

# BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY

April 9, 2002

## WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW  
45°-50° 73°-75°

## Registration for summer slated at HC

Open registration for the mini session, Summer I, Summer II and Fall 2002 at Howard College is set for April 15-July 18.

"We're changing our registration process, as we prepare to bring year-round registration to the Howard College district," said Dr. Amy Burchett, vice president of instruction and student services for Howard College.

Students may visit the Student Assistance Center to begin the registration process, review admissions information and be directed toward advising and registration.

Schedules of classes for the Mini Session, Summer I and Summer II are available on the Howard College Web site under the Publications link.

Visit [www.hc.cc.tx.us](http://www.hc.cc.tx.us) or [www.howardcollege.edu](http://www.howardcollege.edu) to view a list of classes being offered.

For more information contact the Student Assistance Center at 264-5083.

## 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.  
□ 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, 703 W. Third.

### THURSDAY

□ Gideons International, Big Spring Camp U42080 meets at Herman's Restaurant at 7 a.m.

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## Students to get a look at job market during Career Day

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Many area high school students may think they're already grown up, but Big Spring school district's Career and Technology Director Loren



SPENCER

Spencer said many of them haven't thought hard enough about this critical question.

They'll get a chance to give it some thought Thursday during the Big Spring High School Career Day.

"We're going to have companies, businesses, education entities, all of them with the idea of just showing our juniors and seniors what career opportunities are out there and what the

work world expects," Spencer said. "The idea is just once again to get that word 'careers' out there in front of these guys and get them to thinking about what's available in the Big Spring area."

Planning ahead is not a high priority for many high schoolers, he said.

"The kids have a tendency not to think about it," he said. "It's just an eye-opener. They're fixing to be in the work world, or a combi-

nation of the work world and the education world. And of course even if they're thinking about further education, they've still got to be thinking along the lines of careers."

More businesses and educational institutes are still signing up to participate in the career fair.

"Things are still coming in, but we're expecting about 20 or 25 counting everything," Spencer said. "They're from mostly

around the Big Spring area. We're not sure yet which of the schools or colleges are coming in, but we've got a couple of those that are coming in. Generally, Howard is here with us. We do have some of the manufacturers that are going to have a booth. Moore (Development for Big Spring) board usually puts on a booth."

Spencer feels that school should be preparation for

See CAREER, Page 2

## It's rodeo time in Coahoma!

24th annual kindergarden event slated for Thursday

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Dust off the cowboy hats, shine the boots and keep washing those blue jeans until they have that perfect faded look.

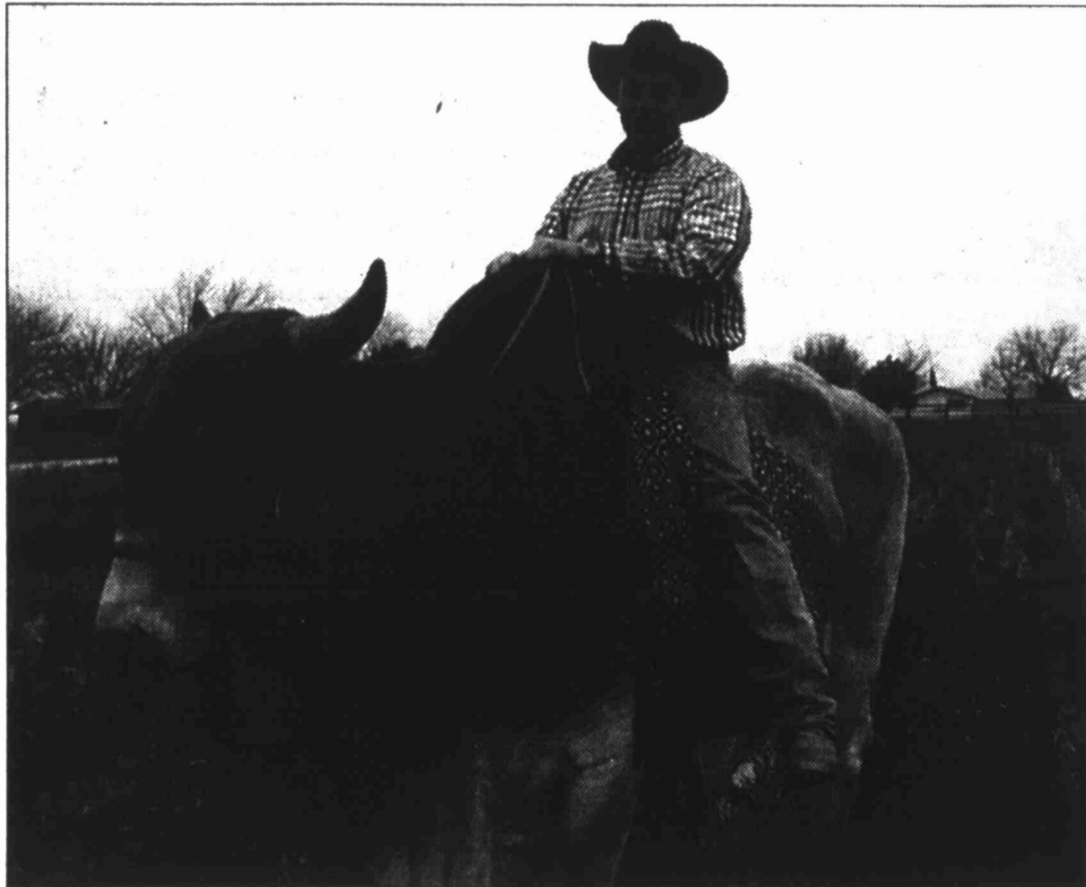
April is here and its time for the 24th annual Coahoma Elementary Kindergarten Stick Horse Rodeo.

"We're on the second generation," said Kathy Nichols, Coahoma

Elementary kindergarten teacher and long-time coordinator of the rodeo. "Their moms and dads were in the rodeo."

The popular event begins Thursday at 9 a.m. and will be held at the big gym at Coahoma Elementary, 400 Ramsey Ave. Admission is free to the public.

Little cowpokes compete in everything from stick horse bronco riding to stick bull riding, barrel racing



T.C. Long will perform tricks with his Brahman during the Coahoma Elementary Kindergarten Stick Horse Rodeo, set to begin at 9 a.m. Thursday.

and many other events.

"We are the first-ever and still the largest stick horse rodeo," Nichols said.

The stick horse rodeo was first held in 1978, coordinated by two kindergarten teachers and Quail Dobbs, former professional rodeo clown and current justice of the peace.

During the early years, kindergarten was held only half a year, Nichols said. In

the fall semester, the school held a circus. During the spring semester, the rodeo was held.

The first few rodeos were simple affairs, Nichols said. "(Today,) we have just blown it out of proportion," she joked.

Now the kindergarten stick rodeo packs 300 to 400 people in the Coahoma Elementary gym each year.

Teachers and high school

volunteers begin working with the young cowboys and cowgirls about two weeks before the event, helping the children learn their parts.

"They think it's so funny to see their old teacher being bucked off a stick horse or try to ride the bull," Nichols said.

During music class,

See RODEO, Page 2

## Vote

Polls stay open until 7 tonight

HERALD Staff Report

Texans were back at the polls today, determining, among other races, who will gain the Democratic nod for U.S. Senator.

Polls opened at 7 this morning and will remain open until 7 p.m. across the state. Howard County residents should cast their ballots in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum foyer.

Voters should bring some form of identification and their voter registration card, if they have it.

Today's balloting involves five runoff elections from the March primaries. There is one race on the Democratic ballot; the others are all on the Republican ticket.

The lone runoff in the Democratic primary is the party's nomination for U.S. Senator. Victor Morales and Ron Kirk received the most votes for that position, but neither received a clear majority in March, so the two are facing each other in the runoff. The winner will face Republican nominee

See VOTE, Page 2

## Planting flowers gives young Scouts a lesson in community pride

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Even children know that life is better with a few flowers.

Eight year olds Matthew Tompkins, Austin Pierce, Roy Lane Williams and Luke Cooksey were at the amphitheater in Comanche Trail Park Monday, planting flowers to help beautify the area.

"Planting — we're planting flowers," said Pierce.

"To make the park better with flowers," added Tompkins. "To make it more — better."

The four are Wolf Cub Scouts in Pack 305, led by

Tompkins' father, Roy Tompkins.

The project is about more than just Scouting honors, Mr. Tompkins said.

"Terri Johansen said this was a good way for the boys to have ownership and pride in the park," he said. "Later on in life that helps them realize the value of having a park like this instead of just coming out here and tearing stuff up and vandalizing and stuff like that."

Tompkins bought the flowers for the project at Johansen's Nursery. Myers & Smith Funeral Home donated money to purchase them.



