

BIG SPRING HERALD

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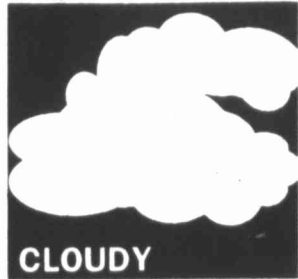
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY

March 20, 2002

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 35°-39° TOMORROW 65°-68°

VITA helps prepare taxes on Mondays

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance volunteers are assisting local residents with their 2001 income tax returns.

The volunteers will be at the Senior Citizens Center, 1901 Simler Drive, from 9 a.m. to noon every Monday through April 1.

Those interested are asked to bring their 2000 tax return, W2s and 1099 forms along with their tax booklet and other documents showing their 2001 income.

For more information, call Dorothy Kennemur, VITA volunteer, at 398-5522 or 267-1628.

WHAT'S UP...

TODAY

□ Fraternal order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

□ Gideons International, Big Spring Camp U42060, 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, noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

□ Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. at the RSVP offices, 501 Runnels.

□ American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m.

□ Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Vets of America meets at 7 p.m., 124 Jonesboro Rd.

□ Masonic Lodge 1340, 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

□ AMBUCS meets at noon at the Brandin Iron.

□ ABC Club meets at noon at the Brandin Iron.

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

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Showers to head off after leaving about an inch of moisture

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

After gracing Howard County with about an inch of rain, the recent weather system is moving on.

Meteorologist Greg Murdoch of the National Weather Service in Midland said



KIGHT

reports indicate about 0.92 inches of precipitation in the past 24 hours, while a spokesperson for the United States Department of Agriculture in Big Spring said 1.06 inches were measured by that group's gauges.

"I believe that's about all we're going to get," Murdoch said. "It's a done deal."

Sunny skies are on the way, he added.

"Cloudy this morning, decreasing clouds after

noon," he said. "Upper 50s for a high, north wind 10 to 20, tonight some fog after midnight, otherwise clear."

The sunny weather will continue through the weekend, Murdoch said.

"Thursday, sunny and warmer, highs in the upper 60s," he said. "Friday a little cooler, highs 55-60, and it looks like it's warming up into the weekend with highs in the 70s. Monday and Tuesday, it looks like it's about the same — partly cloudy, lows 45 to 50 and

highs 70 to 80."

Howard County Cooperative Extension Agent David Kight said local farmers should be happy with the early rainfall.

"I've heard, as far as totals, everything from a little over an inch in the northern part of the county to around half an inch. Most everybody got around half an inch," he said. "So that's good. That's all very positive. It is a time frame where most producers are

out in the field doing some land preparation for planting."

Kight said that even with the rainfall, many ag producers this year are exploring conservation cultivation techniques.

"We have quite a few producers this year are looking at doing more conservation tillage," he said. "They're doing less cultivating and planning on planting on some type of stubble from

See RAIN, Page 2A

Fund-raiser promises doggone good time

Humane Society Auction to help generate funds for intake room

HERALD Staff Report

"Would you like to ride on a beautiful balloon..."

Or maybe be the proud owner of a player-autographed hockey stick or baseball, or relax in a condo in Maine?

These opportunities and many others are in store for those who attend the Howard County Humane Society auction, set Thursday at the La Posada Restaurant.

"It's going to be a lot of fun. We're really looking forward to it," said Kathy Johnson, Humane Society vice president.

The event is a fund-raiser to help the humane society construct a building in which new arrivals can be quarantined. The event will be held in the restaurant's Fireplace Room. Viewing of the items to be auctioned begins at 6 p.m. The auction will start at 7.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served. A cash bar will be available.

"It's the biggest fund-raiser we have ever had. We've had others, but this is the first really large function for the Humane Society,



Ares gets a neck rub from Howard County Humane Society board members Sue Partee, left, and Kathy Johnson. The black Labrador hopes to find a home at the society's auction on Thursday at La Posada Restaurant. Partee holds two round trip tickets, another items up for auction, from Southwest Airlines to anywhere the company flies. Viewing of the items to be auctioned begins at 6 p.m. The auction will start at 7.

which is supported entirely by donations," said Johnson.

Among the items to be auctioned are a private balloon ride for two, tickets for two on Southwest Airlines, use of condos in San Diego and Maine, Coy McCann commemorative bronze

medallions, a baseball signed by Bobby Witt and a Jackalopes jersey and hockey stick autographed by the team.

Others include a full-course dinner for six and a private wine and cheese reception for 10 at the Heritage Museum.

There is a Kay Smith watercolor, art lessons and a painting by Sheree Moates, a wine rack from TexaStone Quarries, collectible dolls and much more.

A silent auction and other

See AUCTION, Page 2A

After Hours event slated at the mall on Thursday

HERALD Staff Report

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its first Business After Hours event of the year from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday at the Big Spring Mall.

"It's a good opportunity for our merchants and other members of the community to get to know each other and share ideas," said Debbye ValVerde, chamber executive director.

The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

The reception will be held in front of Regis Salon. Door prizes will be awarded. Business owners and employees are encouraged to bring and share business cards.

In addition, the mall will also be hosting a Home & Garden Show from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. that day.

"We will have some vendors from around town showing their wares," said Kathy Lusk, mall manager.

Lusk said visitors will be offering everything from

See MALL, Page 2A

BSISD may be released from 20-year-old desegregation suit

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District trustees will learn if the district will be released from a 20-year-old desegregation lawsuit on Thursday.

"I will give a final report on the desegregation lawsuit related to the district's unitary status at Thursday's board meeting," BSISD superintendent Murray Murphy



MURPHY

said. Trustees will meet in the high school board room, 707 11th Place, at 5:15 p.m.

If released, the control of the district reverts back under the board of trustees from the United States Department of Justice.

"This has been a 10-year process," Murphy said. "In 1992, the district first started pursuing unitary status."

In 1995, the district was denied release from the lawsuit even though the district met the requirements of lowering the minority student population percentage at Bauer

Magnet Elementary, Murphy said. The district still needed to increase its minority teacher recruitment, he said.

The question of whether the district will stay under the desegregation lawsuit will not impact the planned realignment of school zones and closure of Anderson Kindergarten, Murphy said.

"The realignment of the school attendance zones meet the criteria of the courts," he said.

In other legal matters, Murphy will inform board members on the upcoming mediation over the Big Spring Junior High School. In 2000,

the school district filed suit against Terracon Consultants, seeking payment for all past and future damages to the building, as well as interest, attorneys' fees and court costs.

Terracon was the firm hired by the district to determine if the soil at the site was suitable for construction of the junior high building. The suit charges that in 1996, Terracon reported it had found the site to be suitable. However, it has since been determined that the a canyon once existed on the site. A

See BSISD, Page 2A

Health Fair

\$25 discount given for early booth rental

HERALD Staff Report

Agencies and organizations which secure a booth by Friday for Health Fair 2002 will receive a \$25 discount.

The fair is scheduled for April 20 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The event is free and open to the public.

Anyone requesting a booth after Friday will be charged \$100. Reservations made through Friday will be \$75, said Nancy Jones, co-chairman of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair

See HEALTH, Page 2A



Hollis McCright, librarian for the Howard County Library, Mayor Russ McEwen and Carl Smoot, marketing support analyst for Wells Fargo Bank, perse the past through the display of photos and newspaper clippings that tell the story of the bank's 150-year history. The bank held a special ribbon cutting on Monday.

HERALD Photo/Andrea Medlin

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Andersen seeks speedy trial on charges it shredded Enron data

HOUSTON (AP) — Lawyers for embattled auditing firm Arthur Andersen LLP aren't covering from a federal criminal indictment for mass shredding of Enron-related documents at its Houston offices.

They promised to vigorously fight the charges as the accounting firm prepared for a court appearance today that was the first hearing since the grand jury indictment.

"Our attitude is going to be: 'Give us a trial right away,'" said Rusty Hardin, a Houston defense attorney who is among those representing the Chicago-based firm.

Hardin said attorneys would ask a federal magistrate to arraign the firm and demand a trial within weeks to challenge what he called

the government's flimsy evidence. "An indictment is just as bad as a conviction in terms of the company's reputation unless we get a quick trial and vindication," Hardin said.

