

State official warns 96-bed jail too small

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

A 96-bed jail facility will meet the immediate need of Howard County, but will fall well short of providing long-term answers to jail overcrowding. That's the message Terry Julian, executive director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, delivered to the Howard County Commissioner's Court Monday morning, urging

the county to look beyond the present needs of the county and consider the big picture. "You need desperately to build a 96-bed facility," Julian told the court. "The immediate need is for a 96-bed jail. However, that's with 5,000 warrants out there to be served and the county judge not having room to put inmates to serve county time. The day you open a 96-bed jail, it's going to be full and you'll find yourself back

"The day you open a 96-bed jail, it's going to be full and you'll find yourself back in the same shape as you are in today. I can promise you that."

—Terry Julian
 TCJS executive director

in the same shape as you are in today. I can promise you that. You're going to have to keep some inmates at Dickens County or wherever they

have space to put them. However, those places may not have the space when you run out of beds." Julian said those future

needs — coupled with rising building costs — are what spurred him and the commission to make a formal recommendation the county look toward a 144-bed facility. "The reason I recommended the architect plan for 144 beds is for future expansion," said Julian. "The costs are going up everyday. Right now, the interest rate is low and I think it would be a wise investment to go ahead and build a 144-bed facility."

Julian, a former county judge from Sweetwater, said decreasing populations in West Texas may have some people thinking smaller is better, but the number of inmates clogging the county jail systems doesn't follow the same ups and downs that overall population is subject to. "Sweetwater has been shrinking all the time," Julian said. See **JAIL**, Page 3A

Coahoma contest crowded

Seven people file for three seats on school board

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

There may be only one school board election in this area come May 13, but it is shaping up to be a doozy. Monday was the last day to get one's name on the May ballot, although interested persons still have until next Monday to file as a write-in candidate. Alone among the area's school districts, Coahoma has had challengers place their names on the May ballots. In fact, it is shaping up to be quite a crowded affair, with seven candidates vying for three spots on the school board.

Incumbents Jody Reid, James White and John Wayne Metcalf have filed for re-election, and will be joined by challengers Alan Wright, James Gilbert, Jackie Hill and Lori Martinez.

Wright, 49, is a field supervisor for Key Energy, Gilbert, 40, is employed by the state transportation department, Hill, 32, is a pumper/mechanic and Martinez, 38, is an assistant vice president for First Bank of West Texas.

The three spots up for election in Coahoma are at-large positions and are all for three years, said Judy Dobbs, administrative secretary.

No other area districts, however, have contested elections, unless a write-in candidate steps up to the plate in the next few

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
 Siemens Account Executive Chad Nobles explains to members of the Big Spring City Council how a new energy conservation program could help the city fund more than \$5 million in improvements to the municipal infrastructure. The council is expected to hear first reading of a resolution that would give the go ahead for the project during tonight's council meeting.

Council seat draws three candidates for May election

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

A three-way race is shaping up for the District 2 seat on the Big Spring City Council. City officials said today that three candidates have filed for the three-year term on the board.

Donna Gamboa, owner of the San Franciscan Bar and Grill, Internet technology specialist Manuel Ramirez and health-care professional Cindy Lopez have all filed for the District 2 place on the council.

District 2 incumbent Woody

Jumper declined to seek re-election this year.

Monday was the last day for candidates to have their names placed on the May 13 ballots. Persons interested in write-in candidacies have until Monday to file, officials said.

In Stanton, two of four spots on the city council will be contested this year.

Mayor Lester Baker, a 14-year incumbent, has drawn two opponents, Randy Koonce, a computer programmer, and Robert Teveni, an office manager and paramedic, will seek

to unseat Baker.

Also contested is the District 1 race, in which incumbent Ronnie Christian will face a challenge from registered medical assistant Rosalinda Mindling.

Other incumbents who have filed for re-election are District 2's Jim Smith and District 3 council member James Earl Jenkins. Neither Smith or Jenkins have opponents, officials said.

Three candidates have announced for three spots on

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Report: City can save \$5.6 million

Energy conservation program the answer

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

Representatives with Siemens Building Technologies gave the city of Big Spring a resounding thumbs-up Monday evening, possibly paving the way for a conservation program that could save the city approximately \$5.6 million over the next 15 years.

Siemens Account Executive Chad Nobles presented the results of the audit during a special council meeting, saying the initial estimates that the program could save the city millions presented to the council in 2005 was right on the mark.

"What you have in front of you is a summary of what we call the energy conservation measures that are presenting themselves in Big Spring," said Nobles. "Looking at the end of the contract period, you will have \$160,409 in positive cash flow. That's just what the program is expected to generate that is yours and the city can put in its pocket to use on whatever projects it wants to."

"The biggest part of the savings will come from the improvements made to the city's water system, which includes the automatic meter reading system. Approximately 60 percent of the savings we've projected will come from this system at an annual rate of approximately \$397,000 a year. This is accomplished through more accurate meter reading."

Nobles said the remaining 40 percent of savings would come from an array of other energy conservation improvements, saving the city approximately

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"It's great to be able to go into things we need to do in the city of Big Spring and not have to go back to the taxpayers and tell them they have to fund it."



McEwen

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HEALTH FAIR BOOTHS

It's not too late to reserve booth space for "Don't Gamble With Your Health," the annual Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce health fair scheduled April 8. The annual event will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus. Limited booth space is still available at \$80 with a deadline of 5 p.m. Friday. After the deadline, booths will be \$100 through March 31. For more information, contact Nancy Newell at 263-7641 or e-mail nnewell@bigspringchamber.com or go by the chamber office on the corner of Gregg and Third Street.

AIRLINES INCREASE FARES

DALLAS (AP) — Southwest Airlines Co. led a broad fare increase across the airline industry, raising fares by up to \$10 for a one-way ticket as the company seeks to offset an expected \$600 million jump in its jet fuel costs. By late Monday, most other major U.S. airlines had matched the move by Southwest, which over the years has used lower fares to bludgeon the established carriers. The Dallas-based airline also raised fares in January. Friday, it boosted rates again over about two-thirds of its network, ranging from \$2 on flights up to 400 miles to the \$10 increase, to \$309, for its most expensive walk-up fares.

'BOYS NEXT DOOR'

Howard College Theatre will present "The Boy's Next Door" Thursday through Tuesday, March 21, in the Practical Arts building. All shows will begin at 8 p.m. except for a Sunday matinee, which will begin at 2:30 p.m. The story revolves around four adult men living in an apartment. Two of them are mentally retarded, one is depressed, and the other suffers from schizophrenia. The play is about how they deal life's challenges. "Our students have worked hard," said Clay Grizzle, associate professor of theater. "Come, and encourage your friends."

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Fire death toll rises; fires partly contained

By BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer
BORGES — Firefighters claimed some progress in the battle against wild fires ravaging the Texas Panhandle, but any good news was tempered by a rising death toll and the distress of evacuees returning to charred homes.

Authorities said Monday they had begun to contain some of the wind-blown fires that burned more than 1,000 square miles across the Panhandle and South Plains since Sunday.

The fires are blamed for 11 deaths, nine firefighter injuries and the destruction of numerous structures. Flare-ups near Pampa late Monday afternoon raised the alert for possible activity overnight.

Fire evacuee Jennifer Orand returned Monday to find her double-wide mobile home in the community of Texroy burned to the ground.

"I just started crying," said Orand, 27, who lives with her husband, Shannon, about 40 miles northeast of Amarillo. "You hear all the time that people think it will never happen to you. I never thought I'd say that myself."

After a deadly Sunday

in which four people died in a crash on a smoke-shrouded highway and three people died in fires near Borges, the Department of Public Safety late Monday attributed four more deaths to the fires.

