

MONDAY

April 19, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT 63°-65° TOMORROW 85°-88°

BRIEFLY

Parents Who Care convenes tonight

Parents Who Care, an organization of the Big Spring High School junior class parents, will have a meeting at 6:30 p.m. today in the Big Spring High School library.

The organization's aim is to provide a safe and memorable prom for 2004.

All junior class parents are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Teresa Warrington at 267-7884 or Varonda Vasser, 263-0497.

Aggie Muster to be held Wednesday

The annual Aggie Muster will assemble at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Big Spring Country Club.

All former and current students, their families and friends of Texas A&M University are invited to attend the muster.

Activities will include dinner and a Muster ceremony.

For more information, contact Jeanne Niklasch at 267-6525 or by contacting her through e-mail at www.jeanne@amcctx.com.

Report card night Tuesday at BSJHS

Big Spring Junior High School's early report card pick-up night will be Tuesday, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

All those attending the event are asked to meet in the school's West Gym.

BSISD officials said door prizes will be given away.

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Kiwanis Club celebrates 75 years

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

A long-time civic organization celebrated a major mile stone last week by honoring 75 years of existence in Howard County

About 40 Kiwanis members and guests celebrated the club's anniversary Thursday during a dinner in the Howard College Cactus Room.

"Civic clubs are a foundation of a community. What good things happen in our community is driven

by people filled with passion," said Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, before reading a proclamation declaring last Friday as Kiwanis Club Day in Big Spring. "The Kiwanis Club has great passion. You have great passion for kids."

The Kiwanis Club of Big Spring was formally organized on a Tuesday, 75 years ago, during a meeting held in the Methodist Church basement.

At that time, Walter C.

Hampton of Boston, an official representative for Kiwanis International, addressed the members on the aim and ideals of Kiwanians.

Throughout the years, the Kiwanis Club has honored those ideals by supporting a number of civic programs such as the Big Spring High School Key Club.

During the banquet, D.D. Johnston, lieutenant governor of Kiwanis International Division 22, and club member Don

McGonagill spoke — both relating stories that reiterated the club's dedication to community service.

"You never know what influence you might have," McGonagill said. "Things like this make it really worthwhile being a member of this club."

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

ONE STOP FOR WELLNESS



Paul Townsend, VA Medical Center medical technologist, draws some blood from Dolores Carpenter during a cholesterol check. A line of participants met the VA crew when the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair got under way Saturday morning. Below, 5-year-old Joshua Barker enjoys visiting with dogs Saturday at the Big Spring Kennel Club booth.

People line up for '04 health fair

By LYNDEL MOODY
Staff Writer

From free cholesterol checks to inflatable air games — there was something for everyone at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair Saturday.

"We had a line all the way from the entrance waiting for the free cholesterol screenings before we opened," said Debbye Valverde, chamber executive director. "I think we'll probably hit our goal of 2,000 people who attended the fair."

"We've actually gotten some clients from the health fair in the past and already we have some potential clients come in to see how we can improve their lifestyle," said Aaron Goswick, physical therapist with the Big Spring Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Center — one of the 60-plus organizations promoting services and handing out information.

"I've been to many health care events and marketing events for health care facilities and, for this size of town, this is really a state-of-the-art type of event. Big Spring really goes all out when it does something."

Free health screenings, exhibitions, games for children and all kinds of information ranging



from on how to take better care of a loved pet to how to take better care of your self were available throughout the day for the crowds who packed the coliseum.

"Really, this is terrific," said Dolores Carpenter of Big Spring who attended the fair to take advantage of the free cholesterol test given by VA Hospital employees.

Corporate sponsors were Big Spring RSVP, Express Medical

Supply, KBST Radio, KBYG Radio, Mountain View Lodge, Paradigm Physical Therapy, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, West Texas VA Health Systems, Warren Chiropractic, Big Spring Physical Therapy and West Texas Centers for MHMR.

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

Sin taxes

Political genius or unstable way to fund schools?

By BOBBY ROSS JR.
AP Religion Writer

DALLAS — Sin is a politician's friend.

Politicians know that wrapping a tax around a societal vice — be it smoking, gambling or even topless dancers — is usually an easier sale than an across-the-board tax on everybody's home, income or groceries.

From that standpoint, Gov. Rick Perry's focus on taxing "unhealthy behaviors" as he seeks to fix Texas' school financing system is a brilliant move, experts say.

"Americans always talk about taxes as if they were a kind of sin," said James Morone, a Brown University political scientist. "So for a politician, the way to inoculate yourself is, you find a bigger sinner and you turn it on them."

In a special session that starts Tuesday, lawmakers will debate Perry's plan to eliminate the share-the-wealth system known as Robin Hood, which redistributes property tax revenue from wealthy school districts to poorer districts.

Among Perry's proposals for lowering property taxes: a \$1 per pack increase in the state's cigarette tax, up from its current 41 cents per pack; a \$5 state tax on admissions to adult entertainment; and the legalization and taxation of video lottery terminals at race tracks and Indian casinos.

In the last few years, many states have looked to "sin" as a salvation for budget woes, from raising taxes on cigarette and alcohol sales to loosening restrictions on gambling. In Utah, lawmakers last year imposed a 10 percent tax on sexually explicit businesses — nicknamed the "topless tax" — to generate money for treatment of sex offenders.

"The electorate simply does not get as up in arms over a sin tax on the whole as it does on a one-tenth of 1 percent increase in the sales tax," said Verenda Smith, spokeswoman for the Federation of Tax Administrators, a Washington-based group of tax and revenue department officials from all 50 states.

Nineteen states increased cigarette taxes last year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. And liquor also has been a frequent target, as in Mississippi, where state Rep. John Mayo last month said he wasn't proposing anything he wasn't willing to pay himself.

"You are looking at a confirmed beer drinker," Mayo told a House committee.

Tennessee this year began a state lottery to fund college scholarships and education projects, becoming the 48th state with some form of legalized gambling. The lone gambling-free zones are Utah and Hawaii.

Texas approved gambling on horse and dog races in the mid-1980s after the oil bust caused a state budget crisis. A state lottery, sold to voters as a boon to education, was passed in 1991 as Texas

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Neighbors horrified after boy found in oven

BEAUMONT (AP) — Catherine Fayson has barely slept since Friday when she awoke to her next-door neighbor frantically ringing her doorbell and screaming.

"Oh Lord! My baby's dead! Somebody please help me! My baby is in the oven! He killed my baby!"

Fayson quickly opened her front door and saw her neighbor, Kathy Jo Odoms, running away from her home and across the street to another neighbor's house, still screaming in horror.

"It's something I can't describe," Fayson said this weekend, less than 48 hours after Odoms found her son in the oven.

Odoms' boyfriend, Kenneth Lee Pierott, 27, remained jailed Sunday on suspicion of capital murder.

Colleges raise standards to combat flood

DALLAS (AP) — A flood of applications for colleges is prompting more rejection letters.

"Demographics tell us there are a growing number of college-bound high school graduates for the next seven to 10 years," said Ron Moss, executive director of enrollment services and dean of admissions for Southern Methodist University. "There continues to be a growth in the number of students applying to schools, but more schools aren't being created."

Many universities have reacted by being more stringent in their admissions policies.

Applications from first-time freshmen at SMU reached about 7,000 for the fall semester, but only 3,500 of those will be accepted. The others will be denied or put on a waiting list, Moss said in Sunday's edition of The Dallas Morning News.

Similarly, about 7,000 students applied to the University of Texas at Arlington last fall. Only about 4,400 were admitted, said Hans Gatterdam, director of undergraduate admissions at Texas-Arlington.

Report: Dallas at tipping point

DALLAS (AP) — Surging crime, weak schools, job loss and civic leaders who seem not to notice the compounding problems have plunged "the city that works" into a crisis that can only be reversed by bold shifts in strategy, structure and services, according to a report by The Dallas Morning News.