Austin Pierce, left, Roy Lane Williams, Luke Cooksey and Matthew Tompkins plant flowers in front of the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater Monday. The four are Wolf Cub Scouts in Pack 305, led by Matthew's father, Troy Tompkins. Myers & Smith Funeral Home donated the money to buy the flowers.

## Israel pulls out of two West Bank cities, enters other areas

JENIN, West Bank (AP) — Under heavy U.S. pressure, Israel withdrew today from two Palestinian towns, but soldiers took over other areas of the West Bank and fought dozens of beleaguered gunmen in a refugee camp.

An Arab satellite television channel, quoting Palestinian sources, said 10 Israeli soldiers were killed and eight others wounded today in an attack in the West Bank. The channel, Al-Jazeera, is based in Qatar and monitored in Cairo.

Israel had no statement on

the incident, which would be the single deadliest attack involving Israeli soldiers in the past 18 months of fighting.

At least 124 Palestinians and 11 Israeli soldiers have been killed since March 29, according to Palestinian medics and the Israeli army. The toll was expected to rise amid reports of dead Palestinians still not evacuated from areas of battle.

The heaviest fighting raged in the Jenin refugee camp, where Israel Radio said soldiers came under attack with dozens of

bombs, some containing as much as 220 pounds of explosives. Palestinian witnesses said fighters in the camp set off bombs in one building as a group of soldiers entered it during a search Tuesday.

In Bethlehem, Israel's siege of the Church of the Nativity, where more than 200 armed Palestinians are holed up, entered its second week, with no sign of a resolution. Israeli tanks ringed the church today, including one parked on Manger Square, and dozens of troops manned rooftop lookouts.

However, Israel agreed to briefly ease the confinement of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and permit him to meet with four senior advisers ahead of a cease-fire mission by Secretary of State Colin Powell, who is due to arrive Friday.

In a speech to parliament Monday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon branded Arafat the head of a "regime of terror" Israel would have to dismantle, and suggested he would no longer do business with Arafat and other members of his Palestinian Authority.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer met Tuesday with U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni, in preparation for Powell's arrival, and Palestinian officials said they expected to hold talks with Zinni in the coming day.

Just hours after President Bush issued a stern call for a withdrawal, Israeli forces pulled out of the West Bank towns of Qalqilya and Tulkarem early Tuesday, but troops remained in the towns of Nablus,

See ISRAEL, Page 2

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OBITUARIES

James E. Phillips

Funeral service for James E. Phillips of Midland will be 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2002, at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Bobby Duncan officiating. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery.

Mr. Phillips died Sunday, April 7, at a Midland hospital.

He was born on June 15, 1926, at Buffalo Gap. He grew up in Westbrook and attend schools there. He was a veteran of World War II as part of the submarine division. He was a member of the American Legion in Big Spring. He married Diana Sanderson in 1984 in Midland.

Survivors include his wife, Diana S. Phillips of Midland; two sons, James E. Phillips of New Mexico and Anthony Sanderson Phillips of Midland; two daughters, Sandra T. Black of Darlington, S.C., and Donna Lehenbauer of Midland; one brother, Jerry Phillips of Woodward, Okla.; two sisters, Kay Gregory of Westbrook and Gene Brunden of Woodward, W.V.; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. today, April 9, at Ellis Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Heart Association, 3525 Hearts Hwy., Suite 111, Midland 79703.

Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home in Midland.

Juanita Gibbs Heflin

Juanita Gibbs Heflin, 79, of Big Spring, died on Monday, April 8, 2002, at a local nursing home. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

She was born on Dec. 22, 1922, in Howard County and married Lewis Heflin on July 3, 1958, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death on April 3, 1986.

Mrs. Heflin was a nurse at Cowper Clinic and Hospital for 43 years. She was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Freddy L. and Judy Brown of Big Spring; two stepdaughters, Judy Wallace of Eunice, N.M. and Joyce



Newsom of Big Spring; two brothers, L.C. Gibbs of Big Spring, L.C. Gibbs of Royce City; and two grandsons, Brian Brown of Dallas, and Sean Brown of Portland, Ore.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. www.npwwelch.com

*Paid obituary*

Ronald Ringener

Graveside Ronald Ringener, 52, of Siler City, N.C., formerly of Big Spring, will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2002, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

Mr. Ringener died Friday, April 5, in Chatham County, N.C.

He was born on Nov. 11, 1949, in Big Spring and was a long time resident. He had lived in Siler City, N.C., for the last 15 years. He was saved in Pampa as a Baptist.

Survivors include three daughters, Twanette Kelly of Bronte, Rachelle Jackson of Knott, and Jennifer Ringener of Siler City, N.C.; one son, Chad Ringener of Big Spring; his mother, Lynell Ringener of Stanton; one sister, Carol Anderson of Big Spring; one brother, Dennis Ringener of Stanton; and seven grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Finette Johnson

Funeral service for Finette Johnson, 72, of Big Spring is pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Mrs. Johnson died Monday, April 8, 2002, at a local hospital.

CAREER

Continued from Page 1

"The real world." "My attitude and the way I always approach things is that everything we do in the school system is ultimately to lead them to being a self-sustaining person or citizen," he said. "So therefore thinking about careers is thinking about where they're going to do for the future."

The fair will last from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Spencer said.

"We're going to cycle them in," he said. "One of the classes, I think it's the seniors, are coming in during first period, and they'll rotate around. We find that that generally gives them enough time to get a good feel for what's there and not too much milling time. Then the juniors will come in, I think it's second period."

Other school districts will also be participating in the program.

"Forsan and Coahoma have indicated that they would come in in the area of 10:30, I think," Spencer said. "We usually try to invite those."

He's expecting at least 500 students, Spencer said.

"One of the classes is 200 and the other is 250, and by the time you count what they bring from the other schools, I would venture to say at least 500," he said.

RODEO

Continued from Page 1

Sandra Wallace, the school's music teacher, helps the children practice the songs and dance sequence of the rodeo performance.

And a few days before the big event, the children visit with Dobbs.

"Tuesday afternoon, Quail will speak to the children about the rodeo and let

them ask questions," Nichols said. "Quail paints clown faces on them and really gets the kids fired up. Before then, they just think it's fun."

For Thursday's performance, professional rodeo announcer Ben Clements will announce the rodeo. T.C. Long will perform tricks with his Brahman cow. Wacey Cathey, former professional bull rider, will make an appearance and professional musician Jody Nix, a Coahoma alumni, will play with the Best Little Band in Texas.

Miss Teenage Rodeo Texas Cassie Graham plans to make an appearance.

"We really want to thank the administrators," Nichols said. "They help us keep it going every year."

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

Attorney General John Cornyn in November.

The Republican runoff features a race for Texas Supreme Court Justice Place 2 between Dale Wainwright and Elizabeth Ray. The others are all for Criminal Court of Appeals judge. They are, Place 1, Tom Price and Tim Taft; Place 2, Paul Womack and David Richards; and Place 3, Al Williams and Cathy Cochran.

Residents who voted in the original election must cast their ballots in same party's primary as they originally did. Those who did not vote in the original primary may cast their vote in either party's primary.

Only a handful of the more than 18,000 registered voters in Howard County had cast a ballot as of this morning. In early voting, which ended Friday, 105 Democrats and 55 Republicans cast ballots.

ISRAEL

Continued from Page 1

Bethlehem, Jenin and Ramallah. Sharon has said the offensive would continue until Palestinian militias — responsible for a string of shooting and bombing attacks on Israelis — were crushed.

In the Jenin refugee camp, dozens of Palestinian gunmen remained holed up in a small area in the eastern part of the camp. Camp resident Jamal Abdel Salam said he was told by the armed men that they would keep fighting. "They said they prefer death to surrender. They asked me to look after their families," Abdel Salam, an activist in the Islamic militant Hamas group, said in a telephone interview.

Israeli commanders in the area have said several Palestinian gunmen with explosives strapped to their bodies have blown themselves up in suicide attacks. So far, nine Israeli soldiers have been killed in more than a week of fighting in the camp, and estimates by both sides said more than 100 Palestinians have died. An exact count was not possible because Israel barred reporters and medics from the camp.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel said dozens of bodies were piled in the streets of the camp and residents were prevented from getting food and water. In a complaint to Ben-Eliezer, the Israeli organization said the military has committed serious human rights violations in the camp, including the demolition of homes with residents still inside.

A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

"Those who left their houses to try to get supplies were shot at by the army," the organization wrote.

There was no immediate response from the Defense Ministry.

In Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, troops took control of the densely populated downtown area, or casbah, after several days of fierce resistance by Palestinian gunmen. At least 41 Palestinians have been killed in the fighting, but the toll was not final because some bodies were still lying in the streets, medics said.

The military said it has found 16 bomb-making labs in Nablus. Troops rounded up young Palestinian men at a Nablus school, releasing some after brief questioning and putting others on large trucks, apparently to be driven to detention centers.

