

BIG SPRING HERALD

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We're Always There

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY

February 26, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY
TONIGHT TOMORROW
34°-36° 62°-64°

BRIEFLY

HEALTH FAIR BOOTHS

Friday is the last day to receive a discount on a booth for the March 29 Health Fair, slated again at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Through Friday, booths can be reserved for \$75. After that, the price goes up to \$100. Booth reservations end on March 7. To reserve a booth, call the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641.

INSIDE

CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

There are a few seats left for those who want to sign up for the Big Spring Police Department's Citizen's Police Academy, which begins Thursday night. **Page 5**

COMING SUNDAY



For the last seven years, Max Reynolds of Lexington, Neb., has traveled the rodeo circuit portraying Buffalo Bill Cody, bringing the Wild West legend to life with thrilling accuracy.

Finance: Don't take credit for granted. Your credit rating affects your ability to buy a home, a car, and more. What is your credit rating? How do you find out, and why should you check it?

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Vol. 99A, No. 96

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Board hopes TEA can resolve differences

"I felt like the board had lost sight of some governance issues."

I don't think this particular issue is going to resolve itself."



Terry Wegman

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer
Several Big Spring Independent School District trustees are hoping a Texas Education Agency investigation over governance issues of the board may help quell the board's ongoing controversy.

"I welcome the TEA visit because I have done absolutely nothing wrong," said Trustee Kent Sharp. "I have tried to represent the district with integrity, with fairness and with an open

mind."

Referring to "the serious nature of the complaint" filed by BSISD board vice president Terry Wegman, the agency has scheduled an on-site investigation during the week of March 17-21.

Wegman's complaint refers to "a definite split" among board members as to how the school district should be managed. He noted that "votes of any significance" have been split 4-3 for the past seven months.

Specifically, Wegman charges that attempts by the other four trustees to "micromanage" the district prompted BSISD Superintendent Murray Murray's retirement as well as retirements or resignations of the district's assistant superintendent, director of technology, vocational director and high school vice principal.

He also claims that the other four members of the board — Sharp, Alan

See **TEA**, Page 3

"I'm disappointed by some of the school board members' reactions to decisions made by the majority after honoring the right of individual members to express their opinion..."



Alan Sharp



Dr. Seuss is for the birds. Of course it is. Bebe McCasland, a Big Spring licensed bird rehabilitator, reads a few of the famous author's stories while Howard County Children's Librarian Karen McIntyre and Theodore listen intently. McCasland will be the guest speaker Monday during the library's puppet show to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. The theme for this year's event is "Dr. Seuss is for the Birds." Theodore will be showing off his "considerable" knowledge of birds. The event begins at 4:30 p.m. in the children's room of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main St.

Moore group to hear report on 4B projects

By **ROGER CLINE**

Staff Writer

A report from the 4B Project Committee is among the agenda items for the Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. board when it convenes this evening.

The board will meet at 5:15 p.m. at the Moore Development offices, 215 W. Third St.

The 4B Project Committee discussed pros and cons of various proposed community improvement projects and formed small subcommittees to study three of them, as well as a subcommittee to sort through other incoming projects presented by area residents.

"We discussed several projects and kind of focused on three of them, those being the Comanche Trail Park Amphitheater, and then the Comanche Trail Golf Course and the lake," said Committee

INFORMATION

What Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. is holding.

Where Moore Development offices, 215 W. Third St.

When 5:15 p.m. tonight.

Chairman and Moore Board President Tim Blackshear. "We formed three subcommittees to study those projects a little more closely. We also formed a subcommittee to look at the proposals coming in from the public. We don't want to just discount them or say, 'We don't like those ideas.' Ideas voiced at the meeting for improvements included ways to control access to the facility, better parking, lighting and sound systems and restrooms.

Another concept dealt with regards to the

See **MOORE**, Page 3

Big Spring man dies in house fire Tuesday

By **ROGER CLINE**

Staff Writer

A Big Spring man perished in a house fire Tuesday morning.

The fire broke out about 3 a.m. at the home of Thomas Mitchell, 78, in the 400 block of Northeast 11th Street.

"The house was pretty much fully engulfed upon our arrival," said Fire Marshal Carl Condray. "The investigation revealed that the fire started in

the kitchen area with a hot plate that had been turned on and left unattended. I don't know if he had been using it to heat with or cook with or whatever. We didn't find any other vessels, so we believe it was a heating application."

Condray said three fire engines, a deputy chief and a medical unit, as well as Chief Brian Jensen and himself, responded to the fire.

"There was concern about whether it was going to spread to a neighboring structure, but we

See **FIRE**, Page 3

Council passes parking ordinance on first reading

By **ROGER CLINE**

Staff Writer

Despite several people speaking out against the measure, the Big Spring City Council passed on first reading an ordinance regulating how area residents can park on their front lawns.

The council unanimously passed a slightly amended version of the proposed ordinance, which will require residents desiring to park on unpaved areas of their property to file a designated parking area with the city.

The amendment to the proposal changed the definition of

"The fact that it was a unanimous vote indicates that a lot of work went into this ordinance and that there was a great deal of compromise."



Mayor Russ V. Lee

"paved surface" to include an

See **PARKING**, Page 5

College trustees hold off on contract renewals

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

Facing uncertain state funding, Howard College trustees on Monday opted to postpone renewing contracts for the district administrative officers.

"The board has decided to delay the appointments due to the fact

we're looking at every job description, evaluating everyone's work level," said Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks. "We're looking at everything that's a part of the college's expenditure. Let me say, this is not a reflection on any of the individuals."

Howard College, along with the rest of the state's educational entities, are preparing for several different cost-cutting scenarios in anticipation of how

legislators in Austin will work out next year's funding.

While waiting for the next indication of where funding maybe heading, the college is preparing a worst case scenario plan.

"Our policy is to look at cost before we raise the cost to our students and taxpayers," Sparks said.

Facing an almost \$10 million state budget shortfall, state entities have been preparing for cuts not only for the next

funding year but also for this year. Gov. Perry has voiced his determination to streamline the budget before looking at revue enhancements.

Community colleges may not have a strong indication about the next two year's funding until late in April, May or even later, Sparks said.

She added the administration will see a few changes next year.

John Jasper, provost of the San Angelo campus,

will leave the college at the end of the year. Jasper and his wife will be moving to Tennessee to join their children.

Also Cindy Stokes, dean of nursing and division director of allied health, will change positions to coordinator of the district nursing program and Jerrie Farmer, dental hygiene instructor and clinical director, will take over additional responsibilities.

See **COLLEGE**, Page 5

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A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Obituaries

Manuel R. Flores



Manuel R. Flores, 80, of Big Spring, died at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil Services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers and Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Rev. Felix Cubelo officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born Feb. 14, 1923, at Seguin. He married Ofilia Rocha on Sept. 3, 1941, in Corpus Christi. They came to Big Spring in 1960. Mr. Flores was a barber having worked at the Big Spring State Hospital and the Veterans Administration Medical Center. He also owned Manuel Flores Barber Shop. He was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He was a Cursillista, and a member of The St. Joseph's Society. He had also served as secretary-treasurer of St. Thomas and later Sacred Heart Catholic churches.

He is survived by his wife, Ofilia Flores of Big Spring; one son, Juan Flores and his wife Karen of Ft. Smith, Ark.; seven daughters, Oralia Tobias and her husband John, Angie Foster, Anita Massey and Geraldine Lopez, all of Big Spring, Mary Powell and her husband Loren of Salina, Kan., Margie Martinez and her husband Johnny of Fort Worth, and Daisy Battles of Fallbrook, Calif.; two sisters: Maria Flores and her husband Martin of Stafford and Adela Gonzales and her husband Fabien of Corpus Christi; 36 grandchildren; 70 great grandchildren; and six great great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Margarita Ramos Flores; his father, Faustino Flores; one brother, Antonio Flores; one sister, Refugia Rojas; and one son in law, Marcy Lopez.

Pallbearers will be John Paul Foster, Stephen Battles, Jeremy Martinez, Juan Flores Jr., Luis Martinez III and Santos Martinez. Honorary pallbearers will be Marcy Garcia, Israel Martinez, Justin Martinez, Johnny Martinez Jr., Rene Garcia, Joey Munoz, III and Jonah Flores.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

Paul E. Payne



Paul E. Payne, RN, 68, of Big Spring, died on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2003, at his residence. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2003, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Rev. Tony Conger, pastor of Westvica Church of God in Odessa and Rev. Eugene Ballard, pastor of College Park Church of God in Big Spring, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born on June 1, 1934 in Washington, D.C. He married Marjorie Gilmore in Granville, N.D. and she preceded him in death on May 11, 1996. He then married Ruby Weatherby on June 15, 2001, in Big Spring.

Paul served in the United States Air Force for over 20 years, retiring as a Tech Sergeant on March 31, 1975. He worked as a registered nurse at Hall-Bennett Hospital from 1983 to 1989 and then worked at Scenic Mountain Medical Center until retiring on Sept. 18, 2000.

Paul was loved by all who met him and he loved jokes and passing out candy. His purpose in life was caring for others. He was a member of College Park Church of God.

Survivors include his wife, Ruby Payne of Big Spring; two step-sons, David Payne of Phoenix, Ariz., and Sherman Moseley of Big Spring; two brothers, James L. Payne and George Payne, both of Maryland; and four sisters, Frances Sabatini, Elizabeth Costello, Mary Schorr and Dorothy Bradley, all of Maryland.

He was preceded in death by a step-daughter, Deborah Templeton and by a brother, Robert Payne.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwech.com

Lottery

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-4-3

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 6-7-23-26-34

The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery: 15-26-29-30
Bonus number 28
Estimated jackpot: \$200,000

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday afternoon by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-6-6

Take note

↓ BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING counties are in critical need of foster families.

Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused and neglected.

For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

↓ SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy.

Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

Thomas Mitchell

Thomas Mitchell, 78, of Big Spring, died on Tuesday, February 25, 2003, at his residence. Graveside funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 28, 2003, in Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

He was born on Feb. 12, 1925, in Lake Providence, La. Survivors include one son, Tommy Lee Mitchell of Big Spring and two grandsons.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwech.com

John J. Wilson

John J. Wilson, 76, of Forsan, died on Monday, Feb. 24, 2003, in a Big Spring hospital. Memorial services will be at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, 2003, at the Forsan Baptist Church.

He was born on May 4, 1926 in Belpre, Kan., and married Donna Rae Ebbers on Nov. 22, 1953, in Hysham, Mont. John was raised in Kansas and had lived and farmed in Hysham, Mont., for a number of years. In 1960, he moved to Abilene and sold life insurance for American National Life Insurance Company in the Abilene and Big Spring area for 11 years. He then moved to Forsan in 1981 and worked for Forsan ISD in the maintenance department, retiring in 1988. He was a member of Forsan Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Donna Rae Wilson of Forsan; four daughters, Karen O'Donnell and husband, Scott of Baker, Mont., Kathleen Pickett and husband, Benny, and Kay Sutton and husband, Wayne, all of Jacksboro, and Kristi Mereness and husband, Don of Forsan; two sons, Loren Wilson and wife, Cindy of Forsan and Wayne Wilson and wife, Dena of Big Spring; 13 grandchildren; and three great grandchildren; and one sister, Helen Morrill and husband, Doug of Phoenix, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Wallace Wilson and Loren Wilson; and two sisters, Wilhelmina Stephensen and Margaret Hull.

The family suggests memorials to: American Lung Association of Texas, P. O. Box 26460, Austin, 78755-0460.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwech.com

Weather

Tonight. Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday. Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. West winds 10 to 15 mph. Thursday night. Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Friday. Mostly clear. Highs in the mid 60s.

