



## Hundreds turn out for Martin County Old Settlers Reunion

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

STANTON — Hundreds of people accepted Martin County's invitation to "come home again" Saturday.

The 73rd annual Old Settlers Reunion was more than just a way for Stanton to pay homage to long-time residents; it also served as a perfect excuse to hold a high school reunion.

Several in fact.

During its history, Martin County has been home to more than 20 school districts, and exes from all those schools were invited to participate in the reunion, which carried the theme, "Come Home Again: Honoring All Past and Present Students of Martin County Schools."

The event kicked off with a parade Saturday morning. Led by grand marshal Imogene Evans, a longtime Stanton resident and retired kindergarten teacher, the parade, featuring floats, farm equipment, antique automobiles

and even children on bicycles, snaked its way through downtown Stanton.

Prominent in the parade were the descendants of Lupe and Luisa Garza, the honored family during this year's Old Settlers Reunion.

The Garzas moved to Martin County in the early 1940s and raised a family of nine children, many of whom still call Stanton home.

While most of the day was taken up with "just plain visiting," as longtime Stanton resident A.L. "Bud" Lindsey said, there were other attractions, as well.

There was a tractor pull at the Co-Op Gin west of town early in the afternoon, and children's activities were scheduled in the downtown area throughout the afternoon.

The reunion concluded with a dinner and dance at the Martin County Community Center.

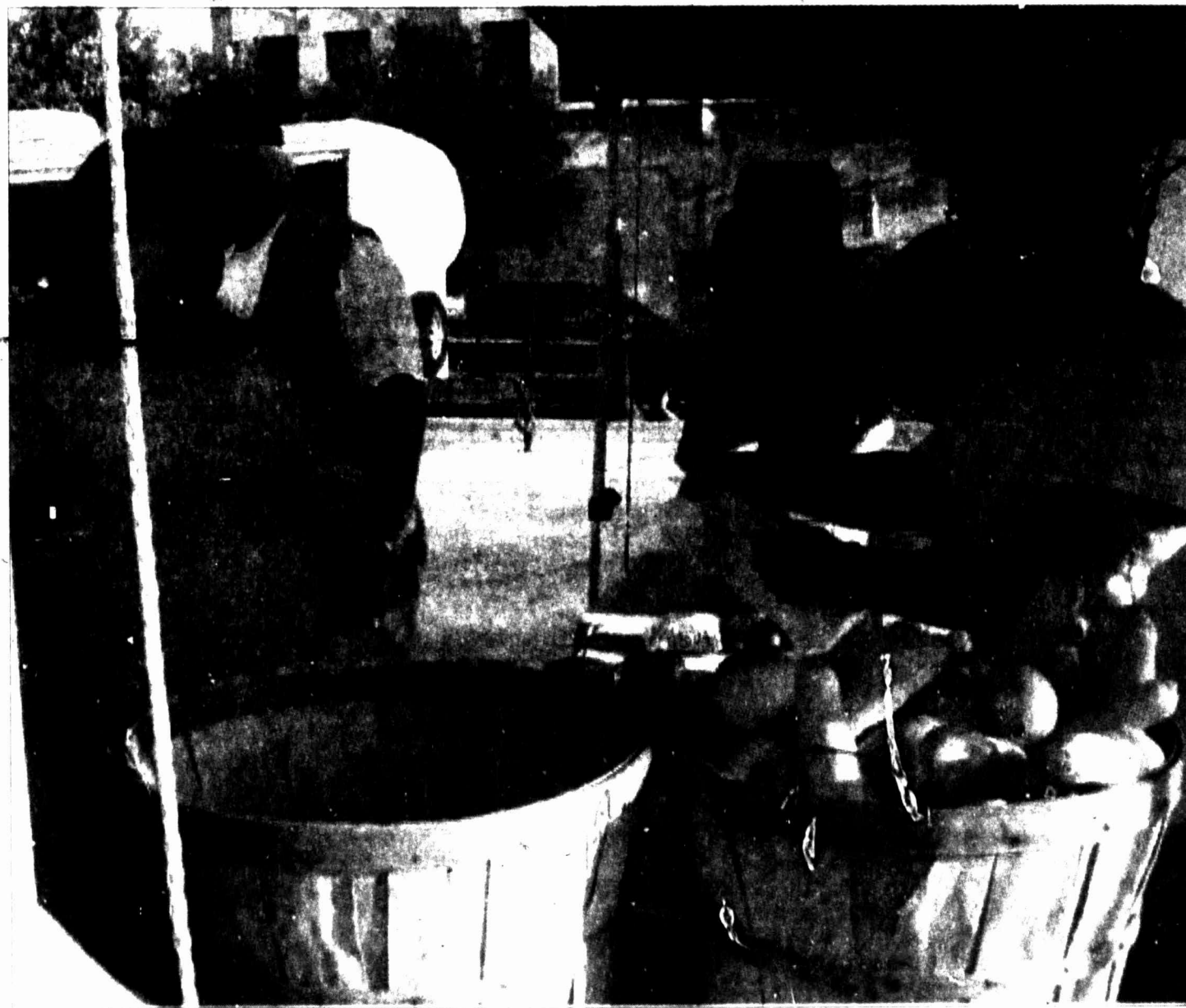
Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com).



Members of the Lupe and Luisa Garza family wave to the crowd during the Old Settlers Reunion parade in downtown Stanton Saturday. The Garzas were designated as the honored family during the 76th annual reunion.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

## FARMERS MARKET OPENS



Jewel Whittington purchases squash from Sherry Newton Saturday at the annual West Texas Producers and Farmers Market. The farmers market will be held every Tuesday and Saturday through October and will include scheduled events, contests and a theme every Saturday along with farm fresh products.

Herald photo/Andrela Medlin

## Council vote set on Atmos' rates for gas

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council will meet Tuesday evening to discuss, among other items, Final reading of a resolution ordering Atmos Energy to show cause regarding the reasonableness of its existing natural gas distribution rates.

According to Peggy Walker, director of finance for the city of Big Spring, the resolution will force Atmos Energy to justify its rates, which include a hefty surcharge that is supposed to help the company improve its infrastructure.

"Based on the information we have, the city believes Atmos is over-earning as a result of its current rates," said Walker. "This resolution will force them to show that their current rates are, in effect, reasonable."

Walker said the surcharge, which was given the go-ahead by the Texas Railroad Commission without input from the cities it would effect, was

intended by the legislature to help the energy company improve its infrastructure. However, the definition of "infrastructure" seems to be the real question in the matter.

"The way we understand the law, it is to allow them to make improvements to their infrastructure," said Walker. "Replacing such things as pipelines or gas meters that type of improvements. What we've found through analyzing the filing is there is some data in there that doesn't meet our estimation of the law. It includes office equipment and computers."

Mayor Russ McEwen said during an earlier council meeting the surcharge is yet another situation where a utility company is forcing West Texas cities to go to the bargaining table for rate increases.

"It's one of those things that are just so frustrating," said McEwen. "You

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## Water meter replacement project to begin July 17

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

City water customers will be getting a knock at their doors soon.

According to Peggy Walker, finance director for the city of Big Spring, the city is implementing a water meter replacement program, which begins July 17.

"The project will consist of installing new water meters equipped with radio transmitters," said Walker. "A mobile data collector in a vehicle — rather than employees reading the meters manually — will read the new meters. The installers will knock on your door prior to installation to notify you of the meter replacement."

The replacement program is part of a energy and utility conservation contract the city council recently approved with Siemens Building Technologies.

The program is expected to save the city more than \$5.6 million over the next 15 years through improvements to various aspects of the municipalities operations, including light-

ing systems, plumbing and heating and air conditioning.

"This allows the city to improve its buildings — meaning lighting, air conditioning and water meters — without the need to increase capital or budget. Without having to raise tax rates, raise water rates. We're doing it all out of your current operating budget," said Siemens Account Executive

Chad Nobles. "The beauty of the process is we guarantee you, as a city, the results. If we don't make those savings that we promised here today then we have to cut the city a check for the difference."

"The biggest part of the savings will come from the improvements made to the

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### U.S. AND GERMANY

There are still disagreements over such issues as global warming, the death penalty and the U.S.-run prison at Guantanamo Bay, but it is still hard to remember a time when U.S.-German relations were on a sounder footing.

And the good feelings will be on display Thursday when, while en route to the G-8 summit in Russia, President Bush will be the guest of Chancellor Angela Merkel, head of Germany's Christian Democrats, on a visit to her home state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in the former East Germany.

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### MEXICO'S ELECTION

Mexico's main leftist party made good on its threat to ask for a ballot-by-ballot recount of the closest presidential election in the country's history, backing up the demand with nine boxes of documents supporting its allegations of fraud during the election.

The 900-page claim, filed late Sunday, alleged that some polling places had more votes than registered voters; that the ruling party funneled government money to Felipe Calderon's campaign, exceeding spending limits; and that a software program was used to skew vote counts.

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### DALLAS POLICE

Besmirched by scandal, beset by racial tension and ranked first in big-city crime, Dallas' police department faced the need for reinvention more than renovation.

Police Chief David Kunkle, picked two years ago to rebuild the department, has improved the almost 3,000-officer force even as it continues to struggle.

Since June, Kunkle has fired 14 officers for misconduct, bringing the total to more than 30 since he took office. The firings range from two officers accused of drunken driving to an officer accused of stealing tires from the police impound lot.

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## Obituaries

## Tony Ray Phipps



Tony Ray Phipps, 38, of Big Spring died Saturday, July 8, 2006, in a Midland hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 11, 2006 at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Rev. R.T. Havener, pastor of First Assembly of God Church, officiating.

He was born on July 5, 1968, in Midland.

Tony was a lifelong resident of Big Spring. He graduated from Big Spring High School and attended Howard College. He was a member of First Assembly of God Church.

Survivors include three daughters, Toni Rae Phipps of Cincinnati, Ohio, Alyssa Newton of Big Spring and Jessica Halford of Phoenix, Ariz.; his mother, Wanda Phipps of Big Spring; a sister, Kimberly Ray Phipps; his grandmother, Goldie Clawson of Big Spring; his aunt and uncle, Shirley and Jim Ryals of Big Spring; a special cousin, Amanda Ryals; and special friend, Greg Salisbury of Denton.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bill Phipps, on Dec. 18, 2005.

Pallbearers will be Greg Salisbury, Bobby Brasel, Wesley Carroll, Johnnie Sevey, Ed Wilkerson and Russell Neefe.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

*Paid Obituary*

## Take Note

• **NEW LIFE MINISTRIES** Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free.

Call 264-0771 for more information.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

• **THE PET PATROL** helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL STEER BAND 10-YEAR REUNION** for classes 1970 to 1980 is planned July 28-29. Send name and addresses to Steer Band Reunion P.O. Box 103 Big Spring. 79721 or go to the Web site [www.bigspringsteerband.org](http://www.bigspringsteerband.org). For more information or to leave a message, call 263-2205.

