

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

THURSDAY

April 12, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT TOMORROW
45°-46° 75°-77°

Health Fair to feature blood drive

With the need for blood increasing daily in West Texas, one of the features of the Health Fair set for Saturday, April 21, will be a blood drive.

United Blood Services will have its bloodmobile at the fair, collecting blood from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh more than 110 pounds and be in good health. They must also have proof of identification and know the names of any medications they have taken in the past 30 days.

Those wishing to make an appointment to give blood are asked to call Debbye ValVerde at 263-7641.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ American Legion Auxiliary 506 meets at 6 p.m., 3203 West Highway 80.

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

FRIDAY

□ Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Bring a lunch.

□ The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

□ AMBUCS meets at noon at La Posada.

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

SATURDAY

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

□ The Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

□ The Pottin House, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 to 5 p.m.

□ Dance, 8:30 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third. Members and guests welcome.

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Area churches to observe Easter with related activities

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

Several activities are planned to recognize Easter as local churches conclude Holy Week observations.

The observations also prompt the closing of city and county government buildings tomorrow, on Good Friday.

Good Friday services are scheduled at St. Mary's Episcopal with a Good Friday Liturgy at 12:05 p.m.

and 6 p.m. while both First Presbyterian Church and Coahoma United Methodist Church will hold 7 p.m. services.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church will hold special services on Friday including Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m. and the Triduum Liturgy of the Veneration of the Cross at 7.

Children preschool age through sixth grade and their parents are invited to the First Baptist Church for

Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday night at 6. Organizers said it will be a family activity time which will include a hot dog supper, the Easter story, an egg hunt for the preschoolers and activities for the children.

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church with reading of the Old Testament and lighting the Easter fire.

St. Mary's "The Great Vigil of Easter" begins 9 p.m. The service includes reading from the Old Testament such as creation, the flood and prophecy of the coming of Christ.

Several churches plan to begin Easter morning with sunrise services to welcome the day of resurrection.

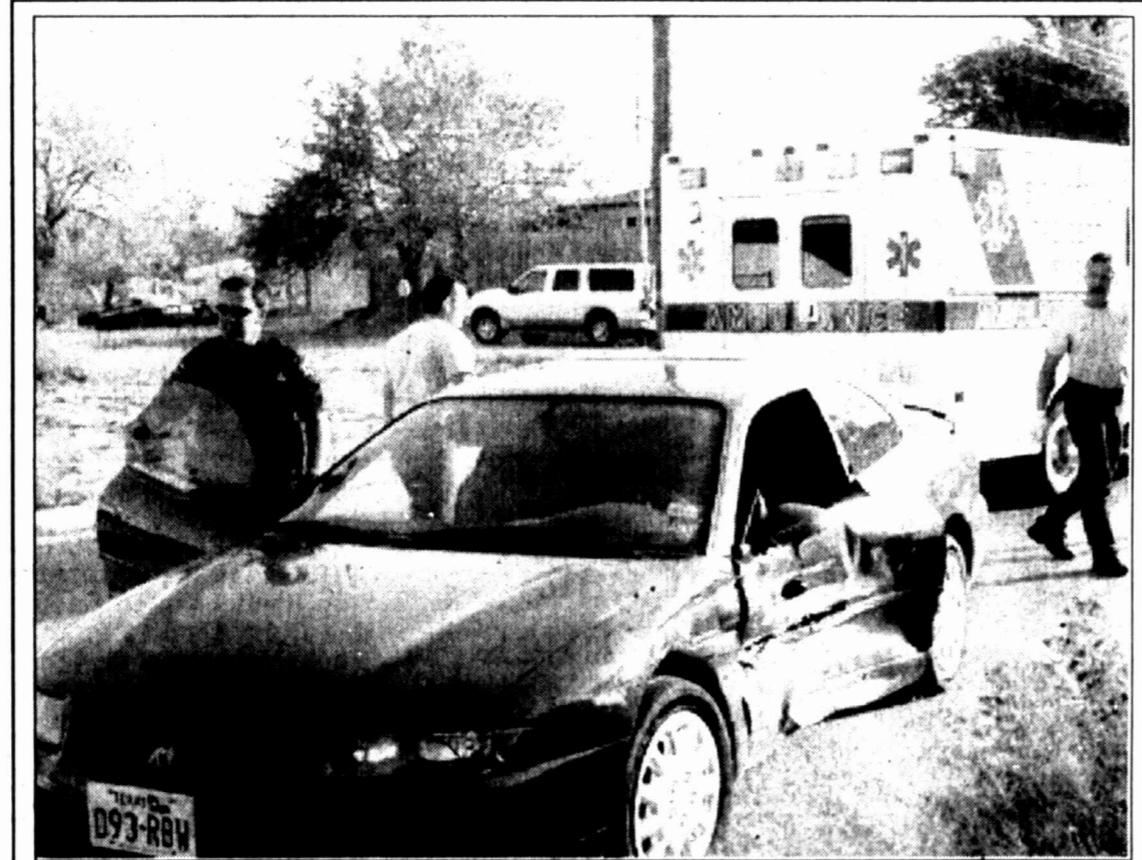
A community wide sunrise service will be held at the amphitheater in Comanche Trail Park and will include prayer and

music. The service is geared to the youth of the community this year and is sponsored by the ministerial alliance.

First Church of God will celebrate resurrection on Sunday with a Sunrise Service beginning at 7:30 a.m. and at noon will hold an Easter egg hunt for children.

East Side Baptist Church will present the Easter play

See **EASTER**, Page 2



Big Spring police officer Greg Williams checks a vehicle after it was hit by another auto at 10th and Nolan this morning. The driver of the car above was taken to Scenic Mountain Medical Center for treatment of injuries. Her condition was unknown at mid-morning.

Education service center materials to be made available for reviewing

By **LYNDEL L. MOODY**
Staff Writer

Regional 18 Education Service Center is opening its films and other audiovisual materials available to schools through its service area to parents and the public on April 26.

"Someone who thinks anything is controversial can preview anything in the library," said media supervisor Pam Winn. "We do

have videos dealing with health, science and literature. Those are usually the three that people have a problem with."

The one-day review session will last from 8 a.m. until 4:30 at the center, located at 2811 LaForce Boulevard in Midland.

Parents and the public interested in requesting to preview certain films from the library should notify Winn at (915) 567-3260 at least five days in advance.

Winn also requests the name of the film and approximate time of expected viewing.

Early notification will give staff time to check on the availability of the films and reserve preview rooms.

In case a film is not available on the date requested, a new date will be given when the film is available.

Region 18 opens its film and audio-visual material library four times during the year.

Spanish-speaking Jehovah's Witnesses to hold assembly here

By **CARL GRAHAM**
Staff Writer

More than 2,500 Spanish-speaking Jehovah's Witnesses are expected to converge on Big Spring Saturday for a one-day special assembly that will be held at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The program will begin at

9:50 a.m. and will end at 4 p.m. with more than 21 congregations expected to attend.

