

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY

January 15, 2002

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY
TONIGHT 35°-40° TOMORROW 65°-67°

Key Club sets talent show for Thursday

The Key Club will stage its first Big Spring High School Talent Show at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium.

Ten or more acts — singers, dancers, bands, comedy and more — will be competing in the event. Those attending may purchase drinks and homemade cookies at intermission.

Tickets are \$2 in advance or \$3 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased from Key Club members or from Suzzan Nutting, Key Club sponsor, in Room 111 at the High School. All proceeds will be used to help Key Club members attend the district convention in Corpus Christi.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 6 p.m. in the high school band hall.

□ Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner with meeting to follow. First and Goliad. All Masons are welcome to attend.

□ Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Howard County Library, 500 Main.

□ Big Spring Chapter 67, Order of the Eastern Star meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

WEDNESDAY

□ Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. at the Howard College Cactus Room.

□ Senior Circle Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics meets at the SMMC cafeteria at 10 a.m.

□ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

□ 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. Call 398-5522 or 267-1628.

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Dignitaries expected for chamber banquet

HERALD Staff Report

Several dignitaries plan to be in attendance tonight for the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet, set to begin at 5:15 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Among those expected to be in attendance are State Sen. Robert Duncan, House Speaker Pete Laney, State

Rep. David Counts and representatives of U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm's office and State Sen. Teel Bivins' office.

The banquet will include a hotdog/hamburger supper and entertainment by three area high school bands.

Outgoing and incoming board members will be rec-

See **BANQUET**, Page 2



Decorating Committee members Jan Forsythe, left, and Carolyn Freeman prepare the head table's centerpiece this morning for tonight's Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. The banquet, scheduled for 5:15 p.m., will feature a patriotic theme and a hot dog and hamburger supper.

HERALD photo/Roger Cline

Committed to education

ALON donates funds to buy 12 computer systems for local students

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

"Dude, you're getting a Dell!"

The familiar television commercial catch phrase will soon apply to 12 lucky sixth graders at Goliad Elementary School.

David Weissmann, president and CEO of ALON Israel Oil Inc. was at ALON USA's Big Spring refinery Monday to present a \$10,000 check to Mayor Russ McEwen.

"You made this gift to us and it was very generous, and you said you'd like to see it benefit the youth of the community," McEwen told Weissmann. "What we're going to be doing is, we're going to be purchasing computers, and I've worked with Dell in Austin and believe it or not we got 12 complete systems for \$10,000."

McEwen said he discussed the gift with Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Murray Murphy and Goliad Principal Brenda Gainey.

"We thought that sixth grade would be the area that would benefit the most," he said. "They're



ALON Israel Oil Inc. president and CEO David Weissmann, right, presents a \$10,000 check to Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen. The money will be used to purchase 12 computer systems for Goliad Elementary sixth graders. In the background from left to right are international bankers Amir Varash of Israeli Bank of New York City and Malkiel Shahar and Gil Hershman, both of Leumi Bank of Tel Aviv, Israel.

HERALD photo/Roger Cline

going off to junior high, the middle school, and then into high school."

Students' eligibility to receive one of the systems will be based on four criteria, he said.

"It is attendance, behavior, grades and then obviously, need," he said. "It's amazing how many kids do not have computers. (Gainey) has kids coming

in at 7 every morning to try to get on the computers in the computer lab."

The gift will have benefits far beyond the young students that actually receive the machines, McEwen said.

"It will affect the kids involved, obviously, the sixth graders, but also their siblings, and even some of the parents in these lower-

income areas are saying, 'I want to go back to school,' and so it will enhance an entire family, and we feel our entire community as we try to raise the standard."

Weissmann said that ALON has a commitment to improving the quality of life for children in its com-

See **ALON**, Page 2

Council shelves proposed changes to charter

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

"If it's not broke, don't fix it."

Leo Welsh of Big Spring addressed the familiar aphorism to the Big Spring City Council at their workshop on amending the city charter Monday night.

About 15 Big Spring residents showed up to listen and provide input at the workshop.

After about an hour of discussion, the council agreed with Welsh, deciding that, while the city charter might be a bit untidy, there is no pressing need for revision.

"I guess the bottom line is we looked at it," Mayor Russ McEwen said following the meeting. "We thought we needed a charter election and as we looked at



WELSH GARCIA

the situation and what we would accomplish by that, it really would not make that much difference from a practical standpoint."

McEwen said there are several provisions in the charter that are in conflict with the state or federal constitution, but said there will not be a problem as long as the city doesn't try to enforce those provisions. Holding an election for a

simple clean-up of the charter isn't really worth it, McEwen said.

"What I heard the council say, and I don't disagree with it at all, is we would be spending money and getting no return for that money," he said. "Why spend the money and have an election when the outcome would not be something that would make any difference in the quality for the citizens of Big Spring?"

Of the proposed amendments, only three would have made a substantive difference in city operations.

Proposition 2 would have deleted the requirement that resolutions be read at two meetings prior to passage; Proposition 4 would have increased the term of office of city council mem-

bers from three years to four years; and Proposition 10 would have deleted the requirement that itemized accounts, or vouchers, be audited and allowed directly by the city council.

Councilman Oscar Garcia originated Proposition 4.

"Unless you have been involved with government in some form or fashion, it really takes you at least a year or two years to get your feet solidly on the ground," he said. "The third year, you can start looking at how to bring projects about into the community that will help your district, the district you represent. Once you get that started, the third year comes around and at the end of that year

See **COUNCIL**, Page 2

Katie Walker joins Texas Cooperative Extension staff

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

A new addition to the Texas Cooperative Extension and four new additions to the Howard County Sheriff's Office led the agenda at the county's commissioner's court meeting Monday morning. Commissioners approved



WALKER

hiring Katie Walker of Midland as the extension's new family and consumer science agent.

"I grew up in 4-H and FFA and attended Texas Women's University in family and consumer science," she said. "I was born and raised around 4-H projects."

Walker replaces Dana Tarter in the position. Tarter moved to the Fort Worth area in July, taking a position with the Tarrant County extension.

Walker said she has the education and background

experience, but will have to pick the job up as she goes along.

"It's the food nutrition, and clothing and textiles," she said. "I'm just going to have to go and read to find out what all they're expecting, because I'm not real sure yet."

She officially began her duties today.

In other business, the commissioners approved a bid from Pollard Chevrolet for four new cruisers for the sheriff's department. Pollard, the low bidder,

offered to sell the cars for \$18,670 each, or a total \$74,680. The only other bidder, Bob Brock Ford, asked for \$21,185 per car, or \$84,740.

The county had budgeted \$80,000 for the vehicles, and Sheriff Dale Walker asked the commissioners to allow him to use the difference, \$5,320, for lights and sirens for the vehicles. Commissioners agreed.

County Librarian Hollis McCright told commissioners that the library will be receiving \$5,344 in direct

aid from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

"This is the first year that Texas has done direct aid to libraries," she said, adding that the state library commission plans to offer the aid every two years.

"The funds can be used for salaries, supplies, books..." McCright said, adding that she plans to use the money to start building a DVD collection, buy tables for the community room and hire temporary help for the summer reading program.

BSISD

Public forums set to discuss closing school, alternatives

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Citing a continued decline in enrollment and financial concerns, Big Spring Independent School District administrators recommended Monday closing Anderson Kindergarten next school year and moving kindergarten students to neighborhood campuses.



MURPHY

To help facilitate the transfer of students from Anderson, administrators also recommended transforming Goliad Elementary into a district-wide fifth and sixth-grade center.

Fifth-grade would still remain an elementary concept grade, said superintendent Murray Murphy.

Rural and country students would move from the Washington Elementary campus to other K-4 campuses to accommodate Goliad students.

Murphy said parents would still be allowed to transfer their children to other schools, depending on space available of the school.

All decline in personnel from the change would be taken care of through attrition, Murphy said. Steve Waggoner, current principal at Anderson Kindergarten, would be transferred to another elementary campus.

The district has scheduled public forums at each of the elementary schools to solicit a possible alternative plan to the recommendation.

"This is their chance to not so much question the recommendations but to hear if they have a better alternative plan because the issue is clearly declining enrollment and we are faced with doing something," Murphy said.

The hearings are scheduled are: Washington Elementary, 6:30 p.m.

