

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

SUNDAY
March 24, 1996

\$1.25

Attorney General Dan Morales says he will oppose UP-SP rail merger

By JOHN H. WALKER
Managing Editor

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales announced late Thursday afternoon that his office would file a letter of opposition on behalf of the state in regards to the Union Pacific (UP)-Southern Pacific (SP) merger.

Morales notified Gov. George Bush, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock and Speaker of the House Pete Laney of his decision in a letter. The Herald obtained a copy of the letter Friday.

In it, he informs the three that, "We have concluded that the Union Pacific-

Southern Pacific merger would seriously reduce competition for a significant volume of rail traffic involving origins and destinations in Texas."

Only last Wednesday had the Railroad Commission of Texas indicated it would "probably" approve the merger pending recommended changes that were to be highlighted in a study conducted by the University of North Texas.

The UNT study recommended the divestiture of the following rail lines, all of which are currently owned by SP:

- Houston to St. Louis
- Houston to New Orleans
- Houston to Eagle Pass

- Houston to Dallas-Fort Worth
- Hearne to Placedo
- Corsicana to Lewisville, Ark.

Bernard Weinstein, who headed the study group, said, "We believe on balance that the proposed Union Pacific/Southern Pacific rail merger is likely to have a detrimental effect on the state of Texas."

But on the routes Weinstein cited for divestiture because of competitive concerns, there is already a high level of competition — and established markets.

For example:

- Houston to St. Louis - Both UP and SP currently provide service between

the two cities, as does the newly formed Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF).

• Houston to New Orleans - UP and SP are the only railroads providing service between Houston and New Orleans, although they do not follow the same route. SP serves the petrochemical industry in Orange, Lake Charles, La. and Morgan City, La., while UP swings more to the north, eventually paralleling the Mississippi River at Baton Rouge, La.

- Houston to Dallas-Fort Worth - Both UP and SP provide service between the three cities, as does BNSF.
- Corsicana to Lewisville, Ark. - This

line runs through Shreveport, La., where SP has paid trackage rights to UP on its main east-west line from Shreveport to Big Sandy. At that point, SP returns to the lines of its former Cotton Belt Route. The SP access allows traffic to-and-from Corsicana to move directly to the east, rather than having to follow a more round-about route south to Houston and north or north to Dallas and then east.

While Morales says he feels the merger would "seriously reduce competition," a study of the rail atlas appears to show the merger would allow

See RAIL MERGER, Page 3A

Rattlesnakes few and far between at 34th Roundup

Variety of activities keep spectators busy

By SARA SOLIS
Staff Writer

Rattlesnakes, food and arts and crafts took over the Howard County Fair Barns and the Dora Roberts Building this weekend. The 34th Annual Rattlesnake Roundup, sponsored by the local chapter of the American Business Club, thrilled children and adults alike with snake handling demonstrations and educational exhibitions.

Wayne Pierce, a Big Spring AMBUCS member, said the AMBUCS purchased around 40 pounds of rattlesnakes Friday, down from the average first day purchase of 200 to 300 pounds. Snakes generally weigh about a pound and a half each, he said. Individuals are normally paid \$4 a pound for snakes brought to the roundup but, by Friday's end the AMBUCS had raised the price to \$5 a pound, due to a shortage of snakes.

The number of snakes at the roundup varies according to the regional temperature, Pierce said. "Snakes come out if you have 72 hours where the temperature has not dropped below 50 degrees." Generally around the Big Spring area, that happens in mid-to-late March.

The AMBUCS sell the snakes



Rattlesnakes were few in number this year during the start of the annual Rattlesnake Roundup Saturday. Only 40 pounds of rattlesnakes were brought in the first day, as compared with an average of 200-300 pounds.

at the end of the roundup to an individual buyer. "We usually sell them for what we buy them for," he said. Pierce said there is a market for rattlesnakes that goes up and down with supply and demand. It's similar to crop futures, he said. Last year the AMBUCS bought and sold around 600 pounds of rattlesnakes, he said.

The proceeds from admission charges and concession sales go towards the AMBUCS's Scholarship Fund for Therapists and the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation

Center, Pierce said. The National AMBUCS organization has given over \$5.5 million in scholarships in the past.

He said from snake pits to concession stands, AMBUCS work all areas of the event. Pierce said he used to work in the snake pit, but retired after last year. "Last year was my 20th year (in the pit), I'm not as quick as I used to be," he said.

Pierce said after working with the snakes for so many years he was beginning to lose respect for them and began

behaving less cautiously. "Familiarity breeds contempt ... I was beginning to fudge on my own rules." Pierce said one of those rules is, "Don't do anything in there (the snake pit) you don't think about first."

Snakes Unlimited, of Archer City, was the featured attraction at the roundup this weekend. This year's roundup marks the second year the three snake handlers have performed in Big Spring.

See SNAKES, Page 3A

BSISD trustees, attorneys meet to discuss LULAC suit

By SARA SOLIS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees met with their attorney March 19 to discuss the lawsuit filed against themselves and the district Feb. 26 by the Texas League of United Latin American Citizens.

Bill McQueary, BSISD superintendent, said the attorney, Judy Underwood of Walsh, Anderson, Underwood, Schulze and Aldridge in Austin, discussed the district's possible options in handling the lawsuit. "The case is still basically in its infancy," McQueary said.

"Some areas (of the lawsuit) we denied and on others we agreed." He said Underwood will attend the board's meeting on May 9 to discuss the lawsuit further.

The suit stems from the manner in which school board trustees are elected. Currently there is a 4-3 voting situation in Big Spring, with trustees elected from one of four city districts and three elected from at-large. LULAC is asking for a seven single member district, or a 7-0 voting situation, McQueary said. "Our three at-large districts are under attack."

Some Texas school districts have a 5-2 voting situation, some have a 6-1. "We're one of the last that has a 4-3," he said.

Attorney Judy Underwood said an answer to the lawsuit was filed as of March 14. "Generally speaking, it denies the allegations by the plaintiff that Hispanic voter's rights, under the Voting Rights Act, are violated by the school district's current election system," she said. Underwood said two Big Spring residents have been added as plaintiffs for the lawsuit; Pat DeAnda and Gloria Mendez. The lawsuit claims these individuals are minority residents, taxpayers of the school district, and personally impacted and under-represented by the current voting system, she said.

Underwood said the meeting with the school board Tuesday served mostly as an educational process for board members. Now that the answer has been filed, they will await a scheduling order from the



"Some areas (of the lawsuit) we denied and on others we agreed."

Judge at the U.S. District Court Northern District of Texas, where the lawsuit was filed, she said. The scheduling order will outline specific deadlines which will need to be met and set a prospective trial date, should the case require one.

In the interim, the board will be looking at 1990 census figures to examine the district's demographics, upon which the crux of the case is based, Underwood said. She said the district will also need to decide how much of the taxpayer's money they are willing to spend on litigation.

Underwood said her law firm has represented 65 different school and hospital districts and cities in similar lawsuits since 1986. "Of the one's we have done, all but two have settled (out of court)." For the majority of those who settled the reasons were two-fold; money and they didn't want to allow LULAC the opportunity to create a racial issue within the community.

Underwood said the downside to having a seven single member school district is that voters only get to vote once every three years for one trustee. "Right now (with the 4-3 voting situation) a voter gets to vote for the candidate in their single member district and for each of the three at-large candidates ... for a total of four trustees." She said regardless of the voting system, the school board is a trustee form of government, not a representative form of government, which means that each trustee, regardless of what district they belong to still represents every child, every teacher and every staff member in the school district. A 7-0 voting system is incongruent with the trustee form of government, Underwood said.

Figures show 11,000-plus get food help in 6 area counties

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Under the new Lone Star Card system, more than 1 million accounts have been established for the households that previously received food stamps and/or Aid for Families with Dependent Children.

Updated figures for 1995 have not yet been released, but during 1994, local counties, including Howard, Martin, Mitchell, Borden, Dawson, and Glasscock had more than 11,100 people receive food stamps.

The average amount per person per month in Texas in 1994 was \$69.29.

The same six counties had 2,940 households receive AFDC benefits. The state average in 1994 was \$188 per household per month.

Howard County's 5,504 recipients received a little more than \$4 million in food stamps;

Martin County, 870 recipients received \$627,024; Mitchell County, 1,218 recipients received \$862,598; Borden County, 3 recipients received \$1,787; Dawson County, 3,440 recipients received \$2,528,435; and Glasscock County's 76 recipients received \$60,539.

Also in 1994, Aid for Families with Dependent Children totaled \$1,081,581 for Howard County's 1,575 households; Martin County, 179 households received \$120,433; Mitchell County, 241 households received \$166,651; Dawson County, 922 households received \$624,004; and Glasscock County, 23 households received \$13,464 in benefits.

The Texas Department of Human Services administers the food stamp and AFDC programs, while Austin-based Transactive Corporation is the private operator of the new electronic delivery system.

The card was fully implemented statewide at the beginning of this year, with 16,000 Texas retail outlets serving 2.7 million food stamp recipients in 1.3 million households.

State Comptroller John Sharp said the new Lone Star Card will trim the national costs of the old food stamp system by \$45.4 million for printing, \$4.5 million for shipping and storing, and 23.1 million for the final processing and destruction of the paper coupons at the Federal Reserve.

Sharp and TDHS also announced recently an agreement that lets grocery stores in states bordering Texas participate in the new electronic benefits transfer system.

The old paper food stamp system is still in operation in Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma, but Sharp said grocers in neighboring states can now

hang "Lone Star Card Accepted Here" signs to let their Texas customers know they welcome their business.

He added, "This is particularly significant in a city like Texarkana, where residents are accustomed to crossing the state boundary almost without a thought."

Sharp said the new agreement includes food stamp purchases only and does not include the AFDC portion of the system.

No cash ever changes hands during a food stamp transaction. AFDC recipients are allowed to use the cards to withdraw cash from their accounts, a requirement imposed by Washington officials as a condition from granting Texas the necessary waivers from federal rules and regulations to conduct the, thus far, successful experiment in welfare reform.

Who was the first provincial governor of Texas?

Henry Smith, Nov. 1835 to March, 1836

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NATION / WORLD

Assault-weapon ban repealed

The House repealed the ban on assault weapons, although the Senate is not expected to follow suit. Page 6A.

Bosnia releases Serb prisoners

In a step forward, the Bosnian government releases more than 100 Serb prisoners of war. Page 6A.

STATE

Tejano music awards

Selena and Emilio lead the way in the Tejano Music Awards. A complete list of winners is inside. Page 5A.

Conoco selling bad gas

Conoco acknowledges it has been selling contaminated gas at approximately one-third of its Houston-area stations. Page 5A.

TODAY'S WEATHER

Today **75** ▲ Highs **38**
Lows ▼

Today
PARTLY CLOUDY

Tonight
PARTLY CLOUDY

Permian Basin Forecast
Monday: Partly cloudy and cooler with highs near 60. Lows near 30.
Tuesday: Partly cloudy and cooler with highs near 60. Lows near 30.
Wednesday: Partly cloudy and cooler with highs near 60. Lows near 30.

OBITUARIES

Odis "Ocho" Joiner

Graveside services for Odis "Ocho" Joiner, 71, of Kermit were at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 23, 1996.

Mr. Joiner died Thursday, March 21, at his home in Kermit.

He was born Jan. 28, 1925 in Post and married Mary Louise Joiner. She preceded him in death in June of 1989. He was a member of the Church of Christ, was raised in Jal, New Mexico and was a previous resident of Big Spring for seven years.

He was survived by a brother: Lloyd Joiner, of Midland; a sister: Dorothy Workmon, of Kermit; four nephews and one niece.

Arrangements under the direction of Cooper Funeral Chapel, Inc. of Kermit.

Viola B. Grantham

Graveside services for Viola B. Grantham, 79, of Big Spring, will be at 2 p.m. Monday, March 25, 1996 at Trinity Memorial Park, with Dr. Kenneth Patrick, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating.

Mrs. Grantham died Saturday, March 23 in a local nursing home.

She was born on Aug. 22, 1916 in Taylor, Arkansas and married James Thomas Grantham on Jan. 24, 1936 in Magnolia, Arkansas. He preceded her in death on Nov. 14, 1982. She moved to Big Spring in 1946 from Shreveport, La. and she and her husband operated Grantham's Jewelry Store for many years. She was also a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church.

She was survived by two sons: James Grantham, of Big Spring; and Ralph Grantham, of Ponder; two sisters: Mabel Martin, of Tatum; and Bertha Breland, of Carrollton; and three grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Johnnie C. Grantham, in 1986.

The family suggests memorials to: Family Hospice of the Permian Basin, P.O. Box 14710, Odessa 79768-4710.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

IN BRIEF

Bluegrass festival in Big Lake

The fifth annual Big Lake Bluegrass Festival is scheduled for March 28-31 at the Big Lake Community Center.

There will be entertainment by Big Sandy, Concho Grass, String Fever, Gore Brothers, Little Rascals and Star Canyon Band.

There will be cajun food and a handicraft show. Admission on Friday, March 29 is \$5 starting at 6 p.m. and on Saturday, \$8 starting at 1 p.m.

Call (915) 884-3650 for handicrafts booth information. Proceeds from this benefit will go to the Big Lake Volunteer Fire Department.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-4286

Nalley-Pickle & Welch 906 Gregg St. Big Spring, Tx. (915) 267-4331

Viola B. Grantham, 79, died Saturday. Graveside services will be at 2:00 P.M. Monday, March 25, 1996 at Trinity Memorial Park under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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IT'S THE EASTER BUNNY!



The Easter Bunny waves to Daniel Permenter, who rides a decorated antique tricycle in the Big Spring Mall Saturday during an Easter parade. The mall is expected to conduct another parade this week.

FISD kindergarten preregistration set

Forsan Independent School District will host its annual Kindergarten Preregistration Night on Tuesday, March 26 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Parents should bring the child's social security card (the actual card is needed, not just the number), birth certificate and immunization records.

Those parents with children residing outside the Forsan school district are encouraged to apply for transfer at the Superintendents Office at the Administration Building in Forsan by Friday, March 29.

Pancake supper

Tuesday in Ackerly

Sands Future Farmers of America is hosting their second annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Sands School Cafeteria in Ackerly. Plates, which include pancakes, bacon, ham or sausage and a drink, will cost \$3.50 and will benefit the Sands FFA.

Workshop scheduled for Friday

A one-day workshop for social workers, counselors, case managers, psychologists, nurses and other health care professionals is scheduled for March 29.

There is no registration fee and it will be presented by Dr. Suzanne Schmidt, a counselor and marriage/family therapist. The goals of the seminar are to promote self-evaluation, expose participants to strategies designed to increase energies and to challenge participants to learn skills needed for enhanced health.

The seminar is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a luncheon and ceremony at the Big Spring Country Club from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to celebrate Social Work Month and to honor the 1995 social worker of the year.

To register, call the Big Spring State Hospital Human Resource Development department at 267-8216, ext. 7373.

VITA offers tax help

Volunteers with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance will assist senior citizens, low-income, non-English speaking and handicapped people with basic tax returns. The person's income is primarily from wages, tips, interest and dividends. They will also help with refunds of credit such as child care credit, earned income credits and credit for the elderly.

Just in Time For Summer Tan Australian Gold For The Tan Of Your Life! 15% Off Discount on Make-Up Sale We sell most products to the public La Vair's d' Elegance 267-2855 2106 S. Gregg

Volunteers will be at the First Presbyterian Church, 800 Rannels, on Mondays through April 8. The times are 9 a.m. to noon and appointments can be made for other times by calling 398-5522 or 263-4211. This is a free service. Please bring your tax package you received from the IRS and a copy of last year's income tax return when you come for assistance.

CHAS to administer HIV services

Clover House Assistance Services (CHAS) has been selected by Texas Department of Health to be the Administrative Agency for HIV services in the Odessa-Midland-Permian Basin area. CHAS will administer HIV services funds received from TDH and ensure that direct services for persons with HIV in the Permian Basin will be available. Services include medical care, counseling, food, transportation, and housing assistance.

Former clients of South Plains Aids Resource Center (SPARC) can receive information about how to obtain services from C.H.A.S. by calling (915) 580-0713 or (915) 337-4794. They can also call TDH in Midland, Saranga Savage at (915) 683-9492.

Individuals with HIV who reside in the 17-county Permian Basin service delivery area may receive services through C.H.A.S. Counties in the service area include: Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves, Terrel, Upton, Ward, and Winkler.

Writers to meet April 13

"If I Knew Then What I Know Now" will be the topic of a panel experienced writers at the West Texas April meeting.

Seven of the Permian Basin's best writers will share their writing habits and attitudes that continue to impact their success. The meeting, a must for anyone who wants to write for publication will include writers like Ellen Hopkins, Beverly Forsyth, Robert and Peggy Nash, Deborah Ward, Kay Crites and Mary Frances Beverly.

This meeting will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday April 13, at the Midland Public Library and is open to the public. It will be preceded by a brief business meeting.

LAUGHIN', NEVADA Non-stop Fun Service Laughlin Air Vacations \$179* from Midland April 25 - 28 Vacation Package includes Roundtrip Airfare

Big Spring ON THE RUN

TEXAS LOTTERY LOTTO: 4,10,12,13,21,39 PICK 3: 7,9,3

CLARIFICATION

Richard Lynn Robertson, 49, no known address, was arrested by a Department of Public Safety Officer Monday, March 18, on suspicion of driving while intoxicated. After taking a breathalyzer test he was released and charges were dropped due to lack of sufficient evidence for prosecution.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents from 8 a.m. Friday to 2 p.m. Saturday:

- FRANCISCO SOSA BUTAMONTE, 35, of 1211 Main, was arrested for indecency with a child and was transferred to Martin County.
- DENISE MCVEA, 25, of 616 Caylor, was arrested for outstanding local warrants. She was later released after paying a fine.
- RAYMOND GALINDO CASTANEDA, 24, of 1604 Benton, was arrested for outstanding local warrants. He was later released after paying a fine.
- TERIA NICOLE PETERSON, 21, of 1002 N. Main Apt.# 46, was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- LARRY DEAN SIMMONS, 38, of Gail, was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- JUAN GONZALES RENTERIA, 46, of 2621 Connally, was arrested for public intoxication.
- ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE in the 400 block of Circle.
- THEFTS in the 200 block of West Marcy, 1100 block of North Lamesa, 1600 block of East Fourth, 1800 block of East Marcy, 1800 block of Gregg and 400 block of Johnson.
- DRIVING WITH A SUSPENDED LICENSE in the 300 block of Presidio.
- ABANDONED VEHICLE at 10th and Gregg and 1600 block of Main.
- DISTURBANCE/FIGHT in the 200 block of East 10th.
- INVESTIGATING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY in the 1200 block of Frazier, 300 block of Owens, at 16th and Austin, 2300 block Scurry, at Matthews and Edwards, 2900 block of East Interstate 20, 1600 block of East Fourth, 300 block of Goliad and 300 block of West Ninth.
- MINOR ACCIDENTS at Sixth and Goliad, in the 500 block of Main, 2000 block of Gregg, 500 block of Gregg and at Third and Aylesford.
- DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES in the 1600 block of East Third, 1100 block of Mesa and 600 block of State.
- LOUD PARTY at Morrison and Alabama.

SPRINGBOARD

To submit an item to Springboard, put it in writing and mail or deliver it to us one week in advance. Mail to: Springboard, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79720; or bring it by the office, 710 Scurry. If you have any changes in a springboard item or for more information, contact Gina Garza, 263-7331, between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

TODAY

- Good Shepherd Fellowship, 610 Abrams, has services at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come.
- Incipient Shire of Crossroads, local branch of the Society of Creative Anachronism, weekly fighter practice, 2 p.m., Comanche Trail Park. Call Robert Black, 393-5438 or A.J. Hashem, 267-5825.
- Alcoholics Anonymous 11 a.m. closed meeting and 7 p.m. open meeting, 615 Settles.

MONDAY

- Tops Club (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), weight-in is from 5:30 to 6 p.m. and meeting starts at 6 p.m. Carriage Inn, 501 W. 17th St. Call 263-1340 or 263-8633.
- "Welcome Home" Alcoholics Anonymous NON-SMOKING meeting, 6 to 7 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church located at 10th and Goliad.
- Project Freedom, Christian support group, 7 p.m. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241.
- Al-A-Teen, 7:30 p.m., 615 Settles.
- Turning Point A.A., 8-9 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.
- Alcoholics Anonymous noon open meeting, 615 Settles.

TUESDAY

- High Adventure Explorers Post 519, 7 p.m., VA Medical Center room 212, ages 14-20.
- Family Education and Support sponsored by the

HOWARD COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Howard County Mental Health Center, 6 p.m., The Corral, 611 E. Third, followed by the monthly meeting of the Big Spring Alliance for the mentally ill at 7 p.m.

•Melissa Avila, of St. Mary's Hospital in Lubbock, will do free health screenings, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Youth Center, 509 N. Aylford. Call 1-806-765-8475.

•BSHS Choir Booster meeting, 7:45 p.m., BSHS Choir Room. This is a very important meeting.

•Al-Anon, 8 p.m., 615 Settles. •Voices support group, 3:45 p.m. Call Rape Crisis/Victim Services, 263-3312.

•Spring City Senior Citizen Center, ceramics classes from 9:30-11:30 a.m. 55 and older invited.

•Pastoral counseling by Samaritan Counseling Center, First Christian Church, 10th and Goliad. For appointment call 1-800-329-4144.

•Comanche Lake Duplicate Weekly, Dora Roberts Civic Center, 1 p.m. Come early at 12:15 for mini-lessons.

•Seniors' diabetic support group, 2 p.m., Canterbury South. Call 263-1265.

•Most Excellent Way chemical dependency support group, 7 p.m., Cornerstone Bookstore. Call 267-1424 after 5 p.m., or 263-3168 before 8 p.m.

•Alcoholics Anonymous noon open meeting and 8 p.m. closed meeting, 615 Settles.

WEDNESDAY •Thistles Writers Club for Howard College students, noon, room A-203. Bring a lunch.

•Gamblers Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Stephens Catholic Church, room 1, 4601 Neeley, Midland. Call 263-8920.

•Survivors, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Call Rape Crisis/Victim Services, 263-3312. This is open to all survivors.

•Alcoholics Anonymous noon open meeting and 8 p.m. 12 and 12 study.

THURSDAY •Masonic Lodge #598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.

•Spring Tabernacle Church, 1209 Wright, free food for area needy, 10 a.m.-noon.

•Salvation Army drug education program, sponsored by Permian Basin Regional Council on alcohol and drug abuse, 7 p.m., Salvation Army Building, 308 Aylford.

•Spring City Senior Citizen Center art classes, 9:30-11:30 a.m. 55 and older invited.

•Battered women support group, 2:30 p.m. Call 263-3312 or 267-3626.

•Good Shepherd Fellowship, 610 Abrams, has services at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come.

•Al-Anon, 8 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, small cafeteria on first floor.

•AA closed meeting, 8 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center cafeteria.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, noon open meeting, 615 Settles.

FRIDAY •Turning Point A.A., 8-9:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.

•Spring City Senior Center, free fashion painting classes, 9:30-11:30 a.m. 55 and older invited.

RITZ 401 S. Main 263-7480 Adult 401 S. Main 263-7480 Adult 401 S. Main 263-7480 Adult 401 S. Main 263-7480 Adult

CINEMARK THEATRES MOVIES 4 BIG SPRING 263-2479 MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS (PG) 1:00-4:00-7:00 HOMEWARD BOUND 2 (G) 1:50-4:30-7:20 SENSE & SENSIBILITY (PG) 1:10-4:10-7:05 EXECUTIVE DECISION (R) 1:40-4:20-7:10

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Herald wins four awards in Texas APME contest

HERALD staff report

AUSTIN — The Big Spring Herald brought home two firsts, one second and an honorable mention award from the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors annual meeting here Saturday.



APPEL

The Herald earned first places in infographics and editorial writing, a second place in team effort and an honorable mention in comment/criticism.

The annual meeting concludes with the presentation of awards for the best journalism in Texas in 1995. The Herald competes in Class A against papers with a circulation of 9,999 or less.



JONES

Staff photographer Tim Appel earned a first place in "Infographics" for his "The Best of the Worst," a graphic to illustrate intersections in Big Spring.

Janet Ausbury earned a first place for her editorial, "It shouldn't be a crime to speak foreign languages in your home."



