



**BIG
SPRING**

HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

MONDAY

March 1, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW
41°-43° 62°-63°

BRIEFLY

Pancake feed

The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring will be serving up hot, fluffy pancakes Friday for its annual fund-raiser.

The event will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Howard College cafeteria, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Tickets are \$5 per person.

Chili supper

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2013 will hold its seventh annual chili supper from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday. A plate with fixin's, dessert and a drink is \$5 per person. Carry outs will be available.

Gem show

The Howard County Prospectors Club's annual Gem and Mineral Show will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 6-7, at the Howard County Fairbarns.

55 Alive

The Spring City Senior Center and the American Association of Retired Persons have scheduled a driver safety Program course from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 11-12.

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

Those who attend both days will receive a certificate good for an automobile insurance discount. There is a \$10 fee for material. To enroll, go by the Senior Center or call the center at 267-1628.

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Find us online at:
www.bigspringherald.com

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.

Community Luncheon: Focusing on the past and future

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Where we've been and where we're going. That will be the focus Tuesday, as the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce tenders its Community Luncheon and "State of the City Address," to be presented by Mayor Russ McEwen.

The luncheon will be held Tuesday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum East Room. Chamber Assistant Executive Director Liz Adamson said 200 or more people are expected at the event, which will include a presentation from McEwen on the state of the city.

"Tickets are \$10 per person, and can be

"We want to look at where we've been as well as where we're going in the future."

Russ McEwen,
Big Spring mayor



picked up at the chamber office, located at 215 W. Third Street," Adamson said. "The luncheon will be catered by Great Western Dining, and everything is expected to get started at 11:45 a.m."

Adamson said tickets are expected to go

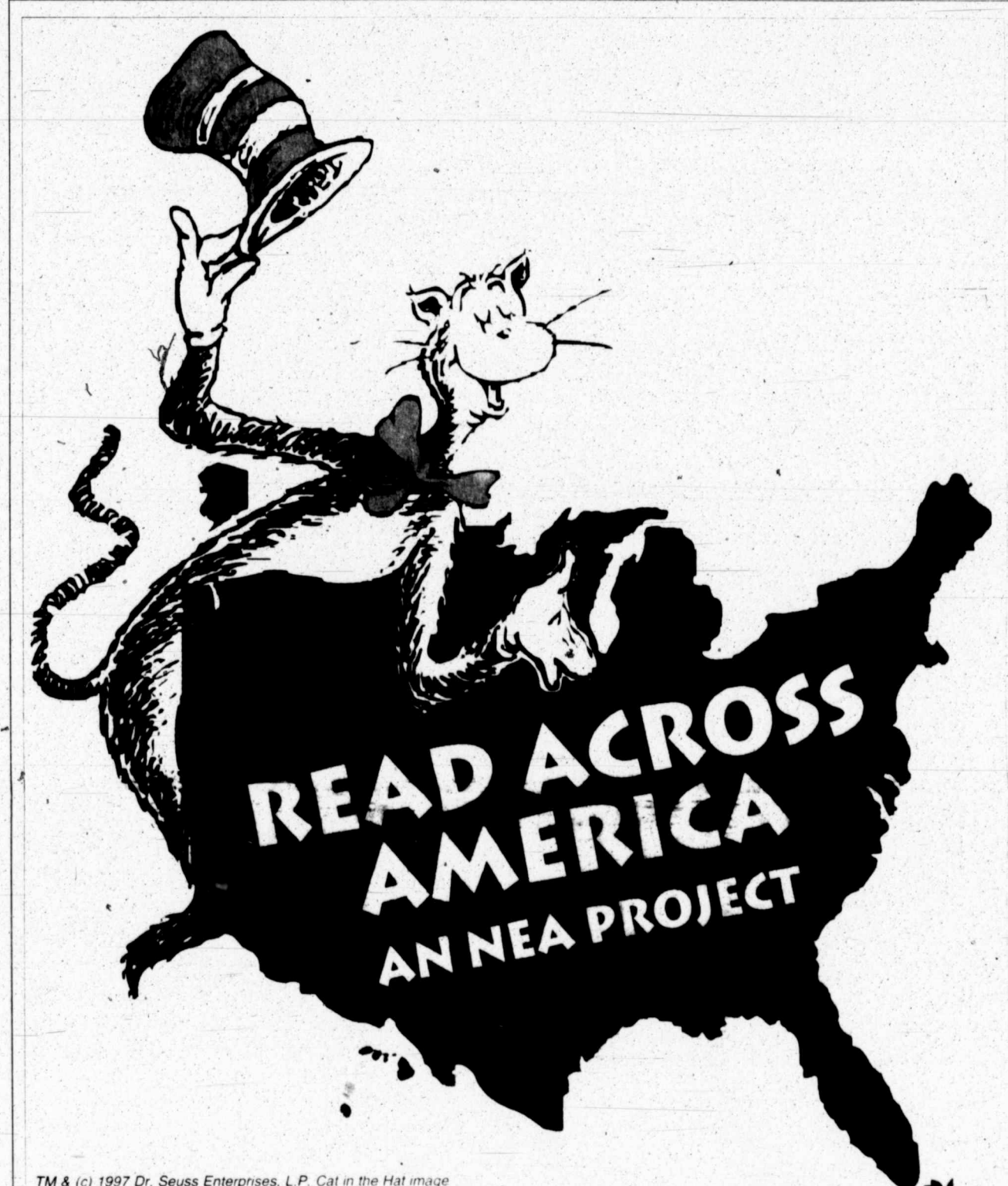
fast, so it's a good idea to get yours in advance.

"Tickets for the meal are limited, so if you would like to participate you need to make sure you get your tickets quickly," she said. "I think it's going to be a very interesting presentation, and well worth everyone's time."

McEwen said the address will offer a chance to look back on the past year, and the tribulations and victories it brought to the Spring City.

"We'll look at a number of things the city

See LUNCHEON, Page 3A



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Area children invited to day of celebration at the library

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Put on your red and white stove-top hat and head to the Howard County Library Tuesday to join Theodore and friends celebrate the 100th anniversary of the late children's author Dr. Seuss.

"We're having a Seussentennial, Seussabration to celebrate the day which is also a part of the annual Read Across America," said Howard County Librarian Karen McIntyre.

Five community volunteers along with Theodore, the library's rapsallion puppet, will bring several of Dr. Seuss' famous works to life at the

Children are invited to spend time with celebrity readers and Theodore, the library's rapsallion puppet beginning at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in the children's room at Howard County Library.

Karen McIntyre, children's librarian



Seussabration set for 4:30 p.m. in the children's room of the library.

Featured readers will be Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, cosmetologist Kathy Caudill, Big Spring farmer Rob Haney, KBST news reporter Lisa Brooks and Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker.

"Following the readings, the Friends of the Library have generously provide us with

birthday cake and punch for the celebration," McIntyre said.

The man behind Dr. Seuss, Ted Geisel, had a dramatic and lasting impact on children's literature, McIntyre said.

"He changed it totally," she said. "He brought in all this imagination."

The children's department

See CELEBRATION, Page 3A

Deadline nears to make plans for Washington trip

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The deadline to reserve a space on the Washington, D.C., trip for the 2005 Presidential inauguration celebration is quickly approaching for Howard County students and interested adults.

Those considering the four-day adventure must register and pay the non-refundable \$50 deposit by Wednesday to Big Spring High School teacher Mary Ellen Atkinson, trip organizer.

The estimated cost of the trip is

\$1,200 to \$1,300 for students and \$1,500 for adults which includes food, transportation and housing during the stay in the nation's capitol.

Atkinson encourages any Howard County student who is interested but unsure if he or she can afford the cost to go head and make the commitment now to save a place.

Several fund-raisers will be scheduled during the year to help students raise money, and the high school will be seeking alternative sources for funding,

Atkinson said.

The trip's lengthy itinerary includes tours of Arlington National Cemetery, the White House, the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, Capitol Hill, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institute and a night tour of Washington, D.C.

On Inaugural Day, the group will attend the oath of office ceremony, the president's inaugural address, the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue and then cap the day's activities by attending the student Inaugural Ball.

Lions preparing flapjacks tonight

HERALD Staff Report

The Coahoma Lion's Club will hold its annual Pancake Supper tonight in conjunction with the Coahoma Independent School District open house.

The fund-raiser will begin at 5 p.m. and continue to 7:30 p.m. at the elementary school cafeteria, 400 Ramsey Avenue.

Plates are \$3.50 each for 6-year-olds and older. Children under kindergarten age eat free.

The meal includes fresh pancakes, bacon, sausage and a drink. For tickets, call 270-8252 or 394-4000.

Students will stay in a hotel that provides security guards on the floor which will be locked down at night. Once locked down, students will not be able to leave the floor unless for a medical reason.

For more information about the trip, contact Atkinson by calling the high school at 264-3641.

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

Obituaries

Michael Scott Simpson

Michael Scott Simpson, 21, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 29, 2004, as a result of a car accident. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take note

□ **LIFETIME BIG SPRING** resident Mary Lancaster has been diagnosed with cancer, and is in need of several scans that are not covered by her health insurance. Lancaster's family is asking for donations to cover the cost of the scans, which range in the thousands of dollars. Donations can be made at Wood Forest National Bank, located in Wal-Mart, in the name of Mary Lancaster.

□ **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.

Support groups

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.

Weather

Today — Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Light winds.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Light winds becoming east 10 to 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

Tuesday night — Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday — Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Mostly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 40s.

Thursday — Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 60s.

Thursday night and Friday — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Highs in the lower 60s.

Friday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Saturday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. Saturday night — Mostly clear. Lows around 40.

Sunday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

Police blotter

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

• **CECILIO RODRIGUEZ**, 20, of Sterling City, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving under the influence by a minor.

• **NANCY (FIELDS) VANLEUVAN**, 56, of 309 Washington Boulevard, was arrested Sunday on two capias warrants for local traffic violations.

• **RYAN DOUGLAS PETERSON**, 33, of 811 W. Fifth Street, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 900 block of Willia.
- in the 1700 block of FM 700.

• **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
- in the 1100 block of 15th Street.
- in the 500 block of Westover Road.

• **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 1100 block of 15th Street.

• **VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER** was reported in the 1100 block of 15th Street.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:
- in the 1100 block of Lloyd.
- in the 3700 block of LaJunta.

