



WEDNESDAY

January 2, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 24°-26° TOMORROW 49°-52°

INSIDE

Take a good look at your password

Recently, I was helping a friend reclaim his Yahoo e-mail account after a hack-attack disabled it. I asked him what his password was, and he said he couldn't remember. After about 30 seconds of hard, caffeine-induced thought, I tried the first thing that came to mind — his daughter's first name.

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Furry forecaster: Winter's not over

Punxsutawney Phil has spoken, and the news isn't good. The world's most famous furry forecaster saw his shadow today on Gobbler's Knob, suggesting another six weeks of wintry weather.

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COMING THIS WEEKEND



As Valentine's Day approaches, our nation's rose growers are busy trying to fulfill all of the demands for the flower that says "I love you."

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Gala hopes to draw more support with date change

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Area residents who have been shining up their spurs and boots for the American Heart Association "Hollywood for Heart" western-style gala that was scheduled this month may have to hurry-up and wait.

The event, originally slated for Feb. 26, has been moved to April 9 due to scheduling conflicts, according to gala coordinator Bobby Roever.

"The Feb. 26 date conflicted with a performance by the Big Spring Symphony," said Roever. "So we started looking for a date

after that. Eventually we came up with a date in March, but then we realized that conflicted with Spring Break and we were going to lose several sponsors because of that. So it was back to the drawing board."

Roever said the group decided on the next feasible date after the Spring Break holiday, which was April 9.

The gala, which will be held at the Big Spring Country Club, will feature dinner, dancing and both silent and live auctions. This year's event will also feature a special presentation entitled "Paddles Up," which gives everyone in attendance an opportunity to share a name of someone they know who

"The gala brings attention to the threat heart disease and stroke pose to both men and women."

—Bobby Roever



has been affected by cardiovascular disease or stroke.

The annual event brings the community together in order to raise funds in the fight

See GALA, Page 5A



Pope John Paul II presents the hat signifying the position of Cardinal to Justin Francis Rigali of Philadelphia during an ordination ceremony where he elevated 30 men to Cardinal on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2003, at St. Peter Square in Rome, Italy.

Pope John Paul II hospitalized

Spokesman says there is 'no reason for alarm'

By VICTOR L. SIMPSON Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II had difficulty breathing as he battled the flu, the Vatican confirmed today, but it said tests showed his heart and respiration were normal and that the 84-year-old pontiff rested for several hours overnight.

The pope had "just a little fever," papal spokesman

Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in elaborating on a terse medical bulletin issued by the Holy See. The Vatican said John Paul got some rest during the night.

The pope was being treated for respiratory problems in the Gemelli Polyclinic. He was rushed there late Tuesday from his Vatican apartment, where he had been battling the flu for several days, Vatican officials said. No further medical bul-

letins were expected today, they said.

The papal spokesman said John Paul was taken by ambulance to the hospital after doctors decided "he could be better treated there than here (the Vatican)." In response to a reporter's question, Navarro-Valls denied that the pope lost consciousness, saying: "No, for

See POPE, Page 5A

Crime down considerably from 2003, city report shows

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Crime in the city of Big Spring took a pronounced dive in 2004, posting statistics considerably lower than those recorded in 2003.

The number of murders in the city remained the same with one reported in both 2003 and 2004, but robbery reports saw an overall drop of 50 percent. The total value of stolen items also dropped, with

\$14,509 reported in 2003 and \$3,256 in 2004.

"Those dollar amounts are slightly skewed," said Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith. "The amount from 2003 reflects a robbery that entailed a great deal of jewelry and other expensive items, which really

Smith

drove the annual total up. Either way, we're really happy to see the number of robberies come down."

The number of sexual assaults reported dipped 24 percent, from 21 reported in 2003 to 16 reported in 2004.

Much like robberies, burglaries were down in 2004 by 53 percent, with 182 reported in 2004, compared to 391 in 2003. The

See CRIME, Page 5A

Table with 4 columns: Offense, 2003, 2004, Change. Rows include Murder, Sexual Assaults, Robbery, Burglary, Larceny, Stolen Vehicles, Criminal Mischief, Family Violence, Public Intoxication, Drug Sales, Assaults, Arrests, Juvenile Arrests.

Varmint calling contest set in Glasscock County

By STEVE REAGAN Staff Writer

GARDEN CITY — Imagine a fishing tournament on dry land.

Now, instead of fish, imagine coyotes or bobcats as the prey.

That, in short form, describes the inaugural Glasscock County Varmint Calling Contest, to be hosted by the county Future Farmer's of America chapter Friday and Saturday.

The contest will serve two purposes: It will help ease the predator problems faced by Glasscock

County farmers and ranchers; and proceeds from the event will benefit the FFA chapter.

Rusty Hollingsworth, Garden City High School agriculture teacher and FFA sponsor, said similar events have been held in this area for years, and the organization saw this as a good opportunity to raise some much-needed funds.

"It takes a lot of work to put one of these things together," Hollingsworth said. "So (previous hosting organizations) were willing to let us put it together

this year."

Teams can earn points for the most coyotes or bobcats or other kinds of predator bagged, he said.

"It's exactly like a fishing tournament, except we're going after coyotes and bobcats instead of fish," Hollingsworth said.

Entry fee is \$100 per team of two or three people. Seventy-five percent of fees collected will go toward prizes, with the remainder going to the county FFA chapter.

Contestants must have a regu-

lar state-issued hunting license to compete. In addition, anyone intent on selling the fur from the animals must obtain a trapping license. Those born after 1972 must have completed a state-approved hunter's safety course, Hollingsworth said.

For more information, contact Hollingsworth at 354-2244 or 354-2250.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

Obituaries

Maxine 'Mickey' Armstead

Maxine "Mickey" Armstead, 82, of Monahans, died Jan. 31, 2005, in Odessa. Funeral services are Thursday, Feb. 3, 2005, at Immanuel Baptist Church in Monahans with the Rev. Larry Bennett and the Rev. Dennis Teeters officiating.

She was born July 4, 1922, in Seminole, Okla. She was a bank teller.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Armstead and her son, Rocky Armstead.

She is survived by her sons, James Armstead and Kim Armstead, both of Big Spring; her daughter, Randi Tuman of Fort Worth; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Family Funeral Services/Jackie Harkey.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 5-6-14-27-29.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$37,228.
Winning tickets sold in: Glenn Heights.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-8-7

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. North winds around 10 mph.
Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. North winds around 10 mph.
Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 30. Light and variable winds.
Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. East winds around 10 mph.
Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the upper 50s.
Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Lows in the upper 30s.
Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.
Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Support groups

THURSDAY

□ Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

□ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m.

□ The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center beginning in January. Call 263-8273 for more information.

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

Take note

□ COLLEGE PARK CHURCH OF GOD is having a youth fund-raising chicken fried steak dinner Friday. A double dinner is \$7.50; adult is \$5 and child's plate is \$3.50. Dine in or carry out available. The church is located at 603 Tulane. From 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., pick up orders available. From 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., free delivery is available. Call 267-8593 to place orders.

□ DEREK CHURCHWELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP has been established at Howard College. Donations may be made to the Howard College Foundation in care of Jan Foresyth, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Designate the Derek Churchwell Scholarship Fund.

□ YOUNGLIFE ROUNDUP BANQUET is set for Feb. 28 in the Dora Roberts Community Center. Round-Up provides community members an opportunity to enjoy a catered barbecue dinner while learning about the activities that take place during YoungLife club. For more information or to contribute to YoungLife, call leader Shelly Warren at 264-1234.

□ BIG SPRING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANQUET is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The guest speaker is David P. Rumbarger, president and CEO of Community Development Foundation of Tupelo, Miss. The program also includes the announcement of the 2004 Man and Woman of the year. Tickets are \$25 in advance and no tickets will be sold at the door. Call the chamber at 263-7641.

□ HOWARD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD is seeking financial donations to provide support for children in Howard County who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Contact Patti Richard at 432-559-6953 or mail donations to HCCWB P.O. Box 3101 Big Spring, 79721.

□ LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5530 or 432-686-0647.

Police blotter

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

- CHRIS RUIZ, 35, of 1405 Settles, was arrested Tuesday on Howard County warrants.
- DAVID JAMES RENTERIA, 38, of 1009 Bell, was arrested Tuesday on a Howard County warrant.
- JUAN ANGEL MADRID, 19, of 1511 Princeton, was arrested Tuesday on local traffic warrants.
- SABRINA GUTIERREZ PEREZ, 29, of Snyder, was arrested Tuesday and held for the HCSO.
- SACKIE ROBERT BRITO JR., 25, of 412 Moss Lake Road, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- MELODY LYNN GAY, 43, of 1217 Mobile, was arrested Tuesday on charges of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense and driving while license suspended.
- CECIL LEE SHERMAN, 40, of 1403 Oil Mill Road, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- SANDRA LEE HENRY, 39, of 1310 Mobile, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- BEN JOSEPH GARZA JR., 25, of 4202 Parkway, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of theft.
- GLORIA GARZA, 47, of 4202 Parkway, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- ELIZABETH REYNA FLORES, 20, of 4202 Parkway, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of theft.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 200 block of FM 700.
 - in the 200 block of Marcy.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1000 Block of Main Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- TRACI RENE MARTINEZ, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- TERI LOUISE NALL, 47, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- MICHAEL DEAN NALL, 26, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- DELAND WAYNE SAVELL, 26, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of two counts of criminal mischief - impairing public communications.
- ASSAULT was reported in the 600 block of Culp.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- TRAUMA was reported in the 2600 block of Central at 10:31 a.m. Tuesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street at 6:49 p.m. Tuesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2000 block of Runnels at 3:32 p.m. Tuesday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2200 block of Monticello at 9:10 p.m. Tuesday. Service was refused.

□ HERITAGE MUSEUM is also accepting donations of costumes to be used with the new theme party area opening in May. Call the museum at 267-8255.

□ YELLOWDOG DARE DEVILS RELAY FOR LIFE FUND-RASIER offers individual-sized, heart-shaped cakes with a Valentine's message for \$4. Order and prepay before Feb. 9. Call the bus barn at 264-4108.

□ FRIENDS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY have scheduled a used book sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Thursday in the new building across from the White Ford Motor Company, near the post office. The sale benefits the restoration of a library building. For more information contact Bud Lindsey at 756-2306.

□ A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR 6-WEEK-OLD MAGGIE VASQUEZ TO ASSIST WITH THE EXPENSES OF A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT. She is the daughter of Susan Vasquez and Steve Nail of Big Spring. Maggie was born prematurely and suffers from kidney failure. She remains in Dallas Children's Hospital undergoing daily dialysis treatment until the transplant match is found and the surgery performed. The account number at the bank is 9013091. For more information, contact Parks Convenient Store at 263-4498 or Denise 816-1539.

□ RELAY RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ is 10 a.m. Feb. 19, 2005, in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, sponsored by Big Spring State Hospital's Relay for Life Team. Entry forms are available at the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third and KBST 608 Johnson. Entry deadline is Feb. 8, 2005. Any boy or girl between the ages of 1 day old to 11 years may participate.

