

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY

April 24, 2001

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT TOMORROW
43°-46° 75°-80°

Candlelight vigil slated tonight at Elbow School

A community wide candlelight vigil will be held tonight at Central Baptist Church across from Elbow Elementary for victims of violent crimes.

Victim Services is participating in the event, which is being held during Victims Awareness Month.

Victims of crimes will be speaking during the event, which will include a time of prayer and performances by SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf students.

A period of time will be made available for the general public to say a few words.

The vigil begins at 7 p.m.

WHAT'S UP...

WEDNESDAY

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

Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 10 a.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center cafeteria. People 50 and older are invited to participate.

Beginning line dance class, 10:30-11:30 a.m., free to beginners. Contact Margarita Durand-Hollis at the Dance Gallery.

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

Big Spring Duplicate Bridge Club, meets every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 1 p.m. at the Big Spring Country Club.

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

Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie Ladies Auxiliary, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third.

THURSDAY

Gideons International, Big Spring Camp No. U42060, Herman's Restaurant, 7 a.m.

The Senior Citizens Center will host an Arts and Crafts session each Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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Task force to hold public forum on truck relief route

JOHN A. MOSELEY
Managing Editor

A public forum to discuss a possible truck relief route for U.S. Highway 87 that would divert through traffic around Big Spring and relieve congestion on Gregg Street and the Lamesa Highway has been scheduled for 6 tonight at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

The members of a task group, which has been studying reliever route pos-

sibilities, will be seeking input from local residents on the proposed route selected by the committee.

That route would place the roadway west of Big Spring between Stallings Road and the McMahan Wrinkle Airpark.

In the task force's final selection process, it considered two alternatives — one calling for a roadway following Stallings Road west to Cauble Road, and the other further west of the city along Cauble Road.

Howard County

PUBLIC FORUM

Topic: Truck relief route

When: 6 tonight

Where: Dora Roberts Community Center

Commissioner Bill Crooker, who serves as chairman of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's transportation committee, noted that the task force held a public meeting in September. During that session, 43 people unanimously

voted that the task force should proceed with its study.

In addition to Crooker, the task group includes State National Bank vice president Richard Steel, Howard County Commissioner Jerry Kilgore, City Councilman Oscar Garcia, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) representatives Art Barrow and Joe Clark, and members Tom Guess and Jim Bill Little.

Since a mid-1980s project expanded U.S. 87, there has

been a growing level of concern in the community regarding increased traffic — especially large trucks — through Big Spring.

Public discussions pertaining to a possible reliever route for the truck traffic came during a series of public forums held conjunction with the Lubbock to I-10/Amarillo North study held in 1996.

During those meetings, the consensus was that there was a definite need for

See FORUM, Page 2

Airpark terminal grand opening set

By BILL McCLELLAN
News Editor

A new era in aviation begins Wednesday with the grand opening of the terminal at McMahan Wrinkle Airpark here.

"We certainly would like to invite the public out to see the new facility," said Emma Bogard, assistant city manager. "We think everyone is going to be proud of it. It really is beautiful.

The terminal, which is located on the west side of the airpark, includes a pilot's lounge, receiving area, waiting room, restrooms, snack area, conference room and office space for airport operator Nelda Reagan.

"Once people see it, they will be inspired," said Reagan. "It is so nice. We've gotten favorable response from the pilots and everyone else who has seen it."

A ribbon cutting is set for 2 p.m., and visitors can take self-guided tours of the building. Among the dignitaries attending will be Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Director of Aviation David Fulton and Texas Airport Managers Association President Mark Nelson. Other TxDOT officials and



Nelda Reagan, airport operator, stands in front of the new Big Spring Air Terminal which will offer Enterprise rental car services and a conference room as well as fuel services and a pilots lounge.

members of the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) are also expected, as are members of the Big Spring City Council, Howard County Commissioners Court and the Ambassadors.

More than 35 planes are based at the airpark, and local officials believe that with the opening of the terminal, the airport will see increased usage.

"First, it is a gateway

See TERMINAL, Page 2

Airpark will stage fly-in

HERALD Staff Report

A fly-in is planned Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at McMahan Wrinkle Airpark. The fly-in coincides with the grand opening of the new terminal at the airpark, which is set for Wednesday at 2 p.m.

"We've sent out invitations to all of the airports in Texas and have gotten some good response," said Nelda Reagan, airport operator. "We want to make the aviation community aware that we have a terminal now."

Those who arrive by air

See FLY-IN, Page 2

Library to be open later on Saturdays

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

Howard County Library will have new hours now, ones that hopefully will reflect the needs of the community.

The new hours were among several items approved during Monday's meeting of the Howard County Commissioner's Court.

Library administrator Hollis McCright told com-

missioners that Saturday's hours of 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. did not meet the needs of the majority of the library users.

"I proposed a change in the hours of operation on Saturday to 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and commissioners approved the change," said McCright. "The hours for Monday through Friday will also be changed slightly by opening from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. instead of the 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. hours we currently have. I think it will be very beneficial to the users of the library. I think we will begin to see an increase in usage on Saturdays once the changes

become effective on May 29.

Another item approved by commissioners was the use of help and equipment from Jerry Kilgore's Precinct 2 to assist in the removal of large debris from city property in Coahoma.

