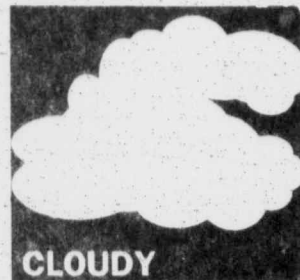


FRIDAY

February 13, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLOUDY

TONIGHT 24°-26° TOMORROW 46°-48°

BRIEFLY

Cardiology clinic

Covenant Heart Institute will sponsor a cardiology clinic at 10 a.m. Tuesday at 1501 W. 11th Place.

The clinic will be conducted by cardiologist Mindee Flippin. For an appointment or more information, call 1-877-604-3278.

Tax assistance

Counselors from AARP will be at the Big Spring Senior Citizen's Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to help individuals prepare their income tax returns. It had previously been announced that counselors would not be available on that date. Free income tax assistance will continue each Monday through April 12.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



Cover Story: The Centralia Orphans have a tradition of winning, and of being a part of their hometown's spirit.

Hometown Hero: Ed and Elsie Bailey of Milford, Del., have turned their passion for birds and nature into a 23-acre backyard nature preserve.

Hometown Spotlight: A handful of Cle Elum, Wash., devotees are restoring an old Milwaukee Railroad depot and substation.

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Vol. 100, No. 75

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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 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.

No takers on opportunity to run state hospitals

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

Management and employees at the Big Spring State Hospital will continue to do what they do best — provide professional care at a reasonable fee for persons with mental illness.

House Bill 2292, passed during the state legislature's 78th session, required the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to allow private companies to submit proposals to operate one state hospital for the mentally ill and one state school for the mentally retarded. The deadline to submit a proposal for management of a state hospital was Thursday. There were no takers.



MOUGHON

Moughon, Big Spring State Hospital's CEO. "This is very good news for us."

"This is real validating to the staff at the state hospital, that they are doing an excellent job of providing quality care at a very reasonable price," said a happy Ed Moughon, Big Spring State Hospital's CEO. "This is very good news for us."

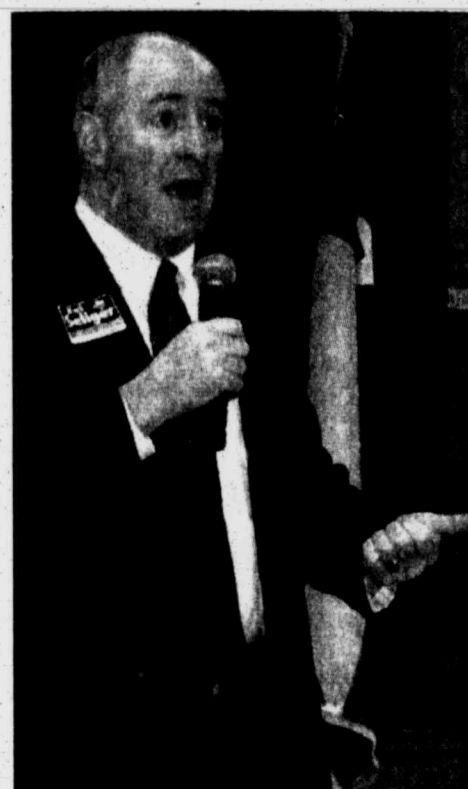
The legislature's guidelines were strict, stating that the private provider would have to operate the facility at 25 percent less than current operating costs while keeping the same quality and acuity levels achieved by the Texas Department of MHMR.

The news allows employees at the Big Spring State Hospital to breathe a sigh of relief, Moughon said.

"The staff at the hospital has done a good job of focusing on patient care but there has

See BSSH, Page 3A

Senate hopefuls address state hospital group



Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo

Issues include pay raises, privatization, local contact

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Texas Senate District 31 runoff candidates Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, and Kirk Edwards, R-Odessa, got the chance to address several issues at the Big Spring State Hospital Thursday, as they answered questions submitted by state employees.

"We felt Howard County could possibly be the swing vote for either candidate in this election," said Woody Jumper, president of the Texas Public Employees Association, who co-sponsored the presentation with the State Hospital. "We thought it was very important to the voters of Howard County to have the opportunity one more time to

Related story, Page 7A

meet Mr. Seliger and Mr. Edwards so they can make up their minds.

"The reception is also to say thanks to these two candidates for caring about West Texas and wanting to be involved with the senate on our behalf."

While the reception for the two candidates was informal, the questions the candidates were asked to answer during the presentation hit at the center of concerns for state employee and the Big Spring area.

These are some of the questions

See CANDIDATES, Page 3A



Kirk Edwards, R-Odessa

TRANS-TEXAS CORRIDOR Transportation network touted by state officials

By BILL MCCLELLAN

News Editor

Imagine motoring down the highway at more than 80 mph with truck traffic in an entirely different lane — a different highway, if you will — parallel to the one you are on, but separate nonetheless.

Or imagine taking your vehicle to a terminal area, parking it and boarding a high-speed rail system adjacent to that same super highway, on your way to Dallas, San Antonio or Houston. You'll get there in a third of the time it takes now.

If it sounds futuristic, it is. But it's a very real concept being proposed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

"Nobody else has ever done this before. Texas has led the nation in transportation for years. And now, this is another bold step," said Russell Lenz, TxDOT's Abilene district engineer, addressing about a dozen Big Spring area citizens Thursday night.

"Texas has led the nation in transportation for years. And now, this is another bold step."

Russel Lenz, TxDOT Abilene District engineer



Russel Lenz, Texas Department of Transportation engineer for the Abilene District, visits with Howard County Commissioner Bill Crooker, left, and Big Spring resident Bob Galbraith following a public hearing on the proposed Trans-Texas Corridor.

TxDOT officials are holding 254 meetings this month — one in each county of the state — to get input into the Trans-Texas Corridor, a mega, multi-mode transportation route that is only in the "talking" stages.

"No decisions will be made here tonight.

We just want to present some information and get your feedback," Lenz said.

That information includes a glaring fact that most of Texas is already aware of: The

See CORRIDOR, Page 7A

Two of three BSISD trustees to seek re-election

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Two of the three incumbents on the Big Spring Independent School District Board of Trustees whose seats are up for election in May have thrown their hats into the ring while the third has decided to bow out of seeking another term.

Trustees Mike Dawson and Phil Furqueron announced Thursday they will seek another term while Kent Sharp, a Republican candidate for state representative, said he will not run for a second term.

"Our board is committed to providing support which will allow our teachers, support staff and administration to achieve



DAWSON

FURQUERON

SHARP

our district goals," said Dawson, who serves as the board president. "Returning to an emphasis on reading, writing and arithmetic, respect for authority and a safe learning environment are tried and true elements of successful schools in prior generations."

"I am honored to be a small part of a progressive school dis-

trict which continues to provide quality of improvements for our students and will seek election to the board of trustees to achieve these measures," Dawson added.

"We have things heading in the right direction, but there's still a lot of work today, and I want to be here to make sure things continue down the path we're going," Furqueron said.

Dawson seeks his third term on the board while Furqueron hopes for a second. All three candidates were elected under the school district's old election scheme as at-large representatives.

This election marks the phase-in of Districts 5, 6 and 7. Board members adopted a seven-single member district scheme of representation in 2002.

Filing for board positions will begin Tuesday and continue through March 15 at the BSISD business office in the administration building, 708 11th Place. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Candidates wishing to represent one of the districts must be a resident in the district they plan to represent, be a resident of the State of Texas for at least one year, a resident of the school district six months prior to the filing deadline, be at least 18 years old and a qualified voter.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

FEB

13

2004

Obituaries

C. G. Thomason

C. G. Thomason, 82, of Big Spring, died Friday, Feb. 13, 2004, in a local hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Derwood Clardy

Derwood Clardy, 84, of Stanton, died Thursday, Feb. 12, 2004, in a Stanton nursing home. His services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Take note

□ **A FUND HAS BEEN** established at the First Bank of West Texas, 1810 FM 700, to help with the medical expenses of 30-year-old Misty McCullum Wilson, who was diagnosed with cancer more than two months ago. Wilson, who went to Coahoma High School before moving to Lubbock, requires radiation treatments expected to cost \$10,000 per visit.

□ **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM**, which delivers to the elderly and homebound, needs volunteers to deliver meals.

If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed.

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

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

□ **ROAD TO RECOVERY DRIVERS WANTED.**

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport cancer patients to and from treatments. If you can spare a few hours each month, please consider volunteering to drive somebody along the Road to Recovery. For more information about volunteering or if you are a cancer patient in need of the service, call La Wanda Hamm, 263-7827.

□ **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families.

Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected.

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

□ **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy.

Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

□ **THE CLASS OF 1974** is looking for the following classmates. If you know where they are please notify Carol Boyd at 432-263-0486 or e-mail Guy Teague at gntea@ddravytech.net; Kim Adams, Stanley Adams, Steve Adams, Terry Allison, Beverly Anderson, Jim Archer, Albert Arriols, Teresa Atkinson, Shirley Atwell, Vicki Axelrod, Blaz Bailon, Diane Baldock, Jackie Barber, Debra Barksdale, Joyce Bennett, Sherri Bertan, Terry Billingsley, John Bowers, Richard Brackeen, Donna Brewer, Kathy Bull, Sherry Burgess, Mary Burke, Greg Burris, Carla Carter, Cindy Cole, Paula Collins, Michael Conley, Karen Conley Melendez, Linda Curtis, Janice Danford, Cynthia D'Angelo, Pam Daniels, Kay Davis, Lorraine Davis, Jimmie Dean, Donna DeFlitch, Joyce DeFlitch, Rosalinda Deleon, Cynthia Dennis, Wendell Dodson, James Dry, Pam Eisler, Dodie Evans, Cathy Ewing, Martha Eyssen, Steve Ferrell, Sandra Floyd, Ramon Franco, Sheri Fry, Karen Fuller, Mary Gainus, Victor Garcia, Lonnie Gary, Raul Garza, Ricky Gilliland, Sandra Gleason, Susan Gleason Williams, Belinda Gomez, Evelyn Gomez, Anna Maria Gonzales, Garland Green, Janis Gregg, Sarah Haas, Donna Hale, Sue Harris, Terry Harris, June Hendrick Rhea, Adolpho Herrera, Cynthia Herron, Mitzi Hill, Tracy Hill, Babbette Huckaba, Debra Hurrington, Robert Jackson, Phil Johnson, Patricia Jordan, Calvin Juneke, Virginia Keathley, Matthew King, Patricia King, Kathy Kirksey, Ruth Knight, John Kushaney, Jeff Kuykendall, Barbara Landreth, Karen Lawler, John Lipscombe, Wayne Lister, Barry Loyd, Art Mackie, Rebecca Marin, Jerry Martin, Virginia Martinez, Beckie Mason, Susie McGuire, Mark McLeod, Walter McWhiter, Frances Meade, Patsy Medina, Henry Menchaca, Maria Mendoza, William Messenger, Jeff Miller, Ethel Minter, Barbara Morris, Paula Muskovin, Ronald Myrick, Marilyn Neill, Billy Nugent, Eva Palacios, Phil Parmenter, Vicki Patterson, Lana Perry Bruington, Iris Phillips, Randal Phillips, Cindy Phillips, Barbara Pierce, Carletta Pierce Roberts, Debrora Pineda, Cherri Polanco, Eunice Ramirez, Libby Reed, Tony Reidy, Robert Renteria, Jackie Richards, Linda Richardson, Earl Richlart, Daniel Rivera, Bennett Robb, Patti Robertson, Vicki Robertson Martin, James Robinson, Johnny Rodriguez, Jerry Rogers, Martha Rogers, Danny Rountree, Mary Rubio Fierro, Priscilla Rudd Horn, Esperanza Salazar, Irene Saldivar, Carol Scott, Patrice Sherrill Fivash, Rita Sherril Yeats, Terri Sledge, Doug Smith, Rickey Smith, Dennis Stevens, Harlan Stewart, Leatreca Stewart, Linda Stewart, Sharon Thorp, Sheryl Tibbs Allen, Carolyn Toaz, Tiburico Trevino, Alice Trevino Hernandez, Robbie Tubb, Joyce Turner, Sarah Vigil, Ken Walton, Joe Watson, Debra Way, Randy Weaver, Debbie Wheeler, Cindy Whitaker Jorgenson, Gary White, Kenneth Wilcox, Jimmy Wiley, Julie Williams, Kenneth Williamson, Monte Wood.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 08-17-19-32-33.
Number matching five of five: 0.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-7-9