JOHNSON

Staff writers Kellie Jones and Carlton Johnson, along with Appel, earned a second-place in the "Team Effort" category for their efforts in the coverage of the murder of Department of Public Safety Trooper Troy Hogue.

Appel also earned an honorable mention in "Comment/Criticism" for his "Silliness Abounds."

Other area dailies fared well in the competition. San Angelo claimed a total of 11 awards, including two firsts, two seconds and seven honorable mentions.

Abilene and Odessa each earned nine awards. Abilene had three firsts, two seconds and four honorable mentions and Odessa had one first and one second with six honorable mentions. Midland had one first, one second and three honorable mentions.

Coahoma hiking water rates 33 cents per 1,000 gallons

By SARA SOLIS
Staff Writer

The City of Coahoma is raising their customer's water rates.

Ginger Metcalf, secretary for the city of Coahoma, said the city basically had no choice but to raise the water rates because of an increase in their rates by the Howard County Water District. The district increased

their rates as a result of a higher cost to them by the City of Big Spring, she said.

Metcalf said the city of Big Spring raised the per thousand gallon rate for the Howard County Water District 42 cents. The water district will be charging the city of Coahoma only 33 cents more per 1,000 gallons used, she said. They're taking a loss on the water, Metcalf said. "The water district is just eating it, taking that nine cent

loss instead of passing it on to the customer."

She said in the past, the city has been able to do the same, sparing the customer the total cost increase, but this time the city was unable to and will be passing the full expense on to the customer.

She said the increased rates go into effect after the 2,000 gallon minimum is exceeded. The rate for the first 2,000 gallons is \$8.70, and that remains the same as in the past. However, the per thousand rate after the first 2,000 gallons will reflect the 33 cent increase. The old rate of \$4.61 per thousand is now \$4.94, she said.

"Three-quarters of our customers exceed the 2,000 gallon minimum," Metcalf said.

Customers can expect to see a larger water bill for March. The rate increase was approved by the Coahoma City Council at their meeting on March 19 and the bills will be mailed as of March 25.

Tom Ferguson, finance director for the city of Big Spring, said according to the contract the city has with the Howard County Water District, as of Jan. 1 of each year the expens-

es of providing potable water to the district are analyzed and adjusted accordingly. "The costs associated with producing that water have gone up," he said.

He emphasized, water rates for the residents of Big Spring are not increasing at this time. "There is no need for our rates to go up to our citizens this year," Ferguson said. He explained that the revenue generated from water sales to the Howard County Water District and other water districts helps to offset city water costs.

John Grant, general manager for the Colorado River Municipal Water District, which supplies water to the city of Big Spring, said the Coahoma rate increase is not a result of higher costs to Big Spring by way of CRMWD. He said the rate for water consumption for the city of Big Spring was set at \$73.74 per thousand gallons on Oct. 1, 1995. The current rate is actually a decrease from last year's rate to the city. "Our calculated rate to Big Spring last year was \$74.54 ... It varies a little every year depending on usage," Grant said.

Area school students earn more than \$16,000 for American Heart Assn.

By SARA SOLIS
Staff Writer

Area elementary schools jumped a lot of rope this year for the American Heart Association.

Throughout the school year elementary schools have been participating in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope For Heart program.

College Heights Elementary

School students jumped rope Friday morning for two hours and earned a total of \$2,171.82 for the American Heart Association.

Bauer Elementary had its event Saturday and earned \$3,049. Other totals were: Coahoma, \$4,702.45; Kentwood, 3,033.04; Marcy, \$1,522.50; Moss, \$953; and Washington, \$827.85. To date the schools have earned a total of \$16,259.38 for the American Heart Association.



HERALD photo/Tim Appel

A trio of College Heights Elementary School students jump in the air as they were participating in the Jump Rope for Heart program Friday. The effort of the students earned over \$2,100 for the American Heart Association.

RAIL MERGER

Continued from Page 1A

shippers to have a choice in service, rather than be directed to a specific rail line.

UP is the only bidder for financially strapped SP that has expressed an interest in the entire railroad.

Locally, the merger would mean the creation of nearly 50 jobs, an increase in rail traffic and other economic considerations.

"We believe the merger would be good for Big Spring," said Linda Walker, executive vice president of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. "Looking at the lines they want Southern Pacific to divest, I can't understand the benefit. When you take away an option for shipping, chances are that you'll wind up increasing the

cost of doing business."

The chamber board of directors is encouraging all chamber members to contact the Railroad Commission, the Surface Transportation Board and Morales to make them aware of the community's support for the merger.

In a "fax alert" distributed Saturday, members were advised, "Rail industry officials, other than from UP or SP, have said this merger would be good for Texas. It would certainly be good for Big Spring."

UP has said its offer to purchase SP is for all assets and that the divestiture of any routes would cause them to back out. SP's financial condition is such that industry analysts are currently speculating on how long the line can survive without the UP merger.



HERALD photo/Tim Appel

Curtis Nelson kisses the head of a cobra during one of the performances by Snakes Unlimited at the Rattlesnake Roundup. The annual event continues today.

SNAKES

Continued from Page 1A

The demonstration begins with safety tips on how to avoid being bitten by an encountered rattlesnake and include what to do if bitten. Derrel Beesinger, the announcer for the group, said he has been bitten seven times during his career as a snake handler. He said rattlesnake venom is made up of spirals and bands and will wrap itself around a muscle if not extracted immediately. Rattlesnakes are born with four to six sets of fangs and they're ready to bite as soon as they're born, Beesinger said. "They're fangs are sharper than any hypodermic you can get."

One of the group's demonstrations places Beesinger's son, Jason, 17, in a sleeping bag full of rattlesnakes. Jason must remove himself from the bag without being bitten. The "sleeping bag trick" emphasizes that snakes strike for two reasons, out of fear and for food. If one remains calm and moves slowly enough they can avoid injury, Beesinger said.

Another trick the group performed was the "kiss of death." Curtis Nelson, the "official Cobra handler," teases a black Pakistan Cobra from a basket

and then kisses it on top of its head, with the Cobra hissing throughout the process.

Beesinger, who's been a snake handler for the last 26 years, said the group is currently performing only two shows a year, "and we're thinking about retiring." A severe snake bite he received April 19, 1994 from a 5 and a half-foot snake put Beesinger in the hospital for 14 days and left him \$37,000 out-of-pocket for medical bills. "I've lost full use of my arm ... I never believed they could hurt you as bad as they can," he said. Beesinger said one reason for contemplating retirement is to get his son, Jason, out of the business. "I don't want him to go through what I had to," he said.

Jason, a member of Snakes Unlimited for three years, said he began handling snakes when his father called him out of the audience at a show and introduced him as the guest handler for the last event. "I like it (snake handling), I guess," Jason said. He said he'll leave the business when his father retires, "if he makes me."

The Rattlesnake Roundup will run from noon-6 p.m. today, with a trophy award's ceremony at 5 p.m.

I NEED HELP

I have an immediate opening for a man to work part time in my local laundry business Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Pay starts at \$6.00 per hour. Duties include equipment service, general maintenance and some management. Training will be provided. This is a PERMANENT position. This job is perfect for somebody who's taken early retirement and is tired of sitting around the house. I am looking for honesty, capability and dependability.

If you are interested, or would just like more details, please come by 1208 Gregg St. and pick up an application. Let's talk.

DAYS OF SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Spring Revival

EVANGELIST-JOHNNY WITHERSPOON
PRAISE TEAM-THE CALVARY SINGERS
SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY MARCH 24-27
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6:00 PM SUNDAY EVENING
7:00 PM MONDAY- WEDNESDAY
NURSERY PROVIDED

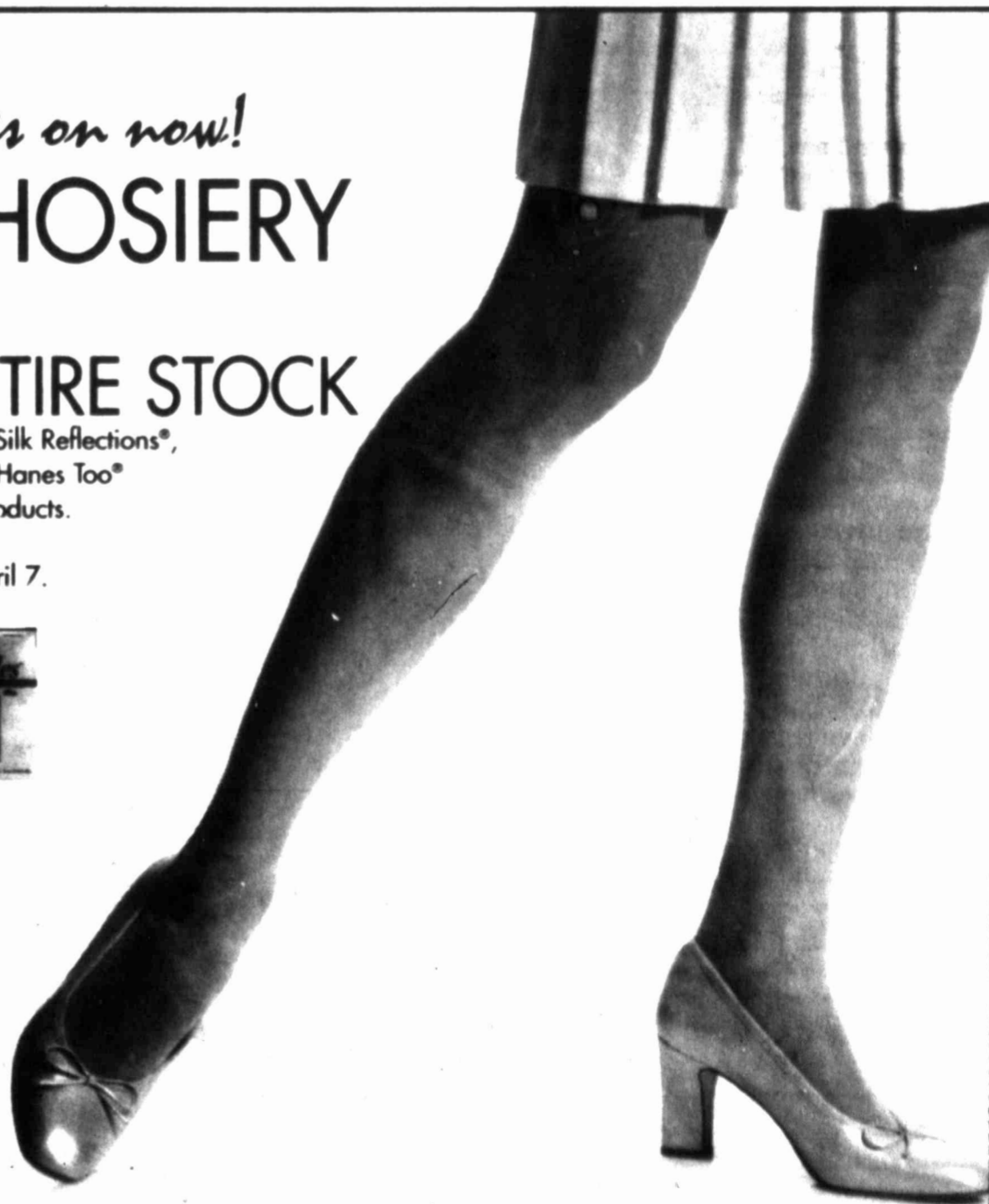
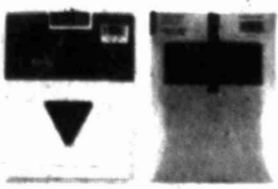
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EDITORIAL

Quote of the Day

"A society of sheep must in time beget a government of wolves."

-Bertrand de Jouvenel

The opinion expressed is that of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise noted. Other opinions are those of the respective columnist or writer.

Charles C. Williams
Publisher

John H. Walker
Managing Editor

Is prison sale best for Big Spring?

An offer has been made to the City of Big Spring to purchase the community's portion of the three prisons managed by Mid-Tex Detention and operated as Big Spring Correction Center.

We chose the word "community" very carefully, because every taxpayer in Big Spring and Howard County has a financial investment in the three facilities.

Our concern is that we taxpayers get the best return on our investment. At this time, we feel the \$1.75 million offered the city, even with the generous \$100,000 "quick signing bonus," sells our interest at well below book value.

Texas law requires the county tax appraisal office to assess a value to every piece of property in the respective county, whether it is takable or not.

On Aug. 10, 1992, Howard County appraised the value of the Interstate Unit, also known in the community as the Ramada Inn Unit, at \$3,161,570. At the same time, the Industrial Park Unit (east side of airport) was appraised at \$2,706,720.

And now, without a formal appraisal having been completed, the tax office estimates the value of the Runway Unit (west side of airport) at approximately \$4 million.

Adding the numbers from the taxing district results in a total value of the three properties of \$9,868,290 — almost \$10 million.

According to the contracts, the city of Big Spring gained 20 percent ownership of the Interstate Unit each year over a five-year period. We own that unit.

Additionally, the city gains 10 percent ownership each year over a 10-year period for the Industrial Park Unit. At that rate, the city's portion of ownership should have reached 60 percent during 1995.

The Runway Unit carries a 12-year payout, meaning that one year into the deal, the city owns 8.5 percent of the unit.

If you apply those percentages to the values assigned by the county as required by law, the city's portion of ownership would be more, we believe, than 50 percent, giving the city control.

According to data provided by the city's auditor, the three prisons earned a profit of \$1,939,731 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1995.

That is a 20 percent net return on investment! Any financial advisor will tell you to find all of the 20 percent investments you can ... they are few and far between.

If you look at industry numbers, the book value of the facilities, based on the annual profit, should be two-to-two-and-one-half times the appraised value — or in the range of \$20 million to \$25 million.

At 50 percent, the city's share of the profits would have been \$969,865.50. Even taking the 46 percent figure supplied the Herald by City Manager Gary Fuqua and you have an annual profit of \$892,276.26.

Why then, would we want to divest ourselves of something so profitable?

Why would we want to sell 50 percent of something for \$1.75 million when we make that much money every 21 months at the present rate of ownership.

And keep in mind that with every year we own the prisons, that profit level increases.

There are those who have said \$1.75 million is a good deal because we have no investment in the properties. They are wrong ... every taxpayer in Howard County has an investment because the city, the county, the junior college and the BSISD forgave the operators both the ad valorem and sales taxes. That amounts to about \$275,000 annually. Additionally, the operators work for a 2 percent of what the sales-taxable amount would have been.

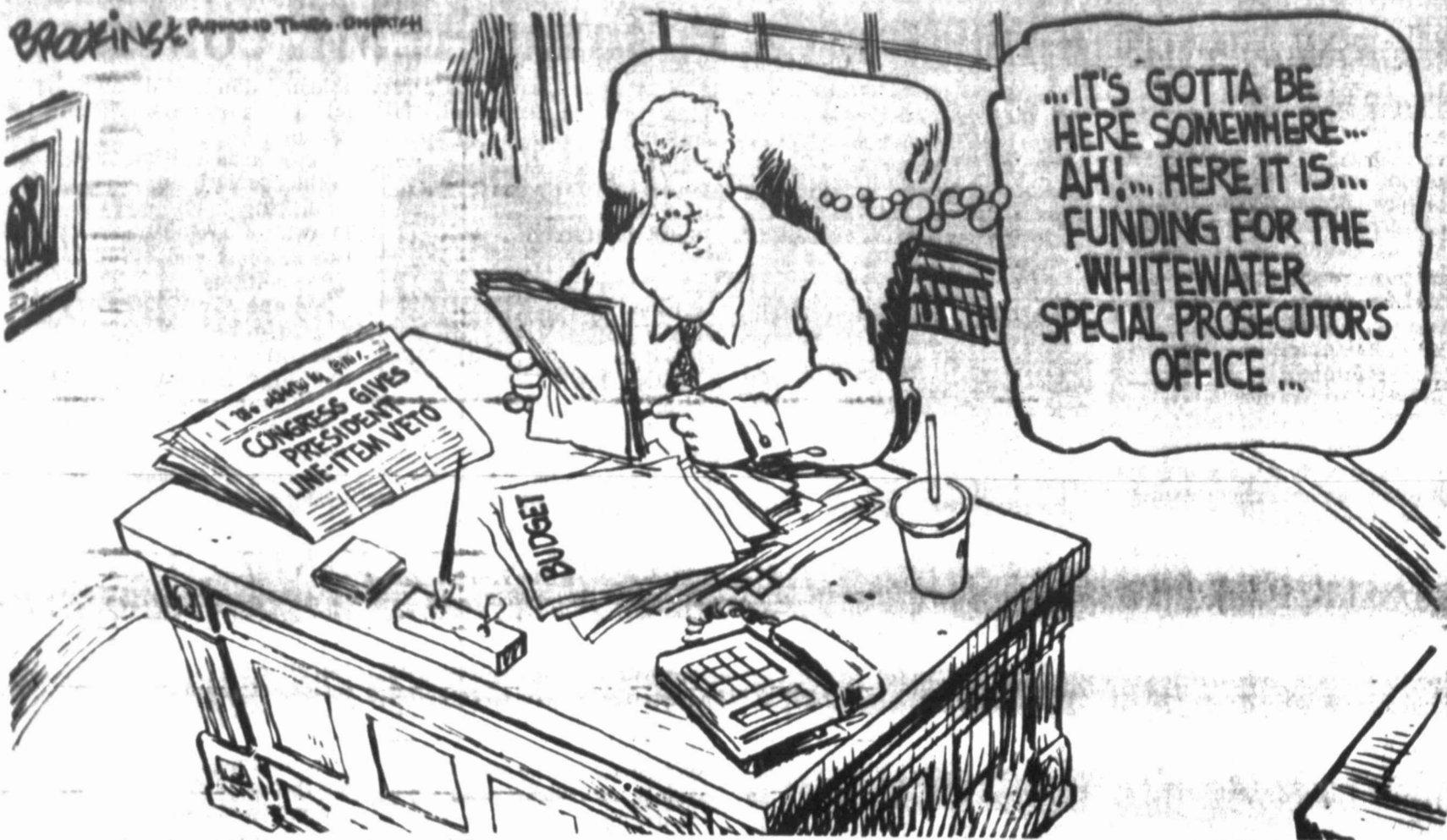
We do have an investment.

We believe that if you have a business with a 20 percent return on investment and an assessed value of \$10 million, you need to sell it for more than what amounts to a mere pittance.

If we sell for \$1.75 million and invest that money at 10 percent, which is next to impossible to find, our return is \$175,000 annually — less than 25 percent of what we now make.

There may be a reason to sell, but those reasons certainly aren't evident.

Let's not let the April 1 "bonus" make April Fools of us all.



Trying to explain politics to Ed Earl Poovey

"Hey, Walker," a voice called from the telephone earpiece in the middle of the night a couple of days ago.

I knew immediately who it was — Ed Earl Poovey. Ed Earl, his wife EthelEarl, and their little grandson, Billy Bubba, live down in Welfare, just off I-10 about halfway between Kerrville and San Antonio.

Over the years, I hear from Ed Earl a half-dozen times or so a year. I met him in the mid-70s at a crawfish racing contest in Breaux Bridge, La. I was driving home to see my parents and stopped to eat a platter of crawfish and drink a couple of pitch-

ers of beer and met Ed Earl, who was wearing a cap that read "Poovey Racing Team - The Fastest Claws in America."

He has a habit of calling late at night, because he says he gets a cheaper rate. I think it's because that's the only time they'll let him use the phone over at May Pearl's All-Night Eatery and Ceramic Shoppe. "What's the 'Slickster' up to these days?" he asked. I knew he was talking about Bill Clinton.

I asked him what he meant. "W'aall," he drawled as he tried to swallow a swig of Coca-Cola around a mouthful of Red Man, "I don't trust nobody that wears poofy hair, 'specially a man."

water thang. "She said, 'Stupid, why don't you call that newspaperman friend of yers ... him and his wife was up in Arkansas, wasn't it?'"

"So here I am," he said. And so he was. I started explaining what I knew about Whitewater. About the involvement of current Arkansas governor Jim Guy Tucker, the McDougals and the Clintons. As I talked along, Ed Earl would mumble an occasional "Um," or an "Uh-huh" as he acted like he understood. Ed Earl and EthelEarl are alright people. I remember they wound up when Billy Bubba's daddy, a worthless slug if ever there was one, got 15-to-20 at Huntsville for his part in a scam to sell dead car batteries. Seems like they'd clean up the old battery, paint it black, put a new sticker on it and sell it for the "bargain" price of \$29.95.

For the life of me, I never could understand how people would be stupid enough to buy a car battery with a "lifetime guarantee" for \$29.95.

Ed Earl's son, Junior, told the judge that he couldn't help it if all the "bairrys" experienced premature deaths. But, like always, Ed Earl and EthelEarl tried to keep a stiff upper lip. They told everyone that Junior was off at "trade school." I just don't know many opportunities for a "degree" in license plates! Any way, I kept explaining and Ed Earl kept giving me an occasional "Uh-huh." After about 30 minutes, I asked him if that was good enough for him to pass along to EthelEarl. "W'aall, yeah. But I still don't understand all the big deal about an amusement park." I didn't have the heart to say anything other than "Good-bye, Ed Earl, and give EthelEarl my best."



John H. Walker
Managing Editor

YOUR VIEWS

Failed candidate lays blame for defeat on Walker, Herald

To the Editor: I am writing in regards to the election coverage done by John Walker of the Big Spring Herald. May I also add that Chuck Williams, Publisher, stated to me that he and the company which owns the Herald fully supported everything John Walker wrote. I would like to ask everyone to unite and work together for the best of Howard County at this time. However, what John Walker and the Herald did to me must never be allowed to happen again. He uses editorials and what had been designated as an investigation of all five candidates into over a full page of malicious, negative, and in part untrue items, so as to destroy my campaign and even me personally. John Walker and the Herald did this I believe with malice towards me.

This now will leave many people never entering politics in Howard County and will certainly ensure that anyone wanting to be elected will need to have John Walker and Chuck Williams approval or face what I did. This will leave these two men with the power to decide who is not elected by reporting negative on one while leaving nothing to be said about other candidates. John Walker left out many positive things about my career and positive statements by such people as two police chiefs in Crane and the former Mayor of Blackwell. I do not have the space to answer his entire investigation but the truth will come out. John Walker and the Herald also cheated the voters from knowing information, positive and negative about all of the candidates. John Walker has also printed untrue quotes from me in his editorials and debate coverage, again I believe with malice.

If what happened to me is apparent to you I want you to know that John Walker and Chuck Williams are not the final authority. They answer to a Mr. Guy Trimble of the San Marcos Record. His mailing address is P.O. Box 1109, San Marcos, Texas 78667. Just think...

Woodie Howell Big Spring

Act of kindness toward hurt animal related by reader

To the Editor: Yesterday a part white lab-part precious puppy was hit by a car at the corner of Cecilia and Connally Streets. Today, I'd like to tell you about the random acts of kindness and goodness of heart that followed that accident. The people who hit the puppy immediately got out to check on him and to ask three teens roller-blading nearby if they knew who owned the injured animal. As they were here on Spring Break visiting their grandparents, they had no idea about the dog's ownership. They did know where to find help...their grandparents' good neighbors on Cecilia Street. Six families interrupted their busy lives of preparing supper, attending a Band Booster's Parent's meeting, a friendly bunko party, and one man stopped on his way home from tiring shift-work all for the sake of a small, white puppy. There were many heroes and heroines involved in this rescue beginning with the teenage girl with dreams of becoming a veterinarian who quieted and stayed with the injured puppy. Margaret Lloyd, Big Spring's Women of the Year and devotee to the Humane Society, gets a big thank you for the time she spent on the phone with us helping to arrange the puppy's treatment. Another gigantic note of appreciation goes out to Dr. Burt who left his dinner table to take care of the puppy.

The biggest lifesaver of the evening was an unlikely one if you believe the mean portrayal of dog catchers that we so often see in movies such as The Lady and The Tramp. Someone who saw the accident called the City Animal Control office. When he arrived, he gave us needed advice about treating the animal for bleeding and shock. He also honestly answered our questions as to what would happen to the injured puppy since the city has no facilities to take care of hurt animals. In the presence of all the children, he wisely answered with a big word they couldn't understand: euthanized. He further suggested that we put a call in to Margaret. He waited patiently while we made all our inquiring phone calls and kindly answered a million questions from the worried neighborhood kids. Ultimately, he turned his dog catcher pick-up into an ambulance and transported the puppy to a waiting Dr. Burt. I don't know if the city awards an Employee of the Month, but if they do Mr. Liedecke should win automatically as he went above and beyond the call of duty and did so in a wonderful and kind manner. He certainly won the hearts of Cecilia Street residents forever.

