THURSDAY

April 8, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT TOMORROW 54°-56° 76°-78°

BRIEFLY

Deadline extended for Razzmatazz

The entry deadline for the Relay Rascal Razzmatazz, a children's pageant hosted by Big Spring State Hospital's Relay for Life team, "Mind, Body and Soul," has been extended to Friday.

Money raised during the April 17 pageant will go towards the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fund-raising drive.

The age groups are 0-12 months, 13-23 months, 2-3 years, 4-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-12 years of age. Entry forms are due Friday, with an entry fee of \$10 per child. Forms are available from the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third Street.

According to project coordinators, Children who participate in the Relay Rascal Razzmatazz will also have time to attend and participate in the Health Fair.

For more information, call (432) 268-7399 or (432) 268-7833.

THIS WEEKEND



Hometown Hero: Amy Mossett, an American Indian of Mandan and Hidatsa origin, travels the country re-enacting the life of Sacajawea, the young native guide who accompanied the Lewis and Clark Expedition on its westward journey in 1805.

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Vol. 100, No. 118

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.

4 Coahoma students are injured in rollover

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

An early-morning onevehicle rollover today sent four Coahoma High School students to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Howard County law enforcement and emergency personnel were called around 7:45 a.m. to scene of the accident, which was on Midway Road near the Coahoma Cemetery.

According to Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Weldon Jones, a pickup truck driven by a 16-year-old male

was heading at a high rate of speed when it failed to yield at a stop sign, hit a muddy, low spot at the intersection of Midway Road and South First Street, and rolled.

The driver and his three male passengers - a 17year-old, a 16-year-old and a 15-year-old - were taken to SMMC by ambu-

Two of the victims involved were ejected from the cab, Jones said.

The trooper said citations would be written for failure to stop at a stop

See ROLLOVER, Page 3A



Texas Department of Safety Troopers Sean Parker, left, Weldon Jones and Howard County Sheriff's Officer Sgt. Brad Ingram and Chief Deputy Gary Pritchett discuss a one-vehicle rollover which occurred on Midway Road near the Coahoma Cemetery this morning. Four Coahoma High School students were injured in the wreck.

RICE TESTIFIES

Nation not on 'war footing' on 9/11, she says

WASHINGTON — National security adviser Condoleezza Rice testified Thursday "there was no silver bullet that could have prevented" the worst terror strike in the nation's history, adding that the United States "simply was not on a war footing" at the time of the attacks of Sept. 'As an

2001. "For more than years, terrorist threat gathered, and America's across several administrations of both parties was insufficient," Rice told the com-

officer of governmen on duty that day, I will response never forget the sorrow and the anger I felt."

> Condoleezza Rice, national security advisor

mission delving into the attacks that killed more than 3,000, destroyed the twin World Trade Center towers in New York and blasted a hole in the Pentagon:

In widely anticipated testimony, Rice offered no apology for the failure to prevent the attacks - as did former anti-terrorism adviser Richard Clarke two weeks ago. Instead, she said, "as an officer of government on duty that day, I will never forget the sorrow and the anger I

Rice's testimony, under oath and on live national television, came after weeks of White House resistance. President Bush yielded in response to repeated public requests from members of the

weather Wednesday to head to the park for various activities. Cooler weather and a slight chance of showers are forecast to return to the Crossroads area Saturday and continue through the weekend. See RICE, Page 3A State park officials readying for 'Master the Mountain'

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

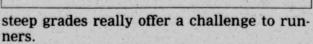
Runners from all over the state are expected to "take to the mountain" April 17, as the Big Spring State Park prepares to hold its annual "Master the Mountain" Fun Run/Walk.

Park Manager Ron Alton said the event poses a challenge to runners that many can't find anywhere else.

"You really can't find the kind of hills that we offer with this run anywhere else. I've heard runners refer to one of the hills on the run as Terminator Hill," laughed Alton. "The

"We get a lot of people who participate in the walk just because of the beauty of the park..."

Ron Alton, park manager



"I've gotten entry forms from three runners in Houston and the Permian Basin Running Club usually sends a team over. We get runners from Midland, Merkel and San Angelo,

just to name a few. They really look forward to the challenge the terrain here offers.'

While the 10K and 5K races seem to draw the serious competitors, Alton said the beauty of the mountain draws just as many people for the walking division.

"You don't have to run to be a part of the fun," said Alton. "We get a lot of people who participate in the walk just because of the beauty of the park, and the view from the 200-foot bluff is just unbelievable. Whether you're running hard or just walking along, it's hard to ignore the beauty from there."

See FUN RUN, Page 3A

Jury selection set in district court Monday for separate trials

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Jury selection in the deadly conduct trial of 23-year-old Anthony Lee Evans of Big Spring is expected to begin Monday morning in 118th District Court. According to Howard County District Attorney Hardy

from a "drive by" shooting that driven by Wood Street on Jan. 4.

John Lee Whitley celebrated his first birthday Wednesday with family and friends at the Comanche Trail

Park Lake. He is the son of Jody and Christina Whitley. Numerous people took advantage of sunny

No injuries were reported as a man who was in his car at the

time. "It appears the victim was in recently returned an indictment. See TRIALS, Page 3A

three males, occurred in the 1500 block of approached," said Big Spring Police Lt. Terry Chamness the day after the incident. "Two of result of the shooting, which the passengers in the vehicle allegedly targeted a Big Spring opened fire with what we believe to be rifles."

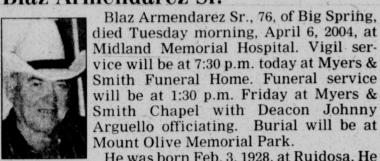
A Howard County grand jury

Wilkerson, the charge stems his car when another vehicle, for deadly conduct for David Jerome Franks, 27, who is believed to have participated in the same shooting. A trial date for Franks has not yet been released by the District Attorney's Office.

Evans is currently under

Obituaries

Blaz Armendarez Sr.



He was born Feb. 3, 1928, at Ruidosa. He was the son of Edward Armendarez and Isabel Villa Armendarez. He had been a resident of Big Spring for 70 years. He married Maria Pacheco in February of 1947, in Stanton. She preceded him in death on June 2, 1990. He was a cotton farmer from his younger years to his older years, retiring at age 62. He was well loved by his children and grandchildren and was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He is survived by three sons, Edward Armendarez and Pedro Armendarez, both of Stanton, and Blaz Armendarez Jr., of Big Spring; two daughters, Maria Nieto and Senaida Armendarez, both of Big Spring; one sister, Maria Escanales of Big Spring; one brother. Jose Armendarez of Presidio; several grandchildren and great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by one daughter, Rosie Armendarez; one brother. Lee Armendarez; and four sisters, Linda Rodriguez, Manuela Armendarez, Lola Rameriz, and Blaza Armendarez.

Pallbearers will be Camilo Nieto Jr., Gabriel Nieto, Edward Armendarez Jr., Randy Robledelo, Randy Robledelo Jr. and Ceasar SantaCruz.

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

Dr. Floyd R. Mays Jr.



Dr. Floyd R. Mays Jr., 88, of Big Spring, died on Thursday, April 8, 2004, in a local hospital. Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 10, 2004, in the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Rev. Dennis Teeters, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating.

He was born on Dec. 20, 1915 in Greenville, Miss. to Fannie McClain Mays and Mr. F. R. Mays.

Dr. Mays was assigned as Surgeon 3rd Battalion 29th Marine Regiment at Camp Lejeune, N. C. during World War II. He served in combat on Guadalcanal, Guam, Okinawa and for six months with the occupying force in Tsingtao, North China. Dr. Mays was awarded a Silver Star by the Marine Corps for gallantry in action.

He married Pauline "Polly" M. Schultz in August of 1947. They loved West Texas and settled in Big Spring, where he spent more than 30 years in a private practice of obstetrics/gynecology with Drs. Nell and Virgil

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife of 50 years. He is survived by two children, Cathy of Big Spring and Doug of Whitney; and two grandchildren, Jessica and Trey Tipton of Big Spring.

He has chosen cremation rather than burial and favors the Big Spring Humane Society, P. O. Box 823, Big Spring, 79721-0823, for memorials.

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

Support groups

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

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

☐ Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 North Highway 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Wednesday and 8 a.m.

· KERRY RYAN MILLS, 28, of 4211 Hamilton, was arrested Wednesday on a local traffic warrant.

· DAVID REINERT, 39, of Abilene, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while intoxicated-second offense.

 CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 1000 block of Third Street.

 THEFT-MORE THAN \$1,500 LESS THAN \$20,000 was reported in the 1100 block of Wood Street.

THEFT was reported:

- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.

- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street. · BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the

1400 block of Sixth Street.

· ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported in the 1300 block of Birdwell.

 EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION WITH A VEHICLE was reported in the 3300 block of Highway

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the fol-

· ANDRES DUENES, 30, was arrested Wednesday by Texas Parks and Wildlife on a charge of taking wildlife resources without consent.

· DANNY FRANK WILSON, 46, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault with intent to cause bodily injury.

· PHILLIP GARCIA, 27, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle and driving while license suspended.

ORLANDO SANCHEZ, 46, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bailsman off of bond for burglary of a building.

· RICKY DELL HAIR, 30, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a parole violation.

JAMES DAVID HARPER, 42, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxi-

BRENT TODD HERRINS, 51, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated-second offense.

Take note

□ HAVE YOU SEEN the movie "The Passion"? If you have seen it, or just heard about it, would you like to receive a free booklet which answers the question "Is the Passion True or False?" Call 263-0680, leave your name and address, and we will be happy to send you this booklet that answers this question, compliments of your friends at St . Paul Lutheran Church.

CHRIST'S COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP is requesting donations of any household items, furniture, appliances, linens, cookware and dishes to be distributed to the needy in Big Spring. Items will be picked up. Please call 263-5683 and leave a message.

□ 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

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.

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

Beverly Couch, RNC. NP Obstetrics-Gynecology

> Women's Health 616 Gregg St.

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Bulletin board

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

· Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-

· Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

· Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main

· "Life After Loss," a grief support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one, meets from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Home Hospice, 600 S. Gregg St. Registration is required. For more information contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.

· American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

· Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster. · Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main

· Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

 Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

 AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant. · Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

· Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

 Howard County Scottish Rite Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge located at 21st and Lancaster streets. Breakfast is served. · Free eye glasses are available from 9 a.m. until

noon at Bob's Custom Wood Work at 409 E. Third.

· Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

Lottery

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesay night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-8-7

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-5-7-28-37. Number matching five of five: 2. Prize per winner: \$18,206. Winning tickets sold in: Fort Worth. Next Cash 5 drawing: Thursday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday

Winning numbers drawn: 3-26-31-35-41. Bonus Ball:

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$24 million.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. A chance of thunderstorms then a slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 20 percent. Friday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Lows around 50. West winds around 10 mph becoming north 10 to 15 mph early in the morning.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Cooler. Highs in the upper 50s. North winds 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday night...Cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 40s. Sunday...Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of rain showers. Highs in the mid 50s.

Sunday night... Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Tuesday night and Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Lows around 50. Highs in the upper 70s.

