# Senior Center to get thorough inspection

#### By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners gave the go-ahead for a comprehensive inspection of the Spring City Senior Citizens Center Monday morning, following a report from the chairman of the center's board of directors that relayed numerous safety concerns.

Bebe McCasland, chairman of the county-appointed board of directors for the center,

missioners the disrepair and health violations she and a inspector recently found at the facility.

"Government agencies tend to for-McCasland give and overlook practices of other governmental agencies," McCasland told the court. "They are not doing any-

one a favor.

employees, rather than licensed tradesmen, to perform repairs to the center and that the facility is non-compliant with city, state and federal laws. This indicates to me a poor performance record of management and personnel.

"The reports also indicate that electrical concerns and plumbing problems are some of the issues that will have to be rectified," said McCasland. "Let "The inspection reports sent me make a comparison between

described to com- last week reflect the use of the building you (Howard pit and lack of hot water in food County commissioners) are leasing and senior citizens. Frankly, our older guests have better circuitry and plumbing than the building they fre-

> In the report issued by Perry J. Williams, inspector with the Texas Department of State Health Services, questionable food temperatures for both prepared and stored foods came under fire, as well as a sink that was draining into an open See CENTER, Page 3A

preparation areas and rest rooms.

The presence of "numerous fresh rodent excreta pellets in storage areas" was also addressed in the report.

McCasland also sited a report from Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray, which listed several safety issues, including exit lights and emergency lighting that were not functioning

# Capitol bound

Organizers gear up for Big Spring Area Day in Austin

By JOHN A. MOSELEY

Managing Editor

Organizers are beginning to make final preparations for Big Spring Area Day at the State Capitol, scheduled for April 27.

Co-sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce and Moore Development for Big Spring, and the added help of corporate sponsors ALON and the Colorado River Municipal Water District, the trip is designed as a chance to offer the community's thanks to our legislators for their efforts, according to Pam Welch, director of assistant Moore

Development. State Sen. Kel Seliger and State Rep. Pete Laney are both expected to meet with those taking the trip, as will a number of other state officials.

The event will mark the fourth time a Big Spring and Howard County contingent has traveled to Austin to meet with state lawmakers and their staffs. And again organizers expect more than 200 people to make the trip to the

See CAPITOL, Page 3A

# MINOR INJURIES TO OCCUPANTS



Big Spring Emergency Medical Service personnel assist two persons involved in a two-vehicle collision early this morning. At least two people were transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center after this vehicle collided with a van at the intersection of East Fourth and Owens streets shortly before 8 a.m. today.

# College officials await final word on state funding

# **Howard College administrators** 'quietly optimistic,' trustees told

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

With so much attention paid to the state legislature's efforts to put together a public school finance package, it might be easy to overlook similar work being done for Texas' community col-

But while area public school superintendents are unanimous in their condemnation of the state's efforts, fire and brimstone are notably absent from Howard College officials' comments. So far.

Although the Texas Legislature is still months away from approving a final financial packet for the state's commu-



nity colleges, it does not appear that there will be major changes in the method in which supports those institutions.

"We're quietly optimistic that we might see a little relief from the state side," said Terry E. Hansen, business manager at the college.

"But nothing is set in concrete until the state says it is.'

State financial support is vitally to Howard College. important SouthWest Collegiate Excluding Institute for the Deaf - which is

Forsan's Elbow Elementary

will begin registering stu-

See FINANCE, Page 3A

# High attrition rate within nursing program unavoidable Sparks says

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

The state of Howard College's nursing program highlighted Monday's meeting of the college's Board of Trustees.

Local physician Bruce Cox addressed the board to discuss concerns he has with the program.

Dr. Cox said he has received several complaints about the program, ranging from its high attrition rate to the perception that potential nursing students choose other schools than Howard to what he called a lack of hands-on

instruction from teachers.

In addressing Cox's comments, Howard President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said that several of the problems he addressed were more or less unavoid-

She conceded that the program often has a high attrition rate. For example, a recent class of first-year students lost 12 of its original 17 enrollees. While that number will grow because of an influx of "transitional" students from other areas, Sparks said the program's stringent standards will probably ensure the future loss of other students. In the past, the college has loosened

See NURSING, Page 5A

Elbow to begin registration for K, pre-K

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Opinion

**Sports** 1-2B

To reach us: Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.



dents for next year's pre-K and kindergarten classes. Registration will take place

from Monday, April 4 through Friday, April 8, in the ele-Find us online at: mentary office. www.bigspringherald.com

Elbow Elementary is located south of Big Spring on the corner of Nichols Road and Farm Road 818. The school office will be open for registration between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday only, the office

will stay open until 6:30.

Parents should bring the child's birth certificate, Social Security card, shot records and proof of residence (utility bill with name and address). In addition, parents of Pre-K students should bring proof of income to see if they qualify under state requirements. The pre-K program is new to the Elbow campus and anyone interested is encouraged to come for the pre-registra-

In order to be eligible for Pre-K, a student must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2005. Students in kindergarten must be 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2005.

Steve Osborn, principal of Elbow Elementary, said "It is vital to get an accurate count of the students who will be entering pre-K and kindergarten next year. We purchase supplies and make personnel decisions based on this information.



COMING THIS WEEKEND

#### **Jack Clinkscales**



Brother Jack Clinkscales, 88, of Big Spring was called home on Resurrection Sunday, March 27, 2005. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2005, at the First Baptist Church in Big Spring with the Rev. Jim Wilkerson, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in San Angelo and the Rev. Bobby Fuller officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born April 18, 1916, in London, England and married Georgina "Gean" Buttle Sept. 29, 1948, in Lindsell, England.

Jack served in the Royal Air Force for six years during World War II and flew Spitfires. He owned a mercantile business until coming to the United States July 22, 1957.

At the age of 15, Jack surrendered to preach and pastored various churches in Indiana, New Mexico and Texas. He retired from Forsan Baptist Church in 1996 after 26 years of service and continued to preach and serve as interim pastor until his death. His last sermon preached was March 20 at Tarzan Baptist

Survivors include his wife, Gean Clinkscales of Big Spring; two daughters and sons-in-law, Anne and Patrick Schulz of Andrews and Brenda and Jack Doil of Monticello, N.M.; one son and daughter-in-law, David and Caren Clinkscales of Big Spring; one brother, Graham Martin of Ipswich, England; 11 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and

He was preceded in death by two sons, John and Peter Clinkscales and two sisters.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Gideons International, P.O. Box 133, Big Spring 79721-

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

Paid obituary

#### Cora Mae 'Cody' Hays

Cora Mae "Cody" Hays, 90, of Westbrook died Monday, March 28, 2005, in a local care center. Services are 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2005, in the Kiker-Seale Chapel with the Rev. Paul Smith officiating. Burial will follow in the Colorado City Cemetery.

She was born March 9, 1915, in Colorado City to James and Ida Dyer Doss and had been a lifelong resident. She married Earl Hays April 14, 1936, in Colorado City. He preceed her in death Jan. 19, 1976. She was a homemaker, farmed and ranched and was an oil operator for many years.

She and Earl were founding members of the Westbrook Golden Age Club and former members of a group of musicians who entertained residents at care

She was also preceded in death by her parents, six brothers and five sisters.

She is survived by a daughter, Joan McCollum and husband, Weldon of Big Spring; two granddaughters, Susan Soloman and husband, Gene of San Angelo and Melinda Reavis and husband, Randy of Graham; four great-grandchildren, Keli Reevis of Stanton, David Solomon, Nicole Solomon and Catherine Solomon of San Angelo; numerous nieces, nephews and family friends; and wonderful caregivers, Lilia Espinoza, Janie Ybarra, Helen Rocha, Esther Martinez and Norma Espinoza.

Arrangements are under the direction of Kiker-Seale Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

#### **Estil Petty**

Estil Petty, 84, of Big Spring died Monday, March 28, 2005, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

# Support groups

- ☐ Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.
- ☐ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30-7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m.
- ☐ The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center beginning in January. Call 263-8273 for more information.
- ☐ Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

#### FRIDAY

☐ AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

☐ West Texas Gluten-Free Awareness Support Group meets from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Memorial Hospital west campus in Midland. Call Barbara at 432 520-2119 for more information.

# **Coronado Hills Apartments**

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# Police blotter

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

- CATHERINE MAYBERRY, 34, 1200 Lloyd St., was arrested on a hold for the Howard County Sheriff's
- WILLIAM ALLEN TILLEY, 24, 1020 Stadium St., was arrested on local warrants.
- · ALLISON REDDING, 33, 1400 Sycamore St., was arrested on Midland County warrants.
- AGGRAVATED ASSAULT was reported on the 500 block of Westover Street.
- ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported on the 1800 block of Settles Street.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING was issued on the 1200 block of Runnels Street and the 800 block of Marcy Drive.

# Sheriff's report

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

- JOSEPH MICHAEL COOK, 26, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for theft by check.
- RODNEY WAYNE TUBBS, 21, was transferred from the Big Spring Police Department after his arrest on a charge of theft.
- · KEVIN BRENT MATTESON, 44, was arrested on a charge of failure to stop and render aid.

# Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported on the 1500 block of East FM 700. Service was refused.
- · MEDICAL was reported on the 2200 block of Morrison Street. One person was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.
- · MEDICAL was reported on the 1400 block of East 18th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported on the 400 block of West Main Street in Forsan. One person was transported to
- · MEDICAL was reported on the 100 block of Colorado Street. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported on the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported on the 400 block of Texas Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported on the 1100 block of East Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Take note

- COMANCHE TRAIL COUPLES FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE DANCE is set for 5:30 p.m. April 7. Pairs and spares are welcome. Call Sue Russell at 398-5452.
- TEXAS MOTORCYCLE RIGHTS ASSOCIATION has set a fund-raiser from noon until midnight April 30 to send members to the National Coalition Motorcyclist Convention in Nashville, Tenn. The event will take place at the Cossack's Motorcycle Club on Birdwell Lane. Food, music and entertainment will include an auction. The cover charge and all other proceeds will benefit the conference expenses. Call 268-6421 for more information.
- · A MEMORIAL FUND HAS BEEN ESTAB-LISHED 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 SCHOL-ARSHIP 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
- 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.

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# **Bulletin board**

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

#### TODAY

· 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.

#### WEDNESDAY

- · Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- · Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and
- Tone. Call 268-4721. · Downtown Lions Club meets at noon in the
- Howard College Cactus Room. • Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center at the Industrial Park. Call
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

#### THURSDAY

267-6966 or 267-1628.

