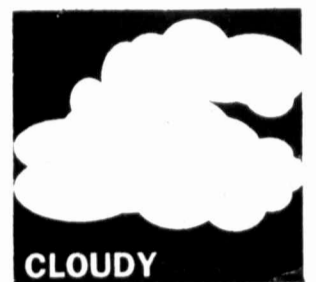


TUESDAY

February 26, 2002

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 15°-17° TOMORROW 45°-50°

Prospector's Club to hold annual show on weekend

The Big Spring Prospector's Club will hold its annual Gem and Mineral Show Saturday and Sunday at the Howard County Fair Barn. Admission is free to the event, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. There will be dealers, demonstrations, displays, a spinning wheel, prizes and a snack bar.

WHAT'S UP...

- 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.
 - Fraternal order of Eagles Aerie Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third.

- THURSDAY**
- Gideons International, Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at Herman's Restaurant at 7 a.m.
 - Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for people 55 and over.
 - Coffee Club, 10 a.m. at Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

- FRIDAY**
- AMBUCS, noon at the Brandin Iron.
 - ABC Club meets at noon at the Brandin Iron.

- INSIDE TODAY...**
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Vol. 99, No. 94

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Court orders relocation of Big Spring Care Center residents

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

Less than a month after Big Spring Care Center was taken over by a court-appointed trustee, a judge has ordered the relocation of its 39 residents.

Travis County District Court Judge Scott Jenkins on Monday approved a motion by trustee David O. Crowson to relocate the residents.

"They are contacting families and residents today. It

is a process that will take a while," Rosemary Patterson, spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Human Services, said Monday. "I don't know how long it will take, but it needs to be an orderly process."

According to a document filed with the court, all parties agreed to the order, primarily because the Medicaid certification for the facility was terminated. Patterson said the owners

were given a certain amount of time to bring the facility into compliance before its Medicaid and Medicare certification were to be revoked.

"They apparently either would not do that or could not do that within the time limit. Therefore those certifications were terminated," Patterson said. "So the trustee petitioned the court to relocate the residents."

Crowson, who has been in long-term care since 1974,

has served with the state as a court-appointed trustee since 1992.

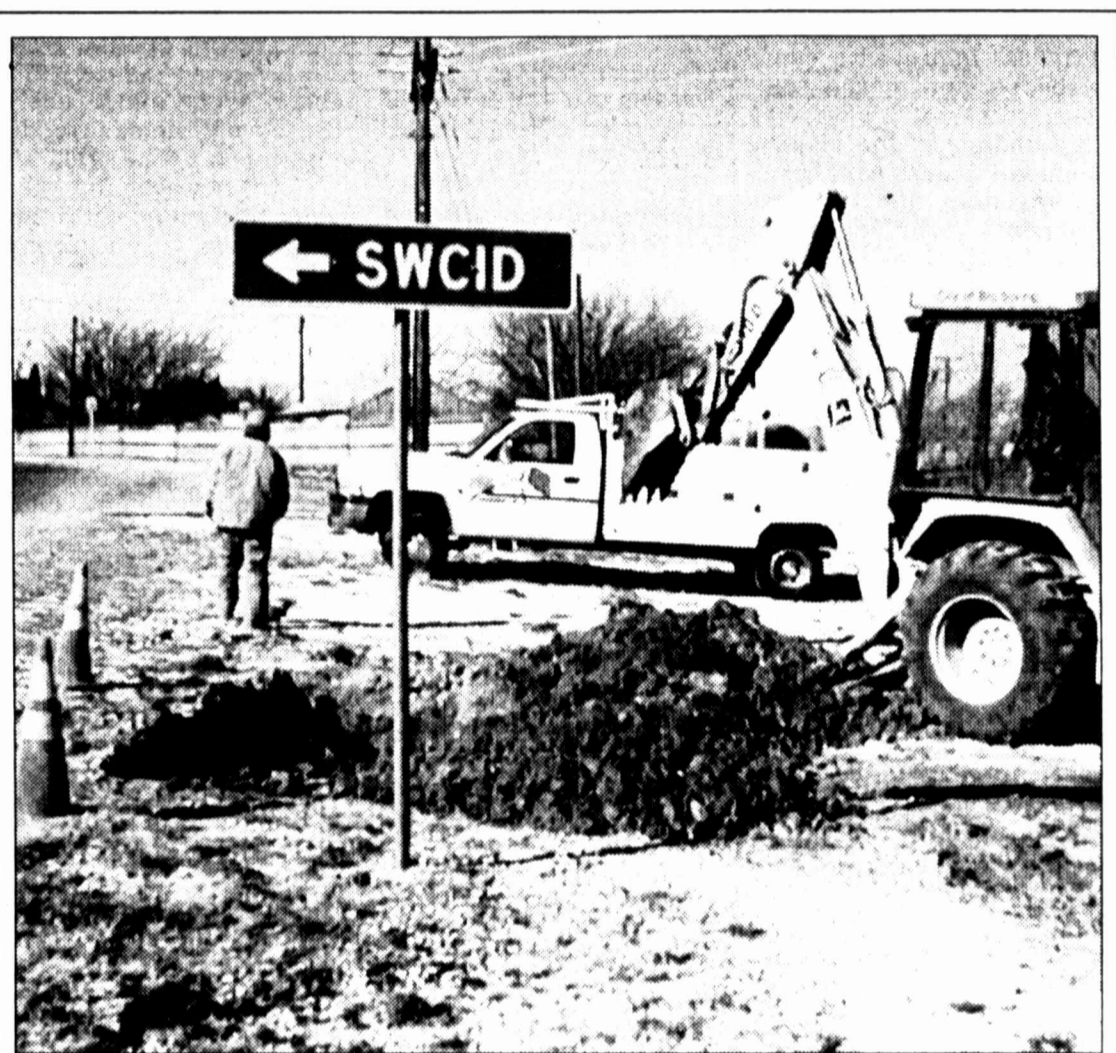
Travis County District Court Judge Jeanne Meurer had ordered Crowson to take control of the care center on Feb. 5 after Department of Human Services (DHS) investigators determined that the residents were being exposed to conditions that posed an "immediate threat to their health and safety". The care center is located at 901

Goliad.

