



BIG SPRING

HERALD

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We're Always There

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

HOMELAND SECURITY TERRORIST ALERT LEVEL

HIGH ORANGE

MONDAY

March 31, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 50°-55° TOMORROW 70°-75°

INSIDE TODAY



WEST TEXAS LIVING

The debut of West Texas Living, a special supplement to the Herald and the Sweetwater Reporter, is included in today's edition.

This month's tabloid includes Easter recipes, a look at rattlesnake roundups and much, much more.

BRIEFLY

ADDRESSES WANTED

The Big Spring Herald is seeking the addresses of all Big Spring and Howard County military personnel currently deployed to the Middle East.

Herald Publisher Hank Bond said the newspaper will be sending free newspapers to the service men and women helping to prepare for a possible conflict with Iraq.

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

Jury selection begins in murder trial

HERALD Staff Report

Jury selection in the capital murder trial of three Big Spring teen-agers started today in the 118th District Court.

Michael Scott Jackman, 16, who was 15 at the time of the murder; Pedro Castillo, 16; and

Jackman's older brother, Terrell L. Jackman, 19, will stand trial for the August 2002 slaying of 16-year-old Lennon Lane.

Lane's body was discovered on Aug. 5 in a vacant lot north of the intersection of 19th and State streets. Autopsy results indicated that the teen died of blunt force trauma.

The murder trial was originally slated for March 3 but was postponed by request of the District Attorney's office.

District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson cited a delay in evidence processing at the Department of Public Safety lab as the reason for that request.

Last year, Michael Jackman

and Castillo were certified to stand trial as adults by Howard County Judge Ben Lockhart for their suspected role in Lane's murder.

While court officials indicated that testimony in the trial could begin as early as this afternoon, most expect the trial to begin sometime Tuesday.

Two more U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq

By MEG RICHARDS

Associated Press Writer

U.S.-led troops fought pitched battles with Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard within 50 miles of the capital Monday as coalition warplanes pounded the city and dozens of other Iraqi positions in advance of the battle for Baghdad. Two U.S. soldiers were killed in fierce fighting for control of the south-central city of Najaf.

In the closest ground fighting yet to Saddam's seat of power in Baghdad, U.S. troops with the 3rd Infantry Division pushed into the Euphrates River town of Hindiyah on Monday. Iraqi soldiers fired from behind brick walls and hedges with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, and U.S. troops returned fire with 25mm cannon and machine guns.

At least 35 Iraqis were killed and U.S. forces captured several dozen others who identified themselves as members of the



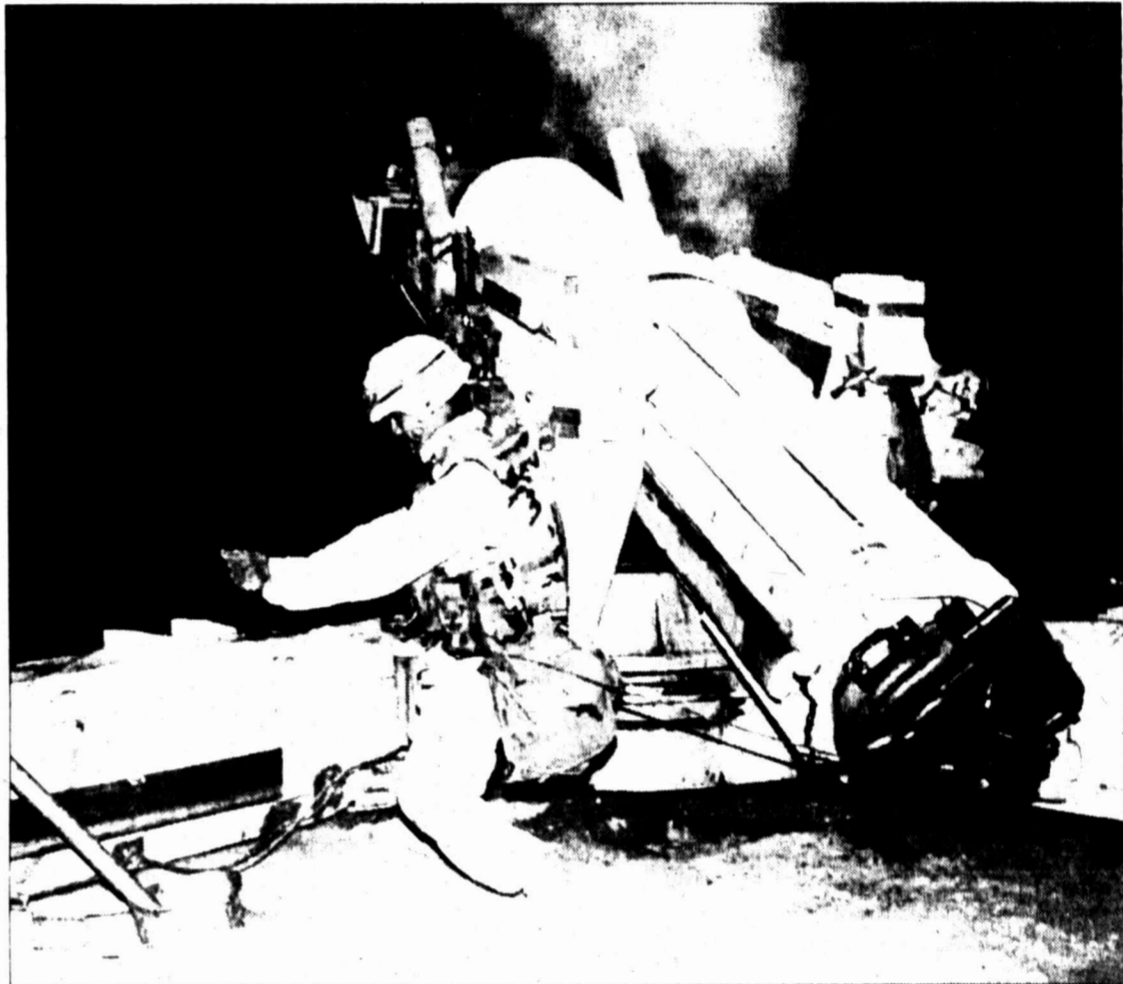
See Page 3

Republican Guard Saddam's best-trained and best-equipped fighters. Their uniforms carried the elite unit's triangular insignia and they said they were with the Nebuchadnezzar Brigade, based in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit.

Iraq remained defiant Monday; in Baghdad, Foreign Minister Naji Sabri questioned the legitimacy of the strikes and called on coalition soldiers to surrender.

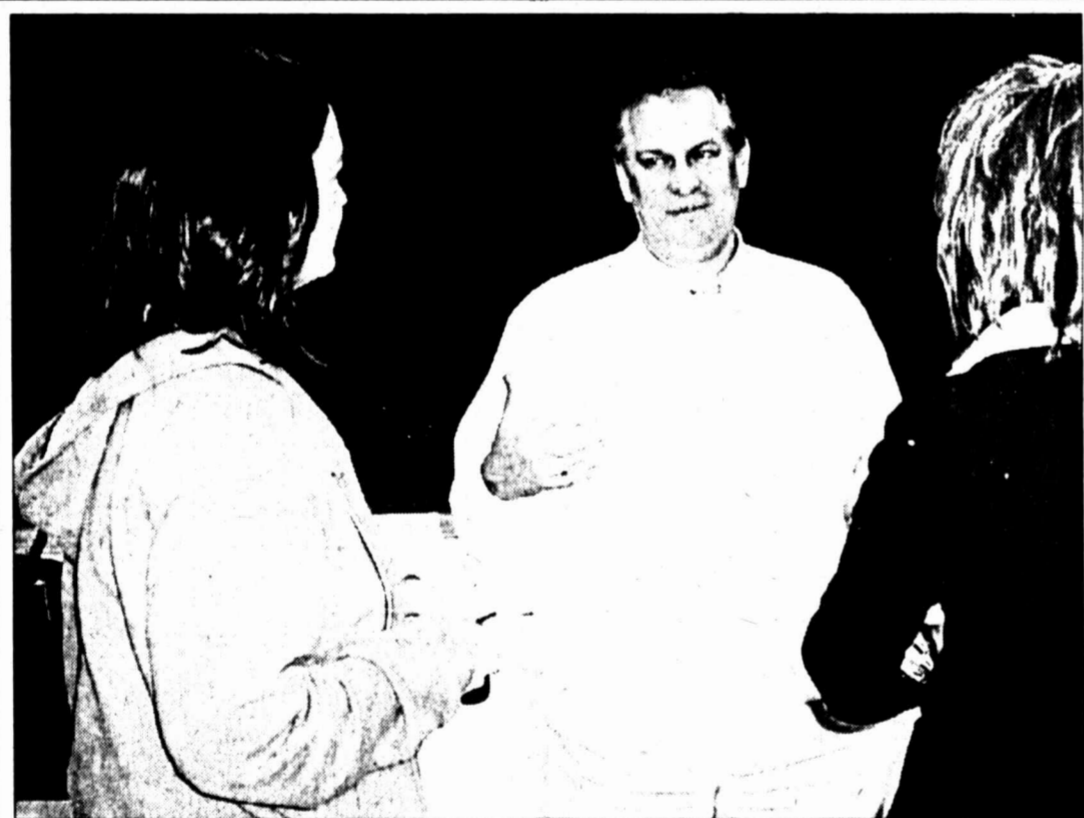
"America and Britain have no choice but to surrender and withdraw," Sabri said. "They will not

See WAR, Page 5



USMC photo/Lance Cpl. Matthew Decker

Lance Cpl. Euer Delacruz, 19, a native of Dallas and a cannoner for Sierra Battery, Battalion Landing Team 2/1, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) pulls the lanyard firing the 155mm round of the howitzer during fire missions in support



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

The Rev. Roger Huff, pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene, speaks with Lauri Phillips, left, and Karen Freeman, parents of New Hope Christian School students, after the announcement the school plans to add grades first through third next year. The Nazarene church took over the facilities of the now defunct St. Mary's Episcopal School, after the private institution became financially insolvent in November.

