Department of Defense next year.

Rumsfeld and his team still have offices, but taking care of a former (and failed) Defense secretary is obviously more important to the Department than assisting the new speaker.

Nancy Pelosi didn't become the first woman speaker by being anybody's fool.

While she's cooling her heels trying to get to California, maybe Speaker Pelosi can spend some extra time on that budget request.

Fair is fair.
Let them complain to Denny Hastert.

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New-age prescriptions — yoga, hypnosis, acupuncture

By CECILIA OLECK
Detroit Free Press

Belinda Lowe is the kind of patient the medical profession is scrambling to catch up to.

The 43-year-old from Westland, Mich., sees her doctor regularly, exercises and eats well and wants her health care providers to be as interested in caring for her mind, body and spirit as she is. And she wants her health care to be as natural as possible.

So when Lowe decided to have surgery last fall to get her tubes tied, she was surprised and pleased when the obstetrician/gynecologist suggested that she undergo hypnosis before surgery rather than receive anesthesia to numb her body and prevent pain.

The experience, says Lowe, was like being on a tropical vacation, albeit in a doctor's office.

"It was like lying on the beach, it was so serene," says Lowe, a project manager for a telecommunications company.

Physicians like Richard Herman, the Botsford General Hospital obstetrician/gynecologist who performed Lowe's hypnosis and surgery, are part of a new wave in the movement of therapies from the fringes of health care into mainstream medical circles. Traditional health care providers are responding to patients like Lowe by offering hypnosis, acupuncture, massage, vitamins, herbal supplements, meditation, yoga and guided imagery in addition to conventional medical care.

Much of what is considered alternative or complementary medicine is aimed at preventing illness, allowing the body to heal itself naturally and caring for a person's physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs. It also encourages people to learn about their health and the options for maintaining or improving it. For Herman, learning hypnosis and incorporating it into his medical practice makes sense for him and his patients.

"People are looking for a better way," says Herman, adding that since last summer, about 20 patients have opted for hypnosis in place of anesthesia. "If there's a way we're treating people, there's a way to do it better."

Lowe says she chose hypnosis because "I would rather see what I could do holistically before pumping myself with medicines."

Even the name "alternative" — used to describe therapies outside the scope of traditional medicine — can be misleading now, says Mayo Clinic physician Brent Bauer. As more health care providers offer such services, it makes sense to refer to the therapies as complementary or integrative.

"This whole realm ... is part of our culture now. It's a part of how we take care of ourselves," says Bauer, who is the director of the Complementary and Integrative Medicine Program at the Rochester, Minn., health system and editor of "The Mayo Clinic Guide to Alternative Medicine" (Time Inc. Home Entertainment, \$24.95), a new book that attempts to debunk medical myths

and assess the effectiveness of common alternative treatments. "I suspect in a few more years we'll just drop all the labels and we'll just talk about good medicine."

Fueled by aging baby boomers looking to exert more control over their health care, the alternative health industry has grown into an estimated \$47 billion annual business, prompting more traditional health care providers to look at some of the therapies and incorporate them into their practices.

Many hospitals offer such services.

As more research is done to validate therapies and as patients request complementary treatments, doctors are becoming more willing to recommend that their patients try the therapies, many as a way of relieving chronic pain, says Maria Wilson, a former physical therapist who manages her husband's medical office.

Wilson's husband is physician Stephen Wilson, whose St. Clair Shores, Mich., practice draws patients seeking pain relief and management.

He became certified as a medical acupuncturist and began offering other complementary treatments in his practice when he noticed that many patients were not satisfied with surgery because it didn't relieve their pain. They would head to Canada or other places to receive alternative treatments.

He then opened his own practice specializing in pain management and relief using complementary and conventional medicine.

"Now I have a whole host of other things that I can choose from to treat them, and they know it's from a reputable source," says Wilson.

Carolyn Przybysz goes to Wilson because she likes the blend of treatments he offers. She has osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and myofascial pain syndrome, a condition that causes extreme muscle pain. Wilson treats her with trigger point injections in the painful areas. The injections are a mixture of lidocaine — a traditional anesthetic — and a plant-based relaxant called Sarapin in place of steroids, which would be used in conventional trigger point injections.

The injections, which she has been getting every few months for the past five years, ease the pain in her back and neck almost instantly.

"It's important for me to get it from a doctor," says Przybysz, 58, of Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich. "I'm wary of a lot of things and I want to investigate the doctor and make sure that I feel comfortable before I go for any treatments."

That those who practice conventional medicine are opening up to non-traditional practices is a good thing for patients, who will be more in control of their own health



Carolyn Przybysz, 58, of Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., talks with Dr. Steven Wilson, 39, after her trigger point and acupuncture session in his St. Clair Shores, Mich., office, in January. Viewed as an out of this world practice in the past, more and more doctors have been warming up to the idea being the traditional Chinese medical practice.

care, says Bauer.

"You've got to stop smoking, be active, eat nutritiously," he says. "That's the underpinning. None of this stuff is a magic bullet. The key to all this is having a nice foundation."

As more doctors and health care providers become interested in complementary medicine, there will be more research to determine the effectiveness of treatments, Bauer says, which will benefit patients.

While many complementary treatments such as massage, acupuncture, and some herbal supplements have been shown to work, others have not undergone sufficient research and could be dangerous. Some herbs, vitamins, minerals and other supplements are unregulated, so their effectiveness is untested.

The key, Bauer says, is that patients discuss therapies with their doctors and learn about the treatments that are billed as alternative or comple-

mentary.

For now, many insurance companies won't pay for services that are considered alternative or complementary. Some insurance policies, like certain Blue Cross Blue Shield plans, will cover or reimburse for the treatment if it is prescribed by a doctor.

UNCONVENTIONAL MEDICINE

Alternative medicine: Treatments used instead of traditional medicine.

Complementary or integrative medicine: Nontraditional therapies used with conventional treatment.

Holistic care: Medical care that focuses on treating the whole person, addressing social, physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Naturopathy: Form of medicine based on the belief that the body has a natural ability to heal in a healthy environment. It relies on natural remedies such as sunlight, air, water and supplements, as well as massage and

acupuncture.

Homeopathy: Form of complementary or alternative medicine that believes the body can heal itself and tries to stimu-

late self-healing with small, sometimes highly diluted plant, animal and mineral substances.

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Contract Bridge

Famous Hand

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 10 7 4 2
♥ K Q 5 2
♦ 9 7 5 4
♣ 8 5 2

WEST
♠ 5
♥ A 9 8 4 3
♦ K J 10 4
♣ A 10 4

EAST
♠ K Q 9 8 6 3
♥ J 6
♦ 8
♣ Q 9 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A J
♥ 10 7
♦ A Q 7 6 5 3 2
♣ K 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1♦ 1♥ Pass 1♠
2♦ Dble
Opening lead — five of spades.

B. Jay Becker, the former editor of this column, was playing in a tournament many years ago in Juan-les-Pins, France, when this deal arose. His partner was Dorothy Hayden, and their East-West opponents were two Frenchmen they had never seen before. West doubled two diamonds, which was certainly reasonable, and led a spade.

