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BIG SPRING HERALD

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VOLUME 102, NUMBER 53

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006

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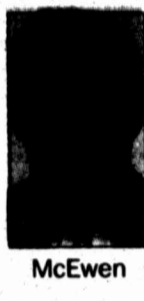
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Cities hire firm to check Cox reimbursements

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

With Cox Communications preparing to sell its Big Spring operations, the Big Spring City Council agreed Tuesday night it was time to make sure the cable television giant's tab was cleared.

Council members unanimously approved an emergency resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a consultation agreement with C2C Consulting



McEwen

Services for a franchise audit of Cox Communications.

"The city of Big Spring — along with all of the other cities served by Cox Communications — were given notice of the sale in December," said City Attorney Jean Shotts. "Prior to that sale being completed, we would like to make sure all of the cities have been paid all of the fran-

chise fees that they are due. So we're employing an auditing firm that specializes in doing that type of work to go through and make sure we've been paid what we're due."

Mayor Russ McEwen said area cities decided to pursue the audit after Cox Communications agreed to a settlement with the city of Lubbock for unpaid franchise fees that amounted to a fairly large sum.

"We're just going to make

sure everything is right," said McEwen. "The city of Lubbock did an audit and found some franchise fees Cox didn't pay, and Cox offered a very large sum of money to them as a settlement and the city accepted it."

"We decided that we should make sure, as we're leaving Cox and going to a new cable television company, that we know they are doing it right and that they don't owe us money."

Cox Communications recently

announced it was selling its West Texas operations — which currently serves approximately 940,000 basic cable subscribers — to St. Louis-based Cbridge Connections Inc.

The agreement includes cable television systems in West Texas, serving Lubbock, Midland, Amarillo, San Angelo and Abilene areas — including Big Spring.

Shotts said communications

See COX, Page 3A

'Frogs' hop back by Big Spring, East Coast bound

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The "frogs" second visit to Big Spring was much more pleasurable.

Marine Reservists stationed at Edwards AFB, Calif., stopped in Big Spring for the second time in seven months Tuesday while en route to the East Coast.

Unlike their last visit, however, the Marines are not on their way to war.

The soldiers, flying a pair of CH-64 helicopters — affectionately nicknamed "frogs" — last stopped here on the way toward their second tour of duty in Iraq.

This time, however, they are simply ferrying the craft — one to an air museum in Norfolk, Va., and the other to North Carolina for refurbish-

"I think we're making significant progress in Iraq... We're building schools and other structures, which is not the sort of thing you normally see on the news."

—Lt. Col. Clark Taylor

ment.

The one headed to the air museum played a small but significant in U.S. history — it was the final American helicopter to leave South Vietnam before that country fell in

See FROGS, Page 3A



U.S. Marine Reservists talk with McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark employees during a refueling stop in Big Spring Tuesday morning. The soldiers are transporting a pair of CH-64 helicopters to Virginia and North Carolina.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Moore Development to consider requests today

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Requests from the Crossroads Housing Development Corporation and Big Spring Retirement Committee top the agenda for Moore Development for Big Spring board, which meets today.

Also on the agenda is consideration of the financial and investment reports for December and consideration of an audit report for the board's fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, 2005.

Board members are expected to consider the 2004-2005 annual report and Kent Sharp, execu-

tive director, is expected to report to the board concerning ongoing efforts to develop a building database for Big Spring.

According to Sharp, the database would allow local access to information concerning available buildings in the area, including how many square-

feet a building contains and what type of business or industry it might be suited for.

The board has also reserved a place on the agenda for an executive session, with matters regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property as a possible topic.

The meeting will get under

way at 5:15 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce board room, located at 215 W. Third Street.

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

City's spay-neutering program funds run out

The good news is Big Spring will apply for more assistance from Animal Friendly Project

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Area residents looking to use the city's Animal Friendly Spay-Neuter Project to have their cats and dogs "fixed" may have to wait, as funding for the program has officially run out.

The city of Big Spring received approximately \$25,000 from the Animal

Friendly Spay-Neuter Project, a statewide program designed to help alleviate pet overpopulation in much of the Lone Star state, in September 2005.

Since then, the program has been a huge success, according to grant coordinator, BSPD Lt. Terry Chamness.

"Between October and mid-January we went

"The state is very pleased with our program and has told us if there is money left over from other contracts, we're on the list to receive the extra money."

—Lt. Terry Chamness

through the entire \$25,000," said Chamness. "The state is very pleased with our program and has

told us if there is money left over from other contracts, we're on the list to receive the extra money.

This is because our program has worked so well."

And while the program has stalled due to lack of funds, Chamness said he hopes to see it continue during the next fiscal year.

"I don't want the citizens to think we've just totally stopped the program," said Chamness. "We just have to stop for a

little while simply because of the money.

How much we get next time around is going to depend on how many people apply and how much is available. They also look at how successful each city's program is, so the more people who sign up for the program and get on the waiting list, the

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

DEADLINE TODAY

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 today. Call 263-7641 for more information.

STATE CAN ASSIST

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Landowners can ask the Texas Department of Transportation to clear swaths of land along nearby highways to help prevent fires from spreading, department officials said.

Crews would work on the fire guards, created by ridding land of brush and other vegetation that can feed fires, along state-maintained highways and not on private property. The transportation department stopped putting in fire guards about a decade ago because of concerns about erosion along roads. Recent fires in the past month led lawmakers to ask the department for the guards again.

HOOTERS PREVAILS

WACO (AP) — A minister opposed to a new Hooters restaurant says no more protests are planned now that it's open.

"We've done all we can do. We'll just leave the rest to the Lord," said the Rev. Greg Brumit, who disapproved of the increased traffic in the neighborhood as well as the skimpy outfits worn by Hooters waitresses. "They're welcome to come down the street to our church."

Last fall, Brumit was among dozens of ministers who wrote a letter to city and county officials, saying Hooters should not come to Waco. Waco is home to Baylor University, the world's largest Baptist university. The restaurant opened Tuesday.

Obituaries

Teddy Covington

Teddy "PaPa" Covington, 65, of Big Spring died Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, in a Midland hospital. Memorial services are 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Don Snipes, pastor of Baptist Temple Church, officiating.

He was born Sept. 21, 1940, in Dawson County and married Marilyn Kay Moon Jan. 22, 1966, in Pecos. She preceded him in death Oct. 21, 2004. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1958 until 1962 and was employed at Cosden Refinery from May 2, 1963 until retirement May 30, 2000.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Adam Wayne Covington, his father and mother, R.B. and Opal Covington and one brother, Rolan B. Covington.

Survivors include a son, Mitchell Ray Covington and two daughters, Connie Jo Campos and husband, Danny and Judy Newton Patterson and husband, David, all of Big Spring; one brother, Ed Covington of Big Spring; one sister, Mary Dority of Maine; six grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Avis Powell

Avis Powell, 85, died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2006, in a Mitchell County hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support groups

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.

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month. The next meeting is Feb. 6. For more information, call 398-5522.

TUESDAY

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

Around Town

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until

Take note

• **DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR LEADERSHIP BIG SPRING** is today. Contact the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641 or obtain an application at the chamber office, 215 W. Third.

• **AARP TAX PREPARATION** will be available at the Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon beginning Jan. 30. The AARP program will wrap-up for the year April 10. Electronic filing will be available. For more information on the program, contact Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733.

• **CRIMSON SOUL** in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Cowboy's Steakhouse, Bean's World Café and at the door.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

• **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

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

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive

Police blotter

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

- **ENRIQUE SABEDRA**, 36, of 1509 Sycamore, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JAMES LESLIE DOW**, 56, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **WELDON LEE HOOVER**, 54, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **LEONEL VALENZUELA**, 34, of Odessa, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **ROLAND ARECHIGA**, 32, of Abernathy, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **CARL WILLIAM WELLS**, 23, of 1907 Hilltop, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.

Sheriff's report

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

- **CHAD WARREN**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone.
- **TOMMY GENE CHRISTIAN**, 38, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a parole violation.
- **PAUL MORENO JR.**, 23, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for burglary of a vehicle.
- **MISTY LYNN SMITH**, 32, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of criminally negligent homicide.
- **JAMES BURLIN WILLIAMS JR.**, 19, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on charges of theft and failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of Chickasaw. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the area of SMMC. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Sunset Boulevard. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of Courtney Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

Razzmatazz Slated

Fourth Annual Relay for life Rascal Razzmatazz applications being accepted through Feb. 13. The event is 10 a.m. Feb. 18 in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Entry forms are available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

2 p.m. Saturday.

• **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the upper 30s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Highs around 60. South winds 15 to 25 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 40. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Monday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

Monday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-5-8-17-22.
Number matching five of five: 1.

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$50 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$40 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 31, 34, 36, 51, and 55. The Mega Ball number was 4.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-8-4

BIG SPRING HERALD

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1481, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
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State briefs

Boy's body found by searchers

TYLER (AP) — The body of a 9-year-old boy whose fishing boat capsized on Lake Palestine has been found by searchers.

Samuel "Cade" Castleberry, a third-grader from Bullard, drowned Jan. 17 when he was fishing by himself. Officials said he fell out of the boat without a life jacket and was unable to fight strong winds and currents.

Family members held vigil on the lake's shore while workers spent days dragging the lake and searching its perimeter.

Chris Green, a Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden, said Samuel's body was found Tuesday after more than 50 hours of searching. Calmer weather aided in the search, he said.

A parks department boat equipped with a depth meter found the body on the bottom of the lake, about 175 yards from the shoreline where Samuel embarked on the fishing trip.

Texas given \$15.3 million in hurricane reimbursement

DALLAS (AP) — Texas has been awarded an additional \$15.3 million for recovery and sheltering costs stemming from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, officials said.

The money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will help pay for the Emergency Service Center set up in Austin, pump operations in Harris County, overtime for the San Antonio Police Department, shelters and transportation.

"The continuing funding to the state is encouraging, and a sign that Texas will not be forgotten by the federal government," Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said in a Tuesday news release from Washington, D.C.

Kidney wait ending for 13-year-old

SAN ANGELO (AP) — A 13-year-old girl who was showered with music and gifts by Los Lonely Boys as she battled kidney failure is getting the gift of a kidney Thursday.

Darren Stone, 38, who met Susan Murillo and her father, Ernie Cantu, at church about three years ago, has been confirmed as a match for Susan's kidney, the *San Angelo Standard-Times* reported in its Wednesday editions.

"God has laid out several steps, and I have followed them," Stone told the newspaper. "I'm not afraid because I think of the things she has been through, and I know I'm not supposed to be afraid."

The teenager learned last year that she would need the transplant. The family thought it had a new donor, but it turned out the kidney was not a match. Susan's father had given her a kidney, which lasted about 10 1/2 years.

Susan said she wasn't afraid of the surgery scheduled for Thursday in San Antonio. She said one of the first things she'll do afterward is eat an avocado.

COX

Continued from Page 1A

between Cebridge and the city of Big Spring are currently under way.

"We've sent them a letter with some questions regarding what these services will be like and various things," said Shotts. "There is also a law firm that all of the cities are discussing employing that specializes in cable franchise transactions. So we'll probably be consulting with them and try to make sure everything is on the up and up and that we have the best cable service we can get under the circumstances.

"We're hoping to improve the public access. That's part of the negotiations we're hoping to have, that maybe there can be some additional support for that. The other thing we're very

interested in is improving our emergency notification system. Our police department has had some concerns about that as well."

McEwen said he hopes the city will be able to secure better public access as part of the negotiations.

"Any time you can make more stations available and have more public access, it's good for your community," said McEwen. "There are people who have asked for more opportunities to telecast certain things and we just haven't had the ability because there aren't enough channels. Anything we can do to help people out will make things better."

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

Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234.

FROGS

Continued from Page 1A

1975. During their two tours in Iraq, the Marines performed troop transport and casualty evacuation duties in the "Sunni Triangle" area north of Baghdad.

Lt. Col. Clark Taylor said the reservists have now been demobilized by the Defense Department after two years active duty and are about re-enter civilian life. For Taylor, that means flying for American Airlines.

"I think we're making significant progress in Iraq," he said. "We didn't see as much activity directed against us as we did the previous tour ... We're building schools and other structures, which is not the sort of thing you normally see on the news."

Contact Staff Writer

PROJECT

Continued from Page 1A

more it helps our chances."

Although no more vouchers will be given until more funding is received, Chamness said area pet owners can get on a waiting list, which will not only keep them at the front of the pack, but help show the state of Texas how much the funding is needed.

Chamness said the requirements for the program are fairly simple, and pet owners will be able to use the veterinarian of their choice.

"The vouchers pay up to \$80 for dogs and \$70 for cats," said Chamness. "The owner of the animal must provide proof of vaccination against rabies, a state requirement, and a city license for the pet, a local requirement. They also need to provide the breed of the animal, and weight is very important with the dogs."

"Once all of the requirements are satisfied, they will be given a voucher to take to their vet. They can have the procedure done, after which the vet can turn the voucher in to us to be compensated."

Stray dogs are not eligible for the program, unless someone in the community wants to take responsibility for the animal.

For more information, contact the BSPD at 264-2550.

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

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"At first, I leaked just a few drops of urine when lifting or coughing. But it has gotten so much worse. Now, I never leave home without wearing a maxi pad and carrying another in my purse. I'm afraid I'll have an accident."

An estimated 17 million American women share a common healthcare concern: the uncontrolled flow of urine from their bodies, a condition known as urinary incontinence. For some women, the condition is brought on with coughing, sneezing or exercise. For others, it is a strong urge to urinate and an inability to make it to the bathroom in time. For all of these women, the effects can be devastating.

"Stress urinary incontinence limits lifestyles and relationships because of the embarrassment that accompanies odor and wetness," explains Dr. Rudy Haddad of Haddad Urology clinic. "Typically the symptoms worsen over time, and so lifestyles and relationships are further compromised as the condition progresses."

Stress urinary incontinence occurs when there is uncontrolled urine leakage during a physical activity like lifting, sneezing or coughing. It typically is the result of hypermobility, a shifting of the urethra and bladder neck from their normal positions, and intrinsic sphincter deficiency, a condition in which the urethral sphincter is unable to close tightly enough to hold urine in the bladder.

Any single condition or a combination of conditions can lead to stress incontinence. Pregnancy and childbirth, aging, medical conditions, infections and medications and obesity are common causes.

Currently, there are no medications available to treat stress incontinence. For some women, behavioral therapy (monitoring fluid intake), Kegel exercises, protective undergarments and bulking injections offer temporary solutions.

Fortunately, there also are solutions available designed to be more permanent.

One such solution is the female "sling" system for stress urinary incontinence. Doctors treat incontinence by surgically placing a narrow strip of material—called a sling—under the urethra to give it a point of support.

"The sling procedure is a minimally invasive, highly effective procedure," says Dr. Haddad. "It generally takes less than 20 minutes and commonly is performed on an outpatient basis."

Most patients are continent immediately following the procedure and can resume normal, non-strenuous activities within a few days.

Clinical studies support the enthusiasm that patients and physicians alike have for sling systems. One manufacturer, American Medical Systems of Minnetonka, Minn., reports a study in which more than 95 percent of patients remained completely dry and did not need any protection following the procedure with its Monarc™ Subfascial Hammock.

"The potential to give someone back their lifestyle before incontinence set in is great with sling systems," says Dr. Haddad. "It is life changing for so many patients, and yet such a straightforward procedure."

As with any surgical procedure, inherent risks are present. Although rare, some of the most severe risks with transobturator sling procedures include infection, erosion and vessel or urethra perforation. Some of the most common risks include urinary track infections, urge symptoms and urinary retention. Sling procedures should not be performed on pregnant patients.

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Find out more about
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Contact Dr. Rudy Haddad
at 1501 W 11th Place, Suite 103
432-714-4600

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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.

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Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
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OUR VIEWS

Rx: Give us clear, concise information

Once upon a time, the stupendously confusing labels that come with prescription medications were actually meant to help doctors better understand a drug and what side effects deserved a mention to their patients. Somewhere along the line, however, too many lawyers got involved and added every warning they could think up — the spectacularly unhelpful "if you are allergic to this medication, don't use it" is popular — in the hope that superfluous forewarning could protect drug makers from lawsuits. (Don't tell hypochondriacs, but that means many side effects listed on medications have little science behind them.)