□ THE FAR WEST BOYS HOME is in need of donations of household, office and recreational items to benefit boys 5-17 who are unable to live with their families due to abuse or neglect. Items needed include dressers, bunk beds, mattresses, cookware, recreational and exercise equipment, and a maintenance pickup, can or car. Cash donations to purchase these items are also appreciated. Far West is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. To arrange pick up of items or for more information, call 432-353-4464.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- 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.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- LULAC Chapter 4791 is set for 6 p.m. at the YMCA. Anyone interested in joining LULAC is encouraged to attend this meeting. For more information, contact Jennifer Patton at 816-1416 or Isabel Calderon at 466-1109.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad streets. Members may bring a lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

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.
- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon at La Posada Restaurant in the bar dining area. All members are encouraged to attend.
- Take Off Pounds 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 Off Pounds 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.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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NEWS

Grand jury in solicitation of FORT WORTH jury has indicted ing to hire a hit center.

Rebecca Lynn Wise County la solicitation of c Officials say finding a perm Shemane Watt October on the Bridgeport. Wa against Simps two doors from The person notified police, the Department cer, posing as Southlake and Simpson was later released o Wise County District Attorn from the case b with Simpson, partner with th Simpson's hu

Teen arrested

DALLAS (AP) 16-year-old bel fatal shooting t The suspect v an informant's released becau One police of et and had pac The shooting center parking killed Ruben J His stepfathe Methodist Dall A 14-year-old fily's sport-utilit Police say Ru of road rage, b Witnesses sa opposite direct said that he honked back. Dallas police out of his car a through the d struck Ruben. The gunman believe the att Police have r tie assault rifl

24-year-old n killing mothe MISSION (A accused of kill because she fl Nicholas Jac in the weekend Kenison in the Kenison is set Hidalgo Cou accused of bea putting a trash Sheriff Lup attacked the w of drugs. The victim's neighbor and l

Court orders

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Fed expects

interest rate WASHINGTON Alan Greensp kick off 2005 a series of m sure inflation Fed policy-1 meeting of the ly expected th sions the cen ter-point incr That would the funds rat other, since been at a 46-y The funds r

NEWS IN BRIEF

Grand jury indicts woman on solicitation of capital murder charges

FORT WORTH (AP) — A Tarrant County grand jury has indicted a Bridgeport woman accused of trying to hire a hit man to kill the co-owner of a fitness center.

Rebecca Lynn Simpson, married to a prominent Wise County lawyer, is awaiting trial on a charge of solicitation of capital murder.

Officials say Simpson approached someone about finding a permanent solution to her problems with Shemane Watts after the two got into a fight in October on the street near The Gym fitness center in Bridgeport. Watts filed misdemeanor assault charges against Simpson shortly after the fight, which was two doors from Simpson's husband's law office.

The person Simpson allegedly approached later notified police, who in turn told Texas Rangers and the Department of Public Safety. An undercover officer, posing as a hitman, then met with Simpson in Southlake and was hired, officials said.

Simpson was arrested Nov. 1 in Wise County and later released on \$1 million bail.

Wise County state District Judge John Fostel and District Attorney Jana Jones removed themselves from the case because of their longtime relationship with Simpson's husband, Ross Simpson, a senior partner with the law firm of Simpson and Boyd. Simpson's husband has filed for divorce.

Teen arrested in shooting death of boy

DALLAS (AP) — Police have taken into custody a 16-year-old believed to have been involved in the fatal shooting over the weekend of a 14-year-old boy.

The suspect was arrested Tuesday afternoon after an informant's tip. The suspect's name has not been released because he is a teen.

One police official said the suspect had a bus ticket and had packed his bags to leave the area.

The shooting, about 2 p.m. Sunday in a shopping center parking lot in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, killed Ruben Juarez.

His stepfather, Gilbert Garza, 25, was treated at Methodist Dallas Medical Center and later released. A 14-year-old friend of Ruben's also was in the family's sport-utility vehicle but was not injured.

Police say Ruben's killing may have been the result of road rage, but they continue to investigate.

Witnesses said the two vehicles were traveling in opposite directions when they nearly collided. Garza said that he honked at the car, and the other driver honked back.

Dallas police said the gunman got out, pulled a rifle out of his car and fired a single shot. The bullet went through the driver's-side window, hit Garza, then struck Ruben.

The gunman then drove away. Police say they believe the attacker's victims were random targets.

Police have not recovered the suspect's vehicle or the assault rifle used in the slaying.

24-year-old man accused of killing mother in drug dispute

MISSION (AP) — Authorities say a Mission man accused of killing his mother apparently was upset because she flushed his marijuana down the toilet.

Nicholas Jack Kenison, 24, is charged with murder in the weekend slaying of 50-year-old Gloria Abelina Kenison in the home they shared. Bond for Nicholas Kenison is set at \$500,000.

Hidalgo County sheriff's deputies said Kenison is accused of beating his mother with a crowbar, then putting a trash bag over her head.

Sheriff Lupe Trevino said Kenison allegedly attacked the woman because she destroyed his stash of drugs.

The victim's body was discovered Sunday by a neighbor and Nicholas Kenison was later arrested.

Court orders DNA test for tsunami 'Baby 81,' sparking struggle for baby in hospital

KALMUNAI, Sri Lanka (AP) — A judge's ruling Wednesday that a couple must undergo a DNA test to prove they are the parents of the tsunami survivor known as "Baby 81" sparked chaos in a hospital pediatric ward after a surging crowd and the would-be parents burst in and pleaded with doctors to release the infant.

After the court hearing, the man claiming to be the child's father cried out and threatened to kill himself, attempting to swallow an unknown white substance. The man and his wife, accompanied by friends and relatives, then walked to the hospital where Baby 81 is being kept and forced their way in.

"Here is my baby, look, look," shouted and cried Jenita Jeyarajah, 25, after forcibly entering the child's glass cubicle and picking him up. The father, Murugupillai Jeyarajah, 31, shielded his wife and the infant from the surging crowd.

"Please give us our baby," Jenita pleaded with the doctors on duty. She then fell on the feet of the head nurse and pleaded: "You are a mother. So am I. Give me my baby."

By then, between 70 and 100 people, most of them relatives and friends, started shouting at the doctors who had earlier testified in court that a DNA test was the best solution.

Fed expected to keep raising interest rates at measured pace

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues appear ready to kick off 2005 the way they ended 2004 — continuing a series of modest interest rate increases to make sure inflation stays in check.

Fed policy-makers were wrapping up their first meeting of the new year on Wednesday. It was widely expected that at the end of the two days of discussions the central bank will announce another quarter-point increase in the federal funds rate.

That would be the sixth quarter-point increase in the funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, since the first move last June when it had been at a 46-year low of 1 percent.

The funds rate now stands at 2.25 percent.

Punxsutawney Phil's prediction: more wintry weather yet to come

By DAN NEPHIN

Associated Press Writer

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP) — Punxsutawney Phil has spoken, and the news isn't good.

The world's most famous furry forecaster saw his shadow Tuesday on Gobbler's Knob, suggesting another six weeks of wintry weather.

The chubby critter delivered the prediction after he was pulled from his burrow in an oak stump at 7:31 a.m. by a top-hatted handler, and his prediction was greeted by boos from the thousands in attendance.

"He's only the messenger!" one of the members of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club — the volunteer group in charge of Phil and the town's Groundhog Day festivities — reminded the crowd braving the frigid weather.

In the years since The Punxsutawney Spirit first carried word of the groundhog's failing to see its shadow in 1886, this town of 7,500 people about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh has been dubbed the "Weather Capital of the World."

The tradition stems from the

Christian holiday of Candlemas, and the belief that if a hibernating animal sees its shadow, winter will last another six weeks. If there's no shadow, spring will come early.

That was the forecast from Lilburn, Ga., groundhog, Gen. Beauregard Lee, who did not see his shadow when he emerged as light rain fell this morning. Beau made his appearance with a female groundhog their handlers at Yellow River Game Ranch hope will produce offspring to continue the tradition if the aging prognosticator retires this year.

In Punxsutawney, an energetic crowd of about 2,000 people was already assembled by 3:30 a.m. Most were bundled against the cold, but at least one young woman braved the weather in a bikini top.

Nikki Wehrmann and her 9-year-old daughter, Arianne, had on layer upon layer as they huddled over coffee and hot chocolate. Arianne was taking the day off from school to see Phil, her mother said. They live in nearby DuBois.

"We considered this an educational purpose," said Wehrmann,

who told her daughter about the history of Groundhog Day and plans to have Arianne do a project on the event.

"And anything that brings 20,000 or 30,000 people on some years we have to do it at least once," Wehrmann said.

Resident Sue Lingenfelter said the annual frenzy, and just how famous Phil is, still amazes her.

"I just placed a catalog order yesterday and the guy said to me, 'Is your town ready to go crazy?'" she said.

Ward Brown, 50, and his sister Suzy Fulkerson, 41, came from Sparta, Ill., although they tied the trip in with a visit to their sister, who recently moved to nearby DuBois.

"It was a good excuse to visit her," said Brown, who was toting a \$75 stump of wood a craftsman had carved into the shape of a groundhog sporting a top hat.

According to the Punxsutawney club, Phil saw his shadow for the 95th time. He hasn't seen his shadow 14 times; nine years have no record of the outcome.

TXU seeks bids on gas-fired power plants

DALLAS (AP) — TXU

Corp. said Tuesday that it plans to contract out the power from many plants or sell the facilities outright in a move that would affect 61 percent of its gas-fired capacity in Texas.

The gas-fired units involved are capable of generating 6,214 megawatts, or enough power for about 6 million homes, according to energy-industry guidelines.

The company asked bidders to indicate their

interest by Feb. 7.

Richard Wistrand, senior vice president of the TXU Power division, said selling the plants would help the company remain competitively priced in the deregulated Texas electricity market. Wistrand said the market is strong, creating an opportunity for TXU to see whether there are interested buyers for the plants.

TXU asked for bids to buy the power generated at nine units that it had

already indicated it would no longer run for its own use. They can produce 2,744 megawatts of power and are located in Hood, Ward and Mitchell counties.

The Dallas-based company could shutter the plants if it can't find someone to buy the power they produce. A TXU spokesman said the company would work with regulators to avoid disrupting electric supplies.

TXU said that for another group of about 20

plants it would take bids for the power they generate or for the units themselves. Those plants, located in Dallas, Tarrant, Collin, Henderson, McLennan, Nolan and Fannin counties, can produce 3,470 megawatts, TXU said.

The company hired Navigant Consulting Inc. as its adviser in the sale.

TXU shares rose 13 cents, to \$69.33 — a 52-week high — in trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Abu Ghraib guard pleads guilty in Iraqi prison abuse scandal

FORT HOOD (AP) — Sgt. Javal Davis knew all along he was wrong to step on the hands and feet of prisoners at Abu Ghraib on a warm night in November 2003. None of his superiors told him to do it, he said, he simply snapped under job stress.

Davis, a former guard at the Baghdad prison, recounted daily mortar attacks and hostile detainees armed with homemade knives. On the night in question, he said he got mad when a female guard was hit in the face with a brick thrown by a prisoner.

"It just got to me," he told a judge Tuesday. "I just lost it."

Davis, 27, pleaded guilty Tuesday to battery and two other charges in the Iraqi prison abuse scandal as part of a deal with prosecutors on the eve of his trial. Selection of a jury to decide his sentence began Wednesday

morning.