• **THE COAHOMA ALUMNI REUNION WILL BE HELD AUG. 5** in the Coahoma Elementary School Cafeteria.

9:30 a.m.- Coffee and donuts  
10 a.m.- Business meeting  
10:30 a.m.- Visitation

Noon- Lunch with keynote speaker C5 Galaxy Pilot Major Helm (Class of 86)

2:30 p.m.- Awards and memorials

3 p.m.- Auction to benefit the community scholarship fund for High school seniors

4 p.m.- Concert by Jody Nix (Class of 70) and the Texas Cowboys

5 p.m.- Class meetings

Tickets covering the meal and all activities are \$10 for alumni, \$7 for spouses and \$5 for children.

Early ticket sales will end July 22, but tickets will also be available at the door.

Send check to Rae Nell Best, PO Box 77, Coahoma 79511

Updates are available at [www.coahomaisd.com](http://www.coahomaisd.com). For more information, contact Bob Fishback at 457-2264.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1986 20th REUNION** needs addresses and contact information for classmates. Call Kelly at 816-4540.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1996 10th YEAR REUNION** needs addresses and contact information for classmates. Call Mindy at 267-6524 or 267-7631.

• **FORSAN EX-STUDENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ALL-CLASS REUNION** is Aug. 5. Names, addresses and class years for Forsan exes are needed. Submit information or pictures for a newsletter before June 15 to Ida Lou Raney, 5216 Dawson Dr., Big Spring or call 432-267-2414, Jimmy Anderson at 432-267-6143 or Opal Stout at 325-574-2150, or e-mail [hiraney@crcom.net](mailto:hiraney@crcom.net).

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1977** is gathering addresses for the 30th reunion. Mail contact information to Emily Boyd, 10817 Sandpiper Lane, Dallas or e-mail [emilyboyd1@aol.com](mailto:emilyboyd1@aol.com).

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

Urgent news for people who took

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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:

- **BILLY ALDRIDGE**, 19, of 309 W. Fifth Street, was arrested Saturday on two Howard County warrants.
- **ABEL GOMEZ SILVA**, 29, of 1007 E. 16th Street, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **JOHN SANDERS**, 29, of 3210 Auburn, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **MARK HICKMAN JR.**, 19, of 538 Westover Road Apt. 106, was arrested Saturday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **BILLY ALVARADO**, 28, of 1611 Harding, was arrested Sunday on charges of criminal mischief - family violence and Class C assault - family violence.
- **EDWIN DEAN**, 41, of 1205 Lancaster, was arrested Sunday on a Howard County warrant.
- **CHRIS LAMAR AUSTIN**, 42, transient, was arrested Sunday on a Gonzales County warrant.
- **DOLLY REBECCA HOGAN**, 31, of 302 N.E. Second Street, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **CARLETON KEITH SPIVEY**, 28, of 612 Linda Lane, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **TERRELL CHARLES FRYAR**, 44, of 2612 Hunter, was arrested Sunday on a charge of evading arrest.
- **JUAN LUIZ VALBUEBA**, 28, of 705 Aylesford, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION** was reported in the 200 block of West Marcy.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported: in the 100 block of 19th Street, in the 500 block of Abrams, in the 900 block of Willia and in the 2300 block of Wasson.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 600 block of State.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 500 block of Abrams.
- **UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS DRUG** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 600 block of 16th Street.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the area of North Highway 87. Two people were transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Albrook. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Northeast 10th Street. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Utah. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Ann Drive. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of West Second Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1100 block of Gregg Street. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 900 block of Eubanks. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Birdwell Lane. Service was refused.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1100 block of Gregg Street. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2200 block of Morrison. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of State. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 600 block of Linda Lane. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Val Verde. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of Frazier. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 5300 block of Ratliff. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 5300 block of Ratliff Road. Service was refused.

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## Sheriff's report

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

- **LORI MASSINGILL**, 39, was arrested Friday on a charge of theft by check.
- **SUNDAY CAEPREZ LUNA**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **JESSE WYATT COLEGROVE JR.**, 38, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
- **ANDREW LAWRENCE RAMIREZ**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **ALLEN JOE DARDEN**, 41, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify - giving false information and displaying a fictitious inspection certificate.
- **TERRANCE LASHON ESSIX**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of theft and possession of a dangerous drug.
- **MELISSA GAY YOUNG**, 37, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of open alcohol container, criminal mischief, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct - language.
- **JASON DALTON**, 23, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of theft of services and criminal mischief at a place of burial.
- **MICHAEL A. HERNANDEZ**, 33 was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **ELADIO ZUBIATE**, 29, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of failure to identify - giving false information, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction and no liability insurance.
- **PAMELA KAY LEFLER**, 43, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated - second offense and driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **CRYSTAL NICOLE LOPEZ**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and possession/delivery of drug paraphernalia.
- **JOHNNY ANCHONDO**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug and tampering to fabricate physical evidence.
- **JEREMIAS YHARTE**, 23, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid/suspended.
- **ROY DWIGHT BIDDLE III**, 45, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **CHARLES DEVORICK HALL**, 31, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **ALISHA FAY MCGEE**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of bail jumping and failure to appear.
- **PABLO MORENO**, 28, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of racing on the highway.
- **ABEL GOMEZ**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **MARK ANTHONY HICKMAN JR.**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **BILLY BOB ALVARADO**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief - family violence and assault Class C - family violence.
- **ROSALINDA FLORES**, 41, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of criminal mischief and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- **JOHN E. SANDERS**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **BILLY WAYNE ALDRIDGE JR.**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of theft and evading arrest or transportation.

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 22-25-29-36-44-50.  
Number matching six of six: 0.  
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$7 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 4-8-26-30-37.  
Number matching five of five: 0.  
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 4-1-2

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1481-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811  
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# BENEFIT COOKOFF



Mike Lindsey prepares some barbecued brisket for serving at a cookoff sponsored by the local American Legion post, the Cossacks Motorcycle Club and the Eagles Lodge Saturday afternoon. Proceeds from the cookoff benefited the VA Medical Center's Veteran's Television Fund.

# Dallas police chief reflects on two years rebuilding department

By JULIA GLICK

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Besmirched by scandal, beset by racial tension and ranked first in big-city crime, Dallas' police department faced the need for reinvention more than renovation.

Police Chief David Kunkle, picked two years ago to rebuild the department, has improved the almost 3,000-officer force even as it continues to struggle.

Since June, Kunkle has fired 14 officers for misconduct, bringing the total to more than 30 since he took office. The firings range from two officers accused of drunken driving to an officer accused of stealing tires from the police impound lot.

"Kunkle has improved on what he took over two years ago," said Alex del Carmen, a criminology professor at the University of Texas at Arlington. "He is slowly but surely chipping away at the old culture of the Dallas Police Department."

Kunkle, once Dallas' youngest captain and an ex-police chief of nearby Arlington, took over the troubled department from Terrell Bolton, the city's first black police chief.

Bolton was fired in 2003 following a four-year tenure plagued by poor management, costly discrimination lawsuits by demoted white commanders and a 2001 scandal in which dozens of immigrants were wrongly arrested after police informants planted fake drugs on them.

Kunkle immediately restructured the depart-

ment, demoting three top chiefs and firing officers involved in the fake-drug scandal. He banned the use of a neck hold, which led to a suspect's death and community uproar before he took office.

He also helped lower crime in the sprawling city of about 1.2 million. Dallas still tops the FBI list of crime-ridden metropolises, but rates dropped in every category last year, including a nearly 20 percent decline in murders.

Dallas ranked No. 1 in burglaries in 2005, according to the FBI. To reduce the rate, Kunkle began requiring officers to respond to burglary scenes rather than just taking reports over the phone.

The department also adopted the CompStat model of policing developed in the 1990s under New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Police Commissioner Bill Bratton. Dallas commanders now meet daily and weekly to examine statistics and pinpoint crime hotspots. Kunkle assigned 60 officers last year to "Operation Disruption," a unit that floods problem areas for days to disrupt criminal activity and make arrests.

Despite the successes, Lt. Malik Aziz, president of the Black Police Association, questions some of the chief's firings and the department's commitment to recruiting more black and Latino officers.

One officer was let go after he failed to report that another officer, who was also fired, threatened a television reporter fol-

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## COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1  
play a game. It's that 'rate game' that we do every single time where these people are saying they need a rate that's higher than what they actually need, and then they adjust it down almost every single time."  
"The legislation, as we understand it, is for infrastructure, meaning pipes and those types of things. What we're seeing in the Atmos filing is \$1,000 chairs and \$4,000 personal

computers. I don't know exactly what those kinds of things are."

Also on the Tuesday agenda are:

- Final reading of a resolution electing to become eligible to participate in a tax abatement program in accord with the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act and adopting guidelines and criteria to govern tax abatements.

- Final reading of a resolution electing to become eligible to participate in a tax abatement program in

accord with the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act and adopting guidelines and criteria to govern tax abatements.

- Final reading of a grant application with the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission for a regional solid waste grant and authorization for the city manager to purchase a rotary tiller and tracking equipment with the funds.

- Final reading of an ordinance amending existing electric franchise

ordinance to provide a different payment schedule and providing an extension of the franchise terms.

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing the purchase of property from Howard County, trustee for all taxing entities.

The council is expected to discuss award of the bid for the city's water line project and elect a Mayor Pro-Tem during the meeting.

The council is also expected to entertain the first reading of an ordi-

nance amending Chapter 14 of the Big Spring City Code by adding Article 4, entitled "Sex Offenders," making it unlawful for certain sex offenders to reside within 1,000 feet of premises where children gather.

According to McEwen, the item was passed on during the last council meeting until more information on the matter could be gathered.

The meeting will get underway Tuesday at 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](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

## METERS

Continued from Page 1  
city's water system, which includes the automatic meter reading system. Approximately 60 percent of the savings we've projected will come from this system at an annual rate of approximately \$397,000 a year. This is accomplished through more accurate meter reading."  
Walker said replacement of residential meters is expected to take approximately 15 minutes to complete, while commercial meters could take between one and four hours, depending on the conditions of the job site.  
"We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause our customers and ask them to be patient as we work to make the transition to radio-read meters as quickly and smoothly as possible," said Walker.

Public Works Director Todd Darden said the upgrades made to the city's water system may leave some customers less than pleased — at least at first.

"I've talked with cities

that have put this type of system in, and they said the only complaint they get is from people whose meters weren't being read or weren't reporting correctly, and now they have to pay for what they are

actually using," said Darden. "However, in the end their bills will average out and be more steady because they will be read every time."

Walker said questions regarding the meter replacement program

should be directed to the city water department by calling 264-2542.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

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## EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
PublisherJohn A. Moseley  
Managing EditorBill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

A tough time  
for those who  
represent us

It will soon be one of the most excruciating times of the year for elected officials anywhere — that time when every entity which collects taxes, fees and other assessments is tasked with forming a budget for the coming fiscal year.

