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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

TUESDAY

June 1, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



CLEAR

TONIGHT 70°-73° TOMORROW 99°-102°

BRIEFLY

Farmers Market to be formed here

The Downtown Revitalization Association is planning to form a Farmers Market for consumers, farmers and home gardeners. A meeting for those interested will be held at 7:30 p.m. June 8 in the Heart of the City Park. Officers and a board of directors will be elected and bylaws established. Anyone who is interested is asked to call Allan Johnson, DRA president, at 432-267-6278.

Kennel Club cookbook on sale

The Big Spring Kennel Club's fund-raising cookbook, *Treats from the Country*, is now available. The cookbook contains 200 recipes from club members, friends and family, ranging from appetizers to main courses, desserts and a special section, *Pet Treats*, containing 16 recipes for dog and puppy food and a variety of dog treats and even a recipe for tuna cat treats. *Treats from the Country* is available for \$8 at Sugg's Hallmark and at Western Hills Animal Clinic or by calling 394-4233.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



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HUD cutbacks hit housing authorities hard

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

As if tough economic times weren't hard enough for the "regular Joes" trying to make ends meet, several changes in policy and funding for housing assistance on the state and federal levels could cripple local housing authorities.

Mark Gentry, executive director of the Big Spring Housing Authority, said housing authorities across the state are going to be looking at budgetary shortfalls, thanks to cuts in discretionary spending.

"Basically every social service here in

"This is Phase I of what I consider the cuts. Our office has taken about a 9 percent cut."

Mark Gentry, BSHA executive director



town is just an example of what's happening across the state and across the nation," said Gentry. "Discretionary spending, when it comes to being federally funded, is being cut dramatically. Most housing authorities are

going to receive about a 16 percent cut.

"It's gotten to a point where the government has to look at what it has in its pocket book. In this case, they call it discretionary spending — basically money that is being spent for good things such as housing, food stamps and other social programs. I don't believe anyone is entitled to a free ride. However, I wasn't expecting them (the Department of Housing and Urban Development) to do what they have done."

Those cuts could, in the long run, amount to some rather drastic measures.

See **CUTBACKS**, Page 3A



Sergio Martinez lets "things slide" during the 38th Annual Splash-In Monday afternoon, as the 13-year-old Big Spring Junior High School student took a ride on the city pool's slide. Martinez, along with several thousand other children and adults, helped celebrate the 38th Annual Splash-In, sponsored by the city of Big Spring, KBST and Big Red soft drinks.

Splash-In draws big crowd to park

Swimming, music, movie among many activities enjoyed by public

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Local residents didn't have to go far to find top-notch entertainment on Memorial Day, as the 38th Annual Splash-In turned the city pool and Comanche Trail Park into a wet and wild fiesta.

The event, which was sponsored by the city of Big Spring, KBST Radio and Big Red soft drinks, drew thousands from Big Spring and the outlying communities. KBST General manager John Weeks said there was a great deal of preparation, not to mention a few last-

minute jitters, but in the end it was all worth it.

"The turnout was fantastic," said Weeks. "Every year we get a little nervous right before we do this for two reasons. The first is the weather. You never know what it's going to do. I remember 10 years ago when it was 63 degrees and raining, and we still had it."

That wasn't the case this Monday.

"The weather was perfect — absolutely perfect. It wasn't too hot and it wasn't too cool. The turnout was just tremendous. We thank Big



Local musician Vance Stephens, joined by the Odessa band Nordics, helped people at the 38th Annual Splash-In get "in the mood" Monday afternoon at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater. Nordics was just one of several bands that played throughout the day-long event.

Spring for allowing us to do something like this for them."

Weeks said the Splash-In, which was greatly expanded this year to include live music and a community movie, accomplished exactly

what he and other event coordinators set out to do — defeat high gas prices and keep families off of the roads during the holiday.

"I really feel all the

See **SPLASH-IN**, Page 3A

State hospital plans Summer Fun Day Thursday

Special to the Herald

Palm trees dotting the shores of an island paradise will be splashed across colorful T-shirts with the slogan Summer Fun Day and given to Big Spring State Hospital patients Thursday as they usher in the season.

The Volunteer Services Council will welcome summer Thursday with ice cream floats, a hot dog lunch and summer-themed gifts to help patients celebrate summer.

"The patients are in a struc-

tured environment, and they don't have a lot of free time," said Shirley Bodin, Summer Fun Day co-chairman. "We like to think of this as a day when they get out of classes and get to do some fun things; kind of like when kids have a day off from school."

All patients will be given new T-shirts, caps, sunglasses, sports drink bottles and for the first time they will be awarded tote bags.

Big Spring State Hospital employees suggested that volun-

teers give patients tote bags this year, which can be used to carry their personal items, such as snacks, magazines and papers around campus, Bodin said.

"We thought it would be a good addition."

Volunteers will serve the ice cream floats beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Allred Building gazebo area. Patients who are unable to leave the units because of medical reasons will celebrate Summer Fun Day on the unit with additional volunteers.

Midland College nursing stu-

dents will assist volunteers by scooping ice cream, distributing the gifts, and assisting the Activity Therapies Department and Plant Management with the hot dog cookout.

ATD staff will orchestrate games for patients, and Recreation Supervisor Herman Evans will act as a disc jockey by spinning their favorite tunes.

"The patients don't have the opportunity to interact with a lot of people other than staff, and

See **BSSH**, Page 5A

Storms ravage Midwest

MARENGO, Ind. — The death toll from a swarm of Memorial Day weekend thunderstorms and tornadoes stood at 10 as residents of the South and Midwest struggled with power outages, flooding and debris-logged streets.

More thunderstorms pounded parts of the South today, and the National Weather Service said radar detected two possible tornadoes during the night in Texas. Storms produced heavy rain Monday from Louisiana to New England, following the weekend's violent weather that ravaged Marengo and other parts of the Midwest.

Gov. Joe Kernan surveyed the damage from a helicopter Monday, a day after the storms that destroyed dozens of homes, and said Marengo "just got clobbered." The weather service estimated the tornado that struck the town of 800 people had wind up to 170 mph.

