

BIG SPRING

HERALD

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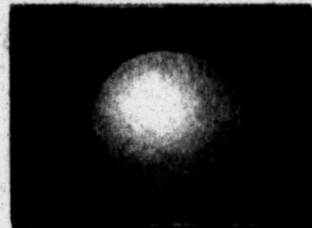
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

FRIDAY

February 4, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 37°-40° TOMORROW 45°-48°

BRIEFLY

Should gambling be legalized to pay for school finance?

In this week's Herald online poll, "Do you think the city should support efforts to renovate the Settles Hotel?" 63 percent said yes while 35 percent marked no. There were 63 votes cast.

A new poll will be posted today asking "Should legislators consider legalizing gambling (casinos, horse racing, etc.) in Texas to help pay for school finance?" Check it out on the net at bigspringherald.com

Orchestra tickets on sale now for 'Encore Performance'

The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Keith Graumann, presents, "An Encore Performance" at 8 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Municipal Auditorium. Cynthia Bauhof-Williams is the returned guest pianist. She performed with the orchestra in December 2002.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the Big Spring Herald, Blum's Jewelers, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, First Bank of West Texas, Heritage Museum, the symphony office, 808 Scurry or at the door.

For more information, visit the Web site, www.bigspringsymphony.com or e-mail bssa@bigspringsymphony.com.

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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday.

A scouting we will go...

Annual food drive planned Saturday

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Area Boy Scouts will be doing a "good turn" Saturday, as they prepare to hit the streets for their annual Good Turn for America Food Drive.

The food drive, which is slated for 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., calls for area residents to place canned goods and non-perishable food items in plastic grocery bags which will be left on porches and door steps for Saturday's community-wide collection.

"We're distributing bags inside the Big Spring Herald, as we have for several years," said David O'Neill, district executive for the

Citizens who have not received a bag can use one of their own or bring the goods to Wal-Mart.

West Texas Buffalo Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of America. "This year, however, we're also going out and delivering special food drive bags to residents who may not receive the newspaper. The bags will have a note attached to them with details about the food drive.

See FOOD, Page 3A



HERALD file photo Scouts carry boxes and bags of food left at a residence during the Good Turn for America Food Drive last year. Saturday, area scouts will again be participating in the drive, picking up non-perishable food items from residences. At 2:30 p.m. Sunday, the scouts will hold a flag retirement ceremony on the courthouse lawn, followed by a 75th anniversary party.

Scouts to retire flags Sunday

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

While the proper method for "retiring" a worn or tattered American flag may be a mystery to many area residents, have no fear — the local Boy Scouts are willing to take care of the arduous duties this weekend.

Scouts will be holding a flag retirement ceremony Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the Howard County Courthouse in front of the building's east entrance.

"The flag retirement ceremony is something

See FLAGS, Page 3A



Above, a cotton module awaits processing at the Co-Op Gin of Big Spring. At left, Paul Cordova, left, and David Ortiz monitor one of the gin's machines Thursday afternoon. Ginning operations are expected to continue for at least two more weeks, manager Wendell Walker said.

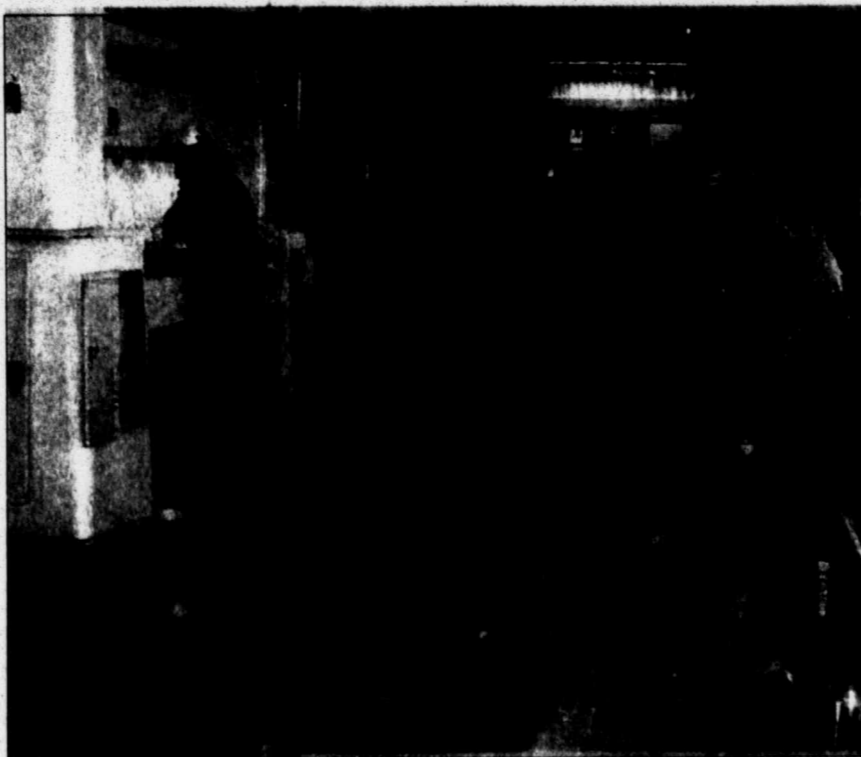
Home stretch

Gins wrapping up frustrating, yet rewarding season

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Most of the area cotton gins are on their "home stretch," with only a couple of weeks left in what can only be deemed an amazing growing season.

Big Spring Gin reported 19,724 bales of cotton have traveled out of that facility this season, and while bookkeeper Rene Beall would love to see the total reach or exceed 20,000, it's going to be a close



call. "Right now we're only expecting about 200 more bales, so we're almost done," said Beall. "We're really hoping to break that 20,000 bale mark this season, so it's really going to go down to the wire." "We ginned about 14,400 bales last season and a lot of our customers didn't even have crops that year, so we're really pleased with the outcome this year. This is cotton country — we just have to get some rain to see it grow like it should."

Co-Op Gin of Ackerly has See COTTON, Page 3A

also seen a bounty of cotton this season, with even more on the way.

"We've processed 33,803 bales this season, compared to the 37,197 we did last year," said Irma Leal, secretary for the gin. "We still have a ways to go though. We're expecting to do around 45,000 bales total this season."

"We haven't had a crop like this since 1993, which brought in 43,000 bales. It's really nice to see it."

Co-Op Gin of Big Spring sec-

House proposes \$3 billion in new money

Next step: Where will funding come from?

By APRIL CASTRO Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Every Texas school district would get at least a 3-percent increase in funding as part of a House education overhaul proposed Thursday.

The legislation, introduced by Republican Rep. Kent Grusendorf of Arlington, would add an additional \$3 billion to

K-12 public schools over the next two-year budget cycle, including money for technology such as electronic textbooks. Schools also would get more money for transportation and bilingual education.

Unlike a preliminary plan introduced last month by the Senate, the House plan does not specify money for a teacher salary increase, but restores a \$1,000 teacher health care stipend that was cut in half two years ago. The stipend would be paid as part of teachers' salaries.

Grusendorf said districts would have the option of providing teacher pay raises with the new money. The legislation would also provide districts

See HOUSE, Page 3A



Rep. Kent Grusendorf

"We're moving full speed ahead to a destination we all want

to reach, an education system with higher standards that allows all children to reach their potential."

Senate confirms Gonzales as attorney general

By JESSE J. HOLLAND Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Alberto Gonzales won Senate confirmation Thursday as attorney general despite Democratic accusations that he helped formulate White House policies that led to overseas prisoner abuse and was too beholden to President Bush to be the nation's top law



Gonzales

Last week, 12 Democrats and Jeffords voted against Secretary

of State Condoleezza Rice's confirmation.

Gonzales replaces John Ashcroft, who won more Democratic support four years ago despite contentious stances on a number of issues. Eight Democrats voted for Ashcroft, while six voted for Gonzales.

He was sworn in around 6 p.m. EST as the nation's 80th attorney general by Vice President Dick

Cheney in a private ceremony in the White House. Justice Department spokeswoman Tasia Scolinos said.

Republicans and some Democrats praised Gonzales' life story: the grandson of Mexican immigrants who worked his way up to being President Bush's top lawyer in the White House.

See GONZALES, Page 3A

FEBRUARY 4 2005

Obituaries

Summer Smith



Summer Smith, 27, of Big Spring passed away Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2005, at her residence. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005, at the First Baptist Church in Big Spring with the Rev. Randy Gee, pastor of Crestview Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born May 3, 1977, in Fredericksburg.

Summer had lived in Abilene for 10 years and in Big Spring for the last 17 years. She graduated from Forsan High School and Howard College. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include her mother and stepfather, Glenda and Bobby Brewer of Big Spring; her father, Steve Smith of Big Spring; her sister and brother-in-law, Michele and Art Trevino of Big Spring; her maternal grandmother, Fern Lewis of Big Spring; her paternal grandmother, Judy Smith of Big Spring; one nephew, Seth Trevino and two nieces, Gabbie Trevino and Lexie Trevino, all of Big Spring; her aunts and uncles, Charlie and Charla Lewis of Big Spring, Patty Brewer Rodriguez of Los Angeles, Calif., Dalton and Carol Lewis of Big Spring, JoAnn Kennedy of Big Spring, Louis and Nancy Dunnam of Midland and Suzanne Smith of Midland; and a number of great-aunts, great-uncles and cousins.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Dream Foundation, 621 Chapala St., Suite D, Santa Barbara, Calif., 93101 or the Make-A-Wish Foundation of West Texas, 3800 E. 42nd Street, Suite 512, Odessa 79762.

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

Paid obituary

Elizabeth 'Betty' Kathryn Atkison



Elizabeth "Betty" Kathryn Atkison was born near Premont June 14, 1920, to Howard Marion Atkison and Bessie Cook Payton Atkison. She died Feb. 1, 2005, at Hospice House in Odessa.

Upon graduation from Premont High, she attended Edinburgh Junior College and then met and married Al Martin, who preceded her in death in 1970. Also preceding her in death were her two brothers, Howard Marion Atkison Jr. and Challen Payton Atkison, both of whom were bomber pilots during WWII.

Betty received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas A&I University in Kingsville and later received her doctorate from East Texas State University. First teaching at Petronila, she and family moved to Big Spring in 1960, where she taught at Howard College until 1965, when the family moved to Odessa.

Betty taught at Odessa College until her retirement, and in that time, she was a professor of English and eventually served as head of the English Department and later as Dean of Human Services.

She is survived by her husband, Gordon Gillette, whom she met in 1972, and married in February of 1976.

Mimi, as she was known to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, is survived by her four children, Don and Sharon Merriman of Midland, Sandra Polk of Odessa, Glenn and Wendy Martin of Nacogdoches and Terry and Renee Witherspoon of Wolforth.

Grandchildren include Bruce and Melinda Hollander of Lewisville, Ky., Nelson and Leanne Reynes of San Antonio, Kevin, Emi, Jonathon and Peter Martin of Nacogdoches, Garrett and Kimberly Roush of Idaho, Josh, Jacob and Kristen Witherspoon of Wolforth, Josh and Amy Hopkins of Midland, Gary and Jennifer Brookshire of Greenwood and Loree Merriman of Midland. Betty is also survived by 10 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Betty's great joys in life included first of all her husband, Gordon, with whom she shared love and laughter, her family and her church, her active involvement with the Lions Club and her sorority, Sigma Delta, her large collection of Norman Rockwell and her newer collection of Barbie dolls.

She enjoyed humorous stories and was a much-sought speaker at state and national level meetings and conventions.

The family wishes to express its gratitude to the staff and doctors of Medical Center Hospital and Hospice Home for their wonderful care of our Mother, our Betty, our Mimi.

Visitation is at Sunset Memorial Funeral Home from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. today, Feb. 4, 2005.

Services are scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005, at Asbury United Methodist Church with the Rev. Paul Bauernfeind officiating.

Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

The family suggests that all memorials be sent to the Lioness' Park for Special People in Odessa, Texas Lions Camp, or Lions Club International Foundation. Services are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Funeral Home in Odessa.

Paid obituary

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 5-10-15-24. Bonus Ball: 17.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Estimated jackpot for Monday night drawing: \$575,000.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 4-9-25-32-33.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$40,344.
Winning tickets sold in: Corpus Christi.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-2-8

Tommye Ann Clark

Tommye Clark, 71, of Marshalltown, Iowa, died Monday, Jan. 31, 2005. Graveside services were 10:30 a.m. today at the Rose Hill Memorial Gardens with the Rev. Paul Prescott of the Church of Christ officiating.

She was born Feb. 8, 1933, in Jacksboro, the daughter of Thomas and Ethel Mays Kinder. She married George Clark May 18, 1953, in Carlsbad, N.M. She was a member of the Church of Christ.

She is survived by her children, Rodger and Mireya Rae Clark of Oakdale, Calif., Larry and Carol Clark of Wake Forest, N.C., and Kim and Lyle Long of Marshalltown, Iowa; her sister Patricia and husband, Steven Berry of Lubbock; sisters-in-law, Joan Kinder of Big Spring and Teeny Kinder of Kerrville; and nine grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George, who died Aug. 22, 1999, her parents, sister, Bernice and brothers, Leonard and Benjamin.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Mitchell Family Funeral Home in Marshalltown, Iowa.

Gerald 'Ray' Lindsey



Gerald "Ray" Lindsey, 74, of Sand Springs died Thursday, Feb. 3, 2005, in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services are at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, at the Birdwell Lane Church of Christ with Ralph Anderson, minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Hermleigh Cemetery, Hermleigh.

He was born Jan. 4, 1931, in Lamesa and married Maudiella Davidson April 19, 1952, in Snyder.

Ray had lived in Sand Springs for 30 years and had worked as a driller for Robinson Drilling. He was a member of Birdwell Lane Church of Christ and a veteran of the United States Army, having served in the Korean War.

