

BIG SPRING HERALD

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We're Always There

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

SUNDAY

March 9, 2003

WEATHER

Today:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TODAY 74°-76° TONIGHT 45°-46°

BRIEFLY

RE-ENACTMENT GROUP

The 1st Texas Light Artillery Company C Civil War Re-Enactment Group will hold an organizational meeting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at 1312 Elm St. in Big Spring.

Anyone interested in Civil War-era battles, fashion, history or society is welcome to attend and find out what Civil War Re-Enactment is all about.

For more information call Kay Porter at 267-9604 after 5 p.m. or at 270-8264.



AMERICAN PROFILE

Regional news, features, recipes and much, much more in this weekly supplement to the Herald.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The local Military Support Group has scheduled a "United We Stand" Community Prayer Rally for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Municipal Auditorium.

Following the event will be a concert by the Grammy-nominated African Children's Choir, a group of children from Ghana, the Sudan, Uganda, and other African countries.

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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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

Murphy: 'Things are terribly wrong'

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

"Things are terribly wrong with this board," the Big Spring Independent School District superintendent declared in a letter of complaint to a state governmental agency.

In a copy of the Feb. 18 letter obtained by the Big Spring Herald,

Murray Murphy, BSISD superintendent, outlines instances of behavior by four BSISD board members: Mike Dawson, Phil Furqueron, Kent Sharp and Allan Partee that led him to write the Texas Education Agency's division of school governance.

Detailing 12 events from the election of

"The division, strife and mistrust of these board members are, without question, not in the best interest of children or education"



Superintendent Murray Murphy in a letter to the Texas Education Agency

2002, Murphy wrote, "those four believe power, control and politics are their purpose" and added that he "retired simply

because it had gotten to the point of impasses and was beginning to cause damage."

Specifically, Murphy charges that Furqueron, Dawson and Sharp openly campaigned against incumbents Irene Bustamante and Larry McLellan in the 2002 election. Partee was elected to the board in that

election, replacing McLellan.

Murphy also outlines instances of what he believes are examples of micro-managing by the four board members and possible collusion with each other outside the board room.

On Friday, Trustee Mike Dawson denied

See **WRONG**, Page 3A

GREEN EGGS AND HAM



Thing One, Thing Two and Katice Newton fill their plates with "green" eggs for breakfast Friday at Bauer Magnet Elementary school. Katice Newton and the boys, Andrew Newton, middle, and Austen Newton dressed up in their favorite Dr. Seuss character to celebrate the famous author's birthday.

Law officers keep eye out during Spring Break

By **ROGER CLINE**
Staff Writer

With a week out of school starting them in the face, what high school or college student, heck, what teacher, isn't looking for some way to party hard during Spring Break?



JONES

The trick is to have your fun without endangering your life or the lives of others by drinking and driving or disobeying the seatbelt laws, or by getting into mischief around town.

Local and state law enforcement agencies are going to be on the lookout for dangerous drivers and illegal activity during Spring Break.

Texas Department of Public Safety troopers are

See **BREAK**, Page 5A

There's no debating, area has top CX teams

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

The titans of cross-examination debate will descend upon the capital city of Texas this week to compete in the University Interscholastic League state meet.

In the fray of competition are three area teams — Brittney Barrow and

Camilla Painter of Big Spring High School, Rachel Clinton and Levi Johnson of Forsan High School and Jacob Haislip and Brandon Ireton of Stanton High School.

Arguing whether the federal government should substantially increase public health service for

See **CX**, Page 3A

RELIEF?