New Hope Christian School will add three grade levels

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

New Hope Christian School officials announced last week that it expects to add three grade-level classes for the next year.

"We are committed to bringing kindergarten-3 online this fall," the Rev. Roger Huff, pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene, announced to parents and the school's staff members at a special meeting.

New Hope Christian School, sponsored by the church, committed last November to pick up and support through May the pre-kindergarten and early pre-kindergarten

classes when the 42-year-old St. Mary's Episcopal School became financially insolvent.

At that time, Huff said the church committee would meet later in the year about the feasibility of adding back grade-level classes.

Tuesday night's announcement was met with pleasure by the crowd of parents and teachers.

"They really were our salvation in November and they said they would go through May," said Sherry Newton, a New Hope Christian and former St. Mary's pre-kindergarten teacher. "That's exactly what we're doing, so if he says

we have K-3, I think that he is going to do his best to do that."

A hunt for an administrator and school board members is now underway, Huff said, and the school has begun the process to receive accreditation through the Christian School International, an organization recognized in all 50 states.

Huff said that estimate monthly cost per student in grade-level classes is expected to run from \$225 to \$275 per month and nine to 10 students on average are needed to make a class financially viable.

See SCHOOL, Page 5

Sales tax

Most area communities see rebate increases for March

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

Fifteen of the 19 area communities polled by the Herald for sales tax rebates each month, including Big Spring, posted an increase in rebates for March, when compared to a year ago.

The information is provided by the State Comptroller's Office.

Ten of those communities witnessed double-digit increases. Big Spring, however, was not among them.

The Howard County seat did witness a 5.26 percent increase, though, receiving \$262,461.63 this month compared to \$249,345.09 in March of 2002. For the still-young year, Howard County has received \$907,581.73, a scant 0.90 percent ahead of the pace of a year ago.

Coahoma experienced a 23.81 percent increase rebates this month. The community received \$3,797.95, compared to \$3,067.50 for March 2002. The community has received \$11,163.74 for the year, up 8.09 percent.

Forsan, which saw rebates increase more than 60 percent last month, got more good news. The \$4,002.34 the city received this month was 48.75 percent ahead of the \$2,690.64 received a year ago. For the first three months of 2003, Forsan has taken in \$10,444.19. Because of a major drop in rebates for January, Forsan's total for 2003 is \$10,444.19, up just 0.35 percent com-

pared to a year ago.

Stanton staggered through yet another hefty loss. After its rebates dropped 31.94 percent in January and 24.97 percent in February, the city's rebate tumbled another 41.33 percent in March. The Martin County seat received \$6,151.10 this month compared to \$10,484.26 in March a year ago. For the year, Stanton has received \$22,569.53, off last year's pace by a whopping 31.78 percent.

Abilene received \$1,930,068.34 this month, up 16.19 percent compared to the \$1,661,077.68 received in March of 2002. The year-to-date total is \$6,728,193.11, up 2.04 percent.

Sales tax rebates shot up 32.65 percent for Andrews, which received \$61,495.73 this month compared to \$46,356.32 in March of 2002. For the year, Andrews has taken in \$235,422.30, up 29.36 percent.

Brownfield received \$54,988.03, up 7.35 percent when compared to \$51,218.75 in March 2002. Brownfield has taken in \$199,963.62 for the year, up 10.58 percent.

Colorado City noted a rocketing 48.08 percent decrease in rebates, comparing \$26,967.48 received this month to \$18,211.13 received in March 2002. The Mitchell County seat has received \$ 101,714.16 this year, up just 2.07 percent from last year.

Fort Stockton enjoyed another strong increase

See REBATES, Page 5

MARCH 31 2003

A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Obituaries

Patsy "Pat" Wyrick



Patsy "Pat" Wyrick, 61, of Big Spring, died on Saturday, March 29, 2003, at her residence. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at the East Fourth Street Baptist Church with the Rev. Dudley Mullins, pastor, officiating. Interment will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born on May 14, 1941, in Lamesa and married Drue Wyrick on June 28, 1958, in Midland.

She attended schools in Midland and Gail. She and Drue moved to Big Spring in 1972 from Amarillo. She had worked for Frasier Industries before retiring. She was a member of East Fourth Street Baptist Church and had taught Sunday School.

Survivors include her husband, Drue Wyrick of Big Spring; one daughter, Jana Slaughter and husband, Jess, of Big Spring; one son, Craig Wyrick and wife, Debbie, of Big Spring; two grandchildren, Tony Wyrick and Morgan Slaughter, both of Big Spring; her mother, Doris Higginbotham of Lubbock; her father, Roy Burdett of Tahoka; one sister, Peggy Jolly of Tahoka; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to Odyssey Hospice, 1510 S. Gregg St., Big Spring 79720.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

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

B.J. "Bettie-Jane" King



B. J. "Bettie-Jane" King, 80, of Big Spring, died at 1:45 p.m. Saturday, March 29, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, 2003, at Trinity Baptist Church with the Rev. Randy Cotton officiating.

She was born on Dec. 28, 1922, in Atlanta. She was the daughter of Elizabeth Powell Newborn and William Newborn. She had lived in Big Spring since 1972, coming from New Jersey. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church. She had been a teller at State National Bank for 25 years.

She is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Matthew and Elizabeth King of Fort Worth; one granddaughter, Mikayla King of Fort Worth; and two nieces, Kelly Vietzke of Fairfax, Va., and Kate Grant of Roanoke, Va.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Edward King; one son, William King; and one sister, Ethel Mooney.

The family will be at 1001 East 21st Street. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Harrison Lee

Harrison Lee, 61, of Big Spring died at 10:35 p.m. Thursday, March 27, 2003, at his home following a lengthy illness. Funeral services were at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 30, 2003, at the Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Elwin Collom officiating.

Mr. Lee was born on July 28, 1941, in Picayune, Miss. He was the son of Dorothy Flowers Lee and Harrison Leander Lee Sr. He lived there until 1959 when he joined the Navy.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1959 until 1981, retiring as a chief petty officer. He was a Vietnam veteran. During his Navy service he received his associate degree from Wilkesboro Community College in North Carolina. He began work for the Veteran's Administration in 1986, and in 1987 transferred to the VA Medical Center in Big Spring where he remained until retiring in 1998 due to ill health.

Mr. Lee was a Baptist. He was a member and past commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He married Zona Bibb on June 11, 1989, in Midland.

He is survived by his wife, Zona Lee of Big Spring; one daughter, Alana Lee of Big Spring; three sons, Todd Lee of North Carolina, Shane Lee of El Cajon, Calif., and Ted Castle of Hudson, Fla.; one brother, Douglas Lee of Arab, Ala.; three sisters, Henrietta Tindale of Chiefland, Fla., Ruth Bodie of Channelview and Mittie Neill of Chalmette, La.; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Kevin Lee, and one sister, Dorothy Parr.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Darlene Dietz

Darlene Dietz, 77, a retired bookkeeper, died Saturday, March 29, 2003, in Grand Prairie.

Graveside service was held at 3 p.m. Monday, March 31, in Moore Memorial Gardens, Arlington. Visitation was 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday at Moore Funeral Home in Arlington.

Mrs. Dietz was born on Jan. 11, 1926, in Sioux Falls, D.D. to Goodwin and Verna Bennett Gulseth.

Darlene moved to Texas in 1946 and married Nathan Dietz of Big Spring on Feb. 11, 1967. Mrs. Dietz retired as a group leader Accounting Department HQ AAFES in 1990. She moved to Merrill Gardens Retirement Center in 2000 and later moved in with her son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Mary Loving.

She was a member of First Christian Church of Big Spring. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, four sisters and one brother.

She is survived her sons, Gary Loving and his wife, Mary of Grand Prairie, Dennis Loving and his wife, Carole of Swan Valley, Idaho, and Tom Loving of Medford, Ore.; brothers, Lester Gulseth of Beaver Creek, M.N., and Dallas Gulseth and wife, Darlene of Cheyenne, Wyo.; four stepchildren, Wayne and Teddy Ray Dietz of Big Spring, Janet Bryant of Lake Whitney and Carloyn Davey of Colorado City; four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

Elsie May Billings

Elsie May Billings, 79, of Big Spring died on Sunday, March 30, 2003, in a local hospital.

Graveside funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2003, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Dr. Bill Welsh, minister of Belvue Church of Christ in Stanton, and the Rev. Derrick Looney, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ackerly, officiating.

She was born on May 7, 1923, in London, England and married Grant Billings on Oct. 1, 1945, in Brocking, Braintree, Essex, England.

He preceded her in death on Nov. 18, 1982.

Mrs. Billings came to Big Spring in 1945 from London, England.

Her main purpose in life was being a loving wife, mother and nannie. Her interests included reading, crocheting, bowling and her English hot tea.

