

# BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

**THURSDAY**  
March 11, 1999

Tonight:



**TONIGHT**    **FRIDAY**  
42°-53°    67°-75°

## Kiwanis Club pancake supper tickets \$5 each

The annual Kiwanis Club of Big Spring pancake supper will be held from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., Friday in the Howard College Cafeteria.

Tickets are \$5 per person and proceeds from the supper will go to fund the Kiwanis Club's youth activities, which include the Big Spring High School Key Club and Operation ID.

In addition to pancakes, sausage and bacon will be served, along with drinks.

Tickets are available from any member of the Kiwanis Club or at the door.

## MHMR to mark 2nd anniversary

West Texas Centers for Mental Health and Mental Retardation celebrates its second anniversary at 10 a.m. Friday in the large conference room of the West Texas Health and Human Services complex in College Park Shopping Center.

The board of trustees will host a cake and punch reception. The employee of the year will be recognized with a \$1,000 bonus.

Following the reception, the monthly meeting of the board of trustees will be held at the center's 409 Runnels location.

## WHAT'S UP...

### TODAY

□ American Legion Auxiliary, 7 p.m. Call 263-2084.

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

□ Big Spring Newcomer's Club contact Pat Mireles of ritme and location, f267-8741.

### FRIDAY

□ AMBUCS (American Business Club), noon; Brandin' Iron Restaurant.

□ 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. All seniors invited.

### SATURDAY

□ Howard County Scottish Rite Club, 7:30 a.m., Masonic Lodge, 21st and Lancaster. Breakfast served.

□ Dance 8:30 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third. Everyone welcome.

□ The Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
□ The Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1-5 p.m.

## INSIDE TODAY...

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## Vol. 96, No. 119

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

## CVB attracts two 300-person conventions, pursuing others

HERALD Staff Report

More than \$100,000 will be pumped into the local economy from two 300-person conventions being brought to Big Spring by the Convention and Visitors Bureau of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.



EARLE

The meetings — the Signal Homes dealers and representatives meeting this fall and the Texas Federation of Square and Round Dance Clubs in March 2001 — were held in Midland and Odessa this past year, both of whom bid again this year.

"We're extremely excited to have the opportunity to bring these meetings to Big Spring," said CVB director Andrea Earle.

"The Signal meeting was held in Midland last year and the Square and Round Dance convention has been in Midland-

Odessa for a number of years and it means a lot for us to be able to bid against those cities and take a meeting away from them."

The Signal Homes meeting will be held the first week of October and will utilize a number of community facilities — including the Dora Roberts Community Center. Activities planned include a pool tournament at John Wesley's Pick Pocket Billiards and a golf tournament.

Dealers and representatives attending the three-day meeting

are expected to occupy more than 100 motel rooms while in Big Spring.

The Square and Round Dance convention is also expected to draw more than 300 persons to town, utilizing more than 100 motel rooms in addition to space at local RV facilities.

That bid was a bit more complicated, Earle said, as it involved a date change for the event.

Because of a facility conflict, their state board had to approve a change in dates from the first weekend in March, when they

have always held the meeting, to the third weekend.

"We were told immediately after our presentation that we were awarded the bid," Earle said, "but we had to wait for their state board to approve the date change."

The three-day event will get under way on Friday and end on Sunday with all primary activities scheduled at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Earle said the CVB is actively pursuing a number of other meetings in an effort to attract people to Big Spring.



Nancy Raney stacks Beanie Baby toys on a rack at the Heritage Museum gift shop recently. The shop sells the stuffed toys, along with books, puppets, games and a variety of unusual products.

## SALT joins seniors and peace officers for crime prevention, education effort

By DEBBIE L. JENSEN  
Features Editor

Elderly people are often the target of scams and schemes, and they may need extra attention to their safety. A new advisory group has formed in Big Spring with a goal of keeping seniors safe.

SALT, Seniors and Law Enforcement Together, was formed at the suggestion of the Texas Attorney General. It consists of retired people, and representatives of law enforcement and other agencies who work with seniors.



HUIJBREGTSE

"This will be cooperation with law enforcement to meet the safety needs of seniors," said Doris Huijbregtse, who will serve as chairperson of SALT. Vice chairperson will be Clara Justice, and secretary will be Nancy Jones.

They meet the first Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. in the conference room at the Sparenberg Building. Any interested senior citizen is welcome to attend.

"We want to encourage people to get involved, and together we can address these safety concerns," Huijbregtse said. She said the group plans to put out information that could help seniors avoid hazards, such as fraudulent schemes or other crime.

"This is going to be a good way to get this information out

to seniors," she said.

Ex-officio members will include Howard County Sheriff Bill Jennings, Police Chief Lonnie Smith, EMS Director Brian Jensen and firefighter-paramedic Joe Brewer, along with Pat Porter.

Their first project will be "File of Life," in which senior citizens are encouraged to keep pertinent health information in a miniature file folder that will adhere to the front of the refrigerator. That way, emergency personnel can access the information, and it will be available in case a hospital admission is needed.

Files and other information will be available during the health fair April 17, when SALT will share a booth with the

See SALT, Page 2A

## Local businessman lauds six-county alliance push

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Staff Writer

The six-county alliance approved by commissioners and Moore Development for Big Spring board members may provide Howard County with strength in numbers to promote economic development in West Texas, according to Scott McLaughlin, a local businessman and organizer of the group.



MCLAUGHLIN

McLaughlin has been involved in the formation and organization of the alliance. He agreed to discuss the alliance following a recent county commissioners meeting.

According to McLaughlin, the alliance was proposed by some

community and industry leaders in Nolan County. The Texas, Mexico and Orient Corridor includes Howard, Nolan, Fisher, Jones, Scurry and Mitchell counties and is a first state-wide attempt at uniting counties capable of issuing industrial revenue bonds.

McLaughlin explained the first order of business for the forming group is to petition the current Legislature to amend the Economic Development Act of 1979.

Moore Development executive director Kent Sharp said the act created county and city development corporations able to levy sales tax for funding.

The amendment, which should be written and presented to the Legislature before the March 12 deadline for written bills, will seek to allow multi-county alliances such as this one authority to issue bonds for

See ALLIANCE, Page 2A

## Grand jury

### 19 indictments handed down as jury meets for third time in three weeks

By MARSHA STURDIVANT  
Staff Writer

For the third time in three weeks, the Howard County grand jury heard cases presented by the district attorney's office, and returned 19 indictments against 15 individuals.

"This grand jury has worked very hard the last three weeks. We've got a really good grand jury. We have had a whole lot of cases in the last three weeks and we appreciate their efforts," said district attorney Hardy Wilkerson.



WILKERSON

Wilkerson said the January term of court for grand jury commissioners is the longest length of service for a grand jury.

