

# BIG SPRING HERALD

**INSIDE**  
Pettitte wins fifth straight decision as Houston tops Philly.  
Page 1B

VOLUME 101, NUMBER 205 TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2005 COPYRIGHT 2005 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

## No major changes expected in county budget

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners are fashioning a budget for the coming fiscal year that looks remarkably like the previous year's financial package. Commissioners began work in earnest on the new county budget during their regular

meeting Monday, and it doesn't look as if a lot of new bells and whistles will be added.

County Auditor Jackie Olson prepared a preliminary budget that calls for \$11.6 million in expenditures, a slight increase from the 2004-05 budget. That increase, Olson said, is mostly caused by extra fuel, utility, and insurance costs.

Olson said the county plans on raising the same amount of tax revenue as the previous year. With property valuations on the rise this year, that means a tax cut is a distinct possibility for 2005-06.

It also means, however, that the county will likely cut into its reserve funds to finance this year's budget. Olson estimated

that adoption of the new package would cut county reserves from \$2.9 million to slightly more than \$1 million.

No pay raises for county employees are included in the new budget at this time. Adding a \$100 across-the-board monthly raise for employees would shrink the reserve fund down to about \$747,000, Olson said.

County employees last received a raise in 2004-05, she added.

In other business, commissioners:

• Approved the Hoard County 911 Communication District's budget for the coming fiscal year. The new budget is

See COUNTY, Page 5A

## BSHS 14th at state contest

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

The Big Spring High School Band put the cap on a successful season by placing in the top 20 at recent state concert competition.

The contest, hosted by the Texas Music Educators Association, pitted BSHS against the top Class 4A high school bands in the state, Big Spring band director Rocky Harris said.

TMEA judges ranked BSHS 14th at the end of the competition, Harris said. The Class 4A competition was won by Friendswood High School from the Houston area.

The process toward the state contest started this spring, when Harris submitted a tape of the band's spring University Interscholastic League concert competition to TMEA.

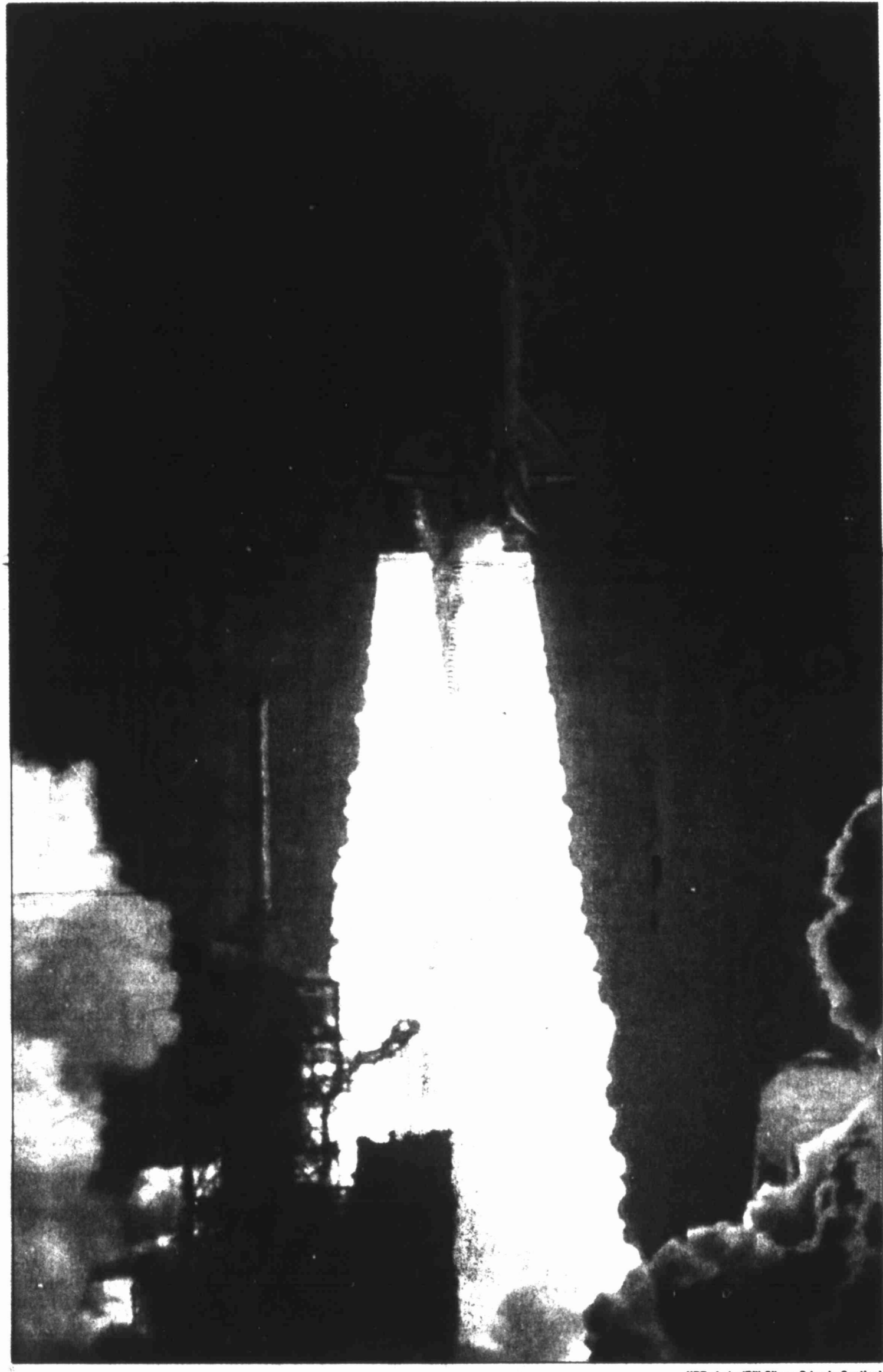
Big Spring had to place in the top two in regional, then area, competition to qualify for the state contest. Big Spring and El Paso Del Valle qualified from Region A, which includes Wichita Falls, Abilene, San Angelo, Lubbock and the Midland-Odessa region.

"This was the first time our honor band had qualified for the state concert contest," Harris said. "We've been to the state marching contest three times, but this is the first time in concert for us."

Despite the fact that the band competed only via a tape recording, Harris said it was an exciting contest.



Harris



Space Shuttle Discovery lifts off from Launch Pad 39B today at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral. The mission for STS-114 is scheduled to last 12 days and will include docking with the international space station.

## Lift off!

First manned space flight in 2-1/2 years

**By MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Discovery and seven astronauts blasted into orbit today on America's first manned space shot since the 2003 Columbia disaster, ending a painful, 2 1/2-year shutdown devoted to making the shuttle less risky and NASA more safety-conscious.

At stake were not only the lives of the astronauts, but also America's pride in its technological prowess, the fate of the U.S. space program and the future of space exploration itself.

"Our long wait may be over. So on behalf of the many millions of people who believe so deeply in what we do, good luck, Godspeed — and have a little fun up there," launch director Mike Leinbach told the astronauts immediately before liftoff.

Space program employees and relatives of both the Discovery and Columbia crews watched nervously as the shuttle rose from its pad at 10:39 a.m., climbed into a hazy midsummer sky, pierced two decks of clouds, and headed out over the ocean in the most scrutinized launch in NASA history.

Two chase planes and more than 100 cameras documented the ascent from every possible angle to capture any sign of flying debris of the sort that doomed the last flight.

See SHUTTLE, Page 5A

**INDEX**

- Classified 3-5B
- Features 5A
- Obituaries 2A
- Opinion 4A
- Sports 1-2B

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**TONIGHT** 67°-69°  
**TOMORROW** 78°-90°

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[www.bigspringherald.com](http://www.bigspringherald.com)

**COMING THIS WEEKEND**

Each summer, Ben and Angela Farrell of Wilcox, Mo., (pop. 60) make homemade ice cream with their four children. It's a cool old-fashioned treat for the Farrells and a tradition that evolved with the invention of the hand-cranked freezer more than 160 years ago.

**BACK TO THE TOP**

PARADISE, Wash. (AP) — William Painter's record as the oldest man to reach the top of Mount Rainier has been broken — by William Painter.

By making it to the 14,411-foot summit at age 82, the retired plutonium worker from the Hanford nuclear reservation beat the mark he set more than a year earlier.

Lost on the way down was his treasured old Army hat laden with mementos he began collecting after he started climbing seven years ago. A gust of wind blew the hat into a crevasse as he was descending.

**HEAT WAVE CONTINUES**

Temperatures soared past 100 in several cities, and the National Weather Service posted excessive heat warnings and advisories from Illinois to Louisiana and from Nebraska to the District of Columbia. Some areas weren't expected to receive a break until Wednesday. Page 3A.

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## Obituaries

## Judy Turnbull

Judy Turnbull, 52, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, July 25, 2005. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Take note

• **A FUND TO OFFSET THE COST OF CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENTS FOR PATSY WARDEN**, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, has been established at the First Bank of West Texas in Coahoma. For more information, call 393-5331.

• **VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE AS HOST FAMILIES FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS** are needed. Contact Terra Lingua at 866-540-4029.

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1995 10-YEAR REUNION** is set for Homecoming weekend. For information about the events, contact bshs1995@yahoo.com or call Amanda or Stacie at 267-1353.

• **CLASS OF 1970 35th ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING** set for September. All classmates should send an e-mail address to Clarinda Harris Wright at richardwright@cox.net. For more information, visit www.bshsalumni.com/SiteMap/htm.

• **THE BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL OLDTIMERS** (those who graduated before 1940) are planning a reunion for the annual BSHS Homecoming Sept. 16-17. Anyone able to attend a reunion Sept. 17 should call 129-267-9900 and leave phone and address information.

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

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

• **A SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT LOVE FROM HOME** has been established at Citizen's Federal Credit Union. Love From Home is a local effort to provide personal items needed by the soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Contact the credit union at 267-6373 to contribute funds to offset the cost of postage for the packages mailed to the soldiers.

• **THE FAR WEST BOYS HOME** is in need of donations of household, office and recreational items to benefit boys 5-17 who are unable to live with their families due to abuse or neglect. Items needed include dressers, bunk beds, mattresses, cookware, recreational and exercise equipment, and a maintenance pickup, van or car. Cash donations to purchase these items are also appreciated. Far West is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. To arrange pick up of items or for more information, call 432-353-4464.

## Weather

Tonight—Mostly cloudy. Chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening then showers and thunderstorms likely after midnight. Locally heavy rainfall possible. Lows in the lower 60s. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph. The chance of rain is 70 percent.

Wednesday—Cloudy. Showers and thunderstorms likely in the morning then a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Not as warm. Locally heavy rainfall possible in the morning. Highs in the upper 70s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of rain is 60 percent.

Wednesday night—Cloudy. A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the lower 60s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday—Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday night—Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s.

Friday—Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s.

Friday night—Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s.

Saturday—Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 90s.

Saturday night—Mostly clear. Lows around 70.

