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We're Always There

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

HOMELAND SECURITY
TERRORIST ALERT LEVEL

HIGH ORANGE

MONDAY

April 7, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 50°-55° TOMORROW 70°-75°

BRIEFLY

55 ALIVE

The Spring City Senior Center and American Association of Retired Persons have scheduled a driver safety program course from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday. A lunch break will be included. The course was developed as a refresher course for drivers age 50 and older. Those who attend both days will receive a certificate good for an automobile insurance discount. There is a \$10 fee for materials. To enroll, call 267-1628. Class size is limited to 35.

MILITARY SUPPORT GROUP

Mission: POSSIBLE Family Support Group will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday at the Hangar 25 Air Museum. The meeting is open to all who have family or friends in the reserves or active service.

E-mail access is now available at Hangar 25 for all families and friends who want to contact service members. Hours are from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays.

In a work session on April 3, the group sent letters to service personnel.

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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.

U.S. forces thunder into Baghdad

By MEG RICHARDS

Associated Press Writer

U.S. forces barreled into the heart of Baghdad with a dramatic show of force Monday and met pockets of fierce resistance. British officials said troops found a body in southern Iraq that they believed was the notorious Iraqi general known as "Chemical Ali."

Missiles screamed over the Iraqi capital just after dawn and thunderous explosions shook buildings as the 2nd Brigade of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division moved north into the city and seized a presidential palace. In southern Baghdad, Iraqi rockets struck a group of Army personnel carriers at the brigade's field headquarters, according to a military report. At least six soldiers were missing and a large number were wounded.



See Page 3

To the south, British troops gained control over much of Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, and were pressing into the old city where the last paramilitary fighters had retreated. Some Basra residents cheered the British, while others went on a looting rampage, streaming out of the Central Bank of Iraq and the bomb-damaged Sheraton Hotel with armloads of chairs, tables.

See WAR, Page 4



Soldiers with 1st Platoon, Alpha Company 1-30 Infantry, from Fort Benning, Georgia, attached to, Task Force 3-7 Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd ID, Fort Stewart, Georgia, look out of a hole in the runway above them at Baghdad International Airport in Baghdad, Iraq, during a search of the under ground network of tunnels that connects the airport buildings as U.S. troops continued to clear the area Sunday April 6.

Parents remember a son lost

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

COAHOMA — The details are all that's left.

On one of those famous West Texas windy days, two gleaming white U.S. Marine dress hats rest upon a couch as their owners talk about the details — the who, the what, the when and the where.

The why will come later ... maybe.

Three gleaming white hats are what John Wayne Metcalf recalls first of that moment.

"We heard the dogs barking and then the knock on the door. You always think these thoughts," Metcalf said. "I turned on the porch light and the first thing I saw were these three white hats of the U.S. Marines."

Marines sent with the task of informing the parents of the death of their son, Pfc. Chad E. Bales.

"It's a feeling that nobody ought to have to go through," said Ginger Metcalf, Bales' mother.

Bales, a 20-year-old Marine assigned to the 1st Transportation Support Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group at Camp Pendleton, was killed Thursday, in a non-hostile vehicle accident during convoy operations east of Ash Shahin, Iraq, according to a posting on the U.S. Department of Defense web site.

News of Bales' death spread like wildfire throughout the small community of Coahoma.

Soon an army of family, friends, Bales' friends,

*If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on
Heaven's scenes,
They will find the
streets are guard-
ed*

*By the United
States Marines.*

Excerpted from:
Marine Corps Hymn

friends of Bales' siblings and neighbors descend upon the Metcalf's home to show support and comfort. Absentees were numerous at Coahoma High School, Bales' alma mater.

The street leading to the Metcalf home is lined with American flags. A U.S. Marine Corps flag whips wildly in the wind flying at half-mast in front of the family residence.

"Chad was ornery. Chad was mischievous. Chad liked to joke and he liked to pick, but Chad was very dedicated to what he wanted to do," Ginger said. "He was determined and when that determination was there he gave 110 percent."

Her mischievous son may have been a handful to raise but he also possessed a loving heart, his mother remembers.

"He was very loving, very soft-hearted and always had a smile on his face," Ginger recalled. "He was full of life and if you were down, he'd know how to pick you up. He was a special person. One that can't be



Marine Pfc. Chad Metcalf Bales, a 2001 Coahoma graduate, visits with family members at Camp Pendleton in San Diego following graduation. The small community of Coahoma learned of the young Marine's death on Friday.

replaced." Even at a young age, the Coahoma youth was always willing to shoulder responsibility.

"He'd helped me on the farm a lot," says John Wayne, Bales' stepfather. "Most of the time you'd have to call him in from work. It's getting late, Chad, you can quit." He had a desire to do things when he was young like become a police officer or a New York firefighter. Most everything he wanted to do was to serve peo-

ple or to help people. "He was the type that he needed a little push but when you pushed him you had to gather him back a little bit or he'd just keep on."

Bales spent most of his life in the small rural community attending Coahoma schools from kindergarten through senior year with one exception.

As a high school junior, Bales lived with his

See PARENTS, Page 4

Council Citizen input limit may be considered

By ROGER CLINE

Staff Writer

Time limits for citizen input will be on the table at tonight's Big Spring City Council meeting.

The council will convene at 5:30 p.m. today in its chambers, 307 E. Fourth St. The council meets today instead of Tuesday to allow travel time for council members to attend Wednesday's 'Big Spring Day in Austin.'

The issue of limiting the length each citizen is allowed to address the council during meetings was raised by Mayor Russ McEwen following the March 11 meeting when several local residents harangued the council over a newly-enacted ordinance regulating parking on unpaved residential areas.

"You get frustrated because certain individuals choose this as a forum to go, as I characterized it that night, to go on rants," McEwen said. "If they want to go on rants, this is not the proper place, and unfortunately, what we have to look at is limiting time for citizens' input because of a few people who are unwilling to adhere to certain standards."

McEwen said the coun-

See COUNCIL, Page 4

Unemployment rises slightly in Howard County

By BILL McCLELLAN

News Editor

Unemployment rose slightly in Howard County and there are signs that the labor force has also crept up over the past year.

The information comes from the Texas Workforce Commission and was released Monday.

Unemployment dipped from 5.2 percent in January to 5 percent in February, according to the Commission's estimates. For February, the

county had a civilian labor force of 14,228, of which 13,521 were employed. The remaining 707 people seeking employment represent the 5 percent unemployment rate. In contrast, January held a potential labor force of 14,221, with 13,551 people actually employed and 739 seeking employment.

