

Housekeeping items pile up on city's agenda

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is set to meet Tuesday evening, with several agenda items up for review.

Among the items to be considered are:

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute a letter of agreement for the Sid Richardson Big Spring Plant to purchase de-mineralized water from Power Resource Ltd.

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a lease with Phillips Fabrication covering building No. 9, located at 3000 Bell Street on the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

- Final reading of an ordinance amending the ambulance fee schedule by amending Chapter 13, Section 210 of the city code.

- Acceptance of minutes from several city boards and committees.

- Award bids for lease

IN BRIEF

What: Big Spring City Council meeting.

When: 5:30 p.m. today.

Where: City Council Chambers, 307 E. Fourth Street.

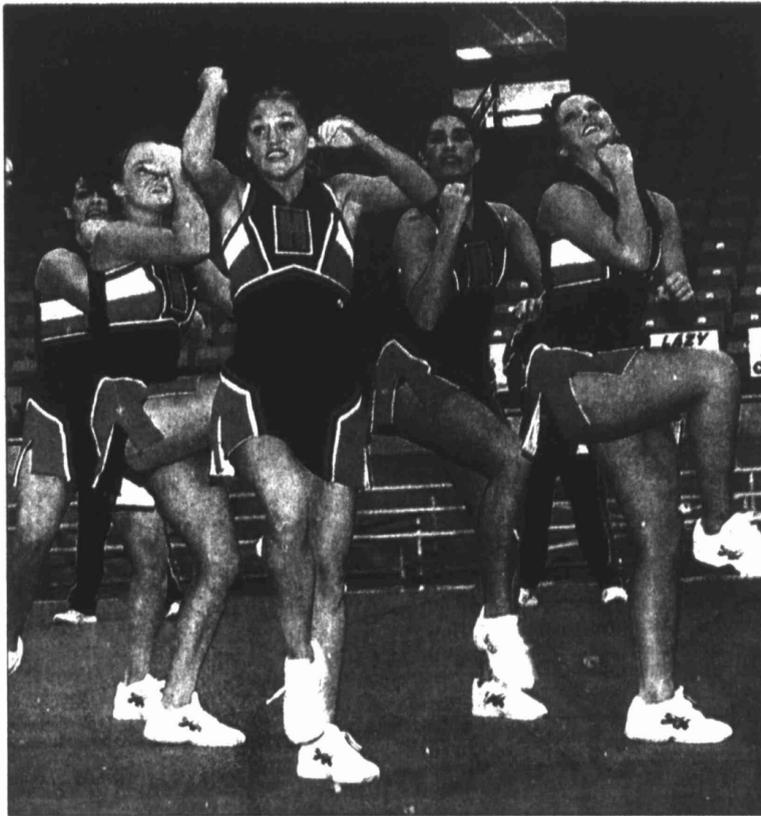
purchase financing and sale of the old structure at the Northside Community Center. The council is also expected to approve first reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a bill of sale for the same building.

- Presentation of the Moore Development for Big Spring annual audit and report for 2004-2005.

- Emergency reading of a resolution accepting a settlement agreement with TXU Electric Delivery.

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CHEERING COMPETITION



Members of the Howard College cheerleading squad perform at the Western Junior College Athletic Conference Cheer Championships Saturday afternoon at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Howard competed in the co-ed division and was defeated by Midland College.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

FEMA reforms expected

House criticizes responses to hurricanes

By LARA JAKES JORDAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is announcing wide-ranging changes to the nation's embattled disaster-response agency on the heels of a House report blaming government-wide ineptitude for mishandling Hurricane Katrina relief.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency reforms that Chertoff was unveiling today range from a full-time response force of 1,500 new employees to establishing a more reliable system to report on disasters as they unfold.

They are the first steps to overhauling FEMA, which was overwhelmed by the Aug. 29 Gulf Coast storm.

"We know there's considerable work to do," a senior Homeland Security official said Sunday on condition of anonymity because the changes had not been announced. Most of the changes are to be completed by the start of the 2006 hurricane season on June 1, the official said.

Democrats on the House Homeland Security Committee issued their own recommendations Sunday for changing FEMA, including having the agency's director report directly to the president during major disasters. They also said the director should be an experienced emergency manager.

Chertoff chose a meeting of emergency responders to detail the changes. White House Homeland Security adviser Frances Fragos Townsend also was expected to discuss parts of her upcoming review about the federal response to Katrina.

The FEMA changes follow the results of an House inquiry that found unheeded warnings, poor planning and apathy in recognizing the scope of Katrina's destruction led to the slow emergency

Accidental shooting victim is recovering

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP)

— A 78-year-old hunting companion of Vice President Dick Cheney was recovering in stable condition Monday after Cheney accidentally shot him during a weekend quail hunting trip, a hospital official said.

Harry Whittington "rested well last night," said Peter Banko, hospital administrator at Christus Spohn Hospital Memorial. The hospital continued to list Whittington's condition as "very stable," he said.

Whittington, an Austin attorney, was flown to the hospital after Cheney accidentally shot him Saturday at the Armstrong Ranch. The owner of the ranch said Cheney was shooting at a bird but didn't realize Whittington had stepped into his line of fire.

"It's not critical. It's not serious. It's just stable at this time," Banko said, adding that admitting

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Mouton educates self on education, has firm opinions

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Drew Mouton makes no bones about being a Republican, but that doesn't mean he plans to blindly follow GOP leadership if he's elected to the state House of Representatives.

Mouton, a candidate in the upcoming Republican primary in the Texas House District 85

election, outlined his stance on education issues at a regional meeting of the Association of Texas Professional Educators at La Posada restaurant Saturday.

The Big Spring resident said his views on education differ from key House Republicans on several issues.

He also admitted he's taken a crash course of

sorts on education issues since announcing his candidacy in late December.

"When I first decided to run, I hadn't paid any more attention to education than the average non-educator," he said.

"It wasn't one of those things I spent a whole lot of time worrying about ... I have tried to educate myself on the issues — from all perspectives — concerning

education." Since his announcement, however, he has developed several stances on education issues, including:

- Teacher salaries — Mouton said he supports "competitive" teacher salaries. By that, he means not only increasing instructors' base

"Don't tax me and give it to someone who will send their children to a private school. That is unconstitutional ..."

—Drew Mouton

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Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Drew Mouton, Republican candidate in the Texas House of Representative District 85 election, speaks at the regional meeting of the Association of Texas Professional Educators meeting Saturday at La Posada Restaurant.

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CANDIDATE FORUM SET

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a candidate forum at 6 p.m. today in the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria, 624 E. Sixth.

The chamber is encouraging everyone to come out and meet each of the candidates.

Each candidate will be allowed to speak for five minutes. This will not be a question and answer forum. The audience will be able to meet one on one with the candidates following the forum. Forum MC will be Big Spring Independent School District Superintendent Michael Downes, the chamber's Governmental Affairs vice president.

HOLY CHIP?

Elizabeth Gould said a strange sensation overwhelmed her while she was eating from a bag of potato chips during a flight from New York to Florida.

She paused, stopped eating and looked at the potato chip in her hand.

It looked familiar. The chip bears the image of the Virgin Mary, Gould said, and passengers on the flight agreed.

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NOT ROSES, NOSES!

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — Nothing says I love you on Valentine's Day like a box of candy and a bouquet of roses. Err, make that noses.

China's obsession with plastic surgery is finding an outlet in couples who are going under the knife to get matching noses or eyes as a sign of their love.

"I suggested it as a way of celebrating our relationship and bringing us closer together with a special kind of bond," Liu Yan, 24, was quoted as saying of the nose jobs she suggested to her 28-year-old boyfriend. Liu said her boyfriend "loved the idea" and readily paid the \$1,200 cost of surgery.

Obituaries

Mattie Nell Edens Patty



Mattie Nell Edens Patty, 82, of Abilene, formerly of Big Spring, died Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006. Funeral services are 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Abilene, with the Rev. Derrell Patterson officiating, assisted by the Rev. Stan Allcorn.

Visitation will be from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. today at the funeral home.

She was born Nov. 18, 1923, in Big Spring to Albert Armstead Edens and Jessie Maude Davis and married Robert Eugene Patty Oct. 25, 1942, in Big Spring. She moved to Abilene in 1964 from San Leandro, Calif. She graduated from McMurry College with a bachelor of science degree and was a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by both of her parents, one brother, Davis Balis Edens and one son, Freddie Lynn Patty.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Eugene Patty of Abilene; one son, Robert Leigh "Bob" Patty and his wife, Judy of Abilene; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of the Big Country, 4601 Hartford Street, Abilene 79605 or Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1741 Sayles Blvd., Abilene 79605.

Arrangements are under the direction of Hamil Family Funeral Home in Abilene. Online condolences may be sent to www.HamilFamilyFuneralHome.com.

Wanda Rose Fox

Wanda Rose Fox, 94, of Bryan, formerly of Big Spring, died Friday, Feb. 10, 2006, at a Bryan nursing facility. Memorial services were 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006, at the Schmidt Funeral Home Chapel in Bellville with the Rev. Wayne Middleton officiating. A graveside service is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006, at Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring.

She was born March 2, 1911, in Nolan County, the daughter of H.B. Shafer and Iola Casky Shafer and she married Buel Fox Dec. 11, 1929, in Roscoe. They had made their home in Big Spring since 1935. She retired from the Big Spring Independent School District. She was a lifelong member of the 14th and Main Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Buel Fox in 1983, daughter-in-law, Betty Sue Fox in 2005 and three sisters.

Survivors are her son, Bob Fox of Bellville; two granddaughters; six great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Schmidt Funeral Home in Bellville.

Jose Lopez

Jose Lopez, 95, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 12, 2006, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday each month. The next meeting is Feb. 20. 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.

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.

Weather

Tonight...Clear. Lows in the mid 30s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s.

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

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light freezing drizzle and snow. Lows in the lower 30s.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain and snow in the morning. Then a slight chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 40s. The chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow. Lows in the lower 30s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the lower 50s.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 10 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. today:

• **KENNEY JANA KRUEGER**, 19, of Coahoma, was arrested Saturday and held for the HCSO.

• **JOHN EDWARD LAWING**, 30, of 409 S. Johnson, was arrested Saturday on a Taylor County warrant.

• **OMEGA GALAN HERNANDEZ**, 74, of 508 N.W. Fifth Street, was arrested Saturday and held for the HCSO.

• **MARK ANTHONY HESTER**, 43, of Coahoma, was arrested Saturday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **ROBERT RIVERA**, 34, of 2538 Langley, was arrested Saturday on four local warrants and a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **JOE ALBERT CANALES**, 22, of 1201 S. Johnson, was arrested Saturday on a charge of no driver's license.

• **KALEB ANTHONY HEADRICK**, 17, of 1419 Stadium, was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **ADRIAN CARRILLO**, 17, of 1600 Kentucky Way, was arrested Sunday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **ANTHONY FRENZEL**, 22, of 2911 W. Highway 80, was arrested Sunday on a Howard County warrant and held for the HCSO on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, driving while intoxicated, driving while license suspended.

• **NATHAN CAHOON**, 44, of 309 W. Fifth Street, was arrested Sunday on charges of public intoxication and theft.

• **JAMES HALE**, 53, of 3912 Parkway, was arrested Sunday on charges of public intoxication and theft.

• **ROBERT GILBERT**, 37, of 806 Settles, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 500 block of Lamesa.

- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.

- in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.

- in the 900 block of Scurry.

• **POSSESSION/DELIVERY OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA** was reported in the 900 block of State.

• **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 1900 block of Kentucky Way.

• **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported:

- in the 2000 block of Goliad.

- in the 500 block of Westover Road.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:

- in the 900 block of 15th Street.

- in the 300 block of Ninth Street.

• **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 900 block of Scurry.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 1900 block of Winston.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:

- in the 2300 block of Grace.

- in the 300 block of Jones.

• **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1500 block of Sycamore.

Fire/EMS

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

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 400 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Donley. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of East Second Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 900 block of Scurry. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Third Street and Gregg. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of East Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

Around Town

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. 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 2 p.m. Saturday.

Correction

An article in the weekend edition of the *Big Spring Herald* incorrectly identified the race for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1 Place 2, as having no Democratic candidate. The race has drawn two Democratic candidates, Bobby Roever and Robert Smith.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

• 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 north-west door. Call 263-2786 for more information.

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

• DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.

• Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.

Sheriff's report

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

• **RICARDO CASTILLO**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for theft.

• **CLETE MATTHEW STONE**, 22, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• **REYES CASTENADA**, 48, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and bail jumping - failure to appear.

• **NATALIE NICOLE HILARIO**, 19, was arrested Friday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **MELITON GARZA JR.**, 34, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **RUBEN ANTHONY GONZALES**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.

• **JODIE LYNN MILLS**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **RAUL MARTINEZ**, 48, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal trespass.

• **WILLIAM LEE GRAY JR.**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear on a Jefferson Davis Parrish warrant.

• **TRAVINE ANTHONY BROWN**, 42, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

• **EDWARD MARTINEZ**, 209, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for criminal mischief.

• **TYLER JOE CHRISTIAN**, 20, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor.

• **CHARLES WAYNE MORROW**, 54, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated - open container, second offense.

• **KENNEY JANA KRUEGER**, 20, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

• **JEFFREY THOMAS CASTLE**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **DAVID TYERRELL HALBAEDIER**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• **STARLA MARIE MENDOZA**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance.

• **OMEGA HERNANDEZ**, 74, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.

• **ADRIAN CARRILLO**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **DAVID R. GONZALES**, 35, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

• **JOHN EDWARD LAWING**, 30, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear - motion for enforcement of child support.

