

TUESDAY

February 8, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 32°-34° TOMORROW 52°-54°

BRIEFLY

A&M scholarship applications taken

Texas A&M scholarship applications through the Howard County A&M Club are being accepted for the 2005-2006 school year.

Requirements include residence in Howard County and an acceptance letter from Texas A&M. Academic and scholarly achievements, community based extracurricular activities, sports participation and financial need are all considered when awarding scholarships.

Applications may be picked up from Mike or Jeanne Niklasch at A&M Composites, 1409 E. Hwy. 350 or by calling the Howard County A&M Club president, Dr. Tom Dawson, at 267-7911, ext. 216.

Symphony to play encore Feb. 26

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 returns as guest pianist. 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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Vol. 101, No. 61

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State hospital can breathe sigh of relief

Report will recommend no closings of state hospitals or schools

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The future of Big Spring State Hospital is a lot brighter this morning.

A draft report of a feasibility study ordered by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission argued strongly against closing any state hospital facilities in Texas.

Understandably, that news was received very positively at BSSH.

"This will take a big burden off of (the hospital staff's) shoulders," said Ed Moughon,

"This is probably an 80 percent success for us. We realize that there's still some action that could be taken."

-Ed Moughon, BSSH CEO



BSSH chief executive officer. "We've asked them to stay focused throughout all this, and they have ... I'm really proud of all of them."

Moughon said that the feasibility study, which looked at possible economic benefits of closing various mental health institutions in Texas, instead showed state lawmakers the value of keeping those facilities open.

"(The study) shows that closing a state hospital at this time is not an efficient model," he said. "It pointed out a lot of realities to the legislature about what state hospitals really are."

The draft report shows that at least four

See REPORT, Page 3A

Proposal to reduce farm subsidies not popular

By SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush sent Congress a \$2.57 trillion budget that would cut farm subsidies but boost defense spending, including \$46.4 million for Fort Hood.

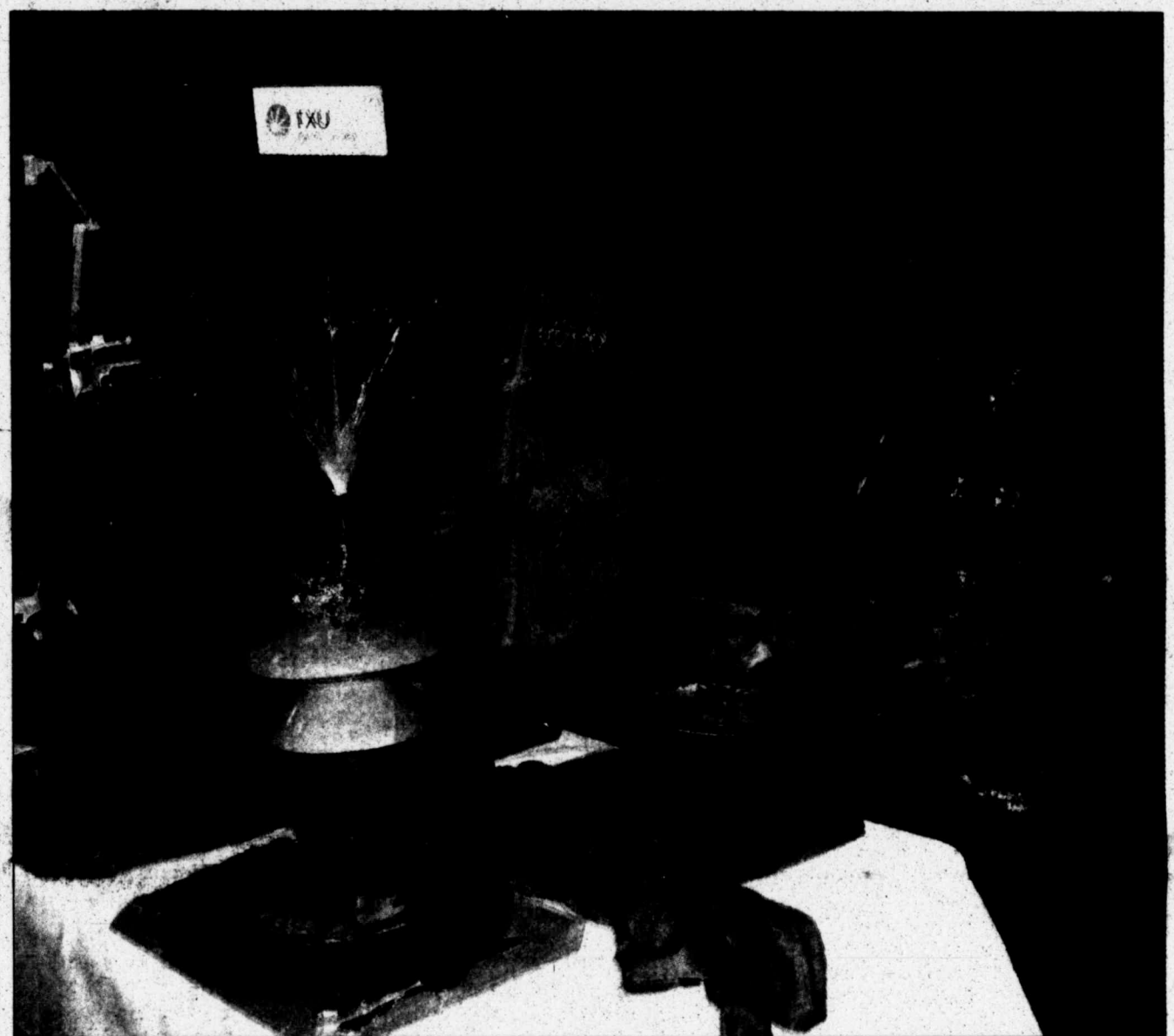
Bush proposed that \$587 million be cut from farm price supports, mainly by cutting payments to farmers by 5 percent and reducing the annual ceiling on payments from \$360,000 to \$250,000.

The news wasn't well received in agriculture circles.

"The 2002 farm program was written to last through 2007. It has provided stability and allowed unprecedented growth in farm income and spending. Our farmers have made long range decisions based on this contract and to renege on it now would be both unwise and unfair," said Roger Haldenby, a spokesman for Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers Inc.

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BANQUET PREPARATIONS



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Jan Hansen, community relations representative for TXU, right, and Linda Weaver, distribution office assistant for TXU, prepare their company's table for tonight's Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet. The banquet is slated for 6:30 p.m. at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Testimony begins in Wittrein's child injury trial

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The trial of a Big Spring man accused of injury to a child began in 118th District Court Monday afternoon, with testimony expected to continue through the afternoon today.

David Arthur Wittrein, 25, of

2314 Roemer, is facing a first-degree felony charge of injury to a child for an incident that allegedly occurred Aug. 19, 2003.

Wittrein was indicted April 29, 2004, on two counts of injury of a child.

"The first count involves the disciplining of a child and was a lesser charge than the one we're

trying today," said Assistant District Attorney Robin Orr. "The second count involved a 1-month-old with a broken arm — broken at the elbow. That's the first-degree felony charge and the one we're trying."

Orr said the jury was selected Monday morning, with the first of the prosecution's testimony

following shortly after.

"We presented one witness today," said Orr. "On Monday we concluded the testimony of an orthopedic surgeon from Midland that examined the X-rays and records of the child."

"I have several witnesses I plan

See TRIAL, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

The yellow C-SPAN bus made a stop in front of Big Spring High School Monday morning. The public affairs network uses the bus, essentially a television studio on wheels, to teach students about how C-SPAN covers the news.

C-SPAN

Public affairs network uses bus to educate

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

While many television viewers may describe C-SPAN as low-key, the same can't be said for its traveling schoolhouse.

The C-SPAN School Bus made a stop at Big Spring High School Monday morning, and it was all but impossible not to notice the bright yellow vehicle. But it was what was inside the bus that was of greatest importance.

The network uses the bus as an educational tool to inform students about C-SPAN and the value of using the network's programming and educational materials in the classroom.

Essentially a television studio on wheels, the school bus is one of two vehicles the public affairs network is using to show students how to use television in general — and C-SPAN in partic-

See C-SPAN, Page 3A

Obituaries

Tressie Hartwell Denton



Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him. (1 Corinthians 2:9)

Tressie Hartwell Denton, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, was welcomed into eternity by her husband of 62 years and they are now celebrating on the streets of gold, where they will forevermore enjoy the love and grace of their Lord and Savior,

Jesus Christ.

Tressie, age 87, of Austin, formerly of Big Spring, passed away Sunday, Feb. 6, 2005, at Duval Gardens Nursing Home in Austin.

Born Dec. 8, 1917, in Corsicana, to Charlie and Lizzie Hartwell, Tressie spent her youth in the Corsicana State Orphanage and graduated from Trinidad High School in 1935.

She and her late husband owned and operated the Village Shoe Store on Gregg Street from 1959 to 1973. On Sept. 25, 1937, in Trinidad, Tressie was married to Travis Denton, who preceded her in death March 17, 1998.

Tressie is survived by her daughters, Myrna Chandler, Joyce Alexander and Helen Vaughn and their husbands, Robert Chandler, Conrad Alexander and Terry Vaughn; eight grandchildren, Bill, Bobby and Sharon Chandler, Tracy Cobb, Casey and Leslie Alexander, Dax Fields and Lauren Vaughn; and four great-grandchildren, Jessica Alexander, Lindzey and Bethany Roach and Michael Alexander.

Tressie will be remembered for her love of family, strength of character, determination to live and unwavering belief and service to Jesus Christ.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Wade Cobb officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

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

Juanita Linville Ford



Juanita Linville Ford, 86, of Longview, formerly of Big Spring, died at 2:50 a.m. Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, in Longview, following a long illness. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Dr. David Ring, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born June 11, 1918, in Lorena, McClellan County to Fred and Esther Linville. She graduated from Cranfills Gap High School and Brownwood College of Business. Juanita married Hollis Paul Ford May 8, 1937, in Meridian. He preceded her in death July 20, 1988.

She was a member of the Women's Society of Christian Service. She worked at the Big Spring State Hospital as office manager of the maintenance department for 19 years. Juanita was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

She is survived by one sister, Birdie Barron and her husband, Glenn Kilgore; one brother-in-law, Albert Redder of Waco; one nephew, Richard Redder of Waco; five nieces, Nancy Utzman of Kilgore, Nita Branam of Houston, Aleene Hood of Valley Mills, Darlene Holik of Miles and Denise Myerscough of Normal, Ill.; seven great-nieces; and two great-nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one sister, Sarah Redder and one nephew, Freddie Joe Redder.

The family suggests memorials to American Heart Association, Howard County Division, 11E Campbell Rd., Richardson 75081.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Paid obituary

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. West winds around 10 mph shifting to the north after midnight.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Highs in the lower 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Highs in the lower 50s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Lows in the lower 30s.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Highs around 50.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Lows in the upper 30s.

Saturday...Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Highs in the upper 50s.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Lows in the mid 30s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Gene Hargrove



Gene Hargrove, 84, of San Diego, Calif., formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, Feb. 3, 2005, in San Diego. Funeral services are 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, 2005, St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Big Spring with the Rev. Jim Liggett and the Rev. Bob Bonnington officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. at the church prior to the service.

She was born Nov. 14, 1920, in Fort Worth and married Lewis Tillman Hargrove Jr. Aug. 5, 1955, in Carlsbad, N.M. He preceded her in death Oct. 14, 1987. She was a member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in San Diego and had been a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church while living in Big Spring.

Survivors include her son, Michael Kilpatrick of San Diego, Calif.; one stepson, Gary Phillip Hargrove of Sonora, Calif.; one stepdaughter, Laura Christine Bradbury of Boerne; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and one sister.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Memorial Fund of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 S. Goliad, Big Spring 79720.

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

Angelina Sanders

Angelina Sanders, infant daughter of Betty Pacheco and John Sanders of Big Spring, died Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005, in a Lubbock hospital. Graveside funeral services are 1 p.m. today, Feb. 8, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Clint Collins and Carlos Payan officiating.

She was born Feb. 5, 2005, in Lubbock.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by two brothers, Rufus Davis and Jihad Sanders; three sisters, Stassney Davis, Mialah Sanders and Kristelle Sanders, all of Big Spring; her paternal grandparents, Pat and Gary Mahlman of Cheyenne, Wyo., and Randolph and Rhonda Sanders of Big Spring; her maternal grandparents, Jim and Margarita Pacheco of Big Spring; her paternal great-grandmother, Margaret Nixon of Big Spring; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

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

Gloria June Coker Petterson

Gloria June Coker Petterson, 62, of Midland died Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church in Odessa with the Rev. Dr. H. Bailey Stone, the Rev. Dr. Gary Dyer and the Rev. Byron McWilliams officiating. Interment will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive visitors from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. today at Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

She was born Nov. 26, 1941, in Big Spring to Lonnie Arlis Coker and Evelyn Maxine Archer. She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1960 and married Paul Petterson Sept. 16, 1967, in Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her father.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Petterson of Midland; one daughter, Dane Schoffner and her husband, Phillip of Euless; two sons, Cort Petterson and his wife, Marcie of Little Elm and Bruin Petterson and his fiancée, Jennifer Nease of Odessa; her mother, Evelyn Coker of Big Spring; one sister, Londa Henry and her husband, Wayne of Kingsland; two grandsons; one niece; and two nephews.