It means hours and hours of meetings with managers, financial officers and department heads in an effort to accomplish what sometimes seems all but impossible.

Some of it is projection based on past history: How much water will city customers use? How many more miles can the school district rely on an aging 74-passenger bus? Will sales tax rebates remain steady? Will an air conditioning unit that supplies cool air to 150 students or 60 employees last one more year?

When needs are identified, they must be prioritized. Then choices must be made, based on revenue expectations.

We don't envy those who have to make these decisions — our public schools and college boards, city council members and county commissioners. At the same time they are the individuals elected to represent us and we expect them to make these decisions with us in mind.

That's not easy, because we are all different individuals who live in different neighborhoods. For some, resurfacing the street in front of our home is of paramount importance. Others see water quality as a big issue.

If we have children in school, public education seems to have more importance.

If we are on a limited budget, it's important that we don't have to endure a tax increase.

Our elected representatives have to take all of that into consideration and make the best decisions they can — sometimes with very limited resources.

That seems to almost always be the case for most of the taxing entities in Howard County.

We here at the *Herald* are like most, we want those representatives to search hard for ways to cut costs and improve services. After all, everyone wants more for less, don't they?

Rarely is that possible.

As a result, we all have to be realistic. Therefore, we encourage the general public to be tolerant in the days and weeks ahead, and to remember that those representatives are faced with a very difficult and quite often thankless task.

We don't envy them one bit. We do, however, thank them for their service and think there is no better time than to let them know they are appreciated for the job they do for all of us.

## 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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You have a lot to offer us, Lord, when we ask.

Amen

## All dolled up and no place to go

Hey, why wasn't Hasbro calling me back? For two days I'd been calling the toymakers about the new line of dolls they were planning — ones based on the Pussycats, a burlesque/singing troupe best known for grinding it out in fishnet stockings while singing the joys of group sex.

Astronaut Barbies they ain't.

Then word came that the reason Hasbro hadn't wanted to chat was because its executives were panting too hard to talk on the phone.

Wait. No. That's not right. It's more like a light bulb popped up above their heads, flashing: BAD IDEA! PUBLIC RELATIONS NIGHTMARE! PARENT GROUPS ALREADY LAUNCHING A LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN MAKING US LOOK LIKE THE LARRY FLYNT OF TOYS! So instead of giving G.I. Joe the doll of his dreams, the company canned the whole project.

"Hasbro will not move forward with the line of dolls based on the recording group, The Pussycat Dolls," came the official e-mail. Why not? Because the Pussycats and their record label "are focused

on a much older target than we had anticipated at the time of our original discussions."

Excuse me — were those original discussions held in Ken's convertible or here in the real world? Because if they were anywhere within reach of reality, how is it that the execs had never seen pictures of the Dolls in their scanties? How can it be they never heard the lyrics to their songs, like "Buttons," wherein the girls beg their boyfriend to undress them?

Believe me, those execs knew exactly what the Pussycats represented. That's why they signed them. They wanted a racy line of dolls because they saw that the doll department was getting racier by the day.

Look at Bratz — the No. 1 selling doll in America. Bratz left Barbie in the dust by dressing like little Paris Hiltons. Their pouts gleam with lip gloss. Their eyes peek out from lashes longer than their skirts.

If hussies are selling, Hasbro must've figured, we'll out-hussy the best of them!

What those execs hadn't realized was that there is a line you don't cross. Bratz may be brazen, but they aren't based on real women with real MTV air time who really sing on a real beer ad, "Don't cha wish your girlfriend was hot like

me? Don't cha wish your girlfriend was a freak like me? Don't cha wish your girlfriend was raw like me?"

Aw, don't cha wish your 6-year-old was dancing around the living room, chirping about carnal knowledge?

Nope. You don't. That's why the Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood and Dads and Daughters started their letter-writing initiative on May 22 and won their victory just days later.

What Hasbro might not realize at the moment is that this probably saved them not only their reputation, but a bundle of dough, too.

It may look like girls want sleazy dolls, but they don't. They want dolls who look like the coolest people on Earth — teenagers. And teenagers just happen to dress sleazy. So basically little girls want dolls that look like high school students with terrible taste in clothes — not modern-day strippers.

For now, it looks like they're in luck.

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist at *The New York Daily News* (Lskenazy@nydailynews.com).

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## Tobacco and public health policy

It is hard to believe today, but less than 100 years ago it was not uncommon to see a physician in an advertisement promoting the medical benefits of smoking cigarettes. The presence of someone in a white coat plugging different brands of cigarettes is indicative of how the tobacco industry uses imagery to convey messages to the public. These persuasive messages assure people that cigarettes must not be that bad and could actually be beneficial to their health.

These advertisements gave the public reassurances that a particular brand of cigarette could decrease throat irritations through their "toasting" process and could also help women stay slim. Advertisements included one for Camel cigarettes that stated "more doctors smoke Camels than any other cigarettes," and for Lucky Strike cigarettes that said, "20,679 physicians say 'Luckies are less irritating.'"

How times have changed since the first Surgeon General's report in 1964 linked the use of tobacco to medical illness. The American public and the healthcare establishment are now well aware of the health risks that are posed by smoking. In 1982, the Surgeon General's Report stated, "Cigarette smoking is the major single cause of cancer mortality in the United States." The knowledge that tobacco is a public health problem has had an effect on our nations' public health policy.

According to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer is the most preventable form of cancer death in our society and is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States for both men and women.

In those individuals that use tobacco, there is an increased risk of cancer of the oral cavity, nasal cavities, larynx, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, liver, pancreas, kidney, bladder, uterine cervix and myeloid leukemia.

While it is assumed that cancer is the leading cause of smoking related deaths, this is not the case. The American Heart Association has noted that 42 percent of smoking related deaths are caused by cardiovascular disease. Cancer deaths are 36 percent and lung dis-

ease accounts for 21 percent of total deaths from smoking.

With the increased awareness of the dangers of smoking, how many people continue to smoke in the United States? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there were 44.5 million adults smoking in the United States in 2004. This reflects 23.4 percent of men and 18.5 percent of women in the U.S. who use tobacco regularly.

Because of the recognized dangers of tobacco use, the Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) was created under the CDC in 1978. Some of the tasks the OSH is charged with include developing and coordinating efforts to prevent tobacco use by American youth, promoting smoking cessation among youth and adults and protecting nonsmokers from secondhand smoke.

An important public health question regarding the use of tobacco is secondhand smoke. This is an issue that is increasingly becoming an important public policy issue at both the state and local government levels.

The CDC defines secondhand smoke as "a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning end of tobacco products (sidestream smoke) and the smoke exhaled by smokers (mainstream smoke)." The CDC also states, "people are exposed to secondhand smoke in the home, workplace, and in public venues such as bars, bowling alleys, and restaurants."

In recent years, the American public has become increasingly aware of the dangers of secondhand smoke. The American Cancer Society states that each year, secondhand smoke may be responsible for about 3,000 lung cancer deaths in nonsmoking adults and an additional 35,000 to 40,000 cases of heart disease in people who are not current smokers.

The growing appreciation that secondhand smoke is dangerous is driving public policy considerations of whether smoking should be allowed in public places.

In January 2006, the American Lung Association released the State of Tobacco Control Report Card that reported nine states have banned smoking in all public spaces and workplaces. In this report, the American Lung Association stated that its goal is for all states to become smoke free by 2010. It also reported that 100

municipalities have adopted similar regulations that ban smoking.

Austin had a very visible and public effort to expand its smoking ban. On May 7, 2005, Austin voters narrowly approved a strict smoking ordinance that extends the smoking ban to bars and live music venues. This smoking ban on bars and clubs would be in conjunction with ordinances Austin currently has in place that banned smoking in public places, workplaces and restaurants.

Although the language in their ordinances may not be as strict as Austin, citizens in other Central Texas cities are considering some type of smoking ban. Besides governmental entities, other institutions are also moving forward in banning smoking. Scott & White Healthcare System in Temple has moved to a complete tobacco-free environment. Scott & White asks that both patients and staff refrain from indoor and outdoor tobacco use while on the property of any Scott & White facility.

With the public consensus that smoking is harmful, some states are using this public disapproval of smoking to raise their state cigarette tax. In 2005, 12 states raised their cigarette taxes. In 2006, Texas raised its cigarette tax to \$1.41 per pack.

The American Cancer Society has estimated that for every \$1 collected in tobacco tax, over \$3 is spent in treating tobacco related disease. Some states do not have their tobacco tax going to health care expenditures, but rather to their state's general revenue. If the higher cost of cigarettes proves to be a successful deterrent, states will probably see a decrease in their cigarette tax revenue, especially if youth do not become addicted to tobacco in the first place and avoid becoming life long tobacco purchasers. The public policy challenge facing the states will then become finding a new tax revenue source to replace the cigarette tax.

We have come a long way since 1964 in recognizing the dangers of smoking and the harmful effects of secondhand smoking. In the years to come, we will see how far the American public will go to encourage tobacco prevention and efforts to limit or eliminate smoking.

Dan Posey is director for government affairs for the Scott & White Healthcare System in Temple.



# Bush meeting with Merkel will highlight growing friendship

By GEORGE GEDDA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — There are still disagreements over such issues as global warming, the death penalty and the U.S.-run prison at Guantanamo Bay, but it is still hard to remember a time when U.S.-German relations were on a sounder footing.

And the good feelings will be on display Thursday when, while en route to the G-8 summit in Russia, President Bush will be the guest of Chancellor Angela Merkel, head of Germany's Christian Democrats, on a visit to her home state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in the former East Germany.

With Prime Minister Tony Blair reduced to lame duck status in Britain and Silvio Berlusconi knocked from power in Italy, Merkel increasingly has emerged as the leader on the continent that Washington most counts on.

"She has been the single most pleasant surprise on the European scene in a long time," says John Hulsman, European affairs expert at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

When it comes to pro-U.S. leaders in Europe, he said, "Angela Merkel finds herself the only game in town."

That may be something of an exaggeration, given the close ties Bush enjoys with some other European leaders, including cycling buddy Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the prime minister of Denmark, whom Bush hosted

at Camp David a month ago.

But among leaders of the larger European countries, Merkel seems to have a clear edge. Brookings Institution associate Helmut Sonnenfeldt, a one-time aide to former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, credits Merkel with defusing Iraq as a sore point in U.S.-German relations.

"She's not fanning those flames the way Gerhard Schroeder used to," says Sonnenfeldt, referring to the previous chancellor.

Merkel was born in Hamburg during the Cold War year of 1954 and later moved to East Germany with her family. As a teen, she showed her disenchantment with her country's communist system by hiding out in school laboratories to lis-

ten to radio broadcasts of West German political speeches.

Anti-war activists in Germany are gearing up to protest Bush's visit, much as they did during his two previous trips to the country. One of Bush's stops will be the northern coastal city of Stralsund, where the local chapter of Germany's Social Democratic party has proclaimed that the president is not welcome.

