

BIG SPRING

HERALD

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Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

MONDAY

February 21, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 44°-46° TOMORROW 68°-68°

INSIDE

Breakthrough in treating back pain... Page 5A

Kid's Krafts... Page 6A

Hunter S. Thompson dead... Page 6A

BRIEFLY

Business After Hours Thursday

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce presents Business After Hours from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Comanche Trail Nursing Center, 3200 Parkway. Door prizes and refreshments will be part of the event and business owners are encouraged to attend and exchange business cards.

Call the chamber at 263-7641 for more information.

Luncheon tickets are on sale now

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Community Luncheon is set to begin at 11:45 a.m. March 1 in the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, hosted by the Big Spring Rotary clubs.

The luncheon will feature the State of the City Address by Mayor Russ McEwen. Catered by Great Western Dining, the tickets are \$10 if purchased by Wednesday and \$15 until Friday.

No tickets or reservations will be accepted after Friday. Purchase tickets at the chamber office, 215 W. Third, or call 263-7641.

INDEX

- Classified 4-5B
Comics 6B
Features 5-6A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-2B

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

'Finding Billy' author to visit Hangar 25

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Of the 78,400 American soldiers listed as missing in action during World War II, only about 300 have ever been found.

For Americans still missing loved ones lost during that war, those statistics might undermine any hope of finding them today, more than 60 years since the last shot was fired. That is, unless you're Diana Thompson Dale, author of "Finding Billy, an

Internet Odyssey."

Dale is slated to speak at the Hangar 25 Air Museum Thursday at noon, part of Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Senior Circle "Lunch and Learn" program.

Emma Bogard, president of the Hangar 25 Board of Directors, said the afternoon has a lot to offer.

"It's an excellent chance for people to come out and have lunch together and tour the museum," said Bogard. "They

can also hear Dale's story, which promises to be a very interesting one. What she has done is a great accomplishment, and I think she may be able to help people who find themselves in a similar situation."

According to Dale, Billy Wisner's P-38 fighter plane disappeared over the Italian Alps in 1944. Following the young serviceman's disappearance, the only thing the U.S. government

See DALE, Page 3A

What: "Finding Billy, an Internet Odyssey" author Diana Thompson Dale.

Where: Hangar 25 Air Museum.

When: Noon Thursday. Museum tours, visitation begins at 11 a.m.

Fee: None. Bring your own lunch.



An employee with Lone Star Aviation guides a Marine CH-46 helicopter to its refueling point at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark Thursday afternoon. Marine reservists attached to HMM 764, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., are ferrying the helicopters to Norfolk, Va. before embarking for a tour of duty in Iraq.

Frogs make fuel stop here en route to Norfolk and Iraq

By STEVE REAGAN Staff Writer

The last Frog out of Saigon made a stop in Big Spring and brought along a couple of friends.

Marine reservists, flying three CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters — affectionately nicknamed "frogs" by their crews — stopped in Big Spring Thursday en route to Norfolk, Va., and eventually, Iraq.

One of the helicopters carried a bit of historical significance in that it was the final helicopter to lift off from the U.S. Embassy in Saigon before that

city fell to North Vietnamese forces in 1975. To honor that historical footnote, the helicopter retains its jungle-green paint scheme while its sister ships are painted military gray.

This will mark the second tour of duty in Iraq for the Marines of HMM 764, an aviation detachment normally based at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., said Lt. Col. J.C. Naviaux, commander of the squadron. They were in Iraq for seven months last year.

The Marines will relieve their sister squadron, which is normally stationed in Norfolk. The helicopters Naviaux and his

troops were flying Thursday belong to the Norfolk squadron; HMM 764's helicopters are on duty in Iraq.

While in Iraq, the Marines will be performing duties that the Frogs specialize in, transporting people and cargo into sometimes dangerous areas.

"We primarily fly people and cargo all over the place. Roads in Iraq have become pretty dangerous," Naviaux said. "For the most part, it's safer to move people in the air whenever possible."

Capt. G.D. Ewers was more See FROGS, Page 3A

Faces Iraq critics...

Bush seeks greater trans-Atlantic unity

By TOM RAUM Associated Press Writer

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — President Bush, hoping to thaw relations with European leaders skeptical about U.S. involvement in Iraq and the Middle East, pressed on Monday for greater trans-Atlantic relations.

"In a new century, the alliance of America and Europe is the main pillar of our security," he said.

Bush pledged to move forward to long-running conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis and "raise the flag of a free Palestine."

See BUSH, Page 3A

Documents detail meeting between Craddick, PAC donors

AUSTIN (AP) — State Rep. Tom Craddick met with corporate donors to a Republican political action committee a month before he became speaker of the House in 2002, according to documents obtained by the Austin American-Statesman.



Craddick

Craddick has said he did little for the committee outside of attending

one or two fund-raisers.

He met with a small group of corporate donors to Texans for a Republican Majority at a Washington, D.C., break-

fast, the newspaper See CRADDICK, Page 3A

City

Northside CC back on agenda for city council

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council, meeting Tuesday, is expected to give the construction of a new Northside Community Center the final nod.

The contract between the city and Northside Community Center was tabled a month ago because of possible problems with the agreement's language, which was brought to the council's attention by Larry Steward, president of the Northside Community Center board of directors.

Council members voted unanimously in favor of the first reading of the contract two weeks ago — a contract which was identical to the one presented and tabled during its initial presentation.

Mayor Russ McEwen said he met with the Northside Community Center board following the city council meeting two weeks ago, during which Steward expressed concern over the language contained in the contract between the city and community center.

"It was just a situation that became very apparent at our last city council meeting that there were some questions from their (Northside Community Center) board of directors to make sure everything was done right," said McEwen. "We allayed their fears and they're very pleased, and so are we, that we're doing what

See CITY, Page 3A



McEwen

MEMORIAL STEW



Randy McKinney, vice president of the Big Spring Vietnam Memorial Committee, serves a bowl of homemade stew during Saturday's fund-raiser at the Eagles Lodge. The supper and dance raised funds for the upkeep of the memorial.

Obituaries

Ivy Lee Bedell



Ivy Lee Bedell, 79, of Big Spring died Sunday morning, Feb. 20, 2005, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Graveside services will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park with Joe Whitten officiating. The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born May 25, 1925, in Big Spring to Ivy McMurray and Clara Heckler McMurray. She married Brooks Bedell Jan. 12, 1946, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death March 25, 1998. She was a member of First Baptist Church and had worked in the church nursery for many years. Mrs. Bedell was a homemaker and also worked with her husband in the operation of Bedell Yamaha. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring.

She is survived by one son, Johnny Bedell and his wife, Ceil of Big Spring; one grandson, Steven Bedell and his wife, Tina of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Sabrina Bedell and Savana Bedell, both of Big Spring; two sisters, Mary Klahr of Eunice, N.M., and Dorothy Newby of Big Spring; four brothers, Ray McMurray of Lohm; J.R. McMurray of Midland, Earl McMurray and Edmond McMurray, both of Big Spring; one aunt, Zelma Heckler of Big Spring; and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Steven Bedell, Daniel Andrews, Reg Cranford, Stuart Sinclear, Brandon McMurray and Craig Clark.

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

Paid obituary

Willie Mae Hayes



Willie Mae Hayes, 44, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, died Wednesday morning, Feb. 16, 2005, at her home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Holston Banks and the Rev. Michael Willard officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Sept. 16, 1960, in Corsicana. She lived most of her life in Big Spring, moving to Midland two years ago. She graduated from Big Spring High School and graduated from licensed vocational nursing school at Howard College and then graduated from Midland College as a registered nurse. She was a registered nurse at Rockwood Manor in Midland. She was a Baptist.

She is survived by her mother, Lola Mae Hayes of Big Spring; father, James Hayes of Abilene; two brothers, James Curtis Hayes Jr. and Anthony Ray Hayes, both of Big Spring; one step-sister, Tracy Vanderbilt of Princeton, N.C.; one niece, Tiffinie Vanderbilt of Big Spring; one nephew, Jarron Vanderbilt of Big Spring; and one great-niece, Se'Quoia Vanderbilt of Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Mary Ann Hayes and her grandmother, Nona Mae Nollie.

Pallbearers will be Dexter Straughter, Brian Vanderbilt, Carl Bureson, Arthur Jackson, Victor Pruitt and Jarron Vanderbilt.

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

Paid obituary

Deacon Mark Reeh

Deacon Mark Reeh, 56, of St. Lawrence died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2005, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take note

□ **BIG SPRING WOMEN'S CLUB** will sponsor a free seminar for parents whose children will be participating in the TASK Abstinence program through the high schools in the area from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. today in the Trinity Baptist Church annex building, 810 11th Place. Parents with students of any age will benefit from the information at the seminar. Students are welcome whether alone or with their parents.

□ **LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM AT HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** featuring author Diane Thompson Dale, presenting her book, "Finding Billy, an Internet Odyssey." Lunch is from 11 a.m. until noon Thursday, and the presentation is from noon until 1 p.m. Dale will sign books from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. For more information contact the museum at 264-1999.

□ **VFW POST No. 2013 ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER** is set for 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday at the post, 500 Driver Road. Dinner, including chili, beans, cornbread and desert, is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Open to the public. Call 393-5715 for more information.

□ **LOCAL CHEF CHARLIE SANDIFER IS TEACHING A SPECIAL EASTER BRUNCH COOKING CLASS** from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. The cost is \$24. Contact Howard College Continuing Education at 264-5131 to register.

HEALTH BENEFITS

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Police blotter

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

- **ARENES AREVALO**, 19, Las Vegas, Nev., was arrested on a charge of theft.
- **JOSEPH LAROCQUE**, no age given, Ontario, Canada, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **SALLY LEANNE HAIR**, 25, 9001 Longshore Dr., was arrested on a charge of theft.
- **JASON ROBERTS**, 25, 2106 Monticello, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, second offense.
- **CHARLES DEAX**, 28, Sands Springs, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.
- **LELDON JENKINS**, 21, 703 Edwards, was arrested on a charge of theft.
- **PATRICIA GROSSMAN**, 43, 609 Circle Dr., was arrested on a charge of assault.
- **LIBO ANTONIO MARTINEZ**, 45, 8041 E. Interstate 20 No. 201, was arrested on a Florida warrant.
- **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported on the 1500 block of Sycamore Street.
- **ASSAULT** was reported on the 800 block of Interstate 20.
- **THEFT** was reported on the 1200 block of FM 700, the 1800 block of Gregg Street, the 200 block of FM700 (twice) and the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported on the 1500 block of Sycamore Street.
- **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED** and **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA** were reported on the 400 block of Armstrong.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Monday:

- **SHOTS FIRED** were reported on the 3600 block of Aspermont.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds around 10 mph.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s. Light and variable winds. Becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers. Cooler. Highs in the lower 50s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers. Lows in the mid 30s.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers. Highs in the mid 40s.

Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. Lows in the mid 30s.

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

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

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the mid 50s.

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

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the mid 50s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 3-4-12-18-27.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$36,954.
Winning tickets sold in: Austin.
Matching four of five: 157. Prize: \$106.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Monday night.

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 7-16-19-21-42. Bonus Ball: 19.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Number matching five of five: 3. Prize: \$8,151.
Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 10.
Prize: \$2,219.
Number matching four of five: 466. Prize: \$102.
Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 449.
Prize: \$93.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$12 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-9-3

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Bulletin board

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

TODAY

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

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

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

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

• DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.

