

Pope John Paul II dies

By VICTOR L. SIMPSON

Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY (AP) - Pope John Paul II, the Polish pontiff who led the Roman Catholic Church for more than a quarter century and became history's most-traveled pope, died Saturday night in his Vatican apartment. He was 84.

"The angels welcome you," Vatican TV said after the announcement came from papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

"The Holy Father died this evening at 9:37 p.m. (1:37 p.m. CST) in his private apartment. All the procedures outlined in the apostolic

Pope's legacy reached far beyond Catholic community, Fr. Plagens says

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As the world pauses to mourn the passing of Pope John Paul II, Big Spring's Catholic community is bracing itself for an emotional time of prayer and remembrance.

"You're never truly prepared, whether it's the passing of the Pope or a grandparent," said Father James

Plagens, pastor of Sacred Heart and St. Thomas Catholic churches, at the news the Pope had passed away Saturday afternoon.

"There is a definite sadness among the people of the Catholic church at this news, and although I don't know that anyone in Big Spring has ever met Pope John Paul II face to face, it's

See LEGACY, Page 6A

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican No. 2 official, led a tearful crowd of 70,000 people in St. Peter's Square in prayers for the pope.

Some people held their hands to their heads in disbelief. Others cried uncontrollably as they stood in the massive plaza beneath the pope's still-lighted apartment windows.

A Mass was scheduled for St. Peter's Square for 10:30 a.m. (3:30 a.m. CDT) Sunday.

John Paul declined rapidly after suffering heart and kidney failure following two hospitalizations in as many months. Just two hours

See POPE, Page 6A

Constitution 'Universi. Feb. 22, 1996, have been put in motion," Navarro-Valls written by John Paul II on said.

TAKS scores show progress is being made

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District students showed marked improvement in standardized tests administered by the Texas Education Agency.

BSISD students showed across-the-board improvement in scores from the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) examinations between 2003 and 2004. Superintendent Michael Downes noted.

While the latest scores still fall below district

goals, Downes expressed satisfaction that progress is being made.

District-wide, 2004 TAKS scores by category revealed that:

- Reading — 83 percent of Big Spring students passed, compared to 76 percent in 2003.

- Mathematics — 68 percent of the students passed, compared to 61 percent the previous year.

- Writing — 89 percent of the students passed, compared to 80 percent in

See TAKS, Page 5A

Clark to address ag luncheon here

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

In a day and time when so many things are taken for granted, several area agencies and groups will come together Tuesday to show thanks to the men and women that play a very important role in the local economy — area farmers.

The annual West Texas Ag Expo will be held from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with the Agricultural Appreciation Luncheon set for noon at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, located on the Howard College campus. This year's luncheon

will feature special guest speaker Jimmy Clark, chief of staff and district agriculture representative for U.S. Congressman

Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock.

Clark, who is a third-generation farmer himself, worked for more than 16 years as district representative for former congressman Larry Combest and worked closely with the House Agriculture Committee to

See CLARK, Page 5A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Pete Thiry, executive director of the Big Spring YMCA and local Rotary member, picks up garbage near the intersection of FM 700 and Goliad. Thiry was just one of hundreds of area residents that took to the streets of Big Spring Saturday morning for the annual Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off.

Cleanin' the 'hood

Hundreds participate in annual Texas Trash-Off

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

It's a dirty job, but people in and around Big Spring have to do it.

That was the message Saturday morning, as

area volunteers hit the city's streets in droves to help clean up Big Spring.

All part of the Don't Mess With Texas annual Trash-Off.

The Great American Cleanup is the nation's

largest community improvement program.

In 2004, more than 2.3 million volunteers cleaned, beautified and improved over 15,000

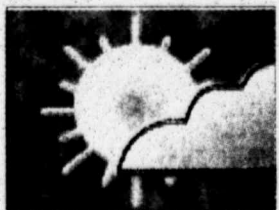
communities in the United States.

"There's a need for this. There's no doubt about it," said Pete Thiry, just one of hundreds of volunteers who took to the roadways, lots and parks

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SUNDAY 81°-83°
SUNDAY NIGHT 50°-52°

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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.

THIS WEEKEND



Cover Story: Each April, more than 3,000 American Indians representing 500 tribes from across North America gather at the University of

New Mexico in Albuquerque to sing, dance, and drum, sell their wares, and socialize as part of the nation's largest powwow.

FLEA MARKET

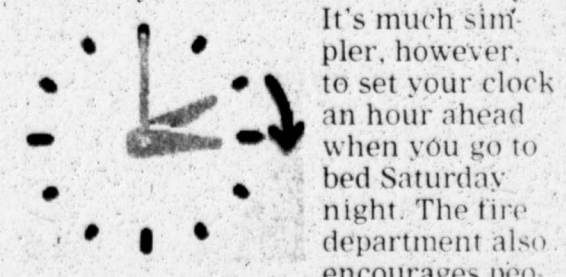
Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be holding a community-wide flea market April 23. Area residents are encouraged to bring their gifts, crafts and recycled items to the Big Spring Mall parking lot from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Booth prices range from \$25 for a 10-foot by 10-foot space, \$45 for a 12-foot by 12-foot space and \$65 for a 24-foot by 12-foot space.

For an application, mail a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Keep Big Spring Beautiful, P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring 79721. Applications can also be picked up at the Chamber office.

SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Saving Time begins this weekend, the first weekend in April. Officially, the time is 2 a.m. Sunday.



It's much simpler, however, to set your clock an hour ahead when you go to bed Saturday night. The fire department also encourages people to change the batteries in their smoke detectors when they change their clocks, because it can be so easy to forget otherwise.

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Obituaries

Mae Keefer Henry



Mae Keefer Henry, beloved mother and grandmother, age 102, passed from this life at Mountain View Lodge on Friday, April 1, 2005. She was born in Polk County on Oct. 17, 1902.

She was married to Lemuel Keefer, a farmer, who preceded her in death in 1947. Together, they had six sons.

After Mr. Keefer's death, she married Wylie Henry, a truck driver for McAllister Trucking Firm in Big Spring. Mr. Henry also preceded her in death.

She is survived by three sons, Roy Keefer of Big Spring, C. P. "Red" Keefer and wife, Jewel of Maypearl, and L. D. Keefer and wife Gayle of Odessa; twelve grandchildren, a host of great grandchildren, many great great grandchildren, and six great great grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, Ruthie McGee of Cleveland, Texas.

She was also preceded in death by three sons, Jim Keefer of Big Spring, Levi Keefer of Houston and Robert Keefer of Woodville; and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Henry was an accomplished seamstress and tailor, making wedding garments, suits and other clothing for many residents of Big Spring, Stanton, and Odessa.

Her talents were many, among which were making friends quickly and cooking lavish holiday dinners for her large family.

Mae was a faithful member of Trinity Baptist Church in Big Spring, and later of Grace Baptist Church of Odessa, where she made lasting friendships.

Funeral services will be held Monday, April 4, 2005, at 11:30 a.m. at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel, with Dr. Randy Cotton officiating and Dr. Claude Craven assisting. Interment will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends Sunday from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

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

Paid obituary

Betty Lou Heald

Betty Lou Heald, 71, of Lamesa, died Thursday, March 31, 2005, at Medical Arts Hospital in Lamesa. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2, 2005, at Branon Funeral Home in Lamesa. Burial was in Lamesa Memorial Park.

She was born Sept. 17, 1933, in Big Spring and married Gene Heald on June 14, 1951, in Flower Grove. He preceded her in death on July 13, 1999.

She was raised in the Flower Grove Community. She graduated from Flower Grove High School as valedictorian of her class in 1951. She was a homemaker and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Lamesa.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Patti Branon and husband Mike, of Lamesa; a son, Layne Heald of Lamesa; a sister, Dorothy Cave of Flower Grove; five grandchildren, Shelley Branon of Lamesa, Leslie Branon of Dallas and Jeremy, Angie and Kelli Heald, all of Lubbock; two great-grandchildren, Lexi Heald of Lubbock and Madelyn Garcia of Lamesa; and her caregiver, Hope Gonzales of Lamesa.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, Charles Jefferson and Patsy Ann King.

The family suggests memorials to First United Methodist Church of Lamesa.

Arrangements were under the direction of Branon Funeral Home of Lamesa.

Paid obituary

Jennie Barber



Jennie Barber, 96, of Big Spring, died on Friday, April 1, 2005, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, April 4, 2005, at the First Baptist Church Chapel with Rev. Dennis Teeters, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

She was born on Dec. 19, 1908, in Escambia County, Ala. and married V. C. Barber on Oct. 23, 1927, in Brewton, Ala. He preceded her in death on May 7, 1981.

Mrs. Barber came to Big Spring in 1948 from Jacksonville, Fla., and moved to Midland in 1952. She returned to Big Spring in 1968. She had lived at Canterbury South for 20 years and was very active in all of the activities there. She loved to read, crochet and play games.

She was a member of First Baptist Church and had taught Sunday School and was a member of the Missionary Society. She was also a member of the World War I Women's Auxiliary and the Eager Beaver Sewing Club.

Survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Virginia and Neal Bryant of Big Spring and Lolita and Richard Grimes of Hot Springs Village, Ark.; four grandsons, nine great grandchildren and five great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four sons, one grandson and eight brothers and sisters.

The family suggests memorials to a favorite charity. Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Patsy "Pat-Pat" Tomlin

Patsy "Pat-Pat" Tomlin, 66, of Killeen, formerly of Big Spring, died on Thursday, March 31, 2005, in a Temple hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2, 2005, at Memorial Baptist Church in Killeen with Dr. Joe Rich officiating, under the direction of Crawford-Bowers Funeral Home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, April 4, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with Dr. Randy Cotton officiating.

The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

She was born in Big Spring to Truett "Peeler" and Leola Davidson. She was a homemaker and lived in the Killeen community since 1970. She was a member of the Senior Citizens Club "95 UP" in Harker Heights and Memorial Baptist Church in Killeen.

Survivors include her husband, Curtis Tomlin of Killeen; two sons, Steve Tomlin of Washington, D. C. and Stuart Tomlin of San Antonio; two daughters, Teresa Tomlin of Killeen and Shawnette Petrey of Sachse; one sister, Joyce May of Kingwood; 12 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

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

Horace W. Cook

Horace W. Cook, 90, died Thursday, March 31, 2005, in Tucson, Ariz. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday:

- ANTONIO PENA, 21, of 1 Courtney Lane, was arrested Friday on two local warrants.
- CLIFFORD STINSON, 35, of 1500 Lincoln, was arrested Friday on two local warrants.
- JANET CARROL SWINNEY, 42, of 1516 Sycamore, was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- MATIAS VIDAL CISNEROS, 21, of 1603 E. 11th Place, was arrested Friday on a Howard County warrant.
- TIMOTHY BRETZ, 34, of 1110 E. Fifth Street, was arrested Friday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- ROBERT FREITAG JR., 38, of Forsan, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- ABEL GOMEZ SILVA, 28, of 606 State Street, was arrested Saturday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- FRANCES RODRIGUEZ, 38, of 1108 Lloyd Street, was arrested Saturday on two local warrants.
- MARIA OFEMIA LOPEZ, 42, of 1002 N. Main Street Apt. 53, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.
- JOE ALFARO LOPEZ, 42, of 907 S. Bell Street, was arrested Saturday on a charge of wrong motor vehicle registration and fictitious inspection certificate.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of Gregg Street.
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
- in the 400 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.
- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- FORGERY OF A FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT was reported in the 500 block of Lamesa.

All announcements to the Sunday Life! section are free of charge. Call the Herald office for more details, 263-7331

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Bulletin board

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

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon at the Chinese Dragon Restaurant.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the north-west door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.
- Big Spring Chapter and Council RAM meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic building at 221 1/2 Main St.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line Dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Ag Expo is 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Ag Appreciation Luncheon begins at noon in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The Howard County Extension Agency will offer continuing education credit classes beginning at 8 a.m. Call the chamber of commerce, 263-7641.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.

Lottery

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Friday by the Texas Lottery: 6-8-11-13-19

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Friday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-7-7

Weather

- Sunday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.
- Sunday night - Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.
- Monday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.
- Monday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.
- Tuesday - Partly cloudy. Not as warm. Highs in the mid 70s.
- Tuesday night - Partly cloudy. Windy...Colder. Lows around 40.
- Wednesday - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.
- Wednesday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.
- Thursday - Partly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the upper 70s.
- Thursday night - Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s.
- Friday - Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.

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Betty Nelson, ness owner To Garrett Coliseu

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Annual

By THOMAS JE

Staff Writer

The Big Sp Chamber of will be teami area medica providers to annual Health titled "Preven Key to Good H Debbye ValV utive direct chamber, said rate sponsor event have bee over the pa months.

ValVerde sa include AL Adult Protecti Big Spring Therapy, Car Home Health Medical Supp KBST, KBYG, View Lodge, Physical Th Sports Scien Scenic Mount Center, the V Center and

Local rese seeks help with huma effort in Tr

Shirlene S being deploy U.S. Navy R Thailand and ing April 1! She will be co duct in humanitaria work, offerin general med cine service dental, optom try and veter nary services.

While there her fellow re purchase bool pieces for child selling Navy a shirts to raise The shirts short-sleeve a long-sleeve a obtained by v at 609 Jeffrey Spring, or c 0744, or e-m: lene911@aol.c Monetary dc also accepte should be ma to the Children's Scl

ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Betty Nelson, center, looks over some of the jewelry at the Pain-B-Gone Magnetic Therapy display while Odessa business owner Tony Gonzales helps Mary Leatham pick out an item at the Arts and Crafts Festival being held at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The festival will open again on Sunday from noon until 5 p.m.

Forsan registration to begin for pre-K and kindergarten

Forsan's Elbow Elementary will begin registering students for next year's pre-K and kindergarten classes.

Registration will take place from Monday, April 4 through Friday, April 8, in the elementary office.

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-registration.

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."

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*Sin City (R) DLP
Daily: 7:00 & 9:30
Sat. & Sun. 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30
*The Ring 2 (PG-13)
Daily: 7:10 & 9:40
Sat. & Sun. 4:40, 7:10 & 9:40
*PASS RESTRICTED
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CINEMA 4
*Beauty Shop (PG-13)
Mon-Thurs 4:40, 7:10
Fri. 4:40, 7:10 & 9:30 Sat. 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
Sun. 2:10, 4:40, 7:10
Ice Princess (G)
Mon-Thurs 4:50, 7:20
Fri. 4:50, 7:20, 9:40 Sat. 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40
Sun. 2:20, 4:50, 7:20
*Miss Congeniality (PG-13)
Mon-Thurs 4:30, 7:00
Fri. 4:30, 7:00 & 9:30 Sat. 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Sun. 2:00, 4:30, 7:00
The Pacifier (PG)
Mon-Thurs 5:00, 7:30
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\$4.00 ALL MATINEES,
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Health Fair to focus on prevention

Annual event scheduled for April 16 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will be teaming up with area medical service providers to present its annual Health Fair, aptly titled "Prevention is the Key to Good Health."

Debbie ValVerde, executive director of the chamber, said the corporate sponsors for the event have been gathered over the past several months.

ValVerde said sponsors include ALON USA, Adult Protective Services, Big Spring Physical Therapy, Caring Heats Home Health, Express Medical Supply, H-E-B, KBST, KBYG, Mountain View Lodge, Paradigm Physical Therapy and Sports Science Center, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, the VA Medical Center and Warren

Chiropractic.

ValVerde said this year's health fair will focus a great deal on screenings and other preventive tests to help keep people healthy, now and in the future.

"It's so important that people know what's happening with their bodies," said ValVerde. "These tests and screenings can be very important in catching problems early, before they become major problems or even life threatening."

However, ValVerde said it's hard for fair coordinators to know exactly what tests and screenings will be available during the annual event, which is slated for 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. April 16 at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

"A lot of entities don't let us know what they

plan to offer," said ValVerde. "I do know we'll have some of the same tests we've offered in the past — tests for glaucoma, blood pressure checks and blood sugar tests. We're also going to bring back the PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen, commonly used to detect prostate cancer) tests, but we're not sure this point just how many we'll have. We have enough funding for 50 PSA tests, but we'd like to have at least 100."

There is no admission charge for the fair, but ValVerde did say some of the tests and screenings may require a small fee.

"We're doing our best to find sponsors for the PSA screenings so we won't have to charge for them," said ValVerde. "We've never had to charge for the tests or screenings,

and that's a tradition we would like to continue, but it's going to be dependent on sponsor funding."

For more information, contact the Chamber

office at 263-7641 or visit 215 W. Third Street.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232.

Local reserve seeks help with humanitarian effort in Thailand

Shirlene Sulatan is being deployed by the U.S. Navy Reserves to Thailand and will be leaving April 12. She will be conducting humanitarian work, offering general medicine services, dental, optometry and veterinary services.



While there, she and her fellow reserves will purchase books and supplies for children. She is selling Navy and Army T-shirts to raise funds.

The shirts are \$15 for short-sleeve and \$25 for long-sleeve and may be obtained by writing her at 609 Jeffrey Road, Big Spring, or calling 263-0744, or e-mailing shirlene911@aol.com

Monetary donations are also accepted. Checks should be made payable to the Thailand Children's School Fund.

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Keep Big Spring Beautiful First Annual Spring Clean Community-wide Flea Market

April 23, 2005*

Come join us at the east end of the Big Spring Mall for an exciting fundraiser. Learn more about our community while making money and meeting friends.

Bring your gifts, crafts and recycled items to the Big Spring Mall Parking lot, Saturday, April 23, 2005. Flea Market hours are from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m.

Space availability is limited. Booth prices are: 10X10 @ \$25, 12X12 @ \$45 and 24X12 @ \$65. For an application, please mail your stamped, self-addressed envelope to Keep Big Spring Beautiful (KBSB), P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring, TX 79721 or you may complete the application in your Big Spring Herald and mail with your check or money order to KBSB, P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring, TX 79721. You may also pick up an application at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 West Third Street.

*Rain Date May 7, 2005

Keep Big Spring Beautiful
First Annual Spring Clean Community-wide Flea Market
April 23, 2005*

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Home # _____ Work # _____ Cell # _____
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*Rain Date - Saturday, May 7, 2005

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EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Be sure to attend the 2005 Ag Expo set for Tuesday

The importance agriculture plays in this area's economy can be witnessed Tuesday when some 300 to 400 farmers and ranchers attend the annual Ag Expo and Appreciation Luncheon at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Set to get under way at 10 a.m., the exposition will feature numerous exhibits and seminars specifically designed to be of interest to agribusinesses, not only in Howard County, but producers in Glasscock, Martin, Scurry and Borden counties as well.

Perhaps more importantly, however, the day's activities will include the 32th annual Ag Appreciation Luncheon at noon.

The luncheon is not only a forum for recognizing the Ag Producer of the Year and the Ag Business of the Year, but an opportunity for us to show appreciation to the area's farmers and ranchers for doing business in our community.

While local businesses have traditionally been at the forefront of this recognition effort, each of us should recognize that the area's farmers and ranchers play a much more important role than just spending their money with local firms.

Every one of us, regardless of our chosen profession, benefits from the work they do.

These producers are, after all, the people we depend on to grow our food and produce the fibers that clothe us.

Every bite of food we eat and virtually every piece of clothing we wear can be attributed to the efforts of farmers and ranchers, and that's something each of us should remember — not only on Tuesday, but every day.

