



Council expected to consider Settles Hotel building contract

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to consider a contract between the city and California-based Evos homes Tuesday, which entails a feasibility study that could lead to the renovation — or demise — of the historic Settles Hotel in downtown Big Spring.

Ray Rappold, president of Evos Homes of Santa Rosa, Calif., made a presentation to the council in January, describ-

ing the vision his company has for the vacant building.

"I understand the importance of the Settles Hotel to the city of Big Spring," Rappold told council members. "And I would like to respect that by doing a thorough job of evaluating a very historic building."

"What we have in mind is affordable living apartments on floors three through 16, which is based on a very rough preliminary analysis. About 74 residential units and we would be

looking at commercial and retail space on the first and second floors — restaurants, offices and possibly a seniors activity center."

While the project may sound like a God-send for downtown Big Spring, Rappold was quick to remind the council there are a number of studies that will have to be conducted and pored over before the first hammer is swung in the name of the historic landmark.

"The first step is the only

thing that can knock this deal out of the water," said Rappold. "That's the full structural and environmental analysis where we'll find out if there are any hidden costs. It will be a very thorough structural analysis. Also, there has to be a market study to quantify the rents and what the demand might be for the project."

Rappold told the council the studies required to complete the first two stages of the study and determine the feasibility of

the project would cost the city \$55,000 and \$62,500. Evos would also request a 48-month contract for exclusive rights to the project.

"I feel very optimistic about this project," said McEwen. "Evos has made it clear over the past several months that they would like to do this deal very badly, and at the same time, the city needs to have these studies done anyway."

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PUT THE ROD IN PRODUCT



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Joe Cobarobio of Midland's Hypnotic Signworks works on the new sign for Fiberod, hand-stenciling the letters on the side of a large RV cover at the facility. Cobarobio, along with his wife, Ruth, say they are continuing the tradition of hand-painting signs instead of using vinyl lettering.

Unemployment

Joblessness decreases with rise in labor force

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County saw a healthy increase in its labor force between February and March, dropping the unemployment rate considerably in the Crossroads area.

According to Virginia Belew, manager of the Big Spring Workforce Network, the labor force in Howard County increased from 13,531 employed persons, posted in February, to 13,615 — an increase of 84 people.

The number of unemployed persons also dropped from 874, posted in February, to 789, posted in March. That drop in unemployment translated into a 5.8 percent unemployment rate in Howard County, down from the 6.5 percent in February, and the 6.4 percent reported a year ago.

"The Howard County unemployment rate

dropped 0.7 percent from February to March, putting our area below 6 percent after several months," said Belew. "The rate should drop further next month as employers so far indicate by the job orders we're taking that they are poised to hire not only for temporary jobs, but permanent jobs as well."

The unemployment rate for the Permian Basin Workforce Development Area was reported at 5 percent, while the Texas rate and the national rate stayed on par at 5.5 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively.

Unemployment rates for surrounding counties include Andrews, 4.6 percent; Borden, 4.4 percent; Dawson, 7.7 percent; Ector, 5 percent; Glasscock, 4.9 percent; Martin, 5.5 percent; and Midland, 4.1 percent.

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Johnson, Purcell top graduates for Forsan

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Forsan High School recently announced that Levi Johnson and Micaela Purcell are the top graduates for the Class of 2005.

Johnson, the son of Randy and LaDonna Johnson, is class valedictorian, a goal he says he has worked toward since the third grade. The National Honor Society member was named a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Corp. competition, and has competed at the state level in band, math, debate and journalism

contests.

"So many family members, friends, teachers and administrators have helped me grow and succeed in both school and life," Johnson said recently. "God has used these people to bless me in so many ways, and it is to him that I must give the glory."

Johnson plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in mathematics.

Class salutatorian Purcell, the daughter of Charles and Ellen Purcell, plans to attend Moody Bible Institute in

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Johnson



Purcell

Local school administrators oppose proposed legislation on school year

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Area school officials strongly oppose state legislation that will move the start of the school year to the Tuesday after Labor Day.

Both houses of the Texas Legislature approved the later start date in their respective school finance reform packages, making it extremely likely the measure will be in whatever final package lawmakers present to Gov. Rick Perry at the end of their session on May 30.

The measure, which takes effect for the 2006-07 school year, also states that the school year must end by June 7.

Proponents of the measure cited a variety of reasons why schools should hold off the start of classes until September — including tourism revenue lost in August

and increased utility costs by holding classes prior to September.

State Rep. Kent Grusendorf, R-Arlington, a proponent of the later start date, says school districts in the state could save as much as \$89 million in reduced utility costs for air conditioning schools in August.

In addition, State Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn, issued the results of study that show could benefit the state by millions of dollars as the result of lost wages from summer jobs being restored and adding a few weeks to the summer tourism season.

These figures are fine and good, area educators say, but are missing the point.

"My take on the issue is that the school year should be a local decision," Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Michael Downes said. "It should entirely be a local decision as to

when the school year starts and when it ends."

Stanton ISD Superintendent David Carr also cites local control in opposing the measure.

"A decision like that is best left up to the local school board," Carr said. "Who better knows what's better for the kids than local people?"

Downes and Carr are quickly backed up by Forsan ISD Superintendent Randy Johnson, whose district will start the 2005-06 school year on Aug. 15.

"To show you how much we oppose this, we actually requested a waiver (from the Texas Education Agency) to start the school year earlier than its currently allowed," Johnson said. "We just don't buy into the argument about schools losing money by

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TOMORROW 85°-88°

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

CARES HEARING

Veterans Administration CARES Local Advisory Panel public meeting is set from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Wednesday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

The first of four such meetings, the LAP is part of VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) process.

According to coordinators, this first meeting is being held to share the CARES and LAP process and gather feedback via public comment concerning the Big Spring VA Hospital. Comment can also be made in writing.

LARGE ITEM PICK-UP

City of Big Spring crews will conduct a large item pickup in District 1 — the area served by Councilwoman Stephanie Horton — on Friday.

All items must be by the curb in city right of way to be picked up, but must not be placed there more than 24 hours before the scheduled pickup. Items should be separated as much as possible.

The service is designed to assist the elderly, handicapped or others who do not have a means to haul large items to the landfill.

For more information, call 264-2504, 264-2376 or 264-2392.

FILIBUSTER FIGHT

Amid talk of a possible compromise, the Senate's second-most powerful Republican and Democrat each claimed on Sunday to have enough support for their side's position as the chamber neared a showdown over the minority party's right to block a president's judicial nominees.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., intends this week to call for a vote the first of the blocked nominees — Texas judge Priscilla Owen and California judge Janice Rogers Brown. Bush nominated both for federal judgeships during his first term.

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Obituaries

Katholeen Williams



Katholeen B. Williams, a 63-year resident of Big Spring, passed away on May 15, 2005, at the age of 89. In her memory, a graveside service will be conducted at Trinity Memorial Park, at 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, 2005, with the Rev. Rex Clayton, pastor of East Fourth Baptist Church, officiating. Hymns will be sung by Suzanne Cranford of Big Spring.

Mrs. Williams was born Oct. 30, 1915, in Olney. Katholeen married Burlon Hendrix Williams on January 18, 1936, at the "Rock of Ages" inside Carlsbad Caverns, Carlsbad, N.M. The couple moved to Big Spring in 1942 from Monahans.

Mrs. Williams was a beautician since 1935, having worked in several shops in Pecos and Big Spring. She opened "Katholeen's Beauty Shop" in 1961.

She is survived by her children: Nelda Kay Jones of Lamesa; Thomas J. Williams and his wife Carolyn, of Houston; and Linda Sue Battle and her husband Bill of Big Spring. Katholeen has six grandchildren: Joni Deanne Hodges and her husband Steve D. of Midland; Royce Reagan Williams and his wife Elyse of Houston; Clifton Chad Williams and his wife Laurie of Brentwood, Tenn.; Kyle Jason Jones and his wife Kristi of Wolfforth; Jana Renae McQueary and her husband Thomas William of Big Spring; and Kelsey Lauren Battle of Big Spring. Katholeen has six great-grandchildren: Ashley Megan Hodges of Midland; Clifton Connor Williams and Chelsea Rae Williams of Brentwood, Tenn.; Alexander Reagan Williams and Maxwell Malone Williams, both of Houston; and Karleigh Shae Jones of Wolfforth.

Mrs. Williams was preceded in death by her husband, Burlon Hendrix Williams on May 10, 1999; her parents: Arthur Dick Harmon and Myrtle Gray Harmon; one brother: Arthur Dick Harmon, Jr.; and one sister: Juanita Sewell McMahon.

Pallbearers will be Royce Reagan Williams, Clifton Chad Williams, Kyle Jason Jones, Steve Dwayne Hodges and Thomas William McQueary.

The family requests memorial gifts be directed to the East Fourth Street Baptist Church, Building Fund, 401 E. Fourth Street, Big Spring 79720.

Mrs. Williams was a member of East Fourth Street Baptist Church for 60 years. The church records reflect her date of baptism as Aug. 25, 1945.

Family members will receive friends at Myers & Smith Funeral Home on Monday from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Myers & Smith Funeral Home is located at 301 East 24th Street in Big Spring.

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

Paid Obituary

Jo Ruth Watkins



Jo Ruth Watkins, 71, of Big Spring died Sunday morning, May 15, 2005, at her residence following a short illness. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Ross Cemetery in Baird with the Rev. Jeff Janca, pastor of Forsan Baptist Church, officiating. The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born March 25, 1934, in Oplin to Hazel Beatrice and William Carroll Lofton. Mrs. Watkins had lived in Howard County for more than 50 years. She lived in Mitchell County for the last 11 years, returning here in September 2004. She was a licensed vocational nurse, receiving her training at the Medical Arts Hospital in Big Spring. She later worked a number of years at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. After retiring from the V.A., she worked in nursing homes in Colorado City and Loraine. She enjoyed the outdoors, camping and the lake. Other hobbies were arts and crafts and crocheting. Not only was she an Oakland Raiders fan, but the greatest fan of her grandchildren and great-grandsons.

