

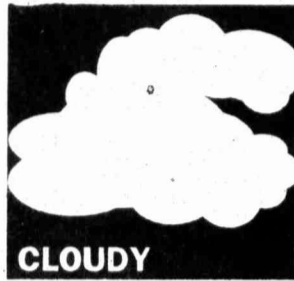


VETERANS DAY

November 11, 2003

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW 60°-61° 67°-68°

BRIEFLY

Council won't meet

The Big Spring City Council will not convene on its regularly scheduled meeting date today due to Veterans Day.

Flu shots given

The Texas Department of Health will be giving the flu vaccine from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday.

The Texas Department of Health is located in the College Park Shopping Center.

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.

This course was developed as a refresher course for drivers age 50 and older.

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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Vol. 100, No. 2

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.

Applications being taken for Leadership Big Spring

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is now taking applications for the 2004 Leadership Big Spring class.

Leadership Big Spring is a Chamber-sponsored program that allows members of the community to have a first-hand look at all the businesses and services available locally.

"The nine-month course not only gives members in our community a chance to learn leadership skills but also a chance to gain a broad view of everything Big Spring has to offer," said Chamber Executive Director Debbye ValVerde.

Application deadline is Dec. 15. For information about the program, visit the Chamber at 215 W. Third St. or call 263-7641.



VALVERDE

While involved in the class, the group tours various businesses and industries within the community and attends board meetings of various entities. Other areas of interest that the class tours are agriculture, utilities,

communication and law enforcement.

Leadership Big Spring classes also offer workshops on leadership led by Terri Davis, Howard College assistant professor of business.

"We want people who have demonstrated management and/or leadership ability, have shown an interest in community affairs and have the time and the talent to offer to the community," ValVerde said.

Participants are also required to attend three board meetings of a local government entity, ride in a patrol car with a Big Spring police officer and must also take part in a

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Congressman: Economy improving

Neugebauer talks about health care, conditions in Iraq

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The economy, health care and the war in Iraq were the three topics U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock,

brought to the Crossroads area Monday night during a town hall meeting.

"The market is up \$2 trillion, and that brings value to our country," said the freshman congressman.

"The really important thing is last month we created 57,000 new jobs in America, and last week they reported that the number of people applying for unemployment was down between 37,000 and 47,000 people.

"Durable goods shipments are up. Factory orders are up. Consumer spending is up. Today the housing ownership rate in America is higher than it's ever been in the history of this country. It just goes to show you that when you put the money in the hands of the business people that are creating jobs and the American people, they know what to do with that money better than the United States Congress."

Neugebauer said President Bush's tax cuts have been greatly responsible for the current upswing in the economy, but there is still plenty of work to be



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

19th District Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, discussed such issues as healthcare and veterans benefits with local residents Monday evening during a town hall meeting at Howard College.

done if the United States is expected to pull itself up from its recent economic pitfalls.

"The president was right on that package, and things are going well," he said. "We're recovering at a very rapid rate. Our economy is growing. Last

month the economy was growing at a rate of 7.2 percent, and that's a historic rate... the highest in 20 years.

"There's still a lot of work to be done. One thing we still haven't done is to not make death a taxable event. When peo-

ple die now, farms and businesses have to be liquidated to pay the taxes on them. We've passed a bill to change that in the House, and now it needs to be passed in the Senate, and I'm

See TOWN HALL, Page 3A

VA Medical Center, benefits draw questions

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Health care and veteran benefits were the topics of choice among Howard County residents Monday evening, as they voiced their concerns to Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, during a town hall meeting at Howard College.

One of the focal points for the meeting were the current Social Security and Medicare bills being hammered on in both the House and Senate. Concerns over the proposed regulation of cancer drug prices and their administration by clinic doctors drew several questions from the gallery concerning the possible closing of two cancer

clinics in the Permian Basin.

Neugebauer explained the bill proposes to regulate these prices and reimbursements to the physicians because the prices being charged are unstable, and most of all unclear. The congressman said a level of transparency needed to be maintained to prevent needless overcharging.

"When you talk about health care, it's a very complex issue," said Neugebauer. "There are two pieces to that puzzle. One is the people that are administering the chemotherapy, and then there's the cost of the chemotherapy drugs. In the past, the price that was set by the drug industry itself for chemotherapy drugs was what they

called the average retail value.

"Sometimes that price was set artificially high to reimburse the physicians that were providing the infusion service. The problem with that, even in Medicare and private pay health care systems is that you're paying a co-pay in that. While a drug that is probably being sold for \$5 but is being marked up to \$500 to be infused, if you're paying 10 to 20 percent of that, you're paying \$50 to \$100 toward the cost of that drug, which actually costs \$5."

Although concern was voiced by several residents who themselves are recipients of

See VA, Page 3A

Consensus on a new jail — not anytime soon

Commissioners continue to entertain information about a new facility

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Building a county jail takes a lot more than just throwing up four walls and a roof.

That was one of the main topics of discussion during Monday morning's Howard County commissioners meeting, as local architect Phil Furqueron presented the court with a team of designers and engineers ready to

begin working on such a design.

Furqueron explained that his architectural firm, along with HOK (Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum) Justice of Dallas and Park-Hill-Smith and Cooper of Lubbock and Midland, were putting themselves at the court's disposal for pre-planning and studies necessary to determine exactly what type of jail the county needs.

"We just presented our team to the court," said Furqueron. "If the commissioners wish to hire us to begin planning studies during the interim while they are waiting to get started with the jail, it will now be their option. We didn't propose to start work, and we're not going to do anything. We're working at the leisure of the commissioners court."

Furqueron's presentation came on the heels of a similar presentation by architect Norris Fletcher, and although Furqueron didn't go into as much detail as Norris, he said the \$6.5 million to \$7 million estimated price tag is definitely in the ballpark for the project.

"The price that he quoted for a

See JAIL, Page 2A

Obituaries

John "Papa" Hicks



John "Papa" Hicks, 60, of Big Spring died on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2003, at his residence. Funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2003, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Tim Winn officiating. Interment will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. A prayer service will be held at 7 tonight, Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2003, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

He moved to Big Spring with his family as a young boy and lived here most of his life. He worked many years in the oil field and had worked for the Martin County Road and Bridge Department before retiring due to a disability. He enjoyed raising animals.

He was a Baptist.

Survivors include three sons, Johnny Hicks, Ernest Hicks and Robert Hicks, all of Big Spring; two daughters, Debbie Hicks of Big Spring and Crystal Deperto of San Antonio; one sister, Reba Fortner of Brownwood; one brother, Jim Hicks of Big Spring; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

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

Joyce Becker



Joyce Becker, 72, of Big Spring, died Sunday, Nov. 9, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center following a short illness. Graveside services were at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Doug Shelley officiating.

She was born Aug. 7, 1931, at Corpus Christi. She was the daughter of Emmitt and Beatrice Woods. She married Samuel Frank Becker on April 8, 1971, in Big Spring. She lived most of her life in Big Spring. She was a retired cook, having worked at Herman's, Country Club, Terry's Drive-in, Holiday Inn and Howard College.

She is survived by her husband, Sam Becker of Big Spring; two daughters, Ila Mae Beebe and her husband Virgil of Antonito, Colorado and Patricia Carroll Smith and her husband Larry of Roanoke; four sons, James David Northcutt and his wife Pauline of Snyder, Willis Jerrall Watson Jr. and his wife, Judy of Perryton, Donny Ba Watson and his wife, Debbie of Chappell Hill, and Morgan Lee Watson and his wife, Martha of Big Spring; three step-sons, Marvin Becker, Fred Becker and Frankie Becker, all of Albuquerque, N.M.; three step-daughters, Peggy Becker and Ann Becker, both of Albuquerque, N.M., and Mary Becker of Ruidoso, N.M.; 20 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; 15 step-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, Mabel Chute and Margaret Atwell; and one brother-in-law, George Becker.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father; a daughter, Linda Sue Walker; a son, Timothy Watson; and two grandsons.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Faye Townley

Faye Townley, 89, of Stanton, formerly of Paducah, died on Sunday, Nov. 9, 2003, in a local nursing home. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2003, at the First Baptist Church of Paducah with the Rev. James Mantooth, pastor, officiating. Interment will be at Garden of Memories Cemetery in Paducah.

She was born on Dec. 21, 1913, in Comanche County and married Alvis Townley on Jan. 2, 1932 in Delvin. He preceded her in death on Jan. 11, 2001.

Mrs. Townley was a homemaker, an art teacher and owner of a ceramic shop. She had written a biography about her father Jake Borland's experiences on the Chisolm Trail entitled "The Life And Times On The Chisolm Trail."

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Stanton and also a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Paducah. She had been a member of the Garden Club and various other clubs in Paducah.

Survivors include two sons, Cecil Townley of Stanton and Warren Townley of Canyon; one daughter, June Seigler of Abilene; eight grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to Paducah Cemetery Association, c/o Seigler Funeral Home, P.O. Box 872, Paducah 79248 or Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland 79702.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

H. O. Morgan

H. O. Morgan, 88, of Big Spring, died at 1:25 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2003, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Weather

Today — Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph with higher gusts.

Tonight — Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows around 60. South winds 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Cooler. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers. Lows in the upper 30s.

Thursday — Much colder. Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Highs in the upper 30s.

Friday — Cloudy with a chance of rain. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the mid 40s.

Saturday — Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain. Lows in the mid 40s. Highs in the lower 60s.

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

Monday — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Highs in the lower 60s.

From Page One

JAIL

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facility of that size is pretty accurate," said Furqueron. "It's a function of square footage, and you can basically use a price of \$150 per square foot for these kinds of projects. They're not enormously expensive. They cost about the same as a new high school these days.

"We just want to make sure we're not overbuilding the project by doing the pre-planning and demographic studies."

Monday's presentation is something Sheriff Dale Walker said he expects to see more of as the county begins the mammoth task of designing and implementing a jail construction plan.

"We're seeing more and more architectural presentations to the commissioners' court for some possible jail projects, and I believe over the next few months there will be more," said Walker. "That's how the process normally goes. They will gather all of this information in hopes of getting a ballpark figure on what it's going to cost. Hopefully, we'll use all of that information and go to this training session coming up in April, if we're accepted.

"Once we get to that training session, I believe we'll get a better idea which designer or architect to go with, what type of jail to build, and all of the other pertinent information needed for construction."

Walker said one of the major issues facing the court will be overbuilding for the future, something he finds lacking when examining the current facility and the amount of planning that went into it.

"When you build a jail, you have to not only keep in mind your current needs, but also your future needs," he explained. "A good example is our jail now. It's 50 years old and built for 49 inmates, and as the commissioners are seeing, we're steadily holding more than that on a daily basis. So maybe this jail wasn't built to meet the needs 50 years down the road.

"That's the purpose of overbuilding. Projecting what your inmate census will be, not only now, but for

years to come. A lot of the counties, the way they do that, they'll overbuild so that they have more than enough bed space now, and with that open bed space they lease it to other counties and get paid for it. That's pretty much standard jail business these days. The possibility that we could fill those beds by leasing them is very high, and we could actually make a little money there."