See **BSISD**, Page 2

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OBITUARIES

Roger Hicks

Graveside service for Roger Hicks, 55, of Carlsbad Texas, was held at 2 p.m. today, Jan. 15, 2002, at Coahoma Cemetery. Mr. Hicks died Sunday, Jan. 13. He was born on Dec. 13, 1946, in Big Spring. Survivors include one sister, Joyce Barrett of Coahoma; three brothers, Henry Hicks of Lubbock, and Bob Hicks and Rick Hicks, both of Coahoma. Arrangements are under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Velma Lindsey

Graveside service for Velma "Tillie" Lindsey, 87, of Sand Springs was held at Jan. 14, 2002, at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Jim Binnix, pastor of Midway Baptist Church, officiating. Mrs. Lindsey died Saturday, Jan. 12, at a local hospital following a short illness. She was born on March 7, 1914, in Hood County and married Johnny W. Lindsey in July 1940. He preceded her in death on Aug. 2, 1980. She moved to Howard County in 1923 from Hood County and was a member of Midway Baptist Church. She was a homemaker. Survivors include two sons, Lloyd Lindsey of Sand Springs and Bob Lindsey of Big Spring; one daughter, Pat Childers of Amarillo; one sister, Dorothy Barnhill of Graham; three brothers, Hack Hudgins and Pete Hudgins, both of Big Spring and Alvin Hudgins of Corbin; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



bad times, we'll be here for the children. We think it's very important. And the children everywhere, they are the same. The children in Israel are no different. If we invest a lot in the children, the world will be much better." Murphy said the gift to the children of Big Spring is very welcome. "It's just a great confidence-builder for kids," he said. Gainey said that only about 25 percent of the sixth graders in the district have computers in their homes. Also on hand at the presentation of the check were ALON USA President and CEO Jeff Morris, ALON USA Big Spring refinery manager Joe Conclenne and international bankers Amir Varash of Israeli Bank of New York City and Malkiel Shahar and Gil Hersham, both of Leumi Bank of Tel Aviv, Israel.

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BANQUET

Continued from Page 1
ognized and highlighting the evening is the announcement of the Man and Woman of the Year. Past recipients of the Man and Woman of the Year, Susan Lewis and Tommy Churchwell, will present this year's honors. The evening will be capped off by the first viewing of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau's CD-Rom, featuring information about the Big Spring area. The CD-Rom will be used to attract tourism and for those thinking about relocating to the area. Terry McDaniel, Chamber of Commerce president-elect, will be the master of ceremonies for the evening. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$3 for children age 11 or younger. To reserve tickets, call the Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641.

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COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1
you're facing re-election. You want to spend at least the last three or four months of that year working on re-election." Garcia said extending the term of office to four years would allow council members to concentrate more attention on projects and less on campaigning. "By extending it to four years, you would at least not have to worry about any project you began to have to carry on and succeed before you have to face election again," he said. "As it is right now, you may begin a program, and if you don't get re-elected, your program might end right there." Garcia said he agrees with the rest of the council that the issue isn't important enough to necessitate a charter election by itself. "It's not really a burning issue," he said. "I wish we could have more of the council members going for it, but even they seemed to be in apathy about voting for it. Unfortunately, I think that's effecting the community as well." Several of the proposed amendments were designed to clarify the recall process, but were based on the way the city handles recall elections anyway, said City Attorney Jean Shotts. At the workshop, McEwen broached the possibility of doing away with the recall provision in the charter altogether. After the meeting, the mayor said he won't

pursue the issue as mayor, but after leaving office he would be interested in seeing the city do away with the recall provision. "I would very strongly as a citizen support an effort to get rid of the recall provision," he said. "I believe that that's what elections are all about, that you elect people for a certain term, you ask them to do the job, they should do that job. Then once they come up for re-election then you say, 'They did a good job, I'm going to retain them,' or 'They did a poor job and I'm going to get rid of them.'"

BSISD

Continued from Page 1

Tuesday, Jan. 22; Goliad Elementary, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24; Kentwood Elementary, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31; Moss Elementary, 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 4; Marcy Elementary, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5; and Bauer Magnet, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7. Parents who have students attending Anderson Elementary are welcome to attend any of the six meetings to address their concerns, Murphy said. Each meeting will open with an approximately 15-minute speech by Murphy followed by an open forum. Each person will be limited to three minutes to speak, due to time constraints. The board of trustees will be present at each forum to listen to each of the speakers but will not be responding to any statements, Murphy added. According to Murphy, the recommendation is based on a study provided by professional demographer Keslie Johnston of Johnston and Associates and a facility study by the BSISD staff. The district has lost about 600 students in K through sixth grade in the last 10 years and currently has elementary that are underutilized, Murphy said. The district is also facing financial constraints and limited revenues. "This recommendation comes from a consensus of the administration and all our principals," Murphy said.

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Women who protested school, released from prison

PEKIN, Ill. (AP) — Seven women, including an 89-year-old nun, were released from federal custody Monday after serving six-month sentences for trespassing at a Georgia school that trains Latin American soldiers. The women were convicted last summer of trespassing during a protest at what was once known as the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga. Among the seven were three Roman Catholic nuns:

BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Sisters Dorothy Hennessey, 89, Gwen Hennessey, 68, of Dubuque, Iowa, and Elizabeth Anne McKenzie, 72, of St. Paul, Minn. At a news conference at the Pekin Federal Prison Camp, McKenzie and others pledged to continue protesting at the school, now called the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, which they accuse of training soldiers who have been linked to murder, torture and other human rights abuses.

Idaho court rules motorists may drive under influence of marijuana

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In Idaho, you can drive high as long as you can drive straight. Marijuana users can drive legally in the state as long as their driving isn't erratic and they can pass a field sobriety test, a federal appeals court ruled Monday. The three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals wrote that while it is illegal to drive under the influence of alcohol or narcotics, Idaho law doesn't list marijuana as a narcotic. The ruling overturned an impaired driving conviction against Matthew Patzer, 21, who was stopped for a broken taillight in 1998 and admitted to police he'd smoked marijuana at a party. The appeals court said Patzer could not automatically be presumed impaired; he wasn't driving erratically and passed two field sobriety tests. "Given the distinction drawn by the statute, there is no basis to conclude that impairment may be presumed upon admission of use of a non-narcotic drug," the appeals court wrote. Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Fica in Idaho said the government may ask the court to review its decision or request that the U.S. Supreme Court hear the case.

Students may register for any courses not filled. A \$5 late registration fee applies. This time is also available for students to add classes to their spring schedule or drop courses. For more information call 264-5083.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 506, located at 3203 W. Hwy 80, will have a fish fry from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$5 per plate. Carry out available. Phone 263-2085. Everyone welcome.

THE CITY OF BIG SPRING Water Utilities Department will be replacing a 10 inch valve in the water system. Date of repair will be Jan. 18 from 11 p.m. until completion. Customers in the following areas will experience low or no water pressure — Auburn St., 11th Place from Baylor to Columbia, also affected will be anyone who pays a water bill to the city of Coahoma, including — Midway area, Sand Springs community, city of Coahoma and 11th Place Ext. from FM 700 to Moss Lake Road. If you have any questions please contact Jim Piper, D&C Supervisor at 915-264-

TEXAS LOTTERY

PICK 3: 2,2,2
CASH 5: 10,17,30,31,35
2392.
Erich Byerly, Ob/Gyn and Kim Shafer, BSN,MSN, Family Nurse Practitioner. The forum will be held Jan. 21, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the parish hall of St. Paul Lutheran Church. For more information call Carol Hanes at 264-7442. The club's regular meeting will be held immediately following the forum at 8:30 p.m.

HOWARD COLLEGE'S FINANCIAL AID Night at Big Spring High School has been rescheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the high school cafeteria. A special talent show presented by Key Club members is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Call the Student Assistance Center at Howard College at 264-5083 for more information about Financial Aid Night or the high school at 264-3641 for information about the talent show.

LATE REGISTRATION FOR THE spring 2002 semester at Howard College is set for today through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Friday.

Students may register for any courses not filled. A \$5 late registration fee applies. This time is also available for students to add classes to their spring schedule or drop courses. For more information call 264-5083.

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FIRE/EMS

The following is a summary of the Big Spring Fire Department and EMS:
2:39 a.m. — 600 block of E. 23rd, medical call, one patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
10:28 a.m. — 300 block of Gregg, medical call, one patient transported to VA Medical Center.
11:40 a.m. — 100 block of Robinson Rd., medical call, one patient transported to SMMC.