"Mayor Bill Read of Coahoma asked if we could help in removing some slabs from the old cotton gin," said Kilgore. "They just don't have the right equipment for the heavy concrete slabs but they will furnish a truck to haul the debris off in. We have helped Forsan and Big Spring in the past so I didn't see it as being a big problem."

District Judge Robert H.

Moore III addressed the commissioners about the feasibility of hiring a bailiff/security officer for the new district courtroom, which is scheduled to be ready in June. Commissioners approved the request with the money for the salary coming out of courthouse security funds.

Hired to that position will be Howard County Deputy Sheriff Ed Covington who has been with the sheriff's office for around 16 years. He will assume his new duties June 1.

Sheriff Dale Walker said he begin immediately to find a replacement to fill Covington's position.

A native of Big Spring, She attended school in Forsan and graduated from Howard College and then Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She has completed graduate course work at Texas Tech University, North Texas State University, East Texas State University and Sam Houston State University.

She is a member of numerous teacher's associations and is a member of the Business Professionals of America, the 1941 Study Club, a trustee for the

See COLLEGE, Page 2

Fire destroys residence in Sand Springs Monday

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

A fire that destroyed a home at 114 Jalico Road in Sand Springs Monday

evening is under investigation by Howard County Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan and Gary Pritchett of the Howard County Sheriff's Office who is also an arson investigator.

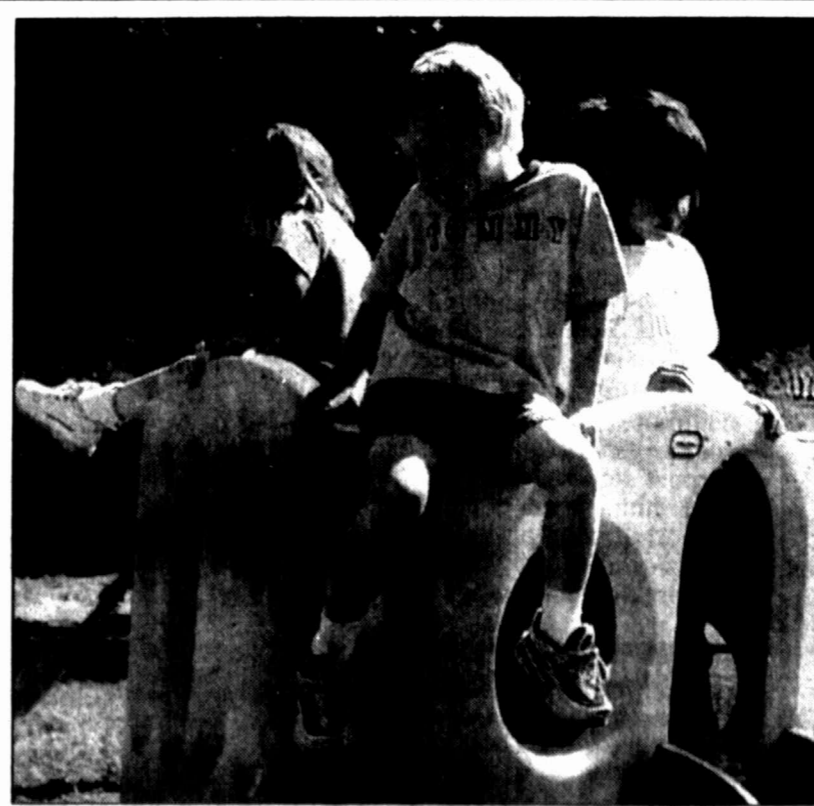
"County units and Engine 3 from Big Spring respond-

ed to the call and discovered we had propane acetylene tanks and oxygen tanks inside," said Sullivan, who got the call at about 3:20 p.m. "With the fire going so far and so high, we backed up and went into a defensive mode and just tried to cool things down so we could investigate the origin of the fire."

Sullivan said the lone occupant of the Jalico Road residence was not there at the time of the fire.

"Upon arrival my battalion chief did ascertain that no one was inside the house and we didn't have a life-

See FIRE, Page 2



John Tyler, Stormie Grigg, left, and Megan Herrera take advantage of the nice weather during a play break before lunch Tuesday at Profitt Day Care.

HERALD photo/ Andrea Medlin

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House redistricting proposal revealed, drawing GOP fire

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas House members have been given a basic plan on redistricting that creates new districts in the Rio Grande Valley, Central Texas and the Houston and Dallas areas.

The proposal unveiled late Monday immediately drew criticism from the Republican Party of Texas, which said the plan unfairly protects Democratic leaders.

The plan presented by Rep. Delwin Jones, chairman of the House Redistricting Committee, places nine new districts where Jones said Texas has experienced most of its population growth over the past decade.

"Our basic goal from the start was to produce a fair and a legal plan for you members of this House," Jones, R-Lubbock, said during the House session. "This we have done."

"I hope that all interested parties recognize that everyone included in this process — myself, my committee members, our legislative leaders and all of our staff people — have kept fairness, integrity, legality and compassion (utmost) in our mind as we developed a plan," he said.

"The House redistricting plan released today is a thinly veiled attempt to protect the careers of Speaker Pete Laney and incumbent politicians," said Susan Weddington, GOP chairwoman.

