



S-s-sigh. No s-s-snakes

No rattlesnake roundup this year, but AMBUCS are planning for 2006

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The quiet wisp of rattlesnake buttons will pass Big Spring by this year, as local coordinators mourn the passing of one the annual event's biggest supporters.

Dennis Burns, chairman of the annual American Business Clubs (AMBUCS) Rattlesnake Roundup, said the death of

Monty Staulcup, longtime coordinator and showman for the event, brought the roundup to a halt.

"Monty passed away in December," said Burns. "We're really going to miss him. He did a lot for the roundup, from gathering the buyers and running the shows, to the special programs he put on for the area schools teaching the kids about snakes."

"Monty was the go-between with the buyers, so when he passed away, we essentially lost our buyer. Selling 2,000 pounds of snakes isn't an easy task."

Burns said another problem arose because of the date of the show.

"We've always held the roundup on the fourth weekend of March," said Burns, who has been the chairman of the roundup committee for nearly

two decades. "That date falls on the Easter weekend this year. We didn't think it would be a good idea to try to schedule around Easter."

"We were told at one point that the roundup had fallen on Easter weekend many years ago, and no one showed up, which is no big surprise to anyone on the committee."

While the annual roundup will be sorely missed by the

community this year, Burns said this by no means marks the end of the scaly tradition in the Crossroads area.

"We're already making plans for the 2006 roundup," said Burns.

"We're going to go to the roundup in Brownwood and see if we can't locate a buyer through that. We're also going to work on getting a team for next year."

SPRING HAS SPRUNG... ALMOST



Spring finds its way into downtown Big Spring, as these tree blossoms beautify the steps of the District Courthouse on Scurry Street. Spring officially begins Sunday.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Big Spring Alumni Club

19 arrested Thursday in statewide cocaine ring

MIDLAND (AP) — Nineteen people accused of conspiring to deal drugs were arrested Thursday in connection with a cocaine ring that authorities said began inside a federal prison.

The 19 are believed to be part of "The Big Spring Alumni Club," which law enforcement officials said has been selling cocaine since 2003 and was organized while four members of the group were serving drug trafficking sentences at the Big Spring Federal Correctional Institute.



Sutton

The arrests were made in Lubbock, Dallas, Fort Worth, Snyder, Midland and Odessa. Two other people are still being sought.

"Today's arrests are the first nails in the coffin for this large-scale crack cocaine ring," U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton said in Friday's Midland Reporter-Telegram.

The 21 were indicted on charges of conspiracy to manufacture, distribute and possess with the intent to distribute cocaine.

The arrests came after a year-long investigation that uncovered the sale of more than 50 grams of cocaine. If convicted, the suspects face a minimum 10-year sentence.

The alleged ringleader was Adrian

See **ARRESTS**, Page 3A

No easy solution to management software, trustees learn

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Independent School District is learning that, when it comes to student-management software, there is no magic bullet.

For months, the school district has been looking for solutions to its balky Chancery SMS software package, which has caused school officials severe headaches in student-management areas such as grades, scheduling and transcripts.

Finally fed up with Chancery's seeming inability to solve the problems with its software, the school board authorized the

district in February to begin looking for a possible replacement to SMS.

To that end, a committee of district officials, led by Technology Director Corey Wood, has visited comparably sized school districts using different software packages.

"Next year will not be a utopia. We're hoping it will be better, but it won't be a utopia."

Corey Wood,
BSISD technology director

Wood addressed the board during its monthly meeting Thursday night, and told trustees point blank that every system the committee looked at has its good points and bad points.

In short, whatever the district does, software problems are not necessarily a

thing of the past.

See **SOFTWARE**, Page 3A

Big Spring ISD board updated on school finance legislation

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big changes may be on the horizon as to how Texas schools can conduct their business — and those possible changes have many districts highly concerned, to say the least.

Big Spring Independent School District Michael Downes updated trustees on those possible changes during their monthly meeting at the high school.

The Texas House of Representatives recently passed two bills that will effect



Downes

major reform in both school financing and the education process itself. And Downes, along with many other rural school district superintendents, sees major problems with both bills.

"These are not good bills," he said flatly.

The bills are currently before the Texas Senate, where they must pass muster before going to Gov.

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IN TOWN TONIGHT

Concert and dance

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be the site of the "Honky Tonk Tailgate Party" concert and dance tonight, sponsored by Junior Achievement of West Texas.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Showtime is 8 p.m. Featured artists include Daryle Singletary, Chad Brock, Rhett Akins and David Kersh with special guest Trent Willmon.

Tickets are \$15 in advance (KBST radio) or call the central ticket office at 1-800-462-7949 and \$20 at the door. Floor seating is an additional \$5.

COMING UP

Senior health fair

The Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, located at 1809 N. Highway 87, will host a Senior Health Fair Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The fair will feature a number of different screenings, including blood sugar and blood pressure, glaucoma checks and information on long term care insurance.

The event is open to the public at no charge.

For more information concerning the health fair, call 268-8387.

IN THE PAPER

Coming in the Weekend Edition: Family-owned farms have dotted the American landscape since Colonial times.



Some of these multi-generation farms have endured and developed along with the nation. Here are a few of their stories.

Voters may have to produce photo IDs

By JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN (AP) — Texas voters would have to show photo identification or multiple forms of other ID before they could cast their ballots under election law changes being pushed by House Republicans.

Three bills with the photo ID requirement are pending before the House Elections Committee. Lawmakers heard testimony from supporters who say the measure would prevent voter fraud and opponents who warn it will deny some citizens of their right to vote.

"This is to make sure you are who you say you are when you show up to vote," said Rep. Mary Denny, the Flower Mound Republican who sponsored one of the bills. She is chairwoman of the elections committee.

The Republican Party of Texas supports the measure. The state Democratic Party opposes it.

"They're just adding roadblocks to voting," said Democratic Party Chief of Staff Mike Lavigne.

Currently, if a voter presents a voter registration card at the poll, that's enough to cast a ballot. Without it, voters are allowed to proceed if they present a photo ID such as a driver's license or a state-issued personal identification card.

Other forms of acceptable non-photo identification include birth certificates or U.S. citizenship papers, a U.S. passport, a utility bill, bank statement, government check or other government document with the name and address of the voter, or some other identification approved by the secretary of state. Currently, just one of those alternate forms is necessary.

Denny's bill would require voters to present a voter registration card and their photo ID. Without a photo ID, the voter would have to provide two forms of alternate ID.

Labor unions, advocates for the disabled and minority groups all opposed the measure and said it would have the biggest impact on the poor and the elderly.

"These bills are not

based on evidence of fraud," said Nina Perales, of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. "They will prevent some voters from casting ballots."

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Dewey Thomas, Jr., 79, died Thursday. Graveside services will be at 9:00 AM Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Raymond "Ray" Galaviz, 41, died Monday. Vigil Services will be at 7:30 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Melvin Bryant, 65, died Monday. Funeral Services will be at 3:00 PM Saturday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Military Graveside Services will be at 5:00 PM Saturday at the Greenwood Cemetery, Greenwood, Texas. The family will receive friends from 5:30 until 6:30 PM Friday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Belle Harris, 78, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 2:00 PM Monday at East Fourth Baptist Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Larry Ragan, 51, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Big Spring Junior High School seventh-grader Chaneel Dykes, left, receives her National Junior Honor Society pin from NJHS adviser Laine Lawson during induction ceremonies Thursday night at the junior high gymnasium.

42 receive Honor Society pins

Herald Staff Report

More than 40 Big Spring Junior High School students received their pins as members of the National Junior Honor Society during induction ceremonies Thursday night at the junior high gymnasium.

Students qualify for membership in the organization by maintaining a high grade average, and showing superior qualities of citizenship, leadership, character and service, Counselor Jacklyn

Swinney said.

Students inducted into the NJHS Thursday night were:

- SEVENTH GRADE — Anthony Barrera; Katryna A. Ceniza; Kristina Chang; Alexander Crabtree; Barbara Cruz; Sloan Davis; Chaneel Dykes; Tiffany Garcia; Mikael Gonzales; Macy Graves; Jake Hernandez; Chelsey Huckabee; Coloton Ingram; Stephen Islas; Andrew Lewis; Benjamin Merworth; Skyler Moore; Pavel Plakhotney; Jonathan Ray; Matthew

- Ritchey; Kelly Sage; Isabel Salazar; Janna Stiles; William Tannehill; Halee Thomas; Marina Trevino; Chance Urias; Karlye Weaver; Jonathan Womack; Martin Y. Yanez; and Linzee Yarbar.

- EIGHTH GRADE — Sarah Armentrout; Dean Barney Jr.; Caitlin Carlisle; Breanna Conner; Chelse Franco; Carlita Green; Kadrian Grooge; Holly Platte; Ambrie Schaffner; Shelby Swinney; and Jimmy Watson.

SOFTWARE

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"It's going to be difficult," Wood said. "Next year will not be a utopia. We're hoping it will be better, but it won't be a utopia ... I believe it was an eye-opener to the members of the committee to see just how large and complex the student management system has become ... It's big."