Saturday. Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the mid 60s.

Sunday. Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. Highs in the lower 60s.

Police blotter

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

• **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1000 block of South Gregg Street, the 1800 block of South Gregg Street.

• **DISTURBANCE OR FIGHT** was reported in the 3600 block of South Highway 87, the 1400 block of Donley Street.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1700 block of Wasson Road.

• **LOUD PARTY/NOISE** was reported in the 600 block of Colgate Avenue.

• **ANIMAL PROBLEM** was reported in the 4200 block of Birch Street.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:

- In the 1000 block of South Birdwell Lane. A red 1998 Dodge reportedly sustained \$250 damage in the incident. Items worth \$200 were reported stolen.

- In the 300 block of Tulane Road. Damage was reported to a motel in the area.

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity over the weekend:

• **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON:** 2

• **AGGRAVATED SEXUAL ASSAULT:** 1

• **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE:** 2

• **ASSAULT:** 2

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING:** 1

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION:** 2

• **BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE:** 4

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:** 8

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS:** 2

• **DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED:** 1

• **DRIVING WITH AN INVALID LICENSE:** 2

• **DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE BY A MINOR:** 1

• **FORGERY:** 1

• **POSSESSION OF DRUGS:** 4

• **RUNAWAY:** 1

• **THEFT:** 14

- Convenience Store Thefts: 13

- Beer thefts: 1

- Gasoline drive-offs: 12

• **UNLAWFUL CARRYING OF A WEAPON:** 1

• **VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER:** 1

• **INCIDENTS:** 10

• **ACCIDENTS:** 8

- Major: 4

- Minor: 4

• **ARRESTS:** 18

Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald Features Desk at 263-7331, ext. 238 or email jmoseley@crcom.net.

WEDNESDAY

Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard County Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Senior Circle, Stretch and Tone, 9:30 a.m., SMMC classroom.

Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Line Dancing, 1 p.m., Spring City Senior Center, Industrial Park, 267-6966 or 267-1628.

Duplicate Bridge Club, 1 p.m., Big Spring Country Club, Driver Road.

Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 203 W. Third.

THURSDAY

Gideon International, Big Spring Camp, U42060, 7 a.m., Herman's Restaurant, 1601 Gregg St.

Coffee Club, 10 a.m., Gale's Sweet Shoppe, 1706 E. FM-700.

Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 267-6479.

Friends of the Howard County Library, noon, Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

Big Spring Main St., noon, Rail Road Museum, Second St. and Main.

Duplicate Bridge Club, 1 p.m., Big Spring Country Club, Driver Road.

Citizen's Police Academy Association, 5:30 p.m. RSVP office, 501 Runnels.

Arts, Craft and Quilting Club, 6 p.m., Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

American Legion Post 506, 6 p.m., call 263-2084.

Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Vets of America, 7 p.m., 309 S. Main, Sparenberg Building.

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

FRIDAY
AMBUCS, noon, Brandin Iron Inn, 3101 S. Highway 87.

Greater Big Spring Rotary, noon, Howard College, HC Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

Duplicate Bridge Club, 1 p.m., Big Spring Country Club, Driver Road.

Spring City Senior Citizen's Country and Western Dance, 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., Spring City Senior Center, Industrial Park. All area seniors are invited.

Correction

The headline of story Sunday about the Herald's Carrier of the Month for February incorrectly listed the carrier's last name as "Cracker." The Herald's Carrier of the Month for February is Sonny Crocker. Crocker began selling the Herald for 5 cents at the Settles Hotel as a child.

A story in Tuesday's Big Spring Herald announcing W.A. "Woody" Jumper's candidacy for Big Spring City Council Place 2 incorrectly stated that Jumper has been Howard County Republican Party Chairman. Jumper, a Democrat, has been Howard County's Democratic Party Chairman for several years.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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Reflecting A Proud Community

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TEA

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MOORE

Continued from

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Moore Director Kent he has prev formed in "T familiar with requirements show. Sharp that it would million dolla vate the ar and the surro to host a pro similar scale.

Committee discussed sev with regards ing the mu course in Con Park. Big Sp Works Dire Darden was ing, and said looked at opti pletely rebu course over a year, two years.

Darden sai vating the co course of a would be tl

FIRE

Continued from

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The fire, v hammers ho about fire sa said.

"Since I've marshal, I cr about half a we've had v have tried t houses wi appliances c devices," he just not a

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Condray s appliances designed to heaters.

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TEA

Continued from Page 1

Partee, Mike Dawson and Phil Furqueron — failed to hire a qualified individual as an elementary school principal simply "to show the administration who had the power or control." Wegman also questioned the process by which the board hired a law firm in January and the implementation of a seven single-member election scheme.

"My letter to Texas Education Agency was trying to point out events that had happened and try to give the facts," Wegman said. "I felt like the board had lost sight of some governance issues. I don't think this particular issue is going to resolve itself. I felt our governing

board, which is the TEA, needed to evaluate the situation and to see if we do have a governance problem."

"I'm disappointed by some of the school board members reactions to decisions made by the majority after honoring the right of individual members to express their opinion, their view points in a public meeting, and voting their convictions," Trustee Mike Dawson said.

"Boards made up of independent thinkers do not always result in a unanimous vote, nor should a governmental body that continues to rehash past decisions expect to effectively meet the challenges of the

future," he said.

Trustee Irene Bustamante and Board President Frank Long also signed the complaint submitted by Wegman.

"I want to make it understood, this is my opinion of what is happening in our district," said Bustamante. "I feel very strongly our board needs to be looked at. We are a divided board. Our morale is low in our school district and for a lot of reasons we desperately need help.

"Our district is hurting right now," Bustamante continued. "We need to keep focused on our students and put our priorities where they are supposed to be — on our children first, our school dis-

trict and our community. With TEA coming in I feel like this is very serious and important and I hope that through this visit the results will be positive and good."

Board President Frank Long declined to comment on the situation. Furqueron declined to comment until speaking with the district lawyers. Attempts to reach Partee were unsuccessful.

The on-site investigation will include interviews of members of the board, administrators, staff and other persons who might be able to assist with the investigation. The investigating

team will also review minutes and agendas from board meetings, board policies, communications files, news articles and other pertinent documents.

TEA Senior Director of Communications Debbie Ratcliffe said following the visit that the agency will submit a written preliminary report. The district will have time to appeal the preliminary findings if it so chooses. A final report will then be issued.

A variety of outcomes can occur from the investigation, Ratcliffe said, including a simple dismissal of the complaint, a

requirement that board members receive more training, assignment of a monitor to the board or appointment of a "master" with the ability to overrule board decisions.

MYERS & SMITH
FUNERAL HOME
& CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Manuel R. Flores, 80, died Monday. Vigil services will be 7:00 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral mass will be 10:30 a.m. Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

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MOORE

Continued from Page 1

amphitheater is the possibility of using it to stage a large ongoing theatrical production similar to the "Texas" musical theater show regularly performed in Palo Duro Canyon.

Moore Executive Director Kent Sharp said he has previously performed in "Texas" and is familiar with some of the requirements of such a show. Sharp estimated that it would cost several million dollars to renovate the amphitheater and the surrounding area to host a production on a similar scale.

Committee members discussed several options with regards to improving the municipal golf course in Comanche Trail Park. Big Spring Public Works Director Todd Darden was at the meeting, and said the city has looked at options for completely rebuilding the course over the course of a year, two years or six years.

Darden said that renovating the course over the course of a single year would be the cheapest

option at about \$1.7 million, but would require the course to completely close during that year.

The two-year option would cost an extra \$200,000 and would renovate nine holes of the course each year.

The six-year option would weigh in at about \$2.5 million, Darden said, and would renovate three holes per year.

Several members of the committee questioned the logic of considering a 4B project for Moore Development to renovate the golf course when the city is already investigating the project.

Ideas discussed for Comanche Trail Lake included creation of a beach area to allow public swimming, picnic pavilions and appropriate trash receptacles around the lake and canoe rentals.

Committee members also discussed other possibilities, such as providing infrastructure for a hotel or cabana-style lodgings within or near the park.

Moore Development is a

4A economic development corporation, which means that its primary focus is providing economic incentives to lure industries and businesses to locate in Big Spring as well as to keep existing ventures in the area.

Moore Development levies a 1/2-cent sales tax in the city to fund its projects.

Moore's 4A tax money could be used for 4B community improvement projects if the projects are approved by a voter referendum. The 4B Project Committee is set up to explore this option.

In other business tonight, the Moore Board will

- Hold an executive session to consider purchase of a building and to consider offering of financial or other incentives to a business prospect
- Hear a report from Sharp on prospect leads, goals, the Community Network Grant and a business retention survey.
- Consider the January financials and investment report

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

were able to keep all the fire damage contained to this one property," Condray said.

The fire, while tragic, hammers home a lesson about fire safety, Condray said.

"Since I've been fire marshal, I can tell you of about half a dozen fires we've had where people have tried to heat their houses with cooking appliances or makeshift devices," he said. "It's just not a safe practice. You don't cook with a heating appliance and you don't heat with a cooking appliance."

Condray said cooking appliances aren't designed to be used as heaters.

"It's the things around them," he said. "If people leave burners on and things brush up against them, like towels or paper towels or things like that, they can catch fire. People will use gas stoves that have open flames. These open flames, they're not like the open flames that are contained inside a furnace heat chamber. They're just out in the atmosphere."

Even enclosed cooking

ovens aren't safe to use as space heaters, he said.

"People will leave their oven doors open," he said. "Well, ovens are designed with chimneys and flues and the heat will escape

through those flues.

When you have the door shut, the flue will draw like it's supposed to. If you open that door up, heat can come across different surfaces."

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**The Big Spring
Prospector's
Club**

34th Annual
Gem and Mineral
Show

March 1 and 2, 2003
Saturday 9:00 AM...5:00 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM...5:00 PM

Howard County Fair Barn
Big Spring, Texas

Dealers, Demonstrators, Displays
Spinning Wheel, Prizes, Snack Bar

FREE ADMISSION

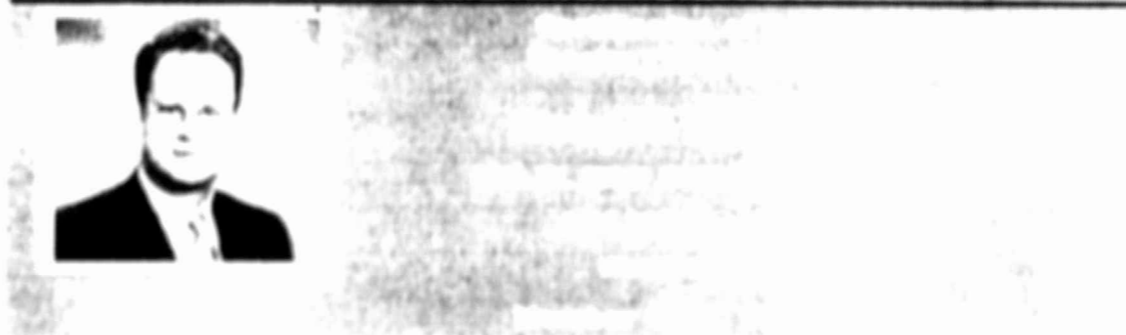
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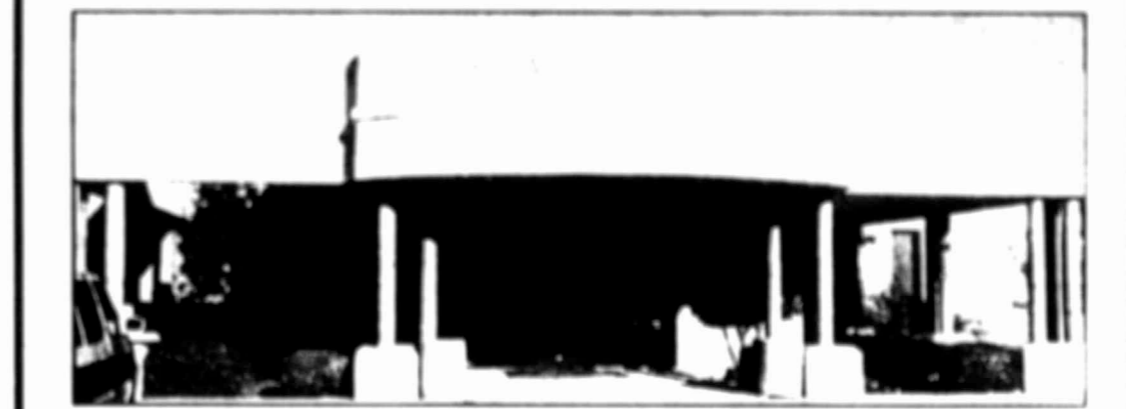
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Donald Ferguson, M.D., Internal Medicine
Juan Gonzalez, M.D., Internal Medicine

Keith Ledford, M.D., Board Certified, OB/GYN
Alfonso Preciado, M.D., Board Certified, Gen. Surgery

FEBRUARY 26, 2003

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.

