

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

SUNDAY

March 19, 2000

WEATHER

Today:



PARTLY CLOUDY
TODAY 70°-72° TONIGHT 40°-43°

Monday jury call has been canceled

Monday's jury call for the 118th District Court has been canceled.

Donations needed for pending 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 determined at a later time.

WHAT'S UP...

MONDAY

Big Spring Howard County Retired Teachers Association, 11:30 a.m. lunch, Howard College Cactus Room.

Big Spring Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., 1607 E. Third. Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 47, 6:30 p.m., VAMC room 212, Call Bob Madigan at 267-6925.

TUESDAY

Intermediate line dance classes, 9 a.m. Senior Citizens Center.

Big Spring Rotary Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

Big Spring Art Association, 7 p.m., Library Annex, 500 Main, Community Room.

Big Spring Chapter No. 67, Order of the Eastern Star Meeting, 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

WEDNESDAY

Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room.

Senior Circle Big Spring Mall walkers meet 9:15 a.m. in front of movie theater box office.

Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park.

Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third.

THURSDAY

Gideons International, Big Spring Camp No. U42060, Hermans, 7 a.m.

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Vol. 97, No. 122

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.

Deputies bust speed laboratory

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

A 30-year-old Coahoma man was placed in the Howard County Jail on charges of illegally manufacturing a controlled substance following a drug bust at his home Friday morning.

Frankie D. Norvell, a native of New Mexico, remained in the county jail Saturday night in lieu of \$100,000 bond following his arraignment before Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs.

Howard County sheriff's deputies said they received a tip that a methamphetamine lab was being operated in the

Coahoma area.

"We responded and went and set up a surveillance camera around Frankie D. Norvell's residence," Deputy Ron Allen, said Saturday. "We watched the guy and could see he had some stuff, so deputies were called to the area and when he left the house, we did a traffic stop."

Allen said there was a strong odor in the car.

"We read him his rights and asked him if he had any methamphetamine in his car and he responded with a 'yes,'" Allen said, adding that Texas

Department of Public Safety (DPS) narcotics officers were called to assist in retrieving the

laboratory equipment because handling it can be dangerous.

The DPS officers took the equipment to Midland where it was tested for methamphetamine.

"We were notified that the test results came back positive for methamphetamine," Allen said, noting that a number of officers were involved in the bust.

"Of course, this was a team effort," he said. "Others involved in this beside myself were Brad Ingram, Mark Couch and Dean Restelli."

Allen said he and other deputies will be continuing the investigation.

'Letter to Vestas' effort meant to involve entire community

HERALD Staff Report

Moore Development for Big Spring and the Big Spring Herald are joining together in an effort to get local citizens involved in letting the Vestas Corp. know we're interested in that firm moving its North American headquarters and building a manufacturing facility in Big Spring.

In today's edition of the Herald, a "Dear Vestas" letter has been included on the back page of Section B.

We encourage you to tear that page out of your newspaper and take it with you to church, work or school — wherever you might go today and tomorrow — and get as many signatures as possible.

When you've filled your page, either bring it by the Herald at 710 Scurry or take it to Moore Development at Third and Gregg. We'll make certain the pages are collected and the signatures counted so that Vestas knows we want it as part of our community.

Ag Expo and Luncheon nears

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

As many as 500 people are expected to attend the Ag Expo and Appreciation Luncheon set for Thursday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

"In addition to Howard County, we draw farmers from Glasscock, Martin, Scurry, Borden — all the counties around us," said Gibson Feagins, chairman of the Ag Expo Committee.

The exposition will begin at 9 a.m. and will feature exhibits, seminars and food, as well as the announcement of which farmer or rancher has been selected as producer of the year.

The 27th Annual Ag Appreciation Luncheon will be at noon in the East Room of the coliseum for all area farmers and ranchers. Tickets are free and can be picked up at the chamber of commerce offices in Big Spring. The general public can attend by purchasing tickets at \$7 each. Al & Son's Barbecue will cater the lunch.

"This luncheon is to show our appreciation to the farmers for doing business with our local merchants and being part of the community," said Debbye ValVerde, chamber secretary.

"We hold the luncheon to say thanks for their support," Feagins added.



Exhibits of all kinds are always on display, as they were during this 1997 picture, during the annual Ag Expo and Appreciation Luncheon at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Ag Expo is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Thursday. The Appreciation Luncheon will be at noon in the coliseum's East Room.

"The lunch was originally part of the Howard County Fair," ValVerde explained. "It grew so large it was moved away from the fair and now we have it during the Ag Expo."

Following the luncheon, the ag producer of the year will be announced.

Seminars, which are hosted by the Howard County Extension Service, will include: 9:10 a.m., Reduced tillage by Dr. Randy Bowman.

9:55 a.m., Boll weevil program update by David Murray.

10:10 a.m., Update of farm legislation by Jason Skaggs and Mark Lundgren.

11:15 a.m., Chemical weed control in reduced tillage by Dr. Wayne Keeling.

1:30 p.m., Market hedging by Bryce Mireck of the Texas Farm Bureau.

1:30 p.m., Worker protection training by the Texas Department of Agriculture — certification process for hired hands to handle and apply chemicals.

The Ag Expo was started to

introduce producers to the latest products and information. As a result, those attending can view exhibits set up by local and area companies throughout the day.

"There will be implement dealers, feed and seed (dealers). Different companies will have things set up and information about their products," Feagins noted.

Among those scheduled to have booths are Becknell

See EVENT, page 2A

Public hearing slated on grant for Rape Crisis

By Lyndel Moody
Staff Writer

A public hearing concerning Rape Crisis/Victim Services of Big Spring's application for grant funding from the Texas Attorney General's Office has been set for 5:30 p.m. Thursday at 306 Scurry.

"The grant will be used to pay for the daily operations of Rape Crisis/Victim Services," said Linda Tabor, the organization's executive director.

According to Tabor, Rape Crisis/Victim Services is applying for a two-year grant that would give the non-profit agency close to \$40,000 to help pay for salaries, supplies, maintenance and other daily operations.

"The attorney general's office instructed us to apply either through our board meeting or through a public hearing," Tabor said. "We decided to have a public meeting, because we thought it could help someone interested in the agency's services learn about us. This is one way of reaching people in the community."

The agency assists victims of violent crime, serving both primary and secondary victims. Those secondary victims, Tabor noted, are family members or others closely associated with the victim of a crime.

The agency provides services including helping crime victims get compensation, and has developed a referral system for victims to find such things as counseling, housing and legal assistance.

"We provide advocacy for victims of not only sexual crimes, but of any crime," she explained.

According to Tabor, the agency is currently organizing a new training session for volunteers and hopes to have them trained before June.

See HEARING, page 2A

No challenge planned in Glasscock County primary

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

Rufus E. Fowler doesn't have any plans to challenge the results of last weekend's Republican primary against Hugh Schafer in the Glasscock County Precinct 3 Commissioner's race.

Schafer, the incumbent, won by only two votes — 43 to 41.

"I really hadn't thought about

a recount," said Fowler. "I really am a little disappointed that it was so close. Maybe if I had lost by a few more votes, it wouldn't have been so bad."

Fowler, who had once served as Glasscock County Independent School District trustee, also said he doesn't plan on mounting another challenge in the future.

"I don't plan on running again; I'm just getting too old,"

he added. Schafer did not return telephone calls from the Herald.

Another incumbent commissioner, Jimmy Strube was also successful in his bid for re-election. However, he managed a more comfortable margin of victory.

Strube defeated challenger Shirley M. Braden in the Precinct 1 race, 73 to 34.

In the only other local candi-

dates on the Glasscock County primary ballot were unopposed.

Incumbent LeRoy Hoelscher was unchallenged in his bid for re-election as constable, as was Sheriff Royce (Booger) Pruitt, who also serves as the county's tax assessor-collector.

Hardy L. Wilkerson, the incumbent district attorney for the 118th Judicial District, was also unopposed in his re-election bid.

Gospel music festival scheduled for Friday at local church

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

It may not be that "old time religion," but it just may sound like it Friday when the Southwest Festival of Gospel Music comes to Big Spring 7 p.m. Friday in the Trinity Baptist Church auditorium.

The concert is expected to last more than three hours and feature a number of gospel music's best.

Among the featured performers for the local concert will be Big Spring's own group, "Homeland," which is composed of Steve Moses and Tim and Debbie Dunn.

Moses is the music minister at Trinity Baptist Church, and Tim Dunn is the church's associate pastor and youth minister.

"Homeland" — its name taken from the name of one of its songs — has been performing for about five years, mostly at the church.

The event will also include

other groups.

"We will bring 'The Brashears' out of Russellville, Ark.; 'The Revelation' of Midland; 'Kings River' from the Fort Worth area; the 'West Texas Watchmen' of Andrews; and of course, 'Homeland,'" said Don Clevenger, coordinator of Southern Gospel Music Promotions.

Jerrel Brashear of "The Brashears," is Southwest Festival of Gospel Music's founder.

Brashear's group and the others that will perform during Friday night's concert are all a part of the Texas Southern Gospel Music Association.

Clevenger and his wife, Pat, have been coordinating the events for about 10 years.

"We usually get people asking why they don't have one of these events in their area after the festival," he said. "That's how it started in Big Spring."

"People should attend this



Steve Moses, left, and Debbie and Tim Dunn, members of the local group 'Homeland,' will perform along with several other groups at the Southwest Festival of Gospel Music set for 7 p.m. Friday in the Trinity Baptist Church auditorium.

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El Paso sees unusually high traffic deaths this year

EL PASO (AP) — El Paso is averaging about one traffic death every three days so far this year, and police say the only common factor in many of the accidents is excessive speed.

Alcohol use, a lack of seat belts and increased traffic also have played a role in some of the 24 deaths in this city of about 615,000 residents since Jan. 1. Five people were killed in traffic accidents at this time last year.

"If you look at the total picture, there is no one common denominator for all of the accidents," said J.R. Grijalva, assistant chief of the El Paso Police Department.

Mayor Carlos Ramirez said while the city is working to add patrols, "I think we need to go back and remind people in El Paso that no amount of police officers is going to replace personal responsibility when driving a vehicle."

In the latest traffic death, a 45-year-old man was thrown from a Geo Metro when it collided with a Ford LTD driven by a man police say was drunk Wednesday. The 20-year-old man has been charged with intoxicated manslaughter and failure to stop and render aid.

In one of the other accidents this year, five young adults were killed in January as they returned from a birthday celebration across the border in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The convertible Mitsubishi Eclipse they were riding in hit a concrete retaining wall and caught fire.

Four of the five people in the car, who were between the ages of 18 and 20, had been drinking, but the driver was not legally drunk. The legal drinking age is 18 in Mexico, while it is 21 in Texas.

One of the efforts by police to reduce the number of accidents has been to beef up patrols at the bridges that connect Juarez to El Paso to target people returning from a night of partying.

Police also are cracking out more tickets and going after aggressive drivers who follow other cars too closely, Grijalva said.

But one obstacle is a short-staffed traffic division. There are seven openings, and the unit is unable to draw from other divisions because of openings throughout the police department.

Grijalva said the department has applied for state grant to put 10 more officers on the streets from Thursdays to Saturdays.

Comptroller offers records for \$5.7 million in 2170

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Democrats can have copies of 7.5 million e-mails in the Comptroller's Office — if they will pay \$5.7 million and wait until 2170, said Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander.

