



BIG SPRING HERALD

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

WEEKEND EDITION

May 8-9, 2004

WEATHER

Sunday:



PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY 81°-84° SUNDAY NIGHT 61°-64°

INSIDE



Local, area softball squads advance

Big Spring's Lady Steers defeated El Paso Irvin and the Coahoma Bulldogettes rolled past Grape Creek as both teams advanced in state playoffs.

See Page 1B

BRIEFLY

Student Council to sponsor blood drive

The Big Spring High School Student Council will sponsor a blood drive for the United Blood Services from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday in the high school auditorium foyer, 707 11th Place.

American Legion sets Saturday fish fry

The American Legion Post 506, 3203 W. Highway 80, will hold a fish fry fund-raiser on Saturday, May 15, from noon until 3 p.m.

Plates are \$7 a piece and delivery is available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Carry out is also available. For more information, call 263-2084.

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To reach us, please call 263-7331.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on

Feasibility study will be conducted

Report on Big Spring VA due by year's end

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

The Big Spring VA Medical Center will undergo a feasibility study to determine the viability of the facility's existence.

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi announced on Friday his acceptance of an independent commission's final recommendations of the Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services plan.

"What that means is that the Veterans Integrated Service Network 18 will conduct a

"This does not mean the outcome has been predetermined or other options will not be evaluated."

—Patricia McKlem

study," said VISN 18 Network Director Patricia McKlem during a press conference following the announcement.

See VAMC, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody Patricia McKlem, director for Veterans Integrated Service Network 18, addresses concerned parties Friday afternoon following an announcement made by Department of Veteran's Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi in Las Vegas to revamp the DAV's medical services.

Local couple killed in wreck on U.S. Hwy. 87

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

A Big Spring couple was killed early Saturday morning in a head-on collision that took place near the Howard and Glasscock County border on U.S. Highway 87.

According to Glasscock County Sheriff's Deputy Keith Burnett, the accident occurred at 6:40 a.m. when a Ford F-150 traveling north on Highway 87 swerved into the oncoming lane.

"It appears the truck went across the yellow line into the oncoming lane, striking a

See WRECK, Page 7A

Relay over the top again!



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins Hundreds of cancer survivors took to the track at Blankenship Field Friday evening for the Relay for Life's annual Survivor Walk. The Relay raised more than \$200,000 during the two-day event to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Victory lap follows 10th annual event

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Despite a lofty goal of \$200,000 for the 10th annual Relay for Life, participants were able to take an amazing victory lap around Blankenship Field Saturday morning as event organizers announced that \$201,172.15 had been raised.

Relay Chairperson Phyllis Turney had to fight back the tears as she and her husband, Co-Chair Jeff Turney, took the final turn around the field's track.

"My heart is so full right now I can't even start to describe it," said a very emotional and physically drained Phyllis Turney. "This community — Glasscock County and Howard County — I just don't have the words to describe it."

"When we set this goal I opened my mouth and just let a goal fly out because I thought it would be cute. We made \$20,000



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins Entertainment for the 10th Annual Relay for Life was provided by a number of local musicians and groups, including this local Christian music group that helped kick off the fund-raiser.

our first year, and with this being the 10th year for the relay, \$200,000 just sort of shot out. I wasn't even thinking about it,

and that's a lot of money. That's \$26,000 more than we made last year. See VICTORY, Page 7A

Survivors say walk gives them strength

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As the sun began to set, cancer survivors from all over the region hit the track at Blankenship Field Friday, sending a distinct message of hope and defiance to the disease that has turned their lives upside-down.

Thanks to bright purple shirts proclaiming the war on cancer, it wasn't hard to spot the survivors. Each one had a unique tale of diagnosis and treatments, but they all agree on one thing — the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Survivor's Walk is an inspiration in the fight against cancer.

"I think it's great," said Vernet Hill, just one of the many survivors that took to the track to officially begin Relay. "I don't think we can ever get enough money to go to something like this, and I believe one of these days they are going to find a cure. Of course that takes a lot of money and that's what this is for."

"It's a neat thing to come out and meet other people that have been through the same thing, even the families that have lost someone to cancer. It's something that brings our community together and I think that's great."

Hill's story is one of hope that cancer can be conquered, if not by the researchers and doctors battling it every day, then by the individual person.

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1989," said Hill. "I had a mastectomy and went through chemo for about three months

See WALK, Page 6A

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Obituaries

Joyce Terry Stanley

Joyce "Babe" Terry Stanley went to be with the Lord on May 5, 2004, after a lengthy illness with Alzheimer's Disease. She was born Aug. 25, 1923, in Bangs, Brown County. Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, James and Jettie Terry; siblings, Jonanna "Doodle" Underwood, Clarice "Scooter" Nance and Rick Terry.

Joyce married the love of her life, Earl O'Neal Stanley, in 1939. At 26 years of age she was widowed with three children, yet found the strength to become a successful local funeral home director and businesswoman in Tahoka. She later ventured into real estate in Ruidoso, N.M. and El Paso.

In 1980, Joyce relocated to Tucson, Ariz., where she pursued her lifelong study of Southwestern and South American Indian culture. Among her many interests and talents were the collecting of rare antiques, travel, and duplicate bridge (which once while partnering with Ova Mae Edwards defeated Charles Gorren).

Joyce not only found interest in many subjects, but also made time to research them. This vast knowledge of Indian cultures afforded her the reputation of expertise that professors utilized.

Joyce was full of humor, God given gifts, and loved by all who knew her. She will be truly missed.

Joyce is survived by her three children, T.O. (Terry) Stanley and wife Patricia of El Paso, Chere Brisbin of Phoenix, Ariz., and Pat Stanley of Alamogordo, N.M.; seven grandchildren, Kara Stanley Chilleri and husband Richard of Round Rock, Jon Sloan and wife Dani of Phoenix, Ariz., Sheff Brisbin of Phoenix, Ariz., Todd Stanley of Denver, Colo., Shea Brisbin Freye and husband Glenn of Phoenix, Ariz., and Eric and Matthew Munoz of El Paso; three great grandchildren, Dominik and John Chilleri of Round Rock and Addison O'Neal Freye of Phoenix, Ariz.

A visitation will be held at Myers & Smith Funeral Home in Big Spring on Sunday, May 9, 2004, from 6 to 8 p.m. Funeral services will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 400 S. Scurry St. at 10:30 AM, Monday, May 10, 2004, with Pastor Gordon Smith officiating, with interment to follow at Mount Olive Cemetery.

A reception for friends and family will follow the graveside services at the Holiday Inn Express Conference Room. Arrangements are under the personal care of White Funeral Home of Lubbock.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made to the Alzheimer's Association at 1-800-272-3900 or www.alz.org.

The family would also like to extend their sincere gratitude to Dr. Moezzi, the staff at Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center of Alamogordo, N.M., and all those who have prayed and cared for Joyce during her illness.

To register or send condolences online go to www.whitefuneralhome.com

Paid obituary

Lois Hall Meek



Lois Hall Meek, 82, of Big Spring, died on Friday, May 7, 2004, in a San Angelo hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, May 10, 2004, at the East Fourth St. Baptist Church with Rev. Dean Thomas, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 5 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral home. She was born on April 6, 1922, in Austinville, Ala., and married R.B. Hall Sr. on November 22, 1941, in Abilene. He preceded her in death on May 16, 1970. She later married Maurice Meek on May 23, 1975, in Austin, and he preceded her in death on February 7, 2003.

Lois worked for the Big Spring State Hospital as an activity therapies tech for 13 years before retiring. She was a member of East Fourth Street Baptist Church for more than 50 years, had taught adult Sunday School and had served as the secretary for the Adult IV Department. Lois was a devoted wife and mother. She enjoyed cooking, needlework and especially quilting.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Rev. R.B. Jr. and Helen Hall of Dripping Springs; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Letress and Mike Tavaglione of Fort Worth, Phillis and Rev. James Mitchell of San Angelo and Jeanette Florence of Linden; a step son and wife, Ray and Yolanda Meek of Midland; a step daughter and husband, Kay and Darrell Elmore of Albuquerque, N.M.; and three other daughters-in-law, Mary Ann Hall of Big Spring, Mary Hall of San Antonio and Ming Taylor of Big Spring; one other son-in-law, Buford Hull of Big Spring; one sister, Jean Cooper of Big Spring; 17 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sons, Phillip Hall and Perry Hall, one brother, and four sisters.

The family suggests memorials to the East Fourth Street Baptist Church, 401 East Fourth Street, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Zoe Katherine Rose Barber

Zoe Katherine Rose Barber, 5, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, May 5, 2004, in a local hospital. Memorial services will be at a later date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- **ENRIQUE BENITO CALDERON**, 27, of 2600 Chanute, was arrested Friday on a traffic warrant.
- **ARIEL PEREZ**, 37, of 2510 Ent, was arrested Friday on a charge of criminal mischief.
- **IVAN HERNANDEZ VELASQUEZ**, 19, of 202 Vikki, was arrested Saturday on a city warrant for minor in consumption.
- **JAMES BURLIN WILLIAMS JR.**, 18, of 1504 Lincoln, was arrested Saturday on a city warrant for assault.
- **FELIX SAVALA JR.**, 35, of Houston, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **MICHAEL JACOB VALENTINE**, 26, of La Porte, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ALEXANDER LEAL**, 22, of Houston, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **MICHAEL ALCANTAR**, 18, of 506 Father Delaney, was arrested Saturday on a charge of a minor driving

Weather

Sunday...Cloudy early in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Monday night and Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s. Highs in the mid 80s.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs around 90.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Friday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-10-26-31-36.

Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 2-18-20-31. Bonus ball 5.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-3-5

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**Re-Elect
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Election Date **Saturday May 15**

"A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others."
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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

SUNDAY

• Team Rustic Circle, an amateur paintball team, meets for practice between noon and dusk at the Moss Creek Lake paintball facility. The public is always invited, whether to participate or just spectate. For more information contact Rick Boiles at 264-2395 or 393-5246.

MONDAY

• The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association will meet at 11:30 a.m. in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served.

• Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.

• Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.

• Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.

• Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.

• Big Spring Commandery No. 31 meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple at 221 1/2 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

• Big Spring Assembly No. 211 Social Order of Beauceant meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Temple at 221 1/2 Main St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

• Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.

• Free, six-week, grief support course, Life After Loss from 10 a.m. until noon at Odyssey Healthcare Inc., 1003 E. FM 700. This week's class is "What To Expect." Call 263-5999 for more information.

• Second Community Meeting by West Texas Opportunities, Inc. at 10 a.m. in Canterbury South, 1700 Lancaster.

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Senior Circle meets at 10 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

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

• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

Registration for all Summer Terms Begins

May 10, 11, 12, and 17
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Student Assistance Center

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VAMC

Continued from Pa

"This does r that the outcome predetermined other options w evaluated," stressed. "Stud been known to variety of outc opportunities."

As part of the VA will begi er data of "wh facility should oped in the Odessa area," said, and added is expected to mid-summer.

"The VA is n process of dev 'Veterans Rur Hospital Policy provide a detail and framewor ing clinic and o characteristics and rural facil said. "This is e be completed i 2004. This p other factors w if the Midla area would be priate location ity and what ar ate scope of would be base jected demands

McKlem hope will include a from Big Spr from the Network and o area veteran s cers and she e study to be cor the end of 2004.

"It is not d there will def construction Midland-Odess said. "We have it. We need t and say how t provide adequ care service t in West Texas."

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VAMC

Continued from Page 1A

"This does not mean that the outcome has been predetermined or that other options will not be evaluated," McKlem stressed. "Studies have been known to create a variety of outcomes and opportunities."

As part of this study, the VA will begin to gather data of "what type of facility should be developed in the Midland-Odessa area," McKlem said, and added the study is expected to begin in mid-summer.

"The VA is now in the process of developing a 'Veterans Rural Access Hospital Policy' that will provide a detail definition and framework for accepting clinic and operational characteristics of small and rural facilities," she said. "This is expected to be completed in June of 2004. This policy and other factors will be used if the Midland-Odessa area would be an appropriate location for a facility and what an appropriate scope of practice would be based on projected demands for care."

McKlem hopes the study will include a designee from Big Spring, experts from the VISN 18 Network and one or more area veteran service officers and she expects the study to be completed by the end of 2004.

"It is not determined there will definitely be construction in the Midland-Odessa," she said. "We have to look at it. We need to sit back and say how can we best provide adequate health care service to veterans in West Texas."

The news wasn't unexpected for many, including U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, who has been working in Washington, D.C., with city and county leaders to keep the Big Spring VA facility open.

"I remain confident that the needs assessment the VA conducts will further prove what we already know — that the best place for this region's veterans to receive quality and readily accessible health-care is and should remain in Big Spring."

Jerry Groves, a Vietnam War veteran and a member of a local veteran's organization, expressed some frustration after the press conference.

"She didn't say anything that was really concrete that was going to give us an answer to the future about this facility," Groves said. "That's what we were here to find out — what the future of the facility holds and I really don't think that's been addressed."

"All they're doing is something that's already been done," Groves said about the feasibility study. "They've already done one. How many feasibility studies are we going to have to go through to find out what's going to happen to this facility?"

Howard County Commissioner Bill Crooker, who as been part

of the community effort to keep the VAMC in Big Spring, said he felt somewhat encouraged by the recommendation.

"I feel good about it basically," Crooker said. "I think if a fair study is conducted, I don't see where there will be any major changes made in the city."

U.S. Rep. Charlie Stenholm, D-Abilene, expressed his disappointment that Principi accepted the report, but added the community should "keep in mind that he agreed to study the feasibility of keeping health care service for veterans at Big Spring."

"The secretary did not in any way signal that he will automatically close the Big Spring facility," Stenholm said. "This is a very important distinction for West Texas veterans and all of us who care about the West Texas veterans to remember."

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn said he is committed to continuing to work with the local community as the study moves forward.



NEUGEBAUER



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STENHOLM



CORNYN

Cornyn said. "And I've made clear to him that the VA must ensure substantial local involvement in the deliberation, and that the study must be based on an objective analysis of where the need for care lies, and how it can best be accommodated."

"I am pleased Secretary Principi has seen fit to maintain the quality care being afforded our nation's veterans at the Big Spring VA Medical Center," said U.S. Sen. Beverly Hutchinson said. "This decision ensures West Texas veterans will continue to count on Big Spring for the vital health services they earned and our nation promised them."

The CARES plan is a restructuring Department's health care services to modernize services, bring greater access of care closer to where veterans live and get rid of under-used facilities, McKlem said.

The 20-year plan includes construction of

156 new community outpatient clinics, additional multi-specialty complex and new hospitals, expansion in mental health services and enhanced services spinal cord injuries.

"In the coming years, as new data and changing demographics dictate, we will update this model," McKlem said. "No veteran will lose services or experience a gap in care."

McKlem said the original draft plan, which was released in August, submitted for consideration proposed closing of inpatient services at the Big Spring facility and building a new critical care access hospital in the Midland/Odessa area.

"The commission did not feel that this proposal had been adequately evaluated and recommended further study of this proposal," McKlem said.

