

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Marchers take to Martin Luther King Boulevard Monday evening for the annual march celebrating the life and work of the Nobel Prize winner. Marchers made their way up the boulevard from Gregg Street to FM 700, braving high winds, dropping temperatures and an impending dust storm.

## March honors King's legacy

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

High winds, cold weather and an approaching dust storm did little to darken the path of marchers Monday evening, as men and women of all creeds and colors came together to honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

At the age of 35, Martin Luther King Jr. was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize, delivering the deathblow to segregation in the United States.



McEwen

Local residents celebrated his birthday by marching down Martin Luther King Boulevard — despite the inclement weather — from Gregg Street to FM 700.

"I thought it was very interesting today that Congressman Neugebauer was here, and he pointed something out that's remarkable and I didn't realize," said Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, as the march ended near FM 700. "There are two days in the United States that are holidays that are named after people. One of them is Christopher Columbus and the other is Dr. Martin Luther King."

McEwen said growing up and seeing the work of Dr. King left a lasting impression on him, proving to the world that differences can be settled without the use of violence.

"I can remember growing up and the amazing thing in observing Dr. King was that he was totally non-violent," said McEwen. "We live today in such a different time, but back then it was very difficult to be non-violent"

See KING, page 3A

## BSISD aims to address SLP shortage

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

If you can't recruit 'em, train 'em.

Faced with a shortage of speech pathologists — and unable to lure them away from the private sector — the Big Spring Independent School District has decided to take a "grow your own" approach to filling those positions.

During their regular meeting Monday night, BSISD trustees approved a policy that will enable administrators to recruit and train Speech Language Pathologists for the district.

Under the program — which will be held in conjunction with Texas Women's University — the district will pay tuition and other costs associated with the three-year SLP program. In

return, the trainee will agree to serve three years as BSISD after completing the program.

Cost will be \$21,000 per trainee, Superintendent Michael Downes said.

Bobby Waldrop, director of special education for the district, said this shortage is not limited to this area. "They provide therapy for students with speech impairments, and as long as I've been in Big Spring, we've had a shortage of SLPs."

"This is not a Big Spring problem, and this isn't a West Texas problem — this is a national shortage,"

Waldrop said. BSISD currently has one full-time and one part-time pathologist on staff, with two more full-time and one part-time

See BSISD, page 3A

## VAMC, border security hot topics at reception

Neugebauer 'rolling up his sleeves' on VA issue

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Congressman Randy Neugebauer made a stop at the Heritage Museum Monday afternoon, taking time to meet with constituents and not only inform them of what's going on in Washington, D.C., but to hear about matters that concern them most.

And the list of topics covered almost as much ground as the congressman's 19th District, items such as the future of the Big Spring VA Medical Center and securing the U.S. borders.

Neugebauer said he and his staff are carefully following the dealings of the

Capital Realignment for Enhanced Services, which has been charged to make a recommendation concerning the fate of the local VA facility.

"We've been working very closely with your community leaders," said Neugebauer. "And we've had meetings with two Secretaries of Veterans Affairs — the past and present — and my marching orders are that the folks who are working on your behalf have put together a very compelling proposal. And the mayor (Russ McEwen) and others who have been to Washington D.C. and laid that proposal out."

"So we have our sleeves rolled up everyday to make sure we work on that process. If I had a Top 2 list, that hospital would be at the top of the things we need to work on."

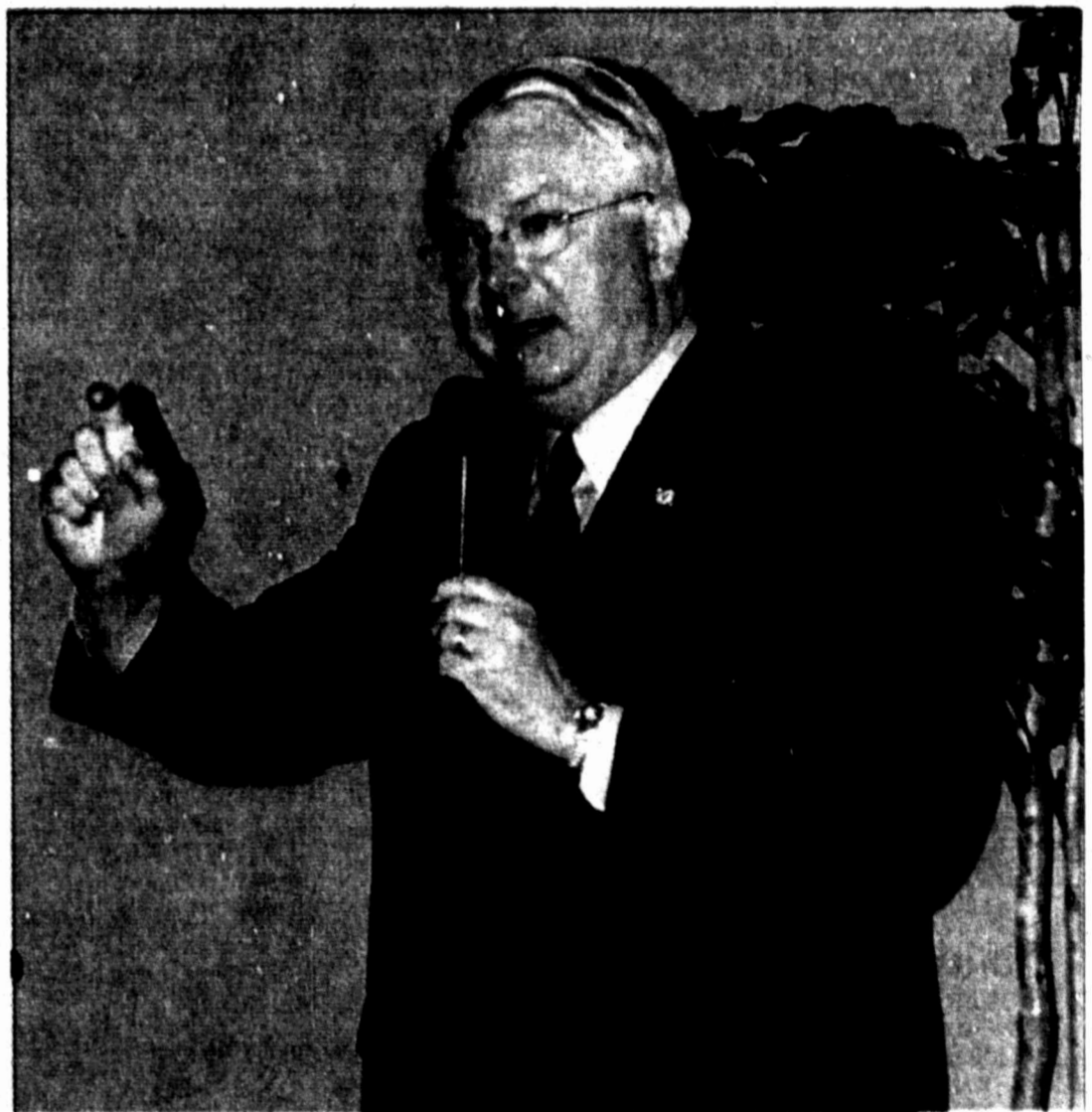
Neugebauer also addressed border security,

saying the current "catch and release" system being utilized at our borders is extremely flawed, making it nearly impossible to keep the country secure.

"People come into this country, and not everyone comes here to do good things. Some people come to do bad things," said Neugebauer. "It's important that we know who is coming into this country and their purpose for coming. We need to make sure those people are coming for lawful purposes."

"Last year alone, 120,000 people were arrested at our borders who were not from Mexico. They were from the Middle East and countries all around the world. And we have a bad policy where after we catch those people, we tell them to come back in two weeks or two months for a deportation hearing."

See VAMC, page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Congressman Randy Neugebauer explains some of the challenges he and his colleagues will be facing in the coming session during a special presentation at the Heritage Museum Monday afternoon.

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### NIX SETS BENEFIT

Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys will perform at a dance Saturday with proceeds going to help the Big Spring High School band raise money for a trip to Carnegie Hall.

The dance will be held at the Stampede on State Highway 350 (the Snyder Highway). Doors will open at 8:30 p.m. and the dance will be held from 9 a.m. until midnight.

The BSHS band needs to raise about \$200,000 to finance the trip, scheduled for early June. The band is currently about halfway to its goal.

Tickets are \$10 per person at the door. For more information, call 267-2060.

### HEFLIN PLANS VISIT



Crosby County businessman Joe Hefflin, the lone Democratic challenger for the District 85 seat in the Texas House of Representatives, will meet with voters at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the Sparenburg Building in downtown Big Spring.

Hefflin is running for the seat currently held by Pete Laney, who is not seeking re-election.

For more information, contact local Democratic Chairman Wayne Burns at 263-3903.

### LEADERSHIP BIG SPRING

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Big Spring program will get under way next month with the first class set to be held Thursday, Feb. 9, at 8:30 a.m. in the chamber board room.

Leadership Big Spring is a nine-month program, held every second Thursday of the month, February through December except for June and July.

The program takes participants on tours which integrate them with all aspects of Howard County life: Industry, government, medical, agriculture, education and more.

Cost is \$300. Deadline to sign up is Wednesday, Jan. 25. Call 263-7641 for more information.

## Obituaries

## Nellie Mae Bryant



Nellie Mae Bryant, 91, of Big Spring passed on to meet her maker Jan. 15, 2006. Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006, in Albuquerque, N.M., with interment at Sunset Memorial Park. Officiating will be Mesa Odd Fellow Lodge No. 27 and Mountain View Rebekah Lodge No. 36. She will be laid to rest next to her late husband.

She was one of twins born Aug. 10, 1914, in High Rolls, N.M., to Edgar and Cora Eastwood Booth. After their mother died, the family moved to the grandparents' farm in Montague County.

In 1921, the family moved to Casa Grande, Ariz. Nell graduated from Phoenix Union High School and attended nursing school in 1936. She married Norman Bryant in Phoenix Sept. 25, 1937.

Along with brothers and friends, they started the first American Motorcycle Club of Arizona. They were avid Harley riders until 1965, traveling throughout the southwest and Canada.

They moved to Albuquerque, N.M., in 1950. She started her own business "Nell's Pleating Shop" in 1952, where she made and hand pleated Fiesta Skirts. She went into nursing in 1964, working at hospitals in Albuquerque, Truth or Consequence and Clovis, N.M.

She retired in 1979, and then worked as a home care nurse until 1994. Nell was an active member of the Mountain View Rebekah Lodge No. 36 since 1956. She was Noble Grand twice in that time.

She moved to Big Spring in 2000 and was living at Canterbury South, where she was active in the Auxilliary and Retired Senior Volunteer Program. She moved to Parkview Nursing Home in April 2005.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman Bryant in 1968, two brothers, Allen Booth and twin brother, Nelson Booth, one sister, Blanche Myers and two sons-in-law, James Dillon and John Stevens.

Survivors include two daughters and their husbands, Lorretta and Bill Wahl of Big Spring and Louise and Arlie Marion of Bassett, Va.; three grandchildren, Jack Stevens, U.S. Army in Germany, Norma-Nell and Rick Sanchez of Clovis, N.M., and Kyle and Reta Dillon of Castle Rock, Colo.; and six great-grandchildren.

The family request donations to be made to the Odd Fellows Youth Camp, in care of Jeanne Simms, P.O. Box 654, Farmington, N.M., 87499

Arrangements are by French Mortuary in Albuquerque, N.M., and Myers & Smith Funeral Home in Big Spring. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

Paid obituary

## Nelene Ashley Wright



Nelene Ashley Wright, 80, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 16, 2006, at Snyder Oaks Care Center in Snyder. Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2006, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Jim Wright and the Rev. David Ring officiating. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park. She was born Jan. 16, 1926, in Sulphur Bluff in Hopkins County, the only child of Pearl and Lee Ashley. They moved to Howard County in 1930.

Nelene was reared in the Midway community. She went to school at Midway and then to Coahoma High School. Nelene married J. Lee Wright, Nov. 25, 1942, in Big Spring while he was stationed at the Big Spring Bombardier School. He preceded her in death, May 12, 1986.

Nelene had worked at Montgomery Ward and McCroy's Stores. She had been a member of the Eastern Star Lodge since 1950. Nelene had been an active member of Wesley United Methodist Church since 1941; in recent years, First United Methodist Church. During her more than 55 years at Wesley United Methodist Church, she was a member of the Browder Sunday School Class.

She is survived by two sons, Danny Wright and his wife, Sandy and Lonnie Wright and his wife Nita, all of Big Spring; three grandchildren, Patty Jo Wright of Big Spring and Ryan Wright and his wife, Gayla and D.D. Wright and his wife, Jessica, all of Stephenville; and one great-grandson, Logan Landes-Wright.

