

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

FRIDAY

March 17, 2000

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 33°-36° SATURDAY 60°-62°

Concessions available to help Special Olympics

The Big Spring Wilderness Camp will be selling hot dogs and burritos as well as other items on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the east side of the Wal-Mart parking lot. All proceeds will go to Special Olympics.

Donations needed for Senior Center upcoming auction

Donations are being accepted for an auction to benefit the Spring City Senior Citizens Center. For information, contact Bobbie Leonard at the Spring City Senior Citizens Center, 267-1628 or Crossroads Auction Company, 263-8200. The auction will be held by David Lefever, local auctioneer, and is being planned for mid-April if there are enough donations. The date will be

Driving Class set March 21-22 at Senior Center

55 Alive/Mature Driving Class will be at the Senior Citizens Center on March 21 and 22, and begins at 8 a.m. This is a defensive driving class taught by state certified instructors. Those who participate must attend both classes in order to receive a three-year discount from their insurance company. Call 267-1628 or 263-1491 for more information.

WEEKEND TICKET

TODAY
 □ Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.
SATURDAY
 □ Fundraiser for Special Olympics, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., east side of Wal-Mart.
 □ Big Spring Shriners, 6:30 p.m. dinner and meeting to follow.
 □ Eagles Lodge Pot Luck Supper, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third.
 □ Dance, 8:30 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third.
 □ Big Spring Squares, call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

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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.

Third candidate joins race for Big Spring City Council District 6 race

By GINA GARZA
 Staff Writer

Gregg Biddison and Brenda Davis now have someone else running against them for the District 6 Big Spring City Council seat — Judy Robertson. "I don't live in District 6, but I have family that does," Robertson said. "I am really interested in getting that area to start growing."

Robertson is an registered nurse and the administrator for Home Health Agency, director



ROBERTSON



BIDDISON



DAVIS

of nursing. Robertson said because of StarTek being over there, it gives that district a great opportunity to grow.

"How can I sit back and complain about what we don't have in Big Spring if I'm not doing anything about it?" she said.

"One of my goals is to contact each person in District 6 and get their opinion because I am voting for them," added Robertson. "I want young people to think

about how important it is to vote," said Robertson.

Biddison, the District 6 incumbent, and fellow council member Oscar Garcia both announced their intention to stay on the council after they lost the mayor's race to Russ McEwen.

Garcia has also filed to retain his District 2 seat on the council.

As yet, he is unopposed. Tommy Tune has filed for District 4 and is currently unopposed.

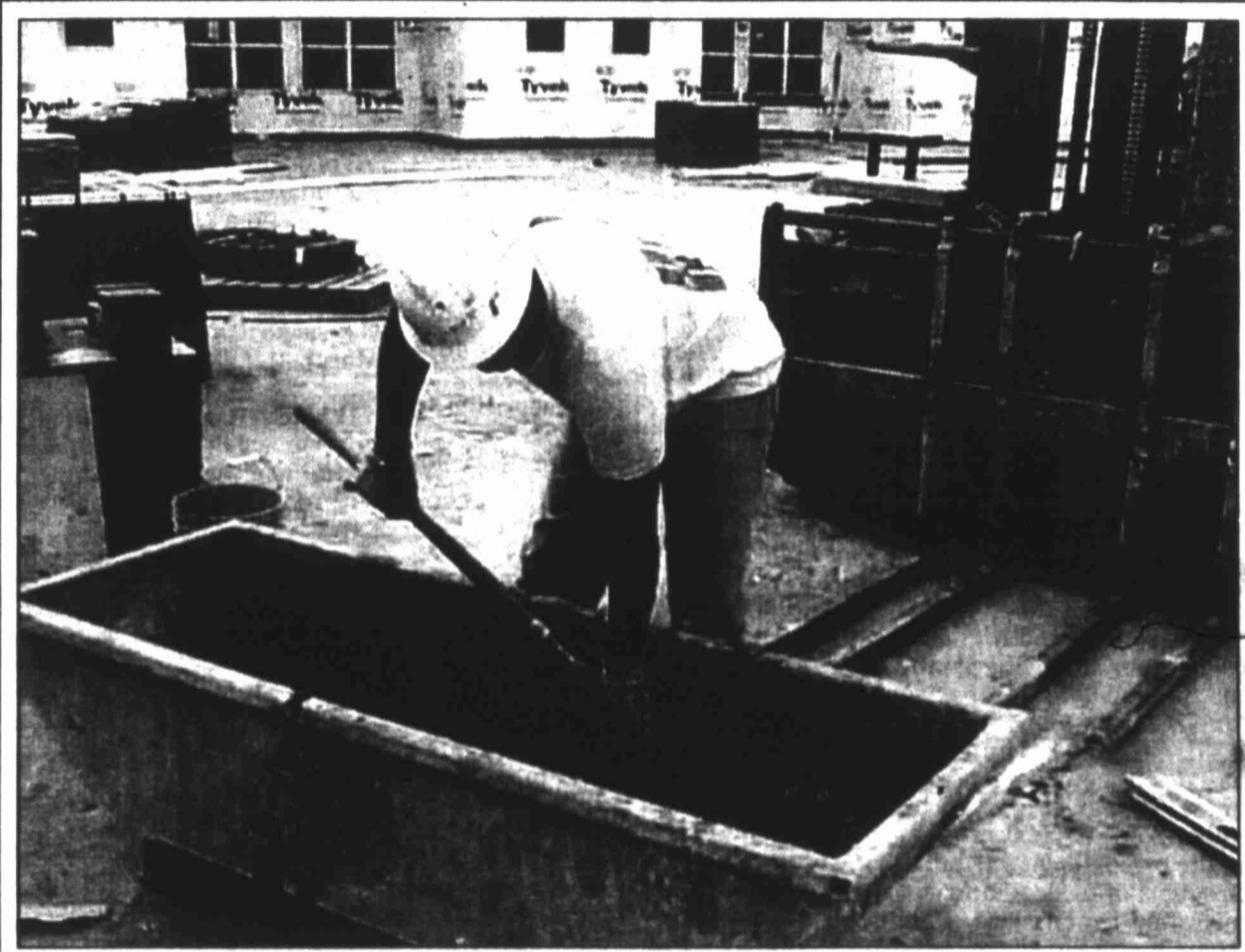
Candidate filing continues through March 22 at the city secretary's office.

Candidates are not required to reside within the district they represent, but they must reside within the city limits.

"We invite anyone to file, but come by the office by Wednesday at 5 p.m.," said Tom Ferguson, city secretary.

"Filing has been slow, but most of the time people wait until the last day or two to come in."

Election day is May 6.



Donnie Cosby of Mark Young Construction mixes concrete to be used in laying brick at the site of the State Veterans Home on U.S. Highway 87. The 76,000 square-foot facility is expected to be completed by October or November.

Sponsors, participants are being sought for annual 'Master the Mountain' event

By CARL GRAHAM
 Staff Writer

The third annual "Master the Mountain" Fun Walk/Fun Run sponsored by Mountain Medical Center is fast approaching.

This year it will be held on Saturday, April 15, at the Big Spring State Park beginning at 9 a.m.

Entry fee is \$10, which includes entry to the park. Late registration will start at 8 a.m. on the day of the race.

The event is broken down for those who just want to walk rather than run. There will be a 5k fun walk as well as a 5k and 10k fun run race.

"It is a challenging course and that draws a lot of people," said Ron Alton, Big Spring State

Park manager. "This is a different topography than what a lot of people are used to. It's also a beautiful view. It's a different setting and people like that."

The races are challenging, due to the steep terrain. Participants will be able to enjoy running on the park road, which follows the edge of a 200-foot bluff at the northern limit of the Edwards Plateau.

This event is supported by the Citizens Police Academy, which assists in parking as well as distribution of fruit and water during the walk/run.

Other supporters are the Big Spring fire fighters and EMS personnel, volunteer cyclist who pace the runners, and Scenic Mountain Medical Center personnel who are the sponsors as well as being there for anyone that may sustain an injury or need any medical attention.

Ron Alton, Big Spring State Park Manager, said he always looks forward to this annual

affair.

"This event helps the park financially by the attendance which generates revenue to the park," said Alton. "We are looking forward to another successful run. Walkers and runners are a main part of our recreation and revenue at the park. This showcases what we are all about."

"The state looks at it as the park getting together with the community. They want to know the town is behind us," he said.

The "Master the Mountain" Fun Walk/Run is held in conjunction with the 2000 Big Spring Health Fair. Free health screenings, giveaways, door prizes and a few surprises are in store for those that stop by the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum that day.

For more information, call Lauri Phillips at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 268-4581, or Alton at the Big Spring State Park, 263-4931.

Rebates up

March sales tax receipts shoot upward for most West Texas communities

By BILL McCLELLAN
 News Editor

After being down last month, sales tax rebates for area West Texas cities were up again.

Of 18 area cities and communities, only one — Abilene — showed a decrease in sales tax receipts comparing March of 2000 to March of 1999.

March sales tax rebates represent sales taxes collected in January and reported to the State Comptroller's Office in February.

March's sales tax rebate for Big Spring was up 5.06 percent, comparing the \$263,415.83 received this month to the \$250,706.96 taken in during the same month in 1999. For the year, tax rebates are at \$936,065.78, down 4.35 percent compared to a year ago.

Coahoma sales tax rebate jumped 55.59 percent, comparing \$4,447.21 received this month to the \$2,144.77 received in March of 1999. Coahoma has received \$10,540.94 for the year, down 5.49 percent compared to a year ago.

Sales tax rebates continue to be high at Forsan — up 106.19 percent for the month. The community received \$2,551.54 this month, compared to \$980.63 in March of 1999. For the year 2000 to date, Forsan has received \$6,176.98, up 77.03 percent.

Andrews received \$52,127.70 in March, up 33.58 percent from the \$39,020.46 that city received for the same month in 1999. For the year to date, Andrews has received \$164,547.78, up 6.36 over last year.

Lamesa received \$61,180.10 for the month, an increase of 21.47 percent over the \$50,366.08 it received in March of 1999. For the year, tax rebates to Lamesa have been \$229,968.76, up 1.19 percent from a year ago.

March's sales tax rebates were up 21.56 percent for Odessa,

Big Spring's lower increase easily explained, Sharp comments

By BILL McCLELLAN
 News Editor

March's sales tax rebates show some surprising disparities when comparing Big Spring's receipts to those of area cities, but they are quickly explained, according to Kent Sharp, Moore Development for Big Spring executive director.

The numbers indicate that receipts for Big Spring were up a little more than 5 percent this month, while Lamesa, Snyder and Sweetwater all show increases of more than 21 percent.

"When I saw the sale tax numbers for March 2000 I knew something was not right," said Sharp. "I had my staff pull the Comptroller's report from March 1999 and immediately saw the culprit."

March 1999 sales tax numbers showed Big Spring up 4.95 percent while Lamesa was down 12.49 percent, Snyder was down 29.72 percent and Sweetwater was down 15.12 percent.

"Big Spring showed positive growth in sales tax receipts for March of 1999 with a slight decrease of 0.25 percent for the year to date. The neighboring communities of Lamesa, Snyder and Sweetwater all had double digit decreases for



SHARP

See REBATES, Page 2A

See SHARP, Page 2A

Training of police recruits is a long process, academy students learn

Editor's Note: This is the first in an 11-week series of articles on the Citizen's Police Academy. Next week: Pressure point control tactics.

By CARL GRAHAM
 Staff Writer

Selection and training of new recruits can be a lengthy process, members of the Citizens Police Academy were told Thursday night.

The topic was one of many the group will hear during the next 11 weeks, after receiving their orientation a week ago.

According to Big Spring Police Department Cpl. Joe Bob Morales, openings are usually advertised in the newspapers and prospective recruits are then screened and given an

entrance exam. If the recruit passes the exam, a series of tests are administered.

Morales said the selection process can be quite lengthy.

"After the series of tests have been administered and passed, the potential trainee must submit to a polygraph test," he said.

"The main goal of the department is to be sure and hire the right type person because this work is not cut out for everybody."

Morales said that after a recruit has been selected the individual is sent to the police academy in Midland. Once the candidate completes recruit training, a five-phase, 16-week field training assignment with a field training officer is conducted.

The first phase is a period of on-the-job training with the recruit being assigned to work with a particular trainer for four weeks.

The recruit works the same schedule as the trainer during



A new class of Big Spring Civilian Police Academy students began last week and will continue each Thursday night through May 18. Graduation is set for May 25. Students are, left to right, front row, Debrah Smith, Pat Carter, Stan Hughes and Linn Hughes; second row, Jimerose Permonter, Ann Farley and Michelle Carrasco; third row, Betty Kelley, Carl Graham, Sandra Coleman and Karol Smith; and fourth row, Caleb Wasson.

this period. Phase two also lasts for four weeks and by now the recruit

should be doing about half the work by himself, said Morales. The workload begins to

increase as the recruit begins

See ACADEMY, Page 2A

Texas prison chief orders blanket lockdown to search for contraband

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Some 122,000 Texas prison inmates are confined to their cells today in a rare overall lockdown as corrections officials try to rid the nation's second-largest prison system of contraband.

The fatal stabbing of an inmate Thursday at the Coffield Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice near Palestine in East Texas capped a series of high-profile incidents where prisoners had weapons or other illegal items. Attacks on corrections officers also are on the rise.

"When word came of the Coffield homicide, the decision

was made to lock down the entire system," agency spokesman Larry Todd said.

The mandate from Executive Director Wayne Scott covers 86 Texas prisons.

Earlier this week, death row inmate Ponchai Wilkerson, in the seconds before he was executed, spit out a handcuff key while strapped to the death chamber gurney at the Huntsville Unit.

Wilkerson and another condemned inmate, both armed with makeshift weapons, held a guard hostage last month for 13 hours before surrendering at the Terrell Unit near

Livingston.