He also pleaded guilty to dereliction of duty and making a false official statement to Army investigators after photographs of naked and abused prisoners became public last spring. Davis, from Roselle, N.J., will not be tried on two other charges, conspiracy and mistreating detainees.

Defense attorney Paul Bergin told The Associated Press last week that Davis was working on a deal with prosecutors that would cap his possible sentence at 18 months.

Capt. Chuck Neill, a prosecution spokesman, would not comment on the sentencing.

Neill said the jury's sentence recommendation will be compared to the deal offered to Davis, and the lesser sentence will be served.

"We intend to present a very, very aggressive sentencing trial such that

this panel will give him no punishment at all," Bergin said, adding Davis will likely testify during the hearing.

In a separate hearing Tuesday, an Army reservist in a military intelligence unit was sentenced to 10 months after pleading guilty to conspiracy and mistreating detainees at the prison.

Spc. Roman Krol, 23, of Randolph, Mass., admitted pouring water on the naked detainees in October 2003, forcing them to crawl around the prison and throwing a foam football at them while they were hand-

cuffed on the floor.

Krol said other Abu Ghraib guards were present at the time, and that Pvt. Charles Graner, the alleged ringleader of the abuse, made the detainees do jumping jacks while naked. Graner was convicted last month for his role in the scandal and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

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EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Attending banquet good way to say thanks to Chamber

The annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Some people undoubtedly are greeting that news with a shrug and a, "so what?"

Why, those folks are asking, should we care? Why should we attend? Why should we shell out \$25 of our hard-earned dollars for a meal and a few speeches?

We should care about what the Chamber does because it affects us directly. Chamber officials do more than just attend ribbon-cuttings and distribute city maps. They are among this community's leading advocates, showing visitors that Big Spring is much more than just a stop in the road between El Paso and Dallas. They also advocate Big Spring and Howard County as good places to open new business, a subject that should interest all of us greatly.

If nothing else, attending the banquet will be a good way for us to show our thanks to the Chamber and its members for serving us and our community.

ADDRESSES

• GEORGE W. BUSH

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Washington, D.C.

• JOHN CORNYN

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Phone: 202-224-2934

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• RICK PERRY

Governor
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BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL

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GREG BIDDISON — Home: 267-6009; Work (Greg's Grill): 267-7121.

W.A. "WOODY" JUMPER — Home: 263-0782; Work (BSSH): 267-8216.

STEPHANIE HORTON — Home: 264-0306; Work (VA Medical Center): 263-7361.

JOANN STAULCUP — Home: 263-4980.

GLORIA McDONALD — Home: 263-4835.

JOANN KNOX — Home: 816-9083; Work (BSISD): 264-3635.

Colors of the sea: Amazing Panorama

When you cruise out of New Orleans, the muddy Mississippi is a blend of khaki colors. It stays that way for a hundred and twenty miles down the delta until you reach the point where the river empties into the Gulf of Mexico. We left at sunset and the colors of the sky were reflected in the water. There were shades of pink, blue, crimson and gold. As darkness fell, the water turned black with a silver path of moonlight stretching to the horizon. The foam on top of the waves was white, providing an ethereal panorama.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

As morning developed, the black water had shades of copper as the sun made its way upward into the sky. While we stood at the railing, a dancing rainbow appeared just above the water. The red, yellow

and green apparition was in contrast to the dark color of the water. Later, during the first day of the cruise, schools of flying fish the color of platinum played alongside the ship.

By noon, the water became a shimmering, silver sea. At mid afternoon the water was a deep, dark blue, the color only found on large bodies of water. The ship left a trail of light green with white highlights.

When we docked at Cozumel, the western Caribbean displayed its best colors: dazzling aquamarine close to shore, a rich light blue that turned darker as the water got deeper.

But the water closest to the beach wasn't just one color. It had at least a dozen hues of green and blue. In shallow areas, the sea showcased the pure whiteness of the sandy bottom, the rusty red of the coral reef and the unbelievable bright yellows, blacks, reds and blues of tropical fish.

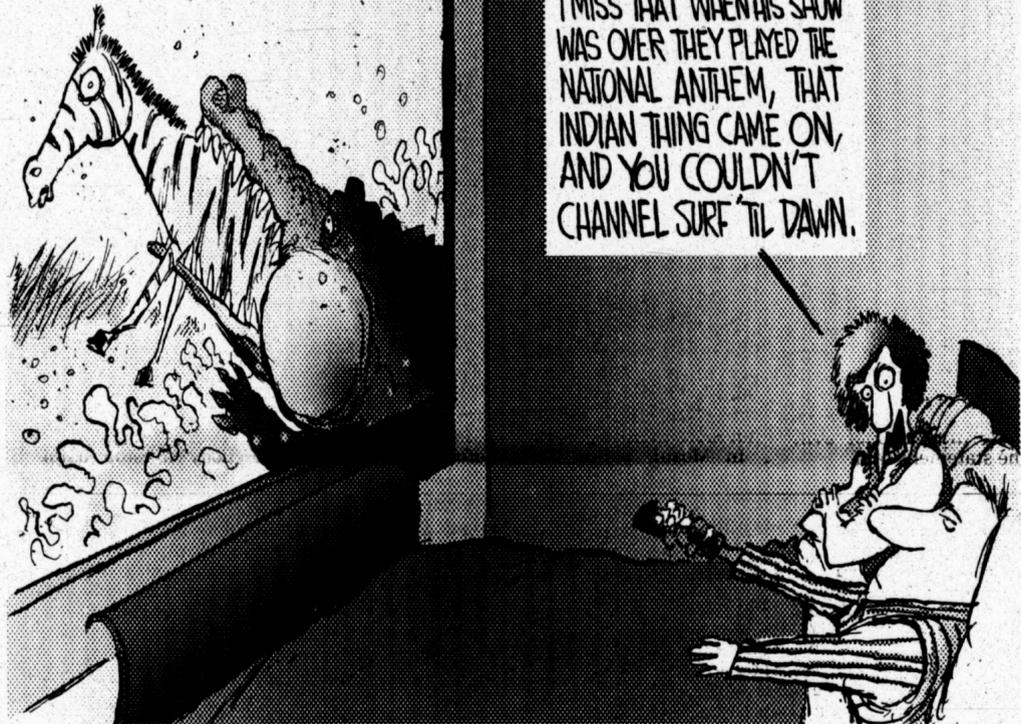
We stopped for a day at Roatan, a place I had never heard of

before. It's an island off Honduras. The temperature was ninety degrees outside but the white sand was cool and almost moist, just right for walking on the beach and squishing your toes in the silky sand. The water was glass-clear and again had the color of a tropical paradise.

At Belize, we didn't spend much time on the water. We explored Mayan ruins. We did the same thing at Cancun, a city with a surprising population of nearly a million people. While looking at the ruins on a hill, two palm trees provided a perfect frame to view the beautiful water.

Returning to New Orleans, the ship passed over some rough, angry seas. The clouds were black and gray and we went through rainstorms with streaks of lightning and roaring thunder. The water was black and fierce, with mist dancing off the tops of giant waves. When we docked at New Orleans, the city was covered in snow. We picked a good time to travel to warm places.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL ©2005
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Iraq: Optimism versus wisdom

Here's hoping. The trouble with being a congenital optimist is that gloom-mongering feels so uncomfortable. The election in Iraq Sunday, like the one in Afghanistan last year, was moving, inspiring and hopeful. When there's a ray of light breaking through in a dark sky, I'd much rather concentrate on the ray than the black clouds.



MOLLY IVINS

But mitigating my optimism is the fact that I've been around for a long time. Not that longevity is any guarantee of wisdom, but it does provide perspective. I can remember when they had elections in Vietnam that looked hopeful in 1967. I can remember the elections in El Salvador in 1984. And I remember last year's election in Afghanistan, with the almost unbearably moving sight of Afghani women coming out to vote. Still, it didn't kill off a single raping warlord, did it?

In Iraq alone, we've been through "mission accomplished," then the violence would end once we captured Saddam Hussein, then the all-important handover of sovereignty that would make all the difference and next the destruction of Fallujah that was going to break the insurgency. (Well, it did destroy Fallujah.) Someday, we will actually capture al-Zarqawi, and I bet we find doesn't make much difference either.

I really don't like accentuating the negative, but I also don't like spin, especially after what we've been through with this adminis-

tration and the truth about Iraq. It isn't helpful to write off 175 terrorist attacks on the day of the election as "relative calm." It isn't helpful to claim there was a 72 percent turnout rate and then have it fall overnight to 57 percent. It isn't helpful to set low expectations, then boast about doing "better than expected." And we also still don't know what we've got here.

We're potentially looking at an anti-American Shiite government that signs right up with the mul-lahs in Iran. What do we do then, re-invade?

I'm having a hard time believing this next one is true. Judith Miller of The New York Times, who was responsible for much of that paper's lousy reporting before the war, said on "Hardball with Chris Matthews" that the American government is angling to get Ahmad Chalabi a top government post in the Iraqi cabinet. If true, someone not only needs his head examined, but should also be indicted for malfeasance. Chalabi is, of course, the noted crook and Iranian spy who fed this administration so much bad information before the war he should be considered a pariah for that alone.

That said, it was still pretty thrilling, wasn't it? God bless them. I hope they're going to make it after all. Meanwhile, back in Afghanistan — which we dropped like a hot rock to go after a nation that not only had not done us any harm, but didn't even present the threat of harm — all is not tickety-boo. Opium is once again the country's most important product, and the Taliban is still around. Al Qaeda, the people who did attack us, are also still around. Warlordism still rules in

most of the country. And perhaps saddest of all, so little attention is paid.

We came in like gangbusters and promised the earth — we were going to nation-build, put in infrastructure, all that good stuff — and it got siphoned away to Iraq, including \$700 million that had been appropriated for Afghanistan, according to Bob Woodward.

The good news (can't help myself) is that we did Afghanistan right, if you will recall — went in with pretty much global backing and the support of all our allies. And they're still there helping out, 8,300 NATO troops, including the French, the Germans and the rest of "old Europe." Some of the country is secure enough for the NGOs (non-governmental organizations) to function there. The commitments are starting to dwindle down now, but it's still more help than we had in Iraq.

Unlike Iraq, we've actually got some construction projects going (there was nothing to reconstruct in Afghanistan) and should be able to celebrate a highway opening before long.

I don't know whether these fairly dismal twin tales should be considered the alpha and omega of Bush's policy of exporting the shining light of liberty via military invasion, but at least we can learn from our mistakes — and if there ever is a next time, we could try doing it right.

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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IRAQ

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GALA

Continued from Page 1A

against heart disease and stroke and is open to the public. Tickets are \$15 per person or \$25 per couple, and according to Roever, will be on sale within the next few weeks.

"We don't have the tickets printed yet," said Roever. "We expect to get them within the next couple of weeks. If anyone has any questions, they are more than welcome to contact me."

According to information released by the AHA, coronary heart disease is the number

one killer of all Americans.

"The gala brings attention to the threat heart disease and stroke pose to both men and women," said Roever. "It also creates a call-to-action for people to commit to living a heart-healthy lifestyle. People in the Big Spring area that have battled heart disease, had heart

surgery or have suffered the effects of a stroke are encouraged to attend."

Roever said sponsorship opportunities are also available for area residents and business owners who would like to support the AHA's heart-worthy cause.