Pallbearers will be Alan Wright, Buddy Marshall, Bill Lovelace, Alton Hall, Bobby Hill and Ricky Spencer. Honorary pallbearers will be Wayne Morris and Marvin Callihan.

The family suggests memorials to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

The family will be at 1410 E. 14th St. Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

Paid obituary

## Trinity Rose Mundell

Trinity Rose mundell, infant daughter of Stephanie Yanez and Jason Mundell, died Friday, Jan. 13, 2006, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services were 10 a.m. today, Jan. 17, 2006, at Trinity Memorial Park with Michael Chase officiating.

She was born Jan. 13, 2006, in Big Spring. In addition to her parents, she is survived by three sisters, Alena Aguillar, Natalie Aguillar and Kaleigh Mundell; her parental grandparents, Debbie and Stanley Gregory and her maternal grandparents, Abraham and Irene Yanez, all of Big Spring.

Arrangements are under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Crematory in Big Spring. Online condolences may be made at [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com)

## Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:  
Winning numbers drawn: 5-19-22-25-26.  
Number matching five of five: 3.  
Prize per winner: \$10,269.  
Winning tickets sold in: Anahuac, Palmview and Somerville.  
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-0-8

## Nelda Rose Grant

Nelda Rose Grant, 72, of Crossett, Ark., formerly of Big Spring, died Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006, at the Beverly Health Care Center in Crossett. Funeral services were 10 a.m. today, Jan. 17, 2006, at the Trinity Freewill Baptist Church with the Rev. Brent Hutsell officiating. Graveside funeral services are 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006, in Mount Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Herb McPherson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating.

Visitation is 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was a born June 16, 1933, in Big Spring to Wallace and Rose Shaw Bly. She was a native of Big Spring and a resident of Crossett, Ark. and Milo, Ark. for the past eight years. She was a homemaker and a member of Trinity Freewill Baptist Church. She was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church while she lived in Big Spring.

She is survived by one son, Bobby Lee and his wife, Donna of Big Spring; one sister, Joyce Pennington and her husband, M.D. of Hamburg, Ark.; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands, Bill Decker, Norman Burkhardt and Harry Grant; and three brothers, Wallace Bly Jr., Connie Ray Bly and Harry Lee Bly.

Local arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at [www.myersandsmith.com](http://www.myersandsmith.com).

## Sheriff's report

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

• **DONNA LEA POTTER**, 45, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• **ARMANDO LOPEZ**, 35, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

• **MICHAEL D. PARKER**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **ALFREDO HERNANDEZ**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **ARMANDO SANTIAGO DELEON**, 48, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• **RUBEN JUAREZ JR.**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **TERRY BOB MAKOWSKY**, 53, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

• **JASOM MAURICE THREATS**, 28, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of bondsman off bond for resisting arrest, search or transportation, bondsman off bond for failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information, bondsman off bond for evading arrest and bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **ROY LEE MOORES JR.**, 44, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **ALEXANDER VALENCIA**, 47, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of failure to appear for a child support hearing.

• **JOSEPH RAY BACA**, 20, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **JOE DAVID FEWELL**, 45, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated - third or more offense and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

• **BRANDON WILLIAM WHITE**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **JOSHUA HUGHES**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - more than two ounces, less than four ounces.

• **LAUREN SHERAE LEFLER**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of making alcoholic beverages available to a minor.

• **MATTHEW MENDOZA**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **RICARDO LONGORIA PEREZ**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **FREDDY CANO RODRIGUEZ JR.**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **TOM ANDREW CURRIE**, 45, was arrested Sunday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.

• **AARON EDWARD HENDERSON**, 44, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of forgery of a financial instrument, possession of a controlled substance and a motion to adjudicate for fraudulent delivery of a controlled substance/prescription.

• **STONEY MERVIN CASSELMAN**, 43, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.

• **JUAN ALBERT LOPEZ**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass of a habitation.

• **BRITTANY ANN SIMER**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of

## Police blotter

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

- **MATIAS CISNEROS**, 22, of 1603 E. 11th Place, was arrested Monday on four local warrants.
- **ELDA BERNAL**, 35, of 3612 Hamilton, was arrested Monday and held for the HCSO.
- **JUANITA JUAREZ**, 17, of 1203 Barnes, was arrested Monday and held for the HCSO.
- **JENNIFER METCALF**, 29, of 6601 Midway Road, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 700 block of Highland.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 4400 block of Elder. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 4200 block of Dixon. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 5800 block of Midway Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

theft.

• **JACOB KYLE ZANT**, 21, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **GREGORIO E. ARENIVAZ**, 63, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated and criminal mischief.

• **MARIA REBECCA LARA**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.

• **JULIANA RENEE JUAREZ**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for failure to identify - giving false information and theft.

• **JUANITA ARANJO**, 41, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **ELDA MELINA BERNAL**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice and stealing/receiving stolen check.

• **LYDIA F. MARTINEZ**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• **LEONARDO TALAVERA JR.**, 46, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

• **TRISHA DODSON**, 28, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of theft by check.

• **JENNIFER RENAE CHANDLER**, 29, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of failure to maintain financial responsibility and no driver's license.

• **ANDY LEE CUELLAR**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **OSCAR DE LA PARRA**, 22, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of no driver's license and speeding.

• **SCOTT VELL AUTRY**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

## Support Groups

## TUESDAY

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1805 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

## THURSDAY

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

## FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. 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 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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Texas Briefs

Worker killed during maintenance check

EL PASO (AP) — An airplane mechanic was killed Monday morning after he was sucked into a jet's engine while passengers were boarding from the tarmac, officials said. "A mechanic walked in front of the engine and was pulled into the engine," National Transportation Safety Board spokeswoman Lauren Peduzzi said. She said she didn't know if any passengers saw the accident as they boarded Continental Airlines flight 1515 to Houston. A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said the worker was sucked into the right engine of the 737-500. The mechanic's identity wasn't released, but Continental identified the victim as an employee of one of Continental's suppliers. Continental released few other details about what it called a "ground incident" at El Paso International Airport. "My fellow co-workers and I extend our heartfelt

sympathies to the family and friends of the mechanic involved in this tragic event," Larry Kellner, Continental chairman and CEO, said in a statement. There were 114 passengers and five crew members boarding the plane. Peduzzi said there had been an earlier problem with the Number 2 engine, so the engine's metal covering was open at the time of the accident. The NTSB was investigating.

Vietnam deserter awaits fate after arrest

FORT WORTH (AP) — A Vietnam deserter who spent more than 36 years on the lam was behind bars Monday, awaiting word on his fate as authorities worked to decide if and how his case would be prosecuted. Ernest Johnson Jr., 55, was arrested Thursday in Fort Worth on a federal warrant for military desertion — stemming from his 1969 decision to leave Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he was stationed with the Marines. Johnson said he deserted because he opposed the Vietnam War, telling the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in a jailhouse interview Friday that the war was "a mistake from Day One." He spent the next three decades drifting between California, Oregon, Arizona, Indiana, Michigan and Texas, where he was living with his girlfriend in Fort Worth when officials arrested him Thursday. Johnson, who used the surname McQueen throughout his life, remained in custody Monday in Mansfield Jail without bail as authorities decided whether he would be sent to North Carolina to face charges. If court-martialed and found guilty, he could be sentenced to up to three years in the brig and be dishonorably discharged, Marine Capt. Jay Delarosa, a spokesman, said. "I guess I'll have to take whatever comes my way," Johnson said, adding that he did not believe he should be punished. "I'm not a criminal. I'm not a

crook. I've never had one violent offense." But he said he felt relieved by his arrest after spending more than half his life as a fugitive. "They were hot on my tail a few times, and they were hot on my tail this time," said Johnson, who said he suffers from prostate cancer and knee and shoulder ailments. "I could have run this time, but I said, 'No, my running days are over with.'" In other long-term deserter cases, the military has released offenders without prosecution, ending the cases with other-than-honorable discharges. Johnson's girlfriend, Mary Tajari, said she hoped for a similar resolution and was surprised the military continued to pursue her boyfriend. "They're going to transport him all the way to wherever and hold court and waste money on a man who is 55 years old and probably dying from prostate cancer?" Tajari said. "I think it's wrong. It's a shame for the military to have been looking for this man for 36 years."

Delarosa said Johnson wasn't being made an example for younger Marines. Rather, he said, the arrest was a consequence of a decision Johnson made years ago. Tajari said she was unaware of Johnson's history as a deserter before the arrest. Johnson, who married twice and has two children, said he never told family members. But he said he wanted them and anyone who learned of his situation to think before forming opinions on the desertion. "Walk the road before you judge it," he said.

Endangered whales sighted off coast

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Two endangered whales were spotted Monday in the Corpus Christi Bay, well outside of their typical winter territory. A tanker pilot reported the two Northern right whales, believed to be a mother and a calf, after he thought he may have hit one of them. "It's an absolute mystery how they got here," said Tony Amos, a

research fellow at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute. Amos spotted the whales twice on Monday, first in the bay's ship channel and later near the Naval Station Ingleside, further out to sea, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported. Northern right whales spend the winter off the coast of Georgia and Florida and the summer in New England waters and north to the Bay of Fundy and Scotian Shelf, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service. There are thought to be about 300 of the whales, which have been listed as an endangered species since 1973. Amos said he was skeptical when he first heard the report, because the whales are so rare. He photographed the whales to report them to federal officials that monitor them.

Odds and Ends

Two-year-old gets summons

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP) — Kaylee Reynolds had a huge problem when she received a recent summons to serve jury duty. She wasn't old enough to read it. The 2-year-old has quite a few years to go before she reaches the minimum age of 18 to serve on a state jury. Lucky for Kaylee, Massachusetts Jury Commissioner Patricia J. Wood seemed willing to let it slide for a while. "We'll give her a 16-year grace period," Wood said. Wood guessed the mix-

up could be traced to a local census form. If the form has a blank or mistaken birth date, July 4, 1776, is filled in. "With that date we'll know it is wrong," Wood said. Besides her questionable understanding of the concepts of guilt or innocence, there are other reasons why it's best to wait for Kaylee to serve. Her mother, Patricia, says Kaylee gets really cranky if she doesn't get her noontime nap.

It's never too late to wed

MORRIS CHAPEL, Tenn. (AP) — For the third time in his 100 years, the Rev. James Rual Chalk has walked down the aisle. Chalk on Sunday married longtime friend Evelyn Johnson, 68, before nearly 100 family members and friends. "I told someone I'd known Brother Chalk since I was this high," said pastor Dennis Moffett, lowering his hand just below his hip. "Then one of his family asked him, 'Is there anyone he hasn't known since they were that high?'" Chalk has known Evelyn since 1982.

Dr. King and its results in American society. "Lord, thank you for bringing us together that we might remember the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King," prayed Vaughn. "We want to thank you for giving him not only to the black race, but to all of mankind, red and yellow, black and white. We're all precious in your sight. "He stood for freedom, justice and equality and died so men might know there is a right to serve a true and living God. And to love one another and walk together in love." King was assassinated April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn. Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

King

Continued from page 1A

because there were some horrible things done in the name of justice that just weren't right. "Dr. King stood by his profession and said 'We will do this non-violently.' And he called upon all men to come together, and we stand here today as a group of people, not black and white people, because of the things Dr. King did. It's only right we observe this holiday, and we're so fortunate Dr. King walked among us for a period of time." The Rev. William Vaughn, of Mount Bethel Baptist Church, delivered a rousing and resounding prayer, following McEwen's words, thanking God for the work of

BSISD

Continued from page 3A

In other business, trustees: • Extended Downes' contract through May 2008 and approved a 1.3 percent increase in his salary. • Gave final approval to a contract giving Crossroads Housing first option to buy the old Rannels Junior High School property. • Approved a change in policy to allow the Howard County Election Administrator to conduct school board elections. Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

VAMC

Continued from page 1A

Guess how many of them showed up?" Neugebauer said securing the borders and new, more updated immigration policies will be waiting on him and other members of Congress in the coming session. "We have to secure our borders," said Neugebauer. "There was some legislation right before we adjourned to strengthen our borders and increase the number of border agents. Also, the policy of catch and release, and to do some common sense things to make sure the people that are here are coming here for good and legal purposes."

try, and I always shake their hand and thank them for what they are doing," said Neugebauer. "I haven't had one soldier tell me he or she wishes they hadn't gone. And I haven't had a single soldier tell me we should get out of Iraq and Afghanistan. I've heard a lot of politicians talk about that, but I've never heard those men and women who put their lives on the line come back and say, 'Let's cut and run, congressman.'" The Patriot Act also came under fire during the meeting, as Neugebauer quickly addressed concerns that U.S. citizen's civil rights were being violated as a result. "To my knowledge, the Patriot Act has not been declared unconstitutional," said Neugebauer. "And I have never seen anyone come forward under the Patriot Act and say their constitutional rights were violated. So that's the history right now."

personnel needed to meet requirements. To make up that shortfall, the district must contract with outside firms. "The cost (for bringing in outside SLPs) is much, much more than if we had them on our staff," Downes said. "This is an investment," Waldrop said. "Hopefully, after three years, they'll decide they want to stay in Big Spring ... But, in the long run, this will help us save money and provide better services for our students."