"The unemployment rate dropped in February because we had 39 individuals finding employment during that month," explained Virginia Belew,

Workforce Network area manager.

Belew said that numbers indicate a continuing increase in the labor pool. She noted that in February 2002, the county had a labor force of 14,123.

"From February 2002, we can report 105 more individuals have joined the civilian labor force in Howard County. This is good news from Big Spring because it demonstrates our labor force is continuing to increase and we have more workers available than we did

last year," Belew said. "We hope to see another decrease in unemployment for March as trends show it normally drops over that period."

Howard County's unemployment rate is below that of much of the Permian Basin, which averaged 5.8 percent from the month, down from 5.9 percent in January.

Unemployment for February was 5.5 percent in Andrews County, 6.1 percent in Borden County, 8.4 in Dawson County, 7.1 in Ector

County, 3.9 in Glasscock County, 5.5 in Martin County and 4.5 in Midland County. Elsewhere, unemployment was 4.9 in Mitchell County, 3.6 in Tom Green County and 4.1 in Taylor County.

Statewide, the rate is 5.5 percent, down from 6.8, while nationwide, unemployment is at 6.4 percent, down from 6.5 percent.

The city of Big Spring unemployment rate for February was 5.5 percent, down from 5.8 percent in January.

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A BIG SPRING AROUND THE TOWN

Obituaries

Frankie Coleman Brown

Frankie Coleman Brown, 80, of Big Spring died at 6:15 a.m. Friday, April 4, 2003, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Graveside services were at 10 a.m. Monday at Trinity Memorial Park, with the Rev. David Ring, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating.

She was born October 9, 1922, in Big Spring. She was the daughter of L. H. "Noisy" Martin and Bertha Blalack Martin. She grew up in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1940. She married Stephen Nobles in 1941 and he was killed in Germany in 1945. She later married Melvin Coleman in 1951 and he preceded her in death in 1986. She married Charles Brown in 1990. Mr. Brown died in 2002. She was a bookkeeper having worked a number of years at Cosden and later at Coleman Machine and Supply. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church. Her hobbies were traveling and bridge.

She is survived by one daughter, Charlotte Williams and her husband Jim of Coahoma; one son, Steve Coleman and his wife Joyce of Lubbock; two stepdaughters, Catherine McMurtrey of Big Spring and Mary Adamson and her husband Bruce of Ganado; one step-son, Bill Brown and his wife Julie of Midland; thirteen grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren. Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

Ruby Reaves



Ruby Reaves, 87, of Big Spring, died at 3:04 p.m. Sunday, April 6, 2003, at Mountain View Lodge following a long illness.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park with Rev. Randy Cotton, Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating. The family will receive friends from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday at Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

She was born October 9, 1915, in Howard County. She was a lifetime resident of Howard County, except during World War II, when she worked in a uniform factory in Abilene. Mrs. Reaves worked for 20 years at Mead's Bakery. She later worked 15 years for 7-Eleven Stores at Birdwell and 700 and was manager of the Wasson Road Store, retiring in 1980. She was member of the Baptist Church.

She is survived by one son, Ken Davidson of Big Spring; three brothers, Ray Anderson, J. C. Anderson, Loy "Bo" Anderson all of Big Spring; three grandchildren, Julie Wiseman and her husband Paul of Midland, Ricky Davidson of Round Rock, and Mike Davidson and his wife Sonya of Big Spring; and four great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Maude Thomas Anderson and David Anderson; and two sisters, Eva Waguespack and Zelma Newton.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

Helen Johnson

Helen Johnson, 82, of Big Spring died at 5:30 a.m. Friday, April 4, 2003, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Graveside services will be at 4 p.m. Monday at Trinity Memorial Park with Nathan Corrick officiating.

She was born November 18, 1920, at Enloe in Delta County.

She was the daughter of Oscar Johnson McCarty and Violet Grizzle McCarty. She had been a resident of Howard County for over 65 years. She married M. T. Johnson on June 10, 1937, in Howard County. She was a homemaker and a member of the Assembly of God Church.

She was survived by her husband, M. T. Johnson of Big Spring; one daughter, Lillian Jenkins and her husband Ed of Big Spring; two brothers, Herbert McCarty and his wife Dorothy of Midland, and Paul McCarty and his wife Melba of Llano; three grandchildren, Eddie Jenkins of Big Spring, Ronnie Hodges of Seagraves, and Melinda Corrick of Lake Jackson, Texas; six great grandchildren, Kayla Roberts, Chris Corrick, Hayley Jenkins, Karen Hodges, Sarah Hodges, and Rachel Hodges; one great great grandson, Caiden Roberts.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by one daughter, Dwan Gillette; one sister, Nell Turner; two brothers, Herman McCarty and Hollis McCarty.

Arrangements are by Myers and Smith Funeral Home.

Take note

DISCREPANCY counties are in the area.

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

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

THE MONTHLY MEALS PROGRAM, which delivers meals to elderly and homebound, needs volunteers.

Volunteers are needed to spend one hour per week to deliver eight meals to the elderly.

About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring.

If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

Blanche Parks



Blanche Parks, 96, of Big Spring, died on Thursday, April 3, 2003, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday, April 7, 2003, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Rick Cunningham, minister of 14th and Main Church of Christ, officiating.

She was born on March 22, 1907, in Hardeman County.

Mrs. Parks had lived in Napa, Calif., for 48 years and had worked for Napa State Hospital as a psychiatric technician for 22 years. She moved to Big Spring in 1991. She was a member of Central Baptist Church.

Survivors include four granddaughters, Kim Hillman and husband, Jon, and Sherrie Stanley and husband, A. J., all of Big Spring, Marilyn Trouard and husband, Hal, of Kiowa, Colo., and Debra K. Parks of Parker, Colo.; two grandsons, James Parks and wife, Shelia, of LaPlace, La., and Ralph Parks of Arlington; one brother, Capt. Wilbur Harris Vantine of McAllen and seven great grandchildren, Matthew Hillman, Clint and Charlene Stanley, Morgan and Lukas Trouard and David and James Parks.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Jimmie Parks, former DPS officer for Howard County and Sanford "Sandy" Parks; two sisters and one brother.

