



Workforce officials revamping statistical methods

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

If the idea the Howard County area had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the Permian Basin seemed far fetched, you're not alone.

Local workforce officials announced this week a revamp of the statistics and methodology used to determine the unemployment rate, which now sits at 6.4 percent, shows a drastically different story than rates

released in previous months.

"The labor market statistics for Howard County and the surrounding areas will appear to have taken a major rise and may, for a moment, surprise our community," said Virginia Belew, area manager for the Big Spring Workforce Network. "Recently the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics adopted a new methodology to define more accurately the employment and unemployment rates for cities

and counties.

"The Texas Workforce Commission adopted this methodology, which uses new census data and a new statistical procedure. The reported unemployment rates given to us in the previous months did not accurately reflect the economic occurrences consistent with the national level data in terms of population changes and other factors that should be considered."

Howard County's rate is the

second highest in the area, behind only Dawson County, which reported a 7.8 percent rate. Other counties include: Andrews, 5.1 percent; Borden, 4.9 percent; Ector, 5.7 percent; Glasscock, 4.5 percent; Martin, 6 percent; and Midland, 4.4 percent.

The unemployment rate for the Permian Basin is at 5.5 percent, while the Texas rate is 6.2 percent. The national rate is 5.7 percent.

"The new method takes into

consideration these aspects, and sudden changes should not be attributed to any change in our local economic activity," Belew stressed. "For our area unemployed, available workers are more accurately identified and counted. This new data should assist businesses planning on expansions and any new prospects that are looking at labor force availability for new projects.

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Permits, grants to get another look by council

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to consider final approval of a special use permit for a restaurant near Big Spring High School and the go-ahead to apply for grants that would provide for projects at Comanche Trail Park and Moss Creek Lake.

The council voted in favor of the permit during its March 8 meeting, with Councilman Greg Biddison abstaining and Councilwoman Jo Ann Knox not present. Biddison said he abstained from the vote because he's in the same type of restaurant business as Jose Zubiate, the owner of the building where the restaurant is planned.

Zubiate said the restaurant, which will double as a donut and ice cream shop, will cater to an array of tastes — with a twist.

"It's going to be a Southern Maid Donut

Shop, which is a franchise," said Zubiate. "Also involved is Kaleidoscoop Ice Cream and more. Besides the donuts and the ice cream, we also plan to offer Tex-Mex pastries and Americana foods — hot wings, burgers, hot dogs and things like that. And all of the products we offer will have some sort of twist to them."

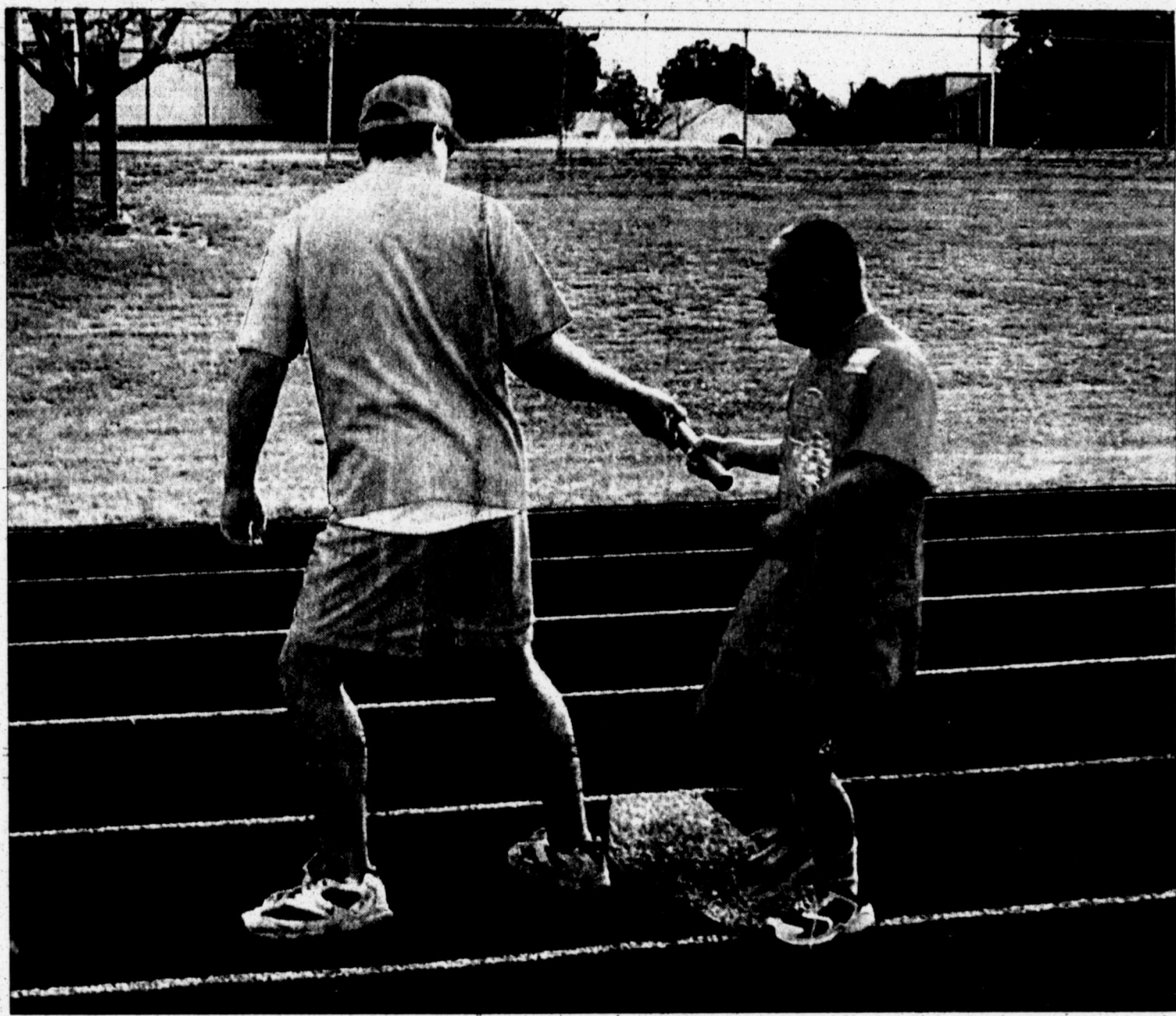
The special use permit is necessary because the parcel of land in question falls under neighborhood services zoning.

The council is also expected to hear a request from Todd Darden, director of public works, which would allow the city to explore several grants that could make some improvements to Comanche Trail Lake and Moss Creek Lake.

Mayor Russ McEwen said one of the grants the city has set its sights on is for a wildflower trail at the park.

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

OFF AND RUNNING



Seth Kim, right, passes off the baton to Stephen Lawson during the 400-meter relay at Saturday's 2005 Special Olympics Spring Track Meet at Blankenship Field.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Social worker workshop set for Wednesday

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald

Finding the correct thing to say at the appropriate time is a skill honed by practice and plenty of experience.

It is not only difficult for the layperson, but for social workers who also struggle to find appropriate messages when communicating with patients and their family members.

A workshop "What To Say and How To Say It" will help social workers face a number of situations they confront every day, said Kathy Salazar, LMSW, Big Spring State Hospital director of social work services.

International human relations consultant and motivational speaker Sidney Hurlbert will conduct the workshop

See **WORKSHOP**, Page 3A

GETTING A WORKOUT



Erin Bartlett, a massage therapist with Servant's Hands, helps work out the kinks for Kay Garrett, risk manager for the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home during the facility's Senior Health Fair Saturday morning.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Congress votes to give Terri Schiavo's parents access to federal court

By MARY DALRYMPLE

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Terri Schiavo's parents won the chance to plea for their daughter's life in federal court with an extraordinary law passed in an emergency session of Congress that saw lawmakers choosing sides in an emotional family battle.

President Bush signed the bill almost immediately after its passage early Monday, vowing in a statement to "stand on the side of those defending life for all Americans, including those with disabilities."

"In cases like this one, where there are serious questions and substantial doubts, our society, our laws and our courts should have a presumption in favor of life," he said.

The law gave Schiavo's parents the right to file suit in federal court over the withdrawal of nourishment and medical treatment needed to sustain their daughter, who suffered severe brain damage 15 years ago.

A lawyer for the parents arrived at federal

district court in Tampa, Fla., not long after Bush signed the bill and filed a request for an emergency injunction to keep Schiavo fed.

Her husband says federal court told him that she wouldn't want to be kept alive in a vegetative state. Her parents, and many of the lawmakers backing their effort to restore her feeding tubes, say she needs treatment and another opportunity for life.

"Tonight we have given Terri Schiavo all we could — a chance to live," said House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas. "After four days of words, the best of them uttered in prayer, Congress has acted and a life may have been saved."

The bill passed the House early Monday after an often wrenching debate that stretched past midnight. It won the backing of virtually all the Republicans and almost half the Democrats who sprinted back to the Capitol for the debate, while 174 of the House's 435 elected

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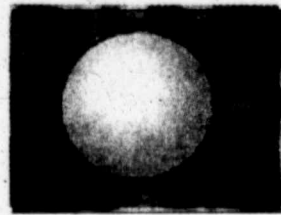
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TONIGHT 40°-42°
TOMORROW 65°-68°
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Obituaries

Melinda Ann Boyd



Melinda Ann Boyd, 30, of Big Spring died Friday, March 18, 2005, in Odessa. Funeral Services will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at First Baptist Church with the Rev. Dennis Teeters, pastor, officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born May 3, 1974, in Big Spring. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. She graduated from Big Spring High School in 1992, and graduated as a Licensed Vocational Nurse from Howard College. She had worked in nursing homes in Big Spring, Stanton, and Midland. More recently she had worked with her father at Boyd's Auto Glass. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

She is survived by her son: Wayland Lee Boyd of Big Spring; her parents: Marvin and Shirley Boyd of Big Spring; a sister: Lisa Garza of Big Spring; a grandmother: Paula Gray of Sabetha, Kan.; and a number of aunts, uncles and cousins.

The family suggests memorials to First Baptist Church, Project Hope, 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring, Texas 79720

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

Larry Ragan

Larry Ragan, 51, of Big Spring died Thursday, March 17, 2005, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Graveside Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at Mt. Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Holston Banks, pastor of the Shiloh House of Praise, officiating.

He was born Oct. 12, 1953, in Alabama. He was a roofer, carpenter, and had also worked at 87 Auto Sales.

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

Miguel Hernandez

Miguel Hernandez, 71, of Big Spring died Sunday morning, March 20, 2005, at his residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take note

A MEMORIAL FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF TYBO JACOBS at the First Bank of West Texas in Coahom and Big Spring to help with funeral costs. He died in an automobile accident March 10.

MEMBERS OF THE PUGA FAMILY are searching for family members to invite to a family reunion July 2 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Contact Anna Gutierrez-Trevino at 466-1780.