The problem with this strategy, other than its absurdity and uselessness, is that research shows nine out of 10 doctors today don't read drug labels, a development that has undoubtedly led to a significant number of medical errors. Up to 300,000 people are harmed every year by medical mistakes, many involving the misuse of medications.

After reviewing the issue for five years, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued new rules last week to simplify drug labels. Under the changes, which take effect later this year, drug labels will look more like food labels, with a short highlight section at the beginning summarizing safety warnings, proper uses and doses for patients and advice about what doctors should say to their patients.

More good news: The change is likely to affect the indecipherable way drug companies advertise to consumers in print and on television. Just where do they get those actors who can speed through an hour of information in a 30-second TV spot? Expect all of that to get much simpler.

Of course, not everyone is happy. To help quell drug companies' fears that they may be open to more lawsuits under the new, streamlined rules, the FDA has included an addition to its drug preamble that spells out six claims plaintiffs can't lodge against drug makers.

Plaintiff's attorneys and many states, which set their own drug liability laws, have cried foul. They worry that the new federal rule will diminish legal-liability laws. In reality, however, the new wording is not the last word on the issue; it will be up to courts to decide if the changes actually weaken tort claims.

Regardless, it is good news that the federal government has finally taken on an admittedly arcane but important issue.

In recent years, there have been too many examples of drug companies — and the FDA — not being upfront with the public about the true efficacy and safety of the country's drug supply. Giving consumers clearer and more honest information is a small but useful step in the right direction.

—THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

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

Ramona has a pet bobcat

You can sense the strength in Bobby's front legs and shoulders. The sound that he makes comes from way down deep inside and scares away the faint of heart. Even polecats are afraid of Bobby.

Bobby is the pet bobcat belonging to Ramona Werst of Mertzton. When her husband took her to the place that sells bobcats, she chose Bobby because he was so playful.

"When you get a bobcat as a baby and bottle feed him, he'll bond with you," says Ramona. "He doesn't know he's a bobcat. In fact, he would be a disgrace to bobcats. He's afraid of mice."

I sat down with Ramona and Bobby and we had a nice visit. Ramona says Bobby is spoiled rotten.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

"When I was bottle feeding him, he used to get me up at 2 o'clock in the morning for his bottle, then do the same thing at 4 o'clock and 6 o'clock. Now we have an automatic feeder that comes open for him at 2 o'clock and 6 o'clock. He likes that a lot."

She got the bobcat five years ago.

"He was small enough to fit in the palm of my hand, just a little bitty baby. Now he weighs around 45 pounds."

The bobcat lives in a fenced in area beneath a second-story deck. "He's got a ramp that leads directly into our bedroom. He can come and go anytime he wants to. In his space under the deck he's got his own jungle gym, an igloo that's got a blanket in it and all kinds of balls to play with."

When visitors come, Bobby goes away.

"We'll show Bobby to our guests, then lock him up in our bedroom

and his pen. We do that just in case he doesn't like a scent. Or he might be hungry."

Bobby has a domestic house cat for a brother. He thinks the pet dog is his mother. He plays fetch with a tennis ball and tug of war with a sock. When he's playing tug of war, he sounds ferocious. His growls would make most people head for the door.

Bobby has a special diet.

"Every three weeks my husband David and I have to chop up raw liver, raw hamburger and cat food and mix it all together and freeze it. Bobby's a little particular. He has to have his food just a little bit frozen."

At night, Bobby sleeps with Ramona in spite of his loud purring.

"He sleeps right on top of me from my shoulders to my stomach."

She says she's never been afraid. When he misbehaves, she smacks him on the nose.

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Only we can cut the corruption

Having served in Washington for eight years, I can't say that the current scandal surrounding lobbyist Jack Abramoff and various members of Congress comes as any great surprise.

During my tenure as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), I worked with many decent, well-intentioned representatives and senators. Yet on issue after issue, it was clear that the interlocking systems of campaign finance, lobbying and policymaking were breaking down. Because many of the issues before the SEC were far from the front of the public's mind, the influence of high-priced lobbyists on the system was easy to detect and especially brazen.

From battles over auditing reforms to the expensing of stock options, the concerns of ordinary investors often were subsumed to the interests of industry lobbyists by Republicans and Democrats alike. Every day the SEC would receive letters from lawmakers opposing some proposed regulatory change — letters that eerily mimicked the rhetoric of one industry trade group or another. In addition to making thousands of dollars in campaign donations, companies would concoct phony "grass-roots" coalitions — usually made up of executives and compliant employees — to rally for the cause and pressure lawmakers.

And when all else failed, lobbyists would cash in their chits with members of relevant House and Senate committees to threaten the SEC — an independent regulatory agency — with budget cuts to get what they wanted. Regrettably, I occasionally found myself succumbing to this immense pressure in order to save the commission. Many of the reforms that were thwarted in this way could have saved investors some of the pain from the scandals of the past five years.

Now removed from Washington and viewing its problems from the perspective of the private sector, I've come to think that our federal government is plagued by some of the same problems that have been hurting corporate America, primarily a lack of transparency, accountability and independence. As with many of the disgraced

for example — so it is with Congress: Conflicts of interest abound, oversight has been myopic and those given the public's trust have used it to enrich themselves.

The debate about how to clean up Congress has just begun, and undoubtedly it will consume much of that body's time during this election year. But lawmakers need not look far for an example of how to reform themselves. Just as Congress passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in 2002 to clean up American industry, it should pass similar legislation to clean up American government.



ARTHUR LEVITT JR.

One of the emphases of Sarbanes-Oxley was improving the disclosure regime in corporate America. New rules expanded what critical information was disclosed and how often, and they required the CEO and chief financial officer to attest to the accuracy of their company's financial reports. As a result, it is possible to know more about the performance of an executive of a company in which you own stock than about your member of Congress.

To remedy that, congressional lobbyists should be required to disclose weekly, online, which members of Congress they contributed to and met with, which staff members they lobbied, and what issues were discussed. Lobbyists also should have to affix their signature to these disclosures and, like CEOs who sign false financial statements, face serious criminal penalties if the disclosures are not accurate.

But disclosure is only part of the solution; independence is also critical. That's why auditing firms are now forbidden from providing non-audit services to auditing clients, why companies can no longer give personal loans to executives or directors, and why a majority of a board of directors must be independent of the company itself. In Washington, any number of conflicts of interest between members of Congress, their staffs, lobbyists and contributors must be

prohibited from visiting the floor of the House, the prohibition on lobbying by former members and their staffs should be extended from one year to four, and all gifts and travel for members and their employees should be banned.

Finally, accountability must be restored. Currently, Congress' ethics committees resemble some of the worst corporate boards from the mid-1990s — appointed by management and wholly dependent on it for career advancement. Just as corporate boards have been strengthened by rules establishing independent audit committees, Congress would be well-served by scrapping its current ethics committees and replacing them with an independent ethics commission made up of former judges, former members of Congress and other eminent citizens.

Moreover, as with good corporate governance, there needs to be more democracy in American governance. Partisan gerrymandering has created a Congress in which more than 95 percent of the members are assured of keeping their seats for life. Just as shareholders must have access to the proxy to hold corporate board members accountable, citizens must be confident that when they go into the voting booth their votes will be meaningful. It's time to explore ways to lower the barriers of entry for challengers — through, for instance, free television airtime for all candidates. And to create more competitive congressional districts, we need to follow the leads of states such as Arizona and Iowa and put the responsibility of drawing district boundaries in the hands of nonpartisan boards.

But ultimately, no rule or regulation can transform an organization on its own. What's needed is a cultural change in which those who do the bidding of lobbyists, cash in their positions on Capitol Hill for huge paychecks and accept gifts are scorned, not praised. Accomplishing that requires real leadership, and that's something that only we — as citizens and voters — can give to ourselves.

Arthur Levitt Jr. was SEC chairman from 1993 to 2001. He is now Group, a global investment firm.

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ation, world briefs

Palestinians vote in parliament election

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Amid tight security and a sea of green and yellow flags, Palestinians cast ballots in their first parliamentary election in a decade Wednesday — a historic vote that could shape the future of the peace process with Israel.

Both the ruling Fatah Party and its challenger, the Islamic militant Hamas, said they were confident of victory, while pollsters said the race was too close to call. Both parties said they would consider a coalition if no clear victor emerges.

"These elections will determine the fate of the Palestinian people," said Mohammed Shaabein, a 71-year-old retiree in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahya.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who voted in the West Bank city of Ramallah, said elections were proceeding smoothly, but complained of Israeli travel restrictions on West Bank roads. Israel had said it would ease checkpoints on voting day.

"We are so happy with this election festival," Abbas said, after dipping his index finger in ink, as required by all those casting ballots to prevent double voting.

Alito has enough support for confirmation

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Senate begins its final debate on Samuel Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court, the conservative jurist already has won enough commitments from senators to become the nation's 110th justice and likely tilt the high court to the right.

Senators were to consider Alito as the replacement for retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on Wednesday with an eye toward getting him on the Supreme Court before President Bush's State of the Union speech Jan. 31.

As of late Tuesday, the federal appeals court judge had enough vote commitments for confirmation — a simple majority in the 100-member Senate — with 50 Senate Republicans plus Democrat Ben Nelson of Nebraska publicly saying through their representa-

tives, in interviews with The Associated Press or in news releases that they would vote for him.

One Republican, Sen. Craig Thomas of Wyoming, made his decision after meeting with Alito in his Senate office on Tuesday. "His judicial experience is second to none and I'm confident he will do an excellent job handling his constitutional responsibility," Thomas said.

Five Republicans, 23 Democrats and independent Sen. Jim Jeffords of Vermont were still publicly undecided or refused to say how they would vote on Alito's nomination. The nominee was meeting with two of the undecided Democrats, Sens. Patty Murray and Jay Rockefeller, on Wednesday in hopes of gaining their votes.

Two kidnapped in Iraq; No word on reporter

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Armed men wearing military fatigues seized two German engineers from a car in northern Iraq in the latest brazen kidnapping to push a foreign government into another desperate race to free its nationals.

On Wednesday, Iraqi police shot dead a Sunni cleric at a checkpoint north of Baghdad while gunmen killed a policeman in the capital's Sadr City neighborhood.

The cleric, Karim Jassim Mohammed, 39, was killed while trying to pass through a checkpoint at the southern entrance to Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, said police Capt. Laith Mohammed.

Meanwhile, efforts continued to rescue Jill Carroll, the American freelance reporter kidnapped Jan. 7 in Baghdad. Carroll's appearance last week on a silent videotape aired on Arab TV marked the only sign of her since her abduction.

More than 250 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, and at least 39 have been killed.

Officers discharged under gay policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of officers and health care professionals

have been discharged in the past 10 years under the Pentagon's policy on gays, a loss that while relatively small in numbers involves troops who are expensive for the military to educate and train.

The 350 or so affected are a tiny fraction of the 1.4 million members of the uniformed services and about 3.5 percent of the more than 10,000 people discharged under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy since its inception in 1994.

But many were military school graduates or service members who went to medical school at the taxpayers' expense — troops not as easily replaced by a nation at war that is struggling to fill its enlistment quotas.

"You don't just go out on the street tomorrow and pluck someone from the general population who has an Air Force education, someone trained as a physician, someone who bleeds Air Force blue, who is willing to serve, and that you can put in Iraq tomorrow," said Beth Schissel, who graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1989 and went on to medical school.

Schissel was forced out of the military after she acknowledged that she was gay.

High court delays Fla. inmate execution

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — A death row inmate won a stay from the Supreme Court Tuesday night about an hour after he was scheduled to be executed for killing a police officer.

Clarence Hill claimed he is mentally retarded and also challenged the state's use of execution drugs as cruel.

It was not clear if the court's intervention would only briefly delay Hill's execution, which had been scheduled for 6 p.m., to give justices additional time to review stay requests.

Witnesses had gathered at the Florida State Prison for the execution, which was put off for more than an hour before word came from the court.

The witnesses were sent home after Justice Anthony M. Kennedy filed paperwork that said Hill's death sentence would "be stayed pending further order" of the justices.

Tamil Tiger rebels to resume peace talks

KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels said Wednesday they have agreed to hold talks with the government in Switzerland in February, raising hopes that the country may avoid sliding back to war.

The rebels' top peace negotiator, Anton Balasingham, told reporters that the talks will review the 2002 cease-fire with the government.

The rebels' approval came after Norwegian envoy Eric Solheim, a key broker of the peace process, met with the reclusive leader of the Tamil Tiger rebels, Velupillai Prabhakaran, in the rebel-held city of Kilinochchi. Solheim delivered a message from President Mahinda Rajapakse, who had earlier agreed to resume peace talks that broke down in 2003 over the rebels' sweeping demands for autonomy.

Solheim was expected to meet with Rajapakse later Wednesday after returning to the capital of Colombo to get the government's final confirmation.

Solheim said it was Norway's suggestion to hold the talks in Geneva.

W.Va. schools get game to fight obesity

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — West Virginia, which has one of the nation's worst obesity problems, is expanding a project that uses a video game to boost students' physical activity.

All of the state's 157 middle schools are expecting to get the video game "Dance Dance Revolution," and officials hope to put it in all 753 public schools within three years. A pilot project began in 20 schools last spring.

Students 10 to 14 years old are being targeted first because it is a key point in children's development, said Linda Carson, a professor at West Virginia University's School of Physical Education in Morgantown.

Those are the ages "when children really begin making more of their own decisions and a time when they could easily choose to be more sedentary," said Carson.

ValVerde receives IOM graduate recognition

Special to the Herald

Debra A. (Debby) ValVerde, executive director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, recently graduated from Institute for Organization Management, a four-year professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, held at the University of Arizona in Tucson.



"Chamber Institute is a four-year program. It's a week long once each year and it requires classes everyday from about 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.," said ValVerde. "You get networking time with people from other chambers of commerce and learn what they are doing as well, and I really think that was important for me."

For more than 80 years, associations and chambers have used the U.S. Chamber's Institute as a training platform for the professional development of their future leaders. Participants receive training in leadership, organization management competencies, as well as targeted curriculum in membership, technology, and financial manage-

ment. "Also, some of our teachers were just outstanding. Patrick McGaughey was one of my teachers and he'll be coming here to speak at the chamber banquet. He's just awesome. I really enjoyed his classes because he's funny, but he gets to the point."

Graduates of institute receive the IOM recognition, signifying completion of more than 90 hours of nonprofit study and dedication to the nonprofit profession. Institute students also earn points toward the Certified Chamber Executive or Certified Association Executive designations.

The Institute program offered at the University of Arizona is one of five Institute programs held each year at U.S. college campuses. Nearly 1,500 individuals attend Institute annually. "They taught us a lot, from financials to getting new members and retention, which is very important to our chamber," said ValVerde. "It was good training. I've been asked to go back as a class advisor, and I want to go back to take part in graduate electives."

Panel begins school funding deliberations

AUSTIN (AP) — A panel of lawmakers on Tuesday began the latest leg of their efforts to impose a new tax structure to pay for public schools in hopes of having a proposal to offer the Legislature by the end of March.

The committee of senators is preparing for a 30-day special session this spring, widely expected to be called by Gov. Rick Perry for April.

After three years of failed attempts, lawmakers now face a June 1 deadline to get the work done or risk school closures. The Texas Supreme Court has ruled that the state's tax structure is unconstitutional, and ordered the Legislature to fix it before that date or money to schools would be stopped.

With a deadline looming, attempts this time will likely be more narrowly focused than the sweeping overhaul pro-

posals of the past, said Republican Sen. Florence Shapiro of Plano, chairwoman of the Senate Education Reform and Public School Finance Select Committee.

The scope of reform efforts must be limited to areas defined by Perry when he calls for the special session.

"I believe that one of the problems that plagued our efforts the last time and many times since ... I think we tried to do too much," Shapiro said Tuesday.

This time, she hopes the Legislature will focus on "a few things and doing a few things well."

Number one on the list will be finding a new tax structure to replace — or relieve — the state's dependence on property taxes.

The property tax, which is levied by school districts, has become a statewide tax because dis-

tricts don't have discretion to decide their own rates, the court ruled.

Simply lowering the property tax cap, as previous plans proposed, would not satisfy the court's mandate, Solicitor General Ted Cruz told the panel Tuesday.