Two Indiana National Guard units were expected to arrive today in Marengo, about 35 miles northwest of Louisville, Ky., to move heavy debris, said Lt. Col. Larry Powers, a Guard spokesman.

Kernan extended a disaster emergency he issued last week for the entire state.

Crews used backhoes and tractors Monday to clear Marengo's streets and yards. Power company workers erected new utility poles, and residents used chain saws to cut up scores of fallen trees, including one that mangled playground equipment at the elementary school.

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CUTBACKS

Continued from Page 1A

"I would have to first, in order to protect the client base, lay off myself, my housing inspector and my finance person; merge software with Midland County; and have two office staff here just to service the clients," Gentry explained. "HUD knew if it did that there would be fewer people to service the program. And they (federal officials) are still talking about going to this format. This is Phase I of what I consider the cuts. Our office has taken about a 9 percent cut. They baselined us on a format where our loss is \$23,410."

Gentry said recent cuts to the voucher program have his office in a "Catch 22" situation, forcing his staff to make up for cuts to the future budget as well as the past six months.

"In October they (HUD) told us we could budget for a \$40.80 administrative fee. That meant we could collect \$40.80 for each voucher we processed each month. These are the funds that we use to operate the Big Spring office," he said.

Gentry said the \$40.80 fee didn't last long, however, as HUD recently lowered the amount in an effort to cut discretionary spending. The cut was also made effective retroactively Jan. 1, which will force many housing authorities that were counting on higher fees to cut corners.

"The numbers went from \$40.80 per voucher to \$35.57 per voucher. Instead of giving us the increase that we were expecting for next year, they knocked us down about \$5.50 to \$6. And that loss, added up per voucher, comes to \$23,410 in total cuts to this office alone. That's how much we're going to have to come up with to meet the mandates."

Thanks to money that Gentry has been squirreling away within the housing authority's annual budget, he said the cuts won't force him to lay off any of his staff — at least not this time around.

"I was in the process of acquiring property to do rehab and some of the things that are in my mis-

sion plan," said Gentry. "Instead of giving raises, I've been pushing money aside for that. This new budget is going to effectively cut one employee and I don't want that to happen."

"I'd rather not make the investment in the community and maintain the staff at the level we have it at until it's decided what's going to happen with HUD."

A new housing study that is expected out soon may help the agency's fight to get a better rate on its vouchers, but in the end it's going to be tight any way it goes.

"This Housing study is being done by Ipser Corp. out of the Dallas area," said Gentry. "That study is being finalized and should be available in the next month or so. I was hoping to prove we need an increase in administrative to operate as well as to increase the amount of money we need for our two-bedroom units. We're about \$90 short on our two-bedroom units. That was really the primary reason I wanted to do the housing study."

As Gentry struggles with budgeting issues, the demand for assistance continues to increase, a trend he attributes to the increasing number of whites and decreasing number of Hispanics benefiting from the program.

"I'd say only about 2 percent of the people on the program are healthy people that aren't employed," he said. "That goes back to the level of oversight. A lot of the families simply don't want to be monitored like we were looking after them, so they don't want to stay on the program. At the same time, the white population seems not to mind that monitoring as much and the attitude isn't that it's such a blighted program."

"I think another reason for the switch is there have been a lot of layoffs and job losses at the mid-management level, and many families that had two incomes now only have one and are having trouble making it. And a lot of those being laid off happen to be the higher educated and more experienced whites. I really think that's the reason we're seeing a flip-flop in the numbers."



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Taking a breather from the action, 6-year-old C.J. Bigelow prepares to head back into the masses of children swimming at the city pool Monday during the 38th Annual Splash-In. City officials estimated at one point close to 2,000 people were waiting in line to take a dip in the municipal pool during the event, which was sponsored by KBST Radio, the city of Big Spring and Big Red.

SPLASH-IN

Continued from Page 1A

work that was invested in the Splash-In was well worth it," said Weeks. "Because of higher gas prices and the risk involved in travel, the thing we wanted to do this year was give Big Spring something to keep them in town for Memorial Day. So we felt like if we expended it and gave everyone something — not everyone wants to swim — so we gave them a diversity of bands to come listen to, so no matter what your music tastes are you could find something to enjoy."



WEEKS

"And of course there was the movie, Disney's 'Finding Nemo,' which was absolutely perfect for

the whole family. It was fun and safe, and that's what we wanted to give the community."

While it was quite easy to get lost in the scope of the event, Todd Darden, director of public works for the city of Big Spring, said the number of swimmers that went through the municipal pool Tuesday should give a concise picture of the event's success.

"We've had about 3,000 people go through the swimming pool," said Darden. "The line for the pool was pretty long all day long. We're guessing there were about 1,500 to 2,000 people standing in line at one point. We rotated them out each hour so everyone would have a chance to get wet and have fun."

Darden is no stranger to the Splash-In, and said he's glad to see so many people come out and enjoy the day, not to men-

tion all of the groups and project coordinators that made the day possible.

"This has been our 38th Splash-In," said Darden. "KBST and Big Red were two of the biggest sponsors involved, and this year KBST really tried to make it bigger and better for the community to come out and enjoy the event."

"We had vendors at the amphitheater, live bands, blow up toys for the kids to play on, and the Howard County Sheriff's Posse brought their horses out to give the kids rides."

Those in attendance finished out the evening with a free showing of Disney's "Finding Nemo," courtesy of Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

While Weeks said he intended the event to help keep people off the roads for the holiday, it certainly didn't keep one family

who lives east of Big Spring from hitting the highway to have some fun.

"I think it's great," said Billy Burles, who traveled to Big Spring from the Sweetwater area with his family for the Splash-In. "It's great to be able to go somewhere and the whole family can have fun — and it doesn't cost you an arm and a leg. I hope the city and KBST realize how much families like ours look forward to things like this."

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

STORMS

Continued from Page 1A

"Everything we own is gone," Amber Terry said as she picked through the wreckage of her mobile home, which was smashed into a neighbor's house about 20 feet away. She said she, her husband and two young children would move in with her parents.

