



State send-off set tonight for 'Picasso'

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The public will get a last chance to see the award-winning Big Spring High School Drama Department in action when it presents "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" at 8 p.m. tonight in the high school auditorium. "Picasso," a one-act play depicting a fictional meeting between painter Pablo Picasso

and Albert Einstein at an early 1900s Parisian bistro, has been the vehicle the drama department has ridden to first-place finishes in University Interscholastic League district, area, and regional competition. Victory at the recent regional meet in San Angelo qualified BSHS for the State UIL One-Act Play Contest, scheduled Friday at the University of Texas in Austin.

James Clark, who portrays Einstein, was named best actor at the district and regional meets, while Tapley Holguin, who plays Picasso, was named top actor at the area competition. This marks the first time in 15 years Big Spring has qualified for the state one-act play competition, BSHS Drama Department Director Tracie Lindsey said.

Tonight's performance will serve as a send-off of sorts for the company, Lindsey said. "We want to fill the house and send the kids off with a bang," Lindsey said. "I am charging \$1 for students and \$2 for adults, as well as accepting any additional donations members of the community would like to give to assist with costs of the

What: Performance of Big Spring High School's state-bound one-act play, "Picasso at the Lapin Agile."
Where: Big Spring High School Auditorium.
When: 8 p.m. today
Tickets: \$1 for students, \$2 for adults; donations accepted.

See **ONE-ACT**, Page 3A

Victim Services burglarized again

Entity to help crime victims hit a second time in three weeks

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Shann Thomas has made a career out of assisting crime victims. Unfortunately, she now finds herself in need of counseling.

For the second time in three weeks, burglars hit the offices of Victim Services of Big Spring, which Thomas directs. She estimated that the damage and property loss could exceed \$8,000 from the two instances.

The latest burglary occurred sometime late Saturday or early Sunday morning. Unknown persons attempted to enter the building, located on Airbase Road, through a door on the north face of the building — the spot used to gain access dur-

"We're here to help people who have been victimized by crime, and we've been victimized ourselves. We all feel extremely violated right now."

Shann Thomas,
Victim Services director



Shann Thomas, director of Victim Services of Big Spring, inspects damage to the agency's building on Airbase Road Monday morning. Victim Services has been burglarized twice in the last three weeks.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

ing the first burglary April 8. When that effort failed, the burglars shifted their efforts to a spot on the eastern wall, where a sheet of plywood covers a

See **BURGLARY**, Page 3A

Flight academy notification to be 'short list'

Final decision on site selection not likely until October, officials are saying

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The United States Air Force is expected to release a "short list" of contending cities for a government-contracted flight academy Friday, but a final

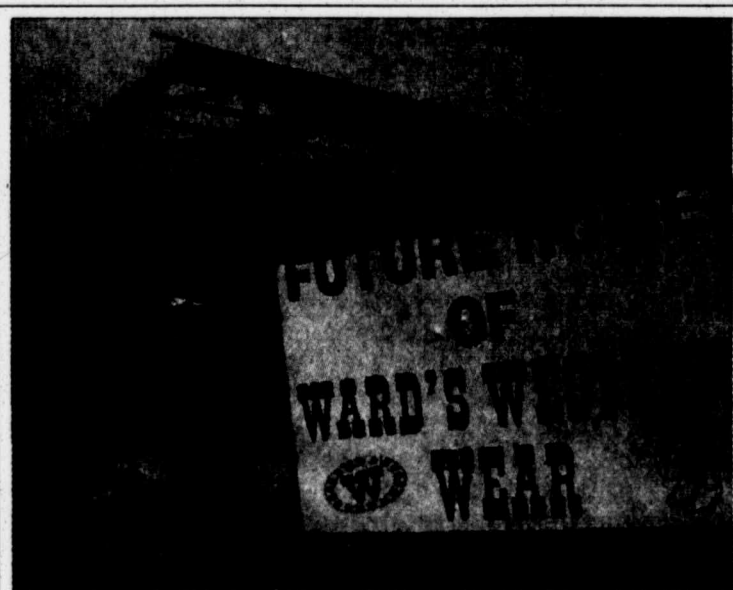
decision on the proposed facility won't be made until October. According to Kent Sharp, executive director of Moore Development for Big Spring, the list will be released sometime Friday and will contain the names of competing cities

— a list Sharp expects will include the McMahon-Wrinkle Airport. "Essentially it's a short list, but the Air Force calls it a competitive range," said Sharp. "All of the proposals that have been submitted for the project

will be narrowed down to those that fall within a competitive range. "The list is designed to weed out the offers that simply aren't competitive. I don't know how many have been submitted — information like that is being

kept secret — so there's no way of knowing how long that 'short' list is going to be." Sharp said the only way the Big Spring location will get a "final answer" Friday is if it's a

See **ACADEMY**, Page 3A



Construction at what will soon be the new home for Wards Boots and Western Wear continues this week on Gregg Street, as the long-time Big Spring business prepares to move from its downtown location.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Local third graders to get taste of college life in 'I Can, Too' program

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Local third graders will get a taste of college life Wednesday. College officials hope the taste proves somewhat addicting.

As part of Howard College's "I Can, Too" program, third graders from Washington Elementary in Big Spring — and their parents — will have a chance to experience different facets of what it means to be a college student.

Paired with a HC student mentor, the third graders will attend classes, then tour the campus, college



Flores

officials said. Tour stops will include student dormitories, the college fitness center and the student union building.

Attractions at the SUB will include the bookstore, game room and a meal at noon in the Cactus Room.

The goal of the program is to increase the awareness of both students and parents at an early age about college opportunities.

Javier Flores, dean of students at Howard, said it is no accident that

the college is targeting elementary students.

"Research has shown us that third graders are already ... deciding whether or not they want to attend college," Flores said.

Instilling a desire in young students for learning is vital, not just to the college, but in the students themselves, Flores said. Recent educational statistics show that if students are not reading at an acceptable level by the time they reach third grade, there is a 90 per-

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TONIGHT 43°-46°
TOMORROW 65°-68°
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EARLY VOTING ENDS

Early voting ends today in Saturday's area municipal and school board elections. Locally, the only contested election is the Big Spring City Council District 3 race, which features Bob Kincheloe Jr. challenging incumbent JoAnn Staulcup. Voting concludes at 5 p.m. at city hall offices, 310 Nolan Street.

Sands CISD board incumbents Martin Nichols and Robin Barraza are joined on the ballot by Rick Timmins and Wes Hughes. The top two vote-getters will win spots on the board. Voting ends at 4 p.m. in the district business office.

DAY OF PRAYER

What: National Day of Prayer observation.

Where: Dora Roberts Civic Center, 100 Whipkey Drive.

When: 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Thursday.

AMERICAN PROFILE



Cover Story: Bill Hemmer, anchor of CNN's flagship morning news program "American Morning" discusses his journey that has taken

him from his hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio, to Iraq, Kuwait and Kosovo.

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Obituaries

Cloda Nelson Wayland Croker

Cloda Nelson Wayland Croker passed away Sunday, May 1, 2005, at her home after an extended illness. Family visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. today at Johnson's Funeral Home in San Angelo. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, 2005, at Comanche Funeral Home in Comanche. Burial will be in Lowell Cemetery.

Cloda Croker was born in Comanche to Joe and Fay Nelson, Nov. 10, 1923. She married Elmon Wayland, May 9, 1940. They were blessed with a son, Ronnie and a daughter, Jonnie Gay. Her family was the most important thing in her life.

Cloda worked as a "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II at Consolidated in Fort Worth. She was so tiny, she was frequently called on to squeeze into places in the aircraft where others could not fit.

After living in Fort Worth for several years, the family relocated to Coahoma. Cloda worked as a waitress in the local cafe. She completed accounting courses and was hired as a bookkeeper for Jack Taylor's contracting business in Coahoma. Later, she worked as an accountant at Hollingsworth, Lee, Wilson and Reynolds accounting firm in Big Spring.

She and Elmon moved back to Comanche to care for her mother after Elmon retired from civil service at Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring. After the death of her mother, Cloda and Elmon moved to San Angelo to be near their daughter and her family.

Elmon passed away in 1980. Cloda worked as an accountant for Carson and Carson Accounting until she retired. She worked a total of 20 years as a public accountant.

Cloda was an extremely supportive and proud grandmother. She was always there when her granddaughters were involved in any activity and was quite likely to be heard telling everyone within hearing distance just which one of those girls was hers.

After being widowed for 14 years, Cloda and her childhood sweetheart crossed paths again. She said it was as if time had stood still. Cloda married Bill Croker March 6, 1993, in San Angelo. They had one of the most fun weddings imaginable and their joy was shared and celebrated by many. Cloda said, many times, she was so blessed to have shared her life with two wonderful men.

Cloda and Bill enjoyed country western dancing, fishing and camping. They belonged to the Three Rivers Sam RV Club and some of their best times were their camping trips with the club. Cloda looked forward to each trip. She and Bill could have their camper loaded and ready to go at the drop of a hat.

Cloda was a wonderful cook and hostess. Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were shared with many people throughout the years. Tables were added end-to-end from the dining room into the living room to accommodate family and friends alike. Her turkey and dressing, fruit salad and cream pies will always be remembered.

Cloda was a fun, good, honest, loving and independent person. She always wanted to do her share, then more. She wanted to take care of everyone else, but wanted no one to have to do for her. She was so proud of being a Texan; she was given a 100 percent Texas Woman pendant for her 80th birthday. As ill as she was, that brought a smile to her face.

Mrs. Croker is survived by her husband, Bill; her daughter and son-in-law, Jonnie and EJ Roberts; and three granddaughters, Shelley Jenkins and her husband, Brent of Leander, Shana Gilley and her husband, Lance of Weatherford and Sherrey Roberts of San Antonio. Other grandchildren are Terri, Tiffany and Joe from Midland.

She is also survived by her great-grandchildren, Aubrey of Leander, Kathleen of San Angelo and Lane and Shelby of Weatherford.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Elmon; and her son, Ronnie. She is also survived by many wonderful cousins and friends, who have called often and traveled to San Angelo to visit her and Bill.

Thanks to the wonderful people from Hospice who were such a blessing, Alice and Dora, and especially Larry Wingert, who volunteered and was such a dear friend.

Thanks also to Bishop Pfeifer; his visits and prayers were truly cherished. Thanks to everyone who supported all of us during this very painful time. Your concern and support are appreciated.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of San Angelo, Meals for the Elderly or the donor's favorite charitable organization.

Arrangements are under the direction of Johnson's Funeral Home in San Angelo.

Paid obituary

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 17-18-21-32-35. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$38,313. Winning tickets sold in: Granbury. Matching four of five: 78. Prize: \$221. Matching three of five: 3,247. Prize: \$12. Matching two of five: 36,068. Prize: \$2. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-13-26-34. Bonus Ball: 11. Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1. Winning ticket sold in: Lamesa, worth \$450,000. Number matching four of four: 10. Prize: \$1,246.

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Audrey Wiggins Bardwell



Services for Audrey Wiggins Bardwell, 85, of Pottsboro, who passed away Saturday, April 30, 2005, at Homestead Nursing Home in Denison, will be held at 2 p.m. today, May 3, 2005, at Johnson Moore Funeral Home Chapel in Pottsboro. The Rev. Virgie Holbrook will officiate. Burial will follow at Georgetown Cemetery in Pottsboro.

She was born Aug. 14, 1919, in Ardmore, Okla., to William and Nettie Wiggins. She grew up on the family farm southwest of Ardmore, where she attended elementary schools at Crinerville and Amarada. She attended Plainview High School near Ardmore.

She married Delbert Bardwell in 1935. The moved to Forsan the same year, where he worked for Cosden Oil Company (Fina) for 43 years. She was active in school and civic affairs in Forsan. She also served as the town's postal clerk for about 20 years.

After retiring, they moved to Pottsboro in 1986. They were married 63 years.

Audrey was a loving Christian mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was one of the original members of Lakeway Methodist Church in Pottsboro, she lived her entire life for her lord and savior and she truly loved her church and church family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her daughter, Mary Evelyn, her husband, Delbert in 1998, her brother, Allen Wiggins of Big Spring and sisters, Ola Stroud of Big Spring and Orpha Kent of Sweetwater.

She is survived by three sons, Milton and wife, Jo of Allen, Jerry of Pottsboro and Hubert and wife, Diane of Allen; six grandchildren, Michael Bardwell and wife of Denton, Daniel and wife of Allen, Diana Bardwell of Denton, Chris Bardwell and wife of Celina, Laura Bardwell of Durant, Okla., and Karen Bardwell of Pottsboro; great-grandchildren, Terry Land of Pottsboro, Chase Armstrong of Pottsboro, Dal Kelly of Durant, Okla., Mackie, Brandy, Katie and Gracie Durand of Allen, Sydney Bardwell of Denton and Brock and Briana Bardwell of Celina.

Pallbearers will be Terry Land, Michael Bardwell, Daniel Bardwell, Chris Bardwell, Milton Bardwell, Hubert Bardwell and Jerry Bardwell.

Service are under the direction of Johnson-Moore Funeral Home.

