

BIG SPRING HERALD

Reflecting A Proud Community

WEDNESDAY
April 9, 1997

50 cents

Corps of Engineers OKs city's request on Beals Creek project

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

The city of Big Spring will get some of the relief it was looking for to help offset the increased costs of the Beals Creek project.

Big Spring City Manager Gary Fuqua told the city council Tuesday that he recently received a call from Col. Peter Madison of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers informing him that the Corps will allow the city to use the city landfill as in-kind credit for disposing of additional contaminated soil at the Beals Creek site.

The exact dollar amount of the credit is not known at this point, but Fuqua said he was given an indication by Madison that it would be substantial.

"As a result of the Corps talking to the contractor, it looks like another \$1 million can be cut out of the overall cost of the project," Fuqua said.

"The Corps should have another project report for the city within a month," Fuqua added.

Madison recently updated the council on the status of the project concerning the contaminated soil, which has to be removed from the site before

construction on the project can continue.

The initial soil contamination found a few years ago was thought to be minimal and isolated to one spot, and Madison said seven borings done at various locations of the site did not reveal any additional contamination.

The additional amount of contaminated soil the Corps, the city and the contractor are dealing with now is the equivalent of a football field 13 and a half feet high.

According to officials involved with the project, there is still no solid explanation as to how the additional

contamination occurred, but the city is currently acquiring easements for remediation, which includes dealing with the Union Pacific Railroad.

The bottom line is that because of the additional contamination, the project costs have just about doubled for everyone.

Instead of the original cost estimate of \$5.73 million — \$4.24 million being paid by the corps and \$1.49 million by the city — the additional contamination has increased the estimated project cost to \$10,885,800, of which \$2,721,450 would be owed by the city.

Because another \$1 million can be

cut from the \$10.8 million total cost of the project, the city's total cost is cut as well.

According to city estimates, the contaminated soil that has to be removed adds up to 130,000 cubic yards — all of which would be cleaned up and taken to the city landfill. The city estimates this process has a value of \$3.8 million.

The city is also in the process of applying for Texas Department of Community Development Urgent Need grant for up to \$300,000, which would also drop the city's cash contribution considerably.

FSI returning to its roots

Moore credited for helping firm begin expansion

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

Today, Fiber Glass Systems Inc. (FSI) is headquartered in San Antonio, but the company's roots are in Big Spring, and can be traced back to 1968 when V.F. Michael started the company.

According to Hossein Arian, vice president for Research and Product Development, Michael was one of the original pioneers in the design and manufacture of fiberglass products.

Thanks to a \$50,000 expansion grant from Moore Development For Big Spring, and the support of John Curry of State National Bank, the company celebrated its local expansion activity Tuesday by shipping its first load of fiberglass injection pipe in 10 years. The load was headed for Mississippi.

"Our company is a premier manufacturer of low-pressure and high-pressure tubulars, used primarily in oil field applications for line pipe, down-hole tubing, casings and fittings," Arian said.

FSI grew from a small operation in 1968 to three production plants; two in Big Spring and one in San Antonio.

"After the oil bust, our headquarters moved to San Antonio and lack of business forced us to focus on manufacturing fittings and not pipe here in Big Spring," Arian said.

"We're happy to be able to come back to our roots," he added. "We have grown well in the past few years, especially with the help of Moore



HERALD photo/John H. Walker

Employees of Fiber Glass Systems Inc. pose with the truckload of pipe which was shipped from the Big Spring plant Tuesday — the first to be manufactured locally in 10 years. FSI officials say an improved market and seed money from Moore Development for Big Spring for expansion of the plant are keys to continued success for the plant.

Development and a few key people in Big Spring."

The company is currently at full capacity in its San Antonio plant.

The Big Spring group, headed by Plant Manager Wayne Johnke, has been very successful at keeping the business viable, according to Arian.

Despite the expansion, the Big Spring plant is operating with only one shift, but Arian and Johnke expect to have three shifts of skilled workers in place by year's end.

"We have a crew of about 28 now and need about 20 more," Johnke said.

FSI hopes to eventually have 45 to 50 skilled workers on line when the Big Spring plant reaches full capacity.

Prior to the oil bust in the 1980s, FSI had about 150 employees between their plants in Big Spring and San Antonio.

"We plan to have a total of 175 to 200 employees by the time the company's expansion is complete," Arian said.

"Our employees are excited about the expansion," Johnke said. "I've had some good employees come in and I'll be looking for more."

Both Arian and Johnke said they have been very surprised as to the quality of workers available in Big Spring.

FSI is certified by both the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the International Standard Organization (ISO).

API also gives the company the license to monogram its

products.

"This organization sets the standard we have to meet," Johnke said. "The ISO certification is for those companies outside of the U.S. because when they buy foreign products they look for the ISO certification."

Approximately 50 percent of FSI's products are sold not only outside of Big Spring, but outside of the U.S. as well.

"FSI deals with countries all over the world including Canada, South American countries, China and Japan," Arian said. "We're wherever someone is in the oil business."

Plans for FSI's expansion were on the drawing board for about two years and work on

Please see **PIPE**, page 2A

Council hoping to renegotiate airpark contract

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

Following an executive session Tuesday night, the Big Spring City Council authorized City Manager Gary Fuqua to renegotiate Western Contamer's lease agreement at McMahon/Wrinkle Airpark.

For several months, the city has been involved in discussions with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) concerning the use of airpark funds to facilitate the expansion of Western Contamer.

In March 1996, a city application for an FAA grant revealed inconsistent financial records in conjunction with the airpark.

Questions were raised by the Texas Department of Transportation's Aviation Division (TXDOT Aviation) about administrative fees, salaries at the airpark, fire station equipment costs and more than \$550,000 worth of sewer and waterline systems.

These funds came from the airpark fund, but in April 1996, the city proposed a plan to reimburse the airpark fund for some of those expenditures.

A situation thought not to be a question at that time. Western Contamer's deal became one in June 1996, when governmental agencies began to make inquiries.

Specifically, TXDOT Aviation questioned several airpark expenditures during the last few years, especially the lease agreement with Western Contamer.

TXDOT Aviation's big question was when and why the funds were spent, and how the city of Big Spring would recover those funds.

Basically, the city constructed a new building for Western Contamer and is recouping the investment through a rental fee of \$13,000 a month, which is to be repaid over a 12 year period at 5 percent interest.

The FAA questioned the investment because it saw the investment as economic development for the city and not benefiting the airpark.

The city disagreed saying the investment did benefit the airpark because it kept one of the largest rent paying tenants at the airpark.

Please see **CITY**, page 2A

BSSH, Texas Tech seeking funds for research project

By **CARLTON JOHNSON**
Staff Writer

A project currently being considered by the state legislature may help the Big Spring State Hospital (BSSH) keep the few positions it has had to cut because of downsizing, according to BSSH Superintendent Ed Moughon.

The research project would be funded by the legislature beginning with the 1998-99 biennium as a joint venture between the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) and BSSH.

The Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental

Retardation (TxMHMR) has included in its Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR), a request for funds to develop the project.

Three targeted improvement areas would be the focus of the program.

The project would create a model treatment center for services to children and adolescents with psychiatric problems; deal with psychiatric disorders with substance abuse problems; and expand the public mental health system to include BSSH as a site to conduct clinical trials on new medications with its patient population.

According to Moughon, State Rep. David Counts, D-Knox City, and State Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, have already lent their support to the program.

The project is part of a request along with several other TxMHMR/higher education initiatives, and its portion of the request calls for a little more than \$1.1 million for each year of the biennium.

According to the request proposal, approximately \$650,700 of the funds would be used to initiate specialized training and "best practice" systems through TTUHSC.

The remaining \$462,324 would

be utilized to expand services at BSSH to address the three targeted improvement areas.

The proposed name for the project is the Center for Rural Mental Health Access.

According to the proposal, TTUHSC and BSSH have common mandates and interests in providing mental health services in West Texas.

TTUHSC's strength in teaching and training of physicians, nurses, pharmacists and allied health personnel compliments the hospital's strengths in providing high quality health care that involves psychiatry/neurology, psychology and primary health care.

BUG HUNT



HERALD photo/Jonathan Garrett

Howard College students Micky Young (left) and Jered Cameron collect insects at Comanche Trail Park for an assignment in their anthropology class.

Hollar cites finance as BSISD board's top challenge

By **JOHN A. MOSELEY**
News Editor

Maintaining adequate school funding in a changing political atmosphere will remain the biggest challenge facing the Big Spring Independent School District in the future, according to District 2 Trustee Larry Hollar, who is currently seeking a second full term on the school board.

"The biggest challenge the board is going to face in the next two or three years is figuring out how to have enough



HOLLAR

going to come up with during this session." That uncertainty is nothing really new to BSISD board

members or administrators, he noted.

"We don't know from one year to the other how much money we're going to have," he added. "Now it looks as if they're working toward a plan that would drastically reduce local property taxes. That's something most of us would like to see, but we've got to make sure there's enough money to educate our children."

Hollar, who owns the Larry Hollar State Farm Insurance Agency, first took the District 2 seat as an appointed replace-

ment when Ford Ferris resigned in 1992, has served on the board for five years.

In two previous board elections, he has been unopposed. However, in the May 3 race, he faces a challenge from Steve Jeter.

While school finance looms as the district's major challenge, Hollar said he believes the board's biggest achievement during his tenure has been passage of the \$12.5 million issue for construction of a new junior

Please see **HOLLAR**, page 2A

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Vol. 93, No. 152

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TODAY'S WEATHER

60 ▲ Highs 50
Lows ▼

Today: Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain tonight. High around 60. Low near 50.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain. High in the 70s. Low near 50.

Extended outlook: Friday, partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. High in the 70s. Low in the 40s. Saturday and Sunday, partly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Highs in the upper 60s. Lows in the 40s.

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OBITUARIES

Rev. V. Ward Jackson

Service for Rev. V. Ward Jackson, 77, Anderson, Ind., will be 2 p.m. Thursday, April 10, 1997, in Park Place Church of God with Dr. T. Franklin Muller, Rev. Ed Nelson, pastor of Park Place Church of God, Rev. Anita Womack, and Rev. David Coolidge officiating. Burial will be in the East Maplewood Cemetery.

Rev. Jackson died Monday, April 7, at his home after a long illness.

He was born on Nov. 29, 1919, in Hickman, Ky. He had lived in Anderson, Ind., for the past 10 years. He had served as pastor in several places including at the VA Medical Center in Big Spring as the Chaplain. He married Florence M. Harvey on Sept. 12, 1942, in Everett, Mass.

Survivors include: his wife, Florence M. (Harvey) Jackson, Anderson, Ind.; two sons, Vernon Ward Jackson, Jr., West Lafayette, Ind., and James Herbert Jackson, Waterford, Pa.; two daughters, Darlene Freeman, Springfield, Mo., and Mary Elizabeth Sterrett, Anderson, Ind.; three sisters, Leona Hines, Troy, Mich., Ruby Gledwell, Huntsville, Ala., and Amy Love, Almont, Mich.; three aunts, Juanita Perry, Greenwood, Mary Barker, Mira Loma, Calif., and Ruth Brown, South Bend, Ind.; 11 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to Anderson University School of Theology Scholarship Fund or to Park Place Church of God Endowment Fund.

Arrangements under the direction of Rozelle-Johnson Funeral Service, Anderson, Ind.

Sam A. Posey

Service for Sam A. Posey, 69, Big Spring, is pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He died Tuesday April 8, 1997, in a local hospital.

Frances Elizabeth Porter

Service for Frances Elizabeth Porter, 95, Roscoe, formerly of Big Spring, is pending with

McCoy Funeral Home, Sweetwater.

She died Tuesday, April 8, 1997, at Hendrick Medical Center.

Cleo Hensley

Graveside service for Cleo Hensley, 93, Big Spring, will be 1 p.m. Thursday, April 10, 1997, at Trinity Memorial Park with Rev. Patrick Ray, pastor of Prairie View Baptist Church. Ms. Hensley died Tuesday, April 8, after a long illness. She was born on Sept. 23, 1903. She had been a lifetime resident of Mitchell and Howard County moving to Big Spring in 1916 from Mitchell County. She was a homemaker and a member of the Baptist church.

Survivors include: one son, John H. Hensley, Big Spring; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Donie Lee Patterson

Donie Lee Patterson was taken into Heaven on April 8, 1997, at 8:10 a.m. She passed from her earthly body at the age of 68 following a lengthy illness. Graveside service will be 4 p.m. Thursday, April 10, 1997, at Trinity Memorial Park. Brother R. A. Ford Dunagan will be officiating.

Donie was one of 11 children born to Florence E. and Joe Monroe Stewart. After living in several areas of the state and country, she came to Big Spring in 1962. Donie married Marvin E. Patterson on Dec. 15, 1973. They then moved to Cove, Ark. for a brief period and returned to Big Spring in 1981.

Donie worked for many years caring for the sick and elderly. She was a nurses aide at several nursing homes throughout the community. Donie loved everyone she came in contact with. She would do anything for anybody. As a loving wife, mother and grandmother, Donie's family was always first. She will be missed by her husband, children and many friends.

Donie is survived by her husband, Marvin "Bob" Patterson of Sand Springs; sons: James Teeler and wife Rose Marie of Sand Springs; Roy Levi and Bobby Lynn; one brother: Joe Stewart of Cuero, Texas; three sisters: Opal Hanselman and Cora Rayburn, both of Victoria, Texas; and Anne Lowrance of Cove, Ark.; several nieces and nephews, three grandchildren: Kelli Patterson of Ballinger and Cody and Elisha Teeler of Sand Springs.

She was preceded in death by her parents, six brothers and sisters and one step-son, Ricky Wayne Patterson.

Arrangements under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home and Chapel.

The family can be reached at the Teelers house on the Lenderman Road in Sand Springs.

Paid obituary

Richard V. (Buddy) Johnson

Service for Richard V. (Buddy) Johnson, 50, of Abilene and formerly of Big Spring,

will be Friday, April 11, 1997, at Allen-Korzenewski Funeral Home Chapel in Abilene with Daniel McBride officiating. Burial will follow at Clyde Cemetery. He died Monday, April 7, 1997, at an Abilene hospital.

Mr. Johnson was born Dec. 1, 1946, and served in Vietnam with the Army Special Forces. He was a musician who played for benefits to help many individuals with medical problems and for organizations. He married Rita Johnson in 1973 in Big Spring. A resident of Big Spring for many years, he moved to Abilene in 1991. He was Baptist.

Survivors include his wife: Rita Johnson, Abilene; three sons: Dana Johnson and Bill Johnson, both of St. Paul, Minn. and Shawn George, Corpus Christi; two daughters: Pamela Sue Callaway, Garland; and Bobbi Jeanne Johnson, Abilene; his mother and stepfather, Pat and A.V. Johnson, Big Spring; a sister: Sandra Jean Heffington, Big Spring; four brothers: David Elvis Johnson, Apple Valley, Minn.; Harry Marvin (Bub) McDowell, Sylvester, Ross Olyer and Gary Olyer, both of Big Spring; and two grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to: American Diabetes Association; No. 10 Desta Drive; Midland, 79705.

Arrangements under the direction of Allen-Korzenewski Funeral Home of Abilene.

PIPE

Continued from page 1A
The machinery that produces the pipe the company is now shipping began about a year ago.

FSI's Big Spring plant has only been producing pipe for about two weeks.

"We don't make a lot of inventory, but we have had a good backlog of orders," Arian said. "We produce based on customer orders."

