

# BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

FRIDAY

April 19, 2002

## WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY  
TONIGHT 60°-65° TOMORROW 78°-80°

## Aggie Muster slated Sunday at country club

Aggie Muster will be held Sunday at the Big Spring Country Club, hosted by the Howard County A&M Club.

The Texas Aggie Muster will honor all Texas Aggies who have passed away within the last year.

Various muster activities, including a cocktail reception and dinner, will begin at 6 p.m. The Texas Aggie Muster Ceremony will follow at 7:45 p.m. All former and current students, their families and friends of Texas A&M University are invited.

For more information regarding the muster, contact Linda Luce, muster chair, at 263-0658.

## WEEKEND TICKET

TODAY

□ Howard College Rodeo, 7 p.m., Big Spring Rodeo Bowl. Admission \$5.  
□ Spring City Senior Citizens Country and Western Dance will be 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

□ Howard County Scottish Rite Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 21st and Lancaster. Breakfast served.  
□ Master the Mountain run/walk at Big Spring State Park on Scenic Mountain. Entry fee \$5.  
□ Health Fair 2002, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Free admission.  
□ The Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
□ Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. with meal and meeting to follow. Goliad and First.  
□ Howard College Rodeo, 7 p.m., Big Spring Rodeo Bowl. Admission \$5.  
□ Dance 8:30 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 704 W. Third. Everyone welcome.

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Vol. 99, No. 139

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## Big Spring High students ready for academic contest

HERALD Staff Report

Seven Big Spring High School students will compete in the University Inter-scholastic League regional academic contest Saturday at Angelo State University.

"We expect good results," said Jennifer Adams, coach of the high school's forensics team. "We believe our team is as competitive a team as any in the region." Students will be compet-



ADAMS

ing in events from science to accounting, debate and journalism and earned their slot at Saturday's contest by qualifying at district competition held at Andrews High School on March 28.

Qualifying at district contest were Nathan Smith, who placed first in mathematics and second in spelling and vocabulary; Amanda Sheedy, who placed first in poetry; and April Ward, who placed first in editorial writing and third in both feature writing and news writing.

Other students qualifying to regional and their district standings are: Chris

See UIL, Page 2A



Texas Tech University's Wes Stevenson attempts to hang on until the eight-second horn sounds during Friday's bareback competition of the Howard College Rodeo at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl. The rodeo continues tonight and Saturday night with performances starting at 7. Admission is \$5 per person.

HERALD photo/Jim Fierro

## Doll auction raises \$1,000 for needy

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Well, hello, dolly!

About 50 people turned out at First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall Thursday to bid on daintily-dressed dolls in the Salvation Army's annual Doll Auction.

The 22 dolls, first-, second-, and third-place winners in the corps' annual Doll Decorating Contest, brought in nearly \$1,000 from the crowd.

"I think it went really well," said Big Spring's Salvation Army co-commander Captain Linda Keeney, after the event. "We had a pretty good turnout and everyone was very kind to us and we had a good time."

The Salvation Army served a barbecue brisket dinner before the auction.

Keeney said she hoped the auction would do a bit better; in past years doll auctions have raised as much as \$5,000.

"We hoped it would be a



KEENEY



Volunteer Scott Emerson displays a patriotically dressed doll at the Salvation Army Doll Auction fund-raiser while Auctioneer Robert Pruitt of Spring City Auction attempts to cajole or tease the audience into bidding higher. About 50 people attended the event, held at the First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall Thursday.

little bit more (money raised), but we're always grateful for anything that the community is willing to give to the Army to support the programs that we have

and what we do," she said. Funds from the auction go to support the corps' annual Christmas programs, including toy and food drives for children,

she said. Doll collector Joyce Eastman paid the most for one doll at this year's auc-

See DOLLS, Page 2A

## Historians to present BSISD paper on Saturday

HERALD Staff Report

Two local historians will present a year's worth of research involving the Big Spring Independent School District Saturday to the Permian Historical Society of the University of Texas Permian Basin.

Craig Fischer and Janice Bond will present a paper taken from research that secured a Texas State Historical Commission Marker to commemorate the 100th anniversary of BSISD's organization.

Their paper will be published in the Permian Historical Society annual.

The event will be held at the Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate 20 West, Midland, with coffee and pastries served at 9:30 a.m. The program starts at 10:15 a.m. Bond and Fischer's presentation is scheduled for 11:25 a.m.

Bond, former principal at College Heights Elementary, and Fischer,

See HISTORY, Page 2A

## West Texas Musical Revue promises good time for all

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Get ready for some music! The West Texas Musical Revue will take the stage Saturday at the Municipal Auditorium.

"The show starts at 7 p.m., but people can get there at 6," said Lawrence Thibeault, concert organizer. "Kids 12 and under are free. Tickets are going for \$6 apiece and it all goes to Relay For Life."

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Association's annual fund-raiser.

This year's event is the second annual version of the revue, Thibeault said.

"We did one last year, too, and we raised some money



Courtesy photo  
Lawrence Thibeault will be among the many performers at Saturday's West Texas Musical Revue.

for (Relay for Life)," he

See REVUE, Page 2

## Alzheimer's registration among activities planned at Health Fair

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

Big Spring Police Department will register people for entry into its Alzheimer's Patient database during Saturday's Big Spring Health Fair 2002 at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Nearly 60 organizations will offer free screenings, materials and services to the more than 2,000 people expected to attend the Health Fair. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Colorectal screening kits, cholesterol testing and blood pressure evaluations are just a small sampling of services offered. The

## Gun locks offered

Big Spring Police Department will be giving away free gun locks at Health Fair 2002 on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Anyone who would like a gun lock but cannot attend the fair can acquire one at the police department, 400 E. Fourth, or call Sgt. John Leubner at 264-2595.

Citizens Police Academy will fingerprint and videotape children for the parents or guardian to use as a personal record.

A new offering is the

Alzheimer's Patient database conducted by the police department in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Family members may register a loved one with Alzheimer's disease at the Alzheimer's Association booth. A representative from the police department will make an appointment to take a photograph of the individual at a convenient time for both parties.

The photograph and pertinent information will be entered into a local database for area authorities.

See FAIR, Page 2A

## Downtown group plans Funtastic Fourth Festival

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

"Funtastic Fourth Festival."

That's the name of an Independence Day celebration planned by Big Spring's newly-formed Downtown Revitalization Association, a group of merchants whose goal is to get people thinking about downtown Big Spring again.

The event was announced at the group's meeting,

Thursday at 8:30 a.m. and will take place on July 4 at Heart of the City Park.

"We've been planning this for the past 30 days," DRA President Allan Johnson, owner of Allan's Furniture, said. "It's a downtown event. It's going to be called the 'Funtastic Fourth Festival.' We're going to make this an annual event. We're going to have a battle of the bands, we're going to

See FOURTH, Page 2A



About 20 merchants from the downtown and Third and Fourth Street areas met at StarTek Thursday morning to plan their upcoming "Funtastic Fourth Festival." From left are Chairperson Vicki Dahmer, co-owner of Dahmer's Antiques and Emporia; Jeanie Knocke, longtime Wells Fargo employee; and association President Allan Johnson, owner of Allan's Furniture.

HERALD photo/Roger Cline

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# Four killed, 133 injured in derailment of Amtrak Auto Train

CRESCENT CITY, Fla. (AP) — James Pierce had just settled into his sleeper car for a 16 1/2-hour train trip to Washington when the train screeched off the rails and slammed into pine trees lining the tracks.

"It felt like it was sliding to the left and suddenly it just toppled," said Pierce, an Amtrak attendant from Huntingtown, Md.

Four people were killed and 133 injured when 14 of the 16 passenger cars on the Amtrak Auto Train — a favorite among tourists traveling between the Northeast and Orlando's theme parks — derailed Thursday night in a remote area of north Florida.

The death toll had been reported

at six, but was revised by investigators and medical officials, Lt. Bill Leeper of the Florida Highway Patrol said Friday.

"There was some confusion with body parts inside the wreckage," Leeper said.

It could not be immediately determined why the train derailed, officials said. The track had been inspected hours before the crash and had been in good condition.

Amtrak said the train, which transports passengers and their cars between Sanford, Fla., and Lorton, Va., was carrying 440 passengers and 28 crew members. The train left Sanford after 4 p.m. and derailed about an hour later 60

miles north of Orlando.

Florida Highway Patrol spokesman Bill Leeper said he didn't know how many people were seriously hurt.

Pierce said he grabbed hold of the sleeper car's curtains when the train left the track, and within seconds he found himself hanging in the air. After the train came to a stop, Pierce said he removed the emergency window and began pulling people out of the cabin.

"Suddenly you could feel the brakes scraping," said David Sheldon, 71, who was traveling with his wife, Sylvia, from Boca Raton. Sheldon said it took about 30 seconds for the train to come to stop.

"It seemed like forever," he said. Robert Dodd Sr., 74, of Willingboro, N.J., said he and his wife were sitting down to dinner when the train derailed.

"The girl said, 'Do you want white or red wine?'" Dodd said. "At first I said, 'White, no give me red' and that's the last thing I remember."

Rescue officials, using ladders to reach the overturned cars, helped survivors out of the train and reached through the windows to get to those still trapped inside.

Three passengers were flown by helicopter to Shands Hospital at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Dr. Kevin Ferguson said. One person was in critical

condition with potentially life-threatening injuries, while the other two were in serious condition, he said.

Five men and four women were in serious condition at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach, spokeswoman Kate Holcomb said late Thursday. Twenty-six people with minor injuries were taken to Memorial Hospital-Peninsula in Ormond Beach, spokeswoman Desiree Paradis said.

The National Transportation Safety Board was sending investigators to the scene.

The train consisted of two engines, 16 passenger cars and 202 automobiles stacked in 23 specially designed cars.

## Senate passes border security package

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bill that would tighten restrictions on who can get into the country, and how closely they will be monitored by immigration and security agents, finally has Senate approval and may be on the fast track to the White House.