• A free seminar for parents whose children will be participating in the TASK Abstinence program through the high schools in the area from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in the Trinity Baptist Church annex building, 810 11th Place. Sponsored by the Big Spring Women's Club. Students are welcome whether alone or with their parents.

• Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

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

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

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

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1105 Birdwell Lane. For more information, call Tracey Pounds at 268-4948.

WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY

• Lunch and Learn Program at Hangar 25 Air Museum featuring author Diane Thompson Dale, presenting her book, "Finding Billy, an Internet Odyssey." Lunch is from 11 a.m. until noon, and the presentation is from noon until 1 p.m. Dale will sign books from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. For more information contact the museum at 264-1999.

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.

• Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

• Local chef Charlie Sandifer is teaching a special Easter Brunch cooking class from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. The cost is \$24. Contact Howard College Continuing Education at 264-5131 to register.

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CITY

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needs to be done.
"Thanks to the generosity of the Dora Roberts Foundation we're going to be able to build a new Northside Community Center, which will be great for that part of the community," added McEwen.
The council is also expected to give final

approval to a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement with J. Phillip Furqueron Architect for architectural consulting and design services for the community center building.
Tuesday's meeting will also feature a presentation of the Moore Development for Big Spring annual audit and report and first reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an

agreement with Millennium Resources Inc.
The council is also expected to retire into executive session to discuss economic development negotiations with Western Container concerning property at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.
The meeting will get under way at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth Street.

CRADDICK

Continued from Page 1A

reported Sunday, citing documents that it said likely will be submitted as evidence in an upcoming civil trial involving the 2002 fund-raising efforts.
The meeting between Craddick and the donors had been planned for two months by GOP consultants John Colyandro and Warren Robold, who were indicted last fall for their roles in raising corporate money, the newspaper reported.
The newly disclosed documents include e-mails between the consultants.

In one, Colyandro told Robold, who was seeking fund-raising help from then-U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, that Craddick had faxed a request to the Bush Cabinet officer.
State law prohibits outside groups from trying to influence a speaker's election or a candidate for speaker from accepting help from an outside group.
Craddick's lawyer, Roy Minton, denied that Craddick faxed anything to Abraham. He said that his client legally kept his race for speaker separate from the efforts of Texans for a Republican Majority to elect House members.
Those House members, in turn, eventually sup-

ported Craddick in the lawmakers-only vote for speaker.
Minton said that Craddick, R-Midland, and the committee just shared a common goal of electing more Republicans and that what they did was just politics as usual.
Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle has been investigating whether the Republican PAC violated the state law that prohibits corporate money from being spent on political campaigns.
Earle said Craddick to the grand jury investigation a year ago after separate allegations that the GOP political committee was involved in the contentious race for speaker.

BUSH

Continued from Page 1A

"The world must not rest until there is a just and lasting resolution to this conflict," Bush said.
Belgium Prime Guy Verhofstadt, who introduced Bush, said the U.S.-led invasion was divisive, but with problems in Africa and other parts of the world, "It makes little sense arguing about who was right."
Bush called on Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon. As Bush spoke, thousands of opposition supporters in Beirut shouted insults at Syria and demanded the resig-

nation of Lebanon's pro-Syrian government, marking a week since the assassination of Rafik Hariri, Lebanon's most prominent politician.
Syria must end its occupation of Lebanon, Bush said to applause.
"The Lebanese people have the right to be free, and the United States and Europe share an interest in an independent, democratic Lebanon," he said, adding that if Syrians stay out of Lebanon's parliamentary elections in the spring, the vote "can be another milestone of liberty."
Bush also continued to push Iran to end its nuclear ambitions. He

said the United States was working with European allies Britain, France and Germany in the "early stages of diplomacy." Bush did not, however, note that the United States is not fully backing the Europeans' approach to offer Iran economic and political incentives not to develop nuclear arms.
"The results of this approach now depend largely on Iran," Bush said. "The time has arrived for the Iranian regime to listen to the Iranian people and respect their rights and join in the movement toward liberty that is taking place all around them."

DALE

Continued from Page 1A

could tell his mother was that he was "missing, presumed killed."
Heartbroken and frantic, she wrote letters to everyone she could think of but never got the answers she was looking for. She died years later, still desperate to know.
According to information from her new book, Dale's mother had unwittingly passed along to her the desire for the truth. Fifty-six years after Billy vanished, Dale took advantage of the instant communications miracle of the Internet and discovered a tantalizing clue to her uncle's fate.
According to the book, a government memo written in 1952 said Billy's ID bracelet and some remains had been found, a fact never revealed to his family.
But where?

Why?
How?
The mystery deepened when Dale found that the government had lost the file bearing the answers. Reaching out across cyberspace, she found and enlisted the help of a far-flung network of strangers who dedicated themselves to finding Billy.
Dale has made appearances in bookstores across the country, including the Strategic

Air Command Museum in Omaha, Neb., and the Museum of Flight in Seattle. She will also appear at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Cedar Hill Saturday and Plano Sunday.
Those planning to attend the Big Spring presentation should bring their own lunch. However, the museum will provide coffee and tea. Lunch, along with tours of the museum, will be held from 11 a.m. until

OPEN WIDE



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Five-year-old Hayley Jenkins has her face painted by first-year dental hygiene student Carrie Fincher during Saturday morning's Children's Dental Health Fair at Howard College.

Israel releases prisoners after historic pullout vote

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel freed 500 Palestinian prisoners in a goodwill gesture Monday, a day after the government gave final approval to a pullout from Gaza and a revised route of the West Bank separation barrier that would encompass at least 6 percent of land claimed by the Palestinians for a future state.

The release of Palestinian prisoners was one of the gestures Sharon agreed to at his summit with Abbas earlier this month in Egypt. Convoys of buses carrying shackled inmates left Israel's desert prison camp of Ketziot around dawn Monday, dropping prisoners off at the edges of the West Bank and Gaza Strip just before noon, military officials said.

With the historic Cabinet vote, Israel began charting its final borders, bypassing negotiations and angering the Palestinians. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the decision to leave Gaza and four settlements in the northern West Bank was the hardest he ever made but would ensure a better future for Israel.

U.N. refugee chief resigns, proclaiming innocence

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — After months of criticism, Secretary-General Kofi Annan decided that U.N. refugee chief Ruud Lubbers had to go because of the growing controversy over allegations that the former Dutch prime minister had sexually harassed female staffers.
Lubbers didn't go easily. He resigned Sunday but proclaimed his innocence, saying he felt insulted and accusing Annan of giving in to "media pressure."
At a meeting with Annan on Friday, U.N. diplomats said the secretary general offered the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees two choices: resign or face suspension and charges of breaking U.N. rules.
Allegations first surfaced last year that he had made unwanted sexual advances toward a female employee.

Sharon also signed an order saying Israeli civilians would have to leave the areas slated for evacuation by July 20. Those remaining would be removed by force over a period of two months. Settler leaders have pledged not to leave voluntarily, and security officials are bracing for violent confrontations.
In the West Bank, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas won the backing of his Fatah movement for a new 24-member Cabinet after a stormy debate, clearing the way for approval of the new ministers by parliament later Monday.

FROGS

Continued from Page 1A

to the point in describing the unit's duties.
"Basically, we're big buses," Ewers said.

The squadron area of operation will stretch from western Baghdad to the Syrian and Jordanian borders.
"It's about a 500-mile area," Naviaux said. "They need helicopters out there just to be able to handle things logistically ...

We'll fly mostly at night. It's safer."
Once this tour of duty is over later this year, the squadron will be deactivated and its members will return to their civilian lives. In Naviaux's case, that means back to his job as a pilot for

Delta Airlines, while others will resume careers such as aviation or law enforcement.
Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Willie Mae Hayes, 44, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.
Ivy Lee Bedell, 79, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 4:00 PM Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 9:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Port to Plains: Your voice can be heard

Want a first-hand glimpse at the progress which has been made on the Ports to Plains Corridor? Well, you have that chance during a town hall meeting on Thursday.

The meeting, which is slated for 10 a.m. until noon at the Dora Roberts Community Center, will feature several speakers from the Ports to Plains group, including one distinguished guest who has a very special stake in the corridor and its funding over the next six years — Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock.

The Ports to Plains Corridor is one of 45 congressionally designated high-priority corridors and runs approximately 1,400 miles from Laredo to Denver, Colo. The entire project, which calls for major renovations to nearly half of the route, is expected to be complete sometime in 2030.

Ports to Plains is very important to Neugebauer, since he headed the coalition for several years.

Now, as a member of Congress, his constituents expect him to press for Ports to Plains funding in the final transportation bill.

That six-year federal transportation plan is of prime importance to Big Spring and Howard County, because it is expected to provide direct funding for the Big Spring reliever route as well as for completion of the Ports to Plains Corridor.

While Thursday's meeting will bring local residents up to speed on the overall corridor and how it will effect Big Spring, it should be noted this session won't focus on a proposed reliever route to take through traffic away from the heart of the city.

A public meeting on that project will be held sometime in March by Texas Department of Transportation officials.

Ports to Plains President Michael Reeves said he's glad to see the meetings, which are also slated for other cities along the corridor, and to be able to get input from the people that will be effected.

"We are very excited about the town hall meetings and an opportunity to hear from the people in the communities along the corridor," said Reeves. "This will be a great chance for the people in Big Spring to get the latest information about the project."

We encourage all those who are capable to attend Thursday's session. It is important that as many of us as possible have input into the process.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
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- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Help us see as You see, Lord, and trust in Your way.
Amen.

Where there's smoke, your fired

How does freedom slip away? It doesn't happen all of a sudden, without warning. It erodes in stages. One day, you read that an employer has fired four employees because they refused to follow the company's no-smoking policy — including not smoking in their own homes on their own time — and that's OK because you don't smoke. A year or two later, employers go after your pet vice — eating, tipping, maybe snowboarding — and then, such a policy is an outrage.

So Americans should be wary of the news last month that a Michigan health-benefits administrator, Weyco Inc., sacked four employees because they wouldn't follow a company policy that required all employees to "maintain a smoke-free and tobacco-free status at all times."

That's right. They can't smoke at home. They can't smoke on their own time. To work for Weyco Inc. is to be owned by Weyco Inc. And the Weyco way may well be legal.

"I don't want to pay for the results of smoking," Weyco founder Howard Weyers explained to Medicine Law & Weekly.

But wait, one of the four fired women, receptionist Anita Epolito, told reporters she didn't even belong to the Weyco health plan.

That doesn't matter, a Weyco spokeswoman replied, because "she knew, starting at Day One, that the organization itself was going smoke free." Employees who smoke had "a choice" between smoking and working, and some

chose smoking. (I should mention that, to their benefit, some employees chose to quit smoking.)

Still, you have to salute the Weyco Four for choosing not to work for an employer that tells them how to live when they're not on company time.

"This is not about smokers' rights. It's about workers' rights," noted Michigan state Sen. Virg Bernero, a Democrat, who is working on a bill to stop Weyco from firing smokers. "It's about the fact that when you punch out at the workplace, your time is your own. Your home is your castle."

What about overweight Weyco workers? It turns out that, under Michigan law, the obese are a protected class.

Bioethicist Art Caplan of the University of Pennsylvania is taken aback by the unfairness: "One of the things you look for in ethics is treating cases alike."

Thus, the Weyco policy flunks. So should the law, to be fair, expand to limit other behaviors — overeating, motorcycle riding, risky sexual behavior? Not in a free country.