In the meantime, Commissioner Bill Crooker said the cost of housing inmates outside of Howard County continues to wear on an already strained county budget.

"I just looked at a report that indicates to me it's beginning to get serious," he said. "It shows that for the 2002-2003 year we spent \$108,000 on female inmate boarding, and \$79,000 on male inmate boarding, for a total of \$187,000. That's nearly \$200,000 to board inmates elsewhere, and to me that's certainly getting serious. We currently have six inmates being boarded out. That's at \$35 dollars a day, per inmate, making it more than \$200 per day for all of them. As you can see, that can add up very quickly."

"Every week, along with the sheriff, we take a jail census report and go through it to see how many are bondable and how many are non-bondable, such as high risk inmates. As of this morning, we have 47 inmates who cannot bond out, and the jail capacity is only 48 inmates."

Although the cost of inmate housing is sapping the life out of county coffers, Crooker made it clear the commissioners are in no rush to break ground on a new jail.

"It's going to take us a considerable amount of time," said Crooker. "I think it will be after some members of the commissioners court go to Colorado for the federal conference on jails. At that point and time we expect to become serious about what we plan to do with the jail situation. Right now we're certainly in no hurry."

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

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

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

American Cancer Society Volunteer Luncheon, First United Methodist Church's Garrett Hall. Noon. The meal is potluck.

WEDNESDAY

Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard Country 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.

The Texas Department of Health, flu vaccine shot clinic, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., College Park Shopping Center. Those on Medicare or Medicaid are asked to bring their card. The cost is \$10 for everyone else.

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

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

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

Southern gospel singing, featuring the Bladkwood Gospel Quartet, 7 p.m. at the Birdwell Lane Baptist Church.

THURSDAY

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

Police blotter

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

- **JUAN PAUL GARZA**, 39, of 1604 Settles, was arrested Monday on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

- **DONALD PAUL MITCHELL**, 64, of 911 Scurry Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication and a Taylor County warrant.

- **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 300 block of Owens.

- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.

- in the 3600 block of E. 11th Place.

- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported:

- in the 2300 block of Marshall.

- in the 1300 block of Madison.

- **HARASSMENT** was reported in the 600 block of E. F.M. 700.

- **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 300 block of Owens.

- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of Owens.

Sheriff's report

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

- **LOOSE DOGS** were reported in the 9600 block of Jay Road. Deputy was dispatched. The owner of the dogs and the complainant were both contacted and advised of steps. No report.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9-18-21-23-33.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night: 5-3-9

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday afternoon: 9-7-8

BIG SPRING HERALD

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TOWN HALL

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hopeful we'll be able to accomplish that."

The subjects of Medicare and the future of Social Security also garnered concern from the representative, who believes industry competition is one way to alleviate what has become an American crisis.

"It's estimated by 2047 that it will take one person to support three people on Medicare in our country," he said. "That's not something that we can saddle your grandchildren and my grandchildren with. To me, that package simply isn't an option."

"What I do support is a package that will bring competition into the system, bringing health care options that have not been available in the past. Today the people that are on Medicare do not have a health care package, they have a reimbursement package, because if you do not have a pharmaceutical aspect to your benefits, you don't have a true health care plan in America. All of the advancements made over the last 30 to 40 years have been in pharmaceuticals."

Neugebauer said both the House and the Senate have passed bills on the matter, but he believes the differences between the two leave a great deal to be desired.

"We've passed a (Medicare and Social Security) bill in the House and the Senate," he explained. "It's a very complex piece of legislation. As we speak,

they are conferencing that bill, hopefully to get a package out to be considered by the House and the Senate.

"There are two different versions. The House version is about a \$400 billion package, and the Senate version is about a \$1 trillion package. The Senate version is much like the system that we have today, which is a system that we cannot afford to sustain over a long period of time."

Pointing out that a majority of the costs the Medicare system is incurring stem from the same illness, Neugebauer said the answer is in a pharmaceutically supported package that will make much-needed medications available to those that desperately need them.

"Today \$1 out of every \$4 in Medicare is spent toward diabetes or diabetes-related illness," said Neugebauer. "We have medications today that can help control diabetes. What we do is take those people who are chronically in the hospital, chronically at the doctor's office, and improve their quality of life, and at the same time keep them out of hospitals, which is the most expensive place we can care for them in the entire country."

"Today, when I talk to both big companies and small companies, health care and its affordability is a huge issue in our country. Although the economy is improving, the number of Americans without health care is still going up."

While battles being waged on the House and Senate floors rage on, Neugebauer also touched on the situation in Iraq, saying although we are winning the war, it is still far from over.

"It's the right thing to do, to be in Iraq," Neugebauer said solemnly. "We are winning the war in Iraq... We are still at war with Iraq. This is not a skirmish or a police action. The fireworks portion of the war, with the bunker buster bombs and that sort of thing, is over. We're down now to a resistance of about 2,000 to 3,000 people, and these people are the hardcore Saddam (Hussein) followers."

"I'd like to tell you about what's going on in Iraq today that you don't get to read about. We have children in school throughout Iraq for the first time. Every one of those students has their own textbooks and materials. There are television antennas on top of homes in Iraq, and for the first time in years, people have access to programming outside of what Saddam Hussein allowed. We have people in Iraq governing themselves for the first time."

The congressman said the fruits of the efforts in war-torn Iraq go mostly unnoticed by the majority of Americans, but certainly not by those in Iraq that have been liberated as a result of Hussein's removal from power.

"People in Iraq are able to freely express themselves now," he said. "Although some of the expressions may be hard for you and I as Americans to listen to, we have that same type of expression going on in our country and we respect that because this is the land of the free, and we have defended that freedom of speech with these gentlemen sitting on the front row tonight that fought for that right to free speech."

"What you have to understand is that

almost 80 percent of the people in Iraq have never had jobs. They have been on subsistence. Saddam would take his oil money, and let those people have just enough food and subsistence to live, but he didn't want to be threatened by people that had an economy and their own businesses."

If all of this seems rather ambitious and complicated for a congressman constantly faced with the title of "freshman" to face, Neugebauer said his relative sense of comfort representing the 19th District has weathered the "new guy" syndrome nicely.

"What we said during our campaign was that when we're not in Washington, D.C., doing the people's business and voting on issues, we wanted to be back here talking to you and listening to you," he said. "I'm making sure that we are in tune with our constituents on the important issues. I serve in the House of Representatives, and I don't ever want to forget that title. I am a representative. I represent your interests in the United States Congress."

"It's been a fast and furious five months. Someone said something to me the other day about being a freshman, and I told them it's gone so fast, and we've accomplished so much, I don't really feel like a freshman anymore. I really feel comfortable about representing you in Congress."

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

VA

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the chemotherapy services from West Texas clinics, Neugebauer said the amount that's overcharged each year for the drugs and services certainly makes it a serious matter.

"What we're trying to do with the Medicare program is make sure we help physicians and the clinic buy the drug for the best possible price for their client, and give them a reasonable reimbursement rate for providing that service," he explained. "Let's get this back into a number that's controllable. It's estimated that \$780 million is overcharged for those services because of the way the pricing and price are handled."

"The United States

Congress is not walking away from cancer patients. We're just not going to do that. They are very close to working out a compromise that the clinics and doctors feel is a fair proposal on that, and that's what I'm hoping will come out of this."

No one at the meeting seemed surprised that another hot topic during the discussion was the Big Spring VA Medical Center. When asked if he had any good news to report by a local veteran, Neugebauer said some positive strides have been made in favor of keeping the facility in Big Spring.

"We had a meeting with Secretary Robert Roswell," said Neugebauer. "We also attended the meeting in El Paso. Subsequent to that, I've had several conversations with the secre-

tary's office, talking about this process. I think there are some good things going on, and I understand an acting director for the Big Spring VA will be appointed and a search for a permanent director will be on."

"I told them I wanted the person that took over this facility to be a firecracker and a fireball, and get things going, because we have 69,000 veterans depending on how good of a job we do at this hospital."

When asked if he was aware that all surgeries at the Big Spring VA Medical Center had been ceased due to the lack of an anesthesiologist, Neugebauer said he was not, but the problem behind the surgical shut down wasn't just at the Big Spring facility.

"This is not just a prob-

lem in Big Spring, it's a problem system-wide," said Neugebauer. "One of the things that is going to have to happen before the VA is able to fill some of these crucial positions is we're going to have to get the pay for the people that work for the VA Hospital up, because we're having a hard time recruiting people into the system."

"I don't want you to come away thinking this is just a Big Spring problem. It's a system-wide problem. When I spoke with Mr. Roswell, I expressed my concern to him and he is aware of it... I told him one of my biggest concerns was to get things going in Big Spring like they were and get the people in place that we need to get in place."

Neugebauer also announced the comple-

tion and approval of a new bill for concurrent receipts, a term that will mean more money for disabled veterans everywhere.

"If a veteran had a disability from his service while serving our country, he was entitled to disability," he said. "If he served his 20 years and filled out his retirement, he was also eligible for retirement. Unfortunately, we took and deducted one benefit from the other... If he was eligible for \$1,000 in retirement, and \$800 in disability, he only got around \$1,200 or another offset amount."

"Now we've reinstated it so he gets the benefit for being disabled and also gets paid for his career, without the offset, and that's the right thing to do, and I'm glad Congress

corrected that."

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

Evening Lions raising funds

The Big Spring Evening Lions Club is conducting a telephone outreach program to help raise funds for the club's community vision programs.

Those programs include:

- Photoscreening the students at Headstart and kindergarten classes in Big Spring and surrounding communities.
- Eye examinations and the purchase of new eyeglasses for students whose families can't afford to buy them glasses.

- The adult eyeglass clinic, which provides used eyeglasses that are collected in the community to adults who can't afford to buy glasses.

Club members are making telephone calls, mailing letters and providing other information to donors and will pick up donations by appointment at the donor's door.

For more information call 267-5176 or 267-6095.

LEADERSHIP

Continued from Page 1A

community project.

"The class community project will be completely left up to the class to design and implement," ValVerde said. "Our current class took on a project to help one of our United Way agencies, the Westside Day Care Center. With the help of Johanson's Nursery and Cline Construction, they landscaped and planted a

small area in front of the center to brighten up the area.

"This was a project that enhanced the center and was made possible because of the class members," ValVerde continued.

The cost of the program is \$300 and includes books, lunch and transportation. Classes meet the second Thursday of the month. The first session will be held on Jan. 8, 2004, at the Chamber.

"Many businesses will

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The deadline to turn in applications is Dec. 15.

For more information about the program, visit the Chamber at 215 W. Third St. or call 263-7641.

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CORRECTION

In the Friday 11/07 Sears Preprint on page 8, and the Sunday 11/09 Sears Preprint on page 4, we advertised the Koss DVD player at \$34.99 and the Sony Duel Deck 57463 at \$179.99. The sale price of the Sony Duel Deck 57463 is \$170.99. Unfortunately, we cannot honor requests to sell the Sony Duel Deck 57463 at \$34.99. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.