Hank Bond
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Be careful with cold weather heating choices

Tuesday's tragic fire which took the life of a Howard County resident should be a reminder to us all to exercise caution as we find ourselves in the grasp of colder temperatures.

Each year, homes and lives are lost because of faulty cords, badly positioned space heaters, candles left burning or appliances misused. In almost every case, these types of fires can be prevented.

This is the time of year when some people use extreme methods for heating their homes. Hot plates, ovens and stoves are meant to be a temporary source for cooking and heating food, not to supply warmth for a room. They are extremely dangerous when unattended.

Old or frayed cords are another source for fire, or at the very least a bad shock. So check those cords regularly, along with appliances, particularly electric blankets and space heaters.

In our effort to stay warm, we sometimes drag out a space heater to heat up the bathroom or utility room. But it's easy to toss a towel or clothes down in front of one without thinking. If you must use one of these portable heaters, do so with extreme caution. Many have a thermostat and can appear off when they're not. They must be kept out of the way of any flammable material, and, of course, any source of water.

Bundling up under blankets may not provide the most warmth, but it's certainly better than taking a chance on a fire. Odds are, if you do, you'll lose.

Finally, make sure you have smoke detectors in working order and that each has fresh batteries. Have a plan so that every family member knows how and where to exit the home in case of a fire.

Thankfully, spring is just around the corner. In the meantime, on these cold nights let's put safety first.

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 263-7205
- By e-mail to Publisher Hank Bond at publisher@crcom.net, Managing Editor John Moseley at jmosley@crcom.net or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

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 jmosley@crcom.net

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, even during periods of strife we receive your blessings, your mercy and the promise of a brighter tomorrow. Amen

Time to consider retirement bills

You ain't no John Snow when it comes to pensions. Snow, our new treasury secretary, was CEO of the railroad company CSX Corp. and got a platinum parachute when he bailed. He gets \$2.47 million a year for life in retirement benefits. This package was based on the premise that he'd worked for the company for 41 years, even though he'd been there only 25. Now that's creative accounting.



MOLLY IVINS

Plus, CSX decided to let him factor in the stock benefits he had received as regular income, instead of just salary, as is normally done. At the same time CSX was giving Snow this lovely deal, it was cutting the health benefits in its retirement plan for lesser workers. Since Secretary Snow is now in charge of pension policy at the Treasury, can we look forward to similar deals for ourselves? Nope, we're in the class that gets the cuts.

The Bush administration has a plan (those are rapidly becoming the six most chilling words in the English language) to do improve your pension. It allows companies to switch from traditional fixed-benefit retirement plans to what's called the cash-balance pension plan. You will be unsurprised to learn that corporations just love it because it saves them millions of dollars a year, as much as \$100 million in the case of huge companies.

Under the administration's proposed rules, companies can cut

away at the retirement benefits they owe workers by using "reasonable" interest rates and mortality rates to calculate the value of a pension as the company converts to the cash-balance scheme. Presto: Hey, look honey, I shrunk your retirement package.

The cash-balance plan is particularly harmful to older workers, so if you've got any gray hair, you might want to take a look at what they're about to do to you. Under fixed-benefit plans, retirement is based on the employee's salary and years of work at the company. This gives older workers a chance to rack up benefits. When companies started switching to cash-balance plans, the AARP, the Pension Rights Center, the AFL-CIO and other groups set up a mighty holler. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission received over 800 age-discrimination complaints. As a result, the IRS stopped approving these conversions in 1999.

But the Bush administration, operating on its cardinal principle

Whatever Bill Clinton Did Was Wrong has naturally decided to reverse course. If Clinton did it, it can't be good (and what splendid results they've gotten so far), so the new rules will give companies that convert to cash-balance plans a tax advantage, as well as giving them protection from age-discrimination suits. Don't you love it? The perfect Bush plan: They get to screw workers and get a tax break, and nobody is allowed to sue.

More than 200 members of Congress have written Bush asking him not to let the proposed rules become law. The General Accounting Office did a study

showing that annual pension benefits of older workers can drop by as much as 50 percent under the new plan.

There is a 90-day period for "public comments" on the proposed rules, and it might well behoove you to put pen to paper over this one. The public comment period ends March 13. You can call the Treasury Department at (202) 622-6090 or 6030 to find how to submit a comment. The Communication Workers of America website also has some how-to advice: It's at www.allianceibm.org/pension/treasuryletters.htm.

Rep. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent, has a bill to require companies that are going to convert to allow their employees to choose which plan works best for them. The bill requires companies to provide workers detailed information that allows them to make an apples-to-apples comparison.

If you're wondering why you haven't heard much about this, let me suggest two reasons. One is that TV news is in its one-story, Dead Diana mode: All they have time for is Iraq and the occasional nightclub fire. The second is the consequence of having all the media owned by a few giant corporations. It is not in the interest of these corporations to have such news widely reported.

Am I suggesting (gasp!) censorship? Nope, just that even though this affects millions of people, those millions are not a large percentage of the total television audience, and pension de-form is not as gripping as war or nightclub fires. That's the way media gigantism affects news. You can't save your pension with duct tape, so get on this.

ADDRESSES

• GEORGE W. BUSH

President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

• RICK PERRY

Governor
State Capitol, Room 25 1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202 224 5922

• TEEL BIVINS

Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
Phone: 268 9909; (915) 563 0031, (915) 682 0455, (512) 463 0131.

• PETE LANEY

Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463 0604

HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE — 264 2200.

BEN LOCKHART, COUNTY JUDGE — Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.

EMMA BROWN — Home: 267-2649.

JERRY KILGORE — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

BILL CROOKER — Home: 263-2566.

GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0269; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.

BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

RUSS MCEWEN, MAYOR — Home: 263-0907; Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413.

GREG BIDDISON — Home: 267-6009; Work (Ponderosa Restaurant): 267-7121.

OSCAR GARCIA, MAYOR PRO TEM — Home: 264-0026; Work (Cornell Corrections): 268-1227.

STEPHANIE HORTON

Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361.

JOANN STAULCUP — Home: 263-4980.

TOMMY TUNE — Home: 267-4652; Work (Howard College): 264-5000.

JOANN SMOOT — Home: 267-6965; Work (BSISD): 264-3600.



"Well, this little piggy went 'Ha, ha, ha' all the way to the bank after suing the pants off of the big, bad wolf for property damage due to wrongful 'huffing and puffing.'"

Doing research on presidents native to the Lone Star State

Texas has provided the United States with four presidents: Eisenhower, Johnson, Bush and Bush.

Since we celebrate presidents during the month of February, I thought it might be interesting to see how many towns in Texas have the same names as former



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

presidents.

Research indicates there are more than forty cities and towns in the Lone Star State that have the name of a former president in them. Here they are: Washington and Washington County, Adams Gardens, Adams Store, Adamsville, Jefferson and Jefferson County, Madisonville, Monroe and Monroe City. Two towns named Jackson, Jackson County, Jacksonville, Harrison, Tyler, Tyler County, Taylor, Taylorsville, Taylor County, Taylor Lake Village, Taylor Town.

Pierce, Buchanan Lake Village, Lincoln, Lincoln Park, Polk County, Johnson, Johnson County, Johnson City, Garfield, Cleveland, Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, Coolidge, Hoover, Nixon, Ford, Camp Ford, Reagan, Reagan Wells, Reagan County and Clinton.

Some places like Kenedy, Foard County and Hays County have the same names as former presidents, but they are spelled different. There's a Bush Airport and a Bush Mountain, but no town named Bush in Texas.

Still

By BILL McCLELLAN

News Editor

There are spots left for people who might be interested in participating in a session of the Police Academy.

"We've heard response. We're ahead with it. I still room for people if they to sign up," Spring Police Leubner, academy instructor.

The 13-week course is sponsored by

COLLEGE

Continued from

ilities as director of allied health.

Jody Furlow of the Lamar College has resigned her position.

The college start purchasing network for Linda Conway College professor administrator.

"The project is the internet and to all areas of the county," Conway said. Fursan, Conway

PARKING

Continued from

area paved with pavers or grass concrete asphalt. According to ordinance, re-paving wherever the property is located.

"It went exactly as anticipated," Russ McEwen said. "We were a number of people that were angry about the council does a way. We have a vote of confidence that was drafted with a promise possible."

McEwen said he realizes the council may have to change the way.

"I'm not going to let it be a nuisance because that are paved areas are property and have to have a plan for that permit."

"It gives us a chance to enforce the ordinance that people from parker they want."



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Still time to sign up for citizen's academy

By **BILL McCLELLAN**
News Editor

There are still a few spots left for persons who might be interested in participating in a spring session of the Citizens Police Academy. "We've had good response. We're going on ahead with it but there is still room for a few more people if they would like to sign up," said Big Spring Police Sgt. John Leubner, academy coordinator. The 13-week academy is sponsored by the Big

Spring Police Department and Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association.

Classes will begin tomorrow and will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 until 9:30.

During the academy, participants receive an up-close look at the daily activities of local law enforcement officers.

"It's a combination of classroom lectures and hands-on exercises. They'll also learn why we do some of the things we do and why we don't do

some things," said Leubner.

Participants will be exposed to a variety of topics, including department organization, state and federal laws, arrests, search and seizure, traffic stops, defensive tactics and firearms. There are role-playing exercises where academy students are placed in potentially dangerous situations — simulated, of course. And students are also given the opportunity to ride with a patrol officer during a shift.

Leubner said the academy helps both the participants and the officers who provide the instruction.

"It's a two-way dialogue. It allows them to gain a better understanding about what we do, and it also gives us an opportunity to learn from the public," he said.

Participation in the academy is open to qualified residents of Howard County who are at least 18 years old.

Graduates of the program become members of the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association, which helps with a number of activities in Big Spring. Applications are available at the Big Spring Police Department, 400 E. Fourth St. For more information, contact Leubner at 261-2595.

Contact News Editor Bill McClellan at 263-7331 ext 235 or by e-mail at billm@ercom.net

Lynda Proffitt was diagnosed with breast cancer in August of 2002. She has had 5 rounds of chemotherapy and 2 surgeries. She still has to undergo 5 more rounds of chemo and 6 weeks of radiation. None of these procedures have been covered by insurance. A cancer fund has been set up at the State National Bank on Main Street to help with the medical bills. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

bilities as division director of allied health.

Jody Furlow, manager of the Lamesa campus, has resigned because of relocation.

