FRIDAY

March 4, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TOMORROW 41°-43° 62°-64°

BRIEFLY

Court closed

The Big Spring Municipal Court will be closed the week of March 7 through March 11.

Blood drives set

Several places in Big Spring will have blood drives this month. Among them are:

· Cornell Corrections, 3711 Wright Ave., from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. March 9. To sign up call, Tina Word at 264-

· Lakeview Headstart, 1107 W. Seventh, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. March 11. To sign up, call Joann or Delores at 267-7452

· Leonard's Prescription Pharmacy, 701 Scurry (new building) from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. March 12, Inited Blood Services Bloodmobile. To sign up, call Tina at 267-

WEEKEND



Cover Story: From minus 75 in McGrath, Alaska, to 124 degree in Yuma, Ariz., the United States has its share of extreme weather. So what are the sunniest, cloudiest, wettest, driest, foggiest, and windiest places in America? Which places get the most snow, hail, hurricanes, tornadoes and lightning?

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Vol. 101, No. 72

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www.bigspringherald.com

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

County's top spellers headed to regional bee

By STEVE REAGAN

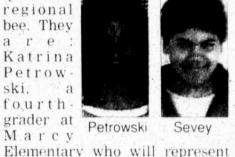
Staff Writer

Four Howard County students will try to spell their way to a trip to the nation's capital when they compete in the Regional Spelling Bee Saturday Lubbock.

The regional bee, sponsored by the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, will begin at 1 p.m. Saturday at Tech University's International Cultural Center.

Four county students won local-level competitions to quali-

regional bee. They



Big Spring Independent School

District: Nick Sevey, a seventh-

grader at Coahoma Junior High:









Spring Homeschool Coalition. This marks the second straight year that Sevey, the son of Roby and Jan Rios, has qualified for Laura Spence, a seventh-grader the regional bee. He punched his

represent

Forsan ticket to this year's event when Junior he correctly spelled "siesta" to outlast Chance Hart at the Coahoma ISD spelling bee Feb. 7.

Petrowski, the daughter of Joe and Lisa Petrowski, earned her spot at the regional bee Feb. 10 when she correctly spelled "absorb," to outlast Kentwood Elementary's Hannah Spence in the eighth round of the Big Spring ISD contest.

First-time regional qualifier

See BEE. Page 5A



KRT photos/Bo Rader, Wichita Eagle Virgin Atlantic CEO Sir Richard Branson sprays pilot Steve Fossett with champagne after Fossett landed at the Salina's airport on Thursday. Fossett is the first person to fly solo around the world without refueling.

Non-stop

Fossett completes solo around-the-world flight

By JOE STUMPE

Knight Ridder

SALINA, Kan. - Steve Fossett set the GlobalFlyer down under a picture perfect Kansas sky Thursday afternoon, becoming the first person to make a solo non-stop flight around the world.

The radically designed jet landed at 1:50 p.m.: CST — 67 hours and two minutes after take-off - to the cheers of thousands of people at Salina Municipal Airport.

They erupted again when Fossett stepped from the tiny cockpit, waved to the crowd and hugged his wife, Peggy. "I'm really a lucky guy now," a smiling

Fossett told the crowd. "I got to achieve my

Gray stubble covered Fossett's jaw and his lips were cracked from dehydration. At one point he seemed to try to shake the effects of being cooped up in a cockpit for nearly three days out of his limbs. But otherwise the 60year-old adventurer, clad in a silver flight suit.

seemed remarkably unfazed by his feat of



"I was in control and able to make rational

decisions," he said. However, Fossett said he will probably sleep a full day, "might like a shower" and wanted something other to eat than the dozen sport shakes he survived on while in the air.

"It's good nourishment but I'd rather have a nice dinner," he said.

See FLIGHT. Page 5A

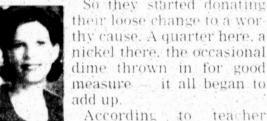
Little change, lots of heart

Coahoma youth reaching out to tsunami victims

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

COAHOMA When Coahoma Elementary School students saw photos of the devastation wreaked by the tsunami that hit portions of Asia last December, they decided the least they could do was cough up some Coke money to help the victims. So they started donating



dime thrown in for good measure - it all began to According to teacher Joyce Baumann, sixth-grad-

er Skyler Coates was the originator of the loose-

"After seeing the pictures and hearing reports of the destruction in Sri Lanka as a result of the tsunami. Skyler suggested to our principal. Patricia Bennett, that students and teachers donate any loose change they had to the victims of the disaster. Baumann said.

For about three weeks. Coahoma. Elementary students and staffers dug into their pockets and donated their spare change to help people they would never meet. Officials used a thermometer graph to chart the school's progress, setting \$1,000 as the goal.

Bennett said student efforts went beyond what might be expected.

"I'm just very proud of them," she said. "Some of the teachers let the students go to the juice machine during the day and buy some juice. Well, some of the students ended up donating their juice money. We even had one student. donate some of her birthday money.

Although teachers and other staff personnel pitched in Bennett said most of the donations came from the students. Children brought in plastic bags full of change, which the sixth graders would count using a change rolling machine.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, the thermometer blew its top - Baumann reported that the drive eventually net

See CHANGE, Page 5A

Prospector's Club to host annual show this weekend

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

endurance.

. They may just look like rocks to most people, hardly worth a second glance. But for members of the Big Spring Prospector's Club, they're a treasure just waiting to be discovered, as the group gets ready to hold it's 36th Annual Gem and Mineral Show this weekend.

Lola Lamb, who serves as secretary-treasurer for the Prospectors, said demonstrations are a major part of the Gem and Mineral Show, which is slated for 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday at the Howard County

"You take just an ordinary See GEMS, Page 5A

INFORMATION

What: Big spring Gem and Mineral Show.

Where: Howard County Fair Barn, off FM 700.

When: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

rock and you slab it," she explained. "Then you put it into jewelry. That's just one of the processes people will get to see at the show. We'll also have another gentleman there doing wire wrapping, and if you pick out a stone or gem, he'll mount it

Martha Stewart at home under watchful eye of feds

By JIM FITZGERALD

Associated Press Writer

KATONAH. Stewart staged a tightly : choreographed and low key return home from prison early Friday. arriving at the \$16 million New York estate where she will

remain under the watch of federal authorities while trying to revive her home-

making empire. Stewart was driven to the 153acre estate 40 miles north of midtown Manhattan after landing. about 2 a.m. at Westchester County Airport in a private jet.

She later was seen walking around inside her Winter Home with her daughter, Alexis.

For the next five months Stewart must wear an electronic anklet so authorities can track her every move. But she is allowed to receive her \$900,000 salary again and can leave home for up to 48 hours a week to work, shop or run other approved errands.

Her journey home began about 12:30 a.m. Friday, when two dark-windowed sport utility vehicles slipped out the gates of the women's prison in Alderson, W. Va.; and drove to a nearby air-

See STEWART, Page 5A

Obituaries

Louis Latham

Services for Mr. Louis Latham, of Stonewall, formerly of Big Spring, were today, March 4, 2005, at 2 p.m. at Shreveport Baptist Temple, Stonewall, La. Officiating the service was the Rev. Dr. Howard Hall Jr. Mr. Latham passed away Feb. 28, 2005, in Stonewall, La.

He was born Oct. 14, 1928, in Anson. Mr. Latham worked as a pipefitter for many years. Later in life, he enjoyed working outside planting flowers in his flower beds.

He was preceded in death by his parents Charles and Alice Louis.

Surviving him are his children, Gayle Free and her husband, Donald and Charles Louis and his wife, Tammie; sisters, Adelia Morris and Charlene Wilburn; brother-in-law, Jack Taylor; 10 grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Loraine who has helped out in so many ways over the past years.

Arrangments were under the direction of Boone

Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Dock Aaron 'Skeeter' Nichols

Dock Aaron "Skeeter" Nichols, a Christian, husband, father, brother and friend, went to be home with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Wednesday, March 2, 2005.

Dock was born Aug. 14, 1933, to Morgan Louis and Eula Nichols in Novice. He was happily married to Doris Anderson Nichols for 49 years.

He was preceded in death by his father, mother, sister and brother.

He is survived by his wife, Doris, and their children: Morgan Nichols and wife, Michele of Abilene; Beverly Minor and husband, Tommy of Eldorado; Ken Nichols of Abilene; Darrell Nichols and wife, Traci of Plano; and Wayne Nichols and wife, Tammy of Abilene; his sister, Mary Anna Dale of Coleman; and many wonderful friends.

He found great joy in his 11 grandchildren, Evan, Daniel, Brandon, Brence, Timmy, Bailey, Peyton, Destanie, Zachary, Branda and Sam. They will miss his loving spirit dearly.

He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict, a civil engineer for 37 years and a member of the Wylie Baptist Church and an ordained deacon.

Dock's gentle spirit and loving heart will truly be missed by all who knew and loved him. The family will receive friends from 10:30 a.m. until noon Saturday at Wylie Baptist Church.

Funeral services are at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Wylie Baptist Church with the Rev. Oscar Fannin officiating and assisted by the Rev. Lee Fuller, pastor of the Wylie Baptist Church.

Burial will follow at the Atoka Cemetery under the direction of Walker Funeral Home of Coleman.

Marvel Kirby

Marvel Kirby, 85, of Abilene, formerly of Big Spring, died Thursday, March 3, 2005, in an Abilene nursing home. Funeral services are 4 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Royce Clay, retired Church of Christ minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Nov. 30, 1919, in Ryan, Okla., and married O.B. Kirby, Oct. 30, 1937, in Ryan, Okla. He preceded her in death July 4, 2001.

She and her husband owned and operated Kirby Cleaners for 46 years. She had lived in Abilene for the past eight years. She was a member of 14th & Main Church of Christ.

Survivors include a son, Danny Kirby of Stanton; two daughters, Janace Scott of Abilene and Lynda McDonald of Granbury; two sisters, Yvonne Bledsoe of Seminole, Fla., and Darnella Harris of Elk City, Okla.; 11 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Berniece Wertz and two brothers. Doyle Weatherly and Bill Weatherly.

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

Odie Sanchez

Odie Sanchez, 87, of Big Spring died Thursday afternoon, March 3, 2005, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Support groups

SATURDAY

Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8-9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

☐ West Texas Gluten-Free Support Group (Celiacs Helping celiacs) meet from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Odessa Regional Hospital. For more information, conact Barbara at 432-694-3614 days, or 432-520-2119 evenings.

SUNDAY

☐ Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

☐ Encourager's Support Group — All widows and widowers are invited to the meeting beginning at 6 p.m. in the Spanish Inn Restaurant, 200 NW Third St. For more information call 398-5522.

TUESDAY

The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m., a new time, the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

Police blotter

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

- ARTHUR DAVID CARDONAS, 33, of San Angelo, was arrested Thursday on a Dallas warrant.
- **DORTHY SUBLET THOMAS**, 47, of 3702 Connally, was arrested Thursday and held for the HCSO.
- UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A VEHICLE was reported in the 1400 block of Highway 87.
- THEFT OF SERVICES was reported in the 900 block of Willia.
- THEFT was reported in the 900 block of Willia.
- FORGERY was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
 CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1500 block of Oriole.

Sheriff's report

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

- LUIS CARRILLO FLORES, 25, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- JOSE MANUEL JIMENEZ JR., 29, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- DANIEL RODRIGUEZ, 29, was arrested Thursday by DPS on charges of failure to yield the right of way at an intersection and no valid driver's license.
- **ISABEL GONZALEZ LOMAS**, 48, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of TDCJ violation of parole.
- NINFA MORENO GARCIA, 49, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated second offense.
- MARISSA OLALLA SOTO, 24, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of speeding (two counts), no liability insurance and violation of a promise to appear (two counts).
- **DEBRA RENEE SHAEFFER**, 36, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of credit card abuse.
- MICHAEL HEATH ANDERSON, 28, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a parole violation.
- **DORTHY SUBLET THOMAS**, 47, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.
- JARRELL WILLIAMS, 17, was arrested Thursday by DPS on charges of disorderly conduct - vulgar language, failure to identify and minor in possession of tobacco.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87 at 8:57 a.m. Thursday. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 2100 block of N. Highway 87 at 11:04 a.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg Street at 11:32 a.m. Thursday. Service was refused.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported on the Interstate 20 S. Service Road at 9:21 a.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2200 block of Highway 350 at 3:46 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of E. 15th Street at 6:24 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Scott at 4:56 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
 MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of N.
- Main Street at 11:58 a.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.