On Tuesday afternoon, seven Israeli tanks and two armored vehicles briefly drove into Hebron, one of two major West Bank towns not targeted in the Israeli offensive, but turned back after a brief spin.

Israeli forces also raided the small town of Dura, south of Hebron. Palestinian security officials said Israeli forces leveled compounds of the Palestinian military intelligence and the Force 17 security service. Two Palestinians were killed in exchanges of fire with Israeli forces, the security officials said. Males between the ages of 15 and 40 were rounded up for questioning, witnesses said.

Initially, some Israeli officials said that "Operation Defensive Shield" might last four to eight weeks, and Israel has yet to say when forces will leave the West Bank towns it still occupies. Israel's deputy defense minister, Dalia Rabin-Pelossos, said that in cutting short the operation, Israel was responding to U.S. pressure.

"Even when we talked about a longer timetable, at least the army did, we knew the sands of political time were running out and then the Americans came, with their interests, and proclaimed yesterday the unequivocal request by the president of the United States that we begin withdrawing, and therefore a decision was taken" to leave Qalqiliya and Tulkarem, Rabin-Pelossos told Israel Radio.

Troops pulled back to the outskirts and maintained a tight cordon around the two towns. Ben-Eliezer, the defense minister, said the military offensive, which began March 29, has "dealt a heavy blow to the terrorist infrastructure" in the cities, where weapons were seized and wanted militants were arrested.

Sharon said the massive assault on Palestinian cities was a response to a "murderous insanity which has taken hold of our Palestinian neighbors." He accused Arafat of leading a "regime of terror" that Israel would dismantle.

Sharon said that after the operation is over, Israeli forces will withdraw to unspecified buffer zones in the West Bank. He added that "the places we leave must have a responsible Palestinian leadership that will take over the areas."

The comments angered Palestinians. Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said

TEXAS LOTTERY

PICK 3: 6,6,5  
CASH 5: 11,16,27,31,36

Sharon's "endgame all along was to dismantle the Palestinian Authority" and that Israel would not find Palestinians to agree to such a plan.

More than 1,500 Palestinians have been arrested by Israel since the offensive began March 29, including 500 to 600 fugitives, among them 70 to 80 involved in planning attacks on Israelis, Israeli military officials said. Troops have confiscated 2,000 rifles.

Cornell	10.13 - .16
Dell	27.1 + .22
Du Pont	46.49 - .09
Exxon Mobil	42.51 - .73
Halliburton	16.92 - .42
IFCO Systems	.3 nc
IBM	87.62 + .21
Intel Corp	29.4 - .53
NUV	9.29 + .02
Patterson Ener	28.73 - .01
Pepsico Inc	50.82 + .88
Phillips Petro	60.1 - 1.76
SBC Comms	35.84 - .69
Sears Roebuck	51.09 + .36
TXU Corp	54.83 - .28
Texas Instrument	32.74 - .26
Total Fina	74.49 - .44
Unocal Corp	37.04 - .84
Wal-Mart	60.05 + .27
Wal-Mart/Mexico	32.71 - 33.43
AMCAP	15.84 + .06
Europacific	26.93 - .3
Prime Rate	4.75 %
Gold	297.55 - 299.8
Silver	4.51 - 4.58

BRIEFS

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES of Big Spring is in desperate need of volunteers.

CASA volunteers are trained to represent abused and neglected children in court and help ensure that they find safe, permanent homes.

To become a volunteer or for more information contact the Big Spring office at 263-4162 or the Midland office at 915-683-1114. Visit the website at www.casawtx.org or send an e-mail to voices@casawtx.org.

ELBOW ELEMENTARY WILL HOLD kindergarten preregistration on Monday, April 22, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Parents are asked to bring their child's social security card (the card with the child's name on it), birth certificate and immunization records. The school also needs proof of residency, such as a utility bill which states the parent/guardian name and address.

Anyone living in the Forsan Independent School District who has a child that will be five years old on or before Sept. 1 are encouraged to attend. For more information call 398-5444.

RECORDS

Monday's high 76  
Monday's low 49  
Record high 95 in 1939  
Record low 27 in 1973  
Average high 75  
Average low 46  
Precip. Monday 0.00  
Month to date 0.00  
Year to date 2.15  
Sunrise Wednesday 7:22 a.m.  
Sunset Wednesday 8:12 p.m.

MARKETS

Noon quotes provided by Edward Jones & Co.  
AT&T 15.15 +.12  
Archer-Daniels 14.29 +.04  
Atmos Energy 24.11 +.05  
BP PLC ADR 51.51 -.74  
ChevronTexaco 87.41 -.99  
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Finette Johnson, 72, died Monday. Services are pending.  
Paula T. Martinez, 73, died Saturday. Services are 11:00 AM, today at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, with burial at Mount Olive Cemetery.

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INS im

WASHINGTON Hoping to better eign visitors and would-be terrorists graduation officials ar ing student visa proposing shorter for tourists and travelers.

Effective imm any foreigner w study in the Unit must have an appi dent visa before courses, the Im and Naturalizatio said Monday.

The INS also is to restrict tourists ners travelers to 3 its, down from th six months.

The INS has be intense scrutiny Sept. 11 terroris with some in Con

Anderse

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The suit is brought against on behalf of son worked in the tr according to law)

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Officials said 61 bodies were l refrigerated gara

Welcome to HOME OF 3000 AND A FEW

Saturday, Sunday, (20 M) 10th Entertainment Trad Histor

# INS imposes new restrictions on foreign students, proposes changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping to better track foreign visitors and keep out would-be terrorists, immigration officials are tightening student visa rules and proposing shorter U.S. trips for tourists and business travelers.

Effective immediately, any foreigner wishing to study in the United States must have an approved student visa before taking courses, the Immigration and Naturalization Service said Monday.

The INS also is proposing to restrict tourists and business travelers to 30-day visits, down from the current six months.

The INS has been under intense scrutiny since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, with some in Congress call-

ing for the agency to be dismantled. Supporters and critics agree that the agency is burdened with conflicting missions to help immigrants enter and stay in the country and to identify and keep out those who try to enter illegally or who may pose a danger.

The restrictions on travelers could affect more than 2 million visits to the United States a year and were criticized by people in the travel industry.

"Any time we make it more difficult — erect barriers or tighten barriers — for people to come into our country, we give them incentive to go someplace else," said Elise Wander of the Travel Industry Association of America.

The INS says it had 10 mil-

lion tourist visa admissions to the United States in 2000, the latest year with available data. In three-quarters of those admissions, the visitors stayed less than a month. In 2.5 million cases, business travelers stayed an average 13 days.

"The reason to make these changes is to increase our control on who is coming in and increase our awareness of what they intend to do while here," said INS spokesman Bill Strassberger.

Visitors would have to show unexpected or compelling reasons for an extension of a travel visa, such as the need for medical treatment or a delay in completing a business matter, Strassberger said. The maximum length of a visa extension would be reduced from

one year to six months.

Before Sept. 11, INS Commissioner James Ziglar's focus was on improving the agency's service and cutting waiting times for immigration benefits. Those remain priorities, but under pressure from Congress — especially since the attacks — Ziglar has been forced to give precedence to keeping better track of foreign visitors and tightening immigration policies.

"These new rules strike the appropriate balance between INS' mission to ensure that our nation's immigration laws are followed and stop illegal immigration and our desire to welcome legitimate visitors to the United States," Ziglar said.

The INS believes requir-

ing approval before students enroll will ensure they have received appropriate security checks before entering the country.

The INS also is proposing that people who want to switch from a tourist or business visa to a student visa return to their home country to apply. A person now can switch while in America. In return, the INS says it would speed up decisions on such requests, issuing them within 30 days.

Two of the Sept. 11 hijackers, Mohammed Atta of Egypt and Marwan Al-Shehhi of the United Arab Emirates, came to the United States on visitor visas and later applied for student visas. They began training at a Florida flight school in July 2000, more

than a year before the INS approved their student visas.

At the time of the attacks, approximately 600,000 foreign students were enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities. INS officials acknowledged they could not verify the whereabouts of many and promised changes to better track them.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who has pushed for an improved student tracking system, called the changes a beginning. But she said the changes will work only when INS has implemented the student tracking system. It is scheduled to be up and running next year.

"Right now the INS has no idea where most of these students are," said Feinstein, D-Calif.

## Andersen figure to plead guilty to obstruction charge

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arthur Andersen LLP's chief auditor on its Enron account in Houston has agreed to plead guilty and cooperate with prosecutors pursuing a document shredding case against the beleaguered accounting firm, a person familiar with the case said.

David B. Duncan, who was fired in January shortly after Andersen acknowledged massive shredding, was expected to plead guilty today to a single obstruction count and become a cooper-

ating witness.

