

## TxDOT plans \$4.16 million in local projects over three years

HERALD Staff Report

Four construction projects totaling \$4,163,600 are scheduled for the next three-year period in Howard County, according to the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Those projects, along with projects proposed for the 11 other counties in the Abilene District, will be discussed at a joint public meeting with TxDOT and the Abilene Metropolitan

Planning Organization tonight at 7 at the Abilene Civic Center.

"We will be given the opportunity to give feedback on the projects that have been scheduled, as well as some projects we would like to see scheduled," explained Herald Managing Editor John H. Walker. Walker is chairman of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Transportation Committee.

Walker said that he, committee member Ralph Truskowski and chamber executive vice president Linda Walker will attend the meeting.

"One of the things we'll bring up tonight is the hazardous cargo route," Walker said. "We've discussed this with TxDOT on a regular basis and both organizations (TxDOT and Transportation Committee) concur that we need such a route and that the route that would best serve both the community and the motoring public would be along the western edge of the community."

Walker said that during the first meeting of Phase II of the Interstate 27 study, it was also pointed out that construction of a route along the

western edge of the community would help promote economic development.

"That would offer better access to the McMahon/Wrinkle Airpark and industrial area," he said. "By adding north-south (U.S. 87) access to the current east-west (I-20) access we have, we add to the value of the entire industrial complex."

"When you consider that we also have an 8,800-foot runway rated for jumbo jets as well as a rail spur, we would have potential for development of a facility with full intermodal access."

The four projects scheduled for Howard County, along with the date and dollar value, include:

- Upgrade traffic signal controllers, Fourth Street, Big Spring, 1998, \$140,000;
- Restoration of Historic Hangar 25, McMahon/Wrinkle Airpark, 1998, \$573,600;
- Overlay bridge deck, FM 700 crossing over UP Railroad, 1999, \$150,000;
- Reconstruction and rehabilitation, U.S. 87 from Martin County line south for distance of 7.2 miles, 2000, \$3.3 million.

## Moore OKs loan to city for project

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Moore Development For Big Spring has agreed to loan the city of Big Spring \$56,000 to install a 12-inch waterline at the Signal Homes manufacturing facility.

The short-term loan will be to the city's utility fund and will be used to begin the first phase of a two phase project involving the waterline.

Todd Darden, Big Spring's director of utilities and community development, told Moore's board of directors at Wednesday's board meeting that the city is in the midst of a budget year and all funds are committed to other projects, which is the reason for the loan.

Darden said the second half of the \$112,000 project will be added into the new budget this summer.

The initial phase of the project will get the waterline in place at Signal Homes.

According to Darden the line will be bored under FM700.

The other major topic of discussion at Wednesday's board meeting centered around Moore's investments.

Following a lengthy debate, the board voted 3 to 1 with one abstention to move some of its funds into the state's investment pool — Tex Pool.

"We don't have that much money to put into Tex Pool right now, but I feel like we should go ahead and sign a resolution to this effect," Treasurer Joyce Crooker said.

A resolution is a requirement before funds can be invested in Tex Pool.

According to Crooker, 12 other economic development boards around the state have invested in Tex Pool because it's seen as a safe way to keep money that is needed on a moment's notice, and because Tex Pool funds are currently earning 5.4 percent interest.

Board member Phil Carruthers said he favors the idea because of the liquidity factor, meaning Moore could keep a small balance in its checking account.

Moore currently has \$418,000 in one cash deposit (a certificate of deposit) at Security State Bank.

On March 10, Moore had \$537,000 in its checking account and withdrew \$150,000 for the renovation of the Signal Homes building.

According to Crooker, Moore plans to take \$350,000 of its current CD when it matures and move those funds to Citizens Federal Credit Union.

## Mike Moates named Ag Producer of Year

By CARLTON JOHNSON

Staff Writer

More than 600 area agricultural producers along with 50 exhibits and booths highlighted today's 26th annual West Texas Agriculture Exposition, but the highlight for Luther farmer Mike Moates was being named Howard County's Agricultural Producer of the Year.

Moates, a lifelong resident of the Luther Community in northern Howard County, was presented the award during today's Agricultural Appreciation Luncheon in the East Room of Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at Howard College by retiring County Extension Agent Don Richardson.

Moates and his wife Sheree have two daughters, Kristie, a student at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and Lindsay, a Big Spring High School sophomore.

"It's been tough keeping this a secret," Sheree said. "I was real excited when I found out about the award."

"As a wife, I get to see all of the behind the scene things that Mike does," she added.

One of the most touching moments she's witnessed happened when an area farmer was unable to work in his fields and several other farmers dropped what they were doing and pitched in.

"Mike and several other farmers stopped the work in their fields to help out," Sheree said. "It's funny to see that many strippers in one field, but they did in one day what would have taken several."

According to Sheree, there is more to an award like this than just farming.

The 4H program is something that's close to the hearts of the entire family, Sheree added.

"Mike has always found time to get involved with our daughters' activities," Sheree said. "We started working with young people through our church and have always been involved."

Sheree says there's no doubt about what has made her husband successful — God.

"God is first in his life, our family is second and this is the reason he's been successful," Sheree said. "No matter how bad a year has been, Mike has always believed God would take care of things."

Currently serving as president of the Howard County Farm Bureau (HCFB), a position he has held for 11 years, Moates continues to be a



**Mike Moates, a farmer from the Luther Community, was named Howard County's Ag Producer of the Year today during the 26th annual Ag Expo.**

leader in the area's agricultural industry. He has served as HCFB president longer than any other person.

Through his current position, Moates was instrumental in getting the popular "Ag in the Classroom" initiated in Howard County school district classrooms eight years ago. The program is aimed at developing an appreciation for agriculture in elementary school children. The

Please see EXPOSITION, page 3A

## Stenholm complains administration hurt CRP delaying sign-up

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced a general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up, which began March 3 and is scheduled to close at the end of business on March 28,

but, according to Congressman Charles Stenholm's office, the program may have hit a snag.

Howard County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Rick Liles says response and inquires regarding the CRP sign-up have been so numerous from area farmers that a public meeting was held March 13 at Big Spring's USDA Experiment Station to discuss details of the program.



STENHOLM

Land enrolled in a CRP with a contract expiration date of Sept. 30, 1997, and land not enrolled in a CRP might be eligible for current CRP sign-up, Liles said.

The CRP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to take highly erodible cropland out of production by establishing a permanent vegetative cover on those sites. The program also serves to improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

The permanent vegetative cover in most cases is native or introduced range grasses.

In exchange for entering land into a CRP, producers may receive an agreed upon rental payment for 10 years.

On Wednesday, Stenholm spoke against the Clinton Administration's decision to delay the sign-up of 2 million acres in the CRP for fiscal year 1998.

Stenholm said the administration has been asked to reconsid-

Please see CRP, Page 2A

## TU proposing customer rebate

HERALD Staff Report

Wednesday TU Electric filed a proposal to refund \$80 million to its customers and freeze electricity rates through the remainder of this year.

The proposal, which is the result of a joint agreement by TU, the Public Utility Commission (PUC), the Office of Public Utility Counsel and the Coalition of Cities served by TU, is subject to PUC approval.

"This settlement is good for several reasons," TU District Manager John Toone said. "TU customers would benefit in August from the refund, and all of the parties involved would avoid the expense of lengthy rate proceedings at this time."

Under the agreement, TU would make a one-time refund in August, as a credit on customers' bills, meaning a typical residential customer would receive a refund credit of about \$17.

According to Toone, discussions began late last year when the

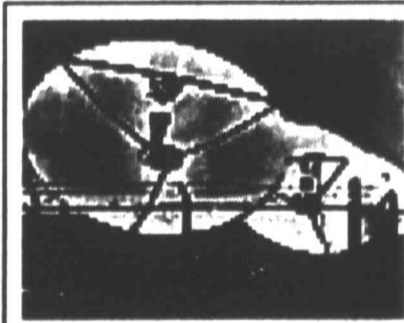
Please see PROPOSAL, Page 2A

## Satellite television systems have come long way

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the third in a five-part series of articles concerning television delivery systems and the varied choices available to local residents as a result of technological improvements that seem to advance on an almost day-to-day basis.

By JOHN A. MOSELEY  
News Editor

"You've come a long way baby," was once the advertising campaign slogan for a brand of cigarettes targeted for women, but today would be more aptly used in describing the advances



### VYING FOR VIEWERS

**TODAY:**  
Satellite systems growing

**TOMORROW:**  
What viewers are wanting

made in residential television satellite systems.

At one time the stuff of pipe dreams and later something for only the affluent, television satellite systems are now a

viable option for a large segment of society.

And for many who live outside the service area of cable television systems, having a satellite dish system is as essen-

tial a home appliance as a refrigerator or stove.

"What you can do for \$500 today is virtually unbelievable," admits David Papajohn of Circuit Electronics who first began selling and installing the large C-band dish units several years ago when satellite systems cost consumers in the thousands of dollars.

"Ten to 15 years ago, a C-band system would cost you anywhere from \$5,000 to \$12,000," he explained. "Today, with what you paid on taxes in those days you can have a complete system with no moving parts, simple channel switching and all the

other advantages the new 18-inch DSS systems provide."

However, there are still customers who opt for C-band systems, according to Beverly Beauchamp of Vision Makers Leisure Products. She and her husband, Roy, have been in the satellite receiver business in Big Spring since 1980 and sell both types of systems.

According to Beauchamp, the C-band systems with 7 1/2-foot antenna dishes now cost approximately \$1,500, but the majority of their new customers are opting for the "small dish"

Please see VYING, page 3A

## Tune cites background in making council bid

By CARLTON JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Howard College instructor Tommy Tune believes his educational background in government is one of the things that qualifies him to run for the Big Spring City Council.

Tune is challenging incumbent Tom Guess for the District 4 council seat in the May 3 election.

"I've always been interested in politics," Tune said. "I've lived in Big Spring all but 10 years of my life. Big Spring is my home-

town and I would like to be of service to the community."

Tune feels like Big Spring is at a crossroads.

"We've made some gains in the recent past

and I'd like to see us work on these areas," Tune said. "Since Gary Fuqua became city manager, we've made some great

strides, such as an expanded tax base."

Tune added the city is also beginning to make better use of the airpark.

"I think we need to reopen the topic of getting the airpark deeded back to the city of Big Spring from the FAA," Tune said. "Politically, this is a doable thing."

Tune thinks the idea is a good one because of the many base closures in the last few years that resulted in the land in many of these locations across the country being deeded back

to the cities that had military bases.

Streets, waterlines and sewers, according to Tune, are going to be perennial problems for a community, but it's a long, hard road that has to be traveled.

A council working together is something Tune said determines the direction of the city.

On most important issues, you probably won't see a unanimous council vote," Tune said. "No individual council member makes a decision alone. It's up

Please see TUNE, page 2

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Call us at:  
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### TODAY'S WEATHER

75 ▲ Highs 42  
Lows ▼

**Today:** Partly cloudy and windy with a chance of rain. High around 75. Low in the lower 40s.

**Friday:** Sunny. High around 80. Low in the mid 40s.

**Extended outlook:** Saturday through Monday, continued partly cloudy with Highs in the upper 70s to near 80. Lows in the 40s.

OBITUARIES

Erma Randell

Service for Erma Randell, 79, of Big Spring, is 9 a.m. Friday, March 28, 1997, at Myers & Smith Chapel. Graveside service is 3 p.m. Friday at Bangs Cemetery, Bangs, Texas, with Rev. Doug Shelley, pastor of Eastside Baptist Church, officiating.

She died Wednesday, March 26, 1997, at Mountain View Lodge following a long illness.

Mrs. Randell was born Sept. 13, 1917, in Anson. She married W.P. Bailey in 1932 in Durant, Okla. and he preceded her in death on Jan. 16, 1961. She married Fay B. Mosier in 1961, he preceded her in death on Oct. 22, 1983; and later she married James T. Randell on Sept. 9, 1988.

She is a member of Eastside Baptist Church. She moved to Big Spring in 1956 from Lueders and lived here from 1956 to 173 and she returned in 1984. While in Lueders, she and Mr. Bailey owned and operated the Lueders Cafe. In Big Spring, she worked for the Big Spring Police Department as meter maid for eight years. When living at Lake Brownwood, she was a dietitian at the State 4-H Center.

She is survived by her husband James Randell, Big Spring; two daughters: Betty Cain, Big Spring; and Shirley Anderson, Mansfield; one son: Larry Bailey, Odessa; one stepdaughter: Gayla Smith, San Angelo; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by two grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Montez Bunn

Montez Bunn, 68, of Big Spring, died on Wednesday, March 26, 1997.

In Ruidoso, N.M. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 29, 1997, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, and

BUNN

of Trinity Baptist Church, and

Dr. Claude Craven, retired Baptist minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born on Feb. 19, 1929, in Lenorah, Texas, and married B.A. "Bill" Bunn on March 7, 1947, in Stanton, Texas. He preceded her in death on March 4, 1995.

Mrs. Bunn was raised in Stanton and attended school there. She and her late husband owned and operated the Bunn's Candy Shoppe in Sand Springs for seven years.

She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church. She was a member and past president of the Busy Bee Club and a member of the Happy Crafters Club.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law: Allen and Kaye Bunn of Sweetwater; two daughters and one son-in-law: Sally and Phillip Schumpert and Kaci Bunn, all of Big Spring; four grandchildren: Drew Bunn of Sweetwater; Lynsey Bunn and Mallory and Morgan Schumpert, all of Big Spring; two sisters: Nora Ellen Martindale of Lueders and Willie Jean Payne of Camp Verde, Ariz.

She was preceded in death also by her parents and three brothers.

The family suggests memorials to: The American Heart Association; Howard County Division; P.O. Box 1223; Big Spring, Texas; 79721-1223 or to a favorite charity.

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

Paid obituary

CLARIFICATION

In last Sunday's public records, James Craig Richardson, 37, of 1200 E. 15th, was in the issuance of bad checks list. He is not the same person as Craig Dewayne Richardson, 19, of Route 1, Box 362.

RECORDS

Wednesday's high 69, low 41. Average high 70. Wednesday's low 41. Average low 42. Record high 92 in 1956. Record low 18 in 1931. Precip. Wednesday 0.22. Month to date 0.31. Month's normal 0.70. Year to date 3.86. Normal for the year 2.02. \*\*Statistics not available

TUNE

Continued from page 1 to the members of the council to carry out decisions once they have been made. It's the spirit of cooperation.

According to Tune, the most important cog in the wheel of the city's government is they city manager.

"The council does set the vision and objectives of the city, but there is also an obligation here to allow the city manager to do his job," Tune said. "The council needs to stay out of the way of the day-to-day administration of the city."

Tune believes to some degree council members have an obligation to ask the difficult questions where complex issues are concerned.

"The discussion may get heated, but when the decision is made it's over and we should go on," Tune said. "I look forward to working with any other six people on the council."

Tune said education is a part of everything and he believes his background and experience in real estate appraisal, insurance and oil field related activities will be an asset to the council.

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PROPOSAL

Continued from page 1A PUC reviewed TU's earnings and indicated they are potentially higher than would be allowed if the company underwent a rate case.

The PUC's analysis did not include the effects of a subsequent Texas Supreme Court decision issued recently directing the PUC to reconsider a \$909 million disallowance from TU's 1990 rate case.

According to Toone, that ruling could lead to an increase in the amount TU is allowed to earn. The PUC has not yet reconsidered the disallowance.

Wednesday's filing also allows TU, the PUC staff, the Office of Public Utility Counsel and the Coalition of Cities to negotiate a longer-term resolution of the company's earnings beyond 1997, which would also address the Supreme Court's ruling on the prior disallowance.

"The PUC has recently indicated that it strongly favors settled cases because of the expenses they save," Toone said. "We hope that this is the beginning of something that will operate in the company's and its customers' best long-term interest."

TU currently provides electric service to more than 2.3 million customers, primarily in the northern third of Texas.

CRP

Continued from page 1A er the proposal by the Council on Environmental Quality to use CRP savings to pay royalties to Crown Butte Resources Ltd. in order for the company to forfeit its mining rights near Yellowstone National Park.

In a letter to President Clinton, Stenholm wrote, "The Administration's singling out of the CRP has set a bad precedent that will set the program up as a target for others looking for what they see as easy money. Not only is there bipartisan opposition in Congress, several conservation, environmental and wildlife groups have expressed concern as well."

Stenholm's office said after only three weeks of sign-up, nearly 20 million acres have been added into the CRP for consideration, and of that acreage, 2.5 million acres are in Texas and 525,000 of these are new acres.

Currently 19 million acres are in existing CRP contracts, many which will expire during the next 18 months.

"This outpouring of interest in protecting environmentally-sensitive cropland should be enough to sway the Administration from using the CRP as a piggy bank for environmental purposes," Stenholm added in his letter. "To limit this tool greatly hampers our efforts to ensure that agriculture does part to improve the environment."

BRIEFS

WEST TEXAS AG EXPO SPRING Fashion Show, 2 p.m., on the exhibit floor. Local models present some of the latest fashions. The AgExpo is Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A NEW CHILDBIRTH CLASS will start Monday, April 7, at 1 p.m. at the Texas Department of Health. All expectant parents are welcome. Class is from 1 to 2:30 p.m. for four sessions.

THE COAHOMA HIGH SCHOOL Drama Club is sponsoring their annual dinner theater April 1 beginning at 7 p.m. in the high school main hall. Following a spaghetti dinner, the students present scenes from Maxwell Anderson's historical play "Anne of the Thousand Days." Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under the age of 12 and avail-

Big Spring AROUND THE TOWN

able at the door. Contact Sandy Wegman at the high school at 344-4535 for more information.

THE ANNUAL BIG SPRING community-wide Easter Sunrise Service is March 30 at 7 a.m. at the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater. Everyone is invited. Gary Smith, pastor of First Church of the Nazarene, will deliver the Easter message. Coffee and juice are provided by the Salvation Army.

THE WEST TEXAS CANCER PREVENTION Partnership's Mobile Mammography Clinic will be at the Carriage Inn Retirement Center on April 2.

The clinic provides both screening and diagnostic mammograms and free educational seminars on breast health awareness and the importance of mammography.

Anyone wishing to schedule and appointment for a mammogram or to arrange for a speaker to visit a business, organization or group can 1-800-222-8388.

SPRINGBOARD

IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES IN A SPRINGBOARD ITEM OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT GINA GARZA, 263-7331 ext. 238, BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 3 P.M. All Springboard items must be submitted in writing. Mail to: Springboard, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas 79720; bring it by the office at 710 Scurry; or fax it to 264-7205.

TODAY • Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, has services 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

• Big Spring Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., 88 and older.

• Support Group for Depression, 7 p.m., Dora Roberts Rehab Center, Third and Lancaster.

• Al-Anon, 8 to 9 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center small cafeteria.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting, 615 Settles. 8 to 9 p.m. closed meeting at Scenic Mountain Medical Center cafeteria.

• Masonic Lodge No. 598, 7:30 p.m., 719 Main.

• Alzheimer's Association support group, 7 p.m., Comanche Trail Nursing Center.

• Appreciation Luncheon, East-Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, noon.

• Passion Play, 7:30 p.m., First Assembly of God, Fourth and Lancaster. Free admission.