Dallas — lulled by past successes, cushioned by North Texas' robust growth, blinded by a lack of self-examination and hobbled by a legacy of racism and neglect — is at a tipping point, where wrong moves could precipitate decline, the News concluded, based on a far-reaching statistical comparison of Dallas and 14 other large U.S. cities by Booz Allen Hamilton.

"Dallas does not see itself as a city in crisis. ... But the data indicate that Dallas is a city in crisis," the firm concluded.

The Booz Allen study, commissioned by the News, used dozens of measures — from life expectancy to library visits — to produce a comprehensive picture of each city's performance.

Among the 14 peer cities, only three have worse violent crime rates, only four have lower student SAT scores, and none saw less economic expansion in the 1990s.

Houston crash rate exceeds national average

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston area far exceeds the national average in the number of serious traffic collisions, contributing to skyrocketing medical costs and giving Harris County the most expensive auto insurance rates in Texas.

County officials said one reason drivers in Harris County are at greater risk of collisions is because the area is growing faster than roads can be improved or patrolled. Now area drivers are even crashing into the new MetroRail trains, putting Houston on course to top the national high for light rail collisions.

"We lead the state in crashes no matter how you define them," said Ned Levine, transportation safety program coordinator for the Houston-Galveston Area Council. "We are among the worst in the country. I haven't found a metropolitan area that's higher than ours."

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

faced another budget shortfall. The lottery generated roughly \$900 million for Texas schools last fiscal year.

Perry estimates cigarette and tobacco tax increases could generate \$2.4 billion in Texas' two-year budget cycle, and the video lottery tax \$2 billion. The adult entertainment tax would bring in a projected \$90 million.

Overall, Texas spends about \$40 billion, or roughly \$10,000 per student, on K-12 education. State money accounts for about half of that. The rest comes from federal

and local sources.

Still, Perry's proposal raises a tricky moral quandary: How can government officials condemn certain behaviors while at the same time depend on them to fund important programs?

"The thing you allegedly want to do with a sin tax is reduce the activity," said William K. Black, a University of Texas public finance professor who has written about the "twisted morality" of sin taxes. "Of course, if you reduce it too successfully, you cut off your revenue stream. You end up with no money and then your fiscal projections go all to hell."

The unstable nature of

Lawmakers' group is meeting in advance of special session

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Ahead of a potentially divisive special session on school finance, about a dozen House members have been meeting for weeks on how to change the way Texas funds and manages education.

Rep. Kent Grusendorf, who has led the gatherings of Republican leaders and a few Democrats in an office building near the Capitol, called the group "Kent's Kids Brigade."

"A few of us are trying to get a head start," said Grusendorf, R-Arlington, about reaching common ground bolstering education while cutting school property taxes and dismantling the "Robin Hood" system, which requires property-rich schools to share with others.

The special session called by Gov. Rick Perry on taxes and education begins Tuesday.

Most lawmakers in Grusendorf's group already serve on the 29-member House Select Committee on Public School Finance, likely to be entrusted with developing the first House draft of a funding plan. Many legislators also serve on the Joint Select Committee on Public School Finance, scheduled to hear Perry and others address the governor's finance proposal.

Grusendorf, co-chairman of the Joint Select Committee on Public Finance, said he has avoided having more than 14 members in the room to keep the "brigade" from

having a quorum of panel members. If that occurred, the meetings would have to be public and posted in advance to comply with open government laws.

Aside from expert staff, visitors have included Mike Toomey, Perry's chief of staff, and David Thompson, the Houston lawyer representing hundreds of school districts challenging the adequacy of school funding in a lawsuit scheduled for trial in July.

"Everybody's taking this very seriously and feeling like we have an opportunity to make a difference," Rep. Jim Pitts, R-Waxahachie, told the San Antonio Express-News in Monday's edition. "The few of us in that room can help solve the school finance problem for years to come."

Senate leaders have said they will await House action before finalizing their approach, especially because tax changes must originate in the House.

"It's a big deal," said Rep. Fred Hill. "We're analyzing the finance side and also the educational philosophy side. We're coming to some agreements on that, but it's all going to be hashed out in public meetings."

The executive director of the Equity Center, Wayne Pierce, said he was unaware of the meetings.

"I would prefer discussions that affect schools across the state where people can listen and know what's going on or have public input,

because decisions are sometimes made in people's minds before you get into public (sessions)," said Pierce of the Equity Center, which represents property-poor districts at the Capitol.

Hill, R-Richardson, said the discussions could allow the 150-member House to vote on school funding legislation as soon as the second week of the session though others called that scenario overly ambitious.

Senators last spring unanimously sent the House a plan to cut local school tax rates in half, creating a state property tax and raising and expanding the state's sales tax. At the time, House leaders and Perry called such action premature.

Perry last week said he would keep members in session as long as it takes to fix the system under which nearly 500 of the state's more than 1,000 school districts have reached a tax cap of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation. That means they cannot raise more money without legislative action or cutting their budgets.

The past chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Rene Oliveira of Brownsville, questioned the wisdom of slashing local taxes when many districts, including those challenging funding adequacy in court, seek more aid.

"It's going to be very hard to go back to poor school districts and teachers and say we didn't

have the money to give you a pay raise, help with facilities or address the other needs you have because we gave this much in property tax relief," Oliveira said.

Some political observers have called Perry's plan to change school finance and jettison the share-the-wealth method of education funding a risky venture.

"It's D.O.A.," a Capitol source who plays at the highest levels told the Austin American-Statesman in Monday's online edition.

"Nobody will be working off of Perry's plan. I don't think there is one senator for it. There may be three or four in the House, but none in the Senate."

But supporters believe it's a no-lose deal for the governor.

"You go in there, and you put out your proposal, and you have a debate on it, and, if people won't go for it, at least you tried," said Perry's pollster, Michael Baselice.

Fort Hood prepares for celebration

FORT HOOD (AP) — At the Army's largest post, a welcome-home celebration for members of the 4th Infantry Division and other returning units is planned as relatives of other soldiers wounded or killed in Iraq deal with suffering and grief.

Texas cattle raisers are donating about 30,000 barbecue sandwiches for the "Task Force Ironhorse" bash on Thursday.

Scheduled entertainment includes Drew Carey, Jessica Simpson, Ludacris, Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders and the New England Patriots Cheerleaders. Some organizers claim

it will rival Woodstock.

Meanwhile, family members of recently deployed soldiers who may be stationed in Iraq more than a year watch and listen for word of their loved ones. And there's sorrow for the 96 Fort Hood troops killed and many more who were wounded in the conflict so far.

In Houston and other cities, funerals will be held for some of the 17 soldiers recently lost by the 1st Cavalry Division, which also is based at Fort Hood.

President Bush, over the Easter weekend, had described a "tough week" of military casualties.

After four days off, returning members of the 4th Infantry undergo a mandatory program that helps them deal with issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder and alcohol safety or communicating with spouses and children. The division is almost completely back at Fort Hood after an 11-month deployment.

"There is a certain degree of reintegrating with a family, and that's what all the training we're doing addresses," division spokesman Lt. Col. William MacDonald.

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Julian Bustamante, 82, died Friday. Funeral Mass was at 11:00 AM Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial was at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Ouida Henderson, 75, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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sin taxes is what concerns Michael Quinn Sullivan, spokesman for the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank based in San Antonio.

"What happens tomorrow if people stop smoking or people stop going to strip clubs?" Sullivan said. "What does that do to education?" Perry acknowledged

that scenario last week while speaking at a middle school in Sugar Land.

"The fact of the matter is I hope people quit smoking. It's a bad behavior," Perry said. "These are fees we are putting on people and they will choose whether or not they ... are going to smoke, whether or not they are going to use a video lottery terminal."

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
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OUR VIEWS

Volunteerism
alive and well
in Big Spring

Perhaps there's no better community anywhere better qualified to celebrate this week as National Volunteer Week than Big Spring, Howard County and the surrounding area.