Survivors include wife, Maudiella Lindsey of Sand Springs; one son and daughter-in-law, Jimmy and Nellie Lindsey of Plainview; three daughters and sons-in-law, Judy and Ron Sanders of Lubbock, Kathy and Don O'Hare of Pleasant Hill, Mo., and Brenda and Jimmy Strickland of Amarillo; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Texas Kidney Foundation, 1525 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas 75235.

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

Sylvia D. Mitchell

Sylvia D. Mitchell, 89, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, died Friday, Feb. 4, 2005. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Gene Hargrove

Gene Hargrove, 84, of San Diego, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, Feb. 3, 2005, in San Diego. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

- MICHAEL JUAREZ, 19, of 634 Caylor, was arrested Thursday on two local warrants.
- KHRISTY MCMAHAN, 37, of 1425 E. Sixth Street Apt. 4, was arrested Thursday and held for the HCSO.
- JAMEY SCOTT JOHNSON, 42, of 2004 S. Johnson, was arrested Thursday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- MARY LOU ALFARO, 28, of 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 1802, was arrested Thursday on Nolan County warrants.
- ROGELIO JOSE MARCHES, 33, of Knott, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- ANA MARIA SAUCEDO, 38, of 1101 Grafa, was arrested Thursday and held for the HCSO.
- ERNESTO GONZALES, 50, of 4900 N. Salem Road, was arrested Thursday on local capias warrants.
- ROBERT CARSON, 37, transient, was arrested Thursday on charges of public intoxication and theft.
- THEFT was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 100 block of 20th Street.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 100 block of 24th Street.
- ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
- ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell.

Weather

Tonight - Cloudy. Low near 40. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday - Showers early becoming a steady rain later in the day. High 47. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 80 percent.
Saturday night - Rain early...then remaining cloudy with showers late. Low 41. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 80 percent. Rainfall near a half an inch.
Sunday - Morning showers. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Monday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s and lows in the low 40s.
Tuesday - Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 30s.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- 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. Music provided by Monroe Casey's Prowlers. 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.

Sheriff's report

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

- MELODY LYNN GAY, 43, was transferred from the Big Spring Police Department after her arrest on charges of driving while intoxicated (third or more offense) and driving while license suspended.
- JOHNNY LEE WILLIAMS, 24, was arrested by the Department of Public Safety on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a building.
- PHONE HARASSMENT was reported on the 900 block of Moore School Road.
- MINOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS were reported in Coahoma and on the 11th Place extension.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- MEDICAL was reported in the 800 block of W. Eighth Street at 4:59 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia at 9:01 a.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1300 block of Tucson at 6:21 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway at 8:10 a.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 4900 block of Jackson Road at 8:49 a.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Main Street at 3:42 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1500 block of Wood at 7:45 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87 at 8:40 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to the VAMC.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties. \$13.25 elsewhere.

FOOD

Continued from Page 1

"We wanted to reach out to the community and help with the food bank," said David O'Neill, executive director of the G.A. America program. "Scouting has a long history of sponsoring for years."

O'Neill said they will collect the food from different parts of the community by bringing them to a central drop-off point. "The food will be used to help feed the hungry in the community," he said.

FLAGS

Continued from Page 1

we've done for the community," said David O'Neill, executive director of the G.A. America program. "Scouting has a long history of sponsoring for years."

O'Neill said they will collect the food from different parts of the community by bringing them to a central drop-off point. "The food will be used to help feed the hungry in the community," he said.

HOUSE

Continued from Page 1

with money for the mentor program. "The program is a great one," said O'Neill. "It allows us to reach their parents and help them with their children's education."

"We're moving ahead with the program," said O'Neill. "We want to make sure we're providing the best possible education for our students. We want to make sure we're providing the best possible education for our students. We want to make sure we're providing the best possible education for our students."

GONZALES

Continued from Page 1

Sen. Mel Martinez, the first American senator to be elected in Spanish or on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, said in an interview that he is a Democrat. "I'm proud to be a Democrat," he said. "I'm proud to be a Democrat. I'm proud to be a Democrat. I'm proud to be a Democrat."

"Mr. Gonzalez has a long history of public service," said O'Neill. "He has a long history of public service. He has a long history of public service. He has a long history of public service."

At the time of his election, he was the first Hispanic to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. "I'm proud to be a Democrat," he said. "I'm proud to be a Democrat. I'm proud to be a Democrat. I'm proud to be a Democrat."

FOOD

Continued from Page 1A

"We wanted to make sure we reach out to the people in the community and ask for their help with the food drive. It's all part of the Good Turn for America program the Boy Scouts of America have been sponsoring for a number of years."

O'Neill said the scouts will collect the food items from different parts of the community, bringing them back to a central drop-off point.

"The food will be picked up

by teams of Scouts and brought to our collection point, which will be set up at the Wal-Mart Supercenter's east entrance," said O'Neill. "We're changing the collection point from Scurry Street to the Wal-Mart this year in hopes people who see us there will also make a donation, or maybe even purchase something specially for the drive while they are doing their grocery shopping."

O'Neill said the food drive is an important part of being a scout and learning the ethics and morals that come so heavily into play with the national organization.

"It just goes to show the boys are out there doing a good turn and trying to help others. Those are things they live by on a daily basis, so we want to make sure they practice that in some way. This has been a good project for us in the past and has been sort of a tradition for the past few years, so we wanted to continue it."

For more information on the food drive, contact O'Neill at 263-3407.

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

COTTON

Continued from Page 1A

retary Julie Bartlett said the local gin still has more than 4,000 bales to complete before they call it a season.

"We've baled 17,799 this season and we still have cotton out in the field waiting to be stripped," said Bartlett. "The weather is really making it hard to get the last of it in."

Bartlett said this year's crop has been very different from the one harvested a year ago, which only yielded 14,500 bales.

"It's been really different this year. It's been really encouraging because of the rain, especially at the beginning of the season. The cotton that was late is giving us a real problem though because we're having such a hard time getting it in," she said.

Brenda Robertson, secretary for the Tarzan Gin, said the Lenorah-based facility has completed its ginning this season with 20,101 bales, up considerably from the 17,096 bales processed last season.

Mustang Farmer's Gin in Lomax is expected to complete its run in a couple of weeks, and according to manager D.V. Cook, they expect to top last year's totals as well.

"We've completed 18,548 bales this season, and I expect we'll probably finish at around 20,000 bales," said Cook. "We did a little less than 19,000 bales last year, so we're seeing an increase."

Farmer's Co-Op Gin in Stanton is also feeling the effects of the

cotton boom, having ginned 33,683 bales this season.

"We've already exceeded the 32,362 bales we posted last year," said Rebecca Riley, secretary. "We have all of the cotton we expect to do already in the yard, so we hope to be finished pretty soon. Everyone's ready for this season to be over. It's been a really long one, and with a lot of the rains we've seen recently, we're probably going to have to leave some of the cotton in the fields."

Glasscock Co-Op Gin has completed its season with a whopping 86,966 bales, a stark contrast to the totals posted during last year's growing season.

"We were hoping to double our numbers from last year, and we came pretty close," said secretary Marie Pechacek. "We baled 55,170 last year, so we're really pleased with the way this season has come out."

While it's definitely been a good season for most area gins, Pechacek said it certainly hasn't been an "easy" season.

"We've had a lot of weather problems this year," said Pechacek. "We were delayed several weeks because of rain late in the season, and that can really hurt the quality of the cotton. It gets wet while it's in the modules and it takes a lot longer to gin when that happens. Overall, however, it's been a good year and we're really thankful for the rains and the crop."

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

FLAGS

Continued from Page 1A

we've done for a while here," said David O'Neill, the Lone Star District Buffalo Trial Council's executive director. "Scouting has a long tradition in this area. We'll be celebrating 94 years of Scouting in Big Spring, not to mention the 75th anniversary of Cub Scouting in the area."

O'Neill said descriptions of the ceremonies involved in retiring the flags are rather vague on the national and governmental levels, but area Scouts have a very specific ritual they perform to lay the symbols to rest.

"There are a lot of different flag ceremonies out there,"

said O'Neill. "And the U.S. Flag Code doesn't say which one should be followed, just that a flag must be properly retired."

"The particular ceremony we follow requires the disassembly of the flag during the ceremony — the removal of the stripes from one another and the field of blue. As each piece is removed, it is placed on the fire. Once the ceremony is completed, the ashes will be taken to the scout camp and buried."

During the year, the organization collects flags from community organizations, businesses and local residents for proper retirement. To turn in a worn or torn flag, drop it off at the Scout Office located at 610 Scurry St.

Following the flag retire-

ment ceremony, the scouts will celebrate the 75th anniversary of Cub Scouting in the Big Spring area with a party at 3:30 p.m. at the same location.

"We'll have cake and snacks," said O'Neill. "We'll also sing 'Happy Birthday' for the Cub Scouts. There will be a special presentation on the history of scouting in our area. This is really a once in a lifetime experience for these Scouts and they'll have the opportunity to earn their 75th anniversary badge."

For more information on either event, contact O'Neill at 263-3407.

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

HOUSE

Continued from Page 1A

with money for teacher mentor programs and district-designed incentive-pay bonus programs for teachers.

"We're moving full speed ahead to a destination we all want to reach, an education system with higher standards that allows all children to reach their potential," Grusendorf said.

The package also would enforce a uniform and mandatory start date for schools, after Labor Day. Right now, many schools begin classes in late August. Grusendorf estimates the new start date would save \$85 million, mostly in utilities costs.

The Texas Legislature is under court pressure to change its \$30 billion school funding system after a judge last year ruled it unconstitutional. Both poor and rich school districts argued there isn't enough money provided in the share-the-wealth system to ensure all students an adequate education.

The judge gave the state an Oct. 1 deadline to dedicate more money to schools, or all funding would be halted.

Under the House proposal, money redistributed through the current share-the-wealth system would be reduced by 88 percent. The amount of tax money given up by property wealthy districts would drop from its current \$1.2 billion per year

to \$145 million. The state share of funding to public schools would be increased to more than 60 percent, lessening schools' dependence on local property taxes.

The bill outlined Thursday is the first of a two-part House package intended to change the way education is funded for the state's 4.3 million public school students. The second part, which has not yet been detailed, will address how the state's tax structure will be reorganized to pay for schools.

Overall, the Legislature would have to find about \$14 billion from other revenue sources for the two-year budget cycle that starts in September. That includes \$5.5 billion a year to make up for a

reduction in property taxes, but does not account for enrollment growth that is already accounted for in the base state budget.

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick said separate legislation would be crafted to allow the House to vote on changing the state constitution to allow a statewide property tax, allowing gambling at horse and dog racing tracks, and imposing caps on the amount that property can be appraised.

Craddick said he expects the full House to vote on the education proposal by early March.

Rep. Jim Dunnam of Waco, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, criticized the legislation for not including

a teacher pay raise.

"Now that the bill has finally been filed, we are working hard to rapidly draft alternative solutions that will really meet Texans' goals regarding public education," Dunnam said. "We can do better, and for the sake of our families and children, we must."

Wayne Pierce, executive director of the Equity Center, which advocates for poor and middle class Texans, said the bill does not put enough money into public schools to satisfy the court ruling.

"We believe that it takes more money to fund education," Pierce said. He added that schools need about \$5 billion in new money to adequately educate all Texas students. "The amount of money

that he currently has is not enough and we hope that as time goes by, that they can put more money into the system."

Republican Gov. Rick Perry has declared school finance an emergency, and the success of his 2006 re-election bid may depend on whether the Legislature approves a new education funding system. A special session he called on school finance last year failed to produce results.

GONZALES

Continued from Page 1A

Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., the first Cuban-American senator, even broke with Senate tradition and praised Gonzales in Spanish on the Senate floor on Wednesday. "This is a breakthrough of incredible magnitude for Hispanic-Americans," he said in English.

Democrats praised Gonzales as well, but many said they couldn't look past his participation in administration policies they said had led to abuses that occurred in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They also complained that he refused to answer their questions on how those policies were created inside the White House.

"Mr. Gonzales was at the heart of the Bush administration's notorious decision to authorize our forces to commit flagrant acts of torture in the interrogation of detainees," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

At first, many Democrats had joined Republicans in praising the former state judge who traveled with Bush to Washington after the president's 2000 victory.

"When Mr. Gonzales was nominated several weeks ago, I didn't know a single member of this body, Republican or

Democrat, who had expressed any intention to vote against this nominee," said Christopher Dodd, D-Conn.

But some Democrats turned against him after he sidestepped questions on what advice he gave Bush and other administration officials on the interrogation methods that could be used on suspected terrorists or witnesses.

Some Democrats contended that Gonzales' January 2002 memo as White House counsel led to the abuse of prisoners

in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Pressed on the issue, Gonzales defended language in which he labeled as "quaint" some of the Geneva Conventions' human rights protections for prisoners of war and said they did not extend to al-Qaida and other suspected terrorists.

But he also declared, "Torture and abuse will not be tolerated by this administration." He told senators that, as attorney general, he would "ensure the Department of Justice aggressively pursues those responsible for such

abhorrent actions."

Democrats also expressed concern that Gonzales was too much of a Bush loyalist.

"He was so circumspect in his answers, so allied with the president's position on every single issue, there was almost an eagerness to say, 'I'm going to do exactly what the president wants,' that I worry Judge Gonzales

will be too willing to toe the party line," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Gonzales shouldn't be a scapegoat for what happened overseas, Republicans said. They also insinuated that the Democrats wanted a big vote against Gonzales to keep Bush from making him the first Hispanic Supreme Court nominee if a position comes open.

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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

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- AARP Tax Aides, who began helping people prepare their income tax forms Monday at the Senior Center. These volunteers will continue to offer their help through April 11.

