



BIG SPRING

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

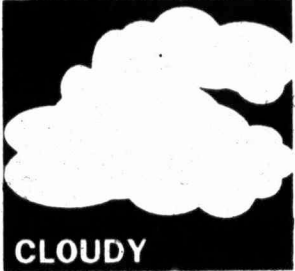
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

MONDAY

November 3, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 65°-67° TOMORROW 85°-87°

BRIEFLY

CHS band boosters

The Coahoma Band Boosters will be sponsoring a tail gate party on Friday, Nov. 7. This is the last home game for the Bulldogs and will also be Parent's Night.

The tail gate party will begin at 6 p.m. at Bulldog Stadium next to the home side concession stand.

The menu will be hamburgers or cheeseburgers, all the trimmings, chips, cookies and a drink for \$5 per person.

Purchase a ticket from any band booster club member, at the gate that night or by calling Dale Pittman at 432 267-9555 or 432 517-0348.

Driver safety class

The Big Spring Senior Center and America Association of Retired Persons have scheduled a Driver Safety Program (55 Alive) course from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Nov. 13-14. These times include a break for lunch.

This course was developed as a refresher course for drivers age 50 and older. It will be taught by a trained volunteer and in addition to reviewing the rules of the road, will teach how to compensate for age related declines in physical and perceptual ability.

Those who attend both days will receive a certificate good for an automobile insurance discount.

There is a \$10 fee for materials. To enroll go by the Senior Center or call the center at 267-1628.

Class sized is limited to 35.

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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.

Paradigm's Bill Dodson earns Mrs. VAgabond crown

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Now what is Bill Dodson, owner of Paradigm Physical Therapy, going to accomplish during his year reign as the Mrs. VAgabond 2003?

"I thought I would continue my work with unwed fathers and continue my collection of butterflies," Dodson said in a phone interview two days following his coronation.

Fifteen area men strutted their stuff in front of a large crowd at

'The contestants were given the opportunity to go into the audience and collect bribes. Some of them were hesitant to leave the security of the stage, citing their fear of being 'pinched.'

Wanda Gamble
Big Spring VAgabonds

the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium on Saturday to help raise a total of \$5,785 for Relay for Life, the largest fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society.

announced, several other contestants were of course heartbroken," said Wanda Gamble, co-chair of the Big Spring VA Hospital Relay for Life team, the VAgabonds. "Mrs. A&M

Composites (Mike Niklasch) and Mrs. Economic Development (Kent Sharp) were tearfully consoling one another."

After strutting their stuff on stage, and some serious bribing of the judges, the 15 contestants were pared down to five "beauties" which were: fourth runner-up Byron Seal, Mrs. Big Spring Banking Center; third runner-up Bradley Batla, Mrs. Buffalo Country Fina; second runner-up Tim Knox, Mrs. KBST; first run-

See PAGEANT, Page 3A



Co-op Gin of Big Spring Head Ginner Jesse Cantu helps keep the cotton flowing smoothly through the facility. The gin has been processing cotton for the past week, which marks the end of a three-year layoff due to poor cotton crops.

Most area gins running strong; optimistic about season's crop

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

This year's cotton harvest is looking up.

As many local cotton farmers and gins struggle to recover from lean production years riddled with drought, most area gin officials seem optimistic about the season. For the Co-op Gin of Big Spring, that optimism is obvious after being closed for the past three years due to the area cotton shortage.

"There just wasn't enough cotton to go around," said Julie Bartlett, secretary for the facility. "We decided it was better to go ahead and shut down until production came up, which it looks like it has."

Bartlett said the Co-op Gin of Big Spring has been ginning for a week now, and although only a

little more than 300 bales have been produced, they expect good numbers from the season overall.

"We're hoping for about 15,000 bales by the end of it," she explained. "The last year we ginned before closing down we did right at 9,500 bales, so this is a definite improvement. Of course it's still too early to tell, but we're very excited to be up and operational again."

Other area processors seem optimistic about the cotton season as well, but all agree that it's still too early to be sure.

"We've totaled right at 5,800 bales so far this season," said Jeff Watkins, manager of the Farmer's Co-op Gin in Ackerly. "We're going steady right now, and are on par with results from last year. The crop does seem a little better this year, however."

The Tarzan Gin in Lenorah has also posted good totals only two weeks into its operation, and thanks to the addition of dryland cotton, is expecting to surpass last year's totals.

"We're ginning right now, and have approximately 2,200 bales completed," said Brenda Robertson, secretary for the facility. "We're definitely expecting a better year this time around."

"We did right at 8,000 bales last year, and we're hoping to do about 10,000 (bales) this season. We're going to do dryland cotton this year, so that's a boost for us."

Farmer's Co-op Gin in Stanton is also expecting big numbers.

"We did about 14,000 bales last year and we're projecting about

See HARVEST, Page 3A

Festival of Lights seeks groups to help with project

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The local Festival of Lights committee is looking for a few good groups to help get Comanche Trail Park in shape for what has become a Big Spring holiday tradition.

Festival of Lights Chairperson Pat Simmons said the new "adopt-a-spot" approach to the annual display of lights and holiday cheer has been nothing short of successful.

"I'm real pleased that we have so many people and groups that are interested in adopting spots," said Simmons. "I have had about 12 groups contact me so far,

including the Friends of the Library, who have taken a spot.

"What I'd really like to see is all of the schools get involved. We've got the Big Spring elementary schools and high school involved, but I'd like to see the schools in the surrounding areas like Forsan and Coahoma participate. The sixth-grade class in Coahoma contacted me the other

'We've got a really big area to cover, and I'm sure we won't run out of spots. If we have to, we'll even turn the corner and take the lights down into the park.'

Pat Simmons,
Festival of Lights chairperson

day and wanted to know if they could help, and we're glad to have them."

Simmons said she's proud to see so many local organizations and agencies step forward and help make the massive display the holiday cornerstone it's become, but the search is far from over.

"We've got more than two dozen people and groups signed up," she said. "We've got the city

of Big Spring adopting a spot, as well as Bobby McDonald, who's going to decorate the dam once again. We've also got Western Container helping, and they will be decorating the duck pond area and poinsettias.

"We still need people to volunteer though. We've got a really big area to cover, and I'm sure we won't run out of spots. If we have to, we'll even turn the corner and take the lights down into the park."

Simmons said each group will be responsible for a specific spot in the Festival of Lights.

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FIRE!

Fire marshall urges caution as holidays, winter arrive

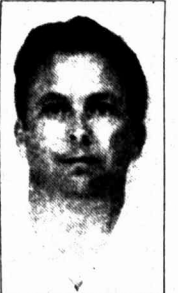
By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As the weather begins to turn cold, many residents will be firing up their heaters for the first time this season, an act that can quickly turn tragic if the proper precautions aren't taken.

Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray said firefighters have responded to a high number of calls since the temperature has begun to fall, many of which can be avoided with a few simple maintenance steps.

"Make sure that your heater is adequately prepared for the season," said Condray. "By that I mean have it serviced by an air conditioning and heating professional. You can also have the gas company come out and check it over. Homeowners can also help reduce the risk of a fire by checking their filter. A clean filter will allow the unit to be more effective and the fan unit to operate better."



CONDRA Y

"It also doesn't hurt to go out and take a look at your burners before you fire them up. Make sure they're clean and free of debris. A lot of times, when people don't have their heating unit serviced for several years, the burning will cause a lot of carbon build-up on the pilot lights and on the flames. If that happens, you're not going to get a good mixture, which is indicated by a yellow burning flame. A good, proper flame will be blue."

Condray said many of the false calls the fire department receives this time of year can also be avoided with some simple maintenance.

"Be sure to check for debris," said Condray. "A lot of time dust and lint will build up in and on the burners and in your duct

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Obituaries

Jimmy Lee Paul Sr.



Jimmy Lee Paul Sr., 37, of Sand Springs died on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2003, in an oil field accident near Midland. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2003, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Arnold Tonn, pastor of Spring Tabernacle Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born on March 29, 1966, in Big Spring.

Jimmy was raised in Big Spring and attended school in Coahoma. He worked many years on oil rigs, was a mechanic and was always working with his hands and building things from scratch. He had also worked as a roofer. He loved to barbecue, fish and just being outdoors.

Jimmy was a loving husband, father, son and brother, and his family always came first. He enjoyed playing with his kids and teaching them the many aspects of life. He taught them about plants and animals. He would try his best to teach them anything they would like to know. He had a good sense of humor and was an overall fun person with many stories to tell. He will always be remembered and loved very much. Jimmy was the greatest.

Survivors include his wife, Jennifer Kilman Paul of Sand Springs; six children, Jimmie Lee Paul Jr., Jonathan Wayne Paul, Harley Lane Paul, Laranda Lee Paul, Keylee Makay Paul and Samantha Marie Paul, all of Sand Springs; his mother, Mary Paul of Sand Springs; one sister, Peggy Logan and husband, Bobby, of Iowa Park; and three brothers, Frank Paul and wife, Gayla, of Abilene, Wayne Paul and wife, Bobbie, of Midland and Ernie Paul of Sand Springs.

He was preceded in death by his father, Eddie E. Paul, and an infant daughter, Katlyn Marie Paul.

The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

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

Paid obituary

Florine Merritt



Our Christian mother, Florine Merritt, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center in Big Spring following a sudden illness. Funeral service will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church in Snyder with the Rev. Tommy Culwell, pastor, officiating. Burial will be at Snyder Cemetery.

Visitation and viewing will be 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. Tuesday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

She was born on March 20, 1918, at Memphis, Texas, and married Cone J. Merritt on Sept. 3, 1935. He preceded her in death on March 13, 1995.

Her husband was a Baptist minister and she served with him in a number of area churches, playing the piano, doing special music, teaching Sunday School and working with the WMU. She had also been a pre-kindergarten teacher.

She is survived by one daughter, Jane Hammond and her husband, Bill, of Big Spring; three sons, Dwaine Merritt and his wife, Belinda, of Snyder, Charles Thomas Merritt of Denver, Colo., and Craig Merritt and his wife, Janet, of Snyder; eight grandchildren including Kaleb Hill and his wife, Amber, of Big Spring; and five great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

Cheryl Ann McCuistion

Cheryl Ann McCuistion, 38, of Big Spring died Saturday, Nov. 1, 2003. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home and Crematory of Big Spring.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 6-20-24-32-42. Bonus Ball: 14.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 14-15-17-21-25.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night:
3-5-5

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

Police blotter

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

• **ANTONIO MARTINEZ**, 20, of 804 Lancaster was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while under the influence-minor.

• **EDWARD CHARLES BOYCE JR.**, 49, of 300 W. 17th St. was arrested Sunday on a charge of theft, more than \$50 but less than \$500.

• **ROBERT DARREN MOORE**, 19, of 1111 Ridgroad was arrested Sunday on a charge of minor in consumption of alcohol.

• **WESLEY ANDERSON BAILEY**, 49, address not listed, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **CHERILYN ANN AUSBIE**, 41, of 903 Sgt. Paredez St. was arrested Saturday on a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.

• **ROBERT RUBEN SANCHEZ**, 40, of Colorado City was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **CANDI RENE GARZA**, 19, of 1020 Stadium was arrested Sunday on a warrant for animal at large.

• **RUBEN MATA MUNIZ**, 22, of 501 Goliad was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated, second offense.

• **ROCKY LEE RODRIGUEZ**, 22, of 1313 Mesquite was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **ROBERT DIAZ JR.**, 21, of 1111 Ridgroad was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON** was reported in the 800 block of Willa St.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 500 block of North Goliad and in the 700 block of East 11th Place at the Big Spring High School.