Simply put, volunteerism is a staple of life in this area.

It's not hard to see the work of volunteers in our community. Nor is it difficult to discern the impact they have had on the lives of countless people.

As a matter of fact, the examples seem almost endless — the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council, Victim Services, Howard County Volunteer Fire Department and the individuals and organizations that volunteer at the VA Medical Center and at Scenic Mountain Medical Center immediately come to mind when the subject is discussed.

There are countless others — those who serve on advisory boards for organizations like the Salvation Army, the Boys Club, YMCA and local units of the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association.

In fact, the list is almost endless and any attempt to name all those who volunteer in one form or another in this community would certainly leave someone out.

That's why the *Herald* wants to take this opportunity to thank all those in our community who give of themselves, because they make this the place we want to live, work and raise our families.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

The Big Spring High School Key Club would like to thank the Big Spring community for its help and support with all of our fundraisers which allowed us to attend the 55th Annual Texas-Oklahoma Key Club convention in Houston, April 1-4.

We attended many forums and learned lots of new things about Key Club. We met and visited with more than 1,300 other Key Clubbers who were representing 313 Key Clubs throughout

Texas and Oklahoma.

We would also like to take this chance to let you know how much we have appreciated your support with our various other projects like Unicef, The Ronald McDonald House, March of Dimes and the many other projects Key Club has done this year.

Thank you for allowing us to help out in the community and be of service to you and your many projects. That is what Key Club is all about.

ALVIN RUSSELL II
BIG SPRING

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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

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- By telephone at 263-7331
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- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@ccom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

The war that's waged on people

"You know I support the war against drugs. I myself used to sale drugs to support my habit and to get money. I'm

in recovery now, and I have changed my life. What I don't understand is, it's a war against people, not drugs" began a letter from a former San Francisco Bay Area drug offender and young mother named Yvette.

She was writing in support of Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, whose Assembly Bill 1796 would allow California to opt out of a wrong-headed federal regulation, enacted in 1996 as part of the Welfare Reform Act, which prohibits former drug offenders from receiving food stamps.

Other federal rules disqualify former drug offenders from student loans and welfare benefits — although, as with food stamps, adults can receive benefits for their children.

How is this for justice? Convicted murderers, child molesters, rapists and former white-collar crooks face no such sanctions. But if you have a drug felony in any of the 19 states that haven't changed or opted out of the food-stamp sanction, noted Glenn Backes of the Drug Policy Alliance, you essentially serve "a lifetime sentence."

Maybe the law started with good intentions. There is a public interest in ensuring that adult welfare recipients don't blow their welfare grants on drugs. It's not good for the kids and not good for the adults.

But the 1996 regulation doesn't address current drug abuse. It punishes adults — and indirectly their children — who already have been punished and may be cleaning up their act.

While murderers get food stamps, those denied food stamps because of a drug conviction could be guilty of simple drug possession. Since 2000, when California voters approved Proposition 36, which mandated treatment in lieu of incarceration for drug possession, the number of felony incarcerations for drug possession has dropped appreciably. But in 2000, more than half of those admitted to California prisons for drug crimes were convicted of possession — not possession for sale. Before Proposition 36, said Margot Bach of the state Department of Corrections, "the largest percentage of women in prison were in for drug crimes." So the 1996 provision hurts not only low-level offenders but aging low-level offenders.

Worst of all, the state is withholding food. A group of Bay Area chefs founded a program, Nextcourse, to teach San Francisco County Jail inmates about nutrition and cooking good food. "Before we went into the jail, we had this whole thought of being in a room full of criminals," said Larry Bain of Jardiniere restaurant in San Francisco, who works on the project. Instead, "We looked around, and these are kids. Most of the women are in their early 20s. Most of the women are moms."

The chefs tried to advise women where they could get nutritious food with food stamps, only to find out that some mothers who were cleaning up their act couldn't qualify for food aid.

The do-gooders — and letters from Nextcourse attendees — argue that when recovering addicts are hungry, they are more likely to revert to their old, bad ways. I think that argument can be exaggerated, but Assemblyman Leno noted that addicts are more likely to relapse when they are hungry, angry, lonely or tired. (The acronym is: HALT.)

The California Narcotics Officers

Association and California Police Chiefs Association argue along similar lines. Both groups support Leno's bill. "The federal prohibition on eligible persons receiving food stamps due to a prior drug conviction is not only silly," wrote the narcotics officers, "but increases the possibility that the individual will return to the same illegal drug behavior that got them in trouble in the first place."

There are strong money arguments in favor of Leno's bill, too. An Assembly analysis predicted that the measure would bring "several million dollars of food stamps benefits" to the state — all bankrolled by the federal government. If Gov. Schwarzenegger is paying attention, he should grab this opportunity to get Washington to send more tax money back to the state.

While committee votes have been split along partisan lines, with the Democrats mostly voting yes and Republicans on the no side, conservative lawmakers should consider the fairness issue involved here.

Yvette got it right when she said the war on drugs has become a war against people. For some reason, Washington pols decided it was their mission to marginalize drug users, to keep them from getting ahead, to ensure that they remain on the outside looking in. Hotshot drug dealers aren't hurt by these tactics; such sanctions instead sabotage vulnerable people who have to fight for a place in the secure mainstream of America.

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

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Specter's friends include Bush

George W. Bush's journey to Pittsburgh Monday to stand with Sen. Arlen Specter in the political battle of his life puts the president in unusual company. Specter's supporters, as he faces conservative Rep. Pat Toomey's challenge in the April 27 Pennsylvania Republican primary, have included George Soros, Harold Ickes Jr., Ron Carey, Arthur Coia, Richard Ben-Veniste, Alan Dershowitz, Barbara Kennelly and the International Association of Fire Fighters.

That's a left-wing all-star team, validating Specter's long career as a political broken-field runner. He will become chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee next year as a Republican in good standing who is also a favorite senator in liberal-labor circles. When organized labor has needed a vote, Specter has been there, explaining why many of Bush's enemies are Specter's friends.

Why then has President Bush not only endorsed Specter but gone to Pennsylvania to campaign for him? While Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936 blundered when he tried to purge anti-New Deal members of Congress, Bush backs any lawmaker with an "R" beside his name. Simultaneously, Democratic activists and financial contributors support Specter despite his party designation.

Heading the list is billionaire investor George Soros, who so far has spent \$15.5 million to defeat George W. Bush. Soros has plenty left for Specter, contributing \$50,000 to the Republican Mainstream Partnership as part of its earmarked \$200,000 against

Toomey. In the 1998 election cycle, Soros and his wife gave Specter the \$4,000 legal maximum.

With a Republican primary approaching, Specter does not want public association with Bush-bashers. When Rush Limbaugh reported the Soros contribution on his radio program, Specter telephoned the conservative talker last Wednesday to stress that he is "very, very strongly supporting" Bush. The senator said he has "nothing to do" with the Republican Mainstream Partnership or Soros's donation, though he is listed on the organization's Web site as a member.

There are many other sources of Specter support who despise Bush:

— The fire fighters union contributed \$2,500 to Specter last September, the same month in which it became the first labor union to endorse Kerry for president. Specter has received contributions from two big left-leaning unions, the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and the Pennsylvania State Education Association also have endorsed him.

— In the last election cycle, Specter was given \$10,000 by the Teamsters under the leadership of Ron Carey (whose election to the presidency was voided by court order). He received \$8,000 from the Laborers Union under President Arthur Coia, who then was under investigation for ties with organized crime and later was barred from active union leadership.

— The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, headed by Democratic former Rep. Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut, gave Specter \$1,000 last fall. The organization fights Bush's plan for private investment

accounts.

— Harvard Law Prof. Alan Dershowitz, a fierce critic of the way Bush was elected, has contributed to Specter in the current and previous election cycles.

— Harold Ickes Jr., the former Clinton White House aide who runs the Media Fund putting anti-Bush advertising on television, gave Specter \$1,000 last year.