• AgExpo Fashion Show, 2 p.m., exhibit floor where local models will be presenting the latest fashions. Free admission.

FRIDAY • Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Music by CW & Co. Area seniors invited.

• Good Shepherd Fellowship Church, 610 Abrams, 7 p.m. Bible study.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. open meeting and 8 to 9 p.m. Big Book Study.

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.

• Passion Play, 7:30 p.m., First Assembly of God, Fourth and Lancaster. Free admission.

SATURDAY • Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, open meetings at noon, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Texas Lottery

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following incidents during a 24-hour period ending 8 a.m. Thursday:

• DAPHNE M. FRANCO, 32, of 1408 Mesquite, was arrested on outstanding local warrants.

• DAVID WAYNE SMITH, 36, no address given, was arrested for public intoxication.

• TERRY SHIRLEY, 33, no address given, was arrested for criminal trespassing.

• DAVID LEE CAMPBELL, 36, of 1506 Cherokee, was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

• DISTURBANCE/FIGHT in the 1600 block of Virginia.

• ASSAULT BY THREATS in the 800 block of N. Goliad and 500 block of N. Birdwell.

• FORGERY in the 1600 block of Tucson and 200 block of W. Marcy.

• THEFTS in the 1700 block of Marcy and 1100 block of N. Lamesa.

• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING in the 1000 block of Birdwell. The resident told officers someone broke into his storage shed and stole two saws, a drill and a sander worth \$486.

• AGGRAVATED ASSAULT in the 4200 block of Dixon.

• LOUD PARTY in the 1100 block of W. Sixth.

• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE in the 1700 block of Alabama.

• INVESTIGATING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY in the 400 block of Birdwell.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF in the 2300 block of Allendale. The complainant told officers someone threw a brick through a car window and damaged the vehicle's console causing \$400 in damage.

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following incidents during a 24-hour period ending 8 a.m. Thursday:

• BERRY BEASLEY, 42, of 605 E. 13th, was transferred to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for violating his parole. He had pleaded guilty to theft last month and this offense is what violated his parole.

• JERRY THOMAS STANHOPE, no age given, of 1315 Mulberry, was transferred from the police department after being arrested for driving with an invalid license. He was later released on a \$3,000 bond.

• LUIS MOLINA, no age given, of 507 E. 15th, was transferred from the police department after being arrested for violating a protective order. He was later released on a \$3,000 bond.

• NOAH STONE COCHRAN, 19, of Tacoma, Wash., was released on a \$1,000 bond after being arrested for possession of marijuana under two ounces.

WHEAT

Furniture & Appliance Co. FREE DELIVERY & REMOVAL OF OLD GOODS 115 E. 2ND 267-5722

SHEA WAYNE DAUGHERTY, 23, of Tacoma, Wash., was released on a \$1,000 bond after being arrested for possession of marijuana under two ounces.

• LOOSE CATTLE near KC Steak House and Highway 176.

• TREE LIMBS IN ROADWAY near Rockhouse Road and Wasson Road.

• SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE on Highway 87.

• MAN ON HIGHWAY on West Interstate 20. He was taken to the Big Spring State Hospital.

• ALARM AT BUSINESS in Coahoma. Everything was secure.

• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE at residence on Hilltop Road.

• LOOSE GOATS on North Birdwell Lane.

• HIT AND RUN ACCIDENT on the Snyder Highway.

MARKETS

May cotton 73.00 cents a pound, up 35 points; May crude oil 20.70 up 6 points; Cash hogs at \$2 lower at 50; slaughter steers at 67; April lean hog futures 72.50, down 30 points; April live cattle futures 68.27, up 10 points. Courtesy: Delta Corporation.

Neon quotes provided by Edward D. Jones & Co.

Table with market data including Index 6854.64, Volume 131,479,300, ATT 35%+, Amoco 90%+, Atlantic Richfield 135%+, etc.

TAKE TIME OUT FOR YOURSELF READ

DUNLAPS

111 E Marcy 267-8283 Mon.-Sat. 10 am-6 pm

The Easter Bunny is on his way! He stopped by Faye's Flowers... Shop Where The Experts Shop! Faye's Flowers 1013 Gregg 267-5271

SPECIAL NOTICE It has come to my attention that a rumor is being spread around Big Spring stating that Glass Magic will soon be leaving town... Jim Creekmore Manager 2100 Gregg 267-3464

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home 906 Gregg St. (915) 267-6331

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288

Erma Randell, 79, died Wednesday, March 26, at Mountain View Lodge. Services will be 9:00 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Big Spring Herald 267-6311 USPS 0055-960 Daily except Sunday. BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$12.50 monthly...

# Solar-powered model event ends in controversial finish

By KELLIE JONES  
Features Editor

The solar car race sponsored by TU Electric was filled with a little electricity of its own as one of the races was protested by Coahoma school officials.

The race involved several area junior high schools competing last Saturday in Midland. Two of the schools did not show up and the bracket system set up ahead of time was no longer fair, according to Coahoma Junior High School Principal Dale Weaver.

The Coahoma students' car was set to race against Colorado City in a semi-final heat but before the race began, a third car from Trinity School in Midland was added.

Big Spring TU Electric District Manager John Toone said this was done because the way the heats were set up, several of the faster cars would have been racing against each other. "We discovered there was a flaw in the system and so we had to make adjustments in the race. We did this as fairly as we thought we could," Toone said.

The Coahoma car had been built by Jonathan Foster, Chris Mulkey and Jay Chadwell.

As a result of the controversial entry, Coahoma finished second in the semi-final race and Trinity was first so its car now gets to advance to the competition in Dallas next month.

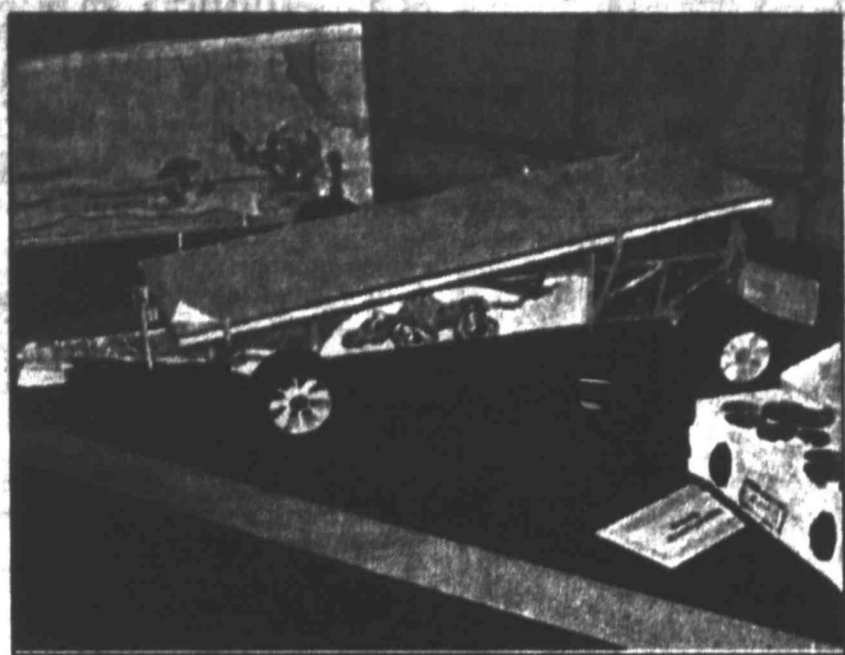
Weaver said the Coahoma car didn't get to race against two of the cars that advanced.

"We aren't trying to be sour grapes here," Weaver said. "We had a good chance of advancing and the boys did real well and we'll do better next year. We didn't get a real opportunity to prove ourselves. It wasn't totally fair."

"We do appreciate all TU Electric did and we will enter again. We are concerned for the kids and want to let people know they put in a lot of time and work into this project," Weaver added.

Toone said judges took the criticism by Coahoma as constructive criticism and understand there is always room for improvement.

"We will see if there is a better way to do this next time. As with any type of contest, there are going to be winners and losers. We mainly wanted a



The car built by Forsan Junior High School (top photo) won Most Creative Design because the frame was covered with plastic wrap instead of wood to make it more lightweight when it raced in the TU Electric Model Solar Car race last Saturday. The car's builders (bottom) were Dustin Baker, Dustin Morgan, T.J. Colvin and Jerod Johnston. The school's science department received a cash prize of \$50 and the students received ribbons.

chance for the kids to learn about solar energy and have fun building the cars," Toone explained.

Trinity School ended up placing second overall with Crane Middle School finishing first; Midland Christian School, third; and Abell Junior High School in Midland finishing fourth.

Some good news for one local school was that Forsan Junior High won a ribbon and \$50 cash prize for having the Most Creative Design.

The Forsan students' frame was built with wood but instead of using more wood on

top of the frame, the students used plastic wrap so it would be more lightweight. The car was built by Dustin Baker, Dustin Morgan, T.J. Colvin and Jerod Johnston.

Ira Middle School used soda cans to make its car and won the Best Use of Recycled Materials award.

Hermleigh Junior High School won Best Use of School Mascot because its team had painted their mascot, a cardinal, on the side of the car.

The four top finalists advance to the Championship Model Solar Car Race in Dallas April 19.

## EXPOSITION

Continued from page 1A  
program is now a feature attraction of the Howard County Fair.

Moates has also served on various state committees of the Farm Bureau and in other areas of the community, currently serves as president of the county's 4H Adult Leaders Association and is an active volunteer 4H Beef Cattle Project leader for that organization.

Other activities occupying Moates' time, include serving as a Deacon and Sunday School teacher at Hillcrest Baptist Church, chairman of Baptist Student Ministries Committee at Howard College. Moates' community service also includes chairing the committee that successfully helped pass the recent school bond election for the Big Spring Independent School District.

Howard County's Agricultural Extension Service and Holland

Cottonseed Co. have also worked closely with Moates in developing planned cotton varietal result demonstrations.

This year's Ag Expo was a little different than in past years because the traditional appreciation dinner was turned into an appreciation luncheon.

Education programs for today's morning portion of the expo included a field crops program with each of the three presentations as part of the program offering a one-hour continuing education unit (CEU) credit.

The field crops program includes a "New Farm Chemical" update by representatives from Zeneca and American Cyanamid (courtesy of Big Spring Farm Supply); a presentation on "Drip Irrigation" in Howard County, including "Chemigation," by Dr. Bryan Unruh, extension agronomist

from Fort Stockton; and "Laws and Regulations on Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) Restricted Use Pesticides Licenses" by Mindy Shugart, TDA representative from Lamesa.

The horticultural program began at 10 a.m. with a presentation by Debbie Bengtson-Frost, extension horticulturist for Midland and Ector Counties.

The presentation was entitled "Color in the Home Landscape." The livestock program began at 2 p.m. with a presentation by Lisa Williams of the Texas Beef Council in Austin. The presentation is entitled "Check Up on Check Off."

Producers also received an update on "Result Demonstrations in Range/Wildlife" by Howard County Extension Agent for Agriculture Keith Klement. A one-hour CEU credit was also offered with this presentation.

## WYING

Continued from page 1A  
systems that carry a beginning price tag of \$599 installed.

Prices quoted by a number of dealers in Big Spring — Radio Shack, Circuit Electronics and Harris Lumber and Hardware — were similar to those listed by Beauchamp, the prices ranging between \$459 and \$599 for installed DSS systems.

Several of the local dealers noted that customers can cut the cost of their systems substantially by doing the installation themselves.

Papajohn and Steve Broussard quoted basic DSS system prices of \$399 and noted that an installation kit would cost a little less than \$70. Radio Shack manager Bill Conner quoted the basic system at \$349. Conner said professional installation would cost \$199, but that do-it-yourself installation kits cost \$69.99.

However, one Lubbock company, Digital Satellite Television (DSTV), is currently selling complete DSS systems for \$199. Installation costs another \$170, plus a \$55 travel fee for the installation crew, according to DSTV sales manager Rod Phillips.

Phillips did note, however, that customers can choose to install the systems themselves.

In addition, Phillips admitted that DSTV is selling the satellite system hardware at a loss in

hopes of becoming the customer's programming provider.

As a programming provider — DSS dish owners must pay for programming in much the same way cable customers do — Phillips notes that DSTV's prospective customers' first questions concern the differences with his company and the services offered by Primestar providers.

"With Primestar you never own the equipment," Phillips said, adding that he is currently seeking a Big Spring business interested in becoming a DSTV dealer. "Our packages are basically the same, but with our system, the basic charge of \$4.95 per month for programming. You can custom design your package with us."

The two Primestar providers in Big Spring — Clear Star Satellite and Radio Shack — noted that their service provides many of the advantages of both cable and satellite systems.

"You don't have to buy the equipment and don't have to pay for repairs if the equipment isn't abused," Clear Star sales manager Ron L. Burton Sr. explained.

Both Burton and Radio Shack's Conner noted that Primestar is normally \$199, but a special is currently priced at \$149 and includes the first month's programming of more

than 140 channels, normally a \$54.99 value, free.

In addition, they noted that Primestar is currently in the process of expanding the number of channels available on its service to a maximum of 160 channels.

Those who purchase DSS systems purchase programming packages through various providers. However, the dealers say most local customers purchase basic service from DirectTV and premium channels like HBO, Showtime and Cinemax through a company called U.S.S.B.

In addition to regular broadcast channels, programming providers' packages also offer as many as 50 to 100 CD quality music (audio only) channels, as well as a like number of pay-per-view channels.

"That can be a big deal for people who want to put together a big library of taped films," Papajohn noted, "because it's like having a video store in your own home."

The satellite system providers also offer sports packages which allow avid sports fans to purchase every NFL, NBA or Major League Baseball game played during the season.

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FOR YOURSELF READ  
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HERALD CLASSIFIED ADS WORK  
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## The Easter Bunny is hopping to the BIG SPRING MALL

The Schedule is as follows:

Saturday, March 22

11 am-8 pm

Sunday, March 23

1 pm-5 pm

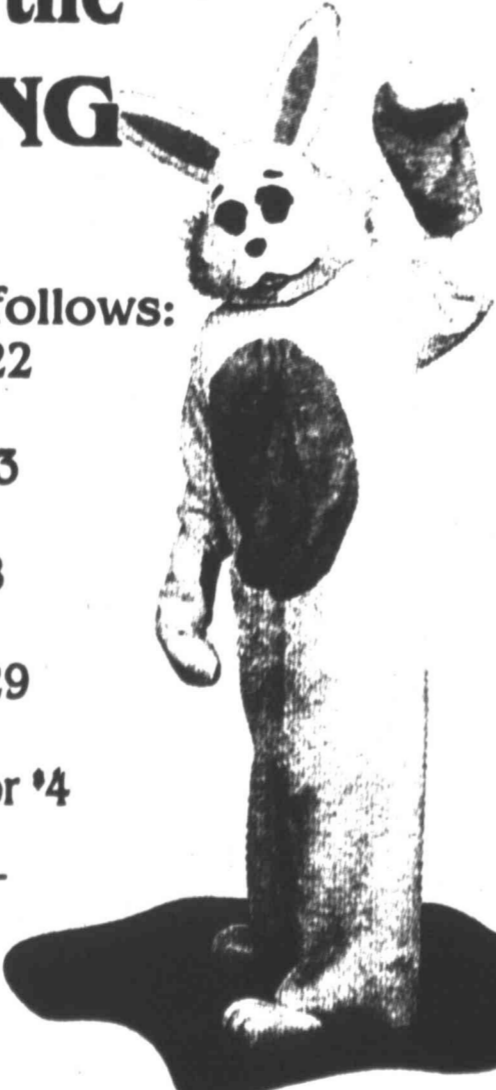
Friday, March 28

1 pm-8 pm

Saturday, March 29

11 am-8 pm

Pictures Available for \$4



The Big Spring Mall will be closed Easter Sunday (except for Aladdin's Castle & Cinema 4)

OUR BIGGEST SALE OF THE SEASON ON NOW THRU SATURDAY!

# ANNIVERSARY SALE

## Hurry in for big savings in every department!

PRE-EASTER DRESS CLEARANCE

39.99-79.99

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BUY 1, GET 1 AT 1/2 OFF\*

JANTZEN®, KORET® & ALFRED DUNNER®

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NOW THRU MARCH 29! CLIP & SAVE AN

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ANY SINGLE ITEM; SALE OR REG. PRICE!

SHOP BEALLS  
MON.-SAT. 10 AM-9 PM  
SUN. 12-6

# BEALLS



Just a sample of the savings you will find. Interim reductions may have been taken. Styles, sizes and colors may vary by store. Men's Dress Clothing and Pajamas at selected stores. \*Second pair must be of equal or lesser value. Only one coupon per item. Coupons not valid on gift certificates, payments on credit accounts and cannot be combined with any other coupon or private savings offer.

EDITORIAL

Quote of the Day

"God gives the milk but not the pail." English proverb

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

Charles C. Williams Publisher John H. Walker Managing Editor John A. Moseley News Editor Kelle Jones Features Editor

OUR VIEWS

Remember the reason for the Easter season

This weekend, as we observe Good Friday and celebrate Easter, it is important that we remember the reason for our recognition.

Good Friday is the day on which we observe the crucifixion of Christ, while Easter allows us to celebrate His rising from the grave.

Over the years, the commercialization of Easter — as with all special dates — has in many cases pushed aside the real reason we take pause.

But as we gather as families to watch children and grandchildren hunt Easter eggs, let us also remember that had it not been for Christ's resurrection, the Disciples would not have carried the message of his rebirth to a hungry world.

So let's remember to take time, as we should during all religious holidays, and concentrate on Easter's true meaning.

Reader comes to rescue of rattlesnake roundups

To the Editor: This is in response to Mr. Walker's editorial in the March 23, Herald.

I am a former Howard County Jaycee (folded), Scenic Mountain Jaycee (folded), past Texas Jaycee State officer, current member of the Sweetwater Jaycees and live in Big Spring. I found Mr. Walker's comments about Sweetwater to be offensive, detestable, and highly unprofessional.

The facts of the matter are that while many titles no longer have a Jaycee chapter, the Sweetwater Jaycees have remained continuously chartered for over 56 years. Visitors and media from all over the world venture to the Sweetwater Roundup each year because of the professionalism and the friendliness of the Jaycees and Sweetwater. The Roundup's impact on the economy is immense as tens of thousands of visitors fill Sweetwater hotels, restaurants,

and stores.

The Sweetwater Roundup is promoted through safety, education and research, not the circus antics of eight-legged pigs, two headed snakes, mermaids, sleeping bags, e.c. that other roundups use. They do not tolerate any one, regardless of affiliation or political status, that has had "too many Pearls" to milk a snake, they are not allowed in the pits period. The children of Sweetwater are educated in what to do if you see or hear a snake, not how to get out of a sleeping bag full of them. It is much more likely one would walk up on a snake than find it in his sleeping bag!

Mr. Walker made the comment "holier-than-thou" in reference to the Sweetwater Jaycees and the community, it is apparent he has spent little time in Sweetwater. Having lived in both cities, I know for a fact that he is totally wrong in his assumption! Sweetwater is a proud community, as are the Jaycees. Instead of ridiculing, others should follow!

Ted Thomas Big Spring

LETTER POLICY

The Big Spring Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words, or about two hand-written pages.
Sign your letter.
Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
Faxed or computer-generated letters must be signed and also provide telephone number and address.
We reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity.
We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered for publication.
We do not acknowledge receipt

of letters.