Organizational problems in January delayed grand jury service, thus the need for several hearings in the past three weeks.

"It will be about three weeks or so before we have another grand jury, but we will press on in the next three weeks," Wilkerson said.

Procedure, he said, once an individual is indicted, is for the district clerk to receive notification of the grand jury findings.

Then an arrest warrant may be issued, or the individual may be notified by letter, with a summons to appear, he said.

Then an individual will be notified to appear at an arraignment, when formal charges are made public, and a person has a chance to enter a plea and an attorney is named or appointed, he said.

In the recent grand jury, 26 cases were heard and 15 individuals were indicted with 19 different charges Wednesday.

These are:

• Kendall Arlington Ruffin, 40, was indicted for a Jan. 19 first-degree felony of aggravated sexual assault and a Dec. 2, 1998 second-degree felony of sexual assault of a child, with evidence compiled by the HCSO and the BSPD.

• Alfredo Garza, 27, was indicted for an Aug. 30, 1997 first-degree felony of aggravated sexual assault of a child, and for an Aug. 30, 1998 second-degree felony of sexual assault of a child, with evidence compiled by the BSPD.

• Mike Marquez, 42, was indicted for a Feb. 1 second-degree felony offense of possession of a controlled substance with evidence compiled by the HCSO.

• Jason Hernandez, 20, was indicted for a Jan. 13, 1998 second-degree felony of burglary of a habitation with evidence compiled by the BSPD.

• Juan Andrew Martinez, 37, was indicted for an Oct. 17, 1998 third-degree felony offense of possession of a controlled substance with evidence compiled by the HCSO.

• Rodney Weir Carr, 45, was indicted for a Dec. 5, 1998 third-degree felony offense of driving while intoxicated with evidence compiled by the Big Spring Police Department.

• Don Ray Henson, 39, was indicted for a Jan. 16 third-degree felony of driving while intoxicated with evidence compiled by the BSPD.

• Simon Alcantar, 33, was indicted for a Dec. 15, 1998 state jail offense of delivery of a controlled substance with evidence compiled by the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

• Michael Clinton, 45, was indicted for an August 15, 1987 state jail offense of possession of a controlled substance with evidence compiled by the HCSO.

• Jeffery Curtis Dunlap, 19,

See GRAND JURY, Page 2A

## Incumbents top lists of citizens filing for council

HERALD Staff Report

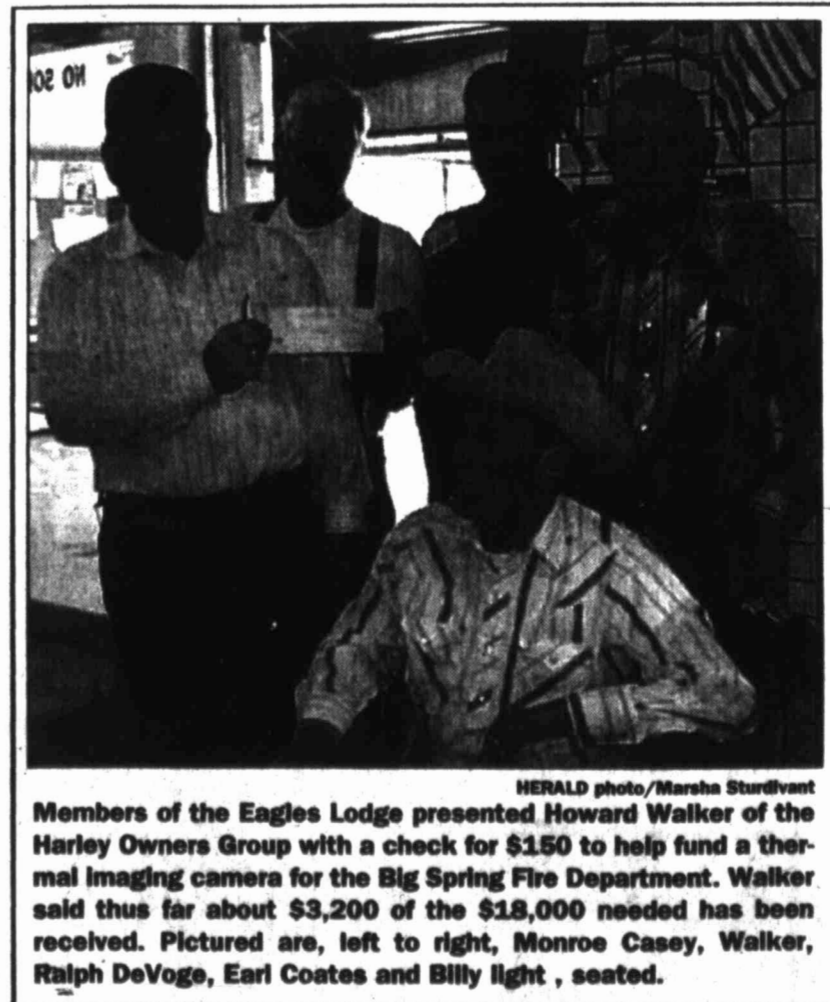
With less than a week left in the filing period for city council, it appears that incumbents will be retaking most of the available seats in Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma.

Filing ends at the close of business Wednesday, March 17. Chuck Cawthon, who represents District 3 on the Big Spring City Council, and Stephanie Horton, council woman representing District 1, are still unopposed to each serve another term.

District 1 encompasses county election precincts 1011, 1021, 1061 and 3011 within the city limits. District 3 encompasses county election precincts 1073 and 3033 within the city.

The seats are for three-year terms. A candidate for Big

See FILINGS, Page 2A



HERALD photo/Marsha Sturdivant

Members of the Eagles Lodge presented Howard Walker of the Harley Owners Group with a check for \$150 to help fund a thermal imaging camera for the Big Spring Fire Department. Walker said thus far about \$3,200 of the \$18,000 needed has been received. Pictured are, left to right, Monroe Casey, Walker, Ralph DeVoge, Earl Coates and Billy Light, seated.

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# Deadlock on school flexibility plan may end

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House and Senate are nearing agreement on bills designed to give schools more flexibility in spending federal money.

The Senate broke through six days of procedural jousting and agreed to vote today on both the bill and amendments demanded by Democrats to implement President Clinton's education proposals, including federal subsidies for hiring thousands of new teachers.

Republicans and Democrats have battled over whether the "ed-flex" bill, which would loosen strings on certain federal dollars, should include plans to spend \$1.2 billion to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide to reduce class sizes.

Late Wednesday, senator leaders cut a deal to put the bill up for a vote, along with a handful of amendments that include the new-teacher plan. Republicans opposed adding the plan to the ed-flex bill, originally

thought to be an easy, bipartisan favorite.