The family suggests memorials to: Central Baptist Church, 5108 Nichols Road, Big Spring, Texas 79720.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home of Big Spring. 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:

- **REBECCA RIVAS**, 24, of 508 State St. was arrested on a charge of theft less than \$1,500 with two or more convictions.

- **JAMES EVERETTE ROBERTS**, 34, of 3211 Stutz was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated — third offense or more.

- **FRED LEE WILLIAMS**, 21, of 1833 Jackson was arrested on a parole violation.

- **DAVID CHARLES REDMON**, 52, of 806 Willia was arrested on a charge of public intoxication

- **LESTER CLAUDE DUFFER**, 23, of 2609 Wasson was arrested on city warrants.

- **RICKY DON HAMBY**, 35, of Hackett, Ark., was arrested on a Travis County warrant.

- **JUAN SOTO JR.**, 29, of 1321 Harding was arrested on four local warrants.

- **BILLY ERVIN ROSE**, 54, of 602 Holbert, was arrested on two local warrants.

- **HARRISON JAMES BATISTA**, 19, of Eagle Lake was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct — language.

- **MARSHA GWYN FOX**, 52, of 2700 W. Highway 80 was arrested on charges of public intoxication and possession of marijuana less than two ounces.

- **ERICK PAUL QUALLS**, 37, address unknown, was arrested on city warrants.

- **ASSAULT CLASS C** was reported in the 800 block of East 14th Street.

- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road, the 1200 block of Mesa Street and the 800 block of East 14th Street.

- **DISTURBANCE OR FIGHT** was reported in the 100 block of Northwest Fourth Street, the 900 block of South Scurry Street and the 300 block of East Third Street.

- **LOUD PARTY/NOISE** was reported in the 900 block of Highland Drive.

- **MINOR ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1500 block of East 17th Street, the 2400 block of South Gregg Street, the 2600 block of South Gregg Street, the 600 block of North Lamesa Drive, the 500 block of North Lamesa Drive and the 1800 block of South Gregg Street.

- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION, INJURY TO A CHILD — BODILY INJURY, and VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER** were reported in the 500 block of Westover Road. \$501 damage was reported to the home.

- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported: - In the 500 block of Sunset. \$300 damage was reported at the location. Stolen were electronic equipment worth \$1,300 and other items worth \$180. Evidence was seized at the scene.

- In the 2500 block of Chanute Drive. Alcohol worth \$6 and electronic equipment worth \$140 were reported stolen.

- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1000 block of South Birdwell Lane. The side window of the vehicle was reportedly broken.

- **THEFT** was reported: - In the 1800 block of Young Street. Jewelry or precious metals worth \$4,500 were reported stolen.

- At Wal-Mart. Items worth \$19 were reported stolen.

- In the 2500 block of Hunter Drive. Items worth \$78 were reported stolen.

- In the 1800 block of East FM 700. \$160 cash was stolen. Officers seized a video tape as evidence.

- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 200 block of Circle Drive. \$60 damage was reported in the incident.

- **GRAFITTI** was reported in the 900 block of Father Delaney Street. Less than \$500 damage was reported in the incident.

- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 1700 block of South Gregg Street.

Bulletin board

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

Weather

Today...Partly cloudy. Highs 65 to 70. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight...Partly cloudy and colder. Lows in the upper 30s. Northeast Winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy...Breezy and cooler. Highs in the upper 50s. North winds 15 to 25 mph. Tuesday night...Mostly clear and cold. Lows 30 to 35.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s.

Thursday...Mostly clear. Highs in the mid 70s. Friday through Sunday...Mostly clear. Lows 48 to 53 and highs around 80.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-23-37-41-49-52.

Number matching six of six: none.

Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.

Estimated jackpot: \$16 million.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Saturday: 3-13-17-18-34

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 3-3-7

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon: 8-4-0

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Iraqi

By TINI TRAN
Associated Press

BASRA, Iraq — went on a 10-page Monday furniture and of the state 1 western hotel troops took Iraq's second after weeks siege.

Basra residents seen streaming Central Bank their arms furniture - chairs, pets and other of the building ing them on and horse-drawn stuffing the cars.

At the nearby Hotel, people carts, junked v any other tra could find w sofas - even piano that had hotel lobby. were seen p piano down Smoke rose fr after it was s rocket-propelled British soldi people to leav and blocked th after the looting covered.

A parachute walked down street, where picture of Sa 100 feet. Hund ple poured out the British sol ing hands. chadors hover



Bush

By SCOTT LIND
Associated Press

WASHINGTON President British Prim Tony Blair ar with three of toughest co Bush's 25-ho Belfast, discu and rebuildi while trying peace efforts i Ireland and East.

Bush was Belfast on M summit mean to review wa and to iron ences about t be rebuilt an when hostiliti

The rec question has president's ac the United Britain. Blair er U.N. invo postwar Iraq who seeks a governing Iraq sisting of Iraq people living i try now.

Weigh

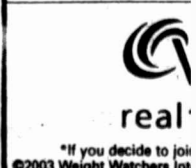
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Iraqis loot Basra as British troops take control of city

By **TINI TRAN**

Associated Press Writer

BASRA, Iraq - Iraqis went on a looting rampage Monday, hauling furniture and carpets out of the state bank and a western hotel as British troops took control of Iraq's second largest city after weeks of patient siege.

Basra residents were seen streaming out of the Central Bank of Iraq with their arms full of looted items - chairs, tables, carpets and other items out of the building and loading them onto donkey- and horse-drawn carts, or stuffing the goods into cars.

At the nearby Sheraton Hotel, people loaded up carts, junked vehicles and any other transport they could find with chairs, sofas - even the grand piano that had been in the hotel lobby. Residents were seen pushing the piano down the street. Smoke rose from the hotel after it was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade.

British soldiers ordered people to leave the hotel and blocked the entrance after the looting was discovered.

A parachute regiment walked down the main street, where there was a picture of Saddam every 100 feet. Hundreds of people poured out to welcome the British soldiers, shaking hands. Women in chadors hovered the back-

ground, and barefoot children darted among the soldiers.

The soldiers talked and joked with the people and let some of the boys look through their gunsights.

"It's brilliant, brilliant" the soldiers could be heard saying.