• **ABANDON/ENDANGERED CHILD** was reported in the 2500 block of Langley.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, less than \$500 but more than \$1,500** was reported in the 1100 block of Gregg at Waterburger where \$800 of damage was reported inflicted upon the structure.

Sheriff's report

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

• **FORGERY AND THEFT** was reported in the 3500 block of Webb Lane.

• **ASSAULT AND CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported on Jeffrey Road.

• **DEBRIS IN ROADWAY ON FIRE** was reported in the area of Rockhouse and Stallings.

• **VERBAL DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 100 block of North Main.

• **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1100 block of East FM 846.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 2100 block of Interstate 20.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 2600 block of North Anderson.

• **RECKLESS DRIVING** was reported westbound on Interstate 20 near mile marker 188 and eastbound on Interstate 20.

Weather

Today — Mostly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of light rain or drizzle. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight — Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday — Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Highs in the lower 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the lower 70s.

Thursday through Friday — Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 50. Highs in the lower 60s.

Saturday — Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Lows in the upper 40s. Highs in the mid 60s.

Sunday — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. Highs in the mid 60s.

BIG SPRING HERALD
263-7331

Bulletin board

If you have items for the Bulletin board, contact the Herald news room at 263-7331 or email editor@bigspringherald.com

TODAY

Senior Circle Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics, 4 p.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place. People age 50 and older are invited to participate, 268-4721.

Evening Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., La Posada, 206 NW Fourth Street.

Howard County ARC, 806 E. Third, Bingo Hall. For more information, call 264-0674.

Big Spring Chapter and Council RAM, 7:30 p.m., Masonic building, 219 Main.

TUESDAY

Intermediate Line Dance classes, 9 a.m., Spring City Senior Center, 1901 Simler, 267-1628.

Coahoma Senior Citizen's Center, 11 a.m., Coahoma Community Center.

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

Relay for Life 2004 Kick Off Rally, 6 p.m.-7p.m., First United Methodist Church Garrett Hall, 400 Scurry St.

VFW Post 2013, 7 p.m., VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.

Gospel Singing, 7 p.m., Kentwood Activity Center, 2805 Lynn Drive.

Howard County Sheriff's Posse, 7 p.m., Clubhouse on Andrews Highway.

American Red Cross, Canterbury South, 7 p.m., 1600 Lancaster.

Concerned Citizens, 7 p.m., Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

Big Spring Chapter 67, Order of the Eastern Star, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 219 Main.

WEDNESDAY

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

Senior Circle Stretch & Tone, 10 a.m., Scenic Mountain Medical Center, 1601 W. 11th Place.

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

Line dancing, 1 p.m., Spring City Senior Center, 1901 Simler, 267-6966 or 267-1628.

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

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

THURSDAY

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

Coffee Club, 10 a.m., Gales Sweet Shoppe, 1712 E FM 700.

Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane, 267-6479.

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

Genealogical Society of Big Spring, 7 p.m., Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

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

FRIDAY

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

AMBUCS, noon, La Posada, 206 NW Fourth St.

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

Spring City Senior Citizens Center Country & Western Dance, 7:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., 1901 Simler. All area seniors or invited.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY, Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly, \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% for yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: Monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$13.25 elsewhere.



BirthPlace Tour: Monday, November 3 at 7:00 pm

For over fifty years, little Midlanders and their families have counted on Midland Memorial Hospital... for life.

Meet us at the first floor lobby to take part in our special BirthPlace Tour. Visit our Postpartum, Labor, Delivery, Nursery, and our new Breast Feeding Shoppe, *Beautiful Beginnings*. Meet our outstanding staff and find out what to expect when your special time arrives.

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Unfort area gin steady fl Big Spri ccessing two wee Friday,



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
The 2003 Mrs. VAgabon winner Bill Dodson struts his stuff on stage during the contest. The tongue-and-check fund-raiser collected almost \$6,000 for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

PAGEANT

Continued from Page 1A

ner-up, Dennis Edmunds, Mrs. StarTek; and, of course, Mrs. VAgabond Dodson.

"The contestants were given the opportunity to go into the audience and collect bribes," Gamble said. "Some of them were hesitant to leave the security of the stage, citing their fear of being 'pinched.'"

Contestants came out in full force in such costumes ranging from Knox's Little Bo Peep outfit to the "Naughty Noel, Santa's official bad boy monitor," that was donned by Steve Wright, Mrs. Tate's Plumbing.

"As Mrs. Big Spring Realty, Greg Kernick, the Howard College rodeo team's coach who was dressed as a Howard College cheerleader and paraded across stage," Gamble laughed. "His cover was blown when a little voice from the audience cried out, 'Hi, daddy!'"

According to Gamble, some of the contestants suffered a little stage fright before the show.

"Bradley Batla tried to hide in the shower," Gamble said. "Back stage in the dressing room, a fashion consultant was assisting a contestant

with his false eyelashes and said, 'This may feel kind of funny.' The contestant responded, 'There's nothing about this that doesn't feel funny.'"

The two-hour pageant was literally filled with hilarious moments, Gamble said and proved her point by offering up one of her favorite events from the evening's activities.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

"The groups are going to be responsible for their spot pretty much from beginning to end," said Simmons. "They will put up the decorations, maintain it, take it down and then store it in the warehouse for next year. Also, if they are heavy items, they are going to be responsible for transporting them to and from the park."

"They can also put up a sign saying who the organization or group that has adopted and is maintaining the area is."

The necessity of the community-based involvement in the annual spectacle became increasingly clear to Simmons when the local Wilderness Camp prisoner work program was shut down.

will last longer and you don't have to worry about the fire hazard involved with candles. There are also chemical light sticks that people can use."

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

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"One of the questions asked to a contestant was, 'What do you think of the saying: 'A woman's place is in the home?'" Gamble said. "His answer was, 'If they look like us, they need to be in the home.'"

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

"Last year I told everyone involved in the festival that we have to start looking at this kind of adoption because we may not always have the prisoners," said Simmons. "We had no idea what was coming, so when I found out we wouldn't have the prisoners for the project this year I knew we really had to get on the ball."

For more information on how you or your group can be a part of the Festival of Lights, contact Simmons at 270-3889.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson
267-8294
Florine Merritt, 85, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be 11:00 AM Tuesday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church in Snyder. Burial will be at Snyder Cemetery. Visitation and viewing will be 10:00 until 11:00 AM Tuesday at Colonial Hill Baptist Church.

DUNLAP'S Your Fashion Headquarters
111 E. Marcy 267-8283

REMEMBER MIKE WEST In Your Prayers

CAUTION

Continued from Page 1A

work, and that's usually what triggers our responses this time of year. People will heat it up for the first time of the year and smell smoke, and most of the time that's just the lint and dust being burnt off of the burners.

"When you have your unit serviced, it doesn't hurt to go ahead and have your ducts cleaned out as well. That will help get rid of a lot of the dust and allergens."

The increased popularity of carbon monoxide detectors have also contributed to the number of calls to the fire department, a burden Condray said they welcome.

"We've had some carbon monoxide detector calls as well," he explained. "That's something we didn't see very often a few years ago, and I'm really

glad to see more of them out there in use. We're seeing an increase in those calls, and I will gladly send a unit on a call like that as a preventative measure.

"Carbon monoxide detectors allow us to know ahead of time that there's a problem, rather than make a response when someone has already been overcome by the carbon monoxide. The detectors are becoming more and more reasonably priced and available. And although we certainly don't mind going on those calls, a lot of them can be avoided if you service your equipment."

While the onset of cooler temperatures is contributing to the number of house fires, Condray said one of the most dangerous times of the year is right around the corner.

"Candles are one of the largest causes of house fires in the nation, especially at this time of the

year," he said. "Historically, December has twice the number of candle fires than any other month because of all the decorative candles."

"The main thing people need to remember is to keep a good clear space around the candle, put them in a proper holder and never leave a candle burning unattended. If you're going to leave the room and not be there to enjoy it, put it out. Also, keep them off combustible surfaces such as table cloths."

Condray said many candles come in their own "holder," which may present their own kinds of danger.

"Some of the candles you can buy these days are inside glass jars and such," he said. "Some of them aren't exactly the best quality and they can get really hot, especially as the candle burns down, and fracture the glass or jar. We've seen quite a

few cases like that. Some people also like to put table decorations around them, some of which are made from dry fabrics or actual dried leaves, which makes for an excellent wick to help the flame spread."

Dangers won't necessarily wait until the Christmas holiday, Condray said, as many families decorate their yards and porches the fall. However, there are alternatives to the more volatile decorations such as candles.

"There are liquid candles out now that are a lot safer," he said. "There are a lot of new options out there, including electric lights in place of candles. What I'm encouraging people to do is use those touch-lights that are battery powered."

"They're cool to the touch. Your decorations

HARVEST

Continued from Page 1A

20,000 this year," said Jack Shepard, manager for the Martin County facility. "Things are looking a lot better right now. Harvest seems to be going really well, and we're handling both dryland and irrigated cotton."

"The rain we got earlier this year has really helped tremendously. If we could have received one more rain in August it would be better, but we're certainly not complaining."

Shepard said processing began about two weeks ago and has been steady since.

Mustang Farmer's Gin in Lomax is also enjoying a steady flow of cotton, according to facility officials, as they continue processing the irrigated crop.

Unfortunately not all area gins are enjoying a steady flow of cotton. The Big Spring Gin began processing approximately two weeks ago, but as of Friday, was not ginning.

"There's not a lot of pressure right now," explained facility secretary Renee Beall. "Right now we're basically waiting on the producers, who are waiting for the first freeze or are spraying to defoliate the cotton."

Beall said their outlook isn't quite as optimistic after two weeks of processing.

"We're going to be off

this year," she said. "We had 12,000 bales last year, and we're hoping to do about 8,000 this year. We've only done about 66 bales so far this season, but it's really too early to tell."

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

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Thank you Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home.
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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Chuck Williams
Publisher

Susanne Reed
General Manager

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Lady Steers have earned their bid with hard work

It's finally playoff time for Big Spring's No. 10-ranked Lady Steers volleyball team. After having received a bye in the bi-district round, the Big Spring spikers will take on El Paso Burges' Lady Mustangs in a Class 4A area playoff game at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Alpine.

The first-round bye was somewhat fitting for the Lady Steers, who claimed their first district volleyball championship since 1985 by going undefeated in District 4-4A play.

This is the third straight season for the Lady Steers to qualify for the playoffs, but the 4-4A championship, in a way, was the culmination of a decade of work on the part of the BSHS coaching staff.

Slowly, but surely, the Lady Steers program has been built on hard work by both players and coaches, and in no small part by summer volleyball camps conducted by former Lady Steers star and U.S. Olympian Rose Magers-Powell.

The Lady Steers lost in bi-district play in 2001, but followed that by reaching the regional semifinals a year ago. That success obviously whetted Big Spring's appetite.

In fact, the Lady Steers will be trying to extend a string of 17 straight match wins that has allowed them to fashion a 27-10 record going into Tuesday's playoff.

That streak and the championship are in large part attributable to the presence of four all-state starters in the Lady Steers lineup — LaKenya Wrightsil, Ka'Rissa Magers, Leina Braxton and Lindsay Phillips — but the play of starters Shannon Higgins and Kendal Adams, as well.

But clearly the guidance provided by Lady Steers head coach Revis Daggett, who has also made liberal use of the reserves on her bench, has also been a major factor.

