

BIG SPRING HERALD

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"Reflecting a Proud Community"

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

TUESDAY

April 23, 2002

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW
63°-65° 78°-82°

Supplement to honor our 'men in blue'

Thursday's edition of the *Herald* will include a special supplement commemorating the police department's 75 years of service in Big Spring.

The 12-page section includes features on the department, its personnel and programs, as well as photos of each employee.

The *Herald* also encourages its readers to help celebrate the department's 75th anniversary by attending an open house at police headquarters, 400 E. Fourth St., from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday.

Refreshments will be served. The invitation includes all former employees of the police department and their family members.

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.

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

□ Duplicate Bridge Club meets every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 1 p.m. at the Big Spring Country Club.

□ Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center. Call 398-5522 or 267-1628.

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

THURSDAY

□ Gideons International, Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at Herman's Restaurant at 7 a.m.

□ Senior Citizens Center art classes, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for people 55 and over.

□ Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. at Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

□ Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Michaelis family leaving Big Spring for Waco

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

A Howard College administrator and the United Way of Big Spring and Howard County executive director have announced their departure to return home and take on a new challenge.

Joel Michaelis, the college's associate vice president for workforce development, has accepted a position with the "If I Had a Hammer" program. His last day at the college will be



JOEL & CINDY MICHAELIS

May 10. His wife, Cindy Michaelis, informed the United Way board on Friday of her departure as executive director.

The couple plan to move back to Central Texas during the summer.

"The community has been absolutely wonderful but Waco is home," Joel Michaelis said.

"It's been a pleasure to work for the United Way in Big Spring," said Cindy Michaelis. "The people here have been very accepting."

Both husband and wife have family in Waco and Cindy is a native of the Central Texas city.

They came to Big Spring

two years ago when Joel took over the position of the college's administrative dean of continuing education and workforce training. Cindy filled the position of associate director of United Way, working with outgoing executive director Carroll Jennings.

Joel was given his current title last year while Cindy took over leadership of the United Way program for last year's campaign.

Joel's new position will require overseeing the logistics of the "If I Had a

Hammer" program throughout the nation.

"If I Had A Hammer" teaches fifth grade students teamwork and life skills by having the youths build a house together. The program was first used on the Howard College campus and has continued to grow.

The United Way executive director's position has already been posted. Cindy said this morning that she hopes the position will be filled soon so she will have time to train the new executive director.

Homemade bombs under investigation

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Sheriff Dale Walker and Howard County sheriff's deputies were kept busy Friday night and Saturday morning rounding up the dangerous handiwork of what appears to be a group of pranksters.

Shortly after midnight Friday, the sheriff's office received reports of shots fired in the Tubbs Addition south of Big Spring. Upon arrival, deputies found that someone had planted crude explosive devices inside mailboxes in the area.

"That could be very dangerous, somebody opening that and getting it in the face," Walker said.

The bombs were built with three-liter soda bottles. Substances were placed inside the bottles designed to create gas pressure and explode, Walker said.

"We've recovered four of these mailbox bombs," he said. "We did recover some evidence there and we will process that and see if we can discover anything from that."

Walker said some other mailboxes in the area, including his own, were damaged through more mundane bashing methods.

"The sheriff's office has a continual problem. A very sporadic report comes in every month or every month and a half or so of mailbox damage in the county," he said. "Since it's so sporadic it's very difficult to try to catch them in the act. We certainly ask that citizens keep a close eye on their neighborhoods at night and if they have cars or people prowling around their neighborhood, call us, so that we can have time to react and get there."



Sheriff Dale Walker holds two homemade bombs made from 3-liter soda bottles. The bombs were found in and around mailboxes in the Tubbs Addition Friday night and Saturday morning. The crude explosives will be analyzed for evidence about the perpetrators.

Walker said the perpetrators will be prosecuted when they are caught. The most likely charges would be third-degree felonies: Either possession or manufacture of a prohibited weapon or possession of components of a bomb.

Charges could also include possession of a hoax bomb, a class-A misdemeanor.

No injuries caused by the bombs have been reported yet, Walker said.

"We did find one of the bombs outside a mailbox on

the ground," he said. "It appeared that it exploded away from a mailbox. It's very possible that it did blow up on them. These things are very dangerous. They very easily could hurt

See BOMBS, Page 2

Cansino murder trial gets under way

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

When Elaine Cansino came home from paying a bill on Jan. 20, 2001, she found her infant son unresponsive, she told a 118th District Court jury this morning. Her son died later that day.

Elaine Cansino was the first witness to testify in the trial of John Ross Cansino — who is being accused of murder in the death of his son, 7-week-old Julian Cansino.

The jury took a 10-minute recess shortly after testimony began today to allow the visibly shaken woman to compose herself. He told jurors that she and her husband had argued the night before the boy's death. She said that the next day after going out to pay a bill, she returned to find Julian "limp" and said he "didn't look right."

John Cansino, 33, of Big Spring was arrested last year in connection with Julian's death.

District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson is prosecuting the case. Cansino is being defended by Attorney Novert Morales of Midland. Judge Robert Moore III is presiding.

A jury was seated Monday.

During jury selection, Morales quizzed potential jurors extensively about how they would rule if evidence showed Julian's

See TRIAL, Page 2

Bachelor's degree ok'd; some fees to go up at Howard College

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The final approval of a brokerage agreement to offer a bachelor's degree

program on the Howard College campus, a setback for a construction project and increased student fees highlighted the Howard College trustees meet-



SPARKS

ing Tuesday.

Area residents wanting a general business degree will no longer have to commute long distances as Howard College trustees finalized a brokerage agreement with Lubbock Christian College to bring a bachelor's degree program for college juniors and seniors to the Howard College campus.

"As a part of the college's vision and mission we are attempting to broker an opportunity to bring additional higher education opportunities to the community," Dr. Cheryl Sparks, Howard

College president, said. "We are very pleased to embark on this relationship with Lubbock Christian University."

The agreement allows LCU instructors to hold classes on the Howard College campus for a specialized accelerated program designed for mature students to earn a bachelor's degree in organizational management.

To qualify, students must be 25 years or older, meet the minimum grade point average and have 60 or more hours in transferable credit

hours from an accredited college or post secondary institution.

Students will earn their bachelor of science degree from LCU in about 18 to 20 months.

Ken Jones, president of Lubbock Christian University, was present to sign the finalized agreement.

For more information on the program, call Lubbock Christian University at 1-888-884-8899

In other business, trustees rejected all bids for the general contractor work on the

SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf's Pedestrian Plaza.

According to Phil Furqueron, architect, all bids received for the \$94,000 project funded through legislative appropriations were greater than the budget.

"We are basically going back to the drawing board and scale back the project," Sparks said. "We will see about the possibility of phasing the project over the next few years."

The projects will create

See COLLEGE, Page 2

City to discuss change orders on construction projects

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Change orders on two construction projects are on the agenda for Big Spring City Council, scheduled to convene at 5:30 this evening.

The council will meet in its chambers, 307 E. Fourth St.

The first of the two change orders will save the city \$8,250 on its 2001 roof replacement project, if adopted.

Under the change order, the city would scrap a proposed new paint job for a building at the compost facility, saving \$3,783.

Another change includes substituting thinner 26 gauge metal roof panels with polyester coating for

the originally planned 24 gauge panels with fluorocarbon coating at a savings of \$4,027.

The change order also calls for reusing existing trim and insulation on the trailer office at a savings of \$840.

The change order, the first on the project, would lower the total price tag for the roof replacement project from \$119,185 to \$110,435.

The second proposed change order would add nearly \$5,000 to the city's bill for the Hangar 25 Phase II construction.

The change order would involve adding lighting and further stabilization for the Hangar 25 newly-acquired Webb Air Force Base

chapel stained glass window, anchoring of display boards, addition of a new display area with four new display cabinets, installation of UV protection and relocation of the Phase I construction commemorative plaque.

The total bill for the change order would be \$16,720, of which the city would pay \$4,930. The remaining \$11,790 would be footed by the Texas Department of Transportation's original grant for the project.

At the council's last meeting, members approved on first reading another change order for emergency stabilization of the stained glass window. That change order is for \$990, of which the city must pay

only \$12.38.

In other business the council will:

- Hear the first reading of a resolution authorizing Mayor Russ McEwen to execute an agreement for cellular service with Westex Telecom.

- Consider annexation of 40 acres of city property located southwest of Parkway and Willard.

- Consider publishing intent to lease tracts of land for oil and gas exploration and drilling.

- Consider appointments to the Colorado River Municipal Water District, the Citizens' Advisory Board and the Big Spring McMahon-Wrinkle Airport Development Board.

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OBITUARIES

Lula Mae Morphis

Lula Mae Morphis, age 91, of Oak Ridge, Tenn., died Saturday, April 20, 2002, at her home. Born March 3, 1911, in Connorsville, Tenn., the daughter of J.G. and Bertha Fowler Pettus. She was a member of Robertsville Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Vernoy "Shorty" Morphis on Jan. 15, 1986, and by two sons, James Thomas Morphis and Vernon Morphis.