For a happy ending to this story, the puppy did survive surgery on his foot. He did lose a paw from the accident, but thanks to quick and caring treatment, his life was saved. We don't know yet who he belongs to and if anyone would like to own a beautiful, strong white Lab puppy, contact Margaret Lloyd through the Humane Society. Again, a big thank you to the Cecilia Street residents for their show of love to one of God's smaller creatures and to Mr. Liedecke with his outpouring of kindness.

Deanna Adams
Big Spring

Reader applauds efforts of those who helped during fire

To the Editor: My name is Fred Jernigan and I am a Captain at the Big Spring Correctional Center, Interstate Unit. On the night of Jan. 31, 1996, around 12 a.m., I was home sleeping on the sofa in my den at 2535 Gunter Circle. It was very cold that night and I had a fire going in the fireplace. As I slept, the fireplace flue ignited the sub-roof and a fire erupted. Officer Carlos Diaz, my next door neighbor at that time, was alerted by Big Spring Correctional Officer Juan Chabarría who was on his way to work at the Airport Unit, that smoke was coming from the roof of my house. Officer Diaz pounded on my door, but I did not wake up. More than likely, I did not wake up due to smoke already inside the den area. Officer Diaz then proceeded to break out a window in the front of my house to make sure no one was inside. At that time, my two dogs began to bark very loudly. The barking then woke me up enough to know that something was not right. I could see that someone was trying to get into the house, so I went to the door. I could then tell it was Officer Diaz and some firemen trying to get in. I feel if it had not been for the quick reaction and response from Correctional Officer Chabarría, Police Officer Diaz and the Big Spring Fire Department personnel on duty, I believe I would not be here today to write this letter.

I commend Correction Officer Juan Chabarría, Police Officer Diaz, and the Big Spring Fire Department for their alertness and professionalism. I truly am indebted to all of them for my life. It is great to know that people do really care about others.

Fred Jernigan
Big Spring

By Bruce Tinsley

...WHERE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT BRING NATIONAL TO YOUR SPRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS AND DECISIONS...
GET REAL BACK! GET REAL!

WHERE TO WRITE
GEORGE W. BUSH, Gov. of Texas, State Capitol, Austin, 78701. Phone: 1-800-252-9600 or fax at 512-463-1849.
DAN MORALES, Attorney, 2222 S. Loop West, Suite 2200, Austin, 78711-2548. Phone: 1-800-252-8011. Fax: 512-463-2063.

MALLARD FILMORE
...WHERE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT BRING NATIONAL TO YOUR SPRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS AND DECISIONS...
GET REAL BACK! GET REAL!

Conroe woman claims Montgomery Co. sheriff's candidate fathered her son

CONROE (AP) — The race for sheriff of Montgomery County was already a hotly contested one. Now a woman claims one of the candidates fathered her

19-year-old son. Sandra Stanley says Rick McDougald, whose campaign is based largely on a pledge to serve the children of this com-

munity, fathered her son Michael. "He says in his newspaper ads and stuff he wants to be sheriff so he can help all these kids and

all, but he's never taken responsibility for my son," said Ms. Stanley told the Houston Chronicle in Saturday editions.

"If he wants to deny he's Michael's daddy, he ought to take a blood test. He could take a lie detector test. We'd do anything like that if he would, because we know it's the truth."

McDougald, who is challenging incumbent Guy Williams in this year's Montgomery County sheriff's race, denies fathering the boy even though he does acknowledge that he signed away his parental rights to Michael in 1982.

McDougald is in the April 9 GOP primary runoff with Williams.

The 1982 court decree terminating parental rights and granting adoption of the boy by David Stanley — at the time married to Sandra Stanley — noted that "the alleged biological father is Rick McDougald." Sandra and David Stanley have since divorced.

The decree notes that McDougald had executed a waiver of interest — a document in which he neither admitted nor denied being the boy's natural father but waived parental rights nonetheless. McDougald told the Chronicle

that an attorney advised him that, though he denied being the biological father, signing the waiver would expedite the adoption and could not be used to prove he is the natural father.

McDougald said he did not know the Stanleys or the child. Asked why people who did not know him had named him as the biological father in the adoption in 1982 — McDougald said he did not know.

"Why should I not (sign the papers) if I'm not the father?" he said. "Why should I not go ahead and let the adoption process proceed? If they (the Stanleys) want what's good for this child, and according to this (court decree) what's good for the child was to be adopted, why not sign off and let it happen?"

McDougald's wife, Leslie, with whom he has three children, said she was not yet married to him but remembered when he received papers notifying him of the adoption. She said an attorney urged him to sign the papers because it would "clear" him of allegations.

"My husband was following the legal advice he was given," she said.

McDougald said there was no need for a blood test, then or

now, because he is not the father.

He noted that false allegations are commonly lodged in political races.

McDougald, along with two of his supporters who sat in on the interview with the Chronicle, attacked Ms. Stanley's credibility. Among other things, they noted she was once committed to a psychiatric hospital for drug rehabilitation and that last year a man she accused of sexual assault was acquitted. They said they have been investigating her since learning the allegations could surface.

Ms. Stanley, a 37-year-old retail store clerk, said attacks on her credibility "won't change the fact" that McDougald is her son's natural father.

Michael Stanley, serving a prison sentence in a state boot camp on a burglary conviction, was named Michael Lee-Rick Higginbotham when he was born Nov. 5, 1976, in Livingston. That was changed to Michael Sherman Higginbotham Stanley in the adoption.

Sandra Stanley, whose maiden name was Higginbotham, insists she gave her son the name Rick because McDougald was the father.

Conoco pumping bad gasoline in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Has your car's engine been idling roughly recently? It could be bad gas.

Conoco announced Friday it had detected contaminated gasoline at 45 different gas stations in Houston.

The Houston-based company revealed the findings after assuring the public that the company had drained all of the tainted fuel from pumps.

The bad gasoline was tainted with a silicon compound that leaves a white, powdery residue that coats car spark plugs, oxygen sensors and catalytic converters, auto mechanics say.

Conoco discovered high concentrations of silicon contamination at six different locations and traces of contamination at another 39 locations. The contamination has been found in all three grades of gasoline.

Company officials refused to say which stations were affect-

ed. Nearly one-third of Conoco's 154 Houston area stores had problems.

That residue can cause a car to idle roughly, hesitate when accelerating and even stall out. The repair bills to fix those problems are averaging \$600, although some repairs have cost more than \$2,000, said Conoco spokeswoman Teresa Wong.

The company has tested "every single pump, and every single tank at every single gasoline station," while also setting up a screening process to ensure no more contaminated fuel finds its way back into the Houston market, Ms. Wong said.

Conoco officials also say that their stations are not the only locations with contamination problems, although they did not identify who they suspect might have similar troubles. They note they bought the fuel from

refineries that supply other stations.

Exxon Corp., Shell Oil Co., Chevron Corp., Texaco, Coastal Corp. and Diamond Shamrock have all received customer complaints, the Houston Chronicle reported Saturday. These companies have said they tested their gasoline and found no contamination.

More than 200 Houston-area motorists have called the Texas Attorney General's Office saying they have pumped bad gasoline into their automobiles, while about 135 have complained to the AAA.

Conoco has received about 200 complaints, the company said. Conoco has promised to pay for the repairs for motorists who can demonstrate their mechanical troubles were caused by the bad gasoline and can identify the Conoco location where they purchased the gas.

Selena, Emilio top Tejano awards

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The songs of Selena, the slain Tejano star whose music helped define the art form, continued to win awards Saturday — almost a year after she was gunned down.

The Grammy-winning singer and another artist, Emilio, dominated the 1996 Tejano Music Awards, winning 12 of 16 categories. Each received six awards.

Selena was awarded female vocalist and entertainer of the year. Other awards included the song for "Tu Solo Tu" and overall album for her crossover CD, "Dreaming of You," which reportedly has sold 2.5 million copies.

The singer's fatal shooting at a Corpus Christi motel on March 31, 1995 by her former fan club president horrified fans and family members. Yolanda Saldivar was convicted of her murder and sentenced to a life term after a three-week trial in Houston in October.

Selena and Emilio have, since the beginning of the decade, helped Tejano become one of American music's fastest growing genres, generating large recording sales and concert revenue.

A special six-minute video tribute to Selena was shown on two 22-by-30 screens on either side of the stage at the Alamodome.

Emilio Navaira won male vocalist and entertainer of the year, Tejano country song for "It's Not the End of the World" and album (conjunto progressive) for "Sound Life," among others.

Pete Astudillo, who sang backup for Selena y Los Dinos until he embarked on a solo career in 1994, won most promising band honors.

Astudillo's remembrance of Selena, "Come Te Extran," which he wrote with the singer's brother, A.B. Quintanilla III, is still high on the charts.

Singer and actress Maria Conchita Alonso was host of the awards show. Gov. George W. Bush also made an appearance on stage during Texas Talent Musicians Association events.

Nearly two dozen artists performed during Saturday's show, including Emilio, Ramiro Herrera, Jay Perez, La Tropa F. Culturas, Fama, Mazz, Ruben Ramos and Mariachi Campanas de America.

Industry Ballot award winners, recognizing individual artists as voted on by their peers, included Quintanilla for songwriter — honors he tied with Gabriel Candiani — and record producer of the year.

Four artists were inducted into the TMA Hall of Fame.

They were Los Miracles, the Royal Jesters, and the late composers, Estella P. Lane and Juan H. Barron.

A list of Tejano Music Award winners Saturday:

Most promising band: Pete Astudillo.

Vocal duo: Emilio and Raul Navaira.

Showband: Selena y Los Dinos.

Album (orchestra group): "Solo Para Ti," Mazz.

Album (conjunto progressive): "Sound Life," Emilio.

Album (conjunto traditional): "Cruz De Madera," Michael Salgado.

Album (overall): "Dreaming of You," Selena.

Tejano crossover: "I Could Fall in Love," Selena.

Tejano country: "It's Not the End of the World," Emilio.

Instrumental: "David Lee's Favorites," David Lee Garza.

Female vocalist: Selena.

Female entertainer: Selena.

Male vocalist: Emilio.
Male entertainer: Emilio.
Tejano video: "Lucero De Mi Alma," Emilio; produced/directed by David Villarreal.

Industry Ballot Winners

Bass player: Noe Hernandez of Elida Y Avante

Drummer: Orville Ochoa of Elida and Vicente Barrera of Jay Perez's band. (tie)

Guitar: Bob Gallarza.

Keyboard: Brandito Mireles.

Horn: Albert "Skeeter" Amezcua of Ruben Ramos' band.

Accordion: David Lee Garza.

Bajo sexto: Juan P. Moreno

Rising star group: Juan P. Moreno.

Rising star male: Juan P. Moreno

Rising star female: Stefani.

Songwriter: A.B. Quintanilla III and Gabriel Candiani (tie).

Record producer: A.B. Quintanilla III.

International crossover: Selena y Los Dinos.



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Taiwan, in first presidential election, gives Lee a landslide

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — May Lee had decided early how to vote, but then she had a change of heart: As soon as China launched war games off the coast of Taiwan, she knew she had to cast her ballot for President Lee Teng-hui.

Enough Taiwanese had the same reaction to give Lee a landslide victory Saturday in the island's first direct presidential elections and in the midst of its worst confrontation with China in decades.

Even as people went to the polls, China waged a sixth day of military exercises, but its efforts to scare voters from democracy apparently backfired. It soon became clear that many Taiwanese supported Lee just to spite Beijing.

"We should unite to back Lee, especially when China fires missiles at our doorstep," the elegantly dressed Mrs. Lee said after leaving a Taipei polling station. She is not related to the president.

The president had been favored to win but not by such a high margin, with 54 percent of the vote. Pro-independence

candidate Peng Ming-min — Lee's main challenger and Mrs. Lee's original choice — came in second with 21 percent.

China's state-run Xinhua News Agency insisted Sunday that China's campaign of military intimidation had succeeded.

In response to China's pressure, candidates "were forced to repeatedly claim to oppose 'Taiwan independence' and advocate reunification," Xinhua said.

The news agency made no mention of Lee's overwhelming victory, only noting that two candidates favoring stronger ties to the mainland together received more votes than pro-independence Peng.

Undaunted by China's missile tests and war games, 10.6 million Taiwanese, a massive 76 percent of the electorate, flocked to the polls. Old and young, yuppies and farmers, students and laborers converged on schools, temples and other public buildings to cast ballots in boxes emblazoned with Taiwan's blue-and-red flag.

"The China threat made Lee Teng-hui very popular because he spoke back in very strong language," said Maysing H. Yang, a senior Peng aide. "People supported him because he was under attack from China."

As firecrackers sparked over Taipei, Lee thanked a gathering of 50,000 cheering supporters. Taiwanese voted "under threat and intimidation," he said, but "used their ballots to express their true love of this land."

"This is the most precious moment in our history."

Lee made no mention of how he will tackle the biggest crisis facing Taiwan: resolving a war of nerves with China that has shaken Asia, rattled Taiwan's economy and brought a U.S. naval armada into the region to deter a Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

Chinese war games in the Taiwan Strait — some as close as 11 miles to outlying Taiwanese islets — have shaken the island's financial markets. On Saturday, the China News reported government figures that anxious investors with-

drew \$5 billion out of Taiwan in the first two weeks of March.

But as the 73-year-old president sipped champagne with smiling aides, his triumph seemed complete. Lee had crushed his opponents on both flanks — Peng, who advocated outright independence for Taiwan, as well as two defectors from Lee's Nationalist Party who ran independently, advocating a more conciliatory line toward China.

Lee had 5.8 million votes, Peng 2.3 million, Lin Yang-kang 1.6 million and Chen Lin 1.1 million.

Pop music filled the air at Peng's headquarters, but none of the 200 people there danced. Instead of champagne, they sipped tepid tea as they watched the dismal returns on TV. Some fought back tears. Peng gracefully conceded defeat, saying: "We must not be discouraged or lose faith with Taiwan's quest for sovereignty, independence and democracy."

By rejecting Peng's call for complete independence, voters have handed Lee a mandate to

take the middle road in dealing with China. Most analysts expect him to ease up — though not abandon — his quest to heighten Taiwan's international profile.

That policy, highlighted by his visit to the United States in June, lies at the root of the problem: China regards Taiwan as a renegade province, with no right to conduct foreign affairs on its own. And it claims Lee has abandoned the doctrine of reunifying Taiwan with the mainland.

U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that because the United States does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan no formal congratulations would be offered.

But White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Glynn said: "We congratulate the people of Taiwan on their first election. They have made great strides in the past several years toward democracy. We hope to see tensions in the Taiwan Straits greatly reduced in the days to come."

Lee says he wants reunifica-

tion, but not with a Communist, non-democratic China. He says if war games stop, Taiwan will resume low-level talks on practical disputes arising from its unofficial trade ties with China.

Mainland China has never freely elected its leader. Taiwan, where the Nationalists fled after losing a civil war to China's Communists in 1949, was under martial law until 1987.

Since then, Taiwan has elected two legislatures and changed its constitution to allow direct presidential elections instead of appointments by an electoral college.

At a Buddhist temple in central Taipei, voters chanted prayers in the incense-filled air, then headed for curtained ballot booths.

"For a long time, we Taiwanese have been suppressed," said Lin Pien-shan, a bespectacled, 66-year-old tour guide who voted for Peng, the pro-independence candidate.

"Now we have a chance. We should unite and stand up for ourselves."

House approves repeal of assault-weapon ban

Scrrips Howard News Service

WASHINGTON — The House voted Friday to repeal the ban on semi-automatic assault weapons, fulfilling a campaign promise by Republican leaders to the National Rifle Association and other gun-control opponents.

It is likely to be a Pyrrhic victory, however. It is clear that opponents of the ban do not have the votes to repeal it in the Senate. Even if they did, President Clinton would veto any repeal.

The vote on the bill was 239 to 173, with 183 Republicans and 56 Democrats supporting repeal.

The ban on automatic assault weapons was approved less than two years ago as part of an anti-crime package. It explicitly outlawed 19 assault-style semi-automatic weapons, plus copycat models and some other semi-automatic guns.

Opponents argued the ban has been ineffective in deterring crime and that a better approach is tougher sentencing of criminals. The House bill would impose tougher mandatory sentences for crimes involving guns.

On the other side, gun-control supporters said lifting the ban would place combat-style weapons in the hands of criminals and predicted the deaths of more police officers and other innocent victims. The debate, more than three hours, was emotionally charged and raucous at times.

"I can't believe that in this House, a week after the kids were mowed down in Scotland,

that you have the nerve to bring this bill up," said Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., whose uncles — John Kennedy and Robert Kennedy — were assassinated.

"You want to add magazines to the assault weapons so they can spray and kill people. Shame on you ... you will never know, Mr. Chairman, what it's like because you don't have someone in your family killed. It's not the person who is killed, it's the whole family that is affected," Kennedy yelled, pointing toward House Rules Committee Chairman Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., who was managing "OP debate on the floor at that moment."

Solomon jumped to his feet angrily, telling Kennedy he "ought to be a little more careful."

"My wife lives at home alone five days a week in a rural area in upstate New York," Solomon said. "She has a right to defend herself when I'm not there, son, and don't you ever forget it."

Solomon then said to Kennedy in a challenging tone: "Let's step outside together."

Rep. Peter Deutsch, D-Fla., ignored time limits and continued reading the names of 33 police officers killed in 1995 by semi-automatic assault weapons.

Rep. Robert Walker, R-Pa., who was presiding over the House, repeatedly gaveled Deutsch as out of order, but Deutsch persisted. He quit just as Solomon ordered him to be physically removed from the floor.

Rep. Bob Barr, R-Ga., chief sponsor of the bill, described the issue as "a debate between Washington values and American values," insisting repeal has strong grass-roots support. Vice President Al Gore called

the vote "a warning bell that extremist groups have grabbed ahold of this Congress ... These weapons have one purpose only — to kill people. Hunting deer is a sport; hunting innocent men, women and children is a sin."

The issue places Senate Republican leader Bob Dole in a politically awkward position. Dole is under strong pressure from the NRA and other gun enthusiasts — an important part of the Republican political base — to at least bring the bill to the Senate floor.

Opinion polls, however, show voters overwhelmingly support the ban. Indeed, some Democrats have been almost gleeful about House Republicans' decision to raise the issue.

Dole called repealing the ban "one of my legislative priorities" in a letter to the NRA last year. He told reporters this week that the repeal "is not a priority" and then appeared to backpedal in a prepared statement a few hours later, saying he wants to "confer with my colleagues on the best course of action."

The vote gave Democrats an opportunity to draw a sharp distinction between themselves and most Republicans on a popular issue. It also put many GOP lawmakers seeking re-election in the position of either angering a core constituency or going on record against a popular law.

There was strong opposition from some rank-and-file Republicans to raising the issue.

It was primarily Republican freshmen, many of whom received support from gun-control opponents, who persuaded House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., to bring the bill to the floor.

Bosnia releases 109 Serb prisoners

GRACANICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The Bosnian government released 109 Serb prisoners just before a midnight Saturday deadline, marching them in a column toward a darkened bridge and waiting relatives on Serb territory.

Earlier, delays in the promised release of prisoners brought threats that further stalling by the formerly warring parties in Bosnia would be met by harsh international sanctions.

Authorities set a new eight-day deadline for release of remaining prisoners of war, while still threatening the economic sanctions.

"The time for words has passed. We expect deeds," Carl Bildt, who is overseeing the implementation of civilian elements of the Dayton peace accord, said after representatives of countries enforcing the peace agreement met Saturday in Moscow.

During talks last week in Geneva, leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia agreed to release all remaining prisoners of war by midnight Saturday.

According to the Red Cross, a total of 152 prisoners had been scheduled for release by all parties. Another 62 prisoners were being held for war crimes investigations.

There was no immediate word on whether the Bosnian

Serbs had released their prisoners, as promised.

Colum Murphy, a spokesman for Bildt, noted that the Bosnian government still is holding 26 prisoners in Tuzla, and called the partial release unacceptable under the peace accord.

"This does not constitute compliance, and measures to ensure compliance are being considered," Murphy said.

Reporters were mostly kept at a distance from the men released Saturday night, who were bused from their Tuzla jail about 30 miles to a checkpoint run by Swedish soldiers near Gracanica.

Almost all in the group had been captured in the final weeks of Bosnia's war last fall. The few who did speak to reporters said they had been treated well during their six-month jail stay.

"I hope somebody's waiting for me," said a nervous Zeljko Goric, 40.

The last in the column was Bolo Mistic, wounded in battle Sept. 12 and captured. He had a metal brace on his leg and was carried on a stretcher by four fellow prisoners. He said he had been cared for in a Tuzla hospital.

At the Gracanica bridge, Red Cross representative Laurent Feilay said the 109 men were all that the Red Cross had expected then. He said he

expected further prisoner releases in the coming hours and days, but declined to give any details.

If the releases do not go through, said an official, speaking on condition of anonymity, foreign donors may cut financial aid to Bosnia.

The NATO-led peacekeeping force and the Red Cross had both urged the factions to honor their pledge on the POWs, an important step in restoring peace to Bosnia after nearly four years of war.

In Pale, the Serbs' headquarters near Sarajevo, a senior Bosnian Serb leader said he was willing to cooperate, as long as the Red Cross guarantees that the Muslims and Croats were also releasing prisoners.

"The moment (the Red Cross) announces that the prisoners should be released, we will do that," Momcilo Krajisnik said. "But we cannot allow (ourselves) to be cheated."

Pierre Krahenbuhl, the head of the Red Cross mission in Bosnian Serb territory, blamed the delay on technicalities, and said it was not clear when the release would take place.

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali accused the Muslim-led Bosnian government of contributing to the exodus of Serb civilians from Sarajevo by failing to assure their safety.

Signs of racism escaped notice at Fort Bragg

Scrrips Howard News Service

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The top officers at Fort Bragg acknowledged Saturday that the Army "missed the signs" of a virulent strain of racism that apparently motivated the Dec. 7 slayings of two black civilians.

But military officials said they had taken steps to stamp out extremist behavior on the base and vowed to work with the Pentagon to head off future problems.

At an unusual news conference attended by dozen of the base's top brass, the commanders of the XVIII Airborne Corps and 82nd Airborne Division, also promised to meet this week with the NAACP to try to rebuild trust following the slayings of Michael James and Jackie Burden.

Three white soldiers who were later linked with a racist skinhead group have been charged with the execution-style shooting of the two Fayetteville residents.

"The Fort Bragg community was saddened, and then disgusted, when three soldiers were charged with this outrageous act of violence," said Gen. John M. Keane commander of Fort Bragg and its 10th Airborne Corps.

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Dispute threatens to send kids on daily 150-mile school bus trip

By EDUARDO MONTES
AP Writer

PRESIDIO — Picture a 7-year-old leaving the house by 6 a.m., being shipped out of town on a jostling school bus and not being allowed even a glimpse of home until 6 p.m.

As a parent, Hector Morales would spare the kids in his community this ordeal.

"It's impossible for that child to be that way, without his house and his mother, for 12 hours," said Morales, a farmer in Redford, a tiny village in the Big Bend region's Presidio County. "That's very tough."

But a brewing dispute between two school districts could very well force the dozen or so students at Redford's sole school to endure a long-distance commute that would stretch a school day into a dusk-to-dawn affair.

Problems surfaced last year when the Marfa Independent School District board, seeking to make some financial adjustments, voted to close Redford elementary and bus its pupils 75 miles to Marfa.

The trip would mirror a 160-mile round-trip bus ride — by some accounts the nation's longest school bus commute — that high school students have been living with for years in neighboring Brewster County.

Morales and other parents soon began protesting the trip would be too hard on the children and petitioned that Redford be allowed to secede and join the Presidio Independent School District.

Presidio is only 16 miles west of Redford (Pop. 100) and long ago agreed to take the town's middle and high school students as long as the Marfa district paid their tuition.