We want to salute the Lady Steers on claiming their first district championship and we wish them luck as they embark on what we hope will be a playoff run to the state tournament.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail to Managing Editor John Moseley at jmoseley@crcom.net or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

Please:

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You are all-wise, Lord, may we trust in you always.
Amen

Behind Wal-Mart's happy face

Who says the feds have no sense of humor? Last week, when U.S. Immigration and

Customs Enforcement arrested some 250 illegal immigrant workers at Wal-Mart stores — all but 10 of whom worked for independent janitorial contractors — and searched a Wal-Mart executive's office, it named the raid "Operation Rollback." That's a cheeky allusion to Wal-Mart's bouncy yellow smiley-face icon, featured in ads joyously rolling back prices on Wal-Mart wares.

If this was a righteous bust, American shoppers may learn that Wal-Mart was able to "roll back" its prices in part by repeatedly cutting corners and hiring contractors that skirt the law. Let them put a bouncy yellow smiley face on that.

From Mexico City, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., criticized the raids for terrorizing illegal workers. As the Associated Press reported, Pelosi called on business leaders to pressure Washington to ease immigration law because, as employers, they depend "on some people who may not be completely where they need to be legally."

There was a time when Democrats would push for the government to put less of an emphasis on deporting illegal immigrants

so, they argued, more emphasis would go toward prosecuting corporations that employ illegal immigrants. Now that the feds are doing just that, you see the pro-illegal immigration corner's real agenda: no enforcement.

"The magnet that draws illegal immigrants to the United States is jobs," noted Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, D.C. "Until we can turn off the magnet of jobs, all of the border enforcement in the world isn't going to work."

Apparently, Pelosi wants the magnet left on, despite abuses. The New York Times reports that some workers cleaned stores seven days a week; they received no benefits and no overtime.

As Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Garrison Courtney noted, hiring illegal workers is exploitation: "They're hiring people to do work cheaper than everybody else. That's not a fair practice or ethical."

So while Pelosi worries about workers who are, um, legally challenged, she ought to think about law-abiding entrepreneurs who have to compete with big outfits that abuse the law and exploit low-skilled workers. Ditto for California taxpayers, who can choose where they shop but not whether they subsidize the considerable cost of educating and providing health care to the families of illegal workers.

Do I think illegal immigrants are bad people? Of course not. Most are good people and hard workers who want the same opportunity

that fate cheaply granted to those of us lucky enough to be born in America.

But they've fostered an unhealthy disrespect for the rule of law. Consider Victor Zavala Jr., one of the Wal-Mart detainees. He told The New York Times his family is "not happy" at the prospect of being deported after he paid a "coyote" \$2,000 to smuggle them into the United States.

In essence, Zavala bet \$2,000 that the federal government wouldn't enforce federal law. His bad luck: He lost.

A Wal-Mart spokesman said of the raids: "We were very surprised. We had no idea they were coming." Wal-Mart is investigating.

While the spokesman said he was personally "unaware" of this, The New York Times reported that immigration officials raided Wal-Mart in 1998 and 2001.

This latest foray suggests that somebody — a Wal-Mart executive or contractor — looked at the fines of up to \$10,000 per illegal worker, considered the possibility of being prosecuted for conspiracy to break the law, and figured it was a safe bet to break the law anyway.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Democrats suffer lack of fun

Few have taken a look at this year's Democratic presidential candidates and decided they suffer from an excess of fun.

Yet stomping out fun is what the nine Democratic contenders, aided and abetted by the Democratic National Committee, have decided to do in pledging not to participate in a straw poll in Florida.

Straw polls, in which people cast meaningless votes for president just for the heck of it, have been banned by the party as "potentially divisive." No wonder Democratic stalwart Andrew Cuomo says in his new book that Democratic candidates have become "bloodless, soulless and clueless."

Straw polls are almost always bloody, raucous, goofy and clueless in to what people might actually want in a president. Which is reason enough for some candidates to fear them.

The term "straw poll" comes from John Seldon (1584-1654), who wrote, "Take a straw and throw it up into the Air — you may see by that which way the Wind is."

In refusing to participate in anything as vulgar as a straw poll, the Democrats seem to be saying, "We can be just as dull as Republicans if you give us half a chance." But here they have miscalculated.

Republicans love straw polls. The Grand Old Party works very hard to make them a cross between the Roman senate and a Roman circus. Straw polls almost always make news. The media spend weeks telling everyone how meaningless straw polls are — and then show up in droves to report on them.

In 1987, the Iowa straw poll — dubbed the "Presidential Cavalcade of Stars" — was held in a huge basketball arena in Ames. Jack Kemp tossed little rubber footballs to the crowd. Pat

Robertson supporters, wearing revolving lights on their heads, sailed hundreds of Styrofoam airplanes through the air. As airhorns blasted continuously, each candidate was given 15 minutes to speak. ("Did you say 15 minutes?" Kemp wailed before his speech. "It takes me an hour and a half to watch '60 Minutes!'")

As part of the 1996 campaign, Florida Republicans hosted a straw poll in Orlando that Bob Dole decided he would win the old-fashioned way: by buying people stuff. Delegates to the convention got free Godiva chocolates, bath oils, fruit baskets, hotel rooms, booze, food and dance lessons, all courtesy of the Dole campaign. Dole spent an incredible \$2 million campaigning for an event that would elect not a single delegate to the Republican National Convention.

He spent \$20,000 to rent a parking lot that he called "Camp Bob," where there were live bands, games for the kids, free food and a man on stilts juggling Indian clubs. Dole got 33 percent of the vote, and Phil Gramm got 26 percent — and it was looked upon as a victory for Gramm.

Which is why some hate straw polls. Candidates spend all this dough, and the media get to interpret the winner, anyway.

"Straw polls buy into a focus on a horse-race culture and detract from a debate on real issues," says Josh Wachs, chief operating officer of the DNC. "Straw polls are artificial, expensive and unnecessary."

Sure, straw poll fans say, but that could describe a lot of things in presidential campaigning, including most of the candidates. Besides, straw polls are exciting! Where else do you see people with lights on their heads these days? Or jugglers on stilts? And let's not forget the free Godiva chocolates.

"The state of Florida is the pivotal state in the general election, and we want our folks activated and energized now!" says Florida Democratic Chairman Scott Maddox, who is pushing hard for a straw poll at the state conven-

tion on Dec. 5-7.

He says that while all nine candidates have signed a no-straw-poll pledge, they will show up and participate anyway. "They ignore Florida at their peril," he says. "The people at this convention are going to be the boots on the ground in 2004 — the boots that get out votes."

As the battle rages, the DNC says labor unions and influential Florida politicians will soon come out against a straw poll. The DNC will also offer a compromise: All nine candidates will go down to the Florida convention to speak — just as long as there is no straw poll.

Maddox says the state central committee will meet on Nov. 16 to vote on whether to hold a straw poll or not.

The betting is that candidates like Wesley Clark, who pulled out of Iowa recently, might want a public test of his popularity in Florida and Howard Dean, who has raised enough money to buy Godiva chocolates for everyone in the continental United States, wouldn't mind "wasting" a few dollars there.

"Do you think the candidates will all skip a straw poll?" Maddox asked incredulously. "Every dollar or minute of time spent in Florida will pay back dividends in the general election."

So would a Florida straw poll be a terrible waste of resources or money well spent? Former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, who ran for president in 2000, but dropped out after a poor showing in the Iowa straw poll, had these words of wisdom when he withdrew: "It's always said that half the money in any campaign is wasted. You just don't know which half until it's over."

Roger Simon can be e-mailed at WriteRoger@aol.com. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Texas News Briefs The Internet and inappropriate behavior

Sales of cloned cattle multiply

FORT WORTH (AP) — Cattle are quietly being cloned and sold for high prices as the livestock industry anticipates government approval for letting their offspring into the food chain, industry officials said.

Meat or milk derived from healthy cloned farm animals appears safe to eat, the Food and Drug Administration said Friday in its first attempt at assessing questions about the emerging technology.

The FDA is still trying to decide if cloned farm animals will require government approval before being sold as food. That decision is expected to take another year.

The cattle industry has voluntarily agreed to keep products from cloned animals out of the food supply. But in the meantime, there already are as many as 300 cloned bulls in existence, said Lisa Dryer of Biotechnology Industry Organization, a Washington lobbying group.

And an Austin-based biotech firm, ViaGen, said Friday that a cow cloned from a prodigious producing animal was auctioned for \$170,000 in Iberia, Mo.

Senator, White House disagree in Iraq probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee expects the White House to give the panel access to all materials it sought for its inquiry into prewar information on Iraq. A spokesman for President Bush indicates he shouldn't be so sure.

Both Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and White House spokesman Trent Duffy spoke Sunday of "a spirit of cooperation" regarding the documents. That's where agreement seemed to end.

Roberts said White House aides told committee staff members late Friday of acquiescence, on behalf of the National Security Council, to the committee's demands. The Pentagon also said it would cooperate, Roberts said on CNN's "Late Edition."

While agreeing on a new spirit in relations with the committee, Duffy, with Bush in Crawford, Texas, said he could offer no concrete promises and refused to confirm Roberts' assertion of agreement on a turnover.

Case of ex-Dynegy exec going to trial

HOUSTON (AP) — The wave of corporate scandals in Houston started with Enron. The criminal trials that follow will start with a former executive of one-time Enron wannabe Dynegy Inc.

Jury selection is slated to begin Monday in the fraud and conspiracy case against Jamie Olis, 37, a former senior director of tax planning, in connection with an alleged scheme to cut taxes and improperly boost Dynegy's cash flow by \$300 million.

"While this is not Enron, it certainly has shades of Enron," said Neil Getnick, a New York business fraud attorney and former prosecutor.

Olis was charged more than four months ago in federal court in Houston with two other former Dynegy executives, Helen C. Sharkey and Gene S.

Foster, with securities fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy, in relation to the deal, dubbed "Project Alpha."

Public window opens on home health care

WASHINGTON (AP) — Home health agencies in Massachusetts, Texas and Wisconsin generally performed worse than the national average in a government database that allows consumers to gauge the quality of home health care.

The information comes from Medicare-certified facilities that provide short-term help with essential daily activities to older and disabled Americans. It was to be available beginning today on the government's Medicare Web site — <http://www.medicare.gov> — or through the Medicare telephone help line, 1-800-Medicare.

Patients of some 970 home health agencies in Texas, the most of any state, showed relatively less improvement in nine of 11 categories, including dressing, bathing and going to the bathroom, when compared with the national average.

No evidence border shutdown effective

SASABE, Mexico (AP) — A crackdown along the U.S.-Mexico border designed to prevent terrorists from entering the United States hasn't stopped even one known militant from slipping into America since Sept. 11, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Instead, the tightening net of Border Patrol and Immigration agents has slowed trade, snarled traffic and cost American taxpayers millions, perhaps billions, of dollars, while hundreds of migrants have died trying to evade the growing army of border authorities.

If there are concerns about the border in national security terms, they are misplaced," said Claudia Smith, a migration activist who directs the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

Sept. 11, 2001, was a defining moment in the politics of illegal immigration.

I remember spending countless hours at the County Library in Sumter, S.C., working on everything from science projects to book reports when I was in school, I even remember using the old card-catalog system (ask your children what that is and see what kind of response you get these days) to find the books I needed. I think you get the idea so far, so I'll cut the "back in the day" speech short.