Some feel truck route will divert business away from Big Spring

By **ROGER CLINE**
Staff Writer

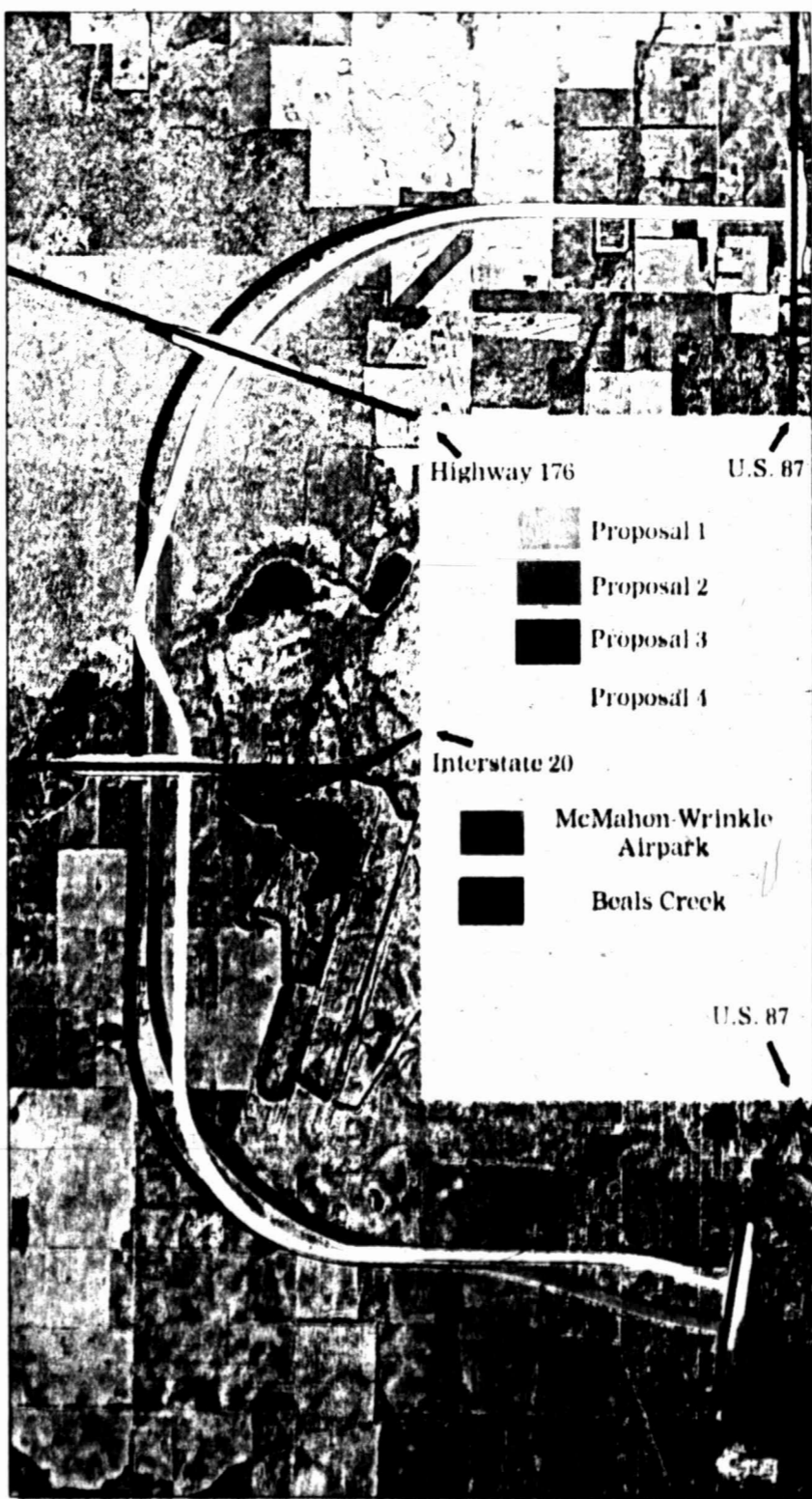
You're a traveler heading south along U.S. Highway 87 from Lubbock to San Angelo. You're not hungry or sleepy, and you don't need to use the restroom. At Big Spring, you're faced with a fork in the highway. One side says "U.S. 87," while the other side says "Business 87." Which way do you go? If you had to go through town, would actually seeing and passing Big Spring's restaurants, gas stations and shops tempt you to stop?

You're a business owner looking to locate your manufacturing business at an industrial park somewhere in West Texas. Does the fact that Big Spring's McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark has access to air, rail and highway freight distribution make that

"The thing it's going to mean for Big Spring is a big loss of revenue along Gregg Street, because the traffic's going to go around town."



Homer Wilkerson, owner of Herman's



See **RELIEF**, Page 5A

Big Spring pair held on federal indictments

By **ROGER CLINE**
Staff Writer

Two Big Spring residents have been indicted on federal drug possession charges.

Sharon Koo, 35, and James Gay, 46, both of Big Spring, were arrested last week in the Big Bend area, allegedly with about 350 pounds of marijuana.

The two were indicted in federal court Thursday on charges of possession of marijuana with intent to sell or distribute. Bond has been set at \$20,000 on each suspect.

Representatives of the Brewster County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Alpine and the Drug Enforcement Agency were unavailable for comment Friday.

A representative of the U.S. Clerk's Office said the two had not posted bond as of Friday.

The pair were still confined Friday evening in the Brewster County Jail.

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232.

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8th grade
thinclads
dominate
in Lamesa

Staff report
Chris Martinez and
Katie Abner each won
two events and helped
the Big Spring Junior High
School eighth grade boys
and girls roll to team
titles at the Lamesa
Junior High Track Meet
Thursday.
Martinez won the gruel-
ing 2,400- and 1,600-meter
runs. Abner won the long
jump and 400.
Adrian Nevarez and
Demar Byrd also won two
golds. Navarez won the
long jump and the 400.
Byrd won the 100 and 200-
meter races.



The Ackerly Lady Stangs turned in another solid year in BSYBA 12 & Under action. The team, which has lost just two games in the last three years, finished at 7-1. They outscored their opponents by a 229-144 margin. The team was coached by Jelene Timmins.