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

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## Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity Monday:

- **OLEGARIO MELENDEZ JR.**, 17, 821 W. Seventh, was arrested on capias warrants.
- **MARTHA MERWORTH**, 46, 2309 Gatesville, was arrested on a hold for HCSO.
- **APRIL ANN KING**, 23, 1007 Hickory, was arrested on a hold for the HCSO.
- **ROBERT FRIETAG**, 38, Forsan, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **FERMIN FLORES**, 54, 600 N.W. Seventh, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and possession of marijuana.
- **ASSAULT BY THREAT** was reported in the 1100 block of Gregg.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 1600 block of Bluebird.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 1500 block of FM 700.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 4100 block of Muir.
- **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED** was reported in the 3400 block of Highway 87.
- **FAILURE TO STOP AND RENDER AID** was reported in the 300 block of Gregg.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg and the 1100 block of Lamesa Highway.

## Sheriff's report

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

- **ALEJANDRO FRANCO** was arrested on charges of theft by check and violating promise to appear.
- **APRIL ANN KING**, 23, was arrested on charges of speeding and failure to appear.
- **MARTHA MERWORTH**, 46, was arrested on a charge of forgery.
- **ISRAEL ALVAREZ**, 19, was arrested on charges of resisting arrest and forgery.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service reported the following activity Monday:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Bluebonnet. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of Owens. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported at Fifth and Johnson streets. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in E. County Road 14. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Lancaster. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of Marshall. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of Gregg. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of McGregor. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Jonesboro. One person was taken to SMMC.

## Support groups

## TUESDAY

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m., a new time, 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

• Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8-9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Golliad.

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

## FRIDAY

• Alzheimers Support Group meets at noon the fourth Friday of each month at Spring City Senior Citizens Center. Lunch is provided. RSVP to Cindy Lopez at 213-4976.

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

## SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8-9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

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## Bulletin board

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

## TODAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Spring City Senior Citizens Center offers bingo beginning at 12:45 p.m.
- The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1105 Birdwell Lane. For more information, call Tracey Pounds at 268-4948.

## WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

## THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
- Spring City Senior Citizens Center offers bingo beginning at 12:45 p.m.

## FRIDAY

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

## SATURDAY

- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

## MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Chinese Dragon Restaurant.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

## Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-8-10-23-29.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: \$32,329.

Winning tickets sold in: Houston.

Matching four of five: 113. Prize: \$129.

Matching three of five: 3,527. Prize: \$9.

Matching two of five: 34,852. Prize: \$2.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-11-19-35. Bonus Ball: 35.  
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

Number matching four of four: 4. Prize: \$2,720.

Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 33.

Prize: \$40.

Number matching three of four: 950. Prize: \$19.

Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 672.

Prize: \$17.

Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 4,002.

Prize: \$7.

Number matching Bonus Ball alone: 6,701. Prize: \$5.

Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$425,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-2-6

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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

# TEXAS BRIEFS

## One killed, two injured in train collision

RANCHO VIEJO (AP) — One man was killed and two women injured after a train hit a van at a railroad crossing in Rancho Viejo, northwest of Brownsville.

The train struck the van Monday night and dragged it more than 1,500 feet. It appeared the man drove the van in front of the train, officials said.

The intersection did not have crossing arms. No names were available late Monday. The women were airlifted to Valley Baptist Medical Center-Harlingen, officials said. Their conditions were also not available.

## Unidentified corpse found in occupied grave

HONDO (AP) — Officers are investigating an apparent homicide after mourners found an extra corpse on top of their deceased relative in his grave.

Relatives of Octaviano Hernandez, who was buried July 11 in the Hondo Cemetery west of San Antonio, discovered the unidentified body Sunday.

Family members were smoothing the ground above the grave, when they found plastic sticking out of the dirt.

They called police who found the corpse bound in heavy plastic and duct tape about a foot under the ground.

Police Chief Ian "Buddy" Lovestock said the body appeared to be a Hispanic man, who was wearing only underwear.

Investigators have yet to determine the cause of death, but are treating the case as a homicide because of the suspicious nature of how the body was found, Lovestock said.

Some locals speculated that the corpse may have been added to the occupied grave as a result of homicide or a low-budget burial.

"I've been here since 1945, and I've never heard anything like that," said Ramon Carrasco, 76, as he visited the cemetery Monday.

The corpse was taken to the Bexar County medical examiner's office.

## Prosecutors face deadline to retry former death row inmate

DALLAS (AP) — Prosecutors have 120 days to set a new trial date for a former death row inmate whose 1986 conviction was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court last month, a federal appeals court ruled Monday.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, which previously denied Thomas Miller-El's claim that the jury in his trial was unfairly stacked with whites, overturned his conviction and said it would order his release if a new trial date wasn't set by the deadline.

Prosecutors plan to retry Miller-El and seek the death penalty, said Rachel Horton, spokeswoman for Dallas County District Attorney's Office.

Miller-El was convicted in the 1985 murder of an African hotel clerk.

Prosecutors struck 10 of the 11 blacks eligible to serve on the jury in his trial.

# Blistering heat wave causes more misery across Midwest

By ERICA RYAN  
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Despite the giant fan and ice packs, Madalyn Lynch's boxer was still panting, drooling and not obeying commands in the exhibition ring at a 4-H dog show in northern Ohio.

"When he's supposed to sit, he just lays down," said Lynch, 18, who braved the scorching temperatures with her dog, Courtney, to attend the Seneca County Fair in Tiffin on Monday. "It's hard for him."

As a large swath of the U.S. suffered through another miserably hot day, people cranked up their air conditioners, headed to swimming pools and ran through sprinklers to try to stay cool.

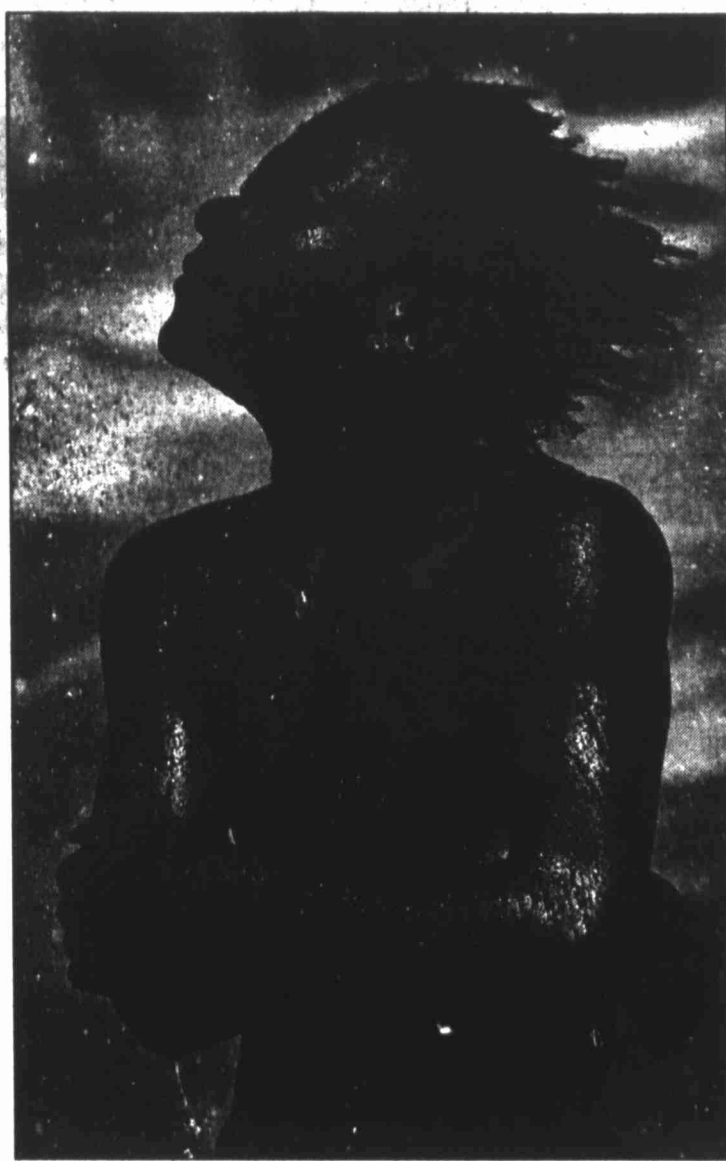
Temperatures soared past 100 in several cities, and the National Weather Service posted excessive heat warnings and advisories from Illinois to Louisiana and from Nebraska to the District of Columbia. Some areas weren't expected to receive a break until Wednesday.

"It's like stepping into a sauna. The humidity is a new thing," said Barbara King, 26, of Aberdeen, Scotland, who was vacationing in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The blistering heat has caused numerous deaths this summer.

In the Phoenix area alone, 24 people, most of them homeless, have died.

At least four deaths have been blamed on the heat in Missouri, including a woman found dead Sunday in a home without air conditioning.



KRT photo/Andrew Cutraro, St. Louis Post-Dispatch  
Reondez Reed, 15, takes advantage of a cooling station in St. Louis, Mo., Monday as temperatures climbed past the century mark for the third straight day.

Four people have died of the heat in Oklahoma, two of them young children left in cars, and at least three heat deaths have been tallied in New Jersey.

Some 200 cities in the West hit daily record highs last week, including Las Vegas at 117, and Death Valley soared to 129, the weather service said.

In North Carolina, Kent Struble said residents in the Raleigh area have

been calling his ice business to order 15-pound blocks to drop into their swimming pools.

"Like I tell them, if you've got 50,000 gallons of water and you're trying to cool down, you know what you're up against there," he said.

The forecast in Raleigh on Tuesday called for a high of 103 degrees, which would break a record set in 1949, said Mike Strickler, a weather service meteorologist in

Raleigh.

Demand for electricity to run air conditioners hit record peaks Monday throughout Ohio and the Tennessee Valley. The load on generators caused a power outage in St. Louis County, Mo.

A break in the heat was on the way, at least for the Midwest.

A cold front brought rain Monday to parts of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and was expected to cross Illinois, Missouri and Indiana on Tuesday, said Ed Shimmon, a weather service meteorologist in Lincoln, Ill. Eastern states should feel relief by Wednesday.

When they could, many people avoided being outside. At the Indian Valley Golf Course in the Cincinnati suburb of Newton, 20 people had been scheduled to play in the morning and only three showed up, said Dave Weber, who works in the pro shop.

Greg McCullom, of Cincinnati, decided to skip a doctor's appointment to avoid aggravating his asthma.

"I just got off a bus, and I'm going to catch the same bus home," said McCullom, 52, as he stood in the shade near a downtown bus stop. "As soon as I got off the bus, I had trouble catching my breath. I didn't know it was this bad."

In downtown Columbus, Tom McCullough, 55, walked by a row of sweltering people at a bus stop, handing each a dripping cold bottle of water.

"They looked hot," he said, adding that he bought a case of water on his way to work and chilled it in his office refrigerator.

# Lawmakers near agreement on broad energy bill

Working well past midnight, the conferees addressed dozens of amendments to the wide-ranging bill.

By H. JOSEF HEBERT  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — House and Senate negotiators are awaiting completion of a \$11.5 billion tax package before giving final approval to a sweeping compromise energy bill that Congress hopes to send to President Bush by week's end.

