

BIG SPRING HERALD

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THURSDAY
February 11, 1999

Tonight:



TONIGHT 20°-25°
FRIDAY 55°-60°

Port-to-Plains topic of meeting this afternoon

A meeting regarding the Port-to-Plains Highway, which could include an I-27 designation, will be held at 2:30 today at Big Spring City Hall, 310 Nolan St.

Representatives from the city of Lubbock and the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, who have already met with San Angelo officials about the project, will be on-hand.

A large turnout is encouraged to show community support for the Port-to-Plains project.

Hale reception set for 4 today

Bill Hale, new Abilene District engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation, will be honored with a reception today at 4 at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

The reception is being hosted by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the public is encouraged to attend and welcome the Dallas native to West Texas.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

Friends of the Library, noon, Howard County Library. Call Loraine Redman at 264-2260.

American Legion Auxiliary, 7 p.m.

Masonic Lodge No. 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main.

Big Spring Newcomers Club, contact Pat Mireles for time and location, 267-8741.

FRIDAY

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

Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Howard County Scottish Rite Club, 7:30 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 21st and Lancaster. Breakfast served (\$4).

Big Spring Chapter No. 67, Order of the Eastern Star will observe "Friendship Nite" beginning with a covered dish supper at 6:30, followed with a time of fun and fellowship. Come dressed as a "doll" or your favorite cartoon character.

Valentine's Dance, 8-midnight, \$3 per person, \$5 couple. At American Legion Hall, 3203 W. Hwy 80, with band, "Special Effect."

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Vol. 96, No. 96

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Forum reveals Alzheimer's group needs stronger presence here

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

The Alzheimer's Association Greater West Texas Chapter needs to establish a stronger presence in Big Spring.

That was the conclusion Tuesday after a public forum conducted by the agency, which offers support and information to the families and caregivers of Alzheimer's victims. Based in Midland, the group covers 24 West Texas counties, including Howard.

"We just think this is so incredibly important," said Gail Harmon, executive director of the association. "We can only do it with your help. You've got to guide

us." She discussed ideas to increase visibility in Big Spring, including holding a local "Memory Walk," the group's annual fundraiser. Harmon said she would also like to form a community advisory board of Big Spring residents to oversee services here.

Other ideas included holding family support groups in different settings. Several have been tried at health care facilities, and the most successful one is now at a retirement center.

In the future, Harmon said she would even consider opening an office in Big Spring, staffed by volunteers.

"We know we're not touching the peo-

ple we need to in Howard County," she said, estimating the number of Alzheimer's victims locally at 1,100. She said the number might even be as high as 1,900.

Maryjane Allen, program services director, said the agency conducts regular information sessions in Big Spring in addition to the support groups that meet monthly. Participants in the forum said those meetings needed to be better advertised.

The agency has one very successful support group in Big Spring, which meets the first Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at Canterbury South. Allen said support groups were one of the most

valuable resources for family members of victims.

"Support groups do the most good," she said. "You can find out what works for one person might not work for everyone, and get some other ideas."

The groups feature different topics each month, such as safety in the home or caregiver stress.

Harmon said she was surprised by the low attendance at Tuesday's forum. Of more than 60 community leaders who were invited, a dozen people attended.

But she said the agency is committed to its mission, and finding a way to bet-

See SUPPORT, Page 2A

Love is definitely in the air, say local florists

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Local florists are in a frenzy at this time of year, preparing for an onslaught of deliveries and purchases for Valentine's Day.

"We're pretty busy," said Debra Lusk, owner of Faye's Flowers. "We were a little concerned since it falls on a Sunday, but that hasn't been a problem."

Debbie Sheppard, owner of Dakota's Flowers, and Q.T. Coats, of a Timeless Design, agreed.

"We thought we'd be slower because it's on a weekend, but so far so good. I guess love is in the air," Sheppard said.

"It just fell at a very weird time this year," Coats said.

Florists said the "old stand-bys" such as roses, candy, balloons and stuffed animals are still the most popular choices for gift-giving on the holiday. Sheppard said "fire and ice" roses, which she introduced last year, have become a top seller this year. The roses are white at the base of the petals, gradually turning red at the tips.

"These are going out by the dozens," she said.

With extra employees and extended work hours, the florists said they expect to make most of their deliveries on Friday. Still others will be made Saturday. The florists said they will be working all day Saturday. Faye's will be open from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday for late purchases, but won't make deliveries that day.

Still, Friday will be the biggest delivery day, florists agreed.

"Most of the orders are going to businesses that won't be open on the weekend or even Monday," Coats said.

"I think women like receiving (their Valentine bouquet) at the office, so Friday's the deal," Lusk said.

Deliveries to the schools had to be made today, since Friday



Kim Harp, an employee at Faye's Flowers, prepares a large bouquet of roses to go out for an early Valentine's Day delivery. Local florists are working feverishly this week to make up all the flower, candy and balloon orders for the holiday.

is a school holiday.

Although most of their orders have been from men to women, Lusk and Sheppard agreed women do often send Valentine's gifts to men as well.

"I think what they're sending is balloons, candy, even some plants," Lusk said. "We have some arrangements made up for men."

Valentine flowers and other gifts are available for anywhere from \$8 on up.

Lusk said she's had customers drop as much as \$150 for a sweetheart.

"We do have some who will buy the candy, balloons, a big stuffed animal and flowers all

together," she said.

Coats said Valentine's Day is the second biggest floral holiday, next to Mother's Day.

"Everybody has a mother," he said. "But I guess not everybody has a sweetheart."

Sheppard said she had one local man come in to buy a bunch of roses, planning to make a marriage proposal for Valentine's. He planned to place the ring inside the petals of one rose, so when his intended smelled the bouquet, she would see the ring.

"He was so excited," Sheppard said. "I thought, 'romance lives!'" "This is a fun holiday. It really is."

BSSH volunteers taking gift orders

Big Spring State Hospital volunteers will be taking Valentine gift orders as long as gifts last.

Volunteers will deliver two carnations in a bud vase, potted ivy, a bean bag puppy and candy bouquet, or a lucky horseshoe, candy and balloon bouquet. Each gift is \$8.

Benefits from this fund-raising event will go toward patient services, such as special needs and parties. Call 268-7533 or 268-7535 to order.

Local, area public school students to have long weekend

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

Some local students will enjoy a three- or four-day weekend beginning Friday, due to teacher in-service meetings and President's Day.

Big Spring students and teachers are dismissed Friday, and students will continue the holiday through Monday.

Classes will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 16 for all Big Spring students.

In Coahoma, students and teachers share the same holidays as Big Spring students. There is no school in Coahoma Friday or Monday, and classes resume Tuesday.

Forsan students will have class on Friday, but they will be dismissed Monday on President's Day. Classes resume Tuesday in Forsan.

Glasscock Independent School District in Garden City, Sands Consolidated School District in Ackerly and Grady Independent School District in Lenorah will have classes as usual.

Those districts do not observe President's Day.

See HOLIDAY, Page 2A



Earl King of Monterey Construction does the finishing work to cabinets in one of the classroom storage areas at the new Big Spring Junior High School.

New junior high about 92 percent completed, school officials remark

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Staff Writer

About 92 percent of the \$12 million Big Spring Junior High School is complete, school officials said today.

"We can tell where we are, because we have 92 percent of the money paid. We pay as much as we feel has been complete, so that we have left what it should cost us if we had to finish the work ourselves," said Ron Logback, business manager for Big Spring Independent School District.

Logback explained that in the last pay period request from the contractor, the district held back some money, because officials believed more work needed to be completed to reach that point in the project.

And he said as the work on the three lower sections of the building nears completion, he anticipates a mid-March walk-through by officials, with an April 1 completion of the lower areas.

"We have an elaborate punch list, there's a full page on each room that goes from the floor to the drop ceiling above to the fire ceiling, all the walls and all the brick," he said.

The two other sections, the mall area, cafeteria, gymnasiums and locker rooms, should reach the final stages in mid-May, with completion by May's end.

"We should be looking on the final punch list on the building, just the building not the landscaping. I look for them to have the work finished mid-June or by June's end," Logback said.

A dedication of the building is tentatively set for the latter part of June, he said.

"We should learn more about that from Mr. (Bill) McQueary

See JUNIOR HIGH, Page 2A

BSISD

Board to call for trustees' election tonight

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

Calling for the May 1 board of trustees election tops the agenda for the Big Spring ISD board, which convenes at 5:15 p.m. today.

Two seats will be up for election — District 1, currently held by Irene Bustamante, and District 3, held by Larry McLellan.

Candidate filing begins Monday and runs through March 17. Only those residents residing with District 1 and District 3 may seek election.

Retirements, resignations and employments are on the agenda, and the board will go into executive session to discuss contract extensions for administrators, directors and coordinators.

Superintendent William McQueary said the contract extensions are routine but that the district will take a strong look at cutting costs in late spring and early summer.

"We will probably eliminate some positions. We always go in at the end of the year and usually we can eliminate some through attrition. We just won't fill those positions. This is going to be a very conservative year for us," McQueary said.

Also to be considered this evening is the proposed calendar for 1999-2000. Calendars are made up by the district wide site-based decision-making committee and then voted on by

See BSISD, Page 2A



MCQUEARY



LOGBACK

Senate moving closer to acquittal; neither article may get majority

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate, poised to acquit President Clinton, has become the stage for a lesser drama centering on whether prosecutors will come away with even a simple majority favoring his conviction and removal from office.

With Republican hopes for a 67-vote conviction margin now just a distant memory, attention turned to the struggle for a mere majority — a legally empty result that nevertheless would offer rebuffed House prosecutors a symbolic achievement for all their uphill work.

"The drama is going to be whether obstruction gets 50 votes or not," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

The article cited by Schumer,

obstruction of justice, has been considered the stronger of two charges in impeachment trial deliberations that enter their third day today. Numerous senators have predicted the perjury article against Clinton would not achieve a majority.

Three Republicans said Wednesday they will not vote to convict Clinton. If three more do so and all 45 Democrats vote to acquit, the articles would fall short of a majority. Opinion polls have shown consistently that about two-thirds of the public think Clinton shouldn't be convicted and removed.

"I wouldn't be surprised if others would make a similar announcement — how many I don't know," Sen. Connie Mack, R-Fla., said of anti-conviction

Republicans. Mack did not announce his position.

Nearly half the 100 senators had not addressed their colleagues after the second day of closed-door deliberations ended Wednesday. Votes on the articles were possible late today, but senators were prepared to delay the verdict until Friday. The votes would be in open session.

If acquitted, there is a chance that Clinton would face no formal rebuke by the Senate. A Democratic initiative to censure Clinton struggled for survival under Republican resistance.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said that if GOP leaders prevent a censure vote, supporters might simply draft a decla-

ration condemning the president's behavior and circulate it for senators to sign.

Wednesday's session spanned eight hours with several breaks along the way. More than 30 senators spoke, with most taking the maximum 15 minutes allotted and some reminded by Chief Justice William Rehnquist's gavel that time had expired. The first day of deliberations on Tuesday covered a period of slightly more than four hours.

While the transcript of the deliberations will remain secret unless the Senate changes its mind later, some senators have read to reporters the remarks they prepared for the closed session.

Moderate Republicans James

Jeffords of Vermont, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and John Chafee of Rhode Island announced their opposition to conviction on Wednesday.

Jeffords told reporters, "The pressure is coming on to get a majority."

But a spokesman for Majority Leader Trent Lott said the leadership had not tried to line up votes for conviction.

Lott, R-Miss., issued a statement at mid-afternoon declaring that the evidence "shows that the president has committed perjury and obstructed justice."

Clinton's actions to conceal his extramarital affair with

Monica Lewinsky were widely condemned by Democrats and Republicans alike, including those opposing conviction.

Jeffords said Clinton "gave misleading statements... did obstruct justice, but his actions in this case do not reach the high standard of impeachment."

Specter told reporters he couldn't bring himself to vote for acquittal when the roll is called, but rather would declare the allegations were "not proved."

Chafee said that despite Clinton's "reckless, tawdry behavior," he concluded that House prosecutors presented "circumstantial evidence" that was "rebutted by direct evidence or by confusion."

Committee approves anti-social promotion bill

AUSTIN (AP) — Future students would have to pass the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills in third, fifth and eighth grades to be promoted — unless their parents successfully appealed — under a bill approved unanimously by the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday.

The effort to stop the passage of students from grade to grade when they're not academically prepared, known as social promotion, is a key initiative of Gov. George W. Bush.

"If we continue to let this happen, it is we who are failing, not the students," said committee Chairman Teel Bivins, R-

Amarillo, sponsor of the bill.

After the bill was forwarded to the full Senate on a 9-0 vote, Bush said, "We're off to a good start. ... I think it's an indication people are understanding this is a program to have high standards and early interventions."

Under the measure, the TAAS requirement would kick in with the fall 1999 kindergarten class. Students already in school wouldn't have to meet the standard.