BSJHS netters split with Sweetwater

Staff report
Keesta Hieman and
Rosie Alcantar nailed
down the girls' only win
in doubles play Friday
and helped the Big Spring
Junior High School tennis
team salvage a split with
Sweetwater this past
weekend.
Hieman and Alcantar
pounded out a decisive 6-2
win over Sweetwater's
Megan Thomas and
Kirsten Elliott to guide
the Steers' to a 9-5 win.
Sweetwater earned a 22-2
win on the other half of
the dual meet, which was
held at the Figure 7
Tennis Complex.
Roshan Shroff and
Bryan Juan led a 5-1
match advantage in boys'
singles play. Both won
their matches, as did
Robert Andrade, Trevor
Davila and Nick Sosa.
Juan and Andrade com-

binated for the BSJHS boys'
only doubles win, a 6-0
romp.
Crystal Ward played a
key role in Big Spring's
two wins in the first bout.
She won her singles
match (8-5) over
Sweetwater's Becca
Myers.
She then teamed with
her sister Allison to
pound out an 8-2 win over
Myers and Sidney Bilbo
in doubles action.

BIG SPRING 9 VS SWEETWATER 5
Boys Singles
Boys Doubles
Girls Singles
Girls Doubles
SWEETWATER 22 BIG SPRING 2
Boys Singles
Boys Doubles

HAWKS

Continued from Page 6A
the contest, at 84-75, with
less than a minute to
remaining in the game.
Temple could not get
any long range bombs to
fall and when Jared Fears
hit a layup with 12 sec-
onds to go in the game he
sealed the win.
'We knew we would
have to start somewhere
and surviving is what's
important right now,'
Jans said.
'The way they (Temple)
play, we knew there
would be a lot of posses-
sions so even when we
were down 10 points we
knew we would have
plenty of opportunities to
handle the ball.'
With the win, Howard
College, now 28-3,
advanced to the second
round of the tournament.

Region V Basketball
Tournament
Friday's First Round
McLennan 84, Odessa 83 OT
South Plains 84, Hill JC 65
Howard Coll. 86, Temple JC 78
Collin Co. 76, Clarendon 68
Saturday's Second Round
Howard College vs. Collin Co.
South Plains vs. McLennan
Sunday's Finals
Howard College-Collin Co. vs.
South Plains-McLennan, 4 p.m.

They were slated to face
Collin County Commu-
nity College Saturday
night at 8.
in other first-round
games. McLennan
stunned Odessa College,
81-82, in overtime. South
Plains broke a halftime
tie and rolled over Hill
Junior College 84-65
Collin Co. defeated
Clarendon 76-68.
Temple's season ended at
24-7.

VOTE RONNIE CARTER
For Precinct 6...VOTE



Hello!
I am Ronnie Carter
I was born in Big
Spring in 1946, and own
property here. I worked
for myself for 10 and a
1/2 years.

Now I would like to be of service to precinct 6. Big
Spring is like a business, you put money into it to
get more people to come in. Even if people don't
come here, we deserve all of the comforts our tax
dollars can buy. I, with a lot of you, feel that the
city needs improvement, not only our streets, but
in city council attitude. My feelings are the resi-
dents of Big Spring are not receiving representa-
tion from our current council personnel. VOTE
RONNIE CARTER for precinct 6 in the MAY
ELECTIONS and together we will make Big Spring
more comfortable for ourselves, after all, WE LIVE
HERE. Even if you don't VOTE for me be sure to
VOTE.

Thank You, Ronnie Carter

CGA to hold 4-person event March 16

The Big Spring Chicano
Golf Association will hold
a 4-person Selective Drive
Tournament (A, B, C, D)
on Sunday, March 16.
For more information
contact Billy Pineda at
261-7116 or the Comanche
Trail golf course at 261-
2366.

RED TAG CLEARANCE SALE CONTINUES

Table listing various vehicles for sale with columns for 'Small Pickups', '3/4 Tons & 1 Tons', 'CARS', 'Vans', and 'SUV's'. Each entry includes a vehicle model, color, and price.

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Hope in a troubled world

Community to rally in prayer and music

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

It might seem an odd pairing at first, but then, if you think about it a bit, it's not so strange.

Wednesday night, Big Spring's Military Support Group will host a "United We Stand" Community Prayer Rally at the Municipal Auditorium in support of America's military personnel. The event will be followed by a musical presentation by the Grammy-nominated African Children's Choir.

The events — linked by a quest for aid in uncertain times — will kick off at 6:30 p.m. and will last about two hours, said the Rev. Roger Huff, pastor of Big Spring's First Church of the Nazarene.

"(The prayer rally is) a call to support our local military folks, some of whom are from our com-

"What a powerful program. We just encourage the people to turn out. It's going to be a great, great evening."