Duncan's attorney, Robert Giuffra, said late Monday that he had no comment on word that his client was ready to plead guilty.

"As we have said from the outset, Mr. Duncan is continuing to cooperate with the government's investigation of this matter," Giuffra told The Associated Press.

A grand jury indicted Andersen on March 7 on a single count of obstructing justice, accusing the firm of destroying "tons of paper" at offices worldwide and

deleting enormous numbers of computer files on its audits of Enron.

At times, the government said, the shredding was so fast-paced employees worked overtime and shredding machines couldn't keep pace. The indictment was unsealed March 14; Andersen has pleaded innocent.

Court documents also have disclosed that a second grand jury was empaneled March 27 in Houston to investigate the collapse of Enron. The court papers said the grand jury "is pro-

ceeding with appropriate investigative steps."

The accounting industry has been under scrutiny since Enron's bankruptcy on Dec. 2, the largest corporate failure in U.S. history, and several legislative proposals have been circulated in Congress. The Securities and Exchange Commission is pursuing a civil investigation of Enron and Andersen.

Duncan is believed to be the first person in the case to have struck a deal with prosecutors.

## Taxes: Burden increasingly falls on wealthier Americans

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a group, Americans whose incomes are in the top 5 percent are footing an increasing share of the national income tax burden. People in the bottom half, on the other hand, are paying only a fraction of the total tax.

Two-income households are increasing, which puts more families in the top slice of taxpayers. Millions of small businesses and partnerships are up there, too, paying graduated personal income tax scales instead of the flat corporate rates. Many other incomes were boosted by the 1990s stock market boom.

President Bush's big tax cut will prevent the wealthy from paying an even greater share in coming years. Some crucial provisions,

however, such as the gradual doubling of the child tax credit, will reduce or eliminate income taxes for many middle-income people, while the rich won't qualify.

"This trend is not going to reverse," said Scott Hodge, executive director of the Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan tax education and research group. "This will be the demographic for the 21st-century taxpayer."

The income tax deadline for most of the country is midnight April 15, next Monday.

For 1999, the most recent year for which complete Internal Revenue Service statistics were available, 6.3 million taxpayers whose incomes were in the top 5 percent paid more than 55 percent of all income taxes.

They had adjusted gross incomes above \$120,846 a year, meaning spouses could earn a bit over \$60,000 each and be considered among the nation's richest.

"It's very easy to move into the top echelon of taxpayers," Hodge said.

The wealthiest 1 percent — those earning \$293,415 and up — paid more than a third of the taxes, while their share of the nation's taxable income was 19 percent. They pay income taxes at the top rate, now 38.6 percent, compared with a maximum rate of 15 percent for most lower-earning taxpayers.

Taxpayers in the bottom half paid only 4 percent of income taxes in 1999, according to the IRS. These 63 million taxpayers earned,

on average, less than \$26,415 a year.

Going back to 1989, the top 5 percent income group paid about 44 percent of income taxes, the bottom almost 6 percent. Then, the top tax rate paid by high earners was 31 percent.

Looking ahead, the 10-year, \$1.35 trillion tax cut enacted last year reduces income taxes in three steps, with the final step coming in 2006. In that year, according to the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation, taxpayers earning over \$100,000 a year will pay almost 59 percent of all income taxes.

Those with annual incomes of less than \$30,000 a year will pay about 4.4 percent in 2006, roughly the same as they do today.

## Mail hike set for June 30

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mailing a letter, bill payment or birthday gift will cost more starting June 30.

Higher postal rates, including a 3-cent boost to 37 cents for first-class mail, were approved in February. The effective date was announced today by the Postal Service board of governors.

"The governors recognize that raising rates is not the long-term solution to retaining universal service," board chairman Robert Rider said. He said the higher rates will help the agency cope with the economic downturn and the cost of last fall's terrorist attacks.

The increase will give the cash-strapped postal service a boost as it tries to cope with declining business and hundreds of millions of dollars in costs from the terror attacks and anthrax contamination last fall.

Postmaster General John Potter said last week that there won't be another increase until at least 2004. The Postal Service suffered a \$1.6 billion loss last year, before the terror attacks that cost it hun-

dreds of millions more. The agency has halted new construction and cut its staff by 12,000 over the last year.

While this rate increase is expected to provide some financial breathing room, officials continue to stress that to achieve long-term health the agency needs changes in the way it operates.

While the cost of the first ounce of first-class mail goes up 3 cents, each additional ounce will cost 23 cents, the same as currently.

Some other rate increase some other changes taking effect include:

- Post card: 23 cents, up 2 cents.
- Priority mail, 1 pound: \$3.85, up 35 cents.
- Express Mail, 8 ounces: \$13.65, up \$1.20.
- Parcel post (varies), typical 2 pound: \$4.14, up 69 cents.
- Certified mail: \$2.30, up 10 cents.
- Signed return receipt: \$1.75, up 25 cents.
- Money order up to \$500: 90 cents, unchanged.
- Bank statement, 3 ounces: 83 cents, up 3 cents.

## Victim's family sues American Airlines

NEW YORK (AP) — The husband of a woman who died in the World Trade Center collapse has sued American Airlines and an airport security company for \$50 million.

The suit is the first brought against an airline on behalf of someone who worked in the trade center, according to lawyers for the

woman's family.

The wrongful death suit, filed by Thomas Smithwick in federal court in Manhattan on Monday, alleges that the airline and Globe Aviation Services Corp. failed to properly screen passengers boarding Flight 11 at Logan International Airport in Boston on Sept. 11.

## Rats chew on a dozen bodies in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A county supervisor has ordered the coroner's office to investigate how rats were able to infest a converted garage where corpses were kept and gnaw on a dozen bodies.

Officials said Monday that 61 bodies were kept in the refrigerated garage for long-

term storage because the coroner's office was full.

The infestation was discovered in February, but the coroner's office announced it Monday only after KMEX-TV reported last week that rats had disfigured several bodies and that hundreds of other bodies were improperly handled.

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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

OTHER VIEWS

Speaking out on situation in the Mideast

Despite his attempts to project a different image, Israeli prime Minister Ariel Sharon is on the last legs of his political career. The barbarous war he has launched on the Palestinians is a desperate act of a shortsighted politician who has failed on every front. Sharon is going down, and he is trying to take the whole region down with him.

He must be stopped. For over a year, Sharon has been systematically working to increase the level of tension in the region. In addition to destroying the Palestinian National Authority, the Israeli prime minister has sought to push the Arab world into adopting hardline policies which he would use to justify his abandonment of the peace process. But the Arabs did not fall in his trap and instead responded with a historic peace offer which has exposed the bankruptcy of Sharon and his policies.

In these trying times, emotions can easily defeat rational strategies. But the duty toward the Palestinian people dictates that wisdom guides the course of action governments take to help them overcome their plight. Sharon wants war. He should not get it.

JORDAN TIMES, AMMAN, JORDAN

The language used by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to call Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat an 'enemy of Israel' and declare Israel in 'a war against terrorism' echoes the words chosen by U.S. President George W. Bush after the outrage of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Like Bush, Sharon also sees his country facing a threat to its existence and involved in a war that is not of its choosing.

Thus, he too feels compelled to act against the terrorist infrastructure he faces by using military means. ...

However, even if Mr. Sharon is using the legitimacy provided by the U.S. offensive against terrorism and has Arafat isolated physically, the Israeli military offensive will not prevent further suicide bombings.

Israel cannot win this war, but it could end up even more isolated.

Even without considering the suffering of the innocent victims, the political rationale of this venture must be called into question.

Israel is already facing the wrath of a distorted, one-sided international community that is blaming Mr. Sharon for the highly explosive situation, while accepting Mr. Arafat's sanctimonious, heroic avowals of martyrdom — for which the Israeli prime minister admittedly is providing the props.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE,  
FRANKFURT, GERMANY

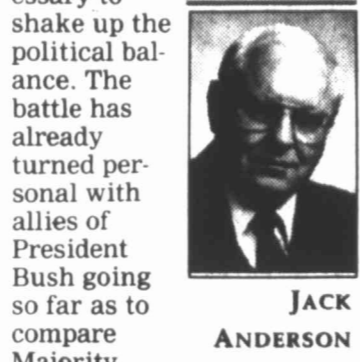
LETTERS POLICY

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- 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.
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- 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.

Making a few election predictions

Party leaders are locked in a death struggle to hold their ground in the closely divided Congress and add the extra seats necessary to shake up the political balance. The battle has already turned personal with allies of President Bush going so far as to compare Majority Leader Tom Daschle to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. "And Saddam is offended," Daschle quipped at a recent dinner, trying to make light of the campaign against him. But the attacks have taken their toll. Daschle seems less willing to take positions that could create problems for Democrats running for reelection in states Bush won by large margins.