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported:
- in the 2200 block of Cecilia.
- in the 1200 block of Lloyd.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported:
- in the 1000 block of 20th Street.
- in the 1700 block of Donley.

Sheriff's report

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

• **SHANE ALLEN KNOWLTON**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of bailman off of bond-burglary of a vehicle, bailman off of bond-possession of marijuana, possession of marijuana-2 ounces or less and possession of a controlled substance.

• **JUAN JUAREZ JR.**, 36, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated.

• **LESTER CLAUDE DUFFER**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• **SPENCER LEE COKER**, 33, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated and open container.

• **BILLY SHAWN KENNEDY**, 25, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of evading arrest or detention, possession of marijuana-2 ounces or less in a drug-free zone, injury of a child/elderly/disabled with intent to cause bodily injury and burglary of a habitation with intent to commit another felony.

• **JESSE LENDELL VANDERBILT**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of theft of a firearm, possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana-more than 2 ounces, less than 4 ounces and possession of a drug paraphernalia.

• **DENNIS EDWARD AUSBIE**, 43, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of theft of a firearm, possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana-more than 2 ounces, less than 4 ounces.

• **DAVID RIOS**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of violation of a protective order with two or more previous convictions and resisting arrest, search or transport.

• **ROCKY TORRES**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **DOUGLAS WAYNE PAUL JR.**, 21, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of aggravated assault with intent to cause bodily injury and theft.

• **BREAK-IN** was reported in the area of Meadowbrook Road.

• **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of W. 11th Street.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

Big Spring Chapter and Council RAM meets at 7:30 a.m. in the Masonic Building, 221 1/2 Main.

Howard County ARC meets at 806 East third in the Bingo hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.

District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.

Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at the SMMC for sit and be fit aerobics. People age 50 and older are invited to participate. Call 268-4721 for more information.

The public is invited to the evenings Lions Club at 6:30 p.m. at La Posada.

The Coahoma Lion's Club will hold its annual Pancake Supper in conjunction with the Coahoma Independent School District open house. The fundraiser will begin at 5 p.m. and continue to 7:30 p.m. at the elementary school cafeteria, 400 Ramsey Avenue. Plates are \$3.50 each for 6-year-olds and older. Children under kindergarten age eat free. The meal includes fresh pancakes, bacon, sausage and a drink. For tickets, call 270-8252 or 394-4000.

TUESDAY

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

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

WEDNESDAY

Line dancing meets at 1 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center in Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628 for more information.

Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Big Spring Country Club.

Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. at Howard College Cactus Room.

Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at Howard College Cactus Room.

Senior Circle meets at 10 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for stretch and tone.

Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 703 West Third.

THURSDAY

Kiwanis Club meets at noon at Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479 for more information.

Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. at Herman's Restaurant.

Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. at Gale's.

Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

Arts, Craft and Quilting Club meets at 6 p.m. at Howard County Library, 500 South Main.

FRIDAY

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. Bring a lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 5-10-14-19-28. Bonus Ball: 21.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$5 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 26-6-7-35-27.
Number matching five of five: 0.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 0-5-1

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon: 7-8-8

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Reflecting A Proud Community

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Big Spring man killed in early Sunday automobile accident

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

A 21-year-old Big Spring man was killed early Sunday morning in a one-vehicle accident on FM 700. Michael Scott Simpson was declared dead at the scene of the crash after he apparently lost control of his 2000 Chevrolet around 4:50 a.m. Sunday,

according to Sgt. Roger Sweatt, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department.

"The car was eastbound in the 400 block of East FM 700 and was traveling at a high rate of speed when the driver lost control of the vehicle while traveling in the inside lane," Sweatt said. "The vehicle slide into the center turn-

ing lane. The vehicle continued skidding in a northeastern direction and skidded across two lanes of westbound traffic.

"The car hit a curve on a private lot on FM 700 and the impact caused the vehicle to begin to roll," Sweatt continued. "It continue to roll and struck a second curve on the same private lot. It came to

rest on its top."

Sweatt said alcohol was not suspected to be involved as a cause of the accident.

Funeral arrangements for Scott are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

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

Texas News Briefs

Traditional airlines join free travel promotions

DALLAS (AP) — Gary Steiger, an avid traveler and admitted cheapskate, has been scanning come-ons for free airline travel a long time and he can't believe his eyes.

Free air miles for opening a bank or brokerage account. Earn 10,000 miles to sign up with a long-distance phone company for six months. Gift cards that let homeowners earn miles on their mortgage payments.

"We're seeing more offers out there," said Steiger, a retired high school teacher in Ross, Calif., who tracks the offers for a frequent fliers Web site. "Airlines are realizing that selling miles to businesses who resell them to their customers is one of the few profit centers airlines have."

Traditional airlines dragged their heels — and lost billions in the last three years — as low-fare competitors such as Southwest, JetBlue and AirTran poached their customers with cheaper fares.

The old kids on the block are now fighting back. They cut labor costs to compete with the upstarts on some routes and are honing frequent-flier programs, which they view as a key advantage over their low-cost rivals.

Prayers of penitence offered for sexual abuse

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Rev. David Garcia, rector of San Fernando Cathedral, put aside his usual homily Sunday as his historic downtown church sought God's forgiveness and reconciliation for sins of sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church.

At the cathedral and parishes throughout the San Antonio Archdiocese, special prayers of penitence were offered on the first Sunday of Lent — two days after the release of a national study that tallied molestation claims against nearly 4,400 U.S. priests from 1950 to 2002.

"This past week, we had the report which outlined the terrible tragedy of sexual abuse of children in the church over the last 50 years by members of the clergy and others," Garcia told the 700 parishioners who attended a Mass conducted mostly in Spanish. "So, breaking from our traditional homily, we will be conducting our service of penitence and sorrow for sin."

Lent is a time of penance, asking forgiveness for sin and making a commitment to do better, Garcia said.

"So that was what it was all about, to publicly in front of everybody have the whole church together pray," he said.

Consumers wondering: What's safe?

DALLAS (AP) — Mad Cow disease. Fish tainted with mercury and PCBs. Contaminated green onions from Mexico. Bird flu in ducks and chickens. Is anything safe to eat these days?

Across the nation, many consumers have made adjustments to their grocery lists, opting for organically grown meats and vegetables following recent food-borne illness scares.

Most, however, expressed confidence in the safety of the country's food supply.

'Return of the King' sweeps Oscars with 11 wins, including best picture

By **DAVID GERMAIN**
AP Movie Writer

They slew beasts, toppled tyrants and destroyed a ring of ultimate evil, becoming lords of the Academy Awards for their troubles.

In an all-around predictable evening at the Oscars, the ragtag heroes of "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King" hoisted the fantasy genre to a new artistic high Sunday, earning a record-tying 11 awards, taking best picture and sweeping each of its categories.

Peter Jackson, who shepherded J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth saga to the screen, won the best director Oscar and shared the adapted-screenplay award with his two co-writers.

"I think the fact that we had goblins and trolls and wizards and everything else made it hard for people to take it seriously," Jackson said backstage. "I appreciate that the academy and voters tonight have seen through all that."

Tolkien's themes — "forgiveness, courage, faith, friendship" — are "themes that go straight to the heart," Jackson said.

All four acting front-runners won, each claiming their first Oscar. Sean Penn took the best-actor prize as a vengeful father in "Mystic River," and Charlize Theron won for best actress as serial killer Aileen Wuornos in "Monster."

Supporting-performance Oscars went to Tim Robbins as a man emotionally hamstrung by childhood trauma in "Mystic River" and Renee Zellweger as a hardy Confederate survivor in "Cold Mountain."

Theron joked that since everyone in New Zealand

where "Lord of the Rings" was shot — had been thanked, she had to thank everyone in her home country, South Africa.

"And my mom," said Theron, who gained 30 pounds for "Monster" and was unrecognizable behind dark contact lenses and unflattering make-up. "You have sacrificed so much for me to be able to live here and make my dreams come true, and there are no words to describe how much I love you. And I'm not going to cry."

Penn — who has been dismissive of awards in the past but graciously accepted after skipping the Oscars the three previous times he was nominated — was taken by surprise when the audience gave him a standing ovation.

"I did arguably feel I was there to debunk the notion that it was a popularity contest," Penn said backstage. "But they took that away from me in the room."

Sofia Coppola's Oscar victory for original screenplay for "Lost in Translation" made her family the second clan of three-generation Oscar winners, joining Walter, John and Anjelica Huston. Her father is five-time winner Francis Ford Coppola, who was an executive producer on "Lost in Translation," and her grandfather, Carmine Coppola, won for musical score on "The Godfather

Part II."

"I never thought my dad would be watching me get one," Coppola said. "So it's just a thrill."

Oscar voters saved the best for last on "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, showering the final installment with prizes after parts 1 and 2 won only technical or music awards. The sense from the time "The Fellowship of the Ring" hit theaters in 2001, followed by "The Two Towers" a year later, was that academy members would withhold their big accolades for the concluding chapter.

"There's a 7-year-old kid in me that used to make films in my parents' back garden, and I never dreamt I'd be here," Jackson, 42, said backstage alongside some of his "Lord of the Rings" collaborators.

"Return of the King" also won for song, musical score, visual effects, editing, makeup, art direc-

tion, costume design and sound mixing.

Composer Howard Shore took his second Oscar for writing "Lord of the Rings" music, having won two years ago on "Fellowship of the Ring."

"Into the West," the wistful tune of farewell from "Return of the King," won the best-song Oscar. The song was written by Fran Walsh, the film's co-screenwriter. Shore and Annie Lennox, who sings the tune.

Only a handful of fantasy films have been nominated for the top Oscar, but none of them had won until now.

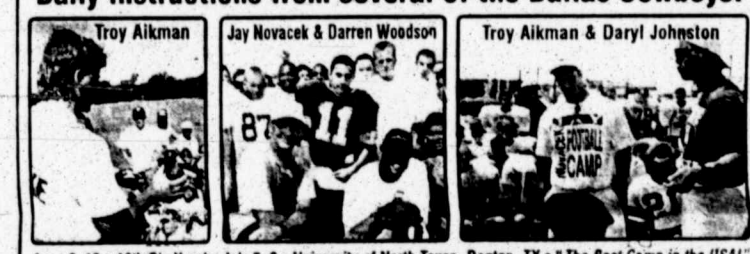
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"Remember...you deserve the best!"