- Letters from our circulation area are given preference.
Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

OUR POLITICAL SUBSIDIES ...

- Each candidate filing for office will receive one story and one mug-size photo.
The story will be approximately 350 words and will be published in a weekday edition on the bottom half of page one.
In addition, candidate's profiles will run on Sunday, April 27.
Candidates are responsible for contacting the Herald to schedule the interview and photo for the story.
We will not publish any letters in support of or opposition to any candidate.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

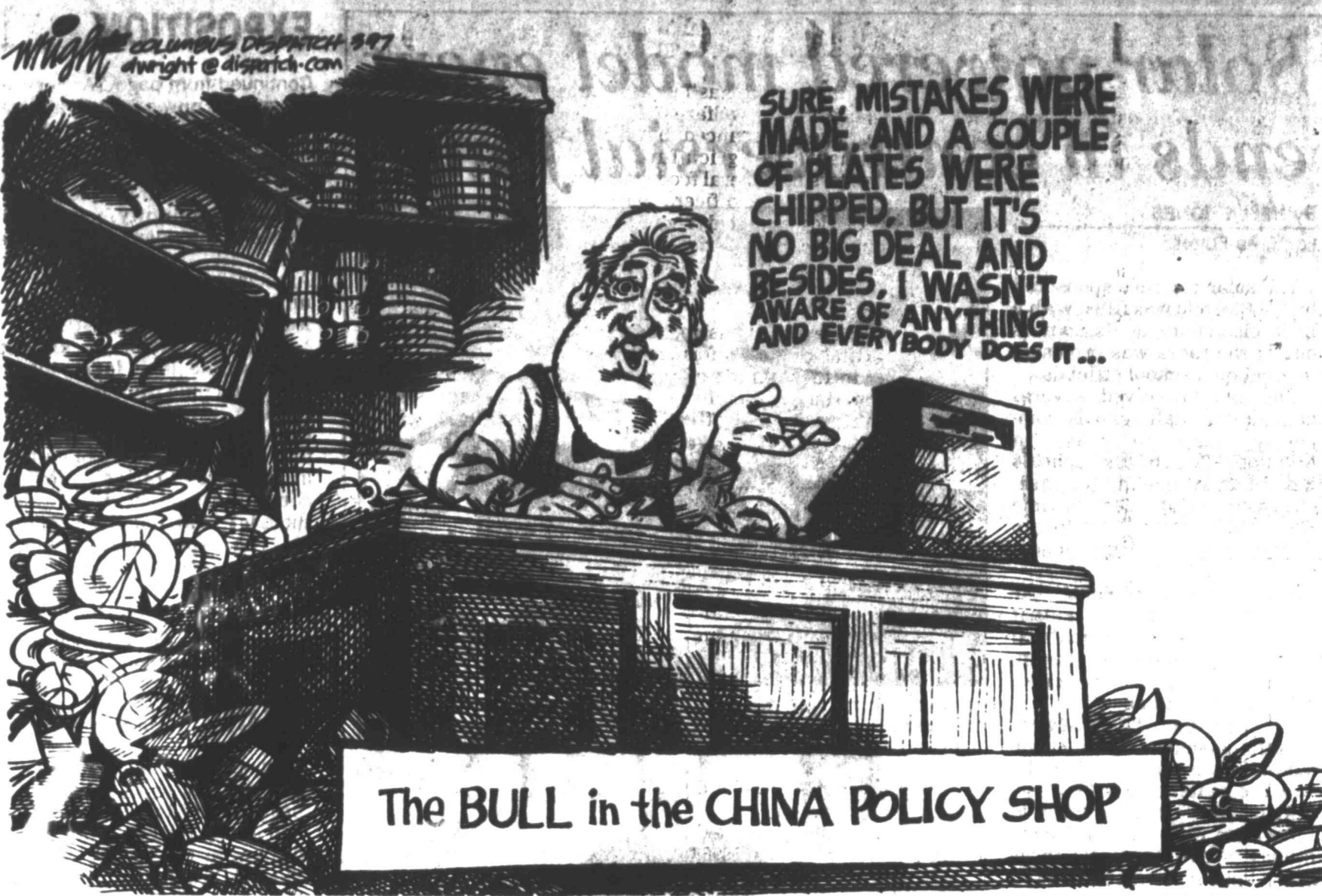
Big Spring City Council

- City Hall — 264-2401.
The Blackshear, mayor — Home: 263-7961; Work (Blackshear Rentals): 263-4095.
Pat DeAnna — Home: 267-7839; Work (College Heights Elementary): 264-4115.
Stephanie Horton — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361.
Chuck Cannon — Home: 263-7490; Work (Chuck's Surplus): 263-1142.
Tom Guss — Home: 263-3097.
Jenny Campbell — Home: 267-7895; Work (Big Spring FCI): 263-8304.

John Paul Anderson, mayor pro tem — Home: 267-7123; Work: 267-3538.

Howard County Commissioners

- Office — 264-2200.
Ben Lockman, county judge — Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.
Emma Brown — Home: 267-2649.
Jerry Malone — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.
Bill Crocker — Home: 263-2566.
Sonny Chidate — Home: 267-1066.



The BULL in the CHINA POLICY SHOP

Memories of driving a 1948 Chevy

I was 10 when I started to drive, which makes me Hypocrite Supreme in the current debate about making things tougher on teen drivers.

That year my grandfather slipped over to the passenger side of his 1948 Chevrolet and let me at it. I suspect it was because he was at an age when it became more fun to look than drive, to study the endless landscape of peanuts and corn or a hawk dive-bombing a field mouse or the level of the creek.

It was, in fact, safer by then to have a 10-year-old behind the wheel than Pop. His creeping speed compensated for his wandering eye, and traffic in South Georgia was minimal.

I drove only on secondary roads, down white dirt avenues with plenty of grace and no state patrolmen. We did hatch an emergency plan, however, in case I happened upon some bored trooper copping a nap

beneath a shade tree. I was to crawl over into the rear seat, then back across to the passenger's side of the front, all while the car continued slowly to roll under the direction of Pop's left hand.

Ours was about as practical as the evacuation plan New Orleans has for hurricanes, but, fortunately like New Orleans, we never had to try it.

I can remember the pungent smell of the black Chevrolet, which had a starter button and a wheel inside the wheel for its horn. The car smelled like motor oil and creek-bank sand, which, of course, was no large accident.

The rips in the upholstery were covered by a serape an uncle brought back from

Mexico.

That serape ended up on the ground the night someone tried to steal the Chevrolet from the car shed. The brazen thief was yanked up short when he heard my grandfather chamber a round in his shotgun at an open window. I imagine the punk in his haste wore a serape tail.

I associate that old car with a myriad of adventures. But both of my two faces smile at the recent nationwide campaign to limit teen driving, to raise the age and requirements for getting and keeping a license. The driving age should be 32, or some time past a boy's passion for Camaros and a girl's for fresh lipstick.

Any teen caught drinking and driving should spend the rest of his or her life picking up litter on the side of the highway. Any teen caught speeding should do 1,000 hours of community service work in a head-injury clinic. Any teen weaving between lanes or tailgating should spend the night in the box.

That said, I have to admit again my hypocrisy, having

logged more miles before I was 16 than some people do by 60. The mere sight of an old Chevrolet makes me want to take a ramble.

My cousin, Donna Fitzpatrick, gave me a children's book, "Ragsdale," for my birthday. The story is set in the hills of Kentucky, not swampy South Georgia. But Appalachian artist Jeff Chapman-Crane has included a '48 Chevy in the exquisitely wrought illustrations. All that's missing is my Pop.

Too bad so much has changed. Traffic has become a national nightmare, with the possible exception of South Georgia. People drive much faster, and the unconscionable idiot lawmakers in charge think the only solution is to keep raising the limits.

No longer would a conscientious 10-year-old have a prayer on the road, but then neither does anyone else.

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Rheta Johnson Syndicated Columnist

The United States population problem

We've got a population problem. Too many people.

Most of the other problems we have and are likely to have stem directly from the population problem.

When you address this problem, you find the usual American response — people trying to avoid facing it because they think facing it would interfere with their own agendas.

Some people who are opposed to abortion don't want to face up to the population problem because they think do so would justify or encourage abortion.

Some conservatives don't want to face up to the population problem because they think liberals use it as an excuse for liberal programs — even, heaven forbid, socialistic thinking.

All of the above is true. Some people do use the population problem to push abortion. Some use it to push government control — the so-called liberal or socialistic programs. Human beings are incorrigibly adept at adapting any issue as a weapon in their ideological or political wars.

Nevertheless, we have a population problem, and we had all better at least acknowledge it. It took 12,000 years for the human population to exceed 5 million; by 1650, the population was half a billion. Now, just 347 years later, the population is 5.5 billion. In short, the rate of increase is accelerating.

Those numbers are from an article by Joel E. Cohen, professor of populations at The Rockefeller University, published in Policy Report by the New York Academy of Sciences. In just the last 50 years, the U.S. population has jumped from 150 million to 262 million. That's way too many folks underfoot to suit me.

Some conservatives like to claim that there is no problem with population growth

because the magic of technology will manage to take care of them. Well, it's not doing such a hot job at the moment. Here are some more numbers from Cohen's article:

In 1990, 1.5 billion people had no access to health care; 1.7 billion were infected with tuberculosis; 1.3 billion had no safe water to drink; 2.3 billion had no toilet; and 1 billion were chronically hungry.

Technology will save us? No, it won't. Here's another argument you often hear: Make countries prosperous, and then the people will naturally reduce their birthrate. That's one of those deals that works in theory but is virtually impossible to pull off.

Prosperity is not as easy to achieve as some theorists seem to think. There was a unique combination of factors that created American prosperity, some of which were climate, soil and other natural resources, not to mention timing and Western European culture.

I don't know if you have been to, say, Egypt, but I can tell you it doesn't look much like Illinois or Alabama. Yet it has

60 million mouths to feed. In many countries of the world that are population-heavy and resource-short, it takes a heroic effort just to sustain life.

The idea that the world's billions are going to all achieve Western middle-class levels of affluence is as unrealistic as an opium-induced dream. It ain't going to happen.

I do not believe the United States will make any impact by handing money to Planned Parenthood or by tossing in a few crates of condoms and birth control pills among all its foreign aid giveaways.

We should simply see to our own country, and the first and foremost thing we can do is put the brakes on immigration. Even the level of legal immigration is way too high — much higher than it was, by the way, at the turn of the century.

If we don't, we are going to lose our country, our culture and our way of life the same way Native Americans lost theirs. It may be just, but it won't be fun.

Charley Reese's e-mail address is OSOREese@aol.com. © 1997 by King Features Syndicate Inc.



Charley Reese Syndicated Columnist

Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY



# Sting nets fraudulent use of much-touted Lone Star cards

HOUSTON (AP) — People walked into the south Houston convenience store known as the "Snack Shack and Meat Market" and thought it was just another funnel for illegal welfare transactions.

What they didn't know was the two clerks were Houston cops and hidden in other parts of the store were officers videotaping their fraudulent use of Texas' Lone Star Card, the state's relatively new electronic welfare benefits card.

The 10-week sting operation run by federal, state and local authorities, touted Wednesday as the first of its

kind in the nation, has left 235 people facing charges for welfare fraud.

In a scheme financed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the federal food stamp program, the police officers posing as store clerks accepted requests from customers to improperly scan the plastic card — which is like a bank debit card — in exchange for cash, instead of groceries.

"We believe this has opened the door for us and gave us a format to continue to do these kinds of things," said Gordon Hardy, director of electronic benefits transfer trafficking for the

Texas Department of Human Services.

Under what officials said is a growing illegal practice, unscrupulous merchants ring up phony food purchases in exchange for cash and pocket a percentage of the transaction, with 30 percent being the typical rate in Houston.

For example, a retailer agreeing to debit a welfare recipient's account for \$100 in non-existing purchases could run the card through an electronic scanner, give the person \$70 and keep the remaining \$30. Given the speed of electronic banking, the reimbursement from the state would show up in the retailer's account the next day.

Authorities noted four retailers raided in a sweep of the same south Houston area late last year were billing state welfare agencies \$280,000 per month, with 90 percent of that believed to be illegal. One merchant alone rang up \$140,000 in Lone Star Card receipts.

Officials said they have been addressing the problem with retailers and wanted to turn their attention to welfare recipients who were improperly using their so-called EBT cards.

So they set up the convenience store. On the fifth day of business, they got their first illegal request from a welfare recipient and then relied on word

of mouth for 10 weeks. The store was shut when officers staged a phony bust last December.

"It was an interesting experience," Frank Quinn, a Houston police sergeant who worked the sting, said. "We'd never been in the grocery business before."

As a result, 88 people have been charged, 79 cardholders are under review by the Harris County district attorney's office and another 58 are in the process of being charged. So far, 42 people have been arrested for fraud and another 84 cases have been resolved.

## TEXAS BRIEFS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Aliens turning to smugglers because of beefed-up patrols

SAN ANTONIO — The smuggling of undocumented immigrants is on the rise along the Texas border because of beefed-up patrols in the border area, authorities say.

It's more difficult now for someone to cross the Rio Grande into Texas without being detected.

"Smuggling is up phenomenally," spokesman Ray Dudley of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Antonio said Wednesday.

The region includes Corpus Christi, Laredo, San Angelo and Waco.

Dudley said that INS agents processed 623 undocumented aliens and arrested 76 persons for smuggling aliens in fiscal 1996, which ended last September.

### Hit man sentenced to death in slaying of mother of three

HOUSTON — A man who killed a mother of three for \$1,000 has become the third person to be sentenced to death for his part in the murder-for-hire plot.

Howard Paul Guidry, 20, was sentenced to death by injection for his role in the Nov. 9, 1994, shooting death of Farah Fratta, 33. He joins the victim's husband, Robert Fratta, and Joseph Prystash on Texas' death row.

Fratta is a former Missouri City police officer. He became a suspect in the slaying when he attempted to cash a \$235,000 life insurance policy only two days after the slaying.

Prystash was identified as the person who found Guidry for the husband, who wanted his wife killed because she refused to perform certain sex acts.

Testimony at Fratta's trial showed that his wife underwent plastic surgery to please her husband and finally sought a divorce after balking at some of his sexual requests.

### Court: Babbitt must issue new ruling on salamander

AUSTIN — U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt violated proper procedures when he withdrew the Barton Springs salamander last year from a proposed endangered species list, a federal judge has ruled.

Senior U.S. District Judge Lucius Bunton ruled Wednesday that Babbitt violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) when he withdrew the proposed listing.

"He failed to allow comment on issues that were fundamental to his ultimate decision," Bunton wrote in an opinion. "He missed virtually every statutory deadline provided in the ESA." Bunton ruled that Babbitt must issue a new decision on the listing within 30 days.

The salamander has been at the center of a controversy involving developers and environmentalists in Austin. If the salamander is listed as an endangered species, areas designated as its habitat would be protected from development.

### Senate committee approves HUB bill

AUSTIN — State agencies could lose purchasing authority if they fail to make good-faith efforts to contract with businesses owned by women and minorities under a bill approved by the Senate Finance Committee.

The bill by Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, would change the definition of historically underutilized businesses (HUBs) from those being owned by "socially disadvantaged" people to "economically disadvantaged" people.

But while the definition would be race-neutral and become more of a small business enhancement program, Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, said state agencies would still have to comply with the state's Disparity Study conducted in 1994.

### Coast Guard, National Guard join in drug sweep

SAN ANTONIO — The U.S. Coast Guard is teaming with the Texas National Guard and other state and federal authorities in a land, sea and air crackdown on drug traffic off the Texas coast, officials say.

Operation Gulf Shield, which began March 15, is also using the Customs Service, Border Patrol and Department of Public Safety to sweep the gulf for drug smugglers.

"There are heavy resources," an unidentified Coast Guard officer told the San Antonio Express-News.

Gov. George W. Bush was scheduled to join U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Robert Kramek in Corpus Christi today to unveil details of the operation.

The task force is expected to work for 60 days along the Texas coastline. The operation targets an alliance of drug organizations based in the Mexican Gulf Coast state of Veracruz.

# Two more property tax proposals touted

AUSTIN (AP) — The list of ideas for cutting local school property taxes has grown by two, with one lawmaker proposing to abolish property levies altogether.

State lawmakers are trying to find a way to lower local school property taxes by increasing the state's share of education funding.

The House Select Committee on Revenue and Public Education Funding is considering a plan to pay for a cut to local school taxes by eliminating many exemptions to the current sales tax, expanding the business tax and raising other taxes.

Gov. George W. Bush has proposed a half-cent sales tax increase, a new business tax

and the use of \$1 billion in state funds to replace money lost when the local taxes are lowered.

But Rep. Talmadge Heflin, R-Houston, said if local property taxes aren't abolished, lawmakers will force them back up in the future. He's pushing a plan to abolish all property taxes.

To pay for it, Heflin would raise the sales tax and subject nearly all goods and services, including food, to the higher tax.

"I don't want to tamper with the sales tax without doing away with the property tax," Heflin said.

Under his proposal, the state sales tax would rise 2.75 cents on the dollar to 9 cents. Local governments, school districts

and other taxing entities would split another 2 cents per \$1.

Dick Lavine, of the Center for Public Policies Priorities, said Heflin's plan would harm poorer Texans.

"The sales tax is inherently regressive," Lavine said.

Heflin countered that the property tax is more regressive. He said the sales tax has a "choice" component because consumers can make a choice.

Rep. Kim Brimer, R-Arlington, said that's not the case with food.

But Heflin said people choose between prepared foods — which already are taxed — and unprepared foods. He also said savings from abolishing all property taxes would offset the higher sales tax for most people.

"That's an interesting idea," said Bush spokeswoman Karen Hughes. "People have said that they want to contribute through their local school taxes and this plan obviously wouldn't allow that. But the governor welcomes ideas as the process moves along."

Rep. Rob Junell, D-San Angelo, offered up the other plan, which would subject all businesses to the current business tax but would give small corporations, sole proprietorships and partnerships a tax break.

Meanwhile, Hughes said neither the governor nor his top staff was aware of a memo from the Texas Film Commission to industry officials warning them of proposed tax changes.