Backers envision \$203 million in extra funding for programs to ensure students get the skills they need. Teachers would get stipends to participate in train-

ing seminars focusing on reading. Students who fail the TAAS would get more than one chance at the test.

The initiative drew favorable comments from business people and educators — including those whose school districts have instituted their own anti-social promotion programs, such as Lubbock-Cooper Independent School District.

State law already says students may be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency. But there's no state standard to ensure students aren't passed without demonstrating knowledge.

Fraser introduces telecommunications legislation

AUSTIN (AP) — A state lawmaker says he can save Texas consumers \$500 million a year on their telephone bills by lowering the amount local telephone companies can charge to connect in-state long distance calls.

The legislation sponsored by Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, would reduce the 12 cents a minute Southwestern Bell and GTE charge to connect in-state long distance calls. The bill would cut the charge, which is tacked on to monthly phone bills, to 5 cents.

"Texans for too long have been paying higher long distance rates compared to other

states because of the inflated access rates charged by local telephone companies," said Fraser.

The Public Utility Commission planned to reduce the access charge last year, but put off its plans when it couldn't get iron-clad guarantees from the big three — AT&T, MCI WorldCom and Sprint — that they would pass on the savings to all customers, not just the high-volume long-distance users.

All agreed, except MCI. Long-distance companies, which have lobbied for the reduction, must "proportionally" pass along the savings to

residential and business customers, not just their preferred customers, according to the bill.

"Anyone who makes a long distance phone call from their home or business would benefit under this bill," Fraser said.

For two years, the PUC would have the authority to assess administrative penalties against long-distance companies for not passing the savings to all customers, under the legislation.

The PUC regulates the rates of local phone companies, but under current law has limited power over long-distance companies.

Reducing access charges is

expected to be a top issue this year and has already prompted an air war between industry interests that want the access charges reduced or left alone.

The access charges are used to keep basic local rates low, according to the Texas Telephone Association, which includes Southwestern Bell.

"Rural and urban customers of Texas local phone companies will wonder why some legislators want to confiscate hundreds of millions of dollars from Texas firms and their customers and give it to such out-of-state corporate giants as AT&T," the group said in a news release.

Philip Morris hit with biggest verdict ever in smoking case

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — When Patricia Henley was 15, she watched sultry star Susan Hayward smoke on the big screen. It was cool. It was glamorous. She said no one told her it might be deadly.

Three decades later, the former three-pack-a-day smoker with inoperable lung cancer convinced a jury that Philip Morris Cos. concealed the risks and addictiveness of smoking, and the panel rewarded her by returning the largest verdict ever in a tobacco lawsuit filed by an individual — \$51.5 million.

"I feel wonderful," said Ms. Henley, who pledged to donate any money she receives to educate youngsters about the dangers of smoking.

"This is a great day for the children."

Ms. Henley, 52, won \$50 million in punitive damages Wednesday on top of \$1.5 million in compensation awarded by the Superior Court jury a day earlier.

Although no similar verdict against the tobacco industry has survived on appeal, some say Ms. Henley's case marks a change in fortune for cigarette makers.

1996 that exposed tobacco industry documents, said he believes plaintiffs' lawyers have learned from mistakes.

"I think you're just beginning to see the beginning of the dam burst," he said. "The evidence of wrongdoing by the industry is getting overwhelming."

Ms. Henley thought she had pneumonia when she started coughing and having trouble singing. She was about to record a country and western music compact disc when she finally sought help.

She was diagnosed a year ago with inoperable cancer. Ms. Henley was forced to quit smoking and educate herself about what was in all those Marlboros.

"I went from knowing nothing to knowing too much," she said. "We went into this case figuring we'd never beat big business."

She sued Philip Morris in May.

Her lawyer, Madelyn Chaber, asked a jury of five men and seven women to "send a message back to this company that the price of human life cannot be calculated into the cost of doing business."

Punitive damages were the only way to get the attention of a company worth \$3.5 billion, she said.

Administration asserts authority to send U.S. peacekeeping ground troops to Kosovo

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration, risking a blowup on Capitol Hill, says it has the constitutional power to send American ground troops to Kosovo in a NATO peacekeeping force without congressional approval.

Citing Bosnia as a precedent, Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering told a skeptical House committee Wednesday, "There is ample constitutional precedent for this type of action."

But Rep. Tom Campbell, R-Calif., one of several International Relations Committee members who were cool

to the idea, challenged the senior State Department official. "Previous constitutional violations do not justify subsequent ones," he said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said that President Clinton was considering whether a civilian European force — backed by U.S. air and naval power "over the horizon" — might be the way to monitor a settlement of the Kosovo conflict.

However, Talbott said "there is a high degree of skepticism that this is sufficient" and some kind of ground force would be necessary.

Reduce Tillage, Reduce Costs Using Burndowns

For much of the South's history, growers have used tillage in their farm operations. Fall moldboard plowing, one or two springtime trips to level the field and cultivation after crop emergence are common tillage practices.

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For more information about Touchdown and Gramoxone Extra, contact your local ag chem dealer.

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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Wilderness Camp: Makes no sense to move it from base

For a number of months, city officials have been faced with the dilemma of locating new housing for the inmates who are part of the Wilderness Camp program of the Texas Department of Corrections.

This program, where inmates with a short amount of time remaining on their sentences stay within a community and do community service work, is one that we should do everything within our power to retain.

The ex-barracks building in which inmates are currently housed is in deplorable condition — and unless a new housing facility is provided, Big Spring will lose the program.

One prospective site — called a "done deal" by some — is the former GAMCO facility on the Snyder Highway.

According to city officials, the price is right, the building is right and there's no reason to not move ahead with the project.

But are those assumptions correct? First, the \$50 per square foot figure provided by city officials as the cost it would take to build a new building should be an insult to any reasonable person.

Business people in and around this community build buildings every day for much less than the \$50 per square foot that was attributed to the Lubbock architectural firm of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper.

Second, is the building right?

The building would have to be retrofitted to accommodate the inmates for sleeping, eating, showers, bathrooms and so on — with the so on including increasing the size of the water supply line as well as constructing a septic tank system capable of servicing a 200-inmate facility.

No, neither the price nor the building seem right. Instead of relocating the facility away from the Air Park area, where location of such housing is both accepted and acceptable, why are city fathers so intent on this location or, for that matter, any other away from the current location?

It can't be money, for the estimated \$50,000 monthly benefit placed on the work the inmates perform allows you to cost-justify a \$600,000 facility in a single year!

But if you want to spend less ... less than \$600,000 ... less than Parkhill, Cooper & Smith's \$459,000 ... less than the expected \$225,000 to \$250,000 the city wants to pay to purchase this building, you can easily do so.

A 20,000 square-foot metal building constructed of 24-gauge steel, complete with concrete pad, comes in at less than \$100,000 according to a person in the building industry.

That leaves a lot of financial flexibility to do the necessary work inside the building to make it ready for the inmates. In fact, since one of the selling points on the Snyder Highway location is the fact the inmates can do the work inside, why not allow them to do the work inside a new building.

By constructing a new building at Air Park, the city can take advantage of existing facilities as well as existing infrastructure — while saving money and eliminating ill will and hard feelings in the community.

But the cry from city officials that "we don't have any money" — just doesn't hold water.

There's monthly revenue from Air Park businesses and there's the money from the sale of the city's interests in the prisons to Cornell a couple of years ago, for starters. Advance the money from one of those funds and pay it back monthly ... with interest, if you will because of the value of the work done each month by the inmates.

We don't want to lose the Wilderness Camp program, especially when the prospects for doubling its size exists, but we don't believe the city has dealt with this project in either a logical or open manner — which causes questions and concerns about why one particular location is being pushed so hard and exactly who is doing the pushing.

No ... the price on the building isn't right ... the location isn't right ... and the manner in which the city has handled this isn't right.

It's time for city officials to allow the city manager and city staff to develop a plan for keeping the facility where it belongs — at the Air Park.

Democrats have a reason to be nervous

This is the way impeachment ends, not with a bang but a whimper.

The Senate will acquit William Jefferson Clinton of high crimes and misdemeanors, but not vindicate him. No one — not even the most partisan Democrat — believes the president is truly innocent of charges that he lied under oath and encouraged others to do so.

But the senators are tired of sitting silent in their chairs while their poll numbers plummet and the president's soar, so they will vote to put this matter behind them as quickly as they can.

Democrats will try feebly to introduce a motion to censure the president, but whether they succeed or fail matters little. There will be no punishment for Bill Clinton. It has been

that way nearly all his political life. Every time Clinton has lied, he's been rewarded, which has only encouraged him to lie more.

Democrats have far more to fear than Republicans about what happens next. Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wisc., voiced that anxiety recently in an interview with The Washington Post. He recounted a conversation he had on a campaign trip he took during the last election. His driver, a liberal activist, complained: "You know, I really don't care what Clinton did. It's not important to me or to my friends."

Feingold was shocked. "I don't want to sound self-righteous, but I care a lot about his behavior," he told the woman. "For liberals to think that all we care about is 10-point programs and not values and how you live your life, no, no," he implored. "I deeply resent this president's behavior and what it's done to us."

When Clinton leaves office in two years, he will have succeeded in diminishing the stature of the office beyond recognition. No longer will a president be expected to exem-

plify high moral standards, be a hero to our children, someone we admire and trust. Surely Russ Feingold is not the only Democrat who understands this.

In both public and private, Democrats in Congress fairly drip contempt at the mention of Clinton's character. One liberal Democrat congresswoman recently complained to me that the president can't be trusted on human rights policy. He'll say one thing and do quite another, she said.

While no fan of Clinton's Republican predecessors, the congresswoman acknowledged that they were at least men of their word, they had never lied to her about what they intended to do.

The problem is the president lies. He lies to his wife. He lies to his friends. He lies to his political allies. He lies to the American people. He even lies under oath. Everyone knows it. And no one does anything about it.

The next two years cannot be easy for the Democrats. Their fortunes are inextricably tied to the president's. He sets their party's agenda. They have no

choice but to work with him and to accept him at his word, even when they know it isn't worth much. Those who vote to acquit the president will have this burden to bear. They will leave in office a man whom they do not trust.

Democrats have created a moral dilemma from which there is no escape. They have put their party on the side of perjury and obstruction of justice in order to save a man whom they fear will continue to embarrass and betray them.

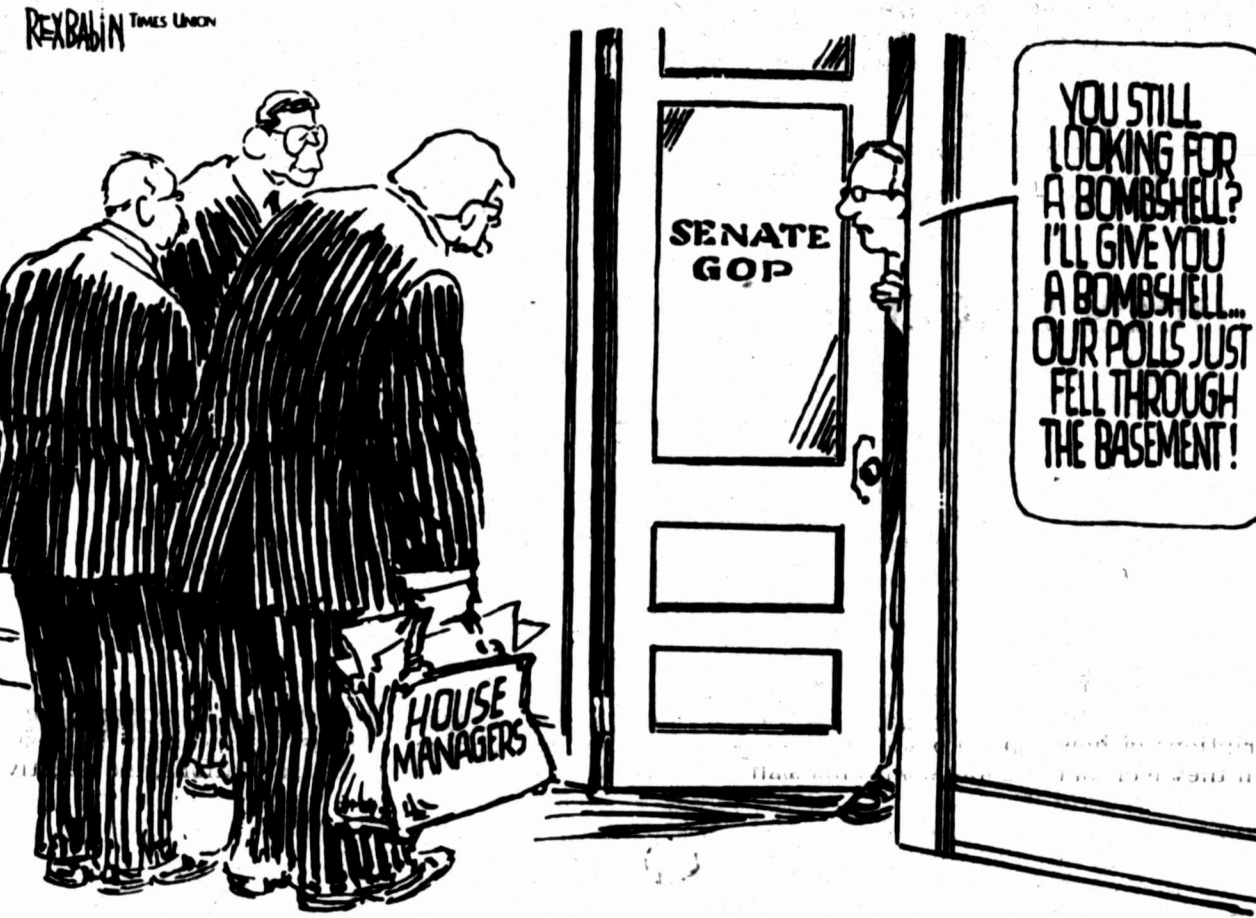
Those fears are well-founded. Throughout the entire impeachment process, Clinton has behaved with utter defiance.