The Justice Department's first indictment related to Enron Corp.'s collapse was unsealed last week. In the indictment, Andersen is accused of obstructing justice by shredding tons of documents and deleting computer files related to Enron audits.

The indictment said high-level Andersen management officials held a conference call to discuss the onset of a Securities and Exchange Commission inquiry of Enron in October. Dozens of trunks then were obtained to haul paper from Andersen's offices in

the Enron building to the auditing firm's Houston office for shredding, according to the indictment.

"Tons of paper relating to the Enron audit were promptly shredded as part of the orchestrated document destruction," the indictment said.

Andersen vehemently challenged the allegations, calling them "couched in broad, vague, and conclusory terms. They offer no detail at all, and fail even to identify by name the higher-ups at Arthur Andersen LLP who the government believes masterminded the document destruction."

The firm is also asking its 28,000 U.S. workers to write to Congress and say they are being "emotionally and financially crippled" by the indictment.

Andersen, Enron's auditor for 16 years, acknowledged in January a "significant but undetermined" amount of Enron-related documents had been destroyed at its Houston office.

No individuals were indicted even though Andersen has sought to blame the accounting scandal on its lead Enron auditor, David Duncan, and others in its Houston office.

Duncan was fired shortly after that acknowledgment and is cooperating with investigators.

But the indictment alleged Enron documents had been destroyed by Andersen personnel in London, Portland, Ore., and at the firm's headquarters in Chicago.

The indictment has had other

possible effects on Andersen. The New York Times reported today that talks between Andersen and the Securities and Exchange Commission over a \$500 million payment to settle claims stemming from the Enron investigation broke off after the indictment.

The money would have been used to reimburse investors who lost large sums when Enron collapsed in December, the newspaper said.

Andersen faces dozens of lawsuits and an exodus of clients following Enron's collapse.

The energy giant filed for the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history on Dec. 2 after failing amid a complex web of partnerships that Enron used to keep some \$500 million in debt off its books.

Negotiators reach accord on farm programs

WASHINGTON (AP) — With agreements in hand on a broad agricultural spending plan, congressional negotiators say they hope to finish work next month on an overhaul of farm and nutrition programs.

Under the deal reached Tuesday, subsidies for grain, cotton and other crops would increase by 70 percent. Spending on conservation programs that subsidize improvements in farm practices and idle environmentally sensitive land would go up by 80 percent. Negotiators also set aside money for restoring food stamp benefits to noncitizens.

Leaders of a House-Senate conference committee issued a statement late Tuesday saying their agreement provides the "needed

framework to speed negotiations for early April completion" of a compromise farm bill.

They said the committee expects final decisions on the legislation during public meetings the second week of April.

Lawmakers still must agree on how the money will be spent as well as resolve major differences between the House and Senate on farm policy.

Tuesday's agreement represents a compromise between spending levels contained in bills passed last fall by the House and in February by the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said the deal "puts us one step closer to enacting a bill that corrects the problems" in the 1996 farm law.

Last year's congressional budget plan allowed lawmakers to increase spending for agriculture, conservation and nutrition programs by \$73.5 billion over the coming decade.

Tuesday's agreement allows commodity subsidies to rise by \$48.6 billion over the 10-year period, or nearly \$5 billion annually, a 70 percent increase over existing programs. Money is included to set up a new subsidy program for dairy farms.

Conservation spending would rise by \$17.1 billion over the decade.

Environmentalists immediately attacked that number as inadequate. A Senate-passed farm bill would have boosted conservation spending by \$21.3 billion. A House bill included a \$15.8 billion increase.

"Senate negotiators have cut the programs that benefit the public and most family farmers in order to give billions more to the country's largest cotton and grain farmers," said Scott Faber of the advocacy group Environmental Defense.

The agreement also set aside \$6.4 billion to expand the food-stamp program by about 3 percent. That would be enough to restore benefits to noncitizens who have been in the country for at least five years. Other changes would provide small increases in benefits for people already getting food stamps.

"Given the realities of the farm bill, this represents a reasonable compromise," said Ellen Nissenbaum of the liberal Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Campaign finance bill set for final Senate vote

WASHINGTON (AP) — After years of wrangling, campaign finance legislation is approaching its final vote in the Senate, setting the stage for a new era in the way money is spent to influence politics.

Passage, expected Wednesday, would send the bill to President Bush.

The legislation would turn off the flow of unregulated "soft money" from corporations, unions and individuals to the national parties, a source of funds that amounted to \$500 million for the 2000 elections. Parties and candidates would have to rely more heavily on limited and regulated "hard money" donations to run their campaigns and get their message across.

The Senate was to vote this afternoon to end debate, an action that requires 60 votes. If that was achieved,

"This is a very fine moment," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who seven years ago first joined Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., in what has been a long and uphill fight to win congressional approval of the most significant change in campaign finance law

since spending limits were imposed in the post-Watergate year of 1974.

McCain said recent political scandals, including the collapse of Enron Corp., a major contributor to hundreds of lawmakers, helped build momentum this time. He added that campaign finance had become a credible issue during the 2000 presidential campaign, when he had made it a theme in his unsuccessful race against George W. Bush for the Republican presidential nomination.

Bush was expected to sign the legislation, which passed the House last month. The president has opposed aspects of the bill, including the soft money ban, but has generally stayed on the sidelines and told opponents that they should not count on his veto.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who for years has effectively blocked the McCain-Feingold bill, on Tuesday said Bush's decision not to get involved "changed the dynamics" of the debate. "If the president had indicated an antipathy it certainly would have made it easier to defeat it," he said.

Parties push dueling budgets in House and Senate amid election-year fight over deficits, Social Security

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Democrats say their \$2.1 trillion budget for next year sets a course for an important goal that President Bush ignores: halting the use of Social Security funds to create federal surpluses.

But Republicans preparing to push a fiscal blueprint of their own through the House say their plan, which largely resembles Bush's 2003 budget, has the right priorities. It would increase defense and domestic security spending while cutting other programs to bring deficits under control.

The two competing proposals were taking separate paths through Congress on Wednesday in an election-year showdown contrasting how each party hopes to apportion federal resources — and appeal to voters.

Democrats planned to present their measure to the Senate Budget Committee on Wednesday, with final passage expected Thursday. It would require the president and lawmakers to craft a five-year course to eliminating the use of hundreds of billions in Social Security surpluses to pay for other programs.

"I think the real test for this Congress is whether or not we are going to face up to our long-term challenges," said panel Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., the plan's chief author.

In the House, majority Republicans were hoping to move a budget of their own through the chamber today. Their plan would rely on \$831 billion in Social Security funds to turn over all federal deficits into surpluses beginning in 2004.

"We will pass a budget," predicted House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas. "It will be as close to balanced as humanly possible given we have a war."

Congress' budget is a non-binding blueprint that sets overall targets that are often ignored when lawmakers write later spending and tax bills. Even so, they are always political battlefields because they let each party highlight its priorities.

Conrad's plan would leave for next year the task of deciding which spending cuts and possible tax increases would be needed to halt the use of Social Security funds. He said that would take an estimated

\$433 billion over five years.

Enacting such savings now with a weak economy would be wrong, Conrad said. But Republicans said his mechanism would postpone tough decisions while ignoring that the best way to strengthen Social Security is to make the

economy stronger.

"It's clear Democrats are looking to President Bush for leadership during these challenging times," said White House budget office spokesman Trent Duffy, referring to Conrad's inclusion of the president in his mechanism for finding sav-

ings. "The president will continue to deliver."

Social Security surpluses were spent for other programs for decades until annual federal surpluses appeared in 1998. Both parties then promised to use Social Security surpluses for debt reduction.

SPRING SHOE FAIR

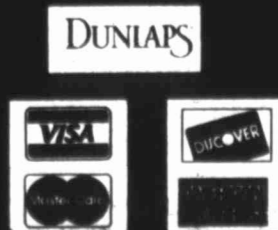
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EDITORIAL

"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.

Ken Dulaney
Publisher
John A. Moseley
Managing Editor
Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Humane Society event promises to be 'fun' raiser

Now here's something to bark about. It's an auction Thursday night to help the Howard County Humane Society. Specifically, the group is trying to raise funds to construct an intake building — a small building where new animals can be quarantined for several days before being placed with the rest of the four-footed population.