"Just pick up and start over," Terry said.

One man died in Marengo when the twister flipped his mobile home.

Nearly 100 homes and farm buildings were destroyed or damaged early Monday in Tennessee's Giles County, about 80 miles south of Nashville. A total of 22 people were injured in Hardin County — most at a campground where wind knocked over trees, destroying some 25 camper trailers.

The weather service said it believed wind of more than 60 mph was to blame for the damage, although forecasters didn't rule out a tornado.

A 7-year-old Tennessee girl died after a wall collapsed in her Giles County home.

In West Virginia, storms dumped more than 4 inches of rain in coalfields in the southern

section of the state, killing an elderly man who drowned while pumping water out of his basement, possibly after a heart attack or being overcome by fumes.

Gov. Bob Wise declared a state of emergency in that county and two others Monday, after declaring emergencies in seven other counties Friday.

"We've got hundreds of homes right now with major damage, hundreds more that have suffered some damage," Wise said Tuesday on NBC's "Today." "We haven't

been able to ascertain yet all the damage, but we know that it's going to be very, very great."

In Kentucky, the weather service said it confirmed that a tornado damaged buildings in one Louisville-area subdivision on Sunday, and another in Barnsley destroyed a home and blew off businesses' roofs along a six-mile-long path. No injuries were reported.

An Ohio man was killed early Monday by lightning at a campground in Lebanon, northeast of

Cincinnati. One man was killed by a falling tree Sunday in Missouri. On Saturday, a tornado in northwest Missouri killed three people and injuring four children.

High wind was blamed

for two deaths in Kansas, also on Saturday.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

School's out so watch out for the youth

School's out for the summer and that means more free time for a large segment of our community. That's both good and bad news — good news for shop owners, movie theaters and eating establishments, and bad news for working parents trying to keep a watch on their children.

Many of the older teens will find summer jobs, attend camps and retreats or pitch in as volunteers at local agencies. It's also a time for visiting relatives and friends in distant cities.

What we, as adults, need to be aware of is that there will be more youngsters up and down the streets. Gone will be the school zone warning lights, but if anything we'll need to be even more cautious as we traverse neighborhood streets.

Parents, in turn, will need to keep an extra eye out for their children. Though that familiar "go to bed early on a school night" rule no longer applies, it is important to continue to stress responsibility and to keep structure in their lives. It also makes life a lot easier on the parent in the long run.

Summer is a wonderful, enjoyable time and can be even more so if we look out for our children. They are, after all, our future.

Ten mistakes and a fine mess

Too bad for anyone who tuned in to President Bush's speech Monday night hoping to hear something that would cheer us up — like a plan. That was as depressing as divorce. There he was, still peddling the phony idea that Saddam Hussein was connected to 9-11 — I guess that one will never get too old or too disproved.



MOLLY IVINS

In case you think no one in public life is capable of intelligent thought about Iraq, I recommend a speech made by Gen. Anthony Zinni (well, OK, so he's slightly retired) May 12 to the Center for Defense Information. In it, Zinni lists the 10 mistakes he believes were responsible for getting us into this fine mess.

My own modest contribution to this task began the day we announced we would be using Saddam's main palace as our headquarters in Iraq. "No, no, no," I moaned. "We're Americans. We don't do palaces." We should have announced that all Saddam's palaces would be converted into universities.

"Should have" is not normally a helpful construction, but I thought Zinni's list useful indeed. Since Zinni expanded brilliantly on several points, I do disservice by simplifying — even so, you'll see what I mean.

- Misjudging the success of containment. Containment actually worked, we just didn't know it.

- The strategy was flawed that the road to Jerusalem led through Baghdad, when just the opposite is true — the road to Baghdad leads through Jerusalem. In other words, an Israeli-Palestinian settlement is the key to peace and progress in the region.

- We had to create a false rationale for going in to get public support. Zinni testified before the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee just before the war and was asked if the threat from Saddam Hussein was imminent: "No, not at all," he said. "It was not an imminent threat. Not even close. Not grave, gathering, imminent, serious, severe, mildly upsetting, none of these."

- We failed to internationalize the effort. That's a point on which we have now reached near-universal agreement, including George W. Bush.

- We underestimated the task. - Propping up and trusting the exiles. Zinni ranks this as possibly our biggest mistake, taking up Ahmad Chalabi's "Gucci guerrillas." Zinni has the additional authority of having testified against the Iraqi Liberation Act back in 1998, telling the Senate then that the Iraqi National Congress was not credible and would "lead us into something that we will regret."

- Lack of planning. When Zinni was head of CentCom in the Mideast, they actually did a reconstruction plan. "The size of the CPA was about the size we felt we needed for one province, let alone the entire country."

- The insufficiency of military forces on the ground.

- Ad hoc organization. The extent to which the CPA never had a game plan is incredible and, as The Washington Post rather acidly reports, the place is staffed with busy little right-wingers whose only claim to competence is their political connections.

- A series of bad decisions on the ground. Disbanding the army, etc.

First, Zinni recommends we stop digging the hole we're in. We need a U.N. resolution, then we need a lot of Arab officers in as advisers, then he has a whole series of specific military steps. He also emphasizes jobs, jobs, jobs.

"I would go to the contractors in there and say: 'I don't want to see truck drivers that are coming from Peoria, Ill. I want to pay truck drivers that are Iraqis.' It doesn't take a hell of a lot of talent

to drive a truck. Why aren't Iraqis driving trucks for their own reconstruction and redevelopment?" He also notes there is no system of education for the electorate — no political parties, nothing.

Another citizen with some valuable suggestions is New York lawyer Neal Johnston, who was moved to write Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld concerning "proper controls upon the interrogation techniques of detainees held by our military forces abroad." Since we are extremely interested in getting the truth out of reluctant witnesses who may be covering up something, and since the Pentagon apparently feels it knows how to do this, Johnston wonders what would happen if the methods were more broadly applied. For example, he writes Rumsfeld, "When next you testify before a congressional committee, would your testimony be any more credible were you required to deliver it stripped naked? I think not."

