



## Veterans home to celebrate fifth anniversary

**Who:** State and local dignitaries and veterans. Public invited.

**What:** Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home fifth anniversary celebration.

**When:** 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday.

**Where:** At the veterans home, U.S. Highway 87.

**How:** Comments, posting of the colors, tours and refreshments.

**By BILL MCCLELLAN**  
News Editor

Five years already? The Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home will celebrate its five-year anniversary Friday, and local and state dignitaries will be taking part in the festivities.

State Sen. Kel Seliger, Rep. Pete Laney and Mayor Russ McEwen will join Texas Land

Commissioner and Veterans Land Board Chairman Jerry Patterson in the celebration, which will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The public is invited.

The ceremony will feature posting of the colors by the Goodfellow Air Base Color Guard, the singing of the national anthem by Hilda Lara, refreshments and tours of the facility. Members of the

Lamun, Lusk and Sanchez families will also participate in the ceremony.

Entertainment will be provided by the Stanton Old Sorehead Band.

The facility is named after three decorated veterans from Howard County — David Vance Lamun, Joe M. True Lusk and Reynaldo Sanchez.

"Honor lives here," adminis-

trator Ben Mazzara said of the Big Spring veterans home. "We have honor that lives here, but more important than that, we are honored to be serving these veterans. We're looking forward to our fifth anniversary."

The home is one of six long-term, skilled-nursing care facilities for Texas veterans.

See **VETERANS**, Page 5A

## It's just like coming home

New postmaster finds Big Spring to his liking

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

For Gary Crittenden, newly appointed postmaster for the Big Spring Post Office, coming to the Spring City was a lot like coming home.

Crittenden, who was appointed to the position approximately two weeks ago, said Big Spring reminds him of his hometown of Borger, but the route he took to get from there to here is mind boggling at best.

"I've worked for the post office for a number of years. I started in Denver, Colo., of all places," said Crittenden. "I moved down to Borger, which is home for me. My parents were living there and they got into bad health, so I asked for a transfer and that's where they sent me. Worked there about 10

**"I love the city and I love the people. This is a good office and there are no major dramatic problems anywhere that I can see, so I'm tickled to be here."**

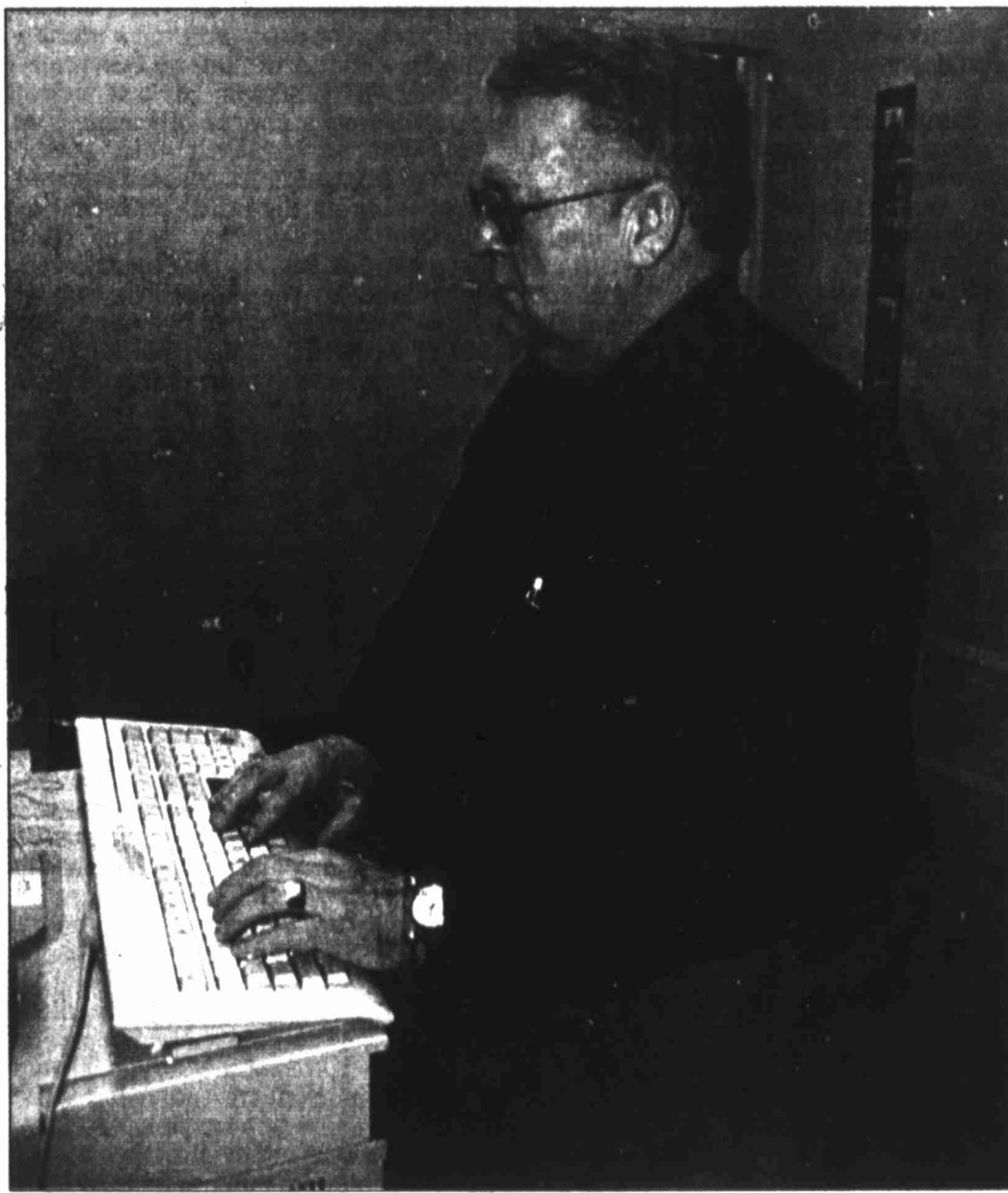


Crittenden

years, then went to Amarillo, where I worked for about 15 years.

"I've been in management in Breckenridge, which is on the other side of Abilene, and I went to Oklahoma about six

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Gary Crittenden, newly appointed postmaster for the Big Spring Post Office, runs through the daily paces.

## Grand Jury

Sexual assault of child among 32 indictments

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

A Howard County Grand Jury handed down 32 indictments this week in 118th District Court, including several for sexual assault of a child.

Four Big Spring residents were indicted on sexual-based offenses, including:

- Santiago Jimmy Abreo, 69, of 3217 Duke Avenue, aggravated sexual assault of a child (first-degree felony).

- Guadalupe Alejandro Garcia, 51, of 1407.5 Scurry, two counts of indecency with a child - sexual contact (both first-degree felonies, enhanced).

- Lupe Rodriguez Hernandez, 50, of 105 W. Eighth Street, aggravated sexual assault of a child (first-degree felony, enhanced).

- Ruben Rojas Jr., 31, of 1403 Harding, aggravated sexual assault of a child (second-degree felony).

Other indictments handed down include:

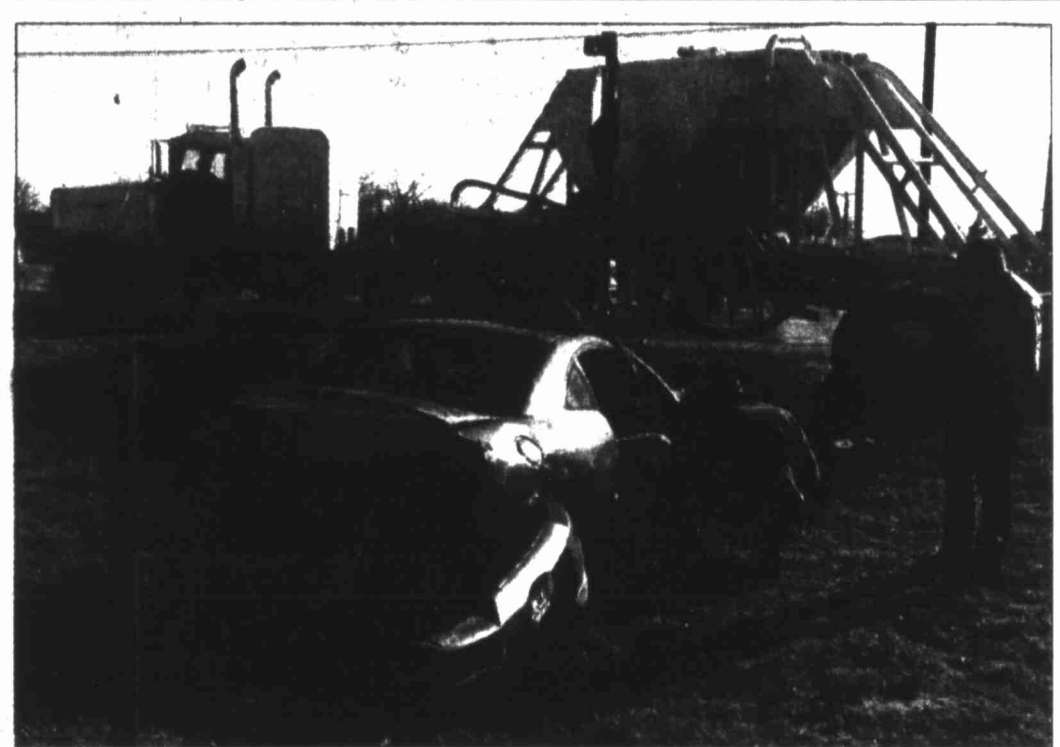
- Victor Manuel Castillo, 33, of 1512 Wood Street, driving while intoxicated with a child passenger (state jail felony).