 TRAUMA was reported in the 900 block of Willia
- TRAUMA was reported in the 900 block of Willia at 11:56 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87 at 11:14 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.

Weather

Tonight – Increasing clouds. Areas of fog after midnight. Lows in the lower 40s. Northeast winds around 10 mph. The chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Saturday – Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 60s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday night – Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 50. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday – Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night – Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s.

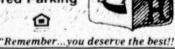
Monday – Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s.

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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

- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Big Spring Kiwanis Club 60th annual Pancake Supper from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the Howard College Cafeteria.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

- Church Women World Day of prayer begins at 10 a.m. in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 1009 Hearn St.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
 Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more infornation.

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful regular meeting at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- 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.

Lottery

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 13-16-20-24. Bonus Ball: 32. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Monday night drawing: \$250,000.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-22-30-34-37. Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-4-8

Take note

□ AMERICAN RED CROSS OF THE SOUTHWEST OFFERS BABY-SITTER'S CLASS set for 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Wednesday in Midland. Registration for the \$35 class is required. The class is open to all youth age 11-15. For more information or to register, call 432-570-6161, 432-332-5641 or 1-800-219-2154.

Or write to the American Red Cross of Southwest Texas, 120 E. Second St., Odessa 79761 or P.O. Box 60310, Midland 79711.

- □ KEEP BIG SPRING BEAUTIFUL REGULAR MEETING is noon Monday in the La Posada Restaurant. The recent meeting place poll will be discussed, among other items. The 2005 annual membership dues of at least \$5 are needed. Dues may also be mailed to KBSB Treasurer Jan Foresyth, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane
- □ ODESSA ART ASSOCIATION 47th ANNUAL JURIED ART EXHIBIT is 7 p.m. today at the Ellen Noel Art Museum. Call Jean Johnson at 432-362-4019 or Lura Sivalls at 432-550-2662 for more information.
- □ BIG SPRING SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION monthly board of directors meeting is 5:30 p.m. March 14 at 808 Scurry St.
- □ BOOK FAIR AT KENTWOOD ELEMENTARY TODAY THROUGH FRIDAY. Call the school at 264-4130 for more information.
- □ BIG SPRING KIWANIS CLUB 60TH ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Friday in the Howard College Cafeteria. All you can eat pancakes, sausage and bacon, \$5 per person.

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/ BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42

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

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BIG SPI

By APRIL

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Rural

By SIOBHA McDONOU Associated WASHIN People are

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House Democrats float their own school finance proposal

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer AUSTIN (AP) — Dozens of House Democrats on Thursday unveiled an alternative to

Republican-drawn school finance proposal expected to be debated next week by the full chamber. As the clear minority

party, Democrats would have to sway several Republicans with the plan's promises of more money for bilingual and hard-to-educate students, teacher pay raises and more property tax relief. The GOP controls the House, 87-63.

"It is a responsible approach to the continued improvement of our schools," said Rep. Jim Dunnam of Waco, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. The Democrats' plan,

expected to be offered as a substitute during next week's House debate, proposes to spend \$5 billion in the classroom, in addition to money for enrollment growth. That's about \$2 billion more than the Republicandrawn plan would give schools.

Rep. Kent Grusendorf, the sponsor of the Republican plan, called the Democratic proposal shortsighted and said it wouldn't bring meaningful property tax relief.

"Our plan puts \$3 billion more into education and cuts spiraling property taxes by one third, and we get more education for each dollar by asking districts to spend money more efficiently. Their proposal calls increased spending," Grusendorf said.

puts "money where it's needed, in areas where we have high concentrations of kids in poverty and areas where we have bilingual kids," said Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-

Houston. Among the Democrats' top priorities: bringing teacher pay, which now ranks 38th in the nation, to the national average by 2007. That would cost an estimated \$2.5 billion.

want the best teachers in designed to raise teacher with a new business tax real incentives to stay in our schools.'

The Democratic plan sonnel, rather than just to leadership on top issues Oliveira, D-Brownsville. teachers.

Property taxes would be system would free up Texas said. The structure of the funding formulas and taxing options does not significantly change, he said:

The tax-writing House "Like all Texans, we Ways and Means salaries and give them on wages and a number of other new taxes.

has been rare.

"I think that this plan ate that. reduced by a lesser looks like the education amount, offering instead community wrote it," said an increased homestead Brock Gregg, a lobbyist exemption of \$45,000. That for the Association of Professional more money to flow into Educators. "It encompassthe classrooms, Hochberg es all things, and I hope the legislature will look at it not as a partisan issue. but as what is good for kids.

ATPE and other education advocates in the state assailed the original Committee approved a House plan, mostly for our classrooms," said measure Wednesday that not including a teacher Rep. Yvonne Davis, D. replaces a reduction in pay raise and not closing Dallas. "Our plan is school property taxes the gap between property wealthy and poor dis-

"Here we are 50 years Democrats have insisted after Brown versus Board The competing plan also that partisan politics have of Education and the bill proposes \$650 million to no place in their plan, that has been laid out to reinstate a health care But, peeling Republicans vou is still separate but stipend to all school per- away from the current unequal," said Rep. Rene

Nixon said he would be

glad to have Coleman's

Guess Who's

support for his bill.

board," Nixon said.

"We're not going to toler-

Republican Speaker Tom Craddick on Thursday reaffirmed his support for the House plan, which will go before the full body for consideration and a vote next

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288 Odie Sanchez, 87, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



CINEMA 4

The Pacifier (PG-13) Daily: 2:20, 4:40, 7:10, 9:10

*Cursed (PG-13)

Son of the Mask (PG)

Hitch (PG-13)

Coach Carter (PG-13)

ADULTS: \$6.00 \$4.00 ALL MATINEES. CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS *PASS RESTRICTED

Bills would create parity for physical, mental health coverage

By KELLEY SHANNON

Associated Press Writer AUSTIN (AP) — Health insurance policies regulated by the state would have to offer mental health treatment and medications equal to their regular medical coverage under proposals before the Texas Legislature.

A House Republican and a Democrat filed similar bills on the issue this week.

Parity in mental health coverage would benefit businesses as well as consumers because of improved employee productivity and reduced absenteeism resulting from mental health problems, said Rep. Joe Nixon, R-Houston, as he his bill introduced Thursday.

"This is very much a pro-business Nixon said.

Rep. Garnet Coleman, a Houston Democrat who

health bills for several legislative sessions, filed a similar bill Tuesday.

"Insurance providers attacks a person has," or inhibiting mental ill-bill. ness deserves the same tion and care."

In 1994, after his father's death, Coleman said he sank into depression and went treatment.

Coleman also has filed a minors in the course of a Association in Texas. a serious mental illness.

Rural roads see double rate of deaths

enue, according to the Mental Health

Association in Texas. Some small businesses cover heart disease no and some major corporamatter how many heart tions whose policies are not regulated by the state Coleman said. "A person but by federal law would that has a life threatening be exempt under Nixon's

"We can do what we coverage, quality atten- can," Nixon said. "We have to take the steps that we have the ability to control."

The mental health plans was hospitalized. He was of about 6 million Texans diagnosed as having bipo- are subject to state regular disorder and under- lation, he said. About 60 percent of health plans in Texas are regulated by bill that would require the state, said Melanie health plans to cover self- Gantt, public policy direc- cy." inflicted injuries by tor for the Mental Health

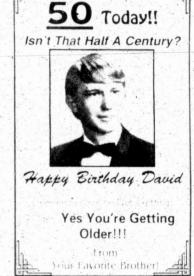
suicide attempt or due to Maureen Hackett, wife Many insurance policies Inc. chief executive Jim limit mental health cover- Hackett, appeared with age. Mental illness costs Nixon at a Capitol news the state up to \$16.6 bil- conference to tell of the

has battled mental illness lion each year in lost promental health parity in and has pushed mental ductivity and family revenealth plans introduced at Anadarko and other Houston companies.

> "People are showing up" at work. They're staying at work. They're enjoying work. They're able to enjoy a normal life," said Maureen Hackett: a volunteer at the Mental Health Association of Houston.

Coleman, who showed up at Nixon's news conference and accused him of "stealing" his bill, said he hopes Nixon works hard for its passage.

"I welcome people, converts, to this issue," Coleman said. "I would never, ever stand in the way of good public poli-



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By SIOBHAN non-Interstate rural. The study also found: **McDONOUGH** roads between 1999 and -Arizona. 2003; in that same period, South Carolina, Montana

Associated Press Writer WASHINGTON (AP) -People are being killed on rural. non-Interstate roads at more than double the rate for all other routes, a private group says, blaming narrow roads, sharp curves and a lack of money for safety improvements.

More than half of traffic deaths - 52 percent - inthe United States between 1999 and 2003 happened on rural, non-Interstate roads and highways, according to a study released Thursday by The Road Information Program. Traffic on these roads accounted for only 28 percent of travel.

In 2003, there were 2.72 deaths per 100 million miles traveled on non-Interstate rural roads compared with .99 deaths per 100 million miles on all other roads.

"Rural drivers are being put at an unacceptable risk because many of these roads lack desirable safety features," said Frank Moretti, research and policy director of the transportation private research group.

Narrow lanes, limited shoulders, sharp curves, pavement drop-offs and roadside hazards such as trees and utility poles, are dangerous for drivers.

The majority of rural traffic accidents happen when motorists leave their lane and either strike something off the road, or collide with a car traveling in the opposite direction, the study said.

The study reported an average of 22,127 traffic fatalities each year on

there was an average of and Kentucky had the 42,301 people killed each highest rates of traffic year in traffic accidents' fatalities per 100 million on all roads.

From 1990 to 2003, the non-Interstate roads. fatality rate on roads other than non-Interstate largest number of rural, rural routes decreased by non-Interstate 32 percent.

Moretti said money for 2003 road safety projects is California, Florida, North badly needed to make Carolina rural roads safer.

Congress is currently working on reauthorizing 2002, vehicle travel on a new long-term federal rural roads increased by surface transportation 27 percent and commerprogram, which may cial truck travel on rural increase funding available for safety improvements. The current program expires at the end of

Florida,

miles of travel on rural.

-The states with the traffic - deaths between 1999 and were Texas. Pennsylvania.

-Between 1990 and roads increased by 32 per-

About 60 million people live in rural communities, or 21 percent of the

LIFE AFTER LOSS In conjunction with the American Cancer Society Free Grief Support Group Six Consecutive Thursday Nights March 3rd thru April 7th 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Weekly Topics: + What to Expect t The Process of Grief + Living with Memories + Needs When You Are Grieving + Honorina Special Occasions + What Now? 111 E. 7th Street, Ste. A Space is Limited-Registration Required Closed After Second Session 264-7597 * Home Hospice

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MEMBER PERMIAN BASIN SIMON

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment streligion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the treedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the pay le peareably to assemble, and to petition the Government in a redress of grievances.

-FIRST AMENDMENT

seed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big therwise indicated.

· & Susanne Reed

John A. Moseley

Bill McClellan

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

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

Wellecognize these special people for working to bely make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- The Big Spring Symphony, conductor Keith Graumann and piano soloist Cynthia Bauhof-Williams for "An Encore Performance" Saturday at the municipal auditorium.
- Local and area schools for opening their doors to parents during Texas Public Schools Week.
- Mayor Russ McEwen, for wanting to see that Big Spring is the best it can possibly be. And for challenging its residents to be positive thinkers.
- . CEO Ed Moughon and the other hard working folks at Big Spring State Hospital, who continue to think "out of the box" and do things that will help make the facility grow and prosper. Through their efforts, the hospital will soon add 49 more employees, a figure that could be doubled, depending on the state legislature.
- · Ret. USAF Col. Jim Little and Bobby McDonald and we are sure there are a few oththrough whose efforts Big Spring has secured the 2007 World Hang Gliding Championships. Way to go!
- Big Spring students too many to mention individually: who excelled at the UTPB Regional Science Fair, whether they represented the high school, junior high or elementary schools. :

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

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 ditor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan
- tigewisdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

ELLER POLICIES

- 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 ddress for verification purposes:
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 0-day period ber author
- . 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 emailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We can keep our attitude in peak operating condition, Lord,

'One gaffe and you're out' policy unreasonable

If the fellows at the Institute of Politics at Harvard, which is where I am hiding out for a semester, are assigned six under graduate students to

keep us out of trou-This is voluntary

on their part, and in return for all their hard work, they don't even get course credits.