SPRING www.bigspringherald.com

Reflecting A Proud Community

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early (includes 10% discount for yearly). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 els **Howard Count**

the Coahoma

FUN RU

Continued from

Alton said th doubles as a for the state pa next year's tre "The money from the M Mountain Fur will be used

same event on

year," he said \$10 entry fee run in the eve

Continued from

commission quiet prod Republicans that an oi rebuttal was response to

explosive char

The form House aide to month that administratio lower priority ting terrorisn former Presid and that the invade Iraq the war on ter tion to raisin about adn attention to t terrorism, h implicitly ch key underp Bush's campa election.

In her prepa ny, Rice neith Clarke nor off by point rebi appearance.

She said sh unusual decis him when the istration came saying, he was in his field, a experienced ci er."

She said terrorists con other foreign







Howard County law enforcement and emergency personnel were called to a one-vehicle rollover on Midway Road near the Coahoma Cemetery this morning. Four Coahoma High School students were injured in the wreck.

FUN RUN

Continued from Page 1A

Alton said the Fun Run doubles as a fund-raiser for the state park, making next year's trek possible.

"The money we raise from the Master the Mountain Fun Run/Walk will be used to put the same event on again next year," he said. "There's a \$10 entry fee to walk or run in the event, and that

will include a T-Shirt with Sue Bagwell's famou's prairie dog design. The colors may be a little different this year, but for the most part it's going to be the same design as last year."

Set to start at 9 a.m. on said he hopes people take of Commerce Health Fair at (432) 263-4931. a very special reminder each year. about exercises away from the annual event.

tor the other day, and he impact on my overall at citydesk@bigspringhertold me he tells his health. Our main support- ald.com

patients if they would just ers at the state park are go walk the mountain regularly they would rarely have to see him," said them come every day Alton. "Exercise is very after work. It's an amazimportant to your overall ing stress reliever.' health. That's one of the in conjunction with the Mountain"

"From my personal "I was talking to a doc- made an incredible 7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail

the people who come out here to walk, and some of

For more information reasons we hold this run on the "Master the Fun Saturday, April 17, Alton Big Spring Area Chamber Run/Walk, contact Alton

> Contact Staff Writer experience, exercise has Thomas Jenkins at 263-

> > ranch in Crawford, and

TRIALS

Continued from Page 1A indictment for robbery

for his part in the alleged "home invasion" and robbery of an elderly couple that took place on Nov. 25, 2003. Evans, along with an unnamed juvenile and 19-year-old Marcus McVea, were arrested in January by the Howard County Sheriff's Office and indicted in February.

If convicted of deadly conduct, a third-degree felony, Evans could face between two and 10 years. in prison for his part in the crime, along with a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

Jury selection in the aggravated sexual assault of a child case involving 20-year-old Matthew Shane Franks is also set to begin Monday, as the District Attorney's Office prepares to present evidence in the first of two such cases against the Big Spring man, who was indicted last week on the same charges for a separate incident.

"Monday's jury selection and proceedings are a result of a previous indictment against Mr. (Matthew) Franks," said Wilkerson. "He is currently under indictment for two separate incidents."

Matthew Franks is accused of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl on June 3, 2003. The same victim is also the focus of indictments that were handed down last week against David Franks, William Jerod Franks, 28, and Maurice Edward Franks, 24, for an incident that allegedly occurred In November of 2003.

"It looks as though one of the four, Matthew Franks, was an acquain-

event with so much mean-

tance of the victim," said Howard County District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson following last week's meeting of the grand jury. "The victim was lured to a location where sexual encounters occurred with those charged in the case.

If convicted of aggravated sexual assault of a child, Matthew Franks could face five to 99 years or life in prison, along with a fine not to exceed

A trial date for his most recent indictment for aggravated sexual assault of a child has not been

ROLLOVER

Continued from Page 1A

sign and failure to use a

seat belts. No one from SMMC was available to comment on the condition of the students by press time.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288

Jarrell Barbee, 71, died Tuesday. Funeral Service will be at 4:00 PM Thursday at First United Methodist Church in Coahoma. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Blaz Armendarez, 76, died Tuesday. Vigil Services will be at 7:30 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home, Funeral Service will be at 1:30 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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

RICE

Continued from Page 1A

commission — as well as quiet proddings of Republicans in Congress that an on-the-record rebuttal was needed in response to Clarke's explosive charges.

The former White House aide testified last month that the Bush administration gave a lower priority to combatting terrorism than had former President Clinton, and that the decision to invade Iraq undermined the war on terror. In addition to raising questions administration attention to the threat of terrorism, his remarks implicitly challenged a key underpinning of Bush's campaign for reelection.

In her prepared testimony, Rice neither criticized Clarke nor offered a point by point rebuttal of his appearance.

She said she made the unusual decision to retain him when the new administration came into office. saying, he was an "expert in his field, as well as an experienced crisis manager.'

She said confronting terrorists competed with other foreign policy con-

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came into office, but added that the administration's top national security advisers completed work on the first major national security policy directive of the administration on Sept. 4. The subject, she said, was "not Russia, not missile defense, not Iraq, but the elimination of al-Qaida."

Bush, she said, "understood the threat, and he understood its importance," she said. "He made clear to me

that he did not want to respond to al-Qaida one attack at a time. He told me he was 'tired of swatting flies'," Rice told the commission.

Rice slid into the witness chair before an audience that included relatives of victims of the attacks, in which terrorists flew hijacked jetliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. A fourth plane — presumably on course for the some of the victims of the

cerns when the president Capitol or another high- attacks. Bush was at his intended to watch an profile target Washington — crashed field in advance whether he into a Pennsylvania after passengers engaged in a struggle with the hijackers.

Commission chairman Thomas Kean extended a welcome to Rice, and the panel's co-chairman, former Indiana Democratic Lee Hamilton, Rep. promised "some searching and some difficult questions."

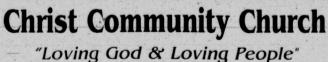
With that, Rice stood and swore to tell the truth as Kean, a Republican and former New Jersey governor, commenced the hearing.

She sat alone at a witness table draped in red cloth, an American flag pin on the lapel of her gray jacket. In front of her sat the members of the commission. Behind her, in the front rows of the cavernous hearing room, sat relatives of

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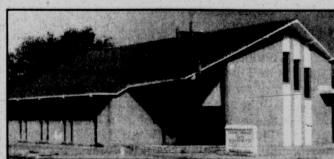
aides declined to say in ing for his political

future.



Matthew 22:37-39 **Minister Michael Johnston**

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SERVICE TIMES: 10 AM.....Bible Study/Sunday School

11 AM.....Assembly Across From Howard College

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"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

John A. Moseley

Bill McClellan

OUR VIEWS

Sunrise service promises to be a real blessing

ne of the best things about people in the Crossroads area is our ability and willingness to pull together, enjoy activities together... care for each other. That's evident during events such as United Way, Relay for Life, the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, Christmas parade, Community Prayer Service and so many, many other

We feel certain that will be the case this Sunday when the annual Community Sunrise Service is held at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater.

In case you are not aware of this event, we want to make sure you know that you and your family are

The Community Sunrise Service is a non-denominational observance to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Five or six church leaders will speak and the Trinity Baptist Sanctuary Choir and the Mt. Bethel Youth Choir will provide music. It won't be a lengthy service. It will begin at 6:45 a.m. and organizers expect it to last about an hour.

It promises to be a wonderful start to Easter, an opportunity for us to celebrate the rebirth of Jesus as well as a time when we witness a rebirth of the land

trees budding, flowers blooming, birds nesting. Certainly, we have been blessed with an very abundant spring. It is also, perhaps, a time for reburth in our own lives — commitments to our Lord, to our family, to making a difference.

We hope you'll take part Sunday in the Community Sunrise Service. We feel it will be a blessing for all who do.

YOUR VIEWS

To the Editor:

Big Optimist Club sponsored the Junior High Optimist Track Meet on March 25. We dedicated this year's meet to Jessy Looney, long time chairman of this annual event, who passed away March 19.

More than 900 Junior High students from seven area schools participated this year.

We would like to thank coaches who gave their time to run the events at the meet-- Coaches Karla Kregar, E.C. Roberson, Peggy Calhoun, Pam Beauchamp, Jacob Vasquez, Cris Roberto, Maxwell Melissa Kinnear. Schools participating were Midland Abell, Andrews,

Levelland, Frenship, Big Spring Spring and Lincoln and Graham from Angelo.

Thanks are also in order to Dwight Butler, athletic director for Big Spring High, who generously gave his time to help announce and time the events.

We would like to give special thanks to John Smith of H.E.B.

Big Spring Optimist each of the junior high club is a non-profit civic organization; our motto is "Friend of Youth." We feel we are very fortunate to give back to the community that has provided so much for us.

Kathryn G. Wiseman President. **Big Spring Optimist** Club

LETTERS POLICY

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Please, Lord, make our crooked paths straight. Amen

LINDA

CHAVEZ

Dissecting Clarke's revisionist history

ondoleezza Rice faces not. just the 9/11 commission this week but the specter of Richard Clarke, the disgruntled former National Security Council terrorism expert who did his best to undermine the credibil-

ity of his former boss when he testified before the commission on March 24. The main thrust of Clarke's testimony was that Rice and the entire Bush team were insufficiently attentive to terrorism as an imminent threat because they were focused on other things, especially

Iraq. And the media played right along, parroting Clarke's criticism with front-page news stories questioning Rice's pre-9/11 judgment, like this one in The Washington Post: "Top Focus Before 9/11 Wasn't on Terrorism; Rice Speech Cited Missile Defense." Or this in The New York Times: "New to the Job, Rice Focused On More Traditional Threats.

That criticism from Clarke might have been more persuasive had he been equally hard on the Clinton Administration, for which he worked for eight years. But, no, he gave Clinton and the whole national security team high marks, saying, "My impression was that fighting terrorism in general, and fighting al Qaeda in particular, were an extraordinarily high priority in the Clinton Administration, certainly no higher a priority. There were prforities probably of equal importance, such as the Middle East peace process, but I certainly don't know of one that was any higher in the priority of that administration."

Funny, I don't remember the Clinton years that way — but then maybe my mind is clouded by the disease so common to active partisans, selective memory. So I decid-

ADDRESSES

President

The White House

Washington, D.C.

JOHN CORNYN

Washington, DC 20510-

Phone: 202-224-2934

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

U.S. Senator

4305

ed to do a little research to see how the media portrayed the Clinton Administration's priorities at the time.

Using Nexis, the exhaustive data bank of newspaper articles, magazine pieces, and radio and TV transcripts, I looked backwover eight years of stories in which Rice's predecessors in the Clinton Administration, Anthony Laké and Samuel Berger, were mentioned in stories that also included references to terrorism or Osama bin Laden or al Qaeda, to see whether they were out sounding the alarm on these threats.