Paid obituary

Myrtle Williamson

Myrtle Williamson, 85, of Trinity, formerly of Goldthwaite, died Sunday, May 1, 2005, at Avalon Nursing Home in Trinity. Services are 2 p.m. today, May 3, 2005, at Stacy-Wilkins Chapel in Goldthwaite with the Rev. Doug Holtzclaw officiating. Interment follows at Hurst Ranch Cemetery in Star.

She was born April 17, 1920, in Goldthwaite to Otto Kelly and Lilly Walker. She married Gordon Williamson, Aug. 19, 1939, in Goldthwaite. She lived most of her life in Big Spring. She was a Baptist.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, LaDola and Laura Elaine and one brother, Billy.

She is survived by her husband, Gordon Williamson of Trinity; two daughters and their spouses, Wilma and Andy Wilson of Trinity and Wanda and Lewis Moss of Huntsville; two sons and their spouses, Melvin and Ellen Williamson of Big Spring and Milton and Rose Ann Williamson of Big Spring; nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; three nephews; and two nieces.

Arrangements are under the direction of Stacy-Wilkins Funeral Home.

Weather

Tonight...Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers. Lows in the lower 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s. East winds around 10 mph. Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and Thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Thursday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and Thunderstorms. Warmer. Highs in the upper 70s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent. Thursday night...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and Thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. The chance of rain is 20 percent. Friday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and Thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. The chance of rain is 20 percent. Saturday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and Thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. The chance of rain is 20 percent. Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of Showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s. Sunday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and Thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. Sunday night...Partly cloudy.

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Bulletin board

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

- TODAY**
• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
• A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.
• Coahoma Kindergarten registration is set for 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. in the Coahoma elementary cafeteria for children 5 years old on or before Sept. 1. Call 394-4323 for more information.
• Texas Motorcycle Rights Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Spanish Inn. The public is invited. Call 268-6421 for more information.
• VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
• Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
• Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
• Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. with special guest singers from Midland and Colorado City. Everyone is welcome.
• Concerned Citizens for Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

Police blotter

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

- **BRITTANY MICHELLE VAUGHN**, 25, of 1317 Sycamore, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **COREY LEE HARRIS**, 24, of 603 Circle, was arrested Monday on city warrants.
- **LONNIE RAY GRAY**, 25, of 2911 W. Highway 80, was arrested Monday on a Bexar County warrant.
- **RAMON LOPEZ JR.**, 37, of 307 E. 23rd Street, was arrested Tuesday on a local traffic warrant.
- **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 1200 block of E. 11th Place.
- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

Sheriff's report

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

- **GREGORY NEILL HUFF**, 27, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.
- **MARIA ESTER VIERA**, 32, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on *capias pro fines*.
- **DONALD JOHN REGAN**, 41, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **GARY JAMES MIEARS**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **MICHAEL JOSEPH VALENCIA**, 27, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of theft and burglary of a habitation.
- **THOMAS WILLIAM MURPHY**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for failure to identify - intentionally giving false information.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 200 block of Refinery Road.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 4400 block of Elder Road.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of E. Second Street at 12:31 p.m. Monday. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2000 block of Rickabough at 11:38 p.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (Includes 10% discount for yearly). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$19.25 elsewhere.

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Amarillo gets nearly 5 inches of snowfall

AMARILLO (AP) — An early May snowstorm left this Panhandle city with nearly 5 inches of the fluffy stuff Monday, but it's not the latest recorded snowfall in the area.

The latest was May 6 and 7, 1917, when the city got 9.1 inches, National Weather Service meteorologist Roland Nunez said.

The total Monday at Rick Husband International Airport was 4.7 inches, with a few more tenths of an inch expected, he said.

"A lot of people might have been awakened by the sound of thunder, but it transitioned to snow shortly after that," Nunez said. It's "not impossible, but it is a rarity."

The snow had stopped by 10 a.m., said meteorologist David Hennig, and temperatures warmed into the mid-40s during the afternoon.

Nunez said the snow Monday kept the city one day shy of setting a record for the longest snow season since such records started in 1948.

The city got 8.4 inches of snow on Election Day, Nov. 2. Monday's snow came 182 days later, a day away from the 183-day snow season from Sept. 29, 1984, to March 30, 1985.

England pleads guilty to prisoner abuse

FORT HOOD (AP) — Pfc. Lynndie England has accepted responsibility for abusing detainees at Abu Ghraib. Now her goal is to minimize the punishment.

A sentencing hearing starts at Fort Hood on Tuesday for England, the small-town West Virginian whose smiling and thumbs-up poses in photographs taken inside the walls of Abu Ghraib in Iraq made her the face of the prisoner abuse case.

England, 22, pleaded guilty Monday to seven counts of mistreating prisoners, saying she let her comrades talk her into going along with the abuse.

"I could have said, 'No,'" she told Col. James Pohl, the judge. "I knew it was wrong."

England entered guilty pleas to two counts of conspiracy to maltreat prisoners, four counts of maltreating prisoners and one count of committing an indecent act. Prosecutors agreed to drop another count of committing an indecent act and one count of dereliction of duty.

Three-time parolee set to die for fatal beating

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Three times Lonnie Wayne Pursley was sent to prison. Three times he was let out on parole.

A jury in Polk County ensured he wouldn't get out a fourth time when they decided in 1999 he should be put to death for the fatal beating and robbery of a 47-year-old East Texas man.

The lethal injection of Pursley, 43, was scheduled for Tuesday evening.

Because of bed shortages and court-imposed population limits, Texas corrections officials in the late 1980s and into the 1990s were forced to release convicts early until new prisons were built that eased the problem.

"It's not our decision who stays in or who gets out," said San Jacinto County Sheriff Lacy Rogers, who has known Pursley for years because of the convict's run-ins with the law. "It happens a lot. During most of those times, it was overcrowding there."

Bill would require voters to show ID

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas voters will have to show at least one form of identification to cast a ballot under a bill House members tentatively passed Monday to stamp out voter fraud.

"The dead people won't be voting any longer," said Rep. Mary Denny, who sponsored the legislation approved with an 83-63 vote.

The bill would require Texans to show photo ID before voting. Without photo ID, voters would have to show two other types of identification, such as a birth certificate, concealed handgun license, library card or utility bill.

"You cannot get along in his world and not have identification to show who you are to exist, to do any type of banking or purchasing," said Denny, R-Flower Mound.

Travel by two Democratic lawmakers and two DeLay aides paid by lobbyist and firm

WASHINGTON (AP) — At least two aides to House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and two Democratic congressmen received travel expenses initially paid by lobbyist Jack Abramoff on his credit card or by his firm, internal records of the lobbying firm show.

Longtime House ethics rules that applied to the 1996 and 1997 trips to the Northern Mariana Islands have strictly prohibited lawmakers and their staffs from accepting any congressional trips from lobbyists or their firms.

DeLay's office and one of the lawmakers, Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., said they had no knowledge that Abramoff or his firm paid the expenses. The office of Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., did not return several calls seeking comment.

Abramoff, whose lobbying is under criminal investigation, pressed his clients, the Northern Marianas government, to reimburse him for the travel because of concerns the payments might draw scrutiny from the House committee that investigates lawmakers' conduct, the documents obtained by The Associated Press show.

"I ... expect to receive a call tomorrow or Tuesday from the House ethics committee, asking for an update as to the reimbursement situation and, possibly, our outstanding bill. They are watching the trips very closely," Abramoff wrote in December 1996.

WORLD BRIEFS

Jilted groom says he still wants to marry runaway bride

DULUTH, Ga. (AP) — The man whose jittery bride-to-be skipped town days before her lavish wedding and claimed she had been abducted says that his fiancée wants the "whole world to know she's very, very sorry."

John Mason is defending his fiancée's decision, and says he still wants to walk down the aisle with her. The guilt she is dealing with "has got to be consequence enough to me," Mason said Monday in an interview with Fox News' "Hannity & Colmes" show.

It was Mason's first public statement since he learned on the morning of his wedding day that his intended, Jennifer Wilbanks, had gotten cold feet.

Mason and his fiancée's father, Harris Wilbanks, who also appeared on the show, said the 32-year-old woman was working on releasing a written statement. "She just needs some space and some time," Mason said. "She just wants the whole world to know she's very, very sorry."

But, Carter Brank, an agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, said the would-be bride "didn't come right out and apologize" when he interviewed her. But, "she was somewhat remorseful for what she had done," he said.

China won't open talks with leadership despite invitation

BEIJING (AP) — China reacted coolly to an invitation Tuesday by Taiwan's leader for President Hu

Jintao to visit the island, rejecting any official contact until the Taiwanese ruling party drops a clause in its constitution calling for formal independence.

The lukewarm response came hours after Beijing offered a pair of giant pandas to the people of Taiwan plus concessions on fruit imports and tourism as Taiwan's opposition leader capped a ground-breaking visit to the mainland.

"We have no exchanges with the Democratic Progressive Party because its party constitution advocates the separation of Taiwan from the motherland," Wang Zaixi, a spokesman for the ruling Communist Party's Taiwan Work Office, told reporters.

Wang said Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian's ruling party must first endorse a 1992 declaration that the self-ruled island and the mainland are "one China" and "drop the independence clause from its constitution."

"So long as these conditions are met, we can resume dialogue and consultations with Chen Shui-bian and the DPP," Wang said at a news conference.

Afghan village mourns, warlord pleads innocent after blast kills 26

BASHGAH, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghans buried their dead and surveyed the wreckage of their houses in a remote northern village Tuesday, a day after a devastating explosion in the home of an anti-Taliban warlord killed about 26 people.

Officials said an illegal weapons cache caused the blast, highlighting the danger from arms amassed during a quarter-century of war

and the task of disarming commanders wary of rivals and the country's U.S.-backed government.

But the local commander defended himself Tuesday, saying a stock of explosives destined for a road project had unexpectedly ignited and that he was in the process of handing over his last weapons to the government's supervision.

President Hamid Karzai said he was saddened by the disaster, one of the deadliest since the fall of the Taliban in late 2001, and ordered an investigation.

The blast early Monday morning flattened half a dozen homes and damaged a mosque in this hamlet in Baghlan province, 75 miles north of Kabul.

Tuesday, residents were still collecting body parts from the debris as relatives buried the body of a 2-year-old girl called Wahida on a nearby hillside.

Polio detected in Indonesia for first time in 10 years

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia has detected its first case of polio in a decade, prompting the government to launch a massive vaccination campaign that is expected to inoculate more than 5 million children, the World Health Organization said Tuesday.

A 20-month-old girl was diagnosed with polio on April 21. Authorities said they believe she came in contact with a migrant worker or tourist who had contracted the disease outside the country. The case — the first since 1995 — prompted government health workers to do house-to-house vaccinations in four neighboring villages. They hope to vaccinate 5.2 million children under age 5 by July.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

cent chance they will not graduate high school or attend college, he added.

Making college an attractive goal, therefore, may help motivate students to work harder on their courses, Flores said.

"We're focusing on the importance of college, and that anyone can go to college if they work hard enough on their studies," he said.

College officials will use the occasion to show parents the affordability of sending their children to college. Flores said a demonstration will be made just for parents to address their particular concerns.

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

ACADEMY

Continued from Page 1A

negative one.

"If we don't make the short list then we're not in the running anymore," said Sharp. "However, I feel very confident we'll make the short list. The final decision is scheduled to be released Oct.

3."

Efforts to bring the program to Big Spring began in mid-2004, when Moore Development, the city of Big Spring and several other local agencies joined forces to bring the program to the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

The program is expected to involve initial flight screening of up to 1,300 aircrew training candi-

dates each year, with screening of the initial class of students expected to begin in October of 2005. The initial contract has option periods extending out to 2015.

In mid-January, Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen announced Big Spring's McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark was chosen by aero-engineering giant Boeing as the site

for a U.S. Air Force Introductory Flight Training (IFT) program. If Boeing receives the government contract, construction and renovations at the airpark could begin as early as mid-October.

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

BURGLARY

Continued from Page 1A

patio door. It was there that entry was gained Saturday night, Thomas said.

Once inside, the suspects took a laptop computer and camera, Thomas said. On April 8, a DVD player, two digital cameras and a laptop

computer were taken, and the inside of the building was "ransacked," she noted.

As she viewed the damage from Saturday's burglary, Thomas was all too aware of the unfortunate irony of the situation.

"We're here to help people who have been victimized by crime, and we've been victimized ourselves," she said. "We all feel extremely violated

right now."

Crimestoppers of Big Spring has already posted a reward for information leading to the arrest and/or indictment of suspects in the April 8 burglary. Thomas urged anyone with information on the break-ins to contact

the Big Spring Police Department at 264-2550.

Callers can remain anonymous, she added.

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

ONE ACT

Continued from Page 1A

show and any extras the kids may need in Austin."

For those interested in traveling to Austin to watch BSHS at the state meet, Lindsey said the students would perform

second, with the curtain rising at approximately 4:50 p.m. Friday.

Contact Lindsey at 264-3641 for site and ticket information for Austin.