The 2004 gala raised approxi-

mately \$15,000. The fund-raising goal for the upcoming event has been set at \$18,000.

For more information on the gala, contact Roever at 264-2271.

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

CRIME

Continued from Page 1A

value of the items lost in those burglaries dropped as well, from \$470,555 reported in 2003 to \$310,447 last year.

Larcenies dropped 20 percent over the past year, from 682 reported in 2003 to 549 in 2004. While the difference in the number of reports was marginal, the value of the items taken was less than half that of the previous year — \$329,532 reported in 2003 dropping to

\$133,513 in 2004.

Among specific larceny charges, shoplifting saw the greatest decrease, dropping from 102 reports in 2003 to 40 reports in 2004. While the number of shoplifting reports dropped dramatically, the value of the items rose from \$6,293 in 2003 to \$6,868 in 2004.

"There are a lot of things that can come into play when you look at the correlation between robbery reports and something like shoplifting," said Smith. "A simple shoplifting charge can turn into a robbery charge if the suspect hits

or pushes someone while taking the property. While you may see a drop in one, that usually points to an increase in the other."

The number of motor vehicles stolen dropped only marginally, from 41 vehicles valued at \$320,945 taken in 2003 to 34 vehicles valued at \$269,568 in 2004.

Family violence saw a slight increase, with 178 cases reported in 2004 up from the 174 reported in 2003.

Reports of public intoxication rose 23 percent during the past year, with 337 reported in 2004 while

261 were reported in 2003.

Increases were also reported for drug seizures — 96.2 ounces were recovered in 2003 and 200.9 ounces recovered in 2004. Cocaine seizures jumped 64 percent, with 20.9 ounces seized last year, while just 7.53 ounces was recovered in 2003.

"We had a major drug seizure during 2004," said Smith. "That's why those numbers are up. In comparison, we had four state drug sales arrests in 2003, compared to none in 2004."

Reports of drug possession rose 20 percent last year, up from 98 reported

in 2003 to 122 in 2004.

The value of property stolen during 2004 dropped 22 percent, with the \$1.1 million reported in 2003 declining to \$865,733 in 2004. The Police Department managed to recover \$309,819 in property in 2003. Last year that figure dropped to \$265,268, a 14 percent decrease.

The number of assaults reported in Big Spring fell 11 percent, with 75 reported in 2003 and 67 reported in 2004.

Total arrests for the Big Spring Police Department were down slightly last year, with 1,723 arrests

recorded in 2003 and 1,614 reported in 2004, translating into a 6 percent drop.

Smith said the drop in the number of crimes reported is encouraging on one hand, but leaves room for some concern.

"If the number of reports are down because fewer crimes are being committed, then I'm very pleased," said Smith. "However, if the number of reports is down because people simply aren't reporting them, it raises a great deal of concern. I hope this doesn't reflect that people have lost confidence in the police or judicial system."

IRAQ

Continued from Page 1A

lowed by the Kurds and a list headed by interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite.

The Association said the election "lacks legitimacy because a large portion of these people who represent many spectra have boycotted it." As a result, the Association said the new leadership lacked a mandate to draft a new constitution and should be considered a temporary administration.

"We make it clear to the United Nations and the international community that they should not get involved in granting this election legitimacy because such a move will open the gates of evil," the statement said.

"We are going to respect the choice of those who voted and we will consider the new government — if all the parties participating in the political process agree on it — as a transitional government with limited powers."

Official voter turnout figures have yet to be released, but a Western diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity Wednesday said turnout appeared to have been "quite low" in Iraq's vast Anbar province, which includes the rebellious cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

He said that based on anecdotal accounts, turnout in three other provinces with large Sunni Arab populations was slightly higher but not more than 50 percent. In Mosul, police Gen.

Mohammed Ahmed al-Jubouri offered amnesty to insurgents who handed over their weapons within two weeks but promised tough action if they did not. In an interview with the provincial television station, al-Jubouri threatened "to wipe out any village that would hide weapons after the two-week period and shell any safe haven for the insurgents."

The U.S. Army handed over control Wednesday of several combat outposts to Iraqi security forces on the west side of Mosul.

Mosul has been tense since insurgents rose up in November in support of rebels under siege in Fallujah west of Baghdad. The entire 5,000 member police force deserted before U.S. and Iraqi

troops regained control.

Insurgents blew up an oil pipeline today near the central city of Samarra, police said. The pipeline serves domestic power stations in Baghdad and Beiji and does not affect exports.

An Iraqi motorist was shot dead on the main desert highway west of Baghdad Wednesday. A witness claimed U.S. troops opened fire when the vehicle tried to overtake an American military convoy. U.S. vehicles have often been targeted by car bombers who ram convoys.

A U.S. Army spokesman said he had no immediate information on the shooting.

Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations on Tuesday urged the world body to stop using the

country's oil revenue to pay compensation to Kuwaiti victims of the 1991 Gulf War and the salaries of U.N. weapons inspectors.

The payments were mandated under resolutions approved by the U.N. Security Council after a U.S.-led coalition drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in 1991.

"I think it's generally acknowledged that Iraq now does not pose such a threat and does not in its present form have any weapons of mass destruction," Ambassador Samir Sumaidaie said. "And, therefore, to continue to fund a bureaucracy to do what, to just continue to say every day that they have found nothing?"

POPE

Continued from Page 1A

God's sake!" and he ruled out any need for a tracheotomy.

Navarro-Valls said that as he was leaving the hospital, the pope's secretary was celebrating Mass in the hospital room and that John Paul was concelebrating from his bed. Navarro-Valls said he didn't know whether the pope had eaten any

breakfast.

"I'm going home, the situation is calm," Navarro-Valls told reporters. "There is no reason for alarm."

He characterized Tuesday night's hurried admission to a special papal suite on the 10th floor of the hospital as "mainly precautionary" for the pope, who also suffers from Parkinson's disease. Trying to appear reassuring, Navarro-Valls even joked at one point that John

Paul was taken by ambulance to the hospital because "the subway doesn't go that far."

John Paul was first examined in the emergency room before being taken to his hospital suite, Italian TV and news agency reports said.

Navarro-Valls, who has a medical degree, said the pope has the flu and acute laryngeal tracheitis — inflammation of the trachea, a breathing passage — and had a "certain difficulty in breathing."

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**A rosy picture for
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FEBRUARY 2005

Library News

One of the many services that Howard County Library provides to the citizens of Big Spring is the proctoring of tests and/or exams.

Many people, such as real estate professionals or appraisers, must have what is called continuing education credits or CE hours.



HOLLIS MCCRIGHT

Many times it may be reviewing various aspects of their chosen field, and then taking a test that is sent into the licensing agency. As a librarian, I must have 10 hours of CE credit.

How proctoring works is that the person requesting it sends my name and address to the agency. In turn, the agency sends me the exam; I call the person and tell him/her that the test is in and then we set a time for that person to take the exam.

The test is taken; I mail it back in a pre-paid envelope and the deed is done. Some parents have their children enrolled in school through Texas Tech University and I proctor those exams as well. This is just another service that your library provides to those who need it.

Do you remember the book, "Portnoy's Complaint," by Philip Roth? I remember trying to read it and finally just

giving up. I guess I could not identify with the character, as the book is one long rant about the joys and (more heavily) the anguishes of growing up Jewish in America in the 40s and 50s.

Roth has written "The Plot Against America" (New Book shelf) and its plot is a what if scenario. It is 1940 and Charles Lindbergh has been elected president.

He signs an accommodation agreement with Hitler and begins to segregate the Jews. This is accomplished by relocation effort made through the Office of American Absorption, a government program whereby Jews would be placed, family by family, across the nation, thereby breaking up their neighborhoods — ghettos — and removing them from each other and from any kind of ethnic solidarity.

The impact this edict has on Philip and all around him is horrific and life-changing. Throughout the novel, Roth interweaves historical names such as Walter Winchell, who tries to run against Lindbergh. The twist at the end is more than surprising, it is positively ingenious. This is an interesting book.

On the other end of the spectrum, some Sandra Brown books have arrived. Some are donated and others are newly published. Titles are: "White Hot"; "Sunny Chandler's Return" and "Hello, Darkness." Olivia Goldsmith has a new book out, "Dumping

Billy." Remember, she wrote "The First Wives Club."

Another copy of "Friday Night Lights," (796.332 BIS H) by H.G. Bissinger has been received, and no, we haven't received the movie/DVD version of it yet.

I suppose if Barbara Bush's dog Millie can write a book, then Reveille can too.

"Reveille: First Lady of Texas A&M," (378.764 BUR R) by Rusty and Vanessa Burson is an illustrated history of Reveille, the mascot of Texas A&M University. Guess Bevo will be the next (ahem) person to write a book about UT.

Wait a minute, what about the Baylor Bears? The Rice Owls? Arkansas Razorback? The mind boggles at the thought!

The library has a copy of Kay Bailey Hutchison's "American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country" (920.720 HUT K). Be sure and read about Marj Carpenter on page 63.

Patti Davis has written a book about her father, Ronald Reagan. Titled "The Long Goodbye," (973.927 DAV P) it talks about the toll that Alzheimer's has both on the person and the family.

Did you know that Texas had POW camps during WW II? Nearly 50,000 German POWs lived and worked at 70 camps here in Texas. Camp Hearne, near the city of Hearne, was one of the largest camps in Texas and the "U.S. Lone

Star Stalag: German Prisoner of War at Camp Hearne," (940.547 WAT M) by Michael Waters tells their story. This book was reviewed in the Dallas Morning News Jan. 30.

After more than 20 years of living in obscurity, Gary Ridgway was arrested and convicted for being the Green River killer. Ann Rule, queen of the true crime books, has written "Green River, Running Red" (364.152 RUL A). A chilling story is all that I can say about it. It is so far beyond my imagina-

tion for anyone to be that evil.

More Non-Fiction: "ATV Handbook," (629.287 CHI A) by Chilton; "Grace and Power: Private World of the Kennedy White House," (973.922 SMI S) "Winning 42" 795.32 ROB D) about strategies on playing the dominoes game of 42; Stephen Covey's book "The Eighth Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness" (158 COV S) and "Your Best Life Now: Seven Steps to Living at Your Full Potential," (248.4 OST J) by Joel Osteen.

Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The internet/video room closes one-half hour earlier than the library and is closed Saturdays it is closed from noon until 1 p.m. The library is located at 500 S. Main St.; the phone number is 264-2260; the Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; the online catalog should be working.

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.

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Getting Back to Your Roots

Dear Betty, I had some delicious winter vegetables at a restaurant, but I'm not familiar with them or how to fix them at home. Please fill me in.

Atlantic City, N.J.

• Winter or root vegetables are old-fashioned mealtime mainstays being rediscovered by a new generation of cooks and chefs! Appreciated for their flavor, texture, color and versatility, root vegetables are available year-round, but they're especially delicious when served with heartier winter fare. Some root vegetables are:

Beets. Their ruby-red or golden-yellow color alone brightens a winter meal. Boil fresh beets until fork tender, peel, slice and serve simply with butter, salt, pepper and a pinch of orange zest.

Or toss them in a sweet-

sour glaze. In a saucepan, stir together 2 tablespoons each of cornstarch and sugar with 1 teaspoon salt and a dash of pepper. Gradually stir in 1 1/3 cups water and 1/2 cup vinegar. Stir constantly until the glaze thickens and boils. Boil for 1 minute, then add sliced beets.