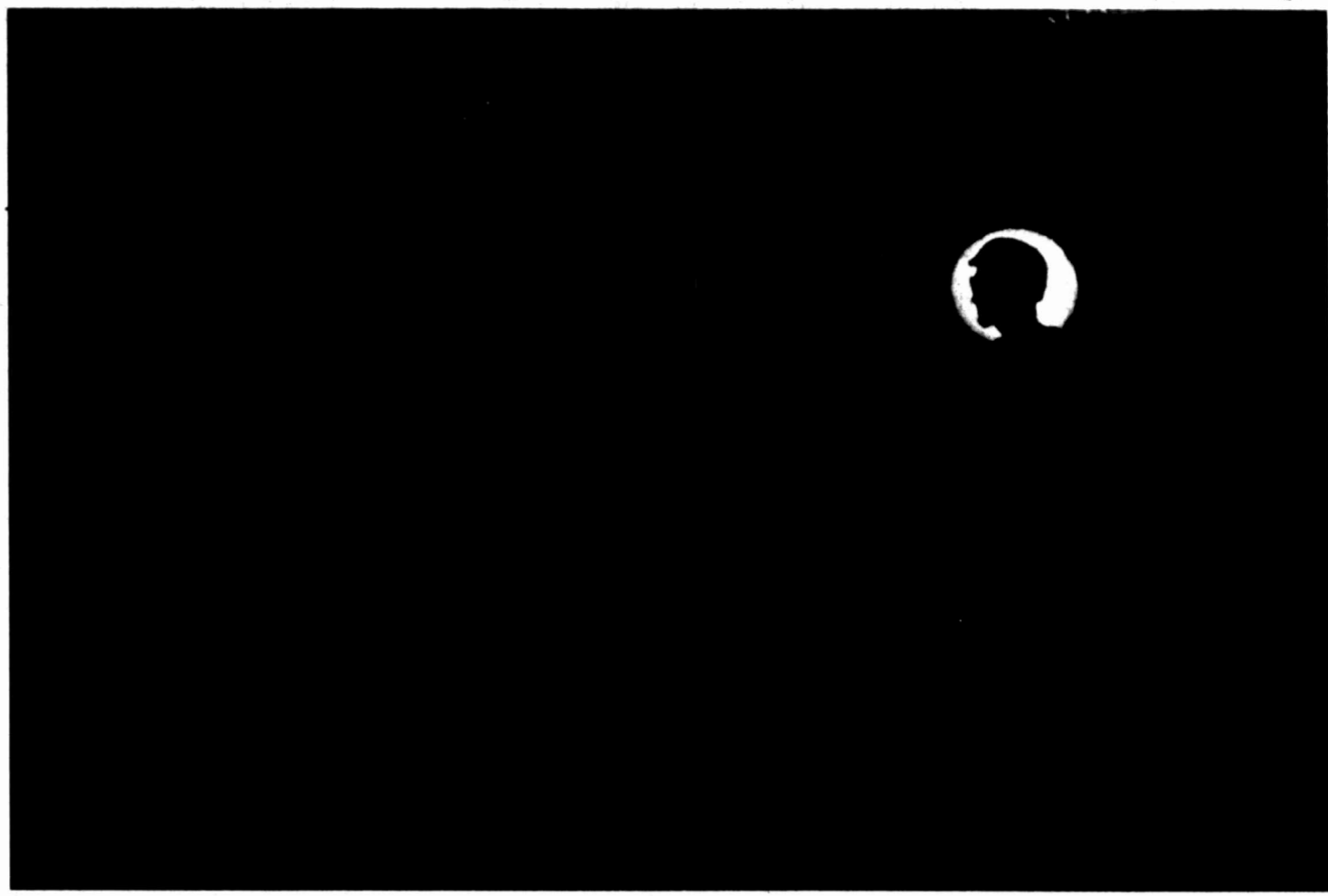
The 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment took up foot patrol in the city center after a massive convoy of British infantry started rolling into Basra from the southern outskirts early Monday.

Gunfire could be heard in the city center. Soldiers consider their biggest threat to be militia fighters still roaming the city.

"We've had little contact, but it's still our big concern. Our problem now is also looting. But unless someone is a direct threat, we don't engage. We don't have the resources to deal with the problem right now," said Capt. Mike Taylor of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment.

While many civilians said they were happy to see the soldiers, the humanitarian situation remained bleak, with many residents desperate for fresh water.

"The situation is not good. There is no water in the city. All the citizens are very thirsty," said a man who would only identify himself as Ali. He was holding his one-year-



U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo

A member from the 621st Air Mobility Group Tanker Airlift Control Element waits for a C-130 to take off April 4, 2003 at a forward deployed location in southern Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. C-130s are bringing in cargo for personnel and operations at the base.

old daughter.

"I feel very afraid for her, and for my friend's baby," he said. "I've been without water for three days."

British troops appeared to be in the midst of a major move to secure the old section of the city, the last substantial pocket of resistance. The convoy of British light-armored infantry consisted of 50 to 75 vehicles and 700 troops.

A jubilant crowd of about 100 people surrounded two British tanks sitting side by side near a Saddam Hussein mural and started cheering the soldiers inside and giving the thumbs-up sign. One soldier was handed a small bunch of yellow flowers.

Some buildings were on fire, black smoke poured into the sky.

Ali Hassan al-Majid, one of the most brutal members of President Saddam Hussein's inner circle, was believed to have been killed in a Saturday airstrike on his house in Basra, British officials said. He had been dubbed "Chemical Ali" by opponents for ordering a 1988 poison gas attack that killed thousands of Kurds.

British officials said they had managed to set up base at a former college inside Basra's city limits, but did not yet control the city of 1.3 million. The Defense Ministry said three soldiers were killed Sunday.

bringing the total number of Britons killed since the start of war to 30.

Group Capt. Al Lockwood, spokesman for British forces in the Persian Gulf, said the advance was designed to "reassure the people of Basra that we're there and we're coming to liberate the city."

"Their days are limited," Brigadier Graham Binns, commander of the 7th Armored Brigade, or the Desert Rats, told the Press Association. "Our intelligence tells us that morale is low among the defenders of the city, that the population can't wait to see us and the opposition, such as it is, is uncoordinated."

British and Iraqi forces

have been locked in a battle for control of the southern Iraq city since the war began. Until Sunday, coalition forces had largely limited their efforts to raids and sorties from the outskirts of town.

According to British press pool reports, commanders said the bulk of Iraqi forces may have fled Basra a full 48 hours before the latest incursion.

"We can safely say that the conventional military force has departed, although not completely from the region. We've still got a little bit more of that to deal with further north," said Maj. Gen. Peter Wall, the chief of staff of British forces.