The college may soon start purchasing equipment for the community network project, said Linda Conway, Howard College professor and former administrator.

"The project is to establish network, access to the internet and technology to all areas of the county," Conway said. "We are trying to get out to Forsan, Coahoma and

Ackerly and to all points in Big Spring. "We want to set up little computer rooms where the public can get on the computer or use it to get on the internet."

The \$500,000 project is funded through a Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund grant already approved by the state. The grant monies were not part of the TIF grant funds frozen by Perry in January.

The project will network Howard College, Howard County, the Texas Workforce Network, city of Big

Spring and Moore Development.

In other business trustees,

• Heard a report that insurance cost will jump 40 percent this year, from \$126,600 to \$181,200 if renewed with the Texas Association of School Board, the current insurance provider. Vice President Terry Hansen recommended the renewal because he didn't feel the college could find a substantially lower price with the climate of the current insurance markets and the high-risk area in which the college

is located.

• Approved a \$18.3 million tax abatement contract with ALON USA at 100 percent for five years and the sixth year at 50 percent. The abatement is for a specific project that will prepare ALON USA to meet upcoming federal environmental regulations. The company's base-line taxes will not be impacted by the abatement.

• Approved a \$49,850 bid by Sagebrush Corp. for on-line catalog software to be used with the library consortium.

PARKING

Continued from Page 1

area paved with brick pavers or gravel as well as concrete or hot mix asphalt. According to the ordinance, residents can park on paved surfaces wherever they occur on the property.

"It went exactly as I had anticipated," said Mayor Russ McEwen. "There were a number of people that were against it and feel that the city council is infringing on their rights. Obviously the city council does not feel that way. We had a unanimous vote on an ordinance that was carefully drafted with every compromise possible."

McEwen said that he realizes the ordinance may inconvenience some.

"I'm not going to say that it's not an inconvenience because people that are parking on unpaved areas of their property are going to have to have a permit, but there's going to be no cost for that permit," he said. "It gives us the ability to enforce the type of ordinance that restricts people from parking wherever they want to on lawns."

Several people raised concerns about the city's interference in residents' property rights or that the ordinance is slanted against the city's poorer residents who may not be able to afford paving areas of their property.

"The fact that it was a unanimous vote indicates that a lot of work went into this ordinance and that there was a great deal of compromise," McEwen said.

"Testimony in the past has obviously made us take a second look at what we wanted to do. Some of the testimony made some valid points, with regard to brick pavers. They were not addressed. Gravel driveways were not addressed. We have put those into

the ordinance to make sure that we are not too harsh on people. Pavers look great and they can be done very very well."

The ordinance sets up rules for how parking areas may be designated. The rules allow the resident to park in a 22 foot wide area centered on the property's curb cuts and extending to the home.

If the property has no curb and gutter or no curb cuts, the property owner will be allowed to designate a 22 foot wide area perpendicular to the street extending to the home. The designation will be filed with the city secretary's office.

The ordinance sets up penalties up to \$200 a day for parking on the lawn outside a designated park-

ing area.

The ordinance must be approved on final reading at the council's March 11 meeting.

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You are invited to the

Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Community Luncheon
Tuesday, March 4, 2003

East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

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\$8.00 per person

Tickets may be picked up at the Chamber Office, 215 West 3rd Street or call 263-7641 by Friday, February 28, 2003.

State of the City Address by Mayor Russ McEwen

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LEGAL NOTICE

On February 6, 2003, VALOR (Texas Association of Local Electric Companies) (VALOR) filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish a charge for the use of the expanded local calling service (ELCS) and to increase the monthly surcharges for the use of the expanded local calling service (ELCS) and to increase the monthly surcharges for the use of the expanded local calling service (ELCS) and to increase the monthly surcharges for the use of the expanded local calling service (ELCS).

ELCS expands a local calling service to include long distance calls to other states and international calls. The service is available to residential customers and businesses. The service is available to residential customers and businesses. The service is available to residential customers and businesses.

In the application, VALOR proposes to implement a charge for the use of the expanded local calling service (ELCS) and to increase the monthly surcharges for the use of the expanded local calling service (ELCS) and to increase the monthly surcharges for the use of the expanded local calling service (ELCS).

The net annual effect on the revenues of VALOR will be an increase of \$1.1 million. The net annual effect on the revenues of VALOR will be an increase of \$1.1 million. The net annual effect on the revenues of VALOR will be an increase of \$1.1 million.

If you have questions about the proposed surcharges, you may contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Persons with hearing impairments may contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477.

AVISO

El 6 de febrero de 2003, VALOR (Texas Association of Local Electric Companies) (VALOR) presentó una petición a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas) para establecer un cargo mensual por el uso de los servicios de llamadas locales ampliadas (ELCS) y para aumentar los sobrecargos temporales de los servicios de llamadas locales ampliadas (ELCS) y para aumentar los sobrecargos temporales de los servicios de llamadas locales ampliadas (ELCS).

ELCS extiende el alcance de llamadas locales para incluir uno o más despachos de telefonos adicionales. Sección de los despachos hacen una petición de cambio que es aprobada por voto para pagar un cargo de ELCS en el despacho de larga distancia. Los costos y ganancias perdidas relacionadas con los sobrecargos de la compañía de VALOR serán recuperables a través de la cuota del ELCS.

En la solicitud, VALOR propone implementar temporalmente un cargo mensual por línea de \$1.98 para clientes comerciales empezando con la facturación de mayo de 2003. Este cargo temporal será adicionado a cualquier cargo mensual ELCS. Si las tarifas a o sobre el nivel de los sobrecargos temporales no son suficientes para cubrir los costos de VALOR, VALOR buscará la aprobación de sobrecargos mensuales de \$1.98 por líneas comerciales, \$1.98 por líneas residenciales para reemplazar los sobrecargos temporales. Adicionalmente, la solicitud propone que los clientes que facturan con tarifas ELCS más bajas de \$1.98 por línea residencial y \$7.00 por línea comercial tendrán un cargo de tarifas a \$3.50 por línea residencial y \$7.00 por línea comercial.

El efecto anual en las ganancias de VALOR será cero cuando los sobrecargos solicitados reemplazarán ganancias perdidas y reembolsa a VALOR por incrementos en el costo del servicio relacionado con ELCS. El costo estimado total de las ganancias perdidas y el incremento de costos que VALOR tiene como resultado de este procedimiento es \$7,601,145 anualmente.

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta acerca de los sobrecargos propuestos o si necesita más información, por favor llame a VALOR al 1-877-520-5220.

La Comisión de Servicios Públicos ha asignado el Proyecto No. 27463 a este procedimiento. Las personas que deseen intervenir o comentar en o sobre estos procedimientos deben notificar a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas tan pronto como sea posible y no más tarde del día 14 de Abril 2003 (fecha límite de la intervención). Para intervenir o para más información, escriba a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas), 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. También puede solicitar más información llamando a la Comisión de Servicios Públicos al (512) 936-7120 o al (888) 782-8477. Personas con impedimentos de hablar o del sentido de oír con telefonos de textos (TTY) pueden comunicarse con la Comisión al (512) 936-7136.

FEBRUARY 26, 2003

What's new at the library.....with Hollis McCright

New books are beginning to trickle in! Be sure and look at the New Book shelf when you come in. We have ordered some new videos and those will be placed on display, too. As I was pulling books, Martha was on the phone ordering some new Large Print books. As you can tell, the Library will be bursting with new books very soon. Here are just a few of the new titles that we have received: "Avenger of Blood" by John Hagoos (this is book 2 of the Apocalypse Diaries...we do have book 1, Johanna Lindsey's "Prisoner of my Desire," two mysteries, "The Bone Vault" by Linda Fairclough and "The



HOLLIS McCRIGHT

Edge of Justice," by Clinton McKinzie. McKinzie is a new author and one that I think many will like. His character is a Wyoming policeman who climbs cliffs, mountains, etc. A young woman has fallen while climbing; is it an accident or murder? "Are you a Maeye Binchy Fan? When Dubliner Ella Brady's affair with a married financial consultant turns sour, he bilks his clients of their hard-earned money and then high-tails it to Spain. She decides to throw herself into something productive. She agrees to help with a documentary about "Quentins" (also the name of the book), a once-modest Dublin restaurant whose increasing success and sophistication over the past 30 years mirrors the changing fortunes of the city itself. Ella collects stories of customers who recall celebrating life's milestones at Quentins. These vignettes about a man

who learns he's to be a grandfather, a girl who finishes school with honors, and other regular folks) are meant to fill out the too-thin tale, but most of them end a little too neatly to be satisfying. This isn't a suspenseful book; just the story of hardworking, honest-living characters with strong values. "Vagabond" is the second entry in Bernard Cornwell's Grail Quest series. Having read the first book, "The Archers Tale," I have been waiting for a sequel. Thomas has managed to survive the battle of Crecy. Still nursing his wounds, he is dispatched by the king on a mission to look into the matter of his father's inheritance, which is obscurely connected to the Holy Grail. This most precious relic of the Christian faith is a much sought-after object, offering the power of total victory in war to its owner. But Thomas finds himself in the middle of a battle against an army

invading the North of England, and other shadowy forces pursuing the grail and the stage is set for a merciless showdown. According to Patricia Cornwell, Jack the Ripper was renowned artist Walter Sickert (1860-1942). The evidence Cornwell accumulates in her book "Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper - Case Closed" points to that conclusion in this brilliant, personal, gripping book is very strong, and will persuade many. In May 2001, Cornwell took a tour of Scotland Yard that interested her in the Ripper case, and she became determined to apply modern investigatory and forensic techniques to the crimes that horrified London more than 100 years ago. The book's narrative is complex, filled with newsworthy revelations, including the successful use of DNA analysis to establish a link between an envelope mailed by the Ripper and two

envelopes used by Sickert. According to Publisher's Weekly, this is the finest and most important true-crime book to date of the 21st century. Martha Grimes has written eighteen Richard Jury mysteries and the latest "The Grave Maurice" is one of the better ones. "Chew on this," says Melrose Plant to Richard Jury, who's in the hospital being driven crazy by Hannibal, a nurse who likes to speculate on his chances for survival. Jury could use a good story, preferably one not ending with his own demise. Plant tells Jury of something he overheard in The Grave Maurice, a pub near the hospital. A woman told an intriguing story about a girl named Nell Ryder, granddaughter to the owner of the Ryder Stud Farm in Cambridgeshire, who went missing more than a year before and has never been found. What is especially interesting to Plant is that

Nell is also the daughter of Jury's surgeon. But Nell's disappearance isn't the only mystery at the Ryder farm. A woman has been found dead on the track-a woman who was a stranger even to the Ryders. But not to Plant. She's the woman he saw in The Grave Maurice. Together with Jury, Nell's family, and the Cambridgeshire police, Plant embarks on a search to find Nell and bring her home. But is there more to their mission than just restoring a 15-year-old girl to her family - there is a mystery to be solved. Howard County is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday. The Internet/Video room closes 1/2 hour before closing. The Library is located at 500 Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; our e-mail address is howard-county@hotmail.com.

Church News and Club News should be turned in by Wednesday noon before the Friday they are to appear, are subject to editing and will run as space allows.

We're Always Here

Banc of America Investment Services, Inc.
is pleased to announce that
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Raiders facing do-or-die situation

LUBBOCK (AP) — It's make-or-break time for Bob Knight and his Texas Tech Red Raiders.

Last week, Tech seemed headed out of postseason contention with a 4-7 record in Big 12 play and a brewing off-court controversy.

But consecutive victories have put the Red Raiders in position to continue the rebuilding Knight began last season, when he took a program that had four straight losing seasons to the NCAA tournament.

