



## County votes 3-2 to acquire old pharmacy

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners voted 3-2 to approve going ahead with the purchase of the old Leonard's Pharmacy building — located next to the district court house on Scurry — in possible preparations for a new county jail facility.

Commissioners Gary Simer and Emma Brown — along with County Judge Ben Lockhart — voted in favor of the purchase during Monday morning's court meeting and also gave the judge permission to begin negotiations with other land owners on the same quarter-block of the street.

Commissioners Bill Crooker and Jerry Kilgore voted against the measure, which came following a presentation by local architect Phil Furqueron of a proposed 96-bed county jail facility to be located on the northeast quarter of the block.

Lines have been deeply drawn among the court over which design to follow through on — a 96-bed facility located

**"At this point in time, I'm not in favor of building a jail next to the district court that's not expandable from 96 inmates. This is foolish. To me, it's a very stupid thing to do."**

Crooker

adjacent to the district court or a joint law enforcement facility on the west side of the city — since commissioners took the matter up several months ago, following a lengthy moratorium called for by Lockhart.

The design Furqueron presented commissioners with Monday would call for the county to acquire a full half-block on the north side of the block, including the site where the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce and Moore Development for Big Spring offices now sit.

And while questions of eminent domain — whereby the county can purchase the property without the consent of the land owners — were mentioned during the meeting, Crooker said he feels like the court is simply barking up the wrong tree.

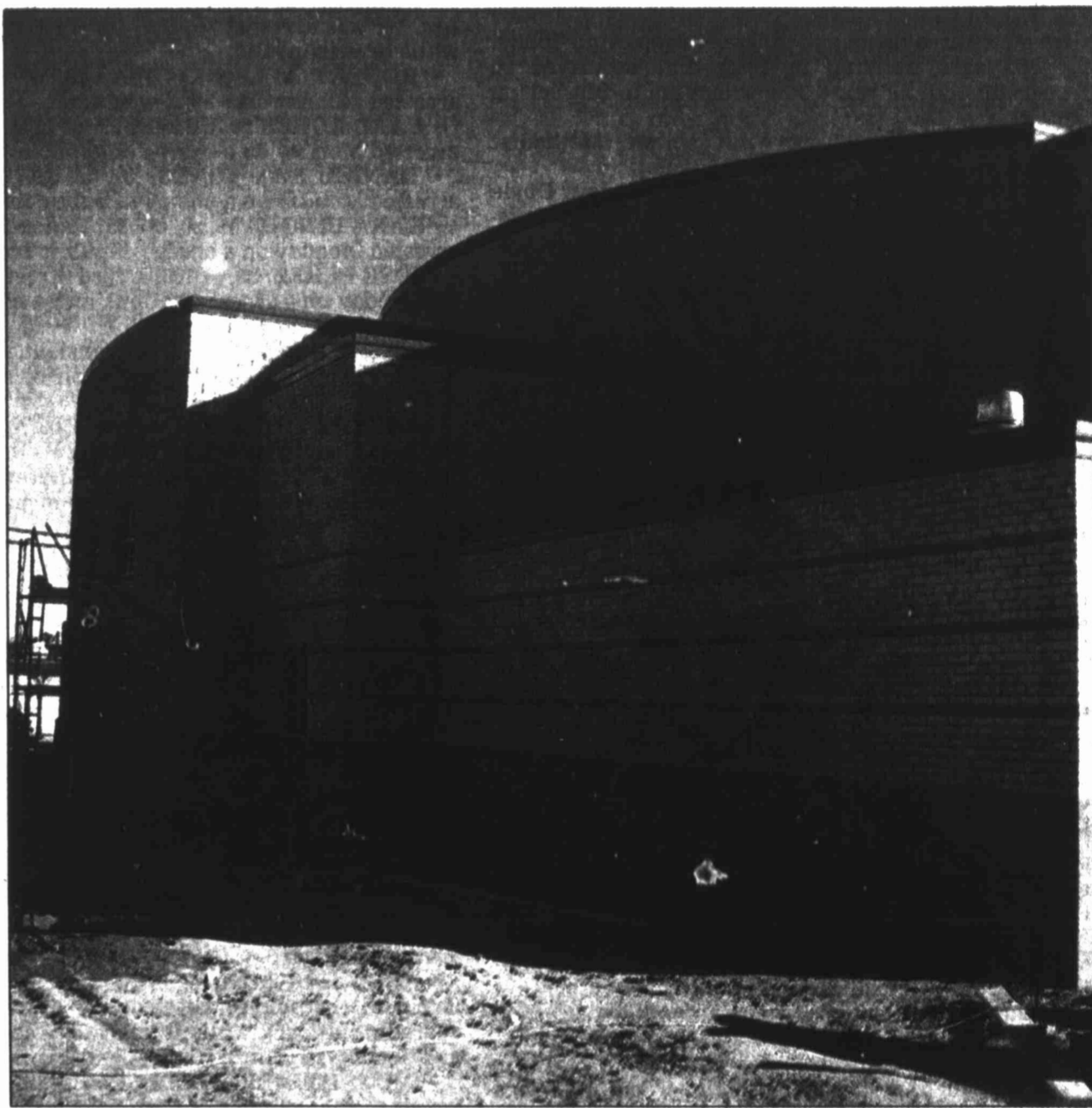
"At this point in time, I'm not in favor of building a jail next to the district court that's not expandable from 96 inmates," said Crooker. "This is foolish. To me, it's a very stupid thing to do. Now they're

See **JAIL**, Page 3A

**"If we don't build a jail there, we need parking around the courthouse because on court days people have to park two or three blocks away and walk up here... It's a good purchase for the county."**



Simer



Herald photo/Steve Reagan

The Visual and Performing Arts Center on the campus of Howard College is nearing completion. The \$3.5 million complex is scheduled for opening within the next two months.

## Performing arts center construction on target

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Construction on the new Howard College Visual and Performing Arts Center is just one day behind schedule, according to project officials, putting the facility very much in line with its mid-April completion date.

Phil Furqueron, the architect in charge of the construction, told the college board of trustees Monday that the one-day estimation is very encouraging, especially when they take into account how construction companies compute how far ahead — or behind — they are on a project.

"They (construction compa-

nies) have a computer program that creates a critical path progress chart," said Furqueron. "They plug in the numbers, and according to the program, it says we're a day behind, which is kind of mythical. The fact, however, that we're almost right on target is

See **CENTER**, Page 3A

## Jury returns \$160 million verdict against nursing home operator

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A jury in Bexar County has awarded \$160 million to the family of a now-deceased elderly man severely beaten in 1997 by his mentally ill roommate at Comanche Trail Nursing Center in Big Spring.

The jury found last week that

Burbank, Calif.-based Summit Care Corp., its Texas subsidiary and two nursing home employees were to blame for the beating of Tranquilino Mendoza, who died less than three years after the attack of unrelated causes.

"I wish my daddy was here,"

said Rosamarie Paradez, Mendoza's daughter and administrator of his estate. "I'm glad I had the opportunity to finish what he started."

Mendoza was 81 when he was beaten at the Comanche Trail Nursing Center in Big Spring. Paradez said her father, who

enjoyed playing rancho music on his guitar, never recovered from the trauma.

"He loved the nursing home. All of his friends were there," said plaintiff lawyer J. Thomas Rhodes. "After this happened, he was afraid of the nursing home."

Defense attorney Laurie Weiss said medical records demonstrated that Mendoza recovered quickly and fully from his injuries.

"It has been our desire to fairly and reasonably compensate

See **VERDICT**, Page 3A

## Weather spotter school set for public Thursday evening

By **THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

With the severe weather season right around the corner, the National Weather Service will give area residents the chance to sharpen their storm-spotting skills next week.

That's the question the National Weather Service is asking local residents, as it gets ready to hold weather spotting classes Thursday from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Big Spring City Council Chambers.

"The weather spotter

school is put on by the National Weather Service to train people in the community on how to look at the clouds and conditions and tell what's going on," said Big Spring Police Department Lt. Terry Chamness. "It's very intense. It's very

good training and it's only a two-hour class. "They will also have information on how to go online to the National Weather Service Web site and track the weather on their radar sites. That way they can see what's coming up."

Chamness said the course will cover the most common severe weather situations for the Howard County area in hopes of preparing area residents for the worst case scenario.

"It's really a lot of good information for people to

have," said Chamness. "It gives people a basic knowledge of what severe weather is like in our area. Since we're getting ready to head into the severe weather season, which begins in March

See **SPOTTER**, Page 3A

### INDEX

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



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### A&M SCHOLARSHIPS

The Howard County A&M Club is accepting applications from students who are currently enrolled at Texas A&M University or graduating high school seniors who have been accepted at the university for the fall 2006 semester.

Students must be Howard County residents and enroll for at least 12 hours. More information and an application may be found on the club Web site at [clubs.aggienetwork.com/howard-countyamc/](http://clubs.aggienetwork.com/howard-countyamc/).

Deadline for applications is April 1. For further information, contact Jerry Foresyth, scholarship chairman, at 263-3532 or 270-5051.

### KIDS' CRAFTS

Bartholomew Cubbins nearly ended up dead after silly King Derwin (the ruler of Didd), demanded he remove the hat from his head. Poor Bartholomew, try as he might, could not stop his hat from reappearing in the popular Dr. Seuss classic "The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins."



See **PAGE 6A**

### MARCH BLOOD DRIVES

United Blood Services will be conducting several drives in Howard County next month.

March 9, a drive will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Star Tek. Coordinator is Anna Osborne, 264-2700.

March 11, a drive will be at the Eastside Baptist Church Fellowship Hall from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. To reach coordinator Troy McClendon, call 267-6025.

March 29, the USB Bloodmobile will be at Coahoma ISD from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. All of the drives are open to the public. To donate blood, a person must be in good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be 17 or older.

## Obituaries

## Louise Bollinger



Louise Bollinger, 82, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 27, 2006, in the Hospice House of Odessa. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Dave Ring, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

She was born Oct. 2, 1923, in Loraine. She taught school in Ackerly for three years, Flower Grove for three years and at Sweetwater High School for 35 years, retiring in 1985. She had lived in Sweetwater for 40 years before moving to Big Spring in 1990.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include a brother and sister-in-law, Doyle and Isabelle Bollinger of Albuquerque, N.M.; three sisters, Dena Walden of Lubbock and Billie Adams and Janice Bollinger, both of Big Spring; 11 nieces and nephews; 25 great-nieces and nephews; and several great-great-nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Betty Jean Gross.

The family suggests memorials to the First United Methodist Church, P.O. Drawer 1229, Big Spring 79721-1229 or to Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh, Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

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

## Antonia Granados Gomez

Antonia Granados Gomez, 57, of temple, died Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2006. Services were 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, 2006, at the Harper-Talasek Funeral Home Chapel in Temple. Interment followed in Hillcrest Cemetery in Temple.

She was born Aug. 21, 1948, in Raymondville to Mariano Granados Sr., and Guadalupe Garza Granados. She attended schools in Big Spring and moved to Temple in 1963.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a son, Richard Granados.

She is survived by her husband, Mario Granados Sr., of Temple; sons, Mario Gomez Jr., and John Paul Gomez, both of Temple; daughters, Sabrina Carranza and Angelita Dare, both of Temple; brothers, Mariano Granados Jr., Hector Granados and Arnulfo Granados, all of Big Spring; sisters, Carmen Garcia of Little River, Guadalupe Davis of Holland and Dominga Muro, Mary Lou Martinez, Mary Ann Tate and Judy Cerda, all of Temple; 10 grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were under the direction of Harper-Talasek Funeral Home.

## Support Groups

## 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. The next meeting is Feb. 28. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

## THURSDAY

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

## FRIDAY

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

## SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

• **POWWOW COMMITTEE NATIVE AMERICAN FUND-RAISER WEEKEND** Saturday and Sunday to support the second annual Pow Wow March 25-26. A bake sale/garage sale is Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 810 Scurry. Stew and cornbread supper from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Saturday at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third, with a dance afterwards featuring the band, Country Tradition. For more information, call Randy McKinney at 267-4843.

• **RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM CAPTAINS MEETING** is 5:30 p.m. Thursday in Room 133 in the Big Spring Junior High School.

• **KIWANIS CLUB OF BIG SPRING ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER** is Friday from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the Howard College cafeteria. Admission is \$5 per person.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB IS SELLING KRISPY KREME DONUTS** through Friday. Cost is \$6 per dozen. Donuts available for pick-up March 13. Contact Marie Wells at 264-3641, ext. 180 to order.

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## Police blotter

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

- **JOHN RANDALL LEWIS**, 46, of 3906 Gail Highway, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **SANDRA GUSMAN**, 18, of 1602 State, was arrested Monday on a local citation and a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **TIMOTHY BLAND**, 20, of 3200 Ave. C Apt. 105, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **ELIZABETH JONES**, 41, of 1429 E. Sixth Street Apt. 10, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **ROBERT ALLEN GARZA**, 25, of Pampa, was arrested Monday on a local warrant.
- **CARL ROBERT CURRIE**, 29, of 1106 Marijo, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **DANIEL RAY JONES**, 37, of 2507 Peach, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **KARA BINGHAM**, 20, of 6307 Ranch Road 33, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JOSE PEREZ**, 30, of 105 E. 23rd Street, was arrested Monday on 11 local citations and a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **WILLIAM SEYMORE**, 24, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a prohibited weapon.
- **ROBERT FRANKLIN**, 50, of 4308 N. Dixie, was arrested Monday on a local citation.
- **JEREMY ECKEL**, 19, of 9100 Andrews Highway, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- **THEFT** was reported:
  - in the 1500 block of Sycamore.
  - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
  - in the 300 block of Owens.
  - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
  - in the 2500 block of Ann Street.
  - in the 1500 block of Kentucky Way.

## Sheriff's report

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

- **ABEL HERNANDEZ HINOJOS**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of driving while intoxicated - second offense and duty on striking a fixture/landscape.
- **CHRISTOPHER DELBOSQUEZ**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of Wood. Service was refused.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Highway 350 and Piper Road. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 900 block of East 14th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Lancaster. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of Driver Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Highway 87 and Interstate Highway 20. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Dallas. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Take Note

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

• **PLANNING MEETING FOR THE WEST TEXAS PRODUCER'S AND FARMERS MARKET** is set for 6 p.m. today at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

• **FORSAN EX-STUDENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ALL-CLASS REUNION** is Aug. 5. Names, addresses and class years for Forsan exes are needed. Submit information or pictures for a newsletter before June 15 to Ida Lou Raney, 5216 Dawson Dr., Big Spring or call 432 267-2414, Jimmy Anderson at 432 267-6143 or Opal Stout at 325 574-2150, or e-mail [hiraney@crcom.net](mailto:hiraney@crcom.net).

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## Bulletin Board

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

## TODAY

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

## WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerle meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

## THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

## FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

## SATURDAY

- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

## Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. West winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the north after midnight.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the mid 60s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s.

Friday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 70s.

Friday night...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Saturday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Saturday night...Mostly clear with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the mid 60s.

## Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) - Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 4-10-14-30-35.  
Number matching five of five: none.

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Monday by the Texas Lottery: 11-14-29-30. Bonus Ball: 17.  
Estimated jackpot: \$200,000.

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-5-0

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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**JAIL**

Continued from Page 1A

... talking about buying the Leonard's Pharmacy property, and if we don't build a jail there we'll just make it into a parking space or storage area. We have plenty of storage area here in the courthouse, and I think the parking is reasonably adequate, except on days when there is district court."

While Crooker feels the purchase of the property is a mistake, Simer said it's a step in the right direction, whether the county decides to locate a jail next to the district court house or not.

"It's moving forward with this property we agreed to let the judge buy across the street," said Simer. "Of course, this doesn't mean we're going to put a jail there. It just means it's up for sale and we have an opportunity to get it at a good deal before someone else does. If we don't build a jail there, we need parking around the courthouse because on court days people have to park two or three blocks away and walk up here. Or, we can use it for storage. It's a good purchase for the county."

While many in the courtroom viewed the design Furqueron presented as proof the property adjacent to the court house isn't suitable for the proposed facility, Simer said he saw it differently.

"It can definitely be done," said Simer firmly. "We've always figured it would have to be at least two stories, which is no problem. Two stories these days is just as good as on the ground. It would

save money down the road as far as housing inmates is concerned. We also wouldn't have to hire security for the courthouse again. It would stay here with the sheriff."

As for the cost of the property itself, Simer said he's not sure of the exact price the county will be paying to acquire it.

"I think the judge is going to negotiate that price," said Simer. "I'm not exactly sure what the cost is. It's somewhere between \$50,000 and \$60,000."

The court also discussed other variations on the proposed design, with people in the audience offering suggestions ranging from closing Scurry Street and building the facility further east, to building a facility "on stilts above the street."

Sheriff Dale Walker said the smaller, more compact design looked at Monday offers up a number of problems he had hoped to see a new facility address.

"With the podular design, like we looked at with the larger facility, you can have one person directly supervising a large number of inmates. It's the most common, modern design there is," said Walker. "With this design, there is no way to monitor more than one cell at a time, which is going to make it necessary to have more jailers. There isn't a single room in the jail plan presented today that can be monitored by any stationed guard, which means more people on the floor."

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

**CENTER**

Continued from Page 1A

a very good sign."

Furqueron also presented trustees with a number of change-orders for the project, which the body approved unanimously.

"These were change orders initiated by the owner (Howard College)," said Furqueron.

"These were things we put in the project to begin with and we're taken out. After doing some analysis of the program and the instruction value of some of those things, the college decided to put some of them back in."

"The bulk of it is an acoustic shell, which is suspended by rigging. If you have a band come in that's bigger than the stage, you can extend behind the presidium and simply lower the shell down by the rigging in a way to project the sound out to the audience."

"The rest of the change order was just the rigging components for that shell."

Furqueron said work is going on both inside and outside the structure, with a number of outdoor projects, including the center's amphitheater.

"Things are progressing very well. They are working both inside and outside of the building, and they are getting ready to start the site work," said Furqueron.

"We're trying to get everything to come together about the middle of April."

"We're working on the amphitheater and the south side of that and some grading around that to make a slope transition for safety reasons. We're also doing some street work out back of the facility, and we're extending the parking lot on the front side."

Furqueron said the project will come in well below the total cost of similar facilities, and will add value to not just the college, but to the city as a whole.

"It's real exciting to see it come together, and I'm really pleased with the way things are looking right now," said Furqueron.

"We've had a lot of compliments. As far as the value of the building is concerned, we're building it for \$145 per square foot. Our theatrical consultant told me they did one the other day, and it came in at \$295 per square foot. It's designed to be a good value and to work well, and I think it will be a real asset to the college and to the community."

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

**VERDICT**

Continued from Page 1A

Mr. Mendoza and his family for the injuries he sustained," Weiss said. "Because of the enormity of the jury's verdict, we intend to pursue available legal remedies."

During the trial, which ran nearly two weeks, plaintiff attorneys offered evidence that Mendoza's violence-prone roommate was involved in 30 assaults before he was paired with the elderly

man. Two days after they were assigned to live together, the roommate beat Mendoza with a water pitcher, a glass and his fists.

The jury allocated fault with 35 percent to Summit Care Corporation, 35 percent to Summit Care Texas (d/b/a Comanche Trail Nursing Center), 25 percent to then administrator Sylvia Casas and 5 percent to Robert Gundling, regional vice president.

**SPOTTER**

Continued from Page 1A

and lasts until October, this is really important information to have. Spring time is when we really get a lot of the severe weather — things like hail and possible tornadoes."

Chamness said the course isn't just for weather or storm buffs.

"There's no charge for the classes and the public is definitely welcome to attend," said Chamness. "Those who sign up for the class will receive a certificate from the National Weather Service, and if you're in law enforcement or emergency services, you can get credit for it."

"It's excellent training for anyone to have. They change it up every year. I've gone to them for the last five or six years, and it's just excellent information to have."

The class will be taught by Pat Vespers, meteorologist for the National Weather Service office for Midland-Odessa.

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

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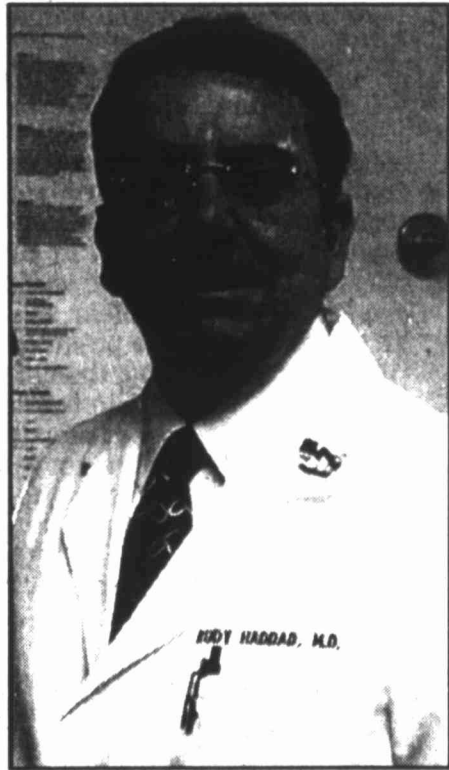
Dominga De La Cruz Hernandez, 86, died Sunday. Funeral services were at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Serving The People Of Big Spring And Howard County Since 1980**  
**Find out more about Urinary Continence Solutions.**  
**Contact Dr. Rudy Haddad at 1501 W. 11th Place, Suite 103**  
**432-714-4600**

## 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

Let reading  
be important  
to your child

Thursday is the birthday of Theodor Geisel — known to children all over the world as Dr. Seuss. It's also the annual celebration for Read Across America, a national program to promote reading among children. The program is sponsored by the National Education Association, Dr. Seuss Enterprises L.P. and more than 50 national sponsors, including the National Football League Players Association.

According to Read Across America representatives, 2006 is made even more special because of the effort to bring the gift of reading to children who have been displaced by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. This year, the organization will launch "NEA's Books Across America," touring the Gulf Coast region to promote reading and replenish public school libraries devastated by the storms.

We can't think of anything more important than ensuring our children have the ability to read. Reading is a basic building block — perhaps the most important building block — to a strong education. But reading is not only educational, it's fun, too.

With that in mind, the National Educational Association offers some tips for parents to help their children read. We'll share them with you.

— Set a good example as a reader. Let your children see you reading every day.

— Get a subscription in his or her name to an age-appropriate magazine. Suggest books as gifts.

— Introduce your child to the public library. Most, like the Howard County Library, offer activities for children during the summer and other times of the year. Take advantage of them.

— Make reading a fun time you and your children look forward to spending together.

— Don't worry so much at what level your child is reading too early on. Encourage him or her to continue reading, and the progress will come.

The most important aspect about learning to read is that it should be fun. Once a youngster learns how to read, new worlds come open. Reading is the door to enrichment, entertainment and enlightenment. Make sure that door is open to your child today.

## 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

## LETTER POLICIES

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

## Critics: Any port in a storm

Here's my take on the news that Dubai Ports World, a company largely owned by Dubai of the United Arab Emirates, is about to run operations at six major U.S. ports.

One: This sort of story bares the worst tendencies in U.S. punditry and Beltway politics. Financial papers were reporting on the impending Dubai Ports acquisition of the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co. — of London — that was running these ports, but folks in the news biz didn't see it as a front-page story. Now, pundits are suddenly experts on port economics, and they're bashing President Bush and his aides for poorly handling something they didn't perceive as an issue as little as two weeks ago. (My expertise lies in having seen ads for the Dubai International Airport that, to me, scream out: Ladies, if you're Western, you don't have to wear a veil.)

Two: Port security is an oxymoron. Everyone knows that the government isn't doing enough to check cargo containers. Security at the ports was bad before Dubai acquired P&O, and it will be bad if Bush-bashers somehow manage to keep Dubai out. When the Bush administration reminds critics the federal government will remain in

charge of port security, that's not exactly reassuring.

Three: The left's outrage about racial profiling goes out the window the minute partisans see an opportunity to bash Bush. Ditto all that high-minded rhetoric about the need for America to win friends among the — all bow — international community.

I don't believe editorial writers have singled out Dubai Ports World simply because Dubai served as a base of operations for al-Qaida, as a *San Francisco Chronicle* editorial claimed. If ties to terrorism were the issue, editorial writers would have made a stink about P&O because convicted shoe bomber Richard Reid is a British citizen. Face it, Dubai is a target because it is Arab and Muslim.

It's only a matter of time before former Veep Al Gore denounces the Dubai deal — even if he recently lashed out against the "terrible abuses" inflicted on Arabs in America after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks when he was in Saudi Arabia, and despite his Jeddah pronouncement that, "The worst thing we can possibly do is to cut off the channels of friendship and mutual understanding between Saudi Arabia and the United States."

Four: Yes, the Bushies are too chummy with CEOs — both American and foreign — and that looks bad to the general public. If Bush showed more skepticism about corporate ethics, it would be easier to trust his administration's judgment on the port question.

Five: Dubai is an ally. Dubai

serves as a primary staging base for the U.S. Navy in the region. It sends humanitarian aid to Iraq. The Emirates supplied troops during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. As Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., noted in a statement, "Dubai has cooperated with us in the war and deserves to be treated respectfully."

To the extent that Dubai respects the culture of Westerners who respect its culture, it especially merits respect.

Six: Even still, I don't mind making Dubai Ports World suits squirm a bit. Two Sept. 11 terrorists came from Dubai. Emirates banks funneled money to the Sept. 11 hijackers, and the *Los Angeles Times* has reported on allegations that, before the Sept. 11 attacks, the Dubai Islamic Bank funneled money to al-Qaida.

If the Middle East can target Denmark's economy — prompting the Danish pavilion to pull out of a Gulf Food exposition in Dubai last week — because a newspaper published some cartoons Muslim leaders don't like, let a Middle Eastern country feel some pain, too.

If Congress wants to hold hearings, conduct an investigation and otherwise make Dubai Ports World perform somersaults, I can't get too indignant. At least Washington will have put Ports World on notice that it would be a bad thing if a bad thing happened in a Dubai-run port.

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DEBRA SAUNDERS

## YOUR VIEWS

## TO THE EDITOR:

The other day, I received in the mail two flyers from an outfit calling itself "Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC." This flyer is an attack ad aimed at local attorney Drew Mouton, who is running for state representative.

This attack ad ends by saying, "...say no to deceptive political advertising, say no to Drew Mouton."

Talk about deceptive! I would like to point out to the readers of this paper the deceptiveness of this ad by Texans for Lawsuit Reform PAC. In the past they have linked so-called "abusive" and "frivolous" lawsuits with rising insurance and healthcare costs in order to get the laws of Texas changed to protect big business from the people they hurt.

But the readers of this paper have seen their

insurance rates and healthcare costs continue to go up, not down, like the "tort reform" crowd said they would if the laws were changed. Where did the money saved by insurance companies and big business go? Why, into the pockets of "a small group of wealthy individuals," namely big business executives.

So called "lawsuit reform" does nothing

more than cheat working men and women out of the protection the courts of Howard County provide them against the carelessness and greed of big business. In my opinion, the citizens of West Texas could not do better than to select Drew Mouton as their Republican candidate for state representative.

WALTER L. SHIPMAN  
BIG SPRING

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## President needs to show backbone

Poor George. He was out of the loop. There was his administration, cutting a deal to turn over management of key ports to a company owned by the United Arab Emirates, and where was he?

Just where his father was, when the Iran-Contra deal was going down.

Somewhere else. Uninformed. Remember, his father was in the bathroom during the critical conversations. And then he was at the Army-Navy game during the critical meetings. Always out of the loop. Like father, like son. Maybe W. was worrying about Dick's duck hunting.

It's what happens when you have a pre-9/11 mentality.

And now the president has left himself wide open to Democrats doing their best imitation of Karl Rove, oozing with sincerity, dripping with concern, wondering whether the president who has turned all things Arab into a national security threat has sold our security to the highest bidder. Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer are deeply troubled.

Republican senators are doing somersaults.

Conservative talk-show hosts are beside themselves.

The usually unified Republicans are rushing for cover, while Democrats rush for the mikes.

Barbara Boxer and Tom DeLay have finally found something they can agree on: George Bush is soft on security.

Is the world really flat?  
Be serious. Put down that Arab-

produced hummus you are eating.

Not one more grape leaf. This is not what a serious debate looks like. This is not about national security.

Let's be clear. I've known Bob Kimmitt, the deputy treasury secretary in charge of the interagency committee that investigated this decision, for nearly three decades. He is both brilliant and patriotic. I certainly trust his judgment on matters of national security more than any radio talk-show host's.

What Bob lacks is political antennae for understanding exactly how vicious a town Washington has become, and how divorced from reality political debate is today.

But you can't really blame the Democrats for making hay of this opportunity. After months in which every effort to preserve the Constitution has been met with a bout of name-calling, can Democrats be blamed for calling some names of their own? If eavesdropping is all-American provided it's done to Arabs, and questioning it makes you somehow less patriotic, possessor of a pre-9/11 mentality or worse — proof that you have an "affection for the terrorists," as pundette Ann Coulter has charged — then what does it prove that you would give the ports to the United Arab Emirates?

Can it really be said that there is no difference between a British firm and one run by the govern-



SUSAN ESTRICH

ment of the U.A.E., given that country's ties to the 9-11 hijackers? How many Englishmen hijacked planes on 9-11? In a fight that is based in rhetoric and demagoguery, there is a clear winner here, and it's not the president.

Politically speaking, the chickens are coming home to roost. And no one deserves it more than those who have used terrorism for political purposes, to prop up a failing and flailing administration.

It's time for the president to stand firm, not duck and cover. To take responsibility, not take a walk on his own people.

The president needs to display some backbone. He needs to stop backing and fiddling, stop explaining how little he knew, and start explaining why being Arab isn't equivalent to being a terrorist. We need to stop playing games about who is a patriot and who has a pre-9/11 mentality if we want to be serious about protecting our reputation in the world and protecting our national security. We don't need to turn a legitimate business deal into another occasion to offend decent Arabs around the world.

In the old days, we used to call that leadership. And patriotism. The real kind.

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

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# Tensions resurface over ports deal

By LIZ SIDOTI

Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON** — Republican congressional leaders had hoped to curtail bipartisan outcries over a United Arab Emirates-based company's pending takeover of some U.S. port operations by brokering an agreement for a new investigation of the deal's potential security risks.

Then came the disclosure that the U.S. Coast Guard had raised concerns weeks ago that, because of U.S. intelligence gaps, it could not determine whether the UAE company, DP World, might support terrorist operations.

Bush administration officials said those concerns were addressed and resolved.

Nevertheless, both Republicans and Democrats seized on the Coast Guard assessment, which was released by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, at a Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing Monday, to launch a fresh round of criticism just as the furor over the ports deal appeared on the brink of subsiding.

"I am more convinced than ever that the process was truly flawed," said Collins, the Homeland Security Committee's chairwoman. "I can only

conclude that there was a rush to judgment, that there wasn't the kind of painstaking, thorough analysis that needed to be done, despite serious questions being raised and despite the involvement of a wide variety of agencies."

"If this isn't a smoking gun," Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said, "it shows that there may be one undetected" by the multi-agency panel that approved DP World's proposed purchase of London-based Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co. The panel signed off on the deal without doing a 45-day investigation into security implications, which critics say the law requires.

More fuel could be added to the fire Tuesday when the Senate Commerce Committee holds a hearing to review the DP World deal. Edward H. Bilkey, DP World's chief operating officer, was to testify.

In February, the Commerce Committee vetted the appointment of David C. Sanborn of Virginia, a senior DP World executive, to be the new administrator of the Maritime Administration of the Transportation Department.

The White House appointed Sanborn, who worked as DP World's

director of operations for Europe and Latin America, to the post in January, the same month the Treasury Department's Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States approved the DP World takeover.

Two Democrats, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts and Bill Nelson of Florida, have vowed to block Sanborn's nomination unless he testifies again before the Commerce Committee. "He worked for Dubai Ports World when this deal was rushed through under cover of darkness without sufficient security review," Kerry said in a statement Tuesday. "In the post 9/11 world, we need to know why."

White House spokesman Scott McClellan has said the DP World deal "went through the normal review process and was carefully checked."

The deal has threatened to divide the Republican Party on its signature issues — national security and fighting terrorism — during a pivotal election year in which the entire House and a third of the Senate faces re-election.

Looking to head off a Republican revolt, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and other GOP congressional leaders sought to ensure the White House

would be able to stand with members of the president's own party and counter Democratic criticism that they were soft on terrorism.

Under the agreement congressional GOP leaders negotiated over the weekend, the Bush administration agreed to the company's request for

a highly unusual 45-day national security review of its business deal.

But a bipartisan group of senators on Monday introduced a bill anyway that would delay the deal and give Congress an opportunity to block the takeover. Separately, Democrats introduced legislation that would pro-

hibit companies owned by foreign governments from controlling operations at U.S. ports.

At a Homeland Security Committee hearing, Collins released an unclassified excerpt of a Coast Guard intelligence assessment done before the government approved the DP World takeover.

## Senior Circle Scenic Mountain Medical Center Chapter

Invites you to join our...

### March 2006 Activities

March 1 \* Wednesday  
• Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM  
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM

March 2 \* Thursday  
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM  
• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM  
• "BUNKO" - 5:00-6:30 PM

March 3 \* Friday  
• Kiwanis Pancake Supper @ Howard College - 6:00 PM

March 6 \* Monday  
• Stretch & Tone - 10:30 AM

March 7 \* Tuesday  
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM  
• Coffee @ Parkplace - 10:00 AM  
• Supper Club "Casa Blanca" - 5:30 PM

March 8 \* Wednesday  
• Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM  
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM  
• Meet & Greet 2:00 - 3:00 PM

March 9 \* Thursday  
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM  
• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM

March 10 \* Friday  
• Lunch Bunch & Birthdays "Cowboy's" - 11:30 AM

March 12 \* Sunday  
• MCT "All In The Timing" - 1:00 PM

March 13 \* Monday  
• Stretch & Tone - 10:30 AM  
• GAMES 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

March 14 \* Tuesday  
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM  
• Supper Club "Red Mesa" - 5:30 PM

March 15 \* Wednesday  
• Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM  
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM

March 16 \* Thursday  
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM  
• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM  
• "BUNKO" - 5:00-6:30 PM

March 17 \* Friday  
• St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck & Bingo 11:30 - 2:00 PM

March 20 \* Monday  
• NO Stretch & Tone TODAY  
• New Mexico Casino Trip 9:00 AM - ??

March 21 \* Tuesday  
• Mall Walking - 8:00 AM  
• Supper Club "KC Steakhouse" - 5:30 PM

March 22 \* Wednesday  
• Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM  
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM  
• LUNCH-N-LEARN - 11:30 - 1:00 PM



## Senior Circle Advisor / Volunteer Director

Anita Cline  
268-4721

## Supreme Court welcomes former Playboy playmate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former stripper turned weight-loss promoter Anna Nicole Smith faced a Supreme Court showdown today in her bid to inherit her late husband's fortune.

With millions of dollars on the line, the legal issue, stemming from a nasty family feud over the fortune of Smith's late husband, Houston billionaire J. Howard Marshall II, turns on whether state or federal courts have jurisdiction in the matter.

Smith, the spokeswoman for a diet product company, was awarded \$474 million by a federal bankruptcy judge. That was later reduced by a federal district judge and then thrown out altogether by a federal appeals court on jurisdictional grounds.

Smith married the oil tycoon in 1994 when he was 89 and she was a 26-year-old topless dancer in Texas.

Marshall died the following year. His fortune has been estimated at as much as \$1.6 billion.

The high court was hearing arguments in the case, and the eventual ruling will determine whether Smith gets another chance at part of Marshall's estate.

The justices are dealing with a technical question: When may federal courts hear claims that involve state probate proceed-

ings? Smith lost in Texas state courts, which found that E. Pierce Marshall was the sole heir to his father's estate.

Smith, whose legal name is Vickie Lynn Marshall, planned to attend the argument. A long line of lawyers stretched through the Supreme Court hall more than three hours before the session was to begin, and camera crews were staked out in front of the building.

"Most people will do a double take," said Edward Morrison, a former Supreme Court clerk who specializes in bankruptcy law at Columbia University. "It raises the novelty level and makes a technical issue somewhat more entertaining."

Douglas Baird, a bankruptcy expert at the University of Chicago, said: "I'd suspect some justices haven't the slightest idea who Anna Nicole is."

The Bush administration is siding with Smith as a technical matter, arguing that the justices should protect federal court jurisdiction in such disputes.

Marshall showered Smith, a former Playboy model, with \$6.6 million in gifts that included two homes, \$2.8 million in jewelry and \$700,000 in clothes, and she contends that he also promised her half his estate.

Pierce Marshall said various wills and trusts his father prepared over the years made him the only heir.

## Scientists claim to find lost civilization

NARRAGANSETT, R.I. (AP) — Scientists have found what they believe are traces of the lost Indonesian civilization of Tambora, which was wiped out in 1815 by the biggest volcanic eruption in recorded history.

Mount Tambora's cataclysmic eruption on April 10, 1815, buried the inhabitants of Sumbawa Island under searing ash, gas and rock and is blamed for an estimated 88,000 deaths.

The eruption was at least four times more powerful than Mount Krakatoa's in 1883.

Guided by ground-penetrating radar, U.S. and Indonesian researchers recently dug in a gully where locals had found ceramics and bones.

They unearthed the remains of a thatched house, pottery, bronze and the carbonized bones of two people, all in a layer of sediment dating to the eruption.

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The Big Spring Herald is participating with area schools in an excellent educational program called Newspapers In Education (N.I.E.), to help our children become more aware of the world around them.

Every Tuesday students are given The Big Spring Herald as an educational tool to use in their classroom.

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# BIG SPRING HERALD

For information about our N.I.E. program call Duane McCollum at 263-7334.

Yes, Count me in as an N.I.E. sponsor. Enclosed is my donation:

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- Classroom sponsor - \$125.00
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- Silver sponsor - \$2,500.00
- Gold sponsor - \$5,000.00

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MailTo: Big Spring Herald, PO Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721

# Hats off to Dr. Seuss tale

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI  
Knight Ridder News

Bartholomew Cubbins nearly ended up dead after silly King Derwin (the ruler of Didd), demanded he remove the hat from his head. Poor Bartholomew, try as he might, could not stop his hat from reappearing in the popular Dr. Seuss classic "The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins."

An unsuspecting Bartholomew only wanted to help his parents when he ventured into town to sell a few cranberries at the marketplace.

You can only imagine his fear when the attention of the entire kingdom focused on him as King Derwin accused him of being disrespectful. Bartholomew almost lost his head because of that darned hat.

Dr. Seuss was the pen name of Theodor Seuss Geisel, (1904-1991), an American writer and illustrator of children's books.

He is most famous for his rhyming, nonsensical stories with delightful, imaginary words.

"The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins," published in 1938, was unusual because the text didn't rhyme.

We can celebrate the genius of Dr. Seuss on

his birthday, Thursday, March 2, by making a cap like the ones poor Bartholomew tried so desperately to discard, with instructions I found at [www.familyfun.go.com](http://www.familyfun.go.com) on the Web. I modified the directions slightly for our use.

Supplies you will need:

- Red felt
- Double-sided mounting tape
- Stapler
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Marking pen
- Large feather
- Plastic gems
- Wiggle eyes
- Pipe cleaners

Fold a large piece of red felt in half. With the fold on your left, measure 12 inches from the bottom corner to the right, and mark.

Draw a 5-inch line up at this mark, parallel to the fold, and make a mark at the end of the 5 inches.

On the folded edge, measure 12 inches up from the bottom corner of the felt and make a mark.

Use your marking pen to draw an arc from the top mark on the folded edge to the mark you made at the top of the 5-

inch line. Cut the felt along the arc and the 5-inch line and discard the leftover felt.

Keeping the felt folded, staple a seam along the curved edge at least a half-inch in from the edges of the felt. Leave the short, straight edge unstapled.

Turn the hat inside out and staple the halves together along the short, 5-inch long edge. Fold the bottom of the hat up to create the brim.

Cut two small slits, leaving 1 and a half inches of felt between them, on one side of the hat just below the brim level.

Thread the feather in and out of the holes.

Use mounting tape to attach the wiggle eyes, curled pipe cleaners and gems.

Cover the stapled seam with cloth tape, if you wish.

KRT, Akron Beacon Journal photo/Robin Tinay Sallie

**Celebrate the genius of Dr. Seuss by making a cap like the one at right, made from felt, to resemble the ones from the Dr. Seuss classic, "The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins."**



## Howard County Junior College District STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year Ended August 31, 2005

| REVENUES   | 2005         | 2004         |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Operating revenues   |              |              |
| Tuition and fees (net of discounts of \$1,699,007 and \$1,736,189) | \$2,401,927  | \$2,416,650  |
| Federal grants and contracts                                       | 4,554,894    | 4,851,652    |
| State grants and contracts   | 712,031      | 990,923      |
| Nongovernmental grants and contracts                               | 533,613      | 552,545      |
| Sales and services of educational activities                       | 268,359      | 240,273      |
| Auxiliary enterprises  | 598,633      | 574,602      |
| Other operating revenues   | 153,258      | 105,496      |
| Total operating revenues (Schedule A)                              | 9,222,715    | 9,732,141    |
| EXPENSES   |              |              |
| Operating expenses   |              |              |
| Instruction  | 10,544,151   | 10,261,498   |
| Public service   | 11,495       |              |
| Academic support   | 908,199      | 1,120,582    |
| Student services   | 2,208,263    | 1,965,403    |
| Institutional support  | 3,672,615    | 3,853,213    |
| Operation and maintenance of plant                                 | 2,595,902    | 2,286,511    |
| Scholarships and fellowships                                       | 2,082,898    | 2,121,719    |
| Auxiliary enterprises  | 1,457,147    | 1,405,154    |
| Depreciation   | 777,798      | 706,897      |
| Total operating expenses (Schedule B)                              | 24,258,468   | 23,720,977   |
| Operating loss   | (15,035,753) | (13,988,836) |
| NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)                                  |              |              |
| State appropriations   | 11,607,046   | 11,568,591   |
| Property taxes for operations                                      | 3,181,382    | 3,093,019    |
| Investment income (net of investment expenses)                     | 291,845      | 149,960      |
| Interest on capital related debt                                   | (44,280)     | (85,477)     |
| Loss on disposal of fixed assets                                   |              | (16,161)     |
| Other non-operating revenues                                       | 197,255      | 233,946      |
| Net non-operating revenues (Schedule C)                            | 15,233,248   | 14,943,878   |
| Income before other revenue  | 197,495      | 955,042      |
| Other revenue  |              |              |
| Capital contributions  | 1,188,400    | 325,000      |
| Increase in net assets   | 1,385,895    | 1,280,042    |
| Net assets - beginning of year                                     | 24,570,257   | 23,290,215   |
| Net assets - end of year   | \$25,956,152 | 24,570,257   |

## Jim Landtroop

Conservative West Texas Values. Integrity We Can Trust



**In West Texas, we want leaders who aren't afraid to stand firm for the values important to our region.**

**Jim Landtroop** is just that person. He's a 5th generation Texan and a conservative Republican who will work to make state government more efficient.

A small business owner, he believes in lower taxes, less government, educational excellence and more local control.

**Jim Landtroop** led the traditional marriage campaign in his county to change the state constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman. The Landtroop family helped start Plainview Bible Church, where Jim serves on the leadership team. He and his wife Cathy have three children: Braden, Kenneth, and Lauren Grace.

"I have endorsed Jim Landtroop because of his conservative values, and I am convinced Jim will be an excellent representative for our area."  
—JoAnn Staulcup, Big Spring City Council Member

"We support Jim Landtroop for State Representative. He will serve the best interest, values and beliefs of Howard County and the district."  
—Bill and Joyce Crooker, Big Spring

"Jim is a man of integrity who will represent the entire district well. Jeanne and I are supporting Jim because of his strong West Texas values and his good common business sense. Jim has taken the time to get to know Big Spring, listen to our issues and concerns, and we are confident that he is the man who will fight for us down in Austin."  
—Mike Niklasch, Big Spring Moore Development Board member

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Jerry Patterson, Texas Land Commissioner \* Elizabeth Ames Jones, Chairman, Texas Railroad Commission  
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Bird Poop

A typical West Texas thunderstorm, with harsh gusts of wind and rain, caused the walkers to wonder if they would have to cancel their routine exercise.

The skies had cleared, however, by the time they arrived at the state park early the next morning.

They started walking up the road, but stopped when they heard a yelping sound coming from a large cluster of prickly pear cactus.

Routinely having seen skunks and fox, they cautiously approached the plant. To their surprise, the sound was not coming from a mammal, but a strange looking bird trapped among the thorns.

Realizing it could not get out of the cactus, they decided that one of them would stay with the bird, while the other walked back to the car.

Something to cover the bird while they freed it was needed.

In the trunk was an old blanket; the walker was grateful that it had not been thrown away.

Quickly, she walked back up the road to the cactus. The bird pulled from the cactus had a small head, a long, slender, upcurved bill and long legs.

Not knowing what they had, they did know what to do with it.

When our phone rang, she recognized the caller and asked, "Where are you? Do you know what time it is?"

She answered, "Parked in front of your house. And it's 5:45 a.m."

Nestled in the blanket was an American avocet.

This shorebird might have been a victim of a storm's downburst; its

migration had ended when it was forced into the cactus.

After examining the avocet, my husband and I started pulling thorns from the bird's abdomen, thighs and knees. With that accomplished and to help it recover from such a traumatic morning, we placed it in a covered cage.

Sweeping its bill from side to side through water, this wading bird in the wild would have stirred up aquatic insects and plants.

To supplement that diet, I minced fresh greenery and the soft abdomens of crickets, placed the food in water and hoped it would accept the substitute until we could transport it to Lubbock.

My efforts were refused.

At the wildlife center, the avocet was given anti-inflammatory and antibiotic injections to prevent any swelling or infection from the thorns.

It was placed in a large outdoor cage. As it walked on grass and noticed other water birds nearby, it appeared to relax.

Then it saw a large shallow pan with mealworms and more greenery.

Immediately, the bird walked toward the enticing movement of the worms, stepped into the water and gracefully picked out each mealworm while ignoring the salad.

When all the worms had been eaten, the bird chose to walk about the enclosure and acquaint itself with its new environment.

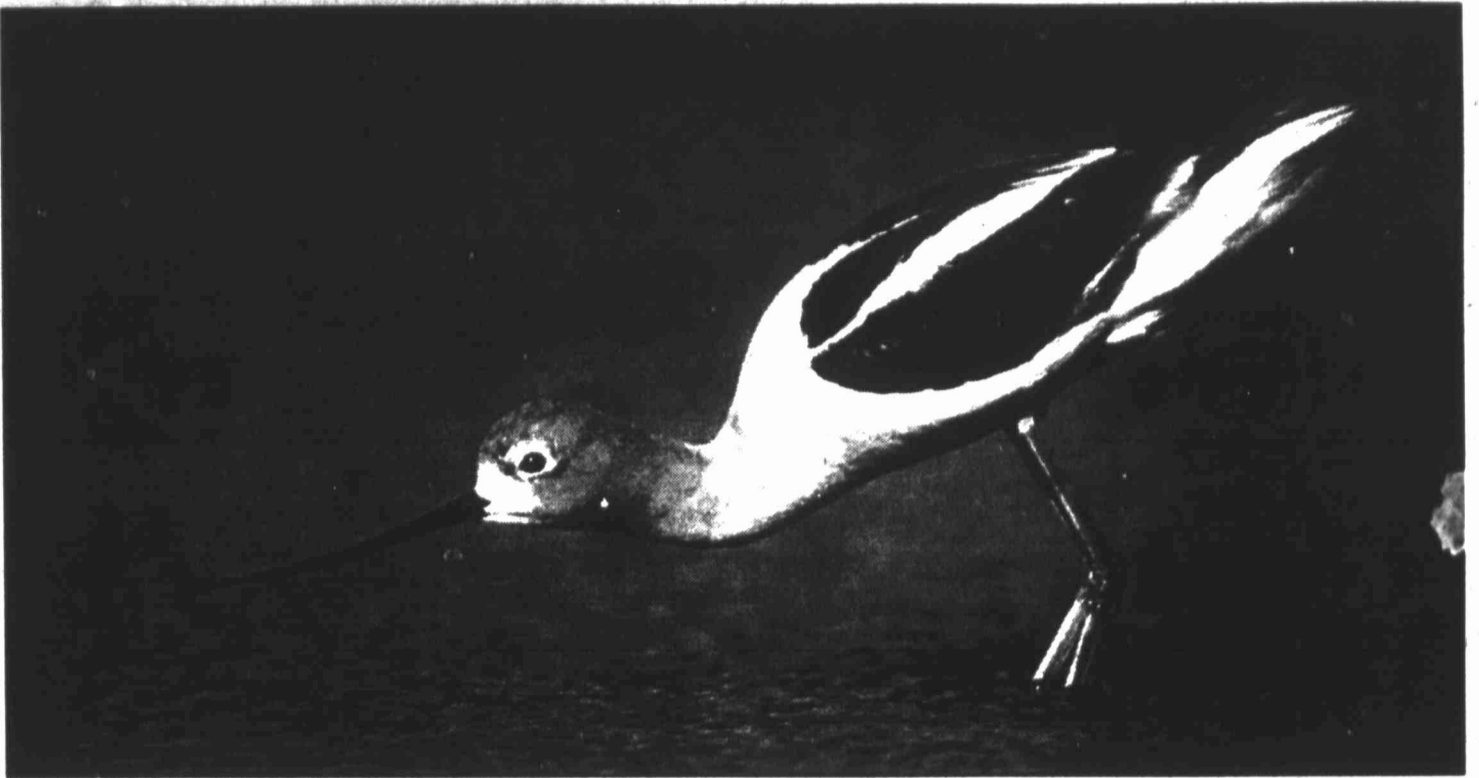
After a week at the center, the avocet was transported to a fenced conservation lake on a nearby ranch.

Protected from predators while recovering, the bird could feed and exercise until it was ready to return to the wild.



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Courtesy photo

The American avocet, attired in black and white on its back and sides, has a cinnamon colored head and neck during spring and summer.

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| Ralph & Billye McLaughlin   | Lisa Brooks               | Lela A. Hansen           | Belinda Garcia            | Kerri Whitehead         |
| Dr. Rudy & Maureen Haddad   | Hubert Barber             | Jennie N. Womack         | Sheryl & Jackie Gass      | Jill Willbanks          |
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"I will appreciate your vote in the March 7<sup>th</sup> Republican Primary"

### Briefly

#### Victim Services training scheduled

Victim Services has scheduled volunteer training for the week of March 20-25 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. These individuals assist victims of domestic crime as well as sexual assault. Volunteers carry papers and work with law enforcement.

For more information, call Victim Services at 263-3312.

#### Spring Clean Community-wide flea market booth space available now

The second annual community-wide Spring Clean Flea Market is set for May 6 at the Big Spring Mall.

Booth space is available and applications may be obtained at the mall office or at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

Booth prices are \$25 for a 10x10; \$45 for a 12x12; or \$64 for a 24x12 booth.

All proceeds go to Keep Big Spring Beautiful.

For more information, call 263-9231. Leave a message and the call will be returned.

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NATION AND WORLD BRIEFS

**Fifteen killed in four Baghdad explosions**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Four explosions rocked the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least 15 people and prompting fears that sectarian violence was continuing following last week's bombing of a sacred Shiite shrine.

In northern Iraq, a blast badly damaged a Sunni mosque where the father of Saddam Hussein is buried. The deposed leader was due back in court as his trial was to resume in the 1982 killings of nearly 150 people in the town of Dujail.

In the Baghdad violence, a car bomb detonated near a Shiite mosque in the crowded southeastern Karada neighborhood, killing four people and injuring 16, said Interior Ministry official Maj. Falah al-Mohammedawi. The vehicle was parked opposite a mosque which was closed for repairs, police said.

Another car bomb targeting a police patrol in the eastern New Baghdad neighborhood killed eight people and injured 10 — all civilians, said police Col. Ahmed Aboud. A man wearing an explosives belt blew himself up at a gas station in the same neighborhood, killing three people and wounding four, said police Capt. Haidir Ibrahim.

The fourth blast took place in an open area near the downtown national theater, Mohammedawi said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

**Coast Guard warned of gaps in port deal**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican congressional leaders had hoped to cur-

tail bipartisan outcries over a United Arab Emirates-based company's pending takeover of some U.S. port operations by brokering an agreement for a new investigation of the deal's potential security risks.

Then came the disclosure that the U.S. Coast Guard had raised concerns weeks ago that, because of U.S. intelligence gaps, it could not determine whether the UAE company, DP World, might support terrorist operations.

Bush administration officials say those concerns were addressed and resolved.

Nevertheless, both Republicans and Democrats seized on the Coast Guard assessment, which was released by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, at a Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing Monday, to launch a fresh round of criticism just as the furor over the ports deal appeared on the brink of subsiding.

"I am more convinced than ever that the process was truly flawed," said Collins, the Homeland Security Committee's chairwoman. "I can only conclude that there was a rush to judgment, that there wasn't the kind of painstaking, thorough analysis that needed to be done, despite serious questions being raised and despite the involvement of a wide variety of agencies."

**New Orleans marks post-Katrina Mardi Gras**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Some may question the appropriateness of having a raucous party in a city still devastated and in mourning six months after Hurricane Katrina. But for Monk Boudreaux

and Pete Fountain, tradition is thicker than flood water.

Fountain, 75, is the celebrated New Orleans jazz clarinetist who on Tuesday morning was to lead his Half Fast Marching Club through the streets of New Orleans for the 46th time.

"There was no question about doing it," Fountain said. "We had a meeting and everybody wanted to march."

**IAEA: Iran not producing nukes**

TOKYO (AP) — A report by the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency shows there is no proof Iran's nuclear program is aimed at producing nuclear weapons, Iran's foreign minister said Tuesday in Japan.

"They could not find evidence which shows that Iran has diverted from its peaceful purposes of nuclear activities in Iran," said Manouchehr Mottaki, who was in Tokyo to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

A confidential International Atomic Energy Agency report made available to The Associated Press Monday said that a more than three-year probe has not revealed "any diversion of nuclear material to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices."

But it also said that because of lack of sufficient cooperation from the Iranian side, the agency remains unable "to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear materials or activities in Iran." The report suggested that unless Iran drastically increases its cooperation, the IAEA would not be able to establish

whether past clandestine activities were focused on making nuclear arms.

The report, prepared by IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei for a March 6 meeting of the agency's 35-nation board of governors, could help determine what action the U.N. Security Council will take against Iran, which says its nuclear program is intended solely for peaceful purposes.

**Police said al-Qaida funded terror net**

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The al-Qaida terror network helped fund suicide bombings in Indonesia over the past four years through a courier system set up by the reputed mastermind behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, a senior police official said Tuesday.

Former al-Qaida No. 3

Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who was captured in 2003, was personally involved in setting up the courier system, in which money was carried from Thailand to Malaysia and finally to Indonesia's Sumatra island, said Col. Petrus Reinhard Golose of Indonesia's counterterrorism task force.

Golose said the money was used to help the regional militant group Jemaah Islamiyah launch attacks in the world's most populous Muslim country from 2002-2005.

Jemaah Islamiyah is blamed for the 2002 nightclub attacks on the resort island of Bali that killed 202 people, attacks in the capital Jakarta in 2003 and 2004 that together killed 21, and triple suicide bombings on Bali in October that killed 20.

Indonesian authorities have claimed for years

that al-Qaida helped finance the terror network, but never before provided the level of detail given by Golose, who was directly involved in the investigations of the bombings.

**Dispute impeded Red Cross Katrina response**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Years before its uneven response to Hurricane Katrina, the American Red Cross struggled unsuccessfully to resolve internal disputes that beset its Sept. 11, 2001, relief efforts, internal documents show.

In an Oct. 29, 2001, e-mail, board member Bill George chided Red Cross management for not embracing change. At the time, the nation's largest charity was reeling from CEO Bernadine Healy's resignation amid charges it had mismanaged Sept. 11 donations.

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## IN BRIEF

### Coahoma Little League sets signup dates

The Coahoma Little League invites all baseball players ages 5 through 15 in the Coahoma district to sign up for the 2006 season tonight at the Coahoma Community Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Thursday at the Elementary open house.

All little leaguers who have not played in Coahoma or ever before need to bring a copy of their birth certificate. The registration fee for the season will be \$35 per child and multiple children of same family will pay \$30.

Anyone interested in coaching or helping with a team or becoming a board member can also attend. For more information, contact Jill Ringener after 6 p.m. at 432-263-2789 or 432-616-1532.

### KBSB golf touney announced for month of April

"Keep Big Spring Beautiful" will be hosting a golf tournament April 22 at the Big Spring Country Club.

The tournament will start at 9 a.m. and cost \$80 per person. The touney is a four-person scramble.

For more information, contact the country club at 267-5354.

### C.G.A. announces scramble for March

The Chicano Golf Association will be hosting a four-person scramble at Comanche Trail Golf Course March 12.

The tournament begins a shotgun start at 10:30 a.m., but teams must be registered by 10 a.m. There will be refreshments served after the tournament as well.

For more information, contact Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

### Mavericks win 15th straight home game

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki had 32 points and 13 rebounds despite missing most of the third quarter with a sprained ankle to help the Mavericks win for the 19th time in their last 20 games as they knocked off the Sixers, 104-92.

Jason Terry added 24 points, and Dallas extend its club-record home winning streak to 15 games.

### Finley, Parker lead Spurs past Knicks

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Michael Finley scored 22 points in 22 minutes, making all eight of his attempts from the field — including a season-high five 3-pointers as the Spurs defeated the Knicks, 121-93.

Tony Parker added 20 points and 12 assists, and the Spurs shot a season-best 62.5 percent.

# WJCAC Kings

## • Hawk men wrap up conference with easy win over Plainsmen

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The No. 1 ranked Howard College men's basketball team remained unbeaten Monday night at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and won its first outright Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJCAC) title since 1999.

Frank Phillips didn't put up much of a fight as the Hawks, who improved to 29-0 overall and 13-0 in the conference, took down the Plainsmen, 95-67.

"This was one of the team's lofty goals that it set at the start of the season and its a good feeling to accomplish that, but our objective isn't over," said Howard head coach Mark Adams. "I am looking forward to playing in the regional tournament and hopefully accomplishing another team goal of winning Region 5."

Five sophomores — Charles Burgess, Dezmon Harris, Richard Forbes, Louis Rodgers and James Barrett — were all honored before the game. All five guys had a part in Howard going 55-6 during the last two years.

"I like winning the title, but I have mixed feelings because my time as coach of these sophomores is almost over," said Adams.

Frank Phillips hung around early in the game Monday. Freshman Phil Murphy helped get Howard out to a lead as he scored eight of the Hawks' first 19 points and a dunk by Benson Akpan put Howard up 19-7.

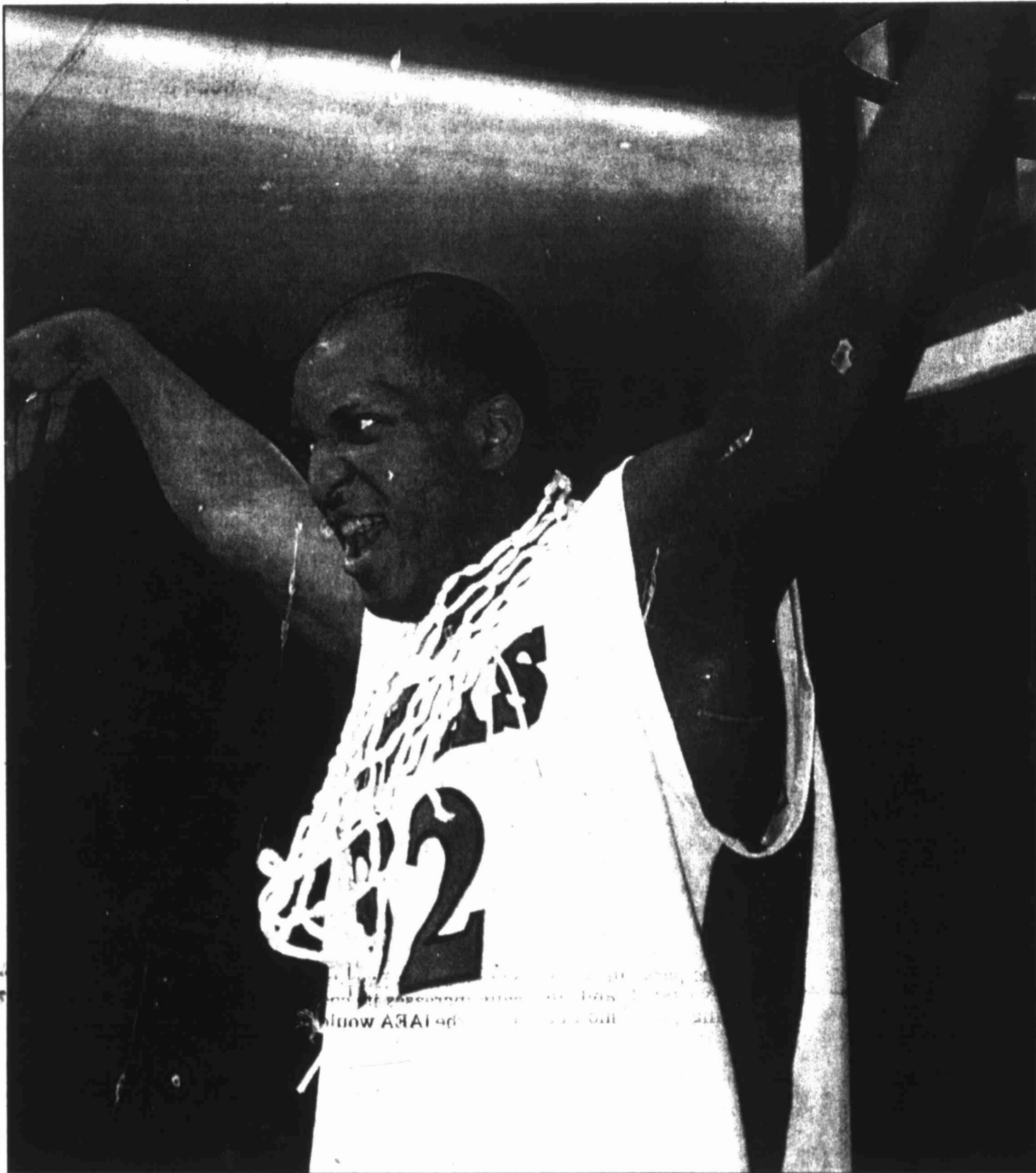
The Plainsmen trailed 21-13 before an 8-0 run by the Hawks extended the advantage to 15. Howard never looked back after that as it used another 16-0 run to push the lead to 48-18. The run included four 3-pointers — two by Forbes and one each by Harris and freshman Benny Valentine. Harris also closed the half with a 3-pointer and the Hawks led 55-22 at the break.

"Our team defense was the difference in the first half," said Adams. "Frank Phillips has an explosive offense and we were able to contain them for the most part. We shot the ball well and when we do that the wins come easy."

The Hawks coasted through the second half. An 11-0 run pushed the advantage to 82-44 and a 9-0 run later made it 93-55.

Howard got four into double figures again and Akpan scored nine points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Harris led the way with 20 points and seven assists, while Forbes scored 19 — 16 in the first half — and Valentine added 17 points and six assists. Murphy pitched in with a season-high 13 points and 13 rebounds. Burgess did not take many shots and finished with just seven points,

See CHAMPS, Page 2B



Howard freshman Herve Banogle celebrates the No. 1 Hawks' win over Frank Phillips Monday as Howard cut down the net, winning its first Western Junior College Athletic Conference title since 1999. The Hawks won the game, 95-67, and improved to 29-0 on the season.

## Hawk women take down Frank Phillips



Howard sophomore Jennifer Pena puts up a runner in the lane during action at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Monday as the Hawk women won their third conference game of the year, taking down Frank Phillips, 61-56.

## • Fairley leads Howard on sophomore night

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

The Howard women's basketball team got balanced scoring Monday night at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and ruined Frank Phillips' regional tournament chances with a 61-56 victory in the team's final home game.

Howard, Clarendon, New Mexico and Frank Phillips all have chances to finish the conference season 4-8, but Howard and Frank Phillips are mathematically eliminated from the postseason due to power points.

"This game meant a lot to both teams, but it meant a lot more to Frank Phillips," said Howard head coach Earl Diddle. "Frank Phillips' race to the fourth playoff spot was easier than ours. It was a must-win for Frank."

Latoya Fairley and Jennifer Pena were hon-

ored before the game on sophomore night. Fairley led the way with 18 points and Pena added eight points and a handful of assists.

"The two sophomores came into a program marred by adversity and they've cooperated great with what we are trying to teach," said Diddle. "I am glad they got to win their last home game, but I am sad they won't be back next year."

The Hawks jumped out to an 11-2 lead to start the game. Frank Phillips got back to within four, but four straight points from freshman Chanel Jones-Delas pushed the advantage to seven.

Shakira Sanders made sure the Hawks didn't win easily though. She finished with a game-high 19 points and gave the Lady Plainsmen their first lead of the game with back-to-back layups in the first half. The Hawks quickly regained control with five straight

See HOWARD, Page 2B

### Dorothy Garrett Coliseum

tonight's playoff matchups

Class 1A boys' regional tournament

Grand Falls, Monday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.

Class 2A boys' regional tournament

Grand Falls, Monday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

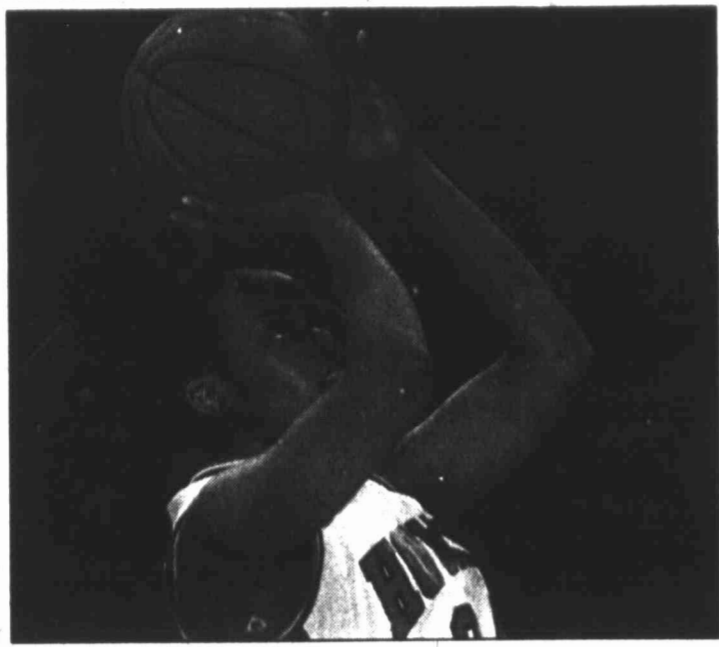
points. Jones-Delas hit a 3-pointer to push the lead to six before Pena splashed home a shot from long range just before the buzzer to make it 31-26 at the break.

"The thought we got the ball inside and Latoya distributed it well down there," said Diddle. "The objective is to go inside out, but Latoya can also pass it well too and we attacked the basket."

Fairley started the half with back-to-back baskets to push the lead to nine, but Frank Phillips wouldn't go away quietly. The lead was five when freshman Kim Garcia drained a 3-pointer to make it 38-30. The grew to nine again after baskets by freshman Kim Gilyard and Garcia.

The Hawks maintained a steady nine-point lead until four straight points from Frank Phillips made it 47-42. Fairley hit a jumper and drained a free throw to make it eight, but Sanders kept her team close with another basket. She scored 10 of her 19 points in the final 10 minutes of the game.

Howard (9-20) led by as many as 10 points in the second half and nearly gave the game away at the end due to too many



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Howard sophomore Latoya Fairley attempts a short jumper against Frank Phillips Monday. Fairley scored a team-high 18 points and the Hawk women defeated the Lady Plainsmen, 61-56.

turnovers against Frank Phillips' pressure defense.

"No one wanted the ball late and we just made some stupid passes," said Diddle. "You have to want the ball late in the game."

Frank Phillips got to within four with 26 seconds to go in the game, but a Jones-Delas free throw made the final 61-56.

"It was a great win for us," said Diddle.

Jones-Delas and Garcia each scored 10 points, while Gilyard added six and freshman Tomisha Martin scored seven.

"Jen's the point guard

and has a really tough job for this team, but I thought she kept her poise tonight," said Diddle. "Kim Garcia was active and gave us a boost off the bench."

Both teams are now 3-8 in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

The Hawks close out the season Thursday on the road against Clarendon, while Frank Phillips hosts New Mexico Junior College. A win by Clarendon would put it in the postseason, but a loss by Clarendon sends New Mexico to the regional tournament.

CHAMPS

Continued from Page 1B

but had five assists, while freshmen Herve Banoghe and Terrance Sullivan scored six and four points, respectively.

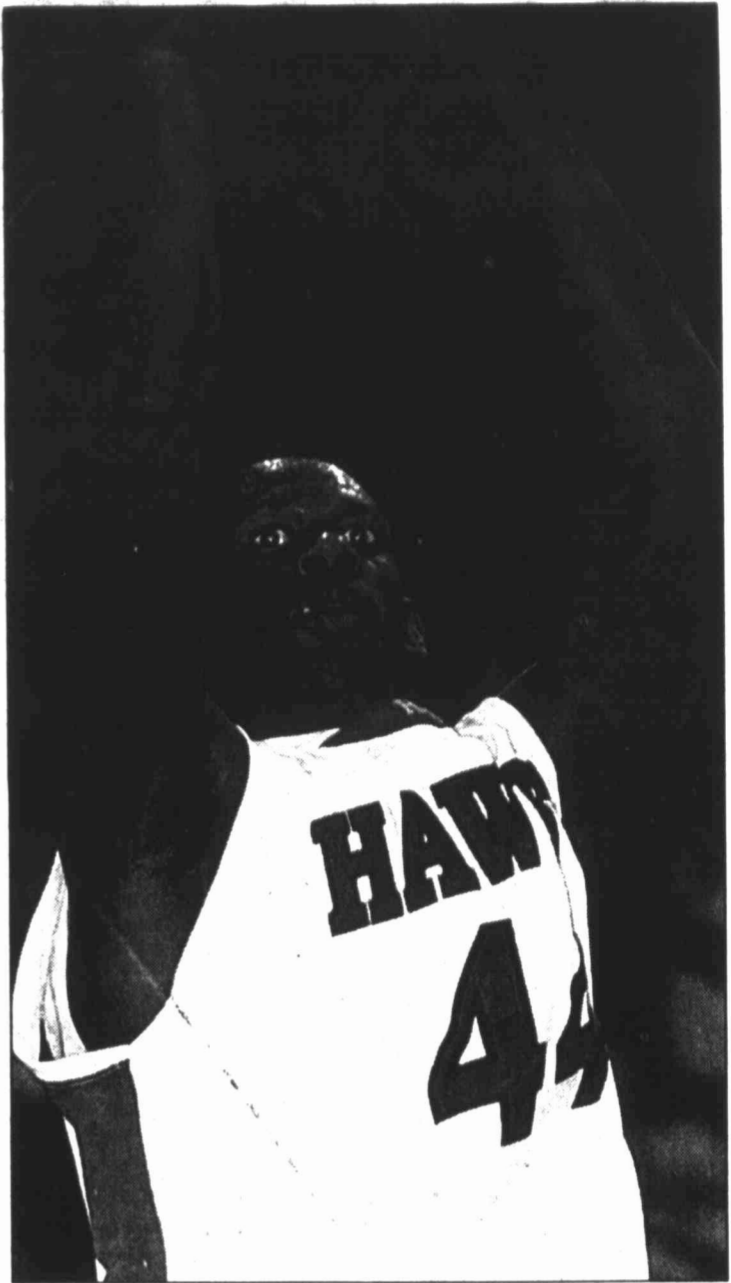
"That's been typical all season long for us," said Adams. "One of the strengths of this team is that we have four or five guys who can score 20 points on any given night. That makes us hard to guard."

The Hawks have a two-game lead on Midland with just one game to play. Howard ends its regular season on the road against Clarendon Thursday.

The Region 5 Tournament will take place the following Thursday in Lubbock at the Rip Griffin Center. The Hawks will play its opening round game at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 9, against either Grayson or Collin County.

"I want to thank the fans and the administration for their support this year," said Adams. "The fans won the home game against Midland for us and they have traveled well this year, too."

Dremain Townsend led Frank Phillips with 17 points, while Jerome Oden added 13 and Leslie Delk scored 11.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Howard freshman Phil Murphy scores two of his 13 points on a jumper during Howard's conference-clinching win against Frank Phillips Monday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The No. 1 ranked Hawks are now 29-0. Murphy also pulled down 13 rebounds.

WJCAC Standings

| Women                |      |       | Men                  |      |       |
|----------------------|------|-------|----------------------|------|-------|
| *Odessa              | 12-0 | 27-0  | *Howard              | 13-0 | 29-0  |
| *South Plains        | 8-3  | 22-5  | *Midland             | 11-2 | 25-4  |
| Midland              | 5-6  | 20-9  | *South Plains        | 9-4  | 22-7  |
| New Mexico           | 4-7  | 13-13 | Odessa               | 6-7  | 18-11 |
| Clarendon            | 4-7  | 12-17 | Clarendon            | 5-8  | 14-14 |
| Frank Phillips       | 3-8  | 15-12 | New Mexico           | 4-9  | 14-15 |
| Howard               | 3-8  | 9-20  | Frank Phillips       | 3-10 | 14-15 |
| * Region 5 qualifier |      |       | NMMI                 | 1-12 | 5-21  |
|                      |      |       | * Region 5 qualifier |      |       |

Odessa has clinched the WJCAC title.

Howard has clinched the WJCAC title.

Thursday's Games

Howard @Clarendon  
Midland @South Plains  
New Mexico @Frank Phillips  
Odessa does not play

Thursday's Games

Howard @Clarendon  
Midland @South Plains  
New Mexico @Frank Phillips  
NMMI @Odessa

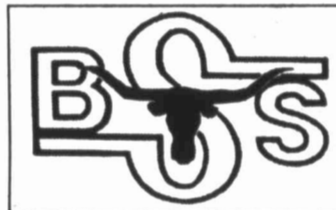
Guinn leads BSHS golfers to seventh

• McCormick takes second among Lady Steers in Ft. Stockton

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
FORT STOCKTON — The Big Spring girl's golf team traveled to Fort Stockton this past weekend and came home with a seventh place finish out of 14 teams.

The Lady Steers were led by Cassie Guinn's 182 as she shot two rounds of



91. Megan McCormick shot a first-round 97 and a second-round 101 and finished second on the team with a 198. Amber Miller shot a 200, while Joy Seay added a 213.

The girls will take part in a tournament this weekend in Midland.

Pep Bus to Clarendon

The Howard College bus will be going to the basketball game at Clarendon Thursday and will leave at noon. There is limited seating available to the community at no charge, but anyone interested needs to RSVP by noon Wednesday. To RSVP, call the Dean of Student Services at 264-2028.

Tonight's Area Lineup

Coahoma golf @Colorado City, 9 a.m.  
Coahoma tennis vs. Westbrook, 3:30 p.m.  
Forsan baseball @McCamey, 5 p.m.  
Forsan softball vs. Big Lake, 5 p.m.  
Coahoma baseball vs. Kermit, 6 p.m.  
Big Spring softball @Lubbock High, 6:30 p.m.  
Coahoma softball vs. Greenwood, 7 p.m.



LADYBUG MOLLY ANNE AND THE SLOPPY SLUG

Molly Anne was a fine lady. She always dressed in the most beautiful hats. She would never be seen without a nice dress. And her shoes were always perfectly matched with her dress and purse, and hat! Yes, Molly Anne was a perfect lady. As a matter of fact, Molly Anne was a ladybug! She was not a regular ladybug, though. She was a lady ladybug!

Molly Anne loved to put on her finest dresses whenever she went into the city. No one would ever see her dressed in

jeans, or T-shirts! No one had ever seen her without her pretty gloves on, either! What a dandy lady!

Sloppy Susan Slug lived in the same city as Ladybug Molly Anne. Sloppy Susan Slug never wore a pretty dress. She

never wore a pretty hat. Her shoes did not match her purse or hat! She didn't even have a dress, or pretty shoes, or a purse either! She did have jeans and T-shirts—lots of jeans and T-shirts! Whenever she would go into the city, she was always sloppy. Very sloppy!

**The Medicine Shoppe**  
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Poor Sloppy Susan Slug! One day, the two would meet! Do you want it to be today? Okay! Today, Ladybug Molly Anne and Sloppy Susan Slug went into the same store. It was a nice store. Ladybug Molly Anne went looking for a new dress to match her new shoes. Sloppy Susan Slug went looking for a new T-shirt to wear with her old jeans!

It was then and there that Ladybug Molly Anne saw Sloppy Susan Slug. Molly Anne thought to herself, "She is such a pretty slug. Why doesn't she try to look better? If she would only comb her slug hair!" Wait a minute! Do slugs even have hair? Let's look in the

encyclopedia tomorrow after we wake up and see if slugs have hair! Do you think they do? Will you look for me and tell me if they do or do not have hair? I knew you would!

Sloppy Susan Slug saw Ladybug Molly Anne that day, too! And she thought to herself, "I wish I could dress like that. Look at how pretty she is with that beautiful dress, and hat, and purse, and shoes. And all of them match!" Neither Molly nor Susan knew that they were about to meet for the first time, and they would be friends forever!

Ladybug Molly Anne was looking at a new dress when she

**Pizza Inn.**  
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heard the slimy worm talking to the even slimmer crawfish. "Oh, look at Susan Sloppy Slug. Doesn't she look awful? I wish she wouldn't come into this store. She is too sloppy to even think of coming here! Why doesn't she just go home?"

These were two mean creatures, weren't they? Not only

did Ladybug Molly Anne hear what they said, but poor little Sloppy Susan Slug did too! She ran out of the store, crying her heart out. "How could anyone be so mean?" she thought. "I have never hurt them or ever said anything bad about them, or anyone, ever!"

Ladybug Molly Anne was a lady in every way! She also had very good manners! She would never hurt anyone. She would never talk about anyone! That is why she is called a very nice lady! Molly Anne ran outside, then onto the sidewalk, and ran as fast as she could go, trying to catch up with Susan. It wasn't very hard to do because poor little Susan was now leaning against an old building, crying. This story is getting sad, isn't it? We can't go to bed until we are sad, can we? Let's make everything okay

again. Want to? "Susan, why do you dress the way you do?" Molly asked. Why don't you wear pretty dresses? Why don't you wear shoes and purses and hats that match a pretty dress? "No one ever taught me how to dress like a lady," Susan said to Molly. "No one ever taught me how to make my shoes match my dress. No one ever taught me how to make my hat match my dress. No one ever taught me how to find a purse that would match my dress, hat, and shoes! I have been all alone ever since I was very little." "Well, you are not alone anymore," Molly said to Susan. "I am your new friend. I will teach you how to find pretty clothes. I will teach you how to find hats or shoes, and purses that will match any dress. First thing we must do is find you a very pretty dress. Let's go to my favorite store. We will find a pretty dress for you."

So off they went. Shopping for Sloppy Susan Slug! Molly and Susan shopped and shopped. Then, Susan saw it! It was the most beautiful dress she had ever seen! Molly liked it, too! "Try it on," Molly said. "I can't believe how beautiful you look like in a pretty dress." Sloppy

Susan walked into the dressing room, looking like a slob. Susan walked out of the dressing room looking like a lady! A very beautiful lady!

Ladybug Molly Anne quickly showed Susan Slug how to find shoes, purses, and hats that would make her dress even prettier. When they walked out of the store, all of the other bugs, slugs, crawfish, and worms looked at those two ladies. Those two very pretty ladies, in their beautiful dresses, with matching hats, gloves, shoes, and purses. They wished they could be ladies like that, too!

Oh, they could buy the same pretty dresses, and hats, and shoes, and gloves, and even purses, but they would never be ladies like Susan Slug and Ladybug Molly Anne, for those two never said anything mean about others, and they would never hurt anyone! That's really the reason why they are pretty ladies! Don't you think so, too? Molly Anne and Susan don't have their pretty dresses on right now. They have their pretty pajamas on and they both said to tell you, "Good Night!"

\*\*\*

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TUESDAY

FEB. 28

Table with 18 columns representing different TV stations and their respective programming for Tuesday, Feb. 28. Columns include WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, and SCIFI.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"TELL HIM I'M HIBERNATING AND NOT TO COME BACK TILL SPRING."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"It's vegetable soup. It's like beef broth with food in it."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 28, the 59th day of 2006. There are 306 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 28, 1849, the ship California arrived at San Francisco, carrying the first of the gold-seekers. On this date: In 1827, the first U.S. railroad chartered to carry passengers and freight, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, was incorporated. In 1844, a 12-inch gun aboard the USS Princeton exploded, killing Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Navy Secretary Thomas W. Gilmer and several others. In 1861, the Territory of Colorado was organized. In 1951, the committee headed by Sen. Estes Kefauver, D-Tenn., issued a preliminary report saying at least two major crime syndicates were operating in the U.S. In 1953, scientists James D. Watson and Francis H.C.

Crick discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule that contains the human genes. In 1974, the United States and Egypt re-established diplomatic relations after a seven-year break. In 1975, more than 40 people were killed in London's Underground when a subway train smashed into the end of a tunnel. In 1986, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was shot to death in central Stockholm. In 1993, a gun battle erupted at a compound near Waco, Texas, when Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents tried to serve warrants on the Branch Davidians; four agents and six Davidians were killed as a 51-day standoff began. In 1995, Denver International Airport opened after 16 months of delays and \$3.2 billion in budget overruns. Today's Birthdays: Actor Charles Durning is 83. Svetlana Alliluyeva, daughter of Josef Stalin, is 80. Actor Gavin MacLeod is 75. Actor Don Franks is 74. Actor-director-dancer

Tommy Tune is 67. Auto racer Mario Andretti is 68. Singer Joe South is 66. Actor Frank Bonner is 64. Actress Kelly Bishop is 62. Football player Bubba Smith is 61. Actress Stephanie Beacham is 59. Actress Mercedes Ruehl is 58. Actress Bernadette Peters is 58. Comedian Gilbert Gottfried is 51. Basketball player Adrian Dantley is 50. Actor John Turturro is 49. Rock singer Cindy Wilson is 49. Actress Rae Dawn Chong is 45. Actor Robert Sean Leonard is 37. Rock singer Pat Monahan (Train) is 37. Actress Maxine Bahns is 35. Country singer Jason Aldean is 29. Actor Bobb'e J. Thompson ("The Tracy Morgan Show") is 10.

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Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like RUST, RADAR, SEEN, ANTI, ELUDE, WALO, STAG, TALLE, AALD, NIGHT, TAILIT, KNEE, LETUP, BITE, DELL, ROAMED, TANG, DEAL, ALAMO, ALOOF, ADO, DENIM, POSSE, SLOW, GERE, STEWED, EPER, ITEM, AREBO, WOLF, MAKE, TRACKS, ALIT, URIAH, BARA, REEL, RINSE, ERAS, POSY, EAGER, LESS.

Newsday Crossword

CHOPHOUSE by Norma Steinberg Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Identical, 5 Belt site, 10 Fat-free milk, 14 "I cannot tell...", 15 Where to say "I do", 16 Stack, 17 Unit of heredity, 18 Hotelier Helmsley, 19 Big-eyed birds, 20 Circle segment, 21 Breakfast pastry, 23 Leave the office for a sec, 25 School subj., 26 Takes the gold, 27 Shields, 32 Like a rock, 34 Dog sounds, 35 Tear apart, 36 Add to the payroll, 37 Part of a bookcase, 38 A few, 39 Unmatched, as a sock, 40 Condition, 41 Dealt (with), 42 Cakes and pies, 44 Snitched, 45 Split soup, 46 All finished, 49 Predictable, 54 Caribbean, e.g., 55 Mimicked, 56 Pulls from behind, 57 Address abbr., 58 Auctioneer's call, 59 Flood-control structure, 60 Be in front, 61 Finishes, 62 Washstand pitchers, 63 Music and the dance, 64 Of sound mind, 65 Quid pro quo, 66 Spill absorber, 67 New Zealand bird, 68 Troubles, 69 Open fabric, 70 Small horse, 71 Cupboard invaders, 72 Yarm (for), 73 Yeats and Keats, 74 Dramatic part, 75 Plane that sprays, 76 Use a stopwatch, 77 Hurried, 78 Wearing sneakers, 79 Ocean phenomenon, 80 "Huh?", 81 Fence-sitter's position, 82 By oneself, 83 Perceived, 84 Bundle, 85 binding, 86 Card suit, 87 Dissertations, 88 Fierce, 89 feline, 90 Imply, 91 Rounds of applause, 92 Parakeet's home, 93 Fairy tale's second word, 94 Be inclined (to), 95 Actress Barrymore, 96 Rant and, 97 In the style of

6x11 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-63 indicating starting positions for words.

## Wacky Facts

- March is Women's History Month.
- Margaret Chase Smith, of Maine, was the first woman elected to both houses of Congress. She was elected to the House in 1940 and to the Senate in 1948.
- In 1900, women competed in the Olympic Games for the first time. — *World Almanac for Kids*

# KID NEWS

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## Quarrel Box

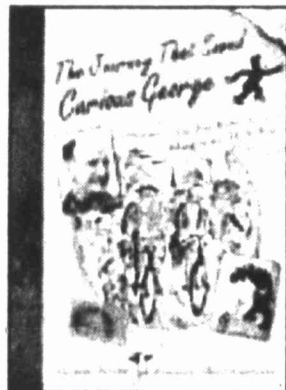
"I was referred to as Monkey when I was younger because I would climb into things, like cupboards."  
— Actor Elijah Wood, on his childhood nickname, in *People*.

## Curious George's First journey

### How the authors saved their story by peddling away from the Nazis

BY NANCY CHURNIN  
*The Dallas Morning News*

A year before the Man with the Yellow Hat took Curious George out of Africa, Margret and H.A. Rey saved him from the Nazis.



The Nazis? That's right. H.A. Rey and his wife, Margret, began working on their story about a curious monkey in 1939 — the year that World War II broke out in Europe.

The German-born couple was living in Paris, France, and they were worried.

They were Jewish, and Adolph Hitler, Germany's Nazi leader, wanted to kill the

Jews. In 1940, the Nazis began to make their way through France and toward Paris.

The Reys had to find a way to save themselves and their book.

Louise Borden writes about their amazing escape in "The Journey That Saved Curious George" (Houghton Mifflin, \$17). She writes it in the style of a Curious George book. Allan Drummond's bright illustrations may even remind you of Mr. Rey's drawings.

Remember all the trouble George got into in "Curious George Rides a Bike"

(Houghton Mifflin, \$6.95)? When people desperate to escape bought all the bicycles in a Paris shop, Mr. Rey made two bicycles out of spare parts for himself and Margret. He attached baskets to the bicycles. They carefully packed the manuscript about their little monkey in one of the baskets. They covered George up to protect him from the rain.

They bicycled and took trains from France to Spain. From there they escaped to Portugal, to Brazil and, finally, to America.

A year later, in 1941, "Curious George" was published in America. It has sold more than 27 million copies and has been translated into more than 14 languages.

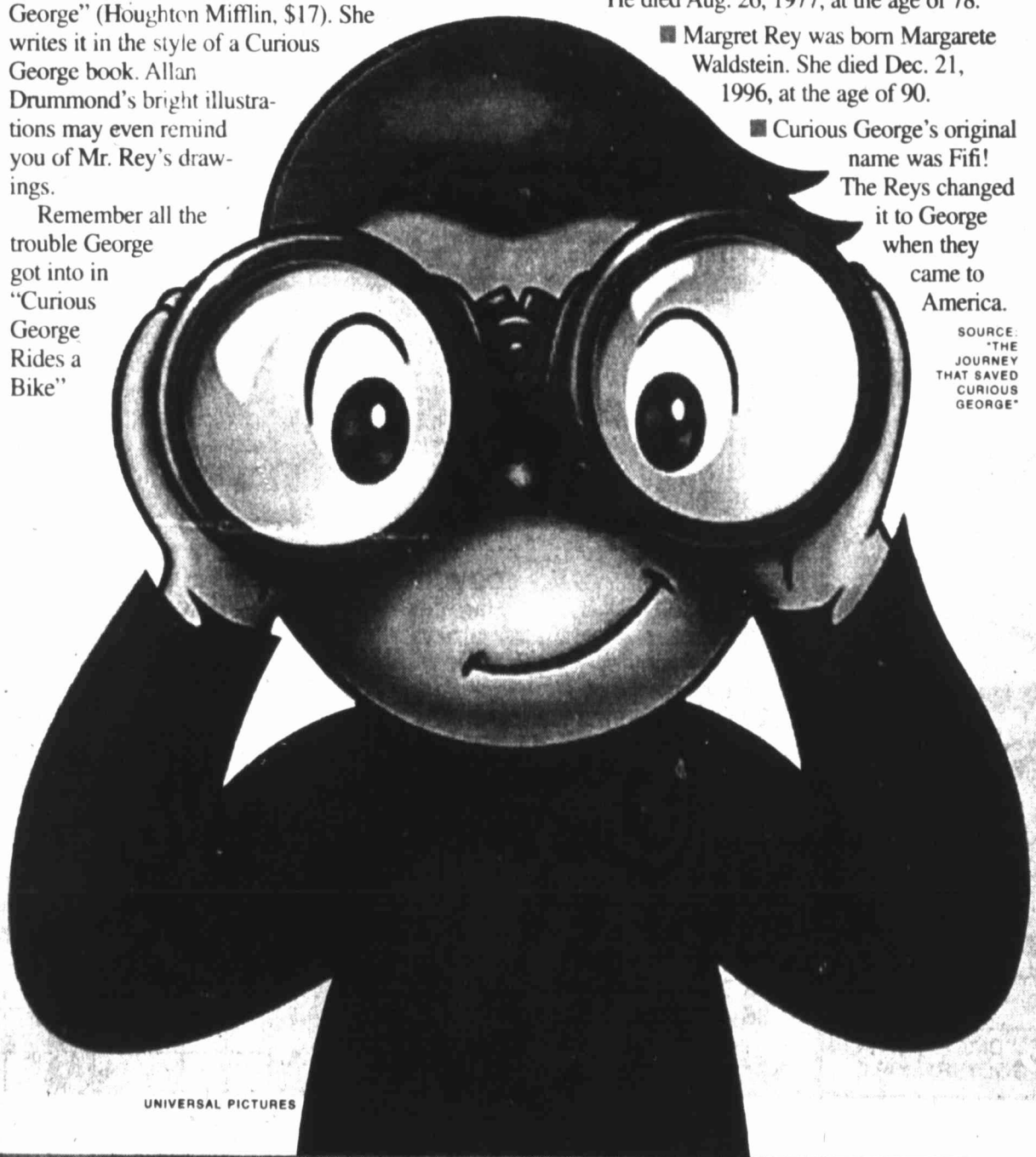
### Did you know?

■ H.A. Rey's real name was Hans Augusto Reyersbach. He shortened it to make it easier to say. He died Aug. 26, 1977, at the age of 78.

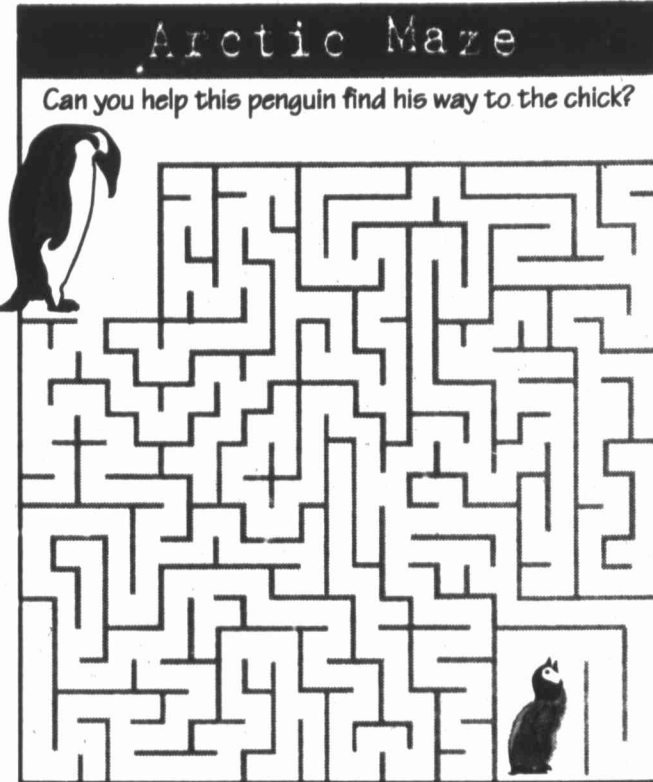
■ Margret Rey was born Margarete Waldstein. She died Dec. 21, 1996, at the age of 90.

■ Curious George's original name was Fifi! The Reys changed it to George when they came to America.

SOURCE: "THE JOURNEY THAT SAVED CURIOUS GEORGE"



UNIVERSAL PICTURES



MARTY WESTMAN/KRT

## In The News

### Dance video game gets kids in shape

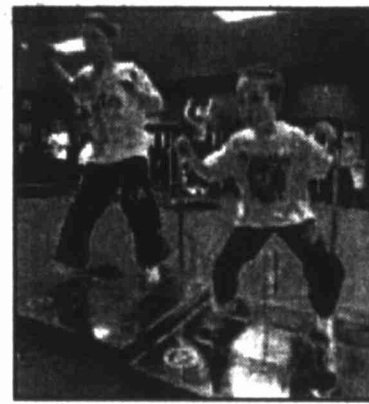
Kids are often told to turn off their video games and get some exercise. But schools in West Virginia have found a way for kids to work out while playing a video game.

TIME  
FOR KIDS

West Virginia is one of the heaviest states in the country. About half of its fifth-graders are considered overweight or obese. To get kids moving on a healthier path, the state's public schools are using a video game called "Dance Dance Revolution."

#### GETTING KIDS' FEET MOVING

To use the game, players stand on a special mat in front of a TV screen. Following arrows on the screen, players must move their feet to specific symbols on the mat. Players must move quickly, touching symbols on the mat at just the right time. With each song, kids get more exercise.



DAVID M. WARREN/KRT

Angelo Piro, 11, left, and his brother Nick, 6, compete on "Dance Dance Revolution."

"If we can get children to change their behavior at a young age, they hopefully will grow up to be healthy, active adults," said Carl Callison of Mountain State Blue Cross, a health care company.

#### TARGET: KIDS' HEALTH

West Virginia is consistently ranked among the top three heaviest states. About a third of West Virginians are considered obese. Even more are considered overweight.

Extra weight can lead to serious health problems such as high blood pressure, diabetes, some cancers and other many other health issues.

"One out of three children born in West Virginia today will have diabetes by the time they grow up," said Nidia Henderson, a manager for the public employees' insurance program. "That's a devastating statistic and not acceptable."

#### SPREADING A DANCE REVOLUTION

All of West Virginia's 157 middle schools are using the video game. School officials hope all public schools in the state will use the game within the next three years. However, officials emphasize that the game is not meant to replace physical education and health class. The game will be a part of physical education classes and after-school programs.

— Jill Egan

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