The Sunday crash victims were identified as Susan Louise Schumacher, 49; Lawrence Schumacher, 56; Alexis Burroughs, 14, all of Grove, Okla., and Karen Lachelle DeWeese, 46, of Wagoner, Okla.

The names of the Borges-area victims had not been released. Two died while trying to escape a fire that destroyed a home.

"That fire just engulfed (the home), trapped them in there," said Don Rice, a photographer who volunteers with the Hutchinson County Emergency Operations Center. "It was fast, fast moving."

Trooper Daniel Hawthorne said the four bodies found late Monday were discovered near a car in a ravine north of Miami in Roberts County. Authorities were investigating the deaths, but Hawthorne said they appeared to result from a large grass fire in Roberts County.

Firefighters battled sev-

JAIL

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and still, there are more people in jail today than there has ever been," said Julian. "The cost of keeping inmates out of Howard County could go up. If he (the sheriff) has 5,000 warrants out there to serve and he runs a warrant sweep, they could fill this jail."

In the end, according to Julian, the tight restraints on space have an influence on how local law enforcement can operate.

"You're hamstringing your local law enforcement," said Julian. "You're limiting what they can do by not having adequate space in your jail. I think it's something all of you can look at and put a pencil to... It just goes to reason that the jail is going to be full at 96 beds."

And while the jail population has seen a decrease thanks to the implement of a new pre-trial bonding program, Julian said it's not a long-term solution.

"Some folks that are there, you just can't let out. The courts, working together, can create some

additional space, but there's only a limited amount," said Julian. "If you take them through the court time after time, what good is it going to do you to let them out if you know they aren't going to pay or report? It's a good process, but it only helps to an extent."

Julian did deliver some good news for the county during the meeting, offering to extend at least one variance in return for a solid game plan from the commissioners.

"The county was granted a six-bed variance some years ago to be set aside for federal prisoners," said Julian. "If the commissioners can agree to build a new jail facility and to have plans for the facility ready within the year, the commission is willing to extend that variance."

Local resident Frank Parker, who along with a number of other county residents was in attendance Monday, asked Julian how a 144-bed facility made fiscal sense when — by his calculations — housing inmates out of county is cheaper than building a new jail facility.

"We can send them to

Dickens County and other counties right now cheaper than we're going to be able to house them in this jail," said Parker, pointing to a set of preliminary plans. "They are at \$37 or something like that. That one (pointing to plans for 144-bed facility) is going to cost \$80 to \$90 a day, including debt service and electricity."

Julian didn't agree with Parker's assessment of the costs, adding that the overall availability of beds in out-of-county facilities is anything but a sure thing.

"I don't believe that to be true," said Julian sternly. "I don't know why Dickens County hasn't already filled up with everyone that has the numbers that you have. I can't see anyone building a jail at all if it's cheaper to just keep the inmates there. However, what's going to happen is they are going to fill up and then they are going to go up on your rates."

Sheriff Dale Walker confirmed Julian's prediction.

"We have had an occasion where Dickens County is full," said Walker. "We're not guaranteed a certain number

of beds. We do them on availability. We have had that occur just last year, where we didn't have anywhere to put anybody."

Consideration of a new jail facility began more than a year ago when Howard County commissioners identified jail overcrowding and non-compliance with state jail laws as an ongoing and long-term problem.

Commissioners tabled the jail issue in July 2005 — following several meetings with Furquerson and Project consultant Edward Spooner, justice director for the HOK Group — to concentrate on the county's budget and tax rate.

Discussions remained closed for several months, having reopened following a recent meeting between commissioners and TCJS officials that left the county with 90 days to present the commission with a detailed plan for correcting the items currently out of compliance.

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

ENERGY

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\$5.6 million over the course of 15 years through the energy savings expected to be generated.

"An automated system would allow you to control temperatures at the city's major buildings, which includes city hall, the theater, Polly Mays Annex and the Dora Roberts Community Center," said Nobles. "The lighting in virtually every city building would be upgraded. Also, the traffic signals the city controls would be changed over from the incandescent bulbs to LED lighting, which is what TxDOT is now using. There would also be a number of changes in your water fixtures, changing them to low-flow devices, making sure they are all up to code."

Nobles said the use of the automated meter reading system would also eliminate the need for two city employees, a point council member Gloria McDonald was quick to point out would not end with employees losing their jobs.

"I just want to make sure it's understood that these positions will be moved to another department," said McDonald. "No one is going to lose their job as a result of this."

The council gave the go ahead for the audit — which is designed to determine if a city can benefit from the program

— in November.

And while the project may seem too good to be true, Public Works Director Todd Darden said the upgrades made to the city's water system may leave some customers less than pleased — at least at first.

"I've talked with cities that have put this type of system in, and they said the only complaint they get is from people whose meters weren't being read or weren't reporting correctly, and now they have to pay for what they are actually using," said Darden. "However, in the end their bills will average out and be more steady because they will be read every time."

Mayor Russ McEwen said he's excited with the project and what it could mean for the city.

"It's great to be able to go into things we need to do in the city of Big Spring and not have to go back to the taxpayers and tell them they have to fund it," said McEwen. "We're going to be able to fund these projects through savings and increase revenues that we should have been collecting."

"Some of the main projects include upgrades to the lighting," said McEwen. "We're also looking at upgrading heating and air conditioning and having central controls for those that are all energy efficient. We would also be replacing all of the water meters that are obsolete with the new meters, and have them on a radio-control type reading system so

Parents file complaint over moment of silence in state's public schools

DALLAS (AP) — A North Texas couple has filed a complaint in federal district court charging the state's mandated moment of silence in public schools is unconstitutional.

David and Shannon Croft say in the complaint that one of their children was told by an elementary school teacher to keep quiet because the minute is a "time for prayer."

The complaint filed last week names Gov. Rick Perry and the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District, which the Crofts' three children attend in the suburbs of Dallas.

David Croft, a 37-year-old computer programmer, said there is no secular reason for a moment of silence.

"This is just a ruse to get prayer in school without calling it prayer in school," he said. "Is there any study showing a moment of silence helps education?"

A 2003 law established the moment of silence. It allows children to "reflect, pray, meditate or engage in any other silent

activities" for one minute after the American and Texas pledges at the beginning of each school day.

Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said children can use the minute as they wish.

"If the student wants to review mentally to get ready for a test or pray silently, they can," she said. "The law does not set it up specifically as a moment for prayer."

A school district spokeswoman declined comment because the district had not received a copy of the complaint.

Dean Cook, a lawyer for the Crofts, said a precedent was established when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1985 that a moment of silence in Alabama public schools was unconstitutional. He said the moment violates the establishment clause and church-state separation.

"This is an issue of trying to impose religion," he said. "There's nothing stopping students from silently praying during the day, so there's no need for this accommodation."

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

the Coahoma City Council. Incumbents Ronnie Dodson and Paulette Lindsey will be

joined on the ballot by newcomer Dan Shelburne, officials said.

Attempts to contact Forsan City officials for information concerning the election were unsuccessful as of mid-morning.

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ISD

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days. Howard College incumbents Harold Davis (District 3) and Don McKinney (District 4), appear to be coasting to new six-year terms on the board.

At Big Spring ISD, board members Maria Padilla (District 2) and Tony Kennedy (District 4) have no announced opposition, said James McFarland, assistant business manager.

Other area school districts and their announced candidates include:

• Forsan ISD — Incumbents Lewis Boeker and Misty Rhoten are the

only candidates who filed for the election, officials said.

• Stanton ISD — Incumbents Pinky Jones, Danny Ireton and Ramiro Reyes have filed for re-election.