The Big Spring VAMC employs 500-plus full- and part-time workers with an annual payroll of \$32.5 million.

The final report is posted on the Department of Veteran Affairs Web site at www.va.gov/CARES.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234.

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267-8288
Joyce "Babe" Terry Stanley, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 10:30 AM Monday at First United Methodist Church. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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In the midst of our sorrow, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our many relatives, friends and neighbors for the kindness and sympathy shown to us in the loss of our beloved Father and Grandfather,
M. T. Johnson.
The Family of M. T. Johnson

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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

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OUR VIEWS

Make sure you
tell your mom
you love her

Today is Mother's Day, the day on which we honor the most important women in our lives — those who gave us life, and for about half of us, those who gave our children life.

This is a day to devote ourselves to praising and honoring those who by nature are perhaps the most devoted people on earth.

Mothers, after all, are nurturers. They are naturally giving, caring and fiercely loyal.

As a matter of fact, mothers perform the hardest job in the world — from giving us birth and providing all our needs as infants, to nursing myriad ailments and illnesses during our formative years and, finally, letting us cut the apron strings and allowing us to venture into adulthood.

Too many times we've forgotten to say "thank you." Too often we've taken their efforts for granted. And too often we've been embarrassed or chafed at what seemed too much concern on her part.

But not today, please.

What will you do for your mother today to show her how much you love her and appreciate the years of unconditional love she's given you?

Whether it's flowers, a special meal, a tender greeting card or a simple hug and uttered "thank you," offer them from your heart.

Lord knows they're deserved.

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

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

A SMALL PRAYER

By K. Rae Anderson

Thank you, Lord, for a Mothers blessing, and for your great love.

Amen

Disgusted with a misbegotten occupation

For all I know, we may have just done something smart in Fallujah by hiring ex-Iraqi troops to take it over, but it's sure not what we said we were going to do when we started to go in. Then, the photos from the Abu Ghraib prison horror hit. Let's hear it for privatization again. We just cannot get a break over there.

I think we're at a point when it's useless to continue the argument over whether the glass is half-empty or half-full. Things are going very badly in Iraq. I'm sure some of our professional patriotic bullies will denounce this as unpatriotic pessimism, harmful to the morale of the troops, etc. I think it's more important to recognize reality.

Even though I still consider getting rid of Saddam Hussein an unmitigated good, we may have lost the peace very early on. Peter Galbraith, writing in the May 13 New York Review of Books, reports that the initial looting right after the war ended was unbelievably costly in both monetary terms and Iraqi support. Others have concluded that the corruption, so familiar under Hussein and now again in full flower with the private contractors, has so wiped out respect for our efforts that Iraqis are concluding we are "just like Saddam." For us to continue killing Iraqis for their own good is not a policy likely to redound to our benefit.

Galbraith recommends not a partition of the country, but rather a federation in which the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds are each allowed to choose pretty much

their own form of government. The Kurds could keep their own governing council, the Shiites would choose an Islamic republic, and who knows what the Sunnis want.

"These republics would be self-governing, financially self-sustaining and with their own territorial military and police forces," Galbraith recommends. "The central government would have a weak presidency rotating among the republics, with responsibility limited to foreign affairs, monetary policy and some coordination of defense policy."

Anyone have a better idea? A countrywide election will yield a Shiite government, in turn leading almost inevitably to civil war.

I am so depressed and disgusted with this misbegotten occupation, I've resorted to the old expedient of trying to figure out how we got here in the first place. I read Bob Woodward's book "Plan of Attack." Like everyone else who knows him, I consider Woodward a superb reporter, but he has the oddest inability to sort the wheat from the chaff or to put either of them into context. For a particularly delicious parody of Woodward at his deadly earnest worst, see Christopher Buckley's essay in the May 3 issue of The New Yorker.

One point on which I found the book quite helpful is the much-debated issue of whether Bush & Co. lied about the weapons of mass destruction, were fed bad intelligence or engaged in self-deception. It seems to have been a combination of self-delusion and cherry-picking from some very unclear intelligence.

I found Richard Clarke's book "Against All Enemies" more useful, since he goes back through the mistakes made by a series of

administrations. In retrospect, by focusing only on the terrorist threat, one can see the mistakes quite clearly, but in fairness, terrorism was not the only consideration in most of those cases.

It is quite possible the final lesson of the Iraq debacle will be that the military is the wrong tool for the terrorist job. This brings us back to the original rhetorical trap we got ourselves into by talking about "the war on terror." Wars are fought by the military, but the tools needed include a huge intelligence operation as well as criminal investigation.

To this end, how stupid is it that we have two dozen treasury agents chasing Cuban embargo violators and only four tracking terrorist money. As Rep. William Delahunt, D-Mass., put it, "We're chasing old ladies on bicycle trips in Cuba when we should be concentrating on the significant tools against shadowy terrorist organizations."

This goes back to an old sore point in this administration's fight against terrorism. When the Bushies came in, they abandoned the multilateral efforts Bill Clinton had set up to track offshore money, and even after 9-11 they only reluctantly endorsed increasing Treasury's power to follow the money. It is not paranoia or conspiracy-mongering to point out that this reluctance stems from the unhappy habit of so many American rich people to keep their money in offshore accounts in order to avoid taxes (see Enron, etc.).

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

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Gender integration equals military breakdown

They make you want to turn away, those awful pictures of naked men piled into human pyramids while smirking American soldiers give the thumbs-up sign or grin inanely into the camera. Then you look closer, not at the humiliating jumble of naked flesh but at the American soldiers, and you realize that some of them are women. What is already a shocking tale becomes even more obscene and unsettling.

Clearly there has been a terrible breakdown in order and discipline at Abu Ghraib prison and elsewhere in Iraq, and perhaps Afghanistan and Guantanamo, Cuba. The officer in charge of the facility at the time the apparent abuses took place was Reserve Brigadier General Janis Karpinski, who has now gone on national television to defend herself. Speaking on ABC's "Good Morning America," Gen. Karpinski says that she "did not know anything about it. And had I known anything about it I certainly would have reacted very quickly."

But that's the point. She didn't know what was going on, and she should have.

It is hard to know what led to this breakdown in discipline. But one factor that may have contributed — but which I doubt investigators will want to even consider — is whether the presence of women in the unit actually encouraged more misbehavior, especially of the sexual nature

that the pictures reveal.

Before you dismiss the suggestion as some sort of raving misogynistic fantasy, let me explain why this possibility should at least be explored.

Although the military brass has been loath to admit it, the increased presence of women in the military serving in integrated units has made military discipline more challenging. While some advocates of women in the military have argued that women's presence would improve behavior, in fact, there is much evidence to suggest it has had the opposite effect. For years now, the military has ignored substantial evidence that the new sex-integrated military interferes with unit cohesion and results in less discipline.

Putting young men and women at their sexual prime in close proximity to each other 24 hours a day increases sexual tension. Allegations of sexual harassment, even rape, have become commonplace. In February, the Pentagon reported that it had received 112 complaints of sexual assault or rape in the previous 18 months from women in military units in the Central Command unit of operations, which includes Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait.

In addition, the pregnancy rate among female soldiers serving in Iraq, most of whom are unmarried, is rumored to be unusually high. The Pentagon has resisted releasing precise figures, even when pressed to do so. Last year, one female Marine actually gave birth on a warship deployed off Kuwait. But while we don't know what the overall pregnancy rate is among female soldiers serving in Iraq today, in Operation Desert

Storm it reached 15 percent and was the single largest cause of evacuation from Bosnia during U.S. deployments there.

Military service has become heavily sexualized, with opportunities for male and female soldiers, sailors and Marines to engage in sexual fraternization, which, though frowned upon — and in certain circumstances, forbidden — is almost impossible to prevent.

So what does this have to do with those pictures of mistreated prisoners? Take a look at the faces of those soldiers again, especially the female soldiers. They look less like sadists than delinquents. They look like they're showing off at some wild party trying to impress everybody with how "cool" they are. What they are doing is despicable, but they seem totally oblivious.

The men and women who engaged in this behavior abused and humiliated their captives, dishonored their country and deserve severe punishment. But if we want to prevent this type of conduct from ever occurring again, we not only need to punish those responsible but also look at all the possible factors that might give occasion to such abuses — including the breakdown in discipline and unit cohesion that have gone hand in hand with gender integration in the military.

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.creators.com.

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Tony Barrera and Queen, during the culmination of a w...

40-year as VA

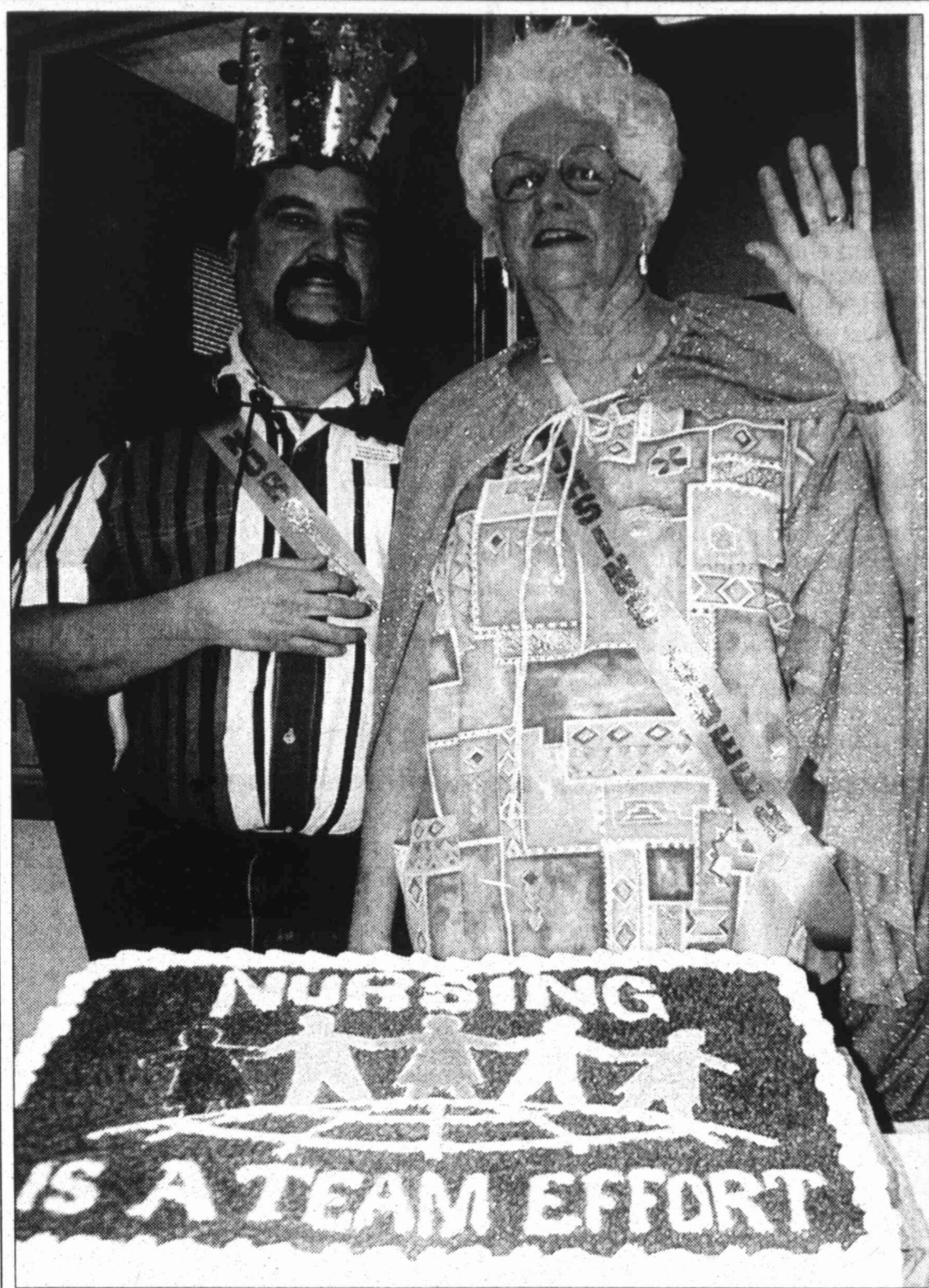
By LYNDLE MO

Staff Writer
A 40-year nursing an was honored morning for contribution to the VA Medical C. Frances E. retired registered Bearer Award award given who have si contributed to ing program. "She came the VA in Ja and filled ev said Katie La nursing. "She a staff nurse nurse, a nurse and she retir

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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Tony Barrera and Janel Barnhill, were crowned the VA Medical Center Nursing King and Queen, during the hospital's nursing awards presentation Friday. The awards ceremony culminated a week of events to celebrate National Nursing Week.

40-year career celebrated as VAMC honors its nurses

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

A 40-year nursing veteran was honored Friday morning for her contribution to the field at the VA Medical Center.

Frances E. Bartlett, a retired registered nurse, received the Torch Bearer Award, an annual award given to nurses who have significantly contributed to the nursing program.

"She came to work at the VA in January 1951 and filled every role," said Katie Lara, chief of nursing. "She worked as a staff nurse, a head nurse, a nurse supervisor and she retired in 1981

after 30 years. She then went to work for Scenic Mountain Medical Center for 10 more years."

Following Barlett's award, VAMC Interim Director Bill Cox presented the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing to Susan Herrera, a registered nurse, and Leta Oliver, a licensed vocational nurse.

"I want to say congratulations to all the nursing staff and to express my appreciation for what you do every day through the year," Cox said in his opening remarks. "Three hundred and sixty-five days, 24-7, you're there all the time."

The 30-minute ceremony

wrapped up a week of VAMC-sponsored activities to celebrate National Nurses Week, including the crowning of the Nurse's King and Queen, Janel Barnhill and Tony Barrera.

"We've had luncheons, ice cream bars and door prizes," Lara said. "Rip Griffin's Travel Center gave every nurse a certificate for a meal. Cowboy's Steakhouse and KC Steakhouse both gave a complementary meal for two."

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

BSHS Student Council receives Sweepstakes Award at conference

HERALD Staff Report

The Big Spring High School Student Council was one of only 193 school councils in the state to receive the Sweepstakes Award at Texas Association of Student Councils state conference.

In addition, the student council, which served as the District 8 president this year, received five individual awards: Outstanding Student Council, Outstanding DASH (Drug, Alcohol, Safety and Health) School, Outstanding

Energy School, Outstanding Pride and Patriotism School and Outstanding Community Service.

Nine members of the BSHS student council were among the 4,100 students who attended the conference held in Arlington, April 22-24.

2003-04 officers in attendance were Brandon Hughes, president; Stephanie Franco, recording secretary; Zack Watkins, DASH officer; and Coley Hollandsworth, parliamentarian.

Also attending were the

2004-05 officers, Jessie New and Kyle Piercefield, vice presidents; Becky Murphree, recording secretary; Matthew Soto, corresponding secretary; and Jacob Nichols, DASH officer.

Alex Watkins, incoming president for the 2004-05 year, was unable to attend.

Faculty advisor Sharion Richardson accompanied the students to the conference.