JACK ANDERSON

Republicans have more Senate seats to defend, 20 compared to the Democrats' 14. But the numbers don't

tell the whole story. Democrats have more vulnerable seats, beginning with South Dakota where freshman Sen. Tim Johnson faces a spirited challenge from popular Rep. John Thune in a race that pits Bush against Daschle, and tests the power of Bush's war presidency. If Thune had followed his original game plan, he would have run for governor. But the White House, eager to win the seat and embarrass Daschle in his home state, persuaded Thune to take on Johnson.

Thune dredged up some long-ago votes Johnson cast against military spending in the House as a way to question his commitment to Bush's war budget. In an exchange of television ads, Johnson pointed out that his son is serving in Afghanistan, and he would never undermine his son's security, or the nation's. Thune reminded voters that he was the son of a World War II veteran, as though the voters would decide based on these family ties.

Republicans are most worried about Arkansas,

where freshman Sen. Tim Hutchinson is widely regarded as heading to defeat. Hutchinson was a family-values champion during the Clinton impeachment fight, and so it didn't sit well with the voters when he divorced his wife and married a staffer. Attorney General Mark Pryor, son of former Senator David Pryor, is a quality candidate for the Democrats.

Another vulnerability for the Republicans is New Hampshire, where Governor Jeanne Shaheen is poised to capture the Senate seat held by Republican Sen. Bob Smith. A better candidate for the GOP would be Rep. John Sununu, a personable conservative and son of former New Hampshire Governor John Sununu. But Sununu has had trouble raising money, and the White House, fearing a backlash from Smith backers, has stayed out of the race. Smith is likely to prevail among GOP loyalists despite a brief bid for the presidency as an Independent that raised questions about his party loyalty.

Missouri, Minnesota and Iowa are trouble spots for the Democrats. In Missouri, freshman Sen. Jean Carnahan will be up against historical odds in trying to win on her own the seat she was awarded when voters elected her dead husband. In Minnesota, liberal Sen. Paul Wellstone always runs a tight race, and this will be a squeaker, win or lose. Iowa's Tom Harkin is on the GOP's target list, and he faces an especially capable challenger this time around in Rep. Greg Ganske, a plastic surgeon who has won many admirers in the state with his independent stands. He broke with his party on campaign finance reform, and was one of only four House Republicans to oppose President Bush's tax cut.

Holding the Senate means trench warfare, yet the Democrats will gain a seat or two.

The House is harder to predict. Absent any galvanizing issue, a major swing to either party is unlikely, which means the Republicans should hang on to their majority.

ADDRESSES

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- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**  
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Phone: 202-224-5922
- **CHARLES STENHOLM**  
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- **BILL RATLIFF**  
Lt. Governor  
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Phone: 512-463-0001



If it's a bomb, then call it what it is... a bomb

One of the attractive ladies of the TV talk channels heard a report

from Kabul, Afghanistan, recently. The story was simple: A peacekeeping patrol heard two or three shots in the distance. They determined the shots came from a camp housing one of the warlord's soldiers. The shots were not fired at them. They went on about their business.

"Nevertheless," said the lady anchor, her brows tightly knitted in her professional anxiety look, "It was a scary moment."

After I got up off the floor where my laughter had put me (it would take a lot more than the sound of distant gunshots to scare a British marine), I wished so hard that I had the creative imagination to write a novel about how today's journalists would have covered World War II. I wonder if they would have thought that the Normandy

invasion was a "scary moment."

I can just hear them at a press conference with Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower in May 1944.

"General, there are rumors that you are planning an invasion of Europe. Could you tell us if that's true, and if so, when do you plan to do it?"

It would be just as interesting to imagine how today's generals would have acted during the last Big One.

"Ladies and gentleman, I can now say that we have just completed a successful bombing raid against Hiroshima, and our targets have been completely destroyed."

"Uh, general, what were the targets?"

"Oh, a Japanese military camp and a gear factory."

"Was there any collateral damage?"

"Yes, about 80,000 civilians. We think, however, that this raid, which we call Operation Why Can't We All Get Along, will go a long way toward ensuring the success of Operation Peace on Earth."

Forgive my odd sense of humor. I suppose that having grown up during a war that took 55 million lives,

I'm a bit more calloused than these younger folks. They seem unable to just stick to the facts. They can never say just a suicide bombing. It's always a "horrifying" or a "terrifying" suicide bombing. A bomb, like a rose, is a bomb is a bomb, and the dead are the dead. The place to be when bombs are exploding is wherever you can say, "What was that noise?"

By the way, these suicide bombers are carrying explosives that are roughly equal to one high-explosive tank round or one missile from a helicopter gunship. So, you can say that the Palestinians, during the Passover week, fired six rounds at the Israelis. How many rockets and tank rounds do you suppose the Israelis have fired at Palestinians? How did the casualties get so lopsided for the Palestinians? And how can a people with no army be said to be "besieging" the Israelis, who have a very large army?

I suppose it's no crazier than demanding Yasser Arafat, locked up in three rooms surrounded by tanks and soldiers, "do more" to stop terrorism. Sure, in the middle of an Israeli invasion, Arafat should say to

anyone he can reach on a cell phone, "Please ignore the Israeli invasion, the tank and machine-gun fire, the arbitrary arrests, the killings and brutalizations, and let's all welcome our Israeli friends, who, after all, just want to restore order and live in peace on our land."

I wonder what kind of silly names the Israelis use. Is this Operation Bagel? Or Operation Here Comes Samson? Perhaps it's Operation Chutzpah. That's pronounced "hootspa," said fast up North, and "Hoots Paw," said slowly in the South. It means outrageous audacity.

In the meantime, President Bush has put another wrinkle on his forehead trying to figure out how to OK Ariel Sharon's destruction of the Palestinian Authority and at the same time convince other Arab countries that he's so evenhanded they ought to help him destroy still another Arab government. That could be called Operation Ain't No Way.

Charley Reese can be contacted at [brtari@earthlink.net](mailto:brtari@earthlink.net).



S

IN B

**Lady Hawk games with**  
Howard Co Hawks split Junior College Conference bleheader w College's La Foundation Monday.  
After suffer loss in the opener, the I posted a behind 4-3 win on game behind Chaparrals WJAC stand  
The split l with a 36-12 all and a 12-4 into a four-ga El Paso thi The Lady Hav on the season conference into this wee game series College.

**Hawks rode second at V**  
Howard Hawks finish the men's tea behind West College Satur West Tex; University Canyon.  
Bray Armes for the Hawl wrestling, w fist go-round, and the avera Tony Sauter second-plac all in the cal winning Satu go in that eve And Ross Er a second-plac the short go c to finish th bareback bror The Hawks Snyder this compete in t Texas College

**Bulldogs thi run at Color**  
Coahoma's turned in a cc finishes Satu Colorado City Braden We first place i vault, clearing 13 feet, wh Kemper win jump with a le 2 inches.  
Eric Henry a ond-place cloc 3,200 meters sixth in t Another secon ish came fr Ward in the di Adam Villa w Kasey Huc ished fourth jump and Tr was fourth i put.

**Teen League Thursday-Sa**  
Teen-age Le ball registrati conducted fr until 8 p.m. and Friday noon to 5 p.m at the Roy Complex loca north servic Interstate 20.

**ON TH**  
**Radio**  
HIGH SCHOOL 5:45 p.m. — Steers at Lubbo Matadors, KBST PRO BASKETBA 7 p.m. — Port Blazers at Dallas (joined in progr AM 1490.

**Television**  
PRO BASKETBA 7 p.m. — Phil 76ers at Milwau TBS.  
7:30 p.m. — Trail Blazers at Mavericks, FXS. 9:30 p.m. — Timberwolves at Sacramento King

### IN BRIEF

#### Lady Hawks split games with Midland

Howard College's Lady Hawks split a Western Junior College Athletic Conference softball doubleheader with Midland College's Lady Chaps at Foundation Field on Monday.

After suffering a 4-1 loss in the twinbill's opener, the Lady Hawks posted a come-from-behind 4-3 win in the second game to remain one game behind the Lady Chaparrals in the WJCAC standings.

The split left Midland with a 36-12 record overall and a 12-4 mark going into a four-game series in El Paso this weekend. The Lady Hawks are 32-16 on the season and 9-5 on conference play going into this weekend's four-game series at Odessa College.

#### Hawks rodeo team second at WTAMU

Howard College's Hawks finished second in the men's team standings behind Western Texas College Saturday at the West Texas A&M University Rodeo in Canyon.

Bray Armes led the way for the Hawks in steer wrestling, winning the first go-round, the short go and the average.

Tony Sauter added a second-place finish overall in the calf roping by winning Saturday's short go in that event.

And Ross Ericsson took a second-place finish in the short go on Saturday to finish third in the bareback bronc riding.

The Hawks travel to Snyder this weekend to compete in the Western Texas College Rodeo.