"Assuming something dreadful doesn't happen, I'll be just over 230 years old," said Rylander, a Republican.

"In case I'm not around, I'll leave a note in my top drawer for my successor to e-mail when it's all ready," she said. Mike Hailey, spokesman for the Texas Democratic Party, requested copies March 8 of all the agency's e-mail since Jan. 1, 1999. His boss was unimpressed by Rylander's response on Friday.

Molly Beth Malcolm, Democratic chair, said the party asked for the e-

mails to prevent the comptroller's office from deleting potentially incriminating records from its computers.

"We submitted the request for e-mail to delay a possible wholesale destruction of records that belong to the people of Texas," she said. "Hopefully that was accomplished."

State law dictates that a state agency cannot destroy documents that have been requested under the Texas Public Information Act, Malcolm and Rylander's spokesman, Mark Sanders, agreed.

Sanders said the agency plans to delete e-mail more than 15 days old from its main computers, but will retain copies of important documents and e-mails as

required by law.

The two sides squabbled over a records request in September 1999, where the party asked for audio tapes of telephone conversations made by general counsel Steve Koebele.

Rylander asked for Koebele's resignation after learning of the secretive taping. The actual tapes were discarded — although the agency did release summaries of their contents.

"The Comptroller's Office simply cannot be trusted," Malcolm said. "They destroyed public records and then they lied about it."

She said the Democratic Party would not pay the \$5.7 million bill.

The comptroller's office sent Hailey an

itemized bill for delivering the e-mails Friday, including \$3.34 million to remove tax information about specific people and businesses, Sanders said.

The bill also says state employees would have to spend 2,652 hours locating the e-mails, 41,667 hours transferring them to paper, 125,000 to review their work and 187,500 hours removing the confidential tax information.

"I'm here serving the taxpayers of Texas, not the political whims of the Democrat Party," Rylander said.

Hailey said the party had decided to drop its request for the e-mail about two hours before Rylander delivered her response to the media, but now wants more time to think about it.

Investigators say they've found the cause of the stack's collapse

AUSTIN (AP) — Investigators looking into the Texas A&M University bonfire collapse say they know what caused the stack to fall.

But the team examining the deadly Nov. 18 collapse won't reveal its findings until outside engineers test its theory, a lead investigator said Friday.

"Internally, I think we have an answer," said Jon Zagrodzky, whose consulting firm, McKinsey & Co., is overseeing the investigation. "We've discussed it at very high levels and have a reasonably good conclusion about what caused it."

Zagrodzky told the Austin American-Statesman he expects the investigative committee to release its findings during the first week of May.

The bonfire collapse killed 11 A&M students and one former student and injured 27 others. Texas A&M President Ray Bowen formed a five-member commission to find out why the 90-year-old tradition went awry.

The commission is led by Leo Linbeck Jr., chief executive officer of Linbeck Construction Co. of Houston. Linbeck told the newspaper he does not know the investigators' theory.

The commission recently approved a \$2 million budget for the probe, which awaits the approval of the Texas A&M

Board of Regents. The board has already allotted \$1 million for the inquiry and will decide whether to grant the additional \$1 million during their March 23-24 meeting in Temple, Texas.

Several factors have been suggested as contributors to the collapse. The include: The bonfire exceeded the university's height limit of 55 feet; The structure's wedding-cake like design might've been flawed; That student builders took construction shortcuts, eliminating safety measures such as wrapping a steel cable around the first and second tiers of the stack.

Others have also expressed concern that student drinking by those building the stack might have played a part in the tragedy, or that a lack of blueprints or design specifications led to mistakes that caused the collapse.

Last month, Zagrodzky said unforeseen insurance premiums had pushed the probe's costs up higher than expected, and a painstaking series of witness interviews had slowed the inquiry's pace.

Texas A&M has yet to pay for insurance to protect the investigators in case a lawsuit is filed. None of the students or families has publicly expressed interest in suing the university.

Spanish architect opens Houston fine arts museum space Monday

HOUSTON (AP) — The building itself was born in his head, but the first time architect Rafael Moneo saw the statues, he stopped short.

The wings and robes frozen in air, the gleaming heads hung low or tossed back, cutting ancient silhouettes against the limestone walls. Art on display at last, inside the museum he'd designed.

"I was in reverence for the art," Moneo, 62, said Friday. "I thought, 'I helped build this house for the Roman bronze.'"

After years of drawing boards and sweat, the \$83 million Museum of Fine Arts, Houston stands sturdy in walls of plaster and floors of granite. The sculptures throw shadows, screened skylights filter cool daylight, rowdy paintings call to each other across silent rooms.

But Moneo said the galleries still are missing people.

"The hanging paintings are asking for people to be there," Moneo said. "They way they are, they are asking for visitors."

The Spanish architect will

get his wish next week, when the front doors of the Audrey Jones Beck building swing open to the public for the first time.

Seated directly across the street from the original museum, the Beck building houses European art, from the Roman torsos in the lobby to the Post-Impressionist paintings upstairs, and American art to 1945.

Not a moment too soon — overcrowding has plagued the Houston museum for decades, forcing many of the pieces into storage, museum director Peter Marzio said.

"We've been very strong, very deep," Marzio said. "But now we can finally show, in public view, that our collections are extraordinary."

The new galleries make the MFAH the sixth largest exhibition space in the country. Twentieth century painting and sculpture, along with Oceanic, African, Asian and pre-Columbian art, will continue to be displayed in the original building.

The two structures are seated

directly across the street from one another in Houston's oak-shaded Museum District, and connected by an underground tunnel.

In the old building, International Style architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe designed a glass addition to a neoclassical marble base. Moneo's Spanish-style reply from across the street focuses attention on the interior, and limits outside light.

"I think it's a bit retrograde in that the galleries are essentially 19th century galleries," said Rice University architect professor Fares el-Dahdah. "But (Moneo) goes for the counter strategy, and on those terms I like it very much."

The 1996 Pritzker Prize winner, Moneo was asked to design the new Houston exhibit space in 1992.

He has created designs for the Museum of Modern Art in Stockholm, the Miro Museum in Palma de Mallorca, Spain and the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection in Madrid. He now is working on a new addition for the Prado in Madrid.

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Howard County Voters:

Thank You for your support and backing in the Republican Primary. I look forward to your continued endorsement in the fall general election.

W. B. "Bill" Jennings

W. B. "Bill" Jennings
Howard County Sheriff
&
Republican Candidate for Re-Election

(Pol. Adv., W. B. Jennings, Treasurer, P. O. Box 2422, Big Spring, Texas 79721)

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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
John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Debbie Jensen
Features Editor
Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Let's let Vestas know we want to be neighbors

Once again, we've recently been reminded that Big Spring is the kind of town people want to move to, not away from. Last week's announcement by Moore Development for Big Spring officials that our community has been placed on the short list of cities being considered as the home to the North American headquarters for the Vestas Corp. — the firm that manufactured the wind turbines used in the Big Spring Windpower Project — makes it clear our hometown is becoming more and more attractive to businesses and the people who run them.

Vestas officials indicated that a number of factors — our community's size, the quality of life, cost of living and the downright friendly nature of the people here — have the Danish company looking at Big Spring.

Now, however, it's time for all of us to get involved if we want not only a manufacturing facility that covers more than 200,000 square feet, but want Vestas' corporate headquarters for North America located here.

We need to help Moore Development officials explain how important we believe Vestas' estimated \$10 million annual payroll would be to Big Spring. We mention they projected two jobs that would be created in other sectors for every position the company brings to the table.

While some in this community have sometimes complained that the *Herald* is too often a cheerleader for Big Spring, we believe it's a role we should take — both as individuals and as a good corporate neighbor.

That's why in today's edition of the *Herald*, our readers will find a "Dear Vestas" letter on the back page of Section B.

We are convinced it is of paramount importance that you tear out that page and take it with you and encourage your friends and co-workers to put their signatures with yours.

Once that's done, bring it by the *Herald* at 710 Scurry or take it to Moore Development at Third and Gregg. It will be a way of making sure that Vestas knows we all want them to become a part of our community.

We want Vestas to know that we not only want the economic growth the company could mean to this community, but that we want the opportunity to call them "neighbor."

That's something only we can do.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

On Sunday, May 5, 2000, your newspaper circulated an article entitled "Crossroads, phone companies work to solve connection woes."

This article mentioned Apex 2000 Internet Services Corp. and insinuated that we were having the same problems Mr. Purifoy was having with his customers concerning modem connection issues.

No one at Apex 2000 Internet Services Corp. spoke to your newspaper concerning this

issue. We believe that one of our smaller competitors (Crossroads Communications) used this opportunity to insinuate that we have the same problems that have plagued their organization.

Specifically, we'd like those statements concerning Apex 2000 retracted.

Sincerely,

TYCHICUS L. ROBERSON
DIRECTOR/VICE PRESIDENT/
CO-OWNER
APEX 2000 INTERNET SERVICES
CORP.

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.

Exciting time to be a resident of Big Spring

I believe this is an exciting time to be a resident of Big Spring, Texas.

There are a number of things going on in our community that reflect a positive attitude and a reversal of the two decades of population decline experienced here.

When I first came to West Texas, I would come to Big Spring for a variety of reasons.

As a railfan, the railyard was always a good place to visit — to see what "foreign" motive power was coming through to help the then-Missouri Pacific freights move down the tracks.

As a music lover, there was the Record Shop. Those of you who grew up with the record shop know what I'm talking about ... those who arrived after it closed will just have to be content knowing you missed something special.

It always amazed me that no matter what album or 45 I inquired about, Mr. Glickman knew where it was. He would either scurry over to a table full of records, get down on his knees and start pulling box after box of records out until he found the right one, or he would disappear into the basement. Regardless, he always

came up with the requested music.

And there was the state park. Just as I do now, I would drive up on the park and look across the land. There were jets doing touch-and-go routines at Webb and there were trains heading out of the yard to some point to the west.

And always, there was the stark beauty of the land we call home today.

There is a quality of life in a smaller community that can't be touched by larger cities. Yes, there are things we lack that force us to shop elsewhere, but the beauty of living in Big Spring is our central location to so many places that allow us access without their encroachment into our lives.

Over the past few months, we have experienced a job growth in our community that is both positive and exciting. Jobs at StarTek and Solitaire Homes, coupled with expansions at Cornell Corrections and additional new jobs in the community have helped drop our unemployment rate to levels not experienced since the 70s oil boom.

And there are more than 150 new jobs on the horizon, as construction on the Veterans Home moves along at a steady clip.

For the first time in the memory of local employment officials, Big Spring and Howard County posted unemployment rates lower than those in Midland and Odessa

— and for nine months out of the past 12, our rate was the lowest in the region.

Those are signs of growth in a community that can only be good. Those are signs that the population erosion has slowed ... perhaps even stopped ... and that a migration is beginning as people go to where the jobs are.

Now, our community has made a very short list of communities being considered as the home to the North American headquarters of Vestas Corp.

Why, I have had some ask me.

Those people who run Vestas say it is because of a combination of factors — including the size of our community, our quality of life, our cost of living and our location — among others.

Should Big Spring be selected, not only would a 200,000-plus square foot manufacturing facility be constructed and 450 workers employed, but the North American corporate headquarters and its 50 jobs would be relocated to Big Spring from Palm Springs, Calif.

The annual payroll would exceed \$10 million. Spinoff jobs in a variety of businesses would be created, as machine and fabrication shops scrambled to meet the needs of Vestas.