- Those who gave blood last week at Comanche Trail Nursing Center or this week at TravelCenters of America (formerly Rip Griffin's). In case you missed them, others are from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the VA Medical Center and from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Feb. 21 at Wal-Mart.

- George Lopez, Pam Hoggard, Barbara Leonard, Kendra Wiss, Aneica Rainey, Laura Hughes David Leonard, Brian Patterson and Nancy Koger, Court Appointed Child Advocate volunteers, who were sworn in this week by Sylvia Chavez, associate judge for Child Protective Court of the Permian Basin Area.

- The snow! It brought some good moisture and was pretty to see.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

ADDRESSES

- GEORGE W. BUSH**
President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
- JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934
- RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District)
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722
- RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000
- KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922
- PETE LANEY**
State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0604
- KEL SELIGER**
State Senator
401 Austin, suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
(432) 268-9909
- HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
OFFICE — 264-2200.
BEN LOCKHART, COUNTY JUDGE — Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.
EMMA BROWN — Home: 267-2649.
JERRY KILGORE — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.
BILL CROOKER — Home: 263-2566.
GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0269; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.
- BIG SPRING CITY COUNCIL**
RUSS McEWEN, MAYOR — Home: 263-0907; Work (Russ McEwen Insurance): 267-1413.
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.

What does this pill actually do?

Given my profession, I guess it is no surprise that I am a news junky. I actually enjoy reading the news, listening to it on the radio and watching it on TV.

Once, on a "getaway" weekend in Cape May, N.J., at a bed and breakfast in an old Victorian home where they forbade TV, I snuck a small, portable television inside so I could secretly watch the news. (OK, so I watched "Seinfeld," too.)

I watch all three broadcast news shows each night. This means I have to channel-surf between ABC and CBS where I live because they come on at the same time, but I get to watch all of NBC, which comes on a half-hour later.

There is one part of each nightly news broadcast that I cannot watch, however. No, not the violence or the "human interest" stories about people who own cats that can drive.

What causes me to switch channels the instant they come on are the drug commercials.

It may not have escaped your attention that these seem to be a majority of the ads on the nightly news. The reasoning is sound:

Baby boomers are big news consumers, and baby boomers also take a lot of prescription medicine.

But the commercials drive me nuts. With the exception of the sexual dysfunction drug ads, some ads do not even make clear what malady the drugs are supposed to cure.

Instead, they feature people running in slow motion through fields, or people tossing Frisbees to their dogs, or elderly people hugging their grandchildren. All the people are happy and smiling.

Are these the people you see in your doctor's waiting room? They aren't the ones I see in mine.

But on TV, the drugs have cured them and made them wonderfully happy.

OK, fine. We all know ads exaggerate. But where the drugs ads really drive me wild is when they end by saying, "Call your doctor today, and ask for the little, plaid pill!"

Are we really supposed to be qualified to make such a decision after seeing a TV commercial? Especially an unrealistically optimistic TV commercial?

And, as I said, some ads do not make clear what the drug is supposed to cure. Yet we are supposed to pick up the phone and call our doctors and say, "I want the little, plaid pill!"

That might happen if you could get your doctor on the phone. Which you can't.

Wonder why you can't get your doctor on the phone? Wonder why sometimes you can't even get a live receptionist on the phone, but instead get a recorded message?

Because so many people are wasting their doctors' time demanding the little, plaid pill, that's why!

I understand why doctors don't want to come to the phone: Why do they want to hear demands for medicine from people who have just gotten their medical degrees by watching a TV commercial?

Even if your doctor is not a genius — and not all doctors are — at least he probably knows what the little, plaid pill is supposed to cure. Which is more than most of the callers know.

OK, that is my rant for today. I have to get back to the news. I hear there is a guy in Cleveland whose parakeet can play the piano.

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



Inside report: Gambling with Dean

INSIDE REPORT GAMBLING WITH DEAN

A prominent financier who has been a stalwart of Democratic fund-raising the past half-century told me last week his patience has been exhausted. He has remained a loyal Democrat while lamenting his party's periodic lurches to the left, but says he will neither contribute nor solicit a dime for the party so long as Howard Dean is chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC).



ROBERT NOVAK

This is not one sore-head issuing idle threats. Many other longtime contributors are telling DNC fund-raisers to count them out if Dean is elected chairman at the DNC's meeting in Washington Feb. 12. Thus, the growing momentum for Dean represents a gamble by Democrats that money from "Deaniacs" on the Internet will compensate for money no longer coming from traditional contributors.

This looks less like a calculated risk than a mad roulette player's tossing everything on double-zero and hoping he gets lucky. Ordinary primary election voters last year were fascinated by Dean at first, but soon abandoned him. He lost 17 out of 18 Democratic primaries (winning only his own state of Vermont) after his Des Moines rant following defeat in the Iowa caucuses. A recent Street Journal-NBC poll shows only 27 percent of Democrats are favorable toward him.

The big money Democrats agree, including the financier who

threatens to cut his ties with the Democrats for the duration of Dean's chairmanship. Not desiring to cut his ties with the party once Dean is gone or if he loses Feb. 12, he does not want his name used.

"Financier George" told me that over the years he has contributed "hundreds of thousands" of dollars to the party, a claim I checked with Federal Election Commission filings. In fact, he contributed close to \$200,000 in soft money during the 2000 election cycle alone. Nor is Financier George a switch-hitter helping both parties. He has given almost nothing to Republicans.

One well-known Democratic fund-raiser has told party officials he has heard from at least 50 major contributors who say they will give nothing while Dean is chairman. The Forward newspaper has quoted Jay Footlik, Sen. John Kerry's former liaison with the Jewish community, as saying "a lot of mainstream, middle of the road, centrist Jewish Democrats would be very turned off and concerned and would be left wondering whether they have a home."

Financier George happens to be Jewish, but he is not principally concerned with Dean's unenthusiastic support for Israel. His complaint is Dean's softness on foreign policy, characterized by his campaign promise to seek a fair trial for Osama bin Laden. He and other disaffected Democrats want restored the old formula of domestic liberalism wedded to a hard-line foreign policy.

That job description fits former Rep. Martin Frost, a former chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. Despite less than exciting

performances at regional conferences for DNC chairman candidates, Frost has emerged as the leading prospect to stop Dean. One key Frost supporter told me his candidate is "still in the game" but that it is not a "horse race." In other words, Dean is close to clinching the chairmanship.

As unlikely as it might seem for Dean to be the party's leader, he has been more aggressive — and tougher — than anybody else seeking the chairmanship. Democratic sources report that Dean has made it clear to New Hampshire and Iowa committee members that if they want their states to keep first-of-the-nation precedence in presidential voting, they had better support him for chairman. Or, conversely, if they don't want to maintain their privileged status, don't vote for Dean.

Stop-Dean Democrats have experienced one disappointment after another. Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack decided not to run. Former Michigan Gov. Jim Blanchard dropped out. The Democratic Governors Association did not endorse. The final hope for intervention rests with Democratic state chairmen, who will be polled by telephone in a nationwide conference call this morning (Monday). The guess is, however, they will merely put out a list of acceptable candidates. They may find Dean acceptable, but the party's money sources do not.

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

WASHINGTON Associated Press
WASHINGTON decorated Marine general said, "shoot some pe poked fun at the of Afghans described the troops are fight and Afghanistan"

His boss, the dant of the Mar said Thursday comments refl unfortunate realities of wa the general asked to watch in public.

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By LAURA M

Associated P

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Marine general calls fighting, shooting some people 'fun'

By JOHN J. LUMPKIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A decorated Marine Corps general said, "It's fun to shoot some people" and poked fun at the manhood of Afghans as he described the wars U.S. troops are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His boss, the commandant of the Marine Corps, said Thursday that the comments reflected "the unfortunate and harsh realities of war" but that the general has been asked to watch his words in public.

Lt. Gen. James Mattis, a career infantry officer who is now in charge of developing better ways to train and equip Marines, made the comments Tuesday while speaking to a forum in San Diego.

According to an audio recording, he said, "Actually, it's a lot of fun to fight. You know, it's a hell of a hoot. ... It's fun to shoot some people. I'll be right upfront with you, I like brawling."

He added, "You go into

Afghanistan, you got guys who slap women around for five years because they didn't wear a veil. You know, guys like that ain't got no manhood left anyway. So it's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them."

His comments were met with laughter and applause from the audience. Mattis was speaking during a panel discussion hosted by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, a spokeswoman for the general said.

Thursday, Gen. Mike Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, issued a statement saying, "Lt. Gen. Mattis often speaks with a great deal of candor. I have counseled him concerning his remarks and he agrees he should have chosen his words more carefully."

Hagee also said, "While I understand that some people may take issue with the comments made by him, I also know he intended to reflect the unfortunate and harsh realities of war."

Among Marines, Mattis is regarded as a fighting general and an expert in the art of warfare. Among his decorations are the Bronze Star with a combat distinguishing device and a combat action ribbon, awarded for close-quarters fighting.

He is currently the commanding general of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command in Quantico, Va., and deputy commandant for combat development.

Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it was up to Mattis to address his own comments, but he added, "All of us who are leaders have a responsibility in our words and our actions to provide the right example all the time for those who look to us for leadership."

Pace spoke to a Pentagon press conference. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he had not read Mattis' words and deferred to Pace.

The Council on

American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil liberties group, called on the Pentagon to discipline Mattis for the remarks.

"We do not need generals who treat the grim business of war as a sporting event," said the council's executive director, Nihad Awad. "These disturbing remarks are indicative of an apparent indifference to the value of human life."

Pace and Hagee praised the general's service. "His actions and those of his troops clearly show that he understands the value of proper leadership and the value of human life," Pace said.

Hagee called him "one of this country's bravest and most experienced military leaders."

He said the commitment of Marines "helps to provide us the fortitude to take the lives of those who oppress others or threaten this nation's security. This is not something we relish, yet we accept it as a reality in our profession of arms."

Hagee said he was confi-

dent Mattis would continue to serve with distinction.

Mattis' comments were reported by the television station KNSD in San Diego, and the audio recording was posted on its Web site www.nbc-sandiego.com.

As a lieutenant colonel, Mattis led an assault battalion into Kuwait during the first war with Iraq. During the war in Afghanistan, he commanded the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade and subsequently Task Force 58, which fought in southern Afghanistan as the Taliban fell.

During the second war in Iraq, he commanded the 1st Marine Division during the invasion and also when the unit returned to Iraq for counterinsurgency operations last year.

In a letter to his troops before they redeployed to Iraq last March, Mattis warned them of "hard, dangerous work."

"The enemy will try to manipulate you into hating all Iraqis," he wrote.

"Do not allow the enemy that victory. With strong discipline, solid faith, unwavering alertness, and undiminished chivalry to the innocent, we will carry out this mission."

He is not the first senior military officer since the Sept. 11 attacks to stir controversy with his comments.

Lt. Gen. William Boykin, a senior military intelligence officer, was criticized for speeches he made at evangelical Christian churches. He said that America's enemy was Satan, that God had put President Bush in the White House and that one Muslim Somali warlord was an idol-worshiper.

Boykin later issued a written statement apologizing and saying he did not mean to insult Islam.

A Pentagon investigation concluded that Boykin violated regulations by failing to make clear he was not speaking in an official capacity in the speeches beginning in January 2002.

Congressional Republicans express doubts on Bush Social Security plan

By LAURA MECKLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans are expressing doubt that President Bush's plan for personal accounts in Social Security can win approval, saying lawmakers fear the political consequences of voting major change to the popular retirement program.

Some suggested that Bush jettison the central feature of his plan, which is to let younger workers divert part of their Social Security payroll taxes to private retirement accounts.

"Politically speaking, right now it's probably not doable," Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said Thursday, citing lack of Democratic support.

"We should take this year to study the issue and come up with solutions," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. She said there was no consensus for action now and that she had not made up her own mind.

Her Maine colleague, Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe, has said outright that she opposes diverting the program's taxes to pay for personal accounts. Snowe serves on the Senate Finance Committee that would handle any Social Security legislation, mak-

ing the task before Republicans more daunting.

Not a single Senate Democrat has endorsed Bush's proposal.

That stands in stark contrast to legislation cutting taxes, setting new standards in education and adding prescription drugs to Medicare. In each of these cases, the president had at least one prominent Democrat on board early.

Under Senate rules, supporters would need 60 votes for their plan if Democrats try to block it. That means, proponents would have to persuade at least a few Democrats to join them if the plan is to become law.

That was partly the reason behind a two-day tour to five states that Bush began Thursday to sell his Social Security program. Each state is represented in the Senate by at least one Democrat who GOP strategists believe might back the president's proposal.

"Now is the time to put partisanship aside and focus on saving Social Security for young workers," Bush said in Fargo, N.D.

Bush wants to let workers divert up to two-thirds of their Social Security taxes into private accounts that they could invest in stocks and bonds. At the same time,

the guaranteed benefit would be cut, though by how much is not clear.

Many Democrats favor personal accounts, but want them in addition to benefits paid by Social Security.

Bush's proposal is also stirring worry in the House, where Republicans have often fallen in behind his programs.

"I've talked to some of my colleagues and they're panic-stricken," said Rep. Mark Foley, R-Fla., who said he welcomes a serious debate over the sweeping changes Bush outlined in his State of the Union address Wednesday.

Two House Republicans with years of expertise on Social Security offered an alternate plan, saying the Bush proposal was too risky politically. They suggested bolstering the program with money from general revenues rather than the payroll tax.

"I think politically it's the most salable. It's not going to scare anybody," said Florida Rep. Clay Shaw, who for six years was chairman of the House Ways and Means subcommittee on Social Security. "It does preserve Social Security as it is today. If we're going to attract some Democrats, that's the way to go."

The subcommittee's

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FEBRUARY 2005

Church News

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

This is an invitation to attend services Sunday with Birdwell Lane Baptist Church, located at 1512 Birdwell Lane. The church members extend this opportunity for the purpose of glorifying Jesus Christ and being a blessing individuals and families with a very friendly atmosphere.