During the entire Clinton Administration's tenure, only 278 stories appeared in The Washington Post, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, or Chicago Tribune, which cited these officials in stories that also mentioned either terrorism (271). bin Laden (71), or al Qaeda (4). Most of the mentions of terrorism, however, referred to attacks against Israel or other non-U.S targets. And few of the stories even suggest that the Clinton Administration made fighting terrorism its top priority

President Clinton did give a major speech to the United Nations in September 1998, in which he said that fighting terrorism was "at the top of the U.S. agenda." But as-The New York Times noted in its coverage, "if he looked preoccupied, which he did. it was because he was in the awk ward position of addressing the United Nations at the same time that a videotape of his testimony to a grand jury investigating the Monica Lewinsky matter was playing on television screens and computer monitors around the world. Some television banks here were playing his speech and the videotape at once." Moreover, noted the Times, "Mr. Clinton did not advance American policy against terrorism in any new direction. Öi

Although several terrorist attacks against Americans

U.S. Senator

703 Hart Office Building

Washington, 20510

• PETE LANEY

Representative

P.O. Box 2910

Austin, 78768

•KEL SELIGER

Senator

Texas 85th District

Phone: (512) 463-0604

401 Austin, suite 101

U.S. Representative (19th

1026 Longworth House

Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (202)225-4005

State Capitol, Room 2S.1

Phone: (512) 463-2000

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

Cong. District)

Office Building

• RICK PERRY

P.O. Box 12428

Austin, 78711

Governor

occurred during Clinton's tenure — most notably the first World Trade Center bombing, the bombing of a U.S. military barracks in Saudi Arabia, the bombing of U.S. embassies in East Africa, and the attack on the U.S.S. Cole off the coast of Yemen — the military response was spotty at best, consisting of a few cruise missiles launched at an abandoned training

camp in Afghanistan and a chemical plant in Sudan.

But it isn't just that the Clinton Administration didn't do very much to strike back at terrorists, Clinton's National Security advisers weren't all that outspoken on the issue either. In 1996, for example, Anthony Lake gave a major speech to the Chicago Foreign Relations Council, entitled "Laying the Foundation for a Post-Cold War World: National Security in the 21st Century." In it, Lake mentions terrorism, almost in passing, as a modern threat, along with drug trafficking and managing environmental disaster. The foreign policy crises he described as "the most urgent" were "repression in Haiti, the war in Bosnia and the containment of Iraq." .

The truth is, no one — not George W. Bush or Condoleezza Rice, and certainly not Bill Clinton or his advisers — fully understood how grave a threat al Qaeda, Osama bin Laden and other Islamist terrorists posed to America until September 11, 2001. We know now, and the true test of leadership is how our leaders responded once the terrorists struck. And here both Bush and Rice look pretty good compared with their predecessors, Richard Clarke's revisionist history notwithstanding.

To find out more about Linda Chavez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.cre-

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JERRY KILGORE - 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

More troops needed, but from where

he New York Times Book Review of last Sunday received unusual attention in the Pentagon's corridors this week. The review of "In the Company of Soldiers"

Washington Post war correspondent Rick Atkinson reveals the ridiculously low estimate made by the Pentagon's civilian leadership of troops needed in Iraq. Those words echoed eerily amid news of open fighting in Baghdad between U.S. troops and Shiite militia.



In the "afterword" following his brilliant account of the actual war, Atkinson wrote: "Pentagon planners in early May had predicted that U.S. troop levels would be down to 30,000 by late summer (of 2003)." That was the first time that prediction had been seen in print by startled readers at the Defense Department. The existing 125,000 troop-level (currently at 135,000 because of replacements) is considered inadequate by the generals. Gen. John Abizaid, the regional commander-in-chief, is not a yes-man and has made clear he will ask for more troops if his subordinate commanders need

But Afghanistan also needs more troops. So, where will they come from? Nobody knows, and that connotes an overcommitment by the U.S. and a miscalculation at the Defense Department. The uniformed military does not speak out publicly, but the generals are outraged. A former national security official who held high office in pre-

vious Republican administrations considers the relationship at the Pentagon between civilians and the military as worse than at any time in his long career.

At the heart of this debate is the original belief by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's team that conquering U.S. troops would be welcomed by open arms in Iraq. In this highly political season, Democrats are replaying the debate of a year ago. Gen. Eric Shinseki, then about to leave as the Army's chief of staff, said "several hundred thousand soldiers" could be needed in Iraq. "Way off the mark," retorted Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz.

Adhering to the principle of civilian control of the military and unvarying obedience to orders, the generals have not publicly expressed their opinion that Shinseki was much closer to the truth than Wolfowitz. However, the widely respected Abizaid made clear Monday that he was not going to be the fall guy if conditions in Iraq further deteriorate. If commanders want more troops to fulfill their mission, he will ask for them. That would leave Rumsfeld with no choice. The secretary announced on Tuesday that the generals "will get what they ask."

The problem of where to find these troops is not easily solved. There are simply no large units available and suitable for assignment. The 3rd Infantry Division was sent home early, but is now in the midst of Rumsfeld's "transformation" (from three brigades to five) and so is not ready to be inserted into combat. National Guard brigades could be activated, but the need for full training before

going to war means they cannot help resolve the present crisis.

Democrats have demanded the use of foreign troops, but countries that previously refused to help without a United Nations mandate have not changed their minds. Britain announced Tuesday it was replacing an armored brigade, keeping their contribution at the present level of 8,700 troops but not adding any. Spain's new leftist government wants out. That leaves only Turkey willing to help, but the U.S. has ruled that out in the face of fierce Kurdish opposition.

Although underestimating troop needs in a less political environment would mean fixing the blame at the Pentagon, every issue today becomes a test of party loyalty. Sens. Richard Lugar and Chuck Hagel, the top two Republicans on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, are assailed by the White House for offering constructive criticism. With Sen. Edward M. Kennedy setting the Democratic line by saying that "Iraq is George Bush's Vietnam," sensible dialogue is impossible.

While Democrats roar, the generals are silent - in public. Many confide that they will not cast their normal Republican votes on Nov. 2. They cannot bring themselves to vote for John Kerry, who has been a consistent Senate vote against the military. But these generals say they are unable to vote for Don Rumsfeld's boss, and so will not vote at all.

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

2004 CREATORS SYNDICATE,

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HERALD Staff R

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Area Class 1A students fare well at recent UIL academic district contest

HERALD Staff Report

Sands High School's Ben Campbell earned the top score in physics while Jason Pribyla of Grady and Scott Ferguson of Klondike earned top scores in biology and chemistry at the University Interscholastic League 9 1-A academic meet Saturday, March 27.

The academic team from Borden County High School won the meet, held at Western Texas College in Snyder against 12 other schools. Grady High School took second, Sands High School placed fifth followed by Ira High School at sixth and Klondike High School at eighth.

Results from the meet are as follows:

Accounting: 2. Suzie Pendergrass, Ira; 6. Lesley Rutherford, Borden County. Ira place second and Borden County placed third in team competition.

Calculator applications: 2. Mary Harryman, Grady; 3. Lauren Hanks, Grady; 4. Emily Krug, Grady; 5. Callie Harryman, Grady. Grady placed first in team competition.

Computer applications: 1. John Wilson, Borden County; 2. Suzie Pendergrass, Ira; 5. Mary Harryman, Grady; 6. Amanda Calley of Ira. Computer science: 2. Noel Lopez, Grady; 4. Jason Pribyla, Grady; 4. Trent May, Grady. Grady placed second in team competition.

Current issues and events: John Wilson, Borden County; 3. Jake Barnes, Ira; 5. Jacob Meeks, Grady. In team competition, Borden County placed first and Ira placed third.

Editorial writing: 1. John Wilson, Borden County; 2. Levi Estes, Klondike; 6. Mary Harryman, Grady. Feature writing: 3.

Kelsey Tubb, Grady; 4. Jessica Odom, Ira. Headline writing: 1.

Kyle Pinkerton, Borden County; 3. Trey Soto, Borden County; 6. Amanda Calley, Ira.

Informative speaking: 1. Tyler Wallace, Borden County; 2. Andrew Lamming, Borden County; 3. Billy Roper, Borden County; 4. Trent Rogers, Sands; 6. Chelsy Ybarra, Sands.

Lincoln-Douglas debate: 2. Andrew Lamming, Borden County; 4. Marcelo Barraza, Sands: 6. Trent Rogers, Sands.

quent urmation...

Literary criticism: 2. Jake Payne, Borden County; 3. John Cowart, Borden County; 5. Callie Harryman, Grady; 6. Trey Sots, Borden County.

Mathematics: 1. John Wilson, Borden County; 4. Steven Barraza, Sands; 5. Mary Harryman, Grady; 6. Billy Roper, Borden County. Team standings were Borden County first and Grady third.

News writing: 2. Lindsey Stamper, Borden County; 3. Amanda Cink, Ira; 4. Whitney Anderson, Borden County; 5. Kelsey Tubb, Grady, fifth.

Number Sense: 3. Mary Harryman, Grady; 5. Erik Gutierrez, Sands; 6. Trent May, Grady. Grady place third in team competition.

Persuasive speaking: 1. Kyle Pinkerton, Borden County; 2. John Wilson, Borden County; 3. Levi Estes, Klondike; 4. Rusty Josey, Ira; 5. Adam Carter, Borden County.

Poetry interpretation: 1. Lindsey Stamper, Borden ° County; 2. Amanda Cooper, Grady; 3. Tayla Hightower, Klondike; 4. Adam Carter, Borden County; 6. Kandis Carson, Sands.

Prose interpretation: 1. Tyler Wallace, Borden County; 2. Cassidy Rinehart, Borden County; 3. Menda James, Borden County; 4. Brianna Pribyla, Grady; 6. Dee Fryar, Sands.

Ready writing: 1. Becky Dobyns, Borden County; 2. Levi Estes, Klondike; 4. Danielle Ferguson. Klonalke.

Science: 1. Ben Campbell, Sands; 2. Jason Pribyla, Grady; 3. Gustavo Rodriquez, Grady: 5. Brent Madison, Grady; 6. Shane Tarleton, Borden County. Teams placing were Grady, first; Sands, third.

Social Studies: 1. Rowdy Clary, Borden County; 2. Taylor Peterson, Borden County; 3. Jake Payne, Borden County. Team results are Borden County, first; Ira,

Spelling and vocabulary: 1. Becky Dobyns, Borden County; 2. Terryn Autry, Ira; 4. Erik Gutierrez, Sands; 5. Tyler Kinman, Sands; 6. Emily Mayes, Borden County. In team competition, Borden County placed first followed by Sands second, and Ira third.

Team journalism: 1. Borden County. Team speech: 1. Borden County; 3. Sands.

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Mom with 14 kids, one on the way, honored

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) -With her 14 children in tow and pregnant with her 15th, Michelle Duggar waddled into Arkansas' Capitol on Wednesday to accept the state's Young Mother award.

"We're going from diapers right up to driver's ed," she said with a

Duggar, 37, who home schools her children and is helping to build a new home from the ground up, started having her babies when she was 21, four years after she married former state Rep. Jim Bob Duggar.

"We're letting the Lord give us the gifts that he wants to give us and I'm open to more gifts," she said. "I'll take them one at a time or two at a time.'

The offspring include two sets of twins, and the parents have stuck to the letter "J" when it comes picking names. There is Joshua,

16; Jana and John-David, 14; Jill, 12; Jessa, 11; Jinger, 10; Joseph, 9; Josiah, 7; Joy-Anna, 6; Jeremiah and Jedidiah, 5; Jason, 3; James, 2 and Justin, 1.

The new baby is due in two months and is most likely a boy. They plan to name him Jackson.

That child won't know the sometimes-crowded life his siblings now have in their small home with two bathrooms in Springdale.