Parsnips. Looking like ivory-colored carrots, parsnips are pleasantly sweet and a tasty accompaniment to pork. Use them as you would carrots in stews and soups.

Rutabagas. Sometimes mistaken for turnips, rutabagas are large, round and pale yellow. Boil or steam them, then mash as you would potatoes. Stir in minced garlic or chopped green onions to dress them up.

Turnips. Beet-like in shape, turnips are creamy white with purple-tinged tops. Choose smaller turnips for the best flavor

Ask BETTY

and texture. Try cubing them for stir-fries or cut them into strips and toss with field greens.

I asked my friend Art Smith, Oprah's personal chef, how he likes to prepare root vegetables. He prefers keeping it simple, such as roasting.

Roast root vegetables in a hot oven — 400 to 450°F. Cut a medley of peeled parsnips, carrots, potatoes and turnips into 1- to 2-inch pieces and place in a single layer in a shallow baking pan. Drizzle with olive oil and, if you like, toss with finely chopped garlic and dried rosemary or herbes de Provence. Roast, stirring once or twice, until the veggies are tender when poked with a fork, about 20 minutes.

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Monday, February 14, 2005



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BIG SPRING HERALD

Take

Recently, helping I reclaim Yahoo e-account after a hi attack disabled it him what his pas was, and he said couldn't remembe about 30 seconds caffeine-induced I tried the first th came to mind — his daughter's first name.

Bingo. That little incident reminded me just how easy it can be to crack open a person's password with just a little knowl them as a person. week, let's take a look at our online ty and how it appl passwords.

Believe it or not of-the-mill cyber-c can crack most pa words with nothin than some person: mation readily ava through the Intern in the above ment case, just a few na Background inform on just about anyo floating around th ready for anyone v to shell out an ave \$5 for it. It include everything from y Social Security nu to the names, ages dates of birth of yc children.

Can you see the c yet? For a number of used a portion of n Social Security nu for passwords, som experts warn again Anyone with acces that number could easily broken my p word and gained ac to my information. Someone wants a to my Hotmail acco So what?

That may seem li valid response, unt consider this: I use same password for online banking, my it card account and ATM card. Although so much easier to t same password wit of the security need bare in mind if a ce al figures out one word, they now hav access to several di ent aspects of your Although you can tect your password: percent, there are a things you can do t greatly lessen the c of unwanted visitor your online — and line, for that matter information.

The object when c ing a password is to make it as difficult possible for a cyber inal to make educat guesses about what you've chosen. This leaves him no alteri but a brute-force se trying every possibl combination of lette numbers, and puncti on. A search of th sort, even conducte machine that could one million passwor per second (most machines can try le than one hundred p second), would requ on the average, ove hundred years to co

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Take another look at your PaSsWoRd

Recently, I was helping a friend reclaim his Yahoo e-mail account after a hack-attack disabled it. I asked him what his password was, and he said he couldn't remember. After about 30 seconds of hard, caffeine-induced thought, I tried the first thing that came to mind — his daughter's first name.



THOMAS JENKINS

Bingo. That little incident reminded me just how easy it can be to crack open a person's password with just a little knowledge of them as a person. So this week, let's take a hard look at our online-security and how it applies to passwords.

Believe it or not, a run-of-the-mill cyber-criminal can crack most passwords with nothing more than some personal information readily available through the Internet (or in the above mentioned case, just a few names). Background information on just about anyone is floating around the net, ready for anyone willing to shell out an average of \$5 for it. It includes everything from your Social Security number to the names, ages and dates of birth of your children.

Can you see the danger yet? For a number of years I used a portion of my Social Security number for passwords, something experts warn against. Anyone with access to that number could have easily broken my password and gained access to my information.

Someone wants access to my Hotmail account? So what? That may seem like a valid response, until you consider this: I used the same password for my online banking, my credit card account and my ATM card. Although it's so much easier to use the same password with all of the security needs, bare in mind if a criminal figures out one password, they now have access to several different aspects of your life.

Although you can't protect your passwords 100 percent, there are a few things you can do to greatly lessen the chance of unwanted visitors to your online — and off-line, for that matter — information.

The object when choosing a password is to make it as difficult as possible for a cyber-criminal to make educated guesses about what you've chosen. This leaves him no alternative but a brute-force search, trying every possible combination of letters, numbers, and punctuation. A search of this sort, even conducted on a machine that could try one million passwords per second (most machines can try less than one hundred per second), would require, on the average, over one hundred years to com-

plete.

What not to use:
— Don't use your login name in any form (as-is, reversed, capitalized, doubled, etc.).

— Don't use your first or last name in any form.

— Don't use your spouse's or child's name.

— Don't use other information easily obtained about you. This includes license plate numbers, telephone numbers, Social Security numbers, the brand of your automobile, the name of the street you live on, etc.

— Don't use a password of all digits, or all the same letter. This significantly decreases the search time for a hacker.

— Don't use a word contained in (English or foreign language) dictionaries, spelling lists, or other word lists.

— Don't use a password shorter than six characters.

Now that's we've gone through the list of nos, here are a few things you can do to defeat password hackers:

— Do use a password with mixed-case alphabetic characters. For eXaMplE.

— Do use a password with non-alphabetic char-

acters, e.g., digits or punctuation.

— Do use a password that is easy to remember, so you don't have to write it down.

— Do use a password that you can type quickly, without having to look at the keyboard. This makes it harder for someone to steal your password by watching over your shoulder.

Here are a few password ideas that are sure to foil most password thieves:

— Choose a line or two from a song or poem, and use the first letter of each word. For example, "In Xanadu did Kubla Kahn a stately pleasure dome decree" becomes "IXdKKaspdd."

— Alternate between one consonant and one or two vowels, up to eight characters. This provides nonsense words that are usually pronounceable, and thus easily remembered. Examples include "routboo," "quadpop," and so on.

If your list of passwords looks anything like mine, and you flat refuse to further expose yourself by using the same password for everything, then you may find yourself with a serious

information management problem (that's a fancy term for not being able to find anything on your desk).

Luckily, there are plenty of products, both software and hardware, to help alleviate this problem. Of course the most obvious answer is to

write them down (this is a security no-no according to experts, but memory is a precious thing these days). If you decide to take this route, be sure to keep them in a safe and secure place.

In the end, password-based security can hurt us almost as much as it

helps us. Don't make it easy on the cyber-criminals. If they want your passwords, make them work for them.

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



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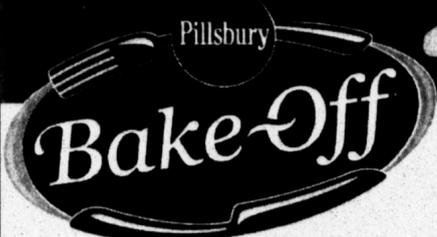
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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Wednesday, February 2, 2005

IN LINE

Howard College
The Howard College rodeo team has its 10th annual fundraiser for Thursday and Friday. The event will start at 1 p.m. and take place on the campus of Howard College and throughout the community. The fund-raiser involves sending and removing goats. For more information, call Howard coach Greg Kernick at 818-9477.

Sportsman Club sets M1 Garand match
The Western Sportsman Club has announced an M1 Garand match will take place Sunday at the Western Sportsman Club range, beginning at 1:30 p.m. It will be a 30 round match at 200 yards. The cost is \$6 and eligible rifles include: the M1 Garand, M1 Carbine and 1903 A3. There will also be loaner rifles and ammo for people that want to shoot. For more information, contact Vic Coats at 263-1345.

Coahoma's softball 'Alumni Day' set
Coahoma head softball coach Robby Dickenson has announced the team will have an 'Alumni Day' game. The game will feature this year's upcoming team against the Coahoma softball alumni. For more information, contact Dickenson at the Coahoma ISD at 894-4536.

NHL labor talks to continue Wednesday
NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL and the players' association will hold their next round of labor talks Wednesday in yet another undisclosed location. Only Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, and outside counsel Bob Battersman were expected to represent the league, while NHLPA senior director Ted Saskin and attorney John McCambridge will take part for the players' association. Trevor Linden, the players' association president, New Jersey Devils president and general manager Lou Lamonica, and Barley Horvath, the chairman of the NHL board of governors, are not expected to be part of Wednesday's meeting after sitting in last week.

Coahoma LL sets up cleaning day at home
The Coahoma Little League will hold a work/clean-up day Saturday starting at 9 a.m. at the Little League field in Coahoma. All parents of children that will be playing this year are

Bearkats, Lady 'Kats run past district rival Sands

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor
GARDEN CITY — Both Garden City basketball teams kept rival Sands reeling Tuesday as the Bearkats and Lady Kats were able to record easy wins in District 7-A action. The Bearkats took charge early in both halves and cruised to a 60-44 win, while the Lady Kats used strong second and third quarters and

rolled past the Lady Mustangs, 55-38.

BOYS
Garden City (12-14, 6-2) jumped out to a six-point first quarter lead and outscored its rival 18-6 in the third quarter. Sands won the second and fourth by two points, but the margin was not near enough to win. The loss drops the Mustangs' district record to 1-7.

Garden City senior Chais Goodwin scored a game-high 21 points, while Cory Multer added 15. Evan Jansa and Taylor Niehues each hit three 3-pointers in the game. Jansa finished with 12 points, while Niehues added nine. Junior Santos Ybarra led Sands with 15 points. Senior Marcelo Barraza added eight points in the loss.

GIRLS
The Lady Kats had no trouble with rival Sands. After a two-point first quarter difference, the Lady Kats outscored the Lady Mustangs 44-29 in the final three quarters to capture the victory. The senior duo of Megan Niehues and Erin Hirt led Garden City (25-4, 6-2) with 20 and 16 points, respectively. Sands drops to 7-21 overall and 0-8 in District 7-A

action. The win propels Garden City into second place in the district after Grady fell to district-leading Klondike Tuesday. Klondike is 8-0 in district action, while Garden City is two games back. Both Garden City teams travel to Gail Friday to take on district rival Borden County at 6:30 p.m. (girls) and 8 p.m. (boys). Sands travels to rival Grady.

Bulldogs hold off Buffaloes, Lady Buffs get by Coahoma

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor
STANTON — Despite trailing at halftime Tuesday on the road at rival Stanton, the Coahoma boy's basketball team found a way to win as they pulled off a 45-42 District 4-2A victory. The Stanton girl's basketball team held the Bulldogettes to single digits in every quarter and came away with an upset victory in district play, 30-20.

BOYS
Coahoma jumped out to an 11-9 lead before Stanton captured the lead at the half, 21-18.

The Bulldogs regained the lead in the second half and held on to win its fifth district game. Coahoma outscored Stanton 12-8 in the third quarter, which gave them a one-point advantage heading into the final frame. Tyler Fowler led Coahoma (18-8, 5-1) with 11 points, while Adrian Abrego finished with 10. Matthew Ruiz hit four 3-pointers and led Stanton (11-12, 2-4) with 14 points before fouling out. Sophomore Michael Washington added 11 points.