#### Bulldogs thinclads run at Colorado City

Coahoma's Bulldogs turned in a couple of top finishes Saturday at the Colorado City Relays.

Braden Wegner took first place in the pole vault, clearing the bar at 13 feet, while Kelby Kemper win the high jump with a leap of 6 feet, 2 inches.

Eric Henry added a second-place clocking in the 3,200 meters and was sixth in the 1,600. Another second-place finish came from Chase Ward in the discus, while Adam Villa was fifth.

Kasey Huckabee finished fourth in the triple jump and Travis Hipp was fourth in the shot put.

#### Teen League sign-ups Thursday-Saturday

Teen-age League baseball registration will be conducted from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday and from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Roy Anderson Complex located on the north service road of Interstate 20.

### ON THE AIR

#### Radio

**HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL**  
5:45 p.m. — Big Spring Steers at Lubbock Estacado Matadors, KBST-AM 1490.  
**PRO BASKETBALL**  
7 p.m. — Portland Trail Blazers at Dallas Mavericks (jones in progress), KBST-AM 1490.

#### Television

**PRO BASKETBALL**  
7 p.m. — Philadelphia 76ers at Milwaukee Bucks, TBS.  
7:30 p.m. — Portland Trail Blazers at Dallas Mavericks, FXS.  
9:30 p.m. — Minnesota Timberwolves at Sacramento Kings, TBS.

## Howard College names Bucher new women's hoops boss

By JOHN A. MOSELEY

Managing Editor  
Kevin Bucher, who guided Connors State (Okla.) College to an 18-12 record and semifinals berth in the NJCAA Region II Tournament this year, has been named the new head women's basketball coach at Howard College.

Bucher fills the vacancy created when Joey Wells resigned the Lady Hawks helm at the close of the 2001-02 season.

Howard College Athletic Director Jim Lewis announced Bucher's hiring from a field of more than 100 applicants this morning. He indicated that Bucher will begin his duties as the Lady Hawks' head coach immediately.

In a press release issued by the college this morning, Bucher was quoted as saying, "I'm thrilled to have been selected to head up the women's basketball program and look forward to being a part of the Howard College family. One of my goals would be to reach the level of excellence which the Lady Hawks have experienced during the past decade."

A native of Delta, Mo., Bucher began his coaching career as an assistant at Central Methodist College in Fayette, Mo., in 1989.

Following a three-year stint at Central Methodist, he accepted his first head coaching position when he was hired as head coach and athletic director at Northwest Missouri

Community College in St. Joseph, Mo.

In Northwest Missouri's first ever season of women's basketball competition, Bucher led them to the NJCAA Division II, Region XVI championship. He was named the 1993 NJCAA Division II coach of the year, producing three all-region and one NJCAA All-America selection, as well as achieving a 100 percent graduation rate among his players.

He spent the next three seasons as head coach at Moberly Area Community College in Moberly, Mo.

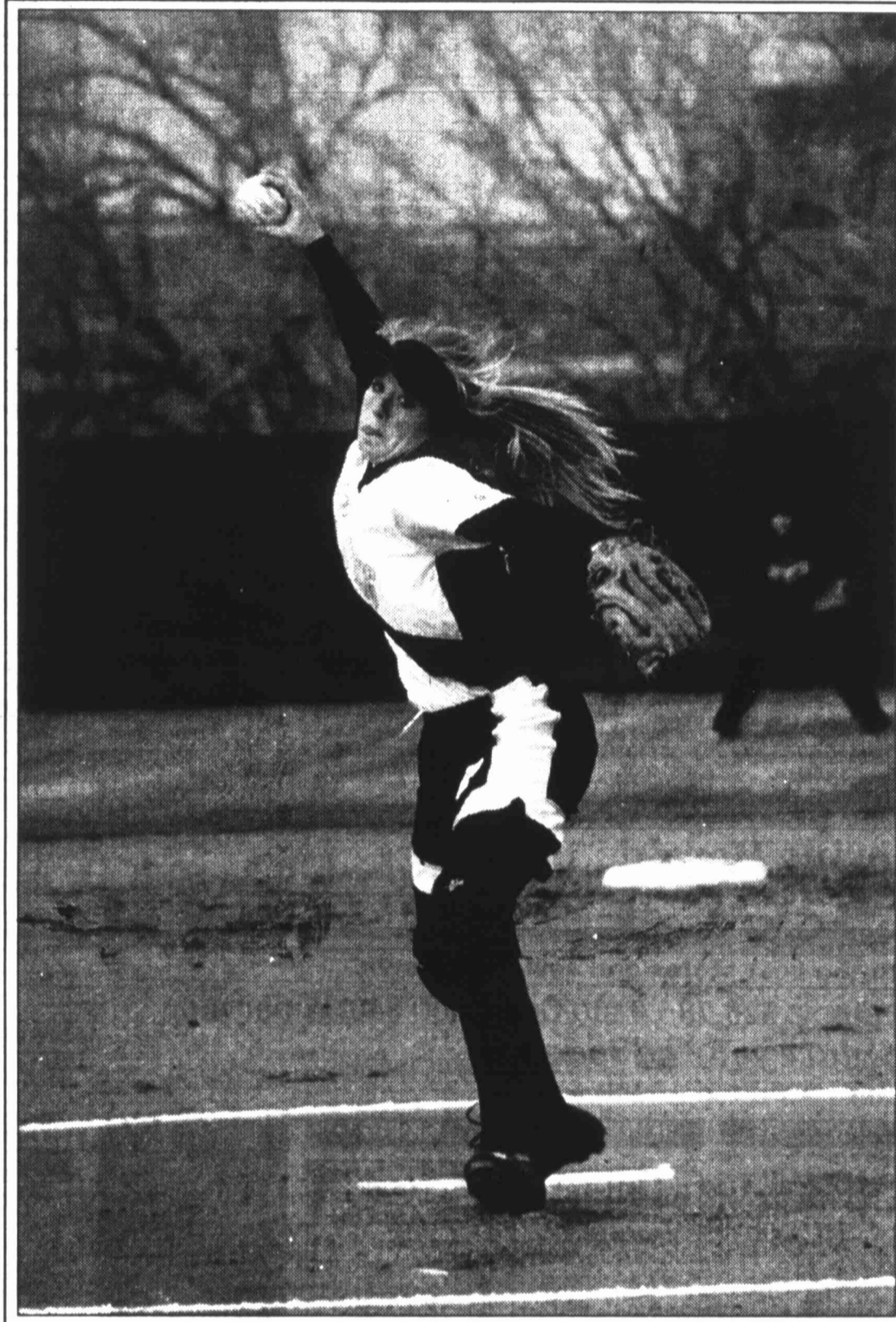
During the 1996-97 season, Bucher's Moberly team won the NJCAA Region XVI championship and finished ninth at the national

tournament. He was again named NJCAA coach of the year.

While at Moberly, he coached seven All-Region XVI players and four more NJCAA All-America selections. His team was ranked in the Top 10 for two seasons and he again produced a 100 percent graduation rate among his players.

Bucher then moved to Arkansas State University as an assistant coach, helping guide the Lady Muleriders to the "elite eight" of the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

He holds a bachelor of science degree and received his master of science degree in physical education with an emphasis in athletic administration in August of 1994.



HERALD photo/Jim Fiero

Big Spring freshman Alex Watkins delivers a pitch during the Lady Steers' home win over Andrews on March 22. The Lady Steers, who were shutout at Andrews on Friday, face a pivotal game today when they take on Snyder's Lady Tigers, the only other District 4-4A team to have beaten them this season. The Lady Steers will be looking for revenge at 4 p.m. when they play the Lady Tigers at the Big Spring ISD Softball Complex.

## Sonics, Jazz enter playoff field; Pistons claim divisional crown

The ASSOCIATED PRESS and Orlando 83, Houston 74.

The Seattle SuperSonics and Utah Jazz have playoff berths, and the Detroit Pistons have their first NBA division title in 12 years.

The Sonics put themselves and the Jazz into the post-season when they beat the Clippers' 102-100 Monday night. The victory eliminated the Los Angeles Clippers from the chase, allowing Seattle and Utah to fill the final two playoff spots available in the Western Conference.

Utah benefited despite losing 105-96 to Dallas.

"It just feels good that these guys get an opportunity to play in the post-season, because they've worked so hard," Sonics coach Nate McMillan said.

The Pistons defeated Atlanta 105-99 to take the Central Division crown, not bad for a team that went 32-50 last season.

"This is just an unbelievable feeling," Detroit's Jerry Stackhouse said. "We came from nowhere last year to win a division title. There are a lot of players who have never done that."

Elsewhere, it was Chicago 105, Portland 100; San Antonio 99, Portland 87; Minnesota 100, Golden State 99; Cleveland 111, Indiana 98;

#### SuperSonics 102, Clippers 100

Desmond Mason had 26 of his career-high 36 points in the second half for Seattle.