Eliseo Gamboa, presiding overseer of the east Spanish/



GAMBOA

congregation from Big Spring, said the theme of the assembly this year will be "Become Full-Grown in Powers of Understanding", based on 1 Corinthians 14:20.

"We live in a world that is filled with badness; to resist this, we must develop our powers of spiritual understanding so that we can con-

quer the evil with the good," said Gamboa. "That is exactly what the special assembly day program will help us do."

Gamboa said there will be two sessions, a morning session and then after a break for lunch at around 12:15 p.m. the evening session will begin about 1:25 p.m.

Circuit overseer Fernando

Doreste and visiting speaker Baltasar Perla of New York will be speaking on topics such as "Aids to Becoming Full-Grown in Bible Understanding," "Safeguard Spirituality by Training Your Perceptive Powers" and "Benefit From Applying Bible Principles

See **ASSEMBLY**, Page 2

Registration continues for annual fun run, walk

By **VALERIE AVERY**
Herald Correspondent

Registration for the April 21 Scenic Mountain Medical Center Fourth Annual "Master the Mountain" Fun Walk/Fun Run at Big Spring State Park is continuing.

Registration is \$13, which includes entry to the park. The race kicks off at 9 a.m. Late registration starts at 8 a.m. on race day. T-shirts will be awarded to all participants.

Races will include a 5K fun-walk; a 5K fun-run race; and a 10K fun-run race.

First, second and third-place trophies in various age categories will be awarded to males and females in all three races.

More than 75 people from across Texas are expected to participate in the race, said Lauri Phillips, race coordi-

nator. "We draw people from Midland, San Angelo and even have had some from as far away as Dallas and Iraan. People like the route because of the hills and terrain," she said.

The race course follows the edge of a 200-foot bluff at the northern limit of the Edwards Plateau, Phillips said.

"You're not running out on a flat road," she said. "It's enclosed at the State Park and it has a beautiful view."

Water stations and a first aid station will be available. Refreshments are offered at the conclusion of the race.

"We find all types of participants in the race," Phillips said. "From people who just want to get out on a nice day to people who are real competitive."

For more information, contact Phillips at 268-4581.

Acquisition

Alon USA to purchase SCS and its 7-Eleven stores in the Southwest

HERALD Staff Report

Alon USA announced today it intends to purchase Southwest Convenience Stores and its 174 licensed 7-Elevens in West Texas and New Mexico.

"The acquisition of Southwest Convenience Stores (SCS) is one more step in the implementation of the Alon USA strategy to acquire more refineries, pipelines and to expand our activities in the marketing and distribution of our products and related services," said David Wiessman, Alon USA chairman.

Closing on the deal is expected in early May.

SCS is the largest 7-Eleven licensee in the United States, with stores located in Big Spring, Wichita Falls, Midland, Odessa and El Paso, as well as Albuquerque, N.M.

Alon USA was formed when Alon Israel Oil Company Ltd. purchased Final Oil and Chemical Company's U.S. fuels marketing and refining assets in August of 2000. The purchase included Fina's 34.4 percent interest in SCS.



MORRIS

When Alon's purchase is finalized — expected in early May — it will become the 100 percent owner of SCS and its convenience stores.

"We are very pleased with this acquisition, which will be the beginning of a new phase of growth for SCS," said Jeff Morris, president and CEO of Alon USA.

SCS traces its history to 1993 when Permian Basin Investments Inc. owners Don and Jack Wood of Odessa purchased 152 stores from the Southland Corporation. Since that time, SCS has grown to 174 stores and markets its fuel under the Fina brand.

"I am proud of the performance and growth of SCS and am confident the future will be bright," said Don Wood, SCS president.

Alon USA is headquartered in Dallas and is a subsidiary of Alon Israel Oil Co. Alon Israel purchased ATOFINA Petrochemicals, Inc.'s downstream business, including its domestic fuels marketing business, pipelines, terminals and Big Spring refinery.

7-Eleven is the largest chain in the convenience retailing industry with more than 21,000 stores in the U.S., Canada and 17 other countries and U.S. territories throughout the world.



Home Hospice donated \$500 to Relay for Life this morning. Pictured are, left, front, Sherry Hodnett, Home Hospice Relay for Life team captain; Susan Lewis, Relay for Life co-chair for underwriting; Debbie Road, Home Hospice patient care coordinator for Big Spring; and back, left, Home Hospice employees Kim Gee, Rosann Joy and Judy Robertson.

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Committee presents draft insurance plan for public school employees

AUSTIN (AP) — A statewide health insurance plan for public school employees was being molded into legislation by the House Select Committee on Teachers Health Insurance.

The \$1.5 billion proposal by committee Chairman Paul Sadler, D-Henderson, evolved after weeks of hearings regarding one of the session's top issues.

A mandatory pool would

be created for school districts with 500 or fewer employees. Their employees would be guaranteed basic coverage and could contribute to improve benefits.

Larger districts could join the plan after three years. Districts that do not participate would still receive state money for each employee to help with health insurance. Also, employees would receive \$1,000 apiece to help

with medical costs or to be used as they please.

The plan is different from one laid out by Senate Education Chairman Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo.

His draft bill would create a voluntary program for districts with five levels of coverage. Districts that do not participate would not get state aid for employee health insurance.

Both committees are

expected to vote on bills early next week and then work to compromise on the proposals.

Eric Hartman, legislative director for the Texas Federation of Teachers, said educators and other school employees prefer whichever plan will send the most state dollars to help cover benefits similar to those state employees receive. He said Wednesday that neither

plan went far enough.

"We are guardedly optimistic that the chambers are moving to a resolution that will make a real difference to our members, but we're not there yet," Hartman said.

A lack of funding for family benefits are among the issues that need to be resolved, he said.

"We're trying to drive home the point that the

state could spend an awful lot of money on something that is not better than the status quo," Hartman said.

Unaffordable health insurance is being blamed in part for the state's teacher shortage. About 46,000 of 250,000 teaching positions went unfilled this year. Also, many small and rural districts have no access to or cannot afford insurance for their employees.

Closed-circuit telecast of McVeigh execution approved by Ashcroft

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General John Ashcroft said Thursday survivors and relatives of the Oklahoma City bombing victims will be allowed to watch Timothy McVeigh's execution on closed-circuit television.

He said he wanted to help them "close this chapter of their lives."

"The Oklahoma City survivors may be the largest group of crime victims in our history," Ashcroft said. "The Department of Justice must make special provisions to assist the needs of the survivors and the victims' families."

Ashcroft also said he would allow two additional public witnesses — beyond the eight already cleared for watching the execution firsthand on May 16.

The attorney general also said the Justice Department and the Bureau of Prisons would work to thwart any attempts to record or pirate the closed-circuit broadcast. He described the broadcast as a "state-of-the-art video conferencing."

Ashcroft said he determined that the broadcast should be permitted after meeting this week in

Oklahoma City with some 100 victims or relatives of victims of the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building there.

McVeigh was convicted of the bombing, which killed 168 people, including 19 children, on June 2, 1997. He was sentenced to death, and has exhausted all appeals.