The White House-backed legislation, which would allow officials to track foreign students more closely and check passenger lists of incoming jetliners, had been in limbo in the Senate since December.

President Bush promised to sign the bill.

"Improving our nation's border security is vital to protecting Americans from future terrorist attacks," Bush said after it passed the Senate on Thursday. "I commend the Senate for passing legislation that strengthens border security and gives our law enforcement officials additional tools to secure our homeland."

Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., had blocked the legislation, in part because he thought it needed more debate. After senators allowed him to testify before a subcommittee hearing

and make minor changes to the bill, Byrd relented and allowed the bill to move quickly through the chamber.

"I am pleased that at least some public debate has been generated on this bill and that the right of senators to offer amendments was respected," Byrd said.

The Senate approved the bill 97-0 to send it back to the House for final approval. The legislation probably will pass the House quickly and head to the president's desk for his signature.

"Our bill provides real solutions to real problems and closes loopholes in our immigration system," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

The border security bill would increase the pay of border patrol agents and allow the Immigration and Naturalization Service to hire 200 new investigators and another 200 inspectors.

It also would require the INS to establish a foreign student tracking system that records the acceptance of aliens by educational institutions, issuance of student visas and enrollment of aliens at schools. Several of

the hijackers involved in the Sept. 11 terror attacks were in the country on student visas.

The bill also would require that passports issued after 2003 be harder to tamper with and visitor documents be readable by machines using biometrics technology, such as face recognition.

Byrd, still not completely satisfied with the bill, said it's not enough just to pass the legislation telling security officials they have to make these changes.

"It is fine to authorize these funds, but this bill will require the appropriation of funds and the support of its proponents for those appropriations if its provisions are to be implemented," Byrd said.

Byrd has been angry since last year because Republicans and the White House rejected his request for extra money for domestic and border security after Congress approved \$40 billion in the days following the Sept. 11 attacks.

Republicans have promised to fight for the money specified in the bill.

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Woman jailed for overdue books

HAZLETON, Pa. (AP) — A woman jailed for failing to return three overdue library books was released 11 days later after pleading guilty and agreeing to pay fines and court costs.

Theresa D. Keller, 25, left the Luzerne County Correctional Facility Thursday.

District Justice Joseph Zola ordered Keller to pay \$125 in fines plus court costs and spend 10 days in prison. He suspended the jail sentence on condition that Keller pays 50 percent of her fine within 30 days and the other half within another 60 days.

Keller's three books were checked out on Sept. 14, 2000, and were due on Oct. 5 that year. When they weren't returned, the library assessed a replacement fee of \$40 per book, or \$120 in all. The library filed a private criminal complaint on March 16, 2001.

Keller was sent to jail because she failed to answer notices to appear in court, Zola has said. She was unable to post the required \$750 bail.

#### Actor Robert Blake arrested

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Police have arrested actor Robert Blake, the tough-talking cop in the old "Baretta" TV series, alleging he shot his wife to death nearly a year ago because he felt "trapped" in his marriage.

Blake was arrested Thursday night at a home in Hidden Hills, a gated suburban community he had moved to shortly after the death of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley.

Police said they would seek charges of murder and solicitation of murder, and noted that Blake, 68, could face the death penalty if convicted.

Bakley, 44, was killed a block from a Studio City restaurant where she and Blake had just dined. They were married about five months before the May 4 slaying, after DNA tests proved he fathered her baby daughter, Rosie.

Police also arrested Blake's bodyguard and chauffeur, Earle Caldwell, on Thursday. They said they would seek to have him charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Blake was taken to the downtown Los Angeles County jail, where he was held in the hospital section to segregate him from the general inmate population, said Deputy Roberta Granek, a Sheriff's Department spokeswoman. He was not ill, she said.

At a news conference hours after the arrests, police said they believe Blake shot Bakley in the head minutes after the couple left the restaurant.

## DeLay was expelled from Baylor, aide confirms

HOUSTON (AP) — U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Sugar Land, has apologized for the "misunderstandings" he caused by advising a group of Christian conservatives not to send their children to Baylor or Texas A&M.

But what the House majority whip did not say, the Houston Chronicle reported in its Friday editions, is that he was kicked out of Baylor in 1967.

When asked about the matter, DeLay's spokesman Jonathan Grella said Thursday the congressman was booted out of the private Baptist school in Waco for his "extracurricular activities" and "too vigorous a social life."

Grella said DeLay's comments about Baylor had nothing to do with the fact he was kicked out of the school. The spokesman declined to detail what

DeLay did other than to say it involved "lots of pranks."

"He (DeLay) accepted the consequences of his actions and was glad they did it (kicked him out)," Grella said. "These experiences did him a favor and were helpful in helping him mature."

Baylor spokesman Larry Brumley confirmed DeLay attended the university from 1965 to 1967, but said he could not divulge further details because of confidentiality laws. According to the Washington Post, DeLay's use of alcohol contributed to his antics at Baylor. He was a pre-med student at Baylor, and in 1970 he earned a degree in biology from the University of Houston.

According to a 1995 article in the New Republic, DeLay was kicked out of Baylor for "dancing and painting buildings green at rival

Texas A&M." At the time, Baylor did not allow dancing on campus.

Grella said DeLay openly talks about his previous problems at Baylor.

Last week, unaware someone was taping his remarks, DeLay told 300 people at Pearland's First Baptist Church not to send their children to Baylor or Texas A&M. A male questioner had expressed frustration that major Texas universities do not teach creationism.

The Houston Chronicle reported the exchange Thursday after receiving a tape recording of DeLay's remarks from the Washington-based Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

In response, DeLay issued a statement Thursday: "My response to a concerned parent has created a

misunderstanding. I was giving advice for the specific type of education they were seeking for their child. Let me make it Texas clear: I've been a longtime supporter of Baylor and Texas A&M. My daughter went to A&M and in Congress I've worked hard to help fund these two prestigious universities. I apologize for any misunderstandings my comments may have caused."

DeLay's daughter, Danielle DeLay, graduated from Texas A&M in 1995.

DeLay told churchgoers that his daughter "had horrible experiences with coed dorms and guys who spent the weekends in the rooms with girls, and all this kind of stuff went on there."

He added: "Texas A&M used to be a conservative university. It's lost all of its conservatism, and it's renounced its traditions."

## Government, Arthur Andersen break off settlement talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arthur Andersen LLP may be headed toward a trial on criminal obstruction charges for the destruction of Enron Corp. documents following a breakdown in negotiations between federal prosecutors and the accounting firm.

The settlement talks abruptly collapsed Thursday after a lawyer for Andersen notified Justice Department attorneys that the company was not in a position to make a decision on any criminal settlement.

"We just agreed that we're just not there right now," the Andersen lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said.

"We rejected certain proposals by the government and agreed to continue to review other proposals of the government, but we could not complete that review within the time frame the government was demanding."

The Justice Department, which had set a deadline for an agreement from Andersen, indicated it would begin looking to the

May 6 trial date. "We are continuing to prepare for trial," Justice spokesman Bryan Sierra said.

Both Hardin and company spokesman Patrick Dorton left open the possibility that negotiations could resume.

The collapse of secret negotiations occurred after the outlines of a deal had been struck, and the sides had expected to announce a settlement this week.

In recent days, Andersen's lawyers could not agree

with government lawyers on specific language admitting guilt in illegally destroying Enron documents, said a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke on condition of anonymity.

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Pastor

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## EDITORIAL

*"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

John A. Moseley  
Managing EditorKen Dulaney  
PublisherBill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## We salute:

Each week, the *Herald* salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play.

This week we salute:

- **ALL OF THOSE WHO BID ON AND PURCHASED DOLLS** during the Salvation Army's annual Doll Auction Thursday.
- **AMANDA SHEEDY**, Big Spring High School senior who will be competing in the National Forensic League competition for dramatic interpretation in June.

• **HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY**, on its program during National Library Week and its constant commitment to target young readers.

• **CITIZENS WHO HAVE CAST EARLY BALLOTS** in the local and area city and school board elections.

• **VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS AND PARTICIPANTS** in last weekend's MS Walk in Big Spring.

• **DIEDRA HIRT** of Garden City, who received the Presidential Award, and **LINDA LUCE**, who was named Educator of the Year during Howard College's annual awards ceremony; and the many other students who were recognized.

• **JEAN LANCASTER**, who was honored when her sister had the new health and kinesiology wing at the University of Texas at Tyler dedicated in her name.

• **AIRMAN FIRST CLASS LANDON WEGNER**, home on leave after serving his nation in Afghanistan.

*Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.*

## YOUR VIEWS

## TO THE EDITOR:

We are so blessed to live in a free country with friends and loved ones who are so supportive and helpful when trials come our way. There are so many fine people to thank. First, we offer many thanks to the *Herald*, KBST, Cox Communication and the churches for the publicity about the community garage and bake sale held in Coahoma April 12 and 13 for Marvin and Matthew Wynn.

Second, we have heartfelt gratitude to all who brought goods, baked goods and donations to the sale. Third, thanks to all who came and bought goods. Many of these same people worked tirelessly setting up the sale and also helped to sell the materials. This was not limited to Coahoma people and churches, but included Big Spring as well.

There are too many

groups and individuals to mention them all and we don't want to leave any one out. These worthy people joyfully gave of their valuable time, money and goods. A tremendous debt of gratitude is owed to Sue and Grady Tindol who masterminded the whole sale.

People do not know how fortunate they are to live among such marvelous, kind and loving people. We will be eternally grateful to all of you. How could we get along without our friends and loved ones?

Also, we would be remiss if we did not thank all of the people at Scenic Mountain Medical Center and all the other people who have given blood for Matthew. You are just a fantastic and wonderful people.

LOMA JEAN, MARVIN,  
ELOISE AND MATTHEW  
WYNN  
COAHOMA

## It's not only unfair, it's basically stupid

Did anybody vote for this stuff? I mean, aside from Congress.