• Glasscock ISD — Incumbents Carl Hoelscher, Andy Wheeler and Douglas Schaefer have filed for the election.

• Sands CISD — Incumbents Tommy Staggs, Steve Blagrove and Amy Parker are the only candidates for election.

• Grady ISD — Incumbents Roy Cooper and Jody Yates have filed for re-election.

If no challengers file, school districts likely will cancel their May 13 elections.

you don't have to read them individually." In the end, McEwen said he believes the project could help the city accomplish several long-term goals that have eluded the city in the past due to cost.

"You're going to have a more efficient city government, and at no cost to the taxpayers," said McEwen. "That's really the beauty of the project. Someone who is out there and says, 'So what, you're going to upgrade your lighting,' the 'so what' is in the energy efficiency."

"If we tried to do this by ourselves, without this particular program, then we have the funding question. And it's hard to come up with the dollars. Through this Siemens project, they are going to be able to fund those pro-

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Under guise of love, statutory rape can steal innocence

By KIBRET MARKOS

HACKENSACK, N.J. - Jennifer Santangelo of Lyndhurst, N.J., was walking home from school one day, wearing her blue and white uniform, when a 31-year-old man said hello and began chatting with her.

He was nice, she said. He gave her a box of pens and offered to let her into his nightclub for free, she said, if she handed out fliers for him.

Santangelo, then an eighth-grader at Sacred Heart School, had never been in a nightclub before. So she gave out some fliers in the coming days, threw out the rest and showed up at the club. The man let her in, she said.

The two exchanged phone numbers, began meeting frequently and soon were in a relationship that Santangelo said ended in 2004, a few months after her 18th birthday. She went to the police several months later.

Their secret love affair involved sex about twice a week, Santangelo told detectives in a sworn statement. She said the relationship was punctuated by five pregnancies — four abortions, one miscarriage — and, later on, countless fights that led to a hostile breakup.

Joseph Picolli, 38, of Rutherford, N.J., was arrested and later indicted on charges of having a sexual relationship with an underage girl. The indictment also charges him with having sex with a friend of Santangelo's when she, too, was 13. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted at a trial that is scheduled to begin April 17.

Santangelo, now 20, is on probation for drug possession, a habit she blames on her troubled adolescence. Her relationship with her family is strained, if not shattered.

Although she believes she once loved Picolli, she said she feels used and betrayed.

"I wish I'd never met him," she said. "He took me from an innocent 13-year-old into what I am today. I was still playing with dolls at 13. He totally had me brainwashed. I was in his web and I couldn't get out."

The Record ordinarily withholds the identities of alleged sex crime victims. In this case, however, Santangelo agreed to an on-the-record interview.

"What I had to go through, I don't want that to happen to another girl," she said.

The crime Picolli stands accused of is more commonly known as statutory rape, a "consensual" relationship between an adult and a child under the age of consent.

Although many studies show that teens are having sex at a younger age than before — often with older men — authorities say such cases are rarely reported because the relationships usually don't involve force or coercion.

"They come to our attention only when someone is bragging about their relationship or the parents find out about it, or a hospital calls us when a teenager



KRT Photo/Carmina Galasso

Jennifer Santangelo, 20, is photographed in court at the sexual assault trial of Joseph Picolli, 38, in Hackensack, N.J. Santangelo had a sexual relationship with Picolli starting when she was 13-years-old.

is delivering a baby," Bagliivi said. "Otherwise, these kids are not coming forward on their own."

Most states, including New Jersey, allow 13- to 16-year-olds to have sex with partners less than four years older. Perhaps in an attempt not to interfere with high-school dating, the law allows a 17-year-old boy, for instance, to have sex with a 13-year-old girl, in effect, condoning the younger teen's exposure to sex.

However, the same activity, if conducted a day after the male's 18th birthday, becomes a second-degree crime that carries a prison term of up to 10 years, lifelong parole under Megan's Law and civil liability for personal injury.

Such a distinction is not meant to protect teens from sex, but, rather, from exploitative sexual relationships with older partners, legal scholars say. What the law does, they say, is enforce societal norms condemning sexual relations where the age disparity is, as one put it, "just not right."

"It's the law's way of saying, 'Pick someone your size,'" said Michelle Oberman, a law professor at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, Calif., who has written extensively on statutory rape laws.

Prosecutors sometimes refrain from aggressive enforcement, saying the law could subject underserving defendants, a 20-year-old college sophomore, for instance, who went to bed with a 15-year-old girl thinking she was a year older, to harsh punishment.

"I don't think the law was intended for such defendants," Bagliivi said.

Prosecutors prefer to resolve such cases through plea agreements, offering deals with no jail time when the age disparity is not that great and the defendant doesn't seem predatory.

"Sometimes we don't even charge in such cases," said Del Russo. "If we do charge, our plea offers are going to be benevolent."

In the case of older defendants, however, the pick-someone-your-size rule kicks in.

"When the defendants are in their 30s and 40s, that almost always entails a prison term," Bagliivi said.

Del Russo agrees. "Depending on the quality of proof, that would be dealt with harshly," he said. "I think there is a consensus that with older partners, there is clearly a mismatch, a social,

emotional and sexual mismatch."

Statutory rape is at least as old as 1275, when common law in England outlawed sex with anyone younger than 12. At different times in subsequent centuries, the age of consent in America fluctuated from 10 to 21.

When the New Jersey criminal code was drafted in the late 1970s, some proposed 13 as the age of consent. Public sentiment, however, was resistant.

"The people ... were shocked by the fact that the criminal code allowed women to consent to sexual activity at the age of 13," reads a note in the state criminal code explaining the law's history.

A balance was then struck, setting the bar at 16 but also allowing 13- to 16-year-olds to be sexually involved with a partner less than four years older. More than half of the states today have settled on 16 as the age of consent.

"Virtually every community on the planet has the notion that a certain portion of the population must be off limits to sexual activity, under the premise that they are not capable of making decisions about sexual conduct," Oberman said.

Younger partners can be extremely traumatized, some experts say.

"Any time you have this kind of relationship, you are always going to find damage to victims," said William Plantier, director of the state Department of Corrections' division of operations.

"It could be fear of men, lack of trust for adults or inability to enjoy normal sexual relationships," said Plantier, who for 10 years administered the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center, the state's prison for sex offenders.

Paul Robinson, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania and a leading criminal law scholar, agreed.

"A 13-year-old may well believe the older partner is in love with her, not knowing he is only interested in sex," he said. "When she realizes afterward that she had been used and manipulated, that discovery itself can be very damaging."

Others say that is not always true.

Matthew Koso of Nebraska was 21 when he began a relationship with a 13-year-old girl. She gave birth to a baby girl last year, a few months after the couple was married in Kansas. In a case that drew national atten-

tion, Koso was charged with aggravated sexual assault and pleaded guilty late last year.

At his sentencing last month, Koso's wife implored the judge to set her husband free.

"I don't understand what this (punishment) is supposed to do," said Crystal Koso, now 15.

The judge sentenced him to 18 to 30 months in prison.

Conversely, Superior Court Judge Bruce Gaeta in Hackensack, N.J., said he saw no serious harm in the relationship between a former Clifton, N.J., school teacher and a 13-year-old boy, describing it as "just something between two people that clicked beyond the student-teacher relationship." He sentenced the teacher, 40-year-old Pamela Diehl-Moore, to probation.

The judge's remarks ignited such public uproar that the sentence was reversed and Diehl-Moore was given three years in prison. Gaeta, meanwhile, was re-assigned to another bench.

But the judge wasn't without supporters.