Today, children have an incredible wealth of knowledge at their fingertips in the form of the Internet. The advent of such technical treasures as e-books, the Library of Congress' Web site and the sea of information linked from every corner of the world have made those book reports and science projects even easier to research. Unfortunately we all know the internet can be used for less than honorable means.

Kids aren't just potential victims when they're online. They can also be responsible for doing things that can hurt other people. This can range from being rude and obnoxious to committing crimes online.

There are several reported cases of kids getting into trouble for posting threatening or harassing material on Web pages, in chat rooms and in newsgroups. Children should remember that anything they say about anyone can be viewed by people all over the world and can have a damaging effect on the person being talked about. Kids should never post anything about another person that could in any way harm that person. That includes publishing names, addresses, or phone numbers of anyone they know.

Kids should refrain from saying bad things about other people in public forums, even if they feel they are true, and even if they are angry with that person. Even what appear to be

"positive" comments about someone's appearance can be degrading and have a negative affect on that person.

Parents should talk with their children about the proper way to behave online and with other people and stress that threatening other people is not only wrong but can get the child into trouble at home, at school, or with the law.

Legal Risks: Knowing what you can and can't do.

A lot of material posted on the Internet is copyrighted, which means that it might be illegal to reprint or post the material without permission. Kids need to understand that they do not have the right to re-post or distribute copyrighted graphics, music, videos, and text from Web sites without permission. This includes giving copies of the material to friends.

There are some conditions where it is OK to use copyrighted material as part of a student paper or other project, but students should always check with their teacher first and cite the source of the information. Plagiarism - claiming that you wrote or drew something created by another person - is illegal, and committing plagiarism at school can be grounds for serious punishment.

Just as in any city, there are areas in cyberspace that are not necessarily appropriate for children or teens. Just what those places are depends on the child, the family, and the community, but these typically include sites which are **sexual in nature**, which contain violent or hateful material, or which advocate the use of weapons or harmful substances such as alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.

Making Threats: Words can hurt.

It is wrong and illegal to threaten, intimidate, or harass other people regardless of whether those threats are delivered in person, on the phone, via the mail, or over the Internet. It can be especially harmful to deliver such threats in a public area such as a Web site, chat room, or

bulletin board. If you or your child receive serious and frightening threats online, contact law enforcement.

So what is a parent to do? The most obvious thing a parent can do to avoid these types of situations is to talk to their children. Find out where they go on the Internet, who they talk to and what they've seen that bothers them. Ask them if they've ever been exposed to hate-related sites or adult oriented web pages, and discuss it with them.

Just as adults need to help kids stay safe, they also need to learn not to overreact when they find out a child or teenager has been exposed to inappropriate material or strayed from a rule. Whatever you do, don't blame or punish your child if he tells you about an uncomfortable online encounter. Your best strategy is to work with him, so you both can learn from what happened and figure out how to keep it from happening again.

Here are some simple guidelines to consider:

- Set rules about where kids can go online and what to do if they stumble upon inappropriate sites.

- Keep any connected computer in a public area of the house (not a child's bedroom), and make sure that other family members walk in the room periodically.

- Consider not allowing children and teens to use the Internet if parents aren't home. You may wish to consider using time-limiting software to make sure that kids can go online only when you're around.

- Consider checking the browser history to see where kids have been and having a "talk" if they are visiting inappropriate sites.

- Consider installing monitoring software that tracks where kids have been.

- Consider installing filtering software that blocks kids from visiting sites that you feel are inappropriate.

- One such filtering program is Net Nanny, produced by BioNet Systems, LLC. The makers of Net Nanny described their product

as: "Net Nanny, the world's leading parental control software, provides the broadest set of Internet safety tools available. Parents can filter Web sites, control online chat, limit time spent online, protect their privacy and much more."

The program also gets a nod of approval from the federal government.

"[Net Nanny is] real software for real families. No parent should be without this incredible tool," writes David Evangelista, executive director of the United States Internet Crime Task Force (quote provided by the Net Nanny website).

The program, which usually retails around \$40, boasts the following features (information provided by the Net Nanny website):

- Limits the total number of hours or the time of day that your children may be online.

- Prevents the display of most sexually explicit material.

- Prevents the display of most graphically violent material.

- Prevents the display of most material advocating hate groups and their messages.

- Prevents the display of most material advocating illegal activity, such as drug use, bomb making, or underage drinking and gambling.

- Prevents the display of other categories of material.

- Prevents selected personal information from being transmitted from your computer.

- Monitors the use of your computer or the access your children have to the Internet.

Net Nanny is by no means the only filtering software on the market, but it is a good representation of what parents should look for when shopping for this type of program.

In the end, keeping our children safe from online predators and keeping others safe from our children is the responsibility of everyone. Talk to your kids about it. You may find them more receptive than you expect.

Thomas Jenkins is a reporter for the Herald and writes a weekly column on the Internet.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS FORSAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

Forsan ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:30 PM on November 17, 2003, in the Board Room at the Administration Office located at 411 W. 6th Street in Forsan, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Forsan ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.



JOSE' DEL GIUDICE, M.D.
BOARD CERTIFIED

Dr. Del Giudice, a board certified Rheumatologist from Lubbock, Texas, is currently accepting new patients at the satellite Rheumatology Clinic at Cogdell Memorial Hospital in Snyder. He is bilingual and has been in private practice for 20 years. He is proud to announce the expansion of an infusion center at this location.

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL 806-771-2400 EXT 221

EDITORIAL

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

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OUR VIEWS

Lady Steers have earned their bid with hard work

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The first-round bye was somewhat fitting for the Lady Steers, who claimed their first district volleyball championship since 1985 by going undefeated in District 4-4A play.

This is the third straight season for the Lady Steers to qualify for the playoffs, but the 4-4A championship, in a way, was the culmination of a decade of work on the part of the BSHS coaching staff.

Slowly, but surely, the Lady Steers program has been built on hard work by both players and coaches, and in no small part by summer volleyball camps conducted by former Lady Steers star and U.S. Olympian Rose Magers-Powell.

The Lady Steers lost in bi-district play in 2001, but followed that by reaching the regional semifinals a year ago. That success obviously whetted Big Spring's appetite.

In fact, the Lady Steers will be trying to extend a string 17 straight match wins that has allowed them to fashion a 27-10 record going into Tuesday's playoff.

That streak and the championship are in large part attributable to the presence of four all-state starters in the Lady Steers lineup — LaKenya Wrightsil, Ka'Rissa Magers, Leina Braxton and Lindsay Phillips — but the play of starters Shannon Higgins and Kendal Adams, as well.

But clearly the guidance provided by Lady Steers head coach Revis Daggett, who has also made liberal use of the reserves on her bench, has also been a major factor.

We want to salute the Lady Steers on claiming their first district championship and we wish them luck as they embark on what we hope will be a playoff run to the state tournament.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You are all-wise, Lord, may we trust in you always.
Amen

Behind Wal-mart's happy face

Who says the feds have no sense of humor? Last week, when U.S. Immigration and

Customs Enforcement arrested some 250 illegal immigrant workers at Wal-Mart stores — all but 10 of whom worked for independent janitorial contractors — and searched a Wal-Mart executive's office, it named the raid "Operation Rollback." That's a cheeky allusion to Wal-Mart's bouncy yellow smiley-face icon, featured in ads joyously rolling back prices on Wal-Mart wares.

If this was a righteous bust, American shoppers may learn that Wal-Mart was able to "roll back" its prices in part by repeatedly cutting corners and hiring contractors that skirt the law. Let them put a bouncy yellow smiley face on that.

From Mexico City, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., criticized the raids for terrorizing illegal workers. As the Associated Press reported, Pelosi called on business leaders to pressure Washington to ease immigration law because, as employers, they depend "on some people who may not be completely where they need to be legally."

There was a time when Democrats would push for the government to put less of an emphasis on deporting illegal immigrants

so, they argued, more emphasis would go toward prosecuting corporations that employ illegal immigrants. Now that the feds are doing just that, you see the pro-illegal immigration corner's real agenda: no enforcement.

"The magnet that draws illegal immigrants to the United States is jobs," noted Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, D.C. "Until we can turn off the magnet of jobs, all of the border enforcement in the world isn't going to work."

Apparently, Pelosi wants the magnet left on, despite abuses. The New York Times reports that some workers cleaned stores seven days a week; they received no benefits and no overtime.

As Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Garrison Courtney noted, hiring illegal workers is exploitation: "They're hiring people to do work cheaper than everybody else. That's not a fair practice or ethical."

So while Pelosi worries about workers who are, um, legally challenged, she ought to think about law-abiding entrepreneurs who have to compete with big outfits that abuse the law and exploit low-skilled workers. Ditto for California taxpayers, who can choose where they shop but not whether they subsidize the considerable cost of educating and providing health care to the families of illegal workers.

Do I think illegal immigrants are bad people? Of course not. Most are good people and hard workers who want the same opportunity

that fate cheaply granted to those of us lucky enough to be born in America.

But they've fostered an unhealthy disrespect for the rule of law. Consider Victor Zavala Jr., one of the Wal-Mart detainees. He told The New York Times his family is "not happy" at the prospect of being deported after he paid a "coyote" \$2,000 to smuggle them into the United States.

In essence, Zavala bet \$2,000 that the federal government wouldn't enforce federal law. His bad luck: He lost.

A Wal-Mart spokesman said of the raids: "We were very surprised. We had no idea they were coming." Wal-Mart is investigating.

While the spokesman said he was personally "unaware" of this, The New York Times reported that immigration officials raided Wal-Mart in 1998 and 2001.

This latest foray suggests that somebody — a Wal-Mart executive or contractor — looked at the fines of up to \$10,000 per illegal worker, considered the possibility of being prosecuted for conspiracy to break the law, and figured it was a safe bet to break the law anyway.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@schronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Democrats suffer lack of fun

Few have taken a look at this year's Democratic presidential candidates and decided they suffer from an excess of fun.

Yet stomping out fun is what the nine Democratic contenders, aided and abetted by the Democratic National Committee, have decided to do in pledging not to participate in a straw poll in Florida.

Straw polls, in which people cast meaningless votes for president just for the heck of it, have been banned by the party as "potentially divisive." No wonder Democratic stalwart Andrew Cuomo says in his new book that Democratic candidates have become "bloodless, soulless and clueless."

Straw polls are almost always bloody, raucous, goofy and clued-in to what people might actually want in a president. Which is reason enough for some candidates to fear them.

The term "straw poll" comes from John Seldon (1584-1654), who wrote, "Take a straw and throw it up into the Air — you may see by that which way the Wind is."

In refusing to participate in anything as vulgar as a straw poll, the Democrats seem to be saying, "We can be just as dull as Republicans if you give us half a chance." But here they have miscalculated.

Republicans love straw polls. The Grand Old Party works very hard to make them a cross between the Roman senate and a Roman circus. Straw polls almost always make news. The media spend weeks telling everyone how meaningless straw polls are — and then show up in droves to report on them.

In 1987, the Iowa straw poll — dubbed the "Presidential Cavalcade of Stars" — was held in a huge basketball arena in Ames. Jack Kemp tossed little rubber footballs to the crowd. Pat

Robertson supporters, wearing revolving lights on their heads, sailed hundreds of Styrofoam airplanes through the air. As airhorns blasted continuously, each candidate was given 15 minutes to speak. ("Did you say 15 minutes?" Kemp wailed before his speech. "It takes me an hour and a half to watch '60 Minutes!'")