Mrs. Hayden, South, won the queen with her ace and returned a low heart. Fearful that the heart might be a singleton, West rose with the ace, on which East — who wanted no other suit led — played

the jack. West returned a heart, won by South with the ten.

Aware that the trumps were stacked against her, Mrs. Hayden now led a low diamond from her hand. West won with the ten but was endplayed! Whatever he returned, he had to give away a trick.

Hoping to find East with the king of clubs, West played the A-10 of that suit. Mrs. Hayden won with the king and returned the five of diamonds, again putting West in a losing position.

If he took the jack and exited with a club, declarer would ruff and play the ace and another trump to force West to play a heart to the K-Q. And if he ducked the diamond, hoping East could win the trick, West would lose one of his trump tricks, and the outcome would be the same. West was thoroughly licked, and he knew it. In practice he ducked, and Mrs. Hayden made two diamonds doubled.

Later that day, Rixi Markus, England's top woman player, approached Becker and said West had asked her: "Who is that tall, attractive English woman who is such a good player?"

Mrs. Marcus, recognizing from the description that it was Mrs. Hayden, answered: "If she's attractive and English, she's not a good player; if she's English and a good player, she's not attractive; and if she's attractive and a good player, she's not English!"

Tomorrow: Bridge is a logical game.
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Amy E. Reese
D.D.S., P.C.
432-267-4102

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Environmentalists rally to stop coal plants

AUSTIN (AP) — Carrying signs with slogans of "Stop the Coal Rush" and "Shame on Texas," about 1,000 people rallied at the state Capitol on Sunday to call for lawmakers to slow down a plan to build up to 18 new coal-fired power plants.

Environmentalists fear the new plants, with 11 proposed by energy giant TXU Corp., will pump millions of tons of pollutants into the air every year.

Organized by about 40 environmental and health advocacy groups, including the Sierra Club and the American Lung Association, the rally called on lawmakers to support a time out on permits for the new plants. The TXU coal proposal is on the fast track under an order Gov. Rick Perry issued in 2005 to expand the production of electricity and lower its cost.

TXU has said the proposed plants will meet the state's growing demand for power, give an economic boost to small towns and reduce toxic emissions by replacing older, less efficient plants.

Four people killed, three injured, in house fire

HOUSTON (AP) — A 26-year-old man rescued his young cousin from a burning house but died along with three other children when he re-entered the inferno to try to save them.

Firefighters responding to 911 calls Sunday morning found the family's wood-frame house in Fresno, a rural area about 16 miles southwest of Houston, fully engulfed, said Terriann Carlson, a spokeswoman for the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Department.

Elisha Davis, who was sleeping in a small camper trailer nearby, heard the fire and began trying to rescue his family members. He never emerged from his second entry.

Authorities said two young girls and one young boy were killed in the fire, and two older family members were injured.

Plea bargains help relieve Dallas County Jail

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas County trimmed nearly 300 low-level offenders from the population of its crowded and understaffed jail last week as part of an effort to bring the jail within state regulations, officials said.

Officials with the nation's seventh-largest jail system are working to reduce the jail population by about 1,000 inmates, which they say would make the jail compliant with the state's minimum staffing requirement of one guard per 48 inmates.

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards has warned the county that it must fix the jail staffing problems or face possible closure.

The District Attorney's Office said its efforts include offering plea bargains to people being held for state jail felonies, the lowest level of felony crime, such as prostitution, burglary and drug possession.

In many cases, defendants were allowed to plead guilty to their charges and receive punishment equal to the time they'd already spent in jail, prosecutors said.

"If it's a bad deal, we don't do it. This is not a fire sale," said Terri Moore, first assistant district attorney. "If they've been there an adequate amount of time to compensate for their crime, then that's fine."

Last week's reduction included a drop of 173 inmates from Thursday to Friday. As of Friday, the jail population stood at 6,652. Officials said they want to get the population down to about 6,000 in the next three weeks.

Prosecutors are also using other methods to reduce inmates, such as dropping misdemeanor charges on some defendants who also have more serious felony indictments, Moore said. In some cases prosecutors have waived enhanced charges that would apply to defendants with previous felony records.

"We're not letting out killers, child molesters and aggravated robbers," Moore said. "They're all criminals, but nobody's getting a free crime here. They're getting punished. We're also trying to alleviate a very serious condition here in Dallas."

Prisoner looking to speed up execution

DALLAS (AP) — A prison escapee who helped kill an Irving police officer on Christmas Eve 2000 notified court officials he wants to drop all appeals to speed up his execution.

Michael Anthony Rodriguez, 44, would become the first member of the notorious Texas Seven escapees to face execution. One of the escaped inmates killed himself before his capture more than six years ago. The five other surviving escapees are all on death row and are still appealing their sentences.

In January, a judge ordered Rodriguez to undergo psychological evaluation to determine whether he is competent to waive his appeals. Rodriguez wrote a letter dated Feb. 2, 2007 declaring his intention to seek dismissals of his appeals after the psychological evaluation.

"I certainly appreciate the court respecting my wishes and protecting my constitutional rights," he wrote. "I am still going to move forward in this process."

At the time of the Dec. 13, 2000, escape, Rodriguez was serving a life sentence for hiring a hit man to kill his wife.

During the escape, the inmates who became known as the "Texas Seven" overpowered some prison workers at the Connally Unit, near Kennedy in South Texas. The prisoners took the workers' clothes and fled in a pickup truck after taking 16 guns from the prison armory.

The escapees committed a string of robberies, ending with the Christmas Eve holdup at an Irving sporting goods store where officer Aubrey Hawkins, 29, was shot 11 times.

The seven escapees were found a month later in Colorado. One committed suicide before he was captured. The other six were later convicted and sentenced to death.

Rodriguez was convicted of capital murder in May 2002 in the death of the police officer.

DA arrested for blocking police from his office

RAYMONDVILLE (AP) — Willacy County's top prosecutor was arrested Sunday when he refused to allow police to enter his office with a search warrant related to allegations of abuse of office, theft and oppression, officials said.

Raymondville police arrested District Attorney Juan Guerra at the Willacy County Courthouse on a misdemeanor charge of interfering with the official duties of a police officer, police Chief Uvaldo Zamora said.

Zamora said Guerra was expected to be arraigned Monday.

Special prosecutor Gustavo Garza said at a Sunday news conference that Guerra is under investigation for theft by a public servant, official oppression and abuse of office. He said the allegations involve "a \$10,000 attempted extortion," the sale of a 2002 Toyota Camry that belonged to the state and an \$800 telephone reimbursement.

Some rich ironies for Dixie Chicks in claiming five Grammy Awards

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Entertainment Writer

It was more than a love of their music that was behind the Dixie Chicks' victory lap at the Grammy Awards Sunday.

The Texans won the three biggest awards — song, record and album of the year — for a disc in which they fought back against a country-music establishment that turned its back on them following 2003 remarks critical of President Bush. They won everything they were nominated for.