"When our plans for Iraq are next explored at a Cabinet meeting, would your observations be any more insightful if delivered while strapped to a board and irregularly submerged in a vat of water? Doubtful at best."

Even, Johnston suggests, showing a rolled copy of the Bill of Rights up a delicate place on the secretary's person would not necessarily improve Rumsfeld's truthfulness at his next press conference. "My solution is really quite simple: The Iraqi scum should be handled with much the same restraint we would all want to be applied to you, should the present criminal investigations wind up reaching even deeper into your office than is already the case."

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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Political ads have little influence on voters' choices

Political campaigns spend millions and millions of dollars on political commercials. Most people contribute to political campaigns for altruistic reasons: They want to improve their community, their nation, their world. I wonder how many people would give, however, if campaigns were more honest in their solicitations and said, "Please give us your dough so we can buy TV ads with it."

As I have written before, campaigns think ads have magical powers to sway our minds.

And it is now conventional wisdom in political circles that George Bush's first wave of negative political ads damaged John Kerry's poll standings and that Kerry's response with his own ads has now boosted him.

But according to a new poll by Advertising Age magazine, that conventional wisdom is nonsense. Virtually nobody, the magazine says, is influenced by political ads.

"More than half the consumers queried in a new Advertising Age poll conducted by Lightspeed International

Research said the blitz of presidential campaign ads had not influenced them," writes Ad Age's Ira Teinowitz this week, "and in total, 92 percent said the ads had not swayed them to change their prospective votes."

The poll was conducted among 1,653 respondents nationally who had actually seen ads for both Bush and Kerry. The polls also breaks out results for eight battleground states. And guess what? "In those states, which are carrying the bulk of the presidential hopefuls' advertising, both candidates' ads are viewed as even less persuasive (only 17 percent found Bush's "very persuasive" vs. 8 percent for Kerry)," the polls says. Other findings include:

- "The majority, 60 percent, of national respondents said Mr. Bush's ads aren't focusing on issues they care about, and even more, 69 percent, said Mr. Kerry's ads don't address issues they care about."

- "A full 88 percent of national respondents said the ads have not changed their opinion about key issues in the race, although domestic issues such as employment and the economy have been more affected than issues such as the Iraq war, education or abortion."

- "To no one's surprise, two out of three respondents — regardless of state

or party — view political ads for the presidential race overall as too negative. And that could work against the candidates, as one-third of respondents said a candidate's negative ads — rather than sway them to vote for that candidate — may actually influence them to avoid voting for them." (Campaigns simply do not believe this, however. They believe that even though people say they hate negative ads, they are swayed by them nonetheless.)

- "Even though the election is a little over five months away, already 55 percent of respondents believe there is too much political advertising." But there is going to be more, much more, political advertising to come. I must point out that another poll, also just released, disagrees with the notion that political advertising doesn't really work magic. A poll released Wednesday says: "Since John Kerry began showing positive biographical television ads about himself in early May, he appears to have reversed a slide in public impressions of him in the battleground states, the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey shows."

"Polling cannot prove what causes changes like these," said Adam Clymer, political director of the survey, "but the most likely cause of Kerry's

boost is the impact of his advertising in these states. Nationally, there has been no real change in his favorable-unfavorable balance, but where the ads have been intense, there has been a change."

Well, maybe the ads could be the reason. But couldn't there be another reason?

Kerry has also been intensely campaigning in the battleground states. So couldn't actual campaigning, in which candidates go out and meet voters in the flesh and give speeches, and get covered by local media, which have much more credibility than political ads, account for Kerry's improved poll standings?

I realize this is heresy. Because if campaigning by the candidate rather than expensive ads really were the critical factor in elections, then what would campaigns spend all that money on?

Roger Simon can be e-mailed at WriteRoger@aol.com. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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ROGER SIMON

Virus

W

but now that it has infiltrated office, it too attractive and virus writers

From 2002, 2003, word and virus that spread via instant messengers (IM) and peer-to-peer networks created 400 percent, according to Symantec Internet Security Threat Report. Already this the Jitux. A targeting MS ICQ

Jitux. A spring users' Bizex had intent: It served Web site that for data on your ments and it was quickly; worm was d

BSSH

Continued from

they enjoy to interact v Bodin said, "thing about one of the events of the

"It doesn't Christmas, I val it's fun."

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Virus writers taking aim with instant messaging

When it comes to viruses and worms, e-mail gets all the attention — but now that instant messaging has infiltrated both home and office, it too has become an attractive and easy target for virus writers.

From 2002 to 2003, worms and viruses that spread via instant messengers (IM) and peer-to-peer networks increased 400 percent, according to Symantec's Internet Security Threat Report.



THOMAS JENKINS

Already this year, we've seen the Jitux.A and Bizex worms targeting MSN Messenger and ICQ.

Jitux.A spread itself by tapping users' IM contacts, but Bizex had more malicious intent: It sent you a link to a Web site that scanned your PC for data on your electronic payments and finances. The site was quickly shut down once the worm was discovered, but no

one is sure how much data was collected before then.

Expect the threats to continue. As users get more adept at stopping traditional attacks, virus writers will look for softer targets, says Bill Adler, president of CyberScrub, a PC security software vendor. "Instant messaging, for many reasons, is a softer target."

But don't scrap your IM client just yet. Because most IM viruses and worms can't propagate automatically — they require you to click a link or download an applet — you can avoid many of the threats if you practice safe computing.

Steve Sanders, a student at the University of California at Berkeley, learned this safety lesson the hard way. He was reading a buddy's profile on AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) when he saw a message that read, "I can't believe I found [Sanders's screen name] picture here. HAHAA," with a hyperlink to take him to a site where he could view the photos. Sanders clicked the link and agreed to download the "necessary" applet to view the photos. "I'm usually more careful than that," Sanders says, but

the site "looked legitimate, and it was directed right at me, so I installed the software."