The House returns today, after a day of blocking Democrats' attempts to amend its version of the bill. Lawmakers there also promised to finish the bill today.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., predicted the Senate bill would pass easily. "We've reached a point where we are going to be able to finish this bill," he said.

White House spokesman Jake Siewert said Clinton wasn't considering a veto — at least not yet. "We'll wait and see how it comes out in the Senate," he said.

Since education's emergence as a popular issue of concern to voters, both parties have rushed to be the first to pass an education bill this session, leading to frustration on both sides.

The scramble is particularly keen in the Senate, where retirement announcements

leave seats up for grabs in the 2000 elections in New York, New Jersey, Florida and Nevada.

The slate of amendments in the Senate deal also allows Republicans to push their favored notion: more special education funding.

A compromise in the House remains to be reached. The Democratic proposal for new money for teachers to reduce class sizes would only add money without fixing those problems, said Rep. Bill Goodling, R-Pa., chairman of the House Education Committee.

Under the ed-flex measure, states and school districts could apply federal money to programs that serve them best, Republicans say. For example, states could allow schools to use money targeted for low-income students or for training math and science teachers on other programs that benefit the entire

school.

Many Democrats also support that idea, but insist that schools need more federal money to hire teachers to reduce class sizes.

Last year, in a spending bill compromise, Congress approved \$1 billion for the states to use to hire new teachers. Clinton has said his plan to hire a total of 100,000 new teachers for the nation's schools would require \$11 billion.

Even if the ed-flex bill passes, it would affect only a portion of rules governing the \$15 billion in education spending for kindergarten through high school. By law, states cannot waive rules regarding a school's safety, maintenance or insurance of student civil rights.

The states also could not waive regulations under the federal special education law, which many states view as the most expensive and time-consuming to follow.

# Farm disaster aid delayed; Congress mulls insurance

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department is coming under criticism from some members of Congress after news that \$2 billion in disaster aid for farmers won't be delivered until June.

The news means the emergency aid will get to farmers nearly eight months after Congress approved it.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Larry Combest, R-Texas, called the delay "unacceptable."

"There are now billions of dollars that should already be in the hands of farmers and ranchers," Combest said Wednesday, noting that farmers need the money as they go into the new planting season.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman wrote to Combest and Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Dick Lugar, R-Ind., that administering the aid is "far more complex than past natural disaster assistance programs."

And he said the agency is inundated with aid disbursements during this tumultuous farm year, including assistance packages of \$50 million for hog farmers and \$200 million for dairy farmers.

"Getting these payments out as expeditiously and as fairly as possible is a top personal priority for me," Glickman wrote.

Congress approved the money as part of a \$6 billion emergency package to aid farmers suffering from free-falling commodity prices.

Glickman said one of the things complicating the disbursement is that it covers farmers who suffered crop losses over several years before 1998 or who had losses only in 1998.

"USDA must go through one additional step of determining which will pay the applicant more before issuing final payments," he said.

Lawmakers on both sides of the Capitol, meanwhile, spent Wednesday looking at ways to overhaul a crop insurance program for farmers, even while acknowledging an uphill battle for the money.

USDA unveiled details of between \$2 billion and \$2.5 billion worth of reforms, including raising coverage, making higher-level coverage more affordable and covering multi-year disasters as well as livestock. Several lawmakers have also introduced proposals.

"Our proposal is specific, and it is designed to fill the most glaring crop insurance voids," Glickman said. "It will make crop insurance more affordable and worth buying."

But it won't be easy as Congress faces pressure to use budget surpluses for Social Security and Medicare. "I've got to figure out what the tide will bear," Lugar said of attempts to get money.

About 79 Republican lawmakers sent a letter to House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, this week urging him to address crop insurance in his committee's budget resolution.

Many farmers don't have crop insurance and those who do complain that it is too expensive and inadequate. With low prices expected to continue for much of this year, lawmakers have said it is critical to strengthen crop insurance to have an adequate safety net for farmers, who lost decades of government subsidies as part of the 1996 farm law.

# House to give final vote on oil severance tax

AUSTIN (AP) — Small oil and gas producers could get \$45 million in tax relief under a Texas House bill that supporters say will save jobs and help school districts.

The chamber gave the measure preliminary approval Wednesday by a 138-8 margin.

It faces final approval today.

Oil producers have said the tax break is essential to saving jobs that otherwise would be cut because of pumping oil prices.

With the vote, "the state moves closer to providing meaningful severance tax relief for our oil and gas producers,"

Railroad Commissioner Charles Matthews said.

"The eventual impact will be felt far beyond the oil patch," he added.

"A healthy oil and gas industry remains critical to communities and school districts across our state."

Bill supporters also have argued the tax break would keep marginal wells from being shut down, which would result in less property tax money for school districts.

"We are pleased that the temporary severance tax exemption will most likely be on the governor's desk by the end of the week. It will not save every job in the industry, but it will help," said Lindsey Dingmore, spokesman for the Texas Independent Producers and

Royalty Owners Association.

Gov. George W. Bush declared the measure an emergency, speeding its way through the Legislature. It was approved in the Senate last month.

Some Democrats had opposed the measure, noting that other industries are suffering from economic downturns.

"The bill potentially is corporate welfare at its worse," said Rep. Kevin Bailey, D-Houston.

"While there is a need to look at tax policy for the oil industry, we are rushing to judgment here for political reasons to benefit a few wealthy corporations," Bailey said.

Bailey introduced a proposal to cap the tax break at \$200,000 per oil producer, but the measure was voted down.

The bill would exempt small

oil producers from the state severance tax when the monthly average closing price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil is below \$15 per barrel, as recorded on the New York Mercantile Exchange for three consecutive months.

Wells producing 15 barrels or less each day would be exempt, covering 83 percent of Texas wells and about 38 percent of production.

It would apply until the end of the current budget year, Aug. 31.

Natural gas producers would be exempt when prices fall below \$1.80 per thousand cubic feet.

The current severance tax on oil is 4.6 percent of the value at the wellhead and 7.5 percent on natural gas.



MATTHEWS

# Panel votes to lower alcohol limit

AUSTIN (AP) — Heading east from families of four high school girls killed in a crash, a panel of lawmakers charged with investigating the manslaughter, a state panel voted Wednesday to lower the legal alcohol limit for Texas drivers.

"If this law passes and it saves one life, and it saves one parent, one brother, one sister, one grandparent from what we've been through, then it's worth it," Pax Welch — who with the other parents is still mourning the teen-agers' loss — told the Senate Criminal Justice Committee before the vote.

Sixteen-year-old Whitney Welch was killed with Mandi McWhorter, 15, Staci Lee, 16, and Lacey Osina, 17, after authorities said a pickup crashed into their car Dec. 19.

The lawyer for the pickup dri-

ver, who was charged with four counts of intoxication manslaughter, has been reported as saying, "Our position is we're not guilty."