Just to make Tax Day even more exciting than it usually is, we have been treated to a series of recent reports that the Internal Revenue Service is busy cracking down on poor folks, while letting an estimated 1 million rich folks and corporations move to Bermuda to avoid taxes.

If you are a worker poor enough to apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit, your chance of being audited is one in 47. If you make over \$100,000 a year, your chance of being audited are one in 145.

This is not only unfair, but also stupid, on account of rich people who cheat on their taxes tend to owe a lot more money than poor people. Thus, their cheating leaves a larger hole in federal budget, which all the rest of us then have to make up for by paying higher taxes. We also pay through all that bad economic stuff that comes with big deficits about which Alan Greenspan is always worried.

This situation came about during the unhappy reign of the Gingrich Republicans, who were fond of comparing the IRS to the Gestapo. The R's held some widely publicized hearings during which various citizens claimed to have been harassed and persecuted by the IRS — at least one of those citizens is a chronic cheater. Nevertheless, they were held up as blameless victims of the tax Gestapo, and the Republicans passed a law in their behalf. It should have been called the Let's Hamstring the IRS So It Can't Make Rich People Pay What They Owe Law.

In addition to the silly and punitive focus on poor people, Congress has also grossly underfunded the IRS for years, so that it can't do a good job. And now Congress is complaining about the results. That nice Republican from Iowa, Sen. Charles Grassley, is really upset and raising hell about American corporations moving to Bermuda. He quite rightly denounces them as unpatriotic. On the other hand, Grassley voted for the Republican "reform" bill. It's so Republican to vote for something that makes it hard for government to function and then complain that government can't do anything right.

Congress has been playing the same game with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and

with truly tragic results on Sept. 11. Great outrage and denunciation followed the INS's peerless bureaucratic blunder in sending student visa approval for some of the Sept. 11 hijackers to a Florida aviation school a good six months after the tragedy. As an "oops," that's in a class by itself. On the other hand, one reason the INS doesn't do a good job is because Congress never gave it the money to get a computer system. Then everybody complains about the results.

Just when you think the Republicans have gotten over the worst of their Gingrichian phase, along comes something like last week's effort to undo what little progress has been made on campaign finance reform.

Their plan was to dilute the required disclosure of names to political organizations that are exempt from taxes. The one part of campaign finance reform Republicans keep saying they favor is full disclosure of who gives money to whom, but suddenly, even that's out the door and here they are trying to piggyback this nasty item onto yet another "taxpayers' bill of rights." The D's fend it off.

I used to consider taxes among the most boring subjects on earth. My attitude was, "Just tell me how much I owe; please don't make me listen to the

details." But taxes are kind of fascinating, in a slow car-wreck way, because you get to see how much the rich and especially big corporations have gamed the system in their favor.

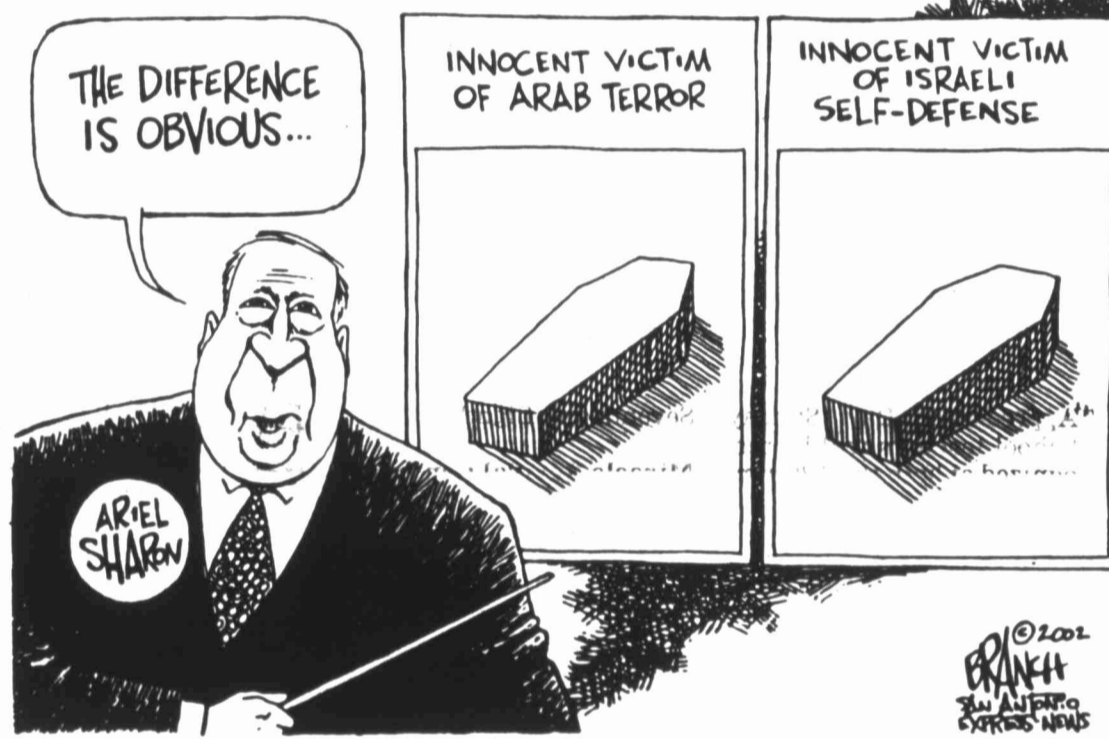
Lots of people noticed that under the Republican "economic recovery package," Enron, which had paid no taxes in four of its last five years, was due to get a tax rebate of \$254 million. That was an attention-grabber. But people are far less likely to notice The Wall Street Journal's this-news-is-no-news headline, "Bush Sides Squarely With System Over Stock Options."

Curbing some of the tax benefits of using stock options to pay employees was one of the post-Enron reforms optimists thought might actually pass. Since stock options, unlike wages and salaries, are not treated as cost to companies, they are in effect a way of pumping up a company's reported earnings figures. (You might think a company would want to lower its profit profile for tax purposes, but you would, of course, be hilariously wrong — no problems in Bermuda.)

Instead, the SEC has gone not very far out on a post-Enron limb to require companies to explain "in plain English" more about the stock option plans it offers. Boy, they're really cracking down over there, aren't they?



MOLLY IVINS



## Is oil flowing in the wrong direction?

ALMATY, Kazakhstan — Ever since the war began in

Afghanistan, Central Asia has been host to frequent visitors from the United States, including Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Central Command's Gen. Tommy Franks, as well as another group: oil executives and financiers who are bent on sending oil the wrong way.

James Wolfensohn is president of the World Bank, an organization that lends billions of dollars each year to boost economies, eliminate poverty, promote the common good — and finance massive projects such as oil pipelines. It makes him a sought-after guest of governments. So he came to

oil-rich, cash-poor Kazakhstan to explain what the World Bank is planning for the region.

The World Bank, he said, has put \$3.5 billion into the Caspian Basin over the past decade and plans to spend \$1.5 billion more over the next few years. But what will happen when U.S. interest in the area wanes, when the military bases in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan seem less important as the Pentagon shifts its operations to other battlefields, possibly Iraq? Will Central Asia fall back into the embrace of Russia?

This certainly is the forecast of some Eurasian specialists, but not Wolfensohn. America will not lose interest, he predicted, because this "is not just related to terrorism." Caspian oil, he pointed out, is becoming an important counterweight to Middle East oil.

Though 65 percent of the world's reserves still are in the Persian Gulf, the Caspian Basin does promise to be a significant source of energy, similar to the North Sea. So oil com-

panies, such as Exxon Mobil and ChevronTexaco, talk of increasing their holdings in Central Asia. Moreover, Wolfensohn reminded, the petroleum industry has no trouble being heard in the White House or Congress, principal contributor to the World Bank.

Washington and the oil giants have invested considerable time and money in recent years on the issue of pipelines, a matter fraught with geopolitics. Already the Caspian Pipeline Consortium has taken shape, carrying crude oil from Kazakhstan to Russia, with the regrettable result that some of it is siphoned off along the way by officials operating for their own accounts.

Pressed at a news conference to comment on corruption (Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev has off-shore accounts worth \$1 billion), Wolfensohn agreed that this, indeed, is the No. 1 issue among people he meets in developing nations, even ahead of poverty.

But, he added, "You are 1,000 percent better off to work with the government than against it."

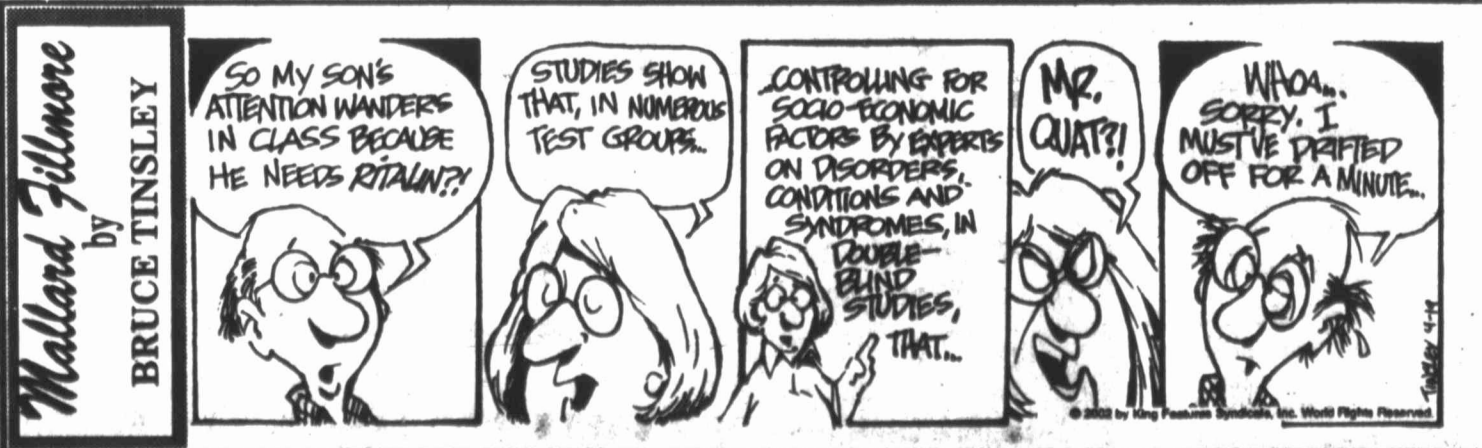
Meanwhile, construction is due to begin this summer on another pipeline from Baku in Azerbaijan to Ceyhan in Turkey. Though going through Iran, instead, would cost less money and make more economic sense, the Clinton and Bush administrations understandably have been determined to avoid doing business with Tehran.