Among the problems investigators found were failure to treat bed sores; serve physician-order diets; store, prepare and distribute food under sanitary conditions; and provide care and services to prevent significant weight loss.

"The most important thing is the well-being of the residents," said Patterson.

Big Spring Care Center is operated by Managed Care L.C.



City employees Shannon Hudgins, left, and Cody Ridge (in the backhoe) work to fix a water leak this morning at the intersection of Hudgett Memorial Drive and 16th Street.

Ex-Enron head Skilling says he never duped Lay and didn't lie to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Enron chief executive Jeffrey Skilling told senators today "I didn't lie to Congress or anyone else" in denying he was aware of the company's precarious finances or its use of complex partnerships to hide debt.

Addressing skeptical lawmakers, Skilling also said, "I never duped Ken Lay," disputing previous statements by Sherron Watkins, a company vice president who said Skilling had manipulated Enron's former chairman.

"I heard Ms. Watkins testify as to her opinion," Skilling said. "I have no idea what the basis was for this opinion."

Watkins, who appeared with Skilling, told the Senate Commerce Committee she was "incredibly frustrated" with Lay's inaction after she warned him in August of potentially serious accounting problems.

"I believe that Enron had a brief window to salvage itself this past fall and we missed that opportunity because of Mr. Lay's failure to recognize or accept that the company had manipulated its financial statements," Watkins said.

Skilling said, "I relied on our accountants," when asked about Watkins' warnings that Enron stock was improperly being used as the foundation of the web of partnerships that eventually brought the company down.

"I have nothing to hide," Skilling said, explaining why he had decided to testify rather than take the Fifth Amendment like "other innocents" called before congressional committees.

At the same time, he cautioned the committee that "the framers of the Bill of Rights are watching."

"The entire management and board of Enron has been labeled everything from hucksters to criminals

with a complete disregard for facts and evidence assembled," he said. "These untruths shatter lives and they do nothing to advance the public understanding of what happened at Enron."

Skilling sat without expression, listening attentively, as members of the committee opened the hearing by denouncing Enron's conduct and citing huge losses to public pension funds in their states. At the witness table with their attorneys were Watkins, Skilling and Jeffrey McMahon, the current president and chief operating officer.

"Mr. Skilling, if you plan to tell this committee that you did not understand Enron's true financial condition, then you will need to explain why, why you failed to understand things that any diligent chief executive officer would have understood," said Sen. Jean

See **ENRON**, Page 2

Education

Bachelor's degree program at Howard College could be in place by fall semester

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

A bachelor's degree program for college juniors and seniors held on the Howard College campus may begin by the fall semester.

Howard County trustees Monday agreed to enter into a partnership with Lubbock Christian College to offer a general business degree program on the Howard College campus.

"If this is something we can offer that can help our community, I think we should do it," Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said.

To qualify, students must be 25 years or older, meet the minimum grade point average and have 60 or more hours in transferable credit hours from an accredited college or post-secondary institution.

LCC instructors will come to the Howard College campus to teach the curriculum courses once a week for about four hours. Students will earn their bachelor of science degree from Lubbock Christian in about 18 to 20 months.

Students of the program can also take advantage of the college services such as the library and student union building.

During a communication to the board, Aubrey Weaver Jr., local citizen, expressed concern over the age requirement and how it could be connected to age discrimination.

Weaver said Big Spring has experienced a large exodus in young people leaving the city and suggested the program could be an incentive towards the youth to stay in town instead of leaving to complete their degree somewhere else.

Work experience is taken

Trustees call for May 4 board election

HERALD Staff Report

Howard College trustees called for the May 4 elections Monday as filing continues for three at-large positions on the board.

The positions currently held by Dr. Charles Warren, John Freeman and Marie Ethridge are up for election. All three trustees have filed their intent to seek another term in office.

Joyce Crooker has also filed as a candidate.

Steve Smith, Howard College president's assistant, said filing packets will be available for the general public during the college's spring break.

"Since our spring break is March 11 through 17, filing packets will be available for people to pick up at the fitness center," Smith said.

In case of any questions in filing out the forms, Smith said a contact number for both he and Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Howard College president will be posted on the doors of the administration office, the president's office and the fitness center.

Filing to run for the position began on Feb. 18 and runs through March 20. Howard County residents interested in running for an at-large position may file at the president's office in the Administration Building located on the Howard College campus.

into consideration when a student applies to the program, said Karen Kennedy, director for evening pro-

See **COLLEGE**, Page 2

New caretaker pact for lake, reenactment group request on council's agenda tonight

By **ROGER CLINE**
Staff Writer

A new caretaker for Moss Creek Lake and an event at Comanche Trail Park will be the focus of the Big Spring City Council tonight.