Describing his meeting with the families, Ashcroft said: "My time with these brave survivors changed me. What was taken from them can never be replaced nor fully restored. I hope we can help them meet their needs to close this chapter in their lives."

The decision fulfills the requests of some 250 victims and family members who want to see McVeigh die.

McVeigh's execution will be the first under federal law since 1963.

Ashcroft said McVeigh would be able to talk to the media up to 15 minutes a day by telephone, but no longer.

"As an American who cares about our culture, I want to restrict a mass murderer's access to a public podium," Ashcroft said of that decision.

U.S. crew returns in time for reunion

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) — Leaving their crippled spy plane on a Chinese island, 24 U.S. crew members headed for Hawaii today with plans for a weekend reunion with families and friends on the U.S. mainland. Their long flight home ended a 12-day diplomatic standoff after a collision with a Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea.

Weeks of compromise had led American officials from expressions of "regret" to the word "sorry" during the weekend. Finally, a letter delivered to Chinese officials said the United States was "very sorry" for the pilot's death and for the U.S. plane's landing in China without permission.

With the carefully worded compromise, the United States avoided the full apology demanded by China, while the government-run Beijing Morning Post ran a banner headline Thursday reading: "The United States finally apologizes!"

U.S. and Chinese officials both warned the incident had not been settled. The U.S. plane, filled with high-tech, secret surveillance equipment, remained on Chinese soil, where experts have likely been taking it apart.

"This is not over," Secretary of State Colin Powell said amid meetings on the Balkans in Paris.

"We still have our plane there. But this will all unfold in the days and weeks ahead."

U.S. officials began debriefing the released crew almost immediately to find out how much of the plane's equipment and data they had been able to destroy.

During a stopover early Thursday at Andersen Air Force Base on the U.S. territory of Guam, U.S. military families cheered as the crew members, led by pilot Lt. Shane Osborn, walked off a military-chartered Continental airliner and onto the tarmac — their first contact with American soil. Some of the freed crew members leaned out bus windows to shake hands with onlookers before being driven away for a meal, showers and telephone calls to relatives.

"It gave me goosebumps. I just wanted to say, 'Welcome back. You guys are heroes,'" said Guam Gov. Carl Gutierrez, on hand for the first leg of the homecoming.

"I'm very pleased they are back on American soil," Powell said from Paris.

The crew left for Honolulu aboard a military C-17 about 5 a.m. EDT. They were expected to stay in Hawaii for two days of military interviews and briefings before a homecoming celebration planned for

Saturday afternoon at Whidbey Island, Wash., their home base.

Across the United States, relieved relatives and friends watched television broadcasts showing the crew leaving China and arriving in Guam.

Mary Mercado, wife of aviation electronics technician Ramon Mercado, said her "heart was racing" as the plane took off from China's Hainan Island, where the 24 Americans had been detained since April 1.

"I've had butterflies in my

stomach since this morning," she said from Oak Harbor, Wash. "We're just happy they're alive and coming home safely."

Cheryl Bensing of Taylorsville, Utah, whose son, Richard Bensing, is among the crew, stayed up early Thursday to watch the plane touched down in Guam.

"I don't ever want to have to do this again," she said.

The crew had been held since a collision with a Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea.

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 13:
Others often flatter you, but let's be real here. You offer a lot. Your vitality and caring ways work like radar. You can't always control those around you; in fact, you find others downright unpredictable this year. Expand your circle, and you'll find life far more exciting. An unusual opportunity appears, possibly involving your work or image. If you are single, you are the honey for the bees. Others still act unpredictably. Know that you might be drawing that type of personality. If you are attached, don't let your work control your relationship. Surprise your sweetie more often. CAPRICORN tests your leadership abilities.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
**** Others applaud your actions. Claim your rightful position in your immediate circle. Touch base with someone you respect and appreciate. Your actions draw different kinds of friends. A meeting gets spectacular results. Tonight: Act like the lead player.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
**** Make an effort to reach out to those at a distance. Don't hesitate to call in an expert, if need be. Expand your horizons. Try to incorporate new concepts

into your work. Even though you like stability, work with surprises. Tonight: Take off for the weekend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
**** Indulge others right now. Friends appreciate your concern. A friendship could be blossoming into much more. Be open about feelings rather than getting into murky waters. Office gossip might cast an interesting light on work. Don't take anything seriously just yet. Tonight: How 'bout a date or dinner for two?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
**** Defer to others and draw them out. You have an opportunity to understand where another is coming from. Understanding others keeps you from being such a crab! Make a resolution to stop taking others' words and actions so personally. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
**** Clear out work quickly. Others seek you out. An intellectual conversation has heavy flirtatious undertones. You might take a comment differently than someone else does and be surprised by his reaction. Examine differences as well as similarities. Tonight: Out with friends. Cool the flirting right now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** Your imagination adds more to a conversation than you might suspect. On the other hand, allowing more whimsical fantasy into your life can only make you

smile. So why not? Your efficiency helps you clear out of work quickly. Surround yourself with loved ones later. Tonight: Express your caring.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Deal with family and those in your personal life. Creativity pleases you, as well as pleasing a partner. You can reverse a trend if you want to. Build stronger understanding. Charm might work for you most of the time. But now, actions count. Tonight: At home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
**** Your playfulness might bring out the best in those you work with or spend time with. However, you might not accomplish as much as you would like. Ultimately, a day of PR and networking works in your favor. Loosen up and stop worrying. Tonight: Out and about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
**** No sign enjoys a good time as much as yours; however, you also need to have the mo'jah to do what you want. Handle funds carefully, even though you might want to splurge on a loved one or a lucky hunch. Think long-term. Surprise a new friend or loved one. Tonight: Anything goes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
**** Another's adoration can only make you smile. Reach out for others, and share some of your cheer. Leave work early if possible, and bring extra work home so you can do it at

your own pace. Consider a new item or a special purchase for your home. Tonight: Ask. Another responds.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
**** You can't always be the life of the party. Know when to say that you have had enough. Sometimes others expect you to carry the weight of responsibilities. Though you don't mind making calls, feel free to say "enough." Share something special with a loved one. Tonight: Vanish as fast as you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
**** Whether at work or with others, groups play a significant role in your day. Network and break into new circles. Ultimately, you'll feel far more connected with others. Don't worry about indulging a friend or yourself. Be an instrument of happiness. Tonight: Where the action is.

BORN TODAY
President Thomas Jefferson (1743), chess player Garry Kasparov (1963), Irish playwright and novelist Samuel Beckett (1906)

For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 99 cents per minute. Also featured is The Spoken Tarot. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

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St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Maundy Thursday Communion
April 12th — 6 PM

Good Friday Service
April 13th — Noon and 6 PM

Easter Vigil
April 14th — 9 PM

Easter Day Service
April 15th — 10:30 AM

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Has the true meaning of Easter gotten a little fuzzy?



Give your children more than bunnies and baskets this year. Give them a miracle. Join us on Easter as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For More Information Contact
The Rev. James Liggett; St. Mary's Church
stmarys@crcom.net; 267-8201

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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

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Training sessions key to our safety

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure — it's an adage we've all heard a thousand times, adapted to almost any situation one could imagine. And it's always true.