# DUNLAPS 16 HOUR PRE-EASTER SALE

SAVE BIG THROUGHOUT THE STORE - THE HOURS START TICKING AWAY  
FRIDAY AT 10 AM - SO HURRY IN!  
**REGISTER FOR A \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO BE GIVEN AWAY AT 5:00 PM FRIDAY!**

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<p>BRAND NEW SPRING GROUP!</p> <p><b>LADIES COORDINATES</b> by G.W. Graff</p> <p><b>25% OFF</b> Reg. 30.00-46.00</p> <p>TEES, PANTS, BLOUSES</p> <p><b>MENS LEATHER DRESS SHOES</b> by Deer Stag®</p> <p><b>\$49.99</b> Reg. 100.00</p> <p>3 STYLES 2 COLORS</p>	<p>NEW SHIPMENT OF OVER 100 PAIR!</p> <p><b>MENS SANSABELT® SLACKS</b></p> <p><b>\$39.99</b> Reg. \$55.00</p> <p>MANY COLORS SIZES 32-34</p>	<p>BRAND NEW SPRING GROUP!</p> <p><b>LADIES COORDINATES</b> by Buckles®</p> <p><b>25% OFF</b> Reg. 45.00-80.00</p> <p>TANKS, SHORTS, PANTS, BLOUSES</p> <p><b>LADIES ANGEL NIGHTSHIRTS</b></p> <p><b>\$9.99</b> Reg. 20.00</p> <p>ONE SIZE 3 COLORS</p>
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Donna a chil- for my et in the swampy But Jeff eluded a uisitely All that's ch has come a with the f South e much cionable charge on is to onscien- a prayer neither rimsley Features m ed. In world vy and heroic d's bil- chieve vels of c as an t ain't United pact by lanned g in a s and t all its to our rt and e is put ation. migra- much e way, ing to ulture some s lost but it address ures

# Cult or computer experts? Mystery surrounds suicide of 39

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. (AP) — They dressed in black, wore their hair in buzz cuts and lived — dozens of them — in an antiseptic, million-dollar mansion stocked with bulk food and computers used to create Internet sites. They sent a farewell videotape to a former member and died — 39 men and women — in the same mansion, lying in apparent peace on their backs, arms at their sides, each covered across the face and chest with a triangular shroud of purple cloth. Sheriff's deputies who went to the Spanish-style mansion on an anonymous tip Wednesday found the victims

of one of the biggest mass suicides in U.S. history. Other than the bodies, they found little but mystery. "There's no gunshot wounds, there's no knife holes in anybody," said San Diego County Sheriff's Cmdr. Alan Fulmer. "Nothing to my knowledge has been found in the way of poison." The bodies were still in the home today as investigators searched the house and refrigerated vans from the coroner's office stood by. Additional coroner's assistants were called in from Los Angeles. The home apparently was the center of a thriving business designing Web

pages for businesses that want a presence on the Internet. Customers of the company called Higher Source described the home's occupants as cult-like and clannish, but businesslike and proficient. Members of the cult told the landlord, Sam Koutchesfahani, that they were sent to Earth as angels and met in "middle America," Milt Silverman, Koutchesfahani's attorney, told San Diego radio station KFMB. Members also said the group has branches in Arizona and New Mexico, Silverman said. He didn't elaborate. In Santa Fe, N.M., authorities said at

least one vehicle parked outside the house had New Mexico plates. Nick Matzorkis, a Beverly Hills businessman, said members sent an employee two videotapes this week that described their intentions to commit suicide. Members believed it was time to "shed their containers," perhaps to rendezvous with a UFO they believed was traveling behind the Hale-Bopp comet, Matzorkis told NBC's "Today" show. Rio received the videotapes by mail Tuesday evening, Matzorkis said, and Rio discussed them with Matzorkis on

Wednesday. They then decided to notify police, he said. One video was of the group's elderly male leader, Matzorkis said. The other contained each member's taped farewells. Tom Goodspeed, director of the San Diego Polo Club, said Higher Source designed a Web page for the club. He visited the house and described quiet men with buzz-cut hair and stylish, collarless black shirts. "They had that look about them that maybe they were a little bit strange of appearance, but that they could probably sit down in front of a computer and really get it done," Goodspeed said.

## West Bank clashes erupt as U.S. begins Ross' peace mission

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians throwing stones clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank today, and the United States made a fresh attempt to rescue the disintegrating Middle East peace process. Israel deployed more soldiers near Palestinian-controlled towns because of concern that violence will spread over the weekend and peak on Sunday, the Palestinians annual Land Day protest against Israeli land confiscations. President Clinton's envoy, Dennis Ross began his peace mission in Morocco where he was to meet today with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, then fly to Jerusalem for talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Both Israel and the Palestinians have demanded that Ross call the other side to order. But the gaps between Israelis and Palestinians appeared far wider than the last time Ross visited the region, when he brokered Israel's January military withdrawal from most of the West Bank town of Hebron. "The tensions between the Palestinians and Israelis have reached a very, very serious level," said Edward G. Abington, the U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem and unofficial ambassador to Arafat's self-rule government. Israel demands an end to the Palestinian stone-throwing riots and a clear signal from Arafat to Islamic militants not to carry out attacks in Israel before peace talks can resume. Netanyahu claims Arafat gave the militants his tacit approval for attacks, including last Friday's cafe bombing in Tel Aviv that killed three women and injured dozens. The Palestinians demand

that Ross extract a promise from Israel to stop the construction of a Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem, the sector the Palestinians claim as a future capital. Ground breaking began earlier this month despite worldwide condemnation, and triggered the daily stone-throwing riots in the West Bank. Ross was not prepared to meet that demand, Abington said. "He obviously can't deliver guarantees to either side, but he can guarantee that the United States will make a best effort," he said. Abington said Clinton sent Ross because communication between the Israelis and Palestinians was faltering and the "level of trust has gone down." Complicating today's talks, the Palestinians have grown suspicious of the United States' motives in peacemaking because it blocked a U.N. Security Council censure of the housing project. The United States has said it opposes the building, but insists U.N. censure only adds to the angry rhetoric. Fresh violence erupted today near the West Bank town of Bir Zeit. Dozens of Palestinian hurled stones from an overpass at Jewish settlers' cars and an army jeep on the road below. More soldiers arrived and fired tear gas and rubber bullets. Israeli media said troop reinforcements were being deployed at Israeli checkpoints outside Palestinian-controlled towns in the West Bank, and tanks were ready to move into position quickly. During three days of gun battles between Israeli troops and Palestinian police in September, the checkpoints had been the focus of clashes.

## Tax cut delay may emerge in Senate, too

WASHINGTON (AP) — A week after House Speaker Newt Gingrich suggested delaying tax cuts until after Congress votes on legislation eliminating federal deficits, top Republican aides said Senate budget-writers may follow a similar path. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M., is leaning toward proposing about \$77 billion in tax cuts over five years, an amount that could eventually grow to about \$140 billion, said aides, who spoke on condition of anonymity. But final action on the reductions could come only if lawmakers first vote to eliminate federal deficits by 2002, the aides said. Gingrich, R-Ga., was attacked by many conservatives after he

proposed delaying votes on tax reductions until after the budget-balancing effort. He said that would be the best way to avoid accusations from Democrats that Republicans were paying for tax cuts by slashing Medicare and other needed programs. Conservatives said the strategy would probably kill the tax cuts by making them easier for President Clinton to veto, and accused the speaker of abandoning bedrock GOP principles. White House officials have said they are open to the idea of delaying tax cuts. High-level budget talks between the administration and Congress are due to resume when lawmakers return from their Easter recess early next month.

Domenici would write his plan if, as is likely, there is no quick bipartisan deal, one aide said. The tax cuts envisioned by Domenici would be paid for by savings the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says the government would enjoy because of increased economic activity and lower interest rates sparked by a balanced budget deal. Those savings are projected at \$77 billion. The package could grow to \$140 billion by paying for the extra reductions with a renewal of the 10 percent airline ticket tax, which expires Sept. 30, and extension of other expiring tax provisions, aides said. The \$140 billion in tax cuts is about \$40 billion more than Clinton has proposed, and about

\$60 billion less than Senate GOP leaders included in a tax bill they unveiled in January. The amount would be enough to accommodate some versions of Republicans' favorite tax reductions, including reductions in capital gains tax rates, paid on profits from sales of property; tax credits for children; tax breaks for education; and a reduction on the levy paid by people who inherit estates worth more than \$600,000. Under the strategy, the Senate would approve a budget resolution eliminating annual deficits by 2002 and including the tax cuts. Budget resolutions map spending and tax changes, but do not actually implement them — that comes in later legislation.

## Albright talks about 'successor regime' in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States would be prepared to move quickly to open a dialogue with a post-Saddam Hussein government in Iraq and to end Iraq's isolation if certain conditions were met, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright says. Albright's comments Wednesday marked the first time the Clinton administration has outlined in detail its thoughts on dealing with what she called "a successor regime" in Baghdad. "First, because we are firmly

committed to Iraq's territorial integrity, we would want to verify that the new Iraq would be independent, unified and free from undue external influence, for example, from Iran," she said. "Second, we would require improvements in behavior. Is there cooperation with UNSCOM (the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq) and compliance with U.N. resolutions? Is there respect for human rights, including the rights of minorities? Is there a convincing repudiation of terrorism?"

Are its military ambitions limited to those of reasonable defense? "If our concerns were addressed satisfactorily, Iraq would no longer threaten regional security. Its isolation could end." Albright spoke to a gathering at Georgetown University, where once was a professor. She said that as long as Saddam Hussein is in power, the international community must maintain its resolve, because Iraq is still a threat. Under terms of the Gulf War

cease-fire, Iraq is barred from developing or maintaining nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Albright said that while Iraq's chemical and biological weapons production facilities have been destroyed, there is no convincing evidence all the weapons themselves have been demolished. Beyond that, she said Iraq "retains more than 7,500 nuclear scientists and technicians, as well as the technical documents related to the production of nuclear weapons."

## 'Offended' China says it investigated allegations

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — China's government told Vice President Al Gore this week that it investigated allegations of illegal Chinese contributions to U.S. campaigns and found no evidence, U.S. officials said today. Ambassador James Sasser said Chinese officials have told him they are angry and offended by the allegations. But Sasser said such emotions did not surface in discussions this week with Gore because the Chinese wanted the sessions conducted in a businesslike manner.

"Unofficially, I know that there was an investigation and they say the investigation turned up nothing," Sasser said. "That is what they say." Other U.S. officials said they had scant details on how the Chinese looked into the matter, so could not pass judgment on it. Speaking to reporters Wednesday after a meeting with President Jiang Zemin, Gore was asked whether he found the Chinese denials credible and said, "I'm not in a position to judge."

The Beijing government had vigorously denied the allegations before Gore's visit, and the vice president said that in his talks with Jiang, and Premier Li Peng there was "further elaboration on the denial but, you know, no specifics." A U.S. official in Gore's traveling party, speaking on condition of not being identified by name, said Gore was referring to Chinese statements that they had conducted an investigation. Sasser spoke to reporters aboard Air Force II as Gore flew from Beijing to Xian and then

onto Shanghai to complete a five-day China visit. Gore's two days of talks with Chinese leaders in Beijing included a brief discussion of the allegations. In the last election cycle, the FBI warned several members of Congress of a possible effort by China to curry political favor in the United States by illegally channeling money to U.S. campaigns. Intelligence agencies also reportedly intercepted conversations at the Chinese embassy in Washington that included talk of financially supporting U.S. campaigns.

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HERALD

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Second Easter House. resident dents of part of t

S L I C E of life!

◆ The earth averages an annual precipitation (rain, snow, hail) of about 34 inches.

◆ The first laundromat, called a "washateria," opened in Fort Worth in 1934.

Do you have a good story idea for the life! section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 235.

## Transferring students from one school to another

**QUESTION:** Do you ever favor removing a child from one school to transfer him to another?

would ordinarily be expected. The mean IQ in schools of this nature may fall between 115 and 120.

up thinking he is a dummy when he would have been an intellectual leader in a less competitive setting.

low self-esteem, I would depict a bowed, weary traveler. Over his shoulder, I would place the end of a mile-long chain to which is attached tons of scrap iron, old tires and garbage of all kinds.

you have assessed yourself are themselves changing and fickle. Dr. Maxwell Maltz, the plastic surgeon who authored *Psycho-Cybernetics*, said women came to him in the 1920s requesting that their breasts be reduced in size.

the transcending worth of your humanness, the sooner you can come to terms with yourself.

I must agree with the writer who said, "While in the race to save our face, why not conquer inner space?" It's not a bad idea.

These questions and answers are excerpted from the book *Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions*. Dr. James Dobson is a psychologist, author and president of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Dr. James C. Dobson's "Focus on the Family" appears each Thursday as a cooperative effort of Scenic Mountain Medical Center and the Big Spring Herald.

Letters to Dr. Dobson may be sent to P.O. Box 444, Colorado Springs, Colo., 80903.



Dr. James Dobson  
Guest Columnist

**DR. DOBSON:** Yes, there are times when a change of schools, or even a change of teachers within a school, can be in the child's best interest.

Educators are reluctant to approve these transfers, for obvious reasons, although the possibility should be considered when the situation warrants.

For example, there are occasions when a young student runs into social problems that can be resolved best by giving him a "clean start" someplace else. Furthermore, schools vary tremendously in their difficulty; some are located in higher socioeconomic areas where a majority of the children are much more intelligent than

When it happens, then, to a child with average ability in such a setting? Although he might have competed successfully in an ordinary school, he is in the lower 15 percent at Einstein Elementary.

My point is this: success is not absolute, it is relative. A child does not ask, "How am I doing?" but rather, "How am I doing compared to everyone else?" Little Johnny may grow

up thinking he is a dummy when he would have been an intellectual leader in a less competitive setting. Thus, if a child is floundering in one academic environment for whatever reason, the solution might involve a transfer to a more suitable classroom.

**QUESTION:** I am an adult who is not coping so well with the problems of self-doubt. I feel ugly, unrespected and unworthy. What encouragement can you offer?

**DR. DOBSON:** Isn't it about time you made friends with yourself? Aren't there enough headaches in life without beating your skull against the old brick wall of inadequacy, year after year?

If I were to draw a caricature that would symbolize the millions of adults like you with

Each piece of junk is inscribed with the details of some humiliation: a failure, an embarrassment, a rejection from the past.

He could let go of the chain and free himself from that heavy load which immobilizes and exhausts him, but he is somehow convinced that it must be dragged throughout life. So he plods onward, digging a furrow in the good earth as he goes.

You can free yourself from the weight of the chain if you will but turn it loose. Your inferiority is based on a distortion of reality seen through a child's eyes. The standards by which

In King Solomon's biblical love song, he asks his bride to overlook his dark skin that had occurred from exposure to the sun. In his day, right meant white. But now bronzed Solomon would be the pride of the beach. False values!

Modern women are ashamed to admit that they carry 10 extra pounds of weight, yet Rembrandt would have loved to paint their plump bodies.

Don't you see that your personal worth is not really dependent on the opinions of others and the temporal, fluctuating values they represent? The sooner you can come to accept

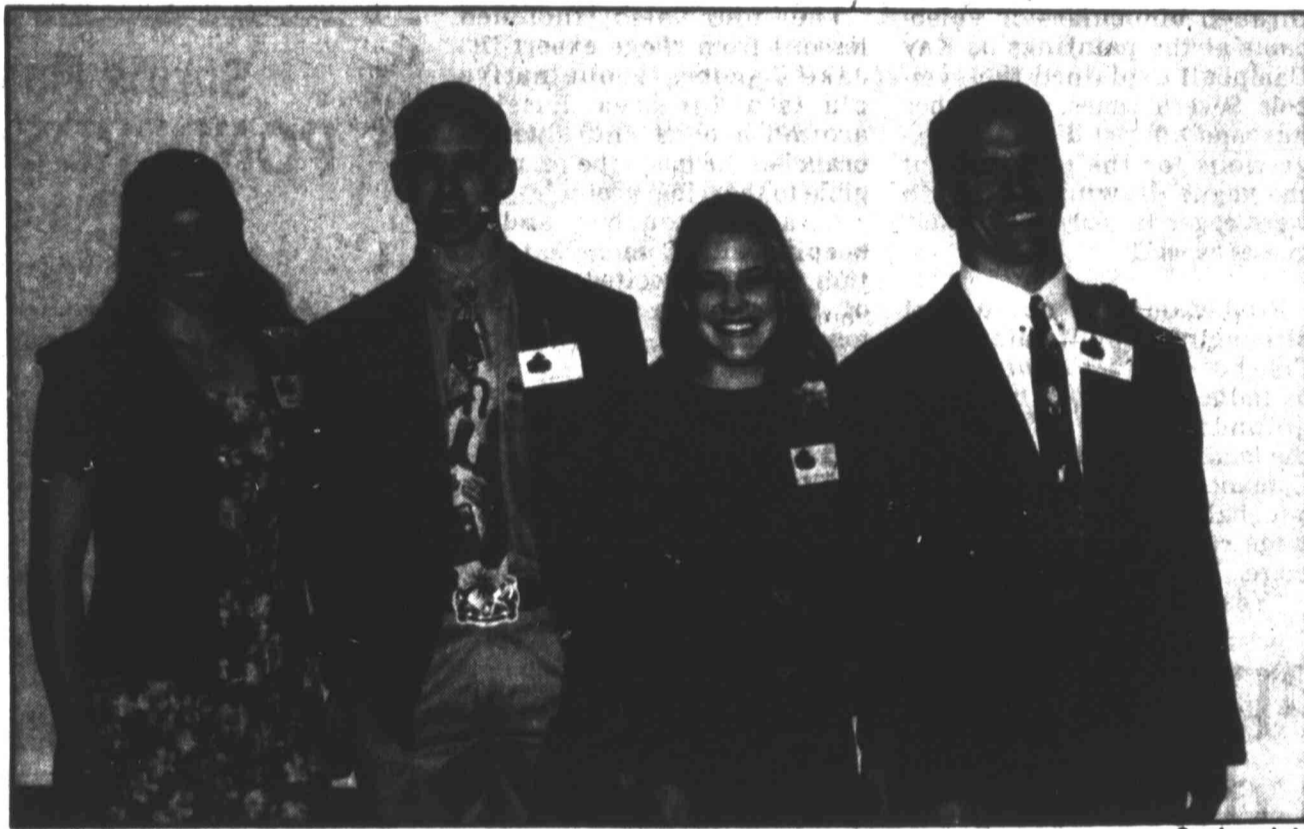
### Sands High School students are honored

HERALD Staff Report

Four Sands High School students were among 150 semi-finalists honored at the eighth annual Texas Christian Athletes Awards banquet in Dallas recently.

Katie Gaskins, Jody Howard, Hollie Zant and Justin Hambrick were honored for their accomplishments in the classroom, on the athletic field and their Christian influence. Nominees were recommended by a coach, teacher or ministry leader.

Dignitaries at the event included Joe DeLoach, a 1988 Olympic gold medalist in the 200 meter and chairman for the 1996 awards; Lewis Blackton Johnson, a former international representative for the United States in the 800 meter run and announcer for the banquet and



These four students were among 75 male and 75 female semi-finalists honored at the Texas Christian Athletes Awards banquet recently. From left are: Katie Gaskins, Jody Howard, Hollie Zant and Justin Hambrick. Also included were Bryan Hanspard, former Texas Tech player. Also included was Madeline Manning Mims, four-time Olympian and gold medalist who was vocalist for the evening.

### SCHOOL NEWS

**Editor's Note:** The following article was written by students in Big Spring. Each week, a different group of schools will contribute to the "School News" column to report on various activities at their campuses. The column appears each Thursday.

#### Goliad Middle School

Goliad has a variety of events occurring in the near future. For example, the TAAS test, or Texas Assessment of Academic Skills, will be taken on April 29 and 30. The math and reading teachers are working hard to prepare their students for this difficult test.

The TAAS does not determine whether students pass or not, but it does determine whether they will be able to participate in elective classes such as art, band and choir. It also evaluates what they have learned throughout their school career and prepares them for the coming school year. Goliad students will be kept busy preparing themselves for this test.

Many other events are occurring at Goliad this month. In sports, the tennis team played Sweetwater March 18. They played Snyder on Tuesday. Girls track took third in their Lamesa meet on Friday, March 14, with Latrisha Rollins as the leading scorer.