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- · Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet
- · West Texas Pachyderms meet at noon in the Big Spring Country Club. Jason Moore, who is in his third term as state chairman of Young Republicans is the scheduled speaker. All interested persons are invited to attend.
- · Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

#### FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant. Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

#### SATURDAY

- Texas Trash-Off.
- · Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

# Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 10-11-18-19-31 Number matching five of five: 0. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday

Winning numbers drawn: 1-7-12-17. Bonus Ball: 5. Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$350,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-9-1

# Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear. Windy. Lows in the mid 40s. West winds 20 to 30 mph decreasing to around 10 mph after midnight.

Wednesday - Mostly sunny. Highs around 80. West

winds 10 to 20 mph. Wednesday night - Partly cloudy. Lows around 40.

West winds 10 to 20 mph. Thursday - Mostly sunny. Cooler. Highs in the upper 60s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday night - Mostly clear. Lows in the lower Friday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

Friday night - . Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. Saturday - Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the upper 70s.

Saturday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Sunday - Mostly cloudy. Highs around 80. Sunday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Monday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 80s.

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John A. Moseley

Managing Editor..

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$13.25 elsewhere

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#### FINANCI

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#### **FINANCE**

Continued from Page 1A

financed almost exclusively by state money more than 40 percent of HC's overall budget comes from the state.

Two major items have emerged so far from the Legislature's efforts, HC President Dr. Cheryl Sparks said. First, the House has approved financing that would cover the college's recent

The second item, however, may prove to be a cause for concern, Sparks added.

In the Senate, there is a big push toward "proportionality" in the financing of fringe benefits for college personnel.

In other words, the Senate would directly tie financing of those benefits with the percentage of the college's budget that comes from state money. For example, if state financing makes up 40 percent of Howard's budget, then the state would finance 40 percent of the personnel bene-

The good news to the idea, however, is that any state money taken out of personnel benefits would be compensated for in the overall appropriation, at least at first, Sparks said.

But she was quick to note that all talk of proportionality — or how much state money the college is going to receive — is premature at this stage. The Legislature is expected to mull the financing issue for at least another month.

"Right now, we don't know how much money we're going to get," Sparks said. "We know the figures they're throwing around, but we don't know the final figures."

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

#### CAPITOL

Continued from Page 1A

state capital. Welch stressed that the trip is meant to thank our lawmakers, who are now involved in one of the most challenging legislative ses-

sions in the state's history. "It's not a chance to complain about things that we think are wrong, but to thank people for the things they do for us," she explained.

Planners for the trip say they expect to have the same kind of response this year that the group received on it's first trip to Austin when the local contingent included a group of fifth-graders involved in Howard College's "If I Had A Hammer" project, which literally had the governor and elected officials from both houses of the Legislature stepping out on the Capitol building steps to watch the youngsters work.

"We think we'll get the same kind of response this year ... at least we hope we do," said Welch, "because this year we'll have Dr. Ken Tunstall and his crew working with the kids on a

new project called Let's Build a Computer."

Let's Build a Computer teaches from the inside out, according to Tunstall.

"It takes them beyond just pushing a button to turn the computer on by putting them inside a bigger than life computer to learn how one works," Tunstall explained.

The students will be building a computer model that is 12 times as big as a desktop computer unit and trained by a "lead engineer" who will instruct them in assembling the unit using a central processor, monitor, keyboard, circuits, chips and other electronic components.

"Let's Build a Computer is a real life learning experience that combines math, science, physics, communications and Tunstall noted. "And in the process, the students also learn about safety, teamwork, careers and why all school subjects are important in this technological

In addition to the fifthgraders who will be involved in that project, other students from the Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan school districts will

take part in the trip. Several will have a chance to work as House and Senate pages for the day. Howard College's Diplomats will also take

part in the day's events. Other activities scheduled for the day include the reading of resolutions on the House and Senate floors, lunch on the east grounds of the Capitol, a Coca-Cola and Blue Bell Ice Cream reception on the grounds and the taking of a group photo on the Capitol steps with legislators.

Welch said organizers want as many people as possible to take part in the trip. As a result, the Chamber has a chartered bus available. Seats on the bus are \$55 per person and include a box lunch on the capital grounds.

However, only 35 seats remain available on the charter, so those interested in riding with the group should make reservations as soon as possible. While, the deadline for registering for a bus seat is April 13, Welch said there's no guarantee that there will still be spots available that late.

The bus will leave Big Spring at 4:30 a.m. that

Wednesday from the east parking lot at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and should arrive back home around 10 p.m. Those taking the bus are asked to bring their own food and drink for the trip, and the bus will stop for a Dutch treat meal at Cooper's in Llano on the return trip.

Several people have already indicated that they'll be taking their own vehicles to Austin, Welch said, but stressed the importance that those people register as part of the group and pay the \$8 cost for lunch. They must do so in advance and the deadline is April 22.

Participants are asked to wear Big Spring shirts and khaki pants or skirts for the event. The shirts, both short and long sleeve, are available at the chamber office for \$26 each.

For additional information concerning the event, call the Debbye ValVerde at the chamber office at 263-7641.

Managing Editor John A. Moseley can be contacted by calling 263-7331, ext. 230, or e-mail editor@bigspringherald.co

Thomas Jenkins at 263-

7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail

#### CENTER

Continued from Page 1A

properly, out of date fire extinguishers and several improper or unsafe electrical wiring conditions.

McCasland went on to describe the state inspector's reaction to the number and severity of infractions discovered at the center, which were categorized in his report as "high risk."

"Near the end of the health review, the inspector told me that if the center was a restaurant in Big Spring, it would receive a warning letter from the state," said McCasland. "He told me it was the worst he had ever seen it.

"The courtesy health report from last year (2004) showed 12 demerits. The report from last week showed 32 demerits. That's almost three times as many infractions. Frankly, you have the same person trying to rectify the very problems that occurred during that person's watch."

Spring City Senior Center Director Bobbie Leonard was present for the meeting, and fired back quickly at allega-

tions the infractions were a result of her negligence.

"Everything that was on the health inspection list that we were written up for have since been taken care of, except the plumbing problems," Leonard to "That commissioners. includes the problem with the grease trap.

he (state health inspector) wrote us up for this time were there last time; he just didn't write us up for it. The drain that's uncovered and we were written up for has been that way ever since I've been there. many that were just minor, and were taken

care of pretty easily." the effort given by state inspectors as nothing more than a "quick

glance." "Previous courtesy calls for health reports overlooked an outdoor pit, illegal disposal of wastewater and a questionable grease trap," said McCasland. "The inspector from the Texas Department of State Health Services told me he should have caught several of these items in his courtesy calls, he that has developed, and it

would park in front of the center, walk up the steps and never tour the outside of the building... Both health and safety were given a quick

glance. Leonard said the infractions were a result of a an inspection performed lack of funding.

"If would have had "A lot of the things that enough money to do all of these things, I could have done them, too," Leonard told commissioners. "But I've been told not to spend money, and to get along as best as I could."

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore was quick to The bottle that wasn't point out the obvious lack labeled. There are so of requests for additional funding from Leonard to the commissioner's court.

"I haven't seen any McCasland described requests," Kilgore said. "I haven't seen any requests for funds for these things."

County Judge Ben Lockhart suggested bringing in an "impartial party" to inspect the facility, an idea commissioner Bill Crooker put to a vote during the meeting.

"There are several health and safety factors involved here, and they are quite extensive," said Crooker. "I think this is a the past. However, during very serious situation

has developed over an extended period of time. Personally, and I don't want to start anything here today, but I think it reflects upon the management of the senior center.

"I think we need to have by an impartial party. Inspection of the electrical, plumbing and the general construction. including the roof, to see what needs to be done to bring the senior center into compliance with all of the various safety and

health codes. It needs to be taken care of. We don't need to have any more repair work done by the people that work out there, other than minor repairs. I'd like to make the motion that we retain Phil Furqueron to make such an inspection and charge him with this

responsibility. Commissioners voted unanimously to have Furgueron assess the building.

Contact Staff Writer

at citydesk@bigspringher-

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CELEBRATING NATIONAL DOCTORS' DAY

# **SCENIC MOUNTAIN** MEDICAL CENTER

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ROGER

SIMON

"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

John A. Moseley

**Bill McClellan** News Editor

OUR VIEWS

# Get registered for Big Spring **Day at Capitol**

t's time for another Big Spring Area Day at the State Capitol, a chance for our community to put its best foot forward in front of our elected representatives and their colleagues, and the deadline is rapidly approaching for those who want to join the group riding to Austin on a chartered bus.

While the trip to Austin is scheduled for April 27, now is the time to get a spot reserved on the bus. One of the chartered buses has already been filled and only 37 seats remain open on the other, so it's entirely possible all the seats will be taken before the April 13 deadline.

Remember, Chamber of Commerce officials have had little trouble filling the chartered buses in the past, so it's important to make reservations early for what will be an important day for our community.

Legislators and other state officials are in the midst of what may well be the most difficult legislative session in decades. So, it's important that our community take this opportunity to not only be noticed in Austin, but to use this opportunity to thank our state's leaders for their hard work.

Seats on the charter are \$55 per person and include a box lunch on the capitol grounds. Those who take their own cars will be asked to pay \$8 for lunch and need to register, as well.

In addition, all those planning to attend are asked to wear Big Spring shirts and khaki pants or skirts for the event. The shirts are available at the chamber office for \$26 each:

To register or obtain additional information. call the chamber office at 263-7641.

While the group makes its visit to both houses of the Legislature, a resolution will be read on the floor of the House and Senate and a demonstration of the Let's Build a Computer program by Big Spring fifth-grade students is slated just outside the capitol's south entrance.

Other activities scheduled for the day include the reading of resolutions on the House and Senate floors, lunch on the east grounds of the Capitol, a Coca-Cola and Blue Bell Ice Cream reception on the grounds and the taking of a group photo on the Capitol steps with legislators.

It's important to remember the trip is designed as a chance to offer the community's thanks to our legislators for their efforts. It's not a chance to complain about things that we think are wrong, but to thank people for the things they do

So, make plans to join us in making another positive impression on our state's lawmakers.