The final plan must allow tax rates to be set by the school districts, not the state, said Cruz, who represented the state in court.

The tax issue is the only measure that lawmakers must address to avoid school closures.

In addition to a new tax structure, Shapiro asked her committee to focus efforts on teacher pay initiatives, college readiness and reducing high school dropouts.

"The statistics ... prove to me that our high schools collectively are broken," Shapiro said, noting that a third of students who enter high

school do not graduate and almost 30 percent of Texas students who go to college require remedial courses.

"That's unacceptable." A commission made up of state business leaders has been appointed by Perry to study alternate tax schemes, including new business and consumer taxes, and make recommendations to the Legislature.

Former Comptroller John Sharp, who heads the commission, said the group also is aiming to make their recommendations by the end of March.

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"ONLY GOD KNOWS WHY"

We grieve for you in silence and try not to let it show. But what it meant to lose you. No one will ever know. You didn't bid us farewell. Or even say good-bye. You were gone before we knew it. And only God knows why. An unselfish heart stopped beating. And you were laid to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the "Best." Seven years ago today. On Angel Wings to heaven you flew, without a good-bye or an I love you. A part of us went with you on that January morning, as you spread your wings and flew toward the light. Not a day goes by that we don't miss you so, asking over & over why you had to go. God has his reasons, someday we'll know why, but for now my angel, spread your wings & fly.

*We love you baby girl.
Mom, Janice, Jared, Blake,
family & friends*

Modern portraiture less formal, more individualistic art

By VALERIE TAKAHAMA

The Orange County Register

In a new twist on the blended family, both Mary and Joe Ferguson's mothers and an aunt, all in their 80s, moved in with the Laguna Beach, Calif., couple two years ago.

Since then, they've developed a couple of daily rituals. Mary Ferguson gets up first and puts on a pot of coffee. The older women filter in around 7 and take a place at the kitchen table, where they drink coffee, read the paper and plot the day ahead, which may include a Red Hat Society outing, a bowling date, hair appointments or a class at UC Irvine.

No matter how busy it gets, the older gals gather for cocktail hour at 5 sharp. Mary's mother, Mary Pratt, 87, and Joe's mother, Lois Ferguson, 89, drink juice. Aunt Mag Ferguson, 83, always has a gin-and-tonic, no lime.

"It's an era in our life that won't last forever," says Mary Ferguson, a retired marketing executive. "We know this is a special time, and a photo just doesn't capture it."

Instead, she commissioned a portrait from artist Regina Jacobson.

Still in progress, it shows Mary Pratt with her hand on her cheek and a knowing glint in her eyes; while Lois, in the middle, wears a soft, gray sweater and looks a little bashful, and Aunt Mag, on the right, dressed in a blouse with a jaunty sailboat print, grins happily. They're seated at the kitchen table with a coffee cup and bifocal glasses, ready to start the day.

In an era of the cell-phone camera, the digital camera and the camcorder, many people are moving against the current and commissioning portrait artists to capture their loved ones in oil on canvas for the ages.

More likely than not, the subjects are not dressed in velvet and lace or posed stiffly by marble fireplaces or seated in ornate, antique chairs.



Portrait painter Regina Jacobson paints her clients in a decidedly modern way at her studio in Orange, Calif., Monday, Nov. 28.

Instead, they're gathered around the breakfast table, covered in sand on the beach, enjoying a drink at a pub or seated on a park bench with their beloved, aging Labrador retriever.

Reflecting the casual tenor of the times, the modern portrait is more likely to be lighthearted, even humorous, anything but formal and stuffy. And they often aim to reveal subtleties of personality and family dynamics rather than conveying status or wealth.

"Californians don't want heavy European paintings. They don't want heavy drapery and formal poses," says Michael Hallinan, a Laguna Beach artist. "People want to reflect the world they live in."

Hallinan, an Impressionist, specializes in large portraits of children, mothers and their children and families walking or at play on the beach.

While the waves, white sand and palm trees are depicted in

broad brushstrokes and bright colors, the figures themselves are more detailed and defined. His works sell for \$1,500 to \$3,500 and up, depending on the size of the painting and the number of figures depicted.

"It has to be better than a likeness. You have to nail it. It has to be them," he says. "One palm tree looks pretty much like another, but people don't."

Like other modern-day Van Eycks and Sargents, Hallinan relies on photographs to help him capture his subjects' individ-

uality. Snapshots are partly a convenient visual aid.

"People don't pose for portraits anymore," he says. "Their pagers and beepers are going off."

The people in portraits by Scott Methvin, another Laguna Beach artist, often look like they're having fun, too. His paintings tend to capture slices of everyday life. Whether they are large canvases filled with hundreds of meticulously rendered details or small portraits that seem to give off a soft, candlelit glow, his commissioned portraits

also tell a story.

Take his painting of two brothers at Salt Creek beach in Dana Point, Calif. It shows one boy, who's buried in the sand so that only his face and red head are visible, and the other, a lanky kid in blue trunks, sprawled beside him, grinning from ear to ear. Their father, an amateur photographer, took a photo of them while on vacation, and hired Methvin to give it permanence as an oil painting.

To compose the painting, Methvin found the spot on the beach where

the photo was taken and spent a couple of hours shooting his own photographs.

He came back with photos of a family under an umbrella, a lifeguard in the center of a knot of beach-goers, surfers and boogie boarders, seagulls overhead and the Ritz-Carlton on the bluffs above the beach. He arranged them around the main event, the two brothers, carefree and happy on a sunny afternoon.

Right now, he's working on a series of small portraits of three of his nieces, who are 7, 9 and 11 years old. He says they're among the most difficult subjects imaginable precisely because they are so beautiful.

Mary Ferguson said she had to persuade her mother and the others to pose for the portrait.

Jacobson charges between \$7,000 and \$15,000 for her portraits, known for being larger-than-life-size, bold and flooded with humor and warmth.

On the easel in her studio in Orange is a work-in-progress, a wry portrait of her friend Joselyn Miller wearing an expression of unapologetic distaste or contempt. With her frank facial expression and messy hair, she comes across a woman who couldn't care less what other people think of her. Measuring 4-feet-by-4-feet, the painting is called "Great Big Brat."

"People are excited to be taken outside of formal rules. They want something different," Jacobson says. "I would say portraiture is really in a comeback."

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*In Sunday's
Big Spring Herald*

Montana's magic

Throughout his career, Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Montana was known for his late-in-the-game comebacks. Ask him and he'll tell you that his amazing 31 fourth-quarter wins were just the result of having a winning attitude, stronger healthier bones and chiles rellenos and cheesy black bean dip.

American Profile
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YoungLife members Mellodie Williams, left, Saige Campbell, Amy Smith, Michael Loftis, Thad Loftis, Ira Friddle and Wesley Rawls prove five people can sit on one lap as part of a get acquainted game at club Monday night. YoungLife meets Mondays at 7:59 p.m. at 13th and Owens.



Friends Kate Keller, 15, foreground left, Katie Schergen, 14, center, and Lauren Grassl, 14, of South County, skate around Steinberg Rink in St. Louis, Mo. Injuries and health problems for skaters slide in two directions: those for competitors and those for recreational skaters.

Go ahead — skate through life

By HARRY JACKSON JR.
KRT

The U.S. Figure Skating Championships always inspire some parents and young adults to visit sporting goods stores to buy skates and sweaters, and to find teachers for themselves and their children.

Some will wonder whether they also need to buy splints, bandages and aspirin.

That all depends on what level of skating you plan to tackle, physicians and teachers say.

Injuries and health problems for skaters slide in two directions: those for competitors and those for recreational skaters.

Competitors work toward one goal: a picture-perfect triple jump, regardless of the wear and tear on the ankles, knees and hips.

Recreational skaters hope one day to do a figure eight backward. They expect to land on their rear ends now and then.

Competitive skaters pretty much know the risks by the time they go for the gold. Those risks come primarily from one skill: jumping. The process of jumping — and making it look easy and graceful while slamming into the ice on one foot — can over time result in sprains, twists, broken bones and minor and major surgery that can be as severe as hip replacements.

However, doctors say for recreational skaters, the risks generally are no more than any other sport. Here are some of the most common problems:

• Joint injuries. Most recreational skating injuries happen above the waist and are caused by

falls, says Dr. Michael Cannon, professor of family medicine and sports medicine at St. Louis University. A fall can injure wrists, elbows and shoulders. Older women should be aware of their risk for osteoporosis before participating in a pastime that could result in a fall. Often, good conditioning — doing weight exercises and being in good shape — will help prevent injuries.

Cannon notes that for recreational skaters, a fall on ice is no different than a fall anywhere else. If pain continues and the bruising is severe, see a doctor.

• Tendinitis. This tends to be a problem more for competitors than for recreational skaters, said Dr. Matt Matava, an orthopedist with Washington University. Tendinitis occurs most often when those super-supportive skates rub against the tendons in the ankles or the tendons are stretched or bent unnaturally when a skater lands from a high-speed jump. Recreational skaters who may get on the ice one or two times a week generally don't face that problem, he said.

• Back and rear-end aches. Falling on the behind presents its own set of problems. Over time, it can result in compressed discs, especially in the lower back.

Matava warned about a stealth injury from falling on the buttocks: A broken coccyx (also called the tailbone). That can break at a young age and not cause pain until the person gets older. By then it has healed in an unnatural and painful position and it may take surgery to ease the pain and even remove the bone. Be alert

to prolonged pain that doesn't hinder movement.

The older you get, the more danger you face from compressed discs resulting from a fall. Over time a compressed disc can squeeze the spine and cause pain in other areas, usually lower than the disc. Relief can require therapy or surgery.

• The cold. Cold, dry air can trigger exercise-induced asthma or simply coughing in children and adults. You may need medication. Ice rinks are full of people with inhalers.

• Accidents. This comes from one form of overdoing it — trying things you're not skilled enough to do safely. Skating rinks tend to be surrounded by barriers and walls. Slamming into them is problematic. Statistics show that figure skaters actually end up with more speed- and fall-related injuries than beginning hockey players.

• Pushing the kids. "Kids want to play; parents want to win," said Cannon. Let a child decide if he or she wants competition or to grow in figure skating, speed skating or hockey, he said. Pushing a child to excel is a formula for sports injuries and burnout in a singular sport like skating, he said.

Marilyn Meunier, skating director for the Creve Coeur skating program, noted that many of the long-term health problems of even the top competitive skaters "come from pushing the kids to do triple jumps before puberty. Parents want more."

She has a formula that's worked for her. "When the children stop smiling on the ice, that's when it's too much."

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Library News

New books are in. You can find them on our new display cart made by our excellent maintenance people. Funds were provided by the Friends of the Library. Too cool.

I am starting a 2006 New Book Binder and new items will be under the appropriate section. Books in this column may be found either in the appropriate section — fiction, mystery — or on the new book stand.



HOLLIS
MCCRIGHT

These may not be new to you, but to us they are. Sunny Randall is the female Spencer character made famous by Robert B. Parker.

In "Melancholy Baby" (M PAR R), Sunny is struggling with the fact that her ex-husband (who doesn't feel like an ex) is getting married.

To take her mind off of it, she accepts an assignment to find out the birth parents of Sarah Markham, a college student.

As in all Parker mysteries, there is snappy repartee, dead people and somewhat convoluted strenuous scenarios.

It is a good read, just like "Cold Service" (M PAR R) by Parker. However in this Spencer mystery, Hawk has been terribly wounded by mobsters and requires Spencer and Susan's help to get back in fighting

trim. The why and how is explained in "Cold Service."

David Baldacci is a prolific writer of thrillers/mysteries. Arab terrorists, nuclear threat and political perfidy drive his latest book, "Camel Club" (M BAL D).

The Camel Club is a four-man group of Washington, D.C., misfits who gather every week to discuss political conspiracies they believe exist and what actions they might take.

One night, while meeting on Roosevelt Island in the middle of the Potomac River, club members witness the murder of Secret Service employee Patrick Johnson, thus thrusting the wacky crew into the middle of a bigger conspiracy than they could ever have imagined.

As fans of this writer know, years of experience have made him an author who promises a good story and then delivers it; a good book to read. We also have "Hour Game" (M BAL D).

Other mysteries are: "Murder Suicide," by Keith Ablow; Andrew Greeley's "The Bishop in the Old Neighborhood," an Emma Fielding mystery by Dana Cameron; "More Bitter Than Death," "Last Witness," by Jilliane Hoffman; "Just One Look," by master writer Harlan Coben; Deborah Crombie's "In a Dark House," and a favorite author of mine, William G. Tapply's "A Fine Line."

I am a sucker for Westerns. I guess there is

not a book that I won't read, especially if there isn't anything to do (housework doesn't count.)

Some new Westerns are: "Gun Boss," by Jack Ballas; "Bitter Creek," by Dane Coolidge; and "Survival Trail," by Chet Cunningham.

It had never crossed my mind that a gunslinger would be fond of Shakespeare. However, in "Quitting Time," by Robert J. Conley, the production of Titus Andronicus tempts Oliver Colfax to take a job dealing with cattle rustlers. The rest, as they say, is history.

New fiction: "About a Boy," (F HOR N) by Nick Hornby, this was made into a movie starring Hugh Grant; "Alabama," by Kay Cornelius; "Little Beauties," by Kim Addonizio; and "The Ultimatum," by T. Davis Bunn.

Newly received audio books: Dale Browns "Dreamland: Razor's Edge," this is on cassette; the rest are CD. "Hooking Up," (AUCD 814.54 WOL T) by Tom Wolfe; "After the Fire," (AUCD 811.6 JAN J) by J.A. Jance; Julie Kenner's "Carpe Demon: Adventures of a Demon-Hunting Soccer Mom," (AUCD F KENN J) and "Because of the Night," by James Ellroy (AUCD F ELL J). Kenner's book is a cute one, I haven't read or heard the others.

Deborah Tannen, in "Talking From 9 Until 5" (651.7 TAN D) describes differences in men's and women's public communication as found within

the business setting.

These differences appear to influence actual perceptions of worker skills and abilities. For example, women say "I'm sorry" without actually apologizing and tend to use an indirect manner of speech.

These styles make women appear less confident, competent and professional. However, women who learn to speak like men are accused of being aggressive and unfeminine.

Written for the general reader, Tannen's work is entertaining and filled with illustrative conversations.

It raises many issues of concern to working women, from knocking against the glass ceiling to dealing with sexual harassment.

Unfortunately, Tannen's research has not yet suggested any linguistic solutions.

This review is by Kathy Shimpock-Vieweg from the O'Connor Cavanagh Library in Phoenix, Ariz.

The Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. The Internet/video room closes one-half hour earlier and is closed from noon until 1 p.m. Saturdays. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. The phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. The catalog is online.

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.

Public meeting scheduled to discuss proposed US 87 Truck Relief Route

Special to the Herald

ABILENE — The Abilene District of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a public meeting to gather input from the public on the proposed truck relief route west of Big Spring from US 87 North to US 87 South.

The meeting will be held at the Dora Roberts Civic Center, 100 Whipkey Dr., on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Input gathered at the public meeting will be used along with TxDOT design, and environmental criteria to develop an alignment to be presented at a future public meeting.

Exhibits showing the proposed project location, potentially impacted properties, and proposed construction will be available for public viewing at the meeting. The final alignment of the relief route has not been determined.

The proposed project

would consist of acquisition of right-of-way, construction of the new roadway and bridge structures in order to remove through truck traffic from US 87 which runs through downtown Big Spring. Included in the project would be construction of the roadway, drainage structures, bridge structures, and landscaping.

At this time the first phase of the project is scheduled for bidding in the year 2008 at an estimated cost of \$16 million. The total project construction is expected to exceed \$90 million.

There will be an opportunity at the conclusion of the presentation by TxDOT personnel for the public to ask questions and make oral comments.

Written comments will also be accepted at the meeting and for 10 days following the meeting date. Citizens not able to attend the public meeting may submit comments to the TxDOT, P.O. Box 511, Big Spring 79721, Attn: Roy Dill, P.E., Big Spring Area Engineer.

For more information, contact Dill at 363-4768.

Policies for life! submissions

The Big Spring Herald accepts submissions for publication in the Friday and weekend edition and there is no charge for this service.