Tech (16-8, 6-7) has three games left before the conference tournament, including home games against No. 5 Texas and No. 7 Kansas. Winning one or both could go a long way in helping get an at-large berth in the NCAAs. The Red Raiders also play at Baylor.

Knight has said the team plays well in stretches. He's chided his players for not being mature enough to handle success, such as a 10-1 start in non-conference play that led to Top 25 ranking in late December.

He's also intimated that his squad lacks leadership, a role provided last season by center Andy Ellis, then a senior.

"I'm not particularly pleased with myself because of it, by any stretch of the imagination, but I've never underestimated losing a kid as much as this kid," Knight said. "I think he really worked hard at getting guys together and saying, 'What the hell are we doing here? We've got to be better than this. We've got to play harder.'"

The on-court leader has been Andre Emmett, who is the Big 12's leading scorer at 22.1 points per game. He's had 56 points in the past two games, a 62-57 road win over No. 16 Oklahoma State and a 70-69 victory over Texas A&M.

But Emmett is streaky, and when he's off, the entire offense sputters. Second leading scorer Kasib Powell was in a long slump until recently, and the post position has been extremely unproductive, lacking in points and rebounds.

"We've lost a lot of games that we should have won," Powell said. "Our record is not as good as we want it to be. We know we can play with anybody."

Emmett was one of two players suspended from a game at Texas on Feb. 17.

Tech officials originally said Emmett and Nick Valdez were benched because they missed the See **TECH**, Page 8

Texas High School Basketball Playoffs



Lubbock Roosevelt's **Tarrell Green** shoots a shot from Forsan's Was Longorio during the second half of their playoff game Tuesday night. With the Buffs' loss, the area basketball season came to an end. All three local teams, including Grady and Borden Co., lost their playoff bouts.

END OF THE LINE

Roosevelt weathers late FHS charge to take 68-49 victory

By **HANK BOND**
Publisher

A late second half 10-0 run that cut the Lubbock Roosevelt Eagles' lead to five points just wasn't enough as the Forsan Buffalos saw their season come to an end in a Class 2A regional quarterfinal matchup at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Tuesday night.

The Eagles withstood a drought of over four minutes and held their lead enroute to a 68-49 win.

"There was no quit in this team," Forsan head coach Terry McDonald said after the game, which concluded a successful 21-7 season.

"The kids played hard. It is an outstanding group of young people and I am grateful for the kind of effort they gave."

The first quarter was an excellent display of up tempo, hard nosed basketball. David Lee put the Buffaloes on the scoreboard first, 30 seconds into the game by cashing in on a high speed, running layup.

The game was tied at 4-4, as Roosevelt pulled out to a 9-4 advantage. Matt Ellis and Brent Huff connected on back to back layups as recipients of a couple length of the court passes to pull Forsan back to within a single point, 9-8.

The Eagles counted two baskets off some steals and led 13-9 before Forsan tacked on three free throws.

See **BUFFS**, Page 8

Top-ranked Nazareth uses 19-5 run to sink No. 3 'Cats

By **TOMMY WELLS**
Sports Editor

WOODROW — The third time was a charm, but a charm for the Grady Wildcats.

Top-ranked Nazareth used a 19-5 run in the second quarter Tuesday night and rolled to a 69-42 regional semifinals win over No. 3 Grady in front of a standing room only crowd in the Lubbock Cooper gymnasium.

"It was hard for us to fight back from that," said Wildcats' head coach Carl Krug, who has guided the program to back to back berths in the regional semifinals round. "We shot 20 percent in the second and that put us in a hole."

With the loss, Grady closed out the year as the Crossroads area's winningest team, finishing at 47-2. Nazareth, now 24-6 overall, will now advance to play Silverton this Friday in the regional finals.

Silverton ended Borden County's playoff run by taking a one point win in front of a big crowd in the Lubbock Coronado gym.

The Wildcats held their own in the early minutes. The Swifts outscored Grady by a slim 16-12 margin in the first eight minutes of the contest.

Eric Schilling paced Nazareth's first quarter efforts. One of four NHS starters to reach double figures, Schilling sank two 3 pointers in the opening

See **GOLFERS**, Page 9

Chavez to participate in national tournament

By **TOMMY WELLS**
Sports Editor

Westbrook High School freshman Trey Chavez has a simple goal: He wants to win a state tennis title during each year of his high school career.

He knows just how to get ready for the challenge, too. He's going to Hawaii.

Chavez was one of two male prep tennis players from the state to receive an invitation to play in the USA National Tennis

Tournament. The event, which features non-senior tennis athletes from throughout the U.S., is slated to begin this June in Honolulu.

"I'm excited about going," said Chavez. "I think this will help me improve my game. I'll be facing a lot of good players."

Chavez, a multi-sport athlete at Westbrook, is the son of Marcelino and Norma Chavez.



CHAVEZ

Marcelino, the head tennis coach at Westbrook, is a 1971 graduate of Coahoma High School. Norma Chavez graduated from Big Spring High School in 1984.

Chavez, who started at point guard for the WHS basketball team that reached the state playoffs, has enjoyed a solid year thus far. Over the past 12 months, the National Honor Society member has placed sec-

ond at the Wichita Falls Junior Grand Slam, won the Midland Tennis Association 11 & Under division, advanced to the semifinals of the Abilene Dr. Pepper Tournament and won the Grand Prix honors at the Baylor University Tennis Camp.

Last year as an eighth grader at Coahoma Junior High, Chavez posted a 17-1 record and won the District 3-2A junior high singles championship. During his seventh and eighth years at CJHS he was 85-1.

IN BRIEF

BSGSA registration will begin Saturday

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will conduct softball registration for players, ages 4-adult, in the Big Spring Mall on the following dates. Registration will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sign-ups will continue Monday through March 7 from 5 to 7 p.m., and on Saturday, March 8 and March 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The cost for registration is \$30 per player. A copy of your child's birth certificate will be needed at registration.

LL registration now under way at Mall

Registration for the Big Spring Little League season is currently being held at the Big Spring Mall.

Boys and girls ages 5-12 can sign up from Monday through Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. They can also register on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information call 263-1792 or 263-5314.

Lady Steer boosters will meet Thursday

The Big Spring High School Lady Steer Booster Club will hold a meeting on Thursday to begin preparation for the upcoming Lady Steers Athletic Banquet. The meeting is slated for 7 p.m. in the ALC.

All persons interested in helping with the banquet are asked to attend.

For more information contact Beverly Heworth at 264-7914.

Coahoma LL sign-up, coaching clinic reset

Youngsters interested in playing on a Coahoma Little League team this year can sign up at the ball park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Coahoma Junior High School gymnasium.

A coaches clinic for all area Little League coaches will be conducted by Howard College's Brett Smith at 6:30 p.m. today at the Coahoma Community Center. A fee of \$10 will be charged for all non-Coahoma.

'Hawk Talk' will air March 12 on KBST

Hawk Talk, a live radio show on Howard College sports, is scheduled to be broadcast on KBST AM 1190 at 9 a.m. March 12. Sam Stephens will host the show.

Tennis, gymnastics classes now forming

Registration is taking place now for tennis, gymnastics, swimming and martial arts classes at the YMCA.

For more information contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Clay shooting event slated for Stanton

The Fourth Annual Albertson's Clay Shoot will be held March 21-22 at Windwaker Farms in Stanton.

The event will consist of 4-person teams. For more info contact (915) 570-0172.

FEB 26 2003

BUFFS

Continued from Page 7

one by Wes Longorio and a pair by Josh Helmstetter, to end the first eight minutes trailing by only a bucket.

A real back-breaker early on for Forsan was a 3:32 run without notching a point.

"We were playing in a fast paced game," McDonald said. "We had a few turnovers but in this type of game you're going to have that. We played well and were close in the first half. We felt like we had played even in the first half."

Ryan Sayles opened the second with a layup to even the count at 13-13, and the teams played even again at 17-17, but from that point on Roosevelt led for good.

The Buffaloes stayed right in the game, with a very competitive effort.

After falling behind by as many as nine points, Forsan continued to battle with a flurry of points by Trey Kuykendall and Sayles to make it a five point contest, 21-26 with 1:20 to go in the half. Roosevelt went on a 6:2 run to take a 27-26 lead at the intermission.

The third quarter was a period of contrasts.

Forsan went ice cold for more than three minutes as Roosevelt went on an 8:1 run to lead 35-30 with 1:50 to play in the period.

Then the guns went silent for the Eagles, as the visitors on the score board didn't score the remaining 1:26 of the quarter. The Buffaloes put eight man-weped points on the board on a 1:00 by Longorio, a sequence across the lane made by Huff for another point, and four more points down the stretch made it 41-30 at the stop.

Huff out Forsan as close as the Buffaloes would get



Forsan's Brent Huff soars over Roosevelt's Aaron Sharp for a basket in the Buffs' 68-49 loss in the Class 2A regional quarterfinals. Forsan finished its year at 25-7.

with 7:41 to go in the game as he hit a basket in the lane to make it a 41-30 game.

Roosevelt then knocked down six straight points and made it 51-30 and after Huff cut the lead to nine, 51-42 on a pair of free throws, the Eagles went out to a double-digit lead they would not give up.

"We missed some early shots," McDonald said, but these were two good basketball teams.

The Buffaloes played a very good game

they are a good team," Huff, a senior, finished his career with a 16-point effort to pace the Buffaloes. He was six of 10 from the field, one of one from three-point land and three of four from the charity stripe. Longorio had a team-high 11 rebounds and six points. Helmstetter had a double-figure finish with 11 points.

Sayles had five points as did Kuykendall. Matt Ellis four, and David Lee rounded out scoring for Forsan with two points.

"We really don't have a back to the basket presence, which is important," Knight said.

Robert Tomaszak and Pawel Stozovinski have struggled. Undersized Keshi Powell doesn't scare anyone when he gets into the post. Knight even has used freshmen John Oloechu in the post.

But Knight still misses Ellis, who is playing professionally overseas.

"I'd kind of like to buy him back from the Turks with a different name and a beard, and we'd say he was 18 years old and could play all over again," Knight said.

Magic makes Mavericks' 6-game win streak vanish

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — When Orlando traded for rookies Drew Gooden and Gordan Giricek last week, Magic superstar Tracy McGrady admitted he "didn't know them from Adam."

Not anymore. Gooden and Giricek scored 20 points apiece and combined for 18 rebounds as Orlando won its season-high fourth straight, 98-93 over the Dallas Mavericks on Tuesday night.

"My guys are knocking down shots for me," McGrady said after his third game — all wins — with the newcomers. "My rookies, they're playing well right now, man."

Gooden is averaging 19 points and nine rebounds for the Magic, while Giricek has 16.7 and 5.7.

"With the talent we have, you play hard and something good is going to come up," said Gooden, who had 10 rebounds for his second double-double in a Magic uniform.

The newcomers are helping McGrady, who led Orlando with 26 points and seven assists but was frustrated as he struggled against the Mavericks' tight defense. He even drew an uncharacteristic technical foul in the first half after throwing an elbow.

"This was a night where they did a good job of double-teaming and making me give it up," said McGrady, averaging 7.5 assists over the last four games.

McGrady sank a driving layup to give Orlando a 50-40 lead, then blocked Walt Williams' dunk attempt. Giricek followed with a jumper off a loose ball that put Orlando up by three points with 1:10 remaining, and the Magic drained all six of their foul shots down the stretch as the Magic closed with a 10-4 run.

"We're finishing games," said McGrady, who made 10 of 20 shots. "We're maturing out there each night as the nights go by."

By winning their fourth straight home game, the Magic reached 500 for the first time since Jan. 31. They also opened a 1 1/2 game lead over Washington for the eighth playoff seed in the Eastern Conference.