Bush, Blair to review Iraq progress in Belfast

By **SCOTT LINDLAW**

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair are grappling with three of the world's toughest conflicts in Bush's 25-hour visit to Belfast, discussing war and rebuilding in Iraq while trying to revive peace efforts in Northern Ireland and the Middle East.

Bush was flying to Belfast on Monday for a summit meant primarily to review war progress and to iron out differences about how Iraq will be rebuilt and governed when hostilities end.

The reconstruction question has divided the president's advisers and the United States and Britain. Blair wants deeper U.N. involvement in postwar Iraq than Bush, who seeks a transitional governing authority consisting of Iraqi exiles and people living in the country now.

A U.S.-led coalition will likely run the country for more than six months until a new Iraqi government is in place, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Sunday.

An interim government administered by the United Nations is "not a model we want to follow, of a sort of permanent international administration," he said.

The Bush-Blair meeting is the leaders' third face-to-face session in just over three weeks. They met in the Azores on March 16, along with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar. Bush and Blair held private talks at the Camp David, Md., presidential retreat March 27.

By agreeing to meet Blair in Belfast, Bush is taking the boldest step of his presidency into the decades-old conflict in Northern Ireland, and adding a set of issues that complicates his trip.

Former President Clinton made three trips

to Northern Ireland, the most of any U.S. president. Clinton's envoy, former Sen. George Mitchell, led the Belfast negotiations that produced the British province's Good Friday peace accord of 1998. That pact sought to end three decades of sectarian conflict in the British territory that saw more than 3,600 killings.

Bush has shown less interest, delegating the business of following Belfast developments to a senior State Department official, Richard Haass.

Blair, a stalwart ally of Bush in the Iraq war, hopes presidential backing will strengthen his hand when he publishes his government's new Northern Ireland plans by Thursday, the fifth anniversary of the Good Friday pact.

A senior administration official said Bush's very presence in Northern Ireland was meant to signal Bush's backing for Blair's blueprint.

Bush and Blair drew

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern into their talks on Northern Ireland, inviting him to a lunch on Tuesday afternoon.

The location of the summit, Hillsborough Castle outside Belfast, shields Bush and Blair from the kind of mass anti-war protests that have engulfed London and other European cities. Still, members of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the Irish Republican Army, planned to demonstrate against the war outside the castle.

Northern Ireland's Social Democratic and Labor Party criticized the

idea of mixing Iraq war planning with Northern Ireland peacemaking.

"I cannot disguise my personal unhappiness at this, given my own opposition to this war and my concern for the integrity of our own peace process," said Mark Durkan, leader of the moderate, mainly Roman Catholic party.

Bush and Blair also are trying to breathe new life into the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. Blair has previously held up the progress in Northern Ireland in recent years as a model to inspire peace in the Middle East.

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WAR

Continued from Page 1

carpets and other goods. Troops in Baghdad stormed Saddam's New Presidential Palace and set up a prisoner of war holding pen inside the

elaborate compound on the west bank of the Tigris, a winding river that divides the city. The ruling Baath Party headquarters nearby was completely destroyed. Up the river at the Old Palace, the sound of explosions and heavy fire could be

heard. In the center of the city, U.S. forces used explosives to destroy two statues of Saddam.

The drive was meant to send a strong signal about the coalition's ability to enter Baghdad, said Navy Capt. Frank Thorp at U.S. Central Command. But it

wasn't clear the troops were there to stay.

"We're comfortable with a very deliberate strategy to move through the city and come back out," Thorp said. "I wouldn't comment on what we're going to do tomorrow or the next day. But what

this does is it continues to destroy elements of the Iraqi military."

Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, standing on a Baghdad rooftop, denied his city had been invaded. Sirens could be heard as he spoke and

clouds of dust blew past - remnants of a sandstorm and smoke from oil fires set by the Iraqis to obscure targets.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

cil allows public comment at its meetings to obtain constructive input, not to submit itself to abuse.

"It is to give people the opportunity to give us input on items that they

may want to see come before the city council," he said. "Some concerns they have within their neighborhood, some concerns they may even have for the city council on some of the actions we're taking."

City Attorney Jean Shotts said the city is not obligated to allow public

comment at the meeting at all.

"We have a representative government, and under the Open Meetings Act and state law, we're not required to have public comment," he said. "That's something the city council chooses to do. A lot of cities that do citizens' comment also have

specific time limits, where you can't exceed three or five minutes and the courts have upheld those limits as being reasonable. That's certainly something the city council can choose to do if it wants to."

Some local citizens impose limits on citizens' input, others do not.

Coahoma imposes no time limit on public comment, while Stanton has a 10-minute limit and Snyder a three-minute limit.

Both Midland and Colorado City have no formal citizens' input policy, but allow citizens to ask questions and speak briefly.

PARENTS

Continued from Page 1

father in Muleshoe but returned his senior year. He earned a spot on the Coahoma football team midway through season.

"Chad was the type of man who did whatever needed to be done," CHS senior Billy-Bob Walker, Bales' former football teammate said. "He never complained and always pulled his share of responsibly on the team. He was always a team player and showed team pride. Chad will be dearly missed and remembered

fondly here." It was during high school that Bales' thoughts turned to joining the prestigious U.S. Marine Corps.

"He talked about it when he was a sophomore in high school," Ginger said "I did not know that. I found that out on Friday night from one of his friends."

"We found out about it I guess his senior year," she continued. "He didn't know what road he was going to go down and he went to talking military to us then. It was nothing but the Marines. He had to do the best. He was going to be the best."

Determined to be the best, Bales tried twice to join and had to get past two injuries before the Marines accepted him.

"There was just a glow about him," Ginger recalled of the day he signed on the dotted line to commit to a military life.

The Marine Corps changed the ornery, mischievous West Texas youth.

"Sharp, proud, excited," John Wayne said, describing the change in Bales' character following boot camp, a look of pride and anguish etched on his face.

"He was still that kid at

heart but you could talk to anybody on the streets and they could see a change in him," Ginger added.

Soon that ever smiling joker will be returning home but first the family attends to the details with the two Marines sitting at the family kitchen table. The who, the what, the when and the where of Bales' burial.

When they finish, John Wayne shakes hands with the men, thanks them and tells them he is still proud.

"This cause, we're a 100 percent behind this," John Wayne said. "It's not a waste, it's just not a

waste. We've got tears in one eye and the other eye is proud. It can't be any sadder and it really can't be any prouder."