Rev. Roger Huff,
First Church of the Nazarene

munity in Afghanistan and other places in the Middle East," Huff said. "Also, to just pray for local leaders, our community, agriculture and farmers, local businesses

and economic development."



Huff said the economy is struggling both nationally and locally.

"We just feel the necessity to come together and pray for the economy and businesses here in support of our law enforcement and emergency services, basically just lifting up our nation and our community," he said.

Community leaders including Mayor Russ McEwen, City Councilman Oscar Garcia, County Commissioner Bill Crooker, Police Chief Lonnie Smith, Fire Chief Brian Jensen, Sheriff Dale Walker, School Board President Frank Long and other local pastors, farmers, veterans and officials will be on hand to pray at the rally.

Huff had nothing but praise for the children involved in the African Children's Choir.

"Some of these children coming over have seen other children tortured and killed in front of them," he said. "Most of them are orphans; they have no parents. They bring them over here to the United States to help raise funds for their orphanage as well as their schools, and medical supplies for the thousands of orphans over in the Sudan and Uganda and other places."

Members of the choir serve about 18 months in the U.S.

"Then they have to go back," Huff said. "This is a tremendous opportunity. These kids are so full of energy. What a powerful program. We just encourage the people to turn out. It's going to be a great, great evening."

Contact Staff Writer Roger Cline at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

Photography
by Paul Yates

PROGRAM

- Opening solo, welcome.....Rev. Roger Huff
- Presentation of Colors.....BSPD Color Guard
- Pledge of Allegiance.....Police Chief Lonnie Smith
- Military Support Group.....Treva Hall
- Gulf War veteran.....Rev. Michael Willard
- Vietnam veteran.....Oscar Garcia, city councilman
- World War II veteran.....Bill Crooker, county commissioner
- City government.....Mayor Russ McEwen
- Economic Development.....Kent Sharp, director, Moore Development
- Schools.....Frank Long, Big Spring ISD board president
- Medical needs.....Dr. Dale Bradley
- Agriculture.....Mike Moates, Farmer of the Year
- Law Enforcement.....Sheriff Dale Walker
- Emergency services.....Fire Chief Brian Jensen
- Churches/Family of God.....Rev. Sam Segundo
- Closing song.....led by Rev. Roger Huff



Wednesday, March 12,
Big Spring Municipal Auditorium

United We Stand
Community Prayer Rally,
6:30- 7 p.m.

15 minute intermission

African Children's Choir
7:15 p.m.



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HELP WANTED
FUN VALLEY FAMILY RESORT SOUTH FORK, COLO.
Need students for summer jobs, office, sales, housekeeping, dining room, horse wrangler, kitchen & other Salary, room, board, bonus. Write: Personnel Director 9010 Ravenswood Granbury, TX 76049

HELP WANTED
Are you looking for a job that allows you to write yourself a raise everyday? If you are looking for you. Full time position with benefits available with an opportunity to grow within our organization. Experience preferred but will train right individuals.

HELP WANTED
Big Spring State Hospital
We offer top wages and excellent benefits! Now available: Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program* for Qualifying RN's.

HELP WANTED
RN & LVN WANTED: Work at home in Health field \$500-1000 PT. Call Stacy Schramm 1-800-240-9688

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GARAGE SALES
Patio Sale: 5211 Longshore Rd. Fri.-Sat.-Sunday 9-7. Clothes, Furn., pipe and lots of misc. items.

MISCELLANEOUS
Moving/Down Sizing Sale: Sectional living room suit, cherry wood queen size bedroom suit, mahogany office furniture, cherry dining room table w/6 chairs, sewing machine. Call 915-267-1890 for information.

MISCELLANEOUS
Security is Peace of MIND. Business - Auto Combinations Changed. Largest Key Shop. A-1 Lock & Key Shop. 812 West 3 rd. Dennis Burns, Bonded Locksmith, 24 hrs. Call 263-3409

MISCELLANEOUS
Get ready for Spring Break! Ski Clothing - Men's & Ladies size S & M at \$5.00-10.00. Also Ladies XS Brown Leather Jacket \$45.00. All excellent quality Call 268-1747

West Texas Centers for HHMR
Quality Service for Quality Life
West Texas Centers for HHMR RN for the Act Team: Must be licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of Texas. Responsible for providing nursing services to consumers needing intensive mental health services.

Drivers needed Great Company hiring responsible drivers must have CDL HAZ Endorsement and asphalt tanker experience. For more INFO Call Tonja at Kiowa Peak Ind. 806-269-6672

ESTATE AND COLLECTIBLE AUCTION
Sale Time 10 A.M. Sat. March 15, 2003 C-CITY AUCTION HOUSE 1160 Westpoint (Old Hwy. 80) Colorado City, TX

Why Pledge?
Because there are links between your children breathing secondhand smoke and...