The district has taken the first steps toward weaning itself of SMS, changing gradebook functions over to a software package called Grade Speed. Wood said the switch has resulted in only minor technical problems, all of which have been remedied.

The district continues to use SMS in other areas, such as scheduling, special education indicators and attendance. End of the school year attendance figures will be vitally important to BSISD because they will, in large, determine the amount of state financing

the district receives.

And Wood cannot guarantee that the SMS-run attendance figures will be accurate.

"There is nothing at this point to tell us it won't be accurate," Wood said. "But that's just one of the bridges that we'll have to cross."

The district committee has visited sites using two possible replacements to SMS, and was scheduled to visit another site today.

Wood said the committee will make a recommendation in April to trustees to either replace or augment SMS with another software package.

Cost estimates for replacing SMS range from between \$190,000-\$210,000, Wood said.

To date, the district has spent \$162,000 on the SMS package.

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

FINANCE

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Rick Perry for his signature.

Under legislation passed by the House, all school districts are guaranteed a 3 percent increase in funding, and teachers are promised a pay raise. Downes warned, however, that language in the bill could result in new money being considerably less than school officials might expect.

Downes also criticized a portion of the bill that calls for a mandated start of the school year on the first Tuesday after Labor Day, with the year ending no later than June 7.

"We firmly believe that local school districts should be the ones who decide when the school year begins and ends," he said.

Other proposed changes included in the legislation include:

- Texas Assessment of

Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests will be eliminated in grades 9-12, and replaced with end-of-course tests in English, Algebra, Geometry, History, Physics and Chemistry. Students would not receive course credit unless they pass these new tests.

- All students will take the ACT or SAT at least once during their junior or senior year, at no cost to the student.

- Students in grades K-6 cannot be assigned to a class with a first-year teacher two years in a row.

- Local districts will be required to use at least 1 percent of their total maintenance and operations expenditures to provide incentive payments to employees.

Final passage of education legislation is not expected until near the end of the legislative session on May 30. Gov.

Perry then has until June 19 to sign the bills.

Downes said that means that, regardless of what bills are passed, the local district will have little time to implement mandated changes before the start of the next school year.

In other business, trustees:

- Learned that district enrollment currently stands at 3,735 students, about 140 fewer than this time last year. Big Spring ranks 194th among 222 Class 4A schools in attendance, Downes said.

- Renewed contracts for the district's teachers and other professional personnel.

- Approved a facility fee waiver for the Relay For Life organization, so that it can use Blankenship Field for its annual event.

- Approved bids totaling \$179,000 to Johnson Construction Group of Big Spring to provide

electrical upgrades and Washington Elementary, Bauer Magnet School and Goliad Middle School.

- Approved textbook recommendations and calendar amendments for

the 2005-06 school year.

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

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ARRESTS

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Jerrold Crook, 34, who arrived at the prison in 1996 and allegedly started the conspiracy with three others inmates.

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WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

House committee plans to issue subpoenas to keep Terry Schiavo alive

WASHINGTON (AP) — Working against the clock, House lawmakers tried to prevent doctors in Florida from removing the feeding tube Friday from a severely brain-damaged woman.

In a two-pronged approach, a House committee was issuing congressional subpoenas to stop doctors from disconnecting the tube, while an attorney for the parents of the woman, Terri Schiavo, said he would ask a federal judge in Tampa to block the removal and review the actions of state courts.

Such habeas corpus appeals seek to require the government to justify its actions.

"We are going to ask him to issue a stay because in this case, state action would be used to end the life of an innocent, disabled woman," the attorney, David Gibbs said.

Police in Pinellas Park, Fla., meanwhile, readied for the hundreds of protesters expected to show up outside Schiavo's hospice as the hours slipped away before the scheduled 1 p.m. removal of her feeding tube.

The Florida House on Thursday passed a bill 78-37 to block the withholding of food and water from patients in a persistent vegetative state who did not leave specific instructions regarding their care. But hours later, the Senate defeated a different measure 21-16, and one of the nine Republicans voting against indicated that any further votes would be futile.

In a last-ditch attempt to stop the court-ordered removal, a House committee on Capitol Hill here decided early Friday morning to start an investigation into Schiavo's case and issue subpoenas ordering doctors and hospice administrators not to remove her feeding tubes and to keep her alive until that investigation was complete.

House, Senate OK \$2.6 trillion budgets with warring views of Bush spending cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans forging a compromise \$2.6 trillion budget will have to balance a House plan that exceeds President Bush's planned cuts in Medicaid and other programs against a Senate outline that ignores many of the proposed reductions.

The two GOP-run chambers approved fiscal blueprints for next year on Thursday with vastly different appetites for Bush's recipe of curbing rampant deficits by reining in benefit programs for the first time since 1997.

The House's budget would cull up to \$20 billion from planned Medicaid spending over the next five years, a 1 percent reduction that would more than double what Bush's savings are worth. Overall, it seeks \$69 billion in reductions from agriculture, student loans and other benefits, \$18 billion more than Bush.

But in the Senate, rebellious moderate Republicans joined Democrats in voting 52-48 to eliminate all \$14 billion in Medicaid savings that chamber's budget had proposed. Senators also voted to roll back Bush's plans to cut billions of dollars from education, community development, water projects and others.

Highlighting unease by Republicans in both chambers, the House plan was approved by 218-214, while the Senate's squeaked through on a 51-49 vote.

McGwire won't say whether he took steroids

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a room filled with humbled heroes, Mark McGwire hemmed and hawed the most.

His voice choked with emotion, his eyes nearly filled with tears, time after time he refused to answer the question everyone wanted to know: Did he take illegal steroids when he hit a then-record 70 home runs in 1998 — or at any other time?

Asked by Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., whether he was asserting his Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate himself, McGwire said: "I'm not here to talk about the past. I'm here to be positive about this subject."

Asked whether use of steroids was cheating, McGwire said: "That's not for me to determine."

To a couple of other questions, all he would say is: "I'm retired."

The dark clouds over baseball rained on Big Mac, whose powerful bat once captivated the nation.

He was just part of Thursday's show at the House Government Reform committee's hearing on steroids in baseball, when lawmakers repeatedly threatened federal legislation to govern drug testing in not just baseball, but perhaps all U.S. sports.

Five current and former players, three of them among the 10 leading home run hitters in history, found themselves sitting biceps-to-biceps on Capitol Hill instead of a baseball field, wearing business suits instead of uniforms, forced by subpoena to testify before Congress about whether they cheated by using steroids.

Charge that former Colombian president was bribed retracted by U.S. prosecutor

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A U.S. federal attorney who accused the Cali drug cartel of bribing former President Ernesto Samper and dozens of congressmen to pass a favorable extradition law retracted his statement after Colombia threatened to stop turning over suspected traffickers to the United States.

Samper denied the allegations by U.S. Attorney Paul Perez, made in a March 9 court paper obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday. Still they caused an uproar in Colombia as officials questioned whether the United States remained committed to the 1997 treaty.

U.S. Ambassador William Wood held a late-night news conference to try to repair the damage, insisting the United States would comply with the extradition requirements from its key ally in Latin America.

Wood, however, refused to explain why the document was shelved, saying only there had been a "confusion" and that he had just handed President Alvaro Uribe a revised version that omitted any mention of the accusations against Samper and the other politicians.

Arrival of splinter Mormon group in West Texas makes locals wary

By MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press Writer
ELDORADO (AP) — With the legal heat rising against its leader in Arizona and Utah, a splinter group of polygamous Mormons is hurriedly building a new community in sparsely populated West Texas.

But the arrival of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints — marked by a temple tower rising out of the rocky terrain and prickly pear cactus — has been about as welcome among locals as a new species of rattlesnake.

"I think there's reason to be apprehensive, but they've done nothing to warrant any kind of great fear," Schleicher County Judge Johnny Griffin said. "But it's the unknown. ... It's the secrecy that bothers most people. I just hope nothing happens."

The congregation, known as FLDS and led by reclusive prophet Warren Jeffs since his father's death in 2002, is one of several groups that split from the Salt Lake City-based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the decades after it renounced polygamy in 1890.

The FLDS began migrating 77 years ago to a remote area along the Utah-Arizona state line, where its members live in almost complete seclusion in the twin cities of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz. Members are not allowed newspapers, radio, TV or the Internet — and are forbidden to speak with outsiders.

The sect, which may have as many as 10,000 members, has a history of polygamy that's long been an open secret in Utah. In civil suits filed recently by former members there, Jeffs is accused of sexual misconduct and of assigning young girls as wives to older men.

But authorities say the accusations aren't sufficient to produce criminal charges because they

can't get anyone to talk about Jeffs.

"For three years now, he's been doing everything he can to keep people from cooperating with us and to take steps to avoid our efforts," said Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, who recently held a town hall meeting on the church with Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard.