In December, a corrections officer was stabbed to death at Beeville's McConnell Unit.

The lockdown means visitors to prisons will be banned and all 122,000 inmates must stay in their cells.

The state jail division, which includes 26 jails and substance abuse units, will undergo shakedowns but will not be locked down. That division has about 28,000 inmates and the normal visit routine was not being suspended, spokesman Glen Castlebury said.

The most recent systemwide lockdown occurred in December

1998 after a hostage incident at an Abilene prison and an attempted escape by seven death row inmates from the Ellis Unit northeast of Huntsville. One inmate fled the unit but drowned in a nearby creek.

The six others, including Wilkerson, surrendered after guards began shooting at them. "I think it's a combination of a number of things: spring cleaning, location of some contraband, the handcuff key... the Coffield murder," Todd said.

"We had been planning to have a partial lockdown but the director decided to make it

statewide because we continue to find contraband, some of it serious enough to make a weapon," he said.

All cells, cellblocks, recreation yards, work areas both inside and outside prisons will be searched, officials said.

The lockdown will last through this weekend and could stretch through the following weekend, Todd said.

At the Coffield Unit Thursday morning, Roland Rios, 41, was stabbed to death with a homemade steel weapon as a guard escorted him to a shower in handcuffs, authorities said.

The slaying appears gang-

related.

According to a prison system report, inmate Antonio Lara left his cell, attacked Rios, then returned to his cell and tried to flush his weapon down a toilet. Lara, 26, was taken into custody and the weapon was retrieved. Rios had been imprisoned since 1995.

He was convicted in Nueces County of aggravated robbery and injury to a child and sentenced to 10 years.

Lara arrived in prison in 1997. He is serving 15 years for attempted murder, robbery and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in Webb County.

Runoff will decide Sen. Hutchison's opponent

AUSTIN (AP) — The close vote totals will be official after a canvass of the ballots next week.

But it appears Charles Gandy, a former one-term state legislator, will face retired Air Force lawyer Gene Kelly in a Democratic runoff for the right to challenge incumbent Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison in November.

Kelly got 223,392 votes — 35.8 percent — in a five-way primary Tuesday, according to unofficial final results from the secretary of state's office.

Gandy led computer systems analyst Don Clark by only a few hundred votes.

"They don't call me landslide Gandy for nothing," Gandy said shortly after receiving Clark's endorsement.

The secretary of state gave the race to Gandy by just 468 votes, 141,618 to 141,150. Voter News Service, a partnership of The Associated Press and television networks, had Gandy

ahead by 628 votes.

The results of the Democratic Senate primary will be official after a canvass of the ballots on Wednesday, said Jane Dees, spokeswoman for Secretary of State Elton Bomer.

"Probably the best thing for me to do is not be a disgruntled loser, jump on board with Charlie Gandy and give us Democrats the best shot we have in November," Clark said in a telephone interview from his home in Mesquite.

The close finish means the April 11 runoff will be necessary in a race Texas Democratic Party chair Molly Beth Malcolm earlier said wasn't that important to the party, anyway.

Democrats failed to field candidates in six of the nine statewide races on this year's ballot, saying their focus is on races for the Texas Legislature, which will draw new congressional and legislative district lines after the 2000 Census.

Kelly, the leading vote-getter in the Democratic U.S. Senate primary, said losing six previous statewide election races will be an advantage for him in next month's runoff.

"This is a positive, not a negative," Kelly said Thursday. "Time and time again, I have presented myself to the public and they have come to accept me because I've never had my honesty, integrity, basic honor or values attacked in any way."

The Kelly-Gandy winner will face Hutchison, who was unopposed in Tuesday's primary and has raised more than \$6.1 million. A senator since 1993, she pledged to run hard.

"I'm going to talk about what I've done for Texas, about how hard I've worked for Texas, that I've represented all of Texas," Hutchison said.

"I'm going to talk about cleaning up ... the borders. What I've done to help a strong national defense in our country, what I've done to keep

tobacco (lawsuit settlement) money in Texas so that every child will have health care insurance. I want to be accountable to the people of Texas. I look forward to it."

Kelly, 73, lost two Bexar County judicial races in the 1980s and six state races in the 1990s, including bids for the Texas Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, attorney general and the Senate election that Hutchison won.

Sharing the famous name of movie actor Gene Kelly doesn't hurt, but Kelly said he's serious about trying to unseat Hutchison even if he can't match her campaign treasury.

"She has tons of money, and if tons of money is all it took to be elected, she'll be re-elected. But I'm going to face her and I'm going to beat her," Kelly said. "For the average person, the working person, the retired persons of Texas, the Republicans have not produced."

Surgeons reattach boy's arm that was ripped off by tiger

HOUSTON (AP) — Doctors say Jayton Tidwell is pretty lucky for a little boy who, for a few hours anyway, lost his right arm to Bengal tiger.

The 4-year-old boy remained in serious but stable condition in the intensive care unit of Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital today, one full day after surgeons spent nine hours reattaching the limb just above the elbow.

"He should be able to move on and live a very normal type of life," lead surgeon Dr. Mark H. Henry said, though he cautioned Jayton never will have full use of the limb.

"There's no way he'll be 100 percent," Henry said. The boy is right-handed, as far as Henry knew, but should be able to transfer several functions to his left hand if he needs to adapt.

It will take about six months before physicians will begin to know how much function Jayton might be able to regain in his right arm. He also faces more surgery and intense rehabilitation over the next few years, Henry said.

Doctors grafted nerve and

vein tissue from the boy's legs to repair his arm, which was traumatized when the animal ripped it off. Jayton had stuck his arm through the chain-link cage to try and pet the animal at his uncle's house Wednesday afternoon, authorities said.

His arm arrived packed in cloth, plastic and ice.

"The people who brought it in did a fine job," Henry said. "It was properly prepared and it was not frostbitten."

Henry's team, which specializes in such procedures and was busy piecing together a man's hand from another accident when Jayton arrived, split up briefly to address both cases before focusing on the boy.

Doctors were still worried bacteria from the tiger's mouth might infect the wound or that blood clotting could complicate the reattachment, Henry said, though he added that similar operations are 85 percent successful once the patient makes it through 24 hours.

The boy was being kept "well-sedated" to prevent anxiety, which Henry said could complicate recovery.

Tornadoes, hail pound Central Texas locations

LEANDER (AP) — For Central Texas residents terrified by a tornado, the cleanup and damage survey begins today.

Shingles littered front yards and patio furniture and jungle gyms were strewn about this town as 6,000 people near

Residents milled in the streets after the funnel's passage Thursday, hugging each other and taking pictures of the damage to roofs and windows at about a dozen homes.

No injuries were reported. Leander police Sgt. Greg Minton said.

Hail up to baseball size also pounded the area between Austin and Georgetown.

An Austin-based insurance trade group had no estimates Thursday evening of what financial impact the storm would have.

"We do know in a major metropolitan area that a hail storm can cost \$20 to 40 million, but that's an industry average," said Jerry Johns, president of the Southwestern Insurance Information Service.

He said those with automobile or home damage should contact their insurance agents as quickly as possible and make minor

repairs to prevent further damage.

The wall of a closet that had been the tornado shelter for Larry Gregory's family was pierced by a fence post. No one was home at the time.

"We never planned it like that, though," he said. "It's pretty chilling."

Marcie Dixon lost her garage roof in the fifth twister she's experienced across various parts of the country.

Dixon said as clouds swirled, the windows in her house flexed, "like they were breathing."

When she and her mother ran into a bathroom, "that's when we heard 'Boom!' The windows exploded."

Peggy McKenzie moved to Leander from Oklahoma City shortly before last year's devastating tornado there. Thursday's storm tore down her fence and blew off some shingles.

"Who knows where my patio table is," she said. "Her husband, Steve McKenzie, added. The bad thing is, the tornado alarm didn't go off until the storm was past us."

The twister that hit around 4:20 p.m. was only miles from Jarrell, where an F-5 tornado killed 29 people in May 1997.

National Weather Service meteorologist Clay Anderson said he didn't know how large the tornado was, adding, "it is

not a Jarrell, Texas thing."

A second tornado touched down in Pflugerville, 13 miles northeast of Austin, about an hour later. But no damage or injuries were reported, said Travis County Sheriff's Department dispatcher Craig Miller.

From the control tower at Bergstrom Airport, another twister was also reported.

As storms moved through the region, pea- to marble-size hail was reported in Burnet. A cold front continued to push through Texas, producing an odd mix of weather. Afternoon conditions ranged from several inches of snow in the Panhandle to balmy weather in North Texas.

Kitten playing with cord starts fatal fire

MIDLAND (AP) — A kitten playing with an electrical cord apparently started a house fire that killed a 90-year-old woman in rural Midland County Thursday.

Hattie Griffith was pronounced dead at her home by Justice of the Peace George Zimmerman. Her husband, 94-year-old Luther Howard Griffith, was treated and released from Midland Memorial Hospital.

Griffith said the kitten had been playing with the cord Wednesday evening and he had heard some sparking before the two-bedroom house erupted in flames around 12:45 a.m.

The cat, one of many the couple owned, was found dead with the electrical cord still in its mouth.

Midland County Fire Marshal Dale Little ruled the fire and death accidental.

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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.

John H. Walker
Publisher

Debbie Jensen
Features Editor

John A. Mosoley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the *Herald* salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play.

This week we salute:

• **NELDA REAGAN**, McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark manager, who has been nominated to serve on the Texas Airport Management Association board.

• **HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY**, which received a Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund grant of \$42,042 to build a computer lab and training center.

• The **BIG SPRING SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION**, on its final event of the season, "Sing Big Spring!" and the **BIG SPRING SYMPHONY CHORUS** and the **ALL-CITY CHILDREN'S HONOR CHOIR**.

• **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 2031** on a successful chili fund-raiser and the **AMERICAN LEGION POST 506** on a great barbecue benefit.

• **COAHOMA STUDENTS** in the Family and Career Management class who participated in the Adopt a Grandparent program.

• **STAKED PLAINS MASONIC LODGE 598** and the **BIG SPRING LODGE 1340**, who hosted Big Spring Independent School District employees for breakfast.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:
I want to thank each and every one who volunteered to be tested as a possible bone marrow donor for my son-in-law, Ronny Crownover. While you may not be a match for him, you could give a life to someone else.

To the *Big Spring Herald*, KBST, Channel 9, services clubs and churches who helped spread the word. I give my heart-felt gratitude.

MYA ROBINSON
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:
We are doing research reports in my fifth grade class, and I will be reporting on Texas.

The reports are due in May and cover topics such as state history, climate, traditions, and geography. The reason I am writing to

you to ask if you could publish my letter in your paper. I am hoping some of your readers in your community will write to me and tell me about their experiences, local traditions, and some stories about what it is like to live in Texas.

I live in Southern California, and I am sure many things about Texas are different from where I live. Also, if any of the readers find time to reply, it would be great if they would enclose a copy of my published letter.

Thank you so much for my request and any information would be most appreciated.

MELISSA MELTZER
CIELO VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ROOM 14
21811 AVE DE LOS FUNDADORES
RANCHO SANTA MARGANTA, CA 92688

LETTER POLICIES

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.
- Letters of a political nature will not be published.
- 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.

Clinton should accept Heston's offer to debate

A Gore agreed in the fall of 1993 to debate Ross Perot about the merits of free trade, even though White House political aides cautioned against the encounter. The vice president's confidence in his superior debating skills, intellect and passion for the issue carried the day. Gore emerged an easy winner, and the publicity provided the momentum for Congress to pass NAFTA, the free trade agreement backed by the Clinton-Gore administration. Now President Clinton faces a similar challenge. Actor Charlton Heston, president of the National Rifle Association, has publicly offered to debate Clinton on the merits of gun control. White House aides are wary of elevating Heston to



JACK ANDERSON

share a stage with the president, although Heston, who once played Moses in the movies, may have a different view about who's elevating whom.

President Clinton ought to take Heston up on his debate challenge. What does he have to lose? Clinton is not running for anything, so he can afford to stand up to his political bean counters. As voters brace themselves for a long and boring campaign between two Ivy League scions, a "High Noon" showdown between two charismatic figures like Clinton and Heston would help keep the electorate awake.

Heston calls Clinton a liar, a dubious use of the word in the gun-control context, and NRA Executive Director Wayne LaPierre went way over the line when he said Clinton is "willing to accept a certain level of killing to further his political agenda." The inflammatory rhetoric sounds like it was lifted from an NRA fund-raising plea.

Clinton is no stranger to the gun culture, which gives him an advantage in arguing for

responsible gun control. He first became a gun owner at the tender age of 12, and he does not want to curb the rights of responsible sportsmen. In 1992, when Clinton first ran for president, the NRA thought he was a different enough Democrat that it stayed neutral in the race. Not until Clinton's second year in office, when he pushed the Brady Bill, imposing a modest waiting period for people purchasing a gun, did the NRA personalize the fight.

Membership rolls swelled when gun enthusiasts and conservative sympathizers joined together to demonize Clinton and make him the focal point in the battle over gun control.

Clinton should seize the opportunity that his opponents have unwittingly handed him. If he's the poster boy for gun control, that's a good thing for his legacy, and for Democrats trying to regain control of the House. A debate with Heston would keep the differences between the two parties over guns front and center. Suburban women are the swing voters who will decide

the November election, and there are few issues as potent as gun control that will move them to the ballot box.

The media have the attention span of a 2-year-old, and will soon tire of Clinton's constant pleas for Congress to act on the modest gun control measures before it. If Clinton agrees to debate Heston, the Nielsen ratings would rival the Super Bowl.