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Thursday morning and 8 a.m. today:

- **SELESTION HERNANDEZ II**, 18, of 1105 Bell, was arrested Thursday on a charge of theft-previous conviction.
- **GLENN LACKEY**, 49, of 1107 Lloyd, was arrested Thursday on charges of public intoxication and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **MICHAEL STEVEN MARQUEZ**, 21, of 1501 Runnels, was arrested Thursday on a Howard County warrant for theft.
- **VINCENT EDWARD MCVEA**, 33, of Odessa, was arrested Friday on a local traffic warrant.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Johnson.
 - in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 200 block of Marcy.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 1200 block of Lamesa.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON/FAMILY VIOLENCE** in the 3000 block of Eighth Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 100 block of Jefferson.
- **POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 1100 block of Lloyd.

Sheriff's report

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

- **BOBBY SILVA**, 31, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated and possession of a controlled substance.
- **LARRY WAYNE THOMPSON**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest/detention and military desertion (AWOL).
- **MAJOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at the intersection of Todd Road and South Highway 87.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 8700 block of Gilliam Road.

Support groups

FRIDAY

□ AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY

□ Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night, No Smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

□ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 to 6 p.m.

MONDAY

□ Surviving Pregnancy Loss meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Howard County Library Committee Room. Call 631-4430 for more information.

TUESDAY

□ Area Agency on Aging of the Permian Basin will hold a self-help support group for care givers in Howard County on Tuesday.

The meeting will be held at Canterbury Retirement Homes Inc., 1700 Lancaster, from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. For more information, call Raynetta Williams, caregiver coordinator, at (432) 563-1061 or (800) 491-4636 or locally call Debbie Read at Home Hospice at (432) 264-7599.

This group is open to the public and funded by the Texas Department on Aging.

THURSDAY

□ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, 12 noon to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

□ The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet only on the second Thursday of the month at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. The group will no longer meet weekly.

Correction

The following results were left out of an article published in the Sunday edition of the *Big Spring Herald* about the Big Spring academic team standings at the Texas Tech meet.

JW Beauchamp placed second in number sense, Robert Andrade placed sixth in number sense, Ryan Beall placed sixth in mathematics and Big Spring teams finished second place in both events.



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Bulletin board

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

TODAY

Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance is held from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited to attend.

AMBUCS meets at noon at La Posada.

Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Signal Mt. Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281. Bring a lunch.

SATURDAY

Dance begins at 8:30 p.m. at Eagles Lodge, 703 West Third.

Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historical home is open from 1 to 5 p.m. A one-time admission fee of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens is encouraged.

Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hanger 25 Air Museum is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Howard County Scottish Rite Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 21st and Lancaster Streets. Breakfast is served.

Free eye glasses are distributed from 9 a.m. to noon at Bob's Custom Woodwork, 409 East Third.

MONDAY

Big Spring Howard County Retired Teachers Association meets at 11:30 a.m. with lunch in the Howard College Cactus Room.

Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center for sit and be fit chair aerobics. People over age 50 are invited to participate. Call 268-4721 for more information.

Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada. The public is invited to attend.

The DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams.

Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at First United Methodist Church youth hall. All singles in the community are welcome to enjoy an evening of fellowship, refreshments and table games.

TUESDAY

Intermediate Line Dance classes meets from 9 a.m. at Senior Citizens Center. Call 267-1628 for more information.

Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the Howard County Library basement.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of snow. Lows in the mid 20s. Light winds.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Light winds becoming northwest 10 to 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.
Saturday night...Mostly clear. Lows around 30. Northwest winds around 10 mph until early morning becoming light.
Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Presidents Day...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the lower 50s.
Monday night...Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the mid 30s.
Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.
Tuesday night and Wednesday...Mostly clear. Lows around 30. Highs in the upper 50s.
Wednesday night and Thursday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Highs in the mid 60s.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Organ

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring Hospital and the Public Employees Association teamed up Thursday to give state employees a chance to meet the candidates for the State Senate District 31 race, which will be decided Tuesday in a runoff.

Texas Public Employees Association Woody Jumper led a meet and state employees know the candidate the race, Kel S. Amarillo, an Edwards, R-Ord said it served a purpose.

"I'm very pleased with the turnout and the candidates who responded to our questions," Jumper said.

CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 2

the candidates who responded to our questions," Jumper said.

The cost of the campaign exceeded the raise for state employees. Would you support a raise for state employees? Seliger — "If benefits don't increase, it's competitive, the people we have doing the jobs will not do the jobs. They will leave for other employment opportunities. State employees should represent the people. They must remain competitive."

Edwards — "I'm definitely going to be in that, and the other candidates that we have are insurance. Insurance is gone up, your dollars have gone up, your dollars are like a reduction in pay, even though you may be staying at the same level of pay the insurance has been increased. Insurance is absolutely horrible. It's addressed."

Would you support the State Hospital? Edwards — "I'm adamantly in support of this facility. This is a tremendous development for this town. We need an employee base that can't be replaced. Facilities, which have been here for a long time, can't be replaced. They can't bring any company in here that will utilize the services here. I think the process with the Medical Center opened up the regionality. Before that, we thought about being a senator, I was a member of the Big Spring Hospital. I got a lot of letters and our city manager put out letters and that was my way to get you guys outside the Big Spring community."

Seliger — "If I'm elected to the Senate to see this state hospital open. The are a lot of viability for like this. The utilization rate, the service to those who need that. For all practical purposes, the facility is full. Those services are and they're needed here. Efficiency is another commodity is another

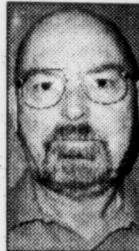
SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER
Our Community Our Hospital
1601 W. 11th Pl. Big Spring, TX 79721

Organizer hopes forum will assist voters

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring State Hospital and the Texas Public Employees Association teamed up Thursday to give state employees a chance to meet the candidates for the State Senate District 31 race, which will be decided Tuesday in a runoff election.



JUMPER

Texas Public Employees Association President Woody Jumper coordinated a meet and greet for state employees to get to know the candidates in the race, Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, and Kirk Edwards, R-Odessa, and said it served a good purpose.

"I'm very pleased with the turnout and the out-

come of the reception, and I hope it's very informative for our state workers in addition to everyone else who goes out and votes," he said.

"It's very important that people get out and vote. This runoff election may be for a short term, but whoever is the incumbent in the next election, there's a good chance they will be our senator. So it's very important that we vote for who we think will best represent us right now."

Edwards said he was glad to participate, and called for voters to take the local issues with them to the polls on Tuesday.

"I think it's wonderful," said Edwards. "It's what we're seeing across the district. Every county that we go to has different issues. In Big Spring it's the VA Medical Center and the state hospital, as

well as Ports to Plains. They are huge issues that are so important to this race.

"I came here today to listen to them about the issues they think are important and let them know I've been here for three months. I think it's important for the people in Big Spring to know I haven't started campaigning here in the last 10 days. That's why I know the issues in Howard County so much better than anyone else in this race."

Seliger said he was impressed by the non-partisan way the reception was handled and understands the importance of the state hospital, not just to the patients at the facility, but to the community it has been a part of for so long.

"They're citizens of the state of Texas," said

Seliger. "It's not a question of whether they participate or not because they must participate. They do so in a non-partisan fashion and they do so to provide information to their employees. These are important people and their vocations and business in the community are important, so we should address their concerns as well."

"You can't talk to a single person in this community that will say the state hospital doesn't do an important job, and does it well."

Early voting ends today at 5 p.m. at the Howard County Courthouse. Election day is Tuesday, with polls open across the area from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

BSSH

Continued from Page 1A

been a little cloud hanging over us. We even had a prospective bidder visit the hospital," he said.

TDMHMR, operates nine state hospitals, 12 state schools, and one state center serving both persons with mental illness and mental retardation. In addition to Big Spring, the facilities are in Abilene, Austin, Brenham, Corpus Christi, Denton, El Paso, Harlingen, Kerrville, Lubbock, Lufkin, Mexia, Richmond, Rusk, San Angelo, San Antonio, Terrell, Vernon, Waco and Wichita Falls. The deadline to submit a proposal for privatization of a state school is 4 p.m. today.

Moughn said Big Spring State Hospital and its 500-plus employees still have another hurdle

to get past.

"There is one more thing that came out of the last legislative session. That one is that the Health and Human Services Commission was to hire a consulting firm to study consolidating some of the state hospitals in Texas," Moughn said. "We are not terribly concerned about that, given our remote location. It doesn't bother our staff as much as the privatization did."

A report on consolidation is due back to legislators at the next legislative session.

Bill McClellan may be reached at 263-7331.

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CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 1A

the candidates were asked to respond to and their answers:

• The cost of living has exceeded the rate of pay for state employees. Would you support a pay raise for state employees?

Seliger — "If pay and benefits don't stay competitive, the people that we have doing important jobs will not do those jobs. They will seek employment elsewhere, mainly in the private sector. State employment should represent opportunity for people, and it must remain competitive."

Edwards — "I would definitely be in favor of that, and the other thing that we have address is insurance. Insurance has gone up, your deductibles have gone up and your copays have gone up. This is like a reduction in your pay, even though you may be staying at a state level of pay the take home has been reduced. Insurance in this state absolutely has to be addressed."

• Would you support the State Hospital remaining open?

Edwards — "I would adamantly defend this facility. This is an economic development asset for this town and an employee base that can not be replaced. These facilities, which have been here for decades, can not be replaced. You can't bring another company in here that can utilize the services that are here. I think the current process with the VA Medical Center has opened up the eyes of regionality. Before I even thought about becoming a senator, I was writing letters for the Big Spring VA Hospital. I got our mayor and our city manager to put out letters as well, and that was my duty — to get you guys help from outside the Big Spring community."

Seliger — "I will do everything I possibly can if I'm elected to the state Senate to see to it that this state hospital stays open. There are a few tests of viability for a facility like this. The first is the utilization rate. Is it delivering service to the people who need that service? For all practical purposes the facility is full. Clearly those services are needed, and they're needed right here. Efficiency and economy is another test, and

from what I've been told, the people here do a good job with a full patient load. If there's a better test of a value of a facility, I don't know what it is."

• What is your position on privatization of state mental health hospitals?