It is "prudish" to say you don't want to pay for other people's vices, noted Caplan. Besides: "We all pay for each other's sins and vices," he said, volunteering that he was talking on his cell phone while driving (although, in his defense, the traffic was at a crawl). The guy who won't wear his motorcycle helmet pays for the person who eats three deserts, and vice versa.

What about Weyco's rights, I ask, to not pay for self-destructive behavior? Caplan answered, "I hate to say it, but I think the question is: Can you do your job?"

Bull's-eye. Caplan faults the practice of having employers provide health

insurance. That puts Caplan in the George W. Bush tent on health-care reform, and he makes a good argument. Employer-paid health care, said Caplan, makes your boss "crazy about your health in ways you don't want" and gives each employer a rationale for behaving like "a miniature surgeon general."

Bernero thinks the cost issue is a phony excuse. Citing the woman who was fired even though she wasn't on the Weyco health plan, the Michigan senator explained he didn't think Weyco's motive was to save money. "The issue is control," said Bernero, and the company's desire for "a class of Stepford employees."

Bernero fears this trend so much that he is contemplating "a bill of rights against excessive corporate control."

Supporting that view is the Weyco argument in favor of its own policy. A spokeswoman told me the company shouldn't have to pay for "unilateral lifestyle decisions."

"Unilateral lifestyle decisions": Think about the presumption behind that statement. The alternative — multilateral lifestyle decisions — allows other people, the government, even big corporations, to dictate what you can eat, what you can smoke, what you can drink. To work for Weyco Inc. is to be wholly owned by Weyco Inc.

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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'Fat chance' Dean will stay quiet

Howard Dean, doing a victory lap last week after his final competitor for the Democratic national chairmanship dropped out, greeted a roomful of supporters with a grin and said: "I'm trying to be restrained in my new role. I may be looking for a three-piece suit."

After pausing, he laughed and then declared -- to his backers' delight -- "Fat chance!"

Dean's enthusiasts variously say he was just kidding or was referring literally to three-piece suits, not to restraining rhetoric or refraining from policy determinations. Fat chance, indeed. Statements from Democrats in Congress that the feisty 2004 presidential candidate will restrict himself to fund-raising and precinct organization are delusional. Howard Dean as chairman of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) is not beholden to the congressional leaders who were so ineffective in barring his path to leadership.

Dean's chairmanship, thought extremely unlikely when he first indicated his availability three months ago, is itself testimony to his party's aimlessness. Just as no power broker selected the former Vermont governor as DNC chairman, none is charting a strategy for regaining power. The mindless course leading to Dean's election by acclamation reflects a party adrift, its senior leaders mired in unreality.

Just how unrealistic they are was demonstrated last weekend on Fox News Sunday by Sen. Joseph Biden, ranking Democrat on the

Foreign Relations Committee. He contended "no party chairman's ever made a bit of difference" in determining policy. Would Dean then have any policy role at all? "Absolutely not," Biden replied. He added that "we'll see whether or not" Dean effectively improves party organization, "but he's not going to have a policy role, and he's stated that."

Biden is a six-term senator, but he fails history. Robert S. Strauss did not impose a heavy hand in his chairmanship (1972-77), but deftly influenced policy. I observed him at the 1974 mid-term party convention in Kansas City moderating his party on racial quotas. Paul M. Butler as chairman in 1955-1960 fought congressional leaders Lyndon B. Johnson and Sam Rayburn for more liberal policies, and the 1960 party platform indicated Butler had won.

History aside, Biden displays uncharacteristic naivete in taking Dean at his word about eschewing policy. Over the last three months of campaigning for chairman, he stressed no compromise on issues. When he declared last month that "I hate the Republicans and everything they stand for," he was not exhibiting what Biden called Dean's "organizational skills."

The conventional wisdom in Washington is that the flamboyant Dean will overpower newly installed Republican Chairman Ken Mehlman, the understated 2004 Bush campaign manager. Old Democratic hands are not so optimistic about the coming Mehlman vs. Dean televised face-offs -- cool and disciplined vs. emotional and unpredictable. "Dean will have a circus on Sunday, and we'll clean up the elephant droppings on Monday," a Democratic veteran told me.

On those Sunday programs, Dean will be asked what to do about Iraq. He will not imitate Joe Biden's nuanced analysis, but instead will serve up red meat. It is unlikely Dean would or could adjust to the new atmosphere observed by sophisticated Democratic strategists since the Iraqi elections. Bashing George W. Bush and his war policy, Dean's specialty, no longer seems so suitable.

Dean's accession to the chairmanship does not represent a conscious decision by prominent Democrats, but rather the result of drift and inaction. Former Michigan Gov. Jim Blanchard, seen as the best bet to beat Dean, did not run when party leaders failed to unite behind him. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, head of the Democratic Governors Association, never specified the "moderate" from a "red" state he said he was seeking.

Congressional leaders picked, in former Rep. Tim Roemer, the one candidate who could not possibly win because of his anti-abortion stance. Anti-Dean forces never coalesced behind former Rep. Martin Frost.

Finally, Dean won because he was the only candidate who pestered DNC members with repeated phone calls. He did not go to all this trouble to be a potted plant. The party, therefore, is stuck with somebody who believes that the fiercer the rhetoric the better, and there is "fat chance" that he will change.

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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ROBERT NOVAK

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By PATRICIA

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A breakthrough in treating pain in your back

By PATRICIA ANSTETT

Knight Ridder Newspapers

DETROIT — For 13 long years, Michelle Simon planned every aspect of her life around her back pain.

All activity — watching a movie, golf, riding in a car — had to be limited so it didn't exceed 2 1/2 hours. Anything longer worsened her pain. She originally hurt her back when she slipped on a wet floor at work.

"It even impacted having another child," says Simon, 38, a registered nurse at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Mich. "I wasn't willing to go through that whole thing again. We opted to stay with one."

Sixty-five million Americans live with chronic lower back pain, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons says. The search for help can take months. What works for one person may not for another.

The lack of universally effective treatments has triggered research and prompted doctors since the 1950s to look for better options, including ways to shore up eroded back discs, the spongy cushions between the 33 vertebral bones in the back.

Now the first of a new generation of artificial discs has arrived, providing a real alternative to conventional lumbar fusion surgery, which 250,000 Americans undergo each year for lower back problems.

METAL AND PLASTIC

Federally approved last October, the Charite Artificial Disc, made by DePuy Spine, a Johnson & Johnson company in Raynham, Mass., is a device combining two metal outer pieces with a tough, medical-grade plastic center. It is intended for use in people, typically ages 18-60, who have a single compressed disc in the lower back and who haven't been helped by more than six months of other treatments.

Although swimming, stretching, pain-relieving drugs, physical therapy and chiropractic manipulation help many patients, some, like Simon, live with chronic pain.

She underwent disc implant surgery Nov. 18 at William Beaumont Hospital, where Dr. David Montgomery, an orthopedic spine surgeon involved in clinical research about the artificial disc, trains other physicians to do the procedure.

Last month, Simon returned to work part-time, and she now takes two pain pills a day, compared with six before the



Dr. John L. Zinkel performs disc replacement surgery on Eileen Fiscelli, 82, at Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe, Mich.

surgery. "If this takes away 50 percent of my pain, I'll deem it a success," she says.

Other companies are testing artificial discs made with all-metal materials, as well as devices for the upper, or cervical, section of the back and neck. Those are more challenging parts of the anatomy because of their proximity to key arteries and nerves.

"The future is bright for people with back and neck conditions," says Dr. Teck Soo, a neurosurgeon at Providence Hospital and Medical Center in Southfield, Mich., who has tested several of the devices for Stryker Orthopedics, a Mahwah, N.J., division of Kalamazoo-based Stryker Corp.

In March, Soo will begin testing an all-metal Stryker disc implant for the cervical portion of the spine. Last year, he was involved with clinical studies of an all-metal device for the lower back.

Figuring out which implant is better will take years and will be surrounded by the kind of debate that has gone on for years over materials used in hip implants.

"It will be impossible for patients to figure out from a Web site which is best because physicians and biomechanical engineers don't know either," says Dr. John Zinkel, a neurosurgeon at Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe, Mich.

A bigger question, he says, is: Who is a candidate?

THE LUCKY 15 PERCENT

About 15 percent of patients who qualify for conventional surgery would be ideal artificial

disc candidates, Zinkel estimates. The best candidates for an artificial disc are younger, generally healthy and have no damage to their facet joints — structures that help support the back and prevent excess movement.

To help sort out the best candidates, patients undergo computer tomography and other tests. "Everyone should know this is not for everyone," says Montgomery. "This is still a major surgical procedure. People need to think long and hard before doing it. We're still looking for the perfect device."

The operation takes from two to four hours, depending on the experience of the surgeon, the source of the pain and the age of the patient.

"The age of the disc makes a big difference in the surgery," says Zinkel, midway through a four-hour procedure Jan. 25 for Eileen Fiscelli of Roseville, Mich. An active gardener, churchwoman and caregiver to several relatives, Fiscelli lived with debilitating pain from arthritis for 18 months. As people age, a disc "loses its water content" and the spine becomes "bone on bone," Zinkel says. "That's where inflammation sets in."

Perhaps surprisingly, the operation is per-

formed through the lower abdomen, not the back, to minimize harming important blood vessels and nerves that fan out from the back of the spine.

Using a cautery tool to burn away tissue, Zinkel and Dr. Michael Taylor, a general surgeon, peel away one layer of tissue after another until they reach the ailing disc. To pinpoint the exact spot, they use a super X-ray machine, a technique called fluoroscopy.

Then they scrape out disc fragments with a large spoon-like device with sharp edges at the end, a tool that looks much like one used to carve pumpkins. "I want clean bone surfaces, so the metal is resting on clear cartilage," Zinkel explains. Then he and Taylor insert a tool with a wedge-like tip to spread the disc apart and to remove a tiny lip at its end. "We want the implant to sit on a level surface, so we can place the implant all the way back," he explains.

The Charite disc is a three-piece implant. The two shiny outside metal plates are cobalt chromi-

um alloy. The

inside is a tough, white medical-grade plastic. Small teeth in the metal plates secure the device to bone. The design allows patients to bend again. "Natural motion is back," according to Charite's physician promotion materials.

Studies submitted by DePuy Spine to gain federal approval followed 300 patients for two years. Eighty-eight percent were satisfied with the Charite device. Spine measurements showed patients achieved a nearly full range of motion. They also returned to work and activities faster — often within 12 weeks — compared with as much as six months for surgery patients, doctors involved with the study say.

The procedure typically requires a one- to three-day hospital stay. Complications with the implants include possible puncture of abdominal structures and ejaculation problems in men. There's also the possibility the device will wear away or become dislodged, which can occur with any implant. In Europe, where the Charite device has been available for many years, 2 percent or 3 percent of patients eventually needed a lumbar fusion operation, Beaumont's Montgomery says. "We're still looking for the perfect device," he

says.

Cost estimates range from \$23,000 to as much as \$50,000. So far, few insurance plans pay for the procedure, a typical problem with treatment involving new technology. "I've been talking to Blue Cross for the last few months, and they won't pay for it," says Montgomery.

The wide range in hospital and physician charges also is typical when a new product is involved. At some sites, patients' surgery fees are free if the devices are implanted as part of a clinical study. Doctors expect prices to stabilize in a year or two after more doctors learn the technique and insurance companies begin to pay for it. They will be watching longer studies to see if the procedure truly helps patients like Simon and Fiscelli.