Tickets are required for the luncheon, and the deadline to obtain those was Friday. However, it's not necessary to pay to listen to the program. Neither is there a charge to attend the expo, which will go on until 2 p.m.

Help us honor this very important group of people. We hope to see you there.

How To Contact Us

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

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

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 telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Dear Lord, thank You for Your direction and Heavenly words.
Amen

Patrick Kennedy's decision

Close supporters of Democratic Rep. Patrick Kennedy tipped off his Wednesday announcement that he would not run for the U.S. Senate from Rhode Island. They said the race would be "risky" and might be a "trap" to eliminate Kennedy from politics.

These backers did not mention the condition of his mother; Joan Kennedy, who is currently hospitalized in Boston. They said defeating Republican Sen. Lincoln Chafee would be no easy task. Noting the loss of Kennedy's seat on the House Appropriations Committee if he did not seek reelection in the House, his supporters suggested he was being maneuvered into the Senate by political enemies.

A footnote: Rhode Island's other House member, Democratic Rep. James Langevin, announced earlier that he would not run for the Senate. Democratic national strategists want pro-life Democrat Langevin against pro-choice Republican Chafee. They consider State Treasurer Bob Casey, a pro-life Democrat campaigning in Pennsylvania, to be the only anti-abortion Senate candidate the party can take.

Philip Merrill, a longtime Washington insider who currently heads the U.S. Export-Import Bank, is being considered as the new deputy secretary of defense replacing newly appointed World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz. While publishing the Washingtonian magazine and sev-

eral Maryland newspapers, Merrill has held national security positions in Washington and abroad during Republican administrations. He was assistant secretary general of NATO during the senior President George Bush's administration.

Merrill is close to both Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and often meets with them. He was a staunch supporter of the military intervention in Iraq.

Entrepreneur Clayton Williams, who spent millions of his personal fortune in an unsuccessful 1990 bid for governor of Texas, has vowed to stop Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison if she runs, as expected, against Gov. Rick Perry next year.

Williams has told friends he supported Hutchison only for the Senate, not to be governor. If she opposes Perry, Williams added, he will contribute whatever money is needed by Perry in the Republican primary.

Perry has slipped in the polls, but he might have the advantage among the normal Republican voting base in the party primary. With Texas now essentially a one-party Republican state, Hutchison might need to solicit Democrats to vote in the GOP primary.

The website HouseDemocrats.gov, run out of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's office, went blank after Republicans complained that its language was over-the-top for an official governmental site that bars partisan rhetoric. A Pelosi spokeswoman told this column the site had been experiencing technical problems with the server.

"The 2006 budget submitted by the President is fiscally reckless, morally irresponsible, a failure of leadership," the official Democratic website said. Calling the budget "nothing more than an assault on our values," it concluded: "While the president picks and chooses which numbers to pour into the equation and which to leave out, the American people still have to pay the full price."

After the Republicans complained, the Democratic website was blank last Tuesday evening. Beginning on Wednesday, a message directed visitors to Pelosi's minority leader website.

Rep. Christopher Cox of California, chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee, is prodding the Treasury to finally get rid of a "luxury" tax on telephone service that was passed in 1898 to finance the Spanish-American War.

In a March 21 letter, Cox urged Treasury Secretary John Snow to order the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to issue a ruling that would eliminate the 3 percent excise tax by defining it out of existence. Cox deplored "the best efforts of the IRS bureaucracy to keep this beast alive."

In 2000, the House voted 420 to 2 to repeal the tax. It was then tacked onto an appropriations bill that passed both houses but was vetoed by President Bill Clinton because of a dispute over education spending. Since then, President Bush has not made a serious effort to get rid of the tax.

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

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Schiavo: No longer fully human?

As Terri Schiavo lay dying, her organs slowly mummifying from the effects of prolonged, court-ordered dehydration and starvation, the Supreme Court of the United States refused to hear an appeal from her parents that might have saved her life. Her parents argued that Schiavo's right to due process under the law had been denied, a claim summarily rejected — without even the pretense of a full hearing — by a District Court and upheld by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. Less than one week later, however, the Supreme Court sat in rapt attention as attorneys argued a very different life and death case, this one involving a convicted rapist and murderer whose case found its way to the high court because he is a non-citizen, and who, it is alleged, had been denied full and adequate access to diplomats from his home country when he was criminally charged.

In both cases, lower courts had already ordered the termination of life — in the case of Terri Schiavo, by refusing her food and water on the basis of a Florida state court ruling; and in the case of Jose Ernesto Medellin, by the judgment of a Texas jury that he was guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt" of the rape and murder of two teenage girls in 1992.

So, why did the Court give so much more deference to Medellin's claims than to Schiavo's? It's hard to escape the conclusion that it is because many people — including the judges who have considered her case —

believe that Terry Schiavo's disabilities render her no longer fully human. And in this judgment the medical establishment is fully complicit. The very term used to describe Schiavo's condition — persistent vegetative state — conjures up images of a subhuman, sub-animal life form. As one health care professional wrote me after hearing me on television describe the pain Schiavo might suffer as she slowly dehydrated to death, "If you touch a venus fly trap plant (a stimuli) it will immediately close its petals (a reaction). That doesn't mean it feels or cognizes [sic] that there is a fly that has landed." Few public commentators have been as blunt, but the sentiment seeps through nonetheless in the words we choose to describe Schiavo's state.

Although the media has tried endlessly to compare Schiavo's predicament to that of cancer or Alzheimer's patients whose families choose to withhold or withdraw life-support at the end of their lives, Schiavo was not dying — at least not until a judge ordered that she not be fed or given water. She required no machines to help her breathe, no kidney dialysis to remove toxins from her body, no pacemaker to regulate her heartbeat. She was even able to swallow on her own — she swallowed two liters of saliva every day, until severe hydration turned her mouth and tongue to dry leather — which raises the possibility that she may not even have required the feeding tube that the judge ordered removed. Until her court-ordered ordeal, she was a relatively healthy, if severely brain damaged woman whose longevity alone was testament to a will to live.

Those who wanted to end Terri Schiavo's life have done everything in their power to dehuman-

ize her. But Terri was not a "vegetable." She was not "brain dead." She was severely disabled. She could not care for herself. She could not "think" or communicate normally. But she was a person in the clear meaning of the Constitution, that is unless we have now collectively written such persons out of the Constitution.

We have been down this road before when we bought and sold Africans and their progeny as mere "property" and when our courts determined that the unborn are not persons unless their mothers choose to carry them to term. Now we seem on the verge of declaring — de facto — that the severely mentally deficient are not persons either. Who will be next — the gay man suffering from AIDS-related dementia, the Alzheimer's patient who cannot feed herself, the infant with cerebral palsy or spina bifida or hydrocephalus? Will we suddenly find it convenient — even merciful — to let such people starve?

Rev. Jesse Jackson joined protesters outside Schiavo's hospice on Tuesday, declaring, "This is one of the profound moral and ethical breaches of our time. . . we pray for a miracle." It should not take a miracle to convince the U.S. Supreme Court that an innocent, brain-damaged woman deserved as much consideration as a convicted rapist and murderer. But then we live in dark times.

Linda Chavez is the author of the new book, "Betrayal: How Union Bosses Shake Down Their Members and Corrupt American Politics." To find out more about Linda Chavez and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Meagan Carrillo, a ju-shy side and waves pick up trash near t

CLARK

Continued from Page

formulate policy 2002 Farm Bill.

Clark, a gradu Texas Tech, and J in-law, Chad Whit rently farm 2,500 cotton in Acuff.

Between 350 a agriculture produ expected to atte year's luncheon Ronny Wood, who ing to organize th The luncheon

TAKS

Continued from Page

2003.

• Science — 57 passing rate, com 48 percent in 2003

• Social Studie percent of s passed, compare percent the previ

"The students a worked very through the Downes said of results.

BSISD has state of 90 percent succ in all categori Downes said the would continue toward that goal.

"We expect sc improve as our meet the chall increased accou in our schools," h

Big Spring TAK tacked close to t average in mo gories. State-wide rates were 85 pe reading, 76 per mathematics, 91 for writing, 72 pe science and 91 pe social studies.

TAKS 2004 scores for oth school districts i

• Coahoma — 91 percent, compa percent the previ mathematics, 81 compared to 70 p 2003; writing, 96 the same as the year; science, 79 compared to 57 p 2003; and social 86 percent, compa percent the previ

• Forsan — Re percent, compar percent the previ mathematics, 81 compared to 73 p 2003; writing, 97 compared to 86 the previous y ence, 72 perce pared to 65 per previous year; a studies, 94 perce pared to 92 pe 2003.

• Stanton — Re percent, compar percent the previ mathematics, 77

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Meagan Carrillo, a junior at Big Spring High School, shows her shy side and waves off a photographer while helping her team pick up trash near the Municipal Landfill.

TRASH-OFF

Continued from Page 1A

to pick up litter. "We have a windy city and there's a lot of trash around. It's really just another quality of life issue. The nicer the place looks, the more people will try to take care of it. We've got a lot of good people here and we're trying to take care of our place.

"I'm out here for Keep Texas Beautiful and the group I'm here with is representing the Rotary Club of Big Spring," he added. "We have about a dozen volunteers out here helping pick up trash along the highway, trying to keep Big Spring beautiful."

While Thiry and his fellow volunteers seemed very upbeat and chipper while picking up the garbage, the Big Spring man said they understand the discouraging side of the project.

"Two weeks from now you're going to see the same trash out here again," said Thiry. "But something has to be done about it.

Does it get discouraging? Absolutely. But until we come up with a better way, this is it."

Volunteering during the Trash-Off wasn't just for adults. Teens worked Friday evening and got up early Saturday morning to help make a difference in the way Big Spring looks.

"It's really not that hard," said Big Spring High School junior Meagan Carrillo, a part of a group of students participating in the Trash-Off. "And it's worth it when you get to see it clean."

Local organizer and Keep Big Spring Beautiful chairperson Pat Simmons said seeing so many people out volunteering to beautify Big Spring is a definite step in the right direction.

"I'm really excited about it because everyone is out and they're really doing a fantastic job," said Simmons. "The Friday Rotary Club is out working on Fourth Street and they're even doing some weed-eating along with picking up the trash. We have a lot of people out today, so it's going really well.

"I think so many people are

beginning to take pride in their community. I've seen many people out with their lawn mowers and picking up trash around their own property, and it's exciting. I've seen them out cleaning up because they know today is the Trash-Off, and they want to make a difference. And I think the whole city wants to make a difference, and I'm really pleased with that."

Simmons said she expects the amount of trash collected to really tip the scale, but what she's really interested in seeing is how this year's Trash-Off stacks up against previous years.

"If I had to guess, I'd say it's going to be around 10,000 pounds of trash this year," said Simmons. "If we have the same number of people helping with the Trash-Off each year and we have less trash, that tells us there isn't as much trash out there. That's what I'm looking for, and it's just great to see everyone kicking in."

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

CLARK

Continued from Page 1A

formulate policy for the 2002 Farm Bill.

Clark, a graduate of Texas Tech, and his son-in-law, Chad Whitley, currently farm 2,500 acres of cotton in Acuff.

Between 350 and 400 agriculture producers are expected to attend this year's luncheon, said Ronny Wood, who is helping to organize the event. The luncheon will be

capped by the presentation of the Agriculture Business Person and Producer of the Year awards. Wood said the organizing committee is busy reviewing nominations for those awards.

The luncheon is the highlight of the event, but by no means the sole attraction, Wood said. Several agriculture-related businesses are expected to have booths open at the coliseum to show off their latest products to producers.

In addition, the county extension office and the Texas Department of Agriculture will host a series of classes to update producers on changes in agriculture laws and regulations, with continuing education classes available to those hoping to keep their applicator licenses current.

Classes are expected to begin at 8 a.m. and break for lunch at 11:30 a.m. More classes will also be offered after the luncheon.

Unfortunately, tickets to dine during the luncheon are no longer available. However, the Expo is free and those who have not obtained tickets may still hear Clark speak and attend the awards ceremony.

The appreciation luncheon, which is given at no costs to farmers and ranchers, is expected to cost \$3,800. Wood said anyone interested in contributing to defray the cost of the event is urged to contact the Big Spring

Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641.

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

TAKS

Continued from Page 1A

2003.
• Science — 57 percent passing rate, compared to 48 percent in 2003.
• Social Studies — 90 percent of students passed, compared to 87 percent the previous year.
"The students and staff worked very hard through the year," Downes said of the test results.

BSISD has stated a goal of 90 percent success rate in all categories, and Downes said the district would continue working toward that goal.

"We expect scores to improve as our students meet the challenge of increased accountability in our schools," he said.

Big Spring TAKS scores tacked close to the state average in most categories. State-wide success rates were 85 percent for reading, 76 percent for mathematics, 91 percent for writing, 72 percent for science and 91 percent for social studies.

TAKS 2004 category scores for other area school districts include:

• Coahoma — Reading, 91 percent, compared to 78 percent the previous year; mathematics, 81 percent, compared to 70 percent in 2003; writing, 96 percent, the same as the previous year; science, 79 percent, compared to 57 percent in 2003; and social studies, 86 percent, compared to 90 percent the previous year.

• Forsan — Reading, 94 percent, compared to 87 percent the previous year; mathematics, 81 percent, compared to 73 percent in 2003; writing, 97 percent, compared to 86 percent the previous year; science, 72 percent, compared to 65 percent the previous year; and social studies, 94 percent, compared to 92 percent in 2003.

• Stanton — Reading, 90 percent, compared to 78 percent the previous year; mathematics, 77 percent,

compared to 68 percent in 2003; writing, 98 percent, compared to 92 percent in 2003; science, 66 percent, compared to 36 percent in 2003; and social studies, 95 percent, compared to 86 percent in 2003.

• Glasscock County — Reading, 91 percent, compared to 89 percent in 2003; mathematics, 94 percent, compared to 86 percent the previous year; writing, 97 percent, compared to 92 percent in

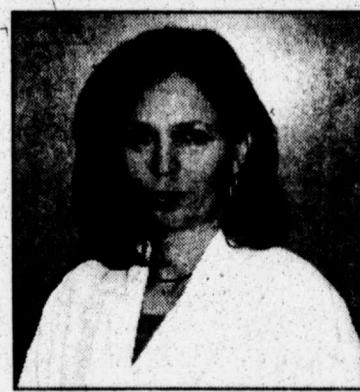
2003; and social studies, 93 percent, compared to 91 percent in 2003.

• Sands — Reading, 93 percent, the same as 2003; mathematics, 89 percent, compared to 80 percent in 2003; writing, 99 percent, compared to 88 percent in 2003; science, 86 percent, compared to 82 percent in 2003; and social studies, 92 percent, compared to 82 percent the previous year.

• Grady — Reading, 96

percent in 2003; mathematics, 91 percent, compared to 87 percent in 2003; writing, 99 percent, compared to 95 percent the previous year; science, 80 percent, the same as 2003; and social studies, 99 percent, up 3 percent from the previous year.

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



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2003; science, 87 percent, percent, compared to 94 ald.com

Attention Job Seekers:

The Workforce Network of Big Spring is conducting a workshop titled "Represent Yourself" Tuesday April 5, 2005 At 9:00am to 10:00am

At this presentation, you will get a close look at what local employers expect from an applicant and how you can prepare yourself for a great first impression!

Plan to attend and learn how to have an edge over the competition as you begin your job search and gain skills to secure longevity with any employer

Also... Howard College will be in our office at 310 Owens on the last Wednesday of each month to give information and assistance on college enrollment & financial aid issues.

For more information, contact the Workforce Network At 310 Owens or call (432) 263-8373

The Workforce Network is a service of the Permian Basin Workforce Development Board. PBWDB is an equal opportunity employer with equal opportunity programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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Pope John Paul II, a traveler who worried about the moral ills of the modern age

By VICTOR L. SIMPSON

Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II assailed moral perils as he traveled the world, a crowd-pleasing superpastor whose 26-year papacy carried the Roman Catholic Church into Christianity's third millennium and emboldened eastern Europeans to bring down the communist system.

LEGACY

Continued from Page 1A

still a very sad occasion."

Plagens said the Pope's legacy reached far beyond the boundaries of the Catholic community, making the loss hard to bear all over the world.

"He belonged to all of us," said Plagens. "He belonged to everyone in the world, so it's a very sad event for everyone. He touched so many lives. I spoke with a priest from India one time, and he told me that although the majority of the population there wasn't Christian, they still held the Pope in very high regard as a holy man. His passing touches us all."

Plagens said he's impressed with the way the Vatican has handled the Pope's failing health, and ultimately, his passing.

"I really appreciate the way the Vatican has handled this," said Plagens. "They haven't always been known for being forthcoming in these types of situations. However, they have been very open with the world about this, and I appreciate that a great deal."

While the shock of his passing is still fresh in most people's minds, Plagens said events to say good-bye to a man that was hailed as a peacemaker the world over have already been sent in motion.

"I'm not exactly sure how it will be handled. Pope John Paul II had the procedure revised during his time," said Plagens. "He will be prepared for burial and carried in a procession to St. Peter's Church, where he will lie

As the first non-Italian pontiff in 455 years and the first from Poland, John Paul brought a back-to-basics conservatism infused with a common touch and a longing to heal ancient religious wounds. And he survived an assassination attempt to become the third-longest-serving pope.

In his final days, the 84-year-old pontiff sought to set an example of a dignified death. A letter

in state for an undetermined length of time.

"While he is lying in state, people will have the chance to see his body, which can become a very personal and very touching moment for many."

Following the viewing and burial process, Plagens said the arduous task of choosing the Pope's predecessor will fall to cardinals from all over the world.

"After lying in state for probably two or three days, his body will be taken to the tomb in the crypt of St. Peter's Church and sealed inside," said Plagens. "Then time will be taken to gather all of the church's cardinals — about 120 of them — to Rome. That will take approximately a week, I believe. Then, the cardinals will go through the process of electing a new Pope among them. The new Pope will be chosen from the current group of cardinals by the cardinals."

Plagens said no plans have been made for a special Mass Sunday, but did say ceremonies during regularly scheduled services will observe the holy man's passing.

"At this time we're not planning a special Mass for this weekend," said Plagens. "Praying for the recently departed is always a part of Mass, and I'm sure we'll offer some special prayers for the Pope's passing, and he will be remembered during the ceremony."

"We may hold a special Mass when he is buried, but right now it's simply too soon to say. We will encourage people to observe a special hour of prayer Sunday evening, however."

preaching against consumerism, contraception and abortion.

John Paul was a robust 58 when the cardinals stunned the world and elected the cardinal from Krakow, the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

In his later years, however, John Paul was the picture of frailty, weighed down by ailments that included Parkinson's disease. Although he kept up his travels, he was no longer able to kiss the ground.

released on Good Friday reflected on his hospitalization as "a patient alongside other patients, uniting in the Eucharist my own sufferings with those of Christ."

John Paul's Polish roots nourished a doctrinal conservatism — opposition to contraception, abortion, women priests — that rankled liberal Catholics in the United States and Western Europe.

A sex abuse scandal among clergy plunged his church into moral crisis, with allegations that he didn't react to it swiftly enough. And while championing the world's poor, he rebuked Latin American priests who sought to involve the church politically through the doctrine of "liberation theology."