The auction is being held at the La Posada Restaurant's Fireplace Room. There's no charge to get in, and snacks will be served.

Beginning at 6 p.m., those who are interested can look over the many items to be auctioned — and there are a bunch of them. With offerings from condos on the East and West coasts to full-course dinners, paintings, airline tickets and jewelry, it promises to be a festive event. There are collectibles, movie passes, certificates for oil changes, meals at restaurants — the list goes on and on. There will also be a silent auction, as well as some other special give-aways.

Those who attend will have the opportunity to join the humane society. It's a \$20 donation and a T-shirt comes with it.

The auction begins at 7 p.m. No meal will be served, but a cash bar will be available.

Whether you are an animal lover or not, we think you'll agree that the auction offers an entertaining evening and benefits a worthwhile agency.

Come on out Thursday and help the Howard County Humane Society reach its goal.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I have an idea to pull a trick on the police and other law officers in our town.

Everyday we read of someone that has been arrested for violating the law. Let us all be faithful and law-abiding citizens and give them nothing to do.

No drinking or fighting with our wives. Be sure that we have legal safety stickers and license plates. Doing nothing illegal that will cause them to get a call.

Boy, this could be fun! The dispatchers would have to sit for eight hours, staring at the walls. The police would have to sit in their cars for eight hours and never get a call.

Let us make their lives miserable having nothing to do. The

county attorney would be idle. No one to try in court.

All he could do is sit in the office and stare at his secretary and doodle on a scratch pad.

I bet that it would make them so mad that they would be climbing the wall.

As we know, they all look forward to picking on someone who has violated the law. When no one violates the law, they begin to worry. This will be good for them.

Let them all sweat. It will save thousands of dollars, save heartaches for our loved ones and we can be proud that we have not hurt anyone.

Wouldn't that be fun?
JAMES W. ABERNATHY
BIG SPRING

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail at johnmoseley@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

No matter what, you just can't rush spring

FISHTRAP HOLLOW, Miss. — I'm itching for spring. A peculiar pox is climbing my arm, up from a hand covered in Braille-like pimples.

I'm blaming the ugly rash on a dash up the hill where a thousand daffodils bloom. Well, maybe not a thousand, but certainly hundreds. Each year about this time, the peaceful rise behind my house is a riot of naturalized neon yellow, blooming bulbs that survived from another era. That hillside beckons.

My gardening friend Bobbie and I simply wanted to relocate a few of those bulbs, or at least that was the excuse. What we really wanted was a stab at the earth and early spring, a chance to come in close contact with the only deep green around. We came in contact with something vile instead.

Bobbie, generally more sensitive than I, ended up

in the emergency room to try to find relief from the itching. I prefer to scratch and complain.

A broken shovel sits against a tree, up the hill where we left it. We managed to move only a couple of dozen bulbs before admitting the ground was hard — and so was the work.

As my mother used to warn us when we'd shed our shoes in March: "You can't rush the season."

But we stood and looked and sighed a lot, appreciating the beauty of the yellow flowers, planted there decades ago when an old log house stood on the site. Some other woman in a faded housedress and a rush for spring no doubt poked a hole in the ground and planted a few bulbs, never dreaming her drop would someday mean an ocean of color.

I have paid for the pleasure of that short hike. The poison oak or ivy or cow itch vine — take your pick — continues to creep across my winter-white skin, and at night I claw at my own body. I thought a vine with a dead leaf was a safe vine, but now know better.

The trip was worth it. A body gets desperate for spring about this time

every year, when the calendar promises it's coming, coming soon, and the thermometer drops to 12 degrees. Every morning as I clean the ashes from the wood-burning stove, I hope it's for the last time this season. The next morning, I haul ashes again.

My hero E.B. White wrote a poem about spring in which he bravely threatened to ignore it altogether: "I think I've had enough of hopefulness, green things and promises, new things and promises"

He vowed not to be seduced by spring again: "Let the sun go on, promising much, posting its love letters on the east wind — I'll tear them up"

But by the end of the poem you know he'll do no such thing. For one thing, E.B. White loved baby animals, an integral part of a spring bouquet.

And, the power of spring is just like love; you know better than to give in, but can't help yourself. Every year the earth is reinvented, marketed in obvious, time-proven ways and hawked door to door. We always answer the knock and buy the goods.

Winter is losing her grip. Yesterday, the dog was standing on top of her

water bowl, the ice beneath her paws thick enough to support all 35 puppy pounds. The siren daffodils that lured Bobbie and me to a rash were bowed by the bitter cold. Winter was still in charge.

That was yesterday. Today is a windy March one, as warm and rough as a cat's tongue, and green blades of grass are shooting up through trashy brown leaves.

I keep thinking of excuses to leave my desk and walk about outside.

Twice I have lit the wet pile of limbs near the barn, watching carefully as the flame extinguishes itself with a small, defeated puff of smoke. Three times I've patrolled the yard, adding more brush to the pile, rolling up the hose that for a week has been frozen solid.

I've checked for minnows in the branch and made sure the barn rats haven't eaten all the hammock. Soon enough I'll be loitering in its folds, longing for fall.

With no more urgent chores outside, I bathe my appendages in hydrocortisone, penance for that age-old sin our mothers warned us about: rushing the season.



RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON



Hardly anyone notices March 2

There is a campaign in Texas to make a bigger deal out of March second, Texas Independence Day. I am in full agreement.

Not enough Texans know much about the day. There is some justifiable confusion on the date, particularly since the Alamo battle was going on at the time (in 1836) and Sam Houston's army didn't defeat Santa Anna until April 21. A group of delegates met at Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 1 for the Convention of 1836. They assembled in near freezing weather in an unfurnished house.

Of the 59 delegates, 12 were natives of Virginia, 10 from North Carolina, nine from Tennessee, six from Kentucky, four from Georgia, three from South Carolina, three from Pennsylvania, three from Mexico, two from New

York and one each from Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, England, Ireland, Scotland and Canada.

Only 10 of the delegates were in Texas as early as 1830. All had political experience in state or national government.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted on March 2 and members began signing it on March 3. The convention then wrote the constitution and elected government officials. With the report of the approach of the Mexican Army, the convention adjourned in haste on March 17.

The declaration was written by George C. Childress, chairman of the convention. In fact, there is some evidence he brought to the convention a proposed declaration which was adopted with little change. The declaration charged that the government of Mexico had ceased to protect the lives, liberty and property of the people and that it had been changed from a federal republic to a military dictatorship.

The people of Texas had demonstrated against the misdeeds of the govern-

ment only to have them thrown into dungeons and forced to battle outrageous odds. The welfare of Texans had been sacrificed and the Mexican government had failed to provide a system of public education, trial by jury, freedom of religion and other essentials of good government.

And, the declaration states, Indians had been forced to massacre settlers. According to the declaration, the Mexican government had invaded Texas with a large army to carry on a war of extermination. The final grievance listed in justification of revolution charged that the Mexican government "had been the contemptible sport and victim of successive military revolutions and had continually exhibited every characteristic of a weak, corrupt and tyrannical government."

After the signing of the original declaration, five copies were dispatched to designated Texas towns. The original was deposited with the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., and was not returned to Texas until 1896. It is displayed in the Capitol building in Austin.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH



Bedford draws

BEDFORD (A Hess says the 1 knife found t security guard his pickup was left behind from personal belong by his illegal gr

But the knife costing the honor student junior year of Hess was expelled Bell High School ago under the tolerance weap An appeal i Thursday.

School officials their hands are policy, despite t claim that the k by accident after father boxed up mother's linens kitchenware to Goodwill store.

His father sai is misguided ar room for exter

Hewlett

CUPERTINO, — Despite he from opposing s Hewlett-Packard Fiorina claim enough support billion purchase Computer Corp. mega-merger in of Compaq inve

HP director Hewlett, who l five-month against the purch ed Tuesday t shareholder vot was too close t cially since in change their m times with onl ballot counting.

But Fiorina proxy solicitor her the comp have enough vo "We think r but sufficient r we think it's i let people know said at a news c

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Accepting Check

Bedford student's expulsion over bread knife draws added criticism of zero tolerance policy

BEDFORD (AP) — Taylor Hess says the 10-inch bread knife found by a school security guard in the bed of his pickup was accidentally left behind from a box of personal belongings owned by his ailing grandmother.