So in order to both reward and shamelessly exploit them, I offered to let them write guest columns when they had something unique to say.

and if they managed to say it well. Robert Rogers fulfills both requirements. He is 19, a sopho-

more majoring in economics from Harrison, N.Y., and a director of the Franklin Afterschool Enrichment Program, a tutoring program for underprivileged children in the Dorchester section of Boston. Here is his piece;

By Robert Rogers As a college student, I don't pay much attention to those dire, overblown warnings about how my generation will not be prepared for the job market that awaits us. But I am sensing that there is a scary trend developing in our nation's political psyche for which my peers and I will be woefully unprepared: the notion that one misstatement - just one little gaffe - deserves to end a career.

There are four recent examples of this ridiculously unfair standard in action, the most recent occurring with Harvard President Larry Summers.

A large faction of the faculty is calling for his resignation, because Summers commented that differences in "intrinsic aptitude" might explain why so many fewer women than men are top science professors. Granted, the remarks

were sexist. But they were off-thecuff comments being hashed out at a closed-door economists' conference, and he later apologized.

Do we now believe that one insensitive remark in the midst of 20 years of public speaking is a firing offense? So much for academic freedom of speech.

Then there's CNN's Executive Vice President Eason Jordan, who was forced to resign for suggesting that U.S. military forces in Iraq had targeted some of the journalists who have been killed there, Now, clearly, that statement is outrageous.

But no momentary slip of the tongue should bury a career. Put aside the fact that Jordan immediately backtracked from his remarks and apologized profusely. One gaffe should not negate 23 years of loyalty and dedication to an organization.

Let he who has never said anything he regrets cast the first

Howard Dean went from being merely up against the ropes to being dismissed as a wacko because of his fiery battle cry the night of the Iowa caucuses.

A genius at grassroots organizing who had galvanized his party was dismissed because of one bad impression of former WWF star Ric Flair — what a petty thing to bring someone down.

And for the sake of bipartisanship, let's not forget how unfairly Trent Lott was treated. He was forced out of the majority leader position for making kind remarks to an old man at his last birthday party. Speaking at Strom Thurmond's 100th, he said that if Thurmond had been elected president, "we wouldn't have had all

Of course the statement was foolish — it only makes sense if you consider civil rights one of our problems — but should a man be forced out of his job for neglecting political correctness when giving a birthday tribute to a retiring col- *INC*.

these problems over these years."

The reason that the "one gaffe and you're out policy" troubles me when I consider the career prospects of my generation is that our college academic careers are marked by zero accountability for any words we speak in the class-

The dirty little secret of a humanities and social sciences college education is that any statement that pours out of a student's mouth is hailed as a constructive insight, no matter how wrong or uninsightful.

In an effort to make everybody. feel special and smart, academia has adopted a policy of knee-jerk acceptance of any answer a student gives in class, thus encouraging students to speak without

My friends and I often joke about how, whenever we fall behind on our readings, have no fears, because our vague, meaningless statements in class will elicit an, "Absolutely, that's an excellent point" from the profes-

How can you expect us to survive in this brave new workplace in which one misstatement makes you toast?

You can't let the vocal tract run on autopilot for four years and then suddenly expect people to carefully consider every word they say upon graduation. It just won't work.

An overnight transformation in college teaching style is not realistic. So, why don't we just change our expectations and admit that we're all human and we all make

We all can think of many things we've said in our lives that we wish we could take back. Let's be a little more forgiving of human fallibility.

Because, if we aren't, my generation won't make it through our first days on the job.

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Attack on AARP provides some comic relief

in wheelchairs to stand and be

I'm really curious as to how far

this "anti-military, pro-gay" attack

stuff can be extended. Take the

Pope, for example. The Pope dif-

matter of capital punishment. In

fact, I can remember at least two

then-Gov. Bush agonized pleas on

occasions when the Pope wrote

behalf of some of our more spec-

tacularly pardonable prisoners.

anti-military and pro-gay?

Karl, does this mean the Pope is

fers from the president on the

m sorry, but every now and again a girl just finds it necessary to lay her head down on the table and howl with laughter. I wrote a column warn ing that USA Next, a Republican Astroturf (meaning "fake grass-

roots") group was going to attack the AARP. The senior citizens' lobby does not support the privatization of Social Security, and so clearly incurs the wrath of all God-fear ing, true-believing, highly paid Republican public relations firms. But I

coming.

marriage

AARP Agenda.

150 years.

have to confess, even I did not see this one

You may not believe it, but I

swear it is true: USA Next's first

lobby of being against our troops

in Iraq and in favor of homosexual

No joke, what journalist-blogger

anti-soldier and pro-gay-knot-tying.

other side are two guys in tuxedos

getting hitched with a big check

across their picture. Under these

two pictures, it says, "The REAL

I haven't laughed so hard since

we have had a close and enduring

friendship with Japan for the past

Being old enough myself to join

the AARP - not a member, but

well into Wrinkly City — Lfind

mortifyingly awful moment since

House called on a bunch of people

the time a speaker of the Texas

this the most deliciously zany,

President Bush informed us that

A charming Internet ad shows a

salvo was to accuse the geezer

Josh Marshall calls "the fogey

bund" stands accused of being

muscular hero of the desert in

combat fatigues with a big X

across his picture, and on the



Yes, our old friends from the Swift Boat Veterans for "Truth" are back again. The very people who told you that John Kerry was anti-military and pro-gay — the

people who told you he didn't deserve his medals from Vietnam, who said he testified before Congress that American soldiers were all war criminals — these same friendly folk are back again, attacking the AARP, a group largely known for advocating afternoon naps for the elderly. (Disclosure: I once wrote an article for the AARP magazine

"Modern Maturity," and not only did they pay well, but they got the jokes, too.) Despite this happy onetime expe rience, I am not an AARP fan. I consider its support of the abomination that is the Medicare pre-

scription drug coverage bill the most ill-advised sellout since the memorably awful 1996 telecommunications deregulation bill. (Enjoying that one, everyone?

Your bills gone down lately?) USA Next has the same address as O'Neill Marketing Co., although Charlie Jarvis, head of Next, says he's three floors down. O'Neill is a list company — it sells lists of names, and its clients are various branches of the Republican Party. O'Neill was once partnered with the United Seniors Association, which then morphed into USA

Next. So subtle. Hi, Karl.

Speaking of healing laughter, the president is providing all Europe with chuckles. After he denounced the idea that the United States is getting ready to attack Iran as "ridiculous," he then promptly added, "All options are on the table." So they laughed, apparent ly on the polite assumption that the man must be joking.

Not being veteran Bush-listeners. they are unaccustomed to the fact that he often contradicts himself, sometimes from one sentence to the next. They have also failed to master the key element of Bushlistening — you must understand that George W. Bush is never, ever wrong. He does not make mistakes. And if he is against something one day and for it the next (that would be everything from opposing the 9-11 commission to the corporate law brought on by the Enron scandals), he is still never wrong.

He is right to oppose things, and he is right to support those same things. He's not a flip-flopper, like you know who. And if something he says turns out to be completely untrue (hard to think of such a case, but the letters WMD somehow float to mind), it is never his fault and best to ignore it.

If you do not pretend to believe everything Bush says, then you are unpatriotic, against Our Troops and probably in support of gay marriage. Those Europeans understand nothing.

Speaking of unsatisfactory allies. Canada has had the nerve (!) to announce it does not want to be under our nuclear shield, if we ever get it built. Gee, how could it not want to buy into (and help pay for) our Star Wars defense system? Just because it doesn't work and costs the earth? Well, they're partly French, you know.

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Fossett's flig nation of five and work, m designer Jon Composites, a The GlobalFly entirely of lig ites; fuel com of its weight

long wings ar Fossett sh speed record circumnaviga that was set Voyager cra flight took ni

But what re attention of t fact that he di

STEWA

Continued from

There, Stew ally dressed in white poncho and ankle boo and waved to as she walke runway and plane for Nev

"The exper last five mo been-life alte affirming," S in a statemen her Web site. hope to have to talk more a has happened ordinary peo met here an

GEMS

Continued from

into a ring while you're show. None dered. It's with the gold Shoppers v chance to sat

and gem appe thanks to a

vendors from aproau "We have v ing from a state, and a f of state." "When you front door

desk set up

everyone th

ticket for a

We'll be ha



2309

FLIGHT

Continued from Page 1A

Fossett's flight was the culmination of five years of planning and work, much of it by chief designer Jon Karkow of Scaled Composites, a California firm. The GlobalFlyer is made almost entirely of lightweight composites; fuel comprised 86 percent of its weight at take-off, filling long wings and boom tanks.

Fossett shattered the old speed record for an unrefueled circumnavigation of the globe that was set by the two-person Voyager craft in 1986. That flight took nine days.

But what really captured the attention of the public was the fact that he did it alone - albeit

and large support crew p. id for by Virgin Atlantic airline owner Richard Branson.

Fossett, 60, said his biggest challenge was "lack of sleep and being on duty all the time He said he'd grabbed about a dozen naps of one to three minutes each during the 23,000 mile flight. He drank 12 canned sport shakes and about two liters of

Twice, he thought the outcome was in doubt - once when the jet's global positioning device went out temporarily, and again when an apparent loss of 2,600 pounds of fuel was discovered. One possible explafuel leaked out of vents in the fuel tanks.

But Karkow said the jet still

left when it landed.

The scene surrounding Fossett at the Salina airport was one like no one remem-

Branson, the English billionaire, pumped his fist at the crowd from the back of a pickup and swung a huge black-andwhite checkered "finish" flag; later he sprayed Fossett with a magnum of champagne, before Fossett took the bottle and enjoyed two hearty drinks.

A media mix including network correspondents, European journalists and local journalists filled two large platforms.

Fossett and Branson both nation for the loss is that the earned cheers from the crowd by mentioning the key role that Kansas State University's

with an experimental aircraft had about 1,100 pounds of fuel the airport had played in the record-setting effort. A marching band from Salina South High stepped onto the tarmac

and serenaded Fossett. .Fossett, a millionaire busi nessman with other world records in aviation, ballooning and sailing, seemed reluctant to attach too much significance to his latest feat, saying, "I would do these things if no one was paying attention.

superlatives.

"This is a monumental achievement in aviation," said David Hawksett, a writer for the Guinness Book of World Records who flew to Salina to watch Fossett's return. "Steve's amazing.'

Salina aviation program and flight would be listed as a "sig-

nificant first" in the book. along with such events as the Apollo 11 moon landing and Sir Edmund Hillary's ascent of Mount Everest.

Richard Ionata of the National Aeronautic Association, who was there to certify Fossett's speed record, agreed with that assessment, saying Fossett must possess "an incredible physiology.

 "It's pretty impressive," said But others were not shy with Paolo Nespoli, an Italian astronaut who attended along with astronauts from NASA. "I was thinking how it must be to fly all this time in a cooped-up space. I don't think I'd be able to do it.

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius said Fossett's flight Hawksett said Fossett's solo adds to the state's rich lode of aviation history.

STEWART

Continued from page 1A

There, Stewart - casually dressed in a gray-andwhite poncho, dark jeans and ankle boots — smiled and waved to supporters as she walked across the runway and boarded the plane for New York.

"The experience of the last five months ..., has been life altering and life affirming," Stewart said in a statement issued on her Web site. "Someday, I hope to have the chance to talk more about all that has happened, the extraordinary people I have met here and all that

have learned.

Stewart, 63, who also company that produces homes Connecticut, Maine and the Hamptons, chose the Katonah estate, which she bought in 2000 for \$16 million, to be her prison and its revenues sagged. until August.

Besides running Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. and writing a column for her magazine, Stewart can prepare for the two television. shows that she'll be starring: a revival of her daily homemaking show and bars, will get reinstated her version of NBC's "The Apprentice" hosted by development billionaire. Donald Trump.