Both are happy with their results.

"It's been quite miraculous," says Diann Coley, Fiscelli's daughter. "She had instant relief. She has no pain in her back." The bigger issue was overcoming the aftermath of anesthesia, which left Fiscelli nauseous.

Simon still has numbness in one of her feet when she sits too long and also some pain in her right leg. Both were problems she had before the surgery. But she considers it a more tolerable pain. She knows it may take a year before she knows just how much function has been restored.

"I'm moving in the right direction," she says. "I feel I made the right decision. I think this is going to be a good thing for a lot of people."

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Kids kraits

Send a message in a bottle

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI

Knight Ridder Newspapers

It isn't unusual to find treasures during a walk along a seashore. You might find beautiful shells, starfish, or many other kinds of natural flotsam that have followed an ancient sea current only to end at your feet.

But have you ever thought how exciting it would be to find a fabled message in a bottle? You might imagine you are holding the final message written by some poor person aboard a sinking ship lost at sea. Or, you could be the last hope of someone marooned on a desert island, like Scotsman Alexander Selkirk, who is said to have been the model for Daniel Defoe's 1917 novel, Robinson Crusoe.

Throughout history, such incidents aren't as rare as one might think.

In the 16th century, Queen Elizabeth I of England relied on messages from the British fleet that came by floating-bottle method. It is said that she was so unnerved when a missive was opened by a boatman in Dover, she appointed an official Uncorker of Ocean Bottles, and made it a capital crime for anyone else to open found bottles. Whether the unconventional posting was effective has never been recorded, but she thought it necessary to protect the realm from spies and to keep enemy positions secret.

Chunosuke Matsuyama was a Japanese seaman who, along with 44 shipmates, lost his vessel on a coral reef while treasure hunting in the Pacific Ocean in 1784. The captain knew his crew's chances of survival were not good, for they had no food or fresh water.

Facing certain death, Matsuyama scratched their story onto chips of wood and set them adrift on the ocean currents in a sealed bottle. The bottle eventually made it to a shoreline of Japan — 150 years later. It was claimed that it was found on the very beach where he grew up, but this may be only folklore.

Closer to home, while he was postmaster general, Benjamin Franklin compiled a chart using information he obtained about ocean currents by dropping bottles into the Gulf Stream. Franklin realized that American whaler captains were able to get mail packets to their destination faster than their English counterparts because they had greater knowledge of ocean currents. To make his chart, he coupled the whalers' knowledge with the information he received when bottle finders returned them. It is said the information Franklin recorded is little changed today.

You can read more interesting facts about bottle messaging at www.timelessmessage.com/true.cfm on the Web and use these instructions to make your own. I found these instructions at www.kidszone.ourfamily.com on the Web. You won't need an ocean to send your bottle, simply take it to your nearest United States Post Office, have it weighed and pay for the minimal postage to send it. Fill it with stickers, confetti, wrapped candies and just about anything that will fit in the bottle's mouta.

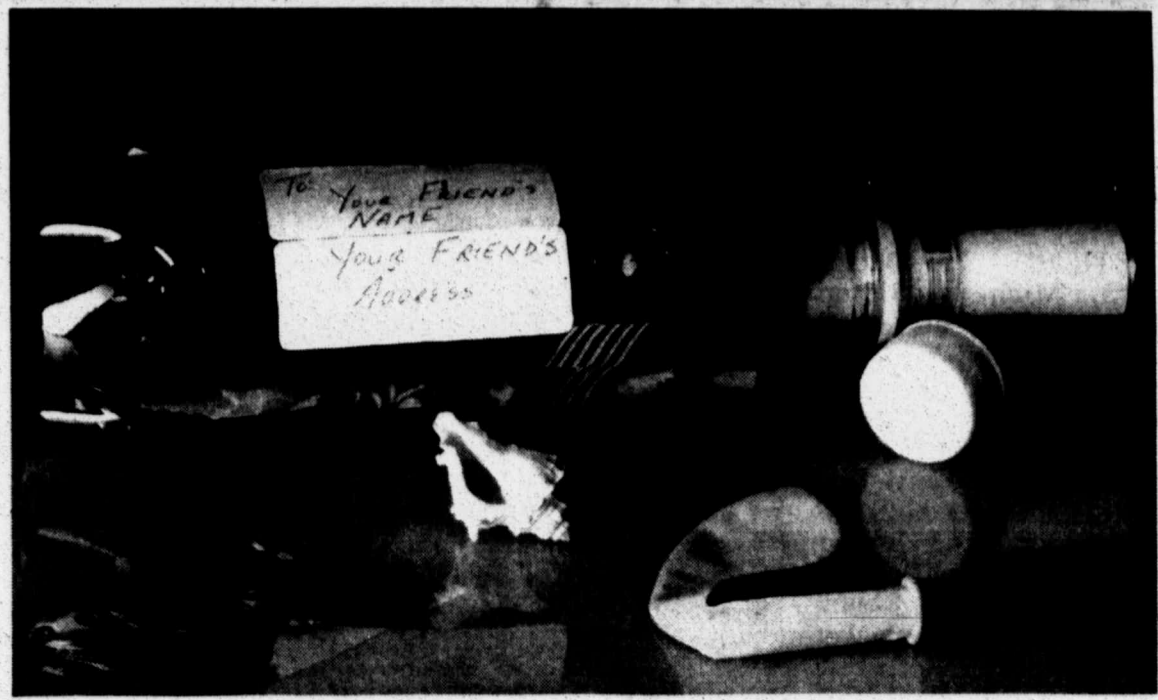
- Supplies you will need:
- Plastic soda bottle.
 - Address labels.
 - Paper for message.
 - Pencil.
 - Glue.
 - Stapler.

- Ribbon.
- Shredded paper and small gift items.
- Clear packing tape.

Wash the bottle and remove the label. Let dry. Alternate filling the bottle with shredded paper and small gift items. Leave some room at the open end for your message.

Write your greeting on the paper. Attach a small ribbon to the paper with staples. Roll the paper up tightly.

Glue the other end of



KRT photo/Robin Tinay Sallie, Akron Beacon Journal

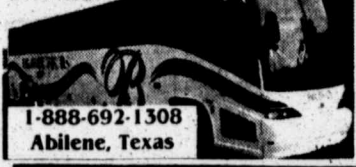
Mail someone you love a message in a bottle. It's easy and fun to do.

the ribbon to the inside of the bottle cap and let dry. Place the message and the ribbon inside the bot-

tle and screw the cap on. Wrap the cap with packing tape. Address the labels,

including your return address. Attach to a flat surface of the bottle.

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Hunter S. Thompson dies in an apparent suicide

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — Hunter S. Thompson, the hard-living writer who inserted himself into his accounts of America's underbelly and popularized a first-person form of journalism in books such as "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," committed suicide. He was 67.

Thompson was found dead Sunday in his Aspen-area home of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, sheriff's officials said.

Thompson's wife, Anita, had gone out before the shooting and was not home at the time.

Besides the 1972 classic about Thompson's visit to Las Vegas, he also wrote "Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72." The central character in those wild, sprawling satires was "Dr. Thompson," a snarling, drug- and alcohol-crazed observer and participant.

Thompson is credited alongside Tom Wolfe and Gay Talese with helping pioneer New Journalism — or, as he dubbed it, "gonzo journalism" — in

which the writer made himself an essential component of the story.

Thompson, whose early writings mostly appeared in Rolling Stone magazine, often portrayed himself as wildly intoxicated as he reported on such historic figures as Jimmy Carter, Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton.

Thompson also wrote such collections as "Generation of Swine" and "Songs of the Doomed." His first ever novel, "The Rum Diary," written in 1959, was first published in 1998.

Thompson also was the model for Garry Trudeau's balding "Uncle Duke" in the comic strip "Doonesbury" and was portrayed on screen by Johnny Depp in a film adaptation of "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas."

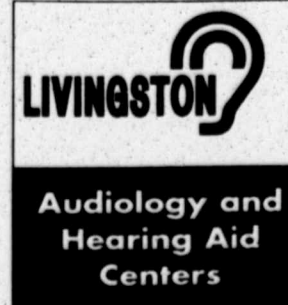
Other books include "The Great Shark Hunt," "Hell's Angels" and "The Proud Highway." His most recent effort was "Hey Rube: Blood Sport, the Bush Doctrine, and the Downward Spiral of Dumbness."

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an acne medication, has been prescribed millions of times, usually to teenagers, and may cause side effects including suicide, Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Crohn's, Ulcerative Colitis), Pseudotumor Cerebri, spine deterioration, vision damage, liver damage, pancreatitis, immune system injuries (Lupus), kidney damage, birth defects and cardiovascular damage. Should you or a loved one have a serious or permanent condition, call us for professional insight.

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Sports

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Page 1B
Monday, February 21, 2005

IN BRIEF

2005 Little League to hold signups

Sign-ups for the 2005 Big Spring Little League baseball season is taking place through Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

The league is for anyone ages five through 16 that live within the Big Spring little league boundaries.

Registration is required even if a player has played before, at least one parent or guardian must be present and an original or state-certified copy of child's birth certificate is required.

For more information, contact Chuck Rosenbaum at 263-1792.

Class of 2005 to host fund-raiser

The Big Spring class of 2005 will be holding a softball fund-raiser at Cotton Mize Field March 11 and 12.

The entry fee will be \$125 and prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams. The final day to enter the tournament will be March 9.

For more information, contact J.R. Landin at 264-1786 or Able Rios at 213-2115.

Relay For Life sets ragball tournament

The Relay For Life will host a ragball tournament at the Cotton Mize Field Friday and Saturday.

The cost for the tournament is \$10 per person and each must have five males and five females.

For more information, contact John Solis at 432-268-8387 or 432-816-6288.

Baseball camp set for middle of March

The Mickey Owen Baseball School will take place Saturday, March 19, at the National League Little League Field off South Highway 87.

The camp is broken into two sessions as the first one takes place from 9:30 a.m. to noon and the second one goes from 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Each session is broken down into instruction, practice and play. One session costs \$40, but participants can get both camps for \$60. Participants can save \$10 if registered by March 10.

The first session will cover general instruction on hitting, fielding and throwing, while session two is position instruction involving catchers, pitchers, infielders and outfielders.

The camp is for anyone ages six through 12 and enrollment is limited. It will be led by Mickey Owen and Bobby Doe.

The camp advises athletes to bring their own glove, cap, baseball pants, baseball shoes and gym shoes.

For more information, contact the Mickey Owen Baseball School at 1-800-999-8369.

Villarrel takes second at ECISD Invitational

• Big Spring tennis team finishes sixth

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

ODESSA — Big Spring senior Veronica Villarreal finished second

at the ECISD Invitational in Odessa Saturday, which propelled her team to a sixth place overall finish.

Midland Lee won the tournament with 112 points, while San Angelo Central and Odessa

Permian were a distance second and third, respectively. Big Spring finished with 59 points and was ahead of both Amarillo-Caprock and Class 5A Odessa High.