The meeting, to be held at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth St., will include items seeking approval to request proposals for a new



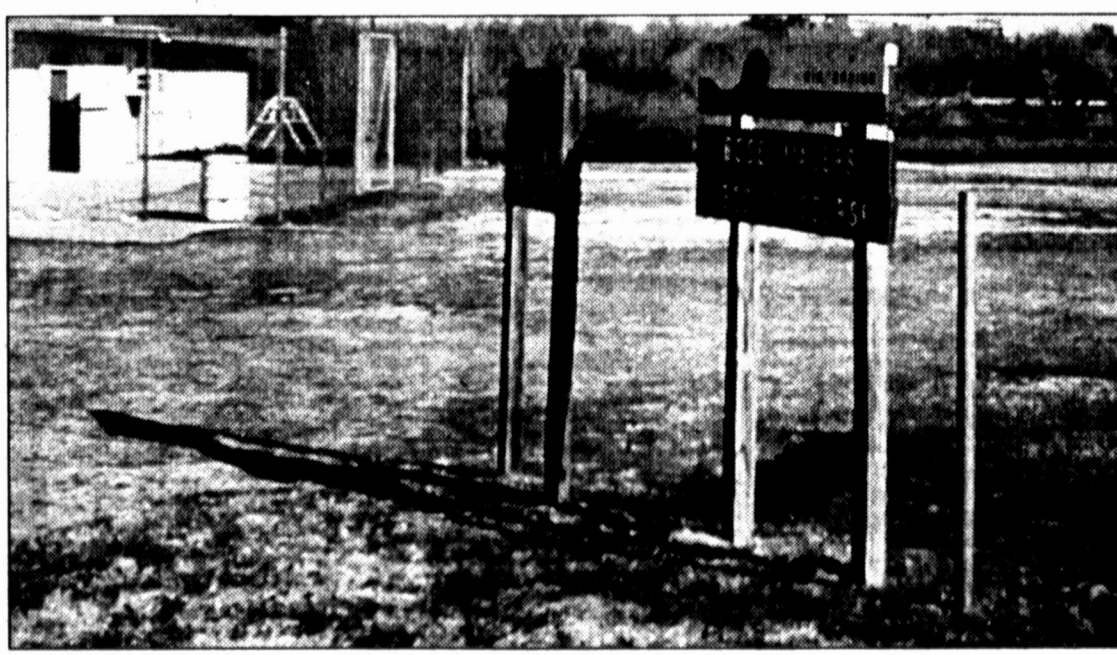
DARDEN

caretaker and for a camping event planned by the medieval recreation group, the Society for Creative Anachronism.

Director of Public Works Todd Darden said he has terminated the city's contract with the current Moss Creek caretaker Mary Lewis.

"She will be gone this week," Darden said. "That was my decision. We've had some problems, not with anything that she's doing personally. I've reviewed the expense and revenues

See **COUNCIL**, Page 2



The Big Spring chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism plans to hold its Ansteorran Spring Crown Tourney in this area of Comanche Trail Park just east of the Dora Roberts Community Center. The SCA will ask the Big Spring City Council for permission to camp in the area during the March 22-24 event at the city council meeting at 5:30 this evening.

FEBRUARY 26 2002

Governors ask Bush to restore highway money

WASHINGTON (AP) — Governors have demanded more federal money during the first three days of their winter meeting, especially for Medicaid and highway construction, but they moderated their tone when they arrived at the White House.

Visiting President Bush on Monday, they accorded him the deference due a former fellow governor basking in huge national popularity as a wartime president.

They politely asked the president to restore \$8.5 billion in highway construction money they would lose next year under his proposed budget. The tone was a far cry from the fiery speeches they've made at the J.W. Marriott Hotel during the National Governors Association winter meeting.

Hold the hot dog

Too much processed meat may increase diabetes risk

WASHINGTON (AP) — A diet packed with hot dogs, bologna and bacon can increase the risk of type 2 diabetes by about 50 percent in men, researchers reported Tuesday.

In a study appearing in the journal Diabetes Care, a group of Harvard School of Public Health researchers analyzed the dietary habits of thousands of men and found that those who frequently ate processed meats had a 46 percent greater probability of developing

The delicate job of personally popping the question fell to Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton, Democratic vice chairman of the association.

Chairman John Engler, Republican governor of Michigan, made a passing mention of the highway money problems in opening comments, which focused mostly on the governors' gratitude to the president for his efforts in the war against terror.

"We share your vision and remain steadfast in support of our commander in chief," Engler said. He said he is confident the governors and the administration can find answers to their problems involving transportation and other issues, such as Medicaid. Governors say they're generally pleased with what they've heard

about the president's proposals on welfare.

Earlier, Engler commented on a proposal before Congress to increase highway construction money by \$4.4 billion above the administration's request, roughly half the amount the governors want. "That's a very good first step," Engler told governors at the hotel. "We'd like to go all the rest of the way."

Patton opened his White House comments by complimenting the president's budget proposal.

"My impression is that in general your administration is very state-friendly and very governor-friendly," Patton said, but he noted governors' disappointment about Medicaid and transportation money.

Patton said "due to some

unusual and unanticipated circumstances," the amount of money provided by the law now would result in a 27 percent cut for state transportation programs in the next fiscal year.

Bush's budget plan for the year beginning Oct. 1 provides \$22.6 billion for the Federal Highway Administration, the agency in charge of road construction, down sharply from \$32.1 billion this year.

The drop is a consequence of a 1998 law on highway and transit programs that in part linked highway spending to money raised from gasoline taxes, which go into the highway trust fund.

"We would suggest that about \$8 billion be used for one year to maintain expenditures at the current level," Patton said.

type 2 diabetes than men who ate less of the food.

"We not proposing to ban hot dogs. It is just a matter of moderation," said Dr. Frank Hu, the study's senior author. "People should reduce the frequency of eating processed meats."

Hu said the big increase in risk for diabetes 2 came among those who ate processed meats five times or more per week. For some, it was every day.

"That's too much," Hu said. "We should change

that eating pattern."