- Joe Albert Deanda Jr., 45, of 3221 E. 11th Place, credit card abuse (state jail felony).

- Epifano Jose Guzman, 34, of 700 S. Douglas, evading arrest (state jail felony) and possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony).

- Steve Alan Hannabass, 48, of 1105 Mulberry, two counts of burglary of a habitation (both second-degree

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Law enforcement and emergency medical personnel examine this vehicle following an accident at the intersection of FM 700 and Highway 350. According to DPS troopers on the scene, the driver of the sedan was traveling east on FM 700, and failed to yield the right-of-way to a tractor-trailer traveling north on Highway 350.

## Plan now to attend chamber health fair

**Herald Staff Report**

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual health fair from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 8 in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

This year's theme will be "Don't Gamble with Your Health."

Demonstrations, educational brochures, screenings and free products and novelty items will be featured.

Some of the services the Health Fair have provided in the past have been:

- Blood pressure screening
- Cholesterol screening
- Glaucoma screening

- Glucose screening
- Flu shots
- Tetanus shots
- PSA testing

The health fair is sponsored by the chamber of commerce's Health Committee. The health fair is co-chaired by Amber Rich and Nancy Jones.

The health fair provides an opportunity for area organizations and businesses to educate the public about prominent health problems in the immediate area, allowing local services to reach the public and describe their services in a relaxed atmosphere and provide a

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## Perry: Property tax cut must be priority

**By JIM VERTUNO**

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — The Legislature must focus on lowering property taxes and reworking the tax formula that pays for Texas public schools in the upcoming special session, Gov. Rick Perry said Tuesday.

Any attempt to using an entire projected \$4 billion budget surplus to address a court order to lower property

taxes would be only a short-term solution and a mistake, he said.

Perry called the 30-day special session to start April 17. Last year, the Texas Supreme Court ruled the state's dependence on local property taxes is unconstitutional and must be changed by June 1.

"We've got to stay focused on what the Supreme Court has directed us, mandated us, and that is lowering property taxes," Perry said after a

speech to the Texas Association of Manufacturers, a new lobby created to represent many of the state's largest companies.

"That's what we must do so that the schools open up," he said.

Perry said he would not oppose using part of the budget surplus, but emphasized the need to create a new, low-rate, broad-based business tax to buy down property taxes across the state, said

Perry, a Republican.

The special session will be the fourth Perry has called on the issue in the last two years. All have ended in gridlock and failure.

This time, a special commission appointed by Perry is preparing recommendations for the Legislature, which include a revised business tax, a new cigarette tax and use of \$1 billion from the

See **TAX**, Page 5A



## Obituaries

## Annette McDonald Campbell



Annette McDonald Campbell, 77, longtime Big Spring resident, passed away peacefully after a lengthy illness Monday, March 20, 2006, in Lubbock. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Friday, March 24, 2006, at the First Baptist Church Chapel with the Rev. Joel Miller officiating.

Annette Jean McDonald was born Jan. 7, 1929, in Paducah to Allen and Tommie McDonald. She married Hugo Campbell Oct. 5, 1946. They were married for 57 years when Hugo passed away in November 2003.

Annette was a member of First Baptist Church. She was a member of the Western Drifters Travel Club and a talented bridge player.

Along with so many Big Spring friends, Annette is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Walt Hanel of Lubbock; two sons and daughters-in-law Charles and Laura Campbell of Midland and Scott and Sharon Campbell of Austin; four grandchildren, Todd Hosmer and Andrew Campbell, both of Lubbock, and Craig Campbell and Lee Campbell, both of Austin; one great-grandchild, Zach Hosmer of Lubbock; three sisters and their families, Joyce Matney of Paducah, Charlotte Whitley and husband, Harry of Crowell and Fern Hart and husband, Sam of Columbus, Ohio.

Annette was also preceded in death by one brother, Lloyd McDonald of Westminster, Calif., and one sister, Floye McDonald of Paducah.

Her family expresses their thanks to the compassionate staff of Grace House and NursCare Hospice both of Lubbock.

In lieu of flowers, the family recommends donations be made to The American Diabetes Association, Annette Campbell Memorial Program, P.O. Box 1132, Fairfax, Va., 22038-1132 also memorialhelp@diabetes.org or to the First Baptist Church, 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring 79720.

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

*Paid obituary*

## Frankie Simmons

Frankie Simmons, 84, of Big Spring, died Friday, March 10, 2006, at her residence. She will lie in state Friday, March 24, 2006, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home. Services will be held in Shreveport, La.

She was born April 25, 1921, in Missionary, La., and married Lawrence Simmons March 12, 1963, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Jan. 29, 1991.

Mrs. Simmons had worked at Malone-Hogan Hospital for 38 years, retiring June 13, 1985. She was a member of Mt. Bethel Baptist Church.

Survivors include one brother, Arthur Abraham of Chicago, Illinois; one son, Cleavon Jackson; five grandchildren; and a host of great-grandchildren.

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

## Velma Una Talkington

Velma Una Talkington, 92, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 21, 2006, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Support Groups

## THURSDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m.

• **BUSINESS AFTER HOURS** from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. Thursday at Southern Maid Donuts and KaleidoScoops, 1103 E. 11th Place, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

• **BIG SPRING SYMPHONY GUILD FUND-RAISER** is 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday at the St. Paul Lutheran Church educational annex, 811 Scurry. A Tupperware cooking demonstration is planned, with recipes available and door prizes. All proceeds benefit the Guild. For more information, or to learn more about becoming a member of the Guild, call 263-4033.

• **SECOND ANNUAL BIG SPRING POWWOW** is 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Admission is \$2 with children under 12 free.

• **BIG SPRING 42nd ANNUAL RATTLESNAKE ROUNDUP** is 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday and noon until 5 p.m. Sunday in the Howard County Fairbarns. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 4-11.

• **RELAY FOR LIFE DODGE BALL TOURNAMENT** at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Goliad gym. \$5 per person to play; four men and four women to a team. Sponsored by the Yellow Dogs. For more information, call 264-4108.

• **VICTIM SERVICES VOLUNTEER TRAINING POSTPONED TO MONDAY**, March 27 through March 31 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and concludes April 1 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. These individuals assist victims of domestic crime as well as sexual assault. Volunteers carry pagers and work with law enforcement. For more information and an application, call Victim Services at 263-3312.

• **AN ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT CITIZENS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION** for 21-month-old Madysyn Hillger, in care of her grandmother, Debra Hillger. Madysyn has been diagnosed with a rare neurological-genetic disorder, Rett Syndrome.

## Police blotter

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

- **LYNDON FRALEY**, 46, of 1506 Stadium, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **YOLANDA MIER**, 30, of 511 S. Nolan, was arrested Tuesday on four local capias warrants and three local warrants.
- **TINA JUNKIN**, 45, of 26 Val Verde Road, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **CHARLIE RYERSON**, 60, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION** was reported in the 400 block of Third Street.
- **DISORDERLY CONDUCT - LANGUAGE** was reported in the 300 block of Tulane.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3200 block of Auburn.