AUCTION
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 10:00 A.M. LOCATION: Tarzan, TX (Martin Co.) Sale Site located on Tarzan Coop Gun Yard From Stanton TX 11 Miles North on TX 127, then West 7 Miles on TX 176 to Tarzan and then 1 block South to Gun Yard OR from Big Spring, at the intersection of US 87 and I 20, 1 Mile West on Service Road to TX 176 (Andrews Hwy), 2 1/2 Miles West to Tarzan, and then 1 Block South to Gun Yard.

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Are you looking for a job that allows you to write yourself a raise everyday? If you are looking for you. Full time position with benefits available with an opportunity to grow within our organization.

We Can Save You Money By Advertising Your Business In Our Professional Service Directory! Call 263-7331 for more information.

Answer to previous puzzle
G O P S H A H S O L E G
R A E R E C A P V E N A
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L I L I C O W E R T R A
E S T E O W I N G A S E

Pool Company, a subsidiary of Nabors Industries and an industry leader in Oilfield Services, is accepting resumes for the following positions in Big Spring, TX
Crew Chiefs (Rig Operators)
Derrick Workers - Crew Workers

Newsday Crossword
ACROSS
1 Many CEOs went to one
8 Wister character
15 They hold water
16 Mexican mayor
17 In a macabre manner
18 Czech city
19 Polite term
20 Busy
21 Small-business publication
22 19th-century French painter
29 Part of
30 Across
30 Inflight guess: Abbr.
31 F Troop finagler
32 CNN owner
33 72 or so
36 Prank
37 GP grp.
38 Romantic entanglement
47 Answer source of a sort
48 2 Down's people
49 '80s First Son
50 Southern sch.
51 Costa Rican cash
52 Vintage
53 Young's destination
55 French composer
56 Oder River region
60 Kind of course

STUMPER by Anna Stiga Edited by Stanley Newman
63 Wallet material
64 Gum products
65 Scuba wear
66 Match starter
DOWN
1 Not as cool
2 Thanksgiving character
3 Dutch territory
4 License to Drive actor
5 Former West Coast fort
6 Bribe
7 Amateur
8 Asian belief
9 David Balfour monogram
10 Posture
11 New York Giants owner
12 High point
13 Coach
14 Where Frasier works
22 From plants
23 Marjoram relative
24 Alias, for short
25 Driller's syllable
26 Poetic palindrome
27 Where Yalta is
28 Accumulate again
34 Boss, briefly
35 Larrup
38 Poured out
39 More enjoyable, in a way
40 Alike
41 Blood-work abbr.
42 Primo's father
43 Showed
44 Crosby nickname
45 Wycliffe follower
46 Sign
54 British pianist
55 Maggie's sister
57 Mdse. ID
58 Richard
59 Opp.
60 Grasp
61 Directional ending
62 21 Across, e.g.

Midwest Tax Service
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DON'T WAIT 4-8 WEEKS TO RECEIVE YOUR REFUND
Get Your \$\$\$ Back In As Little As 48 Hours
612 Gregg St. 263-1440

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Remember to file early this year, and write off the hassle

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Tommy Richmond
Franchisee Tax Specialist
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Tel 915-263-1931 Fax 915-263-1402
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Heath Hughes, CPA
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Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
Pisces vibes are strong and getting stronger. Sweeties feel they can almost read one another's minds — and expect big things based on this supposed ability. A little solar/lunar conflict could have you ready to go to the mat with an internal struggle. Either the heart or the head is going to win, because neither is in the mood to cooperate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The best of what a loved one has to offer might somehow fall short of your expectations — which is a real opportunity for growth in the relationship. See what happens when you give love

when you feel like giving criticism.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Family members have many wonderful opinions (none of which you'll care the least bit about today, since it's all about doing your own thing!) You'll have to pardon others when they get miffed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll learn much from reading and listening to charismatic speakers. But it's what you



Joyce Jillson

actually apply to your life on a daily basis that makes a difference. Initiate a good habit, as what you do today has sticking power.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are a river to your people. It seems that whatever you need or wish someone you love dreams up, you're there with the exact right thing for the moment. Tonight, you'll want to be taken care of, too. Forgive someone for a past wrong.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll have a hard time letting go of what's beyond your control today, since you believe that almost nothing truly falls into that category. Don't discount the power of prayer. Address financial issues with a partner later in the week.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 9). Good fortune that comes down in the next three weeks has your name written all over it! Accept responsibility, and you'll also be accepting more power on the job. Moving up comes with its own unique challenges, and you'll need to make new friends who can help you face them. Cancer and Leo people really understand. Travel in October. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 35, 19 and 25.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's a day to breathe easy. Let nothing

infringe on your leisure time, including people who seem to take up all the room's air with their constant yapping. You need peace and quiet so you can focus on an organizational project.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can say what you need to say and still be nice. Others, however, aren't as gracious as you. You might even wind up teaching etiquette and diplomacy to someone younger (or just more clueless).