Survivors include one son, Frank Burton Morphis and wife, Isidora of Big Spring; 16 grandchildren, Sandra Gambrell, Pam Johnson, Kathy Cooper, Patsy Arendale, Jo Morphis, James T. Morphis Jr., David Morphis, and Lee Morphis, all of Watertown, Tenn.; Frank Vernon Morphis of Big Spring, Bertha Mae McMillan and Sherrie Griffith of Oliver Springs, Kenneth Randall Morphis of Lakewood, Deborah K. Proctor of College Station, Mary Jane Wright of Ft. Ashby, W.Va., Louis Robert Salazar of Beaumont, and Frank Anthony Morphis of Sweetwater; 26 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and special friends, Linda and Lynn Cox of Clinton, Tenn., and Tracy Wirick of Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Funeral service will be held on Tuesday, April 23, at 8 p.m. at Weatherford Mortuary with the Rev. Ray Buchanan officiating. Graveside service will be held on Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Oak Ridge Memorial Park. The family will receive friends on Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Weatherford Mortuary, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Cecil S. Martin

Lt. Col. Cecil S. Martin, USAF (Ret) died Monday, April 15, 2002, in San Antonio. He retired after more than 20 years of honorable service in the United States Air Force.

Survivors include his wife, Katherine Martin; daughter, Betty Edwards of Lubbock; grandchildren, Jennifer and her husband, Jake Martinez, and James Patrick Edwards; brothers, Milton Martin, Robert Martin and his wife, Barbara, and Dr. Jack Martin; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside service will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Big Spring.

Masonic services are under the auspices of Staked Plains Lodge 598 AF & AM.

MYERS & SMITH
FUNERAL HOME
& CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Margaret Elizabeth Lawdermilk, 78, died Sunday. Graveside services are 2:00 PM, today at Trinity Memorial Park.

NALLEY-PICKLE
& WELCH
Funeral Home

Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
(915) 267-6331

Big Spring Herald
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Box 1431, Big Spring, Texas,
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the direction of Porter Loring Mortuaries in San Antonio.

Paid obituary

Margaret Elizabeth Lawdermilk

Graveside service for Margaret Elizabeth Lawdermilk, 78, of Big Spring will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, 2002, at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Dudley Mullins officiating.

Miss Lawdermilk died Sunday, April 21, at a hospital in Bronte following a long illness.

She was born on May 20, 1923, in Big Spring. She was a member of East Fourth Street Baptist Church and had lived most of her life in Big Spring.

Survivors include two sisters, Betty Lepard of Andrews and Sue Smith of Garden City; and one brother, Richard Lawdermilk of Maverick.

The family suggests memorials to The Relay For Life, attention Mitzi Knight, 2301 S. Gregg, Big Spring 79720.

Arrangements are under the direction of Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ethel Livrone

Ethel Livrone died on April 23, 2002. She had made her home with Ikie and Deborah Rupard of Sand Springs.

She is survived by two daughters, Carol De Paoli and Deborah Rupard; son-in-law, Ikie Rupard; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Her church home in Big Spring was Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. She was comforted in her last days by the loving support of the members of this church community.

She also enjoyed the warmth and friendliness to a newcomer the Sand Springs community showed. Ethel's joy of life will be sorely missed by all of us who knew her.

Ethel will now return to her home of 83 years, Leechburg, Pa., to rest beside her husband, Primo, in the place she so loved.

Funeral service is pending with Clawson Funeral Home, Leechburg, Pa. Local arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

To sign a guest register for Mrs. Livrone, go to www.clawsonfuneralhome.com

Paid obituary

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

walkways and landscape areas to connect four buildings on campus.

Also, residents living in the Howard College dorms will see their meal plans increase a little more than \$100 a semester while residents living in SWCID dorms will see an increase of their meal plan by a little more than \$140 a semester.

"We have been trying to keep the cost down for our students and we have not raised the meal plan for the last few years," Sparks said. "As a result we believe our meal plan is not as strong as some of the area colleges who use the same food service."

Trustees decided to withdraw the \$139,191 purchase of a Blue Star Blue Bird A3 after the bus received from the manufacturer had several discrepancies from the original order including the color and seats.

The board directed administrators to study the possibility of purchasing a used tour bus. The tour bus allows more luggage and passenger space than the original bus ordered and is more comfortable along with a longer engine life span, Sparks said.

In other business, trustees approved:

• The retirement resolution of Juné Stone, instruc-

tor for the college's licensed vocational nurses' program. Stone has been a Howard College employee for the past 23 years.

• Employment contracts for the district faculty and professional staff.

• A change in the student handbook. The college will no longer provide a stenographic transcript of academic hearings. Students, who request in writing, will be provided a copy of the taped proceedings.

• Other catalog changes including:

• a \$40 increase of building use on all of the district's campuses.

• a \$5 increase of late registration/course change fee.

• the Honor List will be changed to the Dean's List and President's List. Distinguished Graduates will change to Graduation with Honors.

• the degree requirements for A.A. and A.S. have changed to allow a three-hour computer course to fulfill the graduation requirements.

• the core curriculum has three additions including Agriculture 1415 Horticulture for agriculture majors only; Chemistry 1419, introductory inorganic chemistry; and Arts 2346 and 2347 Ceramics I and II.

• changes in fees at both the Howard College campus and the SWCID campus.

BOMBS

Continued from Page 1

themselves messing with this stuff."

Walker said he plans to offer a Crimestoppers reward for information leading to the arrest of the bombers.

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1

death to be an accident. The attorney drew an analogy between the infant's death and a hypothetical situation in which a child accidentally breaks a cookie jar.

Morales asked several jurors whether they would punish the child for accidentally breaking the jar.

Several jurors were excused from the panel because they claimed they couldn't extend to an alleged child-killer the "innocent until proven guilty" consideration; they said they would convict unless the defendant's innocence was proven.

Another juror was excused claiming he couldn't be impartial because his wife was murdered in 1997.

Julian Cansino died Jan. 20, 2001, after his family rushed him to Scenic Mountain Medical Center. The death was due to head trauma, according to an autopsy conducted by a Dallas pathologist.

According to police reports, the boy's mother, Elaine Cansino, discovered her son unresponsive and not breathing.

Justice of the Peace Bennie Green pronounced Julian dead at the hospital and ordered the autopsy.

The Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office report said the death was likely due to a homicide.

John Cansino was arrested June 23, 2001, during a traffic stop in Lynn County after Green ordered an arrest warrant.

He was indicted for the alleged murder in November of last year.

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A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Cowboy yodeler settles his lawsuit against Yahoo! over three-note yodel

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Wylie Gustafson can really shout "Yahoo!" now.

The cowboy yodeler from Dusty, Wash., has settled his copyright infringement lawsuit against Internet giant Yahoo! Inc. for using his distinctive yodel in its national advertising.

"They wanted to do the right thing and pay for a vocalization that has become a worldwide trademark," Gustafson said Monday from his ranch in the small town south of Spokane.

His yodel will continue to be featured on Yahoo! advertising. But other terms of the settlement, which was reached last week, were not disclosed.

Gustafson, 40, who performs around the nation with his band Wylie & The Wild West, created and sang the three-note yodel for Yahoo! in 1996, before the company hit it big, and was paid \$590.

BRIEFS

GARDEN CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S kindergarten registration for the 2002-2003 school year will be held on May 1. Children who will be attending kindergarten next year are invited to join the kindergarten classes from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Parents need to register their children during this time and need to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, shot record and social security card. Parents who can't register during this time are encouraged to come by the elementary office or call 354-2243.

COAHOMA ELEMENTARY PRE-K AND Kindergarten registration will be held May 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please call for an appointment at 394-4323.

THE COAHOMA LIONS CLUB is planning its annual city-wide garage sale on May 11 in Coahoma. Deadline to register is May 6. Registration fee is \$15. Register by calling Janie Klinksiek at 394-4395, or stop by The Little Sooper Market.

BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers of the children in the community who have been abused and neglected.

For more information on becoming foster/adoptive families call Children's Protective Services office at

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Big Spring, Texas

TEXAS LOTTERY

263-9669 or 1-800-233-3405.
SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

FORSAN EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION IS attempting to get 911 addresses on former Forsan students. Please call Boyce Hale at 2267-6957 to receive a newsletter.

Big Spring man acquitted of robbery and arson

By ROGER CLINE

A Big Spring man was acquitted of robbery and arson in a 118th District Court trial Wednesday after his brother pleaded guilty to the offense.

Raul Flores Jr., 21, of Big Spring, was found not guilty of stealing a truck from a man before taking the vehicle to a secluded area and burning it.

"His brother Joel Flores had plead guilty to that offense, and his brother had also testified at trial that in fact he alone had done it and that Raul had nothing to do with it," Flores' defense attorney Tim Yeats said. "Raul took the stand and also testified that he had nothing to do with it, and the jury apparently at least had reasonable doubt whether he did it, so they acquitted him."

Joel Flores was sentenced to five years in prison for the crime, said a spokesman for the District Attorney's office. Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr, prosecutor in the case, said he can't speak about the jury's motivation in finding Flores not guilty.

"You'd have to ask the jurors that. I don't really know," Orr said. "We had an eyewitness who placed him at the scene and described his participation in the crime."

Yeats said the eyewitness was Joel Flores' girlfriend. "I don't know how the jury perceived her testimony, but apparently they had some doubts about it, otherwise they would have found him guilty," he said. "They must have had some doubts about her credibility or her involvement in this thing too."