MASONS

Continued from Page 1A

has a number of biographies on the life of Dr. Seuss, which provide interesting facts and stories about one of America's greatest children's authors.

"One book gives a timeline on his life and interesting facts like he considered 'Lorax' his favorite book," McIntyre said. "It talks about little things that he went

through." The seventh annual National Education Agency's (NEA) Read Across America will feature several planned events to promote reading — from green eggs and ham breakfasts to reading extravaganzas featuring celebrities and national leaders.

During this centennial celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, his widow, Audrey Geisel, will serve as honorary chair of the event.

"Parents want their

children to have the same delights that they have experienced reading Dr. Seuss," she said in a written statement provided by NEA. "It's wonderful to have educators, librarians, parents and others use the occasion of Ted's birthday to remind the nation of the fun reading can bring to readers of all ages."

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

LUNCHEON

Continued from Page 1A

has faced over the past year," said McEwen. "We want to look at where we've been as well as where we're going in the future."

McEwen said one of the major points of interest during his presentation will be the situation surrounding the VA Medical Center, and the recent committee recommendation to study the possibility of closing it.

"Of course that's been a

major concern over the past year," he said. "We go over where that whole thing has been, and also talk about the future of the facility. It should be very educational."

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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
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Make plans now to attend annual community luncheon

It's time to take a look back at 2003 and map some ideas for the future. There's a lot to be discussed, including the unanswered situation with the VA Medical Center, the good news that Big Spring State Hospital won't be taken over by a private provider and much, much more.

If you are interested in this community, we invite you to join with us Tuesday for the annual Community Luncheon and mayor's "State of the City Address," sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. The luncheon will begin about 11:45 a.m. in the East Room at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Lunch will be provided by Great Western Dining and is \$10 per person.

The program will be interesting and educational, and it won't be a long one. Most of us will need to get back to business at hand.

It's important, however, that we come together as a community to take a look at where we have been and where we want to go — or grow.

Tickets are available at the chamber office, 215 W. Third. Pick yours up today, and plan on taking part in this very important event.

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

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- 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 editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we see the overall picture, Lord, through your word.

Amen

Bush's mercy for Mr. Plano

Earlier this month, President Bush issued his 12th presidential pardon. The recipient was David McCall Jr., the onetime mayor of Plano, Texas. As the Dallas Morning News reported, McCall started with \$100 and nine head of cattle. His fortune grew as small-town Plano grew.

But McCall's charmed life was not without bumps. In 1997, McCall pleaded guilty to making false entries on the books of a failed savings-and-loan association. He paid a fine and served five months in prison, followed by five years of probation.

Still, McCall also enjoyed forgiveness before he died last week. In his last month, Plano named a downtown plaza after McCall. The president made society's forgiveness official when he telephoned the McCall family and gave son Brian news of the pardon as his father lay in a coma.

You might expect critics of the federal justice system to bash Bush for exercising mercy too selectively. The president, after all, has been parsimonious with the pardon power. When he finally uses it, he uses it for a white-collar criminal, from Texas no less and with ties to powerful Texas politicians. Worse, McCall's family recently applied for clemency — which means McCall, if for good reason, jumped ahead of the

line, in front of hundreds of applicants for a presidential pardon and some 1,500 petitioners for a sentence commutation.

Margaret C. Love, who was the pardon attorney for Presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush, noted that McCall's leapfrog over the pardon line "sends a signal that people don't have to play by the rules. All they have to be is well-connected."

But Julie Stewart of Families Against Mandatory Minimums, which opposes federal drug-sentencing laws, did not choose to criticize. McCall had been out of prison for years, he hadn't re-offended, and now, he was dying. She thought, "My first thought is, it's a no-brainer."

Her other thought, and it is shared by Love, is that Bush should pardon more people. Better yet, Bush should commute the sentences of those drug offenders serving obscenely long sentences. "I wish Bush would show that kind of compassion for someone who's got a healthy life ahead of him," said Stewart.

Bush has yet to commute a sentence. To his credit, Clinton showed that kindness to a handful of non-violent drug offenders who had been sentenced to decades behind bars for first-time offenses. These women broke the law and deserved to do time. But more time than your average murderer or rapist? There was no justice in those sentences.

The presidential pardon, with its ability to commute sentences, exists in part to curb excesses in the justice system. When a first-

time non-violent drug offender named Clarence Aaron is sentenced to life without parole for an offense he committed in 1992 at age 23, justice demands that someone — and only Bush has the power to do it — correct that gross injustice by releasing Aaron, who has been in prison for more than a decade.

As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy said in a speech in San Francisco, "This young man has not served his full sentence, but he has served long enough. Give him what only you can give him. Give him another chance." Kennedy was referring to sentences less draconian than Aaron's.

David McCall had a folksier story. As the Dallas Morning News reported, McCall had a story about his life, in which he likened himself to a turtle that found itself on top of a post. "The turtle couldn't get on a post on its own. The truth is that somebody had to put me up there. The thing is that I'll never be more than a turtle, and there are others now waiting to be turtles on the post."

Forget the post. Clarence Aaron would settle for living outside of maximum security. Only President Bush can get him there.

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

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HOWARD COUNTY

Who'll spend \$18.6 billion in Iraq?

Charles A. Krohn, the U.S. Army's top civilian public affairs officer, is back at the Pentagon after three months in Baghdad.

What his superiors may not yet know is that he brought with him a 5,000-word manuscript, to be published next week in the Columbia Journalism Review. His article exposes the bureaucratic infighting over American taxpayer money to rebuild Iraq.

It is no secret the Defense Department's internal struggle delayed spending \$18.6 billion appropriated by Congress for Iraqi infrastructure, though a decision has been made to put back part of that money. Krohn now provides the details of a nearly successful money-grab by Washington-based agencies.

Krohn also suggests a deeper problem. The Bush administration's fetish for secrecy is most pronounced in the Pentagon and especially Iraq. Krohn dissents. As a lifelong Republican and a "taxpayer-funded public affairs officer," he writes, "I know that the party and the country are best served when people in my position act as a funnel, not a filter."

This is no young wannabe causing trouble. At age 66, Krohn's career is near the end after 20 years' Army service in the infantry and public affairs, retiring as a lieutenant colonel with a Silver Star and Bronze Star. No naysayer, he believes the U.S. can build a safe and prosperous Iraq. "Fortunately," he writes from Iraq, "I haven't met a defeatist

here yet."

Krohn came to Baghdad last November as public affairs adviser to retired Adm. David Nash, a civil engineer who as director of the Project Management Office (PMO) was to spend the \$18.6 billion. But on Dec. 21, Nash told Krohn he planned to quit.

On Dec. 15, Nash had been informed that the \$18.6 billion for PMO "might" be reduced to \$1.9 billion, an amount described by Krohn as "hardly enough to start the program promised by Congress and the administration." On Dec. 19, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told Nash his staff looked too small to rebuild Iraq and the work might have to be turned over to U.S. AID (Agency for International Development), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies accustomed to big spending.

"Someone had Wolfowitz's ear," Krohn writes, "but we had no idea who it was."

An educated guess is Robin Cleveland, the Office of Management Budget (OMB) national security specialist who has a pipeline to the Pentagon. Krohn referred to "those who wanted their hand in the till."

Just before Christmas, Nash argued with the Pentagon for "one point of contact, one line of authority and management chain-of-command." Nash, who ran a construction firm after he left the Navy, wanted to apply businesslike procedures to replace bureaucratic confusion. The response from Washington was not reassuring: "There'll always be a place for you somewhere."

That's when Col. Krohn stepped in for his boss and the program. He informed the Wall Street

Journal's Yochi Dreazen that requested proposals to rebuild Iraq were being held back. When I wrote a column Dec. 29 reporting this slowdown, Krohn said it upset officials "who took out their wrath on me as the most likely suspect feeding Novak. Associates in Baghdad who were helpful in the past signaled their intent to distance themselves from what I was doing."

On Dec. 30, Krohn writes, "I found myself in a counseling session via telephone with a high-level Pentagon public affairs official, who must be nameless so long as I'm still operating in the chain of command." But he could only mean Assistant Defense Secretary Larry DiRita. This official told Krohn that he "was making life too difficult for Washington bureaucrats" and that it "was not my concern" if construction stalled.

Yet, Krohn may have had the last word. Nash's operation was not dismantled, Nash remained with a diminished budget, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ordered the issuance of "requests for proposal," and the work in Iraq will begin a month late.

Charles Krohn has been replaced in Baghdad and now encounters startled stares in Pentagon corridors. "Adm. Nash and I share the view that we are paid by the taxpayers and spending the taxpayers money and everything we do should be transparent," Krohn writes. Regrettably, those words are unwelcome in Don Rumsfeld's Pentagon.

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

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DEBRA SAUNDERS



ROBERT NOVAK

HYPERTENSION

It's time to check your blood pressure

Approximately 50 million Americans age six and older have high blood pressure, also known as hypertension. Fortunately, this health problem can be controlled through a variety of methods such as medication and changes in lifestyle.

Blood pressure measurements gauge the force of blood against artery walls. A certain level of pressure must be maintained to keep healthy, however, hypertension occurs when the level or pressure of blood becomes too strong. The arteries, heart, kidneys and other organs can suffer as a result. High blood pressure can also lead to stroke.

Because hypertension causes no obvious symptoms initially, many do not realize they have this health condition. According to the American Heart Association, more than 31 percent of hypertensive people are unaware of their high blood pressure. This makes blood pressure screening extremely vital. Blood pressure levels can be checked by your primary care physician or at a clinic, community center, health fair or fitness center.

A healthcare professional can determine your blood pressure level with a simple test. The test will provide two numbers. The first number, the systolic measurement, calculates the pressure of the blood against artery walls when the heart has finished pumping, while the diastolic measurement gauges blood pressure when the heart is relaxed and filling with blood. Blood pressure for normal adults should be about 120/80. Hypertensive people have a blood pressure level of 140/90 and above.

High blood pressure can result from several factors. Obesity, high salt intake, heavy alcohol use, aging, sedentary lifestyle, low potassium and calcium intake,

stress and resistance to insulin contributes to primary high blood pressure. Secondary high blood pressure can be caused by certain medications, pregnancy and narrowing of the kidney arteries.