"This is a crime only because the law presumes that a 13-year-old cannot consent to sexual rela-

tions. Isn't that a legal contradiction here?" attorney George Orthmann of Ridgewood, N.J., wrote in a letter to the editor after the September 2002 sentencing. "On other questions of great human consequence, custody, for example, the wishes of 13-year-olds are given great weight."

Statutory rape laws were meant centuries ago to protect the virginity of girls to ensure their chances of marrying decent husbands. After several evolutions, the same laws are now cited, in part, as a weapon to combat teen pregnancy and reduce the number of unwed young mothers surviving on welfare.

A 1981 U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding California's statutory rape laws noted that "the prevention of illegitimate pregnancy is at least one of the purposes of the statute."

More recently, a major welfare reform law adopted by Congress in 1996 declared, "States and local jurisdictions should aggressively enforce statutory rape laws." The law also mandates that the U.S. Justice Department study "the linkage between statutory

rape and teenage pregnancy, particularly by predatory older men committing repeat offenses."

Several experts doubt that statutory rape laws meet their stated goals.

"These laws have little to do with the problem of teen pregnancy," said Oberman, of Santa Clara University. "I think the laws work best simply as protectors of vulnerable populations."

Picolli, who now works as a barber, is married with a child. He and his attorney, John Bruno, would not discuss the case.

"Regardless of the outcome, there will be no winners," the lawyer said. "This is a very sad case for both sides. My client's reputation in the community is already ruined."

Santangelo said she has remained drug-free for more than six months. She attends psychological counseling once a month.

"My life is on hold until this is over," she said.

After that, she said, she's going away to college.

"My friends are disgusted with my experience. I just want to go someplace where no one knows me and start afresh. Somewhere far."

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<p>March 14 * Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail Walking - 8:00 AM • Supper Club "Red Mesa" - 5:30 PM <p>March 15 * Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM <p>March 16 * Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM • "BUNKO" - 5:00-6:30 PM <p>March 17 * Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck & Bingo 11:30 - 2:00 PM <p>March 20 * Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO Stretch & Tone TODAY • New Mexico Casino Trip 9:00 AM - ?? <p>March 21 * Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail Walking - 8:00 AM • Supper Club "KC Steakhouse" - 5:30 PM 	<p>March 22 * Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 am • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM • LUNCH-N-LEARN - 11:30 - 1:00 pm <p>March 23 * Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM <p>March 27 * Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stretch & Tone - 10:30 AM • Games - 1:00 - 3:00 PM <p>March 28 * Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail Walking - 8:00 AM • Supper Club "Cowboys" - 5:30 PM <p>March 29 * Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit & Be Fit - 10:30 AM • Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 AM <p>March 30 * Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail Walking - 8:00 AM • Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 AM
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Christy's Quill

Since I work, I talk to women who work. The thing we worry about most is that we don't seem to get our homework caught up.

This weekend I did about six or seven loads of laundry. I don't know how many Ron did. He did a few as well.

I've read the cute e-mails that encourage women not to worry about cooking and cleaning.

That's all nice in theory, but when I start needing scuba diving gear to find my kitchen, I know something has to happen.

I'm much better than I once was. I don't clean

with toothpicks, toothbrushes or more. But, I can't just let it go.

After work, it's taxi time. Picking up here, dropping off there, running over hill and trekking over dell.

Once at home, I literally feel like dropping into the sofa.

But, there are the piles. Laundry and dishes and unmade beds. Shoes and clothing and homework,

too. Even with help, it seems overwhelming.

Sometimes, it's not so bad. I'll pick up after myself and the kids will make their beds before school.

Usually, however, we are in such a mad rush that clothes, sneakers and papers are flying while we attempt getting into the car for a 7:30 a.m. car-pool time.

Meals can be a challenge. Takeout is tempting and sometimes a necessity, but everytime I go that route, I end up feeling guilty.

-I feel like I've just thrown my money away. I've started using my

crookpot more and more. It's nice to know we'll arrive at home and food will be ready.

Another thing about cooking is that the counter has to be clean.

It is so weird, but I have a difficult time preparing meals if I see unwashed dishes.

A messy environment puts me in a fowl disposition.

What kind of response a person gets to any situation depends on the condition of the dining room table.

Before asking for a favor, it's always a good idea to check out how many dishes are in the

sink. Lots of dishes? Don't expect a favorable response.

Unmade beds? No can do...whatever the request may be.

Piles of dirty clothes? Family's totally out of luck.

I have a cardinal rule: I can't go out of town if my house is a wreck.

I refuse to get in the car until everything in the house is in order. On the weekends, I won't go to the superstore until all items are picked up.

It has sometimes been 3 in the afternoon before we got to poke our heads outside the door.

It's hard to squeeze everything in when a job is thrown into the mix.

I'm not where the forwarded e-mails tell me I should be.

I can't 'let it all go and enjoy life' unless my spaces are uncluttered.

Until I figure out how to get to that point, I'll be donning my oxygen tank, putting on my fins and swimming through the maze called housework.

I know I won't be alone.

Christy Alton is married to her park ranger, Ron and they have two children. She is a full-time student and now works as a tutor for a local elementary school.



CHRISTY ALTON

Bird Poop

After a stop for coffee in Sterling City, the Department of Public Safety officers drove north to patrol the lonely, dark stretch of road to Big Spring.

When they were nearly five miles from town, their headlights illuminated a car parked in the grass beside the road.

Nearing the vehicle, one officer relayed the license number while the other parked behind the faded Camero. It appeared the only occupant of the car was the driver, who had slumped forward on to the steering wheel.

Leaving their cruiser, the DPS officers cautiously approached the car.

The first officer's flashlight wandered upon a young man in his mid-20s.

Noticing that both windows were down on the driver's side, the officer was concerned about how unprotected the driver was.

Several steps behind, and on the other side of the car, his partner noted that the back window was down. As he reached the door and his flashlight shone on the front passenger seat, he

gasp as he quickly stepped backward. Hearing his partner's voice, the first officer saw his reaction.

Suddenly the still night air was pierced with laughter.

In the front seat and looking from one officer to the other, a turkey vulture had turned apprehension into uncontrollable giggles.

Roused by the chuckling of the officers, the young man awoke. When asked about his passenger, he told them he had found the bird by the side of the road as he left San Antonio.

When he discovered it could not fly, he put it in his car rather than leave it to be hit. Sitting quietly beside him, the vulture had seemed to enjoy the ride and had used the floor mat for his droppings.

Since the man was obviously weary from his long drive, the officers suggested they follow him into town.

They also informed him that the vulture was state and federally protected; they would notify the game warden so as to locate the nearest rehabilitation facility.

When our phone rang at 10:45 p.m., we told the officers we could meet them in five minutes, since they were parked at the old Wal-Mart.

To see the red-headed bird of prey sitting in the front seat of an automobile was the most comical situation we had



BEBE MCCASLAND



Courtesy photo

With keen eyesight and a well-developed sense of smell, the turkey vulture is graceful in flight and efficient in keeping a clean environment.

had with vultures.

Assuring the young man and the officers that the bird would receive care, and thanking all involved in the bird's journey, we took this carrion-eater home.

After examining a wing that had an old break with much calcification, we put the vulture in a carrier in our den for the night.

At the other end of the house, I soon learned why the young man had lowered

three of four windows in his car. The aroma of regurgitated skunk filled the house.

Accustomed to being outdoors, the vulture spent the rest of the night outside.

Although non-releasable, the vulture would live to spend its days as an educational specimen of nature's method of recycling.

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


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S

IN BRIEF

B.S. Country Club
to host scramble

The Big Spring Country Club will host a three-day scramble April 14-16.

The fee is \$40. There will be a shotgun start on days.