Mrs. Watkins was a Baptist. She is survived by two daughters: Paula Henry and her husband Neal, and Lana Henderson and her husband Eddie, all of Big Spring; four grandchildren: Tessa Reid and her husband Jody of Coahoma; Jason Henry and Blaine Henderson, both of Big Spring; and Sgt. Heath Henderson, U.S. Marine Corps, Hawaii, and his fiancée Katy Fisk of Dallas; and two great-grandsons: Reagan Reid and Ryan Reid, both of Coahoma.

The family wishes to express special thanks to Home Hospice, Brandi Calvio, Dr. Gus Gross, and other Health Care Providers.

The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 111 E. 7th St., Big Spring, Texas 79720.

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

Paid Obituary

James Banks

James L. Banks, 78, died on Sunday, May 15, 2005 in a local hospital. Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park, Big Spring.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory, Big Spring.

L.R. Shoemaker

L.R. Shoemaker, 76, of Stanton, died Sunday, May 15, 2005, in a Midland hospital. Services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Take note

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

Weather

Today — Decreasing clouds. Areas of fog in the morning. Isolated showers in the morning. Warmer. Highs in the upper 70s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Warmer. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 20 to 25 mph decreasing to 10 to 20 mph after midnight.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s.

Thursday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s. Thursday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s.

Friday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s. Friday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Saturday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. Saturday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s.

Sunday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-29-36-39-40. Bonus Ball: 25.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$63 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 13-17-18-19-27. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$34,109.

Winning tickets sold in: Houston. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 9-0-8

Support groups

MONDAY
Encourager's Support Group for widows and widowers begins at 6 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Rannels streets. Enter through the north door. Please bring a covered dish. Call 398-5522 for more information.

TUESDAY
The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

THURSDAY
Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. Call 263-8273 for more information.

Police blotter

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

• SYLVIA ORTIZ, 37, Lamesa, was arrested on a hold for the Howard County Sheriff's Office.

• DONNA LEE POTTER, 44, 4402 Elder Rd., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

• ROY DALE HUTCHESON, 21, 505 Goliad St., was arrested on a charge of theft.

• VIRGIL ALLEN BUCHANAN, 28, 4318 Wasson Rd., was arrested on a Howard County warrant and charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• SONIA MICHELLE BARLOW, 25, 4216 Parkway Rd., was arrested on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon and possession of drug paraphernalia.

• KEVIN DWAYN RODGERS, 31, 3112 Anderson Rd., was arrested on a charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon.

• ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported on the 1500 block of Kentucky Way.

• CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported on the 2500 block of Ent Street and the 800 block of 14th Street.

• BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported on the 800 block of Creighton Street.

• BURGLARY OF A BUILDING was reported on the 700 block of E. Third Street.

• DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED was reported on the 800 block of Fourth Street and the 2000 block of Fourth Street.

• DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED was reported on the 300 block of Fourth Street.

• EVADING ARREST/DETENTION was reported on the 2500 block of Seminole Street and the 800 block of Fifth Street.

• THEFT was reported on the 1700 block of FM 700, the 2000 block of Johnson Street, the 1100 block of Lamesa Highway, the 1200 block of 11th Place, the 1500 block of E. 16th Street, the 200 block of Marcy Drive, the 400 block of Birdwell Lane and the 1800 block of FM 700.

Bulletin board

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

MONDAY
• The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

• Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.

Sheriff's report

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

• JUSTIN SPEER, 29, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.

• CHRISTOPHER SCOTT HOHERTZ, 30, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana.

• REBECCA VILLALOBOS, 28, was arrested on a charge of theft of service.

• JOE LOPEZ CHAVEZ III, 35, was arrested on a charge of interfering with public duties.

• HEATH WEGNER, 26, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, unlawfully carrying a weapon and possession of marijuana.

• BOBBY JOE MCCORMICK, 55, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• DANIEL PAUL LOPEZ, 26, was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• VICTOR FLORES, 33, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• JOSHUA VALENZUELA, 18, was arrested on a charge of evading arrest/detention.

• ROBIN GATEWOOD, 44, was arrested on a violation of parole warrant.

• TY JERMAINE BANKS, 22, was arrested on warrant charging burglary of a habitation.

• SYLVIA ORTIZ, 27, was arrested on charges of interfering with public duties and resisting arrest.

• HOWARD BRANDON JOHNSON, was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• JIMMY GALE HOPPER, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• JOSEPH EDWARD OLVERA, 18, was arrested on a charge of consumption of alcohol by a minor.

• MARCUS ORTIZ, 24, was arrested on a Harris County warrant charging aggravated sexual assault of a child.

• BOBBY GENE PARKER JR., 31, was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and driving while license invalid.

Fire/EMS

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

• MEDICAL was reported on the 2500 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported on the 2000 block of Virginia Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported at the intersection of Westover and Lancaster streets. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported on the 200 block of W. Marcy Drive. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported on the 1200 block of Mulberry Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• TRAUMA was reported on the 2600 block of S. Anderson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported on the 1800 block of Old Colorado City Highway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported on the 1000 block of N. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• MEDICAL was reported on the 3700 block of Boulder Street. Service was refused.

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House, Senate prepare to begin negotiation on school finance

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — It's all over but the shouting.

After two years spent grappling with the vexing school funding dilemma, now comes the hard part. A select group of Texas lawmakers and leaders of both chambers begin delicate negotiations Monday with less than two weeks left to get the job done.

Personality conflicts and tensions between leaders have already surfaced and seem unavoidable as the legislative session nears its end.

Both chambers have approved different plans for restructuring the way Texas pays for public K-12 education. They must now work out the differences to craft a final piece of legislation to send to Gov. Rick Perry.

While the bills are more similar than some lawmakers and political observers anticipated, significant differences remain.

"I've been optimistic from day one, and I'm even more optimistic," said Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst. "If we don't reach an agreement on school finance, it won't be because of the hard work and the willingness to sit down and engage in good-faith negotiations on the part of the Senate."

Funding for the \$30 billion public school system was deemed an emergency issue at the start of the session in January. A judge ruled the current system unconstitutional and has ordered

an October closure of public schools if the system isn't fixed. The state has appealed the ruling to the Texas Supreme Court, and a July 6 hearing is set.

"The short timeline is really going to put a lot of pressure on the conferees as they begin working on this piece of legislation," said Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick. "We are dedicated to working around the clock to get the job done, but with only two weeks left in the session, we've got a difficult challenge ahead of us."

Five lawmakers from each chamber will be appointed to each of two conference committees — one to consider classroom changes and another to address the new taxes to pay for education spending and school property tax relief.

Legislative rules require negotiators to consider only measures contained in the two bills already approved.

Here's a look at some of the key differences conference committees face.

NEW MONEY FOR SCHOOLS

The sides are close on the amount of new money — \$2.8 billion in the Senate plan, \$3 billion in the House. They differ on the source of the new money. The Senate wants to use some of the money generated through new taxes, but the House wants the new taxes used exclusively to fund property tax relief. The House believes it can find the new money in other parts of the budget,

including the Rainy Day Fund.

LOCAL SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The House plan cuts school property taxes by a third — from the current cap of \$1.50 per \$100 property value, to \$1. Homeowners wouldn't see a benefit until the fall of 2006.

The Senate plan offers less relief, but it would kick in this year at a rate of \$1.15. By 2007, the rate would be lowered to \$1.10.

Whatever amount of property tax relief lawmakers decide on, they'll have to find about \$110 million per penny to replace it, most of it from new taxes.

RESTRUCTURED BUSINESS TAX

How Texas employers pay their taxes will likely be the most difficult part of House-Senate negotiations.

Both measures would tighten the loophole-ridden franchise tax to require all businesses to pay. Each bill also gives employers an option of the tax formula they like best.

The House plan does not specify a minimum amount, but the Senate has introduced a minimum tax requirement — known as a floor — based on a percentage of the gross receipts of a business. House negotiators have indicated they'll oppose any tax on gross receipts.

Sen. Ken Brimer, a Fort Worth Republican who crafted the Senate's business tax provision, said putting a floor in the business tax is necessary to accurately predict how much revenue

can be generated from any plan.

CONSUMER TAXES

Both chambers want to increase the sales and cigarette taxes but differ on how much. Among the varying proposals, the House wants a 3 percent tax on snacks, while the Senate has proposed a 25 percent increase in the alcohol excise tax. The House has opposed an increase on the alcohol tax.

CLASSROOM CHANGES

The two chambers are closer on the changes they'd like to see in the classroom. Among the differences: the House would scrap the exit-level Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills in favor of end-of-course exams; the Senate would maintain the 11th grade TAKS graduation requirement. Both chambers would require high school students to take college-entrance exams such as the SAT, but the House plan would pay for the testing.

The Senate plan also would establish a college-readiness "pipeline" by ensuring that students who take the recommended curriculum in high school graduate with some college credit.

The Senate is tougher on Texas charter schools, proposing to dissolve all charter schools by Aug. 1, 2006 and giving them new status as public charter districts. The schools will qualify for state money for new buildings but would face more rigid accountability guidelines.

TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Defense to open its case in Abu Ghraib abuse trial

FORT HOOD (AP) — Lawyers for Spc. Sabrina Harman probably won't call reputed Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse ringleader Pvt. Charles Graner Jr. to the witness stand.

Harman lawyer Frank Spinner said Saturday that some of the prosecution witnesses called last week — most notably, Pvt. Ivan Frederick II — provided the testimony that he would have sought from Graner and he is not likely to call the convicted co-defendant in Harman's trial on charges of mistreating detainees at the Iraqi prison.

Spinner said Harman's defense case, to open Monday morning, would take about a day to present to the jury of four Army officers and four senior enlisted soldiers. He said he planned to call roughly a half-dozen witnesses, though he wouldn't identify them.