RECORDS

Monday's high 58
Monday's low 31
Record high 77 in 1936
Record low 6 in 1972
Average high 57
Average low 27
Precip. Monday 0.00
Month to date 0.16
Year to date 0.16
Sunrise Wednesday 7:47 a.m.
Sunset Wednesday 8:04 p.m.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police reported the following activity from noon Saturday until 8 a.m. today:
• FREDERICO MARTINEZ, 41, address unknown, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication and for a probation violation.
• VIRGINIA TERRELL, 62, of 1012 W. Third St. was arrested to hold for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.
• MINOR ACCIDENTS were reported in the 300 block of Northeast 10th Street, the 1500 block of State Street, the 1800 block of South Gregg Street, the 700 block of East 11th Place
• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported in the 4100 block of Parkway Road

W.M. Hyden

Funeral service for W.M. "Bill" Hyden, 74, of Big Spring, is pending with Valley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Mr. Hyden died Monday, Jan. 14, 2002, at a Lubbock hospital.

ALON

Continued from Page 1
munities. "There are good times in the refinery, and there are bad times in the refinery," he said. "And so you know, in the good times and the

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
(915) 267-6331
www.npwelch.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
Betty O. Rodriguez, 65, died Sunday. Services are 10:30 AM today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be in Mt. Olive Cemetery.
Pearl Grissam, 82, died Friday. Graveside services are 2:00 PM today at Trinity Memorial Park.

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Russia

WASHINGTON Russian militia is holding two with top Pentagon on cooperating terrorism threeing a new militia ship overall. The two sides ways to shield against a terror especially from rogue states, a administration The Associates. On the prospective exercises

Subsid

WASHINGTON The Bush administration insists it still settlement European Union avert \$4 billion sanctions in the the United States lost before the Organization. The United States, could be ru options fast in ning dispute. Without a t agreement, E start in early sanctions again ucts. The fight i breaks the U provides to mo U.S. exporter: corporate giant Microsoft, E General Electric. On Monday, appeals panel

Newsp

Israel

WASHINGTON The United States of Israel track do of Iranian-ma that Israel c headed for Pale Washington Ti Tuesday. The ship, th captained by a was boarded by mandos in the 5. It carried 50 tars, rockets,

Second

PITTSBURGH second Iraqi in pleaded guilty obtaining a dr that allowed h port hazardous Ali Al-Ubiady of 20 men of M descent charge a former l Department Transportation bypass state o for truckers w generous payroll The federal o announced September an that terrorists Sept. 11 attac planning strik trucks hauling materials. Federal pro said none of th — who were Pennsylvania, Michigan, Tennessee, Washington s been linked to plots.

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Russian delegation opens talks with Pentagon officials on strategic cooperation

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Russian military delegation is holding two days of talks with top Pentagon officials on cooperating against new terrorism threats and creating a new military relationship overall.

The two sides will look for ways to shield themselves against a terrorist attack, especially from so-called rogue states, a senior Bush administration official told The Associated Press.

On the agenda are prospective joint military exercises with the

American and Russian troops, based on the concept that the United States and Russia have long ceased being adversaries and are now friends, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Still, there are areas of difference, including Russian technology sales to Iran, the official said. Iran is believed to be engaged in a program to develop nuclear weapons and American officials fear that Russian technology could give the program a boost.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks heightened Russia's interest in countering terrorism and cooperating with the United States against it, the official said.

The two countries are not in a hostile relationship and have met several times in Washington and Moscow since the onset of the Bush administration a year ago to plot joint efforts. The official said Russia clearly was interested in working with the United States on joint improvements in security that could produce an

understanding when President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin hold talks next spring in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Last week another senior U.S. official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States would be willing to help Russia in an anti-missile venture and provide technology for such a program.

The Bush administration is embarked on an ambitious program to develop a shield against a missile attack from such states as

Iran and North Korea, as well as terrorist cells, and Bush is withdrawing the United States from a 1972 treaty with Moscow that barred the kind of missile defense tests now in the offing.

At the same time the two sides are committed to major reductions in the arsenals of strategic offensive nuclear weapons.

At their November meetings in Washington and in Texas, Bush pledged to cut back to 1,700 to 2,200 long-range warheads from the

current U.S. level of about 7,000. Putin said Russia, which has about 6,000 strategic warheads, would respond in kind.

However, the Russian leader suggested that mutual reductions be incorporated into a treaty. Bush, who has voiced skepticism about such binding agreements, did not go along with that suggestion.

But since their meetings, senior U.S. officials have expressed a willingness to "put something on paper" if Russia insisted on it.

Subsidies remain critical in trade negotiations; officials think compromise possible

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration insists it still can reach a settlement with the European Union that would avert \$4 billion in trade sanctions in the biggest case the United States has ever lost before the World Trade Organization.

The United States, however, could be running out of options fast in the long-running dispute.

Without a breakthrough agreement, Europe could start in early April levying sanctions against U.S. products.

The fight involves tax breaks the United States provides to more than 6,000 U.S. exporters, including corporate giants such as Microsoft, Boeing and General Electric.

On Monday, a WTO appeals panel upheld an

original WTO ruling that the U.S. tax break violates WTO rules because it represents an export subsidy.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, who warned last year that imposing trade sanctions would be like detonating a "nuclear bomb" on U.S.-EU relations, said on Monday he was disappointed that a WTO appeals panel had not overturned the original ruling.

He said the administration would decide on its next actions only after full consultation between Congress and U.S. businesses who take advantage of the tax break.

There has been speculation that the issue might be resolved in some sort of trade-off in which the United States would drop its effort to impose quotas on

steel imports, which Europe strongly opposes, in return for an end to Europe's demand for sanctions in the tax case.

A U.S. trade official rejected any such trade-off Monday. "We have been working with the EU to resolve the (tax) issue, and it is not constructive to bring in extraneous issues," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said a negotiated settlement remains possible, pointing to Zoellick's success in resolving a long-running fight with Europe over bananas last year.

EU officials are making it clear that time is running out for the United States to eliminate the subsidy and avert the allowed 100 percent tariffs on up to \$4 billion in U.S. products.

Such punitive tariffs

essentially would eliminate targeted goods from European shelves.

The \$4 billion figure compares with annual U.S. exports to Europe of more than \$165 billion.

Under procedural rules accepted by the EU and the former Clinton administration, both sides will allow Monday's ruling to go into effect by Jan. 28. That would clear the way for a WTO

arbitration panel to consider over the next 60 days the appropriate level for sanctions.

Some members of Congress have suggested the United States should consider scrapping the tax break in an overhaul of the U.S. tax system that would bring American policies into compliance with world trade rules.

Representatives of U.S.

companies retort that such a move would come at a terrible time.

"As America struggles to recover from recession, U.S. companies shouldn't have to face an annual tax increase of more than \$4 billion or comparably expensive trade sanctions imposed by the EU," said Michael Baroody, executive vice president of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Newspaper says U.S. intelligence helped Israel find ship carrying weapons cache

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States helped Israel track down a shipload of Iranian-made weapons that Israel contends was headed for Palestinians, The Washington Times reported Tuesday.

The ship, the Karine A, captained by a Palestinian, was boarded by Israeli commandos in the Red Sea Jan. 8.

It carried 50 tons of mortars, rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, small arms and explosives.

The Palestinian Authority has denied any links to the weapons.

The Times, quoting unnamed U.S. intelligence officials, said Israel had approached the CIA last month with a request for help in locating a ship believed to be carrying arms for the Palestinian Authority.

"U.S. intelligence agen-

cies, using various high-tech intelligence-gathering means, were able to identify the Karine A after it loaded the weapons near Iran's Kish Island, some 300 miles north of the major Iranian naval port of Bandar Abbas," the newspaper said.

Yarden Vatikay, a spokesman for Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, declined to comment on the Times story.

Second defendant pleads guilty in license scam

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A second Iraqi immigrant has pleaded guilty to illegally obtaining a driver's license that allowed him to transport hazardous materials.

Ali Al-Ubiedy, 34, was one of 20 men of Middle Eastern descent charged with bribing a former Pennsylvania Department of Transportation official to bypass state examinations for truckers who carry dangerous payloads.

The federal charges were announced in late September amid reports that terrorists linked to the Sept. 11 attacks might be planning strikes involving trucks hauling hazardous materials.


Federal prosecutors have said none of the defendants — who were arrested in Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas and Washington state — have been linked to any terrorist plots.