Villarreal advanced to the finals in the girl's sin-

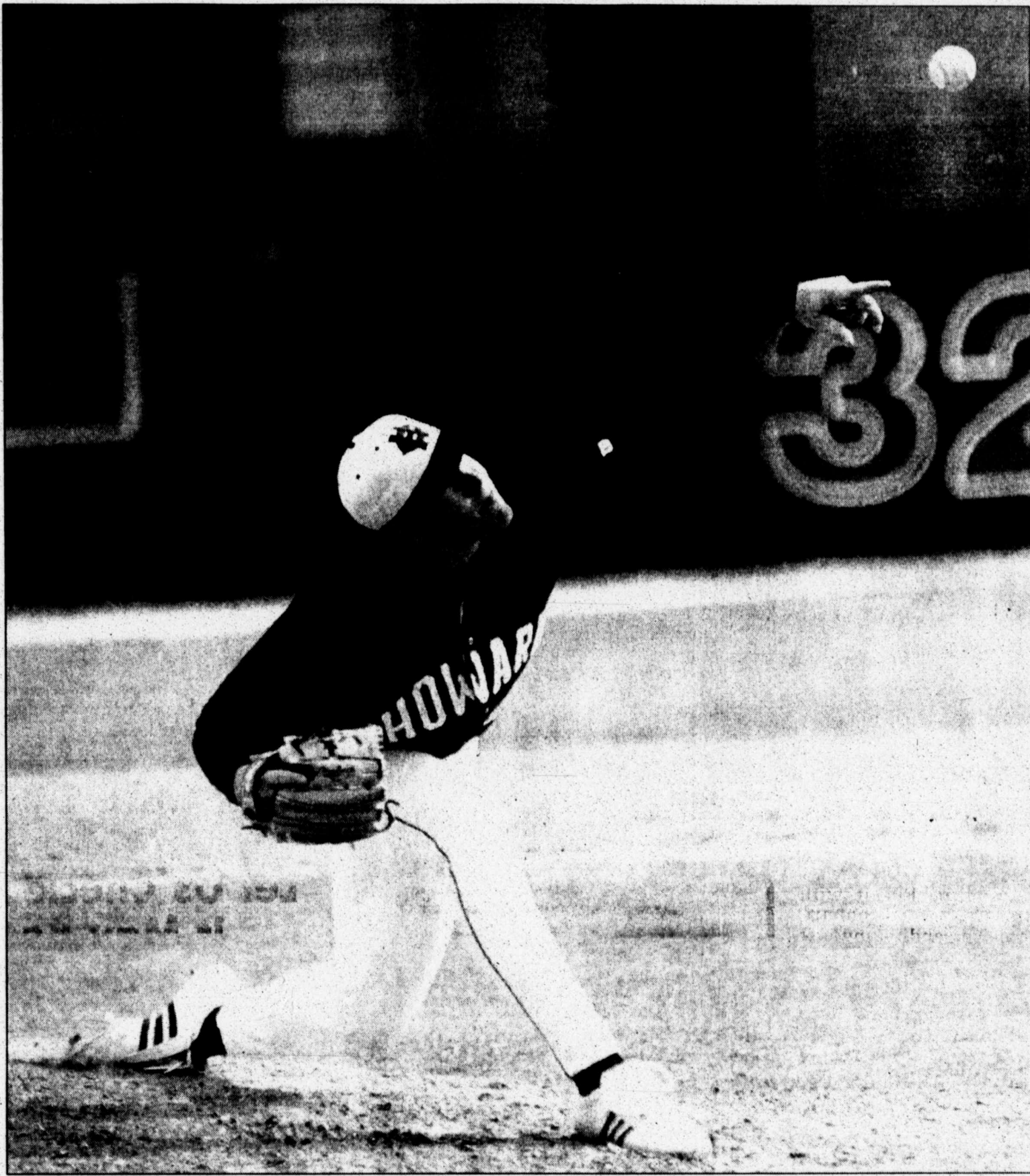
gles after she defeated Midland High's Tracy Hughes in straight sets 6-4, 6-0. She then took on Amarillo-Caprock's Ashley Ellis in the finals and lost 3-6, 2-6.

See TENNIS, Page 2B

ECISD Invitational

TEAM STANDINGS

1. Midland Lee — 112 pts.
2. S.A. Central — 96 pts.
3. Permian — 94 pts.
4. Amarillo High — 89 pts.
5. Midland High — 74 pts.
6. Big Spring — 59 pts.
7. Amarillo Caprock — 41 pts.
8. Odessa High — 34 pts.



Howard's Daman Aaron delivers a pitch to the plate Saturday during game No. 2 of a doubleheader with the Wayland Baptist JV at Jack Barber Field. Aaron pitched a complete game and gave up one hit — a home run — in an 8-1 Hawks win. Howard won game one 11-1 and its overall record is now 9-2.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Howard takes out Wayland JV easily

• Hawks get sweep at Jack Barber Field

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Howard had no troubles with the Wayland Baptist junior varsity as the Hawk baseball team collected an easy sweep Saturday at Jack Barber Field, winning 11-1 and 8-1.

Howard 11

Wayland Baptist JV 1

The first game was called before the seventh inning due to the 10-run mercy rule.

The Hawks led 3-0 after two innings. Darby Brown doubled in two runs in the bottom of the second inning before scoring the third run later. Howard (9-2) cruised to the win after that.

Howard 8

Wayland Baptist JV 1

Howard began game No. 2 with four runs in the first two innings. The Hawks scored three in the opening inning and then got one more across in the second as they were assisted by two Wayland Baptist errors.

The Hawks threatened in the third, but did not

See HOWARD, Page 2B

B.S. falls to Brewer in final

• Lady Steers drop Aledo in semifinals before losing to host

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

FORT WORTH — The Big Spring softball team reached the championship game at the Fort Worth Brewer Tournament Saturday, but lost to the host team in the final.

The Lady Steers dropped Aledo, 4-1, in the semifinals before falling to Brewer, 5-1, in the championship game.

Big Spring 4 Aledo 1

Senior Alex Watkins went the distance on the mound and gave up just two hits, while striking out four and walking one as Big Spring came from behind to beat Aledo.

Aledo scored first in the

second inning before Big Spring (6-2) took the lead for good in the third. The Lady Steers scored two in third and added two more runs in the sixth as they advanced to the championship game.

"It was a good hitting game for us," said

Big Spring coach Lea Daggett. "The offense came through and did some good things."

Courtney Rodriguez and Krista Chesworth each went two-for-three from the plate and scored a run. Chesworth also added a triple.

"I was very happy with the bottom half of the order in this game," said Daggett.

Senior Chelsea Abner and sophomore Katy Abner each got two hits, as well. Chelsea Abner added an RBI, while Katy Abner scored a run. Sophomore Amber Sides also scored a run, while going one-for-four from the plate.

Watkins improved to 3-1 on the season with the victory.

"The pitching was great and we played great defense," said Daggett.

Big Spring 1 Fort Worth Brewer 5

The offense disappeared in the championship game for Big Spring as the Lady Steers fell to host Brewer.

"We played great defense, but we couldn't put the ball in play," said Daggett, "and when you don't hit the ball you

See BIG SPRING, Page 2B



Howard's Darby Brown swings at a pitch from Wayland Baptist Saturday during game one of a doubleheader at Jack Barber Field. The Hawks won game one, 11-1, and defeated Wayland 8-1 in game No. 2.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Gordon wins third Daytona 500

• NASCAR's 'Super Bowl' taken by No. 24

By MIKE HARRIS

AP Motorsports Writer DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Jeff Gordon grabbed the lead from Dale Earnhardt Jr., then held off Kurt Busch and Earnhardt in extra laps to

win his third Daytona 500 Sunday.

One of the wildest finishes in the 47-year history of NASCAR's biggest race saw four lead changes in the last nine laps. Earnhardt, the defending champion, came from as far back as 30th to grab a late lead, only to watch four-time

series champion Gordon pass him seconds before a caution flag waved with three laps to go.

The race went three laps beyond the scheduled 200-lap distance, with Gordon hanging on over two final laps of green-flag racing to beat Busch

See DAYTONA, Page 2B

Basketball playoff matchups

GIRLS

- Garden City (29-4) vs. Fort Elliot (24-5), Tuesday 6:30 p.m. — Lubbock Coronado (Regional Semifinals)

BOYS

- Garden City (13-15) vs. No. 3 Paducah @Post, tonight 6:30 p.m.
- Grady (22-8) vs. Aspermont @ Post, Tuesday 6 p.m.
- Coahoma (20-10) vs. Coleman (17-9) @ Junell Center in San Angelo, Tuesday 8:30 p.m. (third game of tripleheader)

BIG SPRING

Continued from Page 1B

won't win many games." The Lady Steers suffered 13 strikeouts as a team from the plate.

Brewer scored four runs in the first two innings as Chelsea Abner suffered her first loss of the season on the mound. She gave up three earned runs, while striking out three



and walking two. Watkins came on in relief in the third inning and pitched the final five innings.

Watkins struck out five Brewer batters and gave up one earned run. "Alex did a good job in relief for Chelsea," said Daggett.

Senior Neisha Heinis went one-for-two at the plate and scored the Lady Steers' only run of the game.

Katy Abner, senior Heather Vassar, Sides, Watkins and Rodriguez all recorded singles.

Big Spring scored its only run in the sixth inning. Brewer countered

the Big Spring run with a run-of its own in the seventh inning.

"Overall I was proud of the way the team played in the tournament and I was especially happy with the pitching," said Daggett.

The Lady Steers play their first home game of the season Tuesday

as Big Spring takes on Monahans at 4 p.m. They will then travel to the Midland Tournament Thursday, Friday and Saturday.



C. ABNER

DAYTONA

Continued from Page 1B

by two car-lengths.

"Oh, my goodness, what an amazing day," a jubilant Gordon said. "Three, baby!"

Tony Stewart dominated the race for a second straight year and appeared well on the way to his first 500 win before a rash of late-race caution flags changed everything.

Earnhardt, who struggled with handling through most of the race and had not led a lap, suddenly dove to the outside, just in front of Gordon and charged past Stewart to grab the top spot on the 197th lap.

"I was real, real happy," Earnhardt said. "I'm telling you, man, the car was way, way off. It was hard. It was amazing the difference between the car (at the end) and maybe 50 laps before then. I mean, it was really fast."

Fast enough to scare Gordon, but not fast enough to beat him.

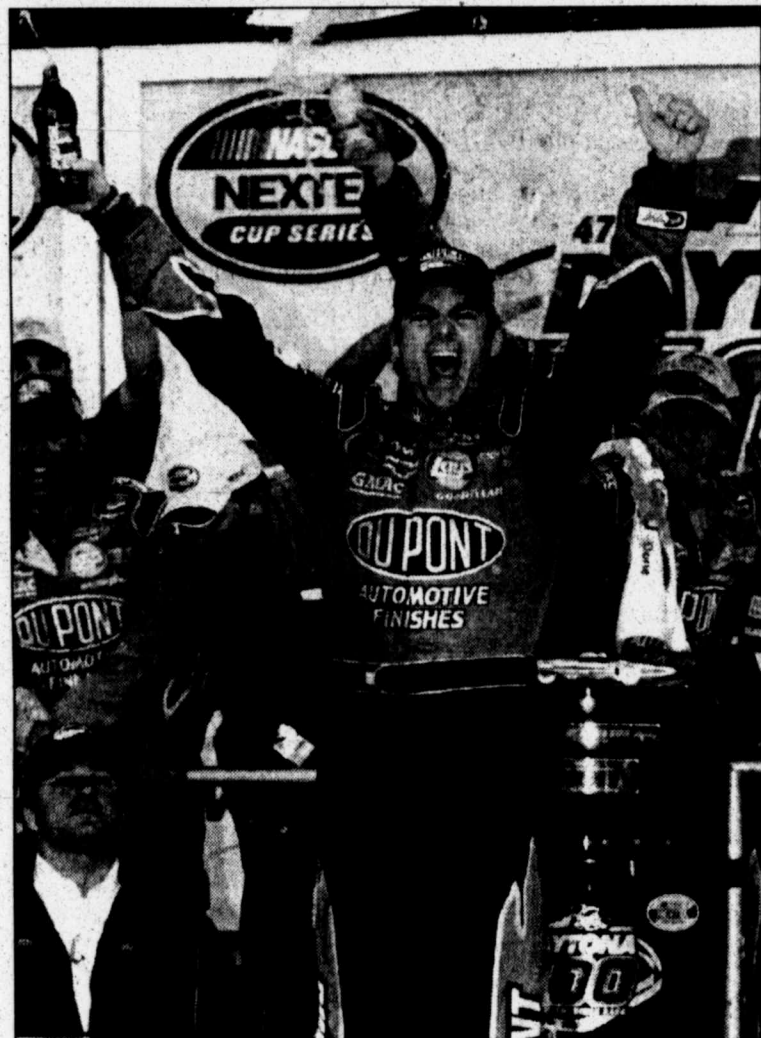
"Let's not say I gave up, but I thought it was over," Gordon said. "I mean, he hadn't been anywhere all day long and all the sudden he came out of nowhere."