GIRLS
A defensive struggle turned out to be a victory for the Lady Buffaloes as Stanton pulled off a mild upset at home against rival Coahoma. The Lady Buffaloes held Coahoma to single digits in all four quarters, including two points in the second frame. Coahoma (9-17, 4-4) jumped out to a 6-5 first quarter lead before Stanton outscored the Bulldogettes 25-14 during the final three quarters. Stormie Dugan led all scorers with 11 points, while Ashley Gutierrez added six points for Stanton (12-14, 3-5).

Junior Sterling Gee led Coahoma with six points, 10 rebounds, two blocks and two assists, while senior Mendy Morgan added six points, 10 rebounds and two steals. Stanton will host Colorado City Friday, while Coahoma is at home against district rival Anson. Both girl's games will start at 6:30 p.m., while the boy's will tip-off around 8 p.m.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring junior Codye Burt unleashes a prayer in the closing seconds of the Lady Steers' loss against rival Frenship Tuesday at the Steer Gym.

Senior ruins Frenship spoils seniors' final home game

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor
A typical strong first quarter Tuesday led to a similar result at the end of the game for the Lady Steers. The Big Spring girl's basketball team jumped out to a 13-12 first quarter lead and then folded things up in the final three quarters, getting outscored 51-25. Big Spring lost the game 65-38 and remained winless in District 4-4A action. "We played a marvelous first quarter," said Big Spring coach Tim Van Hecke. "The girls executed the gameplan and really played great defense the entire game." The Lady Steers outscored Frenship in the first and fourth quarters, but a turnover hurt Big Spring's chances of winning. "The turnovers killed us again," said Van Hecke. "We continue to hurt ourselves in that category. Whenever we needed a basket we just gave the ball to them." Van Hecke's defensive

plan was to try to limit Frenship's best player from scoring. Ashleigh Brady finished with 14 points, but did not score in the first quarter. "Raegan's (Ritchey) defense on her in the first quarter was fantastic," Van Hecke said. Unfortunately, Big Spring had to deal with Brady the entire game despite the large Frenship lead as the Tigers' starters remained on the floor for much of the final quarter. "I really don't know what anyone else does because I am trying to focus on what I have to do with my team," said Van Hecke. Junior Carmen Lewis led Big Spring with 12 points, but eight of those points came in the first quarter. Two more came in the second quarter — a quarter in which Big Spring was outscored 24-6. Ritchey, a junior, added 10 points, while senior Alex Watkins finished with six points in her

Too tall, too fast

Big Spring struggles with Tigers' height, speed

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor
Frenship is tall and fast and they utilized its abilities to the fullest Tuesday at the Steer Gym as the Tigers rolled past the Big Spring boy's basketball team, 87-36, at the Steer Gym. The Steers led early 6-4, but Frenship went on a 17-0 run to end the first quarter. The Tigers led 21-6 after one frame and never looked back. "We don't match up with them very well," said Big Spring coach Jim Kinnear. "They have great big guys and the tempo favored them. We fell into their trap and we don't really have the personnel to avoid that." Junior Kyle Piercefield scored four of Big Spring's six first quarter points, but was forced to

the bench after picking up his second foul. He missed much of the game due to fouls and picked up his fourth foul with 5:50 to play in the third quarter. Big Spring was plagued by 29 turnovers. Frenship shot an unbelievable 68 percent from the floor. Big Spring made just 31 percent of its shots in the loss. The game was physical throughout and featured an unusual amount of offensive player control fouls — most often favoring the visitors. "They are good at taking that extra step to get the charge," said Kinnear. "We discussed doing the same thing to them at halftime and thought we did at various moments, but just didn't get the calls." Frenship led 66-26 after



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring boy's basketball coach Jim Kinnear shouts out direction during a timeout at the Steers' game Tuesday.

the first quarter and continued to play much of its starters throughout the final frame despite the large lead. "The game got out of hand and the (Frenship coach) didn't pull his starters," said Kinnear. "I think he is trying to get state ranked, but there is no real good reason to

leave everyone in. "They rubbed it in our face and it is unprofessional, but you must grin and bear it and go on." Sophomore Ryan Tannehill led Big Spring with nine points and four rebounds, while freshman Jordan Kinnear added six

Grady boys roll, Lady Cats fall in final frame

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor
KLONDIKE — The Grady boy's basketball team won with defense Tuesday against rival Klondike and after leading by just five at halftime, the Wildcats cruised to a 71-38 victory in District 7-A action. The Lady Wildcats were tied with district leading Klondike heading into the fourth quarter before Klondike outscored Grady by six and won, 44-38.

BOYS
Grady jumped out to a six-point first quarter lead before Klondike cut the margin to five at halftime. However, the Wildcats used a smothering defense in the second half and held their opponents to just 12 points. Grady outscored Klondike 42-12 in the final two quarters and earned its district-leading seventh win of the season. Freshman Justin Tubb

led five Grady (18-8, 7-1) players in double figures with 14 points, while senior Andrew Villa added 13. Doug Rutledge and Ben Hirth scored 12 and 10, respectively, while Clay Mitchell connected on three 3-pointers and finished with 11 points. **GIRLS**
The Lady Wildcats were plagued by two late turnovers and ended up on the short end of the

stick to rival Klondike after being outscored 16-10 in the final quarter. Kelsey Tubbs and Brianna Pribyla led Grady (20-8, 5-3) with 13 and 11 points, respectively. The win completed the season sweep for Klondike over Grady. Klondike currently sits atop the District 7-A standings with an 8-0 record. Grady will host rival Sands Friday in Lenora.

FEBRUARY 2005

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

final game at the Steer Gym.

Watkins and three other seniors — Cycelye Tuitt, Elida Rodriguez and Rachel Gee — were honored after the game for their efforts in the Big Spring basketball program.

"These girls have just as much talent as anyone I have ever coached," said Van Hecke. "I just wish I



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Four Big Spring seniors played in their final game at the Steer Gym Tuesday. From left with parents: Rachel Gee, Elida Rodriguez, Cycelye Tuitt and Alex Watkins.

had more time with them. Alex makes my job hard because she can play so many different positions on the floor.

"Heck, I was happy to just see Rachel on the floor this year after what happened to her at the beginning of the year."

Gee broke her leg prior to this year's season.

The Lady Steers have two more games to close out the season.

They travel to Lubbock Estacado Friday before finishing up in Plainview next Tuesday. Both games start at 6 p.m.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

points, 10 rebounds and three blocks before fouling out. In his limited action, Piercefield scored six points and grabbed three rebounds. Junior Matt Hilario added two steals.

Frenship had four players in double figures, led by Nick Evans' 21 points.

Matt Beyer added 19 points, while Rob Mitchel and Matt Quinn added 12 and 10, respectively.

"We had our back against the wall and didn't quit," said Coach Kinnear. "We did our best for 32 minutes and you have to credit all 12 players for that."

The Steers travel to Lubbock Friday as the team takes on district rival Estacado at 7:30 p.m.



Aggies grab top recruit

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

Associated Press Writer HOUSTON (AP) — Texas snagged three of the state's top 10 players and Texas A&M got two. Unfortunately for the other Texas schools, the remaining players on the list are leaving for out-of-state options.

Wednesday is the first day high school seniors can sign binding letters of intent.

Texas A&M got a commitment from what some call the state's best recruit in Alief Taylor tight end Martellus Bennett. He will also play basketball for the Aggies.

They will also get Harker Heights offensive guard Michael Shumard who rounds out the top 10.

These two, along with a bevy of other talent from across the state, could give Texas A&M one of the best classes in the country and what will certainly be the premier signing list in the state.

Rivals currently ranks Texas A&M's class as the fifth in the country. Jamaal Charles, who is perhaps the best running back in the state and the fourth best recruit, will play for the Longhorns. He is joined by fellow top-ranked running back Henry Melton of Grapevine.

Also committed to Texas is Killeen Shoemaker defensive tackle Roy Miller.

Smith contemplates retirement

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Emmitt Smith, the NFL's all-time rushing leader and a three-time Super Bowl winner with the Dallas Cowboys, was expected to announce his retirement Thursday, according to media reports.

Smith, a free agent who played the last two seasons with the Arizona Cardinals, will make the announcement three days before the Super Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla., according to the reports Tuesday.

The 35-year-old running back, who holds the NFL records for most rushing yards and most rushing touchdowns, was as elusive about his plans as he was on the field. "Did you see my year last year? Do you think I'm ready to retire?" he told The Dallas Morning News for a story posted Tuesday on its Web site.

ESPN.com and the Fort

Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram also reported Tuesday that Smith would retire. ESPN.com cited "confidants" of the star running back that it did not identify; both newspapers cited unidentified sources.

An eight-time Pro Bowler and the league's most valuable player in 1993, Smith holds the career rushing touchdown record with 115. He has 18,355 yards 164 TDs overall.

Smith played 13 years in Dallas, where he won three Super Bowls. He said Monday that he wanted to retire as a member of the Cowboys.

Reliable and durable despite carrying a heavy load year after year, Smith broke Walter Payton's rushing record with the Cowboys in 2002 but signed with Arizona the next season as an unrestricted free agent. His first year with the

Cardinals in 2003 proved frustrating: For the first time in his career, an injury sidelined him for a significant period and he struggled to gain yards when healthy enough to play.

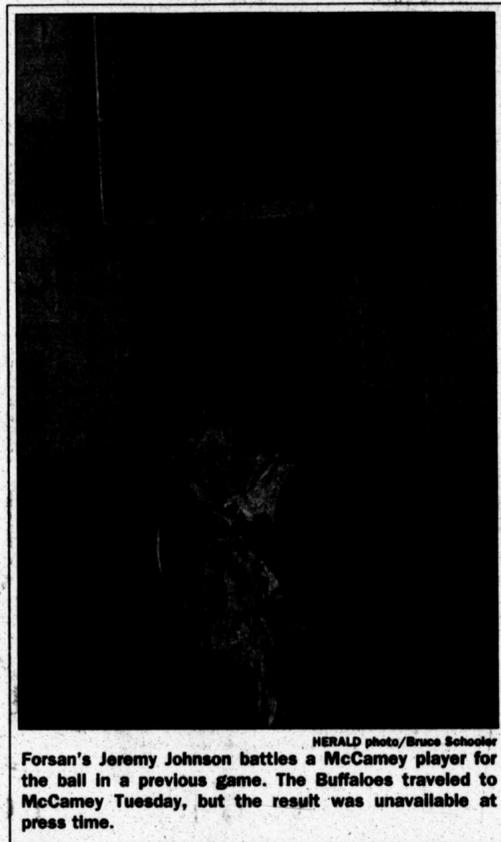
But he bounced back this season, rushing for 937 yards and nine touchdowns for the Cardinals, who — despite their 6-10 record — showed signs of improvement under new head coach Dennis Green.

Neither the Cardinals nor Cowboys had any announcements planned regarding Smith.

Former Cowboys safety Darren Woodson told the Morning News that Smith had been thinking of retirement for weeks.

"I've known about it for a while," Woodson told the Star-Telegram. "I didn't know it was out yet."

Smith was lauded by several players in this year's Super Bowl as a role model.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Forsan's Jeremy Johnson battles a McCamey player for the ball in a previous game. The Buffaloes traveled to McCamey Tuesday, but the result was unavailable at press time.