Harman, a one-time pizza shop manager from Lorton, Va., is the second service member to go on trial on charges that she took part in mistreating detainees. Graner, the first soldier tried, was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Harman could face up to 6 1/2 years if convicted of conspiracy to maltreat detainees, five counts of mistreating detainees and dereliction of duty.

Sens. Hutchison, Cornyn vow to fight to save facilities

TEXARKANA (AP) — Asserting that military bases in Texas are vital to national defense and homeland security, the state's two U.S. senators vowed Sunday a fight to save facilities the Pentagon targeted for closure.

Republican Sens. John Cornyn and Kay Bailey Hutchison visited local officials in four cities that would be among those hardest hit by the Department of Defense's list of military bases recommended for closure or realignment.

The Red River Army Depot and Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant near Texarkana, Naval Station Ingleside and Brooks City Base in San Antonio have been recommended for closure. Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls is set to be realigned, which officials there said would cost the city 2,624 jobs.

"This is not the beginning of the end," Cornyn said.

Hutchison tried to reassure Texarkana

officials by pointing out that 15 percent of the 1995 recommendations were ultimately changed by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Pilot program would allow farmers to shoot deer out of season

AUSTIN (AP) — Some West Texas farmers complaining of damage by crop-eating deer may get the authority to eliminate their problem as part of a pilot program.

State Rep. Scott Campbell had wanted to help farmers statewide with a bill to streamline the process allowing farmers to shoot deer out of season. Under the current system, the process usually takes too long to help farmers protect an existing crop.

The bill failed, but state Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, stepped in and said he will ask the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to launch a pilot study in the San Angelo area.

Hilderbran, as chairman of the House Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee, can do just that.

The study would be set up the same as it would have been under Campbell's bill, allowing farmers who obtain state permits to shoot deer that eat and dam-

age cotton and other valuable crops.

Some farmers have lost \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of cotton in a field because of deer that eat the young plants, said Jerry Multer, president of the Wall Co-Op Gin southeast of San Angelo.

"I wanted to be able to help the farmers in the whole state having the same problem," said Campbell, R-San Angelo. "But at least we can get our guys in my district taken care of."

The pilot program could take effect later this year.

Black pedestrians stopped three times more often

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Police officers stopped black pedestrians last year three times more often than Hispanics or whites in San Antonio.

Once stopped, black and Hispanic pedestrians were searched close to half the time, yet police found contraband 22 percent of the time.

The findings come from an examination of police records by the San Antonio Express-News. The statistics, collected by the San Antonio Police Department in compliance with state law, covered 216,707 officer-initiated contacts in 2004.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

McEwen said previous studies lead him to believe the Settles will be found structurally sound, but the possibility the building may not get a clean bill of health could spell the end for the downtown landmark.

"I feel fairly certain the reports will show it to be structurally sound," said

McEwen. "However, if it's not, it will certainly be a concern we'll have to look at. The building would have to either be fixed or we would have to get rid of it."

Also on the council agenda is:

- Final reading of an ordinance granting a partial residence homestead exemption and exemptions for residents over 65 and disabled.

- Final reading of an ordinance providing for a

20 percent penalty to defray cost of collecting delinquent taxes.

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute contracts and agreements with the state of Texas for improvements to the Mc Mahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

- Approve plans and specifications and permission to advertise for bids for the sanitary sewer improvements for the Capehart Addition.

- Approve plans and specifications and permission to advertise for bids for the waste water treatment plan final clarifier.

- Emergency reading of an ordinance canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the May 7 general election.

- First reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute a contract with the caretaker for Moss Lake.

- First reading of a resolution authorizing the

mayor to execute an agreement with the West Texas Water Ski Club.

- First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement with the Big Spring YMCA.

- Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a quitclaim deed to Lee Harris covering a 5 acre tract of land.

- Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing the submission of a grant

application to the Texas parks and Wildlife department for the Texas Recreational Trails Fund.

- Discussion of a proposed vandalism reward.

The meeting will get under way at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth Street.

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

BILL

Continued from Page 1A

starting the school year earlier."

Local control also is a big reason that Johnson opposes the later start date. Individual school districts should be able to tailor the school year to best fit local customs and traditions, he said.

Forsan's 2005-06 schedule calls for the first semester to end on Dec. 20, while allowing break days for the Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Starting the school year after Labor Day would result in either pushing the end of the first semester beyond Christmas vacation, or severely curtailing other holiday breaks, Johnson said.

"We feel that education

has become stressful enough for students, teachers and parents as it is," Johnson said. "Having these breaks during the school year ... helps keep the pressure level down."

"We could take out the Columbus Day break, and cut short the Thanksgiving break, but those have been traditions here," he said. "If we start cutting those breaks down, my expectation is that parents will still take that time off. In that case, absences will go up."

Johnson also doubts that big savings will arise from avoiding an August start to the school year.

"When school's not in session, that doesn't mean that the building is shut down," Johnson said. "Teachers and other support staff are there (in August), getting ready for

the school year, as are other support personnel ... It appears that people are under the assumption that the building shuts down when school's out — and that's not the case."

Carr, whose district will begin the 2005-06 school year on Aug. 15, also doubts Strayhorn's assertion that adding two weeks of vacation time in August will provide a big boost in tourism dollars.

"I fail to see how that's going to happen," he said. "If you start school two weeks later, and get out two weeks later, (summer vacation) is still going to be the same amount of time ... We're not going to extend summer vacation by two weeks."

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

JOBS

Continued from Page 1A

Having recently completed the Howard County Job Fair, which showcased nearly 50 area businesses and employers, Belew said the face of employment in the area is taking on a very positive look.

GRADS

Continued from Page 1A

Chicago, majoring in elementary education. She is a two-year member of the NHS, and has been named to Who's Who Among American High School Students.

She is a member of the FHS student council, speech and debate team, band and Spanish club. She was a regional quali-

"That kind of response tells us our business community is dedicated to the survival of our economy," said Belew. "It should demonstrate to the region that we have numerous opportunities here."

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

fier in University Interscholastic League competition in computer applications, informative speaking and mathematics.

Forsan High School will hold graduation ceremonies at 8 p.m. May 26 at the high school gymnasium.

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

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Kathleen B. Williams, 89, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 until 8 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Jo Ruth Watkins, 71, died Sunday. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Ross Cemetery in Baird. The family will receive friends from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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

Take a bow,
Relay for Life
volunteers!

Once again, Howard and Glasscock counties, you've proven that nothing is impossible. That's because the Howard-Glasscock chapter of the American Cancer Society and hundreds of walkers combined to make the 2004 Relay For Life the biggest ever in Big Spring.

That's right, by Saturday morning's closing ceremonies, Relay co-chairs Phyllis and Jeff Turney announced that this year's event had raised \$175,595.

The money raised by the Relay For Life goes directly to the American Cancer Society.

It comes back to Howard and Glasscock counties in the form of services, education and treatment for local residents.

As always, Relay for Life events will continue throughout the month, then the committee will have its total wrap up.

But today, all of you in Howard and Glasscock counties who continue to help make Relay for Life a success need to go ahead and take a bow.

You've all earned it.

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

ADDRESSES

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President
The White House
Washington, D.C.
- **JOHN CORNYN**
U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510-4305
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- **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District)
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722
- **RICK PERRY**
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000
- **KAY BAILEY HUTCHINSON**
U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922
- **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
- **HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
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Statistics: Tax relief has worked

Nobody likes someone who says "I told you so," but I have to admit I am mighty tempted to say it anyway after hearing the latest economic news. Government revenues for April 2005 were 29 percent higher than they were a year ago. As a result, the Department of Treasury will be paying down \$42 billion in debt in the April-June quarter.

The good news was compounded with the news that 274,000 jobs were added in April, reducing the unemployment level from 5.5 percent a year ago to 5.2 percent. These Department of Labor statistics showed stronger-than-expected employment growth.

This news is welcome vindication of tax relief passed by Congress and signed by President Bush starting in 2001. When I joined my colleagues in passing tax relief for hard-working Americans, we were accused of busting the budget. Many critics painted a rather dark picture of our economic prospects, even though we had based our legislation on America's long experience of seeing tax reductions spur economic growth and higher government revenues. In fact, according to data collected by the Congressional Budget Office, total federal revenues in 2004 were higher than those for 2002.

The first modern example was the tax relief passed by Congress under President John F. Kennedy in the 1960s. That tax relief sparked a long economic boom. President Ronald Reagan passed substantial tax relief which started an economic expansion which lasted, with one interruption, into the presidency of William Clinton, who signed increases in taxes. President George W. Bush inherited a stalled economy which he believed would benefit from tax reductions.

I supported the tax relief packages because they removed many unfair provisions in the code. I led the fight and authored the legislation to eliminate the Marriage Penalty, which taxed married couples at a higher rate than unmarried couples. We increased the tax deduction for children. Perhaps the most important part of the relief package is that it reduced marginal rates, so every American who pays income taxes got relief.

Economists report that the Gross Domestic Product measurement of the economy has improved as a result of the tax relief. GDP in 2002, the first year relief took hold, increased by 1.9 percent. In 2003 growth accelerated to 3 percent. By 2004, the economy averaged an extremely high annual growth rate of 4.4 percent. The preliminary growth figures for the first quarter of 2005 shows a healthy growth rate of 3.1 percent despite sharply higher energy prices.

President Reagan was fond of saying that a rising tide lifts all boats to illustrate the fact that economic

growth provides better jobs, a higher standard of living and more government revenue. He was right. Economic growth, spurred by lower taxes, increases the total government revenues even when taxes have been decreased.

Some may wonder how it can be that the U.S. deficit has increased even though tax relief boosted the economy and thereby raised revenue. The answer is government spending has increased at an even faster rate. After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, our nation has had to invest heavily in improved security as well as prosecute a war against terrorists in Afghanistan and Iraq. I do not begrudge these expenditures. They were necessary to make the United States safer. But we must work to rein in unnecessary spending.