"I think people are using their freedom of speech here tonight with all of these awards. We get the message," singer Natalie Maines said after winning the fifth Grammy, album of the year for "Taking the Long Way Home."

Earlier, the band had drawn the first of several standing ovations for a blistering performance of

the album's signature track, "Not Ready to Make Nice."

On the eve of the Iraq war in 2003, Maines told a London audience: "Just so you know, we're ashamed the president of the United States is from Texas." That immediately made the band targets of hate mail, boycotts and talk-radio shouters.

In truth, the Dixie Chicks turned their backs on country, too. They traveled to Los Angeles to make their "Taking the Long Way Home" album with veteran rock and rap producer Rick Rubin. The result had more to do with southern California rock than country.

The nation's mood has changed considerably since then, too, as the war has dragged on.

Maines couldn't resist the rich irony of winning the Grammy Award for best country album for its thumb-in-the-eye retort to the genre's power bro-

kers.

"That's interesting," Maines said. "Well, to quote the great 'Simpsons': heh-heh."

When the song "Not Ready to Make Nice" won song of the year (it later also won record of the year), Maines said: "I for the first time in my life, am speechless."

She quickly got over it. Don Henley of the Eagles, who happily presented the Dixie Chicks with their album of the year award, openly rooted for them.

"I want to give a shout-out to my friends the Dixie Chicks," he said before reading the nominees. "Nice going," he added with a fist-pump.

Dixie Chick Emily Robison called it a strange place to be, as artists without a genre.

Later, on the verge of tears, she thanked her husband and her children for their support. "They're the ones that

probably had it the hardest over the last three years, and I just wanted to recognize that we know what you went through. Thank you very much."

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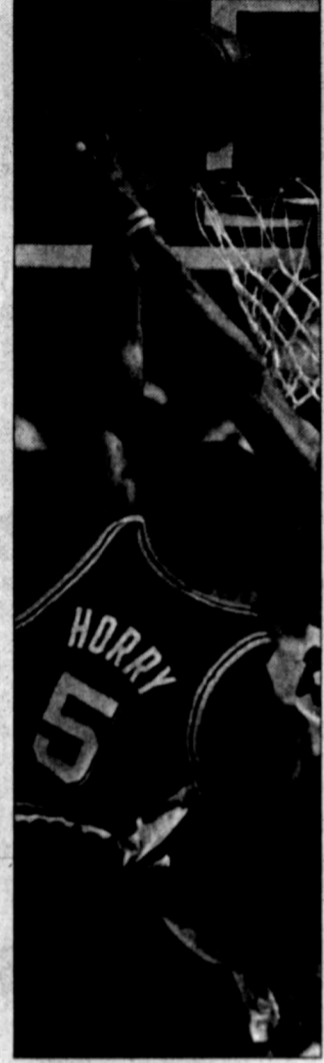
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IN BRIEF

Mavericks blow out 76'ers 106-89

Another one of Dallas' big leads turned this one into a snoozer early. Only coach Avery Johnson didn't expect his team to be the one that went to sleep. Once Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Terry snapped the Mavs out of their 10-minute funk, they had the easy win they were coasting toward against the woeful 76ers.



Spurs get slammed by Miami Heat

Once Dwyane Wade got rolling, things seemed almost easy for the Miami Heat. Wade — virtually silent offensively for the first three quarters — had 18 of his 26 points in the final period and the Heat held San Antonio without a field goal for more than 7 minutes down the stretch on the way to beating the Spurs 100-85 on Sunday.

NFL Pro Bowl highlights

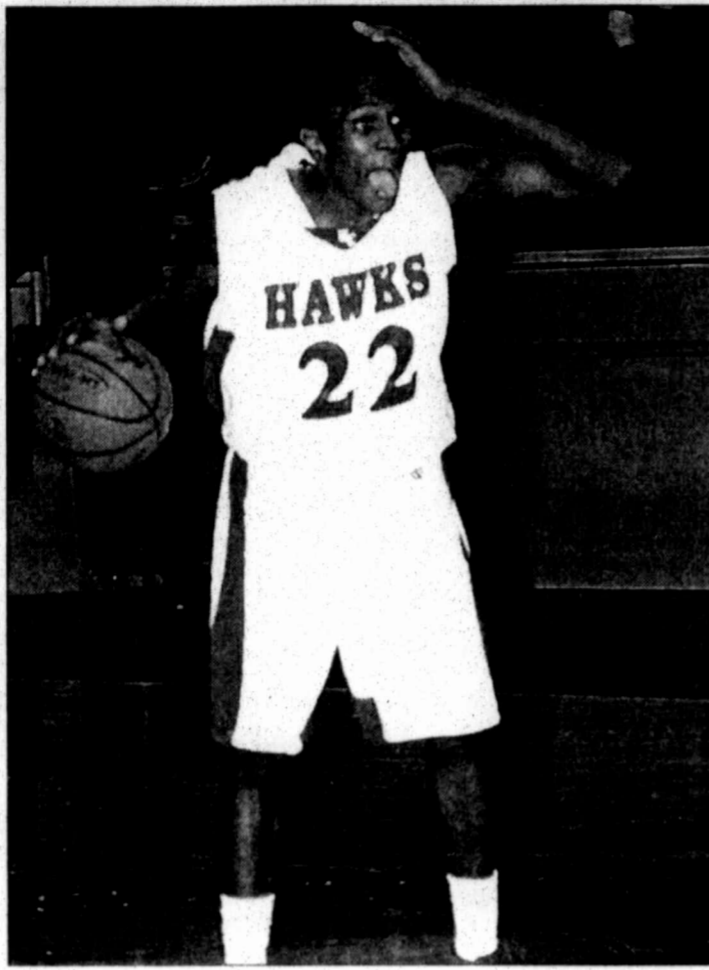
Nate Kaeding kicked a 21-yard field goal as time expired to cap another strong drive led by MVP Carson Palmer in the AFC's 31-28 victory over the comeback-minded NFC on Saturday in the 57th edition of the NFL's all-star game.

Palmer threw a 42-yard TD pass to Johnson and a 72-yarder to Reggie Wayne, and Baltimore's Ed Reed intercepted two passes before the frantic finish. Palmer, who took over for Super Bowl MVP Peyton Manning after just two series, went 8-for-17 in his second Pro Bowl.

Dallas Stars continue to win

Even without All-Star goalie Marty Turco finishing games, the Dallas Stars are winning and making up ground in the Pacific Division. Jeff Halpern had a goal and two assists in a 7-5 victory over the Colorado Avalanche on Sunday, when the Stars set a season high for goals and were involved in a 12-goal game for the first time in more than nine years.

Hawks tie at the buzzer, win in OT



HERALD photo/Mike Grimes
Hawks guard (pictured) Sean Watson, according to head coach Mark Adams, has been the most consistent player over the past few weeks.

MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

Something strange happened at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Saturday night — the Hawks hit a 31 footer at the buzzer to send the game to over time and from there they defeated Odessa 88-83.

Time and time again the Hawks have been on the other end of such shots, but not this time.

When Catrell Currie let it fly — the horn sounded — the ball swished through the net and the fans erupted.