The deadline for all submissions is noon Wednesday and all submissions will be edited for content, style and space.

An information sheet outlining suggested details for submissions is available at the Herald offices.

Articles should be typed.

The Herald is not responsible for any misspellings of handwritten submissions.

Paid submissions are also accepted.

Articles may be mailed to P.O. Box 1431 or e-mailed to life@bigspringherald.com.

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Big Spring returns home with district victory

• Steers' offense takes center stage in victory against rival Lake View

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Big Spring boys

used a high-scoring offensive attack to take down rival Lake View Tuesday as the Steers scored 80 points for the second time this year, winning 80-67. The Steers scored 28 points in the opening

frame and led 41-39 at halftime before pulling ahead in the second half with a 39-28 advantage. Junior Scott Fankhauser led the Steers with a game-high 26 points, which included

three 3-pointers. Senior Matt Hilario added 16 points, while junior Ryan Tannehill scored 14. Big Spring improved to 9-17 with the win and 2-2 inside of District 4-4A. Lake View has just one

win and is 0-4 in the district. The Steers look to win two straight games for the second time this season as they play host to arch rival Andrews Friday beginning around 8 p.m.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring senior Raegan Ritchey reaches out for a loose ball during action against Frenship earlier this year. The Lady Steers lost to Lake View Tuesday.

Garden City rolls past Dawson

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

WELCH — Both Garden City basketball teams cruised to easy wins Tuesday against rival Dawson. The boys doubled up the Dragons, winning 72-36, while the Lady Kats rolled past Dawson, 64-33.

Garden City boys 72
Dawson boys 36
The Bearkats outscored the Dragons, 48-18, in the second half and recorded their sixth straight district victory.

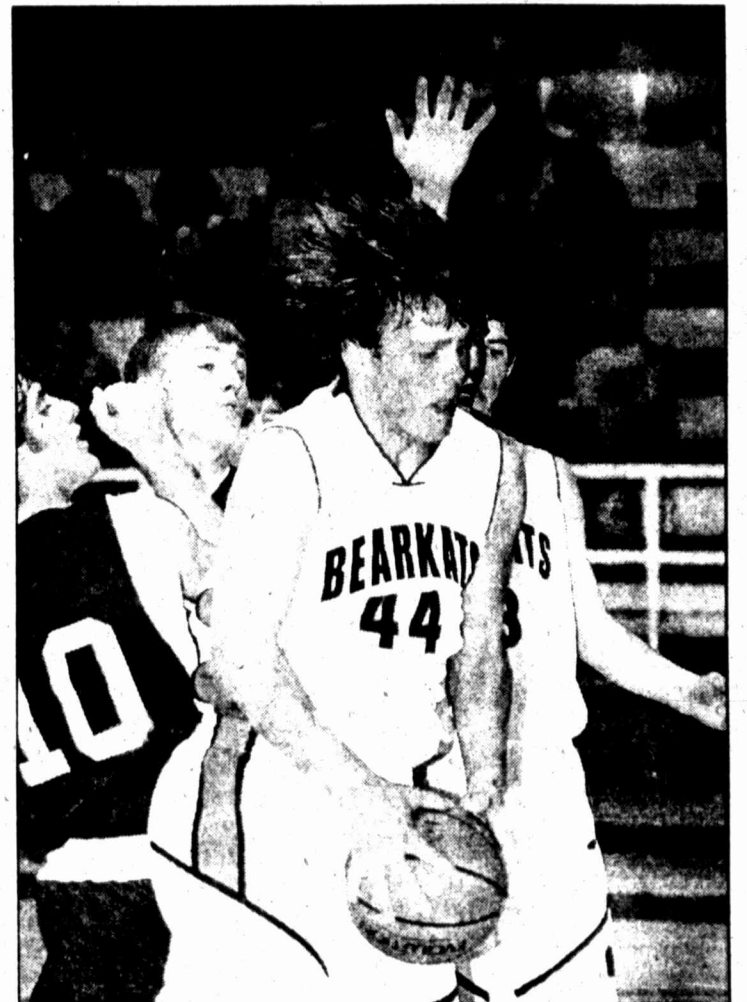
Junior Taylor Niehues paced Garden City, which improved to 16-4 overall and 6-0 in District 7-A, with 26 points, while senior Cory Multer added 13.

Junior Evan Jansa scored nine and juniors Jason Flores and Colton Schwartz each scored eight.

Garden City led by six at halftime, but picked up the defensive intensity in the second half and pulled away, said head coach Koby Abney.

"We started executing and our defense jacked up a bit," said Abney. "We were in better shape and defended their shooters well in the second half."

Garden City girls 64
Dawson girls 33



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Garden City junior Alex Halfmann pulls down a rebound against Dawson Tuesday night in Welch.

Junior Erin Hirt scored 18 points and hit three 3-pointers to lead the Lady Kats past Dawson Tuesday.

Garden City (21-6, 6-0) led at halftime 44-24 and then held Dawson to just

nine second-half points. Junior Lauren Plagens added 15 points for Garden City.

Both teams will host arch rival Grady Friday beginning at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Lady Cats earn district victory

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

LENORAH — Kelsi Howard and Emily Krug each scored 13 points to lead the Grady girl's basketball team to a win over

rival Borden County Tuesday.

Grady outscored Borden County, which remained winless in District 7-A play, 33-8 in the second half and won the game,

64-30. Candace Schuelke and Kenzie Madison added eight points each for Grady, which improved

See GRADY, Page 2B

Lake View extends B.S. losing streak

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — Michelle Ruiz scored 17 points to lead the Lake View girls past Big Spring Tuesday in San Angelo.

The Maidens outscored Big Spring, 27-15, in the first half and went on to win the game, 56-40. Lake View improved to 2-4 in District 4-4A play, while the Lady Steers fell to 3-

27 overall and 0-6 in the district. Senior Carmen Davis led Big Spring with a game-high 17 points, while senior Raegan Ritchey added nine before fouling out.



Essence Johnson added 10 points for Lake View (10-17).

Big Spring returns to the Steer Gym Friday as the Lady Steers take on arch rival Andrews at 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma earns big home win

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

COAHOMA — The Coahoma basketball teams split two games Tuesday night in Coahoma as the girls rolled past Hawley, 56-23, while the boys lost to the Bearcats, 54-48.

Coahoma girls 56
Hawley girls 23

The Bulldogettes improved to 6-0 in District 4-2A with a convincing win. Coahoma held Hawley to single digits in all four quarters. It led 22-10 at halftime and outscored Hawley, 34-13, in the second half.

Freshman Laci Sterling had 20 points to pace the Bulldogettes, while sophomore Janice Gonzales added four 3-pointers and 14 points. Senior Sterling Gee contributed eight points.

Hawley dropped to 2-4 in district play.

Coahoma boys 48
Hawley boys 54

The Bulldogs lost an eight-point halftime lead to Hawley Tuesday at home and dropped their fourth straight district



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Coahoma senior Terrell Bibb, left, battles for a rebound against rival Hawley Tuesday during the Bulldogs' home loss. Bibb finished with 13 points.

game. The Bulldogs were outscored 18-7 in the final period and lost by six points.

Junior Jason Gonzales hit five 3-pointers and finished with a team-high 17 points in the win, while senior Terrell Bibb added 12.

Coahoma will travel to Stamford Friday.

Bufs roll past Iraan

• Forsan girls suffer another district loss against Lady Braves

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald
FORSAN — Tye Baker scored 17 and Adam Bailey added 14 as the Forsan Buffaloes improved to 19-4 on the season, defeating Iraan, 53-42.



Tuesday night marked the second time these teams have played this season with the Buffs taking the first game in Iraan. Forsan moved to 4-1 in district play with three games left.

The Buffs jumped out to an early lead as Baker and Josh Paradez hit 3-pointers in the first period, helping Forsan to a 14-8 advantage.

Both teams played evenly in the second frame, scoring 14 each, and Forsan went in at the half still up six, 28-22.

The Braves pulled to



within two with two quick baskets to open the third. But Forsan pulled ahead to stay with an 11-4 run, giving the Buffs a nine-point lead they would not lose.

Iraan never got closer than 11 points in the fourth, as the Buffs sealed the 53-42 win.

Adding to the high scoring of Baker and Bailey were South Johnson and Jeremy Johnson, who each scored seven points.

Drey Rosco and Pedro Rios each had 11 points for the Braves.

The Buffs will see on the road this Friday as they take on Wink, trying to avenge their only district loss this season.

Forsan girls 53
Iraan girls 42

The Forsan Lady Buffaloes welcomed the Iraan Bravettes to town Tuesday night, falling 53-29 in district play.

After a closely played first period, the

See FORSAN, Page 2B

IN BRIEF

Garrard hosts for Sportsman Club
The Sportsman Club will be hosting a Garrard Golf Open on Sunday, Feb. 5, 10 a.m. at the club, nine miles out on Andrews highway (Highway 176). For more information, contact 263-1345.

Big Spring LL to elect new officers

The Big Spring Little League will hold a meeting to elect new officers Sunday at the Howard College Library. The meeting will start at 2 p.m.

Howard announces wear red promotion

The Howard College athletic department will again be implementing a "wear red" get in free during the Hawk men and women's next home game against rival South Plains. Anyone wearing red to the game will get in free of charge.

The game will take place Monday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The women's game will begin at 5:50 p.m. and the top-ranked Hawk men's team will tip off around 7:50 p.m.

Also getting into the game free will be any student who currently attends Baner Magnet School. Several elementary schools in the area will have the chance to get in free this year as part of another Howard promotion done by the men's team.

Penguins' Lemieux calls it quits again

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Penguins star and owner Mario Lemieux, one of hockey's greatest players, retired for the second time.

Lemieux, a Hall of Famer who won two Stanley Cups and six scoring titles, learned in early December he has an irregular heart beat.

The NHL's seventh-leading career scorer with 1,723 points, Lemieux also retired after the 1996-97 season following years of back problems and a 1993 cancer scare, but he returned midway through the 2000-01 season. He again fought through injuries — including two major hip problems — that caused him to miss most of the 2001-02 and 2002-03 seasons.

Lemieux, who scored 50 goals, also became the first major pro sports star to sue his team for which he played, scrambling a group that brought the team in federal bankruptcy court in 1999.

Espinosa returns to old job with Boston

BOSTON (AP) — Theo Epstein's return to the job he held

Artest trade to Kings for Stojakovic stalled

• Artest to meet with Pacers to decide fate
By CLIFF BRUNT

Associated Press Writer
INDIANAPOLIS — Ron Artest and the Indiana Pacers had all but broken their unhappy union at long last. Then, before either could breathe a sigh of relief, there they were — still together. The saga of the player and team that no longer

want each other took a predictably unpredictable turn Tuesday, when a reportedly "imminent" trade that would have sent the forward to the Sacramento Kings for Peja Stojakovic collapsed. For a while it seemed the Pacers would rid themselves of their biggest distraction, not to mention their most visible link to one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports history.

GRADY

Continued from Page 1B

to 14-10 overall and 4-2 in district play.

Grady boys 39 Borden County boys 42
The Grady boys took a big hit as far as the post-season's concerned after losing to Borden County at home by three points Tuesday. The Wildcats led by

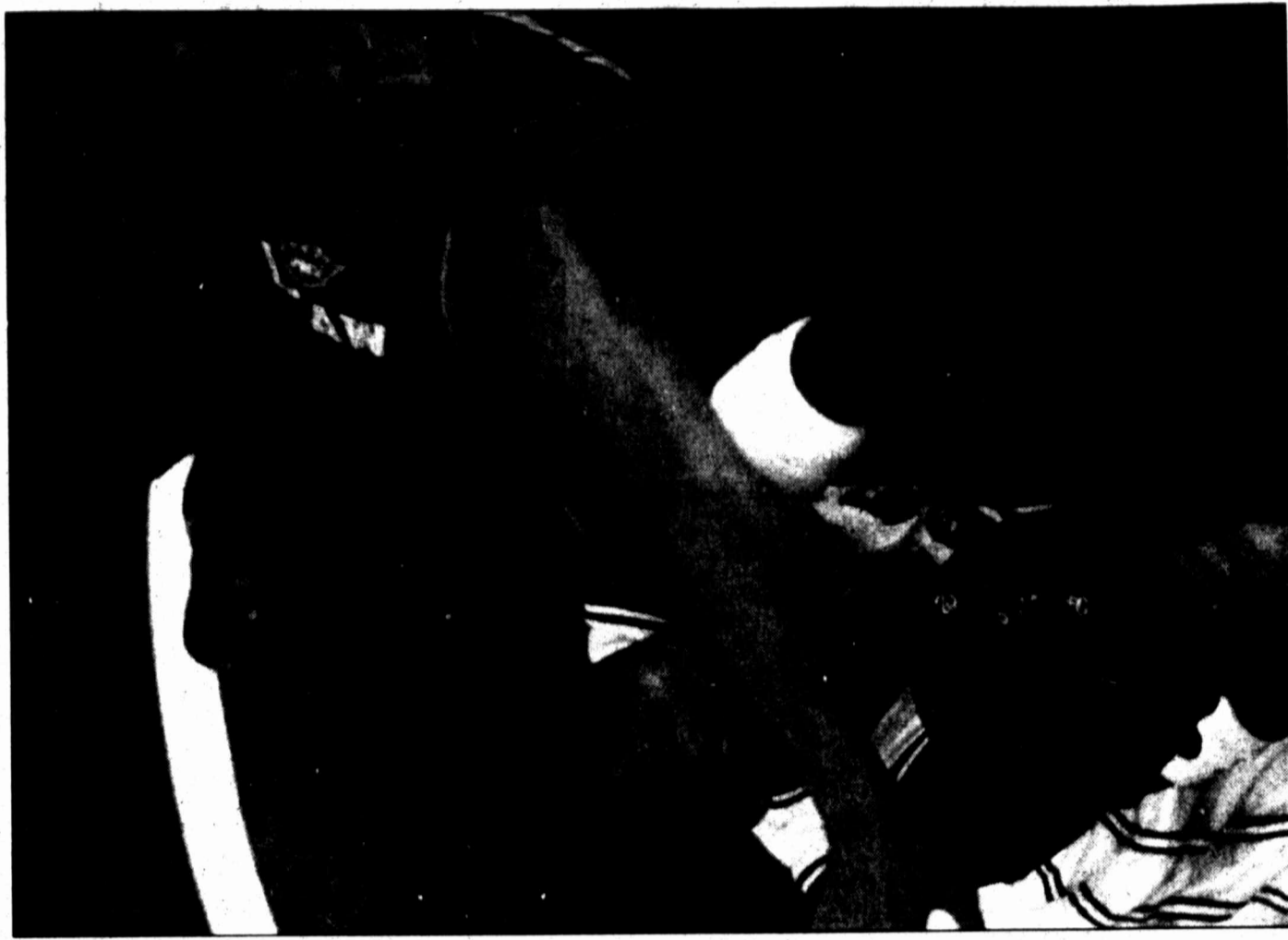
four after the first quarter, but only scored two points in the entire second quarter. The two teams were tied at half-time and Grady led by four after three quarters, but Borden County won the fourth quarter, 20-13, and grabbed a huge district win. Borden County improved to 4-2 in district play, while Grady dropped to 3-3. Garden City leads the district with a 6-0 record.

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

Bravettes pulled away midway through the second quarter on the strength of a 17-8 run. Things did not get better for the Lady Buffs in the third, as Iraan outscored them 12-4, widening their lead to 38-19. Forsan never stopped playing hard, but in the fourth frame the

Bravettes were able to nail three big 3-point shots to ward off any bid at a comeback. Kimmy Berry, Tori Gauer and Kayla Spence each scored six points for the Lady Buffs. Kaylon Stanley added five. The Bravettes were led by Dee Malone with 13 points, while Khera Vay added 11. Ty Green finished with nine points. The Lady Buffs will travel to Wink Friday night in another district matchup.



Orlando Magic's Steve Francis is fouled by Phoenix Suns' Boris Diaw during the Magic's 111-102 victory over the Suns at the TD Waterhouse Centre in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday.