The redistricting covers the state House and Senate, the Texas congressional delegation and the State Board of Education.

Jones presented the first copy of the map and

accompanying material to Laney, a Democrat from Hale Center.

Though he did not discuss in the House chamber which of the state's regions will lose the most representation under his plan, in the past Jones has said rural West Texas and East Texas were expected to lose out to fast-growing suburban areas around big cities.

Two of the new districts in his proposal would be located in the suburban Dallas-Fort Worth area, Jones said.

Another would be a predominantly Hispanic district in the Rio Grande Valley; three would be in the Harris County area; and three would be in Central Texas in Williamson, Travis and Bell counties.

Rep. Fred Bosse, D-Houston, submitted the local plan and admits it was designed to protect the county's 14 incumbent Democrats. Harris County, Republican members have not yet submitted an alternative countywide plan to the House Redistricting Committee.

Harris County's House delegation chairwoman, Rep. Peggy Hamric, said a Republican plan for the district will include 25 seats and will have more of a Republican tilt.

"There's a little bit of creative drawing going on here," Hamric, R-Houston said. "This is a partisan process and I'm partisan, but for the good of the county, regardless of whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, we need to maintain our 25."

Sub skipper avoids court-martial

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP) — Cmdr. Scott Waddle raised eyebrows in legal circles when he decided to testify without immunity at a Navy court of inquiry into the USS Greenville's collision with a Japanese fishing vessel.

But Waddle's attorney says the skipper's testimony may have helped him avoid a court-martial.

Japanese families had called on the Navy court of inquiry to recommend a court-martial for Waddle, who was in charge Feb. 9 when the U.S. submarine rammed the Ehime Maru during a surfacing drill and killed nine of their relatives.

At an "admiral's mast" Monday, Waddle was found guilty of two violations of military law: dereliction in performance of duties and negligent hazarding of a

vessel. Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, issued a letter of reprimand to the 41-year-old skipper and took steps to permanently remove him from command. But Fargo decided against a court-martial.

Waddle also received a two-month cut to half salary, but that punishment was suspended — meaning Waddle will receive full pay until he retires by Oct. 1.

In explanation, Fargo said Waddle "upheld the principle and tradition of accountability and took full responsibility for his actions" in the collision off Oahu.

"For a naval officer who has served 20 years to his country, I would tell you that this is absolutely devastating," Fargo said. "He has paid dearly."

Legal experts said Waddle

took a risk in testifying after Fargo denied his request for immunity. Waddle admitted some procedures weren't followed and thus provided evidence that could have been used against him in a court-martial, which could have resulted in imprisonment.

"It appeared to me at the time that it was a miscalculation because of the way the court responded to it. They were asking him very heated questions and making commentary in the questions that suggested they were very upset with him," said Honolulu attorney Jay Fidell.

But Charles Gittins, Waddle's civilian lawyer, said the initiative earned Fargo's respect.

Fargo "indicated that he was proud of Waddle's decision to testify at the Court of Inquiry absent a grant of

testimonial immunity and indicated that Scott had done the right thing by waiving his rights," Gittins said.

Waddle accepted the punishment and agreed to retire by Oct. 1. The Navy said he will receive his pension and full retirement pay.

"While I regret that my Navy career has ended in this way, I know that I am one of the lucky ones because I survived the accident," Waddle said in a statement.

The Greenville's officer of the deck and the executive officer also avoided courts-martial, drawing mixed reaction in Japan.

"With the measures taken against Waddle and others, their liability has been made clear," said Kazuhiko Koshikawa, spokesman for outgoing Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori.

Taiwan to get U.S. arms, but not all it wanted

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reacting to grumbling from Beijing, the White House said today that the new U.S. arms package for Taiwan was spurred, in part, by the 300 Chinese missiles aimed at the disputed island across the Taiwan Straits.

A Pentagon delegation led by a deputy assistant secretary informed Taiwanese officials of President Bush's decision at the National Defense University. The president is offering a variety of military equipment, including submarines, to face off a Chinese threat, while deferring sales of the item Taiwan wants most: high-tech U.S. destroyers equipped with the Aegis combat radar system.

"The presence of Chinese missiles across the strait is a reflection of what Taiwan faces and a factor the United States considers in determining what Taiwan's defense needs are," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue advised the Bush administration to "exercise prudence" and she warned of "new harm for relations" with the United States.

Arms sales to Taiwan will "seriously undermine China's sovereignty, interfere in China's internal affairs and will give rise to tension across the Taiwan Straits," she said.

The sale of the Aegis to Taiwan could worsen U.S.-Chinese relations already strained by the collision between a U.S. spy plane and a Chinese jet that led to the 11-day detention of 24 American military personnel.

The White House took pains to assuage Beijing's concerns about the arms

package. The White House also made clear that future sales to Taiwan of the state-of-the-art Aegis system still were possible given China's recent arms buildup.

"We think there is nothing in this package for China to fear," said a senior White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity. The official added that China could decrease the chances of Taiwan getting the Aegis system if Beijing becomes less aggressive militarily.

Fleischer suggested as much on Tuesday: "The best way to address this issue... is for China to take fewer actions rather than more in terms of its military presence across the straits from Taiwan, so there is less of a threat to Taiwan."