But the knife could end up costing the 16-year-old honor student the rest of his junior year of high school. Hess was expelled from L.D. Bell High School two weeks ago under the state's zero-tolerance weapons policy. An appeal is set for Thursday.

School officials have said their hands are tied by the policy, despite the student's claim that the knife was left by accident after he and his father boxed up his grandmother's linens, books and kitchenware to drop off at a Goodwill store.

His father said the policy is misguided and leaves no room for extenuating cir-

cumstances.

"Zero tolerance doesn't mean zero judgment or rights," Robert Hess said.

Gene Buinger, superintendent of the Hurst-Eules-Bedford School District, said Tuesday that Hess' expulsion was mandated by the state education code.

"We're very limited in what we can do," Buinger said at a news conference. "I understand the public's frustration. I'm frustrated, too."

Hess is just one of many students across the nation to be expelled after violating zero-tolerance policies, which were created to prevent school violence and keep campuses safe.

Students have been punished for handing out mints to classmates, possessing a nail clipper and taking a plastic ax to a class Halloween party under these policies.

Some have been arrested.

An 8-year-old boy in Jonesboro Ark., was suspended for three days after pointing a breaded chicken finger at a teacher and saying, "Pow, pow, pow."

Last year, the American Bar Association voted to recommend ending the policies, saying they are unfair and inappropriate for many children.

"Zero tolerance has become a one-size-fits-all solution to all the problems that schools confront," said a report accompanying the resolution.

The Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Adrienne Sobolak cautioned that the education code doesn't have the words "zero tolerance" written in the policy and said the local districts do have some discretion in determining punishment.

"Every case has to be

looked at individually," she said. "People have to use their common sense and discretion to make any decision."

Buinger said school officials could shorten Hess' expulsion because the teen had a knife, not a gun.

For now, Hess is taking classes at a local alternative school. He faces the possibility of being placed in the Tarrant County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program, although Hess hopes the appeal before district officials will allow him to return to Bell.

But if the expulsion is upheld, the family said, Hess will probably go to private school.

"I already know I'm not going to the juvenile justice program," Hess said. "I'm not going to be put in there. I don't belong there."

Hewlett-Packard chief says vote backs Compaq buy

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — Despite hearing boos from opposing shareholders, Hewlett-Packard chief Carly Fiorina claimed to have enough support for the \$20 billion purchase of Compaq Computer Corp., putting the mega-merger into the hands of Compaq investors.

HP director Walter Hewlett, who led a fierce five-month campaign against the purchase, insisted Tuesday that an HP shareholder vote on the deal was too close to call, especially since investors can change their minds several times with only their last ballot counting.

But Fiorina said HP's proxy solicitor had assured her the company would have enough votes to win.

"We think we have a slim but sufficient margin, and we think it's important to let people know that," she said at a news conference.

It will take several weeks to determine the official result of what appeared to be the closest corporate elec-

tion in years. Independent proxy counters must verify each vote, and each side can challenge whether ballots were signed properly.

No such drama was likely today in Houston, where Compaq shareholders are expected to overwhelmingly approve the deal. Compaq has been struggling and HP is offering to pay a premium for its shares.

If both groups of shareholders back the deal, the companies can begin to merge operations once both votes are certified.

"We are very close to making this merger a reality," said Compaq chief executive Michael Capellas, who would hold the No. 2 post at the new HP.

HP's claim of victory came as somewhat of a surprise.

When the day began, nearly one-fourth of HP shares were publicly in Hewlett's camp and less than 10 percent had come out in favor of the deal.

Top executives at HP and

Compaq say the deal is essential for their survival in the consolidating computer industry.

They believe that together they can dramatically

improve their packages for corporate customers, reinvigorate their slumping personal-computer divisions and generate \$2.5 billion a year in cost savings.

Michigan woman, recognized as world's oldest person, dies at 115 years, 56 days

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — Maud Farris-Luse, recognized last year by the Guinness World Records book as the world's oldest living person, has died. She was 115.

She died Monday from complications of pneumonia at Community Health Center of Branch County in Coldwater, a town south of Grand Rapids in southwestern Michigan. She had been in the hospital since Sunday night, said Kyle Fassett, administrator of the Laurels of Coldwater, the nursing home where Farris-Luse lived.

Farris-Luse was 115 years, 56 days old.

"It was her time," said great-granddaughter Laurie Ferris, 32. "She lived a long time and now she's in a better place. She passed away very, very peacefully."

Last June, Guinness editors recognized Farris-Luse as the oldest living person whose age could be verified. Though her birth certificate was lost over the years, the editors authenticated her age through other documents, includ-

ing U.S. Census Bureau records and her 1903 marriage license.

Described as a sharp and fiercely independent woman, Farris-Luse lived alone and cared for herself until she broke her hip in a 1991 fall at her house. That is when she moved to the Laurels nursing home. She remained mentally alert until about five years ago.

By the time of her 115th birthday in January, relatives said she could not see or hear them or understand what was happening, but still seemed to enjoy visitors.

"She was just a wonderful woman, loved her family, always happy," said Ferris, whose branch of the family prefers that spelling instead of Farris.

Farris-Luse was born Jan. 21, 1887, in Morley, about 40 miles north of Grand Rapids. She married Jason Farris, a farmer and laborer, in 1903, when he was 24 and she was 16. They lived in Angola, Ind., before moving to Coldwater in 1923. They had seven children.

Farris died at age 72.

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a thorough and proper examination, and a treatment you'll understand and believe in. ER+ means a quality emergency room plus the comforts of knowing you're in the right place, with the right people, getting quality care. Right here.



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For the sports lover the library offers a variety of reading fare

Michael Jordan's return to basketball is problematical — nursing a bad knee and a few years older, will he make it?



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How does Michael Jordan retain his star status? Being an extraordinarily gifted athlete is only part of the reason he is considered the greatest basketball player of all time.

In "How to Be Like Mike" by Pat Williams and Michael Weinreb, you will learn how to attain star status in your own life and attain the goals that you set for yourself.

Tiger Wood's domination of golf is unparalleled. His approach to the game is a cut above his competitors. Tiger has written the ultimate "how to" book.

In "How I Play Golf" (by Woods and Golf Magazine) he reveals his six secrets) to a great back swing; how to psyche yourself up for a great shot; and how to control spin, trajectory and direction with your irons.

With hundreds of photographs and diagrams, you too can emulate Tiger's success!

Throughout Dale Jarrett's career he has been the kind of racer that everyone could root for — calm under pressure, articulate, respectful of his peers and fiercely competitive.

In Frank Moriarty's biography "Dale Jarrett" he tells the remarkable story of one of stock car racing's hottest drivers.

There are lots of pictures and the subject is interesting.

Dale Earnhardt was called the Intimidator. A nightmare in the rear-view mirror.

A seven time Winston Cup winner, he inspired thousands of fans with success and dedication to stockcar racing.

His life and death is retold in "At the Altar of Speed: The Fast Life and Tragic Death of Dale Earnhardt" by Leigh Montville.

The first new biography of the Rolling Stones since the early 1980's, "Old Gods Almost Dead" is the most comprehensive book to date and one of the few to cover all the band members.

It goes backstage and shows the feuds, the drugs, the marriages, and affairs that inspired their songs and the business of making records and staying on top!

The cover photo is amazing! The contrast between what they looked like 40 years ago and today is pretty spooky.

Keith Richards and Mick Jagger both look as if "they were rode hard and put up wet!"

The Library has received "Ghosts in the Graveyard — Texas Cemetery Tales" by Olyve Hallmark Abbott.

Legends of abandoned graveyards and some not so abandoned abound. Read these tales with an open mind, they are for pleasure and fun. The book also contains some unusual coffins, tombstones and epitaphs as well as early burial customs.

A new book that we recently received in Large Print, is "Up Country".

In "Up Country", Nelson DeMille cannily revives the army career of Chief Warrant Officer Paul Brenner, the cynical, hardworking Criminal Investigation Division man who was forcibly retired after solving the high-profile killing in "The General's Daughter". (John Travolta played Paul Brenner in the movie, "The General's Daughter" and quite possibly will reprise his role in a film version of "Up Country") Brenner is called back to investigate the murder of a young army lieutenant by his captain.