Stewart hopes to turn few days at a meeting

around the fortunes of a with her probation offiin everything from televi

other convicted felons.

leagues.

While in home confine-

ment. Stewart will be free to entertain colleagues. neighbors, friends and relatives — as long as they're not criminals. Convicted felons aren't allowed to consort with

"Right now, as you can imagine, I am thrilled to be returning to my more familiar life," Stewart said in the statement. "My heart is filled with joy at the prospect of the warm embraces of my family, friends and col-

"Certainly, there is no place like home.

but also when you go to a show or you pick up the rock and gem magazine. It's a learning process. and most rockhounds like to share their knowledge

with other people. "My favorite part of the club is the collecting and the mystery of it. Sawing And while door prizes a rock in half and seeing and plenty of beautiful what's inside is quite an said Lamb. "We'll have stones for sale are a major experience, because you dealers and demonstra draw each year, Lamb can't tell what a rock tions, and the spinning hopes residents who have looks like just by the outwheel will also be there been bitten by the rock side of it. It's fascinating ing from all over the for the children. We'll bug will use it as an to see how pretty it is on she said.

CHANGE

Continued from Page 1A

ted \$1,039.40 for the relief

Bennett said the money will be eventually turned over to the Red Cross, one of the main agencies spearheading disaster relief efforts.

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

BEE

Continued from Page 1A

Spence, the daughter of Paul and Beth Spence. won the Forsan bee on Feb. 7 after runner-up Evan Burton misspelled "alligator." Spence correctly spelled that word, then won the competition by spelling "dragnet."

Sikes finished as runner-up at the Homeschool competition to Cassandra Sulatan when she misspelled "scenario," but a scheduling conflict has forced Sulatan to forego the regional bee, opening a spot for Sikes.

The Howard County quartet will compete against 24 other spellers who qualified for the regional bee. At stake is a trip to the national spelling bee, scheduled for May 31-June 2 in Washington, D.C.

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

GEMS

Continued from Page 1A

into a ring or necklace. while you're there at the show. None of it is soldered. It's all wrapped with the gold wire.

Shoppers will get the chance to sate their rock and gem appetites as well, thanks to a number of vendors from Texas and

desk set up so we can give everyone that comes in a ticket for a door prize. We'll be having a door

2309 Scurry St.

prize drawing every hour, be an ugly old rock. There There will also be tickets to vote for what you think showing what is actually is the best the best display case.

to coordinate the show for show will be working many years now, and said there will be something for everyone in the fami-

"Admission is free," state, and a few from out also have a snack bar and opportunity to learn the inside sometimes." of state," said Lamb, plenty of displays of work about her club; "When you come in the done by people locally, as . "It's a hobby, but it's front door we'll have a well as some of the ven also an ongoing process."

> biy don't realize what can new everyday, not only be inside what appears to from other club members.

will be plenty of displays inside a rock, and how it's worked into jewelry. Lamb has been helping. Several people at the with the stones so people can see the process they go through first hand."

sion shows and maga

zines to bed sheets and

bakeware. In 2004, the

-company suffered a loss

but the stock price rose

considerably during her

prison stint as investors

bet on a Stewart come

company says her salary,

which was suspended

while she was behind

during home detention.

Details, about where

determined in the next

Stewart will work will be

Her contract with her

she said with a smile. "A lot of people proba- "You Jearn something

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FREE ADMISSION



Syrian leader to address parliament; Bush says withdrawal 'nonnegotiable'

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad will address his country's parliament on Saturday in a previously unscheduled speech, and President Bush said in a published interview that Syria must withdraw its troops from Lebanon by May.

Assad's unplanned speech raised speculation he may announce some kind of troop withdrawal. A Syrian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the address will "deal with the situation in the region and the ongoing developments."

Syria's official news agency also said the speech will "deal with current political developments" but did not give details.

The speech comes as Damascus is under intense pressure from Arab nations and the international community to quickly remove all its 15,000 troops from Lebanon, where Syria has held sway for more than a

Assad told Saudi Crown Prince Abdûllah in talks Thursday he would consider a partial withdrawal in the coming weeks, a Saudi official said.

Bush said Syria must pull all of its troops out of Lebanon by May so that it can have free elections... Earlier this week Bush demanded that Syria withdraw but he didn't specify a time frame.

"I don't mean just the troops out of Lebanon, I mean all of them out of Lebanon, particularly the secret service out of Lebanon — the intelligence services," he told the New York Post in an interview.

Bush told the paper there was no threat of military

Many women worldwide worse off today than 10 years ago, women in 150 countries report

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Many women are worse off today than they were 10 years ago, women around the world say in a new report that accuses governments of failing to keep their pledge to achieve gender equality.

Governments worldwide have adopted a "piecemeal and incremental" approach to women's rights that cannot achieve the goals in the landmark platform of action adopted at a 1995 U.N. conference in Beijing; it

The report is the work of women's rights activists in 150 countries. Compiled by the Women's Environment and Development Organization, an international advocacy group based in New York, it was released Thursday to coincide with a high-level U.N. meeting on implementing the platform.

The message was clear, starting with the title:

"Beijing Betrayed."

"The women of the world don't need any more words from their governments — they want action, they want resources and they want governments to protect and advance women's human rights," the report said.

The women's report sounded very different from the speeches this week at the U.N. conference, where gov etnments have been touting their records on women's rights.

"The realities women document often contrast sharply with the officials' reports," June Zeitlin, the executive director of Women's Environment and Development, said.

"What we see are powerful trends - growing pover ty, inequality, growing militarization, and fundamen talist opposition to women's rights," she said. "These trends are harming millions of women worldwide.

Bush helping two vulnerable Republicans who've become targets on Social Security

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is trying to shore up the electoral prospects of two Republican lawmakers who are getting heat over his plan to overhaul

Bush planned to appear at meetings Friday with mostly hand-picked audiences in the districts of GOP Reps. Mike Ferguson of New Jersey and Chris Chocola

With both seats competitive, they are prime targets for Democrats interested in running in the midterm elections next year against Bush's plan for the partial privatization of Social Security.

Ferguson has not yet taken a position on Bush's proposal; Chocola said town meetings in his district last week left him willing to follow Bush's lead, even as he talked of the difficulty of the politics surrounding the issue.

Chocola was one of the main targets of ads shown last month by MoveOn.Org, in which Bush's Social Security plans were attacked as a steep benefit cut for retirees. The ads aired as well in the New York City media market, which includes Ferguson's northern New Jersey district.

Many residents of Ferguson's district also received an anonymous, recorded telephone message in late January saying their congressional representative supported privatizing Social Security, USA Today

Opponents were ratcheting up their pressure to coincide with Bush's trip, with the political arm of House Democrats taunting the two lawmakers to make their

Four Canadian police killed in marijuana raid, most officers killed in 120 years

ROCHFORT BRIDGE, Alberta (AP) - Four Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers were killed

Thursday while investigating an illegal marijuana farm, the deadliest single attack on police in Canada in

RCMP spokesman Cpl. Wayne Oakes said the four officers were at a Quonset hut on a farm near the village of Rochfort Bridge in northwestern Alberta when they were shot by a suspect, who was also found in the shed. A government source told The Canadian Press news agency that the suspect later killed himself after shooting the officers.

"It's my sad duty to inform you that four members of the RCMP were killed today in the line of duty — four brave, young members," said Bill Sweeney, commanding-officer of the RCMP in the western province of

"The loss of four police officers is unprecedented in recent history," Sweeney said. "I'm told you have to go back to about 1885 in the RCMP history during the Northwest Rebellion to have a loss of this magnitude." Sweeney said he couldn't give details on the shootings until all the facts were gathered.

Prime Minister Paul Martin called it an act of "brutality" and offered his condolences to the families of the slain officers.

Iraq arms controller urges nuke-free Mideast, raps 'misleading' U.S. leadership

NEW YORK (AP) — Iraq's nuclear past and Iran's possible nuclear future should spur the world toward making the Middle East — including Israel — a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, arms expert Hans Blix says.

After all, Blix points out, even without Saddam Hussein the "new" Iraq still has the technical knowhow to resurrect its nuclear bomb program if it feels threatened by neighbors.

The former chief U.N. arms inspector, who helped oversee the dismantling of Iraq's weapons programs, sets out proposals for a less "nuclearized" world in a 27-page epilogue to a new, paperback edition of his book "Disarming Iraq," first published a year ago.

In the intervening year, more evidence has accumulated to debunk U.S. claims that Iraq had current nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs, the Bush administration's stated rationale for invading that country two years ago. American arms hunters now acknowledge the weapons didn't exist.

Blix's criticism of U.S. leaders and their British allies, sometimes muted in the past, grows sharper in this updated book, published by Bloomsbury of

Their "exaggeration and spin" and "shrill" claims "helped to mislead the world into believing there were stocks of wear ons of mass destruction in Iraq ready for use," the Swedish ex-diplomat writes of the Bush White House and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Border Patrol agents deliver new citizen in truck

By LYNN BREZOSKY

Associated Press Writer

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) Abandoned by an immigrant smuggler and fleeing her boyfriend, a pregnant Mexican woman walked for nearly a week through the brush before she was found.

The woman, who told a Catholic Charities nun that she didn't want to be identified or interviewed for fear her boyfriend would find her, had crossed the Texas-Mexico border near Laredo on Feb. 22, according to several accounts.

But the trip was rigorous even for able-bodied people let alone a woman in her 7th month of pregnancy. After a few days she began to slow the group down.

The smuggler — or coyote - told her that if she couldn't keep up, she would be left behind to fend for her own in the

She walked a few days more, alone, till she reached a farm-to-market While Cantu swabbed

Tired, thirsty, filthy and bleeding, the 27-year-old drew the attention of two anonymous Good Samaritans at about 9 a.m. Sunday who called the Border Patrol to collect her on the rural road 60 miles north of the Mexican border.

"She kept telling me she had to go to the bathroom," Border Patrol Agent Marisol Cantu said Thursday.

But the woman was in labor. When Cantu exambaby's head."

Less than 15 minutes later. Cantu and two of her colleagues delivered a 1-pound, 14-ounce baby, two months premature, in the back of her Border Patrol vehicle.

The baby was in intensive care at a Corpus Christi hospital. The mother was staying at a Catholic shelter.

"I don't have any kids, so this was a huge experience for me." Cantu said.

the newborn's mouth out, spokeswoman for U.S with her gloved fingers, agent Jerry Doyal, a former hospital corpsman in the Navy, pinched the umbilical cord with his fingers because he didn't status had nothing to do have clamps.

"I've never seen anyone that far along in the brush," he said. While pregnant women sometimes cross the border so their children are born U.S. citizens, it is usually during the first trimester, he said.

The baby, named Sarai ined her, "I could see the Marisol in honor of Cantu, will be a U.S. citizen because she was north of the border when she was born.

The Rev. Roger Smith baptized the 5-day-old in the hospital Thursday with the mother in attendance. Minutes later, the mother was taken to be interviewed and fingerprinted by immigration officials so she can be documented until her immigration status is resolved.

Maria Elena Garcia, a favorably on that.' Citizenship Immigration said she was unfamiliar with the case. But in general, she said, a parent's with that of the child.

"The child is automatically a U.S. citizen, the parents obviously are not," she said. The mother is here illegally and "obviously subject to removal proceedings. The child will be able to petition for them when the child is 18 years of age."

She said the woman's case might be different because the infant's health was at stake.

"People just assume because you have a baby it'll be easier," said Barbara Netek, a Catholic nun who has embraced the case. "But (immigration officials) don't look

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Netek said the woman said she wanted to stay for a better life for her child. She said the woman was vague about who had paid for her trip across the Rio Grande and whether she had U.S. contacts or a destination.

She swam the river, she had been walking three days. She began to be sick and bleed and they left her. They left her to die. ... How could you leave a human being? Actually two human beings.

Netek said Border Patrol agents sometimes refer illegal immigrants, particularly women, to Catholic Charities.

Alejandro Lopez Bajo with the Mexican consulate in Laredo said consular officials had already contacted the woman's family in their rural town

He said it was unclear

what would happen next. "We don't know of family or destination. When we talked to her she had just delivered her baby and she was kind of dizzy,

so we didn't want to pressure her," he said. "We don't know yet what is her deicison, what does she want to do." Cantu had recently gone

through medical training to be part of the Border Patrol's Border Area Rescue Team. "That baby was com-

ing," Cantu said. "She was coming out regardless. We were thankful we were there to help her."