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you can use your mind instead of your body to complete a project, you'll be providing a much-needed workout to the former and much-needed rest to the latter. Tonight, there's a very real possibility of love at first sight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Bargain hunting brings treasures into your possession. If you've got children, they want to be a part of everything you do today, even the laundry. Your partner gets big points for being in tune to what you need tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are a lot of things you could be today, including sparkling, witty and right. However, the one thing friends and family need you to be is simply: nice. With compassion,

you win new friends and the respect of old ones.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Not usually one to have a narrow view of things, you might still get hung up on the details today. A few key words from the lips of someone you care about require further investigation. Truth seems to have many shades.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). An easygoing mood rules, and nothing can shake it! Wherever you go, you'll make friends — especially if you share your inherent kookiness. Being the new person on the scene gives you an advantage.

FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: The healing power of Pisces gains momentum as Uranus joins the sun and Mercury in this spiritual sign. The approach to problem solving that works best is one of a holistic nature. Instead of going straight to the heart of the issue, you'll probably have more luck changing other things in your life and seeing if the happy vibes automatically heal your problem. For instance, overeating could be linked to being in the wrong job. A back problem could clear up with the resolution of a debt. And your love life might be healed by buying red sheets for the bedroom. Such fixes might

seem off the wall normally, but with Venus smiling down from Aquarius, we'll shrug our shoulders and ask, "Why not?" Thursday, all kinds of new options open up, but you'll have to really look to see them. The little cloud over communication issues will lift on Friday — in fact, you could find yourself standing up in front of the group and being eloquent, funny and a real show stopper. The Leo Moon loves to turn up the razzle-dazzle! This stint in the spotlight could land a wonderful weekend date. Singles get all swept up in love that seems bigger than life.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: I believe that characters like Carrot Top, the persona created by Scott Thompson, have their own birthdays, independent of the performer's birthday. Maybe Carrot Top is actually an Aquarius, while Thompson is a sensitive Pisces. Since comedy is often a combination of truth and pain, comedians show the best in human nature by turning their own tears into something that will make others laugh.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to: Mr. John W. Grant, General Manager, Colorado River Municipal Water District, 1000 S. University, Big Spring, Texas 79720. Opening: Thursday, April 3, 2003 at 3:00 pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS
Sealed proposals addressed to: Mr. John W. Grant, General Manager, Colorado River Municipal Water District, 1000 S. University, Big Spring, Texas 79720. Opening: Thursday, April 3, 2003 at 3:00 pm.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Call or Visit our rental office today.
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Annie's Mailbox.. Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My boyfriend, "Keith," is a psychiatrist. Not long ago, I discovered that he has been writing prescriptions for his own use and putting them in my name. I saw two prescriptions for controlled substances around the apartment. They had been filled at my pharmacy, under my name. He said he wanted my insurance to cover most of the cost.

I believe Keith is committing some kind of criminal offense, and I told him I objected vigorously to his actions.

He responded that I am "too uptight." Please let me know whether I am correct. — New York City Woman

Dear NYC Woman: Your boyfriend is committing insurance fraud, among other ethical and legal violations, and you are right to tell him to knock it off.

Keith may have a serious addiction problem. Fortunately, there are treatment programs for doctors with substance-abuse difficulties. You or Keith should contact his



Annie's Mailbox

state medical society about its physicians' health program and ask for assistance.

Dear Annie: My sister and her husband were transferred out of the country on business, and I agreed to let my niece, "Luisa," live with me so she could finish high school.

Her mother and I set up a bank account so Luisa's parents could send money for her living expenses. To date, not one cent has been put into the account.

Luisa has accumulated \$500 in long-distance phone charges, and my

husband and I suggested she get a job to pay it off. We think it will help teach her responsibility. Meanwhile, although Luisa calls her parents now and then, they have never called here and have yet to speak to us about their daughter.

We love helping out and doing our part as a family, but we did not expect to take on so many additional expenses.

We don't want to look greedy by asking Luisa's parents to contribute when we know they don't make a lot of money and we are more fortunate. As Luisa's guardians, we should be discussing this situation with her parents, but I'm afraid it would cause problems.

I don't know how to handle this, and her parents are no help. Why do I feel bad? — Stuck in the Middle from Oklahoma

Dear Stuck: You feel bad because you are being taken advantage of, and you are mistaking it for family loyalty.

Not to mention Luisa's parents don't seem all that interested in their

daughter's welfare and you'd like to be a loving substitute.

Luisa's parents are neglecting their obligations. Pick up the phone and call them.

Explain, nicely, that their daughter has run up a \$500 phone bill and you want to know if they intend to pay for it, otherwise Luisa will be getting a part-time job to work it off.

Also suggest they start depositing a monthly sum into that account so their daughter can have some spending money.