• **KALEB ANTHONY HEADRICK**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• **ROBERT RIVERA**, 34, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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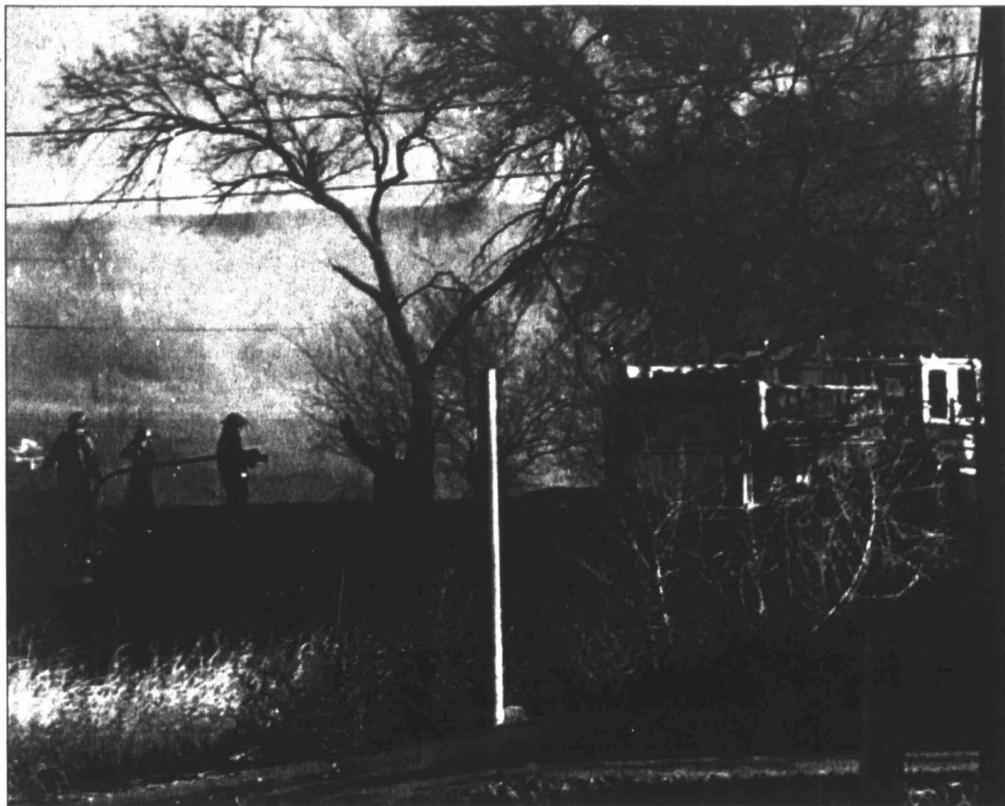
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BATTLING A GRASS FIRE



Local firemen battle a grass fire in north Big Spring over the weekend. Conditions are ideal for fires as the county has received below average rainfall levels.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

- Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a landscape maintenance agreement between the city of Big Spring and The Texas Department of Transportation.
- First reading of a resolution extending time to hold property deemed in lieu of tax foreclosure for a tract of land out of Section 42, Block 32, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey; Lots 9, 10 and 11, Block 4, Wrights Airport Addition; and the south half of Lot 9, Block 5, Cedar Crest Addition.
- Emergency reading of a resolution changing the early voting location, election day polling location and authorizing the use of direct recording electronic voting systems. The council is also expected to approve an

emergency reading of an ordinance calling for the city election to be held May 13.

• Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a master lease agreement, equipment schedule, escrow agreement and related instruments.

• Proposal of construction of a disc golf course project for Moss Lake.

The council is also expected to adjourn to executive session to discuss development negotiations relating to potential economic development prospects.

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

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

MOUTON

Continued from Page 1A

salaries, but their benefit packages as well.

Along those lines, he also supports restoring teacher retirement and health care packages to previous levels.

• Vouchers — Mouton is strongly opposed to the state providing vouchers to parents to send their children to private schools.

“Don’t tax me and give it to someone who will send their children to a private school,” Mouton said. “That is unconstitutional ... I’m opposed to legislation that would take public tax dollars to pay for private education.”

• Standardized testing — Mouton supports raising the passing standard on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) and other standardized tests, but he said that must be accompanied by increased support of school districts to help them accomplish the higher goals.

“You want to make sure standards continue to go up,” Mouton said. “But you need to supply students with the tools to meet those higher standards.”

George W. Bush named him to the Texas Funeral Service Commission.

Armstrong said Cheney is a longtime friend who comes to the ranch to hunt about once a year and is “a very safe sportsman.” She said Whittington is a regular, too, but she thought it was the first time the two men hunted together.

The 50,000-acre Armstrong ranch has been in the influential South Texas family since the turn of the last century. Katharine is the daughter of Tobin Armstrong, a politically connected rancher who has been a guest at the White House and spent 48 years as director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. He died in October. Cheney was among the dignitaries who attended his funeral.

Cheney was legally hunting with a license he purchased in November, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department spokesman Steve Lightfoot said.

Cheney was a private practice attorney in Austin since 1950 and has long been active in Texas Republican politics. He’s been appointed to several state boards, including when then-Gov.

FEMA

Continued from Page 1A

response from the White House down to local parishes.

The 600-page report by a special Republican-dominated House inquiry into one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history concluded that late state and local evacuation orders exacerbated an untrained and inexperienced force of federal emergency responders.

It also said President Bush received poor and incomplete counsel about the crisis unfolding in the Gulf Coast.

Overall, the House report said, the federal government’s response to Katrina was marked by “fecklessness, flailing and organizational paralysis.”

“Our investigation revealed that Katrina was a national failure, an abdication of the most solemn obligation to provide for the common welfare,” said a summary of the scathing report obtained Sunday by The Associated Press.

“At every level — individual, corporate, philanthropic, and governmental — we failed to meet the challenge that was Katrina,” the report concluded.

“In this cautionary tale, all the little pigs built houses of straw.” The House findings mark the first of two congressional inquiries and a White House review of the storm response expected over the next six weeks.

Today, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee was to continue its own investigation into the storm response by examining potentially widespread abuse in federal emergency cash assistance programs for disaster victims.

Up to 900,000 of 2.5 million applicants received aid based on duplicate or invalid Social Security numbers, or false addresses and names, congressional investigators found.

“Everything that we have found ... confirms exactly the indictment of the House Republicans,” Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, that committee’s top Democrat, said Sunday. “It’s shocking and it is unsettling.”

The House investigation criticized Chertoff, saying his overall responsibilities for the federal disaster relief during Katrina were fulfilled “either late, ineffectively or not at all.”

It concluded that Chertoff unnecessarily delayed naming a top federal coordinator for relief efforts and the activation of an internal disaster management group.

It also faulted Chertoff for not following a response plan specifically for catastrophic disasters.

Among the planned changes at FEMA: —Tracking trucks carrying food, water, ice, blankets and other emergency supplies by satellite to ensure they arrive at disaster sites quickly and with enough equipment.

—Sending FEMA employees to emergency shelters and other temporary housing venues to register victims for aid, instead of relying on victims to register by phone or the Internet.

—Creating a database of already-approved private contracting firms from disaster regions to remove debris and provide services faster.

—Creating “reconnaissance teams” to report disaster conditions to Homeland Security and FEMA operation centers within hours, and improving communication channels to ensure the information quickly gets to the president and Cabinet-level officials.

ACCIDENT

Continued from Page 1A

Whittington to the trauma-intensive care unit “is a fairly common procedure” for a patient who has been hit by a spray of birdshot.

“I don’t know how much spray he has got,” Banko said. “My understanding from the physicians is that after you get peppered, sometimes they need to do exploratory surgeries if it gets lodged in a little deeper. Sometimes, it’s tweezers.”

Motion filed to stop eviction of Katrina evacuees from hotels

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — About 12,000 families made homeless by last year’s hurricanes were scheduled to be forced out of their federally funded hotel rooms Monday, but lawyers for the evacuees were hoping for a last-minute reprieve.

Sunday, attorneys delivered papers to the home of U.S. District Court Judge Stanley Duvall, asking him to grant a restraining order to stall the evictions.

“We have provided the court with statements from people showing they have not been treated fairly by FEMA,” said Bill Quigley, an assistant dean of the Loyola University Law School.

I can’t really comment on how extensively he was sprayed.”

Whittington will be further evaluated this morning, Banko said, but he did not know if he will be released today. Meantime, Whittington had been receiving visits from family and friends.

Cheney visited Whittington and his wife before returning to Washington on Sunday. Cheney “was pleased to see that he’s doing fine and in good spirits,” said spokeswoman Lea Anne McBride.

Whittington sent word through a hospital official that he would have no comment on the incident out of respect for Cheney.

Katharine Armstrong, the ranch’s owner, told The Associated Press that the accident occurred after Cheney, Whittington and another hunter got out of a car to shoot at a covey of quail.

Armstrong, who was in the car, said Whittington went to retrieve a bird he shot. Cheney and the

third hunter, whom she would not identify, walked to another spot and discovered a second covey.

Whittington “came up from behind the vice president and the other hunter and didn’t signal them or indicate to them or announce himself,” Armstrong said.

“The vice president didn’t see him,” she said. “The covey flushed and the vice president picked out a bird and was following it and shot. And by god, Harry was in the line of fire and got peppered pretty good.”

Armstrong said the shotgun pellets broke the skin.

“It knocked him silly. But he was fine. He was talking. His eyes were open. It didn’t get in his eyes or anything like that,” she said.

Each of the hunters was wearing a bright orange vest, Armstrong said.

McBride said the vice president’s office did not tell reporters about the accident Saturday

because they were deferring to Armstrong to handle the announcement of what happened on her property. Armstrong said everyone at the ranch was so “focused” on Whittington’s health that it wasn’t until Sunday she called the Caller-Times to report the accident. Her ranch is about 60 miles southwest of Corpus Christi.

Sally Whittington told The Dallas Morning News her father was being observed because of swelling from welts on his neck. His face “looks like chicken pox, kind of,” she said.

Emergency personnel traveling with Cheney tended to Whittington before he was taken first to a hospital in Kingsville and then transferred to Corpus Christi.

Whittington has been a private practice attorney in Austin since 1950 and has long been active in Texas Republican politics. He’s been appointed to several state boards, including when then-Gov.

George W. Bush named him to the Texas Funeral Service Commission.

Armstrong said Cheney is a longtime friend who comes to the ranch to hunt about once a year and is “a very safe sportsman.” She said Whittington is a regular, too, but she thought it was the first time the two men hunted together.

The 50,000-acre Armstrong ranch has been in the influential South Texas family since the turn of the last century. Katharine is the daughter of Tobin Armstrong, a politically connected rancher who has been a guest at the White House and spent 48 years as director of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. He died in October. Cheney was among the dignitaries who attended his funeral.

Cheney was legally hunting with a license he purchased in November, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department spokesman Steve Lightfoot said.

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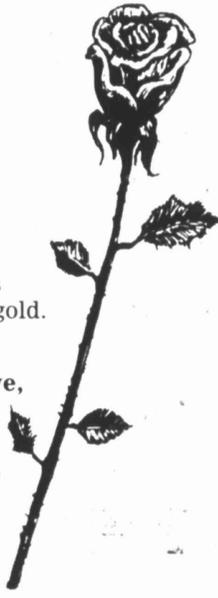
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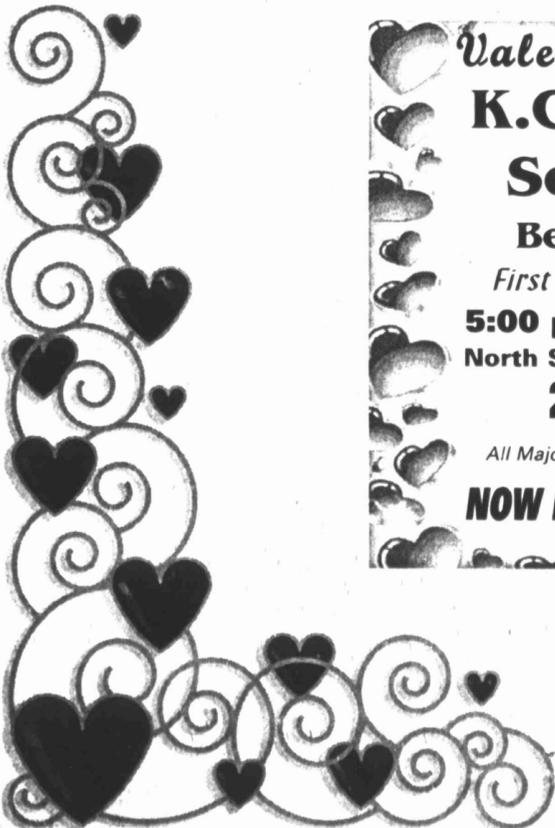
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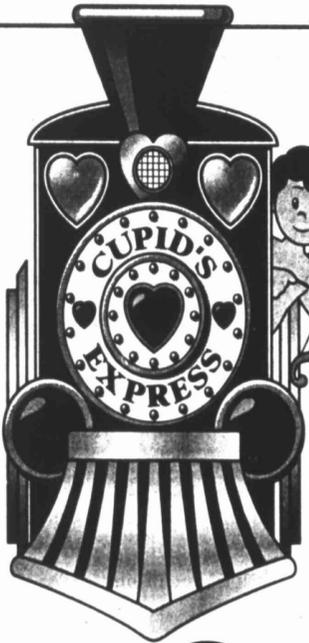
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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Tonight's
forum is
important

It might not be as entertaining as the high school theatre departments "We Love the 80s" winter review or a Howard College Hawks basketball game, but in terms of importance, tonight's candidate forum in the junior high cafeteria certainly outranks the rest. It's one of the first "public" forums to be held before the March primaries and we expect most of the candidates to be in attendance. It's a perfect opportunity to meet the men and women who are seeking to represent *you* at the county, state and even national level.

And that is why attending this candidate forum is important. It gives you an opportunity to hear what each candidate has to say, and allows you to visit with the afterward.

As it has been set up by the sponsor, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, the forum won't be of the question and answer variety. Instead, each candidate will be given five minutes to introduce themselves and speak about their qualifications, issues or whatever they want to address.

Later, after that period, you the voter can take the opportunity to ask questions on your own, one-on-one, if you so wish.

There are a number of locally contested races coming up in March, as well as November. It's important that you get to know the candidates, then exercise your right to vote. It's *your* voice, and whomever is elected will be representing *you*.