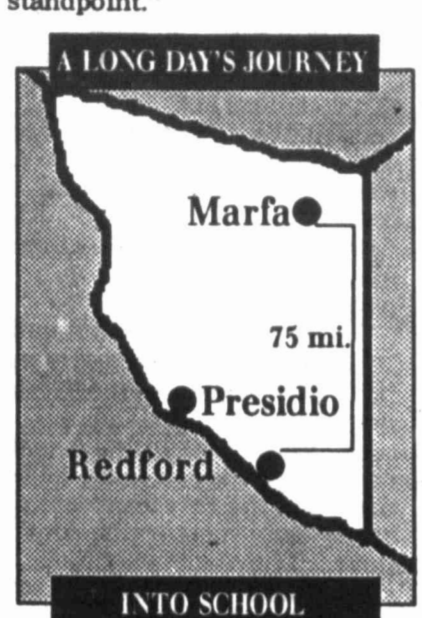
"We're happy with that," said Morales, who has two children at Presidio High School and an 11-year-old daughter at Redford School. "We don't want the 75-mile trip every day."

Yet, while Marfa agreed to release Redford and allowed the school to remain open this year so the matter could be settled, Presidio officials have balked at the annexation.

They express concern that the area they would receive doesn't

have a big enough tax base to cover the expense of taking on the new pupils while also paying for upper-level students who would no longer bring in tuition.

"We certainly don't have a problem taking these students and educating them," said Presidio superintendent David Simmons. "We feel we need to be ensured of being able to provide for them from an economic standpoint."



Assistant superintendent Robert Medrano put it more bluntly.

"Most of the school board is seeing this as a ploy by the Marfa ISD school board just to take advantage of the situation and disown the people that they're serving in Redford without giving up any tax base," he said.

Such complaints have rekindled a longstanding debate between officials in Marfa, on the county's northern edge, and Presidio, 60 miles to the south, over the division of the county's tax base.

Presidio officials protest that although they have more students, about 1,250 to Marfa's roughly 470, they have a smaller portion of the taxable property.

The most recent figures available from the Texas Education Agency show the Marfa district had a tax base of \$73.5 million in 1994, compared to Presidio's tax base of \$60.5 million.

More significantly, when the figures are broken down, they show that each student in the

Marfa district was supported by a tax base of \$156,875. Each Presidio student was supported by a tax base of \$55,187.

Marfa school board president Mark Kemp said his district can't afford to give up what Presidio wants, which he described as being "basically half the county," and noted disagreements have prolonged the Redford situation.

"We've tried over the last five or six years to come to an agreement over the students in Redford," Kemp said. "Basically that's been the complaint, that we didn't offer them enough exchange in tax base to make it financially feasible."

Some Redford residents see a problem that runs deeper than finances.

Melvin La Follette, a retired Episcopal priest who helped spearhead the annexation drive, said Redford was valuable to Marfa in the past because it was part of a larger parcel of taxable land that included Big Bend Ranch.

"They always put up with us because there was tax money involved, although Marfa never did like to have Redford," said La Follette. "Marfa people have always considered the Redford people as inferior."

But a few years back the ranch was turned over to the state, which converted the property into a state park, and it was taken off the tax rolls. Redford, said La Follette, suddenly lost its appeal to Marfa.

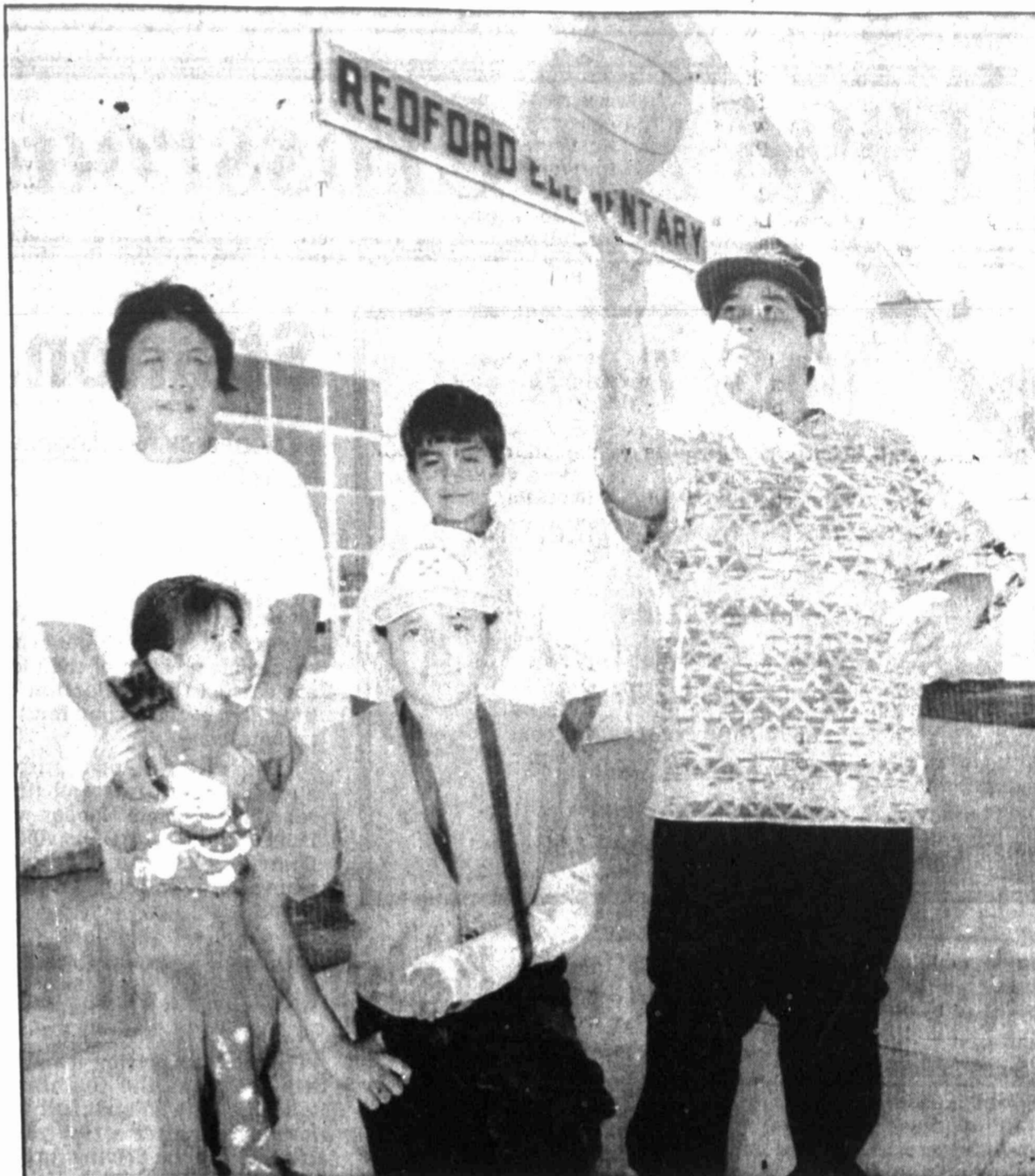
"Marfa would like nothing better than to get rid of us," he said.

Kemp maintains the decision to close Redford School was based solely on financial considerations. At an operating cost of \$150,000, the three-building school is becoming too costly, he said.

He argued the Presidio district actually stands to benefit because it will be eligible for increased state and federal funding if it accepts all Redford area students, who number about 30.

"It's on their side of the court to see what they're going to do with it," said Kemp.

With that, the dispute returns to the circular argument over tax base.



Beatriz del Campo, left, with her granddaughter, Janett Madid, 5, Noel Hernandez, center, Juan del Campo, 13, right, and David Marquez, 12, kneeling, pose for a photo outside Redford Elementary School in Redford. The students now attend Redford's school, but may soon be forced to take a 150-mile roundtrip bus ride each day to school in Marfa. Marfa ISD voted to close the Redford school last year.

That doesn't necessarily mean the matter will remain in limbo indefinitely, however.

The Presidio board is expected to vote on the annexation soon. And although Medrano said he believes a "good percentage" of the community opposes it, there will still be

other options if the measure fails.

La Follette pointed out that after a "no" vote, the parents of Redford would be able to appeal to state education officials to make a final determination on where the students should be educated.

If that fails as well, more extreme action can be taken, he said.

"We will have civil disobedience. We will lie in the path of the bus," said La Follette. "We will do whatever is necessary. Nobody in this little village will accept busing children to Marfa."

Plantiffs rejected by UT got on with their lives, filed lawsuits

FORT WORTH (AP) — In the summer of 1992, about 30 people throughout Texas received an identical letter from a lawyer in Austin whom none of them knew.

The recipients had these things in common: they were some of the top applicants that year to the University of Texas School of Law, they were denied admission to the prestigious institution and they were not members of a racial minority.

Now, four of those people have one more thing in common.

They are the plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Texas and the UT law school that sent shock waves this week through the halls of academe and the world of affirmative action in colleges and universities.

A federal appeals court said Monday that the UT law school wrongly discriminated against the four white applicants and illegally considered race as a criterion for admission.

It all began when Austin attorney Steven Wayne Smith used Texas' Open Records Law to obtain information about the top students who had been

denied admission to the UT Law School in 1992.

"I had read an article by a law professor at Austin who was critical of affirmative action and how it was being used, and that was in the back of my mind for several months," Smith said yesterday from Austin, where he founded the Texas Legal Foundation.

Smith, who graduated from Everman High School and the UT Law School, thought the arguments against the law school's affirmative action policies made sense. Eager to build up a fledgling law practice, he set out to find plaintiffs for a case that would challenge the law school's admission guidelines.

Nine people responded to Smith's query letter and six became plaintiffs in a case that was filed in September 1992. Two plaintiffs later dropped out.

Three of the four plaintiffs who stayed with the case were in their late 20s when the suit was filed.

"They each had a story to tell; they had something behind them," said Michael Greve.

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Do you have an interesting story idea? Call Steve Reagan, 263-7331, Ext 113.

1996 All-Crossroads Basketball Team

Boys' Team

MVP - Daniel Franks, Big Spring
Coach - Doug Gordon, Stanton
Defensive Player - Brandon Shifflett, Coahoma

First Team

Tanner Etheredge, Klondike
Brent Kirkland, Klondike
Jason Hopper, Stanton
Leo McCalister, Stanton
Stephen Croft, Sands
Kelly Lankford, Garden City

Stanton, Klondike land two on squad

By RODERICK RICHARDSON
Herald Sportswriter

BOYS

To be selected an all-star, an athlete only needs to meet one requirement: To be the best in your sport, and in your area.

Several of the 1995-96 All-Crossroads team met that requirement. Each of the players earned their selection on the basis of their contribution to their team.

Jason Hopper, of Stanton, averaged 14 points and nine rebounds a game. Hopper was named first team All-District in District 6-2A, and is second-team all region. Though Hopper

is honored to receive these awards, he's also thrilled to make the All-Crossroads team.

"This is my third year to make the team," said Hopper. "I feel privileged to make it, because it's area schools you're talking about. You're picked out of schools from 1A to 4A."

Stanton teammate Leo McCalister averaged 19 points and 7.5 rebounds per game. McCalister was the MVP for the West Texas team, named first-team all-region and third team all-state.

With the titles McCalister already earned this year, he admits he wasn't "surprised" to hear he was named All-Crossroads. However, McCalister still wanted to be a part of it.

"I knew I was going to make it I guess," said McCalister. "But it is still an honor to be named."

For Kelly Lankford, a 6-foot-4 post from Garden City, being named in the first team caps off an already memorable junior year. Lankford averaged 18 points, nine rebounds and two blocked shots a game. Lankford led the Bearcats to a long awaited post-season berth that

took them to the area playoffs.

"I feel great," said Lankford. "It's been a while since Garden City been to the playoffs, and I'm happy I won this."

Stephen Croft, a 5-foot-11 senior guard, was part of Sands' historic regional tournament run. Croft averaged 21.7 points and 4.1 steals per game. Croft also hit 79 three-pointers for the season.

Awards such as the All-Crossroads team are seen as symbols of the hard efforts of high school athletes. That's why Croft is always glad to receive one.

Please see BOYS, page 9A

Quality had no height limit this season

By STEVE REAGAN
Sports Editor

GIRLS

After several years of dominance by post players, this year's All-Crossroads girls' basketball team is a refreshing mix of both inside and outside play.

Granted, this year's most valuable player - Big Spring's Robin Wise - is a post player, but the guard and small forward positions also are staffed by some highly talented people.

This year's point guard was one of the best in West Texas this season. Deborah Light, a senior from Forsan, was the undisputed go-to player for the

Queens. The most valuable player from District 6-2A averaged 16 points, six assists and six rebounds a game this season. In addition, she had three steals a game, and a free throw average of 65.4 percent.

Her counterpart at the guard position, Garden City sophomore Tiffany Maxie, also was named most valuable player in her district. She averaged 15 points, six steals and three rebounds a game in leading the Lady Bearcats to the area round of the Class 1A playoffs.

The most surprising team in this area was the Coahoma Bulldogettes, who qualified for the playoffs after a five-year absence, and the driving forces behind that resurgence were three players All-Crossroads first-teamers: guards Cassie Tindol and Tara Sterling and forward Tori Elmore, who is the team's defensive player of the year.

Sterling, a 5-7 sophomore, completed her second year on the varsity, and made it a memorable one, scoring 9.8 points a game. Tindol, a freshman, wasn't a full-time varsity player until after the Christmas break but was the Bulldogettes' lead-

ing scorer in District 6-2A play, averaging 10.1 points a game in league action.

Just to make sure the front-court isn't ignored, the All-Crossroads team features two fine inside players.

The first, senior post Molly Smith of Big Spring, averaged 11 points and 6.8 rebounds a game, and was the prototypical big-game player, her coach said.

"I think what I'll remember about Molly is the way she stepped up in every big game we had," Ron Taylor said. "She stepped up and played better

Please see GIRLS, page 9A

Girls' Team

MVP - Robin Wise, Big Spring
Coach - David Cox, Coahoma
Defensive Player - Tori Elmore, Coahoma

First Team

Molly Smith, Big Spring
Deborah Light, Forsan
Tara Sterling, Coahoma
Cassie Tindol, Coahoma
Tiffany Maxie, Garden City
Stacy Newell, Sands

Her bloodlines helped, but Wise was own player

By STEVE REAGAN
Sports Editor

Robin Wise carried on a family tradition and blazed a trail of her own, all in one basketball season.

Wise, a senior post for the Big Spring Lady Steers, comes from a fine basketball lineage. Her sister, Tami, and cousin, Monette, were both all-district and all-state players for past Big Spring teams. Tami, in fact, was the girls' most valuable player on the Herald's first All-Crossroads team in 1989.

Move, over, girls, there's a new Wise woman in town. Robin duplicated her kin-folks' feats in that she was named to many all-district, all-area and all-state teams. But she can lay claim to one feat Tami and Monette can't: She led her team to a playoff victory

Wise assumed a heavy leadership role this season, and carried the young Lady Steers to a fifth straight District 4-4A title and, more importantly, their first-ever playoff win.

For her efforts, she has been named the most valuable player on the Herald's 1996 All-Crossroads Girls' Basketball Team.

Wise had a stellar campaign this season, averaging 18.3 points, 9.8 rebounds and six steals a game.

"I think she knew she had to follow in some pretty big footsteps. At the same times, Robin was her own person - she did it her way," Big Spring coach Ron Taylor said. "Her strong points were her dedication to the game and her leadership abilities. She realized that this was her senior year, and she needed to go out and not just be a good player, but a leader, too."

Please see WISE, page 9A

Cox turned Coahoma around

By STEVE REAGAN
Sports Editor

stepped in tradition but one that had seen hard times lately. After posting a losing record

David Cox hoped his first head coaching experience would be a good one.

So far so very good. Cox, who never headed a basketball program before last season, stepped into the head coaching job at Coahoma, a program

Girls' Coach of the Year

David Cox, Coahoma



Please see COX, page 9A

Gordon passes credit around

By RODERICK RICHARDSON
Herald Sportswriter

"It shouldn't be called Coach of the Year," said Gordon. "Because you had players of the year. Our kids played their hearts out. Albert Chavez, our assistant coach, did a tremendous job working with our defense. I get all the credit, but it was really

Stanton boys basketball coach Doug Gordon had a lot to say about winning Crossroads Coach of the Year Thursday.

But only one word could describe Gordon that day. He was humble.

Boys' Coach of the Year

Doug Gordon Stanton



Please see GORDON, page 9A

Franks ended high school career on very high note

By RODERICK RICHARDSON
Herald Sportswriter

Big Spring post Daniel Franks leads his team once again.

Franks was named All-Crossroads MVP this year after compiling a season average of 20.5 points and 11.3 rebounds a game.

With Franks, the Steers had a 11-19 overall record and was 6-5 in district. Unfortunately, the Steers missed the playoffs.

"I feel good about [winning MVP]," said Franks. "Last year, I made the first team. This year I wanted to play hard, and do what I could for the team. We didn't go far, but it was fun."

Awards are great, especially when you are a senior, but honors are not the major priority to Franks. The focus was on the season.

"You really don't worry about awards going into the season," said Franks. "If you get one, that's great. If not, then you

don't. Even the brightest of stars know that they cannot excel without help from their team. Before a school can have great individual players on the team, it has to have a cohesive squad.

"The team helped me look good," said Franks. "I'm just a post player. I can't bring the ball down the court. I have to wait for the ball to come to me."

"It was a team effort. The team went to me for the shot. Sometimes [the ball] went in, sometimes it didn't."

Big Spring basketball coach Gary Tipton says he is proud of Franks' accomplishments.

"[Franks] gave us a lot of mileage in Big Spring athletics," said Tipton. "He carried a big load for the team. He was the only player back from the previous year with a large amount of playing time. He had to carry a large responsibility there."

Boys MVP

Daniel Franks Big Spring



ON TAP

Today
Baseball
El Paso at Howard College, 1 p.m.

Tuesday
Baseball
Big Spring at Fort Stockton, 7:30 p.m.

Softball
Lubbock Coronado at Big Spring, 6 p.m.
Coahoma at Snyder, 7 p.m.

STATE/NATION

Ryan steamed over ejection
HOUSTON (AP) — Career strikeout king Nolan Ryan is hot, and this time it has nothing to do with his fastball. Ryan — with more strikeouts and more no-hitters than anyone else in baseball history — is miffed after his ejection Friday from a game between Texas Christian, for whom he is pitching coach, and Rice. Ryan got the thumb from plate umpire Tim Henderson for questioning a ninth-inning strike call on TCU batter Ryan Dunn. The umpire called a strike on a pitch from the Rice pitcher that appeared low and outside. Henderson, as the TCU bench protested, pointed to Ryan, tossed off his mask and threw Ryan out of the game.

Martin wins Grand National
DARLINGTON, S.C. (AP) — Nothing new at Darlington Raceway Saturday. Mark Martin won another Busch Grand National race. Martin, a regular on NASCAR's Winston Cup circuit who annually drives about half of the Grand National races, posted his fifth BGN victory in his last six starts on the 1.366-mile Darlington oval. In the other race, last March, he finished third, behind Larry Pearson and Johnny Benson, after leading the most laps (57). This time, Martin led twice for 48 of the 147 laps, including the final 38. Martin, driving a Ford Thunderbird, had a scare on the final lap when a crash by Doug Heveron in the fourth turn caused a traffic jam that nearly cost the leader his 22nd Busch Series victory and second of the season.

ON THE AIR

(listings subject to change)

Basketball
College
NCAA Regional Final, 1:30 p.m., CBS (ch. 7).
NCAA Regional Final, 4 p.m., CBS.
NBA
San Antonio at Indiana, noon, NBC (ch. 9).

Baseball
Atlanta vs. Cleveland, noon, TBS (ch. 11).

All-Crossroads Second Team

Boys

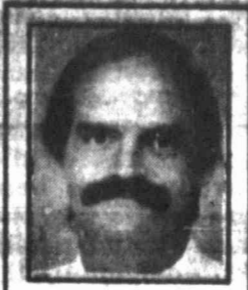
Taylor Looney, Stanton
Rusty Baker, Forsan
Brian Ruis, Coahoma
Josh Collum, Coahoma
Chris Arismendes, Klondike
Delynn Reed, Sands

Girls

Heather Anderson, Big Spring
Kara Hughes, Big Spring
Hollie Zam, Sands
Kim Webb, Sands
Nicole Johnson, Forsan
Amie Evans, Forsan

Picking the NAAs made difficult

Now that we've gone from the Sweet Sixteen to the Elite Eight to the Super Six? - of the NCAA men's tournament, I feel secure



Steve Reagan
Sports Editor

Courage is a rare thing nowadays - and even rarer where I'm concerned - but I'll be brave and

tell you the unvarnished truth. You won't be hearing anything like "I knew Mississippi State was going to do great," or "It didn't surprise me that UConn didn't make the regional finals."

No, I'll leave those kind of comments to folks who know what they're talking about. Me? I'll just fess up and admit I didn't do very good job of handicapping this tournament.

Anyway, let's look at Reagan's vision of the Final Four, circa two weeks ago:

• Connecticut - Oh well, at least they made the Sweet 16. I was so sure that the Huskies would at least make the Final Four, if not win it all. What I didn't count on was Mississippi State pouncing on them like a 10-cent nail.

• Georgetown - These guys were still alive as of Saturday afternoon (when I wrote this thing). Please note, Texas Tech fans: Just because I picked Georgetown didn't mean I wasn't rooting for the Red Raiders. My wallet was for the Hoyas, but my heart was for Tech.

• Kentucky - A no-brainer. If the Wildcats don't win the whole thing, it will be an upset of major proportions.

Not that I'd mind seeing Pittino's guys take a fall.

• Purdue - OK, OK ... you are free to tell me what I fool I was to pick the Boilermakers. I forgot two home truths about the NCAA tournament: The first seed in the West hardly ever wins the region; and Big Ten teams choke on a regular basis

in the postseason. I have seen the light.

One final note: You'll notice all my picks were either No. 1 or 2 seeds. This also was a mistake, because there's always a Cinderella or two around to make your life miserable.

Oh, well, gambling is a sin.

You may have noticed a name change on the Herald's all-star basketball team. The Crossroads Country Honor Roll is dead and in its place is the All-Crossroads Team.

I changed the name for two reasons: First, because Herald Honor Rolls are usually reserved for academic achievements; and second, because I just like the name better.

So there.

Hawks crush El Paso in series opener

By RODERICK RICHARDSON
Herald Sportswriter

It may be the start of a very long weekend for El Paso as Howard's baseball team dominated the first of three games Saturday 18-3.

The Hawks had everything covered against El Paso according to Howard coach Brian Roper.

"We had our ace on the mound [in Ben Phillips]," said Roper. "And we had guys that were really swinging the ball for us."

The Hawks were leading 4-2 entering the third inning when the offense poured in points. Second basemen Jason Huth opened the third with a triple followed by consecutive homers from catcher Chad Polk and left fielder Wes Davis.

If the game was not wrapped up with a 10-2 lead with one out in the third, Davis closed the game early with his grand slam home run.

"I am pretty excited," said Davis. "We were already ahead. I was looking for a pitch to drive. It always feel good to hit



Howard College's Corey Kelley (26) is safe at second during the Hawks' first game with El Paso Community College Saturday at Jack Barber Field.

a homer. It's good for your stats."

The winning pitcher for Howard was Ben Phillips.

Phillips is undefeated with seven wins. This game he

allowed only five hits, three runs and pitched seven strike-outs after the second inning.

Phillips' banner game is an example of Howard's consistency on the mound according to Roper.

"We pitched well all year," said Roper. "The strong point on the team is our pitching."

Other batters with home runs were first basemen Nathan Nelson, and shortstop Corey Kelley.

The Hawks are now 26-5. Howard is setting itself up to enter conference competition with plenty of momentum.

"It's good to get on top early in a season," said Davis. "We've been cruising the last 16 games. We just have to keep winning so we can get a good spot in the state tournament."

Howard played a double-header Saturday, and faces El Paso again Sunday here at 1 p.m. The Hawks are looking to come out this weekend on top.

"We have two more good pitchers," said Davis. "We should be able to beat these guys. They're a new team, and our experience should win it for us."

Cox

Continued from page 8A

and qualifying for the playoffs for the first time in five years.

Cox knew his first priority at Coahoma was to sell the team on his ideals. That task didn't take too long.

"At first, I didn't know what to think of him," sophomore Tara Sterling said, "but he came in and had a lot of good ideas. He definitely knows what he's talking about."

"I thought he'd be good for us," junior Tori Elmore said. "He did a lot of things for us ... and I knew he'd bring us a long way."

The Bulldogettes played 500 ball during the first half of the season, but a big reason for that was that Cox was rotating players back and forth from the

junior varsity in search of the right team chemistry.