## Sheriff's report

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

- **CECILIA H. HYDEN**, 35, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- **TERESA LYNNE CHRISTON**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation on a charge of theft by check.
- **BRANDON LEE EDWARDS**, 20, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of burglary of a habitation.
- **JOSEPH ALTON MURLEY**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
- **BRYAN JOSEPH GILES**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
- **JUAN CARLO CORRAL-ARGUELLES**, 40, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear.
- **ELENO BENAVIDES MENDEZ**, 51, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **CHRISTOPHER ORNELAS**, 28, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.
- **ROBERT LUIS SALAZAR**, 39, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a TDC Parole Division warrant for violation of parole for aggravated sexual assault.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of FM 700 and Highway 350. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 500 block of North Birdwell Lane. Three people were transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Refinery Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of San Juan Trail. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 100 block of Lancaster.

## Take Note

Donations will be applied to travel, medical and lodging expenses. For more information, call 264-7340 or 816-1024.

• **LIMITED BOOTH SPACE FOR THE ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR**, with this year's theme, "Don't Gamble on Your Health" is available until March 31 for \$100. For more information or to reserve a booth, call Nancy Newell at 264-7641 or e-mail nnewell@bigspringchamber.com.

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

• **FIFTH ANNUAL CITYWIDE EASTER EGG HUNT** is set for noon April 15 at the Birdwell Lane Park featuring an Easter bunny. Sponsorships are available. For more information, call Jennifer Patton at 432-263-6351 or e-mail Jennifer.pattton@kbyg.net.

• **KEEP BIG SPRING BEAUTIFUL FLEA MARKET** is 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. May 6 in the Big Spring Mall parking lot and booth space is available. Applications are available at the mall office or the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 263-9231.

## Coronado Hills Apartments

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## Bulletin board

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

## TODAY

- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

## THURSDAY

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

## FRIDAY

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

## SATURDAY

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

## MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

## TUESDAY

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

## Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers in the evening then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows in the lower 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s. Light and variable winds becoming south around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s.

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the upper 60s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 70s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 50.

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

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.

## Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$82 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$68 million drawing matched all five lotto numbers and the Mega Ball. The next drawing will be Friday.

The winning numbers from Tuesday's drawing were: 4, 16, 17, 28 and 31. The Mega Ball number was 8.

\*\*\*

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 6-11-14-20-24.

Number matching five of five: none.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

\*\*\*

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-0-8

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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## Front li

By SANDY BAUERS

KRT

PHILADELPHIA nights at 11:30, Sgt. Class David Cassa beyond tired. B. Phoenixville, Pa., miles from Cassada racks in Iraq's Triangle, a 7-year-old is just home from the racing to the compu-

So, tappy-tap. National Guardsman on to their Internet site and, together, and son sail the high pretending to be pin-

Before Guard Michael Hood was Iraq, he and his wife communicated online day. Little has changed. "It's almost like still here," said A. Goebel-Hood, of A. Pa., who starts to her in-box at noon.

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Videoconfere allows military m to attend their chi birthday parties fathers to witness b

Not long ago, N Guard Staff Sgt. Nagel of Elizabeth Pa., joined some b and bought a Wel "The invention of time," said Nagel who, like all of th tary personnel in story, was interview e-mail from Iraq.

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# Front lines are just a click away

By SANDY BAUERS

**KRT**  
PHILADELPHIA - Most nights at 11:30, Sgt. First Class David Cassada is beyond tired. But in Phoenixville, Pa., 6,000 miles from Cassada's barracks in Iraq's Sunni Triangle, a 7-year-old boy is just home from school, racing to the computer.

So, tappity-tap, the National Guardsman logs on to their Internet game site and, together, father and son sail the high seas, pretending to be pirates.

Before Guard Capt. Michael Hood went to Iraq, he and his wife communicated online every day. Little has changed. "It's almost like he's still here," said Amanda Goebel-Hood, of Ambler, Pa., who starts to check her in-box at noon.

At the Al Asad Air Base in the country's western desert, Guard Cpl. Derek Marinaro looks into a videoconference camera and signs to his deaf parents. Back in East Stroudsburg, Pa., the Marinaros scrutinize Derek's face and body language.

They seek the reassurance that others get from a voice on the phone, an answer to the question that haunts every military family: Is he really OK?

For U.S. troops and their loved ones, there has never been a war like Iraq.

Thanks to the Internet and a combat scenario that involves forays from a home base rather than advancement across enemy terrain, military personnel communicate with friends and family at home with unprecedented ease.

The result is near-daily chatter with the power to vanish as well as create melancholy, say those on both sides of these intimate transactions.

Today's serviceman ought to be able to "spend as much time with his family as he'd like to," said John Harlow, founder of Freedom Calls Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides free Internet, videoconferencing and phone service to military personnel in Iraq.

It's starting to happen. Although the letter remains sacred, it has been augmented with an array of possibilities.

With e-mail and instant-messages, families send real-time encouragement to their men and women overseas. "I love you. I'm so proud of you."

And troops stay involved with their spouses. "Here's who to call about the furnace."

Calls are so cheap - from nothing at all to 21 cents a minute - that Cassada, 40, an electronics repair chief, talked his wife through setting up a new stereo system.

Videoconferencing allows military mothers to attend their children's birthday parties, and fathers to witness births.

Not long ago, National Guard Staff Sgt. Chad Nagel of Elizabethtown, Pa., joined some buddies and bought a Web cam. "The invention of a lifetime," said Nagel, 32, who, like all of the military personnel in this story, was interviewed by e-mail from Iraq.

Now, the tank commander in Ar Ramadi blows kisses to his children at bedtime and admires their school projects.

Recent innovations are "incredible," said Morten G. Ender, a sociologist at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, who in 2004 surveyed 1,000 troops about methods they used at least twice a week to send word to friends and family.

About 15 percent said they used traditional mail. But a quarter of them called on the phone, and more than half e-mailed.

To young service personnel who were raised on the Internet, there's no contest between perfumed stationery and the instant gratification of the Web.

"Maybe a letter has more meaning than a screen," said Airman First Class Tarik Omar, 23, of Reading, Pa. But for him and his peers, he said, it's "the speed that counts."

In tents, trailers and buildings throughout Iraq, the military has set up more than 1,250 phones and 3,500 computer terminals. Phone usage is approximately 11.6 million minutes a month for 160,000 troops, the Department of Defense reports.

Michele Cassada, 38, holds her breath when she picks up the home phone and hears a delay. Is it a telemarketer, or the pause that announces an international call?

Cassada never leaves the house without her cell. "I don't even care about disturbing people," she said. "It's my husband. He's calling from Iraq."

Usually the connection is good. Perhaps too good. Goebel-Hood, 34, has heard gunfire while talking to her husband. He tells her a firing range is nearby.

About 2,000 troops a day pass through the three Iraqi facilities run by the Brooklyn, N.Y.-based Freedom Calls, whose motto is "seeing is relieving." About 10,000 state-side businesses and other facilities have volunteered their teleconference equipment and conference rooms to the effort.

Some technologically savvy military personnel, especially those in the Guard, with skills from a variety of civilian occupations, purchase their own laptops, set up satellite dishes on the roofs of their quarters, and plug microphones into computers to make cheap international Internet phone calls.

So essential are e-mail and instant-messaging that Dan Shannon of Chicago started Operation Homelink, a nonprofit that rehabs donated computers for military families.

The military no longer censors communications.

"We would have to completely do away with e-mail," said Air Force Technical Sgt. Stacy Simon, at the Central Command press office in Iraq.

Instead, troops get security training. "We are confident they will do the right thing," Simon said.

Families censor themselves, however. They worry about revealing the trials of maintaining the home fire - problems that Hood, 39, said could "bring a soldier down fast."

Holding back is difficult "when you've built a marriage with your best friend," said Kristen Nagel, and you are e-chatting "throughout the day like he's not in a war zone."

Nagel, 31, never shares her minor woes, or describes the times when the couple's daughter is up all night missing her father.

"It's too much for them to bear," she said. "All I want him to focus on is staying safe."

The new technology brings daily reassurance to offset the rolling anxiety stoked by 24-hour news coverage. A simple e-mail - "Hey, I'm fine" - has helped many a family member sleep better.

Technology also provides an instant boost. "I want to send happy thoughts...to keep her spirit lifted, because in a moment I know it can be taken away," said Connie Reed, 50, mother of Guard Sgt. Jen Renninger, a medic.

Renninger, 25, stationed in Ar Ramadi, maintains an Internet blog so her friends can follow her tour of duty.