Arrangements are under the direction of Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-9-10-23-29.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$38,117.
Winning ticket sold in: San Antonio.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 10-11-16-28. Bonus Ball: 17.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Prize: \$575,000.
Winning ticket sold in: Richardson.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$200,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-8-8

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Sharon Hardeman

Sharon Hardeman, 43, of Big Spring died at 5:55 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, 2005, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Memorial services are 4 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Raymundo Rodriguez

Raymundo Rodriguez, 73, of Big Spring, died at 11:35 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, at Mountain View Lodge following a long illness. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- **DORIS VALENTINE**, 44, of 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested Monday on a warrant and a charge of failure to identify.
- **TERRY SPEARS**, 37, of 1210 W. Second Street, was arrested Monday on a county warrant and a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- **PATRICIA ROBERSON**, 21, of 1312 Lindbergh, was arrested Monday on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.
- **MICHAEL ROBERSON**, 22, of 2402 S. Main Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of disorderly conduct - language.
- **CHRIS GREEN**, 44, of Graham, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY AS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION** was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
 - in the 1400 block of Stadium.
 - in the 700 block of Ninth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **BILLY WAYNE HALLFORD**, 29, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **ENRIQUE MARTINEZ**, 35, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of public intoxication, failure to yield the right of way, open container and failure to appear.
- **DONALD RAY ALSBAUGH**, 44, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- **ALBERT MARTINEZ JR.**, 26, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for evading arrest or detention and a charge of failure to stop and render aid.
- **JASON COY LOPEZ**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **DANIEL MONTEZ VIERA**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of assaulting a public servant, assault with intent to cause bodily injury - family violence and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- **JIMMY DALE McDONALD**, 56, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **TRAUMA** was reported near the 168 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20 at 8:45 a.m. Monday. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway at 7:03 a.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 400 block of Hillside at 12:07 p.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lark at 12:50 p.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street at 1:29 p.m. Monday. Service was refused.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1800 block of W. Interstate Highway 20 at 1:02 a.m. Monday. Service was refused.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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TEXAS

Murder suspect in Bell County

BELTON (AP) charged with kill after hanging County jail cell.

An autopsy has Phillip Blevins of covered hanged Saturday.

Blevins was charged in the Cleveland, 14, of Cleveland's box 30 when firefig blaze in a trash l

Both teens livi borhood, said T Ash.

He said autops on Cleveland.

Sheriff Dan Sr sion station KCF mother a note of "He apologized He obviously wa guilt and remorse and his own wo

REPORT

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"This is probal said. "We realiz could be taken."

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C-SPAN

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ular — to becom informed on events.

"We show then watch TV, how about TV, and takes to make t

SUBSIDII

Continued from Pa

Texas is one nation's top rec subsidies provid 2002 farm bill, a growers are a t ciary.

The difficult faces in pushing posal was refle statement issu usual ally, Re Neugebauer, R for whom Vice Cheney campai ing last year's el

Neugebauer a Bush's budget, instills fiscal (and provides \$4 for family ho Dyess Air Force he was not so on the farm sut proposal.

"I am concer how our farm are treated request," Ne said in a stater Congress consi year's budget pr is important th a look at all USI ing, not just the port programs.

that this count the safest and m able food supp world should no for granted, no accident. Rathe result of hard w field and soun ture policy Washington."

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TEXAS BRIEFS

Murder suspect found hanged in Bell County jail cell

BELTON (AP) — A 17-year-old charged with killing a Temple girl died after hanging himself in his Bell County jail cell, sheriff's officials said.

An autopsy has been ordered on Chad Phillip Blevins of Temple, who was discovered hanged shortly before 5 p.m. Saturday.

Blevins was being held on a murder charge in the death of Amanda Cleveland, 14, of Temple.

Cleveland's body was discovered Jan. 30 when firefighters responded to a blaze in a trash bin.

Both teens lived in the same neighborhood, said Temple police Lt. Rick Ash.

He said autopsy results are pending on Cleveland.

Sheriff Dan Smith told Temple television station KCEN that Blevins left his mother a note of apology.

"He apologized for what he had done. He obviously was experiencing a lot of guilt and remorse for what he had done, and his own words, the pain and prob-

lems he had caused his family over a number of years," Smith said. He said the note did not give any details of the girl's death or a reason why she was killed.

Smith said Blevins showed no signs of being suicidal.

A jail psychologist had interviewed Blevins and his mother had visited him two hours before his death.

While police say Blevins confessed to the girl's death, they say the investigation is far from over with Blevins' death. Ash said they want to know how she died and whether anyone else was involved.

Potential jurors in nurse trial fill out questionnaires

ARCHER CITY (AP) — Potential jurors were to fill out questionnaires Tuesday for the long-awaited capital murder trial of a former nurse accused of administering lethal drug doses to 10 elderly patients.

Vickie Dawn Jackson, 38, is being tried in two of the deaths at Nocona General Hospital in January 2001. She faces up to life in prison if convicted.

The trial was moved to Archer City, about 50 miles west of Nocona, because

of pretrial publicity and the potential for many in the jury pool to know Jackson or some of the victims, authorities have said.

After receiving and filling out the questionnaires Tuesday, the potential jurors will return to the courthouse Thursday for jury selection.

In early 2001, officials at the 38-bed hospital realized there were twice as many deaths as usual in recent months and traced many of the deaths to Jackson's shifts, authorities said.

Officials said they discovered at least 10 missing vials of mivacurium chloride, a drug administered by syringe or IV and used to temporarily halt breathing in order to insert a breathing tube. Later that year, 10 bodies were exhumed for authorities to test for traces of the paralyzing drug.

Jackson has been jailed since her 2002 indictment on capital murder charges in connection with four deaths, including her husband's grandfather, in 2001.

Last year, Jackson was indicted on three more counts of capital murder in connection with six patient deaths in 2000 and 2001 and a charge of attempted murder regarding an 11th patient. The 10 patients' ages ranged from 62 to 100.

Rubio found competent to choose attorney in appeal

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A South Texas man who is appealing the death penalty for his role in the slayings of three children who were beheaded has been found competent to choose his own attorney.

A court-ordered competency exam was held last week for John Allen Rubio, 24. A copy of the report was obtained Monday by The Brownsville Herald.

During the hearing, Rubio told a psychologist that he still hallucinates and hears the voices of the dead children crying and saying "Daddy," as well as taunts from the devil.

Rubio was arrested in March 2003 and later convicted of strangling and decapitating his child and two others belonging to his common-law wife, Angela Camacho, 25.

Camacho and Rubio allegedly strangled and decapitated her two daughters, 3-year-old Julissa Quezada and 2-month-old Mary Jane Rubio. The couple allegedly washed up afterward and had sex before they decapitated her 1-year-old son, John Esthefan Rubio.

REPORT

Continued from Page 1A

other facilities ranked below BSSH.

A final report, scheduled for release next week, will not recommend specific closings, said commission spokeswoman Jennifer Harris.

"We're a long way off from saying any facility is going to be closed," she said.

Moughon added that the news, while encouraging, is not the final word from the state on the matter.

"This is probably an 80 percent success for us," he said. "We realize that there's still some action that could be taken."

The nine-page draft analysis indicated the closing of the Kerrville State Hospital would cause the least stress of any of the state's 12 mental health hospitals. Waco, Rusk and El Paso follow.

The study said Kerrville's distance from Austin and

San Antonio weigh against the center, said state Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville.

Likewise, the Austin State School would be the least stressful to close of the 12 state schools, followed by those in El Paso, San Antonio and Lufkin, the study found.

However, according to the draft, any shutdowns might not produce the "economic gain" lawmakers hope for.

One factor cited is the amount of bonded debt that would have to be paid off before the complexes could be sold off, but there were others.

"The age of the buildings corresponds with high levels of asbestos in the construction," the draft stated. Also, the often-remote locations might be unattractive to prospective buyers.

"The bottom line is that no state hospital will be closed in the foreseeable future, and this useless, shortsighted study was a wasted effort," Hilderbran told the newspaper.

Meanwhile, a state advocacy group, the Mental Health Association in Texas, is to release a report today of its own study. That study found that Texas lags behind other states in mental health funding, the *San Antonio Express-News* reported.

The study found that Texas loses \$17 billion a year in economic productivity lost to mental illness. It states that chronic underfunding of mental health services also means more mentally ill people crowding prisons, jails, emergency rooms and the streets.

The association wants the Legislature to reverse recent funding cuts and increase the amount of mental health care the state provides.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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

C-SPAN

Continued from Page 1A

ular — to become better informed on current events.

"We show them ways to watch TV, how to talk about TV, and what it takes to make television

news," said Anne Haller, one of three people traveling with the bus.

The \$1.5 million mobile television production studio and media demonstration center does more than just visit school campuses. Last year, it followed the two main presidential candidates around

the country. It's mobile television studio has played host to a number of interviewees, most notably former presidents Bush and Clinton.

C-SPAN was launched in 1979 by the cable industry and mandated to provide, access to balanced, commercial-free coverage

of the American political process. The three C-SPAN networks are privately funded by the cable industry.

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

SUBSIDIES

Continued from Page 1A

Texas is one of the nation's top recipients of subsidies provided in the 2002 farm bill, and cotton growers are a top beneficiary.

The difficulty Bush faces in pushing the proposal was reflected in a statement issued by a usual ally, Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, for whom Vice President Cheney campaigned during last year's elections.

Neugebauer applauded Bush's budget, saying it instills fiscal discipline and provides \$43 million for family housing at Dyess Air Force Base. But he was not so laudatory on the farm subsidy cuts proposal.

"I am concerned with how our farm programs are treated in his request," Neugebauer said in a statement. "As Congress considers next year's budget priorities, it is important that we take a look at all USDA spending, not just the farm support programs. The fact that this country enjoys the safest and most affordable food supply in the world should not be taken for granted, nor is it an accident. Rather, it is the result of hard work in the field and sound agriculture policy from Washington."

Neugebauer pledged to ensure that constituents

in his agriculture-based district "don't shoulder more than their share of the burden."

This fiscal year — which runs from October 2004 to Sept. 30, 2005 — agriculture is expected to account for about \$11.6 billion of Texas' \$797.6 billion gross state product.

Texas had some mixed news on the defense front.

Bush's proposal provides \$148 million for Texas military construction, including \$33 million for a 300-room student dorm at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls and \$46.4 million for various Fort Hood projects.

The Pentagon's budget provides for 25 stealth F/A-22 Raptors — one more than this year — to be produced in the budget year beginning Oct. 1. However, that program would be eliminated in

2008. Bush's budget also officially put the C-130J on the chopping block. His spending plan calls for ceasing production of the Air Force line next year, the first step toward canceling more than 60 planes.

Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth helps produce the F/A-22 Raptors and C130J. However, funding continued for the Joint Strike Fighter, also produced by Lockheed Martin. Funding for the next generation fighter jet is expected to continue.

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Continued from Page 1A

to call this morning and I expect the guilt or innocence phase of this trial to be over sometime today. As for the punishment phase if the defendant is found guilty — how long that could take is a question for the ages."

If convicted of the first degree felony, Wittreich could face five to 99 years or life in prison, as well as a fine of as much as \$10,000.

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

TRIAL

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson, 207-4299
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Raymundo Rodriguez, 73, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Rick Hamby
announces the relocation of his practice to
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Feb. 11 thru 14
Buy your flowers and gifts for Valentine's Day at Dakota's Flowers and they will donate a portion of the proceeds to help CASA recruit, train and support Howard County volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children.

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FEBRUARY 8 2005

Obituaries

Tressie Hartwell Denton



Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him. (1 Corinthians 2:9)
Tressie Hartwell Denton, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, was welcomed into eternity by her husband of 62 years and they are now celebrating on the streets of gold, where they will forevermore enjoy the love and grace of their Lord and Savior,

Jesus Christ.

Tressie, age 87, of Austin, formerly of Big Spring, passed away Sunday, Feb. 6, 2005, at Duval Gardens Nursing Home in Austin.

Born Dec. 8, 1917, in Corsicana, to Charlie and Lizzie Hartwell, Tressie spent her youth in the Corsicana State Orphanage and graduated from Trinidad High School in 1935.

She and her late husband owned and operated the Village Shoe Store on Gregg Street from 1959 to 1973. On Sept. 25, 1937, in Trinidad, Tressie was married to Travis Denton, who preceded her in death March 17, 1998.

Tressie is survived by her daughters, Myrna Chandler, Joyce Alexander and Helen Vaughn and their husbands, Robert Chandler, Conrad Alexander and Terry Vaughn; eight grandchildren, Bill, Bobby and Sharon Chandler, Tracy Cobb, Casey and Leslie Alexander, Dax Fields and Lauren Vaughn; and four great-grandchildren, Jessica Alexander, Lindzey and Bethany Roach and Michael Alexander.

Tressie will be remembered for her love of family, strength of character, determination to live and unwavering belief and service to Jesus Christ.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Wade Cobb officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

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

Juanita Linville Ford



Juanita Linville Ford, 86, of Longview, formerly of Big Spring, died at 2:50 a.m. Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, in Longview, following a long illness. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Dr. David Ring, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born June 11, 1918, in Lorena, McClellan County to Fred and Esther Linville. She graduated from Cranfills Gap High School and Brownwood College of Business. Juanita married Hollis Paul Ford May 8, 1937, in Meridian. He preceded her in death July 20, 1988.

She was a member of the Women's Society of Christian Service. She worked at the Big Spring State Hospital as office manager of the maintenance department for 19 years. Juanita was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

She is survived by one sister, Birdie Barron and her husband, Glenn of Kilgore; one brother-in-law, Albert Redder of Waco; one nephew, Richard Redder of Waco; five nieces, Nancy Utzman of Kilgore, Nita Branam of Houston, Aleene Hood of Valley Mills, Darlene Holik of Miles and Denise Myerscough of Normal, Ill.; seven great-nieces; and two great-nephews.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by one sister, Sarah Redder and one nephew, Freddie Joe Redder.