The most telling point, however, is this: According to one analyst, Russian oil is flowing to Northeastern Europe and the Mediterranean, squeezing out petroleum from the Persian Gulf, which is going instead to Japan and the United States.

The obvious market left for Caspian crude oil is China. But nobody is talking about that. And as one oil executive, said, "Pipelines are like diamonds: they last forever." So building the Caspian pipelines in the wrong direction is a colossal mistake.



JACK ANDERSON

Mallard Fillmore  
by  
BRUCE TINSLEY

## CHURCH NEWS

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
Father Felix C. is celebrating the IHMC this week. Because of a conflict, the Sun will be at 8:00 a.m.

April's baptism will be held on April 21 at 7 p.m., in the room of the school wishing to schedule for their children to attend these classes. The Ladies of Society are having a "Spring" clean church on April 21. We are wishing to help church at 8 a.m. on a Friday. We will conclude with work and fellowship will conclude with a prayer.

April 21, 10:30 a.m. Heart of Mary Church Youth Group is having a pancake breakfast at 9:00 a.m. and mass in the church. We are trying to raise the Catholic Conference for attending this year. Please contact office at 267-412. We need anything child's first Communion Confirmation.

**Living Hope Church**  
Welcome to Living Hope Church. a begin...belong... more and more. "Is Anything For The Lord?" 18:14 is the sermon Sunday's praise service. Prayer and Bible Thursday at 7 p.m. church for motion at 267-5473.

**Living Hope Church**  
located at 1208 F. west side of 1. Look for the sign see you there!

**Baptist Temple**  
Baptist Temple invites you to our 50th anniversary celebration and spring anniversary celebration begin on April 1. By sharing hom timonies and Baptist Temple years.

At 5 p.m., a meal served in the hall. We request call the church 8287 if you plan the meal. For meal, we will r sanctuary to spring revival.

"Take God S. Him" will be the revival. D. Hernandez, and the Todd Kel musicians, will revival, beginning morning worship Sunday at 10:45.

On Sunday, we covered dish lu the morning everyone is as their favorite the week, Wednesday, m served in the before the revl from 5:30-6:30. ery for the yo will be provi Temple Church 400 E. 11th Plac

For more info the church or events, please church at 267-8

**First Church**  
First Church host youth nig

# CHURCH NEWS

## Immaculate Heart of Mary

Father Felix Cuebelo will be celebrating the masses at IHMC this weekend. Because of a scheduling conflict, the Sunday masses will be at 8:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

April's baptism classes will be held on April 23 - 30, at 7 p.m., in the science room of the school. Anyone wishing to schedule a baptism for their child must attend these classes.

The Ladies of the Altar Society are having a grand "Spring" cleaning of the church on April 25. All wishing to help be at the church at 8 a.m. This will be a Friday morning of work and fellowship that will conclude with lunch.

April 21, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Youth Group is having a pancake meal after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. mass in the church hall. We are trying to raise funds for the Catholic Youth Conference we will be attending this summer.

Please contact IHMC office at 267-4124 if you are needing anything for your child's first Holy Communion or Confirmation.

## Living Hope Church

Welcome to Living Hope Church, a place to begin...belong...and become more and more like Jesus. "Is Anything Too Hard For The Lord" from Genesis 18:14 is the sermon topic for Sunday's praise and worship service at 11 a.m. Prayer and Bible study is Thursday at 7 p.m. Call the church for more information at 267-5473.

Living Hope Church is located at 1208 Frazer on the west side of Big Spring. Look for the sign. Hope to see you there!

## Baptist Temple

Baptist Temple Church invites you to our upcoming 50th anniversary celebration and spring revival. The anniversary celebration will begin on April 20, at 3 p.m., by sharing homecoming testimonies and memories of Baptist Temple through the years.

At 5 p.m., a meal will be served in the fellowship hall. We request that you call the church office at 267-8287 if you plan to come for the meal. Following the meal, we will return to the sanctuary to kick off our spring revival.

"Take God Serious; Obey Him" will be theme for our revival. Dr. Rudy Hernandez, evangelist, and the Todd Keller family, musicians, will lead our revival, beginning with the morning worship service on Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

On Sunday, we will have a covered dish luncheon after the morning service and everyone is asked to bring their favorite dish. During the week, Monday-Wednesday, meals will be served in the fellowship hall before the revival services, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. A nursery for the young children will be provided. Baptist Temple Church is located at 400 E. 11th Place.

For more information on the church or any of these events, please call the church at 267-8287.

First Church of God  
First Church of God will host youth night at 6 p.m.

every Wednesday evening. This activity filled evening is for kids who want to have good, clean fun with two full hours of nonstop fun for youth between the ages of 7 and 17.

This month we are engaging in team principles and learning what it means to be a good sport and a team player.

We've already begun Bible basketball, tennis court soccer and Gospel charades. We also enjoy indoor activities such as musical chairs, crafts, contests and many more activities. No fees are required and snacks are served. If you need transportation please call in advance 915-267-6607.

## St. Mary's Episcopal

Everyone is welcome to attend worship services at St. Mary's. Holy Communion will be celebrated this Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. St. Mary's also has Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or look us up on our web site at [www.stmarysbst.org](http://www.stmarysbst.org). St. Mary's is located at 1001 South Goliad.

St. Mary's second Eastertide Offerings' concert is April 25, 12:05 p.m. in the church. Solos and music for small ensembles will be performed by Joyce Bradley, soprano; Linda Hill, organ; Mary Frances Malone, harp; Scott McLaughlin, guitar; Gloria Steelman, flute; and Villa Walter, cello. There is no charge for the concert.

Everyone is welcome to bring a sack lunch to eat after the concert. St. Mary's will provide coffee, tea and cookies.

## First United Methodist

Sunday is Drama Sunday, featuring a first person monologue called "David's Friend, Jonathan." The monologue is based on Samuel 21:1-4 and 12-17.

In addition, Sunday is Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day. Sunday School teachers will be recognized at both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. worship services.

Sunday School classes meet from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Classes are available for children and adults.

Courtney Johnson, director of youth programs, meets for Lunch Bunch at Big Spring Junior High on Mondays, Big Spring High School on Wednesdays, and Coahoma High School on Thursdays.

Wednesday's activities

include Noon Bible Study in Garrett Hall, Chancel Bells rehearsal at 6:15 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

Also on Wednesday evenings, Senior High Youth meet at Courtney's place for Bible study.

The Youth will sponsor a car was on April 27, in the church parking lot. Proceeds for the car will go to the American Cancer Society/Relay for Life.

First United Methodist Church is located at 400 Scurry. For more information on any of the programs at First United Methodist Church, call the church office at 267-6394.

## Coahoma United Methodist

Coahoma United Methodist Church is located at 401 N. Main, Coahoma. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. Sunday worship service is at 11 a.m.

We are proud of our youth! We hope you will come to help us support our youth this Sunday as they lead our Sunday morning service. Please come! Help us support our youth!

## First Presbyterian

The topic of Rev. David Marx's sermon for Sunday is "Christ is Lord." Worship service begins at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary. Sunday School is held at 9:45 a.m. with "Take Ten" beginning at 10:30 a.m. A nursery is provided.

Opportunities for the week include: "The Great Speckled Bird" part 2, Sunday, at 7 p.m.; Presbyterian Women of the Church on Tuesday at 2 p.m.; Soul Food is held on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.; followed by conclusion of "The Great Speckled Bird" on April 24th. Also on Wednesday, choir practice immediately following the program.

Please join us for any or all of the above mentioned activities. Everyone is always welcome at First Presbyterian Church located on Runnels between Seventh and Eighth.

## Miracle Revival Center

Miracle Revival Center, Big Spring, will be hosting a five day "On the Road" Ministry event with "OTR" conducting services at the Wilderness Work camp, Big Spring on April 25, Wallace Unit and the Ware Unit, Colorado City on May 16, Price/Daniels unit, Snyder on May 24, Big Spring Federal Prison also on May 27 and then will conduct the 7 p.m. service at Miracle Revival Center on April

28th. "On the Road" Prison and Motorcycle Ministry is a Texas based non-profit corporation whose purpose is to hold and conduct prison revivals and services, teach inmates life skills, inmate fellowship, inmate after-care, church revivals, tent revivals, motorcycle rallies, pastoral care, nursing home services, hospital visits, baptisms, weddings and funerals.

"OTR" has three divisions: Prison, Missions and Motorcycles.

"OTR" has a church in St. Petersburg, Russia which was started by the Founder and director, Rev. Larry J. Lyons.

The home office of "OTR" is located in Sherman and is a multi-denominational ministry.

Come and meet these dedicated workers for the Lord at Miracle Revival Center Sunday at 7 p.m.

Anyone who feels called by God to work in any of these three divisions of this International Ministry is welcome to contact Rev. Bill Brown who will be forming and heading a local chapter of "OTR".

Check out the "OTR" website at [www.OnTheRoadMinistry.net](http://www.OnTheRoadMinistry.net).

East Fourth Street Baptist Church, 401 E. Fourth St., will host a revival April 21-25.

Evangelist, David Burk will be here for both the 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday services.