In fact, Vestas says that for every job it brings, there are two others that are created

within the community.

After two decades of having people leave our community because the jobs were elsewhere, we find ourselves at a point where people would begin moving to Big Spring — because that is where the jobs are.

Community support for the Vestas project is vital.

In an effort to help with the project, the *Herald* has included a "Dear Vestas" letter on the back page of Section B in today's newspaper. We encourage you to tear that page out of your newspaper and take it with you to church, to work, to lunch, to school — wherever you might go in the next two days — and get as many signatures as possible.

When you've filled your page, either bring it by the *Herald* at 710 Scurry or take it to Moore Development at Third and Gregg. We'll make certain the pages are collected and the signatures counted and Vestas knows we want them as part of our community.

Yes, some people will sign more than one letter — and that's OK, because we're looking for an impressive community outpouring of support. We want Vestas to know they can call Big Spring home, and what better way than to offer them 20,000 reasons.

We're counting on you. Our community is counting on you.

(John H. Walker is publisher of the *Herald*.)



ADDRESSES

- **BILL CLINTON**
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- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
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- **JAMES E. "PETE" LANEY**
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
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Welfare state robs the productive to buy votes

A welfare state is a slave state. The slaves are the productive citizens whose taxes are used to support the unproductive.

The beneficiaries are simply the politicians who take the money from the productive people and use it to buy the votes of the unproductive.

Stripped of all the folderol, I believe that is a fair description.

The first step in persuading people to accept this form of slavery is to blur the distinction between charity and government programs. Charity is voluntary. Government programs are coercive.

If you wish, as an act of kindness, to pay for someone else's child care, that is charity. When the government taxes you in order to pay for someone else's child care, that is

coercion. You are given no choice (except, of course, to either pay your taxes or go to jail).

More people should ask themselves if it is fair that they should be penalized for working hard and providing for themselves and their families. Is it fair for a person who works hard to provide health insurance for his or her family to be forced to provide free health care for others whose only qualification is that they don't work so hard? Is it fair to a single mom working hard to pay for her child's day care to take part of her earnings to pay for the day care of other people's children? Is it fair for families who struggle and save to finance their children's education to also be taxed to provide free education to others?

The answer is no. A welfare state is neither fair nor just. It is frankly robbing the productive to provide the money to buy the votes of the unproductive. That's why the original founders of this country did not consider that government had any role at all to play in charity. You can read the

Constitution from start to finish, and you will find not one word that authorizes Congress or the president to take money from the American people and give it to people the politicians wish to benefit, either domestic or foreign.

It might even surprise you to know that, for most of the nation's history, the government did not do so. Social needs were left to the families and the churches. It was Franklin Roosevelt who first blurred the distinction between rights and economic benefits. No one has a "right" to any economic benefit provided at another's expense.

Today when you hear politicians and journalists talk about filling or meeting "needs," you should immediately ask this question: Whose needs, and at whose expense shall these needs be met? Don't make the mistake of saying, "At the government's expense." The government has no money at all except that which it takes from its productive citizens in the form of taxes.

When these socialist mugs say that the "government

should," just automatically translate that in your mind as "the government will force me to" do whatever. The government does not pay for any of these public benefits. You do. And you are made the poorer because income you have earned with your labor is taken away from you and your family and spent by others on others.

Former congressman Jack Kemp used to make a good point: Whatever you tax, you discourage, and whatever you subsidize, you encourage. And the government taxes work, savings and investments, and it subsidizes unemployment, indigency and improvidence.

Another important difference between charity and government welfare is that the recipients of charity know that they are being done a favor and are usually grateful. Recipients of government welfare quickly come to view it as entitlement and are forever disgruntled. I've seen American go from a minimal welfare state to a maximum welfare state.

It has not been an improvement.



One-trooper served with notice of discharge, five others disciplined for KKK party photos

AUSTIN (AP) — One of eight troopers shown wearing a Ku Klux Klan hood in photographs of a 1988 party has been served with a discharge notice. DPS Sgt. Darryl Wright of Woodville received notice Friday of the department's decision to discharge him for taking part in a Nov. 10, 1988, surprise party for black trooper Darron Anderson in which troopers donned paper KKK hoods. Wright was already on suspension for allegedly making a racist remark to a deputy at the Tyler County Sheriff's Office. Wright has an unlisted phone number in Warren and could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press. Also disciplined Friday was

Livingston Trooper Wilbur Glen Gooden, 36, who was suspended for five days without pay. Trooper Larry Pitts, Trooper Ricky Thigpen, Cpl. Bobby Perry, all of Livingston, and Cpl. Paul Hearne of Huntington were all suspended for three days without pay. Two of the troopers who attended the celebration have since retired. "We have completed our investigation into this unfortunate incident and taken the disciplinary action we believe is proper," said DPS Director Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr. "All of these officers still have the right to appeal." Troopers have told reporters the party theme was a harm-

less, albeit tasteless, joke. Anderson claims he disguised his dismay during the office party, then went home to cry. Meanwhile, Anderson — who initiated the investigation after showing the 10-year-old photographs to reporters — has been issued a final discharge notice. Anderson missed a scheduled appeal hearing in January with former DPS director Col. Dudley Thomas and was given a final notice in late February. Anderson's job has been in jeopardy since November 1999 when he was accused of setting fire to his pickup truck, then filing an insurance claim. He faces an arson charge in San Jacinto County.

Man given life in prison for killing baby

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston jury deliberated for four hours before convicting a 21-year-old man of capital murder in the death of his girlfriend's baby daughter. Nelson Armando Paz was sentenced to life in prison Friday for the death of 18-month-old Victoria Cardona. Prosecutors did not seek the death penalty in the case, making the life term automatic.

Court records show Cardona was the daughter of Paz's girlfriend, Ruth Muiz. She left the baby with Paz while she visited a relative. A short time later, Paz called 911 and reported that the baby no longer was breathing. Cardona died en route to Ben Taub Hospital. An autopsy later found evidence of sexual abuse and showed Cardona was killed by blunt force trauma to the head.

"Victoria Cardona's body tells you all you need to know and what you know is that while Paz was taking care of that baby, he killed her," said prosecutor Denise Nassar, according to the Houston Chronicle. Defense attorneys argued the child's fatal injuries were caused by someone else before Muiz left her baby with Paz.

It was Paz's second trial for Cardona's Feb. 6, 1999 death. A mistrial was declared in October after a holdout juror refused to convict Paz.

"I have no remorse for anybody," Paz said as he was escorted from the courtroom Friday. He will not be eligible for parole for 40 years.

Revised regional clean air plan proposal unveiled

ARLINGTON (AP) — State officials have announced a new clean air plan for eight counties in North Texas that would scrap a proposed regional ban on operating construction equipment during the summer months.

The new proposal, however, would include vehicle emissions testing, said Bill Jordan of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

"But if the plan does not do what we think it will do, we may have to revisit the construction ban," Jordan said.

He told members of the North Texas Clean Air Steering Committee on Thursday that improvements in engine technology, reformulated gasoline and diesel fuel should help alleviate dirty air problems in the region. The affected areas include Ellis, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman,

Parker and Rockwall counties, according to The Dallas Morning News.

Older plans recommended banning the use of construction equipment from 6 and 10 a.m. during ozone season. That measure, that along with plans to reduce speed limits and place stringent limits on utility and cement plant emissions, has drawn the most questions and comments from residents and environmental groups.

Jordan said the proposed construction ban could be dropped if the state obtains a federal waiver allowing Texas to require reformulated gasoline that's even cleaner than fuel requirements spelled out new national standards.

The state must submit a clean air plan to the federal Environmental Protection Agency by April 19.

Former assistant coach suing Penders

AUSTIN (AP) — Former University of Texas men's assistant basketball coach Eddie Oran is suing his former boss, Tom Penders, the Austin American-Statesman reported Saturday.

The suit, filed late Friday in Travis County State District Court, alleges that Penders made libelous and slanderous comments against Oran during the controversy surrounding the release of a player's grades in 1998 to a local radio station.

According to the suit, Oran is seeking unspecified damages for loss of income, loss of his employment at UT, personal humiliation and mental anguish and suffering, the newspaper reported.

On Saturday, Penders told The Associated Press that he had not been served with a copy of the lawsuit.

"There are no papers, I don't know anything about it," Penders said. "I have really no comment on anything because I don't know what's being alleged."

In 1998, the grades of former Texas player Luke Axtell were released to radio station KVET-AM in violation of the Buckley Amendment, which protects a student's right to privacy.

Axtell sued Capstar Texas Limited Partnership, KVET's parent company. In statements taken under oath in the Axtell suit, Oran said he took the blame for the release of the grades to protect Penders.

Oran was disciplined and lost a week's salary for his involvement. When Penders resigned, accepting a \$900,000 settlement on his \$2.2 million contract, Oran was not retained.

Penders told the AP Saturday that he'll wait for a copy of the lawsuit before discussing the issue. "As far as I know there's absolutely nothing to this," he said.

Though Oran initially took responsibility for releasing Axtell's grades to KVET, he testified under oath at his deposition that he was merely carrying out Penders' orders by instructing the basketball secretary to fax the report.

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E-commerce tax commission finds common ground, but not on sales tax

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal commission appears ready to endorse a congressional extension of up to five years of the current moratorium on new Internet taxes. Agreement remains elusive on the contentious issue of whether states' sales taxes should apply to e-commerce.

Extending the freeze beyond October 2001, when it is set to expire, seems to have support from a majority of the 19-member Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce heading into its final meeting this week in Dallas.

Consensus also is close on recommendations that Congress repeal the century-old 3 percent telephone excise tax and permanently ban taxes on Internet access. The commission advises Congress on Internet tax policy.

Despite feverish behind-the-scenes negotiations leading up to the commission's final meeting Monday and Tuesday, it remained unlikely that members would resolve deep divisions on whether states eventually should be permitted to collect sales taxes on e-commerce.

Although the law creating the commission requires a two-thirds vote for a formal recommendation, Republican congressional leaders have indicated they could embrace the majority's view as long as it does not call for expanded taxation of the Internet.

"The best judgment is not always the consensus judgment," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said in a letter to the commission's chairman, Gov. Jim Gilmore, R-Va. "I will consider seriously any proposal that receives support from a majority of the commission, especially if that proposal is bold and innovative."

The outcome could have an impact on the race for the White House between Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush. They face a delicate balancing act between their state supporters, who worry about revenue losses, and the high-tech industry, with its anti-tax wishes and potentially huge campaign contributions. Both candidates have approached the tax issue cautiously.

Many areas of possible compromise on the e-commerce commission are in a proposal drafted by the six business members — top executives of AT&T, MCI Worldcom, America Online, Time Warner, Gateway and Charles Schwab.

In addition to the moratorium extension, Internet access tax ban and telephone excise tax repeal, that plan asks Congress to put into law a 1993 Supreme

Court ruling that a state can collect sales taxes from a remote seller only if the seller has a physical presence, or "nexus," in that state. This decision effectively prevents states from collecting taxes on remote sales, but it is subject to frequent court challenges.

The business proposal also would clearly define physical presence — such things as an Internet service provider or Web page would not count. It also would begin a process of simplifying 45 state and thousands of local sales tax rates, which could be a precursor to e-commerce sales taxes.

"I am cautiously optimistic there will be a consensus on a number of the key points," said John Sidmore, vice chairman of MCI Worldcom.