"I knew it was going in just as soon as I let it go," Currie said, describing the game-tying shot. "I missed a big 3-pointer earlier and I was not going to let my team down tonight. That's a shot I hit all the time when we are playing a game called 'jungle' We got our swagger back tonight and I don't think anyone wants to mess with us right now."

Benson Akpan and Brandon Sampay controlled the paint for the Hawks. Akpan had 10 rebounds and Sampay had 19 points — most coming from under the basket.

However, without the long buzzer beater, this one would be remembered for how the Hawks gave up a 19-point lead with under 15 minutes to play.

If the Hawks make the NJCAA Region V basketball tournament they will probably point to Saturday night's 88-83 over

time win against the Odessa Wranglers as a turning point in the season.

Curry ended the game with only 3 points, but they were arguably the most important 3 of the night.

"We couldn't have scripted this game any better," Hawks coach Mark Adams said. "To win a close one like this — we really needed this one. It was disappointing to give up that big lead we had, but we have outplayed our opponents and been on the losing end too often this season."

"Give Odessa a lot of credit. They played good and they made a lot of big plays, hit big shots and made some three's. They fought hard at the end, but tonight it was just our night."

In overtime the Hawks and Wranglers had trouble finding the basket, but with 2:42 in the extra period Sean Watson drained a 3-pointer to give the home team the lead, 84-81. With under a minute to play Mike Johnson hit two free throws and the Hawks had sealed the win.

Dan Sencanski led the Hawks with 26 points and Watson finished up with 25 of his own. Sencanski was 10-for-15 and Watson was 8-for-11 from the floor.

"Sean has been our most consistent player the last four or five games," Adams said of his guard. "He played

See HAWKS, Page 2B

Howard women continue to struggle, losing to OC

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

Sarah Rondeau and Candace Lambert needed a little more help to pull off the upset over Odessa College Saturday night at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

They didn't get it and the Lady Wranglers pulled away from the Howard women's basketball team 54-47 down the stretch.

"Sarah was in the rhythm of the game and I thought the team did a real good job of finding her," Howard's coach Earl Diddle said after the loss. "We tried to overload them and get more players in the zone than they had — she did her job and spotted up in the right areas and she hit some big shots for us."

The Hawks led in the opening three minutes of the game, but with 6:47 left in the first half the Lady Wranglers took the lead and quickly tried to blow the Hawks out of the building behind the sharp shooting of Kelsay Wasmer.

In the first half Wasmer was

perfect from the floor and scored 6 points — all jump shots.

After back to back turnovers by Howard and then an air ball on the following possession, Wassmer hit a 3-pointer and the lead was 21-10.

Howard appeared out of sync and continued to show the same problems running its offense as it has for much of the season. In the first 20 minutes of action the Hawks turned the ball over nine times and shot only 16.1 percent from the field.

Despite Rondeau hitting on 3-of-6 from beyond the 3-point arc, Howard trailed 24-16 at the half.

"Once I hit the first and second I felt like I was on fire," Rondeau said. "I knew I had to keep shooting when I had the open shot."

In the opening minutes of the second half Howard's women began to get in a groove and with 13:51 left in the game the Hawks took the lead away from the Lady Wranglers.

Candace Lambert hit a couple of shots for the Hawks and she continued to find Rondeau spotting up for the 3-pointers. In the



HERALD photo/Mike Grimes
Hawks coach Earl Diddle addresses the women's basketball team during a first half timeout on the loss to Odessa College on Saturday.

second half Lambert made all three of her free throws and the Hawks went up 32-29.

Over the final 3:12 the Lady Wranglers would outscore the Hawks 11-2.

"We just didn't take care of the ball at the end and they upped

their intensity and we didn't match it," Rondeau explained.

Howard ended the game with 21 turnovers and shot only 26.3 percent as opposed to 44.9 percent for the Lady Wranglers.

See WOMEN, Page 2B

Mickelson starting to hit stride taking victory at Pebble Beach

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — So much for the demise of Phil Mickelson.

The last time he had the lead in the final round of a golf tournament, Mickelson sprayed the ball so badly off the tee that it finally caught up to him on the last hole of the U.S. Open. He clattered shots off trees and tents on his way to a dubious double bogey that cost him his third straight major.

Three tournaments into the 2007 season, Lefty didn't do much to stop speculation that he would never be the same.

Mickelson might agree after his five-shot victory in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

He might be even better.

With a command performance from tee-to-green, Mickelson went wire-to-wire on the Monterey Peninsula and closed with a 6-under 66, tying the 72-hole tournament scoring record and giving him great vibes about the rest of the year.

He used his debacle at Winged Foot to become a better driver, and he was all that and more at Pebble Beach. Mickelson missed only one fairway in the final round and only got in trouble when his 6-iron caught a gust and disappeared into the weeds, a lost ball that sent him to a double bogey on the fifth hole.

The rest of the final round was a breeze. He made three birdies during a four-hole stretch around the ocean to pull away from the pack, and for the second time in three years, was able to stroll up the 18th fairway in peaceful sunshine.

"I was excited to get back here," Mickelson said. "I felt like I was finally starting to play well."

Mickelson says things like that after all his victories, this one his third at Pebble and the 30th of his career. But ask him about his driver, and he can't contain his enthusiasm.

Whether he was trying to hit a draw or a fade, high or low, even a

straight shot, the ball obeyed.

That was the lesson he took out of Winged Foot — becoming better off the tee — and while Pebble Beach is not a major, Mickelson felt as though it showed everyone he was ready for anything.

"I've never had this type of feeling on the tee box, knowing that it's going to be in the fairway and not worry about it," he said. "Not seeing if it's going to go left or right or worried about that. I just feel so confident now."

The rest of his game isn't bad, either.

His short-game coach joined him earlier in the week and they worked on his putting, which Mickelson felt had held him back in two mediocre starts and a missed cut this year. He didn't make them all, but he made enough. Mickelson finished at 20-under 268 to tie the record set by Mark O'Meara in 1997.

He earned \$990,000 to become the third player in PGA Tour history to

See MICKELSON, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Mike Grimes
The Big Spring Golf Invitational was a huge success according to the Steers golf coach Chris Joslin. Despite not competing for team honors, Cassie Gunn, shown in photo, represented BSHS well by shooting a 166, good enough for third place in the individual standings.

Yates puts both cars on front row for Daytona 500

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — It seemed certain at times last season that Robert Yates Racing was going to close its doors.

The once-proud NASCAR team had hit rock bottom, and owners Robert and Doug Yates couldn't stand coming to the race track anymore.

But that seemed ages ago on Sunday after David Gilliland and Ricky Rudd put Yates cars on the front row for the Daytona 500.

"Robert has got a little bit of a bounce in his step again because he has a program that is working, it is clicking," Rudd said.

It was far from working last season, when Yates lost his drivers, a sponsor and both of his crew chiefs in a tumultuous year that featured the team collapsing to the point that Yates was convinced he was dying.

But just like a true racer, the car owner refused to close his shop and fought to keep the family business on the track.