Agent Jerry Cabriales, who assisted, said Border Patrol agents were accustomed to immigrants who were hungry, deydrated, and full of blisters, but this was a first.



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Cornerstone (Sunday the Re Owens from t Nation Ministri in Reno. Nev.,

tured speaker. Cornerstone C Every Nation church, Morning

International, children enteri garten throug grade to Sun dren's activitie the children v play on the Zacchaeus. The have a special I gram planned morning worsh March 27.

Cornerstone, the corner of Owens streets family atmos praise and Morning worsh at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday v at 7 p.m. Ch available for through presc Pastor Craig of Felty at 263-307 questions.

Calvary Bapt Church

Calvary Bapt welcomes all are looking for worship. Calva Church is loca Fourth Preaching serv 11 a.m. and Sunday, Sunda at 9:45 a Wednesday Bil at 5 p.m.

> St. Paul Lutheran Chi The Rev. Dr.

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Church News

Cornerstone Church

Sunday the Rev. Robert Owens from the Every Nation Ministries church in Reno. Nev., is the featured speaker.

Cornerstone Church, an Every Nation Ministries formerly church, Morning Star International, invites children entering kindergarten through fourth grade to Sunday children's activities. Sunday, the children will see a play on the story of Zacchaeus. The children have a special Easter program planned for the morning worship service March 27.

Cornerstone, located at the corner of 12th and Owens streets, offers a family atmosphere of praise and worship. Morning worship begins at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday worship is at 7 p.m. Childcare is available for newborns through preschool. Call Pastor Craig or Cherise Felty at 263-3072 with any questions.

Calvary Baptist

Church

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dr. Alan Abel has a Bible study class

Sunday mornings in the Baptist Church, 401 E. 4th is March 18. Fill out the annex after church based on the book, "The Screwtape Letters," by C.S. Lewis. Dr. Abel is a great communicator and this promises to be lots of fun. Call 267-7163 for more information.

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

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

Life Church

Life Church at 600 E. FM 700, offers two morning worship services Sunday, first at 8:30 a.m. and again at 10:30 a.m. Children's Ministries are available during both services for ages 0-12.

East Fourth Street **Baptist Church**

East Fourth Street Baptist Church, 401 E. Fourth Street, invites the Big Spring community to the Christ in the Passover, Jews for Jesus presentation at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Passover is one of the most significant of all the Jewish holidays, and it was celebrated by the most significant Jew of all time - Jesus. Come see and hear Jews for Jesus unfold the story of redemption from the Exodus to Calvary in Christ in the Passover. Admission is free.

East Fourth Street

St., offers these opportunities growth and service for Sunday: 9:45 a.m. Sunday school; 11 a.m. morning worship; 4:45 p.m., youth, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Mission Friends and Mission Babies; 5 p.m. choir practice; 6 p.m. evening worship/opportunity meeting; 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jews for Jesus; 7 p.m. March 11, Girls in Action lock-

First United Methodist Church

information.

in. Call 267-2291 for more

The Rev. Lee Emerson will officiate and preach Sunday. Holy Communion will be observed. A special offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing will be taken. Worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50

Sunday school classes meet at 9:45 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal is at 2 p.m. Children's Choir rehearsal is at 4 p.m. The monthly prayer meeting is at 5 p.m.

The Adult Mission Team will leave for Dangriga, Belize, today and will return March 12. The team will help in the construction of a parson-

Youth Mission The Team will travel to Juarez, Mexico, Monday or 267-8214. through Friday and help with construction of a

Orders for Easter lilies are being taken. A dontation of \$13.50 makes it possible for the worship committee to order the lilies. Deadline for orders

call the church office.

Make reservations now for the Passover Seder Celebration, which is March 24 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The cost of reservations is \$5 which will be offered back that evening.

First United Methodist Church is located at 400 Scurry. For more information on any of these programs, call the church office at 267-6394.

Birdwell Lane **Baptist Church**

Everyone is invited to Birdwell Lane Baptist Church, located at 1512 Birdwell Lane. church exists for the purpose of the church members to glorify Jesus Christ and be a blessing to individuals and families. This is a friendly church family.

Church members are hosting Central West Independant Texas Baptist Fellowship and Big Country Baptist Fellowship from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Monday and from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Sunday worship services are at 10:55 a.m. and at 5 p.m.

Midweek services are at 7 p.m. Wednesday. For information, call 267-7157

Coahoma United Methodist Church

Coahoma United Methodist Church, 401 N. Main has Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and Sunday service at 11 a.m.

insert in the bulletin and Palm Celebration Service for Christian place it in the offering or at 11 a.m. March 20 in the sanctuary. There will be a children's performance; Maundy Thursday Service at 6 p.m. March 24 in the sanctuary; Good Friday Service at 6 p.m. March 25 in the sanctu-Easter Sunday ary; Sunrise March 27; Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the youth, during the Sunday school hour, 9:45-10:45 a.m. All children are invited to participate;

Easter worship at 11 a.m.



Ledford

in the sanctuary. **Northwest Texas Greater Fort Worth** District Lay Organization

The Northwest Texas/Greater Fort Worth District Lay Organization held election of officers for the 2005 conference year in Abilene. Dr. Keith Ledford was elected as first vice president of the district.

Ledford and his wife, Willia moved here from Detroit, Mich., in April 2003. He is currently employed as an OB-GYN with Scenic Mountain Medical Center. As a lifetime AME, the Leford's joined Baker's Chapel African Methodist

Easter season dates are: Episcopal Church shortly after relocating here. He will serve in this position for one year.

St. Mary's **Episcopal Church**

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

St. Mary's Lenten program continues this Wednesday. This year, there will be a view and discussion series on short videos from Pioneers of the Spirit. The All-Parish Meatless Pot Luck Supper is at 6 p.m. We will end with a brief service of Compline.

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

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

Friends of Unity

The Rev. Jim Sims, minister for Unity Church of West Texas in Odessa, will be speaking at the 1 p.m. service Sunday. He will be available for spiritual counseling as well.

Thanks to bulb planting last fall, daffodils are blooming at the Railroad Plaza, where the Unity Center is located. All services and meetings are open to everyone.

See CHURCH NEWS Page 8A

EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH



A special Tuesday service begins at 7 p.m. at with Family."

These performers have been singing gospel Call 267-1915. music for many years.

Courtesy photo

Regular services are East Side Baptist Church 9:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. "The Warren and 6 p.m. Sunday. Nursery is provided for 4 years olds and younger.





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► A Pastor's Message

Pray!

people often ask, "Would you pray for me?" or, "Would you pray for my sister, who's sick?" To such requests, I almost rassed. "You mean, actualways respond, "Certainly - let's pray right now."

What continues to baffle me is the number of per-

Because I'm a pastor, to their request with the mean right now." Some of them even seem embarally pray right here, right now?"

> I'm always a bit surprised at folks who ask

requested. they've offer of immediate prayer, Perhaps the root of this back off. "Oh, I didn't dilemma is that many people conceive of prayer as formal and ritualized, something done only behind stained glass windows while kneeling on a pew or cushions.

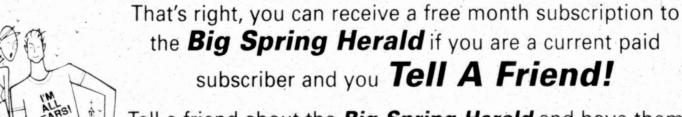
Long ago, I learned that me for prayer, then don't prayer is simply convers-

sons who, when I respond seem to really want what ing with God. Since God is available everywhere and at any time, initiating a conversation with God is as simple as addressing Him.

> One of the greatest examples of prayer to be found in holy scripture is David, the writer of many

See PASTOR Page 8A

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Continued from Page 7A

of the Psalms. While not every psalm begins in this fashion, there are least a handful of them which start out thus: "Help, Lord!"

If David, whom the Bible calls "a man after God's own heart," could pray that spontaneously and that simply, why should we make prayer any more

difficult? People often say to me, "Pastor, I don't know how pray. always ask in response

"Do you know how to talk? If you know how to talk, you know how to pray. Just talk to God, the same as you're talking to

One other issue that often is raised regarding prayer is whether or not one needs to pray "in Jesus' name,

As a Christian minister. I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the Living God. But I also believe that God hears all. prayers addressed to Him, not just those which are specifically voiced "in Jesus' name.

I believe that because. first, God is Jesus and Jesus is God so if you are praying to God, you're praying to Jesus. And I believe it, second, because Jesus Himself suggests that we address God as He did, as "Father." (Check Luke 11:2 if you need Biblical proof-text for this).

Pray, people of God. Pray spontaneously, pray freely, pray often. God delights in hearing and answering the prayers of His people.

Dr. Dave Ring is pastor of Big Spring First United Methodist Church.

Church News

Continued from Page 7A.

First Christian Church

Sunday morning services begin at 9:45 a.m. with Sunday school, followed by worship service at 10:50 a.m. At 5 p.m. Sunday is God's prayer meeting. Guest speaker for Sunday prayer meeting is John Kinman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Knott. The devotional will be given by Fay Turner.

Choir practice is 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday. Bible study is 10:30 a.m. in the Isaiah 58 building led by Paul Smith

The first Thursday each month at noon is the Christian Women's Fellowship luncheon. All women are invited.

First Christian Church is located at 911 Goliad. For more information, call the church at 267-

First Presbyterian Church

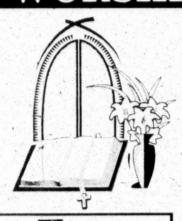
The Rev.' Matthew Miles, minister, will speak on text taken from John 9:1-41 at 11 a.m. Sunday, Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. and Take 10 starts at 10:30

Opportunities for the week include a clean up day Saturday at the church beginning at 8:30 Wednesday, the Communicants class is at 5 p.m.: the Lenten Serviceis at 5:30 p.m. and choir practice begins at 6 p.m.

Everyone is always wel-First come at Presbyterian Church, located on Runnels. between Seventh and Eighth streets.

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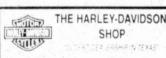
Give thanks to the Lord for He is good! His faithful love endures forever.

Psalm 136: 1

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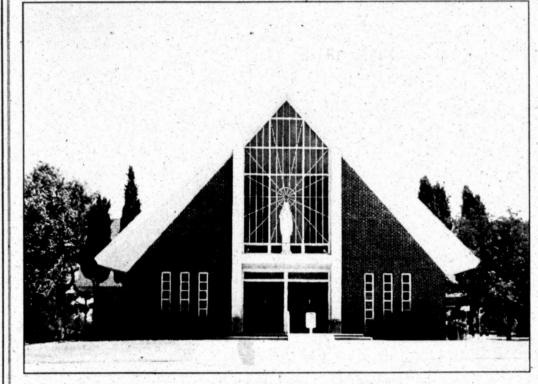


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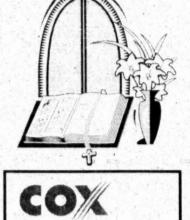
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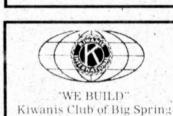


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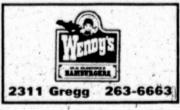
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ISD bus 4108.

IN BRIEF

B.S. Country Club announces scramble

The Big Spring Country Club has set a four-person scramble golf tournament for Saturday and Sunday.

tournament costs \$75 per player plus golf cart, but private carts are welcome. The entry fee includes a BBQ meal on the course both days. There are also practice rounds available Friday, but the golf carts are extra.

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

For more information or to enter a team, contact the Pro Shop at 267-5354.

Howard rodeo team sets crawfish boil

The Howard College rodeo team will hold its annual crawfish boil April 16 at 2 p.m. at the Rodeo Bowl during Howard College's annual rodeo.

The cost is \$15, which includes ticket into rodeo.

For more information, contact Howard rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 816-9477.

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.

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

B.S. Little League umpires meeting set

The Big Spring Little Umpires League Association will conduct a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Big Spring Athletic **Training Center**

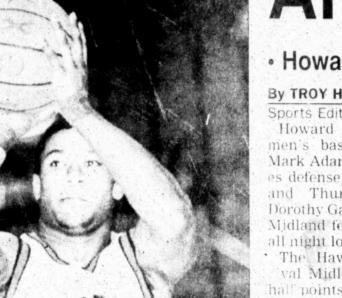
This is the second meeting of the year and all current umpires and anyone who wants to be an umpire should attend the meeting.