The business members originally proposed exempting from sales taxes goods sold in digital form such as software and music, as well as their real-world counterparts sold in stores. But many observers believe that recommendation is likely to be dropped amid criticism it mainly benefits the companies themselves.

A key question is whether the commission members who say sales taxes should apply to Internet transactions can cut a deal with the business group to include language paving the way for such a tax in the future. They are led by Gov. Mike Leavitt, R-Utah, chairman of the National Governors Association, and also include Gov. Gary Locke, D-Wash., and Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk.

These members fear increasing Internet commerce would jeopardize the roughly \$150 billion in annual sales tax collections nationwide, forcing states to raise other taxes or cut services. They also argue that exempting online sales from tax is unfair to bricks-and-mortar merchants, a position backed by retailers such as Wal-Mart and Sears.

"The time to address this is now, when the impact on our state and local revenues is not so great," Kirk said. "We have to solve the riddle of how we continue to pay for these services."

Members allied with Leavitt could block a two-thirds majority on any position if they can get the three Clinton administration votes on the commission: officials of the Treasury and Commerce departments and the U.S. trade representative's office. They generally have opposed a permanent ban on Internet sales taxes and have raised questions about the cost of repealing the 3 percent phone tax, but they support the ban on access taxes.

Consumer prices rise, fueled by energy costs

WASHINGTON (AP) — A record rise in fuel oil prices along with a steep increase in gasoline costs drove up consumer prices by 0.5 percent in February — the biggest monthly gain since last April. Economists said the news justifies a widely expected boost in interest rates next week by the Federal Reserve to "keep inflation under control."

The jolt in the Consumer Price Index, the most closely watched inflation gauge, came from a huge 4.6 percent increase in energy prices, the biggest jump in 10 months, the Labor Department said Friday. It was a slightly worse showing on inflation than many analysts were anticipating.

But outside the volatile energy and food categories, prices were mostly well-behaved. The "core" rate of inflation rose a mild 0.2 percent in February, the same-sized gain recorded in January and was right on target with many analysts' expectations, something that heartened some economists and investors.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones stock average, which was seeping through the session, was up about 38 points around mid-afternoon as some traders cashed in on Thursday's remarkable rally. The Nasdaq was up more than 60 points.

First Union's chief economist, David Orr, summed up Friday's report as "a tale of two CPI's: one awful, the other one tame."

It's a distinction that may be lost on average consumers, who are paying higher prices at the gasoline pump to drive to work and shelling out more to heat their homes, economists acknowledged.

"The truckers and New England homeowners scoff at the economists who say inflation is still well-contained despite the spike in energy prices," Orr said.

Consumers, however, shouldn't worry that the country is heading down a path toward

the high inflation seen in the 1970s, economists said.

"We are absolutely not heading in that direction," said Stephen Cecchetti, economics professor at Ohio State University. "In the '70s, the increases in consumer prices were across the board. They were everywhere. In today's and other recent (CPI) reports, the increases in prices were not broad-based at all. There's not much to worry about here."

The Federal Reserve has boosted interest rates four times since June to slow the supercharged economy and keep inflation from escalating. Many analysts expect the Fed will raise rates for a fifth time Tuesday and said the CPI report justifies such a move.

"The Fed has to do something and it will next week," said economist Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors.

The 0.5 percent rise in consumer prices last month, following a modest 0.2 percent increase, was the biggest monthly gain since a 0.7 percent increase posted in April. A whopping 34.6 percent gain in fuel oil prices — an all-time monthly high — propelled overall consumer prices higher last month. So did a 6.3 percent rise in gasoline prices, the largest gain since April. Natural gas prices rose by 1.7 percent, the biggest increase since September, while electricity prices went up by 0.8 percent, the largest increase since July 1997.

Production limits by oil-producing nations and increased demand because of the winter weather accounted for the rise in energy costs. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman said she would "watch the extent to which higher energy prices are being passed on to consumers" but said that outside of the energy sector, inflation was quiet.

Higher energy bills took their toll on airfares, which rose 3.8 percent in February.

Detroit to give preference to Smith & Wesson

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Housing and Urban Development and the mayors of Atlanta, Detroit and Miami on Saturday directed their law enforcement agencies to give preference to Smith & Wesson when buying guns and called on municipal leaders nationwide to follow suit.

The directive gives preference to "any gun makers that adopt a new code of responsible conduct," but — for the time being at least — that directs all of the gun and ammunition business

generated by the country's 3,200 public housing authorities and the police and sheriff's departments of three of the nation's biggest cities to use Smith & Wesson products.

The company signed an unprecedented agreement with the Clinton administration on Friday to include safety locks with all of its handguns to make them more childproof.

Smith & Wesson spokesman Ken Jorgensen said he was pleasantly surprised by the announcement.

We wish to thank all our friends, neighbors and loved ones, who were so caring at our time of loss. A special thanks to Berea Baptist Church Family and Trinity Baptist Church Family. Also to Dr. Robert McPaul, and Dr. Farquhar, and all the E.R. and ICU Staff at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, also Tommy Welch and all of Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home.

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Roth urges repeal of Social Security earnings limit

WASHINGTON (AP) — A rule that limits how much money older Americans can earn without losing Social Security benefits is keeping the nation's most experienced workers from filling the labor shortage, the Senate Finance Committee chairman said Saturday.

With Americans living longer and the tightest labor market in 30 years, Social Security beneficiaries should not be penalized for staying on the job, Sen. William Roth, R-Del., said in the Republicans' weekly radio address.

Repealing the limit "will not only help to raise the standard of living for many of our seniors but help keep the living standards high for all Americans," Roth said.

The Senate will vote on legislation to eliminate the earnings limit next week, and President Clinton has said he would sign the bill if passed.

The Social Security earnings limit requires the government to subtract \$1 in benefits from every \$3 beneficiaries up to age 70 earn over a prescribed limit, currently \$17,000 a year. The rule was established 65 years ago to encourage older workers to retire during the hard times and high unemployment of the Great Depression, Roth noted.

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Moratorium

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal government officials ordered a moratorium on road mergers while they work out new rules for such nations.

The Surface Transportation Board issued the order in hearings on the \$6 billion merger of BNSF and Union Pacific Northern Santa Fe Canadian National which would create 50,000 miles of track from Nova Scotia to Los Angeles and the Gulf of Mexico to Vancouver, British Columbia.

That proposal came on heels of a string of rail car shortages, delays and depressed prices.

The board said it hoped the moratorium would lead to new rules, which should be in place by the end of the year.

INS announcement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Half the fiscal year allotment of visas for professionals, the government announced prospects for congressional action on raising the cap.

The Immigration Service, given authority to issue 115,000 H-1B visas that ends Sept. 30, handed out 74,300 visas in mid-June. The agency will start issuing visas on Tuesday.

The announcement comes as the Capitol Hill, where it has been introduced that for the visas, which are in short supply, tech employers who need visas are taking industry's needs into account.

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Moratorium ordered on railroad mergers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government today ordered a moratorium on railroad mergers while it considers new rules for such combinations.

The Surface Transportation Board issued the order following hearings on the proposed \$6 billion merger of Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Canadian National Railway, which would create a network of 50,000 miles of track from Nova Scotia to Los Angeles and the Gulf of Mexico to Vancouver, British Columbia.

That proposal came on the heels of a string of mergers during the 1990s that caused rail car shortages, shipping delays and depressed stock prices.

The board said it has directed railroads not to pursue further mergers until it adopts new rules, which should occur

within 15 months.

Burlington Northern and Canadian National had asked the board — part of the Transportation Department — to let their merger move forward while the government developed new rules.

But the agency rejected that plea, contending it did not want to be creating new merger regulations in the middle of what might turn out to be the final round of railroad combinations.

If that happened, the board said, the companies would not know what evidence to present and might be forced to go through the entire approval process again once the new standards were in place.

Merger implementation has not always gone smoothly, the board said. "The railroad industry and the shipping public have not yet fully recovered

from the service disruptions associated with the previous round of mergers."

The board also noted that during its hearings on the Burlington Northern-Canadian National request, there were indications that four other large railroads might consider mergers in response to that combination.

At hearings on the merger last week, rail customers pleaded with government regulators to slow the trend toward consolidation in the rail industry. Recent consolidation has left two major railroads in the East, two in the West and two in Canada.

"If our dilemma sounds a bit like a vicious cycle — service problems undermine confidence, which undermines investment, which in turn undermines improved service — it is," board Chairman

Linda Morgan said at the hearing. "And to me, the best way to break the cycle is to restore some stability to the rail sector."

Diane Duff, who directs the Alliance for Rail Competition, a coalition of rail customers pushing for laws and regulations that promote more competition, said at the hearing:

"The next merger approved — regardless of the merger partners — will inevitably cause a domino effect, the outcome, in all likelihood, being a two-railroad system throughout North America."

"In some regions, such as Buffalo, service has been so bad that customers have been forced to shift production to other regions," Duff, adding that some rail customers have started using trucks instead of trains.

Nestle recalling baby formula

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Nestle food company is recalling 2.5 million cans of baby formula because they may not have been properly sterilized, the company and the Food and Drug Administration said Friday.

Nestle of Glendale, Calif., recalled 33 batches of the formula after it was discovered the processing of the concentrate

formula may not have reached high enough temperatures to sterilize the product.

No illnesses have been reported, and Nestle said they have tested the batches and found no problems.

The recalled Nestle Carnation products are 13-ounce cans of Good Start, Follow-Up and Alsoy concentrate baby formula.

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INS announces it has exhausted its allotment of high-tech visas

WASHINGTON (AP) — It took less than half the fiscal year to exhaust the annual allotment of visas for skilled foreign professionals, the government said Friday. The announcement likely boosts the prospects for congressional action temporarily raising the ceiling on the visa program.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service, given authority by Congress to dole out 115,000 H-1B visas for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30, said it already has handed out 74,300 visas and has more than 45,000 petitions pending. Last year, the cap was hit in mid-June.

The agency will stop accepting visa petitions on Tuesday.

The announcement was noticed on Capitol Hill, where several measures have been introduced that would expand the cap for the visas, which are popular with high-tech employers who contend there isn't enough domestic talent to meet their surging industry's needs.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan

Greenspan "has made clear that the continued strong job market is placing strains on our economy, and these H-1B numbers underscore that fact," Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif., said Friday.

Dreier is sponsoring a bill that would raise the annual cap to 200,000 visas for three years "so that enough skilled workers are available to keep our economy growing."

An industry trade group, the Computing Technology Industry Association, claims nearly 269,000 high-tech jobs are unfilled. The problem costs U.S. businesses \$4.5 billion a year in lost productivity, according to the association.

Organized labor contends the industry is looking overseas chiefly to hold down wages and procure young talent.

High-tech industry officials are optimistic Congress will act this year to raise the ceiling for the visas, which are good for up to six years.

The fact that the cap — established by Congress in 1990 — was hit earlier this

year than any time previously "clearly shows there is a tremendous demand for highly skilled individuals," said Bob Cohen of the Information Technology Association of America.

A measure approved last week by the Senate Judiciary Committee would boost the number of visas to 195,000 for three years. A spokesman for the bill's co-author, Senate immigration subcommittee Chairman Spencer Abraham, said the INS announcement is "certainly another example of why we need to get this bill."

"Hopefully, it'll provide the big push to get the legislation through," said Joe Davis, a spokesman for Abraham, R-Mich.