Seliger — "It looks like a solution to fix something that's not broken. What are the deficiencies for which someone would privatize it? That's not clear and has not been pointed out. What are the economic savings? That hasn't been pointed out. So why are we even talking about it? People talk about privatization, but I've heard no rationale for it. There have been no clear dollars and cents advantages if the people of the state of Texas begin privatizing this or any other state facility. Also, somewhere in there you're going to have to add profit margin. How is that going to make things more affordable for the people in Texas?"

Edwards — "I don't see that as something that could happen here. It goes back to the idea of local control. You know the situation here, and you know how to best address the problems that occur in the facility. Privatization is something that sounds good on paper, but when it comes to the people actually implementing it, it doesn't seem to work that well."

• What is your position on proposing and/or supporting a rule that would require Bills or other measures that would change taxation be put to a popular vote before being decided?

Edwards — "It's in our Texas constitution that we can't raise taxes without going to a popular vote. Just like school finance reform that we're addressing right now, I think it's very important that the people know that whatever we come up with... is going to be put to a vote. I think it's very important that the people have a voice in their taxation and it doesn't just get implemented on them."

Seliger — "I'm a big fan of initiative and referendum. I like it and it's the essence of democracy. It's impractical sometimes if you elect people to go make decisions. You have to elect the people you think can make the tough decisions. The decisions that require conviction and honest hard work. I think the people you elect that are truly responsive have a really good sense of when things should be submitted to the public."

• What is your position on proposing and/or supporting a rule that would require recording all votes in the House and the Senate?

Seliger — "As a mayor and city commissioner, as close as I can estimate, I took just over 6,000 votes. Every one of them was public. Every one of them made someone happy, and probably made someone mad. I think we need to know what office-holders stand for and what matters to them, so you record your votes."

Edwards — "This is something that seems like a no-brainer to me. It should be done and I don't understand why it's not done."

• If elected, would you place a person in Big Spring that could communicate with the community leaders, such as city council and county commissioners?

Edwards — "I think it would be very important to keep a person in Big Spring. I want that person to be active in the community. I want that person to be updated on what's happening in the senate office so when you approach them and ask them what's happening

they will be able to have an answer for you. Someone that's on e-mail and they're being updated with the office everyday and it would be someone in the community that you could trust."

Seliger — "The answer is yes. I spoke to Mayor (Russ) McEwen and it was a question that he asked. I asked him if it was something that would be useful to this community and he said it would. So yes, there will be a direct connection in this community to the senatorial office if my name is on the door, and it's going to be a working office that will do case work in this community. A lot of local problems need to be dealt with locally, and it needs to be someone who knows the community and knows what the needs are. I think that's very important."

• What is your stance on guilty but insane versus not guilty by reason of insanity?

Seliger — "I have probably have more questions than I do answers on this topic, which is an important principle in itself. I think guilty but insane allows for some additional protection for the public because it keeps people incarcerated for longer periods of time than innocent by reason of insanity. When it comes to cost to the taxpayers, incarceration in correctional institutions may be more economical. Like I said, I have more questions than answers, so before someone addresses legislation like this it's very important to talk to prosecutorial personnel and mental health personnel to see what best

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

• **AREA SCOUTS with the BUFFALO TRAIL COUNCIL**, who on Saturday held a community food drive and on Sunday a flag retirement ceremony.

• **RYAN BEALL**, Big Spring High School senior, was nominated by U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer to attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

• Big Spring Independent School District Spelling Bee winner **MARANDA DUCHOCK** and other campus winners, **HOLLIE BIEMERET, MARY KINCADE, KAYCEE CLAYTON, ALEXIS TORRES, AARON HANES, AUSTIN GOSWICK and KATIE CARRILLO**, as well as all of those who volunteered to help.

• Already mentioned but worth repeating: **BOBBY MCDONALD and LINDA CONWAY** as the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce's Man and Woman of the Year, and **BOBBY SUMNER** as Customer Service Employee and **GALE'S SWEET SHOPPE** as Customer Service Business of the Year.

• **NICK SEVEY**, winner of the Coahoma ISD Spelling Bee.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- 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.
- 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

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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

Your day is coming... just wait a half-year or so

February 5 was Food Check-Out Day. That's the day — according to the United States Department of Agriculture — that you stopped paying for stuffing your face this year. Feel full now? Unfortunately, that doesn't mean it's all free from here on.

What it means is, assuming you didn't pay for anything during the previous 36 days — assuming you did nothing but work and walked to get there — assuming you turned off the electricity, kept the phone out of the hands of female members of the household and sponged off your in-laws, which would be difficult because they are cheap so-and-so's — assuming you were dumb enough to ignore your spouse on Valentine's Day... you'd have made enough money already to pay for all the food you will eat this year.

Obviously there are several things wrong with this logic, foremost among them is the fact that I don't make as much money as you, which means if the check-out day is the same for us, then I am eating potatoes while you're having steak.

If all this sounds a little depressing, go eat something. It gets worse.

You can't really take Food Check-Out Day seriously because looming out there is Tax Freedom Day. Like Food Check-Out Day, Tax Freedom Day is the day that

BILL
MCCLELLAN

— assuming you had previously done nothing but take your paycheck and hand it to the government — you'd finally be able to keep a penny for your own. That day is projected to be May 10. That's assuming, of course, that the government doesn't raise taxes in the meantime.

And since you can't give all your money to the government and purchase food at the same time, you have to tack one Day at the end of the other Day: That means it will be like June 15 before you pay for taxes AND your food.

Add a few days for when you snuck a cinnamon roll or turned on the TV long enough to view the exciting Super Bowl halftime show, and half the year is gone. Goodness, you haven't even paid for last Christmas, much less the mortgage, car payment or anything else.

I told you this was depressing. Want to hear more? Probably not, but I'm writing this to keep from spending money.

According to the Tax Foundation, which has a very ominous name by the way, we Americans work longer to pay taxes now than we do to pay for food, clothing and shelter combined. It's true.

On the average, according to the Tax Foundation, it takes us 74 days to pay our federal taxes in a year. It takes another 35 days to pay state and local taxes. I don't know if that includes licenses, tags, fees and the like.

Oh, I forgot. This information isn't just depressing. It'll tick you off, too.

It takes 61 days out of a year to pay for housing and household operations, 44 days to pay for medical care, 30 days to pay for food, 28 days to pay for transportation, 21 days for recreation, 14 days for clothing and accessories and 11 days for savings. Supposedly that leaves 46 days for "other," which I assume means donating to various organizations (no, your health insurance carrier is listed under medical care, believe it or not), taking a vacation or repairing your computer after the blankity-blank thing accidentally fell in the trash can.

I must say, however, that for some, the anticipation one feels by lifting their personal computer high over head, the excitement of hearing it snap and pop as its little electrical cables are being ripped out of its body, and the euphoria of ending its sorry little life with a two-handed slam dunk in the trash can while screaming "PC! — Piece of Crap!" probably come under "recreation," if only for a very short while. After that, you dip into a subfolder under "other" called "really stupid things I did that cost me money." This folder varies in size, depending on how many stupid things you did, or how many stupid things you can blame on your dog.

I'll let you know when Computer Pay-Off Day arrives.

Bill McClellan is the Herald's news editor. He can be reached at 263-7331 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net He is also accepting donations for the repair of his Pic.... Personal Computer.

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6965; Work (BSISD): 264-

3600.

Who's left in the Democrat's race

As that political sage Jesse Jackson once said, "My cat had her kittens in the oven, but that didn't make them biscuits."

Which may be why Wesley Clark of Arkansas and John Edwards of North Carolina didn't do better in the South this year.

Both men were born in the South, but were they really of the South?

Clark certainly didn't seem to be. After years of traveling from Army base to Army base, he has lost any kind of regional identification.

And even though Edwards often speaks with an accent thick enough to pour over grits, you don't think, "Down Home Guy," when you think of him. You think: "Super Lawyer."

Which is not to say Edwards is a bad campaigner. He isn't. And his most successful campaign has been with the media. He actually has gotten the media to like him.

Consider: Edwards and Clark each have won one contest out of 14. But who got drummed out of the race? Clark, not Edwards.

Consider: Edwards and Clark each made one critical tactical mistake. Clark did not campaign in Iowa, where he might have done well, and Edwards barely campaigned in Oklahoma, which he might have won had he spent more time there.

Polls showed Edwards way ahead in South Carolina, which voted the same day, and slightly behind in Oklahoma. Had Edwards made the bold move and gone to Oklahoma, he could have really set himself up as the alternative to John Kerry with two wins on the same day. But Edwards played it safe and won only South Carolina.

ROGER
SIMON

Today, however, Clark is considered a loser who ran a lousy campaign, while Edwards' only major sin, as far as most media see it, is that he is not willing to attack Kerry because he wants to be Kerry's vice president.

Howard Dean has won not a single primary, but he still gets a certain amount of status, because we all thought he was going to win this thing. After all, he raised the most money, he used the Internet in a revolutionary way, he got big deal endorsements and he spent a ton on TV commercials.

Which means in 2008 the media are going to be extremely wary of all four of these indicators.

Take the last one: Many candidates believe the more they spend on advertising, the better they will do. (That's what their media consultants tell them, anyway.)

But Clark spent more money on TV ads than anybody else in Arizona, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. He lost them all. Overall, Clark spent \$10 million on ads, more than anybody. Dean was second with \$9.7 million, and Kerry was third with \$7.2 million.

(So maybe the trick is to be the third highest-spending campaign when it comes to ads.)

But for all Clark's advantages — money, a supposed base among Southern voters and veterans, some big-name endorsements and an experienced staff — Clark could never get over his true problem: He never learned how to campaign for president. He never could come up with a compelling reason for his presidency or even for why was even running (except for personal ambition).

He now bows out, leaving Edwards and Dean to slog on in the hopes that Kerry will be derailed by scandal or a mistake. (Which is the weakest strategy one can have.) Each is convinced that if he can only get head-to-head

with Kerry, he will beat him.

But what is the evidence for this? Not their performances so far.

Many believe Edwards is hanging on because he wants to be Kerry's running mate and a good showing in the primaries will demonstrate his vote-getting ability with Southern whites and African-Americans. But exit polls in Tennessee and Virginia this week showed the opposite: Kerry beat Edwards among both groups.

This doesn't exactly argue for Edwards being a strong running mate. Chuck Todd, editor in chief of The Hotline, is correct when he argues Edwards would be a bad choice. "Edwards doesn't help in the South," Todd writes. "Could Edwards carry North Carolina as the No. 1 on the ticket? Probably. But as the No. 2, Edwards most likely helps Kerry by a couple of points at best. Gore lost North Carolina by 13 points, so Edwards as the vice presidential candidate maybe cuts that margin to single digits."

Yet Edwards is hailed as the great "find" of this election cycle, and people are already talking about his chances in 2008, while Wesley Clark became the fifth candidate to drop out. Can you name the others? Wait, I've got a tougher one: Can you name the five that are still in?

I am not one of those, however, urging everybody to get out and leave Kerry with a clear field. I say let them stay in and burn up other people's money.

It sure beats working for a living.

Roger Simon can be e-mailed at WriteRoger@aol.com. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators

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A in
dea
strBy MARSHA ALL
HERALD Lifestyle

It all began November 13, 2003. I thought that it was just a simple cold and flu.

That's the reason for the phone interview with Jeanine Hall Lamesa, and her band, Gary.

"I just wasn't feeling well," Mrs. Hall said. "Trying to contact Gary, her husband, to get some help."