Through e-mail and instant-messaging, troops seek a normalcy that only the mundane brings. They answer questions about insurance agents and the whereabouts of the screwdriver set. And, some couples report, they argue, just like normal.

"Then you discuss it through several more e-mails. And, when you can, you call home and say your 'I'm sorrys,'" said Renninger, who got married less than two weeks before going to Iraq.

Maj. Jim Ross, 37, an Army contracting officer from Hamilton, N.J., receives pictures drawn by his son and e-mailed to Tallil by his wife.

Marinaro used to call his sister, who would translate his words into sign language for his parents. The videoconference was a morale-booster for him as well as them.

"Knowing that they are doing well makes my job over here that much easier," said Marinaro, 23.

Nagel and his wife have shopped together online for the children's Christmas presents, instant-messaging their thoughts about possible purchases.



**TSgt. Richard Moon, who came in during his off duty hours to collect his mail from home, is the night operating room NCO in charge at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad, Iraq. The hospital has all of the capabilities of a major trauma hospital in the United States.**

Through the lens of his Web cam, Nagel, activated 14 months ago, has watched his children grow. Madelyn, 4, loves princesses and nail polish. As for Caden, 2, Nagel said, "My favorite moments have been seeing him wear his big-boy underwear without any diapers and showing off his big-boy sneakers that are just like daddy's."

Nagel's days are punctuated by his children's activities, and he often sets an alarm so he won't miss an opportunity. "I love seeing them asleep in bed. It makes me feel a little more peaceful."

In turn, Nagel shows them his room, his roommates. "It's so important for them to see where daddy is and that he's OK," Kristen said.

Cassada, 40, had an e-mail conference with son Brady's teacher. He and wife Michele instant-message almost daily. It amuses them that, if her keyboard is idle when he logs on, the computer tags the mother of two, who is single-handedly running the household, as "idle."

The question West Point's Ender asks is: When does all this back-and-forth become too much?

"Communication has now allowed the war front to be in the home front and the home front to be in the war front," he said.

"You can know on a daily basis what's going on with your family. Is that distracting? We don't know."

Hood, head of a joint forces base in Ar Ramadi, doesn't want to hear the minutiae. "My full concentration won't be in the fight," he said. He stays in touch to reassure his wife.

The life he left in Ambler "is a fantasy," Hood said. "I don't really want to know what's going on 'cause I will miss it even more."

Families worry that the tug of technology will become too much for them, as well, that their lives will be consumed by waiting for phone calls and obsessively checking e-mail.

Lisa Hernandez is grateful for calls from her husband, National Guard Sgt. Kenneth Hernandez, 47. It's a lot easier than when he was in Bosnia, Lisa Hernandez said.

The couple's children, 8 and 11, like to talk to their father, too. But it makes them wonder anew why he can't be with them, she said.

No one, however, knows better what a double-edged sword technology is than the family member for whom, suddenly, it stops.

There can be any number of reasons for a lapse. But the silence that families most fear is the blackout the military imposes on a unit when one of its troops is killed: Until survivors are formally notified, nothing gets out. Prayers that the interruption is benign - maybe it was just a power outage - fill the hours, as loved ones wait for service to resume.

"The irony now is that people expect to communicate daily," said Ender. "When they can't, they assume the worst."

Technology has provided new options, but it will never supplant the long and intimate tradition of letter-writing.

It's not an e-mail print-out but a handwritten letter from his wife that Chad Nagel keeps in a pocket inside his body armor.

Every month, 747s fly more than a million pounds of mail to Iraq. They carry cards to National Guard First Lt. Antonia Greene, 26, from Lansdale, Pa., who uses them to paper the walls of her barracks between Fallujah and Ar Ramadi. Her favorite bears the message "Trust your instincts." Underneath is written "They're good, kid. I have great faith in you. Love, your Dad."

They carry notes from Chad Nagel's grandfather, a World War II Navy vet who knows "what it means to get a letter from home. ... I now have a bond with him that I will never forget."

They carry drawings by Brady and Riley Cassada, whose father said, "There's nothing like knowing that what you're reading was written with

the little hands of your child."

Cassada's letters home are simply addressed to "Incredible Wife Michele." She hears the clank of the mailbox lid and runs to the door.

In contrast to the "this and that" of e-mail, she said, "you know that the letter that comes in the mail is (about) how much they miss you or care about you."

Cassada draws for his boys pictures of helicopters and tanks. "When I see you, I will give you a thousand kisses! Then, we'll wrestle," he writes to Riley, 4.

"Have fun, play fair, wash your hands often and hug your mother every day. She loves you," Cassada reminds him.

Spec. Rick Milsop of Philadelphia sends his three daughters stickers, which his wife mails him for just that purpose. It takes ingenuity to connect with a 4-year-old who opens the door to her house each night and calls, out: "I love you, Daddy!"

A letter bears the physical touch of a loved one. Troops often smell them - even if, as Ross suspects, any scent is more imagined than real.

Where e-mails are one-liners, letters are like conversations whispered in the dark.

"Our letters are written in the quiet moments when we have time to reflect and share our...feelings for one another," said Kristen Nagel. "I cherish them."

Being away so long "humbles a man and lets him reflect on what he really has at home, and what matters most," said her husband. "I took for granted my family, that they would always be there. But I lost my father while I was deployed and have watched one year of my children's lives pass by."

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

# Roundup to be exciting, educational

Rattlesnakes may make some people's skin crawl, but for members of Big Spring Chapter of the American Business Club (AMBUCS), they play a pivotal role in the group's ability to offer scholarships for students.

What's more, they'll bring a fair number of visitors to Big Spring when the Ambucs stage their annual Rattlesnake Roundup this weekend at the Howard County Fairbarns.

The 43rd annual Big Spring Rattlesnake Roundup will be held Saturday and Sunday, but snake hunters from throughout the region will begin weighing in their snakes Friday.

Hunters are expected to continue arriving with new catches throughout the event, which officially begins at 10 a.m. Saturday with handling demonstrations, educational exhibits, venom milking demonstrations and more.

The roundup continues at noon Sunday and trophies for the hunters bringing in the most pounds of snakes, the heaviest snake and the snake with the most rattles, will be awarded. The roundup continues to 6 p.m. each evening.

During both days, visitors will be attracted to arts and crafts booths in the nearby Dora Roberts Building.

Tickets for the roundup are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

It should be a lot of fun — all for a good cause.

We'll see you there.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

## LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We can work around unexpected earth eruptions, Lord, when we consult with You through prayer.

Amen

# Conroy's early experiences

Pat Conroy's novels are filled with lyrical prose about experiences in his home state of South Carolina. The images produced by his words are strong and clear. His command of the English language has made him one of the most respected writers in America. Among his books are "The Prince of Tides," "Beach Music" and "The Great Santini."

His first book was about the Citadel, South Carolina's military college where he was a student. Pat went to his commander and told him he had written a book and wanted to get it published. The commander told Pat to look in the yellow pages. He found a printer who did business cards, invitations and books. Pat was told he could have 2,000 copies of the book for \$5,000. Pat was surprised. He had heard it was hard to get a book published.



TUMBLEWEED  
SMITH

He went to his hometown banker and got a loan because the banker was excited about getting a book written about the Citadel.

The first edition was sold out before it was published. The second edition did well, too.

Pat wrote another book, "The Water Is Wide." Someone told Pat he needed an agent. Pat found New York literary agent Julian Bach and called him.

After introducing himself, Pat said, "I'm from Buford, South Carolina, and I've written a book I think you'll like." Julian replied, "I've never heard of South Carolina, never heard of Buford and never heard of you. Losers like you call me every single day of my life and I'm going to fire my secretary for letting you through."

Pat wrote Julian a letter the next day. "Dear Mr. Bach: Obviously New York has withered everything fine and wonderful and lovely about your soul. Whatever your mother saw in you as a child obviously has been ruined and broken in the canyons of New York."

Julian liked the letter. He wanted Pat to rush him a manuscript

of the book.

There was a problem: Pat had written the book in longhand. His wife called all their friends in Buford who came over and each took a chapter to type overnight. Because Pat did not type, he did not know about pica and elite. He did not give the people typing paper. So the manuscript that was sent to New York had long yellow sheets, onionskin and Harriet Kaiserling's personal stationery. The pages were not numbered.

Julian called Pat and said, "Pat, I haven't read a word. But it's the cutest thing I've ever seen."

Within a few weeks, Julian called Pat again and said he had marvelous news.