The Clinton administration has signaled it supports a "reasonable increase" in the program, which is permanently capped at 65,000 visas annually. Heading the high-tech industry's complaints, Congress in 1998 temporarily boosted the visa category, which is due to revert to 65,000 after next year.

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Running against Beijing's threats, Taiwan elects opposition president

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Chen Shui-bian, vilified by China as a radical who would thrust Taiwan toward independence and war, won Taiwan's presidential election Saturday, trouncing the candidate of the party that has ruled this island for more than half a century.

Beijing deeply distrusts Chen because his Democratic Progressive Party favors taking Taiwan from de-facto to formal independence and making the 51-year-old split with China permanent.

But the president-elect, who has softened his stance on independence to appeal to nervous voters, immediately pledged to seek dialogue with Beijing.

China's first response to Chen's win was that it would wait to see how he would handle relations. The election results "will not change the status of Taiwan as a part of China," the government said in a statement issued by state media.

China has repeatedly threatened to wage war to block formal independence by Taiwan, which it has considered a renegade province since Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the island after the Communist takeover of the mainland in 1949.

A conflict could quickly involve the United States, which has hinted it would defend the island, slightly larger than Massachusetts and Connecticut combined.

Fireworks crackled and air horns blared as Chen took the victory stage in Taipei and assured tens of thousands of supporters he wants peace with Beijing.

"I hope we can use closer cooperation and exchanges and use patience and respect and together Chinese society can create a peaceful and happy new century," Chen said.

The son of a poor sugar cane laborer whose workaholic ways earned him a law degree at Taiwan's top university and won him the post of Taipei mayor, Chen entered politics by defending dissidents during Taiwan's martial law era.

In Washington, President Clinton congratulated Chen and urged a renewal of dialogue between China and Taiwan that Beijing suspended in 1995. Chen's win "clearly demonstrates the strength and vitality of Taiwan's democracy," Clinton said in a statement.

The three-way race was an electoral cliffhanger to the end, with most polls saying the candidates were in a statistical tie. But in the last week of the campaign, Chen showed the most momentum, winning key endorsements and attracting large, enthusiastic crowds at his rallies.

Chen captured 39 percent of the vote, while populist independent James Soong came in second with 37 percent. Vice President Lien Chan of the ruling Nationalists, which have governed Taiwan for more than half a century, won only 23 percent. Only a plurality was necessary to win.

Almost 83 percent of Taiwan's 15 million voters turned out.

Chen's victory could be seen as a sign that China's massive military just 80 miles across the Taiwan Strait cannot intimidate Taiwanese into voting for a candidate Beijing prefers.

"Brave Taiwanese used love and hope to overcome terror and used our votes to show our determination to maintain our democracy," Chen said amid fluttering sliver and green confetti, his voice raspy from campaigning and then celebrating.

He is untested in the international arena, where he will face growing pressure to deliver a diplomatic breakthrough with China. Last month, China stepped up its threats, saying it will attack if Taiwan indefinitely delays talks on reunification.

China's Communist Party and Taiwan's Nationalists — former battlefield foes — took turns during the campaign painting Chen as an independence radical who would provoke a war with China.

Appealing to voters who favor neither independence nor reunification with a poor, undemocratic China, Chen in recent months soft-pedaled his position on independence, saying he would only put the issue to a referendum if China attacked.

Chen's new stance was no comfort to Su Chia-chi, a Taipei math teacher. "Sixty percent of us didn't vote for Chen. If China fires missiles, can Chen protect us?"

The Taiwan Strait was calm, unlike during Taiwan's first direct presidential elections in 1996 when China tested missiles near the island's two main ports. Washington sent warships to the region to cool the tensions.

Looking out at a sea of waving green DPP banners Saturday, Chen reaffirmed his desire to lead a delegation with members of Taiwan's political parties to China before taking office.

Thousands still going hungry in Mozambique

CHIBUTO, Mozambique (AP) — Despite a massive multinational effort to distribute food to Mozambican flood victims, thousands of people are going hungry, aid workers said Saturday.

An estimated 360,000 people, driven from their homes by the worst floods on record in this southeast African nation, are housed in aid camps in central and southern Mozambique. Despite hitches and logistical problems, most of them receive at least one meal a day.

However, thousands of others whose homes were spared or who returned to their villages as flood waters receded also need food aid, said Abby Spring

of the U.N. World Food Program.

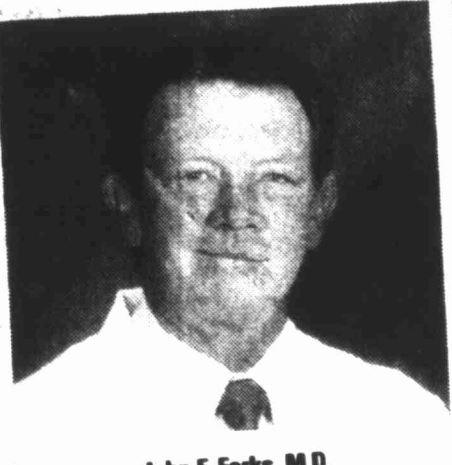
The problem was evident in settlements a short flight away from this small town about 125 miles northeast of the capital Maputo: Villagers were drying and eating rotting maize and peanuts salvaged from flooded fields. In the village of Mohambe, several children had pot bellies, and thinning of orange hair — clear symptoms of malnourishment.

The World Food Program has identified 12 areas near Chibuto where an estimated 18,500 people need aid. Getting food to them poses logistical problems because they are spread out and can only be accessed by heli-

copters, which are in short supply and tied up delivering food to the large camps.

"There are people scattered all along the river who are not being fed," said Mark Jackson, a pilot with the charity Aiserv International, who has been doing aid drops in the Limpopo River valley. "Within five minutes flying, I can reach thousands of people (who need aid)."

The government said 492 people have died in the floods since early February and nearly 1.9 million acres of farmland have been damaged. Large tracts of land remain under water, and with the rainy season scheduled to last until month-end, there are fears of yet more flooding.




John F. Forks, M.D.

Joseph D. Hollingsworth, M.D. is **relocating to Louisiana**, effective April 1, 2000. All patients of Dr. Hollingsworth can continue treatment with Malone & Hogan physicians, **John F. Forks, M.D. and R. Tom Phelps, D.O.** Both of these doctors specialize in **Obstetrics and Gynecology**.

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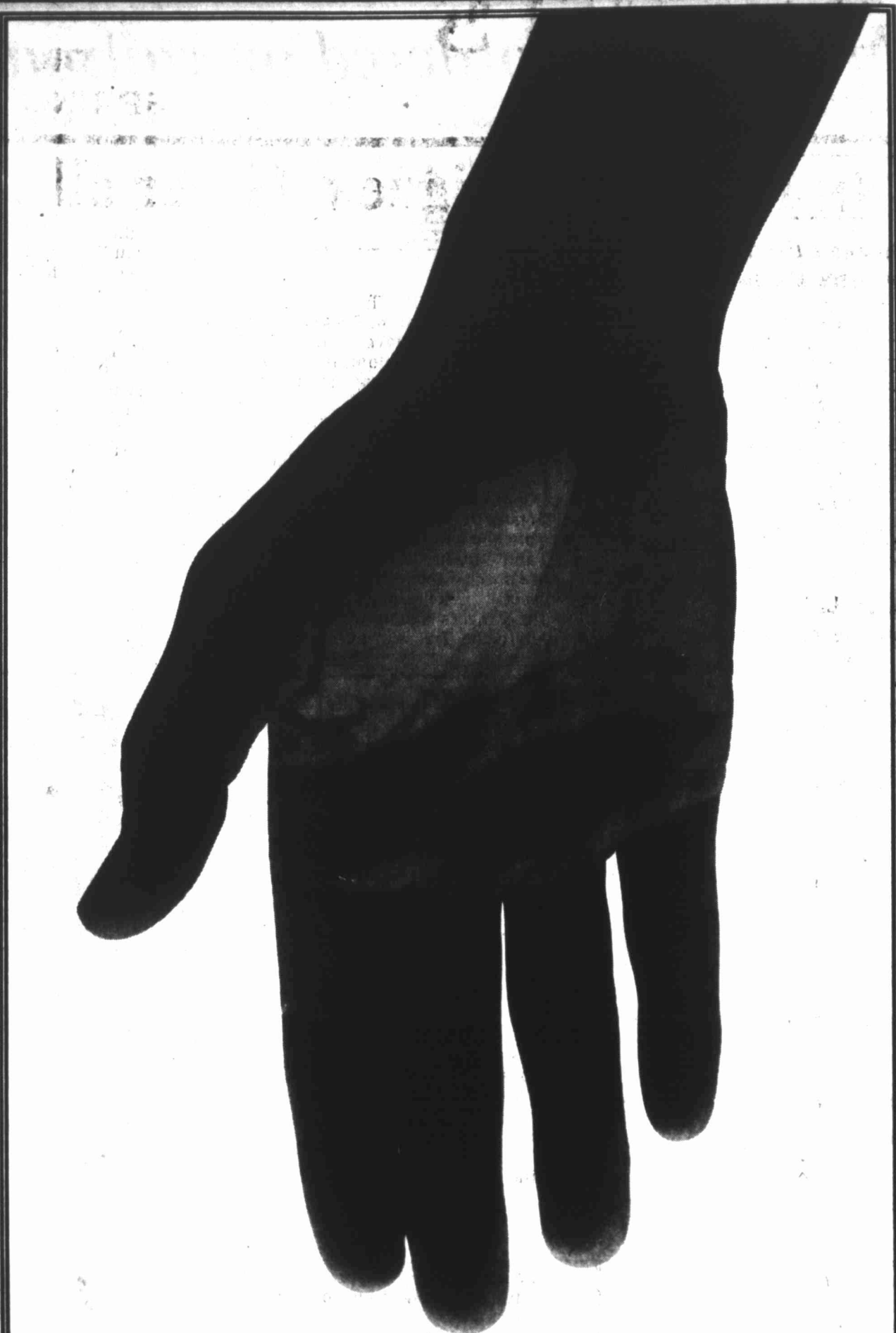
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The most rewarding thing we lend is a hand.

We have a long tradition of lending a hand where help is needed in Big Spring. That's why in 1999, Norwest Bank donated more than \$30,000 to organizations that serve this community. And our employees were on hand volunteering at countless community projects. In coming months, our name will change—but our commitment to supporting the growth and prosperity of Big Spring will remain strong as ever.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Cancer Society American Heart Association American Little League Anderson Kindergarten Center PTA B.S.H.S. Key Club Big Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Big Spring Country Club Big Spring Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo Big Spring Herald Big Spring Ind. School District Big Spring July 4th Foundation Big Spring Second Annual Cancer Scramble Big Spring Symphony Big Spring Young Life Big Spring Youth Soccer Assn. Coahoma ISD After Prom Party | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dora Roberts Rehab Center Downtown Lions Club Evening Lions Club Forsan After Prom Party Forsan Elbow Elementary Glasscock Co. Jr. Livestock Show Heritage Museum Howard Co. Fair Association Howard Co. Jr. Livestock Show Howard College Howard College Hawk Flight Club Howard County Fair Assn. Howard Soil & Water Conservation Dist. International Little League Kentwood PTA Kivlanis Club Lakeview Head Start Center Leukemia Society of America National Little League Parents Who Care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People for the Park Ponderosa Hobbies Model Show Special Olympics St. Lawrence Church Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation United Girls Softball of Big Spring United Way of Big Spring & Howard Co. Up With People Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Vietnam Memorial Committee Washington Elementary West Side Community Center West Texas Ag Expo West Texas Centers for MHMR YMCA |
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SP

IN BRIEF

Hawks suffer 12-5 in Aztec Classic
Howard College's continued play in the Aztec Classic in Tucson Friday and suffered a 12-5 loss to Western Community College. Howard pitching, Burris suffered the loss. The Hawks saw the drop to 20-14-1 on the season as they prepared for Eastern Arizona on night.