Music Evangelist will be here for the Monday-Thursday, 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. services.

Everyone is welcome. Nursery is provided.

## Templo Belen A/G

Everyone is welcome to

join us at Templo Belen, at 2205 S. Goliad, for "One Mission Under God". "Una Mission Bajo Dios". We will have special songs, teenage testimonies, skits, praise and worship music on April 21 at 6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there!

For more information call 267-2111 or 263-5822 before 5 p.m. Call if you need a ride!

Seventh Day Adventist Church will host Woman's Ministries Celebration from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 27, at Gales Sweet Shoppe & Garden Room located at 1710 E. Marcy Dr.

The event is free of charge and one full meal will be served. Speakers will be Mavis Alleyne, coordinator for Texico Conference Women's Ministries.

To place a reservation or for more information call 267-7679.

**Get Relief!**

Dee & Lynda are at market this weekend and Leslie has said "Discount Everything Equal To Sales Tax" **Hurry In**

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**CLUB NEWS**

**Big Spring Shrine**  
The Big Spring Shrine Club will have a fundraiser pancake breakfast on April 27 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. It will be held at the Howard County Bingo Hall located at 806 E. Third Street. Adults \$4 children 12 and under \$2.

**Mary Jane Club of Coahoma**  
Mary Jane Club of Coahoma met April 11, with 10 members present at Nan McKinney's country home for a covered dish luncheon. Bonnie Cushing was co-hostess. The club will donate to the Relay for Life luminaries in memory and honor of six members of the club. The officers for 2002-03 are President, Bobbie Nix; Vice-president, Sue Tindol;

Secretary, Patricia Barr; Treasurer, Lee Milliken; Reporter, Joyce Choate; Secretary, Nan McKinney. The next scheduled meeting will be May 9, place and event to be decided by the Social Committee.

**TOPS TX 21**  
Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 West Third was the meeting place for TOPS 21 when they met for a regular Monday night meeting at 6 p.m. on April 15. The roll call was answered by two KOPS and eight TOPS members. Wanda Lee was best TOPS loser and the best KOPS loser was Lynne Criswell. Sue Rinkemeyer read an article on the benefits of walking. Olnee Menges presented the program entitled, "Why Are People Fat?" She listed seven reasons which include boredom, heredity, frustration, social eating, habit, lack of knowledge and inactivity.

If you are interested in joining TOPS, locally you can call 263-0391 or 263-1758 or you can call 1-800-932-8677. You are also invited to come by Dora Roberts Rehab Center on any Monday night by 6 p.m.

**Captain Elisha Mack**  
The Captain Elisha Mack Chapter, NSDAR, met April 13, at the Big Spring Country Club. Regent Lola Kelley welcomed 13 members and two guests for the meeting. Bill Jennings, former sheriff, presented a very interesting program, entitled "History of Howard County Sheriffs." Members Sue Ann Damron, Sara Tipton, and Anne Witherspoon represented the Chapter at the TSDAR State Conference this month. Witherspoon was personal page for Donna Raymond, the corresponding secretary general. Damron was elected secretary to the Chapter Regents Club.

Rebecca Smith won the door prize. The next meeting will be held May 12 at 11:45 a.m. at the Big Spring Country Club. The program "Historical Quilts" will be presented by Mary Schuelke. The meeting will also include the installation of new officers.

**Evening Lions**  
The Evening Lions Club sponsored the Lions International Peace Poster Contest in the Junior High School for the eighth consecutive year, and sent the poster selected by the members to the District Governor in San Angelo for area wide judging. All of the posters were displayed in the Big Spring Mall during January and returned to the students recently. The contest is open world wide to 11, 12 and 13 year old students. Winners are selected in communities and forwarded to district and state run-offs. The winner and 25 semi-

finalists world wide receive awards and recognition at the United Nations each year. The winning poster was drawn by Lidia Rodriguez, a student in Mrs. Zap's art class at the Big Spring Junior High School. Lidia was presented with a \$50 savings bond and a certificate for her efforts by Evening Lions Club President Pat Smith at the school recently.

You are invited to a gospel meeting at  
**Sand Springs Church of Christ**  
105 Spring Creek Rd., Sand Springs, Texas

**April 21-24, 2002**

**Gary Montgomery**  
Guest Speaker

Sunday Morning class 9:45  
"Living water for a thirsty world"

Sunday Morning Worship 10:45  
"When water becomes everlasting life"

Singing Service  
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm Sunday

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00  
"Please call your family"

Monday Evening 7:00  
"Discovering the power of Worship"

Tuesday Evening 7:00  
"Come see the real Christ"

Wednesday Evening 7:00  
"Lift up your eyes"

For more information  
call 915-393-5352

**Relativism has society turning away from absolute truth**

In John 18:33-40, we have Pilate's examination of Jesus before he gave Jesus up to be crucified.

This was a most interesting exchange between Pilate and Jesus.

In verse 37, Pilate asked Him, "Art thou a king then?" And here is Jesus' answer: "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice."

What Jesus was telling Pilate that His (Jesus') words were pure truth...His life was pure truth...He was pure truth. But Pilate totally missed what Jesus said! In verse 38, Pilate asked a really sad question...he asked, "What is truth?" The Truth was standing right there in front of Pilate, but Pilate didn't get it.

And, folks, Pilate's failure to recognize the truth is a failure that is being repeated in our day. Our society is saturated with a view of

truth called "relativism." According to relativism, there is no such thing as absolute truth... what was truth for one generation might not be truth for the next one. One of the surest way for you to get called "intolerant" or "arrogant" is to claim that you know a truth that everybody ought to live by...or that you know a behavior that everybody ought to avoid. Our society says, "Don't try to put your views of right and wrong on me. If they work for you, great. But don't try to push them off on me." As a result, we've come to the place where everybody is making up their own rules and laws to live by. We're a lot like Old



**RANDY COTTON**

Testament Israel was, in Judges 21:25, where it says, "In those days there was no king in Israel-every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

When Jesus told Pilate, "for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." He made it plain that there is such a thing as absolute truth, and He was it. On over 75 different occasions in the New Testament, we find Jesus saying, "I tell you the truth," or words to that effect. Now, even though Jesus, the living Standard of Truth, has gone back to heaven, He hasn't left us in darkness. The living Standard of Truth (Jesus) has given us the written standard of truth (the Holy Bible). In John 17:17 Jesus, in that notable prayer He prayed, said, "Sanctify them through Thy truth-Thy word is truth." But there has been a steady movement away from the absolute truth that's revealed in the Bible. We've replace "thus saith

the Lord" with "here's what I think." And that, as much as anything, explains the desperate moral and spiritual condition that exists in our country. The Bible prophesied that a time, such as what we're living in, would come one day. In II Timothy 4:3-4, Paul said, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teacher, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." But while others might make this fatal mistake, we don't have to.

Those of us who have been born again by the Spirit of God have a three-fold obligation to God's truth, the Bible-we have an obligation to learn it, to love it, and to live it. May God help each one of us to give the Bible the respect that God's absolute truth deserves.

Randy Cotton is pastor of Trinity Baptist Church.

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98 Nissan Altima Nicely Equipped Stk# U801 \$8488 \$179 mo.	00 Ford Escort Red & Beady Stk# 7617 \$8488 \$179 mo.	98 Plymouth Villager 7 Passenger Stk# 519A \$8988 \$189 mo.	01 Chevy Cavalier Auto Trans Stk# U750 \$8988 \$189 mo.	98 Olds Intrigue Need To See This One Stk# 7695 \$8988 \$189 mo.	99 Ford Taurus Under 40K Miles Stk# 7619 \$8988 \$189 mo.	98 Ford Windstar Nice One Stk# 7681 \$10,488 \$222 mo.
99 Ford Ranger XLT XCV 6 Auto Stk# 7630 \$10,788 \$269 mo.	00 Pontiac Grand Prix Nice Car Stk# 7635 \$10,488 \$222 mo.	98 Chevy Astro Rear A/C Stk# 521A \$9988 \$211 mo.	01 Saturn LSI LOOK HERE Stk# 7692 \$11,488 \$243 mo.	99 Ford Explorer XLT Stk# 7670 \$12,488 \$264 mo.	99 Mercury Villager Rear A/C Stk# 7631 \$12,788 \$269 mo.	00 Chevy Blazer Alloy Wheels Stk# 7634 \$12,788 \$269 mo.

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**HIGH SCHOOL**  
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**MAJOR LEAGUE**  
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Francisco Giant...  
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**Television**  
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### IN BRIEF

#### NL Minors Astros remain unbeaten

The National Little League Minors Division Astros remained unbeaten Thursday night, improving to 5-0 on the season with a 16-10 win over the Mets.

Matthew Carrillo chalked up the pitching win. Ryan Flores provided a bases-loaded triple and pitching an inning in relief.

Andrew Fillingim, Jamel Toombs and Carrillo provided the remainder of the Astros' hits.

The Mets were led by Miranda Park, Zack Dykes and Julian Rodriguez, all of whom had singles.

#### Coahoma boosters set to meet Monday

The Coahoma Athletic Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the Coahoma Elementary School cafeteria.

Members will be selecting officers for the 2002-2003 season, as well as planning for the upcoming athletic banquet.

All members are encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Diane Herrera at 263-9759.

#### Wilson leaving Tyler for Dallas Carter job

DALLAS (AP) — Allen Wilson, who led high school football teams at Paris and Tyler to state championships, has been hired as athletic director and head football coach at Dallas Carter.

Wilson's career record is 161-65-4, including a mark of 102-34-2 at Tyler John Tyler and 59-31-2 at Paris.

Wilson, 50, leaves John Tyler after 11 seasons, including an undefeated Class 5A Division II state championship in 1994, when the Lions went unbeaten in 16 games. Wilson led Paris to a Class 4A state title in 1988.

John Tyler lost to Katy in the state championship game in 2000 and advanced to the 5A Division III semifinals in 1997.