The band is going to contest April 11 and the sixth grade girls are having cheerleading try-outs today. Requirements for the try-outs include good grades and a membership in Golden Girls, the Goliad pep squad.

The seventh grade Signal class is taping a puppet show for the play "Damon and Pythias." Cody Burson is the voice of Pythias while Laura Rutherford is the voice of Damon. They are also planning to videotape the ancient Greek play, "The Grouch." Parts are yet to be given for that play.

Written by Cody Burson, Bethany Curran and Nathan Smith.

#### Big Spring High School

April showers bring May flowers...and a whirl of activities that will keep Big Spring High School students continuously occupied. Currently, seniors and juniors are making

final preparations for this year's prom, which will be held April 12. A picture-taking party will be held before the prom, enabling students to cherish memories of this special event for years to come. After the prom, the night will still be young for these high school students. "Casino Night" is scheduled to be the grand finale of the prom festivities. Students will be given the opportunity to win prizes ranging from cordless phones to television sets by collecting imitation money playing casino-style games.

High school musicians are playing their hearts out as they prepare for University Interscholastic League concert and sightreading contest in April. Both bands are playing breathtaking repertoires for contest and plan to take a trip to exhibit their talents at the Winterpark Ski Music Festival in Colorado. Band members are also making preparations for this year's band banquet, which is to be held in May. Sweet melodies fill the air as BSHS choir members lift their voices in preparation for UIL contest in April as well.

Budding actors recently showcased their talents in the UIL One Act Play contest. The BSHS theater department blew their competition away, capturing both the best actor and best actress awards, and advancing to area for the eighth time in a row.

In addition, young leaders are being born at BSHS. Student council members recently attended the District Eight Spring Forum and were elected vice-president. Also, student council officers are excited about attending the state convention in May.

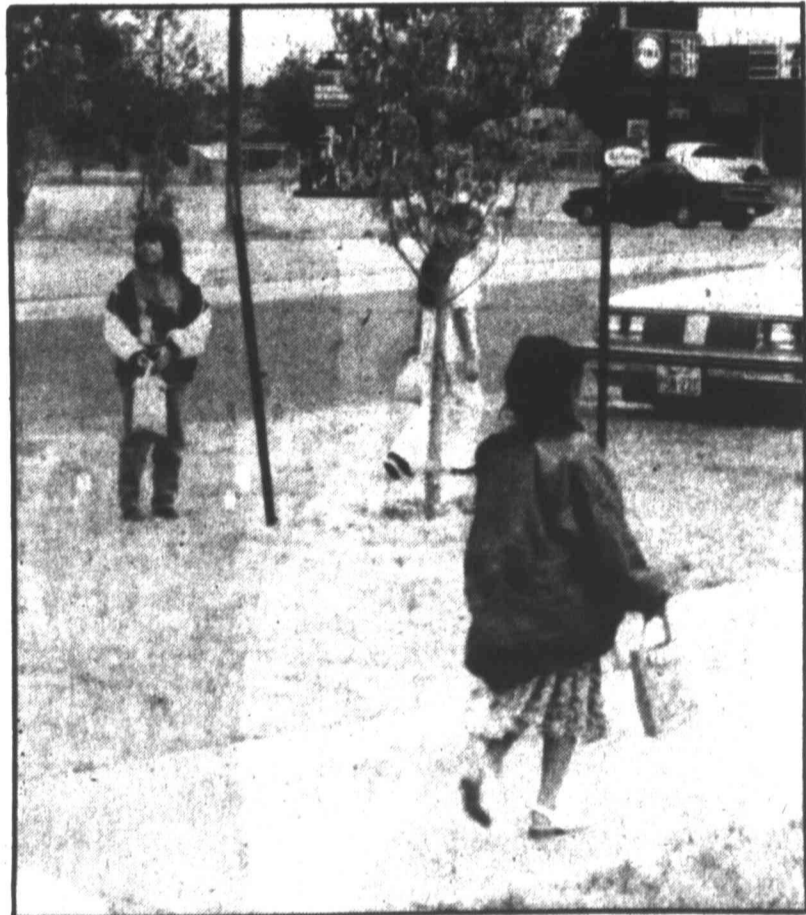
Of course, April is a very important month for the athletic departments. The Steers and Lady Steers are spending countless hours in the practice field as the track, baseball, softball, golf and tennis teams get ready for district action.

The above is only a sample of the plethora of diverse activities that take place at Big Spring High School.

The Big Spring community should be proud that the students at BSHS are not only strong academically, but are well-rounded, dynamic individuals who have a strong commitment to excellence.

Written by senior Josna Adusumilli.

### HUNTING FOR EASTER EGGS



HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett

Second grade students from Marcy Elementary search for Easter eggs during a hunt Wednesday afternoon at Marcy House. Throughout the year, the students give programs for residents of the retirement community and in turn, the residents of Marcy House hid the eggs for the children to find as part of the adopt-a-grandparent program.

### Two Coahoma students to receive BPA Torch Awards

Special to the HERALD

Coahoma students have recently competed at the Business Professionals of America state competition in Arlington. BPA is an organization that prepares its members for productive lives in business and office careers.

The members work together, nationwide, to develop professionalism and leadership. Of the students that competed from Coahoma, Krissi Hayes, Chandra Mullins, Amanda Phinney, Stephanie Stone and Sarah Lovett have qualified to compete at the national level in Orlando, Fla.

Sue Neff is Coahoma's BPA advisor. She teaches these students to excel in everything they do. She has sent students to the national competition for many years.

Phinney and Mullins are set to receive the Ambassador Torch Award at the competition. The Torch Award is an award that inspires members to attain the goals and ideals of BPA. It promotes active participation, helps develop a better understanding of man through personal development and achievement, and it recognizes



MULLINS PHINNEY

members who have shown outstanding professional qualities.

To receive this award, students obtain 70 points in each of seven categories: leadership, service, knowledge, cooperation, friendship, love/hope/faith and patriotism. Points are received through community service, school involvement and cooperation with other organizations throughout the school and community. As an ambassador, these students are diplomatic officials of the highest rank and are representatives of the organization.

**Editor's Note:** As part of the requirements to receive the Torch Award, the two students had to write this article. They also have to attend a meeting of a professional organization.

### SLICE OF LIFE!

#### TIPS 'N' TRIVIA

##### It's spring (into action) time:

(Associated Release Service) - Spring cleaning: Before attacking the mounds of clutter which may have accumulated during the cooler months, consider these suggestions from the home economists at Whirlpool Corporation:

- First, set realistic goals. That mess wasn't created in a single afternoon so it will likely take longer than that to clean it up. Set aside an hour or two each week to tackle the closet or cabinet. It makes the tasks seem less daunting and many people will find they get more done in the long run.
- Unruly closets are typically created when things are kept far beyond their time of usefulness. By taking a close look at each item, it can be determined how necessary they really are. As a rule of thumb, if it has been more than six months or a year since something has been used or worn, it probably can be discarded. Give it away, throw it away or put it aside for your garage sale.
- On the other hand, something with sentimental value, such as a child's first bat and ball, grandma's wedding dress or your high school letter jacket, should definitely be kept. The best bet is to store these things in a dry basement or attic. Take time to make minor repairs to clothes like sewing on a button or hemming a skirt. Store off-season items under the bed, in the basement or attic.



#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

##### Easter egg hunt Saturday

Taco Bell and Kentucky Fried Chicken is sponsoring a Spring fling and Easter egg hunt from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in the park located behind the YMCA. Children between ages 2 and 10 can hunt eggs. There will be clowns and face painting for children of all ages. Hot dogs and sodas will be served for lunch. The Easter Bunny is also attending the hunt.

##### Cystic Fibrosis Walk April 5

The Big Spring High School Key Club is having a Cystic Fibrosis Walk April 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Comanche Trail Park. If any other organization or member of the community would like to walk, please contact Kay Barnett at 264-3641, ext. 166 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. or Stefanie Waggoner at 267-4567.

#### THE LAST WORD

Genius is the capacity for seeing relationships where lesser men see none.

William James

Forty is the old age of youth; fifty the youth of old age.

Victor Hugo

Beauty is the gift of God.

Aristotle

There may be more beautiful times; but this one is ours.

Jean-Paul Sartre

An optimist may see a light where there is none, but why must the pessimist always run to blow it out?

Michel de Saint-Pierre

# READ ALL ABOUT IT

Test your reading comprehension by reading the story then answering the questions that follow.

Yogurt is hard sell for some kids  
ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — The government's new rule that kids may eat yogurt in school lunches in place of meat may take some getting used to in some places.

At Randolph Elementary School in this suburb of the nation's capital, students and administrators agree that it will be a hard sell.

This school, like many others across the country, already

offers yogurt a la carte. But toward the end of a recent lunch hour, a sole container of yogurt, knocked over on its side, sat untouched in the refrigerator after repeatedly being passed over by students who reached for Jell-O cups instead.

"They go more for the fruit or Sunny D," a fruit drink, said cashier Tanja Johnson, ringing up students who whizzed by her Wednesday with their lunch trays.

Not once has she sold yogurt to a student.

"Only the teachers," she said. Under a new rule announced earlier this week, an 8-ounce cup of yogurt could substitute for the hot dogs, spaghetti and fish sandwiches that were offered Wednesday as the

school's main lunch items. The USDA requires 2 ounces of meat or its equivalent in every school lunch. It already allows schools to substitute cheese, beans, eggs and peanut butter for meat.

The idea of yogurt as a meat substitute in school lunches created a stir among the students in Judy Rundle's kindergarten class, most of whom never even heard of yogurt. Many shrugged their shoulders and furrowed their brows in confusion, looking around the table for a teacher or classmate who could fill them in.

"I know exactly what it is and I don't like it!" said 6-year-old Kendall Avery. Crinkling his face in disgust, Kendall said his one and only experience with yogurt was with "the

white kind — and it just didn't taste right."

On the other side of the cafeteria, among older students, the dairy product fared a little better. When told the Agriculture Department announced this week that yogurt could substitute for meat in school lunches, 10-year-old Cherelle Faust nodded in approval.

"That's cool. I'd eat it," said the fifth-grader. "It's better than pudding and stuff like Jell-O. It's softer and got more flavor."

Will kids eat yogurt? Use the information from the story to answer the following true and false questions:

1. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that school lunches contain meat or a food of equal value.

2. A new government rule permits school lunch menus to offer Jell-O as a substitute (replacement) for meat.

3. An example of a school's main lunch item is hot dogs.

4. The USDA recently decided that a 2-ounce cup of yogurt could take the place of spaghetti in school lunches.

5. Some schools already require students to buy yogurt from a special food cart.

6. At Randolph Elementary School, the pupils and teachers decided not to sell yogurt during the lunch hour.

7. Tanja Johnson, a Randolph cashier reported that, at least once a day, an older student will choose yogurt.

8. Many of the students in Judy Rundle's kindergarten class have never heard of yogurt.

9. When asked his opinion about the dairy product, 6-year-old Kendall said that he liked the white kind.

10. Fifth-grader Cherelle Faust thought that eating yogurt in school lunches instead of meat was a good idea.

BONUS: After reading the article, you can guess yogurt may not be a very popular lunch choice for some kids.

Answer key: 1)T. 2)F. 3)T. 4)F. 5)F. 6)F. 7)F. 8)T. 9)F. 10)T. Bonus)T.

PART TWO: PARTY TIME

Can you get your classmates to eat yogurt? Take the challenge by planning a yogurt party for your class. What flavors will you buy? Will you include a few toppings?

## Comanches seek roots of language in West Texas

PAINT ROCK (AP) — A search for cultural roots has led a band of Comanche Indians to West Texas to study what could be some of their tribe's oldest writings.

About 15 people from Oklahoma spent Monday afternoon at Fred and Kay Campbell's ranch, learning about the painted rocks that gave the nearby town its name. Although their meaning is not always clear, vivid red portraits decorating the yellow-faced, rocky bluffs hint at great events: tribal council meetings, solar eclipses, war party raids and captures.

Etched onto stone centuries ago, those silent paintings now could help inject new life into the dying Comanche language.

"We're trying to build the awareness that once that language is gone, so goes the Comanche people," said Ron Red Elk, president of the Comanche Language and Culture Preservation

Committee.

The committee, with about 30 members in Oklahoma, was organized nearly four years ago in hopes of passing the Comanche language on to present and future generations.

Because federal government policies for years were designed to stamp out Native American languages — sending children to boarding schools and punishing them if they spoke anything but English — only aged Comanches now speak their language fluently, Red Elk said. Many elders die without passing on their knowledge.

To further complicate matters, the language had no written form until 1993 — after the federal government stepped up funding for the 1990 Native American Languages Act.

That is one reason the Paint Rock pictographs were so exciting to members of the Preservation Committee.

Although many tribes — including Jumanos, Apaches and Tonkawas — may have left their marks, many paintings almost certainly were made by Comanches.

The Oklahoma group, which included several fluent Comanche speakers, gazed through binoculars or video-cams at the paintings as Kay Campbell explained the symbols. Several times, she and her husband offered different suggestions for the meanings of the vague drawings, but both were eager to learn from their guests as well.

Fred Campbell noted that although the bluffs along the Concho River often were used as Indian campsites, no burial grounds have been found on the land. He wondered whether Comanches may have scooped out shallow graves beneath the large rocks and placed bodies there.

"Yeah," said Ray Niedo, a

tribal elder. "My people, they have no burial grounds."

Niedo noted Comanches often threw gray paint in the face of the dead, covered the body with rocks "and just took off."

"They had so many enemies, they had to be on the alert at all times," he said.

The tour also included lessons from range expert Dr. Jake Landers about native plants of the area. Passing around acorns and algerita branches, he made the past tangible to the tribal group.

As a final touch — and in keeping with Comanche tradition — Niedo recited a prayer of blessing in his ancient tongue.

Carney Saupitty Jr., a Comanche Business Committee official, said the Paint Rock trip taught him more about his ancestors' lives in West Texas.

"This is something I've never seen before," he said, glancing up at the bluffs.

## life! 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.

Spring Has Sprung at PONDEROSA NURSERY  
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Gail Hwy.

## Study suggests new approach against Huntington's disease

NEW YORK (AP) — Tiny capsules planted in the brain might be able to fend off the disabling symptoms of Huntington's disease, a study in monkeys suggests.

The capsules pump out a substance that protects brain cells. In the monkeys they sharply reduced the damage from a poison that kills the same brain cells that die in Huntington's.

A study in people will begin this year in Europe to test the safety of the approach, said researcher Jeffrey H. Kordower of the Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago.

The monkey results were presented in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature by Kordower, scientists from CytoTherapeutics Inc. of Providence, R.I., and researchers elsewhere.

Allan Tobin, scientific director of the Hereditary Disease Foundation, which focuses on Huntington's, called the work exciting but highly experimental.

"I'm very concerned that this not be taken as a proof that this kind of therapy will work in humans," Tobin said. "All of this is still at a very preliminary stage."

An estimated 30,000 Americans have Huntington's disease, which is caused by a faulty gene. It erodes concentration and memory and causes twitching, clumsiness and difficulty in walking, speaking and swallowing. The disease grows relentlessly worse over time — it can last 10 to 15 years or more — and no known treatment can slow it down.

Symptoms typically begin between ages 30 and 45. But the faulty gene can be detected even before birth. So someday, doctors might identify people destined to develop the disease and implant the brain capsules before symptoms appear or just as they show up, Kordower said.

That might prevent symptoms or at least slow down their progression, he said.

The Nature study involved six monkeys. Three got brain implants of capsules containing genetically modified hamster cells, which pumped out a natural brain substance called ciliary neurotrophic factor. Three other monkeys got implants that didn't produce the substance.

A week later, all the monkeys were injected with a poison

that destroys the same kind of brain cells that are lost in Huntington's. Three weeks after that, researchers examined the brains of the animals.

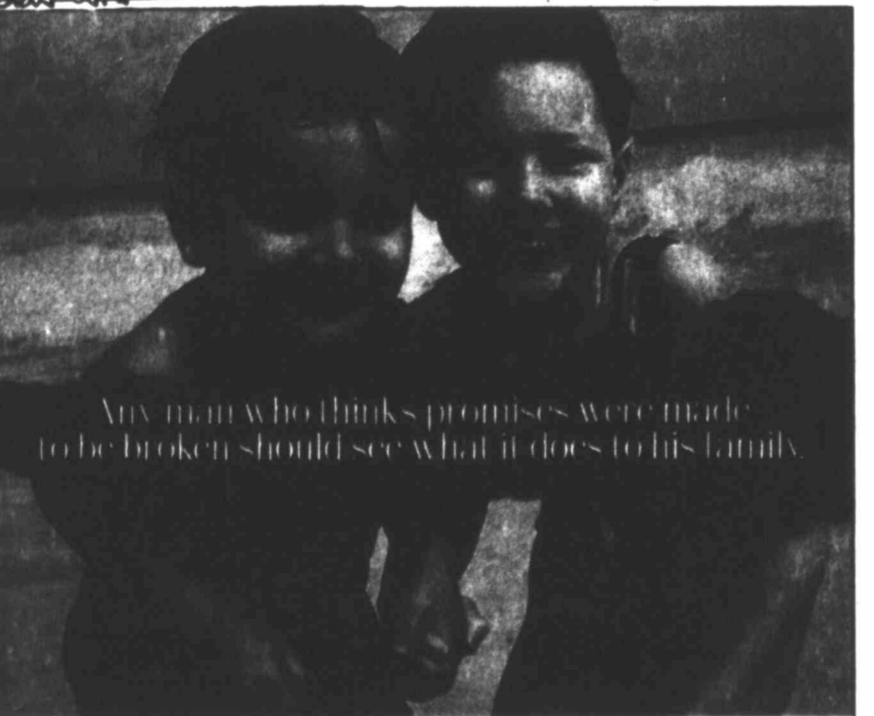
Monkeys that had gotten the active capsules lost far fewer brain cells than the other monkeys did. For one category of cell, for example, treated monkeys showed a 64 percent loss vs. about 90 percent; for another category, it was 41 percent vs. 80 percent.

The scientists did not study whether the treatment made any difference in monkey

behavior. That's the next step. The Nature paper is "an important demonstration that you can protect nerve cells in this brain region that dies off in Huntington's disease," said Ole Isacson, director of the neuroregeneration laboratory at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass., and a neuroscientist at Harvard Medical School.

He noted nobody knows how the faulty gene kills brain cells in Huntington's, and said it's not clear whether the implant approach can treat the disease.

Card of Thanks  
Words seem so inadequate when you try to say "Thank You" to your friends and relatives. We are deeply grateful for all the many ways you helped during the illness and passing away of our loved one.  
A special thanks goes to The Ackerly Baptist Church Family, Pastor Robert Moore, Best Home Care and Malley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home for your lovingness and professionalism.  
Thanks for the wonderful food and the beautiful flowers. You all helped make this memory beautiful and perfect.  
The Family of Norman Cluck



Witness the positive impact of promises kept. Without a father's influence children are nine times more likely to drop out of school and ten times more likely to use drugs. All across America families are destroyed daily by the lack of involvement from a husband or father. See how Promise Keepers helps men keep their promises.  
"The Power of a Promise Kept."  
TONIGHT 8:00 KOSA/7

# Easter SALE

Entire Stock Dresses 25% Off

Sale Prices Effective Through March 29th.  
ANTHONY'S  
Family Apparel & Shoes  
IN THE BIG SPRING MALL



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# SPORTS

Big Springs Herald  
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1997

## SCOREBOARD

<p>Baseball — Reagan County of Coahoma, 6:30 p.m. Baseball — Big Spring of DeWitt County, 7 p.m. Baseball — San Angelo Little League at Big Spring, 8 p.m. Baseball — Coahoma City of Coahoma, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Golf PGA — Players Championship, 2 p.m., ESPN LPGA — Nabisco Dynasty Open, 4 p.m., ESPN Baseball NIT Championship — Florida State vs. Michigan, 6:30 p.m., ESPN</p>
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Got a story idea or a sports news tip?