According to the White House, Bush's visit to Germany "will underscore our two nations' commitment to advancing freedom and prosperity and to strengthening the trans-Atlantic partnership."

Merkel attaches great importance to nurturing the NATO alliance, a position that the administration welcomes. It

also appreciates the German commitment of 2,500 troops to Afghanistan and of security forces to other distant hotspots.

Still, the administration believes the number of troops that Germany can deploy at long distances for extended periods of time is woefully small, given the country's size, wealth and potential. But there is a recognition that Merkel is constrained by a political climate in Germany that rejects greater investments in defense if they mean cuts in cherished social programs.

On Iraq, Merkel has pleased the administration by stressing the need for stability without dwelling on the merits of Bush's decision — hugely unpopular in Germany — to go to war in the first place.

## TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

### Defense expected to finish in Yates case

HOUSTON (AP) — Andrea Yates' attorneys planned to wrap up their case to jurors this week with testimony from a neuropsychologist and an expert on reproductive-related psychiatric disorders.

Dr. George Ringholz, a neuropsychologist who evaluated Yates about six months after she drowned her five children in the bathtub in June 2001, was to continue testifying Monday morning in her capital murder retrial. On Friday he told jurors that Yates was suffering from a delusion and thought killing the children was right.

Yates has again pleaded innocent by reason of insanity. An appeals court overturned her 2002 conviction because erroneous testimony might have influenced the jury.

Her attorneys say Yates suffered from severe postpartum psychosis and did not know that killing 6-month-old Mary, 2-year-old Luke, 3-year-old Paul, 5-year-old John and 7-year-old Noah was wrong.

### Shrinking town forces church to close

ROCHESTER, Texas (AP) — On its 100th birthday Sunday, a church in this shrinking West Texas town celebrated in a somber way — by closing its doors forever.

The First United Methodist Church and its five regular worshippers, some of who remember when it was hard to get a seat on Sunday mornings, held the church's last service in the town that's dwindled to less than 400 residents and had to consolidate its tiny school district with nearby Haskell last year.

Nearly 50 people were there for the final service. "The service was wonderful," Elaine Ballard, who joined the congregation shortly after moving to Rochester in the 1940s but has since moved to Rotan, said in a story in Monday's Abilene Reporter-News. She came back for Sunday's service. "I just can't help but cry about it."

As part of the service, several people spoke of their memories. Some recalled being baptized or married there.

### Bastrop park works to expel black vultures

BASTROP (AP) — Officials will close a Lake Bastrop park this week while they work to reduce the population of black vultures, which are an increasing annoyance with their habit of scratching vehicles and picking rubber objects.

Wildlife experts said they will try to scare the birds away but some will probably be shot. Earlier efforts to chase the birds off with canon blasts and goose decoys were unsuccessful.

"We're kind of really down to our last option here," said Bill McCann, spokesman for the Lower Colorado River Authority, which operates the North Shore

Park. "We're not out there to eliminate them, but we are going to try to reduce their numbers."

The population of carion-eating black vultures began to increase about five years ago, McCann said, and now there are a few hundred of them.

### First black woman wins Miss Texas pageant

FORT WORTH (AP) — Shilah Phillips has been crowned Miss Texas and will be the first black woman to represent the Lone Star state in the Miss America pageant.

The 24-year-old Frisco woman won the title Saturday night.

Phillips' mother, Janie Nicol of Plano, said her daughter's victory came as no surprise to friends and relatives.

"We knew she had it in her, but we didn't know when the world was going to see it," Nicol said.

Phillips, an aspiring music student who auditioned unsuccessfully for the "American Idol" talent contest, said that loss would only work to her advantage on a Miss America pageant-centered reality television show, which will film contestants living together in a group setting.

"I'm very excited about it because I have reality TV experience," she said. "I was actually kicked off 'American Idol,' so I'm looking forward to Miss America."

Phillips won the Miss Texas title on her first try. She won the talent and swimsuit competitions during preliminaries last week. She performed a Whitney Houston song for the talent category.

The Miss America reality show will be broadcast on the CMT network in January before the pageant, and viewers will have the chance to vote for finalists. Miss Woodlands Molly Hazlett was first runner-up in the Miss Texas pageant. Shea Yarborough, Miss Southlake, was second runner-up. Brooke Webster, Miss Houston, was chosen third runner-up and Heather Hodges, Miss Plano, was fourth runner-up.

Others in the top 10 were Miss Central Texas, Brooks Dennard; Miss Concho Valley, Madison Emert; Miss East Texas, Melissa Griffin; Miss Lufkin, Adrianna Nelson; and Miss Texarkana, Dawn Hughes.

### Judge sets October deadline in drowning suit

FORT WORTH (AP) — Defendants hoping to avoid liability in the drownings of four Chicago tourists at a downtown park must file requests to be dropped from a lawsuit by October, a state district judge has ruled.

Families of the victims, who were killed at Fort Worth Water Gardens in 2004 when a young girl fell in a pool and the others jumped in after her, sued the city and several companies who helped design and create the circulating water system that was not meant for swimming.

State District Judge Len Wade set the October deadline after earlier releasing Lineback Construction Co. and design consultant David Kent from the suit. Both

had argued that their work had no connection to the strong currents at the Active Pool, which was about 9 feet deep when the four drowned.

Other defendants, which include architects and engineers among the 20 named entities, are also seeking to be dropped. The city has already settled with the families for \$750,000.

Killed were Myron Dukes, 39; his daughter, Lauren, 8; his son, Christopher, 13; and family friend Juantrice Deadmon, 11.

All were members of Chicago's Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and were in town attending a religious convention. Some of the children intended to dangle their feet in the cool water at the 5.4-acre park when one girl slipped into the Active Pool.

Among those seeking to be dropped from the suit is Downtown Fort Worth Inc., which was part of a committee aimed at attracting more visitors to the downtown landmark. Its hearing is scheduled for Aug. 17.

In the Active Pool, water flows down several long steps, creating waterfalls that empty into the pool of water that is recirculated through a drain at the bottom. Smaller, dry steps over the waterfalls lead down to the edge of the pool.

The drownings were the first at the Water Gardens since the downtown park opened in 1974.

## Contract Bridge

### Famous Hand

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ A Q 10 9 2  
♥ 10 7 5 3  
♦ 7 5  
♣ 2

WEST  
♠ J 7 5 4  
♥ 6  
♦ A 10 8  
♣ A K 10 9 5

EAST  
♠ K 8 6  
♥ K Q  
♦ Q 6 4 3 2  
♣ Q J 7

SOUTH  
♠ A 10 8 4 2  
♥ K J 9  
♦ 8 6 4 3

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1♦ 2♦ 2♥ 4♥

Opening lead: ace of clubs.

Italy won its first Bermuda Bowl since 1975 in the 2005 World Championship held in Estoril, Portugal, last fall. The Italians — Norberto Bocchi, Giorgio Duboin, Alfredo Versace, Lorenzo Lauria, Claudio Nunes and Fulvio Fantoni — captured the title by defeating their perennial rivals, the United States, by 18 IMPs in the 128-board final. A total of 22 teams began the event and went through a lengthy round robin (21 20-board matches) that reduced the field to eight teams prior to beginning head-to-head knockout matches.

In the final, the Americans — Bob Hamman, Paul Soloway, Jeff Meck-

stroth, Eric Rodwell, Nick Nickell and Richard Freeman — were ahead at the half by 31 IMPs, but lost the lead over the next 48 boards to trail by 9 going into the last 16 boards. In this deal from the final set, the Italians exercised excellent judgment at both tables to gain 12 IMPs.

At the first table, Versace and Laura quickly reached four hearts as shown with only 15 high-card points in the combined hands. Versace's two-diamond bid indicated both majors, and East's heart bid, in effect bidding one of North's suits, showed values and implied club support. After South's four-heart bid, Meckstroth, East, showed fine judgment of his own by not doubling this contract despite holding 13 high-card points opposite his partner's opening bid.

Rodwell began by cashing the ace of clubs and ace of diamonds, after which declarer could not lose more than a heart trick to score 620 points. Even if Rodwell had not cashed the diamond ace at trick two, declarer was virtually certain to guess the winning play in diamonds — finessing the jack — when the time came later in the play.

At the other table, the U.S. North-South pair was never in the bidding, and Nunes-Fantoni stopped on a dime in three clubs despite holding 25 points in the combined hands. Three clubs made exactly, giving the Italians another 110 points to add to their 620 at the first table.

Tomorrow: A very valuable signal.  
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## DALLAS

Continued from Page 3

lowing a story about two officers sleeping on the job. Kunkle dismissed another officer for sending a nasty e-mail to a community activist.

The terminations come at a time when the force needs about 600 officers to meet the department's staffing goals and struggles to pay competitive salaries, but Kunkle said they were necessary.

"I want people to believe in Dallas police officers again and them to believe in themselves," Kunkle said in a recent interview at police headquarters.

Aziz balanced his criticism by saying one of Kunkle's biggest assets is skillful diplomacy, which has gained him city hall support and the trust of the community.

The Dallas City Council has agreed to give more money to public safety and to fund 50 new officers each year as the department tries to reach its hiring goal.

Kunkle also calmed troubled relations among several police unions by bringing them together for monthly meetings,

Aziz said. He added that Kunkle maintains an open-door policy for union officials.

"He has given us an ear and a voice," Aziz said. "At times, we have agreed, and at times we have agreed to disagree."

Kunkle said he wants his success measured in hard crime statistics. Clear goals and rules must replace an old system in which officers did their job well because they wanted to, not because they had to, he said.

"The consultant that looked at the department basically said that every management system was either broken or nonexis-

tent," Kunkle said of the department he inherited. "Accountability procedures had been put on the back shelves for five years."

Unlike his predecessors, Kunkle personally hears all serious disciplinary proceedings against officers. He's heard more than 400 since he took office.

"I thought it would reduce appeals on the part of the offenders and give them a feeling that they got a chance to tell their side," he said.

Kunkle's soft-spoken and unassuming demeanor frequently disarms would-be critics, too.

Mary Watkins, a 77-year-old activist in crime-infested South Dallas, said she was surprised when the chief met with her in person shortly after taking office. She now sits down with him about twice a month, e-mails him and has the ear of her neighborhood patrol officers, she said.

When she complained about a nearby crack house two months ago, police drove out the dealers and addicts within two weeks, she said. "When Chief Kunkle came in, it got better," Watkins said. "It is more comfortable, crime is down in our neighborhood."



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# Exam time: check it out

By **JULIE DEARDORFF**

Chicago Tribune  
Men have a well-earned reputation for tuning up their car more frequently than their bodies. But regular checkups and screenings at the appropriate age can help prevent equipment deterioration and malfunction. Though guidelines vary depending on the source, here's when to get your jalopy into the doctor's office.