He replaces Marvin Sedberry, who left after one season to return to Greenville, where he coached the previous nine years.

Wilson is scheduled to start his new job on Monday.

A native of Midland, Wilson played football at Midland Lee and at Abilene Christian University before beginning his coaching career.

### ON THE AIR

#### Radio

**HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL**  
4:15 p.m. — Levelland Lobos at Big Spring Steers, KBST-AM 1490.

#### High School Softball

4:45 p.m. — Big Spring Lady Steers at Plainview Lady Bulldogs, KBTS-FM 94.3.

#### Major League Baseball

6:40 p.m. — San Francisco Giants at Houston Astros, KBST-AM 1490.

#### Television

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**  
6:30 p.m. — Florida Marlins at Atlanta Braves, TBS.

7 p.m. — San Francisco Giants at Houston Astros, FXS.

#### NHL Playoffs

6 p.m. — Conference quarterfinals, Game 2, Vancouver Canucks at Detroit Red Wings, ESPN.  
6:30 p.m. — Conference quarterfinals, Game 2, New Jersey Devils at Carolina Hurricanes, ESPN2.

## Still no word on if Rocker will report to minor leagues

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Texas Rangers still waited Friday to find out if John Rocker would accept his demotion to the minor leagues.

Texas optioned the struggling reliever to Triple-A Oklahoma early Wednesday after he blew a save opportunity by giving up two runs in the 10th inning of a 6-5 loss at Anaheim the night before. Rocker has until late Friday to report to the RedHawks of the Pacific Coast League.

Since Rocker has fewer than four years of service in the majors and an option remaining, the 27-year-old left-hander can't force his release from the Rangers by refusing to accept the assignment.

In a statement released Thursday evening, Rangers general manager John Hart and Rocker's agent, Joe Sambito, announced they reached an agreement that gives Rocker "an indefinite period of time and certainly into next week" to decide if he wants to report.

"We all agreed that the right thing to do is to give John additional time to collect his thoughts and make his decision," Hart said in the statement. "I am confident that he will decide to report to Oklahoma and begin working on getting back to the major leagues."

Hart said earlier that a trade was unlikely, but didn't elaborate on possible options if Rocker doesn't

report. If Rocker refuses the assignment and the Rangers don't release him, the team would likely put him on the suspended list.

Rocker's \$2.5 million contract with Texas has a minor-league clause under which he would be paid a prorated amount of \$625,000 while in the minors.

Through six games with the Rangers, Rocker was 0-1 with one save, two blown saves and a 9.53 ERA. He has nine strikeouts in 52.3 innings, but the left-hander also had allowed 11 hits and seven runs with four walks. Opponents were batting .407 against him.

Rocker hasn't been the same since

his disparaging remarks about gays, minorities and others appeared in a Sports Illustrated interview before the 2000 season.

In 1999, Rocker saved 38 games and pitched in the World Series for Atlanta, but had troubled relationships with his Braves teammates after the magazine article came out. He saved 24 games in 2000 and 23 last season before the Braves traded him last June to Cleveland, where Hart was the GM.

Even though Rocker had just four saves and couldn't keep the closer's role in Cleveland, where he also had trouble with teammates, Hart traded for him after he became the Rangers GM last November.



Howards College's Alex Muratori slides off his horse and grabs for the steer's horns during Thursday's steer wrestling competition at the Howard College Rodeo. The host Hawks enter the rodeo ranked third in the Southwest Region's standings. Performances continue tonight at 7 and again at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl. Admission for those two performances is \$5 per person.

## Teams looking to move

NEW YORK (AP) — Nobody will be trading for the first pick in Saturday's NFL draft. Beyond that, anything is possible.

After the expansion Houston Texans open proceedings by making Fresno State quarterback David Carr the No. 1 pick, the Carolina Panthers will entertain offers for the second spot. And just about every team will make overtures to get into the top dozen slots or to trade down and pick up extra picks.

Seattle coach-general manager Mike Holmgren has his eyes on a much higher position than the Seahawks' No. 20 spot.

"I'll move up in there," Holmgren said. "Whatever it takes. The whole trick is to get someone who is willing to get out of there. We're at 20. So I'd have to throw in a lot of stuff."

With the Seahawks, who are moving into a new \$430 million stadium this season, Holmgren would love to have a playmaking rookie in the lineup. If he can trade into an early position, he might be looking at North Carolina defensive end Julius Peppers, Texas cornerback Quentin Jammer, Oklahoma safety Roy Williams or one of the four touted defensive tacklers.

"Things could happen," Holmgren said. "You just have to have a team that is willing to move out of there. You know, taking a pick early in the draft is a huge money deal. So if a team has a salary cap problem, is getting squeezed and they want to move out of there, you might have more of a chance."

Should Carolina do the expected and grab Peppers — not only would he help the pass rush, but as a local product his selection would provide positive publicity — it won't happen before the Panthers think about trade offers. Those should start coming in the final hours before the draft.

"We're not getting any calls and the way it is setting up, we might not," general manager Marty Hurney said. "If it doesn't happen, then we're content with taking the player we have in

See DRAFT, Page 3B

## Mavs' trio wouldn't be playing if not for late trade with Denver

DALLAS (AP) — The season would be over for Nick Van Exel, Raef LaFrentz and Avery Johnson if not for a deadline trade to Dallas.

The Mavericks won a franchise-record 57 games, going 19-8 after acquiring the trio from Denver at the NBA trading deadline Feb. 21.

The Nuggets, their former team, finished 27-55 and missed the playoffs for the seventh straight year.

Dallas coach Don Nelson even made sure that Johnson, the only player he has with an NBA championship ring, would take part in the postseason despite a left calf injury.

When Nelson was forced to make the injured Johnson one of the three players left off the 12-man playoff roster, Nelson added the 14-year veteran guard to his coaching staff Thursday.

"It was a disappointment, but Coach Nelson is still keeping me involved," said Johnson, a starter on San Antonio's 1999 NBA champi-

onship team. "I will still be available for the team."

The Mavericks, the No. 4 seed in the Western Conference, play Minnesota in the first round. Their best-of-five series starts Sunday at the American Airlines Center.

Johnson, who has two seasons left on his playing contract, got hurt when he was kicked during a game a week ago against Houston. Nelson said it will take at least three more weeks before the injury heals.

"Even with his injury, it wasn't an easy decision," Nelson said. "We didn't make the decision until the last minute, but it was made for us."

Even though Van Exel had to adjust to coming off the bench, doing so in 25 of 27 games with Dallas, he averaged 13.2 points and recently had a stretch of three straight 20-point games.

Van Exel had been a non-starter just 21 times his previous 582 career games over more than nine seasons.

LaFrentz gave the Mavericks a needed presence inside, and is second in the NBA with 2.73 blocks per game.

He has started 25 games in for the Mavericks, averaging 10.8 points and 7.4 rebounds per game.

Before advancing to the second round of the Western Conference playoffs last season, the Mavericks hadn't been to the postseason since 1990.

Dallas' playoff roster includes six players making their second straight postseason appearance in Dallas: All-Stars Steve Nash and Dirk Nowitzki, along with Michael Finley, Shawn Bradley, Eduardo Najera and Wang Zhizhi.

"We are very excited to be in this situation with some experience under our belt," Nelson said. "It's not much, but we have some."

The rest of the playoff roster includes Van Exel, LaFrentz, Greg Buckner, Adrian Griffin, Johnny Newman and Evan Eschmeyer.

Dallas overcame an 0-2 deficit in the opening round last year to upset Utah in the best-of-five series.

The Mavericks then lost their best-of-seven series to San Antonio in the five games.

"Last year, we were more or less happy to be in the playoffs," Finley said. "We beat Utah and you would have thought we won the championship. We forget the playoffs were still going on."

The Mavericks won't be content just making the postseason this time.

"I'm not happy just being in the playoffs. This year, winning the title is the ultimate goal," Finley said. "Before that, we have to take each individual series as an important one."

The other players left off Dallas' postseason roster were Danny Manning, who has been on the injured list since March 5, and Tariq Abdul-Wahad, who also came from Denver in the trade but has been slowed by a knee injury.

## Who wants to be a millionaire? Not Rich Williams

The NFL people keep calling back.

They aren't used to being told no.

They've never heard a kid say on the eve of the draft that he doesn't want to be a millionaire.

They give Rich Williams until the close of business Sunday to come around.

His agent is pretty sure they will be waiting much longer.

"Teams are in disbelief and I don't know what to tell them, other than Rich is that rare guy who loves things other than money," agent Brian Parker said Thursday.

"I've been in this business a long time and I've never had a client

before who decided he didn't want to play," he said.

When the draft begins at noon Saturday, Williams will be on campus at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C. He will be kissing somewhere in the neighborhood of \$4 million goodbye.

"I'll watch some of the first round on TV and then probably get something to eat," he said. "For the past 10 years, I've been playing football because people wanted me to play. That's enough for me."

He was always big and a very good athlete and when he finally settled on football, there were always carrots dangled in front of him. At Albemarle High School back home at Charlottesville, Va., it was a college scholarship. At community college, it was the chance to prove himself while playing for a real program. When he wound up at Division 1-AA Gardner-Webb, it was a shot at the

pros.

In his sophomore year, the coaches switched Williams from defensive nose tackle to offensive tackle against his wishes. But they must have known something. At 6-foot-3 and 345 pounds, Williams turned out to be both faster and stronger than most defenders. He turned up on a few All-America lists, won an invitation to the Blue-Gray game and his name started getting around. When he announced a private workout on campus, scouts, assistants and personnel chiefs from two dozen NFL teams showed up.

"He had visits set up with the Texans, Bears, Colts, Packers and Ravens. The 49ers and Steelers had called," Parker said.

"The one visit he did go on was the Dolphins. He called me the next morning and he was supposed to be headed to Houston. I'm briefing him on the whole expansion

business, the new stadium, some questions for their general manager and out of the blue, he just stops me," the agent recalled.