That's why Big Spring Fire Department and Howard County Volunteer Fire Department personnel have spent this week undergoing hazardous materials training at Fire Station No. 1.

Few of us spend much time thinking about what would happen in the event of a dangerous chemical spill occurred in our community.

In fact, to most of us such an emergency seems unlikely. Nothing, however, could be further from the truth.

Instructors who've been conducting the training sessions for firefighters this week made that clear from the get-go.

Traffic from Interstate 20 and U.S. Highway 87 routes an unbelievable number of hazardous cargoes right through Big Spring each day.

Others are carried on rail lines. So many of those dangerous materials end up into and through our community each day, they say, that it's not a matter of if a hazardous chemical spill or similar emergency occurs, but when.

It's somewhat of a frightening thought. What would be even more frightening, is to think local authorities were unprepared to handle such an emergency.

Luckily, that's not the case. This week's training sessions, coupled with the drill conducted last week at the Alon Refinery, make it clear that emergency personnel in Big Spring and Howard County are doing their best to make sure they are ready when called upon.

We should all appreciate that dedication.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:
I know now why I want to leave Big Spring — the Police never wash their car's — just kidding.

I wish to pay tribute to the police, sheriff's deputies and highway patrol. The job they are doing is to be commended. I never leave home that I don't see a white patrol car. They are always on the job.

They never bother me because I try to abide to the law.

I am sure that if I am speeding, there would be a red light flashing behind me. I have paid several dollars to learn this lesson.

We hear so many complaints of law enforcement that they are "always on someone's case." The way to remove this problem is to obey the law and stay out of trouble.

I would not want to live in a town where there are no laws. Law enforcement is organized to protect us and keep us out of trouble. They are our friends if we let them be.

problem in the jail recently is an example. Officers were hurt and it took several of them to bring one man under submission. They are not allowed to harm the prisoner.

If we had to walk in their shoes for a time, we would try to get them a raise in pay.

Hang in there you police and all other officers, I am on your side.

J.W. ABERNATHY
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:
I want the people of Big Spring to know what honest people we have living here in Big Spring.

On Monday at HEB I lost my wallet without knowing it inside the store. An employee, Nelda, picked it up and turned it in to the manager's office. What an honest person she is. I tried to give her a reward, "but no" she would not take it.

Thanks again, Nelda, for the kind person you are.

There are honest people here in Big Spring, you can count on it.

BILL GILBERT
BIG SPRING

Winter: Fighting the politics of hate

I wish I could claim love at first sight. Could say that the first time I crossed the old one-lane Rooster Bridge at Demopolis, Ala., and trucked on toward the state line I knew how much I would come to love Mississippi, and how soon I'd consider it home.

But that would be a lie. First impressions were colored by a fundamental belief that I was trading down, that even Alabama with its poverty and half-wit politicians had to be up the regional totem pole from our lowly neighbor.

Mississippi was a dreary, wet, weary place that April of 1979; the Pearl River had flooded Jackson at Easter, leaving many residents, especially on the poor side of town, hunkered and desperate.

I landed briefly at the Mississippi Research and Development Center, an agency charged with improving the state's economy.

It was there in 1979 that I first saw William Forrest Winter.

Winter, after his third try, had won a governor's race. The R&D Center excitedly planned a reception for the governor-elect.

Winter drove himself to our building, arrived alone and milled around quietly for 15 minutes or so before most noticed he was there.

His low-key entrance intrigued me. In Alabama it was impossible to miss a governor's entrance, which in my lifetime meant a George Wallace entrance. Wallace traveled with entourage, in state limousines with state trooper escorts and sundry sycophants.

So it was Winter's quiet style that first impressed. Bill Minor, former Mississippi correspondent for the New Orleans Times-Picayune, puts it this way:

"Winter doesn't have the flashy personality, doesn't talk in sound bytes. There's just his dedication to public service, which, at any given time, is appreciated by 48 percent of the people ..."

Winter was no smarter than Carter, not as savvy as Clinton, perhaps not as well-known as contemporary Bob Graham down in Florida.

Yet of that remarkable crop of progressive Southern governors that grew when politics of hate subsided, perhaps none made more difference to his own state than did William Winter.

"William Winter was the Southern governor that every other Southern governor aspired to be," former Georgia governor and current U.S. Sen. Zell Miller says.

Aside from statewide education reform, Winter's term is best remembered for its invigorating "diners at the Mansion." They were the nexus for a cultural Renaissance, a Mississippi Camelot.

One by one Winter and his wife, Elise, invited Leontyne Price, Eudora Welty, Turner Catledge, Walker Percy, Willie Morris — dozens of the state's best, brightest — to the Mansion. Made it official, made it a point to tell them, at long last, how proud Mississippi was to claim them.

And in claiming its artists, this state somehow reclaimed its soul.

"William Winter is perfect," civil rights champion and iconoclastic Baptist preacher Will Campbell says.

"I say that, and I don't like politicians; I went 20 years without voting. But William Winter is an exception, a decent person, a gentleman."

Decent. Modest. Those are adjectives friends use to describe him.

His enemies call him a scallawag, traitor and rascal.

Those epithets helped the late John Bell Williams defeat Winter in 1967 in what Bill Minor calls Mississippi's "last bitterly racist" gubernatorial campaign.

But the same slurs are being aimed at Winter today, in 2001, as Mississippi prepares to vote

April 17 on whether or not to change its state flag. The banner incorporates the Confederate battle flag in one corner. Winter supports change.

He gamely chaired a gubernatorial advisory commission on the flag. None of his friends was surprised he agreed to the thankless job. After all, this was a man who had campaigned for John Kennedy deep in the Delta.

At 78, William Winter is trim, healthy, a grandfather. He jogs several miles each morning.

He loves baseball, reads several books at one time, works off and on and rather indifferently on his memoirs.

Winter grew up in rural Grenada County, at the edge of Mississippi's Hill Country, on a 1,300-acre farm settled by his great-grandfather.

Winter's paternal grandfather was a Civil War veteran, and Winter remembers hearing battle stories on his grandfather's knee. He has, on occasion, enjoyed reminding critics of his Confederate credentials.

"I have a special appreciation of the history behind our old flag. I do not want to see that flag denigrated or maligned ..."