She, too, thought she just needed some rest. She went to bed late November 13. She knew she'd be sick during the days.

But Mrs. Hall's condition continued to worsen. By the early December 13, she decided that she needed some professional attention. She was having difficulty breathing, she said.

Hall rushed to the emergency hospital where x-rays were taken. It was discovered that water on her lungs was affecting her oxygen levels. She was sent to the hospital.

Fluid from her lungs was drained, and she was on IV treatments. She collapsed. Medical staff fought to keep her lung from detaching.

A life and death struggle

By MARSHA ALLEN
HERALD Lifestyle Editor

It all began last November with the thought that it might be just a simple case of the flu.

That's the report in a phone interview from Jeanine Hall, 41, of Lamesa, and her husband, Gary.

"I just wasn't feeling well," Mrs. Hall said.

Trying to comfort her, Gary, her husband, told her to get some rest.

She, too, thought she just needed some rest, so she went to bed. It was in late November last year. She knew she didn't want to be sick during the holidays.

But Mrs. Hall's condition continued to deteriorate. By the early part of December the couple decided that she needed some professional medical attention. She was having difficulty breathing, she said.

Hall rushed his wife to the emergency room at the hospital in Lamesa where x-rays were made. It was discovered she had water on her lungs. Oxygen was applied and she was sent to a Lubbock hospital.

Fluid from her lungs was drained forthwith, and she was continued on IV treatments. One lung collapsed. Medical staff fought to keep the other lung from deteriorating.

Three quarts of fluid had been drained from her right lung.

Her stay in the hospital began to reach the third week stage.

"They poked and prodded all over me," Mrs. Hall said. "They even did ultra sounds."

Finally the bad news came from her physicians. Her liver was failing. "They said my liver was just about gone," she said.

Many people relate liver failure to alcohol abuse, but Mrs. Hall is not a drinker. And she has never had hepatitis nor has she experienced any drug abuse.

"It was a mystery," said Mr. Hall. "No one in the family has ever had liver problems."

Anyone wishing to help The Halls accumulate liver transplant funds can make a donation to: The State National Bank, Lamesa branch, located at 801 North 4th Street, Lamesa 79331.

The Halls even called the oldest family member, a 70-year-old aunt living in California, who told them no history of liver problems have been noted in the family.

While undergoing various tests, it was discovered that Mrs. Hall also



Jeanine and Gary Hall

had a case of gall stones, which, she said, probably explained the high fever she was enduring.

More tests at a Lubbock hospital weren't helping the yellow tone of her skin. Jaundice had set in as a result of the gall stones, in part, but, more seriously, evidence of liver failure.

There appeared blood in her urine and stools, they explained. With close monitoring by hospital staff, these problems eventually were eradicated. But it was ascertained the gall bladder had to be removed.

"My pancreas was working overtime trying to do the work the liver normally does," she said, "and that is the cleansing of the body."

The liver stores vitamins, sugars, fats and other nutrients from the food that you eat.

It builds chemicals that your body needs to stay healthy. The liver breaks down harmful sub-

stances, like alcohol and other toxic or poisonous chemicals. Also, the liver removes waste products from your blood. And it balances the production of just the right amount of other chemicals needed by the human body. The body cannot survive without a properly functioning liver.

Her gall stone problem was exacerbated by the liver failure, because necessary bile was not being emitted to the gall bladder.

Doctors conferred over the possibility of removing the gall bladder, but decided against it, because of Mrs. Hall's weakened condition, fearing she would not make it through surgery, she explained.

A liver transplant was the most critical, doctors decided.

Christmas approached and the Hall household was adjusting to the woman of the house being almost totally bedridden.

"I was down most of the time," she said.

But, as she added, her family has been more than supportive, "they've been great."

Along with her husband, her children, Anthony, 16, Stephen, 16, Aaron, 14 and Corey, 12, have "kicked in and helped with housework and the cooking," she said.

"They shop for me, pay bills, do dishes and keep the house clean," she said. "But the kids have been just wonderful through all this."

Stephen is a diabetic and has to take insulin treatments.

Mr. Hall works nights at

the Town and Country in Lamesa. His paycheck is small and only he is on the company insurance plan, because he didn't want so much taken from his income each pay period.

Mrs. Hall had been working at the Preston Smith Unit until she suffered an injury and had to undergo a complete knee replacement three years ago which put an end to her professional position there. Her workmen's compensation from that injury is due to expire soon.

The Halls moved to Lamesa four years ago when Mrs. Hall undertook work at Preston.

So, the only income the family has is that of Mr. Hall. And they have no immediate family members in the Lamesa area. Other family members live as far away as Florida and California.

Their monetary resources are practically nil, said Mr. Hall. And the liver transplant is going to cost \$200,000.

They are seeking help from the Texas Department of Indigent Health Care Division, but it is a slow process awaiting completion of the application process.

West Texas Opportunities has been helping the family, paying utility bills so Mr. Hall has money for his wife's medications.

Also the area senior citizens center helped at Christmas with donations.

Mrs. Hall's activities are very minimal. She gets a few things accomplished throughout each day, but has to rely greatly on resting.

The couple agreed that they are living each day as it comes, placing their hopes on a higher being to supply all their needs.

See HALLS Page 6A

The liver

What is your liver? Your liver is one of the largest and most important organs in your body.

Where is your liver? Your liver is behind the lower right part of your ribs. Your ribs help keep your liver from being injured.

What does the liver do? Your liver is very important to your health. Your liver stores vitamins, sugars, fats and other nutrients from the food that you eat.

Builds chemicals that your body needs to stay healthy.

Breaks down harmful substances, like alcohol and other toxic (poisonous) chemicals.

Removes waste products from your blood.

Makes sure that your body has just the right amount of other chemicals that it needs.

Your liver is one of the most important organs in your body, so it's a good idea to keep it healthy.

Information from the American Liver Foundation

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Novel explores main character's emotions

After living in Paris for 10 years, Madeleine returns home to Le Devin, an island off the coast of France.



BOOK REVIEW
PAT WILLIAMS

Madeleine's early family life was unhappy, and it was in this emotionally sad situation that Madeleine and her mother left the family home to take up residence in the mainland city. Madeleine made a living as best she could by selling her paintings, but none of her efforts seemed to please her mother. When death finally took

the older woman, Madeleine was drawn back to the island even though she had heard nothing from her father since her departure.

Madeleine's arrival in the small village on the north end of the island drew little attention. While a few old friends warmly greeted her, she found her father depressed and uncommunicative; he refused to acknowledge her presence in his home. The constant bitterness and competition between Madeleine's home village and the community to the south had grown in her absence, and the resentments among the inhabitants had increased. Madeleine felt compelled to do something

positive to improve the situation, and in her attempt to provide both the impetus and method, she found a somewhat willing helper in a mysterious stranger who had made a temporary home among the residents.

With much prodding and a tremendous amount of hard work, the north coast inhabitants created physical changes along the coastline that in time

caused good things to happen.

Joanne Harris, author of the popular novel "Chocolat," explores not only Madeleine's wisdom in returning home, but the complicated emotional ties she tentatively forms with the island people, as well as with her long-estranged father.

In many ways, Harris uses the same theme as her other novels, a

stranger in the midst of a troubled population and the changes that are wrought by a persistent belief in a good outcome.

Madeleine's character is rather intriguing; much of her life has been rejected by her father, is estranged from her sister, and had a somewhat bitter relationship with her mother; yet from the pages she emanates the impression of strength.

As the story progresses, Madeleine exhibits a yearning for acceptance and love, but she is often disappointed.

This complex situation is one that propels the reader to go forward into the story; while there is no wild suspense, the story presents a desire for resolution that provides the motivation.

This definitely isn't a book that would be considered "fast reading." In the beginning there seemed to be an abundance of characters, most with confusing names and identities.

The storyline of "Coastliners" was difficult to follow, but as the reader becomes acquainted with Madeleine, it is a bit easier to ignore the various French terms and titles and become enmeshed into the action of the characters.

Harris creatively uses the confusion of spirituality and superstition as she molds this unique tale.

While the story has a somewhat dark mood, there is an underlying sense of hope and optimism that Harris weaves into the lives of those who deal with the inevitable adversities of the sea. Coastliners, Joanne Harris, Harper Collins Publisher, Inc., New York, New York, 2002.

Pat Williams, former resident of Big Spring and a former educator, is a contribution columnist for The Herald.

Read us online:
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Church news

First United Methodist Church

The Rev. Dr. Dave Ring will present a monologue titled "John's Story" Sunday. Scripture comes from Mark 1:1-8.

Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m., and worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Single's Fun Night is held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, in Garret Hall. Everyone is invited for snacks and games.

Singles Sunday school has changed the name to the Open Door Class and anyone is welcome. Church offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, for President's Day. Offices will reopen Tuesday morning. Senior Adult Ministry will host a trip to Midland Community Theater on Feb. 22 to see "Crazy for You." Contact the church office for reservations.

Registration forms for the "All in the Family," the Leap Day Talent Show are available in the church office. Talent may include music, drama, dance, comedy, etc. Spiritual is preferred but clean secular is permitted. Deadline to register is Feb. 22.

The show will be held Sunday evening, Feb. 29. For more information, contact JoAnn Knox, Murray Murphy or the church office.

Youth are still selling land shares as a fund raiser for the annual mission trip to Juarez, Mexico.

The money goes to help buy materials needed for the house, food and gas. The trip is planned for spring break in March. First United Methodist Church is located at 400 Scurry.

For more information call the church office at 267-6394.

First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Matthew Miles will speak Sunday on Luke 6:17-26. Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. and Take Ten is held at 10:35 a.m. Worship is held at 11 a.m. Opportunities for the week include

Encouragers Group and Session meeting on Monday at 6:30 p.m. The men's breakfast is Wednesday at 7 a.m. and choir practice is at 6:30 p.m. Plans are being made for a night at the movies to be held on Feb. 22. Time will be announced.

Remember, everyone is welcome at First Presbyterian Church located on Runnels between Seventh and Eighth.

First Assembly of God

Pastor R. T. Havener's special sermon Sunday begins at 10:45 a.m. with "Is Marriage On The Way Out?" Pastor Havener deals with the sanctity of marriage. In the service at 6 p.m. Pastor Havener's message will be "Old Time Religion" taken from Galatians 1:6-12. The congregation invites all to the church at Fourth and Lancaster.

First Baptist Church

All are invited to First Baptist Church this Sunday for worship services. Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m. with classes for every age. Worship service begins at 10:50 a.m.

The Rev. Dennis Teeters, will continue his series of sermons on "The Life God Blesses," with this week's topic, "Favors Freedom."

Sunday Night Live begins at 4:30 p.m., followed by evening worship at 6 p.m.

Beth Moore Bible study will be held at 9:30 a.m. Monday. The study is the series, "Believing God." Call 267-8223 for more information.

Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church

Worship at Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church, 201 East 24th St., begins at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. each Sunday.

Bible study is held at 7 p.m. each Wednesday. Elder David Machiavello, pastor, will speak at each of these services. Anyone wanting more information may call the pastor at 267-6543 or 267-7559.

Mount Bethel Baptist Church

"By God's Design, Connected at the Heart," is the theme of the marriage ministry at the first annual conference to be held at Mount Bethel Baptist Church at 7 p.m. Feb. 20, at the 10 a.m. session, Feb. 21, and the 2 p.m. session Feb. 21.

All are invited to attend the conference and church services.

