

**Answerline**

Q. When is the Big Spring Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo going to be held?  
 A. It is scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Encana Big Spring Rodeo Bowl at 8 p.m. each night.

**Briefs**

**Cheer Camp**  
 Mini Cheer Camp will be held for girls ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade July 27<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day at The Pit at CMS. Cost is \$40 and includes a t-shirt and a 4x6 photo with CHS Cheerleaders.

**Mitchell County Library**  
 There is a lot going on at Mitchell County Library this summer. It is not too late to sign up for the summer reading programs. Story time is on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. or teen time at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays. This week is super hero dress up story time if you would like to come and join.

**Fundraiser**  
 The Westbrook Volunteer Fire Department will be hosing a pancake supper fundraiser on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at Buck's Café in Westbrook. The supper will be from 5-8. Cost will be \$8 per plate.

**City of Westbrook**  
 Westbrook City Hall will be closed June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> for



**CATASTROPHE AVOIDED** – A 10,000-gallon fuel tank at the Colorado City Airport was being filled when a malfunctioning vent caused the back end of the tank to blow off. Approximately 9,000 gallons of jet fuel ended up on the ground, but no injuries were sustained in the accident. *Photo courtesy of Rick Goodney.*



**FUEL SPILL** – Trucks from Bulldog Environmental out of Stanton can be seen transporting truckloads of dirt from the Colorado City Airport to Abilene for remediation, after about 9,000 gallons of jet fuel spilled onto the ground last Tuesday. The cleanup is ongoing, but citizens are asked not to go out to the airport as conditions are still unsafe.

# Environmental spill at airport caused by vent

David Allen was named manager of the Colorado City Airport during the city council meeting last Tuesday, and his first order of business was to handle an environmental disaster that occurred last Tuesday afternoon. A faulty vent caused the back end of a tank to blow out, spilling close to 9,000 gallons of Jet A shipper-refined fuel onto the ground.

Members of the Colorado City Volunteer Fire Department were called to the scene to prevent a potential catastrophe, as there were controlled burns planned for the airport that day. CCFVD Chief Rick Goodney said that an incinerator was located very near the tank that blew out.

“We were lucky it didn’t explode, because it would have been catastrophic with that amount of fuel involved,” he said.

Firefighters immediately began to put down hydrocarbon foam that breaks down the hydrocarbons in the fuel. Goodney

said that ASSS vapor suppression was used so that no sparks could ignite the toxic fumes being emitted from the spill.

Firefighters were on the scene from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. and used \$5,000 of the foam on the spill.

“Everybody out there did a really good job to avoid a catastrophe,” Goodney said.

Bulldog Environmental, LLC, out of Stanton, was called in to handle the cleanup, as the fuel posed a threat to the environment. Allen said that 210 truckloads of fuel-soaked dirt have been removed from the site, which amounts to about 4,000 cubic yards.

Allen said that it was a good thing that it was shipper-refined fuel being put into the tank when the vent malfunctioned, because regular jet fuel is much more volatile and would probably have caused an explosion.

“If that had been regular jet  
**See AIRPORT, page 5**

stalled as Worthy Matron Elect and her husband, Randy Ruth

Masonic Temple at 219 Main Street in Big Spring. Jimmy Ruth

# AIRPORT

FROM PAGE 1

fuel, we might have been filling up body bags instead of trucks with dirt," Allen said.

Crews from Bulldog have completed the dirt digging task, leaving a pit that's 160 feet long, 60 feet wide and 14 feet deep. The pit will have to be filled, and Allen said that some of the dirt will come from airport grounds. The rest will probably be trucked in.

For now, everyone is waiting on results of testing done on the

soil still left at the site. Allen said that if the tests come back negative for fuel, refilling the hole will begin.

Though a major disaster was successfully avoided, Allen warns residents to stay away from the airport for a little bit longer. He said the ground around the tank is still unstable and, therefore, unsafe.

same location. Any former members of the Colorado City are welcome to attend the regular meetings.

Young ladies ages 11 and also welcome to attend Rainbow Girls, headed by Samantha. The group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. Rainbow Pledge girls age 7 to 11 meets on the second Tuesday at 6 p.m., and all meetings are open to all girls.

For more information, contact Jimmy Ruth at 432-271-2

**Randy Erwin**  
*Agent*

**L U D D A D V**