SEARS
Koss DVD Player Price

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

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OUR VIEWS

Let us never forget the sacrifices that pay for our freedom

Eighty-four years ago today, Armistice Day was celebrated for the first time. Then, as now, there was a great cause for the observation. At that time, World War I had ended just a year earlier and there was hope that "the war to end all wars" would indeed be just that.

Sadly, that was not the case. Time and time again, America's men and women have been called to duty in defense of their land... in defense of the freedoms our ancestors fought to gain and preserve... in defense of our American way of life.

Today, our armed forces continue to be embroiled in the war on terrorism, seeking to bring an end to the doctrine of fear and mete out retribution for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

After World War II and the Korean Conflict ended, then-president Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill in 1954 that changed the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day and established as the purpose of the holiday the honoring of veterans from every American conflict.

In 1968, Congress passed a law allowing Veterans Day to be celebrated on the fourth Monday of October. But because of the strong emotional outpouring of veterans and veterans' supporters, Congress changed Veterans Day back to its original date of Nov. 11 in 1978.

Veterans Day is a difficult time for many in that they have to deal with the loss of friends and family. Often, the observance brings back harsh memories of times the veteran would prefer not to remember.

But for all of us, let us never forget that our freedoms have been fought and paid for many times over through the blood, sweat and tears of millions of American men and women who stepped proudly to the line when their government called.

Veterans Day is more than a flyover or the playing of Taps or the laying of a wreath on a memorial. It is the time we pause to remember... and to give thanks... to those men and women who serve their country in both war and peace.

As we pause on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month... we offer our most sincere thanks for sacrifices made yesterday, today and tomorrow.

LETTERS POLICY

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 or editor@bigspringherald.com

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 editor@bigspringherald.com, or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

Keeping an eye out for misdirection

What a great country. We've just had a fierce public debate over a docudrama no one has seen, culminating in a form of censorship. Not having seen the bio-pic about the Reagans was no bar to the punditry, which held forth ferociously.

Indeed, many of our fellow citizens, who also hadn't seen the docudrama, were egged on by the Republican National Committee and right-wing talk shows to write CBS, demanding the unseen film not be aired. It has now been banished to cable, presumably to the cultural deprivation of the citizenry.

Fortunately, this exercise in fatuity served to take our minds off grim news about mutual fund trading and even grimmer news from Iraq. Good thing we've all got our eyes on the prize here. Unable as I am to speak to the merits of this particular bio-pic, not a genre widely admired to begin with, I would like to point out that these majeste (French for the old crime of dissing the king) is not yet against the law — and anyone who wants to argue against bad taste on television is welcome to try.

It is an odd feature of our national life that Ronald Reagan, of all people, is now considered by some to be above criticism. I assume the historians will take care of most of these questions, though I did once draw the odd journalistic assignment of reviewing the book by Nancy Reagan's astrologer, Joan Quigley. It did not persuade me that life in the Reagan White House was the avatar of normalcy. (Some fairly weird stuff in there. Just the kind of dish they love to

put in bio-pics.)

And obviously historians will argue for years over when and how seriously Reagan's Alzheimer's set in. Those who remember the tape of his deposition in the Iran-Contra case, immediately after he left office, will recall the horrifying total impact of all those, "I'm sorry, I can't remember," as we slowly realized he actually couldn't.

Right-wing commentators have ignited yet another pointless debate, this one on the burning topic of whether the administration actually told us we were going to war because Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction posed an "imminent threat." The right-wing choir is suddenly singing, "He never said imminent," he never said imminent," (they are so very good at all singing off the same page). Here, fallible human memory (this was less than a year ago) reasserts itself, and you find yourself saying: "They damn well did say Saddam was an imminent threat. I was there. I heard it, again and again."

The excellent blogger and journalist Josh Marshall, in a column for The Hill, points out that it may be true no member of the administration ever used the words threat and imminent in conjunction. True, when asked if Iraq were an imminent threat, various spokesmen really did say, "Yes," with varying degrees of emphasis. They said the threat was "mortal," that it was "urgent," that there was "clear evidence of peril." They said that we could not wait — BUT, they did not say "imminent threat." That sure as hell reassures me that we're not dealing with delusional leaders. Now why exactly did they tell us we were going to war?

Having devoted much of this column to the very piffle I am deplor-

ing — in addition to watching the right for sophistry, misinformation and lying, one must keep a sharp eye for misdirection — may I bring us back to some stuff that actually matters? On Iraq, we are now in a weird new political configuration where the professional patriots who so nastily accused those who opposed this venture of being "unpatriotic" and insisted we must "support the troops" at any price are now sort of dismissing dead soldiers. Dead soldiers are not a big story — a big story is all the progress we're making in Iraq.

Dead soldiers worry me. Here's something that may be even worse: It's not that one or two convoys or patrols are attacked every day, it's that after each successful attack, Iraqis gather around the site and cheer. If that doesn't worry you, you aren't old enough to remember Vietnam. (I have no hesitation about using the Vietnam analogy. Of course, Iraq is not Vietnam, and a million facts on the ground are different. But there it is.)

So far, President Bush is sustaining this effort in large part on the desire of Democrats to be "responsible." But it is time to ask another question: What if we really have gotten ourselves into a no-win situation? To whom do we owe responsibility then?

Sorry that's not as easy or as peppy a debate as the new Reagan bio-pic or who did or did not use the word "imminent." But it looks as though it's time to raise the question.

To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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'Passion of Christ' stirs tensions

When a private viewing of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of Christ" was completed at a

Washington hotel, my wife and I, along with a dozen other invited guests, were emotionally frozen into several minutes of silence. The question is whether public presentation of the film four months hence shall be welcomed by tumultuous demonstrations outside the theaters.



ROBERT NOVAK

Hollywood actor Gibson, who spent over \$25 million of personal funds to produce "The Passion," has finally found a distributor to begin its showing Feb. 25 — Ash Wednesday. A campaign by some Jewish leaders to radically edit the film or, alternatively, prevent its exhibition appears to have failed. This opens the door to religious conflict if the critics turn their criticism into public protest.

That is not because of the content of "The Passion." As a journalist who has actually seen what the producers call "a rough cut" of the movie and not just read about it, I can report it is free of the anti-Semitism that its detractors claim. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and its allies began attacking the movie on the basis of reading a shooting script without having actually seen the film. The ADL carries a heavy burden in stirring religious strife about a piece of entertainment that, apart from its artistic value, is of deep religious significance for believing Christians.

The agitation peaked in early

August when New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind told a rally: "This film is dangerous for Jews all over the world. I am concerned that it would lead to violence against Jews." Hikind had not viewed the film. After an ADL representative viewed a rough cut, longtime ADL director Abraham Foxman on Aug. 11 declared the movie "will fuel hatred, bigotry and anti-Semitism." Foxman called on Gibson to change his film so that it would be "free of any anti-Semitic message." This renews the 200-year-old dispute over the Jewish role in the crucifixion of Christ, the source of past Jewish persecution.

"The Passion" depicts in two hours the last 12 hours of Jesus Christ's life. To watch him beaten, scourged and crucified so graphically is a shattering experience for believing Christians and surely for many non-Christians as well. It makes previous movie versions of the crucifixion look like Hollywood fluff. Gibson wants to avoid an "R" rating, but violence is not what bothers Abe Foxman.

Foxman and other critics complain that the Jewish high priest Caiphas and a Jewish mob are demanding Christ's execution, but that is straight from the Gospels. Father C. John McCloskey, director of the Catholic Information Center in Washington, told me: "If you find the Scriptures anti-Semitic, you will find this film anti-Semitic."

Complaints by liberal Bible scholars that "The Passion" is not faithful to Scripture are rejected by the Vatican. Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, who heads the Congregation for the Clergy, called the film "a triumph of art and

faith," adding: "Mel Gibson not only closely follows the narrative of the Gospels, giving the viewer a new appreciation for those biblical passages, but his artistic choices also make the film faithful to the meaning of the Gospels."

As for inciting anti-Semitism, Cardinal Castrillon Hoyos contended "the film does nothing of the sort." This Vatican official is denying that Gibson violates the 1965 papal document Nostra Aetate, which states: "What happened in (Christ's) passion cannot be charged against all the Jews, without distinction, then alive, nor against the Jews of today."

No such libel is committed by "The Passion," where the mob's Jewish identity is not specified. In the film, the high priest's men who seize Christ are easily surpassed in brutality by sadistic Roman soldiers. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, is depicted as a weak, calculating politician who orders the execution. As a Catholic convert, I was taught we are all sinners who share in guilt for the crucifixion.

At the heart of the dispute over "The Passion" is freedom of expression. Liberals who defended the right to exhibit Martin Scorsese's "The Last Temptation of Christ," which deeply offended orthodox Christians, now demand censorship of "The Passion of Christ." As a result, Abe Foxman and his allies have risked stirring religious tensions over a work of art.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Regulators review pumping from aquifer

AUSTIN (AP) — Increased pumping from the underground water reservoir that feeds Texas' largest springs is under review by regulators, but the idea is raising concerns from some downstream cities and suppliers.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority will hold a public hearing on the proposed rules Wednesday in San Antonio. The authority, created by the Texas Legislature to regulate pumping from the aquifer, is accepting public comment through Dec. 8. Directors could adopt the plan on Dec. 16, with the rules taking effect just before year's end.

The Legislature capped pumping at 450,000 acre-feet a year as a result of a lawsuit to protect endangered species supported by the aquifer and to encourage San Antonio officials not to continue using the reservoir as the city's main water source. But permits issued by the Edwards Aquifer Authority would soon allow for about 560,000 acre-feet of pumping per year. An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons.

Although state law limits the amount of water that can be pumped from the aquifer in a year, it also instructs the authority to approve water permits by municipalities and farmers that, when totaled, require enough pumping to exceed that limit.

NAFTA group calls for pollution regulations

EL PASO (AP) — Children of poor families in Ciudad Juarez are suffering and dying from respiratory illnesses caused by air pollution that's rarely bad enough to require cleanup under Mexican law, according to a study released Monday.

The study by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation also found that poverty, malnutrition, poor sanitation and other adverse living conditions made children more susceptible to the respiratory ailments.

"It suggests maybe the Mexican government might want to look at their air quality standards and may want to tighten them up," Victor Shantora, head of the commission's Pollutants and Health Program, said during an interview in El Paso.

Calls seeking comment from the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources in Mexico City weren't immediately returned to The Associated Press on Monday.

Soldier burned in Iraq cheering his comrades

FORT SAM HOUSTON (AP) — Jose Martinez was an open and friendly guy before he joined the Army a year ago, and he's still that way even after being trapped for 20 minutes in a fiery ammunition truck in Iraq.

The experience left Martinez, a 20-year-old from Dalton, Ga., with disfiguring burns on his face, head, arms and legs.

"One moment I was laughing and having a great time," he recalled of that night in the Iraqi desert near Nasiriyah, "and the next moment, I was in a great deal of pain and my life changed drastically."