"We push each other pretty hard, and at one point in the year, I felt like I had pushed him a little bit too much and it was pretty stressful," Doug Yates said.

"When your Dad has some health issues based off of his job, it's pretty tough on you," he added. "But it's just the way we're wired, we want to win."

"This is our golf game,

this is our whole life. When it doesn't go well, it's pretty miserable."

That's why Sunday was so special.

Gilliland, an unproven rookie, and Rudd, the "Iron Man" of NASCAR who spent last year out of racing and mowing the 30 acres of grass on his North Carolina farm, proved that there's life in this Yates team, after all.

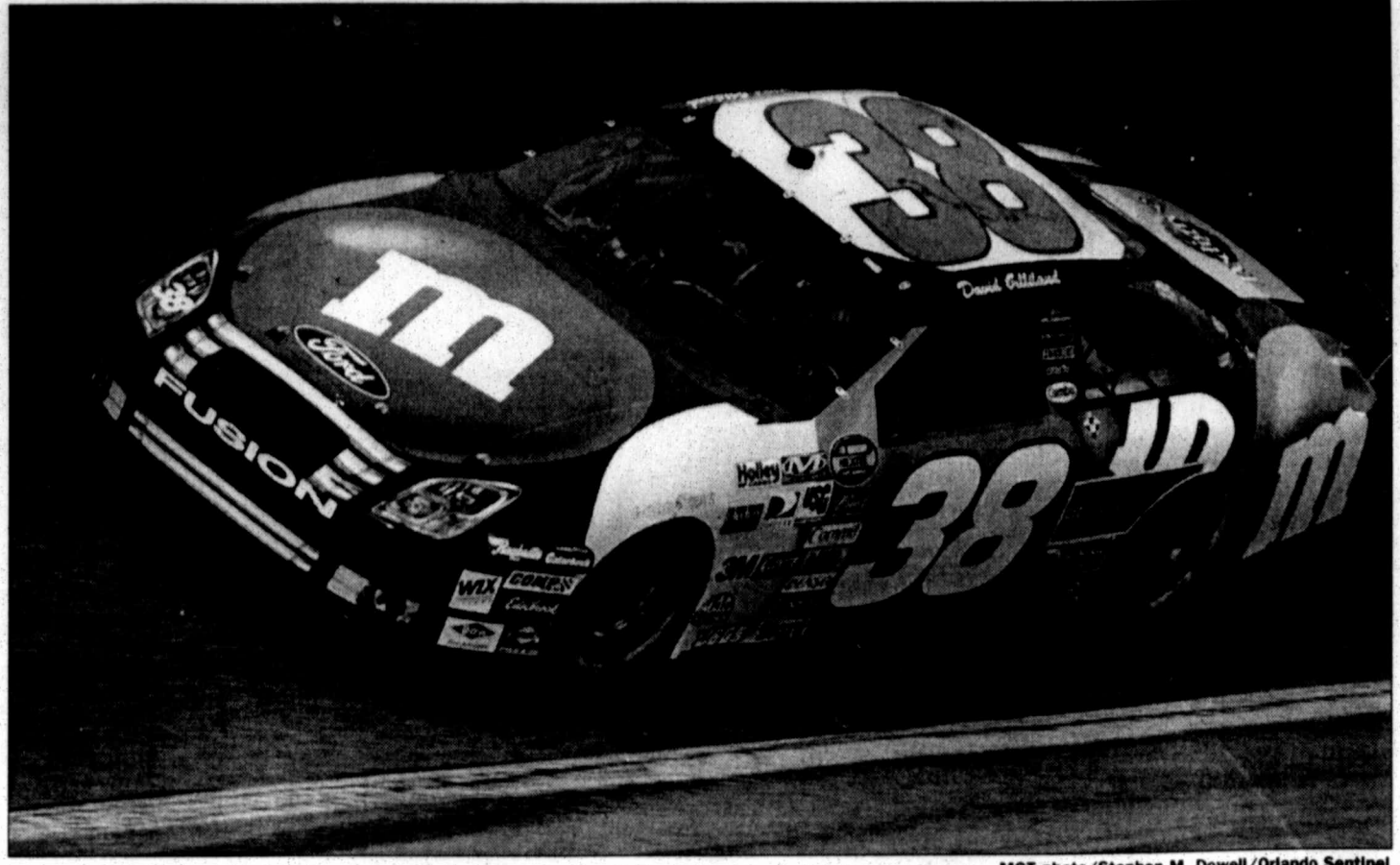
Gilliland turned a lap of 186.320 mph to win the pole, and Rudd was right behind at 185.609 to put themselves on the front row for the season-opening Daytona 500 next Sunday.

"It's like a dream that I'm afraid to wake up from," said Gilliland, coming off Saturday night's second-place finish in the exhibition Budweiser Shootout.

Gilliland and Rudd were the only two drivers to lock down their starting spots under a complicated qualifying procedure for NASCAR's biggest event of the year that was marred when Matt Kenseth and Kasey Kahne's cars failed inspection and Michael Waltrip's was impounded because of a suspicious part.

The top 35 drivers from 2006 are assured a spot in the 500, but their starting position will be determined by a pair of qualifying races Thursday.

It leaves eight other spots to fill, and 26 drivers are vying for them. Dale Jarrett is guaranteed one of them by virtue of the past champions provi-



David Gilliland drives the No. 38 M&M's Ford during qualifying for the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday in Daytona Beach, Fla.

MCT photo/Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel

sional, as are the three fastest drivers in qualifying from that group. That caveat promised Boris Said, Sterling Marlin and Johnny Sauter spots in the race.

Toyota, which is making its Nextel Cup debut this season, had a horrendous qualifying effort and will need brilliant qualifying races to get the bulk of its Camrys into the field.

Jarrett is in, along with Dave Blaney, who earned a berth because of the 2006 standings. But the rest of the bunch struggled, including Waltrip,

whose intake manifold was confiscated at the start of the day because inspectors found a questionable substance inside the part.

Waltrip, a two-time Daytona 500 winner, was 24th in qualifying and his Camry was later impounded.

"There's nothing wrong with it," Waltrip insisted. "We just had an oil problem of some sort."

David Reutimann was the best of the Toyota bunch at 14th, and was followed by Jeremy Mayfield (15th), Mike Skinner (17th), Waltrip,

Blaney (37th), A.J. Allmendinger (38th), Brian Vickers (43rd) and Jarrett (48th).

Juan Pablo Montoya flirted with the front row, putting his new No. 42 Dodge in the second spot only to be bumped from it moments later by teammate David Stremme.

Stremme ended up third and Montoya was fourth, but teammate Reed Sorenson was a disappointing 42nd after blowing a battery in his car on his second qualifying lap. Still, it was a radical improvement for the Chip Ganassi Racing team,

which is looking to Montoya to help jumpstart a program that hasn't won a Cup race since 2002.

"I think it really shows how far Chip Ganassi Racing has come," Montoya said. "I think the engine program has come a long way. It's just nice to see that we've got a lot of potential."

But the day belonged to Yates, who won the Daytona 500 pole for the fifth time in his career. Davey Allison won the first in 1992, then Jarrett grabbed it in 1995, 2000 and 2005.