Most of this state's seasoned political observers agree that the referendum to change the state flag will fail. Except for one. William Winter has faith the voters will do the right thing.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON



How to succeed in business

Over the years we have developed a set of suggestions for our children and other people who are entering the business world. We have been asked to share them with our readers:



JACK ANDERSON

- In all endeavors, guide your life by the principle of JMM: Judgment, Moderation and Maturity.
- Never, through either word or action, speak ill of anyone. Exception: If asked to evaluate another person's performance, be clinical (see item No. 4), and include praises as well as criticisms.
- Arrive at work five minutes early, never look at the clock, and leave five minutes late.
- Business is business, not personal. Do not make it personal or take it personally. (Corollary: Don't hold grudges because today's opponent is tomorrow's ally. Just remember who can't be trusted.)
- You owe your complete loyalty in all things legal to the company writing your paycheck.
- Business comes ahead of your social life. (Corollary: Volunteer.)
- Be honorable. Do not make unauthorized long-distance phone calls or use company time or supplies for private purposes. Local personal calls should be kept to an absolute minimum and then only for the briefest possible time.
- Be honest. Be the person to whom the company could entrust \$100,000 in cash.
- Do not make excuses for failure. Exception: Do not be noble and take the blame for someone else.
- Get credit for your accomplishments. However, it is always better to have a friend sing your praises. Do not discourage this. False modesty is seen as insincerity. (Corollary: A mild amount of self-deprecating humor is fine. However, taken too far, it establishes unwanted stereotypes, such as klutziness, airheadedness, etc.)
- Listen more than you speak. (Corollary: When in doubt, don't say it.)
- Be willing to take calculated risks. Never simply roll the dice.
- Ask and ye may receive assignments, promotions, raises, etc.
- Learn everything. Immerse yourself in the intricacies of the business.
- Delegate much; supervise constantly.
- Be a team player.
- Help your fellow worker, but don't become a crusader. Free advice has a boomerang effect when it goes awry.
- Never lose your temper (see item No. 4). Never be biting, surly, sarcastic or curt.
- Ambition is a positive trait.
- Use extreme caution with romantic entanglements at work.

ADDRESSES

- **GEORGE W. BUSH**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
- **PHIL GRAMM**
U.S. Senator
370 Russell Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-2934.
- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
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Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922
- **CHARLES STENHOLM**
U.S. Representative
17th District
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Washington, 20515.
Phone: 202-225-6605.
- **HON. RICK PERRY**
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- **BILL RATLIFF**
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- **ROBERT DUNCAN**
Senator
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Big Spring, 79720.
Phone: 268-9909; (800) 322-9538, (512) 463-0128.
- **DAVID COUNTS**
Representative
Texas 70th District
P.O. Box 338
Knox City, 79529
Phone: (940) 658-5012.
- BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL**
- RUSS MCEWEN, MAYOR** — Home: 263-0907; Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413.
- GREG BIDDISON** — Home: 267-6009; Work (Ponderosa Restaurant): 267-7121.
- OSCAR GARCIA, MAYOR PRO TEM** — Home: 264-0026; Work (Cornell Corrections): 268-1227.
- STEPHANIE HORTON** — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361.
- CHUCK CANTON** — Home: 263-7490; Work (Chuck's Surplus): 263-1142.
- TOMMY TUNE** — Home: 267-4652; Work (Howard College): 264-5000.
- JOANN SMOOT** — Home: 267-6965; Work (BSISD): 264-3600.



Death per moratorium measure

by Senate
AUSTIN (AP) — that may prove bolic than realistic panel has endorsed let voters decide year moratorium on executions in Texas. No. 1 death penalty. The proposal was Wednesday by Criminal Justice would put the amendment to the constitution. If approved, the row would sit in state studies in the legislature. But Wednesday the measure would be the resolution of both the House and the Senate by a two-thirds vote. It can be placed on the statewide ballot committee vote strates just how that may be. The vote was along party lines that holds a 4-3 majority. To get it to the floor, the resolution needs support from three of the four members. Republican 16-15 majority. "Texans ought to have a chance to vote on the death penalty," Sen. Eliot Shaffer, D-Paso. He proposed the measure. Sen. Todd Blackmon, R-Palestine, voted against the resolution. "I know the rights of the voters and the voters who have through the ballot box said so," Blackmon said. Texas executed inmates in 2000, but that had been put to death. "Texas' death penalty came under national scrutiny in 2000 presidential election of former Gov. Bush. Bush maintained confidence that the person had been executed in Texas, and shared by his Republican Gov. "The governor does not believe in the necessity of the death penalty," Acuna. "Perry has supported other criminal measures. He signed into a law that makes it easier to gain access to DNA evidence," said. "He continues to work ways to ensure that the victim is served to all the crime," Acuna. "The Senate approved a bill that would allow defense counsel to file a writ of habeas corpus for juries in past cases and in compensation for imprisoned inmates. Those issues makers are talking about at the state," Shapleigh said. "I feel no Texas should be part of a death penalty man or woman executed," Shapleigh said. "We are taking steps to take a system." Others criticized the proposal. "It's just an idea which has no traction," said Diane of Houston-based rights group Justice for All. "It just delays the death penalty," she said. "The movement is more than an attempt to delay the death penalty. Anti-death penalty however, said welcome start. "There are problems with Texas' death penalty. The legislature and the judiciary are in a state of disrepair. The majority of voters are geared toward poor people," Lindsey, executive director of Death Penalty Watch in San Francisco, said.

Death penalty moratorium measure OK'd by Senate panel

AUSTIN (AP) — In a move that may prove more symbolic than realistic, a Senate panel has endorsed a plan to let voters decide on a two-year moratorium on executions in Texas, the nation's No. 1 death penalty state.

The proposal approved 4-3 Wednesday by the Senate Criminal Justice Committee would put the issue before voters in November as an amendment to the state constitution.

If approved, Texas' death row would sit idle while the state studies how it administers the ultimate punishment.

But Wednesday's vote may be the measure's biggest victory.

The resolution must pass both the House and Senate by a two-thirds vote before it can be placed on the statewide ballot. The 4-3 committee vote demonstrates just how difficult that may be.

The vote was split evenly along party lines on a panel that holds a 4-3 Democratic majority.

To get it to the Senate floor, the resolution will need support from two-thirds of the chamber's 31 members. Republicans hold a 16-15 majority.

"Texans ought to have a chance to vote on their death penalty system," said Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso. He proposed the resolution.

Sen. Todd Staples, R-Palestine, voted against the resolution, "keeping in mind the rights of the victims and the victims' families who have suffered through the heinous acts," said spokesman Jerry Johnson.

Texas executed a record 40 inmates in 2000. Six have been put to death this year.

Texas' death penalty system came under intense national scrutiny during the 2000 presidential campaign of former Gov. George W. Bush.

Bush maintained that he was confident that no innocent person had been executed in Texas, a confidence shared by his successor, Republican Gov. Rick Perry.

"The governor has said he does not believe a moratorium is necessary," said Perry spokesman Gene Acuna.

Perry has supported several other criminal justice measures. He has already signed into a law a bill that makes it easier for inmates to gain access to post-conviction DNA testing, he said.

"He continues looking for ways to ensure that justice is served to all sides, including the victims of violent crime," Acuna said.

The Senate on Tuesday approved a bill to improve defense counsel for poor defendants. Other items being discussed include a life-without-parole option for juries in death penalty cases and increased compensation for wrongly imprisoned inmates.

Those issues suggest lawmakers are taking a hard look at the state's system, Shapleigh said.

"I feel no Texan wants to be part or party to an innocent man or woman being executed," Shapleigh said. "We are taking the hard steps to take a look at our system."

Others criticized the proposal.

"It's just a preposterous idea which has no foundation," said Dianne Clements of Houston-based victims' rights group Justice For All.