For Larry Donaldson, who has a ranch just up the road from the FLDS site in Texas, Jeffs' move stirs memories of the fiery demise a decade ago of David Koresh and his followers at the Branch Davidian compound outside Waco.

"That's just the thing I thought of," Donaldson said from his pickup truck, a rifle resting on the seat next to him to take care of predators coveting his livestock.

The new complex just north of Eldorado, about 160 miles northwest of San Antonio, includes roughly a dozen concrete and log apartment buildings plus other structures around the fortress-like temple, about 80 feet tall, that's nearing completion.

The main entry to the property is a dirt easement blocked by a locked metal gate. A quarter-mile down the path there's a small guard shack, and someone equipped with binoculars has been spotted atop a construction tower that has a bird's-eye view of the 1,691-acre tract.

The Rev. Joseph Vathalloor, whose small Roman Catholic church is at the intersection of the road leading to the FLDS site, said he and other clergy in town have talked about trying to say hello to Jeffs.

"But what I'm told is

he's not seeing anyone," Vathalloor said.

The number of church members in Eldorado is unknown, and while they've been seen only sporadically, they're easily spotted in the town of just under 2,000.

Men and boys wear buttoned-up long-sleeve shirts. Long, loose-fitting pastel-colored dresses are worn by women and girls, who also have long braided hair.

The sect, which may have as many as 10,000 members, has a history of polygamy that's long been an open secret in Utah

"They don't say much," said Tammy McGinnis, 28, who works at a Shell convenience store not far from the compound where some church men have purchased gasoline. "I said hello to one. He just looked down."

Randy Mankin, editor of the 1,100-circulation Eldorado Success — the town's weekly, said his newspaper has been following the construction of the compound for about year. That's when Mankin took a call from a woman named Flora Jessop inquiring about a local land purchase; she heard it was related to the FLDS.

Five months earlier, a company called YFZ Land LLC spent nearly \$700,000 for a former exotic game ranch, prompting chuckles from locals who figured some greenhorn got snookered into paying about twice the value of the place. The buyer's representative initially told real estate agents and police he planned to operate the property as a hunting retreat.

Then pilots using an airstrip nearby reported buildings under construction that looked like something else entirely.

"They told a great big lie," said Jimmy Doyle, the county's justice of the peace.

Jessop, who said she

escaped from the church nearly two decades ago and devotes her life to helping others to do so, showed up in Eldorado a week later. She claims she still has contacts within the church, and worries that the congregation's fierce loyalty to Jeffs might one day result in violence.

Yet George Arispe, the Schleicher County sheriff's chief deputy, noted that none has been reported at the site, and that the people he's seen are "hardworking folks" and "awesome contractors, great at what they do."

People who have watched from afar say much the same.

Within two months, the temple foundation was in, steel and decking four floors high was up, the exterior was wrapped in plywood and circular towers like castle lookouts stood at each corner. Now, cream-colored limestone from an onsite quarry is being attached to the temple walls.

Only a handful of "non-believers" have been allowed inside the compound. One woman died last July of breast cancer and her death had to be confirmed by Doyle.

"It was not elaborate, but it was very nice," Doyle said of his visit to the quarters of Barbara Barlow Jeffs, believed one of the 50 to 70 wives of the church leader.

In Texas, where bigamy is a misdemeanor, church men get around the law by declaring only one legal wife. The others are known as "celestial" wives, Doyle said.

Griffin, the county judge, is torn between what is viewed by many as a threat to his county and his respect for the rights of privacy and religious freedom. And Doyle said he can't see any criminal charges "until one of the girls comes into my office and raises her hand and swears they've been molested by so and so, and that's never going to happen."

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BIG SPRING HERALD

Church News

Easter Sunrise Service

A community-wide Easter Sunrise Service is set for 6:45 a.m. March 27 in the Big Spring Amphitheater at Comanche Trail Park.

Area pastors participating in this annual event include the Rev. Rex Clayton of East Fourth Street Baptist Church, the Rev. Craig Felty of Cornerstone Church, the Rev. Mike Johnston of Christ Community Church, Capt. Linda Keeny and Capt. Russ Keeny of the Salvation Army, the Rev. Dr. Dave Ring of First United Methodist Church, the Rev. Lynn Robertson, associate pastor of Community of Hope Church of the Nazarene, the Rev. Jim Wright, minister of music of First United Methodist Church and the Rev. Agustin Ypina, Hispanic missionary of First United Methodist Church.

Pianist this year is Christy Alton of Cornerstone Church. Special music will be provided by Shelly Choate of Hillcrest Baptist Church.

The public is invited to this free event.

Cornerstone Church

A benefit garage sale is set in the YoungLife building, at the corner of 13th and Owens streets, from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday. All proceeds go to the church building fund.

Cornerstone Church, an Every Nation Ministries church, formerly Morning Star International, invites children in kindergarten through fourth grade to Sunday children's activities.

Sunday, the children will be part of God's story

by doing the Easter story. They will make their own props and then participate in the telling of what happened on that special morning many years ago, when Jesus arose from the dead. March 27 the children will tell their Easter story during the morning worship service. Then they will have a special celebration time.

The New Youth, for grades five and six, continue to study the Easter story.

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

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

Calvary Baptist Church

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

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.

First United Methodist Church

Palm Sunday will feature the Chancel Choir presentation of "God So Loved the World" at both

morning services. Worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school classes meet at 9:45 a.m. The Confirmation Class is also meeting at 9:45 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearses at 2 p.m. and Children's Choir rehearsal is at 4 p.m.

Kid's Fun Night is from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Partee building for children ages 4 to fifth grade.

Holy Week Mid-Day Services begin Monday with The Rev. Ken McMeans from the College Baptist Church preaching. All mid-day services will serve lunch at 11:50 a.m. and worship services are from 12:25 p.m. until 12:55 p.m.

The Open Door Class hosts Fun Night Monday at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited for food and games.

The Rev. Byron Brown of Community of Hope Nazarene Church will preach Tuesday and The Rev. Darrell Hendrickson of First Church of God will lead the service

Wednesday.

The Hispanic Bible Study is at 6 p.m. and all Youth meet at 6:30 p.m. for Youth Bible Study. Handbells practice at 7 p.m. and Centered in Praise rehearses at 8 p.m.

Thursday's featured speaker is the Rev. Rex Clayton of East Fourth Street Baptist Church and the Rev. Jimmie Long of City-Wide Fellowship will preach Friday.

Thursday night is the Passover Seder at 6 p.m., and Friday at 5:45 p.m. is Youth Activity Night.

The church office will be closed Good Friday, March 25.

The church is located at 400 Scurry.

For more information on any of these programs, call the church office at 267-6394.

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

East Fourth Street Baptist Church, 401 E. Fourth St., offers these opportunities for Christian growth and ser-

vice: 9:45 a.m. Sunday school; 11 a.m. morning worship and Easter Musical; 4:45 p.m., youth, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Mission Friends and Mission Babies; 5 p.m. choir practice; 6 p.m. Mexican Fiesta; Saturday, Children's Fellowship/Skating Party; 6:30 p.m. March 23, Beth Moore Women's Bible Study, 2 p.m. until 4 p.m., Men's Bible Study. Call 267-2291 for more information.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

We welcome you to join us in worship this Easter season. Holy Week services include Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7 p.m. March 24 and Good Friday Service of Darkness at 7:30 p.m. March 25.

At 7:45 a.m. Easter Sunday we have a courtyard worship service. The Easter Festival Service follows at 10 a.m. Celebrate the resurrec-

tion of our Lord! Christ is risen; He is risen indeed! Join us at Ninth and Gregg streets. Call 267-7163 for more information.

YoungLife

Club members are preparing for YoungLife camp July 2-10 in Colorado.

All parents of students interested in camp are invited to the club meeting at 7:59 p.m. Monday in the YoungLife building, 13th and Owens streets, for a chili dog supper and to learn more about camp.

YoungLife, a non-profit Christian organization for high school students, seeks Christian, adult volunteers to work with teen-agers to enjoy skits, comedy routines and fellowship during YoungLife club.

For more information or to contribute to YoungLife, call leader Shelly Warren at 264-1234.

See CHURCH NEWS Page 8A

Club News

Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teachers Association

The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teachers Association meets Monday in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Ruth Cook and Bobbie McDaniel will present a program about Glasscock County.

All retired school personnel are invited to attend.

TOPS TX 21

Fifteen members of Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) TX 21 met in the Dora Roberts Rehab Center at 5:30 p.m. Monday, with leader Donna Menges presiding. Olnee Menges opened the meeting with prayer, followed by the TOPS and Keep Of Pounds Sensibly (KOPS) pledges and Shirley Jenkins led the group in singing the fellowship song.

Olnee Menges gave a reading titled "So I Walk," and Donna Menges presented a reading, "Wildflowers." Cherry Sechelski read a chuckle titled "Don't

Mess With Senior Women." Minutes of last week's meeting was read by secretary Gladys Russell and Genay Bertran called the roll.