Rangers baseball team is reportedly offer land as a site for Bush library

FORT WORTH (AP) — The Texas Rangers have reportedly offered to donate land near The Ballpark at Arlington for President Bush's library if the mid-cities location is chosen for the site.

The Rangers, who have joined with Arlington leaders in a bid to land the George W. Bush presidential library, are the latest players in a field of competitors that include the University of Texas at Austin as well as Baylor, Southern Methodist, Texas A&M and Texas Tech universities.

The Southwest Sports Group, which now owns the Rangers, has given Bush a written proposal offering to donate a choice of sites from more than 100 acres surrounding The Ballpark if the

president chooses Arlington. Rangers president Mike Cramer told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Tuesday's online edition.

Rangers owner Tom Hicks also discussed the initiative during private meetings with the president, Cramer said last week.

"We were told OK, thanks, it would be considered," Cramer told the newspaper in a telephone interview from Arlington. "The president knows we're out there, and we would certainly love to have the land on The Ballpark site."

Bush, who was managing partner of the team before he was elected governor, will ultimately make the selection on the site of his presidential

library before leaving office.

The Rangers and the stadium authority control up to 160 acres around The Ballpark, Cramer said. Most of the available property, which lies primarily to the south or west of the park, is being used as paved parking, and the rest is grassland, he said.

Cramer said the presidential library would be within 200 to 500 yards of The Ballpark, depending on the president's choice of sites.

"There are plenty of places," Cramer said. "We'd be willing to contribute land in some way, shape or form to get the library here."

The George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum was dedicated in

1997 at Texas A&M University in College Station. It sits on 90 acres that include the future grave sites of the former president and first lady.

Supporters of a new library for Bush say it could attract thousands of visitors annually, creating new jobs and pumping millions into the local economy. Such libraries serve as storehouses for millions of presidential documents, kept under exacting standards, and provide resources for historians and others.

Former Arlington Mayor Richard Greene said he contacted a senior administration official shortly after Bush took office, but was told that discussions about the library were premature.

U.S. commander: 20 al-Qaida suspects held

U.S. commander says 20 al-Qaida suspects held; Basra bomb kills six

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — An explosion Tuesday on a road frequently used by British troops killed six civilians in the southern city of Basra, hospital officials said, and the top U.S. commander in Iraq said the military had detained about 20 people suspected of links to al-Qaida.

Meanwhile, a Kurdish guerrilla group that had battled the Turkish army for 15 years said it would dissolve itself.

In the southern city of Basra, a blast during the morning rush hour destroyed two cars on a road frequently used by British troops, witnesses said. Soldiers immediately blocked off access to the site, and Iraqi police and hospital officials said

a total of six civilians died in the blast.

In Baghdad, the coalition military commander, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, told reporters that the U.S. military had arrested about 20 people who may have been linked to al-Qaida but none had been confirmed as part of Osama bin Laden's terror network.

"At one point, we had up to about 20 suspected al-Qaida members, but as we have continued to refine and interrogate, we have not been able to establish definitively that they were al-Qaida members," Sanchez said. Sanchez did not say where they were held, when they were detained or whether any of them have been released.

U.S. officials have said they suspect foreign volunteers, including some

from al-Qaida, have slipped across the borders into Iraq to take part in a "holy war" against the

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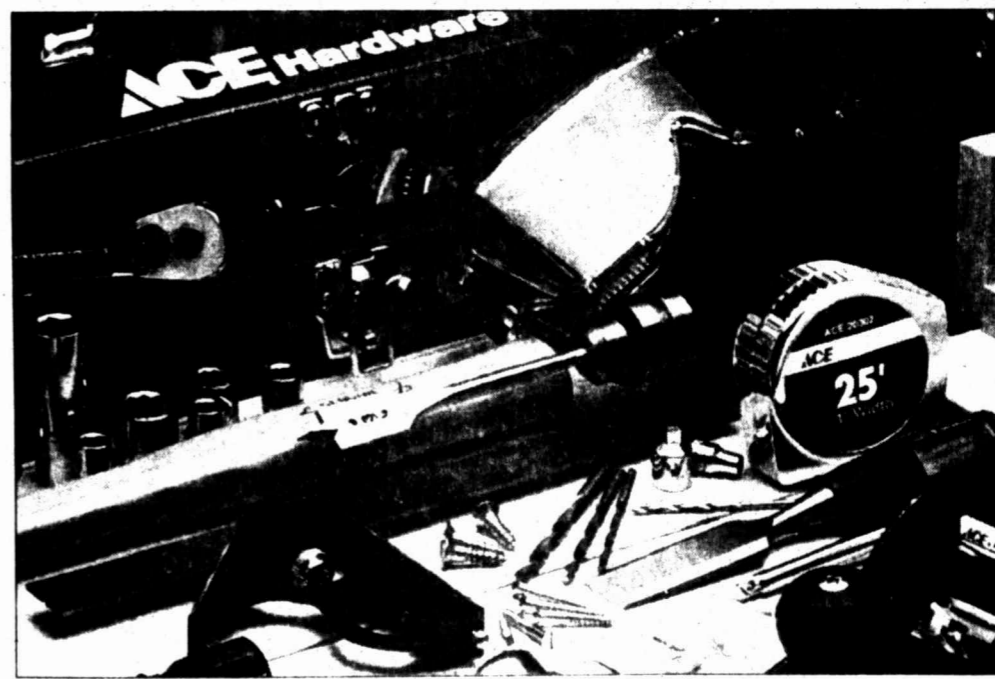
Whether you are a first-time homeowner or have owned a home for years, unless you can afford to have every maintenance chore taken care of by a handyman or professional tradesman, there's probably a long list of to-do tasks just waiting to be tackled.

Your degree of success in completing projects fast enough to still enjoy a round of golf or the kids' soccer games can depend on your skills, the project knowledge you have and what's in your toolbox.

"Having the right tools for home maintenance and repair makes it so much easier to complete the work," says Lou Manfredini, Ace Hardware's Helpful Hardware Man and home improvement expert. "But you don't have to go overboard. You can tackle most simple repairs with a collection of tools that will fit into a 5-gallon bucket."

The following are the 15 of the essential tools Manfredini recommends you keep in that toolbox tool kit to get you through most basic home repair projects:

- A good screwdriver: One will do if it's the kind onto which you can fit a number of different heads, including the basics of a Phillips and slotted.
- An adjustable wrench, which will eliminate the need for an entire set of socket wrenches.
- Three types of pliers: ordinary, needle-nose and wire cutters.
- A set of Allen wrenches, used to tighten bolts that have six-sided holes on top.
- A level, which will help with everything from hanging a picture or curtain rods to shelving. Select between a 2-foot standard level or a 6-inch "torpedo" style.
- A retractable tape measure. One that is 25-foot long should be sufficient.
- A stud finder, which will help



locate behind-the-wall or ceiling structural boards.

- A good hammer. Select a 16-ounce claw hammer with a good-fitting grip.
- A small handsaw with a 12 inch blade that fits into a sheath for safety.
- A plunger to clear clogged drains.
- A chisel, which can help chip out wood to reset a door hinge or adjust a sticking latch.
- A utility knife with a retractable, replaceable blade.
- An assortment of screws and nails.
- A cordless drill. This is the only power tool you'll need unless you become serious about home renovation. Look for one that drills holes and can be fitted with screwdriver attachments. The cordless feature allows you to use the drill anywhere without dragging along an electrical cord.
- Stick-it stuff: A bottle of carpenter's glue and rolls of electrical, masking and duct tape. In a recent

poll of Ace Hardware retailers on the one item people should keep on hand for emergency repairs, the overwhelming answer was duct tape, cited by more than half (52 percent) of the retailers.

Manfredini says you can assemble these tools inexpensively, but that you should not skimp on quality. "The only other thing you'll need is the 5-gallon bucket in which to carry the tools, or, better still, a sturdy tool box," Manfredini said. "My favorite is one that doubles as a step stool."

For more advice on home improvement, visit your local Ace Hardware store or log on to www.acehardware.com and click on the Answers@Ace icon. Answers@Ace is an online resource with information for do-it-yourselfers about hardware and home improvement projects. The Everyday Projects section has pictures and detailed, step-by-step instructions for this and many more home improvement projects.

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IN BRIEF

Baseball boosters to meet Thursday

The Big Spring High School Baseball Booster Club will hold a meeting Thursday at the BSHS Athletic Training Complex.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

For more information contact John Sparks at 263-8527.

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.

For more information contact the YMCA at 267-8234.

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.

Hawks, Lady Hawks to play Weatherford

The Howard College mens' and womens' basketball teams will return to action tonight when they travel to Weatherford. Games begin at 6 p.m.

The Lady Hawks enter the game at 4-0. The HC men are 3-0.

For HC information call the Hawks Hotline at 264-5169.

Basketball officials needed for season

Basketball officials are needed for the upcoming season.

Persons interested in officiating local games this fall should contact Adam Rodriguez at 263-8731 (home) or 517-0300 (cell).

Crossroads league to hold board elections

The Crossroads Little Football League will hold elections to fill three positions on its board of directors at the championship games on Nov. 22.

Persons interested in becoming a candidate for any one of the three vacant positions can sign up at the CLFL concession stand, located at the American League baseball field.

Westbrook JH drops hoops opener, 44-23

Westbrook Junior High School's Tate Burleson scored 10 points and pulled down six rebounds Monday night in a 44-23 loss to the Blackwell Hornerts.

7-on-7 tournament set for weekend

A 7-on-7 football tournament will be held at Howard College Saturday and Sunday.

For more information contact, Clay Vickers at 267-2271.

Parcells knows perceptions are changing

IRVING (AP) — Now that Dallas is 7-2 and tied for the NFC's best record, coach Bill Parcells knows other teams have changed their perception and approach against the Cowboys.

No longer is this the hapless team that won just five games in each of the past three seasons before Parcells.

"I tell the players the more you win, the more people view you differently," Parcells said Monday. "That's really what's happening. They view you differently. You are not just out there playing a game. They start to shoot for you."

The Cowboys are finally legitimate playoff contenders again. Parcells' message to his team is simple: they're not going to sneak up on anybody anymore.

Dallas stayed on pace with

Carolina for the NFC's best record with a tough and ugly 10-6 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday. Only undefeated Kansas City (9-0) has a better record.

"The stakes go up higher, and you feel it before a game, the pressure's on a little bit more," quarterback Quincy Carter said. "When the pressure goes up and the expectations go up, it requires you to play better."

A week after having to overcome four first-half turnovers in a win over Washington, the Cowboys had just 236 total yards, and moved only 51 yards on their scoring drives against the Bills.

"I'm not going to minimize the fact that we're 7-2. I'm not going to get in a long drawn-out drama about our offense," said Carter, who was 15-of-32 for a season-low 116 yards passing. "We seem to

be able to pull out the tough wins when we're not playing our best on offense. I can't say enough about our defense."

The NFL's top-ranked defense held Buffalo to just 185 yards. When the outcome was still in doubt in the fourth quarter, the Bills gained just 2 yards their last four drives and never passed their own 23.