The site had no photos of Sanders; instead it held the Buddypicture.net Trojan horse, which would have installed adware and spyware onto his PC and distributed itself by placing its link in his AIM profile. Luckily, his antivirus software caught it.

Another prime example is the Osama Found game, which circulated rapidly via AIM earlier this year. It spread by sending a link to AIM users, inviting them to download a game in which they could pretend to catch Bin Laden. Users who clicked got the game — as well as BuddyLinks, a program that grabbed all of the user's IM contacts and sent them the same message.

The very nature of instant messaging — its informality and immediacy — worsens the danger from worms, viruses, and other malware. "People tend to let their guard down when it comes to instant messaging, while we have more a healthy skepticism when it comes to e-mail," explains Bryson Gordon, a senior man-

ager with McAfee Security's Consumer Division, in a recent press release.

However, the most popular IM clients, such as AIM and Yahoo Messenger — work through closed networks, meaning that users can communicate only with others on the same service (unless you are one of the few who employ third-party clients, such as Trillian, that let you exchange messages with others on multiple networks). That lack of interoperability may be annoying, but it also helps to curtail the spread of viruses and makes IM a less appealing target than e-mail.

And unlike Internet Explorer or Windows, IM apps — at least so far — have fewer published holes through which viruses and worms can spread without a victim's aid.

Antivirus and security software vendors have extended protection coverage to IM. For example, Zone Labs, maker of the popular ZoneAlarm firewall (my personal favorite), last year released IMSecure, a \$20 program that encrypts messages and blocks potentially hazardous site links.

Symantec's Norton Antivirus includes instant message scanning, and McAfee added the same feature to its August release of VirusScan 8. Both of these programs promise to remove viruses from files received via IM, and to protect against viruses that may be downloaded through URLs or links received in messages.

And here's some more good news: In informal PC World tests of several antivirus and security applications — with or without special IM components — all caught known viruses sent via AIM.

No antivirus program or firewall, both considered must-haves for every PC user, can prevent all virus attacks. Your vigilance remains your best defense. Says Oliver Friedrichs, a senior manager at Symantec Security Response, "The primary reason why these threats are successful is that people continue to trust content that they receive."

Staff writer Thomas Jenkins can be contacted at 263-7331, ext. 232, or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com.

BSSH

Continued from Page 1A

they enjoy having the volunteers to interact with and talk with," Bodin said. "We don't think anything about these things, but it's one of the more anticipated events of the year."

"It doesn't rate up there with Christmas, but like the fall festival it's fun."

Custom Food Group and Gandy's will provide the ice cream and soft drinks. Volunteers and state hospital employees will provide hot dogs and the fixings.

Texas briefs

Man in critical condition after lightning strike

NEW BRAUNFELS — One man was in critical condition Monday after lightning struck a large tree where a group of holiday tubers had gathered to seek refuge from a sudden storm.

Four others were treated at a hospital. The group had been tubing along the Comal River, a popular spot for summer fun-seekers in Central Texas.

As many as 10 people were standing under the tree on the

property of the Schlitterbahn Waterpark Resort when the lightning struck, said Sherrie Bramm, park spokeswoman. They were not park patrons.

The man in critical condition was leaning against the tree when it was struck. He was treated with a defibrillator by Schlitterbahn personnel, New Braunfels police officer Jermy Baker said. His name was not immediately released.

Environmental workers spend day cleaning up

BELLAIRE — It likely wasn't hot enough to fry an egg on the pavement Monday, but

temperatures in the low-90s turned an already messy freeway spill of 30,000 pounds of eggs into a stinky situation.

Environmental workers spent the day cleaning up the "eggs-asperating mess" left when an 18-wheeler sent an avalanche of eggs off an overpass, crushing the cab of an unmanned Department of Transportation truck parked at a construction site below about 2:30 a.m. Monday, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The only injury reported was that of the truck driver, who broke his nose in the mishap that police believe may have been caused by the driver

falling asleep. His truck hit some plastic barrels where a freeway splits from the Interstate 610 loop, which encircles Houston. The truck's trailer went up onto the rails of the overpass and the eggs went tumbling.

"If you ever remember eggs in a truck when you were a kid — there must have been 50 cases of eggs that landed on that (parked) truck, crushed the cab and broke the windshield," said Gary Babb, a supervisor in charge of the cleanup.

"We were able to save a few cases of eggs, in case you need any."



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ETHEL, THE EARTHWORM

This story is going to be about something yucky! Can you guess what it might be? It is about an earthworm named Ethel.

Now, no one likes earthworms, right? They are slimy, and nasty looking. Do you like to hold earthworms in your hand? I didn't think so. Do you like to eat earthworms? Yuck! I don't!

So, earthworms are really not good for anything. Right? WRONG!

Ethel Earthworm lived in the ground not too far from where Kristie lives.

Kristie is a pretty girl and loves to grow things in her garden. The trouble was that she could never get anything to grow. All of her flowers died. All of her fruits and vegetables died before she had a chance to pick them. She tried and tried to grow things but nothing seemed to like to grow in her garden. She didn't know what was wrong!

One day Kristie found a book on how to grow a garden. The book told her how to grow just about everything!

Did you know that no matter what kind of problem you may have, you can probably find out how to fix it by reading a book? Yes, there are even books on how to grow a garden!

It seems like Kristie's problem was that the dirt was packed too tightly. She needed something that could loosen the soil so the roots from her plants could grow and make beautiful plants.

Kristie thought and thought about how to loosen the soil in her garden. Every thing that she tried just wouldn't work. And she wanted so badly to see her garden grow!

Now, here is where that old, useless, slimy worm comes into the story. What did I say her name was? Oh yes, Ethel! Ethel Earthworm heard about Kristie's problem and knew how to fix it! You see, earthworms bore holes in the soil all day long and sometimes night time, too. And Ethel was an excellent borer. The holes she puts into the soil lets air in and keeps the soil very loose. And do you know what will happen if the ground is very loose and you plant vegetables or fruit?

That is right! They will grow and grow and be very beautiful and that is what is going to happen to Kristie's garden.