At 5 p.m. Feb. 13, in the fellowship hall is a Valentine Banquet, catered by Gale's Sweet Shop. There will be a nursery provided.

Sunday worship services are at 10:55 a.m. and at 5 p.m. Midweek services are at 7 p.m. Wednesday. For information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

Catholic Diocese of San Angelo

The Diocese is inviting everyone within the 29-county area of West Texas to join in Souper Bowl of Caring project Sunday. This program touches the needy and involves young people in helping others. The program encourages everyone to donate \$1 each for the needy as they leave their place of worship Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6.

The program works with young people who stand at the exits of churches holding large pots and collect the \$1 donations. Each \$1 is then donated to soup kitchens, food banks, charitable agencies or other charities as the donor may select.

In 2004, the effort generated \$4.25 million for local charities across the nation. The program began in 1993 and raised \$20 million that year. With about 130 million people watching the Super Bowl, the weekend is the largest planned event in the country.

Cornerstone Church

Cornerstone Church, a Morning Star International Church, invites children entering kindergarten through fourth grade to Sunday children's activities. This month the children will be learning "Pete's Feet Step Out," based on Matt. 14:22-33, discussing Peter stepping out of a boat and walking on water.

Cornerstone, located at the corner of 12th and Owens streets, offers a family atmosphere of praise and worship. Morning worship begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday worship is at 7 p.m. Childcare is available for newborns through preschool. Call Pastor Craig or Cherise Felty at 263-3072 with any questions.

Calvary Baptist Church

Calvary Baptist Church welcomes all those who are looking for a place to worship. Calvary Baptist Church is located at 1200 W. Fourth Street. Preaching services are at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday Bible study is at 5 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dr. Alan Abel
See CHURCH NEWS Page 7A

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Continued from Page 6

has a Bible study Sunday morning Annex after church on the book "Screw Tape Letters" by C.S. Lewis. Dr. Lewis' great communication skills make this promises to be fun. Call 267-7163 for information.

There is a no-nonsense Bible study Wednesday. The group is reading and discussing "The Never Knew" by Yancey. All are welcome. For more information to enroll in the church office call 267-7163.

Big Spring ... home town, St. great home church

First Baptist Church

Included with regularly scheduled Sunday is a sponsored by Scouts Troop 5. will be in the Fellowship Center. The primary donation. The is to begin the Sunday school a.m., attend morning ship at 10:50 a.m. stay for the meeting immediately following vice.

Sunday Night begins at 4:30 activities for children will be with Bible Drill, youth choir, college study, and they have three students which to choose. This week, the church and they are invited to offering for the wife, Susan. Evening worst at 6.

First Baptist invites anyone currently in the body of Christ and worship. If you need information, call at

First Baptist invites anyone currently in the body of Christ and worship. If you need information, call at

East Side Baptist Church

Everyone is welcome and visit 1108 E. Sixth Street. of the regular services. Sunday a.m. and then Wednesday, church members meet for prayer and a nursery is provided for children under age, and in June for 10 year younger children preaching time.

There are many events throughout the year. The event will be when the congregation honored to have Karen Anderson with Austin morning and vices. The Family will be 9:45 a.m. and During the service, these folk and then Mil will be preac

First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Miles, minister speak on Matthew 17: at worship Sunday school 9:45 a.m. and 10:35 a.m. service starts at The Lenten be David La folk singer,

Gale's Sweet Shop
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Church News

Continued from Page 6A

has a Bible study class Sunday mornings in the Annex after church based on the book, "The Screwtape Letters," by C.S. Lewis. Dr. Abel is a great communicator and this promises to be lots of fun. Call 267-7163 for more information.

There is a noon ladies Bible study group Wednesday. The study group is reading and discussing "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancey. All are welcome. For more information or to enroll in the class, call the church office at 267-7163.

Big Spring ... a great home town, St. Paul ... a great home church!

First Baptist Church

Included with our regularly scheduled activities Sunday is a luncheon sponsored by the Boy Scouts Troop 5. The meal will be in the Family Life Center. The price will be a donation. The invitation is to begin the day with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., attend morning worship at 10:50 a.m., and stay for the meal immediately following the service.

Sunday Night Live continues at 4:30 p.m. with activities for every age. Children will be involved with Bible Buddies or Bible Drill, youth have choir, college has Bible study, and the adults have three studies from which to choose.

This week, the ladies of our church and community are invited to begin a study, "A Beautiful Offering" led by the pastor's wife, Susie Teeters. Evening worship begins at 6.

First Baptist Church invites anyone who is not currently involved in a body of Christ to come and worship Him.

If you need more information, call at 267-8223.

East Side Baptist Church

Everyone is welcome to come and visit with at 1108 E. Sixth during any of the regularly scheduled services. Sunday at 9:45 a.m. and then at 6 p.m. Wednesday, church members meet for Bible study and prayer at 7 p.m. A nursery is provided for children under 4 years of age, and Junior Church for 10 years old and younger during the preaching time.

There are many special events throughout the year. The next special event will be Feb. 13., when the congregation is honored to have Mike and Karen Anderson, along with Austin for both morning and evening services. The Anderson Family will be singing at 9:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. During the evening service, these folks will sing and then Mike Anderson will be preaching.

First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Matthew Miles, minister, will speak on text from Matthew 17: 1-9 Sunday at worship service. Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. and Take 10 is at 10:35 a.m. Worship service starts at 11 a.m.

The Lenten speaker will be David Lamotte. He is a folk singer, philosopher

and song writer. He has entertained in some 42 states and 10 countries. His music has received numerous awards and grants.

This year he will also be featured on the main stage of the prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival. He will be at the church Feb. 7-9. A light supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. before the guest speaker begins at 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday service will be Feb. 9.

Everyone is always welcome at First Presbyterian Church located on Runnels between Seventh and Eighth Streets.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

St. Mary's will have a Mardi Gras party with the traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday. The festivities will begin at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Plan to attend at this time of parish fellowship and good food.

Ash Wednesday is next week. Lent begins with the Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 7 a.m. in the chapel and at noon and 7 p.m. in the church.

During Lent, St. Mary's will have Stations of the Cross Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in the church. Everyone is invited to this time of devotion.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at www.stmarysbt.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Immaculate Heart of Mary, 1009 Hearn Street, will host the "Life in the Spirit Seminar" Feb. 18-19.

"Come Alive in 05" will be at 7 p.m. Friday night and from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Breakfast and lunch will be provided Saturday. A love offering will be accepted. The

retreat ends with Mass Saturday. Childcare is not provided.

The purpose of the retreat is to know God as more than creator, to encounter Jesus as Savior and Lord and to experience a fuller life in the Spirit, through a renewed commitment to God.

Circle Six Ranch

We are pleased to have the Rev. Dr. John D. Duncan as the guest speaker for this year's Men's Rally at Circle Six Ranch Baptist Camp. He is pastor of Lakeside Baptist Church in Granbury.

Duncan received his bachelor of arts degree from Howard Payne University in 1982, his master of divinity and doctor of ministry from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1985 and 1990. He is presently working toward a doctorate of philosophy degree in New Testament with supervision by Dr. David Cook, Oxford, England and Dr. Bruce Winter, Cambridge, England.

The evening includes the Singing Men of West Texas, led by Ty Morris of Crestview Baptist Church in Odessa.

Saturday, there will be a barbecue meal served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:45 p.m. The cost is \$7. Meals for children under 10 are \$4. The programs starts at 7 p.m. An offering will be taken to pay toward the new building debt. The note is due the end of March of each year.

For more information, call 432-458-3467 or e-mail circle6ranch@direcway.com

Friends of Unity

The Tuesday study group led by the Rev. Jim Sims meets at noon. The current exploration is in the writings of Christian mystic Joel Goldsmith. The specific book is "Rising in Consciousness."

Sunday at 1 p.m., the group continues its study of the "Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery."

The books studied are based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and provide a better understanding of those teachings with life applications.

Two more blood drives set in February

A blood drive is scheduled from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the VA Medical Center.

The last opportunity to donate blood in February is from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Wal-Mart Feb. 21.

To donate blood an individual must be at least 18 years old or 17 years old with parent's permission and weigh more than 100 pounds.

Bring a list of all medications currently being taken to the site.

For more information, contact Peggy Hards at 432-569-5531.

Club News

TOPS TX 21

Leader Donna Menges called the meeting to order and Olnee Menges voiced the opening prayer when Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) TX 21 met Monday in the Dora Roberts Rehab Center, 206 W. Third.

Shirley Jenkins led the fellowship song and both the TOPS and Keep Off Pounds Sensibly (KOPS) pledges were recited.

Donna Menges gave the only reading titled, "Thank You."

Nine TOPS weighed in with Olnee Menges being the best loser for the week.

Of the two KOPS pre-

sent, Lynne Criswell was the best loser. Each one received the weekly award.

A letters from the area coordinator concerning the election of the officers at the first meeting in March was read. Members were also reminded of the upcoming State Recognition Days in San Angelo April 8-9. Eight members have sent in registration to attend that meeting.

Following a short discussion period, the meeting adjourned.

Interested in TOPS? Call 1-800-392-8677 or locally 263-0391 or 263-1758 for more information.

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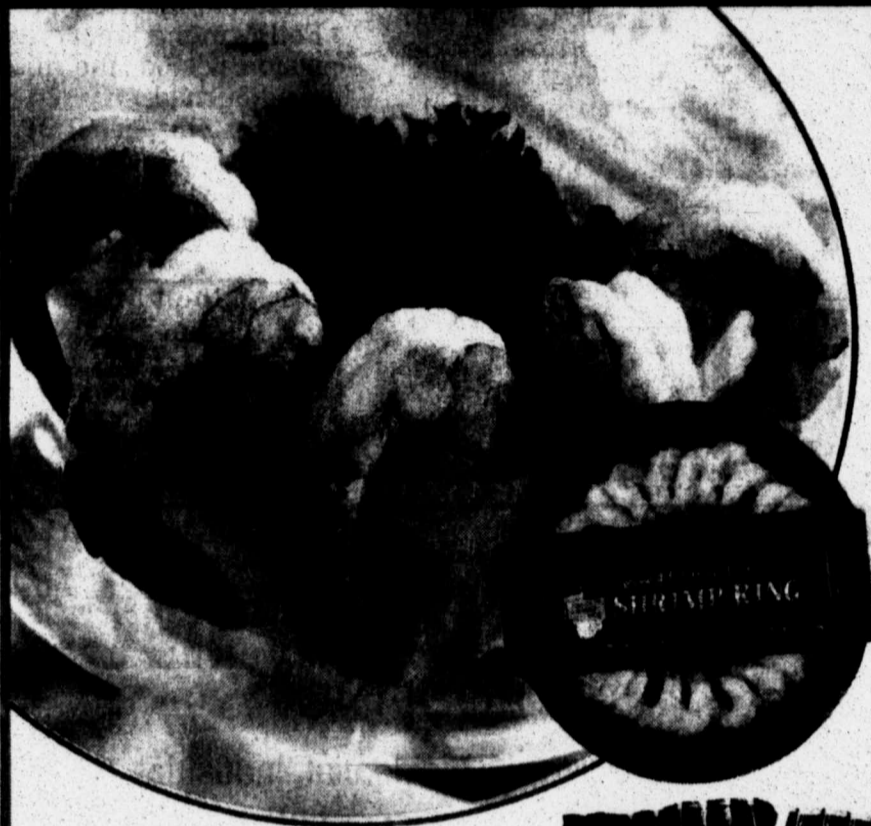
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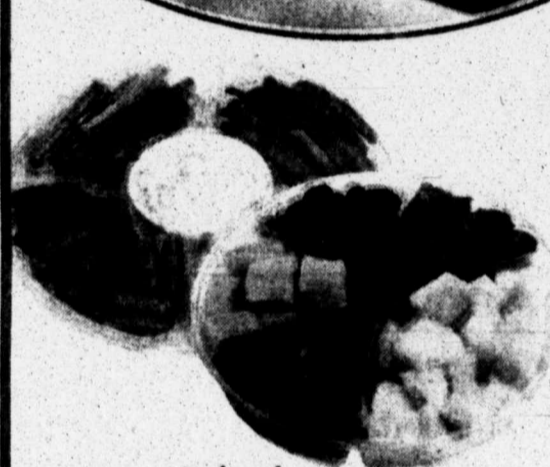
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Stingy South Plains defense stops Howard

• Hawks' offense sputters in home loss to conference rival

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

South Plains is bigger and more experienced and the Texans utilized their strengths and exposed Howard's weaknesses Thursday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum as the Hawk men's basketball team suffered its first home loss, 66-56.

"We played a bigger and much more experienced team," said Howard College head coach Mark Adams. "South Plains exploited our weaknesses on defense and shut us down on offense."

The game featured two of the top-five defenses in the nation as far as points given up per game.

It also featured the matchup of Howard's Dwayne Abraham and South Plains' Dennard Abraham — two brothers from Baltimore, Md.

Howard did not make many baskets early as the team struggled to score points throughout much of the first half.

The Hawks scored six points in the first seven minutes and were stuck on 10 points for more than three minutes.

"Credit South Plains," said Adams. "They pressured us and made it tough for us to run our offense. We also didn't shoot the ball well and had too many costly turnovers."

Freshman Charles Burgess — Howard's leading scorer — connected on a fancy putback as time expired in the first

half, but the Hawks still trailed by 10 at the break, 33-23. And much of the deficit was due to 11 turnovers in the first 20 minutes.

Everything went South Plains' way in the second half, as well. Howard got as close as eight, while the Texans' biggest lead was 15 before they eventually won by 10.

Tough defensive pressure by Howard forced South Plains into long possessions, but the Texans responded by hitting multiple shot clock buzzer beaters.