The recent good financial news strengthens my resolve to work to make our tax relief permanent. Much of the tax relief we passed was scheduled to sunset, or end, in 2010. I would like to see tax relief, particularly marginal rate reductions, capital gains tax reductions, abolition of the Death Tax on inheritance and Marriage Penalty tax relief made permanent.

You have heard the old expression, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. I would like to add, when it comes to tax relief, if it ain't broke, and it is working great, then don't end it.

Kay Bailey Hutchinson is a Republican U.S. senator from Texas.

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School Choice: Lessons from other countries

Debates about how to reform American education seldom consider the experiences of other nations. In the United States, the federal government is trying to force reform on schools through the No Child Left Behind Act. States and teachers unions are in open revolt against the act's requirements. Utah recently passed a law that would place state law above federal guidelines. Meanwhile, many countries have moved ahead of the United States by rejecting the top-down approach to education. Quite a few of these nations are producing promising results.

In the Netherlands, nearly 76 percent of school-age children attend private schools with state money going to the chosen school. Sweden and Denmark also have liberal school choice policies with school funding following children whose parents choose private schools. In all three countries, student performance is higher than in the United States, where 15-year-olds scored twenty-first on mathematics literacy and twelfth in science, according to international performance audits.

School choice also exists in Chile, where 46 percent of students enroll in private schools. Even some former communist countries such as Hungary and the Czech Republic allow parents to pay for private

schools with public funds.

Whenever school choice programs are proposed in the United States, they face fierce opposition from critics who claim that school choice benefits mostly wealthy parents, drains money from the public system, and segregates students into racial or economic groups.

But the experiences of countries that have experimented with school choice indicate that these claims are unfounded. In most cases, the main beneficiaries have been poor families living in inner cities. In Hungary, where vouchers were introduced after the fall of communism, most new private schools have emerged in poor inner-city or rural areas, where access to good public schools is most limited.

Although private schools receive public funds on a per-child basis, they typically cost less than what the government pays to educate children in the public system. When more children choose private schools, public schools actually have more money to spend on students.

In Alberta, Canada, where children can attend either a private or public school, public schools have improved the quality and diversity of their programs. They have also focused more attention on parental satisfaction and academic outcomes. As a result, Alberta public schools continue to attract the bulk of local students.

Rather than segregate students into racial, educational, or economic groups, school choice seems to do just the opposite.

In Sweden, the share of immi-

grant students from poor families has increased in the popular inner-city schools that were once predominately upper class. In addition, students with special needs take advantage of school choice on an equal basis with regular students. Many regular independent schools in Sweden educate special needs children, and surveys show that parents like the private schools better. The Swedish system of school choice has led to an impressive expansion of independent schools, resulting in a wider variety of school types and educational programs than had existed previously.

Scholars who have studied the various types of educational systems in Europe conclude that students seem to perform better in countries where more schools are privately managed and where a larger share of the enrollment is in such schools.

Americans should learn from these examples study evidence before accepting claims that school choice doesn't help poor families, creates segregation, or harms public schools. The experiences of other countries show that choice has beneficial effects all around, especially if public schools are given increased autonomy and flexibility.

David Salisbury is director of the Center for Educational Freedom at the Cato Institute and editor of the new Cato book *What America Can Learn from School Choice in Other Countries*.



Phyllis Turney
thanks every
Saturday.



Scenic Mount
Relay For Life.

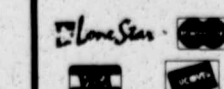


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Relay For Life: A good time for good cause



Herald photo/Thomas Jenkins
Phyllis Turney, chairperson for the Big Spring Relay For Life, thanks everyone who participated in the event Friday and Saturday.



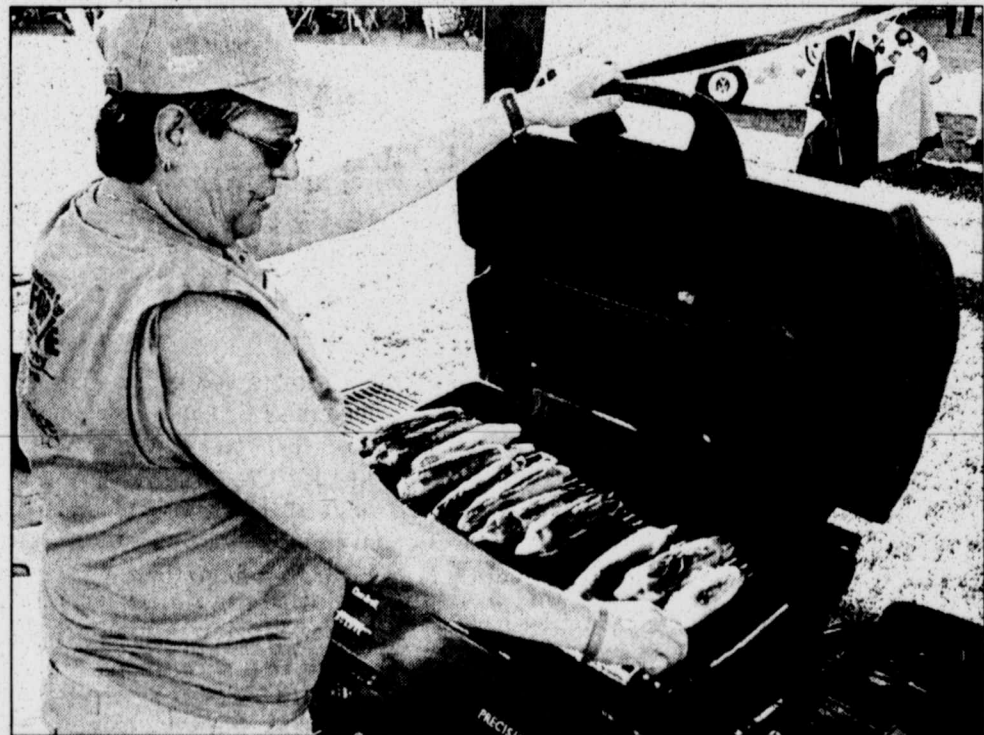
Herald photo/Thomas Jenkins
Members of the Glasscock County 4-H Club won the team award for most laps at the annual Big Spring Relay for Life Saturday at Blankenship Field. The team completed 217 circuits around the track.



Herald photo/Thomas Jenkins
Scenic Mountain Medical Center won the team award for most money raised at this year's Relay For Life. The group raised \$11,168.



Herald photo/Thomas Jenkins
Wal-Mart's team walked away with the Spirit Award at this year's Relay for Life event Saturday at Blankenship Field.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Gloria Dominguez, a member of the Mag Dough team, flips several ears of corn at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, which took over Blankenship Field Friday and Saturday.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Pat Carnahan, right, Alex Park and Bryan Sayles, all part of the Carrie's Crusaders Relay for Life team, get ready by setting up a canopy Friday afternoon at Blankenship Field.

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Kellogg's Corn Flakes.....	\$2 ¹⁹ 18-OZ.
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Assorted Kraft Dressings.....	2/\$5 ⁰⁰ 16-OZ.
Crisco Oil Assorted Blends.....	2/\$5 ⁰⁰ 48-OZ.
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Each side claims to have enough support in fight over judges

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Amid talk of a possible compromise, the Senate's second-most powerful Republican and Democrat each claimed on Sunday to have enough support for their side's position as the chamber neared a showdown over the minority party's right to block a president's judicial nominees.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., intends this week to call up for a vote the first of the blocked nominees — Texas judge Priscilla Owen and

California judge Janice Rogers Brown. Bush nominated both for federal judgeships during his first term, but they and five others were blocked by Democrats.

Should Democrats move this week to block either Brown or Owen, and Republicans fail to break the filibuster, Frist then would call for the Senate to vote on whether to ban use of filibusters against judicial nominees.

Both sides said Sunday they had the votes to prevail, even as they acknowledged that several middle-of-the-road Republicans

had yet to say publicly how they would vote.

"I haven't given up on the possibility that we might have 60 votes, including some Democrats who've been whispering in our ears that they believe that this ought to be defused," Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the chief GOP vote counter, said on "Fox News Sunday."

Republicans hold 55 seats in the 100-member Senate. Democrats have 44, plus one Democrat-leaning independent.

Frist needs a minimum of 50 votes to abolish judicial fili-

busters. Vice President Dick Cheney would provide the tie-breaking vote in his constitutional role as president of the Senate.

Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the Democrats' vote counter, said his party was united. He said he also expected to pick up GOP support from some of those who have yet to signal how they would vote.

"We feel that there are at least four Republican senators who feel as we do and we feel that there are several who are making up their minds at the last moment," Durbin said.

But McConnell said that should negotiations fail and the vote to end a filibuster fall short, "I believe we will have the votes" to ban the use of filibusters against nominees for judgeships.

Others seemed to be holding out hope for an 11th-hour compromise.

"I believe that, as reasonable people, as we have in the past in the Senate, we should sit down together and work this out," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who has broken with his party on the issue, told ABC's "This Week."

Newsweek apologizes for Quran story that sparked protests in Afghanistan

By **DINO HAZELL**
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — In an apology to readers this week, Newsweek acknowledged errors in a story alleging U.S. interrogators at Guantanamo Bay desecrated the Quran. The accusations, which the magazine vowed to re-examine, spawned protests in Afghanistan that left 15 dead and scores injured.

Responding to harsh criticism from Muslim leaders worldwide, the Pentagon promised to investigate the charges and pinned the deadly clashes on Newsweek for what it described as "irresponsible" reporting.

"We regret that we got any part of our story wrong, and extend our sympathies to victims of the violence and to the U.S. soldiers caught in its midst," Editor Mark Whitaker wrote in the apology.

Newsweek reported that U.S. military investigators had found evidence that interrogators placed copies of Islam's holy book in washrooms and had flushed one down the toilet to get inmates to talk.

Whitaker wrote that the magazine's information came from "a knowledgeable U.S. government source," and writers Michael Isikoff and John Barry had sought comment from two Defense Department officials. One declined to respond, and the other challenged another part of the story but did not dispute the Quran charge, Whitaker said.