No pope ever traveled so much or so far: He visited more than 120 nations during the third-longest papacy in history.

No pope delivered so many speeches: He warned in vain against wars in Iraq and the Balkans, deplored the fate of Palestinians and called for reconciliation with Jews.

No pope wrote so much, or so popularly: He produced 14 encyclicals and the best-selling book "Crossing the Threshold of Hope." He recited the rosary on a best-selling CD.

And no pope celebrated so many Masses for so many of what are now the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics: his open-air ceremonies drew tens of thousands to St. Peter's Square and became a hall-

mark of papal visits abroad.

But he also faced a moral crisis within the ranks of his own clergy, when a sex abuse scandal rocked the church in the United States and other countries late in his papacy.

"The abuse which has caused this crisis is by every standard wrong and rightly considered a crime by society," he told cardinals from the United States summoned to the Vatican in 2002. "It is also an appalling sin in the eyes of God."

His approach to doctrine was unyieldingly conservative. In his view, there were rights and wrongs that no moral shading could change.

He reaffirmed the church's ban on artificial birth control and denounced in vitro fertilization, abortion, euthanasia, divorce, sex outside marriage, homosexual relations and same-sex unions.

He demanded celibacy of Roman Catholic priests, and said yet again that the priesthood was not open to women. He did give in to the demands of liberal Catholics to allow altar girls.

He criticized liberation theology, a movement strong in Latin America that emphasizes political activism by the church on behalf of the poor. He told priests worldwide to get out of politics, and some did.

John Paul II became pontiff in 1978 — the "year of the three popes." His predecessor, John Paul I, had been pope

only 33 days, succeeding Paul VI, who died after a 15-year reign.

At 58, John Paul II was the youngest pope in 125 years. He brought a new vitality to the Vatican, and quickly became the most accessible modern pope, sitting down for meals with factory workers, skiing and wading into crowds to embrace the faithful.

He was a ready target for a 23-year-old Turk, Mehmet Ali Agca, who gravely wounded the pope in 1981 in St. Peter's Square. John Paul later visited Agca in prison and forgave him.

John Paul made an untiring effort to get to know and endear himself to all of "God's children." He sought reconciliation with the Jews — "older brothers" as he put it. He visited a mosque in Damascus as part of efforts to improve relations with Muslims. He called divisions among Christians "a scandal."

But to communists, he gave no quarter. "Nazi paganism and Marxist dogma are both basically totalitarian ideologies and tend to become substitute religions," he wrote in 1989.

John Paul's trips to his homeland — where for years the church had been the unifying opposition force — prompted an explosion of anti-communist feeling. His 1979 pilgrimage helped foster the birth of Solidarity; his 1983 and 1987 tours kept alive the spirit of the trade union movement after a government crackdown.

In 1991, with the Iron Curtain gone, the pope returned to a free Poland for the first time, and cautioned freedom should not be taken lightly.

"We cannot simply possess freedom, we must constantly fight for it. We fight for it by putting it to good use and using it in the cause of truth," he said.

Although his pace slowed in the 1990s, John Paul was a constant voyager. He traveled a distance equal to nearly 1 1/2 trips to the moon.

His tours began with a swing through the Dominican Republic, Mexico and the Bahamas in 1979. He went to the United States that same year, and returned in 1987, 1993, 1995 and 1999.

In 1998 he visited communist Cuba, welcomed by Fidel Castro.

The pope's hard line toward communism initially earned him the Kremlin's wrath. But the rise of Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985 opened a new era. Eager to invigorate his doddering superpower and win allies abroad, he lifted restrictions on religion, and in 1989 became the first Soviet leader to visit the pope at the Vatican.

The Vatican formally recognized Israel in 1993. The pope — who had drawn criticism for meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat in 1982 — then pushed for diplomatic relations with Palestinians.

He was born Karol Joseph Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920.

Ten years

By JOHN SOLOMON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — FBI is facing the made an embarrassing sight in the Oklahoma bombing case as new information explosive materials Terry Nichols' father which they had several times before.

FBI officials said was found Thursday in a craw house in Herington believe agents find that space during searches of the original investigator Nichols and Timothy

"The informant categories the items ha

Lawma

By JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press

AUSTIN (AP) — state where police have long pledged tough on crime legislators are to find ways to keep drug offenders a level criminals prison.

Just 10 years state was aggressive building prisons more offenders streets. The res been enough a house more than prisoners, one largest penal systems the country.

But with those rapidly filling, law have had little desire to keep them. Instead, Democrats are looking out ways to expansion and drug programs to keep low-level offenders in prison and save more dangerous ones.

After years of a variety of par

Bush since appoints

By DOUGLASS K.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush, aside a stall tactic Trent Lott, appointed the number commission determine military closings without for Senate confirmation.

Bush made the moves while the was in recess, the House announced night. The recessments prevent the commission to make the first base closings in a

Before it left spring recess, Senate had to vote on the nomination of Anthony J. L.

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POPE

Continued from Page 1A

before announcing his death, the Vatican had said he was in "very serious" condition, although he was responding to aides.

Since his surprise election in 1978, John Paul traveled the world, inspiring a revolt against communism in his native Poland and across the Soviet bloc, but also



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Ten years later, FBI finds explosives in home where Terry Nichols lived

By JOHN SOLOMON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI is facing the possibility it made an embarrassing oversight in the Oklahoma City bombing case a decade ago after new information led agents to explosive materials hidden in Terry Nichols' former home, which they had searched several times before.

FBI officials said the material was found Thursday night and Friday in a crawl space of the house in Herington, Kan. They believe agents failed to check that space during the numerous searches of the property during the original investigation of Nichols and Timothy McVeigh.

The information so far indicates the items have been there

since prior to the Oklahoma City bombing," Agent Gary Johnson said in a telephone interview from Oklahoma City.

FBI spokesman Jeff Lanza said in Kansas the materials were found in boxes, much of them wrapped in plastic, and were being sent to the FBI lab for analysis. The bureau is operating on the assumption the evidence was from the original Oklahoma plot based on information developed in recent days, he said.

Agents now will be looking for any fingerprints and other clues on the evidence that might show where the explosives originated and who may have possessed them before they got into Nichols' home.

The extraordinary discovery,

just three weeks from the 10th anniversary of the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, which killed 168 people, could prove a new embarrassment to an FBI already burned by missteps in this case and the pre-Sept. 11 period.

Nichols, who is serving multiple life sentences on federal and state charges, hasn't lived at the property for years. FBI officials said the information that led to the discovery indicated Nichols had buried the evidence before the attack on April 19, 1995.

One of Nichols' attorneys said Friday the discovery was either a hoax or a major failure by the FBI.

"They were there often," said

attorney Brian Hermanson, who represented Nichols in last year's Oklahoma state murder trial that ended with Nichols' conviction. "It's surprising. I would think they would have done their job and found everything that was there."

"But I'm still suspicious that it could be something planted there," Hermanson said. "The house was empty for several years and if somebody wanted to put something there to incriminate Terry they had plenty of time to have done it."

Dan Defenbaugh, the retired FBI agent who ran the Oklahoma City investigation, said he was dismayed that his agency may have missed the evidence. "When you do a search warrant of that impor-

tance, you have to make sure it's thorough," he said.

FBI agents went to the property Thursday night and then summoned a bomb squad after finding the potentially dangerous materials, Lanza said. The search ended late Friday afternoon and the evidence was being shipped to the FBI lab outside Washington.

Lanza said the material was buried in the crawl space under about a foot of rock, dirt and gravel, an area that had not been searched during the original investigation.

"Depending on the situation, that's something that may not necessarily be searched, especially given the fact that there was no information there was anything in there," he said.

Lawmakers want to boost probation, not build more prisons

By JIM VERTUNO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — In a state where politicians have long pledged to be tough on crime, Texas legislators are trying to find ways to keep some drug offenders and low-level criminals out of prison.

Just 10 years ago the state was aggressively building prisons to get more offenders off the streets. The result has been enough room to house more than 150,000 prisoners, one of the largest penal systems in the country.

But with those prisons rapidly filling, lawmakers have had little money or desire to keep building. Instead, Democrats and Republicans are mapping out ways to expand probation and drug treatment programs to keep some low-level offenders out of prison and save space for more dangerous criminals.

After years of slashing a variety of parole and

prison programs, early budget figures call for about \$88 million over the next two years to expand probation programs statewide with more officers, therapy programs and improved drug treatment. Legislators have generally agreed on those figures, but they could shift in final budget negotiations.

In 2003, the Legislature slashed funding for prison substance-abuse programs. The result has been more repeat offenders, said Sen. John Whitmire, chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. The state has 150,000 prison beds but only about 2,400 spaces for drug-treatment programs.

"The problem is, you go into prison a drunk, you come out a drunk and we haven't accomplished a thing," Whitmire said.

Frank Davis, director of the Substance Abuse Felony Punishment Facility at the Texas Department

Corrections Jester I unit, has seen this issue from both sides of prison bars. Twice imprisoned for drug offenses, Davis is now a drug-treatment counselor.

After his first conviction in 1980, Davis said there was no drug treatment program. He attended some Alcoholics Anonymous meetings that were offered, but the methamphetamine addict soon relapsed after his release and was sent back to prison in 1989.

At that time, he volunteered for what was a new drug-treatment program and says he has been sober since.

"I'd be dead or in prison for the rest of my life without it," Davis said during a visit to the Capitol to lobby for expanded probation and drug treatment. He oversees a program that treats more than 300 offenders who have drug and mental health problems.

"Every dollar we spend on drug treatment is

going to make a difference," Davis said.

Legislators say the alternative would be another massive prison buildup that would cost billions of dollars. According to a report by state budget monitors, Texas would have to build as many as

five new prisons over the next six years if it continues to incarcerate offenders at the current rate.

Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, has shown little interest in building new prisons.

"There are better, more efficient ways to deal with

this prison population than going and building more prisons," Perry said last month.

Officials estimate the cost of housing a prisoner at about \$40 a day. Community supervision and probation drops as low as \$2 a day.

Bush sidesteps senator's objections, appoints base closings commission

By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, brushing aside a stall tactic by Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., appointed the nine-member commission that will determine military base closings without waiting for Senate confirmation.

Bush made the appointments while the Senate was in recess, the White House announced Friday night. The recess appointments prevent delays as the commission prepares to make the first round of base closings in a decade.

Before it left for its spring recess the full Senate had been expected to vote on the nomination of Anthony J. Principi,

former secretary of veterans affairs, as chairman of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. The other commissioners, nominated by Bush on March 15, also required Senate confirmation.

However, Lott — who opposes base closures and has pledged to protect military facilities in his home state — placed a "hold" on Principi's nomination, according to aides and lobbyists speaking on condition of anonymity. The hold delayed voting on the nomination.

Lott was expected to place holds on the other nominations as well, the aides and lobbyists told

The Associated Press earlier this week. The Senate Armed Services Committee had approved Principi's nomination and planned to review the other nominations in the next few weeks.

The White House said Bush felt the recess appointments were appropriate since the full committee had already acted on Principi. Plus, the president wants no delay in the "important work for the nation" that the base closure panel will have before it, spokesman Ken Lisaius said Saturday.

"The president believes there is important work for the (commission) to start on," he said.

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► **Best sellers — books**

The Associated Press

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST SELLERS HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown (Doubleday)
2. "Honeymoon" by James Patterson, Howard Roughan (Little, Brown)
3. "Saturday" by Ian McEwan (Doubleday/Talese)
4. "The Broker" by John Grisham (Doubleday)
5. "The Rising: Before They Were Left Behind" by Tim LaHaye, Jerry B. Jenkins (Tyndale House Publishers)
6. "With No One as Witness" by Elizabeth

George (HarperCollins)

7. "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom (Hyperion)
8. "Cold Service" by Robert B. Parker (Putnam)
9. "Prep" by Curtis Sittenfeld (Random House)
10. "Impossible" by Danielle Steel (Delacorte Press)

NONFICTION/GENERAL

1. "The Purpose-Driven Life" by Rick Warren (Zondervan)
2. "Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking" by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown)
3. "Your Best Life Now: 7 Steps to Living at Your Full

Potential" by Joel Osteen (Warner Faith)

4. "Conspiracy of Fools: A True Story" by Kurt Eichenwald (Broadway)
5. "A Deadly Game: The Untold Story of the Scott Peterson Investigation" by Catherine Crier (ReganBooks)
6. "The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous and Broke" by Suze Orman (Riverhead)
7. "French Women Don't Get Fat: The Secret of Eating for Pleasure" by Mireille Guiliano (Knopf)
8. "Blood Brother: 33 Reasons My Brother Scott Peterson Is Guilty" by Anne Bird (ReganBooks)

9. "Don't Kiss Them Good-bye" by Allison DuBois (Fireside)
10. "Everyday Italian" by Giada De Laurentiis (Clarkson Potter)

MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. "Nighttime Is My Time" by Mary Higgins Clark (Simon & Schuster)
2. "Angels & Demons" by Dan Brown (Pocket)
3. "The Narrows" by Michael Connelly (Warner)
4. "The Last Juror" by John Grisham (Dell)
5. "The Calhouns: Suzanna and Megan" by Nora Roberts (Silhouette)
6. "Murder List" by Julie

Garwood (Ballantine)

7. "Close to You" by Christina Dodd (Pocket Star)
8. "Bad Business" by Robert B. Parker (Berkley)
9. "Blowout" by Catherine Coulter (Jove)
10. "The Notebook" by Nicholas Sparks (Warner)

TRADE PAPERBACKS

1. "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead)
2. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" by Mark Haddon (Vintage)
3. "Bad Cat: 244 Not-So-Pretty Kitties and Cats Gone Bad" by Jim Edgar (Workman)

4. "Gone Bad" by Jim Edgar (Workman)
5. "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult (Washington Square Press)
6. "Can You Keep a Secret?" by Sophie Kinsella (The Dial Press)
7. "The Secret Life of Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd (Penguin)
8. "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston (Perennial)
9. "The Time Traveler's Wife" by Audrey Niffenegger (Harcourt/Harvest)
10. "The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference" by Malcolm Gladwell (Back Bay)

► **Best sellers — video**

The Associated Press

Weekly charts for the nation's most popular videos as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission:

Top Music Video Sales

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports)

1. "MTV Ultimate Mash-Ups Presents: Collision Course," Jay-Z/Linkin Park.
2. "Greatest Hits," Creed.
3. "Live at Starland Ballroom," Coheed and Cambria.
4. "Nevermind," Nirvana.
5. "Chosen Few: El Documental," Various Artists.
6. "The College Dropout: Video Anthology," Kanye West.
7. "Israel Homecoming," Bill & Gloria Gaither and Their Homecoming Friends.
8. "Jerusalem Homecoming," Bill & Gloria Gaither and Their Homecoming Friends.
9. "End of the Century: The Story of the Ramones," The Ramones.
10. "Live at Donington," AC/DC. (Platinum)

Top VHS Rentals

(Based on data provided by the Video Software Dealers Assn.)

1. "The Incredibles," Walt Disney Home Video.
2. "Ladder 49," Touchstone Home Video.
3. "Flight of the Phoenix (Widescreen)," FoxVideo.
4. "Taxi," FoxVideo.
5. "Alfie: Special Collector's Edition (Pan & Scan)," Paramount Home Entertainment.
6. "The Notebook," New Line Home Entertainment.
7. "Ray," Universal Studios Home Video.
8. "Saw," Artisan Home Entertainment.
9. "Exorcist: The Beginning," Warner Home Video.
10. "The Spongebob SquarePants Movie," Paramount Home Entertainment.

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Top VHS Sales

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports)

1. "The Incredibles," Walt Disney Home Video.
2. "The Spongebob SquarePants Movie," Paramount Home Entertainment.
3. "Barbie: Fairytopia," Lions Gate Home Entertainment.
4. "Bambi (Special Edition)," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.
5. "Shark Tale," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.
6. "Dora's Egg Hunt," Paramount Home Entertainment.
7. "Ladder 49," Touchstone Home Video.
8. "Dora the Explorer: Catch the Star," Paramount Home Entertainment.
9. "Thomas & Friends: Sodor Celebration," Hit Entertainment.
10. "Here Comes Peter Cottontail," Sony Wonder.

Top DVD Sales

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports)

1. "The Incredibles (Widescreen)," Walt Disney Home Video.
2. "The Incredibles (Pan & Scan)," Walt Disney Home Video.
3. "Bambi: 2 Disc Special Edition," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.
4. "Ladder 49 (Pan & Scan)," Touchstone Home Video.
5. "Ladder 49 (Widescreen)," Touchstone Home Video.
6. "Barbie: Fairytopia," Lions Gate Home Entertainment.
7. "The Spongebob SquarePants Movie (Pan & Scan)," Paramount Home Entertainment.
8. "The Notebook," New Line Home Entertainment.
9. "Shark Tale (Widescreen)," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.
10. "Shark Tale (Pan & Scan)," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.

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Billboard Magazine Chart Leaders

(Compiled from national retail sales/airplay/rental charts)

HOT POP SINGLE:
"Candy Shop," 50 Cent (feat. Olivia).

TOP POP ALBUM: "The

Massacre," 50 Cent.
HOT R&B/HIP-HOP SINGLE: "Candy Shop," 50 Cent (feat. Olivia).

TOP R&B/HIP-HOP ALBUM: "The Massacre," 50 Cent.

HOT COUNTRY SINGLE/TRACK: "That's What I

Love About Sunday," Craig Morgan.

TOP COUNTRY ALBUM: "Songs About Me," Trace Adkins.


TOP VHS RENTAL: "The Incredibles."

TOP VHS SALE: "The Incredibles."

TOP DVD SALE: "The Incredibles (Widescreen)."

TOP MUSIC VIDEO: "MTV Ultimate Mash-Ups Presents: Collision Course," Jay-Z/Linkin Park.

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<p>April 4 • Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercises) <p>April 5 • Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) • Coffee @ Parkplace - 10:00 am (Coffee With Members & Parkplace Residents) • Supper Club - "Red Mesa" - 5:30 pm Relay For Life Committee Meeting Kentwood Center - 5:30 pm <p>April 6 • Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria) <p>April 7 • Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am (Coffee With Members) <p>April 8 • Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POT LUCK & BINGO (Late Easter Hat Contest) 11:30 am - 2:00 pm <p>April 10 • Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LONDON SUITE MIDLAND COMMUNITY THEATER - 1:00 pm (Members RSVP) <p>April 11 • Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch Bunch & Birthdays "Gales" - 11:30 am • Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercises) <p>April 12 • Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) Cancer Society Meeting 2nd Floor SMMC - 12:00 Noon Relay For Life Committee Meeting Kentwood Center - 5:30 pm <p>April 13 • Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria) • MEET & GREET ICE CREAM SOCIAL - 2:00 pm at Hospital <p>April 14 • Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am (Coffee With Members) • Supper Club @ "Spanish Inn" - 5:30 pm 	<p>April 16 • Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Spring Health Fair 9:00 am - 2:00 pm - Dorothy Garrett <p>April 18 • Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercises) <p>April 19 • Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) • Supper Club "Cowboys" - 5:30 pm Relay For Life Committee Meeting at Kentwood Center - 5:30 pm <p>April 20 • Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria) • Games For Seniors - 2:00 pm <p>April 21 • Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am • Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Book Fair - SMMC Lobby 10:00 am - 6:00 pm <p>April 22 • Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Fair - SMMC Lobby 7:00 am - 3:00 pm <p>April 25 • Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shreveport Casino Trip • Relay For Life Committee Meeting Kentwood Center - 5:30 pm <p>April 26 • Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) • Shreveport Casino Trip Relay For Life Committee Meeting at Kentwood Center - 5:30 pm <p>April 27 • Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria) • Shreveport Casino Trip <p>April 28 • Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am (Coffee With Members) • RSVP Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet - 6:00 pm at Dora Roberts Community Center <p>April 29 • Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Circle 6th Anniversary Party (Cake/Ice Cream & Door Prizes 3:00 pm)
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IN BR

Cornell Correl announces softball tournament

Cornell Correl is sponsoring a softball tournament benefiting Relay For Life. The tournament will take place April 23 at Cotton Mountain inside Comanche Park. The cost is \$10 per player and the line to register is Friday, April 15. Concessions are available. For more information, call 267-214 during the 267-2004 at night.