HOWARD COUNTY A&M CLUB SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2005-2006 are being accepted. Applications may be obtained from Mike or Jeane Niklasch at 1409 E. Highway 350 or by calling the club president, Dr. Tom Dawson at 267-7911, ext. 216. Application deadline is April 15.

DEREK CHURCHWELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP has been established at Howard College. Donations may be made to the Howard College Foundation in care of Jan Foresyth, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Designate the Derek Churchwell Scholarship Fund.

HOWARD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD is seeking financial donations to provide support for children in Howard County who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Contact Patti Richard at 432-559-6953 or mail donations to HCCWB P.O. Box 3101 Big Spring, 79721.

LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

HERITAGE MUSEUM is accepting donations of costumes to be used with the new theme party area opening in May. Call the museum at 267-8255.

FRIENDS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY have scheduled a used book sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Thursday in the new building across from the White Ford Motor Company, near the post office. The sale benefits the restoration of a library building. For more information contact Bud Lindsey at 756-2306.

A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR 6-WEEK-OLD MAGGIE VASQUEZ TO ASSIST WITH THE EXPENSES OF A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT. She is the daughter of Susan Vasquez and Steve Nail of Big Spring. Maggie was born prematurely and suffers from kidney failure. She remains in Dallas Children's Hospital undergoing daily dialysis treatment until the transplant match is found and the surgery performed. The account number at the bank is 9013091. For more information, contact Parks Convient Store at 263-4498 or Denise 816-1539.

AN ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT TRISTIN RANGEL, son of Ione and Tim Rangel, has been set up at the Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union, 2204 Gregg Street. No. 79902, to help with medical expenses. He has been diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia and is in a Lubbock hospital.

Police blotter

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

- **CHASE ALLEN MUSGROVE**, 17, 212 Sandlin Rd., was arrested on a charge of driving under the influence.
- **LOPEZ ISAAC VIDANA**, 25, Ackerly, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JESUS ACOSTA TARIN**, 44, 1507 E. 11th Pl., was arrested on local warrants.
- **SELESTINO HERNANDEZ III**, 19, 2627 Langley Dr., was arrested on charges of failure to identify, theft, and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 38, 1023 Stadium St., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **MARK TIMOTHY STANLEY**, 43, 309 W. Fourth St., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **CHAD EVERETT WARREN**, 25, 1310 Tucson St., was arrested on a charge of evading arrest.
- **JOSE TRINIDAD CANTU**, 23, 1500 E. 11th Pl., was arrested on a charge of evading arrest.
- **STEVEN FRANCO**, 20, 1202 Ridgeroad St., was arrested on a charge of evading arrest.
- **JIMMY CANTU**, 20, 1500 E. 11th Pl., was arrested on a charge of evading arrest.
- **WILLIAM RYAN LOCKE**, 30, Colorado City, was arrested on a Howard County warrant.
- **HOWARD BRANDON JOHNSON**, 20, 500 Goliad St., was arrested on charges of possession of a controlled substance, unlawfully carrying a weapon and driving while license suspended.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported on the 3200 block of Auburn Street.
- **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported on the 900 block of Gregg Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported on the 1400 block of Stadium Street.
- **UNLAWFULLY CARRYING A WEAPON** was reported on the 300 block of Circle Drive.
- **THEFT** was reported on the 2300 block of Wasson Road, the 300 block of Gregg Street and the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **SIMON ELADIO ZUBIATE JR.**, 24, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a bondsman off bond warrant for possession of marijuana.
- **DARRIN LEE WEBB**, 34, was transferred from the Big Spring Police Department after his arrest on a charge of sexual assault.
- **LESLIE WADE COFFMAN**, 42, was transferred from the BSPD after being arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **MARGARET EVELYN CLANTON**, 30, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a charge of theft by check.
- **CARL WILLIAM-TABOR WELLS**, 22, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transport.
- **MELVIN DEWAYNE WILLIAMS**, 37, was arrested by sheriff's deputies on a charge of public intoxication.
- **WILLIAM RYAN LOCKE**, 30, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on a charge of theft.
- **JIMMY ANTHONY CANTU**, 18, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on a charge of evading arrest.
- **STEVEN FRANCO**, 20, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on a charge of evading arrest.
- **JOSE TRINIDAD CANTU**, 23, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on a charge of evading arrest.
- **HOWARD BRANDON JOHNSON**, 20, was transferred from the BSPD after his arrest on charges of possession of a controlled substance, unlawfully carrying a weapon and driving while license suspended.
- **THEFT** was reported on the 100 block of N.E. Broadway in Coahoma.
- **ASSAULT** was reported on the 300 block of Main Street.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Monday:

- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 200 block of Edwards Boulevard. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 100 block of E. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1300 block of Tucson Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported on the 1300 block of Lincoln Street. Service was refused.
- **PUBLIC SERVICE** was reported on the 1700 block of Purdue Street. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1100 block of Johnson Street. One person was transported to Big Spring VA Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1700 block of Morrison Street. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported on the 1800 block of Nolan Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

SOON THE MARK OF THE BEAST WILL BE ENFORCED

Those that receive it, will receive the wrath of God. Find out who the BEAST is, and how to avoid his MARK. No obligation. No one will call. Write or Call for free book.

THE BIBLE SAYS
P.O. BOX 771 ATHENS TN 37371
Phone Toll Free 1-888-211-1715

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.
- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
- Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.
- The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1105 Birdwell Lane. For more information, call Tracey Pounds at 268-4948.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 8-30-38-39-44. Bonus Ball: 5. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$27 million.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery: 3-19-21-23-29

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 9-7-6

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon: 1-8-4

Weather

Today — Mostly sunny. Windy. Highs in the mid 70s. West winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to 25 to 35 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight — Mostly clear. Lows around 40. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph decreasing to 10 to 15 mph after midnight.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tuesday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. North winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Warmer. Lows around 50.

Thursday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Friday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

Friday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

Saturday — Partly cloudy. Highs around 70.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Sunday — Mostly sunny. Highs around 70.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Jury deliberating Williams' fate in smuggling deaths case

HOUSTON (AP) — Jurors today began deliberating the fate of a New York man accused of driving and abandoning a trailer at the center of the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt.

If convicted, Tyrone Williams could be executed for his role in the May 2003 smuggling attempt that resulted in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants. He faces 58 counts of conspiracy, harboring and transporting illegal immigrants.

The jury of five men and seven women got the case late Friday after prosecutors and defense attorneys rested and both sides presented their closing arguments.

If the jury convicts him of any of the 20 counts which are eligible for the death penalty, it will hear further evidence against him in the punishment phase of the trial and then decide whether he should be executed.

If it finds Williams guilty only of non-death penalty eligible counts, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore will sentence him at a later date.

Prosecutors said Williams was paid \$7,500 by a smuggling ring to transport more than 70 illegal immigrants in his sweltering tractor-trailer from Harlingen to Houston.

They told jurors Williams ignored the immigrants' screams for help during the four-hour journey, abandoning the airtight trailer at a truck stop in

Victoria. Seventeen people died inside the trailer from dehydration, hyperthermia and suffocation, and two others died later.

Two teens arrested for murder in ice cream vendor's death

DALLAS (AP) — Two teenagers have been arrested in the robbery and fatal shooting of an ice cream vendor over the weekend, police said.

Authorities said Gilbert Garcia, 18, and an unidentified 14-year-old boy, committed two other robberies before they shot and killed Alfonso Fuentes, 28, on Saturday.

Garcia has been charged with capital murder. Authorities were deciding whether to try the 14-year-old as an adult.

Additional charges were possible, Dallas Police Sgt. Larry Lewis said.

Fuentes had been working as an ice cream seller for two years but planned to join his wife and 2-year-old daughter in Mexico in December. He was the second ice cream vendor killed in less than two years in the Oak Cliff neighborhood of Dallas.

High school football player killed in shooting at party

DALLAS (AP) — A North Texas high school football player was shot to death after a man opened fire at a party, police said.

Dallas Lincoln sophomore Pat Hill was shot and killed late Saturday in Arlington when a man who was not

invited to the party began firing indiscriminately moments after he was asked to leave, police said.

Hill, 16, was the backup free safety on last season's Class 4A Division II state finalist football team. He played mostly on special teams last season, but the team's coaches said they expected he would start next season and could someday play in college.

"I just can't believe this. He was like my little brother," said Courtney Herndon, a starter in the defensive secondary who was Hill's mentor last season. "It just hurts to see that he's gone."

Hill was shot once in the chest. Investigators do not believe Hill was the gunman's intended target, Arlington police spokesman Lt. Blake Miller said.

Former medical partners still at odds after split

HOUSTON (AP) — Officials at Baylor College of Medicine are worried whether a new research institute by Methodist Hospital will result in the loss of more staff to its former longtime partner and continued bad feelings between the two.

Baylor College of Medicine announced last year that Methodist would no longer serve as its primary adult teaching hospital. That ended a 50-year partnership between the institutions at the famed Texas Medical Center.

Baylor, seen as an elite medical school, instead forged an alliance with St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, another medical center facility and longtime Methodist rival.

The acrimonious split has resulted in a battles over office and hospital space, staff and ownership of certain funds.

The latest battle centers around Methodist's new Neurological Institute. More than 50 scientists, administrators, clinical coordinators who will work for the institute's first division are coming from Baylor.

The \$500 million institute appears to be the cornerstone of Methodist's plans to solidify its reputation as an elite hospital and regain access to the cutting-edge research it lost when its relationship with Baylor ended.

Body of missing 9-year-old found in Gulf of Mexico

PORT O'CONNOR (AP) — The body of a 9-year-old boy missing in the Gulf of Mexico for a week has been found.

State game wardens found the body of Michael Fletcher of San Antonio early Saturday afternoon on the shoreline at Palacios Point, about six miles northeast of where the boat he and 11 others were on capsized March 12 near Port O'Connor.

"It's a tough thing, but the family now has some closure," said Capt. Nick Harmon, who led the search after the Coast Guard turned it over to Texas Parks and Wildlife last week.

Although Fletcher was reportedly wearing a life jacket when he entered the water, it is believed he slipped out of it as he drifted in and out of consciousness, the Coast Guard reported.

A 5-year-old boy also died in the accident.

SCHIAVO

Continued from Page 1A

members did not vote.

Meantime, 70 percent of Americans say Congress' action was inappropriate and 67 percent thought the elected officials were trying to keep Schiavo alive were doing so more for political advantage than out of concern for her or the principles involved, according to a poll conducted for ABC News. The poll was conducted by telephone on March 20, among a ran-

dom national sample of 501 adults. The results have a 4.5-point error margin. The sampling, data collection and tabulation were done by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

House Republicans scrambled to yank lawmakers back from a two-week Easter recess and amass the 218 votes necessary to bring the bill to a vote. The Senate approved the measure on Sunday by voice vote in a nearly empty chamber.

Several lawmakers recounted their families'

struggles with decisions about caring for incapacitated relatives in an often emotional debate over who should decide life and death.

Many Republicans said Terri Schiavo isn't in the hopeless state that her husband portrays.