Whatever Congress does, Clinton would be certain that he had done everything within his power to get his message across. With his vice president out campaigning and his wife in New York, Clinton strikes everybody who observes him as a pretty lonely figure. He shakes the last hand at events, stays late at banquet dinners, and has begun granting a number of valedictory-type interviews.

What he wants more than anything is to be relevant. Aside from raising money, framing the debate for the fall is a major contribution.

Not everybody gets a chance to go one-on-one with Moses and live to tell about it.



Funding for anti-smut panel omitted

By TED BRIDIS
The Associated Press

At its first and only meeting so far, a new government panel that must tell Congress before year's end about ways to keep Internet smut away from children found itself homeless and penniless.

Established under the Child Online Protection Act, the 16-member Internet decency commission quickly realized it has no funding and no federal agency to serve as its host. Similar panels in Washington enjoy budgets in excess of \$1 million, roughly the cost of a single Tomahawk cruise missile.

This panel — whose members include executives from America Online Inc., Yahoo! Inc., Network Solutions Inc. and other top Internet companies, as well as educators and activists — is charged with evaluating high-tech tools and other methods to keep online pornography away from children.

But the failure by Congress to provide the commission with any money or resources raises fundamental doubts about Washington's commitment to a problem that families are seriously worried about.

"Everyone agrees there is material on the Internet that's not appropriate for minors," said John LoGalbo of PSINet Inc. The company's founder, William L. Schrader, is on the commission.

In one survey last spring,

more than 75 percent of parents nationwide said they were concerned their children might view sexually explicit images on the Internet. That study by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center questioned 1,102 parents with home computers.

The money problems so dominated the commission's inaugural meeting earlier this week that most of its time was spent wondering "how it was that we could do what we were charged to do since we were not provided with any funding to do it," said C. James Schmidt, a panel member and chief information officer at San Jose State University. "It's a knotty problem."

Lawmakers originally ordered the Commerce Department to provide staff and resources under a clause in the otherwise contested 1998 law, which required commercial Web sites to verify an adult's age before showing photographs or other material "harmful to minors." Violators faced up to six months in prison and \$50,000 in fines.

A federal judge later struck down those provisions as unconstitutional, and the case is on appeal. The judge's ruling did not affect the panel, whose creation never was contested.

But lawmakers failed to appoint anyone to the commission until last October, just two days before the commission was due to go out of business. And when Congress reauthorized the group for another

12 months and set a new deadline of Nov. 30 for its findings, it neglected to order Commerce to fund it.

A Commerce spokesman, Art Brodsky, said the agency agreed to allow the group to meet this week at its downtown offices "out of the goodness of following congressional intent and getting the process started."

But he added: "We don't have any money in our budget for this."

The commission, which expects to weigh different technologies against traditional methods like parental supervision, has decided to ask Congress directly for money, even though some members represent companies worth billions of dollars.

The group believes accepting contributions, from outsiders or its own members, "would make whatever product came out suspect," Schmidt said.

The panel will consider filtering software, which blocks Web sites deemed inappropriate for children, as well as services from new Internet providers that allow access only to approved sites. Many of its members appear to oppose mandated, legislative solutions.

"We never underestimate the robustness and responsiveness of the market," LoGalbo said. "Anything that can be done to allow the marketplace to work its magic is something we support."

Ted Bridis covers technology for The Associated Press.

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Russ McEwen, Mayor — Home: 263-0907; Work (Parks Agency): 267-1413.
Gene Robinson — Home: 267-6009; Work (Ponderosa Restaurant): 267-7121.
Oscar Garcia, Mayor Pro Tem — Home: 264-0026; Work (Cedar Hill Unit, Cornell Corrections): 268-1227.
Stephane Horton — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361.
Chuck Casman — Home: 263-7490; Work (Chuck's Surplus): 263-1142.
Tommy Tume — Home: 267-4652; Work (Howard College): 264-5000.
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As truckers converge in Washington, lawmakers press Clinton on oil exports

WASHINGTON (AP) — As independent truckers converged on the capital to protest high diesel prices, a group of congressmen urged President Clinton on Thursday to halt Alaska oil exports, saying the West Coast needs the crude to dampen prices.

The president, speaking to reporters at the White House, intimated that he might soon take some steps to deal with the soaring gasoline prices, but gave no hint of his plans.

"We hope to have something to say about it in the next few

days," said Clinton, who met earlier with Energy Secretary Bill Richardson to discuss the oil price situation. Clinton said he was optimistic that oil exporting countries would soon increase world production.

Richardson has been predicting that gasoline prices, which edged close to \$2 a gallon in many places, would decline this summer once petroleum exporting countries decide to pump more oil and close a 2 million-barrel-day global shortfall.

He said it would take four to six weeks for any new oil sup-

plies to reach the U.S. market, although officials said prices on spot oil markets might decline somewhat immediately if producers announced plans to pump more oil at a meeting March 27.

But a half dozen Democratic lawmakers said the president should act, in the meantime, to stop the export of 60,000 barrels a day of Alaska crude oil to Asia, and send it to West Coast refineries.

"It makes no sense to sell precious domestically produced oil overseas further compounding

our energy shortage," said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif.

Congress approved the exports of Alaska oil in 1995 after extensive lobbying by Alaska's lawmakers and the oil industry. The Clinton administration supported the exports at the time.

Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., said Clinton has authority to halt the shipments to Asia by declaring an economic emergency because of the soaring fuel prices. The Democrats said they made their views known to White House Chief of Staff John

Podesta, and that he told them the matter would be taken under advisement.

Meanwhile, about 150 truckers drove their tractor rigs to the National Mall and sought out lawmakers Thursday at the U.S. Capitol to vent their frustration over diesel prices that have doubled to nearly \$2 a gallon in some areas.

"Everybody is in the red right now," said Kevin Miller, 41, a trucker from Ontario, Calif., who wants Congress to temporarily lift the federal diesel tax and enact a mandatory fuel

surcharge that would be passed to shippers.

The truckers parked tractor cabs on roads ringing the National Mall. Only a few truckers drove full tractor-trailers into the city.

Richardson said the president has not ruled out some action such as drawing down oil from the government's emergency stocks, but that he has recommended against using such stocks at this time. There was no indication the president was planning to act on the export matter.

Boeing, engineers reach tentative labor agreement

SEATTLE (AP) — A tentative agreement was reached today to end a 38-day strike by thousands of Boeing Co. engineers and technical workers, one of the largest white-collar walkouts in U.S. history.

Members of the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace will vote on the pact Sunday.

C. Richard Barnes, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, said he was optimistic about ratification of the three-year deal reached early today after meetings in Washington, D.C.

"The parties, both parties, worked extremely hard," Barnes said in a telephone interview from Washington. "There seemed to be a genuine level of satisfaction

among both parties."

Negotiators were returning to Seattle and could not be reached.

However, details of the proposal were posted on the union's Web site. It includes cash bonuses, a top demand of the union and a key issue in a strike that had grown increasingly rancorous since it began Feb. 9.

The union represents about 22,350 Boeing employees, mostly in Washington state, but also in Kansas, California, Florida, Oregon, Texas and Utah. About 14,000 are dues-paying members.

SPEEA leaders have said more than 17,000 employees went on strike, mostly in the Seattle area. Boeing estimates put the

number at 15,000.

Boeing has conceded that the number of commercial airplane deliveries has been off by 50 percent or more, while military contracts also have been hurt. However, production at the world's largest airplane maker has continued since assembly employees are required by contract to work regardless of what other employees do.

This was the first large strike in SPEEA's 56-year history, and some members had questioned whether the white-collar workers were willing to take on the company. The union's only previous strike was a one-day walkout in 1992.

But the strike drew attention for its solidarity.

Passengers describe terror of man's attack on jet pilot

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Passengers terrified by a man who muttered incoherently as he roamed the aisles of their commercial jet, then attacked a pilot in the cockpit, averted disaster by tackling him before he could reach the controls.

"Fortunately all the guys moved quick and he ain't dead and we're not dead," said passenger Robert Benjamin, 56, of West Linn, Ore., who helped restrain the assailant. "I was scared to death."

Federal authorities today were holding Peter L. Bradley Jr., 40, of Blue Springs, Mo., at Mills-Peninsula Hospital, where he was being treated for bruises and facial abrasions. The co-pilot was taken to the same hospital, where he received eight stitches for a cut to his hand.

There was no immediate word on what charges Bradley faced, Sgt. Joe Reilly said. The FBI and the Federal Aviation Administration were investigating.

Police had no motive for the attack on Alaska Airlines flight 259 from Puerto Vallarta

to San Francisco on Thursday evening. The plane was carrying 43 passengers and five crew members.

Bradley had not tried to hijack the MD-83 jet, but did threaten to kill people on board, Reilly said, adding that Bradley might have been on drugs or alcohol, or in need of psychiatric medication.

"What really scared me was when he tried to open up an exit," said Chris Homochick, 37, of Salem, Ore., who also helped tackle Bradley.

Bradley repeatedly switched seats, disobeying orders to stay put.

He eventually sat in first class, where, Reilly said, he made this threat: "I'm going to kill all of you; keep away from me," while simulating the shape of a gun with his hand.

Bradley allegedly shoved a flight attendant and broke through a locked cockpit door about 7:10 p.m., as the plane flew near Monterey, 115 miles south of San Francisco.

He "was going for the throttle and fuel controls," said Reilly.

Deputies shot while trying to serve warrant on ex-Black Panther

ATLANTA (AP) — The former black militant once known as H. Rap Brown was being sought today after two sheriff's deputies were shot as they tried to serve a warrant accusing him of assault.

It was unknown whether Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, as Brown is now known, fired the shots that wounded the Fulton County officers Thursday night.

"We do not know if he is the shooter or not," sheriff's spokesman Capt. David Chadd said.

One deputy was in critical

condition at Grady Memorial Hospital and the other was in serious condition.

The officers exchanged gunfire with the suspect at the address of an Atlanta community store listed on the warrant. Chadd said authorities believe the suspect was also wounded.

"We believe by the number of shell casings in the street, the shooter confronted the deputies outside the house," Chadd said.

Said Sheriff Jacquelyn Barrett: "I think both officers kind of walked into this."

Al-Amin was a leader of the

Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and justice minister of the Black Panthers, which rose to prominence in the 1960s. Known then as Brown, he once exhorted blacks to arm themselves, saying "violence is as American as cherry pie."

In 1967, he was charged with inciting a riot in Cambridge, Md., where he had told about 400 blacks: "It's time for Cambridge to explode, baby. Black folks built America, and if America don't come around, we're going to burn America

down."

After the rally, shots were fired between blacks and whites. Al-Amin was wounded in the forehead by a shotgun pellet, and a white police officer was shot in the neck, face and hand. No one was killed.

The next morning, a fire burned a school and two city blocks.

Al-Amin came to Atlanta in 1976 after converting to Islam while spending five years in prison for his role in a robbery that ended in a shootout with New York police.

Coveted statuettes for upcoming Academy Awards missing; police on the hunt

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — It's Hollywood's latest caper: Who took the Oscars? Nine days before the Academy Awards, police today searched for the coveted statuettes, which vanished from a trucking company loading dock.

Spokesman John Pavlik said

the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said late Thursday that it is believed the Oscars "have been stolen." He declined to give other details, but said the statuettes disappeared from Bell, a Los Angeles community about 15 miles from Beverly Hills.

According to a brief statement from the academy, the Oscars disappeared from a loading dock used by Roadway Express, the academy's regular delivery company.

The company did not immediately return a telephone message.

It wasn't exactly clear how many Oscars were missing. Pavlik said he believed all 54 that were to be on hand for the March 28 ceremony were missing, while Academy President Robert Rehme said "a crateful" was missing.

Entertainment Tonight, a tele-

vision magazine show, reported that academy officials remained confident that replacement statuettes would be available for the awards show. New statuettes are expected to arrive from Chicago by March 24.

Officials at R.S. Owens, the Chicago company that makes

the Oscars, did not immediately return a telephone call today. The company also makes the Emmys and a variety of other awards.

Rehme told The Hollywood Reporter the unscrubbed statuettes were being shipped from Chicago when they vanished.

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QUICK TRIVIA

The word cop may have come from the initials c.o.p., which stood for constable on patrol, or be short for copper, since constables wore copper badges.

The game of backgammon is so called from the Anglo-Saxon words bac gammon, meaning "back game."

Got an item?

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

CHURCH NEWS

St. Paul Lutheran

St. Paul Lutheran invites you to come celebrate our friendship 2000 at noon Sunday, March 26. There will be lots of food, fun and fellowship.

Hillcrest Baptist Church

Kevin Parker will begin his ministry as pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church on Sunday. Kevin, his wife, Susan, and children, Stephen, Sarah Beth, Anna Marie and Ashley Joy, have moved to Big Spring from West Palm Beach, Fla. Christian work is a shared labor of love. The membership look forward to what can be accomplished together in God's name.

The congregation of Hillcrest wants to invite everyone to make a special effort to attend the services on Sunday. It will be a perfect time to meet the pastor and his family. The services start with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Extended children's worship is also at 11 a.m. Evening service is at 6 p.m. There is a place for everyone at Hillcrest.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will have their monthly meeting and breakfast 8 a.m. Saturday in the Parish Hall.

This year's Lenten Program topic is "The Seven Cardinal Virtues," and speakers throughout Lent will examine the classical virtues of temperance, fortitude, justice, prudence, faith, hope and love.

This Wednesday, the Rev. Canon David Veal, assistant to the Bishop, will present a program on "Temperance" at 6:30 p.m. An all Parish meatless pot luck supper begins at 6 p.m. We will end the evening with a brief service of Compline. Everyone is invited.

St. Mary's Vestry will meet 5:30 p.m. Monday in the Parish Hall.

Victory Baptist Church

Join us at Victory Baptist Church this Sunday morning as we celebrate Jesus.

Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. followed by the worship service at 11.

Join us every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. as we take time to pray and intercede for the needs and hurts of our community.