You are doing Luisa and her parents a huge favor by taking her in and caring for her while they are away. The least they can do is help support her. Stop feeling guilty about asserting yourself.

It's time. Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the Ann Landers column.

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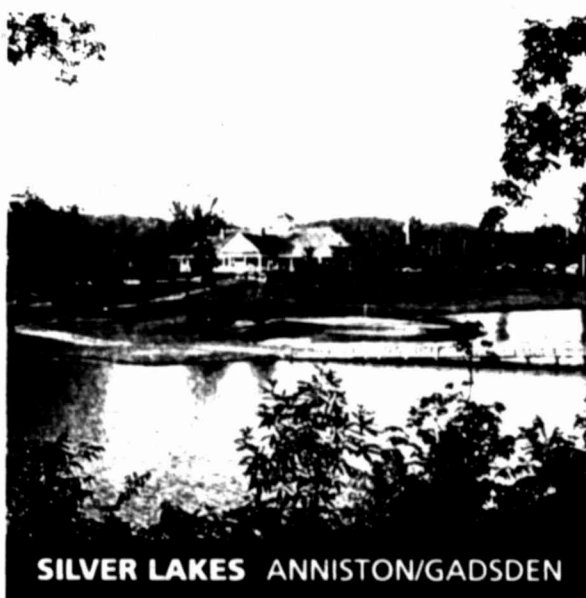
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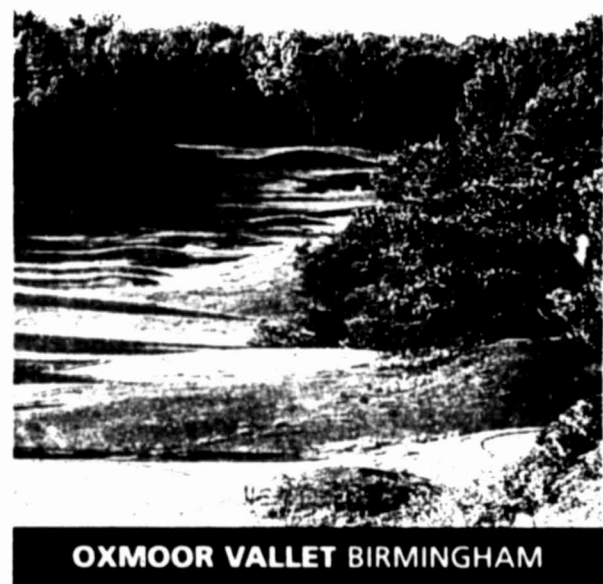