Where other men would have retreated in shame, he has stayed in the public eye, cocky and sure that he would emerge unscathed. In his entire life, he has never been forced to face the consequences of his actions: not by his wife, not by the voters, not by his fellow Democrats in Congress.

Democrats have reason to be nervous. As sure as night follows day, history will repeat itself. It always does with Bill Clinton.



LINDA CHAVEZ



Oh, the high price tag for TAAS

In the summer of 1984, members of the 68th Legislature passed a historic education-reform bill. Some of the reforms, like the no-pass, no-play rule, had merit.

The provision to measure individual school's performance through a common testing program also had merit. However, implementation of this program has resulted in excessive testing in Texas public schools.

Today, TAAS, the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills, is given each year in grades 3 through 8, and the exit-level TAAS in 10th grade.

Now State Education Commissioner Mike Moses has recommended additional tests, proposing that the TAAS be given in both grades 9 and 10, and the exit-level test be postponed until grade 11. He has also recommended additional tests in some subject areas in grades 4, 5 and 6, and in science and social studies in the 10th grade. Senator Teel Bivins, Amarillo, will introduce legislation to implement these proposals.

John Stevens, executive director of the Texas Business and Education Coalition, recently endorsed these proposals in an editorial in the Dallas Morning News. He argues that testing in the 9th grade would "enable teachers and parents to identify students who need help at this critical stage."

I question the need for this additional test. Six years of testing in grades 3-8 should already have identified any student who needs help.

Stevens supports moving the exit-level TAAS to the 11th grade because, "Once students pass the exit-level TAAS, they can take minimal courses and coast through their last two years of high school."

This remark is an insult to high school students and teachers. One unpublicized fact about TAAS is its high price tag. The cost of administering TAAS last year was 16 million dollars. The money would be well spent if students were really helped, but I am not sure this is the case.

Consider this: Random testing in public schools with a norm-referenced test, one that compares achievement scores on a national level, is mandated by the Texas Legislature. I called the Texas Education Agency and asked if Texas scores had risen since the TAAS. The answer was, "They have remained about the same."

The expenditure of 16 million dollars does not include the outlay for salaries of TAAS employees. At the Texas Education Agency, there are 50 contract and non-contract employees in the Assessment Division of TAAS. I was unable to learn how many are employed by the Accountability and Curriculum Divisions.

In addition, there is the tremendous expense, including air fare and hotel bills, for sending teachers and administrators, statewide, to meetings where they participate in committees that critique types of test questions for the TAAS.

In an article in the Abilene Reporter-News, the state education commissioner admitted that costs will increase under this new proposal. However, he insisted that the cost of the testing program is "less than 1 percent of all our spending on public education."

The fancy phraseology of his statement, notwithstanding, this can mean a hefty expenditure. I am sure his proposal will have the strong support of test makers and test scorers. I cannot think that informed taxpayers will be equally enthusiastic.

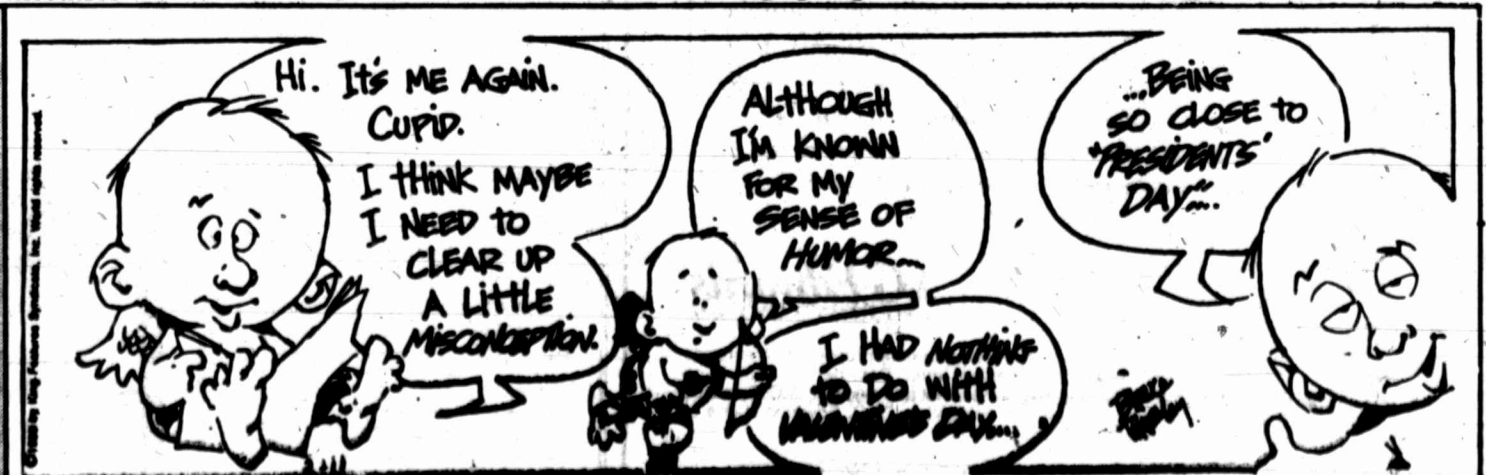
It is time for Texas to question the merits of TAAS, and to question the wisdom of funding additional testing.

Jean Warren is a retired educator and frequent contributor to the Big Spring Herald.



JEAN WARREN

Mallard Fillmore by BRUCE TINSLEY



Big

By DEBBIE L. Features Editor

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QUICK TRIVIA

◆The baby carriage was invented in 1848

◆The earliest model of a baby carriage was a large box with four wheels and a handle. It was popularized by Britain's Queen Victoria.

Got an Item?

Do you have a story idea for the *life!* section? Call 263-7331, Ext. 236.

Big Spring High School awards academic letters, jackets to 99

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN
Features Editor

Academic letters and letter jackets were presented to 99 students at Big Spring High School recently.

"Since we've started awarding the academic letters and jackets three or four years ago, we've seen an increase every year," said Principal Kent Bowermon.

All students are eligible, based on their grades from the previous year.

"This goes all across the spectrum," Bowermon said. "It has been extremely successful."

Cost of the program has also been worth it, he added.

"When (Glynn) Mouton was on the school board, she was big backer of academics and she got the funding to get this started," he said. "It's grown ever since."

"What we're discovering," Bowermon said, "is that more and more freshmen are becoming aware of it and it's helping them with their grades."

To be eligible for the letters, students must have nothing less than a yearly average grade of 90 in each subject, and neither semester grade can be lower than an 87. Students must be taking at least two courses in English, math, science or social studies during they year they are eligible for the letter.

As with all University Interscholastic League (UIL) activities, students are eligible for only one jacket, but can receive a new letter each year.

Bowermon said many of the

students recognized with the academic letters have already received jackets and other letters in sports, band, theater, or other activities.

"They have to be committed to their studies," Bowermon said. "These kids that you see on the sports page for example, they are still required to take care of academics. That's why they are here."

"That's why when you go to games, you see students sitting in the stands doing homework. There are only so many hours in the day."

Last year's senior students receiving the academic letter or jacket were: Justin Ball, Licia Doll, Chris Felty, Melanie Flenniken, Matthew Fraser, Maria Garvin, Maggie Haddad, Maria Hinojos, Kelly Hollar, Kara Hughes, Kelsey Ingram.

Also Taylor Johnson, Somer Leubner, Hsiao-Hsuan Li, Kim Long, Amy Mayes, Kristina McWherter, Lauren Middleton, Jonathan Morales, Emily Mouton, Wesley Mouton, Justin Myers, Rachel Nash, Amanda Nelson, Brady Patterson, Stephen Smith, Michelle Steward, Kayne Stroup, Angela Sturm, Trisha Trevino, Monica Villarreal, Stefanie Waggoner, Jeremy Weaver, Jennifer Wilks, Brian Willberg, Greg Woolenzien, Alicia Wood, Kim Yanez.

This year's senior students honored were: Larissa Adkins, J.J. Aguirre, Williams Beckworth, Lorie Broussard, Ashley Buson, Heather Burt, Stephanie Castaneda, Robin Dickens, Thomas Garza, April



These students were among those awarded academic jackets and letters recently at Big Spring High School. To earn the honor, students must meet requirements in grade point average and classes taken.

Gibson, Juanita Gonzales. Also Lauren Hillman, Sterling Hillman, Matthew Holt, Cindy Landin, Kate Leannah, Stephanie Lewis, Yuching Li, Karen Martinez, Lindsay Moates, David Moore, Jennifer Morgan, Zachary Odell, Christopher Olson, Keely

Patterson, Rachel Ray, Sammy Rodriguez, Jennie Tedford, Beatrice Trevino, Meredith Ware, Drew Wegman, Annette Wennerbom, Alison Woodall. This year's junior students earning the academic letters were: Christina Atkerson, Jonathan Bagwell, Jearlyn

Holland, Catherine Juare, Iztziltini Marsh, Christine Medellin, Amanda Miller. Also Fred Morales, Evelyn Munoz, Kristina Nelson, Alicia Phifer, Cheryl Platte, Justin Richter, Ashley Simmons, Danielle Stokes and Vanessa Yanez.

Sophomores honored were: Joseph Bumbulis, Luis Diaz, Melissa Flenniken, Heather Harris, Joshua Howell, Isaac Kremsky, Justin Nichols, Sarah Sanghavi, Olga Sifuentes, Irene Trevino, Jesus Valdez and Jessica Way.

BRIEFS

Stressed out? Try a 'Mood Meter'

BOSTON (AP) — City workers feeling the blues can call up a "mood meter," an automated phone system that screens for depression. They just can't expect to talk to a live person.

Callers listen to recorded descriptions of how they feel and are asked how often they feel that way.

Descriptions range from "I get tired for no reason" to "I feel others would be better off if I were dead." Callers punch the digits and hear a recorded diagnosis that urges severe cases to get counseling.

Officials said the hotline is valuable for the city's 18,000 workers, who are often blamed for the city's maladies. But it's also good for the city: Healthy employees are less likely to be absent and are more likely to be productive, officials say.

"It's not meant to replace an appointment with a mental health professional, but it's a push in the right direction," said Joe Cullinan, clinical director of the city's Employee Assistance Program.

The hotline was installed in October and so far has received 155 calls, Cullinan said.

Other public employers, such as the city of Toledo, Ohio, the Broward County (Fla.) Sheriff's Department, and federal agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, have also adopted the hotline, provided by the Wellesley-based National Mental Illness Screening Project, a nonprofit organization.

"As an employee, it's a great idea," said city human resources worker Bill Kessler, 46, of Boston.

Surprise! Chimp gives birth

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Who is the father of Yoshiko's baby?

It's a mystery at the Los Angeles Zoo, where the 8-year-old chimpanzee gave birth over the weekend.

Keepers say they didn't know Yoshiko was pregnant and aren't sure how she got that way. All three of her eligible mates have had vasectomies, the zoo said Tuesday.

Three other males haven't had the procedure, the zoo said. Still, 44-year-old Toto has never shown any interest in the opposite sex, while 4-year-old Glenn and 2-year-old Ripley are too young to be monkeying around.

The surprise birth was discovered early Sunday when an assista t keeper arriving for

work spotted Yoshiko cradling her offspring, dubbed Toshi.

"The baby looked like she had just been born," Mark Atha said. "It was a total shock."

The baby, which has bright pink feet, weighs about 2 pounds — average for a chimp newborn — and is nursing well, the zoo said.

Zoo officials plan to take blood from Toshi in a few months and use DNA testing to determine the father, chimpanzee keeper Vicki Bingham said.

More poor preschoolers overweight

ATLANTA (AP) — More and more preschoolers from poor families are overweight, the government reported Tuesday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 8.6 percent of the low-income 2- to 4-year-olds it studied in 1997 were overweight, up from 7 percent in 1989. Among children under 2, the percentage rose from 10.8 to 11.3.