We also have a men's and women's Bible study that meets on the first and second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The Bible study met last Tuesday.

Need more information? Need a free New Testament? Needing prayer? Call us at 264-0734, and we will be very glad to help you. If no one answers the phone, please leave a message.

Coahoma Church of Christ

Coahoma Church of Christ will be hosting a couple of special events beginning on Sunday, March 26. First, Gary Montgomery from Westside Church of Christ in Midland will be speaking on the theme "How to Fall in Love God's Way." His sermon series will begin on March 26 and will last through Wednesday, March 29.

At the 9:30 a.m. session on March 26, his topic will be "The Greatest is Love." Then at 10:20 a.m. and 6 p.m. he will continue with sermons entitled "When I Discover God's Love"

and "Love, The Christian's Badge" respectively. The Monday night sermon at 7 p.m. will be "Falling In Love With Your Family". That will be followed on Tuesday night with "God Wants Me Love Me, Too". He will conclude on Wednesday with "How to Hate Sin and Love This World." Everyone is invited to come hear these vital lessons as we live in a world that has forgotten what real love is.

On Sunday, April 2, Coahoma Church of Christ will then host a youth rally. The theme will be "Hard Fighting Soldier." We forget that young people, too, are called by God to serve Him effectively. Our aim will be to challenge teenagers to view themselves as useful to God. Registration begins at 1:45 p.m. and the afternoon events get under way at 2:30. We will feed all who attend an evening meal with cookies and ice cream to follow the last speaker of the day. Everyone is welcome, but we extend a special invitation to the teenagers in Coahoma and Sand Springs. For more information, call 394-4277.

Wednesday Noon Bible Study Luncheon meets in Garrett Hall. Please call the church office, 267-6394, for more information.

First Assembly of God
"But God, I'm only one," is Pastor R. T. Havener's message this Sunday morning at The First Assembly of God, Fourth and Lancaster. Have you ever felt like you were the only one? This message will bless you as you hear Pastor Havener deliver it in the 10:40 a.m. service.

Sunday evening at 6, Pastor Havener will continue a series on the "Fruit of the Spirit." This week the message will be on the eighth segment of fruit, "Meekness." Meekness is a foreign word to this world and often considered a sign of weakness. Pastor Havener will be defining Meekness in Biblical terms. One such definition is, meekness is quite power and courage.

The public is invited to these services this Sunday.

College Baptist Church

Last Sunday both the men and the women of College Baptist began Discipleship studies. Study topic for the men is "The Man God Uses." The women are studying "Breaking Free," a Beth Moore Bible Study based on the book of Isaiah.

Serendipity will meet Monday at 6 p.m. Focus for this meeting is "Tending the Temple." Debra Wallace will be the speaker.

Members of Kioninia hosted the 3G's meeting last Tuesday.

First Church of God

First Church of God is located at 2009 Main. Sunday School starts at 9:30 a.m. followed by worship service at 10:45. A Thanksgiving Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and evening service at 6 p.m.

Come to Sunday School because, it teaches the Bible, the message of God, teaches obedience and respect for parents and those in authority, and prepares one better to face the problems of life. Sunday School confronts the student with the demand of God that he accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, helps to build strong character, presents opportunities to share Christian experiences, and show the student how he can be of service in this sinful world. Sunday School brings together those with whom you can form true friendships, gives the opportunity to bring others under the message of the Gospel, and teaches songs of real beauty, comfort and praise. Lastly, Sunday School give the opportunity to discuss spiritual problems in small groups with those of the same age.

Baker's Chapel AME

Baker's Chapel AME Church will have barbecue dinners Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinners will consist of choice of meat (brisket, pork ribs, chicken or sausage), potato salad, red beans and dessert.

You may pick up the dinners at the church, 911 N. Lancaster, or you may call for delivery, 267-7158. Dinners start at \$5.

Also, on Friday, we will have barbecue dinners for dine-in only from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For early orders, you may also call 263-3830 and leave your name and number and will will return your call.

The Bible is our road map of life God has given us to follow

We have been given a great treasure that is rarely used by most people today. This treasure is the Bible, God's Word.

Over the years the Bible has had its share of critics. The critics are soon dead and forgotten, but God's Word remains.

In Psalm 119, we read, "Forever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven." God gave us His word and He has always remained true to His word. Over the years, we have seen that the problem is not with God and His word, but with our unbelief.

When the devil tempted Eve, he tried to place doubt in her heart about God's word by saying "Hath God said?" The devil has not changed his tactics over the years, and he is still trying to place doubt in the hearts and minds of people.

One of the reasons that the devil attacks God's word is that he knows if we read it, believe it, and live it, we will walk and live in freedom and be a whole bunch of trouble to him.

The critics are wrong when they say that the Bible is outdated. The Bible addresses the issues of each generation in a fresh and real way. The Bible says plainly that adultery, homosexuality, stealing and murder is still sin and is wrong. The problem today is that this politically correct society wants to justify their sinful behavior instead of facing the reality and truth of God's word.

The Bible tells it like it is and many people are unwilling to face the truth. The Bible is God's road map and compass for this journey of life that we are on. If you want to know which road to travel on read God's word, believe it, and then live it out in your daily life.

Jeff Janca is the pastor of Victory Baptist Church.



JEFF JANCA

CLUB NEWS

Order of the Eastern Star

Big Spring Chapter No. 67, Order of the Eastern Star meets 7:30 Tuesday, March 21, at the Masonic Lodge.

Big Spring Art Association

Sue Bagwell has been named the Heritage Museum's Artist of the Month.

She has been involved in art for most of her life. In recent years, she has been able to devote more time and energy to the study and development of her "vision" of art. She paints in an impressionistic style focusing on interviews and still lifes. Many of her paintings contain subliminal messages or subjects that appear after "visiting" with the painting for awhile.



BAGWELL

Retired Teachers Association

The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Joanne Holshouser, who is with the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, will give an update on TRS 2698 and TRS Care.

All retired school personnel are invited to attend.

Big Spring Rod & Custom

Our 29th Annual Car Show this year will be a one day event outside the east parking lot of Wal-Mart. Entry fee will be \$10 per entry, proceeds going to Christmas in April. If you have a project car or truck, we will have a special section for you, no entry fee.

This is a worthy cause and we would like to see a large turn out of vehicles to help benefit

See CLUB, Page 7A

Evangelicals may be bound to Bush, but what about the Catholics?

WASHINGTON (AP) — The religious tumult during the primary campaign reinforced one of the dogmas of Republican Party politics: You can't get the nomination without the Evangelical Protestant activists. George W. Bush cultivated this flock; John McCain alienated it. Guess who won.

But some see a flip side. The primaries "created the perception of closer ties between Gov. Bush and the religious right than many Republicans feel comfortable with," remarks the Interfaith Alliance's C. Welton Gaddy, who opposes the evangelical activists. "It's a tricky situation for him."

Corwin Smidt, a Calvin College political scientist, agrees that Bush "doesn't want to be painted as the Christian conservative candidate." Yet Bush will be counting on this bloc in November.

Smidt is part of a team of four political scientists who have carefully tracked religious voting patterns since 1980. The others John Green of the University of Akron, James Guth of Furman University and Lyman Kellstedt of Wheaton College in Illinois.

Rather than the vague religious identifications in typical exit polls, this team checks whether voters are actually active in their faith, and uses an unusually large sample (4,000) to categorize the specific churches where they worship.

Smidt told a National Association of Evangelicals briefing last week that whites who are active in evangelical churches, a devoutly Republican group, now make up some 25 percent of the electorate. (Black Protestants are often evangelical in style but loyally Democratic; the team treats them as a separate category.)

Evangelical Protestants are not only numerous but cohesive, Smidt said, and they have a solid consensus on issues, vote at higher levels than they used to, and are readily mobilized through churches and other associations — all crucial for political clout.

With the shift of white southerners to the G.O.P. since 1980, said Smidt, "evangelicals serve largely as the bedrock of the Republican coalition," taking the former role of Protestants in "Mainline" denominations

that have become more mixed, politically as well as theologically.

Evangelicalism is no monolith. The Bush-McCain squabbles exposed differences among Bob Jones fundamentalists, Pat Robertson activists, and National Association of Evangelicals-type moderates. However, all conservative Protestant factions appear bound to Bush.

But what about active Catholics, the second biggest religious bloc with 22 percent of voters?

Interviewed at the evangelical briefing, John Green said "there isn't a Catholic vote any more." He said Hispanic Catholics and non-Hispanic liberal Catholics tend to vote for Democrats, conservative Catholics for Republicans; and middle-of-the-road Catholics for either.

The flap over Bush's appearance at doctrinally anti-Catholic Bob Jones University cemented Gore's hold on the liberals, Green said, while conservative Catholics don't consider Bush anti-Catholic and can forgive him now that he has apologized in writing to Cardinal John O'Connor. That leaves both men fighting for Catholic swing voters.

Green predicts a close result in November, "and middle Catholics will decide the election."

Another political scientist, A. James Reichley of Georgetown University, told the evangelical briefing that the abortion issue changed Catholic politics, though not in the way many think.

From the days of Andrew Jackson, he explained, "a good Catholic was a good Democrat." But once the abortion issue turned into a national debate, the Democratic leadership and the Catholic Church became polar opposites. For many Catholics, abortion rights aren't a critical factor in their politics, said Reichley, but they "decided that if they liked an individual Republican candidate on other issues they no longer felt that tribal hold to the Democratic Party."

With party uncoupled from church, many Catholics have been going Republican, especially those who are regular

See CATHOLICS, Page 7A

LOCAL NEWS

BIG SPRING FAMILY YMCA is offering lifeguard certification course on March 31, April 1 and April 2. The course is taught by Harlan Smith and cost is \$150 per person. First Aid and CPR certifications are included in the fee. You must be at least 16 years of age and be able to swim 500 yards.

Class will meet Friday, 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Class registration is limited to 12 people.

To register, come by or send registration with fee to Big Spring YMCA; P.O. Box 1428/801 Owens St.

For more information call 267-8234

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SENIOR CITIZENS WHO HAVE witnessed the effects of childhood diseases are needed to staff a new volunteer program that will promote immunizations.

Volunteers 55 and older are sought for the effort, to be known as the Seniors for Childhood Immunization Program. RSVP volunteers will visit new mothers at Scenic Mountain Medical Center and remind them of the importance of the immunizations.

To find out more about the program or to volunteer, call 264-2397.

THE LAST WORD

But one must know where one stands, and where the others wish to go. Goethe

No one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth. Walt Whitman

Live together like brothers and do business like strangers. Aesop

CATHOLICS

Continued from Page 6A

churchgoers. But now the pendulum may be swinging back again. The shift toward the Republicans has stalled and "is in danger of being reversed," says Deal Hudson, editor of Crisis, a conservative Catholic magazine which has been analyzing the trend. "The moment could not be more critical."

GOP prospects have been hurt lately, not only by Bush's Bob Jones visit but the ruckus over Republican leaders picking a Protestant over a Catholic for House chaplain.

More than one-third of Republicans are now Catholic, said Hudson, and Republican candidates "have to be as sensitive to Catholic attitudes as they have been to evangelical attitudes."

He thinks political pitches that appeal to evangelicals can turn off Catholics. "The Catholic responds to compassion, inclusive, accepting rhetoric." However, he said, evangelicals and active Catholics agree that their leaders should "address the moral breakdown in the family and the culture."

One indication that the Bush campaign is watching the issue came last September, when Hudson was invited to Texas to brief Bush on his magazine's research into the Catholic vote.

There's another huge voting bloc identified by the four political scientists: non-religious Americans. When those who are church members in name only are added to those with no religious affiliation at all, they outnumber the evangelicals.

For Al Gore, the good news is that this bloc is as devoutly Democratic as the Evangelical Protestants and conservative Catholics are Republican. The bad news is that, unlike the believers, they're a fuzzy group that's devilishly difficult to locate and mobilize.

RELIGION BRIEFS

U.S. Muslims protest NBC-TV's comedy series on God
WASHINGTON (AP) — A Muslim organization has been the first religious group to publicly protest "God, the Devil and Bob," a new animated comedy series on NBC-TV.

"This kind of tasteless and trivial portrayal of God does a disservice to the millions of American television viewers who have deeply felt religious beliefs," declared Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

The council is urging viewers to contact the network and affiliated stations and express concern about companies that buy ads on the show.

The series deals with a Detroit auto worker named Bob who meets God in a bar and discusses moral questions and whether mankind is worth saving.

At least nine of NBC's 215 affiliates have refused to carry the sitcom saying it contains offensive matter. They include KSL in Salt Lake City, owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Church leader helps Baptists stay healthy as well as vital

HOUSTON (AP) — The Rev. Tom Billings knows what to prescribe for ailing churches: a big dose of strong, but flexible leadership and more missions.

Billings is the executive director of the Union Baptist Association, a group of 483 Southern Baptist churches, most in Harris County. With more than 300,000 members, it is the largest of 1,221 associations in the Southern Baptist Convention and bigger than half of the national organization's 39 state conventions.

Not only is Union Baptist Association big, but it also is gaining a national reputation as a cutting-edge leader in developing innovative strategies to help churches become stronger in membership and missions. Traditionally, a Southern Baptist association acts as a resource center for member churches or as a cooperative group to conduct work not easily done by a lone congregation, such as hospital or college chaplaincies.

"One of our primary focuses is on helping a church be healthy and growing," said Billings, who joined the UBA in 1988 and was named executive director in November.

Helping churches grow can be a challenge. "Statistically, about 70 to 80 percent of churches (nationally) are plateaued or declining," Billings said.

To reverse that, the association is promoting a vision of a corps of cooperating ministers, including non-Southern Baptists, united to evangelize the Houston area. The 4-year-old program develops leadership skills of ministers by emphasizing the more personal and communal aspects of ministry and leadership.