You'll have a good time and go a long way toward making sure Big Spring's, Howard County's and the rest of West Texas' needs are considered during this crucial legislative ses-

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

- · Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- · Sign your letter. Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- 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 tele-
- phone 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

# Public turns against Congress' 'groveling'

ongress hates to waste a good grovel. When lawmakers crawl on their bellies, they expect a little appreciation in

Recently, members of Congress rushed back to Washington during their spring vacation to adopt a law trying to "save" Terri Schiavo. Prominent Republicans like Senate Majority Leader Bill "I'd

Rather Be Running for President" Frist naturally expected that his championing

of Schiavo would be rewarded. Even though Frist, a doctor, has never met or examined Schiavo, he said on the Senate floor that he questioned the diagnosis, made by doctors who had examined her, that Schiavo was in a persistent vegetative state.

"I question it," he said, "based on a review of the videotape footage which I spent an hour or so looking at."

Which is exactly how we want our doctors to behave when it comes to life-and-death decisions, right?

Following the assertion by Frist, who is a heart surgeon, The Washington Post wrote: "Some médical professionals questioned the appropriateness of Frist challenging court-approved doctors who have treated Schiavo. Laurie Zoloth, director of bioethics for the Center for Genetic Medicine at Northwestern University, said she

was surprised to hear Frist weigh in, given that he has not examined Schiavo. 'It is extremely unusual - and by a non-neurologist, I might add,' Zoloth said in an interview.

"Were Frist rendering an official medical judgment, she said, relying on an 'amateur video' could raise liability issues. After 15 years, 'there should be no confusion about the medical data, and that's what was so surprising to me about Dr. Frist disagreeing about her medical status,' Zoloth said."

But it was no surprise at all from a political point of view. Frist expected to be rewarded for his behavior by Christian conservatives who would appreciate his trying to save Schiavo.

Many other Republicans, including President Bush, felt the same way, and many Democrats, terrified over anything that smacked of a "values" issue, cowered in a cor-

So imagine the surprise of those who voted for the Schiavo law, moving the case to a federal court, when polls revealed that the public was horrified: not with removing a feeding tube from Terri Schiavo, but horrified that Congress was interfering in this decision.

Liberals were horrified, conservatives were horrified, evangelical Christians were horrified.

What Congress forgot in its headlong rush to pander is that most Americans don't want Congress making personal, family decisions for them.

Most parents or spouses could easily feel two things about the Schiavo case: first, how agonizing it would be to make a decision whether to prolong the life of their child or spouse by artificial means if that person was in a persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery.

Second, how outrageous it would be for Congress to pass a law taking that decision out of their hands.

Is there a parent anywhere who would want to turn over a decision about their child to Bill Frist? Or House Majority Leader Tom Delay? Or George Bush?

Not only did numerous polls show large majorities of the public opposing Congress' interference, the polls showed that voters were turning against members of Congress who had pandered on the issues.

According to Poll Track: "Fiftyfour percent of Time respondents said they were somewhat or more likely to vote against a member of Congress who had voted to move the case to the federal courts, while 21 percent said they would be more likely to vote for him or her. Sixty-five percent said Congress' intervention had more to do with politics than members' values and principles."

Imagine the consternation in Congress: The Schiavo law had turned out to be a grovel wasted.

But don't worry. Our lawmakers have a lot more grovels in them.

To find out more about Roger Simon, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.cre-

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#### **ADDRESSES**

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#### **HOWARD COUNTY** COMMISSIONERS

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EMMA BROWN - Home: 267-2649.

# **Energy policy: Dumb, dumber and dumbest**

s a general rule about Bush & Co., the more closely a policy is associated with Dick Cheney, the worse it is. Which brings us to

energy policy remember his secret task force? In the long history of monumentally bad ideas, the Cheney policy is a standout for reasons of both omission and commission. Dumb, dumber and dumbest.

Ponder this: Next year, the administration will phase out

the \$2,000 tax credit for buying a hybrid vehicle, which gets over 50 miles per gallon, but will leave in place the \$25,000 tax write-off for a Hummer, which gets 10-12 mpg. That's truly crazy, and that's truly what the whole Cheney energy policy is.

According to the Energy Information Administration in the Department of Energy, last year's energy bill (same as this one) would cost taxpayers at least \$31 billion, do nothing about the projected over-80 percent increase in America's imports of foreign oil by 2025 and increase gasoline prices. (Since every bureaucrat who tells the truth in this administration — about the cost of the drug bill or the safety of Vioxx seems to get the ax, I'm probably getting those folks in trouble.)

The bill is loaded with corporate giveaways and tax breaks for big oil. Meanwhile, Bush's budget cuts funding for renewable energy research and programs, and anyone who tells you different is lying.

Now, here's the Catch-22 we get with this administration: It is using the exact language of the bill's critics - stealing it wholesale and using it to promote its bill. It's our friend Frank Luntz, the Republican pollster who specializes in "framing" issues (framing means the same thing as spinning, and in the non-political world it is known as lying); at

work again. Luntz put out a memo in January: "Eight Energy Communication Guidelines for 2005" telling R's how to talk about energy using language people like.

The Natural Resources Defense Council found a Bush speech on energy on March 9 in Ohio that parrots Luntz's suggestions to a laughable point — threat to national security, diversity of supply, innovation, conservation and (my fave) Point 4, "The key principle is 'responsible energy exploration.' And remember, it's NOT drilling for oil. It's responsible energy exploration.'

So there was Bush, as per Luntz's memo, talking about 'environmentally responsible exploration" and announcing one of his top energy objectives is "to diversify our energy supply by developing alternative sources of energy." Polling shows 70 percent of Americans support a drastic increase in government spending on renewable energy sources.

I'm tired of arguing about whether Bush is so ignorant he doesn't know that he is cutting alternative energy programs and subsidizing oil companies or so fiendishly clever that he knows and doesn't care what he says. In the end, it doesn't make any difference. You get wretched policy either way.

The Apollo Project, a sensible outfit dedicated to reducing America's dependence on foreign oil, says 90 percent of Americans support its goal of energy independence. Bracken Hendricks, the executive director, points out that there is "remarkable agreement among many so-called strange bedfellows - labor and business, environmentalists and evangelicals, governors and generals, urbanites and farmers."

Meanwhile, what we are sticking with is soaring oil prices (ExxonMobil just reported the highest quarterly profit ever, \$8.42 billion, by an American company) and declining discoveries. Several oil companies are reporting disappearing reserves, and Royal Dutch/Shell admitted it had overstated its reserves by 20 percent

last year. Nor are the major oil companies spending their mammoth profits on exploration or field development — they're doing mega-mergers and stock buybacks. ExxonMobil spent \$9.95 billion to buy back its own stock in 2004. The Chinese and the Indians are now buying cars like mad, and the

result is going to be an enormous

supply crunch, sooner rather than

later.

It is possible with existing technology to build a car that gets 500 miles per gallon, but the Bushies won't even raise the CAF... (fuel efficiency) standards for cars coming out now. The trouble with the Bush plan to develop hydrogen cars is that while you can get hydrogen out of water, you have put energy in to get it out, so there's a net energy loss.

Conservation is simply the cheapest and most effective way of addressing this problem. If you put a tax on carbon, it would move industry to wind or solar power. Wind power here in Texas is at the tipping point now - comparably priced. Our health, our environment, our economy and the globe itself would all benefit from a transition to renewable energy sources.

And as Tom Friedman recently pointed out, it would do a lot for world peace, too: "By doing nothing to lower U.S. oil consumption, we are financing both sides in the war on terrorism and strengthening the worst governments in the world. That is, we are financing the U.S. military with our tax dollars and we are financing the jihadists — and the Saudi, Sudanese and Iranian mosques and charities that support them through our gasoline purchases.'

To find out more about Molly Ivins and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.cre-

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Finland had level of bot in This time are n't even char Beighton, Sy Director of E



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# Britain seems a haven for large part of the world's virus infected zombies

ritain has the largest zombie PC population of any country on the planet, according to the latest Symantec **Internet Security Threat** 

Report. The UK has more than a quarter -25.2percent of all virusinfected zombie PCs



under the control of crackers and used for malicious purposes such as identity theft and online fraud

The United States came in a close second, with 24.6 percent, and China finished a distant third with 7.8 percent.

The statistics, taken from Symantec's Global Internet Threat Report for the period of July through December of 2004, are based on the number of PCs worldwide that are known to be infected with bot agents, such as the infamous Agobot worm.

The prevalence of botnets has become a key issue in information security over recent months. Botnets are computers which are infected by worms or Trojans and taken over surreptitiously by hackers and brought into networks to send spam, more viruses, or launch denial of ser-

vice attacks. In the first half of 2004, Finland had the highestlevel of bot infection. This time around it doesn't even chart. Nigel Beighton, Symantec's Director of Enterprise

Strategy, EMEA, blames Britain's pre-eminence in the latest chart to the rapid roll-out of broadband in Great Britain.

"We saw 93 percent growth in broadband connections last year and this has had a huge impact on the number of people accessing the Internet," said Beighton. "Unfortunately, new broadband users may not be fully aware of the additional safety precautions that need to be taken when using an always-on high-speed Internet connection. Clearly, awareness around security issues is improving and it's making a notable difference, but education still remains the number one

challenge.' The number of botinfected computers declined from 30,000-plus a day in July to an average of less than 5,000 a day by December, according to Symantec. Although in absolute terms the size of botnet might be decreasing, the severity and risks associated with them continue to be a major problem mainly because of a noticeable shift towards the use of bots and bot networks for financial gain.

A recent study by the Honeynet Project suggested zombie controllers were running smaller botnets and limiting the chat they generate in order to try to escape detection.

Symantec's Beighton rejects this theory. "I don't think the bad guys are changing how they operate, it's just that they are less successful in obtaining bots," he said

Agobot — one of the most common agents for

compromising Windows PCs — can spread by exploiting the wellknown LSASS vulnerability in Windows also exploited by the Sasser worm. Beighton said the use of the free firewall in XP SP2 has helped curtail the rise of botnets, but said greater user awareness is a greater factor in helping to clean

up the net. Also in Internet news, IBM recently introduced technology has developed an application designed to stop spam by identifying the Internet domain it came from and to help spot online scams such as phishing attacks and e-mail spoofing.

The company announced the release of FairUCE, or Fair Use of **Unsolicited Commercial** E-mail, for the company's alphaWorks advanced technology program. It cited a newly released IBM survey that indicates spam makes up 76 percent of all e-mail and may cost U.S. companies \$17 billion this year.

The FairUCE technology uses identity management features to link inbound e-mail back to its original IP address, establishing a connection between an e-mail message, the Internet domain and the computer from which the e-mail was sent, IBM said.