Another form of high blood pressure, labile hypertension, produces a rapidly changing blood pressure. Labile hypertension occurs most in younger people and responds to stress or activity. Some people only experience an elevated blood pressure reading while in a medical setting. This is called white coat hypertension and is generally not dangerous.

Risk factors can also increase the likelihood of developing hypertension. The risk factors for primary high blood pressure include:

- A family history of high blood pressure
- Aging
- African Americans
- Sodium intake
- Excessive alcohol consumption

People with these risk factors should consult a physician and monitor their blood pressure on a regular basis.

People with hypertension have several treatment options. Depending on the severity of hypertension and medical history, lifestyle changes such as exercising, managing stress, reducing salt intake and losing weight may help lower blood pressure. However, those with higher blood pressure levels may need medication. Depending on the diagnosis, your physician will develop a treatment plan to help manage your blood pressure levels.

Maintaining the proper blood pressure level will go a long way to keeping you healthy. If it's been a while since your last blood pressure screening, be sure to visit a healthcare professional for a quick test. You'll be happy you did!

For more information, consult your doctor or go to the internet at www.webmd.com or www.americanheart.org.

Dr. Susan Roberts, D.O., is board certified in family practice and can be reached at The Family Medical Center, 2301 S. Gregg Street, Big Spring 79720 or via telephone at 267-5531.



DR. SUSAN ROBERTS

Learn and Live: Putting a face on our nation's No. 1 killer, heart disease

We all have a story to tell. Every one of us has been impacted by heart disease. Maybe your mother or father died suddenly from a heart attack. Perhaps you know a child who was born with a congenital heart defect. Maybe your spouse or a friend has suffered a stroke. Maybe you have high blood pressure, or you're struggling with being overweight or smoking - all of which increase your own risk for heart disease.

Too many people are living with some form of cardiovascular disease - and far too many people are needlessly dying from it. The fact that heart disease, in many cases, is largely preventable has ignited a passionate call to action and a compelling motivation to learn - in order to live.

At the American Heart Association, we're passionate about fighting heart disease and stroke, and we're driven by the faces behind the numbers. The half a million women who die each year from heart disease are not just statistics buried in an annual report - they're our mothers, our grandmothers, our sisters and daughters.

This is why we've created the Passion Project. The Passion Project is the American Heart Association's national effort to impassion and empower people in

the ongoing battle against heart disease and stroke. It inspires people to change through personal stories and testimonials. Our new tagline - "Learn and Live" - seems like a pretty simple concept, but it's not always easy to live by. - The majority of heart attacks are



Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

caused by unhealthy lifestyles. As a society, we're bombarded with constant reminders to watch our cholesterol, get our blood pressure checked, and eat right and exercise. We hear the statistics and figures - we might even know that we're at risk - but most of us struggle to stay motivated to live a healthy lifestyle.

Maybe we need to start taking it personally now. If you wait until cardiovascular disease touches you or someone you love, it can be too late.

Elaine Sachs collapsed suddenly and died from an aortic aneurysm at the age of 41 while camping with her two young daughters. Although she seemed healthy, she had a family history of heart disease.

Jenny Dodd was just 21 years old when she died from a heart attack.

When she went to the hospital with classic heart attack symptoms, she was sent home because she didn't fit the profile.

John Godleski was 2 1/2 years old when he died from heart complications due to a congenital defect. His 4-year-old sister misses him.

Jan Murphy has suffered two debilitating strokes and has lost the use of her right arm and the ability to speak clearly. She is also in a wheelchair.

Cardiovascular disease has already claimed too many lives. It's time for all of us to learn ... and live.

Passion is ignited by personal stories. We'd like to hear about yours. Send us your story and help raise awareness and fight heart disease and stroke. Please contact us at TXAStories@heart.org.

To learn more about the Passion Project and to take our "Learn and Live" quiz, visit our website at www.americanheart.org or call 1-888-AHA-CARES.

The American Heart Association is the largest community-based voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases. These diseases devastate millions of people of all ages and claim nearly 950,000 lives a year.

Understanding the new Medicare Act

The new Medicare law passed in December will greatly affect residents on Medicare or who will be on Medicare in Howard County in the coming years.

New data compiled by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and interpreted by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) show how the new prescription drug provisions will benefit area residents.

The New Medicare Act and Its Impact on Howard County and Texas Medicare Beneficiaries

Some 5,300 residents of Howard County were on hospital insurance and/or supplemental medical insurance as of October 29, 2002, according to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) statistics.

The Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003, signed in December, 2003, provides all of the 2,392,209 Medicare beneficiaries in Texas with access to a Medicare prescription drug benefit - for the first time in the history of the Medicare program - beginning in January, 2006.

That year, the bipartisan agreement will give 591,867 Medicare beneficiaries in Texas access to drug coverage they would not otherwise have and will improve coverage for many more.

Within six months after the December 8 signing date, Texas residents will be eligible for Medicare-approved prescription drug discount cards which will provide them with savings of between 10 and 25 percent off the retail price of most drugs.

Beneficiaries with incomes of less than \$12,123 (\$16,362 for couples) who lack prescription drug coverage (including drug coverage under Medicaid) will get up to \$600 in annual assistance to help them afford their medicines, along with the discount card. That's a total of \$651,954,681 in additional help for 543,296 Texas residents in 2004 and 2005.

Beginning in 2006, all 2,392,209 Medicare beneficiaries living in Texas will be eligible to get prescription drug coverage through a Medicare-approved plan. In exchange for a monthly premium of about \$35, seniors who are now paying the full retail price for prescription drugs will be able to cut their drug costs roughly in half. In many cases, they'll save more than 50 percent on what they pay for their prescription medicines.

A total of 858,469 beneficiaries in Texas who have limited savings and low incomes (generally below \$12,123 for individuals and \$16,233 for couples) will qualify for even more generous coverage. They will pay no premium for their prescription drug coverage, and they will be responsible only for a nominal co-pay-

ment (no more than \$2 for generic drugs or \$5 for brand name drugs).

In addition, 188,333 low-income beneficiaries in Texas with limited savings and incomes below \$13,470 for individuals and \$18,180 for couples will qualify for reduced premiums, lower deductibles and coinsurance, and no gaps in coverage.

Additionally, Medicare, instead of Medicaid, will now assume the prescription drug costs of 420,318 Texas beneficiaries who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. This will save Texas over \$1.7 billion over 8 years on prescription drug coverage for its Medicaid population.

Data on prescription drug benefits interpreted by PhRMA, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, from CMS report.

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For the participating Weight Watchers center nearest you: **1 800 651 6000 • WeightWatchers.com**

For cancer information: 1 800 ACS 2345 or www.cancer.org

A special tour for a special event.

BirthPlace Tour: Monday, March 1 at 7:00pm

For over fifty years, little Midlanders and their families have counted on Midland Memorial Hospital... for life. Meet us at the first floor lobby to take part in our special BirthPlace Tour. Visit our Postpartum, Labor, Delivery, Nursery, and our new Breast Feeding Shoppe, *Beautiful Beginnings*. Meet our outstanding staff and find out what to expect when your special time arrives.

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Left to right, Chad and Kellie Wash and Jeremie and Julie Alley were costumed as Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, Cher and Sonny. Jeremie is stooping because Sonny Bono was shorter than Cher.



Sound technician for the Gala, Adriel Saldivar, and friend Christian Rojas, operated sound and board. A movie clip from "Casablanca" was being shown among featured movies.



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'Hollywood for Heart'

American Heart Association fund-raiser

Text and photographs by Marsha Allen



Gala was good time for worthy cause

"Hollywood for Heart" Gala was held Feb. 21 from 8 p.m. until midnight at the Big Spring Country Club. Sponsored by the American Heart Association of Howard County, the event featured movie clips — some new and some older reminiences — music, dancing and refreshments.

A few movie revelers appeared as celebrities. For instance, Elvis Presley attended, along with Marilyn Monroe and Sonny and Cher.

A room of the country club was dedicated to a silent auction.

Money raised through the American Heart

Association Gala funds lifesaving reasearch and educational programs helping to prevent and treat heart disease and stroke.

Howard County Heart Association Board of Directors include Bobby Roever, president, Cindy

Chavez, William H. Cox, Javier Flores, Kay Hulse, Lauri Phillips, Judy Roever, Kellie Wash, Teresa Williams and Sherri Wiginton.

Lauri Phillips served as chairperson for the Gala and Kellie Wash served as decorations chairperson.

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Tommy Wells at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Monday, March 1, 2004

Big Spring streaks to West Texas Classic honors

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

MIDLAND — Chelsea Abner and Alex Watkins turned in solid pitching performances Saturday and Whitney Hufford and Erica Stewart provided more than enough offense and helped carry the Big Spring Lady Steers to West Texas Classic championship.

The Lady Steers, now 16-1 overall, posted a 6-0

record in the three-day tournament. Big Spring scored 29 runs in the final three games and edged Midland Lee for the overall team crown by a 56-50 margin.

Big Spring, which won the Brewer Invitational last week in Fort Worth, dominated the tournament. The Lady Steers outscored their opponents by a staggering 40-3 clip.

Abner was almost perfect in the Lady Steers'

title-clinching 5-0 win over Merkel. The left-hander recorded five strikeouts and allowed just two hits en route to notching her third win of the weekend.

Watkins, who is working her way back from a broken foot she suffered in the last week of basketball, was equally impressive in her 2004 debut. She won both games she started and helped Abner close out a no-hit win

over El Paso Americas on Friday.

In the six games, Abner and Watkins allowed just 14 hits. Big Spring, on the other hand, managed 47.

The Lady Steers didn't waste any time in putting themselves into title contention. After taking a 1-0 win over Odessa High in the first round, Big Spring reeled off wins over El Paso Americas and Midland Lee before

drawing Class 5A Weatherford in the fifth round. Big Spring dealt the Lady Roos an 8-0 shutout loss.

Hufford and Stewart highlighted the Lady Steers' offensive attack. Hufford clubbed her first home run of the season — a two-run shot to left — in Big Spring's win over Weatherford. Stewart finished the tournament with a .689 batting average.

IN BRIEF

Bulldogettes to face Greenwood today

The Coahoma Bulldogettes' softball game scheduled for Tuesday with Greenwood has been moved to today.

The two teams will begin play at 6 p.m. in Coahoma. The JV game has been canceled.