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

CORRECTION

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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

Let's all do our part to make Relay a success

Time to get those walking shoes out, because the place to be in Big Spring the weekend of May 13-14 will be Blankenship Field on the Big Spring High School campus — the site for the annual Relay for Life event staged by the Howard-Glasscock chapter of the American Cancer Society.

The stadium's football field will be transformed into a huge, colorful campground as runners and walkers take to the track for the 24-hour fundraiser.

As always, dozens of teams are expected to take part in the event, which means there will literally be hundreds of participants involved in the community-wide campout.

Organizers will open the event Friday evening with a brief ceremony and the "Survivor's Lap" in which anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer can participate. Cancer survivors, from young children to senior citizens, are scheduled to participate in the special lap this year.

The Relay for Life then gets under way with a walker or runner from each team beginning to circle the track. Look, too, for a group of rockers. They'll keep rocking chairs going — an alternative method for those participants who find it difficult or impossible to maneuver the track.

The teams will continue the relay through mid Saturday afternoon.

Entertainment, food and games are planned throughout the event and many of the teams will be selling food as additional on-site fund-raisers.

Just after dark on Friday, another of the event's emotional moments will come when luminaria are lit circling the track. These are purchased in memory of loved ones.

We encourage readers to become a part of this worthwhile effort which now annually tops all those in the state and finishes among the top 10 in the nation for fund-raising among communities our size.

Let's continue that tradition.

And don't forget, a new Relay for Life promotion asks donors to give \$1 to the Relay and see their gift displayed on the "moon and stars" at a number of local businesses.

Remember, cancer touches the lives of us all. And that means each of us has a personal stake in the fight against the disease.

Please, please step up and do your part.

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@ccom.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

Do we need a genius in the White House?

Editor's note: Roger Simon is on vacation. The following column was first published in March 2000.

No matter whether George W. Bush or Al Gore wins this November, America is going to get an under-achiever at its helm.

Though both men want to be known as the "education" president, a review of their college grades reveals they barely got one.

We have known for several months that Bush largely parted his way through Yale — in four years he never got an A — but that is not the bad news. The bad news, as Jay Leno joked, is that Bush may be the smart one.

As The Washington Post revealed last week, Gore's grades in his sophomore year at Harvard were lower than any semester Bush spent at Yale. Gore got a D, one C-minus, two C-pluses and one B-minus.

As the Post noted, this was the year Gore spent "shooting pool, watching television, eating hamburgers and occasionally smoking marijuana."

And the vice president who now so closely identifies with the high-tech revolution that he momentarily forgot that he didn't invent it, never took a single math course in four years.

But Gore did have the potential to do better if he had only applied himself: His verbal SAT score was 625 (out of 800), compared to Bush's 566 and Princetonian Bill

Bradley's 485. (If you're wondering how your kid can get into Princeton with a 485 SAT score, the answer is that she better have a killer jump shot.)

"No one has ever questioned whether Al Gore has what it takes," Gore spokesman Chris Lehane told me, "but there is a very serious question when it comes to George W. Bush as to his perspective, judgment and experience."

Just as Bush has begun making Gore's honesty, or lack thereof, the centerpiece of his spring offensive, Gore is going out of his way to remind people Bush might not be a mental giant.

"Does Gov. Bush have the understanding of America's problems to be president?" Gore asked recently. "Does Gov. Bush have the kind of decision-making tests under his belt to be president? The experience? The sense of perspective?"

One unanswered question, however, is just how much mental prowess a president really needs. "Frankly, in American politics the standard of intelligence and academic excellence is not very high," said Ross Baker, professor of political science at Rutgers. "Deeply reflective people are not common in American politics, and they are often not successful. If you were to look at the IQs or standardized tests scores of most successful politicians, you'd think they were lay-about high school dropouts or shade-tree mechanics."

Which means that both Gore and Bush should count themselves lucky to fly in Air Force One rather than be changing its tires.

Recent exit polls have shown, however, that some voters are worried about whether Bush has what it takes to run the govern-

ment, a feeling fueled by the media's fascination with his every gaffe, including such howlers as, "Rarely is the question asked: Is our children learning?" and when he recently relocated Mexico to "South America." (It's in North America and notably close to Texas.)

On the other hand, Bush never paid anybody \$15,000 a month to tell him what color shirts to wear, and he is confident that people who underestimate him often end up being bested by him.

"It doesn't bother me, because I know it's wrong," Bush has said of his "Dumbya" image. "It's just part of the game. It's part of the media elite game. I think anybody who doesn't think I'm smart enough to handle the job is under-estimating. I hope Al Gore feels that way."

Turns out Al Gore does. Gore was recently asked by The Associated Press if he believes Bush is "too dumb" to be president. "Gore convulsed in laughter while taking a drink of Diet Coke," the AP reported. "He grabbed a towel to hold against his mouth then, finally swallowing, insisted the tape recorder be stopped for an off-the-record observation."

We do not know what that observation was, but Bush might point out that he, at least, is capable of drinking a Diet Coke without carrying a towel around with him.

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

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ADDRESSES

- **RANDY NEUGEBAUER** U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District), 1510 Scurry, Big Spring, Phone: (432) 264-0722
- **GEORGE W. BUSH** President, The White House, Washington, D.C.
- **JOHN CORNYN** U.S. Senator, Washington, DC 20510-4305, Phone: 202-224-2934
- **PETE LANEY** State Representative, Texas 85th District, P.O. Box 2910, Austin, 78768, Phone: (512) 463-0604
- **KEL SELIGER** State Senator, 401 Austin, suite 101, Big Spring, 79720 (432) 268-9909
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 - OFFICE — 264-2200.
 - BEN LOCKHART**, COUNTY JUDGE — Home: 263-4155; Office: 264-2202.
 - EMMA BROWN** — Home: 267-2649.
 - JERRY KILGORE** — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.



ROGER SIMON



MOLLY IVINS

Bush's Social Security plan misses the mark

Attention, all campers! "Progressive indexing" is just another word for "cutting Social Security benefits." Do not be fooled by this idiot locution. Just as sure as "extraordinary rendition" now means "shipping the guy to another country so he can be tortured," progressive indexing means cutting benefits. Got it?

In another interesting development from President Bush's news conference, if you make more than \$20,000 a year, you are wealthy. That's what the president said — "wealthy."

Would you hire this man as an investment consultant? Bush said, "I know some Americans have reservations about investing in the stock market, so I propose that one investment option will consist entirely of treasury bonds, which are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government." These are exactly the same treasury bonds that currently guarantee Social Security and have been described by Bush, including in the very same press conference as, a cabinet full of "worthless IOUs."

He continued, "Options like this will make voluntary personal retirement accounts a safer investment that will allow an American to build a nest egg that he or she can pass on to whomever he or she chooses." Nope, under that option, what you get is not a nest egg, but a rotten egg.

Brad DeLong, the blogging economics professor who specializes in this subject, ran the numbers. "The safest long-term investment the U.S. Treasury offers is the 20-year, inflation-protected TIP. ... What Bush is not telling you is that, under the Bush plan, if you divert \$1,000 from your Social Security to private accounts, that

amount is clawed back — charged to an account associated with your normal Social Security benefit, that amount is then compounded at 3 percent per year plus the rate of inflation, and then after you retire, deducted over time from your normal Social Security benefit.

"If you are 45 and if Bush's plan were available today ... follow George W. Bush's advice, divert \$1,000 into your private account, invest it in TIPS, and at the 1.85 percent per year interest rate you will indeed be able to collect an extra amount worth \$10.11 a month in today's dollars when you retire at 65. ...

"But the clawback would reduce your normal Social Security benefit by \$14.16 a month. You're \$4.05 a month behind."

That's why privatizers never mention the clawback.

Basically, you have to beat 3 percent plus inflation to come out ahead, and the only way to do that is to gamble in the stock market.

Further technical analysis by Jason Furman shows how really badly the plan screws the middle class and that it would not close 70 percent of the shortfall problem, as Bush claimed, but 57 percent, including cuts for the disabled. Bottom line, it's a bad deal.

By the way, to the bird-brain on television who said it's only 4 percent of your Social Security and who wouldn't take some risks with a mere 4 percent? — jeez. The 4 percent they are talking about is 4 percent of the 12 percent in total Social Security tax. Four is one-third of 12, and that comes to 33 percent. It's not that hard, honey.

Bush used another common disinformation claim out of Washington — we are not cutting the benefits, we are merely slowing the rate of growth in the benefits. This is a perennial form of government lying.

"Of course we are not cutting Head Start. We are spending more

money on Head Start than ever — look, here's this figure in our budget, it is more than it was last year, and so that is an increase."

Except, since there are ever more kids who qualify for Head Start (even at the lowest level, the program has never been fully funded), when the increase in funding is way too small to cover the increase in the number of most needy kids, what you have effectively done is decrease the spending per child in the program, and that is, in fact, cutting the program. It will not work as well. That this old dog still hunts is a shame on the arithmetic teachers of America.

Look, Social Security has a long-term financing problem that is not particularly dire and in fact not nearly as troubling as the Medicare shortfall. The Social Security shortfall can be solved by any one of a number of combinations of benefit cuts and tax increases. One thing you could do is let the Bush tax cuts expire at the end of 10 years, as they were originally supposed to do, or you could take the cap off Social Security taxes, which is now set at \$90,000. That means at present any income you make over \$90 K is not subject to Social Security taxes, one of the most flatly regressive features in the tax code. Removing the cap would solve the projected Social Security deficit, despite right-wing claims to the contrary.

And all I can say for Bush's energy plan is, if he thinks Americans want to give even more huge tax breaks to the oil companies when they are already making obscene profits, he's been talking to people on the wrong planet.

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

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► The

Book Preview

Family
One in five kids... weight, according to U.S. Dept. of Ag... that's more than a million obese ch...

Daily, headlining the epidemic of obesity that is creating a national crisis. Parents in America should be concerned.

What are the horrors of being overweight?

What are the prevention strategies for children?

How do parents motivate kids to live a healthy lifestyle?

Linda Mintle, author of the book "Lose it for Life" these and other questions in her book, "Overweight" (Integrity Publishing, P ISBN: 1-59145-28 \$14.99).

For more than Mintle has spent the treatment o

► Mi

USS Long Beach CGN-9 Association Inc. reunion

The USS Long Beach CGN-9 Association Inc. 2005 reunion is in San Francisco, September 11-13, Sheraton Gate at the San Antonio Airport, 600 Boulevard, Berkeley, Calif., 94010-1970.

To make reservations, call phone 650-340-8000.

Make sure you're at the USS Long Beach Association In

The rate is \$50 per night, plus 15 percent tax, and night tour is \$25.

The Religion Wire

Book Preview

Family counselor's books offers advice to combat childhood obesity

One in five kids is overweight, according to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture — that's more than nine million obese children.

Daily headlines warn of the epidemic of childhood obesity that is quickly creating a national health crisis. Parents across America should be very concerned.

What are the health hazards of being overweight?

What are the best prevention strategies for children?

How do parents motivate kids to develop a healthy lifestyle?

Linda Mintle, Ph.D., co-author of the bestselling "Lose it for Life," tackles these and other difficult questions in her new book, "Overweight Kids" (Integrity Publishers, ISBN: 1-59145-283-X, Price: \$14.99).

For more than 25 years, Mintle has specialized in the treatment of families

with weight and food-related health issues, and now, in "Overweight Kids," offers an expert voice on the hot topic of childhood weight problems.

"This book tackles the topic from a spiritual, emotional, physical and behavioral perspective.

It is holistic, addressing food choices and exercise but also related issues such as esteem, body image, teasing, emotional eating, etc," said Dr. Linda.

Because the numerous health and social consequences of obesity make it a serious issue for children (many of these consequences continue into adulthood), it's never too early to be concerned with your child's weight.

Implementing preventative measures now can make the difference for your child because the development of a healthy

lifestyle carries into adulthood.

"Overweight Kids" includes helpful tools such as growth and body mass index (BMI) charts for measuring a child's development, a top 10 best and worst food list, an eating habits quiz and tips for eating out.

"Physicians are seeing record numbers of cases of childhood diabetes Type 2, usually seen in adults, hypertension, asthma, high cholesterol, sleep apnea and other medical conditions.

"And being overweight in childhood increases one's risk for being overweight as an adult. Approximately, 60 percent of adults are overweight and experience medical complications related to obesity," said Mintle.

When raising a child who is overweight, it is easy to feel like a bad par-

ent or feel guilty for letting your child's weight spiral out-of-control.

"Overweight Kids" helps parents stop blaming themselves, and instead make good, solid choices for their children.

Through "Overweight Kids," parents will be empowered to change their lifestyles and impact their children's futures.

"As a therapist, I have witnessed the hurt and wounding people suffer from being overweight as children. This book provides parents a way to help their children avoid growing up with these wounds.

It gives positive, practical and spiritual solutions to issues related to being overweight as well as dealing directly with preventing overweight," said Mintle.

From The Religion Wire, Nashville, Tenn.

Techno gadgets may lead to 21st Century addictions

Technological advancement breeds addiction in many forms including, but not limited to, gaming, surfing and phoning.