MARKETS

Noon quotes provided by Edward Jones & Co.
AT&T 13.98 +.23
Archer-Daniels 14.34 +.15
Atmos Energy 24.33 +.01
BP PLC ADR 51 -.72
ChevronTexaco 86.25 -.4
Citigroup 45.24 -.21
Compaq 10.47 -.26
Cornell 11.99 +.07

DUNLAPS
Your Fashion Headquarters
111 E. Marcy 267-6283

PICK 3: 0,0,7
CASH 5: 10,16,36,37,39

Dell	27.23 +.08
Du Pont	45.87 -.48
Exxon Mobil	41.05 -.8
Halliburton	17.8 +.2
IFCO Systems	.4 nc
IBM	88.81 +.88
Intel Corp	30.21 +.15
NUV	9.3 +.01
Patterson Ener	32.75 +.57
Pepsico Inc	52.34 -.49
Phillips Petro	60.4 -.27
SBC Comms	32.2 +.54
Sears Roebuck	53.87 +.07
TXU Corp	56.34 +.69
Texas Instrument	32.65 +.05
Total Fina	75.47 -.56
Unocal Corp	38 -.06
Wal-Mart	58.18 +.63
Wal-Mart/Mexico	32.75-33.4
AMCAP	15.73 -.19
Europacific	27.39 -.11
Prime Rate	4.75 %
Gold	301 -302.95
Silver	4.5 -4.56

FIRE/EMS

The following is a summary of EMS and Fire Department activity

1:38 p.m. — 300 block of Birdwell, traffic accident, service refused.

1:38 p.m. — 300 block of Birdwell, traffic accident, one patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

1:43 p.m. — 1400 block of E. 18th, medical call, one patient transported to SMMC.

4:01 p.m. — 1900 block of N. Hwy. 87, medical call, one patient transported to SMMC.

4:17 p.m. — 1000 block of W. Third, medical call, one patient transported to SMMC.

8:12 p.m. — 1500 block of Oriole, trauma call, one patient transported to SMMC.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity from 8 a.m. Monday until 8 a.m. today:

• RACHALE KAY STATION, 32, address unknown, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• JEFFERY SCOTT COX, 20, of 404 N. College was arrested on a charge of minor in consumption of alcohol.

• UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 300 block of East 20th Street. A white 1991 Chevy Silverado worth \$2,000 was reported stolen.

• MINOR ACCIDENT was reported in person at the police station and in the 500 block of East FM 700, the 400 block of Runnels, the 300 block of South Birdwell and the 1800 block of South Gregg.

• DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE was reported on Frazier Road and in the 4100 block of Dixon Street, the 300 block of West Seventh Street and the 1900 block of Runnels.

• LOUD PARTY/NOISE was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center
1601 W. 11th Place
263-1211

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DALLAS (AP) crept into M Pearle's mind in circled a grocery ing lot where l band, who was r usually met her their young dau

She wonder should turn over dren to John Be time. Authori preparing to arr to ask a judge to two-year probat lating a protecti As she circle time, Pearle tho doesn't come we're going hom He appeared watched as he than usual to lo Faith Battaglia old Liberty Ba his pickup. The gone. Pearle told Monday in the

Berkle

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After announced the tence, Martin Maryann, told hadn't succeede ing Sophia Mar

"Every time sunrise, ever; stars blanket t when the clo and let throug of sunlight, wh awaken on ros see Sophia,"

Willacy

HARLINGEN Despite a late e race for a spa Texas officials ful that the cou one.

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Willacy Cou the spaceport Kenedy Coun passed on the p ing it involv

Rylander

HOUSTON (Comptroller C Rylander on M ed a newspap she broke pledge by ta from people a contesting ta; by her office always has lin to cases pers her.

Rylander c conference ho publication M Houston Chr that said R taken at least political actio



Mother of slain girls testifies at murder trial

DALLAS (AP) — Doubt crept into Mary Jean Pearle's mind in May as she circled a grocery store parking lot where her ex-husband, who was running late, usually met her to pick up their young daughters.

She wondered if she should turn over her children to John Battaglia this time. Authorities were preparing to arrest him and to ask a judge to revoke his two-year probation for violating a protective order.

As she circled one last time, Pearle thought, "If he doesn't come this time, we're going home."

He appeared and Pearle watched as he took longer than usual to load 9-year-old Faith Battaglia and 6-year-old Liberty Battaglia into his pickup. Then they were gone.

Pearle told the story Monday in the first day of

testimony in Battaglia's capital murder trial. The 46-year-old accountant is accused of shooting the girls that night at his apartment loft while their mother listened helplessly on the phone.

Battaglia, who has a history of domestic violence, pleaded innocent to capital murder. He faces the death penalty or life in prison if convicted.

Pearle testified that the night her daughters were killed, Battaglia sent word for Pearle to call him. When she did, he had Faith ask on speaker phone, "Mommy, why do you want Daddy to have to go to jail?"

Then she said she heard her daughter say, "No Daddy, please, no don't do it."

"I knew it was so bad," Pearle told jurors in raw, heartwrenching testimony.

"Because she had never said no to her daddy in her whole life."

Pearle said she heard five gun shots and Battaglia yelling profanity.

Pearle called police, who broke into the apartment and found the girls' bodies, along with handguns, shotguns and rifles. Photographs of the crime scene showed the little bodies, barefooted, face down in pools of their blood, the elder sister with bullet holes down her back.

Battaglia was arrested hours later with a fresh tattoo on his left arm of two flowers representing his daughters. Prosecutors said he had gone for a "night on the town" and left a message on the children's answering machine calling them "very brave," and their mother "evil" and "vicious."

"Good night my little babies," Battaglia was heard saying on the message played in court. "I hope you are resting."

Dressed in a black suit, Battaglia, sat emotionless during most of testimony, but mouthed the words "I'm sorry" to Pearle, who avoided eye contact.

"For our entire marriage, John had been very verbally abusive to me," Pearle testified. "I kept trying to work it out. I wanted my kids to have a mom and dad... I kept thinking if he'd just go get counseling, he'd stop yelling."

Pearle recounted abusive episodes, including a Christmas 1999 incident when the girls watched as Battaglia bashed their mother's head, pulled her hair and kicked her with hard-soled shoes while she lay on the floor in pajamas.

Berkley sentenced to death in El Paso murder

EL PASO (AP) — William Josef Berkley, convicted last week of fatally shooting an 18-year old woman, was sentenced to death Monday after jurors deliberated for a little more than four hours.

Berkley, 23, stood silent as Judge David Guaderrama of the 243rd District Court asked him if he understood the sentence delivered for the March 10, 2000, slaying of Sophia Martinez.

Berkley said nothing, but nodded his head.

After Guaderrama announced the death sentence, Martinez's sister, Maryann, told Berkley he hadn't succeeded in destroying Sophia Martinez.

"Every time we see the sunrise, every time the stars blanket the night sky, when the clouds open up and let through golden rays of sunlight, when dew drops awaken on rose petals; we see Sophia," Maryann

Martinez said, looking directly at Berkley during her victims impact statement. "So you see, you have failed. You didn't succeed in destroying Sophia's spirit or from taking her away from us. Sophia will be everywhere we go."

"The trial that awaits you with God will be more terrible than anything you can imagine," she said.

Monday's sentence ended the eight-day trial, but the capital murder case automatically will be appealed to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

El Paso District Attorney Jaime Esparza said he thought the jurors came to the right decision.

"A jury tells the community the value of life and that we will not tolerate the taking of innocent victims in such a brutal way," Esparza told the El Paso Times for its Tuesday edi-

tions.

Defense lawyer Frank Macias said he was disappointed in the sentence, but believes he has a strong case for a new trial. Macias said the state failed to tell the defense team that a witness had identified another person in the case who was under a felony indictment for failure to stop and render aid.

"There are always issues that come up in trial," Esparza countered. "I don't think there's any basis for a new trial."

Martinez was attacked while withdrawing \$20 from an automatic teller machine in East El Paso.

A surveillance camera caught the robbery on tape and showed a man prosecutors said was Berkley forcing his way into Martinez's red Pontiac Grand Prix. The tape then showed Martinez withdrawing an additional

\$200 and driving away with the man in her car.

Her body was found in Northeast El Paso two days later, with five bullet wounds to her head. DNA samples taken from semen found in Martinez's body were matched to Berkley.

Kidnapping, rape and robbery were considered aggravating factors leading to the charge of capital murder.

Berkley will remain at the El Paso County Jail until he is transferred to death row, but his sentencing does not end the legal proceedings in the case.

Michael Angelo Jacques, 24, is indicted on a charge of capital murder in the course of robbing Martinez. He allegedly helped Berkley plan the robbery and dispose of evidence after the incident.

His trial is set for September.

Willacy County remains hopeful it can get spaceport

HARLINGEN (AP) — Despite a late entry into the race for a spaceport, South Texas officials remain hopeful that the county will land one.

The Willacy County Development Corp. for Spaceport Facilities met Monday to discuss proposals to launch spaceport plans.

Willacy County entered the spaceport race after Kenedy County residents passed on the project, deciding it involved too many

environmental and health concerns. The proposed commercial facility would serve as the launching and landing facility for still-theoretical civilian spacecraft.

Willacy County is playing catch-up against two other counties vying for a facility in South Texas. Brazoria and Pecos counties have had significantly more time to plan and rally support.

And Pecos County has an endorsement from Kistler Aerospace. Kistler has stated that a spaceport in

Willacy would not meet the firm's needs, claiming coastal winds could potentially blow sounding rockets into the Gulf of Mexico.