Next year, the BSHS student council will serve as the District 8 secretary/treasurer.

FHS band slates concert

HERALD Staff Report

The six-time award winning Forsan High School Band will present its last concert of the year at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the high school auditorium.

"We're going to be presenting some of our University Interscholastic League concert and sight-reading contest music and we'll be adding some fun music to the program," said band director Jim Rhodes.

Musical selections for the evening include "Big Four March," "Under An Irish Sky" and "Pinnacle."

On April 21, Rhodes and assistant director Jeremy Higginbotham led the band to straight Division I ratings at the concert and sight-reading contest in Crane.

"This band has some

wonderful musicians in it," said one contest judge.

"You make great ensemble sounds and never play out of control," another judge said.

Combined, the April 21 results and the Division I rating earned during

District UIL Marching contest in the fall garnered the FHS program a sixth straight Sweepstakes Award.

In November, the FHS marching band earned fourth place in the UIL state marching contest in San Antonio.



Fish Day

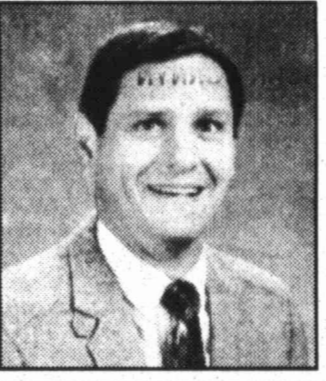
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Commissioners will address proclamation on Monday

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will meet Monday at 10 a.m., with a proclamation regarding National Law Enforcement Officers' Week and several departmental reports topping the agenda.

Scheduled for consideration are:

- County Auditor Jackie Olson will make presentations on invoices, purchase requests, a reimbursement agreement and resolution between the county and the Help America Vote Act organization. Olson will also discuss planning for an upcoming budget workshop.

- Teresa Thomas, County Treasurer, will present personnel considerations, a payroll report and her office's quarterly report to the commissioners.

- District Clerk Colleen Barton is scheduled to present budget amendments for her department.

- Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson will discuss pipeline crossings and road maintenance.

- Kathryn Wiseman, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 Place 2, will discuss teen court.

- County Extension Agent Tommy Yeater is expected to request approval to fill a position within the County Extension office.

- A representative from Mouton, Mouton and Myers will present a contract for delinquent tax collections.

- Commissioner Bill Crooker will make a presentation designating the week of May 9 through 15 as National Law Enforcement Officers' week and May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

- A representative from the Child Welfare Board will make a presentation regarding its newly formed board of directors.

- Phil Furqueron, county construction administrator, will give a report on renovations at the courthouse and library.

The meeting will be held in the commissioners' courtroom, located on the second floor of the County Courthouse.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

WALK

Continued from Page 1A

and have been cancer free ever since. I guess if you have to have cancer, I had the best kind. They got it all and treated it, so I'm here today.

"I had a family that really supported me," she said. "But it's still not the same as talking to someone who has been through it themselves. It gives other people hope. If I've been cancer free for 15 to 16 years then they think they can do it to. A lot of this is about sharing hope with each other."

Mary Beth Yeager laced up her walking shoes to participate in the Survivor's Walk as well, another success story bringing hope to cancer patients everywhere.

"I've been participating with the Relay for Life and the Survivor's Walk since about 1996," said Yeager. "I had breast cancer. I was really lucky because they found it early. I had to take radiation treatments, but I've been doing fine ever since. I certainly don't want to have to do it again."

Mary Beth's husband said it's good to see so many people join together in a common cause to battle the disease.

"It's good to see how much people care," said A.H. Yeager. "I've accompanied Mary Beth to all of the Survivor Walks so this is kind of an annual thing for us. It's so important to help raise money for cancer research. We have to get the money from somewhere."

Cancer isn't something only women must worry about. Just ask Fidel Saldivar, who was diagnosed with cancer a decade ago.

"I found out that I had cancer when I was 62 years old," said Saldivar. "I had surgery and it's been 10 years now. There are no signs of it coming back. I saw my doctor last year and he told me to come back and see him in three years."

"This is very important. It really helps us people that are survivors. It helps us to keep going. You see a lot of people out here and you realize you're not the only one that has cancer. It makes you think that if they are willing to keep going, then I am too."

While so many stories at the Survivor's Walk had happy endings, not everyone's battle is over. Jonneal Eshleman is fighting her fourth bout with the disease, and while it gets tougher to keep her chin up from time to time, make no mistake about it — she's a fighter, and she has no intentions of giving up.

"I was diagnosed with

breast cancer back in 1993," explained Eshleman. "I had a mastectomy and chemo, and then a year later, almost to the day, I was diagnosed with colon cancer. So I had to go through chemo and radiation again and had surgery. Then I had to have chemo after the surgery."

"I have been doing good up until lately. The breast cancer has metastasized (spread) to the lungs and my rib cage has a few spots on it, so I'm back on chemo again. I just had my seventh treatment yesterday. All in all, I'm hanging in there."

"This is very emotional for me," said Eshleman, already daubing the tears from her eyes.

"This year is even harder. But I'm still going to keep fighting. I'm not

going to give up. Keeping a positive attitude has helped me a lot. And the support of your friends and family really helps a lot as well."

Eshleman said seeing so many people winning the battle against cancer helps her, and along with the strength of her family she will continue fighting to find a cure.

"I've been a part of the survivor walk ever since they started having it," said Eshleman. "It's important that we get the word out about this disease and the search for a cure. It's a miracle how Big Spring jumps right in there and does all of this. It means a lot that they really support the community like this."

"It's very important to talk to other people that have cancer and share

with them. I go to M.D. Anderson in Houston, and you meet people and discuss your cancers. It makes you feel better just to talk to them about it. It's the same here at the Relay for Life."

American Cancer Society Courageous Award winner Nanette Barrett of Lubbock also spoke during the opening ceremonies. Barrett has also had multiple bouts with the dreaded disease, and said the hope all cancer patients share will someday be a reality.

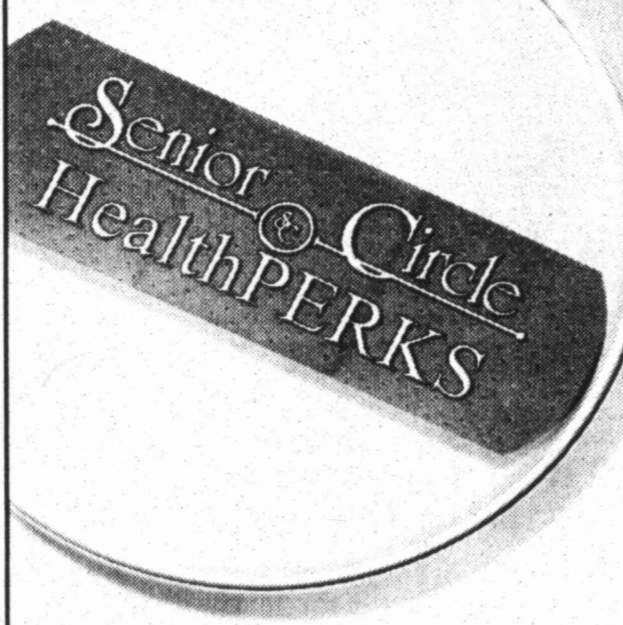
"I've been where you are," Barrett told the masses of survivors gathered at the Relay. "I've been through radiation and two sets of chemo. I've had surgery. So I know how you're feeling out there. We're all here because we have hope

that we're going to fight this disease. We have hope because we've seen people conquer this disease.

"My last PET scan showed that I have no disease in my body, and that was about a month and a half ago," she said as the crowd applauded her victory, however fleeting it may be. "So I've been off of chemo for a month and I'm doing wonderful."

"I believe we live in an age where miracles happen everyday," said Barrett.

"Whether they are miracles of medicine or a doctor's skilled hands, or just a mighty miracle of God, I have great faith in that. You're sitting here with so many support people around you, and that's what it takes to win this battle."



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1998 GMC 1500 Pickup Club Coupe SLE - Stk# D70, V8, 5.7 Liter, Tilt/Cruise, CD/Cassette, Power Seat, Grille Guard, Towing Package, Alloy Wheels. Was \$13,995... NOW \$12,995	2002 Ford Explorer XLT - Stk# D72, V8, 4.6 Liter, Third Seat, Rear Air, Power Windows & Locks, CD, Power Seat, Roof Rack, Running Boards, Towing Package. Was \$18,995... NOW \$17,995
2001 GMC Jimmy - Stk# D70A, White, V6, 4.3 Liter, Rear Air, Power Windows & Locks, Tilt/Cruise, Cassette, Dual Power Seats, Roof Rack, Alloy Wheels. Was \$13,995... NOW \$12,995	2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab LS - Stk# D62, V8, 6.0 Liter, Power Windows & Locks, Tilt/Cruise, CD, Bed Liner, Towing Package, Alloy Wheels. Was \$27,995... NOW \$26,995
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Coahoma

7 p.m. Tuesday

By LYNDEL MOOD
Staff Writer

The award-winning Coahoma High School concert band will perform its spring concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

The CHS band returned Sunday on a band trip to South Island, earned Sweepstakes I recently at University Inter League concert reading concert. Even serious couldn't keep the Band from blowing judges away at test, which was March.

"It was the most interesting concert reading contest

VICTORY

Continued from Page 1

year. We've practiced and worked. Out tee has worked and the teams are one. It just would be possible everyone."

Jeff Turney is involved with for Life has eyes to the community he lives while the out support can be at moments, just par for the when you think

"It's just unbelievable Jeff Turr community is great in their just blows us can't understand keeps getting



BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Coahoma concert band to perform

7 p.m. Tuesday

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

The award winning Coahoma High School concert band will perform its spring concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

The CHS band, which returned Sunday from band trip to South Padre Island, earned a Sweepstakes B Award recently after a University Interscholastic League concert and sight-reading concert in Anson.

Even serious winds couldn't keep the Big Red Band from blowing the judges away at the contest, which was held in March.

"It was the most interesting concert and sight-reading contest I've ever

been in," said band director Jerry Barker. "The concert portion went very well. When we got into the sight-reading part, we went through all the procedures and the judge read all the rules. Right when I took a breath to start, the judges said there was a tornado in the area and we needed to get in the basement for safety."

Barker said the band stayed in the basement for about 45 minutes before trying to perform a second time.

"We warmed up again and when we were ready, the lights went off," said Barker. "They told us a second cell was about 45 minutes away and heading to the area so again they placed the band in a safe place."

"They said it was all clear but we still didn't have any power," Barker continued. "The kids' uniforms were soaked so they changed. We expected them to call (stop) the contest so we took them to eat in the Abilene Mall. Right when I walked into the door of the mall, my cell phone rang."

With the power restored, the Big Red Band headed back to Anson and found out the third time was the charm. The band received a Division I rating for its sight-reading performance to go along with the Division I rating it received earlier for the concert portion.

Combined, the band's concert and sight-reading contest results and the Division II rating earned

in the fall for the band's marching contest qualified it for the Sweepstakes B Award.

"They played wonderful," Barker said. "Considering all they had been through, the kids held up so well. The seniors wanted to step up this year and play a tougher program and we had a shorter time to prepare. I was proud of them."

Later this month, three CHS band students — Eric Barton, Lorean Yeater and Trey Thorton — will attend the state UIL solo and ensemble contest.

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

WRECK

Continued from Page 1A

Chrysler driven by a Big Spring couple," said Burnett.

"The couple from Big Spring was killed in the accident. The driver and three passengers in the pickup all sustained serious injuries, but were in stable condition when they were airlifted from Scenic Mountain Medical Center to Lubbock."

Burnett said the accident occurred in a work zone, where the highway is being changed from two-lane to four-lane, but didn't believe the ongoing construction played a role in the accident.

"There are two factors you have to look at when a wreck like this happens at that time of the morning," he said. "First is how long have the dri-

vers been on the road and could they have fallen asleep. That's one possibility."

"The other is the sun and how it can have a blinding effect when it begins to rise above the hills in that area at that time of the morning. As of now we still haven't determined the cause of the wreck."

The names of the two victims from Big Spring, along with the driver and three passengers of the pickup who were believed to have been traveling from Austin, were being withheld by the Department of Public Safety pending notification of family members.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

VICTORY

Continued from Page 1A

year. We've prayed, sweat and worked. Our committee has worked so hard, and the teams and everyone. It just wouldn't have been possible without everyone."

Jeff Turney said being involved with the Relay for Life has opened his eyes to the kind of community he lives in, and while the outpouring of support can be surprising at moments, it's really just par for the course when you think about it.

"It's just unbelievable," said Jeff Turney. "This community is just so great in their giving, it just blows us away. We can't understand how it keeps getting better and

better. It's surprising, but it's not because of the community. Everyone is involved in it. It's a great thing and this is just a great, giving community. It gets better each year."

In the small teams category (1-15 team members):

- First place, with \$6,913 raised, Fuzzy's Crew — sponsored by Wells Fargo.
- Second place, with \$4,100 raised, Meagan's Angels.
- Third place, with \$3,800 raised, Citizen Credit Union's Cancer Kickers.

In the medium teams category (16-44 team members):

- First place, with \$10,762 raised, the VAgabonds — sponsored by the VA Medical Center.
- Second place, with

\$10,152 raised, the Roughriders — sponsored by Marshall Farms.

- Third place, with \$9,213 raised, Mind, Body and Soul — sponsored by the Big Spring State Hospital.

In the large teams category (45 team members or more):

- First Place, with \$12,461 raised, Crockett's Sluggers — sponsored by Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- Second place, with \$1,858 raised, Glasscock County 4-H.
- Third place, with \$643 raised, Team At Work — sponsored by the City of Big Spring.

In the lap-walking competition, which managed to post a total of 812 laps around the field, the following teams managed to

garner awards:

- Glasscock County 4-H with 286 laps.
- Goliad Cancer Crushers with 207 laps.
- Kentwood Cancer Crushers with 108 laps.
- Yellow Dog Dare Devils with 91 laps.

Shortly before announcing the final totals, Jeff Turney had a resounding remark for the crowd which best personifies the attitude of Relay for Life

throughout its 10 years in existence.

"I had a friend that I met out here last year," Jeff Turney told the crowd prior to announcing the goal had been surpassed. "She was the Courageous winner. She lost her battle with cancer but she didn't lose the war because we're still here fighting for her. Her saying was 'I can't change the world, but I can make

a dent in it.' We've made a dent today."

"My advice would be to take a week off and figure out what you're going to do the week after next for fund-raisers. We're ready for next year. Let's get started!"

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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Special Mother's Day Buffet

Sunday, May 9th

"Food so good it would make her proud without all the work"

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Seventh reserve is charged

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Although relatives insist she was following orders, the military charged an Army reservist with assaulting detainees after photographs surfaced of her smiling and pointing at naked Iraqi prisoners.

Pfc. Lyndie England on Friday became the seventh member of an Army Reserve military police unit to be charged in a scandal that has drawn outrage around the world and damaged the reputation of the United States as it tries to stabilize Iraq.

England 21, faces four allegations, according to a statement from the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg.