Things certainly aren't getting any easier for the Cowboys, who face a stretch of three tough games in 12 days.

The Cowboys play Sunday night at AFC East leader New England (7-2), another team that Parcells used to coach. They've already beaten the New York Giants and New York Jets, the coach's other former teams. Dallas then closes its November schedule against Carolina and

Miami (5-4) on Thanksgiving Day.

"I think our confidence is growing in some respects, but we are right in the middle of this," Parcells said. "We are really in a tough part of our season. The opponents don't get any easier. Certainly, it looks like the next two or three are some of the top teams in the league at least so far. We are going to have to be at our best."

Something they didn't do the last two games.

Still, the bottom line is they keep finding ways to win.

"We feel good, but we know we can improve, simple as that," said defensive tackle La'Roi Glover. "Last week, we needed to get turnovers. Next week, it's probably going to be something totally different."

Ennis, Burnet, West Sabine finish atop final high school football poll

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Ennis in 4A, Burnet in 3A and 1A's West Sabine never let go of their top ranking in the Associated Press high school football poll this season, each winning 10 games along the way. Things in 5A and 2A were not as constant.

Lufkin began the season at No. 1 in 5A and remained on top until a late season loss to district-foe Tyler Lee sent the Panthers tumbling in the poll. The team is in the fifth spot in the final poll. Tyler Lee is No. 8.

Defending 5A Division I state champion Converse Judson was ranked No. 2 in the preseason, but early losses knocked the team out of the poll. Judson beat San Antonio Roosevelt 24-21 Friday causing Roosevelt to fall from sixth to ninth place. Judson finished its season with a 5-4 record and did not make the playoffs.

The Woodlands is the No. 1 Class 5A team and reigning Division II state champ Southlake Carroll is second. Arlington Lamar and Galena Park North Shore are in spots No. 3 and 4. All four of the top-ranked teams are 10-0 this season.

Mansfield Summit was voted out of the poll from No. 9 after losing to Cedar Hill 28-17 in Mansfield Summit's first loss of the season. Undefeated Dallas Carter moved up a spot to seventh place after the loss.

Smithson Valley takes over 10th place with a 9-1 record.

Class 2A had five different No. 1 teams this season, beginning with Bangs and ending with Garrison. Class 2A's reigning state champions Rosebud-Lott and Corrigan-Camden both took a turn at No. 1 did not make the top 10 in the final poll. Comfort and Bangs, also both former top teams, didn't finish in the top 10 either. Comfort was eighth last week before a 27-21 loss to Junction. The win helped Junction gain 17 points from voters this week and just miss entering the poll.

Panhandle and Tom Bean follow Garrison at No. 2 and No. 3. Both have perfect 10-0 records. Former No. 4 Crane plummeted all the way to the poll's last spot. The Golden Cranes finished district play with a 37-21 loss to Coahoma on Friday.



Sam Tindol and the Coahoma Bulldogs almost ushered the Crane Golden Cranes out of the Class 2A top 10 with their upset win Friday. Crane fell from No. 4 to No. 10 in the final poll.

Italy is a new entrant in Class 2A this week at No. 9.

Ennis received all but one first place vote this week to hold on to the No. 1 spot for the 12th straight week. All the other spots in Class 4A stayed the same after all the ranked teams won last weekend. Ennis, along with No. 2 Texarkana, third place La Marque, No. 4 Brownwood and fifth place Corpus Christi Calallen all finished the regular season 10-0.

Highland Park, which finished atop last season's final poll, came

in ninth after a 29-23 win over West Mesquite.

In Class 3A, Altair Rice dropped out of the poll from No. 7 after a 23-18 loss to Wharton on Friday. Kennedale re-enters the poll at No. 10 after a one week hiatus following a 42-34 loss to Glen Rose.

West Sabine got all the first-place votes in Class 1A. Anton and Windthorst are No. 2 and 3. The biggest drop of the week was former No. 3 Thrall, which fell out of the poll after a 33-28 loss to Thorndale on Friday. Shiner is back in the poll at No. 10.

Spurs celebrate retirement party with win

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs beat the Utah Jazz and then gave David Robinson one more opportunity to say goodbye to the fans.

Robinson's No. 50 was retired in a postgame ceremony after Tim Duncan returned to the lineup to score 16 points and grab 10 rebounds in San Antonio's 87-78 victory on Monday night.

"It was great to get a win on his night," Duncan said.

Robinson retired last summer after 14 seasons with the Spurs that

included two NBA titles.

"This is a moment you always dream of, but never think will come," Robinson said. "It's overwhelming. It's awesome. This is my final farewell. This has been a wonderful journey."

Manu Ginobili added 18 points to lead the Spurs,

State team tennis semifinals to be held in Abilene

ABILENE (AP) — The University Interscholastic League announced that Class 4A state team tennis semifinals will be played today after they were washed out by rain in the

while Hedo Turkoglu had 14 points and Bruce Bowen 12.

Tony Parker, also back after missing the first seven games with a sprained left ankle, scored nine points on 2-of-10 shooting from the field.

Matt Harpring led Utah with 11 points, and Carlos

Arroyo, Andrei Kirilenko and Jarron Collins each added 10.

The Spurs, who snapped a two-game losing streak, outscored Utah 24-9 in the second quarter and led 41-33 at halftime behind 13 points by Duncan. Bowen had 10 points in the third quarter.

will meet San Antonio Alamog Heights (11-7), at the Bastrop Community Tennis Center.

UIL officials said a site and time for the finals will be announced later.

Rodeo stars to compete for HC

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Rodeo action will return to the Howard County scene in a big way this weekend when some of the nation's top calf-ropers and steer wrestlers compete at a special 16-person tournament at the Howard College rodeo arena.

The event, which is designed to help raise funds for the Howard College rodeo program, will feature five former College National Finals Rodeo participants, including former Hawks standout Jake DeGeer and former Resistol Rookie of the Year Josh Crow.

"This is a big deal for our school," said Howard College rodeo coach Grog Kernick. "All of these guys are about as good as you can get. They're coming here to do what they do best and help our program."

Among the other nationally-known riders slated to participate in the event are Cade Swor, the nation's No.2-ranked roper at West Texas A&M, and Sterling Smith, the 2002 South-west region champion from Vernon College. Former NFR qualifiers Bradley Bynum and Joseph Gernetz will also ride.

The tournament is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

TCU climbs to sixth in the BCS rankings

TCU moved a big step closer to busting up the BCS.

The Horned Frogs jumped up to sixth place in the Bowl Championship Series standings Monday, the highest ranking ever for an outsider to the system.

"We understand those things are in the hands of other people," TCU coach Gary Patterson said. "We feel privileged to be where we're at. We really appreciate the respect around the country."

TCU (10-0) needs to remain in the top six to guarantee a bid to one of the four most lucrative bowls.

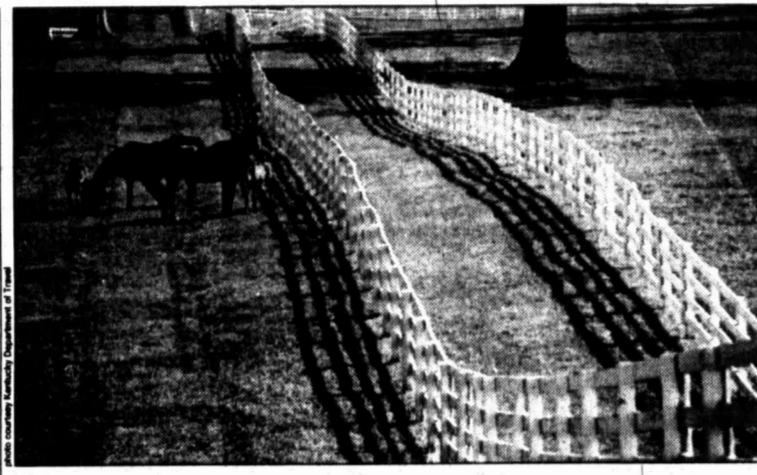
Oklahoma remained the runaway leader in the standings that will determine which two teams will play for the national championship in the Sugar Bowl.

The Mini Page Especially for kids and their families

By BETTY DEBNAM

The Bluegrass State

Kentucky From A to Z

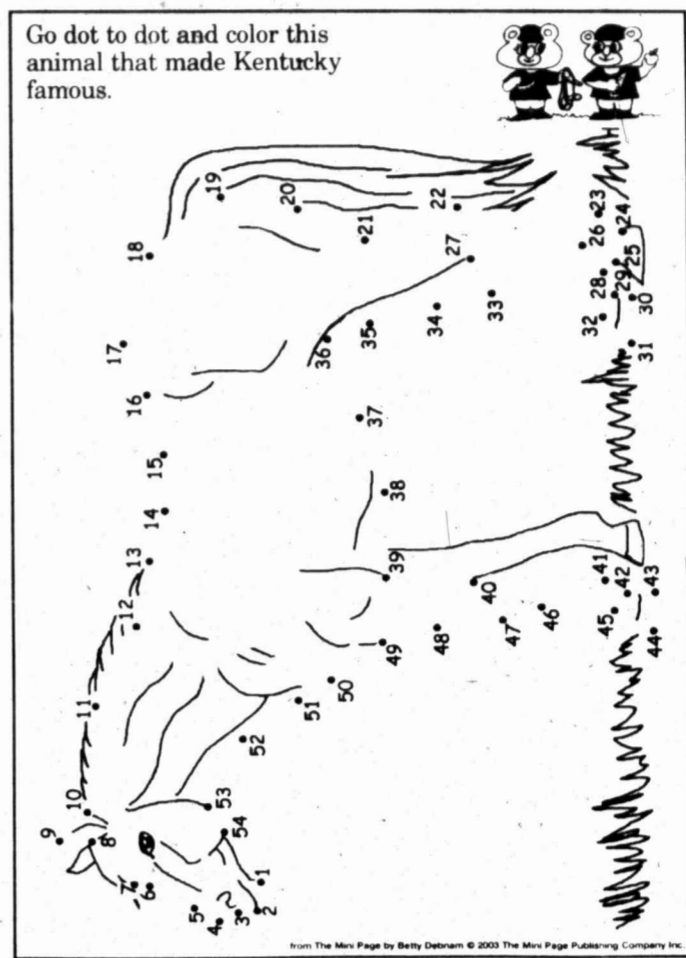


Bluegrass, Kentucky's famous grass, is not really blue, but grows buds that look blue in the spring. Horses and cattle thrive in rich bluegrass pastures.

Horse raising and racing have made Kentucky famous. Coal mining is one of the most important industries. Manufacturing of transportation equipment, industrial machinery, electronic equipment and metal products is important. The English and French both explored the area as early as the 1600s. In the 1700s it was part of Virginia, becoming a separate state in 1792. Because Kentucky was right between the North and South regions of the U.S., it was torn apart during the Civil War. It is a surprising fact that both the Union president, Abraham Lincoln, and the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis, were born there. Today it is the 25th most-populated state, with more than 4 million people.