Lady Hawks split games at Pima
Howard College's Lady Hawks won two of three pool games they played Friday, as play got underway in the Pima Junior Invitational Tournament in Tucson. The Lady Hawks suffered a 12-3 loss to South Sound (Wash.) College before rebounding with a 6-5 win over Clay County College and a 10-0 victory over Lamar (Colo.) College. Howard's final pool game was an 11-2 loss to Arizona.

The split left the Hawks with a 16-10 record going into Saturday play.

Howard performs for short go at NCHA
Several members of Howard College's rodeo team performed Friday night at the NCHA Saturday night's round of the New Junior College Rodeo. Matt Burrow was certain to advance in back riding, as his ride left him second Saturday morning's. Cody Griffin's 68 in the saddle bronc contest could allow advance, as Cody Loesch's time of 5.2 in the steer wrestling. Ben Cook advanced in the bull riding his .74-p Friday, while Cody fourth in the calf roping. Rene Raspberry was in contention in the roping following a run during the second round.

UGSA schedules registration for Softball
Big Spring's United Girls Softball Association is scheduling its final registration Saturday at the Mall. Registration is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fee will be \$5 and applicants must have a copy of their birth certificate. For more information call 267-7466, 267-2208 or 267-7466.

It's Miss Steers' games at the N.M., baseball tournament those from Coahoma and softball games were not available as went to press Saturday. Coaches of those teams are listed below. Call in their scores.

ON THE TV

Television
AUTO RACING
11:30 a.m. — NASCAR Winston Cup Mail.com
ESPN, Ch. 30.
3 p.m. — IRL MCI 200, ABC, Ch. 2.
COLLEGE BASEBALL
1 p.m. — Baylor at FXS, Ch. 29.
COLLEGE BASKETBALL
11 a.m. — Los Angeles at New York Knicks, ESPN, Ch. 30.
5 p.m. — Dallas Mavericks at Atlanta Hawks, FXS, Ch. 29.
1 p.m. — Senior High School Football, ABC, Ch. 2.

*My acting skills will
never earn me \$20,000,000 a picture.*



I couldn't make a living as a swimsuit model or talk show host. However, I do have some valuable skills. I can mend a broken heart with nothing but a few magic words and a bowl of seedless grapes. And I can feed a boy, two dogs and a husband while balancing a grocery budget. My skills may not pay millions, but they do have their rewards. My name is Dana Pavelka. I live in Aptell, Texas. And I shop at H-E-B.

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Don Ferguson...
Bob Lewis (othe

In God We Trust, designated as the U.S. National Motto in 1956, originated during the Civil War.

By age 14, Bill Gates and some friends had already earned \$20,000 with their fledgling computer data tracking company.

Got an item?

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

Lessons of the label

If you are what you eat, shouldn't you read the labels on your favorite foods?

While consumers are becoming more label-conscious, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has responded by requiring labels that include more information, and more useful information, than ever before.

Dr. Guy Owen, director of the fitness program at Dora Roberts Wellness Center and a consultant to the Harold Davis Fitness Center, says reading the label is not just smart — it's a necessity in today's world.

"Today's labels are pretty good, compared with what they used to be," Owen said. He said understanding the information on food labels is an acquired skill — one that will take time at first.

Today's food labels, called Nutrition Facts, include the same basic information no matter what the product. They start with serving size and "servings per container," an important place to begin, Owen said.

"Take potato chips, for example," he said. "Six chips might be a serving, but you might normally eat 12 or 14, so you need to know how much you will eat compared with the actual serving size."

Eating twice the serving size means you must automatically double the amounts of everything on the label, including the fat and calories. Some candy bars are actually three servings, and a pint of ice cream is usually four servings, so read the label carefully.

Next comes calories, and "calories from fat," a more recent addition to the label. Owen said your overall fat intake should remain less than 30 percent of your diet. A good way to achieve this goal, he added, is make sure each meal fits within this guideline. You can determine that by figuring what percentage of the calories in a product are "from fat."

Three main areas of concern on the label are FAT, CARBOHYDRATES and PROTEIN. Owen recommends a daily diet that is 60 percent carbohydrate, 20 percent fat and 20 percent protein. Until you are familiar with the amounts in your favorite foods, that means reading lots of labels.

FAT is listed in both "total fat" and divided into saturated, monounsaturated, polyunsaturated and unsaturated fats. Owen said saturated fat is the enemy, the artery-clogging kind. The unsaturated types come from such sources as nuts, avocado and olive oil, and are not unhealthy in reasonable amounts.

Many other oils and margarine used in products are "hydrogenated," a process of heating that creates hard, artery-clogging fat. Hydrogenated fats are usually listed as such in the ingredient list on the label.

Because of its "healthy fat" content, Owen said he uses olive oil in place of margarine and butter most of the time. Because it is usually "hydrogenated," margarine actually may be worse for your body than butter, both of which contain saturated fat.

By the way, a serving of fat is 1-1/2 tsp. or eight to 12 pieces of nuts or olives.

CARBOHYDRATES may be listed as "Total Carb." and divided into dietary fiber, sugars and possibly "other." You should aim for higher numbers in "dietary fiber" and lower in "sugars," Owen said.

Bread and grains are usually high in carbohydrates, in the form of fiber. You need carbohydrates to give you energy, so low-carbohydrate diets are not a good idea, Owen cautioned.

PROTEIN is normally listed on the label in grams. Protein contains four to six calories per gram, and a serving is usually three to six ounces in meat or fish. It is essential, but Owen said protein it can be overdone. All protein or high-protein diets are not healthy and may not be safe, he said.

A good meal will contain all three vital elements in the recommended amounts. Snacks, also, should contain carbohydrates, fat and protein, but about half the amount in the same proportion.

Sodium, found on labels, is a problem area in the American diet, Owen said. While we should eat no more than 1 1/2 teaspoons of salt per day, most of us consume 5-6 teaspoons instead. The truth about the sodium in some of your favorite foods, including canned soups, condiments



OWEN

Nutrition Facts label for cereal. Serving Size 1 cup (30g), Servings Per Container About 13. Includes Total Fat 1.5g, Sodium 270mg, Total Carbohydrate 24g, and Protein 3g.

At left, the label from a box of cereal. Good vitamins and a good source of carbohydrates, but notice that most of the carbs come from sugars. Also, the food is not high in protein, so you need to add some protein to make your breakfast complete.

Nutrition Facts label for saltine crackers. Serving Size 5 Crackers (14g), Servings Per Container About 32. Includes Total Fat 1.5g, Sodium 290mg, Total Carbohydrate 10g, and Protein 1g.

Above is the label from a box of saltine crackers. Find much nutritional value? Notice that one serving is 5 crackers. Hope that is all you plan to eat!

and canned meat products, might surprise you. Remember, too, that sugar comes in many forms. Ingredient lists often include corn syrup, which may not sound like what it actually is — plain old sugar. Refer to the carbohydrate-sugar listing to control your intake. "Sugar is fuel," Owen said, "but if you are eating sugar all day long, you are giving your body a string of insulin rushes, up and down." That includes those mid-morning and afternoon trips to the soda machine. Better than drinking a sugared soda is a cup of milk that contains protein and calcium along with vitamins and other minerals. Generations ago, the average farmer burned 4,000 calories a day on hard, physical labor. Today, however, few people have such strenuous jobs. That, said Owen, is why exercise is vital to any diet, no matter how balanced. "If you are not exercising along with reading the labels, you are missing half of it," he said. "The benefits of a healthy diet and exercise are well worth the trouble they may take."

— Debbie L. Jensen

At right is the label from a can of cream of tomato soup. Look at all that sodium! Canned soup, along with canned meats and some other popular canned meals, are often a high-sodium addition to your diet.

Nutrition Facts label for cream of tomato soup. Serving Size 1/2 cup (125g), Servings Per Container About 2. Includes Total Fat 5g, Sodium 230mg, Total Carbohydrate 23g, and Protein 4g.

Remembering the past and running into friends at the supermarket

Several years ago, our Big Spring Herald published a Tabloid weekly called "Prime of Your Life," which I wrote for. It was targeted for all of us who had passed the Big Six-0. It was a FUN thing that I really enjoyed getting my Geriatric two cents worth in. I even got an award for it. I was so proud of this honor, that it, now framed, hangs in my den at home.

One of these was headlined "Friends and Other Characters" and it bears repeating.

Perhaps this diatribe should be titled "Friends I run into in the super market." There have been a good many folks I have known and loved since about 1962. Let's see: Oliver Cofer, Don Ferguson, Tommy Hart, Bob Lewis (otherwise known as

"Tumbleweed Smith"), Bill Birrell, J. O. Sheid and Don Newson. There are others, of course, but these above have jogged some blatant, much loved memories.

I used to run in to the late Don Ferguson in the super market. Back in the mid 70's while working in advertising for the then Hart Hankes owned Big Spring Herald, Don was one of my advertising bosses. So some years later, when I would spot him, I would playfully bump into his shopping cart. Don would turn, with a scowl, ready to cuss out the reckless driver. The scowl would turn into a grin, as he recognized me.

"Don," I would say, "With your years of advertising experience, I am sure the Herald would take you back and put

you to work."

The former Assistant Ad Director, would me how happy he was with his retirement. My memories of Don go back to those ad salesman days at the Herald with Don, Oliver Cofer, Shied, and I taking turns calling on various accounts. Covering for each other and servicing these.



AL SCOTT

One of them was supermarket owner Don Newson. His markets were over on Gregg Street. I would walk into his office

with tear sheets for him to go over. Well, Don was never satisfied with them...he liked his prices in large bold upper case type...and he was almost NEVER satisfied with the print. Don would take out his black marking pen and attach the copy, as though he held a Samurai Sword. Then catching himself, his anger would subside and he would say: "Now, AL...I AM NOT JUMPING ON YOU." I never thought he was. I gotta tell you and go on record here that Don Newson is really one of the sweetest guys I have ever known.

Don is back home at this writing; here in his hometown, a town where he lost his beloved wife, Marilyn, years ago. Don will own and operate a restaurant on the north side. I wish for him all the best

possible, because Don Newson is one of my favorite friends.

The last time I ran into Tommy Hart, former City Desk editor, he said he was also enjoying his retirement and doing some creative writing on the side.

Oliver Cofer, Herald Advertising Director, of the Mid 70's. Oliver's battle cry was "Gentlemen, Let's Hit the Street RUNNING...our numbers are down...we gotta lotta ad space to sell"...and we did, but Oliver was always a "sweet heart." Never, never did he ever throw his weight around in order to get those numbers up. Oliver Cofer, and this columnist now goes on record, he was absolutely the BEST BOSS I ever worked for. Oliver, is still with us, Thank God! I visit him, and his sweet wife,

Bonnie, from time to time. We have a drink, and we toast the good ole advertising days at our beloved Big Spring Herald.

My oldest friend, Bill Birrell, conjures up a bunch of precious memories of the good old days at KHEM..KFNE FM Radio days. Bill and I go wayyyy back to somewhere near 1962. The Settles Hotel Basement and Webb Air Force days.