The data in the research came from the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study, a project that began in 1986 by collecting dietary information from 42,504 men, aged 40 to 75, who were healthy, free of diabetes, heart disease or cancer.

The men in the study were followed for 12 years, and the researchers compared the dietary patterns of those who developed type 2 diabetes with eating habits of those who did not. Hu

said the results were adjusted for known effects of activities such as smoking, obesity, fat intake and physical activity. After these adjustments, he said, it was clear that eating abundant hot dogs and other processed meats was an independent risk factor for diabetes.

"Eating processed meats five times or more per week is where we saw the major difference," said Hu. "The effect is dose-related: The more you eat of these foods, the higher the risk."

Bush outlining welfare plans, opening door to education and training

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush wants to put more welfare recipients into education and training programs, boost the percentage of participants who are working and spend more to encourage single mothers in the program to get married.

Bush was offering a package of proposals Tuesday at a church in Washington. As lawmakers prepare to revisit a landmark 1996 welfare

law, some of his ideas were bound to please conservatives, others would make Democrats happy and still others are appealing to governors.

"We are encouraged by the initial result of welfare reform, but we are not content," Bush said in prepared remarks. "Child poverty is still too high, too many families are strained and fragile and broken, too many

Americans have not found work and the purpose it brings."

Under current law, a welfare recipient must be engaged in "work activity" to be counted as "working." States are required to have 50 percent of their caseloads working, and recipients are required to work 30 hours a week.

The Bush plan would increase the required hours

per week from 30 to 40, but it would allow states to put welfare recipients in education, training and other programs for up to two days a week, or 16 hours, an administration official said.

Bush also would boost the requirement that states have 50 percent of their caseloads working to 70 percent by 2007. However, the 50 percent minimum has been almost meaningless in

Improved treatment pushes HIV-infected up to 1 million

SEATTLE (AP) — After a decade of holding steady, the number of Americans infected with HIV has begun to increase. But the news is better than it sounds.

Experts say the total is growing because fewer people are dying of AIDS. Doctors' spectacular success in treating the disease over the past six years is paying off in an unexpected way.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in their most recent calculations for 1999 and 2000, the number of people infected by HIV increased by about 50,000.

This means between 850,000 and 950,000 Americans were infected with HIV, the most ever.

"The assumption is the increased survival of people with AIDS is driving this, and that's good news. It shows the benefits of therapy," said the CDC's Dr. Patricia Fleming, who presented the latest estimates Monday in Seattle at the Ninth Annual Retrovirus Conference.

The government estimates that 40,000 Americans catch HIV each year, a figure that has remained roughly stable for over a decade. However, until the turnaround in AIDS therapy,

this figure was nearly offset each year by AIDS deaths, so the total number of Americans carrying the virus stayed level.

Now, AIDS deaths have plunged from around 40,000 annually to about 15,000. As a result, new infections are outstripping deaths.

During the 1980s, the government believed that as many as 1.5 million Americans had HIV, but it later revised that figure downward. According to the latest estimates, between 400,000 and 450,000 were infected in 1984. This grew to 550,000 to 650,000 in 1986. By 1992, the figure was 650,000 to 900,000.

Survival increased almost overnight when drug combinations that included medicines called protease inhibitors became standard in 1996. They transformed HIV from a death sentence to a chronic treatable illness.

By the late '90s, many doctors feared these gains would evaporate as the treatments lost their punch. Doctors noticed that after initial success that seemed to eliminate HIV, many patients developed viruses that were resistant to all the major classes of medicines. Their virus levels crept back to the point where they that could be measured on standard tests.

Jury convicts man accused of feeding 10-year-old boy to neighbors of sexual assault

BUTTE, Mont. (AP) — A man accused of butchering a 10-year-old boy and feeding the remains to his neighbors has been convicted of molesting a teenager and assaulting his 8-year-old cousin.

A jury convicted Nathaniel Bar-Jonah Monday night of kidnapping and sexually assaulting the 14-year-old in 1999 and assaulting the boy's cousin with a weapon — a rope and pulley by which he raised the boy off the floor to watch him choke.

The jury found Bar-Jonah, 45, innocent of sexually assaulting the oldest boy's 5-year-old brother and deadlocked on whether he sexually assaulted the 8-year-old.

Bar-Jonah showed no emotion as the verdicts were read. Bar-Jonah has a record of assaults against young boys in Massachusetts dating back to when he was a teen-ager. He spent 11 years in a mental hospital there after one attack and assaulted another boy shortly after his release.

Then he was sent to Montana to live with his mother.

He was set to go on trial in May for the 1996 killing of 10-year-old Zachary

Ramsay. Authorities say Bar-Jonah butchered the boy's body, then cooked the child's flesh into stews and other meals he served to unsuspecting neighbors.

Prosecutor Brant Light said Monday night's verdicts may cause him to reconsider whether to go ahead with the murder trial.

Defense lawyers Don Vernay and Greg Jackson said they will appeal.

"He still maintains his innocence," Vernay said. The defense claims news coverage of the gruesome allegations in the murder case made it impossible to find an impartial jury.

After jury selection began last week, defense lawyers asked the Montana Supreme Court to abort the trial because many of the prospective jurors knew about the Ramsay case. The court refused.

"I have never seen a jury with so much foreknowledge," Vernay said.

Light said he will pull out all stops for sentencing, which District Judge Kenneth Neill set for April 9.

"We have to prepare for the sentencing almost like another trial," Light said. "We can bring in his whole past."

Witness prepared to testify to Andrea Yates' insanity

HOUSTON (AP) — The fate of Andrea Yates depends on whether jurors believe she was insane when her five children were submerged in the family bathtub, one after another, until they no longer could breathe.