"It just delays justice," she said. "The moratorium movement is nothing more than an attempt to eliminate the death penalty."

Anti-death penalty groups, however, said the move is a welcome start.

"There are plenty of problems with Texas, having horrible representation for indigent clients, and a majority of a system is geared toward executing poor people," said Lance Lindsey, executive director of Death Penalty Focus, a San Francisco-based anti-execution group.



By BETTY DEBNAM

Space Station Stars in the Sky

Look up one night, and you might see what looks like a bright new star gliding across the sky.

On some nights, the third-brightest object in the sky will be the International Space Station, or ISS. Only the star Sirius and the moon will appear brighter.

People in space

In November, the first crew began living on board the space station, and a new chapter began in space exploration. From now on there may always be humans living in space.

People will probably be living on the station for at least 15 years. Each crew will stay on the station until new crew members come up.

ISS could also be the launching spot for people going to the moon, or exploring Mars or beyond.

The first people to live on board the space station traveled there on a Russian rocket.



This computer-made art shows what the International Space Station will look like after it is finished in 2006. The station flies about 230 miles above the Earth. It orbits the Earth every 90 minutes, about 16 times a day. It flies at about 17,500 miles per hour.

Seeing the station

In December, astronauts attached giant solar wings to the station. The 240-foot wings, which will produce power for the ISS, make it easy to see the station from Earth.

ISS is visible on the ground because it reflects sunlight. The best times to see the station are within two hours before sunrise or after sunset. Sometimes it will seem high in the sky. Other times it will be just over the horizon.

To learn when the station will appear in skies in your neighborhood, see: <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/>

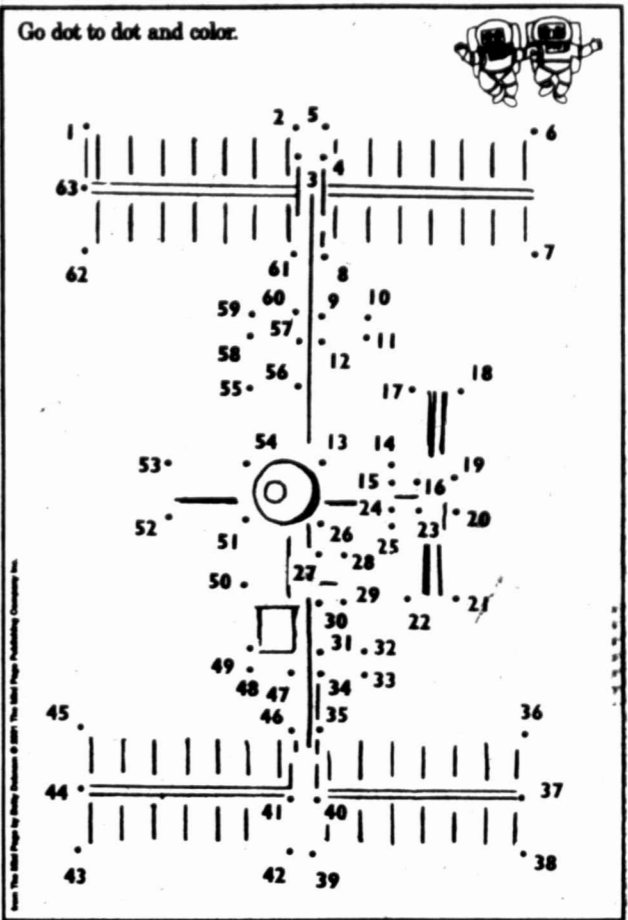
The lab arrives

In February, shuttle astronauts brought up the most important part of the station, the laboratory named Destiny. Before the lab arrived, crew members could not do much scientific work. They spent most of their time building the station.

Scientists hope experiments on Destiny will help them make better medicines and materials. They also hope to learn more about the causes of diseases.



Mission patch for the delivery of Destiny.



Rookie Cookies Recipe Wrapped Beans

You'll need:

- 1 (15-ounce) can green beans
- 10 slices of uncooked bacon, cut in half
- 1/3 cup Italian salad dressing

What to do:

1. Form about 10 beans into a bunch.
2. Wrap 1/2 slice of bacon around each bunch. Form bunches until all beans are used. Use more bacon if necessary.
3. Place bunches in a baking dish. Pour salad dressing evenly on top.
4. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 40 minutes or until bacon is cooked.

Makes about 8 bunches.

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Gus Goodsport's Report

Supersport: Allan Houston

Height: 6-6 Weight: 200 Birthdate: 4-20-71 College: Tennessee

Allan Houston is in his fifth season as a guard for the New York Knicks. Before joining the team in 1996, he played for three seasons with the Detroit Pistons.

Last season he led the Knicks in scoring average (19.7 points per game). That tied for the best average in his career. He also averaged 19.7 points a game in the 1995-96 season.

Allan was born and grew up in Louisville, Ky. In high school, he played basketball and was a high jumper on the track team.

In college, he earned a degree in African-American studies. When he played college basketball, his father was the coach.

Meet Michael W. Smith

One of the most popular Christian singers around is Michael W. Smith. He started writing songs when he was 6.

Before he became a professional singer, he worked for a music publishing company.

He got his start in music in 1982 when he got a job playing keyboards for singer Amy Grant.

Michael lives with his wife, Debbie, their three sons and two daughters on a farm near Nashville, Tenn.

In his free time he likes to ride four-wheelers, ride horses, fish, hunt and play golf. His favorite place to visit is Colorado. Some of his favorite music is from movie soundtracks.

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Funny Phonics

It's fun to learn phonics, or the way letters' sound. This week's target sound is the one made by the OW blend, as in the word snow.

Chloe: Why did the moth eat the rug?
Sue: To see the floor show!

Carl: Where do Eskimos keep their money?
Zoe: In a snow bank!

Steven: Why did the crow sit on the telephone wire?
Luke: So he could make a long-distance call!

Go on an OW hunt. What other words can you find that use the OW blend? What sound do you HEAR?

Space Station TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of the International Space Station are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: SPACE, STATION, RUSSIA, SKY, CREW, MISSION, COMMANDER, GRAVITY, AIR, SCIENCE, WATER, LIVE, PEOPLE, MOON, MARS, POWER, EARTH, ENERGY.

W O U L D Y O U L I K E T O W O R K I N S P A C E ?

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

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy is getting some outdoor exercise while serving as part of the crew of the International Space Station. See if you can find:

- ruler
- funny face
- letter C
- saw
- word MINI
- pizza
- pliers
- tooth
- peanut
- arrow
- number 7
- heart
- letter H
- pencil
- safety pin
- ear of corn
- marshmallow
- letter A
- doughnut

All Aboard the Space Station

The United States and Russia are the biggest of 16 partners working on ISS.

The first crew to live on ISS were (from left): Mission Commander William M. Shepherd, U.S.; Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, from Russia.

Water

Some water has been carried to the station, but getting it up there is expensive. The crew will save and recycle as much as they can.

Sinks won't have faucets. The crew will just wet a washcloth with spray. Showers will be brief.