Due to the fact that we purchased all the equipment and games, the gaming mania struck our 6 year old full force. A black box that holds disks and boasts of super controllers started to fill up countless minutes and hours of his time.

Limits, repression and despair had to be enforced.

Because of its addictive nature, we finally took the box of evil out of the house and placed it in foster care.

Only good behavior (or weekends) can induce us to bring it back home.

Secondly, there's surfing: It's not just for televisions anymore.

Swimming the Internet's spa-like waters can sap up one's whole afternoon.

One minute the laundry is a priority, and then wham!

Googling facts about the origins of laundry stain remover turns into an out and out swim marathon.

Last, but not least, is the wretched phoning craze.

From senior citizens to tiny tots, everyone's on the phone.

It's next to impossible to

go into a restaurant, restroom or store without hearing strains of classical or rock music emanating from backside and purses.

I admit that my cell phone is my constant companion.

To think, I was lured into purchasing it for emergencies.

The biggest emergency I've had is whether or not we needed a gallon of milk.

When I have a real crisis, the phone doesn't have any batteries or I'm out of tower range.

Moms, sitters, waiters, clerks and drivers are all chattering away about anything and everything and mostly nothing at all.

It's gotten to the point that we are non-functioning as moms, sitters, clerks and drivers without our cell phones.

It's more likely that a driver's license will be lost than a video game.

More probable that the DSL and cable bills will get paid before the water bill.

And I'm pretty certain that phones will become implant-friendly by 2020.

Despite carpal tunnel, neck and spine discomfort and blurred vision, it is apparent that these addictions will continue to thrive and grow in this technologically-addictive age.

Christy Alton is mother of two, works full time and is married to her park ranger, Ron. Her column appears in the Tuesday edition of the Big Spring Herald.



CHRISTY ALTON

Military Reunions

USS Long Beach CGN-9 Association Inc. reunion

The USS Long Beach CGN-9 Association, Inc. 2005 reunion is in San Francisco, Calif., September 11-19 at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel at the San Francisco Airport, 600 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, Calif., 94010-1978.

To make reservations, phone 650-340-8500.

Make sure you ask for the USS Long Beach CGN-9 Association Inc.

The rate is \$75 plus 10 percent tax, plus \$3 a night tourism assess-

ment.

For information, contact Don Shade, 299 Kiantone Road, Jamestown, N.Y. 14701-9370 or phone 1-866-352-2469.

Or e-mail LBCGN9@aol.com or visit www.uslongbeach-assoc.org.

USS Maddox Destroyer reunion set

A reunion for Navy per-

sonnel stationed aboard the USS Maddox Destroyer is set for Sept. 15-18, 2005, in Mobile, Ala., organized by the USS Maddox Destroyer Association (DD-168, DD-622 and DD-731.)

Contact Cliff Gillespie, 215 Wichita Ave., No. 605, Huntington Beach, Calif. 92648.

Or call 714-960-5283 or e-mail cwgilles45@aol.com.

USS Cascade sets reunion

The Navy ship USS Cascade AD-16 will hold a reunion Oct 9-16, 2005, at the Clarion Hotel at the Palace in Branson, Mich. For more information contact Lyle "Preacher" Burchette at P.O. Box 544, Holister, MO 65673, 417-334-5627 or Bob Croghan, Sr., 7827 Cassia Court, St. Louis, Mo., 63123, 314-843-6615.

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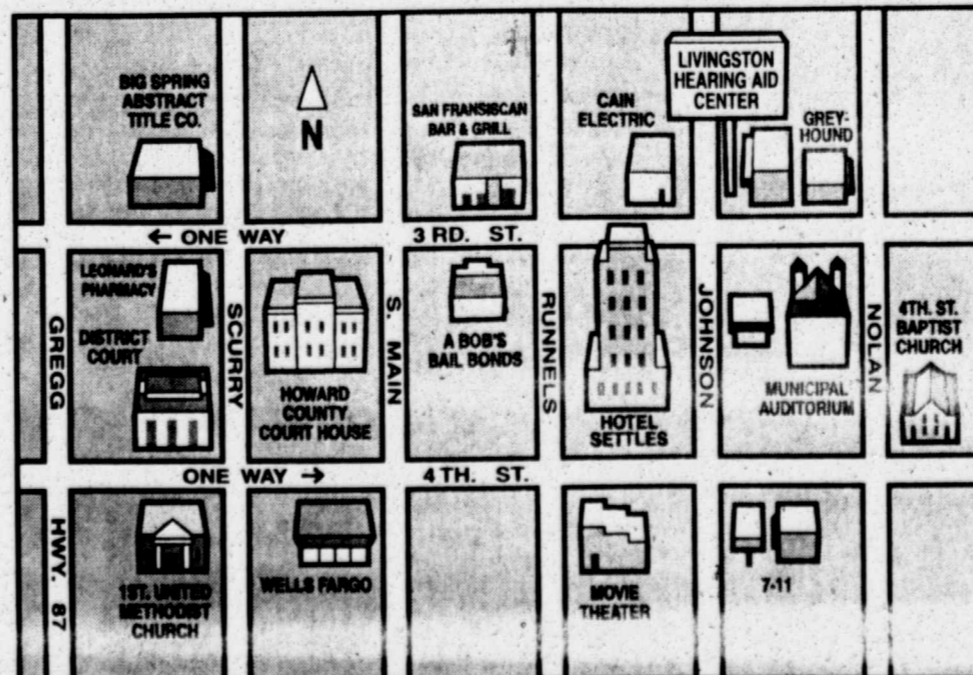
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Woodpecker thought to be extinct found in Arkansas

By WILLIAM MULLEN
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — The ivory-billed woodpecker — thought to be extinct for 60 years — has been found to survive in Arkansas' remote "Big Woods" hardwood forest, lifting the hearts of scientists and legions of bird-watchers who never gave up looking for a species so spectacular it is known as the Lord God bird.

Rediscovery of the species was seen as important enough that two members of President Bush's cabinet, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns and Interior Secretary Gale Norton, attended the announcement Thursday in Washington, D.C.

"Amazingly, America may have another chance to protect the future of this spectacular bird and the awesome forests in which it lives," said ornithologist John Fitzpatrick, lead author of an article on the surprising find published online by the journal "Science." Once the Field Museum's bird curator, he is now at Cornell University.

A regal, crested resident of wetland forests of cypress and tupelo trees, the woodpecker is 20 inches long and has a brilliant white bill. Its powerful wings have wide swaths of snowy white feathers that contrast with the dark plumage of the rest of its body.

In the time of President Theodore Roosevelt, the early 20th Century, the woodpecker was already so close to extinction that, when one did appear, people were said to exclaim, "Lord God, what is that bird!" thus giving it its nickname.

Their last known nesting area was a Louisiana forest owned by the

Singer Sewing Machine company, which cut the hardwood to make cases for its machines. In the 1930s, naturalists tried to get the forest set aside to protect the few known nesting pairs.

Instead, Singer sold the forest to a Chicago lumber firm that, during World War II, clear-cut what trees were left to make coffins and ammunition boxes.

The last verified sighting of an ivory-billed woodpecker was a female sketched by an Audubon Society artist in a remnant of the Singer tract in 1944. Since then, the bird has been eulogized and mourned in countless elegiac articles and books.

Feb. 11, 2004, however, Arkansas woodsman Gene Sparling was kayaking in the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge when he saw an unusually large woodpecker with unfamiliar markings land in a tree.

He posted a description on a birdwatchers' Web site. Six days later, Tim Gallagher, a writer who for years had been researching the woodpecker's demise for a book, saw the posting and telephoned Sparling.

"I grilled him for three hours," said Gallagher, who edits a quarterly magazine, Living Bird, for Cornell University's ornithology lab.

"For years I have tried to track down anybody who ever thought they might have seen an ivory-bill. Within 30 seconds, I can usually tell they don't know what they're talking about. I've only ever talked to a few who I thought might have seen something interesting, and Gene was one."

A couple of days later, Gallagher and his friend Bobby Harrison, an Alabama college art pro-



KRT Photo/The Nature Conservancy
Scott Simon, right, the Nature Conservancy's Arkansas state director and naturalist filmmaker Timothy R. Barksdale search for ivory-billed woodpeckers in the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, Arkansas in August 2004. The ivory-billed woodpecker, once thought to have become extinct, has reportedly been sighted in eastern Arkansas.

fessor and photographer, flew to Arkansas. "You have to understand," said Gallagher, "the ivory-billed woodpecker is the holy grail among birdwatchers." In fact, his soon-to-be-published book is titled, "The Grail Bird: The Search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker."

"Though the species has been listed as extinct, there have been just enough sighting reports through the years that truly dedicated birdwatchers still dream of seeing one.

The men set out to float down the slow-moving Cache River in search of the bird. On the second morning, with Sparling far ahead in his kayak, Gallagher said a big bird "with perfect ivory-billed wing patterns" flew directly in front of the canoe carrying the other men and veered into trees along the bank.

"Ivory bill!" he said both men shouted in unison. They turned their boat to the riverbank, tumbled out into knee-deep mud and scrambled over fallen logs. But the bird was gone.

"After 20 minutes or so,

I said to Bobby we should sit right down while everything was fresh in our minds to write up our field notes separately, and each do a drawing of the bird we saw," Gallagher said. "By the time we were finished, we were emotional wrecks. Bobby was just sitting there, sobbing, saying, 'I saw an ivory-bill. I saw an ivory-bill. I was so choked up, I couldn't say a word.'

Knowing that the spotting would set off an explosion of interest among the nation's 70 million birdwatchers, the three men decided to buy time by keeping the find a secret.

Working with Cornell's ornithology department and the Nature Conservancy, a leading private environmental group, the men organized scientists to attempt more sightings and began work with federal and state agencies on a protection plan for the bird's habitat.

In the past year, teams of qualified scientists spent 7,000 hours combing hundreds of square miles in Arkansas' Big Woods, a 550,000-acre area of bayous, bottomlands and oxbow lakes.



Only a few more confirmed observations emerged, including one sighting recorded on video. That tape has been analyzed frame-by-frame, as have audio recordings "believed to be of the bird's distinctive double-rap drumming display," said a Cornell news release.

In the "Science" report, researchers admitted to being puzzled by the relatively few sightings and the scarcity of acoustic evidence of the bird's presence, saying it "may be a consequence of extremely low population density."

But they also said they were heartened by the growing amount of protected area in the region. "If a few breeding pairs do exist, most of the conditions believed to be required for successful breeding and population growth are becoming more available to them."

In the last 20 years the Nature Conservancy has been buying tracts of private land in the Big Woods region, including

the area where Sparling first spotted the woodpecker. To date, the conservancy has purchased 120,000 acres in the region, now part of the Cache River refuge.

Before European settlements began to spread across the United States, much of the South was covered with 24 million acres of swampy forest land populated by bears, wolves, panthers and songbirds. Those forests were relentlessly removed for hardwood and farmland in the 19th and early 20th Centuries, until only 4.4 million scattered acres remained, much of the animal life disappearing.

The idea that the bird's rediscovery is an omen of hope for threatened wilderness suffused the official statements of bureaucrats and conservationists alike Thursday. The Bush administration made a show of support to further protect the bird with more than \$10 million in federal funds committed to research and habitat protection efforts.

Camp

By JOE GUY COLE
(KRT)

DETROIT — Fowler, 83, clutching a steering wheel of his '67 LeSabre as he drives down a two-lane road near Mayville, Minn. The weather is warm and sunny. A bird is perched on the dashboard, its long neck unfolds before it reaches the rolling hills.

"My favorite thing," says Fowler, peering at the dashboard. "Beautiful."

This is his campsite, the fields, the trees, the forest. As the sun begins and rises over the outdoors, Fowler appreciates the surroundings as well as the birds.

For almost 50 years he has run camps with disabilities for the chairman of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Fowler's camp in Mayville annually hosts a few hundred campers.

Fowler understands the needs of campers as few do. He has cerebral palsy, a stutter, a wiry man, he's a grandfatherly type. One of his books is "His Father's Hand," an award-winning autobiography by Joseph Ellis.

His motor speech is slow, though he has a sense of humor. He walks with a cane, his knees were bad, but he's gotten them together, stumbled through paths with steps. He straddles times to spit words, speaking and deliberately.

But he's determined to move on his own. His persistent thinking has led him to watch TV where his hearer isn't sitting, but watching TV.

"I love nature," says Fowler. "I love the outdoors. It gives me independence." On this spring day, Fowler is getting ready for the trip to his two-bedroom retirement home in Rochdale, a retirement community run by the state.

Fowler was born in 1922 when his family was in the place he now calls home. From his home, the retirement community, even if it can't tag out of independence.

"He complains about first couple of years brother I had, a retired coach and collector who lives in Ontario. "He's there are are here."

But he has gotten the place. He takes a bicycle, three times a day hits the dancing social functions.

Fowler doesn't play golf for long. Acting as a partner, The oldest of children, Fowler has been a partner from physical therapy.

As a child, he swam a mile back and forth to Lake, where he had a cottage and plays golf shooting in nine holes.