An expert witness for the defense will attempt to convince jurors of that notion when he retakes the stand Tuesday. The day will also mark what would have been the eighth birthday of Yates' first-born son, Noah.

Dr. George Ringholz, a neuropsychologist from Baylor College of Medicine, told prosecutors outside the jury's presence Monday that he is prepared to testify that Yates was insane when she admitted drowning her children last June.

Yates suffers from schizophrenia that began during childhood and surfaced initially when she considered grabbing a knife and stabbing Noah, Ringholz testified.

Ringholz said he made his determination based on Texas' legal standard, Yates' medical and family history and a battery of tests he conducted on the 37-year-old former nurse turned stay-at-home mother.

Ringholz said during tests he conducted, Yates' score was well within the range of those who test positive for schizophrenia. Jurors were told the mental illness is characterized by a significant impairment in functioning and symptoms like delusions, hallucinations, incoherence and isolation.

Defense attorney Wendell Odom asked Ringholz if Yates had ever been diagnosed with schizophrenia before.

"Not that I'm aware of," Ringholz testified.

Ringholz said Andrea Yates might not have previously been diagnosed with schizophrenia because her doctors only saw her for a brief period.

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Big Spring Herald
Paid Listing Of
Political Candidates
For
Howard County Offices
Primary Election

County Commissioner Precinct 2

Perry Gamble.....R

Jerry Kilgore.....(I).....R

County Commissioner Precinct 4

Roy Don Beauchamp.....R

Walter H. Brumley Jr.....R

Gary Simer.....(I).....D

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Place 2

Kathryn Wiseman.....R

David Mohn.....R

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FEBRUARY 26 2002

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.

Ken Dulaney
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Bush right to encourage stable marriages

Encouraging strong marriages is a worthy goal of all nations that are based on democratic principles and a free-market economy. Simply stated, stable marriages promote emotional and physical health, economic security, strong democracies.

In the United States, children in single-parent homes are at higher risk for poverty, illness and crime.

That is why we applaud President Bush's proposal to earmark \$100 million in next year's budget for programs aimed at strengthening and encouraging marriage among the poor.

Taxpayers spend billions tackling the turmoil caused by homes in chaos. Why not get the government involved in prevention? The government should eliminate regulations that penalize people for marrying and fund programs that encourage family stability.

We urge both Congress and Indiana officials to think creatively and say "I do" to Bush's marriage proposal.

THE NEWS-SUN, KENDALVILLE, IND.

OTHER VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

It is both inconsistent and disrespectful for the United States to ask Muslim (or any other) countries to get involved in the war on terrorism, and then not let them get the credit for their efforts. Mr. David Pearl's murder occurred in Pakistan. His murderers are Pakistanis. The Pakistani police captured his abductors and mastermind in an astoundingly short period of time, and they worked very closely and cooperatively with the U.S. intelligence community in the process.

There will not be legal delays, prolonged appeals, or the possibility of a reversal of a guilty verdict in an Islamic country. Let them take their stand against terrorism. Our Secretary of State should tell the world how proud we are that the Pakistani police acted so quickly. I am certain that the

immediate family members of the terrorists in Pakistan were interrogated in ways that are illegal in the U.S. If the abductors were to be extradited to the U.S., this fact could be the basis of an appeal for confessions obtained under duress.

If we don't support Pakistan's efforts to deal with these terrorists as an internal matter, other Islamic states will take notice of this fact. I am quite certain that they would see this action as offensive. This is not in the best interest of the United States.

The U.S. Departments of State, Justice, and Defense probably have differing views on the extradition of the mastermind of the abduction and killing of Mr. Pearl.

Let Pakistan try and execute this man.

Respectfully submitted,
JIM HARRISON
BIG SPRING

How To CONTACT Us

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
- Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.

The return of the house call - sort of

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — We were on our way to my neighbor's eye doctor when I slid the Ford into a convenient parking space next to a little pasta restaurant.

With a short time to kill, we craved something fast, filling and close to the doctor's office.

Inside, I realized my mistake. I was the one who needed an eye doctor. This was no fast-food Italian where two out-of-towners could order quick noodles or a pepperoni sandwich. It was a classy, expensive, slow, dark-at-noon-time, bona fide city restaurant.

We ordered. The fish of the day had never been near a hush puppy.

Our fellow diners wore business suits and relaxed expressions.

They ordered wine. They talked furtively on their cell phones.

This was a perfect place

to linger over a colleague's birthday lunch or celebrate a promotion. This was not a place to grab a bite before getting your eyes dilated.

In the doctor's waiting room, finally, we were with our own kind. Everyone looked vaguely nervous, the way people always do in doctor's offices. First-time patients were scratching their heads over forms that had to be filled out before the doctor ever took a look. Veteran patients were slumped in their chairs, watching a TV judge berate plaintiffs in depressing domestic disputes.

There was an almost palpable impatience in the air; everyone was eager to be done with the business of health care.

Soon enough a nurse called out my neighbor's name. I wished her luck and tried to settle in with a 2-year-old magazine about art collecting. There's a law or something. Magazines in doctors' offices have to be at least 2 years old.

But I was fidgety and couldn't concentrate on gallery happenings. I kept remembering the news stories I'd been reading recently about so-called "boutique" doctors, the ones who provide house calls,

same-day appointments and other personalized care — even monogrammed robes — in exchange for big bucks. It's pampered care for those wealthy enough to afford it, provided by doctors who want to see far fewer patients each year — but also want to keep the Mercedes.

"If you have a substantial portion of America's doctors doing this, who's going to take care of everybody else?" Dr. Richard Roberts has remarked.

Roberts is a Wisconsin family practitioner and board chairman of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

"We've got 40-plus million people in this country without health insurance, another 20 million who are underinsured. What's wrong with this picture?"