Coahoma, the 2003 Class 2A state runners-up, turned in a solid outing this past weekend in the West Texas Classic against larger opponents. The Bulldogettes lost to Midland High, Odessa High and Midland Lee. Coahoma, behind strong play from Ashle New, Cheyenne Grice, Ruby Garcia and Kali Roberts, claimed wins over Greenwood, Snyder and Pecos.

The Bulldogs will compete in the Snyder Invitational beginning Thursday.

Lady Steers boosters slated to meet today

The Big Spring Lady Steers Booster Club will be meeting today at 6 p.m. in the high school ATC.

All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, track and cheerleading are encouraged to attend.

Umpires are needed for BSGSA season

The Big Spring Girls' Softball Association is currently seeking individuals interested in umpiring games.

Interested parties please contact Francisco Ramirez at (432) 466-3670.

Wildcats to face Nazareth in Lubbock

The Grady Wildcats will try and move on step closer to the Class A state basketball tournament Tuesday when they face Nazareth in a Class A, Division II regional semifinal bout.

Grady, 31-1 overall, is slated to begin play at 7:30 p.m. at Lubbock Monterey High School.

'Dorothy to host CC-Roosevelt matchup

Area basketball fans will get the chance to take in a little playoff basketball action Tuesday when the Colorado City Wolves face Lubbock Roosevelt in a Class 2A regional quarterfinal matchup at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Lady Steers to make home debut Tuesday

The Big Spring Lady Steers will make their home debut Tuesday when they host the Brownwood Lady Lions at the BSHS Softball Complex.

Big Spring, 16-1 overall, will begin play at 4 p.m.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule		
Event, Time	Station	
Spurs vs. Memphis, 7 p.m.	1490	March 1
March 2		
Event, Time	Station	
Mavericks vs. Seattle, 7 p.m.	1490	March 3
March 5		
Event, Time	Station	
Hawks vs. El Paso (baseball), 3 p.m.	1490	March 5
Spurs vs. Dallas, 6:30 p.m.	1490	March 5
March 6		
Event, Time	Station	
HC vs. Clarendon (softball), 1 p.m.	1490	March 6
Spurs vs. Phoenix, 7:30 p.m.	1490	March 6

BS fems fourth at Frenship Relays

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

WOLFFORTH — The Big Spring Lady Steers opened their 2004 track and field season with a solid performance at the Tiger Relays Saturday by racing their way to a fourth-place finish.

District 4-4A rival Lubbock Estacado won the girls' overall team crown by scoring 134 points. Abilene Wylie and Hereford took second and third with 121 and 113, respectively. Big Spring finished with 107.5.

Airianne Brown continued to prove herself one of the best young tracksters in West Texas at the meet. The sophomore sprinter collected a first-place finish in the 100-meter dash by legging out a time of 12.40 seconds.

Cierra Butler added to Big Spring's gold medal collection in the discus, winning with a throw of 137 feet, one inch.

Butler also starred in the shot put competition, placing third behind Kali Gerber of Hereford and teammate Amisha Vanderbilt with a throw of 34-11 1/4.

Vanderbilt was second with a throw of 35-7 1/4.

Carmen Lewis collected her share of precious medal, finishing second in the triple jump and third in the high jump.

Overall, Big Spring collected three of the top six spots in the high jump. Lady Steers' standout Brittany Raney was second with a leap of 5feet. Lewis cleared 4-10, while Chelsea Johnson tied Keysha Lee of Pampa for fifth with a jump of 4-8.

The Steers placed ninth in the Class 4A boys' division with 43 points.

BSHS sprinter Jeremy Williams netted the team's only win, taking the 400-meter dash with a mark of 52.15 seconds.

The Big Spring track teams will return to action Friday at the Abilene Invitational.

Rain, water force HC women to postpone game

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

Mother Nature continued to play havoc with the Howard College Lady Hawks' softball schedule this past weekend.

High winds, rain and standing water forced the HC women to postpone this weekend's planned games with Western Texas College.

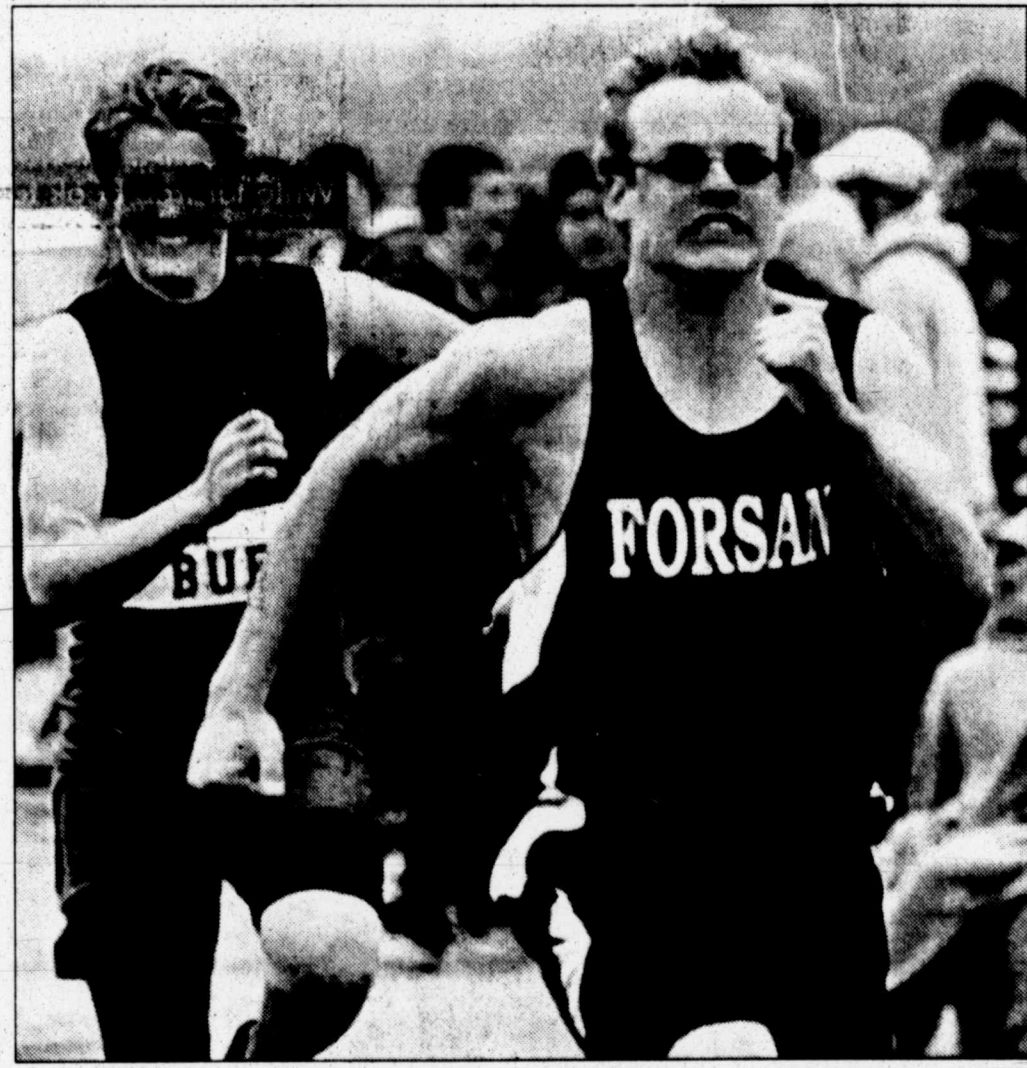
Lady Hawks' head coach Derek Clapp said the team hoped to reschedule the games for later this week, possibly Tuesday or Wednesday.



HERALD PHOTOS/Tommy Wells

Off and running ...

Area track and field athletes kicked off the 2004 season this past weekend at the Garden City Relays. (Above) Lady Kats' Analisa Gonzales takes the baton from Amy Multer during the junior high 800-meter relay event. The GCHS girls finished second in the event. (Left) Forsan's Mitchell Murray digs for the finish line during the junior varsity 100-meter dash event. Murray won his heat.



Courtesy photo

Forsan's Lacy Eggleston (right) and Katy Kuhlman stand with the awards the won in girls' singles play at the Forsan Tennis Tournament. Eggleston, a senior, completed the tournament with a perfect 4-0 record, including a 7-4 win over Kuhlman in the finals.

Eggleston storms past Kuhlman for Forsan title

By TOMMY WELLS

Sports Editor

Forsan senior Lacy Eggleston knows how to win on the tennis court. Just ask Grape Creek's Katie Kuhlman.

Eggleston posted a 4-0 mark at the recent Forsan

Tennis Tournament and walked away with top honors in the girls' singles division.

The FHS stand-out opened the tournament with a bang, defeating her first two opponents easily, 6-0, 6-0.

In the semifinals, Eggleston took out cross-county rival Callie Paige of Coahoma by a score of 6-3, 6-2 to advance to the finals against Kuhlman.

In the finals, Eggleston overcame a slow start to pound out a 7-4, 6-1 win.

Forsan's Ben Breyman

and Josh Helmstetler finished second in the boys' doubles competition. During their run, the seniors defeated teams from Wall and Sterling City en route to drawing a berth in the finals against close rival Garden City.



KING

Breyman and Helmstetler lost the first set, 3-6, and came back to split sets with a score of 6-4, but falling in the third, 3-6.

Eggleston, Breyman and Helmstetler weren't the only local standouts taking home hardware from the meet. Forsan's Karmin King turned in an impressive outing in the varsity girls' singles division.

A junior, she rebounded from an early loss to take the winner's side of the consolation bracket with a score of 8-4.

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*****HIRING 2004!***POSTAL** JOBS! UP TO \$1,047.71 WEEKLY, FREE CALL! FOR INTERVIEW AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION. SIGN ON BONUS 1ST 100 CALLERS. SELECT AREAS. 1-800-892-5549 EXT. 92, 7 days.

*****ANNOUNCEMENT***** HIRING 2004!- FEDERAL POSTAL JOBS! Up to 454,481.07+ year. FREE CALL! Interview & Registration Information. Sign on Bonus 1st 100 Callers. Select Areas. 1-800-892-5549 ext. 94, 7 days.