"There's usually a pretty good line in front of each one of them," Jim Bob Duggar said.

For the past two years the family has been building their own home in Tontitown, just seven miles from where they now live in northwest Arkansas.

"Our house is like a giant Cracker Barrel," Michelle Duggar said. "It's got this huge porch it goes on forever. We may get lost in the middle of it all."

The 7,000-square-foot family project will have 10 bathrooms, master and guest bedrooms, a laundry room with four washers and eight dryers and two dormitory-style bedrooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. Those rooms will have bunk beds, Jim Bob Duggar said, easily added for any new chil-

"We've done the work from the foundation up," he said. "We're building it debt-free. We're doing it as we can afford it."

There will be two closets on either side of the laundry, one with boys clothes and one with things for the girls.

The children put on whatever clothing fits.

This weekend, Duggar, a real estate businessman, plans to put up the siding and windows with some of his sons. They hope to move in this summer.

Study shows drug lifts good choiesterol level

By The Associated Press

The good cholesterol HDL, which reduces the risks of heart disease, can be dramatically boosted by an experimental drug that also lowers bad cholesterol, according to a preliminary study.

Potentially offering an entirely new way to preheart attacks. researchers at University of Pennsylvania and Tufts University found that the drug doubled HDL in people with worrisomely low levels of the heart-healthy substance. The drug, called torcetrapib, also reduced LDL, the bad cholesterol.

Good cholesterol reduces the risk of heart

disease; bad cholesterol raises it.

Until now, doctors have concentrated largely on lowering bad cholesterol by giving patients statin drugs, which are used by millions of Americans and reduce heart attacks by about one-third. Many experts hope to drive down heart disease still further by boosting good cholesterol, too, and several strategies are in test ing.

The latest study was small, involving just 19 patients, but its striking results suggest torcetrapib can have a powerful effect.

The drug is still a few years away from reaching

Government licenses the first private rocket

WASHINGTON (AP) - the launch license, Rutan a manned suborbital

The Federal Aviation announced that it gave a one-year license to Scaled Composites of Mojave, Calif., a company founded by aviation maverick Burt Rutan. His goal is public space travel within 10 years.

Rutan is best known for designing the Voyager airplane that made the first nonstop, unrefueled flight around the world in 1986. But his dream is to inspire excitement about space flight.

comment on obtaining petition.

government on posted a statement on the Wednesday awarded a company's Web site California aviation com- expressing his hopes that pany the first license for ordinary people can travel to space in 10 years.

"I strongly feel that, if Administration we are successful, our program will mark the beginning of a renaissance for manned space flight," he wrote. "This might even be similar to that wonderful time period between 1908 and 1912 when the world went from a total of ten airplane pilots to hundreds of airplane types and thousands of pilots in 39 countries. We need affordable space travel to inspire our youth."

The license is a prereq-Though he declined to uisite for the X Prize com-

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Shiite militiamen control parts of three Iraqi cities; Fighting with Sunni Muslims still raging in Fallujah

- Militiaman loval to an anti-U.S. Shiite cleric controlled large swaths of Iraqi cities Thursday after clashes with coalition forces, while U.S. Marines fought insurgents for the second day around a mosque in the Sunni Muslim stronghold of Fallujah.

left 35 Americans and at least 459 Iraqis dead. This includes more than 280 Iraqis killed since the Marines' siege against insurgents in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, began early Monday said Taher trol. Al-Issawi, the director of the city's hospital.

At a time when U.S. forces had planned to try to hand more security battled again around the operations in Iraq.

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) duties over to Iraqi secu- Abdel-Aziz al-Samarrai rity forces, the intensified mosque, which Marine violence on two fronts one Sunni, one Shiite has forced the U.S. military to consider sending more troops to Iraq and to postpone the removal of Helicopters forces due to rotate out.

"You can be certain that Marines, he said. if they want more troops, we will sign deployment Fighting this week has orders so that they'll have the troops they need," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon news conference Wednesday, though he insisted fighting was not spinning out of con-

The United States has about 135,000 troops in

Capt. James Edge said insurgents were again using as a base despite a six-hour battle the day before to uproot them. deployed to support the

Capping Wednesday's battle, a U.S. Cobra helicopter fired a missile at the base of the mosque's minaret, and an F-16 dropped a laser-guided bomb at the wall, allowing Marines to move in and seize the site, Lt. Col. Brennan Byrne said.

"I understand there was a large casualty toll taken by the enemy," said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the In Fallujah, Marines deputy chief of military

He said U.S. Marines did not attack the mosque until it became clear enemy fighters were inside and using it to cover their attacks - nullifying the holy site's protections under the Geneva Conventions.

The battle began Wednesday morning, when gunmen in the mosque opened fire on an American patrol, wounding five Marines, Byrne

Fighting in the south is waged by the Shiite Al-Mahdi Army militia, which launched a wave of attacks against coalition troops this week after U.S. authorities began a crackdown on its leader, radical cleric Muqtada al-

NEWS BRIEFS

Palestinians expect aid package from U.S.

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinians expect a large aid package from the United States and other donor countries to help rebuild the Gaza Strip after an Israeli withdrawal, the Palestinian foreign minister said Thursday.

The foreign minister, Nabil Shaath, is traveling to Washington later this month to discuss Israel's unilateral withdrawal plan with top U.S. officials.

In Gaza, the Palestinian Authority and various militant factions are to hold a new round of talks this weekend on a possible power-sharing arrangement after an Israeli withdrawal.

The two sides are nowhere near a deal which would require major concessions, including agreement by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to give up some of his power and an implicit recognition of Israel by Hamas. The Islamic militant group, which has killed more than 300 Israelis in attacks since 2000, seeks Israel's destruction.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has said he expects to withdraw from Gaza in the coming year. Sharon travels to Washington next week for talks with President Bush. Shaath will hold talks with senior administration officials a week later.

Prosecutors try to halt retrial for Stewart

NEW YORK (AP) - Prosecutors hope to quash Martha Stewart's bid for a retrial by discrediting attempts by her lawyers to dredge up damaging details about a juror's past.

In papers filed Wednesday in federal court, prosecutors told Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum that the allegations against juror Chappell Hartridge were not enough to require a court hearing, much less a new trial.

Stewart was convicted March 5 of lying to federal investigators about her sale of 3,928 shares of ImClone Systems stock on Dec. 27, 2001, just before it plunged on a negative government report.

Last week, Stewart's lawyers asked for a new trial, saying Hartridge failed to disclose an arrest on assault charges, three lawsuits filed against him and an accusation that he stole money from a Little League group.

Prosecutors said in their written response that the allegations raised by Stewart were unsupported by enough evidence for a "reasonable inference" that Hartridge had intentionally withheld any information about himself.

Stewart lawyer Robert Morvillo had not seen the government papers and could not respond, his office said Wednesday.

Kerry promises to hold line on spending

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, portrayed by Republican critics as a tax-and-spend Massachusetts liberal, is promising to hold the line on federal spending if elected president.

Kerry said in a speech Wednesday that he would cut the deficit in half in four years and cap spending at the rate of inflation, except for homeland security, education and the Social Security and Medicare entitlement programs. He acknowledged that he will have to cut some of his campaign promises to meet

"I don't like that. But those are the hard calls that a president has to make," Kerry said at Georgetown University.

Kerry was touting his economic plan Thursday at a town meeting in Milwaukee with Gov. Jim Doyle. The trip will be his first visit to the battleground state of Wisconsin since he won its presidential primary in February.

U.S. jobless claims tumble to 328,000

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people filing new claims for unemployment benefits dropped last week to the lowest level in more than three years, a promising sign that companies feel better about the economy's prospects and are less inclined to get rid of work-

The Labor Department reported Thursday that new applications filed for jobless claims declined by a seasonally adjusted 14,000 to 328,000 for the week ending April 3. That marked the lowest level since Jan. 13, 2001.

The jobless claims figures were better than economists were expecting. They called for a slight decline from the previous week to around 340,000.

The more stable four-week moving average of claims, which smooths out weekly fluctuations, also went down last week by 3,250 to 336,750. That represented the lowest level since November 25,

The latest snapshot of layoffs raised hopes that recent improvements seen in the labor market might be sustained. A complete turnaround in the jobs market is the one missing piece of the economic recovery puzzle, analysts

The employment situation showed signs of turning an important corner in March. The economy added 308,000 jobs last month — the most in four years. While that's definitely an improvement from payroll gains registered in previous months, economists want to see net job gains in the range of 200,000 to 300,000 a month on a consistent basis before they declare a recovery in the jobs market.

The nation's unemployment rate, meanwhile, edged up to 5.7 percent in March as an improved economic climate beckoned more job seekers to look for work again.

Even with the robust job gains in March, the economy has lost a net 1.84 million jobs since January

That's something presumptive Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry says is evidence that President Bush's economic policies aren't working. Bush, however, says the robust employment gain in March shows his economic policies are making the economy stronger and translating into job growth.

Economists believe the economy grew at a healthy annual rate of around 4.5 percent in the first quarter of this year and is expanding close to that pace in the current April to June quarter.

The Federal Reserve has held a key interest rate at an extra low level of 1 percent to motivate consumers and business to spend and invest more, forces that would bolster economic growth.

Some economists believe the Fed won't start to nudge rates up until 2005. But others — encouraged that the labor market will continue to get better - believe the Fed will start pushing up rates later this

Actors whip Easter bunny at church show

church trying to teach with a tone of irrever- Bickerton said. about the crucifixion of ence. Jesus performed an Easter show with actors all ages, not just the kids. hunt and also portrayed a whipping the Easter bunny and breaking eggs. upsetting several parents the Easter bunny, it is Jennifer Norelli-Burke, and young children.

People who attended Saturday's performance at Glassport's memorial stadium quoted performers as saying, "There is no Easter bunny," and described the show as being a demonstration of how Jesus was crucified.

Melissa Salzmann, who brought her 4-year-old son J.T., said the program was inappropriate for young children. "He was crying and asking me why the bunny was being whipped," Salzmann said. Patty Bickerton, the

youth minister Glassport Assembly of God, said the performance wasn't meant to be offensive. Bickerton portrayed the Easter rabbit



GLASSPORT, Pa. — A and said she tried to act about Jesus Christ," another parent who saw

Performers broke eggs "The program was for meant for an Easter egg We wanted to convey that drunken man and a self-Easter is not just about mutilating woman, said

the show in Glassport, a community about 10 southeast miles Pittsburgh.

"It was very disturbing," Norelli-Burke said. "I could not believe what I saw. It wasn't anything I was expecting."



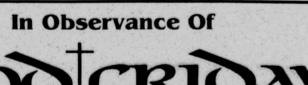
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IN BRIEF

Bulldogettes roll past Colorado City, 10-1

Coahoma's Bulldogettes evened their season record to 9-9, but importantly improved to 2-0 in District 3-2A play, with a 10-1 drubbing of Colorado City's Lady Wolves on Tuesday.

Colorado City broke open a scoreless game in the third on an error and a triple.

But that would be all Coahoma's Ashle New and Kali Roberts allowed, as they combined to scatter three Lady Wolves hits and struck out 11.

Coahoma took control in the fourth inning with a seven-run rally. The Bulldogettes added two more in the fifth and another in the sixth.