The church's pastor is Michael B. Willard.

Mount Bethel is located at 630 Sgt. Paredes Street in Big Spring. For more information call 263-8644.

Texas A&M Club names new president; plans scholarships

At the 2003 Christmas party held at Mike and Jeanne Niklasch's house, a changing of the guard took place. Dr. Tom Dawson, was voted in as the new club president.

After a few hours into the party, Dr. Dawson made a substantial vow to increase average meeting attendance by 50 percent.

To that end, all Aggies and friends are called upon to meet the new club president at a casual gathering to be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28 at 4005 Ponderosa on Driver Road.

Hors d'oeuvre's will be served and a short business meeting will follow.

The attending business will be concerning the four \$1,000 scholarships endowed by Sidney Clark, Don Knight, Mike and Jeanne Niklasch, and Mike Niklasch. The endowment decision committee will be confirmed at that time.

All interested high school seniors that reside in Howard County and have been accepted to Texas A&M may apply for these scholarships.

Applications can be obtained at Big Spring High, Cahoma High, and Forsan high schools.

Applications are also available at A&M Composites, 1409 E. Hwy 350 Big Spring or by calling the club President at 264-7022.

Deadline for turning in the completed application is April 23, 2004. They can be mailed to P.O. Box 3281 or 1905 Todd Rd. Big Spring 79720.

Serving America

Navy Seaman Recruit Johathan L. Bell

Navy Seaman Recruit Johathan L. Bell, son of David and Donna Bell of Colorado City recently graduated from Operations Specialist School. Bell is a graduate of Colorado High School.

Navy Seaman Recruit Borden C. Williamson

Navy Seaman Recruit Borden C. Williamson, son of Billy R. and Tina G. Williamson of Colorado City, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Williamson is a 2033 graduate of Colorado High School.

Who's who

Amanda Miller
Amanda Miller of Big Spring has been named to the President's List at Schreiner University in Kerrville. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duaine Box.

Miss Miller was named to the roster of high achieving students for the fall 2003 term.

To qualify for the President's List full-time students must have a passing grade in all classes, must earn at least a 3.7 grade point average and have at least 12 hours credit for the term.

Continued from Page 5A

"We are a praying family," she said. "It's rougher at times than other times. The boys are devastated, but keep a good spirit about them."

"We will get through this," said Mr. Hall. "Our faith is very strong," Mrs. Hall added. "We have a lot to be thankful for, and a belief that everything will work out for us."

The Halls have a program organized through a local bank to receive contributions toward the needed \$200,000 liver transplant costs.

Those wishing to help the Hall family can e-mail them at gjhall101@hotmail.com Anyone wishing to help The Halls accumulate Mrs. Hall's liver transplant funds can make a donation to through a Lamesa bank: The State National Bank, Lamesa branch, located at 801 North 4th Street in Lamesa 79331.

Attel

By LYNDEL MC
Staff Writer

The Big Independent District will than it wa from a \$9 million with Au the purchas dance credits

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"The gift ISD will not but it's still Waggoner sai The transa

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Current would be k would remain said.

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Attendance credits allotment to be less than anticipated

By **LYNDEL MOODY**

Staff Writer

The Big Spring Independent School District will earn less than it was expecting from a \$9 million transaction with Austin ISD for the purchase of attendance credits.

Business Manager Sandra Waggoner told BSISD trustees Thursday night during their meeting that the expected gain from the transaction will be around \$213,900, down from the \$300,000 projected earlier, because of a decline in property values.

"The gift from Austin ISD will not quite as big, but it's still a good deal," Waggoner said.

The transaction, which

is expected to take place on Tuesday, is part of the state school funding formula to encourage rich school districts to share their wealth with poorer school districts.

Controversy about this particular funding method prompted state legislators to sunset the current funding formula in the last session and search for an alternative.

Waggoner said after researching various avenues, the district will invest the money in certificates of deposit at the district's depository, Western National Bank.

In other business, trustees approved a change in the local policy about teacher evaluations that reflects state changes.

Administrators now have the option to evaluate contact teachers with five years of experience in the district who meet certain criteria every three years instead of annually.

The move by the state was intended to help cut down unnecessary paperwork.

"This is a good thing, and I know our principals and teachers who have been working here for five years or more appreciate this," said Superintendent Michael Downes.

In other business, trustees approved:

- A two-year contract with the Big Spring accounting firm Green and Filigam to perform audit services for the dis-

trict.

- An adjunct faculty agreement with Texas Cooperative Extension Service if the prospective adjunct faculty members meet certain criteria. Designating Extension Agents Michael Brooks and Tommy Yater to serve as adjunct faculty members will allow students who participate in 4-H activities to have excused absences when those activities fall within school hours.

- The list of contracts for administrators, direc-

tors and coordinators presented to the board.

- The 2004-2005 school year calendar.

- An \$11,115 budget amendment connected with repairs to the Big Spring Junior High School building.

- A resolution to deed properties to Howard County.

Trustees also took a few minutes to recognize counselors Keith Bagnall, Don Cook, Denise Gandy, Pam Walker, Mary Lou Salazar, Cheryl Budd, Leasa Lowery and Tracye

Spencer as part of National School Counselors week, which was Feb. 2-6.

High school football players Jeremy Cerda, Jordan Cobb, Anthony Fuentes and Erin Partee were recognized by trustees for being named to the District 4-A Academic All-State Football Team.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

Churchwell, Clark earn trip to state cross-examination meet

Special to the HERALD

Logan Churchwell and James Clark led three Big Spring High School debate teams by placing second in the District 4-4A Cross-Examination Debate Tournament, held Wednesday.

With the placing, Churchwell and Clark qualify for the University Interscholastic League Cross-Examination State Tournament on March 18-20.

"Although I wish we

could have taken first place away from Andrews, I am proud of our teams accomplishments," said Jennifer Adams, Big Spring High School speech and debate coach. "We had three of the four teams in the semi-finals, which is a huge accomplishment."

Following Churchwell and Clark were senior Camilla Painter and junior Corey Green, placing third and qualifying for state as the alternate team. In fourth place

were juniors Connor Phillips and Tapley Holgin.

"One great thing is that of the six students competing, five are juniors," Adams said. "We have a lot to look forward to, not only at state UIL, but next year as well."

With the placings, Big Spring High School also has a lead on Andrews going into the District 4-4A Literary Academic Tournament, which will be held in Andrews on March 29.

CORRIDOR

Continued from Page 1A

state's population is growing at a rapid rate — much too rapid for its transportation system to keep up. From 1990 to 2000, the state's population grew 23 percent. Vehicle miles traveled increased 41 percent. Yet highway lane capacity increased just 3 percent.

"The current pay-as-you-go funding is meeting just one-third of our needs," Lenz told the group. "There is no way it can stand up to our population growth and time of construction."

What is being proposed for the yet-to-be Trans-Texas Corridor is that it be funded through tolls, bonds and other means. Construction would be by private contractors.

As explained by Lenz, this super transportation route would connect with existing highways, but would not be a part of the current highway system.

"It would be designed to avoid building on existing roads so as not to interfere with current traffic, but it would connect with existing roads. It would go around urban areas, not through them," Lenz explained.

Current highways would be kept up and would remain toll-free, he said.

"People who choose not to travel on them would continue to be able to access areas they wanted with the conventional highway system," Lenz assured.

Obviously, the corridor, or corridors — there could be multiple ones, and almost certainly both north-south and east-west routes at some point — is not something that will be built soon.

"This is something for our children and grandchildren. Exactly where are we going to go yet? We don't know. That's why we are here," said Lenz.

Those at the meeting were given a map and a questionnaire to fill out. They were encouraged to draw three routes connecting the regions and

cities they think should be included in the corridor. The information included a sheet for comment.

Anyone who would like to make comment on the Trans-Texas Corridor is invited to do so in writing to Randall Dillard, Director, TxDOT Public Information Office, 125 E. 11th St., Austin 78701. Comments may also be sent by e-mail to corridor@dot.state.tx.us

Bill McClellan may be contacted at 263-7331, ext. 235, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net



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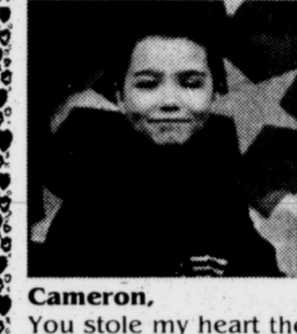
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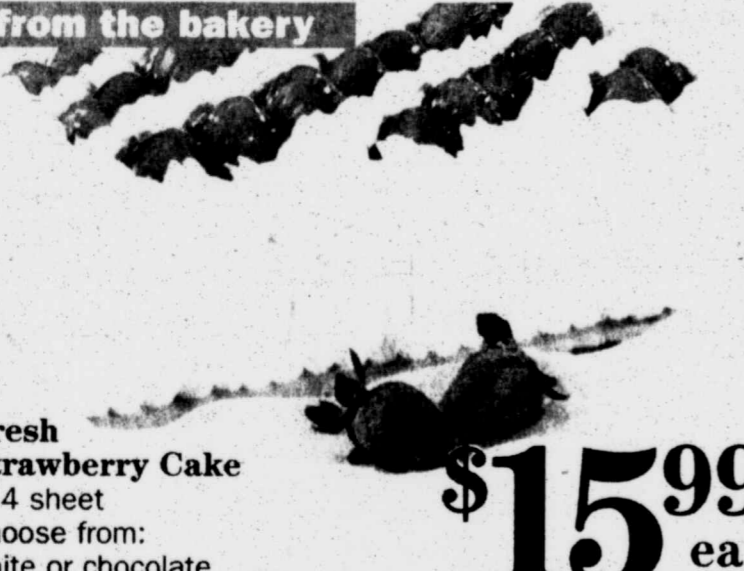


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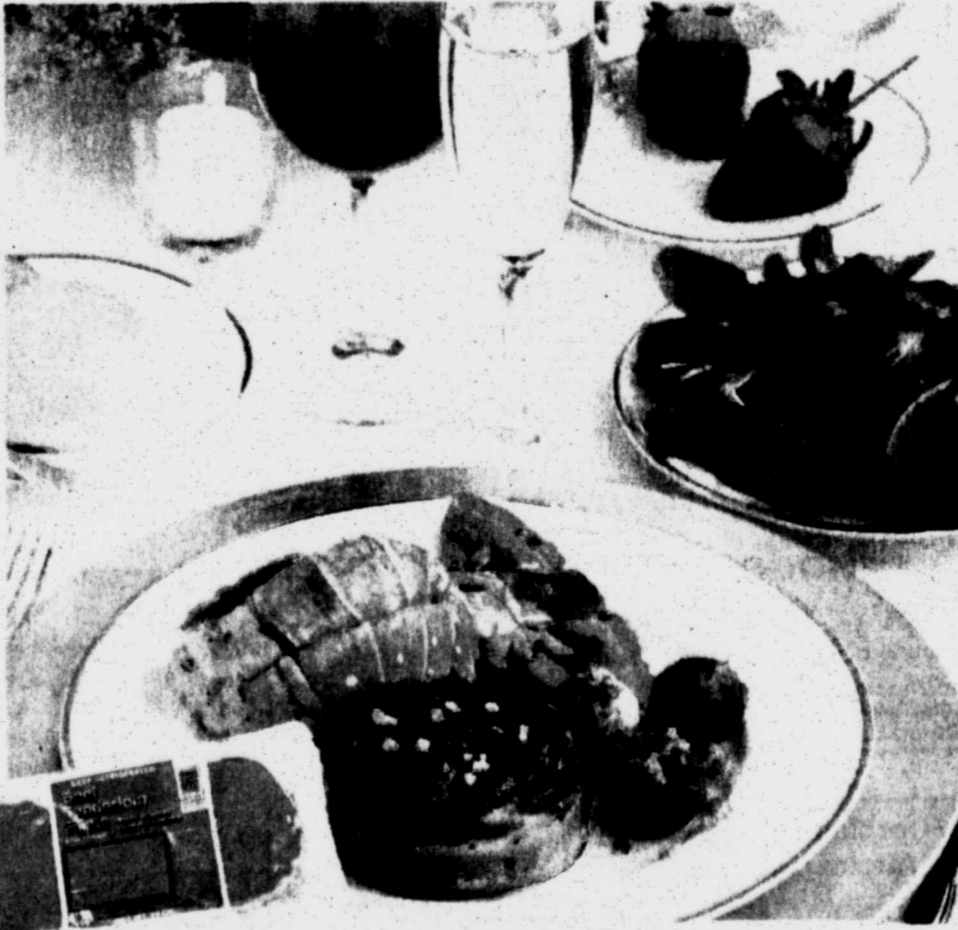
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'Doro