The first man charged, Alawi Al-Baraa, 33, pleaded guilty in December to a count of fraudulently obtaining a federal identification document. He admitted paying to get the license so he could work at a trucking company.

The defendants face federal charges because while

the state issues driver's licenses, the federal government makes the rules about who qualifies to haul hazardous materials.

The license examiner alleged to have accepted the bribes was indicted by a federal grand jury in October and has been charged in a separate investigation.



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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 A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Ken Dulaney
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Thankful for partners like ALON

In this space on Monday we applauded efforts of three Howard County churches and Wal-Mart in combining to ensure that needy young students would have the school supplies they need. Now comes word of another show of generosity aimed at benefiting students.

Yesterday, ALON Israel Oil Inc. President and CEO David Weissmann handed a \$10,000 check to Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen. In an agreement mapped out by city and school officials, those funds will be used to purchase computer systems for 12 sixth graders attending Goliad Elementary School.

The students who receive the computer systems will be chosen based on four important categories: attendance, behavior, grades and need.

This donation is something that will benefit not only the students and schools, but has the potential to be a real boost to entire families. Studies show that only about 25 percent of the sixth graders in the district have computers in their homes. Yet, as we all know, computers and computer technology are basic elements of education today.

These 12 systems will allow not only the children who receive them to benefit, but their siblings and parents as well.

This gift by ALON USA is a wonderful commitment to our youth and to our community and we join in the city and school district by extending our heartfelt thanks to a good and valued corporate citizen.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

During the month of December, persons who owed fines to the Howard County Library were able to pay their fines with canned food.

The library collected 322 pounds of food and \$54 was contributed to the West Texas Food Bank.

I would like to thank all of you who participated in this program. The food and funds that were given are used to help those who are in need of assistance. Thanks again for your help.

HOLLIS McCRIGHT
DIRECTOR, HOWARD
COUNTY LIBRARY

TO THE EDITOR:

On behalf of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 47 and Auxiliary of Big Spring, I hope everyone was able to end this past year on a good note and get off on the right foot for the new year.

The chapter has had a busy, and I believe, a rewarding year in several ways. While we have lost four comrades in death in the past six months, we have been able to help so many more in need through many different means.

For that, I thank the people of Big Spring and surrounding communities for their generous support. I owe a big belated thank you to the Decorator Center for donating carpet

for the auxiliary, West Texas Discount Flooring, for the donation of the tile for flooring and Walmart for donating a gift certificate for Thanksgiving.

Because of all of you coming together and giving from the heart, we can continue "Serving Those Who Served." I'm looking forward to a challenging new year doing just that.

I ask that you support and pray for our leaders and fellow Americans, as well as our allies, who are laying their lives on the line in quest of bring our enemies to justice, so that we may maintain our freedoms.

God Bless these United States of America

ED MEISER,
COMMANDER
DAV CHAPTER 47

TO THE EDITOR:

Words cannot express our deepest and sincere appreciation to Big Spring's "Men in Blue".

We recently took an extended leave from our fine city and notified the Big Spring Police Department of our intentions. The "House Watch Program" gave us peace of mind while we were away.

Thanks to Chief Lonnie Smith and his great department for the attention that was provided to our property. It is reassuring to see that we are blessed with such dedicated professionals. Keep up the good work!

MR. & MRS. PAUL
ABUNDEZ

Justice system in need of repair

And a happy New Year to all the friendly folks at the Henry Cisneros' special prosecutor's office, now coming up on its seventh year.

Cisneros, who left office five ago as Clinton's housing secretary, is back in San Antonio doing good works in the area of affordable housing. But his special prosecutor David Barrett, like Ol' Man River, he just keeps rolling along.

Cisneros, having long since pleaded to a misdemeanor and paid a \$10,000 fine, is no longer a target of investigation, but Barrett is reportedly still investigating someone who did or did not tell him something about Cisneros. It's bound to be a high crime, since the entire flap was over whether Cisneros had lied to the FBI — not about whether he had given money to his ex-mistress (an affair that was both over and public knowledge

well before Cisneros ever went to Washington) — but about how much he had paid her.

So the moral here is: Don't ever lie to the FBI about how much you have paid an ex-mistress, even if it's common knowledge that you have done so. The Cisneros special prosecutor costs the taxpayers over \$2 million a year and is no doubt worth every penny.

The special prosecutor law is now dead, too, Congress having realized that it had created a Frankenstein monster — but there is no way to kill off Barrett's office.

In another revolting development, Andrea Yates — the Houston mother who drowned her five children in the bathtub — is the poster woman for a long-needed change in the law. Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal is now indicating that he may not seek the death penalty after all, but will go for a life sentence in exchange for a guilty plea.

This woman needs to be put in a mental hospital, not put to death or in prison for life. She's clearly insane — almost as insane as the Texas criminal justice system. Yates has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. Well, she's

guilty. She killed her five kids and then called the police to report that she'd done it. Nothing can make her not guilty of that hideous act, but she is not a responsible person. The system needs a plea of "guilty but insane." Insanity is not cured by putting people in a Texas prison. It's not good for those with mental health problems.

What are we saying by prosecuting this woman? That we don't think there is such a thing as mental illness? Exactly how benighted do we want to prove we are in the year 2002? Yates had a history of post-partum psychotic depression and had tried to kill herself twice. In 1999, when she had four children, doctors told her and her husband she should not have another because of the psychosis.

Two weeks before the murders, she was taken off anti-psychotic medication and put on anti-depressants. She went downhill, and her husband begged her doctors to put her back on the stronger meds. She was described as being in a "zombie-like state" at the beginning of her incarceration and has since been put back on Haldol, the anti-psychotic often prescribed

for those who hear voices or are thinking delusionally.

Do people think she would be "getting away" with murder? Do they think she's faking her illness? What possible solution to this tragedy can be offered by the criminal "justice" system?

While the Yates trial plays itself out, a new film about mental illness, "A Beautiful Mind" starring Russell Crowe, is having an extraordinary impact on those who see it. It is a biography of John Forbes Nash Jr., who won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1994 for work he had done as young man before paranoid schizophrenia cost him about 30 years of his life.

For a long period, Nash was the "town nut" in Princeton, N.J., a demented character familiar to everyone. Nash, extraordinarily enough, recovered from schizophrenia, which is quite rare.

I have no idea whether Yates will ever recover — certainly not from having murdered her own children. But Yates is not the one facing a test, this society is. Can we do no better than the superstitious medieval tradition of burning the witch at the stake?



ADDRESSES

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Phone: 202-224-2934.
- KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922
- CHARLES STENHOLM
U.S. Representative
17th District
1211 Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, 20515.
Phone: 202-225-6605.
- HON. RICK PERRY
Governor
State Capitol
Austin, 78701
Phone: 1-800-252-9600.

More immediate threats than terrorists

Unless you have kin or friends serving in Afghanistan, you should focus your attention on the more immediate economic threats instead of on terrorists. If al-Qaida follows its usual pattern, it will lie low for several months before striking again.

In the meantime, along with our record trade deficit, we have now set a new record for health-care costs. In the year 2000, each American on average spent \$4,600 on health care, and Americans spent 17 percent more than in 1999 for prescription drugs. The total health-care cost was \$1.3 trillion, or just over 18 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. In Europe, spending is less than 9 percent of GDP.

Clearly, unless the government takes action, this will just keep going up and up as more and more Americans age. Sorry, my libertarian friends, but there is no free-enterprise answer. Health care was removed from the free mar-

ket with the passage of Medicaid and Medicare. You can't have free-market medicine with third-party payers.

Pharmaceutical companies are obviously gouging the public, as well as heavily advertising to induce patients to pester their doctors to prescribe the newest nostrum. Nowhere else in the world do prescription drugs cost as much as they do in the United States. You can blame lack of leadership in the executive branch and gutlessness and/or corruption in Congress for this situation.

One thing not only Congress but state legislatures could do to lower the cost of health insurance is to quit dictating to private companies what the policies must cover. Every time some special interest gets the attention of legislators, they tack on more mandatory coverage in health policies. What this does, of course, is prevent health-insurance companies from offering a variety of coverage to fit the different needs of customers.

A young and healthy person doesn't need a Cadillac health-insurance policy that covers every conceivable illness. The young are most likely to go to the hospital with trauma. Why should they pay for the cost

of mental-illness treatment or rehabilitation for alcohol and drugs? For that matter, why should the elderly pay for things they know they will not need? Having already drunk most of the whiskey I want, I know at my age that I'm not going to become an alcoholic. Why should treatment for that be included in my policy?