For more information, call Don Booth at 816-9748 (leave a message if no answer).

Ragball tournament set for early April

A ragball tournament to benefit Relay For Life has been set up for April 2 and 3 at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

If interested or for more information, call Angel at the Big Spring ISD bus barn at 264-



HERALD photo Troy Hyde

Howard College freshman Rashad Mintz puts up a 3-point shot against rival Midland Thursday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Hawks defeated the Chaps, 58:44, and claimed second place in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

Arch rival sweep

Howard's defense leads to big victory over Midland

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Howard College head men's basketball coach Mark Adams often stresses defense to his players and Thursday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Midland felt that defense all night long.

The Hawks held arch val Midland to 17 first hall points and freshman Charles Burgess won the battle between two of the league's premier guards as Howard defeated the Chaps in its regular season finale, 58-44, in front of perhaps the largest crowd of the year.

"The difference in the game was the first 10 minutes," said Adams. "I was proud of how our kids played defense tonight."

The win gives Howard (11-3, 25-5) a second place finish in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference - after Frank defeated

Clarendon by two points and a No. 2 seed in the Region V . Tournament next week in Lubbock. The Hawks will begin the Regional Tournament at 12:30 p.m. Friday against a team to be determined from the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference.

Howard scored the first 10 points of the game and

minutes. Leading 12-6, the the Chaps closed to with-Hawks went on a 13-0 run in six. to push their advantage to 25-6 before capturing a 33-17 lead at halftime.

The Hawks' stifling defense continued in the second half and Burgess took over offensively. He scored 11 points in the second half and outplayed Midland guard J.D. Lewis, who had scored 102 points in his last three games. Lewis - who was one of

two concerns on the offensive end heading into Thursday for Adams was held to just seven points. The other concern, Ivory Clark, led Midland with 10 points and eight rebounds.

"Our goal was to hold Lewis to 12 points so the guys did more than what was expected from them from that 'standpoint," said Adams.

Sophomores Munir Shakir and Dwayne Abraham were honored before the game with plaques as both played in their final home game as

Perhaps Shakir's biggest moment came with 7:15 to play in the game. He connected on a 3-pointer after Midland had cut the lead to nine points. Midland answered Shakir's long ball with Rip Griffin Center.

led 21-6 after the first 10 back-to-back 3-pointers as

"I remember telling coach (Jason) Sautter that that shot was huge," said Adams, referring to Shakir's 3-pointer. "If he doesn't make that shot then those back-to-back 3s that Midland hit would have cut the lead to three.

Burgess answered the Midland 3-pointers with a 3-point play of his own. Midland got back to within nine before Howard closed out the game from the foul line.

Howard's big men missed three front end's , of one-and-one opportunities, but Burgess, Rashad Mintz and Louis Rodgers connected on seven-ofeight from the line in the final 1:20 to seal the win.

"We made a lot of mental-mistakes down the stretch, but I was still happy with the way we played overall," said Adams. "Our offense wasn't very good, but that is because Midland 'plays great defense, too.

Burgess finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds. The 6-1 guard also dished out five assists.

Region Tournament · will be played in Lubbock at the

Howard's frustrating season ends with loss to Lady Chaps

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor . .

Howard women's basketball coach Earl Diddle knew if his team was going to defeat rival Midland Thursday they were going to have stop the Lady Chaps' inside game and contain sharpshooter Irma Kmitaite.

pened, but the one that didn't led to Howard's 64-45 loss to Midland at the Dorothy - Garrett Coliseum.

their post players in the Ciara Tidwell did most of four times. first half, but couldn't get the scoring for the Hawk it done," said Diddle, "We women in the second half, led by Brittany Davis-

Jennifer Pena and Ciara comeback. (Tidwell) did a wonderful job on Irma."

victory secured the Lady. Diddle speaking of the Chaps a second place fin-WJCAC Conference. ish in the Western Junior Fairley led the Hawk College Conference. They will to rebounds, while begin play in the Region Tidwell added 12 points Thursday, beginning at Freshman Jennifer Pena 12:30 p.m.

One of those things hap. the 40s and 50s for our with 10 points, six assists team to win," said Diddle and four rebounds. "We start getting shaky." when the game moves 51 shots from the field into the 60s.

Freshman "We wanted to front Fairley and sophomore turned the ball over just did better the second half. but it wasn't near enough. White's 12 points and six "However, I thought to mount any kind of rebounds. Kmitaite was

"We aren't a very good Howard scoring team and when WJCAC play with a 1-11 Midland never trailed in you have limitations they record. The Hawks went the game and led by as definitely get exploited in 12-18 overall.

The Howard College cheerleaders won first place in the WJCAC Cheerleading

Championships' girl's division last Saturday at Odessa College. Front row, from left:

Krista Gamble, Dana Wilson, Carol Gorski and Kori Shipman, Back: Jessica Spradling,

Jenna Schafer, Summer Davis, head coach Linda Berry, Hollie Gibbs and Jeneane

Richard. The squad performed, its winning cheer and dance piece during halftime of the

Howard women's and men's home basketball games Thursday.

. many as 22 points as the a league like this," said

Athletic women with 14 points and V Tournament next and seven rebounds. played well from the "The game has to be in point, as well, finishing

> Howard made just 15-ofand committed Latova turnovers, while Midland

The Lady Chaps were held to just three points. finished

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde



Howard College freshman Kristen Ray puts up a shot in the lane against Midland Thursday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Howard lost its season finale, 64-45.

Rangers fall in spring opener

SURPRISE. Ariz. (AP) Chris Young. Mike Sweeney showed

games the past two sea- his initial outing. sons by going 3-for-3 in the Kansas City Royals' 6-Rangers on Thursday.

Sweeney has struggled with a herniated disk the past two seasons and missed the last five weeks of 2004 with the injury.

Sweeney singled in the first off Rangers left-hander Kenny Rogers and scored on Matt Stairs' two-out double. Sweeney singled in the third off

Forsan Boy's Golf

Wednesday's Results I. Mark Mckiski - 85

3. Tye Baker - 91 4. Jonathon Moore -- 100 5. Clint Stanley - 105

Robert Lee Tournament

2. Adam Johnson - 89

The Buffaloes finished sixth out of 13 teams with a score of 365. Midland

Rogers, an 18-game winno lingering effects of the ner last season for the back problems that Rangers, gave up a run on caused him to miss 110 - two hits in one inning in

Royals starter Brian Anderson threw 30 pitch-4 win over the Texas es in the first inning and walked the bases loaded. but gave up only one run on Richard Hidalgo's sacrifice fly.

> Hidalgo also homered in the fourth off Chris George, the second of seven Kansas City pitch-

> The Royals snapped a 3-3 tie in the sixth when Chris Clapinski's fielder's choice grounder scored pinch-runner Matt Diaz.

Third Place

Forsan's Kevin Zubiate was left out of the Forsan track story Tuesday. Zubiate placed third at the Garden City Bearkat Relays in the 3,200 meter run with a time of 12:41,

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FREE KITTENS: Multicolored female 7 mo. old, spayed, vaccinated, very loving. Also solid black male 3 mo. old, very playful. Call (432)268-9480, leave message.

Pets

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1302 SYCAMORE, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath house. Large fenced yard. \$375.00 Month, \$250.00 deposit. (432)816-3157.

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4001 DIXON. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

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THREE BEDROOM, two bath, stove & refrigerator, in Sandsprings area. (432)466-3171.



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newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based. on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference. limitation or discrimination."

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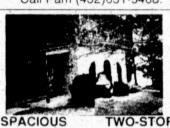
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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on March 11, 2005 for Fire Service upgrade on the Courthouse elevator. The elevator is an Otis brand. passenger elevators. Specifications may be obtained in

the County Auditor's Office, in the, Courthouse, 300 S. Main St., Room 203, Big Spring, TX, or by calling 432-264-2210. Bids will be presented to the Com-

The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. #4465 February 23, March 4, 2005.

missioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on

March 14, 2005 for their considera-

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on March 11, 2005 for the follow-

The purchase of one (1) New 2005 Wheel Loader to be used for maintenance of County Roads.

Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main, Room 203, Big Spring, TX or by calling (432)264-2210.

Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on. March 14, 2005 for their considera-The Court reserves the right to re-

ject any or all bids

#4466 February 23, March 4, 2005. PUBLIC NOTICE The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on March 11, 2005 for the follow-

The purchase of one (1) new 1/2 ton pickup for the Sheriff's Office. Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main, Room 203, Big Spring, TX or by calling (432)264-2210. Bids will be presented to the Com-

March 14, 2005 for their considera-The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. #4467 February 23, March 4, 2005.

missioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on

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SNUFFY

IT AIN'T



MAYBE A GL



Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS moon

enters Capricorn, stimulating an afternoon business rush.

Many work late and take work home to do over the weekend. During the night, Mercury enters Aries. giving fresh start to intellectual pursuits,

especially



MATHIS

having to do communication. with Consider taking up a new hobby that helps you express yourself.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You press the "reset" button on your life. Review your past lists, diaries and goals to see if they still apply. Wealth key: You have access to economic and market data - utilize it more often!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Accept that you can't know everything, and even an impressive amount of experience can't insulate you from feeling shaky in an unfamiliar territory. You're disarming when you make a silly mistake. Use it to your advantage.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are exciting, unpredictable and eccentric. Treat relationships like gold. The temptation is to play games because you see how gullible others are when it comes to you - but be merciful with a tender heart.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Look beyond the immediate. Greater things await you if you keep your eye on the goal. Someone who has you on energy into work. New a pedestal may finally get a dose of reality - 'ultimately better for you both.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The little things are a thrill, like a special phone call, a chance to win a contest or a compliment heard through the grapevine. Get together with family, and there will be hours of sitting around the table and sharing stories.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You hate being forced to choose, but you must make a decision to be fair to all. It's easy for you to see clearly what others miss. If you've gone back on a promise, there's a chance to make amends

tonight. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Let yourself be inspired by someone — a Leo is a good candidate! A creative project taps your little-used talents. Applause from a crowd makes a difference in your confidence, so get in front of the audience if you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Channel nervous romance gets a test; if you have anything in common, you'll still be talking tomorrow. It's in your best interest to make a big deal over a loved one's accomplishments tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In general, keeping everyone informed is your success key. A loved one doesn't really have your taste but can be (gen-

bounds to you. Forget it. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Concentration is sharp early in the day, so do reading or study then. You're the center of the social swirl later - it seems you're the one everyone wants to know. If you are hosting, there will be a guest you didn't

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Come down to earth; pay attention to details, especially legalities. Look at how much your plans are really going to cost slightly more than you thought. A course correction will be in order. PISCES (Feb. 19-March

20). Slow, steady work keeps a project moving forward. Avoid risky financial speculations. Discover how you are distinguishable from others who do your job and find ways to capitalize on that.

WEEKEND LOVE REPORT: With Mercury moving into Aries, there's no question who is attracted to whom. Romantic communication affair than you think you tly!) educated. A friend's may be shockingly direct! do. AQUARIUS: You're

anyone else. Know that you are unique, and be bold! TAURUS: A stylish gesture clinches a romantic arrangement. GEMINI: The last thing you think will happen in your love life is the first thing that will. CANCER: Friends could set you up with great success. LEO: You could date someone not of your generation and learn much in the process. VIRGO: Loved ones try to negotiate your rules tension out of relationships and boosts morale. SCORPIO: Focus on you. You feel better than ever about your love life when you are comfortable with yourself. SAGITTARIUS: Accept and respect the different (sometimes odd) ways a mate shows affection. CAPRICORN: You have more control over the outcome of a love ex should be out of ARIES: Your way of flirt hot and will have to diplo-

ing is particularly effec-

tive but wouldn't work for

matically sort through lots of good offers. PISCES: You know what a loyed one longs to hear, so why make him/her wait any longer? OF THE COUPLE

WEEKEND: Capricorn is usually the romantic pursuer, even if it's the other person who is making all of the obvious moves. This clever sign knows how to manipulate a romantic situation so it feels like the seduced is actually the seducer! And no one enjoys such tactics only a small degree of as much as Aries, who compromise is fair, could end up deeply in LIBRA: Stray from the love this weekend without plan; a diversion takes the ever having seen it coming!