"There's a glow, and we have to keep that going," Orlando coach Doc Rivers said.

Dallas, which had won six straight games, got 26 points and seven

rebounds from Dirk Nowitzki. Reserve Nick Van Exel added 18 points and Michael Finley 17.

"This is the wrong time to come in here and play the Magic, as they have a lot of confidence now and they're feeling good about themselves," Dallas coach Don Nelson said.

McGrady averaged 40.7 points over the previous three games, but was hounded all night by the Mavs' physical defense. Late in the second quar-

ter, McGrady was slapped with a technical for elbowing Najera in the upper back. McGrady had worked his way inside, expending considerable effort against Dallas' defensive stopper, but was forced to pass to Giricek for a 3-pointer.

Soon after, Najera was ejected for accidentally bumping official David Jones when McGrady wasn't called for losing the ball out of bounds.

In Sunday's Big Spring Herald



The Wild West revisited

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TECH

Continued from Page 7

shooting a shootaround after the game, players said Emmitt was benched primarily because of lack of experience in a loss to Oklahoma two days earlier. Knight recently verified that account.

Both pieces were invited to return after completing disciplinary "wind sprays." Valdez, whose father coordinated the problem with an e-mail to the Lubbock newspaper

ended up quitting Friday. Even before all that, this season was starting to look like a disappointment considering the Red Raiders went 24-9 last season, tying for third in the Big 12.

Maybe that team over-achieved, raising expectations for this season too high. Or maybe this team was under-achieving.

Or maybe, as Knight said, nobody has replaced the 16.5 points Ellis provided, mostly down low.

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GRADY

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GRADY

Continued from Page 7

frame. Jason Pribyla and Brent Madison sparked Grady's first quarter efforts, scoring five and four points, respectively.

Luck abandoned the Wildcats in the second. Grady missed several clutch shots from the field and Nazareth found its game.

The Swifts outscored Grady by a 14-4 margin over the first 4:34 of the quarter and never looked back. Nazareth closed out the frame with a 7-1 run and took a 35-17 cushion into the half.

Grady gave its fans reason to cheer in the early moments of the second half. Seniors Eric Tunnell and T. Springer opened the third quarter by pumping in back-to-back baskets that cut the Swift lead to 14, at 35-21.

Nazareth, which was led in the game by 20 points from Jordy Rowland, rallied back, however. The Swifts posted a 14-9 run over the remaining seven minutes of the frame and took a 56-37 lead into the final eight minutes of the contest.

Madison, one of five GHS players slated to return next fall, took control in the fourth. The GHS standout pumped in 13 of his team high 19 points in the fourth and



Grady's Jason Pribyla tries to break through a double team from Nazareth's Evan Huseman and Eric Schilling during the second half of Tuesday's regional semifinal playoff game. Nazareth won, 69-52. Grady's season ended at 31-2.

led the Wildcats to a 22-20 spree.

Grady, which outscored Nazareth by a 35-31 margin in the second half.

Springer and Pribyla scored into double figures against Nazareth as well. Springer finished with 13 while Pribyla added 11.

Torre, Santo, Miller could get Hall call this weekend

NEW YORK (AP) — Until recently, Joe Torre thought he was too active to be considered for Cooperstown.

Come Wednesday, though, the New York Yankees' manager might be able to add yet another title to his resume — Hall of Famer.

"It was brought up to me the other day and I had no clue that I was even eligible, to be honest with you," he said this week.

"Because I figured, I'm still collecting a paycheck. All these other people that have gone in, they're done. They hadn't worked," he said.

Instead, Torre is a top candidate in this first election since the Veterans Committee revamped its rules to let actual Hall of Famers do most of the voting. Ron Santo, Gil Hodges and former players' union head

Marvin Miller might also fare well when the results are announced at 2 p.m.

It's certainly set up well for Torre. A press conference is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday for new Hall members, and it will be held in Tampa, Fla., about a 10-minute drive from the Yankees' spring training camp.

The 62-year-old Torre was a nine-time All Star and an MVP as a player and a four-time World Series champion as a manager. The Hall even made a point of encouraging voters to combine all of those achievements in his candidacy — there may be some, however, who won't vote for him until he's retired.

"It's tough to say you belong because of one or the other," Torre said. "You'd like to think that everything should count."

"It certainly would be an honor because it's not the people that are doing the evaluation, it's your peers."

Santo, who turned 72 Tuesday, was hoping for some good news. The nine-time All Star and five-time Gold Glove baseman had both legs amputated below the knees.

"I want it at this time because it's a lifetime through to me, and I'm with you," he said. The former Chicago star said he would vote for himself.

Hodges, who turned 72 Tuesday, will be in contention because of his achievements as a player and manager.

Hodges was a four-time All Star and a home run leader. The first baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers also guided the team to the World Series.

Duncan sores 17 in Spurs rout of Heat

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — There is no sure method for stopping the San Antonio Spurs these days.

Tim Duncan had 17 points and 10 rebounds and nine other Spurs scored as San Antonio won for the 11th time in

12 games, beating the Miami Heat 81-69 on Tuesday night.

"Having a guy like Tim, you know whom teams are going to focus on," Heat guard Travis Best said. "They have such great role players and just

are in the playoffs, that they're going to be tough to stop."

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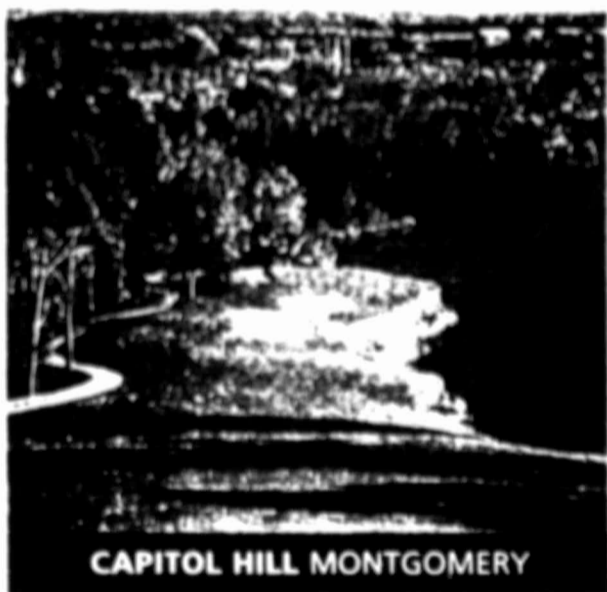
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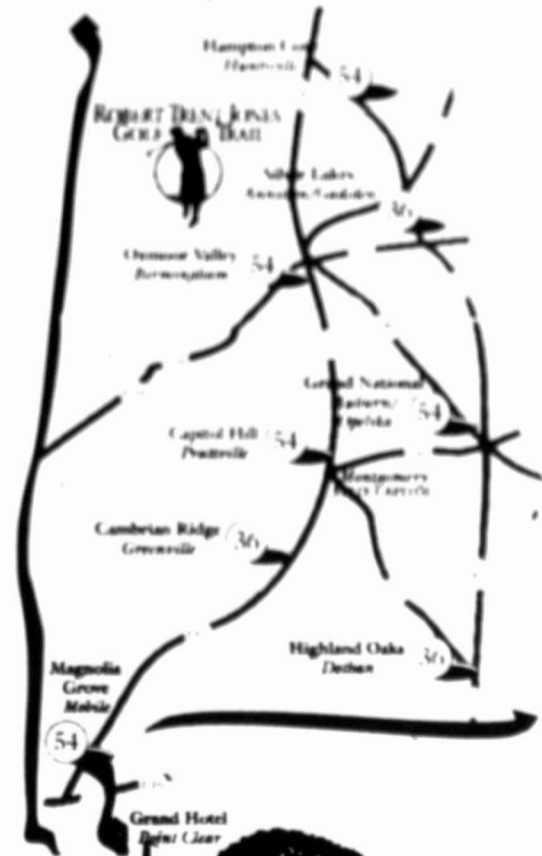
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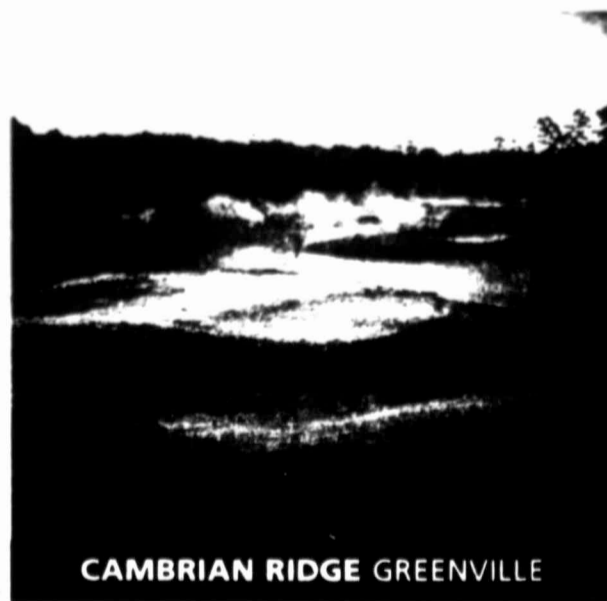
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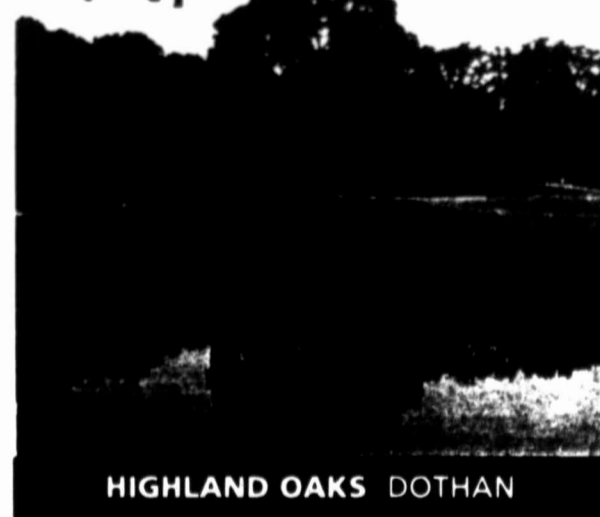
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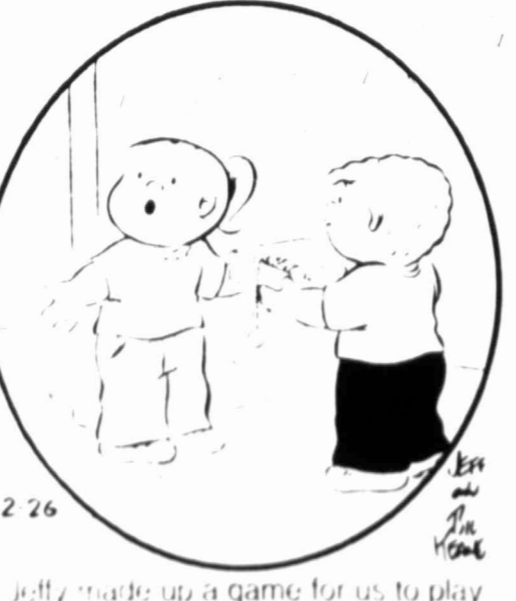
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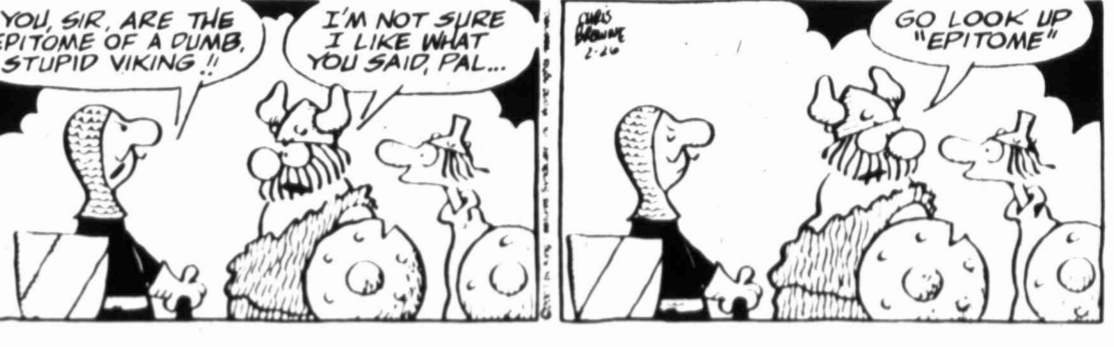
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



...and when she says she will see me...