One day Ethel found herself all the way over into Kristie's garden. She was so busy boring holes that she wasn't paying attention to where she was going! She bored and bored holes until that soil was very loose.

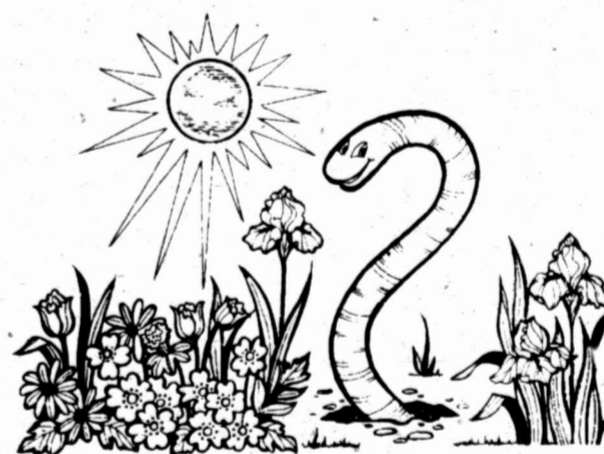
Kristie saw what Ethel was doing and loved it! All of the machines that Kristie had could not loosen that soil like Ethel was doing! And Ethel was doing it for free! And Ethel was getting her food from the soil as she was boring the holes. That is how earthworms get their food!

Kristie planted some of her favorite vegetables and one of her favorite fruits not too long after that. She went outside every morning to see if the plants had come up yet. She could hardly wait! Then one day she woke up and ran outside and the garden was just beautiful with all of the green colors. And the plants grew and grew until all of the vegetables were just right to pick. The fruit tree was ready, too! That was the first time that Kristie had ever picked a vegetable from her own garden. And boy, was it good! She had fresh fruits and vegetables forevermore.

Kristie tried and tried to find Ethel so that she could thank her. But by this time, Ethel was in another part of town making someone else very happy. Kristie was so glad to have known Ethel. She wished that Ethel just lived in her yard only.

So, the next time you are eating one of your favorite vegetables, just think, a slimy old yucky earthworm helped grow this. And it might have even been Ethel!

GOOD NIGHT!



Especially for kids and their families
The Mini Page

By BETTY DEBNAM

Discover New Worlds This Summer

Exploring Through Reading

Two hundred years ago, Lewis and Clark and the members of the Corps of Discovery set out to explore the great American-West. What they saw and wrote about opened up a whole new world.



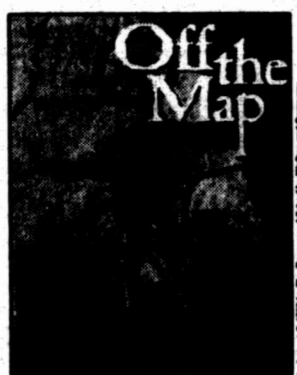
This summer, with more time for reading, you can become an explorer too, right in your own back yard, or at the beach, or anywhere you settle down for a good read.

Here are just a few books that take you into the unknown — to other countries, to outer space, to music and art, or deep beneath the ocean.

You can go exploring at your library and discover some books of your own.

The team of Peter and Connie Roop has written more than 20 books for kids.

In "Off the Map," the editors have chosen actual entries from the journals of Lewis and Clark. Readers can taste the excitement these explorers felt.

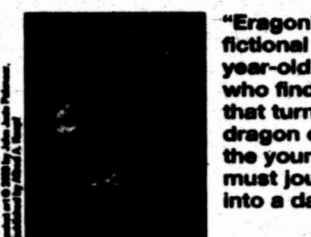


Lisa Tucker McElroy has written other books about grandmothers at work, such as U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.



"Meet My Grandmother, She's a Deep-Sea Explorer" is the true story about marine biologist Sylvia Earle and her exciting job.

Christopher Paolini began writing "Eragon" when he was 15. It was published when he was 18. He is now working on the second book in this "Inheritance" series.



"Eragon" is the fictional tale of a 15-year-old boy, Eragon, who finds a blue stone that turns out to be a dragon egg. He and the young dragon must journey together into a dangerous land.

Walter Dean Myers has won two Newbery Honor Book Awards and five Coretta Scott King Awards.



"Blues Journey" explores the musical poetry of "the blues."

Anthony Browne has written and illustrated more than 30 books. He was awarded the Hans Christian Andersen Award for contributions to children's literature.



"The Shape Game" tells how a boy's life changes when his mother takes the family to an art museum.

Amada Irma Perez is a teacher and writer whose books are based on her own experiences.



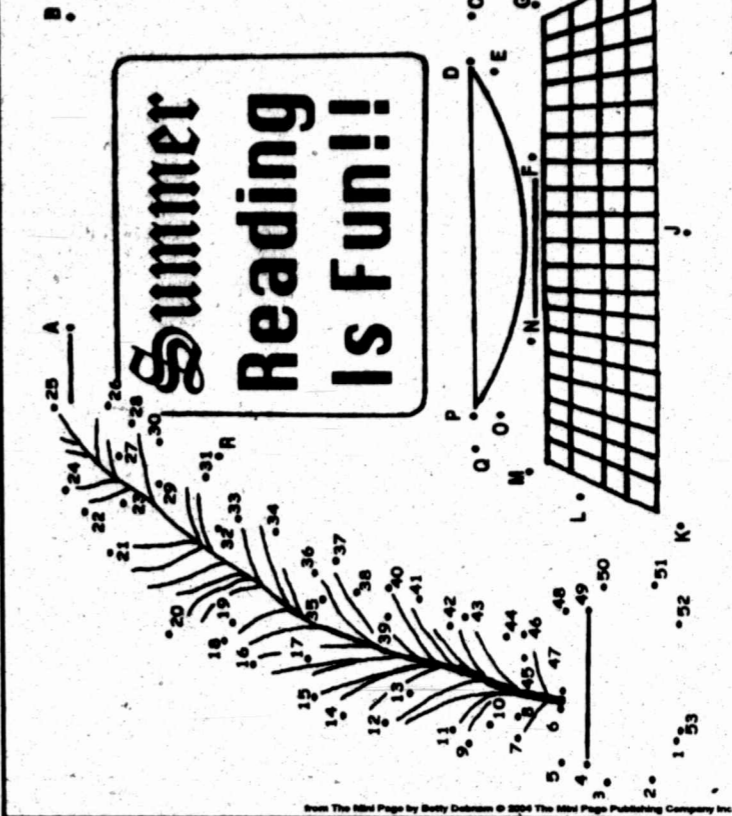
"My Diary From Here to There," or "Mi Diario de Aquí Hasta Allí," is the true story of the author's family and their immigration from Mexico to the U.S. It is written in both English and Spanish.