The family suggests memorials to American Heart Association, Howard County Division, 11E Campbell Rd., Richardson 75081.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Paid obituary

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. West winds around 10 mph shifting to the north after midnight.
Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. Highs in the lower 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Highs in the lower 50s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Lows in the lower 30s.
Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Highs around 50.
Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Lows in the upper 30s.
Saturday...Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Highs in the upper 50s.
Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Lows in the mid 30s.
Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.
Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Gene Hargrove



Gene Hargrove, 84, of San Diego, Calif., formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, Feb. 3, 2005, in San Diego. Funeral services are 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, 2005, St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Big Spring with the Rev. Jim Liggett and the Rev. Bob Bonnington officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends at 10 a.m. at the church prior to the service. She was born Nov. 14, 1920, in Fort Worth and married Lewis Tillman Hargrove Jr. Aug. 5, 1955, in Carlsbad, N.M. He preceded her in death Oct. 14, 1987. She was a member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in San Diego and had been a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church while living in Big Spring.

Survivors include her son, Michael Kilpatrick of San Diego, Calif.; one stepson, Gary Phillip Hargrove of Sonora, Calif.; one stepdaughter, Laura Christine Bradbury of Boerne; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and one sister.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Memorial Fund of St. Marys Episcopal Church, 1001 S. Goliad, Big Spring 79720.

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

Angelina Sanders

Angelina Sanders, infant daughter of Betty Pacheco and John Sanders of Big Spring, died Saturday, Feb. 5, 2005, in a Lubbock hospital. Graveside funeral services are 1 p.m. today, Feb. 8, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. Clint Collins and Carlos Payan officiating.

She was born Feb. 5, 2005, in Lubbock.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by two brothers, Rufus Davis and Jihad Sanders; three sisters, Stassney Davis, Mialah Sanders and Kristelle Sanders, all of Big Spring; her paternal grandparents, Pat and Gary Mahlman of Cheyenne, Wyo., and Randolph and Rhonda Sanders of Big Spring; her maternal grandparents, Jim and Margarita Pacheco of Big Spring; her paternal great-grandmother, Margaret Nixon of Big Spring; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

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

Gloria June Coker Petterson

Gloria June Coker Petterson, 62, of Midland died Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, at Midland Memorial Hospital. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church in Odessa with the Rev. Dr. H. Bailey Stone, the Rev. Dr. Gary Dyer and the Rev. Byron McWilliams officiating. Interment will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens.

The family will receive visitors from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. today at Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

She was born Nov. 26, 1941, in Big Spring to Lonnie Arlis Coker and Evelyn Maxine Archer. She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1960 and married Paul Petterson Sept. 16, 1967, in Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her father.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Petterson of Midland; one daughter, Dane Schoffner and her husband, Phillip of Euleless; two sons, Cort Petterson and his wife, Marcie of Little Elm and Bruin Petterson and his fiancée, Jennifer Nease of Odessa; her mother, Evelyn Coker of Big Spring; one sister, Londa Henry and her husband, Wayne of Kingsland; two grandsons; one niece; and two nephews.

Arrangements are under the direction of Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-9-10-23-29.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$38,117.
Winning ticket sold in: San Antonio.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 10-11-16-28. Bonus Ball: 17.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Prize: \$575,000.
Winning ticket sold in: Richardson.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$200,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-8-8

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NEXT CLINIC VISIT 2-10-05

Sharon Hardeman

Sharon Hardeman, 43, of Big Spring died at 5:55 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, 2005, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Memorial services are 4 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Raymundo Rodriguez

Raymundo Rodriguez, 43, of Big Spring, died at 11:35 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7, 2005, at Mountain View Lodge following a long illness. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- DORIS VALENTINE, 44, of 4000 W. Highway 80, was arrested Monday on a warrant and a charge of failure to identify.
- TERRY SPEARS, 37, of 1210 W. Second Street, was arrested Monday on a county warrant and a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- PATRICIA ROBERSON, 21, of 1312 Lindbergh, was arrested Monday on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.
- MICHAEL ROBERSON, 22, of 2402 S. Main Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of disorderly conduct - language.
- CHRIS GREEN, 44, of Graham, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft.
- THEFT was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- FAILURE TO IDENTIFY AS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:
 - in the 1400 block of Stadium.
 - in the 700 block of Ninth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- BILLY WAYNE HALLFORD, 29, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- ENRIQUE MARTINEZ, 35, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of public intoxication, failure to yield the right of way, open container and failure to appear.
- DONALD RAY ALSBAUGH, 44, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- ALBERT MARTINEZ JR., 26, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for evading arrest or detention and a charge of failure to stop and render aid.
- JASON COY LOPEZ, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- DANIEL MONTEZ VIERA, 17, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of assaulting a public servant, assault with intent to cause bodily injury - family violence and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- JIMMY DALE MCDONALD, 56, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense and evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- TRAUMA was reported near the 168 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20 at 8:45 a.m. Monday. Service was refused.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway at 7:03 a.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 400 block of Hillside at 12:07 p.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Lark at 12:50 p.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2000 block of S. Gregg Street at 1:29 p.m. Monday. Service was refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported in the 1800 block of W. Interstate Highway 20 at 1:02 a.m. Monday. Service was refused.

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TEXAS BRIEFS

Murder suspect found hanged in Bell County jail cell

BELTON (AP) — A 17-year-old charged with killing a Temple girl died after hanging himself in his Bell County jail cell, sheriff's officials said.

An autopsy has been ordered on Chad Phillip Blevins of Temple, who was discovered hanged shortly before 5 p.m. Saturday.

Blevins was being held on a murder charge in the death of Amanda Cleveland, 14, of Temple.

Cleveland's body was discovered Jan. 30 when firefighters responded to a blaze in a trash bin.

Both teens lived in the same neighborhood, said Temple police Lt. Rick Ash.

He said autopsy results are pending on Cleveland.

Sheriff Dan Smith told Temple television station KCEN that Blevins left his mother a note of apology.

"He apologized for what he had done. He obviously was experiencing a lot of guilt and remorse for what he had done, and his own words, the pain and prob-

lems he had caused his family over a number of years," Smith said. He said the note did not give any details of the girl's death or a reason why she was killed.

Smith said Blevins showed no signs of being suicidal.

A jail psychologist had interviewed Blevins and his mother had visited him two hours before his death.

While police say Blevins confessed to the girl's death, they say the investigation is far from over with Blevins' death. Ash said they want to know how she died and whether anyone else was involved.

Potential jurors in nurse trial fill out questionnaires

ARCHER CITY (AP) — Potential jurors were to fill out questionnaires Tuesday for the long-awaited capital murder trial of a former nurse accused of administering lethal drug doses to 10 elderly patients.

Vickie Dawn Jackson, 38, is being tried in two of the deaths at Nocona General Hospital in January 2001. She faces up to life in prison if convicted.

The trial was moved to Archer City, about 50 miles west of Nocona, because

of pretrial publicity and the potential for many in the jury pool to know Jackson or some of the victims, authorities have said.

After receiving and filling out the questionnaires Tuesday, the potential jurors will return to the courthouse Thursday for jury selection.

In early 2001, officials at the 38-bed hospital realized there were twice as many deaths as usual in recent months and traced many of the deaths to Jackson's shifts, authorities said.

Officials said they discovered at least 10 missing vials of mivacurium chloride, a drug administered by syringe or IV and used to temporarily halt breathing in order to insert a breathing tube. Later that year, 10 bodies were exhumed for authorities to test for traces of the paralyzing drug.

Jackson has been jailed since her 2002 indictment on capital murder charges in connection with four deaths, including her husband's grandfather, in 2001.

Last year, Jackson was indicted on three more counts of capital murder in connection with six patient deaths in 2000 and 2001 and a charge of attempted murder regarding an 11th patient. The 10 patients' ages ranged from 62 to 100.

Rubio found competent to choose attorney in appeal

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A South Texas man who is appealing the death penalty for his role in the slayings of three children who were beheaded has been found competent to choose his own attorney.

A court-ordered competency exam was held last week for John Allen Rubio, 24. A copy of the report was obtained Monday by The Brownsville Herald.

During the hearing, Rubio told a psychologist that he still hallucinates and hears the voices of the dead children crying and saying "Daddy," as well as taunts from the devil.

Rubio was arrested in March 2003 and later convicted of strangling and decapitating his child and two others belonging to his common-law wife, Angela Camacho, 25.

Camacho and Rubio allegedly strangled and decapitated her two daughters, 3-year-old Julissa Quezada and 2-month-old Mary Jane Rubio. The couple allegedly washed up afterward and had sex before they decapitated her 1-year-old son, John Esthefan Rubio.

REPORT

Continued from Page 1A

other facilities ranked below BSSH.

A final report, scheduled for release next week, will not recommend specific closings, said commission spokeswoman Jennifer Harris.

"We're a long way off from saying any facility is going to be closed," she said.

Moughon added that the news, while encouraging, is not the final word from the state on the matter.

"This is probably an 80 percent success for us," he said. "We realize that there's still some action that could be taken."

The nine-page draft analysis indicated the closing of the Kerrville State Hospital would cause the least stress of any of the state's 12 mental health hospitals. Waco, Rusk and El Paso follow.

The study said Kerrville's distance from Austin and

San Antonio weigh against the center, said state Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville.

Likewise, the Austin State School would be the least stressful to close of the 12 state schools, followed by those in El Paso, San Antonio and Lufkin, the study found.

However, according to the draft, any shutdowns might not produce the "economic gain" lawmakers hope for.

One factor cited is the amount of bonded debt that would have to be paid off before the complexes could be sold off, but there were others.

"The age of the buildings corresponds with high levels of asbestos in the construction," the draft stated. Also, the often-remote locations might be unattractive to prospective buyers.

"The bottom line is that no state hospital will be closed in the foreseeable future, and this useless, shortsighted study was a wasted effort," Hilderbran told the newspaper.

C-SPAN

Continued from Page 1A

ular — to become better informed on current events.

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news," said Anne Haller, one of three people traveling with the bus.

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C-SPAN was launched in 1979 by the cable industry and mandated to provide access to balanced, commercial-free coverage

of the American political process. The three C-SPAN networks are privately funded by the cable industry.

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

SUBSIDIES

Continued from Page 1A

Texas is one of the nation's top recipients of subsidies provided in the 2002 farm bill, and cotton growers are a top beneficiary.

The difficulty Bush faces in pushing the proposal was reflected in a statement issued by a usual ally, Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, for whom Vice President Cheney campaigned during last year's elections.

Neugebauer applauded Bush's budget, saying it instills fiscal discipline and provides \$43 million for family housing at Dyess Air Force Base. But he was not so laudatory on the farm subsidy cuts proposal.

"I am concerned with how our farm programs are treated in his request," Neugebauer said in a statement. "As Congress considers next year's budget priorities, it is important that we take a look at all USDA spending, not just the farm support programs. The fact that this country enjoys the safest and most affordable food supply in the world should not be taken for granted, nor is it an accident. Rather, it is the result of hard work in the field and sound agriculture policy from Washington."

Neugebauer pledged to ensure that constituents

in his agriculture-based district "don't shoulder more than their share of the burden."

This fiscal year — which runs from October 2004 to Sept. 30, 2005 — agriculture is expected to account for about \$11.6 billion of Texas' \$797.6 billion gross state product.

Texas had some mixed news on the defense front.

Bush's proposal provides \$148 million for Texas military construction, including \$33 million for a 300-room student dorm at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls and \$46.4 million for various Fort Hood projects.

The Pentagon's budget provides for 25 stealth F/A-22 Raptors — one more than this year — to be produced in the budget year beginning Oct. 1. However, that program would be eliminated in

2008. Bush's budget also officially put the C-130J on the chopping block. His spending plan calls for ceasing production of the Air Force line next year, the first step toward canceling more than 60 planes.

Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth helps produce the F/A-22 Raptors and C130J. However, funding continued for the Joint Strike Fighter, also produced by Lockheed Martin. Funding for the next generation fighter jet is expected to continue.

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Rep. Pete Sessions of

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But Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, an ardent champion of national rail service, said Congress has shortchanged Amtrak, limiting its effectiveness outside the northeast corridor. Hutchison said railroads can alleviate highway congestion and improve transportation.

"We need to either commit to a national railroad or abandon the pretense of one. National or nothing. Today's budget represents an inadequate middle ground," Hutchison said.

The president again wants to eliminate a program that reimburses states for housing illegal immigrants who have committed crimes. The

Meanwhile, a state advocacy group, the Mental Health Association in Texas, is to release a report today of its own study. That study found that Texas lags behind other states in mental health funding, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The study found that Texas loses \$17 billion a year in economic productivity lost to mental illness. It states that chronic underfunding of mental health services also means more mentally ill people crowding prisons, jails, emergency rooms and the streets.

The association wants the Legislature to reverse recent funding cuts and increase the amount of mental health care the state provides.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A

to call this morning and I expect the guilt or innocence phase of this trial to be over sometime today. As for the punishment phase if the defendant is found guilty — how long that could take is a question for the ages."

If convicted of the first degree felony, Witt could face five to 99 years or life in prison, as well as a fine of as much as \$10,000.

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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

Prison system troubles need a fix upstream

Trouble and the Texas prison system have been joined at the hip for more than a generation.

Texas lawmakers should not be surprised that they are again being called upon to solve another overcrowding crisis at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

This time members of the 79th Texas Legislature should put more effort into keeping citizens out of state prisons instead of building more accommodations for a constantly expanding prison population.

The federal courts took control of Texas prisons in 1979 following a yearlong trial based on a 1972 prisoner complaint of routine atrocities.

Overcrowding, understaffing, substandard medical care and uncontrolled physical abuse were ruled to be unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment.

In an attempt to correct these problems, Texas taxpayers authorized a decade-long, \$2.3 billion expansion of the Texas prison system. Voters were told that the unprecedented building program would relieve the backlog of state prisoners overflowing in county jails and end the catch-and-release parole system that put criminals back on the streets nearly as fast as they were convicted.