"There was a time in associational life when the national convention did all the thinking for us," Billings said. "It didn't matter if you went to a Baptist church in Texas, Tennessee, California or the Carolinas, the churches were virtually alike. But all that has changed and changed rapidly, especially for the urban church."

The UBA, for example, serves a diverse number of congregations ranging from megachurches to worship centers in houses. African-American, Asian and Hispanic congregations have diverse worship styles. Some churches offer a traditional style of worship while others are more contemporary.

What has not kept pace with the changing church scene is new leadership responses and attitudes from ministers.

"What we have discovered is that most (ministers) have an isolationist kind of experience that is fostered by the local church and seminaries," Billings said in his near Northwest Houston office. "We train people to go out and do their thing in local church by themselves."

That mindset keeps ministers and church isolated with an "every man for himself" attitude, said Billings.

He prefers that ministers have a larger corporate and

communal identity similar to that of a military force. The military does not train a soldier, then leave him alone to defend certain terrain, Billings pointed out. The soldier is part of a squad, a platoon and a company that fights together with larger units for certain objectives.

"One of the things we are trying to do through the UBA is change the paradigm. We want pastors to see themselves as part of a missionary force that God has called to this city to collectively work together to reach this area with the gospel."

To increase team work, the association offers a four-week program called Young Leaders. The program was developed by Billings; the Rev. Jim Herrington, former UBA executive director; and other association leaders, including the Revs. Ken Shuman and James H. Furr.

Participants, usually 10 to 15 ministers, meet twice a year for two years at intense, one-week retreats at the association's retreat center in Trinity.

The focus at the retreats is not so much on better preaching or developing new ministries, but on personal sharing and group exercises, Billings said. "What we have discovered is that most guys get in trouble in the ministry not because they lack skills but because they can't get along with people or there is some personal issue in their lives that keeps causing them to crash and burn or get to a certain level but not beyond that."

The association emphasizes a multicultural approach reflecting Houston's diversity, so groups include white, black, Asian and Hispanic ministers. Two years ago, they began inviting ministers from other denominations.

"We are convinced that Southern Baptists alone are not going to reach this city," Billings said. "The distrust, the done away with until we trust one another. We are not going to trust one another until we know one another."

At the retreats, ministers are encouraged to take stock of themselves personally. They also examine how they relate to others and to authority. Other topics include preaching, how to deal with change within churches, how to develop goals and how to evaluate and relate to the church community.

The final week is capped with a communal experience, such as white-water rafting.

Between retreats, ministers meet monthly in smaller groups to share problems and provide personal support for one another.

"They find out their churches are having similar struggles, and they are having similar personal struggles as leaders, pastors, husbands, fathers and family men," Billings said.

The Rev. Rodney Woo, pastor of Wilcrest Baptist Church, described the retreats as "a safe place. Pastors don't have many of those."

Pope to visit Baptismal site

JERUSALEM (AP) — On Pope John Paul II's Middle East trip later this month he will visit two sites with rival claims to being the spot where Jesus was baptized, Israeli and Vatican officials said today.

Israel has agreed to allow the pope to make a "very brief" stop at Qasr al-Yahud, which is located in a closed Israeli military zone near the West Bank town of Jericho.

The town is one of two locations reputed to be the baptismal site of Jesus. The other, Wadi al-Kharrar on the eastern bank of the Jordan River, was already on the pontiff's crowded Holy Land schedule.

The pope was expected to visit Wadi al-Kharrar in Jordan at the start of his March 20-26 trip. In addition to Jordan, he will visit Israel and the Palestinian areas.

He was invited to visit Qasr al-Yahud by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

An Israeli official said Prime Minister Ehud Barak agreed to the stopover as a goodwill gesture to the Palestinians. Visits to Qasr al-Yahud are allowed only by permission from the Israeli army.

The Vatican has not taken a position on which of the two locations is the authentic baptismal site of Jesus.

In Italy, the Vatican confirmed the pope would visit the site, and Israel's embassy to the Holy See said details were being worked out for the pontiff to make a "very brief" visit

to the West Bank town. Moshe Fogel, in charge of planning the visit from the Israeli side, said the pope's visit to the baptism site would last about 15 minutes.

"It's a helicopter jump and that's it," he said. The pope will stop there on the way from Jerusalem to Bethlehem early Wednesday, March 22.

Garbage continued to pile up today in Nazareth, the town where Jesus is believed to have spent his boyhood, and one of the pope's destinations. City workers remained on strike, demanding back pay, and city officials said they needed \$3.75 million to prepare for the pope's visit.

Mayor Ramez Jerajis blamed the Israeli government, saying it had not transferred the money needed to pay the workers. Nazareth is the largest Arab town in Israel.

Workers threatened a general strike to mark the arrival of the pope March 21 in the Holy Land.

City workers walked out two weeks ago, and stinking piles of uncollected garbage spoil the view of the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, where the pope is to celebrate Mass on March 25.

Jerusalem officials planned a ceremony Wednesday to mark completion of a \$1 million renovation and cleanup of the Via Dolorosa in the Old City, representing the path Jesus is believed to have followed to his crucifixion.

CLUB

Continued from Page 6A

them. The car show is open to cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, lowriders and bicycles. Awards will be given and we should have T-shirts for sale. For more information contact David Clinkscales 267-6451, 267-9523 or Shelia Burcham 263-1035.

We will also be having Cruise Nights with entertainment and maybe games the first Saturday in April, June and August. These Cruise Nights were big last year and enable us to raise over \$2,200 for the Thermal Imaging Camera and MDA. We will have more on the Cruise Nights as we get closer to them.

Our meetings are open to the public. We currently meet 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of every month at the Howard County Library meeting room. If you have any questions, please call Burcham Clinkscales.

Big Spring Evening Lions Club

The Big Spring Evening Lions Club is selling raffle tickets for a two minute shopping spree. The proceeds will benefit the scholarship fund for a current and two past queens.

The drawing will be March 29 and the spree will be at HEB on Friday, March 31 between 9 and 10 a.m.

Donna Groenke, President, Jan Royes, Treasurer, and members of the club have tickets, for more information call 267-6095.

Take time to READ!

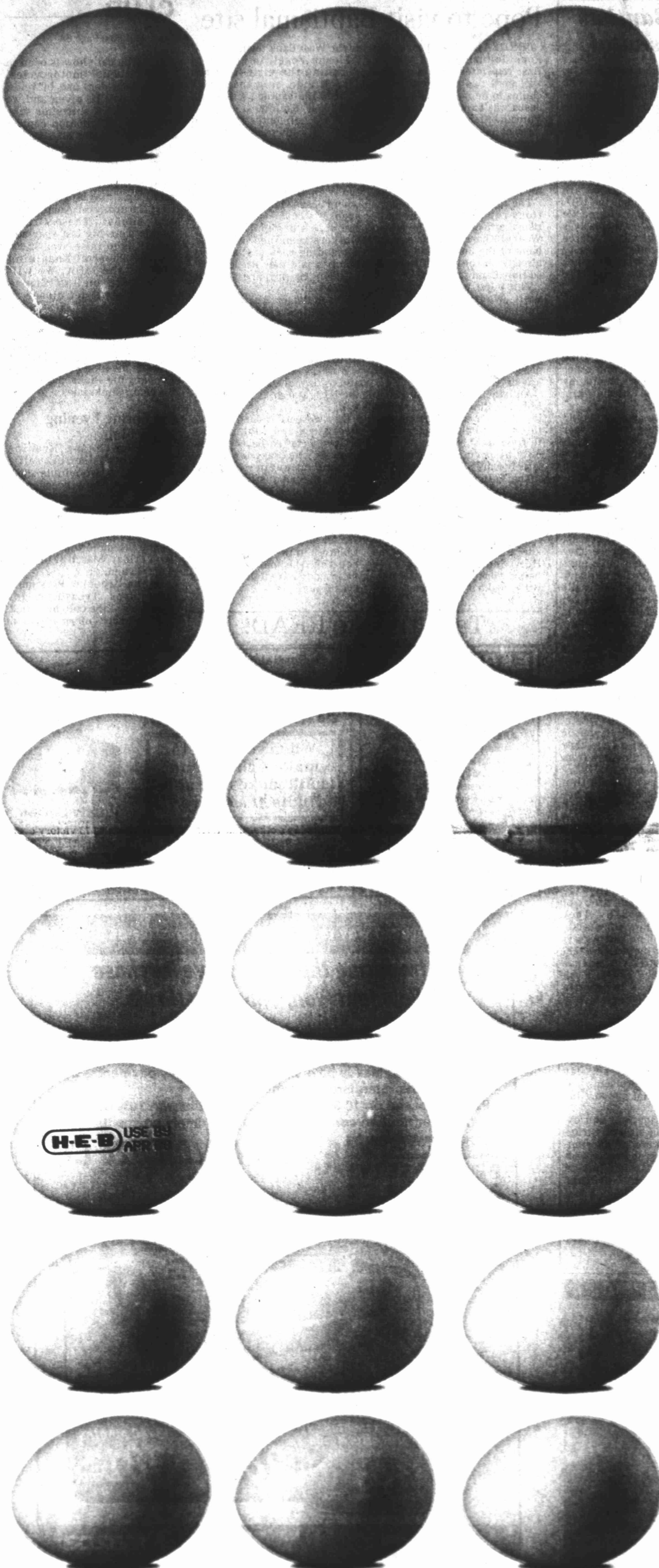
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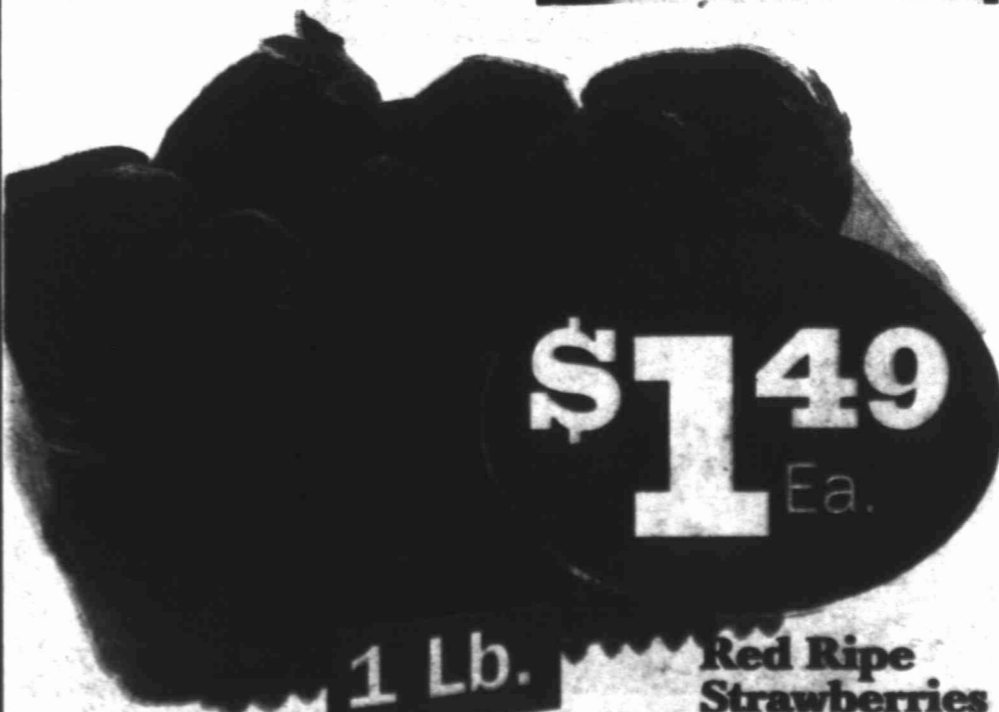
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SP

IN B

Hawks win on In Aztec Classic

Howard College continued play in the Aztec Classic in Turkey on Thursday with a 6-6 dead game against Phoenix College.

The Hawks now have a 1 record going into the game with Western

Lady Hawks set to Phoenix College

Howard College Hawks, warming up today's start of the Aztec Classic, suffered 3-2 and Phoenix College

The losses left the Hawks with a 1-1 record going into today's game. The opponent pool includes opponents from Colorado, South Park (Wash.) and Western

Howard rode to shine at NMJC

Several members of the Howard College rodeo team did well Thursday at the opening performance at the New Mexico Junior College Rodeo.

Matt Burrow, riding a 72-point bareback bronc, was good enough to win in his first place tonight's second round.

Todd Loesch placed in the steer wrestling fifth-place time of 1:15.8 in the calf roping. McFadden was third in the steer wrestling with an 8.8-second clocking.

Cody Griffin, Howard's opening lights with a 68-second saddle bronc and stands in fifth

UGSA schedule for Saturdays

Big Spring's UGSA Softball Association is registering players for this month at the Mall.

Registration is to 4 p.m. March 21, final day to sign up. The fee will be \$10 and applicants must have a copy of their birth certificate.

For more information call 267-7466, 267-2208

YMCA's roller hockey program starts

Youngsters between the ages of 8 and 17 interested in roller hockey can now register for the Spring Family YMCA program.

Players must have their own equipment and begin on Monday. The league schedule begins the week of March 20.

Registration for non-members is a basic program fee. For more information call Pete Thiry at 267-7466.

AREA G

TODAY

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
• Big Spring Stee (N.M.) Invitational Tournament

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Noon
• Big Spring Lady Midland Greenwood 4:30 p.m.

• Coahoma Bulldog Winters Lady Blizzards

JUCO BASEBALL
• Howard College Aztec Classic in Turkey

JUCO SOFTBALL
• Howard College at Pima (Ariz.) Tournament

ON THE

OTelevision COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men
6:30 p.m. — NCAA Tournament, first round

Regional game, CBS 9 p.m. — NCAA Tournament, first-round South Regional, CBS, Ch. 7.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
7:30 p.m. — St. Louis Blues at Los Angeles Kings, 30.