"We're pushing primarily because of the economic development that it would bring," Armando Rubalcaba, board member for the Willacy County Development Corp. for Spaceport Facilities, told the Valley Morning Star for its Tuesday editions.

The spaceport, which could provide more than

5,000 jobs when complete, would be used to launch reusable space vehicles called "sounding rockets" that can be refurbished and reused.

During the next five months, the Willacy County board will study possible sites where a spaceport might be built.

Aviation company changes mind on Corpus Christi site

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A promised aviation plant that would transform passenger jets into FedEx cargo planes will move to San Antonio instead of Corpus Christi, local officials said Monday.

Officials who had been working with a subsidiary of Singapore Technologies said they learned of the change over the weekend, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported in its Tuesday editions.

Singapore Technologies had announced in September that the subsidiary would come to Corpus Christi and had signed a memorandum of understanding with the city. Its operation would have brought 1,500 to 1,800 jobs to Corpus Christi and pumped more than \$10 million into the area economy.

The newspaper said the change in plans centered on the subsidiary, Vision Technologies, winning the assets of San Antonio's Dee Howard Aircraft Maintenance in a bankruptcy auction. That move could save the company \$40 million and years of start-up time, Corpus Christi officials said.

Ron Kitchens, president and chief executive officer of the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corp., said a Singapore negotiator told him Vision Technologies got the entire 39-acre site and equipment for \$14.2 million.

"They literally had too good a deal," he said. He said people in the economic development office were heartsick about the loss.

"We have been reassured repeatedly that they were not interested in operating in San Antonio due to the high cost of labor and the age of the facilities," Kitchens said.

Almost all of the workers for the plant would have been federally certified aviation mechanics and would earn an average of \$40,000 a year, local officials said.

The non-profit EDC would have sold 20-year aviation maintenance bonds, initially worth between \$14 million and \$16 million, to finance the company's first two hangars at the airport.

The EDC, in turn, would lease a hangar back to the company for five years and the other for seven years.

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Rylander says she kept vow regarding campaign money

HOUSTON (AP) — State Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander on Monday disputed a newspaper report that she broke a campaign pledge by taking money from people and companies contesting taxes collected by her office, saying she always has limited the vow to cases personally before her.

Rylander called a news conference hours after the publication Monday of the Houston Chronicle story that said Rylander has taken at least \$567,500 from political action committees

or executives of companies disputing tax cases, or firms representing taxpayers.

"I do not accept contributions from taxpayers with protested cases that come to me personally," Rylander said Monday. "Contributions made under that circumstance are returned. In fact, I have returned checks to supporters upon learning my office is auditing them."

During the 1998 campaign, the Republican vowed she would not take money from people with pending tax matters.

"When you've got these


huge tax matters, I would not," she said at the time. She said Monday that she always meant cases directly before her, or cases of which she was aware, that involved donors.

She also noted that there are 2,200 tax cases or audits before her staff at any given time, making it unreasonable for her to refuse campaign money from everyone involved. She also said that state law does not preclude her from taking money from entities with cases before her and that she has chosen to do it voluntarily.



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 7:00-7:30 p.m. Picnic Meal Served—Hot Dog, chips, dessert & drink - \$2.50 each
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 Bring a blanket or chairs and enjoy the show.
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Ken Dulaney
Publisher

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Lots of fun in store for the weekend

It's another busy weekend in Big Spring, with plenty of good food and great music — everything from boot scootin' to an evening with the orchestra.

Entertainment gets under way on Friday with the annual Denim and Diamonds gala at Big Spring Country Club. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for the patients at Big Spring State Hospital and for those who attend, it's just pure fun. Start off with hors d'ouvres at 7 p.m. and enjoy the music of Jody Nix from 8 p.m. until midnight. There will be lots of activities, games and things to do. Admission is \$50 per couple.

Then on Saturday, get ready for two more big events. The first is Around the World in 80 Bites, an annual fund-raiser for the Heritage Museum. Those attending "Bites" won't be bitten, but instead will get to sample the very many bite-sized treats prepared by local "chefs." Sampling of the culinary delights and museum tours begin at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 each and available at the museum, 510 Scurry.

Around the World in 80 Bites ends at 7:30 — just in time to make it over to Municipal Auditorium for the 8 p.m. start of "An Evening of Great Choral Music," featuring the Southwestern University Choral, The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra, the Big Spring Symphony Chorus, the Midland/Odessa Chorale, the Big Spring High School Meistersingers and the Bauer Elementary Honor Chorus.

Symphony tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for students.

Now here is an even better deal. A combination ticket for the concert and "Around the World in 80 Bites" is available at the museum for \$15. That's an entire evening of entertainment for a low, low price.

So whatever your preferences, be sure and get the family together and take advantage of some or all of the activities going on in Big Spring this weekend. You'll be supporting some great causes, and having a wonderful time.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

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

Marking the end of America's prestige

A friend of mine once told a college class that nobody ever woke up in 476 A.D. (the date historians define as the fall of the Roman Empire) and said, "Gosh, I'm in the Dark Ages."

His point is plain enough. Transitions happen gradually, and the people who live through them never realize what is happening. So it is with Americans. We are living in the ruins of a once-great republic. Now an empire utterly devoid of moral authority, the United States has nothing left but its military power and its capacity to consume on credit.

Where the world's great leaders will come from in the future, I don't know, but they will not be Americans. Look at the Republican and Democratic parties and their top leaders. Mediocrity in full bloom. Weak men with ambition but no principles. They are devious men, skilled at concealing their

personal ambition in patriotic or compassionate rhetoric, depending on which constituency they are trying to bamboozle at the moment.

I said earlier that Colin Powell's trip to the Middle East would answer the question of who determines American foreign policy: America's elected leaders, or Israel and its powerful American lobby. The answer is Israel.

Powell has disgraced himself. He did the ritual moaning and groaning about six Israelis killed by a suicide bomber but said nothing about the hundreds of innocent Palestinians killed by the Israelis. As of this writing, he has not even bothered to tour the devastated cities. He has not gone to Bethlehem to see the gratuitous and malicious damage to the civilian infrastructure. He has not gone to Jenin to smell the decomposing bodies buried under the rubble. He has not uttered a single word of public criticism of Israel, while Amnesty International, the United Nations Human Rights Commission and even Israeli human-rights groups have leveled blistering criticism at Israel's beastly policy and actions.

Instead, he acted as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's errand boy by hopping over to Lebanon and Syria to ask them to restrain Hezbollah. I wish I could have been Lebanon's president long enough to tell him off.

I would have said to Powell: "Where were you and the United States when for more than 20 years Israel illegally occupied Lebanese territory in open defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions? You never said one word; you never lifted one finger to force the Israelis out. And now, you have the gall to demand of me that I chastise Hezbollah, whose brave young men did what you should have done — drove the Israelis out of Lebanon. If you cannot see the hypocrisy in your visit and in your request, then I truly pity you. Good day, sir."

The Syrian president should have told him the same thing, for the United States has never done one thing to persuade the Israelis to stop their illegal occupation of the Golan Heights.

Robert Fisk, the great correspondent of The Independent in London, wrote recently: "Mr.

Powell's weakness, his failure of nerve, his cowardice are now likely to set off an Israeli-Palestinian war even more terrible than what we have witnessed so far. ... Thanks to Mr. Powell, President Bush and Mr. Sharon, America's credibility has been shattered. Israel, it turns out, does indeed run U.S. policy in the region. The Secretary of State sings from the Israeli songbook."

The repercussions of this will be unpleasant for the American people. One day, God willing, the American people will wake up and realize what a painful price has been exacted for allowing their politicians to sell their souls to the Israeli lobby. I have to give the Israeli lobby credit. They recognized the souls weren't worth much and bought them on the cheap.

We had a president once who vowed to make the world safe for democracy. We now have one who is busily making the world unsafe for Americans and who doesn't have a clue as to how ridiculous he now appears in the eyes of the world.

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



CHARLEY REESE



YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:
I would like to take this opportunity to say "thanks" to the wonderful volunteers that took part in the 17th annual "Don't Mess with Texas" Trash-Off, and especially Todd Darden.

It was a wonderful experience for everyone participating. They removed 15,740 pounds of litter from our community with 355 volunteers. I would like to also say that the people outside of our city limits have joined forces and are excited about being included in this event. They have removed approximately 1,000 more pounds since the Trash-Off on April 6.

With everyone helping we can get Howard County to being one of the cleanest places in Texas. This will be an ongoing effort through May 31, so, anyone cleaning their area should advise me of the area and weight removed so this can be included in the report.

The volunteers in the Trash-Off were provided with a wonderful lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs provided by Scenic Mountain Medical Center. We ate inside due to threatening weather. Also, I would like to thank Buck Lee of Bargain Mart for

providing bottled water for our volunteers. I want to thank the media for the wonderful coverage they provided. Thanks to the Herald, KBST, KBYG, and KWES-TV.