"He has the ward and the swing you've

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Bedtime Stories

RILEY TUGBOAT AND SHERRIE SEA TURTLE

This story is about a little tugboat named Riley. It is also about a little sea turtle named Sherrie. I know that bedtime stories are supposed to be made believe, but this one may not be. When we get to the end of the story, tell me if you think it really happened. Remember, this is a bedtime story!

Riley lived near the ocean. She loved it there because she is needed all the time to push bigger boats from the ocean into smaller rivers so they could be cleaned and covered with fresh new paint. And the big boats loved to look really good! They would just sit there being very still, even though the men and women painting them and washing them always seemed to tickle just a little bit! And Riley could push the biggest boats you have ever seen! That is her job! She is a tugboat!

Sherrie is a little sea turtle. She loved swimming in the ocean. Sometimes she would even come close to Riley just to see what she was doing. Riley would always smile and wave to Sherrie. And of course, Sherrie

would smile and wave back. They were friends, and they had never met! Do you have a friend like that? Well, these two are about to meet and learn each other's names. Do you think a little tugboat and a sea turtle could ever be friends. Remember, this is a bedtime story!

It was very dark one night and you could not see at all! The moon was not shining, the stars were hidden by clouds, and wouldn't you just know it, a big boat was in trouble way out in the ocean and Riley had to go find it and bring it safely back into the small river to be repaired. It was very important that the big boat get into the small river very quickly because there was a sick child aboard! And Riley just had to go help her because she just loved little children. But Riley could not see in the dark! How was she going to find the big boat? How was she going to find the sick child? What is she going to do?

Here is where Sherrie comes to help Riley and they finally meet! Did I ever tell you in any of my stories that sea turtles can see very well? They can see in the daytime when the sun is

shining brightly, and sometimes they swim all the way down to the bottom of the ocean where it is very dark all of the time, looking for food to eat, and that is how they learned to see in the dark!

Sherrie saw Riley trying to find her way in the darkness, bumping into other boats, then bumping into the banks of the little river, and she even bumped into a great big whale!

That made the whale very mad because he was fast asleep! "Please watch where you are going," said the mean old whale. "Can't a whale get some peace and quiet around here?"

"I am very sorry," said Riley, "But I can't see in the dark, and there is a sick child on a great big boat somewhere out there and I must find her!"

Sherrie heard Riley! "I can help you find that boat," Sherrie said. "I can see in this darkness and I want that sick little child to get well, too." "Toss a rope to me and I will climb up and point the way for you." So down came that rope, up went that turtle, straight ahead the sea turtle and the tugboat went, with Sherrie pointing and Riley

pushing herself just as fast as she could go!

Sherrie finally saw something that was really big. And the closer they came, the bigger that something grew. It was the big boat! And, it was not only big, but it was huge!

Riley finally was close enough to that boat to really see it. It was the biggest boat she had ever seen! "I don't know if I can pull that big boat because I have

tugged and tugged some more and the boat started moving a little faster. Just then, Riley heard the little child and she was crying. Riley just couldn't stand to hear a little child cry, so she gave that boat the hardest heave you have ever seen and the big boat started going really fast now! But, not fast enough for Sherrie!

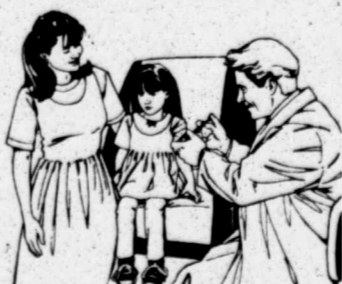
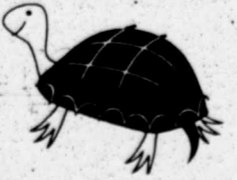
Sherrie grabbed another rope and jumped into the water right in front of Riley. "Just follow my rope, Riley and I will help pull and lead the way back to the small river for you," she cried. Sherrie pulled and tugged Riley! Riley pulled and tugged the big old boat.

"I sure am tired and sleepy," said Riley. "Me too," said Sherrie. "I guess that I will just crawl up into some place somewhere and go to sleep." "Why would you want to go sleep in some sand when I have two nice beds on me?" said Riley. Just climb up and choose which bed you want and you can stay here forever if you wish. I will wake you tomorrow with my foghorn.

Well, Riley never did wake Sherrie up that day with her foghorn. She couldn't! She was sleeping, too.

If you are ever near an ocean and see a tugboat with a sea turtle sitting on top as if she is telling the tugboat which way to go, look very closely. Is it possible that it just might be Riley and Sherrie? But the big question is, "Do you think this story really happened?"

"TOOT! TOOT!" That is Riley's foghorn saying.



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never seen one like it before. I have never tried to pull or push one that big. I don't know if I can," she said. "But, I must try."

Riley tied a great big rope to the great big boat and started

Together, those two had that boat into the little river in no time. Riley pushed the big boat close to the shoreline. There was a doctor waiting for them and he took the little child into his arms and said, "Don't anyone worry, she will be fine." Sherrie and Riley were certainly glad to hear that! They knew that together, they had helped the little child that dark night.

"GOODNIGHT!"

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Camping benefits those with disabilities

By JOE GUY COLLIER
(KRT)

DETROIT — Jack Fowler, 83, clutches the steering wheel of a Buick LeSabre as he speeds down a two-lane road near Mayville, Mich.

The weather is warm and sunny. A brown field surrounded by trees unfolds before him as he reaches the peak of a rolling hill.

"My favorite view," says Fowler, peering over the dashboard. "Look how beautiful."

This is his country — the fields, the sunshine, the forest. As spring begins and residents head for the outdoors, few people appreciate the natural surroundings as much as Fowler.

For almost 50 years, he has run camps for people with disabilities. He's chairman and founder of the Fowler Center, a camp in Mayville that annually hosts about 4,000 campers.

Fowler understands his campers as few others do because he himself has cerebral palsy. A short, wiry man, he's a history buff with a sharp memory. One of his favorite books is "His Excellency: George Washington," an award-winning biography by Joseph Ellis.

His motor skills and speech, though, are limited. He walks as though his knees were pinned together, stumbling down pathways with rubbery steps. He struggles at times to spit out sentences, speaking slowly and deliberately.

But he's determined to move on his own, and he's persistent in conveying his thoughts to others. There's no question where his heart lies. And it's not sitting in a recliner watching TV.

"I love nature," Fowler says. "I love the outdoors. ... It gives people more independence."

On this spring day, Fowler is getting ready for the trip to Mayville at his two-bedroom apartment in Rochester Hills, part of a retirement community run by American House.

Fowler wasn't thrilled when his family insisted a year ago that he move from his home nearby to the retirement complex, even if it came with the tag of independent living.

"He complained for the first couple of weeks," says brother Bill Fowler, 74, a retired basketball coach and college professor who lives in Dundas, Ontario. "He told us, 'All there are are old people here.'"

But he has grown to like the place. He rides a stationary bike every morning, takes exercise classes three times a week and hits the dance floor during social functions.

Fowler doesn't stay still for long. Activity always has been a part of his life. The oldest of four children, Fowler never shied from physical challenges.

As a child, he once swam a mile and a half back and forth across Ore Lake, where his family had a cottage. He still plays golf regularly, shooting in the 60s for nine holes.

"He has the most awkward and unbelievable swing you've ever seen,"

Bill Fowler says. "It's like he's facing backward."

He also still drives, something family and friends wish he would keep to a minimum. Fowler's not quite ready to stop. If he gives up driving, he'll be giving up mobility. "That's what I'm afraid of," he says.

As he heads out of his apartment, Fowler grabs a cane for balance, scoots out the door and settles into the silver 1998 LeSabre. He puts on a pair of sunglasses and heads over to M-24 North for Mayville.

The subdivisions and shopping centers disappear into the rearview mirror. Silos, barns and sugar beet fields replace them.

Fowler seems to be in a hurry to reach the open spaces. He may be a senior citizen, but he doesn't drive like one. He passes slower cars and trucks on the two-lane road.

At times, he turns on the radio to an AM station and hums along to Nat King Cole's "Unforgettable" and Louis Armstrong's "The Sunny Side of the Street."

As he pulls into the Fowler Center, he brings the LeSabre to a crawl. Near the entrance, a group of young campers is riding horses in an outdoor ring.

Fowler waves and heads up the road to the main cluster of buildings. In the dining hall, Linda LaDuke, the food services director, is preparing lunch.

About 30 children are attending this weekend camp, the first of the season.

"Jack!" LaDuke shouts, as Fowler enters the cafeteria. "It's spring. The kids are outside having fun."

When Fowler started his first camp 48 years ago, he had just nine campers. After graduating from Olivet College in 1944, he taught children with special needs at schools in Charlotte, Mich., and Detroit.

In summer 1957, he decided that the school kids needed a place to enjoy the outdoors as he had as a child. He launched Camp Happy Hollow in Brighton, Mich. Later that year, he married Reta Thomas, who was a housemother at the Charlotte school.

For 38 years, they ran the camps together. In the first few years, Jack and Reta handled almost everything themselves. Jack ran the daily activities, ferried out-of-state campers to and from the airport and even tried his hand at fixing the plumbing.

Reta, known as "Mom" Fowler by campers, managed the books, planted flowers, decorated the dining hall tables and looked after the young campers.

Her death in 1995 was difficult for him, Fowler says. "You keep very busy," he says, explaining how he dealt with the loss.

Over the years, Jack and Reta Fowler steadily built attendance at Happy Hollow. In 1976, the camp settled at Mayville, a 200-acre site.

The expansion was

fueled in large part by grants from the James and Lynelle Holden Fund, the Josephine E. Gordon Foundation and the Kresge Foundation.

Fowler retired as executive director 20 years ago, but he's still chairman of the 18-member board. In 1985, the board named the camp for Fowler.

Last year, the Fowler Center served almost 4,000 children and adults with disabilities. At its peak in the summer, it will have a staff of 45.

The center has all the normal summer camp activities — swimming, hiking, horseback riding, ropes courses, wall climbing and outdoor learning — but they're designed with accessibility in mind. The gardening area, for example, has elevated beds that are easier for people in wheelchairs to reach.

The camp has exceeded his expectations, Fowler says. "There are three simple words to sum up the experience," he writes in a history of the center. "Daring — Caring — Sharing."

The Fowler Center has grown largely because of its namesake, says Sue Patalino, 46, a Southfield, Mich., resident and member of the board of directors. Patalino first became affiliated with the center as a camper. She has used a wheelchair since a car accident 17 years ago.

For many campers, the Fowler Center is the first time they move out of a confined environment

and into the outdoors, Patalino says. She hadn't been away from family and friends for several years until she attended the Fowler Center as an adult camper 13 years ago. "I was scared," she says.

Fowler, though, knows what outdoor activities can do for people, particularly those with disabilities, Patalino says.

"He knows firsthand from personal experiences," she says. "He knows how good it makes you feel to find out you can still do those things."

Although he no longer has day-to-day duties, Fowler still gets up to Mayville at least once a month.

Four years ago on Labor Day, he drove up by himself. He wandered around the empty campsite.

The weather and scenery were so nice he decided to stay the night. "It was beautiful," he says.

But getting up the next day wasn't quite so pleasant. He had to sleep on the floor because the mattresses were all put away. "I'll never do that again," he says. "That morning I got up, I couldn't walk."

Fowler hates to admit it, but age is starting to beat him sometimes. He fears the day his mobility will be taken from him. He's afraid of what might happen if he can't get outside by himself.

"I don't want to think about it," Fowler says.

Instead, he keeps his thoughts in a more hope-



KRT photo/Hugh Grannum
Jack Fowler, center, greets Molly Alderson, 19, left and Katherine Schervish, 19, both volunteers. Fowler, who has cerebral palsy, shows how beneficial camping is for people with disabilities.

ful place. As the children wrap up their horseback riding and head for the dining hall for lunch, he grabs a seat among them. One child bangs away at a piano in the corner.

"We often get serenaded at lunch," says Tom Hussman, the executive

director. Fowler doesn't mind. He munches the hamburgers and Tater Tots. He's content with the orange Kool-Aid.

"I've never been old," he says. "It's all in your mind."

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2005-2006 Spring Registration for Current Big Spring Students:

Registration packets will be sent home on Monday, May 9, 2005, with your child.

Please return registration packets to your child's teacher or campus office by Friday, May 13, 2005.

This will constitute registration for the 2005-2006 school year.

If you have questions, please contact the principal's office at your campus.