Although the world's most ambitious prison-building binge gave Texas one of the largest prison systems on the planet, it has not solved the overcrowding problem.

Without more successful programs that guide youngsters and adults into law-abiding, productive livelihoods, Texas taxpayers will continue to build more prisons until they are flat broke. By now it should be obvious that it is not possible for the state to build its way out of its prison problems.

With a prison population of about 151,000, the state again is struggling to find enough beds in the no-vacancy prison system.

Texas lawmakers now are talking about introducing bills this session to increase the state's probation program and improve drug treatment as alternatives to prison sentences.

While these alternatives are worth pursuing, lawmakers also should invest more efforts farther upstream to prevent people from entering the criminal justice system.

With buildings and operations, it costs taxpayers more to send someone to prison than to college. Money spent on keeping youngsters in school all the way to a good-paying job would benefit Texas much more than expanding the state's prison system.

Lawmakers also should consider more alternative sentencing programs for non-violent offenders who pose minimal threats to society.

In the long run, the best investment is to keep young Texans in school and match their educational achievements to living-wage jobs.

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Greed, fraud and politics abound

This is how California politics work these days. In lean times, Sacramento balances its budgets with

smoke and mirrors and desperate deals that trade savings today for bonuses tomorrow. In flush times, when tax revenue pours into state and local coffers in buckets, punch-drunk lawmakers give away the store.

Public-employee unions greedily take advantage of the spend-happy mood. Later, when the spigot stops gushing, state and local politicians realize they gave away too much, but the new benefits are set in stone. What has been given with little thought cannot be taken back without great deliberation.

So, as President Bush looks at privatizing Social Security for ideological reasons, California Republicans are looking at privatizing the pensions of local and state workers out of pure desperation.

In 1999, Sacramento increased benefits for state workers retiring at age 55 when it passed a bill that also allowed police and firefighters to retire at age 50 and pocket 90 percent of their pay in pension benefits. In 1990, there was a bill that changed how retirement benefits are calculated — from a percentage of the last three years' salary averaged annually, to the last year's pay only, which savvy employees could inflate with overtime and unused sick leave.

Add in a loophole for how public-safety workers can take disability retirement — with a huge tax break — and you get "chief's disease," described by the Sacramento Bee as "the name rank-and-file California Highway Patrol officers give to abuses of the medical pension and workers' compensation systems in the CHP's upper ranks." As Assemblyman Keith Richman, R-Northridge, noted, "It is not uncommon at all for individuals to be retiring at more than 100 per-

cent (of pay)."

Some local governments got caught up in the madness as well. As the market tumbled and the revenue stream slowed to a trickle, cities' and counties' defined-contribution pension plans have needed huge injections of cash. In the Bay Area, Contra Costa County saw its annual pension contribution for county workers rise to 12.26 percent of its general fund. Ask yourself: How can local government expand services or hire new people when it is diverting a growing chunk of its budget to pensions?

And there is nothing to be done about it. When Assemblyman Richman introduced a bill to return state workers to the old, last three-years-of-pay standard, the legislative counsel warned him that doing so would probably be "unconstitutional" — not just for current retirees but for all current state employees.

Because there was no way for the Legislature to fine-tune old pensions, Richman started looking at new ways to prevent the same collision of decreased tax revenue and plummeting investments in the future. His radical solution: Dump the defined-benefit pensions, and mandate that the state contribute a defined amount to pensions for new state and local hires. Put the measure on the ballot, and sell it on this premise: These 401(k)-style pensions would never present the state with a budget surprise.

Of course, public-employees unions and the state pension-fund managers are going nuts. The two-tiered system would be poison for the unions. Younger workers aren't likely to feel loyalty to a union that allowed older colleagues to enjoy cushy pensions but not them. "As time goes on and the new lower-tier people take the top positions in union leadership, you're going to see them pitted against each other," noted Carroll Wills of California Professional Firefighters.

The unions are right to point out that the spike in pension contributions has to do with a soft investment climate. "In our view, this

didn't happen because there was something fundamentally wrong with the pension system. This happened because there was a historic fluctuation in the stock market and the investment markets," said Wills.

Other points against the Richman plan: The state didn't complain in years when a bull market shaved state and local contributions to next to nothing. CalPERS documents note that the average CalPERS pension for the largest segment of retirees is \$1,673 a month starting at age 60. And CalPERS has done a tremendous job of investing for its retirees at low cost.

All those factors, alas, do nothing to change the dynamic. State voters know that the people they elect don't mind giving away their tax dollars. And they know that once lawmakers give away a benefit, it cannot be taken back without giving something bigger in return. The latest Public Policy Institute poll found that 61 percent of California voters support switching state and local pensions to the defined-contribution system, with a mere 25 percent opposed. Thus, if Richman's plan goes to the voters, it may well pass.

There is a way for unions to head this off. CalPERS now supports legislation to curb chief's disease and stabilize pension contributions. Unions also can kick in more to bankroll generous health benefits for pensioners, unvested cost-of-living increases and other perks.

Nonetheless, the bargaining has yet to begin in earnest. You'd think the unions had forgotten why so many problems in California get solved at the ballot box.

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

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Confirmation politics and Schumer

Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, intensely ambitious and partisan, was

uncharacteristically caught off balance. He had worked so amiably on federal judgeships in his state with Alberto Gonzales as White House counsel that the senator effusively endorsed his nomination as attorney general. Now, weeks later, Schumer was not only criticizing Gonzales but opposing his confirmation.

How did a four-year relationship suddenly sour? There was no revelation about Gonzales causing scales to fall from Schumer's eyes. Instead, the inner circle of Senate Democrats determined that the previously non-controversial Mexican-American from Texas would be the prime target of President Bush's second term nominations. Schumer, caught leaning the wrong way on a party matter, recovered and was one of 35 Democrats (out of 41 present) plus one nominal independent who voted last Thursday against Gonzales.

This is confirmation politics, an especially noxious form of partisanship emerging during the current Bush presidency. Unlike the parallel Democratic campaign to block confirmation of conservative judges, there is no effort to prevent non-judicial nominees from taking office. Rather, it spotlights negative Bush issues — prisoner abuse for Gonzales — by attacking the failed policy's supposed

text. The Democrats' course was tipped off Jan. 19 by Sen. Joseph Biden during Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on Condoleezza Rice's nomination as

secretary of state. Biden, the committee's ranking Democrat, told Rice he would vote for her with "frustration" and "reservation" because "I believe strongly the president is entitled to his Cabinet." Yet, a week later, he opposed Gonzales in committee.

Actually, Biden has a long record of opposing Republican non-judicial nominees. In the elder George Bush's administration, he voted against John Tower for secretary of defense and Robert Gates for CIA director, as well as several lesser nominees.

Biden's propensity to vote no increased during the second Bush's administration as Senate Democrats, in the minority, used the confirmation process to underline issues. Far from giving the new president the benefit of the doubt, Biden in 2001 voted against John Ashcroft for attorney general, Gale Norton for secretary of the interior, Theodore Olson for solicitor general and John Bolton for under secretary of state.

The good-natured senator from Delaware was no lonely dissenter. At his side were such senior Democrats as Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Patrick Leahy of Vermont (joined by up-and-coming first-termers like Schumer). Sen. Harry Reid, the new minority leader who advocates a less partisan Senate, was a no-voter in every case except support for fellow Westerner Norton at Interior.

Democratic memoranda earlier revealed a coordinated campaign to derail Bush judges, and Senate sources say the party's stance on new Cabinet nominees also is orchestrated. Party leaders decided to use the debate on Rice to rehash Bush's Iraq policy without really opposing her confirmation, but to actually oppose Gonzales while trying to tie him to the Abu

Ghraib prison scandal.

Of the six Democrats who broke party ranks to vote for Gonzales, five were from "red" states carried by Bush for president. The sixth was from "blue" Connecticut: Joseph Lieberman, 2000 nominee for vice president and 2004 candidate for the presidential nomination. Freed of national political ambitions, he can be Joe Lieberman again. In the most closely reasoned speech supporting Gonzales, he demolished the case against him.

Lieberman pointed out that the case was based on a Justice Department memo to Gonzales about illegal combatants. "I have to ask myself," Lieberman told the Senate, whether to deny confirmation "because of a memo written by somebody else." As for Gonzales's refusal to tell senators his comments to the president on the memo, Lieberman said, "I respect the right of the counsel of the president to keep private . . . the private counsel he gives to the president."

When I first covered the Senate 45 years ago, confirmation battles were rare. It was considered a stain on the Senate in 1959 when President Eisenhower's nominee for secretary of commerce was rejected because of one powerful Democratic senator's personal animus. Today, nothing is personal. President Bush's 2001 nominees were attacked because of their opinions and his 2005 nominees because of administration policies. The decline of the Senate continues.

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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WORLD NEWS

Israeli, Palestinian leaders expected to announce cease-fire at summit

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt (AP) — With a verbal cease-fire deal in hand, Israeli and Palestinian leaders met at a Mideast summit Tuesday for face-to-face talks and goodwill gestures aimed at ending four years of violence and entering a new era of peace talks.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas smiled broadly as they leaned across a long white table to shake hands as their meeting began — their first since Abbas succeeded Yasser Arafat after his November death. An invitation to both sides to meet separately with President Bush at the White House this spring added momentum on the summit's eve.

"Israel is willing to go very far and we're going to introduce today a package of confidence-building measures, incentives, to the Palestinians so that they could start this long journey on the road to peace," said Ranaan Gissin, a top Sharon adviser. "But there's one thing that must be made very clear ... there will be no flexibility whatsoever, no compromise whatsoever on fighting terrorism."

Sharon's first meeting, with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, went long, lasting more than an hour. Gissin said Sharon planned to invite Mubarak for a visit to Israel. "One can expect that," he said.

Rice resumes European tour after peacemaking foray in Middle East

ROME (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday she is optimistic about the chances for Israel and the Palestinians to reach accommodation, in part because of a new thirst for peace throughout the Middle East, but cautioned that "there is still a long road ahead."

"There seems to be a will in the Middle East because people want to live in a different kind of Middle East," Rice said.

She commented after a meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini in which they discussed Iraq, the Middle East other issues.

Their meeting came hours before Israeli and Palestinian leaders, with a verbal cease-fire in hand, met in Egypt for face-to-face talks and goodwill gestures aimed at ending four years of violence and entering a new era of peace talks.

Fresh from meeting separately with Israeli and Palestinian leaders over the prior two days, Rice reiterated that success at Tuesday's summit and beyond will depend in part on help and commitment from other Middle Eastern countries the international community in general.

Dolly the sheep scientist gets human cloning license for medical research

LONDON (AP) — The British government on Tuesday gave the creator of Dolly the Sheep a human cloning license for medical research.

It is the second such license approved since Britain became the first country to legalize research cloning in 2001.

The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, which regulates such research, approved the license for Ian Wilmut, who led the team that created Dolly at Scotland's Roslin Institute in 1996.

He applied in September to Britain's fertility authority for a human cloning license to study how nerve cells go awry to cause motor neuron disease.

The first license was granted in August to a team at Newcastle University that hopes to use cloning to create insulin-producing cells that could be transplanted into diabetics.

Such work, called therapeutic cloning because it does not result in a baby, is opposed by abortion foes and other biological conservatives because researchers must destroy human embryos to harvest the cells.

Jury convicts former priest Paul Shanley in notorious clergy sex abuse case

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — For weeks, jurors in the trial of Paul Shanley listened carefully to tense exchanges between the accuser and the former priest's lawyer.

At times, the accuser broke down on the stand as he testified in graphic detail how Shanley pulled him out of Sunday morning catechism classes and molested him in the bathroom, the rectory, the confessional and the pews. The abuse started when he was 6.

On Tuesday, Shanley was convicted of repeatedly raping and fondling the accuser at his Roman Catholic church during the 1980s. He is perhaps the most notorious figure in the sex scandal that rocked the Boston Archdiocese nearly three years ago.

The accuser, now 27, put his head down and sobbed as the verdicts were read after a trial that hinged on the reliability of what the man claimed were recovered memories of decades-old abuse.

Shanley, 74, showed no emotion as he stood next to his lawyer.

Shanley's conviction on all four charges gives prosecutors an important victory in their effort to bring clerics to justice for decades of child sex abuse at parishes across the country.

Indictment charges W.R. Grace, executives over asbestos-contaminated mine

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — A federal indictment charges that W.R. Grace and Co. and seven of its executives knew a mine was releasing cancer-causing asbestos into the air and tried to hide the danger from workers and townspeople.

A newspaper study linked nearly 200 deaths to asbestos from the vermiculite mine in the small town of Libby, about 130 miles northwest of Missoula near the Canadian border. More than 1,200 became ill over the 30 years that Grace, a global supplier of chemicals and building materials, operated the mine.

The federal grand jury handing down the indictment said top Grace executives and managers kept secret numerous studies spelling out the risk the asbestos posed to its customers, employees and Libby residents.

Local woman's death reported to have been suicide by hanging

HERALD Staff Report

No foul play is suspected in the suicide death of a Big Spring woman that occurred Friday, according to local law enforcement officials.

Sharon Hardeman, 43, was pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center at 5:55 p.m. Friday, according to Big Spring Police Department Public Information Officer Sgt. Tony Everett.

"The call came in shortly before 6 p.m.," said Everett. "She was transported to SMMC, where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death appears to be hanging. An autopsy has been ordered, but we don't suspect any sort of foul play at this time."

Everett said Hardeman was discovered by a family member.

Memorial services are 4 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

University chancellors ask lawmakers for more money

AUSTIN (AP) — Tuition increases at Texas public universities could continue if lawmakers don't give schools more money, chancellors told senators Monday.

But lawmakers deciding how much money Texas universities will get first want to know how statewide tuition increases over the past two years have affected enrollment.