She was a member of the Methodist Church.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Lonnie Taylor of Ackerly; one son, Roy Billings of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Laurie Reed and her husband, Lance, of Canyon and Melissa Romine of Stephenville; two grandsons, Michael Billings of El Paso and Tommy Billings of Texas; one step-grandson; Doyce Taylor of Vealmoor; one step-granddaughter, Shanna Gibson of San Antonio; one great-granddaughter, Jaylen Reed; and four step-great-grandchildren, Chance Taylor, Rowdy Clarey, Kyle Gibson and Sidney Gibson.

The family suggests memorials to a favorite charity.

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

Police blotter

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

- **ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ**, 38, of 1033 Gail Highway was arrested for two local warrants.

- **TAMMY LEVETTE LANG**, 25, of 2502 Langley was arrested for four local warrants.

- **KIP DAVID WHITE**, 17, of 1 Courtney Place was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana, less than two ounces.

- **ELROY JOHNSON**, 18, of 510 S. Lancaster was arrested for a local warrant.

- **ORLANDO SANCHEZ JR.**, 18, of 607 Aylesford was arrested for five local warrants.

- **ISABEL RIVERA**, 32, of 1900 N. Birdwell was arrested for four local warrants.

- **FRANK FIERRO JR.**, 55, of 1803 Hamilton was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, more than \$50 but less than \$500**, was reported:

- in the 1700 block of Scurry where a 1991 Geo reportedly received \$30 of damage.

- in the 2600 block of Hunter where vehicle parts/accessories reportedly received \$108 in damages.

- in the 1500 block of Stadium.

- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 2500 block of Hunter where \$150 in damages was reportedly inflicted upon a structure.

- **BURGLARY of a HABITATION** was reported - in the 1100 block of East 19th Street where tools worth \$100 were reported stolen. Also at that same address electronic equipment worth \$365, computer hardware, software worth \$1,300, recordings—audio, visual worth \$150 and tools worth \$100 were reported stolen.

- in the 3500 block of Auburn where recordings—audio, visual were reported stolen.

- **THEFT** was reported in the 1100 block of North Lancaster Street where \$830 worth of household goods were reported stolen.

- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in 500 block of Goliad Street, in the 300 block of West Fourth Street, in the 900 block of South Scurry Street, in the 1000 block of Stadium Avenue, in the 2900 block of Old West Highway 80 and in the 500 block of Westover.

- **DISTURBANCE/FIGHT** was reported in the 2100 block of S. Johnson Street and the 1000 block of North Main Street.

- **SHOTS FIRED** was reported in the 1000 block of South Scurry Street.

- **FRAUD USE** was reported in the 500 block of Hillside.

- **VIOLATION OF PROTECTIVE ORDER** was reported at the Barcelona Apartments.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

- **VANDALISM** was reported at the youth roping area.

- **SHOTS FIRED** was reported in the area of 461.

- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 7000 block of West FM 846.

Weather

Today — Sunny and warmer. Highs around 80. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph with gusts to 25 mph.

Tonight — Clear. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tuesday — Mostly sunny. Windy and warm. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 20 to 30 mph.

Tuesday night — Mostly clear and breezy. Lows near 60.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the mid 80s.

Thursday — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. Highs in the mid 80s.

Friday and Saturday — Partly cloudy. Slight chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Highs in the lower 80s.

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.

TODAY

Senior Circle, Sit & Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 4 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, for people 50 years and older, call 268-4721.

Concerned Citizens, 7 p.m., Fiberflex conference room, Bethel Street, McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark. The public is invited.

Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., La Posada

TUESDAY

Intermediate Line Dance classes, 9 a.m., Spring City Senior Center, Industrial Park, 267-1628.

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

WEDNESDAY

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

Senior Circle Stretch & Tone, 9:30 a.m., at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

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

Line dancing, 1 p.m., Spring City Senior Center, Industrial Park. For more information call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

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

Eagles Lodge Ladies, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

THURSDAY

Gideon International, B.S. Camp U42060, 7 p.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, 1001 Birdwell Lane, 267-6479.

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

Masonic Lodge 598, 7:30 p.m., 219 Main

FRIDAY

Signal Mountain Quilting Guild, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 257-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.

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

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

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

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

Lottery

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game.

The ticket was worth an estimated \$7 million.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 54 were: 7-10-31-37-49-54.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$9 million.

...
The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Saturday: 7-11-12-33-34

...
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 6-0-2

...
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon: 2-7-1

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

Armada

By HAMZA HENDAW
Associated Press Wire

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Armada of B-1, B-2 and 52 bombers struck communication and command centers in Baghdad cruise missiles set to Information Ministry ablaze Monday in the second such attack on a building in two days.

The fire, yards from a shopping named for Saddam Hussein's birthday, put out after a half-hour.

Recorded calls of "God is great" from minarets alerted the people of Baghdad to an night of bombings Sunday, followed by a huge explosion and the streaks of anti-air tracers across the sky.

In the past few nights the mosque loudspeakers have been used as sirens, with the all signaled by an minaret announce "God is great, the gone."

The U.S. Command said it was first time in history long-range B-1s, B-2 B-52s had carried simultaneous attack the same location.

The air strike shook the city around a.m. Monday and to off a fire near the 28



U.S. p

By BRIAN MURPHY
Associated Press Wire

TAQTAQ, Iraq — aircraft pounded positions near the town of Kal Monday, aiding K fighters as they seized territory from Hussein's fleeing troops.

Iraqi positions ridge west of the river came under less attack, as troops running for or speeding away in No anti-aircraft fire heard.

The aerial bombardment rattled wind Kalak, but people went about their business, shopping bazaar and work the fields. Some tea as they watch air strikes from roofs.

Far fewer Iraqi were visible than recent days, which indicate that gave forces were pulling toward Mosul, the city in northern Iraq.

The airstrikes help prepare the an advance by troops and U.S. Kurdish militia

U.S. c

By NICOLE WINFILL
Associated Press Wire

CAMP AS SAY Qatar — The U.S. Command said that captured Iraq being treated as prisoners of war but said would be account for any terrorist would violate the war.

Brig. Gen. Brooks cited several incidents in which loyal Saddam Hussein killed Iraqi while using the

Armada of U.S. bombers hits Baghdad communication center

By HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD, Iraq — An armada of B-1, B-2 and B-52 bombers struck communication and command centers in Baghdad, and cruise missiles set Iraq's Information Ministry ablaze Monday in the second such attack on the building in two days.

The fire, yards away from a shopping mall named for Saddam Hussein's birthday, was put out after a half-hour.

Recorded calls of "God is great" from mosque minarets alerted the people of Baghdad to another night of bombings late Sunday, followed by a huge explosion and then the streaks of anti-aircraft tracers across the sky.

In the past few nights, the mosque loudspeakers have been used as air-raid sirens, with the all-clear signaled by another minaret announcement: "God is great, they are gone."

The U.S. Central Command said it was the first time in history that long-range B-1s, B-2s and B-52s had carried out simultaneous attacks on the same location.

The air strike on the Information Ministry shook the city around 2 a.m. Monday and touched off a fire near the 28 April

U.S. Central Command said it was the first time in history that long-range B-1s, B-2s and B-52s had carried out simultaneous attacks on the same location.

Shopping Center.

The 10-story building remained standing. Windows were gone and the outside walls sustained some damage. Witnesses said the interior, especially on the top floors, was severely damaged.

With coalition forces closing in on Baghdad, Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri warned that the Iraqi people are preparing a "holocaust" for the Americans and the British.

"Every day that passes the United States and Britain are sinking deeper in the mud of defeat," he said. "Those two states have no choice but to withdraw early and fast, today before tomorrow. It is better for them and that will save them more losses."

A Tomahawk missile



AFP Photo/Patrick Baz

Explosions rock Baghdad late Saturday during a coalition raid on the Iraqi capital. It was not immediately clear what targets had been hit in the bombing on the southern rim of the city but Iraqi satellite television broadcasting outside the country was interrupted.

had hit the Information Ministry building before dawn Saturday, gutting one floor and destroying many of the satellite dishes on the roof. Foreign journalists have been working at the Palestine Hotel, where they had moved for fear of attacks on the ministry.

Coalition bombardments have focused in recent days on Republican Guard units protecting the approaches to Baghdad, in an attempt to wear down Saddam's best-trained forces ahead of a U.S.-led ground assault on the capital.

Earlier Sunday, warplanes bombed the barracks of the main training center of the Iraqi paramilitary forces in eastern Baghdad's Rustamiyah area, and targeted a presidential palace and an intelligence complex.

Residents and officials in Baghdad said at least four telecommunication installations were hit.

Next door to the demolished telephone office in Baghdad's A'azamiah district, 70-year-old Adel Hussein al-Abdali lamented the damage to his home.

"That Bush is a despica-

ble coward," al-Abdali told a crowd of journalists escorted to the site by the Information Ministry. "But we will be victorious with the help of God."

Early Monday, the coalition bombed another telephone exchange in Baghdad, in the Bab al-Moazim district. The three-story building was heavily damaged, with sections of wall gone, revealing mangled metal and destroyed office furniture and computers. The exchange, which served 25,000 subscribers, was hit in the 1991 Gulf War and rebuilt.

Next door, a 10-story building housing the Baghdad Municipality administration appeared to be unscathed, with its windows still in place.

Around mid-afternoon, a low-flying aircraft could be heard over central Baghdad and the sound of two explosions followed. The target was a site on the west bank of the Tigris River. Moments later, a huge cloud of white smoke rose from the spot. The area houses many government departments, presidential compounds and other sensitive sites.