Mason broke a tie at 98 with an 18-footer from the top of the key with 18.8 seconds left, and Ansu Sesay made two free throws with 3.2 seconds to go for Seattle's final points.

Gary Payton added 22 points and 13 assists for the host Sonics, while Eric Piatkowski and Elton Brand scored 22 points each for the Clippers.

#### Mavericks 105, Jazz 96

Nick Van Exel and Michael Finley each had 20 points for Dallas, with Van Exel getting 12 in the final period and Finley 10.

The visiting Mavericks remained a half-game ahead of San Antonio for the Midwest Division lead and the No. 2 playoff position in the Western Conference.

Dallas did it without leading scorer and rebounder Dirk Nowitzki, who strained his left ankle 1:54 before halftime.

Karl Malone scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter. He also had eight rebounds.

#### Pistons 105, Hawks 99

The Pistons clinched their first division title since their championship era 12 years ago.

Zeljko Rebraca had career highs with 18 points, 13 rebounds and seven blocks. The Yugoslavian rookie replaced injured Ben Wallace (ankle), who leads the league in blocks and rebounds, and helped Detroit (47-30) win its first Central Division title since the 1989-90 NBA champs.

Detroit is two games behind New Jersey for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Chucky Atkins led the Pistons with 20 points.

#### Bulls 105, Celtics 100

Boston slipped against the league's worst team. Trenton Hassell made a key 3-pointer and Travis Best converted a pair of free throws in the final minute to snap the Bulls' nine-game losing streak. Marcus Fizer led Chicago with 21 points.

Antoine Walker, who finished with 33 points, missed an off-balance 3-pointer with 3 seconds left for visiting Boston, which dropped to 4 1/2 games behind idle New Jersey.

## Astros' Biggio hits for cycle for first time

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Craig Biggio wasn't thinking about completing the first cycle of his 13-year career.

"Well, you know what you need," he said. "But the last thing you're trying to do is hit a double. I was just trying to hit the ball hard. That's what I'm trying to do every time up."

Biggio came through with a two-run double down the left-field line in the eighth inning, completing the cycle. He drove in four runs to lead the Houston Astros over Colorado 8-4 Monday in the Rockies' home opener.

"It's a special day," Biggio said. "It's a lucky day when something like that happens. I caught a couple of breaks with the ball staying inside the line. It's kind of cool."

Lance Berkman hit his fourth home run of the season, a two-run drive off Denny Neagle (1-1) in the third, and Roy Oswalt (2-0) sent the Rockies to their fourth consecutive loss, allowing three runs and 10 hits in seven innings.

"He drove in some big runs for us," Astros manager Jimmy Williams said. "That's got to pick him up. It certainly picks us all up as a team."

In other National League games it was Montreal 10, Florida 2; Atlanta 2, Philadelphia 1; San Diego 8, Arizona 0; and Pittsburgh 1, Cincinnati 0.

In only American League games, it was the Seattle 5, Anaheim 4; New York Yankees 16, Toronto 3; and Cleveland 9, Minnesota 5. The Chicago White Sox's game at Detroit was rained out. No makeup date was announced.

Biggio, who entered hitting a team-low .174 (4-for-23), went 4-for-4 to raise his average to .296.

It was the first cycle of his 13-year career and the sixth in Astros' history. Jeff Bagwell had the last one, last July 18 against St. Louis.

#### Expos 10, Marlins 2

Michael Barrett hit a three-run homer and drove in a career-high five runs in Florida's home opener.

Umpires reversed a call to take a three-run homer away from Florida's Mike Lowell in the fourth, correctly ruling the ball was foul. The game was halted for 7 minutes when fans upset about the reversal threw magnetic schedules — a giveaway gift — and other items onto the field.

Tony Armas (1-1) allowed both runs and four hits in 8 1-3 innings. A.J. Burnett (1-1) struck out eight but allowed six runs and 10 hits.

#### Braves 2, Phillies 1

Kevin Millwood (1-1) improved to 5-0 at Veterans Stadium, by allowing four hits and one run in 7 1-3 innings with eight strike-

outs. Last Wednesday, he lost to the Phillies 3-1.

Marlon Anderson started the ninth with a double to right-center off John Smoltz and moved to third on Bobby Abreu's infield single. But Smoltz got Scott Rolen to pop out to second, before fanning Travis Lee and Pat Burrell for his first save.

B.J. Surhoff and Chipper Jones each had RBIs off Vincente Padilla (1-1) as the Braves won their second straight. Philadelphia, which finished two games behind Atlanta in the NL East last season, has lost three of four to the Braves and has scored just 20 runs in seven games, an average of 2.9.

#### Padres 8, Diamondbacks 0

Phil Nevin and D'Angelo Jimenez hit two-run homers in San Diego's home opener, and the Padres took advantage of four Arizona errors.

Brian Lawrence (1-0) pitched a four-hitter for his first career shutout and second complete game. The Padres wore camouflage jerseys and olive green caps to honor the area's many servicemen for the third straight year.

Brian Anderson (0-1) gave up five runs and six hits in four innings. He struck out two and walked one.

#### Pirates 1, Reds 0

Ron Villone (1-1) extended Pittsburgh's unexpectedly good run of early pitching with 7 1-3 shutout innings and the Pirates improved to 5-1 for the first time since 1983.

Brian Giles' first hit of the season, a one-out double in the sixth off Elmer Dessens, created the only run as the Pirates won their fifth in a row and their first home opener since 1993.

Giles, who sat out the first five games with a strained rib cage muscle, doubled with one out, moved up on Dessens' balk and scored on Aramis Ramirez's sacrifice.

#### Mariners 5, Angels 4

Shigetoshi Hasegawa earned his first Mariners win, pitching 1 2-3 hitless innings against his former team, although his bases-loaded balk in the seventh forced in Anaheim's fourth run.

Hasegawa was part of what Seattle manager Lou Piniella called the Japanese "one-two and one-half" punch for the Mariners in the victory over the Angels.

Hasegawa got the win, Kazuhiro Sasaki pitched a perfect ninth for his second save, and Ichiro Suzuki singled during a three-run eighth as Seattle rallied from a 4-2 deficit.

Bret Boone hit a two-run homer, and John Olerud added a solo shot to power the Mariners, who scored all their runs off relievers after Jarrod Washburn shut them out in his 5 1-3 innings and left with a 3-0 lead.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, April 10:

This year you'll alternate between putting your best foot forward and retreating. This back-and-forth motion could be difficult for you as well as others, especially since you could suddenly spin off into yet a different mode. Be careful when dealing with friends, as they can often disappoint you, impacting you in odd ways. If you are single, the second part of your birthday year will hold many more opportunities to meet "the one." You naturally meet people through your day-to-day meanderings. If you are attached, your sweetie could react to your changeability. Choose to share more of yourself and your inner workings. ARIES understands you.

The Stars Show The Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult ARIES (March 21-April 19) \*\*\*\*\* If you don't wake up on the wrong side of the bed, you easily might run into someone who has. Don't let an early morning event color your day black. In fact, focus on the positive. Buy yourself a gift or a lottery ticket. Now, isn't that better? Tonight: Wave goodbye to the workday.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\*\* Where your friends are is where you can be

found. Be careful not to take another lengthy lunch break or get into a chat fest. A boss might be watching you more closely than you're aware of. Don't do in your image right now. Close your door later in the day if you want to get anything done! Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) \*\*\*\*\* Your perspective could change radically after you look over a communique or information. You could be shocked by what you see or hear. Don't lose your temper. Regroup, eyeing your long-term objectives. You'll know what to do. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) \*\*\* Do needed research before you present "your case" to someone and/or assume control. A meeting emphasizes your great ideas and leadership abilities. A friend sees a personal matter very differently. Forget about debating it, as agreement won't happen. Tonight: Work as late as needed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Work with another, even if you might be quite aggravated by a recent event. Don't bring your frustration to work. You have unusual assets; don't diminish them with a display of anger. Work on a one-on-one level with others. Tonight: Follow the

music. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Others still run with the ball. Convincing an associate that a problem exists could be close to impossible, even if it is clear to you. Trust that events will demonstrate the facts. News from a distance energizes partners. Tonight: Spend time with a favorite partner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\*\*\* A child or loved one could disappoint you, sending you into a tizzy. Calm down and deal with some basics. Concentration helps you to successfully wade through your mood. You're very playful once you let go of this problem. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Use your creativity when dealing with a difficult family member and/or partner. You cannot always have it your way. Think in terms of gains and a potential change, especially at work. You might not always understand a loved one. Tonight: Easy does it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Deal with the basics. You hear a lot of the unexpected. Integrate only what you know to be true, rather than everything you hear. Do nothing based on hearsay alone. Revise your opinion of a child or loved one. Let it all hang out. Tonight: Play more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19) \*\*\*\*\* Take action early on, especially if you're uncomfortable with someone's risk-taking, or what that risk could cost you. Realize that you have more control than you're aware of. A discussion enlightens another to what a "good" risk looks like. Tonight: Mosey on home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\*\* You might be a great deal more upbeat than you realize. In fact, another might complain, as he or she feels as if you are raining on his or her parade. You? Be sensitive to those close to you and ask questions before making assumptions. Tonight: Out and about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\* You really don't need to see eye-to-eye with another. In fact, what you say could be only half of what you think. Someone might insult you inadvertently, or you them. Relax. Focus on the job of making money. Consider options carefully. Tonight: Pay bills first.