Hingis ousted by Clijsters down under

By PAUL ALEXANDER
Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Martina Hingis found out she can still slug it out with the best of 'em. She also knows she has a lot of work to do. Second-seeded Kim Clijsters overcame a rash of mistakes and ended Hingis' impressive comeback run at the Australian Open, winning 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 to reach the semifinals and take over

the No. 1 ranking. "It's been a long time since I played her," Clijsters said after Hingis, a three-time champion here, exited Rod Laver Arena to a loud ovation. "She's improved a lot since she was at her best." But that was when the power surge in women's tennis was just picking up momentum. While Hingis showed that she wasn't overmatched from the baseline, her weak

serve let her down, setting up easy winners for Clijsters. Asked if she learned anything, Hingis said: "Speed is important." Despite the loss, she said she was satisfied with her first Grand Slam event in three years. "I think I can be proud of myself," Hingis said. "You just can't think you're going to go out there and win everything. Losing to Kim today still gives me so much to look

forward to. I just have to work harder. I have to start believing." The victory guaranteed that reigning U.S. Open champion Clijsters will take over the top ranking from Lindsay Davenport, who lost in the quarterfinals. "After the year I had last year, this is the cherry on the cake," she said. "It was never a goal. Keep working hard and good things happen."

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| 2005 Ford Taurus SEL - Silver Frost, All Power, Keyless Entry, Anti Lock Brakes, Moonroof, 18,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995 | 2000 Lincoln Town Car Signature Series - Silver w/Leather, Locally Owned w/45,000 Miles. Has New Michelin!! Was \$15,995 NOW \$13,995 | 2002 Chevrolet Suburban LT - Pewter, w/Leather, Loaded, One Owner w/45,000 Miles. Was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995 |
| 2005 Ford Taurus SEL - Merlot Clearcoat, All Power, Keyless Entry, Anti Lock Brakes, Moonroof, 15,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$15,995 | 2005 Dodge Ram 3500 Quad Cab Dually 4X4 Diesel SLT - Silver, Automatic, All Power, Local One Owner w/25,000 Miles. Was \$35,995 NOW \$34,995 | 2002 Ford Explorer - All Power, Local One Owner w/49,000 Miles. Was \$17,995 NOW \$16,995 |
| 2005 Ford Taurus SE - Silver Clearcoat, All Power, Moonroof, Keyless Entry, Antilock Brakes, 15,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995 | 2004 Ford F150 Supercab STX 4X4 - Yellow w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/33,000 Miles. Was \$25,995 NOW \$24,995 | 2002 Cadillac Escalade AWD - Sandstone w/Leather, Fully Loaded, Local One Owner w/40,000 Miles. Was \$32,995 NOW \$29,995 |
| 2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Cloud 9 White Clearcoat, Automatic, Air, Speed Control, All Power, Tilt, 20,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$12,995 | 2004 Ford F150 Supercrew 4-DR. - Blue/Arizona Beige, Tan Leather, 5.4 V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$24,995 | 2002 GMC Yukon XL SLT 4X4 - Red, Leather, All Power, OnStar, Local One Owner. Was \$20,995 NOW \$19,995 |
| 2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Silver Clearcoat, All Power, Automatic, Tilt, Speed Control, 14,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$12,995 | 2004 Dodge Ram 3500 Quad Cab Diesel - Silver, All The Options, One Owner w/36,000 Miles. Was \$30,995 NOW \$29,995 | 2002 Ford Explorer 4-DR. - White/Silver, All Power, Local One Owner w/51,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995 |
| 2005 Ford Focus ZX4 SE 4-DR. - Arizona Beige, Automatic, Tilt, Cruise, 13,000 Miles. Was \$13,995 NOW \$12,995 | 2003 Chevrolet Avalanche Z-66 - Dk. Gray, Cloth, XM Radio, OnStar, Local One Owner w/36,000 Miles. Was \$24,995 NOW \$22,995 | 2001 Lincoln Navigator 4X4 - White, Leather, All Power, One Owner. Was \$20,995 NOW \$18,995 |
| 2004 Ford Freestar S Van - Gray, All Power, 4,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995 | 2003 Chevrolet C1500 Ext. Cab Silverado - Blue, Cloth, All Power, Extra Clean. Was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995 | 2001 Ford Explorer Spt 4X4 2-DR. - Blue, All Power, w/57,000 Miles. Was \$12,995 NOW \$10,995 |
| ***** CARS ***** | 2002 Ford F350 Crew Cab Lariat 4X4 Diesel - Black/Arizona Beige, Tan Leather, One Owner. Was \$22,995 NOW \$21,995 | 2001 Ford Explorer XLT 4-DR. - White w/Cloth, All Power. Was \$12,995 NOW \$9,995 |
| 2004 Ford GT Convertible - Silver w/Black Top, Silver Leather, Anniversary Edition, All Power, automatic, One Owner w/34,000 Miles, 4.6 V-8. Was \$21,995 NOW \$20,995 | 2003 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT 4X4 - Blue/Silver, 5.4 V-8, All Power, Local One Owner w/46,000 Miles. Was \$23,995 NOW \$22,995 | 2000 Chevrolet Suburban LT 4X4 - Black w/Leather, All Power, One owner w/73,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995 |
| 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier L.S. - White, Automatic, All Power, One Owner w/22,000 Miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995 | 2002 Ford F150 Supercab XLT - White, V-8, All Power, One Owner w/70,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995 | 1999 Dodge Durango - All Power, Local One Owner w/Only 57,000 Miles. Was \$12,995 NOW \$11,995 |
| 2003 Dodge Neon SE 4-DR. - White, One Owner w/68,000 Miles. Was \$8,995 NOW \$7,995 | 2001 Ford F150 Supercrew XLT - Tan, V-8, Cloth, All Power. Was \$13,995 NOW \$12,995 | 1999 GMC Suburban - Tan w/Leather, All Power. Was \$12,995 NOW \$9,995 |
| 2003 Toyota Avalon XL - Seafoam Green, All Power, One Owner w/43,000 Miles. Was \$21,995 NOW \$19,995 | 2000 Ford F250 Crew Cab XLT V-10 - Red, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/79,000 Miles. Was \$16,995 NOW \$15,995 | 1997 Ford Expedition XLT 4X4 - Silver w/Leather, All Power, One Owner. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995 |
| 2003 Cadillac DeVille 4-DR. - All Options, Local One Owner w/43,000 Miles. Was \$23,995 NOW \$22,995 | 1998 Nissan Frontier Kign Cab XE - Tan, 5 Speed, 4 Cyl., Air, 45,000 Miles. Was \$9,995 NOW \$8,995 | ***** VANS ***** |
| 2002 Ford Focus SVT Hatchback - Black, Leather, 6 Speed, Local One Owner w/60,000 Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995 | 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe L.S. - White w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/12,000 Miles. Was \$26,995 NOW \$25,995 | 2003 Dodge Grand Caravan SE - Blue, V-6, All Power, 54,000 Miles. Was \$14,995 NOW \$13,995 |
| 2002 Ford Taurus SES - Arizona Beige, Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner w/49,000 Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995 | 2004 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - Red/Tan, Leather, DVD, Power 3rd Row Seat, Dual Air/Heat, One Owner w/46,000 Miles. Was \$30,995 NOW \$29,995 | 2001 Toyota Sienna XLE - Tan, Fully Loaded, One Owner w/58,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$13,995 |
| 2001 Mercury Grand Marquis L.S. - White, w/Leather, All Power, One Owner w/62,000 Miles. Was \$11,995 NOW \$10,995 | 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe L.S. - Black, All Power, Dual Air/Heat, One Owner. Was \$19,995 NOW \$18,995 | ***** MOTORCYCLES ***** |
| | | 2002 Harley Davidson Road King Classic - Pearl White, Local One Owner, 25,000 Miles. Was \$15,995 NOW \$14,995 |

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Legals
PUBLIC NOTICE
The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on February 10, 2006 for the following:
The purchase of three (3) new cars and one (1) new 1/2 ton pick-up for the Sheriff's Office.
Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main, Room 203, Big Spring, TX or by calling (432)264-2210.
Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on February 13, 2006 for their consideration.
The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
#4841 January 25 & February 3, 2006.

Coahoma ISD intends to seek a waiver concerning the prohibition on the date of the first date of instruction for the 2006-2007 school year. The waiver will request the first day of instruction be Monday, August 14, 2006 rather than Monday, August 21, 2006 as required in statute. The district will hold a public meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building Board Room, 600 North Main Street, Coahoma, Texas to receive public input on the proposed school start date.
#4845 January 25, 2006

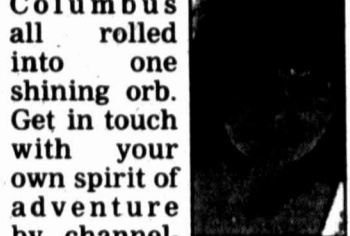
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Legals
PUBLIC NOTICE
January 20, 2006
An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Big Spring Amending Chapter 18, Article 3, Section 18-73, Designating Additional Boundaries to School Zones around Moss Elementary.
Big Spring City Code Article 3 Entitled Operation of Vehicles Generally, Sec. 18-73, Speed Limits in School Zones.
(3) Moss Elementary School. A speed limit of 20 mph from 7:30 o'clock a.m. to 9:30 o'clock a.m. and from 2:45 o'clock p.m. to 4:30 o'clock p.m.
(1) On Baylor Street from a point 115' south of the south right-of-way line of Fordham Ave. to the south right-of-way line of Greenbriar Street.
(2) On Fordham Ave. from a point 15' west of the east right-of-way line of Baylor Street to a point 15' of the east right-of-way line of Marquette Ave.
(3) On Kent Ave. from the north right-of-way line of Greenbriar Ave. to the south right-of-way line of Fordham Ave.
(4) On Marquette Ave. from north right-of-way line of Greenbriar Ave. to 15' south of the right-of-way line of Fordham Ave.
(5) On Greenbriar Ave. from a point 15' west of the east right-of-way line of Baylor Blvd. to a point east of the east right-of-way line of Marquette Ave.
#4846 January 25 & 29, 2006

No. P-13,368
ESTATE OF JOHN MARK SANDERS, DECEASED
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Mark Sanders, Deceased were issued on the 10th day of January, 2006, under Docket No. P-13,368 pending in the County Court of Howard County, Texas, to Randy Sanders.
Claims may be presented in care of Randy Sanders to the Estate addressed as follows:
Estate of John Mark Sanders c/o Randy Sanders 1350 Ranch Road 33 Big Spring, TX 79720
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED this 10th day of January, 2006
Randolph Kent Sanders, Independent Executor of the Estate of John Mark Sanders, Deceased #4847 January 25, 2006

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!
VOTE!

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
The Sagittarius moon is an explorer — Leif Erikson, Lewis and Clark, a n d Christopher Columbus all rolled into one shining orb. Get in touch with your own spirit of adventure by channeling your favorite freedom seeker. When you find your shining, brave world, it will likely be the same one you left, only you will see it with new eyes.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). Is your commute stress free? If not, your workday is often tainted by bad beginnings and worse endings. You create magic by taking a measure to remedy daily causes of stress.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Strike a balance, going lightly into your endeavors and remaining impartial. It's dangerous to believe everything you hear tonight, and spending everything you have is also not recommended.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are still resisting the notion of taking better care of yourself — silly Gemini! Selfishness isn't always a negative. You'll have so much more to give once you return to a centered, relaxed, healthy state.
CANCER (June 22-July



HOLIDAY MATHIS

22). When you hit it off with a new person and have witty repartee or good conversation, don't let this person slip out of your life. The value of chemistry, even on a platonic level, is priceless.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're such good company that people are overly generous to keep you around! Even though this is usually the case, this evening, you should be careful that the fool who is soon separated from his money isn't you.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your finger is on the pulse now! You come up with the cutting-edge solution. Higher ups may give you more responsibility because you seem like you can handle it. You don't have to say yes. Sleep on it.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Give people more than what they expect without once drawing attention to the fact that you know this is what you've done. Your generous heart raises the vibration of the whole of humankind.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your day has an abstract feel, as though you are trying to assemble your reality from colorful and unrelated fragments of life. Embrace whimsy. Accept that not everything has to make sense.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What would it be like if you looked in the mirror and thought you saw the love of your life? Contrary to popular

belief, holding yourself in high esteem isn't vain. Without a loving relationship with yourself, you don't have much.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are amusing to your peers, but be honest — are you masking fear or pain with humor? Ask yourself probing questions. Creative exploration helps you solve life's problems.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Too much emphasis on moneymaking is a complete and total drag. A well-rounded life is a worthy quest. Call friends even though you don't feel like it. Sharing buoys your spirits.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Courtesy makes your relationships sweeter and richer. The more familiar you are with someone, the better the effect of your excellent manners. You can't be too nice.
ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I have caught the makeover fever that has been sweeping our culture. I'm a Libra who has two New Year's resolutions: 1. Lose weight. 2. Turn my son's old room (he's off to college) into an exercise room. Do you have any tips for me?"
Why, yes! Invoke the energy of Aries in the room! Aries is the ideal influence for an exercise room, especially if you're trying to lose weight rather than bulk up your muscles. For an energetic, calorie-burning space, you can invite in the assertive energy of Aries

by following these tips: Paint a red wall or a red trim on your wall to energize the room with Martian energy — Martian energy is the fuel of Aries life. Spray the scent of honeysuckle, geranium or sweet pea in your gym space — you won't believe how invigorating a waft of this stuff is. This alone could give you the courage to do those last five reps. Iron is the metal of Aries — represented by classic-style dumbbells. A red rose in a glass — make sure the thorns are still on it — invokes the vibrant spirit of Aries. Who says an exercise room can't have a feminine touch?
CELEBRITY PROFILES: Philanthropic talk-show mogul Oprah Winfrey has turned her Aquarian ideals into a monstrously successful reality. A small-town girl from Mississippi who stormed her way to the top through sharp intelligence and unapologetic honesty, Winfrey will let the more creative Aquarian side of her persona shine through in 2006, perhaps through a major acting role in either television or film.
If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail.
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22). Mom," whose son has a drawing with a swastika and also has acquired a Confederate flag from his "new friend," who Mom thinks may be a neo-Nazi. Please tell her to go to www.tolerance.org, a website developed by the Southern Poverty Law Center. It provides a wealth of ideas for teaching tolerance in the family and gives links to other helpful websites. — Retired Teacher in Michigan
Dear Teacher: Thanks for the great information. We hope all interested parents will check it out.
Dear Annie: This is in response to the letter from "Not Living in Peace in Tallahassee, Fla.," who discovered a registered sex offender living next door. Your advice was way off. "Tallahassee" needs to put a sign in her yard saying "A SEX OFFENDER LIVES NEXT DOOR" with a big arrow pointing toward his house, and then get out the bullhorn and rally the neighbors so everyone knows who he is and what he looks like.
Predators and molesters don't like when their actions, descriptions and whereabouts are exposed. It's hard to find a victim if everyone knows what kind of non-human you are. These animals do not change. They have proven time and again that rehabilitation and punishment do nothing to stop them from destroying another life.
The state of Florida allows the public to view all registered sex offenders. You can even search your neighborhood to see how many are close to you. It's more than you think. — Fed Up in Milton, Fla.
Dear Milton: We understand your anger, but please read on:
Dear Annie: I am a registered sex offender and would like to tell how things are on the other side of the fence. I was convicted over 10 years ago, and have served my time and taken full responsibility for what I did. I have lost numerous

good jobs because someone exactly like "Tallahassee" took it upon herself to make sure the people I worked for knew they were employing a "monster." I want her to understand she is not just hurting me. She also is hurting my family.
I have no desire or intention to reoffend. All I want is to provide for my family and be a part of society. My suggestion to "Tallahassee" is to be aware of who lives around you, be alert to any mood changes in your children and educate them about what is good and bad. Above all, know where your children are at all times. Most sex offenders are family members, not your next-door neighbor. — Indiana
Dear Annie: I personally know of two 18-year-old boys who are now considered child molesters and are listed on the registry. They had sex with 14-year-old girls who lied about their age. It was consensual sex, but the girls got caught by their parents, and the parents prosecuted. One of the boys was my grandson. He served six years for having consensual sex with a 14-year-old girl. Can you tell if a teenage girl is 14 or 16? That's the difference in the law. — Concerned Grandma
Dear Annie: In over 30 years of criminal justice investigative experience, I have seen an increasing trend by police and prosecutors to stretch some of the actual offenses. Under this, a simple "urinating in public" easily gets elevated to "indecent exposure," and becomes a sex offense potentially requiring registration as a sex offender. Those who have a registered sex offender living nearby should examine the record to get a better understanding. The neighbor may be either more or less of a risk than such limited information would depict on its face. — Retired Federal Criminal Investigator, Colorado
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together.
I love Paul with all my heart and soul. I don't want him to move out, but he seems to be making all the decisions without me. I suggested counseling, but he says he doesn't know if he wants to save our marriage. Actually, "I don't know" seems to be his answer to everything.
I understand about not being in love due to everyday stresses, raising two children and both of us working opposite hours. Half of me wants to give him some time alone, but this is my husband and I vowed to stay with him forever. Please help me understand what this all means. — Desperate To Save My Marriage
Dear Desperate: It means the romantic spark has gone out of your marriage, and it's possible Paul thinks he can find it somewhere else. The two of you have put your marriage on the back burner while raising children and earning a living, which is understandable, but the relationship between a husband and wife also needs regular maintenance.
You cannot salvage your marriage alone. If Paul is determined to leave and refuses your efforts to get him to a counselor, there isn't much you can do. However, we hope you will seek out counseling for yourself to determine how best to deal with the situation. Ask your doctor or clergyperson to refer you.
Dear Annie: You printed a letter from "Worried