In the oil business, FSI is also known as "Star*," which is FSI's brand name that allows its products to be recognized.

"As business gets better, we may add another line," Arian said.

The market is pretty stable right now, according to Johnke.

West Texas customers include all of the major oil companies as well as the major independent companies.

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

HOLLAR

Continued from page 1A
high school and air conditioning improvements to several campuses.

"Being able to get that bond issue passed and beginning construction of the new junior high has been the biggest thing we've done, followed closely by completion of the new athletic facility at the high school," Hollar said.

"I realize there are going to be some people complaining that I'd cite facilities as more important gains than academics," he added, "but we haven't had a new building built since the 1950s. Being able to make those additions is going to be very important in the future."

"That's not to say academics aren't important, and it's something the entire board's always stressing," Hollar added, noting that some complain that teachers target their efforts on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS). "We're always going to be focused on that, but the TAAS test is a difficult barometer. Everything from the state is tied to those scores, so you can't blame teachers and administrators for focusing on them."

CITY

Continued from page 1A
Revenue generation and aviation are the two primary goals of the airport, and the FAA is concerned about there being enough revenue generated to maintain aviation at the airport.

One of the big reasons the city is trying to answer questions raised by the FAA is to acquire the grant for which Big Spring has applied.

If all of those questions are cleared up to the satisfaction of TxDOT Aviation, the \$700,000 grant the city has applied for would be used to sealcoat the 8,800 feet of 100-foot wide runways at the airport.

Texas Lottery PICK 3: 0, 7, 5
CASH 5: 8, 13, 28, 31, 37

MARKETS

May cotton 71.45 cents a pound, down 80 points; May crude oil 19.50, up 15 points; Cash hogs at 53; slaughter steers steady at 66; April lean hog futures 73.15, up 72 points; April live cattle futures 68.12, up 95 points.

Courtesy: Delta Corporation.
Non quotes provided by Edward D. Jones & Co.

Index 6603.12
Volume 144,931,570

ATT	34 1/2
Amoco	85 1/2
Atlantic Richfield	131 1/2
Atmos Energy	23 3/8
Chevron	65 1/8
Chrysler	29 3/4
Cifra	1.33-1.37
Coca-Cola	56 1/2
De Beers	37 1/2
DuPont	105 1/2
Excel Comm.	14 nc
Exxon	104 1/2
Fina	63 1/2
Ford Motors	70 1/2 + 1
Halliburton	135 1/2
IBM	13 1/2
Laser Indus LTD	126 1/2 + 1
Medical Alliance	4 1/8
Mobil	47 1/2
Norwest	9 1/2 nc
NUV	39 1/2
Phillips Petroleum	8 1/2
Palex Inc.	32 1/2
Pepsi Cola	29 1/2
Rural/Metro	50 1/2 nc
Sears	52 1/2
Southwestern Bell	24 1/2 nc
Sun	107 + 1
Texasco	89 1/2
Texas Instruments	33 1/2
Texas Utils. Co	39 1/2
Unocal Corp	28 1/2 nc
Wal-Mart	14.22-15.09
Amcap	26.35-27.96
Euro Pacific	25.00-26.53
I.C.A.	16.81-17.84
New Economy	18.56-19.69
New Perspective	14.19-14.90
Van Kampen	
Prime Rate	8.50%
Gold	347.90-348.40
Silver	4.72-4.75

POLICE

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

- JOHN ANTHONY GALAVIZ, 17, of 2109 Main, was arrested on outstanding local warrants.
- JESSICA MARIE LEOS, 24, of 1506 Sycamore, was arrested on outstanding local warrants.
- MARIE PACHECO, 35, of 710 Abrams, was arrested for assault by threats.
- CHARLES PELHAM, 50, a transient, was arrested for public intoxication.
- STACEY MONTEZ, 19, of 538 Westover No. 127, was arrested for disobeying a stop sign, no driver's license and no liability insurance.
- JONATHAN WADE GARRETT, 29, of HC 63 Box B174, was arrested on outstanding local and DPS warrants.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF in the 2600 block of Albroom, 100 block of Virginia and 1000 block of E. 11th.
- THEFTS in the 2600 block of Dow, 1500 block of Kentucky Way and 1200 block of E. 15th.
- INVESTIGATING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES in the 500 block of N. Lamesa, 900 block of Rannels, 600 block of Ridgelea, 1600 block of Main and 500 block of Benton.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE in the 1500 block of Tucson and 1400 block of Sycamore.
- DISTURBANCE/FIGHT in the 2600 block of Fairchild and 900 block of W. Sixth.
- LOUD PARTY/NOISE in the 800 block of Nolan.
- GAS THEFT in the 1700 block of E. Marcy.
- DOG BITE in the 1300 block of W. Second.

SHERIFF

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

- DENNY LEON ROBERTS, 20, of 1416 Wood, was transferred to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice boot camp for aggravated robbery.
- JUAN ASEUDO BAUDA, no age or address given, was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

BRIEFS

THE SENIOR CLASS OF 1999 at Coahoma High School is presenting James Milliken and Knights of the West Thursday. The group provides Branson-style family entertainment. The event is at the high school auditorium starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Big Spring Athletic Supply, Big Spring Mall; Beth Ann's, 2112 Scurry; Joy's Hallmark, 1900 Gregg and Little Sooper, Coahoma.

IT'S RODEO TIME



Justin Sons (left to right), Kolby Fields, Rachel Tucker, Michael Reid and Brendan Payte are five of the "Kinder-Cowpokes" to participate in the 19th Annual Coahoma Kindergarten Rodeo. Tucker is also one of the three chosen princesses.

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
(915) 267-6331

Sam A. Posey, 69, died Tuesday. Services will be 10:00 AM Friday at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will be at Van Horn Cemetery, Van Horn, Texas.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
21th & Johnson 267-8288

Eva C. Valdez, died Sunday. Services were 11 AM Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Interment followed at Mount Olive.

Cleo Hensley, 93, died Tuesday. Graveside services 1 PM Thursday Trinity Memorial Park.

Donie Lee Patterson, 68, died Tuesday. Graveside services 4 PM Thursday Trinity Memorial Park.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1997
New Location: Howard College Auditorium
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Out of Town & Local Groups Appearing
The opry is held every 2nd Friday of the Month.

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Saturday 12 pm-10 pm
Sunday 2 pm-10 pm

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5-year	6.55% APY*	6.55% interest rate	Minimum deposit \$5,000

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY)—Interest cannot remain on deposit; periodic payout of interest is required. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Names of current issuers are available on request. Effective 4/8/97

Texas

WASHINGTON its helm, the nominee for House dates funneled Texas than any 1996 election cy
The \$2.7 milli by the Demc Campaign Cor states' allocati has the largest 52 members, r DCCC funds amount sent t House seats.
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Texas biggest recipient of DCCC money during '96 campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Texan at its helm, the national campaign committee for House Democratic candidates funneled more campaign cash to Texas than any other state during the 1996 election cycle.

The \$2.7 million pumped into Texas by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee dwarfs other states' allocations. California, which has the largest House delegation with 52 members, received \$1.1 million in DCCC funds — less than half the amount sent to Texas, which has 30 House seats.

"Clearly a disproportionate amount of money went to Texas races," said

political analyst Stuart Rothenberg. "Yes, Texas had a lot of good races. But there were lots of competitive races across the country."

A chunk of the \$2.7 million benefited local party operations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area — home to DCCC Chairman Martin Frost.

Some \$170,000 was conveyed by the DCCC to local parties, including the Tarrant County Democratic Party, which helped set up phone banks, stuff envelopes and buy radio ads for Frost, Roll Call reported this week.

"The dollars that were spent in Texas, particularly in Frost's area, probably should have been spent in

other parts of the country where there were razor-thin races," Rothenberg said.

DCCC spokeswoman Stephanie Cohen defended the committee's focus on Texas, noting an unusual confluence of circumstances that made the state ripe territory for both parties. Among them:

—Texas had more open-seat races than any other state. Of the seven House seats vacated by Texas incumbents, six were held by Democrats.

—A redistricting order forced special elections in 13 Texas races, resulting in the need to educate voters about the unusual balloting.

Neither the Clinton campaign nor Senate Democrats poured resources into Texas, leaving the DCCC to be the only national committee to make a play for the state.

"There was so much to gain and so much to lose with those congressional seats," said Texas Democratic Party political director Michael Moore. "And because of what the DCCC did, I think they've got a really good shot at taking the Congress back next time around."

Frost, who was a target of national GOP leaders, raised and spent \$1.9 million in his hard-fought contest against Republican Ed Harrison.

Harrison decries the use of DCCC

funds to supplement Frost's high-dollar effort. "I feel like it's a misuse of his office to go around the country raising money under the pretense that it's for other candidates," he said.

The DCCC under Frost's stewardship raised more money than ever before, taking in \$39 million. The Republicans raked in \$93 million.

"There is no question Frost was looking out for Texas more than anyplace else," said Charles Cook, publisher of the Cook Political Report. "But given that the committee ran through significantly more money than they ever had before, I don't think you'll find a lot of his colleagues throwing rocks at him."

TEXAS BRIEFS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Officers end long standoff with suicidal Kansas teen-ager

QUINTANA — A nine-hour standoff on a Texas beach ended with officers using a flash-bang bomb to distract a suicidal teenager long enough to take him into custody.

Officers seized the boy from Kansas and freed a 13-year-old runaway girl who was with him.

The standoff on an island facing the Gulf of Mexico ended late Tuesday. Officers grabbed the teen-ager, who was armed with a shotgun, without anyone being injured, Brazoria County officers said.

The boy held officers at bay on Bryan Beach from inside a stolen pickup truck for more than nine hours after he threatened to shoot himself.

Community activists take to the airwaves

SAN MARCOS — A group of community activists have taken their battle for free speech to the airwaves, taking over a FM designation that the Federal Communications Commission had planned to assign to a new station in Round Rock.

KIND Radio, at 105.9 on the dial, went on the air about two weeks ago, with equipment that was either donated or found in trash bins. The only new piece of equipment was a 30 watt transmitter that cost less than \$500.

"We are appropriating the airwaves for the public," said Joe Ptak, one of the three directors of the station, which operates out of his residence.

"This is about having a forum for freedom of speech in this town. There is nothing else available," Ptak said.

The three commercial radio stations in the college town here target either the Austin market or re-broadcast Spanish gospel music from the Lower Rio Grande valley, Ptak said. None offers local news or views, he said.

Bills before Legislature would speed up adoptions

AUSTIN — Adoptions would be streamlined under legislation approved by the Texas Senate.

The bill approved Tuesday would allow children to become eligible for adoption more quickly if the state removed them from their parents because of abuse or neglect.

A paternity registry also would be created under the bill by Sen. Judith Zaffirini, making it easier to revoke the parental rights of fathers who don't claim their babies.

Zaffirini, D-Laredo, said her concern is for the children, particularly those who may spend years in foster care under

Committee votes to make salsa official state sauce

AUSTIN — Barbecue sauce never stood a chance.

The House State, Federal and International Relations Committee approved resolutions that would make picante sauce the official state sauce, the Texas Sweet Onion the state vegetable and the buckminsterfullerene or "buckyball" the official state molecule.

The measures will next be voted on by the full House.

"This is a very serious day," said Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon, D-San Antonio. McClendon authored the picante sauce resolution.

"What we're doing is if it passes we're going to have picante sauce on the same level as the bluebonnet, as chili as the state dish, as the pecan tree as the state tree ... So this is very significant in the state."

Criminal probe into Mexican official's \$8 million begun

HOUSTON — U.S. officials are investigating allegations a former top Mexican prosecutor and his aide laundered nearly \$8 million in drug proceeds through a Houston bank, a newspaper reported.

The Houston Chronicle, quoting unidentified sources, said the criminal investigation targets Manuel Ruiz Massieu, Mexico's former deputy attorney general, and his assistant, Jorge Stergios. Ruiz Massieu, 46, is under house arrest at an undisclosed location in New Jersey. He faces a deportation hearing in May.

The newspaper reported that the investigation by the Houston offices of the FBI and the Internal Revenue Service has been under way for about 18 months and is being overseen by a special prosecutor assigned by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Tax bill could be before House next week

AUSTIN (AP) — Inching its way toward the full House is a plan to lower local school property taxes by more than \$3 billion — and pay for it with an expanded business tax and more state sales taxes.

The House Committee on Revenue and Public Education Funding today continues work on the proposal, which includes a massive rewrite of the state tax system and a constitutional amendment that would go before voters.

Rep. Paul Sadler, D-Henderson, said he was unsure when the bill would be voted for the committee he chairs. He said he hopes to have the bill before the full House next week.

House Speaker Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, has said the bill

should clear the House by mid-April to give it time to work its way through the Senate. He has not set a deadline for the committee to complete its work.

The overall effort is to lower local school property taxes, which Gov. George W. Bush and lawmakers have said are at disastrous levels.

The proposed tax cuts would cap the operation and maintenance portion of local school taxes on residential property at 50 cents per \$100 in value.

The proposal would give school districts an undetermined amount of state funding for each penny in their local tax rates, up to 50 cents. That amount would be set later.

It also would allow local voters to approve an additional 10

cents per \$100 in value for a local rate up to 60 cents per \$100 value. The extra 10 cents would not draw additional state funds.

The plan also would set a \$1 business property tax for maintenance and operation.

Tax rates for buildings and debt could add to the rates but may also be capped.

Representatives from various industries told the committee that adding their wares to the list of goods and services subject to the sales tax — or subjecting their industries to the state business tax — would hurt them.

"If we all try to sit around and try to protect our own private business, we're not going to get anywhere," Sadler said.

Don Summers, an Austin

business owner, said he's willing to pay more. But he added that schools first should be forced to stop wasting money.

"I'm all for this if you all will tighten the screws and tell them to get some stuff done," Summers said of school districts. "I have a lot of people come to apply for a job who can't read or write enough to fill out an application."

Summers also told the committee not to raise tobacco taxes to pay for schools. The committee proposal would raise the per-pack tax from 41 cents to 61 cents. It also would raise taxes on other tobacco products.

"That's not a stable funding source," Summers said. "It will go away when us fools die away."

Senate bill would allow more charter schools

AUSTIN (AP) — An 18-year-old who dropped out of public school after having a baby became Texas' first graduate of an independent charter school six months ago, soon after the experimental education program began.

With such students in mind, state senators on Tuesday voted to expand the charter program, which gives public funds to campuses that are independent of school districts, may be run by private entities and are free of many state regulations.

Under the bill by Senate Education Committee Chairman Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, the total number of

charter schools allowed in Texas would increase from 20 to 80.

The move came despite concerns from another lawmaker that expansion is occurring too fast.

"They've been in existence seven months. Can we take a seven-month experiment and say, 'It's wonderful,'" asked Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin. "I think we are proceeding too quickly."

Bivins said his measure isn't a declaration that the existing schools are successful. But he said it does reflect widespread interest in the program.

The State Board of Education

would continue to have authority over who gets the charters under his bill. The state has received more than 280 requests for charter applications, even though all 20 charters authorized already have been granted.

"Clearly the jury is still out," Bivins said. "What we're doing is acknowledging there is enormous interest in pursuing these schools."

Bivins said he was particularly pleased that a large number of the schools are organized to serve disadvantaged students, "those students who have gotten the short stick in life and arrive at our public schools

hungry and not prepared to learn."

"There are far too many of those children who are not making it in the system," Bivins said. "I think we owe it to those kids to try something new."

Barrientos said he found it curious that "all of a sudden people are concerned about disadvantaged students," noting that in other areas, there have been moves against affirmative action programs.