*****HIRING 2004!*** U.S.** POSTAL JOBS- Up to \$54,481.07+ year. FREE Call! for INTERVIEW & Registration Information, Paid training + Benefits. Sign on bonus. Select Areas. 1-800-892-5144 ext. 93, 7 days.

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ARE YOU making \$1,000 per week? All cash vending routes with prime locations available now! Under \$9,000 investment required. Call Toll Free (24-7) 888-270-2168

National Ads

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EARN \$375-575 WKLY. Processing/Assembling Medical ID cards from home. No experience necessary. 1-928-788-3160 or 1-928-788-3167 (24hrs/7) www.medical-id-cards.com

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IF YOU WORKED with Welding Rods and were Exposed to Toxic Manganese Fumes that caused Parkinson's - Like Neurological Damage, you may be Entitled to Compensation. Call Attorney Charles Johnson 1-800-535-5727

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111 EAST 17th. Two bedroom, one bath. \$275. month. \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

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1504 RNNELLS, 2 Bedroom 2 bath. Fireplace, fenced, carport, laundry room. No pets. Call (432)263-3572

3904 HAMILTON, 3 Bedroom 1 1/2 bath, CH/A. \$400/ month, \$250/ deposit. References required. Call (432)267-7449.

407 1/2 E. 8th. 1 Bdrm Apartment. Recently remodeled. New counter tops. CH/A. \$275/mo. + deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296

614 LINDA Lane., 3/1/1, CH/A, storm windows, fenced backyard, workshop. \$525/month, \$250/deposit + 1 year lease. Call (432)268-5956 or 268-9180.

Real Estate for Rent

806 E.12TH. 1 bdr., 1 bath. \$235. month, \$150. deposit. Water paid. Stove & refrigerator. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

900 SCURRY. 3/1 Apartment. CH/A, washer, dryer hookups. Appliances furnished. Call (432)213-2681

906 EAST 12th: 1 Bedroom, shower, range & refrigerator furnished. \$275 month. 1607 Stadium: 3 Bedroom. \$400 month. Call (432)267-7380

FOR RENT on West end. Two bedroom unfurnished home. Stove & refrigerator furnished. Call 267-6179.

FOR RENT OR RENT TO OWN 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Fresh paint, washer & dryer hook-ups, fenced yard, CH/A. 510 East 13th. Call (432)264-6611

FOR RENT OR RENT TO OWN Large 3 bedroom, 1 bath, new carpet & paint. CH/A w/washer & dryer hookups. 1909 North Monticello. Call (432)264-6611

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NEW OWNERSHIP 1 & 2 Bed- room Apartment homes. Reasonably Priced. Management on site 24/7. ADVANTUS PLACE APARTMENT. 3304 W. HWY. 80 Call Sandra, (432)264-7641.

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SPACIOUS, DELIGHTFUL. Extra private 1 bedroom apartment. Utilities paid. \$395. Trees, picnic sit. 1 person. No pets. Non-smoker. Credit Qualify. Call (432)263-1234 agent

STUDIO APT. All utilities paid including cable TV. Nice area. Priced right. Call Marty (432)264-7931

Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost. On each remaining 3 New homes on 1300 Block of Marajo. Reasonably good credit required, Down payment assistance and lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. No Payments till April 2004. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

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5 ACRES Available. Choice spot in South East Big Spring. Own paved street. \$25,000. Call (325)949-1998.

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ANDA EN busca de una casa? Si, no tiene credito o mal credito hablemle al numero (432)413-0549 Annette Sanchez. Tengo una casa de 2 recamaras y 1 bano 705 S Lancaster Y otra de 1 recamara y 1 bano 1811 State St.

COAHOMA 3 Bedroom, 2 bath Beautiful master bath with walk-in closet, appliances, Handicapped porch. Like new MF Home. Land & Home \$42,000. 803 Atlantic. Call (432)661-5552

FOR SALE BY OWNER, in Kentwood. 4/3, very open floor plan, large shop/garage in rear with carport. \$72,000. Call 816-9168 or 816-9207 for appointment.

FOR SALE: Commercial property High Traffic, Corner Lot, 901 East Third St., Zoned Industrial. \$69,995. Call 800-417-7419

FORECLOSURE! 3 Bedroom home. Buy for \$21,500! Must Sell! For listings call 1-800-719-3001 ext. F906.

NEED A home? I can help, no credit, bad credit, I will finance your home with a low down/payment. Please call Annette Sanchez @ (432)413-0549 1811 State 1 Bdrm 1 bath & 705 Lancaster 2 Bdrm 1 bath.

NEW CONSTRUCTION Open House. Sat.-Sun. 1-6 pm. or any time by appt. 1306 Marajo. Call (432)520-9848.

VERY NICE 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with fireplace. Private yard, 2 carport and 2 storage buildings. \$0 Down. Take over payment- \$425/month. Call (432)394-4080.

Vehicles

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Vehicles

1987 LTD Crown Victoria. 5.0 liter engine, 57K original miles. Call 432-263-6922.

1993 FORD Ranger pickup. Power brakes, steering, no A/C. 25,000 actual miles. \$3500. 1996 Pontiac Grand AM, loaded. \$3500. Call 432-264-0623.

1995 BUICK LeSabra. Auto, power steering, power windows/locks, 48k original miles. Great Gas Mileage. \$4100. Call (432)267-6926.

2000 CHEVY Silverado 1/2 ton Pick-up. Reg. cab, short bed, V-6, auto, AM-FM-CD player. White with Charcoal int. 45,500 miles. Asking \$11,000. Call (432)263-1853 or see at 2304 Morrison.

2001 CHEVROLET Express 15-Passenger Van. 9,740 actual miles. Towing package, power windows, power locks, front/rear air, Like New! Very Clean! Asking \$18,000. Call 325-728-3252 or 728-8742.

FOR SALE: Low miles all. 1980 Honda CB650 Custom, 1985 Honda CB450 Nighthawk, 1982 Virago 920. \$1,000 each. OBO. Call (432)264-0460.

Vehicles

MUST SELL!
1994 Chevy, LT1 engine, Kenwood system, custom paint. \$5700. 1999 Jeep Wrangler, soft top, CD player, New Mickey Thompsons, 36k miles, Great condition. \$9000. 2003 Glastron SX175, 17ft, EZ Load Trailer, wake tower, life jackets, skies, rope, tube, boat cover, CD player, 25 hours. \$16000. Please call (432)268-5968 or (432)267-6505 leave message!

Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Mae B. Currie, Deceased, were issued on 23rd day of February, 2004, in Docket No. P-13136, pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to: William Neel Currie.
The address of William Neel Currie is: 4 Los Cruces Trail, Big Spring, Howard County, Texas 79720.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 23rd day of February, 2004.
WARD & FREELS, L.L.P.
By John A. Freels
ATTORNEYS FOR THE ESTATE
#4140 March 1, 2004

Legals

THE STATE OF TEXAS
NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date of issuance of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you."
TO: R.L. WILLIAMS, SR.; ALICE AMELIA DRAKE CAMPBELL; CECILIA SHEPHERD CAMBIAS; DON BLAKE LOW; HENRY DRAKE; JAMES LESLIE CAMBIAS; JOHN LAURNCE DRAKE; JOHNATHAN D. REIFF; MALCOM DRAKE; MARGUERITE CAMBIAS CONSIDINE; MARIAN DRAKE; MITCHELL BRONAUGH; PATRICIA BRONAUGH BARABANOFF; PATRICIA DRAKE SHEPHERD; PAUL DRAKE; ROBERT DRAKE; ROBERT F. BROUSSARD, JR.; SALLY BROUSSARD WATTS; MIDSUN OIL CORPORATION; AND LAMBERT OIL AND GAS ROYALTIES CORPORATION, and THEIR HEIRS, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, IF ANY OF SAID PERSONS ARE DECEASED, Defendants in the cause herein described.
You and each of you are hereby commanded to appear and answer before the 118th Judicial District Court in the Howard County Courthouse located at Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, at or before 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from the date issuance hereof, being at or before 10:00 a.m. on Monday the 29th day of March, 2004, then and there to answer the petition of ENERQUEST OIL & GAS, LTD., Plaintiff in Cause No. 43425. The said petition, filed on the 11th day of February, 2004, discloses that the nature of said suit is as follows:
This suit is brought to have a receiver appointed under the provisions of Section 64.091 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code for undivided mineral interest owned by the Defendants in the following described lands in Block 33, T-1-N, T & P Ry. Co. Survey, Howard County, Texas, to wit: East Half of the Northeast Quarter (E/2 NE/4) of Section 17; the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section 18; and the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, and to execute oil, gas and mineral leases thereof to the Plaintiff and take such other action deemed necessary under the provisions of said statute.
#4122 February 23 & March 1, 8, 15, 2004.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:
TO: Canuto Mancha, aka Carlotta Mancha
and any and all other unknown owners of persons, including adverse claimants, owing or having or claiming any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the following described, property delinquent to Plaintiffs herein, for taxes, to wit:
Lot Seven, Block Six Bauer Addition, City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas.
Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: \$539.83, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, and

Legals

there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and costs thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.
You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by **Howard County, et al** as Plaintiffs, against **Canuto Mancha, aka Carlotta Mancha**, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on the **24 day of February, 2004**, in a certain suit styled **HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. CANUTO MANCHA, aka CARLOTTA MANCHA**, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is **T-03-09-4657** that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.
Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.
All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein, and all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.
You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit at or before 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the **12 day of April, 2004** before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due the Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 24 day of February, A.D. 2004.
Priscilla Ginnetti, Deputy Clerk of the District Court Howard County, Texas, 118th Judicial District #4136 March 1 & 8, 2004