All told, Bulldogettes pounded out nine hits and made the most of six Colorado City errors.

Bulldogettes The return to non-district play today, traveling to Midland to face Midland High's Class 5A Lady Dawgs.

CGA to hold benefit tournament for Relay

The Chicano Golf Association of Big Spring has scheduled a tournament to benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life for Saturday, April 24, at the Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The tournament's format will be a four-man scramble. Entry fees are \$20 per player and all nayers must be regis tered by 10 a.m. the day of the tournament.

For more information, call Billy Pineda at 264 7116 after 7 p.m..

Coahoma UGSA still offering last chance

The Coahoma United Softball Girls Association will be holding last chance sign-ups for Division I, II and III players with no late fees starting at 10 am. Saturday at the Coahoma Softball Complex.

Anyone needing addiinformation tional should contact association president Patric Robinson at 393-5622.

Umpires needed for Little League season

Umpires are needed for the Little League baseball season. Anyone interested in working with youth should call Jason Hester at 264-7777 or Don Booth at 263-6597.

Teen League slates registration

The Big Spring Teenage Baseball League is holding registration through April 16 at All District Screen Printing, 1005 E. 11th Place, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.The league is open to all ages 13-16.

For more information, contact Stan Parker at 264-2570.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule Today
Event, Time
Steers vs. Lake View, 4:15 p.m 1490
Friday
Event, Time
Hawks vs. El Paso. 2 p.m
Saturday
Event, Time Station
Mavencks at Seattle, 7 p.m
Rangers vs. Angels; 6:30 p.m
Sunday
Event, Time Station
Astros at Brewers, 12L40 p.m

Rangers top A's to post first win of season

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. - Colby Lewis and the Texas bullpen outpitched Barry Zito, and the Rangers snapped a nine-game losing streak against the Oakland Athletics with a 2-1 victory Wednesday.

Zito lost to Texas for the first time in 18 career starts, allowing seven hits and four walks over eight innings. The 2002 AL Cy Young winner had been 11-0 with a 2.40 ERA against the Rangers,

ing him in the third round in

Texas hadn't beaten Oakland since last June 25. The A's rallied for a victory on opening day, and Mark Mulder shut down the Rangers in a 3-1 win Tuesday night.

Eric Young had an RBI single and Kevin Mench hit a sacrifice fly in the early innings against Zito. That was enough for Lewis and his relievers, who held Oakland to five hits — none after

who couldn't sign Zito after draft- the sixth inning despite a long history of blowing games against the A's, including Monday's season opener.

> Jay Powell pitched out of a jam in the sixth, and Erasmo Ramirez and Francisco Cordero followed with hitless perfor-

Rookie Bobby Crosby reached second base with one out in the ninth when Alfonso Soriano dropped his popup for an error, but Cordero retired pinch-hitters Billy McMillon and Eric Karros

for his first save.

Jermaine Dye hit his second homer in two days for the A's, but his sixth-inning shot was their only extra-base hit.

Lewis worked quickly and confidently, allowing five hits and four walks over 5 1-3 innings while striking out five in his fifth straight victory dating back to last season. In contrast to the Rangers' struggles against Oakland, Lewis has won two of his three career starts at the Coliseum.

Steers, Lady Steers suffer losses to Andrews squads

By ROB LOFTIS

Special to the Herald

If Big Spring sports fans didn't have reason enough to dislike Andrews' Mustangs or just need a reminder of heated rivalry between the two schools, Andrews felt inclined Wednesday to provide a reminder.

Big Spring's Steers and Lady Steers hosted their arch rivals Wednesday in District 4-4A baseball and softball games and both home teams fell short as a result of very good play by the two Andrews teams.

The Steers played the first six innings of their game magnificently, and trailed by a slim 6-5 mar-

It was in the seventh inning, however, that Big Spring fell apart.

Capitalizing on Big Spring errors, Mustangs added seven more runs to take a 13-5 victory.

"I am disappointed about the end of the game," Steers head coach Jason Phillips admitted. "We need to learn how to finish games.'

The loss leaves the Steers at 7-9 overall, and winless in district play at

The Lady Steers didn't fair any better, as they were simply smothered by Andrews' defense. The Lady Mustangs allowed just three hits in a 7-0 vic-

"Andrews played very well, and I feel they came out to play and we didn't," Lady Steers head coach Lee Daggett said following the shutout

When asked if he considered the loss an upset the Lady Steers entered showdown as the No. 6-

"Andrews is a very good team," he said. "This was more of a per-



After taking a beating from the Andrews offense in the bottom of the second inning, Lady Steers pitcher Alex Watkins gets some revenge by belting one into right field.

sonal defeat rather than a chance to avenge the loss Lady Steers will be in statistical loss because I during the last game of action today when they

ter than they are." Wednesday's The he Lady Steers are could well decided the Maidens. still in the mix of things, league championship. ranked Class 4A team in however, the loss leaving the state — he made it clear he believed so.

Mustangs.

truly believe we are bet- the regular season at will face San Angelo Andrews - a game that Lake View's Chiefs and

The Lady Steers fall to them in second place in a respectable record of 24the 4-4A standings, one 3-1 overall, while their game behind the Lady district record dropped to

And they will get a Both the Steers and

The Lady Steers and Maidens square off at 4 p.m. at the Big Spring ISD Softball Complex, while the Steers and Chiefs are scheduled for a 4:30 p.m. start.

Clemens dominates Giants in 10-1 win

By BEN WALKER

AP National Writer

HOUSTON - Roger Clemens nearly turned a special night at Minute Maid Park into a truly historic one.

Boosted by an emotional talk with George Steinbrenner and bolstered by a standing ovation even before his first pitch, Clemens made his Houston homecoming one to remember.

Clemens dominated Barry Bonds and the Giants, holding them to one hit over seven shutout innings in his NL debut and leading the Astros past San Francisco 10-1 Wednesday night.

"It sure was nice coming home," Clemens said. "It was just real enjoy-

Clemens earned his

311th victory, tying for mer teammate and mentor Tom Seaver for 16th place on the career list. Ray Durham nicked

Clemens for a clean single to center field in the third inning. The Rocket retired the next 14 batters and finished with nine strikeouts.

"It's nice to get the first one underway," Clemens said. "It's been a long time coming since I first decided to play.'

Clemens also won the matchup between a sixtime Cy Young winner and a six-time MVP. In baseball's first meeting of a pitcher with 300 wins and a hitter with 600 home runs, Clemens intentionally walked Bonds in the first inning and then twice struck him out with 94 mph fast-

Bonds left town with 659 home runs, still one behind his godfather, Willie Mays, for third place on the career list.

"Good for him. Instead of doing it here, let him go home and do it in front of people who have seen him grow up," Clemens

Mickelson in search of greatness, and a green jacket

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The man in the green jacket raved about Phil Mickelson's record at the Masters — seven times in the top 10, no worse than seventh since

Mickelson saw what was coming and beat everyone to the punch.

"But no wins," he said.

Then, he reached over and playfully tugged at the sleeve of the Augusta National member sitting next to him.

"I want what you have," he said. "I want one of these. Those are

Getting one has proved to be a major challenge for Mickelson,

ing a streak - 0-for-42 in the majors - that has come to define an otherwise impeccable career.

No one questions his awesome ability. Mickelson has won 22 times on the PGA Tour, more than any other active player besides Tiger Woods. He is long off the tee and has a short game that even Woods says is the best in golf.

But his lack of a major became another Lefty - Mike Weir of clutch putts down the stretch to every time he has played. win the Masters.

What about Phil?

major championship," Mark

who comes into the Masters rid- O'Meara said. "And I think it's fairway. He is controlling his going to happen soon."

> Mickelson's hopes are higher than ever this year, and for good

Coming off his worst season on the PGA Tour — so bad that one golf publication failed to list him among the top 30 players going into the year — Mickelson looks stronger than ever.

He refused to start practicing until Jan. 1 to emphasize that even more glaring last year when last year was behind him, then came out of the blocks by win-Canada - showed the mettle of ning the Bob Hope Classic and major champions by making getting into Sunday contention

He has toned down his swing, costing him some 15 yards off the "I think he's going to win a tee that he could afford to lose in exchange for playing out of the

irons with three-quarter shots instead of swinging from the heels.

"Phil, he's probably played the best out of the whole lot," Ernie Els said.

This might be the place for Mickelson to prove it.

Mickelson is so serious about this year's Masters that he came to Augusta National last week for two practice rounds. He identified his problems the last three years - all of them third-place finishes - by working with coaches Rick Smith and Dave Pelz to figure out where he can save a shot per round.

"I certainly feel like I have a very good chance," Mickelson Go online and check out www.thatsracin.com for the latest information and news on stock-car racing, updated daily.

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Last season, Jeff Gordon won both races and both poles at Martinsville Speedway. Overall, he has five victories and 16 top-10 finishes at the track.

Extending the streak

BY DAVID POOLE Knight Ridder Newspapers

> here's little margin for error in NASCAR Nextel Cup racing, not even for four-time champion Jeff Gordon "It's a lot harder to pass these

days," he said. "I can remember when if we did have trouble, we could always find a way to get back. That seems to be a lot tougher to do these days. Fewer mistakes can be made. "Track position is extremely important. If ou don't have it through qualifying, you'd bet-

ter get it through pit stops. Or you'd better find a way to get that track position and hold on to Fortunately for Gordon, recent history sug-

gests he won't have much of a problem making up ground when the circuit returns to action April 18 at Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

Gordon will go into the Advance Auto Parts 500 as the defending champion. He had what might be considered the perfect season at the 0.526-mile track, winning both races and both poles there in 2003. He has started in the top five in each of the past seven events at the track, with four of those starts coming from the

"I love Martinsville because I run well there," Gordon said. "I grew up on short tracks. We can't have a series that's nothing but 1.5mile tracks. We see how many people we pack in for Bristol (Tenn.) and how exciting it is. Even though Martinsville isn't that same type of track, it still offers that short-track excitement the fans love to see."

Gordon has won at Martinsville five times, and has finished in the top 10 there 16 He goes to the track coming off a third-place

finish in the Samsung/Radio Shack 500 at

Jeff Gordon hopes to return to his winning ways at Martinsville

Texas Motor Speedway, his first top-five finish this year but his fifth top-10 in seven races. That moved him from 12th to ninth in the points standings

Being in the top 10 is important, of course, because of Cup's new "Chase for the Championship" format, in which the top 10 and anyone else within 400 points of the leader after the season's 26th points race at Richmond, Va., in September becomes eligible to battle for the 2004 title.

"Right now I can't say we're looking at it a whole lot differently because basically it's about being consistent," Gordon said. "Everybody is out there trying to win races and so are we, but we know that come Richmond we've got to be in that top 10.

"When we are, we'd better be set on kill to go out there and lead

laps and win races. You're going to have to have top fives every single weekend and have a lot of luck in order to win that championship. Two or three months from now everything is going to change for everybody.'

Gordon also is trying to extend a remarkable streak. He's won at least three races in each of the past nine seasons. He might have gotten his first win of 2004 at Texas, but a problem with his alternator drained his Chevrolet's battery. causing the car to sputter while he was leading

Despite being in the top 10 in the standings, however, the performance of Gordon's teamthis year has been questioned.