The conferees approved the non-tax measures early Tuesday in a session that lasted well past midnight, maneuvering through dozens of amendments, including one aimed at blunting China's attempt to purchase U.S. energy companies.

Throughout the negotiations, conference leaders took precautions to avoid provisions that might prompt a Senate filibuster, which they feared would doom energy legislation as it did two years ago.

But Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., the Senate's chief negotiator, warned that a provision calling for an inventory of oil and gas resources in coastal waters — which conferees voted to keep in the bill — could prompt a filibuster attempt by Florida senators.

Still, he said, he's confident that will be overcome, although he said Senate approval might be delayed until Friday.

Congress has been thwarted repeatedly over the past four years in attempts to enact energy legislation, although Bush first called for a new national energy blueprint in 2001, only months after taking office.

With soaring gasoline and other energy prices, Bush challenged Congress to give him a bill before it begins its August recess. Even so, Bush and the lawmakers acknowledged

the bill includes little, if anything, to reduce gasoline or other energy costs in the short term.

The broad legislation includes measures to spur construction of new nuclear power plants, promote ways to reduce pollution from coal and provides a boon to farmers by requiring refiners to double the use of corn-based ethanol in gasoline to 7.5 billion gallons a year by 2012.

It also would:

- Provide subsidies and tax breaks for wind, geothermal and solar industries.

- Require new efficiency standards for commercial appliances from air conditioners to refrigerators.

- Extend daylight saving time by a month to save energy.
- Require utilities to meet federal reliability standards for the electric transmission grid, hoping to avoid future blackouts such as struck in the summer of 2003.

- Eases the way for more imports of liquefied

natural gas by giving federal regulators final say over import terminals.

- Provides loan guarantees and other subsidies for clean energy technologies and new nuclear reactors. It would authorize a \$1.8 billion program to promote clean coal technologies.

Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, the conference chairman, called the legislation "the most comprehensive energy bill in the last 30 or 40 years."

But some Democrats criticized the bill for providing cash-flush energy companies a mountain of tax subsidies, loan guarantees and support such as help to pay for deep-water oil exploration and drilling.

"These are the wealthiest companies in America. We shouldn't be subsidizing them," complained Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass.

Responding to a Chinese company's recent move to buy California-based Unocal, the conferees including a provision to

require the government to wait for completion of a 120-day security review by the Pentagon and other agencies before the government's Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States can trigger its formal review.

"I think we ought to slow things down," Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., said, joining House conferees in strong support of the measure.

The provision, opposed by the White House, reflected the serious concern by many in Congress over China's attempt to buy California-based Unocal, or other U.S. energy companies.

Working well past mid-

night, the conferees addressed dozens of amendments to the wide-ranging bill.

Separately, congressional tax writers were expected to finish an energy package expected to cost about \$11.5 billion in tax breaks for both energy production and conservation. The tax discussions have been behind closed doors and no details were available.

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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.

Suzanne Reed  
Publisher

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## OUR VIEWS

## Psychological wounds tough to see, handle

In war, the death toll is the most dramatic measure of the sacrifice soldiers make. It is not the only one. Some soldiers return home with scars that civilians can't see.

But they are there psychological wounds so deep that some of them, contemplating suicide, wish they had died in Iraq.

According to a report recently released by the Army Medical Command at Fort Sam Houston, the military is struggling to cope with the mental health problems afflicting the men and women in Iraq, including an increase in suicides that caught officials off guard.

Since the invasion two years ago, however, the study cites improvements in battlefield treatment programs, progress that has led to a drop in suicides.

The survey focused on more than 2,000 soldiers from August to October 2004.

While the Army reported a "significant drop in the percentage of soldiers who screened positive for anxiety, depression or acute stress," the struggle to improve the emotional well-being of the soldiers is, like the war itself, far from over.

"I think it would be foolhardy to think that we're going to eliminate the problem in a highly stressful combat environment," said Col. Joe Curtin, an Army spokesman.

The report documents one of the many tragedies of war: For many soldiers, the battles continue to rage long after they have left the combat zones.

It also points to the huge debt we owe our soldiers, not only when they fight in faraway lands, but when they come back home.

Both politicians and citizens must remember the veteran when it comes to benefits, whether medical, educational or retirement.

The nation owes them that and more.

THE EXPRESS-NEWS  
SAN ANTONIO

## How To Contact Us

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

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

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- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## A SMALL PRAYER

By K. Rae Anderson

May we be open, Lord, to Your will.

Amen

## Liberals can't block John Roberts

Liberals can forget about blocking John G. Roberts from the U.S. Supreme Court. It simply isn't going to happen.

The U.S. Senate will confirm Roberts — there will be no filibuster — and he will probably serve for decades.

I am sure of this for two reasons: Roberts has no long paper trail as a judge and he is bright enough to keep his mouth shut.

True, as a lawyer working in the Reagan administration in 1991 — he was the principal deputy solicitor general in the Justice Department — he argued that *Roe v. Wade* was "wrongly decided and should be overruled," but that is what his client, Reagan, wanted. Roberts will argue he was merely a tool, a hired-gun, a lawyer.

Later, in getting confirmed for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Roberts said, *Roe v. Wade* was the "settled law of the land."

But how does he now feel about abortion? And how would he vote on it in the future?

We are not going to find out. And we are not going to find out because the whole confirmation process is a game in which senators yap as much as they can and the nominee says as little as possible.

Not even the President of the United States knows for sure how Roberts feels about abortion. That's right. The guy who nominated him, George W. Bush, has made clear he does not apply a "litmus test" to his nominees.

Which is what all presidents now say.

Back on April 5, 1992, presidential candidate Bill Clinton made campaign history by saying, "I will appoint judges to the Supreme Court who believe in the constitutional right to privacy, including the right to choose."

It was, I thought, honest and refreshing: Clinton was doing away with the pretense that he did not have a litmus test for his nominees.

And, on June 30, Clinton expanded on this by saying: "I think a judge ought to be able to answer a question in a Senate hearing: 'Do you or do you not support the right to privacy, including the right to choose?'"

A week later on July 7, Bill Moyers interviewed Clinton on PBS and endeavored to make sure that not only Clinton but everybody else understood exactly what Clinton was saying.

"Will you see to it," Moyers asked, "if you're elected — your first appointee (to the Supreme Court) will be a strong supporter of *Roe vs. Wade*?"

"Yes," Clinton replied.

"Is that not a litmus test?" Moyers asked.

"It is, and it makes me uncomfortable," Clinton replied. "(but) I would want the first judge I appointed to believe in the right to privacy and the right to choose."

There. He had said it plainly.

Then something happened: Clinton got elected.

And at his first formal press conference in March, 1993, he was asked by a reporter: "Mr. President, during the campaign you gave some pretty strong indications that (in choosing) your Supreme Court nominee, you would certainly consider their

position on abortion. Is that still the case?"

"Thank you for asking," Clinton said, "because I want to emphasize what I said before: I will not ask any potential Supreme Court nominee how he or she would vote in any particular case. I will not do that."

Huh? What happened? Before getting elected, Clinton said one thing and after he got elected he said another.

I have never understood why presidents don't use a litmus test or any other test they want in nominating people for the high court.

George W. Bush is opposed to abortion. So why shouldn't he pick a Supreme Court justice who is also opposed?

And why shouldn't Bush just ask the guy how he feels, one way or another?

But, Bush says he has not done and will not do that.

"Voters should assume that I have no litmus test on that issue or any other issue," Bush said on Oct. 3, 2000 during his presidential debate with Al Gore. "The voters will know I'll put competent judges on the bench, people who will strictly interpret the Constitution and will not use the bench to write social policy."

In other words, candidates and presidents like to speak in code so nobody knows exactly what they mean.

That way nobody can blame them if things go wrong.

To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## Blame Blair or Bush, not the bombers

London Mayor Ken Livingstone was positively Churchillian in his response to the July 7 bombings. Rather than blaming British or Israeli policies for terrorist attacks on innocent civilians — his usual M.O. — Livingstone condemned the bombings as "mass murder" aimed "at ordinary working-class Londoners" on the day of the attacks.

This week, even before Thursday's attempted bombings, Livingstone was back to his old nasty self. On Wednesday, he told BBC where he placed blame for the bombings: "I think you have just had 80 years of Western intervention in predominantly Arab lands because of the Western need for oil."

Red Ken — as British papers call him — also blamed "those governments which use indiscriminate slaughter to advance their foreign policy, as we have occasionally seen with the Israeli government."

Oh, and he blamed the United States for helping the Afghans fight off a Soviet occupation — which makes Americans the "creators" of Osama bin Laden.

That is, at first, Livingstone blamed the bombers. Then, he blamed everyone but the bombers. In response, the Daily Telegraph ran Livingstone's mug next to those of Islamic radicals Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohamed and Anjem Choudary under the heading "The men who blame Britain."

Livingstone voters and mainstream British Muslims for the bombings, while Choudary, the New York Times reported, pre-

dicted another attack.

Sounds familiar. Livingstone typifies a certain stripe of lefty that so hates President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair that he or she makes excuses for murderers.

Imagine, as I've written before, if anti-abortion terrorists began killing innocent civilians and said they would stop only if the government outlaws abortion. (After all, if terrorism wins for Islamic extremists, why shouldn't U.S. extremists adopt it?) The Left would not fault pro-abortion policies. The Left would not blame the government for legalizing abortion. The Left — correctly — would denounce the terrorists, the violence and any attempt to extort policy by threatening innocent lives.

Yet because the terrorists criticize the Bush and Blair policies, many leftists make excuses for the July 7 murders. These true believers have taken the old saw — the enemy of my enemy is my friend — to such an extreme that they have become apologists for homicidal zealots who, given power, would have little reservations about jailing them (or worse) for their gender, sexual practices or "infidel" status.

Livingstone isn't the only Brit to blame Blair's policies. At a press conference Thursday, journalists asked Blair and visiting Australian Prime Minister John Howard if they felt responsible for actions — sending troops to aid in U.S.-led military efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq — that put Brits and Aussies in peril's way.

"Do you feel that, in a sense, your policies may have put people in this position?" one reporter asked. Said another: "Do incidents like this, coming just 14 days after

the horrific attacks, suggest the war against terror is being lost on the streets?"

Howard's answer was on the money: "Can I remind you that the murder of 88 Australians in Bali took place before the operation in Iraq? Can I remind you that the 11th of September occurred before the operation in Iraq? Can I also remind you that the very first occasion that bin Laden specifically referred to Australia was in the context of Australia's involvement in liberating the people of East Timor? Are people, by implication, suggesting that we shouldn't have done that?"

Howard then added, "this is about hatred of a way of life." And: "We lose sight of the challenge we have if we allow ourselves to see these attacks in the context of particular circumstances rather than the abuse, through a perverted ideology, of people and their murder."

Howard is right. The terrorists win every time free people blame attacks not on the bombers but on those who didn't blow up civilians on subways and double-decker buses.

Imagine if anti-abortion terrorists killed 52 civilians and themselves, and Americans blamed feminism, or abortion rights, or the U.S. Supreme Court for *Roe vs. Wade*. Because the equivalent is happening at home and abroad.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at [dsaunders@sfnchronicle.com](mailto:dsaunders@sfnchronicle.com). To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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# SHUTTLE

Continued from Page 1A

There was no immediate word from NASA on launch damage to the spacecraft. The multitude of images will not be fully analyzed until halfway through the 12-day flight.