Howard rodeo sets crawfish

The Howard rodeo team will host its annual boil April 16 at the H.C. Rodeo College's annual rodeo. The cost which includes into rodeo. For more information, contact rodeo coach Kernick at 816-267-2004 at night.

Dodgeball set for April

Cornell Correl has set up a dodgeball tournament for Saturday at the YMCA and the event will benefit Relay For Life. The tournament costs \$10 per player and the deadline for registration is April 15. For more information, call 267-214 during the 267-2004 at night.

Couples scramble set up at Comanche

A summer couples scramble tournament has been set up at Comanche Park. The tournament consists of nine teams and the tee time is 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Russell at 394-264-1530.

Denver takes Duncan-less

DENVER - DENVER Marcús Can points, 10 eight blocks assists in 16th victory 18 games Nuggets de Spurs, 102-87. Earl Boykins points, and Anthony Anderson — the ahead of Minnesota.

IN BRIEF

Cornell Corrections announces softball tournament at Mize

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 set for April 9

Cornell Corrections has set up a co-ed dodgeball tournament for Saturday 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.

Couples scramble set up at Comanche

A summer long couples scramble tournament has been set at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The tournament will start Thursday and will take place every Thursday throughout the summer, ending sometime in October.

The tournament consists of nine holes and the tee time each day is 5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Sue Russell at 398-5452.

Softball Association to hold umpire clinic

The Big Spring Girl's Softball Association will be holding an ASA umpire clinic Monday at 6 p.m.

The clinic will be held at the Roy Anderson Complex at Hollis Field.

For more information or if anyone is interested in attending, call Francisco Ramirez at 466-3670 or 264-1530.

Denver takes care of Duncan-less Spurs

DENVER (AP) — Marcus Camby had 15 points, 10 rebounds, eight blocks and five assists in Denver's 16th victory in its last 18 games as the Nuggets defeated the Spurs, 102-84.

Earl Boykins had 23 points, and Carmelo Anthony added 18 for Denver — three games ahead of ninth-place Minnesota.

Lady Steers easily dispose of Estacado in five

• Watkins mows down 15 in no-hit gem against Lady Mats

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Big Spring had no troubles with Lubbock Estacado Friday afternoon at home as senior

Alex Watkins (11-1) recorded every out on the mound with a strikeout (15 strike outs total) on her way to a no-hitter. She allowed just one walk and one other base runner reached on an infield error as Big Spring (17-2, 4-0) disposed of the Lady Matadors, 17-0, in five innings and improved its

winning streak to 11 games.

"Alex was off a little, but still pitched pretty well," said Big Spring coach Phillip Pearce. The Lady Steers got



CHESWORTH

three runs in each of the first two innings and then got five across the plate in the third and six in the fourth to claim the victory.

"Normally we have trouble with slow pitching, but we hit the ball pretty good today and our timing was there," said Pearce, who is still unde-

feated after taking over the team earlier in the season.

Junior Krista Chesworth led Big Spring at the plate as she went four-for-four with four runs and four RBIs. Sophomore Amber Sides went three-for-four, had

See DOMINATION, Page 2B

Howard dusts up El Paso in two-game home sweep

• Hawks use long ball to claim needed wins in WJCAC play

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

One exciting game and one blowout game led to two wins much-needed wins for the Howard College baseball team Friday against Western Junior College Athletic Conference rival El Paso Community College at Jack Barber Field. Howard played two more games at home against El Paso Saturday, but results of those games were unavailable at press time.

The Hawks won game No. 1, 9-8, off a walk-off 2-run home run by freshman catcher Jeff Ward and then eight-run ruled

El Paso in the second game 11-3 after seven innings.

"It was the best pitching we've seen from our guys in WJCAC play this season," said Howard coach Britt Smith. "We needed to do that so we can keep the game close and have a chance to win the game."

GAME ONE

Howard used five runs in the second inning to propel them to victory in game No. 1, but the game was not decided until the last at-bat.

El Paso cut into the lead in the third with three runs and later tied the game in the top of the sixth with two more runs.

However, Howard answered in its half of the sixth inning as Daman Aaron hit his sixth home run of the year to give the

Hawks a 7-5 lead.

El Paso went yard in the top of the seventh and regained the lead as the 3-run home run gave the Hawks an 8-7 deficit.

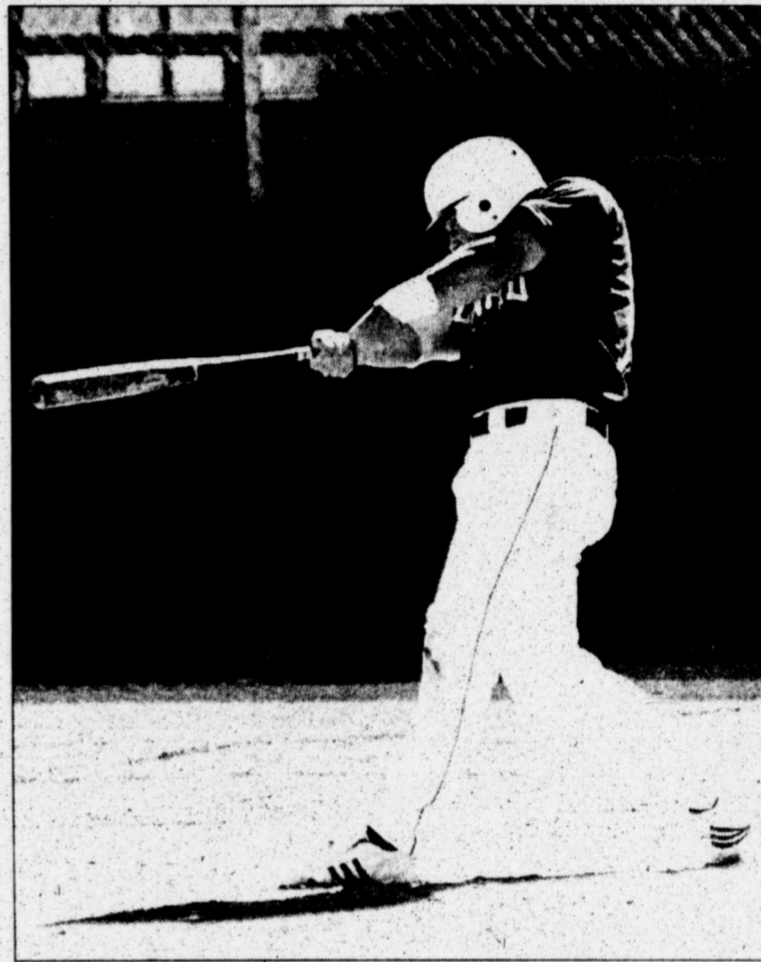
Ward, though, would lead his team to victory in the Hawks' final at-bat. Already hitting one home run earlier in the game, Ward smashed a 2-run walk-off home run in the seventh as Howard went on to win 9-8. It was Ward's fifth long ball of the season.

"We get to bat last at home and we took advantage of that (Friday)," said Smith.

Both teams finished with 10 hits, but El Paso committed two errors to Howard's one.

Ward and Aaron combined for six of the

See HOWARD, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard freshman Jason Anderson follows through on a home run swing in the third inning Friday at Jack Barber Field. Anderson's home run — his sixth of the season — led the Hawks to an 11-3 run-rule win over El Paso. Howard won the first game, 9-8, on a 2-run walk-off home run by Jeff Ward.

Abrego, Coahoma shuts down Anson

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Adrian Abrego's dominance on the mound and at the plate led to a shortened game Friday for the Coahoma baseball team against district rival Anson.

Abrego pitched all five innings and gave up just one hit, while striking out 13 batters as the Bulldogs defeated Anson, 10-0, in five innings. Abrego also allowed one walk. He went two-for-four at the plate with a home run, a double and two runs.

But as dominant as Abrego was in the game, Coahoma coach Brad Harmon said the win took an entire team effort.

"Adrian dominated the game on the mound and his home run was big, but this was a total team effort," he said.

The Bulldogs scored in every inning. They began the game with two runs

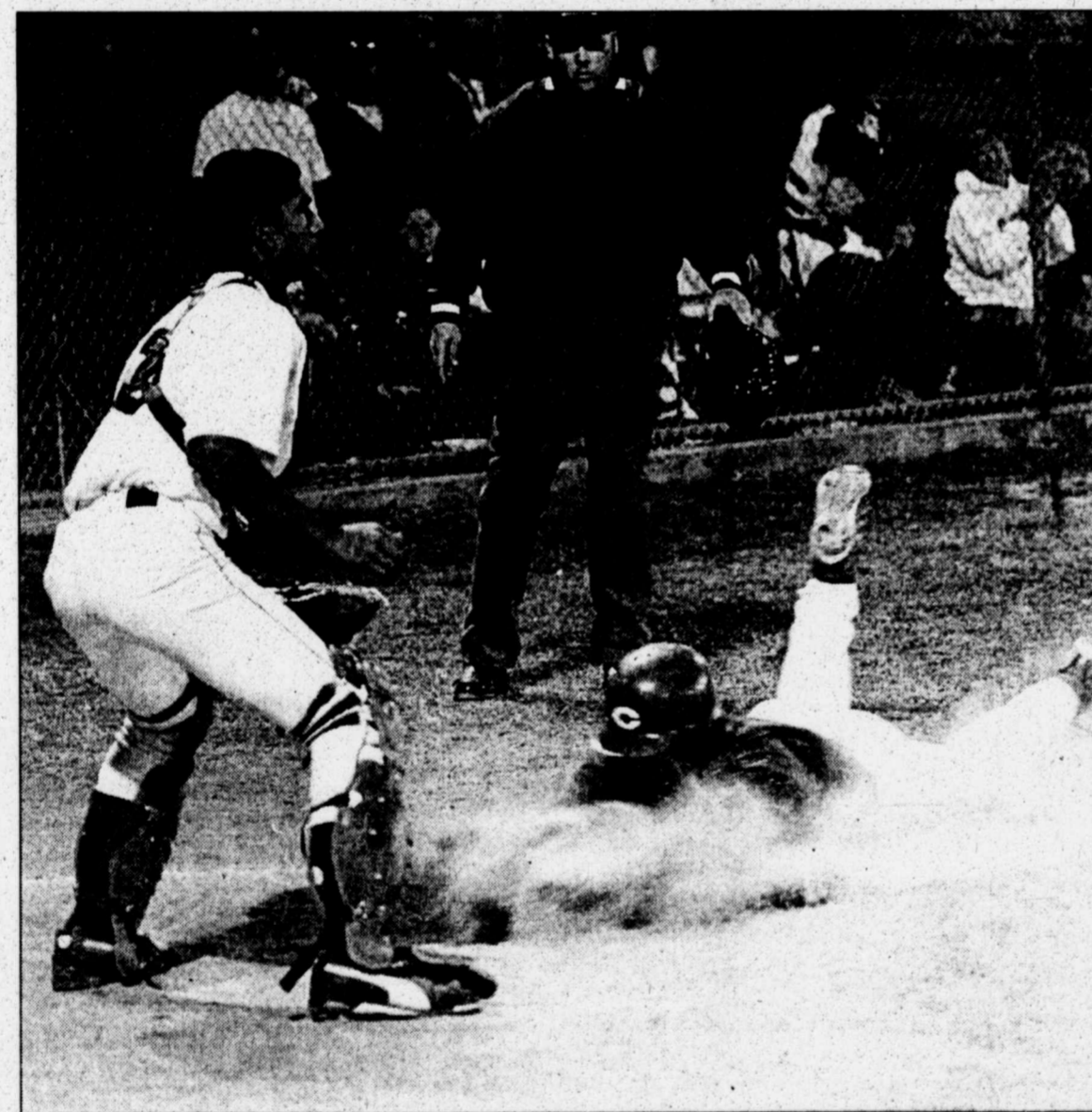
in each of the first two innings before adding one in the third, four in the fourth and one in the fifth.

"I liked our mental focus tonight because we didn't play very well in Colorado City Tuesday," said Harmon. "The guys came out and said they wouldn't play like that again and bounced back with a victory."

Senior Orrin Mansfield also got two hits and two runs at the plate and doubled, while senior Chad Born, sophomore Blaine Kerby and senior Garret Cline each had one hit.

"We were able to take control from the beginning and the guys really played baseball like it was meant to be played," said Harmon.

The Bulldogs improved their district record to 2-1 and finalize the first round of district play Tuesday at home against Hawley beginning at 7 p.m.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma senior Adrian Abrego slides into homeplate Friday during the Bulldogs' 10-0 five-inning win against district rival Anson. Abrego got the win on the mound after striking out 13 and allowing just one hit. He also homered and doubled at the plate.

Howard gets split on diamond against rival

• Hawks win, lose two close conference games at Foundation

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Two back-and-forth battles led two a win and a loss Friday at Foundation Field as the Howard College softball team (12-16, 9-7) split at home with El Paso Community College.

The Hawks won the first game in their last at-bat, 8-7, and then dropped the second game of a doubleheader, 4-3. The two teams met again Saturday in a doubleheader, but



results of those games were unavailable at press time.

"It was a back-and-forth battle all day long," said Howard coach Cheryl Dickens. "We were able to get one win and probably should have won game No. 2, as well."

GAME ONE

The first game featured five lead changes and two ties, but Howard was able to take the opener after

See HAWKS, Page 3B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma softball coach Robby Dickenson gives instructions to senior Cheyenne Grice on third base during the Bulldogettes' win over Anson Friday. Grice later scored.

Bulldogettes cruise past rival Anson

• Roberts' pitching makes up for slow night at the plate

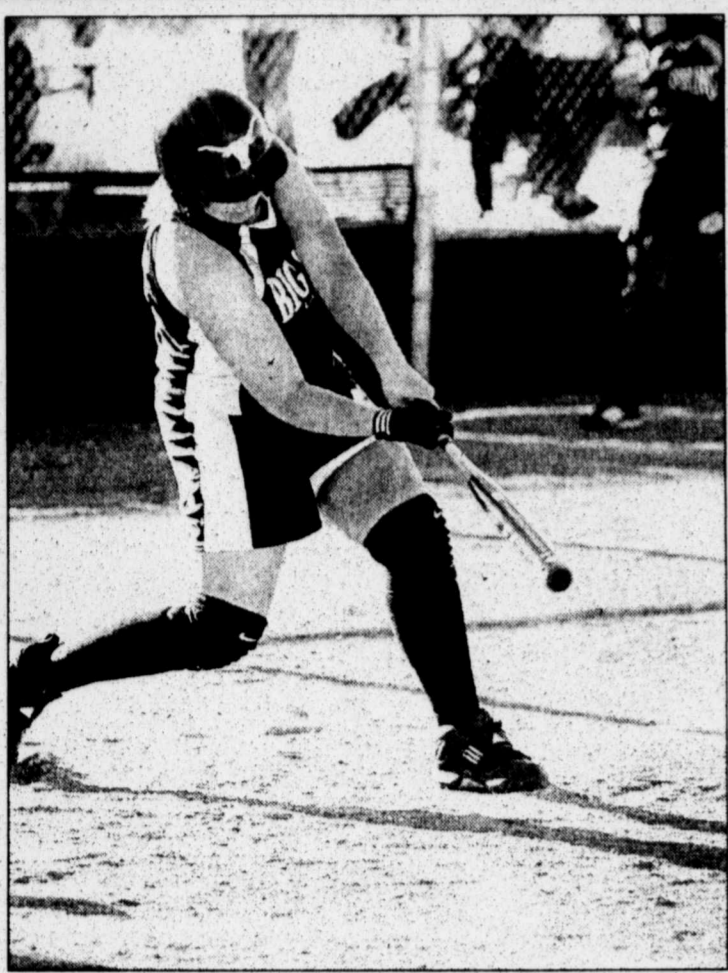
By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

It was the dominating effort most fans were looking for, but it was enough to get the job done Friday as the Coahoma softball team — which is ranked No. 11 in Class 2A — walked away with its third district win of the year after shutting

See COAHOMA, Page 2B

APR 02 2005



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring sophomore Brenna Phernetton swings at a pitch during one of her at-bats against Lubbock Estacado Friday in Big Spring. The Lady Steers defeated the Lady Matadors 17-0 in five innings.

DOMINATION

Continued from Page 1B

three runs, three stolen bases and an RBI. Junior Heather Policky also had three hits and she scored two runs and stole two bases, as well. Watkins and seniors Chelsea Abner and Heather Vassar each had two hits in the game. Watkins went two-for-two with a triple and two RBIs, while Abner went two-for-two with a run, RBI and a HBP. Vassar also tripled, had three runs, three RBIs and walked. The Lady Steers sent nine batters to plate in



the third inning and 12 batters to plate in the fourth inning. Big Spring will next take on Plainview at home Tuesday, beginning at 4 p.m. as the Lady Steers finish up the first round of District 4-4A play. "We have to come out and play our game and not take anything for granted," said Pearce. "If we play like I know we can then I think we'll be fine."

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

Hawks' 10 hits in the game. Ward went three-for-four with three runs and four RBIs, while Aaron went three-for-three with two runs and two RBIs. Ward also had five put outs in the field. "Jeff changed some mechanics on his swing during practice this week and it showed (Friday)," said Smith. "Now I hope since he sees the results of the change that he will keep doing what he did out there for us (Friday)." Jason Anderson got two hits at the plate and Ryan Femath had one hit and three RBIs. Justin Thompson improved to 1-3 on the year after recording the win on the mound for Howard. Thompson threw all seven innings and gave up eight runs on 10 hits and struck out six, while walking two. "It may look like he almost gave up the lead in the end, but he did everything he had to out there for us to win the game," said Smith. Edward Alarcon pitched the seventh inning for El Paso and took the loss after giving up the Ward home run with two outs.