And if I don't like to go to chiropractors, why I should be forced to pay for that? And since I do use acupuncturists, which most people don't, why should everybody else be forced to pay the cost of including that in a policy? We should be able to pick and choose what coverage we want and don't want. That way, the policy could be priced accordingly. Of course, acupuncturists, chiropractors, herbalists, naturopaths and voodoo doctors all want to be included and lobby the legislators to mandate it. It is easier to sell their form of treatment if insurance pays for it. But it runs up the costs of premiums.

As for the pharmaceutical industry, Congress should take a sledgehammer and crack open its price gouging. This business of how much the industry allegedly spends to find some miracle drug (which, of course,

usually does nothing but treat symptoms and offer a new set of bad side effects) is A-No. 1 baloney in my opinion. Congress needs to hire some really tough accountants and examine those claims in detail. There is little difference between the pharmaceutical companies of today and the traveling medicine men of yesterday.

Pay attention to what is happening to the good people of Argentina. Incompetent and crooked politicians have driven their country into bankruptcy. Their savings are about to be robbed due to devaluation. Japan remains in the economic doldrums. Germany's unemployment now tops 4 million. Our own unemployment is still climbing.

Yet what do we get? "Oh, not to worry, good times will soon be rolling again."

I seriously doubt that, and frankly, I'm more afraid of our own politicians than I am of terrorists. It's relatively easy for an individual to get missed by a terrorist bullet or a bomb. It's not so easy to dodge national economic disaster.

Charley Reese can be contacted at briarl@earthlink.net.



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Howard team conference of

For Howard Hawks and Lad Monday night's Junior College Conference of Odessa College a mixed bag of... The Lady opened the event a 73-66 win over Wranglers' bel lead of... Shamiela Buch scored 10 points... The win imp Lady Hawks' record to 7-9.

In the nightca er, Odessa too win over the Ha ing the Howard a 12-5 record ov

Guard Blackstock led with 15 poi Hawks also got from sophomore Van Jamison. S center

Haughton added in the losing eff Howard teams WJCAC action when they pla Clarendon's Bul Lady Bulldogs. action gets ur with a 6 p.m. tij

Basketball b schedule me

The Big Spr Basketball Boo will meet at Thursday at Ste All parents, fr fans of Big Spr School's boys' 1 teams are enco attend.

Rangers get for two in tra

ARLINGTON Texas Rangers manager John he got enough player trade Mo the Oakland Al part with top Carlos Pena.

The A's got potential repla first base for MVP Jason Gi left-handed relie Venafor. The took four minor including le pitcher Mario who will have a make the Texa — and Jason l Pena a prospec base.

ON T

TONIGHT JUCO BASKETBA

- 6 p.m. — Big Spring at Estacado, VG-VB.
- 6:30 p.m. — Seagraves at VG-VB.
- Forsan at St VB.
- Westbrook at VB.

ON THE

Radio H.S. BASKETBA

- 5:45 p.m. — Bi Lady Steers at Lu Estacado Lady M KBST-AM 1490.
- 7:15 p.m. — Bi Steers at Lubbock Matadors, KBST-A

Television COLLEGE BASKET

- Men
- 6 p.m. — Ole M Kentucky, ESPN.
- 6:30 p.m. — Vi Virginia Tech, ESP
- 8 p.m. — Iowa ESPN.
- PRO BASKETBA
- 6:30 p.m. — D Mavericks at Atlar FXS.
- 7 p.m. — San A Spurs at Washing Wizards, TBS.
- TENNIS
- 8:30 p.m. — Au Open, early round ESPN2.

IN BRIEF

Howard teams split conference openers

For Howard College's Hawks and Lady Hawks, Monday night's Western Junior College Athletic Conference openers at Odessa College provided a mixed bag of results.

The Lady Hawks opened the evening with a 73-66 win over the Lady Wranglers behind the lead of sophomore Shamiela Buckley, who scored 10 points.

The win improved the Lady Hawks' overall record to 7-9.

In the nightcap, however, Odessa took a 72-62 win over the Hawks, leaving the Howard men with a 12-5 record overall.

Guard Rodney Blackstock led Howard with 15 points. The Hawks also got 11 points from sophomore forward Van Jamison. Sophomore center Brandon Haughton added 10 more in the losing effort.

Howard teams return to WJCAC action Thursday when they play host to Clarendon's Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs. Women's action gets under way with a 6 p.m. tip.

Basketball boosters schedule meeting

The Big Spring Boys Basketball Booster Club will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Steer Gym.

All parents, friends and fans of Big Spring High School's boys' basketball teams are encouraged to attend.

Rangers get four for two in trade

ARLINGTON (AP) — Texas Rangers general manager John Hart felt he got enough in a six-player trade Monday with the Oakland Athletics to part with top prospect Carlos Pena.

The A's got Pena, a potential replacement at first base for former AL MVP Jason Giambi, and left-handed reliever Mike Venafo. The Rangers took four minor leaguers, including left-handed pitcher Mario Ramos — who will have a chance to make the Texas rotation — and Jason Hart, like Pena a prospect at first base.

ON TAP

TONIGHT
JUCO BASKETBALL
6 p.m.
• Big Spring at Lubbock Estacado, VG-VB.
6:30 p.m.
• Seagraves at Coahoma, VG-VB.
• Forsan at Stanton, VG-VB.
• Westbrook at Sands, VG-VB.

ON THE AIR

Radio
H.S. BASKETBALL
7:45 p.m. — Big Spring Lady Steers at Lubbock Estacado Lady Matadors, KBST-AM 1490.
7:15 p.m. — Big Spring Steers at Lubbock Estacado Matadors, KBST-AM 1490.

Television
COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Men
6 p.m. — Ole Miss at Kentucky, ESPN.
6:30 p.m. — Villanova at Virginia Tech, ESPN2.
8 p.m. — Iowa at Illinois, ESPN.
PRO BASKETBALL
6:30 p.m. — Dallas Mavericks at Atlanta Hawks, FXS.
7 p.m. — San Antonio Spurs at Washington Wizards, TBS.

TENNIS
8:30 p.m. — Australian Open, early round coverage, ESPN2.

Duke back on top; Georgia revisits men's basketball poll

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Georgia hopes this stay in The Associated Press college basketball rankings lasts longer than its most recent visit.

The Bulldogs, at 14-2 off to their best start since 1931, entered at No. 20 this week after a pair of Southeastern Conference victories — including their first at Kentucky in 17 years. It's the first time in nearly a year that Georgia has been ranked.

"I think it's nice and very deserving," coach Jim Harrick said. "It's special for the players. When you're ranked, you get a lot more notoriety, TV stations show highlights of your games and all the newspapers around the country run stories

about your games."

Three other teams moved into the Top 25 after a week in which ranked teams lost 17 games: Southern California and Indiana were ranked before the season; Oregon is in for the first time.

Duke regained the top spot with two easy victories. The Blue Devils (14-1) had been on top of the poll all season — including five straight weeks as a unanimous choice — before falling to second a week ago week after a loss to Florida State.

Kansas took over at No. 1, but the Jayhawks (13-2) were there just one week. They lost 87-77 at UCLA on Saturday to snap a 13-game winning streak and dropped to fourth.

Florida (14-1) and Maryland (13-2) moved up one spot each to second

and third.

The last time Georgia was ranked, it slipped into the poll at No. 25, lost its next four games and dropped out for the remainder of the season.

The Bulldogs have won their first three games in the SEC for the first time since 1994.

Their latest victory, a 73-70 thriller won on Ezra Williams' buzzer-beating 3-pointer, was particularly impressive. Georgia shot just 30 percent from the field and was outrebounded 42-32. Still, it found a way to win.

Georgia's rise into the top 25 comes at the expense of Michigan State, Mississippi State, Pittsburgh and Butler. All dropped out this week. Michigan State, a loser of four straight games, is unranked for

the first time since Jan. 25, 1998.

Oklahoma and Oklahoma State held fifth and sixth and were followed in the Top Ten by Cincinnati, Syracuse, UCLA and Virginia.

Illinois dropped two spots to No. 11 and was followed by Kentucky, Gonzaga, Wake Forest, Arizona, Alabama, Iowa, Southern California, Stanford and Georgia.