The catch is, the crime took place during the heat of the Tet Offensive, and the only living witness was a North Vietnamese soldier who described the incident in a 30-year-old letter that has only recently come to light.

Soon Brenner, a Vietnam vet, is on an ostensible nostalgia tour of his old stomping grounds.

The trip immediately turns dangerous as he heads "up country" to search for the letter writer, accompanied by a gorgeous American woman, who's hiding more than even the smartest CID officer could imagine. An engrossing read.

Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Story-time is Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Children's Area. The Library is located at 500 Main St.; our phone number is 264-2260. HCL's website is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; our email address is howardlibrary@hotmail.com.

Hollis McCright is the librarian for Howard County Library and writes a regular column for the Herald.

CASA of Big Spring asking for badly needed volunteers

Special to the Herald

Each day, 8,775 children in the United States are reported victims of abuse and neglect.

Each year, over 100,000 children are reported victims of abuse and neglect in the state of Texas.

Over 2,800 of those children are reported victims of abuse and neglect in the Permian Basin.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of West Texas is urging you to become a volunteer.

If you've always wanted to make a difference in the world, here's your chance.

By standing up for and speaking in court on behalf of children who have been neglected and abused, you'll ensure that they find safe, permanent homes — something every child deserves.

Volunteer as a Court Appointed Advocate in Big Spring, and its surrounding areas (Martin, Glasscock and Scurry counties) and change one life at a time.

If you're not able to serve

as a CASA volunteer, but believe in the need for helping abused and neglected children, you can still make a significant difference.

Your local CASA program is a non-profit organization and affiliate of Texas CASA and the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.

Your tax-deductible gift to CASA will support the training of volunteers so they can be there when an abused or neglected child needs someone most.

Next to your time, your financial support of CASA is the most valuable contribution you can make to help children who do not have the representation they desperately need.

For more information, you can contact the Big Spring office at 263-4162 or the Midland office at 915-683-1114. Visit our website at www.casawtx.org or send an e-mail to voices@casawtx.org

Nursing shortage leads to recruitment of men

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Recruiting efforts aimed at boosting the thinning ranks of registered nurses are targeting a nearly untapped labor pool: men.

A campaign kicked off last month by New Brunswick-based Johnson & Johnson features men in nearly half its advertising, and 21 of the 68 nurses profiled on the health care giant's promotional Web site are men.

Men make up about 6 percent of the 2.7 million nurses in the United States, and a nationwide poll found only one in 10 men considers it a career choice.

There are an estimated 126,000 vacant full-time nursing positions at hospitals across the country. That number is forecast to triple by 2020.

"If you exclude men from recruiting, then you reduce half the potential population to recruit from," said Johnson & Johnson spokesman John McKeegan. Johnson & Johnson's

program includes recruitment posters, brochures and videos to be placed in 25,000 high schools and 1,500 nursing schools and organizations.

The Web site features a searchable database of scholarships and nursing programs in the country.

"If men realized what they're getting into, they would see this with much more optimism. There are so many opportunities that could unfold: business, management, clinical specialties," said Peter Buerhaus, senior associate dean for research at Vanderbilt University's School of Nursing in Nashville.

Michael Desjardins, a 33-year-old registered nurse who attends the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and is president of the National Student Nurse Association, said: "I make \$23 an hour. That's a great salary. I'm still working on my undergraduate degree and I can support my wife and baby."

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IN BI

Weather was Steers, Lady

Inclement forced a postponement of Big Steers baseball Steers softball Tuesday.

The Steers, scheduled to Snyder at 7 p.m. will face the Lady Steers Thursday.

The Lady Steers with San Antonio View's Maider played at 4 p.m. at the Big S Softball Complex.

Coahoma UG registration

The United Softball Association Coahoma has registration for softball for 6 p.m. on Thursday at Coahoma Center.

Fees will be \$10 per player.

Late registration from 5:30 p.m. Friday at the Coahoma Center and hours on Saturday at the softball park. Ticketing late must be \$35 and will be in a blind draw.

Basketball set for Thurs

The Big Spring Basketball Barbecue 7 p.m. Thursday at KC Steakhouse. Tickets are \$12 per person. For more information call Myrna Rus 6891.

Sporting clay scheduled for

The third sporting clay tournament has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at Windwalker 1 Stanton.

For more information contact the Dystrophy Association Midland by calling 4970.

Little League umpires need

Umpires are needed for Little League ball games in the Spring area this year. Anyone interested in being asked to contact Roman at 263-263-4688, after 6 p.m.

ON T

TODAY

JUCO BASEBALL
1 p.m.
• Howard College at McMurry University

JUCO SOFTBALL

2 p.m.
• Seminole State College Lady Hawks

THURSDAY

H.S. BASEBALL
4 p.m.
• Big Spring Snyder Tigers.

H.S. SOFTBALL

4 p.m.
• San Angelo Maidens at Big Steers.

ON THE

Television

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Men
6:30 p.m. — N.C. State vs. Duke
8:30 p.m. — Memphis, ESPN2
8:30 p.m. — N.C. State vs. Duke
Richmond, ESPN2

PRO BASKETBALL

7 p.m. — Los Angeles Lakers at San Antonio Spurs, TNT.

HOCKEY

7 p.m. — St. Louis at Dallas Stars, ESPN2

SPORTS EXTRA

TOP 25 - MEN

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' final men's college basketball poll...

Table listing top 25 men's college basketball teams, including Duke, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

TOP 25 - WOMEN

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' final women's college basketball poll...

Table listing top 25 women's college basketball teams, including Connecticut, Oklahoma, and Duke.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

The Top 10 high school baseball rankings for the five UIL classifications...

Table listing high school baseball rankings for Class 5A through Class 1A.

NCAA - MEN

NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament EAST REGIONAL At The Carrier Dome Syracuse, N.Y.

Table listing NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament results for East, Midwest, and West regions.

NCAA - WOMEN

NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament EAST REGIONAL Second Round Sunday, March 17 At Cameron Indoor Stadium Durham, N.C.

Table listing NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament results for East, Midwest, and West regions.

Tuesday's Games

Table listing Tuesday's games for various sports including basketball and hockey.

NHL

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Atlantic Division games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Northeast Division games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Southeast Division games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Western Conference Central Division games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Western Conference Northwest Division games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Pacific Division games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Semifinals games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Quarterfinals games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Second Round games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference First Round games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Division Finals games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Conference Finals games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Stanley Cup Finals games.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference All-Star Game.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Trade Deadline.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Draft Lottery.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Free Agency.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Offseason Recap.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Playoff Preview.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Playoff Schedule.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Playoff Odds.

Table listing NHL Eastern Conference Playoff Picks.

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RODEO LEADERS

Table listing Rodeo Leaders for various events including Barrel Racing and Bull Riding.

COX COMMUNICATIONS advertisement featuring text about KVID on cable channel 2 and WFAA on cable channel 8, and a large COX COMMUNICATIONS logo.

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS advertisement for BONUS DAYS! featuring 5 DAYS ONLY MARCH 21-25, with savings of \$10, \$20, and \$30 on every \$50, \$100, and \$150 spent.

Magic Karl

The ASSOCIATE

The coaches and the Ork finally deft Milwaukee Buc Doc Rivers Karl set aside th

shook hands T before Orlando tory over Milw Magic's first v Bucks following tive regular-sea Tracy McGr Magic with 48 p

"The rivalry now," Rivers can't have a r one team wins row. I don't kn called, but it's c a rivalry."

Pat Garrity n painters and for Orlando, wh half-game ; Milwaukee for Conference's fc seed.

The Magic a best seven gam Before the g sought out Kar shake. It was putting to rest i spat, which recu gly turn wher zized Rivers in article.

"I'm glad that I really am. I tl was way too mu on me and Geo said. "We said the summer; w ing."

In other N Dallas defeat Angeles Lak Sacramento do State 110-87, nipped New Je Detroit defeat Philadelphia be 79, Minnesot Toronto 112-4 topped Golden New York r Memphis 101-92 edged Chicago

Sam Cassell points to lead t "We still hav as a team," C "We beat C straight times ; things must c end."

Eleven night ing a career-hi McGrady wa MAVS - Continued from

great because real good chan Nash said. The Lakers ha game winni snapped and en their most lopsi the season.