— Richard Ben-Veniste, the high-powered Washington lawyer serving on the independent 9/11 Commission, is a Specter backer. He contributed to Specter in 1997 when Ben-Veniste was representing Terry McAuliffe, now the Democratic national chairman, in connection with the Teamsters scandal. Ben-Veniste is generous to Democrats, but Specter is the only Republican on record as being helped by him.

"Arlen is with us on votes that matter," conservative Sen. Rick Santorum, the other Pennsylvania senator, says in a television ad for Specter. Specter did vigorously support Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas's confirmation. But he was not "with us" in opposing Robert Bork for the Supreme Court, in failing to support the full Bush tax cut and in voting against President Bill Clinton's removal from office.

Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, a leader in establishing a liberal litmus test on judicial opponents, last year wrote Bush listing Specter among desirable Supreme Court nominees. If the president can accept George Soros's choice for the Senate, could he go along with Chuck Schumer's suggestion for the Supreme Court?

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

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DEBRA
SAUNDERSROBERT
NOVAK

Nearly 50 percent of children seen by Centers for Mental Health live with ADHD.

Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a very common childhood disorder. It is characterized by inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsivity.

Janet Payne, Centers for Mental Health, says 45 percent of children with ADHD also have learning disabilities.

ADHD is a complex disorder that affects a child's ability to learn and function in school.

Scientists are researching the causes of ADHD, but its causes are believed to be genetic, environmental, and a combination of the two.

The disorder is often diagnosed in children, but it can persist into adulthood.

Three variations of ADHD have been identified:

• Inattentive

WASHINGTON — The Medicare program is taking steps to make it easier for low-income Americans to get Medicare-approved prescription drug cards.

Medicare will require some states to provide low-income seniors with a standard form. Dr. Bill McClellan, the program's director, said:

"We intend to

The Texas Association of Health Plans (TAHP) is donating \$15,000 to the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to improve Texas low-income children's immunization rates. Texas ranks 4th in the nation in immunizing children age 19 and younger.

Austin orthopedic surgeon Bruce Malone presented the Thursday to the Board of Health of the TMA Trustees. The group is going toward a job to increase the number of reminders/recalls in physicians' offices. Such programs help children remember their immunization schedule for receiving preventive, lifesaving vaccines.

"The physicians in Texas are excited to contribute to such a tool to help children toward getting their immunizations," Malone says.

Helping immunization rates is a goal of a new multi-state initiative. Upon this year's release, the program will form:

REVIEW
Birdwell Ln. Bap
1512 Birdwell Lane
Evangelist
Sun, April 18th

Johnny can't sit still

West Texas Centers offers help for children with ADHD

Special to the HERALD

Nearly 50 percent of the children seen by West Texas Centers for MHMR clinicians live with ADHD — Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. "It's very prevalent," said Janet Payne, West Texas Centers for MHMR Director of Mental Health Services. "About 45 percent of the children we see have ADHD."

ADHD comprises the largest diagnostic group seen by Dr. Wil Lineback, a Midland child/adolescent psychiatrist who serves as medical director for West Texas Centers for MHMR. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, it affects at least one child in each classroom.

Scientists continue to research the causes of ADHD, but its causes have been attributed to genetics, premature births, ear infections and other diseases occurring in childhood.

The disorder is characterized by an inability to plan ahead, follow through on tasks or be fully aware of what is going on around them.

Three variations of the disease have been identified:

- Hyperactive — Impulsive Type, or
- A combined type that includes the inattentive type with the hyperactive type

People who aren't trained in the field can misdiagnose ADHD, Dr. Lineback said. "It's better for somebody who is trained in child/adolescent psychiatry or a pediatrician who is knowledgeable about ADHD to give that diagnosis."

"Sometimes kids who are irritable, depressed or appear to have problems with concentration or impulsivity are misdiagnosed," Dr. Lineback said. "It certainly can be a problem getting the right diagnosis."

West Texas Centers for MHMR provides screening and treatment for children with ADHD, Payne said. Many parents either aren't aware their child may have the disorder or are embarrassed admitting their child is different.

Parents who think their child may be living with ADHD should look for a combination of the following symptoms in more than one setting and must be present before age seven. Those signs are:

- Poor grades.
- Difficulty sitting still in class.

- Problem following instructions.
- Losing items.
- Not turning in assignments.
- Easily distracted.

you know what? It doesn't happen."

Living with an ADHD child is difficult, Payne said.

"In the beginning, before they're diagnosed, they're getting in trouble in school and at home and with their siblings. Schools are calling all the time. And it's terrible for the kids. They don't know what's happening."

"Everyone feels so helpless. And the children are always troubled and no one wants to have a child who is troubled. When you act out and get in trouble, you're not liked by other children because you're different."

Receiving confirmation from a licensed psychiatrist gives parents and the child some direction, Payne said. The parent and the teacher will know if it's attention deficit, or if they're acting out for another reason.

Once they are diagnosed, they can receive treatment.

"The majority of children, even though it's sometimes over-diagnosed, have not gotten treatment," Dr. Lineback said.

Treatment includes medication and therapy can be included if there are issues at school or at home, he said, particularly children who are opposition-

al to adult authority. "Sometimes they need counseling for this issue."

Many parents do not like their children taking medications because they believe they will become addicted to drugs, but Dr. Lineback said studies prove otherwise.

"Children who aren't identified and don't receive treatment won't benefit from their education and they won't have the skills they need to succeed in life," Dr. Lineback said. "It varies from child to child and person to person."

"If they do get treatment, they will do well and they'll do a whole lot better in school and won't have to play catch-up after being behind in school."

If you believe your child may be living with ADHD and want to seek assistance, call the toll-free Mental Health Crisis Number 1-800-375-4357 or your local mental health center.

The phone number for the Howard County Mental Health Center is (432) 263-0027. The program manager is Mike Matherly.

West Texas Centers for MHMR provides mental health and/or mental retardation for more than 2,200 people each month in 23 rural counties in West Texas.

"About 45 percent of the children we see have ADHD."



Janet Payne
director of mental health services

"Usually, there has to be a combination of these things and the hyperactive child may fidget in his or her seat, climb up on objects, have difficulty playing quietly, be on the go all the time or talk excessively. And in terms of impulsivity, they answer out in class, have difficulty waiting for their turn or intrude on others."

"They know the rules, but they do something different anyway," Payne said. "They know their homework is due, but they can't hand it in on time. They say the words, 'I won't do this anymore,' and

Medicare seeks more access to drug cards

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Medicare program is taking steps to make it easier for low-income Americans to sign up for Medicare-approved prescription drug discount cards.

Medicare will allow some states to sign up low-income seniors automatically and provide a standard application form. Dr. Mark McClellan, the administrator of the Medicare program, said Saturday.

"We intend to make it

as easy as possible for Medicare beneficiaries to get the information they need and to enroll in the drug card program," McClellan said. He announced the plan at a conference on aging in San Francisco.

State officials and organizations for the elderly had argued that the two actions would significantly increase the number of seniors who would receive the \$600-a-year subsidy for the poor.

However, even with the

On the Net:

Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Program:
<http://www.medicare.gov/assistanceprograms>

changes, advocates for the elderly and administrators of state low-income drug plans said they doubt the government will achieve its goal of enrolling more than 4.5 million low-income seniors who are eligible for the subsidy.

Medicare recipients can sign up for the drug cards beginning May 3. The cards can be used starting June 1.

They are intended as a temporary measure until prescription drug insurance under Medicare

begins in 2006.

The Bush administration says Medicare clients who use the cards should save 10 percent to 25 percent off their prescription drug costs. Critics say the percentages will be much lower.

Medicare will make the standard form available on its Medicare.gov Web site, eliminating the need for people who are going door-to-door trying to sign up seniors to carry more than two dozen different application forms.

The government has approved 28 companies to issue Medicare-endorsed cards.

Automatic enrollment will be possible where state law allows state officials to sign enrollment forms on seniors' behalf.