AlphaWorks is a program that distributes innovations to developers around the world who sign on as early adopters of technology developed by IBM's global research

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labs. FairUCE will allow alphaWorks software developers and thirdparty vendors to build more-effective spam-fil-

tering technology,

according to IBM offi-

cials. IBM researchers acknowledge that FairUCE is not a fullblown antispam product but rather an early version of technology that could one day be used in

the marketplace. "We'd like to see whether early adopters consider the technology an innovative approach to handling a massive problem," said Marc Goubert, manager of alphaWorks. "We want to find out how innovators and early adopters would use it in their environments and get their feedback.'

FairUCE software runs on e-mail servers. It pulls IP addresses out of e-mail messages and then compares those against one or more databases of known spammers, said Goubert.

Unlike many spam-filtering technologies that use message content to determine whether an email message is spam, FairUCE links e-mail to IP addresses. That allows IBM to spot messages from compromised, or "zombie," computers as well as legitimate e-mail servers, IBM said.



#### **NURSING**

Continued from Page 1A

its admission standards for the program, only to see the failure rate increase, Sparks said. This, in turn, could land the program in hot water with the State Board of Nursing Examiners.

With the current standards, however, 100 percent of students who recently completed the college program passed their state board exam, earning the college a commendation from SBNE, Sparks said.

The program also is in desperate need of an additional instructor, she conceded. Again, however, there is no easy solution to the problem.

Sparks said the college has been advertising for a nursing instructor for

more than a year, without receiving a single applicant. To solve that problem, the college hopes to "grow its own" instructor through the course itself.

Regardless, Sparks said the course instructors remain very involved in the students' progress.

"I believe the faculty is very interested in the students doing well,".she said. "Our goal is for the students to graduate, then pass the state exam.

In other business,

trustees approved: A bid for \$134,563 from the firm of Roger's and Belding of El Paso to provide the district's insurance for the next fiscal year. The bid was the lowest of three received.

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

# Booth sign-up extended

Chamber of Commerce has extended until Friday the sign-up date for renting a booth at the April 16 health fair held at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Booth fees are \$75, and health care providers and agencies are provided Key to Good Health", with the necessary should call Valverde at amenities needed to con- (432) 432.263.7641

The Big Spring Area duct a successful presentation, said Debbye ValVerde, chamber executive director.

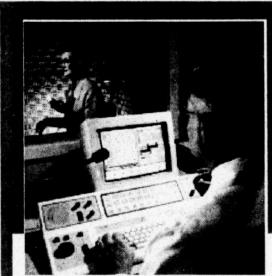
Anyone interested in renting a booth at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair 2005 "Prevention is the

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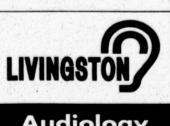


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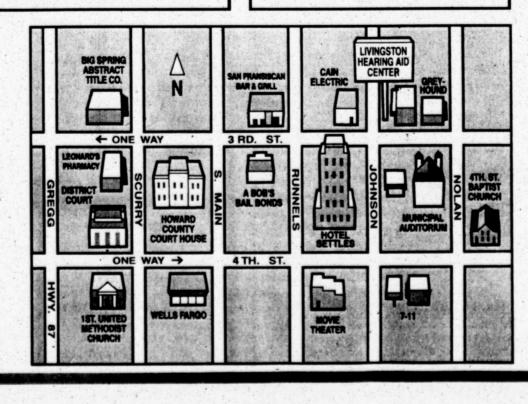
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#### Live cultures in yogurt may boost immunity, along with other benefits

By Janet Helm

Bacteria in your food are a bad thing, usually: Think of E. coli or other harmful bugs. But a whole other world of "friendly" bacteria lurks out there. Called "probiotics" and found in such products as yogurt and yogurt drinks, they provide health benefits beyond the regular live cultures found in those foods.

Probiotics are among the fastest-growing category of functional foods, according to the market research firm Mintel, which cites a 140 percent increase last year in the launch of new probioticfortified products.

So far, the strongest evidence on probiotics has focused on digestive-tract problems such as lactose intolerance and diarrhea

including infectious diarrhea among children and the type that develops after a person has taken antiobiotics (which wipe out both good and bad bacteria in their path, altering the natural balance of the digestive tract).

Additional studies suggest probiotics may help decrease the risk of colon cancer and ease symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome and the more inflammatory serious bowel disease, which includes Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Researchers also are beginning to see signs that probiotics may help lower blood pressure and blood cholesterol levels.

Europeans have long embraced the concept of probiotics (which is derived from the Greek word meaning "for life"), but Americans haven't tully warmed up to the idea of downing a drink swimming with billions of live microorganisms.

"We've done a good job in this country of scaring people to death of microbes," said Mary Ellen Sanders, president of the International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics. a non-profit scientific "People organization. don't understand the important role microbes can play in our health."

Unlike antibiotics, which kill harmful microbes in the body, probiotics simply take up temporary residence and neutralize the negative effects of the "bad" bacteria living there. Some of the benefits of probiotics appear to be their feisty aggression toward these

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nasty bugs in our bodies, Sanders said.

Emerging health bene-

Some of the most exciting research on probiotics involves its potential to boost immunity, according to Allan Walker, a professor of nutrition and pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, who is studying how exposure to good bacteria could help children decrease their susceptibility to infections and allergies.

Probiotics appear to communicate with the cells in our intestines to turn on antibodies to fight infections. Walker said. This "cross-talk" helps rev up our immune response so we're better. prepared to deal with invading bacteria and viruses that could make us sick, he said.

Though research is preliminary, scientists are revealing some promising immune function benefits, particularly among children:

Finnish researchers cut in half a baby's risk of developing allergies early in life by giving probiotics to expectant mothers and their newborns who were predisposed to asthma, hay fever and

A recent study published in Pediatrics found that infants fed formula containing probiotics had less diarrhea and fever, and fewer clinic visits and absences from child care centers, compared to those who consumed a formula without probi-

A seven-month study of more than 570 children in day care centers found that intake of a probiotic milk reduced the number and severity of respiratory infections and the need for antibiotics.

Tracking down good bugs

Some foods may be made with microbes everything from sourdough bread to pickles, sauerkraut, kim chi, miso and fermented meats like salami. But it doesn't mean all the "good bugs" survived the processing or that the strains used provide actual health benefits, which is required before it would qualify as a probiotic, Sanders said.

You also can't assume that all yogurts contain probiotics (although not all experts agree on where you draw the line). Though many of the national brands contain "live active cultures," the typical strains used to make yogurt don't make

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Products with probiotics in them won't necessarily list that word on the label. Look for live cultures with any of these. names: Lactobacillus acidophilus, bifidobacteria (or bifidus), L.casei or L. reuter.

it the full ride through our digestive tract.

These starter bacteria produce lactic acid and are used to give yogurt its tart flavor, but they don't seem to have the same types of health benefits as probiotics, which do survive the digestive tract, Sanders said (although they still might help folks with lactose intolerance).

If you want a yogurt with the gut-healthy, friendly bugs, you need to scour the label to see if the manufacturer supplemented the standard strains with probiotic bacteria. The two most common

Lactobacillus acidophilus and bifidobacteria (or bifidus). You won't necessarily see the word "probiotics" on the label.

casei, L. reuteri and others) also are being added to fermented milks like acidophilus milk, kefir and soy beverages.

New to the market is Dannon's DanActive, a probiotic dairy drink that contains to diffion five cultures per serving - or 10 times more cultures than yogurt, according to the label. DanActive also appears to be the first product to use the immunity claim to try and sell Americans on the benefits of live microorganisms. The label touts its ability to "naturally strengthen your body's defense system."

Companies are exploring adding the cultures to a wide range of non-dairy products, including breakfast cereal, energy bars, juices and other beverages, and even candy. Capsules of probiotics also are available in health food stores, but experts believe there may be additional benefits of getting your bacteria in a food form, especially

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through dairy products.

To take care of the "good" bacteria you buy, don't let your probiotic products linger at room temperature, and don't heat them or you'll kill the live cultures. Also, it's best to consume probiotics before the use-by date on the label (or within the week following the sell-by date). Otherwise, the live cultures begin to die off.

To reap the full benefits, you need to consume probiotics on a regular basis. The friendly bacteria only persist in your gut as long as there's a steady supply. So if you don't eat any foods or supplements containing probiotics, after about a month they will be gone.

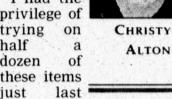
Now that you've gotten These bacteria (and to know the term "probitheir probiotic cousins L. otics," there's something else you should add to your lexicon: prebiotics.

#### Spring fashions resemble bed linens

fashions are in. Straight out of a Bed, Bath and Beyond catalog, these new styles are making a grand entrance in stores across the nation.

From the west coast to the big spring, the dresses and tops are flouncing into shops. I had the privilege of trying on half a of dozen

just



week. first ensemble . My resembled a bed-in-a bag, complete with comforter and dust ruffle.

The jacket top, paired with filmy skirt in powder pink, was too dowdy for words.

My friend was in the next stall, trying on tops made out of bedsheets. With the quilt, ruffle

he new spring and sheet, those of us who have built-in pillows should feel right at home in the mattress covers.

My next outfit was equally bad. as Geometric patterns in a rich polyester graced this two-piece set.

The top had an unbelievable necktie attached.

Looking like a kingsized, four-poster bed in most everything I put on, I quickly decided against any purchases.

Clothing should diminish, accentuate or flatter the figure, not draw attention, enlarge or poof it out of proportion.

Designers? I think not.

Interior decorator comes closer to reality with the old-fashioned looking new line.

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

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

These are types of dietary fiber, such as inulin and oligosaccharides, that help nourish the growth of good bacteria. Companies are beginning to introduce new products that contain a combination of probiotics and prebiotics.

Consuming foods that naturally contain prebiotics - garlic, onions, artichokes, bananas and whole grains — also can help stimulate the good bugs that naturally reside in your digestive tract.