Sen. Gregory Luna, D-San Antonio, said he had opposed charter schools in the past, but is co-sponsoring Bivins' bill because of the program's potential for at-risk students.

Gingrich says Clinton must force Arafat to choose

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Newt Gingrich is accusing Yasser Arafat of waging a terrorism war against Israel and the Clinton administration of undermining Israel's security.

Speaking Tuesday to a pro-Israel lobby, Gingrich said the administration should adopt "principles that say, 'If you're a terrorist, you should not expect to live very long,'" and make a commitment "to pre-emptive strikes when we deem them appropriate."

His speech to the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee underscored Israel's strong support in Congress even as the State Department seeks a compromise formula to reopen Mideast peace talks.

"It is extraordinarily dangerous to confuse the aggressor and the victim," Gingrich said in a speech that also attacked

the news media for misrepresentation. "It is extraordinarily dangerous to confuse the terrorist and the democracy."

And, the speaker added: "It is extraordinarily dangerous to always impose the burden on those who are your friends because you're too timid to tell the truth to those who are your enemies."

As Gingrich spoke, the

Palestinians took their place in the administration's revolving-door diplomacy. Two senior officials met for two hours with American mediator Dennis B. Ross and said another delegation would come later.

On Monday, it was Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's turn to explore ideas for renewing negotiations. He met with President Clinton

and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The speaker called on the administration to force Arafat to make a choice between "honest involvement in the peace process or clear hostility with the United States of America."

Gingrich contended the Clinton-Gore administration is undermining Israel's security with its actions.

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EDITORIAL

Quote of the Day

"Life is made up of sobs, sniffles and smiles, with sniffles predominating."

-O. Henry

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

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Features Editor

OUR VIEWS

FSI, Cornell, Signal cause for optimism

Sometimes it's all right to feel good about ourselves as a community. And at the risk of being overly optimistic, the economic mood in Big Spring seems extremely encouraging.

With Cornell Corrections currently trying to add a new 500-bed facility to its local operation, Signal Homes well on its way to full production and Fiber Glass Systems Inc. shipping the first truck load of injection pipe manufactured in Big Spring in 10 years Tuesday morning, it would appear that the local industrial climate seems destined to improve.

According to Cornell Corrections officials, expansion of its prison facilities would add almost 100 jobs to its current workforce of 242.

Signal Homes' commitment to the community calls for continued expansion during the next few years, and Fiber Glass Systems officials say growth prospects for that facility are also good.

FSI plant manager Wayne Johnke said Tuesday that markets for his company's products have improved and that plans call for 24-hour-a-day operations before the end of this year.

Big Spring's stable workforce, coupled with an improved marketplace helped make FSI's decision to resume pipe production — that and a \$50,000 grant from Moore Development for Big Spring.

That grant was targeted to plant expansion, and would appear to be well-spent seed money since FSI's plans now call for creation of 35 jobs and a \$1.2 million overall investment in the plant during the next five years.

Certainly, this is no time to rest on any laurels. There's still a long road to travel before Big Spring reaches its economic development goals, but it does seem that the community has made a good start.

And if spring winds don't dry out area farmers' fields too badly, this just might be the start of a very fine year.

OTHER VIEWS

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Here are excerpts from editorials in newspapers in the United States and abroad.

The Gazette (Ohio) **Gazette**, or politicians for congressional staffers.

It seems that many members of Congress voted out in last fall's election and in the election two years ago gave their staff members healthy pay raises for the last two months of their jobs.

House rules forbade bonuses for staffers, so the pay increases were a way under the fence for bosses wanting to reward employees who will be on the hot market soon.

Some members are now calling for new rules that would return any money a representative did not use for his office to the budget as a pay-down on the deficit.

The Gazette (Chillicothe, Ohio)

It what might be called a coolly restraining move, the Liggett Co. has set itself free from the rest of the tobacco industry by promising to cooperate with the states suing the firms.

As they say, the truth hurts. But the veils from the big cigarette makers have the ring of justice. Who could be more deserving of a little suffering than an industry whose product kills off 400,000 of its best customers annually.

The attorneys general from nearly two dozen states have wrong the unprecedented promise of insider cooperation from the Liggett Group.

Liggett's settlement provoked outrage, not admiration, from the rest of the tobacco

industry. Perhaps, though, it will turn out that there are honest individuals there who are gathering up their courage to cooperate in establishing the truth.

The Herald (Everett, Wash.)

With Har Choma, Netanyahu's government turned back the time machine many months. Israel goes back to the status of "the lonely island in a sea of enemies." For the majority of the population striving for peace, that's a blow that should be fought with democratic means.

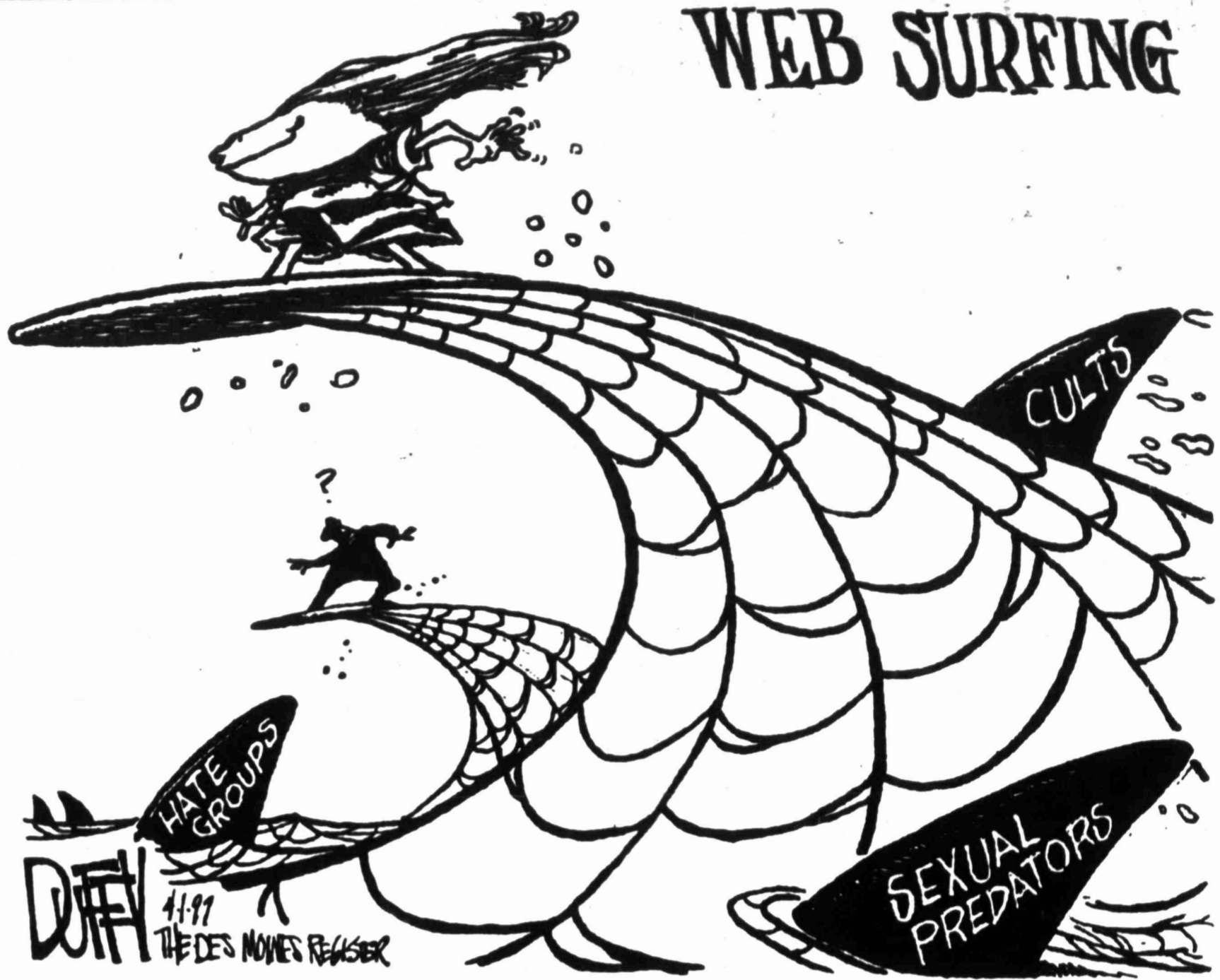
Sueddeutsche Zeitung (Munich, Germany)

North Korean cunning in turning adversity to tactical advantage knows no bounds. This much is clear from Pyongyang's demand last week that it would attend four-party peace talks with the United States, China and South Korea only on condition that it received food supplies to relieve a serious grain shortage.

From a land where some citizens are reportedly eating tree bark and grass to stave off hunger, that looked like a reasonable request. But do not be fooled. After the nuclear power reactor deal of 1994 and the apology last December to South Korea for the submarine incursion, the world should know by now that Pyongyang calculates every move it makes.

In the circumstances, the United States and South Korea are right to reject as unacceptable the tying of food aid to the start of peace talks.

The Straits Times (Singapore)



Going on-line creates virtual cowardice

The temperature was 48 degrees. The sky was blue. The back of my Ford looked like a J. Peterman catalog.

I kept remembering things I might need in the Louisiana swamp, pitching odds and ends through the window into a growing heap. There were binoculars, cameras, books I meant to read, books I would never read, a jacket in case of cool weather, short sleeves in case of heat.

I was prepared for every contingency. I would be gone a week.

In a few hours I would head south. I'd be staying on a boat with no telephone. I had rather stay on a boat that has no telephone than in the Cloister Hotel with Paul Newman in

the adjoining suite. Maybe that's not a fair comparison. The one and only time I stayed in the Cloister I felt like a duck in the desert. The first rule I encountered there was about dressing for dinner. I thought dressing for dinner is what you do when you work, not when you play. I thought rules were for work, not holiday.

The Cloister is exquisitely beautiful and fine for a different type person. So let me put it another way: I had rather stay on a boat with no telephone than share a hammock with Paul in the South Pacific.

The place I was headed has its own charms. A recent Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, "The Old Man," was filmed in the water right around my little boat. The clever moviemakers used a Faulkner novella, the cypress swamp, the alligators, the Cajun talk, the Spanish moss.

They used the solitude. I plan to use it as well. What better place to watch the comet, now showing, two performances daily? What better

place to hide from the world for a week?

The last night before my trip I was far too excited to go to bed early. I stood half the night with friends around a brush pile in a pasture. We were burning remnants of the 1994 Mississippi Ice Storm, weakened pines that drop now whenever there's the slightest wind.

Fire is conducive to deep thought. We talked about screech owls. We talked about our childhoods, our first cars. We talked about the millennium.

There were four of us — a teacher, a librarian, an editor, a reporter. None of us was too sure about our aptitude for the year 2000. We imagined a concrete countryside of shopping malls strung on an endless interstate.

I punched at the pine logs to watch the red sparks fly. Someone said it's genetic memory that makes huddling around a fire so satisfying. Someone else suggested that sitting and staring at fires is a lost art, too slow a skill for the

new world we're about to enter.

Every day millions more connect by computer, not by campfire. We converse on-line, not over glowing embers. We have a world of information — and misinformation — at our fingertips. Some court lovers they have never seen.

Armed with our new, inexhaustible store of facts, will we have as much to talk about around the campfire? Will one friend quote "Hamlet" and another sing "Crash on the Highway" as darkness swallows a lonely hollow?

I've grown weary of my own fears. Surely my grandparents weren't as timid and nervous about leaping from buggy to airplane as I am learning to go on-line. They walked out of their fields to watch a man walk on the moon. If they marveled at advancing technology, why do I cuss it?

Maybe the Louisiana swamp would help me sort things out.

c 1997 by Rheta Grimley Johnson
Distributed by King Features Syndicate



Rheta Johnson
Syndicated Columnist



Charley Reese
Syndicated Columnist

Cult spurned religion, surrendered freedom

The deaths of the cult members in California can be ascribed to a failure of secular education and conventional religion and the irresponsibility of the media.

Despite whatever formal education the cult members had received, they had not been taught to use reason — "to think critically," to use the current phrase. If they had, they would never have believed the bilge that the cult leader was pumping out. It was claptrap.

But don't be too hard on them. Newspapers and television, especially, are full of claptrap. Television is always doing shows in the documentary format about unidentified flying objects, ghosts, psychics and people who claim to have been abducted by aliens. So do newspapers.

I wouldn't be surprised to

learn, if you could do a count, that more space has been devoted over the years to "Star Wars" and "Star Trek" than to NASA. Many papers carry columns about astrology, a superstition discredited centuries ago. Few, if any, carry columns devoted to astronomy or the space program.

Techie-talk notwithstanding, people today are as superstitious or even more so than people were 200 years ago. I know a high-priced private college that hired a self-professed witch as an English professor. Except for the hard sciences, many colleges and universities today are practicing what amounts to consumer fraud. More money is spent than knowledge is acquired in the case of many graduates.

For reasons we can't know without going into the lives of each cult member, conventional religion did not satisfy the need to believe for these people. Alexis de Tocqueville, a French historian, in commenting on religion, described why people become candidates for cults.

Toqueville's premise is that the longing of the soul for the infinite is planted inside every

human being.

"When the religion of a people is destroyed, doubt gets hold of the higher powers of the intellect and half paralyzes all the others. Every man accustoms himself to having only confused and changing notions ... his opinions are ill-defined and easily abandoned ... such a condition cannot but enervate the soul, relax the springs of the will and prepare a people for servitude. Not only does it happen in such a case that they allow their freedom to be taken from them; they frequently surrender it."

Surrendering their freedom is exactly what cult members do. Why, then did these people with such a strong desire to believe, reject conventional religion?

First, the secular culture wages continuous war on conventional religion. Many mainstream churches, cowed by hostility and eager to please, have become nothing more than agnostic do-gooder associations. Agnostic do-gooders, however, cannot answer the question these people wanted answered: Is there something besides this life? To the materialist, the answer is no.

So these people, in their yearning for something better than a pointless human life, turned to a man who couched his religion in the terms and images of the science fiction that is so prevalent in contemporary culture. Unable to believe in God, they believed in spaceships and aliens.

This is just one more tragic example of the saying "People who don't believe in God will believe anything." One finds, paradoxically, that those who reject God are more credulous, not less.

This phenomenon — a sort of rebirth of paganism — is far more widespread in American society than the existence of a few cults would indicate. You have lots of Americans turning to paganism — to native American religion, to pantheistic Eastern philosophies, to witchcraft, to spiritualism, to this nonsense of believing that the earth is a goddess.

We are, in some respects, becoming a foolish and silly society — uneducated, unreasoned, unread, unchurched and gullible as all get-out.

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Mallard Fultmore
by BRUCE TINSLEY

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CUERO (AF DeWitt County a little wild. Wildflower t vases, jars an for all to see. Sure the blu their colorful brushes, but o square-bud anemone. Or goty boyweed. Those flowe dressed and re on. No, they a ers and pluck Wildflower As Those picke hearty band o roam the lar county in s

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What's for tion we all basis. Need — some help how do you while still pr your family

In these times of work school, baseball games and dance lessons who has the time to prepare a family meal? If you have found yourself in the doldrums preparation "Supper" coo you have be Becky Fe Sneed will with you Supper" se beginning a Lutheran (hall locate Becky and purpose i "Surviving to share id learned for for taking l

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QUICK TRIVIA

- ◆ To preserve labels on medicine bottles, apply a thin coat of clear nail polish.
- ◆ The first edition of Shakespeare's collected plays is called the *First Folio*.