Agriculture is important. The state is one of the top growers of corn, hay, tobacco, winter wheat and soybeans. Bluegrass music, with its roots in the folk music of the area, is usually played with stringed instruments such as fiddles, mandolins, guitars and banjos. The Cardinal is the state bird. It is the third-largest coal-producing state. Oil, natural gas and limestone are also important.

The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green is near the only factory in the world where this famous sports car is made. Daniel Boone's role in settling the wilderness is celebrated at Fort Boonesborough State Park near Richmond. The Earliest residents include the Cherokee, Delaware, Chickasaw, Iroquois and Shawnee peoples. The Cherokee Indians gave the state its name, from words meaning "great meadow."



Go dot to dot and color this animal that made Kentucky famous.

Rookie Cookie Cookbook Easy, everyday recipes designed especially for kids! Includes ingredients, instructions, and a list of recipes like soups, salads, sandwiches, and casseroles.

Gus Goodsport's Report Supersport: Amobi Okoye Height: 6-2 Weight: 300 Born: Anambra, Nigeria. Unlike many big 16-year-old boys, Amobi Okoye isn't playing high school football and daydreaming about going to Friday night dances. Okoye is playing college football. He's a freshman at the University of Louisville and is believed to be the youngest player on a collegiate team.

Rookie Cookie's Recipe Corn Muffins These are made with cornmeal, which is corn that has been finely ground. You'll need: 1 cup yellow cornmeal, 1 cup white flour, 1 tablespoon baking powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 cup sugar, 1 egg, 1 cup milk, 4 tablespoons butter, melted. What to do: 1. Butter muffin pans for 12 muffins. 2. In a bowl, mix the first five ingredients. 3. In another bowl, beat the egg, milk and butter. 4. Add the two mixtures and stir just until moistened. 5. Spoon the batter into the muffin cups. 6. Bake in a preheated 425-degree oven for 16 minutes or until lightly browned on the edges. Makes 12 muffins.

Meet Alexa Vega Lots of teenagers pretend that they are spies, but when Alexa Vega, 15, does, it's in a movie. For the third time, Alexa is starring as the teenage spy Carmen Cortez in the popular "Spy Kids" movies. The movies have helped make Alexa one of today's most popular teen celebrities. Alexa has acted in television movies and series. Alexa is also a singer. She sang in a music video for "Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams," and the director wrote a song especially for her to sing in "Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over." In her free time, Alexa enjoys dancing, reading and gymnastics. Alexa lives with her mother and three sisters in Los Angeles.

Mighty Funny's Mini Jokes All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category? Driver: When I bought this car from you, you said it was rust-free, but underneath, it's all over! Dealer: Yes, the car is rust-free - we didn't charge you for it! Daisy: What family car doesn't move at all? Derrick: A stationary wagon! Bradley: What type of car runs on electricity? Carlyle: A Voltswagen!

Kentucky Try 'N Find Words and names that remind us of Kentucky are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: BLUEGRASS, HORSES, RACING, DERBY, COAL, QUILTS, LINCOLN, DAVIS, CARDINAL, BOONE, FRANKFORT, GOLDENROD, LOUISVILLE, MAMMOTH, CAVE, RIVERS, KNOX, CRAFTS, OIL, ARCH. R E L L I N S I U O L B F G M A H L L A N I D R A C L R O A C O D I O R I V E R S U A L M I R K A N S T L I U E N D M N S N C V C D C A V E G K E O G E O O O I E O I L R F N T D S X A B A S L R W M A O R H C R A F T S L D N B L S R O U B O O N E B H C R A Y S T D V

Mini Spy ... Mini Spy and Basset Brown are visiting Mammoth Cave in Kentucky. See if you can find: elephant's face, two funny faces, sea horse, word MINI, number 6, bell, fish, lemon slice, horse's head, mushroom, arrow, bat, bird, carrot, moon face, hamburger, snail, snake.

More About Kentucky Forests cover almost half the state. Frankfort is the state capital, with about 28,000 people. It was the only Union state capital to be captured during the Civil War. The Goldenrod is the state flower. Red River Gorge Geological Area has more than 80 sandstone arches, including Sky Bridge. The Horse Capital of the World is Lexington, with more than 500 horse farms in the area. The International Museum of the Horse and the Kentucky Horse Park are there. The John James Audubon Museum is in Henderson, where this artist painted his first bird paintings in the early 1800s. The Kentucky Derby, held each May at Churchill Downs in Louisville, is one of the most famous horse races in the world. Site to see: www.kentuckytourism.com Look through your newspaper for stories and pictures about famous places in your state. Next week The Mini Page is all about Norman Rockwell. Land Between the Lakes is a national recreation area between two human-made lakes, Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley. Louisville was founded by Gen. George Rogers Clark, the brother of William Clark, partner in the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery. It is the largest city, with about 700,000 people in its metropolitan area. Mammoth Cave is the longest known cave in the world, with more than 350 miles of explored passages. Nancy Hanks, Abraham Lincoln's mother, lived in the Berry House, now in Lincoln Homestead State Park. Outdoor sports such as fishing, whitewater rafting, canoeing, hiking and hunting are popular. The Pine and Cumberland Mountains are in the southeast. The Appalachian Mountains are to the east. Cumberland Falls near Corbin is known as the Niagara of the South. Quilt City, U.S.A., is the nickname of Paducah, founded by explorer William Clark in 1827. It features the Museum of the American Quilter's Society. Four major River systems join in the state: the Mississippi, Ohio, Cumberland and Tennessee. Three rivers form state borders: Ohio to the north, the Big Sandy to the east and the Mississippi to the west. Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is a restored community of the Shakers, a religious community famous for their crafts. Their inventions include the clothespin and circular saw. The Tulip Tree is the state tree. Union is the site of Big Bone Lick State Park, where Lewis and Clark dug up fossils for President Jefferson. About 20,000 years ago, herds of mastodons came to the area to lick salt. The Vent Haven Museum in Fort Mitchell is the only museum in the country that deals exclusively with ventriloquism. It has about 600 ventriloquist dummies. Weaving from the past 200 years is displayed at the Little Loomhouse in Louisville. Berea is also famous for its weaving and other crafts. Fort KnoX is where about \$6 billion of the country's gold is kept. There is more stored gold there than anywhere else in the world. About 70 Years ago, Col. Harland Sanders developed his secret recipe for Kentucky Fried Chicken in Corbin. The Louisville Zoo has western lowland gorillas in the natural habitat of the Gorilla Forest.

NFL STANDINGS, MLS PLAYOFFS, and other sports-related tables.

Advertisement for Edward Jones, First Bank of West Texas, and Big Spring Refinery. Includes logos and contact information for Edward Jones and Jimmy Newsom.

SCOREBOARD

NFL STANDINGS

American Conference					
East Division					
Team	W	L	PCT	PF	PA
New England	7	2	0.778	184	155
Miami	5	4	0.556	168	141
Buffalo	4	5	0.444	149	158
N.Y. Jets	3	6	0.333	166	173
South					
Indianapolis	7	2	0.778	254	171
Tennessee	7	2	0.778	255	174
Houston	4	5	0.444	162	244
Jacksonville	2	7	0.222	172	231
North					
Baltimore	5	4	0.556	206	182
Cincinnati	5	4	0.556	189	200
Cleveland	3	6	0.333	135	171
Pittsburgh	3	6	0.333	176	217
West					
Kansas City	9	0	1.000	287	150
Denver	5	4	0.556	210	171
Oakland	2	7	0.222	162	211
San Diego	2	7	0.222	174	243
NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
East					
Dallas	7	2	0.778	181	136
Philadelphia	6	3	0.667	159	166
N.Y. Giants	4	5	0.444	172	195
Washington	4	5	0.444	176	212
South					
Carolina	7	2	0.778	178	163
New Orleans	4	5	0.444	189	205
Tampa Bay	4	5	0.444	188	141
Atlanta	2	7	0.222	157	250
North					
Minnesota	6	3	0.667	251	205
Green Bay	4	5	0.444	244	210
Chicago	3	6	0.333	151	211
Detroit	3	6	0.333	152	207
West					
Seattle	6	3	0.667	213	174
St. Louis	6	3	0.667	246	181
San Francisco	4	5	0.444	202	152
Arizona	3	6	0.333	130	235
Sunday's Games					
Detroit 12, Chicago 10					
Tennessee 31, Miami 7					
Atlanta 27, N.Y. Giants 7					
Washington 27, Seattle 20					
Pittsburgh 28, Arizona 15					
Cincinnati 34, Houston 17					
Carolina 27, Tampa Bay 24					
Kansas City 41, Cleveland 20					
Jacksonville 28, Indianapolis 23					
San Diego 42, Minnesota 28					
Dallas 10, Buffalo 6					
N.Y. Jets 27, Oakland 24, OT					
St. Louis 33, Baltimore 22					
Open: New England, Denver, New Orleans, San Francisco					
Monday's Game					
Philadelphia 17, Green Bay 14					
Sunday, Nov. 16					
St. Louis at Chicago, Noon					
Houston at Buffalo, Noon					
Baltimore at Miami, Noon					
Washington at Carolina, Noon					
Jacksonville at Tennessee, Noon					
Atlanta at New Orleans, Noon					
Arizona at Cleveland, Noon					
Kansas City at Cincinnati, Noon					
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, 3:05 p.m.					
San Diego at Denver, 3:05 p.m.					
Detroit at Seattle, 3:15 p.m.					
Minnesota at Oakland, 3:15 p.m.					
Green Bay at Tampa Bay, 3:15 p.m.					
Dallas at New England, 7:30 p.m.					
Monday, Nov. 17					
Pittsburgh at San Francisco, 8 p.m.					