South Plains was helped by strong second half shooting from Tiago Souza as he connected on four 3-pointers.

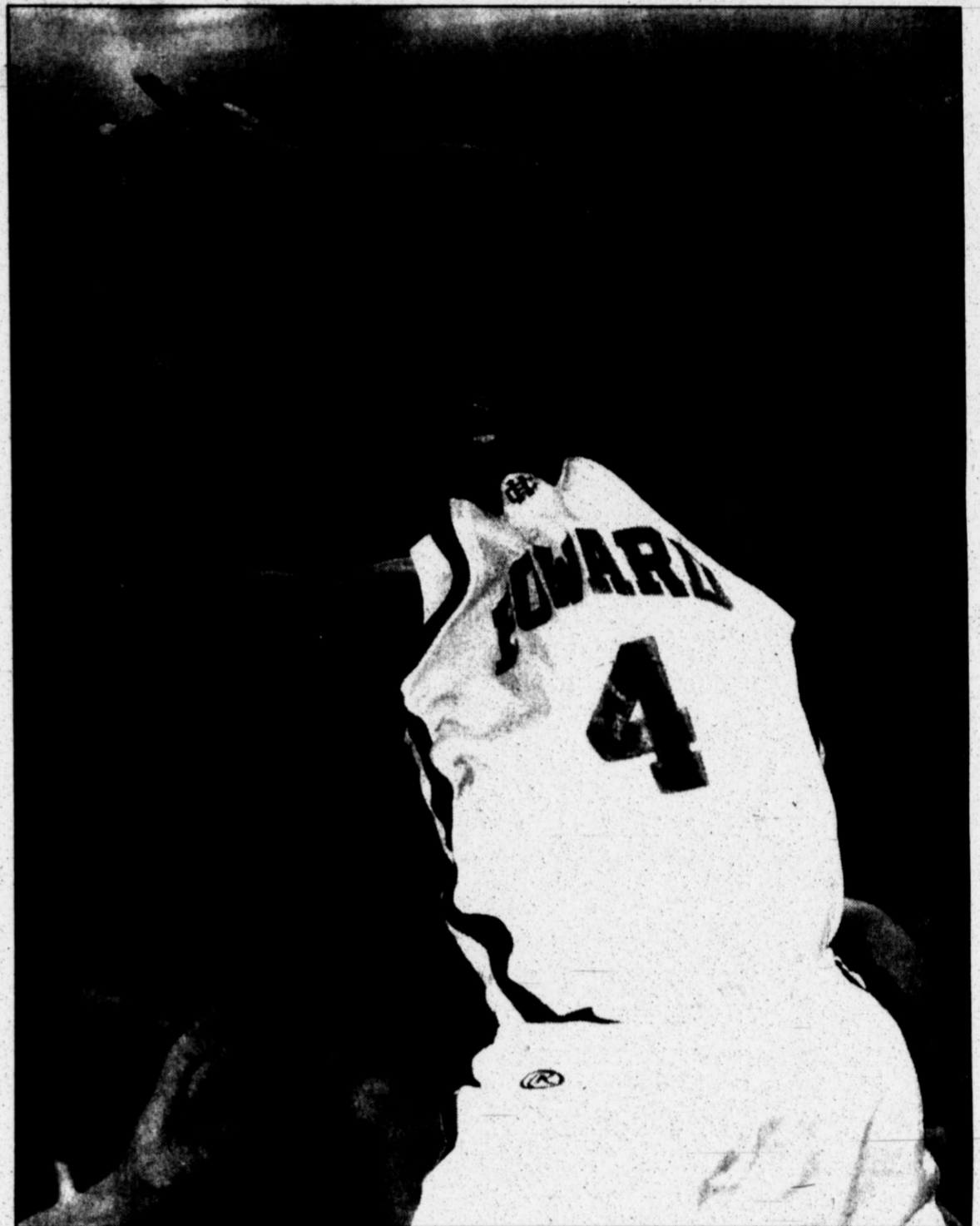
The first half was dominated by Dennard Abraham as he scored 14 points to give the Texans the offensive advantage they later wouldn't relinquish.

Howard's offensive attack has featured five players in double figures during the first part of the conference season, but that would not be the case Thursday.

Burgess led Howard with 15 points, while freshman center Brandon Sampay finished with 12 and freshman power forward James Barrett added 11.

Freshman point guard Rashad Mintz, who averages more than 10 points per game, was held to just three and sophomore Munir Shakir scored just six.

Dennard Abraham outdueled his brother, finishing with a game-high 22 points. Dwayne Abraham, who played his first game



Howard College freshman James Barrett scores a basket inside Thursday during second half action in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Barrett finished with 11 points, but Howard lost to rival South Plains, 66-56.

since recovering from an injury, managed just three points.

Souza added 17 points and five 3-pointers for South Plains.

"We'll watch the tape

and just try to get better," said Adams. "We are at a tough part of our conference schedule right now and must find remedies to our weaknesses."

The Hawks travel to

Midland College (17-5, 4-2) Monday before heading to Borger Thursday to take on a talented Frank Phillips (17-4, 4-2) squad. Both games will start at 8 p.m.

Same story, different day

• Hawk women continue to struggle with turnovers, rebounding in loss

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Howard College women's basketball team has had trouble securing rebounds and taking care of the ball for much of head coach Earl Diddle's reign at the school since early last month.

And Thursday against No. 8 South Plains was no different as the Lady Texans handed the Hawk women their fifth conference loss of the season after defeating Howard, 69-51.

"The turnovers have been a problem since I have been here," said Diddle. "We continue to work on it but we are just not a good passing team. We must eliminate those mistakes if we want to win."

Howard turned the ball over four times in the game's first five minutes and got behind early to the very talented Lady Texans.

South Plains (20-2, 5-1) rolled off eight straight points at one point in the first half and grabbed a 30-17 lead with three minutes to go until halftime. The Lady Texans eventually grabbed a 14-point lead at the break and never looked back in the second half.

The Hawk women finished with 16 first half turnovers and 25 turnovers for the game in the loss.

Freshman Latoya Fairley was dominant when she was on the floor and got the ball, but a combination of fouls and lack of touches kept her from dominating even

more. Fairley picked up her fourth foul with 14:20 to go in the game, but returned to the floor at the 11:19 mark and was able to finish the game.

"We struggle without (Latoya) on the floor," said Diddle. "She is doing better as far as her fouls go, but the team has to do a better job of getting her the ball inside when she is open."

South Plains built a 25-point lead late in the second half, but an 11-0 run by Howard trimmed its deficit to 14 before falling by 18.

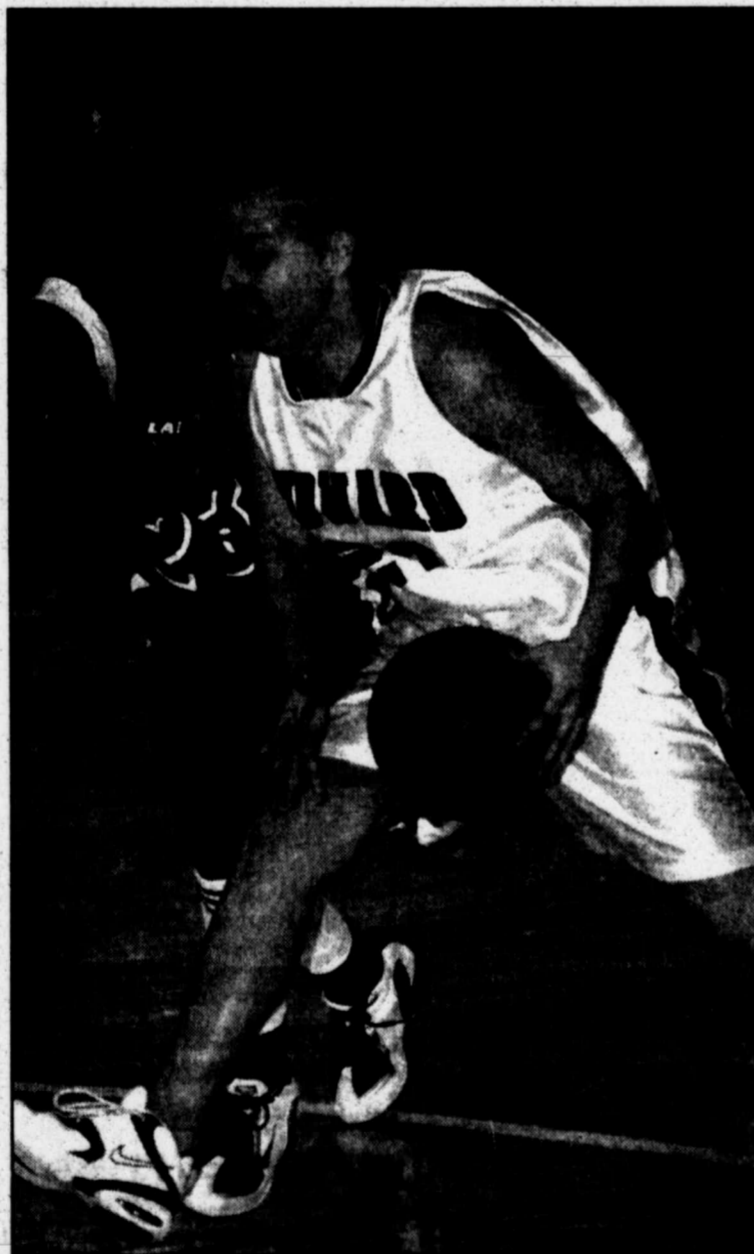
"We ended the game on a positive and the energy late was good," said Diddle. "We have to kind of build on that because

that was kind of a small victory for us."

Fairley finished with 17 points, five rebounds and three blocks, while freshman point guard Jennifer Pena added 13 points, three rebounds, four steals and four assists. Sophomore Ciara Tidwell hit two 3-pointers late and finished with eight points, while sophomore Jessica Shusteric led the team with seven assists.

Danielle Wilhelm hit five 3-pointers for South Plains and led the Lady Texans with 19 points. Megan Morris added 13.

Howard (11-12, 0-5) will travel to Midland College Monday before heading to Borger Thursday to take on Frank Phillips College.



Howard College sophomore Lyndzay Longacre attempts to get by a South Plains defender Thursday in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Longacre finished with four points and three rebounds, but Howard lost, 69-51.

WJCAC Standings

Team	W	L	WJCAC
Howard	11	12	0-5
South Plains	20	2	5-1
Midland	17	5	4-2
Borger	17	4	4-2
Frank Phillips	17	4	4-2
Other	14	11	12



Clockwise from left: Dana Wilson, Carol Garaki, Kori Shipman and Jeneane Richard get ready to perform a cheerleading stunt during second half action at the Howard College men's basketball game Thursday. The freshman foursome is a part of the Howard College cheer squad.

CLASSIFIEDS

710 Scurry

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www.bigspringherald.com

Announcements

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

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA at home. 6-8 weeks. Low payments. FREE brochure. Call 1-800-264-8330 Benjamin Franklin High School. www.diplomafromhome.com

Business Opportunity

COIN SHOOTER vending machines! Ideal for counters by cash registers in public places. Call 866-858-4434.

FOR SALE: Well established Screen Printing / Embroidery business. Located in Big Spring. Serious inquiries only. For appointment call 432-213-0372 10:00-5:00pm.

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

Cemetery Lots

FOUR SPACES at Trinity Memorial Park. Choice lots, Garden of Olivett. Value \$1,380 each. Sell all for \$5,000. Call (325)653-5160 or 325-944-0813.

TWO LOTS at Trinity Memorial Park "Meditation". \$900. each or \$1,800 for both. Call (903)967-3226.

ATTENTION

THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Garage Sales

******AVON SALE******
614 Dallas Street
February 4th & 5th
Friday & Saturday
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Great prices on your favorite products!
Check & Credit Cards accepted.

Garage Sales

4004 VICKY. Saturday, 8:00-noon. Upright freezer, ping-pong table, books, games, men's, jr's, plus size clothing, shoes, coats, pre-lighted Christmas tree.

Garage Sales

FRONT PORCH Sale, Saturday, 9:00- 5:00. 705 W. FM 700, south side First Baptist Church. Household items. Everything Goes! 16 ft. trailer.

GARAGE SALE, 2903 Hunters Glen. Saturday, 9:00- 3:00. Bear rug, quail, etc. Nord-a-trax, lawn furniture, TV, computer and misc. items.

Garage Sales

INSIDE SALE, Saturday, 7:00 a.m. -12:00. 205 East 17th. Toys, Beanie Babies, table linens, furniture, Americana items, lots of miscellaneous.

MOVING SALE, 208 Washington. Saturday, 8:00-12:00. Toys, clothes, workbench, swing set, lots of miscellaneous.

Auction

Sat. Feb. 5th • 7:00 pm

Treadle Sewing Machine, Table & Chairs, Wooden Bench, 2 Western Bar Stools & Bench, Chair & Ottoman, Metal Rack, Barn Wood Display, Metal Glass Top Table & Chairs, Frankoma, Cookie Jars, Steer Horns, Mirror, Lamps, Pictures, Jewelry, Glassware, Tools, Lots of Misc.

Something For Everyone.
Don't Miss This Auction!
Next Auction! Feb. 19th

Crossroads Auction Co.
Located at 6607 N. I-20 Service Rd., Two Miles east of Refinery on North Service Road at Exit 184, Big Spring, TX.
David Lefever-Auctioneer Lic. #13251
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The Basin's Bank, a strong and growing independent bank, is seeking professionals to join us in our growth and success. Our current opportunities include:

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Seeking a **Personal Banker** with a minimum of 1 year of new depository experience providing personalized banking services to customers in a courteous, professional and efficient manner. Will be responsible for customer inquiries and other clerical duties assigned. Must be able to cross sell bank products to customers; open new customer accounts; generate leads, referrals, and process transactions. Must have excellent communication and customer service skills, along with competent computer knowledge.