It's absolutely amazing how "hyper" old Bill Birrell is these days. He is a dynamo, an Energizer Bunny, who keeps going and going and going. Active in his Lion Club activities, his Mobile Meals and I don't know what all.

Keep up the good work, Bill, Old Friend, betcha he will never run down.

Will that be man or machine? Self-scanners abound at groceries

ATLANTA (AP) — Never mind the paper-or-plastic debate. Here's the new question at grocery stores: Man or machine?

Self-serve checkout systems — you scan it, you bag it, you pay for it — are popping up at supermarkets around the nation. Kroger has U-Scan Express machines in more than 200 stores. Harris Teeter, Winn-Dixie, Wal-Mart and smaller grocery chains have experimented with the systems.

"This is very easy," said Laura Walker, who uses a Kroger self-checker about four times a week in Atlanta. "The lines are shorter, and you can just run through."

From his post behind a computer screen at a Kroger in midtown Atlanta, Alfonso Jeffery monitors four U-Scan Express machines — touch-

screen terminals with a soothing female voice that guides shoppers through checkout.

She's even polite. "Thank you for shopping at Kroger," she coos.

Self-scanning is efficient and popular, grocers say. But even in an ATM-driven, pay-at-the-pump society, some shoppers have trouble adapting to new technology, as Jeffery can attest.

At one terminal, a man throws up his hands, furious that U-Scan won't recognize his ground beef. At another, a woman shakes her fist at the screen after being shortchanged 5 cents.

Teen-agers try to scan their own booze or cigarettes, but U-Scan will have none of it. The voice firmly asks them to show identification to the clerk on duty.

Others try to sneak an item into their bag without passing it over the scanner. No dice: U-Scan weighs your items and compares the total weight of your bag with the items that have been scanned, alerting a cashier when there is a discrepancy.

"You can't sneak anything by it," Jeffery said. The systems, introduced by Montreal-based Optimal Robotics Corp. in 1995, have grown incredibly popular in the past 18 months, the company reports.

Revenues for Optimal Robotics shot up 427 percent last year, to \$29.6 million. And the company's stock, which was trading for less than \$10 on the Nasdaq exchange a year ago, was trading around \$35 on Tuesday.

So far, Kroger has received an overwhelmingly positive response from customers, said company spokeswoman Susie Brower. "They love it."

The Cincinnati-based company plans to expand the service, particularly because it helps cut staffing needs during the current tight labor market, Brower said. One cashier can oversee four checkout lanes.

The new scanners aren't for everybody, said Stephen Doheny-Farina, a professor at Clarkston University in Potsdam, N.Y., who studies how new technology changes communities.

"The gadget freaks jump to it. They're intrigued by it," he said. "But you end up with people who will just never do it. My mother still will not pump her own gas."



Business is booming in Big Spring, with several new shops and services scheduled to be open in the next few weeks and others, such as the State Veterans Home, under construction.

Clockwise from above:

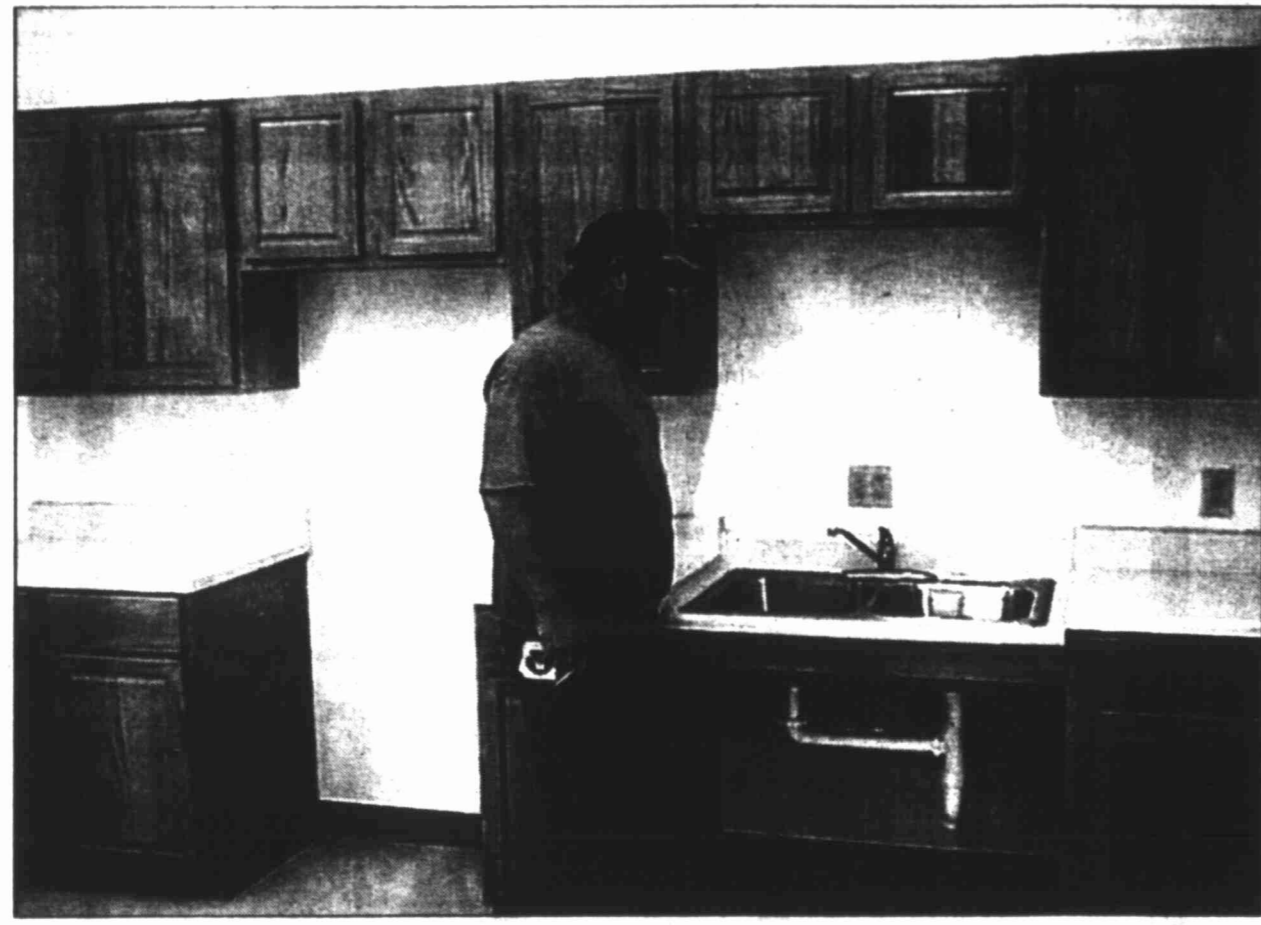
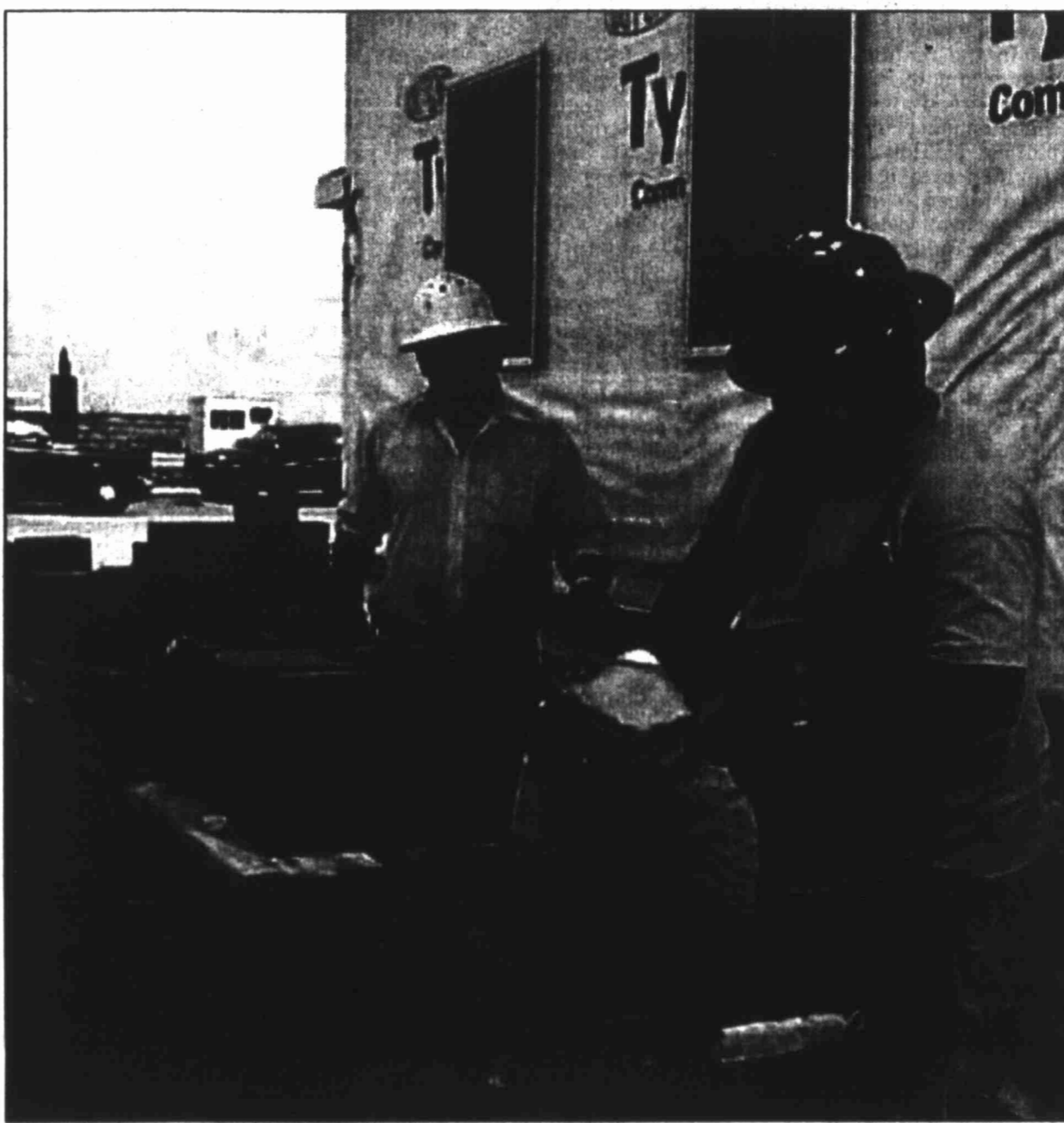
Betty Kelley, owner of Big Spring Care Clinic at 904 W. Ninth, is set to give Stephanie Collins a massage. The Care Clinic will officially open its doors for business Monday morning.

M.D. Young Construction Company employees Jesse Herrera and Luis Rios Jr. lay brick at the State Veterans Home being constructed near the Big Spring State Hospital.

Alvin Roberts, an employee of the new Sonic Drive-in on FM 700, puts supplies away in preparation for the opening of the new facility on Monday.

John Meads of A&S Construction looks over his finished work in the kitchen of the newly renovated Training Center for the West Texas Centers for Mental Health Mental Retardation. The facility should be ready for occupancy in the next three or four weeks.

HERALD photos/Carl Graham



Tracks

Moratorium ordered on rail mergers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal regulators are flagging the rapidly consolidating railroad industry to a halt, ordering a moratorium on all new mergers.