DeWitt County museum displays vases of wildflowers

CUERO (AP) — Every April the DeWitt County Historical Museum gets a little wild.

Wildflower that is.

Part of the museum is filled with vases, jars and glasses of wildflowers for all to see.

Sure the bluebonnets are there with their colorful pals the Indian paintbrushes, but one is also liable to see a square-bud Primrose or 10-petal anemone. Or maybe even some maggoty boyweed.

Those flowers don't just show up dressed and ready for viewing on their own. No, they are gathered by the pickers and pluckers of the DeWitt County Wildflower Association.

Those pickers and pluckers are a hearty band of wildflower lovers. They roam the lanes and byways of the county in search of horsemint and

frogfruit and other wildflower natives of the county.

And according to some of them, there are plenty of wildflowers to pick and pluck this year for the annual specimen exhibit in the county museum that runs all of April. It's the pickers and pluckers' job to keep the specimens fresh and varied. This year the association hopes to have over 125 specimens of wildflowers from anemone, the 10-petal variety, to Texas toadflax on display.

Veteran wildflower pickers and pluckers Merle Bramlette, Margaret Conrad, and Ernest and Evelyn Meier all have their favorite places to gather the wildflowers. And they report that this year abundance and variety abound.

The corydalis are in bloom and are busting out all over.

"I have seen a lot of them. They're not rare. It's just you don't see them in the numbers as I have this year," Ms. Bramlette said.

But when the spritely band of pickers and pluckers hit the back roads of DeWitt County most of those wildflowers will be gone. "These (corydalis) are very early bloomers," she added.

But there will be plenty more where the corydalis came from.

As April opens there will be fields Drummonds, red and other colors. There'll roadside patches of red Phlox. Larkspur and Yellow Flax will dot the countryside. And that is just the start of it, they say.

DeWitt County is blessed with a richness of wildflowers, Ms. Bramlette said.

And variety is the spice of the wildflower exhibit.

To get that variety the pickers and pluckers have a plan. Each picker and plucker has an area to scout and gather specimens. They also have meetings to discuss what wildflowers they have seen and where they saw them.

Ms. Bramlette likes the back country roads on her scouting trips.

"We're always looking for a new variety. And if we see something we don't have we pick it."

Each of the pickers and pluckers has her or his own way of collecting. Bramlette carries an old wooden tool box filled with glasses and cups of water that serve as containers for the picked wildflowers.

"There's a terrible clanging and sloping of water when I go collecting," she said.

Ms. Bramlette is one of the driving forces behind the organization of the

association and she has gotten others in on the collecting game.

Ms. Conrad "volunteered out of necessity." But also because she loves wildflowers.

"It's a fascinating and educational hobby. It helps you appreciate each individual flower rather than just looking out and saying there's a field of flowers." Now she can give the flowers names.

Last year Ms. Conrad put 2,800 miles on her car hunting for wildflowers. "But I didn't mind. It's fun."

One would expect encounter with wildlife while searching for wildflowers. In Ms. Conrad's case one would be right. She has seen several snakes, but only one that frightened her.

"It was big and it was dark. That's all I needed to know." She said she beat a hasty retreat.

'Surviving supper' topic for seminar slated on April 24

What's for supper? That question we all hear on a daily basis. Need some new ideas — some help planning — just how do you include variety while still preparing meals that your family will eat?

In these times of work, school, baseball games and dance lessons who has the time to prepare a family meal? If you have found yourself in the doldrums of nightly meal preparation then "Surviving Supper" could be the answer you have been looking for.

Becky Ferguson and Kim Sneed will share their ideas with you at a "Surviving Supper" seminar on April 24, beginning at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church fellowship hall located at 810 Scurry. Becky and Kim state that their purpose in presenting the "Surviving Supper" seminar is to share ideas that they have learned for surviving supper — for taking lots of the hassle out



Dana Tarter
Extension Agent

of one of the busiest times of the day.

The cost of the seminar is \$12 and includes the "Surviving Supper" book with two months of family friendly menus and grocery lists, family friendly recipes, time saving tips, freezer tips and tips on preparing your own grocery list.

Pre-registration for the "Surviving Supper" seminar is required. You may pre-register by sending your name, address and telephone number along with the \$12 registration fee to the Howard County Extension office; Attn: Dana Tarter; P.O. Box 790; Big Spring, Texas; 79721, or you may drop it off at the Howard County office of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service on the first floor of the courthouse. The deadline for pre-registration is Friday, April 18.

The tasks of providing healthy meals for families each evening can be a huge responsibility. The "Surviving Supper" book and seminar shows you how to do just that, do it well, without starting from scratch every night and without a major clean up after each meal.

If you would like more information about this program contact the Texas Agricultural Extension Service - Howard County office at 264-2236.

Soothing afternoons: Carving out more meaning with books and tea

HARLINGEN (AP) — In this hurried, high-tech society, more and more people are looking to carve out some meaningful time with friends. But when they get together, it's not just to socialize but to share a love of reading and unwind with a cup of tea.

A relaxing, gentle ritual, the resurgence of afternoon tea is a welcome way to escape the pressures to today's busy life. And incorporating a good book or the morning newspaper helps keep the pace unhurried. But when you add friends, the "literary tea party" provides a mental escape and a way to connect with others.

The literary tea party is a forum for such diverse topics as fiction, poetry, history, biographies, parenting or hobbies including computers, gardening and photography. Any book can spark a discussion.

The What-to-Read Club of San Benito uses its monthly book reviews to interest members in reading a variety of books, not just the one evaluated.

"Recently, the review was on a book about life in Alaska during the Gold Rush," said Mary Hardy, vice president in charge of programs. "Members hadn't read the book, but related incidents of the Gold Rush and that period from other books they had read."

At times, an author becomes the focus and members discuss other books they've read by the same author. Or they discuss books in the same category by other writers.

After the book review and discussion, members have tea and nibble foods that may include miniature quiches, fruit trays, veggie trays with dips, little cakes and cookies.

But one doesn't only have to include

books as part of tea party experience. Building relationships is an outgrowth of teas, whether literary or simply social.

"I'd like to give a tea. Do you want to help me?" Lyn Kerr said one day to a sorority sister.

Mary Jane Avinger said, "Sure," and the two gave a tea for their Alpha Omicron Master Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority of Harlingen.

Kerr's Victorian doll collection, placed around the house, set the mood. One doll, surrounded by Victorian fans and roses, presided over the main serving table.

An old-fashioned hot chocolate pitcher held a bouquet of roses on the table where raspberry herbal tea was served.

"The pitcher was my mother's when she went to college in the early 1900s," Avinger said.

From her grandmother's Haviland china, guests munched scones with lemon curd, chicken salad sandwiches, plum muffins, pecan tassies, strawberries dipped in chocolate and apples dipped in caramel.

This smaller tea party became a springboard of ideas for the preferential tea, an annual event for all the sorority chapters. Victorian dolls and fans came into play again, along with jewelry spilling from assorted Victorian boxes.

A nosegay of flowers and ribbons cascaded over a cake patterned after a Victorian greeting card.

"The formality of teas and parties have sort of fallen by the wayside in the 80s and 90s, and we like to bring back some formal parties and customs of the 40s and 50s," said Ruth Scoggins, preferential tea co-chairman.

"We want the young people to know there's more than chips and dips and

jeans."

"High Tea at 4" was a Sunday afternoon preferential tea at Scoggins' home with spiced tea, finger sandwiches and a cake with yellow roses. A crystal vase held a Victorian bouquet of fresh flowers.

Complementing the theme, guests' dresses included tea-length lace with matching hat and gloves, and elegant black with beaded bags.

"They pulled their hats and gloves out of the archives," Scoggins said.

Hostesses for the high tea did their part to revive gracious customs by wearing ruffled white aprons over black skirts and white blouses with black bow ties.

"The purpose of these events is food, tea and friendship," Avinger said.

APRICOT-ORANGE TEA

3 cups water
1 cup apricot nectar
4 (1-inch long) strips lemon peel
6 Lipton Soothing Moments Gentle Orange Herbal tea bags
3 tablespoons firmly packed brown sugar
In medium saucepan, bring water, apricot nectar and lemon peel to a boil. Simmer covered 2 minutes. Remove from heat and add Gentle Orange herbal tea bags; cover and steep 5 minutes.
Remove tea bags and lemon peel; stir in sugar. Pour into teacups and garnish, if desired, with additional lemon peel or orange slices. Makes about 4 (7-ounce) servings.

CHAMOMILE SOOTHER

2 cups water
2 sprigs mint leaves

Please see SOOTHING, page 6A

SUPPORT GROUPS

Support group information may be submitted in writing to Gina Garza or Kellie Jones. For more information, call 263-7331, ext. 238 or ext. 235.

MONDAY

- A1-A Teen, 7:30 p.m., 615 Settles.
- Turning Point A.A., 8-9 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.
- TOPS Club (Take off pound sensibly), weigh-in 5:30 to 6 p.m., Carriage Inn, 501 W. 17th, meeting starts at 6 p.m. Call 263-1340 or 263-8633.
- Project Freedom, Christian support group for survivors of physical/emotional/sexual and/or spiritual abuse. Call 263-5140 or 263-2241 for dates/times of upcoming groups.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615

Settles, noon open meeting.

- Encouragers Support Group (formerly Widow/Widower support group) first and third Mondays each month. First Monday meetings are at a local restaurant at 6 p.m. Third Monday meetings are at 5:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church Seventh and Rannels (enter through north door). We have various activities, such as guest speakers, play games, have covered dish supper, visit or go out to eat. For more information call 398-5522 or 399-4369.
- Big Spring Group of Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

TUESDAY

- Support for MS and Related Diseases, 6:30 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, Canterbury South. Public invited. Call Leslie, 267-1069.
- Al-Anon, 8 p.m., 615 Settles.
- Seniors' diabetic support group, 2 p.m., Canterbury South. Call 263-1265.
- Diabetes support group, sec-

ond Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom.

- Cancer support group, first Tuesday of each month, 7-8 p.m., VA Medical Center room 213. Call Beverly Rice, 268-5077.
- "Most Excellent Way," a chemical dependency support group, Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Living Water Church, 1008 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-1424 after 5 p.m. or 263-3168 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. closed meeting.
- Family Education and Support, sponsored by Howard County Mental Health Center, meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Corral, 611 E. Third, followed at 7 p.m. by the monthly meeting of the Big Spring Alliance for the Mentally Ill.
- Narcotics Anonymous, 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

WEDNESDAY

- Gamblers Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic

Church, room 1, 4601 Neeley, Midland. Call 263-8920.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. 12 and 12 study.
- Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas will have Sharon Beam, who is a licensed professional counselor interim specializing in play therapy for children, adolescent counseling and women's issues, available for clients at the First Presbyterian Church, Rannels and Eighth St. Appointments for counseling services are made by calling 1-800-329-4144.

THURSDAY

- Salvation Army drug education program, sponsored by Permian Basin Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, 7 p.m., Salvation Army building, 308 Aylford.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting.
- A.D.D.A.P.T. non-profit support and learning organization about attention deficit disorder, learning disorders and dyslexia. Meets second Thursday of September, October, November,

January, February, March, April and May, Cerebral Palsy building, 802 Ventura, Midland.

- Grief Support related to the death of a loved one. Call Nurses Unlimited, Inc., at 264-6523.
- Alzheimer's Association Support Group, fourth Thursday of the month, Comanche Trail Nursing Center, 3200 Parkway, 7 p.m.
- Support Group for Depression meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehab Center, Third and Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Turning Point A.A., 8-9:30 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Open to all substance abusers.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. Big Book Study.

SATURDAY

- Alzheimer's Association Support Group, second Saturday of the month, Carriage Inn Retirement Center, 501 W. 17th, 10 a.m.
- Family support group for

current and former patients and their families, 1 p.m. weekly. Reflections Unit of Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Call Beverly Grant, 263-0074.

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon, 8 p.m., 10 p.m. open meetings, 615 Settles.
- "So I Forget," Attention Deficit Disorder support group for individuals and couples, first Saturday of the month from 9 to 10:30 a.m., Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas, Inc., Midland. Call the center at (915) 563-4144 or 1-800-329-4144. Cost is \$15.
- West Texans Living with Chronic Fatigue and Immune Dysfunction Syndrome/Fibromyalgia, 1-3 p.m., on different Saturdays of the month, HealthSouth facility at Hwy. 191 and Loop 250, Midland. Call Joann Carney, (915) 686-7977, or Marsha Brunet, (915) 337-4829 to get the correct meeting date.
- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 11 a.m. closed meeting and 7 p.m. open meeting.


SLICE of life!

TIPS 'N' TRIVIA

More Americans are vegging out:

(NAPS) - Tips and trivia:

- For protein - Consume plenty of nuts, beans and soy foods. Vegetarians get their protein from foods such as cheese, eggs, lentils, milk, oatmeal, peanut butter, tofu and yogurt.
- For iron - Vegetarian foods that are high in iron include beans, dried fruits such as raisins, green leafy vegetables such as spinach and kale, grains such as quinoa and ray flour, and herbs such as sage and alfalfa. Not only iron intake but also iron absorption is important. Vitamin C greatly enhances our ability to absorb iron, so a breakfast that includes raisins and orange juice is a great way not only to take iron, but maximize absorption.
- For calcium - Vegetarians who consume dairy products get calcium that way, but those who don't can still get plenty of calcium from plant-based sources including broccoli, kale, turnip greens and spinach. Also, as with iron, it's important to consider absorption as well as intake. Those on a meat-based, high-protein diet absorb less calcium because protein from animal sources has been shown to inhibit calcium absorption.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

College scholarships available

The Permian Basin Foundation is accepting applications for the Marie Hall Scholarships available for residents in several West Texas counties including Glasscock, Howard, Martin and Mitchell. The awards range from \$500 to \$1,500 per semester for students who attend Angelo State University, Howard College, Midland College, Odessa College, Sul Ross State University, Texas Tech University, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center or the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

Applicants can request applications by contacting the financial aid office at one of the above schools. The applications are due by April 15. Call (915) 682-4704 for more information.

THE LAST WORD

Man comes as a novice to each age in his life.

Nicolas Chamfort

Presents, I often say, endear absents.

Charles Lamb

We think our children a part of ourselves, though as they grow up they might very well undeceive us.

Lord Halifax

Hope is the feeling you have that the feeling you have isn't permanent.

Jean Kerr

APRIL 9 1997

SOOTHING

Continued from page 5A

2 (1-inch long) strips lemon peel
3 Lipton Soothing Moments Quietly Chamomile Herbal tea bags
1 tablespoon honey
In small saucepan, bring water, mint and lemon peel to a boil. Simmer covered 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add Quietly Chamomile herbal tea bags; cover and steep 5 minutes.
Remove tea bags, mint and lemon peel; stir in honey. Pour into teacups and garnish, if desired, with additional mint. Makes about 2 (7-ounce) servings.

HERBAL

CINNAMON-PINEAPPLE TEA

1 1/2 cups water
1/2 cup pineapple juice
2 Lipton Soothing Moments Cinnamon Apple Herbal tea bags
2 tablespoons firmly packed dark brown sugar
In small saucepan, bring water and pineapple juice to a boil. Remove from heat and add Cinnamon Apple herbal tea bags; cover and steep 5 minutes.
Remove tea bags; stir in sugar. Pour into mugs and garnish, if desired, with cinnamon sticks. Makes about 2 (8-ounce) servings.