Efforts to create a new energy bill in Washington D.C. also took center stage Monday. "I cannot think of one issue that may be more important to this country today than energy," said Neugebauer. "And I think we've seen some of the effects of what happens when we disrupt energy supply to a country that imports 70 percent of its crude oil and 10 percent of its gasoline. ... If there was a perfect storm for energy, it was Hurricane Katrina. It hit an area where we produce oil, import oil and where we refine oil, all at the same time. We all saw the consequences of what hap-

pers with that. "There are places that oil comes from that aren't necessarily all that friendly with America, and the slightest disruption in that process yields the kinds of results we saw during Katrina." Neugebauer said current attempts to bring the ongoing energy crisis under control through conservation are far fetched, at best. "What a lot of people in Congress don't understand is we can't solve this problem with conservation and making more energy efficient cars," said Neugebauer. "You're already 70 percent behind the curve. You're not going to get caught up with conservation methods."

The congressman also addressed the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, citing his own travels and chance encounters with service men and women as an indicator of whether or not the government is following the right path. "I think about those young men and women that I see in the airports traveling across the coun-

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Juanita T. Jordan, 80, died Friday. Funeral Mass was at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.  
Francisco "Chico" Rubio, 68, died Saturday. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.  
Nelene Ashley Wright, 80, died Monday. Funeral services will be at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.  
Nelda Rose Grant, 72, died Saturday. Graveside funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.  
Nellie Mae Bryant, 91, died Sunday. Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Thursday in Albuquerque, N.M. with interment at Sunset Memorial Park.

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EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Guv hopefuls, please don't pass us by

Last week, Gov. Rick Perry was on the campaign trail. He made a visit to El Paso, dropped in to see the folks in Midland then headed right by Big Spring en route to Abilene. Frankly, we're befuddled. It reminds us of when we were young and — hopeful of an ice cream cone or chocolate shake — we'd ask Dad, "Can we go by the Wagon Wheel on the way home?" And he'd say "Sure!" And Dad would do just that. He'd drive right by and keep on going. We knew he was going to do it, but we sulked a bit afterward anyway.

Well, we aren't sulking, but we're miffed a bit. It certainly looks like we just weren't important enough for the Republican incumbent to mess with. Say it ain't so, Rick!

We want to go on record right now, that the folks in Howard County expect a visit from candidates who are in the race for the Texas governorship. If you don't stop here, don't look for our vote.

We realize we're not the largest population center in this fine state — not even close. However, we do feel like we are as important as Dallas, Houston, Austin, El Paso or San Antonio, and as far as we're concerned, a darned sight smarter. After all, we don't have traffic jams and city council scams. Out here it is neighbors, not lobbyists, who fall all over themselves trying to help you. We breathe air, not exhaust. It's quiet and we can see the stars at night. You get the idea. We'd go on and on, but we don't want to run the risk of rewriting "Okie from Muskogee," either.

The main thing we want you to know is that we feel as important as the "bigger guys" and we want the same respect. So...

Carole Keeton Strayhorn, it's time to do your tough grandmother act in Big Spring.

Chris Bell, ring out for all to hear right here. Mr. Friedman, we want you to get Kinky in our city.

And Guv, put us on the circuit next time. We've got a real big airport and we're right at the intersection of Interstate 20 and U.S. Highway 87.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

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- 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

Kids, crashes and confusion

I'd always hoped that some day there'd be a comeuppance for sports utility vehicle owners. You know, folks who bought their guzzlers with the attitude, "I don't care what happens to your family if we crash, so long as my family walks away."

Well, the comeuppance has come up. A study picked up by pretty much every media outlet except Howard Stern has found that the kids in SUVs are not necessarily any safer after all.

"It's not that SUVs are bad," says the co-author of the study, Dr. Dennis Durbin at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. "It's just that the evidence is not so clear that they are obviously superior."

Based on accident data collected by State Farm Insurance, Durbin's study concluded that since SUVs are usually heavier than passenger cars, car riders are indeed more likely to be crushed in a one-on-one crash, yes.

But, he went on: Big as they are, SUVs are top-heavy, and hence more likely to roll over. And children in rollover crashes are three times more likely to be injured than children in non-rollovers. That's why, when I asked Dr. Durbin what kind of car he'd want his kids to drive, he immediately replied, "The largest sedan they could safely handle."

Now, it should come as no surprise that a few days after all this anti-SUV hoopla, the SUV Owners of America put out a press release, "The Truth Finally Gets Told: SUVs are Safest for Child Passengers."

"To say that children are about as safe in passenger cars is not true!" railed the organization's spokesman, Ron DeFore, in a phone interview. He insisted that federal crash data

just 1 percent of all traffic accidents. The rest of the time, kids are getting everything from bruises to brain damage, and SUVs are not any better at safeguarding them. The only thing parents can really do to ensure a safer ride is to use carseats and seatbelts, regardless of what they're driving.

So even though the whole thing is still a little confusing — SUVs are the same as cars, except when they're safer (in fatal crashes) and less safe (because they roll over more) — Durbin was sticking with his my-kid-gets-a-sedan position.

For a final, unbiased opinion, I called a guy who test-drives a new car every day, David Champion, director of auto testing for Consumer Reports. "What do you want your kid to drive?" I asked, slightly desperate.

"I would never put a new driver in an SUV," he said, citing the rollover tendency again.

And there you have it. The rollover threat is just too great. Like Durbin and Champion, I'm strapping the kids in tight and sticking with my sedan.

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist at The New York Daily News (Lskenazy@nydailynews.com).  
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LENORE SKENAZY



proves that kids in SUVs are actually twice as safe as in cars.

It's hard to trust a guy whose organization exists to lobby against things like tougher emissions standards for SUVs. On the other hand, he couldn't be making up his stats, could he? So I asked Durbin to clarify, and he did.

Sort of. In fatal crashes, the doctor conceded, SUVs might actually be safer for kids. But fatal crashes, he hastened to point out, occur in

ADDRESSES

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|--|--|---|--|
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|--|--|---|--|

Ultimate justice delayed

Editor's note: Clarence Ray Allen was executed early this morning. He became the second-oldest inmate executed nationally since the 1976 Supreme Court ruling that allowed capital punishment to resume.

Before you ask, I'll answer your questions: Why not sentence convicted murderers to life without parole, so that they'll be locked up where they can't hurt anyone else?

Clarence Ray Allen, who is scheduled for execution at San Quentin State Prison today, is living proof that a convicted killer can snuff out the lives of innocent people from behind bars. In 1977, Allen began serving a life sentence for the murder of his son's 17-year-old girlfriend — her punishment for confessing to a victim robbed by the Allen gang. Allen then concocted a scheme he thought would set him free — file an appeal, kill the witnesses and walk after a retrial with no witnesses to testify against him.

Toward that end, Allen provided fellow inmate Billy Ray Hamilton with a list of eight names of witnesses before Hamilton was paroled. In 1980, Hamilton murdered Bryon Schletewitz, 27, an Allen witness, along with two innocent teenagers (Josephine Rocha and Douglas White) who worked at the Schletewitz family store, which the Allen gang had robbed. Authorities later found the list of Allen witnesses and letters Allen sent to a son about his plan.

Juries sentenced Allen and Hamilton to death, and issued life sentences for two accomplices. "Given the nature of Allen's crimes," Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw wrote in a ruling that

denied an Allen appeal, "sentencing him to another life term would achieve none of the traditional purposes underlying punishment: incapacitation, deterrence, retribution or rehabilitation."

Why bother executing a frail old man? Allen is an old man today because he was no kid — he was 50 — when he ordered the murder of eight witnesses.

Then he gamed the legal system so successfully that he bought himself more than two decades on Death Row. Now he's using his cynical use of the system as a reason to put off the execution.

What if he's innocent? It doesn't help Allen supporters that this week DNA tests conducted to exonerate rapist-murderer Roger K. Coleman of Virginia — who proclaimed "An innocent man is being murdered tonight" before his execution 13 years ago — proved that Coleman was indeed guilty.

Lance Lindsey of Death Penalty Focus believes that it is wrong to assume Allen is guilty because, as he wrote to me, "given all the questions raised about the reliability of snitch testimony in this and many other cases, it would simply be prudent to question the verdicts in such cases; especially life-and-death cases."

I can't agree. Juries can make mistakes — that is why appellate courts should and do review capital cases. Allen had that benefit, and he faces execution because the evidence against him was overwhelming. Hamilton's list tar-

geted witnesses who testified against Allen. Allen wrote letters about the crimes "in very, very transparent code," noted state Deputy Attorney General Ward Campbell.

As for the "snitch testimony": Why do death-penalty opponents embrace the lingo of killers? In Allen's case, Death Penalty Focus lists "two crucial witnesses at trial" who received "substantial benefits for their testimony." But those two — among 58 witnesses — were minor players. The two accomplices are serving life sentences, so they didn't get an undue break.

To believe Allen's claims of innocence is to choose to believe a man who boasted to his minions that he liked to kill "rats" and hence ordered the death of a teenage girl because she had a conscience. When in prison for that murder, he attempted to evade punishment by killing more people.

To believe Allen is to choose blindness. Why not declare a moratorium on the death penalty so that a commission can explore it? There already is a moratorium — it's called the appeals process. When it takes more than two decades to carry out a sentence, a moratorium is redundant.

Besides, if executing "the lapse of many years after imposition of a death judgment renders an execution cruel and unusual" — as Allen's lawyers argue — then a moratorium is cruel punishment. Hence, good people should oppose it.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunder@schronicle.com.  
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DEBRA SAUNDERS

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By DAVID AP MOVIE BEVERI (AP) — romance Mountain Globes M prizes, in matic film ing honor It was night for with hor transsexu with the "Brokeba acting h Felicity F der-bend; preparin surgery "Transar Philip Se as gay Capote ir "I know job is us skins, bu ple our who we I would men an brave o ation an the mar who th Huffman The Jo raphy " won the musical and ear for stars and Rees: Direct "Brokek the stor Westerr (Heath Gyllen their af as a fro Oscars - ally has acting p ers in h der-ben have ne picture themed Oscar come ot awards 5. "Brok also we play ar That V Old." Phoei Wither actor movie for the countr career courtsl his life The clapped song "I Phoeni "Whc though in the categor poking for da "Not e Phoe own s thanke for sha all of t "Thi import

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# 'Brokeback Mountain' leads Globes with four awards

By DAVID GERMAIN  
AP Movie Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The cowboy romance "Brokeback Mountain" led the Golden Globes Monday with four prizes, including best dramatic film and the directing honor for Ang Lee.

It was a triumphant night for films dealing with homosexuality and transsexuality. Along with the victories for "Brokeback Mountain," acting honors went to Felicity Huffman in a gender-bending role as a man preparing for sex-change surgery in "Transamerica" and Philip Seymour Hoffman as gay author Truman Capote in "Capote."

"I know as actors our job is usually to shed our skins, but I think as people our job is to become who we really are and so I would like to salute the men and women who brave ostracism, alienation and a life lived on the margins to become who they really are," Huffman said.

The Johnny Cash biography "Walk the Line" won the Globe for best musical or comedy film and earned acting honors for stars Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon.

Director Lee's "Brokeback Mountain," the story of two rugged Western family men (Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal) concealing their affair, has emerged as a front-runner for the Oscars — which occasionally has handed out top-acting prizes for performers in homosexual or gender-bending roles but have never given the best-picture Oscar to a gay-themed film.

Oscar nominations come out Jan. 31, with the awards presented March 5.

"Brokeback Mountain" also won for best screenplay and song, "A Love That Will Never Grow Old."

Phoenix and Witherspoon won for best actor and actress in a movie musical or comedy for the biopic that follows country legend Cash's career and his long courtship with the love of his life, June Carter.

The Globe audience clapped along to Cash's song "I Walk the Line" as Phoenix took the stage.

"Who would ever have thought that I would win in the comedy or musical category?" said Phoenix, poking fun at his image for dark, brooding roles. "Not expected."

Phoenix, who did his own singing in the film, thanked "John and June for sharing their life with all of us."