"Texas and greatness is tied together with higher education," Sen. Todd Staples, R-Palestine, told chancellors of six public university systems testifying before a Senate higher education committee Monday.

Making sure higher education is available to Texas students from diverse economic and ethnic backgrounds was the primary concern for senators. They also wanted to know how universities are working with high schools and community colleges throughout the state to encourage more students to continue their education.

In 2003, the Legislature gave regents the authority to set tuition at public universities. Facing a \$10 billion budget shortfall,

lawmakers simultaneously slashed state funding for higher education by \$60 million.

Since then, in-state tuition at Texas universities has increased an average of 16 percent statewide. Students at the University of Texas at Austin experienced the largest increase, 37 percent. The average price for a full-time course load increased from \$4,188 per semester in fall 2003 to \$5,735 in fall 2004.

The state's other flagship school, Texas A&M University, increased tuition about 18 percent from \$5,034 per semester for a full-time student to \$5,948.

At Texas Tech University, tuition rose 23 percent, from \$4,745 to \$5,848 per semester.

Chancellors told the lawmakers there was no way to tell yet the direct impact of increased tuition on student attendance, but they cited growing enrollment rates as a positive indicator.

"Our schools have been moderate in their increases," said Texas State University System Chancellor Charles Mathews.

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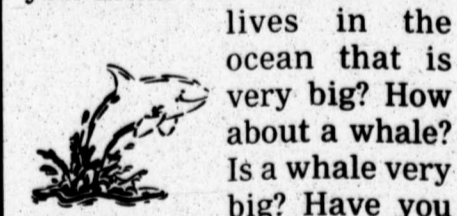
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CLEM CLAM

On the bottom of the ocean floor and on the ocean's edge, lives many creatures. Some are very large and some are very small. Can you think of a creature that lives in the ocean that is very big? How about a whale? Is a whale very big? Have you ever seen a whale? Tomorrow, after you wake up, will you look in one of your books for a picture of a whale? Promise? OK!



This story is not about a whale. It is a story about a

looking for a picture of a whale in one of your books. look for a clam, too! But, let's begin our story before you fall asleep!



Clem Clam lives in two places. He has a home on the ocean floor and then sometimes he makes a home on the beach in the mud. Yes, that is right, in the mud! He loves it in the mud because no other ani-

mal can find him. And it is nice and warm there. One day, Clem stepped out of his mud home to stretch his legs and get some fresh air, when he heard a strange noise coming from some nearby seaweed. It was a little sea turtle that was crying! "What is the matter," Clem asked the little sea turtle? "I am just a little turtle and I have lost my turtle shell and I am scared that a bird or animal will eat me," cried the little turtle. "I have lost my shell and I don't know where I put it! I am so frightened!"

Clem thought for a moment and said to the turtle, "Don't



worry, I will help you find your shell. Turtles move very slowly, so it can't be very far from here." Together they looked and looked for that turtle shell, but it

was nowhere to be found! What will they do? They had better do something very quickly because Mr. Seagull was flying overhead looking for a meal just like that little turtle!

Clem saw Mr. Seagull and said to the little turtle, "Quickly, come into my shell before that seagull sees you!" Clem opened up his shell as far as he could and there was just enough room for him and that little turtle. Clem saved the little turtle's life that day!

And for a long time after that day, every time the little turtle was in danger, there was Clem with his shell open, making a safe home for him and that little turtle! This is not the end of this story! Before long, the little

turtle had grown into a big turtle and had grown a brand new shell of his own. And he even saved enough room for his friend, Clem! And Clem just loved to visit the big sea turtle in his shell. And the big sea turtle took Clem on long trips and for fun rides up and down the coastline and from the top of the sea all the way down to the bottom of the sea. They were certainly good friends for a lifetime!

Clem had no way of knowing that day that he decided to help the little sea turtle was going to be the best day of his life!

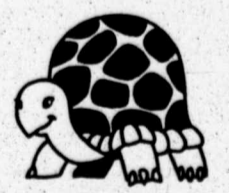
The big sea turtle just took Clem back to his home in the mud so he could go to sleep for the night. And Clem and the big sea turtle told me to tell you GOOD NIGHT!



sea creature that is much, much smaller than a whale. It is a story about a clam. Do you know what a clam is? Tomorrow, while you are

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Siblings of disabled kids share their stories and experiences

By Aisha Sultan

(KRT)
ST. LOUIS — When 13-year-old girls start sharing their troubles at a slumber party, there's bound to be talk about annoying little brothers and sisters.

But when Lauren Jacob chimed in at a recent party about her pet peeve, her brother's tendency to smack people, she got a less sympathetic reaction from her friends.

"Oh, but he's so cute." Or, "He can't help it." Frustrating. People are always rushing to defend 9-year-old Benjamin. It can seem that way sometimes when you have a brother who was born without eyes and is also autistic. Siblings of children with disabilities grow up on fast-forward. They quickly learn lessons in childhood about tolerance, patience, self-sacrifice and responsibility. But because the focus is so often centered on the child with special needs, their experiences may stay in the background.

A group of siblings in St. Louis, including Lisa and her older sister Kathryn, decided they needed to share their personal stories to connect with others in similar situations.

They've published a book on what it's like to grow up in a family when a sibling has a physical or

mental disability. It was published last spring by the Delta Gamma Center, a resource center for children who are blind or visually impaired and their families.

The center runs two sibling support groups, and the older group approached the director about the book idea.

Executive director Debbie Naucke remembers their plea: "We have a lot to say about being brothers and sisters. We feel we don't have a voice."

In the academic research and professional view, siblings were pretty much ignored until the mid- to late 70s, according to Sandra L. Harris, a professor of applied and professional psychology at Rutgers University.

She is the director of the Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center at the university and author of "Siblings of Children with Autism: A Guide for Families."

Increased openness about disabilities and better communication among families has improved siblings' chances of having a real relationship with their disabled brother or sister, Harris said. Still, there are potential pitfalls, a childhood overburdened with worry, sadness, guilt or responsibility.

A MINI-MOM
Kathryn Jacob, 15, casu-

ally sticks out her leg to block Ben from getting too close to a visitor at their home in south St. Louis County.

He easily climbs into her lap despite the fact that, at 9, he barely fits.

She pats his stomach and jokes around with him while he hangs upside down from her legs.

"What are those?" she asks, wiggling her toes. "What are they?" she coaxes him.

It's the kind of games a mom plays with her toddler, and Kathryn is completely comfortable in the role. She was 6 when Ben was born and knew life had changed.

"When you come home and see your dad cry, you know something is wrong," she said.

Her parents, Lisa and Greg Jacob, both 42, readily admit that family life revolves around Ben's routines, moods and needs. His sisters can be a big help.

Unlike a babysitter, Kathryn knows that when Ben says "OK," it might mean "no." She's changed her share of his diapers until he learned to use the toilet at age 5. Even now, she will help dress him, bathe him and make him his favorite sandwich (peanut butter and jelly).

And she can get protective if people stare at her younger brother in public.

She usually says: "If you

have a question, go ahead and ask. It's OK." But once she got really irritated and said, "Hasn't your mom ever taught you not to stare?"

She can explain the problem with his eyes to anyone: "He's got anophthalmia. That means he was born without any eyes. He wears prosthetics, like a prosthetic leg."

And she can sum up his autism in a sentence: "He doesn't interact socially."

Growing up, she quickly realized that the world didn't revolve around her.

Still, there were moments when that was hard to take. Like in fourth grade when she had a big part in a special Mass at her Catholic school. Her parents promised to be there but couldn't make it because of a school meeting about Ben.

"You're just kind of like, 'What about me?'" she said.

Her parents realize those emotions are just as normal and healthy as the loving moments. Unlike teenagers who can be easily embarrassed by their families, the Jacob sisters have a much higher threshold. They can laugh at Ben's quirks, such as his tendency to take out his fake eye at inopportune moments.

Lauren describes it as "that dreaded clink on the ground."

"It might be a little baby's toy dropping, but



Sisters Kathryn, left, and Lauren Jacob comfort their autistic and blind brother, Ben as he waits to bowl during a family outing in south St. Louis County, Mo., Dec. 7, 2004.

we're always worried it might be Ben's eye."

Once, they heard the clink at church. Ben had popped out his eye during the sermon and it rolled under a pew. Luckily, one of them grabbed it.

Kathryn remembers an incident years ago that the school nurse wrote about in Ben's journal. He wasn't feeling well and took out his eye and threw it in the hallway. It hit another student in the head.

The student looked down and said, "Did that kid just throw his eye at me?" Kathryn tells the story with a chuckle.

There are times she wishes Ben could see her face. Lauren sometimes wishes he could have friends and express his emotions. She thinks it would be really nice to "positively know" that he

loved her.

But they both say they wouldn't change him if they could.

The way siblings adjust to their brother or sister with special needs has a lot to do with how their parents respond to their range of feelings, Naucke said.

The siblings' book covers moments of pride and joy, along with guilt and resentment.

"Society has changed in terms of our reaction to people with disabilities," she explained. More families care for their special needs child at home, and many more community resources are available.

Earlier studies on sibling adjustment found that the oldest female sibling was most at risk for assuming a caretaking role at the expense of her own childhood.

Hearts and beds ablaze A Valentine's Day remembered

Nothing says I love you like flowers and candy. However, matches and glue make it a holiday one never forgets.

Our family's unforgettable day of love came when I was 15 and my brother was 5 years old.



CHRISTY ALTON

He and his other kindergarten-aged friend were busy in the back of the house. I went in to check on them and there they sat, with a box of matches and a bottle of glue. Construction paper and scissors littered the bed where they worked.

I immediately felt some alarm at the sight of matches and warned them to quit playing with them. Their response was that they weren't playing, they were making mother's day cards.

Being a teeny-bopper, I let it go at that and went back to the living room.

The boys presented their tokens of love on mom's special day. On the construction paper were the words, "I LOVE YOU MOM" spelled out with un-used matches, pasted on with glue.

About a week later, I was in the living room, pounding out notes on the piano.

Mom was in the back, sewing on the old, noisy Singer machine; my sister was in her room, getting warmed up by the

electric blanket. All of a sudden, I heard a horrendous screech from the bedroom.

"My bed's on fire!" I jumped up off the piano and ran to my sister. Sure enough, flames were licking off the edge of the electric blanket.

I whooped and heard the sewing machine go BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB B. No mom.

In a panic, I raced into the kitchen, my sister still yelping, "My bed's on fire. My bed's on fire."

In my adrenaline-heightened state, I grabbed the nearest thing I could find to extinguish the blaze — a pitcher of tea.

Sloshing, I raced back down the hall and poured it over the small fire on the bed.

Days later, it came to light that the other little boy's "I LOVE YOU MOM" had also ignited.

It was in the floorboard of their family car and it had laid in the sun, causing the matches and glue to combust.

The floormat caught fire. Fortunately, they were in the car at the time and were able to douse out those flames as well.

That was the end of my brother's days with matches and glue.

One thing is certain: we never forgot that special holiday.

It set everyone's heart, and hearth, ablaze.

Christy Alton is mother of two, works full time and is married to her park ranger, Ron.

Her column appears in the Tuesday edition of the Big Spring Herald.

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New Symantec-IronPort agreement seems ill-fated

Even the smaller partners of the Internet market giants aren't safe these days.

Security software giant Symantec announced Monday that it will enter the security e-mail appliance market, expanding the competitive landscape that also includes its current partner IronPort.

IronPort — an appliance maker that bundles in security software from a number of vendors — is also expected to announce a veritable bevy of new partnerships, including an expanded four-year deal with Symantec. But one industry analyst predicts the honeymoon between IronPort and Symantec may be headed for the rocks in the long run.

What a surprise, right? "In the short term, it's a good opportunity for Symantec. It provides another channel for Symantec to sell its anti-virus software into," said Brian Burke, an information security research manager with a major corporation. "But in the long run, I clearly expect them to compete and the relationship to go away."

As part of its entry into the security e-mail appliance market in February, Symantec will offer two product lines, the 8100 and 8200 series.

The 8100 series is designed to cut the volume of unwanted e-mails by 50 percent before they hit the corporate network. That, in turn, is designed to lower the need to add more storage space. The 8160 appliance, the only model in the series, will sell in the U.S. for \$995, which reflects only the hardware costs and excludes security software licenses.

Symantec is also rolling out two models in its 8200 series, which both offer integrated anti-spam, anti-virus and e-mail firewall technologies at the gateway.

"The 8200 series will spot 95 percent of the spam at the gateway and deliver only one false positive per 100 mails," said Daniel Freeman, Symantec's secure e-mail solutions product manager.

In the 8200 series, the 8240 model, which is designed for companies with 100 to 1,000 users, and the 8260 model, which is geared for corporations with more than 1,000 users, can also work in conjunction with Symantec's e-mail volume reducer appliance. The 8240 appliance will sell for \$995, excluding security software licenses, and the higher-end model will sell for \$995, also excluding content subscription costs.

IronPort's e-mail appliances, which serve larger corporations and ISPs, can also be used in conjunction with Symantec's e-mail volume appliance. But analysts say it will largely compete with Symantec's high-end anti-spam and anti-virus 8260 model.

Developers have created an anti-phishing tool for the open source e-mail application Thunderbird.

Mozilla contributor Henrik Gemal said last week in a blog that the phishing detector has been added to Thunderbird. This feature is likely to be available in the next release of Thunderbird, version 1.1, according to the Mozilla bug report.

When a user clicks on a link in an e-mail that appears to be a phishing URL, the detector will prompt the user with a dialog box before the Web site is opened, said Gemal. The detector is triggered if the URL has a numeric IP address rather than a domain name, or if the URL does

not match the address displayed in the link text.

Firefox, the Mozilla organization's browser and Mozilla Suite, its Internet application suite, can already detect some phishing scams, according to the Mozilla news site MozillaZine.org. These applications will warn users who try to visit a URL that includes an unnecessary username — a trick used by phishers to hide the true domain name of a site.