U.S. planes blast enemy positions in Northern Iraq

By BRIAN MURPHY

Associated Press Writer

TAQTAQ, Iraq — U.S. aircraft pounded Iraqi positions near the northern town of Kalak on Monday, aiding Kurdish fighters as they seized territory from Saddam Hussein's fleeing troops.

Iraqi positions on a ridge west of the Zab river came under relentless attack, sending troops running for cover or speeding away in cars. No anti-aircraft fire was heard.

The aerial bombardment rattled windows in Kalak, but people in town went about their business, shopping in the bazaar and working in the fields. Some sipped tea as they watched the air strikes from their roofs.

Far fewer Iraqi troops were visible than in recent days, which could indicate that government forces were pulling back toward Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq.

The airstrikes Monday help prepare the way for an advance by coalition troops and U.S.-backed Kurdish militia fighters.



AFP photo/Patrick Baz

Iraqis carry a piece of a US bomb outside the Information Ministry Saturday in Baghdad. The ministry was hit overnight during a coalition raid.

The United States sent more than 1,200 paratroopers into northern Iraq last week and has

begun coordinating military activities with the Kurds, who have controlled an area known as

the northern no-fly zone since the 1991 Gulf War. Several thousand more U.S. soldiers are expected

soon, Hoshiar Zebari of the governing Kurdistan Democratic Party said Monday, declaring that a

northern offensive could be a "breakthrough" in the campaign to topple Saddam.

Some limited U.S. ground operations have already begun, Zebari said.

"These are behind enemy lines and many, many operations are very sensitive," he told reporters in Irbil, administrative capital of the Kurdish region.

Over the weekend, Kurdish forces advanced southward toward Kirkuk, Iraq's second most important oil center, and Mosul. Both cities have come under heavy bombardment from U.S. forces.

The Kurds made substantial progress Sunday, taking 10 miles of new territory, but were slowed by dense minefields, said Ares Abdullah, a Kurdish commander.

Elsewhere in the north, Kurdish guerrillas working with U.S. special forces attacked extremists belonging to Ansar al-Islam, a militant group allegedly linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

See **BOMBING**, Page 4

U.S. command says captured Iraqis treated as POWs

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press Writer

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — The U.S. Central Command said Monday that captured Iraqis are being treated as prisoners of war but said there would be accountability for any terrorist acts that would violate the rules of war.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks cited several incidents in which loyalists of Saddam Hussein shot and killed Iraqi civilians while using them as

human shields in facing U.S. forces.

He said no decision had been made to designate any of the more than 4,000 Iraqi prisoners as unlawful combatants and send them to a prison camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where followers of Osama bin Laden were incarcerated after the Afghanistan war.

"Right now at this point, we are treating all that we have taken into our custody as prisoners of war," Brooks said, noting the Bush administration

would decide whether to treat them as terrorists.

Brooks said Iraqi paramilitary forces that acted as death squads and carried out "brutal acts" against civilians would be held accountable under the Geneva Conventions, which govern the actions of combatants.

Brooks was responding to reports in The Washington Post that U.S. forces have begun rounding up Iraqis in civilian clothes who are suspected of involvement with paramilitary squads and may

ship them to the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo.

The report said military lawyers were drafting criteria designed to guide front-line troops on how such Iraqis could be taken into custody. The detainees would be treated like POWs but without an official status until a hearing is held, which would determine whether they can be released, held as POWs or declared illegal combatants, the report said.

"There will be account-

ability for the violations of the Geneva Conventions," Brooks said, adding he did not believe any U.S. portrayal of the acts of Iraqi loyalists would affect the treatment of Americans held by Iraq.

"We can't account for what this regime will do with our POWs," he said.

Asked about the impact of an Iraqi suicide attack on U.S. forces Saturday that resulted in the death of four soldiers, Brooks said it would not stop the U.S. advance on Baghdad.

"It's not a very effective military tactic at all," he said. "It will not stop us. It will not stop us."

He said U.S. forces "certainly know that in a regime that is linked to terrorism that terroristic practices might be exhibited."

Asked about reports that 4,000 volunteers had entered Iraq from other Arab countries and vowed to carry out suicide attacks, Brooks said U.S. special forces were oper-

See **POWS**, Page 4

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BOMBING

Continued from Page 3

The attack Friday left 120 to 150 militants dead and dealt 'a very serious blow' to terrorism, said Barham Salih, prime minister of the Sulaymaniyah-based Kurdish government. He said 17 Kurds were killed. 'It was a very tough battle,' Salih said. 'You're talking about a bunch of terrorists who are very well-trained and well-equipped.'

Bush to visit Coast Guard installation

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush highlights his request for more money for wartime domestic security by focusing on the accomplishments of the U.S. Coast Guard, now on its highest alert since World War II.

As part of his \$74.7 billion war budget, Bush has asked lawmakers to approve about \$4.2 billion for the new Department of Homeland Security and other domestic security programs.

Bush planned a visit to Philadelphia today to pay tribute to the Coast Guard, which is now part of that new department.

In an address to hundreds of Coast Guard personnel, Bush also planned to claim progress in the war against Iraq. He was meeting with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld at the White House before departing.

POWS

Continued from Page 3

ating in the western part of the country to prevent infiltration.

On the battlefield, Brooks confirmed U.S. troops had engaged the Republican Guard units south of Baghdad, saying the Army's 5th Corps was hitting the Medina division with air attacks and artillery fire.

Elsewhere, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force conducted a raid in Fajir, south of Kut, and captured several Baath Party members, weapons and documents, he said.

He said the local population in Basra was providing information on the Saddam loyalists in the city, but there were still areas 'under the boot of the Iraqi regime.'

'We wouldn't say that Basra is completely under coalition control,' he said.

One target of U.S. air attacks was local Iraqi television, which has broadcast interviews with top officials in Saddam's government. Brooks said that the transmission facilities had been damaged and the civilian population 'did not see much of the regime at this time.'

American forces were searching a terrorist compound in northeastern Iraq belonging to Ansar al-Islam that was probably the site where militants made a biological toxin, ricin, traces of which were later found by police in London, the Pentagon's top general said Sunday.

U.S. and British forces now control the com-

ound, said Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, describing it as a site 'where Ansar al-Islam and al-Qaida had been working on poisons.'

Kurdish fighters spent Sunday clearing mines and poking through abandoned Iraqi posts. They carried away war souvenirs and anything with possible value: electrical

cables, helmets, vintage gas masks, casings from anti-aircraft artillery.

The Iraqi outposts seemed little more than rough camps. Small cinderblock and mud shelters dotted a clearing - probably a muddy quagmire in rain and a dust bowl in the heat. Roofs were apparently tarps, removed in the withdrawal. Dozens of positions

were dug out for tanks or other vehicles.

A team of Kurdish sappers cleared more than 230 anti-personnel mines and 77 anti-tank mines in one day, according to team leader Abdullah Hamza Salim. The light olive anti-tank mines are as big as a layer cake. The smaller mines are black and the size of an ashtray. The team worked with

no protective gear and used sticks to pry up the mines. At least two sappers have been injured since Saturday. Salim said they had received some mine-clearance training but wondered why U.S. experts have not offered help.

'We would welcome the Americans, but they do not come,' he said. 'We face this danger alone.'

WAR

Continued from page 3

leave our land safe sound if they continue to be stubborn in aggression. We will front them with a have ... No one will safe.'

'We will turn deserts into a big yard for the Americans and British,' he said. Coalition attack leadership and control center Baghdad were carried simultaneously by B-1, B-2 and bombers, according to U.S. Central Command 2 a.m. missile struck the information touched off a fire nearby 28 April Sh Center, named Saddam's birthday. phone office was later in the day, said.

With constant bombardments of capital and ground advancing from the west and north, U.S. military leaders defended the pace of the war Sunday, answering criticism that they had underestimated the Iraqi resistance.

'We have the patience in this

REBATES

Continued from Page 3

— 58.37 percent month, compared to \$117,194.12 received \$73,999.65 taken in March 2002. For the Fort Stockton received \$352,172 38.18 percent

Kermit received \$22,113.59 this month, a decrease of 12.92 percent compared to the \$25,312.50 collected last March. The year, Kermit taken in \$79,459.22

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 3

If the school is unable to make all classes, the school has made a commitment to tell parents mid-summer, Huff said.

The announcement comes on the heels of final talks between Nazarene and St. Mary's to purchase the facility. Huff calls the offer 'generous' for the school's facility. The sale of the facility is being footed



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WAR

Continued from page 1

leave our land safe and sound if they continue to be stubborn in their aggression. We will confront them with all we have ... No one will be safe."

"We will turn our deserts into a big graveyard for the Americans and British," he said.

Coalition attacks on leadership and command and control centers in Baghdad were carried out simultaneously by multiple B-1, B-2 and B-52 bombers, according to U.S. Central Command. A 2 a.m. missile strike on the information ministry touched off a fire at the nearby 28 April Shopping Center, named for Saddam's birthday. A telephone office was struck later in the day, Iraqis said.

With constant aerial bombardments on the capital and ground forces advancing from the south, west and north, U.S. military leaders defended the pace of the war effort Sunday, answering criticism that they had underestimated the vigor of Iraqi resistance.

"We have the power to be patient in this, and

we're not going to do anything before we're ready," said Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

There is good reason for caution as troops face persistent danger from plainclothes killers and warnings from Iraqi officials that there will be more suicide attacks like the one that killed four Americans on Saturday.