"This film is really important to me," said



KRT photo via Focus Features, River Road Entertainment  
Heath Ledger, left, and Jake Gyllenhaal, right, star in Focus Features and River Road Entertainment's "Brokeback Mountain." The cowboy romance "Brokeback Mountain" led the Golden Globes Monday with four prizes.

Witherspoon, who offers a spirited performance and fine singing as Carter. "It's about where I grew up, it's about the music I grew up listening to, so it's very meaningful."

George Clooney, who was among the directing nominees for "Good Night, and Good Luck," won the supporting-actor Globe for the oil-industry thriller "Syriana" and Rachel Weisz earned the supporting-actress prize for the murder thriller "The Constant Gardener." "Syriana" spins a convoluted story of multiple characters caught up in a web of deceit, greed, corruption and power-broking over Middle Eastern oil supplies. Clooney plays a fiercely devoted CIA undercover agent who comes to question his country's actions in the region.

Clooney thanked writer-director Stephen Gaghan for a movie "that asks a lot of difficult questions."

There are similar corporate undertones to "The Constant Gardener," in which Weisz plays a humanitarian-aid worker whose husband (Ralph Fiennes) is drawn into a dogged investigation of business interests connected to her murder.

"I share this with Ralph Fiennes," said Weisz. "One couldn't ask for a more magical, a more magical, committed actor."

"Brokeback Mountain" won the screenplay award for Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana. McMurtry thanked his constant companion during the lonely

process of writing. "Most heartfelt, I think my typewriter. My typewriter is a Hermes 3000, surely one of the noblest instruments of European genius," McMurtry said.

The Palestinian film "Paradise Now," a dark tale of two Arab friends tapped to carry out a suicide bombing in Israel, won the prize for foreign-language film.

Television winners included Geena Davis for best drama series actress as the U.S. president in "Commander in Chief," Hugh Laurie for drama series actor as a cranky, pill-popping doctor in "House," Steve Carell for best comedy series actor as an incompetent boss in "The Office," Jonathan Rhys Meyers for miniseries or movie actor as Elvis Presley in "Elvis," and S. Epatha Merkerson for miniseries or movie actress as a boarding house proprietor who takes in an outcast teen in "Lackawanna Blues."

"This is really wonderful for a fledgling little show like ours," said Davis, who added that a little girl coming into the Globes stopped her to say, "Because of you I want to be president some day."

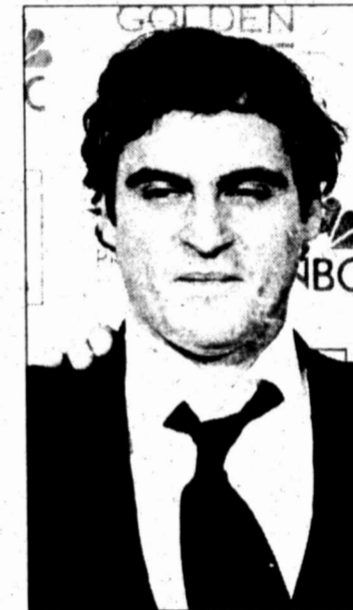
"Well, that didn't actually happen," Davis joked. "But it could have."

Mary-Louise Parker of "Weeds" beat out the four lead actresses of "Desperate Housewives" for best actress in a comedy series. But "Desperate Housewives" did win for best musical or comedy series.

The Globes are awarded



KRT Photo/Hahn-Khayat-Abaca Press  
Rachel Weisz, above, winner of Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in a Motion Picture for "The Constant Gardener," in the pressroom at the 63rd Annual Golden Globe Awards.



KRT Photo/Hahn-Khayat-Abaca Press  
Joaquin Phoenix, left, winner Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy, and Reese Witherspoon, above, winner for Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy, for their performance in "I Walk the Line," the story of Johnny and June Carter Cash.



KRT Photo/Hahn-Khayat-Abaca Press  
S. Epatha Merkerson, winner of the Best Performance by an actress in a mini-series for "Lackawanna Blues" at the 63rd Annual Golden Globe Awards.



KRT Photo/Hahn-Khayat-Abaca Press  
Felicity Huffman, above, winner of Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy, for her performance in "Transamerica," and Philip Seymour Hoffman, left, winner of Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy, for his performance in "Capote."

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# Christy's Quill

Art projects are hard for me.

I remember cringing during the art classes in junior high school. The command to draw just anything was almost as bad as draw this horse.



CHRISTY ALTON

I couldn't draw anything out of my creativity, much less a horse.

Sadly, this lack of artistic ability has followed me into my adult years and oh, how I have needed this one little talent that lots of other people possess.

My grandmother, uncle, brother, sister, mother, children and husband are artsy-craftsy.

But the force just isn't with me.

On a December school day, I was wishing for such strength when I found myself substituting in a first-grade classroom.

On the menu for the day was a reindeer art project.

I almost bolted out of the room.

Complete with hand prints, wrapping-paper noses, construction paper faces, glitter and glue, I was out of my league.

With scissors flying, hands trembling and

sweat beading, I attacked the craft in earnest.

It attacked me right back.

I know the students saw my fear; I couldn't hide it.

I tried to be strong, but those sleigh-pullers were scary.

The children, on the other hand, were awesome. They wielded glue sticks, scissors and crayons with ease.

Thanks to the kids, the deer hung on the bulletin board with dignity and charm.

My next job while substituting was to be a simple task of cutting and gluing whales in a folder.

After two hours of intense struggle, I felt like Jonah — totally swallowed and helpless.

Anything to do with art is just too painful, and substiting has really made me step outside of my comfort zone.

At home, though, it's a different story.

For people like me, there are stores.

I am blessed to have my kids do all the creative stuff.

Their gorgeous pages, paintings and sketches grace much of our home.

Thankfully, they didn't take after me in the art department.

*Christy Alton is married to her park ranger, Ron and they have two children. She works as a substitute teacher and also attends college classes.*

# Bird Poop

Inside the shoebox was the familiar sound of bird feet sliding and trying to grip slick cardboard.

As I carefully opened the lid for a glimpse, the crested songbird stared back as if I had insulted its privacy.

Looking through its facial black mask, the cedar waxwing could only wonder what had happened to its day.

Earlier, it had enjoyed a breakfast of mulberries and the companionship of other bandit-looking birds.

"It was in the middle of FM 700. I just knew it'd get hit. So I stopped my car beside it so no one could get close," Margaret Lloyd explained.

A lover of any kind of animal life, she had risked her car, her safety and possibly her sanity to pick up this bird.

Margaret added that the cedar waxwing only had one wing and that she had applied pressure to stop the bleeding.

With the assurance that I would call and let her know the outcome, Margaret left and I immediately examined the bird.

Cleanly severed at the shoulder, the wing had left an opening on the side of, the bird that enabled me to see inside.

This was a new experience. Margaret's use of pressure had stopped the bleeding. Left in the box in a warm, quiet area, the bird had a long shot at surviving such a traumatic injury.

The next morning I felt the bird must surely

have died during the night. It was not to be.

The masked marvel once again looked me over, as if demanding breakfast.

The only food we had for a bird whose diet included fruit were green grapes, which we diced and offered.

Left alone to discover the food and get its bearings, the cedar waxwing ate all the pieces and appeared to feel at home.

As I thought about the injury, I wondered if, in crossing the highway, the bird had hit a car's antenna.

Since vessels can spasm and seal when severed this way, I thought perhaps that was the reason it had not bled to death.

Two theories about the wound were available: close it, or let the bird's body and nature handle it.

We chose the latter. The next concern, if the waxwing lived, was its diet.

Since it was spring, it could feast on the berries of the agrita (a native plant known as red barberry) and fresh mulberries.

The weather was suitable for emerging insects, but catching them was a problem. Another "rehabber" suggested PD dog food, which the waxwing accepted if crumbled.

During the summer, blue berries and diced grapes could be offered, and in the fall, the berries of the hawthorn, pyracantha, yaupon, juniper and cedar were available.

Living at a rehab cen-



Courtesy photo  
A cedar waxwing has ips of red on its wings, bright orange plume with a black mask on its crest and head and yellow-tipped tail feathers.

ter, the cedar waxwing, nicknamed "Cedi," healed and thrived. It earned its keep for four years by greeting and calming new arrivals.

Comfortable in its new environment, it began to trill, and when looking out a window would sometimes offer the characteristic high-pitched whistle of its specie.

As it recovered, the waxwing preened away its disheveled appearance

and became the sleek songbird it had been.

The bird exemplified its name by its preference for cedar berries and its wing feathers tipped with waxy red droplets. Although its feathers darkened in captivity, they resembled the delicate brush strokes of a master artist.

*Bebe McCasland is federally and licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.*

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### Howard starts WJCAC with easy road victory



Howard sophomore Charles Burgess, left, tries to get around Midland's Ricky Smith during action earlier this year in Odessa. The Hawks began conference play Monday with an 84-32 win against the New Mexico Military Institute. Burgess finished with 12 points. Howard will travel to New Mexico JC Thursday before hosting No. 13 Midland next Monday.

#### • Top-ranked Hawks play near-perfect first half in WJCAC win

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
ROSWELL, N.M. — Howard men's head coach Mark Adams knows whichever team can win the most games on the road this season will have a strong chance at winning the title in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

The Hawks were able to grab their first conference road win Monday

as top-ranked Howard downed the New Mexico Military Institute, 84-32.

"I was proud of our kids for getting a road win to start off conference play," said Adams. "Whoever gets the most wins on the road in our league will most likely win the conference. And that has been the goal of our guys this entire season. They want to win the conference."

In other WJCAC action, No. 13 Midland survived a scare on the road against Frank Phillips as the Chaps won 101-99 in double OT. Clarendon defeated New Mexico

Junior College, 100-90, and South Plains took down Odessa College, 76-59.

Howard, which improved to 17-0 on the season, used a 29-0 run in the first half to grab a 54-12 lead at halftime. The Hawks went eight-for-nine from behind the 3-point line, led by sophomore Louis Rodgers and freshman Benny Valentine. Rodgers and

Valentine combined for six first-half 3-pointers and both players scored 14 points.

"It will definitely make things easier for us if we continue to shoot like that all season," said Adams.

The game started out tight with Howard leading 7-4. Rodgers hit two 3-pointers and scored on an alley-oop dunk to get things started for the Hawks. The second 3-pointer kick started the 29-0 run by Howard. Valentine scored eight points during that stretch.

The Hawks struggled out of the gates in the second half, but recovered late in the game to take home a 52-point win.

See HOWARD, Page 2B



#### Venus falls in first round in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Venus Williams was knocked out of the Australian Open in the first round with a 2-6, 6-0, 8-7 loss to Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova.

It was only the third time in 34 Grand Slam tournaments she lost in the first round — the previous time at the 2001 French Open.

Serena Williams had her own lapses, but defeated 52nd-ranked Li Na of China 6-3, 6-7 (1), 6-2 and maintained her record of never losing in the first round of a Grand Slam tournament.

Top-seeded Lindsay Davenport advanced with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Australian wild-card entry Casey Dellacqua.

Among the men, No. 2-seeded Andy Roddick downed Michael Lammner of Switzerland 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 in the first round. Masters Cup champion David Nalbandian had some difficulty before overcoming Thai qualifier Danai Udomchoke 6-2, 6-2, 1-6, 6-7 (4), 6-1.

Other men advancing were No. 7 Ivan Ljubicic, No. 8 Gaston Gaudio, No. 11 David Ferrer, No. 13 Robby Ginepri, No. 17 Radek Stepanek, No. 18 Mario Ancic and No. 20 James Blake. Taylor Dent, Carlos Moya and Tim Henman were the major casualties.

#### Duke remains No. 1, Florida takes a vote

Duke was still No. 1 in The Associated Press college basketball poll, as it has been all season. This week, however, the Blue Devils weren't a unanimous choice.

One of three unbeaten teams in Division I, Duke (16-0) received all but one first-place vote from the 72-member national media panel. The other went to No. 2 Florida (16-0) after a week in which 11 ranked teams lost, two of them twice.

Arizona and Cincinnati, the two ranked teams to lose two games last week, dropped out of the top 25. They were replaced by Syracuse and Washington.

### Mavericks roll past Milwaukee in Dallas

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer  
DALLAS — Erick Dampier won't be getting back into the starting lineup for the Dallas Mavericks any time soon if the center keeps playing like this off the bench.

A reserve for the second straight game after starting the first 36, Dampier had seven rebounds and two assists in his first five minutes to help the Mavericks take control early against the Milwaukee Bucks on Monday.

He finished with 10 rebounds in 14 minutes and Dirk Nowitzki scored 35 points in Dallas' 114-95 victory.