Earlier this month, a vulnerability was discovered in Firefox that could make users of the open source browser more likely to fall for phishing scams. This article elicited a wide range of opinions — both from fans of the open source browser and from those who were less enamored with it.

A hoax e-mailer who told people their missing loved ones died in the tsunami disaster has been jailed for six months.

Christopher Pierson, 40, was seized in his home in Great Britain's Ruskington, Lincolnshire, just a day after the Met's Computer Crime Unit began investigating the e-mails.

He was sentenced in the Bow Street Magistrates Court last week after pleading guilty to communicating "grossly offensive content" with "the purpose of causing distress and anxiety".

The court heard how he sent 35 messages to people who placed appeals for relatives on the Sky News Website.

The e-mails were sent from the bogus e-mail address ukgovoffice@aol.com, supposedly from the "Foreign Office Bureau" in Thailand. Each stated that the missing person had been confirmed dead.

A court official said, "This case should serve as a strong deterrent to anyone thinking of sending similar hoax mes-

sages. We treat crimes of this nature very seriously."

Pierson was also charged with obtaining a computer by deception.

A Web site has published what it claims are confidential documents from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security relating to possible terrorist activity.

The information appears to have reached the public domain via Google, illustrating how the search engine can be used to uncover links to confidential information online.

ZDNet UK alerted the Department to the security breach two weeks ago after seeing the documents. Homeland Security officials have declined to comment on the matter.

The documents contain reports of suspicious

activity in the U.S., such as water supply tampering, an airline pilot being attacked with an axe and bomb threats.

According to the Web site hosting this information, the Department of Energy accidentally published the documents online. They were then discovered by Google and added to its cache of Web content. The mistake was subsequently spotted and the documents taken down, but the Web site owners were able to use Google to find the documents in its cache, copy and publish them.

Google hacking — accessing confidential data from publicly available links on the search engine — is set to become a big problem this year, experts have predicted. Security company CyberTrust has warned that Internet-connected devices, even Web

cams, must be treated as a potential security threat.

The administrators also wrote that a person claiming to be from the Department of Energy had telephoned them, asking that the documents be removed.

"We said no," they reported. "He said, 'I didn't think so. But the briefs are for official use only, couldn't they be removed?' We said no, the briefs provide good public information. He said, 'O.K., thanks for talking to me.'"

A courteous Homeland Security contractor — that's good news, unlike the briefs.

That is, if they are real. Who knows?

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



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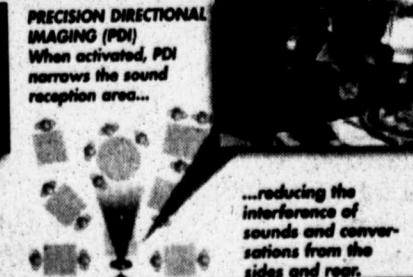
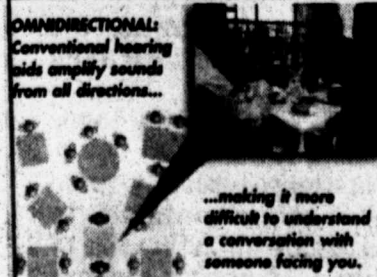
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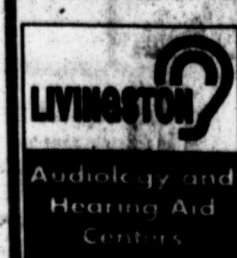
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BIG SPRING HERALD

Modern-day rustler foiled by the old branding iron

By BARRY SHLACHTER

Knight Ridder Newspapers
QUANAH — Roddy Dean Pippin is a cattle rustler — a strange modern-day occupation that comes with plenty of old job-related hazards, short of the rope.

Early on, a mother cow spotted Pippin nabbing her newborn calf and threw the rustler head-first through a barbed-wire fence.

"She nailed me," he recalled. "It hurt. She got me good. Thought she tore my reproduction system away."

Once, Pippin lassoed a steer that dragged him through thorny brush for a quarter-mile, destroying his expensive Stetson and leaving him dazed.

Two hundred cattle stampeded him another time.

Pippin's clothes were shredded and he was stomped and bruised, but at least he broke no bones.

But then came the worst indignity: Finally, Pippin got caught.

I deserve a lot worse," Pippin, dressed in old-fashioned white-and-black-striped jail garb, said of the serial livestock thefts that brought him an eight-year prison term. "One hundred years ago, I would have gotten the rope."

Many Americans might think that the brazen theft of cattle died out with frontier justice and 19th-century range wars. But Pippin, a 6-foot-1 West Texan, is around to disabuse anyone of that notion.

Pippin, 21, was arrested early Aug. 8 while trying to haul four cows and four calves to a sale barn in Decatur in North Texas. He changed his story about buying them in Oklahoma when he was told that the Open Top J brand on the cattle was identical to the mark burned into the hides of livestock reported stolen from a ranch near Quanah.

He confessed. Then, to the amazement of his interrogators, he confessed some more.

He didn't stop talking until he came clean about 23 cattle thefts in Texas and Oklahoma over 18 months, sometimes carried out alone, other times with friends, including a pair of twins married to half-sisters.

Saying he wanted to take his punishment and change his ways, Pippin admitted to stealing 130 head of cattle worth as much as \$65,000, pleaded guilty on Dec. 30 to four counts of cattle theft and agreed to testify against his own gang.

As with many rustling cases dating back generations, it was the hot-iron brand on a steer's hip that helped put a thief behind bars.

"If they had been unbranded, I probably eventually would have solved the case," said Scott Williamson, 41, the field inspector who caught Pippin and tracks thieves for the Fort Worth-based Texas and

Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. "But instead of days, it took hours."

The association and others are concerned that a major change in the ranching industry — the introduction of high-tech identification ear tags expected this decade — might make it easier for the next Roddy Dean Pippin.

The livestock groups worry that many ranchers might forgo the expense of branding once the high-tech ear tags come along.

Matt Brockman, executive vice president of the cattle raisers association, says brands remain a valuable tool for his 29 field inspectors. A hot-iron brand can't be removed, but an ear tag can easily be ripped off, he notes.

In a jail-house interview, Pippin said disposing of ear tags was the first thing he did. To Williamson, brands are crucial.

"You can't read an electronic tag from a distance," said Williamson, who covers 15 West Texas and two Oklahoma counties from his base in Seymour.

"But I can drive by a suspect's pasture and see an 'R' on the right hip."

Out of work but owing plenty of his \$30,000 pickup, Pippin began cattle rustling by lifting newborns from the side of the road because they were unbranded and, therefore, more difficult to trace.

"It started as necessity — couldn't work because of my diabetes — and it turned into an addiction," said Pippin, who grew up in Gordon, Slidell and Fort Davis. "I had just \$20 in my pocket when I heard a livestock report on the radio saying that cattle was fetching 80 cents a pound."

"I was very cautious at first, stealing only newborn calves with no brands and still wet. A farmer would think a coyote got it. I fed them out of a bottle, gave them penicillin I stole."

Pippin became increasingly audacious, stealing hefty, more valuable cattle, branded or not.

"The more I did it, the more relaxed, the more confident I became," he said from the Hardeman County Jail, where he was waiting to testify in a trial against one of his gang. "Maybe I watched too many Westerns, too many John Wayne movies."

And the money was good.

Rustlers typically take their stolen animals to legitimate sales, trying to arrive before owners notice the theft. Inspectors check brands against theft reports, but livestock owners can sometimes go weeks without checking their herds.

Aside from paying down his truck loan with his share of the take, Pippin bought a house on 10 acres in Odell, a Wilbarger County town hard against the Oklahoma border. He added some fancy duds, including a 30X beaver, silver-belly cowboy hat that set him back \$500.



Brand inspector Jennifer Strickland of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and Ranger H.D. Brittain check the animals being sold at the Dublin Cattle Auction.

All the while, Scott Williamson was closing in. It got to the point where Pippin recognized the field investigator's pickup and waved as Williamson drove past his front porch.

Still brazen, however, Pippin even repaired pens on some targeted ranches to contain cattle and facilitate his rustling.

He'd carefully monitor activity, seeing which pastures were infrequently visited by owners. He

lured cattle toward pens with pellet feed, then returned after 2 a.m. — either alone or with a gang member — to load them up before hauling them to weekly livestock sales in Gainesville, Bowie, Decatur or Muenster.

"I didn't know I was involved in organized crime," he said. "I was just trying to make a little money."

Last summer, the suspicious daughter of a ranch-

er spotted a pickup and battered trailer moving cattle at an unusual hour and informed authorities. When she saw the same truck a month later, she and her boyfriend trailed it and an accompanying truck, took down license-plate details and relayed them by cellphone to the Wilbarger County Sheriff's Department.

The cattle thief's luck had run out.

"If only I had put my ingenuity into something

else," said Pippin, who met and married (by proxy) his 27-year-old wife in jail, where she was being held on drug charges.

Pippin agreed to testify against his gang members as part of his plea bargain.

"I am not a bad person," insisted Pippin, who says he just wants to serve his time, meet up with his bride in person and start fresh — "God willing and the creek don't rise."

KRT photo/Tom Pennington/Fort Worth Star-Telegram

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February 2005

February 1 • Tuesday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am
- Coffee @ Parkplace - 10:00 am
- American Heart Association - Board Meeting Brew Pub - 12 Noon
- Supper Club "Furr's" - 5:30 pm
- Relay For Life

February 2 • Wednesday

- Sr. Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

February 3 • Thursday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am
- Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am

February 4 • Friday

- New Mexico Casino Trip - 10:00 am

February 5 • Saturday

February 6 • Sunday

February 7 • Monday

- Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm

February 8 • Tuesday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am
- American Cancer Society Meeting - SMMC - 12 Noon
- Dinner & A Movie
- "KC Steakhouse" - 5:30 pm

February 9 • Wednesday

- Sr. Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

February 10 • Thursday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am
- Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am

February 11 • Friday

- Odyssey Health Care Bake Sale 11:00 - ? - Lobby of Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Proceeds to be matched by Odyssey Health Care
- All proceeds to benefit Tsunami Relief efforts, Habitat for Humanity International & feed the children.
- Lunch Bunch & Birthdays "Alberto's" - 11:30 am

February 12 • Saturday

- Child Birth Classes (2nd Floor Hospital) - 9:00-3:00 pm
- Laurie Burks, Instructor
- Pot Luck & Bingo - 11:30 a.m.-2:00 pm

February 13 • Sunday

Open

February 14 • Monday

- Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm
- VALENTINE'S
- Pot Luck & Bingo - 11:30 am

February 15 • Tuesday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am
- Supper Club "Wendy's" - 5:30 pm
- Health Fair Meeting @ Chamber Noon

February 16 • Wednesday

- Sr. Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

February 17 • Thursday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am
- Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am

February 18 • Friday

Open

February 19 • Saturday

OPEN

February 20 • Sunday

- Midland Community theater
- "PETER PAN" - 1:00 pm (Musical)

February 21 • Monday

- Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm

February 22 • Tuesday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am
- Supper Club "Cowboy's" - 5:30 pm

February 23 • Wednesday

- Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am

February 24 • Thursday

- Mall Walking - 8:00 am
- Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am
- Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am
- Hangar 25 Air Museum

February 25 • Friday

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February 26 • Saturday

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February 27 • Sunday

OPEN

February 28 • Monday

- Games - 2:00 pm
- Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm

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Page 1B
Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Keeping WJCAC pace

Howard records huge conference win, despite missing clutch FTs

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — Usually when a basketball team goes three-for-eight from the free throw line with less than 2:30 to play in a close game, that team loses.

Fortunately, for Howard's men's basketball team, that was not the case Monday as the Hawks dodged several bullets in the closing minutes and snuck by conference rival Midland at the Chaparral Center, 65-63.

The win improves Howard to 5-2 in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference standings and creates a four-way tie with South Plains, Clarendon and Frank Phillips for first place.

Howard travels to Borger to take on Frank Phillips Thursday with first place again on the line. Midland dropped to 4-3 with the loss.

A close game throughout ended the way Howard assistant coach Jason Sautter thought it would — at the free throw line.

"We knew this game was going to be close and it was," said Sautter after the game.

Sautter and head coach

Mark Adams told their team at the shootaround earlier in the day that free throws could decide the game.

The two coaches are now thankful those shots didn't.

"We worked on free throws in the shootaround, but it didn't help us tonight," said Sautter. "We thought we knew how to help the guys make those shots, but I guess we don't."

"It was a stressful game and we are just grateful to get away with a win."

Howard's Charles Burgess and Midland's J.D. Lewis led their respective squads with 21 points each, but it was what Lewis did late in the game that hurt Midland.

After a Midland turnover on an alley-oop attempt, Lewis got whistled for an intentional foul on Howard freshman Rashad Mintz at center court.

Mintz connected on one of two shots from the line to put the Hawks up 63-60 with 23 seconds to go. Mintz also went one-for-two at the charity stripe five seconds later to put Howard up four.

"Lewis is a great player and I don't think he meant to hit him on pur-

pose," said Sautter.

Midland got back to within two points with 10 seconds to go as Ivory Clark hit two clutch free throws.

Howard was forced into a timeout on the inbounds after a near five-second violation. They eventually got the ball into freshman Iman Shokvohzadeh with nine seconds left. He was immediately fouled, but made just one of two shots at the line to give Howard a three-point lead.

Midland had several chances in the final seconds to tie the score, but didn't capitalize.

The Chaparrals missed one of two free throws with six seconds to go. Off the miss, Midland got the rebound, but a Triston Martin 3-pointer failed. They had a chance at another putback, but Clark's shot missed as Howard escaped with the narrow win.

"We definitely needed this win and are now back in the hunt in the conference standings," said Sautter.