For more information, call 267-5311.

Lady Steer Boosters meeting announced

The Lady Steer Boosters Club will meet Monday, March 20, in the A Training (ATC) at 6 p.m.

All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, track, cheerleading and trainers are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Policky at 432-3800.

Big Spring Softball Association set date for signups

The Big Spring Softball Association will be holding signups to register for the upcoming season each Saturday through March 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

The league is for girls and women 4 and up. The registration fee is \$5. There is a \$5 donation for a second child.

For more information, contact Shafer at 432-2111.

Umpires needed for B.S. softball season

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

If interested, contact Luci Ramirez at 466-3670.

Coahoma sets date for alumni baseball game

The Coahoma Bulldogs will be playing their first alumni baseball game Saturday at 12:30 p.m. at the Coahoma ball field.

The softball alumni game will be that day beginning at 3 p.m.

For more information or to play, contact Donna Mar at 394-453 or Barr at 965-3408.

Contact Coahoma softball coach Dickenson at 517-0000.

Coahoma sets date for softball signups

The Coahoma United Girls Softball Association will be holding registration for 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 on March 21 and March 22 each day will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, contact Pat Robins at 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.

Lady Steer Booster meeting announced

The Lady Steer Booster Club will meet Monday, March 20, in the Athletic Training Center (ATC) at 6 p.m.

All parents of girls involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, track, cheerleading and trainers are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Carol Policky at 432-466-3800.

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 Saturday 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.

BSHS lands five to all-District 4-4A squads

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Big Spring junior Ryan Tannehill and senior Raegan Ritchey were both named to the District 4-4A basketball first team this season for their efforts on the hardwood.

The Steers also landed junior Scott Fankhauser on the second team, while Lady Steer senior Carmen

Davis and junior Mallory Dunn were also second-team members.

Plainview Tannehill head coach Danny Wrenn was named 4-4A Coach of the Year on

the girl's side, while Lubbock Estacado head man Tim Thomas was voted top coach after his Matadors took home the district title.

Andrews' Diandra Marquez was voted as the Player of the Year even though her Lady Mustangs failed to make the playoffs.

The Newcomer of the



RITCHey the boy's side in 4-4A was junior LeCarl Willard of Estacado. The

Year was Kenon Uddley of Plainview and the Defensive Players of the Year were Jamar Wall of Plainview and Trey Merchant of Frenship.

The Newcomers of the Year were Brandon Borum of Plainview, Davouyea Johnson of Estacado and Nick Hanslik of Frenship.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College's Scott Stephen tries to pick off a runner at first base during a recent game at Jack Barber Field. The Hawks split four games with Frank Phillips this weekend to begin the conference season.

Hawks split two more with WJCAC rival Frank Phillips

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

BORGER — The Hawks found the bats Saturday just in time to save a split in conference play against Frank Phillips. Howard got just six hits at the plate in the first game and lost, 6-2, but recovered nicely in Game 2 with a 30-hit, 25-run performance.

Frank Phillips scored two runs in the first inning of Game 1 to take the early lead and then added four more runs in the fifth inning.

Bobby Gonsoulin pitched 5.1 innings and took the loss, dropping to 1-3 on the season. He gave up six earned runs on 10 hits and walked three.

Sophomore Daman Aaron continued to swing a hot bat as he went two-for-two with two RBIs and one run. Both RBIs came off a home run.

Aaron would not be the only star at the plate in the second game, but the sophomore did enough damage to beat Frank Phillips himself quite possibly.

The Hawks got down 9-0 after one inning in Game 2, but recovered



hits, four runs and two RBIs. Freshmen Gabe Marchant, who returned this weekend from injury, and David Fonseca each had three hits, including one home run apiece. Marchant scored four runs and had five RBIs, while Fonseca added two runs and three RBIs.

Sophomore Will Basom had three hits, four RBIs and three runs. Jacob Bordeau and Dustin Dallas each had two hits as well.

Scott Stephen improved to 1-1 with the win, but gave up 11 earned runs on 11 hits and only struck out three in five innings. Adrian Bermudez allowed four earned runs in his 3.2 innings and Lance Brown recorded the final out of the game.

The split pushes Howard's overall record to 12-8 and it is now 2-2 in the conference.

The Hawks will play four wooden bat games this weekend at Jack Barber Field. They host Trinidad Friday for a doubleheader at noon before taking on McCook Saturday beginning at 1 p.m.

Burgess, Adams win big in WJCAC

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Fresh off their NJCAA Tournament-clinching win against Midland College, the Hawks, who went 32-1 this season on their way to the conference and regional championships, took home lots of post-season awards this year as the all-conference and all-region teams were announced Monday.

Sophomore Charles Burgess, who was Howard's "Mr. Everything" this year, was voted as the WJCAC Player of the Year, while Howard head coach Mark Adams won Coach of the Year.

Howard's leading scorer

freshman Benny Valentine — earned a spot on the conference's first team and also made the all-region team, while sophomore Richard Forbes was placed on the first team and sophomores Dezmon Harris and Louis Rodgers were both honorable mention selections.

Burgess averaged 15.8 points per game this year, but turned on his scoring during Howard's conference championship run. He led the team in assists with 158 and averaged 5.8 rebounds per game from his combo guard position. Burgess was a 75 percent free throw shooter and he made 50 percent of his shots from the field, including an improved 36 percent from beyond the 3-point line. He was also second on the team in

See HAWKS, Page 2B

Fairley lands spot on all-WJCAC team

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

For the second straight year, Latoya Fairley, a sophomore on Howard College's women's basketball team, earned a spot on the Western Junior College Athletic Conference's first-team and was also voted to the all-region team Monday as postseason honors were handed out.

Also making the all-conference team on the women's side were honorable mention selections Jennifer Pena and Kim

See HOWARD, Page 2B

Gilyard, a sophomore and freshman, respectively.

Fairley led this year's Hawks team in scoring, rebounding, block shots and field goal percentage. She averaged a little more than 16 points per game and was 43rd in the nation with an 8.8 rebound per game average. She also had 30 blocks in 30 games and made 48 percent of her shots from the floor. Fairley scored 30 points against nationally-ranked Trinity Valley and pulled down 14 rebounds against No. 3 Odessa College.

Pena shot 82.5 percent from the free throw line this year, which was good for 26th in the nation. She also averaged just under

Headley leads Hawks rodeo team in opener

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

WEATHERFORD — The Howard College rodeo team put on a pretty good show in first round action at Weatherford College this past weekend as the spring rodeo season got underway.

The problem for the Hawks came in the short round where several participants got no times and failed to place in the overall average.

Shelly Combs won her first round run in the breakaway roping as she was clocked at 2.6 seconds, but her no time in the short round put her in sixth overall when the rodeo concluded Saturday.

Jed Headley scored times of 5.5 and 6.5 in his two runs in the steer wrestling competition. He wound up in fifth place after the short round and was fifth in the overall average.

The only other Howard Hawk to place in the overall average was Clay Hale and his brother Trey Hale, who graduated from Howard and is currently at Angelo State University. The brother duo competed in the team roping competition and, like Headley, placed fifth in the short go and fifth in the average. The team scored a 7.4 in the first round.

Cody Heiner participated in steer wrestling and

See RODEO, Page 2B

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Billalba takes fourth in S.A.

• Miller leads Lady Steers in Andrews

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
SAN ANGELO — The Big Spring boy's golf team finished 17th out of 24 teams this weekend in San Angelo.

Senior Chance Cain was in the hunt after Day 1, but a second-round 83 was not good enough as he finished with a 159. Fellow senior Tommy Billalba shot a first-round 79, but got himself into the top 10 Saturday after shooting a 72. He finished with a 151 and took fourth place overall.