Legals

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN AS FOLLOWS:
TO: **Judy Garza**
and any and all other unknown owners or persons, including adverse claimants, owing or having or claiming any legal or equitable interest in or lien upon the following described property delinquent to Plaintiffs herein, for taxes, to wit: **A 1983, 14x66 Wingate Mobile Home located in Howard County, Texas.**
Which said property is delinquent to Plaintiffs for taxes in the following amount: **\$1,423.86**, exclusive of interest, penalties, and costs, there is included in this suit in addition to the taxes all said interest, penalties, and costs thereon, allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein.
You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by **Howard County, et al** as Plaintiffs, against **Judy Garza**, as Defendant(s), by petition filed on the **4th day of April, 2003**, in a certain suit styled **HOWARD COUNTY, ET AL VS. JUDY GARZA**, for collection of the taxes on said property and that said suit is now pending in the District Court of Howard County, Texas 118th Judicial District, and the file number of said suit is **T-03-04-4582** that the names of all taxing units which assess and collect taxes on the property hereinabove described, not made parties to this suit, are NONE.
Plaintiffs and all other taxing units who may set up their tax claims herein seek recovery of delinquent ad valorem taxes on the property hereinabove described, thereon up to and including the day of judgment herein, and the establishment and foreclosure of liens, if any, securing the payment of same, as provided by law.
All parties to this suit, including Plaintiffs, Defendant(s), and Intervenor, shall take notice that claims not only for any taxes which were delinquent on said property at the time this suit was filed but all taxes becoming delinquent thereon at any time thereafter up to the day of judgment, including all interest, penalties, and cost allowed by law thereon, may, upon request therefore, be recovered herein without further citation or notice to any parties herein, and all said parties shall take notice of and plead and answer to all claims and pleadings now on file in said causes by all other parties herein, all of those taxing units above named who may intervene herein and set up their respective tax claims against said property.
You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit on the first Monday after the expiration of forty-two (42) days from and after the date of issuance hereof, the same being the **12 day of April, 2004** before the Honorable District Court of Howard County, Texas, to be held at the courthouse thereof, then and there to show cause why judgment shall not be rendered for such taxes, penalties, interest, and costs, and condemning said property and ordering foreclosure of the constitutional and statutory tax liens thereon for taxes due to Plaintiffs and the taxing unit parties hereto, and those who may intervene herein, together with all interest, penalties, and costs allowed by law up to and including the day of judgment herein, and all costs of this suit.
Issued and given under my hand and seal of said court in the City of Big Spring, Howard County, Texas, this 24 day of February, A.D. 2004.
Priscilla Ginnetti, Deputy Clerk of the District Court Howard County, Texas, 118th Judicial District #4137 March 1 & 8, 2004

Legals

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
In accordance with the provisions of the Texas Agriculture Code, Chapter 74, Subchapter D, and 4 Tex. Admin. Code, Chapter 3, Subchapter A, the Texas Department of Agriculture (the Department) will conduct a referendum on the proposition of whether or not cotton growers shall establish a boll weevil eradication program in the statutorily designated St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone and pay a maximum annual assessment in the amount of \$6.00 per land acre of irrigated cotton and \$2.00 per land acre of dryland cotton each year until costs of the eradication program plus finance charges are paid off, which is anticipated to take up to 11 years, and a nominal maintenance fee thereafter. The initiation of a program is contingent upon state and/or federal cost share in an amount to allow a program to operate within the proposed budget at the maximum assessment rate of \$6.00 per land acre of irrigated cotton and \$2.00 per land acre of dryland cotton. If approved, the program and assessment are expected to begin in the zone on a date determined by the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Board of Directors.
The St. Lawrence Eradication Zone consists of that area of Midland County south of a line 15 miles south of Interstate 20 running from the Ector County line east to the Glasscock County line; Glasscock, Reagan, and Upton counties. If a zone program and assessment are approved by this referendum, growers in the zone shall vote again on whether or not to continue eradication efforts after four years of active program activities.
Also, as part of the referendum, a representative of the above-referenced zone will be elected to serve on the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Board of Directors. The board is charged with administering the boll weevil eradication program in Texas.
The referendum and board election will be held by mail balloting. Ballots will be mailed by April 1, 2004. All ballots cast by mail must be postmarked no later than April 16, 2004, in order to be valid. Any cotton grower having cotton production in 2003 within the zone defined above is eligible to vote, and if he or she resides in the St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone and has at least seven years experience as a cotton grower, to have his or her name placed on the ballot as a candidate in the board member election. A cotton grower is defined as a person who grows cotton and receives income from the sale of cotton. The term includes an individual who, as owner, landlord, tenant or sharecropper, is entitled to share in the cotton grown and available for marketing from the farm or share in the proceeds from the sale of the cotton from the farm.
Any person eligible to vote in the referendum or board member election who resides in the St. Lawrence Boll Weevil Eradication Zone and meets the seven-year experience requirement may place his or her name in nomination for election to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Board by written application to the Department at the address provided below. The application shall be on a nomination form provided by the Department and must be signed by the applicant and at least ten other eligible voters. The nomination form must be received in Austin by March 16, 2004, and must provide the legal residence of the applicant. A nomination form may be obtained by contacting the Department office or any county agent located in the voting area.
For more information regarding the referendum and election, or if you are a cotton grower in the above-referenced area and do not receive a ballot, please contact the Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas, 78711, telephone 512-463-7593. #4138 March 1, 8, 15, 2004

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
The moon transiting through her native Cancer changes the mood — often and without warning. Think before you speak because loved ones are exceptionally sensitive. The Pisces sun helps out with a dose of intuition — use it to get insight about how others are feeling instead of getting deep into your own emotional state.



Joyce Jillson

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Plans are changing, but this is only proof that you're in action. As you gather more information, you realize you must stay fluid, not stuck on having things go your way. Go to seminars, classes and presentations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you feel like you are toiling endlessly and nothing is changing, this is probably true. But you've also got the key to unlock this cycle. Brainstorm it out. Come from a place of creativity instead of panic.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're on fire with ambition but could benefit from keeping this fact to yourself. If you're too aggressive, you'll threaten others around you. Yes, that super-confident boss or colleague is actually scared of you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Much new and weird information is thrown at you, and not all of it is right for your situation. Sift through it. Avoid exotic answers. Success isn't magical or mysterious. It's a simple process — not easy but simple.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Some people are content to settle into quietly accepting their meager lot in life. You're not one of them. Renew your commitment to expand your brainpower. Romance requires follow-through just like business does.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People who think romance is something that happens to them are missing out on the opportunity to create a beautiful relationship. For luck, be hyper-aware of the colors, sounds and harmony around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keep current. News has a bearing on a seemingly small but important decision. Your beliefs seem sensible to you, but when challenged, you may find that you are defending indefensible positions. Lead by example.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If it helps you expand your mind, you're game. You'll feel like dreaming big, traveling or committing to a new study. It's fun to have someone supportive by your side to help you face the world. Come what may.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The contradictions of life come into sharp focus. It's not confusing like it used to be. You come face to face with the fact that hard work alone isn't enough to ensure success. Your love life nestles into a nice groove.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Getting along is key. It's particularly tricky in love, where heated feelings have caused recent turbulence. Taking things in a different direction allows the other person to get a new perspective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Discipline is the bridge between thought and accomplishment, and you've got plenty of it. The same can't be said for all the other members of your group, but that's where you can be of great help.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll need to push the "reset" button on your internal clock this morning. Slow down! Envision yourself handling things well and doing your best. An air of relaxation helps you accomplish what's on your list with joy.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My birthday is Feb. 22, 1946. My husband was born March 31, 1946. We have interviewed a housekeeper born April 14, 1962. How would she be as a housekeeper for us? What can you say about how she

relates to me? What can you say about how she relates to my husband? Is it possible that we could be good at doing our own housework?"

Your potential housekeeper has a lot of energy and can work hard when she wants to. She can also be distracted easily, so she requires very clear directions. She's a spiritual person, often superstitious, and will make sure that both the physical and spiritual aspects of your house are in order. Leo influences in her chart make her fiercely loyal. She does need a lot of recognition for her work, however, and will leave the job if she feels taken for granted. She is motivated more by respect than by money. You'll both relate well to her if you give her the proper respect. As for doing your own housework, it may actually be easier for you to do than managing another person, but you'll learn more about yourself and build your character by hiring the housekeeper.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Pisces Erykah Badu is not merely a first-rate singer but a musical personality as well. For Pisces, connecting on a soul-to-soul level is the aim of every artistic endeavor, and this sign will go to great lengths to get that feeling of connection. Badu draws on her ancestry for inspiration and in turn

inspires others. This year, Badu could make a foray into another area of art — perhaps sculpture.

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 :
Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I had to write a response to "Wadesboro, N.C.," the 76-year-old woman who moved out to the country, far away from her children, and now complains that she is lonely. There is no excuse for loneliness. I am 80 years old, widowed for five years, and I never get lonely. I have three sons who live a distance away, so I don't see them often, but we do e-mail and talk frequently on the phone.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

I volunteer at the local animal shelter, work at a hospice and teach a line dance class to seniors. I also read a lot and get a great deal of pleasure from my computer, playing games and keeping in touch with friends and family. I square dance and walk two miles every morning before breakfast, so I don't have much time to get lonely.

I do feel sorry for her, but she should get out and stop feeling sorry for herself. — No Name, No Town, No State

Dear No Name: You have a full life and a good recipe to avoid loneliness. Hundreds of people wrote about "Wadesboro," and many of them wanted to invite her into their homes. We deeply appreciate our readers' compassion. Most of the responses, however, looked like this:

From the Midwest: Give me a break. "Wadesboro" put herself into isolation by continuing to live so far from her family. She should sell the damn farm and move her stupid self closer to town so her family will be able to spend more time with her. If she is too hardheaded to make changes in her lifestyle, she can get one of those monitors so she doesn't have to worry about falling down.

Saskatchewan: I am a 77-year-old grandfather with two married children, only one of whom shows an interest in my welfare. A widow I met had some good advice: Don't wait for your children to care about you. If you do, you will be disappointed and hurt. Get a life of your own. Fill your time with friends and activities.

Calimesa, Calif.: I am an 89-year-old widower who lives alone with my dog. My son lives 600 miles away. We keep in touch via e-mail. I volunteer 16 hours monthly doing citizen patrol for my city, and I ride my motorcycle daily. I also do all my own cooking

and cleaning. If she keeps busy, her worries will vanish.

Memphis: Tell her to quit acting like a spoiled brat and move. I am 81 and would never subject my kids to what she's expecting of hers. I'd rather live out in the country, too, but I'm here because my kids are here.

Michigan: I live in a retirement community, and we moved my 89-year-old mother into an assisted-living center 100 miles away, at her request. By having her noon meal with others, and various activities available, she soon made many new friends. A subsidized retirement community would be practical for "Wadesboro." However, the most important thing is to try to make others happy, rather than depend on others to please her. If her communications are cheerful, she's more apt to receive a similar response.