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Scenic Mountain Medical Center invites you to join our... May 2005

<p>May 2 • Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Games - 2:00 pm Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise) <p>May 3 • Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) Coffee @ PRL - 10:00 am Supper Club - "Casa Blanca" - 5:30 pm <p>May 4 • Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria) Trauma Awareness Day - Rockhound Stadium, Midland (Event is targeted toward our youth and preventative measure that can be taken at any age to prevent/minimize traumatic injuries) <p>May 5 • 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 (Cofee with members) Volunteer Jewelry Sale - 8:30 - 5:00 pm - Hospital Lobby <p>May 6 • Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Jewelry Sale - 8:30 - 5:00 pm - Hospital Lobby <p>May 7 • Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Jewelry Sale - 8:00 - 5:00 pm - Hospital Lobby <p>May 8 • Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warmest Regards On Mother's Day <p>May 9 • Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise) SMMC Volunteer Awards Banquet - 12:00 Noon - China Dragon <p>May 10 • Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) Supper Club - "KC Steakhouse" - 5:30 pm <p>May 11 • Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Eat For \$2.00 in the Hospital Cafeteria) Midland Shopping - 9:00 am <p>May 12 • 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 <p>May 13 • Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relay For Life - Blankenship Field 	<p>May 14 • Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relay For Life - Blankenship Field Child Birth Classes - 9:00-4:00 pm Laurie Burkes, RN Certified Birth Educator - Karina Reynolds, LVN Certified Child Educator - 2nd Floor Hospital <p>May 16 • Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pot Luck & Bingo - 11:30 am Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise) <p>May 17 • Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) Supper Club - "China Dragon" - 5:30 pm <p>May 18 • Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria) Meet & Greet Tea & Scones Party - 2:00 pm - Hospital Classroom Games - 3:00 pm <p>May 19 • 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 <p>May 22 • Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Over The Tavern" (Comedy) - Midland Community Theater - 1:00 pm <p>May 23 • Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch & Bunch & 23 Birthdays - "KFC" - 11:30 AM Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise) <p>May 24 • Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together) New Mexico Casino Trip - 10:00 am <p>May 25 • Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria) Supper Club - "Red Mesa" - 5:30 pm <p>May 26 • 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 (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria) Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am <p>May 30 • Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Circle - Office Closed Holiday <p>May 31 • 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
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IN BRIEF

Big Spring Country Club announces couples tournament

The Big Spring Country Club has set up a two-day two-person couples scramble for May 14 and 15.

The tournament will cost \$130 per team plus cart fee, but private carts are welcome.

A practice round will take place May 13, while registration begins at 11:30 a.m. May 14 and a shotgun start begins at 1 p.m.

There will be prizes for three places per flight and a male/female longest drive and closest to the pin awards will also be given.

For more information, call 267-5354.

BSISD has set up chance to get athletic physicals

The BSISD athletic department is offering the opportunity to get an athletic physical for anyone in grades six through 11 (7-12 next year).

These pre-participation physicals are required for students who wish to participate in athletics entering the seventh, ninth and 11th grades or who do not already have one.

The physical form can be obtained through your coach, athletic trainer or online at bsisd.esc18.net (look under schools, BSHS, athletics and athletic forms).

Physicals will be given at the BSHS Auditorium Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. for seventh graders (current sixth graders), 10:15 a.m. for ninth graders (current eighth graders) and 10:30 a.m. for current high school students through 11th grade. Physicals will end promptly at 11:30 a.m. for all.

Coahoma announces all-sports banquet

Coahoma has announced that its all-sports banquet will take place Tuesday, May 17, at the high school cafeteria.

Tickets for non-athletes and parents are \$7 and they can be purchased that night.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Coahoma High School Office at 394-4536.

Also, the Coahoma Athletic Booster Club would like to announce a meeting to elect members for next year.

The meeting will take place Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the high school cafeteria.

Big Spring baseball banquet announced

The Big Spring baseball banquet will take place at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Howard College Student Union Building's (SUB) Cactus Room.

Tickets cost \$10 each and can be purchased at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center. The deadline to purchase tickets is Thursday.

For more information, call John Sparks at 263-8527.

Forsan track team ends year at regional meet

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

ABILENE — Forsan seniors Trey Paredes and Cynthia Becerra led the boy's and girl's track teams at the regional meet at Abilene Christian University, but it was not enough to advance to the

state meet.

The top two finishers at the regional meet advance to state. Paredes participated in three events at regionals. He finished fifth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:08, grabbed ninth in the long jump with a leap of 19-11



and was a part of the Buffaloes' 4x200 meter relay team which placed

13th.

Becerra finished her high school track career with an eighth place finish in the 1,600-meter run. Her time in the event was unknown at press time.

Justin Forshee competed in the 400-meter dash and capped off his season

with a 53.67, but was 10th overall and failed to make the finals.

Cody Frietag, Shawn Lawson and Skylier Sandridge were the other three Forsan boys

involved in the 4x200 relay which placed 13th.

Howard wraps up seasons with annual sports banquet

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Howard College athletic season officially ended Monday at the annual all-sports banquet in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum's East Room.

Following a meal, Assistant Athletic Director Stan Feaster began the event with the introduction of new fitness center director Jim Campbell, who performed the invocation. Then, Athletic Director Mark Adams welcomed everyone.

The awards portion of the show was kicked off by recognizing all sophomore athletes for their participation in their respective events.

Cheerleading sponsor Linda Berry began the team portion of the awards as she announced winners in cheerleading. Hollie Gibbs, Rusty Josey, Dana Wilson, Jessica Spradling, Summer Davis and Jenna Schafer were all presented with awards.

First-year women's basketball coach Earl Diddle was the next coach to present awards as he gave three awards out to his team. Latoya Fairley received her all-conference award, while Jennifer Pena and Ariel Rhodes were given academic excellence awards for holding down 4.0 grade point averages this year.

Interim softball coach Cheryl Dickens handed out her awards next. Crystal Walsh was given the team's academic excellence award, while Angela Schrader was



voted most improved and Jessica Plemons was chosen as the offensive player of the year.

Howard College head Athletic Trainer John Overton was the next one to the podium as he issued awards to Natalie Perez, Kandis Snowden, Melanie Gray and Travis Gray.

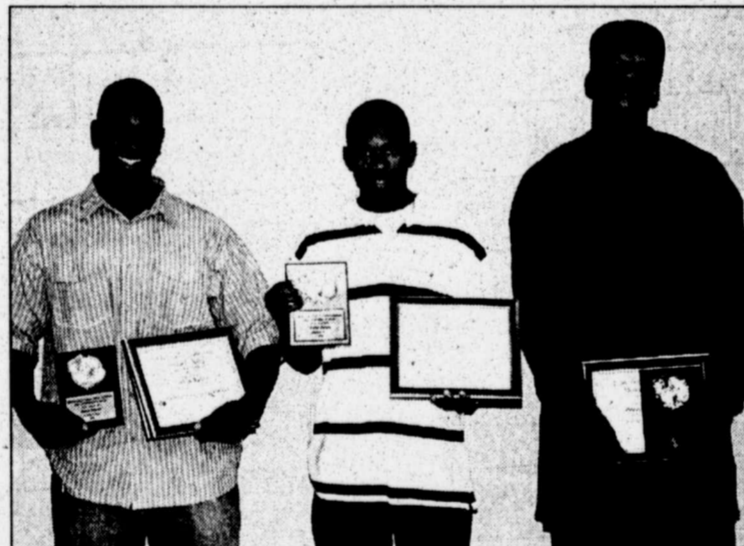
Head rodeo coach Greg Kernick followed Overton with his rodeo awards. Kernick gave academic excellence awards to Aaron Heberger and Sierra Stoney and also gave out awards to Brent Walden, Danny McDowell and Wayne Schaffeld.

Britt Smith, head coach of the HC baseball team, handed out six awards Monday. Academic Excellence awards were given to Darby Brown, Darren Lawless and Jared Smallwood as all three carried 4.0 grade point averages this year. Brown, who led in team

in several offensive categories, also took home the team MVP award. Sophomores Ryan Femath and Tanner Mattson were both issued the "Hungry Dog Award," as well.

Adams concluded the team awards night by handing out four awards to the men's basketball team. James Barrett was issued two awards as he took home the academic excellence award and was given his all-conference and all-region plaque. Charles Burgess was also given his all-conference and all-region award, while Brandon Sampay received all-conference honors.

Howard College president Dr. Cheryl Sparks concluded the night with three special awards. Harold Davis was recognized for his WJCAC Hall of Fame honor. Donna Merrick and Dickie Wright were also given awards by Sparks. She also honored the women's basketball team with the academic excellence team award.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Several athletes at Howard College were given awards at the annual all-sports banquet Monday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum's East Room. Clockwise from left: 1) Howard College head athletic trainer John Overton, center, stands with his award-winning student trainers. From left: Kandis Snowden, Travis Gray, Natalie Perez and Melanie Hill. 2) From left: James Barrett, Charles Burgess and Brandon Sampay of the men's basketball team stand with their awards. 3) Jared Smallwood, Darby Brown and Darren Lawless of the baseball team pose with their academic achievement awards. Brown was also named team MVP. Not pictured: Ryan Femath and Tanner Mattson. 4) Howard College rodeo coach Greg Kernick, far right, poses with his team's award winners. Top row, from left: Aaron Heberger, Brent Walden and Sarah Proctor. Bottom: Danny McDowell and Wayne Schaffeld shows off their awards. Not pictured: Sierra Stoney. 5) The HC cheerleading staff poses with head coach Linda Berry (top row, far left). Top row, from left: Jenna Schafer, Rusty Josey, Jeneane Richard and Jessica Spradling. Bottom: Dana Wilson, Summer Davis and Hollie Gibbs.

Texas gets much-needed win over Oakland

By JANIE MCCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Texas Rangers teased Kenny Rogers in the dugout that his fastball had topped out at 92 mph on the Oakland radar gun — though they planned to check their own equipment to confirm it.

Yet his velocity hardly mattered. His command of the strike zone was that dominant.

Rogers pitched eight shutout innings to improve to 21-4 in 41 career starts in Oakland, and David Dellucci home-

Texas' 3-2 victory over the Athletics Monday night.

The 40-year-old Rogers (2-2) retired his first 14 batters, and finished with five strikeouts. He lost at the Oakland Coliseum last Sept. 16 to end a stretch of 18 straight winning decisions in the stadium dating to a loss Aug. 7, 1994. Still, he's 19-1 in this ballpark since that '94 game.

"One of the reasons Kenny has been successful for a long period of time is because he's unpredictable," manager Buck Showalter said. "We knew runs were going to

be at a premium."

After another brilliant outing against his former team, Rogers plopped down on a clubhouse couch to ice his arm and socialize with teammates. He isn't talking to the media this season.

Rangers first baseman Mark Teixeira saved a hit in the fifth with a diving stop on Erubiel Durazo's hard-hit ball down the line, making a backhanded flip from the ground to Rogers for the out.

But Mark Ellis followed with a double to left moments later to break

See RANGERS, Page 2B

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Dallas moves into lead with Rockets after home victory

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Now that Dallas has won three straight games to go ahead in its playoff series, Michael Finley hopes the Mavericks remember the feeling they had a week ago — after losing the first two at home.

"It was a solemn attitude," Finley said. "It brought out some of our best ball. Hopefully, we can have that same mindset we had last time leaving here to go to Houston."

After beginning its roll with two straight wins in Houston, the Mavericks became the first home team to win in this series with a 103-100 victory over the Rockets Monday night.

"We got ourselves into a hole that made us have to have an edge and it made us angry," Dallas' Jason Terry said.

Game 6 is Thursday night in Houston.

Elsewhere, Washington evened its series with Chicago at two games apiece with a 106-99 victory, and San Antonio defeated Denver 126-115 in overtime to take a 3-1 lead.

Finally, the home team got a couple of game-turning breaks in Dallas.

McGrady has never advanced in the playoffs, and is in jeopardy of seeing his team blow a 2-0 lead for the second straight time. It happened to his Orlando team two years ago against Detroit.

So he certainly knows what it's like to be facing elimination.

"I've been in this situation every time I've been

in the playoffs," McGrady said. "I'm optimistic about it. We have to play hard, lay everything out on the line."

The Mavericks protected their lead down the stretch in some unusual ways.

Finley got away with being out of bounds when he knocked the ball loose from Jon Barry with just under a minute left.

"I can't really remember," Finley said with a smirk about the play, replays of which showed both feet were clearly out of bounds.

"It's a shame," Barry said. "Our whole bench saw it. What can you do?"