The fuel-gauge problem that thwarted a launch attempt two weeks ago did not resurface before liftoff, to NASA's great relief, and the countdown was remarkably smooth. The space agency had been prepared to bend its safety rules to get the shuttle flying.

NASA did not immediately say how the sensors performed during the climb to orbit, but everything appeared to go well.

A TV camera mounted on Discovery's giant orange external fuel tank provided an unprecedented view of the shuttle's climb to orbit and the tank being jettisoned back toward Earth as designed.

During the mission, commander Eileen Collins and her crew will deliver supplies to the international space station and test new techniques for inspecting and patching the shuttle in orbit.

The 114th shuttle liftoff came after painful self-examination on NASA's part, extensive safety modifications to the spacecraft and many months of hurdles and setbacks. A launch attempt July 13 was scrapped after one of four critical hydrogen-fuel gauges in the external tank failed just two hours before liftoff.

Hundreds of engineers chased the problem, which had cropped up three months earlier in a fueling test. In the end, they could not fully explain the trouble but fixed some bad electrical grounding inside the shuttle in hopes that might solve it.

The space agency said it was prepared to relax a rule, instituted after the 1986 Challenger explosion, that required that all four gauges be working for launch.

NASA Administrator

Michael Griffin said the shuttle was as safe as NASA could make it, but was still a risky venture.

"Some things simply are inherent to the design of the bird and cannot be made better without going and getting a new generation of spacecraft. That's as true for the space shuttle as it is for your toaster oven," he told The Associated Press on the eve of launch.

Columbia was brought down by a suitcase-size piece of foam insulation that broke off the big external fuel tank during liftoff and caused a gash that allowed hot gases into the wing during the return to Earth 16 days later on Feb. 1, 2003. NASA could barely make out the blow in the photographs of the launch because the few available images were poor.

The space agency added more and better surveillance cameras for Discovery's launch and sent up a pair of camera-equipped planes to chase the flight. Pictures will also be taken from space, by the astronauts themselves and spy satellites. Also, once Discovery arrives at the space station on Thursday, the two residents will photograph the shuttle as it completes a slow flip.

NASA's chief acknowledged a lot is riding on the flight: the shuttle program, the space station program, President Bush's plan to send astronauts back to the moon and on to Mars — and seven lives.

"It's about hope, it's about imagination, it's about the future, and when you take away a great space program, you take away a lot of people's future," Griffin told the AP. "What's riding on this flight is people's hope for the future."

Thousands descended on Cape Canaveral for the launch, including first lady Laura Bush, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, her brother-in-law, and members of Congress, as well as relatives of the 14 fallen Columbia and Challenger astronauts. They sang the national anthem just minutes before liftoff.

In addition to Collins, the crew members are

pilot Jim Kelly; Soichi Noguchi of Japan; Stephen Robinson; Andrew Thomas; Wendy Thomas; and Charles Camarda.

Griffin's message to the lost crews' families: "We have left no stone unturned that we know of to make this flight and every other one as safe as we can do it."

Nearly 50 safety improvements were made to the shuttle in the wake of Columbia tragedy. The fuel tank was extensively redesigned, with less foam insulation than before but extra heaters to prevent a dangerous buildup of ice once it is filled with super-cold liquid propellant. NASA feared falling ice could be as lethal as chunks of foam.

Dozens of motion and temperature sensors were embedded in the wings to detect any blows from debris.

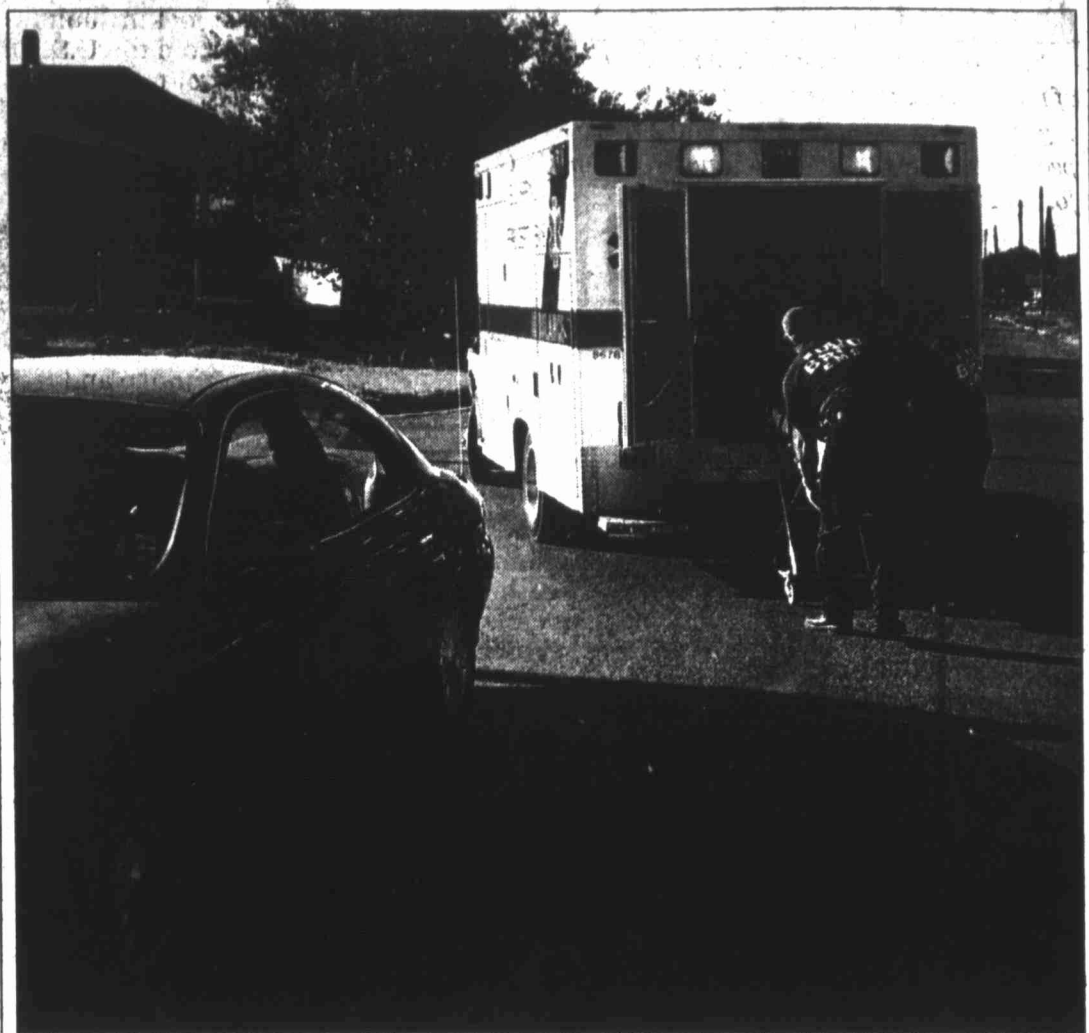
The space agency also revamped the way it makes decisions and listens to dissenting views, especially from lower-level employees. Columbia accident investigators blamed the catastrophe in part on a broken safety culture, or a tendency to downplay risks and discourage engineers from speaking up.

Unlike the Columbia astronauts, who had no knowledge of the gaping hole in their spacecraft's wing and no realistic way of plugging it, the Discovery crew has a variety of inspection and repair techniques on board. But they are all untested. And even the best of the bunch could not fix a hole the size of the one that destroyed Columbia.

The astronauts will try out the repair kits on deliberately broken samples of thermal tiles and panels. They will practice working with goo and other patching materials and different types of brushes, putty knives and a caulking gun.

They also will spend their first full day in space using a remote-control, 50-foot boom to inspect the shuttle's most vulnerable areas for any cracks and holes.

# MONDAY MISHAP



Herald photo/Steve Reagan  
A bicycle rider was transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center Monday morning after he collided with a Ford sedan at the intersection of Fifth and Johnson streets at about 8:30 a.m.

# BAND

Continued from Page 1A

"I had gone down to the tape session in San Antonio, and it was very exciting to see Big Spring's name in the program along with some of

the top music programs in the state," Harris said. "I think it was a remarkable achievement for us, and it's a great start to this year."

Harris and the BSHS band will begin preparations for the new school year when they hold summer band practice begin-

ning in August. "It's the band equivalent of football two-a-days," Harris said.

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

# COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

\$232,614, an increase of about \$5,000 from the previous year.

Named County Tax Assessor-Collector Kathy Sayles as a voting mem-

ber of the County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Approved a 30 percent Consumer Price Index increase in county retiree pay.

Named Rhonda Campbell as the new director at Big Spring

Senior Citizens Center. Campbell should assume her new duties no later than Aug. 15.

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

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**THIS WEEK ONLY!**

## Jolly business Aspiring St. Nicks attend school

By Gwendolyn Driscoll  
(KRT)

SAN DIMAS, Calif. — Do you believe in Santa Claus? Stop reading.

To read further is to uncover the shocking truth of steel-toed boots and snow-white hair dye, rub-on rouge and grown men who sleep in hair curlers.

It is to be able to spot a soggy diaper from 50 feet — and understand the peril it poses to Santa's velvet-clad knees.

Old Saint Nick may be a jolly fellow, with rosy cheeks and a magical ability to squeeze down chimneys, but he's still a man at the end of the day, with a man's pressing concerns: Makeup. Hairdo. How to get soot out of fur-trimmed cuffs.

Such trade secrets are part and parcel of being a professional Santa, something a half-dozen Orange County, Calif., men discovered at a workshop designed to instruct aspiring Kris Kringles in the art — and artifice — of all-things Claus.

The workshop leader is Tim Connaghan, 57, one of the nation's leading Santa Claus impersonators.

The Hollywood parade, television commercials and even Dr. Phil have all featured his beaming face, custom-made red velvet get-up and authentic, frosty-white whiskers.

He's also the sales and marketing director for Red Roof Inns and, as such, a marketing pro who has made the business of Santa his business.

Inside a Red Roof Inn conference room recently, Connaghan taught 27 aspiring southern California Santas — mostly bearded, somewhat portly men of a certain age, the majority dressed in shrieking shades of red and green casual wear.

Connaghan himself stands before the class in a candy-cane striped red and white shirt, red trousers, and silver-glitter belt buckle that — just in case it wasn't clear — spells the magic word: SANTA.

The session is one of eight "International University of Santa Claus" seminars he will hold across the country



KRT Photo/Mark Rightline  
Timothy Connaghan (left), Santa for the Hollywood Christmas Parade, talks with another Santa during a break in his University of Santa Claus class, a one-day course, taught around the country. The course covers the finer points of being Santa Claus.

during the summer — or "low season," as Connaghan calls it.

In November and December, Connaghan is too busy being The Man — so busy, in fact, that his employer gives him both months off.

"There are a lot of people who think they can become Santa just by being a big guy and having a white beard," Connaghan tells his rapt audience. "It takes more than just that. Part of it is in the heart."

Part of it is also in the marketing.