Special machines collect the water in the air. The crew's wash water and urine from the crew and lab animals will all be recycled.

Even though this sounds unpleasant, the recycled water will actually be cleaner than most drinking water on Earth.

All crew members go through survival training on Earth. The second crew went through winter survival training in Russia. They are (from left): U.S. astronaut Susan Helms, Commander Yuri Usachev from Russia and U.S. astronaut Jim Voss.

Special training

If ISS crews run into trouble, they can take a Russian-built "lifeboat" back to Earth. But in an emergency, they might have to land in a jungle or ocean, or Russian Siberia.

Before going into space, the crew members have to learn how to survive on Earth. They go through survival training in arctic cold and in jungle heat.

They learn how to build shelters with what material is around, and how to find food and water. They even eat lizards!

The Mini Page thanks Kristen Williams Larson and Kelly Humphries of NASA for help with this issue.

Look through your newspaper for stories about space and the skies.

Site to see: www.nasa.gov/flds.html

Next week The Mini Page celebrates Earth Day with a story about the Amazon River Basin.

The Mini Page is created and edited by Betty Debnam

Associate Editors: Anne Chamberlain, Lucy Lien

Staff Artist: Wendy Daley

The Mini Page/NIE

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HELP WANTED San Angelo Standard times is seeking an individual to deliver the paper in the Big Spring area. Earn approx. \$900/mo. 1-800-588-1884 ext. 293

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For rent & For sale.</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All types of repairs. Work guaranteed!! Free Estimates 267-1110</p>	<p>SEPTIC REPAIR/INSTALLATION</p> <p>B & R SEPTIC Septic - Tanks - Grease - Rent-a-Potty. 267-3547 or Beeper # 267-0819</p>	<p>DO YOU HAVE A SERVICE TO OFFER? Place your ad in the Herald Classified Professional Service Directory Call 263-7331 Today!</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>FULLMOON ROOFING, INC. Big Spring & Surrounding areas Bonded & Insured FREE ESTIMATES No Money down COMPETITIVE PRICES 915-267-5478</p>	<p>H&S CONST. ROOFING Metal & composition repairs FREE ESTIMATES Mobile 664-6113 Business 264-1138</p>	<p>FOUR SEASONS Insulation And Siding Inc. Locally Owned Big Spring's Oldest Full-Time Siding & Insulation Company We Specialize In *Custom Vinyl and Steel Siding *Overhang & Trim Siding *Attic and Wall Installation *Storm windows and doors *Custom built thermo replacement windows. *Wall insulation - all walls done from the outside with no structural damage 100% no lien financing available. 915-264-8610</p>	<p>SEPTIC REPAIR/INSTALLATION</p> <p>EARTHCO See our ad UNDER Dirt Contractors.</p>	<p>SEPTIC SYSTEMS Installation and Site Evaluations</p> <p>ROSE PLUMBING 106 N. 15th 806-872-3502 Lamesa, Tx 79331 Lic# 726</p>	<p>SEPTIC REPAIR/INSTALLATION</p> <p>AQUASCAPE Install & Repair sprinkler systems Landscaping & Tree Pruning Mowing Service Licensed & Insured Kyle Cook Lic.#7700 915-556-3566 Jaime Saenz Lic# 7599 915-425-6592</p>	<p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>Experienced TREE PRUNING & hauling Free Estimates PONDEROSA NURSERY 263-4441 GAIL HWY</p>	<p>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe 915 267-8317</p>	<p>WELDING</p> <p>B & D WELDING Residential, commercial & oilfield welding. Carports, building's, etc FREE ESTAMATES 263-3140</p>	<p>WEST TARRANT CENTER for MHMR now full-time and part-time Direct Care Staff in Spring. High School Diploma/GED required. Salary \$6.47 per hr. (\$13,464 annually) plus benefits for full time. \$7.28 per hour for part time. Applications may be obtained at 4 Runnels or by call JOBLENE 800-687-2769. EOE</p>	<p>MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE is now hiring CNA's *Sign on bonus *10 days vacation *Great starting pay *Quarterly and Shift bonuses *Insurance & Retirement Plan *7 Paid Holidays Apply in person at 2009 Virginia</p>	<p>Need Experiences Roustabouts to work for Big Spring Oil field Company. Must be able to pass drug test. Call 267-6654</p>	<p>JOBS WANTED</p> <p>Mowing, tree trimm hauling, interior-exterior painting. Call 267-5414. lv. message.</p>
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HELP WANTED

DENNY'S
1710 E. 3rd
Big Spring, TX 797
Now hiring cooks and servers. Swings & Graves. Top pay, paid vacation, flexible hours. No phone calls. Applicant person.

E-Z Cash
needs an HONEST dependable, hardworking individual to run cash/rental store. Apply in person @ 11101 Mercey next to Gale's Sweet Shop M-F 9-6pm. or call 263-4111

Internet/Mail order. U your computer \$25-\$75/hr. Fr booklet. 800-218-75 Money-Dream.com

JOB TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES
The Texas Workforce Center is seeking applications participation. Workforce Investment Act Job training programs. Immediate enrollment is available for economically disadvantaged or dislocated workers. Short-term training occupations in truck industry and short-term training in health care occupations highly recommended. For more information to request an appointment, application, call Susan Lyons at 263-8373, visit office at 3 Owens, Big Spring, EEO. Auxiliary available to those with disabilities.

Lamesa Freight needs an OTR driver with one year's experience. Call 806-872-9133.