McClellan has said that since the benefits provided by the recently enacted Medicare law are voluntary, Medicare must get signatures to enroll participants. Individuals must be given a chance to decline enrollment.

Donation to boost health department immunization campaign

Special to the HERALD

The Texas Medical Association (TMA) is donating \$15,000 to the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to help improve Texas' woefully low immunization rates. Texas ranks 45th in the nation in immunizing children age 36 months and younger.

Austin orthopedic surgeon Bruce Malone, MD, presented the check Thursday to the Texas Board of Health on behalf of the TMA Board of Trustees. The money will go toward a joint project to increase the use of reminder/recall programs in physicians' practices. Such programs help parents remember to keep their children on schedule for receiving illness-preventing, potentially lifesaving vaccines.

"The physicians of Texas are excited to contribute to such a tangible tool to help TDH work toward getting more children vaccinated," Dr. Malone says.

Helping improve immunization rates is the focus of a new multi-year initiative TMA is embarking upon this year. The "Be Wise — Immunize" program will formally launch

in the fall.

Health officials see reminder/recall systems used by doctors' offices as the single most effective strategy for improving immunization coverage levels.

Vaccines are one of medicine's most important public health measures for preventing disease. The more people are covered by vaccines, the fewer people are likely to get ill.

TDH will use the funds to help develop the kits and to train volunteers

who will help implement the system. Volunteers such as members of the TMA Alliance, an army of physicians' spouses, will work with physicians to put the kits to use in their practices.

Among the first physicians to receive the kits will be family practice doctors and pediatricians enrolled in the federally funded Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. The VFC program provides free vaccines to participating doctors in exchange for their partic-

ipation in a statewide reporting and monitoring system operated by the TDH.

"Parents want to do the right thing, to do whatever they can to ensure the health and well-being of their kids; they sometimes just need a reminder," Dr. Malone says.

"With this system, we can help parents tie a little string around their fingers to help them remember to keep their children up to date on their vaccines."

TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing more than 39,500 physician and medical student members. It is located in

Austin and has 120 component county medical societies around the state. TMA's key objective since 1853 is to improve the health of all Texans.

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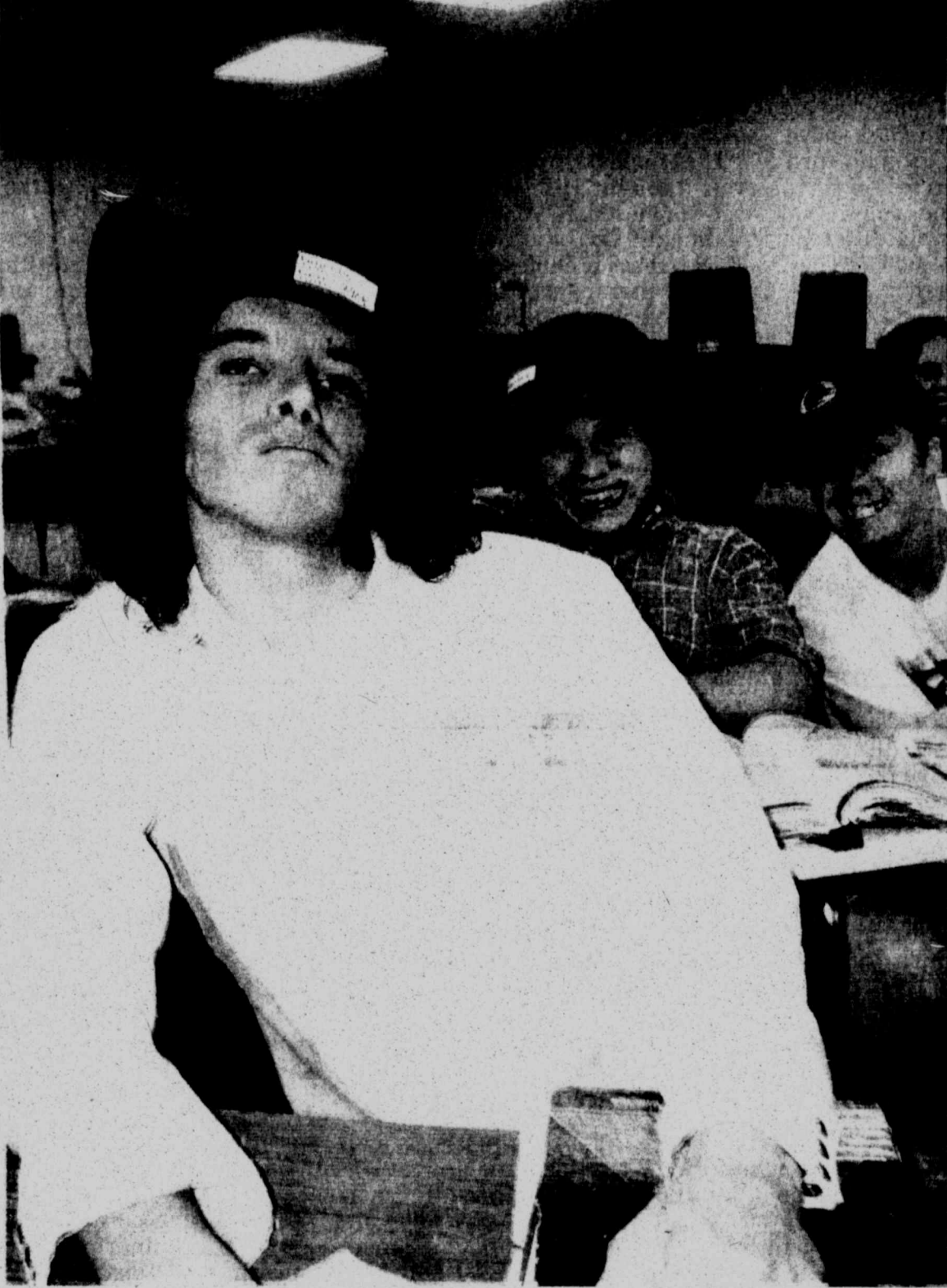
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1512 Birdwell Lane 267-7157
Evangelist Rick Reed
Sun. April 18th-Wed. 21st

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Clockwise from top left, Tommy C. Mills, Big Spring Downtown Lions Club member and owner of Mills Optical, receives an award from Dr. Tae-Sup Lee of Seoul, Korea, International Association of Lions Clubs president. Mills received the International Presidents Award for his service to those in need of eyeglasses. he has traveled to Mexico, El Salvador, Guyana and Honduras fitting recycled eyeglasses for those who have not had the opportunity to have glasses; next, children enjoy an Easter Egg hunt recently at the Comanche Trail Nursing Center; Mike Nickell leads his Tae Kwon Do class in an exhibition at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair; and above, Forsan High School student Burke Anderson wears a unique hat. Forsan students paid \$1 to wear hats to class as part of a fund-raiser for Trace Justice. Trace who has been diagnosed with juvenile diabetes, is the son of Sam and Windy Justice, former Forsan High coaches.

HERALD and contributed photos

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IN B

Big Spring clinics announce

Big Spring school volleyball coach Revis Day announced a clinic available for incoming graders. The clinic will take place Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Monday, May 17-19, 2004. Athletes from one or all five schools are invited. Each clinic will be held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Junior High Gymnasium. Each clinic is open to participants interested in the sport. Checks for the clinic will be made payable to Lady Steer Club. All fees will be used for ball baskets and leylball programs.

Seventh-grade ball tryout

The Big Spring high school volleyball team will hold tryouts May 17-19 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. each day at the Junior High Gymnasium. Tryouts are free to all interested eighth-graders. Attendance is **REQUIRED** for the tryouts. To make arrangements to make a tryout, contact Daggett. She can be reached at rldaggett@es

West Texas Nightmare

The West Texas Nightmare softball tournament set for April 23-25 will take place at Softball Field #1. The entry fee is \$10 per team and includes a trip to the third place game. For more information, contact Leo or Abel Rios. The deadline for registration is Thursday.