Call Sports, 263-7331  
Ext. 236  
or leave voice mail

# 1B

## NIT final matches football powers: Florida State vs. Michigan

**NEW YORK (AP)** — If former President Gerald Ford gave Michigan's basketball team a pep talk before the NIT semifinals, then maybe Bo Schembechler should do it for the championship game.

The Wolverines will meet Florida State tonight in the NIT final, the first matchup between two schools best known for their football programs.

The schools have played on Saturday afternoons in front of 106,000, but never before in the coziness of a college basketball arena.

Michigan (23-11) advanced to the final with a 77-62 victory over Arkansas in Tuesday's semifinals, while Florida State (20-11) needed overtime to get by Connecticut 71-65.

The Big 10-ACC matchup in the final is the first between schools from those conferences since 1980, when Virginia defeated Minnesota.

Michigan, which won the 1984 NIT

title over Wichita State, is no stranger to basketball title games. This will be the Wolverines' fourth championship game appearance since 1989, the three others coming in the NCAA final.

Florida State is making only its second championship game appearance and first since losing to UCLA in the 1972 NCAA final.

"It will be a good game," Michigan coach Steve Fisher said. "Florida State is a lot like us and a lot like Arkansas. They're athletic, they have good quickness and good size."

Despite superior inside strength and size, the Wolverines struggled against the quicker Razorbacks before finally putting them away with a late 14-0 run.

The performance was a microcosm of Michigan's entire 1996-97 season, a puzzling succession of winning and losing streaks during which the Wolverines looked like one of the nation's best teams one night, and one of the Big

Ten's worst the next.

The Wolverines won their first eight games, among them a one-point triumph at Duke, and were ranked No. 4 by the end of December. But a home loss to Ohio State in the conference opener hinted at trouble, and five straight losses prevented Michigan from making the NCAA field.

Compounding problems were alleged NCAA violations this month regarding Robert Traylor. However, the 6-foot-8 sophomore center says his new car was bought by a relative.

But the turmoil has seemingly bonded the Wolverines, now playing the way they were expected to all season.

"We're looking for the hot man," said forward Maurice Taylor, who had 19 points and 15 rebounds against Arkansas. "We're utilizing things we haven't all season."

And so are the Seminoles, who have been nearly as enigmatic as the

Wolverines.

A 9-1 start — the lone loss at Duke — had Florida State fans convinced there would be life after the football team's Sugar Bowl loss to hated Florida. Three straight losses were soon followed by a 13-point win over North Carolina, and a stretch of five losses in seven games preceded a two-point win at then-No. 8 Clemson, a turning point.

"The season has been a series of runs," FSU coach Pat Kennedy said Wednesday. "This team does not expect to lose. Since the Clemson game, we've been a different team."

Florida State's backcourt of Kerry Thompson and James Collins carried the team against UConn. Thompson hit a 3-pointer with 3.9 seconds left in regulation to force overtime and added nine assists in 44 minutes, while Collins was 8-of-12 on 3-pointers in 43 minutes.

Kennedy knows they'll need help

from Florida State's front line for the Seminoles to beat Michigan.

"Michigan is really strong around the basket," Kennedy said. "Randall Jackson and LaMarr Greer will have to score."

Jackson came into the semifinals averaging 18.3 points in the three previous NIT games, but against UConn was 2-for-11 and scored eight points. Greer was equally ineffective with five points.

Kennedy, lobbying for a contract extension in recent days, realizes the impact a victory over Michigan would have for his school's basketball program.

"It's an opportunity for the seniors to leave a legacy and an opportunity for the younger players to make a statement for the polls next year," he said. "You only get one chance in a lifetime to win a national championship."

At least until football season.]

## McCamey boys, Ozona girls capture Coahoma tournament



Coahoma's Amy Wards prepares to tee off on No. 1 during Wednesday's Coahoma Invitational. Ward shot a 119.

### Coahoma's boys win one-hole playoff for 2nd, Stanton takes 4th

HERALD Staff Report

McCamey's A boys and Ozona's girls took team titles in the Coahoma Invitational Golf Tournament, played Wednesday at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

McCamey shot a 319 to take a four-stroke victory over both Coahoma A and Merkel, while Ozona fired a 374 to take a 35-stroke win over McCamey A.

Coahoma finished second in team standings after winning a playoff with Merkel on the first hole.

In medalist play, Midland Christian's Blake Roberts fired a 74 to take top honors while Ozona's Shelly Sullivan took top honors with a 90 after winning a one-hole playoff with McCamey's Robyn Parramore.

In boy's team play, Stanton A finished fourth at 332, Coahoma B ninth at 370, Forsan A 11th at 374, Stanton B 12th at 392 and Forsan B at 432.

Coahoma's Blake Nichols finished fifth in medalist play with his 78 — four strokes behind Roberts.

In girl's team play, Coahoma finished sixth at 476, Stanton seventh at 484 and Forsan eighth at 528.

No area girl finished in the

top five in medalist play. Results from members of area schools competing in the tournament included:

#### BOYS

**COAHOMA A** — Regi Roberts 79, Josh Collum 79, Blake Nichols 78, Kyle Wyatt 90, Jason Gwyn 87.

**COAHOMA B** — Jonathan Barr 97, Chad Winn 87, Cheyenne Arguello 85, Steven Prater 101, Derek Ward 134.

**FORSAN A** — David Trowbridge 88, Paul Kinsey 108, William Osburn 91, Cory Walker 87.

**FORSAN B** — James Anderson 105, Joey Jackson 119, Blake Lanspery 95, Robert Hilliger 113, James Dunlap 121.

**STANTON A** — Kory Williams 76, Brett Hull 79, Austin Kelly 82, Jarrod Bedingfield 93, Kenneth Hull 90.

**STANTON B** — Will Harris 87, Jason Haislip 103, Zayne Tittsworth 101, David Butler 101, Colton Pardue 118.

**COAHOMA MEDALISTS** — Justin Gamble 96, Robert Boyette 139.

#### GIRLS

**COAHOMA** — Amy Ward 119, Jill Allen 116, Kori Caffey 121, Jennifer Smith 120.

**FORSAN** — Deana Johnson 139, Dondi Brewer 116, Erica Partlow 144, Jackie Brown 129.

**STANTON** — Jan Holland 109, Erin Wheeler 112, Whitney Kargl 132, Tonia Brooks 131.



Forsan's Cory Walker putts on No. 9. Walker shot an 87 during the Coahoma Invitational at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

## No depth? Forget it as Kentucky's ready

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — For a team supposedly lacking depth, the Kentucky Wildcats have come a long way. So far, in fact, they're right back where they started the season, in the RCA Dome.

But unlike the opening loss to Clemson last November, Kentucky is back in Indianapolis with a chance for another NCAA championship.

Who would have thought it? Not coach Rick Pitino, certainly.

"I'm very surprised the way we've developed," he said Wednesday during a conference call of Final Four coaches. "The preseason was a nightmare, as far as our expectations. We had to lower our expectations a little bit and tried to be the best we could each day."

After winning the NCAA championship a year ago, four Kentucky players departed for the NBA, another transferred and another was redshirted. Then leading scorer Derek Anderson went down with a

knee injury at midseason. Somehow, the remaining Kentucky players pulled together.

"The guys did a tremendous job focusing in with all the adversity. They've earned it," Pitino said.

"I didn't feel our depth before the season started was very good. We still don't have the depth Minnesota has, but that's something we've been conditioned to go without."

Kentucky (34-4) will play Minnesota (31-3) in one semifinal game Saturday night. Arizona and North Carolina are the other semifinalists playing for a spot in Monday night's championship game.

Minnesota coach Clem Haskins doesn't buy the story that Kentucky has no depth.

"They have eight or nine real quality players," Haskins said. "They have good depth, and Ron Mercer without doubt is one of the finest college players. He's very explosive."

But the Gophers are deep, too.

Nine players average at least 12 minutes playing time. The biggest question for the Gophers, perhaps, is the status of point guard Eric Harris, the key to the team's defense.

Harris bruised a shoulder in a double-overtime regional win over Clemson. He received treatments with ice and electrical stimulation and might be ready to play on Saturday, Haskins said.

"Anytime you have that type injury, it doesn't heal in one week," he said. "He hasn't practiced since that game, but we'll test it and see what happens. We feel he will be able to play."

Even without him, Minnesota has another explosive player in Bobby Jackson, the Big Ten player of the year.

"Minnesota's perimeter game is terrific," Pitino said. "They're well schooled in all areas. I don't think there is a weakness that sticks out. They're unique in how many times Bobby Jackson and Harris go to the foul line ... an incredible number of times."

"We certainly have our work cut out, not only defending them but not fouling them."

Of the four teams and four coaches, Haskins and the Gophers are the only ones who have never before advanced to the Final Four. But by getting this far, they're no longer a surprise team amid some traditional NCAA heavyweights.

"We have no problem with that. We know we have a fine club," Haskins said. "In the Big Ten, if you win 16 ball games, you know you're doing something right. People around the country are starting to recognize that now."

Pitino is, that's for sure. "I can't find many weaknesses they have," he said. "I've watched about eight films of them so far. Last year, they probably deserved to be in the NCAA and they got valuable experience from the NIT and took that to a new level this year. They're as well schooled in fundamentals as any team we've faced."

## No trips down memory lane for Arizona, Carolina

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Forget about Arizona beating North Carolina way back in November. Forget that the Tar Heels lost their first three conference games for the first time in history.

Forget about everything that happened early in the season, because North Carolina and Arizona have come a long way since then to make it to Saturday's rematch in the Final Four.

"I won't even let our team watch (tapes of) that game," North Carolina coach Dean Smith said Wednesday during a

conference call of Final Four coaches. "That's so long ago. Both teams are so different now."

Especially North Carolina. Jerry Stackhouse, Rashad Wallace and Jeff McInnis would have been seniors this season if they hadn't left for the NBA. Instead, the Tar Heels (28-6) are starting a freshman point guard and three sophomores.

They struggled early as they tried to define themselves. After losing five of their first eight Atlantic Coast Conference games, many wrote the season

off as a rebuilding year.

The Wildcats (23-9) weren't expected to do much, either. They lost four starters and also had a freshman point guard. The only returning starter, Miles Simon, was academically ineligible for the first 11 games.

After an 11-2 start, Arizona lost seven of its last 15 and was fifth in the Pac-10.

As if Arizona needed any more education, nothing in the NCAA tournament came easy to the fourth seed in the Southeast Regional. The Wildcats struggled in comeback victories over South Alabama

and College of Charleston, and needed overtime to beat Providence.

Then there was Kansas, the No. 1 seed and everyone's favorite for the NCAA title. Arizona controlled the entire game, but Kansas surged back in the final minute and the Wildcats didn't escape until Raef LaFrentz missed a 3-point shot at the buzzer.

Aside from the distractions of Smith becoming the winningest basketball coach in NCAA history, the Tar Heels had the easiest route of anyone to the Final Four.



### Dallas Cowboys get NFL's toughest schedule for 1997

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys, champions no more, face the toughest 1997 schedule in the NFL.

The league's schedule, released Wednesday, has the Cowboys playing on national television five times, including three Monday-night games on ABC, one Sunday-night game on TNT, and the annual Thanksgiving game.

Based on the combined 1996 records of its opponents, no team drew a tougher schedule than Dallas. The Cowboys' 1997 opponents were 143-113 last year. Kansas City, whose opponents were 140-116 in 1996, has the second-toughest schedule, while Detroit (119-137) has the easiest.

Besides the usual games against NFC East rivals, Dallas plays on the road against Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Green Bay and Cincinnati. The Cowboys' non-divisional home games are against Chicago, Jacksonville, Houston and Carolina.

Dallas opens the season Aug. 31 in Pittsburgh, where the Cowboys beat the Steelers 26-9 in the 1994 season opener.

They travel then to Arizona before their Sept. 15 home opener against Philadelphia and an open date on Sept. 21. The Monday-night games are Sept. 15 at home against Philadelphia, at Washington on Oct. 13 and at home Dec. 8 against Carolina.

This year's 49ers-Cowboys matchup is Nov. 2 at San Francisco. The Oilers visit Irving on Thanksgiving Day.

The Nov. 23 game against the Super Bowl champion Packers will be the Cowboys' third visit ever to Lambeau Field and the first since a loss to Green Bay in 1989.

#### DALLAS' 1997 SCHEDULE

- Aug. 31 at Pittsburgh, noon
- Sept. 7 at Arizona, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 15 Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
- Sept. 21 Open
- Sept. 28 Chicago, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 5 at New York Giants, noon
- Oct. 13 at Washington, 8 p.m.
- Oct. 19 Jacksonville, noon
- Oct. 26 at Philadelphia, noon
- Nov. 2 at San Francisco, noon
- Nov. 9 Arizona, noon
- Nov. 16 Washington, noon
- Nov. 23 at Green Bay, noon
- Nov. 27 Houston, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 8 Carolina, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 at Cincinnati, noon
- Dec. 21 New York Giants, noon

### Houston Oilers have definite schedule, uncertain site in '97

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Oilers know they will open their regular season with a home game Aug. 31 against the Oakland Raiders but they aren't sure where home will be.

The Oilers, under terms of their lease with operators of the Astrodome, are still under contract to play their home games in the dome before moving to Tennessee in 1998.

They want to negotiate a settlement to complete their move to Tennessee this season but they've been unable to reach an agreement with Drayton McLane, who owns the Houston Astros and runs the Astrodome for Harris County.

A key to settlement of the dispute is that the Oilers drop a suit against McLane's company, Astrodome USA, stemming from a preseason game that was cancelled because the Oilers alleged poor turf conditions in the Astrodome.

In the Oilers' press release Wednesday announcing their 1997 schedule, they make no reference to where "home" is.

The Oilers will have only two home games in the first six weeks of the season. They play at Miami on Sept. 7, followed by a bye week and then host Baltimore on Sept. 21, followed by two more road games at Pittsburgh and Seattle.

The Oilers have no Monday night dates but will play two Thursday games, including a late afternoon Thanksgiving Day contest at Dallas.

#### HOUSTON'S 1997 SCHEDULE

- Aug. 31 Oakland, 1 p.m.
- Sept. 7 at Miami, noon
- Sept. 14 Open
- Sept. 21 Baltimore, noon
- Sept. 28 at Pittsburgh, noon
- Oct. 5 at Seattle, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 12 Cincinnati, noon
- Oct. 19 Washington, noon
- Oct. 26 at Arizona, noon
- Nov. 2 Jacksonville, 3 p.m.
- Nov. 9 New York Giants, 3 p.m.
- Nov. 16 at Jacksonville, noon
- Nov. 23 Buffalo, noon
- Nov. 27 at Dallas, 3 p.m.
- Dec. 4 at Cincinnati, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 at Baltimore, noon
- Dec. 21 Pittsburgh, noon

# Especially for kids and their families

## The Mini Page

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By BETTY DEBNAM



### A Season Awakens

## The Science of Spring

If you've been feeling more frisky lately, blame the season. Nature is waking up. Animals, including people, are kicking up their heels. The weather is changing. It's spring!

#### Weather

- Days get longer.
- Temperatures warm up.
- Extra light, warmth and moisture get plants growing. Life can be very pleasant.
- Warm spring air mixing with colder winter air can mean troubled skies. Warm air can hold more moisture than cold air. This unstable moist air can lead to storms. Thunderstorms, tornadoes and flash floods (from heavy rains and snowmelt) can spring up.



Spring weather can be dangerous. Stay inside during storms. Protect yourself against ultraviolet sun rays. Learn your weather safety rules.

#### Plants



In many places, when we think of spring, we think of flowering trees such as these cherry trees, or maybe dogwoods or apple trees.

#### Trees

Leaves and flowers grow from buds on those trees that lost their leaves in the fall.

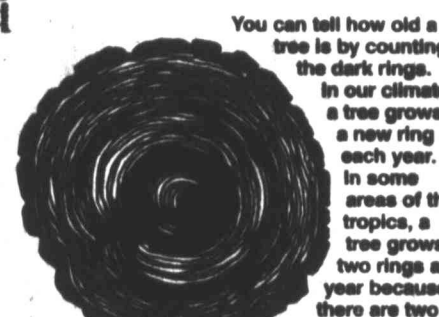
In most of the United States, trees that are not evergreen stopped growing in winter. Now, as the icy soils thaw out, roots can take up water, and growth begins again.

#### Flowers

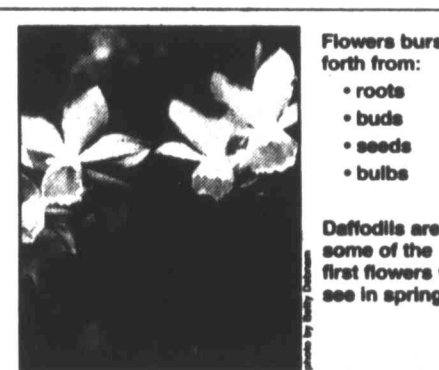
Woodland wildflowers usually appear in early spring. For a brief time they get enough sun. Trees have not yet grown big leaves that block the light.



The sap is running. Trees and bushes are pulling up food stored in their root systems. When these stored sugars rise up the tree, we say the sap is running. This is when farmers tap maple sugar. Evergreens grow faster now than at any other time. New needles are softer and brighter. New cones look like little berries.



You can tell how old a tree is by counting the dark rings in our climate, a tree grows a new ring each year. In some areas of the tropics, a tree grows two rings a year because there are two wet seasons.



Flowers burst forth from:

- roots
- buds
- seeds
- bulbs

Daffodils are some of the first flowers we see in spring.

### Rookie Cookie's Recipe

#### Easter Salads

- Chick**
- canned peach half for body
  - carrot strips for beak
  - carrot strips for legs
  - raisin for eye
- Bunny**
- canned peach half for face
  - lettuce for border
  - carrot strips for whiskers
  - raisins for eyes and nose
  - canned peach half, cut in half, for ears

### TRY TO FIND

#### SPRING

Words about spring are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward. See if you can find: FLOWERS, SPRING, WEATHER, PLANTS, WARM, GROW, SEASONS, MOISTURE, BULBS, FOOD, WATER, BABIES, MIGRATE, FEATHERS, EGGS, BUTTERFLIES, BIRDS, SUN.