THURSDAY												APR. 12											
KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	JUN (13)	DISN (14)	NASH (15)	TMC (16)	SHOW (20)	HBO (22)	KMLM (24)	A&E (25)	DISC (26)	TNT (28)	TLC (41)					
Midland	Odessa	Dallas	Dallas	Odessa	Dallas	Midland	Atlanta	Spanish	Premiere	Nashville	Premiere	Premiere	Premiere	Odessa	New York	Discovery	Atlanta	Learning Ch.					
6:30 News (CC) Fortune	Cosby (CC) Suddenly	Wishbone Zoboomatoo	Major League Baseball	News Ent. Tonight	News (CC) Fortune	News Seinfeld (CC)	Major League Baseball	Carita de Angel	Movie: Horse Sense (CC)	Miami Vice	(05) Movie: Sunset Park	Tommy's (CC)	(15) Movie: Here on Earth (CC)	Update With John Hage	Law & Order (CC)	Wild Discovery	Pretender (CC)	Impact Earth					
7:30 Whose Line? Whose Line?	Movie: High School High (CC)	Scenic Rail Journeys	Cleveland Indians at Detroit Tigers (CC)	Survivor: Aust. Outback	Whose Line? Whose Line?	Friends (CC) Will & Grace	Atlanta Braves at New York Mets	Abrazame My Fuerte	(45) Movie: Wish Upon a Star (CC)	Movie: L.A. Streetfighter (CC)	Movie: Hudson	Movie: Tombstone (CC)	Movie: American Beauty (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Biography (CC)	Egypt's City of the Dead	NBA Basketball: Philadel.	Secrets of Forensic Science					
8:30 Be a Millionaire	Arrest & Trial Nanny (CC)	Nova (CC)	Exploring the Unknown	CSI: Crime Son	Be a Millionaire	ER (CC)	Movie: Jaws	El Gran Blablazo	(25) Movie: Horse Sense (CC)	Dead Man's Gun	Undercurrent (CC)	(15) Movie: Payback	Beauty (CC)	Hour of Healing	blower: The Mummy (CC)	Dead Sea Scrolls	phia 76ers at Orlando	Susan Smith: Nine Days					
9:30 Primetime Thursday	Blind Date Jerry Springer	News-Lehrer	700 Club (CC)	News (35) Late	News (CC) Nightline	News (35) Tonight	P. Impacto Noticias Univ.	7 A Que No Te Atreves?	Zorro Mickey Mouse	Miami Vice	Children of the	Movie: Silent Fall (CC)	On the Record	Update With Nathan Knight	Law & Order (CC)	Egypt's City of the Dead	Overdrive	Susan Smith: Nine Days					
10:30 Politically Inc. Cheers	(CC) Spin City (CC)	Intimate Strangers	Who's Boss? Who's Boss?	Show (CC) (37) Late Late	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Show (CC) (37) Late	7 A Que No Te Atreves?	El Premio Mayor	Starsky and Hutch	Com IV: The Gathering	(45) Movie: The Gathering	Movie: Wildly Available	Faith Pleases God	Movie: Horatio Horn	Dead Sea Scrolls	Movie: The Wrath	Medical Medical						
12:30 Paid Program	Judge-Brown Cops (CC)	Intimate Strangers	Paid Program	Street Smarts	(12:06) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	Night (CC) Frasier	Movie: Mad Max Beyond																

DENNIS THE MENACE

4-12

"HE'S DOIN' A SWELL JOB, MOM! HE FOUND MY YO-YO, COWBOY BOB BADGE, AN'..."

FAMILY CIRCUS

4-12

"What am I not allowed to do while I'm on my best behavior?"

HAGAR

HAGAR, I KNOW I ASKED YOU TO SPEND LESS TIME AT SPIKE'S BAR AND MORE TIME AT HOME...

BUT THIS ISN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND!

BLONDIE

BUYING ENVELOPES WAS SO SIMPLE IN THE OLD DAYS... NOW YOU'VE GOT 15 DIFFERENT COLORS

WOULD YOU LIKE A PACKET OF RED? BLUE? ORANGE?...

I'LL TAKE ONE OF EACH COLOR... AND, AS TO SIZES, I'LL TAKE A 10-BY-15, TWO 9-BY-12'S, AND THREE 5-BY-7'S...

LIFE USED TO BE SO SIMPLE IN THE OLD DAYS

B.C.

I HAVEN'T FELT WELL FOR WEEKS

YOU SHOULD GO ON A FAST.

THINK IT WILL HELP?

ABSOLUTELY.

WHOOOSH

GEECH

I JUST CAN'T DECIDE...

DECIDE WHAT? ALL WE'VE GOT IS BEER.

I CAN'T DECIDE IF I WANT ONE OR NOT.

WIZARD OF ID

I KNOW HOW WE CAN GET RID OF ROAD RAGE

HOW?

BY PINNING THE ORANGE COMES A MORE TRANQUIL COLOR

HI AND LOIS

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT, FIRST STAR I SEE TONIGHT, I WISH I MAY, I WISH I MIGHT...

YOU JUST MADE A WISH ON THE SPACE STATION, DUMMY!

GASOLINE ALLEY

Rover! Your trouble is you let Delicia run all over you!

That's not so!

You're like the meek guy who tries to please a lion...

...by letting himself be eaten!

I've been a lion!

SNUFFY SMITH

YOU'RE A LAZY, GOOD-FER-NOTHIN', GARD-CHEATIN', SHIF-LESS SKONK

OUTSIDE OF THAT -- THAR'S NOTHIN' WRONG WITH YOU

BETLE BAILY

SARGE REALLY HAD A FULL DAY PLANNED FOR US TOMORROW

WHAT IS BETLE DOING?

CRAMMING FOR EXCUSES

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, April 12, the 102nd day of 2001. There are 263 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 12, 1861, the American Civil War began as Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

On this date:

In 1606, England adopted as its flag the original version of the Union Jack.

In 1882, Union volunteers led by James J. Andrews stole a Confederate train near Marietta, Ga., but were later caught. This episode inspired the Buster Keaton comedy "The General."

In 1934, "Tender Is the Night," by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was first published.

In 1945, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Ga., at age 63; he was succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.

In 1955, the Salk vaccine against polio was declared safe and effective.

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to fly in space, orbiting the earth once before making a safe landing.

In 1981, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off from Cape Canaveral on its first test flight.

In 1989, radical activist Abbie Hoffman was found dead at his home in New Hope, Pa., at age 52.

In 1989, former middleweight boxing champion Sugar Ray Robinson died in Culver City, Calif., at age 67.

In 1992, Euro Disneyland opened in France.

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Dick Cheney announced plans to close 31 major U.S. military bases, including Fort Ord in California and Fort Dix in New Jersey.

Birthdays: Actress-dancer Ann Miller is 78. Country singer Ned Miller is 76. Actress Jane Withers is 75. Opera singer Montserrat Caballe is 68. Actor Charles Napier is 65. Jazz musician Herbie Hancock is 61. Actor Frank Bank ("Leave It to Beaver") is 59. Rock singer John Kay (Steppenwolf) is 57. Actor Ed O'Neill is 55. Actor Dan Lauria is 54. Talk show host David Letterman is 54. Author Scott Turow is 52. Singer David Cassidy is 51.

Newsday Crossword CHECK YOUR CALENDAR by A.J. Santora Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS

1 Use a fork

6 Business partners, perhaps

10 That girl

13 Greek/Roman god

14 Butter substitute

15 Linguistic ending

16 Appropriately-named evangelist

18 __ standstill

19 Discordia

20 "This __ test"

21 Type of bicycle

23 Scale notes

24 Scarab

26 Totally

27 She "has far to go"

31 Turn informer

32 __ precedent

33 Once named

34 Mubarak of Egypt

37 Hoops play

39 Hill insect

40 Big Apple ballpark

44 In favor of

45 TV cop

50 Fabrication

51 Free-for-all

52 "Mamma __"

54 Leaf part

56 Pershing's WWI grp.

57 Pushed the pedal to the metal

58 United

DOWN

8 Most tidy

9 Bean

11 Getty and Parsons

12 Widen a hole

13 Aid and __

17 Taken advantage of

22 Slangy refusal

24 Do a slow burn?

25 Strong cleanser

28 Diner fixture

29 Stylish pants

30 __ Moines

34 Is down with

35 Zinger

36 Grating

38 Curtain holder

41 City in

42 Wind dir.

43 Map volumes

44 Ready-made houses

46 Eur. country

47 Satellite transmission

48 Current unit

49 Results in, as a recipe

53 Tags on

54 NYC art center

55 Virginia willow

57 Booty

60 French summer

61 Pro vote

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