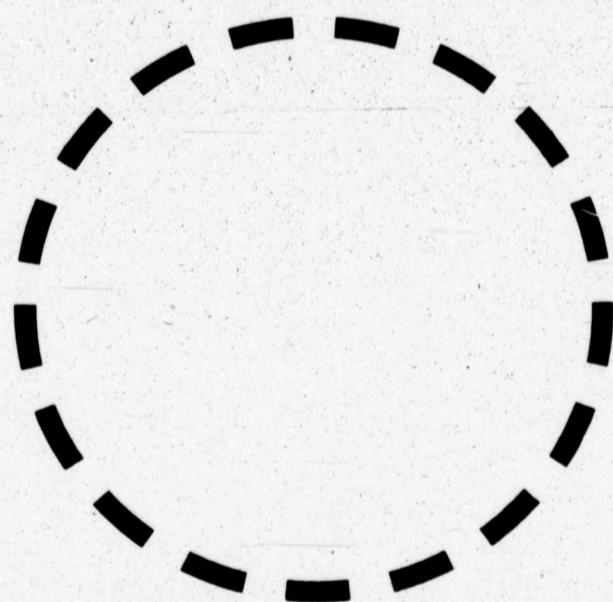
Riverton, Utah: It is unrealistic to expect her children and social life to follow her to a remote location. She must make a choice: Either quit complaining about the situation and accept it, or move back to where the things she wants will be accessible.

Midwest: That letter could have been written by my mom. When she retired, she moved miles away. We asked her to live closer, but she would not make any concessions to us. I've noticed a lot of elderly people refuse to make it easier for their kids. I would love to spend more time with Mom, but it's hard to make the three-hour trip. She won't use an answering machine, a cell phone, e-mail, or anything that would make life more convenient. She won't sign power-of-attorney for health care or discuss her finances. Then she carps that no one cares about her.

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

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MONDAY

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29) Sports	USA (30) New York	TMC (250)
6 PM	News (CC)	Wheel-Fortune	Amar Otra Vez	King of the Hill	News Ent. Tonight	Pason de Gavianes	News Serifeid (CC)	Serifeid (CC)	Joseph Good John Hagee	News-Lehrer	MythBusters (CC)		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET.com	Sister, Sister Lizzie McGuire	Series of Pokes	College Basketball	JAG (CC)	Highball (CC)
7 PM	Movie: The Mystery of Natalie Wood (CC)	Movie: The Mystery of Natalie Wood (CC)	Veio de Nova	American Idol (CC)	Yes, Dear Still Standing	Amor Descarado	Fear Factor (CC)	Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles	Update/Israel Sam Peak	Antiques Roadshow	Monster House	Movie: Navy SEALS	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Losing Isaiah	Movie: Tru Confessions	NHL Hockey Tampa Bay	Seton Hall at Connecticut	Law & Order: Special Victims	Movie: An Officer and a Gentleman (CC)
8 PM			Bajo la Misma Piel	Forever Eden (CC)	Raymond	El Alma Herida	Las Vegas (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	Monster Garage	American Chopper	Movie: The Crocodile	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comicview	Sister, Sister Boy World	Avalanche NHL 2Night	Texas'at Okla. St.	Movie: First Blood (CC)	05 Movie: The Sum of All Fears (CC)
9 PM	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight (CC)	Dundee II (CC)	The Hour of Charlie Rose (CC)	Monster House	Boys in Company C (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Nightly News Hey Monee	Kim Possible Proud Family	Strongwoman, Interruption	SportsCenter (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims	15 Movie: Just a Little Harmless Sex (CC)	
10 PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	En las Mejores Familias	Becker (CC) Spin City	The Late Late Show	Al Rojo Vivo	Show (CC) Late Night	Crocodile	Booker Tommie	Sign Off	Monster Garage	(CC)	The X-Files (CC)	Midnight Love	Even Stevens Sister, Sister	Outside-Lines NBA Fastbreak	College Basketball	Monk (CC)	
11 PM	Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Live (CC) Pad Program	Rencor Aposonado	Blind Date	Show (CC) Street Smarts	Maria Celeste Corte-Familia	(CC) Fraser (CC)	Dundee in Los Angeles	Update/Israel N. McBride	American Chopper	Movie: Navy SEALS	The X-Files (CC)	Comicview	Boy World Recess (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Utah at Brigham Young	Nash Bridges (CC)		

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I'M AFRAID THE FINE ART OF 'ORIGAMI' IS WASTED ON DENNIS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

"I didn't punch him! I was just holdin' my fist out and he ran into it."

HAGAR

HAGAR, THE HORRIBLE!
TERROR OF THE NORTH!
FIERCE WARRIOR,
FEARED VIKING CHIEFTAIN...

...DOG WALKER.

BLONDIE

AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT A SANDWICH TONIGHT?

NOPE, THEY'VE BEEN KEEPING ME AWAKE

NOW YOU'LL PROBABLY LIE AWAKE ALL NIGHT THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING TO EAT

IT'S SIX OF ONE AND A HALF A DOZEN OF THE OTHER

BC

CAREFUL, HE COULD BE "PLAYING EXTINGT"

WIZARD OF ID

WE HAVE TOO MANY PEOPLE SENTENCED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

WE HAD TO LAY OFF TEN STREET CLEANERS

AGNES

GRANMA SAYS WE ALL SHOULD TAKE TIME TO STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES

THERE ARE NO ROSES AROUND HERE

WELL, WE HAVE TO STOP AND SMELL SOMETHING! WE CAN'T JUST KEEP ON WITH THIS HECTIC PACE DAY AFTER DAY!

UH, MOM, GOT A NEW PLUG-IN DEODORIZER. WE COULD GO SMELL THAT!

IT SMELLS LIKE MAPLE-FLAVORED SOAP. I WONDER WHAT IT TASTES LIKE?

YOUR GRANMA DIDN'T SAY WE HAD TO STOP AND LICK IT, TOO, DID SHE?

HI AND LOIS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DANCE?

WHY, YES, I WOULD!

YOU GUYS ARE WEIRD

SKRITCH SCRATCH SCREE

THE OTHER COAST

HEY, VICKY, THE SPAN BOB IS BACK ON TV.

YOU'RE KIDDING! HE HASN'T BEEN IN A PRIME TIME DRAMA IN YEARS.

ACTION NEWS!

ACTUALLY, IT'S MORE OF A CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAM.

DON'T JUMP BEFORE I GET A REMOTE MIKE ON YOU.

SNUFFY SMITH

TH' BEST REALITY SHOW EVER IS ON NEXT

REALLY, DEAR? WHAT'S IT CALLED?

"OFF !!!"

BEETLE BAILEY

SHOES POLISHED... BUTTONS BUTTONED... TIE STRAIGHT... VERY GOOD, BEETLE

GREG + MOE WALKER

MY SOCKS DON'T MATCH! MY REPUTATION'S STILL INTACT!

This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 1, the 61st day of 2004. There are 305 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Fifty years ago, on March 1, 1954, Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives, wounding five congressmen.

On this date:

In 1781, the Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation.

In 1790, Congress authorized the first U.S. Census.

In 1864, Rebecca Lee became the first black woman to receive an American medical degree, from the New England Female Medical College in Boston.

In 1867, Nebraska became

the 37th state.

In 1872, Congress authorized creation of Yellowstone National Park.

In 1904, bandleader Glenn Miller was born in Clarinda, Iowa.

In 1932, 20-month-old Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, N.J. (Remains identified as those of the child were found the following May.)

In 1961, President Kennedy established the Peace Corps.

In 1974, seven people, including former Nixon White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, former Attorney General John Mitchell and former assistant Attorney General Robert Mardian, were indicted on charges of conspiring to obstruct justice in connection with the Watergate break-in. (These four defendants were convicted the following January, although Mardian's conviction was

later reversed.)

In 1981, Irish Republican Army member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland; he died 65 days later.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Robert Clary is 78. Singer Harry Belafonte is 77. Former U.S. Solicitor General Robert H. Bork is 77. Actor Robert Conrad is 69. Rock singer Mike D'Abo (Manfred Mann) is 60. Sen. John Breaux, D-La., is 60. Rock singer Roger Daltrey is 60. Actor Dirk Benedict is 59. Actor Alan Thicke is 57. Actor-director Ron Howard is 50. Actress Catherine Bach is 50.

Answer to previous puzzle

LIBERAL	STAPLED
OCARINA	HELOISE
TENANTS	ORIENTS
HAD	SITCOM
AGILE	WATER MAR
RETE	RON DECENT
APART	BINGE
STUDIED	COUNTED
PANEL	CARTE
OPERAS	OLD MACS
ODA	FINAL LATHE
KARL	LUXURY TEE
INTONED	SUNNIER
ECHOING	ENDORSE
RESTATE	SEAWEED

Newsday Crossword FOR A CHANGE by Lee Weaver Edited by Stanley Newman

ACROSS

- Lather
- Burn slightly
- Perfume amount
- Big name in TV talk
- Top-rated items
- Boise is its cap.
- Rustproof coating
- Coffee holder
- Aspirant
- Packages to deliver
- Bright star
- Gold unit
- Parakeet
- Sounded like a chick
- Pitch ___-hitter
- Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
- Historical period
- Not doing much
- Taking to court
- Poet Pound
- Bridge-crossing fees
- Infatuate
- Poetic adverb
- Joined by a common cause
- Made noise
- Fuss at the mirror
- Auto for the CEO
- Blue feeling
- Settles the score
- Turkish official

DOWN

- Old-time amusement hall
- lime pie
- Kick a field goal
- From the sun
- Egos' counterparts
- Skier's lift
- Papa's spouse
- Affectionate
- Maybe moppet
- Circle sections
- Putting together
- Director Frank
- Day off: Abbr.
- Take ___ (snooze)
- Shoot the scene again
- Readily available
- Fully mature
- Bellman's burden
- Valiant
- Wool wrap
- River walls
- Thin pancake
- Minnows, often
- Get rid of a knot
- Retail promotion
- Worked at diligently
- Agas on end
- Auto service job
- Hudson Bay Indian
- Stony
- Actress
- Burstyn
- Long-haired rider of old
- Snoozes
- Stopwatches, for example
- Bug
- Sergeant, e.g.
- Used a beeper
- Coat of paint
- Munro's pen name
- Hoity-toity type
- Festive party
- Ball-shaped cheese
- Blood components
- Org. for gun owners

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