But on Friday, a top Pentagon spokesman told the magazine that a review of the military's investigation concluded "it was never meant to look into charges of Quran desecration. The spokesman also said the Pentagon had investigated other desecration charges by detainees and found them 'not credible.'"

Whitaker added that the magazine's original source later said he could not be sure he read about the alleged Quran incident in the report Newsweek cited, and that it might have been in another document.

"Top administration officials have promised to continue looking into the charges, and so will we," Whitaker wrote.

Newsweek Washington Bureau Chief Daniel Klaidman said the magazine believes it erred in reporting the allegation that a prison guard tried to flush the Quran down a toilet and that military investigators had con-

firmed the accusation. "The issue here is to get the truth out, to acknowledge as quickly as possible what happened, and that's what we're trying

to do," Klaidman told the "CBS Evening News" on Sunday. Many of the 520 inmates at Guantanamo are Muslims arrested during

the U.S.-led war against the Taliban and its allies in Afghanistan. Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said the

original story was "demonstrably false" and "irresponsible," and "had significant consequences that reverberated through Muslim communities

around the world." "Newsweek hid behind anonymous sources, which by their own admission do not withstand scrutiny," he said.

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Physicals given at Auditorium May 21 at seventh gr rent sixth 10:15 a.m. graders (cu graders) an for current students th grade. Phy end promp a.m. for all.

Coahoma all-sports l

Coahoma announced sports ba take place the high sc ria.

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For mor tion or to tickets, Coahoma F Office at 39-

Also, the Athletic B would like t a meeting members fo

The me take place at 8 p.m. school cafet

Sorenstan to 10-stro

(AP) — Sorenstan 10-stroke v Chick-fil-A Champions Sunday, s bogey-free turned the into nothing an 18-hole She finishe under 265 Eagle's Country Cl ing the big win of her Candie Ku second.

Czechs ca chances to hockey titl

VIENNA, (AP) — Rucinsky Vaclav Pro period goal one of his third to help Republic de its third st and win champions Sunday.

Tomas Vok the tournam goalie, mad The Czechs the gold sin Earlier in Maxim had two go assist to lea a 6-3 vic Sweden for medal.

IN BRIEF

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).

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

Physicals will be given at the BSIS 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 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.

Sorenstam cruises to 10-stroke victory

(AP) — Annika Sorenstam cruised to a 10-stroke win in the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship on Sunday, shooting a bogey-free 67 that turned the final round into nothing more than an 18-hole victory lap. She finished with a 23-under 265 total at Eagle's Landing Country Club, matching the biggest 72-hole win of her career. Candie Kung finished second.

Czechs cash in chances to win hockey title

(AP) — Martin Rucinsky set up Vaclav Prospal's first-period goal and scored one of his own in the third to help the Czech Republic deny Canada its third straight title and win the world championship 3-0 Sunday.

Tomas Vokoun, named the tournament's best goalie, made 29 saves. The Czechs hadn't won the gold since 2001.

Earlier in the day, Maxim Afinogenov had two goals and an assist to lead Russia to a 6-3 victory over Sweden for the bronze medal.

It's a Red and White sweep for Coahoma



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma junior Liz Conley attempts to throw a runner during the Bulldogettes' win over Crane in the Area Championship round of the playoffs. The Bulldogettes eliminated Hawley and now advance to face Holliday.

Bulldogettes rebound to eliminate Hawley

• Coahoma advances to face Holliday in regional semifinals; site and time TBD

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

ABILENE — It took a little longer than expected, but once the Coahoma softball team got going they managed to really get going.

The Bulldogettes led 3-2 through five innings but broke the game open in the final two innings and went on to win Game 3 of a best-of-three series, 10-2, against rival Hawley and advanced to the regional semifinals next week against Holliday.

Coahoma coach Robby Dickenson expects that game or series to be played in Abilene. He added that he will try to get Holliday officials to agree to a best-of-three series.

Junior Kali Roberts, after throwing 13 innings in a Game 1 loss against Hawley Friday, came back and pitched Coahoma (21-10) to the victory Saturday. She

allowed two hits and two unearned runs, while striking out nine and walking none. She improved to 14-4 on the season.

"She pitched a strong game," said Dickenson. "Honestly, I think she pitched better than yesterday."

Roberts was also perfect at

the plate for Coahoma. She went 4-for-4 with an RBI.

Junior Liz Conley went three-for-four from the plate and had an RBI and a run. Junior Ashle New had two hits — both doubles — including a three-run double in the sixth.

Junior Sarah Dunn and freshman Krista Kerby each added two runs for the Bulldogettes.

"We stranded several runners on base early in the game and it was beginning to look a

"I told the girls to expect to play three games in the series because you never know what could happen. I think they handled the pressure of losing the first game well."

Robby Dickerson
Coahoma coach

lot like the first game of the series, but then we finally hit some gaps and got some hits to drop in the sixth and seventh innings," said Dickenson.

Coahoma's 10 runs were scored in bunches. The Bulldogettes scored three runs in the second inning

and never trailed from that point on. Hawley grabbed two unearned runs in the fourth inning, but then Coahoma came back to score three runs in the sixth and four in the seventh.

"I told the girls to expect to play three games in the series because you never know what could happen," said Dickenson. "I think they handled the pressure of

losing the first game well." The Bulldogettes will play Holliday next week, but information for that contest have not yet been finalized.

Coahoma knocks out Junction to advance

• Bulldogs to face Early in next round of baseball playoffs; series in San Angelo

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — The Coahoma baseball team evened out its overall record Saturday after a win in Game 2 of a best-of-three area championship series against Junction.

They had to survive a seventh inning scare from the Eagles, but got out of a bases loaded jam and won the game, 4-3, to advance to the regional quarterfinals against Early.

"There was no stand out player in the game as the win was a total team effort," said Coahoma coach Brad Harmon. "We made some errors behind Tad early, but we were able to settle down as the game went on."

Junction jumped out to a 2-0 lead with two unearned runs in the first inning and then scored its third run in the second inning, but then junior Tad White, who started and finished the game on the mound for Coahoma (12-12), shut down the Eagles in the final five innings.

"Tad pitched a great game," said Harmon. "We also did a great job of keeping the lead after we grabbed it in the fourth."

White gave up just one earned run and struck out nine batters, while giving up five hits and walking five. He also got out of a bases loaded jam in Junction's final at-bat. The Eagles had the bases full with no outs but White forced

two straight pop outs, including one by Weston Niemann (Junction's best hitter), to end the threat.

"That showed a lot of character in our team to be able to get out of that jam," said Harmon. "The fact that we got out of that gives the team confidence."

"I felt exhausted just from the seventh inning. It felt like it lasted forever."

The Bulldogs scored their first run in the second inning as sophomore Collin McMillan delivered an RBI triple, which scored senior Gene Corse. They added another run in the third inning as senior Chad Born scored on a sacrifice fly by senior Adrian Abrego.

Coahoma's first and last lead was grabbed in the fourth inning as the Bulldogs scored two runs. Corse scored one of those runs on an RBI single by Cody Griffith.

McMillan, Griffith and Born all had two hits each to lead Coahoma at the plate. Born also stole two bases and scored a run, while Griffith added a run, as well.

Corse scored twice as he walked and was hit by a pitch.

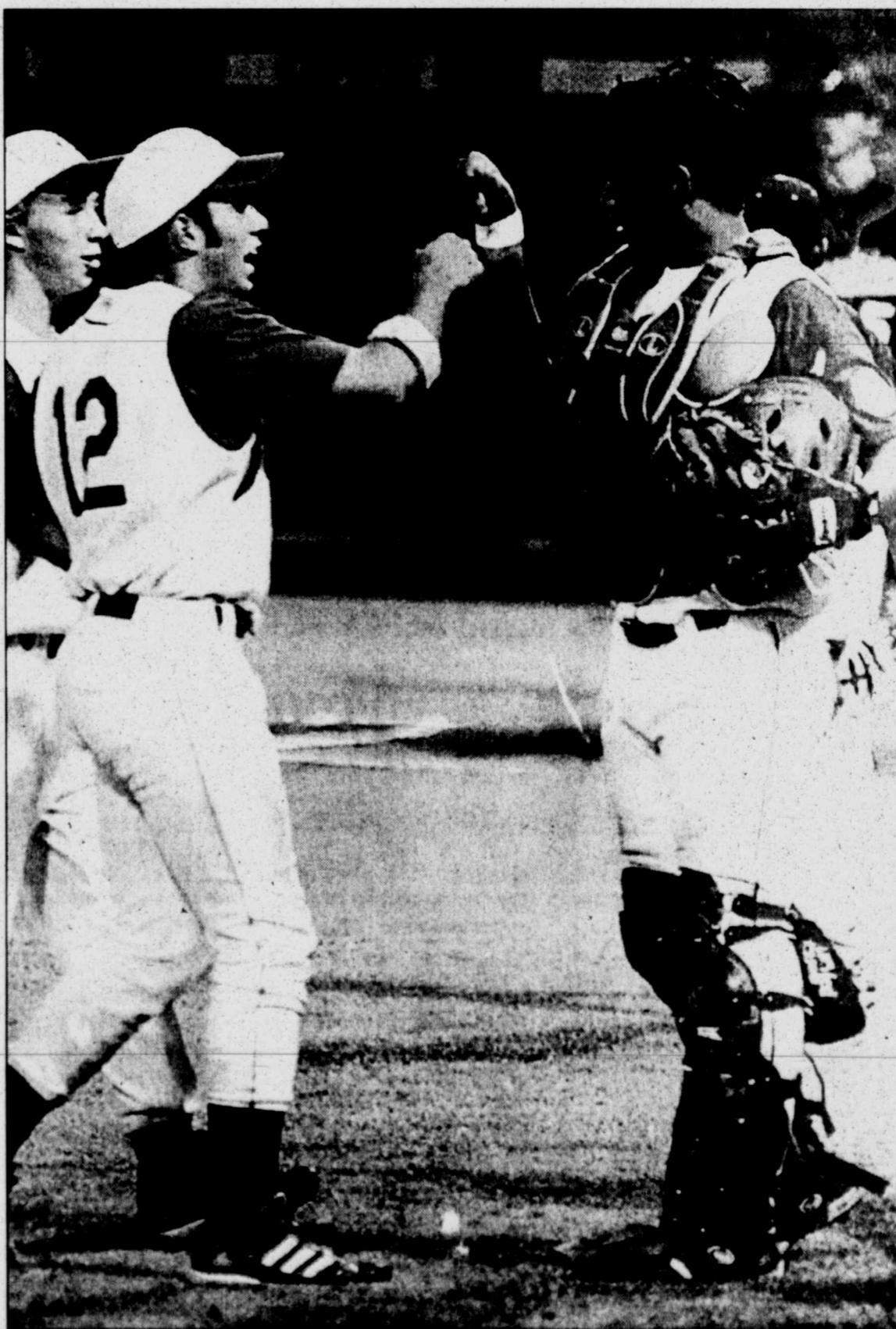
Coahoma will play a best-of-three series against Early this week.