Area's high school teams jockeying for playoff position

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

With state basketball playoffs slated to begin as early as next week, area teams were all jockeying for position down the stretch.

Garden City, Forsan and Stanton are all looking for post season invitations and Grady and Coahoma have clinched. Big Spring will be forced to look forward to next season and that does not

sit well with new head coach Joey Martin.

"We're a young team and we had a lot of obstacles and hurdles to navigate this season," Martin said last week. "We accomplished things here that have not been done in three or four years and I like the direction that the program is headed in right now. I will even go out on a limb and say that I think we're a playoff team next year."

FORSAN 42, HAMLIN 38

The Forsan Buffaloes took care of business Friday night beating Hamlin 42-38, behind another brilliant game from Adam Bailey.

Winning on Friday set up a rematch with Roscoe for the district championship.

Bailey and the Buff's (17-7) are assured a spot in the playoffs, but they would like the title and the No. 1 seed heading

into post season, according to Forsan coaches. Bailey led the Buffaloes by scoring 18 points in the game and leading the Buffaloes back from an early deficit.

"We played an outstanding second half of basketball tonight," Buff's coach Terry McDonald said after the win, "we showed a lot of poise to come back after trailing at the half and we made great decisions late in the game."

At the break Forsan

trailed Hamlin by 4 points and after three quarters the game was tied.

Jeremy Robbins scored 7 points and Seth Johnson and Nathan Atkerson added 6 each.

GARDEN CITY 33, BRONTE 27

Garden City picked up a huge win in the district standings by beating Bronte 33-27 Friday night. The win pulled the Bearkats into a tie with Bronte, as both teams are

7-3 in district play.

Leading the way for Garden City (13-7) was Evan Jansa with 13 points and Taylor Niehus with 9.

MERKEL 49, STANTON 38

ANSON 72, STAMFORD 49

ROSCOE 54, ROTAN 27

MICKELSON

Continued from Page 1B

surpass \$40 million for his career. He went up to No. 4 in the world rankings. And he won on the West Coast Swing for the 11th time in his 15 full seasons on the PGA Tour.

The important statistics, however, were accumulated over four days of sunshine and rain.

Mickelson tied for fourth in driving accuracy,

hitting 82 percent of his fairways. He tied for first in greens in regulation, missing only 15 all week. He averaged only 28 putts per round, tied for fifth. And his average drive of 285.1 yards was tied for fourth.

It all starts off the tee. "It's very easy for me to hit fairways. It feels that way," Mickelson said.

And that's when he's dangerous.

He played the final round with Kevin

Sutherland, who has known Mickelson for years and is no stranger to his game.

Sutherland fell out of contention with a double bogey on the ninth hole when a 9-iron flew the green into a hazard, and he held himself back by missing six putts inside 8 feet. But the more he watched Mickelson, he must have realized he was playing for second.

"To be honest with you, I was not all that disap-

pointed with how I played," said Sutherland, who made birdie on the final hole for a 71 that put him in second place alone. "I felt if I had putted a little better, I could have shot a 69 or 68. Phil shot a 66? I don't know if I had that in me today. He played tremendous golf."

Everyone has been hung up on Winged Foot, the sight of Mickelson combining bad breaks, bad shots and questionable

thinking as he stumbled to that double bogey to make Geoff Ogilvy a surprising winner of the U.S.

Open. Mickelson didn't give it another shot until the majors were over.

WOMEN

Continued from Page 1B

"We are not a very good passing team... It haunts us and haunts and haunts us," Diddle explained. "I thought we were in control of the game... up three and heading down to the wire and we were playing pretty good after having fought back from 8 or 9 points down, but then we turned the ball

over and we didn't block out. That's what lost the game.

"When you don't do those things they (opponents) are scoring easy baskets and that takes away your offensive momentum. That is what has haunted us all season."

Rondeau finished the game as the leading scorer with 15 points and she made 5-of-10 from behind the 3-point line to keep the Hawks in the game. Lambert had 10 points

and scored 8 in the second half as the Hawks tried to stage the upset.

The Hawks are now 12-13 on the season and 2-7 in conference.

"We have to win four out of the last five games down the stretch," Rondeau said. "If we do that then anything can happen and we can make the conference tournament. We just want to get in and have a chance to play. That's all we want — a chance."

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

very well, but so did Dan. This was a very good team win and something we needed.

"Right now it's just nice to get the monkey off our backs."

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\$3,768.50* (*Salary commensurate
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For more information, visit
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ADVERTISING SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Big Spring Herald is looking
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in our retail department.

If you like people, have sales
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We offer an established account
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Apply at 710 Scurry, or send
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Rick Nunez
P.O. Box 1431
Big Spring, TX 79721
or fax:
(432)264-7205
email to:
addressign@bigspring
herald.com

BLAST MASTERS has a position
available for:
* Crew Technician
Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy.,
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phone calls please. Must have
a valid TX drivers license and
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Help Wanted

Are you paying too much for Health Insurance?

**The City of Big Spring
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Apply for these positions today:
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\$14.40/hr.
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Contact:

Human Resources
City of Big Spring
Phone: 432-264-2346
Fax: 432-264-2387
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us
EOE

BLUE BELL Creameries has
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Benefits include paid vacation,
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Help Wanted

BORED? WANT a position that
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We have the answer. Work
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Please apply in person.

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Help Wanted

CNAs
Full time openings with Benefits available! Requires TEXAS State Certification. No phone calls please. EOE/MFHV. Call (325)573-6332, or apply to Debbie Collier, RN, DON, or Priscilla Barrera, LVN, ADON, at SNYDER HEALTH CARE CENTER, 5311 Big Spring Highway, Snyder.



COME JOIN OUR TEAM!
SERVERS * COOKS
DISHWASHERS NEEDED.

All shifts available
Apply at:
1710 East Third Street
E.O.E.

Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center is looking for a Full-time billing/collection specialist. Successful applicant will have a minimum of 5 yrs. experience in outpatient healthcare billing and collections. Compensation is commensurate with education and experience. Please deliver resume to 306 W. 3rd Street or Fax to 267-3809.

Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center has an opening for the position of **Office Manager**. A successful applicant will have experience in general accounting procedures including payroll, general ledger & accounts payable. Experience in outpatient healthcare billing and collections is also required. Applicants should be technically competent, extremely dependable & very caring towards the public. Position requires proficiency in Word and Excel. Salary: commensurate with education and experience. Please deliver resume to 306 W. 3rd Street, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Fax to 432-267-3809.

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Inquire about Sign-on Bonus up to \$4000. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

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

EVENING DISHWASHER supervisor. Apply in person 2401 S. Gregg. Good pay to the right person.

Help Wanted

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Please come by the Duncan Disposal office/yard at 1104 N.W. Broadway, Coahoma, Tx - Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon.-Fri.; with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer.