Williams picks up the story: "I told him my heart wasn't in it anymore. I went through the whole process thinking I might come around. It didn't happen. It was just like when I was switched from defense to offense. I thought eventually I'd fall in love with the idea of playing the offensive line. It didn't happen, either."

"I finally figured I was just doing all this because I had to."

There are a ton — actually, closer to two tons — of talented offensive and defensive tackles in this year's draft, and Williams, despite getting little of the hoopla accorded the big names, was looking better and better to the pros every day. He picked up one of Mel Kiper

See LITKE, Page 3B

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SPORTS EXTRA

HIGH SCHOOL POLL

The Top 10 high school baseball rankings for the five UIL classifications as determined by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association's THSB Magazine. Rankings are through Monday, April 15.

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Team Name. Lists top 10 teams for Class 5A, Class 4A, Class 3A, Class 2A, and Class 1A.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

The top 25 teams in the Collegiate Baseball poll with records through April 14 (voting by coaches, sports writers and sports information directors).

Table with 2 columns: Rank and Team Name. Lists top 25 college baseball teams.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Table of NBA playoff results and schedules for the first round, including dates and broadcast times.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Table of NHL playoff results and schedules for the first round, including dates and broadcast times.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL American League ANAHEIM ANGELS—Activated RHP Troy Percival from the 15-day disabled list. Optioned RHP Brendan Donnelly to Salt Lake City of the PCL.

MINNESOTA TWINS—Placed RHP Joe Mays on the 15-day disabled list, retroactive to April 15. Recalled RHP Matt Kinney from Edmonton of the PCL.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table showing American League standings for East Division, Central Division, West Division, and Thursday's Games.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table showing National League standings for East Division, West Division, and Thursday's Games.

San Diego at Los Angeles, 3:10 p.m. Colorado at Arizona, 3:35 p.m.

AL LEADERS

Table of AL Leaders for batting, pitching, and fielding.

NL LEADERS

Table of NL Leaders for batting, pitching, and fielding.

TEXAS LEAGUE

Table of Texas League standings for Eastern Division, Western Division, and WJCAC Standings.

Lofton helps White Sox finish sweep of Indians

The Associated Press

Kenny Lofton let his former teammates know that winning the AL Central won't be easy. Lofton tormented Cleveland with his speed and power Thursday night, leading the Chicago White Sox past the Indians 7-1 to complete a three-game sweep.

The Indians, who came to Chicago riding a 10-game winning streak, were outscored 24-8 in the series. Chicago has won eight of nine with a healthy Lofton patrolling center and running the bases with abandon, just as he did in his peak with the Indians.

"Kenny's off to a nice start and after that the whole lineup complements each other," Cleveland's Jim Thome said. "We were impressed with their offense. They got momentum early the whole series. That's what this game is about."

Lofton, who spent nine years with the Indians, batted a career-low .261 last season. The White Sox signed him as a free agent just before spring training.

Lofton finished the three-game set 6-for-14 with six runs scored. He has a nine-game hitting streak and has reached base safely in all 15 of Chicago's games.

"I was playing against my old team for the first time, but after the first at-bat, it's just another game," Lofton said after going 2-for-4 with his first White Sox homer.

In other American League action, it was the Yankees 8, Baltimore 4; Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 4; Oakland 4, Anaheim 2; and Minnesota 4, Kansas City 1.

In National League games, it was Milwaukee 7, St. Louis 5; New York 1, Montreal 0; Cincinnati 6, Houston 4; Florida 8,

Philadelphia 7; and Los Angeles 5, San Diego 2.

Todd Ritchie (1-1), acquired in the offseason from Pittsburgh, allowed six hits and one run in seven innings, for his first AL victory since he was a reliever with the Twins in 1997.

Paul Konerko hit a solo homer off Bartolo Colon (3-1) in the second and Lofton led off the third with a long drive over the fence in right.

"They just outplayed us. It's still too early to tell if they're better than us," Indians manager Charlie Manuel said. The teams play four games at Jacobs Field next week.

Yankees 8, Orioles 4

Shane Spencer, trying to prove he deserves to play every day, hit a three-run homer off Scott Erickson (1-2) that sent David Wells and New York over visiting Baltimore.

Wells (3-0) beat Baltimore for the second time this year. He pitched eight innings and allowed all four runs in the fourth, three on Jeff Conine's homer.

Devil Rays 6, Tigers 4

Former Tiger Chris Gomez homered and drove in four runs to support Ryan Rupe (2-1) as the Tampa Bay ended Detroit's two-game winning streak.

After becoming the fifth team since 1900 to start a season 0-11, Detroit won the first two games of the series against Tampa Bay at Comerica Park.

But Gomez's two-run double off Jeff Weaver (0-3) in a four-run sixth helped Tampa Bay win the game.

Athletics 4, Angels 2

At Oakland, Carlos Pena hit a two-run homer and Erik Hiljuns (2-1) pitched seven strong innings for the Athletics.

Terrence Long and Jeremy Giambi also homered off Ramon Ortiz (1-2) for the A's, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Scott Spiezio homered for the Angels, who lost their second straight. Troy Glaus, hitless in his last 19 at-bats, had an apparent home run taken away.

Morgan Comes To Big Spring advertisement featuring Morgan's Drastic Reduction All In-Stock Buildings, Spas & Pools, Wal Mart Parking Lot, and Morgan's 2002 Buick Lesabre Custom.

DRAFT

Continued from Page 1

mind." Many teams have DTs in mind, and could go on com-picks early Saturday noon. Two are Tennessee — Henderson and Haynesworth. They are North Carolina. Sims, who played at Peppers, and Wendell Bryant.

"We all know premium on the b or linemen," Jet personnel director Haley said. "So good ones that have everything to mo are probably going real quick."

Also expected to ly are mammoth tackles Bryant McClendon, national champion, and Texas' Mike W. Either could go in five.

Minnesota, which seventh, hopes M or Williams are board. The Viking void at left tackle summer's death of Stringer.

"A No. 7 pick in is a player that you going to be a blue-er, that is going to and make an im your football team coach Mike Tice team usually dr lower. "Fortunately they haven't com in a while. But now have it, boy, oh would be hard to it."

Still, teams w Oakland, which Tampa Bay's top (21st overall) as p compensation pac coach Jon Gruden like to get in the one of the top o tackles. New which has Nos. 1, also has the amm move up.

"I think this d kind of 10-or-12-re player draft," Sain a manager Randy said. "Does that w going up from 13 know. It's always p

LITKE

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Jr.'s "sleeper" ta 225 pounds on a ba 225 more reps than one other prospect. Williams had ex playing both the ru and pro-style pass games. If he snea the third round, h expect a signing b about \$500,000 a year deal at close \$700,000 annually.

Parker never eve around to talking H he knew his client well.

"I could have go camp, lollygagged and kept the signi bonus," Williams s "But there's no ho that. I felt it was s thing I'd regret lat life. With me tryi good Christian, it have been a good start."

He has become o football's conscien objectors. But Wil not opposed to the or the hard work demands, just the and other people d what he ought to o his life.

His current plan work as a strengt this summer in a college or pro prop two NFL teams ha offered internship then pick up his d sociology in Decer. Then he'd like to coaching ranks so "I've been think it for a while," W said. "Money can cially if it's not w everybody tells m

Jim Litke is the sports columnist for Associated Press. him at jlitke@ap. To subscribe Call 263-

Pierce "GM Country" advertisement featuring GMC Yukon XL 4WD, 2002 Buick Lesabre Custom, and 2002 Cadillac Deville. Includes contact information for Bill Bass & Associates.



**DRAFT**

Continued from Page 1B

mind." Many teams have the four DTs in mind, and they could go on consecutive picks early Saturday afternoon. Two are from Tennessee — John Henderson and Albert Haynesworth. The others are North Carolina's Ryan Sims, who played alongside Peppers, and Wisconsin's Wendell Bryant.

"We all know there's a premium on the big interior linemen," Jets player personnel director Dick Haley said. "So the real good ones that have proven everything to most teams are probably going to go real quick."

Also expected to go quickly are mammoth offensive tackles Bryant McKinnie of national champion Miami, and Texas' Mike Williams. Either could go in the top five.

Minnesota, which picks seventh, hopes McKinnie or Williams are on the board. The Vikings have a void at left tackle after last summer's death of Corey Stringer.

"A No. 7 pick in the draft is a player that you know is going to be a blue-chip player, that is going to come in and make an impact for your football team," said coach Mike Tice, whose team usually drafts far lower. "Fortunately for us they haven't come around in a while. But now that we have it, boy, oh, boy, it would be hard to get rid of it."

Still, teams will ask. Oakland, which acquired Tampa Bay's top selection (21st overall) as part of the compensation package for coach Jon Gruden, would like to get in the mix for one of the top defensive tackles. New Orleans, which has Nos. 13 and 25, also has the ammunition to move up.

"I think this draft is a kind of 10-or-12-really-good-player draft," Saints general manager Randy Mueller said. "Does that warrant us going up from 13? I don't know. It's always possible."

**LITKE**

Continued from Page 1B

Jr.'s "sleeper" tags. With 225 pounds on a barbell, he did more reps than all but one other prospect.

Williams had experience playing both the running and pro-style passing games. If he sneaked into the third round, he could expect a signing bonus of about \$500,000 and a multi-year deal at close to \$700,000 annually.

Parker never even got around to talking numbers. He knew his client too well.

"I could have gone to camp, lollygagged around and kept the signing bonus," Williams said. "But there's no honor in that. I felt it was something I'd regret later in life. With me trying to be a good Christian, it wouldn't have been a good way to start."

He has become one of football's conscientious objectors. But Williams is not opposed to the violence or the hard work the game demands, just the regimen and other people deciding what he ought to do with his life.

His current plan is to work as a strength coach this summer in a youth, college or pro program — two NFL teams have offered internships — and then pick up his degree in sociology in December. Then he'd like to join the coaching ranks somewhere.