IN BRIEF

Hawks win one, tie one in Aztec Classic games

Howard College's Hawks continued play in The Aztec Classic in Tucson, Ariz., Thursday with a 10-9 win over Cochise Community College and a 6-6 deadlock in their game against Pima Junior College.

The Hawks now own a 20-13-1 record going into today's game with Western Arizona.

Lady Hawks suffer losses to Phoenix College squad

Howard College's Lady Hawks, warming up for today's start of the Pima Junior College tournament, suffered 3-2 and 4-1 losses to Phoenix College on Thursday.

The losses left the Lady Hawks with a 14-14 record going into today's series tournament pool games that include opponents Lamar (Colo.), South Puget Sound (Wash.) and Western Arizona.

Howard rode performers shine at NMJC rodeo

Several members of Howard College's rodeo team fared well Thursday during the opening performance of the New Mexico Junior College Rodeo.

Matt Burrow led the way with a 72-point ride in the bareback bronc riding. That ride was good enough to put him in first place going into tonight's second round.

Todd Loesch posted a second-place time of 5.2 seconds in the steer wrestling and fifth-place time of 13.1 seconds in the calf roping, while Seth McPadden was tied for sixth in the steer wrestling with an 8.8-second clocking.

Cody Griffin rounded out Howard's opening night highlights with a 68-point ride in the saddle bronc competition and stands in fifth place.

UGSA schedules sign-ups for Saturdays this month

Big Spring's United Girls Softball Association is registering players each Saturday this month at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 25 will be the final day to sign up.

The fee will be \$30 per player and applicants must have a copy of their birth certificate.

For more information, call 267-7466, 267-2208 or 267-4947.

YMCA's roller hockey program starts Monday

Youngsters between the ages of 8 and 17 interested in playing roller hockey this spring can now register at the Big Spring Family YMCA.

Players must provide their own equipment and practices begin on Monday. A six-game league schedule is slated to begin the week of April 3.

Registration will be \$25 for non-members and \$20 for basic program members.

For more information, call Pete Thiry at 267-8234.

AREA GAMES

TODAY
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
• Big Spring Steers at Artesia (N.M.) Invitational Tournament.
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
Noon
• Big Spring Lady Steers at Midland Greenwood.
4:30 p.m.
• Coahoma Bulldogettes at Winters Lady Blizzards.
JUCO BASEBALL
• Howard College Hawks at Aztec Classic in Tucson, Ariz.
JUCO SOFTBALL
• Howard College Lady Hawks at Pima (Ariz.) Tournament.

ON THE AIR

OTelevision
COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Men
6:30 p.m. — NCAA Tournament, first round East Regional game, CBS, Ch. 7.
9 p.m. — NCAA Tournament, first-round South Regional game, CBS, Ch. 7.
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
7:30 p.m. — St. Louis Blues at Los Angeles Kings, ESPN, Ch. 30.

SFA's Chadwick, Xavier coach say defense key to success

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — No. 24 Xavier is averaging almost 78 points a game and beating opponents by an average of 15 points. Stephen F. Austin can also light up the score board, scoring 77 points a game and beating opponents by almost 21 points.

But when the two teams meet Friday night in the NCAA East sub-regional, both coaches are talking defense.

"Whoever decides to play defense will win the game," Xavier coach Melanie Balcomb said. "We score a lot of points

and we shoot very well. Now we'll see what kind of defense we have. We've talked about we could never win a championship without playing defense."

Stephen F. Austin (27-3) coach Royce Chadwick agreed that defense was the key to the game, but against a high-powered and unpredictable team like the Musketeers, he said that will require some adaptability.

"At this stage of the game, we can't go out and change five things," Chadwick said. "But we do have to adapt to the

flow of the game, how fast the pace is, how physical. They're going to run the floor on us and that scares us to death. And you don't score 77 points if you can't shoot."

Xavier (26-4) won the Atlantic 10 Conference with an offense that has at least 64 different looks to it, Balcomb said. That makes it difficult for opponents to scout.

"It's a big play book and that's an advantage," Balcomb said. "I want to always have something the other team

can't scout."

The Musketeers have just posted their best record ever. Xavier is making its third trip to the NCAA tourney, its second straight.

Stephen F. Austin is making its 15th NCAA appearance, its 13th straight. The Ladyjacks have made it to the round of 16 five times, most recently in 1996.

Palmeiro has clearly returned with big bat

PORT CHARLOTTE, La. (AP) — Coming home obviously agreed with Rafael Palmeiro.

He spent five seasons with the Texas Rangers and five more with Baltimore before returning to the Texas last season for a career year as the Rangers' designated hitter.

He's not the same sweet-swinging line drive hitter who went north in 1994. Over the past five seasons he's averaged 41 homers per season. In his previous stint with the Rangers, he averaged 21 homers per season.

"That's not an accident," Palmeiro said. "I forced myself to change a little. I knew eventually I'd hit some homers in baseball."

Palmeiro hit .324, drove in 148 runs and hit 47 homers, all career bests. He played 129 games as the DH while recovering from pre-season arthroscopic knee surgery.

He'll return to first base this season.

"It was just a lot of hard work, lifting weights and studying what I needed to do," Palmeiro said. "Being the DH last year was fine, but I'm ready to get back now and play some defense too."

Palmeiro ranks third in AL homers hit from 1994-1999 with 227 behind Ken Griffey Jr. and Albert Belle and he is second in hits in the 1990s with 1,747 behind Mark Grace's 1,754.

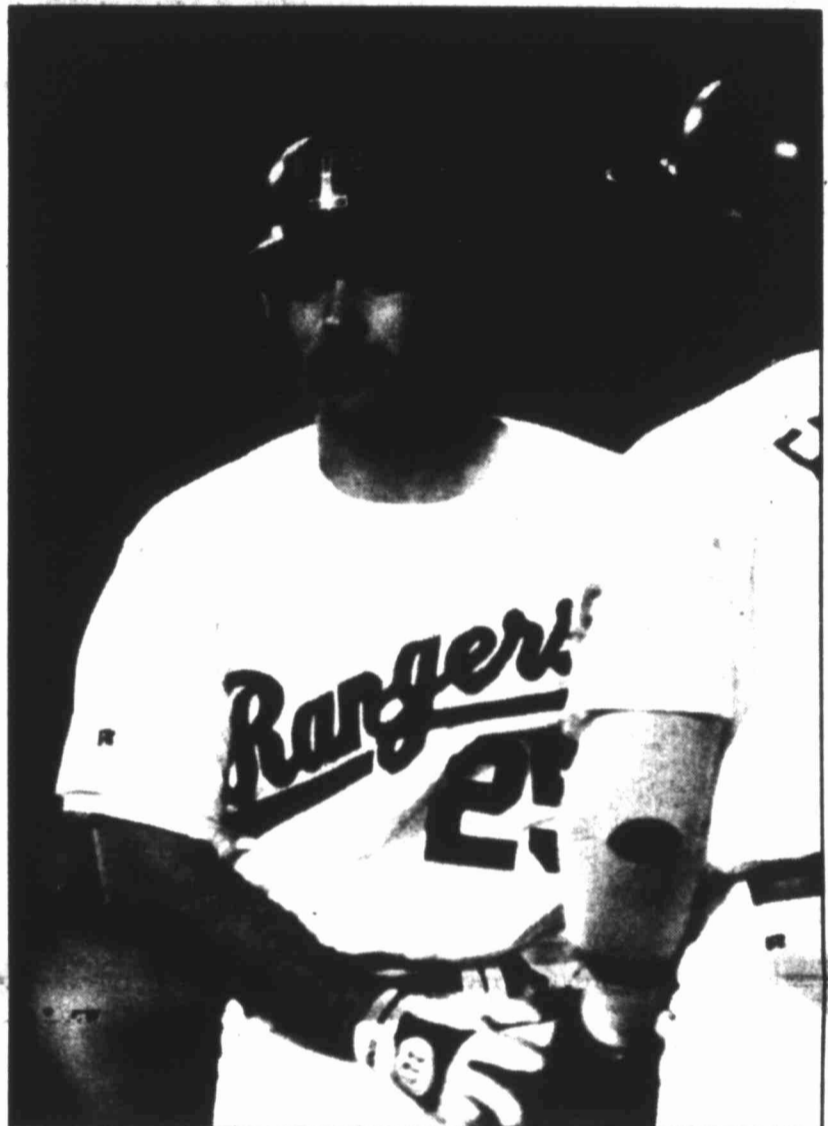
Strangely, Palmeiro won his third straight Gold Glove award despite playing only 28 games at first base.

"I don't know how they make those selections, but it's an honor that they selected me," Palmeiro said. "I think part of it had to do with past performances and the respect that I have earned."

Family and a five-year, \$45 million contract brought Palmeiro back to Texas.

"I didn't necessarily need a change," Palmeiro said. "We still had goals we hadn't reached. My work in Baltimore was not completed. We fell short."

"When the opportunity came for me to come home and play baseball I couldn't turn my back on it. For me, the most important thing is to be with my wife and kids and not put



Rafael Palmeiro, shown here being congratulated by a teammate after hitting a home run against Detroit in 1993, has returned to the Texas Rangers. Judging from last season's numbers, he is carrying a much more prolific bat than he did in his previous stint with the franchise. He figures to return to the starting first baseman's job this season.

them through getting on a plane every other week."

Palmeiro returns this season to find himself in a deeper leadership role as one of the veterans on a team that got younger in the off season with the trade of Juan Gonzalez to the Detroit Tigers.

Palmeiro's locker is next to rookie center field sensation Ruben Mateo.

"I'll make sure first of all to set a good example by going about my business in a professional manner, play the game the correct way, play the game to win," Palmeiro said. "I'll be there for any type of advice they need."

"We're all in this together. We have to help each other out."

Gonzalez's absence has taken getting used to for Palmeiro.

"It's a little strange, Juan is like a brother to me," Palmeiro said. "But there are times when a change of scenery is the best thing for a player and in this case, I believe it will help him reach his goals."

It's going to help the Rangers, too.

"Juan was the heart and soul of this club, he was the franchise," Palmeiro said. "But we got so much in return for him. It's made us a little younger and that's good."

Chaps knocked out of NJCAA title chase with loss to Calhoun

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (AP) — A Division II team just last season, Calhoun (Ala.) is now in the Final Four of the National Junior College Tournament.

The No. 17 Warhawks secured their spot by beating No. 13 Midland (Texas) 85-73 Thursday night.

Calhoun (31-4) will play No. 6 Shelby State in the semifinals today. In the other semifinal, No. 2 Southeastern Iowa will play Kankakee (Ill.).

The Chaps (30-5) looked like the dominant team early, leading 36-20. But Calhoun stormed back, going on an 18-1 run in 4 minutes to take the lead.

"I think we relaxed when we got the lead," Midland coach Junsie Cotten said. "We started playing the scoreboard instead of the game. We blinked, and they had the lead."

The Warhawks extended the lead to as much as 12.

When Midland made a run behind Teohn Conner (21 points) and Eugene Costello (20 points) to cut the lead to 71-68, Calhoun's Taris Birt answered with a 3-pointer.

In Thursday's other quarterfinal, Shelby State (31-4) struggled to get past Northern Oklahoma 79-74.

Three Shelby 3-pointers turned a 64-63 deficit into a 72-69 lead, and Northern Oklahoma (27-8) would not get even again.

"We ran our offense as poorly as anytime, anyplace this season," Mavericks coach Mick Weiberg said. "We made some passes, I don't know where they came from."

Down three, the Mavericks had two desperation shots to tie.

But Tyler Bernard airballed a 25-footer with 14.5 seconds remaining, and Larry Reid rimmed one out about eight seconds later.

Reid scored 22 points for Northern Oklahoma. Shelby's Jeremiah Brooks led all scorers with 23 points, including seven 3-point baskets.

Champlain (Vt.) guard Lee Guinn was 10-of-20 from the 3-point line, scoring 42 points to lead Champlain to a 91-89 overtime victory over Louisburg (N.C.) to keep the Beavers (25-4) alive in the consolation bracket.

With 24 seconds left in over-

time, Louisburg (16-18) led 89-87 and Champlain set up a final play, with Vohn Hunter to screen for Guinn.

"All game long, they had been doubling off our high pick," Champlain coach Robert Tipson said. "We decided if they did that, Vohn could take a 3 if he was open."

Hunter, a 6-4 forward, was wide open from 25 feet, and he buried a 3, giving him 27 points in the game.

In Thursday's late game, No. 10 Vincennes (Ind.) moved into Saturday's fifth-place game by eliminating Southern Idaho 97-93.

The Trailblazers (31-4) let their star, 6-7 Aaron McGhee, carry them. McGhee, who has committed to Oklahoma, scored 25 points in the first half and finished with 45. He is averaging 39 points through three games.

Southern Idaho, which trailed by 16 in the first half, fought back to get close. Idaho's Kenny Brunner hit a shot at the buzzer for the final margin.

Northeast Mississippi stayed alive with an 82-73 victory over Cochise (Ariz.). The No. 16 Tigers (29-5) were 33-of-40 from the line, capitalizing on 31 Cochise fouls.

The No. 20 Apaches (25-9) were led by Jay Collins with 25 points and Vince Haynes with 24.

Northeast was led by DeMario Watson's 20 points, and Deltorio Campbell had 18 points and 18 rebounds for the Tigers.

Independence (Kan.) didn't get the NJCAA showing it expected after upsetting top-ranked Barton County in the Region VI final.

The Pirates fell to Northeastern Colorado 77-65.

Jerald Jenkins led Independence with 16 points and Chuck Alston had eight rebounds and nine points.

Northeastern (29-5) was led by Rashad Kirland, who had game highs with 22 points and 14 rebounds.