APPLE STREUSEL MUFFINS

1/2 cup water
2 Lipton Soothing Moments Cinnamon Apple Herbal tea bags
1/2 cup raisins
1 1/2 cups plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
5 tablespoons lightly salted butter, softened
1 egg, beaten
Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
Spray 2 (12-cup) mini muffin pans with nonstick cooking spray; set aside.
In small saucepan, bring water to a boil. Remove from heat and add Cinnamon Apple herbal tea bags and raisins; cover and steep 5 minutes. Remove tea bags and squeeze; cool.
In medium bowl, combine 1 1/2 cups flour, 2/3 cup sugar, baking powder, salt and nutmeg. With pastry blender or two knives, cut in 1/2 cup butter until mixture is size of small peas. Gently stir in egg and tea mixture just until moistened. Spoon batter into prepared pans; set aside.
In small bowl, mix remaining 2 tablespoons flour and 2 tablespoons sugar. With pastry blender or two knives, cut in remaining 1/2 cup butter until mixture is size of small peas. Evenly sprinkle onto batter.
Bake 15 minutes or until muffins are done. On very hot oven, 10 minutes, remove from pans and cool. Makes about 24 muffins.

HONEY APRICOT BISCOTTI

1/2 cup milk
2 Lipton Soothing Moments Quietly Chamomile Herbal tea bags
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 egg yolk
1/2 cup whole almonds, lightly toasted
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
In small saucepan, bring milk to a boiling point. Remove from heat and add honey and apricot jam. Stir until mixture is smooth. Pour into a bowl and cool.
In large bowl, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and baking soda. Add honey and apricot jam mixture. Stir until mixture is moistened. Add almonds. Press scraps of dough together; repeat. Brush tops with table-spoon reserved tea, then sprinkle with remaining 1/2 teaspoon sugar. Arrange on ungreased cookie sheet and bake 15 minutes or until golden. On wire rack, cool 5 minutes. Makes about 7 scones.
Note: To substitute for the crystallized ginger, use 1-1/2 teaspoons ground ginger and 3 tablespoons raisins.

der and salt. With electric mixer, beat in tea mixture and egg yolks to form a dough. Stir in almonds and apricots. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface, then knead lightly. Divide in half.
On greased and floured cookie sheet, with floured hands, shape each dough half into a 12-inch-long by 2-inch-wide, almost flat log. Bake 35 minutes or until pale golden. Remove from oven and let cool on wire rack 10 minutes.
Cut each log into 3/4-inch-thick diagonal slices. Return slices to cookie sheet, cut side down, and bake, turning once, an additional 10 minutes or until golden. Makes about 36 biscotti.

GINGER-ORANGE SCONES

1/2 cup milk
3 Lipton Soothing Moments Gentle Orange Herbal tea bags
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
3 tablespoons plus 1/2 teaspoon sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
5 tablespoons lightly salted butter, softened
3 tablespoons chopped crystallized ginger
Preheat oven at 425 degrees F.
In small saucepan, bring milk to the boiling point. Remove from heat and add Gentle Orange herbal tea bags; cover and steep 5 minutes. Remove tea bags and squeeze; cool. Reserve 1 tablespoon tea.
In large bowl, mix flour, 3 tablespoons sugar, baking powder and salt. With pastry blender or two knives, cut in butter until mixture is size of small peas. Stir in ginger; set aside.
Beat eggs and steeped tea. Make well in center of flour mixture; add tea mixture. With fork or spoon, stir just until flour is moistened. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface and press into 1-inch-thick circle.
Cut into 2 1/2-inch rounds. Press scraps of dough together; repeat. Brush tops with table-spoon reserved tea, then sprinkle with remaining 1/2 teaspoon sugar. Arrange on ungreased cookie sheet and bake 15 minutes or until golden. On wire rack, cool 5 minutes. Makes about 7 scones.

WATERCRESS AND SMOKED SALMON SANDWICHES

The contrast of dark pumpernickel bread and rosy salmon filling makes for colorful tea sandwiches. For an interesting variation, use fresh dill sprigs instead of watercress.
5 ounces smoked salmon or trout, chopped
3 ounces light cream cheese, softened
2 teaspoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
Hot pepper sauce to taste
5 slices pumpernickel or whole wheat bread, crusts trimmed
1 bunch watercress, stems removed
In food processor, combine smoked salmon, cream cheese, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce and hot pepper sauce to taste. Process until mixture is smooth. Transfer to a bowl, cover and refrigerate.
Spread bread slices with salmon mixture. Arrange watercress sprigs on 4 of the slices and top with remaining bread slices. Cut into quarters or triangles, or use cookie cutters to make assorted sandwich shapes. Arrange on serving platter and garnish with watercress sprigs.
Makes 20 sandwich pieces.

MINI PITAS WITH MANGO CHICKEN AND GRAPES

These sandwiches also make delicious appetizers. Assemble shortly before serving to prevent lettuce from wilting.
1/4 cup low-fat mayonnaise
2 tablespoons mango chutney
3/4 teaspoon curry powder
1 1/2 cups finely diced cooked chicken
3/4 cup grapes, seeded and quartered
2 tablespoons chopped scallions
Salt
10 mini pitas (3-inch size)
Leaf or romaine lettuce
In bowl, blend mayonnaise, chutney and curry powder until smooth. Stir in chicken, grapes and scallions; season with salt to taste. Cut pitas in half to make pockets. Line each pocket with lettuce and spoon in chicken mixture. Arrange on serving plate.
Makes 20 sandwiches.

CUCUMBER TEA SANDWICHES

Here is an updated version of the classic tea sandwich made with fresh basil and orange zest.
8 slices white or whole grain bread, crusts trimmed
1/2 medium seedless cucumber, thinly sliced
Salt
Orange twists (optional)
Basil-Orange Butter
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh basil
1 teaspoon grated orange zest
1/4 teaspoon ground pepper
In bowl, blend butter with basil, orange zest and pepper. Spread thinly on bread slices. Layer 4 of the bread slices with cucumber; sprinkle lightly with salt. Top with remaining bread slices. Cut sandwiches into quarters or triangles, or use cookie cutters to make assorted sandwich shapes. Arrange on serving platter and garnish with orange twists, if desired.
Makes 16 sandwich pieces.

FRUIT TARTS WITH CITRUS CURD

An impressive dessert that takes no time to assemble. The citrus curd also makes a zesty filling for layered cake.
12 baked tart shells (3-inch size), store-bought or homemade
1 1/2 cups prepared fresh fruits such as halved and seeded grapes, peeled kiwi slices, sliced strawberries, raspberries and orange sections
Fresh mint sprigs
Citrus Curd
1/3 cup orange juice
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon each grated orange and lemon rind
3 egg yolks
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
3 tablespoons butter, softened
In a small saucepan, stir together orange juice, lemon juice, zest, egg yolks, sugar and cornstarch until smooth; add butter. Cook over medium-low heat, whisking constantly, for 3 to 5 minutes or until mixture comes to a full boil and thickens. Let cool slightly, place in covered container or jar and refrigerate for up to 5 days.
Shortly before serving, spread citrus curd evenly in baked shells and arrange fresh fruits on top. Garnish with mint sprigs, if desired.
Makes 12 tarts.

Ask Betty



Dear Betty,
My wife and I are both accountants working out of our home, and this time of year demands a lot of late nights. The problem is, instead of stopping for a proper meal, we find ourselves snacking on all the wrong things. We need some lighter snack ideas. Denver, Colo.
This is crunch time for accountants, and I for one think your hard-working accountant work deserves a reward of applause, not to mention some of my favorite ideas for whole-some quick-prep snacks. With a microwave, pop up a bag of light popcorn and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. A microwaved baked potato is low-fat and filling; spoon in some salsa or fat-free sour cream for extra flavor. Write off the regular potato chips and invest in the baked variety or pretzels instead. And make

sure a bowl of fresh fruit and ready-to-eat vegetables is as accessible as your calculator. These snack choices will deduct some serious calories from your diet, earning some long-term appreciation from your hearts and waistlines.
Dear Betty,
After hosting forty consecutive Seders, mother has decided to hang up her apron and pass the candlesticks to the next generation - me. I'm honored to be handed this responsibility, but nervous about planning the traditional Passover meal for 18 people. Any tips? Encino, Calif.
Tradition is such an important part of keeping families

together. It binds one generation to the next, and gives all of us a sense of who we are and where we come from. Your mother is not only expressing her love, faith and trust in you, but also participating in a rite of passage that links mothers to daughters across hundreds of generations. Now is the time to sit down with mom and ask to share her wisdom. Start by working out a detailed schedule, with an eye toward preparing as many of the dishes as you can in advance, starting the week before the event and leading right through the day of. Compare your kitchen resources with your mother's and plan accordingly. One word of caution: when cooking for a crowd, don't just multiply your recipes to reach 18 servings - that doesn't always yield the same result. You're better off making three standard recipes that serve 6 or 8.

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SE
Anc
Big Sp
falls 3
behind
with 10
By STEVE REAG
Staff Writer
The Andrews was miserably cold, miserably more so for the Steers Tuesday. The Mustang bit the District, ignoring the 40 mph wind-run rule victory at Steer Park.
The loss dropped to 5-14 overall a play, while Andrews to 20-2 and 5-0 v. The Mustang every phase Tuesday. Pitt limited the Ste
BSH
win
HERALD Staff
SNYDER was miserably Spring Lady hot.
The Lady S ninth time in a 12-1 victory non-district Tuesday.
Big Spring with the win.
Freshman (14-4) picked for Big Spring six and was scattering five.
The Lady command of diately. T) Melisa Mart the day with mance, hit a
Suns
winn
THE ASSOCIAT
When it comes playoff ready Houston and the Lakers are showing more than Washington. The Suns, Lakers kept winning, while the Trail Blazers inexcusable loss Phoenix up streak to 10; 107 victory o Houston won f in 12 road game victory over the Lakers go the win in eight Golden State.
On the opposite spectrum, Nevada by 20 at home won 93-73, the a 100-94 decisive Portland was a lowly Dallas M.
In other NBA edged New Orlando beat San Antonio 96-90 and Sacramento Vancouver 109.
The Suns, into the record team that matter digging biggest hole.
The 1967-68 (1984-85 Cleveland were 0-9 and while the 1976 13-game losing season and "I don't think going to re games, but even to remember at the end," who made fit the last 40 seasons the 10th century Phoenix also team to have ning and lost same season.

McGee displays rare power; Jones leads Braves past Astros

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Willie McGee has won two batting titles, so getting hits has never been a problem.

But in 16 seasons in the majors, he had never won a game with a home run — until Tuesday night.

McGee connected for a pinch-hit, solo homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, and the St. Louis Cardinals ended the worst start in their 106-year history, beating the Montreal Expos 2-1.

McGee's home run, just the 74th of his career, gave St. Louis its first win of the season after six straight losses. It also put a perfect finish on the home opener for the NL Central champions.

"That was more dramatic than 'The Natural,'" Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "And that was a made-up movie. I don't know how he did it."

McGee, 38, was just as surprised as anyone in the crowd of 47,542 to see him win a game with a home run.

"That's the last thing on my mind," McGee said. "You dream of things like that, but I'm not that kind of a hitter."

Jeff Blauser, meanwhile, hasn't been much of a hitter at all in recent years for Atlanta.

But the Braves shortstop, who batted 245 last year and 211 in 1995, went 4 for 4 Tuesday night, giving him hits in eight straight at bats.

"When you haven't been hit

NL

ting for two years, eight hits in a row feels like 80 in a row," Blauser said after a 4-2 win over Houston. "What can I say, I'm having fun and enjoying the game. It's been a while."

Blauser had two doubles and two singles, making him 13 for 24 (.542) this season. The NL record for consecutive hits is 10, last done by Rip Roberts and the major league mark is 12.

The Chicago Cubs, however, matched the mark for the worst start in their 122-year history. They dropped to 0-7 with a 5-3 loss to Florida.

"If we panic in April, it's going to make for a long season," Cubs center fielder Brian McRae said. "If we keep working hard, we can get a roll going the other way. Nothing's going right for us now."

In other NL games, New York beat Los Angeles 5-3, Pittsburgh stopped San Diego 2-0 and Philadelphia defeated San Francisco 2-1.

McGee, who batted .350 as a pinch-hitter last year, homered off Ugueth Urbina (1-1). Urbina escaped a bases-loaded jam in the eighth by striking out Gary Gaetti with the bases loaded.

"I don't look at the stats much, but this afternoon I noticed McGee was 3-for-4 against him," Expos manager Felipe Alou said. "Now he's 4 for 5."

Mark Petkovsek (1-1) gave up two hits and struck out three in four scoreless innings.

Marlins 5, Cubs 3

Chicago matched the 0-7 start of the 1962 team, which also lost its first seven in a row. Florida moved to 6-1, going five games over .500 for the first time ever.

Al Leiter (2-0) lasted six innings on a 29-degree day at Wrigley Field, outpitching Steve Trachsel (0-2).

Charles Johnson's two-run double put the Marlins ahead 4-3 in the seventh. The Gold glove catcher also threw out two runners stealing and picked another off first base.

Gary Sheffield hit his first homer of the season and doubled in the Marlins' first road game. Sammy Sosa homered for the Cubs.

Braves 4, Astros 2

Tom Glavine pitched seven shutout innings and Atlanta won its fifth in a row. Kenny Lofton and Chipper Jones each drove in two runs as the Braves improved to 4-0 at Turner Field.

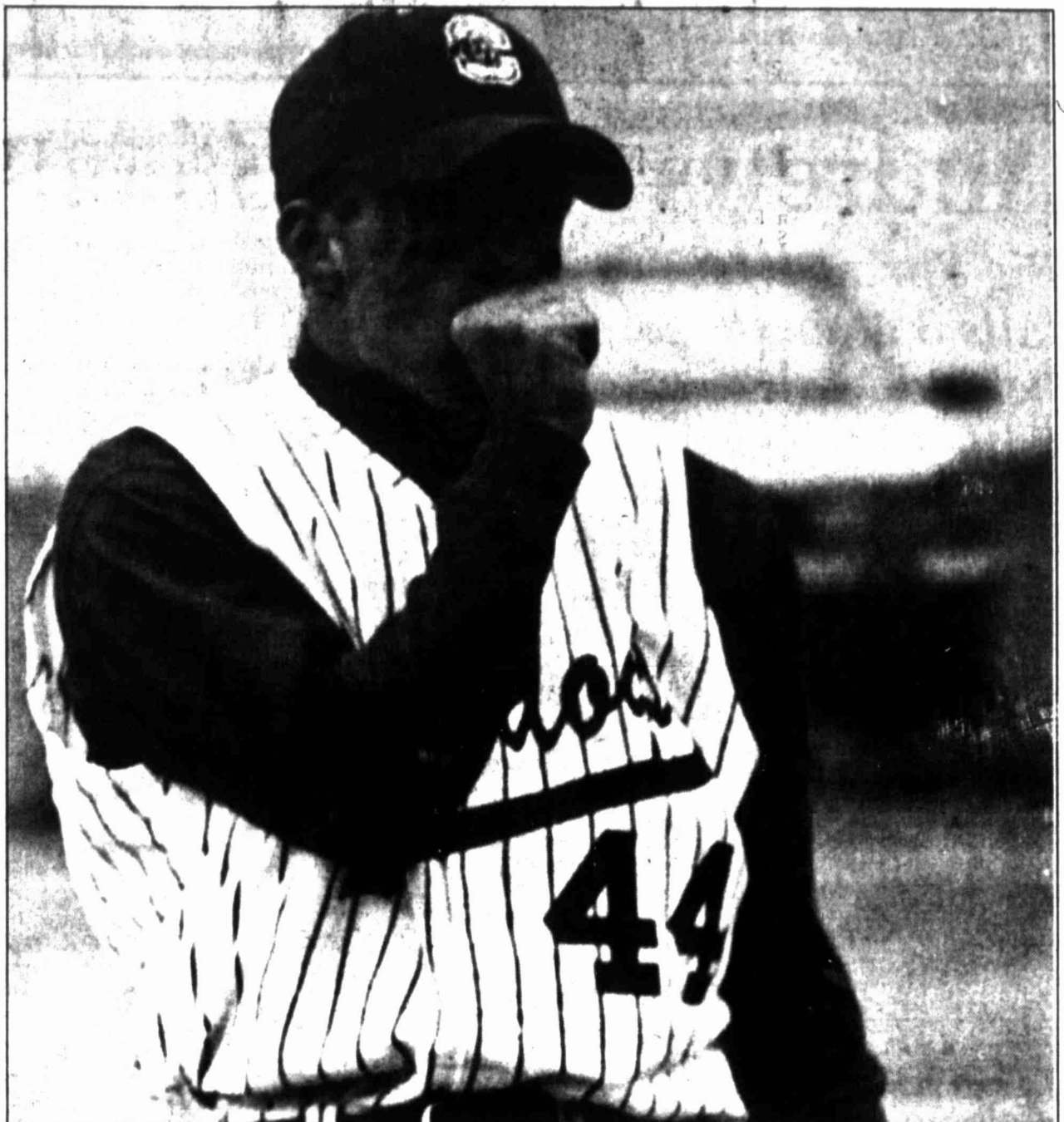
Glavine (2-0) gave up four hits, walked two and struck out four. Mark Wohlers pitched the ninth for his third save.