Sabri said more than 5,000 Arabs have come to Iraq to help attack the invaders. Iraqi dissidents and Arab media have claimed that Saddam has opened a training camp for volunteers willing to carry out suicide bombings.

Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, a U.S. Central Command spokesman, said such suicide attacks were "not a very effective military tactic" and would not stop the U.S. advance on Baghdad.

In the north, U.S. aircraft pounded Iraqi positions near the town of Kalak on Monday, aiding Kurdish fighters as they seized territory from Saddam's fleeing troops.

Under relentless attack, Iraqi forces could be seen abandoning positions on a ridge west of the Great

Zab River.

Far fewer Iraqi troops have been seen along the border of Kurdish-controlled territory in recent days, which could indicate government forces were pulling back toward Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq.

Iraqi deserters who have sought safety with Kurdish forces say they endured backbreaking toil in Saddam's army and constant scrutiny by security squads. Deserters who are captured face execution. It's not clear how many have crossed over; some say it is close to 500.

"We decided it was either die from an American bomb or be killed by our own people," said one Iraqi foot soldier who staggered into Kalak on Monday. "It was better to run and take our chances."

The deserter who offered only one name, Ali - said soldiers sleep in muddy burrows, are given meager rations and no information about the war or any chance to call home. There is no medical help; the wounded are left to die. He said morale was very low, and most are not motivated to fight.

"We were not really mad at the Americans," he said. "We just want to save our lives."

In Najaf, two soldiers from the 1st and 2nd brigades of the 101st Airborne Division were killed Monday when Iraqi fighters dressed as civilians opened fire with weapons mounted on vehicles, said Capt. Kenric Bourne of the 101st.

The 2nd brigade is fighting from the north and the 1st is closing in from the south to try to isolate the Shiite Muslim holy city of 300,000 people about 100 miles south of Baghdad.

A day earlier, the Army's 82nd Airborne Division killed about 100 "regime terror squad members" and captured about 50 Iraqi militants in Najaf and another nearby town, Central Command said.

It was unclear whether U.S. forces would try to capture Najaf or just surround it. There are too many Iraqi fighters to bypass them or leave them unattended; they are a danger to supply lines on the way to Baghdad.

Coalition forces also are leery of damaging Najaf's

holy shrines, which could anger Shiites in Iraq and elsewhere, most notably Iran.

In the southern city of Nasiriyah, where fighting has been fierce for a week, Marines on Sunday secured buildings held by an Iraqi infantry division that contained large caches of weapons and chemical decontamination equipment.

Also Sunday, a Marine UH-1 Huey helicopter crashed at a refueling point in southern Iraq, killing three aboard, said spokesman 1st Lt. John Niemann.

In Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, British forces continued to skirmish with militiamen loyal to Saddam. As many as 1,000 Royal Marines and supporting troops destroyed a bunker and several tanks in a commando assault Sunday. About 30 Iraqis were captured and an unknown number were killed. One Royal Marine was killed in the assault.

Brooks, the Central Command spokesman, said residents of Basra were providing information about Saddam loyalists in the city, but there were still areas "under the boot of the Iraqi regime."

"We wouldn't say that Basra is completely under coalition control," he said.

British forces also discovered a cache of arms and explosives at a school in the southern port city of Umm Qasr. Australian mine clearance experts were called to dismantle the weaponry Monday, Australian defense spokesman Brigadier Mike Hannan said.

Australian divers also are working to clear a sunken boat loaded with mines discovered near the grain terminal in Umm Qasr, Hannan said.

Umm Qasr, Iraq's only deep-water port, is an important conduit for humanitarian aid and military supplies, but shipments have been delayed because of fears that waters may be mined.

In London, British Defense Minister Geoff Hoon said about 8,000 Iraqis are being held as prisoners of war.

REBATES

Continued from Page 1

— 58.37 percent — this month, comparing the \$117,194.12 received to the \$73,999.65 taken in during March 2002. For the year, Fort Stockton has received \$352,172.18, up 38.18 percent

Kermit received \$22,113.59 this month, a decrease of 12.92 percent, compared to the \$25,395.65 collected last March. For the year, Kermit has taken in \$79,459.23, down

4.39 percent.

Lamesa witnessed an increase of 22.32 percent in sales tax rebates. The Dawson County community received \$63,920.64 for the month, compared to \$52,254.65 in March of 2002. The Dawson County seat has received \$220,368.59 for the year, up 3.74 percent.

Sales tax rebates were up 0.34 percent for Lubbock, which received \$2,125,027.69 this month,

compared to \$2,117,697.34 last March. For the year, Lubbock has received \$7,543,431.02, down 0.32 percent.

Midland, which increased sales tax last April, saw rebates go down 6.2 percent, comparing the \$1,301,768.62 received this month to the \$1,387,916.53 received in March 2002. For the year, Midland has received \$5,204,915.89, up 11.07 percent.

Rebates were up down in Monahans this month. Monahans received \$53,606.77, down 12.88 percent compared to the \$61,535.96 taken in for March of 2002. For the year, the Ward County seat has received \$198,190.77, down 14.93 percent compared to a year ago.

March's rebates for Odessa amounted to \$1,010,624.56, up 17.64 per-

cent when compared to \$859,029.47 taken in a year ago. Odessa has received \$3,629,347.17 for the year, up 7.87 percent.

Rebates were down slightly for Pecos again this month. That community received \$52,229.91, compared to \$53,574.37 for March of 2002. That's a decrease of 2.5 percent. For the year, Pecos has taken in \$193,020.23, down 2.91 percent.

San Angelo saw rebates increase 14.67 percent, comparing the \$994,577.46 taken in this month to the \$867,314.78 received in March of 2002. For the year, San Angelo has received \$3,555,220.82, down 1.25 percent.

Snyder pulled in \$123,192.93, up 18.22 percent when compared to the \$104,204.81 it received in March of 2002. For the year, the Scurry County

seat has taken in \$432,038.93, up 14.94 percent

Rebates took an 8.32 percent hike in Sweetwater, comparing this month's receipts of \$128,336.82 to \$118,477.27 taken in a year ago. For the year, the Nolan County seat has received \$513,832.41, up 10.75 percent.

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

SCHOOL

Continued from Page 1

If the school is unable to make all classes, the school has made the commitment to tell parents by mid-summer, Huff added.

The announcement comes on the heels of final talks between The Nazarene and St. Mary's to purchase the facility at what Huff calls "a very generous offer (by St. Mary's) for the sale of the facility."

The sale of the facility is being footed by an

anonymous donor.

Huff hopes this new progress will eventually lead to a junior high/high school private Christian school and possibly a two-year Bible College.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

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Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON

The unrestrained Aries moon comes tearing in with all kinds of wild impulses.

Aries thinks anything is possible, and so the world starts to look that way. Those who thought they'd never love again fall right in. Cynics buy improbable news, children spout wisdom, and broke folks get paid. Pluto continues through his important transition.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Take a break from all twosomes, and do things on your own. You expect to be instantly good at everything, but creative talent must be nurtured and challenged. Improving skills adds to financial power.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Brilliant strategy will impress everyone and land you exactly where you want to be. Join or apply for club memberships, where you will certainly find true love.

Clear up bill paying before a shopping trip.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be riding high on the spirit of adventure. Bonding with other people who aren't afraid of the unknown is lucky. Greater determination is needed in order to succeed at an athletic or mental competition.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You lead the way, but others come through with incredible additions. Be sure to acknowledge everyone who contributes to your cause. You have major influence and could be a real heart-breaker if you are not careful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Put financial and business affairs on automatic pilot today, and concentrate instead on the personal. Getting fit is one way to acquire super-confidence. You'll motivate those around you with your high energy.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 31). Very special love and togetherness are featured for you this year. Work on building trust. May brings the enjoyment of new opportunity. June is profitable because you finally ask

for what you are due. Unexpected windfalls appear in July, when an entrepreneurial spirit follows your every move. Best signs for romance are Gemini and Cancer. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 23, 27, 41 and 30.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Reordering your priorities is necessary. You don't need to ask — just do things your way. Challenge yourself to adhere to a budget; you can do it and still be satisfied with your purchases. You'll soon see an improvement in cash flow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Saving is serious business, true, but you can loosen the reins a bit when it comes to buying special-occasion gifts. Keep your wits about you with a loved one who likes to see you off balance; there is much to gain.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You could uncover profound truths by giving dreams and waking consciousness equal footing. Finish current projects before committing to new ones. Tonight, you'll regain lost energy and positive outlook.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When the spotlight swings to you (and it will!), share with a normally shy friend. You have no idea the impact of your generous moves, and besides, there's plenty of room for all. Reach out to the wisdom of a wiser mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You expertly draw from obscure resources to pull plans together. That's how you get a reputation for being a genius. Avoid love triangles at all costs. A romantic night is enhanced by fine food and witty friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Dump tiresome obligations, and go off in a new direction. Self-confidence convinces everyone around you that your ideas are winning ones. Consider going into business for yourself before accepting a new position at work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A family project requires even more organization than a work project. Resist the temptation to play this morning — finish an assignment, and then live it up in style. A loved one makes

changes to please you.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Libra with an Aries moon born Oct. 17, 1948. My Aura Splash is blue, green, orange, brown and yellow. With such a good birth date and color layout, why is everything in such a mess? Someone has plagiarized and come out with a copycat version of my book. My favorite Siamese cat (and best friend) passed away. I thought I really had a good thing going according to the stars."