The girls' families and friends urged passage of tougher laws against drunken driving so others won't suffer the devastation they did in losing their loved ones — all top students, athletes and cheerleaders at Brock High School, west of Fort Worth.

They said the effort should start with the bill by Sen. Mario Gallegos, D-Galena Park, to lower the legal intoxication limit for drivers from 0.10 percent to .08 percent blood alcohol content.

Among supporters of the measure, which next goes to the full Senate, are Gov. George W. Bush and Lt. Gov. Rick Perry.

Besides discouraging

impaired people from getting behind the wheel, backers said the bill would raise public awareness of the problem of drunken driving.

"Maybe our daughters would be alive today if there was more public awareness out there and if we had stricter laws," said Lezlie McWhorter.

There were 1,748 alcohol-related traffic fatalities in Texas in 1997, nearly half the total traffic fatalities, officials said. That includes people judged to have any alcohol in their system.

The difference between the .10 limit and .08 would be between having five and four drinks in one hour for a 170-pound man, bill supporters said.

The difference for a 137-pound woman would be between having three and four drinks in one hour.

# Distraught gunman kills four at church

MONROE, La. (AP) — The pastor had just started reading Bible lesson about being born again when the gunman kicked open the doors, fired twice into the ceiling and ordered everybody to hit the floor.

He then marched down the aisle, shooting between the benches as screaming parishioners scattered in horror and trying once to calmly reload.

Among the crowd, police said, were the man's wife and child.

"His little boy turned and said, 'Daddy.' That's when he shot. He hit his wife first and then the baby," congregation member Lolita Enkadi said.

"And then he just started emptying his gun. He shot one in the back of the head. We were all trying to get down. I just lay on the bench and started praying."

The gunman's two family members and another member of the New St. John Fellowship Baptist Church congregation

were killed Wednesday night. Four others were injured, two of them critically.

Police say Shon Miller also shot his mother-in-law to death at home, before traveling the few blocks to the one-story stucco church 20 miles southeast of Baton Rouge.

"The safest place in world I always thought was a church and now that sanctuary has been broken," police Chief Bill Landry said. "We'll all be a long time getting over this."

Officers said it took three hours of searching around the single-family homes and winter cabbage gardens near the church in this small town of 7,000 before they found Miller.

When they discovered him in a shed about 100 yards away, he tried to kill himself, Landry said.

An officer blasted the pistol out of his hand with a shotgun at close range, wounding him. Miller's condition was not released.

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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

### Can't turn backs on those who built Big Spring

A volunteer stood before a group of people the other day and said matter of factly, "I'm here to holler for help." You look around Big Spring and Howard County and you'll find a lot of people needing help. There are poor, homeless, single parents with children, a lot of them hard-working people whose dreams have fallen a whole lot short of what they imagined.

And you wonder, how can we help them all? Where does the next dime come from? And you know that this is Big Spring and this is Howard County and somehow, somehow, those dimes will be found, because if there is one thing that our citizens do, they take care of their own. We have a lot of people in this community who, when presented with a cause, open their checkbooks and ask, "how much do you need?" We are blessed and we don't make excuses for that. It's one of our strengths.

So we need to figure out a way to answer the volunteer's "holler for help." It's not just a plea for funds; it's much more than that.

Mobile Meals — the program is older than Meals for Wheels, which gives you some idea of the compassion of Big Spring people — is about \$50,000 short. Fact is, expected revenue is about \$33,000. Expenses will total about \$74,000. Those who work for Mobile Meals — there are three part-time paid positions, all the rest are volunteers — are scrambling to figure out how to cope.

You know what Mobile Meals is. It's the program that provides a meal a day, weekdays, to senior citizens and a few others who aren't seniors, but who for whatever medical reason need the assistance. These are people in our community, who for years contributed to causes in Howard County. Who worked and paid taxes and raised families. And who now find themselves on a Social Security system that just doesn't pay the bills.

People whose medicine almost always costs more than their food budget.

That's not all. Many times, the only contact these people have with others on a daily basis is with the volunteers from Mobile Meals. We recount a story a Mobile Meals volunteer told the other day of finding an elderly gentleman who had fallen from his wheelchair and waited two hours before he got help. That help came from a Mobile Meals volunteer — someone who gets no pay, but knows there is a need. Not just a need to bring food to someone who needs it, but a need to check in on them and make sure they are all right. Make sure they are cared for. Make sure they are safe.

Would we want any less for the elderly members of our family?

What the Mobile Meals program needs is not a quick fix. Donations are important, and they need those, but what the program really needs is a long-time supporter. An organization to help them. A grant writer to search for funds.

If your organization can help... If you have ideas on funding sources, please, let them hear from you. Call 263-4016 or write to P.O. Box 765 locally.

These senior citizens are the folks who made Big Spring what it is today. We cannot turn our backs to them now.

## LETTER POLICY

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
  - Sign your letter.
  - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
  - We reserve the right to edit letters for style and clarity.
  - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
  - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered for publication.
  - We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
  - Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
  - Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

## Bush should select his issues carefully

It was an unusual group of Republicans who marched on stage with Texas Gov. George W. Bush to announce the formation of his presidential exploratory committee on Sunday. Among the 10-person committee were two blacks, a Mexican American and three women, all but one of whom are elected officials.



LINDA CHAVEZ

It's not the first time a Republican candidate has reached beyond the Republican base for support — but with nearly half the committee members from non-traditional GOP groups, it may be the most aggressive such assemblage ever. But will it work? Will women and minorities flock to Bush's presidential campaign?

Bush has modeled his presidential outreach strategy on his spectacular success at winning Hispanic and black votes in his 1998 re-election campaign for governor. He won 49 percent of the Mexican American vote and 27 percent of the black vote against his

Democrat opponent, a feat unparalleled by any previous Republican candidate for statewide or national office. Even Ronald Reagan, who attracted the largest number of Hispanic votes for a Republican presidential candidate in history — about 40 percent overall in 1984 — failed to win many black votes.

But Bush's appeal to minorities seems to transcend party lines. Most commentators credit Bush's success to a combination of personality and smart politics. He's comfortable with minorities, friendly without being patronizing. And he knows that, at least in Texas, they are too large a voting bloc to ignore, or worse, alienate.

But more important than either his personality or political savvy, Bush has initiated several policies as governor that appeal to minority voters in surprising ways. For example, Bush is trying to end "social promotion" in Texas schools, a practice that has plagued heavily minority districts where students are simply moved up a grade each year regardless of what they've learned.

He supports a pilot school voucher program for low-income students so that they have the same chance to attend decent schools as their more affluent peers. He's also created a new program that puts state probation officers in

police patrol cars in high-crime areas so that probation violators can be picked up immediately and returned to custody, making the streets in poor, minority communities safer.