By TOMMY WEL
Sports Editor

The Dorothy (will be the plac next few days if playoff basket Howard College is slated to ho three postseaso a handful of loc the next four da

The playoff a way today wher Cats and Bordo Coyotes square

Coahc ranke

No. 1 i Class

By TOMMY WEL
Sports Editor

The Bulldogettes ar high expectatio comes to soft much so, bein No. 1 in the s such a surprise.

The Bull despite gradua seniors from la state runneru topped the Tex Coaches' Assc Class 2A prese which was Wednesday. The edged out Prosp top spot.

"I don't know should be No now," said Coah coach Robby D "We lost five starters from la team so we ha rebuilding to de the same time, ers we have con are very good s we're definitely four.

"We just have and play like w ble," he said.

Prosper, a Coahoma boun fall en route to r fifth state tou appearance, Redwater and rounded out the spots in the poll

Woden, pe Coahoma riva Natalia, Jarru defending Class champion Weim out the bottom f rankings. Weim ed Coahoma by a gin in last seas title game in Au

One team tha garner any p interest was Big The Lady Steers returning all c from a regional d did not crack t 4A top 10.

Crowley heads season carrying No. 1 billing. Dumas, El Car Dickason make top five in the 4

JV Steers take 37-35 over And

By TOMMY WEL
Sports Editor

Justin Green a Long both pu eight points Tue helped the Big Steers junior var ketball squad cl 35 win over the Mustangs.

With the vict Spring improved for the season a in District 5-4A

The Steers wi their final road ance tonight wh travel to San A face Lake View.

'Dorothy' to host trio of hoops playoff games

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be the place to be over the next few days if you want to see playoff basketball action. The Howard College athletic facility is slated to host no less than three postseason games featuring a handful of local teams within the next four days.

The playoff action gets underway today when the Grady Lady Cats and Borden County Lady Coyotes square off in a District 7-

A "play-in" bout. Grady and Borden County finished in a tie for first place during the regular season and will meet to decide the No. 1 and No. 2 playoff seeds at 6:30 p.m.

Grady had blossomed into one of the top girls' teams in the area under first-year head coach Lin Fink. The Lady Cats posted a 22-6 record this season, including a 9-1 mark in loop play.

Borden County enters the game at 24-6.

Grady and Borden County won't be the only West Texas

Dueling in the 'Dorothy'

The following is a look at the high school playoff schedule for the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Feb. 13
Grady Lady Cats vs Borden Co. Lady Coyotes at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 17
Garden City Lady Kats vs Roby Lady Lions, at 6 p.m.
Hamlin Lady Pied Pipers vs Iraan Bravettes at 8 p.m.

teams showcasing their talents in Big Spring. The Garden City Lady Kats and the Iraan Bravettes will begin their playoff quests Tuesday night with a bi-district doubleheader.

Garden City, the District 8-A champion, will open playoff action at 6 p.m. against the Roby

Lady Lions.

The Lady Kats, powered by the senior combination of Jessica Hoch, Leslie Jansa and Amanda Henson, will actually get their postseason efforts in motion Saturday when they face New Home in a 6 p.m. warm-up bout at Stanton.

Iraan, the District 8-A runner-up, will complete Tuesday's double-dose of Class A hoop action with a bi-district showdown against the Hamlin Lady Pied Pipers. The two teams are scheduled to take to the court at 8 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Rebels to host TPBL champions today

The Big Spring Rebels will get their third shot at the San Angelo Chaparrals today when they host the defending Texas Professional Basketball League champions in the Steer Gym.

The Rebels are scheduled to begin play against San Angelo at 8 p.m.

The Rebels, led by Van Jamison, opened their inaugural season with a stunning 119-114 win over San Angelo last month. Since that win, Big Spring has managed to play .500 ball en route to building a 3-3 record.

Little League sign-ups to begin Feb. 21

Registration for the 2004 Big Spring Little League season will be held Feb. 21-28 at the Big Spring Mall. Registration through the week will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. During the weekend, sign-ups will be from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Children ages 5 through 16 who live within the Big Spring Little League boundaries are eligible to enroll. Registration is required even if the child played previously.

At least one parent or legal guardian must be present and an original or state-certified copy of the child's birth certificate is required. For more information, call Chuck Rosenbaum at 263-1792.

BSCGA to hold membership drive

The Big Spring Chicano Golf Association will be holding its annual membership drive on Sunday at the Comanche Trail Golf Course.

For more information contact Billy Pineda after 8 p.m. at 264-7116.

BSCC to hold 4-man scramble on Feb. 28

The Big Spring Country Club will hold a 4-Person Scramble on Feb. 28-29 beginning with a 1 p.m. shotgun start on both days. Entry fee is \$75.

For more information call (432) 267-5354.

Coahoma Little League meeting set

The Coahoma Little League Baseball organization will begin preparations for the upcoming season when it conducts its 2004 league officer elections on Monday.

The election will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.

Registration of players for the upcoming season is scheduled to begin in Coahoma on Feb. 28 from noon to 4 p.m. at the junior high.

Bulldogettes to face alumni on Feb. 21

The Coahoma Bulldogettes will begin their 2004 season on Feb. 21 when they square off against the school's past on Alumni Day.

The game, which will feature former CHS stars such as Kenni Kay Buchanan, will start at 2 p.m.

Coahoma ranked No. 1 in Class 2A

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Coahoma Bulldogettes are used to high expectations when it comes to softball. So much so, being ranked No. 1 in the state isn't such a surprise.

The Bulldogettes, despite graduating five seniors from last year's state runnerup squad, topped the Texas Girls Coaches' Association's Class 2A preseason poll which was released Wednesday. The Bulldogs edged out Prosper for the top spot.

"I don't know that we should be No.1 right now," said Coahoma head coach Robby Dickenson. "We lost five quality starters from last year's team so we have some rebuilding to do. But, at the same time, the players we have coming back are very good so I think we're definitely in the top four."

"We just have to go out and play like we're capable," he said.

Prosper, a team Coahoma bounced last fall en route to making its fifth state tournament appearance, Rogers, Redwater and Aubrey rounded out the top five spots in the poll.

Woden, perennial Coahoma rival Eula, Natalia, Jarrell and defending Class 2A state champion Weimar round out the bottom five of the rankings. Weimar defeated Coahoma by a 6-0 margin in last season's state title game in Austin.

One team that didn't garner any preseason interest was Big Spring. The Lady Steers, despite returning all everyone from a regional qualifier, did not crack the Class 4A top 10.

Crowley heads into the season carrying the 4A No. 1 billing. Ennis, Dumas, El Campo and Dickenson make up the top five in the 4A poll.

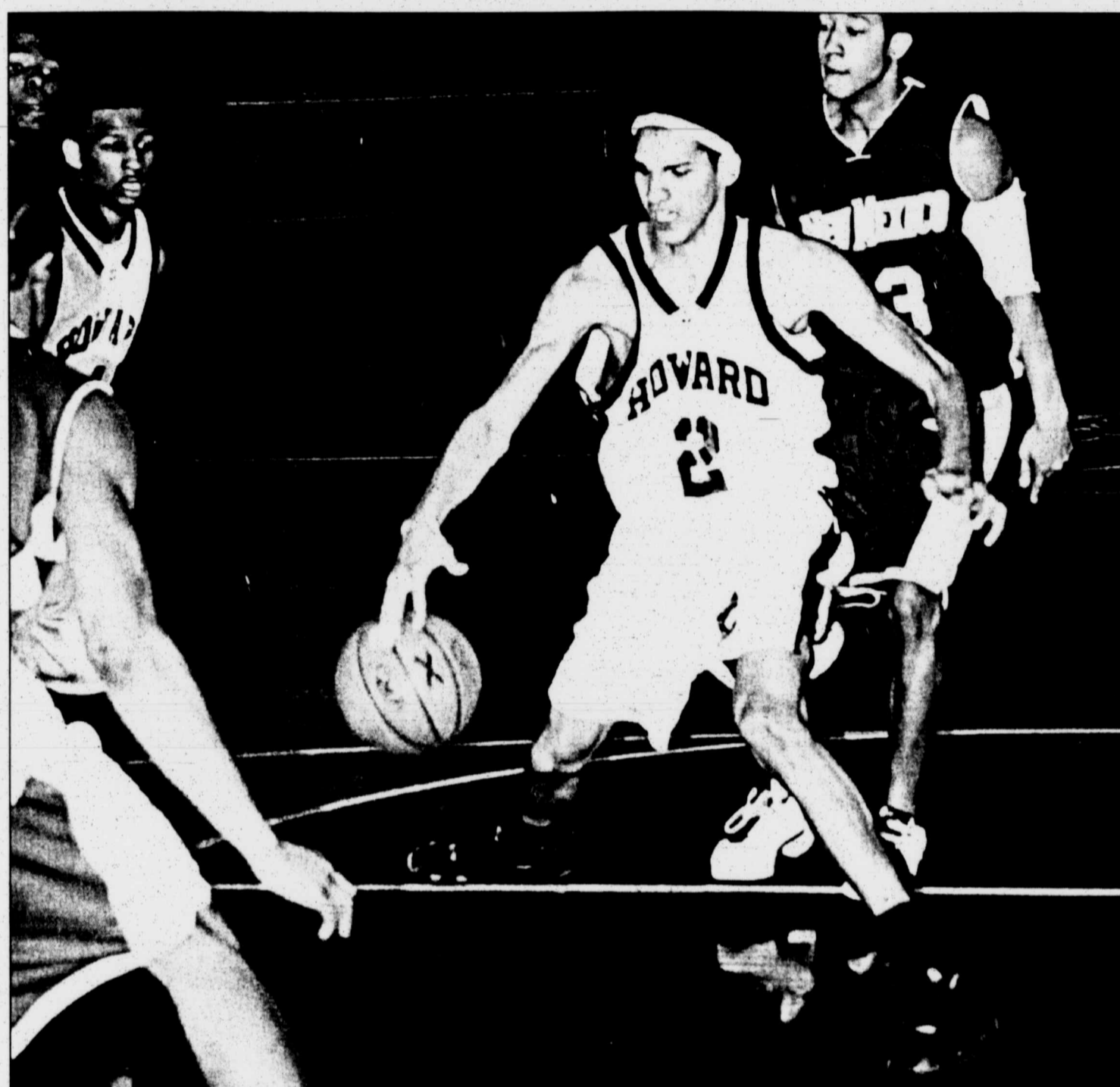
JV Steers take 37-35 win over Andrews

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Justin Green and Shay Long both pushed in eight points Tuesday and helped the Big Spring Steers junior varsity basketball squad claim a 37-35 win over the Andrews Mustangs.