"I've been thinking about it for a while," Williams said. "Money can't replace where my heart is, especially if it's not where everybody tells me it is."

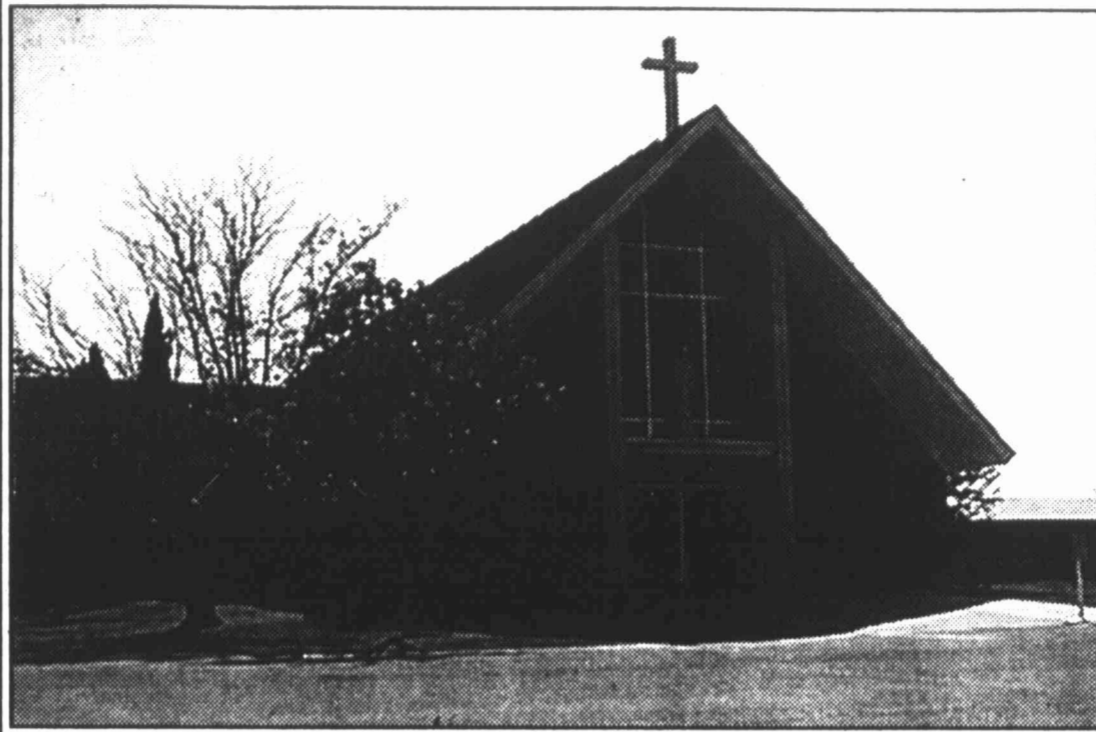
Jim Litke is the national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at [jlitke@ap.org](mailto:jlitke@ap.org)

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4100 W. Wall • Midland, TX  
915-694-9601  
e-mail: [sberman@jacksberman.com](mailto:sberman@jacksberman.com)

**WELLS FARGO**  
Duane Thomas President  
Scott Nelson  
Business Banking Mgr.  
Jearod Taylor  
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400 Main-Downtown Big Spring  
267-5513 Member FDIC

**Rip Griffin**  
**Country Fare**  
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Open 24 Hours  
Hwy. 87 & I-20  
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**Big Spring Farm Supply, Inc.**  
Ronnie Wood  
263-3382 Lamesa Highway

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FRIDAY APR. 19

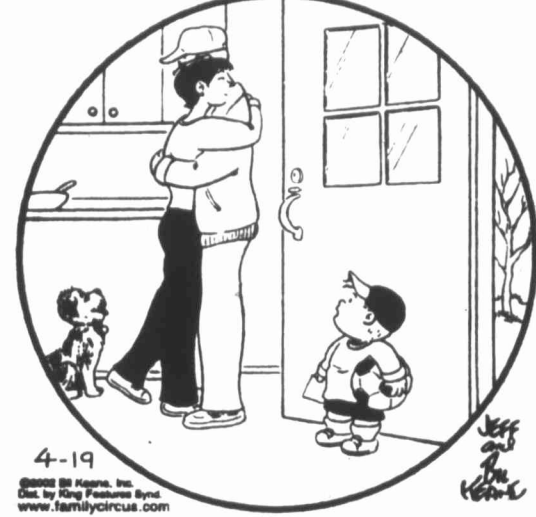
Table with 17 columns (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, TLC) and 5 rows of program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU CAN SKIP MY EARS... RUFF ALREADY WASHED 'EM!"

FAMILY CIRCUS



"How long are you gonna hug her, Daddy? We'll be late for the game!"

HAGAR



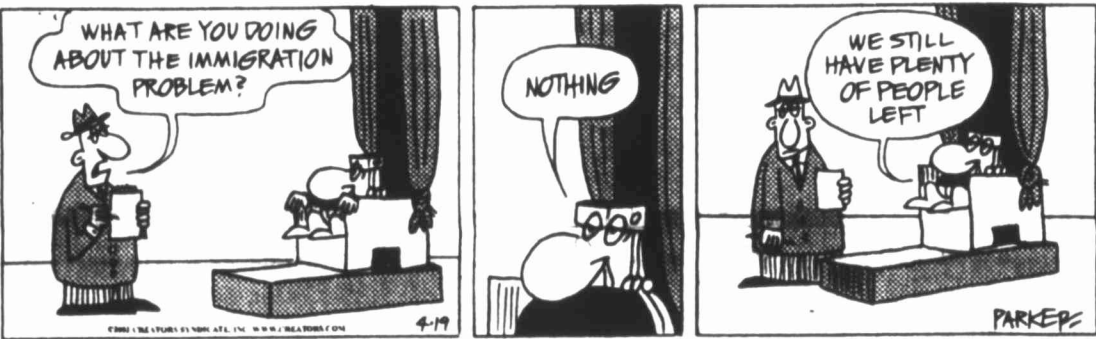
BLONDIE



B.C.



WIZARD OF ID



GEECH



HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, April 19, the 109th day of 2002. There are 256 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 19, 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

In 1782, the Netherlands recognized American independence.

In 1933, the United States went off the gold standard.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews living in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but futile battle against Nazi forces.

In 1945, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel" opened on Broadway.

In 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, relieved of his Far East command by President Truman, bid

farewell to Congress, quoting a line from a ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

In 1982, astronaut Sally K. Ride and Guion S. Bluford Jr. became the first woman and first African-American to be tapped for U.S. space missions.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa.

In 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; dozens of people, including David Koresh, were killed.

In 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people and injuring hundreds.

Timothy McVeigh was later convicted of federal murder charges and executed.

In 1999, the German parliament inaugurated its new home in the restored Reichstag in Berlin, its pre-war capital.

Ten years ago: After six days, engineers plugged the tunnel leak under the Chicago River that caused an underground flood that had virtually shut down business in the heart of the city.

Today's Birthdays:

Actor Hugh O'Brian is 77. Actress Elinor Donahue is 65. Actor Tim Curry is 56. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 55. Tennis player Sue Barker is 46. Recording executive Suge Knight is 37. Actress Ashley Judd is 34. Pop singer Bekka Bramlett is 34. Actor James Franco is 24. Actress Kate Hudson is 23. Actor Hayden Christensen is 21.

Answer to previous puzzle: ZOLA JAUNT OGLE, ANUT UPPER REAR, PEST MIAMI LOIN, ACHUMPA TOXFORD, TAE USM INGOT, ARREST CAST EPA, MEASURE AVER, WATERMOCCASIN, YAM'S TIMHOLT, ERE ASTO NEARER, ACRES ADV EVE, RIGHTTOTHECLOG, PIGA AORTA MIKE, BEAD PRMAN EVEN, SSNS SWERD ZEST

Newsday Crossword

CHRONOLOGICAL by A.J. Santora Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS: 1 Bit of curvature, 4 Emmy winner Thompson, 8 Friends character, 12 Venetian explorer, 14 Sacred song, 16 Kitchen ender, 17 Job perk, 20 Intermittent desire, 21 Deer mom, 23 Fuss and feathers, 24 Casio competitor, 25 Cabinet dept., 27 Warming of relations, 31 Ukr., once, 32 Panacea, 35 Yellowish color, 38 '70s sitcom, 42 Earthmover, for short, 43 Short coat, 45 "A Fool Such \_\_\_", 48 Some linemen, 50 Farm structure, 51 Linda, in The Exorcist, 54 Speed up: Abbr., 57 Hoop lacing, 58 They flower infrequently, 63 Metaphorical long time, 66 Rex's sleuth, 67 Killer whales, 68 Ninny, 69 Summer quaffs, 70 Latin being, 71 Prepare, with "out", DOWN: 1 Pertinent, 2 Falling-out, 3 Fenced, 4 Film sensitivity, 5 Start of a JFK phrase, 6 Bandmate of Micky, Peter and Mike, 7 Wings, 8 Lace again, 9 Ear ailment, 10 Has to sell, 11 Lisbon mister, 13 Be pot-shy, 15 Part of Vivendi Universal, 18 Vaudevillian Tanguay, 19 Poetica (Horace poem), 21 Payable, 22 European capital, 26 Cut, 28 Stash away, 29 Feat, 30 "You called?!", 33 Swearing-in phrase, 34 Bring down the house, 36 Airport stat., 37 Cookout choice, 39 Urge, 40 Windjammer sheet, 41 Perry's creator, 44 Speck, 45 Deep secrets, 46 Appeared, 47 Pay no heed to, 49 Spicy sauces, 52 Periodic table elements: Abbr., 53 Filbert, e.g., 55 Principle, 56 King's realm, 59 Frat letter, 60 Days of \_\_\_ Cpls., subordinates, 62 NFL scores, 64 Songful Sumac, 65 Austin Powers, for one