She is accused of assaulting Iraqi detainees on multiple occasions; conspiring with another soldier, Spc. Charles Graner, to mistreat the prisoners; committing an indecent act; and committing acts "that were prejudicial to good order and discipline and were of nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces through her mistreatment of Iraqi detainees."

Earlier Friday, England's relatives said she was following orders when she posed for the pictures. They could not be immediately reached for comment after the charges were announced.

Nichols trial continues

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) — A motorist who watched as Timothy McVeigh was

arrested after the Oklahoma City bombing testified that he also saw a man in a pickup truck back up near McVeigh's car.

Scott Gregory was one of nine defense witnesses who testified Friday at the murder trial of bombing conspirator Terry Nichols. Several witnesses recalled seeing McVeigh with other people in the days before the deadly federal building explosion.

McVeigh's contacts, including the enigmatic dark-skinned suspect known as John Doe No. 2, are the key to Nichols' defense. His attorneys allege that others helped McVeigh plan and execute the bombing and that Nichols was set up to take the blame.

Gregory testified he saw McVeigh being arrested along Interstate 35 north of Oklahoma City about an hour after the April 19, 1995, bombing.

At the same time, a truck driven by a man wearing a red and white baseball cap backed up near McVeigh's 1977 Mercury Marquis, Gregory said.

Rumsfeld: Scandal could worsen

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld warned members of Congress that the Iraq prison abuse scandal could worsen with the release of videos and more photographs depicting brutality.

With his future in the Cabinet in jeopardy, Rumsfeld apologized and told House and Senate committees Friday that he took full responsibility for the abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison. Rumsfeld offered "my deepest apology" to Iraqis abused by American soldiers

and said he would seek compensation for them. He also said those responsible would be punished.

But it's not clear whether the hearings, broadcast live nationwide, would ease pressure on Rumsfeld to resign. Lawmakers said they were pleased by his apology, but some said his testimony left questions unanswered about who was giving orders and why Congress wasn't told earlier about the extent of the abuse.

Rumsfeld said he wouldn't resign "simply because people try to make a political issue out of it," but he didn't rule out the possibility of stepping down. He said if he could not be effective, "I certainly wouldn't want to serve. And I have to wrestle with that."

Asked by Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., if he would step down if that would help undo the some of the damage caused by the scandal, Rumsfeld said "that's possible."

Drug cards value unclear

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new Medicare discount drug cards' clear benefit for low-income seniors is being drowned out in the partisan political tussle about their value, advocates for the elderly say.

Republicans say the cards will help lower prescription costs. Democrats say they are practically worthless.

James Firman, president of the National Council on Aging, makes no attempt to conceal his frustration when he says, "Clearly things are confusing, and the politics is making it more confusing. The truth is somewhere in the middle."

Enrollment for the cards began last week, although Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and other officials suggested Medicare beneficiaries window-shop for a couple of weeks before choosing a card.

Do you have Questions about the new
MEDICARE Prescription Card plan?

- * We can help you choose a plan that is right for you.
- * We can help you determine the card that is best for your budget & your health needs.
- * WE CAN HELP YOU ENROLL!

PLEASE TALK TO US BEFORE YOU SIGN UP FOR A CARD.

We will have a "Help Desk" starting on
May 3rd to answer your questions.

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Community Celebration

Please Join Us In Our 75th Anniversary Celebration of the
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Unveiling of New 75th Anniversary Exhibit ~ 11:00 a.m.
• Friday, May 21 ~ Heritage Museum

Luncheon at Refinery ~ 12:30 p.m.
• Friday, May 21, 2004 ~ Refinery Parking Lot
• Lunch, program and Refinery tours

Community Concert ~ Saturday, May 22, 2004
• Asleep at the Wheel, Cory Morrow and Kaiser Brothers
• Doors open at 5:45 p.m. ~ Entertainment starts at 7:00 p.m.
• Admission free with ticket ~ Complements of Big Spring Refinery

Concert Ticket Information
• Visit a KBST on-site broadcast at local 7-Eleven Stores
May 12th, 2004 ~ 11th & Settles, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
May 15th, 2004 ~ 4th & Birdwell, 10:00am-12:00 noon

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

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C.G.A. annual scholarship
The Chic Association announced a nament that send your cl lege.
The schola nament is sel Saturday, M Sunday May Big Spring G
The tourna be a two-per ble at a cost person. Th tournament flighted after day.
Mulligans available on for \$5 apiece
There wil food for pl prizes on ho to the pin.
For more tion, cal Mendoza at Billy Pineda (after 7 p.m.
Big Spr Course can throughout 264-2366.

Co-ed softball tourney an
A benefit ball tourna take place at Trail Park Saturday.
The cost i team and ch rules apply and t-shirt awarded through thi
For more contact Fra 213-0992 or 432-466-1541 leave a mes

Sweetwater Classic dan
The four Sweetwater Classic Tournamen held Friday and Sunday in Sweetwa
This is fo girls in ag from 10 through h varsity. Th camp is \$11 for a guarra games.
For mor tion, Tournamen Mike Hatl Sweetwater Commerce. 6757 for ent

Final Lady Booster M
The final Booster me year will Monday at ATC.
All paren athletes in basketball, ing and encouraged are incomi parents.

Coahoma banquet m
Coahoma banquet wi Monday at Elementary. The price adults and mentary ag For more li 267-5328.

ON TI

Sports Broa
T
Event, Time
Spurs @ Lakers, 2:00 p.m.
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Event, Time
Spurs @ Lakers, 9:00 p.m.
Wed
Event, Time
Astros @ Mariners, 6:40

IN BRIEF

C.G.A. announces scholarship tourney

The Chicano Golf Association has announced a golf tournament that could help send your child to college.

The scholarship tournament is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, and Sunday May 16, at the Big Spring Golf Course.

The tournament will be a two-person scramble at a cost of \$75 per person. The two-day tournament will be flighted after the first day.

Mulligans will also be available on both days for \$5 apiece.

There will be free food for players and prizes on holes closest to the pin.

For more information, call Willie Mendoza at 267-7977 or Billy Pineda at 264-7116 (after 7 p.m.)

Big Spring Golf Course can be reached throughout the day at 264-2366.

Co-ed softball tourney announced

A benefit co-ed softball tournament will take place at Comanche Trail Park Friday and Saturday, May 14-15. The cost is \$115 per team and church league rules apply. Trophies and t-shirts will be awarded for first through third place.

For more information contact Frank at 432-213-0992 or Vanessa at 432-466-1541 (please leave a message).

Sweetwater Spring Classic date set

The fourth annual Sweetwater Spring Classic Basketball Tournament will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday May 14-16 in Sweetwater.

This is for boys and girls in age divisions from 10 and under through high school varsity. The cost of the camp is \$185 per team for a guaranteed three games.

For more information, contact Tournament Chairman Mike Hatley or the Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-658-6757 for entry forms.

Final Lady Steers Booster Meeting set

The final Lady Steers Booster meeting of the year will take place Monday at 6 p.m. in the ATC.

All parents of female athletes in volleyball, basketball, cheerleading and track are encouraged to attend as are incoming freshman parents.

Coahoma athletic banquet near

Coahoma's athletic banquet will take place Monday at 7 p.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria. The price is \$8 for adults and \$5 for elementary age and under. For more info., call 432-267-5328.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule		
Today		
Event, Time	Station	
Sours @ Lakers, 2:00 p.m.	1490	
Tuesday		
Event, Time	Station	
Sours @ Lakers, 9:00 p.m.	1490	
Wednesday		
Event, Time	Station	
Astros vs. Marlins, 6:40 p.m.	1490	

Lady Steers cruise past Irvin in six



Big Spring senior catcher Erica Stewart throws out one of two runners that El Paso Irvin put on first base Friday during the Lady Steers' 10-0 area championship win in Alpine. Big Spring run-ruled Irvin in six innings. Stewart went 0-for-2 from the plate, but reached base twice and scored two runs.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

A brilliant pitching performance by junior Alex Watkins was all it took to lose any nerves in Coach Lea Daggett's body Friday night as Big Spring's softball team (31-4-1) dominated El Paso Irvin in Alpine.

"I was nervous early on, but once I saw the way Alex was pitching I felt better about things," said Daggett. "She really hit her spots tonight."

The Lady Steers won the game 10-0 in six innings as the run-rule was in effect.

Watkins pitched all six innings, gave up one hit and struck out 15 of the total 18 batters she faced. Besides the hit, Watkins also hit an Irvin batter.

However, neither one of the two runners got past first base as senior catcher Erica Stewart picked each one off at first base after both Irvin runners led off a little too far.

"Alex did what we ask of her, and Erica caught a great game behind the plate," said Daggett.

Big Spring got the scoring started in the first inning. Stewart reached base after being hit with the pitch. Then, Stewart scored on the next play after senior Whitney Hufford sent a triple past the leftfielder's glove.

Hufford went four-for-four on the night with a triple, two doubles and single. She also scored a run and had four RBI.

"Whitney had been in a slump lately and it was nice to see her come out of her shell," said Daggett. "She is probably one of our best hitters and she saw the ball well and came to play

See LADY STEERS, Page 4B

Coahoma moves on after run-rule over Grape Creek

By JEFF LANE

Special to the HERALD

After drawing a first round bye by finishing first in district play, the Coahoma Bulldogettes stormed into area play by defeating the Lady Eagles from Grape Creek, 10-0, in six innings.

As might be expected, having a week off, the Bulldogettes seemed to need a few innings to shake the dust off.

But when they got in the groove it was easy sailing as they advanced into the Regional Quarterfinals against Alpine, which earlier this week defeated Crane.

"We came out a little sluggish tonight," said Coahoma head coach Robby Dickenson. "But we felt if we just got the ball in play they would make mistakes."

Coahoma jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the first inning as sophomore Ashle New and Liz Conley scored on a double by fellow sophomore Kali Roberts.

The Bulldogettes added another run in the third when Conley again scored, this time on a hit by freshman Ami Martinez.

The Bulldogettes widened the margin to 7-0 in the fourth capitalizing on four walks given up by

Grape Creek pitching.

Junior Cheyenne Grice led off with a walk and stole second before sophomore Sarah Dunn drew another free pass. Then junior Ruby Garcia sent a base hit to left scoring Grice. Dunn stole home shortly after on a wild pitch.

The Bulldogettes closed out the fourth inning scoring as New, who had drawn another walk, was able to score on a sacrifice fly by Roberts.

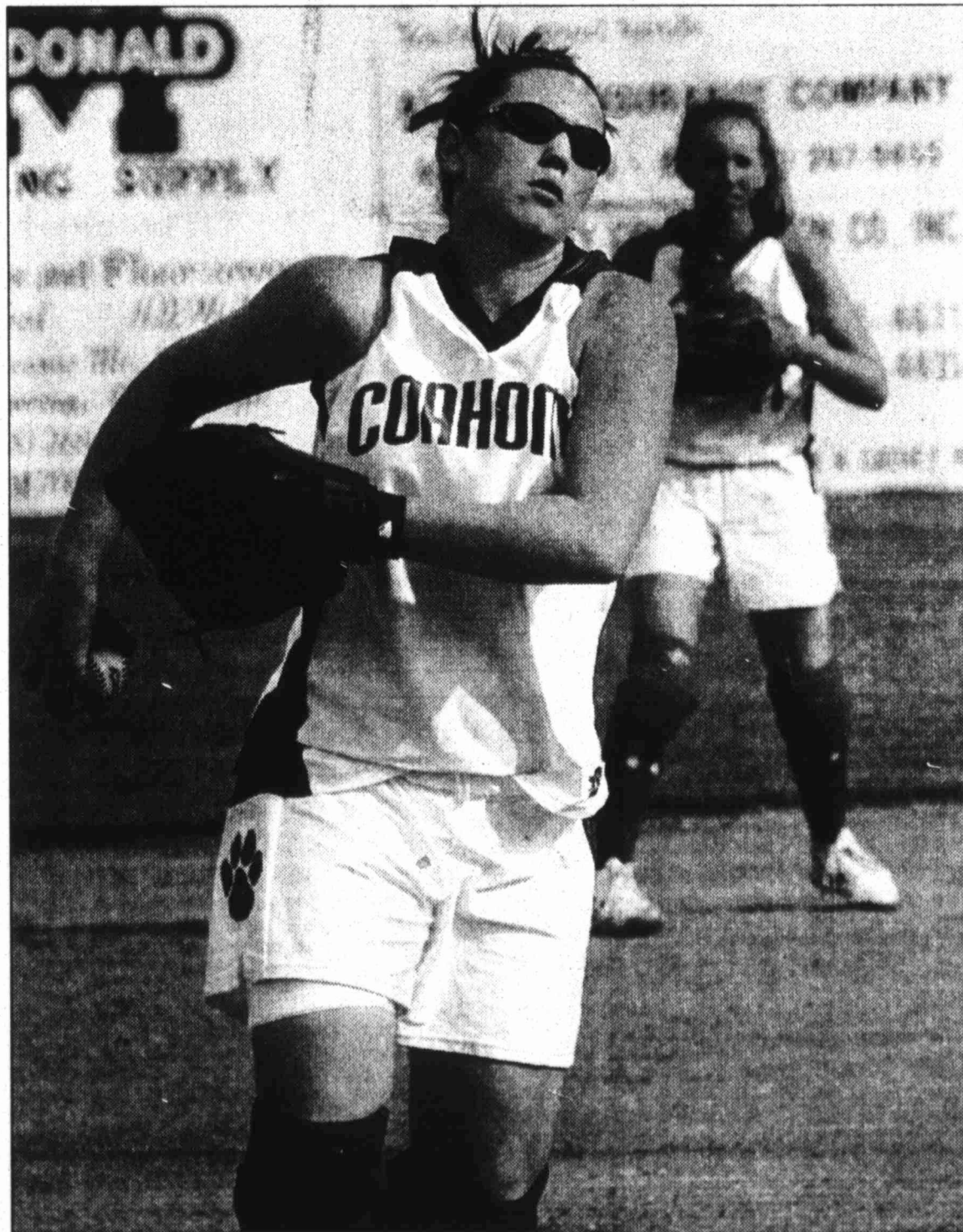
After a scoreless fifth Coahoma put the game away with a five-hit sixth inning, scoring three more runs.

Sophomore Drew Wells led off with a base hit followed by hits from Garcia and New.

Coahoma was able to invoke the 10 run rule after three more runs crossed the plate on base hits from Roberts and Martinez.

Tossing the shutout was Roberts, Coahoma's ace pitcher. She allowed only two hits while striking out 10 Lady Eagle batters. In fact, Roberts and the Bulldogettes allowed only two runners to advance past first all evening.

When asked to rate Roberts' performance Dickenson said, "Kali has pitched well for us all year and, as expected, she pitched another solid



Coahoma pitcher Kali Roberts gets ready to release a pitch to the plate in a previous game. Roberts struck out 10 batters Friday in Midland at MUGGS Field and helped the Bulldogettes' roll to a 10-0 win over Grape Creek in six innings. The win gave Coahoma the area championship.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

game tonight." The Bulldogettes looked solid all around and appeared ready to improve upon last year's second place finish in the

state playoffs. Alpine and Coahoma will meet next week in the regional quarterfinal. The actual date and location of the game were

unavailable at press time, but Dickenson said location options could be Monahans, Odessa, Midland and maybe even Pecos.