A J M I G R A T E V S F U Z C  
B K W O R G V D O O F E S A E  
B U T T E R F L I E S A E W B  
B S C L W B W A T E R T A E I  
U P D S G G E Q X A I H S A R  
L R E P F L O W E R S E O T D  
B I S U N S E I B A B R N H S  
S N M O I S T U R E S G S E Y  
H G T W A R M S T N A L P R P

### Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are enjoying spring flowers. See if you can find:



- whale
- net
- key
- alligator
- frog
- letter D
- safety pin
- butterfly
- letter A
- chicken
- heart
- number 3

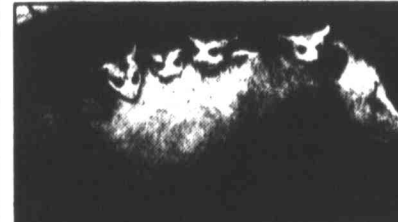
• mushroom • caterpillar • word MINI

## Animals Spring Into Action

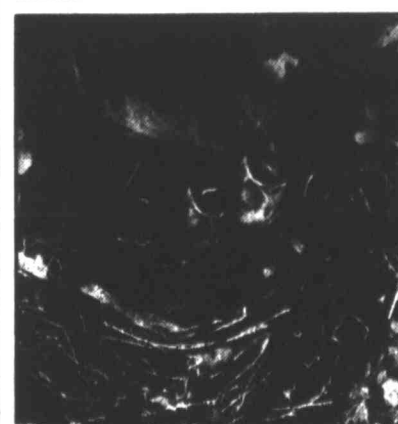
Do you feel frisky and perky and awake in the spring? Most animals do. They might even look different. They might lose some fur and feathers. Their fur might change color, or their feathers might get brighter.

#### Animal changes

- Some animals, especially birds, travel north, or migrate. They return home after wintering in warmer areas to the south.
- Many birds build nests. To attract mates, some develop songs. Others might stake out territory, stop living in flocks and start living in pairs.
- Some male animals add body muscle as they get ready to fight other males over territory.



Male opossums fight each other for the chance to mate. But even the winning male doesn't live very long. He dies soon after mating. So many males die that by the end of spring and summer, most (80 to 90 percent) of all opossums will be females or babies.



In spring there is a lot of food to help young animals grow. Birds' eggs hatch when there is a good supply of insects.



#### Baby animals

Some animal babies, such as chipmunks, live underground until seeds are plentiful. Many animals, such as raccoons and birds, can have two or more litters throughout the year. But the first litter usually comes in spring. If the mother is not healthy, that may be her only one. Farm animals usually have babies in the spring because the farmers plan it that way. They don't let the males and females get together if it means that the babies will be born in the winter.



#### Insect changes

Social insects, such as ants and bees, go to work. They've been huddled together inside their hive or nest during the cold months. They've used up most of their food. Workers have to find more food soon.

Look through your newspaper for signs of spring.

Many baby bears are born in winter while the mother is hibernating. By spring they are big enough to follow her outside. When they leave their dens, they are very hungry. If there is not enough food, they will strip the bark off the trees. Bears can do a lot of damage.

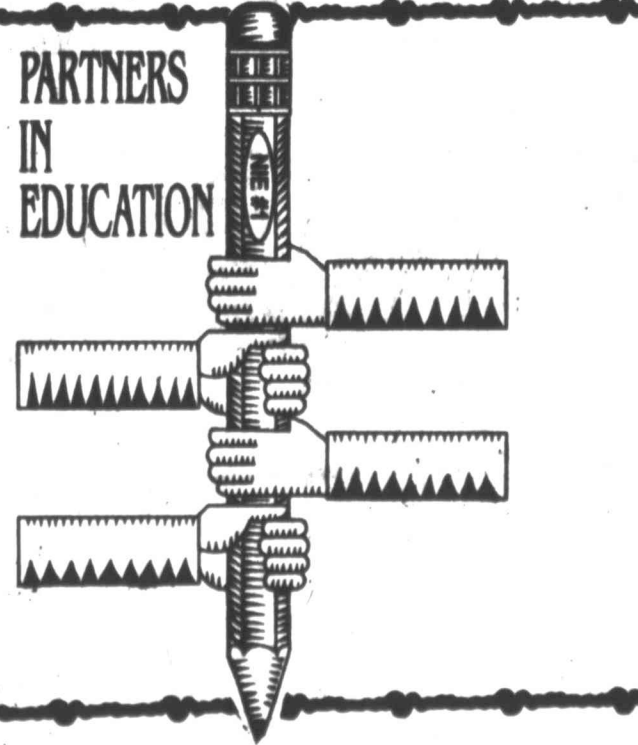
Some insects fly north, or migrate. Monarch butterflies travel from Mexico and southern California. Along the way they lay eggs on milkweed buds, then continue their journey. When these eggs hatch and change to butterflies, they fly north too. They know where to go even though no adults are around to show them the way.

#### Young insects

Some eggs, such as grasshoppers' and crickets', hatch underground. Little grasshoppers push their way to the soil surface and start eating their favorite plants. Some butterflies and beetles spend the winter in pupa stage — wrapped in a cocoon. As it warms, the adult comes out of the case.

The Mini Page thanks Joan Van Ahn, customer service meteorologist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Christine Flanagan, public programs coordinator, U.S. Botanic Garden; Miles Roberts, head of the zoological research department, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; and Dennis Kopp, entomologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Next week, The Mini Page celebrates the fun of basketball.



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MAKE APPROX. \$200/DAY! NO INVESTMENT REQUIRED. Need School, Clean Athlete, Good Driving. Individual to approach Family - For more info. Call 1-800-442-7444.

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PIZZA INN. Now hiring delivery drivers full-time & part time. Apply in person 1702 Gregg. No phone calls please.

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**WEST TEXAS CENTERS FOR MHMR.** SALARY \$2816.00 PER MONTH PLUS EXCELLENT BENEFIT PACKAGE. DRUG FREE WORKPLACE. Job opening for REGISTERED NURSE. Will provide nursing assessment, treatment, and consultation to people with mental retardation in the Big Spring area. Will work closely with other human service professionals to develop and implement individual treatment plans. Will supervise and provide clinical direction to 1 to 2 LVN's. Office hours 8-5 with on-call rotation. Qualified applicants must be licensed in Texas with 5 years professional experience. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) preferred. Experience with home health or mental retardation programs beneficial. Apply: 501 Birdwell Lane, Suite 28-F, Big Spring, Texas.

**HELP WANTED**

THE CITY OF BIG SPRING is accepting applications for the position of Dispatcher. To check minimum qualifications and receive further information contact City Hall Personnel at 310 Nolan or call 264-2346. Applications will be accepted through Tuesday, March 18, 1997 at 5:00pm. THE CITY OF BIG SPRING IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Full or part time drivers Domino's Pizza, 2202 S. Gregg. Hourly wage plus tips plus mileage. Great part time job for those that want to supplement their income. "The Delivery Leader in Big Spring".

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Medical Center. Scenic Mountain Medical Center. 1601 W. 11th. Place. Big Spring, Texas 79720. Fax to: (915)263-6454. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

**ASSISTANT CONTROLLER**

Job in Accounting in Big Spring. 4-5 years experience in health care finance required. Salary commensurate with experience. Position must be promotable to a Controller position in Big Spring, Texas.

**PERSONAL**

Professional nice clean white male 39 brown hair, slim, looking to date simple and intelligent female without kids. Send pic and phone # to Big Spring, Box 691, Big Spring, TX 79720.

**BUSINESS OPP.**

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Repossed 2 Steel Bldgs. 30x40, 40x60. Never erected. Sell for balance. Call 1-800-221-0615.

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Garage Sale: Sat. 8-12, 3214 Cornell. Washer, hair dryers, clothes, and lots of extras.

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408 W. 8th 3/29/97. 7am-5pm. House goes too! Furniture, glassware, appliances, fishing stuff, good boys clothes & shoes, decorating items & much more.

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GARAGE SALE Sat. 5204 Sterling-off Wasson. Follow signs. Super Nintendo, scroll saw, treadmill & misc.

GRANDMA WENT CRAZY BUYING CLOTHES. Infant clothes mostly boy some girls. Girls size 4-6. Great for Easter. Lots of infant accessories and toys. Some adult clothes. Bedding... too much to list. Saturday 29, 8-2. 2512 Chanute. No Early Sales.

Queen Size Mattress. In good condition. \$40. Call 267-6967.

LOST FROM 717 COLGATE. 1/2 Perisan, spayed female about 6 years old. Grey answers to Nermyl. NO COLLAR! Has been missing about 10 days. REWARD! 263-0160.

MOVING, MUST SELL Upright piano \$500. & Kirby vacuum cleaner \$75. OBO. Call 263-3660 after 5:00.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 28: You will find this an unusual year, when you advance both professionally and personally. You get ahead because of your willingness to learn more and open doors. Some may opt to go back to school; others may take an unusual trip. You see the world in a much different light as a result. Be sure of yourself when approaching exciting situations and people. If you are single, your relationships are likely to be extraordinary, although some might hook up with a foreigner. If attached, you will feel as if you just met each other. Romance blooms again. SAGITTARIUS is a good pal.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Dynamic thinking marks ideas. The unexpected occurs, and you experience a new beginning. Your point of view is changing; you find many new options possible now. Try out some of these opportunities. Use your imagination. Tonight: Take off.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) One-to-one relating is key, professionally and emotionally. You can transform a situation or a relationship by your openness. Good news from a distance is important in making a

change. Be willing to do things much differently. Tonight: It could be a stunner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Be more upbeat. Follow through on what is important to a partner. You discover a newfound sense of togetherness, if you are open to what a loved one can offer. A change in plans could be in the cards; be ready to deal with it. Tonight: Go where your friends are.

CANCER (June 21-July 21) Get the job done. Pace yourself, as you might encounter many distractions. In addition, a partner seeks your attention. Make plans for later today & this weekend. An unexpected professional or fiscal development opens a door. Tonight: Make the mood mellow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Let your imagination loose. Unpredictability could affect a trip and some partnerships. News you hear could thrust you in another direction. You can deal with all potential changes. Instincts are correct with a co-worker. Tonight: Have yourself some fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You need to readjust plans because of what is going on with a work-related matter. Tremendous opportunities are available, financially and professionally; take advantage of them. You come from a solid basis. Your intuition is accurate with a loved one. Tonight: Be homeward bound.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Reach out for others, especially a family member. Take action, and keep communications flowing. A loved one could exhibit rebellious behavior. Carefully think through a decision involving a partner. There could be a stronger commitment here. Tonight: Hang out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You feel most empowered during the daytime hours. Others respond to your requests. Financial matters dominate the later part of the day. You see matters in a different light once a family member opens up. A jolt could be heading your way. Tonight: Go spring shopping.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Everything is coming up roses, and you feel great. Unexpected news invigorates and excites you. Use your creative, dynamic energy to invigorate a relationship. Solutions come easily in the mood you are in. Still, continue to use caution financially. Tonight: Be a live wire.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The morning hours are your strongest; that's when you feel you have more under control. You tend to be successful if you use this time wisely. In the

plans. Some have never borrowed from their parents, but of those who did, the majority paid back all the money. They purchase their "luxury items" with their own money.

One young reader summed it up very well: "Financial irresponsibility is not a generational trait but one that spans genders, races and ages. Please don't take your own family's shortcomings out on a whole generation. We have proven that we deserve better."

DEAR ABBY: I have a problem I haven't seen before in your column. My husband and I went to the wedding of a co-worker of his. A few weeks after the wedding, my husband's co-worker handed him a card, which turned out to be a thank-you note, generically thanking us for the lovely gift. The problem? We had not yet given a gift.

We and our friends are divided. Some say we are off the hook for a gift, since it would be embarrassing to the couple to receive a gift after sending us a thank-you note; others say if we were intending to give a gift, we should do so. We're curious as to what you say. — WAITING TO HEAR

DEAR WAITING TO HEAR: If your husband does not come forward stating that you have not yet sent a gift, someone else may not receive the thank-you that is due.

DEAR ABBY: While I was moving a few boxes in the garage of our Montecito, Calif., home, I spotted an aching envelope. The postmark was barely legible: Atolla, Calif., Sept. 3, 1933. The writing was definitely mine. Enough of garage cleaning; I retreated to the porch overlooking the nearby Santa Barbara harbor.

Comfortably seated, I carefully opened the deteriorating envelope. The first few lines brought both memories and a smile. It was a love letter I had written decades ago while employed as a miner far out in the California desert. The letter was directed to a girl in Hermosa Beach, Calif., whom I must have loved very much. Gazing at the boats leaving the harbor, my mind was flooded with memories of the girl in Hermosa Beach. How well I recalled her laughing smile and diminutive size.

My thoughts of the distant past were interrupted by someone calling from the other end of the porch. A lovely woman was approaching holding a new gray suit. "You will look real handsome at our 50th anniversary next week," she said.

It was the girl from Hermosa Beach — older, but as attractive as ever. — DOUGLAS AND JUANITA ROBERTSON

DEAR DOUGLAS AND JUANITA: Congratulations on your 50th wedding anniversary. May you enjoy many more decades together.

DEAR ABBY: You advised "Miss X" — a male pre-op transsexual — to use the women's rest room when dressed as a woman. Bad idea. It is illegal for people to use a public rest room intended for the opposite sex, regardless of how they are

presenting themselves. Speaking as a longtime cross-dresser, my idea of transvestite hell would be to get arrested wearing a dress and high heels and have to spend a night locked in a cell with a group of Hell's Angels.

Abby, most women are offended by the idea of men using their rest room regardless of how the man is dressed. I easily pass as a moderately attractive woman, but I respect the fact that I am not wanted in the ladies rest room and I stay out of it.

I suggest that "Miss X" do the same until after the operation. When I am dressed up in public, I find small restaurants and convenience stores that have a single unisex bathroom or a single-stall men's room with a door that locks. — KANSAS CITY CUTIE

DEAR CUTIE: It will please you to know that I got several complaints for my answer. Thank you for setting me straight.

DEAR ABBY: I have a very dear, older friend who has one bad habit. No matter what the situation, she always asks me the price of everything I buy. She demands to know the cost of any improvements I make to my home.

It seems she puts a price tag on everything.

A member of her family is quite wealthy, and she never hesitates to tell everyone what they spend on everything. I don't have a lot of money and what I do with it, I think, is my personal business. I have tried the old retort, "Why would you be interested?" but it doesn't seem to work. I don't want to be rude, but can you give me a good comeback that might squelch this nasty habit? — MIFFED IN MECHANICALSVILLE, VA.

DEAR MIFFED: What's wrong with this direct response: "That's a very personal question that I prefer not to answer." Smile when you say it, and if you repeat it often enough, let's hope she'll get the message and quit asking.

Abby shares more of her favorite, easy-to-prepare recipes. To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, More Favorite Recipes, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61064-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61064-0447. (Postage is included.)

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One generation's invention is necessary appliance for next

microwaves — did not exist in her day. She couldn't want items that hadn't been invented yet. Nor was she bombarded by the media to desire such things.

Let me ask her this: Did you consider newfangled inventions like radios and telephones important? How about electric lights and indoor plumbing? It's all relative. Don't be a sour grape. — LIVING FRUGALLY AT 35

DEAR LIVING FRUGALLY: I defended today's young people in my answer to "Happily Selfish Parent," but not as eloquently as they did themselves. They responded in droves. Most of them had part-time jobs while they went to school (some held more than one). Many have budgets and savings

papers, CDs, videos and

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# Wild horse case shut down; Washington 'obstruction' blamed

DEL RIO (AP) — A federal grand jury has collected evidence that shows U.S. government officials allowed the slaughter of hundreds of wild horses taken from federal lands, falsified records and tried to prevent investigators from uncovering the truth.

The chief prosecutor and grand jury foreman in the investigation wanted to bring criminal indictments against officials of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, but the case was closed down last summer after federal officials in Washington — including officials outside the investigation — intervened.

"I believe that my investigation was obstructed all along by persons within the BLM because they did not want to be embarrassed," the prosecutor, Alia Ludlum, wrote in a memo last summer. "I think there is a terrible problem with the program and with government agents placing themselves above the law."

Ludlum's memo is among thousands of pages of grand jury documents in the case obtained by The Associated Press. Those documents also show that the grand jury foreman was incensed that federal officials were blocking the investigation, and that his requests to indict them were ignored.

Ludlum, 35, formerly an assistant U.S. attorney, is now a federal magistrate judge at the courthouse in Del Rio, which serves West Texas. She refused to be interviewed for this story, but she acknowledged the authenticity of documents obtained by the AP.

Spokesmen for the Departments of Justice and the Interior denied that their agencies had done anything wrong, but they refused to answer questions. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, who oversees the BLM and by law is responsible for protecting wild horses, refused to be interviewed.

Wild horses and burros, which compete with domestic cattle for forage, have been protected by federal law for 25 years. The BLM decides how many animals can survive on public lands, rounds up the excess animals and lets people adopt them for about \$125 apiece. After a year, an adopter can receive a title to an animal, if the BLM finds the animal is receiving proper care.

The law says it is a crime to kill a wild horse or burro taken from public land. It prohibits anyone who adopts one of the animals from selling it for slaughter.

Ludlum wanted to indict BLM officials for allowing horses to be slaughtered.

Recent AP investigations have found that thousands of the

horses are eventually sold for slaughter, and that the whereabouts of tens of thousands of adopted but never titled animals are unknown. The BLM has attacked the AP's reports, saying its investigations show that slaughter "is occurring to a far, far lesser degree than was alleged."

Although Babbitt refused to speak, the last person to serve as his chief at BLM said Babbitt has known all about problems in the wild horse program for a long time.

Jim Baca, who quit as BLM director in 1994 after a falling out with Babbitt, said in an interview that he discovered the program was in turmoil and wanted to take steps to correct it.

He said Babbitt told him to back off.

"The orders were: 'Don't make waves, we've got enough problems,'" Baca said, adding that his efforts to shake up the program went nowhere.

"Babbitt thought it might cause problems and he didn't want any controversy, he didn't want to make anybody unhappy, and so this program just festered," Baca said. "When they wanted me to leave BLM, that was one of the reasons they gave me: 'Why the hell are you raising problems about horses?'"

At the time, Babbitt attributed Baca's departure to "different approaches to management style and consensus-building." Meanwhile, the federal investigation in Texas had begun.

Records show that the grand jury saw evidence and heard testimony that:

—BLM agents placed 550 horses with dozens of people who were told they could do as they wished with the animals after a year, including sell them for slaughter to make money, which is against the law.

—The BLM ignored its own regulations and gave the Choctaw Indian Nation 29 newly born, unbranded colts to sell so the tribe could raise cash to pay the BLM for a mass adoption of 115 wild horses, which is against the law.

—A Texas BLM compliance officer, Don Galloway, arranged to keep 36 horses for himself and told two undercover investigators he planned to sell them for slaughter, which is against the law.

—BLM managers pressured employees not to talk to investigators. In one case, a BLM district manager tipped off the subject of a search warrant that law enforcement agents were about to visit his house, which is against the law.

—BLM officials falsified adoption documents and falsified computer records of brand identification numbers used to track adopted animals, which is

against the law.

"We want these charges filed and we want to be notified of what was done, regardless of who these people are, please, ma'am," the grand jury foreman told Ludlum, according to transcripts.

When the BLM in Washington realized the case was pointing in its direction, agency Law Enforcement Chief Walter Johnson wrote a letter to the Interior Department's internal watchdog, the inspector general, to register his concern.

"As the investigation continued, the scope and complexity increased to include scores of individuals including allegations against private citizens, and middle and upper management of the BLM," he wrote.