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4workonline.com Own a computer? Work from home. \$500-\$4700 extra income. Will train. FREE details.

A PERFECT MATCH. Wanted 57 people to lose 10 to 20 pounds and up to 30 inches in the next 30 days. Risk Free. 1-888-219-2876.

BEST HOME Care has position available for Certified Nurses Aide. Please apply at 111 E. 7th., Suite C. No phone calls please.

BIG SPRING STATE HOSPITAL

Currently has opening for Direct Care Workers
All shifts
Beginning Salary up to \$8.42/hour

Our benefit package includes:
Paid Vacation, Sick Leave, Holidays, Insurance, Retirement and Nursing Educational Stipends.

Contact Human Resources
432-268-7256

Big Spring State Hospital
1901 North Highway 87
Big Spring, TX 79720

BUSY MEDICAL Office seeking high energy employee with multi. tasking skills and a self starter. Loves working with patient's and has a caring attitude. Come by 1707 Lancaster, Warren Chiropractic.

CellularOne a leader in the wireless communication industry has some exciting career opportunities that we want you to be a part of.

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Attention: John Hendricks
Fax: (432) 264-9141
Email:
john.hendricks@wireless.com

CELLULARONE

CHRISTIAN COUPLE needs a sitter for a 3 year old. Call (432)267-1689 or leave message.

CITY OF Big Spring is taking applications for airport maintenance worker. Apply at the Personnel Department, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE. Applications may also be obtained from website:
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

CLERICAL POSITION available at Best Home Care. Computer experience required and must be very detail oriented. Please apply at 111 East 7th, Suite C.

TRUCK DRIVER needed in Midland. Class A CDL with Hazmat. Call 325-725-1993.

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 PUNTEDADAS, 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.

DANCER/ COCKTAIL waitress needed. Must be 18 yrs. old. Call San Franciscan Bar & Grill (432)267-1767 leave message.

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

ENVELOPE STUFFERS needed now! Earn serious money working from home. Call our 24-hr. hotline for details. 1-972-504-2690.

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

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.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for roustabout pushers and helpers. Please apply at Rusty's Oilfield Service Co. Inc. in Stanton. (432)756-2821

MARKETING/ ADMISSION Coordinator

Do you have strong people skills?
Do you have good organizational skills?
Do you have computer skills?
Are you motivated to succeed?
If so, you may enjoy this career opportunity.

Please Contact:
Administrator,
Comanche Trail Nursing Center
3200 Parkway Road
Big Spring, TX
432-263-4041

Comanche Trail Nursing Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer

MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE

Now Hiring
LVN's or RN's
* Very Competitive Starting Pay
* Excellent Benefits including Health Insurance, Retirement Plan, and Vacation
* Friendly, Family-like environment
Please apply in person @ 2009 Virginia Ave.

NEED MACHINE maintenance person with hydraulic and electrical basic knowledge. Person needs to work with schematics. Competitive salary and benefits. Fax resume to 432-354-2669.

VACUUM TRUCK DRIVER
Safe driving record, Class A CDL w/Tanker/Hazmat endorsement. Drug and alcohol testing. Health/Life insurance, retirement, paid vacation. Apply at Midwestern Vacuum Truck Co, 1146 North College Ave, Snyder, TX. (325) 573-6385.

Help Wanted

NURSING OPPORTUNITIES

LVN
Earn up to \$2,706 per month (DOE)

RNs
Earn up to \$4,825 per month (DOE)

All shifts

Our benefits package include:
Paid Vacation, Sick Leave, Holidays, Insurance, Retirement and Nursing Educational Stipends.

Contact Human Resources
432-268-7256

Big Spring State Hospital
1901 North Highway 87
Big Spring, TX 79720

SURGERY CENTER in Midland/Odessa area is looking for an Administrator. RN preferred w/management experience in the OR setting required. No Call and no weekends. Competitive Pay & Excellent Benefits. Send resume: c/o P.O. Box 1431/114, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

WANTED! Closeout-finders. Work spare time from home. Earn \$5000 + monthly. Free confidential report write: ZAKEN, Dept. 50199D1, 20700 Plummer Street, Chatsworth, CA. 91311.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY person needed to move furniture. Must be motivated. Good driving record required. Must be 21. Paid vacation & holidays. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg. No Phone Calls!

Items for Sale

8 PIECE Living Room Set - Sofa, loveseat, chair, coffee table, 2 endtables and 2 lamps. Green in color. Asking \$350.00 obo. Call (432) 263-6395.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR - \$1200.00, high porch ramp - \$800.00, electric scooter - \$500.00, and threshold ramp. All items for handicapped. Call (432)394-4675 or 270-8330.

Jobs Wanted

WILL SIT with the Sick or Elderly. Need transportation to the job sight. Call (432)264-6092 or leave message.

Lost and Found

FOUND BLACK pit bull puppy. FM-021 - 51 County Road 14. Call to identify (432)267-7387.

FOUND MALE Jack Russell terrier. Call to identify (432)264-6330 after 5:30 p.m.

FOUND TWO female dogs (1) yellow Lab, (1) Australian Shepard. Vicinity- 15 miles south of Big Spring, Overton Road. Call (432)398-5430.

FOUND: WHITE male Jack Russell. Call to describe. 432-264-6330.

FREE PUPPIES to good homes. Call (432)-263-7042.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Lost and Found

LOST AUSTRALIAN Shepherd, brown and white, blue eyes, answer to "Misty" lost in Tubbs Addition. Reward! Call (432)264-6287.

LOST MALE Australian Shepherd & collie mixed. Air Base area on Monday, 1-31-05. Call (432)263-0607.

Miscellaneous

BUYING OLD American guitars and amplifiers or parts. Any condition for private collection. Call (432)556-5760 or 689-0550.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceaneras. 10% Discount on Arches, Candelabras, florals w/cake order. Grishams (432)267-8191.

National Ads

FREE MONEY for 2005! Private-Government Grants for Personal bills, School, Business, etc. Never Repay. Live Operators. Approx. \$49 billion dollars unclaimed 2004. 1-800-410-2613 ext. 31.

GOVERNMENT JOBS! WILD-LIFE / POSTAL \$16.51 to \$58.00 per hour. Full Benefits. Paid Training. Call for Application and Exam Information. No Experience Necessary. Toll Free 1-888-269-6090 ext. 100.

Pets

BOSTON TERRIER puppies-Full Blood. 3 Males, 6 weeks old, with shots. Just looking for a good home. \$250.00 each. Call (432)264-9026.

Pets

FOR SALE, male Beagle, 13 months old, registered. \$150. Great with kids! Serious inquiries only! Call (432)267-5478 or 268-3152.

Real Estate for Rent

LOVELY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLEX
Swimming Pool
Carports,
Most Utilities Paid,
Senior Citizen Discounts,
1 & 2 Bedrooms & 1 or 2 Baths
Unfurnished
KENTWOOD APARTMENTS
1904 East 25th Street
267-5444
263-5000

1400 Sycamore- 3/1 bath. \$475. month \$250. deposit
407 1/2 East 8th- 1/1 bath. \$275. month \$150. deposit
Both have CH/A.
Call (432)267-2296.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS

Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options
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MOVE IN SPECIAL - APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.
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PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS
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263-5555 263-5000

1010 EAST 20th. Three bedroom, two bath. Call (432)267-3841, 517-0642.

1308 BIRDWELL. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, new carpet, fenced yard and garage. \$325.00 month \$200.00 deposit. No pets. Call (432)263-7850.

1406 Tucson, three bedroom, fenced. \$375. month, \$150. deposit. Also 1204 Lamar. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. \$285. month, CH/A. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

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We Are Loaded With Vehicles

ALL 04 & 05
Cars, Trucks - SUV's
Will Be "Reduced" To "Clearance Sale"
Pricing **IMMEDIATELY!**

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Don't Miss This HUGE "Inventory Reduction Sale"



BOB BROCK
FORD LINCOLN MERCURY NISSAN
500 W. 4TH 267-7424

Automation Technician - Andrews, Texas
Lead Field Tech responsible for all aspects of design, installation and maintenance of field automation equipment. Strong knowledge of PLC programming, installation and troubleshooting end devices, radios, pneumatic instrumentation, and installation and maintenance of production equipment required. Please send resume to: atech@umcautomation.com

Applications Engineer - Andrews, Texas
Prepare quotations, estimate material and labor cost, and delivery time for Vapor Recovery Units and Compressor Packages. Calculate compressor and horsepower requirements for each project based on customer specifications. Supervise drafting department and oversee design of mechanical, electrical, and structural design of various types of compressor packages. Prepare Bills of materials for purchasing and fabrication. Work with customers and engineers to insure proper design and fabrication of equipment. Please send resume to: appeng@umcautomation.com

Electronics Assembler - Andrews, Texas
Responsible for board level assembly of electronic devices. Requires detailed soldering, handling and identification of electronic components. Please send resume to: eleca@umcautomation.com

Looking for motivated team players. Great benefits including 401(k), paid vacation & holidays, and medical/dental/life insurance.

Email preferred, but may FAX resumes to: 432-897-4203 or MAIL: PO Box 113 Andrews, Texas 79714

UMC AUTOMATION

Real Estate for Rent

1407-1/2 SETTLES. Clean two bedroom, fenced yard. Stove & refrigerator furnished. \$225.00 month, \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

1505 TUSCON. Four bedroom, two bath, CH/A. Call (432)270-3848.

1903 GREGG St. for rent. Great office or retail space. \$375/month plus deposit. Call (432)213-2681.

2517 LANGLEY. Four bedroom, one bath. Stove & refrigerator, alarm system, privacy fence. Call (432)268-3152 or 264-6595.

2600 CARELETON. 3 Bedroom 2 bath, Central Heat/Air, appliances furnished, fenced backyard. Nice Neighborhood. \$450. month \$300. deposit. Call (432)213-2681.

3 BEDROOM brick, fenced, air, view. \$325.00. Zero pets. Non smoking. Nice home for less rent. Good credit background required. McDonald Realty, (432)263-7615 or 263-4835.

3904 HAMILTON. 3 Bedroom 1-1/2 bath, CH/A. \$250. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)267-7449.

900 SCURRY. 3/1 Apartment. CH/A, washer, dryer hookups. Appliances furnished. \$385.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. No HUD. Call (432)213-2681

CLEANEST 1 Bedroom in town. \$300. Month, \$150. deposit. No pets. References required. Carport. Call (432)213-2319.

FOR RENT furnished three room apartment. \$150. month. 908 West 4th. Call (432)263-3855 or 263-7648.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS, 403 E. 8th Street. Spacious 1 Bedroom's. Furnished & Unfurnished. All bills paid. \$400.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-2771.

Nicest Apartments in area

CORONADO HILLS APARTMENTS

(432)267-6500
801 W. Marcy
Big Spring, Tx 79720
Month of February
Move in for
\$199.00 or \$299.00.

ONE BEDROOM \$275., Two bedroom, \$300. & three bedroom. \$400. Lease required. Moren, (432)267-7380.

UNFINISHED NICE two bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. CH/A, washer and dryer hook-ups. Appliances furnished. Coahoma ISD. Call (432)263-3996.

Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost. On 1306 Marijo. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. Reasonably good credit required, lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

1002 BIRDWELL Brick House: 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, large kitchen with self cleaning electric stove, large closets, storage. Near Washington School. \$52,000.00. Call (432)394-4675, 270-8330.

20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set up for Doublewide. 45K, \$6,500.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 30 years. No Credit Check. Call (817)312-6322.

FOR SALE: Good 4 bedroom, 2 bath. Near College. \$5000.00. 4 Bedroom, 2 bath. Older. \$3000.00. 2 Bedroom-Brick. \$3000.00. 1 Bedroom-Cheap. Call (432)264-0510.

NO DOWN Payment on 2 thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. We can adjust your monthly payments to fit your Budget. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT

Help STOP Sexual Assaults

Call 263-3312

or Crisis Services/Big Spring

Real Estate for Sale



SPACIOUS TWO-STORY home. 2150 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2 baths, office, 2 living areas, ash cabinets, fireplace. Gazebo, 2 storage bldgs., 3/4 acre, secluded. Lovely yard. \$105,000. Call (432)263-4080.

Vehicles

'04 Freestar Vans
\$6000 Available
Rebates
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 11th 267-7424

1995 Ford Van. 2 choose from! Power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette. In house financing available. WAC

2000 Ford Mustang, V-6 automatic, red, power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM CD. \$7,950.

2001 Daewoo Leganze SE, 4 cylinder, power doors, locks, power windows, tilt, cruise, low miles 43,000. Financing available. WAC

Jimmy Hopper
1607 E. FM 700
Big Spring, TX. 79720
(432)267-5588

1998 Chevy regular cab, short-bed, 2 choose from V-6, automatic, AM/FM cassette, tint glass. \$7,950.

1998 Chevy Silverado extended cab, 3-door Z71, power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette. \$10,900.

1999 Chevy Silverado regular cab, short bed, V-6, automatic, 92,000 miles. \$8,950.

Jimmy Hopper
1607 E. FM 700
Big Spring, TX. 79720
(432)267-5588

1999 Chrysler LHS, V-6, maroon leather seats, power seat, power windows, doors, locks, tilt, cruise, miles 64,000. \$7,950.

2000 Ford Mustang, V-6, green convertible, automatic, fully loaded, dual pipe, after market tail light. One owner. 40,000 miles. Very nice ride!