Well, even those of us in the eye doctor's office could see what's wrong with this picture. It's yet another way for doctors to abandon general practices and specialize.

And this time they are specializing in the rich. You can rent your very own Marcus Welby and take him home for the day — if you can pay the fee. The American Medical

Association has yet to take a position on the growing trend. It's not illegal, experts say. Just galling.

Just imagine. The doctors are as tired of us as we are of them. They want fewer patients and less of a work load, and they don't want to take a pay cut to get there.

My neighbor soon came out with a brochure on floaters and flashers and a date for another appointment. She'll somehow make the 220-mile round trip to keep it. There will be no house call, no monogrammed robe, just another trip to a specialist's office where, if she's lucky, the care will be adequate.

The day may come when you'll choose a doctor the same way you do a restaurant.

If you have money and time on your hands, you will make the obvious choice, a place with fine wines and soft music.

If you're a Regular Joe, you'll get in line at the medical equivalent of fast food and just be glad something's there for you at all.

The waiter won't ask you if you want fresh pepper; the doctor won't come to your house as soon as you call.

You get what you pay for.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON

ADDRESSES

• GEORGE W. BUSH

President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

• PHIL GRAMM

U.S. Senator
370 Russell Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-2934.

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

U.S. Senator
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.



We need to drop standardized testing

I have come to agree with those teachers who are rebelling against and protesting the imposition of standardized testing.

These mandatory tests are a political fad that accomplish nothing good and cause actual harm.

Well, how can we tell how the schools are performing? That's what report cards are for. You can look at your children's report cards and tell how they are progressing. How other kids are doing is none of your business.

A standardized academic test will inevitably reflect two things that have nothing to do with the quality of the school's instruction. One is IQ, and the other is family background. All else being equal, a kid with a below-average IQ will score lower than a kid with an above-average IQ. But even a kid with an above-average IQ will score low if he comes from a family environment that hinders rather than nurtures learning.

There is no way you can look at standardized test scores and tell how much is due to the quality of instruction and how much is attributable to non-school factors such as IQ, family environment and health.

Thus, the stated purpose of the tests — to measure the quality of instruction — can never be accomplished.

What happens is an imposed institutional deception. Teachers are pressured to teach to the test, which amounts mainly to rote learning. But they cannot teach to the test and also teach in the normal manner. By teaching to the test, the scores will go up, but it will be a false indicator, and the real education of the children will suffer.

All education is necessarily individual because children are individuals with different physical, psychological, emotional and family characteristics. The best system is to have one curriculum for all, one standard of performance for all, and allow the children to distribute themselves along the famous bell-shaped curve by their grades. Some kids will be A students, some B students, a majority C students and so

on. It doesn't matter what their grades are as long as they are working at full capacity and doing their very best.

Children are not standardized, and we should not attempt to force standardization on them. They should not be compared with other students. Not even in a class should one student know what another student's grade is. Nor do I believe they should be tested for IQ except in a rare medical instance. All that children need to know about IQ is that no one fully utilizes his or her gifts, and therefore the job of all is to work to full capacity. And for heaven's sakes, children should not be segregated "according to ability." That amounts to labeling, and that will be psychologically damaging to the child.

The main problem with government education is that it is, of course, a political system. Politicians, however, should be limited in their role. They should set the curriculum, lest nut cases in colleges of education impose their nonsensical or ideological ideas on children. Then politicians should fund the schools properly. Everybody knows

class size is important, and everybody knows that class size is a product of adequate funding.

As for how one school compares with another, that's not important. Schools will generally reflect their environment, and correcting the flaws in an environment is not the job of the school system. If politicians want to raise the academic achievement levels of children from poor neighborhoods, then they should do something to make the neighborhoods less poor by, for example, imposing living wage scales on businesses and by beefing up public health services.

Standardized testing is an attempt to scapegoat teachers and make them responsible for societal ills they cannot cure. Some teachers are beginning to rebel. Some refuse to administer the tests. Some have refused to teach to the test and have told their students not to pay any attention to the test or how well they do on it. More power to them.

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



IN BRIEF

Lady Hawks' Games postponed

Howard College's Lady Hawks have been postponed to postpone the Junior College Conference game. Odessa College's game is postponed due to inclement weather. Those games scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 27, have been rescheduled.

That means the Hawks' conference will come from their play host to College's Lady Hawks in a doubleheader at 1 p.m. The games will be starting at Saturday.

Steers golfer third-place finish

Big Spring's team finished Tall City Invitational in over the week.

Jerrod Simms the Steers with total of 150, third in the medalist standing.

Nick Reed with a 160 to Ryan Rodriguez 164 total, Will Wever card total.

Little League sign-up schedule

All boys between the ages 12 interested on a Big Spring League team from 5 p.m. today through at the Mall.

The final session will be 6 p.m. Saturday. Players must be their birth cert.

Planning meeting slated for

Parents of young Elbow School interested in starting baseball in the district are invited to attend a meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Branding more information contact Mike Parker at 263-8813.

Lady Steers set Monday

The Big Spring Steers Booster meet at 7 p.m. the Big Spring School Athletic Center meeting. Parents of Steers are encouraged to more information Debbie Chur 267-7538 or Per at 263-4847.

Industrial league sets

The Big Spring Industrial League will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at Wesley's.

Anyone interested in encouraged to For more information call Sally Gr 4728 or 393-523

Softball tournament scheduled

The "Pre-Spring Cash Men's Tournament" scheduled for in Stanton. Fees are \$11. The deadline is Feb. 28. For more information call Michael 4361 or call 2846.