Those participating in the event were: Air Park personnel; Allan Johnson and group; Alon USA; American Legion Post 506; Big Spring Bass Club; Big Spring Model Airplane Club; Boys Club of Big Spring; city of Big Spring employees; EMS personnel; BSHS Student Council; BSJH Student council; Jacob Brewer and family; Phil and Irene Bustamante; Comanche Flats residents; Cornell Corrections; Shirley Cross; Disc Golf Club; Lee and Fran Emerson; Family Faith Victory Center; Becky Knight; 4-H Club; Goliad Cavaliers; Goliad Classics; Howard College; Howard College Diplomats; Downtown Lions Club; Lutheran Church; McDonalds of Big Spring; Jimmy and Georgie Newsom and granddaughter, Darby; Nazarene Church Youth; Presbyterian Church; Scenic Mountain Medical Center; Teen Court; TXU-Oncor; Western Container; Wilderness Camp Inmates

and Don Taylor.

Take a close look at our county roads and you will see a difference because the residents in the area cared enough to get involved.

Even a family from Vealmoor wanted to be a part. The enthusiastic volunteers were Charlene and Robert Ragan, Howard County Inmates, Hank Williamson family, Kelly Zant family, Roy D. Beachamp and family, Martin and Lanita Fryar, Greg Kernick, Kent Ivy and John Henry Day.

We can be a "Community of Hope," both physically and spiritually. We have heard it said, people looking at our community as a potential employer or employee are discouraged after taking a tour because of the physical appearance.

We can do a better job, clean and maintain our appearance. Put your trash in bags and tie them before placing in the dumpster, close the dumpster lid. Cardboard boxes should be broken down before placing in the dumpster to save space.

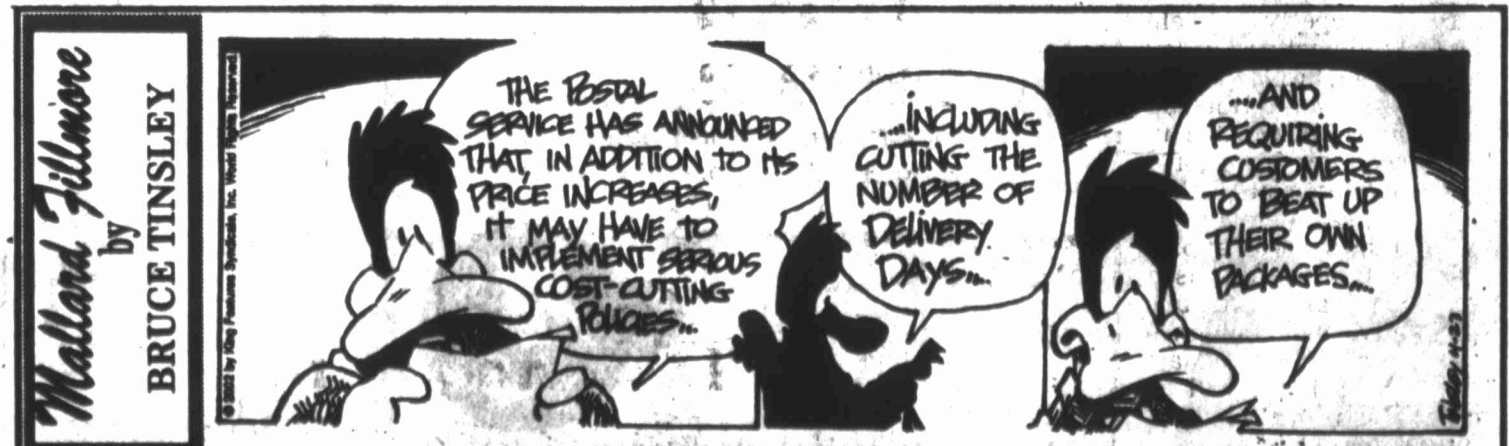
Be a caring citizen! If you want to be a part, call 263-4607.

PAT SIMMONS
TRASH-OFF COORDINATOR

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 - TOMMY TUNE** — Home: 267-4652; Work (Howard College): 264-5000.
 - JOANN SMOOT** — Home: 267-6965; Work (BSISD): 264-3600.



Mallard Fillmore
by
BRUCE TINSLEY

Sharon

WASHINGTON — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Tuesday he will campaign against the West Bank door to peace with the Palestinians.

Renewing his international presence, which is weighing, Israel would put its policy.

First, he said, be a complete violence and in attack Israel. The Israel would be a long-term arm the Palestinian stage, Israel Palestinians would

Four de

WEST CHESTER — Four deputies for try workers from public shroud of Commandments the county facade.

A federal ordered the plaque on the County courthouse by April 22 after display violated constitutional separation

Jury de

CAMBRIDGE — Was a man when he fatally co-workers at software company methodically plings to get revenge.

That is the question as it comes to the fate of Michael 43, who is charged with murders at Technology in West Dec. 26, 2000.

The jury, who sequestered, reserations Tuesday after spending on the case on Monday. Defense attorney Reddington said had a long history illness and was psychotic state was

Actor R

LOS ANGELES — a complaint that the script for Blake's movies, allege that the bodyguard plot murder for more remote places for and buying du and shovels.

Blake, who tough, street-tive on the "Baretta," appeared Monday as he percent to charge bring him the if convicted. He Earle Caldwell, innocent during minute arraignment. "His defense said Blake's Harland Braun do it."

Wal-Mart

tests out car busi

LITTLE ROCK — The worst retailer is to drive in the news.

Wal-Mart Stores planning to let adjacent to five in the Houston Connecticut-based company for Wal-Mart spokesman Allen said Tuesday.

Allen said Tuesday Wal-Mart will then evaluate gram and decide go from there only involvement lease the property. Asbury Automotive the program.

By early May shoppers could bank, get the buy groceries and a car, gas all from the store. The Bentonville, Ark. Wal-Mart Automotive locations in the first to open Auto Stores.

Sharon says campaign in West Bank opens door to peacemaking

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said today Israel's campaign against terror on the West Bank opens the door to peacemaking with the Palestinians.

Renewing his call for an international peace conference, which President Bush is weighing, Sharon said Israel would pursue a three-point policy.

First, he said, there must be a complete cessation of violence and incitement to attack Israel. Then, he said, Israel would be prepared for a long-term armistice with the Palestinians. In a third stage, Israel and the Palestinians would reach a

final settlement. He said borders would be drawn, implying his approval of a Palestinian state, which Bush has been urging.

"Regional peace is within our grasp," Sharon said via television to the annual convention of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a pro-Israel lobby group. "I am optimistic about the future."

Israel's three-week incursion into Palestinian areas "has opened a window of opportunity to put the peace process back on a different moralistic track, free from the threat of terrorism," Sharon said.

The issue of an international conference to restart the Mideast peace process was raised during Secretary of State Colin Powell's trip to the region this month. Powell said such a meeting could restore hope, but the White House has not registered enthusiasm for the idea.

"I have proposed a regional peace conference to achieve this goal" of regional peace, Sharon said. "A regional peace conference sponsored by the United States can create the framework and mobilities to bring about a cessation of hostilities."

"It can foster a coalition of

countries committed to peace and able to defeat the forces of terrorism and evil circling our lives."

Israel received a bipartisan boost, meanwhile, from Rep. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., and Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Texas, the House majority whip.

"You will not hear silence, you will not hear neutrality," Menendez said.

Israel's military incursion into the West Bank, which European and Arab leaders have condemned and Bush is trying to end, "was defensive in nature, no less than the United States' activities in Afghanistan," Menendez said.

Castigating Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, Menendez said, "The Palestinian Authority has resorted to its terrorist past."

DeLay called the authority "a holding company for terrorist subsidiaries" and, bringing the audience to its feet, said "democracies must never negotiate with terrorists."

Meanwhile, Powell telephoned Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin ben-Eliezer as Israeli forces pressed their campaign against terror suspects even while withdrawing from most of the West Bank.

Bush's chief of staff,

Andrew Card, told the AIPAC meeting Monday night that Israel and the Palestinians will have to make "real sacrifices" to achieve a settlement. He called on Arab countries to stop financing terror groups.

Card said Bush understands Israel is a small country that has lived under threat its entire history.

He said Bush seeks an end to terrorism as well as a peace in which Palestine and Israel exist side by side.

More than 4,000 members of AIPAC attended the dinner, along with half the Senate and about one-third of the House.

Four detained as workers move in to cover Ten Commandments plaque with shroud

WEST CHESTER, Pa. (AP) — Four people were detained by sheriff's deputies for trying to block workers from placing a plastic shroud over a Ten Commandments plaque on the county courthouse's facade.

A federal judge had ordered the 82-year-old plaque on the Chester County courthouse covered by April 22 after ruling its display violated the constitutional separation of

church and state.

More than 100 protesters gathered at the building Monday to demonstrate against the order. Just before 2 p.m., when county workers were scheduled to place a beige plastic cover over the plaque, three men and one woman sat in front of the bronze panel and refused to move.

Officers moved in minutes later, peacefully carrying away protesters William Devlin, Mafalda Thomas-

Bouzy, Dan Daccardi and Michael Marcavage. None will face charges, officials said.

The crowd then booed and chanted "You can't cover the truth," as the covering went up.

U.S. District Judge Stewart Dalzell ordered the plaque removed in March after a trial in a civil complaint brought by an atheist group, the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia.

Members of the society said they were offended and intimidated by the plaque. The American Civil Liberties Union argued the case on behalf of society member Sally Flynn, a former Sunday school teacher.

Dalzell ruled that posting a Christian religious document on a courthouse was akin to a government endorsement of a particular religion — something forbidden by the First Amendment.