The last five ranked teams are Missouri, Boston College, Oregon, Miami and Indiana.

Southern California (13-2) was ranked 20th in the preseason poll and 24th in the first of the regular season before falling out. The Trojans have won nine straight games — the most recent an emotional 81-77 victory over UCLA last Thursday.

Aikman back in pads?

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Jay Fiedler, who has played for two years in the shadow of Dan Marino's legacy, now must endure comparisons with another likely Hall of Famer: Troy Aikman. The Miami Dolphins' offseason commenced with a quarterback controversy Monday, thanks to broadcast reports that Aikman might come out of retirement and join the team.

Coach Dave Wannstedt said he wants Fiedler back and denied that the Dolphins have talked to Aikman. But Wannstedt, an assistant coach in Dallas during Aikman's prime there, declined to say whether Miami would be interested in Aikman if he wants to play next season.

Aikman, 35, led the Cowboys to three Super Bowl titles in a 12 seasons before retiring last April. Ten concussions and a bad back contributed to his decision, and on Jan. 6 he said it was "extremely doubtful" he would play next season.

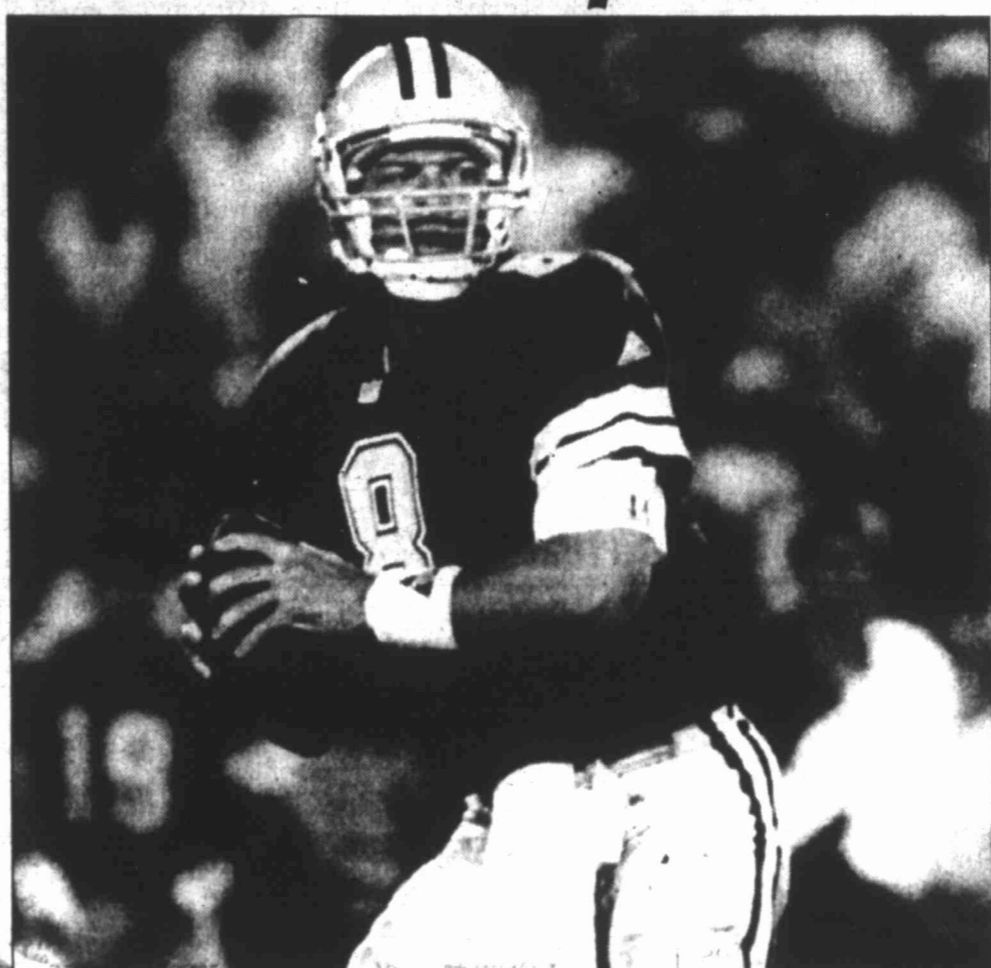
Fiedler, 30, can opt out of the final year of his contract, but Miami can keep him by matching any offer. He said his preference is to remain with the Dolphins, and he shrugged off the possibility that they'll sign Aikman.

"If they go in that direction, then my opportunities will lie somewhere else," Fiedler said. "Certainly they're going to look into every opportunity. That's the nature of the business. They've never told me they didn't have faith in me and that they were automatically trying to replace me."

Aikman's agent, Leigh Steinberg, said there have been no discussions with the Dolphins. Steinberg said Aikman expects to work as an analyst for the Fox network again next season but would consider an offer to play again.

"He's a year away from the bumps and bruises of his last season in Dallas," Steinberg said. "If the right opportunity came along, he would certainly listen. ... He feels in good health, and he never lost his desire to play in the NFL."

Wannstedt said if Fiedler returns, it would be as the starter, with no anticipation of competition for the job. Would the Dolphins have any interest in Aikman if he comes out of retirement?



Troy Aikman, pictured here in during the 1995 season when he led the Dallas Cowboys to a Super Bowl championship, may be coming out of retirement to play for the Miami Dolphins.

"It's a hypothetical question," Wannstedt said. "Troy is retired. I wouldn't even comment on that."

Lending impetus to the speculation: Aikman's offensive coordinator in Dallas, Norv Turner, is a leading candidate to succeed Chan Gailey as the Dolphins' offensive coordinator. Gailey has been hired as head coach at Georgia Tech.

The close relationship between Turner and Aikman has led to speculation that where the coach goes, the quarterback might follow. Steinberg said playing for Turner would be "a consideration, but not the only consideration."

The idea of Aikman in aqua is sure to keep phone lines buzzing on South Florida sports radio shows. But it's unclear why the Dolphins would gam-

ble on the fragile, immobile veteran — the sort of quarterback they had in Marino's final seasons.

Fiedler showed improvement during his second NFL season as a starter. In the final seven regular season games he threw 11 touchdown passes with just four interceptions, one of the league's best ratios.

"Jay made progress as the year went on," Wannstedt said. "The second half of the season, he obviously got a lot better. If you run the ball, it's going to take some pressure off the quarterback, and we struggled with that all year. He had as much pressure on him as you could put on a quarterback in a lot of games."

Given that description of the job, one wonders why Aikman would want it.

Bonds agrees to \$90 million contract with Giants

SAÑ FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds and the San Francisco Giants agreed Monday night to a \$90 million, five-year contract.

Bonds had one of the greatest seasons in baseball history, hitting 73 homers to break the previous record of 70, set by Mark McGwire in 1998. The 37-year-old outfielder also had an .863 slugging percentage and 177 walks, breaking season marks set by Babe Ruth.

"No amount of money would make me leave San

Francisco, to be honest with you. I always wanted to stay a San Francisco Giant," Bonds said. "Unless there was a blockbuster, out-of-the-world offer, I wasn't going to leave."

Bonds, the first player to win four Most Valuable Player awards, became a free agent after the season but the Giants were the only team to acknowledge a bid. He accepted the team's offer of salary arbitration on Dec. 20, and the sides were set to exchange proposed salaries

Friday for a one-year contract.

"Peter Magowan made my childhood dream come true," Bonds said, referring to the Giants owner. "I was glad I was able to help myself and the organization to stay at home. I'm so excited right now I want to call my godfather (Willie Mays) up and tell him I get to play in his backyard the rest of my career."

Bonds will receive a \$10 million signing bonus to be paid through April 2004. He

gets salaries of \$13 million in each of the next two seasons, \$16 million in 2004, \$20 million in 2005 and \$18 million in 2006.

The average annual value of \$18 million ties Bonds with Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for the fourth-highest in baseball, trailing only Texas shortstop Alex Rodriguez (\$25.2 million), Boston outfielder Manny Ramirez (\$20 million) and New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter (\$18.9 million).

Perfect UConn, remains unanimous No. 1 in women's poll

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Connecticut padded the nation's only perfect record with two more lopsided victories and remained a unanimous choice for No. 1 Monday in The Associated Press women's basketball poll, which included two newcomers.