We hope you've already made plans to attend tonight's forum at 6 p.m. in the Big Spring High School cafeteria. If not, there's still time.

It might not be the symphony, but it's important.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

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- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Democrats have a higher calling

Is nothing sacred to the left anymore other than a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy? Does the left's "morally superior" ideology entitle them to abandon their manners at will? Are there any adults left among them who are willing to police their misbehavior?

Were former president Jimmy Carter's and Rev. Joseph Lowery's cheap shots at President Bush at the Coretta Scott King funeral aberrations, or were they typical of the classless behavior increasingly exhibited by liberal icons?

Well, consider the merciless berating of Judge Samuel Alito by Sen. Ted Kennedy and his Democratic colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee to the point of driving Mrs. Alito to leave the chambers in tears.

Consider the phony allegations of corruption and bigotry driving their cavalier lecturing of this decent man, who responded, like President Bush at the King funeral, with graciousness, dignity, class and restraint. And consider that no Democrat even gently suggested to his highness, Sen. Kennedy, that he was way out of line, both in form and substance.

No, this paragon of pomposity gets a complete pass from the left for the jaw-dropping hypocrisy he displays every time he has the singular audacity to lecture anyone about anything.

He's entitled to lifetime immunity for his presumably good intentions in having promoted the failed policies of liberalism during his entire public life.

Sadly, there is recurring evidence that to liberals, one's political predilections trump everything else so that if you stand for the

right things, you are virtually exempt from scrutiny. Conversely, if you stand for the wrong things, you are fair game for any type of verbal abuse, no matter the circumstances or the intended solemnity of the occasion.

If you are reputed to be a conservative, particularly one with influence who will stand in the way of the liberal agenda, a special kind of contempt is reserved for you. And, by definition, you cannot be mistreated because people who stand for the things you stand against are not worthy of respectful treatment.

As a conservative public figure, you are especially vulnerable to attacks from the left when cameras are in proximity because, whether or not the ordinary rules of decorum for events like funerals require an extra measure of politeness, no opportunity can be missed to proselytize to a mass audience.

The religious fervor of the left, in its high evangelical mode of spreading the gospel of liberalism, can be seen in its willingness to ignore the facts in furtherance of advancing its dogma.

It didn't matter that Judge Alito repeatedly provided a convincing explanation for the innocuousness of his failure to recuse himself in a case involving Vanguard, a company in which he had a relatively insignificant financial interest. It didn't matter that he convincingly testified that he was unaware of certain alleged bigoted attitudes of an organization he was supposedly affiliated with in college.

Kennedy and his colleagues were impervious to the actual facts. What mattered to them was that Alito was a conservative, and therefore, even if he was not guilty of those particular ethical infractions, he might as well have been because, to them, conservatives have a dark heart.

This is precisely the same mindset that militated against

Kennedy's colleagues reprimanding him for playing fast and loose with the facts and for treating the eminently decent and respectable Judge Alito indecently and disrespectfully.

It's precisely the same mindset that led reverends Jimmy Carter and Joseph Lowery to take race-baiting, wiretapping and WMD digs at President Bush during the King funeral. Bush hatred is so pervasive that liberal eyebrows were not even raised when the "No Iraqi WMD" mantra was invoked at the event.

And, it's the same kind of mindset that prompted liberal commentator Bob Beckel to tell radio talk-show host Sean Hannity that not only were Carter's remarks not inappropriate (sorry for the triple negative), but civil-rights advocates would have been surprised and rightly disappointed if he hadn't made them. And Beckel is one of the intellectually honest liberals!

In case you harbor the fantasy that the mainstream media or liberal blogs will give Carter the brush back, think again. *The Washington Post's* Howard Kurtz detailed how the media largely ignored Carter's jabs at Bush and quoted a number of liberal blogs expressing outrage at conservative outrage over the Carter outrage. How dare we suggest to them any limits on their licentiousness? Why, that's totalitarian censorship!

So, if you're looking for accountability from the left for the inexcusable behavior of its leaders, get a Hubble telescope. It's not that they don't have the courage to discipline their own. It's that they agree with them, applaud them and encourage them to give it to us even harder next time. They have a higher calling.

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So ashamed for Al Gonzales

Once upon a time, in the middle of a nasty constitutional crisis in Washington, a most unlikely hero emerged — a Texas lawyer from one of our state's notoriously discriminated-against racial minorities. Think how lucky we were.

It is one of the most famous sentences in all of American rhetoric: "My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total." But what catches the eye today is the sentence that followed that famous declaration, the sentence that makes one so ashamed for Al Gonzales. Barbara Jordan's great, deep voice brought the impeachment hearings against Richard Nixon to an awed silence when she vowed, "And I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution."

Thirty years ago, this state could produce Barbara Jordan — and now we send that pathetic pipsqueak Al Gonzales. Enough to provoke a walling cry of "O tempora, O mores!" even from the depths of Lubbock.

As a *New York Times* editorial succinctly put it, Attorney General Gonzales' Judiciary Committee appearance was a "daylong display of cynical hair-splitting, obfuscation, disinformation and stonewalling."

How fortunate that Republicans running the committee did not insist the chief law enforcement officer of the United States take an oath before testifying. God forbid that he should actually be held to the truth.

I realize it's a cliché for those of us who remember the Beach Boys to mourn the days when giants roamed the Earth and all was on a grander and finer scale. But I knew Barbara Jordan, and I know

Al Gonzales, and it is damned depressing — he's too lightweight to even be a mediocrity.

It seems to me the trumpety excuse for a hearing raised graver issues than those of 30 years ago. Gonzales kept trying to frame the issue as a question of whether or not a domestic spying program without warrants is illegal — in fact, it is against the law.

Gonzales maintained the law is superseded by some unwritten constitutional power due the president during time of war and further that Congress had authorized warrantless spying when giving the president the authority to invade Afghanistan. Strange, so few who voted for invading Afghanistan recall having warrantless spying in mind.

One problem of legal logic is to "define war." We have not been attacked by another nation — in fact, we were clearly the aggressors against Iraq. We were attacked by a private group of ideological zealots led by a Saudi millionaire. This war — against no nation, flag or territory — can presumably last indefinitely, like our wars against drugs and crime.

Barbara Jordan observed: "(Impeachment) is designed to 'bridle' the executive if he engages in excesses. ... The Framers confined in the Congress the power, if need be, to remove the president in order to strike a delicate balance between a president swollen with power and grown tyrannical, and preservation of the independence of the executive. ... A president is impeachable if he attempts to subvert the Constitution."

MOLLY
IVINS

Nixon was accused, among other things, of misuse of the CIA. I highly recommend James Risen's new book, "State of War: The Secret History of the CIA and the Bush Administration." Risen is the *New York Times* reporter who broke the story of the National Security Agency spying scandal.

Thomas Powers, an authority on American intelligence, reviewed the Risen book for *The New York Review of Books* and notes: "If the Constitution forbids a president anything, it forbids war on his say-so, and if it insists on anything, it insists that presidents are not above the law. In plain terms, this means that presidents cannot enact laws on their own, or ignore laws that have been enacted by Congress. ...

"In public life, as in kindergarten, the all-important word is no. We are living with the consequences of the inability to say no to the president's war of choice with Iraq, and we shall soon see how Congress and the courts will respond to the latest challenge from the White House — the claim by President Bush that he has the right to ignore FISA's prohibition of government intrusion on the private communications of Americans without a court order and his repeated statements that he intends to go right on doing it."

The time is coming when someone will have to say no. Sadly, I have a vision of the impeachment panel, and I see Tom DeLay in the seat once occupied by the great Barbara Jordan.

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

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Face transplant recipient goes public, thanks family

By STEPHEN KIEHL

The Baltimore Sun

Isabelle Dinoire says she just wanted a face like everyone else, which seems like not too much to ask. At a news conference last week, the Frenchwoman who received the world's first partial face transplant showed off the results.

The picture was all anyone wanted to see, and it was reassuring: Her lips were full and her nose was pert. While that might not seem like a medical advance, for Dinoire, that's exactly what it was.

"I have a face like everyone else," said Dinoire, 38. Speaking to reporters in Amiens, France, she said she wanted to resume a "normal life" after her face was disfigured in a dog attack last year. That meant returning home to her two daughters, getting a job and being able to go out in public without stares.

Dinoire received facial tissue, new lips, a chin and a nose from a brain-dead female donor. Dinoire still has difficulty moving or closing her mouth, more than two months after the Nov. 27 operation, but doctors said that should improve over time.

"I expect to resume a normal life," she said. "I pay homage to the donor's family. My operation could help others to live again."

While transplants of hearts, lungs and other vital organs no

longer garner much attention, the face transplant drew intense public interest. The face has always been central to a person's identity. It's how we think of each other, how we reflect emotion and pain, and its primacy is reflected in our language.

In other words, how you look is not simply a matter of vanity. "It matters tremendously," said author Barbara Robinette Moss, 51, of Iowa City, Iowa, whose face was disfigured as a child because of malnutrition. "It's not just how we identify ourselves. It's how other people identify us. And when there's a problem, when we don't fit into what people consider the norm, you can be ostracized terribly."

Moss empathizes with Dinoire's desire to simply look like everyone else. "You want to be able to go to the grocery store without someone insulting you," said Moss, who has undergone two major surgeries. She went online Monday morning because she was so curious to see what Dinoire looked like.

"I think it's going to be beautiful," she said of Dinoire's face. "All the scars down her cheeks — a lot of that will completely fade away, and she'll get feeling back in her lips and it will become her face."

Dinoire still faces hurdles in regaining a normal life. She will continue taking drugs so her

body does not reject the transplanted tissue, and the doctors could not say how long the tissue would stay alive. Still, the doctors have asked French health authorities for permission to perform facial transplants on five other patients.

A Baltimore doctor said that once the medical and psychological issues surrounding facial transplant are resolved, it may come to be seen as common — and as necessary — as a heart transplant.

"Your face is the most central part of your body," said Dr. Richard J. Redett of the Johns Hopkins Burn Center. "I have patients who have come to terms with facial disfigurement and do pretty well, and I have patients who haven't and they have a very difficult life. The ability to give them a new face — I think it would significantly change their lives forever."

Moss hopes facial transplants become more common. Although she criticizes a society that has become preoccupied with beauty, she notes that candidates for facial transplants are striving not to be beautiful but simply ordinary.

"Why do we think we should be able to use someone's heart or their liver or their kidney but there's something wrong with using part of their facial structure?" she said. "There is no difference."



Abaca Press, KRT photo/Laurent Zabulon
Isabelle Dinoire who received the world's first partial face transplant at a news conference at Amiens hospital in northern France last week. Dinoire, who was mauled by a dog in May, underwent a 15-hour operation where surgeons used tissues, muscles, arteries and veins from a brain-dead woman.

With promises of quick weight loss, Hoodia has tongues wagging

By JOAN MORRIS

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Amazing pill that kills the cravings! Go all day without being hungry! Lose weight by losing the urge to snack!

The spam ads that fill our in-boxes and the television commercials featuring actors wearing white lab coats all promise a miracle in a single pill — an appetite suppressant that makes dieting a snap by killing your desire to eat. If smokers have the patch to stop nicotine cravings, why not a pill to eliminate the desire for food?

Hoodia gordonii, a South African succulent favored by the Spartan-like San Bushmen of the Kalahari desert, may be a dieter's dream — or it could be just another empty promise.

Hoodia first burst onto our consciousness more than a year ago, when CBS' "60 Minutes" sent a correspondent to the Kalahari to try the plant herself. She reported that after chewing on the bitter leaf, she had no desire to eat for almost 24 hours. A BBC reporter soon followed, and he reported the same results.

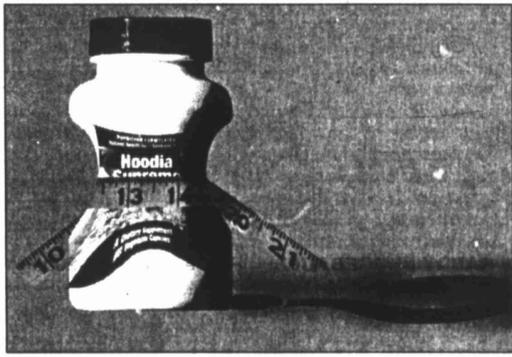
Interest in the plant skyrocketed after a rumor began to circulate that hoodia is the diet drug of choice for the "Desperate Housewives." But popularity aside, experts say proof that hoodia works is anecdotal, that little research has been done to confirm the assumption it has no side effects, and that consumers who are buying the supplements over the Internet or at health food stores may not be getting what they're paying for.

Nutritionists say even if the supplement works, it might be better if it didn't. Dieting by starving the body is not a good idea, says Pam Wilson, chief clinical dietitian at San Ramon, Calif., Regional Medical Center.

When the body is starved, the metabolism slows and any calories it gets are stored as fat.

"It can lower our metabolism by 30 percent," Wilson says. "That's not what you want to do if you're trying to lose weight."

Wilson has other con-



Contra Costa Times/KRT/Adrienne Johnson
Diet miracle in a pill? Hoodia gordonii, a South African succulent may be a dieter's dream or it could be just another empty promise.

cerns about the supplement. The only known clinical study was conducted on rats, and because hoodia is considered an appetite suppressant that affects the body centrally, there are unknown risks to your organs, nervous and circulatory systems. Hoodia may be as safe as purified water, but without research, Wilson says, we don't know.

That's often a problem with herbs and supplements. The products are not tested and regulated in the same way that prescription medications are. A product may be on the market a long time before a pattern of trouble is revealed. There is a history of weight-loss products that were initially considered benign — fen-phen, ephedra — and later were discovered to cause serious health problems, some of which resulted in deaths.

"(Hoodia) could be a nightmare," Wilson says.

A British pharmaceutical company, Phytopharm, has patented what it says is the active ingredient in hoodia, which the company calls P57. In 1997, the company entered into an agreement with Pfizer to develop hoodia, but Pfizer abandoned the plan, say-

ing it was too expensive to extract and synthesize. Phytopharm has since struck a deal with Unilever, which is said to have begun its own studies.