"Houghton-Mifflin, the editor of Emerson, Thoreau, Edith Wharton, Emily Dickinson and other icons of American literature, has agreed to do your book. And here is the most exciting news of all. Seventy-five hundred dollars."

Pat replied, "I can get it done cheaper down here, Julian."

Julian, after a pause, said, "You do understand they do pay you."



# Interpreting from the front lines

There was a running joke in my Marine units in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Each grunt thought he was the best, the platoon above him was good, the company above that was mediocre and the overarching battalion was actively trying to get him killed. So it is with most organizations. People near the bottom wear blinders, and their diligent attention to the task at hand is precisely what makes them less qualified to assess the bigger picture.

This phenomenon helps explain Zogby International's recent survey of U.S. troops in Iraq, which reported that 72 percent of them think the U.S. should withdraw within a year. Of course they do. The troops have no control over the broader strategy directing U.S. policy in Iraq, so they are suspicious of it. U.S. soldiers in Normandy in 1944 probably felt the same way.

Some newspapers and blogs across the country trumpeted the findings of the Zogby poll, which was conducted from mid-January to mid-February. They said the survey portended disaster for the U.S. in Iraq, as if the loss of faith of the common soldier on the ground reflected some kind of turning point in the war.

But the uncomfortable reality of polls is that you can't cherry-pick their results. Conclusions that don't support our preconceived notions must be taken along with those that do.

A less-heralded finding in the Zogby poll was that only 30 percent of the troops said they'd been inadequately supplied with body armor and armored vehicles, a low figure given that media coverage has suggested that the complaint is widespread among soldiers. Nearly two-thirds reported that basic infrastructure and services in Iraq — electricity, water, healthcare and so on — have improved in the last year. Ironically, the troops' opinions on these topics, which run against

the grain of popular perception, have a much stronger foundation in their daily experience.

As critics of the Iraq war rallied around that 72 percent figure on withdrawal, defenders of the policy trashed Zogby's methods and questioned the poll's motives. The firm has been tight-lipped about its methodology, citing "security purposes."

There is, however, one telling hint: A quarter of those surveyed were female, but only about 15 percent of U.S. forces in Iraq are female. This indicates that the sample was skewed toward logistical support troops as opposed to front-line combat forces.

The attitudinal contrast between front-line and support troops is one of warfare's fabled dichotomies, much like the contrast between an active-duty, infantry-heavy group — such as the Marines — and their Reserve and National Guard counterparts. In the survey, nearly 90 percent of polled Reserve and Guard soldiers advocated withdrawal from Iraq within a year, while barely more than half the Marines shared that view.

Culture matters: In the 1990s, the Marines toyed with the recruiting slogan "Nobody likes to fight, but someone has to know how." It was dropped after Marines started grumbling that they really did like to fight.

But both the champions and critics of the Zogby survey miss the central point: The opinions of junior troops on the ground matter little — and rightly so — in crafting national policy.

Consider this poll finding: 85 percent of the troops who believe that the U.S. should exit Iraq in the coming year also said that the U.S. mission there is mainly "to retaliate for Saddam's role in the 9/11 attacks." How can we reconcile the so-called wisdom of the

former with the demonstrable falsehood of the latter?

In short, we can't. Asking young soldiers and Marines about national strategy is almost as fruitless as asking senior political leaders about platoon-level tactics.

During the war in Vietnam, President Johnson and his advisers micromanaged battlefield decisions, sometimes even picking individual bombing targets. Their errors have been recognized in subsequent years, and commanders in chief these days are quick to emphasize that military decisions should be left to military professionals. Similarly, political decisions — such as when and how to disengage from Iraq — must be made by political professionals.

In the absence of a draft, members of the U.S. armed forces are professional volunteers. Their oath of office is not to a particular president, policy or administration.

They swear to defend the Constitution and to obey the lawful orders of their democratically elected government. They served President Clinton, and they serve President Bush. They served in the Balkans, and they serve in Iraq. Civilian control of a professionally apolitical military is a sacred American tradition. This is why, in the all-volunteer force, troop opinions or outside perceptions of their morale cannot be used as a "canary in the coal mine" of Iraq policy.

My Marines were right about one thing: They were the best. But their expertise was fighting the war, not making national policy.

The Zogby poll and its selective interpreters fail to make that distinction and so contribute little to the debate on the wisdom of the war in Iraq.

Nathaniel Flick is a former Marine captain who served in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is the author of "One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer."

## MAIL

Continued from Page 3

years ago. I work Shawnee, Seminole, Colgate. I also served the officer in charge every major office in Oklahoma, including Tulsa, McClellan, Stillwell... The list goes on and on."

And while the land and people of West had a lot to do with Crittenden's decision to make Big Spring home, the long-time employee and veteran's final decision came down to family.

"This opportunity up, and Big Spring about three hours where my grandkids so I jumped on it,

## JURY

Continued from Page 3

felonies).

• Roger Bruce H... 50, of 500 E. 17th... burglary of a bu... (third-degree... enhanced).

• Ammie Lee How... of 3906 Gail Highw... 3, fraudulent use... session of ident... information (third... felony, enhanced).

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• Francisco Jesus... 27, of -1901 Hilltop... riving while intox... (third-degree felony... burglary of a bu... (state jail felony).

• Alesha Kay Pace

## VETERANS

Continued from Page 3

"There is a... throughout this... build homes for... veterans and their... lies," said Patterson... Big Spring home h

## HEALTH

Continued from Page 3

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MAIL

Continued from Page 1A

years ago. I worked in Shawnee, Seminole and Colgate. I also served as the officer in charge for every major office in Oklahoma, including Tulsa, McCallister, Stillwell... The list goes on and on."

And while the landscape and people of West Texas had a lot to do with Crittenden's decision to make Big Spring his home, the long-time federal employee and Vietnam veteran's final decision came down to family.

"This opportunity came up, and Big Spring is about three hours from where my grandkids are, so I jumped on it," said

Crittenden with a laugh. "And to tell you the truth, this is just like being home. It's like coming home. I love the city and I love the people. This is a good office and there are no major dramatic problems anywhere that I can see, so I'm tickled to be here."

"I think the people have a big part to do with that, and even the area here reminds me a lot of Borger, with all the rolling hills and such. Of course, the best part is that short trip to see the grandkids, however."

There are plenty of challenges to be met in the postal world, according to Crittenden, challenges he and the rest of the staff at the Big Spring Post Office meet day-in and day-out. "Customer service is

one of our big issues. Making sure we get the mail where it belongs and get it there in a timely manner, and make sure we get the right mail to the right people, on the right day," said Crittenden. "And that can be a challenge sometimes when you're dependent on transportation like most companies are."

"Our mail comes out of the Dallas area to Midland, and then to us. So when you have that many other people involved in the process, you have a few hang ups. For the most part — since I've been here — I haven't seen any dramatic problems or anything that can't be fixed."

Crittenden said the Big Spring office is much larger than his last

assignment, leaving him with more "latitude" when it comes to running a day to day operation.

"I came out of a much smaller office than this one," said Crittenden. "At the Big Spring office I have supervisors to assist me, and they are very capable people. Plus you have a lot more latitude with the number of employees. There are 50 employees in this office. My last office had 10. So, something as simple as someone going on vacation would leave me very short-handed. Here, we can allow three people to go on vacation at one time and not be hurt. You just have a lot more latitude in what you can do."

And while people see the United States Postal Service vehicles on the

roads and letter carriers on the sidewalks, it's what goes on "behind the scenes" the postmaster wishes people could see.

"I wish everyone could come in and just spend one day with their letter carrier," said Crittenden. "The person that carries the mail to them individually. They don't realize how much goes into getting the mail prepared to go out to that house, and a lot don't realize they're not the only person that carrier delivers to. Everyone thinks their mail should be there at a certain time everyday, but that carrier has 900-plus deliveries, counting the businesses and residences."

"They need to see what they go through to get that mail to them,

because it's not a situation where we hand a letter to a carrier and he brings it to their house. There's a lot of work involved in that, from the time that letter is dropped in the mail by grandma, until the time it gets to the grandson. It's truly amazing what a letter goes through to get delivered, and amazingly, we get 98 percent there on time."

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

JURY

Continued from Page 1A

felonies).

• Roger Bruce Hanson, 50, of 500 E. 17th Street, burglary of a building (third-degree felony, enhanced).

• Ammie Lee Howell, 28, of 3906 Gail Highway Lot 3, fraudulent use or possession of identifying information (third-degree felony, enhanced).