"We have heard very moving accounts of people close to Terri that she is, indeed, very much alive," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. "She laughs, she cries and she smiles with those around her."

Some Democrats coun-

tered that elected lawmakers weren't qualified to make a medical diagnosis or second-guess the decisions made by Florida courts.

"I don't know who's right and who's wrong, but that's the point. Neither do my colleagues," said Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va.

A few Republicans questioned the motives of Terri Schiavo's husband, Michael, suggesting he doesn't have his wife's best interest at heart.

"Now, he has had her feeding tube removed and

sentenced her to a most excruciating death, citing Terri's own wishes as the rationale..." said Rep. Jim Ryun, R-Kan. "Michael did not remember this supposed request until years after Terri's initial injuries when a cash settlement was awarded to her, a settlement he would stand to inherit."

And a few Democrats lobbed accusations at Republicans that political motives drove their passion for Schiavo and her parents.

"If you don't want a decision to be made political-

ly, why in the world do you ask 535 politicians to make it? Does anyone think that this decision will be made without consideration of electoral support or party or ideology? Of course not," said Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.

WORKSHOP

Continued from Page 1A

from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Allred Building auditorium. The workshop is being

held in conjunction with National Social Worker Month and is sponsored by the Social Work Services departments at Big Spring State Hospital and the Veterans Administration.

"The presentation will give insight into why people do what they do and how we choose to respond to them," Salazar said. "This presentation will help social workers choose to deal ethically

with their clients and each other."

During a break in the session, Big Spring State Hospital will present its Social Worker of the Year award. Registration begins at

12:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 and three hours of Social Worker Ethics Continuing Education will be offered.

For more information, contact Robin Riha at 268-7557.

STATS

Continued from Page 1A

"Contrary to the previous reports we had been receiving, Howard County is not experiencing low unemployment. Reports for the previous months indicated we had a rate of 3.8, sometimes as low as 3.4, giving us a job seekers market. Today's report indicates we have a high unemployment rate."

Taking the methodology into consideration, Belew said the unemployment rate in Howard County rose 0.6 percent between December and January.

"According to these figures, our unemployment rate increased 6/10 of a percent," said Belew. "This is attributed to holiday seasonal job ending after Jan. 1. The agriculture industry continues to maintain most of the seasonal jobs created in the Fall season."

While the local work-

force network continues to adjust to the new figures, Belew said they are working on offering new services, including some in conjunction with the local junior college.

"Our office continues to search for ways to match employers with job seekers," said Belew. "We'll soon begin planning a job fair, along with Howard College and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. Interested employers should contact the local office, through

the business services unit, to indicate any interest.

"As young people prepare to look for summer jobs, the first advice we have to give them is for them to register at workintexas.com. Assistance is provided for anyone than needs help doing this. Computer use is free to the public in our resource room."

"Beginning this month, a representative from Howard College will be in our office every last

Thursday of the month. Financial aid information and college enrollment, as well as advisement, will be provided."

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

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

"The cost of the trail is \$6,000," said McEwen. "We're looking very closely at that grant for the nature trail at Comanche Trail Park. We're also looking at some other grants for work at Moss Creek Lake, but nothing specific at this time."

Also on Tuesday's agenda are:

• Presentation of the Mayor's Award to the Academic All-State Class 4A football athletes.

• Final reading of an ordinance authorizing a four-way stop at the intersection of Scurry and 24th Street. The four-way stop was recently considered and approved by the city's traffic commission.

• First reading of an ordinance appointing election judges and determining rate of pay.

• First reading of an ordinance declaring the unopposed candidate for the District 1 council seat, held by Stephanie Horton, as elected to office.

• First reading of a reso-

lution approving the standard specifications for public works construction.

• Emergency reading of a resolution accepting a settlement between TXU

Electric Delivery and the Steering Committee of Cities served by TXU.

The meeting is expected to get under way at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, locat-

ed at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

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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. Graveside Services will be at 2:00 PM Tuesday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Melinda Boyd, 30, died Friday. Funeral Services will be at 4:00 PM Wednesday at First Baptist Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Miguel Hernandez, 71, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

DR. JOHN MYERS
looks NIFTY AT FIFTY
WITH HAIR
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Asbestos suit bill could make situation better

It's a simple principle: If you're sick, you deserve your day in court. But that's not been the history of asbestos litigation in the United States. Court dockets remain clogged with lawsuits from people who have been exposed to asbestos but aren't sick, a practice that diverts dollars and court attention from those who really need help.

A bill from state Rep. Joe Nixon, R-Houston, could change that for the better. His measure would set medical standards to determine whether a person has an illness or impairment from asbestos exposure. Only if a case meets certain medical standards will it be allowed into Texas courts. A person whose case doesn't meet the standards now won't be shut out entirely. That person will be able to file a lawsuit if he or she later becomes ill.

It's a smart, commonsense reform. About 40 percent of asbestos claims in the United States are in Texas courts, the result of creative venue-shopping. Moreover, a Rand Institute study estimates that up to 90 percent of asbestos claimants do not suffer from any physical impairment from asbestos-related disease.

These cases not only are hurting legitimate victims, but also are driving scores of businesses into financial ruin. In 2003, more than 200,000 new claims were filed in courts across the country, many against companies whose only misstep is that they used asbestos in their buildings years ago.

Ideally, Congress should put the brakes on this mess, but it has repeatedly deadlocked on the issue. The latest attempt by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., would remove cases from the courts, create a \$140 billion asbestos compensation fund to pay victims and shield businesses from future asbestos-related litigation. Yet the measure is bogged down with complaints from both Democrats and Republicans, and it's not clear whether Congress will find a consensus soon.

That shouldn't stop Texas lawmakers from doing what is right and fair. The Texas measure will stop the legal lottery and provide help to those who need it most.

The Morning News
Dallas

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

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- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per 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 e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You teach us great things, Lord, throughout out lives. May we pay attention.

Amen

GOP breaks ranks on Medicaid cuts

While the news media's attention last Thursday was fixed on steroids in baseball, Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire delivered a grim prediction on the Senate floor. If a pending amendment to the budget resolution passed, the Senate Budget Committee chairman said, it "will guarantee that the issue of Medicaid is not addressed... in this decade." The amendment passed, 52 to 48, with implications well beyond one program.



ROBERT NOVAK

This eliminated \$15 billion of reductions in Medicaid increases over five years, meaning the Republican-controlled Senate choked over cutting just four-tenths of one percent of entitlements. The vote represented a reluctance to touch a program of health care for the poor swollen far beyond its original intent. If Congress cannot control Medicaid, how can it be expected to deal with the more daunting problems of Medicare and Social Security? Last Thursday, the Senate voted for spending, Gregg, a flinty New England Yankee not given to exaggeration, called the Senate's action a "disaster."

In a half-century of watching Congress, I have never seen anything like the unified Democratic stand against any reduction in entitlements or discretionary spending. For all their lecturing about restoring "fiscal integrity," Democrats in both houses of Congress support only tax increases

and provide no help whatsoever in cutting spending. But last Thursday's melancholy developments show that Republicans, more than a decade after taking over Congress, cannot stand up against spending either.

President Bush's Medicaid reductions were modest, and they were trimmed by Gregg's Budget Committee. But that was still too much for Sen. Gordon Smith, a Republican representing the "Blue" state of Oregon who offered his amendment eliminating the Medicaid cuts. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist tried to cut off support for Smith's amendment with a face-saving proposal to pledge the integrity of Medicaid. But he lost six votes (including the normally reliable Norm Coleman) as Frist's amendment was rejected, 51 to 49. The veteran Republican Sen. Arlen Specter, ever the artful dodger, voted for the Frist amendment and then, seeing which way the tide rolled, voted for the Smith amendment (which passed 52 to 48).

These Republican defections may seem minor, but they proved decisive in view of Democratic solidarity. Two nights before the House and Senate budget votes, two senior House Democrats told me not one of their colleagues ever will vote to reduce their constituents' Social Security benefits.

No Democrat broke ranks on the Frist and Smith amendments. Every Democrat in both the House and Senate voted against their respective budget resolutions on final passage. The "no" votes by 12 House Republicans meant the budget passed by only a four-vote margin.

GOP defections nearly lost the budget resolution itself on final

Senate passage. Intense pressure was put on Sen. Susan Collins to abandon her fellow Maine Republican, Sen. Olympia Snowe, to vote for the resolution. Collins was told it was important for her, as a standing committee chairman, to support the president and the majority leader. She did, and the resolution passed, 51 to 49. Had Collins broken ranks and made it a 50-50 vote, four other Republicans were ready to jump the wall and defeat the resolution.

But to what purpose was it saved? Nobody is sure a Senate-House conference can produce a compromise package. House conferees will insist on taking at least a small first step toward cutting entitlements, but the same six or seven Republican senators who killed the Medicaid cuts will resist that. If, on the other hand, the conferees end up with something like the Senate version.

The problem is the mindset of Gordon Smith in talking about needs of "the most vulnerable people in our society" trumping the need to control government spending. Gregg responded to his colleague with blunt language: "It is absolutely critical that this year we address the Medicaid issue and why it is not going to impact any children and why all this 'wearing your heart on the sleeve' language we heard around here is a large amount of puffery." But he couldn't find 49 other Republican senators who agreed with him.

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

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Is this a gender, or political issue?

Lucky me. No one can accuse me of being a token female columnist, because I'm the only full-time columnist writing for this opinion page. (Editorial writer Ken Garcia writes a weekly column.)

Last month, when syndicated columnist Susan Estrich went public with her feud with Los Angeles Times Editorial Page Editor Michael Kinsley for not running enough columns by women and local writers, she put the gender card back on the table.

Credit Estrich for getting the pack journalists to find a big story in a phenomenon any rube can see. Stop the presses: Most opinion writers are men.

It doesn't help Estrich that the Los Angeles Times is not the worst offender. In the first nine weeks of 2005, the Times reported, 20 percent of its op-ed pieces were written by women, while just 17 percent were at The New York Times and a mere 10 percent at The Washington Post. Editor & Publisher, the news industry's trade magazine, looked at eight news syndicates and found that 24 percent of their opinion writers are women.

It also doesn't help Estrich that she went ballistic on this issue after the L.A. Times ran a piece written by "a woman" — Charlotte Allen of the conservative

Independent Women's Forum. Estrich explained on the phone that she wants to promote both liberal and conservative women, but "after you've been trying for years to get more women voices heard, to find one of the few women voices saying where are the women voices?" — well, she found that "insulting."

Estrich may say she wants to promote diversity of opinion as well as gender diversity, but I've been watching the diversity game for some years. In journalism, diversity is a club the left uses to increase the hiring of lefties. Feminists say they want "more" female columnists when what they really want are "only more liberal" female columnists. Or, in their lingo, they want "authentic" women. So when the left pushes for more diversity in a profession that is overwhelmingly liberal already, it really is pushing for less diversity of ideas.