In his seminar and booklet — "Behind the Red Suit" — Connaghan walks his students through the surprisingly strenuous world of professional Santadom.

Want to prevent your toes from being squashed by eager, stampeding little feet? Invest in a pair of steel-toed Santa boots.

Anxious to protect other, er, sensitive parts from squirmy elbows and knees? Professional hockey players wear a cup — Santa should too.

Prepare yourself as well for a significant cash investment. Today's custom-made Kris Kringle costumes are trimmed with real fur and can cost up to \$1,500. (Connaghan recommends buying two — one to wear, while the other is at the dry cleaners.)

His seminar is one of a number offered to wannabe Santas across the country by companies such as the Colorado Springs-based Naturally Santa, Inc. and the Midland, Mich.-based Charles W. Howard Santa School.

Santa's reputation — not just his ability to shake like a bowl full of jelly — is at stake in such trainings.

In the unfortunate age

of Meagan's Law, Connaghan recommends all his students get a criminal background check to reassure nervous parents and employers.

Also recommended is liability insurance, such as the \$3 million Clowns of America policy Connaghan carries.

Other safety tips: Santa's white-gloved hands should be visible at all times in photographs, children should be handled by parents or helpers, and Santa's red posterior should stay seated at parties unless otherwise instructed by his host or employer.

Santa must also deflate expectations about what he can — and cannot — bring down the chimney.

"You never make promises (to children)," Connaghan advises his students. "A lot of kids ask for a pet, which the parent might not want. So I tell them 'usually, they're not potty-trained — it might end up being a bit uncomfortable in the sleigh.' That usually works."

Listening attentively is "Santa" Patrick Barnes. A loadmaster for America West Airlines and holiday-season Santa for his local mall, Barnes maintains his long, white ringlets by sleeping in pink sponge hair curlers. His path to the North Pole was initially rocky. The first child ever to sit in his lap promptly shrieked.

"I looked at (my girlfriend) and said: 'Did I do the right thing?'" Barnes recalls.

Seven years later, he has the answer.

"(Being Santa) does something to your heart and soul," Barnes says. "The smiles from the kids — it's just amazing."

Shhh. That's the real trade secret.

## Discard, Diet — The D's of deprivation and despair Body weight calculations an injustice to petite individuals

I feel a great injustice has been done when it comes to calculating how much people should weigh.

It is based upon height and frame size, all entered onto some unintelligible chart by the supposed geniuses.

Why do they get to decide how heavy or light bodies should be?

Take me, for instance. I'm 5'4 with a small frame. Supposedly, that tells them all they need to know.

According to the powers that be, I should weigh less than a dining room table but more than a night stand.

That puts me in the small, coffee table section.

These experts do not take into consideration my charming disposition, great personality and humorous outlook on life.

Factors such as these should take part in their number-crunching.

Through no fault of my own, my vertical length is instead dictating my allowable horizontal width.

With my unfortunate shortness of height, even an extra book on the aforesaid coffee table can tip the scales in an unsavory light.

Add a lamp, a few used kleenexes and voila! Before anyone knows what's happened, I'm over the y-axis on the weight charts.

Dealing with clutter isn't easy. Many days with no fat, candy or junk is often what it takes to rid the bod of unwanted paraphanelia.

Even if the book on the table is about the problems with fast food, it's still adding to the piles.

Discard.

Diet. Do away with. The D's of deprivation and despair.

I say that the ratios should be done away with.

Just as some are advocating for a gradeless education system, those of us in the shorter arenas need to step up to the plate.

Down with restrictions on size because we aren't redwood trees.

Out the window with only the very tall getting to have meat on their bones.

Let us have a break.

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

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- July 21 • Thursday**
  - Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
  - Coffee @ Gale - 10:00 am
- July 22 • Friday**
  - Summer Mummies - 5:00 pm  
RSVP Early - Seating Limited
- July 25 • Monday**
  - Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)
  - Supper Club - Hunan's - 5:30 pm
- July 26 • Tuesday**
  - Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
  - New Mexico Casino Trip - 9:00 am
- July 27 • Wednesday**
  - Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Senior Circle members eat in the hospital cafeteria for \$2.00)
- July 28 • Thursday**
  - Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet at the Mall & walk together)
  - Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am
  - Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am
- July 29 • Friday**
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### Rangers find win column against slumping O's

• Texas ends losing streak, Baltimore drops sixth straight

By DAVID GINSBURG

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Texas Rangers ended their losing streak at the expense of the Baltimore Orioles, who also took a hit off the field while stumbling to their sixth successive defeat.

Alfonso Soriano homered, had three hits and drove in two runs, leading the Rangers to a 4-2 victory Monday night that stopped a five-game skid.

Joaquin Benoit (2-1) gave up four hits over five shutout innings in his second start of the season. The first came last Wednesday, when he allowed six runs in five innings in a loss to the New York Yankees.

This time, though, the right-hander delivered a much-needed victory.

"It's really big. We come off losing five games in a row and I think this way, we just kind of wake up everybody," Benoit said. "It wasn't the best game of our lives, but it was a good way to start."

Francisco Cordero, the fifth Texas pitcher,

worked the ninth for his 23rd save, getting Miguel Tejada to ground into a game-ending double play.

Tejada went 0-for-5, and the Orioles twice left the bases loaded in the first four innings.

"We could have put them away," first baseman Rafael Palmeiro said, "but we didn't. We're struggling. We're not giving our pitchers any support."

It was a bad night for Baltimore in more ways than one. Not only did the Orioles match their season-high losing streak, but they also lost a possible addition to a strug-

gling offense that stranded 10 runners and has scored more than five runs only once since the All-Star break.

During the game, Baltimore learned that San Diego Padres first baseman Phil Nevin blocked a proposed trade that would have sent him to the Orioles for pitcher Sidney Ponson. Nevin had the right to reject a deal to eight teams, including Baltimore.

"He just decided that ... family factors, personal factors, took precedent over baseball factors," said Nevin's agent, Barry Axelrod. "He wants to

remain a part of San Diego and the ballclub. He's always wanted to be in San Diego."

Jay Gibbons homered and Melvin Mora had three hits for the Orioles, who dropped to two games over .500 (50-48) for the first time since April 21.

Afterward, Baltimore manager Lee Mazzilli decided to cancel batting practice Tuesday and ordered the players to show up just 95 minutes before the scheduled 7:05 p.m. start.

"We're going to lay off

See RANGERS, Page 2B

### Berkman, Biggio go back-to-back twice

• Pettitte wins fifth straight decision as Astros down Phillies

HOUSTON (AP) — Craig Biggio and Lance Berkman needled each other after a record-setting night.

Biggio and Berkman set an Astros mark by hitting consecutive home runs twice in one game, and Andy Pettitte won his fifth straight decision to lead Houston past the Philadelphia Phillies 7-1 Monday.

"I don't hit that many homers," Biggio said. "But Lance gets paid a lot of money to hit them so it's pretty cool for me to hit them at the same time."

Berkman just chuckled at all that.

"The toughest ones to hit in back-to-backs are definitely the second ones," he said. "Putting the icing on the cake is tough."

The double back-to-back homers by the same players were the first in Houston history. It was the first time it happened in the major leagues since May 18 last season when Matt Holliday and Jeremy Burnitz did it for Colorado in Cincinnati.

It also was the 15th multi-homer game of Biggio's career, and Berkman's 14th. But they were more impressed by the performance of Pettitte (8-7), who is 5-0 in seven starts since a 6-1 defeat June 14 at Baltimore. He is two wins short of his longest career win streak set in 2000 with the New York Yankees.

The left-hander allowed just Jimmy Rollins' homer and seven hits in seven innings, striking out seven and walking three. Pettitte lowered his ERA to 2.73, his lowest career mark through 20 starts.

"He was great tonight," Berkman said of Pettitte, who had elbow surgery last Aug. 13. "I think it might have been his best start. I think it's just remarkable what he has been able to do with a 75 percent elbow."

Pettitte doesn't want to place percentage marks on his comeback.

"I do feel very good," he said. "I feel like I'm making my pitches. But every time I say something about how far I've come, I've had a bit of a setback so I don't want to think about that."

"Obviously, from the start of the game, I felt good."

So is Astros manager Phil Garner.

"Andy's in a very good

groove," Garner said. "He's not only pitching confidently, he's making pitches he wants to make."

"You never quite feel good playing with a lead against the Phillies with all their talent, but that just accentuates what Andy did."

Pettitte got out of jams in the third and fourth. Rollins homered in the fifth, his eighth.

"Andy threw a terrific game and we had a couple of chances," said Phillies bench coach Gary Varsho, who filled in for manager Charlie Manuel while he attended his sister's funeral.

Ryan Howard was 1-for-3 against Pettitte and was picked off first base for the final out of the second inning.

"Andy threw really well tonight," Howard said. "What else can you say? He was doing it to us. He's got a pretty good move to first base. I hadn't ever seen that before. He just got me and there's nothing you can do."

Jason Lane also connected for Houston, which has won eight of nine and 20 of 27.

The Phillies lost for only the fourth time in 13 games but have dropped seven of 10 on the road. They also have lost seven straight to the Astros and haven't won in Houston since May 18, 2003.

The win moved the Astros a half-game ahead of Philadelphia in the NL wild-card race, three games behind Washington and Atlanta, who are tied for the NL East lead.

The Astros got to Cory Lidle (8-9) early when Biggio and Berkman connected in the first inning. Biggio then hit his 15th of the season in the third with Willy Taveras on for a 4-0 lead. Berkman followed with his 11th home run to make it 5-0.

Lidle lasted just five innings and lost his third straight start. He allowed seven runs, five earned, and seven hits — including five homers.

Lidle gave up only nine home runs in his previous 20 starts. And he had allowed only one homer in 32 1-3 career innings against Houston coming in, spanning eight games and four starts.

"Cory usually doesn't do this," Berkman said. "Every time I've had to face him before, I've just groaned."

Biggio reached on an error by second baseman Ramon Martinez in the bottom half.

Two outs later, Lane hit his 15th homer for a 7-1 lead.



Houston's Lance Berkman, left, high fives Adam Everett, right, after they and Eric Bruntlett, background, scored three home runs against the Nationals in the 14th inning of their game at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., Sunday. Berkman homered twice Monday in the Astros' 7-1 win over Philadelphia.

### No. 1 pick Smith signs with 49ers, expected other picks to follow suit

• Williams gets warm reception from fans at Dolphins' camp

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

Now that Alex Smith has come to terms, look for many other NFL first-round picks to follow suit. Quickly.

The top overall draft choice agreed to terms Monday on a six-year, \$57 million deal with the San Francisco 49ers. The quarterback from Utah will receive a guaranteed \$24 million, according to a lawyer familiar with terms of the deal who spoke on condition of anonymity.

That hefty contract will affect the numbers for other first-rounders. The bar has been set.

Next up could be running back Ronnie Brown,

chosen just after Smith by the Miami Dolphins.

"Our people are doing an outstanding job of trying to get the business end of this done," new Dolphins coach Nick Saban said. "But I think this is a circumstance that we don't have total control on, based on timing."

With training camps opening this week, timing is crucial for the valued rookies. Holdouts generally mean little production from the newcomers in their first NFL seasons.