The order to take down the 50-inch-by-39-inch bronze plaque has been stayed pending the county's appeal, but Dalzell said it must be covered while the court case is resolved.

Devlin, in a phone call from a prisoner holding area at the courthouse, said

the county should have the right to keep the Commandments up.

"The Constitution says we have freedom of religion, not freedom from religion," he said. "The Ten Commandments are good for everybody."

Jury deliberates fate of man accused of killing co-workers

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Was a man delusional when he fatally shot seven co-workers at a suburban software company or did he methodically plan the shootings to get revenge?

That is the question facing a jury as it considers the fate of Michael McDermott, 43, who is charged with the murders at Edgewater Technology in Wakefield on Dec. 26, 2000.

The jury, which is being sequestered, resumed deliberations Tuesday morning after spending 3 1/2 hours on the case on Monday.

Defense attorney Kevin Reddington said McDermott had a long history of mental illness and was in a psychotic state when he shot

his co-workers.

"This man has been in a downward spiral and has been deteriorating and was in the abyss of insanity at the time these killings occurred," Reddington said.

Prosecutor Tom O'Reilly said there was no doubt McDermott methodically planned the shootings after he became enraged over the company's decision to withhold part of his salary to pay back taxes.

During two days of testimony, McDermott said he had been given a holy mission to prevent the Holocaust by killing Adolf Hitler and six Nazi generals.

He described seeing St. Michael the Archangel,

traveling back in time to 1940 to Hitler's bunker in Berlin, then killing six people wearing swastika armbands and finally killing Hitler himself.

O'Reilly said McDermott knew exactly what he was doing when he walked through the company's hallways, shooting at people he blamed for siding with the IRS in his tax dispute.

"Michael McDermott is a cold-blooded murderer. He deliberately planned the murders at Edgewater Technology," O'Reilly said.

"There's no delusion," O'Reilly pointed out that McDermott concealed his gun in his car and testified he fired the gun ahead of

time.

O'Reilly went moment by moment through the shooting, recounting in detail the injuries McDermott inflicted with an assault rifle and a shotgun. Family members of victims could be heard sobbing, and several left the courtroom.

If convicted, McDermott will receive the mandatory sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

If found innocent by reason of insanity, McDermott would be evaluated and could be ordered committed to a psychiatric facility. If committed, McDermott would receive annual evaluations to decide whether he would remain committed or be released.

Actor Robert Blake, bodyguard plead not guilty to murder

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a complaint that could be the script for one of Robert Blake's movies, prosecutors allege that the actor and his bodyguard plotted his wife's murder for months, visiting remote places for the killing and buying duct tape, lye and shovels.

Blake, who played the tough, street-smart detective in the 1970s series "Baretta," appeared calm Monday as he pleaded innocent to charges that could bring him the death penalty if convicted. His bodyguard, Earle Caldwell, also pleaded innocent during a five-minute arraignment.

"His defense is simple," said Blake's attorney, Harland Braun. "He didn't do it."

Blake and Caldwell are

accused of hatching a complicated plot to kill Bonny Lee Bakley — a scheme that prosecutors say evolved over time from plans to have her killed and buried in the desert to her being shot behind an Italian restaurant near Blake's home.

Blake has said his wife was shot after he returned to the restaurant to retrieve a gun he accidentally left behind.

He said he was carrying the weapon to protect Bakley, 44, from threats she had received.

Caldwell, 46, was charged with conspiring with Blake on or about Jan. 2, 2001, and continuing to participate in the conspiracy until Bakley was shot to death on May 4, 2001, as she sat in her hus-

band's car after the meal.

"It was just awful after reading the complaint," Margery Bakley, the victim's sister, said tearfully outside court. "I feel terrible. I feel absolutely terrible."

Both men said nothing in court Monday except when asked for their pleas. Blake remained held without bail. Caldwell's bail has been set at \$1 million.

The 18 "overt" acts in the complaint allege that Blake approached two different people and solicited them to kill the mother of his baby daughter.

Names of those two crucial witnesses were not immediately disclosed.

Prosecutors allege that Blake personally asked the two to kill his wife in differ-

ent locations — Parker, Ariz., Three Rivers, Calif., and outside Vitello's Italian restaurant.

The complaint does not explain why prosecutors believe Blake ultimately decided to carry out the killing himself.

Besides murder, prosecutors have accused Blake, 68, of two counts of solicitation of murder, conspiracy and the special circumstance of lying in wait. They said they will decide later whether to seek the death penalty.

The complaint links Caldwell to a list of items characterized as murder implements, including two shovels, a small sledgehammer, crowbar, old rugs, duct tape, pool acid, lye and a solvent used to unclog drains.

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Wal-Mart now tests out used car businesses

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The world's largest retailer is taking a test drive in the used-car business.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is planning to lease property adjacent to five of its stores in the Houston area to a Connecticut-based car sales company for six months, Wal-Mart spokesman Jay Allen said Tuesday.

Allen said Wal-Mart and Asbury Automotive Inc. will then evaluate the program and decide where to go from there. Wal-Mart's only involvement will be to lease the property and help Asbury Automotive develop the program, he said.

By early May, Houston shoppers could be able to bank, get their hair done, buy groceries, new clothes and a car, gas up and go — all from the same location.

The Bentonville-based Wal-Mart and Asbury Automotive will announce later which five Wal-Mart locations in Texas will be the first to open the Price 1 Auto Stores.

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The Big Spring Herald

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IN BRIEF

Lady Hawks take flip for No. 1 seed

Howard College's Lady Hawks, co-champions in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference, won a coin flip with Midland College to claim the No. 1 seed at the NJCAA Region V Softball Tournament set for May 2-4 at Abilene Christian University.

Local angler lands trophy in S. Carolina

James Dubose of Big Spring was among 13 anglers who registered catches in the Santee Cooper Trophy Five Award program in South Carolina.

Fishing on Lake Moultrie near Santee, S.C., Dubose caught an 87-pound Arkansas blue catfish, the largest of the fish registered in the program during the first quarter of the year.

Dubose caught the big catfish using cut bait.

Softball tournament scheduled in Stanton

The 2002 Indios Softball Tournament has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday at the Stanton Softball Field.

Entry fees are \$115 and the deadline to register at team is Wednesday.

For more information, call 263-3096 or 466-1021.

Coahoma Junior High netters compete well

Coahoma Junior High School tennis players turned in a solid performance Saturday at a tournament in Andrews.

In the seventh-grade division, Callie Paige won the girls' singles title, losing just three games in four matches. Teammate Briana Thurman reached the quarterfinals before being eliminated.

The boys' doubles consolation bracket was filled with young Bulldogs as the teams of Michael Yeater and Jeremy Winn, Kamrun Green and Cody Scoggins, Josh Bales and Michael Earhart and Ryan Walker and Tyler Tucker battled for the hardware.

In boys' singles, Blaine Kerby, Jason Gonzales and Stephen Ewing reached the quarterfinals before bowing out and Curt Long reached the consolation finals.

The eighth-grade division saw Trey Chavez and Casey Richter meet in the boys' singles title game, while the doubles team of Joe Holguin and Trey Thornton reached the finals and were on its way to a win before the match was called due to inclement weather.

The junior high netters now advance to the District 3-2A tournament in Forsan this week.

ON THE AIR

Radio

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL
3:45 p.m. — Big Spring Steers at San Angelo Lake View Chiefs, KBST-AM 1490.

Television

NBA PLAYOFFS
7 p.m. — First round, Game 2, Orlando Magic at Charlotte Hornets, TBS.
9:30 p.m. — First round, Game 2, Utah Jazz at Sacramento Kings, TBS.

NHL PLAYOFFS

6 p.m. — Conference quarterfinals, Game 4, Boston Bruins at Montreal Canadiens, ESPN2.
7 p.m. — Conference quarterfinals, Game 4, St. Louis Blues at Chicago Blackhawks, ESPN.

Nets top Pacers, Sonics beat Spurs to even playoff series

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jermaine O'Neal is going to have to rethink his belief that no player can shut him down.

Kenyon Martin did just that Monday night, leading New Jersey to a 95-79 victory over Indiana and tying their best-of-five first-round series at a game apiece.

Jason Kidd had 20 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for the Nets, who won a playoff game for the first time in eight years.

"This was about us playing our basketball game," Martin said. "It wasn't about us surviving. We went out and did what we had to do to win. We went up and down the court and we let them know that this series is not going to be easy, no matter how many games it goes."

In the only other game Monday,

Seattle beat San Antonio 98-90 to even their first-round series at a game apiece.

The Pacers-Nets series shifts to Indiana for the next two games. Game 3 is Friday and Game 4 is April 30.

O'Neal scored 30 points in Game 1 to lead the Pacers to an 89-83 victory. The key matchup Monday night was between O'Neal and Martin down low.

Martin was approached earlier in the day by coach Byron Scott and asked if he wanted the challenge of guarding O'Neal — with no help. Martin, playing with a sore right wrist, gladly accepted.

"I just didn't let him catch the ball in his sweet spot, in the right blocks," Martin said. "If he got it, I contested every shot. The shots he was making in the first game, he

wasn't making."

After hitting his first shot, O'Neal missed eight of his next 10. He finished with 12 points and five fouls.

"I think he was a little frustrated. I would have been, too," said Martin, who added 19 points.

O'Neal gave Martin no credit. The Pacers, who still have home-court advantage thanks to their Game 1 victory, will have to play a lot better if they want to advance.