All night softball tournament

A men's all night softball tournament has been scheduled for 7-8 at the UTI Complex. There will be game guarantees per team. The deadline for registration is May 10. Contact Gabriel or Mike at 552-7426 or Softball Association at 580-7811.

Howard Collins announces

Howard Collins has scheduled a banquet for 6:30 p.m. in the Room of the

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Sports Broadca...
Today...
Event, Time...
Staters vs. Estacado, 4:45 p.m.
AA Regional Golf and Tennis...
Tuesday...
Event, Time...
Staters vs. Estacado, 4:45 p.m.
AA Regional Golf and Tennis...
Wednesday...
Event, Time...
Rangers @ Vikings, 8:30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Big Spring volleyball clinics announced

Big Spring high school volleyball coach Revis Daggett has announced a volleyball clinic available for incoming seventh-graders.

The clinics will take place Monday, April 26, Monday, May 3, Wednesday, May 5, Monday, May 10 and/or Wednesday, May 12.

Athletes may attend one or all five clinics.

Each clinic runs from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and takes place at the Big Spring Junior High School Gymnasium.

Each clinic costs \$10 to participate and those interested may pay at the door at any one of the clinics.

Checks should be made payable to the Lady Steers Booster Club. All fees collected will be used to purchase ball baskets for the volleyball program.

Seventh-grade volleyball tryout dates set

The Big Spring junior high will also be holding volleyball tryouts in May. The dates for tryouts have been set for May 17-19 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. each day.

The tryouts will take place in the Big Spring Junior High Gymnasium and are free to all incoming seventh-graders.

Attendance is REQUIRED at least two of the three days in order to make the 2004-2005 team or prior arrangements need to be made with Coach Daggett. She can be reached at 816-9560 or rldaggett@esc18.net.

West Texas Nightmare set

The West Texas Nightmare softball tournament dates have been set for April 23-25.

The tournament will take place at Mize Softball Field, D and E fields only.

The entry fee will \$115 per team and team trophies will be awarded up to third place and individual T-shirts will also been given out up to third place.

For more information, contact Leo at 263-1391 or Abel Rios at 213-2116. The deadline to sign-up is Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

All night softball tourney announced

A men's all-night softball tournament has been scheduled for May 7-8 at the UTPB Softball Complex.

There will be a three-game guarantee for \$150 per team.

The deadline to sign-up is May 4. Contact Gabriel or Michelle at 552-7426 or Odessa Softball Association at 580-7811.

Howard College announces banquet

Howard College has scheduled its athletic banquet for May 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the East Room of the Coliseum.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule		
Today		
Event	Time	Station
Spurs vs. Memphis	6:30 p.m.	1490
AA Regional Golf and Tennis		95.7
Tuesday		
Event	Time	Station
Spurs vs. Dallas	4:45 p.m.	1490
AA Regional Golf and Tennis		95.7
Wednesday		
Event	Time	Station
Rangers @ Angels	8:30 p.m.	1490

Glover wins title in team roping

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The final night of the Howard College Rodeo saw the Hawks from Howard College in the top-five in four different events.

The Hawks' best finisher was Ty Glover in the team roping competition. Glover teamed up with Kyle Logsdon of Odessa College to capture first overall with two seven second runs. Also competing in the team roping competition was Trey Hale and Ryan O'Donnell. This Hawk tandem scored a 7.3 on their last run, which was enough to put them in fourth overall in aggregate (average). Hale and O'Donnell's first time was recorded at 8.7.

Glover and O'Donnell are now tied for fourth in the regional standings. The top three athletes in each event qualify for the National Rodeo Championships in Casper, Wyoming, which will take place June 13-19.

"It now comes down to this weekend," said Coach Greg Kernick. "It is sudden death at this point. If you are not in the top three then you are staying home."

This weekend, the Hawks take part in the Tarleton State Rodeo in Stephenville, Texas.

Neelley Riley entered Saturday's final run with the best breakaway time of the rodeo as she recorded a 2.8. Her time in the finals was clocked at 3.7, giving her a total time of 6.5, which was good enough to place her third overall in aggregate, behind Kelcey Foreman and Justine Owen.

Riley also started the night off by singing the National Anthem in front of a crowd of over 200 people.

Patrick Freeman also competed for Howard College Saturday night. Freeman took part in the bull riding competition and finished fourth in both the final round and in aggregate.

Freeman's best score entering Saturday was an 80, while his final run's score equaled 66.

"He rode good," said Kernick, "but his bull probably wasn't good enough to back him up."

Zack Cobb and Shank Edwards each participated in the tie-down roping portion of the rodeo. Cobb entered the final run with the best time of the bunch (9.8), but a final run time of 11.7 dropped him to fourth overall in aggregate. Kyle Crick and Ryan Watkins finished just .10 seconds apart as each took first and second, respectively.

Edwards' best time entering Saturday was an 11 flat. His time Saturday, however, was a little slower at 15.7, which in turn did not place him in the top-five. O'Donnell also competed with Lester Jourdan in the team roping competition, but received a no time Saturday.

"Our bunch did a tremendous job," said Kernick. "The effort they put into things, you really won't see in any other sport."

"The community support and volunteer help was also great. It is huge what they do for us."



South Plains' Justin Nevarez takes down his steer during the finals of the steer wrestling competition at the Howard College Rodeo, which took place at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl Saturday night. Nevarez entered Saturday night with the fastest overall time. However, after recording a 5.4 second time in the finals, Nevarez dropped to third overall.



Howard College's Bray Armes dives onto his steer during the steer wrestling competition last Friday night at the Howard College Rodeo. Armes also competed in tie-down roping that night, but failed to reach the finals in either event.

Mavericks lose shootout to Kings

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

— After finishing the regular season with an ugly collapse, the Sacramento Kings got back to what they do best: shooting, scoring and looking awfully good in the process.

Peja Stojakovic scored 28 points and Chris Webber added 26 points and 12 rebounds, propelling the Kings to a 116-105 victory over the Dallas Mavericks in Game 1 of the best-of-seven playoff series

Sunday.

The Kings made a franchise-record 11 of their 21 3-pointers, including five by Stojakovic to tie Sacramento's individual playoff best.

The Kings were energized from the opening tip, and not even Dirk Nowitzki could keep Dallas close in the fourth quarter of a fitting opener for the NBA's two highest-scoring teams.

Nowitzki had 32 points and 13 rebounds but battled foul trouble for the Mavericks, who have never won a playoff series opener on the road. These

Mavs struggled away from Dallas all season, going 16-25, and the Kings were just as inhospitable as their cowbell-ringing fans.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Sacramento, with Game 3 on Saturday in Dallas.

Sacramento opened the fourth quarter with a 19-7 run keyed by the defense of Doug Christie and Webber, who endangered his gimpy knees and ankles by diving on the floor to retrieve a loose ball. Stojakovic and Anthony Peeler hit 3-pointers, and the Kings

scored 11 points off four consecutive Dallas turnovers.

Antawn Jamison scored 18 points in his first career playoff game, while starting Dallas guards Marquis Daniels and Steve Nash managed just 13 points apiece on 11-for-29 shooting. Michael Finley and Antoine Walker also struggled, shooting 7-for-24.

Neither team led by more than seven points in the first three quarters, but both played frenetic offensive basketball.

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Beginning region title quest today



Courtesy photo/Greenhouse Photography
Members of the Big Spring High School Steers golf team pose prior to a practice round last week. The Steers, who won the District 4-4A Golf Tournament, with a come-from-behind effort in the third round of competition, began play in the Region I, Class 4A Golf Tournament today at the Quicksand Golf Course in San Angelo.



Courtesy photo/Greenhouse Photography
Members of the Big Spring High School Lady Steers golf team pose prior to a practice round last week. The Lady Steers, who finished second in the team standings at the District 4-4A Golf Tournament, began play in the Region I, Class 4A Golf Tournament today at the Riverside Golf Course in San Angelo.