"We're weak body," coach P said. "I though soft, especially period."

While LaFre O'Neal, defens Adrian Griffin Buckner sharec ment of guard Griffin said th was a combinati aggressive agai it wasn't his be ing."

Another key was attacking instead of rely side shots. The only 24 3-poi pared to 40 on NFL

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- After a saci two minutes of the clock will n the rest of the current rule a

Magic finally beat Bucks; Karl, Rivers shake hands

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

The coaches made peace, and the Orlando Magic finally defeated the Milwaukee Bucks.

Doc Rivers and George Karl set aside their feud and shook hands Tuesday night before Orlando's 101-91 victory over Milwaukee — the Magic's first win over the Bucks following 10 consecutive regular-season losses.

Tracy McGrady led the Magic with 48 points.

"The rivalry might be on now," Rivers said. "You can't have a rivalry when one team wins 10 games in a row. I don't know what it's called, but it's definitely not a rivalry."

Pat Garrity made seven 3-pointers and added 21 points for Orlando, which moved a half-game ahead of Milwaukee for the Eastern Conference's fourth playoff seed.

The Magic are a season-best seven games over .500.

Before the game, Rivers sought out Karl for a handshake. It was a way of putting to rest their lengthy spat, which recently took an ugly turn when Karl criticized Rivers in a magazine article.

"I'm glad that's over with, I really am. I thought there was way too much attention on me and George," Rivers said. "We said we'll talk in the summer; we'll go boating."

In other NBA games, Dallas defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 114-98, Sacramento downed Golden State 110-87, Cleveland nipped New Jersey 100-97, Detroit defeated Utah 94-87, Philadelphia beat Miami 91-79, Minnesota crushed Toronto 112-80, Seattle topped Golden State 100-93, New York rallied past Memphis 101-92 and Atlanta edged Chicago 102-96.

Sam Cassell scored 23 points to lead the Bucks. "We still have confidence as a team," Cassell said. "We beat Orlando 10 straight times and all good things must come to an end."

Eleven nights after scoring a career-high 50 points, McGrady was all but

unstoppable. In the first half, he shot 10-for-15 and made all five of his 3-point attempts, scoring 30. That included back-to-back 3s that put the Magic ahead 49-30 with 4:07 before halftime.

Kings 110, Rockets 87

Chris Webber had 35 points and 12 rebounds as Sacramento regained sole possession of the NBA's best record.

Though the Kings lost All-Star Peja Stojakovic in the opening seconds when he aggravated his strained right hamstring, they had little trouble beating Houston for the seventh straight time. Bobby Jackson had four 3-pointers among his 20 points, and Mike Bibby added 15.

Sacramento followed up a 4-1 East Coast road trip by improving the NBA's best home record to 31-3.

Cavaliers 100, Nets 97

Lamond Murray swished a desperation 3-pointer from the corner as time expired.

Coming out of a timeout with 0.5 seconds left, Murray took an inbound pass from Andre Miller, turned and shot.

Keith Van Horn tied the score at 97 moments earlier with a 3-pointer after taking an inbound pass from Jason Kidd, who had 30 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his eighth triple-double this season.

Pistons 94, Jazz 87

Jerry Stackhouse, Cliff Robinson and Chucky Atkins each had 20 points as Detroit gained its third straight road victory.

Corliss Williamson scored eight of his 10 points in the fourth quarter when the Pistons went on a game-clinching 13-3 run.

76ers 91, Heat 79

Allen Iverson scored 33 points, including 21 in the second half, and Philadelphia remained 1 1/2 games behind Orlando for the fifth playoff spot in the

East.

The Heat, coming off their most lopsided win of the season, lost for only the third time in 10 games and fell two games behind the Hornets for eighth place in the East.

Timberwolves 112, Raptors 80

The Timberwolves ended their season-high seven-game losing streak and kept Toronto in a miserable slump.

Toronto, which has won just one game since Feb. 7, lost for the 17th time in 18 tries and had its most lopsided defeat of the season.

SuperSonics 110, Warriors 93

Rashard Lewis scored 26 points and Vin Baker returned to Seattle's lineup earlier than expected as the SuperSonics beat Golden State for the 12th straight time.

Gary Payton got the host Sonics off to a good start, scoring 17 of his 21 points in the first quarter when they took the lead for good.

Knicks 101, Grizzlies 92

Latrell Sprewell scored 23 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter, and New York erased a 10-point deficit in the final seven minutes.

Hawks 102, Bulls 96

Shaheed Abdur-Rahim had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and Jason Terry added 22 points for the Hawks.

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MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

great because we had a real good chance for two," Nash said.

The Lakers had their five-game winning streak snapped and endured one of their most lopsided losses of the season.

"We're weak in mind and body," coach Phil Jackson said. "I thought we looked soft, especially in the third period."

While LaFrentz covered O'Neal, defensive stalwarts Adrian Griffin and Greg Buckner shared the assignment of guarding Bryant. Griffin said their success was a combination of "being aggressive against him, and it wasn't his best day shooting."

Another key for Dallas was attacking the basket instead of relying on outside shots. The Mavs took only 24 3-pointers, compared to 40 on Sunday, and

got to the foul line far more often. Dallas was able to open room in the lane by keeping LaFrentz and Nowitzki out near the 3-point line.

"On Sunday, we didn't take advantage of Shaq being away from the basket," Nowitzki said. "Tonight we did and got some layups."

Jackson was upset that O'Neal got into foul trouble. His ire was aimed at the officials, not his big man, because he thought LaFrentz got away with flopping.

Jackson said LaFrentz did the same thing Sunday but the refs weren't buying it. The coach said he told his assistants, "I bet you a dollar we get down to Dallas and they call those fouls on Shaq."

"And they sure did," Jackson said. "I hate to see that in an NBA game, but those things happen."

NFL

Continued from Page 1B

change, said outside kicks "are among the most exciting plays in the game."

The owners did approve several changes Tuesday:

— The tiebreaker system for division champions and wild cards was adjusted to conform with this season's realignment. There will be eight four-team divisions with Houston joining the league, so record against common opponents becomes more important. With as many as 14 common games in the 16-game schedule, common games becomes the third tiebreaker.

— After a sack in the last two minutes of each half, the clock will not stop. For the rest of the game, the current rule applies: The

clock stops for about 5 seconds while the ball is respotted.

— The clock will not start on a kickoff until the receiving team touches the ball and advances it on the field of play. In the past, that rule was used only in the final 2 minutes of each half; during the rest of the game, the clock started when the ball was kicked.

— Chop blocks will be illegal on kickoff and punt returns, as well as on plays from scrimmage.

— Artificial noise, including music, in stadiums is banned once the play clock has started.

— A player no longer can be ruled out of bounds when he touches a pylon unless he already touched the boundary line.

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TOO LATES

Estate Sale 1419 E. 6th, Fri. 8-3, Sat. 8-2. Benefit Our Lady Of Guadalupe Shrine I.H.M. Church.
1993 Terry 5th Wheel Travel Trailer with 14 ft. slide out. Asking \$12,900. Call 263-5808.
Garage Sale: 1409 E. 19TH, Sat. 8-7. NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE. Lots of misc.
1 Bdrm house in Coahoma ISD. \$250/mo. \$150/dep. Call 267-1802
PJs Inside Sale: 2210 Main. Fri. 10-5. Mattress, Dinette table, Freezer and lots of misc.
Estate Sale, Sat. 9-5, 3617 Dixon. Lots of furniture and misc. For info call 269-9688
1/1 800 Nolan. \$400/mo. All Bills Paid. No Pets. HUD Approved 264-9907
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Tracks of land for sale. 5 miles South of Big Spring & 1 1/2 miles West of Coahoma. Owner will Finance or Texas Veterans. Call 263-8785.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 21:

You're unusually verbal. Think through decisions that involve security, friendship and travel. Rethink your goals, especially those touching your personal and familial lives. The more flexible you are, the happier you will be. Verify what others want from you before making decisions. Be open to networking and broadening your circle of friends. If you are single, you will find that August might be very exciting. You could have your choice of suitors. Mr. or Ms. Right could appear on the scene. If you are attached, your relationship will develop a "homey," close tone. Plan a special trip together this summer. Make choices that add to your relationship. CANCER serves as an anchor.
The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult
ARIES (March 21-April 19) **** Build and work with the unexpected. A meeting proves to be far more fruitful than you anticipated, in an odd way. Your sense of direction might hit a boulder when dealing with a family member, a piece of property or an investment. Tonight: Mosey on home.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **** Return calls, especially if they are work-related. A boss does the unexpected. Stay even and steady when dealing with those around you. If you flow with the opportunities that come up, you'll find that everything becomes much easier. Tonight: Share munchies.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) **** You see events from a totally different perspective than another. What might be acceptable to you could be a problem for someone else. Be more understanding of those around you. Flexibility is your strong suit. Discussions revolve around finances. Tonight: Enjoy yourself.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** A partner has a way of sending jolts down his or her path. Loosen up with this person. Don't take matters so personally. Sometimes you might be confused about your choices. Schedule an important chat in the late afternoon. Tonight: Check out various trip options.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) *** Do your best with associates. Meetings take strange turns because of others' behavior. What you

HOROSCOPE

can count on is that nothing runs the course you anticipate. Slow down in the afternoon to regroup and rethink plans. Return key e-mail. Tonight: Take some time off.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **** Handle responsibilities with an eye to change and flexibility. Do needed research. Don't settle for another's say-so. Get information and find experts. Your ability to move past a problem catches an associate's attention. Keep up the good work. Tonight: Out to play.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **** You have unlimited resources. Use your abilities to create much more of what you want, be it in your personal or professional life. Don't settle for anything less than what you want. Someone's unanticipated actions work in your favor. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Recognize a partner for what he or she offers you. You might have to break out of the mold and head in another direction. Unanticipated action helps to loosen you up. Don't get uptight if pressure builds around work. Detach from problems. Tonight: Listen to music. Relax your mind.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **** Others dominate. You want to lie back and see what develops at this point. Others might be touchier than you realize. Carefully consider options that surround others. Express your self-confidence by trusting others. Tonight: Accept an invitation.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **** You manage to pull another rabbit out of a black hat. Financial creativity allows many more options than you originally anticipated. Don't make a big deal out of a change of pace or a new development. Accept an invitation, even if you would rather not. Tonight: Go along with others.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **** Your playfulness forces others to think outside of the box. What might not be comfortable right now could change radically over the next few days. Work with the information you have, even if you suspect that you don't have the whole story. Tonight: Get as much work done as possible.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** How another acts reveals much more than you previously knew about this person. You could be

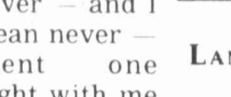
HOUSING

jolted. Just be careful how much you depend on this individual. Call someone you can brainstorm with, and get to the bottom of the problem. Tonight: Start the weekend early!
BORN TODAY:
TV talk-show host Rosie O'Donnell (1962), musician

and composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685), legendary showman Florenz Ziegfeld (1869) Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2002 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

In 10-year marriage they have only had sex twice

Dear Ann Landers: I have been married for 12 years, but it is not a normal marriage. "Garth" has never - and I mean never - spent one night with me in the bedroom. He sleeps on the sofa in our den. We have had sex twice since our honeymoon, and nothing in the last 10 years.



ANN LANDERS

Garth is very moody. When I beg him to sleep with me in our bed, he becomes angry. The few times I have suggested intimacy, he yelled at me and threatened to move out. Of course, he never does. Garth claims he loves me, but I'm not sure what that means anymore.
We are quite compatible, and I care deeply for him. I don't know if he is gay, impotent, having affairs or just not interested. He refuses to go for counseling and insists nothing is wrong. I am petite and attractive, and have no idea why he isn't interested in me. Do you have any advice? - No Name, No State

Dear No Name: Why have you been willing to settle for a sexless marriage when it is obvious that you are unhappy about it? Sex is an integral part of marriage, and it is unfair that Garth expects you to do without it. Professional counseling might help you decide if this relationship is worth saving. I hope you will see a therapist immediately. If Garth will go with you, great. If not, go without him.

Dear Ann Landers: I would like to respond to "St. Louis Wife," whose 52-year-old husband lost his job. My husband, "Ed," was laid off when he was 59. Although he applied and followed many job leads, nothing came of them.

Ed started volunteering at one of the local elementary schools two mornings a week and discovered that he enjoyed working with children. Since he had a bachelor's degree, he was able to be accredited as a substitute teacher. He then took additional classes so he could be certified full-time. Now, at the age of 70, Ed is in his fifth year as a master teacher and has tenure.
His previous work experience as an executive has been a great asset in his current career. The staff, students and parents all respect and like him. Most importantly, he is happier as a teacher than he was as an executive. Please tell "St. Louis Wife" not to give up. Good things can happen when you least expect them. - Happy Wife in California

Dear Happy Wife: I have heard from a great many readers who lost their jobs and discovered new careers in the process. It requires effort and a willingness to take risks, but the rewards can be enormous. Thank you for saying so.
Lonesome? Take charge of your life and turn it around. Write for Ann Landers' booklet, "How to Make Friends and Stop Being Lonely." Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$4.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Friends, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$5.15.) To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. © 2002 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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MARCH 17-23

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DOCTOR
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Always keep a one-ounce bottle of syrup of ipecac in your home. Use it only when told to do so by the poison control center or your doctor.

National Poison Prevention Week is March 17 - 23, 2002.

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WEDNESDAY

MAR. 20

	KMID (2) Midland	KPEJ (3) Odessa	KERA (5) Dallas	FAM (6) Dallas	KOSA (7) Odessa	WFAA (8) Dallas	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	UNI (13) Spanish	DISN (14) Premium	NASH (15) Nashville	TMC (16) Premium	SHOW (20) Premium	HBO (22) Premium	KMLM (24) Odessa	A&E (25) New York	DISC (26) Discovery	TNT (28) Atlanta	TLC (41) Learning Ch.
6 PM	News Future	King of the Hill Raymond	Cyberchase Zqoomaloo	Home Videos Home Videos	News Ent. Tonight	News (CC) Fortune	News Seinfeld (CC)	Friends (CC) Roseanne	Intrusa	Movie Surfers Movie: CC	Mad TV (CC) Mad TV (CC)		Friends	Her 37th Birthday (CC)	Update With John Hagee	American Justice (CC)	Nature's Death Traps	Pretender (CC)	48 Hours (CC) Learning Ch.
7 PM	My Wife-Kids According Jim	That '90s Grounded Life	Hollywood's Magic Night	Movie: The Princess	Survivor Marquesas (CC)	My Wife-Kids According Jim	DateLine (CC)	Ripley's Be- lieve It or Not!	Amigas y Rivales (SS)	Kelly (CC)	Star Trek: Next Gener.		Movie: The Believer (CC)	Movie: Hollow Man (CC)	Christian Dr. Massey	Biography (CC)	Watch Your Pockets II	NBA Basket- ball: Los An-	World of Cruise Ships
8 PM	Drew Carey The Job (CC)	Bernie Mac Tatus (CC)	Live From Lincoln	Bride	Amazing Race 2 (CC)	Drew Carey The Job (CC)	West Wing (CC)	Movie: Tre- mors	Salome	(20) Movie: Movie: Death Warrant	Movie: Mis- sion	Hero's Story		Light of the Southwest	American Justice (CC)	Great Impos- ters	gates Lakers at San Anto-	Junkyard Wars	
9 PM	Downtown (CC)	Cops (CC) Blind Date	Center	Whose Line? Whose Line?	60 Minutes II (CC)	Downtown (CC)	Law & Order (CC)		Don Francisco Presenta	Just Like Dad (CC)	Impossible 2 (CC)	Soul Food (CC)	Six Feet Under (CC)	Execution of Wanda Jean	Hour of Healing	Law & Order (CC)	Justice Files	Movie: Rumble in the	World of Cruise Ships
10 PM	News Nightline	Jerry Springer (CC)		700 Club (CC)	News (35) Late	News (CC) Nightline	News (35) Tonight	Ripley's Be- lieve It or Not!	P Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Even Stevens Pepper Ann	Star Trek: Next Gener.	(05) Movie: Glory (CC)	Resurrection Blvd	Execution of Wanda Jean	Hour of Healing	Law & Order (CC)	Justice Files	Movie: Rumble in the	World of Cruise Ships
11 PM	Politically Inc. Cheers	Suddenly Spin City (CC)	News-Lehrer	Who's Boss? Who's Boss?	Show (CC) (37) Late Late	Ent. Tonight Politically Inc.	Show (CC) (37) Late	Movie: Tre- mors	En las Me- jores Familias	So Weird (CC) Jett Jackson	Mad TV (CC) Mad TV (CC)		Movie: The List	(CC) Movie: Big	Update With Church	Biography (CC)	Watch Your Pockets II	Bronx	Junkyard Wars
12 AM	Paid Program Paid Program	Home Imp Paid Program	American Cinema (CC)	Guthy-Renker Paid Program	Show (CC) Street Smarts	(12:06) Oprah Winfrey (CC)	Night (CC) Fraser		Maria la del Barrio	Zorro (CC) Mickey Mouse	Baywatch (CC)	(12:15) Movie:	(35) Movie:	Momma's House (CC)	Faith Pleases God	American Justice (CC)	Great Impos- ters	Movie: American	Super Struct