Howard trailed for much of the first half before both teams headed into the locker room at halftime tied 28-28.

Burgess' 21 points came



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College freshman Iman Shokvohzadeh passes to a teammate in a previous game. The Hawks defeated rival Midland, 65-63 in a close battle Monday.

on seven of 16 shooting from the field, but he went seven-for-eight from the foul line.

Freshman Brandon Sampay scored 15 points, but went just one-for-five at the foul line, while Mintz scored 10 of his 13 points in the second half.

Howard finished 16-for-26 from the free throw line.

Lewis hit five 3-pointers

in the game to lead Midland. Tim Crowell added 10 points, while Martin finished with nine.

Howard's game Thursday against rival Frank Phillips follows the women's game at 8 p.m. The Hawks return home Monday to take on Clarendon in a rematch of an earlier game won by Clarendon.

Midland 3-pointers break Hawks' back in conference loss

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — Two big back-to-back 3-pointers with under six minutes to go in the game Monday was all Midland needed to put some distance on the Howard women's basketball team at the Chaparral Center.

The Hawk women trailed 44-40 with 6:11 to go in the game, but two straight shots from long range pushed the Lady Chaps lead to 50-41 with under five to play and rival Midland went on to win, 61-47, in front of their home crowd.

"Those shots broke our back," said Howard College coach Earl Diddle after the game. "Before that I thought the game was going to go down to the wire despite our injuries."

Freshman Jennifer Pena and sophomore Ciara Tidwell suffered an ankle and leg injury, respectively, in the game. Both players missed part of the game, but eventually returned to the lineup.

Howard trailed by as many as seven points in the first half, before heading into the locker room down 28-24.

Pena went down with :39 to play in the first half and missed the first 10 minutes of the second half.

"We really battled and dealt with a lot of adversity in this one," said Diddle.

Howard's first 10 minutes without its starting point guard went better than expected as the Hawk women kept the game close. A reverse layup by sophomore Lyndzay Longacre and a fade away jump shot by sophomore Jessica Shusteric tied the game at 28 early in the second half. A Longacre 3-pointer

put the Hawk women up 33-30. They took the lead 38-36 on a basket inside by freshman Latoya Fairley.

However, Midland (18-6, 5-1) took control after that as the Lady Chaps went on an 15-3 run to go up 51-41, despite Pena returning to the floor for the Hawks.

Then, Midland hit the 'back-breaking' back-to-back 3-pointers and Howard could not overcome its deficit.

"I thought we had trouble keeping them off the glass in the second half," said Diddle. "You can't play in spurts and our girls have to know that the home team is going to start coming at you."

Midland grabbed its biggest lead of the game with 3:22 to play as a four-point play by Irma Kmitaite pushed the advantage to 12.

A Tidwell jumper cut the Hawks deficit to 11, but they would not get closer as they went on to lose by 14.

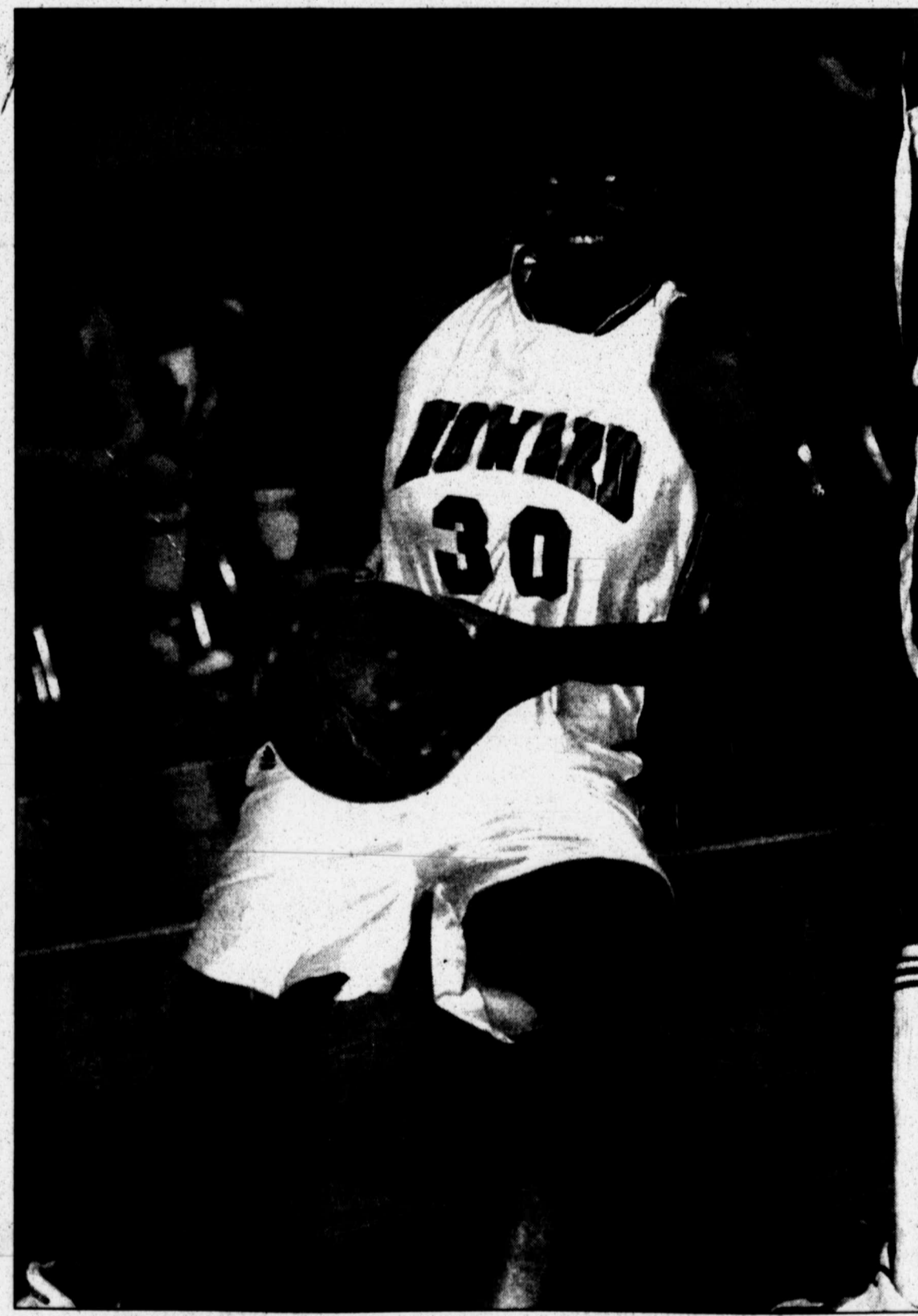
"I thought we really played well at times, but we just have to learn how to finish games," said Diddle.

Fairley led Howard (11-13, 0-6) with a team-high 16 points, but shot just six-for-20 from the field and four-for-11 from the foul line. She also had 14 rebounds.

Tidwell scored 11 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Longacre added a season-high eight points and seven boards.

Kmitaite led Midland with a game-high 18 points, including five 3-pointers.

Howard hits the road Thursday as the Hawk women travel to Borger to take on WJCAC rival Frank Phillips.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College freshman Latoya Fairley gets position inside against rival South Plains last Thursday. The Hawk women fell to Midland Monday and dropped to 0-6 in conference play. Fairley led Howard with 16 points and 14 rebounds.

WJCAC Standings

Women		
South Plains	5-1	20-9
Midland College	5-1	19-8
Clarendon	4-2	17-9
New Mexico JC	3-5	16-9
Frank Phillips	2-4	14-8
Odessa College	2-4	12-9
Howard College	0-6	11-18

Men		
Clarendon	5-1	20-8
Howard College	5-1	19-8
Frank Phillips	4-2	17-9
South Plains	4-2	16-9
Midland College	4-2	17-8
Odessa College	3-3	16-9
Wichita State	2-4	15-9
New Mexico JC	2-4	14-9

Monday's games
New Mexico JC vs. Howard College
Frank Phillips vs. Howard College

Monday's games
New Mexico JC vs. South Plains
Frank Phillips vs. Howard College



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

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Vehicles

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

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

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

It's Mardi Gras, a holiday believed to have ancient roots in some sort of intercalary season, in other words, related to a number of days inserted in a year to make a lunar calendar sync up with a solar calendar. These added days seemed to exist outside of time and there-fore were seen as an opportunity to abandon protocol and simply go wild!

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your curiosity is piqued. Fascinating characters cross your path, and there's talk of changes on the horizon. Instead of being fearful, be on the cutting edge by conducting an interview of someone who seems to know what's going on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The more interest you show in a subject or a person, the more interesting that subject or person becomes. It may feel like you're still getting to know someone who's been in your life for years.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A loving partner is just what you need to ground you. Together, you find solutions for today's strange and random problems. Laughter makes it all better, too. If you're single, a Virgo or Capricorn friend will be your anchor.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The obstacles you build in your mind have

nothing to do with reality. This is especially true in reference to a central relationship. In actuality, one courageous phone call could solve everything!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The world may be in disarray, it's not the world's fault. Rather, it's our way of mentally ordering information that makes it confusing. Get clarity by removing yourself from the muddle to look at things from another point of view.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The stars whisper to you — pause to listen. They say things like "Be careful not to fall in love with someone's potential." You are observant and willing to see things how they are now instead of how they ought to be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You feel that if you hesitate, you'll lose out. The reality is that if you hesitate, you'll be dragged along a rocky path behind the rest. So it's time to jump in on your own two feet and run forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your impressions are accurate as usual, but the differing opinions of those around you may knock you off your center. Approach new relationships with caution. The first 15 minutes determine how the rest will go.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your physical body is strongly affected by thoughts now. Look in the mirror, and give yourself the nod of approval or, better yet, a pep talk. This will noticeably improve your health.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're like a detective, ferreting out the true motivations of

others — seemingly illogical behaviors are clever disguises that you see right through. Use what you know to find true-blue friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Take nothing out of context. Each event is connected to the one before it and will affect the one after it. Your sliding sense of the past, present and future will guide you toward success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Money is just money, so put those worries in their proper perspective and realize what the real issue is — priorities. If you can imagine something you'd rather be doing, then perhaps it's time to do that instead.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Ashton Kutcher makes changes in the way he runs his career this year, as he and other Aquarian people born in 1978 are getting more strategic and serious about their work. Aquarius is easygoing and goes with the flow when it comes to business, often making spontaneous decisions and following social leads that wind up as killer career moves. But this year, more planning and postulating are required.

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: Because you offer reasonable and caring solutions, I want to ask your opinion about this problem. My son and his wife, the parents of a 4-year-old girl, divorced recently.

Although the mother suffers from mental illness, the judge placed the little girl with her mom, with the understanding that the mother would receive regular medication monitoring and outpatient therapy, which she had not sought during the prior 17 months. The judge ordered that my son would be allowed to have frequent and liberal visitation with his daughter.

The problem is that one month later, the mother

is already manipulating the situation and refusing visits to my son. It is extremely frustrating that she is allowed to get away with noncompliance and not putting the best interests of their daughter before her own desire to punish my son.

My ex-daughter-in-law was the one who wanted out of the marriage, and she is the one who moved away. Is there any way for my little granddaughter to win? — Hurting Grandma

Dear Grandma: It's terribly sad when divorced parents cannot put the needs of their children first, but it is a common problem. If your ex-daughter-in-law is not complying with a court order, your son should speak to his attorney and see that the matter is brought up in court as soon as possible. Meanwhile, you need to be a source of support and comfort. Encourage your son not to give up on his daughter, no matter how difficult his ex-wife makes things, and to keep on top of the situation to be sure his daughter remains safe.

Dear Annie: Whenever my father comes over to our house for a family get-together, he immediately sits down and turns on the television. He doesn't get along well with any other members of the family and resorts to watching TV as an excuse not to make conversation.

I talked to Dad about this last night, and he said if I can't put up with his TV watching, I shouldn't invite him to these informal parties. Annie, I really love my father, but he's putting me — Between a Rock and a Hard Place in Missouri

Dear Rock: If you're asking us if Dad is rude,

the answer is yes. If you're asking what you can do about it, your father already has provided the answer. Since he doesn't get along with any other family members, it's quite an indication of his love for you that he bothers to show up at these events. Either let him watch TV in peace, or invite him over when you don't have other company.

Dear Annie: I live in a small town sandwiched between river bluffs. It is not possible to receive cell phone service here, a common problem in many rural areas surrounded by hills. I have a cell phone for use when I am on the road, but I absolutely cannot use it in town.

When I try to explain this to my friends, they look at me as if I'm technologically ignorant. Worse, people continually call my cell phone and leave messages that I don't even know about until I am out on the road days later.

We live in pockets where the technology just does not work, and we accept that without complaint. Our complaint is the people who don't get it. Please tell them to call us on our land-based phones if they really want to reach us. — Down in the Valley

Dear Valley: Your friends are the ones who sound a little slow on the pick-up. Of course, there are places where cell phones do not work, even in large urban areas. Put an outgoing message on your cell phone indicating that you are out of reach and to call your land line, along with the number. Those who still don't "get it" will just have to wait.