The series begins at 7 p.m. Thursday at Foster Field (Colt Stadium) in San Angelo.

The second game will take place Saturday at 1 p.m. and if a third game is needed it will start 30 minutes after Game 2 Saturday.

"I also want to congratulate the girls for winning their series this weekend," said Harmon.

"It was nice to see both of us win and move on," he added.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma junior Cody Griffith, left, and senior Adrian Abrego celebrate the Bulldogs' Game 1 win Thursday against Junction during the Area Championship round of the playoffs. The Bulldogs swept Junction to earn the right to face Early in the regional semifinal round of the Class 2A state baseball playoffs.

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Mavs' 'energizer' powers Dallas to win

DALLAS (AP) — Josh Howard did exactly what Steve Nash used to do for the Dallas Mavericks.

Howard scored 29 points and had 10 rebounds in an all-around performance Sunday night, helping lead the Mavericks to a 119-109 victory over Nash and the Phoenix Suns. The Western Conference semifinal series is tied 2-2.

"He's our energizer. He was all over the place," Dirk Nowitzki said of Howard. "He's our best defender and does a great job of keeping the ball alive for us."

Nash scored a career playoff-high 48 points, and the most by anyone in the postseason this year, but the league MVP couldn't beat his former team by himself.

While Nash kept shooting jumpers, Howard was driving to the basket, scoring on layups, drawing fouls and grabbing six

offensive rebounds. He also had two steals and, unlike Nash, got plenty of help.

Nowitzki broke out of his postseason-long shooting slump with 25 points on 9-of-15 shots, and foul-plagued center Erick Dampier stayed on the floor long enough to score 13 points and grab 11 rebounds.

"Our energy was the difference," Howard said. "The guys came out with our backs against the wall, and the will to continue the series."

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Phoenix, and the series returns to Dallas for the last time Friday night.

While Nash made 20 of 28 shots, the Mavs finally stopped Amare Stoudemire, who had scored at least 30 points in three straight games with plenty of rim-rattling dunks — including seven Friday night when

the Suns won 119-102 in Dallas.

Stoudemire had more fouls (five) than field goals (three), none of them dunks, on Sunday night. He scored nine of his 15 points on free throws.

"We stuck with him a little more," Nowitzki said. "We had been helping on Nash, but this time we stuck with (Stoudemire) and made Nash finish."

Nash took advantage of the openings created when two or three defenders focused on Stoudemire.

He scored plenty of points, but wasn't able to share the ball the way he prefers with just five assists.

There were also nine turnovers, which like Nash's points, were the most ever by an opposing player against Dallas in the playoffs.

"They did a good job of

making us adjust," said Nash, who went from Dallas to Phoenix as a free agent last summer. "I don't think that was the key. We just got outplayed, we got outthusted. ... We gave up too many points and didn't play with enough energy and passion. That's what did us in."

Dampier had been criticized by Nowitzki earlier in the series because of his foul problems.

In five of the first 10 playoff games, Dampier had two fouls within the first five minutes, including the Game 3 loss.

Mavericks coach Avery Johnson had already decided that Dampier was going to keep playing in Game 4, if even he was in early foul trouble.

That wasn't a concern until after halftime.

"When they're saying you're the weak link, it's a great time to prove everybody wrong,"

Johnson said.

Dampier made all five of his shots for 10 points and eight rebounds by halftime, when Dallas led 66-50. His second foul didn't come until 2:15 remained in the first half and he played a postseason-high 32 minutes.

By the time Dampier missed his first shot and then had two fouls in an 11-second span early in the second half, he had already helped set a positive tone inside for Dallas and stopping Stoudemire.

"It was big for him to get his rhythm early and stay out of foul trouble," Nowitzki said. "We need his effectiveness under the basket, and clogging things up."

Nash scored 23 points in the third quarter, when he scored 16 straight for the Suns.

Still, Phoenix managed only to cut its deficit from 16 to 13 points during the seven minutes when Nash

was a one-man show.

The Suns got within 95-86 when Quentin Richardson drove for a slam dunk, but they wouldn't get any closer over the final 10 minutes.

Stackhouse had 22 points off the bench for the Mavericks.

Phoenix got no help from its reserves, with all but three points coming from the starters. Shawn Marion had 19 points and 12 rebounds.

Notes: Nowitzki entered shooting just 38 percent in the playoffs — his season average was 46 percent. He was 16-of-42 the last two games. ... Richardson was the only Suns starter to play less than 43 minutes, and had 13 points in 34 minutes. ... Nash's playoff high, set with Dallas was 31 points. The most he had this season was 33. ... Bonzi Wells had 46 points against Dallas for Portland in the playoffs two years ago. ...

O's figure out Chicago; Yanks streaking

(AP) — The Baltimore Orioles finally figured out how to slow down the Chicago White Sox. Now they have to worry about the surging New York Yankees.

Baltimore beat the White Sox 6-2 on Sunday, ending Chicago's record streak of holding a lead in all 37 games this season. The AL East-leading Orioles salvaged a split of the four-game series with the White Sox — the top team in the Central Division and the owners of baseball's best record at 27-11.

"The only streak I care about is the winning streak and the losing streak," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "It was nice to be in the book and it was a nice run. Hopefully, we'll start another one."

Chicago set a major league record for games led at the start of a season, and tied the 1934 Yankees and 1942 Cardinals for the third-longest overall streak.

The Orioles are one game ahead of the Boston Red Sox but the concern has to be with the Yankees, who are 5 1/2 games behind following a 6-4 victory over the Oakland Athletics that completed a three-game sweep and stretched New York's winning streak to eight games.

Oakland has dropped eight straight.

The Yankees, who have reached the postseason 10 straight years, seemed down and out last Saturday before they started their winning ways with consecutive shutouts over the A's at

home.

Now, they are 19-19 and right in the thick of things.

"We didn't really think (.500) would be here this soon, but we know it's not the ultimate goal," said Joe Torre, who became the 13th manager to win 1,800 games. "We've got to start thinking in terms of five games over. We have a lot of confidence now, and it's from the top to the bottom of the order."

The best part of it has been Tino Martinez — the suddenly slugging first baseman who took the everyday job away from Jason Giambi.

Martinez homered twice Sunday, giving him eight in eight games. He's connected in every game of the winning streak except Friday, when the Yankees started the series in Oakland.

"They're not like towering shots," said Martinez, tied with teammate Alex Rodriguez for the major league lead of 12 homers. "They're just barely getting over the fence, but I'll take it."

"They're pitching me inside, and I'm getting the ball out there."

Things are going so well for the Yankees that even Giambi is starting to contribute. Giambi doubled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and helped Randy Johnson to his 250th career win.

The amazing part about that is, the Big Unit didn't record a single strikeout, remaining at 4.211 — the third most in baseball history.

Johnson (4-2) allowed three runs in the first inning, but recovered to

pitch six innings.

"I didn't want to be the wheel that fell off the wagon," Johnson said of the winning streak. "(Not getting a strikeout) really wasn't important to me. I was so frustrated after the first inning and realizing I didn't have my best stuff. After that, you're trying to do damage control."

According to the Elias Sports Bureau, it was the longest appearance of Johnson's career without a strikeout, surpassing his three innings on April 10, 1989, with the Montreal Expos against Philadelphia.

Mariano Rivera earned his 342nd career save and moved past Ruffe Fingers for seventh place on baseball's career list.

Ricardo Rincon (1-1) took the loss for the A's, who are on their worst losing streak July 1998.

Mariners 5, Red Sox 4

At Seattle, struggling Miguel Olivo had three hits, including his first homer of the season, and the Mariners overcame Manny Ramirez's 400th homer.

Ramirez became the 39th player to reach the mark when his three-run shot in the fifth brought Boston within a run.

Gil Meche (3-2) got the win, and Eddie Guardado earned his 10th save for Seattle, which won a series for the first time since taking two of three at Texas from April 26-28.

Orioles 6, White Sox 2

At Chicago, Sal Fasano and David Newhan hit their first home runs in Baltimore's victory. Erik

Bedard (4-1) pitched seven innings and won his fourth straight decision.

Blue Jays 5, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Roy Halladay pitched 7 2-3 superb innings, and Vernon Wells hit a three-run homer as Toronto avoided a series sweep. Halladay (6-2) allowed five singles and used his fast-ball along with a nasty breaking ball to get 14 outs on grounders.

Angels 9, Tigers 3

At Detroit, Bengie Molina's three-run double capped a six-run third inning and John Lackey (4-2) won for the third time in four starts for Los Angeles. The Angels hadn't scored more than five runs since beating Oakland 9-5 on April 23, a span of 18 games.

Twins 5, Rangers 2

At Minneapolis, Shannon Stewart snapped a tie game with a three-run homer in the sixth inning, lifting Brad Radke and Minnesota.