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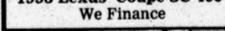
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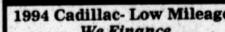
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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

This Groundhog Day, the moon in its last quarter says, "Let's try something new before the season is over!" The innovative placement of Mercury nodes in approval, and beautiful Venus joins the effort by stepping into Aquarius. Now, there are four luminaries in the altruistic, forward-thinking sign and hardly an excuse left to stay stuck in the past.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're incredibly productive, making the most of your time and resources. Run your errands early, and get ahead in life! It's a fabulous time to start a diet, get a haircut and get your annual checkup. You're on a roll.

TAURUS (April 20-May

20). Your passion, for a creative project or another person, is charging ahead at full throttle. Have fun, but try to avoid clouding your judgment with over-enthusiasm. This is a time to keep your feet planted on terra firma.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've been so busy lately that you've hardly been at home! Plants and pets could use some extra TLC. While you're at it, why not get your place clean and presentable? An unexpected guest arrives shortly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Make an effort to reach out to a sibling, cousin or close friend who may be going through a difficult time. Your nurturing spirit and killer chicken soup are sure to brighten anyone's day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Lions love to make a dramatic entrance, but before you whip out that credit card to buy some stylin' new clothes, know that a bit of thrift is in order.

Avoid debt by dipping into someone else's wardrobe. Friends love to share.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Emotions run hot. Putting on your game face and kicking down the proverbial doors is one way to deal. Another is to do the exact opposite — stay in, chill out, meditate. Why not give your mom a call?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Get a better understanding of your true strengths. Knowing where your power lies and how best to use it will help you make an important decision. Interview your own heart. Intuition is your best ally.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). While the scorpion is a solitary creature that treasures his privacy, romance can be found if you venture out of your comfort zone and seek new alliances. Joining a yoga or martial arts class satisfies your body and soul.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your day-to-day

work routine is probably more hectic than you'd like. Make the drudgery more fun by rewarding yourself at the end of each task. Use your famous creativity. And remember: This too shall pass.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). No sooner have you accomplished one thing than you're looking for a new mountain to climb! Think about going back to school to further your career. Another good bet is taking up a new sport.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Doctors and lawyers and accountants — oh my! You may need to consult a professional in a matter related to health or money. But don't worry — it's all good. Expert advice doesn't come cheap, but peace of mind is priceless.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A long-term relationship or business partnership could do with a breath of fresh air. Sweep away your stale routine by suggesting a weekend

retreat. The change of venue will revive your sense of play and whimsy.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Natalie Imbruglia recently wed rocker Daniel Johns of Silverchair in a secret Australian ceremony. This is especially hard for social Aquarius to pull off! Any offended friends will be quickly won over by Imbruglia's social charm, though. I predict that her new outlook as a married woman will help her craft relatable yet innovative songs. By this time next year, news of a new baby will be further inspiring.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My boyfriend is 43, and I am 38. We have been dating for more than five years, and I think it is time to get engaged. "Paul" says he expects to marry me in another five years or so, but he does not want to be engaged that long.

I get the distinct impression that Paul is waiting to see if anything better is out there, and I worry that he has no intention of marrying me. He says that is not true, but I am not sure. His friends all say RUN. What do you say? — Julie

Dear Julie: Let's see. Paul has been dating you for five years, and in another five, he'll let you know if he's interested in marriage. By then you will be 43. Do you want to marry Paul because you love him, or because you've invested a lot of time in this relationship and think it ought to pay off?

Paul's got a sweet deal going, and he isn't looking to change it by proposing anytime soon. His friends have given you good advice. Take it.

Dear Annie: Any time the subject of alcohol comes up, you are quick to use the label "alcoholic" and suggest immediate help. I am a 41-year-old man, recently divorced. My wife claimed my drinking was a problem, but I disagree. I am a responsible drinker. I work hard, do volunteer work and have a peaceful, busy life. I never drink and drive, and have never been involved in a confrontation while drinking. There are times when I drink every day for a week, and other times when I will not drink at all for a month or two.

I have no desire to change my behavior, because I am not aware of a single problem caused by my drinking. Would you call me an alcoholic and recommend that I seek treatment? — Curious in Tucson, Ariz.

Dear Tucson: Only you can decide if you have a problem, but we found the following questionnaire from A.A. most helpful:

1. Have you ever decided to stop drinking for a week or so, but only lasted for a couple of days?
2. Do you wish people would mind their own business about your drinking and stop telling you what to do?
3. Have you ever switched from one kind of drink to another in the hope that this would keep you from getting drunk?
4. Have you had to have an eye-opener upon awakening during the past year?
5. Do you envy people who can drink without getting into trouble?
6. Have you had problems connected with drinking during the past year?
7. Has your drinking caused trouble at home?
8. Do you ever try to get "extra" drinks at a party because you do not get enough?
9. Do you tell yourself you can stop drinking anytime you want to, even though you keep getting drunk when you don't mean to?
10. Have you missed days of work or school



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

because of drinking?

11. Do you have "black-outs"?

12. Have you ever felt that your life would be better if you did not drink?

If you answered YES four or more times, you probably have an alcohol problem and might want to check out A.A. (alcoholics-anonymous.org).

Dear Annie: My husband and I received a group e-mail inviting us to a birthday party for an acquaintance. The man's wife suggested that everyone bring a card with \$5-\$20 inside, so the birthday boy can buy a mountain bike he desperately wants. Of course, she said we shouldn't feel obligated.

We don't know this couple very well, and we already have plans that weekend and will miss the party. But isn't this tacky? — Anonymous

Dear Anonymous: Unless asked, it is inappropriate to tell people what they should give as a gift, and extraordinarily tacky to tell them how much to spend. Good thing you had other plans.

Dear Annie: I just came back from my eighth-grade school trip. All of my friends were kissed, or they made out with guys they met.

I have a really good friend, "Nate," and we have a lot of fun just talking, and I don't want to push him into anything. But I feel really pressured to get physical with him because all my friends have done that stuff. Please help! — Confused in Florida

Dear Confused: You sound smarter than most of your friends, because you already know that pushing Nate into a physical relationship is a bad idea. Please don't allow these other girls to convince you that you're missing out if you don't have a boyfriend right now. You're not. You are discovering how to have the kind of friendship that provides the basis for a healthy, future relationship — one that will last much longer than any of those kiss-and-tell sessions. Take your time, honey, and get it right. You won't be sorry.

Dear Annie: Six months ago, my in-laws moved into a local senior apartment complex. At the time, my father-in-law gave all his tools to my husband, and we placed them in our garage. The condition was that Dad would be able to come to our garage and use his

tools.

Well, Annie, my father-in-law is in my garage EVERY day. Worse, my husband left a key to our house in the garage and Dad often pops in while I am still asleep. Dad also thinks he is a personal escort for anyone who visits. Even the utility workers cannot enter without my father-in-law, and he insists they enter from the basement, which means I have to go down there and lock it after they leave, since Dad never remembers.

I am usually the only person at home when Dad drops by. I feel like I have a baby-sitter. My husband is somewhat understanding, and we are working with some non-profit groups to see if we can get them interested in my father-in-law's mechanical talents, but if that doesn't work out, my husband refuses to do anything that would limit his father's access to our home.

I love my father-in-law dearly and don't want to hurt his feelings or take him away from his tools. I am trying to be diplomatic and caring. Do you have any other suggestions that won't make me totally explode? — Ready To Burst Daughter-in-Law

Dear Ready To Burst: Your husband should tell his father that he is welcome to use the garage, but not the house. If he isn't willing to do this, approach your father-in-law and say, "Dad, I'm glad you feel comfortable here, but I'd rather you give me some notice before entering the house. Sometimes I'm not dressed. I'm going to keep the deadbolt locked until I am ready for company." (If you don't have a deadbolt, get one. If Dad already has the key, get the locks changed.) Insist that your husband back you up on this. Period.

Dear Annie: I was moved to write after seeing the responses in your column about airline passengers reclining their seats.

I am 6 feet 7 inches tall and fly every week. While I always request a seat in the exit or bulkhead row, I'm not always successful in obtaining one. Often, I notice a "regular-sized" person in those seats and silently loathe their lack of consideration. If the passenger in front of me puts his seat into high-speed reverse and crushes my knee, I will gladly berate the offensive pig and follow it with an American tradition — a

lawsuit. There is no excuse for the arrogance of these travelers. — D.G., Pensacola, Fla.

Dear D.G.: We take it your knees have been crushed more than once. Until the airlines create more space between rows, reclining seats will continue to be a source of animosity and frustration. Thanks for expressing your views on the subject.

Dear Readers: This was sent to us via the Internet. We don't know the author, but we loved the essay. Enjoy!

If a dog was your teacher, you would learn stuff like:

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.

Let others know when they've invaded your territory.

Take naps. Stretch before rising. Run, romp, and play daily.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On hot days, drink lots of water, and lie under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around, and wag your entire body.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.

Be loyal. Never pretend to be something you're not.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

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

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BIG SPRING HERALD

FEBRUARY 2005

WEDNESDAY

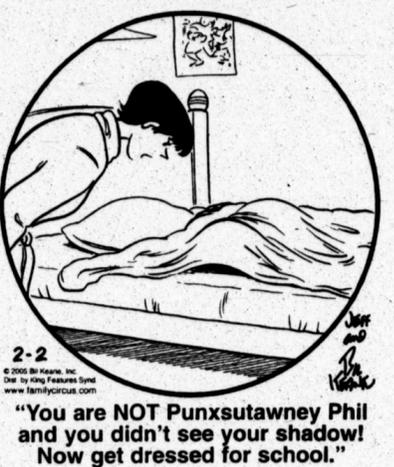
FEB. 2

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	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telefunido	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	Sports	Sports	Premium
6 :PM	News (CC)	News	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid. Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anita No Te Rajes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond	Sam Peak John Hagee	News-Laher	American Chopper	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Music Special	That's Raven	That's Raven	NFL Live Super Bowl	College Basketball	
7 :PM	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Rubi	American Idol (CC)	60 Minutes Wednesday	La Mujer en el Espejo	Si Swimsuit Model Search	Raymond	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Antiques Rd. Sci. Frontiers	Superweapons	Movie: Easy Rider	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers	That's Raven	College Basketball	Cincinnati at Louisville	Movie: Sex, Lies, and	
8 :PM	State of the Union (CC)	State of the Union (CC)	Amor Real	State of the Union	State of the Union	Gitanas	State of the Union (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: The Hoop Life (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Coming to the Stage	Sister, Sister	Texas A&M at Oklahoma	College Basketball	Video: Duke at Wake Forest (CC)	Open Your Eyes
9 :PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	15 Movie: Sweet	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (DVS)	Superweapons	MXC	Nightly News Music Special	That's Raven	Nuggets at Trail Blazers	SportsCenter (CC)	45 Movie:		
10 :PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC) Spin City	Late Show	Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night: Conan O'Brien	November (CC)	N. McBride Joseph Good	Sign Off	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: Easy Rider	Wildcat Police Videos	Movie: The Last Seduction	Proud Family Kim Possible (CC)	NBA Fastbreak	SportsCenter (CC)	45 Movie:	
11 :AM	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Alma Rebeide	Spin City	Show The Insider	Maria Celeste Caso Carrado	Conan O'Brien	45 Movie:	Update/Israel Van Impe Pres	It Takes a Thief	Bind Date Shipmates	Movie: The Last Seduction	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie McGuire	NFL Live				

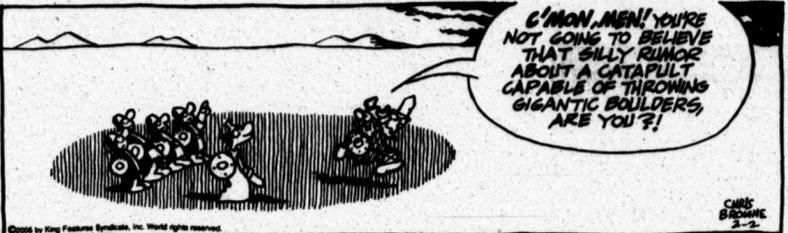
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS



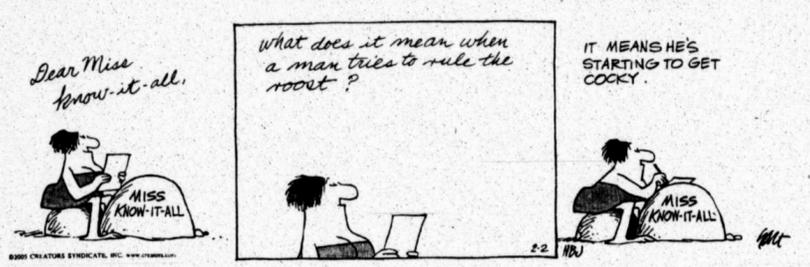
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WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2005. There are 332 days left in the year. This is Groundhog Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 2, 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

On this date:

In 1536, the Argentine city of Buenos Aires was founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain.