As part of the 1996 campaign, Florida Republicans hosted a straw poll in Orlando that Bob Dole decided he would win the old-fashioned way: by buying people stuff. Delegates to the convention got free Godiva chocolates, bath oils, fruit baskets, hotel rooms, booze, food and dance lessons, all courtesy of the Dole campaign. Dole spent an incredible \$2 million campaigning for an event that would elect not a single delegate to the Republican National Convention.

He spent \$20,000 to rent a parking lot that he called "Camp Bob," where there were live bands, games for the kids, free food and a man on stilts juggling Indian clubs. Dole got 33 percent of the vote, and Phil Gramm got 26 percent — and it was looked upon as a victory for Gramm.

Which is why some hate straw polls. Candidates spend all this dough, and the media get to interpret the winner, anyway.

"Straw polls buy into a focus on a horse-race culture and detract from a debate on real issues," says Josh Wachs, chief operating officer of the DNC. "Straw polls are artificial, expensive and unnecessary."

Sure, straw poll fans say, but that could describe a lot of things in presidential campaigning, including most of the candidates. Besides, straw polls are exciting! Where else do you see people with lights on their heads these days? Or jugglers on stilts? And let's not forget the free Godiva chocolates.

"The state of Florida is the pivotal state in the general election, and we want our folks activated and energized now!" says Florida Democratic Chairman Scott Maddox, who is pushing hard for a straw poll at the state conven-

tion on Dec. 5-7.

He says that while all nine candidates have signed a no-straw-poll pledge, they will show up and participate anyway. "They ignore Florida at their peril," he says. "The people at this convention are going to be the boots on the ground in 2004 — the boots that get out votes."

As the battle rages, the DNC says labor unions and influential Florida politicians will soon come out against a straw poll. The DNC will also offer a compromise: All nine candidates will go down to the Florida convention to speak — just as long as there is no straw poll.

Maddox says the state central committee will meet on Nov. 16 to vote on whether to hold a straw poll or not.

The netting is that candidates like Wesley Clark, who pulled out of Iowa recently, might want a public test of his popularity in Florida and Howard Dean, who has raised enough money to buy Godiva chocolates for everyone in the continental United States, wouldn't mind "wasting" a few dollars there.

"Do you think the candidates will all skip a straw poll?" Maddox asked incredulously. "Every dollar or minute of time spent in Florida will pay back dividends in the general election."

So would a Florida straw poll be a terrible waste of resources or money well spent? Former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, who ran for president in 2000, but dropped out after a poor showing in the Iowa straw poll, had these words of wisdom when he withdrew: "It's always said that half the money in any campaign is wasted. You just don't know which half until it's over."

Roger Simon can be e-mailed at WriteRoger@aol.com. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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DEBRA SAUNDERS



ROGER SIMON

Texas News Briefs The Internet and inappropriate behavior

Sales of cloned cattle multiply

FORT WORTH (AP) — Cattle are quietly being cloned and sold for high prices as the livestock industry anticipates government approval for letting their offspring into the food chain, industry officials said.

Meat or milk derived from healthy cloned farm animals appears safe to eat, the Food and Drug Administration said Friday in its first attempt at assessing questions about the emerging technology.

The FDA is still trying to decide if cloned farm animals will require government approval before being sold as food. That decision is expected to take another year.

The cattle industry has voluntarily agreed to keep products from cloned animals out of the food supply. But in the meantime, there already are as many as 300 cloned bulls in existence, said Lisa Dryer of Biotechnology Industry Organization, a Washington lobbying group.

And an Austin-based biotech firm, ViaGen, said Friday that a cow cloned from a prodigious producing animal was auctioned for \$170,000 in Iberia, Mo.

Senator, White House disagree in Iraq probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee expects the White House to give the panel access to all materials it sought for its inquiry into prewar information on Iraq. A spokesman for President Bush indicates he shouldn't be so sure.

Both Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and White House spokesman Trent Duffy spoke Sunday of "a spirit of cooperation" regarding the documents. That's where agreement seemed to end.

Roberts said White House aides told committee staff members late Friday of acquiescence, on behalf of the National Security Council, to the committee's demands. The Pentagon also said it would cooperate, Roberts said on CNN's "Late Edition."

While agreeing on a new spirit in relations with the committee, Duffy, with Bush in Crawford, Texas, said he could offer no concrete promises and refused to confirm Roberts' assertion of agreement on a turnover.

Case of ex-Dynergy exec going to trial

HOUSTON (AP) — The wave of corporate scandals in Houston started with Enron. The criminal trials that follow will start with a former executive of one-time Enron wannabe Dynergy Inc.

Jury selection is slated to begin Monday in the fraud and conspiracy case against Jamie Olis, 37, a former senior director of tax planning, in connection with an alleged scheme to cut taxes and improperly boost Dynergy's cash flow by \$300 million.

"While this is not Enron, it certainly has shades of Enron," said Neil Getnick, a New York business fraud attorney and former prosecutor.

Olis was charged more than four months ago in federal court in Houston with two other former Dynergy executives, Helen C. Sharkey and Gene S.

Foster, with securities fraud, mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy in relation to the deal, dubbed "Project Alpha."

Public window opens on home health care

WASHINGTON (AP) — Home health agencies in Massachusetts, Texas and Wisconsin generally performed worse than the national average in a government database that allows consumers to gauge the quality of home health care.

The information comes from Medicare-certified facilities that provide short-term help with essential daily activities to older and disabled Americans. It was to be available beginning today on the government's Medicare Web site — <http://www.medicare.gov> — or through the Medicare telephone help line, 1-800-Medicare.

Patients of some 970 home health agencies in Texas, the most of any state, showed relatively less improvement in nine of 11 categories, including dressing, bathing and going to the bathroom, when compared with the national average.

No evidence border shutdown effective

SASABE, Mexico (AP) — A crackdown along the U.S.-Mexico border designed to prevent terrorists from entering the United States hasn't stopped even one known militant from slipping into America since Sept. 11, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Instead, the tightening net of Border Patrol and Immigration agents has slowed trade, snarled traffic and cost American taxpayers millions, perhaps billions, of dollars, while hundreds of migrants have died trying to evade the growing army of border authorities.

"If there are concerns about the border in national security terms, they are misplaced," said Claudia Smith, a migration activist who directs the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

Sept. 11, 2001, was a defining moment in the politics of illegal immigration.

I remember spending countless hours at the County Library in Sumter, S.C., working on everything from science projects to book reports when I was in school. I even remember using the old card-catalog system (ask your children what that is and see what kind of response you get these days) to find the books I needed. I think you get the idea so far, so I'll cut the "back in the day" speech short.

Today, children have an incredible wealth of knowledge at their fingertips in the form of the Internet. The advent of such technical treasures as e-books, the Library of Congress' Web site and the sea of information linked from every corner of the world have made those book reports and science projects even easier to research. Unfortunately we all know the internet can be used for less than honorable means.

Kids aren't just potential victims when they're online. They can also be responsible for doing things that can hurt other people. This can range from being rude and obnoxious to committing crimes online.

There are several reported cases of kids getting into trouble for posting threatening or harassing material on Web pages, in chat rooms and in newsgroups.

Children should remember that anything they say about anyone can be viewed by people all over the world and can have a damaging effect on the person being talked about. Kids should never post anything about another person that could in any way harm that person. That includes publishing names, addresses, or phone numbers of anyone they know.

Kids should refrain from saying bad things about other people in public forums, even if they feel they are true, and even if they are angry with that person. Even what appear to be

"positive" comments about someone's appearance can be degrading and have a negative affect on that person.

Parents should talk with their children about the proper way to behave online and with other people and stress that threatening other people is not only wrong but can get the child into trouble at home, at school, or with the law.

Legal Risks: Knowing what you can and can't do.

A lot of material posted on the Internet is copyrighted, which means that it might be illegal to reprint or post the material without permission. Kids need to understand that they do not have the right to re-post or distribute copyrighted graphics, music, videos, and text from Web sites without permission. This includes giving copies of the material to friends.

There are some conditions where it is OK to use copyrighted material as part of a student paper or other project, but students should always check with their teacher first and cite the source of the information.

Plagiarism - claiming that you wrote or drew something created by another person - is illegal, and committing plagiarism at school can be grounds for serious punishment.

Just as in any city, there are areas in cyberspace that are not necessarily appropriate for children or teens. Just what those places are depends on the child, the family, and the community, but these typically include sites which are sexual in nature, which contain violent or hateful material, or which advocate the use of weapons or harmful substances such as alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.

Making Threats: Words can hurt.

It is wrong and illegal to threaten, intimidate, or harass other people regardless of whether those threats are delivered in person, on the phone, via the mail, or over the Internet. It can be especially harmful to deliver such threats in a public area such as a Web site, chat room, or

bulletin board. If you or your child receive serious and frightening threats online, contact law enforcement.

So what is a parent to do? The most obvious thing a parent can do to avoid these types of situations is to talk to their children. Find out where they go on the Internet, who they talk to and what they've seen that bothers them. Ask them if they've ever been exposed to hate-related sites or adult oriented web pages, and discuss it with them.

Just as adults need to help kids stay safe, they also need to learn not to overreact when they find out a child or teenager has been exposed to inappropriate material or strayed from a rule. Whatever you do, don't blame or punish your child if he tells you about an uncomfortable online encounter. Your best strategy is to work with him, so you both can learn from what happened and figure out how to keep it from happening again.

Here are some simple guidelines to consider: — Set rules about where kids can go online and what to do if they stumble upon inappropriate sites.

— Keep any connected computer in a public area of the house (not a child's bedroom), and make sure that other family members walk in the room periodically.

— Consider not allowing children and teens to use the Internet if parents aren't home. You may wish to consider using time-limiting software to make sure that kids can go online only when you're around.

— Consider checking the browser history to see where kids have been and having a "talk" if they are visiting inappropriate sites.

— Consider installing monitoring software that tracks where kids have been.

— Consider installing filtering software that blocks kids from visiting sites that you feel are inappropriate.

One such filtering program is Net Nanny, produced by BioNet Systems, LLC. The makers of Net Nanny described their product

as: "Net Nanny, the world's leading parental control software, provides the broadest set of Internet safety tools available. Parents can filter Web sites, control online chat, limit time spent online, protect their privacy and much more."

The program also gets a nod of approval from the federal government.

"[Net Nanny is] real software for real families. No parent should be without this incredible tool," writes David Evangelista, executive director of the United States Internet Crime Task Force (quote provided by the Net Nanny website).

The program, which usually retails around \$40, boasts the following features (information provided by the Net Nanny website):

— Limits the total number of hours or the time of day that your children may be online.

— Prevents the display of most sexually explicit material.

— Prevents the display of most graphically violent material.

— Prevents the display of most material advocating hate groups and their messages.

— Prevents the display of most material advocating illegal activity, such as drug use, bomb making, or underage drinking and gambling.

— Prevents the display of other categories of material.

— Prevents selected personal information from being transmitted from your computer.

— Monitors the use of your computer or the access your children have to the Internet.

Net Nanny is by no means the only filtering software on the market, but it is a good representation of what parents should look for when shopping for this type of program.

In the end, keeping our children safe from online predators and keeping others safe from our children is the responsibility of everyone. Talk to your kids about it. You may find them more receptive than you expect.

Thomas Jenkins is a reporter for the Herald and writes a weekly column on the Internet.



THOMAS JENKINS

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS FORSAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING

Forsan ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:30 PM on November 17, 2003, in the Board Room at the Administration Office located at 411 W. 6th Street in Forsan, Texas.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Forsan ISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

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Dr. Del Giudice, a board certified Rheumatologist from Lubbock, Texas, is currently accepting new patients at the satellite Rheumatology Clinic at Cogdell Memorial Hospital in Snyder. He is bilingual and has been in private practice for 20 years. He is proud to announce the expansion of an infusion center at this location.