Johnson also sought assistance from the FBI's public corruption unit. FBI officials refused to comment.

The Del Rio case was shut down in July 1996.

The whole affair had begun with an affable old cowboy as its central character: Galloway.

Federal law restricts horse adoptions to four per person, per year. With his managers' support, Galloway was approving adoptions of more than 100 horses at a time by having one person gather signatures from family, friends and neighbors.

Using this technique, Galloway had placed more than 5,000 horses with adopters over about seven years. His work was commended by his superiors.

"I was doing my job, I was moving horses. I followed the law," Galloway said in a telephone interview from his home in Colleyville.

People within the program carefully skirted the issue of what would eventually happen to the horses, Galloway said. "Intent. That's the big word. I didn't know anybody's intent."

Galloway figures nearly all the horses he found homes for have been slaughtered by now. "We'd wear out a new car looking for those horses and not find but 10," he said.

Bill Sharp, who worked for the BLM with Galloway before retiring in 1994, denies any wrongdoing but acknowledged in an interview: "If I really was worried about intent then I probably wouldn't have adopted out any horses, because I believe 90 percent of these horses go to slaughter."

Sharp said they were working under the direction of Steve Henke, now a BLM district manager in Taos, N.M. Henke refused to comment.

In 1992, Galloway arranged an unusual adoption — for himself. He placed 36 horses on a Texas ranch. The ranch owner's daughter said her father told her Galloway planned to "keep them on our ranch and then sell them for 60 cents a pound for slaughter."

Galloway denied he planned to kill the horses. However, an investigator said in a sworn affidavit that Galloway told undercover agents he intended to "get rid of all of them in a year, probably to the killer (slaughterhouse buyer)."

This evidence, which surfaced in 1992, later launched Ludlum's case, which quickly

broadened when investigators learned Galloway's supervisor, Henke, had alerted him that agents were en route to his house.

"You didn't clean out your files?" an investigator later asked Galloway.

"Well, a little bit," he replied, according to a grand jury transcript.

Henke and Sharp pleaded with Galloway to keep quiet or "a lot of people would lose their jobs," according to an agent's summary of the case.

Evidence emerged that Henke had three stallions killed at a BLM sanctuary in 1992 and faked information on a horse adoption form to make it appear the horses were adopted by Choctaw Indians. He then ordered staffers to enter false information into the department's computer database of horse records.

Henke later said the horses had to be killed because they were breeding, had undescended testicles and could not be castrated easily. "Since my involvement with the program, I may be guilty of poor judgment, but I have never knowingly done or approved any illegal activity for personal gain," he said in a memo.

As investigators probed more deeply, they found hundreds of discrepancies between BLM computer records and the brand numbers of horses the BLM had on hand. At one point, a top BLM manager tried to obtain investigators' records to update the BLM's computer so it would match the records held by investigators.

Ludlum began assembling evidence for a grand jury in 1994. Within months, attorneys from the Justice Department became directly involved. They met in Washington to discuss the case. They flew to West Texas to interview people, study testimony and talk to Ludlum.

"The rumor is spreading throughout the BLM that DOJ was called in to shut the case down," Ludlum wrote in a memo after one meeting.

Ludlum became especially concerned that one attorney in the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division in Washington, S. Jonathan Blackmer, wanted her to limit the scope of her case. She worried in a memo that Blackmer's section chief, James C. Kilbourne, wanted to "solve problems" with Anne H. Shields, then deputy solicitor at the Department of the Interior.

Shields had previously worked with Blackmer and Kilbourne in the natural resources division at Justice. She had left Justice to join Babbitt's new administration at Interior. Babbitt promoted her to be his chief of staff in 1995.

"Something smells fishy," Ludlum wrote to her boss. "I am sure that 'stuff' is happening in Washington concerning my case that I surely don't know and can never hope to know."

"I just don't understand how 36 horses could cause such overwhelming governmental distress unless there are lots of problems and we are not supposed to find out what the prob-

lems are or to solve the problems. I don't like what is happening."

Blackmer, Kilbourne and Shields refused to comment.

In 1995, Ludlum's grand jury issued subpoenas intended to inventory more than 1,200 horses at a BLM sanctuary in Bartlesville, Okla. They were on the trail of discrepancies between horse brands recorded in the BLM's computer and the horses actually on the range.

Then, an Interior Department lawyer in New Mexico, Grant Vaughn, wrote a letter telling the prosecutor that his agency could not comply with the subpoenas.

Then, a lawyer from the Interior Department in Washington, who worked for Shields, became directly involved.

Solicitor Tim Elliott said that while his involvement in such cases is rare, his supervisors wanted him to help establish who was in charge of the Del Rio probe and to clarify the adoption law.

"While I was there we did not talk about any of the specifics of the case, who were targets, who was under investigation," he said in an interview.

However, in letters to Justice Department officials obtained by the AP, Elliott argued that subpoenas should be dropped and he declared which BLM law enforcement agents would be allowed to assist with the case and which ones would not.

The investigator chosen by the BLM, Greg Assmus, re-interviewed witnesses and violated instructions from the prosecutor. "I will not deal with agents I do not trust," the prosecutor protested.

Assmus refused to comment.

At one point Galloway, still the main target of the investigation, was paid by the BLM to round up the very horses he'd earlier threatened to have slaughtered.

In January last year, Ludlum's boss, Acting U.S. Attorney Jim DeAtley, pressed Ludlum to bring charges within 30 days. Then, in February, he said to wait while a Justice Department lawyer in Washington, Charles Brooks, prepared an analysis of the case. Brooks' memo, calling the case weak, came in April.

Brooks challenged Ludlum.

He acknowledged that her investigation had uncovered long-standing problems with the horse adoption program and a "don't ask, don't tell" approach to slaughter.

However, Brooks said, it had already been decided a year earlier — at a meeting of Justice Department, Interior Department and BLM officials — that the Texas criminal investigation would be limited to Galloway and not "other possibly fraudulent adoptions and the widespread irregularities in the management of the horse adoption program."

The case against Galloway alone should be dropped, Brooks argued. "While the loose procedures here might be typical of what is happening in the adoption program everywhere, the particular facts here make this a poor case to make this point."

Ludlum was angry. "It is obvious that Charles and-or his bosses do not want the case prosecuted period and will come up with any excuses to make it go away," Ludlum argued in a memo to her boss.

Brooks refused to comment.

The U.S. Attorney in San Antonio ordered the case closed in July. Several U.S. Attorneys from around the country said that it is very rare for Washington officials to pressure local prosecutors to close any case.

Justice Department spokesman Bill Brooks would not discuss the Del Rio matter, saying only: "Any notion that Justice tried to quash a case is just not true. When we have evidence that supports bringing a case, we bring one."

Meanwhile, the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility began a review of the way its attorneys behaved in the case after one BLM agent who worked on the investigation, John Brenna, complained there were conflicts of interest. Justice Department officials refused to release records of that inquiry, saying the case is still open.

"If you have ineffective enforcement and prosecutions, it's as if there is no law," said Steve Sederwall, a retired BLM agent who also worked on the Texas case.

Earlier news reports about the Del Rio investigation, based on occasional leaks, have understated its size. It also was not unique. Other records obtained by the AP show that criminal investigations involving horse adoptions have been dropped across the country.

—In Nevada, cases were dropped against two defendants suspected of shooting some 600 mustangs. Prosecutors said they "underestimated the difficulty" of prosecuting.

—In Oklahoma, prosecutors dropped a case against an adopter of 18 horses and burros, even though he had told inspectors he planned to "fatten 'em up, slaughter or sell 'em for rodeo."

—In Alabama, a case was shut down even though a family there sold eight horses for slaughter just days after receiving titles on their pledge that they'd be used for pleasure riding. Why no prosecution? In the midst of the probe, officials say, a BLM representative offered them more horses.

And with the closure of the Del Rio case, the slaughter continues.

The Choctaw Indian Nation claimed title to its wild horses a few months ago. Jack Ferguson, who handles tribal herds, said he sold about a dozen of them to be killed.

"We honored our part of the bargain," he said. "We didn't dispose of them until we had title."

## 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.

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SUNDAY STEAK FINGER BASKET  
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EVERYDAY HAPPY HOUR 3 PM-4:30 PM  
1/2 PRICED DRINKS

**NEW FOR SPRING AND EASTER**

- DELIGHTFUL STUFFED ANIMALS BY RUSS
- BABY GIFTS GALORE
- PEWTER CROSS NECKLACES, BOOK MARKS AND KEY CHAINS BY KENNETH WYATT
- PEWTER WALL CROSSES
- EASTER PLACE MATS
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THURSDAY MAR 27. TV schedule table with columns for station, time, and program name.

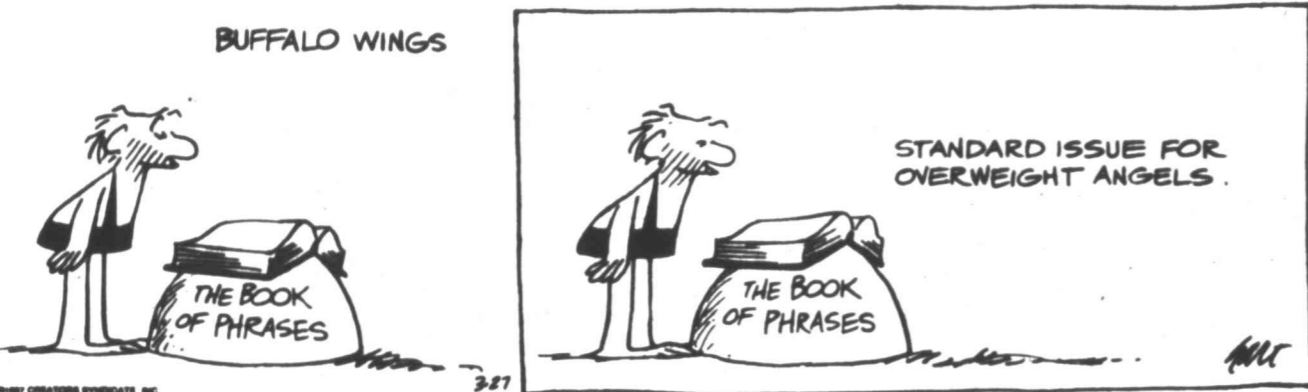
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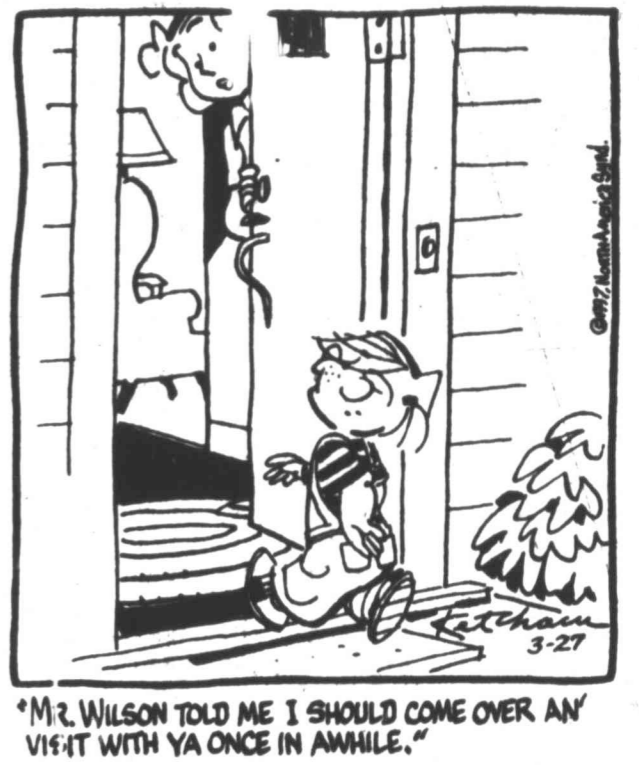
B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, March 27,

the 86th day of 1997. There are 279 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 27, 1794, President Washington and Congress authorized creation of the U.S. Navy.

On this date: In 1512, Spanish explorer

Juan Ponce de Leon sighted Florida.

In 1625, Charles I ascended the English throne upon the death of James I.

In 1836, the first Mormon temple was dedicated, in Kirtland, Ohio.

In 1884, the first long-distance telephone call was made, between Boston and New York City.

In 1917, the Seattle Metropolitans became the first U.S. team to win the Stanley Cup as they defeated the Montreal Canadiens.

In 1945, during World War II, General Dwight D. Eisenhower told reporters in Paris that German defenses on the Western Front had been broken.

In 1958, Nikita Khrushchev became Soviet premier in addition to First Secretary of the Communist Party.

In 1964, Alaska was rocked by a powerful earthquake that killed 114 people.

In 1968, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man to orbit the Earth, died in a plane crash.

In 1977, 582 people were killed when a KLM Boeing 747, attempting to take off, crashed into a Pan Am 747 on the Canary Island of Tenerife.

In 1979, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8-1 that police could not stop motorists at random to check licenses and registrations unless there was reason to believe a law had been broken.

Ten years ago: The Marine Corps charged that Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree, a Marine guard, had escorted Soviet agents through the U.S. Embassy in Moscow — an accusation that was later dropped, although Lonetree was convicted of espionage.

Five years ago: Democratic presidential front-runner Bill Clinton, campaigning in New York, apologized for recently golfing at an all-white club. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl met with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim in Munich, a meeting denounced by Jewish groups because of Waldheim's alleged involvement with Nazi persecution during World War II.

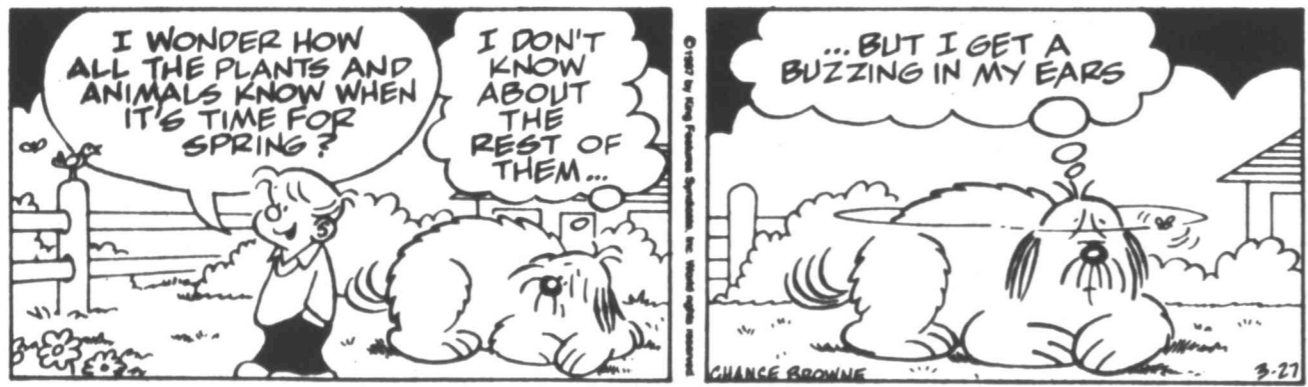
One year ago: An Israeli court convicted Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's confessed assassin of murder, then sentenced former law student Yigal Amir to life in prison.

Today's Birthdays: Lord Callaghan, former British prime minister, is 85. Former Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance is 80. Newspaper columnist Anthony Lewis is 70. Dance company director Arthur Mitchell is 63. Actor Austin Pendleton is 57. Actor Michael York is 55. Rock musician Andrew Farriss (INXS) is 38.

WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



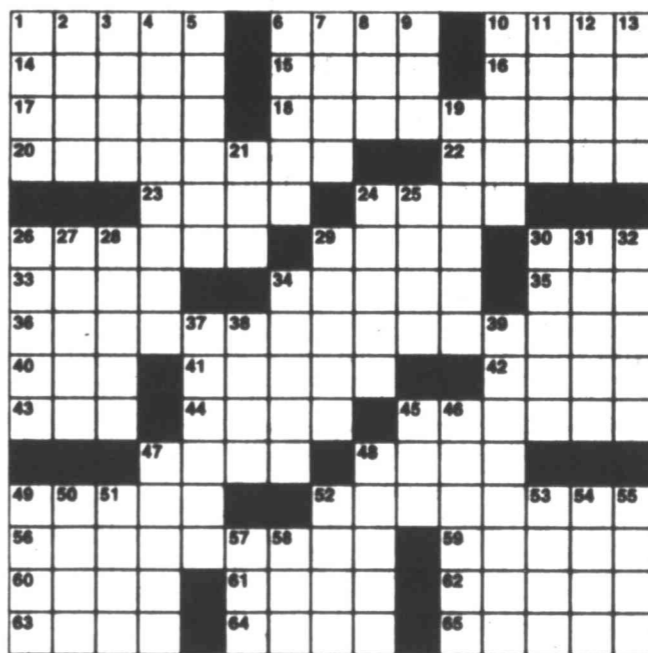
BEETLE BAILY



THE Daily Crossword

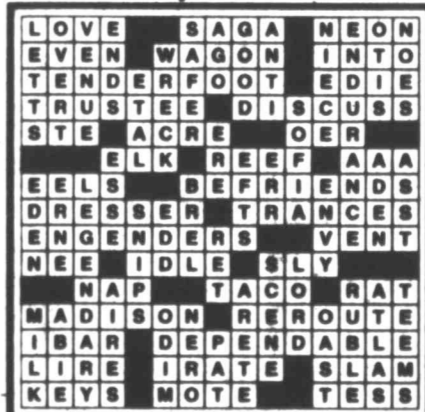
- ACROSS 1 Hefty swallows 6 Bring down 10 US president 14 ... of many colors 15 QED word 16 Ship -I 17 Incline 18 Certain book 20 Grocery container 22 "- Venner" (Holmes novel) 23 Depend 24 Join 26 Shocked 29 Archibald of basketball 30 Social gathering 33 Sci-fi movie 34 Helped 35 "Norma" - 36 ... is what I - (Rogers) 40 Always poetically 41 Compact 42 Against 43 Finale 44 Unwritten 45 Kidnapper 47 Desert garments 48 Kind of chest 49 Z's kin 52 Carton, perhaps 56 "It's only a -" 59 Have - to pick 60 Moran or Gray 61 Sandwich letters 62 Punctuation mark 63 Furnace pipe 64 Pub drinks 65 Electric starter

- DOWN 1 Surprised inhalation 2 Western school letters 3 Chicago feature 4 - pencil (note needs) 5 Cubic meters 6 Compensate 7 "... and a bone" 8 Kill 9 Summer: Fr. 10 Put aside 11 Exclamations 12 Centers of interest 13 Child 19 Yellowish green 21 Sandwich letters 24 Lost color 25 Texas col. acronym 26 "... lovely as -" 27 Inexperienced 28 Accumulate 29 Nothing 30 River in Canada 31 Have an - the ground 32 The Norse gods 33 Book of maps 37 Weather line 38 Asta's mistress 39 Kid on a bike? 45 Officer 46 "... dare to eat -?" (Eliot) 47 Representative 48 Actor Tom 49 Newspaper feature, briefly 50 Word on a ship 51 Literary work 52 Corn bread 53 Forward 54 - about (circa) 55 Strange: prof. 57 Extinct bird 58 Lubricate



by Melvin Kenworthy 03/27/97

Wednesday's Puzzle solved:



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