For years, both liberals and conservatives have treated poor and minority voters as if all they wanted was more welfare or government-funded social programs. Liberals have acted as if law and order, self-help and personal accountability were anathema to minority communities, while many conservatives have assumed that reaching out to minorities necessarily entailed compromising on important issues such as opposition to racial quotas. Bush has proved both camps wrong in Texas. But can he do so nationally?

Bush's best bet is to seize on a handful of issues that appeal to bedrock conservative principles but have particular relevance for minority voters. He already speaks with considerable passion on the subject of family-breakdown, acknowledging the rise in out-of-wedlock births as one of the most devastating social problems of our time.

Now he has to extend his efforts beyond the bully pulpit to concrete programs that encourage marriage and discourage non-marital births. He could endorse programs that give preference for public housing, job training, and even

education benefits to poor, married couples and their children, for example.

Another issue that could attract both minority voters and conservatives is a national commitment to teach English to immigrant children. So far, Bush has been reluctant to take on the bilingual education lobby in Texas, but he'd be well advised to pay close attention to what's happening in California. There, voters eliminated the wasteful and destructive bilingual program that had been in place for more than two decades and replaced it with intensive English instruction for immigrant kids.

Almost 40 percent of Hispanics in California voted for the measure to eliminate bilingual education — despite a well-funded and dishonest campaign by bilingual advocates to defeat it.

And now that the program is in place, Hispanic support for the measure has risen to 65 percent according to one poll — because it's working. Bush shouldn't be afraid of the language issue. Handled right, it's a big winner in both the Hispanic community and among conservatives.

The challenge for Bush is to attract non-traditional minority voters in ways that enhance his conservative bona fides. He's got to select his campaign issues as carefully as he selected his exploratory committee.

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## Shiny pennies, as yet unflattened

SAVANNAH, Ga. — The machine that pressed pennies was on the street by the river. It cost 50 cents — plus the penny you wanted pressed — so I cranked its handle a few times to make cheap souvenirs for my niece and nephews.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON

The novelty machine did what the train used to do in my childhood when we'd line up pennies on the railroad track. It flattened those suckers.

This way was a lot safer than our railroad ritual, of course, if not as exciting. And, in the process, it gave the elongated coins a new design — a shamrock, a sailboat or a cupid. I made one of each.

I thought about the penny-pressing machine later in the day as I talked to young newspaper reporters at a writing class. At the invitation of the

Georgia Press Association, about a dozen of them had come from all over, from Alma and Athens and Timbuktu.

We met in a sunny gallery in a beautiful old building owned by the Savannah College of Art and Design. The walls were filled with the students' work, the sketches, paintings and photographs of fledgling artists.

Through the front glass wall we could see the young artists passing by. They threaded the magnolia trees that lined the sidewalk like Maypole dancers, joking with one another, planning their nights, sharing notes. They looked exactly like their work on the walls. Unfettered.

Outside looked like the far better place to be, in fact. The weather was warm, the population young. There were about a thousand beguiling watering holes within walking distance. Savannah is seductive in the spring, and this February day qualified as a spring one.

But none of the reporters left at the break and failed to come back. These were determined people who wanted to be the best they could be at newspaper work. They were perfectly

willing to sacrifice a sunny Savannah afternoon against the prospect of professional improvement.

Their questions weren't about how to move to a bigger paper, make more money, or how to climb some magical management ladder. They wanted to know about words. They wanted to make their stories sing. They wanted to share sentences they were proud of, to talk about rare stories that had actually worked out well.

They all seemed to understand what a lot of older, more experienced people in our business have forgotten: The words are the key.

I am not much of a teacher, but this little class taught itself. Before I knew it, three hours had passed and all of us felt more enthusiastic about stringing together more words, meeting yet another deadline, trying to be creative despite the constraints of time and space and ever-changing technology.

That's why I thought about the pennies. I'm not big on analogies, but this one was obvious as socks on a pigeon.

The reporters, the artists frolicking outside — all of them

were shiny, unpressed pennies. Life and awful jobs had yet to flatten them. They all still believed in their own creativity, their own abilities, their own potential. They knew they would succeed.

Not all of them will. At least not the way they intended. Some of those art students will end up painting houses, stocking art supply shelves. Some of the reporters no doubt will become discouraged, go back to school or find a better-paying, noncreative job that leaves you alone at night. They may finally feel defeated.

They will be the railroad pennies. Run over by a train.

And a fortunate few will go through life's relentless grinder and come out the other end changed, but more interesting. They will be like the pennies restruct with shamrocks and sailboats and such. Burnished but not beaten.

They will win Pulitzers, or write best-selling novels, paint masterpieces that hang in the Metropolitan or design sculpture for a Savannah square. Stretched thin, perhaps, but shiny treasures all the same.

E-mail: rhetaajc.com



Mallard Tellmore  
by BRUCE TINSLEY

**Gosp**  
By DEBBIE L.  
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Chad Ham  
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Melissa Mend  
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Kate Smiley  
Jessica Tipton  
Jason Vela, V  
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Zachary An  
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DOBSON

Continued from Page 5A  
According to Mrs. Partow, the third step is to marshal as much support as you can. Get your children, your spouse, and friends on your side. Setting up a small business can be stressful, and you'll need as much encouragement as you can get. If you've been torn between family and finances, having a home-based business may turn out to be the best of both worlds.  
EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. James C. Dobson's "Focus on the Family" appears each Thursday as a cooperative effort of Scenic Mountain Medical Center and the Big Spring Herald. Letters to Dr. Dobson may be sent to P.O. Box 444, Colorado Springs, Colo., 80903.

Effect of scary movies can linger for years

DETROIT (AP) — Still scared of the water all those years after "Jaws"? Researchers say you're not alone.  
A survey of 150 students at the Universities of Michigan and Wisconsin found that one in four had some lingering "fright" effect from a movie or TV show they saw as a child or a teen-ager.  
The younger children were when they were frightened, the longer the reaction lasted.  
Some people who saw the 1975 thriller about a man-eating shark never went into the ocean again, said Kristen Harrison, a University of Michigan communications professor who co-wrote the study.  
And what about "Psycho," the 1960 thriller with the deadly shower scene?  
"There are people who shower with the door open, even though they're quite sure there isn't a killer in the house," Harrison said Tuesday.  
Ninety percent said they were scared by a TV or movie from their childhood or adolescence; 26 percent said they still experience "residual anxiety."  
Ranny Levy, president of the Coalition for Quality Children's Media in Santa Fe, N.M., said her own 27-year-old son was frightened of taking a swim in the sea a few years ago and blames it on seeing "Jaws" as a boy.  
"He had to force himself. He really identified it with watching 'Jaws' when he was little," she said.