**Ages 18 to 39**

Physical: Every three years  
Blood pressure: Annually  
Tuberculosis skin test: Every five years  
Blood tests and urinalysis: Every three years (testing for cholesterol, diabetes, kidney and thyroid dysfunction)  
Electrocardiogram (EKG): At age 30  
Tetanus booster: Every 10 years  
Rectal exam: Annually  
Testicular, skin, oral and breast self-exams: Every month  
Skin health: Monthly mole self-exam beginning at age 20; then see a doctor every three years  
Oral health: One to two dental exams a year.  
Hearing test: Beginning at age 18; then every 10 years  
Eye exam: When experiencing problems or visual changes

**Ages 40 to 49**

Physical: Every two years  
Blood pressure: Every year  
Tuberculosis skin test: Every five years  
Blood tests and urinalysis: Every two years (cholesterol, diabetes, kidney and thyroid dysfunction)  
Electrocardiogram (EKG): Every four years  
Rectal exam: Annually  
Prostate exam: PSA blood test starting at age 45 if you're African-American or a father or brother was diagnosed before age 65, according to the American Cancer Society. Men at even higher risk, due to multiple first-degree relatives affected at an early age, could begin testing at age 40.  
Testicular self-exam: Every month  
Skin health: Monthly mole self-exam; see a doctor every year  
Oral health: See the dentist once or twice a year  
Hearing test: Every 10 years  
Eye exam: Every two to four years

**Ages 50 to 64**

Physical: Annually  
Blood pressure: Annually  
Tuberculosis skin test: Annually  
Blood tests and urinalysis: Annually (cholesterol, diabetes, kidney and thyroid dysfunction)  
Electrocardiogram (EKG): Every three years  
Rectal exam: Annually  
Tetanus booster: Every 10 years

Prostate exam: Annually (PSA blood test and digital rectal examination, according to the American Cancer Society. The American Academy of Family Physicians disagrees.)  
Testicular, skin, oral and breast self-exams: Every month  
Skin health: Monthly mole self-exam; see a doctor every year  
Oral health: See the dentist once or twice a year  
Bone health: Screening at age 60  
Hearing test: Every three years  
Eye exam: Every two to four years  
Colon and rectal exams: Starting at age 50, the American Cancer Society (and AAFP) suggests following one of five schedules: Yearly fecal occult blood test (FOBT) or fecal immunochemical test (FIT); flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years; yearly FOBT or FIT, plus flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years; double-contrast barium enema every five years; colonoscopy every 10 years. All positive tests should be followed up with colonoscopy.

**Age 65 and older**  
Eye exam: Every one to two years  
Abdominal aortic aneurysm: One-time screening for men who have smoked  
Hearing: Every three years  
When it comes to screening guidelines, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) don't always see agree with the medical establishment. So check with your doctor.

*Sources: Men's Health Network, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Cancer Society, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.*

## Living Well



By **Kori Myers**

### Congestive heart failure

**C**ongestive heart failure (CHF) means your heart cannot pump enough blood to meet your body's needs. Though the name of the condition sounds as though the heart is no longer working, it simply means the heart is not working as effectively as it should.

Each side of the heart is made up of two chambers: the atrium and the ventricle. The atrium takes blood into the heart and the ventricle pumps it where it needs to go. CHF occurs when any of these chambers lose their ability to keep up with the amount of blood flow.

Left-sided heart failure involves the heart's left ventricle. If the left ventricle loses its ability to pump normally, the heart cannot pump with enough force to push enough blood into circulation. If the ventricle loses its ability to relax normally because the muscle has become stiff, the heart cannot properly fill with blood during the resting period between each beat. In either case, blood coming into the left chamber from the lungs may "back up," causing fluid to leak into the lungs, a condition called pulmonary edema.

The right atrium receives the "used" blood that returns to the heart through the veins. When the right side loses pumping power, blood backs up in the body's veins. This usually causes swelling in the legs and ankles.

Heart failure typically does not occur suddenly — it develops slowly, over time. The term "congestive" comes from the fact that as either or both of the heart's chambers fail, blood backs up into the liver, abdomen, lower limbs and lungs.

Common signs and symptoms of congestive heart failure may include:

- Fatigue and weakness
- Shortness of breath when you exert yourself or when you lie down
- Persistent cough or wheezing
- Swelling in your legs, ankles and feet
- Swelling of your abdomen
- Sudden weight gain from fluid retention
- Lack of appetite and nausea
- Irregular or rapid heartbeat

Using a stethoscope, your health provider can listen to your lungs for sounds of congestion. The stethoscope also picks up abnormal heart sounds that may suggest heart failure. Your health provider may recommend one or more tests to diagnose heart failure, including a chest x-ray, electrocardiogram (EKG), echocardiogram and cardiac catheterization, among others. Your health provider may also refer you to a cardiologist, a doctor who specializes in the heart and its function.

Congestive heart failure is treatable in most cases. Your health provider will initially try to treat the underlying diseases or conditions, such as high blood pressure or diabetes, which are causing your heart failure. The treatment for heart failure may include:

**Lifestyle Changes:** Follow a diet low in salt. Limit the amount of fluids that you drink. Weigh yourself every day and let your doctor know right away if you have a sudden weight gain. Exercise as directed to help build up your fitness level and ability to be more active.

**Medications:** Your health provider may prescribe medicines to help improve your heart function and symptoms. The main medicines are diuretics to help reduce fluid buildup in your lungs and swelling in your feet and ankles, ACE inhibitors to lower blood pressure and reduce the strain on your heart, beta blockers to slow your heart rate and

lower your blood pressure to decrease the workload on your heart, Digoxin to make the heart beat stronger and pump more blood.  
Surgery: If you have very severe heart failure, you may be considered for a mechanical heart pump or heart transplant.

attention to your body and how you feel and tell your health provider when you are feeling better or feeling worse.  
Remember: "Raising kids, eating right, spending smart, living well."  
For more information on this topic contact the Texas Cooperative Extension Howard County Office at 432-264-2236.

*Kori Myers, M.Ed., is the Cooperative Extension Service Family and Consumer Services agent for Howard County. She can be reached at krm Myers@ag.tamu.edu*

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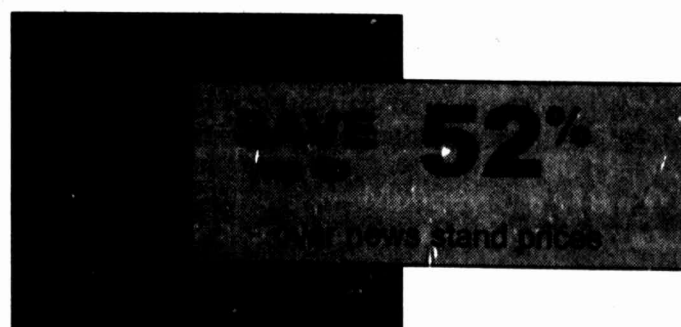
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# Sports

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Page 7  
Monday, July 10, 2006

## BRIEF

**Cotton Miss Park**  
The first-ever Ball Busters Softball Tournament will take place Saturday and Sunday at Cotton Miss Field inside of Comanche Trail Park. The tourney costs \$125 per team and trophies and T-shirts will be awarded to the top three teams. There is also a six home run limit. For more information, contact Amador Rios at 432-486-1128, Pete Carrillo at 432-816-1245 or Abel Rios at 432-213-2115.

**BSHS announces softball camp for middle of July**  
Big Spring head softball coach Jennifer Reyes, along with her assistant coaches, will be having a softball skills camp Monday through Friday. The camp will run from 8 a.m. to noon daily and is for first through ninth graders. It also costs \$25 per participant. For more information, call 263-8527 or 270-2711.

**Forsan sets all-skills tennis camp for this week**  
Forsan High School has announced an all-skills tennis camp will take place Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at the Forsan High School tennis courts. The camp is open to junior high and high school students. It costs \$25 for junior high players and \$35 for high school players and each participant will receive a new can of tennis balls. The camp for junior high players will go from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on all four days and high school players will go from 7:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. For more information, contact coach Eggleston at 267-6913 or 432-517-0749.

**Hunter education course scheduled**  
A hunter education class has been scheduled for July 22-23 at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce building. The cost of the class, which will be held at 8 a.m. each day, is \$15 per person. All persons born after Sept. 1, 1971, who want to hunt in Texas are required to successfully complete the course. Successful completion of the course is good in all 50 states, as well as Canadian provinces and Mexican states which require hunter education. For more information or to register, contact Steve Polivint at 264-7033 during the evening hours.

## Pena named distinguished academic all-American

**Hawk women among best team, too**  
By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

Former Howard College women's basketball player Jennifer Pena was recently named a National Junior College Athletic Association distinguished academic all-American, according to the association's Web site. Pena, who graduated from Howard College this



PENA

past spring, carried a cumulative grade point average of 3.90 while at the school. She has two years of basketball eligibility left and will play at the University of Missouri at Rolla this coming year. To be a distinguished academic all-American, one must carry a cumula-

tive grade point average of at least 3.80.

"To me, being a student is their No. 1 job because that's why they are here," said Howard women's head coach Earl Diddle. "She was a tremendous student and she ultimately knew her job was to be great in the classroom. Jen is the type of student-athlete we want at Howard College."

As much as Pena worked in the classroom to be a great student,

Diddle said the college played a large role in her academic success as well.

"Howard has a good support system," Diddle added. "The school should get some credit. It's a college award really, but Jen supplied the biggest part of it."

The women's basketball team at Howard was also listed among the NJCAA spring 2006 academic teams of the year with a team grade point average of 3.09.

"That is a shared achievement," said Diddle. "We all, from the players, coaches, teachers and staff at Howard, have to play our parts in that."

To be eligible for nomination to the academic team of the year, the team's grade point average has to be at least 3.00. The nation's top academic team was Northern Oklahoma College, which finished with a team grade point average of 3.66.

## Little League legend honored at reception

By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

It was not just any birthday. It was Johnny Hobbs' 80th birthday and several wanted to help celebrate the event with him.

Hobbs, who coached little league baseball in Big Spring for 40 years beginning in 1951, was surprised with a party at Comanche Trail Park Saturday afternoon. And nearly 100 family, friends and former players joined him.

"I was surprised," said Hobbs. "It was the biggest surprise I have ever had and that says a lot because I am 80."

What was so special about Hobbs? He was dedicated, taught the game the way it was supposed to be played and loved each and every player he coached. At least that is what a few players at the party said.

"It was all for the kids," said Roddy Caffey, who played for Hobbs from 1963-1965 and went on to play in the minor leagues in Midland. "He was dedicated to making you do things right."

"He knew baseball and this was pretty much his life."

He was coach of the Coca-Cola Colts for much of his career.

That team started out as the Coca-Cola Owls in his first year and then was named the Coca-Cola

Cubs in 1953 before becoming the Colts in 1957.

The Coca-Cola sponsor has been there from the start and will most likely be there forever as long as the American League field remains named after Hobbs.