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL 806-771-2400 EXT 221



Webelos Cub Scout Troop 176 was the fastest team overall at the Lone Star District 2003 Pushmobile races held in Big Spring. The group is, left to right, back row to front, Bubba Love, Freddy Hinojosa, Clifford Kinney, David Gonzales, Sean Poffenbarger, Daniel Juarez, Kyle Pharris, C.W. Kinney, Jonathon Martinez, Nolan Beal, John Lyons Jr., Austin Goswick, Spencer Wells and Travis Dedrick.

Cub Scout Awards:

Overall Fastest Pack

1. Pack 176, Big Spring (14.866)
2. Pack 501, Coahoma (15.985)
3. Pack 2, Colorado City (16.562)

Overall Fastest Den

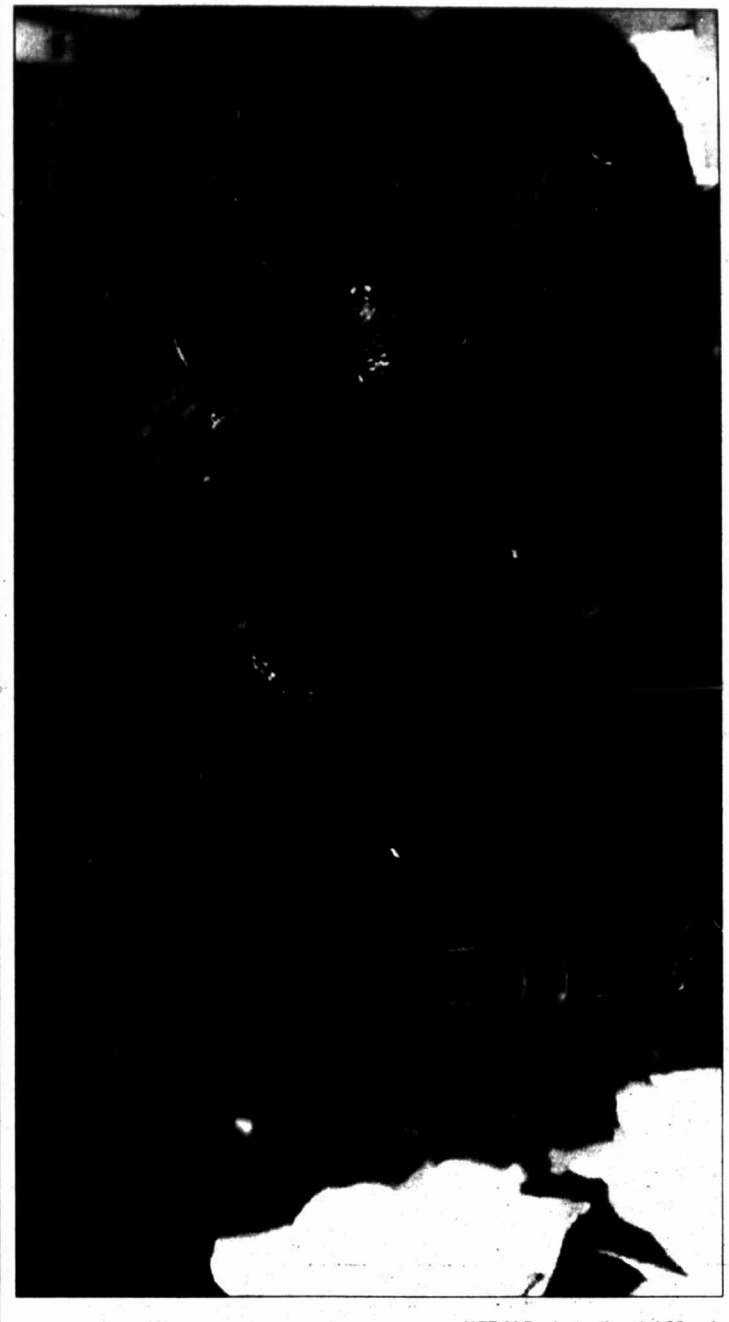
1. Tigers, Pack 501, Coahoma (17.04)
- Wolves, Pack 179, Big Spring (15.84)
- Bears, Pack 179, Big Spring (14.53)
- Webelos, Pack 29, Forsan (14.366)

Best Design

1. Bearmobile, Pack 179, Big Spring.
2. Patriotic Box Car, Pack 179, Big Spring.
3. Sponge Bob Square Pants Car, Pack 501, Coahoma.

Most Unique

1. Hulkmobile, Pack 29, Forsan.
2. Black Widow Spider, Pack 29, Forsan.
3. Pizzamobile, Pack 501, Coahoma.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Pat Underwood, election deputy, gives a hug to one of her fellow Howard County colleagues during Underwood's retirement party last week. Underwood is retiring after serving 18 years for the county.

WEST TEXAS DISCOUNT FLOORING

M-F 9-5:30 SAT. 12-4 1712 GREGG 263-5500	Pergo Snap \$2.59 sf	Wilsonart \$2.59 sf
	REMNAINT SALE	Plush Carpet \$6.99 yd
	16x16 Tile \$1.49 sf	Vinyl \$7.49 yd



Big Spring native to mark birthday in Iraq

Big Spring native Cpl. Sammy Gonzales Jr. is serving in the United States Army. He and his family are currently stationed in Hanau, Germany. His unit, H.H.C. 2/501st 4th Brigade 1st Armored Division, is on a one-year deployment to Iraq.

Sammy joined the Army at 20 years old. He is a proud American soldier and will be celebrating his 30th birthday on Nov. 6 in Baghdad, away from his family.

He will be returning to Hanau, Germany for two weeks of "Rest and Relaxation."

There he will be reunited with his wife, Dennise and three children, Holly,

11; Roberto, 6; and Ariana, 1-1/2.

"Thank you, to OUR hometown hero!" said parents Roberto and Petra Oliva, brothers Micheal and John Oliva, mother and father-in-law Ralph and Charlene Kennedy, and his wife and children. "God bless you and keep you safe!"

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SGT. JOE JONES
US MARINES
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Dad, we're proud you chose to serve our country.

Love,
 Your Kids
 (SAMPLE)

On Veteran's Day, The Big Spring Herald will run our *Salute To Veterans*. For \$25, you can include your veteran, including those still in service. In the salute, just complete the form listed below along with your veteran's photo, in uniform or in civies, and bring them to the Big Spring Herald at 710 Scurry or mail the form, photo and your check to:

THE BIG SPRING HERALD
P.O. BOX 1431
BIG SPRING, TX. 79721

VETERAN'S NAME _____

VETERAN'S BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

VETERAN'S DATES OF SERVICE _____

YOUR MESSAGE TO YOUR VETERAN _____

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR ADDRESS _____

YOUR PHONE NUMBER _____

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS 5:00 PM, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2003
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL US AT 432-263-7331

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IN BRIEF

New classes now forming at YMCA

Registration for classes in gymnastics, swimming, martial arts and women's weights is now being held at the Big Spring Family YMCA.

Gymnastics classes include Kidnastics for preschoolers, ages 5 and younger, and regular gymnastics and tumbling classes for boys and girls 6 and older.

Swim lessons include beginner classes for pre-schoolers, ages 5 and under, and beginner and intermediate classes for children 6 and over.

The martial arts and women's weight classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

All classes begin today.

For more information contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

Coahoma JV gridders outlast Stanton, 15-8

Cody Griffith and Bradley Tatum each scored in the third quarter Thursday night and helped carry the Coahoma Bulldogs junior varsity to a 15-8 win over rival Stanton.

After the two teams had battled to a 0-0 tie at the half, Griffith garnered the Bulldogs' first score by hauling in a 32-yard pass from Blaine Kerby. Tatum added his score minutes later on a 2-yard run.

Stanton pulled to within a touchdown with a score in the fourth.

Safety Joe Holguin aided the CHS win with two interceptions. Tatum also had one. Others playing well were Cody Price, Antonio Gonzales, Stephen Ewing and Patrick Croft.

Steers Booster Club to hold skills clinic

The Big Spring Steers Boys Basketball Boosters will be holding a skills clinic for area youth in grades K-4th on Saturday, from 10 a.m. through noon in the west gym of Big Spring Junior High.

The cost of the clinic is \$30 per individual. Each participant will receive a black and gold basketball.

Softball booster club will meet tonight

The Big Spring Lady Steers Softball Booster club will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. tonight in the BSHS library.

All persons interested are invited to attend.

Quarterback Club to meet tonight at ATC

The Big Spring High School Quarterback Club will hold its weekly meeting tonight beginning at 7 in the ATC.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule		
Nov. 3		
Event, Time	Station	
Spurs vs. Memphis, 6:30 p.m.	2490	
Nov. 4		
Event, Time	Station	
Lady Steers vs. EP Burges, 6:15 p.m.	1490	
Nov. 5		
Event, Time	Station	
Mavericks at Washington, 5:30 p.m.	1490	
Nov. 6		
Event, Time	Station	
Spurs vs. Lakers, 8 p.m.	1490	
Nov. 7		
Event, Time	Station	
Big Spring vs. Andrews, 6 p.m.	95.7/1490	
Coahoma vs. Crane, 7 p.m.	94.3	

Steers splash to win at BS Invitational

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Steers proved you don't need a ton of wins to walk away with a victory at a swim meet. You just need a ton of winners.

The Big Spring boys swim team, anchored by solid performances from Mark Sheedy and Will Liggitt, picked up seven top 3 finishes Saturday and rolled to the 2003 Big Spring Invitational Swimming and Diving Meet crown. The Steers rolled up 236 points as a squad and edged out San Angelo Central's Orange team by two points in the final

standings.

The Big Spring Lady Steers didn't fair quite as well. The BSHS fens managed just 59 points and finished 11th in the girls' division. The Pecos Lady Eagles won the girls' title with 291 points.

Sheedy highlighted the Steers' performance in the two-day meet, which was held in the Big Spring Family YMCA pool. He collected two medals at the meet, finishing second in the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke. He also swam legs on Big Spring relay teams that finished second in the 500 and 400 Freestyle relays.

In the butterfly competition, Sheedy spearheaded a strong BSHS showing. His time of 58.70 seconds was just .02 seconds off the winning mark of Pecos' Matt Elliott.

Justin Petrowski finished third in the butterfly standings with a mark of 1:01.16. Teammate David Brooks was eighth.

Sheedy's bronze-medal time in the 100 backstroke was 1:03.14. Brooks was sixth, one spot ahead of teammate Ryan Hughey.

Liggitt and Chris Stokes each collected third-place marks in the meet. Liggitt recorded a time of 2:12.21 in the 200-yard individ-

ual medley. Stokes splashed his way to a bronze in the 100 with a time of 54.16.

Jessica Hughey recorded the Lady Steers' top performance, taking second in the 100-yard backstroke. She finished the race in a time of 1:09.19.

Hughey also netted a sixth-place effort in the 200, while Kendra Weeks earned seventh place honors in the 100 butterfly and 10th in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Terrin Herring also posted top 10 marks at the meet, taking ninth in the 100 freestyle and 10th in the 50 free.



Howard College head coach Jim Lewis talks to his players during a time out in the second half of their 113-66 victory over the Abilene Christian University JV Saturday in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Hawks are scheduled to face Wayland Baptist Tuesday.