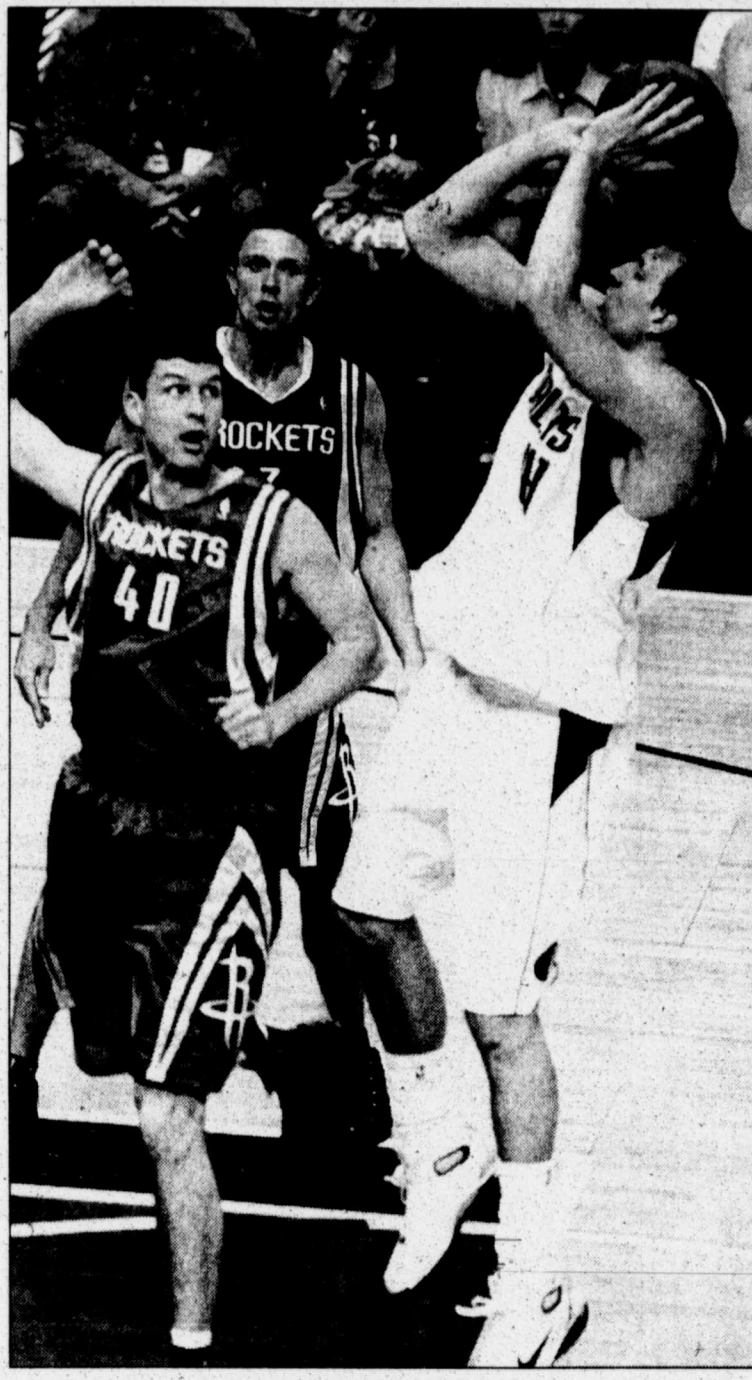
Jerry Stackhouse grabbed the loose ball, was fouled by Barry and made both free throws for a 99-94 lead. The game still wasn't over.

The Rockets, who had blown fourth-quarter leads of eight and six points the last two games, trimmed what was an 11-point deficit to 102-100 with 7.4 seconds left on McGrady's flying dunk.

But they couldn't finish the comeback.

After McGrady's dunk, the Mavs got away with a wild pass. Marquis Daniels' inbound lob to Terry was nearly stolen, but Terry recovered and was fouled by Ryan Bowen. He made one of two shots, and McGrady was then fouled in the backcourt, leading to his failed final shot.

Now Dallas has two chances to join the 1969 Lakers and '94 Rockets as the only teams to win a seven-game series, after dropping the first two at home.



KRT photo/Sharon M. Steinman, Fort Worth Star Telegram
The Mavs' Dirk Nowitzki shoots over Houston's Ryan Bowen during game 5 of their first round playoff series at American Airlines Center Monday.

"Until you win the series, you don't have anything," Mavericks coach Avery Johnson said.

Neither does Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy, who earlier Monday was fined \$100,000 for accusing officials of targeting Yao Ming and refusing to tell the league which official was his source.

Commissioner David Stern, who attended the game, called the largest fine ever levied against an NBA coach only "an intermediary step" and said an investigation will continue when the

Rockets finish their playoff run. Stern even implied that Van Gundy could face a lifetime ban.

"I didn't see anything wrong with what I said," Van Gundy said after the game. "But certainly, obviously, for a statement like that to come out, he obviously differs. ... That's all right."

Van Gundy laughed off the entire case before the game, and Yao offered to pay half the fine.

Yao scored 15 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, making 6 of 7 shots and just 3 of 8 free throws.

Spurs take command, put Denver on brink

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP Sports Writer

DENVER (AP) — Tim Duncan's teammates finished what he started and now the San Antonio Spurs are a game away from moving on to the second round of the playoffs.

Duncan had 39 points and 14 rebounds and Tony Parker scored 11 of his 29 points in overtime, helping the Spurs beat the Denver Nuggets 126-115 Monday night to take a 3-1 series lead.

After struggling with foul trouble and poor shooting in Game 3, Duncan dominated the Nuggets from the start. He had 18 points by half-time and hit several key shots in the closing minutes of regulation.

Duncan also provided some inspiration after fouling out midway through overtime, gathering his teammates, tugging on their jerseys and telling them not to let down.

"The guys were great all around — we never gave up," said Duncan, who had 39 points and 14 rebounds after struggling with foul trouble and poor shooting in Game 3. "We've been through this a lot this year and kind of pushed through all of it, so I don't think anyone of us gave up at any point."

That's for sure. Manu Ginobili provided a spark off the bench for the third straight game, hitting 12-of-16 free throws to finish with 24 points and six assists. Parker finally had suc-

cess getting into the lane against the Nuggets, hitting 11 of 19 shots and dishing out seven assists. And Bruce Bowen played his usual role of agitator, fighting the Nuggets for every inch in the lane.

It all means the Spurs can close out the series in Game 5 Wednesday in San Antonio, where the Spurs have lost three times all season — but fell in the series opener to Denver.

"If we don't finish it in the fifth game we have to come here again," Ginobili said. "You don't want to be in that situation, because then you give them a chance."

Earl Boykins found his shooting touch after three tough games, scoring 32 points, and Carmelo Anthony finally got his stroke against the Spurs with 28.

It still wasn't enough for the Nuggets, who need to win three straight to keep from bowing out in the first round for the second straight year.

"We're in the NCAA tournament now — single elimination," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "If you lose, you're going to sit a long time. All of us have been there. It's not a fun place to be."

San Antonio took control of overtime, hitting its first three shots to go up 113-107.

Duncan fouled out with 2:55 left when Anthony fell on a drive, but the Nuggets couldn't get closer than four after that.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

up Rogers' perfect start in the Rangers' first trip to Oakland since reliever Frank Francisco threw a chair into the stands in an ugly melee with fans last September that ended with a woman's nose being broken.

Ellis, who came in batting .375 against Rogers, also added a seventh-inning double as the A's wasted scoring chances yet again.

Francisco Cordero pitched the ninth for his AL-leading ninth save in 11 opportunities. The A's loaded the bases against Cordero with two outs, and Marco Scutaro hit a two-run single to right. Cordero then struck out Mark Kotsay looking on a

3-2 slider to end it.

"There's no excuse for taking a 3-2 slider down the middle for the final out," Kotsay said. "I had my pitches to hit. I just didn't execute."

Layne Nix added a ninth-inning RBI single for an unearned run after Ellis' fielding error.

The Rangers responded with a strong performance after losing the last two in a three-game set with the Red Sox over the weekend.

Dellucci connected for his fifth homer of the season with a solo shot to right in the third off Rich Harden (2-1), who pitched his first career complete game.

The A's had runners on first and second with no outs in the sixth, but Rogers quickly retired the next three to end the threat. He escaped another jam in the eighth.

Harden was nearly as good.

"Being able to go nine,

getting through that last inning, is definitely something I want to do more often," he said.

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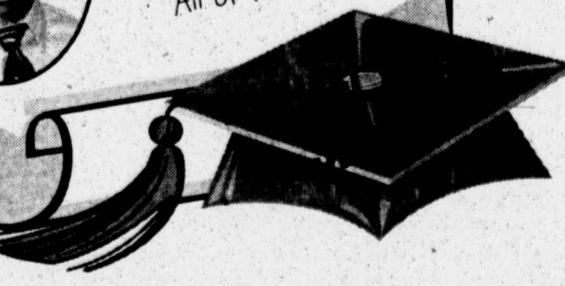
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Start at **\$12-\$13/hour** plus LOTS OF OVERTIME! Only **TRUCKDRIVERS** with 2 years Class A CDL experience need apply. Physical Labor required. Good benefits. Home one week a month. Call 1-800-588-2669.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY person needed to move furniture. Must be motivated. Good driving record required. Must be 21. Paid vacation & holidays. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg. No Phone Calls!

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1998 JAYCO Eagle Model #263RKS 5th wheel travel trailer. Very good condition. 29' Rear kitchen & super slide, queen bed. Good storage. \$11,000.00. Call (432)263-8987.

Miscellaneous

WANT TO Buy Land. Between 40 and 350 acres. Reasonably priced, with access to water. Call (432)209-3032.

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2001 PALM Harbor Double Wide 58x28; 4 Bedroom, 2 bath; on 1/2 acre in Coahoma ISD. Midway area; assumable loan. By appointment (432)935-1021.

Pets

CKC SHIH-TZU Registered. Have 2 female's, 5 months old. Pre-spoiled, very loving. \$250.00 each. Parents on premises. Call (432)267-1448.

Pets

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267-5444
263-5000

1104 Stanford, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$335. month, \$150. deposit. 448 Armstrong. 4 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$385. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-4717.

1202 JOHNSON. Two bedroom, two bath. CH/A. \$350. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

1205 LLOYD, 2 Bedroom 1 bath. HUD approved. \$400.00 Month \$300.00 Deposit. Call (432)213-3864.

1405 SETTLES. Clean two bedroom, fenced yard. Stove & refrigerator furnished. \$300.00 month, \$150.00 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

2001 JOHNSON. Newly remodeled, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. Garage, fenced yard and refrigerated air. \$350.00 month \$295.00 deposit. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

2008 SCURRY, 2 Bedroom. Refrigerated air, fenced backyard. Nice neighborhood. References. Perfect for single or couples. \$325/month, \$250/deposit. Call (432)267-5629.

2110 NOLAN. Two bedroom, one bath, carport. No indoor pets. \$275./ mo. \$100./ deposit. Call (432)267-5464, leave message.

3 Bedroom, 2 bath Trailer in Coahoma ISD. \$425. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

418 Ryan. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. \$450. month, \$150. deposit. 202 Johnson. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. \$285. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-4787.

Real Estate for Rent

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BEAUTIFUL LARGE One bedroom Apts. Private patios Large swimming pool 24 hr. laundry facility Move-in \$199.00 plus deposit Coronado Hills Apartments 801 W. Marcy Big Spring, Tx. 79720 (432)267-6500

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Check This Out!
Two bedroom, \$300. month, 1107 Lloyd.
Three bedroom, \$400. month, 1517 Kentucky Way.
Call Moren, (432)267-7380.

FOR RENT, two bedroom, partially furnished, new carpet, fresh paint, carport, fenced yard. Near Wal-Mart. Call 432-268-1272.

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\$400. month
All Bills Paid
403 East 8th
Call (432)267-2771

Nice house, good neighborhood. **1304 Tucson**, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Central heat/air, fireplace, dishwasher, washer/dryer connections, fenced backyard, 2 storage buildings, outdoor grill. Rent \$550.00, deposit \$200.00. Call (432)267-2112 leave message.

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

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2506 ALBROOK. 3 Bedroom, 1-1/2 bath brick home w/vinyl siding. 1 Car carport, nice yard. Inside needs Carpet and paint. Otherwise in good condition. \$8,400.00 Cash/ OBO. Call (432)264-9355 or 466-3164.

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Real Estate for Sale

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

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2000 GRAND Caravan. Excellent condition. Service maintained every 3000 miles. 7 passenger seating w/4 captains chairs. New tires. Rear AC, 6 disc changer. One Owner. \$8900.00. Call (432)267-6093, 816-4052.

1981 HONDA Goldwing 1100, low mileage. \$1,950. Call (432)816-9848.

Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Auspicious angles between Venus and Saturn, and also between Mercury and Neptune, make this the time to share imaginative solutions with others, or come up with a few as a group. All that is needed is a strong leader, and any group becomes an effective organization that is collectively stronger and greater than the sum of its parts.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The impact you have on other people makes you feel important, worthy and attractive. So put effort into it now. Choose an individual who could use more support, and find creative and generous ways to help him or her.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have clear goals and a plan to make them happen, but you need information from others when their actions affect your life. (Since when did using a turn signal become optional?) Ask the tough questions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't mind being asked to do something, but you really resent being told what to do, especially by someone not in a position to be ordering you around. Take a deep breath, smile and get to work. Success is your best revenge.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Feeling a little crabby this morning? The best way to turn your day around is through anonymous giving and secret spreading of goodwill -- no matter how hard it is to start. Your day is transformed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Finding the right partner is less important than being the right partner. You can change your feelings toward loved ones by assuming that they are doing their best. Tonight, something owed to you comes back.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The ladder to the top can take a long time to climb, especially when you stop to dust and polish each and every rung. Sometimes good enough really is good enough. Stop killing yourself, and enjoy all of your successes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). So, maybe results aren't as swift in coming as you'd like. Do not accept defeat or rejection. The game is just beginning. Besides, life gives you an endless supply of do-overs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Here's a novel idea: Instead of over-promising (and under-delivering), why not under-promise (and over-deliver)? It's a stress free way of making someone happy by giving them more than they were expecting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your hopes may be a tad over the top. A small piece of fabulous news is still fabulous news. Accept everything good that comes your way as a sign of even better things to come.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The best way to rid yourself of harmful vices is to replace them with something even more compelling. It's time to infuse your life with more desire so you will no longer have time for messy indulgences!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Somebody is looking for the qualities you embody. Put yourself out there in a bigger way. This cleansing exercise helps. Pretend that you are moving. While getting rid of stuff, ask yourself if it still represents what it used to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are driven to numb out a certain sensation. Dare to feel the feeling instead. In doing so, you can transform that part of your life you've been meaning to heal.