Bush approved the sale of four Kidd-class destroyers, which have a much less

potent ship-borne radar system than the Aegis, up to eight diesel submarines, 12 P-3 anti-submarine aircraft, various helicopters, assault vehicles and other arms, the senior White House official said.

Taiwan won't be able to buy some things it wanted, including JDAMS, or satellite-guided bombs, and Highspeed Anti-Radar Missiles, which are fired from aircraft.

Along with the Aegis, the administration deferred sales of Apache helicopters and tanks requested by Taiwan.

The Kidd-class system could be available by 2003, providing more immediate defense than the Aegis system, which would take until 2010 to build. The White House said Taiwan's military is not currently equipped to handle the Aegis system.

Biggest census losers are cities in Midwest, Northeast

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

They are gambling on riverboat casinos to help turn around Gary, Ind. Pittsburgh hopes a new sports stadium sparks its downtown economy, following in Baltimore's footsteps.

In the shadows of rusting steel mills and abandoned manufacturing plants, blue-collar cities turned in new directions during the past decade to revive slumping economies and lure back

families that left town. Results are mixed.

The 2000 census shows the cities that suffered the biggest drops in population were Gary, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and other once-prominent industrial locales in the Midwest and Northeast.

The good news: declines for many of the cities were not as steep as previously forecast. For instance, Baltimore's 2000 population stood at 651,000, about 85,000

people less than 1990, but 30,000 more than what experts had predicted.

In each of these places, officials trumpet grand economic development plans they say offer bright prospects for the future. But their ability to rebound will be just as important for other parts of the country as well, said Bruce Katz, director of the Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy for the Brookings Institution.

"If you look at the Southwest and the Sun Belt,

there is growing concern that they are growing way too fast," said Katz, highlighting skyrocketing housing costs and quality-of-life concerns in places like Atlanta and Las Vegas.

"The market will probably take care of some of that because you may find firms looking for regions that are more affordable," he said. "But the country benefits when all these areas find their competitive niches and balance out their assets."

Council to meet tonight

HERALD Staff Report

A couple of items of new business and addressing two items that were tabled a week ago are the main topics for Big Spring City Council, which convenes at 6:15 tonight.

The only new items for the council's attention are payment of late homestead exemption refunds and authorizing expenditures from the capital revolving fund for slides at the swimming pool. Last week, the council approved some \$48,000 to purchase the slides, which will be placed at the deep end of Comanche Trail Park Swimming Pool. The pool has been closed for a year but is undergoing renovation and should be open for Memorial Day, city officials said.

The council will also address two items that were tabled last week. One is a request to set a \$30 fee for anyone wishing copies of medical records from the emergency medical service department. The other is sale of a small lot at 800 Victory.

There are a number of items up for second reading. Those include:

- declaration of unopposed candidates Mayor Russ McEwen and District 5 Councilman Joann Smoot as elected to office;
- an ordinance amending

the purchasing procedures manual regarding dollar limits;

• final replat of Lot 1, Block 4 in the Lockhart Addition and rezoning from light commercial to planned development;

• a contract with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to removed asbestos from the building housing Wilderness Camp inmates at the airport;

• and a change order for the wastewater treatment plant improvements primary clarifier/trickling filter project.

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The Rain Forest Open House
St. Mary's Episcopal School
118 Cedar Road
Thursday, April 26

6:30-7:30 Visit the classrooms, computer room, art exhibits and more
7:00-7:30 Meal served-Hot dog, chips, dessert & drink-\$2.50 each
7:30 Music program

Bring a blanket or chairs and enjoy the meal and show!
Fall registration due by Open House



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HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, April 25:

You often reverse your position on money matters, which also could mean you have a difficult time curbing the wild spender who lies within. Avoid going with hunches. Work with the tried and true. Success comes in all walks of life if you deal with your feelings. You become a lot more "sunny" this summer when you are willing to be vulnerable. Your career demands flexibility as well as independence. If you are single, your inner circle expands midyear. As you will see, you'll have many more options as a result. You will enjoy another's company. If you are attached, your relationship warms up this summer as well. You are like two lovebirds. GEMINI can be tough on you.

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) **** Slice through problems and refuse to accept superficial answers. Demand only the best from yourself and from others. Give up gruffness or bluntness and tap into your Martian charm. Apparently, when you and another think you are speaking the same language, you're not. Tonight: Get past confusion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) *** More than most signs, to yours money

spells security. You don't need to see eye to eye with others. You need to have what you want. A tendency to be overly sensitive right now could be costing you extra. Deal with feelings and give up defenses. Tonight: Do extra work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) **** Though Gemini can be light and carefree, lately you have been unusually serious. Don't sing the blues. Be grateful for what's good in life. A friend steps forward and helps you network. This person and you see eye to eye. Tonight: Follow your pals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** Don't disclose any information that you feel uncomfortable with. Discussions are animated and dynamic if you are willing to daydream and share with a partner. Others want to do more for you. Accept someone's efforts and compliments. Tonight: Luxuriate while doing something you love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) **** Don't give up, even if someone is doing everything possible to discourage you. Your focus and determination can make all the difference in how events turn out. Take a second look at someone you meet today; destiny calls. Tonight: Midweek play.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22) *** A conversation could be discouraging if you let it get to you. Nerves are frayed - yours included. Do