Some people have questioned whether products boasting of hoodia actually contain the supplement. Critics have argued that there isn't enough cultivated hoodia to account for all the products claiming to have it. While the plant grows in the unforgiving sands of the Kalahari, it apparently is not easy to propagate in nurseries or in commercial fields.

Michael McGuffin, president of the American Herbal Products Association, says he believes consumers are receiving hoodia in products purchased from AHPA members. The association requires its members to comply with federal law and AHPA guidelines, McGuffin says.

"I know of several companies that import it," McGuffin says. "I've seen several companies selling it on trade show floors and Internet Web sites."

While the AHPA has yet to delve into the question of the plant's safety, it has created a commission to "promote, and protect

responsible commerce of products that contain hoodia." The Federal Food and Drug Administration does not regulate the herb and supplement industry, meaning it doesn't require testing and studies before a product hits the market.

The association compiled a botanical safety handbook for its membership in 1997. The book outlines how 550 herbs should be used — or not used — but the book was compiled before hoodia arrived on the market.

There have been no reports of health problems associated with hoodia. McGuffin notes that people have used it for hundreds of years, apparently without ill effects.

So the question remains: Does it work? A check of dieting discussion boards and blogs offers a definite maybe. While the slight majority of posters said it didn't work, almost as many said it did.

Marilyn Tomlin has had mixed success. The first batch of hoodia that she purchased locally had no effect on her appetite, but another batch from a different manufacturer, ordered through the Internet, provided instant results.

"I wasn't hungry at all," Tomlin says. "I ate half of what I would normally eat and no snacking. It felt like I had a big lump in my stomach."

The bottle of 90 pills cost \$47.90 with tax and shipping. Tomlin is taking just three pills a day although instructions call for taking up to nine, three before each meal.

"I don't eat much during the day anyway," Tomlin says, "so I'm just taking them at night."

Others haven't had success, even though they've tried different brands. One woman who asked not to be named, said she's spent more than \$150 on hoodia pills and the only thing that's been suppressed is her belief in hoodia. One formula, she says, seemed to stir her appetite.

McGuffin says that with herbal supplements as well as prescription drugs consumers shouldn't expect the pill to solve all the problems. They should be treated as aids, he says, not cures.

"There is no silver bullet when it comes to weight loss," McGuffin says. "Drugs aren't silver bullets; over-the-counter substances are not silver bullets; herbs aren't silver bullets. You can't sit on the couch and eat potato

chips and take a pill and lose weight. Diet and exercise are essential."

McGuffin's reasoning seems to be reflected in the instructions packaged with the hoodia pills. Dieters are told that for the pills to work effectively, they must be combined with reduced calorie intake, reduction of carbohydrates and fats, lots of water consumption and exercise. One manufacturer recommends walking one to two miles a day, and drinking one ounce of water for every two pounds you weigh.

In other words, eat a sensible diet and exercise. Wilson couldn't agree more. If people want to suppress their appetite, she says, they need to change their hunger patterns. That may mean eating smaller meals more frequently, eating breakfast every day and reducing the amount of food you eat.

Frustrated dieters need to accept that slow and steady is the best way to go, she says. "What's the point in starving yourself or going on a fad diet?" Wilson asks. "People who do that lose weight quickly, but studies show that most gain back the weight in a year, and 100 percent gain it back in five years."



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News briefs

Woman accused of severing baby's arms to stand trial

MCKINNEY (AP) — A housewife accused of fatally severing the arms of her infant daughter in 2004 was expected to enter a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity when her capital murder trial opens.

A jury of seven women and five men was selected to hear the trial of Dena Schlosser, which was to begin with opening statements Monday in Collin County. Prosecutors have said they will not seek the death penalty.

Schlosser was arrested in her Plano home in November 2004 after telling a 911 operator she had hacked off the arms of her 10-month-old daughter, Margaret.

The police found the dying baby in her crib and Schlosser in the living room, covered in blood, holding a knife and listening to a church hymn.

Schlosser had reportedly stabbed herself deep in the left shoulder.

Brush fire burns 1,200 acres in fire-weary region

RISING STAR (AP) — Firefighters scrambled to control numerous wildfires in an area of West Texas trying to recover from a rash of fires earlier this year.

The largest fire broke out Sunday afternoon in Brown County and burned from 1,200 to 1,500 acres before firefighters controlled it by evening, officials said.

The fire threatened seven houses, but only one barn was burned. There were no injuries, said Capt. John Wilkerson of the Comanche Volunteer Fire Department.

The fire spread from pastureland into

heavily brushed, hilly terrain where several helicopters repeatedly dropped huge buckets of water drawn from a nearby stock tank.

Wilkerson said government agencies and private owners provided bulldozers and tractors to create firebreaks to slow and stop the flames.

White House acknowledges photo of Bush and Abramoff

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sunday, the White House acknowledged the authenticity of the first photograph made public that shows President Bush and embattled lobbyist Jack Abramoff, while stressing it does not mean the two had a personal relationship.

The photo, published by *The New York Times* and *Time* magazine, shows Bush shaking hands with an Abramoff client, chairman Raul Garza of the Kickapoo Indian tribe in Texas. Abramoff's bearded face appears in the background, small and slightly blurry.

White House spokesman Allen Abney said the photo was taken in 2001, when the president dropped by a meeting of about two dozen state legislators to thank them for supporting tax relief.

Originally, the White House said it had no record of Abramoff's attendance at the meeting.

"We now know that Mr. Abramoff attended this meeting," Abney said Sunday. "The president has taken tens of thousands of pictures. This does not mean he has a personal relationship with each individual that is in those pictures."

The White House would not release the photo or any others that Bush had taken with Abramoff, who helped raise more than \$100,000 for the president's re-election campaign. Abramoff has since pleaded guilty to federal charges related to an influence-peddling scandal on Capitol Hill.

Florida woman sees Virgin Mary in potato chip

By **TIM W. MCCANN**

Knight Ridder Newspapers

PALMETTO, Fla. — Elizabeth Gould said a strange sensation overwhelmed her while she was eating from a bag of potato chips during a flight from New York to Florida.

She paused, stopped eating and looked at the potato chip in her hand.

It looked familiar. The chip bears the image of the Virgin Mary, Gould said, and passengers on the flight agreed.

She spread out the remainder of the chips on her tray, but none looked like anything more than, well, a potato chip. So she wrapped the roughly quarter-sized chip in a napkin, tucked it in the bag and held on to it.

A friend she showed the chip to said it looks kind of like a painting of the blue Madonna displayed at the Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Fla. Gould brought the chip to the Bradenton Herald recently along with the other remaining chips, still in the original bag.

The chip does have an image of head and partial body. The head is slightly tilted and the shape is surrounded by a white substance, resembling a robe of sorts.

Some of the other chips have traces of the white, but not as pronounced as the "holy" chip.

"When I saw this," Gould said, "I felt like she was looking at me."

Gould, a Palmetto resi-



Bradenton Herald, KRT photo/Brian Blanco

Liz Gould of Palmetto, Fla., shows-off a potato chip that she found in a bag chips aboard a Jet Blue flight that she believes bears the image of the Virgin Mary.

dent, flew JetBlue Airways to New York over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend to visit her sister, she said. She got the bag of Terra Blue chips from a passenger sitting next to her. The Terra Blue chips are the official chips of JetBlue Airways, according to Terra Blue and JetBlue Web sites.

While touring New York City, Gould said an indescribable feeling swept over her as she neared the remains of the World Trade Center towers. She said she encountered the same feeling while on the plane eating JetBlue's complimentary bag of blue-colored potato chips.

"That's what made me look at the potato chip,"

she said, "I think my words were, 'This looks like the Virgin Mary!'"

This isn't the first story of claims of holy images appearing on food and other items, according to the Web site en.wikipedia.org.

Some recent reports include a Nebraska couple claiming to found a pretzel bearing the image of Mary holding baby Jesus. Mary's image again appeared on an emergency turnoff underneath Chicago's Kennedy Expressway. Both occurred in 2005.

Probably the most famous case happened about two years ago. GoldenPalace.com, an online casino, paid \$28,000 for a grilled cheese sandwich alleged-

Northeast digs out from record snowstorm; classes, flights canceled

By **ULA ILNYTZKY**

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Road crews scrambled to clear highways for Monday's morning commute and travelers stranded at airports still waited to get home as the Northeast dug out from a record-breaking storm that dumped 2 feet or more of snow.

Utility workers were restoring power to tens of thousands of homes and businesses blacked out when wind gusting to 50 mph knocked down power lines.

The weekend storm blanketed the Eastern Seaboard from the mountains of western North Carolina to Maine, dropping 26.9 inches of snow in Central Park — the heaviest since record-keeping was started in 1869, the National Weather Service said. The old record was 26.4 inches in December 1947.

While the storm was bad, it would have been worse on a weekday.

"It was good timing for a storm of this magnitude," weather service meteorologist Patrick Maloit said.

Fairfield, Conn., got 30.2 inches of snow and Rahway, N.J., had 27 inches, according to unofficial observations reported to the weather service. Just west of Philadelphia, 21 inches of snow was recorded in West Caln Township; the average snowfall for an entire winter in Philadelphia is about 21 inches. On Massachusetts' North Shore, Salem measured 18 inches, and some areas of the state had 3-foot drifts.

Children were thrilled to dig out their sleds, little used this winter until now.

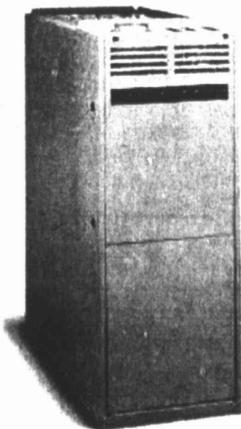
"We're hoping for 365 days off from school," said 9-year-old Reagan Manz, playing in Central Park with friends. "We could go sledding the whole time and not get

bored."

Numerous schools canceled Monday classes from parts of West Virginia to Massachusetts, although New York City kids were told it was no holiday for them as city streets

reopened and subways kept running.

All three major New York-area airports — Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark — had reopened with limited service by this morning after hundreds of cancellations.



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IN BRIEF

Big Spring Softball Association sets date for signups

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association will be holding signups to register for the upcoming season and they will be held each Saturday from Feb. 18 through March 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

The league is for girls and women ages four and up. The registration fee is \$30 and there is a \$5 discount for a second child.

For more information, contact Ron Shafer at 432-213-8747.

B.S. Country Club sets golf scramble

The Big Spring Country Club has announced a four-person golf scramble will take place Feb. 25-26.

The entry fee is \$75 per player plus golf cart, but private carts are welcome. The scramble will have a shotgun start at 1 p.m. both days. The entry fee includes BBQ on the course both days and practice rounds are available Friday.

For more information, contact the pro shop at 432-267-5354.

Little League umpers needed, signup days announced

Little League signups for the upcoming season will take place Feb. 18-25 at the Big Spring Mall.

The signups will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Anyone interested in umpiring little league baseball games or for more information on the little league sign-ups, contact Chuck Rosenbaum at 432-816-9984 or 432-263-1792 or Randy Phillips at 432-264-6600 (day) or 432-263-5314 (night).

Ohio State hits 13 3-pointers in victory over No. 10 Illinois

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Jamar Butler scored 22 points, Terence Dials had 19 and 16 rebounds and Je'Kel Foster had 18 points to lead No. 19 Ohio State to a 69-53 win over No. 10 Illinois.

A year after ruining top-ranked Illinois' perfect 29-0 season on Matt Sylvester's 3-pointer with 5.1 seconds left, the Buckeyes relied on their outside marksmanship and Dials' muscle inside to win their fourth game in a row and remain in a virtual tie for first place in the Big Ten.

The Buckeyes (18-3, 7-3) hit 13-of-23 3-pointers three days after making 15-of-24 in a victory at No. 22 Michigan. It was the first time in five years Ohio State had beaten two ranked opponents in the same week.

Dee Brown scored 12 points to lead Illinois (20-4, 8-4)

Cain finishes fifth, McCormick seventh at BS Invite

By TROY HYDE

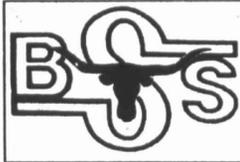
Sports Editor
Big Spring golfers Chance Cain and Megan McCormick placed fifth and seventh overall, respectively, at the Big Spring Invitational this weekend.

Cain entered the day in third after shooting a first-round 77 at Comanche Trail Golf Course. He scored a 74 at the Big Spring Country Club's course Saturday,

but dropped two spots to fifth.

McCormick entered the day out of the top-10 after shooting a 102 at the country club Friday, but made up some serious ground Saturday with a second-round 89 at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The Big Spring girl's place fourth overall with a score of 807, but defeated district rivals Frenship (fifth), Plainview (sixth)



and Lake View (ninth). Cassie Guinn finished second on the Lady Steers squad with a 195 after shooting a second-round 95. Amber Miller followed with first-round 106 and took

third on the team with a 212. Joy Seay, who entered in first among Big Spring golfers, shot a 115 in Round 2 and finished with a 214 overall. Porsha Knowlton scored a 230 after stroking a second-round 110.

Tiffany Downs of Borger won the tournament with a 171. All Williams of Plainview finished second with a 176 and Paige Shaw of Monahans scored a 180

and took third. Andrews' Kaitlyn Gilbreath and Desiree Gallegos came in fourth and sixth, respectively.

Andrews and Monahans came into Round 2 tied for first, but the Lady Mustangs shot seven strokes better Saturday and won the tournament with a 767. Borger finished third with a 795, 12 strokes better than Big

See GOLF, Page 2B

Hawks split final two games at OC

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
ODESSA — The Hawk softball team concluded the Odessa College Tournament Saturday with a split in its final two games.

Howard, which is now 8-3 on the season, lost to Alvin, 5-3, in the first game, but bounced back to defeat Northern Oklahoma, 8-4, in the tournament finale.

The Hawks were plagued by four errors in Game 1 as Alvin won the game getting just four hits at the plate.

"If we would have fielded the ball we would have probably won the game," said Howard head coach Kelly Raines.

Freshman Kendra Corbin threw five strong innings, but took the loss on the mound after giving five unearned runs. She gave up four hits, while striking out six.

"We didn't hit the ball like we have been, but we still can't give up five unearned runs," said Raines. "Kendra pitched

well enough to win."

Freshman Laura Lopez and sophomore Amanda Kuramata each went two-for-three from the plate. Lopez doubled, had an RBI and scored a run, while Kuramata doubled and had two RBIs. The other runs were scored by sophomore Paige Ruiz and Corbin.

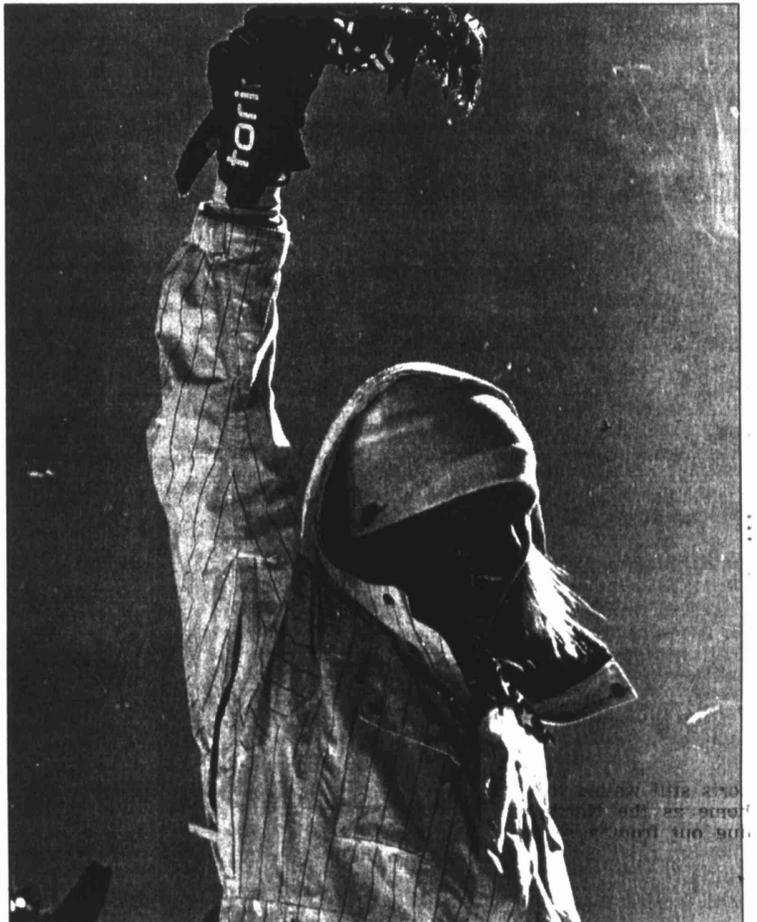
The offense woke up in Game 2 as the Hawks got 10 hits at the plate and won, 8-4.

Northern Oklahoma tied the score at one in the bottom of the first inning, but Howard scored six runs in second which was plenty to capture the win. Northern Oklahoma scored three runs in the third, but it wasn't enough.

Howard finished the game with two errors.

"We still had our fair share of errors and we'll have to fix that, but we scored enough runs to win," said Raines. "If we can put it all together we might be pretty good, but if you can't make the rou

See HOWARD, Page 2B



Gold medal winner Hannah Teter of the United States celebrates in the winner's area after the ladies' halfpipe final in Bardonecchia, Italy, today.

Coahoma lifters win in Big Lake

Special to the Herald

BIG LAKE — The Bulldog and Bulldogette powerlifting teams traveled to Big Lake last Thursday night to compete in the Reagan County Powerlifting Championships.

The Coahoma boys prevailed with a convincing team victory.

Isaac Arguello placed first in the 114-pound division with a lift of 470. Gus Yanez was second in the 123s with a lift of 705. The 132-pound class won by Justin Ditto's 740-pound lift, while Jessie Medina was second in the same class with a lift of 640.

Antonio Gonzales placed second in the 148s with a lift of 880. Also



A. GONZALES

competing with Gonzales was Nathan Gomez and Andy Metcalf and they turned in lifts of 510 and 610, respectively.

Jake McCain won first place in the 198-pound division with a lift of 1,095, beating out the second-place lifter by 80 pounds. Also competing with McCain in the 198s was Michael Gonzales, who totaled 770, but beat his previous best by 95 pounds.

Corey Clanton was first in the very competitive 242-pound class as he totaled 1,020 pounds.

Skyler Mundell tacked on more points for Coahoma as he grabbed second in the super heavyweight division with a lift of 1,115 pounds. Jeremy Winn and Justin Rau were unable to perform due to injuries.

The girl's team was successful, as well. Chelsea Gonzales won the 114-pound class with a lift of 515. Melanie Gutierrez was second in the same class with a lift of 425.

Esmeralda Urias placed second in the 165-pound division with a lift of 555. Competing in her first-ever meet, Jerrica White placed second in the 220-pound division with a lift of 260.

Both teams will compete Thursday in Anson.



KRT photo/Barbara L. Johnston, Philadelphia Inquirer
U.S. figure skater Michelle Kwan wipes her eye as she speaks about her decision to withdraw from competition in the 2006 Winter Games during a press conference in Turin, Italy Sunday.

Injury forces Kwan to pull out of Olympics

By NANCY ARMOUR

AP National Writer
TURIN, Italy — Michelle Kwan's decade-long quest for Olympic gold came to a sorrowful end Sunday when she withdrew because of an injury, taking the biggest name out of the Turin Games.

Kwan cut short her first practice of the games the day before after straining a groin muscle, and the injury worsened as the day wore on. She withdrew after Dr. Jim Moeller evaluated her early Sunday morning and recommended she not continue.

"I wish I was here in better circumstances," Kwan said Sunday

morning, her voice flat and her eyes puffy. "When I first put in my petition, I said I believed I'd be 100 percent by time the Olympics came around. But yesterday, after going on ice and feeling stiff ... I don't think that I can be 100 percent."

"I respect the Olympics too much to compete and I don't feel I can be at my best."

Emily Hughes was chosen by the U.S. Olympic Committee as Kwan's replacement.

Kwan has been the face of figure skating for a decade, and she owned the spotlight at these games — despite being here for only four

See KWAN, Page 2B



KRT photo/Andrew P. Scott, Dallas Morning News
U.S. snowboarder Shaun White kicks up snow during his final run in the Men's Halfpipe snowboard competition Sunday in Bardonecchia, Italy during the 2006 Winter Games. White won the gold medal, while fellow American Danile Kass won the silver.

White, Kass go one-two in halfpipe

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer
BARDONECCHIA, Italy — The Flying Tomato got his gold.

Redheaded snowboarding superstar Shaun White punked the competition on the halfpipe Sunday, beating out teammate Danny Kass to win the Olympic gold medal that so many expected him to get.

"I'm a little overwhelmed right now. I can't explain it," White

See HALFPIPE, Page 2B



Courtesy photo
The Coahoma girls' JV team finished 21-5 overall this season and ran the table in District 4-2A with a 12-0 record. Front row, from left: Berkley Iden, Teryn Bibb, Vanessa Cortez, Reagan Rupard and Veronica Cortez. Middle: Hilary White, Kaysea Spiller and Alex Moore. Back: Monica Morellon, Bilana Thurman, Jessica Pittman and Chelsea Watts. Not pictured: Caille Paige. The Bulldogettes closed out the season with a 56-36 win over arch rival Colorado City recently. Coahoma was led by Moore's 12 points, while Pittman added 11.

'Knight School' to begin airing soon

LUBBOCK (AP) — "Knight School" will be in session soon.

The first episode of the reality show in which Texas Tech coach Bob Knight gives one Tech student the chance to play on his team will air Sunday ESPN.

"This was just like we had it when I coached the Pan American team or the Olympics," Knight said. "We had to cut from 70 to 12 for those teams, and here, we worked from 32 down to one. We had 140 applicants and we tested them in various ways."

Camera crews spent months in Lubbock shooting footage for six one-hour episodes.

"The taping went remarkably well," said Rob Lundgren, chief operating officer of RIVR Media and one of the

executive producers of the show. "We've been gone the last three months and the post process has been a major undertaking because we've got such good stuff."

"We put these kids through a lot," Lundgren said. "We wanted to test their overall conditioning, but we also wanted to test their mental toughness, how they handle themselves in the community, how they handle themselves with teammates."

Knight, who said he enjoyed working with the students, said that he had a hard time not only choosing the winner, but narrowing down the field.

"They worked hard, they trusted and they were enthused about getting the opportunity to make it," he said.

KWAN

Continued from Page 1B

days. Her withdrawal is a loss for everyone, USOC chairman Peter Ueberroth said.

"Michelle Kwan means more to the United States Olympic Committee than maybe any athlete that's ever performed for the U.S. Olympic Committee," Ueberroth said. "She's been a leader, she's been gracious, she's somebody that cares for so many youngsters that are training in our country."

"She's a real loss to all of the United States Olympic Committee and to the United States of America, and I think to the world. She's made a courageous decision." Olympic officials wasted little time approving the petition to put Hughes on the team. The 17-year-old, younger sister of 2002 Olympic champion Sarah Hughes, was third at last month's national championships.

She said in a Saturday interview with WNBC-TV in New York that she would be ready to travel to Turin if needed. "Just point me in the direction and I'm there," Hughes said.

But that could be a challenge: Blizzard warnings were posted for the New York City area, where she lives, and dozens of flights were canceled at the city's three major airports.

When Hughes gets here, she'll join Sasha Cohen and Kimmie Meissner on

women's competition begins Feb. 21. Kwan said she would

return to the United States so as not to be a distraction.

"I'm a little bit shocked," Cohen said. "I know how tough it is to come back from an injury and get yourself together. It's great she tried, but things don't always work out."

Kwan missed last month's U.S. nationals with a groin injury, and needed a medical exemption to join the Turin team. She was evaluated several times by U.S. Figure Skating doctors before she arrived in Turin, and they declared her fit to skate.

But she said she pulled the groin when she tried a triple flip Saturday, and the injury worsened throughout the day.

After examining her, Moeller said Sunday he does not believe the current injury is related to the groin problem Kwan had during the national championships.

"She was cleared medically and told she had a complete recovery from the prior injuries," Moeller said. "Based on my assessment at this moment, I would have to say it's an acute new injury."

This was Kwan's last gasp for Olympic gold. Though she's defined the sport for the past decade, winning five world and

HALFPIPE

Continued from Page 1B

said after a tearful celebration with his parents at the bottom of the hill.

It was no surprise that White supplied the magic. Wearing a stars-and-stripes bandanna over his chin, his mop of red hair peeking out from under the helmet, he soared through the crystal blue sky for the winning score of 46.8 on his first run of the finals.

That run offered the typical brilliance from this California kid, a 19-year-old who got his first endorsement deal six years ago.

With AC/DC's "Back In Black" blaring over the sound system, White practically touched the sky on his first jump, soaring about 25 feet over the edge of the pipe. He came back with consecutive 1080-degree jumps, grabbing his board on both, which earns big style points from the judges.

Then, it was a pair of 900s — one off the frontside wall and another off the backside — each of them high enough that he could pretty much look down and pick his landing spot on the snow.

In halfpipe finals, riders get two trips down the chute and only their best score counts. After White's winning run, he waited and watched the 11 riders take their second trip. Nobody could best his score, though, and



KRT photo/Andrew P. Scott, Dallas Morning News
U.S. snowboarders Shaun White, center, and Daniel Kass, left, celebrate on the presentation stand following the Men's Halfpipe snowboard competition Sunday in Bardonecchia, Italy during the 2006 Winter Games. White won the gold medal, Kass won silver and Markku Koski, right, of Finland, won the bronze.

when the second-to-last rider, Koski, fell on his final jump, White knew he had the gold wrapped up.

He threw his fists in the air, hugged his coaches, sat down to celebrate, then stood at the top and waved to the crowd.

Then, the final run. It could have been time for him to show off that vaulted backside 1080 air everyone was waiting for, but he was gassed, especially after a harrowing trip through qualifying where he was the last of the four Americans to make the finals.

So, after a few high

kicks off the side, he slipped and fell — then simply glided down the bottom, ready to wrap himself in the American flag that was waiting. When the run was over, he ran his hands across his head, his signature red hair poking out between his fingers.

Both he and Kass draped themselves in the flag during the flower ceremony. Indeed, it was a red-white-and-blue kind of day — heavy on the red.

This was a sport that didn't seem to fit into the Olympic program in its first two tries.

Snowboarders didn't like the conformist nature that has long surrounded the Olympics, nor did they like the rules set down by skiing's governing bodies, which didn't really seem to get the spirit of their sport.

A lot of that changed with the historic wins in 2002, so much so that White came into the Turin Games as something of a household name.

This victory, on top of five straight wins in Olympic qualifying events and victories at the recent X Games, only adds to the resume.

Three lifters lead Forsan at Big Lake Invite

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
BIG LAKE — Derrick Colegrove, Anthony Acosta and Caitlin Jones led the Forsan powerlifting team last Thursday at the Reagan County Invitational.

Colegrove placed first in his weight class with a lift of 1,110, while both Acosta and Jones were second. Acosta recorded a lift of 1,075, while Jones

lifted 405 in the girl's 155-pound division. Jeffery Carey was the

other participant who finished in the top five as his lift of 540 was good enough for fourth in the 132-pound class.

Michael Vega and Shelby Lefever each participated in the 148-pound class and finished with

lifts of 520 and 695, respectively. Curtis Gaston and Mitchell Murray each scored solid lifts in the 165-pound division with 640 and 870, respectively. Michael Leal lifted 735, while James Marlow lifted 770.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

line plays then you aren't going to win many games."

Ruiz improved to 3-1 on the mound this season with the win. She threw all five innings,

gave up just three hits and four unearned runs. She struck out four and walked three.

Ruiz also helped herself out at the plate as she hit a three-run home run in the Hawks' six-run second inning. It was her fourth home run of the season, tying

her with freshman Honda Rodriguez, who went two-for-four.

Sophomore Nicole Dickson had two singles, while freshman Alisha Rams was on base four times.

The Hawks hit the road Monday to play Ranger.

GOLF

Continued from Page 1B

Spring.

The Big Spring boy's top team placed 20th overall with a score of 742. Senior Brian Hale followed Cain with a two-day total of 189. He shot a 93 in Round 2. Heath Wilkerson shot two sub-100s and finished third on the team with a

197.

Plainview, Frenship and Andrews all finished in the top five of the team standings. Plainview won the meet with a 609 and was 21 strokes better than second-place Midland High. Frenship took third with a 644, while Andrews was fourth with a 650. San Angelo Lake View came in 12th.

Landon Waters of

Frenship finished first overall after shooting a second-round 67. He entered Round 2 tied with Cain for third place. Tommy Sikes of Midland High entered Saturday as the leader, but wound up second, two strokes behind Waters.

Bryston Jimenez and Shannon Allen, both of Plainview, tied for third with 147s.

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Do you live in Ackerly or Knott and work in Big Spring? Help pay your gasoline bill by delivering the Big Spring Herald in Ackerly and/or Knott.
For more info call
Duane McCollum
BIG SPRING HERALD
(432)263-7331

BIG SPRING ROUTE
Instant Income - No Selling.
\$12,950 req'd for locations & Inventory. (800)373-5470.

Business Opportunity

LOCAL VENDING Route. Must Sell! All for \$10,995.00 (800)440-7761.

The Big Spring Herald always need dependable carriers for various routes. Must have insurance and reliable transportation.

Apply in person.
Contact Duane McCollum
710 Scurry (432)263-7331

BIG SPRING HERALD

THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the National Classified ads. Before investing money in a business/employment opportunity with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

Cemetery Lots

CEMETERY LOT at Trinity Memorial Park, Garden of Sharon. \$900.00. Call Bobby Thurman toll-free (866)608-9302.

Help Wanted

CNAS NEEDED for 2pm-10pm and 10pm-6am shift. Contact Paula Lawrence, (325)378-2134. Sterling County Nursing Home.

FULL TIME RN Case Manager needed in Big Spring and surrounding areas with a fast growing home health agency. Apply @: Interim HealthCare, 4610 N. Garfield, Ste. B-20 or fax to: (432)618-0307.

Help Wanted

WE'RE GROWING! RN

with homehealth experience helpful but not needed to join our dynamic team of health-care professionals. We are a locally owned company who cares about our clients and our employees!

- * Full Time
- * Great Pay
- * Vacation & Sick Time
- * PAID Health Insurance
- * 401K
- * Great Work Environment
- * Paid Mileage

Please come by or mail resume to:

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

Help Wanted

BEST HOME Care is seeking qualified individual to fill position of community liaison. Excellent salary with chance to earn bonus pay. Apply at 111 E. 7th, Suite C.

CHILD CAREGIVER/ VAN DRIVER. Full or part-time. Apply in person at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan. Prior applicants, please reapply. No phone calls please.

DELIVERY DRIVER/ WAREHOUSE HAND

Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for a delivery driver/warehouse hand. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person:
Helena Chemical Company
100 S. St. Peter
Stanton, Tx 79782
Pre-employment drug screen required.
EOE M/F/V/H

DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

Help Wanted

EXPERIENCED TRUCK mechanic needed to work on Cummins & Caterpillar engines. Salary DOE, health insurance, 401K plan. Apply at Price Construction, 2701 N. Hwy. 350, Big Spring, Tx 79720 or fax resume to 4320263-6012. EOE

H.E.B. IS taking applications for the position of Hourly Experienced Cake Decorator for the Big Spring store. Stop by 2000 South Gregg for an application. No phone calls, please.

Help Wanted

HIRING FOR 2006! AVERAGE POSTAL EMPLOYEE EARNS \$57,000/YR. Minimum starting pay \$18.00/hr. benefits/paid training and vacations. No experience needed.
1-800-584-1775 ref#9020.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for a Physical Therapy Tech/ Assistant at Big Spring Physical Therapy. Experience preferred but will train a self-motivated, eager person. Fax resumes to (432)267-3581 or come by 1707 Lancaster for an application.



HR Generalist 1

StarTek is now hiring for HR Generalist 1. You must have high school diploma or GED. Must have solid knowledge of computers and software applications. Solid organizational skills with the ability to communicate effectively. Knowledge of state and federal laws regarding HR. StarTek offers great benefits, competitive pay, Paid time off and incredible advancement opportunities.

Call 432-264-2700
Or come by 501 Birdwell Lane,
Big Spring, TX
Or email your resume to
anna.osborne@startek.com

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

\$1.89 Per Day; 6-Month Contract \$1.58 Per Day
Call 263-7331 to place your ad today!!

<p>AUTO PARTS</p> <p>WESTEX Since 1947</p> <p>• 14 Acres of dismantled vehicles • 20,000 sq. ft. of Warehouse storage • Specialize in late model quality auto parts • Foreign and domestic parts for cars, trucks, mini-vans, 4x4 and sports utility vehicles Hrs. 8 a.m.-6:30 Wkday 8 a.m.-12 p.m. SAT 1511 Hwy 350 • (432) 263-5000</p>	<p>CARPET</p> <p>CARPET SALES and Construction Management Draw Plans & Estimates Kenny Thompson 270-0548</p>	<p>YOUR AD</p> <p>PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>MARQUEZ FENCE CO. All types of fences & repairs. Concrete work, carports. All work guaranteed. Free Estimates Benny Marquez-Owner 267-5714</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>J. T. Builders Remodeling • Drywall Ceramic Tile • Electrical Plumbing • Roofing Brick & Concrete Work Driveways • Sidewalks Fireplaces • Stucco Swimming Pool Decks JOHNNY TALAMANTEZ (432) 218-0882 Cell (432) 263-2110 Res. 108 E. 11th PLACE BIG SPRING, TX. 79720</p>	<p>DIRT WORK</p> <p>DECKER'S FARM SUPPLY & NURSERY We do Dirt Work, Brush Hog, Backhoe, Bulldozing, Small Grubbing Jobs and Will Clear Lots. 432-756-3444</p>
<p>FENCES</p> <p>Quality Fence Co. Jimmy Marquez-Owner Finest In Fencing Wood & Chainlink Free Estimates 432-270-7508</p>	<p>YOUR AD</p> <p>PUT YOUR AD HERE CALL 263-7331 Herald Classifieds BIG SPRING HERALD</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>ACEVEDO'S Pipe Fencing • Wire Fencing • Fencing Welding • Dozer Work Buy and Sell Pipe SANTIAGO ACEVEDO Loraine, Texas Cell: 325/242-2007 Home: 325/737-2361 Cell: 325/242-6576</p>	<p>FENCES</p> <p>B & M Fence Co. COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL GET OUR PRICE & COMPARE FREE ESTIMATES ROBERT MARQUEZ 263-1613 • 1-800-525-1389 1000 Lomax Hwy. • Big Spring</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>DOORS/ GARAGE DOORS/OPENERS Home Repair • Carpentry Sheet Work Repaired/Replaced Kitchen & Bath BOB'S CUSTOM WOODWORK 409 E. 3RD 267-5811</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>AFFORDABLE HOME MAINTENANCE •Renovation •Repairs •Maintenance Quality Work You Can Trust Satisfaction Guaranteed NO JOB IS TOO SMALL! Rene Crain (owner) 432-270-2585</p>
<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>R S HOME REPAIR Custom Wood Decks, Remodel, Carpenter, Painting, Plumbing, Minor Electrical FREE ESTIMATES Garage door repair, Appliances installed 816-3030</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Gibbs Remodeling New home Construction • Room Additions Dry Wall Hanging & Finishing Ceramic Tile • Installation & Repair All Remodel Needs Of Any Room In Your Home. Call 263-8285</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Speedy Sr. Construction We Do It All! Residential & Commercial Ceramic Tiles, Cabinets, Drywall, Textures, Plumbing, Electrical AC, Roofs, New Additions & Lawn Service Phone: 432-263-2911 Cell: 432-616-3832</p>	<p>LAWN SERVICE</p> <p>MOWING • ALLEYS HAULING • TILLING TREE TRIMMING STUMP REMOVAL CALL 432-267-5460 CELL 816-6150</p>	<p>PEST CONTROL</p> <p>SOUTHWESTERN A-1 PEST CONTROL Since 1954 432-263-6514 2008 Birdwell Lane Max F. Moore www.swalpc.com mm@swalpc.com</p>	<p>RENTALS</p> <p>VENTURA COMPANY 432-267-2655 Houses • Storages Commercial Buildings 1003, 07, 11 E. 11th Pl. For rent/sale 911 6th 1511 6th 204 5th Place</p>
<p>ROOFING</p> <p>PALACIOS ROOFING & HOME IMPROVEMENT Roofs, Room Additions, Ceramic Tile, Fences, Painting Insured & Bonded Home Phone# 432-263-5430 Cell# 432-213-0363</p>	<p>ROOFING</p> <p>JOHNNY FLORES ROOFING Shingles, Hot Tar & Gravel. All type of repairs! Work Guaranteed. Specializing in Hot Tar Roofs and Doctor of Repairs! Free Estimates!! Big Spring & Surrounding Areas. 267-1110</p>	<p>STORAGE</p> <p>AAA Mini-Storage Special 1/2 Off on select items Now Have Large or Small Units Available. We Store It All! Now Accepting Visa & Mastercard 3301 E. FM 700 263-0732</p>	<p>TAX SERVICES</p> <p>FAST CASH On Income Tax Refund Refund Loan Within 24 Hrs. TAX ASSOCIATES 406 Runnels Big Spring, Texas 79721 CALL (432) 264-6134 No Hidden Expenses! *With RAL Approval</p>	<p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>DONNAN'S TREE SERVICE Holiday Specials Tree Removal Specialist. Minor/Major trimming, stump removal, flower bed cleaned, hedges trimmed. Prices negotiable. (432) 575-9817 (432) 256-6776, cell.</p>	<p>TREE TRIMMING</p> <p>LUPE'S TREE TRIMMING More than 20 years of experience. Stump grinder available. For Tree Trimming and removal. Call Lupe Villalobos 432-268-8406</p>

Help Wanted

HOME CARE RN
Are you a patient advocate and looking for a job where people value your expertise? We are looking for a caring, qualified and dependable RN who would love to work in home care. If interested, send resume to Alicia Anderson of Accolade Home Care at 810 N. Dixie Ste 202A, Midland, Tx to fill out an application, or call (432)335-5699 or come by.

HOWARD COTTAGE
Part-time Position
Child Care Classroom/
Clerical Aide
High School diploma, formal child development training/coursework and one year experience in a licensed child care facility required. Bilingual (English/Spanish) preferred. Must be at least 18 years of age. For more information call (432)264-5185. Application available at the Howard College Personnel Office.

LIQUID PLANT ASSISTANT
Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for a Liquid Plant Assistant. This position includes loading and unloading liquid and dry fertilizer, weighing trucks, fertilizer spreaders, and general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person:
Helena Chemical Company
100 S. St. Peter
Stanton, TX 79782
Pre-employment drug screen required.
EOE M/F/V/H

LOOKING FOR (3) Part-time Personal Banker/Teller. Experienced preferred but not required. Apply at www.woodforest.com

MAINTENANCE POSITION AVAILABLE
The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for a Maintenance Worker for the Lake Thomas 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 and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas.

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

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

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY
Big Spring Area Routes
Midland Reporter-Telegram
The Midland Reporter-Telegram has delivery positions available in the Big Spring Area for both Home Delivery and Retail Outlet distribution. General knowledge of the Big Spring area, good organization for customer tracking, a reliable vehicle and a dependable commitment to early morning deliveries ranging from 2:00am-6:00 am. If interested please call 432-687-9002.

NOW HIRING Full time Driver. No experience necessary will train. Please apply in person, 912 East 4th Street, Big Spring.

NURSES UNLIMITED, Inc.
Needs Attendants to assist with Personal Care, Meal Prep. and Light Housekeeping. Part time basis. Please call 1-800-458-3257 M-F; 8A-5P EOE.

STERLING COUNTY Nursing Home is looking for Relief Cook/Dishwasher. Call and ask for Diann Nelson (325)378-2134.

Help Wanted

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation Now Hiring for Janitorial position. Experience preferred. Great working environment. Please apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway.

PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation We are now increasing our Certified Nurse Aid staff. Qualified person will be a friendly and compassionate team player. If this sounds like you, please apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway.

PRICE CONSTRUCTION is now hiring for the following positions:

1. Contract Administrator
2. Administrative Assistant
3. Safety/Hr Officer
4. Estimator

Resumes can be faxed to (432)267-1694 or apply in person at 2701 N. Highway 350, Big Spring, TX 79720. EOE Employer.

RECEPTIONIST NEEDED. Professional individual with 10-key, basic office skills, medical insurance experience. Salary D.O.E. Apply at Texas Workforce Network.

TAKING APPLICATIONS for the following positions: Backhoe operators, Bucket truck operators, CDL Class A or B Dump truck drivers, General Laborers, GOOD DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIRED or come by 1807 N. FM 700.

THE DEPARTMENT of State Health Services, WIC Program Clerk II Position. Seeking a person with clerical experience to work in the Big Spring WIC Clinic. Will be responsible for assisting in eligibility screening, physical assessment of clients, data entry of client information, issuing program benefits, preparing monthly reports, teaching group classes and outreach activities. Must enjoy working with the public. Bilingual/Biliterate (English/Spanish) required. For Complete Job Description and state application please access the State of Texas Web Site at <http://hhsjobs.hhs.state.tx.us>. Reference Job Posting #20331. State applications must be completed and received by 02/17/06. FAX 866-245-3646 or apply online.

THE SAN ANGELO Standard Times is seeking a mature individual for home delivery of newspapers in Big Spring. Make approximate \$650.00 per month. Running your own business. Must like working early morning hours. Call today 1-(800)588-1884 ext. 8294.

TRANSIT MIX Concrete has an opening for an Aggregate Truck Driver at our Big Spring location. Must have a Class A CDL license, good driving record and verifiable work history. Full benefit package and 35 hour guarantee offered. Apply at Transit Mix Concrete: 605 North Benton, Big Spring, TX (432)267-6348. Transit Mix Concrete is an EOE/AA employer.

TRUCK DRIVER
Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for an experienced truck driver. This position will make deliveries, load and unload product, utilize a forklift, and perform general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent, CDL with HAZMAT endorsement. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person:
Helena Chemical Company
100 S. St. Peter
Stanton, TX 79782
Pre-employment drug screen required.
EOE M/F/V/H

TRUCK DRIVERS \$500 SIGN-ON BONUS
Drivers earn up to \$50 thousand per year plus a \$500 sign-on bonus. Benefits include: Medical, Life and Dental Insurance and paid vacation. Applicants should have 3 years driving experience. Oilfield driving experience hauling sand, dry cement, or other equipment operating experience helpful. Class A CDL, good driving record, DOT drug & alcohol testing required. Call 432-563-0722 M-F from 8am-5pm to schedule interview.

Help Wanted

WAITRESSES NEEDED
Split Shift
Must be 18
Monday-Saturday
Apply in person,
Red Mesa Grill
2401 Gregg

WANTED QUALIFIED High Speed Mechanic at Natural Gas Processing Plant, North East of Big Spring. Fax resume to (432)399-4290 or e-mail buncej@croom.net

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY
Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

Items for Sale
HUGE SAVINGS on Furniture, Electronics and Appliances. Come by 501 E. Birdwell Lane #14 or call (432)263-0076.

NEW BALANCE Elliptical & Bow Flex. Sell both for \$1200. Call (432)267-7449 or (432)557-6504.

ORLANDO/ DISNEY Area. 7/6 night stay. Paid \$600.00 Will sell for \$199. Good for one year. Call 915-233-2010.

Lost and Found
FOUND YORKIE in Highland area. Call (432)466-1859 to identify.

Miscellaneous
42" WHITE Westinghouse double electric oven. \$200.00 Call (432)263-0087.

A MATTRESS, Queen set, PILLOWTOP. New in plastic, factory warranty. \$199.00. Call (806)549-3110.

AAHI NO Motion King Memory Foam mattress and foundation, New in plastic with warranty. \$799.00 Must Sell. Call (806)549-3110.

BARGAIN KING PILLOWTOP Mattress and box. Warranty, Still in package. \$299.00. Call (806)549-3110.

CHEAPEST ADVERTISING OUTDOORS!!! (35/MO.)
Bench signs see lots of traffic daily! Advertise your business where you get more bang for your buck! Bench sign advertising in Big Spring 800-417-7419.

FAMILY HEALTHCARE w/ prescription plan \$69.99/mo. Nationwide coverage, no limitations. Includes: doctors, dental, vision, hospital and more. Everyone accepted! Call WCG 800-228-9214 X2303.

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

ORLANDO/ DISNEY area. 7/6 nights stay. Paid \$600. Sell \$199. Good for one year. Call (915)233-2010.

SALE: 12'X16' Metal insulated portable building on skids, with bathroom and 2 windows. \$8500.00 or Best Offer! Call (432)756-2888.

National Ads

"HIRING FOR 2006" AVERAGE POSTAL EMPLOYEE EARNS \$57,000/YR Minimum Starting Pay \$18.00/hr. Benefits/Paid Training and Vacations No Experience Needed 1-800-584-1775 Ref #9801.

\$\$\$ UPTO \$529 WEEKLY! Mailing letters from home. FT/PT. No experience necessary. U.S. Digest 1-888-389-1790 24-hours.

\$0 DOWN HOMES! NO RENT! Gov't & Bank Repo's! No Credit OK! For Listings, 1-800-746-4890.

\$1,000 - \$3,425 WEEKLY! Processing Simple E-mails Online! Make \$25.00 Per Email! No Limit! Answer Surveys Online! Make \$15.00+ Per Survey! Guaranteed Paychecks! Amazing Employment Opportunities! <http://www.processemails.com/>

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\$25,000 FREE CASH GRANTS***2006!** Never Repay! For Personal bills, School, New Business. \$49 BILLION left unclaimed from 2005! Call NOW! Live Operators! 1-800-681-5732 ext. 74.

National Ads

\$25,000 FREE CASH GRANTS***2006!** Never Repay! For Personal bills, School, New Business. \$49 BILLION left unclaimed from 2005! Call NOW! Live Operators! 1-800-274-5086 ext. 69.

\$25,000 FREE CASH GRANTS***2006!** Never Repay! For Personal bills, School, New Business. \$49 BILLION left unclaimed from 2005! Call NOW! Live Operators! 1-800-270-1213 ext. 75.

******\$50,000.++ FREE CASH GRANTS! 2006!****AVOID DEADLINES! CALL NOW!** For Personal/Medical Bills, School, New Business/Home. NEVER REPAY! ALMOST EVERYONE QUALIFIES! Live Operators! 1-800-274-5086 ext. 71.

******\$500-\$100,000++ FREE CASH GRANTS! 2006!****NEVER REPAY! FOR PERSONAL/MEDICAL BILLS, SCHOOL, NEW HOME/BUSINESS, ALMOST EVERYONE QUALIFIES. AVOID DEADLINES! LIVE OPERATORS** 1-800-270-1213 EXT. 70.

******\$500-\$50,000++ FREE CASH GRANTS! 2006! NEVER REPAY! Personal/Medical Bills, School, New Business-Home. As seen on T.V. NO CREDIT CHECK! Live Operators!** 1-800-270-1213 ext. 73.

******\$500.-\$50,000.++ FREE CASH GRANTS! 2006!****NEVER REPAY! Personal/Medical Bills. School, New Business/Home. Almost EVERYONE qualifies! FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE! Live Operators!** 1-800-681-5732 ext. 72.

ALL CASH BUSINESS! Local Candy Vending Route! \$50K/yr potential. 30 machines + candy. \$9,895. Call Now! 1-800-704-5414.

ARE YOU making \$1,710 per week? All cash vending routes with prime locations available now! Under \$9,000 investment required. Call Toll Free (24-7) 800-749-3365.

BE DEBT FREE. Professional help with credit card debt. Stop fees, lower payments, lower interest rates. One monthly payment. 1-866-244-8061. FREE Financial Education Available. GENESIS www.yourgfm.com

BLOWN HEAD GASKET? Repair yourself for under \$100.00. State of the art 2-part carbon metallic chemical process. 100% GUARANTEED. 1-866-780-9041 www.RxAuto.com

BUY FORECLOSURES FROM \$200 MONTH! 4%dn/30yr/7.5% APR. For Listings 1-800-714-0570 ext. A-1244.

CONSOLIDATE BILLS/LOANS. Bad Credit Welcome. From \$3,000 - \$150,000. 8% APR. Save Money Now. 1-800-966-7458.

COOL TRAVEL Job!!! One Month Paid Training! \$500 Sign on Bonus Must be free to travel & Start Today 1-800-735-7462.

DRIVERS - A earn as you learn career! England Transport now offers on the job CDL training. No credit check, no co-signers, No down payment Toll Free 1-866-619-6081.

EARN EXTRA INCOME Assembling CD cases from home. 1-800-405-7619 EXT. 725 www.easywork-greatpay.com

EARN UP to \$550 WEEKLY Working through the government PT No Experience. Call Today!! 1-800-488-2921 Ask for Department T.

FEDERAL POSTAL JOBS! Now Hiring! Earn \$12 - \$48 per hour / No Experience Full Benefits / Paid Training 1-866-409-2663 ext. 20.

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FREE DIRECTV Satellite, 4 rooms. FREE TiVo/DVR. Add HDTV, 220 Channels + locals from \$29.99/month. First 500 orders - Free DVD Player. 866-641-7031. Promo #16026

LUCRATIVE ONLINE Home Business Opportunity! Visit <http://live12345a.survey1183.hop.clickbank.net>

National Ads

GOVERNMENT JOBS \$12-\$48/hr. Full Benefits/Paid Training. Many Government Positions Available. Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Wildlife and more! Call 7 days. 1-800-320-9353 ext 2501.

HEALTHCARE FOR \$59.93/mo !!! NEW LOW PRICE! For entire Family! Prescriptions, Dental, Vision, Hospitalization, more! All Pre-existing Conditions OK! Call Today! 1-800-269-0538 SC. W-8729 Provided By: P.S. Family Healthcare.

NEW YEAR - NEW CAREER. 16 Day Company Sponsored CDL Training available. Low Tuition with easy financing. Bad Credit No Problem. No Credit Check Required. 1-800-398-9908.

PERFECT HOME BUSINESS! Make \$2,000+ Weekly! Very little Work Involved-We take Your Calls-Close Deals. You Collect \$1,000 Checks! 1-877-591-7486 ID#SK7429 \$1995 Investment Required.

SAWMILLS FROM only \$2795.00-Convert your LOGS TO VALUABLE LUMBER with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.norwood-industries.com FREE Information: 1-800-578-1363-Ext:200-U.

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For details on placing or answering a classified ad, see our Web site: www.bigspringherald.com, or call: 432-263-7331.
BIG SPRING HERALD
710 SCURRY BIG SPRING

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

1010 EAST 20th. Three bedroom, two bath. Call (432)267-3841, 517-0642.

106 EAST 24th. 3/2. CH/A. Washer/dryer connections. New stove & refrigerator. This is a Nice House in a Good Location. References will be required and Checked. Please No Losers Need Call. \$625. Month, \$200. deposit. (432)263-0703, 263-0703 after 5:00 pm.

1111 MULBERRY. Clean 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, washer/ dryer connections. \$425. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

1406 YOUNG. 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$235. month, \$100. deposit. 448 Armstrong. Large 4 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. HUD approved. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

1408 DONLEY. Extra Clean, Furnished 1 bedroom 1 bath Apartment. Water & Gas Paid. \$325. month, \$150. deposit. Sorry No Pets. (432)263-4922.

1413 SYCAMORE: 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A. New paint & carpet. \$14,000.00 Cash or Owner Finance with \$2,000.00 Down. Call (325)695-6100 after 6:00 p.m.

2 Bedroom 1 bath @ 807 Anna - \$300.00. 1 Bedroom, 1/2 duplex @ 502 Golliad - \$240.00. Partially furnished. Call (432)267-7380.

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

2600 CARLTON: 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A. Nice neighborhood and yard. New paint inside/out. New carpet. \$485. Month, \$500. deposit. No HUD. Call (432)213-2681.

3005 CACTUS. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Unfurnished. Call Mary. (432)213-0828. 9:00-7:00 p.m.

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With Schneider's benefits and your dedication, the sky is the limit.
Apply Online @ schneiderjobs.com
Or call 1-800-44-PRIDE (1-800-447-7439)

Real Estate for Rent

407-1/2 East 8th- 1/1 bath. Stove & refrigerator. \$275. month, \$175. deposit. CH/A. No HUD and no pets. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

613 ELGIN. Clean 3 bedroom, 1 bath. CH/A, fenced yard. Stove & refrigerator furnished. \$450.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

706-B GOLIAD. Clean one bedroom house. Stove & refrigerator furnished, fenced yard. \$225. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

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

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

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

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS
1 Bedroom - \$400. month
\$200. deposit.
All Bills Paid
403 East 8th
Call (432)267-2771

SUNSET RIDGE APTS
Family Friendly
Free Cable TV
Playground!
No Water Bill
Paragon Security
24 Hour Laundry
On-Site Mgr & Maint
2 Bdrm \$345
1 Bdrm \$255
(432)263-2292

Real Estate for Sale

1150 SQ. ft. brick home, 2 bedroom, one bath, 2 car garage. Total electric, on two acres, with large barn, three water wells. 8-1/2 miles northwest of Big Spring. Call (432)816-6042.

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

What's LAST!

20 ACRES on Hwy. 176. Set up for Mobile Home, 43K, \$4,000.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 29 years. No Credit Check. (817)312-6322.

COUNTY HOME 3 Bedroom, 2 bath in Forsan School District. Horse barns w/huge pipe fence, riding corral, 1 acre. \$65,000. Firm. No Owner Finance. (432)466-1850.

NEAR ELBOW School, 2 bedroom 2 bath with 3 car garage on 10 secluded acres. Shade trees, good water well plus 2 irrigation wells. A barn and two storage buildings. \$89,000 firm. Call (432)213-1800 after 5pm.

NEW CONSTRUCTION Owner Anxious. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. Wonderful closets, pretty cabinets with marble counter tops. Priced Reduced \$180's. Call Joe Hughes @ Home Realtors (432)263-1284 Cell 270-7877 Home 353-4751.

Real Estate for Sale

OWNER FINANCE. 1960S North Hwy. 87 in Ackerly, 2.84 acres. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath w/barn. On 87 and 2230. \$26,000.00, \$3,000 Down. Toll Free 866-894-4591, 325-850-5900.

OWNER FINANCED 506 State 2 bedroom, 1 bath, large kitchen. \$1500 down, payment approx. \$240/month for 12 yrs. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

OWNER FINANCING. Attractive 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath w/Shop. Ready to Move in. Great Starter Home. Can be yours with Minimum Down and Low Monthly Payments. Call (432)599-1003.

Vehicles

Several New 2006
Fords, Lincolns,
Nissans Available
At Huge Savings

Bob Brock Ford
300 W. 14th 267-7121

2004 TOYOTA Tacoma pickup. 5-speed, A/C, cruise, bedliner. Call (432)965-3486 or (432)321-2725.

CLASSIC 1975 Chevy Monza with factory V8. New exhaust & engine. \$5,000.00. Call (432)267-3564.

Legals

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read. CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/ BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S)
Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 0005-05-096 for LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT in HOWARD County will be opened on March 08, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO:19195

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

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

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. #4870 February 12 & 13, 2006

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Virgo moon helps us deal with any aftermath that needs tending to after yesterday's full and dramatic Leo moon.

There's cleaning up to do, borrowed things to be returned and apologies to be made and/or accepted.

Start by making a list. This moon helps you organize your priorities, and after that, your schedule goes like clockwork.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Romance is blossoming in your metaphorical yard. Tend soil and pull weeds so the flowers will be more visible from your window. In other words, get it together so that you can put the "pretty" out there for everyone to see.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may feel a bit invisible in your work situation. However, the positive aspect indicates that you can get much done under the radar. Take advantage of the calm. Give thanks.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What seemed just fine yesterday now feels deficient, including your small apartment or older-model car. Bolster your self-esteem in non-materialistic ways. (Because dwelling on what you don't have can wear you out!)

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Thanksgiving is not

just for November. It's time to be grateful for all you have and all you are, even if it's not feeling like enough. The grandeur of your inner self emerges through this key action.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Recent changes in your immediate surroundings may have you disoriented, but you have cat-like abilities to land on your feet. All you need to know is presented through a caring loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Execute your project with gusto. When you see it coming to life, you feel the release you have been looking for, and critics start to understand what you're getting at.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Someone close is ready to give you what you want. Ask for help, and get ready to feel supported. It's that simple. Sagittarius and Aquarius people are your advocates.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're supportive of friends and family, but don't leave yourself out of the mix. Old problems are solved with a new alliance — Aquarius and Gemini are especially tuned in to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Just because it doesn't go your way doesn't mean it won't be better for you in the long run. Relax, and maintain your sense of humor through this afternoon's mishaps. Later, this makes you richer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're spending an inordinate amount of

time trying to be perfect. All you need to do is be yourself. On a financial note, a friendship with a Cancer or a Pisces will be profitable for both of you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your tendency to day-dream pays off with a winning idea. Others (Aries and Virgo in particular) take your imagination more seriously when they find it can make them money.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The stars are writing a comedy for you today, so brush up on your acting and remember how to play funny. By this afternoon, you'll have 'em rolling in the aisles — Leo and Aries people in particular.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "Once I had our charts done, and my boyfriend and I are perfect together on paper. But I don't like being around him anymore. Everything he does irritates me, and I feel depressed about a future with him. Could I be wrong and the chart be right?"

You misunderstand the benefits of astrology. Astrology isn't meant to make you doubt your own choices. It is best used to inform your inner instincts and help you understand your own nature and the nature of others around you. Let's examine this from a few different angles: For one thing, even though your chart is extremely compatible with this man, who is to say that it wouldn't be an even bet-

ter match with someone else's? Another way to look at it is that "compatibility" is a subjective term. Two people who don't have much in common could bring out passions in one another that two people who's charts match perfectly would never experience. Also, many relationships are perfect for a certain period of time but not appropriate for other stages of life. You know the ultimate answer and should never use astrology as an excuse to go against your gut feelings.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The world's most famous heiress with a penchant for all things girly and cool, Paris Hilton is ubiquitous — but, for some reason, we cannot get enough of this Aquarian blonde bombshell. Hilton will finally take a rest toward the end of 2006. I see her seriously reflecting on her priorities, which by 2007 will take shape as settling into a family unit of her own, complete with husband and baby.

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. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I love my fiancée, "Lizzie," dearly, but she has a serious painkiller addiction, and I don't know how to deal with it.

Lizzie has been in rehab twice, and upon release, fell right back into her old habit. However, you may be shocked to learn how she gets her supply. Whenever she needs a new prescription, she walks into the nearest emergency room claiming back pain. They X-ray her, tell her she has no broken bones and give her a prescription for a painkiller.

I have contacted the hospital and have even spoken to the ER doctors in person, to no avail. I tell them that she will consume 60 Vicodin tablets in less than three days, but still they continue to write her prescriptions. I have contacted every private-practice physician she knows, and they tell me they are prohibited by law from acting upon my information.

Please, I am begging for help. I love Lizzie with all my heart, but I do not know how to prevent her from gaining easy access to these narcotics. — "Doc" in Love

Dear Doc: The pharmacies, hospitals and doctors should be keeping records of Lizzie's prescriptions, but it's possible she is obtaining Vicodin in so many different places, or under different names, that they have no documentation of abuse.

There are several organizations for friends and families of addicts. Check your phone book for Al-Anon (alateen-alanon.org) or look into Nar-Anon (nar-anon.org) at 1-800-477-6291 and Families Anonymous (familiesanonymous.org) at 1-800-736-9805. Good luck.

Dear Annie: I'm a 23-year-old male. I am single and am having a hard time meeting or even talking to girls. Most of my friends are engaged, married or otherwise attached, so I'm left alone.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

I have been hurt and used a lot in the past, but I've tried to put that behind me. I'm a very sweet and caring guy. Sometimes I think that is my problem. I'm too nice. I'm also shy and scared of rejection. I've been told I'm good-looking, but when I approach women, I get all red and blush and then have no idea what to say.

I've tried going to bars and clubs, but I have no luck there. How else can I meet women? — Single, Lonely Guy in Jerzee

Dear Jerzee: You need to work on your confidence levels. You sound like a great guy, and we suspect there are plenty of women who would be interested.

If bars don't work for you, try church events, supermarkets and bookstores. Join a theater group or choir. Volunteer for a political candidate. Such venues will allow you to meet others who share your interests, and give you a natural source of conversation without the pressure. You also can ask your friends to introduce you to available females, and try meeting women through online chat rooms and reputable dating sites, where you don't have to meet face-to-face until you feel comfortable doing so. We'll be rooting for you.

Dear Annie: You printed a letter from a woman who was often mistaken for being her child's grandmother. She asked for a tactful way to reply. I was 46 when my only child was born eight

years ago. I would come home in tears after hearing people ask, "Is that your granddaughter?" Unlike your reader, I was not interested in tact. I wanted revenge on these thoughtless people.

As luck would have it, I never needed a reply. After a while, the tiny baby will stop being so irresistibly cute, and eventually, people will go on to admire other babies. I do, however, enjoy reading my AARP magazine while my daughter is in gymnastics.

Connecticut Mom
Dear Mom: We once saw a gray-haired man who wore a baseball cap with the embroidered words, "No, I'm her father," when he carried around his little toddler. Whatever works.

Dear Annie: My sister, "Nancy," has been dating "Rob" for nearly eight months, and she believes they eventually will marry. My siblings and parents initially welcomed Rob into the family, but in the last few weeks, we discovered that he has several felony and misdemeanor charges pending against him and two misdemeanor convictions, all involving forgery and passing bad checks.

Around the same time this information came to light, Nancy discovered that someone had been opening credit accounts in her name. She first accused Rob, but he talked his way out of it and she now believes he is innocent. However, the more we find out about Rob, the more afraid we are that he indeed is stealing from Nancy and will ruin her credit.

My family has tried to warn Nancy, but she becomes defensive. Although she knows for a fact that Rob used her debit card without permission, she has forgiven him and actually asked his forgiveness for accusing him of identity theft. Meanwhile, the rest of the family has banned him from our homes, fearful

that he may get access to our personal information and financial documents.

I am afraid that Rob will plunge Nancy into financial distress, but I also am concerned that as long as she sticks with him, she will be isolated from the rest of the family. We know she has to make this decision for herself, but is there anything we can do to help? We've already given her information on identity theft, but she ignores it. Annie, we need your advice. — Concerned Sister

Dear Sister: You already know that Nancy is not going to listen when it comes to Rob. This is unfortunate, because he sounds like a bad risk. However, isolating her from the family will not help matters, especially if something nasty happens. You don't have to welcome Rob into your home in order to see Nancy. Please arrange to meet her for lunch or visit at her place. We suspect she is going to need you soon.

Dear Annie: This is for "Sober Only Child," whose alcoholic, abusive father harangues her over the phone. Your advice to contact Adult Children of Alcoholics was excellent, but on a more practical note, I would suggest getting Caller ID.

I come from such an outlandishly dysfunctional family that we make the Osbournes look normal. My life has been so much easier with Caller ID. If she doesn't want to deal with Dad, she just shouldn't pick up the phone when he calls. Problem solved. — Love Technology

Dear Love Tech: Thanks for the suggestion. Yes, Caller ID can solve a multitude of problems, but only if it is available in her area. You'd be surprised how many places do not have it.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

You say you didn't notice until it was too late to do anything about it?

Probably, if you aren't checking the Public Notices columns of this newspaper regularly.

Public Notices are required by state law to protect your rights and to help you function more effectively as a citizen. Access to information about what government agencies are doing is what makes the American the most powerful citizen in the world.

The Public Notices give you access to information you need...about plans for major land use changes...about where roads will go...whose land will be condemned...how your tax dollars will be spent...about court actions that could be important to you, or just plain interesting.

Whether you know them as Public Notices or as "the legals", it pays you to check the Public Notice columns in this newspaper each issue. What you don't know might cost you!

MONDAY

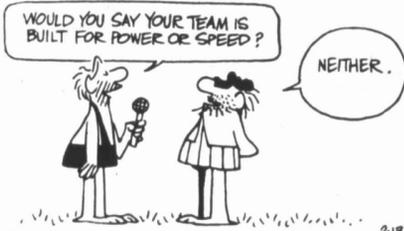
Table with 24 columns (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOBA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows (6-12) listing TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"THANKS, DAD. WHILE YOU'RE UP, WOULD YOU MIND BRINGIN' A COUPLE DOG BISCUITS FOR OL' RUFF?"

BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"They're in Italy, so I bet all the winners get free pizza."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



This Date In History

Today is Monday, Feb. 13, the 44th day of 2006. There are 321 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 13, 1935, a jury in Flemington, N.J., found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-death of the son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh.

Switzerland. In 1945, during World War II, the Soviets captured Budapest, Hungary, from the Germans. In 1945, Allied planes began bombing the German city of Dresden. In 1960, France exploded its first atomic bomb. In 1980, opening ceremonies were held in Lake Placid, N.Y., for the 13th Winter Olympics.

Naughton is 55. Rock musician Peter Hook is 50. Actor Matt Salinger is 46. Singer Henry Rollins is 45. Actor Neal McDonough is 40. Singer Freedom Williams is 40. Actress Kelly Hu is 38. Rock musician Todd Harrell (3 Doors Down) is 34. Singer Robbie Williams is 32. Rhythm-and-blues performer Natalie Stewart (Floetry) is 27. Actress Mena Suvari is 27.

Thought for Today: "To go against the dominant thinking of your friends, of most of the people you see every day, is perhaps the most difficult act of heroism you can have." - Theodore H. White, American political writer (1915-1986).

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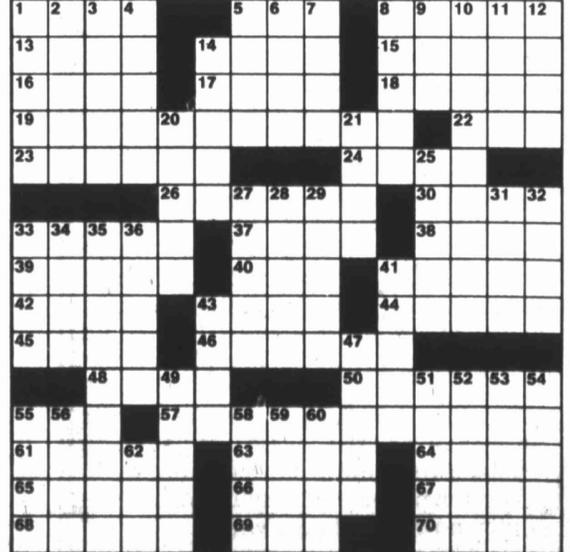
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE grid with words like ENTHOUSE, LITERATE, SHOUTER, FEDERAL, PERMS, VET, SEDGE, ERAS, RIVET, DIET, RIG, SECEDED, ERE, STEEPLES, ROARED, LEAD, URNS, LARIAT, SPANIARD, ORA, REPLICCA, DEE, AMTS, DRONE, MEGA, DORIS, AGA, PALER, IRATELY, ROUTINE, NECKTIE, MOMENTS, GREASED, SPAREST.

Newsday Crossword

BODY LANGUAGE by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 Lasso 5 Smash into 8 Spaghetti or ravioli 13 Battery fluid 14 Hourly pay 15 Pale 16 Not on time 17 Of unknown authorship: Abbr. 18 Use watercolors 19 Geometry subject 22 Scoreboard postings: Abbr. 23 Great bother 24 Spheres 26 Pleasant smells 30 "Yikes!" 33 Go quickly 37 Pesters 38 Gone With the Wind estate 39 Steed or stallion 40 Historical period 41 Mar. 17 honoree 42 Alan of M*A*S*H 43 Speaker's platform 44 Shoe parts 45 Wall-calendar line 46 Pass, as time 48 "Dam it!" 50 Sharp-eyed birds 55 Clumsy one 57 Where a pane is inserted

- 61 Show to be true 63 Office assistant 64 Israeli diplomat Eban 65 Spooky 66 Settled the bill 67 Limerick, for example 68 Specified 69 Pub serving 70 Makes mistakes 7 Bistro handout 8 Copier insert 9 Dry __ bone 10 Trim and tidy 11 Circus structure 12 Aardvarks' snacks 14 Thin cookie 20 Fill with joy 21 Flagmaker Betsy 25 Montana city 27 Tatum or Ryan 28 Santa __ (ship of 1492) 29 Shocked 31 Type of exam 32 Berets and bonnets 33 Playwright George Bernard 34 Old king of rhyme 35 Catalog page to fill in 36 Japanese city 41 Bundle of wheat 43 TV star Arnaz 47 Assembled, as a blouse 49 Suit material 51 Jelly flavor 52 Plug away 53 Fireplace remnant 54 Stitched lines 55 Ready for customers 56 General vicinity 58 California wine valley 59 Clock face 60 Garfield dog 62 Compete



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BIG SPRING J... Su... Bu... fail... on... By THO... Staff W... Howa... ers agr... jail fac... house d... otherwi... on a silt... day uti... Commis... The c... for the... to do the... from E... director... which v... sioner's... ago to d... jail mat... "We'r... for gra... moving... P... By THO... Staff W... Howa... ers Cou... create... bondin... mornin... sioners... overcro... county... The d...