A BIG DAY IN BIG SPRING

Goff pumps in 28 as Hawks open Lewis era with 113-66 rout of Abilene Christian

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

A lot has changed since Steve Goff walked off the court last March after having helped the Howard College Hawks come within a few minutes of a berth at the national junior college basketball tournament. There's a ton of new teammates. A new coach and a new system.

Fortunately for Howard College basketball fans, Goff didn't forget how to shoot or lead a team to victory.

Goff pumped in a game-high 28 points Saturday night and helped the Hawks roll to an easy 113-66 victory over the Abilene Christian University junior varsity in their 2003 season opener.

"I think we played pretty well considering it was our first game," said Howard College head basketball coach Jim Lewis. "I thought we played well defensively and that fueled out fast break. We've got a lot of areas we need to improve in, but that's what these early games are for."

"But for an opener, I thought we had some people play well at both ends," added Lewis, who took over this summer after former head coach Chris Jans stepped down to take a similar position at Chipola Junior College in



Former NBA assistant Lorin Miller registered his first win as the coach of the HC Lady Hawks Saturday.

Florida.

Goff, one of three players back from last year's 29-4 squad, was one of those doing well. He sank six three-pointers in the first half and helped power the Hawks to a 36-16 run in the first 10 minutes.

The Hawks stretched their lead to 61-27 at the half.

Overall, Goff hit on eight of 13 attempts from behind the 3-point arc. He also collected a team-high nine rebounds.

The Hawks didn't waste any time in putting the pressure on the Wildcats, a first-year JV program. Jamaal Fears, Goff and freshman Johnny Jones reeled off four straight baskets to open the game and stake the HC men to a 9-0 cushion.

It only got worse for ACU from there as Goff found his range. Over the ensuing two minutes, the 6-foot-8 sophomore buried four treys and inflated the HC advantage to 24-9.

Goff wasn't the only Howard College standout finding the basket. Fears, Matt Stroud and sophomore Finlay Brashears also hit double figures in the win, netting 14, 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Jones just missed double digits by scoring nine. Steve Story, Munir Shakir and Jarell Mayfield all chipped in six.

Rance Bland, a freshman from Lubbock, led all ACU scorers with 24 points. Merkel's Seth Gohlke added 12.

The Howard College Lady Hawks also got off to a strong start, downing ACU by a 98-62 margin.

Freshmen Ciara Tidwell and Alison Lopez, a native of Colorado City, keyed the Lady Hawks' win by scoring into double figures.

BSJHS spikers close '03 campaign

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Big Spring Junior High School Lady Steers eighth grade "A" volleyball squad closed out its 2003 season last week with an impressive performance against the Lamesa Lady Tors. The BSJHS Girls rallied from an early deficit to win in three games.

After dropping the first game by a 15-16 margin, the Lady Steers managed to get their game untracked. Big Spring rallied to claim a tough 26-24 win in Game 2 and force a decisive third frame.

Lamesa looked as if it would regain the momentum early in Game 3. The Lady Tors reeled off eight straight points to open the frame, putting the Lady Steers in a deep hole.

Big Spring, which collected solid outings from Nita Cotton, Danielle Jeter, Desiree Yanez, Jordan Chesworth and Maddy Hopkins, survived the LJHS start, however. The Lady Steers outscored Lamesa by a 25-14 margin over the remainder of the frame to clinch the win.

Cotton finished with a team-high eight points. Jeter added six while Yanez chipped in six. Chesworth and Hopkins finished with five apiece.

Amanda Caskey, with help from setter Lauren Bryant, also played well. She led the team in kills with nine.

Defensively, Big Spring picked up stellar efforts from Cotton, Chesworth, Lauren Sage and Whitney Lewis.

With the victory, the BSJHS girls finished their season with a sparkling 12-4 record.

The Big Spring eighth grade "B" team didn't fair as well, falling 25-5, 25-15.

Whitney Torres led the squad with five points.

BS girls to face EP Burges in playoff opener

The Big Spring Lady Steers, fresh off two warm-up games over the weekend, are scheduled to open the state volleyball playoffs Tuesday against El Paso Burges.

Big Spring, 27-10 overall and ranked No. 10 in the Texas Girls Coaches Association poll, will tip off the area playoff bout at 6:30 p.m. in Alpine.

For fans unable to attend the game, KBST 1490-AM will broadcast the game, starting at 6:15 p.m.

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HELP WANTED

The City of Big Spring will be testing for the position of Police Officer, with preference given to Certified Officers, at 8:30 a.m. Thursday November 20, 2003 at the Police Training Center on 307 E. 4th. Applications are being accepted through Wednesday November 19, 2003. For further information and detailed qualifications contact the City Hall Personnel at 310 Nolano, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Call 432-264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

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BY JOYCE JILLSON

With Venus shooting through Sagittarius, life gets much easier when you know your target. Zero in on the goal, and learn all you can about it. It doesn't take much to get momentum. Over the next few days, your fire is stoked. The Pisces moon lends wisdom to even unwise pursuits. When your heart is driving, it doesn't always make sense.



Joyce Jillson

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When the opportunity to fly comes along, you're ready with your wings spread. So it's maddening to you when others cower, afraid to make a move. The evening brings a metaphor for your life. Write down your thoughts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Clear any obstacle to getting your business handled. How much you

Tomorrow's Horoscope

charge could be an issue. Ask other business people how they do it, and cobble together the best advice you get into a plan that's unique to your needs.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Some say love requires sacrifice, but does it really? Making someone you love feel happy is a thrill, not at all like drudgery. You can't do other people's spiritual work for them, but that won't stop them from asking.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). This is a high hopes kind of day, but protect yourself, too — keep your expectations in line with reality. Privileged information comes to you this afternoon. If you don't tell a soul, you can use this to your advantage.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Being bossy but charming is your forte, and no one can resist your persuasive arguments on this banner day. This afternoon is all about being cool, which is different from being trendy and hip. Good influences

abound tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Morning events serve to jolt loose some preconceptions. You won't realize in the moment, but you'll spend the rest of the day trying to assimilate what just happened.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your ears might be too small to hear what a loved one has to say, but your soul is big enough. Listen without the pressure of having to judge. Tonight, the song of the universe is coursing through your veins.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A bright idea from out of the blue this morning gets you buzzing. People will call you "indispensable," and if they don't, they're just afraid that if they let you

know how vital you are, you'll ask for too much money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are about 10 bits of information swimming in your head that are making your body feel weighed down. Get them on paper, and you'll lighten up. Don't worry about making success happen, just let your passion flow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You know you have talent, but it's easy to forget that when your talent doesn't fit what others are seeking. Comfort yourself by using a sweet, supportive internal voice instead of expressing disapproval toward your delicate psyche.

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627 State, 3 Bdrm 1 bath. \$750/down, payments \$300/mo. plus Tax & Ins. Call 800-804-7110

For Sale: 2 story, 3,000 sq. ft., downtown office building. Would be ideal for Doctor's Office. Call 432-267-3126

For Sale By Owner 811 E. 15th 2/1. \$188/mo. for 10 yrs. Please call Annette Sanchez 432-413-0549 or 432-570-9826. Owner will Finance. Regardless of Credit

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OWNER FINANCE 1906 Winston, \$300dn, \$215/mo. 3 Br, 1 1/2 ba, Garage, CH/A. New carpet & paint. 325-665-4844

Owner will Consider financing w/down payment 1613 Lark St. 2 Bdrm, 1 bath \$15,000. Call 432-263-7747 for appt

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Spacious Beautiful 2 Bdrm 2 bath home on Dallas w/many extras. Appt. Only. 432-267-1012

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MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT
For Sale '79 Golden Mansion mobile home. Ideal for retired couple. (432)264-6270.

MISCELLANEOUS
Driver Education Sign up to get your license at the mall. Nov. 2nd, 5-7 p.m. Lic #C1200

For Sale Kenmore Refrigerator (Brown) \$1100. Call 432-264-0888

Responsible Party take on small mon. pymt on High Definition Big Screen. 1-800-398-3970

WEDDING CAKES!!
Silk florals, arches, candelabras The Grishams 432-267-8191

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed proposals until 4:00 P.M. November 10, 2003, for the following area: Comprehensive Operational Efficiency Program. Proposals will be received from the school district's Business Office, 708 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number 432-264-3620. Proposals will be received in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any of all proposals. #4026 October 27 & November 3, 2003

LEGAL NOTICE

THE STATE OF TEXAS NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS
You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. TO: MONROE H. GOODE, JANEY WILLIAMS MEDINA, LOUISE WILLIAMS MYERS, ANN REBOLD CUMMINGS, E. H. HUMPHREY, M. G. TAFT, GEORGE E. FALMUR, THE ESTATE OF H. W. SCHNEIDER, DECEASED, GLADYS SCHNEIDER, ADMINISTRATRIX, RUTH TAFT, ELIZABETH CATHERINE HALL, JANE A. WRIGHT, GERARDINE G. COLBY, DOROTHY TAFT, GARNER, HELEN TAFT, LIFE ESTATE, BARBARA TAFT, REMAINDERMAN, RICHARD G. TAFT, AND WILLIAM H. TAFT, AND THEIR HEIRS, KNOW OR UNKNOWN, IF ANY OF SAID PERSONS ARE DECEASED. Defendants in the cause herein described. You and each of you are hereby commanded to appear and answer before the 118th Judicial District Court in the Howard County Courthouse located at Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, at or before 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date of issuance hereof, being at or before 10:00 a.m. on Monday the 8th day of December, 2003; then and there to answer the petition of ENERQUEST OIL & GAS, LTD., Plaintiff in Cause No. NE24 NE4 of Section 17 and 156 acres out of NW 4 of Section 19 and to execute oil, gas and mineral leases thereon to the Plaintiff and take such other action deemed necessary under the provisions of said statute. If this citation is not served within ninety (90) days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved. #4026 November 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I have known my best friend, "Martha," since fourth grade. Martha had a troubled childhood and was abused both mentally and physically, but she came through the ordeal and seemed OK.



ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Martha now has a 2-year-old daughter, "Lisa." Martha seems to think it is perfectly OK for the family cat to scratch, nip and bite Lisa nearly every day. Martha says her daughter deserves it, since the little girl pulls the cat's tail. She has never taken Lisa to the doctor for the cat bites and insists, "It's no big deal."

Annie, my friend will see herself in this story. Perhaps you can convince her to take her child to a doctor. — Concerned Northern Friend

Dear Friend: Martha's attitude is very disturbing, not because she won't treat Lisa's bites but because she thinks the girl "deserves" to be bitten.

A responsible parent teaches her child not to pull the cat's tail, explaining that it hurts the animal, in an effort to help the child learn empathy and kindness. While most minor biting and scratching is nothing to be concerned about, some cat bites can become infected and require medical treatment.

Martha needs to recognize that her cavalier approach to the situation is not in her child's best interest. At the very least, she should discuss it with the pediatrician.

Dear Annie: I read with interest the article about "Dr. Sexy," who treated a female patient for a back injury and then invited her to his place for dinner. They ended up having sex, and now she feels guilty. You said the doctor should be reported.

I disagree. This woman is an adult and admits she is attracted to the doctor. He did not force himself on her. Is a lawyer, banker or dentist taking advantage of his position of authority if he asks a client for a date? — Thornton, Colo.

Dear Thornton: Allow us to explain what constitutes inappropriate professional behavior. It is not that the sex was consensual. It is that a doctor's position of authority can be intimidating,

making the woman less likely to say no to his advances. Her guilt indicates that the encounter bothered her. She continued seeing him professionally only because she could not change doctors. Reporting such abuse of authority holds for any professional, and it is not confined to males. A female boss who makes a pass at a male underling also is behaving improperly. Here's more on the subject:

From Out West: That woman absolutely should not go back to that doctor, and she may not have to. Based on his unethical behavior, she is likely to get her insurance company to agree to let her see another physician. Please tell her.