something healthy for yourself. If you can, consider taking work home, where you won't be in the line of fire. A partner takes a loving action. Tonight: Forget work. Relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** Your efforts make a difference. A child or loved one could be unruly or difficult. What appears as a difficult beginning opens up new horizons. Get past an immediate stumbling block. Clearly someone is infatuated with you. Enjoy the attention. Tonight: Reach out for another.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Defer; others won't let you seize control. Stay in touch with a problem and understand another's expectations. Frustration emerges from talks that go around in circles. Think in terms of efficiency, but be nurturing to someone. Tonight: Treat yourself and a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **** Jolts challenge your patience and concentration. Others seek you out, though you might be unduly difficult. You might ask yourself what is going here. A little warmth from you warms up another considerably. Now start talking. Tonight: Follow another's lead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** Complications arise because of a risk. Don't stress yourself out when the word "no" might work even better. focus

your attention on work or a day-to-day matter. A family member pays you a compliment and means it. Tonight: Invite someone to join you on a walk.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) *** Once more, you jolt the status quo. What is going on here? Are sure you want the consequences? Express feelings in an authentic and caring way. Another responds with ease. Stir the chill out of a difficult relationship. Tonight: Lighten up and others will as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** You might be jolted by someone and a resulting realization. You could be uncomfortable dealing with others right now. No one can be more critical of you than yourself. Start easing up. Buy something special that you have coveted. Tonight: Happy at home.

BORN TODAY Newsman Edward R. Murrow (1908), singer Ella Fitzgerald (1918), actor Al Pacino (1940)

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Illegal voting practiced by women supporters

Dear Ann Landers: I read with interest the letter from the California woman whose husband filled out an absentee ballot for his

senile mother. Some years ago, I was an employee for the county. Every election, the committee women for one of the political parties would go to all the nursing homes in town to "get out the vote." In many cases, this meant holding the hand of a resident and making a mark, or signing that person's name. Most of these individuals had no idea what they were doing. Many were senile or worse.

Not one of the nursing home administrators ever questioned this despicable practice. They even cheered when one comatose patient, known to be a member of the other party, "voted" for his opponent. I'm ashamed to say I did nothing about this skullduggery because I needed my job.

These committeewomen were upstanding pillars of the community and considered themselves to be honest people. They also believed it was their duty to do whatever was necessary to defeat the other party. When I saw one of these women the other day, I asked her if she was still overseeing the nursing home vote. She said, "Of course! Voting is about all these old folks can do for their country, and we make sure they vote the right way."

How do you like that, Ann? - Observing Life in the Heartland

Dear Heart: Talk about taking advantage of unfortunate people - this practice is the bottom of the barrel. A representative from both parties should be stationed at these nursing

homes to monitor the voting process. Here is a "cause" you can do something about. Hop to it. Be a hero.

And now, the last word on the subject, I promise:

Dear Ann Landers: I am writing about the California woman whose husband registered his 80-year-old mother to vote, even though she had Alzheimer's. He completed an absentee ballot for her, which means he voted twice.

You were right to condemn the man's behavior as reprehensible, but it was also illegal, possibly violating California Elections code 18560 and Penal code 118, both felonies. The secretary of state is charged with administering election laws in California. As supervisor of the Election Fraud Investigations unit, our mission is fraud-free elections and zero tolerance for election fraud.

Please consider this a formal request for any and all information available on the identity and location of the letter-writer whose husband may have violated California election law. We fully intend on opening a criminal investigation into this matter. Thank you for your assistance. - Richard Ciaramella, Supervising Investigator, Election Fraud Investigations Unit, Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Richard Ciaramella: Thank you for the information on the election law in California. I respect your mission, but under no circumstances would I consider revealing the identity of a person who wrote to me.

A great deal of my mail arrives without a name or address, but had the writer told me her husband's name, I still would not give that information out. If my correspondent violated the law, I am sorry, but my first loyalty is to my readers who place their confidence in me. If that reader's husband did something illegal, you will have to find him on your own.



ANN LANDERS

Son's death fuels mother's fight for tough laws on booster seats

WASHINGTON (AP) - After an accident five years ago that killed her 4-year-old son - who was buckled in with a seat belt - Autumn Alexander Skeen pushed her home state of Washington to pass the country's first law requiring booster seats for children too big for infant car seats and too small for regular seat belts.

California and Arkansas have passed similar laws in the last year and about 20 other states are considering them.

"I had made my decision to put him in that seat belt based on the law," said Skeen, a writer from Walla Walla, Wash. "When I got my pieces back together, I felt the duty to examine the law, and it's an illusion. I can't tell you the outrage in

me." The seat belt was too big for her son Anton, and he died after the vehicle rolled over and he was thrown from it. His seat belt was still clicked shut.

Skeen was to testify Tuesday at a hearing on booster seats in front of the consumer affairs subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. All states require car seats for the smallest children, usually up to 4 years old, but federal data shows that less than 10 percent of children between 4 and 8 use booster seats.

"We've got the whole notion down that our most fragile human beings - infants - should be in child safety seats," said Heather Pau, executive director of

the National Safe Kids Campaign. "But when children get older, past 20 pounds, parents are taking more risks with them. We need to close the gaps in laws and the gaps in parents' understanding."