Gordon finally pulled alongside Earnhardt and nosed ahead just moments before the 10th yellow flag of the race froze the field.

On the restart on lap 202, Busch, the defending Nextel Cup champion, drove his Ford past Earnhardt and bore down on Gordon.

Behind the three leaders, things got really wild, with three- and four-wide racing and cars banging and bumping off each other to the finish.

Scott Riggs wound up fourth, followed by Jimmie Johnson, Mark Martin in his last Daytona 500 and the frustrated Stewart.



KRT photo/John Raoux, Orlando Sentinel
Jeff Gordon celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the Daytona 500 at the Daytona International Speedway Sunday.

Unlike other races at Daytona since NASCAR began requiring the horsepower-sapping carburetor restrictor plates to slow the cars, most of the race was run with the field stretched out around the 2 1/2-mile banked oval.

The Monte Carlos of Stewart, Gordon and two-time Daytona winner Michael Waltrip, Earnhardt's teammate, led most of the laps and spent much of the day in single file.

But things began heating up on lap 183 when Greg Biffle and Riggs bumped in the middle of a pack and ignited a nine-car crash that sent Scott Wimmer barrel-rolling and then spinning several times on the nose of his car before landing on his wheels.

Wimmer was not injured.

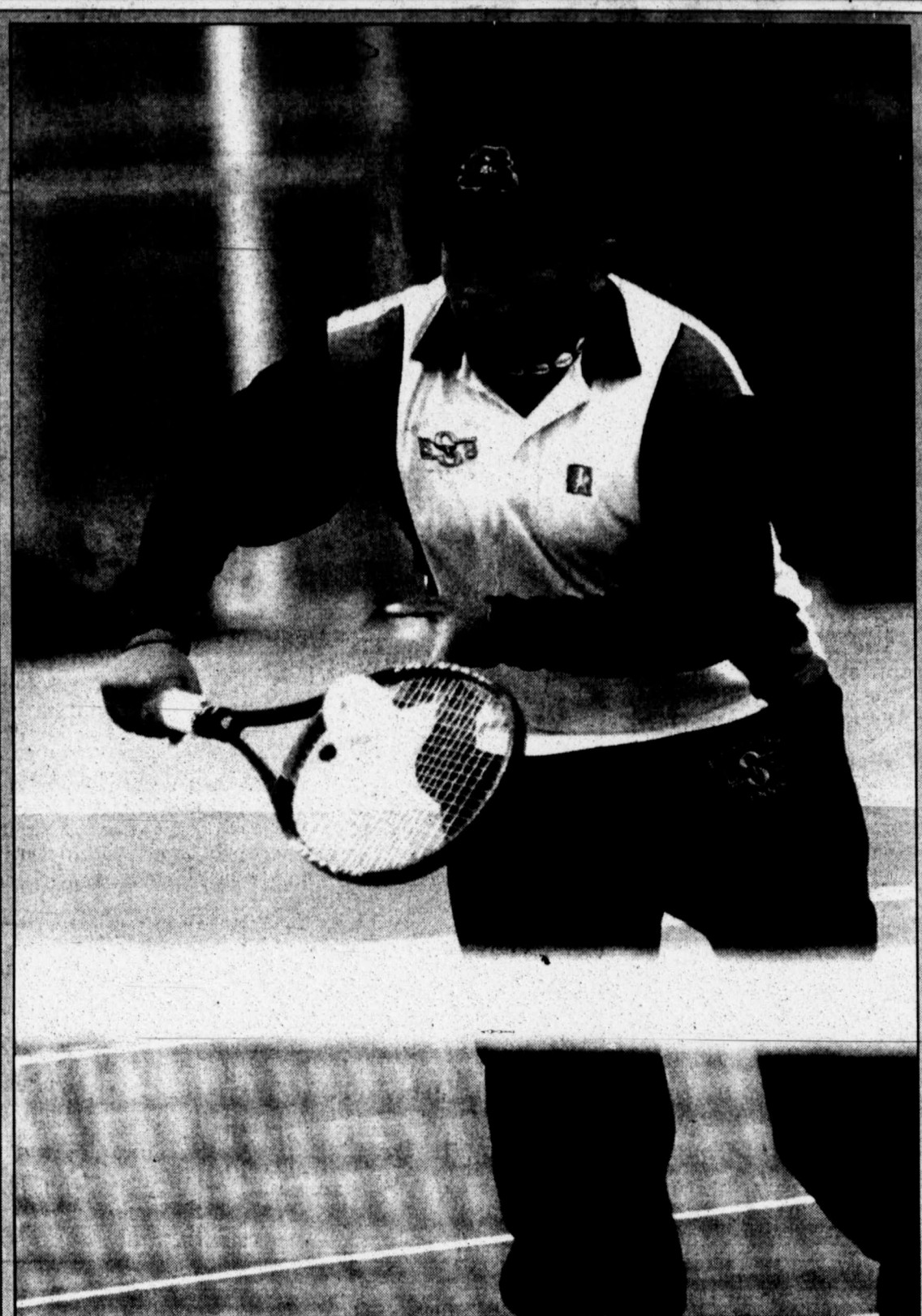
The race restarted on lap 188, but several cars

banged together before even passing the flagstand, sparking an eight-car crash on the main straightaway.

NASCAR managed to get that mess cleared in time for a restart on lap 196, but there was yet another caution waving on lap 198 because of debris on the track.

The victory was the 70th for Gordon, who barely missed his fifth series title last year when he finished just 16 points behind Busch and eight behind Hendrick Motorsports teammate Johnson in the closest points race in NASCAR history.

"I didn't know what the week had in store for us," Gordon said. "I knew we had a good car. We hadn't shown everything. I knew over 500 miles, with that pit crew, that team, that hopefully some patience would pay off there at the end."



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring senior Nick Rivera sends the ball back over the net during the Big Spring Invitational. Rivera and teammate Nick Paredes took fourth in boys' doubles this weekend at the ECISD Invitational in Odessa.

TENNIS

Continued from Page 1B

Both Big Spring boys' doubles team found themselves in placement matches, but both squads came out on short end.

Seniors Nick Rivera and Nick Paredes lost their third place match to a team from Villarreal Odessa Permian 2-6, 3-6, while



senior Jason Vela and Bryan Juan took a team from Amarillo High to three sets, but eventually lost the seventh place match 1-6, 6-1, 4-6.

Big Spring will travel to the Midland Invitational next Friday and Saturday as action will begin around 8 a.m.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

score before going back to work in the fourth and fifth.

Howard added another run in the bottom of the fourth inning as Tanner Mattson connected on a home run. They added two more runs in the fifth inning after Ryan Burke smashed a two-run home run, which also scored Brown as he led off the inning with a single.

Albert Ruiz started the sixth inning off with a double. He was able to give Howard an 8-1 lead later as he crossed the plate on Mattson's RBI grounder. Mattson



reached first base after Wayland committed its third error of the game. They stranded runners at second and third in the inning, but still held a commanding seven run lead.

Daman Aaron finished off Wayland in the seventh inning and earned the win on the mound. He gave up one hit — a home run in the top of the fourth inning. However, he picked things up after the Wayland smash as he pitched three straight three-up three-down

innings. Of the nine batters Aaron faced in the final three innings, five of them went down on strikes. He struck out the side in Wayland's top half of the sixth inning.

Aaron ended the game with back-to-back strikeouts in the seventh inning and also got two strikeouts in the third inning as he worked himself out of a bases loaded jam.

The Hawks will host Johnson County Community College next Saturday and Sunday at Jack Barber Field. The team's will play a double-header Saturday starting at noon before playing one final game Sunday at 11 a.m.

No. 8 Cowboys rout Texas Tech

By JEFF LATZKE

Associated Press Writer
STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — John Lucas III scored 25 points and James On Curry had 10 of his 15 in the second half Saturday as No. 8 Oklahoma State beat Texas Tech 85-56 to move into a tie for first place in the Big 12 Conference.

The win lifted Oklahoma State into a tie with No. 2 Kansas atop the league standings after the Jayhawks lost 63-61 to Iowa State in overtime earlier Saturday. The

Cowboys play at Kansas Feb. 27.

Curry scored 10 points during a 14-2 run that helped Oklahoma State (20-3, 10-2) pull away early in the second half.

Curry hit a 3-pointer from the right wing to start the run and Lucas added a fast-break layup, then slashed across the lane on the Cowboys' next possession, passed the ball to Ivan McFarlin who dunked it with two hands.

Curry added a jumper from the right wing and a long 3-pointer from beyond the top of the key

before finishing the run with a right-handed jam on a fast break to make it 54-32 with 13:29 to play.

Lucas stretched the lead to 67-40 when his 3-pointer from the right wing hit off both sides of the rim, took a high bounce and fell in.

Jarrius Jackson brought Texas Tech (16-7, 8-4) within 76-55 with a banked 3-pointer from the right wing, but Oklahoma State scored the next seven points and emptied its bench after Marcus Dove's two-handed alley-oop jam made it 83-55.



KRT photo/Stephen M. Dowell, Orlando Sentinel
Ricky Rudd (21) is tagged by Mike Wallace (4) in turn 4 during the Daytona 500 at the Daytona International Speedway Sunday. Rudd lost control in the turn and drifted up in front of Wallace.

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Come join our team, beautiful 180 state-of-the-art facility providing Long Term Care.

Positions Available

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2:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m. shifts Starting Salary \$16.00 an hour Competitive Wages - Health Insurance & Benefits Contact Robin Petty, RN-DON @ Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home 1809 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Texas 79720 (432)268-8387 (432)268-1987 Equal Opportunity Employer

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Full-time position required to work Saturday and Sunday and should have experience in building attractive displays, stocking shelves, managing product rotation, etc. Must have personal vehicle, will be paid mileage. Must be in excellent physical condition with no bending or lifting restrictions, and able to lift up to 75 lbs. on a regular basis. Must have good driving record. Starting pay \$7.75. Please apply at: Ab-Text Beverage Ltd. 3611 Hwy 87 North Big Spring, Texas 79720 EEO/AA Employer

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Now hiring drivers. Earn \$9-\$12/hr. with salary commissions & tips. Up to \$100 Hiring Bonus. Better Pizza! Great People & More Money! Full or Part Time. Apply in person only, 1702 Gregg St.