Virginia Tech joined the poll for the first time this season at No. 21 and Arizona State returned at No. 23, replacing Tulane and Michigan. There also was movement within the poll after a week in which members of the Top 25 lost a total of 10 games to unranked opponents.

Connecticut (18-0) was never in danger of losing and received all 43 first-place votes from a national media panel. The Huskies, who had 1,075 points, have led every poll this season and have been a unanimous No. 1 the last two weeks.

The only unbeaten major-college team in men's or women's basketball, Connecticut defeated St. John's 84-43 and Miami 96-50 last week. UConn's average victory margin is 38.7 points.

The top five teams in the poll stayed the same after going a collective 11-0 during the week. Tennessee (14-1) was second with 1,021 points, followed by Oklahoma (14-1), Stanford (16-1) and Wisconsin (15-1). Wisconsin is on a school-record 14-game winning streak.

No. 6 Duke, No. 7 Vanderbilt and No. 8 South Carolina each moved up one spot. Kansas State, which entered the poll just last week, jumped five places to ninth and Louisiana Tech climbed one spot to 10th.

Purdue was 11th and Texas 12th, followed by Baylor, Iowa State, Texas Tech, Georgia, North

Carolina, Florida, Auburn and Colorado State.

Virginia Tech, Colorado, Arizona State, Old Dominion and Boston College held the final five places.

Iowa State, which was fourth two weeks ago, fell from sixth to 14th after road losses to Texas and unranked Texas A&M. Texas Tech also lost twice, to unranked Missouri and Texas, and fell five places to 15th.

The victories over Iowa State and Texas Tech sent Texas from 16th to 12th. Only Kansas State made a bigger jump.

Colorado State gained three spots, from 23rd to 20th. The Rams had to go three overtimes to get one of their victories, 87-77 over Utah.

Virginia Tech (13-2) has won 10 straight, including a victory over Boston College last week, and is just five points from being undefeated.

The Hokies' losses were at Louisiana State, 66-65, and at Virginia, 60-58.

Virginia Tech was ranked once last season, at No. 25 in the final poll.

Arizona State (14-4) was ranked in the first three polls this season, reaching as high as 21st. The Sun Devils have won 12 of 14 since losing two straight in late November and are the only team that has beaten Kansas State.

Tulane (14-4), 20th last week, dropped out after losing two of three. The Green Wave defeated Memphis but lost to New Orleans and Saint Louis. They had been ranked for five weeks.

Michigan (11-6), which was 22nd last week, has lost five of six after a 10-1 start. The Wolverines had been ranked all season, reaching as high as 12th on Dec. 24.

'Horns edge Raiders

LUBBOCK (AP) — If there were nerves, Texas' James Thomas never showed them.

"I just told myself to take my time, and I would make them," said Thomas, who sunk two of the four free throws Monday night that sealed a 74-71 overtime win over Texas Tech.

"James works as hard as anyone on the team on free throws," said Longhorn coach Rick Barnes. "He had missed a couple earlier, but he went out there and made the two that really mattered."

T.J. Ford sunk the other two. All four came in the final 23 seconds of overtime.

The Red Raiders still had one last chance to send the game into a second overtime. With seven seconds left, Tech inbounded the ball and got it down the court to Marcus Shropshire, a good 3-point bet for Tech. He got the ball at the top of the key but his shot bounced off the rim as the buzzer sounded.

"We had some chances," Tech coach Bob Knight said. "I think you can always look at a shot you missed or whatever, but we made some defensive mistakes that cost us at different times during the game."

Ford, Thomas and Brandon Mouton each scored 18 points for the Longhorns (12-4, 3-0 Big 12). Thomas had a double double, pulling down 12 rebounds for Texas, and Royal Ivey added 14 points.

The Longhorns pulled ahead midway in the second half after holding the Red Raiders (13-3, 2-2) scoreless for almost five minutes and going on a 17-4 run.

But Tech fought back and led by one with less than a minute to play when Kasib Powell made a free throw.

Tech had a chance to win it twice in the final 10 seconds of regulation. With the score tied at 64, Mikey Marshall made a bad pass into the hands of Texas player while trying to get the ball to Ellis. But as the Longhorns hurried down court, Valdez stole the ball and passed to Emmett who missed a shot as the buzzer went off in regulation.




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\$50.00 - First Month's Rent 1 & 2 bedroom apt home with C/H/A, covered picnic area, b-b-q grills, playground, on-site laundry facilities, professional management, 24 hour emergency maintenance, free water! Homes available \$335 per month. 263-2292
Heather Apartment's 2911 W. Hwy 80 Big Spring, Texas 79720.

UNFUR. HOUSES FOR RENT
2 bdr. den, carport, water & gas paid. 111 E. 16th. \$465/mn \$200/dep. 267-8667
2 Bedroom house, also 3 Bedroom house. Call 263-5818
2507 Central Dr. Nice 3 BR. 2 bath w/storage shed. In Kentwood, close to school. \$600/mo. For apt. 267-4350
2BR, 2 bath house. No bills paid, no pets. \$400/mo. + dep.
1BR, 1 bath Apartment. No bills paid, no pets. \$250/mo. + dep. 267-2177
For rent 1 bdr 1 bth. utilities included \$400/mn. Also 2 bdr. 1 bth. \$350/mn. Call 264-9907.
For rent 2 bdr. house. 1104 E. 6th. \$275 mon. \$150 dep. Call 264-0356
For rent, small clean rockhouse at 2201 Scurry. \$290/mo. \$150/dep. Call 263-2418.

HOROSCOPE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Jan. 16:
If you speak your mind, others will listen. You have no idea of the impact you make on others. Become more self-aware by using your innate talents and charms positively. Others surround you and adore your company. True to your sign, you allow work to become extremely demanding and sometimes allow it to interfere with your personal life. If single, your social life will sparkle as long as you choose to make time for it. Summer 2002: You'll want, and probably have, a playmate. Enjoy. If attached, let your partner tease you out the door. Give more and you will be amply rewarded. PISCES loves to hang out with you.

could have repercussions for you. Remain easy. Don't lose your patience. Tonight: Dinner for two.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
**** Opportunities knock on your door, making nearly anything possible. Lighten up about someone's change of heart. Don't overthink it. Simply grab the occasion and the moment. Good luck surrounds fast actions right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
**** Focus on getting the job done. The less time you spend floating on the Internet, the more you get done. Stay on top of someone's requests. The key is to remain present with the moment. Someone at a distance chooses not to talk or communicate. Tonight: Stay even.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**** Allow your creativity to help others with their problems. Curb a tendency to flirt way too much. You could cause yourself more of a problem than you realize. Schedule time with a youngster you enjoy. Hop on the swing with this person! Tonight: Only what you like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**** You cannot avoid dealing with family and personal issues. You might make the plea that you have work to be done. It won't work. Everyone in your life needs attention and special care right now! Lighten up and do what you have to do. Tonight: Quit fighting the inevitable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**** You feel like the lead basketball player as you throw one ball after another into the hoop. Others cheer you on. Your success stems from a strong drive, an understanding of facts and working well with others. You can afford to say "no" to an unappealing offer. Tonight: Midweek break.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**** Answer calls, schedule meetings and clear out e-mail and messages. Your efficiency serves you best when you're focused on communication. Others might need feedback from you. Let someone know where you stand. State your case with your normal flair. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
**** Others deem that you can do the job. The question remains whether you want to or not. You need to take stronger control of what you want in your life. Too many times you say "yes." You can only do well that which you want to do. Stay in control of your life and responsibilities. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**** You might not choose to share with others exactly what you have in mind. Do be careful with risking because you could get yourself into some trouble. Be grateful for what you have rather than always seeking something else. Avoid envy. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)**** Make inroads with those at a distance through making calls. Think in terms of specializing in your present field. You will add to your job desirability. Recognize your limits at the same time. Discuss possibilities with someone who might be able to give you good advice. Tonight: Listen to music while surfing the Net.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**** The moon accents you presently. You're able to beam in much more than usual. Timing works right now. Go for what you want, and don't put it off until tomorrow. Your smile wins many friends - use it right now. Cheer up someone who might be blue. Tonight: You decide.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
**** Deal with someone directly. You might not be able to make your point as clearly as you would like. Help someone understand that his or her actions

remodeled 4/2 Brick 2903 Cactus. CH/A stove & fridge furnished \$600/mo plus deposit 268-9755 or 634-4559

TOO LATES
3 BR, 1 bath. New carpet/paint. Fenced yard. \$350/mo + dep. Call 267-5952
Free to a good home, 3 half pit bull & half lab puppies. Call 264-0184.
Lost - Loving black & tan Beagle puppy. Answers to Franky. 263-6108 or 264-2921
Clearance Sale! All Star Sports. T's 50¢. Polos \$5.00. jackets \$5.00. Coats \$9.99. Everything 50-75% off. Wed-Sat. 1901 Gregg.