#### **Happy Birthday Carrie Annie Louise Beverly**



#### Scenic Mountain Medical Center invites you to join our... March 2005

March 17 • Thursday Mall Walking - 8:00 am

Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck & Bingo - 11:30 am

March 18 • Friday Midland Shopping - 9:00 am (rsvp early) March 19 • Saturday

Child Birth Classes
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Laurie Burks, R.N.
Certified Child Birth Educator Katrina Reynolds, LVN Certified Child Birth Educator

2nd Floor Hospital - 263-4550 March 20 · Sunday COLD FEET - MCT - 1:00 pm

(rsvp by 3-11)

March 21 • Monday Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm

Supper Club - "Sky's" - 5:30 pm

March 22 • Tuesday Mall Walking - 8:00 am

\* New Mexico Casino Trip - 10:00 am March 23 · Wednesday

Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am March 24 • Thursday Mall Walking - 8:00 am

\* Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am March 25 • Friday

March 26 · Saturday

March 27 · Sunday

March 28 • Monday

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

March 29 • Tuesday

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

March 30 · Wednesday

Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am March 31 • Thursday

Mall Walking - 8:00 am

Coffee & Gale's - 10:00 am Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am

Dr. Roberts:

"Depression" - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

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Saturday st p.m. at th Baptist Gymnasium Teams car four player

cost of each \$10 and p must be years old. The tour double elim

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is March 30 For mor tion, call County 4-H day at Brian Moo

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at 393-5571.

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# IN BRIEF

#### **Cornell Corrections** announces softball tournament at **Cotton Mize Field**

Cornell Corrections is sponsoring a co-ed softball tournament benefiting Relay For Life.

The tournament will take place April 22 and 23 at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

The cost is \$10 per player and the deadline to register is

Friday, April 15. Concessions will also be available.

For more information, call 267-1911 ext 214 during the day and 267-2004 at night.

#### 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.

#### Dodgeball tourney benefiting Relay For Life set for April 9

Cornell Corrections has set up a co-ed dodgeball tournament for April 9 at the YMCA and the tournament will benefit Relay For Life.

The tournament costs \$10 per person and the deadline to register is April 5.

For more information, call 267-7911 ext. 214 during the day or 267-2004 at night.

#### Big Spring C.C. sets three-person tourney

Big Spring The Country Club will host a three-person scram-Friday. Saturday.

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

entry The fee includes barbeque Saturday, as well.

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

#### **Howard County sets** 4-H tournament

The Howard County 4-H Club has set up a three-on-three basketball tournament to benefit Relay For Life.

The tournament will take place Friday and Saturday starting at 7 p.m. at the Trinity Baptist Church Gymnasium.

Teams can have up to four players and the cost of each person is \$10 and participants must be at least 16 years old.

The tournament is double elimination and will also include a 3point contest.

T-Shirts will be awarded for first and second place teams.

The deadline to enter is March 30.

For more information, call the Howard County 4-H during the day at 264-2236 or Brian Moore at night at 393-5571.

# Forsan girls grab seventh at Water Valley Relays

#### · Becerra grabs two silver medals to lead the Lady Buffaloes

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

WATER VALLEY -Senior long distance runner Cynthia Becerra grabbed two second place finishes last Thursday and led the Forsan girl's track team to a seventh

place overall finish at the Water Valley Relays. The track meet consisted of 18 girl's teams.

Becerra grabbed the silver medal in both the 3,200 and 1,600 meter runs. Her time in the two mile event was 13:29, while she crossed the line in 5:57 in the mile.

Kassi Walsh also competed in the 3,200 meter run and grabbed fourth overall with a run of



14:37. She finished seventh in the 1,600 with a time of 6:35, as well.

Also grabbing fourth place was Carlee Barraza in the shot put after a throw of 26-7.

in the both the 100 and 200 triple jump. She finished fifth in the 100 with after sprinting to a :13.56. Spence did not place in the 200 meter dash, but was clocked at :29.21. Spence managed no placing in the triple jump after reaching 28-11 in the

jumped 29-7 and recorded

Kayla Spence competed a time of :19.48 in the 100 meter hurdles, but neimeter dashes and the ther result was good enough to place.

Jolinda Flores competed in four events, but did not place. She ran a :30.2 200 meter dash and finished the 100 meter dash in :14.17. She also pole vaulted 6-00 and long jumped

The Lady Buffaloes will Caitlin Jones triple next compete at Roby

# Hawks suffer loss to New Mexico JC in WJCAC action

#### Howard battles back, Thunderbirds take control late

BY ERIC C. RODEWALD

Special to the Herald The Howard College baseball team left opportunity at the door Monday afternoon at Jack Barber Field, falling 11-6 to Western Junior College Athletic Conference foe New Mexico Junior College.

Left was the key word, as in left-handed pitcher Ricardo Ibarz. The sophomore southpaw kept the Hawks guessing at the plate and won the pitcherhitter match-ups which featured lefties, according to Howard coach Britt Smith.

"He (Ibarz) put it on threw a good game and won the battles of lefty versus lefty.'

Smith gave Ibarz and the Thunderbird coaching staff a lot of credit for limiting the left-handed hitters in the Hawks' line-"They exposed some of

our weaknesses, but we have to realize that we can't always rely on our lefties to do all of our hitting." Smith said.

The Hawks were doubled up in nearly every See HOWARD, Page 2B

category, surrendering 18 hits, while collecting only nine. In Saturday's 6-3 win, only one of Howard's seven hits was a single. However, Monday, the Hawks could only muster one extra base hit, a double by freshman first baseman Will Basom. New Mexico committed four errors, with the Hawks only making two.

According to Smith, the Hawks have to play error free baseball.

"We have no margin for error," Smith said. "We just can't give them or anybody, for that matter, an extra out." Smith said the most

frustrating part of making mistakes is the practice time committed to preventing those miscues.

"We work on those us," Smith said. "He things in practice, but it over to our games," he said.

> Neither team created much offense throughout the first three innings, with New Mexico registering a single in the third inning followed by a two-out solo home run in the top of the fourth, staking the Thunderbirds to a 1-0 lead.

> The Hawks finally got their first hit with two

# Baylor reaches final four, upsets No. 1 North Carolina

By JANIE McCAULEY

to 2-6. Howard is 19-8 overall.

tes out with long out...

AP Sports Writer

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP). -All along, Baylor believed it could do something to boost the morale for a school that has seen its share of sports heartaches.

The program's first Final Four berth has the entire Texas town of Waco cheering these beloved Lady Bears.

Sophia Young capped her regional MVP performance with 19 points, 11 rebounds, six assists and four steals, and secondseeded Baylor advanced to the Final Four in Indianapolis with its school-record straight victory, 72-63 over No. 1 North Carolina on Monday night in the

Tempe Regional final. Steffanie Blackmon added 14 points and seven rebounds for the Lady Bears (31-3), who will play Louisiana State in the national semifinals Sunday in the RCA Dome,

Slowly, the Baylor community is finding ways to celebrate again - nearly two years after the tragic death of men's basketball player Patrick Dennehy.

Carlton Dotson will go to at Wells Fargo Arena. trial this summer to face charges he gunned down bunch,"

miles from campus.

Howard pitcher Zach Sewell attempts to pick off a runner at first base Monday during the

Hawks' loss to conference rival New Mexico Junior College at Jack Barber Field. Sewell

took the loss on the mound as the Hawks lost, 11-6, and dropped their conference record

have the whole community behind us," said guard Chameka Scott, who shot 4-for-8 on 3-pointers en route to 18 points and breaking a season-high 0for-9 slump from long range. "That's part of our momentum and part of what got us so far."

Baylor coach Kim nervously paced the sidelines all night, has turned around the women's basketball program in just five years.

With chants of "Final Four! Final Four!" coming from Baylor's large green-and-gold clad contingent, she was quickly joined on the court afterward by husband, Randy, and children, Makenzie and Kramer — husband and wife both dressed in black pants and vellow button-up shirts.

They posed for a family photo as Baylor's players pulled on their new Final Four hats and T-shirts and took turns on the lad-

"We are one happy Mulkey-

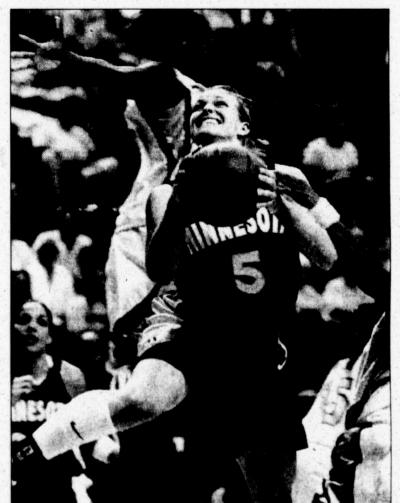
missing six weeks before coach a lifetime and his body was found in never make it to the Final July 2003 in a field a few Four. I'm going to ride this horse as far as it will "Baylor has been take me. I've been around through so much, but if winners all my life. I've you go back to Waco, we learned how to win from winners. You just roll your sleeves up and surround yourselves with smart, hard-working peo-'ple.'

The Lady Bears had losing seasons in 13 of the previous 16 years before Mulkey-Robertson took over in 2000.

Only Baylor's men's ten-Mulkey-Robertson, who nis team has won a national title, last spring. The women did it by taking away everything North Carolina does best, keeping the Tar. Heels from returning to the Final Four for the first time since winning the NCAA title in 1994 despite their first 30-win season in 10 years.

North Carolina came in with four starters averaging double figures — and only, three scored 10 points or more, and most of those points came during a late rally that fell short.

Spunky point guard Ivory Latta had 21 points reserve Leah Former Baylor player der cutting down the net Metcalf's 11 points were the next most in the first meeting between these schools. With 16 straight his teammate, who was Robertson said. "Coaches wins, the Tar Heels (30-4)



KRT photo/Sherri Larose, St. Paul Ploneer Press April Calhoun, center, of Minnesota puts up a shot against Baylor's Sophia Young, left, during first half action in the 2005 NCAA Tempe Regional Saturday. No. 2 Baylor defeated No. 1 North Carolina Monday to reach the final women's Final Four in Indianapolis, Ind.

winning streak in school history and certainly chances to make a run at the national title.

The Tar Heels never found a rhythm, mostly

had the second-longest because they were sloppy with the ball and allowed the Lady Bears to beat seemed confident in their them to the boards all night.

> Larkins was held to single digits for just the fifth time this season.

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#### HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

outs in the fourth when Basom ripped a double to left-center, but a ground out stranded him on base.

In the top of the fifth, Howard pitcher Chance Sebek notched two quick outs, before surrendering a single, RBI double, and walk. Another single scored two more runs before Sebek could coax a fly ball out of the Thunderbirds to end the inning, with New Mexico up, 4-0.

With two outs in the bottom of the fifth, Ibarz walked freshman Jeff Storms and sophomores Tanner Mattson and Ryan Femath each laced singles through the left side of the infield, one of which scored Storms to cut into the Thunderbirds' lead. A ground out ended the inning with the Hawks trailing 4-1.