So what you're telling me is that you believe some people are immune to the hard knocks of life? That for some lucky people, cats never die and ideas never get stolen? Would you really wish those impervious stars on anyone when you think about it? Our pain defines us, our limitations challenge us to go on anyway, and our losses remind us what we have left to live for. What kind of life would it be and what kind of person would you be if nothing bad ever happened? As far as your book goes, I don't recommend suing anyone. Enroll in a writ-

ing class that will provide a supportive environment, and get started on your next book. You could make your own big sale in July of 2004. Get busy!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Steven Tyler couldn't fulfill a request to be the King of Orpheus for Mardi Gras this year due to other contractual obligations, but he could make it up to fans next year by not only doing the appearance but agreeing to be set up on a blind date with one lucky admirer. Tyler is a playful Aries whose fiery passion both on stage and off is legendary. He could follow his daughter's lead and do a small film role.

If you would like to write to Joyce Jillson, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Joyce Jillson page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Joyce Jillson and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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JOYCE JILLSON

Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: Last summer, my father was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and was given no hope of treatment or survival. As soon as my wife and I found out, we moved in to care for him. During this time, Dad had his will drawn up and left everything to me. (I had nothing to do with his decision.) Dad didn't have much money, but he inherited a lot of valuable family heirlooms from my grandfather, his "legacy," so to speak.

I have a younger half-brother, and we always have been close. In the will, Dad wrote that his ex-wife (my half-brother's mother) had left him in enormous debt. Because of her influence over my brother, Dad did not want to risk leaving him any family heirlooms.

After the reading of the will, my brother acted as though everything was fine, but he now refuses to return my calls. I haven't spoken to him in three months. I love my brother very much and would do anything to get our relationship back on track. I have quit calling him, thinking that maybe



Annie's Mailbox

he needs his space. Do you have any advice for me? — Very Sad in the South

Dear Sad in the South: The problem with leaving unequal inheritances is that the overlooked child interprets it to mean the parent loved the other children more. While your father may have had a good reason for leaving those heirlooms to you, he inflicted tremendous hurt on your brother in the process.

Call your brother, and tell him you love him. Let him know you are sorry about the circumstances of the will and you want to make it up to him. If there are any heirlooms

that you think he will cherish, please consider giving him one or two. No matter the value of Grandpa's legacy, it isn't worth the loss of a beloved brother.

Dear Annie: I read the letter about the mother who eats with her mouth open. My mother did a lot of things I didn't like, too, but Alzheimer's "solved" the problems I used to complain about.

My mother is now in a nursing home. She will never again nag me to clean up my room. She no longer asks me to drive her anywhere. No more requests for a cup of tea. No more listening to how hard her life was. Gone, too, is the wonderful sense of humor and the made-up songs she used to sing to us.

My brother and sisters and I consider it a good day if Mom remembers our names. We feel overjoyed if she recognizes our children. So, if you think you would never wish to see your mother eat with her mouth open, I pray you never find out that you can miss that, too. — Heartbroken Son in New Jersey

Dear Son: Your letter is sure to touch many of our readers, and undoubtedly will make them think twice before complaining about an aging parent. Bless you.

Dear Annie: I read your column every day, and I notice you spend a lot of time answering etiquette questions. Please tell

your readers about the fine etiquette books available to them at their local libraries and bookstores. By learning proper etiquette and good manners, they will be much happier and more confident. — Well-Bred in Clarksville, Texas

Dear Clarksville: We agree that learning prop-

er etiquette is quite useful and there are many books available on the subject. However, we're here to be of service to our readers, and if they want etiquette help, we're happy to provide it.

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Bauer Magnet School Registration

Official registration for new students at Bauer Magnet School, Grades K-4 for next school year, will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2003, from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon in the principal's office. Bauer Magnet School is located at 108 NE Ninth Street, Big Spring, Texas.

La matricula oficial para estudiantes nuevos en Escuela de Bauer Magnet, los grados K-4 para próximo año de escuela, serán tenidos el miércoles, el dos de abril de 2003, de 8:00 de la mañana a 12:00 mediodía en la oficina del director. La Escuela Bauer Magnet se localiza en 108 NE Calle Nueve, Big Spring, Tejas.



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IN BRIEF

Umpires needed for Little League season
Little League umpires are needed for this season.

Anyone interested in calling Little League baseball games should contact David Roman at 263-4688.

Lifeguard course to be held at YMCA

A Lifeguard Certification Course will be held April 1-8 at the YMCA.

Persons taking the course must be at least 16 years of age and be able to swim 500 yards. The class is limited to 10.

For more information, call 267-6234.

BSYSA seeking team sponsors for 2003

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association is seeking team sponsors for the 2003 season, which begins in April. For more information, call Kris Larson at (915) 264-3641, Ext. 196.

Fast-pitch softball clinic set for April 5

A fastpitch softball clinic will be held April 5-6 at the Roy Anderson Complex. The clinic is open for players ages 5-14.

An all-skills clinic will run Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The pitching segment of the camp will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Each day of the clinic is \$10 per player.

For more information, contact Tracy Stewart at 267-2290 or 267-1381, or Perry Wington at 557-8488 or 263-0616.

HC teams to host rodeo April 10-12

The HC rodeo teams will return to action April 10-12 when they host the Howard College Rodeo at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. on April 10. There is no charge to the public to attend the first day of the event.

HC Crawfish Boil slated for April 12

The Howard College rodeo team's Crawfish Boil will be held April 12, beginning at 3 p.m., at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl.

Tickets are \$15 per person. All proceeds go toward producing the annual Howard College Rodeo.

To reserve tickets, contact Stan Feater at 267-5048 or Greg Kiernick at 816-9477.

Everyone is invited to join the Phoenix



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Lady Steers 2nd after first round

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Rachel Gee, Angela Payne and Brennan Bailey have played through a lot of big situations in their young golfing careers. Few, if any, were bigger than the course they faced Friday afternoon when they strode onto the Big Spring Country Club course for the first round of the District 4-4A girls' golf tournament.

A good day and the Big Spring High School threesome could find themselves in a position to battle the 4-4A championship - and, maybe, lead the Lady Steers into position to gain a berth in the Region 1-4A Golf Tournament next month.

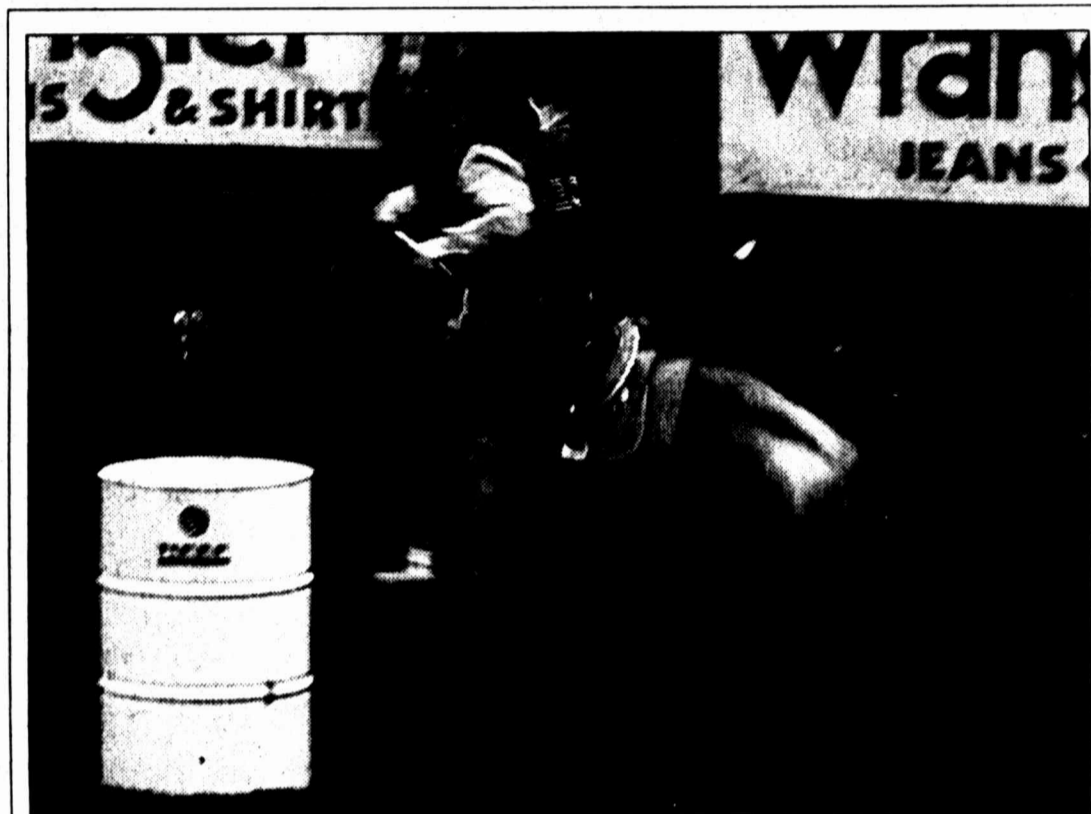
A bad day and, well ... None of the three had to worry about the other option as they all turned in strong performances on their home course. Gee shot a

| Team | Score |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1. Andrews A | 342 |
| 2. Big Spring A | 372 |
| 3. Andrews "B" | 378 |
| 4. Big Spring "B" | 421 |
| 5. Levelland | 440 |
| 6. SA Lake View | 496 |

team-low 92 over the first 18 holes and helped lead the Lady Steers to second place in the district's team standings. Payne and Bailey were close behind, firing scores of 93 and 94, respectively.