"We understand that all the pressure is on us in Game 3," said Reggie Miller, who led Indiana with 26 points. "They did what they had to do to tie the series and shift all the pressure back to us. It's up to us to respond."

The Nets bounced back from a jittery performance in Game 1. Keith Van Horn, who had 10 points Saturday, scored 17 this time.

Backup center Aaron Williams had 15, including six in a game-breaking run early in the fourth quarter.

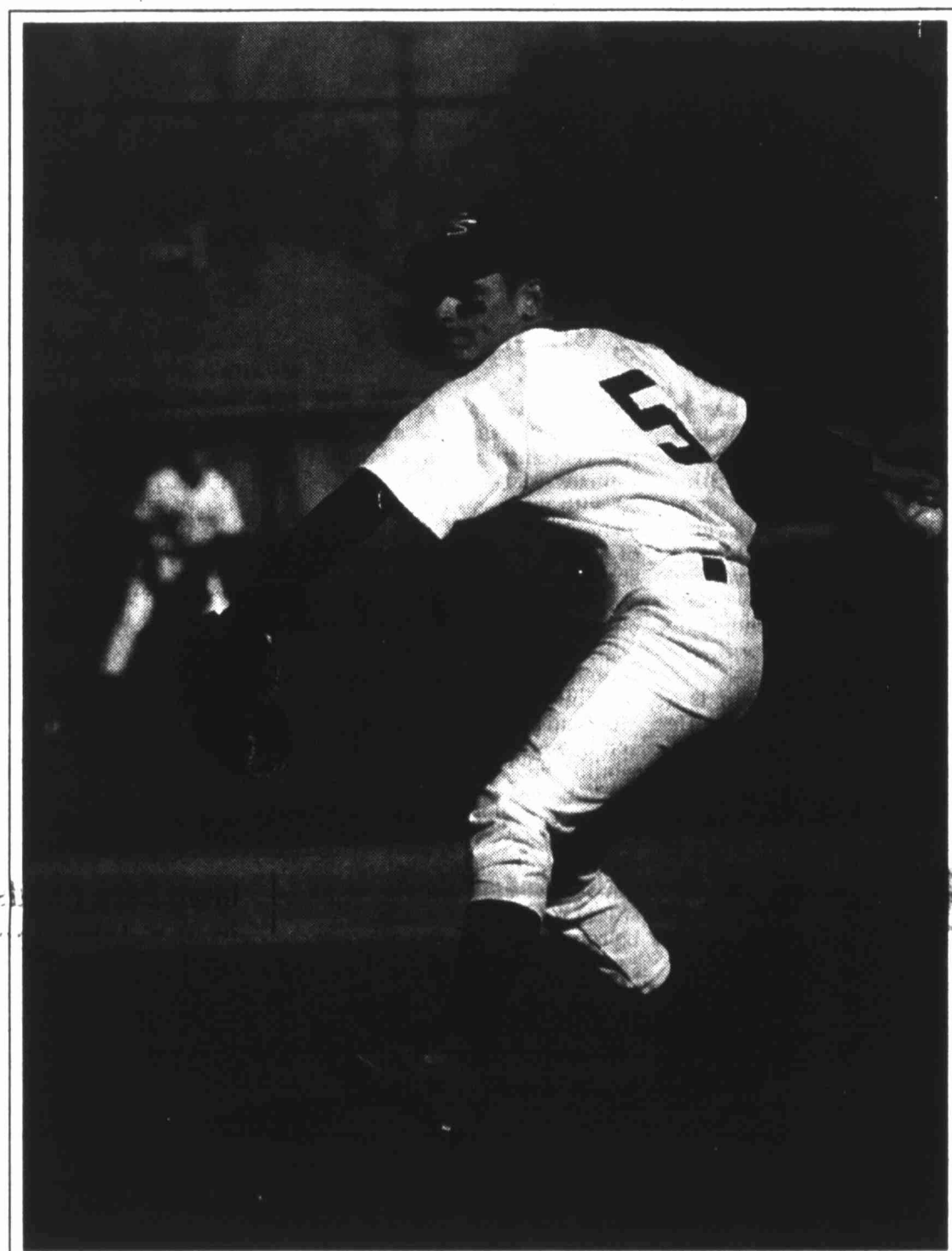
O'Neal wasn't the only Indiana big man who struggled. Brad Miller had only 10 points after scoring 18 in Game 1, and Ron Artest finished with four.

SuperSonics 98, Spurs 90

Seattle used strong inside play from Vin Baker and Rashard Lewis to win at San Antonio.

Gary Payton led the SuperSonics with 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Lewis scored 19. Baker had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

The Spurs, playing without injured center David Robinson, had their 10-game winning streak snapped and lost for the first time in 15 home games.



Big Spring's Andrew Vizcaino prepares to deliver a pitch during the sixth inning of the Steers' 7-5 win over Levelland at Steer Park. Vizcaino chalked up the win in relief of Steers starter Jon McKinnon. The Steers return to action today, traveling to San Angelo where they'll take on Lake View's Chiefs at 4 p.m. The game will be broadcast on KBST-AM 1490.

Floyd refuses to be denied homer in Marlins' 8-3 win

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cliff Floyd has a simple solution when someone denies him a homer: Just hit it a little farther next time.

Returning to the lineup after treating a mild case of tonsillitis, Floyd hit a three-run homer Monday night to clinch Florida's 8-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves.

The Marlins avoided a four-game sweep at Turner Field and snapped Atlanta's season-high four-game winning streak.

Floyd thought he had a two-run homer in the first, but B.J. Surhoff leaped above the yellow line to make a spectacular catch.

"I'm not complaining," said Floyd, who missed the two previous games because of his illness. "I just try to hit the ball good. If they rob me, I've got to hit it farther the next time."

After Preston Wilson and Derrek Lee hit two-run homers in the fifth to put the Marlins ahead, Floyd finished off the Braves in the ninth.

With two runners on and two outs, Floyd connected on a 427-foot drive to center against Kerry Ligtenberg. Andruw Jones had no chance to keep this one in the park.

For Floyd, who came into

the game having reached base in his last seven plate appearances, it was his fourth homer in four games and seventh overall.

"Oh, man, he's on fire," Wilson said. "He's fun to watch. Every at-bat, he looks like he's going to do something good."

Brad Penny (2-1) pitched six-plus innings for the win, allowing eight hits and two earned runs.

In American League games, Cleveland topped Chicago 4-2, Seattle routed Anaheim 16-5 and Kansas City beat Detroit 6-0.

The Braves squandered numerous chances. Julio Franco twice hit into inning-ending double plays with the bases loaded. In the sixth, the first two batters singled, but Javy Lopez hit into a 5-4-3 double play and Wes Helms popped out.

"I hit the ball hard, but right at people," Franco said. "All I can do is hit it. I can't guide it."

Atlanta starter Kevin Millwood (2-2) was constantly behind in the count, throwing 26 pitches in the third inning alone. He was finally chased in the fifth.

Luis Castillo singled and Wilson homered deep into the left-field seats, putting the Marlins ahead 3-2. Wilson flipped the bat away and trotted slowly to first

after connecting for his first homer since opening day; Millwood didn't even bother to look.

"That one felt pretty good," Wilson said. "I've not felt one like that in a while."

With two outs and a runner on, Lee delivered the final blow against Millwood, sending an 0-2 pitch over the wall for his fifth homer.

"I could have gotten out of that inning with no runs," Millwood said. "Putting a few pitches in different locations could have made it a whole different game."

Chipper Jones had an RBI single in the bottom half of the fifth to pull the Braves within 5-3, but he was doubled off first in the seventh when Franco lined out to second.

Franco, hitting .159, took over the cleanup spot for Gary Sheffield, who sat out because of a sore left wrist. He has missed four of the last six games.

Atlanta jumped ahead 2-0 in the first. Andruw Jones homered into the left-field seats, then Castillo stumbled over a grounder to second base to set up an unearned run, brought home by Vinny Castilla's two-out single.

The Marlins halved the lead in the third on Alex Gonzalez's RBI single.

HERALD Staff Reports

SAN ANGELO — While most of District 4-4A's tennis players saw their seasons come to a close Monday, three Big Spring Steers players still had their sights set on earning a state tournament berth today after taking wins in the opening rounds of the Region I, Class 4A Tennis Tournament at the Bentwood Country Club.

Steers singles entry Jay Shroff, the tournament's No. 4 seed, and the No. 2 seeded doubles team of Alex Edgemon and Derek DeHoyos were still in contention going into today's semifinals matches.

Edgemon and DeHoyos gave up just seven games in their first two matches, knocking off Grapevine's Travis Fulton and Trent Wilhelm 6-3, 6-1 in the opening round and then dominating the Burleson duo of Ryan Banning and Luke Beazley 6-0, 6-3 in the quarterfinals.

They now must face No. 1-seeded David Barrett and Jared King of Wichita Falls Rider, who were even more dominant in the first two rounds, losing only four games.

Edgemon and DeHoyos aren't bowed at the prospect of facing the top seed, however.

"As long as we're playing like we should, we should win," DeHoyos told sports writers following the team's quarterfinals victory. "Both of us serve really good. We always win our serves. We just need to focus on our returns."