"It doesn't surprise me because we've set that bar," Gordon said. "We've set those expectations by the number of wins and championships and seasons we've had. We know where our focus is, but we also know we haven't lived up to our potential.

"We finally showed in Texas what we're capable of and that we are going to challenge for wins. Outsiders are quick to judge. It's a long season. We haven't gotten off to the season we've wanted either, but we are happy to get some momentum from Texas and take it to

a great track like Martinsville."



RANKINGS THAT'S RACIN'S TOP **PICKS**

1. Kasey Kahne (car No. 9): Elliott Sadler said this is the team everyone's trying to keep up with. He's right. Last week: 7

2. Dale Earnhardt Jr. (car No. 8): Team took a so-so car at Texas and worked a fourth-place finish out of it. Well done. Last week: 2.

3. Matt Kenseth (car No. 17): Stays ahead of new points leader because he's got two race victories to Busch's one. Last week: 1

4. Kurt Busch (car No. 97): How could this team lead in the standings but drop a spot here? Points aren't the point, yet. Last week: 3

5. Jimmie Johnson (car No. 48): Overcame more than his share of Texas difficulties to rack-up another

top-10 finish. Last week: 4.

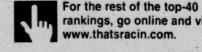
6. Jeff Gordon (car No. 24): Solid Texas run a good lead-in to Martinsville where Gordon's always a threat to win. Last week: 11.

7. Elliott Sadler (car No. 38): Look who's in the top five in points all of a sudden. Texas win could breed more success, Last week: 17.

8. Tony Stewart (car No. 20): Another threat at Martinsville. Team's fourth in points and hasn't really clicked yet. Last week: 8.

9. Ryan Newman (car No. 12): Clinging to top 10 with Martinsville and Talladega, not his best tracks, coming up. Last week: 5.

10. Kevin Harvick (car No. 29): Another team that seems to be treading water while it waits for high gear to kick in. Last week: 6.



rankings, go online and visit

Impact of NASCAR decisions depends on perspective

unny thing, perspective. Things can look entirely differsit. Take, for example, several instances from the final

moments of Sunday's Samsung/Radio Shack 500 at Texas Motor Speedway. From where Kasey

Kahne sat, NASCAR took entirely too long to resume racing through a series of late-race cautions that, from Kahne's point of view, robbed him of chances to come back from eighth place to

win a race he'd dominated all day.

Elliott Sadler, on the other hand, welcomed every moment that the pace car led the field around the 1.5-mile track for 26 of 35 laps before a final 32-lap race to the finish.

"It 100 percent benefited me," Sadler

said after holding off Kahne by half of a car length to win for the second time in ent, depending solely on where you his Nextel Cup career. "The more caution laps we could run, the less time the

No. 9 had to get up through the field. We knew nobody saying, 'Keep running cautions, keep running cau-

Part of the issue is with the way NASCAR is adjudicating yellow flags these

By waiting a lap befde opening pit road, partly to allow officials a chance to

tidy up any lingering seoring issues related to the freezing of the field once the yellow flies, an extra circuit has been added to the front of each caution period. Another has been tacked on at the end to permit the car being allowed to make up its lap on each yellow to go around the track.

Sunday at Texas, Sadler and Kahne also had opposite views of the role Johnny Sauter played — or didn't play

Sauter's lapped car wound up in front of the two drivers dueling for the victory could run with him, but I was on the final lap. Sadler said Sauter pulled down out on the backstretch, but then pulled back into the low groove that Sadler had been running through Turns 3

in the final outcome of the race.

Kahne was, you might say, a tad more tolerant of Sauter's presence in the mix on the final lap. That's because Sadler had to follow Sauter into the corner and hope Sauter was going to go fast enough to allow Sadler to stay ahead of Kahne or elect to go high where Sadler hadn't been running his Ford all day.

"Either way, I thought it was going to

help me," Kahne said. It did, but not enough. Instead, Sadler got to the finish line 28-thousandths of a second ahead of Kahne - about the distance from Sadler's wheel well to the

nose of his Taurus.

Eddie Gossage, general manager of Texas Motor Speedway, was all smiles as he walked around after Victory Lane ceremonies. He'd sold out a track that has about 157,000 grandstand seats and stacked several thousand more in luxury suites, condos in Turn 2 and campers clustered in the infield. From the track's perspective, the

crowd totaled an estimated 216,000. From a non-partisan view, it was probably more like 185,000 — which is still a gob of humanity.

The finish provided the fans with a show. Gossage wanted no part of any talk about whether NASCAR needs to slow the cars to promote more racing throughout the event, or any other discouraging words for that matter.

'We just had the eighth closest finish in NASCAR history," he said. "I've got nothing to complain about. Quote me on

POLL POSITION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

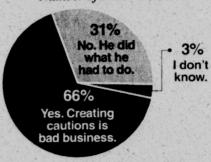
After an Easter weekend break, Nextel Cup teams return to action at Martinsville, then head to Talladega. Which of those two races are you most looking forward to watching?

Cast your vote at:

www.thatsracin.com LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Should Dale Earnhardt Jr. be penalized for admittedly spinning out to bring the yellow flag in the 2004 Food City 500?

Number of votes: 20,125



STOP 'N' GO

Q&A WITH KURT BUSCH

With a victory already under his belt this season, fourth-year driver Kurt Busch leads the Nextel Cup points standings.

■ With six races down, are you getting a feel for the new tire?

■ Busch: We've got some good ideas. We're going to take this off week and we might go test somewhere just to go play around and understand a few more things.

We've got a couple of tough tracks coming up that can shake up the points real easy with Martinsville and Talladega. We've just got to get through them and then we'll go to California where we know we've got a good car.

■ Busch: It's a happy time. I wish the guys

a happy Easter and take a week off. We'll come back next week and do the same thing

■ Is this a good time for an off-week?

■ How does it feel to have the points

Busch: It's a new aspect. I was once a Winston Cup points leader for a race and now The a Nexter Cup points leader, but it's not at the right time. We've got to keep working and make sure that we're there when it counts.



Kurt Busch is in first place in the Nextel Cup points standings with 1,032 points.

BY THE NUMBERS

NEXTEL CUP POINTS LEADERS

The top-40 c	drive	ers as of April 4:	
Rank/Driver Poi	nts	Rank/Driver F	oints
1. K. Busch (97) 10	032	21. S. Wimmer (22)	. 719
2. M. Kenseth (17) 10	013	22. W. Burton (22)	714
3. D. Earnhardt Jr. (8) 9	997	23. T. Labonte (5) .	678
4. T. Stewart (20)	946	24. J. Sauter (30) .	67
5, E. Sadler (38)	942	25. R. Gordon (31)	67
6. J. Johnson (48)	923	26. B. Vickers (25) .	63
7. K. Kahne (9) 9	902	27. K. Schrader (49	9) . 63
8. K. Harvick (29)	897	28. K. Petty (45)	61
9. J. Gordon (24) !	891	29. B. Gaughan (77)	60
10. R. Newman (12)	B34	30. J. Burton (99)	58
11. R. Wallace (2) !	825	31. R. Rudd (21)	57
12. J. Mayfield (19) !	825	32. R. Craven (32) .	57
13. J. McMurray (42) . I	818	33. M. Waltrip (15)	55
14. S. Martin (40) !	817	34. S. Riggs (10)	55
15. B. Labonte (18) !	801	35. J. Green (43)	53
16. M. Martin (6)	789	36. D. Cope (50)	48
17. J. Nemechek (01)	776	37. K. Lepage (4)	42
18. C. Mears (41)	752	38. D. Blaney (23) .	37
19. G. Biffle (16)	745	39. K. Shelmerdine	(72)
20. D. Jarrett (88)	721	237	
		40. L. Foyt (14)	21

NEXT RACE: April 18, Advance Auto Parts 500, Martinsville, Va.

BUSCH SERIES POINTS LEADERS

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. D. Green	891	11. T. Fedewa	735
2. M. Truex Jr	874	12. D. Stremme	716
3. M. Waltrip	848	13. R. Hornada	y 714
4. K. Busch	817	14. M. Bliss	679
5. R. Gordon	802	15. J. Benson .	678
6. J. Keller	800	16. J. Leffler	644
7. K. Harvick	790	17. K. Wallace	624
8. B. Hamilton Jr	783	18. S. Comptor	588
9. J. Sauter	743	19. C. Atwood	583
10. G Biffle	739	20. R. Pressley	582

RUCK SERIES POINTS LEADERS

The top-10 drivers as of March 13:

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1. T. Kvapil	340	6. S. Hmiel	276
2. C. Edwards	336	7. T. Cook	269
3. B. Hamilton	320	8. M. Skinner	264
4. D. Reutimann	313	9. C. Chaffin	262
5, D. Setzer	285	10. M. Crafton .	261
NEXT RACE: A	pril 17, Kr	oger 250, Martins	sville, Va.

Announcen

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Announcements

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Help Wanted



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THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the National Classified ads. Before investing money in a business/employment opportunity with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or www.bbb.org

Garage Sales

PJ'S INSIDE SALE: 2210 Main, Fri. & Sat. 10-4.

Help Wanted

Garage Sales

1806 STATE - Books, games, toys, lamps, microwave, camcorders, playstation, stuffed animals, clothes, scooter, tins, kids work bench, lots of miscellaneous. Fri. & Sat. 9-2.

208 LITTLE Rd. (South 87 to Todd Rd., go up 2 miles). Fence Post, lawn furn., infant toys & clothing (girls), name clothing, bunk bed, furn. and knick-knack's.

719 BAYLOR, Sat. Only 8-1. Girls clothing mostly size 7, dryer, and lots of misc. items.

Help Wanted



West Texas Centers for MHMR has opening for part time clerk at Vo tech. High School Diploma or GED required plus one year experience. Duties include typing, transcribing calculating, filing, data entry, mail distribution and copying. Salary \$6.85 hr. up to 35 hours, M-F. Application may be obtained at 409 Runnels or by calling Jobline at 1-800-687-2769 or www.wtcmhmr.org. EOE

Garage Sales

2505, **2504**, 2525, 2514 BROADWAY- Neighbors (Off Thorpe), having sales. Furniture, building supplies, tools, baby and maternity clothes, lawn tractor, curtains, freezer. 8:00-12:00 Saturday.

GARAGE SALE: 2700 Ann, Sat. 8-1. No Early Sales, Exercise Equipment, Drumset, household items, teen boys clothes, beanie babies, lots of good stuff.

GARAGE SALE: 2727 East 25th, Sat. 8-?. Fishing Equipment, linens, bed spreads, clothing, dishes. Waverunner jumper, skies and water toys; too much to list. Come Early for best selection.

GARAGE SALE: Sat. 7:30-?. Spring Cleaning. Lots of Miscellaneous. 1733 Yale.

INSIDE MOVING Sale: Deep Freeze, lawn mowers, vacuum cleaners, big screen TV, furniture, and more. 2513 Larry, Saturday 7-3.

Herald Classified ads work. Call us to place your ad at 263-

Garage Sales

INSIDE SALE, 1 block east of Town & Country, Coahoma. Friday & Saturday, 9:00-4:00. More items added every week! Lots of fabrics remnants & miscellaneous.