Can WhirlGirl rise to this challenge? A bodacious superheroine who should dress more warmly, she arrived last Friday on Showtime in its first original Web series — with the prospect, of course, of a "WhirlGirl" spinoff.  
"Some months down the road we'll take a look at whether we want to develop it as a television project on our (cable) network — either animated or live action," said Jeff Morris, Showtime's senior vice president for new media.  
The campy "WhirlGirl," a hybrid of "Wonder Woman" and "Max Headroom," pits its raven-haired, spandex-clad champion against the world's

Movie industry to turn down the volume on noisy previews

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It's not your imagination. Many movie trailers — previews of coming attractions shown before feature films — are too noisy.  
Now Hollywood is doing something about it.  
Volume for the movie trailers now must be set at the same level as the feature, industry representatives announced Tuesday at the ShoWest theater operator convention.  
Long a major source of complaints, trailers are usually so

Web cartoons are animating TV's future

NEW YORK (AP) — Can a little pink donkey find success and happiness on television? That depends on how she fares on the World Wide Web.  
Cartoon Network, which unspools toons nonstop for cable TV viewers, is now using its Web site as a proving ground for animated shorts. New online cartoons that click with the point-and-click crowd could soon find themselves uploaded to the television big time.  
Visit Cartoon Network Online (www.cartoonnetwork.com) and this week you'll find two episodes of "Pink Donkey and the Fly," as well as the first installment of "B. Happy." Each is cheeky, riotously colorful and sufficiently well animated to be a reasonable facsimile of cartoons as you'd view them on your TV set.  
What's more, these "Web Premiere Toons" come with a computer-centric twist: interactivity. Mouse ready? You can choose how Pink Donkey might reach the apple dangling from a distant branch. You can decide if B. Happy, a "bluebird of happiness" with a nasty streak, should succeed in his mission to keep the bully cat from gobbling Pity Kitty's fish.  
"We're just scratching the surface of interactivity in these first ones, but our goal is to make good interactive entertainment," said Sam Register, creative director of Cartoon Network Online. "If you want to just watch a cartoon, shut your computer off and turn on the TV and have a cartoon pushed at you."  
Point taken. Still, when push comes to shove for the toon impresarios, it all comes down to pretty much the same thing: Create program content that adapts to every media platform, broadcast and Internet alike.  
Can WhirlGirl rise to this challenge? A bodacious superheroine who should dress more warmly, she arrived last Friday on Showtime in its first original Web series — with the prospect, of course, of a "WhirlGirl" spinoff.  
"Some months down the road we'll take a look at whether we want to develop it as a television project on our (cable) network — either animated or live action," said Jeff Morris, Showtime's senior vice president for new media.  
The campy "WhirlGirl," a hybrid of "Wonder Woman" and "Max Headroom," pits its raven-haired, spandex-clad champion against the world's vilest media megalomaniac. Morris said the network, which acquired the two-year-old online comic strip, has ordered 28 animated episodes. A five-minute chapter will be posted each Friday (www.showtimeonline.com) to accompany that evening's sci-fi block of Showtime cable fare.  
Even before Cartoon Network and Showtime took the plunge, dozens of Web sites were embracing animation, and no wonder. Animation can look good, even great, on the Web. Simple shapes, fat lines, bold colors and limited motion can comfortably conform to the Web's current technical limitations. By contrast, live-action "streaming video" available on many Web sites looks as fuzzy and jumpy as your Aunt Harriet's 8mm home movies.  
What kind of toons wait out there in cyberspace? One site, the ambitious Hotwired Animation Express (www.hotwired.com/animation), boasts a "most innovative, surprising and witty" collection.  
Promising "a new production every Tuesday," the Surrey Stick Figure Theatre of Death (www.cat.demon.co.uk/theatre) "stages" drama at its most deftly concise. For instance, catch a performance of "Julius Caesar" or "Don Giovanni" bowed down to 10 silent seconds.  
As it has for other mavericks, the Web has enabled inventive animators to bypass Big Media and take their work straight to the Internet's global audience.  
No less resourcefully, a media juggernaut like Cartoon Network is employing the Internet to hold TV trouts.  
Besides "Pink Donkey and the Fly" (which proposes that a fly can fall in unrequited love with a donkey) and "B. Happy" (think: a demented "Touched by an Angel"), Cartoon Network plans to introduce three more toon titles, each with two to six episodes. New installments will be added each Monday.  
"Right now, every day, we're thinking about how cartoons will be pre-processed for a converged environment," Register said.  
Translated: Hoof-loose and fancy-free, Pink Donkey is a pioneer in bringing together TV and the Web.  
EDITOR'S NOTE — Frazier Moore can be reached at fmoore "at" ap.org

Reader's Corner appears the last Wednesday of the month. Please submit original poems to: life! section P.O. Box 1431 Big Spring

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Law student determined to win battle against rare disorder

SAN ANTONIO — Wendy Vick peers out the window of the small examining room at Alamo Heart Associates, hoping to pick out her fiance's beat-up truck from the cars in the parking lot.  
But Jeremy Willis is running late for the appointment at which Vick finds out if she has potentially fatal scar tissue on her heart.  
"I'm getting worried. He should be here by now," Vick says.  
Worry has been the 27-year-old St. Mary's Law School student's constant companion for the past week.  
This day is judgment day: She gets the results of the echocardiogram that determines whether she has scarring.  
Vick is a member of the small segment of the population affected by a rare disease that has baffled researchers for more than 100 years.  
Last fall, Vick was diagnosed with pulmonary sarcoidosis, a disorder in which the body creates scar tissue on vital organs.  
"Sarcoidosis is a multisystem disorder that seems to affect healthy young people, predominantly African American females in the United States," says Dr. Carlos F. Morales, Vick's pulmonary-disease specialist.  
"If you pick it up early, it is curable," Morales adds.  
Problem is, sarcoidosis is diabolically difficult to diagnose.  
"Most patients have to undergo some kind of biopsy to make a decision about a diagnosis and treatment," Morales says. "Even if you have sarcoidosis on your heart, it is very difficult to discover. Tests often are not sensitive enough to pick it up."  
Another baffling aspect of sarcoidosis is its ability to disappear. Some patients, Morales says, never receive treatment because the disease goes away on its own.  
"It's a reversible condition," Morales says.  
Then there are patients like Vick. Last spring, she realized she had a cough that wouldn't go away. Her battle with the puzzling ailment went into full swing in June 1998.  
Dr. Mark Canales, the cardio-