Jelly made up a game for us to play but he won't tell me what the rules are.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



People In The News

By The Associated Press

ALLANTA — Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn joined the exhibit that features a portrait of Carter and another U.S. president from the National Portrait Gallery in Washington.

The collection, which has been on display since 2000, is now on a final stop at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum.

Mark Pachter, director of the National Portrait Gallery, helped lead the exhibit through the exhibit.

"That's the way you want to exhibit to look. Pachter said the exhibit is a portrait of Carter's life, standing in the White House.

Hagar and Carter joined a group of portraits of President D. Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

A 12-page book on the exhibit is available for the different

presidents. "I remembered the place that they've had in my life," he said.

Of the presidents who had served during his lifetime, Carter said Harry S. Truman, who desegregated the U.S. military while Carter was captain on a Navy submarine, was his favorite.

Harry Truman was the one who changed my life first," he said.

The exhibit continues through May 11.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu says the U.S. civil rights movement helped fuel anti-apartheid activism in South Africa.

"You don't know how much of a source of inspiration you were to us," said Tutu, who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his battle against apartheid in South Africa.

He recalled finding an old copy of Ebony magazine in South Africa with a feature of Jackie Robinson, the first black player in Major League Baseball.

Tutu's visit to the state capital Tuesday was part of black history month celebrations by the governor and the Florida Black Conference of State Legislators.

He has been visiting the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, a school he attended since January.

Tutu talked with about 20 students from Florida A&M, Florida State University, Development and Research School and three high schools at the governor's mansion, the Tallahassee Democrat reported.

Later he was given a standing ovation as he addressed about 300 lawmakers, state officials and invited guests at the capital.

Answer to previous puzzle:
DOWEL ACULUBART
OHARE VAIN INUH
LITRE INNS DADE
TOI WAVE GOODBYE
ROAR DOUGH
SAMURAI GRASPS
AWARD IT THE BUN
PARKER BENT BRAG
IRK ELEMENT WITH
DESPOI BILATES
HORSE BUSH
BOARD PLANE EAR
ALCA YOGI NANNY
LEES ARID CRETE
LODE LENA YETIS

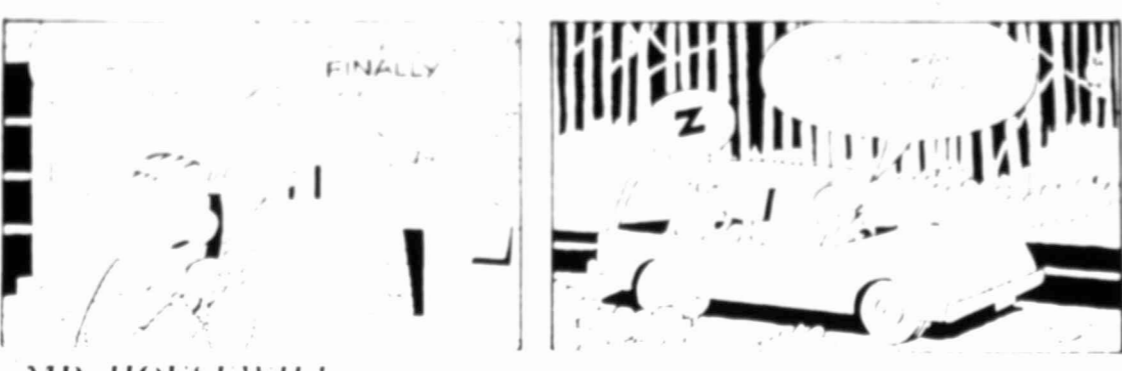
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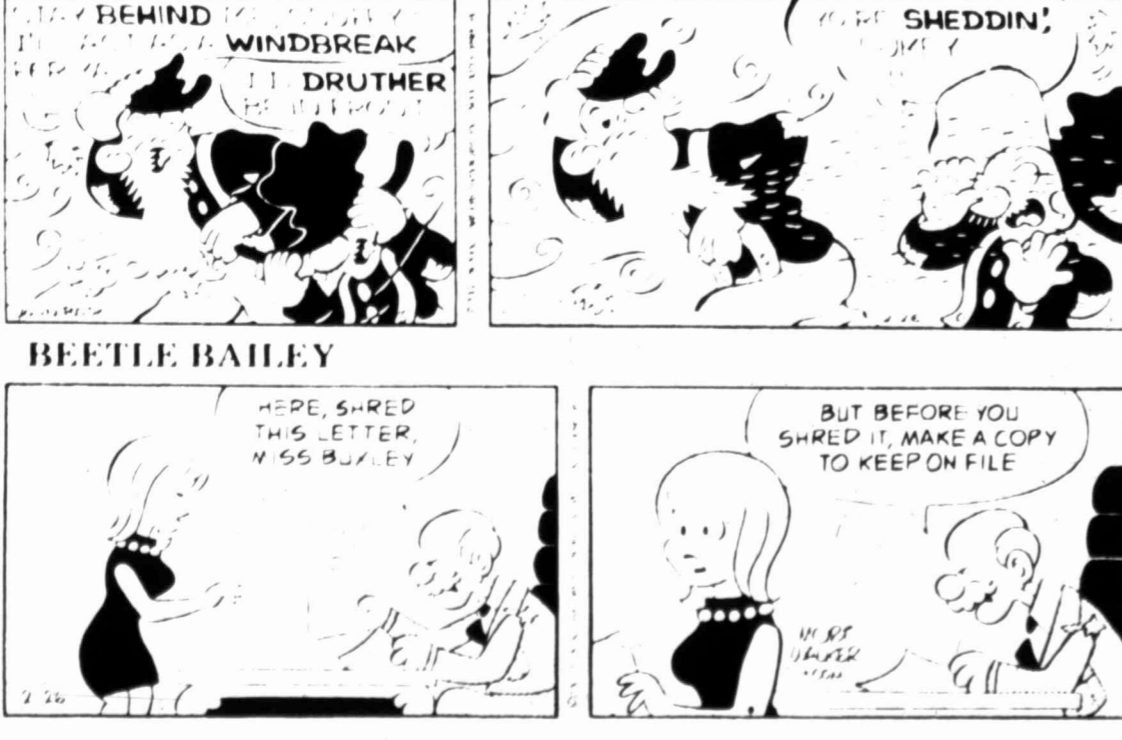
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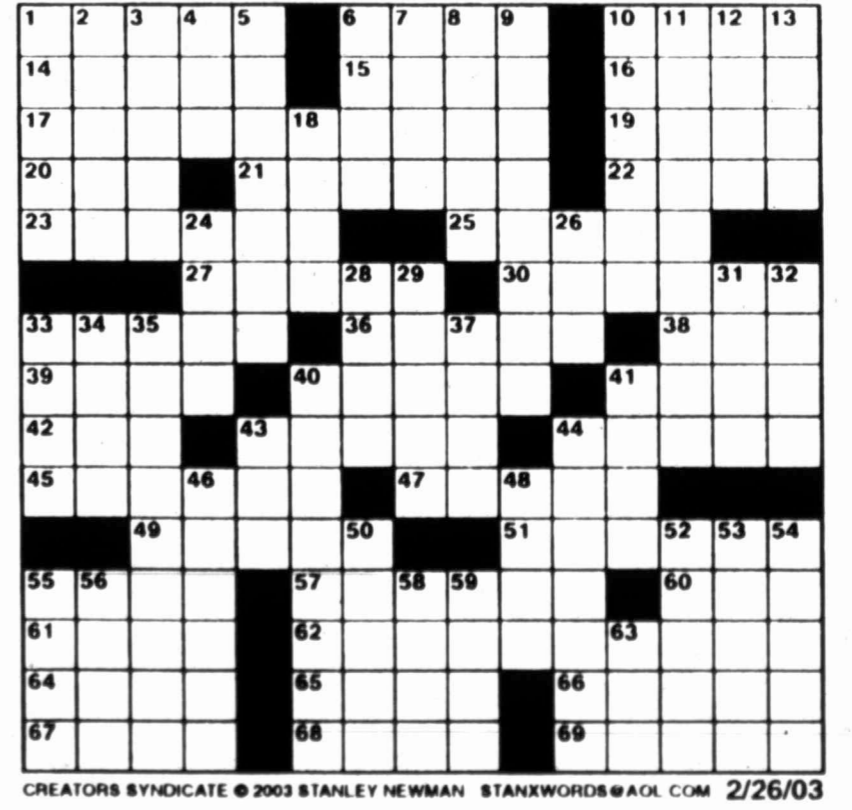
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Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Populizer
 - 6 Cat's feet
 - 10 Emulate Ella
 - 14 Moses' brother
 - 15 Felipe of baseball
 - 16 Insect stage
 - 17 Escape
 - 19 Star couple, in gossip columns
 - 20 Actress Gabor
 - 21 Maintenance
 - 22 Very hard to find
 - 23 Title anew
 - 25 Martin's partner
 - 27 Scottish Celts
 - 30 Fuse metals
 - 33 Fiery crime
 - 36 "The Old Bucket"
 - 38 Comic Romano
 - 39 Minor dent
 - 40 Not liquid or gas
 - 41 Preserve with salt
 - 42 Top pitcher
 - 43 Group of eight
 - 44 Old wedding announcement
 - 45 Barely adequate
 - 47 Poem's rhythm
 - 49 Gold measure
 - 51 Do over
 - 55 Envelope part
 - 57 Swan Lake, e.g.
 - 60 Erstwhile space station
- DOWN
- 1 More secure
 - 2 Bisect
 - 3 Indo-European
 - 4 Go bad
 - 5 Cruel
 - 6 Mule's burden
 - 7 Healing plant
 - 8 One courting
 - 9 Assumed to be true
 - 10 Shape of some staircases
 - 11 Escape
 - 12 Imitative sort
 - 13 Domesticated
 - 18 It has a duel's purpose
 - 24 Highly excited
 - 26 Took the prize
 - 28 Ill-gotten gains
 - 29 Massachusetts town
 - 31 Bring in
 - 32 Deli loaves
 - 33 Cartwright brother
 - 34 Lest creator
 - 35 Escape
 - 37 Aerodynamic toy
 - 40 Word-forming game
 - 41 Complaint
 - 43 Poetic contraction
 - 44 Flying insects
 - 46 Stunned ones
 - 48 Difficult journey
 - 50 Fortune-teller's deck
 - 52 Atlanta university
 - 53 Narrow passage
 - 54 Poker cards
 - 55 Off-key
 - 56 Eye, to CBS
 - 58 For fear that
 - 59 Not 66 Across
 - 63 Cereal grain

ESCAPES by Robert H. Wolfe
Edited by Stanley Newman



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The exhibit, made possible by Pedigree Food for Dogs, provides a wonderful understanding of the incredible role dogs have played in our lives throughout the ages.