Of the nine TOPS present, Donna Menges was the weekly best loser and received the weekly award and a certificate. All of the six KOPS weighed in, with two turtles (weighing the same as last week) and four small gains, but each one is still within their allowed leeway.

Alex Sechelski, one of two male members, is one of the two KOPS who will graduate at the upcoming State Recognition Days in San Angelo. He will represent the club as chapter king.

Nine member have made reservations for the meeting in San Angelo and six of the nine will be on stage at one time or the other during the two-day event.

Following the program by Duffy Yancy titled "Burn Up Those Calories," the club was dismissed.

For more information about TOPS, call 1-800-392-8677 or locally 263-0391 or 263-1758.

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IN BRIEF

B.S. Girl's Softball Association holding signups in March

The Big Spring Girl's Softball Association will be holding signups to register for the upcoming 2005 season.

The league is open for girls and women ages four and above.

Signups will occur every Saturday throughout the month of March from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall. However, signups will also be accepted at All District Sports, located at 1005 East 11th Place.

There is a registration fee of \$30.

Tryouts for the league will take place April 2 and the league begins play April 25.

For more information, call Ron Shafer at 432-213-3747.

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 H.C. 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.

C.G.A. to host benefit tourney

The Chicano Golf Association will host a benefit golf tournament at Comanche Trail Golf Course for Christina Rodriguez Sunday.

The tournament will follow a four man scramble format and costs \$20 per player plus green fees.

The event will use a shotgun start beginning at 11 a.m., but teams must be registered by 10:30 a.m.

Barbecue plates will also be served for \$5 each with all proceeds going toward medical expenses for Rodriguez.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

Pony baseball league sets last signups

The Big Spring Pony Baseball League has announced final signup days will begin Monday and run through Friday, March 18.

The league is for boys' ages 13-15 and the signups will take place at All-District Screen Printing from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$65 per person and it is the last opportunity to play this season.

Pony League tryouts will take place March 22 at 6 p.m.

For more information, call Mike Ritchey at 263-8857.

Coahoma sets Pony League signups

The Coahoma Little League will hold signups from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Coahoma ballpark off I-20.

The fee — for boys aged 13-15 — is \$60. A birth certificate is also needed.

For more information, contact Jill Ringener at 816-1532.

Big Spring wins pitching duel with new rival

Coahoma shows worth, comes up short of upset

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

For the second straight season, pitching dominated the Big Spring-Coahoma softball game. And for the second straight year, the Lady Steers won the battle between the new I-20

Two of Big Spring's three hits came in the final inning.

"Kali came through on the mound and at the plate for us," said Dickenson. "Unfortunately, some base running mistakes early on and our inability to bunt hurt us."

Big Spring scored its first run in the first inning. Roberts gave up a walk to sophomore Amber Sides before senior Heather Vassar moved Sides to second on a sacrifice bunt. Then Watkins laced a line drive shot down the left field line. The RBI triple scored Sides from second and put Big Spring up 1-0.

Neither team did much offensively after that. Big Spring did not get another hit until the ninth inning. Coahoma had chances to score on two different occasions, but failed to send anyone across home plate.

The Bulldogettes stranded Ami Martinez at third base in the fifth inning and then stranded runners on second and third in the seventh. Big Spring senior Chelsea Abner ended Coahoma's threat in the seventh with a running catch in centerfield.

"I thought we had a chance there, but the centerfielder made a nice play," said Dickenson. "We played well enough to win, but couldn't get that extra punch we needed to score."

Coahoma was able to tie the game in the seventh before stranding the two runners. Roberts helped her cause on the mound by leading off the inning with a solo home run.

"Alex just left a pitch high and Kali got a hold of it," said Pearce.

Big Spring had troubles hitting the ball Thursday against Roberts, but Pearce is not too worried about the bats when the district season starts next Tuesday.

"I knew we were going to struggle against Coahoma because Kali is so good," said Pearce. "I know we'll start to hit the ball when district rolls around, though. Seeing Kali's speed tonight will help us."

The two teams agreed to go to the International extra-innings rule (starting a runner on second base) in the ninth. Big Spring won the game in that inning after Vassar delivered an RBI single to score junior Heather Policky.

Watkins and Vassar led Big Spring at the plate



Coahoma junior Kali Roberts delivers a pitch to the plate against Big Spring Thursday during the Lady Steers' extra-inning win over the Bulldogettes. Roberts took the loss on the mound but gave up just two earned runs and also homered to tie the game in the seventh inning. Big Spring won the game, 2-1, in nine innings.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Fund-raiser

Meet the Lady Steer Day
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Lady Steer Softball
Complex

Rag Ball game
Lady Steer varsity vs.
BSISD faculty

Chili Dog baskets — \$5
includes chili dog, chips,
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serving starts at 11 a.m.

Rag Ball game follows Big
Spring softball game vs.
Lubbock Cooper (varsity
starts at 11 a.m. while JV
begins at 1 p.m.)

NCAA Tournament
First Round scores from Thursday

- (2)Kentucky 72, (15)Eastern Kentucky 64
- (12)Milwaukee-Wisconsin 83, (5)Alabama 71
- (8)Pacific 79, (9)Pittsburgh 71
- (3)Oklahoma 84, (14)Niagra 67
- (1)Washington 88, (16)Montana 77
- (2)Wake Forest 70, (15)Chattanooga 54
- (3)Gonzaga 74, (14)Winthrop 64
- (7)West Virginia 63, (10)Creighton 61
- (6)Texas Tech 78, (11)UCLA 66
- (7)Cincinnati 76, (10)Iowa 64
- (6)Utah 60, (11)UTEP 54
- (9)Nevada 61, (8)Texas 57
- (3)Arizona 66, (14)Utah State 53
- (1)Illinois 67, (16)Fairleigh Dickinson 55
- (11)UAB 82, (6)LSU 68
- (4)Boston College 85, (13)Pennsylvania 65

Ross leads Texas Tech past UCLA

By BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer
TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Ronald Ross is rollin' and Texas Tech is past the first round of the NCAA tournament for the second year in a row.

Ross, who scored 28 and 22 points in the semifinals and finals of the Big 12 tournament, went for 28 again and the Red Raiders shot a season-high 62 percent in a 78-66 first-round victory over 11th-seeded UCLA on Thursday night.

Texas Tech (21-10) improved to 2-2 in NCAA tournament games since coach Bob Knight came to Lubbock four seasons ago. Knight, meanwhile, is 44-23 in 27 NCAA appearances.

The sixth-seeded Red

Raiders play No. 3 seed Gonzaga, a 74-64 winner over Winthrop, in the second round of the Albuquerque Regional on Saturday.

UCLA (17-12), with its lowest seed ever on the 10th anniversary of its last national championship, never led but stayed close until a 12-2 run put Texas Tech up 76-61.

Jarrius Jackson scored 16 of his 19 points in the second half for Texas Tech. Devonne Giles added 16 points on 7-for-8 shooting and grabbed nine rebounds.

Dijon Thompson scored 22 for UCLA. Josh Shipp added 13 points.

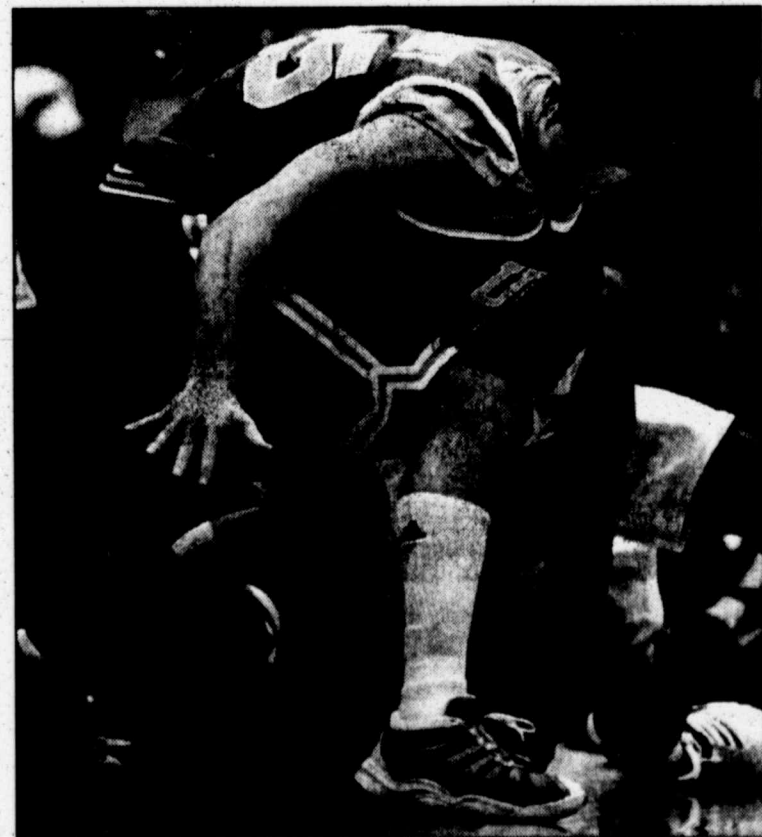
Texas Tech never trailed in the first half, but the Bruins managed to tie it four times, the

last at 29-29 on Shipp's fast-break layup with 4:18 to go. The Red Raiders outscored UCLA 8-2 the rest of the half, capped by a pair of inside baskets by Damir Suljagic in the final minute, to go up 37-31 at the break.