Brian Hale was third on BSHS' team with a 181. Blaze Carroll shot a 202 after a second-round 98, while Josh Rodriguez finished with a 208 and Dan Painter fired a 236.

Lady Steers at Andrews

The Lady Steers finished the Andrews Girls Golf Tournament in 13th out of 23 teams as Big Spring was led by Amber Miller for the second straight week. She fired a second-round 91 and finished with a 190.

Cassie Guinn recovered from her first-round 104 to shoot a 90 Saturday and finished second on



Courtesy photo
Big Spring senior Tommy Billalba gets ready for another shot at the San Angelo Boys Golf Tournament this past weekend. Billalba finished fourth overall after a strong second round.

the team with a 194. Megan McCormick fired a 98 and 101 in her two rounds and grabbed third

on the squad with a 199. Joy Seay shot a 211 and Porscha Knowlton fired a 230.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

steals with 62.

Valentine scored a team-high 17.8 points per game and had a team-high 70 steals. He was second on the team in assists with 99, made 86 3-pointers at a 40 percent clip and hit 76 percent of his free throws.

Forbes averaged just under 11 points per

game, while making 81 percent of his field goals and connecting on 82 percent of his free throws. He also had 41 steals and 59 rebounds.

Harris averaged 11.4 points per game and was third on the team with 60 assists. Harris grabbed 2.4 rebounds per game, made 56 percent of his field goals and connected on 81 percent of his free throws. He also had 27 steals and hit 46 percent of his 3-

pointers. Rodgers missed much of the conference season, but averaged 14 points per game when he was in the lineup. He also pulled down 5.4 rebounds per game and made 41 3-pointers.

The other WJAC all-region players were Timmy Crowell of Midland, Steve Harley of South Plains, Ed Millard of New Mexico Junior College and Nemanja Calasan of Midland.

RODEO

Continued from Page 1B

scored a fourth place finish in the first round after a 4.8, but scored a no time in the short round and did not place in the average. Shelly Combs was also fourth after the first round in barrel racing, but she hit a barrel in the short round and did not place in the over-

all average. She scored a 17.33 in the first round.

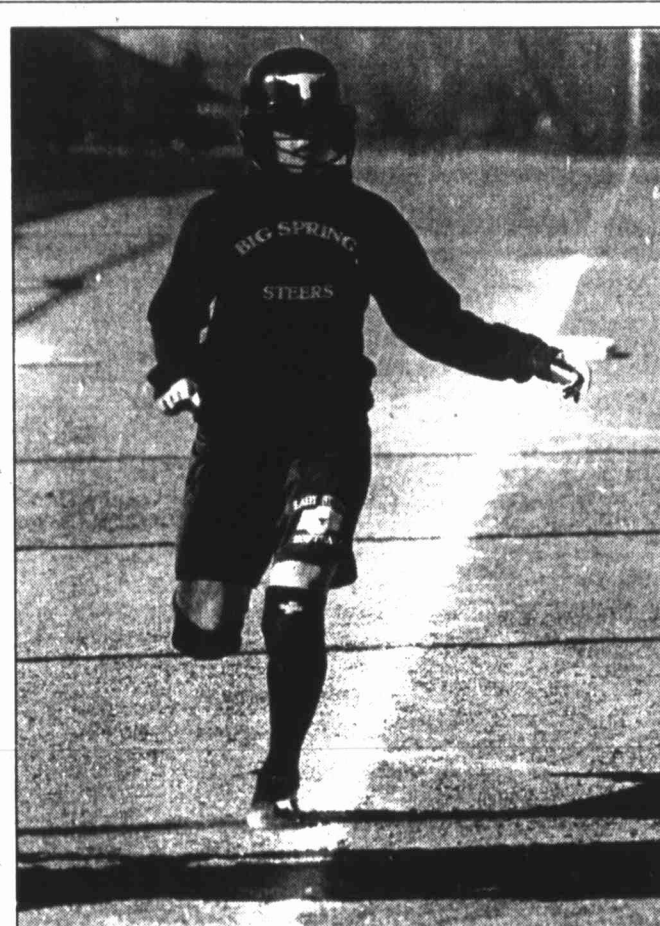
Laramie Hall and Chris Hise tied for seventh in the first round of the team roping and Juan Alcazar and Sloan Smallwood's team was in fourth after scoring a 6.7. Neither team was able to place in the average, however.

"The first rounds went really well," said Howard head coach Greg Kernick. "We just have to fix some

things for the short go. If we can put two runs together we'll get some points."

The Hawks are off this week and will travel to Odessa March 23-25. The hometown rodeo will take place April 27-29.

"We are wrapping our sponsorships for the hometown rodeo in April," said Kernick. "We appreciate the support and sponsorship from the community."



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring junior Katy Abner approaches home plate earlier this year during a scrimmage in Big Spring. The Lady Steers will travel to Coahoma tonight to take on the Bulldogettes at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Area Events

Tonight

- Coahoma tennis vs Westbrook, 3:30 p.m.
- Forsan baseball vs. McCamey, 4:30 p.m.
- Forsan softball @ Crane, 5 p.m.
- Big Spring softball @ Coahoma, 7 p.m.
- Coahoma baseball vs. Crane, 7 p.m.

Thursday

- Big Spring baseball @ Odessa Permian, 4 p.m.
- Coahoma host track meet, TBA

Friday

- HC baseball vs. Trinidad State, DH starts at noon
- HC softball vs. Western Texas, DH starts at 2 p.m.
- Big Spring softball vs. Lake View, 4 p.m.
- Coahoma softball @ Clyde, 5 p.m.
- Coahoma baseball vs. Sweetwater, 7 p.m.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

10 points per game and led Howard in assists with 118 and was first on the squad in 3-point percentage as she hit a long range shot 38 percent of the time. Pena's biggest scoring game of the year was her 18-point effort against Clarendon College.



PENA

Gilyard made all the

hustle plays for Howard this year, while averaging nearly four rebounds per game and scoring 169 points. She also had 60 assists and shot 41 percent from the field. Her season-high in points was 17 against Mesa Community College.

The WJAC Player of the Year was Helen Roden of No. 3 Odessa College, which just advanced to the NJCAA Tournament this weekend after winning Region 5. The Coach of the Year — Nate Altenhofen — was also from Odessa College.

Three other Lady Wranglers made the first team this year. Chandra



Jones was an all-region member and Dina Piterniece and Ladesha Stoudemire also made the top conference team.

The other all-region members from the WJAC were Dominic Seals of South Plains, Rachel Brazell of Midland and Maggie Smith-Davidson of New Mexico Junior College.

Bedtime Stories

MAMIE DOG

Mamie Dog sounds like a funny name for a little dog, doesn't it? It is a funny name for a little dog! But everything else about Mamie Dog is not funny! She was the very best little dog you could ever want as a friend. She was little! She wasn't even very pretty to most of my friends. But, she was pretty to my brothers and me, and she was my best friend for a long, long time! And all of my brothers said that Mamie Dog was their best friend, too!

Do you have a little puppy? What is your puppy's name? Do you have a little kitten? What do you call your little kitten? Do you have a little goldfish for a friend? Do you have

a name for your goldfish? If you have a little dog, kitten, goldfish, or even a hamster, they are called pets. Do you have a pet?

Back to my story about Mamie Dog. She was a little black dog, with a white spot between her eyes. The first time I saw her, I thought that she might be just a little bit ugly. I was going to learn very quickly that there was nothing ugly about Mamie Dog!



Remember, this happened a very long time ago when I was a little boy. I am an old man now, and Mamie Dog has been gone for a

very long time, gone, but never forgotten!