"We had a lot of shots go in today that ended up on the front rim in the first game," Northeastern head coach Lowell Rounph said.

"Tightness just might have had something to do with that ... who knows?"

Lots of near-upsets, only one minor surprise in openers

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

NCAA TOURNEY

St. John's, LSU and Kentucky already are living dangerously in the NCAA tournament. At least they're still alive.

So are nearly all of Thursday's favorites as the opening day was nearly devoid of upsets. Only 10th-seeded Gonzaga's 77-66 victory over No. 7 Louisville in the West had a lower seed winning.

St. John's, seeded second in the West, barely survived a late comeback by Northern Arizona, 61-56. LSU, the fourth seed in the region, outlasted Southeast Missouri State 64-61. Kentucky, seeded fifth in the Midwest, had to work extra hard, going to double overtime to subdue St. Bonaventure 85-80.

A third SEC team, Auburn, also cut things close, partly because coach Cliff Ellis used the team manager in the final moments. The Tigers nearly blew a nine-point lead, but Mamadou N'diaye saved Auburn from one of the most embarrassing moments in college basketball history when he blocked Ben Walker's 3-pointer at the buzzer for a 72-69 victory in the Midwest.

Purdue got past Dayton 62-61 in the West as Jaraan Cornell hit three late 3-pointers and the Flyers missed several shots down the stretch.

The rest of the games pretty much went to form and weren't particularly

got the Red Storm through to the second round.

"I expected to have a tough game, but I did not expect anything like that," St. John's coach Mike Jarvis said.

The Lumberjacks hit some big 3s down the stretch, but St. John's scored the final six points.

"We didn't play St. John's basketball," Postell said. "I kind of felt I lost my teammates down. At the end, with 11 seconds left, I finally did something right, and it turned out to be the game-winner."

Purdue 62, Dayton 61
The Boiler-makers advanced to the second round for the seventh successive year as Brian Cardinal led all scorers with 18 points.

With his team down 62-61 with 6.7 seconds to go, Dayton's Brooks Hall was fouled. He made the first of two shots, running his free throw string to 23, but missed the second.

Gonzaga 77, Louisville 66
The Zags, last year's NCAA sensation, looked just as sharp this year. Despite a season-high 24 turnovers, Gonzaga pulled away in the second half with timely shooting and a tight defense that held Louisville to 38 percent from the field.

"We didn't come here to get just one

win," guard Matt Santangelo said. "We have a chip on our shoulder. We want to prove that last year was no fluke, that Gonzaga is a good basketball program."

Oklahoma 74, Winthrop 50
Oklahoma made 10 of 21 3-pointers, while the Eagles shot just 26 percent, missing 18 of 20 3-pointers.

Five players scored in double figures for the Sooners, led by J.R. Raymond with 14.

LSU 64, Southeast Missouri State 61
Brian Beshara hit a 3-pointer with 17.8 seconds remaining for LSU, in the tournament for the first time in seven years. Roderick Johnson had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Indians, who were playing their first game in the NCAA tournament.

Texas 77, Indiana State 61
Darren Kelly scored 17 points and Texas big men Chris Mihm, Gabe Muoneke and Chris Owens each added 16 for the taller Longhorns. "Our game plan was to play from inside out," Texas coach Rick Barnes said. "We felt we had an advantage there."

See NCAA, page 2B

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SPORTS EXTRA

TOP 25 - MEN

Table listing top 25 men's college basketball teams with columns for rank, team name, and record.

TOP 25 - WOMEN

Table listing top 25 women's college basketball teams with columns for rank, team name, and record.

NBA STANDINGS

NBA Standings table showing Eastern Conference (Atlantic and Central Divisions) and Western Conference (Midwest and Pacific Divisions) with columns for team, wins, losses, and percentage.

WPHU

Press State 56, Penn State 41. Kansas 67, Marquette 61. Villanova 72, Delaware 63. Georgetown 115, Virginia 111. ROT. Mississippi 62, North Carolina Charlotte 45.

NCAA

Continued from page 18. Michael Menser led Indiana State in the tourney for the first time since Larry Bird led the Sycamores to the final game in 1979, with 22 points.

Arizona 71, Jackson State 47

Gilbert Aronas made 3-pointers on consecutive possessions midway through the second half, and Richard Jefferson added another as the Wildcats buried Jackson State with an 11-2 run.

Wisconsin 66, Fresno State 56

Jon Bryant scored 21 points, including four straight 3-pointers from the left corner as the Badgers made it a short NCAA trip for Jerry Tarkanian.

Iowa State 88, Central Connecticut State 78

Marcus Fizer had 27 points and 11 rebounds and Jamaal Tinsley added 26 points for Iowa State.

Maryland 74, Iowa 59

Terence Morris had 22 points and 12 rebounds as the Terrapins ran all over Iowa, building a 23-4 lead.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League - Released LHP Greg Cadaret. DETROIT TIGERS - Reassigned C Javier Cardona to their minor-league camp.

MLB EXHIBITIONS

Thursday's Games Houston 6, Atlanta (ss) 5. Los Angeles 9, New York Mets (ss) 3.

MIDWEST REGIONAL Auburn 72, Creighton 69

The Tigers were so sure their lead was safe, they put their team manager, Jimbo Colbert, on the court in the final seconds.

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Wizards' Lakers' streak

No, Michael Jordan didn't suit up when the Wizards ended the Lakers' winning streak. Instead, Mitch Richmond, Mitch Rich, Strickland and Jordan played like the stars they were.

NCAA - MEN

EAST REGIONAL First Round Friday, March 17. At Marine Midland Arena Buffalo, N.Y.

NCAA - WOMEN

EAST REGIONAL First Round Friday, March 17. At Maravich Assembly Center Baton Rouge, La.

NIT

First Round Tuesday, March 14. North Carolina State 64, Tulane 60. Wake Forest 83, Vanderbilt 68.

NHL

Thursday's Games Montreal 1, Philadelphia 1. Pittsburgh 4, Florida 2. N.Y. Islanders 4, Atlanta 2.

Rangers, Jays join Expos in three-team deal

DUNEDIN, Fla. (AP) - While the Toronto Blue Jays and Texas Rangers met on the field Thursday, they announced a three-way swap of first basemen that also included the Montreal Expos.

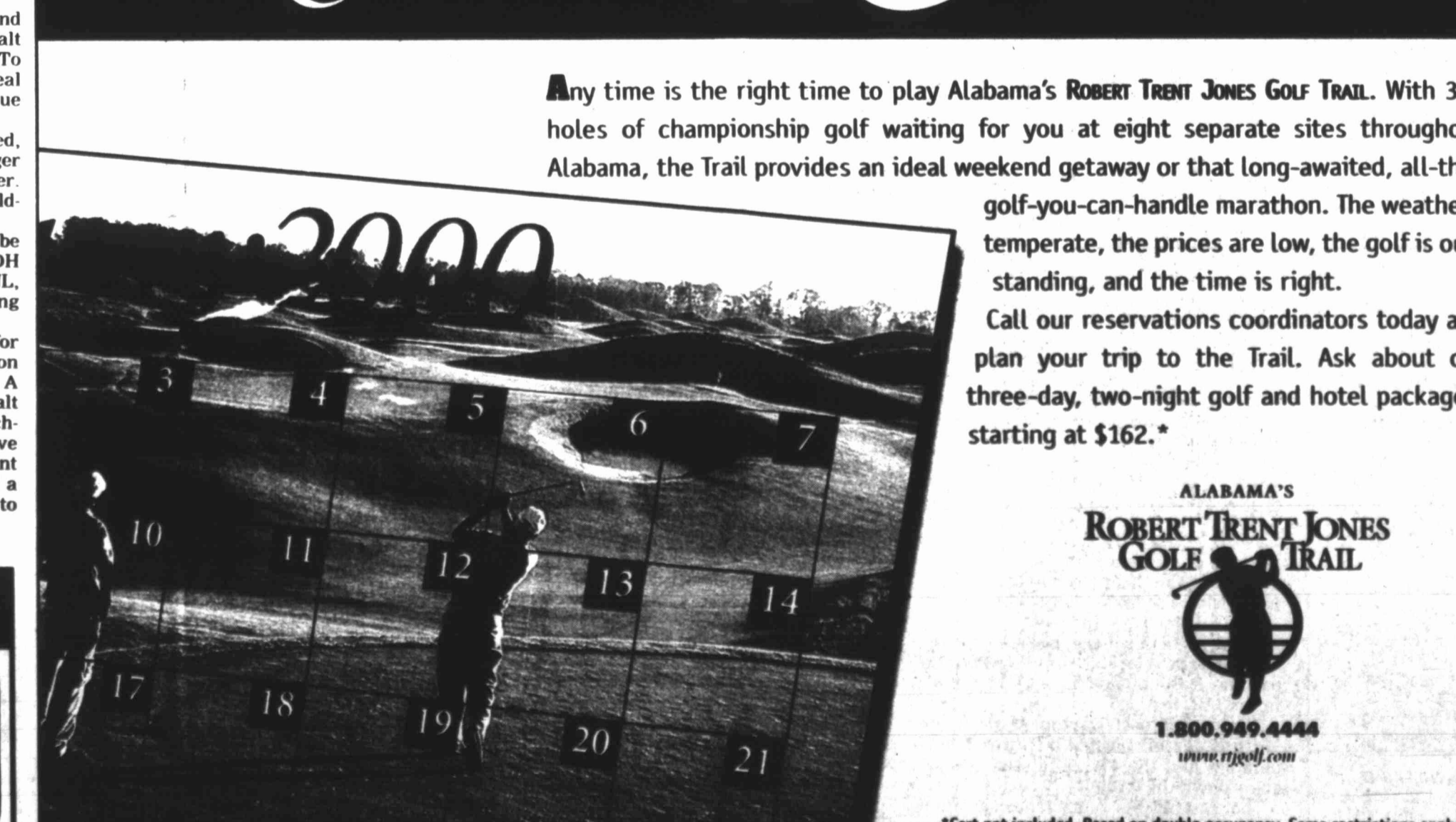
Toronto sent David Segui and cash to Texas, which then dealt Lee Stevens to the Expos. To complete the deal, Montreal sent Brad Fullmer to the Blue Jays.

"Every place he has played, he has hit," Toronto manager Jim Fregosi said of Fullmer. "He has had his problems fielding."

He was probably meant to be an AL player because of no DH (designated hitter) in the NL, and he will be our DH starting out."

Segui hit a combined .298 for Seattle and Toronto last season with 14 homers and 52 RBIs. A .285 career hitter, he was dealt by Seattle last July 28 for pitchers Tom Davey and Steve Sinclair, became a free agent after the season, then signed a \$4,325,000, one-year contract to stay with the Blue Jays.

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"It was a good Jackson said. "I players, you have of luck to keep going, especially Portland also marking the league's top two the same night Blazers were home by Minnesota. Elsewhere in the Miami 92, Philadelphia the 76ers' Allen suspended for missing a shoot 107, Cleveland 8; 106, Houston 96; I Antonio 88; and Vancouver 103. Not since played here two the Wizards showed they showed Lakers, even though frequently cheer the visitors. Washington 21-point lead in quarter and held Lakers tied it in. "I'm proud with played," said Jordan his first game in. "But it's always when they come game and not the same intensity as that doesn't have nitude as the Lakers. Obviously, Jordan thinking about game against his Bulls. What if the win that one? "I may send in tion," said Jordan Richmond scored Howard had 14 a had a season-high Richmond had 20 minutes after the score 85-85. Walker decided team Shaquille fouled and was lessy through O'Neal had 40 rebounds and ma throws, but his everywhere and nate to have onl the third quarter Glen Rice fin points, but othe had little support who fouled out final second, sco points on 2-for-10. "We knew Sha score 40 points," "so we just focus guys." The Wizards luck in the f Leading 101-96 forced a jumpe scraped the rim right in Howard' the Wizards a clock. Richmond was and made two fr 17.1 seconds re Wizards went 6- line after that to gin safe. The longest win NBA history is 3 the 1971-72 Milwaukee Buck row during the and the Washi also had a 20-g begin in the 1947 ended in the 1948 "It's better (t against a team li instead of New Y Bryant said. "We give those guy dence."

Herald Classifieds

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8-7

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carport, storage, water
well. \$45,000.
915-639-2765

Houses for Sale
Beautiful Executive home.
1008 River Rd. 2.69
acres pool, priced below
cost. 268-9995 or
263-0664.

Houses for Sale
By Owner: 3 bdrm, 1
1/2 bath, attached garage,
CH/A, separate 1 bdrm
rental house, shop, 2
carports, 4 storage bldgs
on 4 lots. 915-697-0676 or
634-9257.

Houses for Sale
Fixer upper.
Owner Finance.
1015 E. 21st St.
915-563-8243.

Houses for Sale
Very nice clean 2 bdr. 1
bth. great neighborhood.
1610 Bluebird. Call Kelly
425-9994

Houses for Sale
For Sale, Small 2 br. 1
bath, lg. utility room,
garage, central heat & air.
(915) 277-3122.

Furnished Apts
Furnished 1 BR trailer.
Large utility room, w/d
connections. No Pets!
Inquire at 1213 Harding.
Nice furnished 1 bdr. bills
paid. \$300/mo. \$175/dep.
Call 267-7666.

Furnished Apts
Barcelona Apartments
\$199 Move-In
Special
w/6 Mo. Lease
538 Westover Rd. 263-1352

Furnished Apts
2/1 Apts.
Unfurnished
\$295/mo + deposit
monthly plus electric
263-7621

Furnished Apts
\$99 MOVE IN plus
deposit.
1,2,3 bdr. Partially furn.
263-7811 a.m.
363-5240 evenings

Furnished Apts
Beautiful
GARDEN
COURTYARD
Swimming Pool
Private Patios
Carports
Appliances
Most Utilities
Paid
Senior Citizens
Discount
1 & 2 Bedroom
Unfurnished
PARKHILL
TERRACE
APARTMENTS
800 W. Marcy Drive
263-5555 263-5900

Furnished Apts
For Rent: Efficiency
apartment. Good
condition. References
required. Call 263-4366.