After Christmas, however, he settled on a lineup and the results were evident. Coahoma stormed through District 6-2A, finishing behind only Jim Ned, which finished the season ranked fifth in the state.

The Bulldogettes' season ended with a loss to Class 2A state champion Ozoza in the first round of the playoffs, but that did nothing to dim the experience for Cox.

"We had really hoped to make the playoffs this year," Cox said. "Anytime you're in the playoffs, you feel fortunate, because there's a lot of good teams in this district."

Including one from Coahoma.

Wise

Continued from page 8A

Not surprisingly, Wise downplays her role on this year's team.

"My best memories will be the team atmosphere we had," she said. "They're a great bunch of girls, and they'll do

great next year. Coach Taylor had a great influence on me, and it's going to be weird playing under another coach next year."

Wise's collegiate options are open right now. "Hopefully, something good will come along," she said.

Girls

Continued from page 8A

than even I thought she could."

Another breakthrough performer this season was Sands' Stacy Newell, a 5-10 post player.

After becoming a full-time starter for the first time this year, the senior had an all-district season, averaging 10 points and 6.2 rebounds a game.

Boys

Continued from page 8A

"It's an honor for me to get anything," said Croft. "When you're selected to something like this, it means that people appreciate what you've done. I feel pretty fortunate this year."

There is also another side to the All-Crossroads selection. There lies a special achievement in coaching one or more of the all-star youth.

Garden City coach Robbie Robinson says it is great to have coached an athlete such as Leonard this year.

"It's a great honor to coach a kid with postseason honors," said Robinson. "I like to think [Leonard's success] has to do something with coaching. He had a tremendous season, and the team will look to him for leadership next year."

Stanton coach Doug Gordon enjoys being part of the event. "I'm happy for them," said

Gordon. "They deserve it. They're a good bunch of kids, and I am honored to have two of them [in the selection]."

Rounding out the All-Crossroads team are two members of Klondike's regional finalist.

Forward Tanner Etheredge, who was named to the Texas basketball coaches' All-Class 1A first team, and center Brent Kirkland were major reasons the Cougars advanced to the Region 1-1A final, where they were defeated by state semifinalist Nazarene.

Also on the All-Crossroads team is Coahoma senior Brandon Shifflett, who is the defensive player of the year. Shifflett, a 6-4 post player, was a presence in the middle for Coahoma, grabbing more than seven rebounds a game and accounting for 54 steals and 17 blocks this season.

Gordon

Continued from page 8A

them. "It's a great honor considering the other coaches in the area who could have easily won. It's a great honor among peers."

Gordon coached Stanton to the district and bi-district championship. Gordon says this year was a good run. "We set goals this year," said Gordon. "First was just making the playoffs, the other was the district championship. It was a fun time for the kids."

While Gordon credits Stanton's success to the rest of the team, Jason Hopper and Leo McCallister thinks Gordon was the major factor.

"[Gordon] told us from the start we had a chance to make to playoffs," said Hopper. "It took us having faith in him to go as far as we did."

McCallister also believes it kept Stanton going.

"[Gordon] believed in us," said McCallister. "He always had a winning attitude. It didn't matter who we played. He's an all-around good guy."

Hopper added that it is what Gordon does outside the sport that makes him worthy.

"If you had any problem whether it was on or off the court, you could go to him," said Hopper. "He always had time to talk."

Next year, Gordon said nothing about the possibility of winning the award again. His priority is focus on another district title, and he is confident in achieving that goal.

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BSHS golfers take first place at district stop in Andrews

HERALD STAFF REPORT

The Big Spring boys golf team took their first step toward the District 4-4A championship when they won the first round of league play at Andrews this weekend.

The Steers won with a team score of 308 beating host Andrews by seven strokes.

"I am extremely proud of this team," said golf coach Gary Simmons. "Andrews is the dis-

trict favorite. To beat Andrews at its home course is a great advantage, and is positive for the team."

Not only did the Steers defeat the district competition, they overcame harsh weather conditions.

"Golf is a tough game to play in 40 mph wind," said Simmons. "But the kids played hard and were level-headed. They did what they had to do, that's for sure."

The rest of the top five

schools were: Monahans, 326; Lake View, 334 and Ft. Stockton 341.

Jake McCullough, of Big Spring, was first place in individual standings finishing with 75. Big Spring's Pat Carter and Andrews Chad Anders were tied for second with 76.

Big Spring's Justin Cole, Monahans' Jason Pittman and Andrews Jay Chris Hubert and Ben Guiley each tied for fourth place with 77.

Sam Rodriguez of Big Spring

was tied with Kevin Risenhoover of Andrews for ninth place with a score of 80.

Other Big Spring individual scores were: Charlie Marmalejo, 83; Josh Palmer, 84; Rudy Gamboa, 93; O.J. Hernandez, 87; Dusty Palmer, 90; Heath Bailey, 89; Blake Weaver, 101; Shay Ditto, 103 and Josh Long, 124.

The second round of district takes place at San Angelo-Lake View Thursday. The final round is in Pecos April 8.

Hawks down El Paso, 2-1

After an 18-3 Howard killing over El Paso the first game, the Hawks took a more subtle victory the second game of the double-header Saturday winning 2-1.

Shortstop Corey Kelly hit a solo homer in the fifth inning for Howard's first score. El Paso tied the game in the sixth.

First basemen Nathan Nelson had the winning run with the help from a sacrificial bunt by Kelly in the final inning. Nelson was on second when El Paso's third basemen "threw away" the ball giving Nelson the opportunity to steal home.

The winning pitcher for the Hawks was Caleb Brown. In the seven innings, Brown had four strikeouts with only 3 walks and four hits.

The Hawks (27-5) face El Paso today at 1 p.m.

Sophomore leading LPGA stop

PHOENIX (AP) — Handling wind gusts of up to 35 mph was mostly a breeze for Kristal Parker-Gregory, who shot a 4-under-par 69 Saturday for a three-shot lead over Laura Davies after the third round of the Standard Register Ping.

Parker-Gregory, seeking the first victory of her two-year LPGA career, stands at 9-under 210 heading into Sunday's final round of the \$700,000 event where the winner earns \$105,000.

First-round co-leader Barb Mucha could have been in sole possession of second place but two-putted for a double-bogey on No. 18 after her tee shot found water. She wound up with a 73 for a 214 tourney total.

Looming large is Davies, this event's two-time defending champion who started the day tied for fifth place and four shots off the lead.

Davies, who considered herself out of contention after opening rounds of 71 and 73, carded a 69 Saturday and briefly held the lead with birdies on five of her first eight holes.

But Davies, plagued by poor putting all week, bogeyed Nos. 10 and 11 before rolling in a 30-footer for birdie on the 17th hole.

Davies is trying to become the first LPGA player to win the same tournament three consecutive years since Sandra Haynie won the Charity Golf Classic at Fort Worth, Texas, from 1973-75.

Parker-Gregory, who has never finished higher than a tie for 20th in her brief LPGA career, started the day in second place tied with Mucha and one shot behind Friday's leaders Val Skinner, Brandie Burton and Marianne Morris.

The 31-year-old former UCLA star who had three birdies and a bogey on the front nine at Moon Valley Country Club and bogeyed the 10th hole.

Goliad boys second at meet

The Goliad boys track team came oh-so-close to winning the Andrews Junior High School track meet Saturday.

Goliad finished in second place, four points behind winner Andrews, but if not for a mixup earlier in the meet, Goliad might have won.

Earlier in the meet, Goliad finished first and third in one of the running events, gaining 16 points, but because of a timing mixup, the event had to be rerun. On the second try, Goliad's runners finished further back in the pack, coach Danny Arista said.

Goliad finished with 192 points, while Andrews won the seventh grade division with 196 points.

Goliad won both relay events. The 400 relay team of Kevin Rodriguez, Ricky Smith, Colby Ford and Jason Woodruff finished first in a time of 49 seconds, while the 1,600 relay team of Ford, Woodruff, Steve Moreno and Rene Herrera won their event in 4:34.

Woodruff added an individual gold medal to his haul by winning the 100 dash in 12.1 seconds, and Moreno also struck gold in the 400 dash and 800 run.

Mike Solis grabbed Goliad's other individual gold medal of the day by winning the 1,600 run in 5:33.

Goliad's next meet is Friday in Lamesa.

Watson trails 2nd-year pros at Freepoort-McDermott Classic

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Scott McCarron, with only one Top 10 finish during two years on the tour, and fellow sophomore Tommy Tolles, moved past veteran Tom Watson in the third round of the Freepoort-McDermott Classic on Saturday.

McCarron, who finished third in Las Vegas last year to keep his tour card, had four bogeys and seven birdies in gusting wind for a 69 to take the lead at 12-under-par 204.

"It was a roller-coaster ride, up and down," McCarron said. "I like roller-coasters, though, so it was fun."

Tolles, whose best finish to date was third place in the Bob Hope Classic last year, used six birdies, including ones on the

17th and 18th holes, to complete the round at 66, putting him 11-under after three rounds.

"It was a lot of fun, Mike (Reid) and I sort of chit-chatted back and fourth the whole way," Tolles said. "I think that kept me relaxed. I wasn't thinking about my swing or my putting."

Watson, one stroke back at the start of the round at 10-under, finished at 10-under on Saturday after making one bogey and one birdie for third place in the \$1.2 million tournament.

Second-round leader Lennie Clements, who started the day at 11-under, had four bogeys including No. 17 and 18 and dropped to 9-under.

Defending champion Davis

Love III moved to 10-under through 13 holes, but bogeyed 14 and 17 to finish 8-under.

McCarron, 31, made putts of 15-, 8-, 24-, 3-, 7-, and two for 12-feet for birdies. He hooked into the bunkers on 11 and 14 for bogies.

"It was tough to deal with the wind out there," McCarron said.

The wind was gusty and blowing at about 15 to 20 mph.

Tolles, 29, capped a six-birdie round with a 30-foot putt for birdie on the tough last hole that he couldn't believe dropped in.

"As soon as I hit the putt, I gave up on it," Tolles said. "I thought it would go at least five

or six feet beyond the hole. Then a gust of wind came up and pushed it right in."

Watson, who has not won a PGA tournament in nine years, made a five-foot putt for his only birdie but saved par with short putts on No. 1, 4 and 13. He missed a 2-foot putt on 14 for a bogey. Watson, who has struggled with his short putts, was pleased with his play and his position.

"I played a good round of golf, especially with the wind. It was a very different golf course because of the wind," Watson said. "The short strokes were working well early and I felt pretty good with the putter."

Watson has won the New Orleans tournament twice and

led for second once, all before the event moved to English Turn.

"I like my position," Watson said. "I like the way I'm playing. I like the way I'm putting."

Watson, who has won 32 PGA tournaments, acknowledged he'd be much more relaxed waiting for the last round than McCarron and Tolles.

McCarron said he would call his sports psychologist during the evening.

"I think it took me a while to learn to handle the night before the final round," Watson said. "The main thing is to take your mind off tomorrow's round. There's always a little tension but you just try to relax your mind."

Muster gives ammo to critics by faltering on hard court

KEY BISCAIYNE, Fla. (AP) — Thomas Muster gave critics of his No. 1 ranking more ammunition Saturday.

Stumbling again on a hard-court surface, Muster lost his opening match at the Lipton Championships to unheralded Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela 7-6 (7-4), 6-4.

"It's a little bit surprising," said Pete Sampras, who is ranked No. 2. "I'd be more surprised if he lost on clay."

"Maybe he's the best player in the world on clay. But I don't think players consider him the best player in the world on indoor, hard court or grass."

A sullen Muster was defiant in defeat.

"I don't have to show anybody that I can do anything anywhere," he said. "I can do well anywhere."

Detractors say the ATP computer overrates Muster by placing too much emphasis on his clay court results. Since the beginning of last year, Muster is 70-2 on clay and 29-22 on other surfaces. He has lost his past five tournament matches away from clay.

Despite the latest loss, Muster will remain No. 1 unless Sampras reaches the final. Sampras easily won his opening match, beating Dutchman Sjeng Schalken 6-3, 6-2.

In women's play, No. 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario was upset in her opening match by Karina Habsudova of Slovakia 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4). Habsudova, ranked 98th, squandered three match points before closing out the two-hour, 17-minute baseline duel.

Unseeded Jennifer Capriati advanced to the fourth round by beating Elena Likhovtseva 7-6 (7-5), 6-4. No. 6 Chanda Rubin defeated Alexandra Fusai 6-2, 6-0.

Men's seeds eliminated included No. 8 Thomas Enqvist and No. 9 Wayne Ferreira. Enqvist lost to

Vince Spadea of Boca Raton, Fla., 6-3, 7-5, and Ferrelra lost to Hendrik Dreekman of Germany 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 6-4.

Michael Chang ousted Jason Stoltenberg 6-3, 6-4.

Muster's record when ranked No. 1 fell to 0-3. He reached the top spot for the first time Feb. 12 and reclaimed it March 11.

"The ranking is probably getting to him as far as any distraction," Sampras said. "Seems like everyone has been talking about it. Maybe he's letting it affect his tennis."

Pereira, 25, appeared to pose only a modest threat. Ranked No. 114, he upset Boris Becker earlier this year but was a first-round loser in his past three tournaments. And Pereira won only three games when he played Muster on clay last year in Mexico City.

But on the stadium court at Lipton, Muster's baseline game was no match for Pereira's strong serving and deft net play. The tournament's top seed, Muster converted only one of eight break points, and his ground strokes lacked their usual size.

Pereira broke serve in the final game, putting away an easy volley on match point, then bowing to the crowd while Muster quickly headed for the exit.

"He's struggling at No. 1," Pereira said. "All this talk is doing him bad."

Sampras could regain the top ranking by reaching the final, depending on how many bonus points he accumulated in the next week.

Muster entered the tournament for only the second time since 1989, when he sustained a serious knee injury in an accident involving a drunken driver hours after winning a Lipton semifinal match.

The Austrian won 12 titles in 1995 but has won only one of nine tournaments this year.

Former Stephenville great Stewart tries to restart football career at Texas A&M

Scripps Howard News Service

COLLEGE STATION — Don't bother asking Brannon Stewart what he did on spring break. Ask him about something more exciting. Ask him about the weather.

His longest trip of the week was from his apartment to the Texas A&M Athletic Department. He watched film. And more film.

"Pretty boring," he said.

Boring but necessary. While most of his classmates and teammates were enjoying last week, Stewart was studying for the biggest test of his college career. His professor is Aggies offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Steve Ensminger. He grades on the curve.

The competition includes Kevin Colon, Randy McCown and Shane Lechler. Like Stewart, they distinguished themselves in Texas high schools. Unlike Stewart, they haven't been through this before.

Stewart came within a future All-American of starting at Tennessee as a true freshman quarterback in 1994. When he finished second to Peyton Manning, he transferred to Texas A&M, about 90 miles from Stephenville, where he was a high school All-American.

Tuesday afternoon, he started over.

From Tuesday's first practice to the last practice of the spring, Stewart's every move — like those of his competition — will be graded. Every handoff, every dropback, every pass.

"They'll be able to see where they stand every day," Ensminger said.

Ensminger knows something

about quarterbacks and competition. He competed for three years with former Steelers and Dolphins quarterback David Woodley at LSU. One day Woodley was better; one day Ensminger was better.

"That was hard to accept coming out of high school," Ensminger said. "We were both used to being the guy. But that was the system."

As a coach, Ensminger has done it both ways. As a quarterbacks coach at Louisiana Tech, there was a season in which he played two quarterbacks. Later, he was the quarterback coach at Georgia for three of Eric Zeier's four seasons.

He and head coach R.C. Slocum plan to have "one guy" next season. And they won't wait until next preseason to select him.

"That's fine with me," Stewart says. "The sooner the better."

Next fall, the Aggies will start as soon as anybody. They will report for preseason practice Aug. 1. Three weeks later, they will open the 1996 college season against Brigham Young at Provo, Utah. After that, the schedule in the newly formed Big 12 will only get tougher and could extend into December if the Aggies are good enough to win their division.

They might be good enough to win more than that.

They return nine of their top 10 offensive linemen, their leading receiver, three outstanding young tailbacks, and three first-team All-Southwest Conference defenders.

All they need is — you guessed it — a quarterback.

Aggies fans have heard that before. Quarterback Corey Pullig, who started the last four

years, is the winningest quarterback in Texas A&M history. Some critics insist the Aggies won in spite of him not because of him.

The Aggies won 10 or more games in four of the last five seasons. They dominated the SWC in the 1990s. But outside the conference, they lost the games that mattered most, games that could have led to a national championship.

"The talent here is similar to what it was at Tennessee," Stewart said. "They've got a lot of fast guys, a lot of big guys who can run."

Stewart is one of them. He is 6-foot-3, 210 pounds and is already breaking Bucky Richardson's school weightlifting records for quarterbacks.

"I've still got to get the power-clean record (his best is 341)," Stewart said with a smile.

Richardson's name invariably comes up when you ask for an appraisal of Stewart. Coaches see the same leadership and competitiveness in Stewart that they saw in Richardson, who recently signed with the Kansas City Chiefs.

While Richardson came to Texas A&M labeled an option quarterback, Stewart was recruited by the likes of Florida and UT for his passing. If he ran like a tailback on game day, so much the better.

From the get-go, Stewart was judged the superior athlete to Manning. It was just as obvious to the coaches that Manning had a better grasp of the offense.

Stewart could have gone through UT's spring practice in 1995, transferred at the end of the semester and had three years eligibility at Texas A&M.



We would like to thank our family and friends for their support, prayers and kindness during Jimmy's campaign for Sheriff.

Jimmy, Debra, Wendie & Whitney Wallace

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SPORTSEXTRA

BASKETBALL

NCAA men

EAST REGIONAL
First Round
At The Providence Civic Center
Providence, R.I.
Thursday, March 14
Stanford 66, Bradley 58
Massachusetts 92, Central Florida 70
Arkansas 86, Penn State 80
Marquette 68, Monmouth, N.J. 44
At Richmond Coliseum
Richmond, Va.
Friday, March 15
Georgetown 93, Mississippi Valley State 56
New Mexico 69, Kansas State 48
Texas Tech 74, Northern Illinois 73
North Carolina 83, New Orleans 62

Second Round
At The Providence Civic Center
Providence, R.I.
Saturday, March 16
Massachusetts 79, Stanford 74
Arkansas 65, Marquette 56
At Richmond Coliseum
Richmond, Va.
Sunday, March 17
Georgetown 73, New Mexico 62
Texas Tech 92, North Carolina 73

Regional Semifinals
At The Georgia Dome
Atlanta
Thursday, March 21
Georgetown 96, Texas Tech 90
Massachusetts 79, Arkansas 63

Regional Championship
At The Georgia Dome
Atlanta
Saturday, March 23
Georgetown (29-7) vs. Massachusetts (34-1), 6 p.m.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL
First Round
At The RCA Dome
Indianapolis
Thursday, March 14
Connecticut 69, Colgate 59
Eastern Michigan 75, Duke 60
Mississippi State 58, Virginia Commonwealth 51
Princeton 43, UCLA 41
At Orlando Arena

Orlando, Fla.
Friday, March 15
Temple 61, Oklahoma 43
Cincinnati 66, North Carolina-Greensboro 61
Boston College 64, Indiana 51
Georgia Tech 90, Austin Peay 79

Second Round
At The RCA Dome
Indianapolis
Saturday, March 16
Connecticut 95, Eastern Michigan 81
Mississippi State 63, Princeton 41
At Orlando Arena
Orlando, Fla.
Sunday, March 17
Cincinnati 78, Temple 65
Georgia Tech 103, Boston College 80

Regional Semifinals
At Rupp Arena
Lexington, Ky.
Friday, March 22
Mississippi St. 80, Connecticut 55
Cincinnati 87, Georgia Tech 70

Regional Championship
At Rupp Arena
Lexington, Ky.
Sunday, March 24
Mississippi State (25-7) vs. Cincinnati (28-4), 5 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL
First Round
At Reunion Arena
Dallas
Thursday, March 14
Kentucky 110, San Jose State 72
Virginia Tech 81, Wisconsin-Green Bay 48
Iowa State 74, California 64
Utah 72, Canisius 43

Regional Semifinals
At The Bradley Center
Milwaukee
Friday, March 15
Louisville 82, Tulsa 80, OT
Villanova 92, Portland 58
Wake Forest 62, Northeast Louisiana 50
Texas 80, Michigan 76

Second Round
At Reunion Arena
Dallas
Saturday, March 16
Utah 73, Iowa State 67
Kentucky 84, Virginia Tech 60
At The Bradley Center
Milwaukee
Sunday, March 17

Louisville 88, Villanova 64
Wake Forest 65, Texas 62

Regional Semifinals
At The Metrodome
Minneapolis
Thursday, March 21
Kentucky 101, Utah 70
Wake Forest 80, Louisville 59

Regional Championship
At The Metrodome
Minneapolis
Saturday, March 23
Kentucky (31-2) vs. Wake Forest (26-5), 3:40 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL
First Round
At The PR
Albuquerque, N.M.
Thursday, March 14
Syracuse 86, Montana State 55
Drexel 75, Memphis 63
Purdue 73, Western Carolina 71
Georgia 81, Clemson 74

At The University Activity Center
Tempe, Ariz.
Friday, March 15
Santa Clara 91, Maryland 79
Kansas 92, South Carolina State 54

Second Round
At The PR
Albuquerque, N.M.
Saturday, March 16
Georgia 76, Purdue 69
Syracuse 69, Drexel 58

At The University Activity Center
Tempe, Ariz. Sunday, March 17
Arizona 87, Iowa 73
Kansas 76, Santa Clara 51

Regional Semifinals
At McNichols Arena
Denver
Friday, March 22
Syracuse 83, Georgia 81, OT
Kansas 83, Arizona 80

Regional Championship
At McNichols Arena
Denver
Sunday, March 24
Syracuse (27-8) vs. Kansas (29-4), 2:40 p.m.

THE FINAL FOUR
At Continental Airlines Arena
East Rutherford, N.J.
National Semifinals

Saturday, March 30
East champion vs. Midwest champion
Southeast champion vs. West champion
First game tip-off: 6:30 p.m.
National Championship
Monday, April 1
Semifinal winners, 9:22 p.m.

NIT men
First Round
Wednesday, March 13
Rhode Island 82, Marist 77
College of Charleston 55, Tennessee 49
South Carolina 100, Davidson 73
Michigan St. 64, Washington 50
Minnesota 68, Saint Louis 52
Missouri 86, Murray St. 85
Illinois St. 73, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 49
Wisconsin 55, Manhattan 42
Tulane 87, Auburn 73, OT
Vanderbilt 86, Arkansas-Little Rock 80

Alabama 72, Illinois 69
Fresno St. 58, Miami, Ohio 57
Thursday, March 14
St. Joseph's 82, Iona 78
Nebraska 91, Colorado St. 83
Washington St. 92, Gonzaga 73

Friday, March 15
At New Haven Coliseum
New Haven, Conn.
Providence 91, Fairfield 79

Second Round
Monday, March 18
South Carolina 80, Vanderbilt 70
Tulane 84, Minnesota 65
Illinois St. 77, Wisconsin 62
Alabama 72, Missouri 49

Tuesday, March 19
St. Joseph's 82, Providence 62
Nebraska 82, Washington State 73
Fresno State 80, Michigan State 70

Wednesday, March 20
Alabama 68, South Carolina 67
Tulane 83, Illinois State 72

Friday, March 22
St. Joseph's 76, Rhode Island 59
Friday, March 22
Nebraska 83, Fresno St. 71

At Madison Square Garden
New York

Thursday, March 28
Semifinal losers, 7 p.m.
Championship
Semifinal winners, 9 p.m.