Darryl Dora's stuff shot punctuated a 6-0 spurt that gave Knight's team a 45-36 lead with 17:13 left.

UCLA's last gasp came when Arron Afflalo was fouled on a 3-point try, and made all three free throws to cut Texas Tech's lead to 64-59.

Giles followed with a tip-in, Jackson made an 18-footer and the Red Raiders were on their way to Knight's 851st career victory, 26 shy of Dean Smith's NCAA Division I record.



Texas Tech's Devonne Giles, right, tries to get a turnover from UCLA's Matt McKinney during the first half of their first round NCAA tournament game in Tucson, Ariz., Thursday. Texas Tech won the game by 12 points.

KRT photo/Michael Almsworth, Dallas Morning News

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MARSHALL Estate Auction. Saturday March 19th. Complete list to follow. View at www.springcityauction.com

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San Angelo
Position requires CDL with Hazmat, two yrs verifiable exp (tanker preferred), & a good driving record. Send resume or summary of qualifications to: rbarron@ripgriffin.com Fax: 806-785-4182.

GROWING OILFIELD service company looking for a Field Service Technician. Qualifying applicant must have clean driving record and pass UA. Background check required. Responsibilities include repair & rebuilding equipment, field service, long hours, paperwork and desire to succeed. Company benefits include 401K plan, Health, Vision, and Dental Insurance, Paid Vacation, Paid Holidays, Uniform, Safety Training. Serious only need apply. Call (432)699-0050 for directions.

Help Wanted

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Please come by the Duncan Disposal office/yard at 1104 N.W. Broadway, Coahoma, Tx - Monday-Thursday 2p-4p and on Fridays 1p-3p to apply in person. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please.
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MIDLAND COMPANY needs licensed plumbers, willing to relocate. Pay DOE. Call (432)520-6307.

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Help Wanted

SERVICE TECH NEEDED - must be hard working, devoted and honest. Growing Oilfield Service company seeks dedicated mature people to grow with us. Responsibilities include set up, break down, repair & service, inventory control, customer relations and field paperwork. Great benefits, great people, great opportunities. Pay DOE. Call for directions, (432)699-0050.

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

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT Fun Valley Family Resort in South Fork, Colorado. Needs students to work all types of jobs. Housekeeping, dining room, horse wrangler, kitchen and maintenance. Salary, room, board & bonus. For information and application write Personal Director, 9010 Ravenswood, Granbury, Tx. 76049.

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127 Keathley
Garden City, Tx 79739
Reply to:
HR Dept., P.O. Box 5089
Abilene, TX 79608
Fax: (325)672-5034
Email: jobs@txbollweevil.org
Equal Opportunity Employer
Drug-Free Workplace
Pre-employment drug testing required

THE CITY of Big Spring will be testing for the position of Certified Police Officer at 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, April 28, 2005 at the Police Training Center on 307 East 4th. Applications are being accepted through 5:00 PM Monday, April 25, 2005. For further information contact City Hall Personnel at 310 Nolan, Big Spring, TX 79720 or call 432-264-2346. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications may also be obtained from website: www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

WANTED - 47 people to lose 15-75 pounds RISK FREE. Call 1-800-965-5408.

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Day and Night Vacuum Truck Drivers needed. Top pay and benefits. Contact Matt at (432)664-2321.

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NEW SHEET Metal (Tan) for 40x80 Building, 25x20 add on with 14 feet 6 inch side walls. \$5,800.00. Call (432)263-5808 or 816-1671.

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1507 Austin, 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$235. month, \$150. deposit. **1104 Stanford**, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$335.00 month, \$150.00 deposit. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

1809 Johnson- 2/1 bath, washer, dryer connections, new paint & carpet. \$525. month, \$275. deposit. 407 & 407-1/2 East 8th - 1/1 bath. \$250. month, \$150. deposit. All have CH/A. Call (432)267-2296.

2008 SCURRY, 2 Bedroom. Refrigerated air, fenced backyard. Nice neighborhood. References. Perfect for single or couples. \$350/month, \$300/deposit. Call (432)267-5629.

2517 LANGLEY. Four bedroom, one bath. Stove & refrigerator, dishwasher, alarm system, privacy fence. \$550. month, \$450. deposit. Call (432)268-3152 or 264-6595.

BUILDING FOR LEASE on 1308 North HWY 350, \$200.00 month plus \$200.00 deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts at (432)263-5000.

FOR RENT 1516 Wood. Four bedroom, one bath. \$350. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

FOR RENT 2 bedroom, \$300. month; 3 bedroom, \$400. month; 1 bedroom, \$275. month. Moren,(432)267-7380.

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

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All bills paid
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Superbly private second story 1 bedroom furnished apartment. \$395.00 includes utilities. 1 Non smoking person. Excellent credit background required. Zero pets. Sunroom & balcony. **McDonald Realty** (432)263-7615.

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

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1723 PURDUE 3/2/1 brick home. Credit check & references required. New loan or 20% down. Call (432)268-8353 Cell (325)699-1042.



2 STORY House in great condition. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, office, fireplace. 2 large storage buildings, large gazebo, 2150 sq. ft., 3/4 acre. Beautiful yard. \$105,000. (432)263-4080.

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

4 BEDROOM, 3 bath house on 40 acres for Sale, w/barn and work shop, in Coahoma School D. dist. \$224,000.00 For appointment call (432)263-0658 or 816-9565.

714 BIRDWELL Lane. 3/2. CH/A, spacious rooms, approximately 2000 square feet, tile fence, corner lot. Too many features to list. \$68,500. Call (432)263-0175 or (432)816-1210.

DON'T PASS This One Up. Priced to Sell! Newly remodeled 2/3 bedroom, 1 bath, beautiful fenced yards, large workshop, storage shed. By appointment only (432)267-1883.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The sun and moon are in compatible water signs, stirring up a powerful elixir of emotion. Something that merely irked you yesterday now seems terribly urgent and must be dealt with before you become so impassioned that you lose all sense of appropriateness. There are only two days left in this solar cycle. Don't hesitate.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's easy to be snobbish. But the chance to practice compassion was never so apparent. The mess you witness, this afternoon has everything to do with human error. Have pity on the poor creatures we all are!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Someone close is in love with an idealized version of you. It's tempting to feed this fantasy and let it all go to your head! Is that so wrong? What if you saw yourself on a regular basis just as this person does?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Put more heart into your work. Just when you

think you're giving it your all, that overachiever shows up with a new standard for excellence. If you're doing your very, very best, there's no reason to feel bad about the end result.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The afternoon features a host of strange but benign interruptions. Beware of people who have nothing better to do with their time but "hang out." You need all the productive hours you can get.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The support you offer someone is not the same support that person can offer you. Nonetheless, don't stop giving. You learn something new and find deeper wells of respect for a loved one when you step into his or her territory.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You need all the optimism you can get today. Dress in cheery colors. Orange and gold are lucky. Some of you win money this afternoon. Use your spare hours to clean up a pig sty — even if it's not yours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your way works for you. But be careful not to impose your vision of the world onto impressionable people. Children, especially, are very capable of forming their own

opinions and should be encouraged to do so.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Someone enthralling comes onto the scene this afternoon. It's hard for you to part company. You may even develop a fast crush. You are particularly susceptible to the charms of a Gemini or Pisces.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You catch the "fever," whether it's hopping on to a hot trend, falling in love with an irresistible someone, or falling prey to that cold that's been passed around the office. (Steer clear of places known to host an array of germs.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You can smell success, and you want to rush after it. But people around you feel safer when you act in a slow, controlled manner. As a famous officer once said, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The pessimists close in. Hold onto your faith, you child of the air! The world depends on you to be fanciful and filled with wonder. Remember, before you were born, you could fly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're not vulnerable, but you are open minded. If you crack the window

to listen, loved ones fill your ears with promises, promises — set out on your kitchen table like empty teacups.

WEEKEND LOVE REPORT: Mercury's retrograde brings new meaning to the words "star-crossed lovers." Misunderstandings intensify romantic feelings.

ARIES: You may carry more of the workload in a relationship, but you've got more energy to do this, too. **TAURUS:** Try as you might, you can't deny when the chemistry is hot. **GEMINI:** You know when you're with a kindred spirit. That gentle tug on your heart strings gives it away. **CANCER:** Discern between infatuation and true love. **LEO:** Build a friendship without expectation of something more. That's how true love happens. **VIRGO:** Characters in movies fall in love quickly and live happily ever after — but you'll fall in love slowly, truly, deeply. **LIBRA:** You put plenty of effort into love, and it's worth every bit of it. **SCORPIO:** There is always room for improvement in relationships, but it's not always wise to point this out. Focus on what's going right now. **SAGITTARIUS:** It doesn't matter if you've been

unlucky in love before; you're writing a new chapter now. **CAPRICORN:** Don't spend every minute on love, smothering it out of existence. Give it breathing room, and it's magical! **AQUARIUS:** You're getting to the complicated part of a relationship. **PISCES:** You don't have to run your relationship the same way your parents ran theirs.

COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND: Capricorn and Aries come together like forces of nature this weekend. Capricorn may see Aries as a bright angel, which is far from the truth, but that's OK because Aries sees Capricorn as a shimmering hero. When the delusion is mutual, the weekend is a romantic blur. Reality can be dealt with next week! The only caution is not to do or say anything that cannot later be undone or taken back.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the [Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

Tomorrow's Horoscope

Annie's Mailbox® : Advice for those in need



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I have been married to "Ruth" for eight years, and we have a 7-year-old daughter. The first year we dated, Ruth cheated on me with her ex-boyfriend. I forgave her and believed it was an isolated incident.

However, four years ago, I found evidence that Ruth was engaging in various cybersex activities, including exchanging nude pictures and discussing potential in-person meetings. When I confronted Ruth, she denied everything; then tried to make me feel guilty for having caught her. Still, when she promised to turn over a new leaf, I believed her.

Over the next few years, I repeatedly caught her in similar activity. After each confrontation, I stupidly believed she would

change "this time." All she really did was find new ways to cover her tracks.

Last year, Ruth went to her 10-year high school reunion, where she met up with the ex-boyfriend. Someone saw them making out and told me. Later, I found e-mail messages where Ruth said she had planned to sleep with her ex at the reunion because she still wants him. I was devastated.

I have done everything I can think of to foster honest discussions, but I get only hostility, screaming and denial in return. I've asked Ruth to go for counseling with me, but she refuses. I am terribly depressed and want a divorce. However, I worry about our daughter. Also, a divorce might very well send us both into bankruptcy. I feel trapped. Can you help? — Betrayed in the Midwest

Dear Betrayed: It is obvious that Ruth cannot be trusted and she is not committed to your marriage. Give her one last chance to prove otherwise. Tell her if she does not go with you for counseling, you are filing for divorce. Then see an attorney about your options and financial situation, and arrange some counseling for yourself and your daughter. For low-cost options, check the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (www.nlada.org) and Alliance for Children and Families (alliancef.org).

Dear Annie: This is in response to the woman who complained about people not giving up their seats or stepping aside to let her pass into the church pew. I find her attitude rude.

My husband and I arrive at church a half-hour early to get the seats we prefer. Why should we give them up? Maybe "Hoosier" needs to set her alarm clock earlier. Her cry that "we have children" is just another excuse for lack of responsibility. My mom raised seven children, and on Sunday, we were all lined up ready to go on time. Mom didn't expect others to accommodate her. — California Churchgoer

Dear California: No one is asking you to change seats if you don't wish to. But some people refuse to move out of the way and allow others to reach available spots inside the pew. That, too, is rude, no matter how much later one shows up.

Dear Annie: I read the letters from bridal couples who registered for tools. My husband and I also did this. At the bachelor party, the men brought tools as gifts, and the guests loved the idea.

We celebrated our 10th anniversary last July, and this past year we have been rebuilding our home using some of those same tools. I've learned so much about construction that I've asked for my own tool belt for Mother's Day. The project has brought my husband and me closer together, and we're building our dream home in the process.

So, brides, let your guys register for tools. It could save you a ton of money in the future and make your marriage stronger, too. — Lovin' the Tools

Dear Tool Gal: Not every couple would find building a home together so cozy, but we congratulate you on getting into the spirit. We hope it turns out great.

Dear Annie: I am writing today because I don't know where else to turn. My father and I have an estranged relationship. He wants to communicate with me, but I do not share his need.

My parents divorced because Dad cheated on Mom. He rarely showed any interest in me and often paid more attention to the children of the woman he was dating. To be honest, I loved my father more when I knew him from a distance. But

then my mom died, and I was forced to live with him. After years of mental and physical abuse, watching him cheat on his girlfriends and wives, my love for my father eroded to the point where I moved to another state to get away from him.

In the past few years, my father has tried to contact me. I have changed my number several times, but he continues to get the listing from my stepbrothers. Even though I have begged them not to do this, they feel guilty and always give him the information. I really don't want to talk to him.

The scars from the past run so deep that I have had trouble breathing when I've been "guilted" into calling him. So now I turn to you. What do I do? — Hidden in Minnesota

Dear Hidden: First, are you absolutely certain you don't want to give your father another chance? He is getting older and may value his relationship with you enough to make changes. If that is not an option, let an answering machine screen all your calls, and since you are "guilted" into contacting him on occasion, we suggest sending a card instead, since talking on the phone is so stressful. You also might want to consider therapy so those old scars can finally heal.

Dear Annie: You were correct to tell "Texas T," the underweight 21-year-old, to check his thyroid. However, that alone is not sufficient. It's possible he has celiac sprue, and there is now a laboratory blood test available to find out.

Celiac sprue is caused by an autoimmune reaction to gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley, oats and rye. The disease is hard to diagnose due to the diversity of symptoms that it can present, including weight loss, bowel problems, skin disease and neurological abnormalities. Many patients with chronic fatigue or irritable bowel syndrome actually have undiagnosed celiac sprue. It affects all ages.

I was unaware of the prevalence of the disease until I was diagnosed with it. My only symptom

was weight loss despite a very high caloric intake. The treatment is to avoid all foods containing gluten. Please advise "Texas T" to be tested for celiac, whether or not his thyroid turns out to be normal. — A.R. Williams Jr., M.D.

Dear Dr. Williams: Thank you for providing another explanation for the

inability to gain weight. Anyone who would like more information can contact the Celiac Sprue Association (csaceliacs.org), P.O. Box 31700, Omaha, NE 68131-0700.

Dear Annie: We have been invited to our niece's wedding in Costa Rica. Not attending is out of the question. However, it will cost over \$5,000 for the four members of my immediate family. While yes, we will have a short vacation, we didn't get to select when or where, and the timing is extremely inconvenient.

Normally we would give a sizeable present. Is that still a reasonable expectation, or is a token gift enough? — Perplexed Guest

Dear Guest: One gives as much as one wishes, and what one can afford. The location of the wedding should have no bearing on the gift, although obviously, when you are out-of-pocket \$5,000, you are less inclined to be extravagant. But you can still give something nice without robbing the kids' college fund.

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

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FRIDAY

Time	Program
6:30 PM	Wheel
7:30 PM	Movie: SEALS
8:30 PM	2020
9:30 PM	News Night
10:30 PM	Ent. To Jimmy
11:30 PM	Live! (C)
12:30 AM	News

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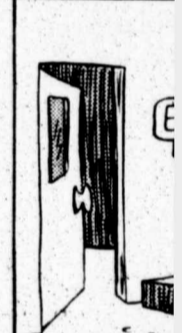


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6 PM	News (CC) Dallas	News Wheel-Fortune	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid Raymond	College Basketball: Anita No Te Rajes	News Senfield (CC)	News Raymond	Liberty John Hagee	News-Leher	American Chopper	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com	Zack & Cody Zack & Cody	NBA NBA	Figure Skating	Dummy (CC)		
7 PM	Movie: Navy SEALS	8 Simple Rules	Apuesta por un Amor	Bernie Mac Bernie Mac	NCAA Tournament	La Mujer en el Espejo	Update/Israel Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Friends (CC)	Wash. Week	Monster House	Movie: Ghosts of Mississippi	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Movie: We Were Soldiers	Da Game of Life	Movie: Snow Dogs (CC)	Basketball Los Angeles	World Championships	Movie: The Shawshank Redemption	
8 PM	20/20 (CC)	Hope & Faith Less-Perfect	Hospital, Paisa La Escuela	Malcolm-Md 70s Show	Tournament NCAA	La Ley del Silencio	Medical Investigation	Light of the Southwest	NOW (CC) Tucker Carlson	American Chopper	Untold	TBA	Zack & Cody Zack & Cody	Boxing Friday	Pairs (CC)	Paras (CC)	Movie: The Pacifier		
9 PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ	70s Show Raymond	Tournament First Round	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Movie: The Wedding Singer (CC) (DVS)	Sign Off	American Chopper	45 Movie: Halloween Resurrection	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Movie: We Were Soldiers	Nightly News Maad Sports	Phil of Future That's-Raven	Life Open - Quaterfinal	Life Open - Quaterfinal	Movie: Better Luck Tomorrow (CC)	
10 PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Peicula se Anunciara	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	News Late Show: Letterman	Al Rolo Vivo	Late Night: Conan O'Brien	Family Guy Futurama	American Hot Rod (CC)	45 Movie: Halloween 5	Blind Date Shipmates	Movie: Blood Work	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie McGuire	Tit (CC)	College Gmday	Tomorrow (CC)		

DENNIS THE MENACE

3-18

SURE! WE'LL TAKE ALL THE MAGAZINES THAT HAVE COWBOYS AN' CARTOONS.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

3-18

"I'm okay with my p's and q's, but I have to mind my b's and d's."