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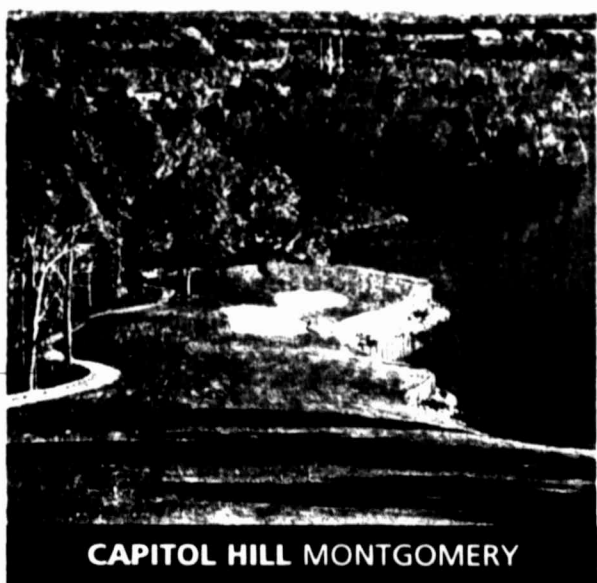
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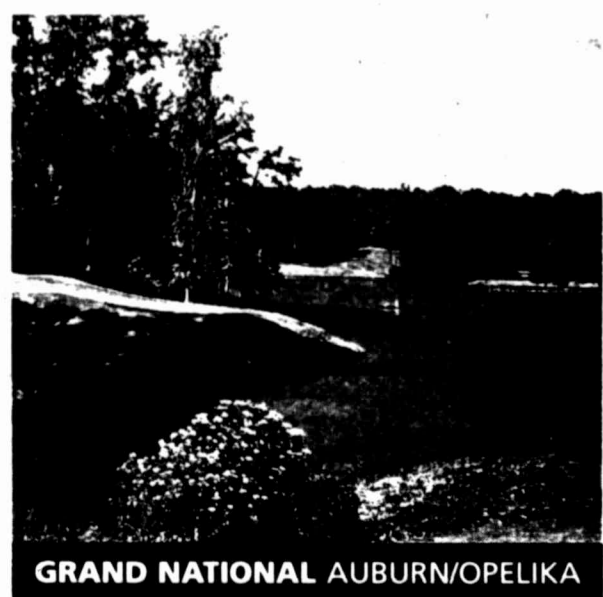
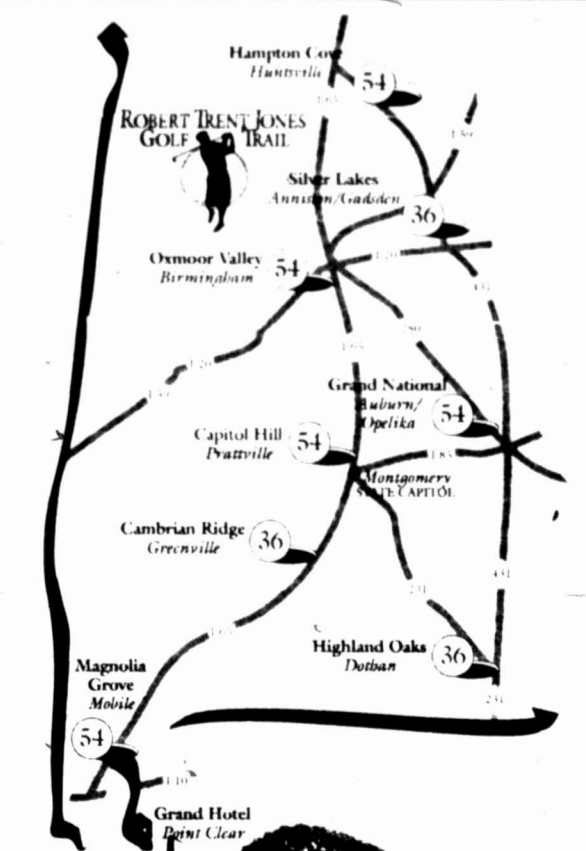
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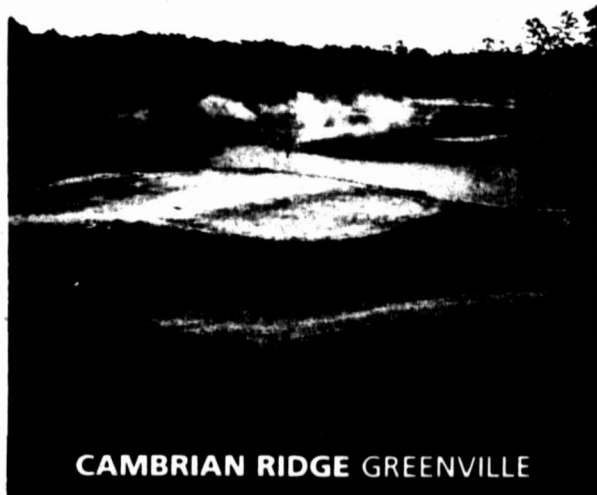
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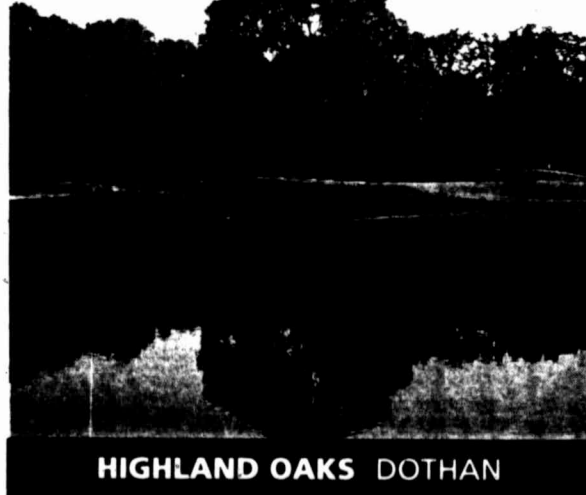
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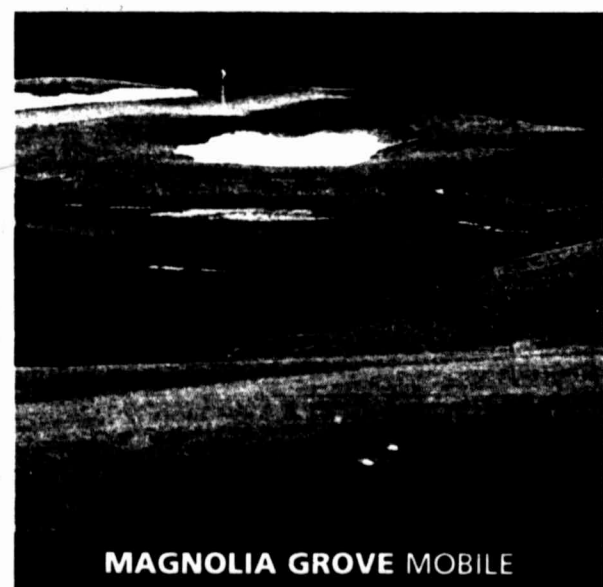
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