Stewart drove in four runs for the Twins, who avoided their first three-game sweep of the season.

Royals 4, Devil Rays 3

At Kansas City, Mo., Alberto Castillo hit a tiebreaking, two-run triple and came home on Mark Hendrickson's balk, lifting the Royals to their first home series win of the season.

Angel Berroa had an inside-the-park home run in the third inning for the Royals, who won three of four from Tampa Bay, which dropped to 2-13 on the road.

Ensborg powers Houston past San Francisco

HOUSTON (AP) — Morgan Ensborg had his best game as a major leaguer on the night the Astros were forced to deal with discouraging news about Jeff Bagwell's injury.

Shortly after finding out that Bagwell will be out at least three months, Ensborg hit three home runs and Brandon Backe pitched a four-hitter for his first major league shutout, leading the Astros to a 9-0 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Sunday night.

"I think it's going to affect the ballclub a great deal," Ensborg said. "I think a lot of people don't understand what Jeff Bagwell's presence in the lineup means to us."

Ensborg hit a three-run homer in the first inning off Jeff Fassero, a solo homer off Jeremy Accardo in the fifth, and another solo shot in the seventh off Jason Christiansen in the 11th three-homer game by an Astros player.

The last to do it had been Richard Hidalgo on Sept. 3, 2003, against Colorado.

"This certainly was my best game in the big leagues. I was getting the right pitches, seeing the ball well and getting the right swing," Ensborg said. "It was really a fun game."

Bagwell had a pair of three-homer games in 1999, but he has been

robbed of much of his power because of the degenerative shoulder condition and has just three homers. He was placed on the disabled list Tuesday and the team announced Sunday that he will have surgery next month.

Bagwell's rehabilitation is expected to last three months. In the meantime, the Astros — who entered with an NL-low .243 batting average — could use more performances like Ensborg's.

"I hope we are a team that can take the momentum from tonight and start winning more games," Ensborg said. "That's what this is all about."

Backe (3-2) didn't allow an extra-base hit while throwing 114 pitches in the first shutout by a Houston pitcher since Roy Oswalt against Montreal last Aug. 6. Backe walked two and struck out six.

The Giants didn't have a hit until the fourth, when Omar Vizquel led off with a single. The closest San Francisco came to scoring was in the fifth, when Marquis Grissom walked and reached third with two outs on pinch-hitter Michael Tucker's single. "Early on, I didn't feel that great, but as the game went on I started to realize that something really good could happen," Backe said.

Purdy captures Byron Nelson title

IRVING (AP) — Ted Purdy sat next to tournament host Byron Nelson in a sky box, reveling in a PGA Tour victory he expected long before his ninth season as a professional.

As an All-American at Arizona, he once beat Tiger Woods by six shots to win a college tournament. His swing is compact and repeats itself well.

But while his peers were succeeding in the big leagues, Purdy was laboring on the Asian Tour trying to figure out how to win.

"I think I had about 10

years of underachieving," he said. "Tiger said, 'Ted, you used to beat my brains in.'"

But on Sunday in the Byron Nelson Championship, the 31-year-old Purdy beat them all.

Woods wasn't even around, having missed the cut for the first time in seven years and 142 tournaments.

Ernie Els and Phil Mickelson stumbled along the way. Vijay Singh showed up too late, closing in style with an ace on the 17th hole and a birdie on the 18th for a 65 to tie for third.

While everyone talked about the Big Five, Purdy was No. 173 in the world ranking coming in.

He played away from the flags, picked up a pair of long birdie putts and otherwise played flawless golf, putting for birdie on every hole and closing with a 5-under 65 for a one-shot victory over Sean O'Hair.

"It just tells you how good the players out here are," Purdy said. "I mean, Vijay is just playing unbelievable. But I beat him. It's just euphoric. It's great."

Taking down O'Hair was no small task.

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Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6131-15-001 for 'ON DEMAND' MBGF AND ATTENUATORS in FISHER County, etc will be opened on June 02, 2005 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$123,445.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 16514

State Office
Constr./ Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/ Div Office(s)

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

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
#4543 May 15 & 16, 2005

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Legals

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CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6131-01-001 for PICNIC AREA MAINTENANCE in MITCHELL County, etc will be opened on June 02, 2005 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$29,735.00.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
NPO: 16545

State Office
Constr./ Maint. Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/ Div Office(s)

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

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY MATHIS HOLIDAY
The sun/moon combination brings out our stubborn side and our defensiveness. It's one thing to be wrong and quite another to waste time and energy defending that position. On the brighter side, it's easier to see where change is necessary. (It feels ridiculous to be so adamant about things that clearly matter very little.)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The situation calls for you to find your compassion. Tennessee Williams once said, "There are no 'good' or 'bad' people. Some are a little better or a little worse but all are activated more by misunderstanding than malice."
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're a class act. You try not to carry baggage into the work place, and you don't judge when others aren't as emotionally tidy as you. But today, your time gets eaten up in drama if you don't draw the line.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's a buzz, and someone has to be at the center of it. It may as well be you! You could be that local person made good that everyone is talking about. Publicize your successes, especially to a Leo.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's no reason why everyday choices, like what to wear and which groceries to buy, can't be made with great passion and style! When you put your mind to it,

you're a master of creative living. Share what you know.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Beware of the smoke screen! There may be lots of commotion and emotion around a project, but unless there are also results, it's just not worth your time. Remember your expectations. Don't let them slide when it's convenient.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 16). You have that wow factor, and you'll be using it to your advantage all year. You must give up trying too hard to be perfect. Push the boundaries, and it's amazing what you can "get away with." Love sparks this month. Find new financial resources, and by August, you're earning enough to invest in a special project. Love signs are Leo and Gemini. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 7, 24, 3 and 18.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Instead of being overwhelmed by the myriad of choices available to you today, you could resolve to make just one key decision. Decide who you are, and the rest comes naturally.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your talent has been honed and ready for years now. All you need is the right audience. Lady Luck plays a fascinating role in the day's events, and of course, she's on your side! Aries and Taurus add to your good fortune.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To be a good friend, it's imperative that you speak up in a number of situations, such as when there's spinach in your friend's teeth, when your friend is being insensitive and when your friend is being betrayed and everybody

knows.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Most of the time you actively decide to take the journey, whereas today the journey decides to take you. You're caught off guard like Alice when she tumbled into her looking glass. You could tumble right into love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). With all the hubbub and future plans, you're quite the jet-setter. The lyrics to a new Michael Buble song apply: "Another aeroplane/Another sunny place/I'm lucky I know/But I want to go home/I've got to go home."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your destiny is intricately, infinitely intertwined with the fate of your family. So you may as well get along in the process. Make inroads toward healing a relationship. Pisces can help.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The sweet, simple moments are so poignant today that you could find yourself in tears for no reason at all. Go with it. And while you're at it, give your children your unconditional love.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Newlywed Tori Spelling's million-dollar wedding would be considered a fantasy event to some, but Taurus natives are quite realistic about getting exactly what they want - luxury all the way. A Taurus bride is likely to stretch the limit of any budget she is given. In spite of breakup rumors, it must be noted that Taurus gals will work hard to make a relationship happen, mostly because they hate to be proven wrong.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am 18 years old and an A student in high school. My prom is coming up, and part of the tradition of senior prom is renting a hotel room for the night. I plan to rent a room with my boyfriend of almost a year, and his best friend and girlfriend. However, my parents won't let me do this. Money is not the problem. Normally, we agree on a lot of things, but this time, we can't see eye to eye.

My mom trusts my boyfriend and me, but she was brought up the "old-fashioned way" and believes this is unacceptable. I think I am responsible and old enough to spend the night away. However, we both agreed to abide by whatever you say on this subject. -- Responsible Enough

Dear Responsible: Are you and the boyfriend already having sex? If so, it seems pointless for Mom to worry about your virtue at this late date. However, we're still going to vote with Mom on this. It's not that you aren't responsible and trustworthy. It's that circumstances can make it difficult to remain levelheaded. There may be alcohol present, which loosens inhibitions, and if



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

you are a virgin, your boyfriend may assume that sex is part of the package; Mom may not trust the other couple not to bring alcohol or drugs; the other couple may be planning to have sex, drink or do drugs, which will pressure your boyfriend (and possibly you) to do the same.

Imagine the scenario, and you will understand why your mother thinks it's a bad idea. Some prom sleepovers are OK because they involve an entire class or there is some kind of parental supervision. Also, you are still living at home and subject to your parents' rules. Decide how much a fight is worth to you, because it can undermine some of the

respect between you and Mom. Spending the night alone with your boyfriend and one other possibly intimate couple is a recipe for regret. If you want to do a prom sleepover, we think you should try to make less intimate plans.

Dear Annie: Since becoming a senior citizen I've asked myself, my peers and even the fellow at the DMV who wanted to know if I wanted to donate my organs, "Do they really want well-used organs?" Tell me, Annie, when are hearts, eyes or livers too old to be viable? With your resources, I bet you can enlighten us fogies. -- Adrienne in Massachusetts

Dear Adrienne: There is no age limit on donating organs, as long as the donor is in good health and the organs are not damaged. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to remind our readers to become organ donors. Those who would like more information can contact: The Living Bank (livingbank.org) at 1-800-528-2971.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. © 2005 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

JUST ANNOUNCED



2005 Ford Expeditions
"All Models"

15 TO CHOOSE FROM

\$4000 Customer Rebate
\$1000 Ford Credit Rebate
\$5000 Total Available Factory Rebates

Wow!