SOLID COMPANY NEEDS DRIVERS. Competitive hourly pay, lots of overtime! Paid travel, per diem, and motel. Home one week every month! Oil field labor along with driving. Medical and life insurance! Requires 2 years Class A CDL experience and good driving record. Call 1-800-588-2669.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT Fun Valley Family Resort in South Fork, Colorado. Needs Retirees with own RV for all types of jobs. Office, housekeeping, cooks, maintenance and RV parks. For information and application write Personal Director, 9010 Ravenswood, Granbury, Tx. 76049.

Travel Centers of America, Now Hiring for all positions. Apply in Person @ Hwy. 87 & I-20. No phone calls. Must pass drug screening.

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

Lost and Found

\$200.00 REWARD for information for recovery of Go-cart and 2 kids bikes taken from 101 East 20th. Call (432)264-7427, (432)213-3891 ask for Arnold or Elizabeth.

Miscellaneous

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

National Ads

#1 STEEL building factory Winter clearance! No gimmicks, no pressure. Save Huge on available sizes Call ASAP!! 1-877-425-7755 Ext. 2.

\$0 DOWN HOMES! NO CREDIT OK! GOVT & BANK REPOS. \$0 TO LOW DOWN. FOR LISTINGS. 1-800-501-1777 EXT. 7372.

National Ads

FREE DIRECTV UP TO 4 rooms free plus 3 free months of HBO + Cinemax starting 36.99 1-888-777-7115. GOOD WEEKLY INCOME! Guaranteed earnings +BONUS! National company needs Reliable people in this area to prepare/mail sales brochures from home! Supplies provided! Call: 1-800-357-1170.

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

HELP WANTED IMMEDIATELY! Need 550 people to help mail out Insurance forms. Call: 1-972-504-6675 or 1-972-504-6224.

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ARE YOU making \$1,710 per week? All cash vending routes with prime locations available now! Under \$9,000 investment required. Call Toll Free (24-7) 888-466-4200.

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National Ads

FREE DIRECTV UP TO 4 rooms free plus 3 free months of HBO + Cinemax starting 36.99 1-888-777-7115.

GOOD WEEKLY INCOME! Guaranteed earnings +BONUS! National company needs Reliable people in this area to prepare/mail sales brochures from home! Supplies provided! Call: 1-800-357-1170.

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

HELP WANTED IMMEDIATELY! Need 550 people to help mail out Insurance forms. Call: 1-972-504-6675 or 1-972-504-6224.

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NEED CASH? We buy Owner Financed Mortgages, Structured Settlements & Annuities. Call Majestic Funding 1-888-646-1419 1-727-646-1419.

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SECRET ENCOUNTERS 1-800-442-MEET .69 p/m Ladies Free!! 1-800-201-TALK VISIT - singles.com

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SEMINAR SALES! Home-Based. Learn Simple System. Earn \$200K in 6-12 Months. 1-800-659-1926.

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STEEL BUILDING SALE! We'll Beat All Competitor Bids Spec for Spec or we'll send you a check for \$200.00! 1-800-973-3366. www.premiersteel.org

TELEMARKETERS NEEDED- Work at Home. Great Income Opportunity. \$350-\$700 \$15.00 Start Fee www.freedompublication.com 1-800-630-5772.

Truck Drivers Wanted-Best Pay and Home Time! Apply Online Today over 750 Companies! One Application, Hundreds of Offers! http://hammerlanejobs.com

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On the Farm

WANT TO buy or rent farm land in Martin county. 30+ years experience. Jerry Holloway. (432)459-2499 or (432)559-3664.

Pets

FEMALE SHIH Tsu; female Jack Russell; Pomeranian male stud, all AKC registered. \$250. each. Also (1)male & (1)female pups, \$100. each. For appt. (432)213-0426, 2102 Allendale.

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BEAUTIFUL GARDEN COURTYARD •Swimming Pool •Private Patios •Carports •Appliances •Most Utilities Paid •Senior Citizens Discount •1 & 2 Bedroom Unfurnished PARKHILL TERRACE APARTMENTS 800 W. Marcy Drive 263-5555 263-5000

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BIG SPRING HERALD 710 Scurry • PO Box 1431 • Big Spring, TX 79721 • (432) 263-7331 • Fax 432-264-7205 Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ Date: _____ CLASSIFIED AD Write one word on each line: _____ Up to 25 words: Sunday Only \$19.50 One weekday only \$12.25 Two Consecutive Days \$16.50 Three Consecutive days \$20.25 Four Consecutive Days \$23.50 Five Consecutive Days \$25.75 Six Consecutive Days \$27.00 Two weeks \$51.00 Three Weeks \$64.50 Four weeks \$75.00 Garage Sales (3 days) \$16.75 Each add'l word 20-cents per word per day. Enhancements Price per word for entire run: Bolding \$1.00 Centering \$1.00 Italics \$1.00 Price for entire run: Blind Box \$10 Photo \$4.00 Graphics \$1.00 Logos \$1.00 Prices include placement on internet at www.bigspringherald.com Start Date _____ Classification: _____ DEADLINES: 12 noon Fri. for Sunday; 4:15 Fri. for Monday; 12 noon Mon. for Tues; 12 noon Tues. for Wed.; 12 noon Wed. for Thurs.; 12 noon Thurs. for Fri. Enclosed is \$ _____ Cash _____ Money Order _____ Check _____ Credit Card# _____ Exp. Date _____ Vcode# _____ Are you a subscriber: Yes _____ No _____ CLASSIFICATIONS: Announcements; Business Opportunity; Cemetery Lots; Financial; Garage Sales; Help Wanted; Instruction; Items for Sale; Jobs Wanted; Lost and Found; Miscellaneous.; Mobile Homes; National Ads; On the Farm; Pets; Public Notice; Real Estate for Rent; Real Estate for Sale; Services Offered; Vehicles; Legals



Big Spring Herald Classifieds sidebar text including various ad categories and contact information.

Real Estate for Rent

104 WEST 13TH. Between Main & Scurry. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath, carpet. \$250. month, \$200. deposit. Call Pierce Group at (432)264-6611.

1303 Marijo. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$375. Month, \$150. deposit. 1212 East 19th. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$350. Month, \$150. deposit. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

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

1504 RUNNELS, 2 Bedroom 2 bath. Fireplace, fenced, carport, laundry room. No pets. Call (432)816-9103.

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

2407 CARLETON, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A. \$550.00 month plus deposit. Call (432)263-6997.

2502 Cheyenne. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. \$500. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

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

910 EAST 6TH. 2 Bedroom 1 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

COAHOMA AREA 2 bdrm, 1 bath, large carport, fenced yard. 102 Weaver, \$300.00 month, \$150.00 deposit. Call 263-4528 or 432-296-0277 or 432-296-1523.

FOR RENT 2 bedroom 1-1/2 bath in County, water paid, fenced yard, \$375. per month, \$350. deposit. (432)213-2810 or 213-2809.

FOR RENT: 800 Nolan. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Utilities included. \$400.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

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

Midway Area - Small 3 Bdrm mobile homes. Stove & refrigerator, washer & dryer. CH/A. \$350.00 month \$150.00 deposit. HUD approved. Call 432-393-5585 or 270-3928.

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

ONE BEDROOM \$275.00- East 12th., Two bedroom, \$300.00- East 13th. & three bedroom. \$385.00- Robin. Lease required. Moren, (432)267-7380.

SUNSET RIDGE APARTMENTS
2911 West Hwy 80.
1 & 2 Bedrooms
Cable TV Service
Central Heat & A/C
Friendly Staff
On-site Maintenance
Laundry Facility
****Move in Special****
Call (432)263-2292

UNFURNISHED 14X80 Mobil Home. Nice 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. CH/A. County living. Forsan School district. Stove, refrigerator, water and sewer furnished. Small Deposit. Call (432)267-1180.

Real Estate for Sale

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

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

804 DOUGLAS: 2 Bedroom, one bath, dining room, closed in porch and carport. \$18,900.00. Call Don @ (325)378-2401.

FOUR BEDROOM, 2-1/2 bath home on 20 acres. Forsan ISD. All offers considered. Call (432)816-1868.

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

NORTH OF College 3/2/1 brick home. \$625.00 Month, \$500.00 deposit. Credit check & references required. New loan or 20% down. Call (432)268-8353 Cell (325)699-1042.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Leo moon is like a peacock among wrens. Its energy is grand, showy and self-important. It grants permission to our emotional selves to strut, pose and, if need be, rant. On a personal level, the drama is ignited. And since it is Presidents' Day, the ranting that happens on a political level will be highly publicized, criticized and celebrated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A threat, real or imagined, looms large in your head. Take action to tame this monster. Handle it first so you can get on with your day, giving full attention (or at least as much attention as possible) to your other duties.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Life feels fragmented into about 10 million pieces. But in reality, you are less disjointed than you think. Clear clutter at home, and you'll see plainly what else needs to be done. A Virgo helps, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June

21). Productivity ebbs and flows. You'll have your Mary Poppins moment, though, and "a spoon full of sugar" really will help the "medicine go down." Try to attack all work in the spirit of fun.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's like you're playing a game of Madlibs. Everywhere you turn, there's a blank that needs filling in. Luckily, you're quite creative. And humorous, too — as your friends will later attest. Have fun!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People will interrupt you all day long if you let them! Control their access to you by getting strict with your schedule. Choose the hours you'll be available by phone, and don't answer it other than that.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A difference of opinion could come between friends, but it's nothing serious. Helping someone take care of his or her own problems is far more effective than going out of your way to "fix" things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's easier to follow a partner's lead than to come up with your own structure. And there's nothing wrong with that today, as long as you choose a partner who actually knows

what he or she is doing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're in the mood to take chances, and your personal life is just the area to do this in now. Emotionally, you're a little tougher than usual and able to risk rejection — but also unlikely to experience it!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You may be the only one standing up for what's right. Someone in charge could get drunk with power and lose sight of what's good for everyone. Others will try and persuade you, but keep your standards high.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). One thing at a time. Jumping in with grandiose vision and high expectations may work at other times, but right now, what's really required is a more methodical and practical approach. Focus on the task at hand.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may find out that you're not using a resource (this might be a person, a software program or a club membership) to its fullest capacity — or not even close! Make an effort to better educate yourself!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Learn the art of brinkmanship. Some peo-

ple don't think about the consequences of taking things to the absolute limit. Let yourself be influenced by their conviction. What seems extreme could be your best solution.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Last year, you did a celebrity profile on Leonardo DiCaprio, and you said that he could break his habit of dating models and fall desperately in love with someone who teaches schools or studies law. I was intrigued by this and am wondering how you came to this conclusion. Also, are those professions just a metaphor for saying he could fall in love with someone not famous, or was it those exact careers?"

Excellent question! Using astrology to make predictions requires a combination of chart reading and intuition. DiCaprio has a heavy Scorpio influence in his chart, which includes the sun, Mercury, Venus and Mars in that intensely probing sign. One might say that the Socratic method is an integral part of his nature, and he'll spend his life questioning and learning. A love interest who is a teacher or a lawyer would understand

and be patient with this type of mind-set, whereas someone else might feel threatened or criticized by the constant questioning. Venus in Scorpio also has a tendency to be jealous, and I think if DiCaprio dated someone not in his industry, this tendency would be minimized!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Sweet young Dakota Fanning is a wise old soul — but most Pisces are. As the final sign of the zodiac, Pisces are natural actors who use their tremendous empathy to slip into the skin of another character. Fanning resembles another Piscean child star, Drew Barrymore. A mentorship with Barrymore or another Pisces could help Fanning avoid some of the pitfalls of being in the public eye so young.