TUESDAY

FEB. 26

	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	Premium	Nashville	Premium	Premium	Premium	Odessa	New York	Discovery	Atlanta	Learning Ch.	
6 PM	News Fortune	King of the Hill Raymond	Cyberchase Zoboos	Funnest Home Videos	News Ent. Tonight	News (CC) Fortune	News Seinfeld (CC)	Friends (CC) Roseanne	Intrusa	Movie: Jett Jackson: The	Mad TV (CC) Mad TV (CC)	Talented Mr. Ripley (CC)	(CC)	(CC)	Update With John Hagee	Law & Order (CC)	Snakes: The Big Squeeze	Pretender (CC)	Medical Medical	
7 PM	The Chair (CC)	70s Show (DVS)	Nova (CC) (DVS)	Movie: The Princess	JAG (CC)	The Chair (CC)	Fraser (CC) Watching Ellie	NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers at Milwaukee	Amigas y Rivales (SS)	Movie: (CC) (40) Star Trek: Next Gener.	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Movie: Year of the Future Part II	Movie: Hero's Story	Movie: Highlander: Endgame (CC)	Movie: 3000 Miles to Graceland (CC)	CCM N. McBride	Biography (CC)	New Detectives (CC)	Law & Order (CC)	Junkyard Wars
8 PM	NYPD Blue (CC)	24 (CC)	National Geographic (CC)	Bride	Guardian (CC)	NYPD Blue (CC)	Fraser (CC) Scrubs (CC)	geles Lakers at Milwaukee	Sakome	Back to the Future Part II	Movie: Jumanji (CC)	Movie: Jumanji (CC)	game (CC) Hero's Story	Graceland (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Law & Order (CC)	New Detectives	Salute: Nicolas Cage	Monster Machines	
9 PM	Philly (CC)	Cops (CC)	National Geographic	Whose Line? Whose Line?	Judging Amy (CC)	Philly (CC)	DateLine (CC)	Bucks NBA	Aqui y Ahora	(CC) Neverending	(45) Movie: Double Jeopardy	Chris Isaak (CC)	(15) Movie: Devil in the	(15) Movie: Devil in the	Hour of Healing	Law & Order (CC)	Justice Files (CC)	Witchblade (CC)	Junkyard Wars	
10 PM	News Nightline	Jerry Springer (CC)	News-Lehrer	700 Club (CC)	News (35) Late	News (CC) Nightline	News (35) Tonight	Basketball: Utah Jazz at P. Impacto Noticiero Univ.	P. Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Story II-Next Chapter	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Double Jeopardy	Queer as Folk (CC)	Flesh 2 (CC)	Hour of Healing	Law & Order (CC)	Justice Files (CC)	Witchblade (CC)	Junkyard Wars	
11 PM	Politically Inc. Cheers	Suddenly Mad Abt. You	Nova (CC)	Wonder Years Who's Boss?	Show (CC) (37) Late Late	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Show (CC) (37) Late	Sacramento Kings	En las Mejores Familias	Pepper Ann Jett Jackson	Next Gener. Mad TV (CC)	(CC) Movie: Jumanji (CC)	Movie: Jumanji (CC)	Oz (CC)	Update With Church	Biography (CC)	New Detectives (CC)	Salute: Nicolas Cage	Monster Machines	
12 AM	Cowboy Paid Program	Spin City (CF) Paid Program		Paid Program Paid Program	Show (CC) (12:05) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	(12:05) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	Night (CC) Frasier	Inside NBA Movie: The	Maria la del Barrio	Zorro (CC) Mickey Mouse	Baywatch (CC)	Bandits	(CC)	Dennis Miller Movie:	Faith Pleases God	Law & Order (CC)	New Detectives	Movie: It Could	World Trade Center	

DENNIS THE MENACE



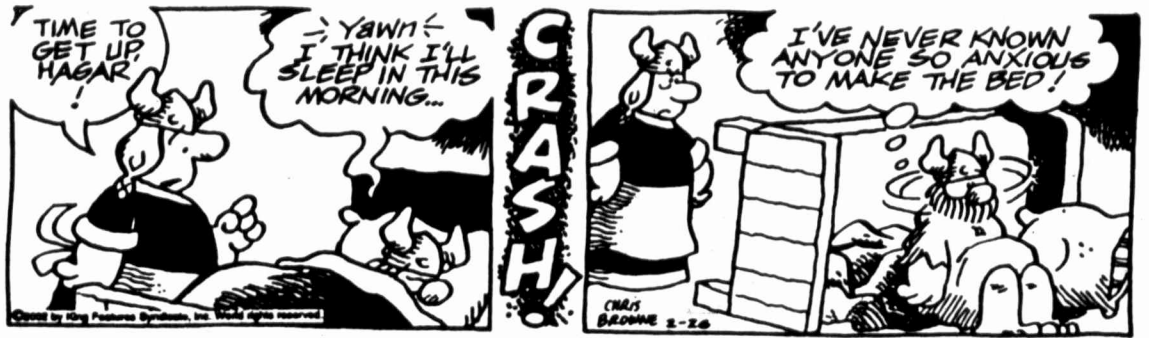
"THE CHANNELS KEEP CHANGING BECAUSE MR. WILSON FELL ASLEEP ON THE REMOTE."