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**2004 FORSAN ALL
SPORTS AWARDS**

FOOTBALL

MVP: Josh Helmstetler

BASKETBALL

Boys MVP: Helmstetler
Girls MVPs: Casi Graves and
Cynthia Becerra

TRACK

Boys MVP: Brandon Burleson
Girls MVP: Kimmy Berry

POWERLIFTING

Boys MVP: Codee Barraza
Girls MVP: None

GOLF

Boys MVP: Burleson
Girls MVP: Shiloh Sanders

TENNIS

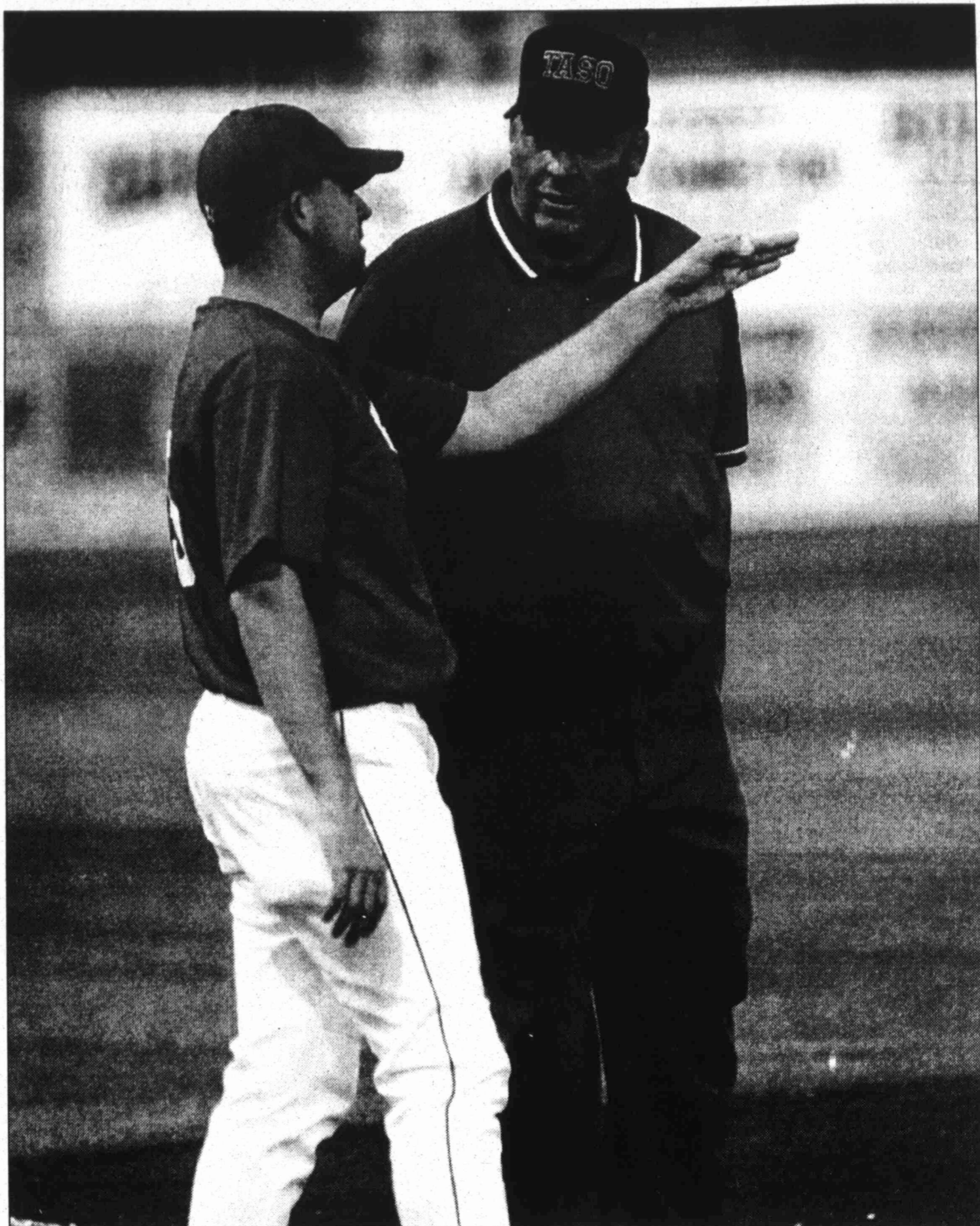
Boys MVPs: Ben Breyman and
Helmstetler
Girls MVP: Lacy Eggleston

CROSS COUNTRY

Boys MVP: Trey Paradez
Girls MVP: Eggleston

OUTSTANDING FEMALE ATHLETE
Eggleston

OUTSTANDING MALE ATHLETE
Helmstetler



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma baseball Coach Brad Harmon talks with the umpire Thursday about a questionable interference call during the Bulldogs' 4-2 win over New Deal in game one of a best-of-three series in Snyder at Moffett Field. The two teams met again Saturday at 1 p.m., but the result was unavailable at press time.



courtesy photo/Claudene Christopher
Coahoma sophomore Liz Conley slides into third base during the Bulldogs' 10-0 win over Grape Creek in Midland at MUGGS Field Friday. Coahoma moves on to the regional quarterfinal and plays Alpine at a time and location unknown at press time.

**Regional
Quarterfinals**

Lady Steers (31-4-1)
vs. El Paso Chapin,
Thursday 5 p.m.
(location unknown at
press time)

Bulldogettes (14-12)
vs. Alpine
(date and location
unknown at press time)

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Lender ordered auction
Manufacturer of commercial and residential cabinets
Nissan Forklift, Hotzer Edgebander Model 1402 HF, Jet Table Saw,
Robland Table Saw, Evans Pinch Roller, Jet Shaper, Rafter Face
Frame Clamp, 2 Eco Dust Collectors, Jet Planer, Case Clamp, Rigid
Tablesaw And Stand, Rigid Planer, Delta Router/Shaper, Milwaukee
Chop Saw, Binks Adhesive Blower, 7 Perfection Heaters, Greenlee
Jobsite Boxes, Porta-Cool Fan, 200' Roller Conveyor, Table Of Hand
tools, Campbell hausfeld Air Compressor, Breakroom Furnishings,
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**Win a Scholarship to
Texas Tech's Football Camp**

Must be in grades 3-8 for Fall 2004 Semester

The Big Spring Herald will select two students to attend Texas Tech University's Junior Football Camp. To enter:
•Entry must be completed on an original entry form.
•Entry form must be signed by parent/guardian.
•Only one entry per person.
•You must be able to attend camp June 4-6, 2004 either as a day camper or overnight camper. Transportation to and from Lubbock is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.
•Provide physician exam form by May 24, 2004 as required by TTU)
•Camp fee will be paid, which includes meals, but does not include spending money for soft drinks, etc.
•Winners will be contacted to see if they can meet ALL eligibility requirements of Texas Tech Football Camp. If not, another name will be drawn until both scholarships are filled. Winners will be announced in the paper.

Deadline to receive entries: Noon, Monday May 17

ENTRY FORM:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
Age _____ Grade (Fall 2004) _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____



Physical Exam form due by May 24, 2004.

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Detroit

By STEPHEN HA...

AP Sports Writer
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By JOHN NAD...

AP Sports Writ
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Detroit beats Texas on former Rangers' home run

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON (AP) — Ivan Rodriguez helped the Texas Rangers win a lot of games and three division titles. Now, he's beating his former team.

Rodriguez hit a two-run, tiebreaking homer in his return to Texas, and the Detroit Tigers won 8-7 on Friday night to snap a four-game losing streak.

"It's good to win as many games as we can," Rodriguez said. "I know that we're here in Texas, but now we came from behind and played a good game and got the win."

The Tigers trailed 4-0 after the first six Texas hitters, but came back to tie it at 5 with a pair of homers.

Rodriguez, playing against the Rangers for the second time, broke that tie with his shot in the eighth off Jeff Nelson. It was his fifth homer of the season.

"Just to break the skid is most important," manager Alan Trammell said. "To do it the way we did after falling behind, it's not the way I scripted it."

Carlos Guillen went 3-for-4, including a three-run homer and RBI triple that proved to be the difference.

Rodriguez spent the first 11 1/2 seasons of his career in Texas. The catcher made his major

league debut at age 19, then was selected to 10 All-Star games and won 10 Gold Gloves.

He left the Rangers after not being offered a new contract or salary arbitration after the 2002 season. He won a World Series last season with Florida, one of three National League teams that played in Texas, then signed a \$40 million, four-year contract with Detroit.

After Fernando Vina's one-out infield single in the eighth off Erasmo Ramirez (1-2), Rodriguez homered.

"He has a way of doing those kinds of things," Trammell said. "He's a great player. He comes through with big hits, big plays."

Rodriguez had been 3-for-32 — all singles — with 13 strikeouts in his career against Nelson, including 0-for-7 with four strikeouts in the postseason against the former Yankees pitcher.

"Things sometimes change," Rodriguez said. "He threw me a pitch over the plate and I hit a good one. He's had good success on me, but today was my day."

Nelson, trying to coax Rodriguez into a double-play grounder, was beat on a fastball.

"You have some success and you think he might be due, but you still go out and try to get him

out," Nelson said. "It just didn't happen. It's frustrating."

Rondell White followed the homer with a single, and Guillen tripled.

Al Levine (3-2), the third Tigers pitcher, worked 1 1-3 innings. Ugueth Urbina, another former Ranger, worked the ninth and allowed two runs before finishing for his third save in as many chances.

The Rangers made it close in the ninth when Vina couldn't handle Brad Fullmer's grounder, allowing Hank Blalock to score. David Dellucci made it 8-7 with an RBI single.

When Rodriguez came to bat in the first, he received a loud, extended ovation and stepped out of the batter's box briefly before grounding out. He finished 1-for-5, and the cheers weren't so loud after his homer.

Detroit starter Jeremy Bonderman fell behind 4-0 after just six batters. He then retired 14 batters in a row until Alfonso Soriano's two-out single in the fifth, but didn't make it out of the next inning.

Texas loaded the bases in the sixth on a one-out walk, a single and an intentional walk to .105 hitter Brian Jordan. Rookie catcher Gerald Laird grounded out on a high chopper to drive in a

run to make it 5-5, and Bonderman walked another to reload the bases.

Joaquin Benoit struck out seven and walked just one in six innings, but the Rangers starter gave up two homers.

Guillen's three-run homer, a 412-foot shot that ricocheted off a post in

the second deck of stands in right field, got the Tigers within 4-3 with no outs in the second.

Guillen hit a two-out single before Bobby Higginson's homer in the fourth put Detroit ahead.

Higginson had just one extra-base hit in 57 previous at-bats over 18 games.

Young led off for Texas with his sixth homer, and league-leading 47th hit. Blalock doubled, Soriano was hit by a pitch and Fullmer had a bloop RBI double.

After Mark Teixeira walked, Dellucci hit a two-run single for a 4-0 lead.

Lakers search for solutions to problem with Spurs' Parker

By JOHN NADEL

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — San Antonio's Tony Parker has emerged as a star.

So much so, the Los Angeles Lakers are being barraged with questions of how to slow down the 21-year-old.

Commit a hard foul, Shaquille O'Neal says.

Maybe put Kobe Bryant on him, coach Phil Jackson says.

Give Gary Payton some help — and some slack, Bryant says.

Parker shredded Payton, Derek Fisher and, at times, Bryant in the first two games of the Western Conference semifinals, getting 50 points and 14 assists while committing only two turnovers in leading the defending NBA champion Spurs to a pair of 10-point victories.

Games 3 and 4 will be played Sunday afternoon and Tuesday night in Los Angeles.

Payton joined the Lakers this season in quest of his first championship ring. Known as "The Glove" for his outstanding defensive work, the 14-year NBA veteran isn't as quick as he once was.

"We're just telling him he's still doing the best job on Parker that anybody's doing," Jackson said Friday. "He's the guy who has to stop the ball."

Nevertheless, Jackson said the coaching staff has discussed putting Bryant on Parker more than on a temporary basis.

That being said, the memory of Parker driving around Bryant in the final seconds of the first quarter in Game 1 for an uncontested layup remains vivid.

Seconds later, Parker forced his way past Bryant and another couple defenders for a 3-pointer as the period ended.

"If they give me the call, if they give me the order,

I'll do it," Bryant said of the defensive assignment on the smaller, quicker Parker.

"Gary's an excellent defender, they're running a lot of pick and rolls,"

Bryant quickly added. "For people pointing a finger at Gary, that's not fair."

"Gary knows how to play pick and rolls. There has to be a team effort."

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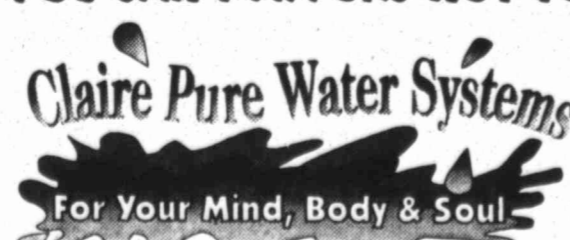
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MAY 08 2004

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

tonight." The Lady Steers added three runs in the second and fourth innings and one run in the fifth inning to build an 8-0 lead.

Hufford led off the sixth inning with a single and Watkins and senior Laura Olague reached base after each taking four balls.

Then, junior Heather Vassar ended the contest with a two-run double that scored Hufford and sophomore Krista Chesworth, who was pinch running for Watkins.

Vassar contributed a two-for-four night from the plate with a single, double and three RBI.

The sister combination of junior Chelsea and freshman Katy Abner combined to score four runs.

Chelsea also singled and was hit by a pitch, while Katy had a bunt single and stole three consecutive bases in the second inning that led to a Lady Steers run.

Stewart and senior Leina Braxton also scored two runs apiece. Braxton went one-for-three from the plate with an RBI.

El Paso Chapin upset Dumas, 2-1, in its area championship game Thursday and will now face Big Spring in the regional quarterfinal.

The game is set for this Thursday at 5 p.m., but a site has not yet been determined.

"I expect Chapin to play a good game," said Daggett. "I don't think they will just lay down for us."



Freshman Katy Abner holds up the area championship trophy as she and the rest of the Lady Steers softball team poses for the camera after a convincing 10-0 win over El Paso Irvin Friday night in Alpine. Big Spring now moves on to play El Paso Chapin in the regional quarterfinal Thursday.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Redding, Kent leads Houston past depleted Atlanta

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) - Jeff Kent drove in three runs and Tim Redding took advantage of Atlanta's depleted lineup, allowing one run in six innings to lead the Houston Astros past the Braves 5-3 on Friday night.

Redding (1-3) had been knocked around in his first four starts, coming into the game with a 10.57 ERA. But he had no trouble against the Braves,

who were missing Chipper Jones, Marcus Giles and Rafael Furcal from their batting order. Kent hit a two-run double in the fourth, and homered in the sixth.