MOVING SALE: Everything must Go. 4051 Vicky, Fri.- Sat.-Sunday 8-5. Recliner, big screen TV, king size bedroom suite, gun cabinet, lots of misc.

Help Wanted

AREA REP/LOCAL Route, No Selling. \$100K Income. \$12,950 Investment for Accounts, Inventory, Training, Territory. Call (800)373-5470.

CHILD CAREGIVER position, full or part-time. Day or evening hours. Apply in person at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan. Prior applicants, please reapply. phone calls please.

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· Immediate Openings and ALL SHIFTS AVAILABLE! Requires State Certification and willing attitude. Great working conditions, competitive rates, and full time employees are eligible for company benefits including vacation leave, and holiday pay. EOE/MFVH. For information, call our Nursing Office at (325)573-6332, or apply in per-Mon-Fri, 9:00am to 3:00pm. SNYDER HEALTH CARE CENTER, 5311 Big Spring Highway, Snyder.

> Come join our team, Beautiful 160 bed state-of-the-art facility providing **Long Term Care Positions Available UNIT MANAGER** RN or LVN

(Monday thru Friday) Long Term experience required RN SUPERVISOR Wages Commensurate

on Experience Starting Salary \$25.00 and up Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home 1809 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Tx 79720 (432)268-8387 (432)268-1987 fax **Equal Opportunity Employer** Competitive Wages, Health Insurance & Benefits

COVENANT HOME HEALTH CARE of Big Spring is now hiring for a full-time RN for home visits in the Big Spring area. Home Health experience preferred but not required. Apply in person at 2000 S. Birdwell Lane, Suite 110 or call (432)263-6816. Equal Opportunity Employer. DRIVER

TRANSPORT DRIVER **BIG SPRING**

Immediate opening. Local fuel delivery. Tanker exp., CDL with Hazmat. Applications available at Rip Griffin Travel Center, Hwy 87 & I-20 in Big Spring. Or E-mail qualifications to: wbarron@ripgriffin.com

DRUG SCREEN Compliance is looking for a male Collector. Salary DOE. Qualified candidates should apply in person at 501 Birdwell #17, Big Spring. EOE.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY! Cardiology Group in Lubbock TX seeks Nuc Med Tech and Echo Tech. Nuc Med Tech must be experience in Nuclear Cardiac Studies and have strong working knowledge of EKG'S and phlebotomy skills. Echo Tech must be experienced in cardiac and vascular studies. Excellent benefit package. Contact Bev-806-780-8003, 806-780-5445.

BUY-SELL-TRADE In the Big Spring Herald Classifieds 263-7331

Help Wanted

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benefits package.

Help Wanted

LOCAL SALON looking for shampoo tech, massage therapist and receptionist. Call anytime (432)349-0105.

LONG JOHN Silvers, Day and evening shifts available. Must be energetic. Apply in person, 2403 S. Gregg. No phone calls,

> Looking for change? Come join our team, Beautiful 160 bed state-of-the art facility providing Long Term Care. **Positions Available** STAFF RN's/LVN's (FULL TIME, PART-TIME & PRN)

LVN's (2-10pm & 10pm - 6am) CERTIFIED NURSES AIDES (2-10 pm & 10pm - 6am) Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home 1809 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Tx 79720 (432)268-8387 (432)268-1987 fax **Equal Opportunity Employer** Competitive Wages, Health

LOOKING FOR Friendly Professional front desk sales agent also have openings for housekeeping positions. Apply in person @ 2900 E. I-20, Comfort Inn.

Insurance & Benefits

MIDWEST FINANCE CORP now hiring assistant manager/ collector. Benefit package. Pay DOE. Apply in person, 612 S. Gregg. No Phone Calls!

NEED INDIVIDUALS with Grocery experience in Checking, stocking shelves, receiving trucks and etc.. Call after 7:00 pm @ (432)270-0937.

PARK VILLAGE Apartments is taking applications for an assistant maintenance person who is self-motivated. Make ready experience required. Must pass drug test and background check. No Phone Calls Please! Apply at 1905 Wasson Rd. or Fax resume, (432)267-3049. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

PHILLIPS FABRICATION: Looking for experienced Mig. Welders. Apply at 1305 East Drive Airpark or (432)264-6600.

RN POSITION available at Best Home Care. Hours are M-F 8:30am to 4:30pm. Competitive Salary with Apply at 1706 Marcy Drive.

START YOUR CAREER NOW! **United Petroleum Transports**

Is looking for Owner Operators in the Big Spring area to haul asphalt. Qualified drivers will need; at least 2 yrs. verifiable tractor trailer experience OR 1 yr. tanker experience, be at least 23 yrs. old, and have a Class A CDL w/X endorsement. Qualified drivers call (800)353-5606 to complete an application over the phone.

UNLIMITED BONUS POTEN-TIAL with above average base pay as Manager at Coahoma DQ. Looking for friendly, customer service leader. Holiday and vacation pay. Smoke and drug free work environment. Drug test and background check required. Call District Manager, Jacala Ashley 940-585-8586.

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Energen Resources Corporation, a subsidiary of Energen

Corporation has an immediate opening for a Lease Operator at its

Conducting and directing the on-lease activities of contractors

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Email: ruth.forsdick@twc.state.tx.us Telephone # (432) 685-8316

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Help Wanted

WELL ESTABLISHED Company looking for Clinical Staff. Must be a Licensed Respiratory Therapists or L.V.N. Great working environment, benefits with 401k and competitive salary. Send resume to PO Box 1431/200, Big Spring, Tx

WESTEX AUTO Parts, Inc. now taking applications for parts puller and dismantlers. Must have tools. Bring resume to Westex 1511 Hwy 350. Call (432)263-5000.

Items for Sale

COMPLETE USED Internet ready computer systems 200MHZ to 850MHZ. 1 Year warranty, \$125.00 & up. CD writers and DVD players available. (432)756-2354 Stanton.

Lost and Found

FOUND MALE puppy at Comanche Trail Park. Call to identify, (432)267-7387

Miscellaneous

FOR SALE all Brand New. Panasonic 20" TV/VCR/DVD \$225.00, Emerson TV/VCR/DVD \$2215.00, Emerson 19" TV/VCR \$150.00, Sanyo 19" TV \$100.00, Aiwa boombox \$50.00, Panasonic stereo 5 disc changer \$110.00. (432)268-1627 213-3237.

FOR SALE: Utility trailer, gas rang, washer & dryer. Also taking deposits on Chihuahua puppies. Call (432)263-1701.

FREE PALLETS. Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

WEDDING CAKES!! Silk florals, arches, candelabra. FREE Delivery and setup in City Limits. Call The Grishams now for appointment and more INFO (432)267-8191.

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1106 Birdwell Lane. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, huge laundry room, fenced yard. Close to school. \$585. month, \$500. deposit. No HUD. Call 432-263-1792, 816-9984

1203 MULBERRY. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. Central Heat. \$375.00 month \$200.00 deposit. No HUD. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1314 MT. Vernon. 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. Office, Screened porch, Central heat. References Required. \$400. month, deposit. (432)263-3535 after 6:00 pm.

1404 TUCSON, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. No pets. (432)267-3841 or 517-0642



3 BEDROOM 1 bath. Sunken den with fire place, living area, CH/A, fenced backyard, storage shed & covered patio. \$400 month + deposit. Call (432)267-5462.

800 NOLAN, 1 Bdrm 1 bath. \$400/mo. + deposit, utilities included. Call (432)264-9907.

801 WEST 17th., Roommate needed to share nice efficiency Apt. Ideal for 1 person. No pets, Non-smokers, NO HUD. \$350 month + deposit includes utilities. Stop by and leave message, (432)264-3700.

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BUSINESS BUILDING. Great location. Visible from Gregg & 4th. \$300. month, deposit. 403 Lancaster. Call 432-267-8787.

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OFFICE/ SHOWROOM. 1800 sq. ft. 1307 B. Gregg St., \$400/month + deposit. Call Westex Auto (432)263-5000.

Real Estate for Sale

1811 DONLEY 3 Bedroom, 1 bath brick, CH/A, 1.5 acres in town. \$5,000 and take over payments. \$350.00 month. Call (432)213-2969.

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FOR SALE, 4207 Dixon, \$750. down, \$329.64 per month for 180 months plus taxes & insurance. 1-800-804-7110.

FOR SALE: 3 Bedroom, new paint and carpet, chain link fence, quit neighborhood. \$39,900. Call Linda Leonard @ Home Realtors (432)263-1284.

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

FORECLOSURE! \$7,000! 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. For listings Call (800)719-3001 ext. F906.

HOME FOR Sale in Big Spring! Financing always available. Low Down, low monthly. Property located at 1811 State St. Call Kelly at (512)497-5976. MAKE 20% yield on occupied

houses. 4 Bedroom 2 bath, fenced, \$7000; 4 bedroom 2 bath \$5000; 2 bedroom \$5000; bedroom \$3000. Call (432)264-0510 or 270-2414. OWNER WILL FINANCE! 2

and 3 bedroom homes. Just remodeled! Great condition! 1209 Sycamore Ridgeroad, LOW DOWN, LOW MONTHLY! Tadlock Realtors (432)580-4883. PERFECT FAMILY home for

sale by owner in Kentwood. 4/3, 1800 square feet. Large shop/garage in rear with carport. \$72,000. No Owner financing. Call 432-816-9207

VERY CLEAN 3 Bedroom 2 bath Manufactured Home on one acre. Lots of extra's asking \$65,000 or make me an offer. Great Investment property. Loin Forsan. cated 1-800-699-4039 (817)456-3353 ask for Sandy Vosefski

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'04 Expeditions **\$3000 Rebate** 0% APR For 60 mos. **Bob Brock Ford** 500 W. 4th 267-7424

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1987 Crown Victoria. 5.0 liter engine, 57k original miles. Paid \$3,000 in December first \$2,000 will take it. Call (432)263-6922.

2002 FORD Ranger. Take over Payments! Nice, still under Factory Warranty. Lots of extras. Call (432)816-1816.

560 FARMALL Tractor. Excellent Condition with equipment \$3,300 OBO. 1980 F150 4X4. New engine, cold AC, regular cab, shortbed. \$2,200 OBO. 920 Yamaha Viargo. Runs great. Low miles, \$1,300 OBO. (432)398-5523.

FOR SALE, 1995 Suzuki Sidekick, 4-WD, 5 speed. Good condition, air, power steering, tilt, cruise. 120K. \$2,300. Call (432)267-7847 268-3900.