Furnished Apts
SUPER SPRING
SPECIAL
\$150 TOTAL MOVE IN
1 & 2 BR APT. WITH
CH/A, CARPET
CEILING FANS AND
MINI BLINDS
915-267-4217

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HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for
Saturday, March 18:
You draw good luck and happi-
ness because of your positive
efforts. Sorting through who you
want to be close to is important or
you could lose your focus. You
might not be pleased with your
work. If not, change direction. Opt
to move on, even if it means hard
work and perhaps going back to
school. It will be worth it in the
long run. If you are single, you
meet people easily. You might be
prone to more flirtation this
spring, but you might not be ready
to settle down until summer or
fall. If attached, avoid power
plays. Opt for meaningful commu-
nication. VIRGO challenges you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
You are easily distracted. Listen
to another's suggestions. Don't
worry so much about the long-
term implications of being a little
frivolous. Change plans; be sponta-
neous. Worry less. Tonight: Do
something special for another.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Creativity and good times
mix. You cannot help but laugh at
the fun that happens. A friend
absolutely delights you. Don't hold
back. A partner could be a bit
uptight as you unwind. Allow others
to see the real you. Tonight:
Add more flirtation to your life.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Others have a different idea
than you do about what is fun. Let
go and have a good time. Think
about what you want. Sharing a
secret adds to the sense of connec-
tion between you and another.
Allow more playfulness into your
home life. Tonight: Enterta in at
your pace.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Make calls, reach out for
friends and let others know where
you are coming from. Joining a
friend on a day outing or doing
something different together infuses
happiness into your relation-
ship. You don't have to do much,
but you might need to clear out
some other plans. Tonight: Out
and about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Make a small appearance.
You delight yourself as well as
another. Your sense of fun comes
from dealing with others. Don't
worry so much. Refuse a risk,
especially if it involves your funds
or a love relationship. Tonight:
Treat another as you would like
to be treated.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
again. - GINGER IN VENTU-
RA, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: Your letter
broke me up. However, in a
more serious vein, my readers
should take note of the follow-
ing:
DEAR ABBY: I feel that your
compliment to "Frankly
Boring" on how she handled
her obscene telephone caller
warrants further examination.
First of all, she played right
into the caller's hands by invit-
ing conversation. Next she
informed the caller that she
was the only adult in the
house. Then she implied that
she was lonely, being "cooped
up with two kids under the age
of 4."
As a retired police officer and
author of the "Domestic
Violence Survival Guide"
(Looseleaf Law Publications
Inc., Flushing, N.Y.), I advise
readers to HANG UP IMMEDI-
ATELY and REPEATEDLY
whenever they receive a bogus
phone call.
Even with automatic redial, a
caller will tire of trying to bait
someone who refuses to be baited. Hope this helps. - CLIFF
MARIANI, HUDSON, FLA.

DEAR CLIFF: You're right.
The woman did disclose too
much personal information
about herself and her circum-
stances, and it could have led
to an escalation of her problem.
Fortunately, however, her
unorthodox solution worked
because she never heard from
the caller again. Victims of
obscene callers should take
note of your advice - it was
more carefully thought-out
than mine.
For everything you need to
know about wedding planning,
order "How to Have a Lovely
Wedding." Send a business-
sized, self-addressed envelope,
plus check or money order for
\$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear
Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O.
Box 447, Mount Morris, IL
61054-0447. (Postage is includ-
ed.)
© 2000 UNIVERSAL PRESS
SYNDICATE

Take off and join friends or
a family member. In a different
setting, you get to feel free and
to be much more as you would like
to be. Another does on you. Get
into the moment and what is
going on. Get into living. Reverse
direction on a domestic question.
Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on
your face.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Take a deep breath. Think
about what you want. A partner
tries to egg you on, and he is most
successful. You feel nurtured by
this person. You might feel tired,
and opt to change your plans.
Take care of yourself first. You
need some extra R & R. Tonight:
Take a night off.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Gather with friends.
Accept a spontaneous invitation.
You don't need to think about
work; your job is to enjoy yourself.
Halt spending if possible. Simply
indulge in less expensive ways.
Let others take the first step.
Tonight: Where the gang is.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Take time for an older fam-
ily member. Your feedback, amica-
ble manner and loving attitude are
especially appreciated. You, how-
ever, might overextend yourself
and then need to change your
plans later. Dote more on yourself.
Tonight: Only what you must.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Reach out for others. Make
an extra effort. Take off and
explore an art show or museum.
Let emotions flow. You feel good
with others. Your words mean far
more than you realize. Worry less
about how others see you, but be
sensitive to their feelings.
Tonight: Where there is music.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
A friend could let you down,
but you currently have the bounce
to go right past it. Discuss an up-
and-coming purchase with a part-
ner. Together you can make a
strong decision. Work as a team.
You might need to be stern with a
child or family member. Tonight:
Dinner for two.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Others seek you out, but
you still might be pressured by
another or a boss. Say no if you
want to. Let go and enjoy yourself.
Your soft manner and smile draw
others to you. You feel far more
comfortable with others than most
people do. Tonight: Cert ainly
don't be alone!

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Syndicate Inc.

INCREASE
THE POWER
OF YOUR
MIND.
READ!

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to the Authority granted
by the City Council of the City of
Big Spring, Texas, sealed bids will
be accepted until 2:00 P.M.
Tuesday, April 18, 2000, for the
consideration of selecting a city
depository.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59,
TEXAS PROPERTY CODE,
AMERICAN SELF STORAGE
WHICH IS LOCATED AT 3314 E
FM 700, BIG SPRING, TX 79720
WILL HOLD A PUBLIC AUCTION
OF PROPERTY BEING SOLD TO
SATISFY A LANDLORD'S LIEN.
SALE WILL BE AT 11 O'CLOCK
A.M. ON SATURDAY, MARCH 18,
2000 AT AMERICAN SELF STOR-
AGE, 3314 E FM 700, BIG
SPRING, TX 79720.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD TO
HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH.
SELLER RESERVES RIGHT TO
NOT ACCEPT ANY BID AND TO
WITHDRAW PROPERTY FROM
SALE. PROPERTY TO EACH
SPACE MAY BE SOLD ITEM-BY-
ITEM, IN BATES, OR BY THE
SPACE. ALL SALES ARE SUB-
JECT TO TEXAS STATE SALES
TAX. SALE IS ON THE CON-
TENTS OF:
TENANT: JENNIFER GAMBLE.
CONSISTING OF: WATERBED,
MATTRESS, ENTERTAINMENT
CENTER, PLAY PEN, LAMPS,
TOYS, ASST. BOXES
TENANT: NECTOR S. CASTRO.
CONSISTING OF: BED,
DRESSER, WEIGHT BENCH,
2 MATTRESSES, 2 WHEEL
DOLLY, CHILD'S HOBBY HOUSE,
ASST. BOXES
TENANT: RUSSELL RAY.
CONSISTING OF: ANTIQUE
STOVE, BED, REFRIGERATOR,
CHAIR, BOOKCASE, CHILD'S
CAR SEAT, MISC. BOXES
2681 MARCH 10 & 17, 2000

Take time out... READ!

EQUIPMENT OPERATORS & MECHANICS
American Energy Services, a fast growing fracturing and acidizing company, has several openings for Equipment Operators/Mechanics at our Midland, Texas and Farmington, New Mexico Districts. Great opportunities exist for individuals willing to relocate to New Mexico. 1-505-325-4192.

Ponderosa Apartments
A Nice Place For Nice People
All Utilities Paid
One Bedroom - 820 sq. ft.
Two Bedroom One Bath - 1080 sq. ft.
Two Bedroom Two Bath - 1280 sq. ft.
Three Bedroom Two Bath - 1800 sq. ft.
Furnished & Unfurnished
1425 E. 6th • 263-6319

DEAR ABBY: Over the past
few years, I have noticed more
and more reports of young peo-
ple - some barely into high
school - who seem to have no
higher goal in life than making
babies of their own.
Those I've talked to don't
seem to realize how much
together it will be to go on to
college and take up a career
while also having to care for a
child. They don't believe that
life can bring them anything
better than their current situa-
tion and think that having
babies is their only option.
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babies is their only option.

FRIDAY

MAR. 17

Table with 20 columns representing different TV channels (KMBD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows listing various programs and their times.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



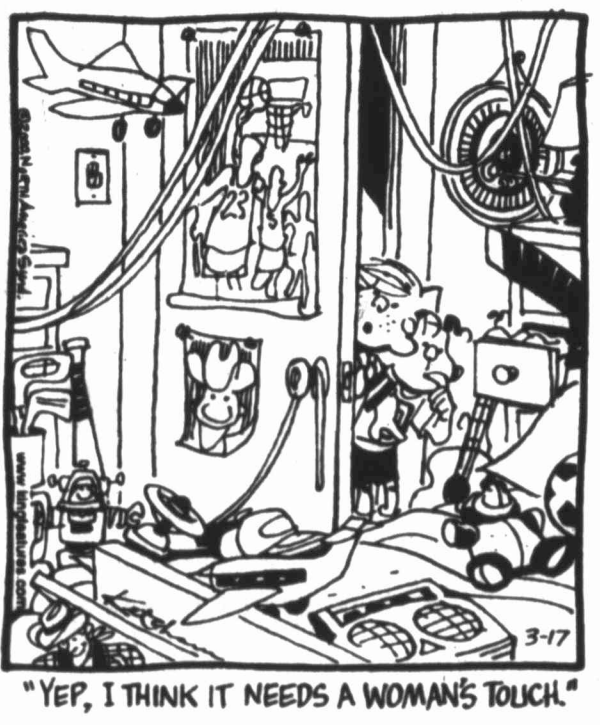
B.C.



FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



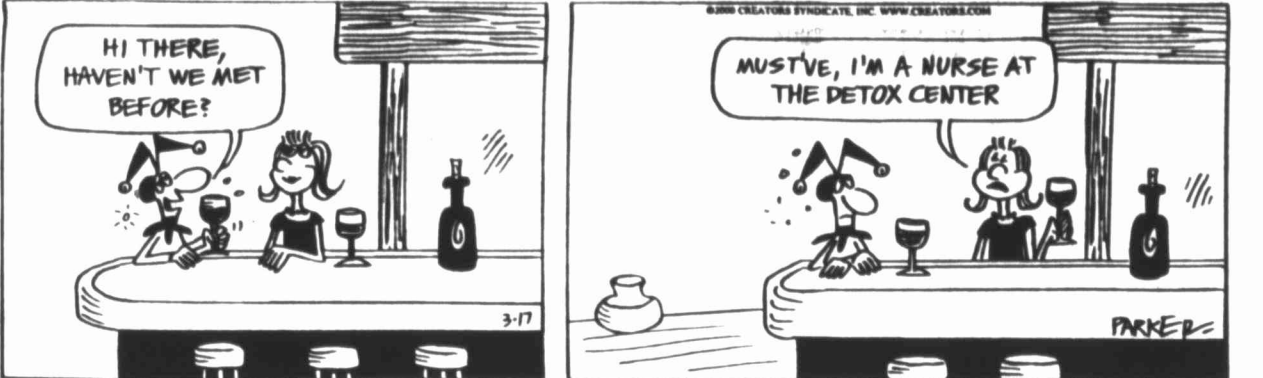
GEECH



March Madness is for basketball fans. Next month baseball fans will have April Gladness.

YEP, I THINK IT NEEDS A WOMAN'S TOUCH.

WIZARD OF ID



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, March 17, the 77th day of 2000. There are 289 days left in the year. This is St. Patrick's Day.

THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

HI AND LOIS



Thursday's Puzzle Solved grid with filled-in words.

GASOLINE ALLEY



Word list for the crossword puzzle.

SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILY



Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information and staff list.

Revolutionary War. In 1905, Eleanor Roosevelt married Franklin D. Roosevelt in New York. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt used the term 'muck-rake' in a speech to the Gridiron Club in Washington. In 1910, the Camp Fire Girls organization was formed. In 1941, the National Gallery of Art opened in Washington D.C. In 1942, General Douglas MacArthur arrived in Australia to become supreme commander of Allied forces in the southwest Pacific theater during World War II. In 1950, scientists at the University of California at Berkeley announced they had created a new radioactive element, 'californium'. In 1966, a U.S. midget submarine located a missing hydrogen bomb which had fallen from an American bomber into the Mediterranean off Spain. In 1969, Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel. In 1970, the United States cast its first veto in the U.N. Security Council. (The U.S. killed a resolution that would have condemned Britain for failure to use force to overthrow the white-ruled government of Rhodesia.) Ten years ago: The president of Lithuania, Vytautas Landsbergis, rejected a deadline set by Moscow for renouncing the republic's independence. Five years ago: The White House hosted a St. Patrick's Day reception for Irish Prime Minister John Bruton which was attended by Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams. The federal government approved the nation's first chicken pox vaccine, Varivax. Flor Contemplacion, a Filipino maid, was hanged in Singapore for murder, despite international pleas to spare her. One year ago: A panel of medical experts concluded that marijuana has medical benefits for people suffering from cancer and AIDS. The International Olympic Committee expelled six of its members in the wake of a bribery scandal, but backed president Juan Antonio Samaranch. Instant replay was voted back in the NFL for the 1999 season. Today's Birthdays: Actress Mercedes McCambridge is 82. Dancer-singer Harold Nicholas is 79. The former chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, is 67. Rock musician Paul Kantner is 59. Singer-songwriter Jim Weatherly is 57.