Why are there fewer female opinion-page columnists than men? It's funny: Opinion mavens — who can chime in on everything from steroids to farm policy — suddenly can't quite figure it out. Kinsley told his paper he can't explain it. New York Times Editorial Page Editor Gail Collins told The Washington Post's Howard Kurtz, "There are probably fewer women, in the great cosmic scheme of things, who feel comfortable writing very straight opinion stuff." (Note: If Harvard University President Larry Summers had said what Collins said, feminist professors would be demanding one of his body parts.)

In my career as a journalist, I've been on the receiving end of subtle sexism. Can I prove it? No, it's subtle. My conservatism, not my gender, has been the big issue. It is a two-edged sword, clearing the way at times, barring the way at others. And I've had to pay a price at times for not being conservative enough. I'm not complaining: It goes with the territory.

When I speak in public, there are two questions people invariably ask: One is, "Why is journalism so overwhelmingly liberal?" Recently, a Bay Area journalism professor actually told me that conservatives shouldn't be journalists because conservatives are less likely to question the status quo.

I disagreed with his definition, but I responded that this region is filled with liberals, so if you want reporters who will question the status quo, you should push Bay Area media to hire more conservatives. To this, he said nothing, and then left the room. There went his noble reason for muzzling the opposition.

The other question I hear is: How do I survive at The San Francisco Chronicle? And that question has nothing to do with the fact that I am a woman.

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

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Rolfing

By CAROLYN

Knight Ridder

FORT WORTH Rolfing "hooker" pain in my leg and held it until it mysteriously or he mashed away, or some know is, it's first Rolfing tered on my opening up between the fibula to give stable, balance each time I take. But it was t work, almost thought, that Rolfing, nar woman who o in the '40s, wa ularized unt Institute was in 1972. It's on ting its stride boomers looki native forms to make them ance both m physically.

Most simply a way of reorg structure of body so that ments are bal a vertical lin feel your ent an integrated It has a rep being painful, Rolfing appli pressure with fingertips, fo elbow to fre sions that ar ing muscles, even bones th pushed, pu knocked sligh kilter over th trauma, stre habits.

A form of wh ically known a — which incl pathic ma yoga, physica chiropractic a lesser-known realigning th Rolfing involv lation of the nective tissue ing of muscle modate the ne ing.

"The point is lish order in t of the body so major segme vertical align they can func ly," says Rey tified Rolfing practice at So Fort Worth. ward pull of be an uplift body parts a

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Rolfing: Re-establishing order within the body

By CAROLYN POIROT

Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH — The Rolfer "hooked in" to the pain in my left shoulder and held it in a tight cramp until somehow, I mysteriously let it go — or he mashed it out of the way, or something. All I know is, it's gone. My first Rolfing session centered on my lower legs — opening up the space between the tibia and the fibula to give me a more stable, balanced landing each time I take a step.

But it was the shoulder work, almost an afterthought, that hooked me. Rolfing, named for the woman who developed it in the '40s, was never popularized until the Rolf Institute was established in 1972. It's only now hitting its stride, with baby boomers looking for alternative forms of medicine to make them feel in balance both mentally and physically.

Most simply, Rolfing is a way of reorganizing the structure of the human body so that body segments are balanced along a vertical line and you feel your entire body as an integrated whole.

It has a reputation for being painful, because the Rolfer applies enough pressure with his or her fingertips, forearm and elbow to free up adhesions that are constricting muscles, joints and even bones that have been pushed, pulled and knocked slightly out of kilter over the years by trauma, stress or bad habits.

A form of what is generally known as bodywork — which includes osteopathic manipulation, yoga, physical therapy, chiropractic and a lot of lesser-known means of realigning the body — Rolfing involves manipulation of the body's connective tissue and stretching of muscles to accommodate the new positioning.

"The point is to re-establish order in the structure of the body so that all the major segments are in vertical alignment where they can function properly," says Rey Allen, a certified Rolfer in private practice at Soul Fitness in Fort Worth. "The downward pull of gravity can be an uplifting force if body parts are properly

organized for biomechanical efficiency."

Allen pulls the bottom of my T-shirt down and out of shape to demonstrate how gravity can affect the fascia, the envelope of connective tissue that wraps around muscles, joints and other body components like an endless spider web of elastic bands. When a component gets out of place, even a little bit — jumbled inside the envelope — it can cause crowding, strain, twisting and binding, which force the body to work against gravity.

Picture a building that has lost its architectural integrity, Allen suggests. When a building is even slightly off center, gravity can cause it to sag until finally it loses balance and begins to collapse under its own weight.

I walked out of my introductory Rolfing session visualizing that building — slightly askew and in danger of falling down — and thinking: How fortuitous! I've felt off balance, like that, as long as I can remember. I also wondered what I was letting myself in for when I agreed to return for at least two more sessions.

Although Rolfing has gotten a reputation over the years as "New Age physical therapy," Rolfers say it is actually an outgrowth of yoga and more closely related to osteopathic manipulation, which changes the way the bones of the body relate to each other but is not involved with stretching soft tissue and lengthening muscles.

Dr. Jennifer Alexander, an internal medicine specialist in Fort Worth, started a series of 10 weekly Rolfing sessions last April and says she now schedules a "general session" about every three months to keep her structural integration at its prime.

"I was having some back pain, not resolving with osteopathic manipulation, and my doctor recommended it," said Alexander, an osteopathic physician.

"Almost immediately, I was able to breathe more deeply. My posture improved significantly. My overall energy increased, my flexibility. Everything got better," she says.

The improvements were



Certified rolfer Rey Allen works on one of his clients, professional ballet dancer Erin Rivera-Brennand, at his office in Fort Worth.

not without pain.

"For me, it was a painful process — mostly a little muscle soreness — but I'm pain-free now," Alexander says. "It's an interactive treatment, not like a massage, where you are passive. You incorporate a lot of breathing. You breathe into his hands 1/8 as he grasps deep tissue 3/8, working along with him while he works muscles."

The idea of breathing into your kneecap or the outer arch of your foot may seem a little strange, indeed even New Age-y, but concentrate and think it through, and you can feel the breath rush out of your lungs and into the space indicated.

Terry Dybala, who works for Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County (Texas), started a series of 10 Rolfing sessions in September after her foot became tangled in an auger last summer.

"I had been Rolfed before, years ago, and I thought, 'Oh, my God, this is going to be painful,' but I knew pain — foot pain, and hip pain from trying to compensate for the foot pain, and I was open to the whole idea that Rolfing was going to help me feel better in all kinds of ways," says Dybala, who considered physical therapy but says she chose Rolfing because she was looking for more than pain relief.

"I was just twisted. My body was out of balance," she says. "My goal was to be comfortable in my own skin, to stand straighter, taller, to get grounded, become a little more spiritual. It makes me feel

more content with myself, more connected physically and spiritually. I wish more people would do it."

Dybala believes Rolfing's reputation for pain, along with the cost — \$100 to \$170 per session in the Fort Worth/Dallas area, depending in part on the length of the session (60 to 90 minutes) — has prevented it from becoming more popular. But, she says, "Most people don't hesitate to pay \$120 for a nice pair of shoes, and this makes you feel a lot better than new shoes."

There's a lot of positive reinforcement involved in Rolfing.

"That's right. That's good. That's what you want to do. Easy now. That's good. Are you still with me? That's good. Breathe into my hand. You can do this. It's going to start easing off. That's what it wants to do. That's it. You've got it," Allen says over and over as he works strong fingertips and sometimes his forearm deep into long-constricted muscles.

Rolfing is a 10-step system of structural integration and movement education developed by Ida P. Rolf, Ph.D., to help deal with her own family health problems. Born in 1896, she earned her doctorate in biological chemistry from Columbia University in New York City in 1920 and worked at the Rockefeller Institute before she began traveling and teaching her philosophy and methods worldwide. Finally, she established the Rolf Institute of Structural Integration in Boulder, Colo., in 1972.

wants some sort of change — sometimes they are dealing with a physical problem or they want to improve their posture or they feel like they are stiff and stuck; they don't have the flexibility they once did," Loggins says. "Sometimes they are in pain, but it may not be physical. It might be emotional. Sometimes, they are just curious. A lot of people still don't know what Rolfing is."

I walked out of my third Rolfing session feeling lighter and longer and looking up so that the tilt of my forehead was no longer putting extra gravitational force on my neck.

I untucked my pelvis, which had the effect of flattening my belly without me consciously holding it in.

I was more aware of my feet and their connection with the rest of me, including my shoulders, which seemed to hang more freely from my spine.

I felt good — inside and out.

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New details emerge in Florida girl's abduction, murder

By MIKE BRANOM

Associated Press Writer
HOMOSASSA, Fla. — At Jessica Lunsford's church, the Rev. William LaVerle Coats asked his congregation to do the nearly impossible: Forgive the convicted sex offender accused of sexually assaulting and then killing the 9-year-old girl.

As more details emerged about the child's abduction and death, her father said he wanted nothing more than to personally mete out justice to the man suspected in the crimes.

"I won't get the wish, but I wish I could see him, just one time," Mark Lunsford said Sunday.

His daughter, Jessica Marie Lunsford, was snatched from her home last month by a registered sex offender who entered through an unlocked door and later sexually assaulted her, officials said after examining her body.

Because the suspect, John Evander Couey, was under the influence of drugs, detectives might never know how long she was held before she was slain, Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsey said.

Couey, 46, has not yet been charged with any crimes related to Jessica's disappearance; Dawsey has repeatedly said he wants prosecutors to seek the

death penalty. Couey was booked early Sunday on a probation violation and failure to register his change of address as required as a sex offender.

"I don't believe you have two chances when you get involved with a young child," Dawsey told ABC's "Good Morning America" early Monday.

According to authorities, Couey confessed to kidnapping and killing Jessica after taking a lie-detector test in Georgia. The girl's body was found early Saturday, more than

three weeks after she vanished from her bedroom. Now, Mark Lunsford and his relatives said they would soon begin planning Jessica's funeral.

At Jessica's church on Sunday, the pastor asked for prayers for the family.

"Lord, we don't always understand your ways," Coats told 175 mourners during services at Faith Baptist Church, where many people saw the girl for the last time in the night she disappeared. "We accept what has taken place here, and ask

that you would give us some peace."

Coats also asked churchgoers to forgive Couey; Jessica's father said he may have a hard time with that request. "He needs to stand up and be a man now and take his death penalty," Mark Lunsford said.

Earlier Sunday, Couey appeared before a judge at the Citrus County jail. He was declared indigent, held without bail and was told a public defender would be assigned to his case.

Couey returned to

Florida in an unmarked sheriff's vehicle, wearing a bulletproof vest. As a precaution, the timing of his arrival from Georgia was kept secret. Although the sheriff's office was not aware of any threats against Couey, the suspect was being held in isolation for his safety, authorities said.

Down the street from the Lunsford home, well-wishers piled dozens of stuffed animals, flowers and candles high on a makeshift memorial. "God's newest little angel," one sign read.