Researchers believe the increase is due to high-calorie convenience foods rather than lack of physical activity, said Dr. Kelley Scanlon of the CDC.

The report showed some improvement.

The percentage of poor infants who were breast-fed rose from 35.3 in 1989 to 46.2 in 1997.

The CDC studied low-income children from 44 states, the District of Columbia and five Indian tribes.

Vaccine for ear infections studied

A common microbe appears to be the leading virus causing painful middle ear infections in children.

Three types of bacteria are considered the most common causes of such infections, but viruses that cause respiratory infections are also known to be major culprits.

Dr. Terho Heikkinen and others from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston studied 456 sufferers between the ages of 2 months and 7 years.

They found that respiratory viruses in the lungs of 186 of the children. The syncytial virus, or RSV, was most frequently implicated in ear infections, present in the middle ear fluid of 48 of the children.

The study in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine concluded that an effective vaccine for RSV would greatly reduce the incidence of both ear and respiratory infections.

Courtship model not for all teens

QUESTION: My oldest son is approaching the age where we had previously agreed to allow him to date. The more I think about it, though, the more the whole idea concerns me. It seems that even in the best of dating situations, the negatives exceed the positives. I can't help but feel that I'm setting my son up for failure.

Several of my friends have adopted the concept of "courtship" rather than dating. Could you please explain this idea to me, and suggest which of the two arrangements you favor?

DR. DOBSON: Simply put, the "courtship" concept is a reaction to the dating model, which is thought by many to be unhealthy.

Dating couples go through a series of short-term and often unsatisfying relationships over a period of five or 10 years or longer. As such, they are being taught to flit from one relationship to another like a honeybee buzzing from flower to flower.

Why would they not be inclined later to bail out on a marriage partner when bored or frustrated? Dating also encourages sexual familiarity and experimentation. It isn't difficult to understand why an increasing number of parents feel this traditional model undermines commitment, exclusivity and permanence in marriage.

The courtship model, by contrast, seeks to postpone emotional and physical entanglements until they occur with the probable husband or wife. The family is very supportive in helping to choose that special individual for a serious courtship when the time is right.

Until then, relationships between the sexes are limited

to group situations in carefully controlled settings. Physical intimacy for the sake of titillation and experimentation is considered to be most inappropriate. It is the ultimate in "saving oneself" for the man or woman with whom a lifetime will be spent.

Many parents, and undoubtedly the majority of teen-agers, would consider the courtship model to be extreme and terribly restrictive. Not every teenager would tolerate it.

I believe it is a good idea in those settings where both generations are committed to it and are willing to work together to make it successful. "Courtship" is not recommended in cases of adolescent rebellion or where there is great resistance to the idea. Whether or not to take this approach, therefore, is a matter for individual families to determine.

QUESTION: We hear so much about mothers being depressed and unable to accept the empty nest when the kids leave home. In our family, however, it was Dad who took it hard. He went into a tailspin for more than a month. Is this unusual?

DR. DOBSON: No, it happens very commonly. In a recent study, 189 parents of college freshmen were asked to report their feelings when their son or daughter left home. Surprisingly, the fathers took it harder than the mothers.

That resistance to the empty

'Courtship' is not recommended in cases of adolescent rebellion or where there is great resistance to the idea.



DR. JAMES DOBSON

nest was the theme of the movie "Father of the Bride," which was a hilarious and touching tribute to the love of a father for his daughter. When George, the dad, sat across from his daughter at the dinner table and learned that she was engaged, he took the news hard. He couldn't believe what he was hearing. He had to clear his vision when he saw his daughter as a baby girl, and then as a 10-year-old tomboy, and finally as a beautiful young woman of 18. His little girl had grown up so quickly and now she was leaving home. He would never again be the main man in the life of his precious daughter, and there was grieving to be done.

Why do men sometimes take the empty nest so hard? One of the chief explanations is regret. They have been so busy, working so hard, that they let the years slip by almost unnoticed. Then suddenly they realize it is too late to build a relationship with the child who is leaving home forever.

For those of you who still have children or teen-agers at home, take a moment regularly to enjoy your remaining time together. Those days will be gone in the blink of an eye.

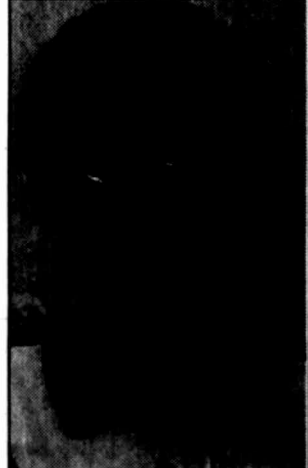
EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. James C. Dobson's "Focus on the Family" appears each Thursday as a cooperative effort of Scenic Mountain Medical Center and the Big Spring Herald.

Slice of life!

EDUCATOR OF THE WEEK

EDUCATOR NAME: Dottie Rogers
POSITION/SCHOOL: English I teacher, Coahoma High School
YEARS TEACHING OR IN EDUCATION: 15 in teaching, 22 in education.
UNIQUE TALENTS/METHODS YOU BRING TO THE JOB: Life experiences in abundance. I became a teacher at age 39.
WHY I BECAME A TEACHER/EDUCATOR: After being a school business manager, I felt I had to deal with persons who acted like children, I preferred them to be children.
SPECIAL HOBBIES/INTERESTS: Playing golf, art and reading.
FAMILY INFORMATION: Married, five children, six grandchildren.

PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THEY KNEW I: Used to drive tractors, ride and train horses, and own race horses.
MOST GRATIFYING EXPERIENCE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE: To see the "light" come on when they grasp a concept or experience success.
IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT MY JOB, IT WOULD BE: The unrest within school "politics." Teaching is a joy, but what we must deal with outside the classroom is frustrating and often demeaning.



THE LAST WORD

Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend.

Theophrastus

The only lesson history has taught us is that man has not learned anything from history.

Anonymous

What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies.

Aristotle

First five years: Teacher shares his all-too-common experiences

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Winter is the time of year when Julio Ramirez usually dreams of his high school students cramming algebra equations as they prepare for final exams.

But on a December morning, images of unfamiliar work settings invaded his sleep.

Ramirez, a 32-year-old teacher at Lanier High School on San Antonio's West Side, awoke to realize that, for the first time since he started teaching five years ago, he is considering leaving his job.

"Everyone recognizes teaching is one of the most demanding professions out there, but they don't recognize it by paying me enough so I can provide for my family, buy a house and drive a decent car," he says.

National experts say teachers are most likely to leave the profession in the first five years. Texas loses 30 percent of its teachers within the first two years and 50 percent within the first five.

Stress, poor working conditions and concerns about low pay lead teachers to abandon the field, surveys show. Ramirez says he can handle the pressure but is increasingly troubled by what he calls a lack of "economic respect."

Yet Ramirez sets aside his frustration when he enters the classroom.

Last year, Ramirez's International Banking and Business magnet school students outperformed all other classes in the San Antonio School District on the state algebra exam.

This year, Ramirez hopes they'll do even better.

"As a teacher, we're supposed to stand in front of a classroom and encourage our students to get either a two- or four-year degree in a competitive field such as math, science, engineering or computers. If they do, they can live a certain lifestyle. That's the American dream," Ramirez says.

"Their own teacher, who did follow those rules, is not living the American dream. I've lost their economic respect."

In truth, his students and peers admire him. He was named math department co-chairman this year. He tells his students not to choose teaching, yet several say they hope to follow his example. For boys at the high school, Ramirez serves as a key role model.

Unlike most professions, teaching offers Ramirez no career ladder short of leaving the classroom for administration. He burns to test himself elsewhere, to see if he can turn the drive that energizes his students into financial gains.

A day with Julio

One December day, Ramirez parked his truck and hit the ground running at 7:30 a.m.

"We've got to hustle," he says, brushing aside a reporter's apologies for making him late.

Then he's moving, shaking out his keys, opening his classroom door, fishing for pages to photocopy. He waves to students and hums like a motor as he cruises through the bustling hall.

His students file into Room 114 to find four problems on the board.

"All right, boys and girls, you've got a warm-up (exercise) there," Ramirez says. Two dozen students groan. They discard jackets, pick up calculators, settle into a rhythm.

Ramirez zings a set of rapid-fire questions at his class.

"What does the square root of 37 mean? OK, but what does it mean in plain English? ... Let's use that common sense first. ... Did y'all finish (problems) No. 2 and No. 3?" There is a chorus of yesses.

He neutralizes a squirming student by sending him to the board. "Johnny, why don't you come up and show us No. 2?"

Next, Mario goes to the front board and stares at it.

"What's the matter?" Ramirez asks. "You're acting like you've never been to the board. Did you do the problem?"

"No."

"Can you?"

"Yes."

"Do you need a calculator?"

He helps Mario get started, then reviews problems for the class.

He turns.

"Need help?"

Mario doesn't answer.

"Put the calculator down," he tells a reluctant Mario. Like an actor, he projects for his audience.

"I know we encourage the calculator, but try to step back: ... especially when you're dealing with simple numbers like this."

He closes with a pep talk.

"Marci's mom is graduating from UTSA (the University of Texas at San Antonio)," he says.

"It's never too late ... I was the first to graduate from college in my family. You don't have to be an Einstein. Lord knows, I wasn't. I got Bs and Cs straight through high school."

"All you need to go to college

is determination. Ganas. Desire."

Ramirez tells his students they go through little he hasn't heard or experienced. As a result, he hears about lost virginity, rape, family problems nothing he wouldn't hear on the wealthier North Side, he is quick to point out.

"Not only are you a teacher, you are a mother, brother, sister, father, clergyman, counselor, dictator. This is the challenge and I am up to it," he says. "This is what I am going to miss."

Today's teachers

In a "pink collar" field full of Anglo women, Ramirez is a rarity. And the pink collar is gray.

Two million of the country's 3.5 million teachers are expected to retire in the next 10 years. Serious shortages already exist in bilingual education and special education, which require special skills; and math, science and computers, where private companies pay top dollar.

Last year, 96 percent of Texas public school teachers were certified in specific skills, such as math or science teaching. But about 30 percent taught outside their area of expertise.

One of every five SASD high school math teachers wasn't certified in math, state data shows.

State teacher unions, pointing to the dearth of qualified educators, are lobbying for a \$6,000 pay raise in the Legislature.

Texas teachers ranked 38th in the nation in annual pay in 1996-97, when they earned an average \$32,426, according to a study by the American Federation of Teachers.

More than one-third of Texas teachers held outside jobs, double the national figure, according to a survey last year by the Texas State Teachers Association. The survey also found 40 percent considered leaving the job because of stress, poor working conditions and low pay.

The pool of veteran teachers is rapidly declining.

"If I stayed, it's because together we've been able to make ends meet. We don't have the big house or the fancy cars," says Margaret Arevalo, a

26-year math teacher in the Edgewood School District. She married a history teacher who doubles as a community college teacher.

She says she wouldn't want to counsel Ramirez.

"All I know is our kids need good teachers how long can the state of Texas let them leave?"

State Senate Education Committee Chairman Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, said public school teachers never have been paid their full value.

"There are 325,000 (Texas) teachers who are willing to work today at these pay levels. Teaching has never been a profession people went into to get rich. They love the work. They went into it for the intangible rewards."

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IN BRIEF

Postseason cage tilts slated at 'The Dorothy'

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be the site for a number of postseason basketball games, the first of them coming Friday as Borden County's Lady Coyotes play a practice game against Ozona's Lady Lions and the Coyotes take on Stanton's Buffaloes in a boys' practice game.

'The Dorothy' will also be the site for two bi-district girls' playoff games on Tuesday.

Abilene's Lady Eagles take on Lubbock Lubbock Coronado's Lady Mustangs in a Class 5A playoff at 6 p.m. Tuesday, followed by an 8 p.m. Class 3A showdown between Slaton's Lady Tigers and Crane's Lady Golden Cranes.

Lady Steers boosters set meeting for tonight

The Lady Steers Booster Club will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Big Spring High School Athletic Training Center.

Plans for the upcoming Lady Steers Sports Banquet will be discussed.

For more information, call 393-5672.

National Little League slates Monday meeting

The Big Spring National Little League will hold a meeting for all persons interested in helping with the 1999 Little League season for 7 p.m. Monday at the 14th and Main Church of Christ.

Little League registration begins Feb. 20. For more information, contact Jim Wilson at 263-0062, John R. Sparks at 263-8527 or Jerry and Carlon Baker at 263-3242.

CGA membership tourney scheduled for Sunday

The Chicago Golf Association of Big Spring will hold its annual membership tournament Sunday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Entry fees for the four-man scramble are set at \$10 per person and CGA membership dues are \$20 per person. The tournament will begin with a 10 a.m. shotgun start, but players should be at the course and have fees paid no later than 8:30 a.m.

Hunter Education course scheduled for Feb. 20-21

A hunter education course, required for all hunters born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, will be conducted Feb. 20-21 at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce offices.