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.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a sophomore in college and share an apartment with four other girls. We are seriously concerned about our roommate, "Sherry." She never goes to class anymore (she rarely went last year), and she sleeps until 5 p.m. Because she avoids bathing and has done laundry only a few times this past semester, she is starting to stink up the entire apartment.

More importantly, we are worried that her behavior could be a sign of depression. Sherry already is on anti-anxiety medication. We're not really close to her, and if we bring up her mental health, she is likely to become defensive and yell at us. What should we do? — Concerned Roommate in Wisconsin

Dear Roommate: The four of you must talk to Sherry, even if she becomes defensive and yells. So what? You can take it, and she needs your help. Tell her she ought to see someone at the school's health clinic and offer to go with her. Give her the Web sites of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (dbsalliance.org) and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (www.nami.org or 1-800-950-NAMI).

Ask if she'd like you to call her parents. Sherry may be relieved to know someone cares enough to



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

confront her. And if she refuses to get help, or you notice that she is getting worse, talk to a counselor on campus and ask for advice. You would never forgive yourselves if something happened and you stood by and did nothing.

Dear Annie: I have disagreed with some of your responses but never felt strongly enough to write. However, your response to "Confused in Ohio" sent me right through the roof.

"Confused" said her friend's elderly father looked at child pornography on the Internet. How could you advise the women to talk to her friend AGAIN, saying, "Grandpa should get counseling before he gets arrested"? You should have told her to get on the phone and report this to the authorities.

Viewing child pornography supports an industry that has hurt many children and destroyed lives. Just because the children in the pictures aren't living in his home doesn't excuse his behavior. The children in those photographs are being hurt and exploited. The fact that others in the house know about Grandpa's interests and do nothing means

they should face criminal charges as well. I can't believe you would not take this more seriously. What were you thinking? — L.T. in California

Dear L.T.: We were thinking that it does little good to offer advice that is not going to be followed. It would have been simple to tell "Confused" to call the police and have them arrest the father of her best friend, but she isn't likely to do it.

We hoped discussing this more emphatically with her friend, telling her that Dad's behavior was not normal, that he could be arrested, and that the grandchildren were at risk, would push the family to take action. But many readers agreed with you that "Confused" should call the authorities. Here's one more:

From Memphis, Tenn.: My sister and I, and many of our neighborhood children were left with a kindly old grandfather when we were very small. He seemed to love children. Indeed he did, in more ways than you can imagine. While in his care, we were forced to look at pornography, and my sister was repeatedly taken into his bedroom on her own. He told us not to tell, and for whatever reason we did not.

Child pornography is a horrendous crime committed by sick individuals. Anyone who finds pleasure in such activities should be reported immediately to the police. If her friend is too stupid to protect the grandchildren, "Confused" should do it for her, even if the price is the loss of the friendship.

Dear Annie: I've been married for over 15 years and have two children, one of whom is autistic and nonverbal. We have

worked so hard to make life "normal" for my children despite many strange looks, ignorant comments and lost friendships.

What I'm having a hard time with now is my in-laws. Four years ago, they totally banned us from their lives because of our son. My husband's brother was married around the same time, and although my in-laws see him and his children numerous times every year, they find weak excuses not to visit us.

I feel terrible for my children and my husband, although he sees nothing wrong with his parents' behavior. We've tried talking with my in-laws, educating them, reasoning with them, even begging them, but nothing has changed. They send cards and money for birthdays and holidays, but that's it. There is no real love.

Should I just give up? — Feeling Betrayed

Dear Betrayed: Your in-laws have already given up on your behalf. If cards and money are their only method of communication, accept it as such, and don't expect more. As long as this doesn't seem to bother your husband, there's no reason you should make any greater effort to involve grandparents who don't wish to be part of your children's lives. It is truly their loss. How sad.

Dear Annie: I am extremely dissatisfied with life. I am very intelligent, but I never have been able to finish my education. I have a terrible problem with math and always have had a problem concentrating. I am very easily distracted. I think I may have adult Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

I am in my 40s, and have had too many jobs to keep track of. I bounce from place to place. I have tried many different things, but nothing holds my interest for very long. I get bored and I need to move on, which, of course, doesn't help.

Do you know where I can get more information about ADD in adults? Is this something I could be tested for? Any information would be greatly appreciated. — Can't Sit

Still in the Midwest

Dear Can't Sit Still: The main symptoms of adult ADD are distractibility, impulsivity and restlessness. Talk to your doctor about being tested for adult ADD, and discuss with him or her the available treatment options. For more information and a self-administered questionnaire, try the Attention Deficit Disorder Association (www.add.org) at P.O. Box 543, Pottstown, PA 19644.

Dear Annie: Please help me find a response for those ignorant people, mostly women, who keep asking me, "When are you due?"

I am 27, slightly overweight, though not obese, and carry some excess weight around my midsection. However, I am NOT pregnant, not married, and I never know what to say to this question, especially since it happens quite frequently. It is always such a downer. I am sensitive about my size, having been slightly overweight my whole life, although I eat healthy and exercise regularly.

People need to know this is NOT an appropriate question to ask, regardless of how obviously pregnant a woman is, unless you know for sure. — Not Pregnant, Just Fat, in Connecticut

Dear Not Pregnant: One should never assume a woman is pregnant, no matter how big she appears. Considering how often this happens, you'd think people would have more sense. Simply fix them with an icy stare and reply, "I'm not pregnant, but thanks for bringing it to my attention." That ought to keep them quiet for a while.

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

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ICOVER

MONDAY

FEB. 21

Table with 25 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMD, UNI, etc.) and rows representing time slots from 6:30 AM to 12:30 AM, listing various programs and their categories.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I AM NOT A SNOB. I'M A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, TALENTED, ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LADY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I'm tired of Old Maid, Daddy. Will you teach us how to play poker?"

HAGAR



LET ME WELCOME YOU NEW RECRUITS TO A DEMONSTRATION OF HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT BY THE WORLD'S FOREMOST AUTHORITY...



...MY WIFE AND WORTHY OPPONENT HELGA!

BLONDIE



I'M HAVING A PROBLEM ASSEMBLING THIS THING

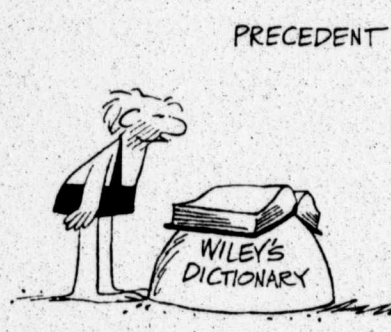


WHY DON'T YOU GO NEXT DOOR AND ASK HERB TO HELP YOU?

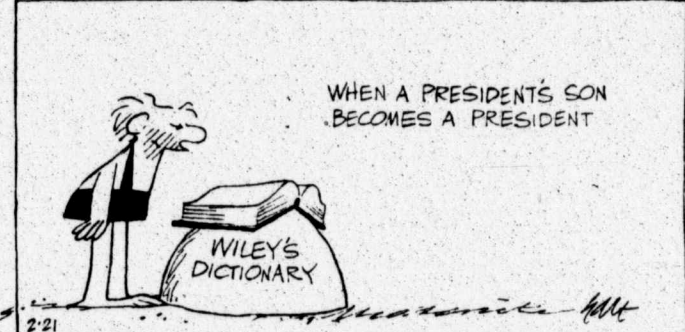


THIS IS A DO-IT-YOURSELF KIT

BC



PRECEDENT



WHEN A PRESIDENT'S SON BECOMES A PRESIDENT

WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2005. There are 313 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: Forty years ago, on Feb. 21, 1965, former Black Muslim leader Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death in New York by assassins identified as Black Muslims. On this date: In 1878, the first telephone directory was issued, by the Telephone Company of New Haven, Conn. In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated. In 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France. In 1925, The New Yorker magazine made its debut. In 1947, Edwin H. Land publicly demonstrated his

Polaroid Land camera, which could produce a black-and-white photograph in 60 seconds. In 1972, President Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Shanghai. In 1973, Israeli fighter planes shot down a Libyan Airlines jet over the Sinai Desert, killing more than 100 people. In 1975, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up. In 1986, Larry Wu-tai Chin, the first American found guilty of spying for China, killed himself in his Virginia jail cell. In 1988, TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart tearfully confessed to his congregation in Baton Rouge, La., that he was guilty of an unspecified sin, and said he was leaving the pulpit temporarily. (Reports linked Swaggart to an admitted prostitute, Debra

Murphree.) Birthdays: Today's Fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy is 78. Movie director Bob Rafelson is 72. Actress Rue McClanahan is 70. Actor Gary Lockwood is 68. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 66. Actor Peter McEnery is 65. Recording executive David Geffen is 62. Actor Alan Rickman is 59. Actress Tyne Daly is 59. Tricia Nixon Cox is 59. Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 58. Rock musician Jerry Harrison (The Heads) is 56. Actor William Petersen is 52. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 50. Country singer Mary-Chapin Carpenter is 47.

Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like FAST, LAIRD, MISO, ANKA, ONTHEMONEY, CAIN, INSOMUCHAS, ELSA, ROOS, CHANT, MOL, KEY, CHANCE, AGORA, LEOS, DER, SUPERSTARDOM, KEEPAN EYE OUT FOR, STARTINGGATE, ARG, ERNO, HEROS, GERBIL, APT, CST, ADIOS, CORA, MICA, TOEXTREMES, SCOT, ENVISIONED, GAPE, SEEN, BSIDE, SLED.

Newsday Crossword

LOAD IT UP by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Snowman's eye material 5 Santa's toy holders 10 Stuntman Knievel 14 School corridor 15 Whooping bird 16 Evaluate 17 Laos locale 18 Filmmaker Woody 19 Diarist Frank 20 Complicated procedures 22 Coupe or convertible 23 Entangle 24 Turn loose 27 Thaw 30 Military greeting 33 Scottish girl 37 Gone With the Wind plantation 39 Pertaining to ships 40 Thing on a list 41 Baby's neckwear 42 Sandwich shop 43 Rounded roofs 45 Psychic reader 47 Stanley Gardner 48 Said "cheese" 50 Dance move 52 Group of ships 54 Examinations 58 Baba 60 Messenger schedule listing

- 64 Unaccompanied 66 Tuckered out 67 Internet auction site 68 Unwritten exam 69 Don't throw away 70 Barbed 71 Relate 72 Lock of hair 73 Matinee days: Abbr. DOWN 1 Burn slightly 2 Desert rest area 3 Adjust, as wheels 4 Camel's South American kin 5 Bright red 6 Folk singer Guthrie 7 Use the phone 8 Prepare to propose 9 Hearing and sight 10 Important time 11 British Columbia city 12 Sicilian peak 13 Impolite look 21 Sleeve filler 25 Light brown 26 Forest clearing 28 Experiment sites 29 Attempts 31 Lofty 32 Author Wiesel 33 Jar tops 34 Molecule part 35 Tournament round 36 Scent 38 Support in crime 44 Take notice of 46 Fixes a piano again 49 Leave the premises 51 Get-up-and-go 53 Floor installer 55 One-pot dinners 56 Leg bone 57 Like a straight A student 58 Considerably 59 Traditional knowledge 61 Hint 62 Smooch 63 Facial features 65 Kay follower

Crossword grid with numbers 1-73 indicating starting positions for words.