BORN TODAY Actor Steven Seagal (1952), sportscaster John Madden (1935), actor Omar Sharif (1932)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.

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Form with 7 lines for text entry, labeled 1 LINE through 7 LINES.

Table with 4 columns: Line count, 1-3 Days, 5 Days, 7 Days. Includes rates for 1-7 lines.

Form for contact information: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, START DATE, IF USING CREDIT CARD (VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER), CARD NUMBER, EXP. DATE.

Aunts concerns about obese niece go unheeded

Dear Ann Landers: I have a wonderful 10-year-old niece who is 5 feet tall and weighs almost 200 pounds. Her parents are so worried about her "self-esteem" that they refuse to put her on a diet or monitor what she eats. If my niece decides to make chocolate chip cookies with butter, they say, "Go ahead," because they don't want to upset her. The girl eats too much junk food, "regular" portions are double-sized, and she consumes too many soft drinks. Her parents never say a word. When she visits me, I provide her with fruit to snack on, and I insist

that she drink water. I tell her it's to keep her skin and hair beautiful. Her parents tell me I am cruel and coldhearted. I am worried that this girl will have terrible problems when she reaches high school. Her parents are thin, but they keep all kinds of candy and junk food in their home. They say it is too much trouble to watch her all the time, and a great inconvenience to change their eating habits just because their daughter has a weight problem. They insist she will outgrow it. Is there anything I can do to help my niece and make her parents understand how serious this is? - Concerned Aunt in California Dear Concerned Aunt: These parents are doing a

grave disservice to their daughter by not teaching her healthy eating habits. Obese children have a hard time shedding the excess weight as they get older. They do not "outgrow it." However, you are not the girl's mother, and you have no say in the matter. If you can convince the parents to discuss her size with a pediatrician, it may help. You can also encourage your niece to get involved in sports. Teach her to play tennis, or invite her to accompany you while you jog. No matter how thin or heavy, exercise is important for building strong bones and maintaining good health. Dear Ann Landers: I have another solution for "Computer Widow in Vermont." I, too, live with a computer geek. In order

for us to spend more time together, we put the computer in our bedroom. While he is pecking away, I am reading a book or watching TV. Since we are in the same room, we share conversations and kisses while doing our own thing. - Washington, D.C., Dolly Dear Dolly: Congratulations on finding a solution that works for you. If other readers want to try it, good luck. - Gem of the Day (credit the incomparable Woody Allen): I will not eat oysters. I want my food dead. Not sick - not wounded - dead. © 2002 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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APRIL 9 2002

TUESDAY APR. 9

Table with 16 columns representing different TV channels (KMGD, KPEJ, KERA, etc.) and rows representing time slots from 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM. Each cell contains the channel name and the program being aired.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"ISN'T IT AMAZING WHAT SPRING DOES FOR TWO LITTLE BOYS?"

FAMILY CIRCUS



Punster Billy submits another drawing for Daddy's approval.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



B.C.



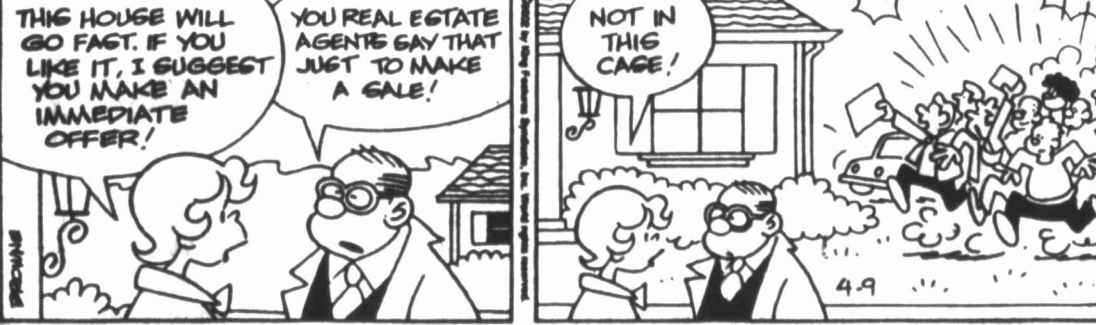
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GEECH



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SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Tuesday, April 9, the 99th day of 2002. There are 266 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 9, 1942, American and Philippine defenders on Bataan capitulated to Japanese forces; the surrender was followed by the notorious "Bataan Death March" which claimed nearly 10,000 lives. On this date: In 1682, French explorer Robert La Salle reached the Mississippi River. In 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. In 1939, singer Marian Anderson performed a concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., after she was denied the use of Constitution Hall—

by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1940, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway. In 1947, a series of tornadoes in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas claimed 169 lives. In 1959, NASA announced the selection of America's first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton. In 1963, British statesman Winston Churchill was made an honorary U.S. citizen. In 1965, the newly built Houston Astrodome featured its first baseball game, an exhibition between the Astros and the New York Yankees. (The Astros won, 2-to-1.) In 1993, the Rev. Benjamin Chavis was chosen to head the NAACP, succeeding Benjamin Hooks. In 1996, in a dramatic shift of purse-string power, President Clinton signed a line-item veto bill into law. (However, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the veto-

as unconstitutional in 1998.) Today's Birthdays: Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner is 76. Naturalist Jim Fowler is 70. Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo is 69. Actress Michael Learned is 63. Country singer Margo Smith is 60. Country singer Hal Ketchum is 49. Actor Dennis Quaid is 48. Humorist Jimmy Tingle is 47. Golfer Severiano Ballesteros is 45. Actress-model Paulina Porizkova is 37. Actress Cynthia Nixon ("Sex and the City") is 36. Rock singer Kevin Martin (Candlebox) is 33. Actress Keshia Knight Pulliam is 23. Actor Ryan Northcott is 22. Actress Kristen Stewart ("Panic Room") is 12.

Answer to previous puzzle. A crossword grid with words filled in.

Newsday Crossword

HOLD ON by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS: 1 Swiss peaks, 5 Beer vessels, 9 Basketball stadium, 14 Cowboy's footwear, 15 Opera solo, 16 Takes a snooze, 17 Face, as a problem, 20 Javelin, 21 Fashion mag, 22 Medicinal quantity, 23 Conked out, 25 Nursery dweller, 27 Choose, 30 Sit for a portrait, 31 Box-office buy: Abbr., 34 Consort of Zeus, 35 Kid on The Simpsons, 37 Ms. O'Donnell, 39 Acted out of desperation, 42 Leaves out, 43 Born Free lioness, 44 Sandy particles, 45 "Spring forward" period: Abbr., 46 Unwanted e-mail, 48 Like meadows, 50 And others: Abbr., 51 Adolescent, 52 Summit, 55 Decilful one, 57 Volatile liquid, for short, 61 Try to pressure, 64 Tire in the 51 Down, 65 Something to sing, 66 Sea eagle, 67 Long-answer question, 68 "For Pete's \_\_\_", 69 Days, in Santo Domingo, DOWN: 1 The basics, 2 Stunt-plane maneuver, 3 Apple or pear, 4 Unwavering, 5 '60s Chinese leader, 6 Lobbied, 7 Lass, 8 Pleasure vessels, 9 Commercials, e.g., 10 Rambunctious, 11 Singer Pinza, 12 Fishing-boat gear, 13 Arthur of tennis, 18 Threesome, 19 Veggies in a pod, 24 Author Stanley Gardner, 26 Ernie's Sesame Street pal, 27 George Burns film, 28 Salon jobs, 29 Characteristic, 30 Biblical poem, 31 Russian monarchs of yore, 32 New Zealand birds, 33 In a peeved mood, 36 High-minded ones, 38 Formed, as a committee, 40 Attention-getting sound, 41 Cooking spice, 47 Not at all colorful, 49 Actress Russo, 50 Newspaper special edition, 51 Auto storage area, 52 Church area, 53 Litter members, 54 Greek letters, 56 Blue shade, 58 Actress Garr, 59 Author Jaffe, 60 Change for a five, 62 Attention-getting word, 63 Wide shoe width

A crossword grid with numbers indicating the starting positions for the clues listed to the left.