Missouri: I have been a practicing physician for 27 years and can attest that it will do no good to report this doctor. In most states, there are about 10 doctors who volunteer their time to investigate complaints for the government licensing bureau. Their primary task is to weed out physicians who are alcoholic or chemically impaired, those who have been convicted of specific criminal offenses, and the ones who abuse their authority to write prescriptions. This woman's complaint would be given little priority. Plus, it would be her word against his.

Mississippi: I think it was a noble thing this doctor did for his patient. He saw that she needed extra care and sacrificed his personal time to help her. He fed her to make sure she had nutrition to help recovery. Then he used his own body to help massage and straighten her back. What more could a patient want from a doctor for no extra charge?

Dear Miss.: Thanks for providing a unique spin on the situation and a good laugh.

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Big Spring Herald
710 Scurry

MONDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	USA (30)	TMC (250)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odesa	Odesa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odesa	Odesa	Discovery	Classics	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	New York	Premium
6:30 PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	El Manantial	King of the Hill Raymond	News Tonight	Pasion de Gavilanes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Seinfeld (CC) Friends (CC)	Joseph Good John Hagee	News-Lehrer	MythBusters		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Movie: How Stella Got Her Groove Back	Sister, Sister Lizzie McGuire	NFL Films Reporters	Monday Night (DVS)	JAG (CC) (DVS)	(CC)
7:30 PM	Dale Hansen Roasted	Jesus, Mary and Da Vinci	Vevo de Nova	Next Joe Millionaire	Yes, Dear Still Standing	Amor Descarado	Fear Factor (CC)	Movie: The Matrix (CC)	Update/Israel Sam Peak	Antiques Roadshow	American Chopper	Movie: Mary Reilly	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Stella Got Her Groove Back	Movie: The Cheateah Girls	2003 World Series of Poker	Countdown (CC)	Law & Order Special Victims	Movie: Ten Tiny Love
8:30 PM	NFL Football New England	NFL Football New England	Nina, Amada Mia	Skin (CC)	Raymond Two-Half Men	Ladron de Corazones	Las Vegas (CC)		Light of the Southwest	Ken Burns American	American Chopper		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)		2003 World Series of Poker	Wild Rules	Law & Order Special Victims	Stones (CC) American	
9:30 PM	Patrols at Denver	Patrols at Denver	Cristina	70s Show Dharma-Greg	CSI Miami (CC)	Lazos de Familia	Average Joe (CC)			Stones Jackson-Love	American Chopper	8:55 Movie: Rosemary's	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comicview	Sister, Sister Boy World	2003 World Series of Poker	New American Sportsman	Law & Order Special Victims	Psycho II All American Girl
10:30 PM	Broncos (CC)	Broncos (CC)	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Movie: Antitrust	Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	American Chopper	Baby (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Nightly News Hey Mone	Kim Possible Proud Family	2003 Poker Interruption	Totally Hooked Offshore Adv	Law & Order Special Victims	15 Movie: The Moderns
11:30 PM	News (CC)	News Extra (CC)	En las Mejores Familias	Becker (CC) Spin City	(CC)	Late Late	Al Rop Vivo-Late Night	(CC)	Rev. J. Hansen Tommie	Sign Off	American Chopper	35 Movie:	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	X-Files (CC)	Midnight Love	NBA Fastbreak Playmakers	SportsCenter (CC)	Peacemakers (CC)	
12:30 AM	Ent Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Nightline Jimmy Kimmel	Angela	Blind Date Blind Date	Show (CC) Street Smarts	Maria Celeste Corte-Familia	(CC)	Movie: Antitrust	Update/Israel N. McBride		American Chopper	Mary Reilly	X-Files (CC)	Comicview	Boy World Recess (CC)	NFL's Great	Outside-Lines SportsCenter	Nash Bridges (CC)	25 Movie:

DENNIS THE MENACE



"Okay, I'm back. I hope you two have learned your lesson."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"It only looks that way because I'm just sittin' here."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC

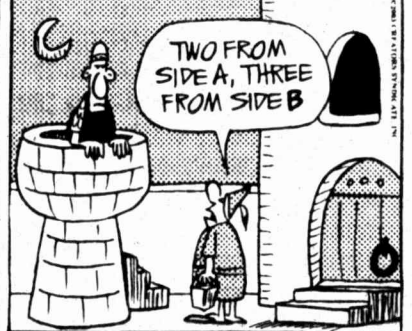


HOW OFTEN DO YOU GIVE YOUR PLAYERS THE HIT-AND-RUN SIGN?



EVERY TIME THEY GET INTO A BAR FIGHT.

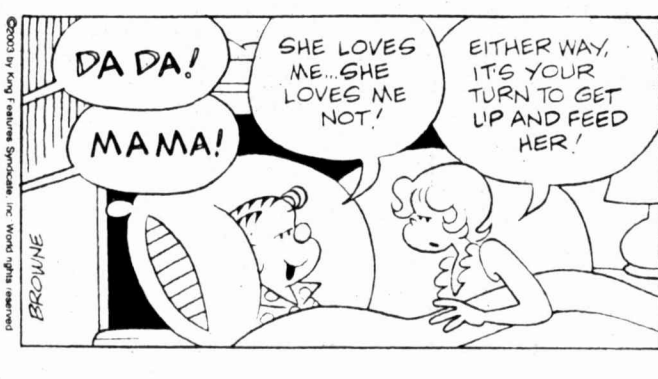
WIZARD OF ID



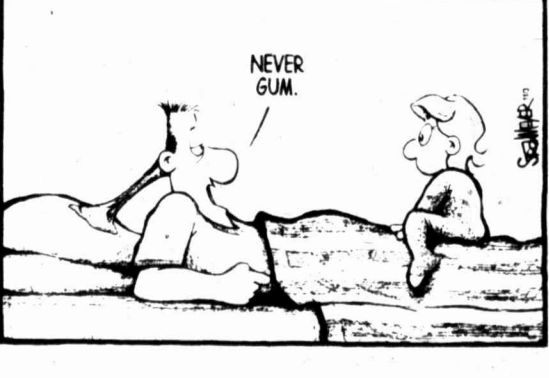
AGNES



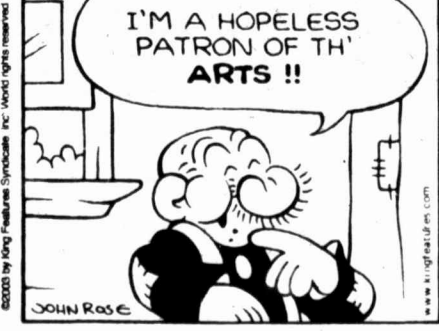
HI AND LOIS



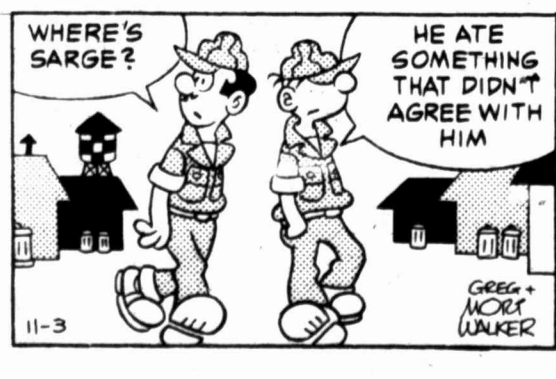
MR. HOUSEWIFE



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 3, the 307th day of 2003. There are 58 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 3, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik II, the second manmade satellite, into orbit; on board was a dog named "Laika," who was sacrificed in the experiment.

On this date:

In 1868, Republican Ulysses S. Grant won the presidential election over Democrat Horatio Seymour.

In 1896, Republican William McKinley defeated Democrat William Jennings Bryan for the presidency.

In 1900, the first automobile show in the United States opened at New York's Madison Square Garden under the auspices of the Automobile Club of America.

In 1903, Panama pro-

claimed its independence from Colombia.

In 1908, Republican William Howard Taft was elected president, outpolling William Jennings Bryan.

In 1936, President Franklin Roosevelt won a landslide election victory over Republican challenger Alfred M. "Alf" Landon.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson soundly defeated Republican challenger Barry Goldwater to win a White House term in his own right.

In 1970, Salvador Allende was inaugurated as president of Chile.

In 1990, Broadway musical actress Mary Martin died in Rancho Mirage, Calif., at age 76.

In 1992, Bill Clinton was elected the 42nd president of the United States, defeating President Bush. In Illinois, Democrat Carol Moseley-Braun became the first black woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

Ten years ago, President Clinton joined his wife, Hillary, in attacking the health insurance industry - the lobby accused by the

first lady of lying when it unveiled a new TV ad repeating there must be a "better way" than the Clinton health care reform plan.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Bob Feller is 85. Actress Lois Smith is 73. Actress Monica Vitti is 72. Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is 70. Actor-dancer Ken Berry is 70. Movie composer John Barry is 70. Actor Shadon Stevens is 57. Singer Lulu is 55. Television critic Tom Shales is 55. Actor Mike Evans is 54. Comedian-actress Roseanne Barr is 51. Actress Kate Capshaw is 50. Comedian Dennis Miller is 50.

Answer to previous puzzle

G	E	W	G	A	W	A	L	M	A	N	A	C	S
O	T	T	L	E	G	U	L	L	E	F	U	L	
S	T	R	O	L	L	I	N	C	A	M	E	R	A
H	A	N	D	E	D	N	A	R	R	O	W	L	
M	A	S	T	E	R	E	D	B	I	O	L	A	B
I	S	E	E	T	A	K	E	S	H	O	M	E	
T	H	E	S	H	O	W	N	U	S	T	O	N	
R	E	P	L	A	N	T	E	D	O	N	C	E	
E	S	S	A	N	S	S	O	A	N	D	S	O	S
P	L	A	T	E	F	U	L	C	A	P	O	T	E
S	A	L	I	V	A	T	E	A	C	A	D	I	A
S	T	A	T	E	R	U	N	D	I	C	I	E	R
T	H	E	O	R	I	S	T	E	N	T	E	R	S

Newsday Crossword

PLANE SPEAKING by Sally R. Stein

Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Pleasant smell	1 Two-band, as a radio
6 Spanish ladies: Abbr.	2 Make angry
10 Great benefit performers	3 Leave out
14 Street	4 Actress Ryan et al.
15 '50s pope	5 Hardwood tree
16 Bullets and cannonballs	6 Practices boxing
17 Airplane server	7 Solemn ceremony
20 Big Apple baseballers	8 Celebrity signature
21 Sandwich cookie	9 Compass pt.
22 Weird	10 Scoundrel
23 Army cops: Abbr.	11 Poet Khayyám
24 Diver Louganis	12 Word form for "all"
26 Princesses of India	66 Folk singer Seeger
30 Boring work	67 Elaborate dinner
34 Author Zola	
35 Ultimate objective	
36 Confederate general	
37 Airplane snack	
41 Highest card	
42 Foot fraction	
43 The Treasure of the Sierra	
44 Meal for Goldilocks	
47 Not-so-great golf scores	
48 Suit to	
49 Chinese fry-pan	
50 Soprano's note	
53 Authentic	
55 Spill the beans	
59 Airplane compartment	
62 Singer Home	
63 Narrow cut	
64 Change for a ten	
65 Ancient legend	