San Francisco avoided that scenario. Smith, represented by Tom Condon — who also worked out Eli Manning's deal with the Giants as the 2004 first pick — got \$4 million more guaranteed money than Manning. Smith's deal is expected to average \$8.25 million compared to about \$7.5 mil-

lion for Manning.

Next up for Smith: challenging Tim Rattay for the starting quarterback job with the 49ers, who finished 2-14 in 2004 and have gone consecutive seasons without making the playoffs for just the second time since 1980.

Smith, who left Utah after his junior season, led the Utes to their first BCS bowl win, a victory over Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl. They finished 12-0 and were ranked fourth in The Associated Press poll.

Two other first-rounders signed Monday: defensive tackle Mike Patterson with Philadelphia, and offensive lineman Logan Mankins with New England. They were the last two players selected in the opening round in

See NFL, Page 2B

### IN BRIEF

#### B.S. Country Club sets junior clinics

The Big Spring Country Club has set up a summer junior clinic and an advanced summer junior clinic. The clinics run through Aug. 4.

Both clinics will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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

#### Signups for football to occur all summer

The Crossroads Youth Football Association signups are currently underway and will continue throughout the summer.

Signups will take place at the Big Spring Mall Fridays from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The cost to play football is \$70. Flag football costs \$30, while cheerleaders should expect to pay \$75.

For more information, call Daphne Castilaw at 714-4688.

#### Cornell Corrections to host YoungLife annual golf classic

The sixth annual YoungLife golf classic hosted by Cornell Corrections will take place Saturday and Sunday at the Big Spring Country Club.

The tournament will be an "orange ball" scramble as four people will make up one team. On each hole, three players scramble and one plays their "orange ball."

Each person must have a verifiable handicap and the field will be flighted after Saturday.

The tourney will give out golf shop credit certificates to the winners as well as prizes for a hole-in-one, longest drive, closest to the pin and putting contest.

The tourney will have a 1 p.m. shotgun start each day. The entry fee is \$75.

For more information, call Larry Bryan at 267-5354.

#### B.S. football season tickets on sale now

Football season tickets for the Big Spring Steers are now on sale for previous season ticket holders. Tickets can be purchased at the Big Spring Athletic Training Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

The general public may purchase season tickets Aug. 8-19.

For more information, contact Kay Cook at 264-3662.

#### Big Spring sets next quarterback meeting

The next Quarterback Club (football boosters) meeting will be Monday at 7 p.m. at the ATC.

Parents of all football players in grades 7-12 are invited and encouraged to come.

For more information, call Gene Piercefield at 316-1134.

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NFL

Continued from Page 1B

April. While the Dolphins wait for Brown to reach a contract agreement, they welcomed back wandering running back Ricky Williams.

Greeted with hugs from teammates and cheers from fans at the Dolphins' first training camp practice under new coach Nick Saban.

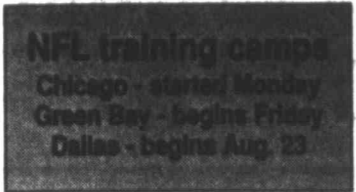
Williams apologized for how he left the team a year ago.

"There were things about life that I wanted to explore outside of football, and I had never had the chance," Williams said. "I realize by making that decision, I affected the team in a negative way and upset a lot of fans."

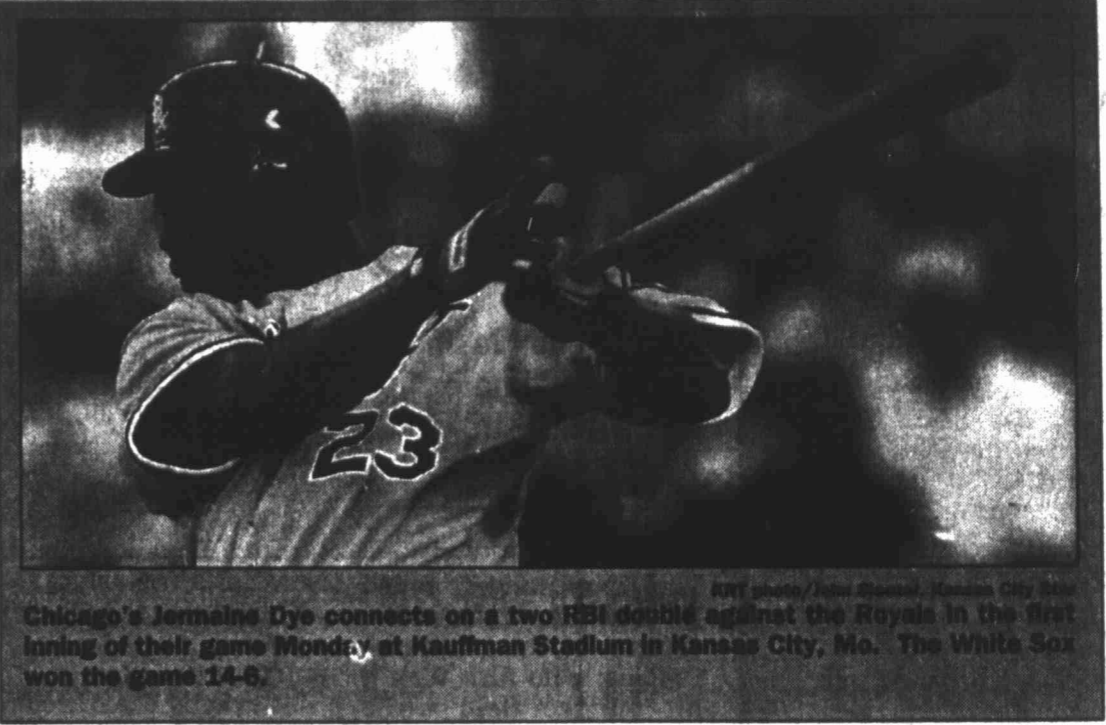
"I'm very regretful that people were hurt in the process of me doing that. I do realize that to a lot of people it comes off as being very selfish. So I do offer an apology to all the people who were negatively impacted."

Williams must sit out the first four games for violating the league's substance abuse policy. So bringing in Brown is even more critical.

"He's got to wait until the business part of it



Chicago's Jermale Dye connects on a two RBI double against the Royals in the first inning of their game Monday at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. The White Sox won the game 14-5.



Chicago's Jermale Dye connects on a two RBI double against the Royals in the first inning of their game Monday at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. The White Sox won the game 14-5.

gets straightened out," Dolphins defensive end Jason Taylor said. "I think everyone understands why he's not here. It's part of the game."

Elsewhere in the NFL Monday: — The Cardinals will move their training camp from Flagstaff, Ariz., because of a virus outbreak on the Northern Arizona University campus. No decision had been made on where the camp will be located; players are scheduled to report Sunday.

"The overwhelming concern obviously was the health and well-being of our team," said Rod Graves, vice president of football operations. "Despite what have been extraordinary efforts on the part of everyone at NAU to accommodate our team, in the end, even the slightest risk of exposure was something we cannot chance."

— Michigan cornerback Marlin Jackson, the Colts' first-round selection, could be close to a deal.

Jackson's agent, Doug Hendrickson, said: "It sounds, from the tone,

like they want to get something done and we want to get something done, so we've just got to come together and get a fair deal. I think something will get done."

Indianapolis expects Jackson to start.

— Less optimistic were the Bears concerning top pick Cedric Benson.

The fourth pick in the draft out of Texas, the running back's agent, Eugene Parker, has not spoken with the team since the start of training camp.

"We're certainly on top of this," GM Jerry Angelo said. "We're very motivated to get him into camp. We made a very, very strong offer — something we felt should have gotten it done. Obviously, they didn't think that. We have to respect their side, obviously. We'll just wait and see what the next step is."

— Previous starter Peerless Price found himself behind second-year wideout Michael Jenkins on the Falcons' depth chart.

When quarterback Michael Vick took the first snap of team drills, Jenkins and Dez White were the starting receivers. Price and Brian Finneran were on the second unit. Top pick Roddy White has not yet signed.

Woods plays in final 'battle'

By BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. (AP) — Retief Goosen and Phil Mickelson put away Tiger Woods and John Daly so convincingly that they barely needed the lights in the final installment of Monday Night Golf.

Goosen, a late substitute for the exhibition, birdied four of the last six holes and five overall as he and Mickelson beat Woods and Daly 5 and 3 in the "Battle at The Bridges" Monday night.

Woods was a loser in the seventh and final installment of Monday Night Golf, which was started to get him on prime time.

Organizers had portable lights set up on the 15th green and along the final three holes.

But Goosen ended the match in the fading twilight when he hit an approach shot within 4 feet on the par-4, 411-yard 15th, then sank a birdie putt.

Woods and Daly needed to win the 15th to keep

the best-ball match going, but both got into trouble with errant tee shots.

Organizers tried to get the Big Four for this year's exhibition, but Vijay Singh didn't want to play and Ernie Els pulled out.

Daly at least provided plenty of humor in the hit-and-giggle match.

On the driving range about an hour before the match, in the blazing sun, Daly hit four shots and declared: "That's it. I'm sweating," then stepped back and lit a cigarette.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 1B

the pregame hitting. These are hot days, and I think we're trying a little bit too hard," he said. "Sometimes you just go and strap it on and get 15 hits in a game," he said.

Baltimore starter Daniel Cabrera (8-8) pitched five innings, giving up three runs, three hits and a career-high seven walks.

After Benoit left, Gibbons hit his 15th homer on the second pitch from Ron Mahay, and Larry Bigbie added a run-scoring groundout to bring the Orioles to 3-2 in the sixth.

But that was the extent of the Baltimore offense, which failed to benefit from the return of catcher Javy Lopez, who spent two months on the disabled list with a broken hand.

The Rangers made it 4-2

in the eighth when Soriano singled and scored on a sacrifice fly by Adrian Gonzalez.

"We lost five games in a row, so I think the game tonight is very important for us," said Soriano.

Texas went up 1-0 in the third, thanks to Cabrera's wildness — and a mental lapse by the right-hander. After Gary Matthews walked and was caught stealing, Cabrera walked three straight to load the bases. Mark Teixeira fol-

lowed with a grounder to first, and Cabrera was late covering the base on the back end of a potential double play, allowing a run to score.

Soriano hit his 25th homer leading off the fourth, and Baltimore left the bases loaded in the bottom half.

The Rangers made it 3-0 in the fifth. Cabrera issued a pair of two-out walks before Soriano blooped an RBI single to right.