Howard scored two runs in the opening stanza and never looked back as they won 11-3. The Hawks led 5-1 before El Paso scored its second run in the fifth, but Howard added four runs in their half of the fifth to go up 9-2. El Paso got another run in the sixth, but Howard answered with one run in each of the final two innings. Anderson was perfect at the plate in game No. 2 as he went four-for-four with five RBIs and two runs and connected on his sixth home run of the year in the third inning. Darby Brown had two hits and scored two runs, while Tanner Mattson also had two hits and two RBIs. "We did a lot of work all week offensively because we need to be better at the plate," said Smith. "We

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

down Anson, 6-0, at home. Junior Kali Roberts did most of the shutting down herself as she allowed just one hit and struck out 15 batters on the way to the victory on the mound. "The hit was my fault because I called the wrong pitch, but Kali was at her usual dominant self (Friday)," said Coahoma coach Robby Dickenson. The Bulldogettes scored their first two runs in the first inning as sophomore Ami Martinez and senior Ruby Garcia each crossed the plate. Senior Cheyenne Grice put Coahoma up 3-0 when she crossed the plate in the third inning. Coahoma then put the game away in the sixth with three insurance runs as Megan Gutierrez, who was pinch-running for Roberts, junior Sarah Dunn and freshman Krista Kerby all touched homeplate. "I am pleased with the



effort and the main thing is that it was a district win," said Dickenson. "The girls felt good when they came off the field and that is the best part." Coahoma only got five hits at the plate in the game. Dunn, Roberts, Grice and junior Ashle New all got singles, while Kerby hit a double and eventually got all the way around the bases after an error was committed by Anson. "We kept our focus and got timely hits," said Dickenson, "but we are not hitting the ball like we should be right now. We are not hitting on all cylinders." Coahoma improved to 12-7 overall and 3-0 in District 4-2A play. They will travel to Hawley Tuesday for the final game of round one of district action.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Coahoma junior Liz Conley takes off for third base Friday during Coahoma's 6-0 win over District 4-2A rival Anson. The Bulldogettes improved to 12-7 overall and 3-0 in district play after the home win.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Big Spring's Charles Downing delivers a pitch to the plate in a game against Permian earlier this year. The Steers lost to rival Andrews Friday, 13-3.

Big Spring suffers blowout at hands of rival Mustangs

Lasater gets three hits at the plate, Steers still fall
By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

ANDREWS — The Big Spring baseball team was unable to carry the momentum and emotion of last Tuesday's district

win over Lake View — the team's first 4-4A win in two years — into Friday's road game against rival Andrews as Big Spring lost in five innings, 13-3.

The Mustangs scored five runs in the first inning and closed out

See STEERS, Page 2B

Stoney, Specht advance to final round at Western Texas Rodeo

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

SNYDER — Three members of the Howard College rodeo team will advance to the final round of Saturday's rodeo at Western Texas College in Snyder after good Friday morning and night performances. They also had several participants competing Saturday morning, but results of those runs were unavailable at press time. Sierra Stoney qualified for the finals in goat-tying as she completed her first run in 7.7 seconds, which puts her in the middle of the pack. Also qualifying for the finals was Dustin

Specht, who's first run of 9.5 in calf roping was better than the 9.8 cutoff.

Several other participants from Howard competed Friday. Tyler Davidson and his team roping partner put together a nice first run of 6.3, which should be enough to qualify. Charles Hendricks in the bareback riding and Jeremy Russell and Jed Headley in the saddle bronc competition all failed to complete their rides. Danny McDowell and Paul Young also hit the ground during their first run in the bull riding competition. Stoney also competed in barrel racing, but was just short of the finals cut



off time. She finished her run in 14.56 and the cut off for the event was 14.20. Sarah Proctor's run in the barrel racing was timed at 14.96.

"Things are going well," said Howard coach Greg Kernick. "We have a few people still left to go Saturday morning before some ride in the finals Saturday night."

The Hawks finished up competition Saturday night, but all final results were unavailable at press time. The Hawks' next rodeo will start next Thursday at West Texas A&M College. The Howard College rodeo will take place April 14-16 at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl.



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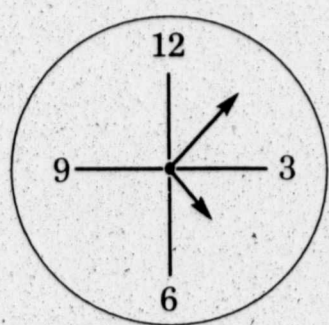
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Fish

ALAN HENRY: Water lightly stained; 56 degrees; .02-foot low. Black bass are good on shad-colored and crawfish-colored spinnerbaits. Spawn is beginning. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs.

ARROWHEAD: Water muddy in upper end; 56 degrees; 3.9-foot low. Black bass are fair around rocky areas and flooded brush on slow-rolled spinnerbaits. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs suspended 13-15 feet near the derricks. White bass are fair on mud flats on shad-imitation baits. Blue catfish are good on cut shad and prepared baits just off the river channel in the mid-lake area and above. All boat ramps are open.

BUFFALO SPRINGS: Water lightly stained; Clarity about 5-feet; 56 degrees; .5-foot low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits suspended 8 feet. Crappie are good on minnows near Crappie House. Hybrid stripper are good on chartreuse Road Runners and crankbaits near the dam. Channel catfish are good near dam on hooks baited with minnows.

COLORADO CITY: Water clear; 57 degrees; .3-foot low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are slow. White bass are slow. Redfish are slow. Catfish are slow.

HUBBARD CREEK: Water lightly stained; 56 degrees; 11-foot low. Black bass are fair on crankbaits and Rat-L-Traps along points and main lake humps. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass and hybrid striper are fair on minnows and crankbaits. Catfish are fair on chicken liver and shad.

NASWORTHY: Water lightly stained; 50 degrees. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Redfish are fair. White bass and striped bass are fair on minnows. Catfish are good on chicken liver and minnows.

OAK CREEK: Water lightly stained; 51 degrees; 23.75-foot low. Black bass are fair. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Catfish are fair. No boat ramps open. 4x4 vehicles can unload on the dirt road near the dam.

O.H. IVIE: Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 21.85-foot low. Black bass are fair on live bait and spinnerbaits along main lake points and creek channels. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are good on live bait and crankbaits. Smallmouth bass are fair on live baits and jerkbaits. Channel catfish are good on chicken liver and minnows.

POSSUM KINGDOM: Water clear; 57 degrees; 2.7-foot low. Black bass are fair. Crappie are slow. White bass are good near Carter Bend and Island. Striped bass are slow. Catfish are fair just above the reservoir on trotlines.

SPENCE: Water lightly stained; 57 degrees; 48.35-foot low. Black bass are fair on Carolina-rigged green pumpkin or black neon plastics. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair. Striped bass and hybrid striper are slow. Catfish are fair on live bait.

SWEETWATER: Water lightly stained; 56 degrees; 30.45-foot low. Black bass are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair on live bait. Catfish are good on minnows and prepared baits.

THOMAS: 30.6 percent capacity; 69 degrees; Crappie on bass minnows and jigs. Yellow cats on chubs and perch. Blue cats on perch and liver. Bass on minnows and artificial lures.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

scoring three runs in the bottom of the six.

Howard jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning as Amanda Kuramata's RBI single scored Becka Renfro, who walked to start the game.

Neither team scored in the second, but El Paso captured the lead in the top of the third with two runs, but the Hawks tied the game up in their half of the third. Sophomore Amy Hitzfeld reached base on a double and then scored the tying run after Analisa Arellano reached base on an error.

Howard regained the lead in the fourth after scoring three runs. With two outs, Renfro singled and sophomore Michelle Teller was hit by a pitch and then Big Spring's Whitney Hufford slammed a 3-run home run over the left field fence to put Howard back on top. It was Hufford's third home run and 20th RBI on the season.

"That was a clutch hit," said Dickens.

El Paso grabbed the lead back in the fifth inning after scoring four runs in the top of the inning and then they added one more in the top of the sixth to go up 7-5.

However, like they did all day, the Hawks answered El Paso at the plate. Sanders walked to start the bottom of the sixth inning and then Teller and Hufford both reached base later with singles to load the bases. Kuramata's two-RBI single tied the game and then Hitzfeld's RBI single put Howard in the lead for good as Hufford crossed the plate.

"We played from behind most of the day, but we were able to answer their runs when we needed to," said Dickens.

Sophomore Andrea Renteria got into trouble in the seventh inning, but was able to get out of a bases loaded jam and preserved the win for Howard. She also got out of a bases loaded jam in the first inning.

Renteria got the win on the mound, but was not sharp in the process. She threw all seven innings



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Members of the Howard College infield meet at the mound in between innings during game No. 1 Friday against El Paso Community College. The Hawks split two games with their Western Junior College Athletic Conference rival and are now 9-7 in conference play this year.

and gave up seven runs and nine walks, while striking out just three.

"She didn't adjust to the strike zone very well, but our defense wasn't very aggressive either," said Dickens.

Hitzfeld had three hits, an RBI and a run at the plate to lead Howard. Kuramata and Hufford each went two-for-four, while Renfro went two-for-three. Kuramata had three RBIs and Hufford scored two runs, homered and had three RBIs. Renfro also walked and scored a run.

GAME TWO

El Paso captured the momentum early in game two and never relinquished the lead as Howard lost by one run, 4-3.

"They got the momen-

tum early in the game with two runs and we never really found our swings," said Dickens. "We played better defense though and really still should have won the game."

El Paso scored two runs in the first and third innings and went up 4-2 after the Hawks scored one run in each of the second and third innings.

The first Howard run was scored by Renfro on an RBI single by Hitzfeld. Kuramata scored the Hawks' run in the third inning after El Paso committed an error.

Howard added one more run in the sixth inning as Arellano — after singling — crossed homeplate on Sanders' RBI hit, but it wasn't enough to grab the win.

Freshman Jody Clark

was ineffective on the mound in her two and one-third innings of work as she took the loss. She walked five and gave up four runs, while striking out one.

Renteria entered the game in the third inning and shut down El Paso the rest of the way, allowing just four hits, while walking three and striking out three.

"She didn't allow a run and shut them down," said Dickens.

Howard will next challenge Odessa College on the road Friday and Saturday. There will be two games each day beginning at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. each day.

The Hawks will also make two games up against Odessa College at home April 26 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

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Rangers hope to build on last year

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Texas Rangers were finally out of last place, in the midst of a pennant chase and still playing meaningful games the final week of the season.

Their unexpected thrill ride didn't end until an extra-inning loss in the 158th game last season.

It was an impressive turnaround for a team built around a core of young All-Stars, an 18-win improvement over 2003 and a finish just three games out of the division lead. Still, the ending just wasn't that satisfying.

"Knowing that we finished in third place, it's not good enough," shortstop Michael Young said. "When it comes down to it, that's all it was, third place."

The Rangers are off the bottom of the AL West but still a long way from first place.

"They realize that this is just a start, what happened last year," said Buck Showalter, the reigning AL Manager of the Year. "Last year is only going to be worthwhile if we can build on it and make something of it. ... Our guys are very adamant about wanting to go to the next level."

The Rangers will try to overtake the built-to-win-now Los Angeles Angels and the always-solid Oakland in the AL West with basically the same team that went 89-73 last season.

An improbable pennant chance didn't change their commitment to young players and frugal spending.

Owner Tom Hicks isn't abandoning his newfound philosophy after \$100 million payrolls with established superstars were wasted on last-place teams from 2000-03. Last year's team cost about \$40 million less, and the payroll will stay about the same in 2005.

The most notable off-season addition was Richard Hidalgo (\$5 million), filling the need of a right fielder who can hit in the middle of the lineup. But offense has never been the problem.

Even after former AL MVP Alex Rodriguez was traded to the New York Yankees just before spring training last season, the Rangers have arguably the best infield in baseball. And all are still in their 20s.

Young (.313, 22 home runs, 99 RBIs), third baseman Hank Blalock (.276, 32, 110) and second baseman Alfonso Soriano (.280, 28, 91) were All-Stars last season. And neither was as good as first baseman Mark Teixeira (.281, 38, 112) in the second half, when the switch-hitting slugger hit for the cycle, homered in five straight games and won a Silver Slugger.

"This club is well-positioned to have another good year. If things go our way, I think we can contend," general manager John Hart said. "But we didn't come out and say we're one or two pieces away and if we don't have a 95-win season that it hasn't been a successful year."

The Rangers will have to depend on pitching to duplicate its impressive 2004 performance. That's

a dicey proposition.

It seems unlikely to expect left-hander Kenny Rogers to win 18 games again at age 40, or have things go as smoothly as they did just about every time Showalter called the bullpen.

Texas relievers (21 of them) were 34-15 with a 3.46 ERA, leading the AL for the first time since 1983. The 34 wins were a team record, as were the 52 saves — 49 by Francisco Cordero.

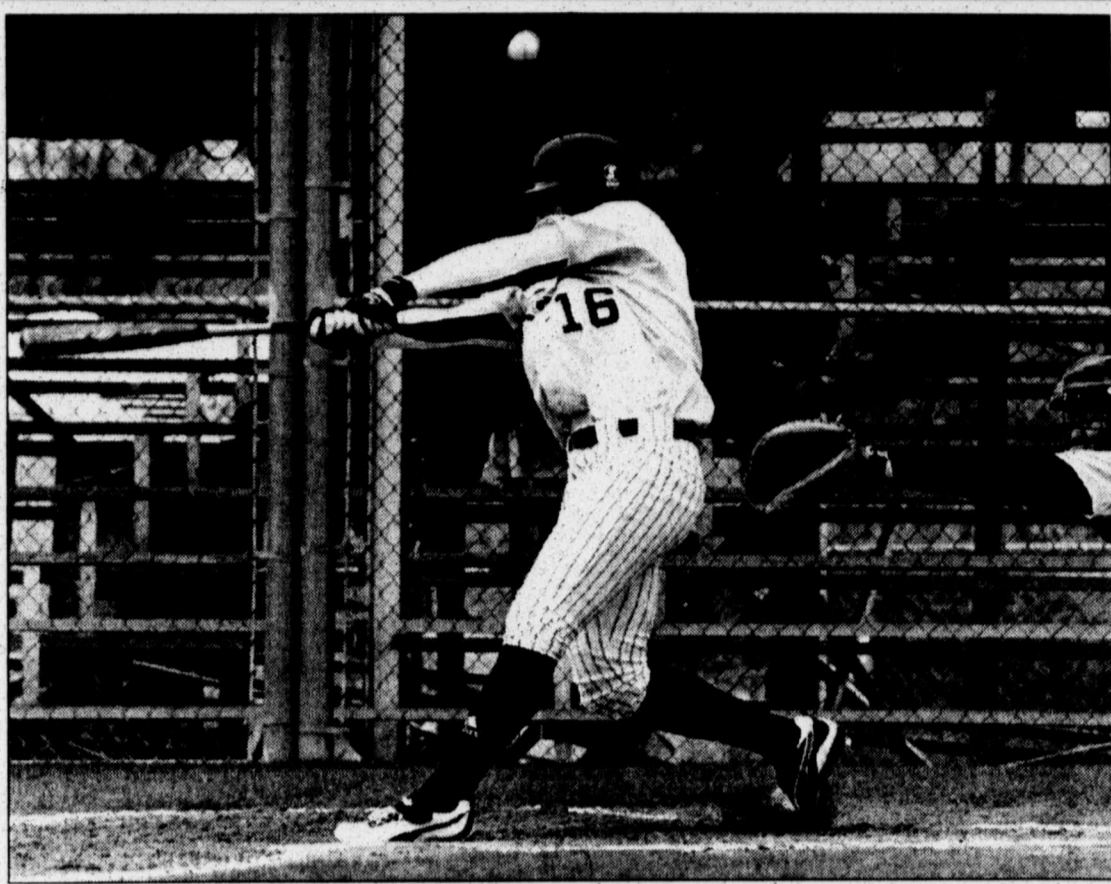
Cordero is ready for the season after a slow start this spring because of soreness in his shoulder. But several setup men are less certain.

Frank Francisco (5-1, 3.33 ERA in 45 games), usually Cordero's predecessor, is expected to be on the disabled list until mid-April because of a sore right elbow. Often-used left-handers Brian Shouse and Erasmo Ramirez were limited by nagging minor injuries.

Rogers made an AL-high 35 starts last season but was 6-7 in his last 17 after being the first pitcher in the majors to 12 wins. He gave up seven earned runs over 8 2-3 innings in three 'A' spring games before the team broke camp from Arizona.

Rogers has turned down interview requests all spring, still upset about reports that he met with Hicks before spring training and threatened to retire if he didn't get a contract extension.

Ryan Drese, not Rogers, starts the season opener Tuesday at the Angels on the night he turns 29. Drese had a career-best 14 wins last season



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Big Spring junior Andy Lasater fouls off a pitch in a game against Permian earlier this year. The Steers lost to Andrews Friday, 13-3. Lasater led Big Spring with three hits.

STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

game with six runs in the third and two runs in the fourth. Big Spring scored one run in the first inning and then added one more run in each of the fourth and fifth innings.

Lance Murphy started the game for Big Spring and took the loss on the mound.

Charles Downing also pitched, but was not involved in the decision. Andy Lasater had three hits to lead the Steers.

Jeff Kello had two hits, including a home run and a double and added

five RBIs to lead Andrews.

Jesse Ortiz doubled and had three RBIs.

Evan Orsak threw four innings and got the win on the mound for the Mustangs.

Big Spring will travel to Frenship Tuesday as the game begins at 7:30 p.m.

Bogut named as AP Player of Year

By **JIM O'CONNELL**
AP Basketball Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Utah sophomore Andrew Bogut, who emerged from obscurity to national dominance in a single season, capped his college basketball career with The Associated Press national player of the year award Friday.

The 7-foot Australian led the Utes to the Mountain West Conference regular-season title and the third round of the NCAA tournament.

He was second in the nation in rebounding at 12.2 a game, fourth in field-goal shooting at 62.0 percent and 15th in scor-

ing at 20.4. He also averaged 2.3 assists.

He received 31 votes from the 72-member national media panel that selects the AP's weekly Top 25.

J.J. Redick of the Duke Blue Devils was second with 15 votes. Wayne Simien of Kansas was third with nine.