"Chad was doing something that he really loved," Ginger said. "He was over there fighting for us but now he's up there guarding us because his fight is over. We know where he is. We will meet him again someday."

Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON

The Gemini moon is joyful but also competitive. This spirit of rivalry could go two ways, either spurring each party to do its best work or inciting a conflict. The sun in Aries stokes the fire, turning thoughts toward personal gain. Temperaments may flare. Hot-headed individuals will be spoiling for a row tonight, so avoid situations that cause anxiety.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Co-workers become defensive when you peek into their territory. Avoid a meddling approach. The romance department shines with good luck. You get just the e-mail or phone message you've been waiting for. Reciprocate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Weak ties aren't enough for you. Now, you'll be happiest when you feel your

emotions are being deeply touched. Your love life is moving fast, so this shouldn't be a problem. Connect with a Sagittarius or Cancer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You see yourself as independent, but a higher-up sees you as someone who could use guidance. Therein lies the rub. Those who reach out to you are lucky people to know - receive them graciously.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You could attract someone who'd love to tie the knot or form a business partnership. It's a perfect time to team up because you understand each other perfectly on many levels. Needs match up so one hand can wash the other.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your brand of talent is just what someone is looking for. Keep in mind the dollar amount you'll be happy with, and an offer is made. If you go shopping with friends, you'll be tempted to spend recklessly.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 7). A drastic improvement of your self-esteem through the year gives you a leg up on the competition in both romance and busi-

ness. Social gatherings are perfect for making important allies and contacts in the next five weeks. Play it safe in finances this summer. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 14, 39, 11 and 6.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Be a listener. Learning someone else's point of view gives you more range in your personal choices. When older children need money or younger children need help with homework, draw the line between helping and doing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've got a way of making people like you, but be careful not to lay it on too thick - you're better off waiting for the ones who don't make you try too hard. Afternoon brings an important realization about your love life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Even difficult people have something valuable to offer. If you're the only one willing to make an effort to get to know the black sheep of the herd, you'll also be the only one who gets the benefit of this person's wacky friendship.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Regarding a power game: It can be frustrating to wait for the other per-

son's move. A wise person once said that the secret of having patience is to do something else in the meantime.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Why not plan out your whole week instead of going through the motions? Give yourself something to look forward to every day! Just when people start to catch up with the trends that you set, you're on to something new.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll have the occasion to experience the kindness of strangers and friends, which makes you happy you live where you do. Many Aquarians will take the day off, and rightly so. Why wait for a special occasion to relax?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Spending time with friends in love is a pleasure. There's not even a hint of "third wheel syndrome," and you are endlessly fascinated when you notice the little things that make one person special to the other.

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.



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IN BRIEF

Cashmere to dedicate new field April 12
The Cashmere High School Bulldogettes will officially dedicate their new field this Saturday following their game with Midland Lee. Former CHS players are invited to attend the game. All former Bulldogettes will be recognized at the ceremony. For more information, contact Coach Robby Dickenson at 394-4535.

Ragball tournament set for April 25-26
A Ragball Tournament will be held April 25-26 to help raise funds for Relay for Life. Teams of five women and five men are needed for the event. Players or teams interested in participating should contact Angel at the BSISD Bus Barn at 264-4108.

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, located on FM 700. 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 Ball slated for April 12
The Howard College rodeo team's Crawfish Ball will be held April 12, beginning at 8 p.m., at the Big Spring Rodeo Bowl. To reserve tickets, contact Stan Feaster at 264-5046.

BSHS physicals will be given in May
Physicals for BSHS student athletes will be held in the first part of May. Male and female doctors will be available. For more information, contact Big Spring High School Athletic Trainer Andy Rankin at 264-3662.

BSCG to hold 4-man tourney on April 13
The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association will hold a four-person 6-6-6 Tournament on April 13. Entrants must register by 9:45 a.m. to participate. A shot gun start will be held at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116 or the Comanche Trail Golf Course at 264-2366.

Steers hook 3 wins at 4-4A meet

By **CONNIE EDGEMON**
Special to the Herald

The Big Spring High School Steers went into the District 4-4A Tennis Tournament Thursday in Levelland looking to make an impact. When they left Friday, they left knowing the mission had been accomplished. Big Spring, with three of its four top players competing at the varsity level for the first time, nailed down first-place honors in three of the four divisions and guaranteed itself a shot at the Region I-4A crown.

Sophomore Jessica Villarreal gave Big Spring the girls' singles honors by turning in a dominating effort. After working her way

through the field, she dispatched Andrews' Trish Doloff in the finals.

With the win, Villarreal claimed a spot in the upcoming regional tennis tournament. The top two individual finishers at the district meet gain spots in the regional round.

Jay Shroff, one of four talented BSHS seniors set to graduate next month, made his final district meet one to remember. He took out Frenship's Craig Ness in the finals of the boys' singles.

Vishal Shroff and Ryan Vela also claimed gold medals. Vela, a senior, and Shroff, a junior, defeated Andrews' twin brother tandem of Brad and Brent Armour.

District 4-4A Tennis Tournament
Played Thursday and Friday in Levelland.
Boys' singles
Jay Shroff, Big Spring, d. Craig Ness, Frenship.
Girls' singles
Veronica Villarreal, Big Spring, d. Trish Doloff, Andrews.
Boys' doubles
Vishal Shroff/Ryan Vela, Big Spring, d. Brad Armour/Brent Armour, Andrews.

The Steers almost made a clean sweep of the 4-4A meet. Seniors Mindy Partee and Megan Roffers advanced to within one round of the championship. The lost a tough three-set decision to Frenship.

Big Spring head coach Sarah Corse was pleased with the Steers' efforts, saying the team's excellent finish gave her high hopes for the regional meet, which is slated for April 22-23 in San Angelo.

Jason Vela highlighted a solid effort by the Big Spring junior varsity squad. He finished second in the boys' singles division. Natasha Neighbors paced the BSHS girls. She was third in singles play.

The BSHS girls added another feather to the cap when the teams of Alex Garipey and Amanda Farmer and Jaime Jordon and Gentry Lunsford placed third and fourth, respectively.

Corse said the junior varsity squad's effort was impressive considering three of the four members of the squad were making their first appearance at the high school level.



Members of the Boise State gymnastics team, which includes former Big Spring Sidewinder Stephanie Stewart, captured the Western Gymnastics Conference title last weekend in Utah.