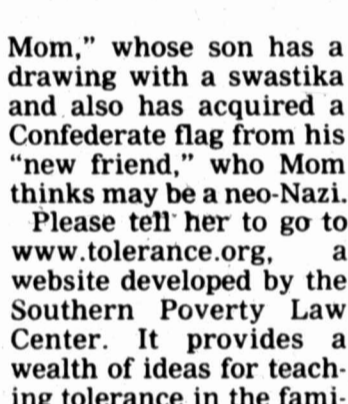
Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I have been with my husband, "Paul," for 13 years, and we've had our ups and downs. Two weeks ago, he said that he loves me but he wasn't in love with me anymore. He says he's felt this way for years. His announcement was out of the blue. Two days before, we had been talking about taking a cruise

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WEDNESDAY

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DENNIS THE MENACE



"SORRY, PAL. WE CAN'T PAUSE THE MOVIE WHILE YOU GO TO THE BATHROOM."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

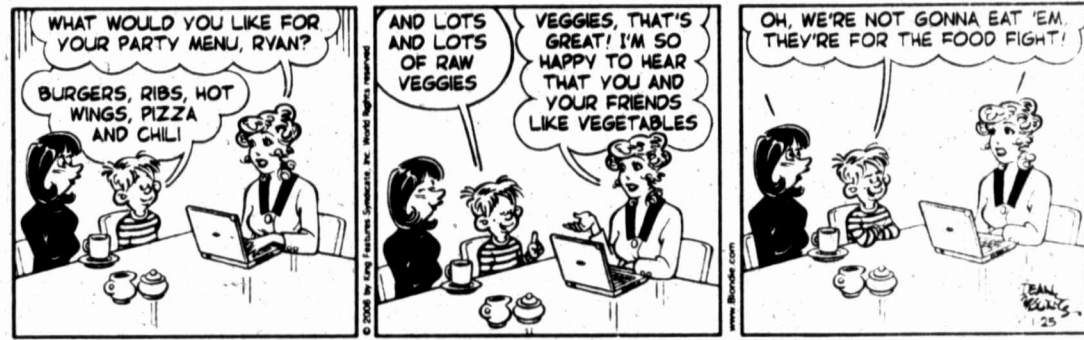


"How can geese honk? They don't have any horns."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



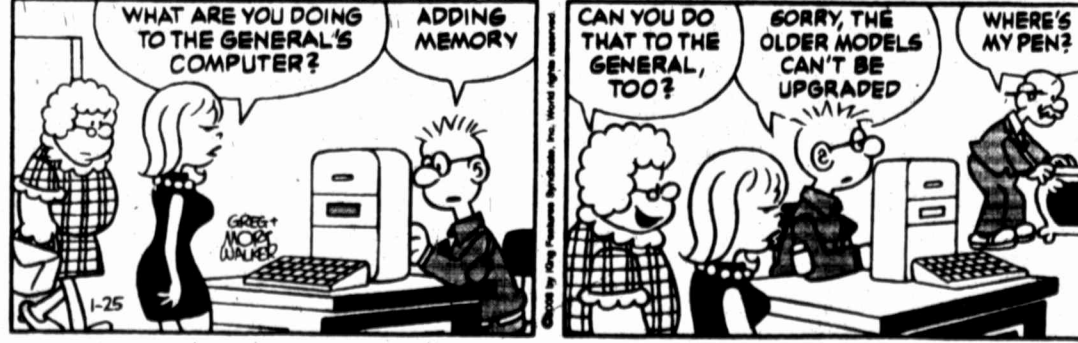
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 25, the 25th day of 2006. There are 340 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Twenty-five years ago, on Jan. 25, 1981, the 52 Americans held hostage by Iran for 444 days arrived in the United States.

On this date: In 1787, Shays's Rebellion suffered a setback when debt-ridden farmers led by Captain Daniel Shays failed to capture an arsenal at Springfield, Mass.

In 1890, reporter Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochran) of the New York World completed a round-the-world journey in 72 days, six hours and 11 minutes.

In 1890, the United Mine Workers of America was founded.

In 1915, the inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, inaugurated U.S. transcontinental telephone service.

In 1946, the United Mine Workers rejoined the American Federation of Labor.

In 1947, American gangster Al Capone died in Miami Beach, Fla., at age 48.

In 1959, American Airlines opened the jet age in the United States with the first scheduled transcontinental flight of a Boeing 707.

In 1961, President Kennedy held the first presidential news conference carried live on radio and television.

In 1971, Charles Manson and three women followers were convicted in Los Angeles of murder and conspiracy in the 1969 slayings of seven people, including actress Sharon Tate.

One year ago: A videotape showed Roy Hallums, an American kidnapped in Baghdad the previous November, pleading for his life. (Hallums was rescued by coalition troops on Sept. 7, 2005.)

Today's Birthdays: Journalist-author Edwin Newman is 87. The former president of Georgia, Edward Shevardnadze, is 78. Actor Dean Jones is 75. The former president of the

Philippines, Corazon Aquino, is 73. Blues singer Etta James is 68. Movie director Tobe Hooper is 63. Actress Leigh Taylor-Young is 62. Actress Jenifer Lewis is 49. Country musician Mike Burch (River Road) is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kina is 37. Actress China Kattner is 35. Musician Matt Omark (Jars of Clay) is 32. Actress Mia Kirshner is 31. Rhythm-and-blues singer Alicia Keys is 25.

Thought for Today: "Love must be learned, and learned again and again; there is no end to it. Hate needs no instruction, but wants only to be provoked."

— Katherine Anne Porter, American author (1894-1980).

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Answer to previous puzzle: PAWS, RPKMS, CRIER, RIOT, ALPHE, HEDGE, ODOR, NEAT, IDEAL, DEFENDANT, READY, EAR, LAPS, ADAPT, APED, ISAY, RRS, UCLA, MAGPIE, MATERIAL, WITNESS, OMELET, MITT, ALE, RARE, EAST, ACRES, GASP, VIA, PAGAN, PLAIN, TUFF, AMEND, LOIN, TREE, PENCE, EDDY, LOUD, ANTIES, SEAL, ENDS

Newsday Crossword

FREQUENT FLYERS by Daniel R. Stark

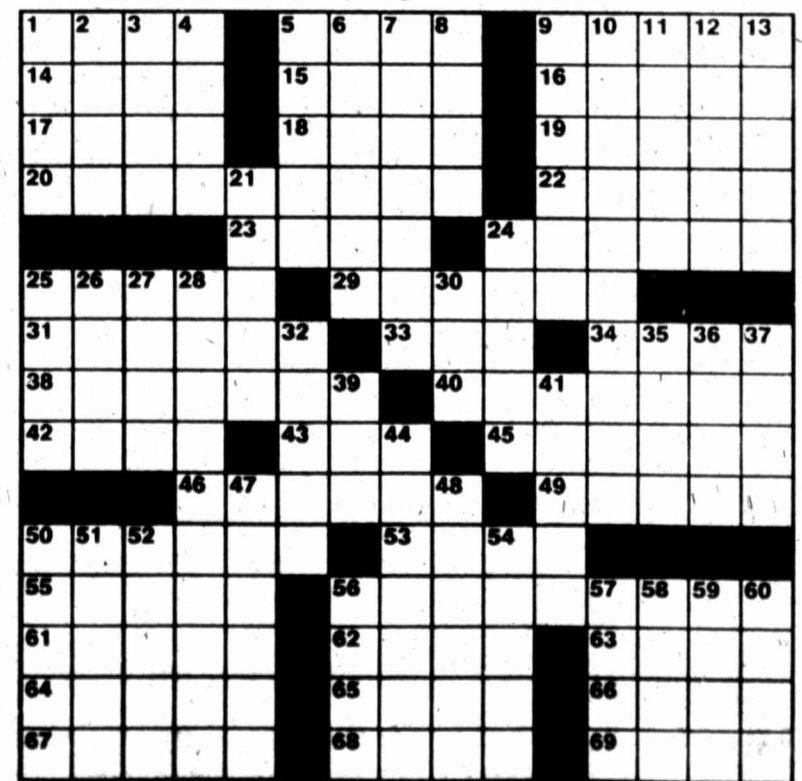
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 "Get real!" 5 Mountain passes 9 renewal 14 Plumlike fruit 15 Roasting chamber 16 Din 17 Capshaw or Moss 18 Knock loop 19 Fourth-down options 20 Engulf 22 Gold brick 23 Mineral deposits 24 Birch-tree relatives 25 Let happen 29 Mile-high city 31 Young cow 33 Paulo, Brazil 34 Garfield dog 38 Expensive spice 40 Juicy morsels 42 Well aware of 43 Recruit's sentence ender 45 Takes the wheel 46 Caught red-handed 49 "What's in ___?" (Juliet's query) 50 Burrito kin 53 Lab weight 55 Designer Simpson 56 Reckless pedestrian 61 Of the Arctic or Antarctic 62 Essayist's alias

- 63 kleine Nachtmusik 64 Movie critic Roger 65 Patio cousin 66 Smooth-talking 67 Gives off fumes 68 "Hmm..." 69 Fizzy drink DOWN 1 Sets as a price 2 Cabbage concoction 3 Minute amount 4 Know somehow 5 Like very much 6 Declared frankly 7 Reads

- 8 Cold spell 9 Clean one's desk 10 Tournament format 11 Spree 12 Fur-trading tycoon 13 Twig-and-mud homes 21 Not as high 24 Work around 25 Chan comment 26 Low in fat 27 London elevator 28 Joyriding, maybe 30 Singer Cole 32 Legendary riveter 35 Opera celeb 36 Bit of gossip

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JANUARY 25, 2006

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Come by 1711 Snyder Hwy.,
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Resumes must be received by
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Interested parties need to ap-
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holidays, sick leave, retirement
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District is an equal opportunity
employer.
Applications are required to be
considered for employment
and are available at the Dis-
trict's office, 400 East 24th
Street, Big Spring, Texas.

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Lead Man in Big Spring area. A
CDL license and mechanical
experience are helpful.
District benefits include paid
vacation and holidays, sick
leave, retirement plan, and
group insurance. The District is
an equal opportunity employer.
Applications are required to be
considered for employment
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MARTIN CO. Hospital Home
Health is looking for a full-time
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Big Spring Herald Classifieds
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To place your classified ad, call
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A USER'S GUIDE TO

THE

BIG SPRING HERALD

Each day. The *Big Spring Herald* receives calls from readers - just like you - who have important questions about how the newspaper works and the services it offers. For your information and convenience, we have compiled this page of answers to readers' most frequently asked questions.

Save this page for future reference

HOW TO

REPORT THE SCORE

You can report your sports results between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 263-7331, faxing 264-7205 or drop your results at the *Big Spring Herald* office at 710 Scurry, Big Spring.

HOW TO

SUBMIT NEWS INFORMATION

To announce activities or events, mail or bring by the office a typed news release or fact sheet to Editor John Moseley as far in advance as possible. The release should include the who, what, why, when, and where of the event, and the name and telephone number of a contact person. If you have a timely news item, call John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

LOCATE A SPECIFIC STORY

If you are unable to locate an article, call 263-7331, or come by the *Big Spring Herald* at 710 Scurry, and we will try to assist you. Remember, we can only provide information that appeared in the *Big Spring Herald*.

HOW

OBITUARIES ARE HANDLED

Obituaries, whether paid or non-paid, are provided to the *Big Spring Herald* by funeral homes. Non-paid obits follow a standard form, while paid obits can include virtually anything the deceased's family requests. Any questions should be directed to the Editor John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

GET DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME

Call our office at 263-7335 or come by 710 Scurry. Our subscription rate is \$93.42 per year or \$8.65 per month.

HOW TO

OBTAIN BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the *Big Spring Herald* are kept on file for one year and may be purchased during regular business hours. However, some back issues sell out quickly and we cannot guarantee that any given issue will be available. You may also check with the Howard County Library reference department at 264-2262.

HOW TO

SUBMIT MARRIAGE, ENGAGEMENT OR BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit engagement, wedding, or birth announcements come by our office at 710 Scurry and pick up a form. You may also download a form from our website at www.bigspringherald.com. If you have questions regarding the guidelines for these announcements, discuss them with Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331, ext. 236.

HOW TO

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 or come by 710 Scurry. Ads can be placed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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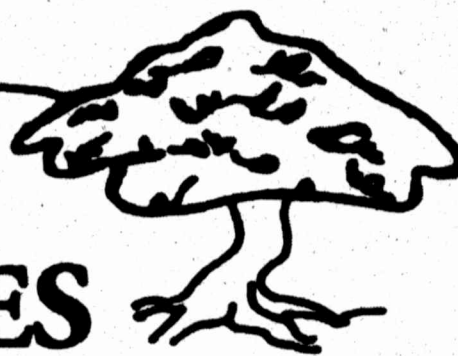
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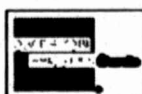
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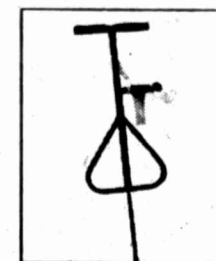