HAGAR

HELGA, I'M BACK FROM ITALY... BUT THEY WERE OUT OF THAT COOKBOOK YOU ASKED FOR!

DARN! I WANTED TO LEARN HOW TO COOK ITALIAN!

NOT TO WORRY...

BLONDIE

I COULD USE A FEW T-SHIRTS

THIS IS THE MOST POPULAR ONE WITH TEENS TODAY!

BOY, MOM AND POP STORES SURE AREN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE.

BC

LOOK, SWEETIE PIE! QUICK—MAKE A WISH!

I'LL GET HIM FOR THIS.

WIZARD OF ID

WHAT DO YOU THINK, DOC?

DON'T WASTE YOUR MONEY ON A LAPTOP

AGNES

AGNES, THIS POLL IS NOT GOING TO PROVE YOUR POPULARITY TO ANYONE!

JUST MARK YOUR CHOICE, PLEASE.

BUT YOU'RE LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER!

IT'S A POLL, IT'S NOT CONFESSION.

UH-OH! WRONG BOX! SORRY, DELUDED FOOLS DO NOT GET TO VOTE! UH-OH! MR. ERASER MUST UNLEASH HIS MIGHTY RIGHTEOUSNESS!!

MR. ERASER IS GOING TO BE UNLEASHING ALL DAY.

HI AND LOIS

I STARTED A DEBATING CLUB AT SCHOOL

GREAT! SO WHAT'S YOUR FIRST DEBATE?

"XBOX VS. PLAYSTATION"

THE OTHER COAST

WOW, AWESOME MARMOT LOGO ON YOUR JACKET. IT LOOKS SO REAL.

IT IS. I RAN OVER HIM ON THE HILL THIS MORNING.

SNUFFY SMITH

MY LUKEY'D NEVER LET A WOMAN CHOP WOOD!!

GUESS I'M LUCKY, PAW BELIEVES IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS!!

HE DON'T NEVER HOLD ME BACK!!

BEETLE BAILEY

THAT'S MY MOTTO! WAKE UP EVERY MORNING WITH A BIG SMILE!

BUT MAKE SURE NOBODY SEES IT!

This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 18, the 77th day of 2005. There are 288 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 18, 1965, the first spacewalk took place as Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov left his "Voskhod 2" capsule, secured by a tether.

On this date:

In 1766, Britain repealed the Stamp Act.

In 1837, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, Grover Cleveland, was born in Caldwell, N.J.

In 1922, Mohandas K. Gandhi was sentenced in India to six years' imprisonment for civil disobedience. He was released after serving two years.

In 1931, Schick Inc. marketed the first electric razor.

In 1937, more than 400 people, mostly children, were killed in a gas explosion at a school in New London, Texas.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner Pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain.

In 1959, President Eisenhower signed the Hawaii statehood bill.

In 1962, France and Algerian rebels agreed to a truce.

In 1974, most of the Arab oil-producing nations ended their embargo against the United States.

In 1979, Iranian authorities detained American feminist Kate Millett, a day before deporting her and a companion for what were termed "provocations."

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Graves is 79. Composer John Kander ("Chicago") is 78. Author John Updike is 73. Nobel peace laureate and former South African president F.W. de Klerk is 69.

Country singer Charley Pride is 67. Singer Wilson Pickett is 64. Actor Kevin Dobson is 62. Actor Brad Dourif is 55. Jazz musician Bill Frisell is 54. Actor Thomas Ian Griffith is 43. Singer James McMurtry is 43. Singer-actress Vanessa L. Williams is 42. Olympic gold medal speedskater Bonnie Blair is 41. Country musician Scott Saunders (Sons of the Desert) is 41. Rock musician Jerry Cantrell (Alice in Chains) is 39. Rock singer-musician Mikki Berenyi is 38. Rapper-actress Queen Latifah is 35. Rock musician Stuart Zender is 31. Singer Devin Lima (LFO) is 28.

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Sinful	1 Building
5 Nautical adverb	2 Decided at the polls
9 Not that much	3 Laundry workers
13 Canoe kin	4 Carter and Day George
14 Fella	5 Ice-cream ingredient
15 Verbal authority	6 Don't interfere with
16 Pour (exert oneself)	7 Walk in
17 In control	8 Musicology prefix
19 Minor accidents	9 Memorable lion of films
21 Light bulbs, in cartoons	10 Range of vision
22 Unevenly worn	11 Wind dir.
23 Garden tool	
26 Garment with stays	
28 Brook fish	
30 Naval off.	
31 Orient	
35 Opening words	
36 Disappointments, so to speak	
39 Zoo animal	
42 Talking bird	
43 Talk down to	
46 Symbol of perfection	
47 Pop, for one	
50 seul (dance solo)	
51 State of India	
56 One of Marge Simpson's sisters	
57 Be subordinate	
60 Agricultural bounty	
62 Aleutian island	
63 Where you'd be happy to walk	
64 avis	
65 Villain's look	
66 Two Years Before the Mast author	

AUTOMOTIVE by A.J. Santora
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

12 El (Mexico City newspaper)	40 Writer LeShan
15 Honey	41 Groom's selection
18 GQ execs.	43 Removes
20 Language suffix	44 Guests of the state
24 Sharer's word	45 Level of achievement
25 DDE command, once	48 Request, with "for"
27 Sri Lanka export	49 Swap-meet transaction
29 Caregivers, in brief	52 Sun, talk
32 S&L device	53 Pelvic bones
33 Farm structure	54 Genesis name
34 Malleable metal	55 New Zealand native
36 Brother's title	58 Western Samoa capital
37 Wilt Chamberlain, circa 1970	59 Some auditors: Abbr.
38 Blame	60 Physique, slangily
39 Go quickly	61 A, to Jose

M
A
R

1
8

2
0
0
5

Golf Insider

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME

Chipping is forgiving

By T.J. TOMASI
Universal Press Syndicate

When you barely miss a green on your approach shot, you have landed in the chipping zone — an area within five yards of the green. The object of chipping is to keep the ball in the air just long enough to clear the rough and fringe around the green with a low shot that lands about a yard onto the green and then rolls the rest of the way to the hole like a putt.

The shot is relatively simple — almost too simple, in the sense that you can reach some degree of proficiency even with bad technique. This is unlike the full swing where bad technique usually leads to such poor results that you realize very quickly something is wrong.

The bad technique I see most often in chipping is too much backswing, an error that causes a decelerating "scooping" action at impact where the club head flips past the hands. An out-of-control backswing violates the basic tenant of good, consistent chipping, i.e., that the ball is struck with a descending, slightly accelerating blow. All good chippers hit the ball this way, and the good news is that the correct way is just as easy to learn as the wrong way.

In the photos here I am working with a student on the root cause of her chipping problem — the out-of-control backswing. In the first photo, I hold a club so the grip end of it will restrict her backswing. In the second photo you can see that it has done just that. The motion should mimic the word: "chip" — short and staccato in its pronunciation as well as its execution.

Shortening this player's backswing to only a third of its original length will force her to change her downswing from a decelerating flip to an accelerating chip. Note also that the ball is positioned off her right ankle, where it needs to be to ensure a descending blow.

If you have this out-of-control problem (and many do), have a friend restrict your backswing as I am doing here until you get the feel.

One final thought: The first priority is to get the feel of the proper technique without regard to distance, so don't chip to a specific hole. Once you have the proper technique you can begin to gauge the flight/roll ratios of the various clubs to a target.

Obviously, a 6-iron rolls much farther than a 9, but the only way to be a consistent chipper is to practice until your "feel system" is programmed to choose the correct club. Of course, if your technique is flawed, these calculations are meaningless, so work on your technique first (sans target) and your touch second (add target).



Shortening this player's backswing will force her to change her downswing to an accelerating chip.



Photos by BRUCE BENNETT / Cox News Service

Tiger Woods has three top-five finishes, including two wins, in five Tour events this year.

Big-name players dominating Tour

This weekend will be another clash of golf's titans as many of the world's best compete at Bay Hill

By GLENN SHEELEY
Cox News Service

Orlando, Fla. What's happened to "Arnie's Army" now that 75-year-old Arnold Palmer virtually has retired from competition?

It used to be fans lining fairways to watch Palmer in his prime and long after it. Now the Army is measured in marquee PGA Tour players assembled to play at his Bay Hill Invitational.

This week's Bay Hill has nine of the top 12 players on the world rankings plus a heavyweight three-some — No. 1 Tiger Woods, No. 3 Ernie Els and No. 5 Retief Goosen — playing together Thursday and Friday.

Not bad for continuing the Florida Swing excitement that moves to The Players Championship next week and then into Georgia for the BellSouth Classic and the Masters.