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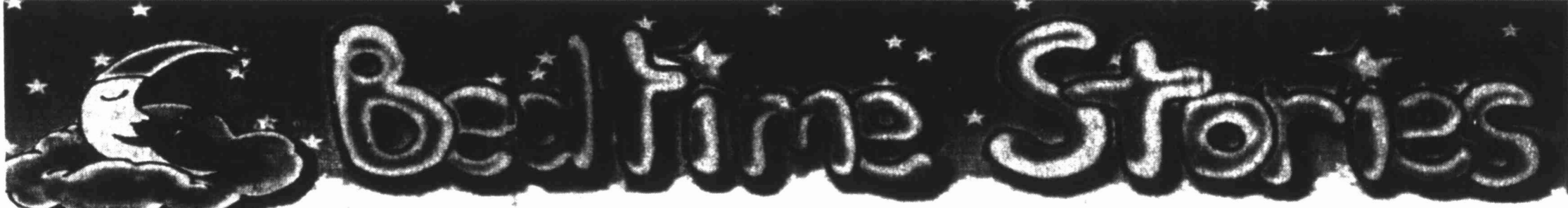
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FRANNY FOUR EYES

This is going to be a very sad story. I hope you like sad stories. I do promise that it will have a happy ending, though. The story is about some sad things that people do to one another sometimes. Listen to the story very carefully. You will learn how to be a good person and not be a person who makes other people feel bad. Are you a good person now? I thought so!



She was called Franny Four Eyes because she had to wear eyeglasses. Franny didn't like that name because it made her feel very sad. She asked her little friends not to call her that name, but they did anyway. They thought that calling Franny names was very funny. Oh, how they laughed at her when they called her names. They even saw the tears in her eyes and still called her

names. They were very mean, weren't they? I am feeling very sad already, are you?

Franny was a much better person than her friends were, because even though they called her names, she was still nice to them. She just did not like to be mean to people. But, how could she get them to stop calling her names? Do you like to be called names? I don't either! Let's you and I never call anyone names and we can be almost as good a person as Franny.

When Franny was in the first grade, her friend, Vickie, called her "Four Eyes", and Poor little Franny ran into the back room, crying her heart out. She was so hurt! "Why did my friend call me names?" Franny thought to herself. "Doesn't she know that she hurt my feelings when she does this? Does she know that she is not perfect, either? Has she ever looked into a mirror and seen her very ugly teeth? I wear eyeglasses, but at least my teeth are pretty!"

Franny went into the second grade the very next year. Are you in the second grade yet? Her friend, Paul, laughed at her one day and called her "Franny

Four Eyes", and do you think that hurt Franny's feelings? Of course it did! Off poor little Franny ran into the cloakroom to cry again! "Why did Paul call me a name? Why is he laughing at me? I thought he liked me! He is not perfect, either. Look at his big nose! I wear eyeglasses, but at least, my nose is

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pretty." Then, the next year, Franny went into which grade? That's right! Franny went into the third grade. Her friend, Suzie, laughed at her one day and said, "Franny Four Eyes I only have two But I can see Much better than you" Poor little Franny ran outside, crying very hard! "Why did Suzie call me a name? I thought she liked me! She is not perfect either! Did you see her big ears? I may wear glasses, but at least, my ears are pretty?" This story is getting very sad, isn't it?

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Two years later, Franny went into which grade? Did you say Fourth? Just kidding! Franny went into the fifth grade! That was the year that her best friend, Kaye, called her— "What did Kaye call Franny? The same old thing that everyone else had called her, "Franny Four Eyes." Again, Franny ran into the back room, crying harder than ever before. "I thought Kaye really liked me. Why did she call me names? She is not perfect, either. Her legs are too skinny. Her arms are too long. Her eyes are not pretty. Her teeth are not pretty. Her nose is ugly. Her hair looks awful. And she is calling ME names! Maybe I should call her names and laugh at her. Maybe I should call Paul names and laugh at him. Maybe I should call Vickie names and laugh at her. Maybe I should call Suzie names and laugh at her, too! But wait, Vickie can't help

it if her teeth are not pretty. I do not want to laugh at her. She was born with ugly teeth and it is not her fault! I do not want to hurt her feelings!

Paul couldn't help it if his nose was very big. I don't want to call him names and hurt his feelings, either!

Suzie could not help it because her ears were so big. I think she looks funny, but I would never tell her that because I don't want to hurt her feelings.

Kaye could not help it because there was nothing about her that was pretty, but I could never call her names. I don't want to hurt her feelings, either!

"Is there something wrong with me? No! There is nothing wrong with me! There is almost everything right with me. I love all of my friends, even though they are not perfect. I will never call them names, because I do not like to see them cry. I do not want to hurt their feelings. I cannot do this, because I am not perfect, either!"

So, little Franny just went on and on, listening to the names her friends were calling her. Then, she actually started feeling sorry for them. They were not very smart friends.

They were very selfish friends. And some of them were pretty ugly friends! They were not very happy people. Do you feel sorry for them, too?

\*Author's note— Little "Franny Four Eyes" grew up to be a very beautiful lady. She is now married to her prince charming and has two very beautiful daughters. She lives in Montana. (Remember, I said that this story would have a happy ending, didn't I?)

Franny is not here to tell



you "Goodnight." Will you please let me, the author, tell you goodnight? Thank you and have wonderful dreams. And, after you wake up tomorrow, please don't hurt anyone's feelings. Instead, tell them about the nice things you like about them. Promise?

Bob Morgan says, "GOODNIGHT"





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Comanche Trail Nursing Center, is accepting applications for Activity Assistant, Cooks and Certified CNA's. Benefits include: paid vacation, 401K plan, health insurance. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway, Big Spring, TX 79720.

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Class A CDL. DOT Medical Cards, Drug & Alcohol Screens \$10.50 - \$12.50 DOE  
**N.C. Sturgeon, LP**  
Apply in person 2800 Windecker at Midland International Airport. La Clase concreta de Camineros de Batidora UN CDL. Las Tarjetas Medicas PUNTEDADAS, la Droga & Alcohol Investiga \$10.50 - \$12.50 DOE  
**N.C. Sturgeon, LP**  
Aplica en la persona 2800 Windecker en Aeropuerto internacional de region central.

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**HOWARD COUNTY** Teen Court Inc., is seeking a Teen Court Director. Qualifications: Must have excellent organizational skills, ability to communicate with public, experience in leadership or supervisory position, basic computer skills. Please send Resume: 305 Johnson, Big Spring, Texas 79720. Deadline July 29, 2005.

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Great benefits

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TUESDAY

Table with 15 columns (WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLN, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 12 rows (6-12 PM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"SEPARATE ROOM FOR ME, PLEASE. I'M HERE TO HAVE FUN!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Can too! I can get a wish at a wishing well!"

HAGAR



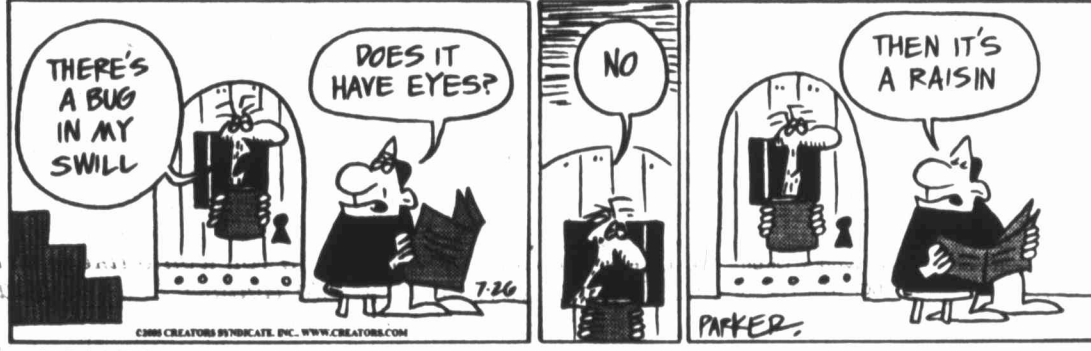
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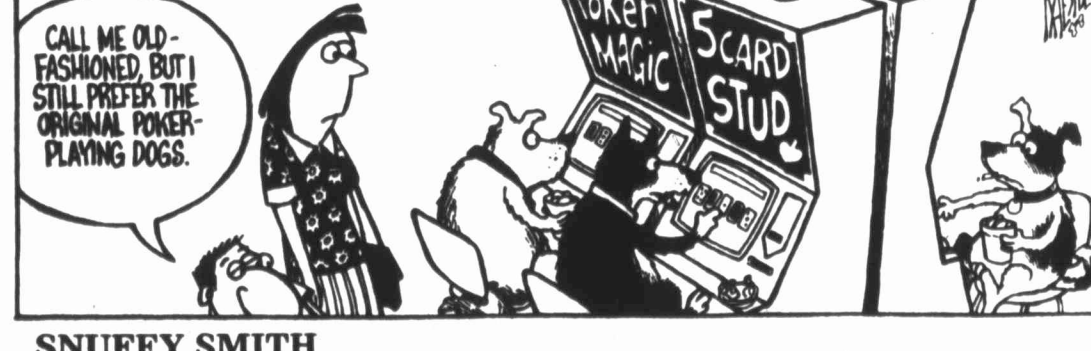
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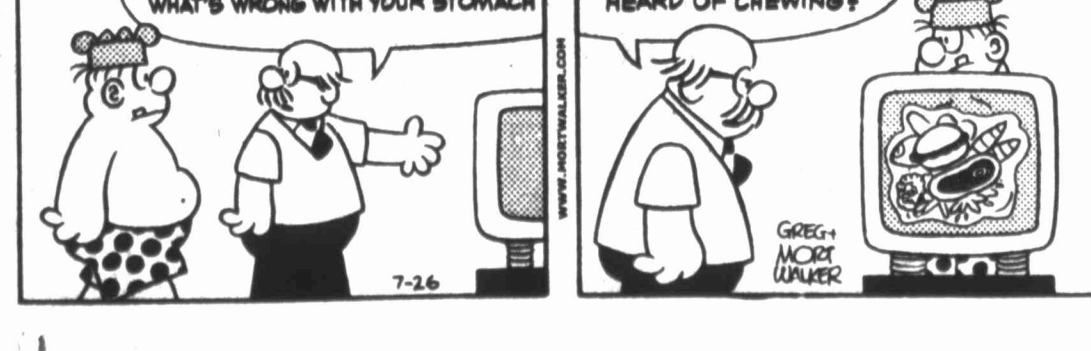
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAYLEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, July 26, the 207th day of 2005. There are 158 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On July 26, 1945, Winston Churchill resigned as Britain's prime minister after his Conservatives were soundly defeated by the Labor Party.

lady, Eva Peron, died in Buenos Aires at age 33. In 1952, King Farouk I of Egypt abdicated in the wake of a coup led by Gamal Abdel Nasser. In 1953, Fidel Castro began his revolt against Fulgencio Batista with an unsuccessful attack on an army barracks in eastern Cuba. In 1971, Apollo 15 was launched from Cape Kennedy in Florida. In 1990, President Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act. Ten years ago: The Senate voted 69-29 to unilaterally lift the U.N. embargo on arms shipments to Bosnia. Five years ago: A federal judge in New York approved a \$1.25 billion settlement between Swiss banks and more than a half million plaintiffs who alleged the banks had hoarded money deposited by Holocaust victims. One year ago: The Democratic Party's 44th national convention opened in Boston under extraordinarily tight security; a parade of speakers castigating George W. Bush as a president who mishandled the economy and bungled the war on terror. Today's Birthdays: Movie director Blake Edwards is 83. Actress-singer Darlene Love is 64. Rock star Mick Jagger is 62. Movie director Peter Hyams is 62. Actress Helen Mirren is 60. Actor Kevin Spacey is 46. Actress Sandra Bullock is 41. Rapper-reggae singer Wayne Wonder is 39. Actress Kate Beckinsale is 32. Gospel/Contemporary Christian singer Rebecca St. James is 28. Thought for Today: "Government is too big and important to be left to the politicians." - Chester Bowles, American diplomat, businessman, author and politician (1901-1986).