NBA
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Orlando	52	17	.754	—
New York	38	27	.585	12
Miami	34	33	.507	17
Washington	30	37	.448	21
New Jersey	27	40	.403	24
Boston	26	41	.388	25
Philadelphia	13	54	.194	38

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	66	7	.898	—
Indiana	41	26	.612	19
Atlanta	38	29	.567	22
Cleveland	38	30	.559	22 1/2
Charlotte	33	33	.500	26 1/2
Milwaukee	21	45	.318	38 1/2
Toronto	17	49	.258	42 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	48	18	.727	—
x-Utah	47	20	.701	1 1/2
Houston	42	25	.627	6 1/2
Denver	28	39	.418	20 1/2
Minnesota	22	45	.328	26 1/2
Dallas	21	46	.313	27 1/2
Vancouver	11	54	.169	36 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Seattle	51	15	.773	—
L.A. Lakers	41	24	.631	9 1/2
Phoenix	33	33	.500	18
Portland	32	35	.478	19 1/2
Sacramento	30	36	.451	21
Golden State	30	36	.451	21
L.A. Clippers	25	42	.373	26 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
Friday's Games
San Antonio 120, Toronto 108
Boston 99, Denver 98
Orlando 111, Washington 108, OT
Atlanta 117, Charlotte 92

Detroit 111, New Jersey 96
Indiana 111, Vancouver 94
Miami 122, Milwaukee 108
Toronto 110, Dallas 94
Utah 88, Cleveland 75
L.A. Clippers 107, Philadelphia 93
Sacramento 80, Portland 78

Saturday's Games
Late Games Not Included
Atlanta 92, Detroit 84
Minnesota at Houston, (n)
Philadelphia at Seattle, (n)
Phoenix at Golden State, (n)

Sunday's Games
New York at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Vancouver at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
San Antonio at Indiana, 1 p.m.
Denver at Washington, 3:30 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 3:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Milwaukee, 3:30 p.m.

Miami at Boston, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.
Monday's Games
San Antonio at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m.
Philadelphia at Portland, 10 p.m.

Pacific Division
x-Colorado 41 22 10 92.286 214
Vancouver 28 30 15 71.254 251
Calgary 29 31 11 69.211 210
Anheim 29 36 6 4 203 218
Edmonton 28 37 5 9 236 267
Los Angeles 21 37 15 57.226 271
San Jose 18 47 43 230 317

y-clinched division title
x-clinched playoff spot
Friday's Games
Portland 1, Ottawa 1, tie
Chicago 4, New Jersey 2
Detroit 7, Colorado 0
Montreal 4, Buffalo 1
Philadelphia 1
Anheim 6, St. Louis 1
San Jose 2, Calgary 1, OT
Edmonton 5, Dallas 2

Saturday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at Boston, 1:30 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Florida at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10:30 p.m.
Dallas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Anheim at Chicago, 3 p.m.
Colorado at Winnipeg, 3 p.m.
Edmonton at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Detroit at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Hartford at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 10:30 p.m.

HOCKEY
NHL
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pts	GF	GA	
N.Y. Rangers	36	20	14	86	242	197
Florida	38	24	85	235	204	
Philadelphia	35	23	83	237	186	
Washington	33	29	75	199	185	
New Jersey	32	28	111	75	164	169
Tampa Bay	32	28	111	75	209	221
N.Y. Islanders	20	42	48	201	272	

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	42	24	88	313	241
Montreal	36	27	80	232	214
Boston	34	29	77	242	234
Hartford	30	32	68	209	223
Buffalo	27	37	61	205	221
Ottawa	15	52	34	165	255

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
--	---	---	-----	----	----

NEW YORK YANKEES—Optioned Ruben Rivera, outfielder, and Jim Meier, pitcher, to Columbus of the International League. Assigned Jose De Jesus, pitcher, and Ivan Cruz and Freddie Benavides, infielders, to their minor-league camp.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Sent Craig Paquette, infielder, outright to Edmonton of the Pacific Coast League.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
CINCINNATI REDS—Placed Jeff Brantley and Jose Rijo, pitchers, and Eric Anthony and Thomas Howard, outfielders, on the 15-day disabled list. Released Rich Rodriguez, pitcher. Signed Andre King, outfielder, to a minor-league contract and assigned him to Chattanooga of the Southern League.
COLORADO ROCKIES—Placed Eric Young, infielder, and Bret Saberhagen, pitcher, on the 15-day disabled list.
HOUSTON ASTROS—Assigned Alvin Morman and John Johnston, pitchers, to their minor-league camp.
MONTREAL EXPOS—Announced Felipe Alou, manager, exercised his option for the 1997 season.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Assigned Elmer Dessens, pitcher, to their minor-league camp.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Optioned Brian Barber, and John Francosone, pitchers; Tripp Cromer, infielder; and Terry Bradshaw, outfielder; to Louisville of the American Association. Assigned Dave Eiland, Mike Moore, Gregg Olson, and Ross Powell, pitchers; Scott Hemond, catcher; and Rod Corraie, infielder, to their minor-league camp.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
HOUSTON ROCKETS—Signed Tracy Moore, guard, to a second 10-day contract.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed Scott Adams, offensive tackle, and Tracy Johnson, fullback.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
BOSTON BRUINS—Loaned Kevin Sawyer, left wing, to Providence of the AHL.

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QUICK TRIVIA

◆ The Olympic symbol consists of five interlocking rings representing Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and North and South America. The rings are black, blue, green, red and yellow.

◆ The Summer Olympic Games have grown tremendously since 1896, when about 285 male athletes, representing 13 nations, competed in the first modern Olympics.

Got an item?

Do you have a good story idea for the *life!* section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 112.

Big Spring Herald

Sunday, March 24, 1996

Now is the time to get ready for spring planting

By KELLIE JONES

Features Editor

In case you didn't know, spring officially arrived March 20. Easter is just around the corner and the combination of the two events means it's time to start preparations for spring gardening.

Local gardening experts say you shouldn't plant your flowers or vegetables until after Easter to give the soil time to warm up. It is never too early, though, to get your soil ready for the seeds.



There are so many seeds to choose from but make sure your soil is properly prepared before you plant.

Pick a spot where the sun will be shining on the ground full force in the early morning and midday. However, make sure the area also has shading from the sun during the harshest time, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Because West Texas soil is high in alkaline, your challenge is to make it more acidic. Peat moss or potting soil can do the trick. The soil additives not only put more acid in the soil but also provide a better way for the water to drain off the surface and get to the roots.

Spring City Do-It Center Manager Mark Sheedy said vegetables, especially tomatoes, need a lot of acid in the soil to grow. Sheep manure can also be used and another tip, cow manure is a great fertilizer for your lawn.

You should first water the ground to loosen it up and make it easier to work with then mix half of the soil and half of whatever additive you want to use together with a tiller, cultivating fork or shovel. The type of tool would depend on, of course, what size of garden you want to make.

Sheedy said jalapenos, peppers, watermelons, cantaloupes and several types of tomatoes grow well in Howard County. The varieties of tomatoes include Beef Masters, Early Girl, Better Boy, Celebrity, Big Boy, patio and cherry.

"The watermelons and cantaloupes really do well where you have sandy loam soil and it has peat moss or something added to it. It is important to ask someone what type of vegetable, fruit or flowering plant grows well in West Texas. Stay with native plants of the area.

"People have a tendency to want to grow azaleas or some other type of flower they've seen in other parts of Texas, but they don't do well here. Periwinkle and Verbena are heat-loving plants and do well in this area," Sheedy said.

Terry Johansen, co-owner of Johansen's Nursery, agreed with Sheedy about the importance of adding an organic matter to the soil before planting.

"It just makes the soil better. You can use your own compost too by putting peelings, egg shells and coffee grounds. Put them in a pile then throw some dirt on top. The sun breaks it down and it provides more nutrients and has beneficial bacteria," Johansen said.

Oak trees such as red, live and burr grow well in this area along with pecan, Arizona ash, willow and mulberry.

Johansen added geraniums, petunias, marigolds, begonias, lantana, cannas and ice plants are flowering plants that have a good success rate of growing here.

Monkey grass or Oxalis make good borders for flower beds. The Oxalis is a perennial that has produces a pink flower. Johansen explained perennials are plants that die in the winter and come back in the spring. Annuals are plants that only last one year.

"You can also garden in containers. If you have an apartment or small back yard, this is the ideal thing to do. Tomato plants can be grown in five-gallon containers made out of clay or plastic. Peppers also do well in containers," Johansen added.

Fertilizers and pesticides can also enhance your garden, if used properly. It is important to read the directions and follow them exactly.

Some people have a tendency to under-use the chemicals while others use too much, damaging their plants and burning their grass.

Sheedy advised whatever you do, do not pour the leftover chemicals down the drain or sewer. It contaminates the water and damages the city's water treatment plant, costing the taxpayers when it needs to be repaired.

If you have questions about gardening, you can talk with a professional at a nursery or even ask your neighbor or relative who has grown plants, vegetables and flowers successfully year after year.



SEE RELATED STORY, PAGE 3B

Choosing native plants, vegetables and flowers is the key to having a beautiful garden.

In the left picture, two Spring City Do-It Center employees arrange some roses bushes.

In the bottom left picture, Terry Johansen shows a tomato plant that needs an acidic-based soil. The fruit can also be grown in containers either in your house or on the porch, depending on where your light source is.

In the bottom right picture, Gerber daisies are bright, colorful flowers that can be planted around trees or in a separate flower garden.



Friend is inspiration to community in time of need

It all started with a young girl named "Kerry." And, while I'm probably spelling her name wrong, she won't mind. It is not so much her name that I am writing about, but her legacy.

Nancy Marshall, friend extraordinaire and high school teacher extra-extraordinary, is the woman who first told me about Kerry. It seemed this little girl touched lives across the country beginning in 1984 when it was discovered Kerry had been diagnosed with leukemia. That is when Mrs. Marshall first became involved.

Nancy tells the story that Kerry often comes to her mind now. "She died in 1991," Nancy explains. "She died because we

were never able to find a match."

The match Nancy speaks of with unspoken whispered tears held softly in check, is the much needed bone marrow match. It was because of Kerry that Nancy first decided to try and become a bone marrow donor.

Now, I know many of you

may be tired of hearing about this. But, I am not tired of writing about the need which faces literally thousands of children across our country and even more in the world. I realize many of us are afraid. I realize many of us are unknowing...but no matter. There is not a single one of us in this world who has no love and that is what being tested as a bone marrow donor is all about. Nothing more and surely, nothing less.

Nancy helped me to see there must needs be opposition in all things. She didn't realize in her conversation to me, she was reaching into my heart and laying a bouquet of understanding that would adorn my life forever. I pondered over the greater

picture of what she was telling me.

If you look at all that happened because Kerry did not live, one is left to wonder if perhaps her death was not a valiant triumph. For, if Kerry had not become so ill, then Nancy wouldn't have acquired the knowledge to push for the bone marrow drive for Meagan Stanley a few weeks ago. And, the community of loving individuals would not have turned out in such drastic proportions a few short weeks ago to offer "the girl with the angel's smile," a chance at life.

There was so much more gained than just some simple blood samples. Joy was gained through giving. Knowledge was

acquired through asking. And, someone, out there, someone unknown and someone very ill, gained a chance.

Fears were conquered and friendship were cemented. Meagan Stanley, from her hospital bed, and Kerry from her grave were able to bring a thousand people closer together in the way that life was meant to be. Nancy said it best, "I am just now getting an understanding of just how wonderful people can be."

Opposition. Without losing, no one would understand winning. Without sadness, no one could realize joy. Without sickness, who would understand health?

Please, if you missed seeing

what is happening in the community of Big Spring on that single Saturday a few weeks ago, take time this week to look around you. It didn't end with the giving of a single blood sample. Shhhh. Look. Look quietly. It's still there. Meagan has seen it. Her family has seen it. I've seen it.

And, Kerry who saw it, is smiling down on all of us from above.

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, I can feel His mighty power and His grace;

I can feel the brush of angel's wings,

I see glory on each face, Surely, the presence of the Lord is in this place."

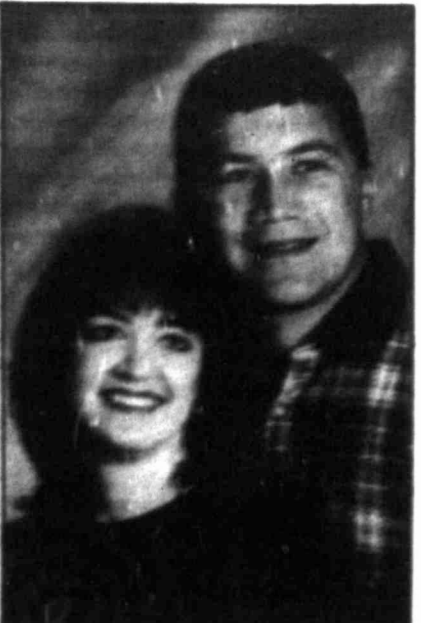
GETTING ENGAGED



Tiffany Anne Williams and Israel Shawn Hawkins will be united in marriage on June 8, 1996, at the First Baptist Church in Stephenville.

She is the daughter of George and Connie Williams. He is the son of Lynda Hawkins-Nichols, Grapevine, and the late Jim Hawkins.

Grandparents of the couple are Mrs. Peggy Carver and the late James M. Carver, Mr. and Mrs. George Williams Sr., Big Spring, and Mr. and Mrs. Thad Yarbrough, Grapevine.



Lauri Roberson, Dallas, and Jason Phillips, Big Spring, will exchange wedding vows on June 22, 1996, at the First United Methodist Church, Big Spring.

She is the daughter of Robert and Lucie Roberson, Big Spring. He is the son of Gary and Karen Phillips, Big Spring.



Kaitsis Willborn and Rusty Newcomb will unite in marriage on April 13, 1996, at the First Baptist Church Chapel in Big Spring with Joe Jennings, former member, officiating.

She is the daughter of Dwight and Beverly Willborn, Big Spring. He is the son of Charlie Newcomb, Patsie, and Sherry Newcomb, Guthrie, Okla.

CORRECTION

In last Friday's Herald, the anniversary for Mount Bethel Baptist Church was incorrect. The church is celebrating their 75th anniversary and not their 70th.

The last name of a student in Thursday's Herald was incorrect because the list submitted to the newspaper was accurate. The student's name in the Herald had a blank space, not "Blank Name."

On March 20, the telephone number for the Amateur Community Theater Society was incorrect. The correct telephone number for ACTS, through the West Texas Center for the Arts, is 264-5445.

LOOK TO THE BIG SPRING HERALD FOR ALL OF YOUR LOCAL NEWS, SPORTS, AND INFORMATION

ANNIVERSARIES

Robertson

Morris and Jimmie Robertson will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception with family and friends from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Big Spring Country Club on March 30, 1996, hosted by Ricky, Robby, Reggy, Randy, Roddy, Donna Dement, Jan Woolsey, Lee Priest, and K.K. Young.

He was born in Ardmore, Okla., and she was born as Jimmie Dement in Big Spring. They met as next door neighbors in 1943 in Big Spring. They were married on March 29, 1946, at the Calvary Baptist Church in Fort Worth with J. Travis Gibson, pastor, officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson have five sons: Ricky, Randy, Roddy, all of Big Spring, Robby, Possum Kingdom, and Reggy, Midland; and the couple also raised three girls: Donna Dement, Jan Woolsey, both of Lubbock, and Dixie Weaver, Freeport, Fla. They have 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson have lived in Big Spring during their entire marriage.

He is currently retired and

All photos must be picked up within 30 days of publication or they will be discarded.



THE ROBERTSONS

owned Morris Robertson Body Shop, Inc. They are affiliated with the First United Methodist Church and are both life members of the American Business Club and Elks Lodge. They enjoy bridge, golf, walking, swimming and motor home travel.

The Robertsons invite all their friends to come by and have refreshments and visit with the family.

WHO'S WHO

An Eagle Court of Honor on Jan. 21 in the Elbow cafeteria was to recognize the most recent Eagle Scout in Troop 16, Clayburn Alan Thixton.

Clay is the son of Wesley and Betty Thixton who presented him with the Eagle badge and the Eagle neckerchief.

Clay began his Scouting as a Wolf in Pack 29 and went through all the ranks of Cub Scouting earning the highest badge of Cubs, the Arrow of Light. During his tenure in Troop 16, he has earned 27 merit badges and served as Senior Patrol Leader. As his Eagle Service Project, Clay organized a clean-up crew of his fellow scouts to clean out the eight drainage culverts at Big Spring State Park.

Clay is a junior at Forsan High School where he is on the varsity football, basketball and track teams.

He plays the drums in the PHS Buffalo Band and is on the stage crew of the One Act Play. He attends 1st & Main Church of Christ.



THIXTON

Texas Tech University's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources recognized 36 Dean's Scholars for the 1995-96 academic year during a reception March 15 in the University Center Matador Room.

These scholarships have been established by the college to reward academic excellence and to encourage highly capable young men and women to major in the agricultural sciences, said Sam Curl, dean of College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

To keep the scholarship recipients must maintain a 3.4 GPA for Gold Awards and a 3.2 GPA for Silver Awards. The scholarships are funded by various donations to the college.

The Silver Award winners, each receiving a \$1,250 scholarship for the year included Wesley Glass, a senior majoring in agricultural economics from Big Spring.

The following nursing personnel earned their advanced cardiac life support certification through Scott and White at Howard College March 2 and 3, 1996:

- Rick Jackson, RN, Geropsych; Ron Miser, RN, ICU; Chris Cox, RN, ICU; Steven Shurgrue, RN, NSG; Supervision, PRN; Jose Longario, RN, Med-Surg, PRN; Olga Herrera, RN, ICU; Bryan Priestly, RN, Surgery; and Susan Woodward, RN, Nursing.

IN THE MILITARY

Navy Airman David A. Treadway, a 1991 graduate of Snyder High School of Snyder, has returned to Norfolk, Va., after completing a six-month overseas deployment to the Adriatic Sea near Bosnia and to the Persian Gulf near Iraq aboard the aircraft carrier USS America.

He joined the Navy in November 1992.

Army Pvt. Jonathan D. Stadler has graduated from the cargo specialist course at Fort Eustis, Newport News, Va.

Stadler is the son of Raymond E. and Faith D. Marsh, Big Spring.

He is a 1994 graduate of El Paso High School.

TAKE TIME OUT FOR YOURSELF READ THE BIG SPRING HERALD

Celebrities' favorite books: From 'Little Engine' to 'War and Peace'

GARDINER, Maine (AP) — Vice President Al Gore said "Mr. Popper's Penguins" was the coolest book he could think of, and Willard Scott still pulls for the "The Little Engine That Could."

But the annual "Who Reads What?" list of celebrities' favorite books also hit on some heavier selections. Tolstoy's "War and Peace" was the favorite of South African President Nelson Mandela, and retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf liked Jack London's "White Fang."

For the ninth straight year, silver-haired librarian Glenna Nowell has compiled her unscientific sampling by writing famous people and asking them their all-time favorite books.

The 1996 list provides an odd partisan twist in a big political year: prominent Republicans, including former President George Bush and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, didn't write back, while Democrats Gore, Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California and Rep. Pat Schroeder of Colorado did.

Tolstoy's "War and Peace" was the favorite of South African President Nelson Mandela, and retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf liked Jack London's "White Fang."

Gore said he's read as many books as he could since enjoying "Mr. Popper's Penguins" by Richard and Florence Atwater as a child. Feinstein chose Arthur Schlesinger Jr.'s "The Disuniting of America" and Schroeder listed Beatrix Potter's "Peter Rabbit" — along with anything written by humor columnist Dave Barry.

Caspar Weinberger, a former defense secretary, displayed a hearty appetite for biographical and historical titles. His listing included "Churchill: The Unruly Giant" by Norman Rose; "Long Sunset" by Anthony Montague Browne;

and "The Path to Power" by Margaret Thatcher.

The tastes of actors and entertainers ran from inspirational and philosophical to American classics.

Jeff Goldblum, writing in gold ink on a glossy photo, recommended "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" by Stephen Covey, while Ellen Burstyn listed "The Seat of the Soul" by Gary Zukav.

Anthony Quinn chose Thomas Wolfe's "Of Time and the River," and Loni Anderson called Stuart Woods' "New York Dead" "a page-turner mystery not easy to second-guess."

Bryant Gumbel said "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" is "a must read for every African-American," and actor James Woods said "A Death in the Family" by James Agee had a "special resonance" to him because he lost his father at an early age.

Actress Brett Butler, a southerner, said she was 30 before she read William Faulkner, and now considers "The Hamlet,"

"The Town" and "The Mansion" her favorites.

Gloria Estefan listed "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith alongside E.B. White's "Charlotte's Web," and actress Betty Hutton picked "Omnir Opera" by Gilbert K. Chesterton as her favorite.

Willard Scott said he has fond memories of his mother reading Watty Piper's "The Little Engine That Could," and adopted the book's philosophy: "I think I can, I think I can."

Nowell's compilation comes out to coincide with National Library Week, which begins April 14.

BEST SELLERS

Scripps Howard News Service

FICTION

1. Primary Colors, Anonymous
2. In the Presence of the Enemy, Elizabeth George
3. The Horse Whisperer, Nicholas Evans
4. Absolute Power, David Baldacci
5. The Celestine Prophecy, James Redfield
6. McNally's Puzzle, Lawrence Sanders
7. That Camden Summer, LaVyrle Spencer
8. Intensity, Dean Koontz
9. The Cat Who Said Cheese, Lillian Jackson Braun
10. In the Beauty of the Lilies, John Updike

NON-FICTION

1. Blood Sport, James B. Stewart

MASS MARKET

1. The Rainmaker, John Grisham
2. The Glass Lake, Maeve Binchy
3. The Cove, Catherine Coulter
4. Star Wars: Black Fleet Crises: No. 1 Before the Storm, by Michael P. Kubacki
5. Silent Treatment, Michael Palmer
6. Tarnished Gold, V.C. Andrews
7. The Gift, Danielle Steel
8. Sense and Sensibility, Jane Austen
9. Sophie's World, Jostein Gaarder
10. Autumn Lover, Elizabeth Lowell

NEW IN TOWN

Byran and Keni Hammonds and son James, Houston.

Harold and Stacey Woodard and son Shae, Port Arthur.

John and Glenda Albarado, Woodville.

Margaret Savage, High Point, N.C.

Guy and Becky Gage, daughter Jodi and son Bobby, Lubbock.

Bo and Cheryl Arable, daughters Megan and Miranda and son David, Port Arthur.

The following newcomer is being rerun due to misgiven information submitted to the Herald.

H.B. and Pam Bush and son Kacey, Fort Stockton.

David and Tracie Perez, San Antonio.

Jim Joplin, Lake Isabella, Calif.

Ron and Dianne Phillips, and daughters Jessica and Erin, Odessa.

Elden and Vicki Miller, and daughters Leanne and Allison, Odessa.

Robert L. and Nancy Avalos, Chesterfield, Va.

Larry Hiller, Singapore.

Flo Dean, Kingsland.

Ollie Dignon, Robert Lee

Manuel and Amanda Rivas, Seagraves.

Jo Lacy, Midland.

James M. Butts, daughters Krista, Kathryn, and Tazzammra, and sons Racket and James, Palmer, Alaska.

Jose and Mercy Leyva and daughter Candice, Hobbs, N.M.

Jimmy and Angie Melchor, daughters Heather and Lilly, and sons Michael and Chad, Hobbs, N.M.

Vasyi Antuna and daughters Brandy, LeRae and Jessica, O'Donnell.

Mike and Kim Wallis, sons Nick and John and daughter Katie, Oklahoma City, Okla.

LeRoy and Martha Androes, Plainview.

Mark and Anita Squire, daughter Stormie and son Hyle, Painsville, Ohio.

Margaret June Chick and mother Cora Rex, Snyder.

Life! Section Sunday Deadlines

All Sunday items (weddings, anniversaries, engagements, birth announcements, Who's Who, military) are due to the Herald office by Wednesday at noon.

Wedding, engagement, anniversary and birth announcement forms are available in the editorial department.

Pictures are to be picked up no later than 30 days after publication or they will be discarded.

GRAND REMODELING SALE 50% OFF STOREWIDE SALE

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A small town is the place to live

In small towns, there are no places to go that you shouldn't.

In small towns, kids drive themselves to driver education classes.

In small towns, you don't get away from problems, but everybody knows about them.

Some towns I visit don't have much more than a blinking light, a store and a cemetery. But usually they're interesting places.

People who have spent their lives in big cities don't know

what they're missing. I was in the Army with a guy from New York City who had never been out of Brooklyn before entering the military. And he was a college graduate.

If you've spent much time in Houston you learn the residents are really sort of provincial. For most of them, their world starts and ends at the Houston city limits.

People in small towns are sophisticated, worldly, well traveled, intelligent. The isolation once considered to be part of small town life has disappeared with the arrival of the satellite. Now people live in small towns by choice, for convenience and peace of mind.

Big cities are not suitable for gracious living. They have become dangerous, fearful places with dirty air, no room, too much traffic, too many peo-

ple, too much concrete and asphalt, too many buildings.

People in small towns go to big cities all the time for shopping and entertainment, but they return home with the satisfying realization they are truly glad they live where they do.