New Mexico began the sixth inning with four straight singles, scoring two runs, before Sebek gave way to sophomore Zach Sewell, who bailed the Hawks out, retiring the next three batters to end the inning, only down

Hawks offense erupted in the bottom of the sixth, as sophomore Jason Anderson led off with a single. Next, Basom ripped a single up the middle followed by



Howard College's Jeff Storms lunges forward, but misses a pitch thrown his way by a New Mexico JC pitcher Monday at Jack Barber Field. The Hawks lost the conference battle with the Thunderbirds, 11-6, and dropped to 2-6 in Western Junior College Athletic Conference

freshman Johnny Joe Sanchez driving Anderson with a single. Freshman Damon Aaron reached on a fielder's choice and a throwing error allowed Basom to score. A passed ball later allowed Sanchez to score, and Aaron move to third. After a strikeout, Storms reached on a throwing error as Aaron scored on the play and Storms advanced to second as the New Mexico third base-

mark. Storms then stole third and eventually scored as Femath and freshman Darby Brown each added singles before a fly out ended the inning, with the Hawks tying the game at 6-6.

However, New Mexico Junior College scored four runs off Sewell in the seventh inning to grab back the lead.

New Mexico added an insurance run in the eighth inning to preserve an 11-6 victory.

Sewell suffered his first loss, falling to 2-1.

Basom led the Hawks at the plate with a double and single. Femath and Anderson each had a pair of singles.

The loss drops the Hawks to 19-8 overall and 2-6 in the conference. Howard hosts El Paso Community College in doubleheaders Friday and Saturday at Jack Barber Field. First pitch both days is set for

# Maryland leads Final Four teams at 'other' tournament

By IRA PODELL

AP Sports Writer NEW YORK (AP) -Gary Williams and

Maryland know all about the Final Four — just not the one they find themselves in now. Williams coached his

alma mater to the national semifinals for the first time in 2001, then led the Terrapins to the NCAA title a year later.

Williams was riding a wave that carried crashed this season.

man's throw was off the

Instead of another trip to the NCAAs, Maryland landed in the NIT.

The Terrapins (19-12) are making the most of their unfamiliar predica-

Final Four and will play South Carolina (18-13) Tuesday night.

South Carolina is in the NIT semis for the second time in four years — Maryland into the big including a champi- kept NIT opponents 11 onship game loss to (Hofstra, Buffalo, Holy

straight years, but that Memphis in 2002. Another victory would

move Maryland into the championship game Thursday against the winner of Tuesday's other semifinal between Memphis (22-15) and Saint Joseph's (23-11).

"other" tournament's final six regular-season Calipari cited. games and finished 16-12. Saint Joseph's won the regular-season title in the Atlantic 10 for the

fifth straight year. So far, the Hawks have

Cross and Texas A&M) to 51.3 points. They won their first three games at home and then knocked off the Aggies in College Station.

Defense is the key. Saint Joe's is 21-2 when holding opponents to 60 They reached the Maryland lost five of its points or fewer - a stat

But Martelli countered with his own numbers about Memphis.

"At 69 and under, they are 3-12," he said after Calipari left the stage. "He doesn't know that I know that."

# LSU gets to semis after win over Duke

By ELIZABETH A. DAVIS

**AP Sports Writer** 

CHATTANOOGA Tenn. (AP) — The net dangled from the rim by its last strings while the LSU women's basketball team waited for coach Pokey Chatman to take the final cut.

Instead, she ran off the court to make an important phone call before she finished the ceremony.

Chatman wanted to hear what her coach and former boss had to say about LSU's 59-49 win over second-seeded Duke in the Chattanooga Regional final Monday, clinching a second straight trip to the Final Four.

"Congratulations, unbelievable and we're going back," Sue Gunter said to Chatman from her hospital room, where she is recovering from pneumo-

Gunter retired last season for health reasons, putting Chatman in charge, but Gunter remains at the heart of LSU's program.

"It's just a matter of what's important at that moment," Chatman said. "And at that moment, that was the most important thing to me."

Chatman returned to the court after the call, gingerly climbed the ladder, snipped off the remaining strings and joined her team reveling in their big victory.

The celebration capped the top seed's toughest game so far in the tournament. LSU (33-2) won its first three games by an though the team was paying for its lack of competition.

But Duke (31-5) could long withstand All-American Seimone Augustus and LSU's furidown early but tied it at the first half.

halftime, went ahead in the opening minutes of the second half and never trailed again.

"I think it will help the team," Augustus said about being tested. "This is a big momentum getter and confidence booster."

The Lady Tigers will second-seeded Baylor, a 72-63 winner over top-seeded North Carolina, in the national semifinals Sunday in Indianapolis.

Augustus, the regional's most outstanding player, finished with 24 points and Sylvia Fowles added 13 points and 11 rebounds.

The players danced in a circle while they donned shirts and caps proclaiming them regional champions, and Augustus and Johnson ended up with nets around their necks.

The Blue Devils had a good game plan to go inside and take advantage of their bigger posts, and it worked early. Duke was ahead by as many as 12 in the first half, putting the Lady Tigers in their biggest deficit of the season.

Johnson seemed to frown every time she brought the ball up the court in the first half, unable to get around taller defenders or find an open teammate.

LSU turned up its defensive pressure, tipping passes and blocking shots, and brought in Fowles, the 6-foot-5 freshman, to help clog the middle.

She helped the Lady Tigers outrebound Duke average of 36 points, and 42-27, and the Blue Devils early on against the Blue scored only 19 points in Devils, it looked as the second half. Their point and rebound totals were season lows.

LSU's shooting was cold to start the game, and the Lady Tigers went down 12 points when Alison Bales made a basket over ous defense. LSU was Fowles with 8:14 to go in



# BO BEE AND THE ORANGE TREE

Have you ever heard the term, "busy as a bee?" All bees seem very busy, don't right they? They seem to work now from daylight until dark let's every day. They are all begin working on getting food o u from the nectar of flower blooms.

That is how they make honey?

There is also some-

thing else that they do which is very important! While they are getting the nectar from the flowers, they are also pollinating those same flowers. Do you know what pollinating tree's branches. He loved to

in the dictionary tomorrow after you

wake up! I will give you a little hint! If the bees did not pollinate the flower have a truits to eat.

Find out why tomorrow and

then tell your mommy and

daddy.

story!

was not

a "busy little bee!" He was a honey. Do very lazy bee. He loved to like smell the flowers, and he loved to eat the honey, but he just didn't want to work for it! Bo Bee was a very lazy bee!

Bo had one tree that he loved the most. He loved the smell of the flowers on the tree that filled the air each year in the springtime. He loved to play on the sit under the shade of this tree when the sun was very hot. He even had a home in that tree! Do you know what a bee's home is called? It is called a beehive!

And Bo's beehive was really pretty! It was a home that all the



other bees wished they had! Bo's had dad

home many

and after Bo grew up, they decided to give it to him. They moved to the beach!

Bo was sitting on his favorite tree one day. He was sitting on his favorite branch, and he was ready to take a nap when all of the other bees came buzzing by. "Aren't you going to work today?" they asked. "No, I

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a nap," Bo replied. What a lazy bee!

shake! It was trembling! And then he thought he heard a little whimper! And a strange thing happened. A raindrop fell on Bo's little bee head. But, it wasn't

ing, so what was that? Bo that sat very still and waited!

from the sky! It was the little orange tree crying! "What is

the matter, little orange tree?" asked. am going to

be cut down," the little orange tree said. "I heard people talking about me this morning. They said that I am old enough to make oranges, but I haven't made any at all! They said that if



am just going to sit here on I don't make any this year, my favorite branch and take they will cut me down! I am so scared!"

Bo really felt bad about Then Bo felt the limb this. He knew that if he had pollinated the

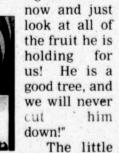
little orange tree's flowers, there would be lots of fruit and the people would love the little orange tree as much as Bo did! And it

Bo got off the branch and went to work on the little There it was, another rain- orange tree's flowers. He orange tree was very happy

all night! He worked all the next day, too! Finally, Bo had visited all of the bloswas a good nap! Bo felt better about himself than he had in a long. long time!

Then, as the blossoms turned into oranges, Bo felt really good! The little orange tree still wasn't sure what the people were going to do with him. Now his branches were almost touching the ground from the weight of all the fruit! He was hoping the people would change their minds about cutting him down!

The day came when the people stopped by to look at the little orange tree with all of that beautiful fruit hanging on every branch. "Look at this," the little orange tree heard one of them say, "Look at how big this tree is



drop falling, but it was not worked all day and worked to hear that! Now he would never have to worry about being cut down again! He never trembled again! He soms on the little orange never cried again, either! tree. Then he took a nap! It He was happy all the time. And Bo became his best friend!

Now B o ' favorite tree was even bigger than before. had

more shade for those hot summer days! It had even more blossoms for him to smell! And it had enough nectar for Bo to build another room onto his beehive. Now that hive is the biggest one around, thanks to the big orange

Bo decided to help the big orange tree forever because he had learned that his hard work had done a lot of good things for so many. If you are ever near an orange tree and see a very, very busy bee, look to see if he has a big smile on his face. If he does, I am sure that it will be Bo!

Bo says, "Good Night."

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263-5000

1809 Johnson- 2/1 bath, washer, dryer connections, new paint & carpet. \$525. month, \$275. deposit 407 & 407-1/2 East 8th - 1/1 bath. \$250. month,

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

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816-9984.