Booster seats can vary in appearance, but usually look like the seats children use to reach the table at a restaurant.

They elevate the child so the seat belt fits properly across the shoulder and lap.

Size is more important than age in determining how long to use a booster seat. The federal government recommends that children from 40 to 80 pounds and less than 4 feet 9 inches tall should always use them.

No one is sure how many deaths and injuries could be prevented if booster seats

were used more. About 500 children between 4 and 8 die each year in car accidents, making it their leading cause of death.

Doctors at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia have been collecting data on child crash injuries since 1998 and found that children who wear booster seats are at least half as likely to be injured.

Dr. Dennis Durbin, an emergency room physician who is working on the study, said internal injuries to young accident victims are so common they are known as "seat belt syndrome" in the medical community.

"When you see these kids, you ask a few questions and you realize this problem could have been prevented," Durbin said.

Consumers taking their time to make digital switch

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Broadcasters and television set makers are still trying to figure out how they can lure customers to the new digital TV technology.

Station executives, gathered here for the annual National Association of Broadcasters meeting, say digital sets - which can cost from \$2,500 to \$7,000 - are just too pricey. They want the government to require that all newly manufactured TV sets be capable of receiving a digital signal to help drive down costs and attract buyers.

No, says the consumer electronics industry, such a requirement would just drive up prices for consumers. And they assert that it's not needed anyway since sales of the new TVs are good - more than 648,000 digital TV integrated sets and monitors were sold to retailers in 2000.

What's needed, they say, are more programs in the new crystal-clear, high-definition format. Otherwise, people won't buy the sets, manufacturers say.

More TV sets or more programs?

"We have a chicken-and-egg problem where everybody is playing chicken," said Blair Levin, a regulatory analyst at Legg Mason in Washington. "I think we have a stalemate right now."

Taking a break from the fingerpointing, the broadcasters association and consumer electronics group announced a joint promotional campaign to inform consumers about digital TV products and programming on the market.

Digital programming takes up far less room on the airwaves than current analog shows. So a broadcaster could use the digital channel it gets from the government to beam shows in the high-definition format, broadcast multiple programs at once or send data to consumers' computers.

So far, CBS and PBS are among the networks that have taken the lead in providing new, high-definition shows to their audiences.

"The networks have to get

behind this," said Paul Karpowicz, a vice president at LIN Television Corporation. Offering even a few high-profile events in the new format will help bring on new viewers, he said.

Still, it seems increasingly

unlikely that analog TVs will become obsolete by 2006, the government's goal for the changeover. Broadcasters must return their analog channels to the government by 2006 or when digital TV reaches 85 percent of the market.

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SPORTS EXTRA

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed WR

Kenny Clark, OL Oscar Comeaux, DE Jeff Hazuga, OL Wes Hines, TE Jeff Kowitz, LB Shawn Paga, S Brian Russell, OL Mike Sowald and OL Bennette Wadell.

AL STANDINGS

Table with columns: Division, Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes East Division, Central Division, and West Division.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Agreed to terms with WR

Bo Williams, LB Bo Williams, LB J.J. Jones, OT Albert Traylor and K Kris Stockton.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Released DE

Mike Marmola, Signed P Jason Baker, CB Fred Booker, LB Russell, OL Mike Sowald and OL Bennette Wadell.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed WR

Kenny Clark, OL Oscar Comeaux, DE Jeff Hazuga, OL Wes Hines, TE Jeff Kowitz, LB Shawn Paga, S Brian Russell, OL Mike Sowald and OL Bennette Wadell.

Hornets sting Heat in 102-76 drubbing

MIAMI (AP) — A pair of In the only other NBA playoff game Monday night, San Antonio routed Minnesota 86-69. The Spurs lead their first-round play-off series 2-0.

MLB LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE BATTING—M Ramirez, Boston, .417; J Giambi, New York, .413; D Ortiz, Minnesota, .389; K Konerko, Chicago, .373; S Stewart, Toronto, .373; M Buehrle, Minnesota, .364; O Lincecum, Seattle, .364.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—Pujols, St. Louis, .375; L Walker, Colorado, .369; A Raulo, San Francisco, .361; B Berkman, Houston, .357; Darr, San Diego, .344; Holidsworth, Colorado, .339; Vander Wal, Pittsburgh, .333; J Belli, Arizona, .323.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League ANAHEIM ANGELS—Placed DH Glenallen Hill on the 15-day disabled list.

TEXAS LEAGUE

Tuesday's Games El Paso at San Antonio 3, El Paso 2; El Paso 3, San Antonio 0; El Paso 4, San Antonio 0.

WPHU PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7) El Paso 4, El Paso 3; El Paso 2, El Paso 1; El Paso 1, El Paso 0.

H.S. BASEBALL POLL

The Top 10 high school baseball rankings for the UIL classification as determined by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association.