The way that I remember her now is how beautiful she really was!

This is not a sad story, but a very happy one! She made my brothers and me very happy for many years. She was our pet. She was our playmate. She was our best friend! This story is for you, Mamie Dog!

The little dog had been with us for only a few days when we decided to give her a name. My mom and dad said that we should name her after the president's wife. Her name was Mamie. We

thought and thought about that name for a long time and my little brother said that was the perfect name for her. All of my brothers agreed. From that day long ago until now, her name was forever Mamie Dog!

My brothers and I



loved to play in the nearby woods every day. We played every game that a child could ever think of while we were in those woods. We made toys from small tree branches and everything else we could find that would let our imaginations change that tree branch into a sword, or a bayo-

net, or a bow for our make believe arrows. Mamie Dog seemed to know just what kind of games we were playing, and she always played her part, too! She could be a soldier, she could be a cowboy, or an Indian. She could be anything she wanted to be, but what she chose was to be our best friend.

She helped us find food when we were hungry. She protected us from danger many times. She spent her



whole life loving us. And her love was returned. All of us loved her, too! We still

miss her! Most of all, we still love her even after all these years!

So, you see, this is not a sad story, but a very happy one. One little almost ugly dog gave my brothers and me many long years of happiness. If she was around right now, she would still be protecting my brothers and me, and barking to let us know that she was outside, near our front porch, waiting for us to come out and play yet another day. If Mamie Dog was still around, I would love to do just that!

If she was your dog, she would be telling you something very important right now. She would be saying, "I love you," and "GOOD NIGHT."

Announcements

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TUESDAY

MAR. 14

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (64)
6	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Spanish	My Wife-Kids	News Ent. Tonight	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Booker John Hage	News-Lahvir	Discovery	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Invatgn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com	Phil of Future That's-Raven	Baseball: World Classic	NCAA Special College	Movie: Queen of the Damned (CC)
7	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Spanish	My Wife-Kids	News Ent. Tonight	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Booker John Hage	News-Lahvir	Discovery	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Invatgn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com	Phil of Future That's-Raven	Baseball: World Classic	NCAA Special College	Movie: Queen of the Damned (CC)
8	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Spanish	My Wife-Kids	News Ent. Tonight	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Booker John Hage	News-Lahvir	Discovery	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Invatgn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com	Phil of Future That's-Raven	Baseball: World Classic	NCAA Special College	Movie: Queen of the Damned (CC)
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10	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Spanish	My Wife-Kids	News Ent. Tonight	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Booker John Hage	News-Lahvir	Discovery	Classics	CSI: Crime Scene Invatgn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com	Phil of Future That's-Raven	Baseball: World Classic	NCAA Special College	Movie: Queen of the Damned (CC)
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY I WAS JUST FIVE YEARS OLD."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Barfy's an acrobat! Over by that tree he showed how he could balance on three legs!"

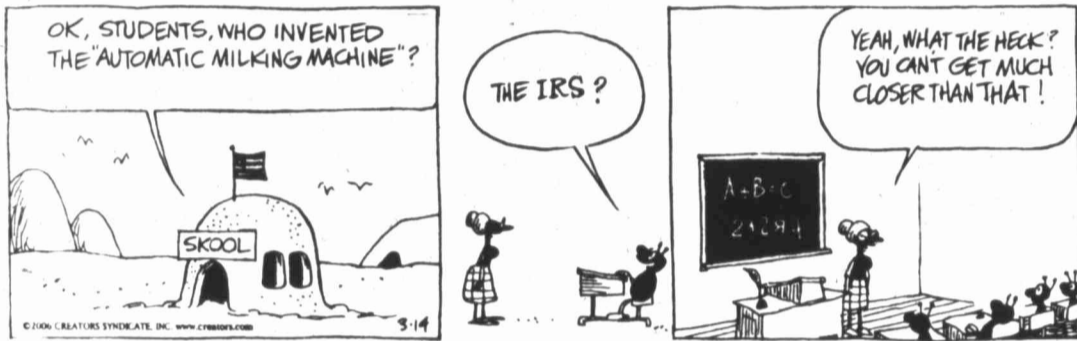
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HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 14, the 73rd day of 2006. There are 292 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 14, 1743, the first recorded town meeting in America was held, at Faneuil Hall in Boston.

On this date: In 1794, Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin, an invention that revolutionized America's cotton industry.

In 1900, Congress ratified the Gold Standard Act.

In 1923, President Harding became the first chief executive to file an income tax report.

In 1939, the republic of Czechoslovakia was dissolved, opening the way for Nazi occupation.

In 1943, Aaron Copland's orchestral work "Fanfare for the Common Man" premiered in New York, with George Szell conducting.

In 1951, during the Korean War, United Nations forces recaptured Seoul.

In 1964, a jury in Dallas found Jack Ruby guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy.

In 1965, Israel's cabinet formally approved establishment of diplomatic relations with West Germany.

In 1980, a Polish airliner crashed while making an emergency landing near Warsaw, killing all 87 people aboard, including 22 members of a U.S. amateur boxing team.

In 1991, a British court reversed the convictions of the "Birmingham Six," who had spent 16 years in prison for an Irish Republican Army bombing, and ordered them released.

One year ago: A judge in San Francisco ruled that California's ban on gay marriage was unconstitutional.

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Frank Borman is 75. Singer Phil Phillips is 75. Actor Michael Caine is 73. Composer-conductor Quincy Jones is 73. Former astronaut Eugene Cernan is 72. Movie director Wolfgang Petersen is 65. Country singer Michael Martin Murphey is 61. Rock musi-

cian Walt Parazaidar (Chicago) is 61. Actor Steve Kanaly is 60. Comedian Billy Crystal is 58. Country singer Jann Browne is 52. Actor Adrian Zmed is 52. Prince Albert of Monaco is 48. Actress Tamara Tunie is 47. Producer-director-writer Kevin Williamson is 41. Actress Megan Follows is 38. Rock musician Derrick (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 34. Actor Chris Klein is 27. Actress Kate Maberly is 24. Singer-musician Taylor Hanson (Hanson) is 23.

"Thought for Today": "There are only two kinds of people in the world that really count. One kind's wheat and the other kind's emeralds." - Edna Ferber, American author (1887-1968).

Answer to previous puzzle

SITE	MOOSE	EGGS
WOOL	ANITA	LULU
ATOM	TILER	ITEM
PANTYHOSE	VOTES	
RUIN	PLATE	
LABELS	LES	RMS
AGREE	GENE	BAH
CIA	IAMASS	HAPE
DEN	ISIS	HALLE
DEEDS	SEAL	
TERSE	PIPEDREAM	
IRAS	MEDAL	ISLE
ELIA	OLLIE	SPOT
DENY	BLEND	EYES

Newsday Crossword

EASY AS PIE by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- Conclude
- Music disks before CDs
- Cat sounds
- Shake out of slumber
- Wide shoe
- Any '50s tune
- Preface, for short
- Tic-___toe
- Unaccompanied
- Pie flavor
- Fireplace residue
- Plaintiffs
- Ancient Mexican
- Sci-fi creatures: Abbr.
- Bikini part
- Calmed
- Obtained illegally
- Himalayan nation
- Respectful title
- Halt, at sea
- Betray
- Pays no attention to
- Before, in poems
- After taxes
- Store employee
- ___ Antoinette
- Fam. member
- Pie flavor
- Caribbean island
- Ecology agcy.
- Sad song

DOWN

- Author Jong
- They're taboo
- Pie flavor
- Iceberg and romaine
- United Nations goal
- Make safe
- Castle surrounder
- Singer Fitzgerald
- Limburger feature
- Kite mover
- Get the point of
- Quarterback stats.
- Fractions of a mi.
- Enthusiasm
- Eagle claw
- No longer fresh
- Pie flavor
- Take a break
- Colonizing insects
- Poker starter
- Jury member
- Noise
- Higher than
- Music students' performances
- Jules Verne captain
- Happiness
- Special skill
- Quick
- Puts to work
- Former Mach 2 fliers: Abbr.
- Camel feature
- Woodwind instrument
- Poet Sandburg
- 450, in old Rome
- River, to Ricardo
- "___ we there yet?"