Jessica, a third grader, was last seen the night of Feb. 23 when she went to bed after attending church. She was discovered missing the next morning. Her body was found near a mobile home where Couey had been staying at the time of the abduction.

Couey's half sister and two others who lived in the home were charged with obstructing police for failing to notify authorities when Couey allegedly told them he had committed a crime.

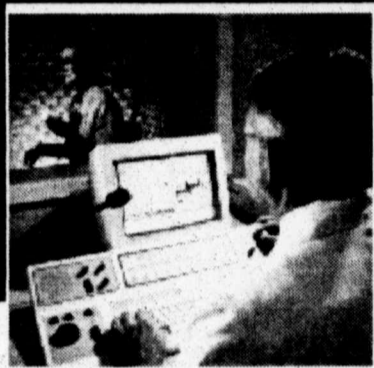
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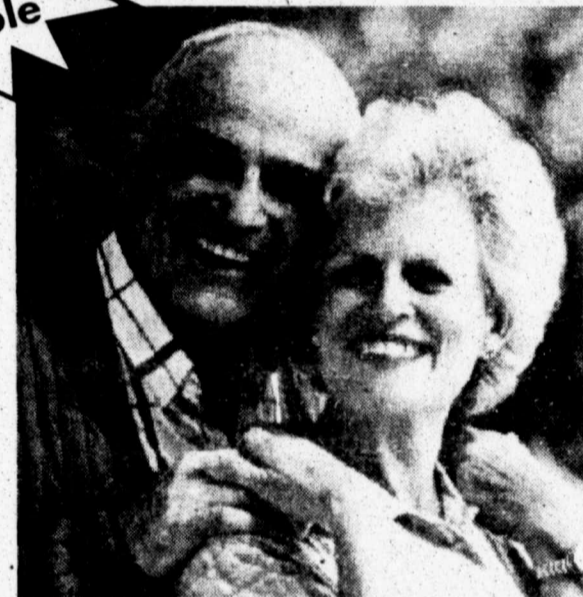


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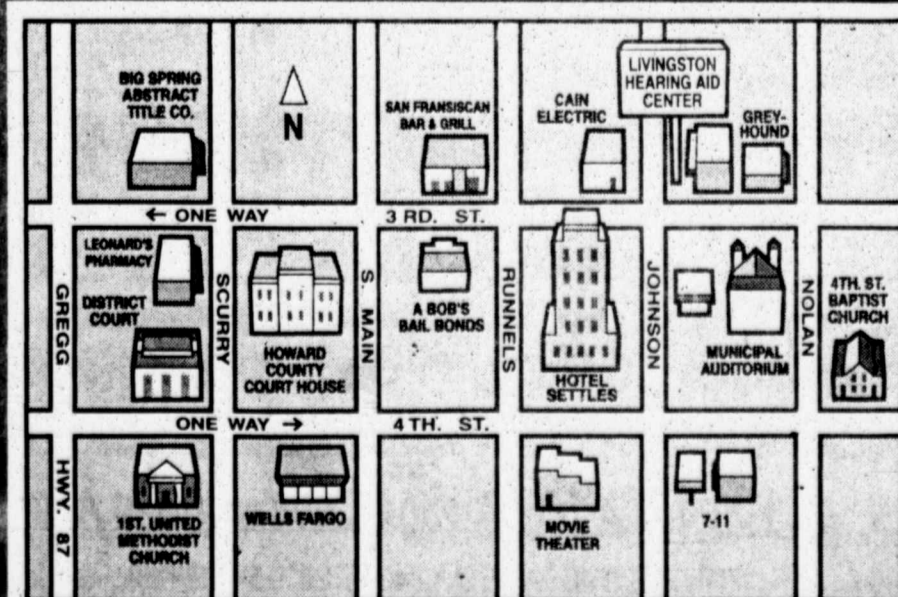
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Gas prices hit record; Expected only to rise

By GARY GENTILE

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Nationwide gas prices soared over 12 cents during the past two weeks to reach a record high and an analyst predicted more sticker shock at the pump in the days ahead.

Prices should continue to rise in the next few weeks on strong demand and supply problems caused by the transition to cleaner-burning gasoline mixtures as summer approaches, said Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the semimonthly Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations across the country.

"There are not any gas price factors that indicate anywhere but up," Lundberg said.

The average retail price for all three grades increased 12.74 cents to \$2.13 per gallon between March 4 and March 18, according to survey results released Sunday.

The most popular grade — self-serve regular — was priced at \$2.10 a gallon, while customers paid \$2.20 for mid-grade. Premium averaged \$2.29 a gallon for the period.

That is the largest price hike since the run-up to May 21, 2004, when prices hit a previous record of \$2.10, Lundberg said.

Prices reflect sharp hikes in the cost of crude oil in recent weeks, Lundberg said. Light, sweet crude for April delivery rose 22 cents on the New York Mercantile Exchange by late morning Monday in Europe, fetching \$56.94 per barrel.

That translates into a retail price hike of 20 cents per gallon.

"I do not think this is the end of the crude oil price jump," Lundberg said. "Even if crude oil prices don't rise further, it's very likely gasoline prices will continue to rise, at least short term."

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Sports

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Page 1B
Monday, March 21, 2005

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.

B.S. Lady Steer

Booster meeting set

The Big Spring Lady Steer Booster Club has set a meeting for Monday at 6 p.m. in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of girls — including freshman — involved in cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, track and training are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Janet Abner at 466-1711.

B.S. Softball Booster Club meeting set

The Big Spring Lady Steer Softball Booster Club has set a meeting for Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of girls — including freshman — involved in the softball program are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Janet Abner at 466-1711.

B.S. Little League Umpires Association sets final meetings

The Big Spring Little League Umpires Association has announced its final two meetings before the new season begins.

The meetings will take place on the next two Saturdays at the Courthouse, beginning at 10 a.m. both days.

For more information, call Don Booth at 816-9748.

Big Spring C.C. sets three-person toumey

The Big Spring Country Club will host a three-person scramble April 2 and 3.

The entry fee is \$50 per player plus golf cart. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start each day.

For more information, call the pro shop at 267-5354.

Western Texas makes sure of split against Howard

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

SNYDER — After taking two from rival Western Texas College Friday, the Howard College softball team gave two games back Saturday.

The Hawk women won 11-3 and 4-3 Friday, but were not able to find enough offense Saturday to get a win. Howard lost the first game Saturday 9-1 in six innings and dropped game No. 2, 4-2. They are now 11-15 overall and 8-6 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play.

"(Western Texas) hit everything we threw at them and came ready to

play," said Howard coach Cheryl Dickens. "Our pitchers hit their spots. Western just swung the bats well."

GAME ONE

Western Texas applied the eight run rule on Howard in the first game. They jumped out to a 3-0 lead after one inning and then added a run in the second, two in the fourth, one in the fifth and two more in the sixth to claim the victory.

Sophomore Andrea Renteria took the loss on the mound for Howard as she gave up three earned runs in three innings. Freshman Jody Clark pitched the final three



innings and gave up five earned runs.

Howard got its only run in the second inning as they got only three hits at the plate against Western Texas' Caleigh Goree.

Freshman Whitney Hufford got a double in the second inning and then scored Howard's only run later on an RBI single by freshman Amanda Kuramata.

GAME TWO

Western scored all four

of its runs in the first two innings and held on to beat Howard in game No. 2. The Hawk women got one run each in the third and fourth innings, but managed only three hits at the plate again.

Clark started the game and took the loss on the mound for Howard. She gave up four earned runs, while striking out one. Renteria entered the game in the third inning and shut down Western Texas the rest of the way.

Hufford led Howard with one hit and one run, while Kuramata and freshman Rebecca Renfro each got a hit, as well. Crystal Walsh scored the Hawks' other run.

"Our defense played great, but we couldn't get the job done at the plate," said Dickens. "We didn't move the runners and take advantage of our chances very well."

"We can't seem to be able to play four games in a row. There is just not any energy on the second day for some reason."

Howard gets a much needed rest and will not play again until April 1 and 2 when the Hawks host rival El Paso Community College at Foundation Field. The two teams will play two games Friday and Saturday and both games start at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. each day.

Abner's no-no is Lady Steers' key to 13th win

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Senior Chelsea Abner threw a no-hitter Saturday against Lubbock Cooper and Big Spring picked up its 13th win of the season at home on "meet the Lady Steers"

day. Big Spring (13-2) started the game with a first inning run and then cruised to a 3-0 victory.

Abner's near perfect effort on the mound saw just two Cooper baserunners in seven innings and neither runner advanced past first base. One runner reached on an error and the other runner got on base after getting hit by a pitch.

Abner struck out nine hitters on the day and improved to 5-1 on the season.

"Chelsea pitched a great game and our defense behind her was spectacular," said Big Spring coach Phillip Pearce. "(Cooper) hit the ball hard, but we made some



nice plays in the field."

Big Spring was led at the plate by sophomore Amber Sides. Sides went two-for-three on the day and scored two runs, while junior Krista Chesworth went two-for-three, as well. Courtney Rodriguez, Heather Vassar and Alex Watkins all had one hit at the plate, too. Rodriguez scored the other run, while Vassar picked up an RBI.

"We hit the ball harder today offensively, but we still have to work on it," said Pearce. "We start district play Tuesday and are hoping our bats come alive. That is what we are lacking right now."

The Lady Steers start District 4-4A action Tuesday at home against Lake View at 4:30 p.m. Big Spring then travels to rival Andrews Thursday. The start time for Thursday's contest is 6 p.m.



ABNER



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Big Spring senior Heather Vassar, right, takes the ball out of her glove after recording the out at first base Saturday against Lubbock Cooper. The Lady Steers won the game, 3-0, and Chelsea Abner threw a no-hitter on the mound. Vassar had an RBI single at the plate.

Howard fares well at Houston

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

HOUSTON — Three members of the Howard College rodeo team traveled to Houston over the weekend and competed in the Houston Livestock and Rodeo Show Sunday and put their talents up against other members of the Southwest Region and Southern Region.

Sophomore Brent Walden came away from Houston with a third place finish in the tie down roping after recording a time of 13.2 seconds. Sophomore Danny McDowell grabbed fourth in the bull riding after scoring a 68 and freshman Jeremy Russell failed to place in the saddle bronc riding after securing a score of 65 in his ride.

The rodeo was just one day and it consisted of one opportunity for all participants.

"It was a neat deal and for the committee to be able to do this for college kids is just phenomenal," said Howard College coach Greg Kernick. "It's a super boost for college rodeo."