RODIO MOENY LEADERS

- Professional Rodio Cowboy Association Women's Professional Rodio Association Through 22 ALL-AROUND 1. Jesse Ball, Camp Crook, S.D., \$50,010

TEAM ROPING (HEADERS)

- 1. Speed Williams, Jacksonville, Fla., \$27,322 2. Richard Eguren, Jordan Valley, Texas, \$24,811

TEAM ROPING (HEELERS)

- 1. Rich Skelton, Llano, Texas, \$27,322 2. B.J. Campbell, Benton City, Wash., \$24,831

SADDLE BRONC RIDING

- 1. Tom Reeves, Eagle Butte, S.D., \$45,868 2. Jesse Ball, Camp Crook, S.D., \$30,900

STANDINGS

- WEDNESDAY NITE TRIO WEEK # 30 RESULTS Decorator Center split with Timeless Design 4-4.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center 1601 W. 11th Place 263-1211

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OUR REPORT CARD FROM THE PROS IS IN... WE'RE WAITING ON YOUR INPUT. Golf Digest Listed THE LEGISLATOR at Capitol Hill as among the best new courses in America. Golf Magazine readers gave THE JUDGE at Capitol Hill a 5 out of 5 rating. Grand National AUBURN/OPELIKA ALABAMA

TUESDAY												APR. 24												
	KMID (2)	KPEJ (3)	KERA (5)	FAM (6)	KOSA (7)	WFAA (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	UNI (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	PM News (CC)	Fortune	Cosby (CC)	Suddenly	Wishbone	Zooonoo	Step by Step	Step by Step	News Ent. Tonight	JAG (CC)	Be a Millionaire	In Style: Celebrity Moms	NBA Basketball	Abrazame Muy Fuerte	Carita de Angel	Movie: Star Kid (CC)	Miami Vice	Movie: Runaway Bride (CC)	Movie: Men Don't Leave (CC)	Update With John Hagee	Law & Order (CC)	Wild Discovery	Prender (CC)	48 Hours
7	PM Be a Millionaire	70s Show	Titus (CC)	Scientific Frontiers	Freaks and Geeks	60 Minutes II	Dharma-Greg About Joan	Fraser (CC)	Three Sisters	Playoffs: Teams to Be Announced	NBA	Playoffs: Teams to Be Announced	Mi Destino	Eres Tu	(7:50) Movie: Spaced Invaders (CC)	Movie: A Killer in the Family (CC)	Movie: Stepmom	Movie: Queen of the Desert	Movie: 28 Days (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Biography (CC)	Prosecutors-Justice	Movie: I Know What You Did	Trauma: Life in the ER
8	PM Dharma-Greg About Joan	Dark Angel (CC)	Harvest of Fear (CC)	Freaks and Geeks	60 Minutes II	Dharma-Greg About Joan	Fraser (CC)	Three Sisters	Playoffs: Teams to Be Announced	NBA	Playoffs: Teams to Be Announced	Mi Destino	Eres Tu	(7:50) Movie: Spaced Invaders (CC)	Movie: A Killer in the Family (CC)	Movie: Stepmom	Movie: Queen of the Desert	Movie: 28 Days (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Biography (CC)	Prosecutors-Justice	Movie: I Know What You Did	Trauma: Life in the ER	
9	PM NYPD Blue	NYPD Blue	Arrest & Trial Narry (CC)	News-Lehrer	700 Club (CC)	News (3:5)	News (CC) Tonight	News (3:5) Tonight	News (3:5) Tonight	News (3:5) Tonight	News (3:5) Tonight	News (3:5) Tonight	News (3:5) Tonight	News (3:5) Tonight	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Star Kid (CC)	18 Wheels of Justice (CC)	Movie: Notting Hill	Queer as Folk (CC)	Sopranos (CC)	Update With Dr. Massey	Law & Order (CC)	Trauma: Life in the ER	
10	PM News (CC) Nightline	Politically Inc. Cheers	Spin City (CC)	Tour of Taste	Who's Boss? Who's Boss?	Show (CC) (3:37) Late	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Show (CC) (3:37) Late	Teams to Be Announced	Noche de Bienvenidos	Mickey Mouse	Walt Disney Presents	Stargate	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager
11	PM News (CC) Nightline	Politically Inc. Cheers	Spin City (CC)	Tour of Taste	Who's Boss? Who's Boss?	Show (CC) (3:37) Late	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Show (CC) (3:37) Late	Teams to Be Announced	Noche de Bienvenidos	Mickey Mouse	Walt Disney Presents	Stargate	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	
12	AM Paid Program	Judge-Brown Cops (CC)	Judge-Brown Cops (CC)	Tour of Taste	Who's Boss? Who's Boss?	Show (CC) (3:37) Late	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Show (CC) (3:37) Late	Teams to Be Announced	Noche de Bienvenidos	Mickey Mouse	Walt Disney Presents	Stargate	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	Star Trek: Voyager	

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I HAD A CHOICE BETWEEN STAYING CLEAN OR HAVIN' FUN."

FAMILY CIRCUS

"How old do you hafta be to write all the letters hooked together?"

HAGAR

"YOU KNOW, IT ISN'T OFTEN WE HAVE A CHANCE TO SIT AND REALLY TALK TO ONE ANOTHER!"

"HEY! HOW ABOUT THOSE HINS?!"

B.C.

"WHAT KIND OF OIL DO CHRISTIANS USE TO ANOINT THINGS, ANNO?"

"HMM... ANNO NOT SURE."

"... GOTTA BE 'SINI' OIL!"

GEECH

"HEY, YOU GOT MY SIDEBURNS EVEN?"

"I DID?"

"I WONDER HOW THAT HAPPENED?"