FAMILY CIRCUS

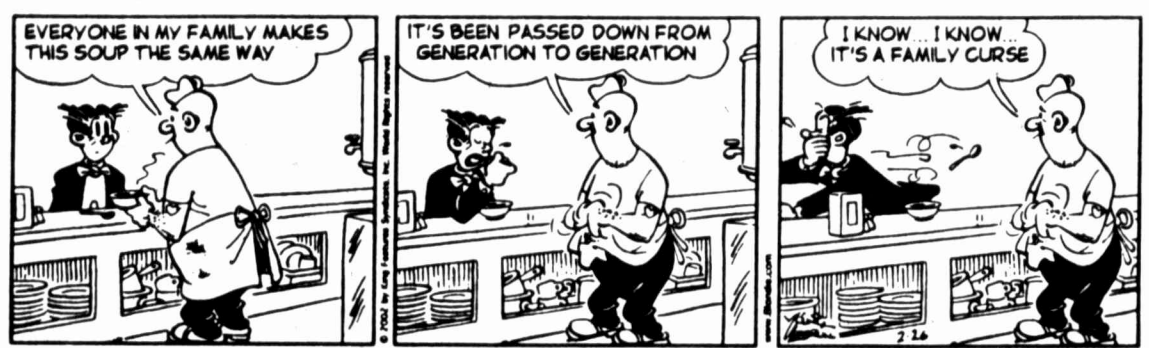


"It's easier to get across this pond now than in the summer!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



WIZARD OF ID



GEECH



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 26, the 57th day of 2002. There are 308 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Two hundred years ago, on Feb. 26, 1802, French literary giant Victor Hugo was born in Besancon.

On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from the Island of Elba to begin his second conquest of France.

In 1848, the Second French Republic was proclaimed.

In 1919, Congress established Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

In 1929, President Coolidge signed a measure establishing Grand Teton National Park.

In 1940, the United States Air Defense Command was created.

In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a

president to two terms of office, was ratified.

In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

In 1962, after becoming the first American to orbit the Earth, John Glenn told a joint meeting of Congress, "Exploration and the pursuit of knowledge have always paid dividends in the long run."

In 1987, the Tower Commission, which probed the Iran-Contra affair, issued its report, which rebuked President Reagan for failing to control his national security staff.

In 1993, a bomb built by a group of Islamic extremists exploded in the parking garage of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

Ten years ago: The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that sexually harassed students may sue to collect monetary damages from their schools and school officials. The Supreme Court of Ireland cleared the way for a 14-year-old girl to leave the country for an abortion.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Mason Adams is 83. Actor Tony Randall is 82. Actress Betty Hutton is 81. Singer Fats Domino is 74. Political columnist Robert Novak is 71. Singer Johnny Cash is 70. Country-rock musician Paul Cotton (Poco) is 59. Actor-director Bill Duke is 59. Singer Mitch Ryder is 57. Rock musician Jonathan Cain (Journey) is 52. Singer Michael Bolton is 49. Actor Greg Germann ("Ally McBeal") is 44. Bandleader John McDaniel ("The Rosie O'Donnell Show") is 41. Actress Jennifer Grant is 36.

Answer to previous puzzle

ANNE	MAPS	AHAB
REAL	ALAM	LOBE
AIDE	MIDI	CRAVE
BLACKB	BELT	ASTER
	NONO	PEELS
ARISE	SCRAPS	
CAROLS	KAY	HILT
ENACTED	WGET	OWEN
SINK	MAR	SHEENA
	ARISES	ASSAY
FORTE	PEOM	
EMITS	SLACKSOFF	
DIVOT	PISA	ELLE
TAME	ECOL	NEAR
SLED	DAINA	DOWN

Newsday Crossword

GOOD BREEDING by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
- 1 Because
 - 6 Jeweler's unit
 - 11 Mauna _____
 - 14 Scrub thoroughly
 - 15 First Hebrew letter
 - 16 _____ Baba
 - 17 Dog breed
 - 20 Kennedy and Danson
 - 21 Dog pest
 - 22 New currency
 - 23 Nightclub routines
 - 25 Chills
 - 27 Tire in the trunk
 - 30 '40s First Dog
 - 32 Horse's gait
 - 36 Make a mistake
 - 37 Entryway
 - 39 Head-over-heels
 - 41 Dog breed
 - 44 Reluctant (to)
 - 45 Lunch time, often
 - 46 Erms' followers
 - 47 Singer Home
 - 48 Right away, in memos
 - 50 Western outlaw _____ James
 - 52 Actress Rogers
 - 54 Lima or pinto
 - 56 Congressional cable channel
 - 59 Previous vice president
 - 61 Eve's second son
 - 65 Dog breed
 - 68 Hawaiian garland
 - 69 Mrs. Roy Rogers
 - 70 Parisian's "thank you"
- DOWN**
- 1 "Get away!"
 - 2 Nastase of tennis
 - 3 Geek
 - 4 Roman emperor
 - 5 Conclusion
 - 6 Summons
 - 7 Nautical adverb
 - 8 List price
 - 9 Orangutan or gorilla
 - 10 A crowd, supposedly
 - 11 Hideout
 - 12 Margarine
 - 13 Puts on television
 - 18 Toward the stem
 - 19 Steal, as cattle
 - 24 Gives up, as territory
 - 26 Capital of Egypt
 - 27 Love Story author
 - 28 Show to be true
 - 29 "Over the Rainbow" composer
 - 31 Sports stadium
 - 33 Wanders around
 - 34 Kitchen appliances
 - 35 To the point
 - 38 Hour after midnight
 - 40 Teenage Mutant _____ Turtles
 - 42 Serious plays
 - 43 Group of military bigwigs
 - 49 Traffic light, for example
 - 51 Tooth material
 - 53 Signed, as a contract
 - 55 Snakelike fish
 - 56 Bovine youngster
 - 57 Snow vehicle
 - 58 Couple
 - 60 Word form for "all"
 - 62 Tupperware sound
 - 63 Ingrain deeply
 - 64 Star Wars princess
 - 66 St. cresser
 - 67 Doctors' org.

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71						72						73