Houston starter Mike Hampton (1-1) beat the Braves on the second day of the season.

Pirates 2, Padres 0

Steve Cooke won his first game in nearly three years, combining with a pair of relievers on a one-hitter.

P-P-P-LAY B-B-B-ALL



Coahoma's Mike McMillan (44) tries to keep warm during Tuesday's game against Ozona. Despite high winds and cold temperatures, Coahoma won 13-3.

BULLDOGS

Continued from page 1B

Coahoma Bulldogs kept their District 8 2A record spotless with a 13-3 victory over Ozona Tuesday in Coahoma.

The Bulldogs improved to 10-7 overall and 2-0 in district play with the victory.

Mike McMillan picked up the win on the mound for Coahoma, scattering five hits while striking out six and walking two.

Coahoma ended the game on the 10-run rule by scoring six runs in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Leading the way for the Bulldogs at the plate were shortstop Vincent Garcia, who was 3 for 4 with 4 RBI, first baseman Rodney Grossett, who was 2 for 4 with 2 RBI, and second baseman Freddie Olivias, who was 2 for 3 with an RBI.

"I was very pleased with the way they played," Coahoma coach Trev Morgan said. "They played very well on defense, they only had one error."

The Bulldogs' next scheduled game is at Wall Tuesday. Game time is 5 p.m.

Noted trainer dies in shooting

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Dr. Patrick and Jerry Naderemus spent 25 years together training horse races and building on a friendship that lasted until a shooting last August.

It was a bond that carried the trainer and doctor to the winner's circle hundreds of times and one that remained solid after the two merged together in the summer of 1981.

Two weeks ago, Naderemus, the former doctor and now a steward at a racetrack, told Patrick, called up Patrick at his Grand Vista Ranch near Chandler, N.M. It was a call like so many others between the two.

"We talked all the time even after we built the track," Naderemus said Tuesday in a telephone interview. "He'd invite me out to go hunting on his place or to go out and help him work cattle."

On the evening of March 28, Patrick's truck broke down while he was out working on the 50,000-acre ranch he bought with horse racing mogul R.D. Hubbard. Patrick called his wife Sandy on his cellular phone and together they towed the broken-down truck back to the couple's home in Rudisod.

The two unloaded the vehicles and Patrick carried into the house a bundle of personal belongings, among them his pistol.

He placed the bundle on a table and started to walk away. As he did, the gun slipped out of its holster and fell off the table.

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Reg. 1299.99
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Craftsman 15.5-HP, 42-in lawn tractor with turbo-cooled Platinum engine and 6-speed fender shift. 25852-802
Also available in hydrostatic drive. 25853-803. 1449.99, **1349.99**
Craftsman bagger. 24949. **1999.99**



CRAFTSMAN
179⁹⁹
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save \$20
Craftsman 18-in. 2.6-CID gas chain saw. Turbo air cleaning system, gear driven automatic oiler. Fully assembled! 35118



CRAFTSMAN
899⁹⁹
Sears low price
Craftsman 13.5-HP, 42-in. lawn tractor with I/C Gold engine and 6 speeds. 25850-810
Tractors require some assembly

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our best values of the year

ZERO% FINANCE CHARGE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1997 ON ALL KENMORE APPLIANCES OVER \$399

Offer good through April 12. See below for important 0% finance charge details. Offer not available in outlet stores.

Free factory-installed ice maker. A \$100 value.



\$599⁹⁹ Reg. \$699.99
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18.0 cu. ft. refrigerator. Adjustable spill-proof glass shelves. 66841
20 cu. ft. refrigerator. 57051, 1149.99, **949.99**



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save \$155
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30-in. gas range. 75275, reg. 549.99, sale **449.99**



399⁹⁹ Reg. \$499.99
save \$80
Super Capacity Plus washer with Stain Pak sound insulation. 27812



349⁹⁹ Reg. \$399.99
save \$50
Super Capacity Plus dryer. 4 temperatures and 10 cycles. 66712

FREE DELIVERY ON ALL KENMORE APPLIANCES OVER \$399

Offer good with mail-in certificate through April 12. Available in most areas of the U.S. Offer not available in outlet stores.

Use your Sears Card, with low monthly payments.

Sale good April 10 - April 12

YOU CAN COUNT ON SEARS FOR SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR YOUR MONEY BACK

IMPORTANT CREDIT TERMS: Sales tax, delivery or installation not included in monthly payments shown. Actual monthly payments may vary depending on your current account balance and may be slightly higher or lower. 0% FINANCE CHARGE DETAILS (please refer to): Available for qualified purchases with Sears Delivered Billing Option on Sears Card or SearsCharge Plus. Be sure to ask our sales associate for this option and details. \$400 minimum purchase of qualified merchandise required to open your SearsCharge Plus account. Regular Sears credit terms apply after 0% finance charge period. Sears Card feature: Annual percentage rate is 21% (20.4% in MD, Missouri monthly finance charge of 1.50 applies in all states except DC, MD, PE, SearsCharge Plus Terms: Annual percentage rate is 21% unless you reside in the following states: All 50 states, but rate may vary 20.4% in PE. Monthly 18-month monthly finance charge of 1.50 applies in all states except AL, DC, MD and PE. All the above terms and conditions are accurate as of 4/9/97 but may change after that date. To find what may have changed, write to: Sears National Account Administration Center 13200 Smith Road, Midlandburg, TN 37051. ©1997 Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Each of these advertised items is readily available for sale as advertised. Most larger items inventoried in warehouses, allow reasonable time for delivery. Some major appliances and vehicles available by special order only in smaller stores. Appliance prices are for white. Color, connectors and remanufactured extra. Gas model at rates priced higher. Total capacity.

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1990 Chevy 85,000 mi. clean, go \$10,000. 39-

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HELP WANTED

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.

FULL RN needed for small home health company. Must have home health experience, be willing to work as a team player.

MASSAGE THERAPIST wanted to take appointments Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday. Apply in person 2:00-6:00pm.

Team & Single Drivers Wanted We offer an excellent benefit package: \$500 Sign-on-bonus, competitive wage package, 401k with company contribution, retention bonus, Health/Dental/Life Insurance, and uniforms.

REQUIREMENTS ARE: 23 years old with 2 years semi driving experience of completion of an accredited truck driver school, CDL with haz-mat and tanker endorsements, pass, DOT and company requirements. We will help train you for a successful future in the tank truck industry.

Apply in person at STEERE TANK LINES INC., 1200 ST. Hwy 276, Phone (915)263-7656.

SUBWAY Apply in person only! Monday - Friday between 2:00-4:00p.m. 1000 Gregg St.

HELP WANTED

NEED MAN to work late shift at laundry. Fri-Sat-Sun. 9-1:00am. \$5.00/hr. Some janitorial pu/apst at 1208 Gregg St.

Extensive Home Health Service is seeking experienced RN and LVN for home visits. Full-time employment with great benefits and excellent salary. Apply in person or mail resume to:

Medical Arts Hospital 1600 N. Bryan Lamesa, Tx 79331 Attn: Personnel

ACT NOW! AVON avg. \$8-\$15hr. Benefits, flex hrs. 1-800-557-2866 ind/rep.

MOWING, Yard work, tree trimming, help with moving, interior/exterior painting. Call 267-2298

Will clean empty apts. & homes to get ready for renting or selling property. 268-9817 ask for Debbie.

Will help elderly with errands, shopping, etc. Have references. 268-9817.

DELTA LOANS LOANS \$100 TO \$396.88 Customer Service is our #1 Priority. Call or come by! Se Habla Espanol 115 E. 3rd 268-9090 Phone Applications Welcome

SE HABLA ESPANOL \$100.00 TO \$435.00 CALL OR COME BY Security Finance 204 S. Goliad 267-4591 Phone applications welcome

Save BIG BUCKS Read... Herald SUPER CLASSIFIED ADS

HORSES

SPECIAL HORSE, SADDLE & TACK AUCTION Sat. April 12, 1:00pm. Horse commission 5%, no po fee. Everyone welcome to buy sell of visit. Lance Folsom 806-792-5919 or 740-5262.

DOGS, PETS, ETC FREE KENNEL CLUB BREEDER REFERRAL SERVICE Helps you find reputable breeders/quality puppies. Purbred rescue information. 263-3404 daytime.

GARAGE SALES LARGE ESTATE SALE Friday & Saturday 3 bd suite (1) antique - (2) Dining table & chairs, (1) drop leaf, stove, couch & chairs & tables, lots linens, pots, pans, dishes, bowls & misc. tools, antique cedar chest & dresser, 3pc. Jenny Lind baby furniture. Held at the Action Auction Barn, N. Lamesa Hwy 267-1551.

COAHOMA LIONS CLUB SELL THE TOWN COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE, MAY 3rd. SIGN-UP SHEETS AT THE LITTLE SOOPER MARKET

LOST & FOUND Strayed from 1207 Frazier, small black dog with brown trim. Has long ears and tail. Call 267-5924 after 5. Reward

MISCELLANEOUS Big Screen TV Take on small monthly payments. Good credit a must. 1-800-398-3970

TERMITE AND INSECT CONTROL SOUTHWESTERN AT PEST CONTROL 2008 BIRDWELL 263-6514

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: White Wedding dress, size 10. Asking \$300. 394-4856. Two Emerald Green formal dresses. Size 10 & 14. Asking \$50/ea 394-4856.

CREATIVE CELEBRATIONS Cakes, Flowers, Arches, Abras. Order Now! 267-8191

GIN TRASH COMPOST Delivery Available for Truckloads Mustang Farmers Gin 915-398-5536

SWIMMING POOLS ABOVE GROUND POOLS As low as \$75/mo. W.A.C. 0 down. Best quality. Vision Makers 264-7233

ACREAGE FOR SALE 23.68 acres, south of town, excellent water, established yard w/trees, storage building, fenced \$1250 per acre. Call 263-0175

BUSINESS PROPERTY FOR LEASE, 1 fenced 1 acre yards with small building. Call 263-5000. Westex Auto Parts, Inc.

FOR RENT: Small building or car lot, 810 E. 4th. \$200/month, \$100.00 / deposit. Call 263-5000.

HOUSES FOR SALE 3 bd., 2 bt. brick house, CH/A, 4 car carport, 2 storage bldgs. Good well water, new carpet/paint. 19th & Virginia. Call 399-4274 for apt.

ADORABLE 2 bd., carpet, blinds, nice yard 1012 Sycamore. \$19,000. Call Leah 263-1284

Very Nice 4 bd., 2 bath Stucco. 1015 E. 20th. \$25,000. Call Leah 263-1284. 2604 CARLETON 3 bd., 2 bth Easy purchase Boosie Weaver Real Estate 263-3093. CASH FOR YOUR HOUSE Regardless of condition (806) 794-5964

HOUSES FOR SALE

BY OWNER: 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas. (Sunroom) dining room, 3 car garage. Double fireplace 2315 Mishler. Priced to sell! Call out of town owner for appointment. 602-535-1436.

WAS 27, Now 16 HOME SITES LEFT in Coronado Hills !!! Very competitive pricing! Don't be fooled by others misleading ads. Know your true bottom loan & payment up front. Call Key Homes Inc. 1-915-520-9848.

By Owner, 3br, 2bth, 1 car garage, in Kentwood. Near schools. New ch/a & kitchen appliances, many updates. Fenced yard w/ storage shed. 60's. Call 264-9613 for appointment.

COAHOMA SCHOOLS: 4/3/2 about 3 ac., Outblgs, covered patio, yard, fence, sprinkler, lots of storage. 267-6776.

MOBILE HOMES 1997 Fleetwood Doublewide, #1 Homebuilder in America, garden tub & 5 yr. warranty. \$1500. down, \$234.09 month, 9.25% apr var 360 months. Homes of America, Odessa, TX 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

Clearance Sale! Everything discounted, Free Air conditioning & skirting, with every home purchase. Manager's gone crazy, he says everything must go. Choose your payment and terms, hurry before he comes to his senses. Call Dave at 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

LOOK! \$248.00 month, and you can own a new 1997 Fleetwood, 18' wide! 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 5% down, 9.75% apr var 360 months. Don't wait any longer. Homes of America Odessa, TX 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

Only \$245.00 month, 1997 new 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Quit renting, and start owning your own home. 12 year, to pay 9.75% apr var. 3% down. Homes of America, Odessa, TX 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

MOBILE HOMES

CALL MOBILE HOME CREDIT HOTLINE FOR PRE-APPROVAL. 1-800-725-0881. * Used 1992 3 bedroom, all included, only 10% down, \$177.00 month, 13.75% apr, 120 month. Homes of America, Odessa, TX 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

* Used Mobile Homes starting at \$995.00, come pick yours out today, hurry they won't last. Homes of America, Odessa, TX 1-915-363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

BUSINESS BUILDINGS Small office building with 1850 ft. shop building on North Lamesa Drive. A very good location. Boosie Weaver Real Estate. 263-3093.

Small office building with 1850 ft. shop building on North Lamesa Drive. A very good location. Boosie Weaver Real Estate. 263-3093.

60x90 SHOP on 5 acres with separate office. Located on Snyder Hwy. 263-6021 or 267-8696.

For Lease 8300sf. building w/3 offices on Snyder HWY. on 4 acres of fenced land. 750.00 month 400.00 deposit. call 263-5000.

OFFICE SPACE or Retail, located at 4th & Benton. 263-6021 or 267-8696.

FURNISHED APTS. Apartments, houses, mobile home. References required. 263-6944, 263-2341.

FURNISHED HOUSES SMALL 2 bd Mobile Home outside city on private lot. \$325 + dep. 267-6347.