"With Damp coming in, he's bring a lot more energy," said Josh Howard, who had 21 points and 11 rebounds. "That's what we needed from him. I think that's going to get him his drive back."

DeSagana Diop, who replaced Dampier in the starting lineup, was scoreless with six rebounds and two blocked shots in 28 minutes.

Coach Avery Johnson, who prefers rebounding and blocks over scoring from his centers, doesn't sound like he plans to change the lineup any-

time soon.

"I expected him to rebound really hard and go after blocked shots. That's what he did," Johnson said of Dampier. "He had one block on paper, but got up and tipped some balls. ... Now Damp is playing against some backups. That makes a difference, especially right now."

Nowitzki made up for the poor-shooting game he had last time against Milwaukee, hitting 14-of-21 from the floor. It was his fifth straight game with at least 26 points.

Nowitzki made just 5-of-22 shots and scored 18 points at Milwaukee on Nov. 29, a game Dallas lost 113-111 in overtime.

When Nowitzki scored the first seven points after halftime for the Mavericks this time, they were already ahead by 18 points and well on way to their second straight lopsided victory. The 7-footer already had 24 points.

"When Dirk has his jump shot, he's going to be a tough cover," Bucks coach Terry Stotts said. "They put him in a lot of different situations, and he takes advantage."

The Mavericks scored at least 110 points for the third straight game, and fourth time in six games.

See MAVS, Page 2B



Big Spring's Ja'Leza Terrell scores two points during action at the Steer Gym last Tuesday. The Lady Steers lost to Lubbock Estacado Saturday and fell to 0-3 in District 4-4A.

### B.S. girls lose road game to Estacado

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — The Big Spring Lady Steers ran into trouble Saturday on the road against rival Lubbock Estacado, losing 76-50. The loss dropped Big Spring to 0-3 in District 4-4A action.

The Lady Steers led by two after the first quarter, but the Lady Matadors grabbed the advantage in the second frame with a 21-10 advantage. The nine-point advantage was pushed to 11 after three quarters and Lubbock Estacado eventually went on to win by 26.

Seniors Carmen Davis and Raegan Ritchey had 14 points each to lead Big Spring (3-25). Senior Chalesa Johnson finished with eight points. Junior Mallory Dunn scored eight points, including two 3-pointers, but played most of the game in foul trouble.

The Lady Steers and Steers will each take on rival Frenship tonight at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The girls will start at 6:30 p.m., while the boys will tipoff around 8 p.m.

### Hingis solid in return to majors

By PAUL ALEXANDER

AP Sports Writer  
MELBOURNE, Australia — Martina Hingis looked as if she'd never been away.

Playing on the center court where she won three of her five Grand Slam titles before retiring for three years, the Swiss star was right at home in the first major of her comeback effort, routing

30th-seeded Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 6-2 Tuesday in the first round of the Australian Open.

Hingis' victory was all the more impressive in that she had so little trouble with Zvonareva, who became increasingly irritated with everything from Hingis' winners to disputed line calls, repeatedly spiking her racket

and smashing balls in anger.

Some had questioned Hingis' condition during warmup tournaments. But she moved well and looked sharp, confident and relaxed. She finished with 17 winners and only 11 unforced errors.

"I just came out here the other day. I could

See OPEN, Page 2B

#### Tonight's area basketball lineup

Big Spring boys/girls vs. Frenship at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 6:30 p.m./ 8 p.m.

Coahoma boys/girls vs. Anson, 6:30 p.m./ 8 p.m.

Forsan boys/girls vs. Wink, 6:30 p.m./ 8 p.m.

Garden City boys/girls @ Borden County, 6:30 p.m./ 8 p.m.

See OPEN, Page 2B

MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

They had eclipsed that mark only three times their first 32 games.

"Offensively, we really were able to get anything we wanted," Nowitzki said. "We were moving the ball well, we were penetrating. We got open shots and we're at our best when running and moving the ball like we did."

Jason Terry had 20 points for the Mavericks, who play their next five games on the road.

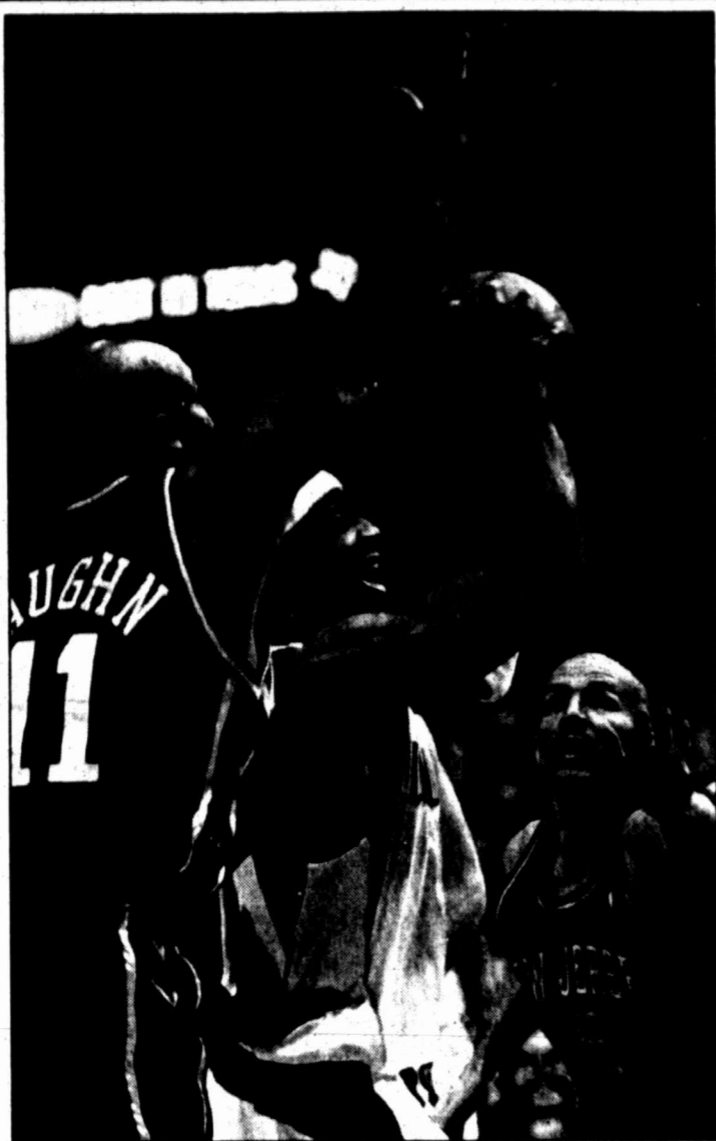
Michael Redd had 29 points to lead the Bucks, who have lost six of eight games. Maurice Williams added 18 points.

Coming off a 110-77 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Saturday night, Dallas got off to a sluggish start against the Bucks.

The Mavs missed their first four shots and had three turnovers while Milwaukee jumped out to a 7-0 lead on Redd's 3-pointer 2 1/2 minutes into the game. Dallas had just two turnovers the rest of the half — and went ahead 13-12 on a 15-foot jumper by Nowitzki midway through the first quarter.

Keith Van Horn hit two free throws to make it 27-25 with 2.6 seconds left in the first quarter. The Mavericks never trailed again and Van Horn, who scored nine points in less than six minutes, didn't play any more.

A minute after entering the game, Van Horn came



KRT photo/Daron Dean, Dallas Morning News  
Dallas Mavericks' Jason Terry, center, takes a shot during the first half as New Jersey Nets' Jason Kidd, right, and Jacque Vaughn defend Saturday at the American Airlines Center in Dallas. The Mavericks defeated the Milwaukee Bucks in Dallas Monday night.

down awkwardly on his first basket, a driving finger-roll shot.

He stayed in and played, often grimacing in pain, until after his go-ahead free throws. He had X-rays and is considered day-to-day with a sprained left ankle.

Dampier blocked a reverse layup attempted

by Dan Gadzuric in the second quarter, then had a putback slam at the other end to put the Mavs up 38-32.

After Terry drove for a free throw and added a free throw to make it 50-38, the Mavericks maintained a double-digit lead the rest of the game. They led 58-45 at halftime.

Huskies take down Orange in key Big East showdown

• Morrison's 30 points leads Gonzaga to win

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Rashad Anderson scored 21 points, Josh Boone had 18 points and 10 rebounds as No. 3 Connecticut ended No. 20 Syracuse's 12-game winning streak, 88-80 Monday night.

Syracuse (15-3, 3-1 Big East) entered the Top 25 on Monday for the first time since late November, but the Huskies (15-1, 3-1) took a big early lead and pulled away for their sixth win over the Orange in eight meetings.

Hilton Armstrong had eight of UConn's 16 blocked shots and Marcus Williams, making his sec-

ond start since returning from an 11-game suspension due to an arrest last summer in the theft of laptops from dorms, had 14 points and 11 assists.

Demetris Nichols led the Orange with a career-high 28 points, all but three in the second half.

It was the first game between Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun and Syracuse's Jim Boeheim since they were inducted into the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame in September. Both have 718 wins.

Calhoun left the bench with about 4 minutes to go because he wasn't feeling well, but team officials said it wasn't anything serious.

No. 6 Gonzaga 92, Loyola Marymount 80

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Adam Morrison scored 30 points and Gonzaga (14-3, 4-0 West Coast Conference) extended the nation's longest home winning streak to 32 home games, one more than Illinois and Southern Illinois. Derek Raivio added 24 points as the Bulldogs won their fifth straight overall.

Morrison, who leads the nation in scoring at 28 points per game, topped 30 points for the seventh time this season and for the third consecutive game.

Wes Wardrop led Loyola Marymount with a career-high 31 points.

OPEN

Continued from Page 1B

already feel the atmosphere coming from the previous years," the 25-year-old Hingis said. "You don't know how good it feels. This surface, this stadium has been so good for me."

Another Swiss star, top-seeded Roger Federer, overwhelmed a player he met for the first time just before the match. The lack of familiarity didn't matter. He routed Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan 6-2, 6-3, 6-2, reminding everyone that the road to the title goes through him.

Third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt survived a scare, rallying again and again to beat the Czech Republic's Robin Vik 6-4, 2-6, 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-3 in 3 hours, 45 minutes.

On the women's side, No. 2 Kim Clijsters advanced 6-3, 6-0, winning the last 11 games after dropping serve twice against South Korea's Cho Yoon-jeong. She showed signs of being

bothered by a left hip strain that forced her out of the Sydney International last week.

Third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo, winner of the season-ending WTA Championship in November, struggled at times in a 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 win over China's Sun Tiantian, a doubles gold medalist at the Athens Olympics.

Fifth-seeded Mary Pierce, the 1995 Australian Open champion and a finalist at the French and U.S. Opens last year, breezed past local wild-card entry Nicole Pratt 6-1, 6-1 in 52 minutes.

Federer was broken only once in his match and yielded only 13 points in his other 12 service games. Increasingly frustrated as the match wore on, Istomin began to press, muttering as he tried to find something that would work.

"It was not easy today because he was serving big, taking a lot of chances on my return," Federer said. "So we did-

n't see too many rallies, which didn't really allow me to get the rhythm going. I won comfortably. That's what counts most."

Tommy Haas, the former No. 2-ranked player who upset Federer in the Kooyong exhibition last week, had a 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 win over 14th-seeded Richard Gasquet. Gasquet was one of only four players to beat Federer in 2005.

Australia's Mark Philippoussis saw his comeback blunted, losing to 25th-seeded Sebastien Grosjean of France 6-4, 6-2, 6-3. American qualifier Alex Bogomolov Jr. defeated ninth-seeded Fernando Gonzalez of Chile 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-7 (3), 7-5.

No. 5 Nikolay Davydenko, No. 6 Guillermo Coria, No. 12 Dominik Hrbaty and No. 15 Juan Carlos Ferrero all advanced.

Among the women, No. 7 Patty Schnyder and No. 12 Anastasia Myskina, the 2004 French Open champion, won their matches.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

The Broncos scored two straight 3-point plays early in the second half to cut the lead to 36. The teams traded baskets until late in the game. Howard finished the contest on a 14-2 run, led by sophomores Richard Forbes and Dezmon Harris.