Stewart helps lead Boise State to Western Gymnastics Conference title

HERALD Staff report

Former Big Spring Sidewinders standout Stephanie Stewart found herself on top of the gymnastics world last weekend in Cedar City, Utah. En route to helping carry Boise State University to the Western Gymnastics Conference Championship, the Big Spring High School graduate earned all-conference honors.

Stewart scored a mark of 9.825 on the uneven parallel bars, placing her in the top 6 of the event and giving her all-conference honors. In all, Boise State took a total of 12 all-conference titles out of a possible 20 spots.

In winning the WGC championship, Boise State scored its best road-score of the season with a final total of 195.65 — good enough

to claim a .05 victory over Cal State Fullerton. Host Southern Utah was third with 195.375. Utah State was fourth with a 194.35.

Bronco sophomore gymnast Carla Chambers, who won the bars' crown with a score of 9.9, took the all-around competition with a career-high 39.55. Chambers was named the 2003 Western Gymnastics Conference Gymnast of the Year by a vote by the conference coaches.

Boise State coach Sam Sandmire was named the conference's 2003 Coach of the Year.

Bronco freshman Kea Cuaresma won the vault championship with a 9.975 and tied for first in the floor competition with a 9.9.

This is the second year for the Western Gymnastics Conference,

which has three schools (Boise State, Cal State and Utah State) from the now-defunct Big West Conference. The Broncos won the Big West Conference title in 1997, 1999 and 2000.

The score improves the Broncos' NCAA regional qualifying mark to a 195.285 — and should secure the team a spot in the NCAA West Region Championship, which will be held in Seattle on April 12.

Western Gymnastics Conference Championships
Held March 29 at Cedar City, Utah
TEAM — 1. Boise State 195.65; 2. Cal State Fullerton 195.6; 3. Southern Utah 195.375; 4. Utah State 194.35
ALL-AROUND — 1. Carla Chambers, BSU, 39.55; 2. Kelly Mathiasen, CSUF, 39.475; 3. Meagan Nelson, USU, 39.275
VAULT — 1. Kea Cuaresma, BSU, 9.975; 2. Carla Chambers, BSU, 9.95; 3. Molly Bauer, SUU, 9.925
BARS — 1. Carla Chambers, BSU, 9.9; 2. (tie) Kea Cuaresma, BSU, 9.875; 2. Breanne Holmes, BSU, 9.875
BEAM — 1. Kelly Mathiasen, CSUF, 9.95; 2. (tie) Talayna Fortunato, SUU, 9.925; 2. Christy Parker, CSUF, 9.925; 2. Breanne Holmes, BSU, 9.925
FLOOR — 1. (tie) Sandy Lyman, SUU, 9.9; 1. Sheena Shaw, SUU, 9.9; 1. Kea Cuaresma, BSU, 9.9

Tarasi, UConn slips past Texas for return to finals

ATLANTA (AP) — With her offense down the stretch and her defense on the final play, Diana Taurasi put Connecticut back in the women's national championship game.

Taurasi, bothered by a sore ankle and back, still managed to score 26 points and keep the

Huskies on course for their third title in four years with a 71-69 victory over Texas on Sunday night.

UConn (36-1) will meet Tennessee in the championship game, the third time the teams have met for the title. Earlier, the Lady Vols beat Duke 66-56 in the other semifinal to

advance to Tuesday night's final.

The seemingly inevitable meeting didn't come easily.

The Huskies closed the game with an 11-3 run to dispatch the Longhorns (29-6), who were in the Final Four for the first time since 1987.

Taurasi's 3-pointer from

well behind the arc gave the Huskies the lead for good, 67-66 with 2:07 remaining.

Appropriately, Taurasi made the key defensive play, too, knocking the ball away from Alisha Sare as the Texas player attempted to go up for a jumper just before the buzzer.

Seattle adds to Park's troubles

ARLINGTON (AP) — Edgar Martinez homered and Dan Wilson hit an RBI single on the first pitch he saw this season as the Seattle Mariners jumped on Chan Ho Park early and beat the Texas Rangers 11-2 Sunday.

Seattle led 4-0 when Park (0-2) was pulled after Ichiro Suzuki's lead-off single in the fourth. The Mariners scored in each of the first three innings.

Park has pitched just 5 2-3 innings in his two starts, allowing 10 runs and 11 hits. The right-hander was 9-8 in an injury-plagued 2002 season, his first after signing a \$65 million, five-year deal with Texas.

Freddy Garcia (1-1) bounced back from his poor first start, allowing just two runs and three hits in 6 1-3 innings. He struck out four and walked six, the last to consecutive batters in the seventh before he was pulled after 118 pitches (64 strikes).

In his first start Tuesday at Oakland, Garcia gave up five runs and eight hits over 4 2-3 innings in a 5-0 loss. The Rangers lost 10-0 at Anaheim in Park's first start that night.

Martinez's two-out solo homer in the first put the Mariners up after Park struck out the first two batters. It was Martinez's second of the series and the season.

Wilson, activated from the disabled list earlier Sunday, singled to left in the second to score Jeff Cirillo, who had reached on a one-out walk.

Wilson had been on the DL since March 19 with a muscle strain on his left side.

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MONDAY

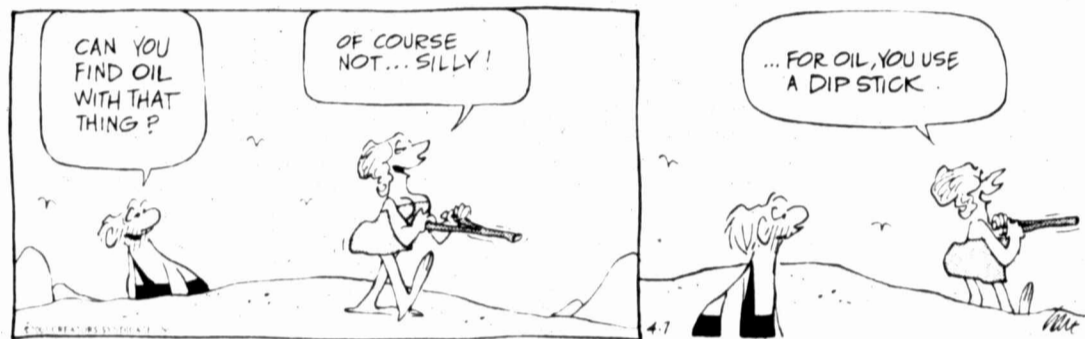
Table with 24 columns (stations) and 12 rows (timeslots) listing TV programs and their corresponding channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"ALL I DID WAS TELL MARGARET THAT HER EYES WERE ALMOST AS PRETTY AS RUFFS."