2001 Chrysler PT Cruiser Limited. Silver, fully loaded with power sunroof. 64,900 miles. \$10,900.

Jimmy Hopper
1607 E. FM 700
Big Spring, TX. 79720
(432)267-5588

2001 HONDA Odyssey, Certified used car. Under warranty. New brakes. \$15,900.00. Call (432)354-2680.

2002 Dodge Neon SE, power windows, power doors, locks, AM/FM CD. Still under factory warranty. \$6,900.

2001 Nissan Frontier SC crew cab supercharge V-6, blue, automatic leather seats, sunroof, power windows, power doors, locks, tilt, cruise, aluminum wheels, CD. \$14,900.

2001 Ford F-150 supercrew XLT, red, tilt cruise, power windows, power doors, locks. Very nice! \$14,900.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The abundance (or overabundance!) of Jupiter is featured, as planets pay tribute to this newly retrograde luminary. Remember: More is not always what it's cracked up to be — ask those lottery winners whose winnings have brought more loss than gain. Show the universe you're a fine candidate for luck by being a good steward of what you have.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The day starts out with business as usual, but stay on the alert. This afternoon brings the in you've been waiting for. You've got a ticket to ride, and the line is short — don't waste this perfect opportunity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Everyone is cut out for something different. Try not to compare yourself to others now. Here's a better way to measure: When you're giving and you don't even realize your giving, you're on the right track.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Protect yourself as though you were a parent protecting a child. Some information is not worth exposing yourself to — what you learn could make you fearful. Then again, what you're fearful of could make you learn.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You can focus on what you want to focus on, but the elephant is

still in the middle of the room. You may as well rally the others and see if you can lure the cumbersome beast to freedom.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You understand the law of diminishing returns. A tired scene is now officially beyond your help. You're not sure where you want to go, but you are sure it's time for departure. Start walking, and you'll discover the path.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may think you need input from others about what you should do, but actually, what you're looking for is validation. So here it is: You are totally equipped for life and will manage obstacles with graceful determination.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Eat for good health. When your body feels terrific, you have the extra energy to strive, reach and dream. Romantically, you're likely to take on a high-maintenance companion, but you're up to the challenge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's something magical about your time with loved ones. Squeeze the moments you have together for all they are worth. When you're fully present you can force time to move slowly, but you cannot keep it from passing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've learned much from your teacher, and it's now time to assume more authority. Any adjustment you make to your work without consulting "the master" saves you money and time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Romance has that capricious quality that simultaneously irritates and enralls you. If you knew what was coming next, this affair wouldn't be nearly as fun, now would it? Surrender to the whimsy!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've fixed your focus on something more than you think you can have or be. Go for it anyway. As your sign mate country singer Garth Brooks sings, "Heaven is not beyond the clouds, it's just beyond the fear."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The plan not only doesn't go down as you intended; it's practically the polar opposite of what you were trying to do. Delight in the contrast. The stars indicate that this new turn brings the best possible outcome.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: As Venus visits zany Aquarius, freaks and geeks meet with new appeal. Dare to love someone for his or her mind! **ARIES:** You are tired of over-thinking your love life and now wish to play it by ear, taking romance as it comes. **TAURUS:** Your willingness to listen to something potentially unpleasant will be the key to romantic growth. **GEMINI:** Try being "just friends" first, but actively — even passionately — pursue the friendship. **CANCER:** You love yourself better because of the way one special person loves you. **LEO:** You are the rock in someone's life. Stand in your responsibility. **VIRGO:** The more

lighthearted your approach, the more attractive you'll be. **LIBRA:** You're let into someone's heart, if only in the outer chambers. **SCORPIO:** Share music, wine and song with someone interesting. **SAGITTARIUS:** Be careful not to set up a friend with someone you'd really love to keep for yourself. **CAPRICORN:** Your romantic impulse is dead on! Follow through, and you'll be kissed and kissed again. **AQUARIUS:** You have much to gain by bringing up a sore subject between sweethearts. **PISCES:** Getting along with a current love means forgiving a past love.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: If signs were architectural structures, Capricorn would be a dignified colonial mansion while Aquarius would be an Omni dome — structures one wouldn't expect to see side by side on Lover's Lane. Yet this weekend, these signs are magnetically attracted, and could decide to shack up! Resolving stylistic differences is the biggest obstacle, but the collaboration has a stunningly rich result.

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.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am in my early 20s and am now living with my mother, after having been on my own for a while. Mom has been seeing a man named "Dan" for two years, and I just found out that they are engaged, although I haven't officially been told yet.

Dan and his 13-year-old son moved in with us in August, and it has been a difficult transition. Dan is a clean freak, and he goes crazy over a dish in the sink or a stain on the counter. He also is a racist. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard him use offensive, derogatory ethnic slurs. When I bring it up to my mother, she defends him, saying he was raised in a different time in a different place. Personally, I don't think that's a good excuse.

I cannot ever criticize Dan, because my mother always takes his side, no matter what, and says I'm insensitive for giving him grief. Now that they are engaged, I feel close to a nervous breakdown.

I loved my father very much, and when he died four years ago, I took it very hard. I try to envision the future, and Dan just doesn't fit in. When I have kids, I don't want them to know him as their grandfather. What should I do? — Losing It

Dear Losing: No matter how odious a choice your



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

mother has made, it's HER choice, and you must find a way to live with it. Instead of criticizing Dan — or worse, comparing him to your father — try kindness and caring. Tell Mom you understand that she doesn't want to be alone, but you are concerned that Dan may not make her happy. Meanwhile, start saving your money so you don't have to share living quarters, and if Mom marries Dan, do your best to be civil to your new stepfather. It will allow you to keep your relationship with your mother.

Dear Annie: I just turned 49, and my wife is 45. We have two beautiful kids who have given us such joy. Three years ago, my wife was diagnosed with cancer. Since then, our world has fallen apart because of the medical bills. I have a great job, but my benefits only go so far.

The problem is my wife's family. Not one of them has offered to help financially, yet they all travel, live in beautiful homes, drive fancy cars and gamble away thousands in casinos. They see us struggle daily, living paycheck to paycheck. They know I had to sell things to get money for rent.

My family has given more than I can express. My dad believes a family member in need is never turned down. You would

think my wife's family would want to help her, but they don't. My wife and I have decided that when her time comes to leave us, her relatives will not be welcome at the funeral.

Thank you, Annie. I just needed to vent. I get so frustrated, but I WILL get through this. — Determined in the Midwest

Dear Determined: Our hearts are breaking for you. How difficult it must be to deal not only with your wife's illness and the subsequent financial burden, but also the betrayal and abandonment from family members. It is possible, though unlikely, that your wife's family thinks you may be insulted if they offer financial aid, but after noticing your difficulties, they should have cared enough to make the offer regardless. We'll be thinking of you.

Dear Annie: The other day at breakfast, I read your column about wives of retired husbands who go bananas with hubby at home. Feeling very superior on this score, I asked across the table to my wife of 51-plus years: "I don't drive you bananas since I retired, do I?" Without missing a beat she responded: "Oh, no, no. You did that long before retiring." Sigh. — Martin

Dear Martin: Thanks for making us laugh. We needed that.

Dear Annie: I am 21 years old and was asked out on my first date a month ago. I was thrilled. "Brad" and I went out three times, and we really seemed to like each other. Well, it's been two weeks since our last date, and I haven't heard from Brad except once when we exchanged small talk.

He's made no effort to see me and hasn't returned any of my calls. Yesterday, I left him a message, asking why he's been blowing me off for two weeks. I haven't heard back yet. I'm really hurt by this. Brad was the first guy I ever dated, and now I'm afraid something must be terribly wrong with me. I've been trying to keep myself busy and forget him, but I can't. I don't want to date ever again if this is what it feels like. How can I get over the hurt? — Heartbroken Hannah

Dear Hannah: Welcome to the world of dating — some men (and women) are jerks. Brad may have felt you were getting too serious, or he may have met someone else, whatever, but there is no reason to assume the fault is yours.

Dear Annie: My wife died several years ago. At a recent bereavement meeting, we were asked to bring a love letter or note written to or from our loved one to share with the group. I read a short note my wife wrote me on our 40th anniversary, but surprisingly, very few people had anything. I then asked who had received comments written on birthday or anniversary cards, and one woman said, "My husband always signed his cards, 'With much love.'" Another found one of her husband's notes and framed it — the only written expression she has to remember.

I wish I had more than the dozen handwritten notes from my wife that I read, clutched and now cherish. — A Grieving Husband of 50-Plus Years

Dear Grieving Husband: The art of the handwritten letter has gone the way of the Pony Express, and you have eloquently pointed out what has been lost. Our condolences.

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.

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FRIDAY

FEB. 4

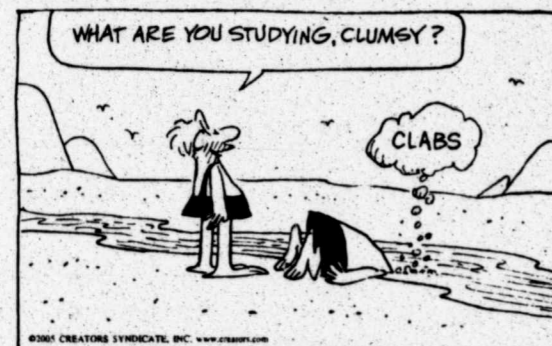
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7	8 Simple Rules: Complete Sav.	8 Simple Rules: Complete Sav.	Amor Real	Jonny Zero (CC)	JAG (CC) (DVS)	Gitanas	Third Watch (CC)	Movie: A Knight's Tale (CC)	Light of the Southwest	Wash. Week Well-Fortune	American Chopper	Movie: Golden Girl	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie	Remember the Titans (CC)	Billiards: Final	Boxing: Echer Cherry vs. Ricky Quires	Movie: Love Object (CC)
8	Hope & Faith: Less-Perfect	Hope & Faith: Less-Perfect	Hospital, Paises La Escuelita	Malcolm-Mid. 70s Show	NUMB3RS (CC)	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	Medical Investigation	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Jmi Edit. Rpt Tavis Smiley	American Hot Rod	Movie: Club	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Club Comic View	Lizzie McGuire: Phil of Future	Ricky Quires	Basketball: Rockets at Timberwolves	Movie: Taxi Driver (CC)
9	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	News Tonight Show	:40 Movie: The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	American Chopper	Movie: Blood	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Movie: Get Carter	Nightly News Maad Sports	American Dign That's-Raven	Ti (CC)	NFL Live (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)
10	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Movie: La Diosa del Puerto	Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	AI Rojo Vivo	Late Night: Maria Celeste	Conan O'Brien Frasier (CC)	Analyze This (CC)	Sign Off	Southern Steel	From the Mummy's Tomb (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Movie: The Ultimate Fighter	Midnight Love	Mr. Whiskers Kim Possible	NFL Live (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Taxi Driver (CC)
11	AM Live (CC)	AM Live (CC)	Puerto Rico	Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	AI Rojo Vivo	Late Night: Maria Celeste	Conan O'Brien Frasier (CC)	Analyze This (CC)	Sign Off	Southern Steel	From the Mummy's Tomb (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Movie: The Ultimate Fighter	Midnight Love	Mr. Whiskers Kim Possible	NFL Live (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Taxi Driver (CC)
12	News (CC)	News (CC)	Paid Program	Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	AI Rojo Vivo	Late Night: Maria Celeste	Conan O'Brien Frasier (CC)	Analyze This (CC)	Sign Off	Southern Steel	From the Mummy's Tomb (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Movie: The Ultimate Fighter	Midnight Love	Mr. Whiskers Kim Possible	NFL Live (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Taxi Driver (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HEY, MOM! HOW COME ALL OF THE BABY SITTER NAMES ARE CROSSED OFF?"

BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"You better eat more, Sam, or you'll never grow big like Marmaduke."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2005. There are 330 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Feb. 4, 1945, President Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin began a wartime conference at Yalta.
On this date:
In 1783, Britain declared a formal cessation of hostilities with its former colonies, the United States of America.
In 1789, electors unanimously chose George Washington to be the first president of the United States.
In 1801, John Marshall was sworn in as chief justice of the United States.
In 1861, delegates from six southern states met in

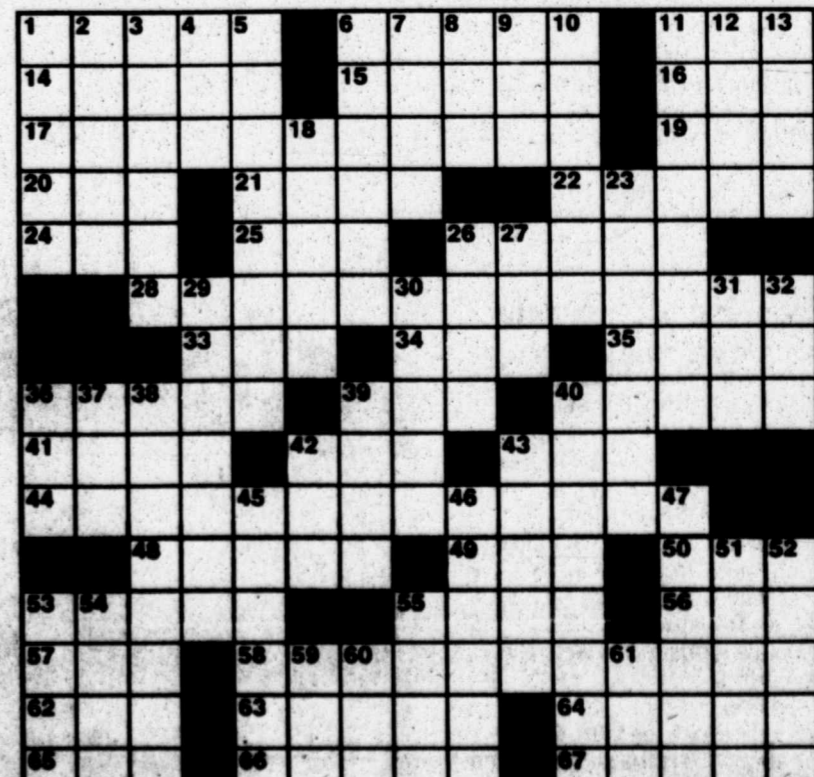
Montgomery, Ala., to form the Confederate States of America.
In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt opened the Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid.
In 1941, the United Service Organizations (USO) came into existence.
In 1974, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was kidnapped in Berkeley, Calif., by the Symbionese Liberation Army.
In 1976, more than 22,000 people died when a severe earthquake struck Guatemala and Honduras.
In 1983, singer Karen Carpenter died in Downey, Calif., at age 32.
In 1997, a civil jury in Santa Monica, Calif., found O.J. Simpson liable for the deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.
Today's Birthdays: Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks is 92. Feminist author Betty Friedan is 84. Actor William Phipps is 83. Actor Conrad Bain is 82. Actor Gary Conway is 69. Movie director George A. Romero

is 65. Rock musician John Steel (The Animals) is 64. Singer Florence LaRue (The 5th Dimension) is 61. Comedian David Brenner is 60. Former Vice President Dan Quayle is 58. Rock singer Alice Cooper is 57. Actor Michael Beck is 56. Actress Pamela Franklin is 55. Actress Lisa Eichhorn is 53. Rock singer Tim Booth is 45. Rock musician Henry Bogdan (Helmet) is 44. Country singer Clint Black is 43. Country musician Dave Buchanan (Yankee Grey) is 39. Actress Gabrielle Anwar is 35. Singer David Garza is 34. Actor Michael Goorjian is 34.