The exhibit and next companion look at dogs, ever a constant, the exhibit will travel to cities throughout the

United States over the next five years. From the earliest wolf-like canines that lived thousands of years ago, to the rescue dogs that assisted emergency workers at the World Trade Center after Sept. 11, the exhibit covers how the history of humans and dogs is intertwined.

The exhibit also shows how today's diversity of dogs reflects long histories of selection for function in many different cultures. Dogs have been bred for herding, hunting, hunting, beauty, size and temperament — or for being just plain cute.

Visitors will come away with

an understanding of how breeding efforts by humans, as well as the process of natural selection, has influenced the evolution of dog breeds. The exhibit also highlights how changing tastes influence the popularity of various breeds over time. Today, the most popular dog are Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and German Shepherds, but that hasn't always been the case. For example, in the 1930s, the Boston Terrier claimed the title of most popular breed.

Other parts of the exhibit focus on artifacts from dog history, such as a copied collar typical of those worn by herding dogs, for centuries, a protection from snakes, a tiny medieval black and white mouse and more.

The exhibit also includes items from WWII, including

as a scout and guides for American troops, showing items such as a service dog vest, an ID card for service dogs and a war dog blanket. But as any dog owner will attest, every dog is a hero of sorts, bringing us the kind of love, companionship and enjoyment that never goes out of style.

Pedigree hopes the exhibit will inspire people to consider adopting a homeless pet from animal shelters in their communities. For more information on the exhibit, visit www.pedigree.com.

The exhibit also includes information on the Pedigree Food for Dogs, a national foundation dedicated to help dogs around the country through its Home Care Fund and pet adoption programs.

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Donald Ferguson, M.D., Internal Medicine	Juan Gonzalez, M.D., Internal Medicine
Keith Ledford, M.D., Board Certified, OB/GYN	Alfonso Preciado, M.D., Board Certified, Gen. Surgery

An Open Letter to the Community
Scenic Mountain Medical Center
Our Community. Our Hospital.

Dear Community Members,

During recent weeks, many of you have asked me about the future of Scenic Mountain Medical Center. I want to take this opportunity to assure you that Scenic Mountain Medical Center is here to stay and stronger than ever.

While some of the area's larger healthcare systems are making changes, SMMC remains a strong and viable hospital and an important community asset. Recent investments have allowed SMMC to make important renovations, purchase new medical equipment and bring new physicians to the area, all in an effort to offer the latest technological advances and specialized care to patients at home.

With each passing year, we strengthen our commitment to caring for our community through a series of improvements. 2002 was no exception. In August, we completed a \$1.5 million renovation to our emergency department, which now features a dedicated trauma area, seven private exam rooms, a triage room, and a new waiting and registration area. In addition, a new group of physicians provide 24-hour emergency room coverage.

SMMC welcomed three new physicians to its medical staff last year, and secured commitments from six additional doctors in specialties ranging from internal medicine to obstetrics and gynecology. We will continue to expand access to care in the year ahead as we recruit more physicians in areas such as cardiology and orthopedics, as well as in ear, nose and throat specialties.

Perhaps the most significant investment we made in 2002 was in our community. SMMC provided more than \$6.1 million in care to people who otherwise could not afford medical treatment, and paid \$300,000 in taxes to funds that support community services and public schools. Last year, we paid more than \$10.5 million in salaries and wages, which produced a ripple effect that can be felt throughout Howard County. In the years ahead, we will continue to invest in our community by providing jobs for our nearly 300 employees.

In 2003, we will build on our commitment of caring for the people of Big Spring and surrounding communities through continued expansion, physician recruitment and community involvement. In the next few months, we'll break ground on the construction of a medical office building on the medical center's campus. The building, which is expected to be complete this year, will house 12 to 15 physicians, as well as outpatient radiology and laboratory services.

Our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for the people of the Permian Basin is as strong as it was when we first opened our doors. Please rest assured that the future of Scenic Mountain Medical Center has never been brighter, and we have never been more focused on meeting the needs of the people who matter most. Our Patients. Please support your local hospital and medical staff community.

On behalf of Scenic Mountain Medical Center and Big Spring Hospital Corporation, we want our friends and neighbors to know that we remain your community hospital and look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Scenic Mountain Medical Center: Our Hospital; Our Community.

Sincerely,
 Timothy E. Schmidt
 Chief Executive Officer
 Scenic Mountain Medical Center

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

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Log on to pedigree.com and adopt a virtual pet. This cuddly, appealing "desktop" dog will win your heart and help you and your family to learn all about the responsibility, excitement and fun of a new puppy before bringing a real one home.

The virtual puppy is a fun, engaging and educational tool that enables potential pet owners and people who have recently added a puppy to the household to improve their puppy care know-how by: 1) having fun with the virtual puppy as he plays tug of war with a sock, catches a flying disk, and chases a shoe

around your desktop; 2) answering fun and informative questions about puppy care; and, 3) receiving visual and audible cues that will let you know when your virtual puppy needs some TLC.

In addition, the Website includes Pedigree Select

A Dog, an on-line questionnaire that analyzes and selects several breeds of dogs to suit your lifestyle, as well as tips and advice on diet and nutritional needs of puppies and guidelines for house-training your new pet.

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Pets enrich their lives in many ways. Providing unconditional love and companionship. Some studies show that owning a dog lowers stress. Many owners return by going to groomers to pamper their friends from their special day. But one thing is for sure, one-third of owners say that odors draw back to their pet. Pet owners do their best to clean their pets' little. Likewise, if you choose to bring your dog along in your car or RV, pet odors make for a long and unpleasant trip. Many products get rid of odors simply cover them instead of neutralize them. Purrfectly a new product from Calgon Carbon Corporation that eliminates odors by unleashing the carbon. While friendly products for the litter box are just for cats, including "wet smell," can be used on bedding, car upholstery, where else. It is also a great control dog odors, doghouses, where else. Fido's home. It eliminates odors from pet accidents. As any pet owner can attest, even small accidents can create big odors. Purrfectly Free used to get rid of odors associated with hamsters, reptiles, fish.

No chemicals to make Purrfectly its activated carbon is all-natural and environmentally friendly. It is non-toxic and completely safe for children and pets. Carbon is oxygen and specially carbon so that the carbon with millions of tiny holes, or pores, make carbon the most powerful odor eliminator. The activated carbon molecules leave only clean, fresh air. Activated carbon

Five-step check helps keep pets healthy

Can you pinch more than an inch around your dog?

"Pets benefit from many of the same things that help us live a longer life - exercise, a healthy diet, and quality time with loved ones," says veterinarian Dr. Holly Knor, a regular on Animal Planet's "Emergency Vets." "Many illnesses and injuries can be avoided if pet owners are aware of basic health changes in their pets and react to them quickly."

Dr. Knor recommends a monthly five-point at-home pet health check. The check will help owners become familiar with the way their dog's eyes, ears, teeth and gums and skin normally look and feel, and help them to spot problems sooner.

Begin by placing your dog on a solid surface, such as the floor or a sturdy table. During the check-up, speak in a low-

pitched, reassuring tone of voice.

Weight check: Stand above your dog and look for a slight "waist" behind the ribs. Place both hands flat on the sides of your pet's chest and slowly slide them forward and backward. You should be able to feel ribs, but not any great dips and valleys between them.

If you find a little extra padding, increase your pet's daily activity and be sure you are feeding the proper amounts of pet food. Check the feeding guidelines on the label and use a measuring cup to help you to correctly control the portion size.

Avoid table scraps, a bad choice for pets of any size. Choose nutritionally balanced pet food that is appropriate for your pet's life stage. Look for ingredients like antioxidants,

omega fatty acids and protein. Recent studies have shown that the antioxi-

dants that are so beneficial to people can also protect healthy cells in dogs, helping to reduce the likelihood of sickness later on. Omega fatty acids are important for healthy skin, and proteins help to build strong muscles.

Many people prefer a dry pet food for convenience, but are worried their pets may not enjoy it as well as canned. One innovative product, new Pedigree Dry Food for Dogs, combines the best of both worlds with a nutritious kibble that has a crispy outer shell and a soft tasty center.

Coat and skin: Your pet's coat should feel smooth from head to tail. Stroke your pet's body several times from head to tail on the top and sides of the trunk and the legs. Part the fur near the head and along the spine to check for flakes, scales or cuts. Check for signs of

fleas - black flakes or specks - at the base of the tail and on the rump or stomach. A dull or matted coat may indicate that your pet might not be receiving all necessary nutrients or may have a disease. Both are reasons to consult a veterinarian.

Ear check: Ears should be clean, pink and free of debris and strong odors. Check for wax, especially dark wax, which may indicate the presence of ear mites or infection.

Eye check: Gently pull down the lower eyelid to

check for a pink color. The whites of the eye should be glossy white with no redness. Watch for colored discharge, which can be a sign of infection.

Mouth check: Lift your dog's lips away from his gums and press a finger firmly over an upper tooth. When taken away, the white color of the finger imprint on the gum should return to pink. Watch for plaque and tartar build-up, which is vel-

low to dark brown, and can lead to periodontal disease. Regular veterinary dental cleaning along with specially designed pet chew snacks can help reduce plaque and tartar build-up.

Monthly at-home checks combined with regular veterinary care will help to keep your pet happy and healthy for many years to come. To get a free copy of the five-point at-home pet health check, go to www.petdirect.com.

Courtesy of ARA Content

Love your pet but not the smell? A new way to eliminate odors

Pets enrich their owners' lives in many ways, providing unconditional love and companionship. Some studies even show that owning a pet can lower stress. Many pet owners return the favor by going to great lengths to pamper their furry friends - from feeding them special diets to having their teeth cleaned. But one thing pet owners don't love is pet odors. In fact, one-third of cat owners say that odor is a drawback to having a pet.

Pet owners don't want their houses to smell like their pets' litter boxes. Likewise, if pet owners choose to bring their cat or dog along in the car or RV, pet odors can make for a long, unpleasant trip.

Many products claim to get rid of odors, but most simply cover them up instead of neutralizing them. Purrfectly Fresh is a new product from Calgon Carbon Corporation that actually eliminates odors by unleashing the power of carbon. While this pet friendly product is ideal for the litter box, it's not just for cats. Dog odors, including "wet dog smell," can be erased from bedding, furniture, car upholstery or anywhere else without using detergents or chemicals. It is also a great way to control dog odors in kennels, doghouses and anywhere else Fido calls home. It eliminates odors from pet accidents, too. As any pet owner can attest, even small pets can create big odors. Purrfectly Fresh can be used to get rid of smells associated with pets like hamsters, reptiles and fish.

No chemicals are used to make Purrfectly Fresh; its activated carbon crystals are all-natural and environmentally friendly. It is non-toxic and completely safe to use around children and all types of pets. Carbon is activated by treating it with heat, oxygen and steam in a specially controlled way so that the carbon forms with millions of tiny holes, or pores. These pores make activated carbon the most powerful odor eliminator known to science. The activated carbon crystals attract the molecules that cause pet odor like a magnet, leaving only the smell of clean, fresh air. Activated carbon is so

safe it is commonly used in hospitals as an antidote for poison.

What does activated carbon look like? Well, the best way to describe it is black sugar. But don't worry - it is over 99 percent dust free. That means pets won't track it through the house.

Simply sprinkle Purrfectly Fresh directly on the odor-causing area or leave a small container of it as close as possible to the source of the smell. No need for messy sprays and powders that may remain airborne

minutes after application, and can be inhaled by pets (and humans).

The microscopic pores in each activated carbon crystal means that a tiny amount of activated carbon can absorb large amounts of odor - one ounce has as much odor absorption surface as a football field. One 40 ounce package of Purrfectly Fresh can completely eliminate cat urine odors from 75 pounds of litter, potentially saving hundreds of dollars in yearly litter costs.

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