BC



WIZARD OF ID



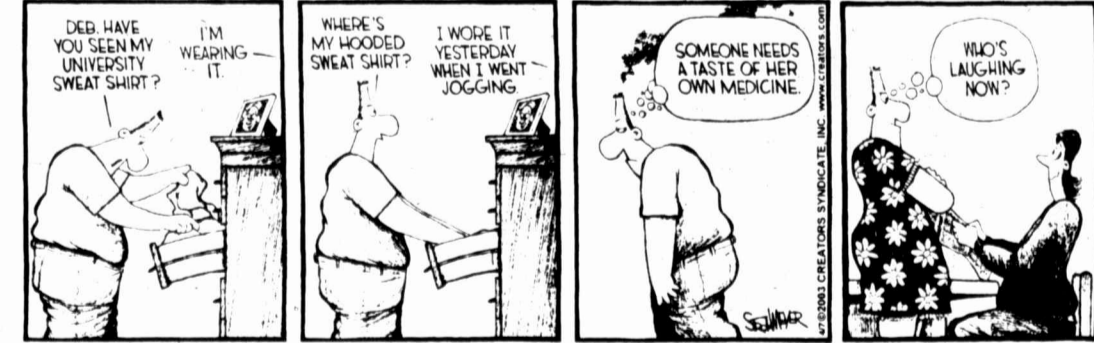
GEECH



HI AND LOIS



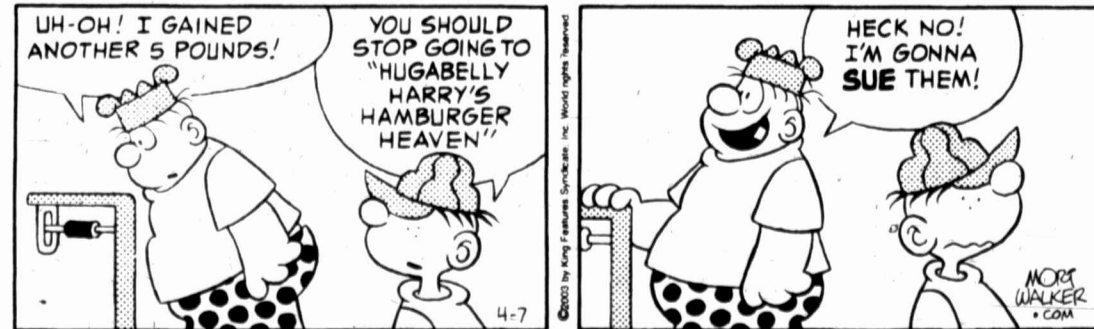
MR. HOUSEWIFE



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Enjoy this year while you can, Mrs. Clarke. Next year you might be stuck with my little brother."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



People In The News

By The Associated Press

SILVER SPRING, Md. - The American Film Institute invited an American film legend to help welcome the world to its new flagship location.

Clint Eastwood was the guest of honor Friday evening at the opening of the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, a refurbished 1938 Art Moderne movie palace that local officials hope will become the centerpiece of a re-energized business district in the Washington suburbs.

"This theater is a work of art. I'm very pleased to have had the opportunity to come here and see this restoration," said Eastwood.

Among the opening's activities were a screening of "The Ox-Bow Incident"

(1943), starring Henry Fonda; a conversation between Eastwood and his biographer, Time magazine film critic Richard Schickel; and the presentation of a new AFI honor, the Silver Legacy Award, to Eastwood.

With its move to the Silver Theatre, AFI has accomplished a rare feat for a cultural institution: increasing its prominence by moving out of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, Long consigned to a single theater in a corner of the center, AFI now has three screens. The theater opens to the public on April 11.

A spokeswoman for Klein, 60, would not specify the type of treatment he will receive. In 1988, Klein entered the Hazelden Institute in Minnesota for alcohol and prescription drug abuse.

"For many years, I've been able to successfully address my substance abuse issues, which for anyone is a lifelong process, through strict adherence to counseling and regular attendance at meetings," Klein said in a statement. "However, when I recently stopped attending meetings regularly, I suffered a setback."

Answer to previous puzzle

Scrabble-style crossword puzzle grid with letters filled in.

Newsday Crossword

WAYS TO GO by Lee Weaver Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS: 1 Factory containers, 5 Sheep's bleat, 8 Assumed name, 13 _-cadabra, 14 Artist Salvador, 15 Feather clusters, 16 Hunk of bacon, 17 Draws to a close, 18 Beginning, 19 Moving effortlessly, 22 Mexicans of yore, 23 Prefix with graph or center, 24 Gave a meal to, 27 Scale notes, 28 Architect Saarinen, 31 Concert extra, 33 Golfer's club, 35 Valentine's Day mo., 38 "... humbug!", 39 Mornings, briefly, 40 Great beginning, 45 Eye covering, 46 Singer Adams, 47 Orthodontist's org., 50 Average grade, 51 Gloomy, 53 Become more intense, 55 Cane, 58 Something of value, 61 Buffalo's lake, 62 Shoe part, 63 Farm equipment pioneer, 64 Army women: Abbr., 65 Teen trauma, 66 Palm fruit, 67 Opposite of NNW, 68 Tennis court dividers, 11 Had a hamburger, 12 Jet-set craft, 14 More thickly packed, 20 Topped the cake, 21 Unlock, 24 Application paper, 25 Cupid, to the Greeks, 26 Lion's home, 29 Barbecue offerings, 30 Like Humpty Dumpty, 32 Spy guys org., 34 "If _ a Hammer", 35 Huge ice chunk, 36 Fictional governess, 37 Place for coal, 40 Broadcast watchdog: Abbr., 41 Cancels out, 42 France, to Caesar, 43 Chains of hills, 44 Casual shirts, 47 Each, 48 Proper, 49 Places for bracelets, 52 Veers off course, 54 Frome or Allen, 55 "The Way We _", 56 Levin and Gershwin, 57 Pleasant, 58 Arrive at a total, 59 Mermaid's habitat, 60 Complete collection

Grid for the Newsday crossword puzzle.