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, the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: For the past year. I have been dating 'Patrick," a wonderful man who loves me and my children. The problem? He has an ongoing friendship with his exwife and the man she left Patrick for.

"Della" and her new husband call us at least once a week to get together, and then she reminisces about their entire 32-year marriage - the places they went, the people they knew, the things they did. The first few times, I sat and listened, know I feel uncomfortable me they are just friends stay on friendly terms ries a minor torch for her



MARCY SUGAR

during their walks down

KATHY MITCHELL

less on the past.

Patrick Recently. announced to Della that we are engaged. She cried and privately told me she felt jealous. Something seems not quite right about this situation, Though they both say they are just friends, she still acts like a possessive wife. She calls Patrick and confides about her problems with her husband, and I recently was should not be sharing conupset to learn that Patrick fidences about their

we had. I've since let Patrick memory lane. He assures Patrick says he wants to made it clear she still car-

and has promised to focus with Della because they ex, this closeness is ask- bride, making the task have grown children togetner. I do not want to spend the rest of my life feeling like The Other Woman. Any insight you can offer would be greatly appreciated. — Please that these get togethers Help Me, I've Fallen in dwindle down to a few South Dakota

Dear S.D.: It's nice for ex-spouses to remain friendly, but Patrick's relationship with Della is overly chummy. They

ing for trouble.

Patrick needs to create some distance from Della so your upcoming marriage will have a chance. to cement itself. Insist times a year, and tell' Patrick that there will be no more conversations with his ex-wife about your relationship unless you initiate them.

Dear Annie: I have been ers. And since Della has like poor Cinderella. My was. biggest issue is the gifts from my mother-in-law. 'Alice.'

ter-in-law received the living room furniture, silverware, antique dishes and Grandma's diamond

the favoritism is so obvistop giving us garbage under the guise of "treasured heirlooms." I've kept quiet for eight years to keep the peace, but both my husband and I have had it with this charade. What do we do? -Cinderella

Pennsylvania mention that the favoritism is noticeable. she offers, say "thank can manage, and then donate it to charity or throw it out. You don't have to use it, display it or keep it to please her.

brides who have their expressing their gratitude. Perhaps smaller guest lists would not overwhelm those couples. -L.B.

Dear L.B.: Showers weren't originally intended to be such enormous affairs, but that genie is out of the bottle. Also,. most women now have full-time jobs and less time. However, that should be offset by the groom as well as the

more manageable. But we agree, you shouldn't invite more people than you are willing to thank properly.

Dear Annie: I am writing about the letter from "Ex-Law Enforcement Civilian in Sacramento, Calif.," who was bullied at work by two women. Believe me, this is not an isolated case. Our son took his life after many months of harassment at married for 22 years, and his place of employment. told her about a little spat respective significant oth- my in-laws still treat me No one knew how bad it

> Shortly after his death, another employee took his life. We later found out On every holiday or that our son's death was birthday. Alice gives us the fifth suicide in 25 junk that belonged to her years for this company deceased parents - dirty and that there also were aprons, broken statues, many nervous breaketc. - items she doesn't downs. Although your want but won't throw out. writer lost a nice pension, We wouldn't mind, except she escaped with her life her other son and daugh- intact. Unfortunately, our son did not. - A

> Wisconsinite Dear Wisconsinite: How horrible for you that this situation wasn't discov-We don't want better ered and rectified before gifts, but it hurts when it was too late. Our readers were very concerned ous. I would like Alice to about workplace bullying, and a few offered some helpful suggestions. Read

> Dear Annie: Please refer "Ex-Law Enforcement" to www.bullyonline.org. Although based in the U.K., this Web site is an in excellent resource. It includes advice for docu-Dear Cinderella: It may menting bullying incinot make any difference if dents, a concise listing of you confront Alice, but the possible psychological your husband ought to effects of bullying, profiles of a typical serial bully, tips on recovering Meanwhile, accept what from bullying, and much more. Studies show that you" as politely as you up to half of all workers face bullying at their jobs, and in certain professions the percentage is higher. - Bully Magnet Dear Annie: I had to let

> Dear Annie: I'd like to victims of workplace bulexpress my opinion about lies know about bullyinginstitute.org. I left a job shower guests pre-address after 26 years of service as their own thank-you a result of bullying by a notes: I am offended that I supervisor. I complained, must help the unfortunate only to be told that this bride and groom in a task individual "knows how to play the game." No one should have to deal with this issue alone, and this Web site provides a lot of information. We definitely need explicit laws to address this issue. - P.M.

> Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, . longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net. or write fact that thank-you notes to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. can be written by the Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

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Exp. Date

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7	:PM :30		8 Simple Rules 8 Simple Rules		Assembling Bernie Mac		La Mujer en el . Espejo	Dateline NBC (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Wash. Week Wall-Fortune	American Chopper	Movie: Dolores Claiborne		Movie: Blood Work (CC)	Movie	Movie: Max Keeble's Big		NBA . Basketball	Movie: Absolute
8	::PM :30	Hope & Faith Less-Perfect	Hope & Faith Less-Perfect	Amor Real	Jonny Zero (CC)	NUMB3RS (CC)	Gitanas	Law & Order SVU .	Movie: Austin Powers in	Light of the Southwest	NOW (CC) Tucker Carlson	Southern Steel (CC)	* *	Untold			Move (CC) 40 Movie:	Boxing Rocky Jûarez vs.	Sacramento Kings at Miami	Power
9	:PM :	20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Hospital, Paisa La Escuelita	Malcolm-Mid. '70s Show	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgfn.	Te Voy a En- senar a Querer	Law & Order Trial by Jury	Goldmember		Jrnl Edit. Rpt Tayis Smiley	American Hot Rod (CC)	Movie:	CSI Crime Scene Invstgtn	Movie: Blood	Club Comic View	Max Keeble's Big Move	Juan Carlos Ramirez	Heat (CC) NBA	05 Movie: Narc (CC)
10	:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	The state of the s	News Late Show-	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Movie: Down to Earth	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	American Chopper	II. The Heretic. (CC)	CSI Crime Scene Invitgtn	Work (CC)	Nightly News Maad Sports	(CC) . Phil of Future	SportsCenter (CC)	Basketball Mavericks at	
11	:PM :30	Ent.:Tonight Jimmy Kimmel		Movie: Padres Culpables	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo-	Late Night-	(CC) Family Guy	CCM Ministries Del Sanchez	Sign Off	Southern Steel (CC)		The Ultimate Fighter		Midnight Love	Mr. Whiskers Kim Possible	Tilt (CC)	Lakers	Movie: Passion
12	:AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Live (CC) Paid Program		Spin City Dharma-Greg	Show The Insider	Maria Celeste Programa	Conan O'Brien Frasier (CC)	Futurama The Oblongs	Update/Israel Dineh Christian	"	American Hot Rod (CC)	Movie: House on Haunted .	Blind Date Shipmates	Movie: In the Line of Fire	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie McGuire	Tift (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"BOY, MARGARET. CAN'T YOU 'PLAY DUMB' JUST ONE TIME?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

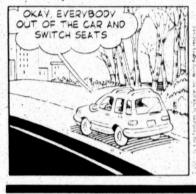


"It's almost time to go! Daddy's putting on his tie!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE







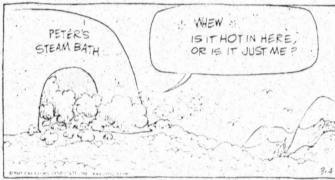
73. Actress-singer Barbara

McNair is 71. Actress Paula

Prentiss is 66. Movie direc-

tor Adrian Lyne is 64.

BC



PROBABLY JUST YOU

WIZARD OF ID



EXECUTIVES WHO DON'T WASH THEIR NECKS PARKEN

AGNES





NOT YOU

TOO!2



OOPS, I

SHIRT

GUESS I GREW

OUT OF THIS

HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST





SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 4, the 63rd day of 2005. There are 302 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History:

On March 4, 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated president, pledging to lead the country out of the Great Depression. (The start of President Roosevelt's first administration brought with it the first woman to serve in the Cabinet: Labor Secretary Frances Perkins.)

On this date:

In 1789, the Constitution of the United States went into effect as the first Federal Congress met in New York. The lawmakers then adjourned for lack of a quorum.

In 1791, Vermont became · the 14th state.

In 1837, the Illinois state legislature granted a city charter to Chicago.

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated president. In 1902, the American Automobile Association was founded in Chicago. In 1925, President Calvin

Coolidge's inauguration was broadcast live on 21 radio stations coast-to-coast. In 1952, actors Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis were married in San Fernando Valley, Calif. In 1981, a jury in Salt

Lake City convicted Joseph Paul Franklin, an avowed racist, of violating the civil rights of two black menwho were shot to death. In 1987, President Reagan addressed the nation on the

Iran-Contra affair, acknowledging his overtures to Iran had "deteriorated" into an arms-for-hostages deal. In 1994, in New York, four extremists were convicted of the World Trade Center bombing that killed six peo-

Today's Birthdays: Folk singer Miriam Makeba is

ple and injured more than

Singer Bobby Womack is 61. Rock musician Chris Squire (Yes) is 57. Singer Shakin Stevens is 57. Singer Chris Rea is 54. Actor Ronn Moss is 53. Actress Kay Lenz is 52. Musician Emilio Estefan is 52. Movie director Scott Hicks is 52. Actress Catherine O'Hara is 51. Actress Patricia Heaton is 47. Actor Mykelti Williamson is 45. Actor Steven Weber is 44. Rock musician Jason Newsted is 42. Actress Stacy Edwards is 40.

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F	A	C	T	C	H	E	C	K	E	R	S			
A	L	E	C		E	L	1	E		C	0	A	S	1
			н	A	R	D	S	C	R	A	B	B	L	E
A	S	K	1	N		E	S	A	U		ARS	B	1	1
B	L	E	N	D		S	0	R	T		R	1	C	(
S	0	G	G	Y		Т	R	E	S		S	E	E	1

Newsday Crossword

65 Play the siren

a sore throat

1 Come to grips

66 In any way

67 Brainpower

69 Ship hazard

DOWN

2 Trojan War

absorbed

amphitheater

5 Approaches

10 Settles snugly

6 Fuss and

feathers

warrior

3 Deeply

4 Like an

(with)

stats

ACROSS

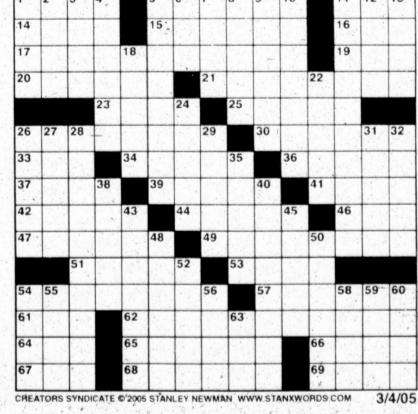
- 1 Supermarket convenience 5 Car-trunk item
- 11 CSI: NY network 68 Spoke with 14 City near
- Santa Barbara **15** '20s swimmer
- in the news 16 Tenn. neighbor
- 17 Kitchen
- absorbers
- 19 Coffee holder
- 20 Unbilled actors 21 Sprays
- everywhere
- 23 Feminizing suffix 25 that thing you
- do! actress
- 26 Parade ground
- marchers 30 Barbara Boxer's
- bailiwick 33 "Thrilla in
- Manila" victor 34 Pago Pago's country
- 36 To this moment, 37 Work with
- -weights
- 39 Theme of
- the puzzle 41 Tick off
- 42 Asserts 44 Indiana Jones
- discovery 46 Driver's ID
- 47 '50s auto 49 International
- intermediary 51 Leftward.
- to a sailor 53 Quaint carriage
- 54 Forms a fork 57 Without a
- contract
- 61 Before, in verse
- 62 Painter's need 64 Calendar watch letters

GOING IN CIRCLES by Patrick Jordan Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com 11 Shutterbug's

- buy
- 12 The Road Runner,
- when running 13 Droops
- 18 Royal sari
- wearers
- 22 Domingo
- or Caruso
- 24 Jousting suit 26 It may be built
- at a bar
- 27 Antipasto fruit 28 Candy introduced
- in 1912 29 Furnished
- a flat?
- 31 Adrian's
- 7 Plies a needle 8 Went stealthily
- portraver 32 Not slouching
- 9 Eases, as fears 35 Words before calm or bright

- 38 Rhetorical device
- 40 Drew through a tube
- 43 Fortress attacker 45 Trolley sound
- 48 Leia (Star Wars
- princess) 50 Clam kin
- 52 Assays 54 Michael's
- Disclosure costar
- 55 Mesopotamia, today
- 56 Pass over 58 Lay asphalt
- 59 Weapon with
- a tip guard
- 60 Treasury of Atrocious Puns
- author
- 63 Sno-cone need

11 12 13



Golf Insider

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME

Safety shots and 'Never' rules

By T.J. TOMASI Universal Press Syndicate

o matter how well you play golf, there are times when you need a safe shot like the one LPGA Futures Tour player Kristy Gleason is executing in the photos below.