With the victory, Big Spring improved to 11-12 for the season and to 3-5 in District 5-4A action.

The Steers will make their final road appearance tonight when they travel to San Angelo to face Lake View.



Howard College sophomore Steve Goff tries to dribble out of pressure during the second half of the Hawks' 67-57 loss to New Mexico Junior College Thursday. The Hawks are tied with Odessa for fourth in the WJCAC standings.

Hawks remain in playoff hunt despite loss to NMJC

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

There really must be love in Odessa. How else could one explain the Odessa Wranglers' gift to the Howard College Hawks Thursday night?

Only moments after the the Hawks dropped a stunning 67-57 decision to Western Junior College Athletic Conference celler-dwelling New Mexico Junior College, the Wranglers kept Howard in the middle of the race for the final WJCAC postseason berth by upsetting Frank Phillips.

With Odessa's win, the Hawks remained in a tie with the

Western Junior College Athletic Conference	CONF.		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Midland College	8	1	19	6
South Plains	8	2	19	7
Frank Phillips	6	4	15	11
Howard College	5	5	14	8
Odessa College	5	5	14	11
Clarendon College	2	7	9	17
New Mexico JC	3	7	15	10
New Mexico Military	1	7	11	11

Wranglers for fourth place in the conference standings. The two also moved to within a game of Frank Phillips for third with four games left in the regular season.

The Hawks, 14-8 overall, didn't have much reason to feel overjoyed when they walked off the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum court.

The Hawks struggled all night to find its offensive game. The Hawks shot less than 40 percent from the field and looked on as NMJC turned an early 7-0 deficit into a 13-point with just over three minutes remaining in a first half full of fireworks.

Freshman Johnny Jones got Howard off to a strong start. After a game-opening free throw by Steve Goff, Jones nailed back-to-back three-point shots that staked the Hawks to a 7-0 advantage with 17:41 to play.

New Mexico, now 9-18 overall and 3-7 in WJCAC play, answered the Hawks' run, however. The

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B



Howard College sophomore Erin Lohafer scrambles for a loose ball during the Lady Hawks' 91-47 loss to New Mexico Junior College.

Swearinggen, Lady Thunderbirds soar to 91-47 win over Lady Hawks

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

Miranda Swearinggen scored 20 points and Johnice James added 15 more Thursday night and helped carry the New Mexico Junior College Thunderbirds to a 91-47 victory over the Howard College Lady Hawks.

With the win, New Mexico improved to 22-4 for the season and to 7-2 overall. The Lady Hawks slipped to 10-16 and 2-7.

Swearinggen and the Lady Thunderbirds hit the ground running in the first half. The sophomore guard knocked down three three-point shots in the first 10 minutes and powered NMJC to a 25-13 lead.

The Lady Thunderbirds didn't

let up from there. James scored six points in the closing 10 minutes of the first half and then looked on as Swearinggen and Angel Sparks hit clutch treys to send the contest into the half with NMJC holding a 48-21 lead.

Howard College managed to get its offense untracked a bit in the early minutes of the second half. Alison Lopez and LaTasha Davis both loped in four points in the initial 10 minutes of the half and sparked the HC women to a 13-point run.

Leslee Boswell contributed four points in the final minutes of the contest to help close out a 26-point second-half effort by Howard.

Lopez finished as the Lady Hawks' top scorer with 13. Desire' Bostice tallied eight.

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Coahoma JV finishes year at 6-3

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

The Coahoma Bulldogs junior varsity basketball season closed out its 2003-2004 season Tuesday night on a high note. The Bulldogs netted their fifth straight win by pounding out a 37-24 victory over the Crane Golden Cranes.

With the win, Coahoma finished its season with a sparkling 6-3 record, including a 6-1 effort in District 3-2A action.

"This was a hard-working bunch of young men," said Coahoma JV coach Coby Dobbs.

Coahoma, which dropped three of its first four outings, hit stride in the fifth games of the year. The Bulldogs, behind Curt Lang and Steven Ewing, began their win streak with a dominating 42-26 rout of Crane.

From there, Coahoma reeled off wins over Colorado City, Forsan and Stanton before ousting the Cranes in the finale.

Lang led all CHS scorers this season, scoring 67 points. Jason Gionzales finished as the team's second-leading scorer with 64. Both Lang and Gionzales hit six "ree-pointers" this season.

Gonzales led the team in steals with 24 and assists with eight.

Ewing finished as the team's third-leading point-getter with 51 and a team-high 37 rebounds, while Matthew Earhart tallied 37 points and Blaine Kerby contributed 33 more.

Other members of the team included Anthony Gonzales, Kamrun Green, Ryan Walker, Dakota Teaff, Ryan Kenedy, Domingo Rodriguez, Garrett Walker and Justin Cline.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B
Thunderbirds' Jason Siggers followed Jones' heroics by pushing home treys on three consecutive trips down the court. In all, Howard and New Mexico managed to knock down 11 three-point attempts in the first 20 minutes of the game — accounting for 33 of the 71 points scored.

New Mexico kept the momentum from there. The Thunderbirds outscored Howard by a 26-15 margin over the ensuing 10 minutes and built a 35-22 cushion.

Goff and Jarrell Mayfield enabled the Hawks to cut NMJC's lead to one over the final five minutes. Goff sank his third trey of the half and Mayfield turned a steal into an easy layup to spearhead a 10-0 run.

Mayfield's basket pulled Howard to within 35-34 with 1:12 left.

New Mexico's Kareem Lloyd pushed home an offensive rebound with 43 seconds to give NMJC a 37-34 cushion at the half.

The Hawks managed to stay close in the second half. Joe Powell and Goff hit on four straight free throw attempts with less than five minutes to play to cut the NMJC lead to 57-52.

Karim Telfer rallied New Mexico back. With 3:26 left, he scored five straight points and started a 10-0 run that cemented the outcome.

Telfer, Siggers and Frederick Campbell scored 16 points. Goff led all HC scorers with 12. Steve Story added 10, while Jones netted nine.

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Hebrews 11:1

Truth & Documentation

Courthouse Records On **Kirk Edwards** Document
A History of Lawsuits Including Harassing Local Farmers,
Contaminating Farm Land and Water, and Deceptive Trade Practices

Courthouse Records	Case Description	Case Outcome
<p>Case #5311 Martin County</p> <p><i>"... lawsuit had accomplished its intended result of intimidating the citizens of Martin County."</i></p> <p><small>Court Order mandating sanctions against Edwards' company</small></p>	<p>Edwards, as CEO & President of OEI, files frivolous lawsuit against 6 Martin County farmers to harass and intimidate the whole community.</p>	<p>Edwards sanctioned for filing a frivolous lawsuit to harass & intimidate. Judge removes sanctions to let Edwards drop case and pay all 6 farmers' attorney fees.</p>
<p>Case #B-89,459 Ector County</p> <p><small>"The misrepresentations ... by Edwards ... were false and fraudulent. These representations were known ... to be false when made and were made with the intent to deceive ..."</small></p> <p><small>Court Petition against Edwards and his company</small></p>	<p>Edwards is sued, individually & in his corporate capacities, under Deceptive Trade Practices Act for lying & cheating when he sold worthless oilfield pipe & equipment.</p>	<p>After some legal maneuvering, Edwards paid just enough to the damaged buyer to prevent the lawsuit from going to trial.</p>
<p>Case #5170 Martin County</p> 	<p>Landowners had to sue because Edwards' company wouldn't pay for contaminating farm land and underground water.</p> <p><i>"... negligently allowed oilfield brine ... and other petroleum contaminants to contaminate [the] land and ... underground water supply."</i></p> <p><small>Court Petition against Edwards' company</small></p>	<p>Case remains open...and farm land/water is still contaminated.</p>
<p>Case #5105 Martin County</p> <p><i>"[Edwards'] company ... you give them an inch and they will take more than a mile, they'll take two miles after that ... we need to watch them like a hawk ..."</i></p> <p><small>Martin County cotton farmer addressing the Martin County Commissioners Court</small></p>	<p>Landowners had to sue because Edwards' oil company wouldn't stop trespassing on their farm land.</p>	
<p>Case #5132 Martin County</p>	<p>Supplier had to sue to get paid for oilfield pipe Edwards' company used to drill a well.</p>	<p>Summary Judgement for almost \$60,000 against Edwards' company</p>

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
Friday the 13th doesn't have to be a bad-luck day, but with the moon in



Joyce Jillson

outrageous Sagittarius, the occasional freaky occurrence will at least make things interesting. Tonight's vibes are friendly, and if you don't get out and do some dancing, you'll at least burn up the phone lines with stories and laughter.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Concentrate on goals you can quantify, not expectations you have no control over. A sweetheart will wait patiently for your love. Show gratitude to the one who makes life easier. Tonight, blow off steam.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not hard to imagine what you might do to bring your heart's desire to you. Something new and helpful comes to the foreground. Make a list, and start attacking it in the most direct way. You're a social butterfly tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Follow your curiosity — it leads you to a lucrative opportunity. The better informed you are, the better you'll do at that upcoming meeting or social occasion. Research. Ask friends, and go on the Internet. A Leo gives you a wink.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). At work, seek the assignments that will add feathers to your cap, even if you have to compete with friends to get them. A new beginning is possible with an old love. Your physical well-being improved by outdoor fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Business requires great follow-through — the evening may find you still hard at work. Reconsider something you rejected in the past. Answers that eluded you before will come late in the day, along with your new perspective.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). On this somewhat tense day, making environmental changes, even small ones, means a world of difference in the outcome. Stretch, breathe, and surround yourself with calm people.

Circulate tonight for extra luck.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Pocketbook considerations come into play; you are feeling so generous that you are tempted give more than you can afford. Resist, or be forever in a debt cycle! Trips that were delayed will finally happen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Trivial matters disappear from your consciousness. You have as good a chance as any (if not better!) to slip into an envied position. Money requires a tight hold, as people try to talk you into giving too much away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This is the clean slate you've been waiting for, and energy is renewed with forgiveness. A creative friend is your key to finding romance. Hang out more with this person. Family members need to know you're on their side.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Enthusiastic sales pitches get the interest going. Don't be stubborn with critics. It's more important to be flexible than to be right. You're exceptionally lucky in artistic endeavors and any matters connected with children.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Warm people up with more meaningful questions than normally would come to mind. Impress by dressing your best. Correspondence and communication are the strong points now; keep in touch!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A creative channel in you is opening. Exciting, outrageous plans are put into action. Even if it's only a small step in the direction of living your most outrageous vision for yourself, don't go to bed without taking it.

WEEKEND LOVE REPORT: Valentine's Day is less flowery this year and more about honoring the ones who are there for you on a regular basis. **ARIES:** You open your love sights past the obvious object of your affection.