The Astros won for the eighth time in nine games to maintain the best record in the National League, while Atlanta lost its season-high third in a row.

John Thomson (2-2) retired the first 10 Houston hitters, but ran into major problems in

the fourth. The Astros wiped out the no-hitter with five straight hits, including Kent's double and Lance Berkman's run-scoring single for a 3-0 lead.

Atlanta's J.D. Drew, who missed three straight games with a sore neck, hit his 100th career homer leading off the bottom of the fourth.

But Kent canceled out Drew's drive with one of his own, hitting a 2-0 fast-ball over the center-field wall for his sixth homer.

The Astros finished off Thomson in the seventh. Antonio Alfonseca came on after Craig Biggio and Adam Everett started the inning with back-to-back singles. Kent loaded the bases with an infield hit and Berkman walked, forcing in a run.

Redding warmed up before the seventh, but manager Jimmy Williams didn't let him throw a pitch. Brandon Backe was summoned from the bullpen and immediately gave up Adam LaRoche's

second career homer. The Astros needed two more pitchers to escape the inning without allowing any more runs. Brad Lidge struck out Mark DeRosa with two runners on, preserving the three-run lead.

Redding surrendered only four hits, with one walk and one strikeout. Octavio Dotel worked a scoreless ninth for his fifth save.

LaRoche drove in Atlanta's other run off Lidge.

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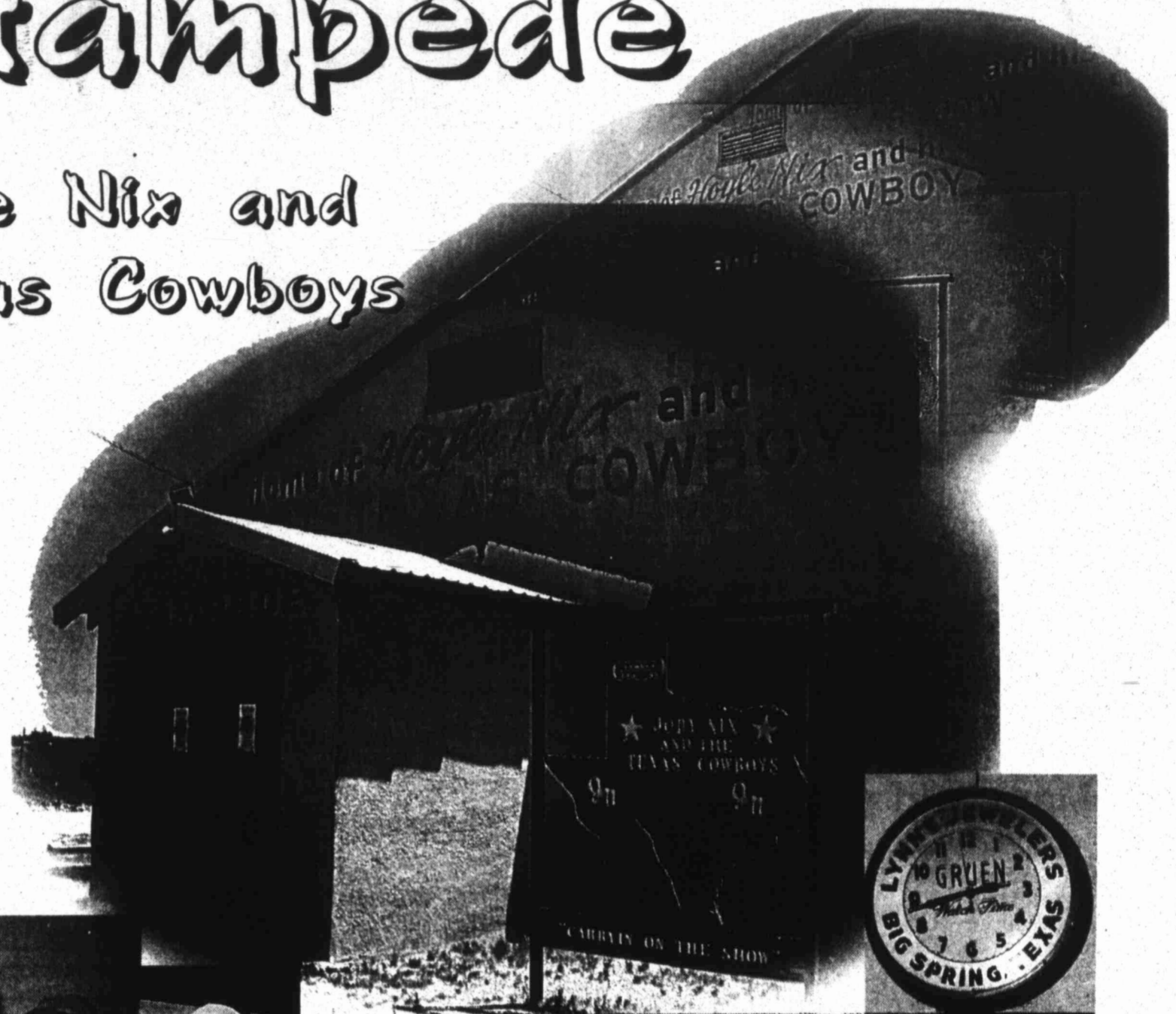
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The Stampede

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Celebrating 50 Years of Music



In the photo top left, more than 1,100 people attended the opening of The Stampede in 1954; Jody Nix, age 4, holds Dad's bow; Ben Nix performs on guitar; Jody Nix shows where the red dance line is on the floor of The Stampede; Hoyle Nix and Bob Wills; Hoyle Nix in 1954; Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys; Jody Nix and Robert Weeks fiddlin'; another photo of the crowd on May 8, 1954. Courtesy photos. Cover photo by Marsha Sturdivant

Celebrating 50 years of footstompin', boot-scootin' dancing in Howard County, The Stampede swings wide its doors May 15 for an old-fashioned hoe-down.

"Saturday is 50 years to the day that my dad opened the old home place, and I'd love to see it filled again like it was that night," said Jody Nix, owner of the Stampede and band leader for Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys.

On May 8, 1954, more than 1,100 fans flocked to The Stampede opening night to see Hoyle Nix and His West Texas Cowboys in the brand new dance hall.

Today, the walls and floors look the same. A country and western mural painted across the back of the musician's stage is original. Even the clock on the wall is from 1954.

Nix said the building has needed little repair during the course of the years, and the interior retains the same charm and rustic appeal it held for those 1,100 folks in 1954.

"This has always been a family place. I can remember seeing babies asleep on the tables and the benches, and little girls dancing with their dads and boys dancing with their mothers. When it was first opened, I was just 4, so when I got tired they would make me a pallet of amplifier covers in the back," said Nix.

He said the plan was to finish the wooden walls by covering them with sheet rock, but the fans

enjoyed the country atmosphere so much that the walls retain their original construction.

The ceilings are exposed wooden eaves, the wooden floors weave slightly, yielding over the years to thousands of pairs of boots that have scooted across the dance floor, and the exterior stucco facade is slightly faded.

"This building is a landmark for folks all over West Texas. It's a tradition in Texas, and especially in West Texas," Nix said.

The original dance floor was so large, a painted red line marked where patrons stood when not dancing. Now with tables and chairs installed, the building will seat about 500.

But Nix said he is considering removing the tables for the anniversary celebration.

"I'm thinking of setting it up just like it was then," he said.

Through the years, many popular country and western bands have played at The Stampede, including Bob Wills, who often played with Hoyle Nix; Johnny Lee Wills; Jimmy Heap and the Melody Masters; Chubby Wise, a fiddle player who worked with Hank Snow; Shoji Tabuchi, a fiddle player who now has a large theater in Branson Mo.; and most recently, Johnny Bush.

"But usually it was my dad and his band who played here. He didn't book too many others, because the fans wanted to see my dad, and we had monstrous crowds here in the 50s and 60s,"

Nix said.

Jody's dad took such pride in the Stampede that the parking lot had to be cleaned after a Saturday night dance, so that those driving by Sunday morning would see a well-kept building.

Hoyle Nix died in 1985, and Jody has continued the tradition of country swing music with his own band. His band consists of himself on fiddle; Ken Kelly on drums; Bob Kelly, Ken's dad, on steel guitar; Larry Nix on bass; and Robert Weeks on fiddle.

"This place means a lot to me, and to others. I have seen five generations dance here, whoop it up and have a good time, and Saturday night dances here were the best thing to do. We had regular, faithful customers who were always here every week," Nix said.

For the anniversary celebration, Nix is rolling back the cost of admission to \$5 a person. The dance begins at 9 p.m. and continues until midnight. Alcohol is not served at The Stampede, but a concession stand for soft drinks and water is available.

"I hope folks will come," Nix said.

"I'd love to see this place filled again like it was that first night."

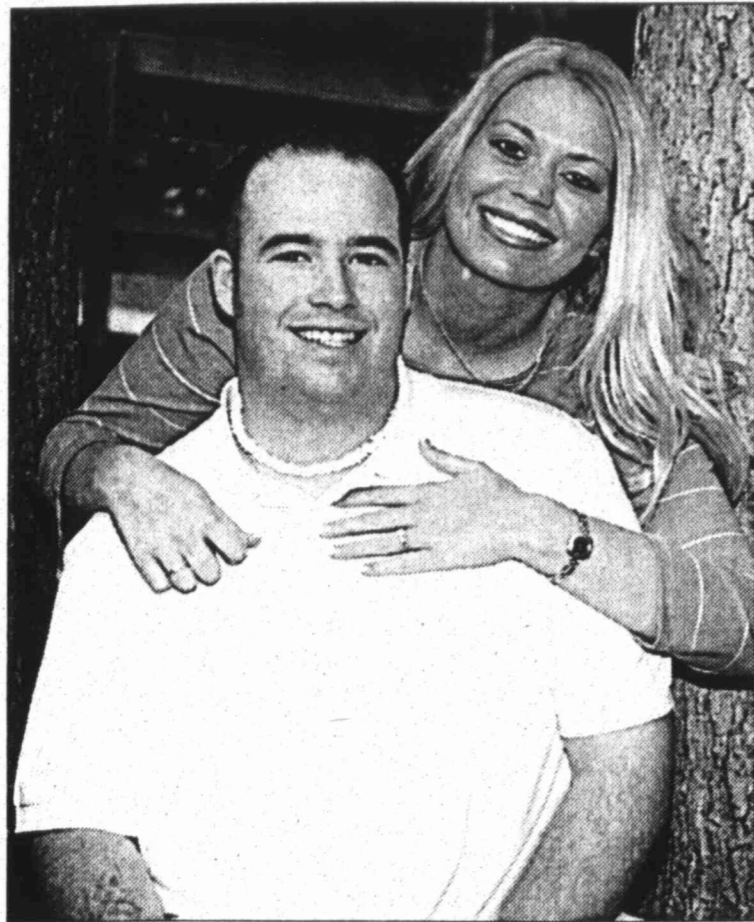
Marsha Sturdivant is features editor of the Big Spring Herald. Email her at life@bigspringherald.com

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Engagements



Mysti Nicole Mansfield and Jason Bradley Mims

Mansfield and Mims

Mysti Nicole Mansfield and Jason Bradley Mims, both of Lubbock, will exchange wedding vows at 4 p.m. on May 29, 2004, in College Baptist Church.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Benny and Jayne Mansfield of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Chuck and the late Dannabel Meachem of Junction and Mr. and Mrs. B.H. Mansfield of Big Spring and the late Peggy

Mansfield. She holds a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education and is employed by Texas Tech University.

The groom is the son of Alisa Chaney of Big Spring and the grandson of the late Bill and Bonnie Mims and Evelyn and the late Bob Zellars all of Big Spring. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science and is employed by J. Keith's Jewelry.



JoAnna S. Hidrogo Juan Antonio Gomez III

Hidrogo and Gomez

JoAnna S. Hidrogo of Big Spring and Juan Antonio Gomez III of Irving will exchange wedding vows at 2:30 p.m. on June 12, 2004, in Calvary Baptist Church.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Ortiz of Big Spring and the grand-

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rosalio Lopez of Garden City.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Juan Antonio Jr. and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Gregorio Barboza, all of San Pedro, Coahuila, Mexico.



Jennifer Lynn LaRue and Kenneth Brice Born

LaRue and Born

Jennifer Lynn LaRue and Kenneth Brice Born, both of Big Spring, will exchange wedding vows at 5 p.m. on June 5, 2004, in First Baptist Church.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Bobby and the late Tina LaRue of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Isaac and Christene LaRue and Kenneth and Clea Britton, all of Big Spring. She is a 2001 graduate of Coahoma High School

and is employed by Warren Chiropractic Center.

The prospective groom is the son of Allan and Teri Born of Big Spring and the grandson of Sue Ann and the late Kenneth W. Born of Big Spring and Pat and the late Ray Prater of San Angelo.

He is a 1998 graduate of Coahoma High School and is presently employed by Big Spring Farm Supply.

Club News

Keep Big Spring Beautiful presents Mayor with award

Keep Big Spring Beautiful met at Gayle's Sweet Shoppe Monday and presented Mayor Russ McEwen with an honorary membership award and a logo T-shirt, safety vest and certificate.

McEwen received the award from Jan Hansen, president of the club, for his invaluable support of the committee. His wife, Laura McEwen, a member of

Keep Big Spring Beautiful, also received a safety vest for her use in future clean-up projects.

Reports on the Summer Planters project, education grants, and trash-off tallies were presented.

Also presented were reports on the club's scrapbook and a senior landscape effort by private citizens that will be presented in the state level competition.

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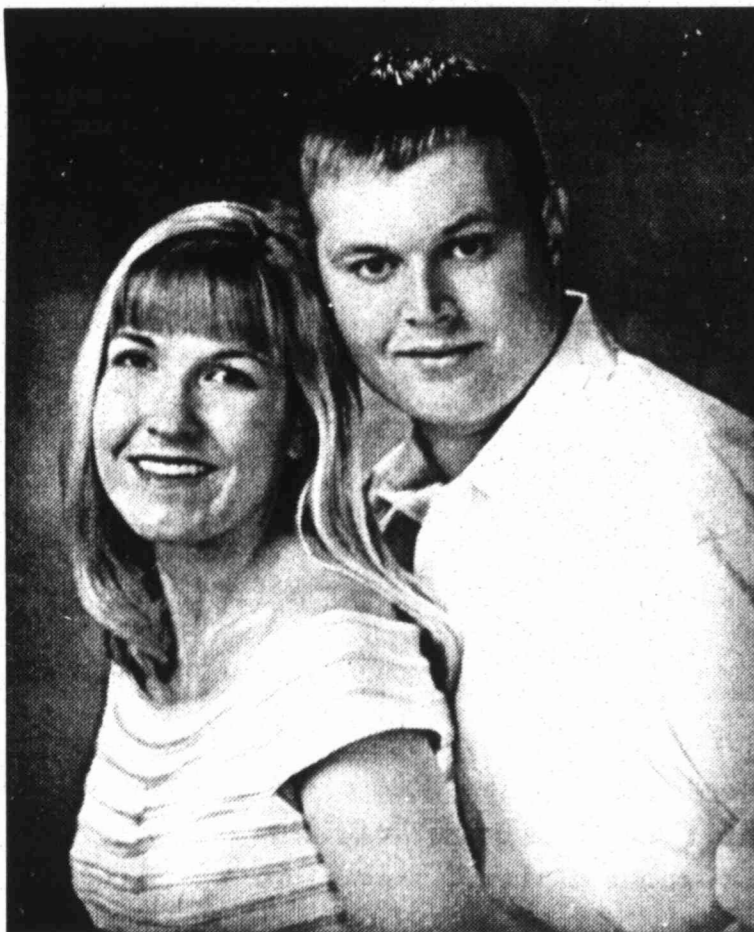
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Brittany Stone and Dayton Draper

Stone and Draper

Brittany Stone and Dayton Draper will be married on May 22, 2004, in Glen Meadows Baptist Church in San Angelo.