DENNIS THE MENACE



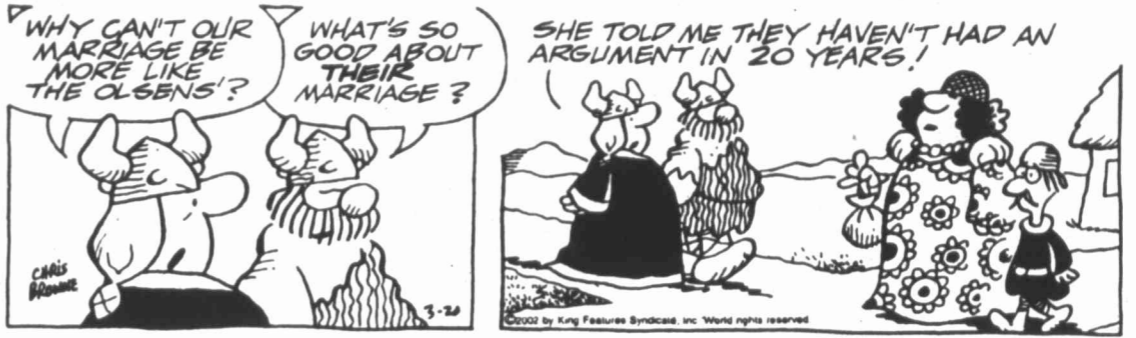
"MR. WILSON SURE LIKES HANGIN' OUT WITH FLOWERS."

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Uh-oh! Somebody must've told that flower winter was over."

HAGAR



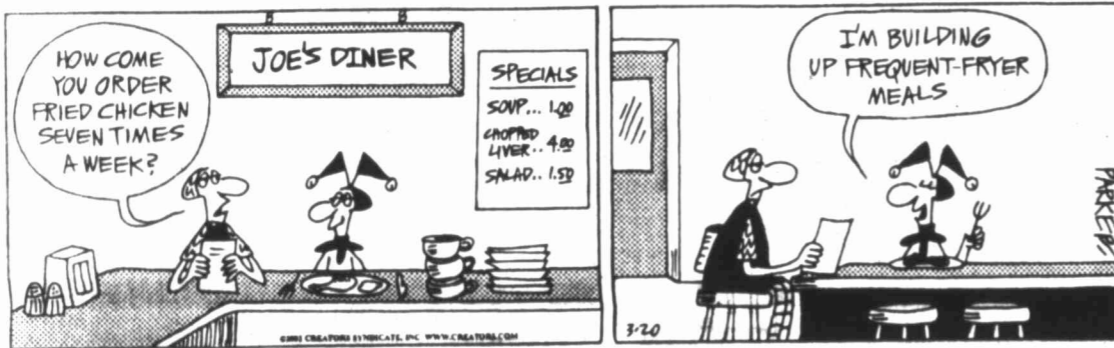
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THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS
Today is Wednesday, March 20, the 79th day of 2002. There are 286 days left in the year. Spring arrives in the northern hemisphere at 2:16 p.m. Eastern time.

Today's Highlight in History:
One hundred and fifty years ago, on March 20, 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel about slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was first published.

On this date:
In 1413, England's King Henry IV died; he was succeeded by Henry V.
In 1727, physicist, mathematician and astronomer Sir Isaac Newton died in London.
In 1828, Norwegian poet-dramatist Henrik Ibsen was born.
In 1896, U.S. Marines landed in Nicaragua to protect U.S. citizens in the wake of a revolution.

In 1952, at the Academy Awards, "An American in Paris" was named best picture; Humphrey Bogart best actor for "The African Queen"; Vivien Leigh best actress, Kim Hunter best supporting actress and Karl Malden best supporting actor for "A Streetcar Named Desire"; and George Stevens best director for "A Place in the Sun."

In 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono in Gibraltar.
In 1976, kidnapped newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was convicted of armed robbery for her part in a San Francisco bank holdup.
In 1987, the Food and Drug Administration approved the sale of AZT, a drug shown to prolong the lives of some AIDS patients.
In 1990, Namibia became an independent nation as the former colony marked the end of 75 years of South African rule.
In 1995, in Tokyo, 12 people were killed, more than 5,500 others sickened when packages containing the poisonous gas sarin leaked on five separate subway trains.
Ten years ago: Congress passed, and President Bush immediately vetoed, a Democratic tax cut for the middle class that would have been funded by a tax hike on the rich.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Jack Kruschen is 80. Producer-director-comedian Carl Reiner is 80. Children's TV host Fred Rogers is 74. Actor Hal Linden is 71. Singer Jerry Reed is 65. Former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney is 63. Country singer Don Edwards is 63. TV producer Paul Junger Witt is 59. Country singer-musician Ranger Doug (Riders in the Sky) is 56. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Bobby Orr is 54.

Answer to previous puzzle

B	U	S	E	D	M	F	E	R	A	L
A	L	T	O	L	A	R	A	L	A	U
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T	O	P	D	O	G	D	O	W	I	T
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E	T	H	O	S	C	U	E	D	A	S
L	E	A	S	T	H	E	R	S	M	E

Newsday Crossword FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS by D.R. Stark Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wide belt
- 5 Paris landmark
- 9 S&L customer
- 13 Ancient Cuzco inhabitant
- 14 Pianist Peter
- 15 Hawk's gripper
- 17 Strain at a
- 18 Revered one
- 19 Pierre's floor
- 20 It may score a ringer
- 22 From Bali
- 23 Broadway brightener
- 24 Rocky debris
- 25 Entertaining time
- 29 Less at ease
- 32 More caloric
- 34 Paper flaw
- 35 Out of the wind
- 39 Did tailoring work
- 41 Hens
- 43 Business page initials
- 44 Jellied delicacy
- 46 Hindus' forehead marks
- 47 Column
- 50 To the point
- 51 *Midnight Cowboy* character
- 54 Without ice
- 56 Pursued steadily
- 57 "Drai!"
- 62 Karamazov nickname
- 63 Vivacity
- 64 Dot in the sea
- 65 Clay-pigeon game
- 66 Horse-race distance
- 67 Big celebration
- 68 Gaelic
- 69 Wallet stuffers
- 70 Corn covering
- DOWN**
- 1 Express relief
- 2 Part of A.D.
- 3 *The Lion King* villain
- 4 Boaters and bowlers
- 5 Ouzo flavoring
- 6 Very popular
- 7 Sentimental singer
- 8 Tunnel or cave
- 9 Drill command
- 10 String game
- 11 "de Lune"
- 12 Forum robes
- 16 Hawaii state bird
- 21 Parking-garage sign
- 25 Muffin ingredient
- 26 Long-stemmed flower
- 27 Quits stalling
- 28 Amorous glances
- 30 Penpoint
- 31 Barbecue need
- 33 Virginia (dance)
- 36 Deceitful one
- 37 Comic shrieks
- 38 To be, to Ovid
- 40 Pa. neighbor
- 42 "Me, too!"
- 45 Hand-lotion ingredient
- 48 Treat salt
- 49 Entertain lavishly
- 51 Spin-speed abbr.
- 52 Comparably
- 53 Lab solution strength
- 55 Actress Moorehead
- 57 Showroom model
- 58 Close by, in poems
- 59 Genesis hunter
- 60 What Pandora unleashed
- 61 Salad-bowl wood