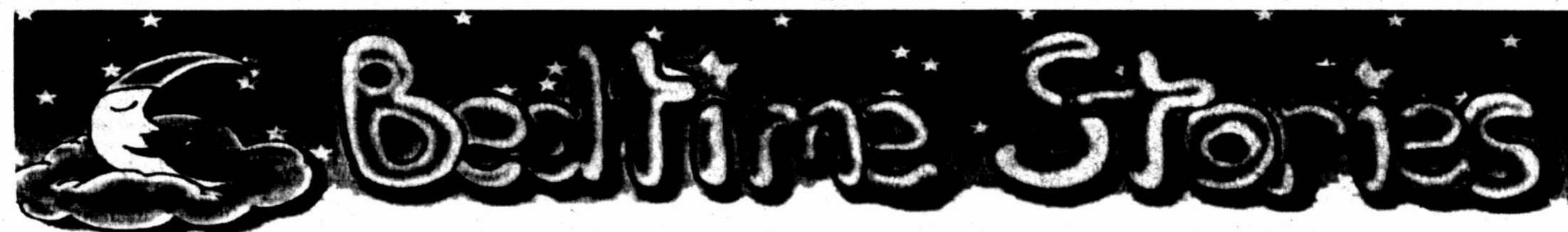
"It was good to see us finish the game strong," said Adams.

The Hawks hit just three out of 11 from long range in the second half and missed first. They finished 11-for-20 in the game and 19-for-22 from the foul line. They also committed 20 turnovers.

Rodgers finished with 18 points, six rebounds and four assists to lead Howard, while Valentine

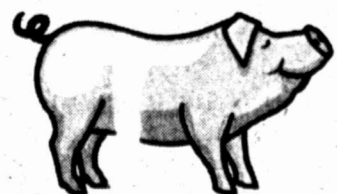
added 17 points and three steals. Sophomore Charles Burgess had 12 points, three rebounds and four assists and Harris added 13 points.

The Hawks will try to capture another win on the road Thursday as they travel to Hobbs, N.M. to take on New Mexico Junior College (10-7, 0-1). The men's game will take place at 7:50 p.m. following the women's game.



BIG PIG

I am a pig. I am a big pig. I am a big pig because pigs are supposed to be big. My name is Big Pig. Why are you laughing?



Haven't you ever heard that a pig is supposed to be big? Just happened to be a big pig. If you want something to laugh about, then let me tell you what my brother's name is. It's Ig Pig. Ig Pig is also a big pig. My sister's name is Erline. She isn't a big pig. She is a little pig. My brother, Ig Pig, and I, Big Pig, just call her Erline Little Pig.

Erline's sister, is called Whitney Pig. Whitney Pig is also my brother's sister pig, and Whitney Pig and Ig Pig are my brother and sister pigs.

Erline Pig is my brother's sister pig and my sister, Whitney's, sister pig. Erline Pig, Whitney Pig, and Ig pig are my brother and sister pigs. Did you understand all of this so far? Good! Please tell me because I am confused!

This morning, I walked down to my pig sty. Do you know what a pig sty is? It is the place where I love to play in the mud. It is a beautiful morning! I feel the warm sun on my back. I see the pretty sky. I love my pig sty, under the sky. My, oh my, what a pretty sky and what a day to play in my sty. I hope I can keep the mud out of my eye, while playing in my sty, under this sky. Can I?

My brother, Ig Pig, said to me, "Hey, Big Pig, Look at the pretty

sky, get out of that sty. Let's play under the sky, for it is big, and I am Ig, and you are Big Pig but you like the sty better than the big sky."

"I will have more fun than you, Ig Pig," said I,



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"For I will enjoy both the big sky and my pig sty. Will you jump into the sty with me, then we'll see, if two pigs can have fun in the sun, under the sky, in my sty, or do we need three?"

Ig Pig said to me, "I'll never get into that sty, for I, don't like the mud. I will ask Erline Pig if she will get into the sty, with my, brother Big Pig." Erline said, "No, Ig Pig, I will never go, into that sty, with my, brother Big Pig, for the mud is sticky and it will feel

icky, and it will be tricky, but ask our sister, Whitney, if she will jump into the muddy sty!"

"Whitney Pig, will you join our brother, Big Pig, in the sty?" asked



Ig Pig. "Why, why should I, join Big Pig in the sty?" Whitney asked Ig Pig. "Because he is our brother, and we should all play with him," Ig Pig said to Whitney Pig. "Okay, I will jump into the sty, with my, brother, Big Pig, but you must jump in before I," said Whitney Pig.

Ig Pig sure didn't want to jump into the sty,

because it was muddy and never dry. He held his snout, then jumped about, and then dove into that sty. He didn't like the smell, but he could tell, that he would like the mud but never that smell! But, he was having fun, and told his sister, Whitney, to run, and join them in the mud. Whitney Pig ran and jumped into the sty, and the mud splattered into Big Pig's eye. He didn't mind this at all, for each time he would fall, he always got mud in his eye, in this sty.

Now there were three dirty pigs in the sty, and only one left nearby, that was not in the sty. "Come on, Erline, jump in with us," the three pigs all said, "If you play with us, we'll see that you are clean again before you go to bed!"

Erline was tired of playing all alone, so she thought she might jump into the sty. Big Pig, Ig

Pig, and Whitney seemed to be having so much fun, that Erline started to run, right for that mud, then she tripped and fell, and you could tell, it was not going to be a good way to enter the sty. She slid under the fence, then



into the dirt, then slid right into the sty, snout first! First she stood, then got mad, but then she was glad, because the mud felt good!

Now, there are four pigs in the sty! And every day after that, I never had any trouble getting my sister, Erline, or my sister, Whitney, or my brother, Ig Pig, into the sty with me, Big Pig!

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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Call 263-7335  
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**BIG SPRING HERALD**

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Fax# 432-263-0773

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Requirements:  
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Salary is contingent on experience. Comprehensive benefits package included.  
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- PAID Health Insurance
- 401K
- Great Work Environment
- Paid Mileage

Please come by or mail resume to:

**InHome Care, Inc.**  
1104 Scurry  
Big Spring, Tx 79720

**BEST HOME Care** has position for full time RN/LVN. Competitive pay and great working hours. Apply at 111 East 7th, Suite C, (432)263-3851.

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**IMMEDIATE OPENING** for part-time Laundry attendant. Work 7 days- 7 days off. Must have own car. Apply 1208 Gregg Street or 208 11th Place.

**Help Wanted**

**HELP WANTED IMMEDIATELY:** Producer Payment Clerk for Natural Gas Plants. Good mathematical, computer and data entry skills required. Prefer some natural gas or oil-related experience. High School Graduate. Salary DOE/ Send resume to WTG Gas Processing, 211 N. Colorado, Midland, Texas 79701 or facsimile 432-682-4024.

**HOWARD COUNTY** Road Department will accept applications January 17, 2006 through January 27, 2006 for a ROLLER OPERATOR (SOIL COMPACTOR) OPERATOR. Previous experience a plus. Applications may be picked up and returned from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday at Room 305, at the Howard County Courthouse. All applicants will be pre-job drug tested.

**IF YOU** enjoy a teamwork approach to nursing & have a passion to ensure high quality care to the elderly, we want to meet you!  
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Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs! Free Estimates!! Big Spring & Surrounding Areas.  
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**BIG SPRING HERALD**

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**LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING**  
More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and Removal.  
Call Lupe Villalpando 432-268-6486

Big Spring Tuesday  
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

The Virgo moon and Capricorn sun inspire studious, efficient and detailed work. We have a tendency to find fault in others and ourselves under this moon, but we use this tendency as a tool instead of as a debilitating force. The difference between constructive and destructive criticism may be only in the way we apply the information.

You deserve to be treated like a good student. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're a trendsetter, and friends want you to consult on every new purchase, decision and activity. If only you had time for all the interruptions! Give a little before setting out to explore the next cool thing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Now, be honest. Are you still waiting for someone who cannot commit? Don't be tragic. Move on! Be open to others who want to be in your life. You can feel them on the periphery, looking for an inviting gesture from you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll run into headstrong people with half-baked ideas, but there's a germ of genius in even the most ludicrous among them. You're the person who can make sense out of the thing that others deem as crazy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It seems the more someone wants your approval, the more you don't want to give it to them. Give it anyway. Approve of and encourage others. Later, you'll be glad you were nice.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "What is my real sign? I was born on July 22, 1984. Some horoscopes say that I'm a Leo, and some say I'm a Cancer. Is this the reason why I have a problem with my sexuality? When will my love life bloom?"

Since the sun moves into Leo at a different exact time each year, there is a slight variation in the date markers that different astrologers use in their columns. In your birth year, 1984, the sun entered Leo on July 23, so you are officially a Cancer. However, there are many Leo influences in your chart, including Mercury and Venus. I'll bet you have a strong interest in performing and love the attention you get while entertaining friends.

Your moon is in Taurus, a very sensual placement for the emotional moon. You would make a fabulous gourmet cook and could be a fine connoisseur of wine, meat and cheese. Also, you have a lovely singing voice. Pursuing interests such as these (to the point of being masterful!) will lead you to a relationship with someone who appreciates your depth and passion for life. By the way, I see no "problem" with your sexuality. You know what you are and what you like!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: I predict a period of intense introspection for mega-comedic talent Jim Carrey and other Capricorn men born in 1962. Soul searching will be necessary in order for Carrey to entertain at the hilarious level we are all used to. A string of hit roles come his way in 2006. Carrey's love life will heat up, as well, as his relationship with fellow kooky comic Jenny McCarthy intensifies.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). "What was I thinking?" is the prominent question in your mind now, but this is no time to review and critique your own work! Instead, go with your gut and follow through. Your original idea is a good one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You said it, yes, and now you want to take it back. Don't be shy — state your seeming mistake, and see what treasures are revealed by simple honesty. Be patient with yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Listen to what a friend is telling you about what you add to his or her life. This is most likely stated indirectly, so read between the lines. The difference you make is powerful.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Memories are made one moment at a time — and often when least expected. The most wonderful thing is to be able to experience the memory as it is happening. Savor the mundane as well as the sublime.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Be mindful of what you're doing that seems innocent enough — like worry. Worry usually only begets more worry and less solution. Besides, it's all going to be OK. Love-planet Venus is working in your favor, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The past catches up to you. The best way to put it behind you once and for all is to take full responsibility for more than your part. It's time to pay the piper, and tip him, too.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Doing what you do best is always an ego boost, especially with a complimentary Leo or Sagittarius around. These folks could possibly hook you up with some paying customers!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Darkness is to light what a seeming setback is in your midst. This is just a reminder of where to set your sights. Be kind with your self-talk.

Legals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals until 4:00 P.M., January 24, 2006, on the following:  
Varsity Football Uniforms  
Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office located at 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on February 9, 2006, at 5:15 P.M. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.  
#4822 January 10 & 17, 2006

Real Estate for Rent

900 SCURRY very clean/ quite apartment. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, washer/ dryer connection. Appliances furnished/ covered parking. Call (432)213-2681 or 213-2688.

914 EAST 6TH. 2 Bedroom 1 bath. No Pets. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

BUILDING FOR LEASE for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$600. month + deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

CLEAN 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. New carpet, covered parking, large backyard with shop. \$350.00 Month, \$300.00 deposit. 1107 Barnes Call (432)263-3778.

FOR LEASE 1515 Hwy. 350. Building with overhead door. On one acre of fenced land. \$350. Month, \$350. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS  
1 Bedroom - \$400. month \$200. deposit.  
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Family Friendly  
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1 BR \$185  
Call Rhonda  
(432)263-2292

TWO BEDROOM, New paint & carpet. 906 Nolan. \$250. Month, \$100. deposit. Call (432)267-4536, (417)276-8083.

Real Estate for Sale

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. No Down Payment. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. 6 Month warranty. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

4 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 3 acres in Garden City. Updated throughout, hardwood floors, gameroom, office, jacuzzi, double garage w/1 bedroom apartment, large shop, pool. (432)557-0151.

4109 DIXON. 4/2, refrig. air/gas heat, storm windows, large back yard with steel fence, work/storage bldg. Much more. \$39,000.00. Call 1-979-324-2072 or 267-3074.

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BY OWNER 1906 Morrison. 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, dining room, CH/A, utility room, storage building, tile brick fence, circle drive. \$70,000.00. Call (432)466-2066.

FARM FOR SALE, 160 acre dry land farm. 3.5 Miles N.W. of Ackerly in Dawson County. 128.5 Acres cultivated. No Minerals. \$56,000.00. Call Glynn Chandler (432)758-3815 or 788-7152.

I'M MAD... AT BANKS WHO DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT, PROBLEMS OR NEW EMPLOYMENT. I DO, CALL L.D. KIRK, HOMELAND MORTGAGES, (254)947-4475.

OWNER FINANCE. 19605 North Hwy. 87 in Ackerly, 2.64 acres. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/barn. On 87 and 2230. \$26,000.00, \$3,000 Down. Toll Free 866-894-4591, 325-650-5900.

WESTBROOK BRICK home on 2 lots. 3/2, large living with formal dining, newer carpet, 50x24 workshop/ garage, storage building with metal privacy fence. Call (432)267-3074.