The Andrews Lady Mustangs, behind the play of Halli Richards, took the early lead in the District 4-4A race. The Lady Mustangs carded a team score of 342 in the first round and now take a 30 stroke lead over Big Spring into next week's second event. Andrew's "B" team finished third overall, six strokes behind the Lady Steers at 278.

See GOLF, Page 9



Howard College's Terena Ream performs during the second round of the Western Texas College Rodeo. Ream did not finish in the Top 10 of the event.

O'Donnell, Jordan win team roping title at WTC

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Probably more than few people told Ryan O'Donnell he was full of bull when he told them he was going to attend college to ride a horse.

The former Stanton High School graduate proved it was a good choice Saturday night at the Curry County Coliseum in Snyder. He and teammate Lester Jourdan walked away with the overall team roping title at the Western Texas College Rodeo.

O'Donnell and Jourdan, a freshman from Iowa, La., finished the three-day event on top of the overall average standings with a two-calf time of 13.3 seconds.

They opened the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association event with solid run Thursday, roping their calf in a time of six seconds. They followed that with a 7.3 effort Saturday.

Howard College's Shawn Gray and

his teammate Sterling Smith didn't fair as well. After riding to the top of the event's leaderboard in the first round with a 5.9, the two struggled in the short-go, posting a mark of 18.7.

Gray and Smith finished with a 24.6 effort in the average and just missed the Top 10.

Where Gray and Smith struggled, Hawk steer wrestler Seth Swearingen shined. He dropped his calf in a time of 4.9 seconds in the second round and finished third in the final average with a time of 8.7. He won the first round with a 3.8.

Currently, he is ranked second in the NIRA West region in the event. HC's Tony Sauter is rated fourth.

Danny McDowell continued to turn heads. He placed fourth in the bull riding competition with a final total of 155. The West region's top rider, he was third after the first round on Thursday with a ride of 79.

Brittany Sisson was fourth in the barrels with a time of 27.26.

Lady Hawks split twinbill with nationally-ranked MC

Staff report

The Howard College Lady Hawks split a twinbill with the No. 3-ranked Midland College Lady Chaparrals on Sunday. The HC women won the opener by a 3-2 mark and then suffered a 6-5 setback in the finale.

The Lady Hawks ended MC's 14-game win streak in the opener. Bianca Paz delivered a bases-loaded single in the fifth to give

Jennifer Reed all the support she would need. Howard College is 25-15-1 for the year. They are second in the WJCAC standings at 12-8.

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Bulldogs 4th at Coahoma Invitational

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Coming into the 2003 Coahoma Invitational Golf Tournament Stephen Binion and Joseph Olvera knew the Bulldogs stood a chance of finishing near the top if they managed to find their games early.

Consider the quest a mission accomplished.

Binion finished atop the boys' medalist standings while Olvera garnered fourth overall and helped carry Coahoma to fourth place in the final team standings. The Bulldogs, as a team, fired a 335 and finished just 21 strokes off the pace set by Midland Christian.

Iraan finished second overall at 320. Robert Lee was third with a final mark of 331.

The big story was Binion and Olvera, however.

Binion owned the Comanche Trail course. He turned in the tournament's best individual effort by shooting a 74 2-over-par score over the 18-hole course. Midland Christian's Kyle Bowzer won a card playoff to finish second in the individual standings. He and

Coahoma Invitational Golf Tournament held at Comanche Trail Golf Course

| Team | Score |
|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Midland Christian | 314 |
| 2. Iraan | 320 |
| 3. Robert Lee | 331 |
| 4. Coahoma #1 | 335 |
| 5. Crane #1 | 336 |
| 6. Crane #2 | 345 |
| 7. Blackwell | 347 |
| 8. Forsan #1 | 359 |
| 9. Colorado City | 371 |
| 10. Rankin | 372 |
| 11. Coahoma #2 | 374 |
| 12. Forsan #2 | 379 |
| 13. Stanton #1 | 383 |
| 13. Ira | 385 |
| 15. Westbrook | 386 |
| 16. Garden City | 408 |
| 17. Loop | 429 |
| 18. Stanton #2 | 465 |

Midland teammate Matt Phillips both fired rounds of 75.

Olvera, a former Big Spring Junior High standout, penciled in a 76.

The Bulldogs also picked up strong efforts from Jake Smith, Darrick Shifflett and Kelby Kemper. Smith finished with a score of 91. Shifflett and Kemper posted rounds of 95 and 94, respectively.

Coahoma's No. 2 team just missed a Top 10 finish. The Bulldogs, behind strong efforts from Pud Bowlin and Cory Mulkey, finished 11th in the final team standings with a mark of 374 — two strokes more the No. 10 Rankin.

Bowlin turned in a 18-hole score of 89 to lead the

See COAHOMA, Page 9

BSCC to host 3-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club will host a 3-person scramble tournament on Saturday and Sunday.

Entry fee for the event is \$50 per player plus the cost of a golf cart. Private carts are welcome. Entry fee includes barbecue on the course Saturday.

The scramble is sched-

uled to begin with a 1

p.m. shotgun start on both days. The field will be flighted by first round scores. The number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

For more information contact Larry Bryan at the BSCC Pro Shop at 267-5354.

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Hawks drop games to C in Sunday

Staff report

The Midland Chaparrals posted 25 hits Sunday and rolled to a doubleheader Howard College Sunday afternoon.

The two winners Midland to take the four games the two Western College Athleticence rivals.

The Chaps were the most suggest in the two teams for 26 hits in the MC edged Howard 15-19 for the year in WJCAC play finale.

GOLF

Continued from P

Gee highlighted strong showing in the Spring in the final. She was one of the golfers to finish the top 10 in the final standings.

Gee finished with holes of loop playing in seventh nine strokes of set by Richards was eighth overall. Bailey and Dunnam tied for Richards.

Andrews dominated top three spots in individual medal. She edged out Kerri Self, Hammonds and Subia for the shooting an 83.

Self is second into the next standing. Hammonds was tied for third with a score of 86 — three strokes after another A. Megan Self will after the first with a total score. Frenship's Haygood is the highest finisher.



Hawks drop two games to Chaps in Sunday twinbill

Staff report

The Midland College Chapparals pounded out 25 hits Sunday afternoon and rolled to a sweep of a doubleheader with the Howard College Hawks Sunday afternoon.

The two wins enabled Midland to take three of the four games between the two Western Junior College Athletic Conference rivals.

The Chaps won a 14-10 slugfest in the opener. The two teams combined for 26 hits in the game.

MC edged Howard, now 15-19 for the year and 8-16 in WJCAC play, 6-3 in the finale.



Erica Stewart and the Big Spring Lady Steers will face the Andrews Lady Mustangs Tuesday in a showdown between District 4-4A's top two teams. The two teams are currently tied for first place in the loop standings.

GOLF

Continued from Page 8

Gee highlighted a strong showing by Big Spring in the first round. She was one of four BSHS golfers to finish among the top 10 in the individual standings.

Gee finished the first 18 holes of loop play standing in seventh place, just nine strokes off the pace set by Richards. Payne was eighth overall, while Bailey and Caylie Dunnam tied for ninth.

Richards helped Andrews dominate the top three spots in the individual medalist race. She edged out teammates Kerri Self, Kayla Hammonds and Britney Subia for the best round, shooting an 83.

Self is second heading into the next round, standing at 83. Hammonds and Subia tied for third with marks of 86 — three strokes better another AHS golfer, Megan Self who is fifth after the first 18 holes with a total score of 89.

Frenship's Allison Haygood is the district highest finishing non-

| Top 10 Individuals | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--|
| No. Player, Team | Score | |
| 1. Haili Richards, Andrews A | 83 | |
| 2. Kerri Self, Andrews A | 84 | |
| 3. Kayla Hammonds, Andrews A | 86 | |
| 3. Britney Subia, Andrews Medalist | 86 | |
| 5. Megan Hall, Andrews A | 89 | |
| 6. Allison Haygood, Frenship | 90 | |
| 7. Rachel Gee, Big Spring A | 92 | |
| 8. Angela Payne, Big Spring A | 93 | |
| 9. Caylie Dunnam, Big Spring A | 94 | |
| 9. Kelsie Gray, Andrews A | 94 | |

standings with a round of 421. Levelland was fifth at 440, while San Angelo Lake View was sixth at 496.

Hicks played a stellar first round. Using a strong effort on the greens, she carded a 97 and finished just three strokes out of the individual Top 10.

Paige Schmidt also played well, chalking up a mark of 100, while teammates Kim Paradez and Erin Griffin both shot identical scores of 112. Joy Seay was fifth on the team at 115.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 8

CHS squad. Mulkey was second at 90, seven strokes ahead of Orrin Mansfield. Willie Watts and Trevor Bibb recorded marks of 98 and 99.

The Forsan Buffaloes No. 1 team placed eighth overall. Brandon Burleson's team-best 84 helped the Buffs finish with a respectable 359.

Adam Johnson was Forsan's second-best finisher, shooting a 90. Ben

Breyman etched in a 91, while teammates Josh Gibson and Josh Helmstetter checked in at 94 and 102, respectively.

The Forsan No. 2 team, comprised of Ryan Sayles, Wes Longorio, Quinn Long, Ty Baker and Jeremy Bedwell, finished 12th, one spot ahead of the Stanton Buffaloes' No. 1 squad.

