

Healthy Living

Phone: 903-893-8181 or 903-465-7171

Herald Democrat

Sunday, June 26, 2011, P1

Acupuncture eases Texas woman's back pain

BY COSHANDRA DILLARD
TYLER MORNING TELEGRAPH

TYLER — Roberta Land, 80, lay on her back in a mostly white room of a small clinic in an office complex. She was still as Randy Zhang, a licensed acupuncturist, retrieved plastic encased needles from a metal case then swabbed her legs and feet

with an alcohol pad.

With muted sounds of Chinese music in the background, the two exchanged friendly banter as he gently tapped the tiny needles against her legs and feet, targeting acupuncture points one at a time. According to traditional Chinese medicine, there are about 360 acupuncture points on the

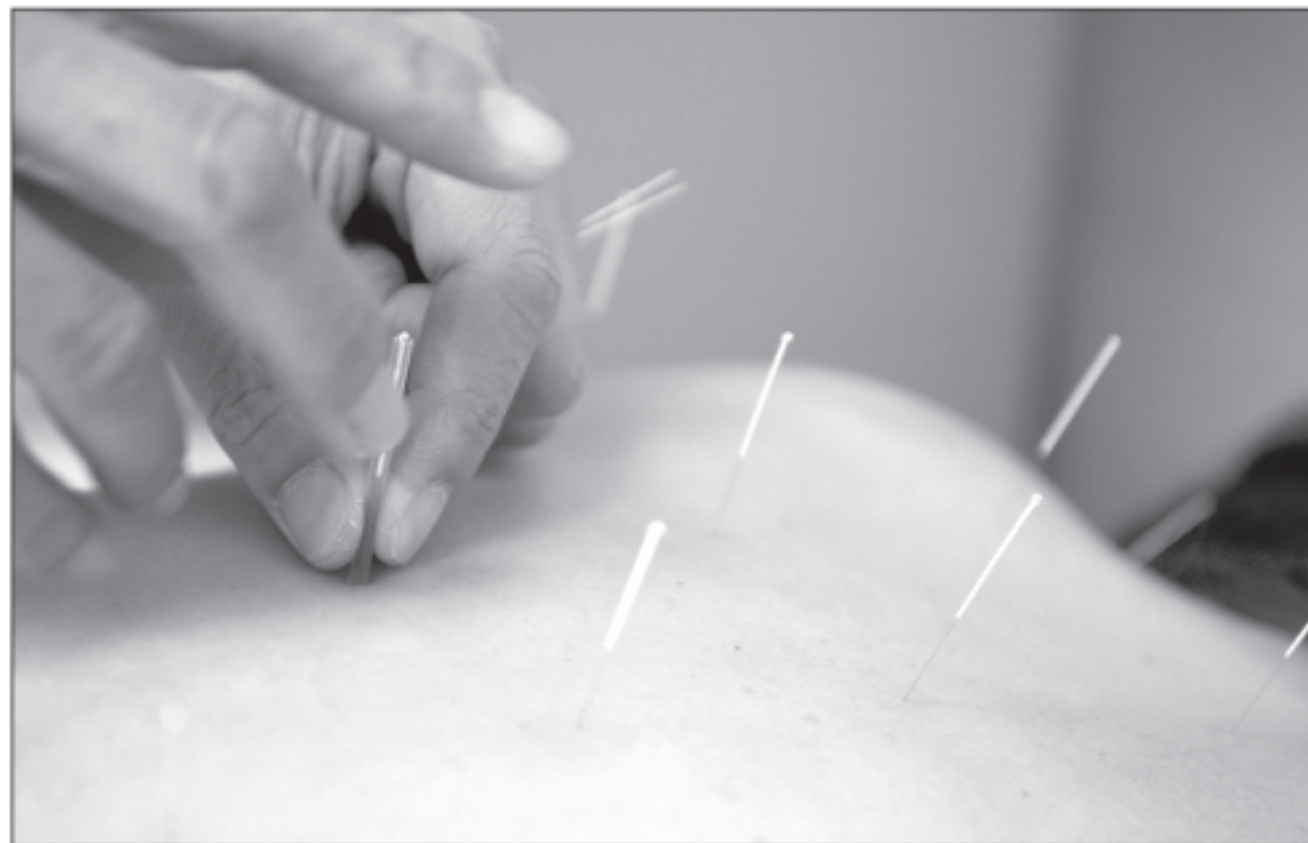
meridians in the body.

Meridians are channels associated with organs and systems in the body.

Mrs. Land barely notices the long, thin needles entering her skin and there is no pain, she said. Zhang precisely rotated some of the needles which measures about .20 mm in diameter by 30 mm long.

He then pulled out a small square electric machine with wires attached. He placed the wires to the tops of the needles, giving surges of electricity through Mrs. Land's legs and feet, which visibly pulsed. Her visit lasts at least 30 minutes.

See PAIN Page P3



JAIME R. CARRERO / THE TYLER MORNING TELEGRAPH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo taken May 26, Dr. Randy Zhang applies acupuncture needles on a patient who suffered back injuries in an automobile accident, at China Acupuncture in Longview.

First cloned cat turns 10

BY LANA BERKOWITZ
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

HOUSTON — Whatever happened to CC, the world's first cloned cat?

It seems like only yesterday CC's baby pictures were being flashed around the world as Texas A&M University researchers presented their scientific triumph to the media.

Almost 10 years later CC, aka Copy Cat, is still in the College Station area. She has a mate, Smokey, and they live with their three offspring in a cat mansion built by Dr. Duane C. Kraemer, an A&M researcher who helped bring CC into the world.

A framed photo of CC the kitten hangs on the wall of CC's two-story abode, which has a screened front porch, air-conditioning, heating, plumbing, catwalks, lofts and an enclosed outdoor play area.

Born into the spotlight, CC is accustomed to visitors. Her paramour, Smokey, is less welcoming, but if you can find him, he will let you rub his tummy. The youngsters, Tess and Tim, are curious and will move in to butt their heads against your shoes. Their brother, Zip, lives up to his name by taking off to find a quieter place when strangers are around.

CC and her family seem like perfectly normal cats, which disappoints many guests hoping to see something more exotic, said Kraemer's wife, Shirley, the head cat wrangler.

"I say, 'But we want it to be just like your house cat. We don't want an extra foot or something,'" she said.

A&M's cat-cloning operation was an offshoot of the Missplicity Project to clone a dog named Missy with funding help from a company that wanted to market pet cloning. When the dog-cloning project had little success, researchers turned to cats.

About 80 cat embryos were produced, but only one developed into a full-term pregnancy after being transferred to a surrogate mother.

Brown-and-white CC, born Dec. 22, 2001, does not look exactly like the original calico donor, Rainbow, a domestic shorthair with white, brown and orange coloring.

Duane Kraemer likes to say that CC, being a self-respecting Aggie cat, didn't want to have anything to do with orange, so she didn't use the orange gene. However, there is a scientific explanation involving epigenetic reprogramming and color-coded X chromosomes to account for her physical appearance.

After CC's birth, the pet-clone company and A&M ended their relationship, partly because the university was uncomfortable marketing cloning as a type of pet resurrection, according

See CLONED, Page P2