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TUESDAY

MAY 3

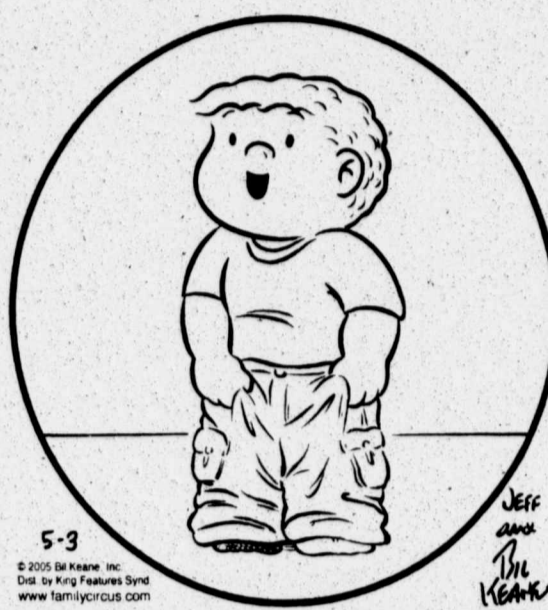
Table with 25 columns representing different TV stations and their respective programming for Tuesday, May 3, 2005.

DENNIS THE MENACE



SOMETIMES I WISH GINA WAS A BOY, AND OTHER TIMES I'M GLAD SHE'S A GIRL!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



With these new pants nobody can see that I'm wearin' two different socks.

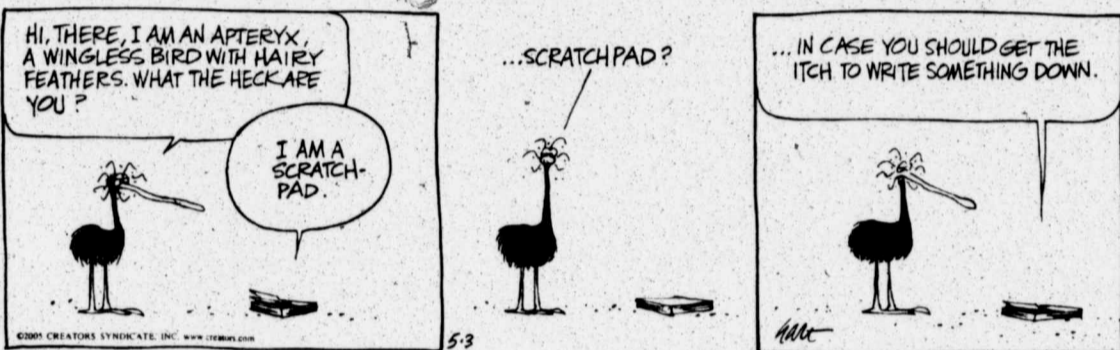
HAGAR



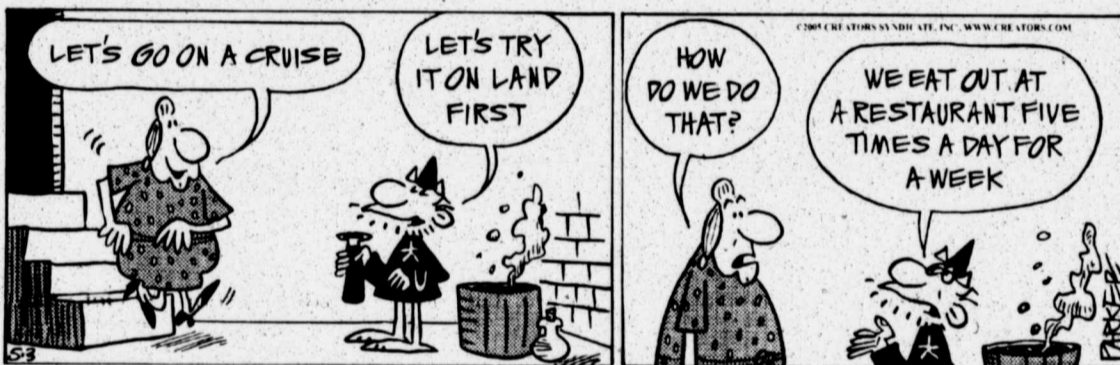
BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, May 3, the 123rd day of 2005. There are 242 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On May 3, 1945, during World War II, Japanese forces on Okinawa launched their only major counter-offensive...

rationing of most grades of meats ended. In 1945, Indian forces captured Rangoon, Burma, from the Japanese. In 1948, the Supreme Court ruled that covenants prohibiting the sale of real estate to blacks or members of other racial groups were legally unenforceable.

Indicators dropped half a percentage point in March 1995, its biggest tumble in two years. Birthdays: Today's Broadway librettist Betty Comden is 86. Folk singer Pete Seeger is 86. Singer James Brown is 72.

Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

Newsday Crossword

FEET FIRST by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Burden 5 Firearm filler 9 Moving slightly 14 Singer Fitzgerald 15 Onion relative 16 The ones there 17 Crystal-ball user 18 Ancient Roman's garb 19 Tracks and 20 Save for a rainy day 22 Poker payments 23 Colt's mother 24 Give a shove to 25 Prepares to be photographed 28 Windshield sticker 31 Santa's helper 34 Appalled 36 Fabric fuzz 37 Tell a fib 38 Mail-chute opening 39 Doo-wop song, for example 41 Construction location 42 Golf starting area 43 Cheerfulness 44 Wasn't upright 46 Classified listings 47 Prefix for violet 49 Fabric workers 50 Mon. follower 52 Letterhead illustration 54 Tall tales 56 The Joker, to Batman 61 Leaves out

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-61 indicating starting points for words.

Wacky Facts

In many languages, the word for "mother" begins with the sound "ma" and the word for "father" begins with the sound "da." But in the Georgian language, spoken in the country of Georgia, "deda" means "mother" and "mama" means "father."
— *World Almanac for Kids*

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"My mom means more to me than anything. We have a very special relationship."
— Justin Timberlake, in *Twist* magazine.
"My mom is my idol, and she never fails to meet my expectations."
— Brittany Murphy, on *E!* Online

Sit, Stay, Read



Dogs can be a new reader's best friend

BY WILLIAM HAGEMAN
Chicago Tribune

One of the guests visiting Jenifer Platz's second-grade classroom sat on a small student chair. Two others were more comfortable curled up on blankets on the floor.

Rudy, Shandy and Miles — three dogs of varying size and parentage — were making their weekly stop as part of "Sit, Stay, Read!," a literacy program that uses therapy dogs to help children improve their reading skills.

Every Wednesday morning, the three dogs and their owners, along with five other volunteers, come to Platz's classroom at Hendricks Academy in Chicago. The 31 students are divided into six groups, each with a book buddy, a volunteer who helps his or her group with reading and writing. The dogs, sporting green "Sit, Stay, Read!" bandanas, go to separate corners where they spend seven to 10 minutes per student, listening to him or her read.

"She's always been able to just sit there and listen. And eat treats," MaryEllen Schneider said of Shandy, an 11-year-old mix who has been doing therapy work for 10 years and seems to have found her calling in the classroom visits.

Like we all have our own likes and dislikes, she just always liked kids," Schneider said. "She's not interested in nursing home visits. She'll go, but she's not like she is when she's with kids."

Schneider and Sarah Murphy founded "Sit, Stay, Read!" last year, modeled after a Utah program Schneider had read about. Reading aloud is important in the development of a child's literacy skills, and children from low-income families tend to have less opportunity to read aloud. So they designed a program to go into schools and other community locations.

"I've got to admit there's a part of me that says it's as silly as all get-out, but it's cute and it's got to be motivational for the kids," said Tim Shanahan, director of the Center for Literacy at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Schneider and Murphy asked the center



Pat Simpson and her Lhasa Apso, Rudy, listen as Juwhan Faulkner, 7, reads out loud to them. Juwhan is part of a program in which students read aloud to dogs.

if it wanted to get involved in the program, Shanahan said. "We get involved in a lot of things," he said. "If it looks promising and it looks like it might help the community, we're interested."

During their weekly hour in the classroom, the dogs' attention levels vary. Rudy, a 3-year-old Lhasa Apso, at times seems transfixed by what the students are reading, looking at the kids with what appears to be genuine interest. Shandy lies there and listens politely. Miles, a Rhodesian ridgeback mix, alternates between being connected and looking bored.

"He's really got a calm disposition," said his owner, Dana Chang. "He likes to sit and listen."

He doesn't mind the treats either. Each student gives the dog a goodie after their session. That's especially a big deal in the case of Rudy, whose love of cheese is a constant source of fascination for the kids.

"Oh, eating cheese is a big thing," said Pat Simpson, Rudy's owner, as she broke off a piece of string cheese and gave it to a student, who in turn slipped it to Rudy. "For some reason the kids think that's cool."

Not every dog can make the cut. They have to have the right temperament. And they have to pass a test.

"One of the things they have to be able

to do is walk away from food," Murphy said. "And they have to be able to drop a toy [on command]. If there's a tennis ball in the classroom, we can't have them going after it."

"When we agreed to sit down with them and proceed, that was my first concern, what about the safety of the kids," Shanahan said. "All you need is a dog to get touched in the wrong way and suddenly you get a kid who gets nipped, and it's, 'What a dumb idea.' But they've really done a very good job to make sure these dogs are gentle and able to work with kids."

And the children seem to be benefiting. "They're always motivated," Platz said. "They can't wait for Wednesday to get there. There's an energy in the room that's not there any other day of the week."

During the class, the kids are totally engaged in their work, even the ones at the desks who are not reading to the dogs. And, of course, it's not just the kids who look forward to Wednesdays.

"He loves coming here," Chang said of Miles. "I put the bandanna on him, and he knows. We take him a lot of places in the car. But he gets really excited about this."

Check out www.sitstayread.org for more information on the program.

In The News

Meet Poet Laureate Ted Kooser

How many poems should you read for every poem that you write? According to Ted Kooser, the national poet laureate, the answer is 100. "It only creates a better poet in you. It's like anything else," says Kooser, an English professor at the University of Nebraska. "If you want to play a guitar, you listen to a lot of guitar music. If you want to be a better writer, you need to read."

TIME
FOR KIDS

A PASSION FOR POETRY

Kooser was appointed to his post by the Library of Congress. As "laureate," he is the official poet of the United States. His job is to raise awareness of poetry and work for greater interest in reading and writing poetry around the nation.

Kooser has published 10 books of poetry. I caught up with him at a bookstore in Omaha, Neb. During our interview, he told me how much fun reading and writing poetry can be. He should know. He began writing poems in third grade. "I don't know what I would do without (poetry)," he says.

Kooser writes about unique subjects. For example, he makes objects like five-subject notebooks and potatoes the stars of his poems. Kooser's advice for kids who aspire to become poets: "Anyone can do it. The most important thing to do is to read."
— Emily O'Donnell, 11

FUN KOOSER FACTS

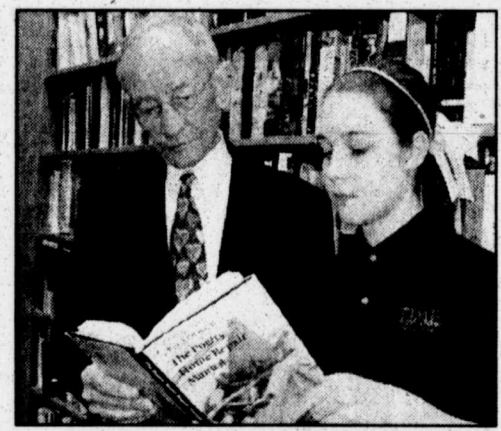
Favorite color: Blue

Favorite picture book:

Any book by Chris Van Allsburg

Favorite pizza topping: Pepperoni

Favorite soda: Dr Pepper



National Poet Laureate Ted Kooser and TFK kid reporter Emily O'Donnell read a poem in one of Kooser's books, "The Poetry Home Repair Manual."

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Reading Rack

Accessible art

Four young boys discovered the famous cave paintings in Lascaux, France. Vincent Van Gogh often made a painting a day. Leonardo da Vinci hired musicians and clowns to keep Mona Lisa entertained.



The facts that fill "Cave Paintings to Picasso: The Inside Scoop on 50 Art Masterpieces" (Chronicle

Books, \$22.95) show there's a story behind every artwork. Author Henry M. Sayre, a professor at Oregon State University, makes art history accessible to readers 8 and older.

— Martha Sheridan

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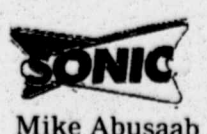


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