3-2A FOOTBALL

Team	W	L	T
Levelland	1	4	3
Estacado	0	5	0

4-4A VOLLEYBALL

FINAL DISTRICT 4-4A STANDINGS		
District	W	L
xBig Spring	10	0
xLake View	19	16
xAndrews	15	16
Estacado	22	15
Friendship	12	17
Levelland	6	21

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division					
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	3	3	500	-	
Washington	3	3	500	-	
New Jersey	3	4	429	1/2	
Philadelphia	3	4	429	1/2	
New York	2	5	286	1 1/2	
Orlando	1	6	143	2 1/2	
Miami	0	6	000	3	
Central Division					
Indiana	6	1	857	-	
Detroit	5	1	833	1/2	
New Orleans	5	2	714	1	
Toronto	4	2	667	1 1/2	
Milwaukee	4	3	571	2	
Chicago	3	5	375	3 1/2	
Atlanta	2	5	286	4	
Cleveland	2	5	286	4	
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Midwest Division					
Houston	4	1	800	-	
Dallas	4	3	571	1	
Minnesota	4	3	571	1	
Utah	4	3	571	1	
Denver	4	4	500	1 1/2	
San Antonio	4	4	500	1 1/2	
Memphis	3	4	429	2	
Pacific Division					
Seattle	3	1	750	1/2	
L.A. Lakers	5	2	714	-	
Golden State	3	3	500	1 1/2	
Phoenix	3	3	500	1 1/2	
Portland	3	3	500	1 1/2	
Sacramento	3	3	500	1 1/2	
L.A. Clippers	2	3	333	2	
Sunday's Games					
Toronto 89, Denver 76					
Boston 91, Sacramento 82					
Indiana 85, Philadelphia 74					
Detroit 98, New Jersey 84					
Atlanta 91, Seattle 81					
Monday's Games					
Cleveland 94, New York 80					
Memphis 105, L.A. Lakers 95					
San Antonio 87, Utah 78					
Denver 105, Chicago 97					
Phoenix 99, Golden State 96					
Today's Games					
Boston at Indiana, 7 p.m.					
Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.					
Seattle at Minnesota, 8 p.m.					
Miami at Houston, 8:30 p.m.					
New Orleans at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.					
Detroit at Sacramento, 10 p.m.					
Toronto at Portland, 10 p.m.					
Atlanta at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.					
Wednesday's Games					
Chicago at Boston, 7 p.m.					
Memphis at Orlando, 7 p.m.					
San Antonio at New Jersey, 7 p.m.					
Cleveland at Miami, 7:30 p.m.					
Utah at New Orleans, 8 p.m.					
Seattle at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.					
Atlanta at Phoenix, 9 p.m.					
Detroit at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.					

MLS PLAYOFFS

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
East Division					
Team	W	L	T	OL	Pts.
Philadelphia	7	2	3	1	18
New Jersey	7	3	0	1	17
N.Y. Islanders	7	4	2	0	16
N.Y. Rangers	5	5	2	2	14
Pittsburgh	3	7	3	0	9
Northwest Division					
Boston	7	2	3	1	19
Toronto	7	4	3	1	18
Buffalo	7	7	1	0	15
Montreal	7	8	0	1	14
Ottawa	5	4	2	1	13
Southeast Division					
Tampa Bay	8	1	2	1	19
Atlanta	7	4	3	1	18
Carolina	4	5	0	1	13
Florida	5	8	2	0	12
Washington	3	11	1	0	7
WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Central Division					
St. Louis	9	3	0	1	19
Chicago	6	6	3	1	16
Detroit	7	7	1	0	15
Columbus	5	7	0	1	11
Nashville	5	8	1	0	11
Northwest Division					
Vancouver	10	3	2	0	22
Colorado	8	3	1	0	17
Edmonton	6	6	2	0	14
Minnesota	6	7	2	0	14
Calgary	5	7	0	1	11
Pacific Division					
Los Angeles	8	5	0	1	17
Dallas	7	7	1	0	15
Anaheim	5	7	1	3	14
San Jose	3	5	6	1	13
Phoenix	4	6	3	1	12
Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.					
Sunday's Games					
Columbus 4, Calgary 3					
Tampa Bay 1, Carolina 1, tie					
Colorado 4, Chicago 3, OT					
Anaheim 2, Phoenix 1, OT					
Monday's Games					
Los Angeles 3, Washington 2					
Edmonton 5, N.Y. Rangers 4					
Detroit 3, Chicago 0					
Today's Games					
Edmonton at Boston, 7 p.m.					
Ottawa at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.					
Columbus at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.					
Tampa Bay at Florida, 7:30 p.m.					
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.					
Vancouver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.					
Colorado at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.					

4-4A FOOTBALL

District				Overall			
W	L	T	W	L	T		
xAndrews	5	0	10	0	0		
xFriendship	4	1	9	1	1		
xLake View	3	2	3	5	3		
Big Spring	2	3	4	7	7		



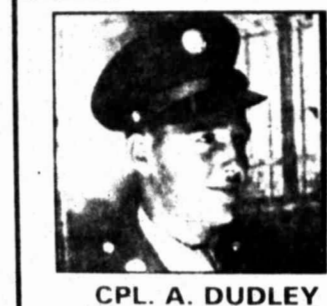
**PROUD TO HONOR
 OUR COUNTRY'S VETERANS**



**LEE MEADORS
 US AIR FORCE
 1002 - CURRENT**
Son, your decision to serve our country has made us proud.
 Love, Mom & Dad



**GENE SIMPKINS
 US ARMY
 1954 - 1956**
Your family is proud you served to help keep our country free.



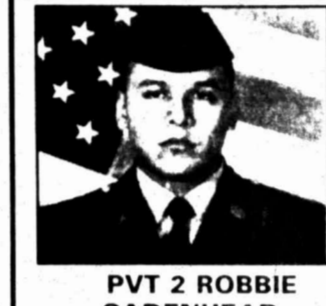
**CPL A. DUDLEY JENKINS
 US ARMY
 1943 - 1946**
We are & always been very proud of you. Thank you for your part in serving our country.
 Your Family



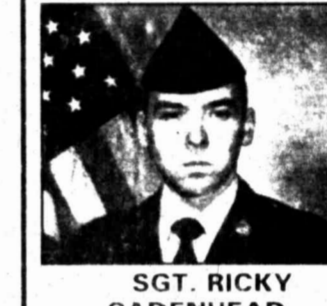
**SGT. DEREK M. HICKS
 US MARINES
 1997 - 2001**
I am proud that you chose to serve our country.
 Love, Mom



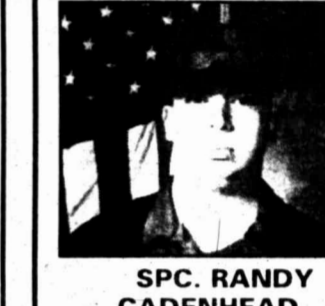
**MIKE TARPLEY
 101ST AB ARMY
 DEC. 66 - DEC. 69 VIETNAM**
2 Purple Hearts, Bronze Star with V. Air Medal, CIB, Combat Assault Wings. We Are So Proud Of You
 Love, Your Wife, Your Mother, Your Children



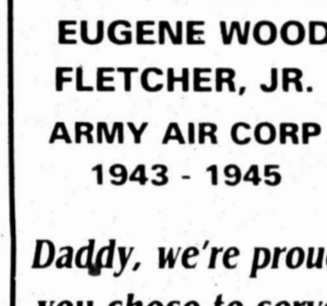
**PVT 2 ROBBIE CADENHEAD
 BCO F-168 ARMOR
 US ARMY
 SERVING IN BAGDAD, IRAQ**
Robbie, we're proud you chose to serve our country
 We Love You, Grandmom Mary & Grandpa Joe & Julie Cadenhead



**SGT. RICKY CADENHEAD
 US ARMY
 NATIONAL GUARD
 C.CO. 2/142**
Ricky, we're proud you chose to serve our country
 We Love You Mom, Dad & Julie Cadenhead



**SPC. RANDY CADENHEAD
 US ARMY
 A CO. 2-70 ARMOR
 SERVING IN BAGDAD, IRAQ**
Randy, we're proud you chose to serve our country.
 Love You & Miss You Mom, Dad & Julie Cadenhead



**EUGENE WOOD FLETCHER, JR.
 ARMY AIR CORP
 1943 - 1945**
Daddy, we're proud you chose to serve our country. You are our hero.
 We Love You, Your Family



**CHARLES G. GRAY
 US ARMY
 1964 - 1966
 VIETNAM 65 TO 66**
 HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY GRANDPA
 Love, M.J. and Breann Castillo



**CARL WYRICK
 USAF
 1954 - 1978**
Carl - Sky King You are a very loving husband & grandfather. It has been a great ride with you. I am so proud you chose to serve our country.
 I Love You Carol Wyrick - Cee Ann



**CARL WYRICK
 USAF
 1954 - 1978**
You are special to us in so many ways. We are proud to call you daddy, father-in-law and Papaw.
 Love, Cheri, Tim and Carson

AP TOP 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' men's preseason college basketball poll, with first place votes in parentheses. 2002-03 records, total points based on 25 points for a first place vote through one point for a 25th place vote and last season's final ranking.

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pv
1	Connecticut (67)	23-10	1,793	23
2	Duke (3)	26-7	1,667	7
3	Michigan St. (1)	22-13	1,607	7
4	Arizona	28-4	1,476	2
5	Missouri	22-11	1,436	24
6	Kansas (1)	30-8	1,396	6
7	Syracuse	30-5	1,311	13
8	Florida	25-8	1,219	10
9	North Carolina	19-16	1,139	-
10	Gonzaga	24-9	1,125	-
11	Kentucky	32-4	1,092	1
12	Texas	26-7	1,083	5
13	Illinois	25-7	941	11
14	Oklahoma	27-7	822	3
15	Wisconsin	24-8	715	21
16	Louisville	25-7	623	14
17	Saint Joseph's	23-7	579	-
18	Cincinnati	17-12	578	-
19	Stanford	24-9	555	18
20	Wake Forest	25-6	458	8
21	Notre Dame	24-10	429	22
22	Pittsburgh	28-5	382	4
23	Marquette	27-6	155	9
24	N.C. State	18-13	120	-
25	Oklahoma St.	22-10	93	-

Others receiving votes: Maryland 77, California 14, Oregon 70, Xavier 68, Ohio St. 46, Utah 39, LSU 33, Auburn 32, BYU 25, Colorado 16, Arizona St. 13, Providence 13, Purdue 13, Memphis 12, UCLA 12, Mississippi St. 9, Southern Cal 8, Michigan 7, Temple 7, Butler 6, Indiana 6, Manhattan 5, Georgia

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
The planet Mercury was named for the messenger of the gods whose speed and grace could be counted on to carry messages from the mortals to the gods and back.



Joyce Jillson

Today, Mercury enters the realm of Sagittarius, lending a direct, bold and urgent quality to communication. If you didn't know what you wanted to say yesterday, try again today.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are so sophisticated — it's a tall order for others to have as much charm as you do. The world responds to your classy ways and treats you accordingly, especially concerning more responsibility. Singles catch the eye of a Taurus.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're offered a key position in an important organization, but there's a lot of work that goes along with the job. Are you really up for it? Different projects might be worth more of your attention.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Charity work is more than just a way to use up spare time. You send yourself into a great karmic cycle that continues rolling for years. Ask a friend how you can help out. Contract negotiations work out in your favor.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). No matter how you feel on the inside, get set to win. You come off as smart and savvy at business meetings even though only you know

how excited you are. If anything, nervousness makes you more enthusiastic.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Fresh cash may create the temptation to go shopping; enjoy the window display, but don't spend much without planning carefully. Consider your credit standing. Deadlines near for school and financial applications.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Partners need your attention this morning. Handle home matters as quickly as possible — they're not going away. At work, you're given a project you can really sink your teeth into — it's not a waste of time to do a lot of research.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Getting the work you want is a snap when you're close to people who are in the know. Make calls to solidify profitable relationships. You meet a looker who digs your artistic, creative side, and that's just what you want to be liked for.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People around you have outdated views. Don't let yourself get caught up in their complaining. There are so many more interesting ways to see the world. Take a chance on a romantic prospect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's one artistic ability you've always wanted to have — what's stopping you from getting the skills? Sign up for a class, and talk to experts. Rising above a misunderstanding will allow for a business collaboration.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you concentrate your affections on that one special per-

son, everything else becomes clear, including your career sector. Aquarius and Virgo are helpful when you need someone to bounce ideas off of.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Attractions of all kinds become stronger. Whether it's true love or mere infatuation, it feels all-consuming. Look at relationships with a sense of humor. A relative gets you thinking about a new line of work. Take a chance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People complain that life isn't fair. It seems that it actually is for you for a change. At work, supervisors give you a chance to show what you're made of. Romantic negotiations are complicated.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Laura San Giacomo is a sultry Scorpio (with four lumi-

naries in the sign of the scorpion) who plays brainy journalist Maya on the sitcom "Just Shoot Me." For this role, she probably taps into the natural wit of her Gemini moon. San Giacomo could be an auspicious addition to the HBO hit "The Sopranos," upholding positive standards for people of Italian American heritage.