Newsday Crossword

OFFICE PROCEDURES by Gail Grabowski

- ACROSS
1 Porcus gem
5 Church platform
10 Land measure
14 Lacking color
15 Nary a soul
16 Spill the beans
17 Stepped heavily
18 Sharp tastes
19 Slugger Sammy
20 One-person-wide line
22 James Bond, for one
23 Greet at the door
24 Come next
27 Football positions
30 Soup container
33 Spider creations
37 Detroit product
39 Frighten
40 Wheel connector
41 Cry audibly
42 "\_\_\_ fair in love and war"
43 The S of SUV
45 Sock parts
47 Story line
48 President after Coolidge
50 Changes the color of
52 Jeans fabric
54 Cricket sound
58 Perform on stage
60 Hit-song honor
64 Rogers and Orbison
66 Harsh light
67 Slender woodwind
68 Record on video
69 Bother continuously
70 "\_\_\_ of your business!"
71 Slow-cooked meal
72 Bottom-of-barrel contents
73 Staircase part
DOWN
1 Makes a choice
2 Louvre's city
3 Single-handedly
4 Window projection
5 Reception helper
6 Bread unit
7 Singer Braxton
8 Protractor measure
9 Take offense at
10 Tummy muscles
11 Near miss
12 Hoarse sound
13 Internet auction site
21 Be deceitful
25 \_\_\_ boom bah
26 Open, as a jar
28 Do some housecleaning
29 Got up
31 Singer Guthrie
32 Hornet's hon.e
33 Laundry
34 Trade show
35 A or O, to a doctor
36 Start a tennis game
38 Follow orders
44 Years in a decade
46 Confidential matters
49 Fixed illegally
51 That girl
53 Grinding tooth
55 Computer symbols
56 Mechanical man
57 Liable (to)
58 \_\_\_ and crafts
59 Jacket or parka
61 Behind schedule
62 Haul
63 \_\_\_ blue sea
65 Replace a button



Chat/er Box

"I want my permanent address to be in Oklahoma. Someday, when I get married and I have kids, that's where I want to raise my kids."

— New "American Idol" Carrie Underwood, on her plan to stay true to her roots, to the Associated Press.



# KID NEWS

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Wacky Facts

- People have been playing cards for at least 700 years. The first playing cards were hand painted, so only the very wealthy could afford them.
- In 1980, "Pac-Man," "Space Invaders" and "Astroids" were the first arcade games to let high scorers enter their initials. — World Almanac for Kids

BY PATRICIA LONG ALBEE  
The Dallas Morning News

**D**oes your future include moving to a new home, perhaps even a new state? You're not alone. More than 10 million American kids move each year. That's a lot of room-cleaning, packing and goodbyes, and a lot of mixed emotions.

It can be an adventure getting to know a new place and a bummer leaving behind longtime friends. If you're not looking forward to the move, or even if you are, read on. Here are some tips for making it a more positive, even fun, experience:

**COLLECT THOUGHTS**

You may have a lot of thoughts rolling around in your head about the move, and getting them down in a journal can help you sort through them. "The Moving Book, A Kids Survival Guide," by Gabriel Davis, gives suggestions to help get you writing. Once down on paper, you can expand on them and even research ways to solve problems.

Write down how you feel about moving. Take pictures of your house, neighborhood, school, favorite places and your friends. Buy or make a scrapbook, and write next to the photos the things you want to remember.

The book "We Are Moving," by Rachel Biale, is really a scrapbook in disguise, with places for photos and writing. "The Moving Book" also has scrapbook pages plus, eight punch-out "We've Moved" cards.

**DO SOME RESEARCH**

Concern and doubt may turn into excitement as you find out about your new town and neighborhood. Use the Internet, to find out what there is to see and do.

Most cities or their chambers of commerce have Web sites with links to activities, services and places to eat. Schools and park departments usually have Web sites, so you can check out what your new school and nearby recreation areas will look like.

Guidebooks to certain cities are available just for kids. Check out the "Kidding Around" series and the "Kid's Guide" series.

If you visit the town, check the "free" racks at local bookstores or grocery stores to see if there are any publications for kids. And pick up the local newspaper.

Make or print a map of your new neighborhood by visiting [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com) or [www.mapblast.com](http://www.mapblast.com). Use stickers to mark schools, parks and malls. The map can help you become familiar with the area before you move, and in finding your way around when you get there.

**GET A PEN PAL**

Start exchanging letters with someone from your new school or neighborhood. If you're a member of a large organization such as Scouts or a religious denomination, ask an adult leader for the address of a local affiliate in your new town.

Write to them and tell them about yourself. They might be able to hook you up with a troop or youth group that can then find a pen pal for you. Or, as Davis suggests, write to the principal of your new school and ask if he or she could match you with a "buddy" who can help you get to know the school.

**SAY GOODBYE**

Ellen Carlisle, author of "Smooth Moves, The Relocation Guide for Families on the Move," recommends you don't tell your friends that you're moving too early. "Kids tend to pull back when they hear their friend is leaving," she writes.

Make a list of everyone you'd like to say goodbye to, then visit each person before you go. Make sure to get their addresses and phone numbers. Take an autograph book and have them sign it. Davis suggests making mementos of yourself to give to special friends and family, such as a photo of yourself in a homemade frame, a mini scrapbook or a braided friendship bracelet.

Have your friends speak into a tape recorder. Do pretend interviews. A tape like this is fun to listen to once you've moved.

Give your friends pre-stamped postcards addressed to you so they can write.

**ONCE YOU'VE ARRIVED**

Even with the best planning, everyone can get lonely after a move. Here are some tips for getting through the blues:

- Visit the places you've researched.
- Get involved in activities similar to the ones you were in before.
- Keep writing in your journal.
- Keep in touch with your old friends, by phone and mail. Send them photographs of your new home and school, or narrate a video. Send them postcards of your new city.

Davis suggests planning a long-distance popcorn-and-movie night with old friends. Pick a night when you and your friends will watch the same movie. It will be good knowing your friends are doing the same thing at the same time you are. Later you can talk about the movie on the phone or by e-mail.

■ Check out Allied Van Lines' Web site, [www.alliedvan.com](http://www.alliedvan.com). The site has create-your-own change-of-address e-cards that you can customize with rock, jazz or classical music. Also, check out instructions for creations made out of empty moving boxes, like a clubhouse, a "Wild West" jail and a lemonade stand.

**MAKING NEW FRIENDS**

Don't worry, be patient. You will make new friends. Signing up for classes or activities is a great way; going to a place of worship or playing regularly at a nearby park are other ways. If you already had a pen pal, maybe he or she can introduce you to other kids in the neighborhood.



In The News

'Pac-Man' turns 25

The little yellow guy who craves tiny dots and shouts "wocka, wocka, wocka" is having a big birthday. The video game "Pac-Man" is 25 years old.

It all began in Japan when a young designer named Toru Iwatani was inspired by a pizza while working at a company called Namco. The pizza was missing one slice and the idea of Puck-Man was born. (Puck-Man came from the Japanese phrase "pakupaku," which means to flap one's mouth open and closed.) "Puck" became "Pac" when the game made its way to the United States in 1980.

'PAC'-MANIA

"Pac-Man" was an instant hit. It was a funny, nonviolent video game that was popular with girls and boys. In the game, Pac-Man travels through a maze, scoring points with the dots he eats. Along the way, he must escape his rivals, a group of ghosts named Blinky, Pinky, Inky and Clyde.

Soon, "Ms. Pac-Man" entered the picture, and not long after that, "Junior Pac-Man" was born. A cartoon show and all kinds of toys followed. Just last year, "Pac-Man" made a huge comeback with the popularity of a new Namco joystick that players can plug into their television sets. The joystick features classic video games like "Pac-Man," "Galaga" and others.

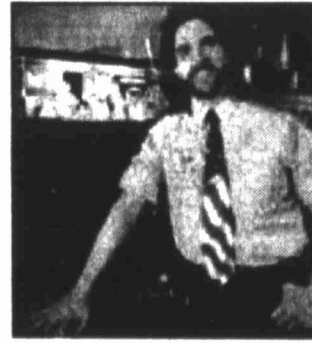
Today, "Pac-Man" is considered by many to be the most popular video game of all time. This year, Namco is releasing other new games based on the original "Pac-Man." "Pac-Mania 3D," "Pac-Man World 3," "Pac-Pix" and "Pac-Man Pinball" will be sold along with a 25th anniversary edition of the old arcade machine.

LITTLE YELLOW HERO

"The fact that it's cute, it's almost like a hero running around the board from bad guys," said Billy Mitchell, 39, of Hollywood, Fla.

Mitchell was the first person known to play a perfect game of "Pac-Man." He scored an amazing 3,333,360 after completing all 256 levels in more than six hours in 1999, according to video game record keepers. Added Mitchell: "Whether it was an 80-year-old lady or a kid, everyone could adapt to the Pac-Man world."

JOE RIMKUS JR./KRT



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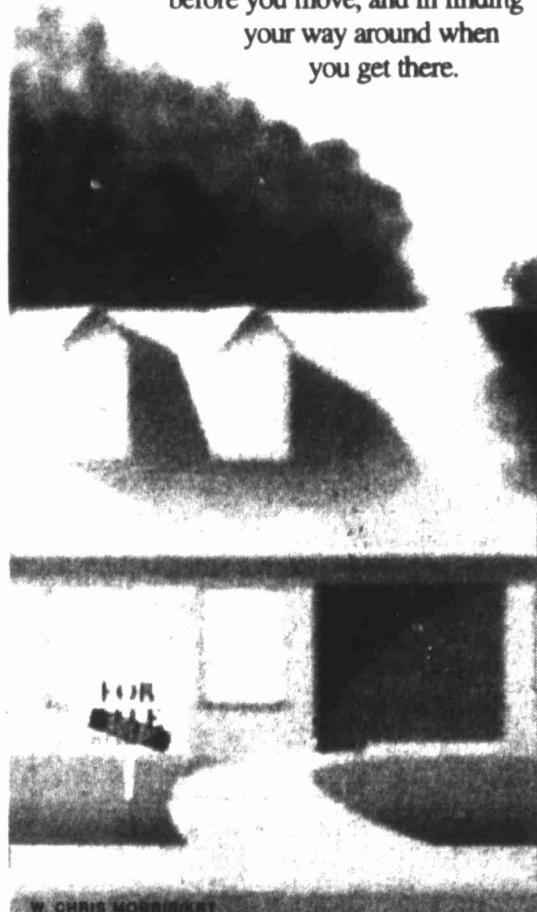
## ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

YOU HAVE TO GO, SO HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO MAKE LEAVING EASIER

**PACKING**

Practice memorizing your new address by writing it on the outside of each packing box.

Take along a small suitcase or backpack for your most prized possessions to keep with you during the move so they won't get lost.



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