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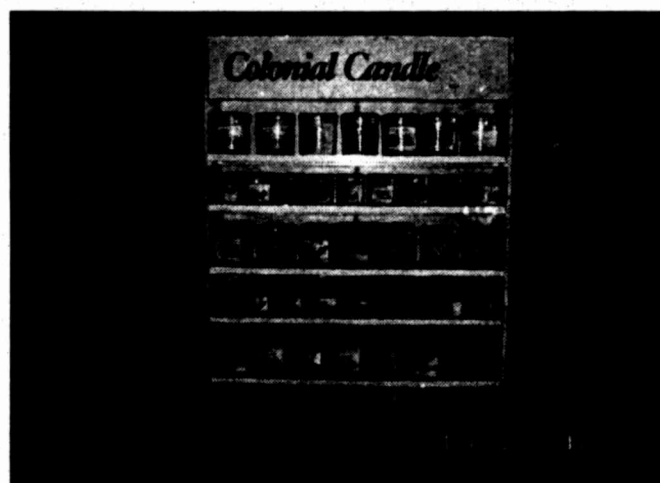
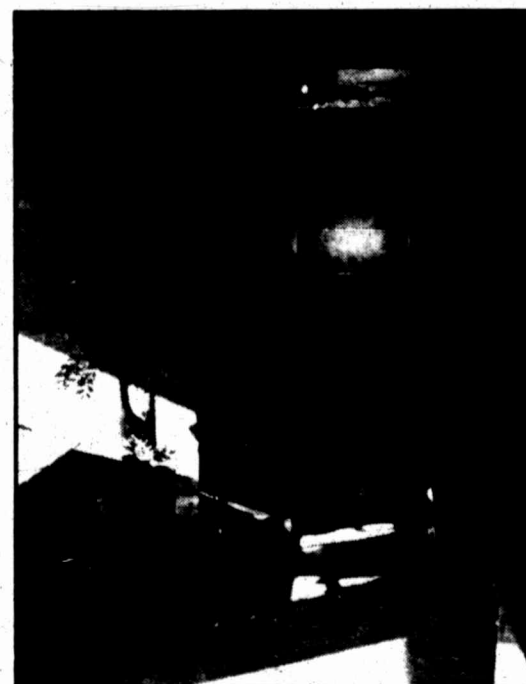
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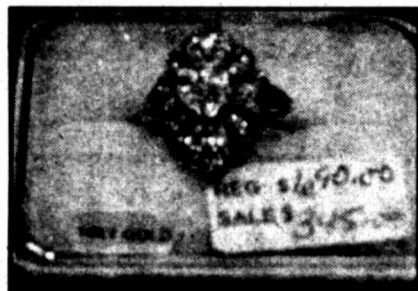
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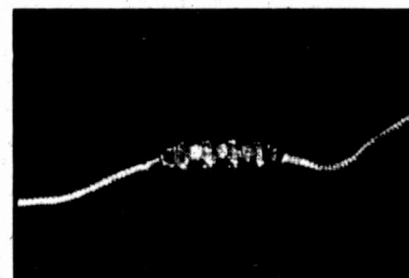
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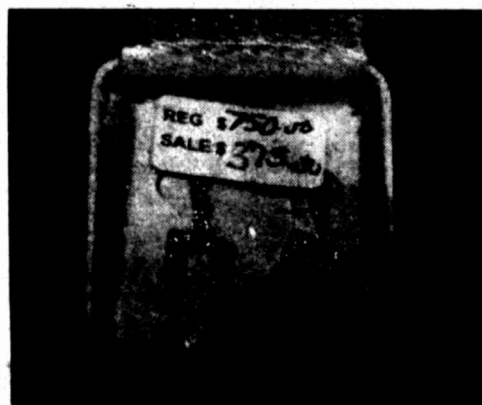
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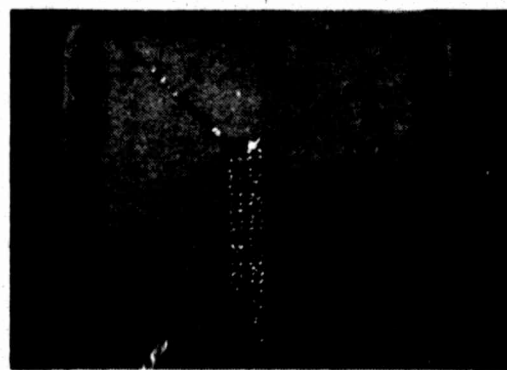
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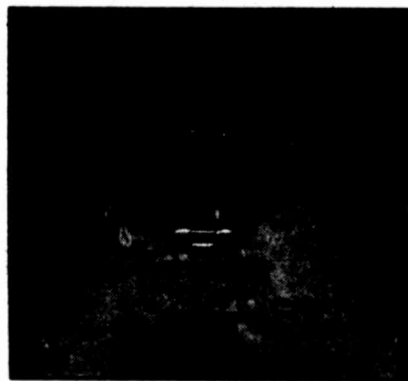
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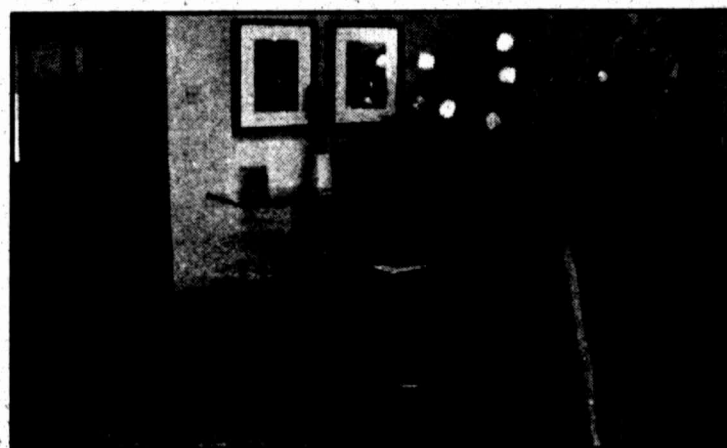


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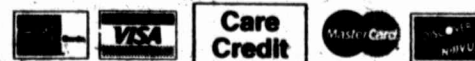
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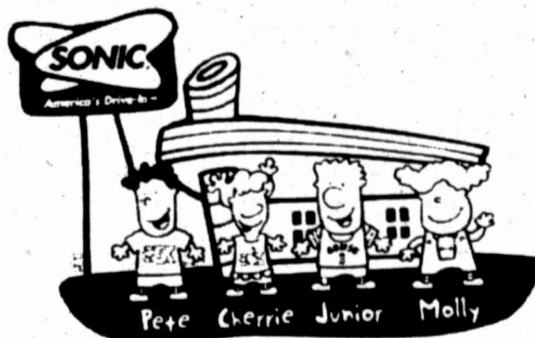
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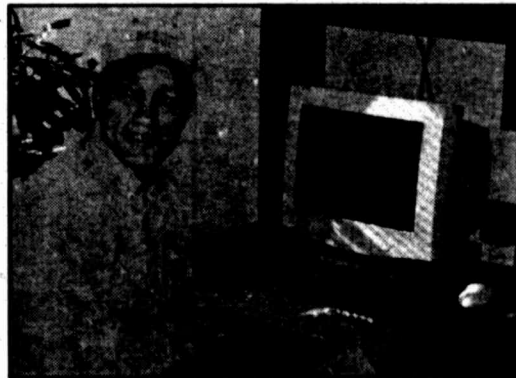
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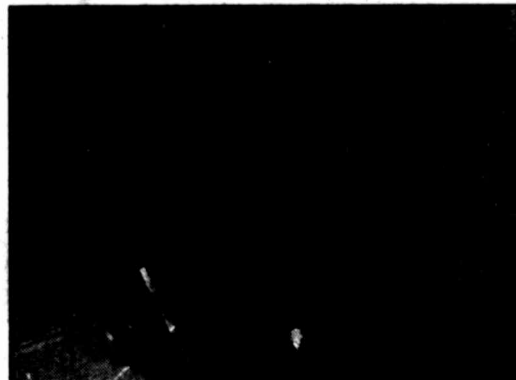
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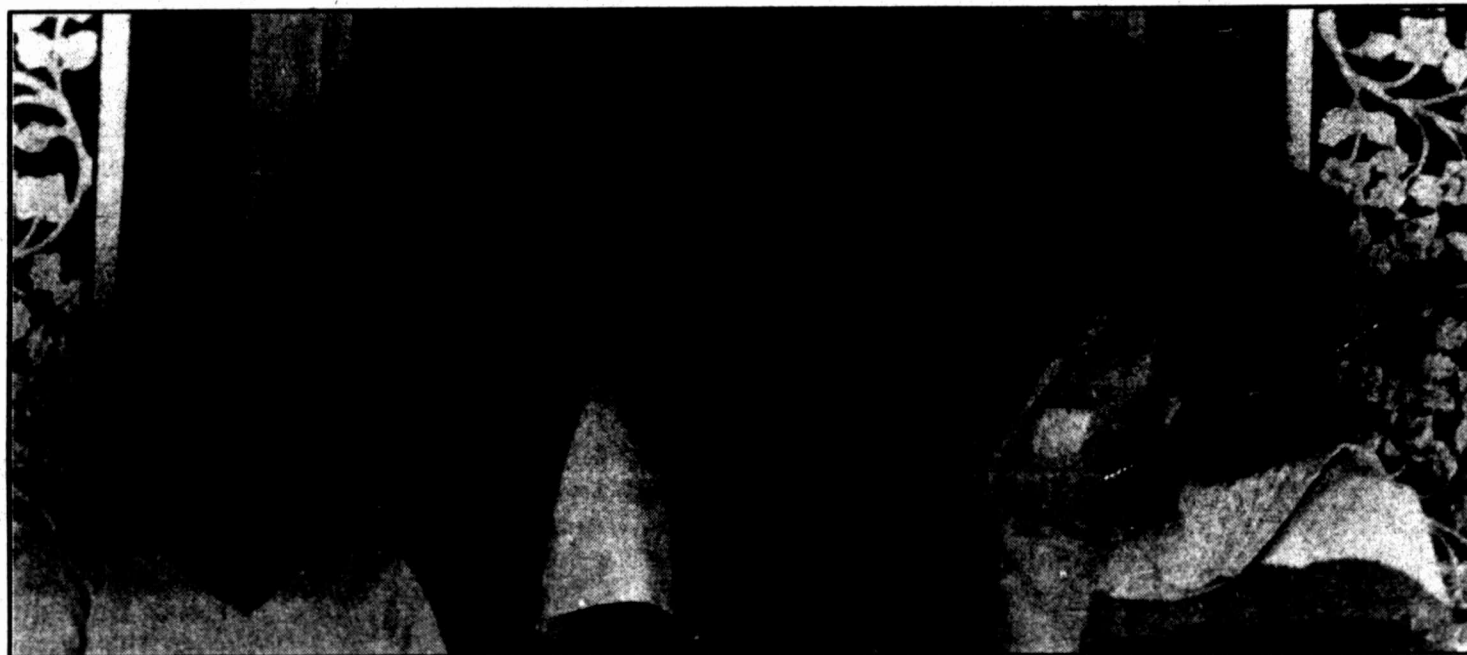
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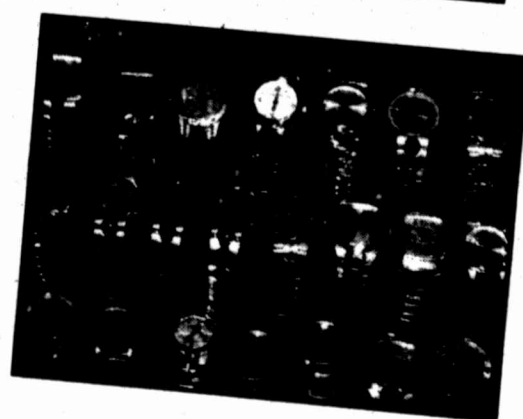
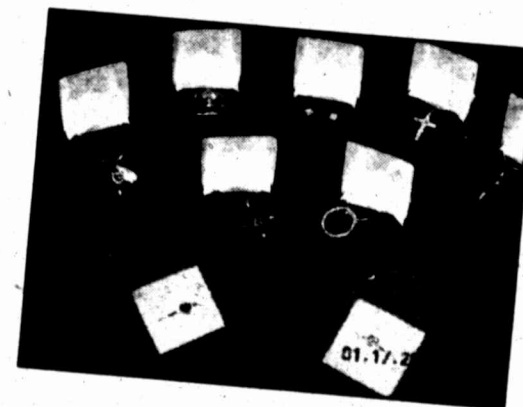
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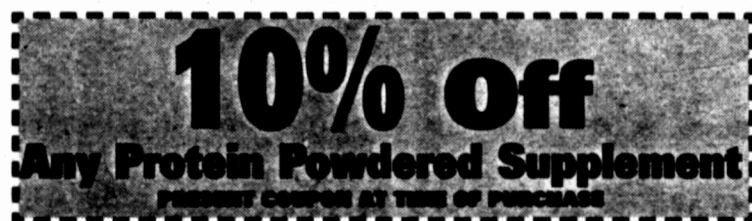
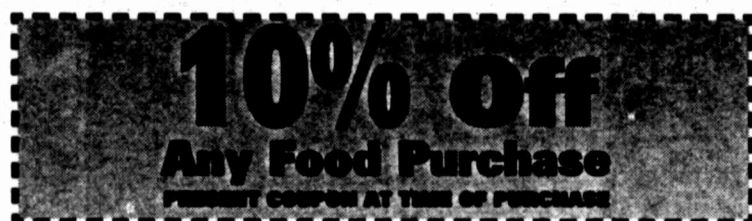
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White With Grey Cloth Interior, All Power, 13,700 One Owner Miles.
\$19,995



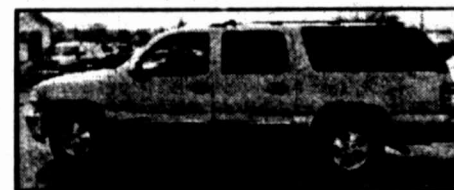
2001 Chevy Tahoe
Maroon In Color 3 Seats, All Power, One owner.
\$15,995



2002 GMC Sierra 3/4 Ton Ext. Cab
4 Wheel Drive SLT Duramax Diesel Engine, Leather Seats,
All Power, 63,000 One Owner Miles.
\$25,996

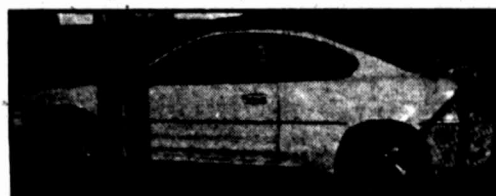


2002 Chevrolet S-10 Ext. Cab
Puter In Color, 4300 V6,
All Power, One Owner, 80K
\$6,995



2000 Chevrolet Suburban
Gold In Color, Leather, All Power,
One Owner, Extra Clean.
\$14,995

2005 Closeout

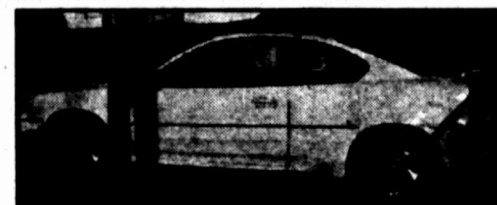


Stk# 2304 - Red In Color

Pontiac, Grand AM GT

Sunroof, CD, All Power,
MSRP \$24,155

SALE PRICE \$19,500

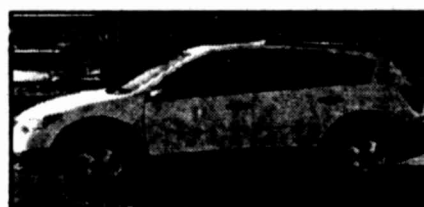


Stk# 2305 - White In Color

2006 Blowout



2006 Sierra Cab & Chassis
DuraMax Diesel
Stk# 7971, Allison 6 Speed, 4X4.
MSRP \$36,587
SALE PRICE \$33,000



2006 Pontiac Vibe
Stk#2327, All Power, Sunroof, XM Satellite Radio, 35
Highway Miles to The Gallon, Frosty In Color.
MSRP \$19,855
SALE PRICE \$19,000



2006 G6 GTP Coupe
Stk# 2326, Leather, Heated Seats, All Power,
Black In Color.
MSRP \$27,200
SALE PRICE \$25,500



2006 Sierra 1500 1/2 Ton Crew 4X4
Stk# 7963, Leather, Heated Seats, XM Satellite Radio,
Loaded, New 06 Color Steel Gray.
MSRP \$41,078
SALE PRICE \$34,500

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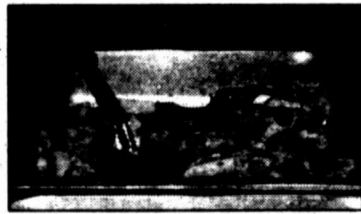
Dragon China Buffet

華 Great Food at a Great Price 龍

Come In & Enjoy The New Selections From Our Buffet!



House Shrimp



Butter Shrimp



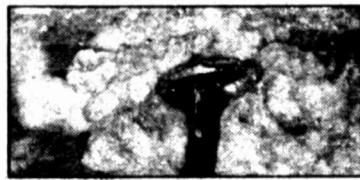
Pepper Steak



Fish Teriyaki



Steak Shrimp



Coconut Shrimp



Hot n Spicy Chicken



Sushi



Stuffed Mussel



Shrimp



Hot n Spicy Shrimp

Happy Valentine's Day

From All Of Us At Dragon China Buffet

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We Welcome Reservations For Party Groups • Banquet Catering Available • Party Room Available

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INSPECT CABLES & CLEAN
INSPECT BELTS

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EXCLUDE DRUM BRAKES

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Goodwrench



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\$3,000* \$4,000*
Or More***

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*The amount of your refund depends on filing status, number of children and taxable income
**with bank approval for a refund anticipation loan, fees apply

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5"
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CHILD CARE**

**1708 S. NOLAN
267-8411**

**OPEN 5:30 AM - MIDNIGHT
7 DAYS A WEEK**

AGES: Newborn - 12 Yrs.