WIZARD OF ID

"ROBBING HOOD IS STEALING FROM THE POOR."

"WHAT FOR?... WE HAVE TAXES FOR THAT."

HI AND LOIS

"I'M HAVING SOME LADIES OVER, CHIP. SO NO BAND PRACTICE!"

"BUT WE HAVE TO TRY OUT SOME NEW EQUIPMENT!"

"BUT WE DON'T KNOW ANY SOFT ROCK!"

GASOLINE ALLEY

"Rover! You two-timing worm!"

"Delicia! Let me explain!"

"OK! Explain what she's doing here!"

"I-I can't!"

"He sent me an E-mail to come!"

"If you intend to fight, please do so outside!"

SNUFFY SMITH

"FUST -- PAW'S GOIN' TO TH' BARN DANCE-- THEN HE'S NOT GOIN'-- THEN HE IS GOIN'--"

"CHANGEABLE YOUNG-UN!! JEST LIKE YORE PAW"

BETLE BAILY

"WE TOLD EVERYONE YOU WERE HERE TO LISTEN TO COMPLAINTS"

"GOOD"

"IT'S NOT SO GOOD AT CAMP SWAMPY"

BLONDIE

"EXCUSE ME, I'VE BEEN HOLDING FOR 22 MINUTES AND I'M STILL WAITING FOR YOU TO CALL THIS NUMBER!"

"TWENTY-TWO MINUTES? ARE YOU SURE?"

"IF YOU CONTINUE TO HOLD FOR ANOTHER SIX MINUTES, YOU'LL SET A NEW STORE RECORD!"

"SOMETIMES I WISH I WERENT SO DARN COMPETITIVE"

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, April 24, the 114th day of 2001. There are 251 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 24, 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress.

On this date:

- In 1792, the national anthem of France, "La Marseillaise," was composed by Capt. Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle.
- In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States after rejecting America's ultimatum to withdraw from Cuba.
- In 1915, the Ottoman Turkish Empire began the brutal mass deportation of Armenians during World War I.
- In 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists launched the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin. (The uprising was put down by British forces several days later.)
- In 1953, British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.
- In 1968, leftist students at Columbia University in New York began a week-long occupation of several campus buildings.
- In 1970, the People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which repeatedly transmitted a song, "The East is Red."
- In 1980, the United States launched an abortive attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen.
- In 1986, Wallis, the Duchess of Windsor, for whom King Edward VIII had given up the British throne, died in Paris at age 89.
- In 1990, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., carrying the \$1.5 billion Hubble Space Telescope.

Today's Birthdays: Critic Stanley Kauffmann is 85. Actor J.D. Cannon is 79. Actress Shirley MacLaine is 67. Author Sue Grafton is 61. Actress-singer-director Barbra Streisand is 59. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 59. Country singer Richard Sterban (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 58. Rock musician Doug Clifford (Creedence Clearwater Revival) is 56. Actor-playwright Eric Bogosian is 48. Actor Michael O'Keefe is 46. Rock musician David J (Bauhaus) is 44.

Newsday Crossword

DEAL ME IN by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS

- 1 McCarthy aide
- 5 Dust specks
- 10 Erupt
- 14 Eye layer
- 15 Diminish over time
- 16 Bar mitzvah dance
- 17 Auction duel
- 19 Similar in nature
- 20 Hit the tab key, perhaps
- 21 About to happen
- 23 Removes, as a coupon
- 25 Complete
- 26 Hockey great Bobby
- 27 Santa __, CA
- 28 Sprat's taboo
- 31 Football feature
- 35 Diplomat Abba
- 37 Not o'er
- 39 Eros, to the Romans
- 40 __ with faint praise
- 42 "Outer" word form
- 43 Washington's subway
- 45 Khartoum's river
- 46 Cordelia's father
- 47 Industrious insect
- 48 Prefix for owned or occupied
- 50 Right-angle shape
- 52 Margarine
- 54 Lets go
- 59 Salon offering
- 62 Pre-cable hookup
- 63 Jason's craft
- 64 The Golden Gate, for one

DOWN

- 66 Jockey's strap
- 67 USPS alternative
- 68 Model Macpherson
- 69 Some recyclables
- 70 Pop singer Taylor
- 71 Vichyssoise veggie
- 6 Nonprofit-website suffix
- 7 Nameley
- 8 Cheese in a ball
- 9 Church speech
- 10 Alan Ladd role
- 11 Hard-to-read countenance
- 12 Leprechaun's land
- 13 Crave
- 18 Not __ many words
- 22 "Terrible" czar
- 24 Suave
- 27 Shakers' founder
- 29 "___ boy!"
- 30 Hammer-wielding god
- 31 Tibetan priest
- 32 Prayer conclusion
- 33 Whitney invention
- 34 Make a mess of things
- 36 Jack Horner's last words
- 38 Snakelike fish
- 41 Of interest to purchasers
- 44 Crude cartel
- 49 Beat decisively
- 51 Amorous gaze
- 53 Detroit footballers
- 54 Pass along
- 55 Sharon of Israel
- 56 Advance furtively
- 57 Boy Scout rank
- 58 Built for speed
- 59 Artist Chagall
- 60 Expanse
- 61 "Arrivederci, ___"
- 65 Author Yutang

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71