ENJOY COOL Colorado - Summer Employment
Fun Valley Family Resort in South Fork, Colorado needs STUDENTS, YOUNG ADULTS and ADULTS for the full season or part of the 2007 season for all types of jobs: Kitchen, dining room, housekeeping, stores, maintenance, horse wrangler, office. (Salary/room or RV site/meals/activities. ADULTS must have their own RV for their housing. STUDENTS & YOUNG ADULTS live in the girls or boys dorm. For information, write Personnel Director, Fun Valley Family Resort, 6315 Westover Drive, Granbury, TX 76049.

EXCELLENT COMPENSATION & BENEFITS
Applications now being accepted for the position of Teller, Administrative Assistant to the CEO, Member Services and bookkeeping. Excellent benefits including health coverage and 401(k). Prior experience not required. Please mail resume to: Citizens Federal Credit Union Attn: Human Resources P.O. Box 425 Big Spring, TX 79720-0425

FULL TIME Opening - Front Desk Position to include Receptionist, Filing and General Office duties. Ideal candidate: Proficient in data entry, Word and Excel, Organized, Friendly, Dependable. Ability to Multi-Task. Mail resume to PO Box 949, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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

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

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

Help Wanted

LOOKING FOR a Rewarding Nursing Job with case Management opportunities. The Company of Rock House in Midland is looking for a full-time Nurse/QMRP. Responsibilities would include nursing assessments, staff training on medication supervision, other treatments ordered by a physician and serving people with developmental disabilities. Must have excellent communication and analytical skills, detail oriented, and effective problem solving techniques with the desire to help others. Main hours, 8-5 M-F with some weekend/evenings. Must be an RN or an LVN with a bachelor in Human Services or a related field. Apply in person at 211 E. Texas, Midland. Visit our website at www.rockhouses.org, or send resume to Laurie@rockhouseinc.com EOE

MOUNTAIN VIEW Lodge is seeking professional and dependable employees for the following positions: Housekeeping, 8:00-4:00 shift, P.R.N. L.V.N.'s, 2:00-10:00, Charge Nurse and a D.O.N. If interested in any of the positions please contact Joy at (432)263-1271.

NEED BOB Tail/ Transport Driver for fuel deliveries. Excellent starting pay with benefits. Must have CDL & good driving record. Come by 1st & Johnson, Park Fuels, Big Spring.

NEED EXTRA money? Work 6:00 a.m.-7:30 a.m. at Jack Jill Child Care. Apply in person at 1708 Nolan.

NEED MANAGERS and Assistant Managers for Restaurant. Apply in person with resume at 151Q Gregg Street. No Phone Calls.

NEED PHARMACY TECH 30 Hours per week. Certified & Experienced. Call 1-800-469-4467.

NEED TWO Laundry Persons. And also need housekeepers. Pickup application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylesford Street.

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

NOW HIRING Bartenders and Cocktail waitresses. Must be 18. Call the San Francisco Bar & Grill at (432)267-1767 or 213-0946.

NOW HIRING COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION JOB SUPERINTENDENT must be professional and experienced in all phases of construction. Drug test, pre-employment physical and travel required. Mail resume to: GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT PO BOX 60708 MIDLAND, TX 79711

PARKVIEW NURSING & REHABILITATION
Come join our team! Be part of our devoted staff providing resident care. Now Hiring for LVN's, which offers competitive pay, great benefits and a fantastic working environment. Apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation now hiring for C.N.A. positions. Offer great benefits and competitive pay. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway Rd.

PIZZA INN
NOW HIRING FOR ALL POSITIONS. APPLY IN PERSON AT 1702 GREGG. NO PHONE CALLS.

POLLARD CHEVROLET is seeking a Finance & Insurance Sales person. Sales experience required. Benefits, 401K, Health Ins.. Apply in person at 1501 East 4th.

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20/hour or \$57K annually including Federal Benefits and OT. Paid training, vacations. PT/FT. 1-800-584-1775 Ext. 6901 USWA

Help Wanted

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER needed full-time. Prefer 1 yr. exp., but will train. High School Diploma required. Apply in Person, 1901 W. 16th Street, Learning Tree Academy.

RN POSITION
Tired of shift work & working holidays! The Texas Department of State Health Services is recruiting for an RN I to be responsible for providing comprehensive public health nursing services to the residents of Howard County. Serves as the Team Leader for Family & Community Health Services at the Big Spring Field Office Clinic. Perform clinical duties for the following programs: Child & Adult Immunizations, Family Planning, Child Health, HIV/STD and TB Elimination. Perform population based, community focused health promotion and disease prevention activities. Duties require independent clinical and leadership skills. Participate in regional emergency response plan. Work hours M-F 8-5. Travel requirements: 10% day, 5% overnight. Monthly salary: \$2,773.00-\$2,838.00. Current license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the State of Texas. Apply at website: <https://accesshr.hhs.state.tx.us>. Position Requisition #47606 or complete application at 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28-B in Big Spring. For additional information, contact Melony Bennett at (432)571-4132. EEO/ADA.

S&S WELL Service is looking for experienced floor hands. Apply at 309 Main St., Sparenburg Bldg. Call Steve, (432)816-1815.

SHELL STAR STOP looking for new team members. Full & Part time cashiers and assistant managers. Apply in person at any Shell Star Stop in Big Spring. Drug Free Environment.

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Local Company Seeks Qualified applicants for LOCAL work. Paid holidays, Vacation and Sick Time. Weekends Off. All interested applicants, please phone (432)263-3939.

THE MARTIN County Hospital District is seeking Registered Nurses, for full-time high positions. Please contact Rance Ramsey, DON at 610 N. Saint Peter, Stanton, Texas or (432)756-3345 ext. 228.

WANTED - 2 Mature individuals for Full-time & Part-time position working with developmentally disabled individuals. Applicants must possess Valid Texas drivers license, high school diploma/GED and reliable transportation. Must be willing to work week-ends. Call 432-263-1408 for more info. Closing Date 02/26/07.

WANTED EXPERIENCED electrician, must have a valid drivers license and be able to pass drug test. Must be willing to relocate to small West Texas town. Offering top pay and benefits. Send resumes c/o P.O. Box 1431/157, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

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

WOODFOREST NATIONAL
Bank is now hiring for branch manager, retail banker/teller positions at our Big Spring location. Please apply online at www.woodforest.com EOE m/t/v/d

Items for Sale

A NEW QUEEN Pillow top mattress set. \$129.00 Midland. Call 432-349-4043.

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\$1000.00 REWARD for the return of a Weatherby Athena 28 gauge over and under shotgun. Disappeared while hunting the Muleshoe Ranch on 2/5/07. No questions asked. Call (432)553-5997.

LOST PUPPY near college on Tuesday. Boston Terrier/Dachshund mix. White and brindle colored. Call 816-4632.

Miscellaneous

\$199. KING/ Cal King Pillow-Top mattress set. In plastic, warranty. (806)549-3110

A BRAND NEW Queen pillow top mattress set. Sacrifice \$175.00. In wrapper. Warranty. Must Move. 432-349-4043.

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I DO general house cleaning. Reasonable Rates! References! Call (432)816-7945.