The other doubles quarterfinal had No. 2-seeded Allen Flack and Dale Murdoch of Rider taking on fourth-seeded Jay Gerber and David Thacker of Pampa.

The top two singles and doubles teams advance to the state tournament in Austin in two weeks.

Shroff, the 4-4A boys' singles champion, is the region's No. 4 seed. He opened the tournament with a 6-0, 6-2 win over Justin Northwest's Joel Marion.

His quarterfinals match with Pampa's A.J. Smith proved to be much more difficult, as he was required to rally from a 3-6 loss in the first set. He advanced to today's semifinals with 6-2 and 6-3 wins in the final two sets.

Shroff said it took him a few minutes to get used to Smith's aggressive style. "The first set he came out real fiery," the Steers junior explained. "He was going for winners and he was making them. It just took me a while to get used to it. I started getting in a rhythm and started hitting the shots I could. That was

the difference."

Shroff now has the unenviable task of facing top-seeded Andrew Ulrich of Wichita Falls High in the semifinals. Ulrich, a senior, is gunning for his fourth straight state tournament trip.

"I lost to him earlier in the fall, so I have a pretty good idea of how to play him," Shroff said of Ulrich. "He beat me like 6-1, 6-1. He's not overpowering, but he's just a really smart player."

"I don't have to go in with everyone expecting me to win," Shroff added. "There's no pressure to perform. I just need to play my game."

Big Spring's Jake Smiley also opened regional play with a win, defeating Southlake Carroll's Brian Moe 6-3, 6-2. But Wichita Falls High's No. 3-seeded Ian Bradburn proved to be too much to handle in the quarterfinals.

In girls' singles, Lady Steers' freshman Veronica Villarreal was eliminated in the opening round Monday, suffering a 6-0, 6-2 loss to No. 3 seed Ashley Ellis of Amarillo Caprock.

Simmons posts 77 in golf's first round

In the Region I, Class 4A Golf Tournament which finished staged on the Quicksand Golf Course, Big Spring's Jerrod Simmons posted a 5-over-par 77 during first-round play on Monday and headed into today's final round.

Simmons is six strokes off the 1-under-par pace set by Andrews' Paul Slaughter and Wichita Falls Rider's Paul Slaughter Monday.

In the team standings, Rider jumped out to a three-stroke lead following the first 18 holes of play, posting a team total of 298, while Granbury finished at 301.

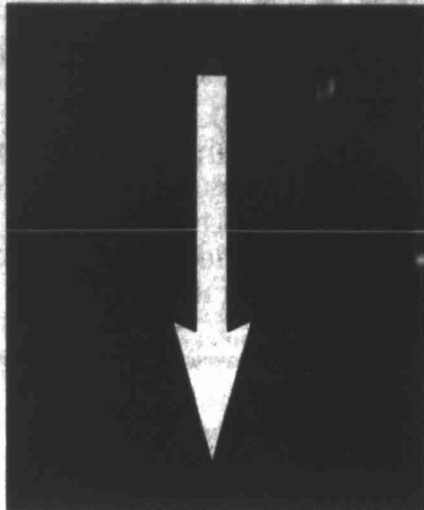
Southlake Carroll's "A" team was third with a 303 score.

District 4-4A champion Snyder was another stroke back at 304.

Fort Worth Arlington Heights, which finished at 308 Monday, appears to be the only other team capable of rallying to finish in the top two spots and earn a trip to the Class 4A state tournament in Austin.

Other scores included Burleson's 313, Canyon Randall's 315, South Lake Carroll "B" team's 319, Wichita Falls High's 321, Dumas' 330, Pecos' "A" team at 342, El Paso Burges' 350, Fort Worth Western Hills' 360, El Paso Yaleta's 387 and the Pecos "B" team's 398.

Winds could be somewhat of a problem for some of the teams from the eastern part of the region today.



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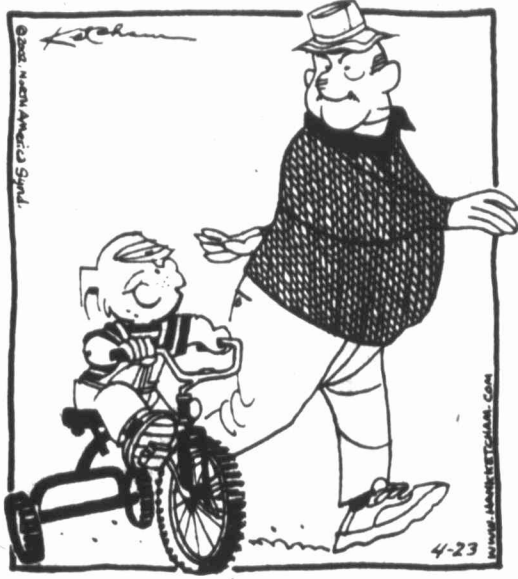
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TUESDAY

APR. 23

Table with 20 columns (KMD, KPEJ, KERA, FAM, KOSA, WFAA, KWES, WTBS, UNI, DISN, NASH, TMC, SHOW, HBO, KMLM, A&E, DISC, TNT, TLC) and 7 rows (6-12 PM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"NEED A LIFT, MR. WILSON?"

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"Why is he vacuuming Daddy's clothes?"

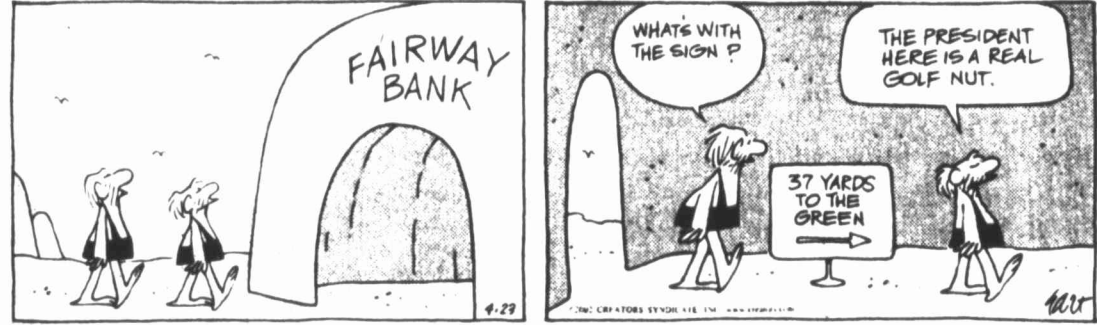
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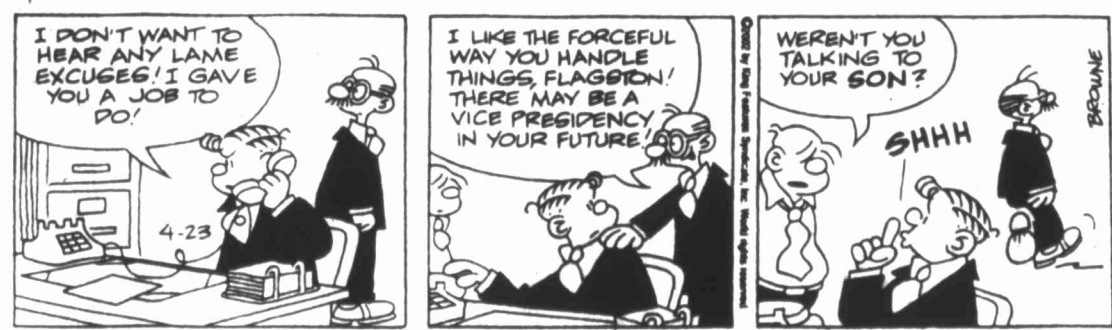
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HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, April 23, the 113th day of 2002. There are 252 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

April 23, 1564, is believed to be the birthdate of English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare; he died 52 years later, also on April 23.

In 1348, King Edward III of England established the Order of the Garter.

In 1789, President-elect Washington and his wife moved into the first executive mansion, the Franklin House, in New York.

In 1791, the 15th president of the United States, James Buchanan, was born in Franklin County, Pa.

In 1896, the Vitascoper system for projecting movies onto a screen was demonstrated in New York City.

In 1899, Russian-American

author Vladimir Nabokov was born in St. Petersburg.

In 1940, about 200 people died in a dance hall fire in Natchez, Miss.

In 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

In 1985, the Coca-Cola Co. announced it was changing the secret flavor formula for Coke (negative public reaction forced the company to resume selling the original version).

In 1995, sportscaster Howard Cosell died in New York at age 77.

In 1998, James Earl Ray, who confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville hospital at age 70.

Ten years ago: Fighting erupted in the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo just hours after the warring parties signed a truce amid sniper fire. McDonald's opened its first fast-food restaurant in

the Chinese capital of Beijing.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Janet Blair is 81. Actress-turned-diplomat Shirley Temple Black is 74. Actor Alan Oppenheimer is 72. Actor David Birney is 63. Actor Lee Majors is 63. Actress Sandra Dee is 60. Irish nationalist Bernadette Devlin McAliskey is 55. Actress Blair Brown is 54. Writer-director Paul Brickman is 53. Actress Joyce DeWitt is 53. Actor James Russo is 49. Actress Judy Davis is 47. Actress Jan Hooks is 45. Actress Valerie Bertinelli is 42. Actor Craig Sheffer is 42. Rock musician Gen is 38. Actor Scott Bairstow is 32.

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

Newsday Crossword MATCHING MONOGRAMS by R. Hartman Edited by Stanley Newman

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.