UNFURNISHED APTS. NOW AVAILABLE Largest, nicest two bedroom apartment in town 1300 square feet, 1 1/2 baths FREE gas heat and water. two car attached carport, washer-dryer connections, private patio, beautiful courtyard with pool and party room, furnished or unfurnished and REMEMBER, YOU DESERVE THE BEST. Coronado Hills Apartments 801 W. Marcy 267-4509

Special • Special BARCELONA APARTMENT HOMES \$99 Move In Special w/6 month lease • 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments • Lighted Tennis Courts • Pool • Sauna • Friendly Community 538 WESTOVER ROAD 263-1252 Special • Special

UNFURNISHED APTS

PONDEROSA APARTMENTS *Furnished & Unfurnished *All Utilities Paid *Covered Parking *Swimming Pools 1425 E. 6th St. 263-6319

ALL BILLS PAID 1 Bedroom - \$358 2 Bedroom - \$427 Refrigerated Alc. Laundromat Adjacent to Yarc. Elementary 1905 Wason 207-4421 PARK VILLAGE #10

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD *Swimming Pool *Private Patios *Carports *Appliances * Most Utilities Paid * Senior Citizen Discount * On Premise Manager * 1 & 2 Bedrooms Unfurnished PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS 800 W. Marcy Drive 263-5555 263-5000

UNFURNISHED HOUSES For rent 2-bedroom, and 1-bedroom small apartment must see at 807 S. Johnson. \$99 MOVE IN plus deposit. 1,2,3 bdr. 2 bills paid. HUD okay. 263-7811

Large 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Several large tables, suitable for garage sales. 267-3905.

3-1, good area, new carpet, paint. \$550. 267-2296 or 268-9313.

For Rent 2-bedroom, bath, kit, dining room, utility and game room. Outside Garage and store room. Forsan School Dist. 5 miles South. 398-5565

Large 2 bd house \$300/mo. \$300/dep. 1 year lease, references required. 263-6824, 263-7373.

2 or 3 bedroom, central heat/air, small fenced yard. \$400. + depos. 267-2296.

3 bd., 2 bt., fireplace, central h/a, stvce, fenced backyard. \$475 /mo., \$200/dep. 267-8901.

3 bedroom, 1 bath, \$325./month. 2602 Albrook. Appointment only. 1-800-543-2141 or 915-362-8942.

3/bedroom, 1 bath duplex in Sand Springs. 267-3841 or 556-4022.

1710 ALABAMA Super clean 3 bedroom central heat & air. 263-3350.

2 BDRM garage near schools. 3 bdrm, 2 bath Westside, also 1 bdrm eff. \$150./mo. 264-0510.

3BEDROOM, 2 bath 1804 MITTEL. \$400.00 MONTH. NO PETS. HUD APPROVED. CALL 263-3846.

UNFURNISHED HOUSES

SELL/RENT 2 bdrm 1 bath, den 1319 Tucson. \$200 deposit. \$375. No Bills Paid. 399-4441. 3/bedroom, 1 bath duplex in Sand Springs. 267-3841 or 556-4022.

TOO LATES '89 RIVERIA pearl white, maroon leather interior, loaded with options. Well maintained, runs great. \$3850.00 263-0600 267-3535.

Afternoon Janitor needed 20 hours weekly. Hard worker need only apply. 1-888-570-9903.

Available immediately 2/bedroom 1 bath, good location, fenced yard. 267-5646.

AVON STOCK SALE Sat. April 12 9am-6pm. 614 Dallas. Great prices on skin-so-soft, Anew and more! Drawing for \$30 worth of Avon.

EXPERIENCED FARM HAND needed. Full time position. Call 353-4483.

FOR SALE 100% AMERICAN JUNK THE STUFF THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF. 2210 Main Fri. & Sat.

Rototilling & lawn planting. Also auto repair. 263-5638.

WE TURN HOUSES INTO HOMES... New doublewide homes as low as \$300/mo. 5% down, 10.5% APR. 360mos. USA Homes, 4608 W. Wall, Midland Tx. 520-2177, 1-800-520-2177. Buy down financing with approved credit. Se habla Espanol!

Will mow yards and etc. Free estimates. 263-1935 leave message. Reasonable rates. Quality hay. Round bales. 267-4232.

PUBLIC NOTICE The Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission is soliciting Requests for information from potential service providers to JTPA Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (SYETP) participants. Services requested are academic enrichment/mentorship provided through non-traditional strategies which include work based learning, integrated work and learning, and BCANS type. To receive an application package, request in writing the JTPA LIB AFI from the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission, P.O. Box 60680, Midland, TX 79711-0660, or call Donna Harrison 663-1061. 1335 April 9, 1997

TOO LATES

SKIHI ENTERPRISES, INC. is seeking plumbers and helpers. Experience required. Drug screen prior to employment. Apply at: 3000 GOLIAD STREET BIG SPRING, TEXAS 79721 915-263-3456

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice of Bids West Texas Centers For M-HMR is now accepting bids for the following item: 1997 Truck, 290 Horsepower, 281" wheelbase, GVWR 25,950, Hydraulic brakes, 28" box installed, 2500# tail lift installed. Delivery date: May 1, 1997. Bids must be submitted by April 15, 1997 to: West Texas Centers For M-HMR ATTN: Shelley Smith, CEO 319 Runnels Big Spring, TX 79720 (915) 263-0007 1332 April 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11, 1997

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT ORYX ENERGY COMPANY, P.O. Box 2880, Dallas, Texas 75221-2880 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the San Andres Klon-A Well Number 3. The proposed injection well is located 4.5 Miles Southwest of Forsan in the Howard-Glasscock Field in Howard County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 2100 to 2500 feet. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12987, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512-463-6792). 1335 April 9, 1997

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT - BIG SPRING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Dynamic leader needed to promote the civic, economic, cultural, and social betterment and interests of the people of Howard County. This position reports to and works with a Board of Directors and is the chief administrative officer of the Chamber of Commerce.

Huge Garage Sale Morgan Ranch E. 25th & Baylor (Kentwood) One mile past entrance White building on left Antiques, Used Furniture, Glassware, Kitchenware, Store Fixtures, Lamps, Clothes, Exercise Equipment, Rugs, Luggage, Much More.

"LUCKY 7" CAR SALE Do you have a car, pickup or motorcycle you need to sell? If you do, here's a deal especially for YOU!! 1st Week: You pay full price - If car doesn't sell... 2nd week: You get 25% off - If car doesn't sell... 3rd week: You get 50% off - If car doesn't sell... 4th - 7th week: Run your car ad FREE!!!

GET READY BIG SPRING! DAIRY QUEEN on LAMESA HWY. IS CLOSING - But Not For Long! As part of our challenge to serve our customers better and faster, Dairy Queen on Lamesa Hwy. is being renovated! NOW HIRING! We are now hiring for our store on Lamesa Hwy. at our Dairy Queen at 2600 Greg Street in Big Spring. Come by today to apply! You Could Be Who We Are Looking For!

THE TOWN & COUNTRY DIFFERENCE An Employee Owned Company COME EXPERIENCE THE TOWN AND COUNTRY DIFFERENCE Interviewing for the position of Sales Associates We are accepting applications for persons who are energetic, dependable, ambitious, have outgoing personalities, personal integrity and available to work full time or part time. Must have an ability to work in a fast-paced environment and know what it means to give outstanding customer service. We offer an excellent variety of benefits including health insurance, paid sick leave, paid vacations, retirement plan and college reimbursement program. Career opportunities available for highly motivated/qualified persons. Accepting Applications At East Broadway In Coahoma THE TOWN & COUNTRY DIFFERENCE

Call our classified department for more information at (915) 263-7331

Friend's gift from the heart becomes poet's inspiration

DEAR ABBY: I have read your column daily for many years and greatly enjoy your letters on random acts of kindness. Yesterday I read the letter



Abigail Van Buren
Columnist

her friends rallied together to repair the things she had formerly relied on her husband to do.

It reminded me of something my quadriplegic friend Bernie did for me several years ago during a very lonely and difficult time in my life. I wrote occasional verse and had been sharing my poems with him over a bulletin board service via our personal computers. Through time we became good friends.

Unbeknown to me, he took the following verse of mine, had it printed in "Queen's English" and beautifully framed, and presented it to me as a gift, for no particular reason. That was a turning point in my life and inspired me to continue my writing and share it with others.

I have just recently completed my first poetry and verse manuscript and am hopeful it may be published someday. Bernie's gift, titled "Lessons You Learned," now has its own special place on my wall and is a daily reminder of the "random acts of kindness" that inspired me originally to write it.

I am sharing it with you in the hope that it will help people along life's journey either to recognize their own gifts or help someone else along their way. If you print it, I thank you. If you cannot, I understand you cannot print every letter you receive. I will continue to faithfully read your column because you so often touch so many hearts, and have often touched mine. — MARLENE GERBA, MILWAUKIE, ORE.

DEAR MARLENE AND DEAR READERS: Unfortunately, I am unable to publish all of the letters or the lovely poems I receive. However, this one moved me so deeply that I am compelled to share it. Read on:

LESSONS YOU LEARNED by Marlene Gerba

For every petal you pluck

from a daisy,
You're granted one measure of love.
For every rainbow you find with two ends,
I wish you two stars from above.

For every tear you brush from a cheek,
I promise you kindness will follow.
Wherever you walk, under rainbows or stars,
Over daisies, or down lonely hollow.

For every child you play with and talk to,
I grant you one heart full of laughter.
For every smile you place on a face,
I promise you peace ever after.

If you think "I" am giving you priceless gifts,
Look close at yourself and your deeds.
The gifts you earned were the lessons you learned
While answering other folks' needs.

DEAR ABBY: I just had to write after I read the letter from "Confused in San Diego," whose tightwad boyfriend presented her with a bill for money he had "loaned" her over their year-long relationship.

A number of years ago, my boyfriend "Martin" and I were bicycling on a back-country road on an island in Canada. We were miles from nowhere when I got a flat tire. It was just getting dark and threatening to rain, and I was not looking forward to waiting alone while Martin rode to the campground to get our car so he could drive back and get me.

Suddenly, as if out of nowhere, a man on a bicycle rounded the corner. He stopped and offered us a brand-new inner tube he had recently purchased. I asked him how much we owed him. He said he had paid \$3.65 at the local store. I pulled out an American \$5 bill to give him when Martin stopped me. "Wait a minute," he said, "with the exchange rate for American money, that makes it only \$2.73." He then insisted the man give us the appropriate amount of change to the penny. I was mortified! The kind man was good-natured about the whole incident, gave Martin his change, and rode off.

Fortunately, after many more embarrassing incidents, I finally dumped Martin and his penny-pinching ways. Abby, your comment, "This one is not above using the purse strings to try to control you," was right on the money. — PENNY-WISED UP

DEAR PENNY-WISED UP: I wasn't sure whether to file your letter under "The Kindness (and Tolerance) of Strangers" or "Miserly Mortals," so I printed it instead!

DEAR ABBY: I am a 9-year-old girl who's in the third grade, and I have a problem. My dad has not visited me in 1 1/2 years, and he has not called me since July of 1996.

I tried to call him a while back, but his phone was disconnected. I don't understand why he doesn't try to contact me. I wish he knew how I feel so maybe he would change his mind and try to get in touch with me. I love my dad very much. I hope he reads this letter. — MISSING MY DAD IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MISSING: Sadly, there are many children who, like you, are longing to hear from their absent father or mother. Some adults forget that children are capable of understanding almost anything if they are given the opportunity. One phone call or letter that explains why the parent cannot stay in close contact at the moment will do wonders toward putting a child's mind at ease.

I, too, hope your father (and all the other parents to whom this applies) sees your letter and realizes how important it is that he call or write to you.

CONFIDENTIAL TO 'STILL TRYING TO CATCH THE BRASS RING IN HAWAII': In the words of Arnold Palmer, world champion golfer, "The road to success is always under construction."

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 10:
Break through restrictions. Roadblocks could appear for different reasons. One such cause could be a tendency on your part to dismiss potential ideas as impossible. Be willing to look at your own mental filters. As a result, unexpected changes will occur with goals, and in your immediate circle of friends. If you are single, you find the process of getting to know another very exciting. You also might choose to play the field. If attached, keep communications flowing and open. Otherwise, you could become strangers to each other. GEMINI brings you out.

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)
Power plays manifest themselves in revised plans or mixed messages. It is probably best to give others space. Friends seem to have no sense of timing. The unexpected works magically, getting you and others over the bumps. Keep communications flowing. Tonight: Tell it as it is.***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Curb a possessiveness that makes you controlling at times. Let go of having it your way, and loosen up. Surprising events on the career front distract you, forcing you to put your nose to the grindstone. This is a moneymaking opportunity. Tonight: Go spring shopping.***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You are peppy. Carefully establish limits when dealing with a strong personality in your life. News brings what looks like a special opportunity. Don't hesitate; walk through that door. Maintain perspective when others react. Tonight: Do whatever makes you happy.****

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Take a deep breath. You are your own personal slave driver. Know your limits; pull away from being on automatic. Think through decisions with care. A partner surprises you with an unanticipated offer. Can you trust this person? Tonight: Take a night off.***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Emphasize friendship, new horizons and success. You want to break patterns. You tend to be provocative in your thinking and direct in your dealings. Others are surprised by your conclusions, even if they are part of the process. Tonight: Be where the crowds are.****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Take charge, and let others follow. Don't be morose about a domestic issue. Given space, this could change radically. Awareness takes you down a new path and allows new attitudes and projects at work. Let

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
You could be unnerved by a boss or an associate. The timing is off, so you might want to approach family members differently. They need to understand the pressures you feel at work. Ask for emotional support. You will have a stunning insight. Tonight: Head home.***

BORN TODAY
Sportscaster John Madden (1936), actor Omar Sharif (1932), author Paul Edward Theroux (1941)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 000-0000, 99 cents per minute. Also featured are The Spoken Tarot and The Runes, which answer your yes-or-no questions. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

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Hard-luck Norman sentimental favorite

MASTERS

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Greg Norman has chased Jack Nicklaus, fallen victim to a miracle chip and watched dominance turn into doom during one of the most unforgettable Sundays at Augusta National.

Now, he is in a new role — sentimental favorite.

That much was evident Tuesday during his first practice round for the Masters since he shot a 78 in the final round to go from a six-stroke lead to five strokes behind Nick Faldo.

He practiced 10-foot putts to an imaginary hole on the left side of the second green as a three-deep gallery watched his every move and then offered respectful applause as he walked off the green.

Spectators crossing the third fairway stopped when they saw the foursome approaching, forming a funnel for them to walk through — first Steve Elkington, then Nick Price and Jeff Maggert.

And then the cheers started again as Norman made his way past the wall of fans, tipping his baseball cap and acknowledging every word of encouragement.

"I think it's going to be nothing but an asset," Norman said of the overwhelming support. "I've already felt it getting out of the car here. You get the support from the people coming here for the practice round, but I think it'll be different."

Who wanted Norman to make par on the 72nd hole in 1986, which would have forced a playoff and could have denied Nicklaus his sixth green jacket? What was so bad about Norman losing a year later in a playoff to hometown favorite Larry Mize, whose 140-foot chip

probably would have found the water on No. 11 if it hadn't settled into the cup?

Another bid for the Masters he so dearly covets ended two years ago when he pulled a sand wedge on No. 17 and took a bogey. No one seemed to mind, since Ben Crenshaw was writing another emotional chapter of Masters history.

But hardly anyone could bear to watch the numbness in Norman's eyes as each swing brought him closer to an inevitable collapse.

"If he's there and can do it, good luck to him," Faldo said.