TAURUS: Time heals wounds and makes you more aware of what you want in love. **GEMINI:** Someone near is afraid of being hurt. Show your sensitivity and loyalty. **CANCER:** Philosophers have said there is no love, only proof of love — and you might even agree this weekend. **LEO:** Impressing romantic prospects is your specialty tonight. **VIRGO:** Special efforts made by loved ones should be acknowledged with as big a reaction as you can muster. **LIBRA:** The single most telling factor of your life's outcomes is with whom you choose to align yourself. **SCORPIO:** Being in love has a way of stimulating your overall creativity. **SAGITTARIUS:** You're boosted by secure bonds of mutual respect as well as by shared goals. **CAPRICORN:** A friendship could suddenly combust into long-term romance. **AQUARIUS:** The social groove is something you set and others follow. Romantic prospects admire your poise. **PISCES:** A relationship that waffles will hit a tipping point today.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Gemini and Sagittarius are both social creatures who enjoy a fast pace. They're an easy match, and they'll love the fact that they don't have to spend a lot of energy getting into a groove. That leaves more resources available to conquer the world! Or at least explore it. It's always a lot of fun with these two around — unpredictable conversation and daring action are always part of the mix.

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

Dear Annie: I have two beautiful, well-behaved teenagers. You can imagine my dismay when I discovered my younger son was making fun of an older member of our church. This older man has severe hearing loss. My son and his friend were mouthing words without producing a sound, making the partially deaf person believe he couldn't hear anything.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

When I questioned my son about his actions, he said his elementary school principal had encouraged students to play this same trick on a teacher who was battling a hearing problem. I asked my son how the teacher reacted to this teasing, and he said that he once saw her cry the entire day.

I think my son should write an apology to this teacher (who finally gave up and took an early retirement). My husband says the deed is done and it would only remind her of unpleasant days. Besides, he insists, it was not our son's fault. He was doing only what the principal wanted. What do you say? — Denison, Iowa, Mom

Dear Denison: Shame on that principal for making fun of a teacher and encouraging the students to do the same. Nevertheless, your son is old enough to realize his actions were hurtful and cruel.

A letter of apology to the teacher would be a kindness, but forcing him to write it becomes a punishment, not an expression of remorse. Instead, ask your son to put himself in the teacher's place and understand how much pain he caused her. She has not forgotten it. Letting her know he is

sorry and asking for forgiveness can be healing. A verbal apology to the church member also is in order, and the sooner the better. Otherwise, the incident will always prey on his conscience. As it should.

Dear Annie: I have a friend who has become obnoxious lately. "Thelma" is constantly one-upping everyone. No matter what happens to you, something worse has happened to her. Thelma and I are active in the same church group, and all of us talk about our personal lives. But as soon as someone makes a comment, Thelma starts up. For example, if someone says she is tired, Thelma will reply, "You don't know what tired is!" Thelma's life is no worse than anyone else's. She's in her mid-40s, married with three kids, and her parents recently moved back to town after 20 years.

It has reached the point where people are protesting. Should we confront Thelma? I'm afraid if something isn't done soon, one of our group members will flip out and tell Thelma to shut up. Any suggestions? — Concerned in Pennsylvania

FRIDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMD (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	USA (30)	TMC (250)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney		Sports	New York	
6	PM News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Amar Otra Vez	King of the Hill Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Pasion de Gavilanes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Seinfeld (CC) Friends (CC)	Nueva Vida John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Monster House		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Movie: Waiting to Exhale	That's-Raven Lizzie McGuire	2003 World Series of Poker	Basketball NBA All-Star	Law & Order: Special Victims	(CC)
7	PM George Lopez Marned-Kelley	George Lopez Marned-Kelley	Veio de Nova	Celeb. Spell	Joan of Arcadia (CC)	Amor Descarado	DateLine NBC (CC)	Movie: Sleepless in Seattle (CC)	Update/Israel Richman	Wash. Week Build-Off 2	Great Biker Build-Off 2	Movie: Cop Land	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)		Movie: Casper Meets Wendy	2003 World Series of Poker	Celebrity Game (CC)	The Perfect Husband: The	Movie: Windtalkers
8	PM Hope & Faith Life-Bonne	Hope & Faith Life-Bonne	Te Amare en Silencio	When Animals	JAG (CC)	El Alma Herida		Light of the Southwest		Now With Bill Moyers (CC)	American Chopper		NBA Basketball		Kim Possible	Boxing: Friday Night Fights	Ahmad Rashad	Laci Peterson Story	(CC)
9	PM News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Mujeres Apasonadas	Third Watch (CC)	15 Movie: As Good as It Gets (CC)	The Hour of Healing	(DVS)	Great Biker Build-Off 2		Inside the NBA Music Special	Nightly News	Kim Possible Proud Family	Vikona (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	The Perfect Husband: The	(CC)
10	PM Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC)	Los Melches	Becker (CC)	Spin City	Late Late	Al Rolo Vivo	Show (CC) Late Night	Rev. J. Hansen Came Davis	Sign Off	American Chopper	Movie: The Air Up There (CC)	Midnight Love	Even Stevens Sister, Sister	Strongest Man	Outside-Lines Interruption	Laci Peterson Story	35 Movie: The House of the Spirits	
11	AM Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Live (CC) Paid Program	Angela	Blind Date	The Late Late Show (CC)	Mania Celeste Corte-Familia	Fraser (CC)	12 15 Movie: Flashdance	Update/Israel Decker-LaG.		American Hot Rod	Movie: Demon	Comcview		Lio & Stitch Recess (CC)	EXPN 2Day	SportsCenter (CC)	Monk (CC)	
12																			

DENNIS THE-MENACE



"Hi, Mr. Wilson. I can't stay very long. I'm supposed to be taking a bath."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"By June I'll have enough frequent-rider miles to get upgraded."

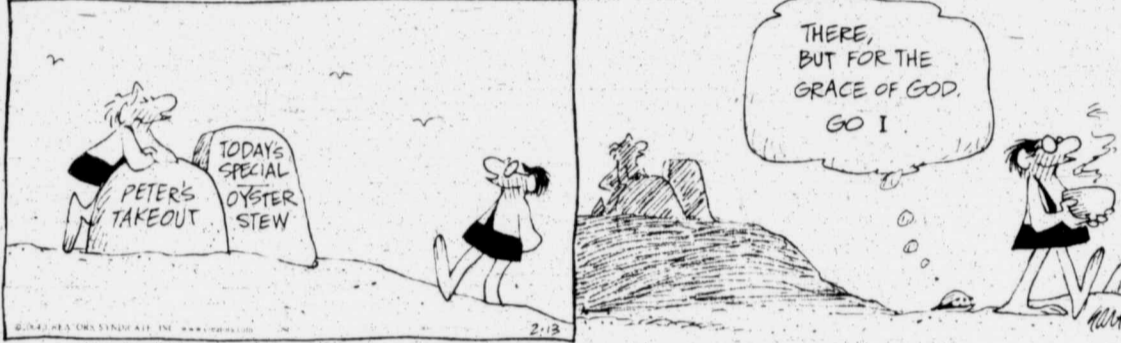
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HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 13, the 44th day of 2004. There are 322 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 13, 1914, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, known as ASCAP, was founded in New York.

On this date: In 1542, the fifth wife of England's King Henry VIII, Catherine Howard, was executed for adultery.

In 1795, the University of North Carolina became the first U.S. state university to admit students with the arrival of Hinton James, who was the only student on campus for two weeks.

In 1920, the League of Nations recognized the perpetual neutrality of Switzerland.

In 1935, a jury in Flemington, N.J., found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-death of the son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.)

In 1945, during World War II, the Soviets captured Budapest, Hungary, from the Germans.

In 1945, Allied planes began bombing the German city of Dresden.

In 1960, France exploded its first atomic bomb.

In 1980, opening ceremonies were held in Lake Placid, N.Y., for the 13th Winter Olympics.

In 1984, 20 years ago, Konstantin Chernenko was chosen to be general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, succeeding the late Yuri Andropov.

In 1988, the 15th winter Olympics opened in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Ten years ago: At the Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway, American Tommy Moe won the men's downhill, defeat-

ing local hero Kjetil Andre Aamodt by four-hundredths of a second.

Today's Birthdays: Former test pilot Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager is 81. Actress Kim Novak is 71. Actor George Segal is 70. Actor Bo Svenson is 63. Actress Carol Lynley is 62. Singer-musician Peter Dinklage (The Monkees) is 62. Actress Stockard Channing is 60. Talk show host Jerry Springer is 60. Singer Peter Gabriel is 54. Actor David Naughton is 53. Rock musician Peter Hook is 48. Actor Matt Salinger is 44. Singer Henry Rollins is 43. Actor Neal McDonough is 38.

Answer to previous puzzle

BRUT	PEDAL	BOOM
RANI	AVILA	AGRA
OBIE	RESOD	REED
BORDER	COLLIES	
INRE	FEET	
AUDEN	TORSO	
ADA	CORONA	NEIL
COMPETITIVE	EEDGE	
EMIR	SCENES	ONO
SEDAN	SECTS	
LOAD	EONS	
FRINGEBENEFIT		
NEON	ATONE	TEAL
ETRE	PENDS	ECHO
WAYS	ERNST	RELY

Newsday Crossword

MOUTHFUL by A.J. Santora
Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pawns
 - 6 It's W. of Eng.
 - 9 1986 Indy 500 winner
 - 14 Bud month
 - 15 Phrasal connector
 - 16 Gladden
 - 17 Talking incessantly
 - 20 Bother
 - 21 Frosh quarters
 - 22 Crofts' singing partner
 - 23 Menlo Park monogram
 - 24 Hit the speakeasy
 - 26 Put into place
 - 28 Sent an invite
 - 33 Most appetizing
 - 36 Carpet feature
 - 37 Su!tans' groups
 - 38 Shop without buying
 - 40 Breaking-in sound
 - 41 More guttural
 - 44 Garth Brooks' hometown
 - 46 Ella of The Web
 - 47 Be relevant to
 - 49 Partakes of
 - 52 Traffic jam
 - 55 Riser
 - 57 Do something
 - 58 Verbal goof
 - 61 Latin dance music
 - 62 Poet's "above"
 - 63 The way to go
- DOWN**
- 1 Nun's garb
 - 2 Norma, for one
 - 3 Rail bird
 - 4 Bag of tools
 - 5 Lost footing
 - 6 Thankless one
 - 7 21 Across sharers
 - 8 Sea bird
 - 9 Los Angeles suburb
 - 10 Seaweed
 - 11 Carry via truck
 - 12 Bank installations
 - 13 Renowned Brown
 - 18 The Octopus writer
 - 19 Wind dir.
 - 25 Banned insecticide
 - 26 Blocks
 - 27 Bit of resistance
 - 29 Locates
 - 30 Flightless bird
 - 31 Where starter
 - 32 Buck, for one
 - 33 The one there
 - 34 Luau spot
 - 35 Pitcher Hershiser
 - 38 Easter topper
 - 39 Canada politico Bob
 - 41 La-la lead-in
 - 42 Less mellifluous
 - 43 They're running amok
 - 45 Over there
 - 48 2003 Will Ferrell film
 - 49 With "The," Dutch city
 - 50 Dire
 - 51 Heavy metal
 - 52 Side dish, slangily
 - 53 Blue river
 - 54 Church area
 - 56 Fried-rice ingredient
 - 58 Concorde
 - 59 -in (wheel-alignment setting)
 - 60 Negative prefix

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15			16				
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58								59		60		
61								62		63		
64								65		66		