Clemens still winning; Astros thump Brewers

By JOEL ANDERSON
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — At this rate, Roger Clemens might not want to consider a second retirement for quite awhile.

The Rocket still has plenty of fuel left.

Clemens has won all three of his starts this season, and was as dominant as ever Sunday in pitching the Houston Astros to a 6-1 victory over Milwaukee.

"I'm getting tired of saying the same thing about him over and over, but it's been the same for three starts in a row," catcher Brad Ausmus said. "He was strong. His velocity really never changed. He was in the 93-95 mph range the entire day. He used all his pitches — it was a carbon copy of his first two starts."

Clemens (3-0) struck out seven in seven innings, giving up just one run and four hits to lead the Astros to their seventh win in eight games.

He even added the second RBI of his career, driving in Ausmus with a single to right field. Clemens' other RBI came June 20, 2002, against Colorado when he was with the New York Yankees. The Rocket earned his 313th win, moving within one of Gaylord Perry for 15th on the career list.

It's been quite a stirring comeback for a guy who ended his Hall of Fame career — albeit for only 78 days — after the Yankees lost the World Series to the Florida Marlins last October.

"He just came right at us," said Milwaukee's Lyle Overbay, who went 0-for-3 against Clemens. "He can probably pitch

this good until he's 60."

Or at least October, where Clemens hopes to lead Houston to its first World Series appearance.

The Astros certainly looked like title contenders Sunday, getting plenty of offensive help to go with Clemens' overpowering effort on the mound.

Houston finished with a season-high 16 hits, including a key two-out single from Clemens in the fourth that put the Astros up 3-1.

Ausmus homered in the second, Adam Everett had a two-run triple and Jeff Kent and Lance Berkman each had three hits and an RBI.

"You've got to go out and do your best to keep them from scoring, but then on the flip side they're such a good-hitting team, that's tough to do," Brewers manager Ned Yost said. "I can see why they're one of the favored teams in the division."

Berkman, in particular, made a couple of defensive plays in the fifth that showed the boost Clemens has provided for this long-overlooked team.

First, Berkman leapt high in the air to snatch away Wes Helms' fly ball before it hit the outfield scoreboard. On the next play, Berkman grabbed Ben Grieve's hit that ricocheted off the left-field wall and threw Grieve out at second base.

"You would run through a brick wall for the guy," Berkman said of Clemens. "He's has a lot of enthusiasm and it pumps the rest of us up. He appreciates a good play behind him and lets you know about it."

Brady Clark ended Clemens' scoreless streak at 17 innings.

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BY JOYCE JILLSON

I wonder if the creators of Earth Day placed it during the early stage of the Taurus sun on purpose.

Well, it's astrologically ideal, as the sun's annual passage through earth sign Taurus builds awareness of the elegant balance of nature.

Taurus is a wake-up call for the senses. Use all six of yours to take in the gifts of our glorious planet.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You want to share all your boisterous, unabashed social energy. A complete stranger may strike up a conversation or initiate a friendship.

Relationship dynamics come together quickly but dissolve if not maintained.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's easy come, easy go in matters of the heart. You initiate casual relationships and flirtations. Even platonic friendships hit new notes, increasing the sense of connection without making anything feel heavy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You refuse to conform to what's expected of you. Today is about activities that are engaging and fun, and when they cease to be that, it's over. An unconventional approach to work could open new doors.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You throw caution to the wind. It's safe to expect that risks that

don't pan out will only hurt for a minute, and who knows how lucky you could get when they do? You're in the mood to brood tonight, but it won't last.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A fresh start is favored in friendships and romance, but how can this happen without forgiveness? It can't. Decide what you're willing to put behind you, and then, don't look back. Unexpected guests show up tonight, so get ready.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Virgos like you enjoy and understand the concept of service as no other sign does. There is a larger purpose that must be served in order for you to feel truly happy on the job; your altruism cannot be denied.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Wins on the job come from being prepared for the hard-hitting questions. Straighten out a debt as soon as possible. For some of you singles, a matchmaker is plotting your next romance. Let your hair down tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It is important to feel adored, but at the same time, don't rely on others to set the tone. Take charge, and others follow suit. Some of you hire help with routine chores and free up your time for a lucrative business move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Get outside, laugh, and love. Friendly chitchat sparks a date. You could fall in love with a most unlikely partner. Get a grip on careless spending because you will soon need extra cash to take advantage of an opportunity.



Joyce Jillson

Tomorrow's Horoscope

been." Your sign is always plunging to the emotional depths and feeling them fully, including that most indescribable of all feelings - the void. I'm sorry to report that you'll probably live your whole life never filling it, and that's the poignant thing about being you. This Aquarius guy is all in his head. He's terrified of the land of feelings, he doesn't know his own, and that's why he can't express them to you. He's not holding out; he's just afraid of saying the wrong thing. Yes, he loves you back. No, you're not wasting your time.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Renee Zellweger picked up an Oscar for her performance in "Cold Mountain" and soon stars in "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason." The lovely Zellweger has a lot of reason to celebrate, but she tends to keep her parties private. Can it be true that she's being romanced by Jack White of The White Stripes? Well, I predict nuptials for the couple before the year is out!

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

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Annie's Mailbox: Advice for those in need



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I am a Reserve Army officer stationed in Iraq. The year away from home has taught me a lot. However, I am concerned about my return. What worries me most is my father. Dad is a Vietnam veteran and fiercely anti-war. We couldn't be more different politically, and I have never had much emotional support from him, especially when I became an officer in the Army.

When my unit was mobilized, my father insisted I resign my commission. He said, "Choose between your family or the Army." Annie, my first loyalty is to my family, but I will not go back on my word, my duty and my obligation to serve. I believe in what I'm doing, and nothing can change my mind on this.

My father was furious when I left. He told me I was no longer welcome in his home, I should never write to him, and although he hoped I would come back safely, I was dead to him either way. He meant it, too. My father has not written to me even once. I was hoping he would calm down over time, but no such luck. I heard from my sister that he has no interest in seeing me when I get home and that I don't belong in his life until I admit the war was a mistake.

Annie, should I just lie to him? Is he being unreasonable, or am I just blinded by my duty as an officer? - Seeking Acceptance Back Home

Dear Seeking: It's good to have principles, but no one's political opinions should require him to cut off loved ones who disagree. Sooner or later, the war will be over, but the damage to your relationship could last a

lifetime. Will your sister act as an intermediary? Ask if she will get a message to your father. Tell him you understand his strong feelings on the subject, but you hope he will not let political differences cause a permanent rift. Let him know you love him, no matter what side he is on, and promise not to discuss the topic in his presence.

Let's hope he comes to his senses soon.

Dear Annie: Our son and his fiancée are planning on living together this spring. My wife and I believe the main reason is that our son's fiancée will receive more financial aid for graduate school if she remains single. Our son has not tried to hide his plans from us, nor has he asked our blessing.

Our religious beliefs tell us that living together is wrong, but my instincts say it may be the correct decision financially. We love both of these kids and do not want to create problems. How should we handle this? Should we prohibit them from sleeping together in our home when they visit, or are we being too old-fashioned? - Perplexed in Pontiac, Mich.

Dear Pontiac: You are wise to know that your

son is an adult and this decision is his. In your home, however, you can set the rules. Having them sleep in separate rooms may seem old-fashioned to some, but you should not feel obligated to accommodate a request that goes against your religious beliefs. Do whatever makes you feel comfortable.

Dear Tell: You can certainly inform your grandchildren that your mother is ill and that you are worried about her health. They may be overly solicitous at first, but that's OK. Let them see her often, and they will treat her as they always have.

Please consider grief counseling now, to help prepare you for your mother's death. You also might want to enlist some help in caring for the children until you feel more able to do so. If the 8-year-old becomes traumatized by your reaction, talk to the pediatrician about appropriate grief counseling for her as well.