Boyce Hale will be the instructor for the classes. A fee of \$10 per person will be charged.

For more information, call Hale at 267-6957 or Dibrell's Gun Shop at 267-7891.

American Cancer Society offering 1999 golf passes

Officials with the American Cancer Society are encouraging local golfers to take advantage of the 1999 Texas Golf Pass.

The pass provides golfers with up to 450 rounds of golf for a \$35 fee.

Both the Big Spring Country Club and the Comanche Trail Golf Course are participating.

ON THE AIR

Radio JUCO BASKETBALL 6 p.m. — Howard College Lady Hawks at Midland College Lady Chaparrals, KBYG-AM 1400. 8 p.m. — Howard College Hawks at Midland College Chaparrals, KBST-AM 1490.

Television COLLEGE BASKETBALL Men 6:30 p.m. — Illinois at Michigan State, ESPN, Ch. 30. 9:30 p.m. — UCLA at Stanford, ESPN, Ch. 30. 11 p.m. — California-Irvine at Utah State, ESPN, Ch. 30.

SKIING 4 p.m. — World Alpine Championships, women's giant slalom, ESPN, Ch. 30.

Steers, Lady Steers golfers host BSHS Invitational this weekend

By JOHN A. MOSELEY Sports Editor

Although Big Spring's Steers and Lady Steers golf teams opened the 1999 season in less than impressive fashion last week, coaches Gary Simmons and Mike Scarbrough expect better showings as their teams prepare to host the Big Spring Invitational Golf Tournament this weekend.

The tournament gets under way Friday with a field of 25 boys teams playing at the Comanche Trail Golf Course, while the girls' division's field of 22 teams will play at the Big Spring Country Club.

Saturday's final rounds will see the boys play at the country club, while the girls play Comanche Trail's layout.

"This is going to be a really good tournament with an extremely strong field in both divisions," Simmons said as he prepared his Steers for Friday's opening round.

"Right now, I guess you'd have to say that Lubbock Coronado or Odessa Permian would be the favorites in the boys' division, but (San Angelo) Lake View's supposed to be pretty good, too.

"The important thing is that we'll get a good look at just what Lake View, Sweetwater, Andrews and the rest of the teams in our district have got," Simmons added, noting that this year's District 5-4A boys' field will be a strong one and believes the Steers will be extremely competitive.

Although the Steers finished sixth last week at the Snyder Invitational, Simmons says he expects a stronger showing this week.

"I think we'll play a lot better, because this is a good group of kids ... they play well," he explained. "We're not going to dazzle people with a couple of kids going out and shooting in the 60s, but we are capable of having four kids shoot in the 70s.

"That's what we're looking for right now ... being able to develop some consistency," he added. "We're looking for the right combination of kids right now, that's why we'll have three boys' teams competing this weekend."

The Steers' first team will consist of seniors Sammy Rodriguez, Rudy Gamboa, Heath Bailey and O.J. Hernandez and sophomore Isaac Wilburn.

Rodriguez, the Steers' No. 1 player, led the way at Snyder with a 74-79, 153 —

good enough to finish seventh in the medalist standings, while Hernandez finished tied for 13th individually.

The second team will include senior Josh Long and juniors Richard Gaitan, Jamie Womble, Zach Hall and Jerrod Simmons; while the third team will include three freshmen — Will Connally, Dustin Rinard and Jacob Garcia — and sophomore Richard Key.

For the Lady Steers, a 458-394, 852 posted on the San Angelo Country Club and Riverside Golf Courses left them 11th in a field of 14 teams at the San Angelo Girls' Golf Classic.

Scarbrough, however, is anything but disappointed with the way his largely inexperienced Lady Steers squad is playing.

See TOURNAMENT, page 2B

Lady Hawks set for title fight

Howard men put 9-0 mark on line against Chaparrals

By JOHN A. MOSELEY Sports Editor

No championship is won in just one game, but there are always pivotal moments in any title run that are glaring in retrospect.

Sometimes ... just sometimes, you can see such moments coming.

Such is the case tonight as Howard College's Hawks and Lady Hawks face what could well be their biggest games in the second half of the Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJAC) schedule, facing Midland College's Chaparrals and Lady Chaparrals.

Tonight's women's game set for a tip at 6 is without question crucial for the No. 8-ranked and 23-2 Lady Hawks, as they attempt to avenge a 74-69 home loss to the Lady Chaparrals suffered a few weeks ago.

That loss on Jan. 18 was the first home defeat the Lady Hawks had suffered in Matt Corkery's three years at the Howard women's helm. It was also only the third Lady Hawks loss at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum in the 1990s.

The Lady Hawks want nothing more to erase the bad taste that loss left in their collective mouth and is almost a requirement if they're to live up to pre-season predictions that Howard's women would win the WJAC championship.

Knocking off the No. 5-ranked Lady Chaps on their Chap Center home court would leave the Lady Hawks tied for the WJAC standings with four games to play.

Midland enters tonight's game with a 23-2 mark matching Howard's. However, the Lady Chaps currently hold a one-game lead in the WJAC women's standings with a perfect 9-0 slate in conference play.

What's more, the Lady Chaps come into the game with the nation's 10th best offense, averaging 85.1 points per game with three players averaging in double figures.

Midland is paced by Judy Gonzales' 14.9 points-per-game average, while teammates Julie Rampley and Amie Kane average 11.2 and 10.0 points per game, respectively.

On the other hand, the Lady Hawks possess the nation's No.

6-rated defense, allowing opponents just 55.5 points per game. Offensively, they score at a 79.9 points-per-game clip.

In addition, the Lady Hawks have the conference's most prolific scorer in point guard Karlita Washington, who averages 20.5 points per game. Teammate Latasha Moore averages 11.7 points per game.

The Lady Hawks, however, are coming off a less than thrilling performance against Western Texas, and Corkery says they'll have to play much better to knock off the Lady Chaps.

"We haven't said a word to them about Midland since we played them here," Corkery noted, explaining that the Lady Hawks showing in their 85-57 win over WTC should not have been the result of looking ahead.

Since that win, however, there's not question that Corkery and his charges have had their focus clearly centered on the Lady Chaps.

And Corkery makes it clear the Lady Hawks will have to play much better than they did when the last time the two teams faced each other if they hope to win.

"We're going to have to do a much better job getting on the boards and execute offensively if we're going to beat them (Lady Chaps)," he added.

"That was the difference when we played them at home ... they dominated the game inside the paint," Corkery added. "We can't let them do whatever they want to do inside the lane and expect to win.

"It's really a matter of intensity," he added. "More than anything that was what they had going for them the first time. They wanted it a little more than we did.

Hawks head coach Tommy Collins is also concerned with the level of intensity his team has shown since the Hawks' 68-62 win over Midland on Jan. 18.

Howard, now the nation's No. 24-ranked team, enter tonight's game with a 19-5 mark overall and a perfect 9-0 slate in WJAC play. And, thanks to a South Plains loss on Tuesday, the Hawks own a two-game lead in the conference men's standings.

What's more, the Hawks are the nation's No. 7-ranked team defensively, allowing opponents just 65 points per game, while scoring 77.2 points per game.

Howard Profiles

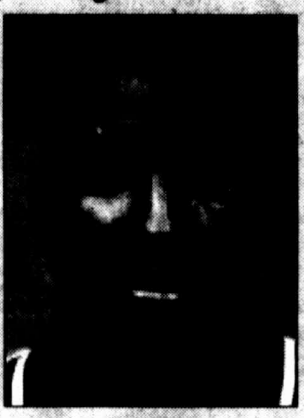
Hawk: Scooter Owens, 5-foot-10 freshman point guard.

Hometown: Baton Rouge, La.

Quick Facts: Currently averaging 2.4 points and 1.4 assists per game coming off the bench for the 19-5 Hawks as they head into tonight's game in Midland with a perfect 9-0 mark in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play. Provided what Hawks head coach Tommy Collins credits as the pivotal play in Howard's road win over South Plains College with a spectacular save of a loose ball, diving out of bounds to save the ball and calling timeout in the process to maintain possession.

High School: Three times earned all-district and all-metro honors at Bob Jones High School. He was also a two-time all-state selection and was named his district's most valuable player his senior season averaging 19 points, eight assists and five steals per game. Also played on team that won four state AAU championships during the offseason. In track he was the Louisiana state champion in the 800 meters and ran a leg on the state championship 1,600-meter relay team.

Coach Tommy Collins comments: "Scooter has excellent quickness and is a good shooter with range. I had the privilege of coaching his high school ... he is the same type of intelligent and intense player."



OWENS

Lady Hawk: Kim Robertson, 5-foot-9 sophomore guard/forward.

Hometown: Big Spring.

Quick Facts: Currently averages 1.4 points and 1.4 rebounds per game in a reserve role for the 23-2 Lady Hawks, ranked No. 8 nationally going into tonight's game against No. 5-ranked Midland College's Lady Chaparrals. A walk-on, she shot 50 percent from three-point range during her freshman season which was cut short due to an injury.

High School: Led Big Spring's Lady Steers to a 19-10 record and their sixth consecutive district championship in 1997 by averaging 11.5 points, seven rebounds and three steals per game. Was named the District 4-4A most valuable player her senior season, earning a first-team spot on the Herald's All-Crossroads Country Basketball Team. Was also named to the All-Permian Basin and All-West Texas teams selected by other newspapers. Joined future Lady Hawks teammate Ricka McKee on the Crossroads Classic All-Tournament Team her senior season.

Coach Matt Corkery's comments: "Kim gives us a needed threat behind the three-point line. As a sophomore she's become a leader ... particularly by example. She has a great work ethic. She knows what it takes to win and works hard to make herself and her teammates better every day."



ROBERTSON

he'd like to have seemed epidemic to Collins since Howard knocked off the Chaps during the second week of conference play.

"We haven't been the same team since the Midland game ... we just haven't been outstanding."

See HAWKS, page 2B

Hawks set to host Frank Phillips in home, WJAC opener

By JOHN A. MOSELEY Sports Editor

The baseball season officially opens in Crossroads Country at 2 p.m. Friday, as Howard College's Hawks play host to Frank Phillips Plainsmen at Jack Barber Field.

Not only will Friday's game be the Hawks' home opener, but also opens Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJAC) play for the two teams.

Friday's game will be followed by a Saturday doubleheader starting at noon Saturday.

The Hawks opened their season last weekend with a third-place finish at the Blinn Invitational Tournament in Brenham, winning three of the four games they played.

Included in those three wins was a 7-0 shutout of No. 9-ranked Northeast Texas

Community College's Eagles, a team that went to the NJCAA national tournament last season, and a 9-8 thriller over No. 10-ranked Navarro Junior College's Bulldogs.

That was just the kind of start Hawks head coach Brian Roper had hoped for, save for a no-hit loss to Blinn's host team in the tournament's second game.

"The loss to Blinn was a big letdown on our part, but I really liked the way we rebounded and played well against a couple of nationally-ranked teams," Roper said. "That was especially important, because we're going to be a much different team than we were last year."

This year's Hawks team promises to play a more exciting brand of baseball than Howard's 1998 team that boasted a lineup of power hitters that lived and died by the big inning.

Those heavy hitters have been replaced with personnel more suited for station-to-station baseball.

"A big inning for us this season is going to be a leadoff walk, a stolen base and a run-scoring single ... maybe a double," Roper noted. "We won't be waiting on big innings. In fact, we'll be looking to score runs in innings where we don't have a hit.

"We're going to be a team that manufactures runs and relies on strong pitching this time around," he added. "We certainly look a lot different. Instead of being a power hitting team, we have a strong pitching staff and play defense really well."

Howard's change in style doesn't mean the Hawks don't have several returning players.

Right-handed pitcher Duite Welch, utility player Rhett Wells, left-handed pitchers Brandon Claussen and Josh Duwe, catcher Robert Ramos and shortstop Shane Webb return from last year's Howard team that qualified for the Region V tournament.

"Those guys ... every one of them are going to play a key role for us," Roper explained, adding that Webb plays a pivotal role. "Shane's really a leader for us ... he's kind of the glue that holds us all together. He has a tremendous work ethic ... an example for everyone else on the team.

"But we've got a great group of freshmen and a few sophomore transfers that are going to be the key to our success, as well," Roper added.

The four transfers include third baseman Drew Topham, who spent his first season at LSU; second baseman John Michael Herrera, who comes to the Hawks after having played at McNary as a freshman; designated hitter and utility player John Coleman, who played at San Jacinto College last season; and left-handed pitcher Nick Webb, a Houston Bellaire product who spent his first col-

See OPENER, page 2B

SPORTS EXTRA

JUCO-MEN

The top 20 teams in the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I men's basketball poll with first place votes in parentheses and records through Feb. 9:

JUCO-WOMEN

The top 25 teams in the National Junior College Athletic Association women's basketball poll and records through Feb. 9:

AP TOP 25-WOMEN

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first place votes in parentheses and records through Feb. 7:

AP TOP 25-MEN

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's college basketball poll, with first place votes in parentheses and records through Feb. 7:

BASEBALL AMERICA

The Top 25 college baseball teams as determined by the staff of Baseball America magazine with records through Feb. 7:

NBA STANDINGS

Table with columns: Conference, Division, Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Eastern Conference Atlantic Division and Central Division.