She's chosen a 5-iron shot to keep the ball low under the tree limb in front of her, and her lie is not good - it's sitting down in the grass.

She's playing this shot because it's her best percentage shot. If she tries to reach the green (220 yards away), she'll need a fairway wood, and from this lie she has only a 50-50 chance of getting the ball airborne. She may simply roll the ball a few yards forward, leaving herself with almost the same shot again. Or, if she does get it in the air, it might hit the branch and end up in an eyen worse lie.

Instead she is playing it safe - guarding against the double bogey or higher. Her goal is to hit the ball even with the 150-yard marker in the middle of the fairway - a distance from which she still has a good chance to knock it on the green and make a par-saving putt or at worst a two-putt bogey.

In doing so she is following one of my "Never". rules: "Never make the mistake of having to play two trouble shots in a row. Get out of trouble the first time. Remember: Safe means safe.

To execute this type of shot properly, you will need to take a stance like the one Kristy is demonstrating (top photo, below). She is de-lofting the club face by playing the ball back (off her back ankle) and angling the club shaft forward (an imaginary extension of the butt end of the handle bisecting her forward thigh).

She also has more weight on her front foot and has shortened up on the handle, about half-way down. Now, because she's effectively shortened the club, the ball will fly lower and shorter.

If you would normally hit a 7-iron, then the club you need is a 5-iron, choked as described above: a 9-iron becomes a 7, and so on.

And don't forget to practice this on the range. Another one of my "Never" rules is: "Never try a shot on the golf course that you haven't already practiced and hit well on the driving range."

The key to the swing itself is to swing easy. This prevents you from imparting too much backspin on the ball (which would send the shot too high) and allows you to finish with your hands higher than the club head.

Gleason demonstrates the perfect finish in the bottom photo. To get there she had to'release her shoulders and keep rotating her torso. See how

she has finished with her chest facing the target The shot flew low (well under the branch), traveled about 75 yards in the air and ran the rest of the way to the 150-yard marker, putting her right back in play.

To find out more about on-course strategy and other "Never" rules, read my book, "The 30-Second Golf Swing."





Gleason's key here is to swing easy, allowing her to finish with her hands higher than the club head.

COMMENTARY



Photos by ALLEN EYESTONE!/ Cox News Service

The 18th hole at Doral is a challenging finish to the course known as the "Blue Monster."

Doral where it truly begins

By GREG STODA Cox News Service.

Miami hat whole West Coast play ground routine wasn't exactly the PGA Tour's version of recess, but, c'mon, the serious part of the year's early schedule begins... now.

How could anyone think other-

It's somewhat a function of the calendar, of course, what with Doral - OK, OK, Ford Championship at Doral - beginning the March march toward: Augusta National and the Masters Grail next month.

But it's more than a simple track of weeks and tournament stops.

It's a feeling.

There was too much money to be earned and momentum to be gained to dismiss the results of the season's previous tournaments as inconsequential. In fact, the performances of professional golf's very best players - Phil Mickelson in duplicate, Vijay Singh and Tiger Woods already have been winners all - have broduced meaningful prelude to the PGA Tour's arrival back East. And there also have been triumphs by the likes of Stuart Appleby, Justin Leonard, Adam Scott and David Toms this season.

Dandy start. High-level stuff. And yet what has happened up to this point has been at least asmuch about scenery (Hawaii and Pebble Beach), CEOs and celebrities (pro-am circus marathons) and raucous environment (Phoenix) as

it has been about golf. Which is why the assemblage of almost every one of the world's greatest players - Ernie Els notwithstanding, and even he surely knows he shouldn't be in Dubai

marks Doral as, well, important, "I think if you take it even farther east," Ireland's Padraig Harrington said Monday, "a lot of



A final-round 74 sunk Phil Mickelson at Doral last year, dropping him to a 24th-place finish. This year several of the world's top golfers will be competing in the tournament.

us in Europe think the Masters is really the start of the season. You're thinking more about that now. I think that's fair to say."

It's also fair to say Harrington and other of the game's worldranking headliners giving Doral extra punch this year have developed implicit understanding that the preparation stakes have been raised.

The PGA Tour season hasn't quite found a rhythm yet

It has provided some terrific entertainment (see: Mickelson, most notably), but the exercise has been disjointed. There has been atrocious weather, the aforementioned distractions inherent in sharing main stages with amateur hackers and then last week's involvement of the leading players in a match-play, rather than a stroke play event.

There's a pervading sense of purpose at Doral, which is a meaningful assignment so close to The Players Championship and the

A player who performs well this month can make a reasonable assumption his game is in the kind of shape necessary to tackle the big upcoming tests. Nobody can make such assumptions after winning in Honolulu or Tucson.

"A lot of players think of it as the start of something new," said South Africa's Retief Goosen. who's another one of the superstars in the Doral field. "We know that's what's happening. It's the beginning of the run-up to the

And it was Woods — a Doral late-entry participant figuring he needed work or craved nasty competition - who recently warned about bad habits a golfer can fall into fighting lousy weather conditions and unpredictable greens out

·Nice commercial by a Florida resident who's a Californian by

Not that a sorting-out process is any sure thing as a result of the Ford Championship outcome.

Craig Parry and Scott Hoch, for example, have been the tournament's past two titlists, and neither is likely to appear high on anyone's list as a probable winner of a major championship.

But the point is there's a good chance late Sunday afternoon on the Blue Monster will come down, this year to a tangle involving someone - or some two or three from among the Mickelson-Singh-Woods triumvirate. Unless, that is, some others of top-10 stature have insinuated themselves into the con-

The start of the Masters will be a month and a day away by that

A season's good show so far is about to get a bunch better at

Greg Stoda is a columnist for The Palm Beach Post

SCHEDULE

All Times EST **PGA TOUR** Ford Championship at Doral

- · Site: Miami. · Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
- · Course: Doral Golf Resort
- and Spa, Blue Course. (7,266 yards, par 72).
- Purse: \$5.5 million. Winner's share: \$990,000.
- TV: USA (Thursday-Friday,
- 4-6 p.m.) and NBC (Saturday-Sunday, 3-6 p.m.).

LPGA TOUR MasterCard Classic

- · Site: Huixquilucan, Mexico.
- · Schedule: Friday-Sunday. · Course: Bosque Real Country Club (6,889 yards,
- par 72). · Purse: \$1.2 million.
- Winner's share: \$180,000. · TV: None.

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR Dubai Desert Classic

- · Site: Dubai, United Arab
- Emirates.
- · Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
- Course: Emirates Golf Club, Majlis Course (7,264
- yards, par 72). · Purse: \$2.2 million.
- Winner's share: \$366,675. • TV: The Golf Channel (Thursday, 9 a.m.-noon,
- 8:30-10:30 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-noon, 9:30-11:30 p.m.).

CHAMPIONS TOUR · Next event: SBC Classic,

March 11-13, Valencia Country Club, Valencia,

NATIONWIDE TOUR

· Next event: Louisiana Open, March 24-27, Le Triomphe Country Club, Broussard, La.

LEADERS

WORLD RANKINGS 1. Vijay Singh, Fiji 11.73 2. Tiger Woods, US 11.14 3. Ernie Els, SAf 10.86 4. Phil Mickelson, US 8.48 5. Retief Goosen, SAf. 7.43 Sergio Garcia, Spn 7. Adam Scott, Aus 5.12 8. Padraig Harrington, Ire 5.08 9. David Toms, US 4.87 10. Mike Weir, Can 4.82

11. Stewart Cink, US 4.79 12. Davis Love III, US 4.72 13. Stuart Appleby, Aus 4.54

14. Chris DiMarco, US 4.20 15. Darren Clarke, NIr 3.98 16. M.A. Jimenez, Spn 3.81 17. Chad Campbell, US 3.69 18. Luke Donald, Eng 3.45 19. Justin Leonard, US 3.29

20. Kenny Perry, US MONEY LEADERS **PGA TOUR**

3.20

Player	Money
1. Phil Mickelson	\$2,129,056
2. David Toms	\$1,800,483
3. Tiger Woods	\$1,376,333
4. Adam Scott	\$1,363,753
5. Vijay Singh	\$1,299,313
6. Stuart Appleby	\$1,154,936
7. Ernie Els	\$1,018,640
8. Justin Leonard	\$900,200
9. Charles Howell	III \$816,283
10. Stewart Cink	\$774,488

LPGA TOUR

E. O	
Player	Money
1. Jennifer Rosales	\$150,000
2. Cristie Kerr	\$91,544
3. Reilley Rankin	\$66,409
4. Heather Bowie	\$46,361
4. Hee-Won Han	\$46,361
6. Gloria Park	\$24,726
6. Rosie Jones	\$24,726
6. Nicole Perrot	\$24,726
6. Carin Koch	\$24,726
6. Tina Barrett	\$24,726
6. Catriona Matthew	\$24,726

Champions Tour

Onampion	3 IOUI
Player	Money
1. Hale Irwin	\$703,000
2. Dana Quigley	\$431,250
3. Tom Watson	\$271,920
4. Mark James	\$264,450
5. Wayne Levi	\$247,900

EQUIPMENT

When weight gain is good

One of the most interesting products introduced at the recent PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, Fla., was the Heavy Putter (that's both the description and the name of the company).

The head of the putter weighs between 450 grams and 550 grams, roughly 200 grams more than the conventional putter. But the most intriguing aspect of the putter-is the insert inside the upper shaft that weighs 250 grams. This significantly changes the balance point of the putter so it's 75 percent higher than that of a conventional putter. It definitely feels much different than a normal-weight put-

The manufacturer claims that the high-

er balance point allows the golfer to manage the heavier head and consequently benefit from its greater stability. The heavier mass of the putter head disengages a golfer's small wrist muscles and encourages use of the larger shoulder muscles. This promotes a pendulum stroke, which can lead to a more consistent swing path.

The putter is pricey even if sold by the pound (MSRP \$259), but it was awarded a No. 1 ranking by Rankmark in its independent putter test. If you are having trouble with your stroke, you may be ready to go heavy. The Heavy Putter should be available in most PGA professionals' shops this spring.

T.J. Tomasi

THE GOLF DOCTOR



director of instruction at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield. Conn. To ask him a question about golt, e-mail him at: TJInsider @aol.com.

Give yourself a break

It's the time of year when golfers migrate, even for a few days, to the warmer climates. Research shows that half of all U.S. golfers take trips that involve playing golf, so it's worth repeating what I tell my students about golf away from home: With different grasses, different wind conditions, etc., you should have different expectations when you travel, i.e., your scores are likely to be higher.

For example, here in Port St. Lucie, Fla., where I currently teach in the winter, the average visitor shoots about five shots over his or her handicap. Why? Because the wind off the ocean is heavy with moisture, and the Bermuda grass is tough to putt on and even tougher to pitch and chip from. So you'll miss more greens than normal and then fail to get up and down as much as you're used to. That spells higher scores.

The important thing is to be patient and adjust your expectations. If you don't, and you start tinkering with your mechanics instead, it could ruin your golf swing as well as your vacation.

BY THE NUMBERS

David

Duval's only check in 2005, his winnings from the Nissan pro-am. Duval has



missed the cut in nine of his past 13 tournaments. He shot a'+30 in missing the cut at the Bob Hope Classic earlier this season.