REMEDIATED 4/2 BRICK
2903 Cactus. CH/A stove & fridge furnished \$600/mo plus deposit 268-9755 or 634-4559

UNFURNISHED HOUSES FOR RENT
4BR 2bth \$300 mo
2 bdr \$220 mo
Also have 3 bdr \$240/mn. 264-0510

NICE CLEAN HOMES
2 BR - \$300/mo
3BR - \$400/mo
More @ 267-7380

NICE, LARGE 3 BR, 2 BATH
brick home with fireplace. In quiet neighborhood. 700 Dallas. \$775/mo \$700/dep. Call 263-5000

REMEDIATED 4/2 BRICK
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UNFURNISHED HOUSES FOR RENT
1 bdr. 1bath W/D connection, CH/A Near college You pay bills. \$350/mn. NO HUD. 267-2296
1102 Lancaster 2 Bdrm, 1 bath. Call 267-3841 or 270-7309.

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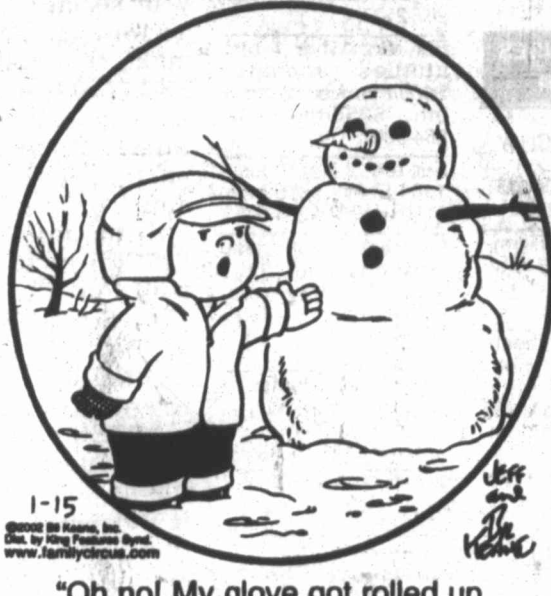
TV SCHEDULE TABLE for TUESDAY JAN. 15. Columns include station (e.g., KMID, KPEJ, KERA), time slot, and program name (e.g., News, Dharma-Greg, Frasier).

DENNIS THE MENACE



COINS ARE BETTER THAN BILLS, 'CAUSE YOU CAN HEAR HOW MUCH YOU'VE GOT.

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Oh no! My glove got rolled up into the snowman's head!"

BLONDIE



BEEBLE BAILI



B.C.



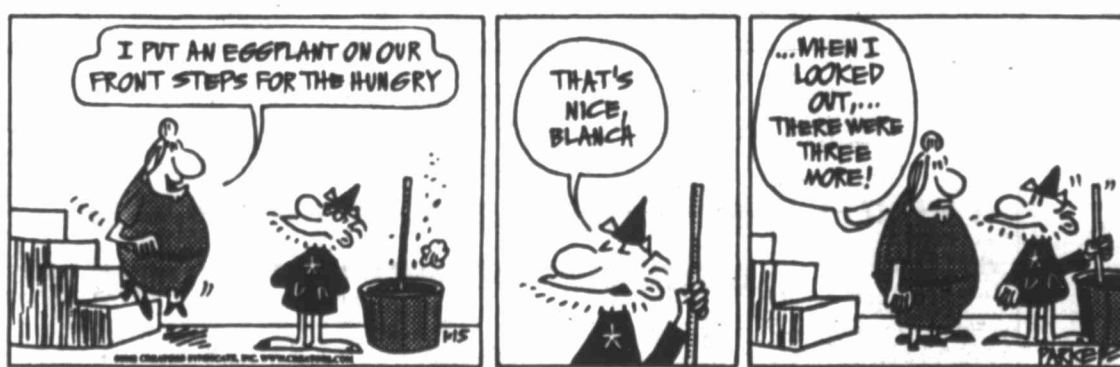
HAGAR



GEECH



WIZARD OF ID



SNUFFY SMITH



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Tuesday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2002. There are 350 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 15, 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta. On this date: In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey. In 1844, the University of Notre Dame received its charter from the state of Indiana. In 1870, the Democratic party was represented as a donkey for the first time in a cartoon by Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly. In 1892, the rules of basketball were published for the first time, in Springfield, Mass., where the game originated. In 1919, pianist and statesman Ignace Jan Paderewski became the first premier of the newly created republic

of Poland. In 1942, Jawaharlal Nehru succeeded Mohandas K. Gandhi as head of India's National Congress Party. In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, now the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense. In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League in the first Super Bowl, 35-to-10. In 1973, President Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations. In 1976, Sara Jane Moore was sentenced to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Ford in San Francisco. Ten years ago: The Yugoslav federation, founded in 1918, effectively collapsed as the European Community recognized the republics of Croatia and Slovenia. Five years ago: A bitterly divided Israeli Cabinet agreed to withdraw troops from most of Hebron and rural West Bank areas, approving an accord wrapped up hours earlier by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The crews of the shuttle Atlantis and the Russian space station Mir had a raucously joyful meeting, hours after their spacecraft had docked. Today's Birthdays: Nuclear physicist Edward Teller is 94. Singer Don Van Vliet (aka "Captain Beefheart") is 61. Actress Andrea Martin is 55. Rock singer Martha Davis is 51. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 45. Actor Julian Sands is 44. Singer Lisa (Lisa and Cult Jam) is 35. Actor Chad Lowe is 34. Actress Regina King is 31.

Answer to previous puzzle. A crossword grid with words filled in: LAMB, SHAG, SAGAS, ODOR, CODE, AMIGO, NORA, ARAN, DUNES, GRANDMAMMOSES, SENDUP, SAT, EACH, INIT, RIDDLE, AMOS, SUPER, LOA, FATHERKNOWSBEST, ONT, NOSES, ARES, FIELDS, EPIC, LARA, EST, UNKIND, SISTERCARRIE, AMASS, ERIK, EAVE, COLIN, ERLE, STEM, TWEET, PEER, TENS.

Newsday Crossword

IN A RUSH by Lee Weaver Edited by Stanley Newman

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 Peaches and __, 6 Fish dish, 13 Cyclist's protection, 15 Think hard, 16 Taking less effort, 17 Ran, as machinery, 18 Naval officer, 20 Taxi, 21 Lummoxes, 25 Stage manager's script, 32 Golf-hole edge, 33 Baton-passing race, 34 Beginning walker, 37 Lasts, 40 Live it up, 41 Least fresh, 42 Major artery, 43 Brain-wave test: Abbr., 44 Rolls, muffins, etc., 48 Weight allowance, 50 Newsman Rather, 51 Mush made of cornmeal, 60 Column support, 63 Move unsteadily, 64 Make extreme claims, 65 Weasel, in winter, 66 Artist's color board, 67 Saunter. DOWN: 1 Gourmet cook, 2 Not imaginary, 3 Alternatively, 4 Girlfriend, in Gaul, 5 Get together, 6 Pueblo Indian, 7 Ripening agent, 8 Capri cash, 9 Author Calvino, 10 Flying mammal, 11 All-purpose truck, 12 Baseball great Williams, 14 Area of land, 15 Small dance band, 19 Little bit, 22 Fascination, 23 Celebration in Chihuahua, 24 Peanut butter or jelly, 25 Have ready in advance, 26 Tenant, 27 Methuselah's claim to fame, 28 Handle roughly, 29 Ceremonial fire, 30 School for future lts., 31 Campground initials, 35 Dull as dishwater, 36 Way in or out, 38 UK ceremonial title, 39 R-V fillers, 45 Pastoral poem, 46 Head covering, 47 Coach Rockne, 49 Over yonder, 52 Aide: Abbr., 53 Editor's notation, 54 Story, 55 "Skin" word form, 56 Floor model, 57 "How sweet ___!" Hawaiian goose, 59 Author Zane __, 60 Burst a bubble, 61 Ms. Perón, 62 Dover is its cap.