• Jimmy Ray Johnson, 31, of 1308 Ridgeroad, evading arrest (state jail felony).

• David Errol McGruder, 68, of 1429 E. Sixth Street Apt. 39, delivery of a controlled substance (state jail felony).

• Terry Bob Makowsky, 53, of 3703 Caroline, driving while intoxicated (third-degree felony).

• Randy Ray Mier, 28, of 1501 Runnels, evading arrest (state jail felony) and possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony).

• Francisco Jesus Nieto, 27, of 1901 Hilltop Road, driving while intoxicated (third-degree felony) and burglary of a building (state jail felony).

• Alesha Kay Pace, 31, of

1708 Main Street, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (state jail felony).

• Chelsea Lee Richardson, 23, of 108 Merrick Road, failure to stop and render aid (transportation code).

• Alfonso Demetro Rodriguez, 19, of 5002 Parkway, failure to register as a sex offender (third-degree felony).

• Mario E. Rodriguez, 21, of 1005 S. Johnson, robbery (second-degree felony).

• Steven Anthony Rodriguez, 34, of 1415 Wood, criminal mischief (state jail felony).

• Albert Smith Jr., 33, of 1609 Oriole, burglary of a habitation with intent to commit other felony (second-degree felony).

• Douglas Bryan Taylor, 49, of 2758 Brentwood in Odessa, fraudulent possession of a controlled substance prescription (second-degree felony, enhanced).

• Jason Maurice Threats, 28, of 1002 N. Main Street, theft by appropriation (state jail felony).

• Shalyn Nicole Walton, 18, of 409 N. First Street in Coahoma, injury to a child (second-degree felony).

• Simon Eladio Zubiata, 25, of 1002 N. Main Street Apt. 66, assault on a public servant (third-degree felony).

• Santiago Jimmy Abreo, 69, of 3217 Duke Avenue, aggravated sexual assault of a child (first-degree felony).

• Brandon Desean Benford, 19, of 3200 Avenue C, theft - more than \$1,500 less than \$20,000 (state jail felony).

• Damien Hernandez Cortez, 25, of 1906 Manhattan in Amarillo, forgery (third-degree felony, enhanced).

• Ricky Aaron Fields, 21, of 1106 Marijo, possession of a controlled substance (state jail felony).

• Guadalupe Alejandro Garcia, 51, of 1407.5 Scurry, two counts of indecency with a child - sexual contact (both first-degree felonies, enhanced).

• Lupe Rodriguez Hernandez, 50, of 105 W. Eighth Street, aggravated sexual assault of a child (first-degree felony, enhanced).

• Kimberlie Kay Pineda, 24, of 2318 Brent, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (state jail felony).

• Billy Jack Shaw, 22, of

513 Old Burken Highway in Coleman, possession of a controlled substance (second-degree felony).

• Ruben Rojas Jr, 31, of 1403 Harding, aggravated sexual assault of a child (second-degree felony).

• Mike Rodriguez, 26, of 1401 N. Highway 87 Apt. 403, theft - hot checks (state jail felony).

• Michael Lee Sutton,

40, of 4211 Parkway, two counts of fraudulent possession of a controlled substance prescription (both second-degree felonies).

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

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Payroll (342 Employees)	\$1,266,533
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VETERANS

Continued from Page 1A

"There is a need throughout this state to build homes for Texas veterans and their families," said Patterson. "The Big Spring home has met

the need head on for the last five years and I applaud the commitment of those that have helped the home flourish.

"The Texas State Veterans Home Program is quickly expanding. We expect to complete another home in Amarillo during spring 2007, rooms in

the six existing homes are filling up, and this year the Veterans Land Board was able to maintain current room rates despite an increase in inflation."

The Big Spring home is operated by Sears Methodist Retirement Systems of Abilene.

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1A

variety of health screenings in order to allow for primary prevention or secondary intervention as needed, said Debbye Val Verde, chamber executive director.

This year's corporate sponsors include the Adult Protective Services Advisory Board, ALON

USA, Big Spring Physical Therapy, Caring Hearts Home Health, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home,

Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Scenic Mountain Medical Center and Warren Chiropractic Center.

For more information, contact Nancy Newell at (432) 263-7641 or e-mail nnewell@bigspringchamber.com

TAX

Continued from Page 1A

state budget surplus. Former comptroller John Sharp, who leads the panel, has said an increased sales tax would not be necessary.

Those recommendations are expected to be presented by the end of March.

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## Treating moms can help prevent kids' depression, study suggests

By LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writer  
CHICAGO

Researchers say they've shown for the first time that treating a mother's depression can help prevent depression and anxiety disorders in her child, a provocative finding with potentially big public health implications.

The study was small, but the researchers and other experts called it convincing and said it illustrates how important a parent's well-being is to a child.

"It's a very dramatic and important finding," said co-author Dr. A. John Rush, a psychiatry professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Depression runs in families and has a strong genetic component, but environmental factors can trigger it. The study results indicate that for children of depressed mothers, that trigger is sometimes their mothers' illness acting up, said lead author Myrna Weissman, a researcher at Columbia University and New York Psychiatric Institute.

Effective treatment for mothers could mean their children might avoid the need for prescription antidepressants, the researchers said.

"Depressed parents should be treated vigorously. It's a two-fer — the impact is not only on them but it's also on their children," Weissman said.

In the study, those children whose mothers' depression disappeared during three months of treatment were much less likely to be diagnosed with depression, anxiety or behavior problems than those whose mothers did not improve.

The results are "very plausible and very convincing and very useful," said Dr. Nada Stotland, vice president of the American Psychiatric Association and a psychi-

atry professor at Rush Medical College in Chicago.

"Our society gives a lot of lip service to how important mothers are but in fact we don't always appreciate just how profound their effects on their children are," said Stotland, who was not involved in the study.

While mothers often tend to put their own needs last, this research "is a good argument for them to take care of themselves first," she said. "It's a little like putting your own oxygen mask on first on the airplane. If you can't breathe, you can't help anybody."

The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association and involved 114 depressed women assessed after three months of treatment. Of the 114 children participants, aged 11 to 12 on average, 68 had no psychiatric disorder when their

mothers began treatment. Thirty-eight women went into complete remission from depression during treatment, which for most was Forest Laboratories' antidepressant Celexa.

Forest supplied the drug and several study authors have financial ties to other antidepressant makers, but the study was funded by grants from the National Institute of Mental Health.

Among children with psychiatric problems, the remission rate was 33 percent after three months for those whose mothers recovered versus 12 percent among those whose mothers did not.

Among children without psychiatric problems at the outset, all whose mothers recovered also remained healthy, whereas 17 percent of those whose mothers remained depressed were diagnosed with psychiatric problems by the study's end.

Weissman said similar results likely would occur

with different drugs and/or psychotherapy. She also said similar results likely would be found with depressed fathers, although none were studied.

Dr. Peter Robbins, a Fairfax, Va. psychiatrist, said he's seen similar results in his pediatric practice, and not just with depression.

For example, children with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder often have similarly afflicted parents. Getting treatment for the parents, father or mother, yields improvement in the children's symptoms, he said.

The study underscores "that taking care of the kid means taking care of the whole family," Robbins said.

### On the Net:

JAMA: <http://jama.ama-assn.org>  
N I M H :  
<http://www.nimh.nih.gov>  
Weissman's ongoing depression-genetics study:  
<http://depressiongenetics.med.upenn.edu>

### Facts on depression and women

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Here are some details about women and depression:

- Depression hits more than 19 million U.S. adults each year, including about 12 million women.

- Compared with men, women face double the risk of being diagnosed with clinical depression.

- About 1 in 8 U.S. women will be diagnosed with depression during their lifetime.

- Depression occurs most often during women's childbearing years, ages 25 to 44.

- Depression in women can include postpartum depression, which affects about 10 percent to 15 percent of all new mothers.

- Fewer than half the women who experience depression seek treatment.

Sources: National Mental Health Association, National Institute of Mental Health.

NMHA: <http://www.nmha.org/infoctr/factsheets/23.cfmop>  
NIMH: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>

## Schools urged to take bird flu preparations seriously

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's schools, recognized incubators of respiratory diseases among children, are being told to plan for the possibility of an outbreak of bird flu.

Federal health leaders say it is not alarmist or premature for schools to make preparations, such as finding ways to teach kids even if they've all been sent home.

School boards and superintendents have gotten used to emergency planning for student violence, terrorism or severe weather. Pandemic preparation, though, is a new one.