Newsday Crossword

MIDDLE MANAGEMENT by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS
- 1 Arens or Dayan
- 6 Chance to hit
- 11 Chucklehead
- 14 Ill-looking
- 15 Nary a soul
- 16 Frazier foe
- 17 World's largest hotel
- 19 Beehive State
- 20 Crumpets partner
- 21 Yell "Rah!"
- 22 Greek vowels
- 24 Gobble up
- 25 The Braves, on scoreboards
- 26 "___ the Top"
- 28 Hold on tight
- 33 Cartoon unit
- 34 Reveal, in poetry
- 35 First chip
- 36 Bergen dummy
- 39 Live and breathe
- 40 Golf Begins at Forty author
- 41 Evergreen-scented
- 42 Grounded Aussie
- 43 Prefix for center
- 44 Eat forbidden fruit, perhaps
- 48 Buenos ___
- 49 Bruins great
- 50 Road warning
- 53 On or about
- 55 Gets on the ump
- 56 Post-ER place
- 57 Director Lee
- 58 Bribe offerer
- 62 Mineral suffix
- 63 Search for prey
- 64 Took an oath
- 65 'easter
- 66 Wipe clean
- 67 In knots
- DOWN
- 1 Paint finish
- 2 Milo or Tessie
- 3 Sword holder
- 4 Clothing line
- 5 Like some invitations
- 6 Luanda's land
- 7 Wrongful act
- 8 Jungle crusher
- 9 Author Beattie
- 10 Ennui
- 11 Sweet wine
- 12 Utah ski site,
- 13 Pizzeria orders
- 18 Traveler's stop
- 23 Like some produce
- 26 "Holy cow!"
- 27 Seam discovery
- 29 Kind of paint
- 30 Discussion venue
- 31 Call ___ day
- 32 ___ XING
- 36 Sunblock letters
- 37 Actress Vardalos
- 38 Photo-lab gadget
- 39 Tori of pop
- 40 Least dense
- 42 Bard's "before"
- 43 Gaffe
- 45 Frozen dessert
- 46 Internet IPO of '04
- 47 Stock-ticker inventor
- 51 Pastry prettifiers
- 52 Reduce to mush
- 53 Genesis son
- 54 Divider's word
- 55 Autobahn autos
- 59 Flight board abbr.
- 60 Mauna ___
- 61 Leave flooded



Golf Insider

By T.J. TOMASI

BIRDIES AND BOGEYS

Hold that Tiger

If you want to play the Old Course at St. Andrews, you have to apply two years in advance, so you might think they'd leave well enough alone, but the powers that be are changing the course in preparation for the British Open to be held there this summer.

First, 93 of the bunkers have been reworked. On the famous "Road Hole," No. 17, one of the toughest holes in the world, the bunker was made wider so it would "gather" the ball a little bit more. And on No. 12, the bunker that guards the green was lowered a foot so you can't see it from the tee (the hole was also lengthened 35 yards).

The last time the Open was held at the Old Course Tiger Woods did not hit into a single bunker over 72 holes (there are more than 400 on the course), an incredible feat that may never be matched — especially with the new changes.

The course will also play about 200 yards longer (at 7,200 yards) than it did five years ago. The par-5 14th, for example, is now 616 yards — the longest hole ever in a British Open.

First, Tiger's great play led to changes at Augusta National, then it was Carnoustie, and now it's St. Andrews.

Tsunami relief

If you would like to join other golfers from the United States and around the world to help the rebuilding efforts following the devastating tsunami in South Asia, send a tax-deductible check to:

The U.S. Golf Tsunami Relief Fund
c/o PGA Tour Charities, Inc.
P.O. Box 2904
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
32004-2904

Or go to www.pgatour.com and contribute online.

ASK THE PRO

Q: You answered the player whose swing plane was too shallow; mine is too steep, and I have yet to find a swing thought, training aid or drill that can help me break the habit. Any ideas? — Mark F., from Birmingham, Ala.

A: To the player whose swing plane was too shallow, I suggested he try to hit balls out of a thin divot hole to force him to feel a steeper angle of attack (out of a divot hole it is impossible to get the ball airborne unless you hit it with a descending blow). Your cure is just the opposite in that you want to deliver a more horizontal blow.

Take your normal setup position for a driver with the ball teed up extra high (at least an inch off the surface). Using a 5-metal, line up the club head even with the ball, and using 80 percent of your normal speed, make a swing with a level, roundhouse-feeling shoulder turn.

At first, with your steep swing, you'll hit a few pop-ups, but after a while you'll get the feel of the longer flat spot through impact that's needed to sweep the ball into the air without disturbing the tee.

If you would like a training aid that can help, try Dream Swing; you can find it online at www.dreamswing.com.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME



Even experienced golfers should periodically take their "measure to the ball." If done correctly, your rear end sticks out behind you and your knees are bent so they are over your shoelaces.



The measure of a golfer

Many golfers have trouble figuring out how far to stand from the ball, and problems can develop if you position your body incorrectly. Stand too far away and you'll develop a swing that's too much "around" your body; crowd the ball and you'll tend to swing the club too vertically.

Here is an exercise to help you gauge the correct distance. I start all my beginning students with this procedure, but even experienced golfers should periodically check their "measure to the ball" to make sure they haven't slipped into any bad habits.

This exercise has three parts. First, stand with your heels about shoulder width apart, back vertical, knees locked straight, and hold the club shaft parallel to the ground as I am in the left-hand photo above.

ABOUT THE WRITER



Dr. T.J. Tomasi is director of instruction at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, Conn. To ask him a question about golf, e-mail him at: TJInsider@aol.com.

Second, keeping your back straight and your knees locked, bend from your hips (not from your waist) and let the club drop toward the ground until it hovers near the back of the ball.

Third, unlock your knees so they are now slightly bent, allowing the club to drop the rest of the way to the ground so that it rests directly behind the ball.

When you are finished you should look as I do in the second photo.

If you have done this correctly, your rear end sticks out behind you and your knees are bent so they are over your shoelaces. If they extend out over your toes, they're bent too much.

Also, if you are using a short iron as I am in the photos, your arms should hang straight down. With longer clubs, as the club shaft lengthens, you'll be farther away from the ball. However, and this is key, you should be in the same body posture for all of your full swings.

Your upper body should feel loose and relaxed, your lower body heavy and springy. Your weight should be distributed evenly between your heels and the balls of your feet, and your body should feel athletic and perfectly in balance.

THE GOLF DOCTOR

Faulty concepts block your ability to learn

Your golf swing will be no better than your concept of what a good golf swing should be, so it is very important to harbor the correct notions about your swing. Below is a common misconception that will ruin your game.

The misconception: There is something called a "natural golf swing," implying a pre-wired expertise waiting for birth. All golfers have a natural athlete trapped inside and all they have to do is let it out.

The result of this misconception is slow improvement, if any, and ingrained bad habits. Players who subscribe to this fallacy waste years and cash searching for a natural golf swing that doesn't exist.

The correct concept: "Natural" is a word used when understanding is at a minimum, as in, "He's just a natural."

There is no such thing as a natural golf swing. In fact, the golf swing is an unnatural motion that goes against many of our basic tendencies. Only motions related to survival, such as throwing or striking, are wired into the DNA.

The golf swing is counterintuitive because golfers stand to the side of a ball that's on the ground, so it's unlike any of the other motor sequences we're familiar

with. The brain must learn (or be taught) the golf swing from scratch, one step at a time, for maximum performance to occur.

This concept should lead you to a teacher who understands the importance of breaking down your golf swing into manageable "chunks" composed of specific tasks to be performed (learned) one at a time until the entire blueprint is installed.

It is in this way that the vague (talent) is made functional by the introduction of the specific (technique). Said another way, your talent emerges from your technique and technique is a learned skill.

TEERING OFF

Targeted practice

There are two distinct types of practice: (1) working on swing fundamentals, and (2) practice designed to train you to hunt targets ("target practice"). To maximize your practice time you need to separate the two.

Here's the cardinal rule: When you're working on swing fundamentals, such as grip or takeaway, don't use a target, and when you are taking target practice, don't be concerned with your swing.

This doesn't mean that your entire practice session must be devoted exclusively to one type of practice or the other, but if you are going to do both during the same session, you must be able to keep them distinct in your mind.

Let's assume you start off doing some target practice. You are keeping things fresh — switching targets with every shot, and changing clubs often to make your practice more like playing on the course. You're not thinking about your swing because the task is to get the ball from point A to point B.

But suppose you start slicing the ball. In this circumstance, after the slice has become a trend (five slices in a row), it's time to switch to "fundamental practice" where you focus on the part of your swing that's responsible for the bad ball flight.

Ideally, you've been working with your pro on adjustments to cure the slice. This is the time to concentrate on those adjustments until the trend is reversed.

However (and here is the important part), when you switch to the "fundamental" mode, remind yourself that you are no longer concerned with the target. In this example, your goal is to put the correct spin on the ball. Once this is done you can switch back to target practice, reminding yourself, "Now I'm going to pay attention only to where the ball goes rather than my swing."

When you play you should be thinking about the target, but it's not going to happen unless you practice the technique on the range. Keep in mind what 6-year-old Tiger Woods said when asked by his father what he was thinking about when he hit a golf ball: "I'm thinking about where I want it to go, Daddy." Out of the mouths of babes.

SCHEDULE

All Times EST

PGA TOUR

FBR Open

- Site: Scottsdale, Ariz.
- Schedule: Thursday-Sunday
- Course: TPC of Scottsdale (7,216 yards, par 71)
- Purse: \$5.2 million. Winner's share: \$836,000.
- Television: USA (Thursday-Friday, 4-6 p.m.) and CBS (Saturday-Sunday, 3-6 p.m.)

CHAMPIONS TOUR

- Site: Maui, Hawaii
- Schedule: Saturday
- Course: Wailea Golf Club, Gold Course (6,944 yards, par 72)
- Purse: \$600,000 (Nos. 1-6, \$20,000 each; Nos. 7-12, \$30,000 each; Nos. 13-17, \$40,000 each; No. 18, \$100,000)
- Television: ABC (Saturday, 4-6 p.m.; Sunday 1-3 p.m.)

LPGA TOUR

- Next event: Women's World Cup of Golf, Feb. 11-13, Fancourt Hotel and Country Club Estate, The Links, George, South Africa.

DON'T MISS IT

The swing of my dreams

If you are having trouble with your swing plane, you may want to try a training aid called Dream Swing. It guides the club on the correct plane from take-away to follow-through so you can feel the correct path.

Constructed from various rods and ropes, Dream Swing is portable enough to set up on the range. You attach a golf club and hit balls while tethered to the apparatus.

To find out more, go to www.dreamswing.com. It sells for about \$260 plus shipping and handling.



ON TOUR

Better players get a big head

As further proof that "bigger is better," only 25 players in the first full-field event of 2005 (the Sony Open) used drivers under 400 cc's. This is down from the 90 players who used the smaller driver head the year before.

If you're still using a small-headed driver, it's time for a change — a big one. All things being equal, you'll hit it farther with a bigger head, and it's more forgiving, so you'll get more out of your misses.

Mast-terful

Fifty-three-year-old Dick Mast qualified twice in a row on the PGA Tour earlier this year: Two may not seem like much of a streak, but consider this: Not only is Mast twice as old as many of the dew sweepers, but the two qualifying sites were thousands of miles apart. Dick flew from Florida to Honolulu to qualify for the Sony Open, made the cut, played through Sunday and

then had to fly overnight to San Diego to qualify on Monday for the Buick Invitational. Arriving at 7:10 a.m. for his 8:41 a.m. starting time (he made it to the course with 20 minutes to spare), he shot 65 to claim one of only two qualifying spots.

Give me some Tiger 'tude

Tiger Woods shot a 68 to win last month's Buick Open even though he was playing poorly. Summed up the Associated Press: "He started ... Sunday with three straight bogeys. He finished by hitting a 2-iron so badly it actually turned out good. Woods ended the suspense with an 18-foot putt that he hit too hard, only to see it dive into the cup for a birdie-4 that gave him his first stroke play title on the PGA Tour in 15 months."

Hardly Hoganesque ball-striking, but the ability to score when playing poorly is the hallmark of a champion. The point: It doesn't take physical strength, great flexibility or superior swing technique; Woods' never-give-up attitude can be learned by anyone.