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2004 Ford Mustang - Red, V-6, all power, 14,000 miles. SOLD Sale Price \$14,995	2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X4 - Blue/silver, 5.4 V-8, all power, local one owner w/37,000 miles. SOLD Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995	2001 Nissan Pathfinder SE - Green, GPS, DVD, very nice, one owner w/53,000 miles. SOLD Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995
2004 Ford Mustang - Sonic Blue, V-6, all power, 18,000 miles. SOLD Sale Price \$14,995	2003 Dodge Ram 1500 - White, leather, 4.7 V-8, all power, local one owner w/37,000 miles. SOLD Was \$22,995 NOW \$21,995	2001 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - White/tan, leather, fully loaded, dual air, 3rd seat, local one owner. SOLD Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995
2004 Ford Crown Victoria - White, leather, all power w/18,000 miles. SOLD Sale Price \$17,995	2002 Ford F150 Supercrew - White, leather, 4.6 V-8, all power, one owner w/41,000 miles. SOLD Was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995	2001 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - White/tan, leather, one owner. SOLD Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995
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2004 Ford Freestar SES Van - Arizona Beige, all power, dual air/heat, 20,400 miles. SOLD Sale Price \$18,995	2002 Ford F350 C/C Lariat Diesel 4X4 - Black/silver w/leather, one owner. SOLD Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995	2002 Ford Expedition XLT - White, leather, all power, local one owner w/37,000 miles. SOLD Must Go Price \$17,995
2003 Mazda Miata Convertible - Seafoam Green, A/C, local one owner w/only 5,000 miles. SOLD Was \$18,995 NOW \$17,995	2001 Ford F350 Supercrew - White, leather, all power, local one owner w/37,000 miles. SOLD Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995	2001 Toyota Sienna XLE - Tan, all power, one owner w/61,000 miles. SOLD Must Go Price \$16,995
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2002 Oldsmobile Alero GL - Silver, local one owner w/54,000 miles. SOLD Was \$10,995 NOW \$9,995	1999 Ford F250 Supercrew XLT Powerstroke Diesel - White, all power, local one owner. SOLD Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995	2001 Ford Explorer 4-Dr. XLT - White w/cloth, one owner w/72,000 miles. SOLD Must Go Price \$11,995
2002 Honda Accord EX V-6 Coupe - Beige w/leather, moonroof, all power, local one owner w/21,000 miles. SOLD Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995	1998 Nissan Frontier King Cab XE - Sierra Gold, 4 cyl., 5 speed, air, one owner w/42,000 miles. SOLD Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995	2001 Ford Crown Victoria - Silver w/leather, one owner w/40,000 miles. SOLD Must Go Price \$10,995
2001 Mercury Grand Marquis - White, leather, moonroof, all power, locally owned w/41,000 miles. SOLD Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995	1993 Isuzu P/U W/Shell - White, 4 door pickup. SOLD Was \$5,995 NOW \$4,995	2000 Ford Focus Wagon - White, leather, all power, local one owner w/40,000 miles. SOLD Must Go Price \$5,995
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2001 Oldsmobile Alero GL - Silver, local one owner w/62,000 miles. SOLD Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995	2004 Nissan Quest 3.5 S - Tan, cloth, dual air, local one owner w/17,000 miles. SOLD Was \$23,995 NOW \$22,995	2000 Volkswagen Jetta - White, leather, all power, local one owner w/60,000 miles. SOLD Must Go Price \$8,995
2000 Nissan Altima SE - Silver, leather, moonroof, all power, nice one owner car w/46,000 miles. SOLD Was \$12,995 NOW \$11,995	2003 Yamaha R6 YZF - Silver/black, only 3,000 miles. SOLD Was \$6,995 NOW \$5,995	1999 Pontiac Firebird - White, V-6, T-tops, 60,000 miles. SOLD Must Go Price \$7,995
1999 Buick Regal LS - White, leather, moonroof, all power, local one owner w/71,000 miles. SOLD Was \$8,995 NOW \$7,995	2003 Chevrolet Avalanche Z-66 - Charcoal metallic, cloth, XM radio, OnStar, local one owner w/36,000 miles. SOLD Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995	1999 Ford Crown Victoria - White, all power. SOLD Must Go Price \$5,995
	2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter w/leather, loaded, one owner 2w/45,000 miles. SOLD Was \$24,995 NOW \$23,995	1999 Nissan Maxima GLE - Green, all power, 69,000 miles. SOLD Must Go Price \$9,995
	2002 Jeep Wrangler X 4 - White, leather, moonroof, manual shift, soft top, only 15,000 miles. Great Buy!!! SOLD Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995	1999 GMC Suburban LT - Tan w/leather, locally owned. SOLD Must Go Price \$10,995
		1996 Mercury Cougar - White, leather, all power. SOLD Must Go Price \$4,995
		1996 Oldsmobile 88 4-DR - Pewter, all power. SOLD Must Go Price \$4,995
		1997 Chevrolet C1500 Ext. Cab - Tan, 3500-8, new tires. SOLD Must Go Price \$5,995
		1997 Mercury Tracer GS - Green, automatic, air. SOLD Must Go Price \$3,995

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FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

Spring is the season for a fresh start. Why not give your traditional baking recipes and sugary desserts a "makeover"? When you're looking for great tasting treats with less sugar that your family can bake together, try a new baking blend.

This combination of sugar and sucralose, a sweetener that is 600 times sweeter than sugar, can be used like sugar in cookies, cakes, mousses and desserts of all kinds. When you use 1/2 cup of the new baking blend in place of 1 cup sugar, you will have results that have the same sweetness as a full sugar recipe as well as great texture and taste. Yet, you'll have fewer calories and carbohydrates and often a "lighter" nutritional profile.

Now that sweet treats can be prepared with less sugar, your family can happily make and enjoy the desserts they love. Get your kids in the kitchen to learn a new way to make cookies and other goodies with a Splenda delicious touch.



Chocolate Chip Cookies and Oatmeal-Butterscotch Cookies

Chocolate Chip Cookies

Makes about 4 dozen cookies

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1/3 cup Splenda Sugar Blend for Baking
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups (12-ounce package) Nestlé Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels

PREHEAT oven to 375°F. **COMBINE** flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl. Beat butter, sugar blend, brown sugar and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl until creamy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in morsels. Drop by rounded tablespoon onto ungreased baking sheets. **BAKE** 9 to 11 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on baking sheets 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

Nutrition information per serving (1 cookie): 110 calories, 60 calories from fat, 7g total fat, 3.5g saturated fat, 15mg cholesterol, 85mg sodium, 13g total carbohydrate, 1g fiber, 8g sugars, 2g protein

Oatmeal-Butterscotch Cookies

Makes about 4 dozen cookies

- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 1/3 cup Splenda Sugar Blend for Baking
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract or grated peel of 1 orange
- 3 cups quick or old-fashioned oats
- 1 2/3 cups (11-ounce package) Nestlé Toll House Butterscotch Flavored Morsels

PREHEAT oven to 375°F. **COMBINE** flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt in small bowl. Beat butter, sugar blend, brown sugar, eggs and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl. Gradually beat in flour mixture. Stir in oats and morsels. Drop by rounded tablespoon onto ungreased baking sheets. **BAKE** 7 to 8 minutes for chewy cookies, 9 to 10 minutes for crisp cookies. Cool on baking sheets 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

Nutrition information per serving (1 cookie): 130 calories, 60 calories from fat, 7g total fat, 4.5g saturated fat, 20mg cholesterol, 90mg sodium, 16g total carbohydrate, 1g fiber, 10g sugars, 1g protein

Chocolate Dream Mousse

Makes 12 servings

- 1 envelope (7 grams) unflavored gelatin
 - 1/4 cup cold water
 - 1 tablespoon Splenda Sugar Blend for Baking
 - 1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Fat Free Milk
 - 2 cups (12-ounce package) Nestlé Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels
 - 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- SPRINKLE** gelatin over water in medium saucepan; let stand 1 minute. Stir over low heat until gelatin is dissolved; stir in sugar blend. Stir in evaporated milk. Continue stirring over medium heat until milk is steaming hot (do not boil). **POUR** into blender container; add morsels and vanilla extract. Cover; blend on low speed until smooth. Pour into small mixer bowl. Refrigerate, stirring occasionally, until mixture mounds from a spoon. **BEAT** on high speed 1 to 2 minutes or until thick and light in color. Spoon into serving dishes; refrigerate until ready to serve.

Nutrition information per serving (1/2 cup): 160 calories, 80 calories from fat, 9g total fat, 5g saturated fat, 0mg cholesterol, 35mg sodium, 21g total carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 19g sugars, 3g protein

Chocolate Dream Mousse and Chocolate Chip Cheesecake

Chocolate Chip Cheesecake

Makes 12 to 14 servings

- CRUST**
- 1 1/2 cups (about 15) crushed chocolate sandwich cookies
 - 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
 - 2 cups (12-ounce package) Nestlé Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels, divided
- FILLING**
- 2 packages (8 ounces each) Neufchâtel cream cheese, softened
 - 1/4 cup Splenda Sugar Blend for Baking
 - 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
 - 2 large eggs
 - 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 - 3/4 cup Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Lowfat 2% Milk
 - 1/2 cup sour cream

FOR CRUST: **PREHEAT** oven to 300°F. **COMBINE** cookie crumbs with butter in medium bowl until moistened; press onto bottom of ungreased 9-inch springform pan. Sprinkle with 1 cup morsels. **FOR FILLING:** **BEAT** cream cheese, sugar blend and vanilla extract in large mixer bowl until smooth. Beat in eggs and flour. Gradually beat in evaporated milk and sour cream. Pour over crust. Sprinkle with remaining morsels. **BAKE** 25 minutes. Cover loosely with aluminum foil. Bake additional 25 to 30 minutes or until edge is set but center still moves slightly. Place in refrigerator immediately; refrigerate 2 hours or until firm. Remove side of springform pan.

NOTE: Cheesecake may be baked in 13 x 9-inch pan. Prepare as above. Bake in preheated 300°F oven 20 minutes. Cover loosely with aluminum foil and bake additional 20 to 30 minutes.

Nutrition information per serving (1 slice): 310 calories, 190 calories from fat, 21g total fat, 12g saturated fat, 65mg cholesterol, 240mg sodium, 27g total carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 21g sugars, 7g protein

► Anniversary



Earnests to celebrate 50th anniversary

Joe and Raenita Earnest will celebrate 50 years of marriage on April 9, 2005. They invite their friends to share their celebration in a reception to be held from 2-4 p.m. at La Posada Restaurant.

The celebration is to be hosted by the couple's children, Darla Barton of Odessa, Danita Earnest of Odessa, Dale and Raelyn Earnest of Lindale and foster daughter Dorothy Kirk of Mabank.

Joe was born in Big

Spring to J.A. (Red) and Modena Earnest.

Raenita was born in Elbow to Oscar and Lucile Dunlap.

The couple met on a blind date (and not with each other) in 1954.

L.C. Stephenson, a justice of the peace, married them on April 9, 1955, in Midland. The attendants for the wedding were Melbourne and Barbara Heckler.

The couple have lived in Odessa, Seminole and Big



Spring. Raenita is a member of Texas Retired Teacher's Association, the Amputee Group of Midland, Senior Circle, Senior Class of Lubbock, ALF-CIO Retiree's Club and an 18-year member of Al-Anon.

Joe is a lifetime member of AFL-CIO Local 351, AFL-CIO Retiree Club, Cosden 25 Year Club, Senior Circle, Senior class of Lubbock and a 15-year member of AA. Joe is retired from Fina

Refinery in Big Spring. Raenita is retired from Big Spring Independent School District Food Service.

The couple have six grandchildren.

The couple enjoys their lake cabin, children, grandchildren and annual trips to Kerrville.

They owe the success of the marriage to love and forgiveness.

They are members of The Christian Church of Odessa.

► Births

Allana Marie Lopez, a girl, was born March 21, 2005 at 11:09 a.m. weighing 7 pounds 8 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Mark and Ester Lopez. Her grandparents are Robert and Susan Gilmore of Big Spring and Manuel and Patricia Bustos of Odessa. She was welcomed home by Ambia and Anthony.

Ashia Louise Loudermill, a girl, was born March 21, 2005 at 8:08 a.m. weighing 6 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long. Her parents are Taneca Scott of Big Spring and Terry Loudermill of Nashville, Ark. Her grandparents are Charles and the late Rosetta Smith, Laura Pollard and the late Abraham Loudermill. She was welcomed home by Taia.

Cadence Hope Mondier, a girl, was born March 17, 2005 at 1:38 p.m. weighing 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Daniel and Aston Mondier of Svapla, Okla. Her grandparents are Diana and Victor Garza, Sandra Burentt and William Mondier. She was welcomed home by Fellicity.

Pearla Breal Martinez, a girl, was born March 25, 2005 at 11:37 a.m. weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces and was 20 inches long. Her parents are Filibreto and Tabri Martinez. Her grandparents are Gilda Castillo and Paula Martinez. She was welcomed home by Jesus, Mariaha and Noah.

Claudia Audey Viera, a girl, was born March 17, 2005 at 10:01 a.m. weighing 6 pounds 2 ounces and was 20 3/4 inches long. Her parents are Joe and Luisa Viera. Her grandparents are Olga Chavarria, Gilbert Naranjo and Paul and Dolores Viera. She was welcomed home by Andrea and Anthony Jr.

Brycen Cash Cervantes, a boy, was born March 11, 2005 at 2:03 p.m. weighing 8 pounds 2 ounces and was 21 inches long. His parents are Carlos and Shelbi Cervantes. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. R.O. Hall and Mrs. Robert Lee Hall of Big Spring and Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Cervantes of Coahoma.

REMEMBER!

Find It In Big Spring First!

eHarmony founder's goal is to find love that lasts

By LESLIE GARCIA

The Dallas Morning News

Six million people. That's how many use the eHarmony.com Web site. During the not-quite-five years since it began, at least 10,000 couples who have met through the online dating service have married.

Its founder, Dr. Neal Clark Warren, has written a new book, "Falling in Love for All the Right Reasons: How to Find Your Soul Mate" (Center Street, \$22.95). In it, he talks about the 29 dimensions - including chemistry, conflict resolution, curiosity, spirituality - that his researchers deem are necessary to help people find their soul mate.

Dr. Warren, who has been married to his wife, Marylyn, for 46 years, talked to us from his office in Pasadena, Calif.

What made you start eHarmony?

"More than anything else, it had to do with my grieving over the incredible amount of marriages that kept ending in divorce right in front of me. I did 512 divorce autopsies and found that 75 percent of the marriages that failed were in trouble from the day they started. The reason was that the two people were not very well matched for each other.

"I knew long before that that this culture had almost no idea of what was required to have two people together for a lifetime."

Why this culture?

"We were too romantic.

We thought you'd just catch the look of a person across the room and knew you were just meant for each other.

"I remember saying to my mother when I was just a little boy, 'How do I know when I meet the right girl to marry?' She'd say, 'You'll know,' like it was intuition.

"This culture bought into that for so many years. We're just barely coming out of it. "There are pretty complex rules you have to follow, which have to do with broad-based compatibility."

What are some misconceptions about marriage?

"They have terrible delusions, illusions that everything will get OK as soon as they get married. It's harder to be married than it is to be single. Most people who think marriage will make them

start feeling great ... yeah, it feels good, but it puts a lot of strain and demand on you to meet the other person's needs."

How does eHarmony work?

"The reason people have been interested in us is that it makes sense to them that there are some rules for being matched well ...

"We have 436 questions we ask. We had people tell us that nobody will finish it, nobody.

"I kept saying that people are pretty interested in talking about themselves, especially if they think they have something to offer.

"Seventy-one percent of all people who start the questionnaire finish it. Isn't that amazing?"

"Over 30 percent of all the people who start the thing end up being a subscriber to our site."

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Sunday, April 10 - Noon-5 p.m.

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Nominate your favorite nurse.

In conjunction with National Nurses' Week, May 6 - May 12, we're paying tribute to ALL our nurses. We'd like to thank them for their compassion, dedication and support of our patients. Their efforts and our entire hospital team enable us to provide quality healthcare service right here in our community.

If you have received healthcare (inpatient or outpatient) in the last two years from our hospital and you have a nurse whom you want to thank for going the extra mile, we encourage you to nominate him or her for the Patient Choice Award. It's simple, just e-mail, mail or fax your nomination by April 23. Thanks for your support.

Include in your nomination: Attention: Mary Collins, Patient Choice Award, your name, address and phone number, nurse's name and your reason for nomination.

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SENIOR CENT
MONDAY-Ste potatoes, brocc cheese, salad, fruit.
TUESDAY-Cheeseburgers, fries, beans, le tomatoes, milk cobbler.
WEDNESDA & rice, mixed v salad, rolls, m ding.
THURSDAY-Charbroiled st dles, green bea milk, rolls, app
FRIDAY-Mea blackeyed peas salad, milk, co fruit.

BIG SPRING
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TUESDAY-Ch peaches, milk.
WEDNESDA sausage patty, milk.
THURSDAY-I syrup, applesa
FRIDAY-Cere bite, juice, mil
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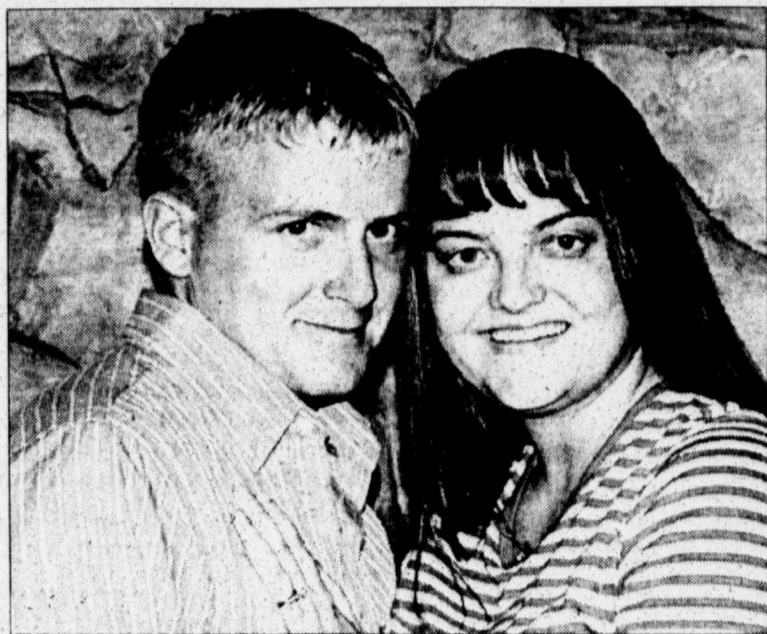
Shawn Dean
Shawn Dean Big Spring is students at College to ben 2005 edition of Among Stu American

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The Community P production "Saving Grace" written by Jac

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Engagements



Laura Lea Moore and Colton Blake Jones

Moore, Jones engaged

Laura Lea Moore of San Angelo and Colton Blake Jones of Oceanside, Calif., will exchange wedding vows on May 21, 2005, at 4 p.m. at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Big Spring.

The bride is the daughter of Johnny and Shirley Moore of Big Spring and the granddaughter of Shirley and Don Brashears of Big Spring and John and Melba Webb of Stanton.

She is a 2001 graduate of Forsan High School and will graduate in

December 2005 with a degree in education from Angelo State University.

The groom is the son of Jesse and Renea Jones of Coahoma and the grandson of Clyde and LaBeth Montgomery of Coahoma and Loyce Jones of Big Spring.

He is a 2002 graduate of Coahoma High School. He served two tours of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom and is employed by the United States Marine Corps at Camp Demar in Oceanside, Calif.



Stephanie Lane Washington and Delynn Garrett Reed

Washington, Reed to wed

Tani Washington of Stanton, Tommy and Kristi Washington of Stephenville and Sherry and Billy Reed of Ackerly would like to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their children, Stephanie Lane Washington and Delynn Garrett Reed.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Sammie Lane and the late Joe T. Lane of San Angelo, formerly of Alpine, and Bonnie Washington and the late A.C. Washington of Crane.

She is a 2000 graduate of Stanton High School and will graduate from Texas Tech University with a

Bachelor of Science degree in biology/pre-dentistry in December.

The future bridegroom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Reed of Ackerly and the late Mr. and Mrs. Leon Riddle of Knott.

He is a 1996 graduate of Sands High School and a 2001 graduate of Tech Tech University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in agricultural economics and Texas teacher certification.

The couple plan to marry May 21, 2005, in the Lower Rose Garden of The Botanic Garden of Fort Worth.

Menus

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

MONDAY-Steak fingers, potatoes, broccoli & cheese, salad, milk, rolls, fruit.

TUESDAY-Cheeseburgers, French fries, beans, lettuce & tomatoes, milk, buns, cobbler.

WEDNESDAY-Beef tips & rice, mixed vegetables, salad, rolls, milk, pudding.

THURSDAY-Charbroiled steaks, noodles, green beans, salad, milk, rolls, apple crisp.

FRIDAY-Meatloaf, blackeyed peas, carrots, salad, milk, cornbread, fruit.

BIG SPRING ISD

BREAKFAST MONDAY-Cereal, sausage link, juice, milk.