vascular surgeon whose office staff tested Vick's heart, affirms the mysterious nature of the disease.  
"We don't know much about the disease," Canales says. "We have a name for it, but we don't know all of its mechanics."  
What doctors do know is that sarcoidosis can affect the liver, eyes, lungs, heart, lymph nodes, even the musculoskeletal, cardiovascular and central nervous systems. Symptoms range from breathlessness and a persistent cough to skin lesions to joint and muscle pain.  
There does seem to be a genetic predisposition to the disease. In the United States, sarcoidosis primarily affects African American and Puerto Rican women age 20 to 40, according to a study done by the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. However, Morales notes that in Europe the rare disease seems to strike white males, and in Asia it also strikes men.  
In almost 90 percent of cases, sarcoidosis is pulmonary, or related to the lungs. Often, it masks itself as other diseases, such as lymphoma, lupus, asthma, pneumonia or tuberculosis.  
Vick was misdiagnosed with lymphoma and allergies.  
She also had "the worst case of acne you ever saw on a 14-year-old kid."  
The confusion and frustration caused by not knowing put a strain on Vick and Willis' relationship.  
"Jeremy would go off the deep end because I was getting worse and worse, and there was nothing that he could do to help me," Vick says.  
"I just wanted to know (what was wrong) because every day she couldn't walk, she couldn't sleep, and she was so tired," Willis says.  
An added frustration is the costs not covered by Vick's insurance. She has racked up more than \$10,000 in medical bills, and Willis cashed in a trust to defray the costs.  
The couple met in the law library at St. Mary's Law School. Perhaps fate played a hand in their meeting: Both their fathers grew up in the same small Arkansas town and became lawyers. Vick transferred to St. Mary's University

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Frank Enns
8TH GRADE-Kornelius Enns,
Hollie Gibbs.
ALL A'S & B'S
6TH GRADE-Ashley Allen,
Kandis Carson, Nedy Flores,

Megan McDiffitt, Leanne Miller,
Laura Moore, Dustin Morgan,
Andrew Neel, Natalie Nichols,

Kaleigh Sevey, Heather Sheppard,
Jerrold Smith, Tausha Thayer,
Carlie Williamson, Tessa

Cline, Ian Cocozza, John Coker,
William Conley, Casey Conner,
Tara Cooper, Angelina Copeland,

6TH GRADE-Raymond Anglin,
Seneca Arguello, Gwan Ausbie,
Allen Bailey, Latosha Banks,

Tanya Jones, George Leatham,
Krystle Long, Cody McCann,
Billy McDonald, Craig Mercurio,

SANDS HIGH SCHOOL
ALL A'S
9TH GRADE-Brandi Woods.
11TH GRADE-Stuart Beall,

COAHOMA ELEMENTARY
ALL A'S
1ST GRADE-Macy Bailey, Mikel
Bridge, Ashley Buske, Elisha

5TH GRADE-Jason Barton,
Kimberlee Baugus, Christopher
Bustamente, Garret Cline,

Cline, Ian Cocozza, John Coker,
William Conley, Casey Conner,
Tara Cooper, Angelina Copeland,

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - The
camera rolled and California
Quakes skater Sean Atkinson,

Roller Derby's back
Popular, low-rent piece
of Americana has new form

FORSAN JUNIOR HIGH
ALL A'S
6TH GRADE-Christin Ballard,
Hillary Burks, Rachel Clinton,

2ND GRADE-Isaac Arguello, Tia
Bailey, Jared Blythe, Kelsey
Butts, Kimberly Calvert, Megan

5TH GRADE-Julie Adams, Larissa
Adkins, Jonathan Bagwell,
William Beckworth, Lance Brock,

The show is the latest incarnation
of Roller Derby, the low-rent
piece of Americana that

TV producer Stephen Lamb
says the inspiration to resurrect
Roller Derby in its current

TV producer Stephen Lamb
says the inspiration to resurrect
Roller Derby in its current

8TH GRADE-Zack Bristow,
Cassie Christian, Megan
Fishback, Jennifer Lopez, Ross

4TH GRADE-Stephen Ewing,
Kamrun Green, Callie Paige,
Michael Yeater.

4TH GRADE-Stephen Ewing,
Kamrun Green, Callie Paige,
Michael Yeater.

In Roller Derby, men and
women speed around an indoor
track, scoring points by passing

Skaters include a cousin of
boxer Marvin Hagler, a woman
whose publicity material

Skaters include a cousin of
boxer Marvin Hagler, a woman
whose publicity material

10TH GRADE-Dustin Baker,
Taylor Bristow, Debbie Cantu,
Amanda Christy, Cliff Dunnam,

3RD GRADE-Crystal Beck, Kyle
Brownfield, Maricela Delgado,
Sydney Flohr, Randi

6TH GRADE-Elisa Bowling,
Sarah Collom, Eddy Corse, Vickie
Cortez, Tyler Fowler, Brandon

Roller Derby's back
Popular, low-rent piece
of Americana has new form

Roller Derby's back
Popular, low-rent piece
of Americana has new form

Roller Derby's back
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SPORTS EXTRAS

NCAA-MEN

EAST REGIONAL

Friday, March 12
At Charlotte Coliseum
Charlotte, N.C.
Tennessee (20-8) vs. Delaware (25-5), 11:25 a.m.

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Miami, Orlando, Philadelphia, New York, Washington, Boston, New Jersey.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Utah, Minnesota, Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, Denver, Vancouver.

NCAA-WOMEN

EAST REGIONAL

Friday, March 12
At ODU Fieldhouse
Norfolk, Va.
Stanford (18-11) vs. Maine (23-6), 4:30 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL

Friday, March 12
At Key Arena
Seattle
Minnesota (17-10) vs. Gonzaga (25-6), 1:42 p.m.

NIT

First Round

Wednesday, March 10
Xavier 86, Toledo 84
Rutgers 58, Hofstra 45
Clemson 77, Georgia 57

MLB EXHIBITIONS

Wednesday's Games

Tampa Bay 1
Boston (ss) 3, Baltimore 3, tie
Boston (ss) 6, New York Yankees (ss) 5

Princeton knocks out Georgetown

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ten years after Princeton nearly shocked Georgetown in the NCAA tournament, the Tigers finally beat the Hoyas in postseason play. And this time, it was no surprise.

Mason Rocca, a junior making his first career start, grabbed 18 rebounds and Brian Earl scored 18 points as Princeton defeated Georgetown 54-47 Wednesday night in the opening round of the NIT.

"I knew I was starting 30 seconds before the game," said Rocca, whose rebounding total was the most by a Princeton player since Bill Bradley had 21 against Columbia in 1965. "They're so tall, you have to keep battling in there and you always have to make sure you have a body on someone."

In 1989, 16th-seeded Princeton almost pulled off the biggest upset in NCAA tournament history before losing to No. 1 Georgetown by one point. This time, the Tigers (21-7) were actually favored over the visiting Hoyas (15-16), who finished with their first losing record since 1973.