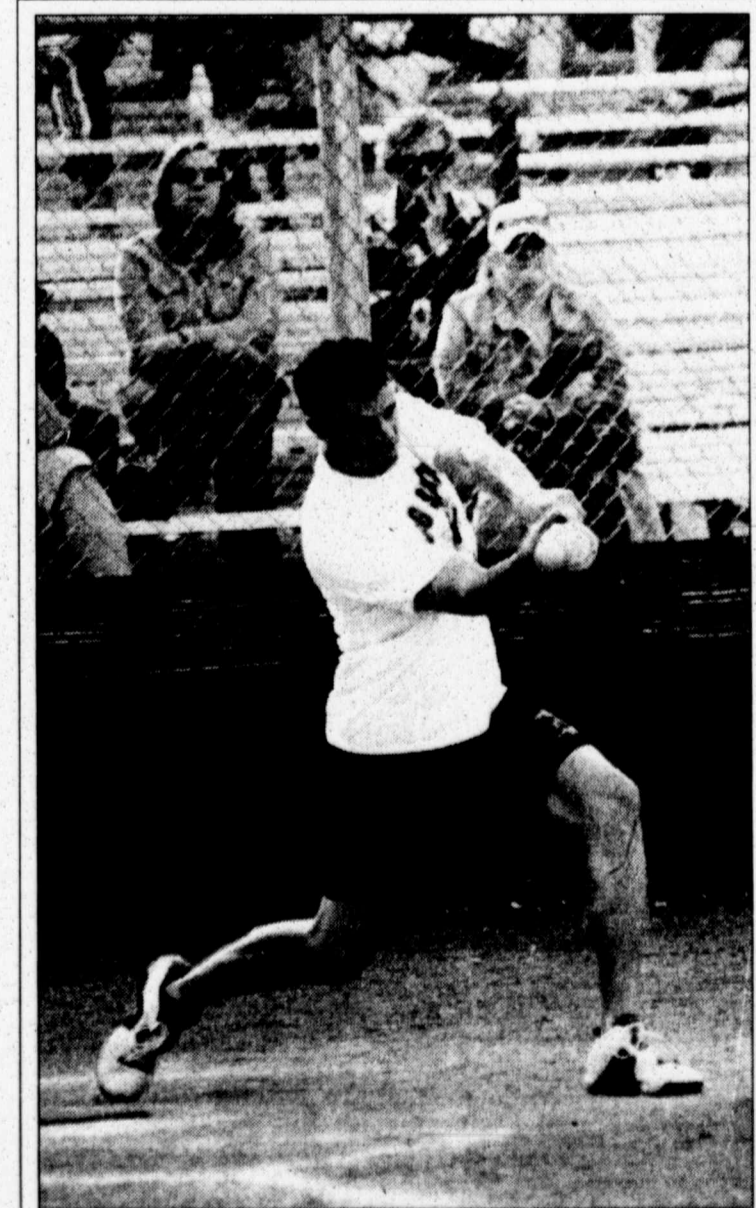
"There is not many times a college rodeo member can ride in front of 50,000 people like these kids did Sunday. It is just great for the sport."

McDowell competed Sunday in Houston after flying into two late Saturday night after completing the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo in Pocatello, Idaho. McDowell's first and second ride in Idaho pro-

duced scores of 90 and 91, which was good for first place after the second round.

McDowell was bucked off in the finals, but was still able to walk away with \$13,000 in prize money. He heads to Austin Tuesday to compete in another rodeo, as well.

The Howard rodeo team will travel to Odessa College Thursday for its second rodeo event of the spring season. The Hawks' hometown rodeo will take place April 14-15 at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring coach and faculty member Nick Roberto swings at a pitch Saturday during the "meet the Lady Steers" ragball fund-raiser game against the BSISD faculty. The Lady Steers defeated the faculty 13-5.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday
Big Spring softball vs. Lake View, 4 p.m.
Big Spring baseball vs. Hobbs, 4:30 p.m.
Forsan golf at Big Spring
Coahoma softball vs. Midland Lee, 7 p.m.
Coahoma baseball at Midland Christian
Howard baseball vs. LCU, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Wednesday
Howard baseball vs. Trinidad State at Abilene, noon

Thursday
Big Spring softball at Andrews, 6 p.m.
Big Spring track at Midland
Big Spring tennis at Lubbock Invitational, 8 a.m.

Milwaukee-Wisconsin pulls off huge upset against B.C.

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — One win wasn't enough for Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The Panthers are pressing on in the NCAA tournament.

Joah Tucker scored 23 points, Adrian Tigert had 16 and the 12th-seeded Horizon League champions, playing on a floor they know very well, pulled off their second upset in three days, an 83-75 win over Boston College in the second round Saturday.

Given little chance in the opening round against Alabama from the SEC or against the Big East's regular-season champions, Milwaukee (26-5) gave the nation's mid-major programs another moment to savor this March.

They did it the way they know best: with a relentless, full-court press that forced the Eagles (25-5) into 22 turnovers.

Milwaukee will play Illinois Thursday in the Chicago Regional in Rosemont, Ill.

Illinois 71, Nevada 59
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — James Augustine scored a career-high 23 points and Jack Ingram added 12 more in the top-seeded Illini's victory. Augustine also grabbed 10 rebounds, blocked four shots and had two steals.

Illinois' famed guard trio of Deron Williams, Dee Brown and Luther Head combined for 31 points, but most came late in the game as the big guys took center stage. Williams scored five points on free throws down the stretch.

The Illini (34-1) reached the regional semifinals for the second straight season and fourth time in the last five seasons.

Kevin Pinkney led the Wolf Pack (25-7) with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Mo Charlo added 12.

Arizona 85, UAB 63

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Salim Stoudamire made five 3-pointers and had 28 points, and Arizona never buckled under Alabama-Birmingham's constant pressure defense.

Arizona (29-6) struggled with UAB's frenetic, trapping defense in the first half, but had just four turnovers in the second to reach the round of 16 for the 12th time. The Wildcats, the 1997 national champions, advanced to Rosemont, Ill., next weekend and will face Oklahoma State.

Arizona shot 52 percent from the field and made 18-of-23 from the free throw line, including 12-of-15 in the second half when UAB picked up the pressure.

UAB (22-11) played its usual helter skelter pace and gave the Wildcats problems at times, but couldn't seem to turn mistakes into points. The 11th-seeded Blazers made just 6-of-30 from 3-point range — their forte — and shot 32 percent overall.

Donell Taylor scored 13 points for the Blazers and Demario Eddins added 12.

Albuquerque Regional
Texas Tech 71,
Gonzaga 69

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Bob Knight's Texas Tech Red Raiders rallied from a 13-point second-half deficit to advance to the semifinals of the Albuquerque Regional.

Ronald Ross sank a 3-pointer from the corner to put sixth-seeded Tech (22-10) up 68-67 with 1:06 to play, then sealed the victory by making both halves of a one-and-one with 7.5 seconds remaining.

Ross and Knight hugged in the final seconds as it became obvious that a Knight-coached team would make it to a regional semifinal for the first

time since 1994. Ross scored 24 points and backcourt mate Jarrius Jackson added 18 points.

Texas Tech will play West Virginia Thursday.

Third-seeded Gonzaga (26-5) made an early exit with a high seed for the second year in a row. The Zags were the No. 2 seed a year ago and lost to Nevada in the second round. Adam Morrison had 25 points and nine rebounds for Gonzaga.

West Virginia 111,
Wake Forest 105, 2OT

CLEVELAND (AP) — Mike Gansey scored a career-high 29 points — 19 of them in the two overtimes — and the Mountaineers sent No. 2 seed Wake Forest to another stunning second-round loss.

Seventh-seeded West Virginia (23-10) advanced to the regional semifinals, its deepest tournament run since it also made the round of 16 in 1998.

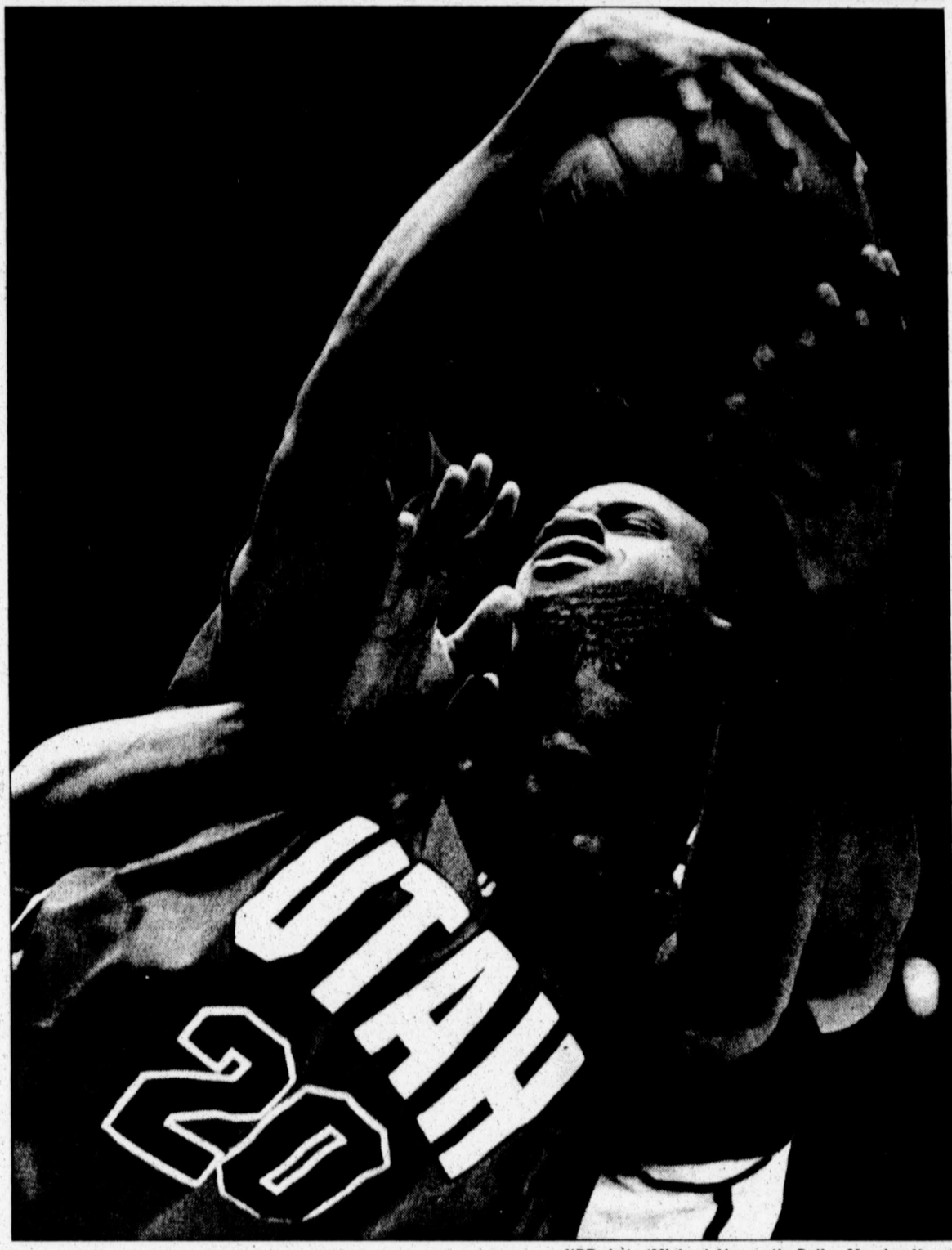
Wake (27-6) Forest point guard Chris Paul scored 10 points in the first overtime, then fouled out with 3:24 to go in the second, walking slowly to the bench. Gansey had 10 in the first overtime and nine more in the second, which came down to a last shot.