Table with columns: Conference, Division, Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Western Conference Midwest Division and Pacific Division.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes Wednesday's Games, Today's Games, and Friday's Games.

COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

Table with columns: Team, Record. Includes the top 25 teams in the Collegiate Baseball poll with records through Feb. 7.

DIV. II BASEBALL

Table with columns: Team, Record. Includes the top 25 teams in the Collegiate Baseball Division II poll, with records and point totals through Feb. 7.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL AMERICA American League OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Named J.P. Ricciardi director of player personnel.

NHL

Wednesday's Games St. Louis 5, Tampa Bay 4 Toronto 2, Detroit 1 Phoenix 3, Los Angeles 0 Anaheim 5, Philadelphia 4

Through Feb. 8 ALL-AROUND 1. Chad Hagan, Leesville, La., \$9,324. 2. B.J. Zieffle, Concord, N.C., \$10,031.

RODEO LEADERS

Through Feb. 8 SADDLE BRONC RIDING 1. Rod Hay, Wildwood, Alberta, \$16,787. 2. Billy Ebbauer, Edmonton, Okla., \$15,377.

STEER WRESTLING

1. Brad Gleason, Touchet, Wash., \$16,215. 2. Justin Davis, Sidney, Mont., \$15,059.

BARREL RACING

1. Talina Bird, Post, Texas, \$11,597. 2. Monica Wilson, Cardston, Alberta, \$9,995.

Nebraska breaks Kansas' 15-year string; Sooners nip Texas with last-second shot

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

For Nebraska, it was a higher power that led the team to its first victory over Kansas in Allen Fieldhouse in 15 years.

"A miracle, that's all I can say," the Huskers' Venson Hamilton said Wednesday night, after a 64-59 victory over the 24th-ranked Jayhawks.

Kansas, in a year that has seen team streak after streak fall, had a double-digit lead at one point and was looking for revenge after Nebraska's 84-69 win on Jan. 27.

"When we got up by 11, we were ready to drive the final nail into their coffin, but we just didn't get it done," guard Ryan Robertson said.

Kansas (16-7 overall, 8-3 Big 12) led 48-39 with 8:17 left, but Nebraska (16-8, 8-3) promptly went on a 10-1 run and made some clutch free throws in the final minute to take the win.

Oklahoma (17-7, 8-3) got a last-second jump shot from Michael Johnson to take a 64-63 win over Texas.

"It was on a play designed for Eric Martin, but they had him scouted pretty good and he was covered," Johnson said.

The result tightened the Big 12 race as the league-leading Longhorns fell to 14-10 overall and 9-2 in league play.

Oklahoma had a great night shooting the ball and we lost the game for lack of execution," said Texas coach Rick Barnes.

Colorado (12-12, 3-8) was down by as many as 18 in the first half against Oklahoma State (16-7, 7-4), but Jaquay Walls elevated his game in the second half to lead the Buffaloes to a 83-80 win.

Walls, who finished with a career-high 34 point, scored 25 of those in the final 20 minutes.

The Cowboys hadn't scored for six minutes when Glendon Alexander hit a 3-pointer to cut Colorado's lead to 76-75 with 46 seconds left.

OPENER

Continued from page 1B

legiate season at the University of Texas.

Howard's top freshmen will be lead-off hitter Kennard Bibbs, an all-state selection at Houston Bellaire last season, who'll move in as the Hawks' starting center fielder; Chad Verret, who'll hold the fort in right field; first baseman from Prescott, Ariz., and pitcher Danny McMurtry from North Platte, Neb.

While a year ago Roper was predicting great things from his lineup of power hitters, he is much more wary of brash statements this season.

HAWKS

Continued from page 1B

ing," Collins said.

"The Hawks, however, are not alone.

"Midland's had the same problem ... they haven't been able to play with the same intensity, either," Collins continued.

In fact, the Hawks boss says his team could well be suffering from its own success and needs real adversity to regain the fire it showed earlier in the season.

"Maybe we need to get beat to get our heads on straight," he noted.

"I hope not, but if that's what it takes to get us ready to play the way we need to be playing when the regional tournament gets here, it would be a blessing."

But free throws and a last-second dunk by Walls sealed the win for the Buffaloes.

Jamahl Mosley and Kenny Price each had 19 for Colorado, while Adrian Peterson led the Cowboys with 27 points.

Practice doesn't make perfect for the Texas A&M Aggies, 79-74 winners over Kansas State, but perhaps perfect practice does.

Chris Clayton and Texas A&M coach Melvin Watkins said the game was won in workouts.

"The last couple of weeks, our practices have been just like games," Clayton said.

The Aggies (11-10, 4-7 Big 12) never trailed after a 14-0 first-half run.

Texas A&M led 38-31 at halftime and by 58-45 after the first of consecutive 3-pointers by Clayton with 10:54 left.

"The key was that we couldn't hit the open jumper in the first half," said Kansas State coach Tom Asbury.

It might be a case of the more things change the more they stay the same for Baylor (6-18, 0-11).

Bears' coach Harry Miller says his team showed improvement in its 75-66 loss to Texas Tech (11-13, 3-8).

"It is a very tough situation for our guys," Miller said.

The Red Raiders led by only one point, 60-59, with about six minutes to play.

than it's ever been," he explained.

"Frank Phillips is one of them, too," he added.

"The conference is going to be stronger this year than it was last year ... maybe stronger than it's ever been," he explained.

"I think it's going to be more competitive than it's ever been, because there are at least five teams that have the ability to win the championship."

"Frank Phillips is one of them, too," he added.

"The thing we've got to do is stay within ourselves, work hard and take each game as it comes."

TOURNAMENT

Continued from page 1B

"I'm not at all disappointed and neither are our kids," he explained of the Lady Steers' finish in San Angelo.

"We learned a lot from the experience and should be better this week," he added.

"Plus, we showed a lot of improvement between the first and second rounds last week ... like 64 strokes," Scarbrough continued.

and second rounds last week ... like 64 strokes," Scarbrough continued.

"We're looking to improve on our weaknesses — chipping and putting. We've got a very strong field coming in, but we should play better than we did in San Angelo."

The Lady Steers are led by junior Ashlie Simmons, who posted an 86-83, 169 to finish tied for fourth in the individual medalist standings at San Angelo.

and second rounds last week ... like 64 strokes," Scarbrough continued.

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FISHING REPORT

Here is the weekly fishing report as compiled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for Feb. 10. (Report also available on Web as www.tdfrishing.com.)

CENTRAL
BROWNWOOD: Water stained; 55 degrees; Black bass are good on black and chartreuse 7" Power Lizards and dark colored jigs fished around the boat docks. Crappie are good on minnows fished around the docks, over brush piles and in the rivers. Hybrid strippers are slow. Catfish are slow.
BUCHANAN: Water clear; 57 degrees; 7" low; Black bass are fair on black/blue rattlin' jig-n-pigs, white/red Terminator spinnerbaits (slow rolled) and crawfish pattern Rat-L-Traps fished around the islands. Crappie are fair on minnows. White bass are good on Horizon jiggling spoons and slabs. Striped bass are good trolling bucktail jigs around Paradise and Highline in 26 feet of water. Channel and blue catfish are fair on cut baits. Yellow catfish to 8 pounds are fair on trotlines baited with live perch.

PROCTOR: Water clear; 57 degrees; Black bass are good on white spinnerbaits and black Power Craws fished along the banks in 2 to 10 feet of water. Crappie are excellent on small tube jigs (pink body-pearl tail) fished at the dam. Hybrid strippers are fair drift fishing chartreuse jigs with the wind in 20 to 30 feet of water.

SOUTH
AMISTAD: Water stained; 55 degrees; 34.7' low; Black bass to 8 pounds are fair to good on motor oil or watermelon seed Carolina-rigged worms and jiggling spoons fished next to the ledges and the grass in 20 to 40 feet of water. Crappie are slow. White and striped bass are excellent on Hyper Stripper jigs with a white grub trailer fished in 20 to 60 feet of water. Channel and blue catfish are good on cheesebait fished in 80 to 100 feet of water in the river.

WEST
ALAN HENRY: Water stained; 50 degrees; 5' low; Black bass are fair to good on jigs fished in the creeks in 18 to 22 feet of water. Some fish are starting to show up on shallow flats and can be taken using a slow rolled white spinnerbait. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs fished off the barge. Catfish are slow. Two lanes are open at the boat ramp.

ARROWHEAD: Water clear; 45 degrees; 7' low; Black bass are fair on orange and white spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows fished near the derricks in 18 feet of water. White bass are slow. Channel and blue catfish are good on large shiners fished at night on the south end of the lake.

BRIDGEPORT: No report available this week.

COLORADO CITY: Water murky; 54 degrees; 12' low; Black bass are fair on chrome Rat-L-Traps fished over the rocks. Redfish are fair trolling stickbaits. Few fishermen out.

FT. PHANTOM HILL: Water stained; 47 degrees; 17' low; Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows fished around the dam by the rocks. Hybrid strippers are fair on shad and shiners fished on the west side of the lake in the shallows. Blue catfish to 19 pounds are good on shad and shiners fished in the shallows.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water stained; 48 degrees; 4.8' low; Black bass are slow. Crappie are excellent on minnows and white marabou jigs fished around the boathouses in 12 feet of water. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

KEMP: Water stained; 49 degrees; 12' low; Black bass are slow. White bass are good on white and chartreuse slabs fished in 30 to 45 feet of water.

NOCONA: Water clear; 49 degrees; 4.5' feet low; Black bass are fair on black and blue jigs fished in 10 to 14 feet of water. Also try slow rolling a white spinnerbait on the outside edges of the grass. Crappie are good on white jigs and chrome jiggling spoons fished in 15 to 40 feet of water. Channel and blue catfish are slow. Yellow catfish are slow.

OAK CREEK RESERVOIR: Water clear; 42 degrees; 10' low; Black bass to 9 pounds are fair on minnows, jigs and spinnerbaits fished in 10 to 20 feet of water. Crappie are slow on minnows and jigs fished in 5 to 15 feet of water. White bass are slow on minnows and jigs fished in 5 to 15 feet of water. Channel and blue catfish are slow.

O.H. IVIE: Water clear; 53 degrees; Black bass are fair to good on jigs and crankbaits fished in 2 to 10 feet of water. Also try fishing in 30 to 40 feet of water on the main lake. Crappie are good on minnows fished at night under lights in 35 feet of water in the river channel near the bigger trees. White bass are fair to good on jiggling spoons fished in 25 to 35 feet of water along the river channel. Catfish are slow.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 50 degrees; 12' low; Fishing reported generally slow. A 21 pound striped bass and a 6.5 pound smallmouth (new lake record) were caught this past week.

SPENCE: Water clear; 45 degrees; Black bass to 8 pounds are fair on worms fished off the bank. Striped bass to 30 pounds are very good on cut baits fished in 10 to 15 feet of water. Channel and blue catfish are very good on cut baits. Yellow catfish are very good on nightcrawlers and cut baits.

STAMFORD: Water stained; 48 degrees; 11' low; Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. Channel and blue catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and minnows fished in 5 to 12 feet of water. Yellow catfish are slow.

SWEETWATER: Water murky; 41 degrees; 7.5' low; Black bass are fair on red spinnerbaits and red shad worms fished over the grass beds. Crappie are fair on slabs fished in 10 to 20 feet of water. Channel and blue catfish are fair on shrimp and stinkbait.

TWIN BUTTES: The lake level is at 12% of normal due to work off the dam. The work is scheduled for completion in April or May. One ramp on the lake is reported barely accessible.

WHITE RIVER: Water muddy; 40 degrees; 20+ low; Black bass are fair on jigs and small crankbaits fished in 1 to 4 feet of water. Few fishermen out.

Especially for kids and their families
The Mini Page
By BETTY DEBNAUM

They're Back! Love Grows for Yo-Yos

All across the country, people have fallen in love again with yo-yos. Yo-yos have spun back into style in a big way. For 30 years before 1960, sales stayed about the same, with about 10 million yo-yos sold each year in the United States. But suddenly sales soared. In 1986 alone, sales more than doubled.

Yo-yos to know

- There are yo-yos that:
- are specially for girls. (They are containers for fruit-flavored lip gloss.)
 - glow in the dark,
 - sparkle,
 - light up,
 - have ball bearings for a smoother spin,
 - play music,
 - change color with your mood,
 - have computer chips enabling different pictures to show with each throw.

Yo-yos from long ago

Some experts believe people have been playing with yo-yos for thousands of years. The ancient Chinese might have played with them. Vases from ancient Greece picture people using what looks like a yo-yo.