"He was one fine fella," said Dean Christian, who coached with Hobbs from 192-1974 and was a little league coach for 21 years in all. "He was dedicated and cared about the kids the most."

Hobbs and a few other men started the American League in Big Spring in 1952. In 1956, he helped plan and construct two parks — the American League park at its present location and a National League park, which has since been abandoned.

"I loved baseball and I loved the kids," said Hobbs. "I loved the players like they were my own children really."

Hobbs had only two losing seasons in his little league coaching career. He won five city championships, 23 league championships (tied for another one) and placed second at the 1961 state little league tournament.

"He was a good coach and he made everyone feel like they were a part of the team," said Randy Dickens, who played for Hobbs from 1965-1967. "He's quite the character."

## Zidane booted as Italy takes down France in WC final

BERLIN (AP) — Italy let France do nearly anything it wanted Sunday, except win the World Cup. That belongs to the Azzurri, 5-3, in a shootout after a 1-1 draw.

Outplayed for an hour and into extra time, the Italians won it after French captain Zinedine Zidane was ejected in the 107th for a vicious butt to the chest of Marco Materazzi. It was the ugliest act of a tournament that set records for yellow and red cards, diving and, at times, outright brutality.

It was the last move for Zidane, who is retiring.

Without their leader for the shootout, the French only missed once. But Italy, rarely strong in such situations, made all five. Fabio Grosso clinched the Azzurri's fourth championship, and his teammates had to chase him halfway across the pitch to celebrate.

Only Brazil has more World Cups, five.

### Tennis

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Nobody can stop Roger Federer on grass. No. 1 got even against

No. 2 as Federer ended a five-match losing streak to Rafael Nadal Sunday, winning 6-0, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (2), 6-3 to earn his fourth straight Wimbledon title and eighth Grand Slam championship.

Nadal had beaten Federer in four finals this year, including at the French Open last month, but couldn't match him on the Swiss star's favorite surface.

Not here, not in my house, not on Centre Court, not on the biggest stage in tennis. That was Federer's response to the 20-year-old Spaniard's challenge.

After dropping the third set, the only set he lost all tournament, Federer lifted his game in the fourth to show who's boss.

The milestones keep piling up for the 24-year-old Federer, who strengthens the case for consideration as being among the greatest players of all time.

In winning his 48th consecutive match on grass, he became the third player in the Open era to capture four successive Wimbledon championships, joining Bjorn Borg (five straight from

1976-80) and Pete Sampras (1997-00).

### Golf

LEMONT, Ill. (AP) — Trevor Immelman birdied the 18th hole and held off Tiger Woods and Matthew Goggin to win the Western Open Sunday for his first PGA Tour victory.

Immelman needed to par the 18th to win. Instead, he knocked in a 32-foot putt for a birdie, putting him at 13-under 271 for the tournament — two strokes ahead of Woods and Goggin.

Vijay Singh, the leader through three rounds, was 2 over for the day to fall out of contention. Singh and defending champion Jim Furyk finished at 9 under, along with Tim Clark, Stephen Leaney, Stewart Cink and Carl Pettersson.

Phil Mickelson shot 71 and finished 3 over in his first tournament since the U.S. Open, where a double-bogey on the final hole cost him the championship.

Called the Western Open since 1899, the second-oldest tournament in the U.S. will get a new

young age in a car accident, hit three home runs on that day. One for his father's birthday, one for Hobbs' new daughter and one for himself.

Hobbs said seeing all the faces at the surprise birthday party was great.

"I can't explain it really," said Hobbs. "It's wonderful. I haven't seen most of these guys for a long time. It was supposed to be a night in Midland going to eat Italian food, but this was

a much better birthday."

Hobbs is married to Faye. The couple has three children — Leon, Anita (Cline) and Karen (Henderson).

Hobbs worked for the Cosden (now Alon) Refinery for 38 years and retired at age 55. He said he actually started in 1944, but was drafted into the military.

He was born in Aspermont, but has been in Big Spring for the last 73 years.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Former Big Spring Little League coach Johnny Hobbs, left, hugs one of many guests who was present at the former coach's 80th birthday party at Comanche Trail Park Saturday evening. Hobbs coached little league in Big Spring for 40 years and had just two losing seasons.

name — the BMW Championship — and become part of the PGA Tour's — season-ending series next year. It will be played at Cog Hill in 2007, then rotate out of the Chicago area on alternate years.

Immelman birdied the 15th and 16th holes to go to 13 under. He let out a grin after hitting a 10-foot putt on 16.

The South African, who has four European tour victories, bogeyed 17 but made up for it on the 18th and finished at 4-under-par 67 for the day.

### NASCAR

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — Jeff Gordon spun out Matt Kenseth with four laps to go, then held on to win Sunday's Nextel Cup race at Chicagoland Speedway.

Fans showered the track with debris after the race, an apparent protest of Gordon's racing tactics.

"I hate to win one like that," Gordon said in Victory Lane. "Matt, he ran a great race."

Gordon and Kenseth tangled earlier this year during a race at Bristol Motor Speedway, causing Gordon to shove Kenseth

in a physical confrontation afterward.

Gordon denied that Sunday's finish had anything to do with Bristol.

Gordon said he didn't want to wreck Kenseth, insisting, "I wanted to race him." But he added Kenseth was trying to block him.

"I'm not going to back down," Gordon said. "I wanted to win."

Second-place finisher Jeff Burton, a former teammate of Kenseth's at Roush Racing, initially declined comment because he didn't see what happened.

But after wincing during a television replay, Burton said, "Matt's a hard-nosed racer, and there'll be retribution for that, I'm sure."

Burton said if NASCAR isn't willing to issue rough driving penalties, it will be up to drivers to settle issues on the track.

"If NASCAR doesn't handle it, then we need to handle it," Burton said. "And that's OK."

It was Gordon's first victory at the suburban Chicago track, and his second victory of the 2006 season.



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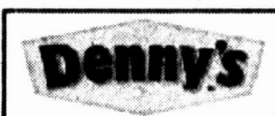
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**THE HOWARD** County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for a part-time dispatcher. Applications are available in the Sheriff's office, 1st floor of the Howard County Courthouse, 300 S. Main St. M-F, 8-5. EOE.

**Help Wanted**

**TRUCK DRIVER** Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person. Helena Chemical Company, 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, Tx 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

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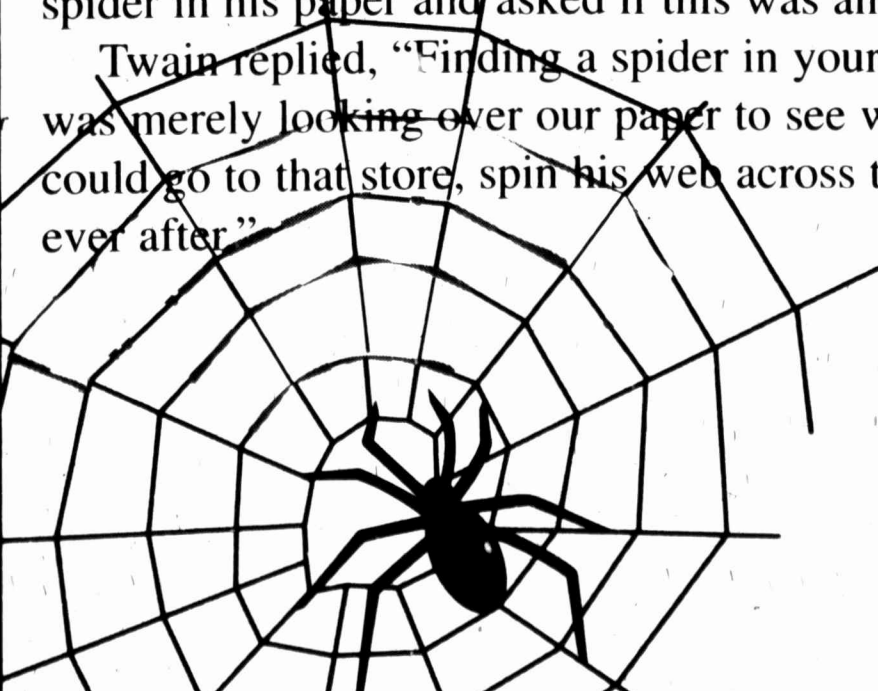
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# The Spider

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

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

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



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**1418 STADIUM.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$385. month, \$200. deposit. **446 ARM-STRONG.** 4 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$435. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)263-1792; 816-9984.

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**Real Estate for Sale**

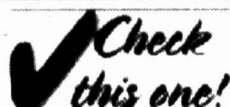
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Real Estate for Sale

**\$29,500. NEWLY** remodeled Duplex: 706 13th Street. East side: 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, central air/heat, washer and dryer connections, new paint/carpet, refrigerator/gas stove. Fenced backyard. Great investment property! Call (432)935-6163.

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**20 ACRES** on Hwy 176. Set up for Mobile Home. 43K. \$4,000.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 28-1/2 years. No Credit Check. (817)312-6322.

**COAHOMA ISD** 2 Bedroom, 1 bath on 1/4 acre corner lot. Asking \$2500.00 OBO. Call (432)238-2294.

**COAHOMA ISD** 2 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath, den, living room, tile & hardwood. Sprinkler system, water well, double garage. Rock construction on .5 acres. Call (432)394-4018.

**CORNER LOT** in Kentwood, 1800 square feet, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, updated. Ready to move-in. \$90's. By Owner. Call for appointment (325)658-7363.

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**OPEN HOUSE!** Sunday, 2:00-4:00, 517 Foster, Coahoma. New home built in February 2006. 3, 2-1/2, fireplace, metal roof, stained concrete floors, .8 acre, Coahoma ISD. Call (432)517-0604, (432)394-4924.

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Vehicles

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**2001 FORD** Power Stroke Diesel. 4x4, 4 door, 130k. Good condition. \$16,500. Call (432)816-9639 or 267-4297.

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Maybe the full moon makes us exaggerate our emotions, or maybe our emotions are just 10 times more passionate under its influence. Either way, the themes of this full moon are responsibility, social standing and what will the neighbors think? Action that is intended to not only fulfill an obligation, but to look fantastic doing it will have special luck.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Self-expression liberates you. You'll have a chance to own up to the good or the bad. Either way, if it's yours, claiming it is lucky. Tonight, an intimate discussion with friends reveals that you're profoundly normal.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Options you hadn't considered are fun to toy with on dreamy days like today. For instance, should you move to a



HOLIDAY MATHIS

foreign country? Buy an exotic pet? Date someone truly eccentric? No, no and no, but imagining is a blast.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). As a rule, you're not big on saving money, but saving a little here and there is better than saving nothing at all. Now, you'll have extra coins to throw into the travel kitty (or home improvement kitty, or party kitty...).