Stanton's No. 2 team was 18th.

McCamey edges past Iraan for girls' title at Coahoma Invitational

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Brandy Grigsby shot a 90 and led the McCamey Lady Badgers to the top of the girls' team standings at the 2003 Coahoma Invitational Golf Tournament.

Led by Grigsby, the Lady Badgers shot a 396 over the course at Comanche Trail Golf Course and won the girls' team championship by 20 strokes over Iraan. Midland Christian was third.

Iraan's Ashley Peschel was the meet's top individual medalist. She turned in a round of 85 on Wednesday. Peschel's score was five strokes better than Grigsby's 90. Robert Lee's Julie Riley won a playoff with Midland Christian's Courtney Elder for third.

| Coahoma Invitational Golf Tournament held at Comanche Trail Golf Course | | |
|--|-------|--|
| Team | Score | |
| 1. McCamey | 393 | |
| 2. Iraan | 413 | |
| 3. Midland Christian | 416 | |
| 4. Robert Lee | 419 | |
| 5. Westbrook | 435 | |
| 6. Stanton #1 | 445 | |
| 7. Crane | 448 | |
| 8. Forsan | 453 | |
| 9. Garden City | 475 | |
| 10. Loop | 481 | |
| 11. Coahoma | 489 | |
| 12. Stanton #2 | 495 | |

The Stanton Lady Buffaloes were the top area finishers. They placed sixth overall on the heels of strong outings from Shelby Harp and Kristi Bridges. Harp turned in a team-best score of 95 at the tournament.

Bridges, Heather Washington, Codie Waldrep and Candace Hall also played well.

The Forsan Lady Buffaloes' squad — Amber Humphrey,

Krystal Hughes, Lyndsey Allen, Shiloh Sanders and Rachel Clinton — placed eighth, while Garden City earned ninth overall.

Kayla medrano led the Lady Cats with a score of 99. Alicia Freysak,

Brecklyn Hughes and Lisa Eggemeyer also played well.

The Coahoma Bulldogettes' team of Lauren Green, Christy LaRue, Torrie Paige and Jaci Martinez was 11th.

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Tools, Western Art, saddle & stand, collectibles, office furniture, copy machine, beverage bar, arrowhead collection & much, much more.

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1 lot Trinity Memorial Garden of Olivet. 1990 Lincoln Mark VII. \$900 ea. OBO Call 915-694-3094.

5 piece drum set. Drummers throne, high hat, cymbals, sticks. \$900. 263-1935, 238-0716

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Find the East and turn the Thursday, Apr copies or dupl give away five

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MONDAY MAR. 31 TV schedule table with columns for station, time, and program name.

DENNIS THE MENACE



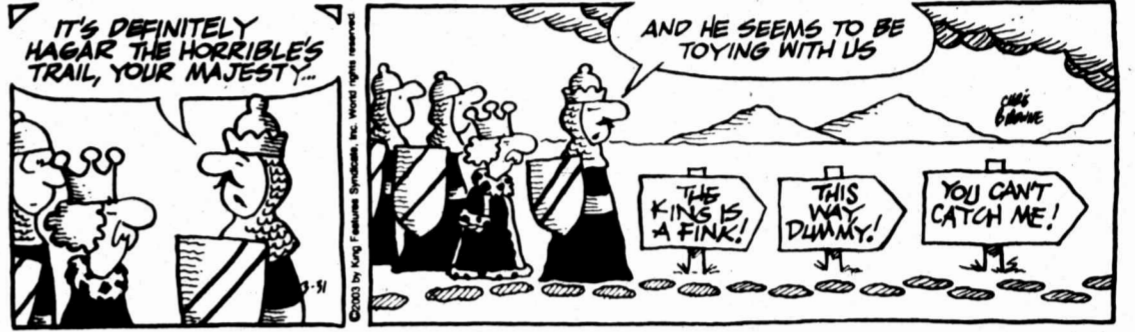
MARGARET SAYS SHE'S MAD AT ME BECAUSE I'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE A BACHELOR.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



This pencil says 'Made in China.' Will it be able to write in English?

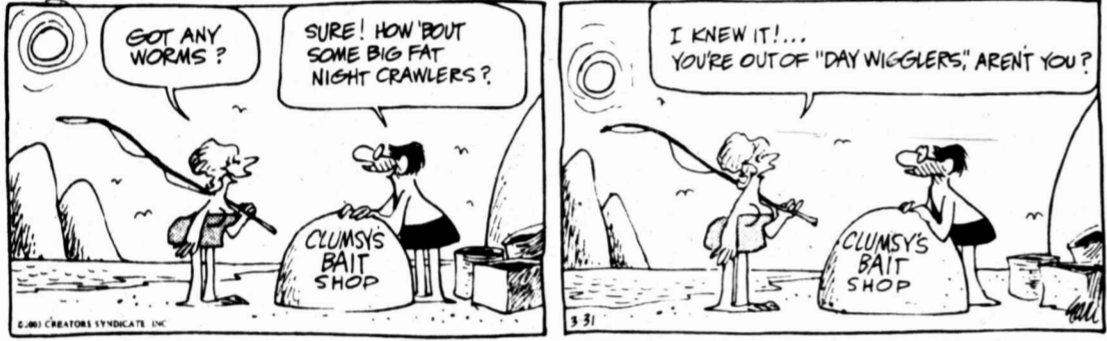
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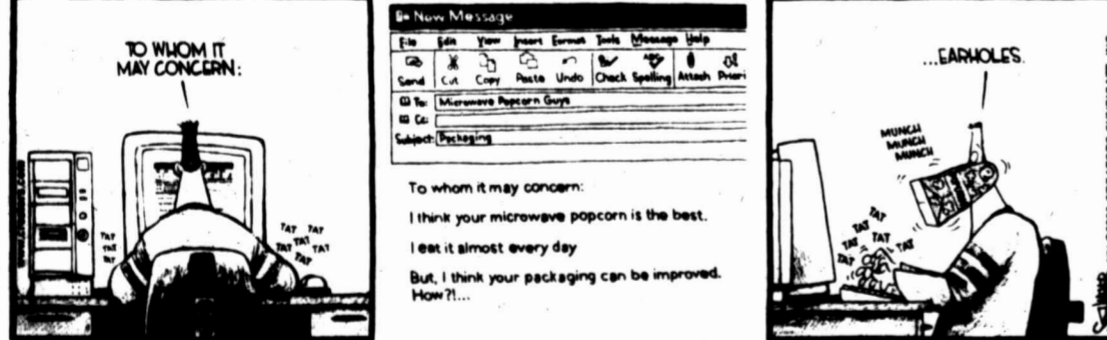
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HI AND LOIS



MR. HOUSEWIFE



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



People In The News

By The Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Anthony Michael Hall, who stars in the television series "The Dead Zone," is being sued for more than \$612,000 by the show's insurer...

in New York, according to documents filed last week in British Columbia Supreme Court. Hall had stopped taking his prescribed medication for the illness...

lawyers wrote. Lawyers said Hall would respond to the lawsuit. No trial date has been set. The 34-year-old actor gained fame in his teens with "geek" roles in such movies as "National Lampoon's Vacation," "Sixteen Candles" and "The Breakfast Club."

Answer to previous puzzle: HOUSED GENDARME IN LOVE OVERSEAS NEURAL RECEIPTS DOLED OINK AURA ENA ESTEE TOY ROTS WORST DEN ENEMIES THREE DESIRE REAMER LAPS COLLATE SEE SALON SCAM VOX TOTEM AGO ILES OILS EGRET CARNIVAL GALORE ACTIVATE ATONES RESTYLED TYPIST

Newsday Crossword

PLACE SETTING by Mark Moldowsky Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS 1 Sit in neutral 5 Take the (refuse to answer) 10 par (satisfactory) 14 Floral necklaces 15 Cavity filler 16 Anti-drug cop 17 Aladdin's find 18 Civil rights org. 19 Minor quarrel 20 Y-shaped split 23 Facility 24 Otherwise 25 Impertinent 28 Peeled potatoes 31 Biblical prophet 32 Not impressed 34 Mine output 37 It "helps the medicine go down" 40 President after FDR 41 Alpine shouts 42 Fake coin 43 Army posts 44 Gas and coal 45 Long narrative poem 47 Slightly open 49 Swimming-pool plunge 55 Cubicle item 56 Actor Nick 57 Some paintings 59 Sore spot 60 Willow tree 61 Provo's state 62 Constellation unit 63 Brewery beverages 64 Of sound mind DOWN 1 Unwell 2 Unhearing 3 Bridal party transportation 4 Type of coffee 5 Conclusion 6 Silly 7 Tire problem 8 RPM indicator 9 Promotional excess 10 Left in inventory 11 Mamas' mates 12 Swap 13 Halloween mo. 21 Letter before el 22 Marsh grasses 25 Window frame 26 Current units 27 Fireplace dust 28 Turns ashen 29 GI offense 30 NBA officials 32 Alien ships, perhaps 33 Unclothed 34 Stare at 35 Actor Julia 36 Work measures 38 City on the Hudson River 39 Like a loan shark's rates 43 Argue 44 Hula hoop, for one 45 VCR button 46 Former Turkish title 47 Subsequent to 48 Taunts 50 Radio tuning device 51 Smeller 52 Tennis player 53 La Dolce 54 Enthusiasm 55 Kapital 58 That woman