2005 Ford Explorers
"All Models"

7 TO CHOOSE FROM

\$2500 Customer Rebate
\$1000 Ford Credit Rebate
\$1500 Select Unit Bonus* Cash
\$5000 Total Available Factory Rebates

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MONDAY

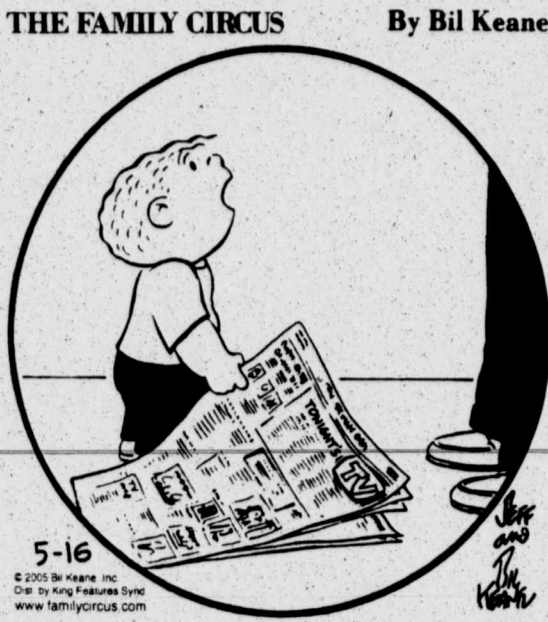
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6:30	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Inocente de Ti	King of the Hill	News Ent. Tonight	Amarte Asi	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond	Jesse Lee Pe John Hagee	News Lehrer	American Chopper	Hilbilies (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Stump-Schwab Stump-Schwab	MLB Baseball: Teams to Be	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
7:30	The Bachelor (CC)	The Bachelor (CC)	Apuesta por un Amor	Nanny 911 (CC)	Everybody Raymond	La Mujer en el Espejo	Movie: Hercules	Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Antiques Roadshow	Science of Star Wars	Movie: Silver (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	NBA Basketball	Movie	Movie: The Emperor's New Groove (CC)	Who's Number 1?	Announced (CC)	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
8:30	The Bachelor (CC)	The Bachelor (CC)	La Madrastra	Raymond 24 (CC)	Raymond Two-Half Men	Los Plateados	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	Monster Garage	WWE Raw (CC)	WWE Raw (CC)	East Semifinal -- Wizards at	Heat NBA	Sister, Sister Even Stevens	SportsCenter	Baseball Tonight (CC)	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
9:30	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	70s Show	CSI: Miami (CC)	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	MLB Baseball: Atlanta Braves	The Hour of Healing	Time of Fear (CC) (DVS)	American Chopper	:15 Movie: Final Analysis	The Lance Comedy Inc.	Basketball: Playoffs --	Nightly News Grown Folks	That's-Raven That's-Raven	I'd Do Anything	SportsCenter	Movie: Fire in the Sky
10:30	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night: Conan O'Brien	Booker Scrivner	Sign Off	Monster Garage	:45 Movie: Silver (CC)	Real TV (CC)	Real TV (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family Kim Possible	Stump-Schwab Stump-Schwab	NBA Fastbreak Baseball	
11:30	AM Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Alma Rebelde	Spin City	Roseanne	Show The Insider	Mania Celeste Programa	Movie: Maverick	Update/Israel How Can I	American Chopper	Silver (CC)	Real TV (CC)	Blind Date	Inside the NBA (CC)	Club Comic View	Lizzie McGuire Braceface	2004 World Series of Poker (CC)	SportsCenter	Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



"WHEN YOU'RE LEARNIN' TO READ, IT'S BEST TO START WITH THE FUNNY STUFF."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you'd teach me to read, Daddy, I'd know which TV shows to watch."

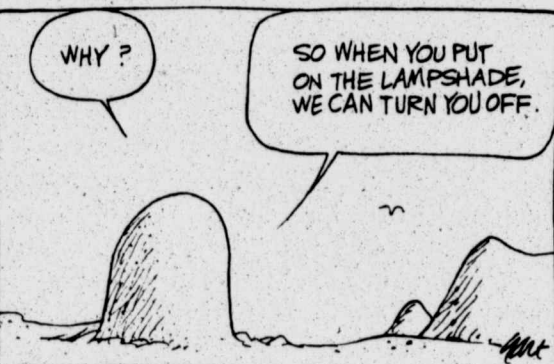
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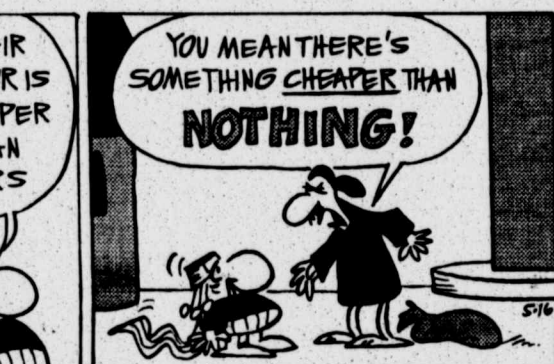
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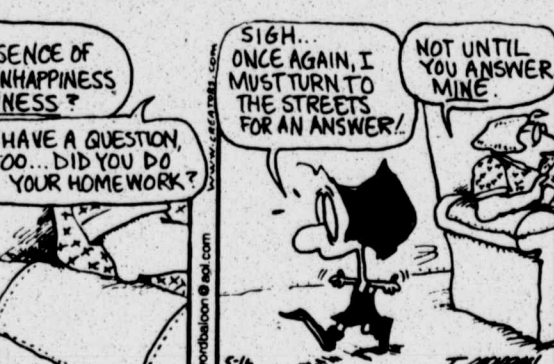
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BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today's Highlight in History:

One hundred years ago, on May 16, 1905, actor Henry Fonda was born in Grand Island, Neb.

On this date: In 1770, Marie Antoinette, age 14, married the future King Louis XVI of France, who was 15.

In 1866, Congress authorized minting of the five-cent piece.

In 1868, the Senate failed by one vote to convict President Andrew Johnson as it took its first ballot on one of 11 articles of impeachment against him.

In 1920, Joan of Arc was canonized in Rome.

In 1929, the first Academy Awards were presented during a banquet at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. The movie "Wings" won "best production," while

Emil Jannings and Janet Gaynor were named best actor and best actress.

In 1955, 50 years ago, American author and critic James Agee died in New York at age 45.

In 1960, a Big Four summit conference in Paris collapsed on its opening day as the Soviet Union leveled spy charges against the U.S. in the wake of the U2 incident.

In 1965, the musical play "The Roar of the Greasepaint, the Smell of the Crowd" opened on Broadway.

In 1975, Japanese climber Junko Tabei became the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

In 1977, five people were killed when a New York Airways helicopter, idling atop the Pan Am Building in midtown Manhattan, toppled over, sending a huge rotor blade flying.

Today's Birthdays: Author Studs Terkel is 93. Actor George Gaynes is 88. Actor Harry Carey Jr. is 84. Jazz musician Billy Cobham is 61. Actor Pierce

Brosnan is 52. Actress Debra Winger is 50. Soviet gymnast Olga Korbut is 50. Actress Mare Winningham is 46. Rock musician Boyd Tinsley (The Dave Matthews Band) is 41. Singer Janet Jackson is 39. Country singer Scott Reeves (Blue County) is 39. Actor Brian F. O'Byrne is 38. R&B singer Ralph Tresvant (New Edition) is 37. Actress Tracey Gold is 36. Tennis player Gabriela Sabatini is 35. Country singer Rick Trevino is 34. Actor David Boreanaz is 34. Musician Simon Katz is 34. Actress Tori Spelling is 32. Actress Melanie Lynskey is 28. Actress Megan Fox is 19.

Answer to previous puzzle

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Newsday Crossword

NEAT TREAT by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

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|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ACROSS | 62 "Beats me!" | 9 Was a | 40 Chimps and |
| 1 Business | 63 Clever | cast member of | orangutans |
| letter abbr. | 64 Garfield dog | 10 Fail to | 42 Lunchbox |
| 5 Water pitcher | 65 Evening gown, | remember | container |
| 9 In flames | e.g. | 11 Brainstorm | 43 Cotton bundle |
| 14 Infamous | 66 Swiss peaks | 12 Fishing-line | 44 Horse-drawn |
| Roman | 67 The | holder | carriages |
| emperor | Untouchables | 13 Curvy letter | 47 Commits |
| 15 Colt's mother | lawman | 18 Hair colorer | to memory |
| 16 Secret writings | DOWN | 22 Hindu garment | 48 Actress |
| 17 International | 1 One with a halo | 24 Some NCOs | Deborah |
| car race | 2 Not wordy | 27 Cook's cover-up | 51 Dwelling |
| 19 Genealogy | 3 Golf hazards | 28 Current fashion | 52 ___ and Clark |
| charts | 4 Negative | 29 Breakfast roll | expedition |
| 20 Sixth sense, | prefix | 30 La Scala | 53 Narrative |
| for short | 5 Roman and | 35 Down | stories |
| 21 Sound of | Ottoman | 31 Charged | 54 Speak unclearly |
| surprise | 6 Bend | particles | 55 Sugar source |
| 22 Love Story | out of shape | 32 Butterfly | 56 Gas-gauge |
| author | 7 Buffalo's lake | catchers | reading |
| 23 Not as great | 8 Tyrannosaurus | 33 Iliad or Odyssey | 57 Each, informally |
| 25 Citrus drink | | 34 Singer Guthrie | 59 Do sums |
| 26 England + | | 35 Song for | 60 Fitness center |
| Scotland + | | one person | 61 "___ voyage!" |
| Wales | | | |
| 33 Sunrise | | | |
| direction | | | |
| 36 Ankle injury | | | |
| 37 Fish eggs | | | |
| 38 Golf instructors | | | |
| 39 Rule, for short | | | |
| 40 "___ She Sweet" | | | |
| 41 Under the | | | |
| weather | | | |
| 42 Steak selections | | | |
| 45 Elapse | | | |
| 46 Paul Newman | | | |
| film of '67 | | | |
| 49 Electrified fish | | | |
| 50 Treat an | | | |
| icy street again | | | |
| 54 Frighten | | | |
| 56 Jamie of | | | |
| M*A*S*H | | | |
| 58 Actress Arthur | | | |
| 59 Clock-radio | | | |
| feature | | | |
| 60 Pro-football | | | |
| championship | | | |
| game | | | |

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