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TUESDAY

FEB. 8

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	TMC (250) Premium
6	PM News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid. Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anita No Te Rajes	News Sainfeld (CC)	Raymond	Booker John Hagee	News-Laher	American Chopper	Family Values (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET Style	That's-Raven That's-Raven	College Basketball: Boston College at Notre Dame	College Basketball: Illinois at Michigan	(CC)
7	PM My Wife-Kids George Lopez	My Wife-Kids George Lopez	Rubi	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)	La Mujer en el Espejo	Outrageous TV	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Nova (CC) (DVS)	Mummy Autopsy	Movie: Carrie (CC) (DVS)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgn. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers Girlfriends	Movie: The Other Me (CC)	NBA Nation (CC)	College Basketball-	Movie: The Last Detail
8	PM According-Jim Rodney (CC)	According-Jim Rodney (CC)	Amor Real	House (CC)	The Amazing Race 6 (CC)	Gitanas	Scrubs (CC) Committed	Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC)	Deadly Women (CC)	Movie: Kickboxer (CC)	Movie: Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Soul Food (CC)	Club Comic View	Sister, Sister Even Stevens	Florida at Kentucky	Movie: Taxi Driver (CC)	
9	PM NYPD Blue (CC)	NYPD Blue (CC)	Jugando al Amor	Malcolm-Mid. Raymond	70s Show	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	Law & Order: SVU	:10 Movie: Pleasantville	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Mummy Autopsy	(CC)	MXC	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Nightly News BET Style	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Wake Forest Streetball	SportsCenter (CC)	
10	PM News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	(CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Mummy Autopsy	(CC)	MXC	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Nightly News BET Style	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Wake Forest Streetball	SportsCenter (CC)	
11	PM Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night	:40 Movie: Joe McGee Rabbi Richman	Sign Off	Deadly Women (CC)	Movie: Carrie (CC)	Widest Police Videos	The X-Files (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family Kim Possible	NBA Fastbreak NFL Live	Outside-Lines Gamenight	Movie: The Last Seduction	
12	AM Live (CC) News (CC)	Live (CC) Paid Program	Alma Rebelde	Spin City Dharma-Greg	Show The Insider	María Celeste Caso Cerrado	Conan O'Brien Frasier (CC)	Midnight in the Garden of	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Biker Build-Off	Bind Date Shipmates	The X-Files (CC)	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie McGuire	Wake Forest Streetball	SportsCenter (CC)			

DENNIS THE MENACE



"So, is this story supposed to make me fall asleep before the ending, or you?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"There wasn't enough snow to give him a body."

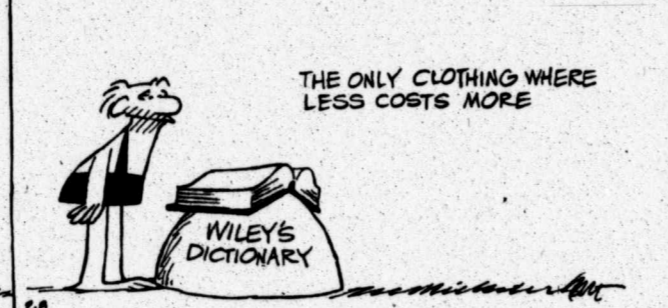
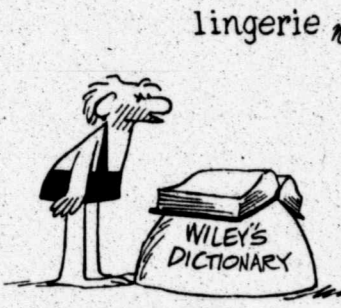
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 8, the 39th day of 2005. There are 326 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 8, 1915, D.W. Griffith's groundbreaking silent movie epic about the Civil War, "The Birth of a Nation," premiered in Los Angeles.

On this date: In 1587, Mary, Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England after she was implicated in a plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

In 1693, a charter was granted for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

In 1904, the Russo-Japanese War, a conflict over control of Manchuria

and Korea, began as Japanese forces attacked Port Arthur.

In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.

In 1922, President Harding had a radio installed in the White House.

In 1924, the first execution by gas in the United States took place at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City.

In 1968, three college students were killed in a confrontation with highway patrolmen in Orangeburg, S.C., during a civil rights protest against a whites-only bowling alley.

In 1974, the three-man crew of the Skylab space station returned to Earth after spending 84 days in space.

In 1989, 144 people were killed when an American-chartered Boeing 707 filled with Italian tourists slammed into a fog-covered mountain in the Azores.

In 1992, the 16th Olympic Winter Games opened in Albertville, France.

Today's Birthdays: Composer-conductor John

Williams is 73. Actor Jack Larson is 72. ABC News anchor Ted Koppel is 65. Actor Nick Nolte is 64. Comedian Robert Klein is 63. Country singer Dan Seals is 57. Singer Ron Tyson is 57. Actress Brooke Adams is 56. Actress Mary Steenburgen is 52. Author John Grisham is 50. Rock singer Vince Neil (Motley Crue) is 44. Rock singer-musician Sammy Llanas (The BoDeans) is 44. Actor Gary Coleman is 37. Actress Mary McCormack is 36. Actor Seth Green is 31. Rock musician Phoenix (Linkin Park) is 28. Actor Ryan Pinkston is 17.

Answer to previous puzzle:

OSCAR	CHAR	PAIN
TERSE	RARE	AGED
TRAPS	ARCS	STAG
OFF	CASE	HISTORY
TOURS	SPANS	
CASPER	RITE	
ASHE	OMIT	CAJUN
LION	WISER	RUNE
LAPSE	NEMO	INTO
	LYNN	OREGON
PABLO	SMELL	
BODY	ENGLISH	EMT
LEAF	DEAR	ARGUE
EMMA	ERIE	STYLE
USSR	REDS	HEMEN

Newsday Crossword

I LOVE A 49 DOWN by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 64 Numero | 11 Poisonous snake | 40 Day before Fri. |
| 1 Headquartered | 65 Kitchen appliances | 12 Not at all nice | 41 Certain ducks |
| 6 Prepares for a boxing match | 66 Singer Reese | 13 Answer | 46 Skillet coating |
| 11 TV room device | 67 Cow sound | 21 Distorted, as a grin | 47 Tablet |
| 14 Prefix for violet | 68 Not at all nice | 25 Actress Lansbury | 48 Play the guitar |
| 15 23 Across procedure | 69 Visit Dreamland | 26 Disparities | 49 Theme of the puzzle |
| 16 Anger | | 27 General vicinity | 50 Sound of a sneeze |
| 17 Scientist | | 28 Jar covers | 51 Mama's boy |
| 18 Prepare Parmesan, perhaps | | 29 Took, as an apartment | 54 Molten rock |
| 19 Young beagle | | 30 Info on a book spine | 55 Small bills |
| 20 Second-string athlete | | 31 Feel sore | 56 Take, as an apartment |
| 22 Electrified fish | | 32 Iacocca or Trevino | 57 On an even (balanced) |
| 23 Tax agcy. | | 34 Frame of mind | 58 Author Stanley Gardner |
| 24 Before the deadline | | 36 Going (fighting) | 59 New Haven university |
| 26 Ship's kitchen | | 37 Huron or Michigan | 60 Zipper alternative |
| 30 Eagle claw | | 38 Pub servings | |
| 33 Israeli leader Sharon | | | |
| 34 Computer pointing devices | | | |
| 35 Elaborate party | | | |
| 39 Maximum auto acceleration, so to speak | | | |
| 42 Back talk | | | |
| 43 Sewing-needle feature | | | |
| 44 Share and share | | | |
| 45 Chopin piece | | | |
| 47 Dinnerware dishes | | | |
| 48 Black playing card | | | |
| 51 Actor Mineo | | | |
| 52 -tac-toe | | | |
| 53 Southeast vacation spot | | | |
| 61 College cheer | | | |
| 62 Bowling alleys | | | |
| 63 Showed a show again | | | |

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Especially for kids and their families
The Mini Page

By BETTY DEBNAM

A Mini Biography

The Life of Lincoln



A copy of the Kentucky cabin where Lincoln was born.

Abraham Lincoln, one of our greatest presidents, was born on Feb. 12, 1809, in Kentucky. His father, Thomas, was a farmer and a carpenter.



Lincoln's mother's grave.

When Lincoln was 7, his family moved to Indiana. His mother, Nancy, died two years later. She drank milk from a cow that had eaten a poisonous plant.



Sarah Lincoln was 77 years old when this picture was made.

The next year, Thomas Lincoln married a widow with three children. Sarah, a kind woman, raised Abe and his sister, Sarah, as if they were her own children.



Lincoln often read before firelight.

Lincoln mostly educated himself. He went to one-room cabin schools for only about one year during his lifetime. He learned to love books and newspapers.



Lincoln would grab any chance to read.

Lincoln was a great help to his father on the farm. However, he always found time to read. He usually carried a book in his hand or in his pocket. He would walk for miles to borrow one.



One of Lincoln's jobs was that of a storekeeper.

At age 22, Lincoln moved to New Salem, Ill. He worked at several jobs. He was strong and tall (6 feet, 4 inches). He worked as a rail-splitter, postmaster, storekeeper and surveyor.

Go dot to dot and color our 16th president.

Rookie Cookie's Recipe
Log Cabin Pancakes

You'll need:

- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup flour
- 6 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

What to do:

1. Combine all ingredients in a blender and blend until batter is smooth.
2. Pour onto a hot griddle, flipping each pancake when bottom turns brown.
3. Serve on plates with your favorite syrup or a spoonful of jelly. Makes 8 pancakes.

Note: You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Name: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Gus Goodsport's Report
Supersport: Roger Powell

Height: 6-6 Birthdate: 1-15-83
Weight: 235 Hometown: North Riverside, Ill.

Whether he's standing in a pulpit or jockeying for position in the post, Roger Powell comes on strong. The 6-6, 235-pound power forward is a licensed Pentecostal minister and the force behind undefeated Illinois' No. 1 national basketball ranking. Through the first 16 games, Powell was averaging 13.1 points and leading the Fighting Illini in rebounds with 7.1 boards per game.

While not flamboyant, Powell does whatever will help his team. He sets screens, scores, rebounds, passes and defends. He sometimes has to guard bigger opponents, but often wins those one-on-one duels.

A speech communications major, Powell speaks on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Basketball is his game; the ministry his mission.

Meet Julia Fordham

Julia Fordham is a British singer and songwriter. She grew up in Portsmouth, Hampshire, England. As a young girl she liked playing musical instruments such as the recorder, trumpet, tuba, triangle, tambourine and guitar.

When Julia was 14, she and her brother would go to jazz clubs and sing songs from the 1940s on stage. At 16 she started singing on radio commercials and was part of several bands.

Ten years later, she signed with a record company in London. Her first hit song was called "Happy Ever After." Her first CD, "That's Life," came out in August 2004.

Julia, 42, lives in California and loves hiking and gardening. She enjoys afternoon tea and has a large teapot collection. She has a dog named Muttley that she rescued on a beach five years ago.

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

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

Jules: How do sailors greet each other?
Stuart: "Long time no sea!"

Justine: How do sailors get their clothes clean?
Rita: They throw them overboard, and they're washed ashore!

Ray: How do sailors break up with their girlfriends?
Leah: They drift apart!

Lincoln was a good speaker. He decided to run for the Illinois state legislature. He lost, but ran again and won.

Because he was friendly and a good storyteller, Lincoln made many friends.

Lincoln became a lawyer and moved to Springfield, Ill. He was 33 when he married Mary Todd, 24.

Mary Todd Lincoln

The Lincoln boys from left to right: William, Robert and Tad.

The Lincolns had four sons. One died as a baby. William died at age 11 and Tad at age 18. Robert is the only one who lived to be an adult.

Basel Brown The News Hound's LINCOLN TRY 'N FIND

Words and names that remind us of Abraham Lincoln are hidden in the block below. Some names are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: ABRAHAM, SONS, LINCOLN, GETTYSBURG, ADDRESS, EMANCIPATION, SURVEY, PROCLAMATION, PRESIDENT, KENTUCKY, INDIANA, ILLINOIS, LAWYER, STOREKEEPER, POSTMASTER, LOG, CABIN.

LINCOLN WAS A GREAT MAN!

P R O C L A M A T I O N P S K
N O I T A P I C N A M E R I S
N L O C N I L A W Y E R E O A
S S E R D D A S N O S V S N B
Y E V R U S N I B A C J I I R
K E N T U C K Y Y D T I Y D L A
G R U B S Y T T E G U D E L H
O R E P E E K E R O T S N I A
L P O S T M A S T E R Q T I M

The U.S. Capitol was still being built in the 1840s.

In 1847, Lincoln was elected to the U.S. Congress, but did not win a second term. He returned to Springfield and began speaking out against slavery.

His fame as a speaker against slavery spread far and wide. In 1860, he won the Republican nomination for president.

A campaign poster of 1860. It shows Lincoln with his running mate, Sen. Hannibal Hamlin of Maine.

The battle of Antietam in September 1862 was the bloodiest of the Civil War.

Lincoln won the election and was inaugurated as president on March 4, 1861. The Civil War started a month later, on April 12, 1861. Lincoln led our country during this four-year war.

In 1863, Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that slaves in the Southern states were to be freed.

A painting showing Lincoln and some of the famous words from the proclamation.

In 1863, he also delivered his famous Gettysburg Address at the site of a Union battle victory. One famous line: "... this government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the Earth."

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her friends are visiting Lincoln's home in Illinois. See if you can find:

- man in the moon
- question mark
- seal
- word MINI
- sailboat
- snake
- bucket
- number 3
- muffin
- squirrel
- ruler
- pencil
- umbrella
- letter A
- ladder
- letter Z
- brush
- fish
- letter E
- two hearts
- ear of corn
- cat
- book
- olive

UNCONDITIONAL UNION TICKET

Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson

A campaign poster promoting Lincoln and his running mate, Andrew Johnson of Tennessee.

In 1864, Lincoln was elected to his second term. He pleaded for peace and forgiveness between the North and South. The war ended in April of 1865.

Lincoln is attending a play called "Our American Cousin" when he was killed.

On April 14, 1865, Lincoln and his wife went to a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. He was shot by an actor, John Wilkes Booth. He died the next day.

Lincoln is buried in Springfield, Ill. He is remembered as the great man who held our country together.

The Lincoln grave site.

The Mini Page thanks The Lincoln Museum, Fort Wayne, Ind., for help with this story. Site to see: www.TheLincolnMuseum.org.

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