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This newspaper will not know ingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an

equal opportunity basis

#### Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS It's a slow start this morning and a real challenge to get all our ducks

once we do, h Sagittarius m o o n inspires those ducks to create the optimum Vformation. Before

projects are

flying at top =

accept others.

today.

know



velocity. The more adventurous you are, the more likely you are to find the interesting people, fascinating projects and very best deals.

we

it,

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your super power is: empathy. You use it to bring people to your way of thinking, to sell ideas or products, and, most of all, to broaden your own capacity to love and

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). An industrious attitude attracts more work. This is only positive if you're 1. Enjoying what you do: . 2. Charging enough money for what you do; 3. Being energized. by what you do. If out of work, new offers come

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Words can promise. Words can lie. But words 21). Some actions satisfy can also inspire you to your ego. Other actions

dreamed you could go. Carefully choose whom you'll listen Remember, garbage in,

garbage out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Relationship dynamics are amplified. What is good is now great, and what is bad is awful! Consider how you'd like to come across before you act. This is your personal history in the making.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your humanness is so attractive. Dare to love the one who loves you. Don't you want to be near someone who is affected by the lilting sound of your voice, your hearty laughter and your very essence?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's a rare day that you can remain as "chill" as a tourist in the Bahamas. But if you refuse to struggle and strain, the most colorful, magical and, above all, simple bits of good luck drift into your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Who wants to run around putting out fires all day? Avoid the mindset of trying to please everyone by deciding first thing in the morning what is important — not merely urgent - and concentrating your

effort there. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov.

soar to heights you never bring results. Distinguish one from the other, and you'll be more than productive ... you'll be successful, too! There's chemistry between you and a Cancer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're mentally riding yourself too hard! Give yourself a break, especially from the nasty habit of comparing yourself to people in magazines. Nothing is gained from self-deprivation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your love life has become more complicated than it needs to be. Set a precedent. Even though a partner is clinging tightly to your tiniest infractions and blowing them out of proportion, refuse to be petty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Change it up. Being too much in your own head gets boring. Get out and create a way to celebrate others, especially the one who has seen you on your worst behavior and loves you anyway!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A key relationship is going through a power struggle and in need of balance. Camus wrote: "Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Just walk

# Annie's Mailbox •

Dear Annie: "Myles" and I have been married for one year. I have two young daughters from my first marriage, and Myles has five children.

I recently received a phone call from my dad, saying he heard some disturbing news from my exhusband's father. My exfather-in-law said my 4year-old told him Myles put duct tape on her mouth to get her to be quiet. I told Dad that was ridiculous, and that I vaguely remembered Myles joking with my daughters about putting tape over their mouths. Dad's response was, "Well, if he did, I'm going to kill him!" This shocked

I asked my daughters about it, and my older child said that once, Myles gave them each a piece of tape and they. placed it on their lips to be funny. I also called Myles, who confirmed that the girls had put tape on their mouths, drew

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lips on the tape, put holes in it so they could drink through a straw, etc. He said it was 10 minutes of giggly fun, and it happened last summer. He was quite insulted that my dad immediately believed the worst about him.

I gave my parents all the details about the incident. Then I told my mother how disgusted I was with Dad's reaction. She said Dad was just worried. My parents always have gotten along fine with Myles, but this really has put a strain on our relationship. My husband is hurt that they would doubt him so easily before getting the whole story. Are we overreacting? - Amy in Denver

Dear Amy; Dad needs to Low mileage, after market apologize for jumping to conclusions, but you and Myles should try to be EL Camino, new understanding low-mileage 350 motor and remore built transmission. Lots of about his reaction. We so power. Needs minor body and desperately want to be exhaust work. Very reliable, for alert to the dangers of abuse, and it is not unusual to make the CUSHMAN GOLF car, very wrong assumption when good condition, new batteries, given partial facts by someone who undoubtedly made Dad feel that he was derelict in protecting your children.

Talk to your father and explain how hurt Myles is. Reassure him that Myles would never harm your children and that it is important he tell Myles that he trusts him. Then do your best to put this behind you.

Dear Annie: I work with a woman who always is asking people for their food at lunchtime. She usually asks if she can have some, but often, she just helps herself. Of course, she never shares anything of hers, and she always has plenty. How can I put a stop to this? —

Going Hungry Dear Hungry: The most direct way is simply to tell her, "Stella, I'd rather not share my food, if you don't mind." If she grabs something without asking, act shocked and say very loudly, "Goodness! You must be starving!"

Dear Annie: I had to respond to the letter from "Smoking Guamanian," whose wife was ready to get pregnant, but she refused to stop smoking. My husband and I were both longtime smokers when I became unexpectedly pregnant. We immediately quit together, but it was one of the hardest things I've ever done.

When our son was born, he became the joy of our lives, but sadly, the damage had been done. We lost our beautiful boy to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome at the age of 3 months. SIDS deaths are higher in families where there are smokers.

I will forever regret that I smoked for the first two months of my pregnancy. Smoking Mad's wife needs to realize that if she continues to smoke, she is putting her baby's life at risk. I thought that quitting was hard until I had to bury my child. No cigarette is worth going through that. - Grieving Mom Dear Mom: We hope

your words will motivate would-be parents to take whatever steps are necessary to quit. Bless you for caring enough to share your story.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email 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. the Creators visit Syndicate Web page at

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beside me and be my friend." © 2005 CREATORS SYN-DICATE, INC.

WIZAR WHERE

BC

RUNDR HAS

BIG SPRING H

Tuesday, Mai

**TUESD** 

My Wife George

Blind Justice (CC) (DV

6 :PM

8 :30

9 :30

10 :PM

11 :30

12 :AM Live (CC News (C

**DENNIS** 

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GET THE HOME 6

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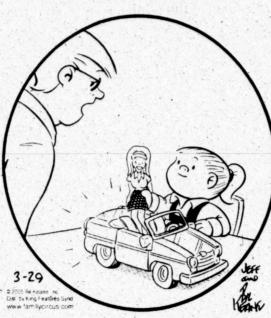
Τl	UESDAY																MAR. 29			
		WFAA 2 Dallas	KMID 3 Midland	UNI 4 Spanish	KPEJ 5	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE 8 Telemundo	KWES 9 Midland	WTBS 11 Atlanta	KMLM 12 Odessa	KOCV 13 Odessa	DISC 20 Discovery	AMC 21 Classics	SPIKE 22 Spike TV	TNT 23	BET 26 Black Ent.	DISN 27 Disney	ESPN2	ESPN 29	TMC (25
6	:PM :30	News (CC) Wheel-Fortune		La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid. Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anita No Te Rajes		Raymond Raymond	Booker John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Biker Build-Off (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstigtn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET Style	The second secon	College Basketball:	Women's College	Thoughts.
7	:PM :30	The state of the s		Apuesta por un Amor	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)		Will & Grace Scrubs (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)		Nova (CC) (DVS)	Biker Build-Off	Movie: Missing in Action 2:	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers . Girlfriends	Movie: Double Teamed	NIT Semfinal Teams TBA	Basketball	Movie: The Cotton Club
8	:PM :30		According-Jim Rodney (CC)	La Madrastra	House (CC)	The Amazing Race 7 (CC)	Los Plateados	Scrubs (CC) The Office	Sex and-City Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Krakafoa (CC)	Biker Build-Off	The Beginning	Invasion lowa	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Soul Food (CC)	(CC)	College Basketball:	Women's College	(CC)
-	:PM :30	Blind Justice (CC) (DVS)	Blind Justice (CC) (DVS)	Jugando al Amor	Malcolm-Mid- '70s Show		La Ley del Silencio	Law & Order: SVU	:10 Movie: Cocktail		Independent	Biker Build-Off	Movie: Hamburger Hill	Most Amazing Videos	Charmed (CC)	Rip the Runway	Sister, Sister Even Stevens	NIT Semifinal Teams TBA	Basketball	15 Movie: The
10	:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	The second secon	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O	News Late Show-	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	(CC) (DVS)	The Hour of Healing	Lens (CC)	Biker Build-Off		Invasion Iowa	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Nightly News BET Style	That's-Raven That's-Raven	NCAA Special	SportsCenter (CC)	Shawshank .
11	:PM :30	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo-	Late Night-	10 Movie: To Die For	Joe McGee Rabbi Richman		Biker Build-Off	Movie: The Green Berets	Wildest Police Vidéos	The X-Files (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family Kim Possible	NBA Fastbreak Tennis	Outside-Lines Baseball	45 Movie:
12	:AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Live (CC) Paid Program	Alma Rebelde	Spin City Dharma-Greg	Show The Insider	Maria Celeste Programa	Conan O'Brien World, Media	(CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	"	Biker Build-Off		Blind Date Shipmates	The X-Files (CC)	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie McGuire	NASDAQ-100 Open	SportsCenter (CC)	The Return o

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I'LL BET YOU'RE GLAD TO SEE ME. LOOKS LIKE YOU HAD NOTHIN' TO DO."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Your doll has a nicer car than I have."

HAGAR



... BUT HE ALWAYS EXAGGERATES EVERYTHING.

**BLONDIE** 





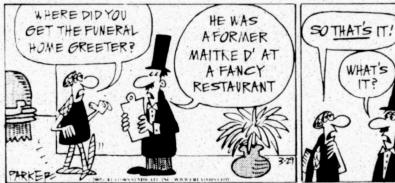


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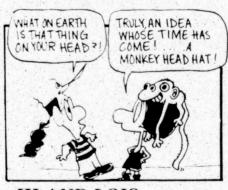




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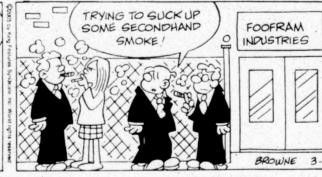
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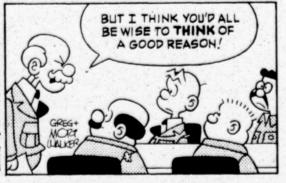
SNUFFY SMITH





BEETLE BAILEY





## This Date In History

#### By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 29, the 88th day of 2005. There are 277 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 29, 1973, the last United States combat troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

On this date: In 1638, Swedish colonists settled in present-day

Delaware. In 1790, the 10th president of the United States, John Tyler, was born in Charles

City County, Va. In 1847, victorious forces led by Gen. Winfield Scott occupied the city of Vera Cruz after Mexican defend-

ers capitulated. In 1867, the British Parliament passed the North America Act to create the Dominion of Canada. In 1882, the Knights of

Columbus was chartered in Connecticut. In 1943, World War II

meat, butter and cheese rationing began. In 1951, Julius and Ethel

Rosenberg were convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage. (They were executed in June 1953.) In 1962, Jack Paar hosted

NBC's "Tonight" show for the final time. In 1971, Army Lt. William

L. Calley Jr. was convicted of murdering at least 22 Vietnamese civilians in the My Lai massacre. (Calley ended up spending three years-under house arrest.)

In 1974, eight Ohio National Guardsmen were indicted on charges stemming from the shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University. (The guardsmen were later acquitted.)