All five Princeton starters played the entire game, while Georgetown substituted freely and used 11 players. But Princeton coach Bill Carmody said the regularly scheduled TV timeouts helped keep his team fresh.

"I didn't go in thinking about playing the starters all game," Carmody said. "But you get 2-minute breaks every four minutes, so nobody would really get tired."

In other first-round games, it was Xavier 86, Toledo 84; Rutgers 58, Hofstra 45; Clemson 77, Georgia 57; Old Dominion 75, Seton Hall 56; Wake Forest 73, Alabama 57; North Carolina State 92, Providence 86; Butler 51, Bradley 50; Nebraska 68, UNLV 55; Colorado 65, Pepperdine 61; Colorado

NIT Roundup

State 69, Mississippi State 56; Texas Christian 72, Kansas State 71; Wyoming 81, Southern California 77; DePaul 69, Northwestern 64; California 79, Fresno State 71; and Oregon 67, Georgia Tech 64.

Clemson 77, Georgia 57
Terrell McIntyre scored 19 points, and Harold Jamison had 15 points and 15 rebounds as Clemson beat visiting Georgia.

Wake Forest 73, Alabama 57
Darius Songalla had 18 points and nine rebounds as Wake Forest downed visiting Alabama.

Nebraska 68, UNLV 55
Cookie Belcher scored 17 points and Larry Florence added 16 as Nebraska won in Lincoln, Neb.

Colorado 65, Pepperdine 61
Jamahl Mosley scored 23 points and Jacquay Walls added 17 as Colorado beat visiting Pepperdine.

TCU 72, Kansas St. 71
Lee Nailon scored 16 of his 22 points in the first half as TCU won at Kansas State.

Wyoming 81, Southern Cal 77
Ugo Udezue scored 21 of his 28 points in the second half as Wyoming erased a 13-point deficit at Laramie, Wyo.

CURE

Continued from page 1B

Still, a situation under close scrutiny by railbirds. Wetteland adheres to the athlete's code. He won't admit pain or injury except to medics. Based on last year's experience in Baltimore, the Rangers won't volunteer if something's amiss with their closer.

Early spring returns are upbeat. Nary a twinge from the elbow. A ding in the ankle that will soon heal.

"He's no different than ever to me," said bullpen coach Larry Hardy, who best knows Wetteland's form and intense ways. "But because of his making up, he could be falling apart and he'd never tell you. I see him now as OK. More than all right."

Wetteland is working to refine a changeup to complement a fastball, curve and slider. Said Hardy: "At some point, I expect that changeup to be better than

BULLDOGS

Continued from page 1B

finishing 2-for-3 the second game. Following the split, Lewis made it clear that he's uncomfortable at the prospect of opening the District 3-2A schedule facing Plains.

"We're going to have to be ready for anything," he explained. "We're going to be going up against a first-year program. That means nobody knows anything about them. For all we know, they may have had a great summer program."

"We've got three days to practice, then have to be ready to get after it," Lewis added, finding little solace in the Bulldogs' traditional pattern of struggling early before being absolutely dominant once district play began.

"This is a lot different district than these kids are used to being in," he explained. "Tafoka and Post have tremendous baseball programs. This district is going to be a real dog-fight."

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THURSDAY

MAR. 11

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows for time slots from 6:30 PM to 12:30 AM, listing various programs and their categories.

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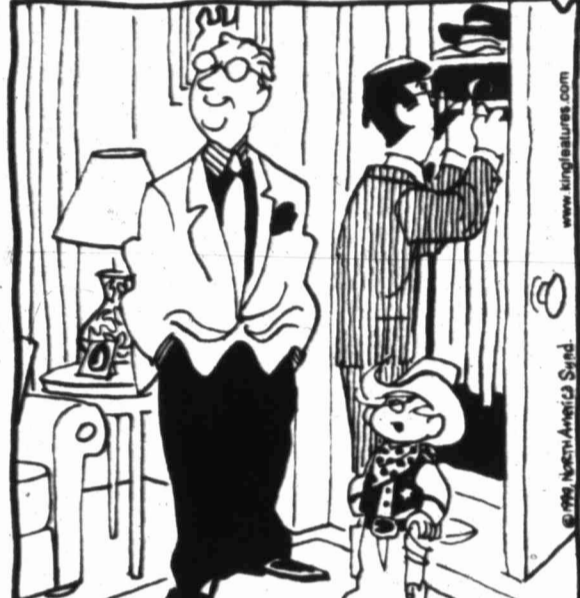
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FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



"Tadpoles turn into frogs, caterpillars turn into butterflies, and babies turn into grown-ups."

"YEP, IT'S A GOOD HOME, EVEN IF THERE AREN'T ANY BUFFALO ROAMING OR DEER OR ANTELOPE PLAYING IN IT."

GEECH



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Thursday, March 11, the 70th day of 1999. There are 295 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 11, 1942, as Japanese forces continued to advance in the Pacific during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia, vowing: "I shall return."

He did, nearly three years later.

On this date: In 1810, Emperor Napoleon of France was married by proxy to Archduchess Marie Louise of Austria.

In 1861, the Confederate convention in Montgomery, Ala., adopted a constitution.

In 1888, the famous "Blizzard of '88" struck the northeastern United States, resulting in some 400 deaths.

In 1941, President Roosevelt signed into law the Lend-Lease Bill, providing war supplies to countries fighting the Axis.

In 1954, the U.S. Army charged that Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy and his subcommittee's chief counsel, Roy Cohn, had exerted pressure to obtain favored treatment for Pvt. G. David Schine, a former consultant to the subcommittee.

In 1959, the Lorraine Hansberry drama "A Raisin in the Sun" opened at New York's Ethel Barrymore Theater.

In 1965, the Rev. James J. Reeb, a white minister from Boston, died after being beaten by whites during civil rights disturbances in Selma, Ala.

In 1977, more than 130 hostages held in Washington, D.C., by Hanafi Muslims were freed after ambassadors from three Islamic nations joined the negotiations.

In 1985, Mikhail S. Gorbachev was chosen to succeed the late Soviet President Konstantin U. Chernenko.

Ten years ago: Former World Bank head John J. McCloy, who had advised several presidents, died in Stamford, Conn., at age 93.

Five years ago: Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Beijing, the mood of his trip already soured by a fresh government crackdown on Chinese dissidents.

One year ago: The International Astronomical Union issued an alert, saying a mile-wide asteroid could zip very close to Earth on Oct. 26, 2028, possibly colliding with it. But the next day, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said there was no chance the asteroid will hit Earth. A Florida appeals court restored Joe Carollo as mayor of Miami after charges of voter fraud on absentee ballots.

WIZARD OF ID



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved section showing the completed crossword grid and the words used.

Big Spring Herald advertisement including contact information, office hours, and a list of staff members.