**Fees Based On Income*

**Transportation to &
from home & school**

Nutritious Meals

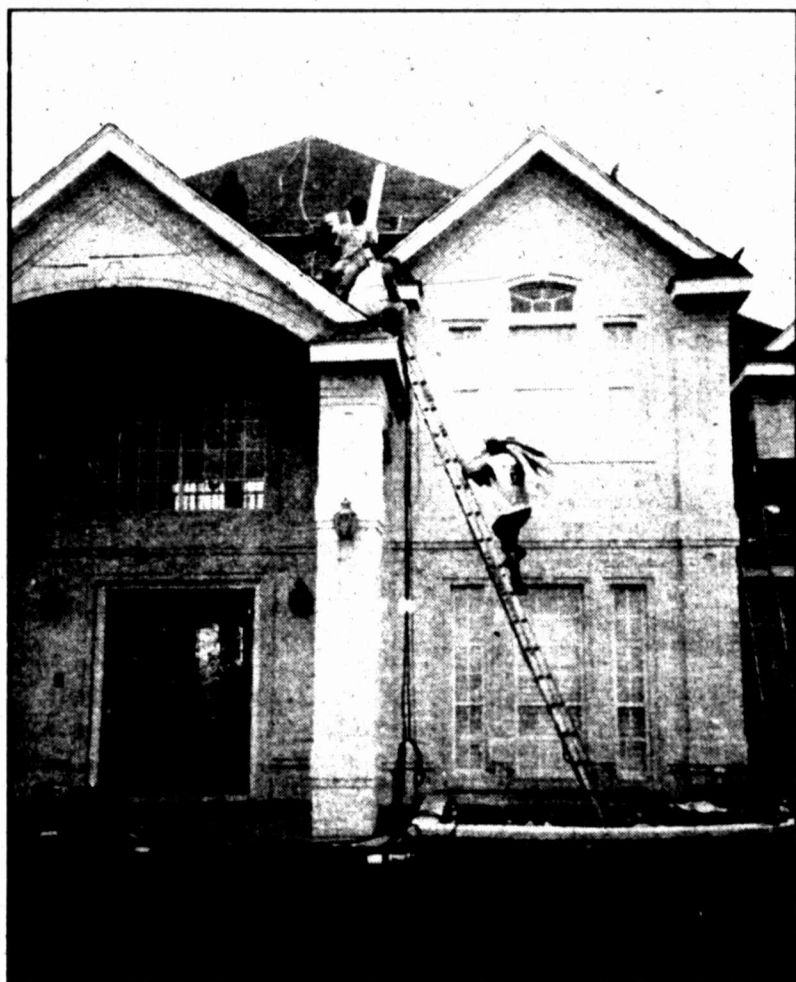
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Monitoring***

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1500 Ext. Cab 4x4
\$14,950**



**2000 Chevrolet Suburban 4x4
Like New!
\$12,950**



**1997 Chevrolet Tahoe Z71
2 door, Sharp!!
WE FINANCE**



**2000 Expedition Eddie Bauer
74K Miles, Like New!
\$13,950**



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8 Passenger, 64K Miles.
\$8,950**



**2001 Toyota Tacoma
Crew Cab 4x4
\$14,950**



**1999 GMC Conversion Van
All Options!
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**1998 GMC Suburban 4x4
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\$8,950**



**1998 Ford F-150 Short Bed
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**2000 Ford Taurus
Extra Clean!
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**1999 GMC Yukon
Very Clean!
WE FINANCE**



**2003 Nissan Altima
43K Miles, Warranty.
\$13,950**



**2003 Mercury Mountaineer
59K Miles, Warranty.
\$13,950**



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Extra Clean!
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**2000 Chevrolet Suburban
New Body Style!
\$11,950**

**111 Gregg St.
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**210 Gregg St.
432-263-2382**

**Add any of our salads,
sides and desserts
to our made-from-scratch pizzas and
you've got yourself an instant party!**

Two Adult Buffets

(when you buy 2 drinks)

\$8.99

Offer valid through 2/28/06 at participating locations. Not valid with other offers. Tax not included. Carryout only.



Large Signature or Max Pizza

\$12.99

Signature Pizzas: Bacon Cheeseburger, Chicken Fajita, Taco Pizza, Bacon Cheddar Ham
Max Pizzas: Pepperoni Max, Everything Monster, Veggie Max, Meaty Max

Offer valid through 2/28/06 at participating locations. Not valid with other offers. Tax not included. Delivery where available.



FREE

Medium

1-Topping Pizza

**with Purchase of Any Large
Pizza at Regular Price**

**Carryout Special
Medium 1-Topping Pizza**

\$5.99

Large for \$2 more

Offer valid through 2/28/06 at participating locations. Not valid with other offers. Tax not included. Carryout only.



**Large 1-Topping Pizza, Medium Cinnamon
Stromboli Dessert, and 1/2 Gallon Iced Tea
or 2-Liter Soft Drink (where available)**

\$13.99

Offer valid through 2/28/06 at participating locations. Not valid with other offers. Tax not included. Delivery where available.



1-Topping Pizza

\$7.99 | \$9.99

Medium
2nd for \$6

Large
2nd for \$8

Offer valid through 2/28/06 at participating locations. Not valid with other offers. Tax not included. Delivery where available.



1-Topping Pizzas

\$15.99 | \$21.99

3 Mediums

3 Large

Offer valid through 2/28/06 at participating locations. Not valid with other offers. Tax not included. Delivery where available.



**Large Pizza
with up to 3-Toppings**

\$10.99

2nd for \$8

Offer valid through 2/28/06 at participating locations. Not valid with other offers. Tax not included. Delivery where available.



**2 Medium 1-Topping Pizzas, 8 Breadsticks,
and 1/2 Gallon Iced Tea or 2-Liter Soft Drink
(where available)**

\$17.99

Offer valid through 2/28/06 at participating locations. Not valid with other offers. Tax not included. Delivery where available.



**2 Large Pizzas
up to 3-Toppings**

\$18.99

Offer valid through 2/28/06 at participating locations. Not valid with other offers. Tax not included. Delivery where available.



Pizza Inn

**1702 Gregg
432-263-1381**



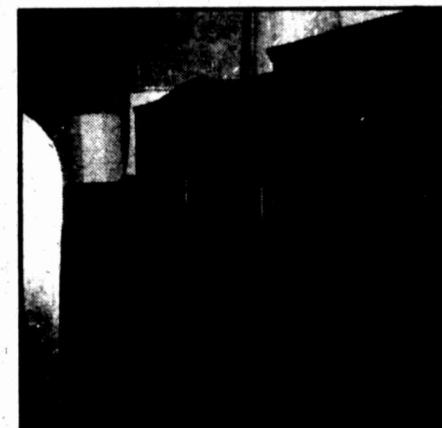
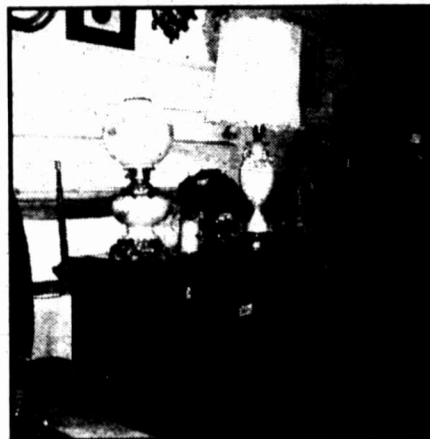
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- **Burritos**
(Asado, Stew Meat, Barbacoa & More)
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- **Lunch Plates**
- **Menudo**
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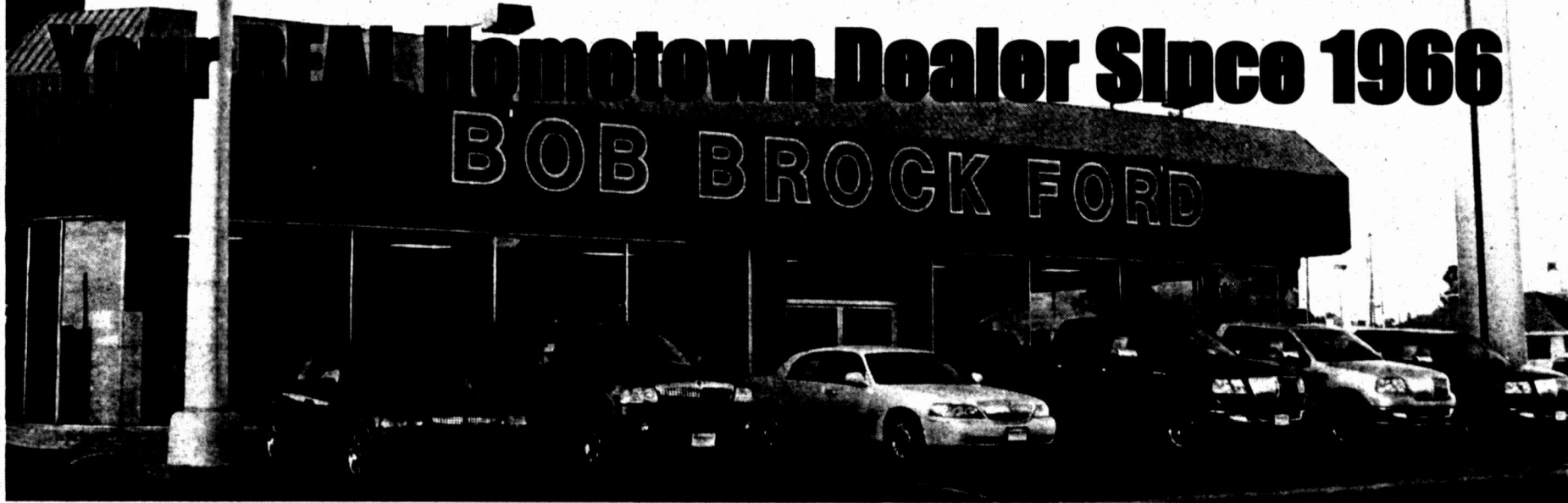
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Big Spring, Tx 79720
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Lisa Franco - Owner
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Serving 4 Soups & Chili Daily

Monday - Saturday

Up For A Challenge?

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"Sevendipity"

If you can eat and 7 scoops of ice cream with toppings and drink a coke in seven minutes - it is **FREE**

But if you don't you pay **\$7⁰⁰**

*Custom Made...Homemade...
Ice Cream Cakes & Ice
Cream Pies*

\$1⁰⁰
OFF
All Ice Cream Cakes
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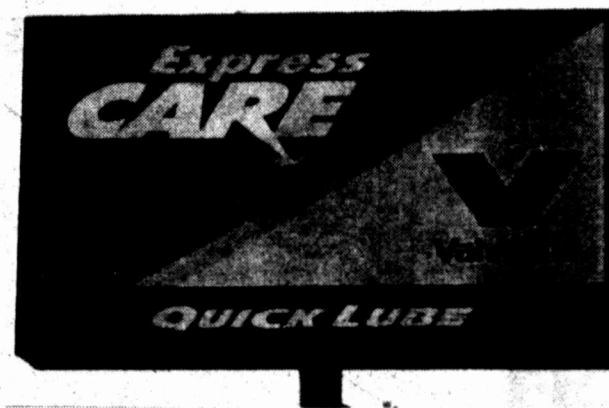
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(Inside Big Spring Mall)

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Call-In Orders Welcome!

Daily Special: HAMBURGERS \$2.80

BURGERS

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Hamburger.....\$3.00 | Cheeseburger.....\$3.20 | British.....\$4.60 |
| TX Jalapeno.....\$4.25 | Bacon HB.....\$3.15 | Bacon CB.....\$3.35 |
| Pizza.....\$3.75 | TX Pizza.....\$4.40 | Chili HB.....\$3.20 |
| Chili CB.....\$3.40 | TX Chili CB.....\$4.20 | TX Chili HB.....\$3.95 |
| Char HB.....\$3.10 | Char CB.....\$3.45 | TX Char HB.....\$3.95 |
| TX Char CB.....\$4.10 | TX HB.....\$3.80 | TX CB.....\$4.00 |

TX Triple HB.....\$4.80 TX Triple CB\$5.10

DINNER BASKETS

| |
|------------------------------|
| Steak Fingers.....\$4.70 |
| Chicken Strips.....\$5.10 |
| Taco.....\$4.30 |
| Burrito.....\$4.20 |
| Sm. Chicken Salad.....\$2.70 |
| Lg. Chicken Salad.....\$3.70 |

SANDWICHES

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Steak.....\$3.60 | Grilled Cheese.....\$2.40 |
| Chicken.....\$3.90 | BLT.....\$3.10 |
| BBQ.....\$3.65 | Grilled Cheese |
| Fish.....\$3.55 | Supreme.....\$3.15 |
| Ham & Cheese.....\$3.70 | Philly.....\$4.10 |
| Ham.....\$3.05 | Patty Melt.....\$3.05 |

SIDE ORDERS

| |
|---------------------------|
| Onion Rings.....\$2.40 |
| Sm. Fries.....\$2.10 |
| Lg. Fries.....\$2.35 |
| Single Burrito.....\$1.45 |
| Sm. Nachos.....\$2.10 |
| Lg. Nachos.....\$2.30 |
| Stuffed Jalapeno |
| Peppers.....5 for \$3.15 |

OTHER GOOD STUFF

| |
|------------------------------|
| Frito Pie.....\$2.55 |
| Chili Dogs.....\$2.25 |
| Chili Cheese Dogs.....\$2.45 |
| Corn Dogs.....\$2.10 |
| Sm. Tator Tots.....\$2.20 |
| Lg. Tator Tots.....\$2.70 |

EXTRAS ON DINNERS

| |
|--------------------------------|
| Chicken Strip.....\$1.05 |
| Taco.....\$0.95 |
| Steak Finger.....\$0.95 |
| Banana Pepper.....\$0.20 |
| Jalapeno Pepper.....\$0.25 |
| Stuffed Jal. Pepper.....\$0.70 |

EXTRAS

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Cup of Gravy.....50¢ | Cup of Cheese.....55¢ |
| Toast.....35¢ | Whole Pickle.....\$1.00 |
| 4 ozs. Ketchup, Mustard or Mayo.....40¢ | |

DRINKS

| | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Coke, Sprite, Diet Coke, Root Beer & Dr. Pepper | | | |
| Sm...\$0.75 | Med.....\$0.95 | Lg.....\$1.15 | XLG.....\$1.35 |
| Tea and Coffee | | | |
| Med....\$0.75 | Lg...\$0.85 | XLG...\$0.95 | |

*******FRIES INCLUDED WITH ALL ORDERS!!!!*******

The Fillin Station

1506 East FM 700 263-1336

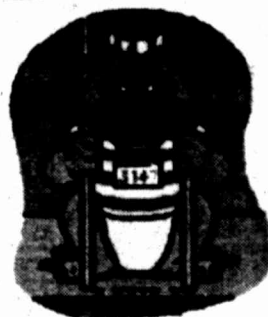
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1.95
5.95
1.00

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5.10
5.15
1.10
5.05

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\$0.95
\$0.20
\$0.25
\$0.70

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\$.1.35

the
13 karat patch
Original Designs in Silver and Gold

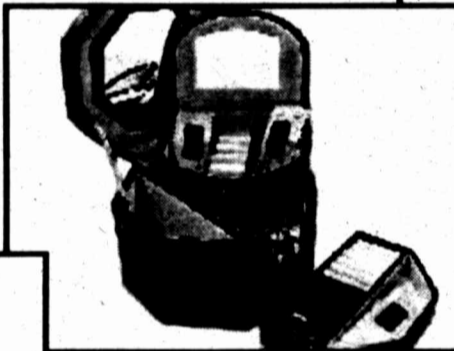
997 E. FM 700

BIG SPRING, TX

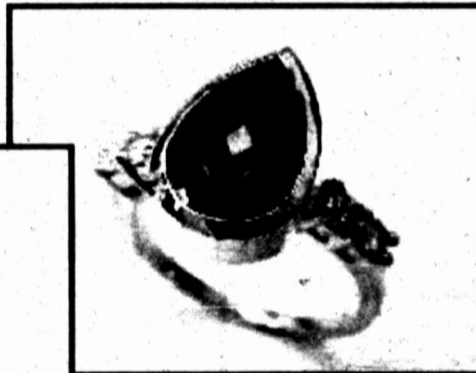
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