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Sen. Eugene McCarthy is 89. Political commentator John McLaughlin is 78. Author Judith Guest is 69. Former British Prime Minister John Major is 62. Comedian Eric Idle is 62. Composer Vangelis is 62. Singer Bobby Kimball (Toto) is 58. Actor Chris Lawford is 50. Olympic gymnast Kurt Thomas is 49. Actor Christopher Lambert is 48. Rock singer Perry Farrell (Porno for Pyros; Jane's Addiction) is 46. Model Elle Macpherson is 42. Rock singer-musician Popper (Blues Traveler) is 38. Actress Lucy Lawless is 37. Country singer Regina Leigh (Regina Regina) is 37. Country singer Brady Seals



#### **Newsday Crossword**

## **ACROSS**

- 1 Endow, as a scholarship 5 Derbies and
- fedoras 9 Pursue
- 14 38 Across'
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- region 37 Drink cooler 38 Thailand
- neighbor 39 Be delicious
- Gardner 43 Oxygen
- 44 Handkerchief
- 45 Pigpen
- a finger 48 Stairway
- components
- 52 Ballpark
- 59 Concert cheer
- 61 Molecule part 63 Seeped

- 64 Maple or mahogany 65 One of the
  - Three Bears
  - 66 Pavarotti
  - genre **67** Finales
  - 68 Tool building

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Hula Hoop,
- once
- 2 Computer owner
- 3 Highest digit 4 Statistics
- 5 Is in charge of
- 6 Nab 7 Worker's
- end-of-week
- - 9 Fictional
- shout
- 8 Fly high
- - castaway
- Stanley
- or helium
- alternative
- 46 Jabs with
- 49 Remote
- 50 Lincoln's nickname
- practice ritual
- 60 Boat paddles

#### SPRING THAW by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com 38 Misplaced

40 Desk wood

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47 Became angry

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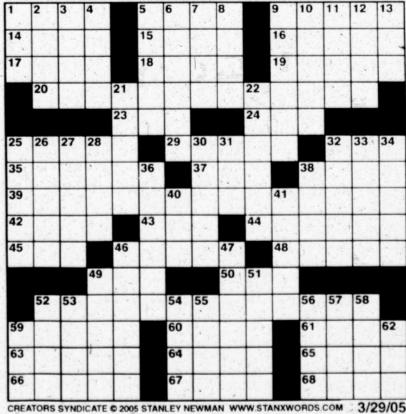
41 Scrooge,

46 Chinese

- 10 " makes waste"
- 11 Need liniment
- 12 Fortune-teller 13 Do something
- wrong 21 Diameter
- halves 22 Most unusual
- 25 Silent performers
- 26 Film reviewer on TV
- 27 Actor Savalas
- 28 Art Deco artist 30 Help with
- the dishes
- 31 Expert
- 32 Take a break
- 33 Stood 34 Fireplace
- residue
- 36 Fine sweater

- material

- disapproval about (in love with)



13-1 (05)

release dates March 26-April 1 Especially

By BETTY DEBNAM

Let's Visit the Netherlands (Holland)

Tulip Country

Do you like tulips? Many people enjoy these beautiful spring flowers that are a symbol of the Netherlands (or Holland). For hundreds of years, more have been raised there than'in any other place on Earth.

Thousands of tourists visit Holland each year to see the tulips and to discover more about this small European country. The Mini Page took a trip there to find out about it for our readers. We discovered it's much more than just tulips



The Netherlands is on the North Sea. It is bordered by Germany and Belgium.



The biggest cities are Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. It is often called Holland because two out of the 12

provinces are called North Holland and South Holland, which are located in the western part of the country.



The kingdom and the queen



32 inches)

Queen Beatrix is the head of state, but she does not make any decisions on her own She signs all laws that have been passed by Parliament, which is made up of members elected by the people.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands includes six islands in the Caribbean Sea: Aruba and the Netherlands

The battle with the sea

The Netherlands is a flat and low country. Much land is below sea level. The Dutch have created almost two-fifths of their land by draining water from it.

The drained lands are called "polders." Polders are protected from the sea by dikes, either dirt mounds or cement barriers

Lots of people

Goodsport's Report

Supersport: The Elfstedentocht

The Elfstedentocht is a very long race, covering 124 miles

and passing through 11 cities. More experienced skaters start

Ever since the Elfstedentocht started 90 years ago, it has taken place only 15 times. The last one was held eight years

before sunrise and finish around noon. Others might skate a

full day, but they must finish by midnight. Any skater who



These Dutch school kids are on their playground.

The Netherlands is about the size of Massachusetts. With 16.2 million people, it is one of the Earth's most crowded countries. We call the people from there "Dutch."

Over the years, the Netherlands has welcomed people of many different backgrounds. Because the country has so many diverse people, they are tolerant and often try to work out disagreements in a peaceful way.

The Elfstedentocht (Elf-STAYD-n-tohkt), or

the Eleven Cities Tour, is an unusual Dutch ice-

northern part of the country. It is not held every

year - only if the weather permits. The ice in

lakes and canals that make up the route must

freeze thick enough to handle the weight of the

thousands of skaters who take part in the tour.

skating event that takes place in the colder

Go dot to dot and color this sight in Holland.

Rookie Cookie's Recipe Stamppot Boerenkool (kale) (STAHM-pot Boor-n-COAL)

This is a Dutch recipe of mashed potatoes and kale. Stamppot comes from the word "stampen," which means to mash or pound. It is any dish where two or more ingredients are mashed together. You'll need:

- 3 pounds white potatoes, peeled and cut into four quarters
  2 to 3 pounds curly kale, stalks removed and leaves chopped very fine
- 1 pound smoked sausage 4 tablëspoons buttersalt and pepper to taste

What to do:

1. Place potatoes in a large pot. Cover with water and sprinkle with salt

'The Bedroom" features the artist's

own room painted in a simple, cozy

sell until after his death at age 37 in 1890

He ranks as one of the world's great artists.

2. Put kale over the potatoes, and then sausage on top 3. Cover and simmer on low for 30 minutes. 4. Remove sausage and drain off any excess water.
5. Mash the potatoes and kale together with a masher or a fork.

Meet Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh

Add enough milk to make a smooth mixture. Then add the butter.
 Add salt and pepper to taste. Serves 8.

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State Zip M MIGHTY

FUNNY'S MINI JOKE All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Netherlands

IHWOODENYNEEUQS

OTJBTSNGECIOUTI

RCWRADADIEFGTAN

THIGRHIBDOHSAKG

HXPOLDERSEACNSR

FTULIPSBBCYQL

NURETAWSUBYL

Words and names that remind us of the Netherlands are hidden in the

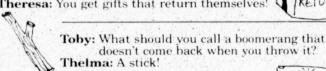
block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used more than once. See if you can find: NORTH, SEA, QUEEN. BEATRIX, WOODEN, CLOGS, NETHERLANDS, TULIPS, SHIPPING, POLDERS, HAGUE, NATURAL, CE, SKATING, GAS,

CHEESE, WATER, WINDMILLS, BICYCLES, DUTCH, HOLLAND.

Mini Spy's mom is taking her children biking in Holland.

See if you can find: • question mark • exclamation mark

Thomas: What happens when you cross a boomerang with a gift you don't like? Theresa: You get gifts that return themselves!



Basset Brown The News Hound's

ARE TULIPS IN

YOUR GARDEN?

Theodore: What piece of jewelry will always be returned to your finger? Terri: A boomer-ring!

Mini Spy ...

completes the race is awarded a small cross.

near water, they are probably used to drain the water if needed.

Windmills

TRY 'N

FIND

number 3

· word MINI

• dog • cat

pizza slice

doughnut

bell. snake

dragon

letter C

whale

• sock

elephant

· heart

banana

ago, on Jan. 4, 1997.

The Netherlands is a windy country. The Dutch have been building windmills for hundreds of years. At one time there were about 9,000 in the country. Today there are only about 1,000 left

The earliest windmills were used to grind grain. They were later used to furnish the power to make paper, chalk or paint. Another use was to send messages. For example, a marriage might be announced by hanging heart-shaped flags on the

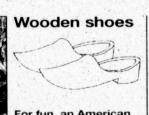
Another important purpose was to drain water from the polders

Holding back the sea



It took Dutch engineers 20 years to build huge dams and dikes to hold back the North Sea off one part of. the coast. The project is called the Delta Project.

The Mini Page thanks Peter Theunissen, education and public information officer at the Netherlands Embassy, for help with this story. Site to see: www.netherlands-embassy.org



For fun, an American tourist poses in super-large wooden

While they are not worn as much as they used to be, wooden shoes, or clogs, were popular with the Dutch for hundreds of years. They made good work shoes for people who lived in the country. Today, they are for sale in many tourist shops.

Millions of bikes



Mothers are often seen picking up their children at school on their bicycles. One kid rides in the front and another on the back.

While many Dutch do have cars, most travel by bikes. Experts say that there is at least one bike for every person. Cycling cuts down on the traffic and saves money, because gas is very expensive. It is good for the environment and is also good exercise.

Amsterdam

Amsterdam is a very old city. The center has many canals with old homes built along them. The homes are built on long poles, or piles, because the soil is very loose.

Amsterdam is the country's biggest city. Many tourists visit there to see the canals, the art museums, Anne Frank's house, the zoo and many other sites.

Neule lanus

His paintings are among the most popular in the world.

from The Mini Page by Betty Debriam © 2005 The I



Ships from around the world dock at Rotterdam. Netherlands imports and exports many goods.

Vincent Van Gogh is

one of many famous

Netherlands. He was

father was a preacher.

Although his career as

an artist lasted less than 10 years, he

created about 2,000

was ahead of its time.

drawings. His art

It did not begin to

paintings and

artists from the

born in 1853. His

Rotterdam is the largest seaport in the world. A river (the Maas) flows through it and connects the city to the rest of Europe. Ships from around the world dock there to load and unload their cargo.

The economy

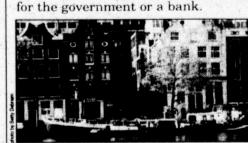
The country has many successful businesses, including those in the chemical and electronics industries. The natural resources include

natural gas and salt. The names of some Dutch companies are well known in this country. These include Shell Oil and

The milk from cows is used to make butter yogurt and cream



Dutch cheeses such as Gouda and Edam are sold all around the world. Many people work in the service industries. These jobs include working

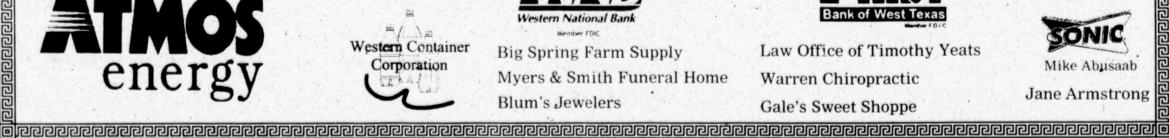


There are many houseboats on the canals of Amsterdam.

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