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Several New 2005  
Fords, Lincolns,  
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At Huge Savings  
Bob Brock Ford  
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Choose Your Own Monthly Rent Options  
\$299 Such As ALL BILLS PAID  
MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP.  
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Housing Assistance Accepted

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FREE PALLETS. Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

On the Farm

5 BOTTOM Harrell Switch Breaking Plow. Call for information (432)353-4714.

Pets

CORGI PUPS for Sale. 1 Female (Tri.) & 1 Male (Red Vet). Shof's and wormed. Parents are my pets. \$350.00 Each. Call (432)816-6258.

FREE to Good Home. Male Pit Bull puppy, 8 weeks old. Has all shots and wormed. Also has tags. Very Lovable. Call (432)264-7529.

REGISTERED CHIHUAHUA Puppies, 7 weeks old. First shots and wormed. Call (432)263-8221 or 213-1889.

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Knollwood Heights Apartments  
1900 Martin Luther King Blvd.  
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Now Leasing!  
Brand New  
1, 2 & 3 Bdr. Apts  
\$385 - \$520 monthly  
New Appliances & Full Size Washer & Dryer in Apartments  
On Site Maintenance  
• Swimming Pool  
• Fitness Room  
• 2 Playgrounds  
HUD Accepted

1505 OWENS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. No Pets. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

1505 TUSCON. Four bedroom, two bath, CH/A. \$600.00 Month, \$400.00 deposit. Call (432)270-3848.

2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/ dryer connections. (432)263-3461-Tom.

2600 CARLETON. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, covered parking, big yard. Good and quiet neighborhood. Call (432)213-2681 or 213-2688.

4219 HAMILTON. 3 bedroom, 1-1/2 bath. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642.

446 B ARMSTRONG. 4/1, CH/A. HUD approved. Gas paid. \$450. month, \$200. deposit. 1807 YOUNG Brick, 2/1, CH/A, carpet. \$385. month, \$150. deposit. (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

602 1/2 GEORGE- Close to College. 1 Bedroom House. Stove & refrigerator, carport, CH/A. \$350.00 month plus deposit. No pets. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

712 GOLIAD. 2 or 3 Bedroom. Stove and refrigerator furnished. Washer & dryer connections, CH/A. \$500. month, \$275. deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

802 1/2 Nolan- 1 bedroom. \$400.00 All Bills. 2528 Fairchild 2, or 3 bedroom. \$350/\$450.. 3/2 Trailer- 5600 South Service Road. Call (432)264-9907.

Help Wanted

PARTS PURCHASER and PAINTER for trucks and heavy equipment, experienced preferred- Salary based on experience, health insurance, 401K. Contact Price Construction, 2701 N Hwy. 350, Big Spring, Tx 79720 or fax resume to (432)263-6012. EOE.

PIZZA INN

Now hiring Delivery Drivers. Earn \$10-\$12 per hour with wages, tips & commission. Full or Part time. Please apply in person at 1702 Gregg St. No Phone Calls.

POSITIONS OPEN for PRN, LVN and Weekend RN. Great Support Staff. Contact Stephanie Potter, DON. Valley Fair Lodge (325)728-2634.

SALES Producer/ Receptionist needed. Strong computer and organizational skills required. Must have strong people skills and maintain professionalism. Apply at 408 E FM 700. Call (432)267-9455.

WAREHOUSE/ PLANT WORKERS NEEDED BIG SPRING AREA

Immediate openings for long term employment. Experience working in a warehouse or a plant environment to apply. Currently working full weeks plus overtime and on Saturdays. Taking applications in Big Spring, for questions call Cynthia with Kelly Services (432)689-9801. Never an applicant fee. Equal Opportunity Employer

Would you like to spend a month in Brazil, all expenses paid? Time is running out to form a team for the May 1-20 Rotary Group Study Exchange with Brazil. We need three more team members from Howard County.

Since its formation in 1967, the Group Study Exchange program has involved more than 11,000 teams and 50,000 team members. It is one of the best programs Rotary has to provide professional development, international understanding, and cross-cultural friendships.

The ideal candidate is a young professional between 25 and 40 and must not have a family relationship with a Rotarian. You need not speak Portuguese or Spanish, although it would be helpful to have the skills. Contact any Rotarian, or call Jerry Worthy at (432)267-8094.

Instructional

PIANO & VOICE LESSONS  
Beginners through Advance. Years of teaching experience. 2607 Rebecca. Call (432)263-3367

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OLD UPRIGHT Piano. Plays well, good ivories. \$150.00. Call (432)267-2260.

Lost and Found

FOUND PUG puppy (Tan) in the area of 3200 Drexel. Call (432)935-6393 to identify.

LOST CHIHUAHUA (Dark Brown & White) last seen around the College area. Please Call (432)264-7040.

LOST MINIATURE Doberman (Reddish Brown) had a black harness on. Last seen in the 2200 Block of South Main. Call (432)267-4836 or 816-4585.

Help Wanted

Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home 1809 N. Hwy 87 Big Spring, Tx 79720 (432)268-8387 (432)268-1987 fax

is currently seeking the following positions:

Certified Nurse Aides (Full Time and Part Time)

Activity Aide (Assists in planning, coordinating, and directing activity programs) Experience preferred, but not necessary.

Wages Commensurate on Experience to include an excellent benefits package. Equal Opportunity Employer

MARTIN CO. Hospital Home Health is looking for a full-time RN and a PRN to join their energetic staff. Must be willing to travel to surrounding areas. Bilingual preferred and salary DOE. Interested parties may call Allison @ (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

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Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & \$175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas.

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Is under new ownership and is Seeking professional, enthusiastic and caring Individuals, to fill the following positions:

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LVN - Charge Nurse  
Director of Nurses, RN  
Come by to apply

NEED MECHANIC and/or Machine Maintenance person with hydraulic, gasoline, diesel, and electric engine experience. Must also work with Schematics. Competitive salary and benefits. Fax resume to (432)354-2669.

NEEDED: PART Time Nursery Worker. Hours, Sunday & Wednesday each week and during certain church programs. Pick up application between 8:00-5:00. Weekdays from church office, 2000 W. FM 700.

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Energen Resources Corporation, a subsidiary of Energen Corporation has an immediate opening for a Lease Operator at its Westbrook SE Unit located near Westbrook, Texas. Responsibilities include:

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- Assuring that all leases are operating safely within regulatory guidelines
- Successful applicant must be willing to live within 30 miles of field located approximately 5 miles N. of Westbrook, Texas

The qualified applicant will have 2 - 3 year's production experience with a broad knowledge of all types of production equipment. Experience working in secondary recovery environments a plus. Computer skills and proficiency with spreadsheets a must. We offer a highly competitive salary and bonus plan with a complete benefits package.

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Workforce Network of Midland  
Attn: Graciela Cheuma  
3510 North "A" Street, Building A  
Midland, Texas 79705  
Email: [graciela.sanmiguelcheuma@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:graciela.sanmiguelcheuma@twc.state.tx.us)  
Fax: (432) 686-8742  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

This Ad Paid For By Energen Resources

TUESDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOGA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPICE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (24)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (30)
6	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Pat de Oloro	My Wife-Kids Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	La Yomerrita	News Be a Millionaire Raymond	Boomer John Hagan	Booker	News-Labor	Dirty Jobs	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET.com	That's Raven	College Basketball	College Basketball	Surface (CC)
7	Billy Graham	According-Jim Rodney (CC)	Contra Viento y Marea	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)	El Cuerpo del Deseo	Fear Factor (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update/Arrest Jimmy Philips	Nova (CC) (DVS)	MyBusters (CC) (DVS)	Movie: The Goonies	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Jason's Lyric	Movie: Stuck in the Suburbs	Charlotte at St. Joseph's	Brooks at Indiana (CC)	Surface (CC)
8	Commander in Chief (CC)	Commander in Chief (CC)	Albarrada	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC)	Corazon Part Decisiones	Decisiones	Law & Order: Special Victims	Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Frontline	Dirty Jobs	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Naturally Sadies	Movie: American Drgn Sister, Sister	Louisville at St. John's (CC)	Kentucky at Georgia (CC)	Surface (CC)	
9	Boston Legal (CC)	Boston Legal (CC)	Casos de la Vida Real	My Wife-Kids 70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Sinfeld (CC) :40 Movie:	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Mega Machines	It: Alienheads	King of Vegas (CC)	Cold Case (CC)	In Living Color in Living Color	That's Raven	Tennis: Australian	SportsCenter	Movie: Dark Waters (CC)
10	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Sinfeld (CC) :40 Movie:	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Mega Machines	It: Alienheads	King of Vegas (CC)	Cold Case (CC)	In Living Color in Living Color	That's Raven	Tennis: Australian	SportsCenter	Movie: Dark Waters (CC)
11	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora Deseo	Booker (CC) Malcolm-Mid	Late Show-	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Sinfeld (CC) :40 Movie:	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Mega Machines	It: Alienheads	King of Vegas (CC)	Cold Case (CC)	In Living Color in Living Color	That's Raven	Tennis: Australian	SportsCenter	Movie: Dark Waters (CC)
12	Live (CC) News (CC)	Edis (CC) Paid Program	Amigos y Rivales (BS)	Booker (CC) King of the Hill	Show The Insider	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Sinfeld (CC) :40 Movie:	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Mega Machines	It: Alienheads	King of Vegas (CC)	Cold Case (CC)	In Living Color in Living Color	That's Raven	Tennis: Australian	SportsCenter	Movie: Dark Waters (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DO YA THINK MR. WILSON WOULD GIVE US A DOLLAR LIKE HE GAVE DENNIS, SO WE WON'T TELL ANYBODY HE WATCHES SOAP OPERAS EITHER?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"K"ycat wants you to do the windowsills first."

HAGAR



IT'S BEEN BELOW ZERO AND SNOWING EVERY DAY FOR THE LAST 3 MONTHS !!!

I KNOW! ISN'T IT GREAT TO KNOW WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MOSQUITO BITES?



HE'S BEEN LIKE THIS EVER SINCE HE JOINED THE OPTIMISTS' CLUB!

BLONDIE



MY KITE GOT CAUGHT UP IN A TREE, MR.B.



AND I SUPPOSE YOU WANT ME TO GO UP AND GET IT FOR YOU

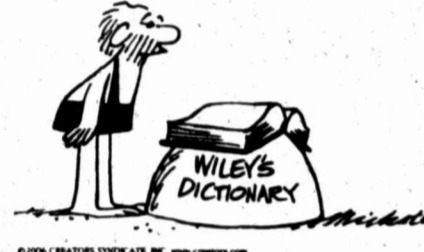


EITHER THAT OR SAVE YOURSELF THE TROUBLE AND GIVE ME THE MONEY SO I CAN BUY A NEW ONE

BC



PASTEURIZE



WIZARD OF ID



SOMETHING'S FLOATING IN MY SWILL

PROBABLY JUST A RAISIN

IT'S GOT WINGS

MAKE THAT A FLYING RAISIN

AGNES



DO YOU EVER FEEL LIKE YOU'RE BEING WATCHED?

ONLY WHEN I'M BEING WATCHED.

NO... I MEAN LIKE EVEN WHEN I'M ALONE... I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING WATCHED. IT MAKES ME NERVOUS!

WHY ARE THEY WATCHING ME?

THEY HAVE PROBABLY NEVER HAD TO LISTEN TO YOU.

HI AND LOIS



WE'VE BEEN LOOKING AT HOUSES FOR 3 YEARS NOW

AND YOU HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING YOU WANTED TO BUY?

WHAT? AND GIVE UP THE THRILL OF THE HUNT?

THE OTHER COAST



TAKING HOME MONIES HAS CHANGED SO MUCH IN RECENT YEARS: HIGH-RES DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS...

IMAGES STORED ON DVD DISCS AND PLAYED BACK ON HIGH-DEFINITION PLASMA SCREEN TVs...

ONLY THE CONTENT REMAINS THE SAME.

AND THIS IS MY NEPHEW, JOEY. ISN'T HE A CUTIE-PIE?

PLEASE LET THIS END.

SNUFFY SMITH



WHAT'S YORE SECRET TO GITTIN' GOOD GRADES, MARY BETH?

I LISTEN TO TH' TEACHER, STUDY HARD AN' DO ALL MY HOMEWORK !!

PFPT !! SHE'S NO HALP !!

BEEBLE BAILEY



"GENERAL HALPTRACK IS A GREAT LEADER AND HIS CAMP RUNS LIKE A WELL-OILED MACHINE"

DID YOU WRITE THIS?

YEAH, I HEARD THE PENTAGON IS PAYING FOR POSITIVE NEWS STORIES

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 17, the 17th day of 2006. There are 348 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: Three hundred years ago, on Jan. 17, 1706, statesman, inventor and editor Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston.