Washington 97,
Pacific 79

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Nate Robinson scored 18 of his 23 points in the second half and the top-seeded Huskies advanced to the round of 16 for the first time since 1998.

Bobby Jones scored 19 and Will Conroy had 10 assists for Washington (24-5). Tre Simmons scored 15 for the Pac-10 champion Huskies, whose top seed was the most disputed among the four No. 1s.

Guillaume Yango led the Tigers with 17 points and 10 rebounds and



KRT photo/Michael Ainsworth, Dallas Morning News
Oklahoma's Lawrence McKenzie fouls Utah's Bryant Markson during the second half of their second round NCAA basketball tournament game in Tucson, Ariz., Saturday. Utah defeated Oklahoma 67-58.

Christian Maraker added 12 points, but the Swedish forward was shut out in the second half.

Austin Regional
Utah 67, Oklahoma 58

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Sixth-seeded Utah capitalized on 7-foot Andrew Bogut's skilled passing and 20 points by Justin Hawkins to advance to the Austin Regional for the first time since 1998.

The Utes (29-5) had been knocked out in the early rounds five of the last six years, but move on to play Kentucky.

Although the beefy

Sooners (25-8) did their best to beat up Bogut in the low post, they couldn't overcome 32 percent shooting. They got no closer than seven points in the second half.

Bogut had a career-high seven assists and tied his season low with 10 points, taking just seven shots. Taj Gray had 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Sooners.

Kentucky 69,
Cincinnati 60

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Kelenna Azubuike scored 19 points and second-seeded Kentucky held

Cincinnati scoreless for the final 2:41 in a second-round NCAA tournament victory.

Rajon Rondo added 16 points for Kentucky (27-5). Randolph Morris finished with 11 points and 12 rebounds as the Wildcats avoided a second straight second-round exit.

Nick Williams scored 16 points — and — Jihad Muhammad added 14 for seventh-seeded Cincinnati (25-8), which was trying to become the third straight Conference USA school to eliminate Kentucky from the tournament.

Texas powers fare well in women's tourney

By The Associated Press

DALLAS — Patrice Holmes hit a jumper with 1.6 seconds left to give 12th-seeded Middle Tennessee a 60-58 victory over fifth-seeded North Carolina State Saturday night in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Middle Tennessee will face Texas Tech in the second round of the Philadelphia Regional. Last season, the Lady Raiders were a No. 13 seed when they knocked off fourth-seeded North Carolina 67-62.

The loss ended the post-season run for N.C. State coach Kay Yow. In January, she began treatment for a recurrence of breast cancer that forced her to skip two games, her first absences in 30 years of coaching.

Middle Tennessee play-

ers and a few fans rushed the floor after the upset. The Lady Raiders trailed by as much as 10 in the second half before pulling off what might be the most dramatic win in the school's history.

N.C. State (21-8) tied it at 58 with 26.6 left on a putback by Tiffany Stansbury.

Texas Tech 69, Texas-Arlington 49

DALLAS (AP) — LaToya Davis had a career-high 26 points and added 14 rebounds to lead fourth-seeded Texas Tech (23-7) to its 14th straight first-round victory.

Helping spoil the first NCAA tournament appearance in school history for Texas-Arlington, Davis shot 11-of-14 from the floor and scored 19 of her points in the second

half. The 6-foot-1 junior also had two blocks and three steals.

Rola Ogunoye had 19 points and 10 rebounds for Texas-Arlington (21-10).

Tempe Regional
Baylor 91, Illinois St. 70

SEATTLE (AP) — Sophia Young scored 21 points and Steffanie Blackmon added 13 to help Baylor rout Illinois State.

The second-seeded Lady Bears scored the first 17 points and coasted from there. Illinois State (13-18) missed its first eight shots and was 9-of-29 in the first half as Baylor (28-3) built a 20-point lead.

Baylor will play 10th-seeded Oregon in the second round. It was Baylor's 15th straight victory, with its last loss

coming Jan. 22 at Texas, 69-55.

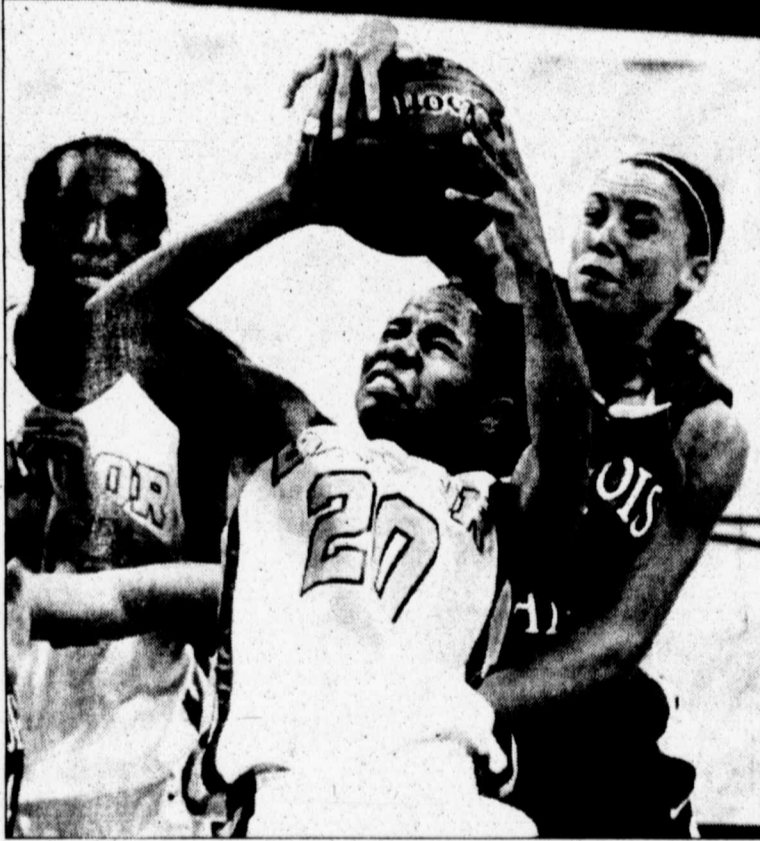
Jaci McCormack led Illinois State with 20 points.

The Redbirds, who became the lowest seed to win the Missouri Valley tournament, are making their first NCAA appearance since 1989.

Texas 64,
Oral Roberts 47

DALLAS (AP) — Playing with a broken pinkie, Nina Norman scored 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting and added five assists for third-seeded Texas.

The Longhorns (22-8), who won for the 13th time in 15 games, will face Georgia in the second round. Elisha Turek had 21 points and seven rebounds for Oral Roberts.



KRT photo/Allison Long, Kansas City Star
Baylor's Angela Tisdale holds on to a rebound as Illinois State's Ambers Shelton, left, and Megan McCrackern try to steal it from her during their NCAA Women's Basketball tournament game Saturday. Baylor beat Illinois State, 91-70.

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Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS
Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)

Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6115-91-001 for MISCELLANEOUS CULVERT WORK in HOWARD County, etc will be opened on April 19, 2005 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$282,063.43.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/ or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 15995

State Office
Constr./ Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78705
Phone: 512-416-2540
Dist/ Div Office(s)

Abilene District Engineer
4250 N. Clack
Abilene, Texas 79604-0150
Phone: 325-676-6800

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin.
#4486 March 20 & 21, 2005.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS Mercury, now retrograde, plays a trick or two before the day is out. It's as if the universe has handed out a pop quiz titled: **How Organized Are You, Really?** If you've set up a system that involves others, just be sure they understand it, too. The results of communication are precarious at best, but this improves when you write things down.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A house is only as sturdy as its foundation. A car is only as fast as its engine. And you are only as effective as your mind. On this day filled with distractions, mentally imagine yourself winning, and then, continue on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A test situation is not real life, but it's a solid indicator of how real life will go down when you're in the heat of the fire. Create a drill to thoroughly prepare yourself for an upcoming stressful situation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's a raw and gritty feeling about all you witness today. Other air signs help you avoid getting sucked into a "downer" mood. The naked truth doesn't have to be sad -- it can also make you laugh out loud.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Opportunities only arise when you consciously put yourself in line for them. So buy your ticket, and step right up. Love is complicated enough. Finding potential partners should be the easy part.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Romance is only one kind of love. Platonic affection, admiration for a mentor, familial connection and spiritual bonds are also sources of great fulfillment. Let love in its many forms lift you higher.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You consider a situation, territory or person to be yours. But much that we lay claim to cannot be owned. Realize this, act accordingly, and you are fantastically lucky.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It feels like you're sneaking around in order to avoid hurting someone's feelings. Trust your instincts on this one, although down deep, you know you've got a right to love whomever you choose.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've got it all over the competition, and you know it. Don't gloat! There is still room for improvement. Keep a private journal of your strengths, and all the ways you're different from your rival.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The tumultuous emotions in the air affect you for sure. But staying in a good mood is not rocket science. Spending time with someone sunny still puts a smile on your face.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You need to build your self-esteem more than you need to accomplish heaps of work. Make success an easy and doable process! Break projects down into smaller tasks. You're trying to do too much too fast.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The best opportunities are once removed from your immediate resources: Contacts made through your children's friends, your friends' friends and your colleagues' friends are the luckiest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Negotiations are featured. You are up against an operator who is much smoother than appearances suggest. (Think Monk or Columbo!) Don't put anything on the table unless you're willing to lose it!

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am a Scorpio, born on Oct. 25, 1972. I have been dating a Taurus born May 15, 1972, for about three and a half years. This relationship is a good one, with lots of mutual care and great times. The only problem is we don't seem to be moving in any direction, not toward breaking up or moving forward in a life together. Am I wasting my time? I love him, but I am kind of tired of waiting for something to happen."

The irony is that he's happy in this relationship and hasn't a clue that there is a something that is supposed to happen. And you're so fabulous at

hiding your emotions, how could he know? Now be honest: Are you really ready for marriage, and if so, is he the one? Use the current cosmic Aries vibes at your disposal to change the game. If you decide it's marriage you want, don't put it off him to make the next move. This month and next are perfect for integrating yourself more fully in his life. Get to know his family, plan a vacation together, and find new ways to be supportive of his goals. Oh, and let him know you want to get married.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Independent film is not for the faint at heart! But respected filmmaker Spike Lee has an Aries sun and moon infusing his chart with risk-taking energy. Lee could become a director on the board of a new film festival, raising the standards for a group of up-and-coming new artists. His television mini-series "Miracle's Boys" later this year will provoke much controversy and also be an award winner.

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

Dear Annie: My husband has a 9-year-old nephew, "Taylor." Taylor's parents are divorced, and he lives with his mother in another state. We don't see them often.