In the 1500s, men from the Philippines used a yo-yo-type object in hunting. They tied a rope to a rock and climbed a tree. They dropped the rock on passing animals. If they missed, they could pull the rock up and try again.

Filipino children later played with true toy yo-yos. The word "yo-yo" is a Filipino word meaning "to come back."

Hello, yo-yo

In the 1920s a Filipino man named Pedro Flores became rich making and selling yo-yos out of wood.

Donald Duncan, founder of the Good Humor ice cream company, saw Mr. Flores showing yo-yo tricks in San Francisco, and bought the rights to make the toy in this country.

Duncan yo-yos became the most famous yo-yo in America. For years the Duncan company had the only rights to use the name "yo-yo."

Donald Duncan sent teams of yo-yo men across the country to teach skills and hold contests. A kid could win a brand-new bike if he or she yo-yoed well enough.

Yo-yos to and fro

The Duncan business went bankrupt in the 1960s. For a long time the yo-yo was out of style.

A plastic company bought the Duncan name and began selling new Duncan yo-yos. In the 1980s, many new firms started making better spinning yo-yos.

The spinning record with the original wooden type is about 53 seconds. Modern yo-yo records are longer than seven minutes.

Collecting yo-yos

Yo-yo collecting is becoming a popular hobby. Some people collect by new-model themes, such as sports, holidays, cartoon characters, superheroes, unusual shapes and miniatures. Others try to collect old yo-yos that you might discover in an attic.

Rookie Cookies Recipe
Tasty Tamale Pie

You'll need:

- 1 (16-ounce) can refried beans
- 1 (8-ounce) can corn, drained
- 1/2 cup cornmeal
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1/8 teaspoon chili powder

What to do:

1. Combine beans and corn in the bottom of a casserole. Mix well.
2. Combine remaining ingredients in a medium saucepan. Cook over medium heat 10 minutes or until thick. Stir often.
3. Spread cornmeal mixture evenly over beans and corn.
4. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 30 minutes. Serves 6.

BASSET BROWN THE NEWS HOUND'S

JUMP ROPES TRY 'N AND YO-YOS FIND

Words that remind us of jump ropes and yo-yos are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: JUMP ROPE, TOY, SPIN, KIDS, STYLE, GLOW, SMOOTH, CLUBS, OLYMPICS, FITNESS, PLAY, EXERCISE, HEART, WOOD, PLASTIC, TRICKS, SPORT, TURN.

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

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are playing with a jump rope. See if you can find:

- muffin
- peanut
- ladder
- safety pin
- number 3
- frog
- heart
- question mark
- pig's face
- pie
- sock
- number 8
- word MINI

Jumping Rope

Jumping rope is not just for playgrounds anymore. It is a very popular sport. Kids throughout the world are jumping rope for fun and fitness. There is even a push to get jumping rope accepted as an Olympic sport!

Each year there are U. S. National Jump Rope Championships. Every two years, there are world championships. In the fall of 1999, the world competition will be in this country.

Jumping for fitness

In the United States, jumping rope as a competitive sport grew in part from demonstrations put on by the American Heart Association.

Jumping rope is one of the least expensive ways to stay fit. All you need is a good pair of shoes and a rope.

Jumping rope keeps you fit by building up:

- heart, or cardiovascular, strength;
- muscular strength, especially in the legs, arms, chest and back;
- endurance.

Twenty minutes of jumping rope gives you the same aerobic benefits as running about 10 miles.

The Mini Page thanks Leslie Crafton, president, United States Amateur Jump Rope Federation; and the American Heart Association for help with this issue.

Look through your newspaper for stories and ads about toys that can help you become physically fit.

Next week The Mini Page is about the tiger and its troubles.

Visit our Web site at www.minipage.com



No one knows how jumping rope started. There are stories about people jumping over vines or kids playing with rope from ships. Jumping rope has come naturally to kids of all cultures and all times.

Safety

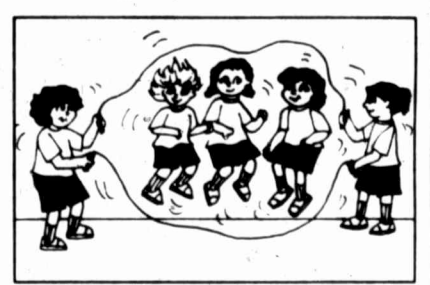
1. The most important thing is to wear good athletic shoes with a lot of support. Cross-trainers or running shoes would probably work best.
2. Do not jump too much. Like any sport, if you do it in excess you could be injured. In competition, routines may last only 45 to 75 seconds. When training, you need to be careful not to overdo.
3. A floor with give, such as a wooden basketball floor, is best for jumping.
4. Be sure to warm up first and cool down afterward, just as you would for any other sport.

Rhyming

The beat of songs and rhymes helps jumpers learn the rhythm of the rope swings.

More than 3,000 jump rope rhymes have been recorded by experts. Each culture has its own. Maybe you jump to a version of this one:

Miss Sally had a baby.
She named him Tiny Tim.
She put him in a bathtub
To see if he could swim.
He drank up all the water.
He ate up all the soap.
He tried to eat the bathtub
But it wouldn't go down his throat.
Miss Sally called the doctor.
Miss Sally called the nurse.
Miss Sally call the lady
With the alligator purse.



Double Dutch is one of the most popular routines.

Double Dutch

In double Dutch, two people turn two ropes while in between, one to four people jump in and out of the turning ropes.

In the American Double Dutch League, jumpers might get in 400 to 415 jumps in two minutes. One person jumps for one minute, jumps out, then the second person jumps in.

Jumpers get a lot of exercise, but so do the rope turners. Imagine turning two big ropes 400 to 415 times in two minutes. Muscles all over your body would be burning.

Jumping in and out very fast is still not enough challenge. Jumpers perform freestyle routines with push-ups, handstands or splits while the ropes are in the air.

Meet the Backstreet Boys

The Backstreet Boys really made it big last year. The members are Nick Carter, A.J. McLean, Howie Dorough, Brian Littrell and Kevin Richardson. Brian and Kevin are cousins.

Since being formed in 1993 in Orlando, Fla., the band has sold more than 22 million albums.

Howie has worked as an actor and has studied ballet. Brian, who began singing in church when he was young, likes playing basketball. He had heart surgery last year. A.J., whose full name is Alexander James, liked acting, singing and puppetry when he was young. Kevin is the oldest member. Nick, the youngest, likes basketball, sailing, video games and comic books.

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

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THAT'S MIGHTY FUNNY!

Q: What do you get when you cross a parrot with a pig?
A: A bird that hogs the conversation!

Q: Why won't the skeleton go on the roller coaster?
A: Because he hasn't got the guts! (all jokes sent in by Anne Winston)

A KID'S GUIDE TO THE WHITE HOUSE

Kids! You're Invited to the White House

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For Sale: Furniture Moving Co. - Local & Statewide. 75K yrly income potential. Call Tom Coates 263-2225.

HOUSES FOR SALE

ABANDONED HOMES
In Big Spring. Take up payments w/ nothing down. Local 264-0510

HOUSES FOR SALE

\$300 dn. Owner carry.
2 Bedroom, Central Heat and Air, Garage, Fenced. 809 E. 14th. Must have excellent credit.
806-794-5964.

\$400 dn. Owner carry.
4 bedroom, 2 bath 2 living areas, central heat, utility room, fenced, newly decorated. 1508 Oriole. Must have excellent credit. 806-794-5964.

Coronado Hills addition only 6 lots left. Call today **KEY HOMES, INC.**
Harry Deter 553-3502 or 915-520-9848. 4/16/98

FOR SALE: 2 bd. 1110 E. 13th. OWNER FINANCE.
Start home or rental property. \$10,500. Call 915-695-6100.

For Sale by Builder Kenny Thompson. New rebuilt home 3 bd., 2 bath in 1 1/4 acre w/barns. 605 Driver Rd., Silver Heals. Good water well, natural gas heat. Call 263-4548, 270-0580.

For Sale By Owner \$100's
1729 Yale Ave. 3-4 bdr. 2 bath, beautiful built-in cabinets throughout, and small apt. Please call 263-5118 Shown by appt. only!

FOR SALE OR LEASE BY OWNER
Very nice brick home. 2306 Allendale. 3 bd., 2 bath, dbl. gar., fireplace, water well. \$100,000. 264-0002.

I'M MAD ... at banks who don't give real estate loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgage, (254) 947-4475.

OPEN HOUSE

Just completed 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, total electric. 3213 Fann. Open Saturday & Sunday, 1:00-5:00pm. 915-520-9848.

Owner Finance.
Investors Dream 2107 Main Duplex. 3 bd., 2 bath; 508 Settles 1 b, 1 bath; 1907 N. Monticello 2 bd., 1 bath. Call 915-363-8243.

PRICE REDUCED!
STOP THROWING AWAY MONEY ON RENT
Use your tax refund for a down payment. Owner will finance 3 bd., 1 1/2 bath house @ 4108 Parkway. Priced \$31,000. w/\$1,900 down, \$335. per month. CH/A. Call 425-9998.

MOBILE HOMES

1000.00 down on a 1999 doublewide 3 bedroom 2 bath only 303.58 a month @ 11.9% A.P.R. 360 months W.A.C. only at A-1 Homes Midland. (915) 563-9000 or 1-800-725-9133.

1999 Fleetwood 16x80 3 bedroom 2 bath \$500.00 down \$284.73 for 360 months 11% APR. Only 3 left. A-1 Homes (915) 563-9000.

MOBILE HOMES

1999 Fleetwood 3 bedroom 2 bath \$500.00 down \$227.06 for 240 months 11% APR. Only 1 left. A-1 Homes (915) 563-9000.

\$500.00 DOWN New 3 Bedroom Fleetwood Only \$229.00 per month includes delivery, set-up, central heating, air conditioning, skirting & 1 year insurance. 300 mos. 12.75% APR. Homes of America, Odessa 48th & Andrews Hwy.

60 ft. 3 bedroom mobile home for sale, asking \$6,000. To see call 267-7133 leave message.

BARGAIN HUNTERS

New Year's Inventory Reduction.
'98 decor & discontinued models.
\$499/\$999 down with wac. Ask about FREE Satellite Dish. Only at Oakwood Homes I-20 @ Pine St. - Abilene. 915-676-7122.

* Casas usadas bararon del 1998. Con presios empesando a \$995.00 llame a Homes of America 1-800-725-0881 o a tel. (915) 363-0881.

Credit problems you pick out the home & I will take care of the credit. Call Billy at A-1 Homes Midland. (915) 563-9000 or 1-800-725-9133.

* Free Satellite Dish, 1 month service plus \$600.00 Cash Back available on select single section Fleetwood Home purchased through April 30, 1999. Homes of America, 4750 Andrews Hwy., Odessa, Tx. Call 1-800-725-0881 or 363-0881. Se Habla Espanol.

* Good credit, bad credit, slow pays, divorces, bankruptcy. Need a new home. Let me show you how to own a new home today. Free consultation. Call Calvin the credit doctor at A-1 Homes (915) 563-9000 or 1-800-725-9133.

* Left over trade-ins from 1998. Great selections starting at \$995.00. Call Homes of America, 48th & Andrews Hwy., Odessa, Tx 1-800-725-0881 or 363-0881. Se Habla Espanol.

* No credit, bad credit, bankruptcies, etc. Call the credit doctor for your free credit analysis. Homes of America, 4750 Andrews Hwy., Odessa, Tx. 363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881.

O Down Land/Home Oakwood Homes. I-20 & Bus 83 in Abilene 800-529-3195.

Porque espere? Deje enseriarle como puede recibir su income tax y Comprar una Casa Movil Horal Solo en Homes of America, 48 Y Andrews Hwy., Odessa, Texas. Tel. (915) 363-0881 O 1-800-725-0881.

MOBILE HOMES

REBATE, REBATE, REBATE. Cash back in your pockets. Call Homes of America for details. 1-800-725-0881 or 363-0881. Se Habla Espanol.

Tax refunds for down pmts. Bring us your Tax Return & we'll help you get into a new home. Only at A-1 Homes Midland. Ask for Jay (915) 563-9000 or 1-800-725-9133.

Use your Income Tax check to get a home. Let me show you how. Jesse James credit bandit 563-9000 or 1-800-725-9133.

* Why Wait? Let us show you how to get your IRS tax refund and move into your Fleetwood Home now. Only at Homes of America, 48th Andrews Hwy., Odessa, Texas (915) 363-0881 or 1-800-725-0881. Se Habla Espanol.

BUSINESS

PROPERTY RENTAL
FOR LEASE... Building on Snyder Highway. Call 263-5000.

FURNISHED APTS.

Apartments, Unfurnished houses, Mobile Home. References required. Call 263-6944, 263-2341.

OFFICE SPACE

2 bedroom garage apt. CH/A, fenced yard, lease deposit. \$200/mn. 263-6824, 263-7373.

UNFURNISHED APTS.

2 bdr. gas & water paid. 704 S. San Antonio/Down stairs. Call 263-5818.