They have a lot to think over, top government officials said Tuesday.

Who coordinates decisions on closing schools or quarantining kids? If classes shut down for weeks, how will a district keep kids from falling behind? Who will keep the payroll running, or ease the fear of parents, or provide food to children who count on school meals?

"Those are the kinds of issues that I don't think people have spent a lot of time talking about yet," said Stephen Bounds, director of legal and policy services for the Maryland Association of School Boards.

"But if New Orleans and Katrina taught us nothing else, it taught us you need to be thinking about things ahead of time — and preparing for the worst," Bounds said.

The urgency is about bird flu, the name for the deadly H5N1 strain of the avian flu.

It remains primarily a contagious bird disease. Typically spread from direct contact with conta-

minated birds, it has infected more than 170 people and killed roughly 100. None of those cases occurred in the United States, but officials say bird flu is likely to arrive this year in birds.

As outbreaks have hit Africa, Asia and Europe, officials have launched campaigns to educate the public. To help stop the spread of the disease, farmers have killed tens of millions of chickens and turkeys.

Experts fear the virus could change into a form that passes easily among people.

In North Carolina on Tuesday, Education Secretary Margaret Spellings joined Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt to encourage schools to prepare. Spellings said schools must be aware that they may have to close their buildings — or that their schools may need to be used as makeshift hospitals, quarantine sites or vaccination centers.

The government has created checklists on preparation and response steps, specialized for preschools, grade schools, high schools and colleges. The dominant theme is the need for coordination among local, state and federal officials.

Some of the advice is common sense, like urging students to wash their hands and cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze to keep infection from spreading. Other steps would take schools considerable time to figure out, such as legal and communication issues.

"I don't think that the issue of bird flu has res-

onated yet," said Reg Weaver, president of the National Education Association, which represents many of the country's teachers.

Weaver praised the federal government for providing guidance that can be plugged into a school district's crisis plan. But the sudden urgency on bird flu, he said, should not steal attention from the daily struggles schools face, like trying to keep their classrooms safe.

Children age 5 to 18 tend to be the biggest spreaders of flu viruses in the community, experts say. Schools may be ordered to close to prevent spreading the disease.

In Massachusetts, school administrators are considering using an automated phone bank to announce homework assignments and update parents. Another plan would use the Internet for communication between students and their teachers.

But those plans are limited, and many places have had budget cuts in technology, said Tom Scott, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. "I don't think we're anywhere near having a systemic way of approaching this," he said.

Any school closing may not be for only a day or two. A shutdown would probably have to last a month or longer to be effective, said flu specialist Ira Longini, a faculty member at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and a professor at the University of Washington in Seattle.

"The school itself plays a big role," said Longini. "It's just a massive mixing ground for respiratory illness."

At the college level, the American Council on Education, a higher education umbrella group, has alerted thousands of college presidents about

the need to prepare for bird flu.

Federal health leaders have advised each college to establish a pandemic response team and plan for outbreak scenarios that could close or quarantine their campuses.

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**Victim Services training scheduled**  
Victim Services has scheduled volunteer training for the week of March 27-April 1 from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday. These individuals assist victims of domestic crime as well as sexual assault. Volunteers carry pagers and work with law enforcement.  
For more information, call Victim Services at 263-3312.

**Symphony presents Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" April 8 in Municipal Auditorium**  
The Big Spring Symphony and Chorus last season performance is scheduled for 8 p.m. April 8 in the Municipal Auditorium. For more information, contact Dr. Keith Graumann, symphony conductor, at 267-1626 or e-mail Graumann@cox.net.

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## U.S., Iraqi forces dozens of gunn

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. and Iraqi troops trapped dozens of masked gunmen in a police station in Baghdad, a day after a gun battle in a jail near the border and freed more than 30 prisoners, them follow in the

Sixty gunmen, rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons attacked the police station dawn, police Lt. Falah al-Mohammedi said.

U.S. troops and an Iraqi police unit entered, catching the gunmen in crossfire during 50 of the including a Syrian, Mohammadawi said.

A special policeman was killed five policemen wounded, he said.

Madain, 14 miles east of Baghdad, in northern tip of Sunni-dominated "Triangle of Death" region rife with violence — kidnappings and in the underground conflict between Sunnis and Shiites.

## Afghan troops suspected Taliban

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan security forces attacked a group of suspected Taliban after they crossed the border from neighboring Pakistan, killing 15 of them, an army spokesman said Wednesday.

Among the dead was a midlevel Taliban commander, Mullah who for months allegedly led cross-border raids on secret bases of Pakistani side of the border, said Abdul Raouf, a frontier security spokesman. Shien's forces would regularly fire foreign and Afghan and bomb trucks for gasoline for the coalition, he said.

"We got a tip-off them coming across the border. We went there and fought," Razak said. "We

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## World Briefs

### U.S., Iraqi forces trap dozens of gunmen

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. and Iraqi forces trapped dozens of insurgents Wednesday during a two-hour gunbattle at a police station south of Baghdad, a day after 100 masked gunmen stormed a jail near the Iranian border and freed more than 30 prisoners, most of them fellow insurgents.

Sixty gunmen, firing rocket-propelled grenades and automatic rifles, attacked the Madain police station before dawn, police Lt. Col. Falah al-Mohammadawi said.

U.S. troops and a special Iraqi police unit responded, catching the insurgents in crossfire and capturing 50 of the group, including a Syrian, al-Mohammadawi said.

A special police commander was killed and five policemen were wounded, he said. None of the attackers were killed.

Madain, 14 miles southeast of Baghdad, is at the northern tip of Iraq's Sunni-dominated "Triangle of Death," a region rife with sectarian violence — retaliatory kidnappings and killings in the underground conflict between Sunnis and Shiites.

### Afghan troops kill 15 suspected Taliban

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan security forces attacked a group of suspected Taliban rebels after they crossed the border from neighboring Pakistan, killing at least 15 of them, an army commander said Wednesday.

Among the dead was a midlevel Taliban commander, Mullah Shien, who for months has allegedly led several cross-border raids from secret bases on the Pakistani side of the border, said Abdul Razak, the frontier security commander. Shien's followers would regularly attack foreign and Afghan troops and bomb trucks hauling gasoline for the U.S.-led coalition, he said.

"We got a tip-off about them coming across the border. We went down there and fought them," Razak said. "We now

have all the dead bodies."

Four insurgents fled back across the Pakistani border after the two-hour gunbattle late Tuesday near the border town of Spin Boldak in Kandahar province, Razak said.

The fighting was the deadliest in weeks in Afghanistan and may further inflame a dispute between Kabul and Islamabad about militants sneaking back and forth across the two countries' 1,470-mile border, most of which is unmarked and unguarded.

### Bush: Troops to stay in Iraq for years

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush said American forces will remain in Iraq for years and it will be up to a future president to decide when to bring them all home. But defying critics and plunging polls, he declared, "I'm optimistic we'll succeed. If not, I'd pull our troops out."

The president Tuesday rejected calls for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, chief architect of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Listen, every war plan looks good on paper until you meet the enemy," Bush said, acknowledging mistakes as the United States was forced to switch tactics and change a reconstruction strategy that offered targets for insurgents.

He also rejected assertions by Iraq's former interim prime minister that the country had fallen into civil war amid sectarian violence that has left more than 1,000 Iraqis dead since the bombing last month of a Shiite Muslim shrine.

"This is a moment the Iraqis had a chance to fall apart and they didn't," Bush said, crediting religious and political leaders with restraint.

The president spoke for nearly an hour at a White House news conference, part of a new offensive to ease Americans' unhappiness with the war and fellow Republicans' anxiety about fall elections. He faced skeptical questions about Iraq during an appearance Monday in Cleveland, and plans another address soon on Iraq.

### Afghan convert may be unfit to stand trial

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An Afghan man facing the death penalty for converting from Islam to Christianity may be mentally unfit to stand trial, a state prosecutor and presidential adviser said Wednesday.

Abdul Rahman, 41, went on trial last week in Kabul. He was arrested last month after his family accused him of becoming a Christian.

The conversion is a crime under Afghanistan's Islamic laws, and a death sentence is possible.

But prosecutor Sarinwal Zamari said questions have been raised about his mental fitness.

"We think he could be mad. He is not a normal person. He doesn't talk like a normal person," he

told The Associated Press.

### Missing family found alive after two weeks

GLENDALE, Ore. (AP) — A family that disappeared more than two weeks ago after leaving for a short trip in an RV was found alive in a remote area of southwestern Oregon.