"We recognize that our action is unprecedented. But these are not ordinary circumstances," the federal Surface Transportation Board, or STB, said Friday in announcing its action.

The board acted following a hearing into the future of the railroad industry. That session was called after a series of mergers in the 1990s led to service disruptions in many areas.

"This is good news for shippers and good news for the American public," Sen. Byron L. Dorgan, D-N.D., said of the moratorium.

But the Canadian National Railway promptly threatened legal action over the blocking of its planned \$6 billion merger with Burlington Northern Santa Fe of Fort Worth.

The STB, part of the Transportation Department, ordered railroads to suspend any merger activity while it develops new rules for mergers, a process expected to take about 15 months.

"Given the financial and service instability that exists in the rail sector as a result of the most recent round of major railroad consolidations, I cannot in good conscience allow further actions to occur," board chairwoman Linda Morgan said in a statement.

The decision upset two railroad companies that had planned to merge.

"We will immediately initiate an appeal of the STB's decision and vigorously pursue all avenues that are open to us under applicable law," said Canadian National Chairman Paul M. Tellier.

"We are extremely disappointed with the STB decision," Burlington Northern Chairman Robert D. Krebs said. "While Chairwoman Linda Morgan's action may be well-intentioned, as it stands it has the effect of denying our proposed combination with Canadian National Railway Company before receiving our application and giving it a proper review."

Shippers who use trains to move products have experienced service problems in recent mergers that have consolidated the railroad industry. Still, the National Industrial Transportation League, which represents shippers who use all modes of transportation, found the merger moratorium disappointing.

"We're a bit puzzled," league spokeswoman Kathy Luhn said. "Whose interest is really being served here? What's the effect on shippers? It's going to be another 15 months before we

See MORATORIUM, Page 4B

Howard County Ag Expo to feature speakers, producer of the year

The annual Howard County Ag Expo will be held on Thursday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The program will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration. The Agricultural Expo, is open to any and all interested parties. The event is sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and the Howard County Agricultural Extension Service.

Program speaking will include: Dr. Randy Bowman on Reduced Tillage Systems.

David Murray will give an update to the status of Boll Weevil Eradication efforts within the Permian Basin Zone. An update on pending and proposed farm legislation will be given by a representative from



DAVID KIGHT

U.S. Rep. (D) Charles Stenhom's office. Dr. Bryan Unruh and David Kight will make presentations on demonstrations conducted in the Howard County Area. Dr. Wayne Keeling will address Chemical Weed Control Methods and Chemicals for Reduced Tillage Systems. Many exhibits of machinery and new farm techniques and technologies will be on display throughout the day.

A sponsored lunch by Agricultural Lenders,

Economic Development Foundation and Agri-Businesses with Howard County will highlight the event with the naming of the Outstanding Agriculture Producer for Howard County. Two concurrent sessions will be offered after lunch at 1:30 p.m. in the coliseum.

They will be Worker Protection Training, which allows farm employees to handle and apply restricted use pesticides under the supervision of a licensed individual

and Brice Mireck with the Texas Farm Bureau having a segment on Market Hedging. There will be 3 continuing educational units given at the event.

For more information, call the Howard County Extension office at 264-2236.

(David Kight is Howard County Extension Agent — Agriculture. His telephone number is 264-2236 and his office is located in the basement of the Howard County Courthouse.)

Hastings Entertainment Inc. calls class-action lawsuit unwarranted

AMARILLO (AP) — Hastings Entertainment Inc., a chain of book, movie and video stores throughout West Texas, says a class-action lawsuit accusing the company of misstating financial performance to enhance its stock is unwarranted.

The federal lawsuit, filed in Amarillo, claims the revenues reported by the company raised the stock price beyond its value. Hastings first

went public with an initial offering of 3.37 million shares on June 12, 1998. The stock rose to \$13 a share.

Last week, Hastings announced it had discovered a mistake in how merchandise receipts were entered into the inventory control system for a small portion of vendor deliveries. The company said the mistake caused merchandise cost of revenue to be understated, according to the Amarillo

Globe-News.

On March 7, Hastings said it would restate its earnings for up to four fiscal years and that its noncash charge to earnings would be between \$23 million and \$27 million.

In the lawsuit filed Monday, lead plaintiff Mitchell S. Warstadt said the charge nearly equals the company's total earnings for the past four fiscal years.

The lawsuit also claims the price of Hastings stock dropped to an all-time low of about \$3.06 cents a share on March 8, about 84 percent below the stock's high and more than 23 percent below the prior day's closing price.

Hastings stock has since risen slightly. On Friday, Hastings stock closed at \$4 share on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Hastings chairman John Marmaduke said the lawsuit failed to

take into account that other stocks in the entertainment category, including Barnes & Noble, were also down at the time.

Warstadt is seeking compensatory damages and legal expenses.

The lawsuit names Hastings; Marmaduke; Dennis McGill, former chief financial officer; and Thomas Nugent, chief financial officer as defendants.

MORATORIUM

Continued from Page 3B get anybody to look at problems in the industry. "This keeps the status quo for another year and a half - poor service and, at the same time, rising rates."

employees, the financial community and the public - all of which are so dependent upon a financially strong and stable freight rail system." The Union Pacific Railroad said the move takes a big step toward stabilizing the rail industry.

Tandy Corp. changing name to RadioShack Corp.

FORT WORTH (AP) - Hitching its corporate star to the name of its stores, Tandy Corp. said Friday it plans to change its name to RadioShack Corp.

Tandy owns or franchises about 7,000 RadioShack stores in the United States, selling electronics accessories, phones, computers and other gadgets.

salary rose from \$610,000 to \$850,000 last year and his cash bonus rose from \$610,000 to \$850,000. Roberts also received options to buy 325,000 shares of stock at \$48.68 each before July 2009.

ation as a leather goods business in 1919. The leather craft and hobby stores were eventually spun off into a separate company. In 1963, Tandy bought RadioShack, which then had nine stores in New England.

Rail competitors who have completed their own mergers welcomed the decision. CSX Chairman John Snow said the ruling recognizes that more rail mergers now are in the public interest.

But the board rejected that plea, contending it did not want to be creating new merger regulations in the middle of what might turn out to be the final round of railroad combinations.

Southwestern Bell to raise rates for Caller ID, other services

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Southwestern Bell says it will increase rates in Texas - more than doubling some - for popular services including Caller ID.

Southwestern Bell said the monthly fee for Caller ID in which the caller's name and phone number are displayed will rise from \$6.50 to \$7.95.

Southwestern Bell said it was raising the price of 12 services while decreasing them on 15 others, such as automatically connecting to a number reached through directory assistance - that will drop from 30 to 5 cents.

Texas Legal Services Center in Austin, an advocacy group for low-income consumers, criticized the increase in Caller ID. "In the last three years, Southwestern Bell has spent millions marketing Caller ID services," said Randy Chapman, the group's executive director.

Fort Worth's Galaxy Aerospace aims to fill demand for business jets

FORT WORTH (AP) - Brian Barents wasn't a newcomer to the business jet industry, yet his plans for a new company and new niche airplane were met with skepticism.

The company has a two-year backlog of orders for about 40 airplanes worth more than \$1 billion. "Today, we are about where we felt we would be three years ago when we put it together. In fact, we are a little bit ahead," Barents, 56, said of his joint venture with Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. and Chicago's Pritzker family, which owns the Hyatt hotel chain.

intercontinental jets with larger and more luxurious cabins. He felt they would fill a gap in the market between other mid-size jets, which were in the \$10 million to \$12 million range, and the larger intercontinental planes that sell for \$25 million to \$35 million.

"Today, the replacement cost on some of those airplanes approach \$30 million. But we offer essentially the same features and benefits and capabilities that they had in the larger airplanes, with substantially reduced capital costs and operating costs." The Galaxy, with a base price of \$17 million, is currently the only mid-size business jet available under \$22 million that can fly from Paris to New York non-stop. The cabin can be configured to seat up to 18 passengers.

Bombardier Inc. and Raytheon Co. have recently launched development of their own jets in a niche the industry has dubbed "super mid-size." But those companies are more than two years behind Galaxy in production and certification of their models.

"All of a sudden, the \$15 to \$16 million segment is filling up with competitors. The people coming up have a very large support and sales presence," said Richard Aboulafia, an aerospace analyst for Teal Group Corp., a market research and forecasting company based in Fairfax, Va.

PUBLIC RECORDS

Justice of the Peace Bennie Green Precinct 1, Place 1 Bad Checks/Warrants issued: The addresses listed are the last known addresses. Names on this list remain until all fines have been paid. If any problems with this list, please call 264-2226.

Deeds: Warranty deed: grantor: David Ralph Drake and Deborah Ann Drake grantee: Frances R. Wheat property: all of Lot L, Village At The Spring, Section 2 filed: March 6, 2000

grantee: Dorothy R. Sneed and Boyce Sneed grantee: Benito J. Perez and spouse, Elizabeth F. Perez property: Lot 15, blk 23, of a Replat of the South 1/2 of blk 23 and 26 and the North 1/2 of blk 27 of the Coronado Hills Addition, Addition No. 7, filed: March 9, 2000

deceased grantee: Roger Dean Myer and wife Debra Lynn Myer property: A tract of land containing 12 acres, more or less, out of the West part of section 46, blk 31 filed: March 10, 2000

John Luke Yarbar vs. Leslie Carroll Yarbar Family: Geraldine Hodnett vs. Haril Hodnett Santos Lucatero-Cervantes vs. Denise M. Blades

Accounts, Notes and Contracts Southwest Student Services Corp. vs. Heather Mow

Howard County Clerk's Office: Marriage Licenses: Joe Olivo Jr., 27, and Maria Delos Angeles Lopez, 35

Court Records: probated judgment DWI James Clifford Moore Jr. fined \$2,000, court \$277 cost, and 180 days in jail. Jean Daugherty Tonn, \$500 fine, \$249.25 court cost, and 180 days in jail.

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1995 Dodge H spd, A/C, power cruise, 100 extended \$6,000. 2000-2100. 1996 Corolla AM/FM, cassette, tires. Call 918 or 728-3619. 91 Chevy Cab Station Wagon \$4,500. 915-36-96 Buick C sedan. Pow. 4 Stk #458A. 267-7421. 97 Chrysler V-6, CD. \$12,995. 267-7-99 Buick Reg leather interior. \$15,995. 97 Oldsmob Supreme. Fr Stk #237A. 267-7421. MARCH 19 During the March F-150's, F-250's will be reduced. BOB BRO. APPLI REP. A-2 Serv washers & rang refriger microv air condition Call 3 for app 25 Years E. BOOKKE HONEY SERVICE 1010 M 915-26- Bookkeeping & Tax Prep individ Partners Small Cor. CAR DEE'S C 267-7- Check price before y Samples your home Lower ov mea lowest p Deanna f Age. CELL SERV. LONE PA Prepaid & home ph No contra check, Good 1601 E. 263- CLEAN SERV. CLINE B MAINT. Carpet/ Clean Truck me Air duct Comm Janiti (915) 2 (800) 6. CONC. FRAN CONC SERV Speciali Brick - Bl Stucco - I Drive Patios - S (915) 2

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WE THINK YOU WILL ENJOY THE QUALITY OF LIFE HERE, JUST AS WE DO, AND WE KNOW YOU'LL LIKE THE PEOPLE!

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