Parents of the bride are Steve and Jo Stone of Big Spring.

The groom's parents are Bobby and Laura Draper of San Angelo.

The bride-elect is a 2001

graduate of Big Spring High School. She is a candidate for May 15, 2004, graduation from Angelo State University.

The groom-elect is a 1999 graduate of Wall High School. He received a bachelor's degree in business marketing in 2003 from Angelo State University.

Dealines for feature articles is noon Wednesday
E-mail life@bigspringherald.com

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BSISD Dist. 5
ELECTION DAY MAY 15, 2004

Pd. Pol. A. by Liz Lowery.
L. Lowery Treasurer #1 Coachman's Cr. Big Spring, X

HERITAGE MUSEUM

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Katie Cathey
Lenita & Martin Fryar
Audrey Bayes
Howard College-Hawks Nest Cafe
HEB
Dominos
Big Spring Symphony
Jacque Mauch & Madeline Boadle
Thomas Tafuro-New York's Finest Hot Dogs
Brian, Debbie & Hannah Jensen
Scenic Mountain Medical Center-Mary Castellano

Carlos's
Carroll & Joyce Choate
JoAnne Forrest
Spanish Inn
Howard Hornsby-Warren Chiropractic
Big John's Feed Lot
Howard County Fair Board
Schlotzsky's Deli
Jane Jones
Mary Lee Reynolds
Lady Steer Softball
Loma Jean Wynn
Linda Berry
Janelle Davis
Quail Dobbs
Vera Hyer

Ruben Ryan

Ruben Ryan, a boy, May 4,

WTO com meeting s Tuesday at

West Opportunities, be holding i community r 2004. The con invited to (South, 1700 La 10 a.m. Tuesda Pattie Linse office for Agency on A guest speaker talk about th offered by th She will also mation on ch changes in M Medicaid. Area Agenc offers assista ting prescrip reduced price is here, she appointments elderly who tance with t cine.

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Allen

QM2 Christo son of Ron A returning to after a week visit his dad.

Petty Offi USN, just ret his third tour

He is a aboard the US amphibious t stationed o Diego, Calif.

The USS Bc U.S. Marine (in the region

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Sydnie Ro

Sydnie Rob Big Spring, named a U National Aw in cheerleadi United

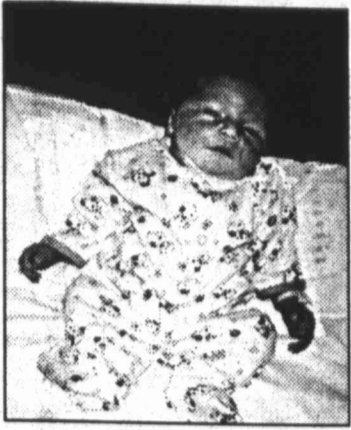
Achievement Sydnie is t of Rick : Robertson of and the gran Donald an Robertson a and the late Jones, all of

Sydnie Rot attends Big School, was for this nat by Kris Lars at the school Robertson in the Un Achievemen official year is published

The Acad USAA winn exclusive r tion of teach counselors qualified spc

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Births



Ruben Ryan Juarez

Ruben Ryan Juarez, a boy, was born May 4, 2004, at 2:55

p.m. weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches long. His parents are Kimberly and Ruben Juarez. His grandparents are Max and Adela Hernandez of Big Spring and the late Sylvia Lopez.

Trinity Lynn Robertson, a girl, was born March 25, 2004, at 6:33 a.m. weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Richard and Licia Robertson of Big Spring. Her grandpar-



Trinity Lynn Robertson

ents are John and Wilma Doll, Rhonda and Steve Gaubatz and the late Ricky Robertson, all of

Big Spring. Her great-grandparents are Jewel and Mary Lou Edens, the late Morris and Jimmie Robertson, the late Helen Doll, all of Big Spring and Jean and the late William Aschenbrenner of Oakley, Kan.

Reece Everette Larue Hale, a boy, was born May 3, 2004, at 3:22 p.m. weighing 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches long. His parents are Eba Graves and Kyle Hale of

Big Spring. His grandparents are Jimmy Graves of Big Spring, Maria Perchez of Lake Thomas, Cindy and Loren Wilson of Forsan and Steve Hale of Odessa.

Andrew Jacinto Gonzales, a boy, was born April 30, 2004, at 10:39 a.m. weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. His parents are Shawna Overton and Sergio Gonzalez Sr. His grandparents are Donald

and Gaylena Overton and Abundia Gonzales, all of Big Spring.

Alex Michael Hernandez, a boy, was born April 30, 2004, at 7:55 a.m. weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces and was 21 inches long. His parents are Victor Hernandez and Heidi Dotey of Big Spring. His grandparents are Margarita and Norma Hernandez and Esmerelda Salas.

WTO community meeting set for Tuesday at 10 a.m.

West Texas Opportunities, Inc. will be holding its second community meeting of 2004. The community is invited to Canterbury South, 1700 Lancaster, at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Pattie Linsey, Midland office for the Area Agency on Aging is the guest speaker. She will talk about the programs offered by the agency. She will also give information on the new changes in Medicare and Medicaid.

Area Agency on Aging offers assistance in getting prescriptions at a reduced price. While she is here, she can make appointments for the elderly who need assistance with their medicine.

Military News

QM2 Christopher Allen

QM2 Christopher Allen, son of Ron Allen, will be returning to his ship after a week of leave to visit his dad.

Petty Officer Allen, USN, just returned from his third tour in Iraq.

He is a navigator aboard the USS Boxer, an amphibious troop carrier stationed out of San Diego, Calif.

The USS Boxer support U.S. Marine deployments in the region.

Who's Who

Sydnie Robertson

Sydnie Robertson, from Big Spring, has been named a United States National Award Winner in cheerleading from the United States Achievement Academy.

Sydnie is the daughter of Rick and Valene Robertson of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Donald and Dwanna Robertson and MaryLou and the late Kenneth J. Jones, all of Big Spring.

Sydnie Robertson, who attends Big Spring High School, was nominated for this national award by Kris Larson, a teacher at the school.

Robertson will appear in the United States Achievement Academy official yearbook, which is published nationally.

The Academy selects USAA winners upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors and other qualified sponsors.

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Newcomers

Lonnie Watson, wife, Theresa and daughter Yelena of Chickasha, Okla. He is employed by Sherwin Williams Co.

Patrick Groshon and wife, Suzanne of Ganado. He is employed by Rip Griffin Truck Stop.

Dennis Walker and wife, Carole, of Fort Stockton. He is employed by S.B.C.

Jeremy Joy, wife, Honey, and daughter, Kynleigh, of Crane. He is employed by Harbison Fischer.

Kevin Hurley and wife, Sandy, of Andrews. He is employed by Patterson Drilling.

Allen Sorton, wife, Nanette, daughter Kate and son, James of San Antonio. He is employed by Gainee Trucking.

Rob Fehr of Abilene. He is employed by the Big

Spring Fire Department.

Will McBride of Abilene. He is employed by the Big Spring Fire Department.

Matt Sicking, wife, Ashley and daughter Ashlynn of Gainesville. He is employed by The Restoration Co.

T.J. Saldivar, wife, Amanda, daughter Chloe Dawn and son, Isaac Elyjah of Amarillo.

Virginia Valencia of El Paso. She is retired from Ysleta School District.

Vincent Fernanded, wife, Kathy, sons James and Robert and daughters Crystal and Amanda of Snyder. He does construction work at the V.A. Medical Center.

Nanette Villesca, sons Raymond, A.J. and Ashton and daughter Lilly of Monahans. She does cashier work.

James Haas and wife Cristina of Las Vegas, Nev. He is retired from the Bellagio Hotel and Casino.

Carolyn Hughes of San Angelo. She is employed by Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

Joely Treviro and son John of Westico.

Julia Monoz of Fort Wayne, Ind. She is employed by StarTek.

Ana Frane of Deming, N.M. She is employed by StarTek.

Casey Pledger of Aubrey. He is employed by ALON USA.

Gilbert Garza, wife, Santos, and sons Cameron, Austin and Sevastian of Harlingen. He is a student at Howard College and she is employed by H-E-B.

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Marvin Boyd-Owner



L to R: Lanelle Witt, Christy Hernandez, Joann Hyer, Debbye Valverde, Clarence Hartfield, Katie Grimes.

Customer Service Winner

Christy Hernandez

Big Spring Herald

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A GUSHER!

Price of oil climbs above \$40 a barrel

By **BRAD FOSS**
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON — The price of oil climbed to \$40 a barrel Friday, rising on traders' fears of attacks against petroleum industry targets in the Middle East at a time when supplies are tight and demand is strong.

If that level were sustained, analysts said the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, whose leading members meet informally later this month, might need to raise production to soften the impact of high energy prices on the global economy.

Oil for June delivery rose as high as \$40 in Friday morning trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, retreating to \$39.60, or 23 cents higher than when

the day began. The Nymex briefly posted trades as high as \$40.05 before discovering a mistake and removing them, one trader said.

The last time the front-month futures contract settled above \$40 was on Oct. 11, 1990, when oil was valued at \$40.42 per barrel leading up to the Persian Gulf War. In today's dollars, adjusting for inflation, that would be equivalent to \$56.83, according to the Energy Department.

Oil has been trading above \$30 a barrel since late last year and the pump price of gasoline has been at a record-high, in nominal terms, for weeks.

In the Energy Department's latest survey, the average nation-

"In the Energy Department's latest survey, the average nationwide price of unleaded gasoline was \$1.84 per gallon."

See **OIL**, Page 8C

Consumer confidence said on the rise in May

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Consumer confidence, which has been on a roller coaster ride this year, rebounded over the past month as Americans took heart from a gusher of brighter economic news, especially in the area of jobs.

The AP-Ipsos consumer confidence index climbed to 87.4 in early May, up from a reading of 84.8 in April.

The index started the year strongly in January, only to dip in February, rise again in March and

then plummet in April as Americans' attitudes have been tugged in different directions depending on the latest news out of Iraq or on the economy.

Recent upbeat news of strong economic growth running at a healthy clip of 4.2 percent in the first three months of this year and the biggest jump in payroll jobs in four years helped offset a stream of bad news out of Iraq in April — the deadliest month of the war for U.S. soldiers.

The 87.4 confidence

See **CONSUMER**, Page 8C



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
David Griffin, right, the oldest son of Rip Griffin, exchanges ideas on the truck stop's newly remodeled Country Fare Restaurant with Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Clarence Hartfield Jr. during Thursday evening's Business After Hours. Griffin said he hopes the new decor of the restaurant will allow the business to shake the "truck stop stigma."



Courtesy photo
Park Place Retirement Living, 501 W. 17th, recently held a ribbon cutting and open house. From left are Lanelle Witt and Sherry Wegner, Ambassadors; Jeanie Coor, staff member; Eadie Falkner, resident; Debby ValVerde, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce executive director; Stella Brooks, resident; Breana Madry family member; Eddie and Vickie Cole, owners; Tabitha Madry, Tori Gauer and Kristi Beauchamp, family members; and Christy Hernandez and Chris Moore, Ambassadors.

Time to spray again for pecan nut casebearers

Pecan Nut Casebearer traps placed around Howard County began to catch moths on May 3. This indicates that the time period when an insecticide application, aimed at this pest, would be most effective between May 15 and May 19. Delaying of treatments will most likely result in increased damage to the nut crop.

The Pecan Nut Casebearer is one of the most important nut infesting insect pests of pecans. Casebearer larvae tunnel into nutlets shortly after pollination, often destroying all nutlets in a cluster. The most effective and reliable method of control is a well-timed insecticide

ASK THE AGENT

applications timed to kill hatching larvae before they tunnel into the nutlets. It is important to note that the Pecan Nut Casebearer only causes damage to developing nuts, no damage is done to the pecan tree and should only be controlled when trying to maximize pecan production.

Insecticides available for casebearer control in the home landscape include carbaryl (Sevin), malathion, diazinon, and Confirm T&O. Those labeled for commercial pecan production include Confirm 2F, Spintor 2SC, Lorsban 4E, several Bt products, and Imidial 70WSB. Whatever you use, be sure to follow label directions for rates and other information. It would be beneficial to add a foliar fertilizer containing zinc to the mix



TOMMY YEATER

See **SPRAY**, Page 8C

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Help Wanted

DOCTOR'S OFFICE needs a LVN. Apply in person, 1510 Scurry, Suite D. Call (432)264-1222.

CHILDCARE PROGRAM need help for summer camp. Must be 18, high school diploma or GED. Apply in person, 801 Owens.

Help Wanted

Local Oilfield construction company needs to fill the following 3 positions: Pusher for roustabout crew, Backhoe operator and Dumptruck driver. Pick up application at Cat Construction or call 432-267-8429.

Help Wanted

LVN/RN's needed for pediatric cases in Big Spring. Competitive Pay & Benefits. Call Complete Home Health Care (432)570-8899 or apply in person @ 2402 W. Wall Midland, TX.

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Help Wanted

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE - FACILITIES DIVISION has the following unit maintenance position available at the **Smith Unit** located in Lamesa, Texas.
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR IV - LAUNDRY, FOOD SERVICE EQUIPMENT, GENERAL MAINTENANCE, AND CONSTRUCTION annual salary \$29,232 plus benefits. Minimum qualifications: Graduation from an accredited senior high school or GED equivalent. Five (5) years full-time, wage-earning experience in an electrical or mechanical field in plant, institutional or commercial maintenance. Thirty semester hours with six hours in a related technology field from a college or university recognized by an organization accredited by CHEA may be substituted on a year-for-year basis for a maximum substitution of two years. Experience in the operation, repair, or maintenance of laundry or food service equipment preferred.
Applicants must submit a State of Texas Application for Employment to TDCJ Facilities Division Human Resources, ATTN: Terri Hall, One Financial Plaza, Suite 302, Huntsville, TX 77340 by 5:00 PM on ***** Wednesday, May 19, 2004 *****. A complete job description and all application forms may be obtained at the above address, by calling the Human Resources Office at (936) 437-5585, or by visiting our web-site at <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us>.