TUESDAY-Cheese stick, peaches, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Cereal, sausage patty, juice, milk.

THURSDAY-Pancake, syrup, applesauce, milk.

FRIDAY-Cereal, cheese bite, juice, milk.

LUNCH MONDAY-Ravioli, broccoli w/cheese, salad, mixed fruit, roll, milk.

TUESDAY-Chicken

fried steak, mashed potatoes, English peas, peaches, wheat roll, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Corndog, French fries, fruit salad, fresh veggie medley, milk.

THURSDAY-Hamburger, salad, pork & beans, potato chips, rainbow freeze, milk.

FRIDAY-Green enchiladas, border beans, Spanish rice, salad, lemon pie, milk.

COAHOMA ISD

BREAKFAST MONDAY-Pancake sausage on a stick, orange juice, milk.

TUESDAY-Rice, sausage, juice, milk.

WEDNESDAY-French toast, sausage, syrup, grape juice, milk.

THURSDAY-Poptarts, ham, apple juice, milk.

FRIDAY-Pancake sausage on a stick, apple sauce, milk.

LUNCH MONDAY-Chicken patty or burrito, gravy, creamed potatoes, corn, rolls, milk.

TUESDAY-Pizza, salad, oranges, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Tostadas or corndog, pinto beans, salad, chocolate pudding, milk.

THURSDAY-Stromboli

or hot pockets, corn, apples, milk.

FRIDAY-Hamburger, ranch beans, mixed fruit, milk.

SANDS CISD

BREAKFAST MONDAY-Hot pockets

TUESDAY-Peanut butter & jelly sandwich

WEDNESDAY-Donuts

THURSDAY-Muffins

FRIDAY-Cereal

LUNCH MONDAY-Hamburgers, oven fries, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, peaches, milk.

TUESDAY-Steak fingers w/gravy, mashed potatoes, blackeyed peas, rolls, mixed fruit, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Tacos, salad, pinto beans, cornbread, cheese, cake, milk.

THURSDAY-Chicken nuggets w/gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, fruit, milk.

FRIDAY-Lasagna, salad, green beans, batterbread, pears, milk.

WESTBROOK ISD

BREAKFAST MONDAY-Donuts, cereal, juice, milk.

TUESDAY-Cereal, toast, jelly, juice, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Blueberry muffins, cere-

al, juice, milk.

THURSDAY-Sausage, bacon, biscuits, cereal, juice, milk.

FRIDAY-Pancake pups, cereal, juice, milk.

LUNCH MONDAY-Fish, tarter sauce, macaroni & cheese, glazed carrots, fruit cup, milk.

TUESDAY-Barbeque rib on bun, con, veggie dippers, onion, pickle spears, chocolate cake, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Oven fried chicken, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, sliced bread, strawberry yogurt, milk.

THURSDAY-Tacos w/cheese, salsa, tossed salad, Spanish rice, peaches, milk.

FRIDAY-Barbeque on bun, nacho cheese chips, pickle spears, corn, cherry cups, milk.

Who's Who

Shawn Deanne Harris

Shawn Deanne Harris of Big Spring is one of 84 students at Vernon College to be named to the 2005 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Junior

Colleges. A second-year student, she maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Courtney Brock

Courtney Brock of Big Spring has been named to

the Hardin-Simmons University Dean's List for the fall 2004 semester.

The Dean's List honors students who completed at least 12 semester hours with 3.75-3.99 grade point average.

Briefly

Community Players

The Lamesa Community Players next production will be "Saving Grace" a comedy written by Jack Sharkey.

The directors are Bob Smith and Bob Force. Productions are scheduled for April 28-30 and May 5-7, all at 8 p.m. at Lamesa Community

Playhouse, 214 N. Austin in Lamesa. Tickets are \$7. Reservations can be made by calling 806-872-2705 from 2-6 p.m. strating April 25.

Home Hospice
10 Years of Dedication

Open House

Please join us in recognition of the

10th Anniversary

of

Home Hospice

April 7, 2005
10:00 am - 11:30 am
111 E. 7th., Ste. A
Big Spring, Texas
(432) 264-7599

www.homehospicewtx.com

Elbow Elementary

Pre-K & Kindergarten

Pre-Registration

Age Requirement:

Pre-K: 4 yrs. old, on or before September 1, 2005

K: 5 yrs. old, on or before September 1, 2005

WHEN:

Monday, April 4 - Friday, April 8, 2005

TIME:

Mon: 8:30 am-6:30 pm

Tues.-Fri.: 8:30am-4:00pm

WHERE:

Elbow Elementary (Forsan ISD)

ITEMS NEEDED FOR REGISTRATION:

1. Birth Certificate
2. Social Security Card
3. Shot Records
4. Proof of Residence (utility bill)
5. Proof of Income (Pre-K)

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Blockbuster CEO gets hefty compensation

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Movie-rental giant Blockbuster Inc., which lost \$1.25 billion last year, boosted chief executive John F. Antioco's pay to \$7 million in salary and bonus, restricted stock eventually worth \$26.8 million, and options for 5 million more shares.

The company disclosed Antioco's 2004 compensation in its proxy filed with the

Securities and Exchange Commission on Thursday, the same day it confirmed plans to lay off up to 300 workers in Dallas.

Blockbuster's stock dropped 47 percent last year, although about half of that loss was offset by a one-time dividend paid to shareholders. And last week, the company gave up plans to acquire its largest competitor.

Antioco, 55, also chairman of the Dallas-based company, received a 17 percent salary



increase, to \$2.05 million, plus a \$5 million bonus, and about \$153,000 in other compensation. Blockbuster said that on Oct. 21, Antioco got 1.73 million

restricted shares that vest in 2006 and 2007 and are payable in cash when he leaves the company. It valued the shares at \$7.01 each — or \$12.1 million — based on the average closing prices of its Class A and Class B stock at the time of the grant.

Less than two months later, Antioco got another 1.65 million restricted shares in exchange for the cancellation of previous options dating back to 1999, the company said. Blockbuster valued those shares at \$14.7 mil-

lion, or \$8.90 each, based on the closing price Class A shares at the time. The shares vest by the end of next year.

The additional 5 million options — 32.3 percent of all options for Blockbuster employees last year — could be worth \$25.5 million if the shares gain 5 percent a year or \$64.7 million if they rise 10 percent a year, the company said. The options expire in 2014.

See SALARY, Page 5C



Big Spring Independent School District Business Manager Sandra Waggoner displays the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award the district recently received from the Governmental Financial Officers Association. BSISD was one of only 12 school districts in Texas to receive the award.

Among the best

Big Spring ISD receives budget award from national finance officers association

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Sometimes, it's not what you do, but how you do it that matters.

For the second year in a row, the Big Spring Independent School District has received the District Budget Presentation Award from the Governmental Finance Officers Association.

Budgets can be, and often are, dry reading at best, with a seeming

maze of facts and figures that can leave even the most knowledgeable of experts with a headache.

Imagine, then, how a layman might feel perusing a school district's budget package.

That was the problem the GFOA set about to correct. The organization established its award to encourage districts to present their budget packages in a more accessible manner.

"The award was not necessarily

for what is in the budget, but for how the budget is presented," said BSISD Business Manager Sandra Waggoner. "Basically, (the GFOA) wanted to encourage governmental entities to put together a package that both taxpayers and business people could understand."

BSISD was one of only 12 school districts in Texas to receive the award, and was "by far" the smallest

See AWARD, Page 5C

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Knox joins team at Comanche Trail Nursing Center

Tim Knox is the new admissions and marketing director for Comanche Trail Nursing Center.

He joins the nursing center from KBST where he had been morning show host for 18 months. He had been in radio about seven years.

"I loved radio and the people I worked for and with," said Knox. "John Weeks was a great mentor and I learned a lot from him. The KBST listeners were very receptive to me and made me feel like I was at home on the morning show. I miss talking to them on a regular basis."

Knox said he is ready for a new challenge.

"After seven years of radio, I was looking for new challenges and when this opportunity came up, I jumped on it," he said. "I have big shoes to fill. Cindy Lopez did a fantastic job before me, so I have a lot to live up to."



Knox

Edwards named Building Stone Institute president

Brenda Edwards of TexaStone Quarries of Garden City, was named president of the Building Stone Institute when the organization held its 86th convention in Rio Mar, Puerto Rico, recently.

The Building Stone Institute is a not-for-profit trade organization that promotes natural stone with a membership of 300 international and national firms. The main purpose is educational, to increase consumer demand for all types of natural stone and to service its member firms.

The Building Stone Institute is governed by an elected 15-member board from the industry.

Tom Terrell joins IADC

Thomas T. "Tom" Terrell has joined the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) as senior vice president for business development.

Terrell has more than 30 years publishing, marketing and business experience, leading petroleum-group operations for a major business publishing company. He has extensive experience in strategic planning, sales management, marketing, and product development.

Terrell was named senior vice president of PennWell's Petroleum Group in 1997, and retired from that post in December 2002. He had previously served since 1992 as Petroleum Group vice president and publisher of Oil and Gas Journal.

He began his career in the petroleum industry in 1966, when he joined National Supply Division of Armco Steel. He previously served on active duty in the Coast Guard Reserve.



Terrell

U.S. weekly oil and gas rig count down by two

HOUSTON (AP) — The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the United States was down by two this week to 1,329.

Of the rigs running nationwide, 1,157 were exploring for gas, 171 were looking for oil and one was listed as miscellaneous, Houston-based Baker Hughes Inc. reported Friday.

A year ago, the rig count was 1,160.

Baker Hughes has kept track of the count since 1944. The tally peaked at 4,530 in 1981, during the height of

See BRIEFS, Page 5C

Prophet named Big Spring State Hospital Social Worker of the Year

Special to the Herald

Billie Prophet was named Big Spring State Hospital's 2005 Social Worker of the Year last week during a ceremony commemorating National Social Work Month.

The award was presented by Social Work Services Director Kathy Salazar during the department's workshop, "What to Say and How to Say It."

Prophet has worked at Big Spring State Hospital since 1985, when she began her employment as a community social worker in the Sweetwater and Snyder areas. While working in community outreach, she practiced her interviewing and assessment skills

interacting with Mental Health and Mental Retardation clients.

"She put them at ease in the midst of their distress," Salazar said.

In 1990, Prophet moved from working in the community to the hospital as a social worker holding a variety of positions the past 15 years. "She has always done an excellent job," Salazar said. "No matter where she is needed, Billie goes with a smile and an open heart. She is highly respected by her peers and co-workers as well as the patients and families she serves."

Big Spring State Hospital is a 174-bed psychiatric hospital serving people with mental illness in 58 counties in West Texas and the Texas Panhandle.

Texas Quail Index planned for April 25-26 at San Angelo

The Texas Quail Index will mark its fourth year with a cooperators' training April 25-26 at San Angelo.

The Texas Cooperative Extension program starts at 1:15 p.m. April 25 and ends at noon the next day.

Dr. Dale Rollins, Extension wildlife specialist and originator of the index, said the five-year project's goals are two-fold. The first goal is to determine if certain population measures (e.g., spring bob-white whistle counts) predict quail abundance during the subsequent hunting season. The second goal is to train landowners to assess the status of their quail and habitat to



TOMMY YEATER

guide management decisions.

The Texas Quail Index provides a very "hands-on" method for the property owner to assess the property's quail potential, said Rollins. More importantly, it teaches the landowner how his management, or lack of it, is affecting his quail population either positively or negatively.

The index is appropri-

See QUAIL, Page 5C

Hot Checks/Warr
Lupe Aleman, 301
Big Spring
Kerrie Bhuyan, 53
257 Big Spring
Chad Brown, 3901
Douglas Brown, 20
Monahans
Wayne Carpenter,
No. 10, Abilene
Krisha Nicole Cast
St. Colorado City
Storm Chandler, 3
Garden City
Stephanie R. Dani
T. Snyder
James Ditto, 501 V
Spring
Doyle Edmonds
Place, Big Spring
Katherine Gladhill,
Lubbock
Roman Hines, 901
Spring
Sharon Annette Ja
Second Street, Big S
Andres Juarez, Rt
Spring
Randy Key, 20964
Christoval
Jonathan Lanham
Lubbock
Shawn Lowe, 500
Spring
Tracy Martin, 3191
Ct., San Angelo
Judy Mata, 6309 E
Big Spring
Esiquei Moreno, 5
Andrews
Margarita Olivarez
Westover Road Apt.
Sierra-Ramos, 201
Avenue, Midland
Jessie Robles, 14
San Angelo
Veronica Rodrigue
Apt. 17 Big Spring
Linda Salgado, 6C
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PUBLIC RECORDS

Hot Checks/Warrants Issued:
Lupe Aleman, 301 E. Co. Road 34, Big Spring
Kerrie Bhuiyan, 538 Westover, No. 257, Big Spring
Chad Brown, 3901 Ave. D, Snyder
Douglas Brown, 205 W. 14th, Monahans
Wayne Carpenter, 3766 Patriot Dr. No. 10, Abilene
Krisha Nicole Castillo, 942 Cherry St., Colorado City
Stormi Chandler, 309 N. Bryan, Garden City
Stephanie R. Daniels, 506 N. Ave. T, Snyder
James Ditto, 501 W. 17th St., Big Spring
Doyle Edmondson, 505 E. 11th Place, Big Spring
Katherine Gladhill, CR 7670, Lubbock
Roman Hines, 901 Baylor, Big Spring
Sharon Annette James, 1311 W. Second Street, Big Spring
Andres Juarez, Rt. 3 Box 389, Big Spring
Randy Key, 20964 S. Hwy. 277, Christoval
Jonathan Lanham, 3708 28th St., Lubbock
Shawn Lowe, 500 S. Aylesford, Big Spring
Tracy Martin, 3198 Fruitland Farm Ct., San Angelo
Judy Mata, 6309 E. Midway Rd., Big Spring
Esquei Moreno, 508 S.E. First St., Andrews
Margarita Olivarez Ramirez, 538 Westover Road Apt. 223, Big Spring
Sierra-Ramos, 200 W. Estes Avenue, Midland
Jessie Robles, 1417 Millspaugh, San Angelo
Veronica Rodriguez, 2609 Wasson Apt. 17, Big Spring
Linda Salgado, 607 Caylor, Big Spring

fugitive from justice - giving false/fictitious information, \$250 fine, \$261 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Oscar Velasquez Jr., criminal trespass of a habitation, \$261 court costs, 25 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Anthony Paul Munoz, criminal trespass, \$500 fine, \$261 court costs, 30 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Jamey Scott Johnson, criminal trespass, \$500 fine, \$261 court costs, 30 days in jail.
District Court Filings:
Donna Kay Davis vs. David Gomez Davis, divorce.
Citizens Federal Credit Union vs. John Breckenridge, accounts, notes and contracts.
Alpha Lake Ltd. vs. Cinemark LLC and Kevin and Juanita Ritz, accounts, notes and contracts.
Citibank South Dakota vs. Santos Rockwell, accounts, notes and contracts.
John Sanders vs. Lusara Phinney Wegner, injury or damages with a motor vehicle.
Kathy Jones and Samantha Morrow vs. Robert D. Miller, injury or damages - other.
The State of Texas vs. Thomas Charles Simpson, other civil.
Marriage Licenses:
Johnathon Monroe Casey, 22, and Toni Renee Trammell, 23, both of Big Spring
Miguel Antonio Arenivaz, 37, and Elidia Flores, 30, both of Big Spring
Troy Daniel Austin, 18, and Tamara Renee Stanhope, 20, both of Big Spring
Raul Rodriguez Perez, 39, and Irma Moreno Moreno, 46, both of Big Spring
Joel Rodriguez, 35, and Ana Jesusa Perez, 38, both of Big Spring
Michael Christopher Chavez, 35, of Wichita Falls, and Brianda Guadalupe Ortiz, 24, of Big Spring
Carl Dean Hart, 52, and Gwendolyn Meguire Fisher, 47, both of Big Spring
Robert Lincoln Noyes Jr., 64, and Janis Louise Dean, 43, both of Big Spring
Gerald Enoch Kennedy, 68, and Pamela Grant Kennedy, 48, both of Big Spring

Warranty deeds:
Grantor: Jacquelyn Zitterkopf
Grantee: Brent W. Zitterkopf and Mary Zitterkopf
Property: Lot 10 of the Denton Subdivision.
Date Filed: March 2, 2005
Grantor: Leroy Nichols
Grantee: Wanda Penny Binion
Property: A 1 acre tract out of Section 1, Block 1, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: March 2, 2005
Grantor: Leslie K. Ortmann
Grantee: Harry Patel
Property: Lot 3, Block 6, Highland Park
Date Filed: March 2, 2005
Grantor: Annie Mae King
Grantee: April King
Property: Lot 12, Block 20, Monticello Addition
Date Filed: March 2, 2005
Grantor: April King
Grantee: Chuck Rosenbaum
Property: Lot 12, Block 20, Monticello Addition
Date Filed: March 2, 2005
Grantor: David Parrish
Grantee: Ida Sanchez
Property: Lot 25, Block 4, Highland Park Addition
Date Filed: March 2, 2005
Grantor: Amy Beth Dunn
Grantee: William Reed and Katherine Reed
Property: Lot 8, Block 2, Suburban Heights
Date Filed: March 3, 2005
Grantor: Floyd Pringle
Grantee: Michael Hall and Barbara Hall
Property: Lot 2, Block 10, Suburban Heights
Date Filed: March 3, 2005
Grantor: Eugene Bryant and Barbara Bryant
Grantee: Billy M. Logsdon and Virginia A. Logsdon
Property: A 2.2 acre tract out of Section 43, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: March 5, 2005
Grantor: Wayne L. Rock and Joan

M. Rock
Grantee: Manuel S. Hinojos and Ana R. Hinojos
Property: Lot 2, Block 12, Settles Heights Addition
Date Filed: March 15, 2005
Grantor: Reveille Patterson
Grantee: Regene May Paredez
Property: Lot 6, Block 5, Douglas Addition
Date Filed: March 17, 2005
Grantor: Regene May Paredez
Grantee: Javier Jaime
Property: Lot 6, Block 5, Douglas Addition
Date Filed: March 17, 2005
Grantor: Verline Kelley
Grantee: Javier Jaime
Property: A 5 acre tract out of Section 105, Block 29, W&NW RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: March 17, 2005
Grantor: Ralph Johnson and Senaida Johnson
Grantee: Javier Jaime
Property: Lot 7, Block 1, Ridglea Terrace
Date Filed: March 17, 2005
Grantor: Melinda Smith
Grantee: Robert D. Howland Jr.
Property: Lot 7, Block 14, Saunders Addition
Date Filed: March 17, 2005
Grantor: J.C. Burchett
Grantee: Marvin E. Hall and Mary E. Jennings
Property: A tract out of Section 32, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: March 18, 2005
Grantor: V.O. Squires and Marjorie Squires
Grantee: G.C. Bayes
Property: A tract out of Section 43, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: March 23, 2005
Grantor: Lorenda Kenly
Grantee: Theresa A. Seago and Jeremy Samora
Property: Lots 18 and 19, Block 12, North Park Hill Addition
Date Filed: March 23, 2005
Grantor: Randy McCutchan and Shawn McCutchan