Asked if Norman could return to form after such devastation, Colin Montgomerie said, "If anyone can, he can."

Norman thinks he is up to the task. "I just want to be in that position again, and I think I've got a very good chance to be in that position," he said. "I know I gave you a pretty good story. I hope to give you better stories from here on out."

It won't be easy. Faldo can reach into the memory bank and recall perhaps the greatest round of his life, from the 8 iron he hit to No. 12 to the 2 iron he struck perfectly to the par-5 13th green, two shots that put enormous pressure on Norman.

"He did all the things you have to do to win a major championship," Norman said.

Faldo has spent time watching videotape of last year's final round, mainly to seek out the putting technique that served him beautifully when it mattered the most.

Cancer doesn't keep Arnie from playing 43rd Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — He's here again, launching drives with his familiar but peculiar lurching swing.

He's hitching up his britches, signing autographs, smiling and waving, and making eye contact with the gallery.

He's brought numerous putters trying to find one that works. It doesn't matter that by all odds he shouldn't be here. At the age of 67, he still thinks he can win.

Was there ever any doubt Arnold Daniel Palmer would whip cancer and play in his 43rd consecutive Masters?

There was no doubt was there, Arnie?

"I was concerned," was the way the indestructible man put it. "I had time to look at some old Masters films. You can't help but think about the high lights of your life. Being here and playing is important to me."

Palmer underwent prostate cancer surgery Jan. 15. Forty-three days later, he swung a club. Almost two months later, on March 20, Palmer played his first competitive round in his own Bay Hill Invitational.

Forget that he shot 81. What he did was shoot cancer down.

A Masters without Palmer would be unthinkable. Only Palmer thinks he can win. But just to see him play on the grounds of Augusta National Golf Club is an annual spring rite of renewal — much like spring training in baseball.

He owns four Masters jackets and the hearts of the fans.

"I want to play good," is the way he puts it. "My goal is to win. I never came here without that thought."

But what if he couldn't have played? What if he couldn't have strolled among the azaleas and the dogwoods?

"I would have missed the walk up No. 1 fairway," Palmer said. "I would have gone any way and enjoyed the champagne."

"I sort of like looking down and the grass rather than looking up at it."

For Palmer to have almost missed the Masters made galleries on Tuesday realize what they almost missed.

They turned out by the thousands to watch him play a practice round.

Palmer, always the blue-collar hero with the common touch, invited U.S. Mid-Amateur champion John Miller, a beer salesman, to play along in his foursome with Fuzzy Zoeller and Tom Watson.

Wearing a flop hat and decked out in a purple shirt, Palmer yucked it up with Zoeller, Watson and the 47-year-old salesman from Bloomington, Ind.

Palmer made a nice 10 footer on the 9th green and turned to the crowd. "Who said I can't putt? Maybe I've found it."

As he walked along the gallery ropes fans slapped his back and shook his hand.

"Glad you made it back," one fan said.

Palmer smiled. Later, he would confess that he and Watson skinned Zoeller and "Spider" Miller for a few bucks.

"We won a little money off Fuzzy and Spider," Palmer said. "I really enjoyed it. I made it all 18 holes then felt good enough to hit a bucket of balls afterward. That pleased me."

Particularly his tee shot on the devilish, Par-3 No. 12.

Palmer's 8 iron over the water finished a few feet from the hole, and he made the putt for a birdie duce.

Help is closer than you think.

(So is April 15th.)

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Tuesday, April 8th.....Dr. Jose Bueno
Pediatrician

Thursday, April 10th.....Dr. Carl Brown
Neurologist

Friday, April 11th.....Dr. Norman Harris
OB/GYN

For appointment call (915) 267-8226
616 So. Gregg St. • Big Spring, Texas

Women's Care Update

By Michael S. Phillips, M.D.
Diplomate, American Board Obstetrics & Gynecology

FIBROIDS

Fibroids, which are nearly always benign, consist of masses of muscle tissue that can grow for years in the without causing problems. One-fourth of caucasian women and nearly half of African-American women get fibroids, usually between the ages of 30-50. While fibroids are usually symptomless, in 20-50 percent of cases, women can experience heavy, prolonged, and painful menstrual bleeding, painful intercourse, intermittent spotting, frequent urination, or constipation. These symptoms usually lead gynecologists to do a pelvic exam, and possibly an ultrasound exam to detect the fibroids. After that, drug therapy with medications known as GnRH analogs can be prescribed for temporary relief by shrinking the fibroids. More long-lasting relief is provided by surgical removal through a hysteroscope (a small telescope-like device through the vagina and the cervix), or a laparoscope, through small incisions in the abdomen.

Not long ago, hysterectomy was the only cure for symptoms arising from fibroid tumors, but now a number of uterus sparing procedures are available. I keep current with the latest technologies and breakthroughs in obstetrics and gynecology. Whether you come in for treatment of a GYN problem, or are suffering the stress from a difficult pregnancy, you'll find my staff friendly, caring, and easy to talk to. To schedule an appointment, please call my office at (915) 522-2222. We're conveniently located at the Medical Care Plaza, 1300 Gregg Street, every Tuesday.

ANIMAL VACCINES

It's time once again,
to vaccinate your pets

WHEN: Saturday, April 12
9:00-12:00 & 1:30-5:00

WHERE: Coahoma City Hall
122 North Ft. Coahoma, Texas
915-394-4287

FEE: \$5.00-Rabies
\$10.00-Parvo
\$10.00-Feline

For further information please call

WEDNESDAY

APR. 9

Table with 33 columns representing different TV channels (KMID, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their start times.

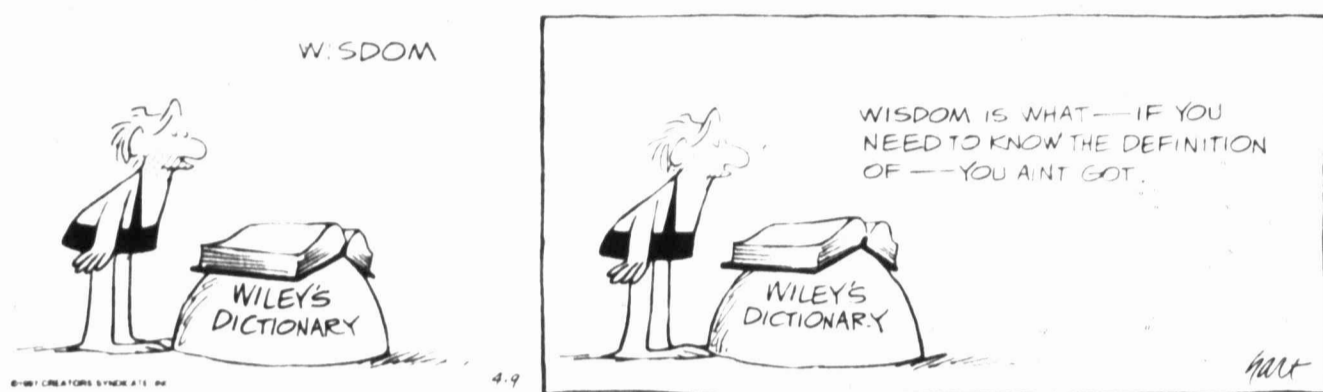
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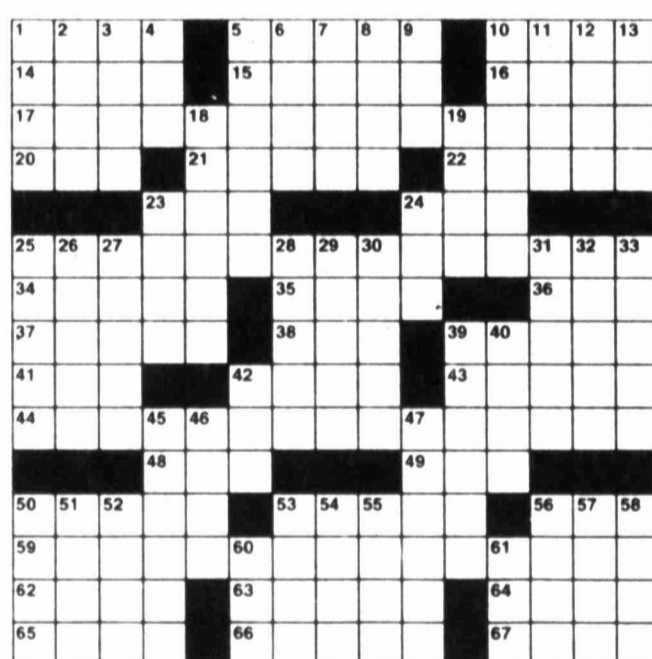
THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Wednesday, April 9, the 99th day of 1997. There are 266 days left in the year.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS: 1 Inclined to indolence, 5 Poisonous snake, 10 West and Clarke, 14 Fortunes teller's start, 15 Inferno description, 16 Spur on, 17 Initial impact, 20 Chinese ideal, 21 Cues, 22 In the — (at all), 23 Sesame plant, 24 Greek letter, 25 Adjutant, in a way, 34 Lei man?, 35 Actor Bruce, 36 Fish eggs, 37 Graduate school exams, 38 Rite, 39 1992 presidential candidate, 41 Giant Mel, 42 "Of — I Sing", 43 Got up, 44 India, e.g., 48 Shipper Onassis, 49 Legal matter, 50 Redolence, 53 More coherent, 56 Corp get-together, 59 Junk delivery, 62 Too, 63 Bewails, 64 "Rule Britannia" composer, 65 Clarinet piece, 66 Roaming dog, 67 The yoke's on them, DOWN: 1 Assistance, 2 Home of most people, 3 Nothing, 4 Word of agreement, 5 On the road, 6 Stop on a —, 7 Actor Johnny, 8 Goes wrong, 9 Grain, 10 Louvre, e.g., 11 Puccini opus, 12 Freudian interests, 13 Dispatched, 18 Threads, 19 Hit hard, 23 Bridge fee, 24 Two kips, 25 Take a picture, 26 Soil, 27 Raccoon's cousin, 28 State, 29 "say die", 30 Angler's basket, 31 Item in a quiver, 32 Loop, 33 Discourage, 39 Journals, 40 Deity of desire, 42 Precedes light and night, 45 Muzzle cleaner, 46 Mild oath, 47 Stylish, 50 From a distance, 51 Part, 52 Yorkshire river, 53 Dundee man, 54 Winglike, 55 Zola classic, 56 Karl or Harpo, 57 Fork prong, 58 Valley, 60 Vessel letters, 61 Big name in China



by Randall J. Hartman 04/09/97

Tuesday's Puzzle solved:



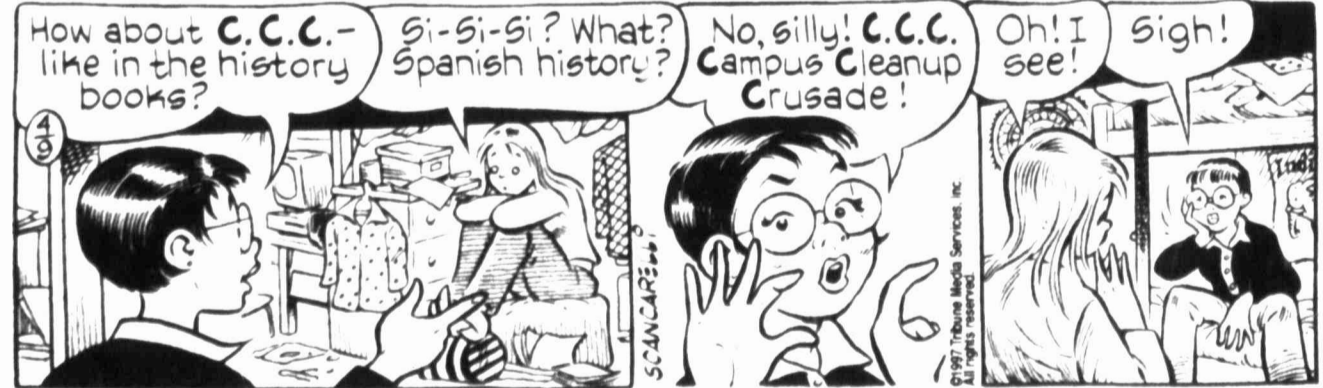
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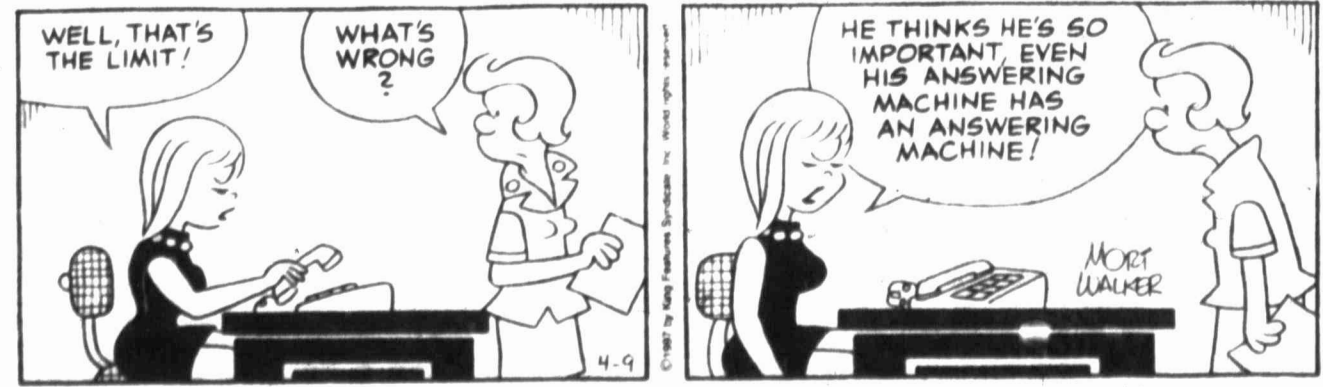
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supported public library was founded in Peterborough, N.H.

In 1939, singer Marian Anderson performed at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., after she was denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1940, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway.

In 1942, during World War II, American and Philippine defenders on Bataan capitulated to Japanese forces; the surrender was followed by the notorious "Bataan Death March" which claimed nearly 10,000 lives.

In 1947, a series of tornadoes in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas claimed 169 lives.

In 1959, NASA announced the selection of America's first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton.

In 1963, British statesman Winston Churchill was made an honorary U.S. citizen.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger ended its first mission with a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Ten years ago: Responding to charges of bugging at the new U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Soviet officials displayed microphones and other gadgets they said were found in Soviet missions in the United States.

Five years ago: Former Panamanian ruler Manuel Noriega was convicted in Miami of eight drug and racketeering charges; he is serving a 40-year prison sentence. Britain's Conservatives came from behind to become the first British political party to win four straight elections this century.

One year ago: In a dramatic shift of purse-string power, President Clinton signed a line-item veto bill into law. Dan Rostenkowski, the once-powerful House Ways and Means chairman, pleaded guilty to two mail fraud charges in a deal that brought with it a 17-month prison term.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff, D-Conn., is 87. Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner is 71. Satirist Tom Lehrer is 69. Singer-songwriter Carl Perkins is 65. Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo is 64. Comedian Avery Schreiber is 62. Actress Michael Learned is 58. Country singer Margo Smith is 55. Country singer Hal Ketchum is 44. Actor Dennis Quaid is 43. Golfer Severiano Ballesteros is 40. Actress-model Paulina Porizkova is 32. Rock singer Kevin Martin (Candlebox) is 28. Actress Keshia Knight Pulliam is 18.