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

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Annie's Mailbox



ANNIE'S MAILBOX

Dear Annie: I have been happily married to my husband, "Preston," for five years, and I am seven months' pregnant with our second son.

This past weekend, we went to a friend's wedding. Preston attended the bachelor party, which took place at a strip club. When Preston came home, he admitted that he had allowed the girls to sit on his lap. After more questioning, he confessed that he had received two lap dances that the other guys had purchased for him. He told me that, yes, he had been aroused, but "it's a normal male reaction."

I was terribly hurt by this revelation. After we talked, Preston apologized profusely and swore it would never happen again. He said he had no idea it would be so hurtful to me.

I consider myself a secure, confident woman and had no problem with Preston going to the strip club and having a good time with his friends. However, I believe a lap dance crosses the line and is a form of cheating. I cannot get these images out of my head. I love my husband, and I know he loves me, but this was a huge blow to my self-esteem, and it is interfering with my ability to be intimate with Preston.

Preston admitted that had the situation been reversed, he would be plenty angry. How can I get past this? — Sad in Southern California

Dear Sad: You get past it by forgiving Preston and believing in his promise not to do it again. You have every right to be angry. Preston's behavior was hurtful and wrong, but you must stop dwelling on it if you want to put it behind you.

It's too bad Preston didn't have the gumption to turn down the free lap dances in front of his friends, but one assumes there was drinking involved. Presumably this was an isolated incident of stupidity and doesn't deserve as much attention as you are giving it. Try to let it go.

Dear Annie: Since I was a child, two family members, I'll call them "Bert and Ernie," have teased me. The teasing is not good-natured and is quite insulting.

I am now an adult woman, married with children. I have approached this problem from many different angles, ranging from polite to downright rude. Nothing seems to deter them. What's worse, they have taught their chil-

dren to belittle me, too. I feel they are being disrespectful, but my family's advice is to laugh it off. I tried that, and it seemed only to encourage them. I avoid going to their homes and any other event they may be involved in, but with the holidays coming up, I'm sure to see them at least once at a family gathering.

Please help me find a way to get them to stop. — Frustrated with My Family

Dear Frustrated: Some people think they are so hilarious, nothing will shut them up. Here are two options you may not have tried: Talk to Big Bird and Elmo and tell them how painful their teasing is, and that it makes you want to avoid them. Ask why they find it so funny to hurt you.

The second option (if the first one doesn't work) is to not react at all — ignore them, continue your conversation, or walk away, but do not become angry, peeved, irritated, teary-eyed or huffy. Act as if you cannot hear them, forcing them to repeat themselves or give up. They will look like fools, and you will look like a saint.

Dear Readers: Today is Veterans Day. This would be a good opportunity to visit a VA hospital, make a donation to a veterans' organization or bring flowers to a veterans' cemetery. "For those who fought for it, freedom has a flavor the protected will never know." Let's remember our veterans today.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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BEST AVAILABLE COPY

TUESDAY

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	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odesa	Odesa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odesa	Odesa	Discovery	Classics	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	New York	Science Fic.
6:30	News (CC)	News	El Manantial	King of the Hill	News	Pasion de Gavianes	News	Seinfeld (CC)	Booker	News-Lehrer	Unsolved		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Source Pre.	Sister, Sister	NFL Live	Rome Is Burning (CC)	JAG (CC) (DVS)	X-Files (CC)
7:30	8 Simple Rules I'm With Her	8 Simple Rules I'm With Her	Velo de Novia	70s Show	Andy Griffith Show Reunion	Amor Descarado	Whoopi (CC) Happy Family	Movie: Lethal Weapon 4	Update/Israel N. McBride	Nova (CC) (DVS)	New Detectives-Forensic	Movie: Stalg 17	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Source Awards	Movie: You Wish	Basketball: Harlem	Playmakers	Law & Order: Special Victims	X-Files (CC)
8:30	According-Jim Less-Perfect	According-Jim Less-Perfect	Nina Amada Mia	24 (CC)	Guardian (CC)	Ladron de Corazones	Fraser (CC) (CC) (DVS)	Light of the Southwest	American Valor (CC)	FBI Files (CC)	New Detectives-Forensic		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comicview	Sister, Sister	Globetrotters vs. Syracuse	Playmakers	Movie: Terminator 2	X-Files (CC)
9:30	Primetime Special Edition	Primetime Special Edition	Casos de la Vida Real	70s Show	Judging Amy (CC)	Lazos de Familia	Law & Order: Special Victims	40 Movie: News Tonight Show	Independent	FBI Files (CC)	25 Movie: The Bridges at Toko-Ri		Charmed (CC)	Comicview	Sister, Sister	NBA Fast Break Tuesday	Playmakers	Judgment Day (CC)	X-Files (CC)
10:30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show	Becker (CC)	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Reindeer Games (CC)	Hour of Healing	Lens (CC)	New Detectives-Forensic		Angel (CC)	Nightly News Grown Folks	Kim Possible Proud Family	ATP Tennis Masters	SportsCenter (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims	Movie: Airtight (CC)
11:30	Ent Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	En las Mejores Familias	Spin City	Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo-Maria Celeste Corte-Familia	Late Night (CC)	40 Movie: Update/Israel Booker	Rev J. Hansen Richman	Sign Off	New Detectives-Forensic	35 Movie: Stalg 17	X-Files (CC)	Midnight Love	Even Stevens	Cup - Round Robin	Playmakers	Law & Order: Dead Zone	
12:30	Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Paid Program	Angela	Blind Date	Blind Date		Fraser (CC)						X-Files (CC)	Comicview	Boy World Recess (CC)	NBA Fastbreak Rome Is	SportsCenter (CC)	(CC)	Crossing Over Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



"BACK IN THOSE DAYS, MR. WILSON'S COMB HAD A LOT MORE WORK TO DO."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"... Through the night with the light from a bulb ..."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



MR. HOUSEWIFE



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, Nov. 11, the 315th day of 2003. There are 50 days left in the year. This is Veterans Day in the United States, Remembrance Day in Canada.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 11, 1918, fighting in World War I came to an end with the signing of an armistice between the Allies and Germany.

On this date:

In 1620, 41 Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower, anchored off Massachusetts, signed a compact calling for a "body politic."

In 1831, former slave Nat Turner, who had led a violent insurrection, was executed in Jerusalem, Va.

In 1889, Washington became the 42nd state.

In 1921, President Harding dedicated the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington

National Cemetery.

In 1938, Kate Smith first sang Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" on network radio.

In 1942, during World War II, Germany completed its occupation of France.

In 1966, Gemini 12 blasted off from Cape Kennedy, Fla., with astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. aboard.

In 1972, the U.S. Army turned over its base at Long Binh to the South Vietnamese army, symbolizing the end of direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1983, President Reagan became the first U.S. chief executive to address the Diet, Japan's national legislature.

In 1992, the Church of England voted to ordain women as priests.

Ten years ago: A bronze statue honoring the more than 11,000 American women who served in the Vietnam War was dedicated in Washington, D.C.

Today's Birthdays:

Former Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., is 88. Author Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

is 81. Comedian Jonathan Winters is 78. Jazz singer-musician Mose Allison is 76. Jazz-country musician Hank Garland is 73. Country singer Narvel Felts is 65. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., is 63. Singer Jesse Colin Young is 59. Rock singer-musician Vince Martell (Vanilla Fudge) is 58. Golfer Fuzzy Zoeller is 52. Pop singer-musician Paul Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 51. Rock singer-musician Andy Partridge (XTC) is 50. Singer Marshall Crenshaw is 49. Rock singer Dave Alvin is 48. Rock musician Ian Marsh (Human League; Heaven 17) is 47. Actor Stanley Tucci is 43. Actress Demi Moore is 41. Actress Calista Flockhart is 39.

Answer to previous puzzle

SCAT	BETA	BET
ALMA	ELOPE	GORE
FAIRHAIRD	ONIN	
END ANTE	IRONED	
BRIE	STUD	
STPETE	RAINFALL	
HORSE	HALO	ELIA
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STELLA	SIRE	EAU
TOBE	BETTER	HALF
AFAR	EXILE	ARLO
GUY	TRES	SPAS

Newsday Crossword

IN THE RED by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS

- 1 Wanderer
- 6 Milne bear
- 10 Moonstruck actress
- 14 Friend, in Mexico
- 15 Swit costar
- 16 Tear down
- 17 White House outdoor area
- 19 Footnote abbr.
- 20 Campsite sleeper
- 21 Birch or beech
- 22 Twins constellation
- 24 Rev, as a motor
- 25 Bragged
- 26 Barnyard water holder
- 29 Disney dog
- 30 Oregano and basil
- 31 Latticework feature
- 32 Back of the neck
- 36 Web auction arena
- 37 Shuts angrily
- 38 Mouth, slangily
- 39 Ice-cream concoction
- 40 Adorable
- 41 Fragment
- 42 General custom
- 44 So far
- 45 Legal options
- 48 Jacks or hopscotch
- 49 Cascades peak
- 50 Seaweed
- 51 North Pole helper

DOWN

- 1 DEA agent
- 2 Melville novel
- 3 Spray-can output
- 4 Mature, as wine
- 5 Soldiers' IDs
- 6 Gay city of song
- 7 Ye __ Shoppe
- 8 Lyric poem
- 9 Favorite
- 10 Alabama football team
- 11 Customary practice
- 12 Cyberspace publication
- 13 Overhauled
- 18 St. Louis landmark
- 23 Consume
- 24 Rolling Stones tune
- 25 Hold responsible
- 26 Those folks
- 27 Country singer
- 28 Nonwritten test
- 29 Piece of chinaware
- 31 Fake coins
- 33 General vicinity
- 34 Treaty
- 35 Fencer's weapon
- 37 Rascal
- 41 Cheerleaders' clusters
- 43 Met, as a committee
- 44 Perfumed powder
- 45 Colorado ski spot
- 46 Snapshot
- 47 Trousers
- 48 Honking fliers
- 50 Leg joint
- 51 Director Kazan
- 52 Easter preceder
- 53 Without charge
- 56 Under the weather
- 57 Acorn bearer

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