They can have good friends, as many as they want. They know they can depend on their neighbors. They know who lives next door, know their kids and the names of their pets.

What is the size of the ideal small town? Probably somewhere between 5,000 and 8,000 population. In that range you can have good stores and schools, some industry and all the services you need. If towns get much bigger they begin to lose some of the small town ambience.

Some small towns are so

ambitious to attract visitors and industry they become crowded and the small town charm disappears.

Small towns should have at least one bed and breakfast. It is an expensive proposition for the owner and requires plenty of work. Perhaps that's why there aren't more of them. But they offer visitors a sample of the town's hospitality.

When does a town become a city? When the population gets above 10,000.

Small town people are friendly, warm, fun. Big city folks are always busy. Small towns offer comfort and security, and give people opportunity to do things. Big cities are so competitive that accomplishing things is difficult.

I have lived in big cities. I prefer small towns.

What about you?



Tumbleweed Smith
Columnist

INDOOR PLANTING TIPS

Scripps Howard News Service

The more attractive rooms today are composed of more than store-bought furniture and lifeless rugs and draperies.

Take a good look at the interiors you admire most, and you'll see that they achieve a freshness and distinction by including attractive indoor plants.

The beautiful green foliage of philodendrons, ferns, palms, aralias, peperomias and other indoor plants blends color schemes, lends grace and elegance to the decor and adds structure and design to rooms.

If you're looking for a tub plant to give lots of effect in a hurry, try the Queensland umbrella tree. This is a rapid-growing evergreen with horizontal tiers of compound leaves that never lose their shine. It starts out as a glossy, compact youngster, then quickly grows taller to make a ceiling-high tree or shrub.

Easy to grow, it needs only occasional watering and fertilizing once a month to look its glossy best. The Queensland umbrella tree prefers diffused light but will accept a shaded interior or full sun. Keep it in a small planter even after it grows to be a specimen of some size.

For rich greenery to set on a low coffee table, or use as graceful accents elsewhere, you might consider the Bird's Nest Fern, one of the peperomias or a small-leaved philodendron.

The larger leaved philodendron make lush, tropical-looking plants and will thrive even under difficult conditions. Many of the palms do beautifully indoors. A low-growing graceful palm to add to your collection is the beautiful Neanthe bella.

A jade tree grown indoors can add a note of sculptured, Oriental charm; grape ivy is delightful in wall brackets or trailing from a mantelpiece; and there are dozens of other easy-to-grow house plants available at your local nursery and garden center.

If you use a specially prepared house plant mix when transferring them to a new container, proper soil won't be a worry. Just remember in caring for them that most conditions that are comfortable for people are also healthful for most plants. Make sure they have light in the daytime (not baking in a sunny window) and water when they're thirsty. An occasional shower or bath keeps most of them growing vigorously.

There are houseplants that even brown-thumbed gardeners can enjoy. They require minimal care and are able to put up with adverse conditions such as irregular watering and feeding and low-light conditions.

These toughies are recommended by the California Association of Nurserymen:

•Howea - These indoor palms, the sentry palm and paradise

palm are sold often under the name "kentia." They are slow-growing, take average watering and will tolerate drafts and dust. Their tropical appearance makes them an excellent indoor focal point.

•Epipremnum aureum - Better known as pothos, this plant is similar in appearance to the philodendron. Its leaves are brightly splashed yellow on top of an apple-green background. It is easily rooted in plain water and will take lower light conditions. Just keep the soil evenly moist.

•Spathiphyllum - This is one of the few plants that will flower well indoors. You see it planted in many enclosed shopping malls. It has large, dark green leaves on slender stems and its flower resembles a calla lily.

•Dracaena - There are varieties like Dracaena fragrans 'Massangeana' (cornplant) and D. deremensis 'Janet Craig' that will adapt well to low-light conditions yet remain attractive. Both have wide, straplike leaves, the first with a yellow stripe down the center and the latter a dark, lush green.

•Aglaonema - This tropical foliage plant is valued for its lush, green leaves that often have silver or cream variegations. The Chinese evergreen, Aglaonema commutatum, is one of the best for low-light situations and will tolerate light watering though it thrives with lots of water.

tinues" All adult dogs are half-price!

It's tick season and the shelter is currently in dire need of volunteers to help with dipping dogs on weekends. If you can help, please call the shelter; lifting required.

"Stripe" 8-week-old male Chihuahua/Terrier mix, little butterball, very playful and cute.

"Lassie" and "Diane" male brown and white and female tan and white Collie mix puppies, 4 months.

"Reebok" adult spayed female, mostly Airedale, tan coat with black markings, shy and sweet.

"Ellie Mae" spayed female with long hair black coat, Chow mix with German Shepherd markings, small, sweet and loves to be petted.

"Pepper" large 3-month-old

Blue Tick Hound puppy, like to play!

These, plus many more dogs and cats are awaiting adoption. Adoption fees for dogs are just \$45 and cats are \$35. This includes spaying or neutering, vaccinations, wormings and rabies shots. Also covers feline leukemia tests for cats. All pets come with a two-week trial period.

At other homes:

Three male Beagle/Basset hounds, 1 1/2 years with Blue Heeler colors, 1 black and white pregnant female; 267-5033.

Male full-blooded Border Collie, black and white, very good with kids, neutered and has all shots, 264-0493.

HUMANE SOCIETY



Pictured: "Sherry" full-blooded poodle, pretty gray curly coat, 3-5 years old, very sweet and gentle. Currently has four 6-8 week old puppies, poodle and cocker spaniel mix, listed below.

"Luke" and "Star," both blonde males; "Trixie" and "Pansy," both black females. All are very cute, playful and need good homes.

Special Note: All dogs and cats presently available for adoption at the shelter have received their vaccinations, including rabies.

*St. Patrick's Day special con-

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Dr. John R. Molland
Obstetrician-Gynecologist
will be at the clinic on
Tuesday, March 26th

for appointment call (915) 267-8226
616 S. Gregg St., Big Spring, Texas

TEXAS WRITERS MONTH MARCH 1996

For a statewide list of activities connected with Texas Writers Month.

The Texas Monthly Virtual Novel

A hallmark of Texas writers is their willingness to be adventurous and to take risks. Nowhere does this characteristic come more into play than in our Texas Writers Month Internet project. It is an online collaboration between thirty of the most notable Texas writers. Beginning March 1, readers can follow each day as a new installment appears in this modern twist on the old-fashioned serial story. At the end of Writers Month the thirty writers will have completed a work of original fiction (and we do mean original). The Texas Writers Month Project is a first for the Internet and a first for all the participating writers. You can play a part at the end when we will have a contest to name the story. Stay tuned as the plot unfolds.

This is a portion of Texas Monthly magazine's site on the Internet's World Wide Web, outlining a project by 30 Texas writers to complete a "virtual novel" during the month of March.

Texas Monthly unleashes 30 Texas writers into cyberspace

HOUSTON (AP) — Leave it to Texas Monthly to lead Lone Star State writing into the next dimension.

All through the month of March, 30 native and adopted Texas scribes have been displaying their collective craft on the Internet in the form of a 30-chapter virtual novel, part of the magazine's salute to Texas Writers Month.

It's a sort of radio serial for cyberspace, beginning with this succinct first line from Rice University professor and author, Max Apple:

"There were two women in his life, one in San Antonio, the other in heaven. At the rodeo Walker saw them both."

From there, readers will follow as computer repairman Walker Wocinski searches for lust at the rodeo (with the very married San Antonio woman, Helen) and instead finds his long-lost, and long-dead, love Annabelle, a U.S. Army ranger.

Authors as diverse as sci-fi's Bruce Sterling, fiction writer Rosellen Brown and political columnist Molly Ivins each take turns putting Annabelle, Walker and Helen through their paces in 30, 500-word chapters. Each writer picks up where the last left off.

Others featured to script a chapter include nationally known sportswriter Blackie Sherrod, political columnist Liz Carpenter, Western author Elmer Kelton, romance novelist Sandra Brown, screenwriter William Broyles Jr. and playwrights Jaston Williams and William Hauptman.

On March 31, the entire novel will appear on Texas Monthly's web site, The WWW Ranch (<http://www.texasmonthly.com>).

The project is co-sponsored by Earful of Books in Austin

and the Southwestern Writers Collection at Southwest Texas

State University in San Marcos.

As first envisioned six weeks ago by Texas Monthly editors, the project was daunting.

"We had some real visions of disaster," explains Helen Thompson, "ranch editor" for the magazine's World Wide Web site. "But it's been a real great experience for everyone."

Corralling some of Texas' varied writing talents and marshaling that into a collective effort on a tight deadline was tough, Thompson said.

And considering that some in the group still apply old-fashioned pen to paper when composing, there was a bit of a technology gap that needed explaining.

"A few did not understand what is going on and maybe never will," said Thompson.

Each chapter, despite the brevity, is left with the unique voice of the author.

The first five episodes move along at a good clip, Thompson said. Then historical writer Elizabeth Crook, author of "The Raven's Bride," takes a crack at it in Chapter 6.

"She comes back and stops the action and develops the characters," Thompson said. "It's what she's used to doing."

Broyles, creator of television's "China Beach" and 1995 Academy Award nominee for his "Apollo 13" screenplay, takes the characters to Mogadishu. Carpenter, Ladybird Johnson's former press secretary, takes a stab at presidential candidate Pat Buchanan.

"They have enjoyed it," Thompson said. "I thought I would have to be pushing these people."

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Letting go of yesterday's fashions

Scripps Howard News Service

Do you sometimes stand in front of the mirror applying your eyeliner and pause to think: Should I be doing this? Shouldn't I have iridescent mauve eyeshadow, shaved eyebrows and beige lips instead? Is my hair all wrong? Should I wear my shirt in or out, belted or loose? Have I lost the plot? Finding a look that suits you and applying it is a discipline in itself, one that can take many years of bad hair days and disastrous purchases to master. How galling, then, that once you've discovered that you look good with a shaggy fringe and cowboy boots, it's time to move on — or move over. Failing to adapt to the times can turn you into a figure of fun, a sadsack, a sore thumb. Even such supermodels as Cindy Crawford and Claudia

Schiffer, with their long-haired, wholesome-sexpot looks, are teetering on the brink of time-warp as avant-garde Amazons like Stella Tennant streak ahead. People are funny about fashion: they pretend it doesn't matter, that it's synonymous with vanity and pretension. But fashion, in its diluted, everyday sense, is all about consensus and appeal, and it matters to nearly everyone. There are lots of tell-tale signs of time warp — musical taste, furniture, restaurants, holiday resorts, nightclubs — all perfectly enjoyable in the privacy of one's own free time. But for those afraid of not fitting in, it's hair, makeup and clothes that mark you out the most. Just as it takes experience and objectivity to distinguish the chic from the merely faddish, it takes a cool eye to reg-

ister the point when you're no longer simply sticking to a style that suits you and are well and truly stuck in a rut. Looking like a time-warp isn't just a question of not dressing your age, it's a result of standing still while everything around you moves on and so acquiring a sort of negative energy, a conspicuousness by default. And once you're assailed by fashion doubt — when how to wear a belt becomes an enigma, when meandering skirt lengths send you into a tailspin and you draw the line at tan tights — the chances are that you might end up looking, well, wrong. The sharp end of fashion is attitude — and that's something that's hard to fake. Even the prevalence of retro fashions is no comfort: the Jarvis Cocker-style '70s revival, for example, is meant to be "ironic." But recycle your old

clothes, like Nancy Reagan when she brings out 30-year-old couture frocks, and you're likely to find yourself a butt rather than an exponent of this irony. And there are always subtle but unmistakable differences of fabric or shade that keep the industry ticking over. Girls in the 1960s with long hair and short skirts would probably wear them with open-toed sandals, for example, whereas today they'd match them with boots. So what's the answer? An impromptu survey of fashion pundits, hairstylists and makeup artists yields the following pearls of wisdom: "Hair and shoes make the greatest difference. ('If you've got the right shoes, you can wear a sack.") "If you really want to look at yourself objectively, 'don't look in the mirror at home, take a Polaroid.'" "If in doubt, don't buy it. ('The comfort factor's crucial.") "If in serious doubt, consult a professional, then chuck most of it out and stick to what's comfortable. The truth is fashion is a paradox; the only way to avoid it is to jump on board."

ON THE MENU

BIG SPRING SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

LUNCH
MONDAY - Charbroiled steak; potatoes; carrots; fruit salad; milk/rolls and apple sauce.
TUESDAY - Chicken breast; baked potatoes; squash; waldorf salad; milk/roll and pudding.
WEDNESDAY - Salmon croquettes; macaroni & cheese; turnip greens; salad; milk/roll and pie.
THURSDAY - Chicken fried steak; potatoes; green beans; pear gelatin salad; milk/rolls and cobbler.
FRIDAY - Enchiladas; spanish rice; pinto beans; tossed salad; milk/cornbread and fruit.

BIG SPRING SCHOOLS

BREAKFAST
MONDAY - Cereal choice, graham crackers; fruit juice; whole/low-fat milk.
TUESDAY - Pancake/sausage on a stick; chilled fruit; whole/low-fat milk.
WEDNESDAY - Cereal choice; fruit muffin; fruit juice; whole/low-fat milk.
THURSDAY - Sausage & biscuit, chilled fruit; whole/low-fat milk.
FRIDAY - Waffle w/syrup; sausage patty; fruit juice; whole/low-fat milk.
LUNCH (Elementary)
MONDAY - Chicken fried steak; whipped potatoes; gravy; broccoli w/cheese cause; pineapple tidbits; hot rolls.
TUESDAY - BARBECUE rib sandwich; potato rounds; catsup; pickle slices; peach cobbler and milk.
WEDNESDAY - Tamale w/chili; salsa; Spanish rice; corn; grapes and milk.
THURSDAY - Chicken nuggets; catsup; scalloped potatoes; green beans; jello; hot rolls.
FRIDAY - Cheeseburger; salad; pinto beans; French fries; catsup/must/mayo; orange cream bar.
LUNCH (Secondary)
MONDAY - Chicken fried steak or sliced baked turkey; whipped potatoes; broccoli w/cheese sauce; pineapple tidbits; hot rolls.
TUESDAY - BARBECUE rib sandwich or charbroiled meatballs; potato rounds; catsup; pickle slices; peach cobbler and milk.
WEDNESDAY - Tamale w/chili; salsa; spanish rice; corn; or chef salad w/dressing; crackers; grapes; milk.
THURSDAY - Chicken nuggets or hamburger steak w/gravy; scalloped potatoes; green beans; jello; hot rolls and milk.
FRIDAY - Cheeseburger; salad; or green enchiladas; pinto beans; French fries; catsup; cornbread; orange cream bar and milk.

WESTBROOK SCHOOLS

BREAKFAST
MONDAY - Cheese toast; juice; milk.
TUESDAY - Biscuits; bacon; fruit cup; juice; milk.
WEDNESDAY - Pancake pups; juice; milk.
THURSDAY - Cinnamon rolls; juice; milk.
FRIDAY - Cereal; toast; juice; milk.

LUNCH
MONDAY - Steak fingers; scalloped potatoes; broccoli; biscuits; syrup; honey; milk.
TUESDAY - Beefy macaroni; corn; spinach; batter bread; pineapple tidbits; milk.
WEDNESDAY - Roast beef with gravy; mashed potatoes; green beans; hot rolls; syrup; honey; milk.
THURSDAY - Nachos; cheese; meat; pinto beans; peaches; cornbread; milk.
FRIDAY - Barbeque on bun; lettuce; tomato; onion; pickles; French fries; Teddy grahams; milk.

COAHOMA BREAKFAST

MONDAY - Cereal; fruit; graham crackers; milk.
TUESDAY - Cinnamon rolls; sausage; fruit; milk.
WEDNESDAY - Cereal; fruit; bread; milk.
THURSDAY - Waffles; syrup; ham; fruit; milk.
FRIDAY - Cereal; fruit; toast; milk.
LUNCH
MONDAY - Chicken tenders; gravy; mashed potatoes; green beans; rolls; milk.
TUESDAY - Spaghetti with meat-sauce; salad; fruit; bread; milk.
WEDNESDAY - Fried chicken; gravy; French fries; corn; biscuits; milk.
THURSDAY - Tacos w/meat-cheese; pinto beans; salad; chocolate cake; milk.
FRIDAY - Homemade burritos; later tots; fruit; milk.

ELBOW SCHOOL BREAKFAST

MONDAY - Cereal; breakfast patty; juice/milk.
TUESDAY - Pancake; sausage; juice/milk.
WEDNESDAY - Biscuits; sausage; juice/milk.
THURSDAY - Eggs; toast; juice/milk.
FRIDAY - Texas toast; peanut butter; juice/milk.
LUNCH
MONDAY - Spaghetti/meat sauce; green beans; fruit; garlic bread; milk.
TUESDAY - Burrito; new potato; salad; fruit; milk.
WEDNESDAY - Braised beef; mashed potatoes; green peas; hot rolls; milk.
THURSDAY - German sausage; potato salad; pinto beans; fruit; milk.
FRIDAY - Hot dogs; chips; veggies; fruit; milk.

SANDS SCHOOL BREAKFAST

MONDAY - Muffins; fruit; milk.
TUESDAY - Grilled cheese sandwich.
WEDNESDAY - Cereal; milk; juice.
THURSDAY - Cinnamon rolls; milk; juice.
FRIDAY - Hot oatmeal; milk; toast; juice.
MONDAY - Hot dogs w/chili; pork & beans; french fries; ketchup; cake; milk.
TUESDAY - Chicken nuggets; mashed potatoes w/gravy; black-eyed peas; hot rolls; fruit; milk.
WEDNESDAY - Beef & cheese enchiladas; pinto beans; salad; corn bread; pudding; milk.
THURSDAY - Pigs on the blankets; june peas w/carrots; whole new potatoes; fruit; milk.
FRIDAY - Pizza; salad; butter corn; fruit cookies; milk.

Please see MENUS, page 7B

Betty Crocker of the 90's: A computer-generated next door neighbor

GOLDEN VALLEY, Minn. (AP) — She's a little more whole wheat than white bread, and the prim face and frumpy bow tie have given way to a sleek collarless blouse and generous smile. Say hello to the newest incarnation of that supermarket diva, Betty +Crocker+, whose creation is as up-to-date as her look. "She looks like a working woman," Dorita Comesflyng, an American Indian, said while grocery shopping in Minneapolis. "She looks like she would have some Hispanic in her." The eighth version of the venerable cake mix model was introduced Tuesday by Minneapolis-based General Mills, which celebrated Betty's 75th birthday with a contest to pick 75 women whose features would be blended to create the new Betty. The winners were chosen last month from among

thousands of entries. The resulting portrait is of a woman with chin-length, glossy brown hair swept back from a face that appears a little darker and more relaxed than her predecessors'. There's even an ever-so-slightly tilted grin — Betty of 1955 was the only previous version to sport a tooth-revealing smile. Another novelty is Betty's eyes: For the first time, they're brown and slightly almond-shaped instead of blue, a function of her multicultural background. "The fact that she's not blond and blue eyed is kind of nice," said another shopper, Carolyn Krall. "She strikes me as your basic American." Krall, an architect and a mother of three, said the new Betty "looks pretty typical — like people I know." That's the idea, said General Mills spokeswoman Ann Mulholland.

"We do not label Betty +Crocker+ with one label or ethnic classification," Mulholland said. "Just as many Americans have a multi-ethnic heritage, the same is true for Betty +Crocker+. Her new image is based upon the seven previous portraits as well as the 75 winners." The new Betty's outfit is a variation on the red-and-white uniform of her predecessors, with a lightweight red, V-necked cardigan buttoned over a white, round-collared shell, accented by a plain gold necklace and earrings. She is the eighth version of the fictional character who has appeared since 1921 on boxes of General Mills' products. Small changes were made over the years — a pearl choker in 1941, a business suit and bow-tied blouse in 1986 — but she always remained prim and proper.

Empty

Continued from page 3B
looking toward zero-lot-line homes, or free-standing patio homes where exterior maintenance is handled by a management company, or condos — or even very luxurious apartments. "Home offices — 'In the '80s, a job signified status and arrival. Today, having a job is a sign of survival,'" notes Ava Busby Carberry, an interior designer from Pacific Palisades, Calif. A third of all Americans work from home or regularly bring work home. Those aging baby boomers may be thinking of early retirement, or they've turned entrepreneur and are starting a business from home. Or they're just computer nuts. They want extra electrical and phone lines in dens, libraries and secondary bedrooms, Carberry said. More than 75 percent of builders surveyed for Builder magazine include home offices in their plans. Home offices "are the rooms of the '90s and they'll be completely mainstream by 2000," Builder says. "Vacation homes Householders 55 to 64 "spend almost twice as much as the national average on vacation homes," and the number of householders in that group will grow by 12 percent in the next five years, writes Brad Edmondson, editor-in-chief of American Demographics, in the January issue of Builder magazine. Those age 45 to 54 "spend 25 percent more than average on vacation homes and related expenses," and more than any other group on vacation home payments. "Indulgence — 'We're building for ourselves' is the way these empty nesters see things, said Sara Olesker, a Chicago interior designer. These buyers want their homes to be "a peaceful sanctuary," and after go-go years of raising children, she said, their feeling is, "We've earned it." "No question about it," Humphreys, the Dallas architect, says in a telephone interview: "Grace, not space — 'Empty nesters have this mindset that they're scared to move out of a 3,500- or 4,000-square-foot home and into a crackerbox,'" says Humphreys. So the trick is to sell them a house of perhaps 2,500 square feet with the luxury finishes and amenities absent from their old home: Corian countertops, gas-burning fireplaces, fancy bathrooms, huge closets, high ceilings, big kitchens with islands.



Associated Press photo
Minneapolis-based General Mills has created a new image for Betty Crocker from 75 computer-generated photos of real women, for a new facelift on the 75th anniversary of Betty Crocker products. Out with the prim and proper, fair-skinned, blue-eyed, bow-tied Betty Crocker. The new Betty is a smiling, brown-eyed woman wearing a stylish red sweater and gold necklace.

STORK CLUB

Ruben Rojas and Pam Moore.
Grandparents are Oscar and Rose Rojas, Spearman, and Pete and Lilly Moreno, Arkansas Pass.
...
Jimmy Kyle Olivares, boy, March 16, 1996, 12:23 a.m.; parents are Mary and Jimmy Olivares.
...
Grandparents are Raymond and Virginia Barraza, Big Spring and the late Octavio Olivares and Cathy and Ben Boyles, Odessa.
...
Macy Layne Gutierrez, girl, March 20, 1996, 7:44 p.m.; parents are Fish and Billy Gutierrez.
...
Grandparents are Gary and Ann Long, Arkansas City, Kan., and Willie and Josephine Gutierrez, Coahoma.
...
Rochelle Alexis Cantu, girl, March 20, 1996, 4:06 p.m.; parents are Michelle Castaneda and Johnny Cantu.
...
Grandparents are Connie Castaneda, Reyes Castaneda, and Alice and Fidencio Alva, all of Big Spring.
...
Abigail Susanna Fortocarrero, girl, March 18, 1996, 10:43 a.m.; parents are Nicolas and Griseldina Fortocarrero.
...
Grandmother is Angela Garcia.
...
Randy Lee Rojas, boy, March 16, 1996, 11:15 a.m.; parents are

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BUSINESS

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◆ Public Records - Page 6B

INSIDE

◆ Classifieds - Page 7B
◆ Service Directory - Page 10B

Got an Item?

Do you have an interesting item for the Herald Business section? Call Carlton Johnson, 263-7331, Ext. 115.

Big Spring Herald

Sunday, March 24, 1996

Earned income tax credit could net Texans \$2.3 billion

By CARLTON JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Reminding working Texas families that they have only a few weeks left to file for the federal Earned income tax credit, State Comptroller John Sharp said that nearly 2 million Texas families may qualify for a record \$2.3 billion this year.

"With the April 15 deadline just around the corner, it's important to let working families know they could receive refunds of as much as \$3,110,"

Sharp said. "And if every qualified family files, the Texas economy could get a \$2.3 billion shot in the arm."

Sharp, who is again the EITC's statewide spokesman, said nearly one-quarter of all working families are eligible for the credit. Families who earned less than \$26,673 last year and had two children living at home, as well as families who earned less than \$24,396 and had one child living at home, may be eligible.