Don Brown has written and illustrated several award-winning books about real-life explorers.



"Far Beyond Garden Gate" is the true story of Alexandra David-Neel, the first Western woman to explore parts of Tibet and China.

Go dot to dot and color these two very different ways of writing.



Rookie Cookie's Recipe Summer Blueberry Salad

- You'll need:
- 2 (3-ounce) packages grape gelatin
 - 2 cups water
 - 1 (20-ounce) can blueberry pie filling
 - 1 (20-ounce) can crushed pineapple
 - 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese
 - 1/2 cup sour cream
 - 1/2 cup sugar
 - 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

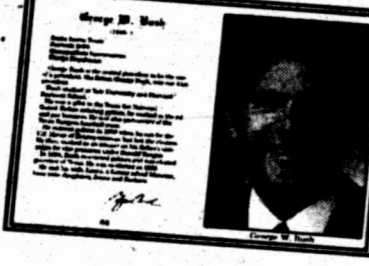


- What to do:
1. Combine gelatin and water.
 2. Cook in a microwave oven on high for 7 minutes or until boiling.
 3. Add pineapple and pie filling. Mix well.
 4. Place in refrigerator until firm.
 5. In a large bowl, combine the remaining ingredients.
 6. Spread mixture over top of salad. Serves 10.

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MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

- Opal:** What type of cowboy steals teapots?
Duncan: A kettle rustler!
- Bruno:** Why did the cowboy die with his boots on?
Earl: Because he didn't want to stub his toe when he kicked the bucket!
- Leah:** Why did the cowboy put his bunk over the campfire?
Melinda: So he could sleep like a log!

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READING TRY 'N FIND

Words and names that remind us of exploration are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: MAP, COMPASS, BOOKS, SHIPS, GUIDES, TELESCOPE, HORSES, SUPPLIES, JOURNALS, CURIOSITY, DIRECTIONS, UNKNOWN, MICROSCOPE, TOOLS, MYSTERIES, LAND, SEA, SPACE, SKY, NEW.



Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are reading at the beach. See if you can find: fly swatter • word MINI • number 2



- letter A
- doughnut
- snake
- number 3
- caterpillar
- key
- kite
- pencil
- letter O
- letter B
- letter T

Goldie Goodsport's Report Supersport: Amy Appelt

Height: 5-4 Birthdate: 5-5-83
Hometown: Garden City, N.J.
Big-league baseball players aren't the only athletes swinging big sticks these days. Check out University of Virginia lacrosse star Amy Appelt. Appelt plays the attacker position for the No. 4-ranked Cavaliers, and she attacks like a shark. Her 99 points on 75 goals and 24 assists lead Division I colleges this season. The Virginia All-American is skillful with the stick, agile and explosive. Cav coach Julie Myers says Appelt is an exceptionally hard worker who "sets a great example" for teammates. Appelt, an English major, also enjoys listening to rap music, talking with teammates, and adding to her large collection of colorful athletic shoes. But her biggest thrill is wielding one of the biggest sticks in women's lacrosse.

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More Explorations in Books

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Joseph Bruchac has written more than 60 books for children and adults. He received the American Book Award for "Breaking Silence."

"Sacajawea" is the true story of the Shoshone woman who helped the Lewis and Clark expedition. Parts of Clark's journal are included in this book.

Martin Redfern is a producer for the BBC, British public TV and radio. He also writes science articles for several magazines.

"The Kingfisher Young People's Book of Space" explores the wonders of our solar system and beyond.

Hudson Talbott travels throughout the world doing research for the books he writes and illustrates.

In "Safari Journal," a boy from America and his new Maasai friend battle a ring of animal poachers. Although this is a fictional story, the information about the animals and Maasai people of Kenya is true.

The Mini Page thanks Wendy Lukehart, coordinator of children's and young adult collections, Washington, D.C., Public Library, for help with this issue. Look through your newspaper for stories and photos about places you'd like to explore.

Brian Jacques is an actor and a BBC commentator as well as a popular children's author.

"Jason's Gold" is a fictional story about the real-life Alaskan gold rush. When gold is discovered in Alaska, a teenage boy joins thousands of prospectors on the difficult journey to the northern gold fields.

Will Hobbs has written more than 10 books for kids.

Donna Jo Napoli is a mathematician and a linguist (a person who studies languages). She has written several books for kids.

In "Daughter of Venice," a girl disguises herself as a boy to explore and to learn. This is a fictional story about a real place. Most noble women in Venice, Italy, in 1502 were not allowed to go to school or to go out in the city.

Next week The Mini Page is about what life might be like on a Martian colony.

The Mini Page is created and edited by Betty Debnam. Associate Editors: Tali Denton, Lucy Lien. Staff Artist: Wendy Daley.

Deborah Chancellor has worked as a children's book editor and has written several books for kids.

"Maps and Mapping" explains how to read and make maps. This is important knowledge for anyone wishing to explore unknown lands.

Nancy Farmer has received two Newbery Honor Awards, for "A Girl Named Disaster" and "The Ear, the Eye and the Arm."

In the fictional book "A Girl Named Disaster," a girl from a village in Mozambique, in Africa, flees from an upcoming marriage to a cruel man. Her search for her father takes her on a dangerous adventure.

Andrew Clements has been an editor and a teacher. His books for kids include the popular "Frindle."