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You sparkle and shine on the career front as your projects take off at a dynamic pace. Even though you're in the thick of it now, start planning your break. Travel will improve your productivity in the long run.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You're a benefactor. Helping others is even more pleasurable than usual because they'll be asking for something you can give with very little effort — and it means so much to them.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Relationships have potential to become closer and more loving today. It's so relaxing to be surrounded by those who

genuinely care. By tonight, heavy feelings have magically lifted.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Invite abundance by getting rid of what you no longer use. If you shop, save receipts and get warranties — you're easily seduced by appearances but could feel differently about your new product next week.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Psychic currents are strong. Though your instinct is correct, powers that be will want evidence to back it up, but don't let it deter you. Helping someone develop their interests is the best thing you can do for yours.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your emphasis on process over results makes you fun to be with and learn from. A child or student blossoms under your tutelage, encouragement and attention. A Pisces is especially responsive.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Relationships are really quite simple if you approach them as such. Your romantic mistakes are forgiven. Loved ones' faults seem

so much more maddening than yours, but you're better off to forgive, too.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're asked to continue waiting. Though it's not in your plan, it's part of a very good plan. Trust that your life is on track. This is an opportunity to keep learning about the amazingly unique individual you are.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Change is the natural state of things in your life now. Through your example, you're once again showing others how to "roll with it." Paying for travel and fun gets expensive. You may even consider selling something.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS:** "My father (born July 24, 1942) and brother (born Aug. 18, 1979) are both Leos, but they're nothing alike. Why is that?"

Although many people share the same sign, other aspects of their chart influence their lives as well. There are 10 planets deposited in varying signs, as well as an ascendant (the first house of the birth chart) and many other factors.

Your father and brother were both born Leos, and the other elements of their charts give them the differing personalities you observe.

Your brother is more the textbook Leo, with the sun, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter all deposited in the sign of the entertainer. He needs to be the center of attention and loves to take responsibility for leading groups into action. His Cancer moon and Mars give him a gentle and sensitive side, softening the sometimes-brusque exterior he displays. Your father is a Leo but with Mercury, Venus and Jupiter all deposited in Cancer. He is a devoted father and husband, with a tendency toward moodiness.

His Sagittarius moon favorably aspects his Leo sun, which helps him pull out of melancholia when it strikes and gives him a friendly and talkative nature when in the company of people he knows well or considers family. Although they're different Leos, they probably get along famously!

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Legals

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals for the following areas:

**Career & Applied Technology Education — Supplies & Equipment and Supplemental Instructional — Supplies & Equipment**

These bids will form a multi-vendor list for instructional personnel to securing supplies, equipment, and contracted services. Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. The school district will begin opening bids on July 24, 2006, in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. The Business Office will continue to receive and open bids through 12:00 noon, August 9, 2006. All bids must be received by 12:00 noon, August 9, 2006. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on August 10, 2006, at 5:15 p.m. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.  
#5017 July 10 & 17, 2006

Annie's Mailbox® : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My husband, "Matt," and I have been married two years. We have a pretty good relationship, don't fight often and make up quickly. Before our wedding, some of Matt's friends hosted a bachelor party for him in Vegas, strippers included. This really upset me. Now, a good friend of his is getting married, and Matt will be attending two bachelor parties. The thought of it makes me angry and worried.

I know it's a trust issue and Matt has never given me any reason to distrust him. Still, I don't know what to do. — P.H. in California

Dear P.H.: Although many women find bachelor parties harmless, our mail indicates a majority have difficulty tolerating their husbands or boyfriends attending events which involve strippers.

We agree that men who deliberately frequent such places show a certain lack of respect for their partners. However, we also realize that guests at bachelor parties do not choose the locale, and it can cause a great deal of resentment if women prevent the men in their lives from attending such celebrations with their friends.

If you trust your husband, talk to him about your concerns and let him know you expect him to behave like a happily married man regardless of the circumstances in which he finds himself. Then take a deep breath and let him go with a smile.

Dear Annie: I am a 32-year-old woman who has gone back to work after 10 years of staying home with my children. My baby just started pre-kindergarten. I was lucky enough to get a job in the school system, so I go to work when the kids do, and I come home with them.

The only problem is, our entire family is having a difficult time adjusting.

My house looks like a tornado went through it, and my car could have been attacked by a whirling dervish. When we need clothes, we always look on the couch or in the dryer. My bills are late for the first time in 11 years of marriage. My husband helps as much as he can, but his job keeps him extremely busy, and sometimes he's away from home for weeks at a time. I've tried better organizing myself, but

things just get more hectic. I am now off for the summer and hoping things will get better, but I know it will just start up again once school begins in the fall. Any suggestions? This is driving me crazy.

Disorganized Career Girl

Dear Career Girl: You are fortunate to have the summer to get it together, but this should be a year-round project. Don't try to do the entire house at once. It's too overwhelming. Start with one room. Set up a list of chores for your children so they can help out and derive satisfaction from being useful. They are not too young to put the dirty clothes in the hamper and the clean ones away, set the table, etc. Also, look into flylady.com, a very helpful website with tips on keeping your home organized.

Dear Annie: I read that vehicular crashes are the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 15 to 20. For the last few decades, just about every car commercial on TV shows a SPEEDING car. Our children grow up watching these ads and think they, too, can zoom down the road like that. Maybe that's why I read about so many accidents where a kid loses control and crashes into a tree, or ends up flying off the side of a mountain. Maybe it's time for automakers to show their vehicles being driven safely. — Cruising in Los Angeles

Dear Cruising: Yes, many automakers sell speed, although movies and TV shows are more apt to glamorize high-speed and the like. As long as people are attracted to velocity, car manufacturers are not likely to stop promoting that feature. So, parents need to talk to their teens about the real life-and-death consequences of speeding and pray they are listening.

Dear Annie: Twelve years ago, my brother (and only sibling) passed away in his early 30s. After much thought and contemplation, my parents decided to execute their

wills, leaving 70 percent of their estates to me, and 10 percent each to my brother's three children. They wanted my brother's children not to be forgotten, and they assumed that I would, in turn, leave my estate evenly divided

between my two daughters, thereby giving something to each of the grandchildren. Since that time, both my parents have passed away. The inheritance, unfortunately, has resulted in a major divide within my small, immediate family. My youngest daughter and her family fully understand. My oldest daughter, "Sheila," and her husband, however, are furious. They want "their money" now. Fueled by negative, ill-informed input from my ex-husband, Sheila has severed all relations with me and her younger sister.

I might add that I am financially comfortable. In the past, I have always been generous and painstakingly fair in my distribution of financial help and gifts to both daughters. However, this situation has left me hurt, spurned and isolated.

Am I wrong for holding to my parents' well-planned and thoughtful wishes? — Isolated on the Great Plains

Dear Isolated: You are not wrong. After all, this is not Sheila's money. It is yours until you pass on. But if keeping it causes you to lose your relationship with Sheila, is it worth it? Being right isn't making you happy. Your parents are gone, and it's your decision now. You can divide the money as planned; you can ignore Selfish Sheila and give the entire inheritance to your younger daughter; or you can give Sheila the money now, let her run through it like a drunken sailor and wash your hands of the aggravation.

Dear Annie: After three long years of trying every method, procedure and injection, I finally became pregnant seven months ago. We were overjoyed and planned our lives around the expected triplets. That all ended two



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ANSWERS

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MONDAY

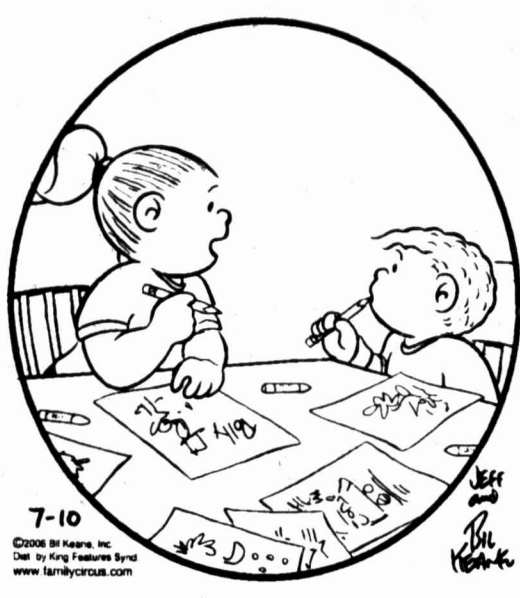
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	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Sci-Fi
6 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Peregrina	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Van Impe Pres Jc'n Hagee	News Lehrer	World Biker Build-Off (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn	Without a Trace (CC)	Live (CC) Holywired	Phil of Future That's-Raven	World Cup Soccer Final	Baseball Tonight	Dark Angel (CC)
7 PM	Wife Swap (CC)	Wife Swap (CC)	La Fea Mas Bella	Half's Kitchen (CC)	King How I Met	Tierra de Pasiones	Treasure Hunters (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update:Israel Charles Scott	Antiques Roadshow	Biker Build-Off (CC)	Movie: The Sting	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Civil Brand (CC)	Movie: The Even Stevens	Teams TBA	2006 Home Run Derby	
8 PM	Supernanny (CC)	Supernanny (CC)	Barrera de Amor	Half's Kitchen (CC)	Two-Half Men How I Met	Amores de Mercado	Treasure Hunters (CC)	Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	History Detectives	American Hot Rod		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn	The Closer (CC)		2005 U.S. Poker		Dark Angel (CC)	
9 PM	How to Get the Guy	How to Get the Guy	Cristina	Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	CSI: Miami (CC)	Decisiones	Medium (CC)	Family Guy		How Art Made the World	American Chopper	Movie: The Great Escape (CC)	Blade: The Series (CC)	Saved (CC)	The Parkers	Natural Sade American Drgn	2005 U.S. Soccer	Softball All-Stars (CC)	Dark Angel (CC)
10 PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Movie: American Pie	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	American Chopper		The Shield (CC)	The Closer (CC)	Jame Foxx That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Quite Frankly With Smith	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Primal Force (CC)
11 PM	Entertainment Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid	Letterman Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night: Conan O'Brien Paid Program	Presents: Band Camp (CC)	CCM Ministries Scrwner	Sign Off	Biker Build-Off (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn	The X-Files (CC)	In Living Color Kim Possible	Phil of Future That's-Raven	2006 Home Run Derby	Baseball Tonight	
12 AM	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Mercury Media	Sonadoras	My Wife-Kids Divorce Court	Show The Insider	Maria Celeste Pagado		Movie: Ready to Rumble	Update:Israel Booker		American Hot Rod		The Dudesons Blind Date	The X-Files (CC)	Comcview (CC)	Sister Sister That's-Raven		SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone

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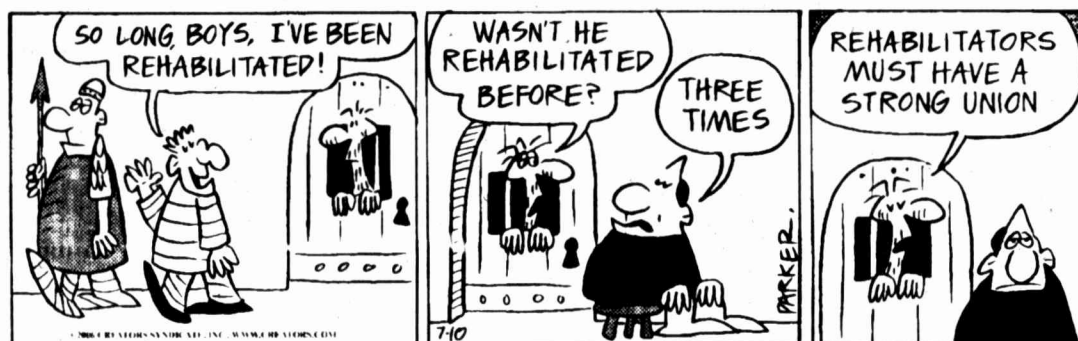
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This Date In History

Today is Monday, July 10, the 191st day of 2006. There are 174 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 10, 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as German forces began attacking southern England by air. On this date: In 1850, Vice President Millard Fillmore assumed the presidency, following the death of President Taylor. In 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state. In 1919, President Wilson personally delivered the Treaty of Versailles to the Senate, and urged its ratification. In 1925, the official news agency of the Soviet Union,

TASS, was established. In 1943, during World War II, U.S. and British forces invaded Sicily. In 1951, armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean conflict began at Kaesong. In 1962, the Telstar communications satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla. In 1973, the Bahamas became independent after three centuries of British colonial rule. In 1985, bowing to pressure from irate customers, Coca-Cola Co. said it would resume selling old-formula Coke, while continuing to sell New Coke. In 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of the Russian republic. Today's Birthdays: "Mr. Wizard" Don Herbert is 89. Eunice Kennedy Shriver is 85. Former boxer Jake LaMotta is 85. Writer-producer Earl Hamner Jr. is 83.

Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins is 79. Actor William Smithers is 79. Broadway composer Jerry Herman is 73. Director Ivan Passer is 73. Actor Lawrence Pressman is 67. Singer Mavis Staples is 67. Actor Mills Watson is 66. Actor Robert Pine is 65. Rock musician Jerry Miller (Moby Grape) is 63. Tennis player Virginia Wade is 61. Actor Ron Glass is 61. Actress Sue Lyon is 60. Folk singer Arlo Guthrie is 59.

Answer to previous puzzle  
BLOSSOM JAVELIN  
RECLINE OREGANO  
ATTIRED LENGTHS  
STATE ILIAD TAI  
HUGS STIES RILE  
ECO APART LACES  
RENOVATE WIDEST  
GORE TACO  
CHERIE BANKNOTE  
LINED BAKES VON  
ELMS TRIED GENT  
ELM POETS VERNE  
NAIVETE ONATEAR  
TREATED FOLIAGE  
SYSTEMS FRIETED

Newsday Crossword

WOODWORK by Gail Grabowski  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- Plane-tracking device
- Explosion sound
- Vicinity
- Wear away
- \_\_ mater
- Short-term worker
- Standoffish
- Rip
- Dolly material
- \_\_ favor, se'nor
- Stock-exchange worker
- Dress smartly
- Emphatic agreement
- Take long steps
- Trim, as expenses
- Desertlike
- Door handle
- "Same here!"
- Look (at)
- Half-off store events
- Go yachting
- Manicurist's board material
- Dust particle
- Competent
- Mine deposits
- Largest mammals
- Nome's state
- Treaty topic
- Poker player's pack
- Baseball great Gehrig
- Female horse
- Sound quality
- Reaches across
- "Now it's clear!"

**DOWN**

- Gather, as crops
- Folk singer Guthrie
- Reward at a raffle
- "Without further \_\_"
- Was a football official, casually
- Bandleader's stick
- Butter substitute
- Sharif of film
- Joan of Arc, for one
- Book of maps
- All set
- Game-show host
- Imitative types
- Onion relatives
- Wind-instrument insert
- Bus passenger
- Wise person
- Airport conveyance
- Short-sleeve shirts
- Aid in a crime
- Identify
- Sir \_\_ Newton
- Mesa
- Kitchen flooring piece
- Bullring cheers
- Assembled, as a skirt
- Ono
- Roof support
- Big bother
- Word on a ticket
- Rental agreement
- Ranchland units
- Clay-pigeon sport
- Use a steam iron
- Windbreaker, for one
- Poker payment
- Fairy-tale beginning
- Computer operator
- Friend

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

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# Mexico's leftist leader files legal challenge seeking total recount

By ISTRAC PACHECO  
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's main leftist party made good on its threat to ask for a ballot-by-ballot recount of the closest presidential election in the country's history, backing up the demand with nine boxes of documents supporting its allegations of fraud.

The 900-page claim, filed late Sunday, alleged that some polling places had more votes than registered voters; that the ruling party funneled government money to Felipe Calderon's campaign, exceeding spending limits; and that a software program was used to skew vote counts.

"We have proof that basic rules were flagrantly violated," said Ricardo Monreal, a representative for leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Mexico's Federal Electoral Court will review the case, which includes videos, campaign propaganda and electoral documents. The court has until Sept. 6 to declare a winner.

The legal challenge came a day after Lopez Obrador, a former Mexico City mayor, held a large rally in Mexico City's historic center and called on his followers to help overturn Calderon's narrow victory. He isn't seeking to annul the July 2 election, but to force authori-

ties to conduct a manual recount of all 41 million ballots.

Electoral officials say the conservative Calderon beat Lopez Obrador by less than 244,000 votes — a margin of just 0.6 percent.

"This was a very irregular election and we are asking that they count vote by vote to legitimize the president-elect," said Gerardo Fernandez, a spokesman for Lopez Obrador's Democratic Revolution Party. "We won't recognize Calderon's triumph unless they legitimize the election."

Lopez Obrador's claims include allegations that President Vicente Fox used government funds to support Calderon, the candidate of Fox's conservative National Action Party.

Fox has denied interfering in the elections, and election monitors from the European Union said they found no irregularities in the vote count.

But fraud allegations strike a sensitive nerve with many Mexicans. They question whether Mexico has overcome decades of institutional corruption that favored the Institutional Revolutionary Party for 71 years until it lost the presidency to Fox in 2000.

Lopez Obrador has stoked those fears. On Saturday, he accused the respected Federal Electoral Institute, held

up as an example to emerging democracies around the world, of being a "pawn of the party of the right."

Turning to his charges that Fox unfairly aided Calderon, he said the popular president "dedicated himself to attacking us and ended up being a complete traitor of democracy."

Fox has stayed out of the public eye for two weeks in an effort to avoid accusations that he was meddling in the debate.

Calderon has said the

vote was clean and has taken congratulatory phone calls from President Bush and the leaders of Canada, Spain and Colombia, among others — despite Lopez Obrador's plea for foreign governments to hold off on recognizing the result.

Legal challenges were built into Mexico's elections process in recent years to help ensure clean elections, so Calderon can't be declared president-elect until the electoral court weighs allegations of fraud or unfair campaign practices.

The law allows a manual recount only for polling places where credible evidence of irregularities exist. Lopez Obrador says that applies to at least 50,000 of the approximately 130,000 polling stations.

Lopez Obrador has repeatedly evaded questions about whether he would accept a court decision that went against him.

He has millions of devoted followers who believe only he can help Mexico's poor and downtrodden, and he has long used street protests to

pressure the government and courts.

Also Sunday, the Federal Electoral Institute wrapped up congressional vote tallies, determining the number of seats for each party.

According to ruling National Action Party representative Jorge Zermeno, 206 seats in the 500 member lower house will go to Calderon's conservative party, 127 seats will go to Lopez Obrador's party, and 103 seats will go to the PRI. Minor parties have the 64 remaining seats.

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# Saddam's lawyers boycott trial as defense begins closing arguments today

By BUSHRA JUHI  
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The defense began closing arguments in the trial of Saddam Hussein on Monday, but most of the lawyers boycotted the court because of the slaying last month of an attorney for the former Iraqi leader.

The murder of Khamis al-Obeidi overshadowed the session as a lawyer for Ali Dayih Ali, a lower-level defendant, delivered the first summation.

In a new security measure, the lawyer's face was not shown in the television broadcast of the trial and his voice was electronically altered.

The lawyers for Saddam and three of his top co-defendants were not present, and one of them told The Associated Press that they were boycotting the court until better security was put in place and other demands were met.

"Everyone is afraid," Najib al-Nueimi said from Qatar. "We will not attend until our conditions are met."

He said that besides better security, the defense wanted the trial adjourned to allow them time to prepare their final arguments, saying al-Obeidi's death and security fears had distracted them from the case.

"We have all gotten threats. What do you expect us to do? Lawyers have closed down their offices and gone into hiding and taken their families to Jordan," al-Nueimi said.

Al-Obeidi was abducted

from his Baghdad home on June 21 and found shot to death hours later on a street near the Shiite slum of Sadr City. He was the third defense lawyer to be killed.

The defense has said the security threats against them undermine the fairness of the trial, which began in October, and a boycott could deeply damage a court that has been controversial from the start.

At the start of Monday's session, chief judge Raouf Abdel-Rahman said he had received the defense's requests but dismissed them, saying some were out of the court's purview, others "violate the law." He did not elaborate.

Abdel-Rahman expressed his regrets over al-Obeidi's death, saying the court "strongly condemns any attack against lawyers or against any of those working in this court."

He said the court had appointed lawyers to replace those who were not present. Ali was the sole defendant present at the start of the session. Abdel-Rahman said that was because each defendant would be called in individually for closing arguments, but al-Nueimi said Saddam and his top co-defendants — Barzan Ibrahim, Taha Yassin Ramadan and Awad al-Bandar — also were boycotting until their lawyers agreed to attend.

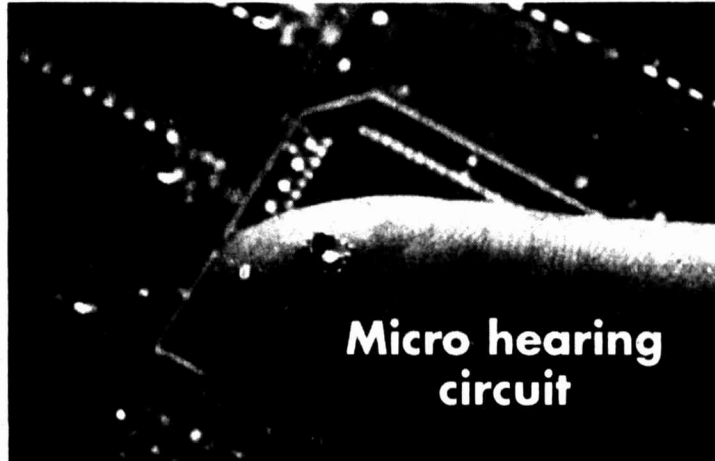
The court will hear final arguments from Saddam and each of his co-defendants and from each of their lawyers.

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