Grantee: Karen M. Burden
Property: A tract of land out of Section 30, Block 31, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: March 24, 2005
Grantor: First Church of the Nazarene
Grantee: Ben Baucum and Kandace Baucum
Property: Lot 27, Block 3, College Park Estates
Date Filed: March 24, 2005
Grantor: Mario Salazar and Malinda Salazar
Grantee: A.R. Salazar and Callie Salazar
Property: Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 9, Saunders Addition
Date Filed: March 29, 2005
Warranty deeds with vendors lien:
Grantor: Bobby Powell and Dawn Powell
Grantee: Joel Manuel Jimenez
Property: Lot 21, Tract 2, Foster Subdivision
Date Filed: March 15, 2005
Grantor: William Glyn Mitchell
Grantee: Danny Ray Bobbit and Zane Bobbit
Property: A 4 acre tract out of Section 32, Block 30, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: March 15, 2005
Grantor: Zane Neal Bobbit
Grantee: Shane Haynie and Marlena Haynie
Property: Lot 16, Block 10, Kentwood Unit No. 1
Date Filed: March 2, 2005
Grantor: Don Baker and Linda Baker
Grantee: Jeff Childers and Stacey Childers
Property: Lot 8, Block 2, Marshall Fields Estates
Date Filed: March 3, 2005
Grantor: Mobility Government Financial Services Corp.
Grantee: Robert N. Creswell and Shannon J. Creswell
Property: A 19.25 acre tract out of Sections 43 and 44, Block 32, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: March 4, 2005

Grantor: Tina Hanson
Grantee: Alex J. Patterson
Property: Lot 6, Block 29, Cole and Strayhorn
Date Filed: March 4, 2005
Grantor: Claudia M. Brown
Grantee: David L. Ayers and Barbara S. Ayers
Property: Lots #and 2, Block 4, North McEwen
Date Filed: March 17, 2005
Grantor: Debra Ann Sanders
Grantee: Phillip Cantrell and Barbara Cantrell
Property: Lot 1, Block 1, Parks Addition
Date Filed: March 17, 2005
Grantor: Rudolph C. Deleon
Grantee: Joe Yangz
Property: A 1 acre tract out of Section 24, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey
Date Filed: March 17, 2005
Grantor: T. Richard Clifton
Grantee: Leta Oliver
Property: Lot 3, Block 9, Kentwood Addition
Date Filed: March 23, 2005
Grantor: Dilvan E. Gorham and Anita Gorham
Grantee: Albert Dwayne Overy
Property: Lot 15, Block 1, Abernathy Addition
Date Filed: March 24, 2005
Grantor: Joe David Neff
Grantee: Kelly McDaniel
Property: Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block 14, Saunders Addition
Date Filed: March 24, 2005
Grantor: Phillip Gary Young
Grantee: Jesse Bravo Jr. and Sonya Bravo
Property: Lot 4, Block 6, Kentwood Addition
Date Filed: March 24, 2005
Grantor: Kay Johnson and Karen Peachy
Grantee: Nora A. Alvarez
Property: Lot 7, Block 1, McEwen Addition
Date Filed: March 24, 2005

County Court Decisions:
Probated Judgment: Roman Martinez Cisneros, driving while license suspended, \$250 fine, \$261 court costs, 180 days in jail (jail time suspended, 12 months probation).
Judgment and Sentence: Isabel Gonzales Lomas, driving while intoxicated, \$1,500 fine, \$376 court costs, 90 days in jail.
Judgment and Sentence: Nakiha Laquitha West, failure to identify as a

QUAIL

Continued from Page 4C
ate for landowners who have either bobwhite or scaled (blue) quail. We'd especially like to see more cooperators from blue quail country.
Something new for 2005 is what we've dubbed the TQI-Lite. It's a scaled-down version of the original index. The original version takes a lot of time; about 60 hours annually, to collect the data, often at dawn. The lite version will be

applicable to smaller properties of from 600 to 3,000 acres. It will require about half as much time as the full-blown index.
April 25 activities will be in the classroom at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center here. The center is north of San Angelo on U.S. Hwy 87.
April 26 activities start at daybreak near Tennyson where participants will learn to conduct the various quail

counts, habitat measurements, and other means of measuring quail populations.
This is a very intense, but interesting "hands-on" training, Rollins said. We strongly believe in the adage: "Tell me, and I forget; show me, and I remember; involve me, and I understand."
Individual registration is \$15 if received by April 22, or \$25 at the door. Registration includes demonstration materials and one meal.
For more information, contact Rollins at (325)

653-4576 or e-mail, drollins@tamu.edu.
More information on the Texas Quail Index is available at

http://teamquail.tamu.edu
Tommy Yeater is the Cooperative Extension agent, agriculture, for

Howard County. His office is in the bottom floor of the Howard County Courthouse. He can be reached at 264-2236.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 4C
the oil boom. Several record lows were set in 1999, bottoming out at 488.
Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, Oklahoma and New Mexico each gained two rigs and Wyoming and Alaska each gained one. Texas lost five rigs and Louisiana lost three. California and Colorado were unchanged.

recognizing the companys outstanding commitment to improve lives in local communities. UWA recognized Wells Fargo at its national United Way Community Leaders Conference in Grapevine as a Summit Award recipient for these four categories: Community Leadership, Corporate Community Investment, Employee Community Engagement and Employee Community Investment.
The Spirit of America Awards program is United Ways highest tribute for corporate community involvement. Spirit of America and Summit Award recipients are judged on detailed criteria by a panel of past winners and other United Way National Corporate Leaders (NCL), United Way labor liaisons, and individual United Way organizations.

operators and cheap DVDs in stores.
"Look at Blockbuster. It's realistic that if managed poorly, it could go out of business," Pachter said. "He's done a lot to maintain the business and he's taking steps to grow it."
The size of the compensation package contrasted sharply with the company's announcement less than two weeks ago that Antioico would give up about \$750,000 in deferred compensation to help the company control costs.
Blockbuster is trying to cut costs while it invests \$70 million in its online movie-ordering system that competes with Netflix Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. The three

rivals have been locked in a price war that has driven monthly rates down sharply in recent months.
Blockbuster lost \$1.25 billion last year as sales grew just 4 percent, to \$6.05 billion, and company officials said recently that operating income will be flat this year.
Last week, Antioico announced that Blockbuster was giving up its effort to buy Hollywood Entertainment Corp., which instead is poised to be purchased by Movie Gallery Inc., creating a new and larger competitor to industry leader Blockbuster. Antitrust regulators had raised objections to a Blockbuster-Hollywood combination.

Wells Fargo honored at UWA conference

United Way of America (UWA) honored Wells Fargo & Company with four Summit Awards this week from its coveted Spirit of America Awards program.

SALARY

Continued from Page 4C
Karen Raskopf, a Blockbuster vice president, said the compensation package was crafted with the help of two outside consulting firms.
"This package was designed to keep John with the company and keep him focused on the company for the next five years," Raskopf said.
Michael Pachter, an analyst with Webush Morgan Securities, said the pay package was fair deal given Antioico's challenges to make Blockbuster competitive with Netflix, video-on-demand from cable TV

everyone in the business office who worked on the budget package.
"It's always an honor to receive an award from a national organization," she said. "We put in a lot of hours to put this together - not just to win

the award, but to have a budget that people can understand."
Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

AWARD

Continued from Page 4
est of the honorees, BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes said.
Waggoner spread the credit for the award to

Go One Better.
Better not wait.

FREE LG-3200 PHONE
After \$25 mail-in rebate with 2-year agreement
AUDIOVOX 8910 CAMERA PHONE
After \$50 mail-in rebate with 2-year agreement
\$29.99

Add A Line for \$9.95 up to 3 lines
• Free calling between Cellular One customers • Free nationwide long distance
15-DAY SATISFACTION GUARANTEE
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All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
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• All Utilities Paid
• One Bedroom - 820 sq. ft.
• Two Bedroom One Bath - 1080 sq. ft.
• Two Bedroom Two Bath - 1280 sq. ft.
• Three Bedroom Two Bath - 1800 sq. ft.
1425 E. 6th • 263-6319

FOR SALE
No Down Payment
OWNER FINANCING
Bad Credit O.K.
2-3-4-5 & 6 Bedroom Brick Homes
Call Beverly 263-3461

Contact
Brett Wallace
1-800-821-8139
ext 255

For advertising rates and information on National Classified Advertising:

Real Estate for Sale

COAHOMA REBUILT Home, 3 bedroom, 2 full baths. New Ref. air, new dishwasher, new oak cabinets, new carpet. All insulated windows. New paint inside & out. 412 South 2nd. \$45,000.00. No Owner. Finance. Call Kenny Thompson (432)270-0548 or 263-4548.

FOR SALE by owner. 605 McEwen. Two bedroom, one bath, two living areas, CH/A, fenced yard, storage building. \$1,500. down. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

FOR SALE by Owner: Owner financing provided. Low down payment, will work with income tax refund, low monthly. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, 1001 N. Gregg. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

FOR SALE by Owner: Owner financing provided. Low down payment, will work with income tax refund, low monthly, 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 1500 Kentucky Way. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

WILL PAY Cash for Houses up to \$25,000.00. Call Kelly (432)425-9994.

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



2901 STONEHAVEN, Highland. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Dining room, gameroom, large family room, fireplace. Oversized 2 car garage. \$205,000. 432-267-2789 Open House Sunday, 1:00-4:00pm.

Vehicles

'04 Nissan Xterra \$3000 OFF MSRP
Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7424



1967 Sting Ray Corvette 327-350 H.P., Red with black interior. Fully Restored, NICE! Serious inquiries only. Call & leave message (432)263-3029.

1998 FORD Mustang, Yellow in color. 69K. Many extras! \$7200. Call (432)394-4990 or (432)213-0544.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
Big Spring Independent School District has contracted with Spring City Auction to sell the district's surplus property. The district's surplus property is sold at the following location throughout the year:
Spring City Auction
2611 W. Hwy. 80
Big Spring, TX 79720
You may check with Spring City Auction for the designed auction times.
#4410 January 2, April 3, July 3 & October 2, 2005.

LEGAL NOTICE
The Forsan Independent School District, Forsan, Texas is accepting bids for the following:
Year 2005 Improvements (New Baseball/ Softball Field) for Forsan ISD. All bids must be submitted by 3:00 P.M. local time, **April 12, 2005** and addressed to or faxed to:
Randy Johnson, Superintendent
Forsan ISD
C/o Grimes and Associates
21103 FM 179
Wolfford, Texas 79382
Fax: (806)863-2479
Plans, Bid Packages and Specifications are available and may be acquired from:
Grimes and Associates,
Consulting Engineers, L.P.
P.O. Box 65
Wolfford, TX 79382
806-863-2462
www.grimesengineering.com
Separate bids will be received for each bid package or a combination of bid packages. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 3:00 P.M., local time, **March 29, 2005**. All interested parties should meet at the Superintendent's Office, Forsan, Texas.
The Forsan Independent School District Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and waive all formalities.
#4493 March 27 & April 3, 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE
Advertisement for Bids
The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following:
RFB#05-002 Dormitory Washers and Dryers
RFB#05-003 Cosmetology Supplies
Specifications may be obtained from Mr. Dennis Churchwell, Director of Purchasing, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167, e-mail: dchurchwell@howardcollege.edu. Sealed bids will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2005 in the Howard College, Administration Building, A2, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. The bids will then be tabulated and final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting.
All bidding questions are directed to Mr. Dennis Churchwell, Director of Purchasing, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167, e-mail: dchurchwell@howardcollege.edu. Howard County College Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
#4506 April 3 & 4, 2005.

Legals

Official Notice
Forsan ISD
Forsan ISD offers free **Pre-Kinderergarten** classes for students at least four years of age by September 1, 2005 if the following criteria are met:
* Child is unable to speak or comprehend the English language and/or...
* Child comes from an economically/educationally disadvantaged family according to standards set by the State Board of Education. (Qualify for food stamps or the Free or Reduced Lunch Program) and/or
* Child is homeless.
If you know a child, whom you feel meets these qualifications, please call (432)398-5444 (Elbow Elementary).
Spanish:
Forsan ISD ofrece librería de clases de Jardín de la infancia para estudiantes por lo menos cuatro años de la edad por el 1 de septiembre de 2005 si los criterios siguientes se reúnen:
* Niño es incapaz de hablar o comprender el idioma inglés y/o...
* Niño que viene de una familia económicamente/educativamente desventajada según el conjunto de estándares por el Consejo de Educación del Estado. (Califica para el Programa de alimentación gratis o Reducido) y/o...
* Niño sin hogar.
Si usted sabe que un niño quien usted se siente reúne estas salvedades, llaman por favor (432)398-5444 (Elbow Elemental). #4504 April 3 & 6, 2005

Answer to previous puzzle
ALOE ISAAC ATTIN
COAX NEILL SHEA
TOTEMANDFISHING
SKYCAP OUESTIS
SLOB RUNS
MBA IDO AIS CSA
CAROB NEWS ODES
GALLUPANDHARRIS
EEEE INGE TBONE
EDS FEZ APT MET
MEGA LEAP
SLAYER ACROSS
WALESAAANDGHOPIN
ARMY PLUSH DALLI
MDSE HASTY SLOT

ATTENTION
THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS
Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes, and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
It's a sideways view of life that flickers on our internal movie screen under the Aquarius moon. A zany plot twists changes the context of otherwise normal situations, adding a humorous edge. There's a strong theme of good will, so assume your fellow man is acting with the best intentions in mind (though the outcome doesn't always reflect that).



HOLIDAY MATHIS
ARIES (March 21-April 19). People you admire give you a different perspective on life. You're discovering you can be joyful in situations that used to be boring, stressful or irritating. Don't do anything halfway tonight.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A special relationship is an entity in and of itself. You could find yourself losing track of where you end and the other person begins. The best part is, you don't even care. Being selfless has rich rewards.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Be the eyes and ears for people who aren't paying attention. Family dynamics could hugely affect your mood. Children are irritable when idle, so if you're in charge, keep youngsters busy with creative projects.
CANCER (June 22-July 22). This is no time to be shy! You still need a mentor who will guide you along your path. But you must approach this person, or it's not going to happen. Make the phone call you've been dreading.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You live from your heart, and see with it what you cannot see with your eyes. So approach today's challenge with all the wisdom that is in your being, not necessarily in your head.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept.

22). Mistakes are made in haste. But if you go at your own pace and don't allow anyone to rush you, the result is brilliant. You're quickly mastering your new hobby. Soon, you'll be a pro!
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can't afford not to take risks — your luck is fabulous. If you like someone, ask him or her out! Or if you're part of a couple, ask for the thing you've wanted but were too shy to mention.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're so persuasive! Your gift of gab loosens people up, sways them to your side, then motivates them to action. A woman who gets on your nerves is teaching you a lesson in tolerance.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Responsibilities are numerous, and each seems as important as the last. But there's one activity that you simply must accomplish. Shut out the world and get it done.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Focused attention allows you to accomplish more in 40 minutes than you did yesterday in eight hours. Take the initiative in love — this will impress someone foxy. You're especially comfortable with Virgo and Aries.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It feels as though someone you love is ruling your every move. Indeed, you are performing in a manner you believe this person would approve. But you're still free to do as you please.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). While you're letting loose and enjoying yourself, you're struck with a new idea about which direction to take your career. The support of a partner will make all the difference. Stay away from sugar tonight.
FORECAST FOR THE WEEK AHEAD: Time management gurus teach us that the effective way to plan our days is to begin with the end in mind and schedule backward. That is also the most productive way to view this week. There is a stellar opportunity on Friday that can be best taken advantage of by gearing up a little each day. Friday brings a solar eclipse and the new moon in Aries. The eclipse takes the new moon energy and super sizes it! Everything about this week screams new start! But unless we're careful about exactly what we wish to start, the result will be haphazard and directionless. Decide now which area of your life is going the best and which is going the worst. Tuesday, take a moment to consider what your most successful actions have been. You can apply your winning move in one area of life to another area of life on Wednesday, thus creating a turnaround. Thursday is for team building. Letting negative people into your schedule is a bad habit and a form of procrastination. Recognize the people you will need to know and the resources you will need to have to point that ailing part of your life in the right direction. Friday is like the gunshot that starts the races. On your marks, get set, go!
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Amanda Bynes may not have set out to be a role model, but her young fan base places her in that position. She rises to the occasion this year by taking time out of her busy acting schedule to help people in need. Her action inspires philanthropy in the hearts of young people. Aries is the sign of initiative and doesn't wait to be told what to do. Aries may be the child of the zodiac, but it's one precocious child.
If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Merle Baker
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 Representative
11 Music for Children composer
15 One place to buy LPs
16 Disney film title character
17 Fruit source
18 Fort Apache actor
19 Frequently misspunctuated word
20 Hair piece
21 Emily Dickinson's "fickle food"
22 Gang holdings
25 Park, CO
26 Hostile intent
28 Role for Greta
31 First of a series
32 Accompanying detail
35 Pipe up
38 Irresistible
39 Green spot
40 MIT, e.g.
41 Mariner patron
45 Tony Randall role of '64
47 Sweet debut of 1912
48 Not worth
49 Tickle
54 Group of whales, in *Giant*
56 Salsa ingredient, perhaps

- 59 Not *esto* or *eso*
60 Besots
61 Backstreet
62 Pie filling
DOWN
1 Self-absorption
2 George's partner
3 República Federativa do
4 Intraoffice syst.
5 East (Fitzgerald locale)
6 See
7 Ptolemaic sci.
8 Word on a digital scale
9 Saint Martin et Saint Pierre
10 Chicago pair
11 Five kings of Norway
12 Ristorante offering
13 Andalusian dance
14 Not surprising
23 Goldsmith character
24 Sight in Antares
25 Drain
27 How trucks approach loading docks
28 Pissarro peer
29 Symbol of love
30 Conical homes
33 Grating cries
34 Indignation
35 Be in labor
36 Against

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am a 16-year-old girl having trouble with teasing. I've had low self-confidence issues since I started high school, but I've been meek and reserved around crowds since the beginning of middle school, and quiet most of my life.
Recently, my friends have been torturing me by making me the butt of ugly jokes. When I complain about their cruelty, they insist they are kidding and immediately say I'm not "half bad," but it doesn't take away the sting. These jokes are really wearing me down.
My low self-esteem hinders me in ways that normal teenagers should not be, like avoiding public places, fearing that others will look at me and judge my appearance, making new friends, speaking out with my own opinion, and maybe even trying to capture the eye of a boy. My mother is also complaining that I am becoming "too skinny," only because I am trying to look more like one of my best friends, whom the teasers seem to favor over me.
My main concern is just trying to get these horrible jokes to stop, and then working on trying to build self-esteem afterward, but I can't seem to get my friends to understand the severity of their jokes, no matter what I say. Any suggestions? — Crushed Confidence in California



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

whether or not they are close friends of the honoree.
My son enjoys attending the parties, so I send him off in his jacket and tie with a card for the child, enclosing cash in the amount that I feel it costs the parents to have him there — usually \$50.
Is a bar/bat mitzvah similar to a wedding in that, if my son does not attend (and doesn't know the child all that well), we are still expected to give a gift? It is starting to get expensive. — Party Mom
Dear Party Mom: If your son does not attend, and is not a close friend of the child in question, he is not obligated to give a gift. We trust this helps balance the bank account.
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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NOBODY ASKS FOR IT
Help STOP Sexual Assaults
Call 263-3312
Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring