

State of the City

Address, luncheon scheduled Tuesday

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The past, present and future of the city of Big Spring will be the focus Tuesday, as Mayor Russ McEwen prepares to make his annual "State of the City" address during a community luncheon at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.



Those looking for a preview of the address between now and Tuesday may find themselves somewhat disappointed, as the Big Spring Mayor is staying somewhat tight-lipped about the event.

"What's my address going to be about? I'm not telling," said McEwen with a laugh. "You'll just have to be there."

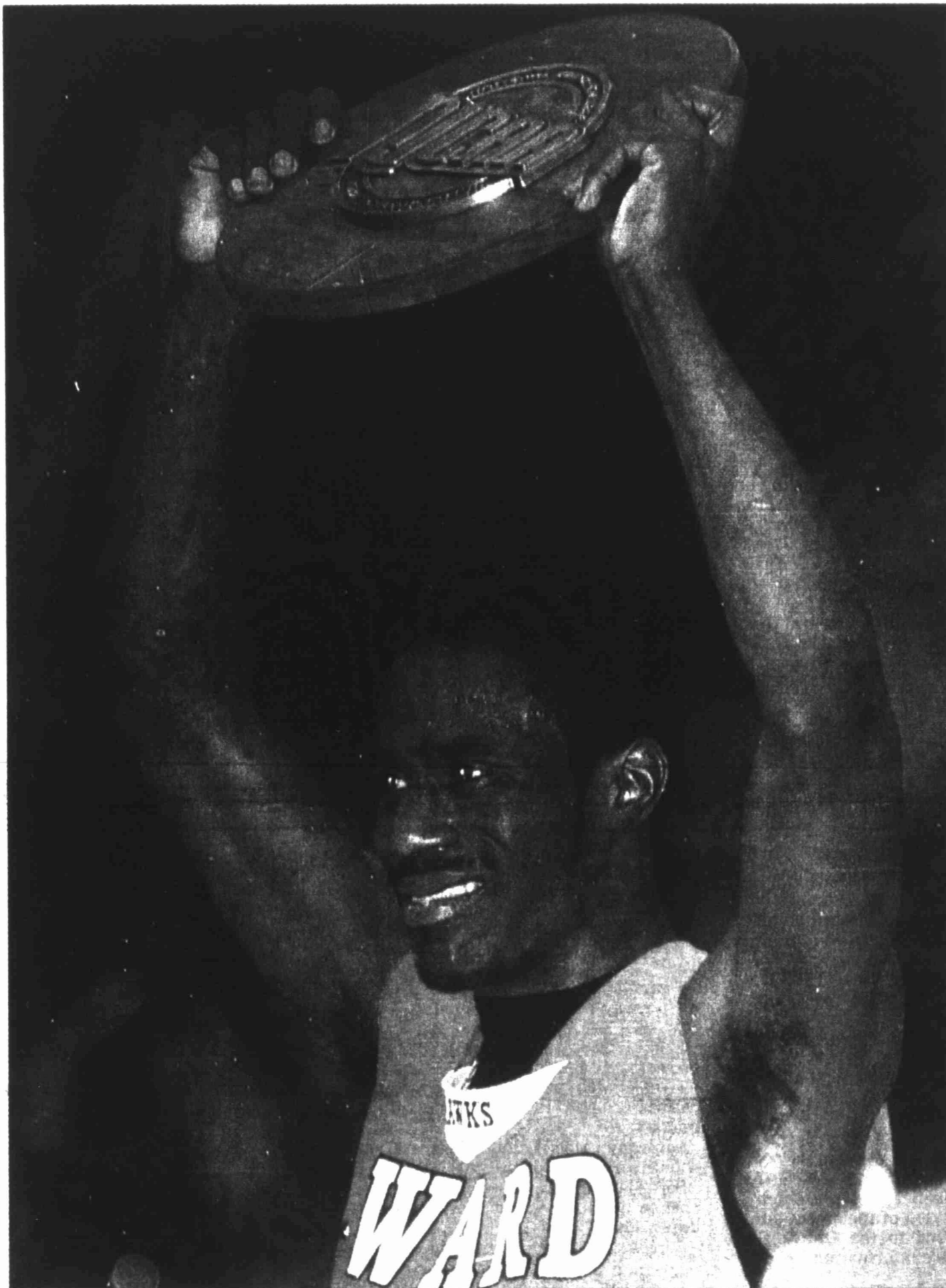
While McEwen is keeping the particulars of the presentation under wraps, he's not shy at all about discussing the purpose of the annual address.

"It's a chance for us to review the past and look toward the future," said McEwen. "This gives us a chance to chart our progress for the future and debate the outcomes, which is important."

Chamber Executive Director Debby ValVerde said the lun-

See LUNCHEON, Page 3A

Hutchinson bound!



Howard sophomore Dezmon Harris holds up the Region 5 Tournament championship trophy Sunday after the top-ranked Hawks downed arch rival Midland at the Rip Griffin Center, 81-71. Howard, which improved to 32-1 on the season, advances to the national tournament where it will take on Sheridan College in the first round Wednesday, March 22, at 1 p.m. in Hutchinson, Kan., at the Hutchinson Sports Arena.

Hawks claim region crown

See tournament results, photos, Page 1B

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — For the first time since 1969, the Howard College men's basketball team is heading to National Junior College Athletic Association's national tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

The No. 1-ranked Hawks took down Western Junior College Athletic Conference rivals South Plains and Midland in the Region 5 semifinals and finals, respectively, Saturday and Sunday.

Howard, which improved to 32-1 on the season, will begin the national tournament against Sheridan College Wednesday, March 22, at 1 p.m. in the Hutchinson Sports Arena.

"There was a lot of pressure on us to win this thing and to get to the national tournament and we felt if we lost the season would be a failure," said Howard head coach Mark Adams. "We wanted to cut the nets down tonight and we were able to do that."

The Hawks were led Sunday by sophomore Dezmon Harris, who scored 23 points and delivered seven assists. He was snubbed on the all-conference's first team

See HAWKS, Page 3A

Council to review CRMWD project Tuesday

City also convenes at 5:30 p.m. today for energy audit report.

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to give final approval Tuesday night for a resolution that will give the

Colorado River Municipal Water District first right of use for the city's effluent water, part of a district-wide reclamation project.

It's the second of two meetings set by the city council. Today at 5:30 p.m., the council will hear results of an energy audit performed by Siemens Building Technologies. The audit is the only item on the

agenda today, while approval of a possible contract with Siemens is on Tuesday's slate of action items.

According to Todd Darden, director of public works for the city of Big Spring, the water CRMWD is asking for rights to Tuesday is currently being "thrown away" by the municipality.

"The purpose of this amend-



Darden

ment is for each member city — Big Spring, Odessa and Snyder — to grant the district first right to use of the city's surplus effluent water generated by each of city," said Darden. "Big Spring's surplus effluent comes from our wastewater discharge

at the treatment plant just off 11th Place and FM 700. Currently, we are permitted by the state to discharge all wastewater into Beals Creek, which is then diverted by the district into Evaporation Lake, which they call Red Draw, which is part of the district's system."

John Grant, manager of

See CITY, Page 3A

Salvation Army pantry almost bare

By ANDREIA MEDLIN
Staff Writer

The Salvation Army is asking for donations of non-perishable items to help restock its dwindling food pantry. The canned food drive held every Christmas usually ensures enough food for the year, but due to an increase of families in need and the low turnout at Christmas the Salvation Army's food pantry is all but bare.



Keeney

"Our drive was down this year," said Salvation Army Capt. Linda Keeney. "We usually have enough to last until the next Christmas, but here it is March now and we're nearly out." An increase of families in need of foodstuffs and more meals served at the lodge have contributed to the

unusually low supplies. "We've had more families come in than we've had in some time," said Keeney. "We can't keep the bags made up."

The number of meals served at the Salvation Army Lodge has also seen an increase. "We served (more than 2,000) meals in February alone," she said.

Donations of non-perishable — which includes any food item that doesn't

To help, take non-perishable food items or monetary donations to the Salvation Army at 811 West Fifth St. or call 267-8239.

require refrigeration or freezing — will be accepted. Monetary donations are also welcome.

INDEX

Classified 3-5B
Health 6A
Obituaries 2A
Opinion 4A
Sports 1-2B



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Seven die in fires, accidents in Panhandle

By **BETSY BLANEY**

Associated Press Writer

GROOM (AP) — Firefighters worked through the night to try to contain wildfires that raced across the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, scorching more than 660,000 acres, killing at least seven people and injuring at least seven more.

Four of the dead were killed in a chain-reaction accident on Interstate 40 east of Groom as smoke obscured the road. Three people died in fires near Borger.

"This is probably one of the biggest fire days in Texas history," said Warren Bielenberg, a spokesman for the Texas Forest Service.

The total acreage involved in fires near Groom and Borger alone eclipsed the 455,000 acres that burned over a span of a couple weeks in late December and early January.

Shane Brown, a spokesman for the Texas Forest Service in Canyon, said the blaze near Borger covered 432,000 acres. The fire near Groom had consumed 211,000 acres and a fire south of Childress in the South Plains had burned 20,000.

Wildfires continued to burn early today near the border of Gray and Donley counties in

the Panhandle. Fields visible from Interstate 40 were ablaze and fallen trees smoldered in roadside ravines.

Fire snaked its way across fields and sent smoke hundreds of feet into the air. Some power poles appeared close to toppling as flames burned their bases.

Bill Tidwell, 68, worked overnight in his hometown of Alanreed to fight spotfires with his shovel.

"It's burning houses down all over the country," he said. "I've never seen nothing like it."

The fires forced the evacuation of residents in eight small towns, although some residents were allowed to return to their homes in Skellytown and Lefors late Sunday.

The accident near Groom, about 40 miles east of Amarillo, involved nine vehicles, said Daniel Hawthorne, a spokesman for the Department of Public Safety in Childress. Six people were injured in the crash.

"Somebody stopped because of the smoke and, of course, another vehicle hit them and another vehicle hit them," Hawthorne said. Identities of the dead weren't immediately available.

Near Borger, fire Capt. Mike

Galloway said two people died trying to escape a grass fire that consumed their home.

"The brush fire overtook their house and yard and got them," he said. "The flames just spread so fast."

Galloway said eight to 10 structures had been destroyed in the fire near Borger, about 40 miles northeast of Amarillo. Firefighters were still on the lines late Sunday. Brown said crews would work through the night to try to contain the blazes.

"The visibility was poor because the dust and ash was just blowing. It was hard to breathe and see," Galloway said. "It was definitely a very dangerous fire to fight."

Hutchinson County Sheriff's Deputy Aaron McWilliams said a third person died at a different location.

Danny Whittington, a volunteer firefighter in McLean, said 15 to 20 structures were lost in a fire between Pampa and McLean.

"I can't imagine what it's going to look like at daylight," Whittington said.

"I've seen something I've never seen before and that's cattle and horses burned. You'd think they would run, but they

just stood there," he said. Whittington's father, Frank, suffered burns to the chest while fighting the blaze.

Bielenberg said officials are still uncertain what started the wildfires. But strong winds and low humidity made conditions ideal for the fires to spread, forecasters said. Wind gusts of 55 mph were reported.

The parched region around Amarillo has seen just three-tenths of an inch of rain since February, nearly an inch below normal averages.

"With these windy conditions and dry grasses, there was nothing to stop the fires," said J.J. Brost, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Amarillo.

He said cooler temperatures today should help firefighters but winds around 15 mph will still make battling the blazes difficult. No rain is expected in the region for at least the next seven days.

Low visibility from the dense smoke forced officials to close an 89-mile stretch of Interstate 40 from Amarillo to Shamrock for six hours, Hawthorne said. Traffic was initially diverted down State Highway 70 to U.S. 287 but 287 was then closed because of fires as well. Traffic

was then sent onto smaller, two-lane roads for a few hours.

Mandatory evacuations were issued for the towns of Lefors, Skellytown, Miami, Wheeler, Hoover, McLean and Old and New Mobeetie, Bielenberg said.

In the town of Shamrock, the smell of smoke filled the air Monday morning, and the town's hotel rooms filled up quickly.

Evacuees were arriving Sunday from Wheeler County nursing homes, Shamrock Police Chief Joe Daniels said. The Red Cross was setting up a shelter at the Shamrock Community Center, he said.

Shamrock City Manager John Rhodes said a few hundred people, including some elderly and sick patients from nursing homes, were transported in school buses. Some of the nursing home residents were later moved to other facilities.

Bielenberg said authorities would fly over the burning areas early today to get a more accurate measurement of the acreage.

In January, Gov. Rick Perry declared a drought disaster for the entire state after an earlier round of wildfires charred more than 455,000 acres and destroyed more than 340 homes.

Storms, tornadoes rip across Midwest

By **JOHN MILBURN**

Associated Press Writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — A swarm of tornadoes killed at least 10 people across the Midwest, shut down the University of Kansas, and damaged so much of Springfield, Ill., that the mayor said "every square inch" of town suffered the effects.

At the University of Kansas, officials called off classes Monday after 60 percent of the buildings were damaged by a storm littered campus with fallen branches, ripped-up roofs, shattered glass and hail.

In Missouri, four bodies were found in the rubble of homes near Renick in north-central Missouri town, the coroner said. In Southwest Missouri, a 63-year-old man died early Monday from injuries when a twist hit near Marionville. Two other bodies were discovered near Sedalia and in Henry County.

Another twister killed

two people during the weekend when it hurled their pickup truck beneath a propane tank about 80 miles south of St. Louis. Another storm victim was found in Indiana.

Springfield, Ill., Mayor Tim Davlin said he expected "every square inch of Springfield" suffered.

"It's just unreal," he said early Monday from the city's Emergency Operations Center.

A series of powerful storms crossed eastern Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana on Sunday and early Monday. High winds lifted a cargo container off the airfield at Kansas City International Airport and blew it into several vehicles.

Tornadoes were also reported in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Heavy rain flooded roads in Indiana, where a man drowned Sunday after falling from a boat, said state Department of Homeland Security spokesman Andy Zirkle.



Curtis Otte, of St. Mary, Mo., hauls debris out of a John Deere dealership Sunday in Steelville, Ill., after a tornado ripped through the area Saturday night. According to police, no injuries were reported but 50 to 70 structures were damaged in the storm and five homes were left uninhabitable.

KRT photo/David Carson, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

HAWKS

Continued from page 1A

recently, but Adams said Harris was the MVP of the regional tournament.

"He took the game over tonight," said Adams. "I was disappointed he didn't make the all-conference's first team and I think he proved his worth in this tournament. We ask a lot of him and he has been our most consistent player all year."

Sophomore Charles Burgess, who will play for Texas Tech next year, also had a big role in the regional tournament. He scored 19 points in each of the first two games and had 15 points against Midland in the championship game.

"From the time I came to Howard the goal has always been to get to the national tournament," said Burgess. "You play this game to win and we did what we had to do today to win and now we're going to Hutch."

LUNCHEON

Continued from Page 1A

cheon is a chance for residents to take a close look at 2006.

"The chamber sponsors the community luncheon

each year," said ValVerde. "It's a chance for the mayor to inform the city of what his plans are for the coming year. For the chamber it's a chance to represent our members and try to focus on promoting community

and economic development. I think this is a perfect example — a perfect chance — for us to promote that through the mayor's state of the city address."

Tickets for the annual luncheon are on sale at

the Chamber office, located at 215 W. Third Street, and according to ValVerde, will most likely go quickly.

"Tickets are \$15 each, and unlike previous community luncheons, tickets will be available at the

door," said ValVerde. "The serving line will start at 11:30 a.m. and catering is being provided by Great Western Dining."

For more information, contact ValVerde at 263-7641.

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

CRMWD, said the rights to the water could possibly pave the way for a new form of water reclamation that was originally deemed unfeasible, but thanks to new technology could help in the continuing water struggle in drought-stricken West Texas.

"The water we're looking at reclaiming represents approximately 20 percent of the overall water we use, so we feel this project could have a serious impact on the reclamation of water in West Texas," said Grant. "The water that could be

reclaimed through Beals Creek alone amounts to 1.8 million gallons a day. All three projects would reclaim 12,000 acre-feet of water in a year."

While the idea of reclaiming wastewater may seem like a serious boost to the district's water supplies, Grant said the project has a fairly large price tag.

"Just the Big Spring part of the project will cost approximately \$8 million," said Grant. "However, we're looking at low interest loans and other methods of finance to keep it from turning into a large rate increase for our members and their customers. We're looking for ways to bring

the overall cost down."

Other items to be considered Tuesday are:

- Acceptance of minutes from meetings conducted by the Planning and Zoning Commission, Conventions and Visitors Bureau, McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark Development Board and Moore Development for Big Spring board of directors.
- Final reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement with the West Texas Water Ski Club.
- Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing an application to the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission for the Solid Wastes Grants

Program.

- First reading of a resolution authorizing the city manager to execute an agreement with Rick E. Boiles as Moss Lake caretaker.
- Emergency reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a letter of agreement and notice to proceed on a scope of work for a intensive archeological survey of Moss Creek Lake.
- First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute a performance contracting agreement with Siemens Technology.
- First reading of a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of a master lease agreement,

an escrow agreement and related instruments.

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

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267 8288
Fred Castillo, Sr., 59, died Sunday. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM Tuesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Redistricting:
Take it out of
legislator's hands

How much partisanship is too much partisanship? The Supreme Court took up that question last week, hearing arguments about the constitutionality of a redistricting plan drawn up by Texas Republicans in 2003.

The last time the court heard a similar case, it deadlocked over how to define a standard for excessive partisan influence in the gerrymandering process.

The swing vote in that 2004 decision, Justice Anthony Kennedy, may well find that a second redistricting after the 2000 census establishes the benchmark. The suppression of a unanimous determination by Justice Department staff attorneys that the redistricting plan violated the Voting Rights Act might bolster that finding.

If the high court deems the current Texas map unconstitutional, it could mean chaos. At best, some legislative districts would have to be redrawn for 2008 elections, only to be redrawn again after the 2010 census.

How much partisanship is too much partisanship? It may not make legal history, but most Texans would abide by former Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart's definition of obscenity: You know it when you see it.

The Texas gerrymander is a political obscenity. And it didn't begin in 2003. The current Republican plan is no more egregious than the 1991 Democratic plan. That plan faced 10 legal challenges that dragged on for seven years.

The solution is to take redistricting out of the hands of partisan legislators and give it to a commission.

State Sen. Jeff Wentworth has championed this approach since 1993. Unfortunately, too many colleagues in both parties are intoxicated with the power of drawing political boundaries.

Given the abuses of this power in Texas, the Supreme Court rather than state leaders unfortunately may have the final say about how they draw those boundaries.

SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

How To CONTACT US

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

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
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- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

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The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

WOT: Perfect not the enemy of good

I can't tell you how many columns I've read lately, acknowledging that Republicans are in deep disarray. But most of these, and many more, concede the Democrats' own problems prevent them from capitalizing on the GOP difficulties.

Both observations, I think, are largely true. But the parties' respective problems stem from different sources. Much of the Republicans' problems result from their being in power at an extraordinary time and the unrealistic expectations the public demands from its leaders.

We live in an enormously dangerous world. We don't even know for sure who our enemy is. Yes, it's radical Islamic terrorists. But what about ostensibly less radical Muslims? How about anti-American Arab populations whose governments are controlled by apparently America-friendly regimes, like the UAE?

Our failure to recognize our ambivalence about the degree to which we can trust "friendly" Arab states, whether the UAE, Saudi Arabia, or even the newly formed Iraqi government once we loosen the reins, clouds our judgment. If the Dubai Ports deal demonstrates nothing else, it reveals our uncertainty in that we've fully identified the enemy.

As ominous a threat as Communism was, the threat came from its dictators. The subject people, all oppressed, were hardly invested philosophically, much less theologically, in Marxism, which had long since lost its idealistic appeal — except, perhaps, to European and American "intellectuals" — and become an excuse for subjugating the people it promised to deliver.

But radical Islam is an animat-

ing worldview, for which many of its adherents are willing to martyr themselves. Unlike Communism, the global threat it represents does not wholly depend on the rise and fall of nation states.

President Bush inherited the War on Terror. He didn't have the choice of inaction, like President Clinton before him. Once our mainland was attacked, we had to respond, quickly and decisively, though we didn't have a sufficient understanding of the nature and extent of our enemy and hadn't yet developed a comprehensive strategy to deal with Islamic terrorists. But President Bush, building on a prescient blueprint drafted by President Reagan, formulated one with remarkable alacrity.

While things appeared to be going well, President Bush was widely respected and most Americans felt comfortable under his national security stewardship. But war is unpredictable and doesn't always go as planned. The only thing certain about it, say the generals, is the inevitability of the unexpected. This, I believe, is where many of the president's problems lie.

We are a proud people, with an unusual knack for solving problems: We have conquered frontiers of science and technology we never even dreamed we would confront. But with these conquests and our increasing societal acclimation to instant gratification, we have become spoiled. We demand perfection in an imperfect world, immediate resolution of problems that are necessarily long term, and, more to the point, veritable clairvoyance in our foreign policy dealings.

If not American society as a whole, the Democrats for sure demand clairvoyance from this president. They say that because we didn't find WMD stockpiles in Iraq, he lied in saying they were there. But since when has lying been defined as affirming something as true you believed at the time was true, but later discovered

might not have been? Democrats have also condemned Bush for failing to anticipate, with certainty, all the consequences of removing Saddam, including the intra-mural sectarian strife — which has been exaggerated by the anti-war media.

Never mind that no one could possibly have known for sure what would happen if we removed Saddam. We still can't be sure today. But President Bush, being in office at the time, had to make the hard decisions without the luxury of the hindsight lenses with which he is now being judged by his exacting, armchair detractors.

Even if he could have foreknown a measure of chaos would ensue in the wake of the vacuum created by deposing Saddam, he most likely would still have decided to attack Iraq, because he reasonably believed, based on the best available information, that Saddam posed a threat to our national security.

Must we remind ourselves that war is not an exact science? In the War on Terror, we must not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

For example, we shouldn't abandon President Bush's secondary goal of civilizing and pacifying the Middle East through democratizing Iraq, just because it is far from guaranteed. Does anyone have a better, more constructive, idea? You can be sure the Democrats don't.

Their lack of viable alternative plans, though, is not because they haven't thought about them. Rather, it's symptomatic of (and inherent in) their worldview, which paralyzes them from sober leadership and decisive action in the War on Terror. This is the primary reason they are powerless to exploit the president's current difficulties. I'll explore this phenomenon next time.

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Cheap, old McCarthyite trick

It was such a relief to me to learn we are making "very, very good progress" in Iraq. As the third anniversary of our invasion approaches, I could not have been more thrilled by the news reported by Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on a Sunday chat show. Vice President Dick Cheney's take was equally reassuring: Things are "improving steadily" in Iraq.

I was thrilled — very, very good progress and steady improvement, isn't that grand? Wake me if anything starts to go wrong. Like someone bombing the al-Askari Mosque in Samarra and touching off a lot of sectarian violence.

I was also relieved to learn — via Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, so noted for his consistently accurate assessment of this war — that the whole picture is hunky-dory to tickety-boo. Since the bombing of the mosque, lots of alarmists have reported that Iraq is devolving or might be collapsing into civil war. They're sort of jumping over the civil war line and back again — yep, it's started; nope, it hasn't — like a bunch of false starts at the beginning of a football play.

I'm sure glad to get the straight skinny from Ol' Rumsfeld, who has been in Iraq many times himself for the typical in-country experience. Like many foreign correspondents, Rumsfeld roams the streets alone, talking to any chance-met Iraqi in his fluent Arabic, so of course he knows best.

"From what I've seen thus far, much of the reporting in the U.S. and abroad has exaggerated the situation," Rumsfeld said. "We do know, of course, that al-Qaida has media committees. We do know they teach people exactly how to

try to manipulate the media. They do this regularly. We see the intelligence that reports on their meetings. Now I can't take a string and tie it to a news report and then trace it back to an al-Qaida media committee meeting. I am not able to do that at all."

No kidding? Then can I ask a question: If you're able to monitor these media committee meetings, how come you can't find Osama bin Ladin?

But, Brother Rumsfeld warns us, "We do know that their goal is to try to break the will; that they consider the center of gravity of this — not to be in Iraq, because they know they can't win a battle out there; they consider it to be in Washington, D.C., and in London and in the capitals of the Western world."

I'm sorry, I know we are not allowed to use the V-word in relation to Iraq, because so many brilliant neo-cons have assured us this war is nothing like Vietnam (Vietnam, lotsa jungle; Iraq lotsa sand — big differences). But you must admit that press conferences with Donny Rum are wonderfully reminiscent of the Five O'Clock Follies, those wacky but endearing daily press briefings on Southeast Asia by military officers who made Baghdad Bob sound like a pessimist.

Rumsfeld's performance was so reminiscent of all the times the military in Vietnam blamed the media for reporting "bad news" when there was nothing else to report. A briefing officer once memorably asked the press, "Who's side are you on?" The

answer is what it's always been: We root for America, but our job is to report as accurately as we can what the situation is.

You could rely on other sources. For example, the Pentagon is still investigating itself to find out why it is paying American soldiers to make up good news about the war, which it then passes on to a Republican public relations firm, which in turn pays people in the Iraqi media to print the stuff — thus fooling the Iraqis or somebody. When last heard from, the general in charge of investigating this federally funded Baghdad Bobism said he hadn't found anything about it to be illegal yet, so it apparently continues.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad told the *Los Angeles Times* Iraq is "really vulnerable" to civil war if there is another attack like the al-Askari bombing. By invading, said Khalilzad, the United States has "opened the Pandora's box" of sectarian strife in Iraq.

Could I suggest something kind of grown-up? Despite Rumsfeld's rationalizing, we are in a deep pile of poop here, and we're best likely to come out of it OK by pulling together. So could we stop this cheap old McCarthyite trick of pretending that correspondents who are in fact risking their lives and doing their best to bring the rest of us accurate information are somehow disloyal or connected to al-Qaida?

Wrong, yes, of course they could be wrong. But there is now a three-year record of who has been right about what is happening in Iraq, Rumsfeld or the media. And the score is: Press — 1,095, Rumsfeld — zero.

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By AMY WESTFELT

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A memorial ceremony, which began on the White House Center memorial morning, while some of the Sept. 11 victims' families headed to court to build over the twin towers' footprints.

Trucks rolled into the site with equipment, and a construction worker cleaning the memo installing protective coverings over partial foundation.

After six to eight preliminary work,

McCl

By SETH SUTEL

AP Business Wire

NEW YORK — McClatchy Co. reached a deal with Knight Ridder Inc. to acquire the second-largest U.S. newspaper publisher, for \$4.5 billion in cash.

McClatchy will assume about \$2 billion of Knight Ridder's debt. The deal will add to McClatchy's portfolio of major newspapers, including The Kansas City Star and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. McClatchy's acquisitions include The Sacramento Bee and The Observer in Raleigh, N.C.

McClatchy plans to acquire 12 of Knight Ridder newspapers, including Philadelphia Daily Inquirer, Philadelphia Daily

Trial lo

By KRISTEN WYATT

Associated Press

ELKTON, Md. — Weighing just 81 pounds, Mary Elizabeth was found dead in a sparsely furnished room that was cluttered with a doorknob.

Authorities say the 21-year-old woman starved to death after a long-time partner, Joseph Dougherty, took care of her aneurysm in 1999, unable to work.

"It was just deplorable conditions, to say the least," said Sgt. Joseph Chiominto, a detective with the Cecil County Department. "The stench alone coming from the room. It was the worst ones I've seen."

Dougherty faced Monday on charges of neglect, involuntary manslaughter and a degree murder. He had been in jail for more than 30 days.

Attorney William is expected to file a lawsuit against a kidney disease specialist, Kilrain's doctor, who said weight loss and never was depressed before her death in February 2005.

Riddle said D

MONTGOMERY state lawmaker blocked in by a bill to let the air of

State Rep. Al says he now regrets he later learned wife of Rep. Reform.

Hall, who wife said he did not way down.

"I just wanted and put some a trouble her a little Hall, a House

No groundbreaking, but WTC memorial construction begins

By AMY WESTFELDT

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Without political ceremony, construction began on the World Trade Center memorial Monday morning, while relatives of some of the Sept. 11 victims headed to court to fight plans to build over the twin towers' historic footprints.

Trucks rolled down a ramp into the site with lumber and equipment, and about a dozen construction workers began cleaning the memorial area and installing protective wooden coverings over parts of the original foundation.

After six to eight weeks of preliminary work, concrete will

be poured to create footings to support the "Reflecting Absence" design.

Gov. George Pataki last week called the event "a very important milestone," but no groundbreaking ceremony was planned for the next several weeks. Officials said they wanted to meet a schedule to build the memorial by 2009.

Some Sept. 11 families that oppose the underground memorial design are trying to stop the work before it is set in concrete.

The Coalition of 9/11 Families last week filed a lawsuit charging that the memorial would damage the historic footprints. Preservation groups have made

similar arguments in letters to rebuilding officials. A court hearing was scheduled Monday, and other family members planned a protest rally.

"There is always opportunity until concrete is poured," said Rosaleen Tallon, the sister of a firefighter killed in the 2001 terrorist attacks. Tallon began sleeping outside her brother Sean's firehouse across from the trade center site last week, and said Monday's construction work wouldn't stop her protest.

The "Reflecting Absence" design, by architect Michael Arad, was chosen two years ago out of more than 5,200 competition entries. It marks the fallen towers near their footprints

with two stone reflecting pools at street level, surrounded by trees. The pools go 70 feet below ground, where visitors find surrounding each pool the names of the nearly 3,000 people killed in the 2001 attacks and the 1993 trade center bombing.

Families have said the memorial would dishonor the dead by placing their names below street level and might be difficult to evacuate quickly.

Stefan Pryor, president of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., the agency in charge of ground zero rebuilding, said the design would "fulfill the highest standards of both safety and beauty." He said the agency would continue to hear

family members' concerns.

A private foundation still has hundreds of millions of dollars to raise to build the memorial and a museum. A \$490 million budget will be reevaluated by the project's contractor over the next few months.

The World Trade Center Memorial Foundation has raised just over \$100 million of a \$500 million goal; it still has not calculated the costs of operating the facility.

Foundation president Gretchen Dykstra said the beginning of construction should jump-start fundraising and quiet skeptics who thought no plans would be realized at the site.

McClatchy to buy Knight Ridder for \$4.5 billion

By SETH SUTEL

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The McClatchy Co. has reached a deal to buy Knight Ridder Inc., the second-largest U.S. newspaper publisher, for about \$4.5 billion in cash and stock, the companies announced Monday. McClatchy will also assume about \$2 billion in Knight Ridder's debt.

The deal will add several major newspapers to McClatchy's portfolio, including The Miami Herald, The Kansas City Star and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. McClatchy's papers include The Sacramento Bee and The News & Observer in Raleigh, N.C.

McClatchy plans to sell 12 of Knight Ridder's 32 newspapers, including The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Philadelphia Daily News

and the San Jose Mercury News, saying that those papers don't fit the company's longstanding criteria of buying newspapers in growing markets.

McClatchy also plans to sell Knight Ridder's newspaper in St. Paul, Minn., the St. Paul Pioneer Press, in anticipation of antitrust concerns that would arise out of McClatchy's ownership of the Star Tribune in the adjacent city of Minneapolis.

The transaction, which had been expected, largely ends several months of uncertainty for Knight Ridder, which had been forced to explore a sale by its largest investors, who were frustrated with the company's stock performance.

Knight Ridder's chairman and CEO Tony Ridder noted in a statement that the "uncertainty is not over" for the 12

newspapers that will be sold, "and I regret that very much."

In an interview on CNBC, McClatchy CEO Gary Pruitt said he did not anticipate having trouble finding buyers for the Knight Ridder papers the company intends to sell, despite concerns among investors about the newspaper industry's prospects given the loss of readers and advertisers to the Internet.

"We don't think we'll have any trouble," Pruitt said. "We'll begin marketing them today."

Pruitt also said there were no plans for newsroom layoffs, though he did expect some consolidation in the corporate offices and on the Internet side. He also said McClatchy intended to hold on to Knight Ridder's stake in CareerBuilder, an online job postings business that

is co-owned with Gannett and Tribune Co.

Lauren Rich Fine, a newspaper industry analyst with Merrill Lynch, said in a note to investors that while it was good news that an industry buyer was interested in Knight Ridder, the price being paid was "unlikely to produce much cheer for newspaper investors." Newspaper stocks have been out of favor on Wall Street recently over concerns about declining circulation trends, the competitive threat from the Internet and other concerns including the rising cost of newsprint.

Following the deal and the sale of the 12 Knight Ridder papers, McClatchy will end up with 32 daily newspapers and roughly 50 non-daily publications, making it the second-largest newspaper publisher in the nation following Gannett Co., pub-

lisher of USA Today.

The deal marked the latest expansion beyond its California roots for McClatchy, a smaller but highly regarded newspaper company based in Sacramento. In 1997 the company paid \$1.4 billion to acquire the parent company of the Star Tribune, Cowles Media Co., and before that it acquired The News & Observer, The Anchorage Daily News in Alaska, and The News Tribune in Tacoma, Wash.

The deal values San Jose, Calif.-based Knight Ridder at \$67.25 per share, including \$40 per share in cash and 0.5118 of a share of McClatchy's Class A stock. The valuation is based on Friday's closing price of \$53.24 for McClatchy shares. Knight Ridder's stock closed at \$65 a share on Friday.

McClatchy said it will

finance the transaction with \$3.75 billion in bank debt, for which it has already received commitments from lenders.

McClatchy's controlling shareholders have already approved the deal, but it still faces approval from Knight Ridder shareholders.

McClatchy plans to add two Knight Ridder directors to its board. In addition to the papers in Philadelphia, San Jose, and St. Paul, McClatchy also intends to sell the Akron Beacon Journal in Ohio; the Times Leader in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; the Aberdeen American News in South Dakota; the Grand Forks Herald in North Dakota; The News-Sentinel in Ft. Wayne, Indiana; the Contra Costa Times and The Monterey County Herald in California and the Duluth News Tribune in Minnesota.

Trial looms for Maryland man accused of starving companion

By KRISTEN WYATT

Associated Press Writer

ELKTON, Md. — Weighing just 81 pounds, Mary Elizabeth Kilrain was found dead in a sparsely furnished, filthy room that was outfitted with a doorknob locking it from the outside.

Authorities say the 46-year-old woman was starved to death by her longtime partner, John Joseph Dougherty, who took care of her after an aneurism in 1999 left her unable to work.

"It was just deplorable conditions, to say the least," said Sgt. Bernard Chiominto, a detective for the Cecil County Sheriff's Department. "Just the stench alone coming from the room. It was one of the worst ones I'd ever seen."

Dougherty faces trial Monday on charges of neglect, involuntary manslaughter and second-degree murder. If convicted, he could go to prison for more than 30 years.

Attorney William Riddle is expected to argue that kidney disease caused Kilrain's dangerous weight loss and that she never was deprived of food before her death in February 2005.

Riddle said Dougherty

took almost two years off work to care for Kilrain after her aneurism. When the credit card bills got too high, he went back to work as a mechanic and never made enough to hire the nursing assistance she needed. Calls to the state for help from social services went unanswered, Riddle said.

"He found himself in an unfortunate situation, and when he reached out for help, he was denied," Riddle said. "He did the best he could right up until the last day Ms. Kilrain died."

The case has garnered so much attention that the trial was moved 45 miles south to Centreville, where prosecutors plan to describe to jurors in specific detail the kind of filth Kilrain lived in, down to an old pancake on the floor and a cup of urine on the windowsill. Black marks on the wall show where Kilrain banged with her cane.

Family members are expected to describe Kilrain as a woman who became angry and violent, sometimes hitting her three daughters with her cane. They say the marks on the wall came from her becoming agitated

after watching daytime television — not from Kilrain's attempts to get out of the room.

Free on a \$350,000 bond while he awaits trial, Dougherty declined an interview through his lawyer.

"I see this as a chance for vindication, a chance to finally get the truth out there," Dougherty told the Cecil Whig newspaper of his trial.

After the aneurism, Dougherty started a relationship with a woman 20 years his junior, and 33-year-old Kathleen Zeman was living in the house with two of her own children when Kilrain died.

Zeman was charged with neglect, though those charges were later dismissed by a judge. Reached by telephone, Zeman declined an interview.

"People are not going to like that he had a girlfriend right before his wife passed away," Riddle said.

Still, the lawyer says Dougherty tried his best to find help he could afford.

Riddle said Dougherty called the Cecil County Department of Social Services in December 2004, but no one would

help him. Riddle also said a neighbor called authorities after not seeing Kilrain in a year, but no one investigated.

Norris West, a spokesman for the Maryland Department of Human Resources, said he couldn't say whether anyone from the county office checked on Kilrain because of the pending trial.

Some people from the office are expected to testify, West said.

Randy Thomas, president of The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, said it isn't unusual for relatives to argue the stress of caring for an impaired person caused the neglect.

"The thing with children is there's a light at the end of the tunnel. Eventually they learn to go to the bathroom, tie their shoes — they grow up. With sick adults, the situation only gets worse."

Still, Thomas said stress shouldn't excuse Kilrain's living conditions or her death.

"We don't accept stress as a rationale for abusing children, so why would we accept that with older people? Letting someone

rot in a bedroom, I don't buy it," he said.

Neighbor Autumn Brown, 19, was more sympathetic, describing Dougherty as a "really nice guy."

"It's really sad what happened, but I don't know if it could've been stopped," Brown said. "I'm sure he did everything he could."

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ODDS AND ENDS

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A state lawmaker who says he got blocked in by another car decided to let the air of car's left front tire.

State Rep. Albert Hall, D-Gurley, says he now regrets what he did — he later learned the driver was the wife of Rep. Allen Layson, D-Reform.

Hall, who wiggled his way out, said he did not let the tire all the way down.

"I just wanted her to have to stop and put some air in her tire and trouble her a little, too," he said.

Hall, a House parking committee

member, said people have been blocking him in or taking his spot the whole legislative session. He said he has called wreckers to tow away cars parked in his spot.

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A woman found a small crocodile in her backyard swimming pool, a zoo spokeswoman said Monday, just weeks after another crocodile was found in a nearby pond.

The latest uninvited croc to turn up in northern Sydney was a 21-inch freshwater crocodile, said Australian Reptile Park spokes-

woman Mary Rayner. "She actually caught it," Rayner said. "It was extremely angry and she bound the snout."

It was not clear how the freshwater crocodile got into the swimming pool. The species, which can grow up to 10 feet long, is not found in the wild anywhere near Sydney.

The crocodile was taken to the reptile park, which is also home to the saltwater crocodile discovered last month.

"I think we are (going to be) running out of displays if this keeps on happening," Rayner said.

MAR

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2009

Straight talk on straight teeth

Do you want beautiful straight teeth for your child or yourself? Have you ever wondered which is the best way to achieve a great smile? Well, here's a discussion of various ways with their individual pros and cons.

There are some basic questions that need to be considered. How old is the patient? Is the problem too much or too little space? Is there a significant difference in sizes of the two jaws? What does the profile look like? How much gum shows when smiling? Are the teeth intact or are there lots of cavities, discolorations or fillings? How much time are we willing to take?

Now let's take a look at each of several options. Please note



DR.
DAVID
WARD

that for options involving moving teeth, retainers (either removable or bonded) must be used indefinitely to prevent some relapse.

Braces — Braces are usually the best bet for most teenagers and for those adults with moderate to severe space or crowding problems. There are different systems of braces that work differently. While great results are achievable with all systems, the one I utilize is often more comfortable and faster than the most commonly used system.

Invisalign — This is a great option for older teens or adults

who want to move their teeth without braces. Clear aligners are removable for eating and brushing. A new aligner is put into use every two weeks. Invisalign works great for mild to moderate problems, but is less desirable for complex ones. We have been very pleased with the success of the Invisalign on our patients.

Bonding — If you have just a little space between your front two teeth, or elsewhere, it is very easy and relatively inexpensive to close the space with bonded composite resin. It won't last forever, but it's no big deal to replace it years later.

Veneers — Are you an adult desiring instant gratification? The makeovers you see on TV usually involve 6-10 veneers on at least the upper teeth, and

some times on the lower, too. Veneers be made of porcelain or composite resin and often involve some reshaping of the teeth before they are bonded into place.

The advantages are speed and the ability to change the color and shape of the teeth. The disadvantages are the cost (of porcelain) and the fact that they will usually have to be replaced one or more times during an average lifetime.

Costs vary widely, but I assure you they usually cost less in Big Spring than in Dallas or Houston.

Crowns (caps) and bridges — Many of the TV makeovers involve crowns or bridges. These, like veneers, make an immediate change. Crowns are done when the teeth are badly decayed, worn, or full of fill-

ings. Bridges replace one or several missing teeth and are bonded to the adjacent teeth. With the newer all porcelain systems, the cosmetics with crowns and bridges can be just as beautiful as veneers.

That summarizes the basic options. Sometimes the best option involves a combination of cosmetic therapies. If you're unhappy with your smile, talk with a dentist, preferably one who can offer you all of these options.

Dr. David Ward practices family dentistry in Big Spring. He is currently president-elect of the Permian Basin Dental Society. He is also a member of the Texas and American Dental Associations and the Academies of Cosmetic Dentistry and Gp Orthodontics.

Swimming can shore up your true core

By RICHARD SEVEN

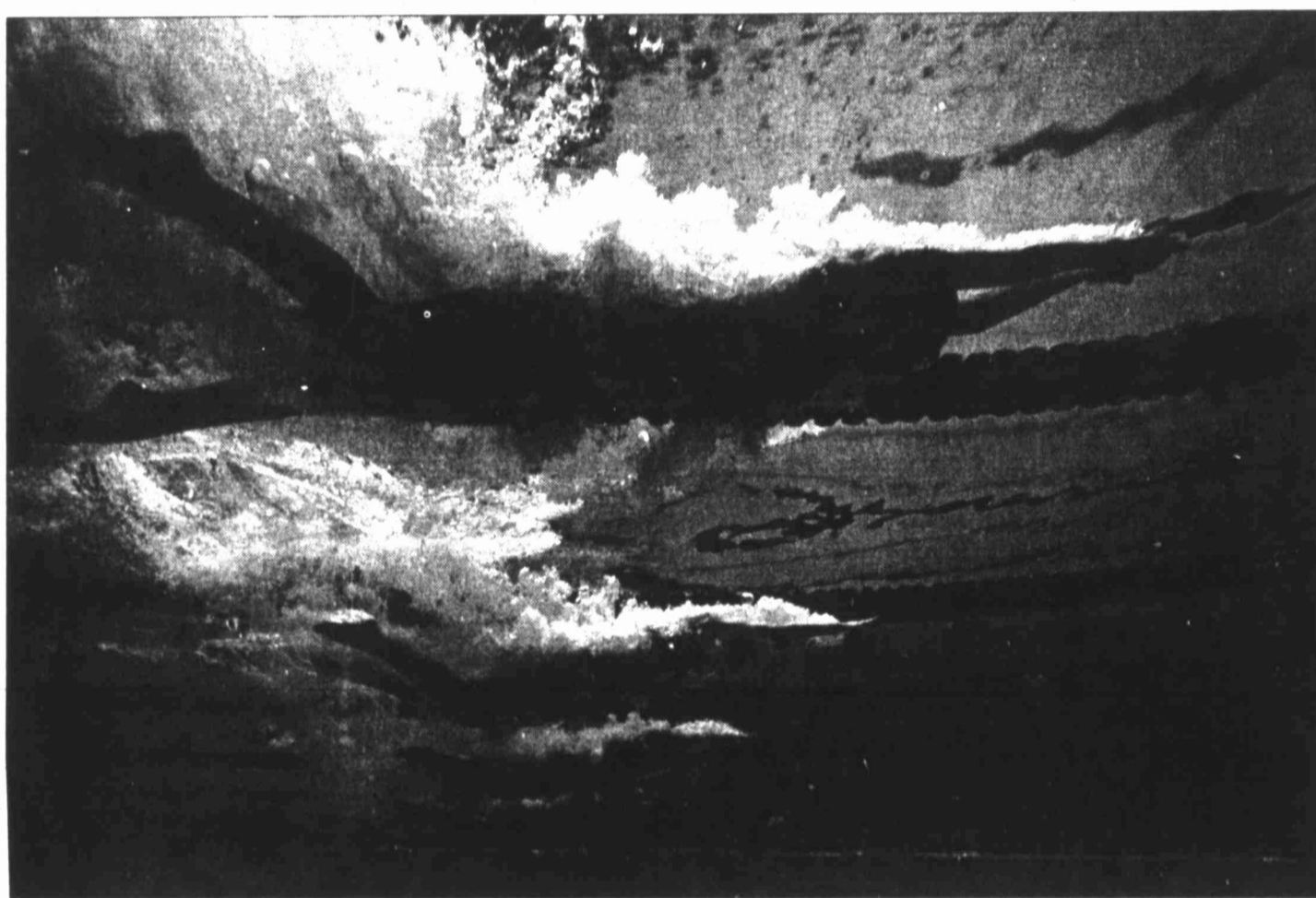
The Seattle Times

Q: Yoga and Pilates are such popular forms of exercise, but I prefer swimming. I don't read much about it as a good overall form of exercise. Wouldn't swimming also provide "core training" and strengthening of the abs? When swimming, aren't you doing some of the stretching and lengthening Pilates does? Is swimming as beneficial as yoga or Pilates for the over-40 group for maintaining strength and flexibility?

A: Comparing exercises is hard to do, but every one, when done correctly, activates and works, to some extent, the core muscles.

The reader is right, though; swimming traditionally gets cut out of the core hoopla. I asked help from Mary Meyer, a Seattle personal trainer who specializes in swimming and triathlon training (www.marymeyersfitness.com).

Meyer acknowledges that swimming isn't generally considered in the same league as Pilates and yoga when it comes to core work, but that is largely, in her mind, because you don't have an instructor standing over you and harping about activating those muscles while you're swimming. She also acknowledges that swim-



While swimming may not give you the perfect six-pack, it is great for building strength and flexibility, especially in the over-40 crowd because it is a non-weight-bearing, low-impact sport.

mers typically carry a bit more body weight for the sake of buoyancy and insulation, but looks can be deceiving.

"I have a hard time when a client comes in and says I want the six-pack or the eight-pack or whatever," she says. "I tell them then maybe swimming isn't the way to go."

Swimming works true

core muscles — the functional ones behind the abs facade. The sport builds strength and flexibility, focusing mostly on the upper body. In fact, the power of the body from the hips or upper thigh to the shoulders is the most important factor in effective swimming, she says.

Swimming is also one of the few activities in

which you can safely hyperextend your legs (such as when you kick down on the crawl stroke and butterfly). Meyer suggests varying strokes to increase the benefits.

While swimming is good for any age, it's especially good for the 40- and older group, she says, "considering it is a non-weight-bearing, low-impact sport that uses

most of the muscles in the body."

But it must be done correctly.

For best results, be sure you rotate, power through and finish each stroke rather than swimming flat and cutting your stroke short. Establish as efficient an aquatic line as possible, swimming with head, shoulders, hips and feet

in the same line on/to the surface of the water, and holding a straight line from side to side like a spear.

Good swimmers don't overload their arms and hands. The arm-stroke pattern is effectively a catch and throw, with about 70 percent of the propulsion coming off the throw when combined with a hip-driven core rotation. This is similar to throwing and hitting baseballs.

The kick also stabilizes the lower torso front and back. It initiates from the diaphragm, as though the legs join there instead of at the hips.

Central to form and endurance is proper breathing, which is also essential in yoga and Pilates.

Breathing in the water isn't as natural as on land, and many beginning, even intermediate swimmers do not do it efficiently enough to reap the most benefits from the movement. Rhythm, concentration and flow make the difference. Once you are comfortable with swimming technique and breathing, swimming can be less taxing on lungs than running, because arms, with their smaller muscles, don't require as much oxygen as legs do. (You can, however, build a lower-body workout by using kickboards and fins.)

Simple treatment offers new, better way to treat heart failure

ATLANTA (AP) — An amazingly simple method of filtering excess fluid from the bloodstream appears safer and far more effective than the "water pills" that have been used for decades to treat hospitalized heart failure patients, doctors reported Sunday.

The research points to a new way to treat a problem that affects 5 million Americans and sends more than 1 million to hospitals each year, gasping for breath.

It requires no drugs, seems to get them back home sooner, and uses a device that is already on the market.

"It's really pretty exciting," said Dr. Clyde Yancy, a cardiologist at UT-Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and an American Heart Association spokesman who had no role in the study. "You could use this right now ... based on this information."

The research was discussed Sunday at an American College of Cardiology meeting in Atlanta.

Heart failure occurs

when weak hearts can't pump forcefully enough and fluid backs up into the lungs. Diuretics or "water pills" remove fluid but take days to work, are tough on the kidneys and often lose effectiveness over time.

Years ago, doctors tried filtering the blood to remove excess water and salt through a tube inserted into a large vein, but this never caught on because it required a somewhat painful and difficult procedure.

A new device by Minneapolis-based CHF Solutions gave a simpler way to do this, though it still involves a tube inserted into a vein in an arm, leg or neck. The tube is connected to a machine that separates water and salt from the blood and returns the rest.

A company-sponsored study tested this in 200 people at 28 hospitals around the country. Half were given the usual pills and the others got filtration for about eight hours.

Two days later, those given filtration had lost significantly more fluid and more weight — 11

pounds versus 6.8 pounds — than those on pills, said the study's leader, Dr. Maria Rosa Costanzo of Midwest Heart specialists in Chicago.

In the next three months, they spent far fewer days in the hospital — 123 days versus 330 days — and were half as likely to wind up back in an emergency room.

The only negative: patients in the study didn't report feeling any better on one treatment than the other.

The filtration device costs hospitals \$10,000 and each treatment requires an \$800 filter — expenses that should be more than offset by lower hospital bills because of shorter stays, Costanzo said.

More studies are needed, Yancy said, but about 100 hospitals around the country already are using the treatment.

"We are enthusiastically offering this to our patients," said Dr. Bill Abraham at Ohio State University Medical Center, which has four devices and finds that they're often all in use.

Rose Rauck, a 46-year-

old Columbus, Ohio, woman with severe heart failure, was hooked up to one on Sunday after successfully trying it a month ago.

"It took all the fluid off. I actually could breathe

again," she said.

Also at the conference, two studies show that when a clog forms in a stent, a tiny mesh scaffold propping an artery open, it's better to slip a newer drug-oozing stent inside it

than to clear the blockage and zap the artery with radiation — the only treatment currently approved for this condition.

The studies involved about 400 patients each.

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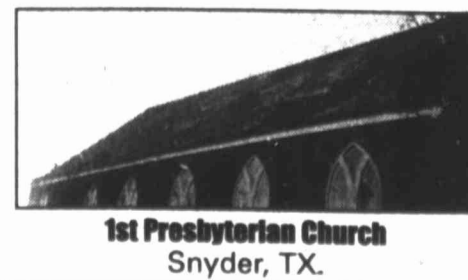
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Sp

IN BRIEF

B.S. Country Club to host scramble

The Big Spring Country Club will host a three-perc scramble April 1-2. The fee is \$60 a there will be a 1 p. shotgun start bo days.

For more inform tion, call 267-5354.

Coahoma baseball tryouts in session

The Coahoma Lit League will have t outs for the leag Monday and Tuesd at the ballpark from p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The fee for parti pants not in the Po League will be \$ while Pony Leag participants will p \$60.

For more info, c tact Jill Ringener 263-2789 or 816-1532.

Big Spring Softball Association sets date for signups

The Big Spring G Softball Associati will be holdi signups to register the upcoming seas each Saturd through March from 10 a.m. to 5 p. at the Big Spr Mall.

The league is girls and women a 4 and up. The reg tration fee is \$30 a there is a \$5 disco for a second child.

For more infor tion, contact F Shafer at 432-213-37

Umpires needed for B.S. softball seas

The Big Spr Girl's Soft Association is look for umpires for upcoming season.

If interested, cont Luci Ramirez at 466-3670.

Coahoma sets date for alumni contes

The Coaho Bulldogs will be h ing their first-e alumni baseball ga March 18 at 12:30 p at the Coahoma b ball field.

The softball tea alumni game will b be that day beginn at 3 p.m.

For more infor tion or to play in baseball game, c tact Donna Mansf at 394-453 or Du Barr at 965-3408.

Contact h Coahoma soft coach Ro Dickenson to r softball at 517-0604.

Coahoma sets date for softball signups

The Coaho United Girls Soft Association will be registration for divisions in soft and T-ball Thurs at the Coaho Community Ce from 6 p.m. to 8 p.

The signups also take place Fri and then again Ma 21 and March 23. each day will be f 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more info, c tact Pat Robinson 393-5622.

IN BRIEF

B.S. Country Club to host scramble

The Big Spring Country Club will host a three-person scramble April 1-2.

The fee is \$60 and there will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start both days.

For more information, call 267-5354.

Coahoma baseball tryouts in session

The Coahoma Little League will have tryouts for the league Monday and Tuesday at the ballpark from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The fee for participants not in the Pony League will be \$35, while Pony League participants will pay \$60.

For more info, contact Jill Ringener at 263-2789 or 816-1532.

Big Spring Softball Association sets date for signups

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

The league is for girls and women ages 4 and up. The registration fee is \$30 and there is a \$5 discount for a second child.

For more information, contact Ron Shafer at 432-213-3747.

Umpires needed for B.S. softball season

The Big Spring Girl's Softball Association is looking for umpires for the upcoming season.

If interested, contact Luci Ramirez at 432-466-3670.

Coahoma sets date for alumni contest

The Coahoma Bulldogs will be hosting their first-ever alumni baseball game March 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the Coahoma baseball field.

The softball team's alumni game will also be that day beginning at 3 p.m.

For more information or to play in the baseball game, contact Donna Mansfield at 394-453 or Dutch Barr at 965-3408.

Contact head Coahoma softball coach Robby Dickenson to play softball at 517-0604.

Coahoma sets dates for softball signups

The Coahoma United Girls Softball Association will begin registration for all divisions in softball and T-ball Thursday at the Coahoma Community Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The signups will also take place Friday and then again March 21 and March 23 and each day will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more info, contact Pat Robinson at 393-5622.

Next stop: Hutch

• Howard earns first national tournament berth since 1969

By TROY HYDE

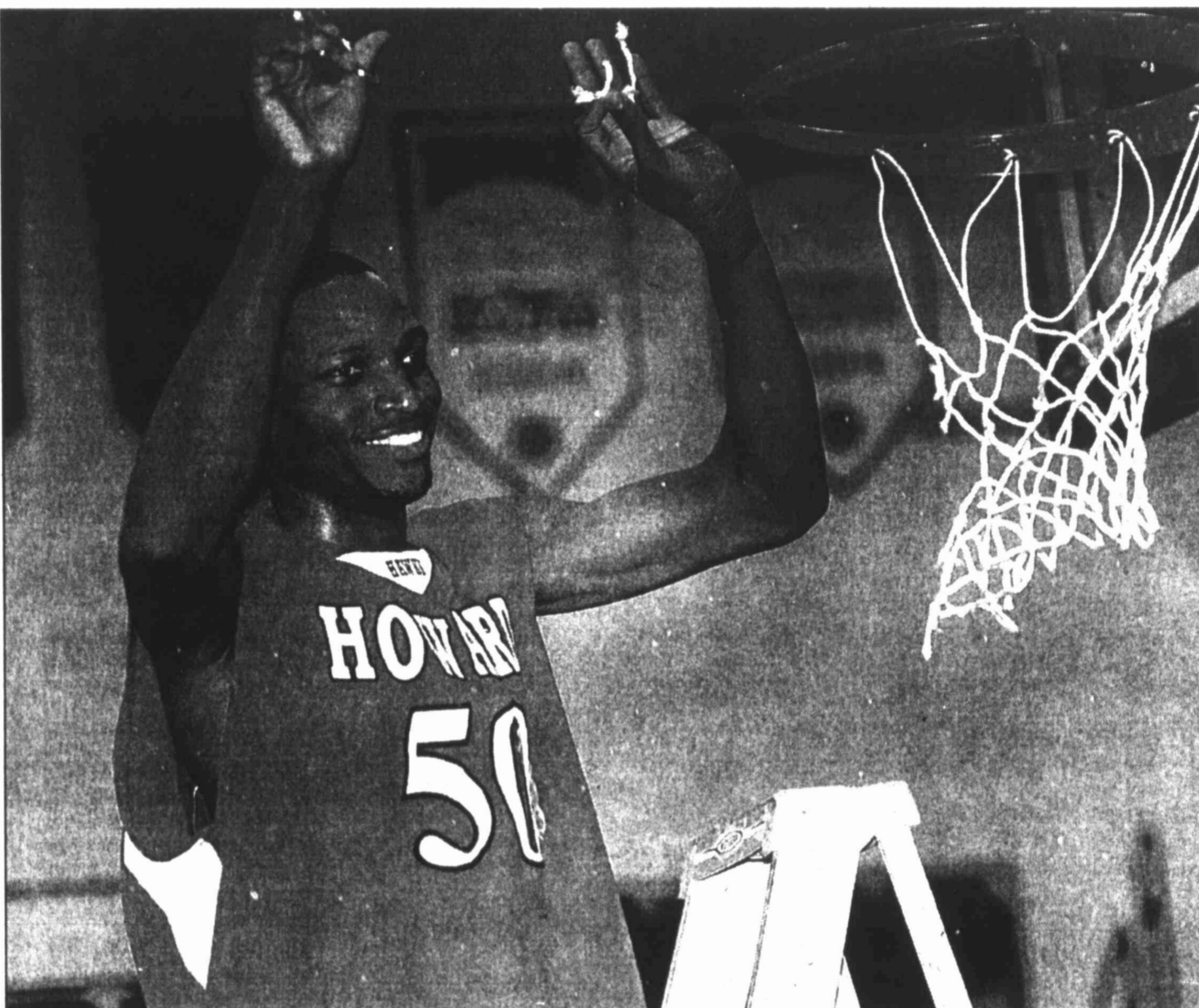
Sports Editor
LUBBOCK — Howard sophomore Dezmon Harris shed more than one tear Sunday at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock after the Hawks' regional championship game against Midland. He, for one, remembered his mother, who passed away during last year's regional tournament.

Some of the tears, however, were for joy as Harris' 23 points, five rebounds and seven assists led the No. 1 Hawks to an 81-71 victory over their arch rival. The Region 5 championship victory places Howard (32-1) in the NJCAA National Tournament for the first time since 1969.

Harris also played the championship game with extra motivation as he was snubbed on this year's Western Junior College Athletic Conference's first team list. He earned honorable mentions honors, but many within the Howard team knew he was first-team material.

"To me, he was the MVP of the tournament," said Howard College head coach Mark Adams. "He took over the game tonight and proved that he should have been on the conference's first team. I was disappointed he didn't make it. He has been as important to this team as anyone. He doesn't do anything great, but it does it all very well."

The Hawks played the final two games of the regional tournament without backup center



Howard freshman Benson Akpan cuts a string off the net at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock Sunday after the No. 1 Hawks' regional championship game against Midland College in the Region 5 championship game. Akpan and the Hawks will play in the National Tournament beginning Wednesday, March 22, at 1 p.m. against Sheridan College. The national tournament games will be at the Hutchinson Sports Arena.

Herve Banogle. Banogle went down in the opening round win over Grayson. He had surgery a day later to repair a broken ankle and will not play in the national tournament. Sophomore Louis Rodgers, who was suspended for breaking team rules earlier this season, is not expected to return to the lineup this season either, said Adams.

"We're playing short-handed, but the guys are playing hard and with lots of courage," said

Adams. Sunday's championship win over No. 11 Midland was the Hawks' fourth victory over their arch rival this season. Howard has defeated Midland six out of the last seven overall. "There was a lot of pressure put on this team to win the regional this year," said Adams. "We felt like if we lost then the season was a failure. We wanted to get here and cut the nets down."

Mission accomplished. The game was back and

forth in the first half until a 12-0 run put Howard up 30-18 with 3:40 to go until halftime. Midland closed to within single digits, but still trailed by eight at the break.

The Hawks, like they have all year, immediately jumped on their opponent early in the second half. Freshman Phil Murphy began the half with a 3-pointer from the corner and then Harris and freshman Benny Valentine hit back-to-back jumpers to push the advantage to 41-26, triggering a Midland timeout.

Then a barrage of 3-pointers extended the lead to 21. Sophomores Richard Forbes and Charles Burgess hit back-to-back shots from long range and then Forbes added another one later as did Murphy.

Howard's lead was 19 when Harris began to take over. He hit two free throws to put the Hawks up 21 and then scored five straight points later to keep the lead at 21. He finished the game with a layup and five free throws as 16 of his 23 points came in the second half.

Midland didn't quit though. The Chaps got to within eight on two different occasions down the stretch as sophomore point guard Tim Crowell began to hit long range 3-pointers.

However, freshman Benson Akpan threw down a nasty one-handed dunk to extend the lead to 10 with more than one minute to play and the Hawks added three Harris free throws and a two-handed stuff by Murphy to put a punctuation mark on the national tournament-clinching victory.

"I have never been more proud of a group of guys in all my years of coaching," said Adams. "It has been fun coaching these young men."

The first two goals on

the Hawks' amazing season are done, but the ride is hopefully far from over.

"We've accomplished what we wanted to do this year, but we still have to keep it going," said Valentine, who finished with 19 points and seven steals in the title game. "We are not satisfied though. We have one more journey to go."

Howard fared well in the Region 5 Tournament last year, but lost to rival Midland in the title game. Since then, Burgess has been wanting to get back to the title game and more.

"I couldn't even sleep after we beat South Plains because I wanted to play this game so bad," said the sophomore who was just recently voted WJCAC Player of the Year. "Since I came to Howard, the goal has been to get to Hutch. Everyone talks about winning, but today we made Hutch a reality. The team did what it had to do to win and advance."

Burgess finished with 15 points and four rebounds, while Murphy added 11 points, four assists and three rebounds. The Hawks shot 52 percent from the field in the game and went 20-for-26 from the foul line.

Crowell finished with 18 points to lead Midland. Rodrigue Mels added 11 points, while Arturas Valeika and Nemanja Calasar, each scored 10.

Howard 72 South Plains 69

The Hawks earned the right to play in the championship game when they defeated conference rival South Plains in the semifinals Saturday night.

Howard controlled the first half on its way to an eight-point halftime lead and then withstood big-time scoring from Steve

See HOWARD, Page 2B



Howard College sophomore Charles Burgess takes his crack at the net at the Rip Griffin Center in Lubbock Sunday after Howard's national tournament-clinching victory over Midland in the Region 5 championship game. Burgess scored 19 points in the first two games of the tourney and added 15 points in the title contest.



From left: Martin Yanez, Daniel New and Daniel Segundo cheer on the No. 1 ranked Hawks during Saturday's semifinal game against South Plains. Howard won the semifinal game and then went on to beat Midland Sunday. The Hawks will play in the National Tournament beginning Wednesday, March 22, in Hutchinson, Kan.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

Harley, the conference's leading scorer, to win by three points.

Burgess, Harris and Valentine all started the game off with baskets as Howard led 7-0 to start the game and then back-to-back 3-pointers by Burgess and Valentine pushed the lead to 15-9 after South Plains tied the score.

Harris hit two 3-pointers later in the half to give Howard its two biggest leads — 10 points — of the first 20 minutes. He also ended the half with another 3-pointer and put the Hawks up 42-34 at the break.

The sophomore from Fort Worth (Harris) kept the Hawks in the lead as he scored 15 of his 19 points in the first half. He also pulled down five rebounds.

"I came out to win and wanted to do whatever it took," said Harris.

Harris downplayed the all-conference snubbing, saying he just wants to win it all as a team.

"I know I should have probably made the first-team, but I want to win a national championship," said Harris.

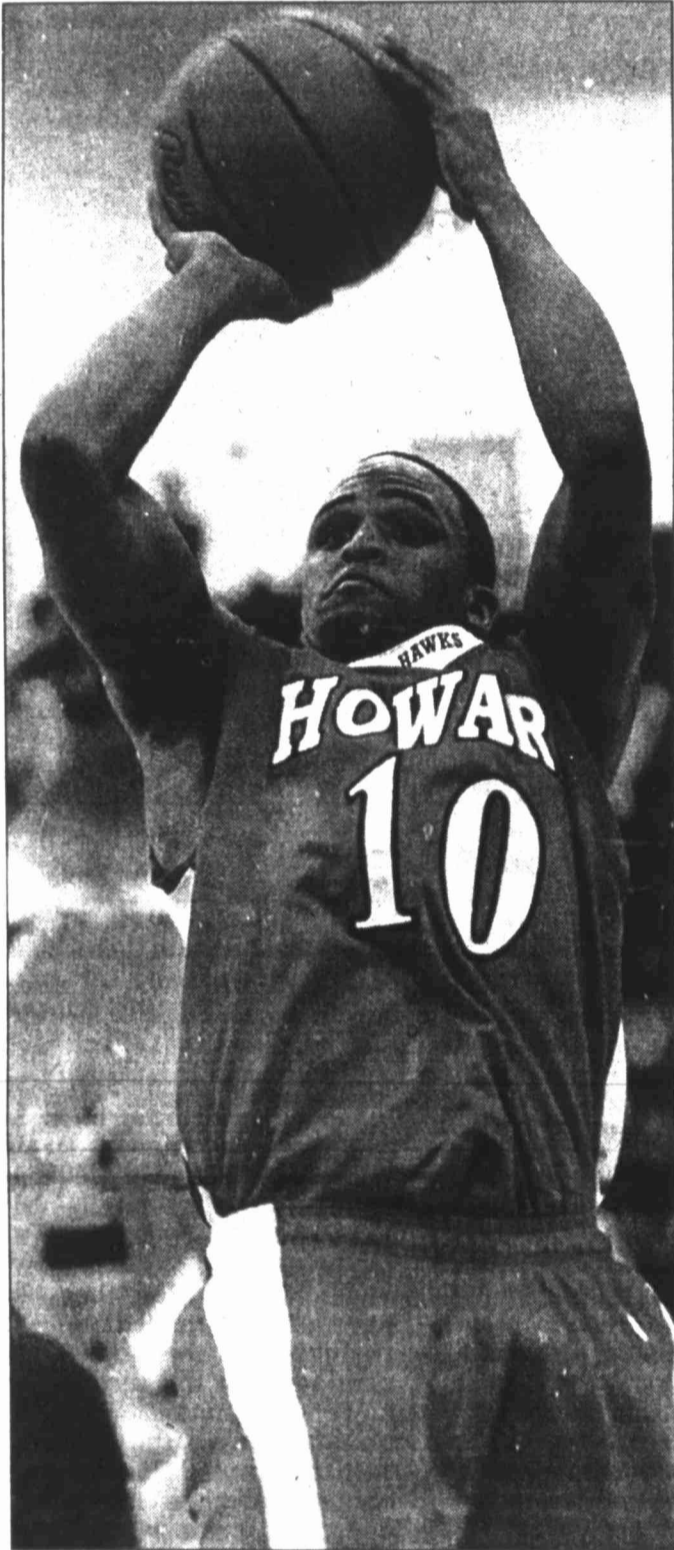
The Hawks maintained control early in the second half. Akpan scored five straight points to give Howard its largest lead of the game at 49-37 and then Valentine added a jumper to push the advantage to 14.

South Plains quickly scored six straight and cut the lead to nine. Burgess later extended the lead back to 11, with a layup, but the Texans didn't stop fighting. Harley added the first of three straight baskets for South Plains and the lead was cut to five with 8:46 to go in the game.

"The lead decreased mainly because we were missing shots and Harley started to catch fire," said Murphy. "We just needed to get back to our tradition of playing defense and we were able to do that."

Harley eventually cut the lead to three with another jumper later in the game and then tied the score at 63-63 with a 3-point play.

The Hawks had two chances to extend the lead before the three points from Harley, but Murphy and freshman Bougari Konate each



Howard freshman Benny Valentine attempts a jumper in the lane against South Plains Saturday at the Region 5 Tournament in Lubbock.

missed two free throws from the charity stripe.

The Hawks extended the lead back to five with 3:01 to play as Burgess scored on a 3-point play of his own. The lead was still five with one minute to play before South Plains made it a two-point game. Moments later Akpan fouled out of the game, but Jermaine Bolden made only one of two shots from the line.

The lead was one point for Howard when Murphy was fouled after securing the rebound with less than five seconds to play.

He calmly hit two clutch free throws and South Plains' last ditch effort at the buzzer failed and Howard advanced.

"I knew I was going to make the free throws," said Murphy, who had been struggling at the line in the tournament. "I could have missed

1,000 shots from the line before that, but I am a clutch free throw shooter and I will hit them when they count."

Adams added, "He has a lot of confidence in his shot. Those were the two we needed anyway."

Murphy finished with just six points, but he grabbed a team-high rebound.

"Everyone is supposed to rebound, but I went hard to the glass and wanted to do whatever it took to help us win the game," said Murphy. "We lost Herve so someone else had to step up."

Burgess finished with 19 points, seven rebounds and six assists, while Forbes added 10 points.

Harley scored a game-high 29 points for South Plains, but Bolden was the only other Texan in double figures as he finished with 13 points.

Howard dominates Frank Phillips, gets easy sweep

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
BORGER — The Howard College softball team won its 20th game of the season this past weekend and improved to 10-2 in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference after getting an easy sweep against Frank Phillips.

Howard (20-6) won the first game, 15-0, in five innings and then took down its opponent, 8-2, in Game 2.

"That's exactly what we wanted to do," said Howard head coach Kelly Raines. "We were pretty sure we were the better team and we wanted to take charge right away."

The Hawks scored six runs in the first inning of Game 1 and then added two each in the second

and fourth before closing out the game with a five-run fifth. The game ended after five innings due to the mercy rule.

Sophomore Paige Ruiz improved to 9-3 on the mound with a five-inning shutout. She allowed two hits and struck out six, while walking three.

Freshman Honda Rodriguez went two-for-three with a walk and two runs and she also crushed her fifth home run of the season. Freshman Alisha Rams had two hits and two runs, while freshman Kendra Corbin added two hits, two RBIs and one run.

Freshman Jessica Garcia had three hits, three runs and five RBIs.

Howard was forced to play seven innings in Game 2, but still controlled the game, winning

by six runs. The Hawks scored five runs in the fifth to break the game open and concluded the contest with two runs in the final inning.

Sophomore Nicole Dickson improved to 8-1 on the mound as she gave up two unearned runs, while allowing two hits and striking out eight and walking one.

Rodriguez had two hits, one run, one stolen base and walked once. Rams and freshman Laura Lopez also had two hits each.

The Hawks host conference rival Western Texas Friday at Foundation Field and then the play two more games Saturday at home. Friday's double-header starts at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and then first pitch Saturday will be at noon and 2 p.m.

Abner, Rodriguez run to silver medals at West Texas Relays

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
ODESSA — Several Big Spring tracksters fared well in the finals of their respective events Saturday at the West Texas Relays in Odessa at Ratliff Stadium.

On the girl's side, Big Spring junior Katy Abner raced to second in the 200-meter dash with a time of :26.26. She also took fourth overall in the pole vault with a vault of 10-0.

Also recording a top-five finish was senior Monica Fierro as she captured third in the shot put with a toss of 36-5.25. Dee Watkins of Odessa High won the event with a throw of 37-5.25.

The Steers performed well in the 1,600-meter run once again as long distance runs continue to be the team's best events. Junior Michael Rodriguez grabbed second in the mile with a time of 4:39.89 and Chris Salazar and Zack Dawson finished fourth and fifth, respectively.



Big Spring junior Katy Abner, right, runs in the 200-meter dash at the West Texas Relays at Ratliff Stadium in Odessa Saturday. Abner took second overall.

Both runners ran the race in less than five minutes. The mile was won by Drew Soucey of Lubbock High with a time of 4:29.12.

Big Spring's Brandon Ontiveros grabbed fifth in the 200-meter dash as he crossed the line in :23.0. Josh Stephens of Permian won the race in :22.14.

Coahoma finishes strong at tourney

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
ARLINGTON — The Coahoma softball team continued its strong out of district play Saturday at the Arlington Tournament as the Bulldogs won 1-1-1.

No. 8 Coahoma tied Class 4A Cleburne, which was a regional semifinalist last year, in Game 1 and then lost to Class 4A A&M Consolidated before hammering 4A Crowley.

The Bulldogs won 3-1-2 in Arlington and improved their season record to 10-4-2.

Coahoma tied Cleburne, 1-1, in the first game, but Cleburne advanced in the winner's bracket because of more at-bats. The Bulldogs had the bases loaded in the sixth, but could only score one run.

Senior Kali Roberts pitched all six innings for Coahoma, but did not get a decision. She gave up three hits and one

unearned run, while striking out five and walking one.

The Bulldogs got just four hits at the plate. Sophomore Janice Gonzales singled and scored the only run of the game. Roberts delivered an RBI single.

Controversy was the big story in Game 2 for Coahoma as it lost a 4-0 decision to A&M Consolidated. The game went five innings due to a time limit and A&M scored all four of its runs in the fourth.

The Bulldogs and pitcher Sarah Dunn had one out with no score in the fourth and a runner on third. A&M bunted, but Coahoma held the runner on third and got the out at first. The runner on third tried to score and the controversy came at the plate as Coahoma seemed to make the play, but the umpire signaled that the runner was safe.

Dunn took the loss on the mound as she gave up

four runs on nine hits and struck out three.

Coahoma jumped on Crowley early as it got five runs in the first inning and then added four more in the fourth.

Roberts shut down Crowley's bats as she threw another stellar game, allowing just one hit in five innings and striking out eight batters.

Roberts also led the Bulldogs at the plate as she had three hits, one run and one RBI. Dunn continued to swing a good bat as she got two hits, including a triple, and scored once.

The Bulldogs look to knock off Class 4A's third-ranked team at home Tuesday as Coahoma takes on I-20 rival Big Spring at 7 p.m.

"You can throw out the records and rankings in this one," said Coahoma head coach Robby Dickenson. "We'll go after each other from the start. We are looking forward to it."

NJCAA National Tournament
Men's First Round

Wednesday, March 22
Howard (32-1) vs. Sheridan College, 1 p.m.
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If the Hawks win, they will play either Daytona Beach C.C. or Paris JC Thursday at 8:30 p.m.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

On the eve of the full moon, you may feel like your emotions are a balloon blown nearly to capacity and ready to pop. The Virgo moon is excellent for list making, and this is one way to diffuse or direct your tension. Tomorrow, you can get what's bothering you off your chest. For now, visualize the whole thing going down in the best possible way.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You make an excellent first impression, and today you can bank on this. Material gains are made through friendly associations. Warning: Keep secrets no matter what, or the betrayal will ruin something nice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What you project comes true! Clarity in goals, strategy and tactics is what will energize your efforts. Those who were formerly against you may take your side now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In the case of a crush you're nursing, the usual rules of attraction don't apply. It's all in fun, so don't take it seriously until further confirmation of interest. Couples could actually develop a brand new crush on each other!

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People see you not as yourself, an isolated indi-

vidual, but in connection with the larger group you are (either consciously or unconsciously) representing. Consider how this helps or hurts you now.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You wonder whether or not you are the right person for a job. The right person is the one who takes the job and runs with it. When you jump in and grab your destiny, you become "the one."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There is so much productive energy coming through you that you're hardly even aware of the work you're doing. It's flowing effortlessly through you. How can you slip into this state more often?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have much insight in an intimate relationship. But don't say so unless you're asked, and even then, tread softly. Others aren't ready just yet to hear your plain truth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some say that thinking is easy and acting is difficult. This doesn't ring true for you now. While effortlessly engaged in an action that feels to you to be almost automatic, you come up with the most brilliant ideas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Talking over a difficult situation with a friend is the best way to move past it. Make sure you are ready to be honest and forgiving with yourself. It is vital you see your part in it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Someone asks

you to do something you don't want to do. Do it anyway, not for them so much as for your own sense of wellbeing. The favor will more than be returned.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Those lucky enough to be your friend will realize the gift of you today. The way you are able to take pleasure in their joy and be proud of their merits as though they were your own is truly remarkable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're in an experimental mood. You thrive on change and complexity. Your love life sparks with flirty energy when you change it up. In short, you're "crazy" in all the right ways.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "A good friend of mine and I have always had a love/hate relationship. We'll be best friends one minute, and then suddenly, we won't speak for months because one has annoyed the other. I am an Aries (April 18, 1975), and she is a Cancer (July 3, 1975). Is Aries/Cancer friendship typically a difficult one?"

Aries and Cancer are both what astrologers call "Cardinal" signs. They are the initiators of the zodiac — the ones who start projects, get the ball rolling in relationships and are typically unafraid of confrontation. Did you know that you have a Cancer moon? Saturn, your planet of lessons, is also in Cancer. To put it in a nutshell, your Cancer

friend has an all-access pass to your most tender emotions and most sensitive "issues" and has no qualms about using it. You and your Cancer friend are alike in many ways than you care to admit. It is your likeness, not your differences, that causes a rift about once a month. This is not a toxic friendship. It's an opportunity. When you can love, accept and tolerate your Cancer friend, you will be able to love, accept and tolerate yourself on a deeper level, which will help you attract more of what you want out of life.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Kristin Davis has three luminaries in Pisces, a wonderful sign for an actress. Empathy is one of the primary qualities of the fish, and Pisces enjoys stepping into another person's shoes, whether it's to create a character or to better understand a friend. Her new role as a fresh-faced makeup maven is a lucrative transition between characters that are sure to capture the hearts of her fans.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.
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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I must respond to "A Discarded Wife," who was married for 33 years when her husband left her for another woman. I am a former "Other Woman" and am surprised how you pounded on the character of the OW and didn't say a word about the husband. The blame for the affair should fall squarely at his feet.

No one can "steal" someone's spouse if they don't want to go. "Discarded" asked, "Don't you have any compassion, respect or dignity?" When I first met her husband, I had all the compassion in the world for her. Then I experienced her whiny manipulations firsthand, and a lot of that compassion vanished. She is not totally innocent in the breakup of her marriage. I carry my head high. I am not ashamed.

The ending to my story is very painful. Most married men do not leave their wives for the OW. After three years, my love was persuaded back to his wife by threats of financial ruin and her efforts to turn their kids and grandkids against him. I am now the discarded one because he didn't have enough backbone to follow through. So the wife "won" and got to keep her husband, her home and the illusion of being a happy couple. All of society rallies around her. The OW is never spoken of again. There are no counselors clamoring to help me recover.

Who is really to blame for this mess? The husband, who first betrayed his wife, then also crushed my spirit. I will never again involve myself with a married man, not out of compassion for his wife, but to protect my own heart. — Former Other Woman

Dear Former: We understand you are hurting, and yes, of course, the husband is primarily at fault, but you don't get off so easily. It is wrongheaded to think a wife's "whininess" is a good reason for you to break up a

marriage. And it is delusional to think he went back to her solely because she "manipulated" him. She may be less than wonderful, but if he wanted you enough, honey, you'd have him.

Counseling doesn't have to be specifically targeted to "Other Women" in order to be helpful. Please look into short-term assistance so you can get your emotional life back in order and seek out men who are both available and worth your time.

Dear Anna: I am a highly skilled secretary in my late 40s. After several years with my employer, I am out of a job due to a takeover.

I've sent out dozens of resumes and have had many interviews, and I do not understand the lack of common courtesy from employers who won't make a follow-up call. I realize no one wants to tell me, "You are the most qualified, but we are giving the job to the boss' niece," but I would rather get bad news than think I missed hearing from them. Am I being overly sensitive? — Anna in Lansing, Mich.

Dear Anna: No, this actually is a common complaint from job seekers. Very few prospective employers bother to notify the applicants that the position has been filled. If you don't hear back within a week of your interview, by all means, call and ask if a determination has been made. We hope you find something soon. (And it might help to give them an e-mail

address.)

Dear Annie: "Bored in British Columbia's" complaint that he lacks a sexual relationship with his wife is not unusual. Many men are singing the same song.

My husband and I struggled with our sex life. He wasn't interested in the evenings, and I wasn't interested in the mornings. After more years than I'd like to admit, we discovered that the mid-day rendezvous was just perfect. It entails coming home from work during the day when the kids are in school or away from the house. I'd suggest Mr. Bored give it a try. — K.R.

Dear K.R.: Couples often don't consider that their libidos may be on incompatible circadian rhythms, but it's not unusual. Thanks for the suggestion.

Dear Annie: I am a 33-year-old woman. My husband and I have two daughters, and he is in the process of gaining physical custody of his 9-year-old son, "Ryan," who has lived with us for the last year.

I love this little boy dearly, but he makes life miserable. His mother doesn't see or spend time with Ryan like she should, and constantly makes promises she doesn't keep. In return, Ryan cries, throws tantrums, hits, and treats everyone in the house terribly. Yesterday, it was so bad, my 11-year-old daughter threw up.

sees what's going on? I love Ryan and my husband, but my girls and I cannot handle much more. — Fed Up in the Bay Area

Dear Fed Up: Ryan's parents are divorced, and his mother has rejected him. He gets her attention by throwing tantrums, crying and claiming that his evil stepmother treats him terribly. Get the picture?

This boy needs structure and discipline, his mother needs to behave like a responsible adult, and his father must see that the boy's home life is stable, which includes not tolerating inappropriate behavior. Ask your doctor to refer you to a family counselor, and also check out the Stepfamily Association of America (saafamilies.org) at 1-800-735-0329.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Bored in British Columbia," whose 32-year-old wife had three kids in six years, and no interest in sex.

At a weekend workshop I attended, one of the participants said while she was out of town, her hubby was taking care of the kids and the house for the first time. By the end of the workshop, he was calling daily, begging her to cut back to part-time work or even quit, because he had no idea how she had been handling everything.

"Bored" should send his wife away for a week and see how he feels about sex when she returns. I imagine she'll return ready to rumble and he'll be dead on the couch. — Kentucky Reader

Dear Kentucky: We're with you on this one.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

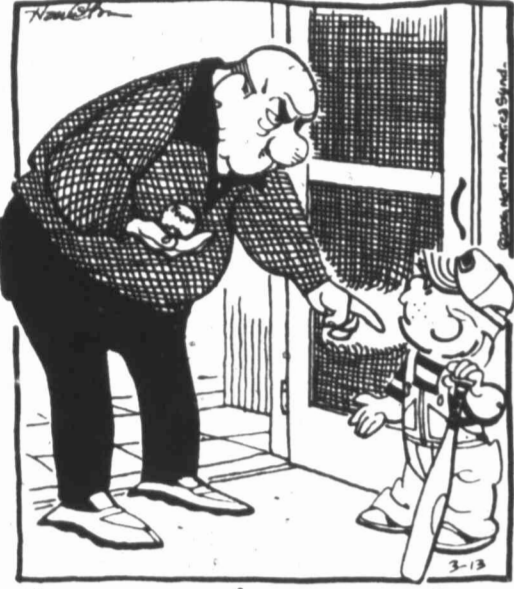
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MONDAY

MAR. 13

Table with 12 columns (Time, Channel, Program) and 12 rows (6 AM to 12 AM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"At least you don't have to pick up any broken glass."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Why did you have to go to the hospital to get PJ if doctors deliver babies?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2006. There are 293 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Purim begins at sunset. Today's Highlight in History: One hundred years ago, on March 13, 1906, American suffragist Susan Brownell Anthony died in Rochester, N.Y., at age 86. On this date: In 1781, the planet Uranus was discovered by Sir William Herschel. In 1868, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson began in the U.S. Senate. In 1884, Standard Time was adopted throughout the United States. In 1925, a law went into effect in Tennessee prohibiting the teaching of evolution. In 1933, banks began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Roosevelt. In 1964, 38 residents of a Queens, N.Y., neighborhood failed to respond to the cries of Catherine "Kitty" Genovese, 28, as she was being stabbed to death. In 1969, the Apollo 9 astronauts splashed down, ending a mission that included the successful testing of the Lunar Module. In 1980, Ford Motor Chairman Henry Ford II announced he was stepping down. In 1980, a jury in Winamac, Ind., found Ford Motor Co. innocent of reckless homicide in the fiery deaths of three young women riding in a Ford Pinto. Five years ago: France announced its first case of foot-and-mouth disease, prompting the U.S. Department of Agriculture to suspend imports of livestock and fresh meat from the European Union. One year ago: Pope John Paul II was released from the hospital and returned to his Vatican apartment overlooking St. Peter's Square. Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Roy Haynes is 81. Country singer Jan Howard is 76. Songwriter Mike Stoller is 73. Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka is 67. Actor William H. Macy is 56.

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS 1 Location 5 Antlered animal 10 Omelet ingredients 14 Sweater material 15 Singer Baker 16 Humdinger 17 Molecule part 18 Floor installer 19 List entry 20 Type of stockings 22 Casts a ballot 23 Destroy 24 Table-setting part 26 File-folder attachments 29 Misérables 30 Kitchens and parlors: Abbr. 33 See eye to eye 34 Actor Hackman 35 Scrooge's cross word 36 Espionage org. 37 Gather up 39 Chimp, for one 40 Inventor Whitney 41 Spring flower 42 Oscar winner Berry 44 Bear's abode 45 Bro's kin 46 BB, for one 47 Homeowners' documents 49 Aquatic mammal 50 Not wordy 52 Pie-in-the-sky hope 57 Tax-deferred accts. 58 Olympic award 59 The Emerald (Ireland) 60 Director Kazan 61 Kukla and Fran's friend 62 Name for a Dalmatian 63 Declare untrue 64 Mix together 65 Optometrist's concerns 6 Burger topping 7 Lubricates 8 Church spires 9 Corn portion 10 T-man Ness 11 Bowling error 12 Happiness 13 Addition answers 21 Christmas season 22 Florist's vessel 25 Camera part 26 Secured, as a skate 27 Nimble 28 Loss of skilled personnel 31 Syrup source 32 Piece of bedding 34 Tank filler 37 Desertlike 38 Write "recieve" 41 "Now it's clear!" 42 Lettuce unit 43 Courtroom directive 46 Prepared, as potatoes 48 High-school composition 49 Portugal neighbor 50 Not winning or losing 51 Stanley Gardner 53 Just sitting around 54 Catch sight of 55 Hand-cream ingredient 56 Shea Stadium players 58 Disorderly crowd

Newsday Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers.

Actress Deborah Raffin is 53. Comedian Robin Duke is 52. Actress Dana Delany is 50. Rock musician Adam Clayton (U2) is 46. Jazz musician Terence Blanchard is 44. Actress Annabeth Gish is 35. Actress Tracy Wells is 35. Rapper Common is 34. Rapper Khujo (Goodie Mob, The Lumberjacks) is 34. Actor Danny Masterson is 30. Actor Emile Hirsch is 21. Singers Nicole and Natalie Albino (Nina Sky) are 20. Thought for Today: "I distrust those people who know so well what God wants them to do, because I notice it always coincides with their own desires." - Susan B. Anthony, American feminist (1820-1906). * 2006 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle: PETUNIA COUGHED IRONORE UNLOOSE CRUISER CANASTA CARTE ASK ALTAR OTIS STOOD SITE LIS OMINOUS LES OCTAGONS RAWEST SLOG PARE CACHET ORBITERS ANA SHEKELS DEE TIPS SLATE CULL EMITS AVE FOCAL RATATAT NARRATE ETAGERE SWEATER DELETED ENDLESS

State

By THOMAS JENKI Staff Writer A 96-bed jail facility meet the immediate of Howard County will fall well short of providing long-term a to jail overcrowding. That's the n Terry Julian, ex director of the Commission on Standards, delivered the Howard Commissioner's Monday morning,

Coahoma contes crowd

Seven people for three seats on school board

By STEVE REAGA Staff Writer There may be a school board election in this area come but it is shaping a doozy. Monday was day to get one's the May ballot, interested people have until next to file as a write alone. Amid among the school Coahoma has h lingers place the on the May ballot, it is shapin be quite a crowd with seven carrying for three the school board. Incumbents Jo James White at Wayne Metcalf h for re-election, be joined by ch Alan Wright, Gilbert, Jackie Lori Martinez. Wright, 49, is supervisor fo Energy, Gilber employed by transportation ment, Hill, 3, pumper/mechar Martinez, 38, is tant vice presi First Bank o Texas. The three spo election in Coal at-large position all for three ye Judy Dobbs, ad tive secretary. No other area however, have elections, unless in candidate st the plate in the

See ISD, Page 3A

INDEX Classified 3-5E Features 5A Obituaries 2A Opinion 4A Sports 1-2E To reach us Please call 263-a.m. to 5 p.m. If you miss your 263-7335 before noon Sunday.