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

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Three of my grandchildren, ages 16, 13 and 8, live with me. I would like them to be forewarned, but I don't want them to look oddly at my mother when we visit or treat her like an invalid, which they

might. Also, the 8-year-old girl is very dependent on me emotionally, and I know I will go to pieces when Mom dies. I don't want to frighten the child, but I want the freedom to grieve. A person can only be so strong. I need some advice quickly. - To Tell or Not

Dear Furry: Pet rats? You don't have to lock up your furry children, but don't expect us to drop by any time soon. Thanks for writing.

Dear Annie: Should I warn my grandchildren that my 81-year-old mother, their great-grandmother, is likely to die soon, and quite suddenly?

Mom has a huge abdominal aortic aneurysm that could burst at any moment. Because she is a high-risk surgical candidate and the surgery would be difficult, Mom has elected not to undergo the operation.

Want to have the adventure of a lifetime without all the fuss? **Read!**

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MONDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (6)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	USA (30)	TMC (250)	
6 PM	Dallas News (CC) Wheel-	Midland News Wheel-	Spanish Amar Otra Vez	Odessa King of the Hill	Odessa News Ent. Tonight	Telemundo Pasion de Gavilanes	Midland News Seinfeld (CC)	Atlanta Seinfeld (CC) Friends (CC)	Odessa Joseph Good John Hagee	Odessa News-Lehrer	Discovery MythBusters (CC)	Classics Panther	Atlanta Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Black Ent. Live BET com	Disney Sister, Sister Lizzie	Sports NHL Hockey: Conference	Sports NHL Hockey: Conference	New York (CC)	(CC)	
7 PM	Movie: What Lies Beneath (CC) (DVS)	Movie: What Lies Beneath (CC) (DVS)	Mariana de la Noche	Bernie Mac Bernie Mac	Yes, Dear Still Standing	Prisonera Fear Factor (CC)	Las Vegas Fear Factor (CC)	Update/Israel Sam Peak	Antiques Roadshow	Monster House	Movie: Fletch Lives (CC)	NBA Basketball: First Round	Movie: House Party	Movie: Pixel Perfect (CC)	Quarterfinal Game 7 - Teams TBA	Quarterfinal Game 7 - Teams TBA	Quarterfinal Game 7 - Teams TBA	Movie: Spartacus	The Crocodile	
8 PM			Bajo la Misma	The Swan (CC)	Raymond Two/Half Men	El Alma Herida	Las Vegas (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	Monster Garage					Kim Possible NHL 2Night	Baseball NHL 2Night	Baseball NHL 2Night	Movie: Spartacus	Clockstoppers	
9 PM			Cristina	70s Show Dharma-Greg	CSI: Miami	Mujeres Apasionadas	The Restaurant	The Net	Martin Luther (CC)	American Chopper	Movie: History	Announced NBA	Comicview	Nightly News Hey Monie	Kim Possible Proud Family	Quarterfinal Game 7 - Teams TBA	Baseball NHL 2Night	Baseball NHL 2Night	Movie: Spartacus	Clockstoppers
10 PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News The Tonight Show (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Booker Tommie	Monster Garage	Movie: Fletch Lives (CC)	Teams to Be Announced	Midnight Love	Even Stevens Sister, Sister	Even Stevens Sister, Sister	Baseball NHL 2Night	Baseball NHL 2Night	Law & Order: Special	Unforgettable	
11 PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy	Extra (CC) Jimmy	En las Mejores	Becker (CC) Spin City	The Late Late Show (CC)	Al Rojo Vivo	News Late Night (CC)	The Juror	Update/Israel N. McBride	American Chopper		Inside the NBA	Comicview	Boy World Recess (CC)	Fastbreak	Fastbreak	Fastbreak	Special	12:05 Movie: Island	
12 AM	Live (CC) Oprah	Live (CC) Paid Program	Aspasionado	Blind Date	Street Smarts	Corte-Familia	Fraser (CC)													

DENNIS THE MENACE



"So if I'm good, I'll get wings; if I'm bad, I'll get horns. Any way I can get both?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Don't cry, P.J. It's not half empty. It's half full!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 19, the 110th day of 2004. There are 256 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 19, 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

On this date: In 1782, the Netherlands recognized American independence.

In 1893, the Oscar Wilde play "A Woman of No Importance" opened at the Haymarket Theatre in London.

In 1933, the United States went off the gold standard.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews living in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but futile battle against Nazi forces.

In 1945, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Carousel" opened on Broadway.

In 1951, General Douglas MacArthur, relieved of his Far East command by President Truman, bid farewell to Congress, quoting a line from a ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

In 1982, astronauts Sally K. Ride and Guion S. Bluford Jr. became the first woman and first African-American to be tapped for U.S. space missions.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa.

In 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; dozens of people, including David Koresh, were killed.

In 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people and injuring hun-

dreds. Timothy McVeigh was later convicted of federal murder charges and executed.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Hugh O'Brian is 79. Actress Elinor Donahue is 67. Actor Tim Curry is 58. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 57. Tennis player Sue Barker is 48. Recording executive Suge Knight is 39. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 37. Actress Ashley Judd is 36. Singer Bekka Bramlett is 36. Actor James Franco is 26. Actress Kate Hudson is 25. Actor Hayden Christensen is 23. Actor Courtland Mead is 17.

Answer to previous puzzle

QUIZSHOW	SMITHS
ATNOTIME	HOORAH
TALENTED	ENTICE
AHAS	UNDO
RAW	UPSETS
INSUM	DOPE
SPAR	ORLANDO
JUSTICE	LIPREAD
AREARUG	EGAN
WBA	ERAT
BASK	ALONSO
ONOME	ENYA
MINERS	ILLINOIS
ETALII	TOANDFRO
SELLER	ENDNOTES

Newsday Crossword

WHO WROTE IT? by Sally R. Stein

Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS**
- 1 Makes a choice
 - 5 Bit of snow
 - 10 Ali
 - 14 Earn a living
 - 15 Surgical beam
 - 16 Actor Alda
 - 17 Little Women author
 - 20 That woman
 - 21 So be it
 - 22 Mollify
 - 23 Recipe direction
 - 24 Where Nashville is: Abbr.
 - 25 Straighten up
 - 28 Arctic floater
 - 29 Vegas
 - 32 "boy!"
 - 33 Acquire
 - 35 Make a choice
 - 37 Jane Eyre author
 - 40 Bill and His Comets
 - 41 Head: Fr.
 - 42 Garfield dog
 - 43 A third of three
 - 44 Sunbeams
 - 46 Spread rumors
 - 48 Evergreen trees
 - 49 Capitol feature
 - 50 Hard to find
 - 53 Narrow street
 - 54 German exclamation
 - 57 A Farewell to Arms author
 - 60 Color gradation
- DOWN**
- 1 Birds in barns
 - 2 Winnie-the-___
 - 3 Factual
 - 4 Glide down an Alp
 - 5 Long-legged bird
 - 6 Less plausible, excuse-wise
 - 7 Slippery eel
 - 8 Door opener
 - 9 Pencil end
 - 10 Cheeseburger extra
 - 11 Considerably
 - 12 Shower alternative
 - 13 Poker starter
 - 18 Fill fully
 - 19 Not as terse
 - 23 Long look
 - 24 Principle
 - 25 Mexican chip
 - 26 Actor Hawke
 - 27 of Two Cities
 - 28 Tastes of food
 - 29 Gives for a while
 - 30 Intermission follower
 - 31 Highly sloped
 - 34 Lawyers: Abbr.
 - 36 Not tight
 - 38 Words of a song
 - 39 Garden flowers
 - 45 Soul singer Franklin
 - 47 Predictive sign
 - 48 Released
 - 49 with faint praise
 - 50 Hardens
 - 51 Wheat or soybeans
 - 52 British princess
 - 53 Singer Horne
 - 54 Out of whack
 - 55 Adam's eldest
 - 56 Jekyll's alter ego
 - 58 and haw
 - 59 Service-station offering

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