2/1 Apartments. Move in Specials. From \$275 - \$400 plus electric. Furnished or unfurnished. 263-7621

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX

Swimming Pool
Carpets,
Most Utilities Paid.
Senior Citizen
Discounts,
1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished

KENTWOOD APARTMENTS

1904 East 25th Street
267-5444
263-5000

UNFURNISHED APTS.

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

\$99 MOVE IN plus deposit.
1,2,3 bdr. Partially fur. 263-7811 a.m. 393-5240 evenings

Carpets spacious 1 bdr. lots of storage, washer connection, ceiling fans. \$200/\$225-with appliances. Non Smokers: No Pets Please! References. 611 Burnside Century 21/McDonald Realty 263-7616

Eff. \$210 - 1 bdr. \$235. 2 bdr. \$275. \$99 Deposit.
On site Mgr. & Maint. Central H/A Open Weekends 915-267-4217

Large, nicest THREE BEDROOM apartment in town. 2 1/2 baths, gas heat and water included in rent, 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, 267-6500.

UNFURNISHED HOUSES

104 W. 9th. 2 bd, 1 bath, doll house, completely remodeled, hardwood floors, stove, frig., double carport, ceiling fans, \$365/mn. \$200/dep. 263-5517.

2 bdr. 1 bath, large rooms, pool, Sand Springs area. \$450/mn. \$250/dep. Call 210-479-8782.

2 bedr. house for rent. \$325/mn. \$150/dep. Call 263-6346.

2210 Lynn Drive: 3 bdr. 2 bath fenced, Central AC, 1 yr. lease required. \$600/mn. \$400/dep. No Indoo. Pets! Owner/Broker. 263-6514.

3 bdr. 1 bath duplex in Sand Springs area. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

3/2/1 den, clean ext. large, no pets. \$595. 267-2070

3226 Auburn. 3-1-1. CHA. Near Moss Elem. \$525. \$200 dep. Call 267-7867.

FOR RENT: 3 bd., 1 1/2 bath house. Fenced yard. CH/A. Parkhill area. 608 W. 17th. \$460/mo. Call 263-1281, evenings 425-1800.

Nice clean 2 br. stove & dishwasher. \$475. Call 263-7073 after 5pm. \$270/mn. \$100/dep.

One bedroom 1 bath. 1111 RENTED Call 267-7309.

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UNFURNISHED HOUSES

Nice 2 bdr. house with storage... **RENTED** for lot \$150.00 deposit. Call 264-9522.

SELL or RENT
4 bdr., 3 bdr., 2 bdr. Consider Rent to Own. 267-3905.

THREE BEDROOM, 2 1/2 bath apartment, better than a house, gas heat and water included in rent, two car attached carport, washer-dryer connections and "REMEMBER... YOU DESERVE THE BEST". Coronado Hills Apartment, 801 W. Marcy, 267-6500.

TOO LATE!

CONCEALED HANDGUN CLASS
Saturday, February 20th: One Day Class contact Tommy Scott. 394-4492.

Yard Sale, Fri. & Sat. 500 Abrams. China cabinet, wicker bedroom set, '87 Plymouth Horizon, '72 Monte Carlo, T.V., 2 VCR's, misc.

1989 Buick Skyhawk one owner, good shape \$1995 OBO. 263-2733.

ACREAGE - 3/2/2 on almost 19 acres with a good well and sandy soil \$70's. 3/1 on 70 acres with lighted roping pen, barn and some pens. \$70's. Becky Knight, 263-8540 or Coldwell Banker, 267-3613.

COLLEGE PARK-Totally remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath with oversized den and fireplace. Must see! \$82,500. Becky Knight, 263-8540 or Coldwell Banker 267-3613.

Yard Sale: Fri. & Sat. 9 till 5. Sycamore, 100 hub caps, tires, vacuum cleaner, heaters, clothes, yard tools, nick nacks.

Lost at Furr's Cafeteria around 2:00 pm, on 2/10/99 a red pouch with two pairs of earrings in it. **REWARD OFFERED!** 353-4572.

Save Money Read... Herald SUPER CLASSIFIED ADS

PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GRANTED BY SENATE BILL 267 THE BIG SPRING POLICE DEPARTMENT IS MAKING THIS PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF A REGISTERED SEX OFFENDER.

NAME: LORILLA ST. GENEVIEVE
AGE: 30 YEARS
OFFENSE: INDECENCY WITH A CHILD (FEMALE)
DIRECCION: LORILLA ST. BIG SPRING, TX.
AUTHORIDAD: LONNIE SMITH, JEFE DE POLICIA 2178 FEBRUARY 11, 1999

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***Dig your heels into work, and you'll accomplish a lot. An associate whispers important news; expect to hear more soon. Discuss a financial partnership with care. Your ability to relax, detach and escape is enhanced over the next year. Take time to integrate information. Tonight: To the gym for a workout.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***Creativity is high with your added charm. Another brings new facts to the table. Discussions prove rewarding and

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***Others are full of information. News from a distance could cast a new light on present plans. Be willing to take that workshop, especially if it will help you professionally. Career expansion is started this year, if you are in the right field. Otherwise, consider a needed change. Tonight: Make a difference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***Feedback takes you in a new career direction if you are willing. Take time for discussions with a partner who provides a lot of insight. Start professional negotiations. Broaden your immediate circle of friends by networking. Jump-start your life! Tonight: Out with a special friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***Friends are verbal and responsive. Now is the time to discuss long-term goals. An unusually broad perspective helps you professionally and personally. Make plans for a getaway. You have been "on" too long! Tonight: Escape happily from the mundane world.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
***Handle responsibilities in your customarily efficient manner. You are nearly intuitive when making decisions, and you know what works right now. A stellar planetary change salutes your sign for the next year. A new 11-year lucky cycle begins at 8:23 p.m. EST. Tonight: Pop open a bottle of champagne.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***You are more anchored than you have been in a long time. Excellent communication marks an established relationship with a co-worker. Talk about handling an increased workload. Jupiter moves into opposite sign tonight, offering you a year of options. Get ready! Tonight: Take a night off.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***Talks are very important for a decision. A child or a loved one shares with you. Express your feelings and be open to more closeness. Make plans to change your work patterns. You might want to make your day-to-day life more rewarding. Tonight: TGIF!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
***Making money becomes your specialty. You might have a powerful instinctive reaction to another's suggestion. You are building stronger foundations. You'll be more likely to take risks over the coming year. Use good sense. Expect increased luck in your love life. Tonight: Toast the good times.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
***Indulge yourself, as opposed to always doing what you are supposed to do. Communication flourishes; one idea leads to another. You are full of mischief and charisma. You enter a cycle where your home life will be enhanced. Start improving the quality of your life. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
***Assume very little, but follow through on what you think is intrinsically correct, especially concerning funds. Brainstorm with an expert, and you gain: Make a list of what you would like to do to improve your daily life. You can make this happen. Tonight: Be mysterious.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***Don't hold back; speak your mind. Others need to know where you are coming from. If you aim high, you'll attain what you're after. Emphasize fulfilling a wish, expanding your group of friends and broadening your present horizons. Tonight: Lead the party!

BORN TODAY
Actress Maud Adams (1945), actor Joe Don Baker (1936), actor Cliff DeYoung (1947).

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 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.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.coolpage.com/bigar>. ©1999 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 12:

You're in tip-top shape as you aim for exactly what you want and make it happen. Your ability to connect with and draw others reaches an all-time peak. Ask, and you shall receive! Nevertheless, there will be a great deal of introversion and time alone. Reflect, consider and make strong decisions. Improve your communication to enhance your day-to-day life. If you are single, your intuition leads you to positive relationships. Picking the right person for you may take more skill, however. If attached, your relationship grows because of your sunny disposition and in-depth insights. Capricorn understands you better than you think.

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

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CHURCH AND CLUB NEWS DEADLINES

Church and club news items are due at the Herald office by noon Wednesday for Friday publication.

Items should be dropped off to the office, 710 Scurry, mailed to P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721-1431; or faxed to 264-7205.

For more information call 263-7331, ext. 235.

Pictures of one person who may

THURSDAY

FEB. 11

Table with 24 columns (KMYD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, FSN, ESPN, AMC, BET) and 12 rows of program listings.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



"Conscience is e-mail your head gets from Heaven."

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DON'T YOU FEEL SORRY FOR PEOPLE WHO LIVE WHERE IT NEVER SNOWS?"

GEECH



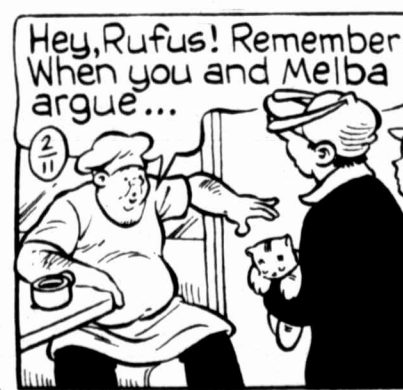
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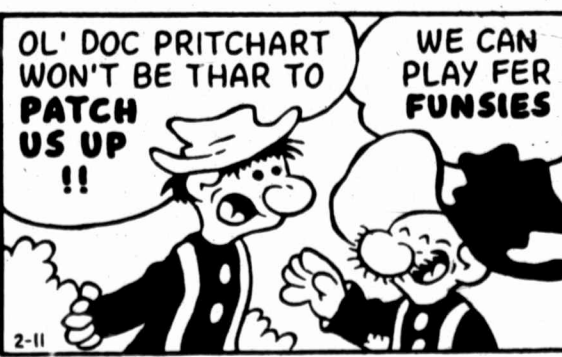
HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



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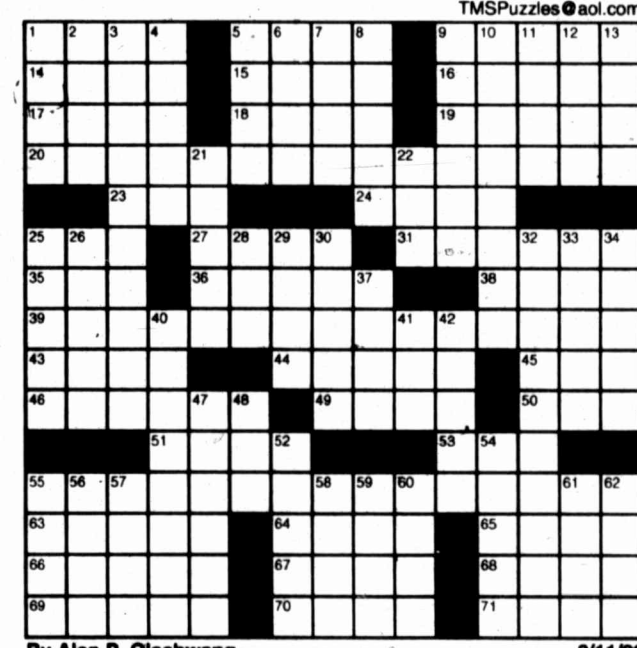


THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Thursday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 1999. There are 323 days left in the year.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Silent assents
5 Spill the beans
9 Goose calls
14 Aid a criminal
15 In person
16 Of part of the eye
17 Lasso
18 Portent
19 Boldness
20 Oz way?
23 "... the fields we go ..."
24 Writer Coward
25 Singer Grant
27 Festive affair
31 Food merchant
35 '60s war zone, briefly
36 Out of order
38 Imitation butter
39 Favre's flock?
43 Dryer trappings
44 Stick 'em up!
45 Contend
46 Recorded
49 Genealogical chart
50 Post-dusk, poetically
51 Walloping wind
53 Timetable abbr.
55 Legal decision makers
63 "Casablanca" co-star
64 Large, bundled package
65 Graphic opening?
66 Actor Merlin
67 Revise for print
68 Egyptian fertility goddess
69 Bang-up time
70 Lions' lairs
71 Small land mass



By Alan P. Oleschewicz
Huntington Beach, CA
2/11/99

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ALDA BASRA ERIN
REED EMAIL NUDE
IVES COWPUNCHER
AIR PALM MOORED
HAGUE ONER
PAULAS DIALECTS
LENA EARLE SARA
ART DUE TAG
TIER BERRA ABIE
SERENELY MOGULS
DOLE SPEAR
OMEARA STER GIB
OMGATCATCHER ELLE
ERAT EXILE RAIL
REDS DIMES AREA

- DOWN
1 ... a one
2 Double-read instrument
3 Positioning of troops
4 Upright stone marker
5 Explode
6 Extremity
30 So far
32 Ingenuity
33 Ghostly
34 AI of the '50s
37 Practice boxing
40 Knickknack shelves
41 Dead-eye
42 Low-cost
47 PTA member
48 Wallace or Whitney
52 Flowed back
54 Wheel spokes
55 Amorphous amount
56 Loaf about
57 Sky bear
58 Summoned, old-style
59 Ken or Lena
60 Seines
61 Runner
62 Suffer defeat

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Reflecting a Proud Texas Community
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