"You always expect a good field here and next week," said Sergio Garcia, ranked eighth. "The better the players, the more exciting the tournament is, not only for the people, but for us, too."

So far, Florida has been quite the state of thrills after a couple of soggy, less than sensational weeks on the West Coast.

First, Woods outlasted Phil Mickelson at Doral in an event that held near-major excitement, pushing Woods back to No. 1 in the rankings. Then Ireland's Padraig Harrington, who has moved to No. 6 but isn't playing Bay Hill, won a playoff at the Honda Classic Sunday when No. 2 Vijay Singh missed a 30-inch putt.

Woods, as a four-time Bay Hill



Padraig Harrington beat Vijay Singh in a playoff at last week's Honda Classic. Players ranked in the top 10 have already won eight events this year.

2005 WINNERS

This year's PGA results with winner's current world ranking:

- Jan. 6-9: Mercedes Championships (Stuart Appleby, No. 12)
- Jan. 13-16: Sony Open (Vijay Singh, No. 2)
- Jan. 20-23: Buick Invitational (Tiger Woods, No. 1)
- Jan. 26-30: Bob Hope Chrysler Classic (Justin Leonard, No. 22)
- Feb. 3-6: FBR Open (Phil Mickelson, No. 4)
- Feb. 10-13: AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am (Phil Mickelson, No. 4)
- Feb. 17-20: Nissan Open (Adam Scott, No. 9)
- Feb. 23-27: WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship (David Toms, No. 7)
- Feb. 24-27: Chrysler Classic of Tucson (Geoff Ogilvy, No. 53)
- March 3-6: Ford Championship at Doral (Tiger Woods, No. 1)
- March 10-13: Honda Classic (Padraig Harrington, No. 6)

champion; and Els, who has won on consecutive weeks on the European Tour; are probably the co-favorites this week. With rain that has softened Bay Hill's sometimes brick-hard greens and added to the already lush rough, it promises to be yet another rewarding week for long hitters who can keep it fairly straight.

"It's a great field again," Woods said. "It will be just another good test. You're going to have to make a lot of birdies."

With a win, either No. 2 Singh or Els could take over the No. 1 spot if Woods finishes outside the top two.

"But it's not about the No. 1 ranking," Woods said Tuesday. "That's not what drives me. It's about winning golf tournaments. The rankings, the player of the year awards, the money list — all of these things will be taken care

of by winning tournaments. ... I guess it (No. 1) might be interesting for the fans, but I'm not a fan. I'm a competitor. My whole idea is to win a tournament."

So far, the PGA Tour season has been all about quality, with players in the top 12 of the rankings — except for Geoff Ogilvy (53) at Tucson — winning all of the official PGA Tour events. Woods and Mickelson, who likely will share the Masters favorite role with Els next month, each have two PGA Tour wins.

"We had years where it was all about first-time winners, and then years where it was all about the old guys winning," said Stuart Appleby, the two-time Mercedes champion. "Predominantly, if you want to look at averages over the years, the best players are going to win most of the events. That's why they're the best."

SCHEDULE

All Times EST
PGA TOUR
Bay Hill Invitational
• Site: Orlando, Fla.
• Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
• Course: Bay Hill Club and Lodge (7,239 yards, par 72).
• Purse: \$5 million. Winner's share: \$900,000.
• TV: USA (Thursday-Friday, 3-6 p.m.) and NBC (Saturday-Sunday, 2:30-6 p.m.).

LPGA TOUR
Safeway International
• Site: Superstition Mountain, Ariz.
• Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
• Course: Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club, Prospector Course (6,620 yards, par 72).
• Purse: \$1.4 million. Winner's share: \$210,000.
• TV: The Golf Channel (Thursday, 8-10 p.m.; Friday-Sunday, 1:30-3 a.m.; 8-10 p.m.; Monday, 1:30-3 a.m.).

CHAMPIONS TOUR
Toshiba Senior Classic
• Site: Newport Beach, Calif.
• Schedule: Friday-Sunday.
• Course: Newport Beach Country Club (6,571 yards, par 71).
• Purse: \$1.65 million. Winner's share: \$247,500.
• TV: The Golf Channel (Friday-Sunday, 5-7:30 p.m., 10 p.m.-midnight).

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR/ ASIAN TOUR
TCL Classic
• Site: Sanya, China.
• Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
• Course: Yalong Bay Golf Club (7,097 yards, par 72).
• Purse: \$742,666. Winner's share: \$123,772.
• TV: The Golf Channel (Thursday-Sunday, 6-8 a.m.).

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

LEADERS

WORLD RANKINGS	
1. Tiger Woods, USA	12.25
2. Vijay Singh, Fiji	11.77
3. Ernie Els, SA	11.42
4. Phil Mickelson, USA	9.09
5. Retief Goosen, SA	7.33
6. Padraig Harrington, Ire	5.76
7. David Toms, USA	5.23
8. Sergio Garcia, Spn	5.11
9. Adam Scott, Aus	5.04
10. Stewart Cink, USA	4.88
11. Mike Weir, Can	4.65
12. Stuart Appleby, Aus	4.61
13. Davis Love III, USA	4.50
14. Chris DiMarco, USA	4.22
15. M.A. Jimenez, Spn	4.11
16. Darren Clarke, Nir	3.99
17. Chad Campbell, USA	3.59
18. Luke Donald, Eng	3.41
19. Stephen Ames, T&T	3.24
20. Shig. Maruyama, Jpn	3.14

MONEY LEADERS	
PGA TOUR	
Player	Money
1. Phil Mickelson	\$2,723,056
2. Tiger Woods	\$2,366,333
3. David Toms	\$2,240,483
4. Vijay Singh	\$2,102,313
5. Adam Scott	\$1,363,753
6. Stuart Appleby	\$1,154,936
7. P. Harrington	\$1,087,826
8. Joe Ogilvie	\$1,071,910
9. Ernie Els	\$1,018,640
10. Justin Leonard	\$922,200

LPGA TOUR	
Player	Money
1. Annika Sorenstam	\$180,000
2. Cristie Kerr	\$162,213
3. Jennifer Rosales	\$150,000
4. Hee-Won Han	\$112,853
5. Kharrie Webb	\$109,852

CHAMPIONS TOUR	
Player	Money
1. Hale Irwin	\$728,601
2. Dana Quigley	\$456,854
3. Mark McNulty	\$368,382
4. Des Smyth	\$284,500
5. Wayne Levi	\$273,501

THE GOLF DOCTOR

Small coin marks big success

A golfer I know closed a big business deal in the Cayman Islands and felt so good about it that he began using an Elizabeth II 10-cent coin from the islands to mark his golf ball on the greens. He calls it his good luck charm.

Of course, the coin's only power is evocative, but that is power enough when it comes to the fragile golf psyche, so desperate for an edge.

The coin "works" for our Cayman Island golfer because it reminds him of his success; it is a symbol that gives him confidence. Researchers have shown that symbols of your success in one area can motivate you to succeed in another.

The coin holds no such meaning for

someone else and would not help.

PGA Tour professional Duffy Waldorf utilizes the power of the symbol. He has his wife and children mark the golf balls he uses with pictures and messages. His family is his success, the pictures and messages the symbol.

During his 2000 victory at Disney World Resort, Duffy had a hand-drawn picture of Mickey Mouse on one side of his golf ball and on the other side his wife wrote, "Mouse in the House." Silly? Maybe. Successful? Definitely.

The point is that you have almost total control over your immediate environment, so place things in it that remind you of your past successes and you just might have more success in the future.

THE GOLF DOCTOR



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

Q: Can you give me some more of the "never" rules you recently quoted from your book ("The 30-Second Golf Swing")? — **Fred L. from Bethpage, Long Island, N.Y.**

A: Here is one more: Never aim where a straight ball will put you in trouble. Aiming at the trouble and trying to curve the ball away from it often ends in disaster.

No matter how consistently you fade or draw, aiming a ball into a lake and expecting the spin to carry the ball to safety subjects you to the ever-present Murphy's Law. Sure

enough, you'll make your best swing of the day and hit it dead straight, into the water.

Here are some bonus tips from Never-Never Land:

• Never fall asleep on your lay-up shot. Give it the same attention as any other shot.

(a) Never lay up too long. The smooth swing that usually accompanies a lay-up shot often contacts the ball so solidly that it flies longer than normal. Fifteen yards short of the hazard is not much different than 20 yards short, but one yard too long is a penalty. Pick your club conservatively.

(b) Never lay up to an

uneven lie. As a rule, it's better to hit a 7-iron from an even lie than a 9-iron with the ball below your feet.

(c) Never lay up to an awkward distance. Even great players sometimes have trouble when they're at a distance that's in between clubs. For example, it's too far for a normal 8-iron, but a bit too close for a 7-iron. Say your normal sand wedge flies 80 yards and you have 230 yards to the pin. Choose the lay-up club that goes 150 yards so you can hit a full sand wedge to the green, rather than a tricky half-wedge shot.