Sharp was designated as EITC spokesman during the

recent legislative session. The average EITC refund this year will be \$1,119," Sharp said. "And because families use the extra money to pay bills or make purchases, the refunds represent a quick boost to local economies across Texas."

This year, the program also includes a credit of as much as \$314 for families who earned less than \$9,230 and had no children.

Sharp praised the 2,500 business and community groups who have helped him spread the word about the EITC this

year. "Once again, these folks have helped let working families know how they can get the equivalent of a pay raise," Sharp said. "If every eligible family files for the dollars they deserve, Texas will bring home a record number of EITC refunds."

Last year the Austin region ranked second nationwide (behind Los Angeles) in the number of families who claimed and received the tax credit. Nearly 660,000 families

in the region received a total of \$660 million. In the Dallas region, nearly 636,000 families received more than \$779 million. In the Houston region, 387,000 families received \$480 million. The Internal Revenue Service divides Texas into a total of three regions.

"While these overall EITC figures are impressive, their individual effect on the bottom line of working households is what really matters. The average refund to Texas families last

year was \$1,258, up by \$180 from the year before," Sharp said.

He added, "This is a pro-work, pro-family program that has helped fuel the sales increase retailers throughout Texas are reporting for the first half of this year. The extra money often means the difference between financial self-sufficiency and public assistance. It's that rare federal program that requires folks to choose work over welfare and offers incentives for families to stay together."

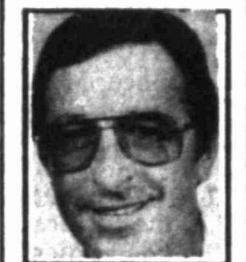
Dry weather looms as planting date nears

As the dry weather continues, despair becomes more the norm in conversations in the farming communities of Howard County. As each day brings us closer to planting date for cotton crops to be put in it looks like that about all we can get is another gust of dust in our eyes and a n d throats.

May 15 was established by "gentlemen's agreement" in a consensus of opinion among farmers at the annual Spring Cotton Update program last month in Big Spring. This date, of course, in one of the management approaches toward control of the boll weevil. The theory behind this being that if we can delay planting until a late as possible the surviving over-wintering population of weevils may starve to death before any cotton has reached the stage they can feed upon to become breeders for the next generation of weevils. Some of

the discussions listened in on at last week's Ag ExPo still showed most farmer with some sense of humor left. They jokingly stated that if it did not rain the weevils would all starve to death anyway and we would sure have them back under control! As dry as it is I am not for sure just how serious that remark should be taken!

The drought was sure the subject of most interest at the ExPo. I only have memories of my parents and grandparents talking about the "Dirty Thirties" and the infamous Dust Bowl days back then. I have real vivid memories, however, of the Fifties. I don't recall much of those days being real nifty either! I remember recess at school up at Post in those days and every day the sky would darken with dust and sand would sweep in from off the "Cap" and cover the town, blanketing it so darkly that street lights would come on in the early afternoon. We kids would anxiously watch the weather every day and began to figure out that if we could make it until about past 2 p.m. without any wind coming up we could most likely count on an outdoor recess! This did not happen very often in those springtimes!



Don Richardson
County Agent

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IT'S EXPO TIME!



A couple of area farmers take a look at some of the latest in farm equipment displayed at the Fifth West Texas Ag Expo.

Commissioners receive mixed messages on rail merger

AUSTIN (AP) — State railroad commissioners will spend the weekend considering the merits of the proposed Union

Pacific Corp.-Southern Pacific Rail Corp. merger with varying degrees of skepticism.

The Railroad Commission received a report Thursday it ordered from the Center for Economic Development and Research at the University of North Texas. The assessment is a mixed bag of pros and cons that concludes the merger would be "detrimental" to Texas.

Deterioration of competition among freight lines, particularly in South Texas, along the Mexican border and on the petrochemical-intensive shoreline were of greatest concern to the panel.

"The merger will mean competition in Texas will be limited to what it is today — it's never going to get better, it's only going to go down — is that right?" Commissioner Barry Williamson asked.

"Yes," replied Terry Clower, an author of the report. "Why is that good for Texas?" Williamson asked.

Clower answered, "I don't believe it is."

The report criticized the planned sharing of some lines between the new Union Pacific-Southern Pacific conglomerate and the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe railroad, currently the nation's largest. The study said UPSP should divest itself of several major lines if the deal is allowed to go through.

"There is no guarantee that

BNSF will vigorously compete," said head researcher Bernard Weinstein, who wants another railroad to buy some Southern Pacific tracks to create three-way competition. "They say they will, but that's all we have to go on."

The Texas Department of Transportation and the Arlington, Va.-based National Industrial Transportation League, which represents a number of major shippers that use rail extensively, support similar divestitures. Texas Attorney General Dan Morales said today he'll file a formal objection to the deal with the federal government.

Railroad commissioners will make their suggestions about the merger Tuesday to the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, which has final say.

During Thursday's hearing, commissioners Charles Matthews and Williamson expressed consistent concern about depressed competition.

Commission Chairman Carole Keeton Rylander appeared encouraged when University of Texas-El Paso consultant Charles Zlatkovich, who supports the merger, said that about two-thirds of the country's top markets are served by two or fewer railroads.

Southwest to expand in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Southwest Airlines, the nation's fastest-growing major airline, plans a \$72 million project to expand its base at Dallas Love Field by the year 2000.

Southwest plans to consolidate its training and data processing operations in Dallas.

The plans, which are anticipated to create hundreds of jobs, do not involve expansion of flights from Love Field.

Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk and Herb Kelleher, chairman and chief executive officer of the Dallas-based carrier, announced the first phase of the project Wednesday.

The expansion, which would involve eight projects over four years, would nearly double the value of the company's holdings at the city-owned airport.

The airline has not requested a tax abatement for the projects, city officials said.

"It's a good deal," Kirk said. "I think the upshot of it for the city is that it is a strong affirmation of Southwest's positive standing in the aviation industry and of their commitment to Dallas."

The City Council is expected to change the airline's lease at Love Field to grant the airline access to 426,875 square feet of vacant land for part of the expansion.

Some land would be used to build a \$9.8 million simulator facility to train pilots near Southwest's headquarters. Southwest has committed to tearing down its existing simulator facility when the new one is completed and building a \$12.8 million expansion of its headquarters.

Five projects totaling \$29.4 million would start this year. They include construction of a new data processing center to handle ticketing and record-keeping and a new pilot training facility with six flight simulators.

The existing simulator building is six years old, but the rapid growth of Southwest soon would make it inadequate to train all of Southwest's pilots, said Southwest spokesman Ed Stewart.

Other 1996 projects include a new company parking lot and renovations to the airline's employee training facilities and offices within the terminal building.

Southwest Airlines, the nation's fifth-largest carrier, employed 2,911 people in Dallas in 1995 and had a payroll of \$137.5 million. The company paid \$4.8 million to the city in rent and \$10.5 million in local property taxes.

Chamber serves community in many capacities

Is a chamber of commerce necessary? What does a chambers of commerce do? These questions are asked daily and I want to try to answer them for you.

Our mission statement reads, "The goal of the Chamber shall be to advance the civic, economic, cultural and social betterment and interest of the people of Howard County." I think that this is representative of most chambers' missions. Chambers bolster business and contribute to the well-being of communities.

If that is our mission, what do we do? Here are the three businesses that I tell members that the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is in.

First - product sales. We sell Big Spring and Howard County to businesses interested in locating here. We work hand in

hand with Moore Development, the City of Big Spring, the Big Spring Industrial Foundation and the County for economic development. We help existing businesses through government bureaucracy to expand and grow in our community. We encourage tourism through the Convention and Visitors Bureau. In this capacity, our chamber helps create new jobs and wealth.

Second, the chamber is in the business of product development.

We must see that our product - Big Spring Howard County, Texas - is competitive. That is has the infrastructure, the schools, the recreation facilities and the cultural life that will allow us to attract and retain new and existing companies and their incumbent jobs.

Product development is a public-private partnership. The government raises taxes and invest them in the product. The chamber needs to be ready and able to advise, assist and help maintain quality within our community.

Our third line of business is membership service. Roughly nine out of ten mem-

bers are small businesses. Though small business operators are not immune to the big picture of attracting business and maintaining quality of life they are looking for a direct return on their investment (dues) in the chamber. We want to give them a one hundred and fifty percent return on their investment. It is our job to find programs and products that do that, without losing sight of product sales and development.

In short, our mission is jobs and prosperity. Our lines of business are product sales, product development and customer service. I believe that these lines of business are relevant, and that each chamber in some way must address some or all of these lines to be successful.

Volunteers will be calling on those of you who are not a member of the chamber during our annual membership drive on March 26-28. I hope that you take the time to decide whether you feel your chamber is relevant and whether you think that your chamber is doing what our community needs.

FAST TRACK

Britton named to Coldwell Banker IPC

Janelle Britton of Coldwell Banker Sun Country Realtors has been selected to join the company's International President's Circle - an honor bestowed only to producers in the top 4 percent of the more than 55,000 sales associates throughout North America. This is the third year Britton has been selected to the prestigious group.

Robert Rist, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Affiliates, stated, "The International President's Circle recognizes those sales associates whose sales performance and dedication are exceptional. Janelle has proven to be an invaluable asset to our organization."

Also honored at the international business conference in San Francisco, Calif., were Becky Knight and Katie Grimes who were chosen as members of the company's Diamond Society, a prestigious award bestowed only on the top 10 percent of the more than 55,000 Coldwell Banker sales associates.

Also announced was the selection of Coldwell Banker Sun Country Realtors, as a Coldwell Banker Premier Office, the highest honor given to Coldwell Banker real estate offices exhibiting exceptional performance.

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Workers' Compensation Insurance

will be the topic of an educational seminar in Big Spring sponsored by the Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund. All fund policyholders and the public are invited to attend. The meeting will be at the Day's Inn - Big Spring, 900 Tulance Avenue on Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The Fund's President, Russ Oliver, said, "Our seminars reflect our commitment to educating our customers about workplace safety, fraud prevention and other ways to keep insurance costs under control."

There is no charge for attending the seminar, but seating is limited. Call (800)656-5995 to sign up.

BBB says beware of traveling roofers

Spring brings out some of the most beautiful items of nature as well as itinerant vendors.

Roofing and driveway coatings, house painters, and a myriad of others in the general field of "tail-gate contractors."

The Better Business Bureau reminds all residents to proceed with caution when selecting a roofing company and its product.

When the majority of roofing and concrete contractors are responsible, and competent, there are a number of unscrupulous, fly-by-night operators who have tarnished the industry. As in all major consumer purchases, you should beware of companies offering deals that look too good to be true.

The bottom line is simple. Make certain you know about the company that will perform.

The BBB suggests, before allowing any contractor any work on your home or business, check the company's reputation with the BBB. Also ask for and check references.

Dow Jones strategists make money even when others don't

By HOMER BRICKEY
The Toledo Blade

Nearly everyone, it seems, has a theory about the stock market. Unfortunately for the average investor, too many investment schemes are complicated, requiring a lot of research time and liquidity.

But many investors have followed a relatively simple formula involving groups of the 30 stocks that make up the venerable Dow Jones Industrial average. And they have done very well.

For example, Carl Tomlinson, a retired insurance executive in Van Wert, Ohio, has seen a \$25,000 portfolio grow to \$79,000 since 1988, even after deducting for commissions.

Tomlinson, former vice president for Central Mutual Insurance Co., devotes that portfolio to the 10 Dow stocks that offer the highest yields at the beginning of each year.

The "Dow 10" strategy has become so popular around the country that brokerage and investment firms now offer unit trusts (similar to mutual funds) based on it.

Such companies as Prudential Securities, Dean Witter Reynolds, and Van Kampen Merritt have investment vehicles not only for the "Dow 10" but also a variation known as "low 5" or sometimes "flying 5" — the lowest-priced five among the 10 Dow stocks with the highest yield.

Yield is the stock's annual dividend divided by its price. So, for example, a \$100 stock paying a dividend of \$1.80 has a yield of 1.8 percent, but a \$50 stock paying the same \$1.80 dividend has a yield of 3.6 percent.

Followers of the Dow strategies like the comfort of investing in "blue-chip" stocks, big companies that are highly capitalized and have the resources to rebound from adversity.

The strategies also count on the fact that stocks with relatively high yields are usually unpopular on Wall Street.

Over a long period of time, the Dow strategies can produce eye-popping results.

According to prospectuses for some of the unit trusts, a \$10,000 investment in the Dow 30 at the beginning of 1976 would have grown to \$137,138 by the end of

1995. But the same investment in the Dow 10 — with dividends reinvested and the list of stocks revised each Jan. 1 — would have increased to \$270,695, and in the low 5 it would have become a whopping \$441,689, not adjusted for commissions or taxes.

How good is that? Well, \$10,000 deposited in a savings account yielding 5 percent would grow to just over \$26,500 in 20 years.

That \$10,000 invested in the broad stock market and growing at the rate of the average such portfolio (say 10 percent a year), would grow to about \$67,000 in 20 years.

But those impressive Dow-strategy figures are merely hypothetical, because few investors, if any, knew about the strategies in the 1970s.

Many money managers give credit to a Clevelander, John Slatter, a broker retired from Prescott Ball & Turben (now part of Kemper Securities), for developing the strategy. He began speaking and writing about it in 1988, and it gained currency in publications like Money magazine.

Slatter said in a recent interview: "I don't have the foggiest idea where I got the original idea. The idea seems to work no matter how you do it — some change yearly, some every 16 months. A lot of people are using it, but not in the same way. Basically you're picking large, unpopular companies, and because they're large, they don't let problems knock them out. When you buy favorite stocks, you are paying too much for them."

Slatter wrote two books mentioning the strategy: "Safe Investing", in 1991 and "Straight Talk About Stock Investing", in 1995.

In 1992, Michael O'Higgins, a money manager, published "Beating the Dow: A High-Risk, Low-Risk Method for Investing in the Dow Jones Industrial Stocks with as Little as \$5,000."

In another 1992 book, "The Dividend Investor: A Safe, Sure Way to Beat the Market", authors Harvey Knowles and Damon Petty point out that 18 times in a 23-year period the Dow 10 beat the entire Dow 30. The Dow 30 has had six down

years since 1973, compared with two for the Dow 10.

One longtime believer in the Dow strategy is John Carroll, a broker now with Edward D. Jones & Co. in Toledo, Ohio. "I think it's terrific," said Carroll. "I have dozens of clients who use it. In the summer of 1988, 39 started and 31 are still in it."

Among them is Tomlinson, but his investment is small compared with most, who put up an initial \$100,000 to \$250,000, Carroll added. Even so, Tomlinson is happy.

"I think it has been pretty successful, he said. "I've had particularly good luck with stocks like Eastman Kodak and Sears," which last year spun off Allstate, giving its investors a 70 percent total return for the year.

Barron's, in its Dec. 18 issue, noted that "the 'Dogs of the Dow' are leading the overall stock market by a nose, proving once again that a fairly simple contrarian strategy can beat some of the world's best money managers."

The 10 "dogs" (the Dow 10) in early 1996, with their dividend yields (as of mid-February) are:

Phillip Morris, 4.09 percent; Texaco, 3.95 percent; J.P. Morgan, 3.94 percent; Exxon, 3.63 percent; Chevron, 3.60 percent; General Motors, 3.05 percent; Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing, 2.74 percent; duPont, 2.62 percent; International Paper, 2.56 percent, and General Electric, 2.34 percent. Depending on the timing of the investment, some portfolios also include Caterpillar, which has a yield of 2.09 percent.

Morris, Morgan, Exxon, 3M, duPont, and Chevron also were on last year's 10-highest-yield list. Dropping off the list this year were Sears, Eastman Kodak, and Texaco, because their prices rose or their yield changed, and Woolworth was dropped because it no longer pays a dividend.

The low 5 list for this year includes (for most investors following the strategy): International Paper, \$37.875 a share at the beginning of 1996; Chevron, \$52.375; General Motors, \$52.875; 3M, \$66.375, and duPont, \$69.875. The other possible addition, Caterpillar, was selling for \$58.75 a share at the start of the year.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Justice of the Peace
China Long
Precinct 1, Place 1
Bad Checks/Warrants issued:
The addresses listed are the last known addresses. Names on this list remain until all fines have been paid. If any problems with this list, please contact China Long's office at 264-2226.

Beasley, Barry Lane, 1500 Virginia, Big Spring.
Carter, Chris, P.O. Box 670, Dalhart.
Carter, Pat L., 10630 E. I-20, Loralne.
Gonzales, Della, P.O. Box 285, Coahoma.
Gunter, Irene Leslie, 605 E. 13th, Big Spring.
Jimenez, Minerva Ann, P.O. Box 1243, Big Spring.
Lowness, Michael S., 4201 Muir, Big Spring.
Ortega, Eutimio, 7237 Miami St., Humble.
Soto, Emilio, Rt. 1 Box 6940, Tubb Circle, Big Spring.
Thompson, James B., 1320 E. 4th, Big Spring.

Marriage Licenses:
Ricardo Torres, 36, and Gianna Maria Sanchez, 32.
Harold Ray Woodard, 26, and Stacey Ann Thornell, 23.
Ronald James Coatney, 51, and Carolyn Graves Yeager, 46.
Adolpho E. Botello, Jr., 27, and Marlene Rodriguez Conde, 29.

County Court Records:
Order(s) of dismissal: John Roger Turner, Barbara Kathleen Poe, Curtis R. Welch, Roy G. Billings, Earl D. Kolden, Ricky Dyer, Patsy Curry, Janice M. Banks, Luciano Ruben Rodriguez, Jimmy W. Grant, and Scott A. Order(s): Christopher Noe Galindo.
Judgment & sentence DWI: Ingrid M. Gamble (2nd offense) \$750 fine, \$287 court cost and 60 days in jail.
Judgment & sentence possession of marijuana under 2 ozs.: Robert Lee Vela \$192 court and 10 days in jail, and Mike J. Flores \$100 fine and \$157 court cost.
Order dismissing cause: John Alexander Leach.
Probated judgment - deferred adjudication: Cameron Seago.
Revocation of probation & imposition of sentence: Elviera Brito and Ingrid Gamble.
Motion to dismiss revocation of probation: Christopher Noe Galindo.

118th District Court:
Filings:
Family:
Nancy Jane Coker vs. John Howard Joseph.
Lisa Christina Garcia vs. Michael E. Mendez.
Erlinda Gonzales vs. Luis Rivera.

Laura Lee Pulver vs. Christopher Lopez.
Cassandra J. Beltran vs. Diondre M. Hall.
Stephanie D. Riddell vs. John William Riddell.
Micaiah Sarah Ramirez vs. Billy Ramirez.
Magdalena Ledesma vs. Alfred Ledesma, Jr.
Michelle Martinez vs. Demetrio Martinez.
Sara Moron vs. Jackie E. Lang.
Maricella Balcazar vs. Jose Rios.
Eugene Richards vs. Pamela Richards.
Priscilla Zuniga vs. Arnold Loya Gander.
Rodger Allan Jensen vs. Linda Marie Jensen.
Accounts, notes & contracts: Bank One, Texas, N.A. vs. Guy W. and Jeana Webster.
Nations Bank of Texas, N.A. vs. Jessie and Lupe Loya.
PFS Thermoplastic Power Coatings, Inc. vs. Praxair, Inc.
Injuries & damages with a motor vehicle:
Billy Ray Johnson vs. Brad Alden Froman.
Divorce:
Mary Jean Berry vs. Anthony G. Arista.
Robert Anthony Rose vs. Tomieka Lynn Rose.
Daarla Heffington vs. David Heffington.
Lara Jo Wood vs. Allen Rayn Wood.
Other:
Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Ins. Co. vs. Elizabeth, et al.
Rulings:
Kasi Ann Fry vs. Curtis Wayne Fry, disposed - family law.
Sunrizon Homes, Inc. vs. Redman Industries, Inc. and Re, disposed-dismissed-DO.
Ray Stoaks vs. Sherry Jean Jett, disposed-family law.
John Bruce Gay vs. Melody Lynn Gay, disposed-dismissed-family law.
Michael Allen Johnson vs. Colleen Burnedette Johnson, disposed-family law.
Norma Linda Salazar vs. Marcus Anthony Salazar, disposed-family law.
Michelle Dawn Deanda Rodriguez vs. Rosendo Cruz Rodriguez, disposed-family law.
Denise Turner vs. Gregory S. Turner, disposed-family law.
Irma Franco vs. Johnny Lara, disposed-family law.
Patricia Louise Davess vs. Billy Charles Daves, disposed-family law.
Angie Brooks vs. Don Brooks, disposed-dismissed-divorce.
Colin Carroll vs. Monica Carroll, disposed-dismissed-divorce.
Beverly Covarrubias vs. Alfredo Covarrubias, disposed-dismissed-divorce.
Kelly Denise Hankins vs. Darren Lee Hankins, disposed-family law.
Barbara Rudd vs. Thomas Jack Rudd, disposed-dismissed.

Best Western Motel Manager Dick Ricenbaw, left, shows area business people some of the new changes at Best Western as part of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours program.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



Best Western Motel Manager Dick Ricenbaw, left, shows area business people some of the new changes at Best Western as part of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours program.

Pirelli cable project signals improved transmissions

HOUSTON (AP) — Pirelli Cable's recent completion of a 50-meter superconducting cable — the longest stretch so far — signals the beginning of better power transmission systems.

One of the world's largest power cable manufacturers, Pirelli Cable, announced the achievement Tuesday just after the opening of the 10th Anniversary High Temperature Superconductivity Workshop. It will run through Saturday in Houston.

"For the first time, we have a practical manufacturing process," said Donald Von Dolten, manager of underground transmission for the Electric Power Research Institute, one of the partners in the project. "Other lengths have been made by hand. We can make any length we want using this process."

Pirelli executives said an entire superconducting cable transmission system should be ready for field testing on or before its 1998 target date.

Superconductivity is a phenomenon in which electricity flows without resistance through some materials if they are chilled to very low temperatures.

A new type of material, discovered in 1986, did not have to be made as cold as older materials to become superconducting. That step led to a frenzy of research and development, one offshoot of which was a partnership to perfect superconducting underground cable that could replace existing power lines.

Researchers at American Superconductor, a third partner on the Pirelli project, insist the conductor they have developed meets all industry requirements for current-carrying capability.

The cable is expected to exceed the performance of cable now in the ground by two or three times, though it will not be any larger.

With that increase in efficiency, power companies could supply more power to customers without having to dig

up old lines to add space.

The first step to unlocking the potential of superconductors is believed to be a strong, capable multifilament wire. It is essential not only to power cable but most energy applications.

A Massachusetts company, American Superconductor has spent most of a decade improving the performance of its wire. What starts as a thick rod is drawn and flattened until it looks like a ribbon of silver fettucine.

Companies to drill record well

HOUSTON (AP) — Shell Oil Co., Amoco, Mobil and Texaco will begin drilling for oil later this month in the Gulf of Mexico at a world-record depth of 7,625 feet, nearly 1.5 miles below the surface.

The companies will not disclose how much will be spent on the project, about 200 miles southeast of Corpus Christi in the Alaminos Canyon area.

Although some preliminary seismic data has been collected on some promising geological formations at the site, this will be the first exploratory well in the vicinity, and there is no oil or gas production nearby.

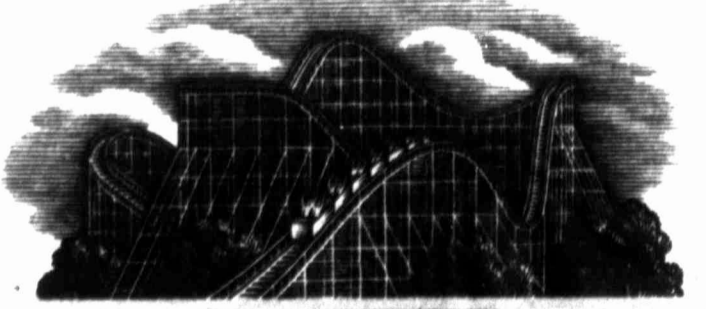
However, if the well leads to a major discovery, the technology does not yet exist to retrieve oil or gas from water that deep.

The industry is now producing from water approximately 3,000 feet deep, said Shell spokeswoman Kitty Borah. Shell will push that to 5,300 feet in 1997, when it starts producing from its Mensa Field in the Gulf of Mexico.

Technological advances will presumably allow oil recovery from 7,625 feet, Ms. Borah said.

Operator of what is called the Baha project is Shell Offshore, a Shell affiliate based in New Orleans.

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