On this date: In 1806, Thomas Jefferson's daughter, Martha, gave birth to James Madison Randolph, the first child born in the White House.

In 1893, the 19th president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, died in Fremont, Ohio, at age 70.

In 1893, Hawaii's monarchy was overthrown as a group of businessmen and sugar planters forced Queen Liliuokalani to abdicate.

In 1945, Soviet and Polish forces liberated Warsaw during World War II.

In 1945, Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, credited with saving tens of thou-

sands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody.

In 1961, in his farewell address, President Eisenhower warned against the rise of "the military-industrial complex."

In 1991, in the first day of Operation Desert Storm, U.S.-led forces hammered Iraqi targets in an effort to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

In 1994, a 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck Southern California, killing at least 61 people and causing \$20 billion worth of damage.

In 1995, more than 6,000 people were killed when an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 devastated the city of Kobe, Japan.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Betty White is 84. Ballerina and actress Moira Shearer is 80. Singer-actress Eartha Kitt is 79. Actor James Earl Jones is 75. Talk show host Maury Povich is 67. Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali is 64. Rhythm-and-blues singer William Hart (The Delphonics) is 61. Rock musician Mick Taylor is 58. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sheila Hutchinson (The

Emotions) is 53. Singer Steve Earle is 51. Singer Paul Young is 50. Actor-comedian Steve Harvey is 49. Singer Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles) is 47. Actor-comedian Jim Carrey is 44. Actor Joshua Malina is 40. Singer Shabba Ranks is 40. Actor Naveen Andrews is 37. Rapper Kid Rock is 35. Actor Freddy Rodriguez is 31. Actress Zooey Deschanel is 26. Singer Ray J is 25. Country singer Amanda Wilkinson is 24.

Thought for Today: "He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money."

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790).

Answer to previous puzzle

OBESSE ASIAP SOME  
REMUS SHOE WHEE  
AGENT SORT ANNA  
LARGE NUTSABOUT  
STYLES TAIL  
AND TUTOR  
OUTS POST MOGUL  
BRASS SAO SALSA  
EGREY EGOS DEEP  
VESSIR LOSS  
LEAF WETBAR  
BOTTLESUP TORTE  
AWOY LIME TOAST  
SILK IDEA ELDER  
SOLE NESS ESSAY

Newsday Crossword

SEEING DOUBLES by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Doled (out)
- 6 Bacon piece
- 11 Break, as a balloon
- 14 Dining-room furniture
- 15 Demi of film
- 16 Prefix with system
- 17 Lawn mower
- 19 Some IBM products
- 20 Whip up, as a meal
- 21 Data to be entered
- 23 Not at work
- 24 Copy-machine supplies
- 25 Shipping container
- 28 Miss Muffet's visitor
- 30 Deceitful ones
- 31 Bicycle pair
- 32 Floor-washing implement
- 35 Baseball great Ruth
- 36 Dinner course
- 37 Office assistant
- 38 Applicant's desire
- 39 Young mare
- 40 Petroleum-carrying ship
- 41 Likenesses
- 43 Heifers' mates
- 44 Acquire
- 46 Settled on the sofa
- 47 Call attention (to)
- 48 Bed coverings
- 52 From Z
- 53 Construction-site cart

**DOWN**

- 1 Office conference: Abbr.
- 2 Marshal Wyatt
- 3 Skier's lift
- 4 "Would you like anything \_\_\_?"
- 5 Dictators
- 6 Blue-colored cartoon character
- 7 Large bag
- 8 Spoil, as food
- 9 Make angry
- 10 Sentence-ending marks
- 11 Kitchen grinder
- 12 Take place
- 13 Fence features
- 18 Bistro
- 22 Pt. opposite SSW
- 24 Laced up
- 25 Italian "So long!"
- 26 Raw vegetables, informally
- 27 "Roses \_\_\_ red..."
- 28 Window ledges
- 29 Say the rosary
- 30 JFK's successor
- 31 Folk story
- 33 Poems of praise
- 34 Part of mph
- 36 "Stop" or "Yield"
- 37 Feel poorly
- 39 Part of a golf course
- 40 Consumes more than
- 42 West of old films
- 43 Fishhook projection
- 44 Deliver a speech
- 45 Back, as a racehorse
- 46 Pie-in-the-face sound
- 48 Tennis-match units
- 49 Diva's solo
- 50 Make a sketch
- 51 Feeling achy
- 54 Garden tool
- 55 Historic time
- 56 Large roll of money

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Wacky Facts

A modern aircraft carrier is sometimes called a "floating city" because it can hold 6,000 people and has many of the same services as a regular town — restaurants, stores, gyms, a barbershop, a TV station, a hospital, and even a brig (jail).  
— World Almanac for Kids

# KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience."  
— Woodrow Wilson,  
via www.quoteagarden.com



In The News

## A healthy dose of puppy love

Dogs may have earned the nickname "man's best friend" based on loyalty alone, but a recent study has revealed new reasons to love them. Researchers at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, California say that dogs can be good for people's health.



In a study of 76 patients who were in the hospital for heart failure, researchers found that visits with four-legged friends provided a mental and physical boost. Patients who had bedside visits with dogs experienced a 24 percent drop in anxiety levels, while those visited by human volunteers experienced only a 10 percent drop. After just 12 minutes of quality pooch time, patients also showed improved cardiac function. Pressure in the heart and lungs dropped, as did levels of harmful hormones being released into the blood stream.

### STUDYING MAN'S BEST FRIEND

The UCLA researchers reported the results at the American Heart Association's scientific sessions in Dallas in November. The Pet Care Trust Foundation, a nonprofit organization, paid for the study. The dogs used were specially trained in therapy. Their breeds varied from Bernese mountain dogs to miniature schnauzers.

Patients were split into three groups. Some were visited by human volunteers with therapy dogs. Others were visited by human volunteers only. An "at-rest" group received no visitors. The researchers measured patients' physical responses before, after and during the visit. They also performed an anxiety test before and after each visit.



Alexia Flory, 4, holds "Nell," a Dalmatian that visits kids at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Nell and her owner, June Brennan-Mueller, visit Children's Hospital twice a week.

### WARM AND FUZZY FINDINGS

The fact that furry friends can help people feel better might seem like old news to pet lovers. After all, animals have a history of helping people. Specially trained monkeys can carry things for people in wheelchairs and guide dogs help blind people get around. Many children's hospitals have programs that bring in animal visitors, including horses, to lift the spirits of young patients.

Until now, there hasn't been much scientific evidence showing how therapy animals can affect our health for the better. Nurse Kathie M. Cole was lead author of the UCLA Medical Center study. She hopes the study encourages doctors and hospitals to see the serious benefits of animal therapy, in addition to the more obvious payoff.

"Dogs are a great comfort," Cole said. "They make people happier, calmer and feel more loved. That is huge when you are scared and not feeling well."

— Kathryn Satterfield

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## 'Valiant' creatures

### A look at animals who have braved battles

BY ALYSON WARD  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Disney's "Valiant," which was recently released on DVD, tells the story of pigeons who helped the British war effort during World War II.

"Pigeons?" you say. But "Valiant," for all its flightiness, is a story that's based on fact. Hundreds of thousands of pigeons have been used to carry messages back and forth during wartime. Called homing pigeons, these birds have an uncanny ability to fly home, no matter where they are. The birds would be taken along into battle; if the troops needed help or wanted to relay information, they'd put a note into a tiny canister attached to each pigeon's leg. The birds would then fly home and — if all went well — they'd make it back to their roosts with the message.

Who knew pigeons were so useful? The truth is, animals of all kinds have been given assignments and responsibilities in war. Dogs, horses and other animals have been used to carry supplies, find weapons and detect danger.

In 1943, a British woman named Maria Dickin decided these animals should be rewarded for their acts of valor during wartime. A true animal lover, Dickin had started the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals — now known as just the PDSA — giving medical care to animals free of charge. And since the 1940s, 60 animals — 32 pigeons, 24 dogs, three horses and one cat — have been awarded the Dickin Medal, a bronze medal of valor that reads: "For Gallantry: We Also Serve."

Here's a look at some of the animals who have saved lives and helped their fellow fighters during wartime since the 1940s:

#### THE CAT

#### THE CAT

In 1949, near the end of the Chinese Civil War, Simon was the captain's cat aboard the HMS Amethyst, a British ship sent to the Yangtze River at Nanking. On April 20, the ship came under attack by the People's Liberation Army, part of the Communist Party that eventually won the war. After 2½ hours of shelling, more than 20 men were killed, and the ship ran aground. The ship was heavily guarded by the enemy and survivors who tried to escape were killed. The 50 men, some wounded, remained on the ship for a full three months. It was July 30 before they were able to make a daring escape to freedom.

Simon had several injuries — he had shrapnel in his body and his whiskers were burned off. But he entertained the wounded servicemen and killed rats on board until the men were able to escape. He is the only cat to be awarded the Dickin Medal.

#### THE DOGS

Dogs are fiercely loyal, and the best ones are fiercely obedient — which makes them a great help to servicemen at war. But some dogs are simply amazing.

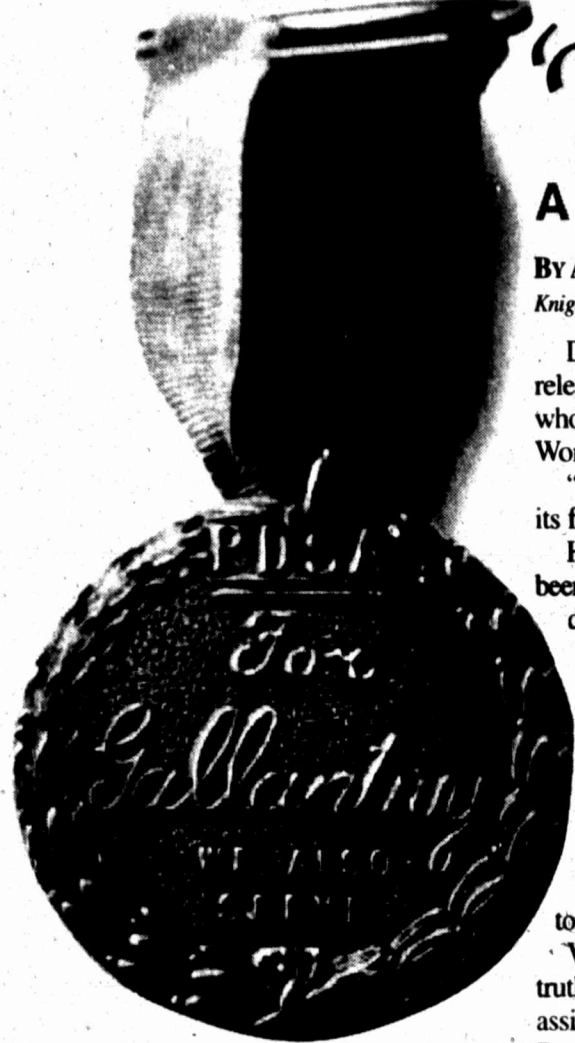
Consider Rob, a black-and-white farm dog who served with the British Army's SAS (Special Air Service) during World War II. Rob was a "para-dog" — yes, he was taught how to parachute — and made 20 parachute drops on top-secret missions. His greatness lay in the fact that he was so quiet — he didn't howl during the drops, and he was a good guard for the men while they slept. If he sensed the enemy, he didn't bark; instead, he woke the men by licking their faces. After his service, Rob went back to live on the farm he came from and died in 1952.

Then there's Gander, a massive Newfoundland, who saved several lives in his Canadian regiment. The men came under attack by Japanese thrown grenades during the Battle of Lye Mun in 1941. Gander sacrificed his own life when he picked up a hand grenade in his mouth, and ran away from the men. Gander wasn't awarded the Dickin Medal until 2000, after his story was made public.

After Sept. 11, 2001, about 300 search and rescue dogs were used to find victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. All the dogs who were a part of the rescue were honored by the PDSA. But since they couldn't give out 300 medals, Appollo, a New York Police Department dog, was selected to represent all of his peers.

Buster, a springer spaniel and a Royal Army Veterinary Corps search dog, is the most recent winner of the medal; it was awarded for his service in the war in Iraq. Buster was sent with coalition troops to search for hidden weapons — he led the way to a stash of assault rifles, grenades, loose ammunition, cash and drugs. Buster is credited with saving lives that would have been lost if the arms had been used.

Buster with handler Sgt. Danny Morgan.



A pigeon named Winkie was the first to receive the Dickin Medal, in 1943.



Simon is the only cat to win that honor.



Rob, a farm dog, made 20 parachute drops on top-secret missions.



Appollo was selected to represent all of the dogs who were a part of the 9/11 rescue effort.



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