Vehicles

FOR SALE, red 2003 Ford F-250, 4x4, 29,000 miles. Reduce for quick sale, \$24,500. Located 600 Main. 432-267-3126, from 8:00-5:00, 432-267-7648 after 5:00.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF **GENERAL ELECTION** (AVISO DE ELECCION GENERAL)

To the Registered Voters of Coahoma, Texas (A los votantes registrados de Coahoma, Texas:) Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on May 15, 2004, for voting in a general election to elect two trustees to serve for three years. (Notifiquese, por las presente, que las casillas electorales sitados abajo se abriran desde las 7:00 de la manana hasta las 7:00 de la noche el 15 de mayo 2004 para votar en la Eleccion General para elegir

LOCATIONS (S) OF POLLING **PLACES**

dos oficiales (guardianes) por tres

(DIRECCION(ES) DE LAS CASIL-LAS ELECTORALES) Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each week day at

(La votaccion adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de lunes a viernes en) Administration Building 600 Main

Street, Coahoma, Texas 79511 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. beginning on April 28, 2004 and ending on May 11, 2004 (entre las 8 de la manana y las 4 de la tarde empezando el 28 de abril y terminando el 11 de mayo en el anon 2004). Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:) Gina McEndree or Judy Dobbs 600 Main Street

Coahoma, Texas 79511 Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on May 7, 2004 (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el 7 de mayo,

Issued this 19th day March, 2004 (Emitada este dia 19 de marzo el anon 2004) #4181 April 8, 2004

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Phone 263-3461

BY JOYCE JIL Aspects inspire debate. The que How can people v tically different backgrounds possibly understand where one another is coming from, let alone come to an agreement? The Jo Sagittarius

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stimulating our

about how oth

Try not to be na

questions tha

BIG SPRING HE

Thursday, Apri

potentially agita ARIES (March 19). Being div flexible will n attractive. You from a serious one moment to next. The air dictability aro keeps people wa what's next.

TAURUS (Apr 20). Everyone g or her own spe and yours is steady, determ - except on

Ann

Dear Annie: I in a relationsh ly four years. " became enga months ago, l time we have b er, we have three times, an son is his "Meg."

Meg is 28 yea not want her f happy with a has, in fact, many of her fa vious relatio have never don to make Meg d actually have backward to please her, but

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SP

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON

Aspects inspire spirited debate. The question is: How can people with drastically dif-

ferent backgrounds possibly understand where one another is coming from, let alone come to an agreement? The



Sagittarius moon helps matters by stimulating our curiosity about how others live. Try not to be naive or ask questions that could

potentially agitate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Being diverse and flexible will make you attractive. You can go from a serious statement one moment to a joke the next. The air of unpredictability around you keeps people watching for what's next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Everyone goes at his or her own speed in life. and yours is usually a steady, determined gate except on days like 22). For those of you who ciated.

a race car in the Indianapolis 500. No one else can keep up, but that's fine with you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). How do you know you can trust yourself to make the right choice? By continuing to put boundaries up and then stick to them, you reinforce to yourself that you're willing to do what it takes to treat yourself with care.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Assess the problem, and then, act. It's simple, really. Some of you will be learning for the first time the value of holding yourself in high esteem you may even get the guts up to leave a relationship that does not serve you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Job seekers: Do some personal development work on yourself before you investigate the market fully. It's necessary to build up your own selfworth and trust your intuition to be able to discern what job situations are right for you.

today, when it's more like are wondering what you're doing with your life, here's a hint: Life is ticking away as you sit and wonder. Your fire still exists, but it is being covered up by doubt. Let go of the fear, and the clouds clear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Neediness is a motivator. You could reach out to new love for the sole reason that your heart needs comfort, or you could do a killer job at work for the sole reason that you need the money. Pisces and Leo are favored signs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If you've got a regular 9-to-5 job, vou'll struggle to stay interested today. And if you work for yourself, you're in trouble because there's no one telling you not to day dream or spend too much time on the phone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a chance to make dreams come true - jump on it, no matter how far-fetched it may seem. Dramatic moves will be recognized with dramatic results. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. Appreciate, and be appre-

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's a lucky day; you will even fall in love. You can get closer to a love interest by asking better questions. Use humor to help with tough personalities and children who need much encouragement.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't be surprised if you have feelings of ecstasy, jealousy, agony and bliss all in a day's work. Not everything has to be perfect, so just get it done. What you're doing doesn't matter as much as the fact that you're in action.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll get a diligent start. Don't try — just do. Too much effort and analysis leads to going in circles with no goal in sight. Instincts are honed. A lucky guess might just make you rich!

ASTROLOGICAL QUES-TIONS: "A Leo born Aug. 5, 1969, I am a professional woman with somewhat sophisticated tastes (if I do say so myself) and a lifelong commitment to

my home. This has take a small risk. Some of allowed me to continue a habit I find both disturbing and embarrassing. I can't stop watching television! In particular, I'm addicted to a certain daily show. I'm busy and always behind in my work, but I make the time to indulge in this shameful habit. I estimate that I watch between two and three hours of television a day - time wasted!"

My advice is to go public, which you have done somewhat by writing me this letter. Leos need attention. They are not entirely cut out for working at home and tend to do better when there are people to impress nearby. Your television characters provide some kind of simulated group environment! And it's perfect because you can turn them off whenever you want, whereas real people are much more complex! It's estimated that people who work in an office only actually work about five hours of their eighthour day. Be easy on bettering my mind. I have yourself. You'll turn it off

a business and work from when you have something more compelling to do.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: What's it like to be uberfamous on your 20th birthday? Just ask Mandy Moore. The pop-sensationturned-actress stars in "Chasing Liberty," a modern-day take on the Audrey Hepburn classic "Roman Holiday." Her next project is "Romance & Cigarettes," a bigscreen musical directed by John Turturro. As an Aries, she's in a perfect position to make an impact in the musical trend in movies right

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 columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I have been in a relationship for nearly four years. "Max" and I became engaged eight months ago, but in the time we have been together, we have broken up three times, and the reason is his daughter, "Meg."

Meg is 28 years old, does not want her father to be happy with anyone and has, in fact, destroyed many of her father's previous relationships. I have never done anything to make Meg dislike me. I please her, but she insists



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

actually have bent over on making our lives mis- found two backward to try and erable. Max loves his bought another car.

visiting, refuses to attend family gatherings and sends him nasty, hateful

Six months ago, Max told me to move out because he needs his daughter back. I had sold all of my possessions to move in with him. I had disrespectful, manipulano car, no job and no money, so I wound up liv- She has her own life. Why ing with my daughter and can't she let us live ours? her family. It was really difficult, but I finally York

daughter very much, but back with Max, but it's since our engagement, only temporary until I she has stopped calling or can find a place of my own. Max says he misses me, loves me and does not want to lose me, but Meg comes first. Also, I discovered Max had a date with another woman in the few months after I

moved out. What do I do? Meg is tive and self-centered. No Contest in New

Dear New York: While

should not allow her to dictate his choice of future wife. Since he has anniesmailbox@commade it clear that her cast.net, or write to: wishes come before Annie's Mailbox, P.O. yours, this relationship sounds doomed.

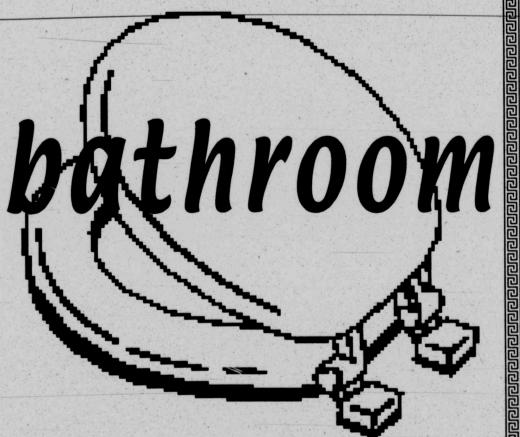
Please find another place to live immediately. Suggest to Max that he consider counseling so he can learn how to stop being manipulated by his daughter. If he is willing and you want to wait it out, that's your choice, but otherwise, move on.

Annie's Mailbox is writchildren are always ten by Kathy Mitchell and important, Meg is a Marcy Sugar, longtime

grown woman, and Max editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to 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.

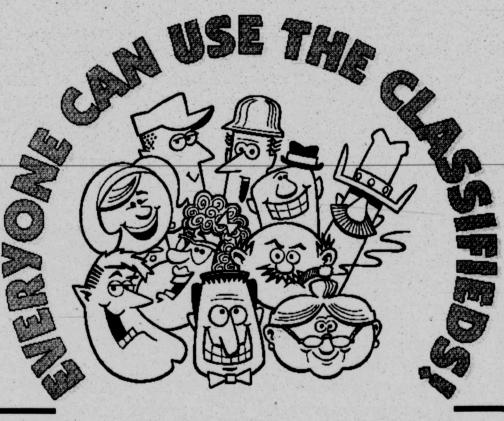
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"BUT, MOM ... I WASN'T ARGUIN'. I WAS JUST GIVING YOU FEEDBACK!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"We're not allowed to play with weapons of mass destruction."

HAGAR



BLONDIE







BC



WIZARD OF ID





MY CONVERSATION WILL BE JAMMED FULL OF IT'S THEIR NOSE NOW THAT I AM A NOTED ORNITHOLOGIST, GEE .. WHAT DO HOLE BUT THEY DON'T HAVE NOSES THEY CALL THEIR I NEED TO USE OFFICIAL EYE HOLES. CIZZARD AND CERES THEY HAVE BEAKS BIRD TERMINOLOGY. ... THEY SHY AWAY FROM CALLING THEM BEAKHOLES, SNIFFERS? SEE-ERS? SOTHEY CALL THEM







SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 8, the 99th day of 2004. There are 267 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record. The round-tripper was off pitcher Al Downing. On this date:

In 1513, explorer Juan Ponce de Leon claimed

Florida for Spain. In 1935, Works the Progress Administration was approved by Congress. In 1946, the League of Nations assembled in Geneva for the last time.

In 1950, ballet dancer Vaslav Nijinsky died in

London. In 1952, President Truman seized the steel industry to avert a nationwide strike.

In 1970, the Senate rejected President Nixon's nomination of G. Harold Carswell to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1973, artist Pablo

Picasso died at his home near Mougins, France, at age 91. In 1981, Gen. Omar N.

Bradley died in New York at age 88. In 1990, Ryan White, the teenage AIDS patient whose battle for acceptance gained

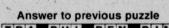
Indianapolis at age 18. In 1993, singer Marian Anderson died in Portland. Ore., at age 96.

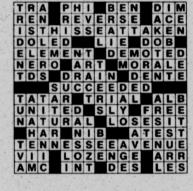
national attention, died in

Ten years ago: Kurt Cobain, singer and guitarist for the grunge band Nirvana, was found dead in Seattle from an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound; he was 27. Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa announced his intention to resign in the wake of an ever-widening financial scandal.

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Betty

Ford is 86. Comedian Shecky Greene is 78. Lyricist Fred Ebb is 68. Investigative reporter Seymour Hersh is 67. Basketball Hall-of-Famer John Havlicek is 64. Singer J.J. Jackson is 63. Singer Peggy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 63. Songwriterproducer Leon Huff is 62. Actor Hywel Bennett is 60. Actor Stuart Pankin is 58. Rock musician Steve Howe (Yes) is 57. Rock musician Mel Schacher (Grand Funk Railroad) is 53. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Gary Carter is 50. Actor John Schneider is 44. Rock musician Izzy Stradlin is 42.





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TOOT SUITE by Patrick Jordan Edited by Stanley Newman

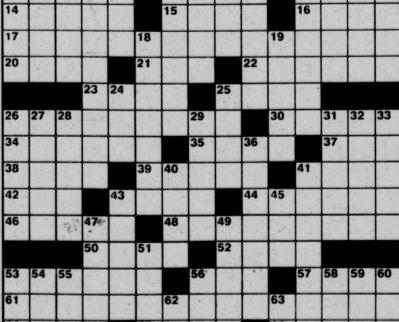
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