In 1653, New Amsterdam, now New York City, was incorporated.

In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican War, was signed.

In 1870, the "Cardiff Giant," supposedly the pet-

rified remains of a human discovered in Cardiff, N.Y., was revealed to be nothing more than carved gypsum.

In 1876, the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs was formed in New York.

In 1882, Irish poet and novelist James Joyce was born near Dublin.

In 1897, fire destroyed the Pennsylvania state capitol in Harrisburg. (A new statehouse was dedicated on the same site nine years later.)

In 1945, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill departed Malta for the summit in Yalta with Soviet leader Josef Stalin.

In 1971, Idi Amin assumed power in Uganda, following a coup that ousted President Milton Obote.

In 1996, dancer, actor and choreographer Gene Kelly died at his Beverly Hills, Calif., home; he was 83.

Today's Birthdays:

Actress Elaine Stritch is 80. Actor Robert Mandan is 73. Comedian Tom Smothers is 68. Rock singer-guitarist

Graham Nash is 63. Actor Bo Hopkins is 63. Television executive Barry Diller is 63. Country singer Howard Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 59. Actress Farrah Fawcett is 58. Actor Brent Spiner is 56. Rock musician Ross Valory (Journey) is 56. Model Christie Brinkley is 51. Actor Michael Talbot is 50. Actress Kim Zimmer is 50. Rock musician Robert DeLeo (Stone Temple Pilots) is 39. Rock musician Ben Mize (Counting Crows) is 34. Rapper T-Mo is 33. Actress Lori Beth Denberg is 29. Singer Shakira is 28.

Answer to previous puzzle

CHI	PTAS	TARP
HUCK	LEVI	ONION
ELBA	AMES	RADIO
FAMILY	PRIDE	ESE
SMITS	ARCHES	
ABSENT	AROSE	
MACRO	VINE	ARMS
ICH	PACKERS	DUO
SHOT	DREW	TROTS
OASES	SEENTO	
BALBOA	ASKED	
RUM	FLOCK	ROUND
ADAPT	ATIT	EPEE
DIRGE	TIRE	SOME
OMAR	HITS	NOD

Newsday Crossword

STRAIGHTEN UP by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hen home
 - 5 Menlo Park middle name
 - 9 Distinctive doctrines
 - 13 October birthstone
 - 14 Vietnam neighbor
 - 15 Ice-cream order
 - 16 Physics lead-in
 - 17 Pinball foul
 - 18 Rude dude
 - 19 Draftsman's aid
 - 22 Prefix for angle
 - 23 Gehrig or Mantle
 - 24 Project Apollo mission
 - 26 Jay's competitor
 - 28 Football coach Ewbank
 - 29 Free-for-all
 - 33 Arthur Stadium
 - 35 Unskilled laborer
 - 38 Movie-industry concern
 - 40 City near Disney World
 - 42 Army grub
 - 43 TV's Warrior Princess
 - 45 Born first
 - 46 Right on a map
 - 48 Reason to study
 - 50 Debatable point
 - 53 Haile Selassie followers
 - 58 Have brunch
- DOWN**
- 1 Snug
 - 2 Wagner work
 - 3 Like some cereals
 - 4 Broad board
 - 5 Tennis great Gibson
 - 6 Not of the cloth
 - 7 Encyclopedia books
 - 8 The Jetsons' pet
 - 9 German pronoun
 - 10 Indiana city
 - 11 Havana's Castle
 - 12 Leave, slangily
 - 15 Script section
 - 20 Hands over
 - 21 One taking an oath
 - 25 Flower part
 - 27 Flower holder
 - 29 The Wizard of Oz studio
 - 30 Poetic preposition
 - 31 Board game penalty
 - 32 English class assignment
 - 34 It's not for real
 - 36 Lyrical tribute
 - 37 Neither partner
 - 39 Bonus
 - 41 Willy the salesman
 - 44 Felix Unger, for one
 - 47 Big bags
 - 49 Up and about
 - 50 Beau
 - 51 Speedy
 - 52 Momentous tales
 - 54 Place for knickknacks
 - 55 Tally up
 - 56 Major vessel
 - 57 Shooting sport
 - 60 Opposed to
 - 62 Teachers' org.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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58				59			60				
61			62			63			64		
65						66			67		
68						69			70		

HOWARD COUNTY BUYERS' GUIDE

FREE

FEBRUARY 2, 2005

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #30
Big Spring, TX 79720

CR-Rt. Sort
Postal
Patron

Announcements

**CONCEALED HAND
GUN CLASS**
SATURDAY, FEB. 5TH.
CONTACT TOMMY SCOTT,
(432)394-4492.

SURPLUS/CONSIGNMENT SALE.

Big Spring State Hospital
Recycling center.
Silent Bidding.
Wednesday Feb. 2nd.
8:00 am till 1:30 pm
Miscellaneous computer items,
chairs & sofas, children school
desks, adjustable bed frames,
Air conditioning condensing
units (2 to 5 ton), tools, floor &
wall tile/grout, microwaves,
portable dishwasher and other
items.
For more information Call
(432)263-0618.

Business Opportunity

THIS IS HUGE!
New Electric Company
Unlimited Potential MLM
972-670-9242

Cemetery Lots

FOR SALE 4 cemetery lots,
northeast corner, Trinity Memo-
rial. \$1,500. each. Call
(432)552-6607.

Help Wanted

ATTENTION STUDENTS Part Time Work

Can be perm., Great Pay, Flex.
Sched. sales/service, no exp.
nec. All ages 18+ condition ap-
ply (432)699-6782.
www.workforstudents.com
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ing high energy employee with
multi. tasking skills and a self
starter. Loves working with pa-
tient's and has a caring atti-
tude. Come by 1707 Lancaster,
Warren Chiropractic.

Help Wanted

STOP & SHOP- Looking for
Cashier. Must be able to work
nights & weekends. Apply @
store, 1506 East FM 700. No
Phone Calls, Please!

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JOB FAIR**
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expanding fleet
size in the El Paso area.
Hiring Experienced OTR,
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Please call our recruiters at:
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for information on this up
coming event.

Help Wanted

Concrete Mixer Truck Drivers
Class A CDL. DOT Medical
Cards, Drug & Alcohol Screens
\$10.50 - \$12.50 DOE
N.C. Sturgeon, LP
Apply in person
2800 Windecker at
Midland International Airport.
La Clase concreta
de Camineros de Batidora
UN CDL. Las Tarjetas Medicas
PUNTEADADAS,
la Droga & Alcohol Investiga
\$10.50 - \$12.50 DOE
N.C. Sturgeon, LP
Aplica en la persona
2800 Windecker en
Aeropuerto internacional de
region central.

Help Wanted

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY.
Coastal Transport is a leader in
transport of LPG Asphalt & Pe-
troleum Products. Coastal
serves high profile accounts &
needs dedicated professionals
to join our growing team in Big
Spring. Qualify 25 with class A
& One year driving experience.
Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

HELENA CHEMICAL is now
hiring for a warehouse man-
agement position. Some com-
puter and office skills helpful.
Excellent benefits, excellent
pay. Apply in person to Helena
Chemical, Stanton, Texas.

Help Wanted

HELENA CHEMICAL is now
hiring spray applicator driver;
class A- CDL license and farm
experience helpful. Excellent
benefits, excellent pay. Apply
in person to Helena Chemical,
Stanton, Texas.

POSITION OPEN
for weekend RN
Flexible 8 hr. shift 1 to 4
Weekends available
each month.
Great Support Staff
April Velasquez, DON RN
Valley Fair Lodge
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www.SwiftTruckingJobs.com

1st Annual Glasscock County FFA Varnit Calling Contest

Start: Friday, February 4
Meet at Garden City Wyn-Lor
between 3 pm and 5 pm

Check In: Saturday, February 5
Garden City Wyn-Lor
at 9:00 am

Entry: \$100 per team
75% payout

Everyone is welcome, must hunt in
Glasscock County or any county
bordering Glasscock.

For more information,
call Rusty Hollingsworth @
354-2244 or 354-2250

Healing Hearts

on
Valentine's Day

To benefit
CASA of West Texas
Feb. 11 thru 14

Buy your flowers and gifts for Valentine's Day at
Dakota's Flowers and they will donate a portion of
the proceeds to help CASA recruit, train and sup-
port Howard County volunteers who advocate for
abused and neglected children.

1110 11th Pl. • Big Spring, TX • (432) 263-8323

Make sure
every
foster child
has a
CASA



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF WEST TEXAS

You can also
make a donation
to CASA when
you purchase
your Valentine's
Day gifts at
Dakota's
Flowers & Gifts.
Questions?
Call 263-4162 or
1-877-316-8346

EVERYONE CAN USE THE CLASSIFIEDS!

There's something for everyone in the
Big Spring Herald's Classifieds!

- Grandpa sold his sailboat
- Mama found the missing piece for her china set...
- Papa bought a great used car ...
- Little Brother traded his baseball cards for a guitar...
- Big Brother found an awesome set of free weights...
- Cousin Bill found a great apartment ...
- Big Sister found a great new job...
- Aunt Sue found a dining room table...

**ALL THIS IN THE
CLASSIFIEDS**

To place an ad in the Classifieds
Call 263-7331

**BIG
SPRING HERALD**

710 Scurry • Big Spring

SPEAK Your Heart

Greet your special someone with
a sweet love note this Valentine's Day.

Monday, February 14, 2005

Happy
Valentine's Day
to our
Little Cutie!!
Love,
Pe-paw & Grandmommy

**Only
\$15⁰⁰**

Bring your photo & special message to
our office by 5:00pm
Monday, February 7th

Yes! Advertise my Valentine Greeting! Enclosed is \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Your Message _____

**BIG
SPRING HERALD**