"A Week in the Woods" is the fictional story of a fifth-grade boy who puts himself and a teacher in danger while exploring the woods. The two, who have fought against each other, must now work together.

James Rumford worked in the Peace Corps and has written several books based on his travels. "Traveling Man" tells the true story of an Arab explorer in the 1300s.

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CITY OF Big Spring is accepting applications for Parks Maintenance Worker. For further information contact The Personnel Department at City Hall, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 432-264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

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Estimator/Sales vidual with lead ability to work contractors and ble of take off chitectural dra tive salary and sume to (432)3

PT AUDITOR
customer servi store. www. or PO Box 21 row. OK 74012

RN POSITIO
Best Home 8:30-4:30 M-F environment pay. \$1,000 Please apply Drive.

ENTRY LEVEL SUPERVISION (CSO), minim as stated in TDCJ-CJAD". (a). Must have gree and unle in criminolor counseling, le psychology, s lated field, mu of graduate those fields or ence in full counseling, group work. M Howard, Mar County or be Resume due 118th District Suite B. P.O Spring, TX i those selecte will be corctac

TEXACO ST for new team tant manager ply in person 2501 S. Gr #14, 4806 W.

TONYA'S G looking for a stylist for ple lon. Booth Call (432)263

Instr

DRIVER EDI to get your li Class starts l May 27th (432)270-461 263-2505. L Cards Accep

Misc

DRIVER EDI to get your l Class starts May 27th (432)270-461 263-2505. L Cards Accep

FIRE PROC 28" deep b safe inside Monday-Frd (432)267-27

RENTING Spaces. (432)399-48. Good locatio

WANT TO I Call (43 (432)661-47

WEDDING arches, ca Throw Aw Cake ordi Grishams n and (432)267-81

TUESDAY

JUNE 1

Table with 25 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming for Tuesday, June 1, 2004.

DENNIS THE MENACE



... BUT, YOU SAID TO CLEAN MY ROOM. YOU DIDN'T SAY HOW!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



But the GOOD news is I saved a bunch of money on car insurance.

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, June 1, the 153rd day of 2004. There are 213 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On June 1, 1813, the commander of the U.S. frigate Chesapeake, "Captain James Lawrence, said, "Don't give up the ship" during a losing battle with a British frigate. On this date: In 1792, Kentucky became the 15th state of the union. In 1796, Tennessee became the 16th state. In 1801, Mormon leader Brigham Young was born in Whitingham, Vt. In 1868, James Buchanan, the 15th president of the United States, died near Lancaster, Pa. In 1926, actress Marilyn Monroe was born in Los Angeles.

In 1943, a civilian flight from Lisbon to London was shot down by the Germans during World War II, killing all aboard, including actor Leslie Howard. In 1944, the British Broadcasting Corporation aired a coded message intended to warn the French resistance that the D-Day invasion was imminent. In 1958, Charles de Gaulle became premier of France. In 1977, the Soviet Union formally charged Jewish human rights activist Anatoly Shcharansky with treason. (Shcharansky was imprisoned, then released in 1986.) In 1989, former Sunday school teacher John E. List, sought for 18 years in the slayings of his mother, wife and three children in Westfield, N.J., was arrested in Richmond, Va. (List was later sentenced to life in prison.) Ten years ago: President Clinton embarked on a European trip that included commemorating the 50th anniversary of D-Day; his first stop was Italy.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Richard Erdman is 79. Actor Andy Griffith is 78. Actor Edward Woodward is 74. Actor Pat Corley is 74. Singer Pat Boone is 70. Actor-writer-director Peter Masterson is 70. Actor Morgan Freeman is 67. Actor Rene Auberjonois is 64. Opera singer Frederica von Stade is 59. Actor Brian Cox is 58. Rock musician Ron Wood is 57. Actor Jonathan Pryce is 57. Actor Powers Boothe is 55. Actress Gemma Craven is 54. Singer Graham Russell (Air Supply) is 54. Country singer Ronnie Dunn (Brooks and Dunn) is 51.

Answer to previous puzzle

A crossword puzzle grid with some letters filled in.

Newsday Crossword THE I'S HAVE IT by Randall J. Hartman Edited by Stanley Newman.

- ACROSS: 1 Arizona neckties, 6 The lion's share, 10 Home of the Taj Mahal, 14 Without company, 15 Choir voice, 16 Press, as laundry, 17 Varnish ingredient, 18 Eden resident, 19 Trench around a castle, 20 Business done over the Internet, 23 Put into service, 24 Before, to Burns, 25 Singing and dancing, 27 Actor Vigoda, 30 Elemental building block, 33 Related, as a story, 34 Litter members, 36 Precipitation, 38 Kit contents, 41 No-going-back moment, 44 Keyboard user, 45 Opera highlight, 46 Director Kazan, 47 Stemo product, 49 Trip abroad, 51 Fabergé ornament, 52 Flew together, as bees, 55 In mint condition, 57 Pan Alley, 58 Moulin Rouge, for one, 64 Landed, 66 Skater, 67 Arm joint, 68 Great joy, 69 Give off, 70 Idolize, 71 Life of Riley, 72 Too hasty, 73 Gives temporarily, 6 Polite address, 7 Like a shoppe, 8 Kickoff, 9 Garfield, e.g., 10 Objective, 11 Principle of conduct, 12 Friars' fete, 13 Chips in, 21 Paris subway, 22 Take the honey and run, 26 Tickle pink, 27 Datebook entry: Abbr., 28 Harbor marker, 29 Sudden revelations, 31 Underheads, 32 North Dakota city, 35 Curl one's lip, 37 contenders, 39 Branch of math, 40 Impediment, 42 Chaplin persona, 43 Ring-shaped, 48 Move unsteadily, 50 Cancel, as a law, 52 54 Down venue, 53 Author Cather, 54 Serious work, 56 Author Oscar, 59 Part of the eye, 60 Courtroom declaration, 61 Black, to Byron, 62 Telephone wire, 63 Lea ladies, 65 Golf peg

A crossword puzzle grid with some numbers indicating starting points for words.