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LEATHER CHAPS \$39, Leather Vest \$19 Leather Jackets \$59, Harley Boots \$69 Saddlebags \$49. Fast Shipping! Accurate Sizing! Order online @ www.BransonWholesale.com

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PART TIME Project Coordinator Rewarding part time work! Identify interested host families, work with schools, supervise high school exchange students. Send interest inquiry: mary@world-heritage.org, include address/phone number.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TXDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: ABILENE
Contract 6157-24-001 for REST AREA TOTAL MAINTENANCE, OPERATION, REPAIR IN NOLAN County, etc will be opened on March 08, 2007 at 1:00 pm at the State Office for an estimate of \$4,920,000.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TXDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TXDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TXDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 22631

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. #5233 February 5 & 12, 2007

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TXDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: ABILENE
Contract 6157-31-001 for "ON DEMAND" RAISED PAVEMENT MARKERS IN TAYLOR County, etc will be opened on March 13, 2007 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$299,000.00.
Contract 6158-49-001 for SHOULDER TEXTURING IN SCURRY County, etc will be opened on March 13, 2007 at 2:30 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$72,188.60.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TXDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TXDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TXDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 22688

State Office
Constr./Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/Div Office(s)
Abilene District
District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. #5237 February 11 & 12, 2007

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
As we close in on Valentine's Day, the Sagittarius moon inspires grand gift ideas — perhaps a romantic getaway. After all, there's nothing like fresh surroundings to teach you what you didn't know about your loved one. And this is especially true of relationships that have been going strong for years.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Fantasizing is part of your job as a human and a crucial factor in the way your week will go. Have a few fantasies before breakfast and a few more with your lunch. This readies you for what occurs tonight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A work problem is the result of being uninspired by the project on your plate. See if you can't switch with someone. When a task fuels your soul, you'll push through any resistance you encounter to finish it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Streamline your efforts. Keep one important end in mind. Progress is swift. By this evening, something substantial has already shifted. A Libra person is on your side.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A seductive person has something to teach you. You see, you too are influential, even tantalizing, when you want to be. Shed your fear of being heard, and use your power to delight the world.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Sensible choices are overrated. You make outrageous, unreasonable decisions and are somehow able to stand by them without laughing out loud. You'll enjoy this, and also be commended for your guts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're unable to forcibly change your own behavior, but you can gently change it. Seek understanding. A lasting and wonderful change for the better will come about.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're a leader of thoughts. Start by taking control of your own. What you think of yourself counts. What others think of you is just a projection of what you think of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's no reason to stay in a stuffy environment. Get out and walk. You stamp out your problem with each forward step. Tonight, to keep peace in the family, you tolerate your family member's odd choices.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Keep it close to the vest. Let your plan build energy by containing it. By the end of the week, you'll get the perfect opportunity to show your cards — and take the whole pot!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Family has so many wonderful opinions — none of which you agree with now. It's all about doing your own thing. In the end, you'll be happy that you marched to your own drum, and they'll be happy for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll learn from reading and listening to charismatic speakers. Of course, it's what you actually apply to your life that makes a difference. Initiate a good habit tonight — the gesture has staying power.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are a lot of things you could be now, including sparkling, witty and right. However, the one thing that friends and family need you to be is simply nice. With compassion, you win hearts.

HEAVENLY HEART MATCHES (PART ONE) — What does each sign need to be happy with a partner for the long term? **ARIES:** Aries needs a

partner who is equally as strong. Yes, Aries is a leader, but that doesn't mean Aries is looking for a follower. Aries needs to see the warrior spark in the eyes of a love interest because, deep down, Aries wants to be tamed. **TAURUS:** Taurus requires easygoing flexibility. Because Taurus needs to be the rock, an ideal partner for Taurus is therefore someone who will be like water, flowing down the path of least resistance. If you refuse to back down from an argument because you never want to be wrong, you are not a long-term match for Taurus. **GEMINI:** Gemini requires a partner who is both interesting and interested. For Gemini, the deadliest sin of all is to be boring. Gemini will stay with someone who is full of entertaining surprises. **CANCER:** If you're naturally nurturing, Cancer can settle in with you. Someone who is edgy and cool might be able to infatuate a Cancer, but for the long-term, Cancer really needs a partner who is inclined to be tender with a fragile heart.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Sheryl Crow is a pop music queen, with all the levity and fun in her music that Aquarius is known for. Instead of her love life being in the media this upcoming year, it's her professional life that gets more interesting. A strange collaboration makes music industry types wonder what she's up to, but the artistic result enlivens her career.

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

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Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: I need an outside opinion. I was in the process of repairing the windows on my garage, only to discover that they do not make this type of window anymore. My neighbors of 15 years, who I'd thought were our friends, recently replaced their garage windows with glass block ones. Since my original windows were not available, I decided to go with glass block windows, also.

I called my neighbor and told her that she had good taste and we were going to get similar windows. She was furious and berated me like you wouldn't believe. I thought she was joking when she said if we put in glass block windows, she would never speak to me or my wife again and the friendship would be over.

We installed glass block windows anyway, and the neighbors are not talking to us. Our windows look totally different than theirs. Ours have black bars in front and are partially covered by bushes. Also, our two houses are not alike in size, shape, color or landscaping. In addition, after touring the neighborhood, we see that there are eight other houses in the immediate area with glass block windows.

I don't understand the big deal. The neighbors won't answer our phone calls (they have Caller ID). I wrote them a letter and apologized, saying imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but nothing.

I really hate to end this



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

friendship over something so trivial. It makes no sense to lose sleep over windows. Is it possible more is going on? Any advice? — Perplexed

Dear Perplexed: Is there a mutual friend who might be willing to act as an intermediary? It would help to have someone speak to the neighbors, explaining that you meant no disrespect, that the windows look entirely different on your house, and that you'd like to patch things up. If the neighbors still value their windows over their neighbors, it wasn't much of a friendship to begin with.

Dear Annie: I have been married to my husband for 15 years. His 50th birthday is coming up, and we've been planning a special party for over a year. His two children will not be attending. Why? Their mother bought them tickets for an event out of town. My husband is very hurt, but he will never say anything to them.

This is the second time she has done something like this. The first time

was over Father's Day. When the kids were younger and we attended events together, the ex-wife insisted that the kids sit with her the entire time. I thought when the kids got older, she would stop. And what's worse, the kids are in their 20s now and old enough to decide what to do, but are afraid to upset Mom. Annie, these children lived with us until they were 18. Their mother was the one who left the marriage.

I am tired of my husband being their doormat and want him to show some backbone. They only call or come around when they need something. What can we do? — The Stepmother

Dear Stepmother: Grown or not, these children still hurt from their mother's abandonment and crave her love. They fear if they refuse her conniving gestures, she will desert them again. The best thing you can do for your husband is to love his children anyway and allow him to decide how he wants to handle them. It will not help your marriage if you convince him to cut them off. He will only blame you later for causing an estrangement.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Just Another Alcoholic," whose sister keeps trying to convert him. I remember someone once asked a TV evangelist if non-Christians would get into heaven. He replied, "That's a management decision. I'm just in sales." — J.W.