The problem is, Taylor is beginning to be curious about sex and the female body. We have a 3-year-old daughter, and Taylor is unusually interested when she gets a diaper change. Since he visits infrequently, I have tried to ignore his fascination. However, my husband is taking me on a trip for my birthday, and I have asked my sister-in-law to watch my children, and obviously, she will bring Taylor.

I am not concerned that Taylor is going to touch my daughter inappropriately, but I would prefer that he not learn about the female anatomy from my child. Is this something that my husband or I can discuss with my sister-in-law, or am I just being a prude? I'd appreciate your advice.
Nervous Mom in Nevada



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Nervous: Taylor's curiosity is normal, and there is nothing wrong with discussing the boy's budding interest with his mother. Tell her, "I've noticed Taylor is at the age where a girl's body is fascinating to him, and he has been paying a lot of attention to the baby's diaper changes. He's ready for you to talk to him about the physical differences between boys and girls. I don't want him to fixate on the baby simply because he doesn't have enough information

from you."

This should open a frank discussion, allowing you to talk about appropriate behavior and proper respect between the cousins. If your sister-in-law is going to be babysitting for your daughter, she should know what you find acceptable.

Dear Annie: My daughters have graciously decided to give a 25th wedding anniversary party for their father and me. They asked me for a guest list, which I provided. The affair will be held at a local hotel banquet room, and cold drinks and finger food will be served.

My daughters would like me to register for gifts at some local stores and include this information in the invitation. After 25 years, I could use some new things, but I am unsure of the proper etiquette. I've never seen a registry for an anniversary. However, I know some well-meaning people will bring gifts, and my daughters felt registering would be better than having those people buy us things we don't want or can't use.

Please give us some guidance. We want to do the proper thing. -- Silver Sue

Dear Silver Sue: Bless you for caring enough to ask. It is not appropriate to register for a 25th anniversary. Registries are a way to help guests select items that will assist brides in setting up their new households. Although you might need a lot of things, it doesn't mean your guests should provide them.
Many couples in your

position have their friends and family members discreetly pass the word to donate money to charity in their names, or contribute to a special "second honeymoon" fund set up by the children, or something along those lines. Under no circumstances do such instructions belong inside the invitation.

Dear Annie: You recently printed a letter from a gentleman who didn't get his money's worth from a dating service. You told him to seek legal counsel. Companies such as this prey on the low-income and elderly population, and this man may be eligible for low-cost legal help through Legal Services. He can access www.lsc.gov to find a program in his area. -- Dedicated Legal Aid Employee

Dear Employee: Thanks for the additional information. The address is Legal Services Corporation, 3333 K Street, NW, Third Floor, Washington, D.C. 20007-3522.

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 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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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper. One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck. Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."

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BIG SPRING HERALD

MONDAY

MAR. 21

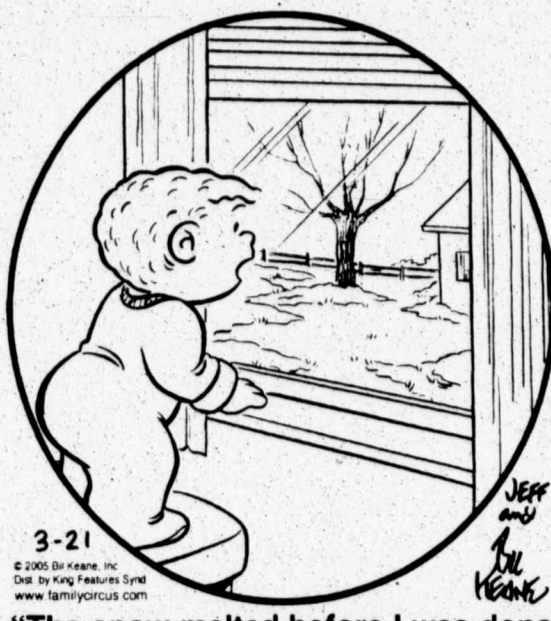
Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, TMC) and 7 rows (6-12 PM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



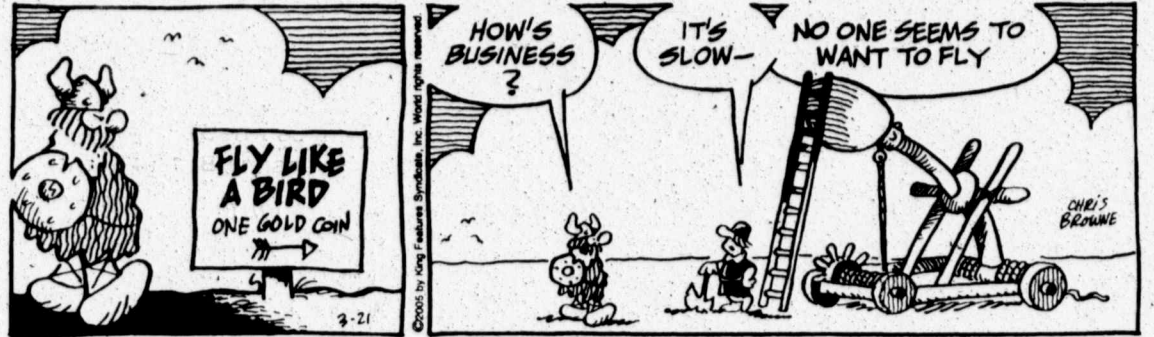
"I'M BEGINNING TO THINK FISH AREN'T THAT CRAZY ABOUT CHOCOLATE CANDY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"The snow melted before I was done playing with it."

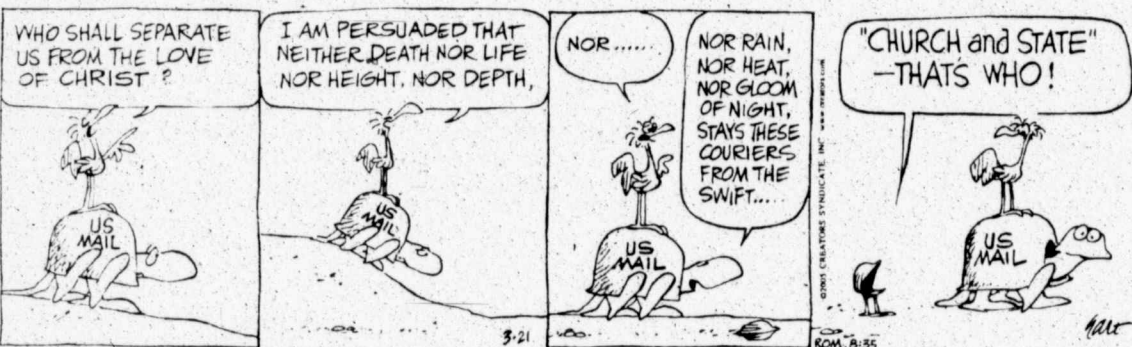
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 21, the 80th day of 2005. There are 285 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 21, 1965, more than 3,000 civil rights demonstrators led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. began their march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

On this date: In 1685, composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany.

In 1790, Thomas Jefferson reported to President Washington in New York as the new secretary of state.

In 1804, the French civil code, or the "Code Napoleon" as it was later called, was adopted.

In 1806, Mexican statesman Benito Juarez was born in Oaxaca.

In 1871, journalist Henry M. Stanley began his famous expedition to Africa to locate the missing Scottish missionary David Livingstone.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied bombers began four days of raids over Germany.

In 1960, some 70 people were killed in Sharpeville, South Africa, when police fired on demonstrators.

In 1963, the Alcatraz federal prison island in San Francisco Bay was emptied of its last inmates at the order of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

In 1979, the Egyptian Parliament unanimously approved a peace treaty with Israel.

In 1985, police in Langa, South Africa, opened fire on blacks marching to mark the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville shootings, killing at least 21 demonstrators.

Today's Birthdays: Violinist-conductor Joseph Silverstein is 73. Actor Al Freeman Jr. is 71. Actress Kathleen Widdoes is 66.

Singer Solomon Burke is 65. Actress Marie-Christine Barrault is 61. Singer-musician Rose Stone (Sly and the Family Stone) is 60. Actor Timothy Dalton is 59. Singer Eddie Money is 56. Rock singer-musician Roger Hodgson (Supertramp) is 55. Rock musician Conrad Lozano (Los Lobos) is 54. R&B singer Russell Thompkins Jr. (The Stylistics) is 54. Actress Sabrina LeBeauf is 47. Actor Gary Oldman is 47. Actor Matthew Broderick is 43. Comedian Rosie O'Donnell is 43. Rock musician Jonas "Joker" Berggren (Ace of Base) is 38.

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with words like SCHUSS, JIGGER, CHENILLE, UNRIPE, ASEOPIAN, ICEDIN, PES, SPINACH, DST, URIS, SNIPE, PITA, LEAHS, ESA, SHELL, ARNOLD, TSQUARES, TOOTHsome, RESPONSE, MOTIFS, ATEUP, AMS, SONIC, THAT, ARETE, NANA, LAT, CBSNEWS, BET, INTRAY, APIARIST, NOLESS, CONDENSE, ELECTS, ENGENDER.

Newsday Crossword

TOAST TOPPINGS by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Kind of pear, 5 Sewing borders, 10 One-liner, for example, 14 Legal rights grp., 15 Baby's ailment, 16 Brockovich, 17 Close to, 18 Silly, 19 What libraries do, 20 Impromptu jazz performance, 22 Ships' journals, 23 Beginnings, 24 Depend (on), 26 Classify, 29 In flames, 33 Sofa parts, 37 Cheer (for), 39 Evergreen trees, 40 Kauai cookout, 41 boom, 43 Dance move, 44 Suit material, 46 Interoffice note, 47 Sacred, 48 Movie award, 49 Nevada city, 51 Sit down with a book, 54 "Heavens to Betsy!", 59 After-bath powder, 62 Soup veggie, 65 Muffin spread, 66 Burger topping, 67 Lisa Simpson's brother, 68 Writer Jaffe, 69 Small dings, 70 Mayberry boy, 71 Hornet's home, 72 Lauder of cosmetics, 73 Old Russian ruler, DOWN: 1 Folk-music instrument, 2 Arctic or Pacific, 3 Shuts with force, 4 Witch's hex, 5 Paper-cutting tool, 6 Years and years, 7 Jai, 8 Not very important, 9 Play segment, 10 Spineless sea creature, 11 Nabisco cookie, 12 Princess' dad, 13 Concludes, 21 UFO pilots, 25 Once around the track, 27 Kitchen or den, 28 Copier powder, 30 Long-division word, 31 Fishing-rod attachment, 32 Catch sight of, 33 In addition, 34 Has regrets about, 35 Antony, 36 Make easier to accept, 38 Use a stopwatch, 42 Abridge, 45 Before, in verse, 50 Above, in verse, 52 House, 53 Desert mounds, 55 Monastery head, 56 Harvests word, 57 Santa (ship of 1492), 58 Go inside, 59 Ripped, 60 Lotion ingredient, 61 Camera part, 63 Add a bit of color to, 64 Carryall

15x15 crossword grid with numbers 1-73 indicating starting positions for clues.