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16
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Wacky Facts

- When a hippopotamus yawns, it doesn't mean it's ready for a nap. That wide mouth is actually a warning to stay away! And it's a good idea to do so. Hippos are very protective of their turf and their young.
- Hippopotamuses kill more people in Africa than any other wild animal. — *World Almanac for Kids*

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"The first time I shot the hook, I was in fourth grade, and I was about 5 feet 8 inches tall. I put the ball up and felt totally at ease with the shot. I was completely confident it would go in. I've been shooting it ever since."
— Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, on internationalbasketball.com



By KARALEE MILLER
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The Big Dance." "March Madness." "Welcome to Bracketville."
All this and more describes the hoopla that erupts in March when tourney time begins for the NCAA basketball championship.

The men's tournament, which kicked off March 14, has been going strong for almost 70 years. Sixty-five teams play in the opening round, and then the field is narrowed to 32. After that, the field becomes the Sweet 16, as teams from coast to coast vie for the national title and "one shining moment." From there, teams are narrowed to the Elite Eight and then the Final Four.

Tournament teams are divided into four regions of the country. This year, the regional rounds are being played in Atlanta; Oakland, Calif.; Washington; and Minneapolis.

With office betting pools and Cinderella teams galore, the college tournament provides a mix of furor and heartbreak, stemming in large part from the once-and-done playoffs: If a team loses once — it's out.

The men's Final Four will face off April 1 and 3 in Indianapolis. The women's Final Four meets April 2 and 4 in Boston.

HOW ARE TOURNAMENT TEAMS DETERMINED?

The NCAA tournament selection committees use several factors when selecting teams, including won-loss records, strength of schedule and how teams did in their final 10 games of the season.

In 2005, for the first time, the committees also used a weighted RPI (ratings percentage index) system that rewards teams more for road victories and penalizes them for home losses.

Once teams are chosen, they are seeded and placed in the tournament bracket.

SOURCES: WWW.SPORTS
LINE.COM; MSNBC.MSN
COM; WWW.MERCURY
NEWS.COM;
ATHLETIC
SCHOLARSHIPS.
NET; WWW.
SPORTS
STATS.COM

WHEN DID THE MEN'S TOURNAMENT BEGIN?

The NCAA took over the tournament in 1940 from the National Association of Basketball Coaches. One team was chosen from each of the eight NCAA districts. Four competed in a western tournament and four

Most NCAA basketball championships	
MEN'S	WOMEN'S
UCLA 11	Tennessee 6
Kentucky 7	Connecticut 5
Indiana 5	
North Carolina 4	
Duke 3	
Cincinnati 2	
Connecticut 2	
Kansas 2	
Louisville 2	
North Carolina State 2	
Oklahoma State 2	
San Francisco 2	
Michigan State 2	



Baylor's Sophia Young was named the most outstanding player in 2005.



UNC's Sean May, right, battles under the basket as the North Carolina Tar Heels beat the Illinois Fighting Illini in the 2005 men's NCAA championship game. May earned the 2005 Outstanding Player Award.

in an eastern tournament. The western and eastern champions then played for the title. This system continued until 1950.

In 1951, the championship was expanded to 16 teams, with 10 conference champions automatically qualifying and six at-large teams selected. The "Final Four" was born in 1952, when the number of regional tournaments increased from two to four.

WHEN DID THE WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT BEGIN?

The Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAIW) held the first national women's college basketball tournament in 1972. The NCAA assumed the women's championship in the 1981-1982 school year.

Old Dominion hosted the first NCAA Division I Women's Final Four in Norfolk, Va., where Louisiana Tech beat Cheyney (Pa.) State 76-62 for the title.

DO SCHOOLS SCORE BIG FINANCIALLY BY BEING IN THE TOURNAMENT?

The NCAA operates a money distribution system that rewards conferences with participating teams in the tournament. That means, the more teams a conference has in the tournament, the more money is paid to that conference.

Here's how it works: The NCAA awards conferences one unit for each game in which its member teams participate except the championship final, which has no financial incentive. Conferences then add the units earned that season to those they received in the previous five tournaments. Payouts are based on the total units from the six-tournament span.

Conferences determine how the money is spent, although the NCAA has urged that conferences divide the basketball fund revenue equally among their member schools.

However, this is not a requirement.

The Scoop

Celebrate National Bubble Week

Bubble fans, get blowing! The week of March 20-27 is all about enjoying these enchanting soapy spheres. For bubbles with maximum staying power, try this simple recipe: Stir together six parts water, two parts Joy or Dawn dishwashing liquid (these

brands work best) and 3/4 part corn syrup. Then create enormous, glistening bubbles by pouring some solution into a large, flat pan (a large roasting pan works well) and using a plastic hanger as a wand.
— FamilyFun magazine

In The News

A kid's-eye view of 'Nurse Matilda'

By now, you've probably had a chance to see the movie "Nanny McPhee," based on "The Collected Tales of Nurse Matilda," a book by Christianna Brand. But if you liked the movie, is it worth checking out the book? Time For Kids asked kid reporter Aminah Sallam to review the book. Here's her take:



Can you imagine having more than 20 children? Well, Mr. and Mrs. Brown can! "The Collected Tales of Nurse Matilda" is a 384-page children's fiction book by Christianna Brand.

The story is about sweet Mrs. Brown and truthful Mr. Brown and their terribly, terribly naughty children. The family had had several governesses, nurses and nannies, but no one was able to keep the kids in line until Nurse Matilda.

TEACHING MANNERS

To some, Nurse Matilda was ugly, but to others she was lovely, except for that "hideous front tooth sticking out like a huge tombstone over her lower lip!" She also



BOOK ART BY EDWARD ARDIZZONE

had magical powers and was always able to teach the Brown children to behave in a creative and kind way.

On a scale of one to 10, I would rate this book a six for the humor and the way the children find such foolish things to do. Overall, I

felt Nurse Matilda and the children were not very believable characters, but they were funny. The Brown children's mischievous antics will definitely make you laugh.

This book, though charming in many ways, has its pros and cons. I would recommend it for families who like to read stories out-loud together because of all the witty dialogue. At the same time, American readers might have some difficulty with the vocabulary in the book because it is written in British English. For example, did you know that "nappy" is a diaper?

— Aminah Sallam, 11

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BIG SPRING

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 1

What he

On the hurricane survivors...

"We were real them, and this is impossible can't be done we did it."

On the jail iss

"My hope is can all take a back, put penalties aside an sure we're doing what is best taxpayers of County."

On citizen responsibility.

"I close today asking each every one o what are yo to do to mai Spring all it be?"

Dev

By STEVE RE Staff Writer

The only do erwise upbea address was t that a Calif developer ha pursue ren

Cou with

By THOMAS JE Staff Writer

The Big Sp Council appr reading of a that will e municipality t an energy co agreement wit giant Siemen Technologies, could save the than \$5 million

The council District 1 Cou Stephanie Hor sent — voted uly to author Russ McEwen a performanc ing agreem Siemens Tech council also gous nod to a authorizing th and delivery lease agree escrow agree related instru

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