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<p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>GRASSMASTERS Lawn Care Service Tree Trimming 432-264-0729 432-213-2500 Locally Owned & Insured Willie Stilwell</p>	<p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>JP's Lawn Service Mowing, Edging, Weedeating, Cleanups, Reasonable Rates. FREE ESTIMATES Call (432) 517-0534 LEAVE MESSAGE</p>	<p>MOBILE PHONE</p> <p>FREE ACTIVATION C/Sprint PCS Shane Forest Wireless Depot College Park Shopping Center 501 S. Birdwell Lane, Suite 6 Big Spring, TX 79720 Phone: 432-267-1631</p>	<p>RENTALS</p> <p>VENTURA COMPANY 432-267-2655 Houses • Duplexes 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms For rent/sale 204 11th Pl. 905 E. 15th 710 E. 18th</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>FULLMOON ROOFING, INC. Voted Top 100 Roofing Contractors In America FREE ESTIMATES No Money Down COMPETITIVE PRICES 432-267-5478</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>PALACIOS ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured & Bonded Home Phone# 432-263-5430 Cell# 432-213-0363</p>
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PUBLIC RECORDS

Hot Checks/Warrants issued:
Javier Alcantar, 1513 Scurry Street, Big Spring
Kerrie Bhuiyan, 538 Westover No. 257, Big Spring
Travis Bradley, 108 E. Robinson, Big Spring
Dan Brewster, 408 N. Mss Lake Road, Big Spring
Loretta Byrner, 2119 Zephyr, Ingleside
Crystal Greene Burchell, 3308 Drexel, Big Spring
Billy Burns, 2608 26th St., Snyder
Vanes Caleron, 538 Westover No. 232, Big Spring
Maria Campos, 751 Agua Pesada, El Paso
Mart R. Clem, 10911 Woodmeadow, Dallas
Dan Duke, 624 N. Jefferson, San Angelo
Daniel Foster, 1905 Wasson Dr, Big Spring
Jimmie Foster, 2506 Albrook, Big Spring
Lori Ann Franco, 1008 NW Second, Big Spring
Rosemary Garica, 2605 Westridge, Snyder
Sherry Gent, 7009 Linderman Road, Big Spring
Urna Gomez, 2101 S. Main, Big Spring
Ben Torres Gonzales, 1200 Nolan, Big Spring
Alexander Gusman Jr., 1109 S. Lancaster, Big Spring
Dawn Hartfield, 1316 Sycamore, Big Spring
Aaron Kyle Henderson, 2107 Carol, Big Spring
Jess Hernandez, 2202 S. Runnels, Big Spring
John Hernandez, 4405 N. Garfield, Midland
Irene Hinojosa, 234 E. 23rd, San Angelo
Vickie Rene James, 207 Washington Blvd., Big Spring
James L. Jenkins Jr., 200 36th Street, Snyder
Michael M. Jewett, 1519 Sycamore, Big Spring
Danny Ray Johnson, 2601 N. Lynn, Lamesa
Buster William Keaton Jr., 1101 Blackmon, Big Spring
Ryan Kendrick, 1425 E. Sixth, Apt. 34, Big Spring
Pamela Lott, 910 Sgt. Paradez Street, Big Spring
Michael Lee Marbeiter, 1209 Dicken, Big Spring
Shan Marksbury, P.O. Box 163, Petersburg, Tx
Judy Mata, 6309 E. Midway Road, Big Spring
James McGuire, 1910 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
Mark Mead, 692 W Fifth St. Denver City
Sharon Moore, 1404 Lexington, Big Spring
Russell Dean Nelson, 401 N.C.R. 241,

Big Spring
Brandi Neuser, 4301 Raleigh, No. 10, Midland
Michael J. O'Callaghan, P.O. Box 292, Coahoma
Johnny Ray Payne Jr., 1509 Stadium, Big Spring
Elva Perkins, 2414 N. Anderson Road, Big Spring
Lori Pichon, 62159 Sylve St., LaCombe, La.
Karla Quimby, 1005 W. Debaca, Hobbs
Randy John Ramirez, 1910 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
Ricardo Victor Ramirez Jr., 1910 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
Robert Ramirez, 2200 S. Monticello, Big Spring
Judy Diane Reed, 2100 Alabama, Big Spring
Ignacio Rodriguez, 689 N. Sam Houston, Odessa
Debra Ruth, 1311 Mobile St., Big Spring
Jamie Rae Smith, 3610 Dixon, Big Spring
Robert A. Stewart, 1710 Johnson, Big Spring
William Allen Tilley, 1904 Morrison, Big Spring
Ricky Webb, Rt. 1, Box 64, Ackerly
District Court Filings:
U.S. Flight Academy International Inc. vs. Troy Callaway, accounts, notes and contracts.
Francisco Castillo Medina vs. Ramona Camacho Medina, divorce.
Christina Diaz vs. Robert Diaz Jr., family protective order.
Marriage Licenses:
Joseph Trenton Demeny, 26, and Dinah Jane Perkins, 27, both of Big Spring.
Marco Antonio Torres, 24, and Michelle Conchita Nieto, 20, both of Big Spring.
Phil Joe Whitten, 30, and Leslie Dunnam Yarbar, 32, both of Big Spring.
David Allen Parrish, 24, and Andrea Christine Edens, 28, both of Big Spring.
Kirk McEwell Allen, 39, of Big Spring, and Darlynn Collene Moss, 37, of Midland.
Bennie Eugene Hatfield, 67, and Barbara Nail Altom, 54, both of Odessa.
Kyle Allen Wheeler, 44, of Big Spring, and Teresa Cothier Scherer, 48, of Midland.
Richard Gary Gale, 44, and Cheryl Dawnelle Clark, 47, both of Big Spring.
Warranty Deed:
Grantor: Greg Birrell and Clarice Birrell
Grantee: Samuel L. Miller and Annette Miller
Property: A 1.47 acre tract out of the SE/4 of Section 4, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey.
Date filed: April 21, 2004
Grantor: Roger L. Hodnett and Sherry H. Hodnett
Grantee: Wolf Ranches Ltd.
Property: A 12.818 acre tract out of the

SW part of Section 57, Block 20, Lavaca Navigation Co. Survey.
Date filed: April 27, 2004
Grantor: Edna A. Lancaster
Grantee: Pamela McMillan
Property: A tract of land out of the SE/4 of Section 41, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey.
Date filed: April 28, 2004
Grantor: Jose S. Bernal and Delores R. Bernal
Grantee: Ernest C. Dunson Jr. and Gwendolyn K. Dunson
Property: Lot 1, Block 2, Western Hills Addition
Date filed: April 28, 2004
Grantor: Michael Lee King
Grantee: Robert Beall
Property: The east 95 acre tract out of the NE/4 of Section 48, Block A, Bauer and Cockrell Survey.
Date filed: April 28, 2004
Grantor: Paula Cox
Grantee: Rebecca Suzanne Smith
Property: A 10 acre tract out of the NW/4 of Section 6, Block 30, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey.
Date filed: April 30, 2004
Grantor: Paula Cox
Grantee: Glenn Rich and Pamela Rich
Property: A 148.5 acre tract out of the NW/4 of Section 6, Block 30, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey.
Date filed: April 30, 2004
Grantor: Janet Reinert
Grantee: Paul Ausmus and Allene Ausmus
Property: Lot 20, Block 5, Coronado Hills Addition
Date filed: April 30, 2004
Grantor: Bonnie Sue Birmelin
Grantee: Neva Birmelin and Kenneth L. Birmelin
Property: The south 2 feet of Lot 3 and all of Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block 5, Lincoln Addition.
Date filed: April 30, 2004
Grantor: Strickland and Knight Equipment Co.
Grantee: Wash Enterprises Inc.
Property: Lots 5 and 6, Block 1, Highland Caprock Subdivision
Date filed: April 30, 2004
Grantor: Wash Enterprises
Grantee: James M. Murray and Dorothy M. Murray
Property: The south 20 feet of lots 5 and 6, Block 1, Highland Caprock Subdivision
Date filed: April 30, 2004
Warranty Deed with Vendor's Lien:
Grantor: Leah Petersen
Grantee: Eileen Juanelle Fort

Property: Lot 11, Block 1, East Highland Park Addition
Date filed: April 26, 2004
Grantor: Veri Dero Shaw Jr. and Jeanine Angela Shaw
Grantee: Shaw Farms Inc.
Property: A 53.284 acre tract out of the S/2 of Section 10, Block 34, T-2-N, T&P RR Co. Survey.
Date filed: April 26, 2004
Grantor: David Canon and Carolyn Ann Canon
Grantee: Premier Rental Properties LLC
Property: Lots 6 and 7, Block 10, Settles Heights Addition.
Date filed: April 27, 2004
Grantor: Bobby Powell, Dawn Powell and Frankie Bair
Grantee: Darren David Byrd
Property: A 1.1 acre tract out of the NE/4 of Section 1, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey.
Date filed: April 27, 2004
Grantor: Edward Eugene Jones and Dorothy R. Derr Jones
Grantee: Debra Coats Reed
Property: Lot 5, Block 6, Cenral Park Addition
Date filed: April 27, 2004
Grantor: Michael L. Seal
Grantee: Kenneth S. Sherrill and Trudy L. Sherrill
Property: Lot 1, Block 18, Monticello Addition
Date filed: April 29, 2004
Grantor: Troy T. Hunt Homes LTD
Grantee: Russel David Erwin and Shelley Smith
Property: A 5 acre tract out of the NW/4 of Section 10, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey.
Date filed: April 29, 2004
Grantor: Garland R. Cooper Sr. and Ada J. Cooper
Grantee: Abraham Gonzales and Jennifer Gonzales
Property: Lot 11 and the west 10 feet of Lot 12, Block 1, Laloma Addition
Date filed: April 30, 2004
Grantor: Joyce Wash
Grantee: James M. Murray and Dorothy M. Murray
Property: Lot 14, Block 7, Highland South Addition
Date filed: April 30, 2004
Grantor: Don R. Baker and Linda Baker
Grantee: Jaime Saldivar and Judy Saldivar
Property: Lot 2, Block 28, College Park Estates
Date filed: April 30, 2004

OIL

Continued from Page 1A

wide price of unleaded gasoline was \$1.84 per gallon. That's still less expensive than in 1981 when, in today's dollars, prices approached \$3 a gallon.
The latest oil rally was triggered by violence in Saudi Arabia, where gunmen fired on the offices of an oil contractor last weekend, killing five Westerners and a Saudi.
A week earlier, suicide bombers in boats attacked pumping stations at Iraq's Al-Basra Oil Terminal in the Persian Gulf, costing some

350,000 barrels of production. Together, the events triggered fears among traders that the Middle East oil industry was increasingly vulnerable to attacks and, potentially, supply disruptions.
"A security premium has definitely been growing," said John Kilduff, senior energy analyst at Fimat USA in New York. "It's become quite clear that the oil industry and oil infrastructure are in the crosshairs of the insurgents in Iraq and terrorist groups because it's the lifeline of the global economy."
The violence in Saudi Arabia was

particularly troubling, Kilduff said, because the world's top oil producer was "previously viewed as a secure country."
Oil markets have been volatile for more than a year due to political instability in other petroleum-producing nations, too, including Venezuela and Nigeria.
The rising cost of oil has been a burden to fuel-intensive industries, such as airlines and truckers. Motorists, though, have showed few signs of curbing their consumption. Nationwide gasoline demand averaged 9.1 million barrels per day during April, about 4 percent higher than a year ago.

CONSUMER

Continued from Page 4C

reading still left the gauge of consumer sentiment well below the 106.3 level of January, which has been the high point so far this year.
The strength in the May confidence figure came from better feelings about current conditions, an uptick in Americans' job outlook and more satisfaction with their investment situation.
Economists said it was no surprise that the index was up this month, given the brightening picture on employment. The Labor Department reported Friday that unemployment in April dipped to 5.6 percent as the economy created 288,000 new jobs, the second straight month of jumbo gains after a prolonged period of anemic job growth.
"The dam has broken. After refusing to hire people for what seemed like forever, businesses have reversed direction and are now pumping up their payrolls," said economist Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisers.
Not all the economic news has been good. Energy prices have been surging recently, with the nationwide average for all gasoline grades hitting a record of \$1.86, according to the most recent Lundberg Survey. That is almost a 35-cent increase since Dec. 19.
Still, analysts said that the brightening jobs picture would loom larger in Americans' minds than the rising gasoline prices.
"Jobs tend to predominate," said David Wyss,

chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York. "If people have a job, they feel a bit more secure about paying \$1.86 per gallon for gas."
The improving jobs picture and rising consumer confidence would normally be a plus for an incumbent president in an election year, but analysts said developments in Iraq may overshadow the economy this year.
Indeed, Americans' support for President Bush on the economy has dipped to 43 percent, the lowest number since Ipsos began tracking that question at the start of 2002.
The AP-Ipsos consumer confidence index is benchmarked to a 100 reading on January 2002, the month the index, formally known as the Consumer Attitudes and Spending by Household or CASH index, was started by Ipsos.
A measure of consumers' feelings about current conditions showed the biggest gain of four subindexes in May, rising by 3.8 percent to a reading of 97.9.
An index that measures people's feelings about the job market, including whether those surveyed are worried about layoffs, showed a 2.4 percent gain to a reading of 102.7.
Americans also felt better about their investment positions, with this subindex rising by 1.8 percent to 97.4.
The only component of the overall index to suffer a setback in May was the expectations index. It dropped by 2.9 percent to a reading of 87.9.
The May index was

based on interviews with 1,000 adults about the economy. The interviews were conducted from Monday through Wednesday. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.
Treating turf helps prevent grub damage
By BRAD RICHARDSON
Master Gardener
White grubs are one of the most common turf grass pest in the United States. They frequently cause problems in landscapes in virtually every part of the country. They occur almost anywhere turf grass grows and there is sufficient soil moisture in late spring and early summer for egg survival.
Increases in temperature and humidity mean keeping a careful eye on your lawn.
Before grubs can feed on turf roots and destroy turf, though, they need moisture to hatch.
Grubs damage turf grass by feeding on turf root systems, which can weaken the plant, create drought stress, and spoil the turf's appearance. Equally important, grubs attract various predators that enter turf areas and cause significant damage. These animals dig in the

soil looking for a good meal in the form of white grubs. These predators include skunks, possums, crows, moles and armadillos.
If you want to prevent grub damage, you have to treat the turf early before the grubs get large. Otherwise the roots will be devoured. Grubs seem to like bluegrasses or any grasses that have rhizomes. They are usually a problem in irrigated areas.
The Japanese beetles and southern masked chafers can not lay their eggs in dry or drought conditions. They cannot penetrate the soil.
If the grubs are still feeding, efforts to reseed, resod, or stimulate root growth might be unsuccessful. You can check with your local nursery for the right product to use the right time of year. Good Luck with your lawns and gardening this year.
264-2236. Another source of information is the Texas A&M pecan Web site at <http://pecankernel.tamu.edu>.
Tommy Yeater is the Howard County Cooperative Extension agent for agriculture. He can be reached at 264-2236.



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