Two adults were found Tuesday after they left the RV, which had gotten stuck in snow, to seek help. Hours later, rescuers located the others, and they were reunited in Glendale, about 80 miles north of the California border.

"I love you, baby," Marlo Hill-Stivers told her daughter, Gabrayell, 8, as the reunion was carried live on television.

"I love you too, mommy," she replied. Peter Stivers, resting

his hands on the shoulders of his 9-year-old son, Sabastyan, said the kids had fun: "They didn't know we were in trouble."

### Terrorism supervisor says he never read Moussaoui memo

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — A terrorism supervisor in FBI headquarters dismissed a field agent's concerns about confessed al-Qaida member Zacarias Moussaoui in the weeks before Sept. 11, 2001, as "hunches and suppositions" during testimony at Moussaoui's death-penalty trial.

The supervisor, Michael Rolince, testified Tuesday that he had not even read an Aug. 18, 2001, memo written by Minneapolis agent Harry Samit, who arrested Moussaoui and was convinced from the

outset that Moussaoui was a terrorist with plans to hijack aircraft.

Rolince, who headed the FBI's International Terrorism Operations section, said he was briefed on Moussaoui only twice by a subordinate in hallway conversations lasting less than a minute.

Rolince concluded that the bureau had a long way to go in building a case against Moussaoui, even though Samit had laid out in a nearly 30-page memo his reasons for believing that the bureau had built a sufficient case to launch an all-out investigation and obtain a search warrant for Moussaoui's possessions.

"What Agent Samit's hunches and suppositions were is one thing," Rolince said. "What we knew was clearly something else."

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### Arnie's new army

It's been 40 years since Arnold Palmer first etched his name in golf history by winning its greatest tournament, the Masters. The resolve and determination he showed in that win are just as evident today in his efforts as a philanthropist and humanitarian. Plus, Jeff Foxworthy and tax-saving tips.

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# Library News

Andrew Jackson may be the most important American president that has yet to be examined.

Renowned historian and author, H. W. Brands is leading the charge. Brands has proven himself a bloodhound with a nose for tracking down subjects ahead of the pack.



HOLLIS  
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Since the publication of his biography of Ben Franklin and Teddy Roosevelt, other historians have followed in his wake.

Jackson is a fine topic. He occupies a peculiar place in the Hall of Dead Presidents.

The \$20 bill and the phrase "Jacksonian democracy," all are very familiar to us.

However, we do not know him nearly as well as we do most of his predecessors or the great president who learned from him, Abraham Lincoln.

There is no Jackson Memorial — only an equestrian statue facing the White House, somewhat menacingly.

He has no disciples in Congress.

Why is that? Jackson fits awkwardly in modern times. He was a slaveowner, a brutal slayer of Native Americans and an unapologetic expansionist.

It is not simply that Jackson's impact on American history was enormous; he was our greatest soldier after Washington, he vastly strengthened the executive branch, and he forcefully represented ordinary Americans who had not enjoyed much clout in Washington until his arrival.

His willpower was enormous. To discover more of him, do check out "Andrew Jackson: His Life and Times," (B JAC A) by H. W. Brands.

Another book by James Frey has come in (remember Oprah's confrontation with Frey over "A Million Little Pieces"?)

In "My Friend Leonard," (362.290 FRE J) Frey picks up the story of his extraordinary life pretty much where things left off in his breakout bestseller.

Fresh from a stint in jail from pre-rehab-related charges, clean-living Frey returns to Chicago and gets sucker-punched with a cruel blow that will leave readers ducking for cover in anticipation of the blinding bender that's sure to come.

It is getting close to June and the wedding season. Emily Post has published "Wedding Etiquette" (395.22 POS P) and Jo Gartin's "Jo Gartin's Weddings" (395.22 GAR J) all will set you straight for a stylish, correct wedding.

In the spring of 1844, a fiery political conflict erupted over the admission of Texas into the Union, a hard-fought and

bitter controversy that profoundly changed the course of American history.

Joel H. Silbey argues in "Storm Over Texas: The Annexation Controversy and the Road to the Civil War" (976.404 SIL J) that this event marks the crucial moment when partisan differences were transformed into a North-vs-South antagonism, and the momentum towards Civil War leaped into high gear.

One of America's renowned political historians, Silbey offers a swiftly paced and compelling narrative of the Texas imbroglio, with an exceptional cast of characters, including John C. Calhoun, John Quincy Adams, James K. Polk and Martin Van Buren.

Sectionalism, Silbey shows, had often been intense, but rarely widespread and generally well contained by other forces on the political landscape. But after Texas statehood, the political landscape was transformed into one sculpted by implacable sectional differences. Does this sound like the Red States vs the Blue States?

The bitter discord over annexation, with slavery the core issue, was the seed from which America's great crisis of union grew, leading ultimately to Southern secession and Civil War.

On March 22, 1962, my life changed drastically as I moved up from being next to youngest, to being the middle child.

On that date, my brother

Carl, was born. There are five Croft children; four of us born in a clump — two years apart, beginning in 1949.

Carl was the "top crop," as Daddy said. By the time Carl reached elementary school, we were either in high school, college or out making a living.

With all of us gone from the house, he was brought up as an only child and as we often told him, he turned out "weird" (though Mother would say that was the "Croft" in him).

I would like to wish my younger brother a happy 44th birthday. He is currently stationed in Iraq

where he serves as commander of the 122nd Fighter Wing Operations Group of the Indiana National Guard.

I am writing this March 16th and the headlines on MSN have announced that the United States has "launched a massive air attack in Iraq; 50 aircraft, 1,500 soldiers strike targets north of Baghdad."

I am comforted (naively perhaps) in the fact that he serves in the Air Guard and is not in the Army or Marine Corp and is perhaps not in direct harm's way.

Regardless, Carl, wherever you are, in the air or in the bunker, have a safe 44th Happy Birthday and

come back home to your wife, Mother, brother and sisters.

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

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.



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- 2003 Ford Explorer XLS - Arizona Beige w/Cloth, All Power, Local One Owner. **Was \$13,995** **NOW \$12,995**
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## IN BRIEF

**BSHS baseball team sets date for "Meet the Steers" night**

The Big Spring baseball team will host "Meet the Steers" night Wednesday night Wednesday at the high school ball field from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Besides the high school baseball team being introduced, area little league teams will also be recognized. There will be a hamburger supper including chips and a drink for \$5.

**KBSB golf tournament announced for month of April**

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

The tournament will start at 9 a.m. and cost \$60 per person. The tournament is a 4-person scramble.

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

**Relay For Life sets dodgeball tournament**

The Relay For Life has scheduled a dodgeball tournament Saturday at Goliad Gym beginning at 10 a.m.

The cost is \$5 to play and a team needs consist of four girls and four girls.

The tournament will be sponsored by Yellow Dogs and more information contact Angel Sos. 264-4108.

**Mickey Owen camp dates announced**

The Mickey Owen Baseball School announced this year camp dates.

The camp will take place at the National Little League Field Saturday.

The clinic features two different sessions. The first session runs from 9:30 a.m. to noon, while the second session goes from 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

The camp is for players age 6 to 12. The cost for one session is \$35, but participants can get two sessions for \$55.

For more information or to register, contact the Mickey Owen Baseball School at 1-800-999-8369.

**Clippers take down Rockets, move 1 game over .500**

HOUSTON (AP) — The Clippers guard Corey Maggione scored 13 points and the Angeles franchise moved to 13 games over .500 for the first time since the 1977 season after taking down Houston, 98-91 Monday.

Corey Maggione added 20 points to the Clippers.

Yao Ming had 12 points and rebounds for his double-double. Houston lost its straight game.

The Clippers outscored Houston 21 in a span of 4:11 in the fourth quarter, taking a 98-91 lead with 5:16 to play.



### IN BRIEF

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#### Clippers take down Rockets, move 13 games over .500

HOUSTON (AP) — Clippers guard Sam Cassell scored 24 points and the Los Angeles franchise moved to 13 games over .500 for the first time since the 1975-76 season after taking down Houston, 99-91, Monday.

Corey Maggette added 20 points for the Clippers.

Yao Ming had 25 points and 17 rebounds for his 27th double-double as Houston lost its fifth straight game.

The Clippers outscored Houston 12-2 in a span of 4:15 in the fourth quarter to take a 97-91 lead with 5:16 to play.

## BSHS-Andrews: Another nail-biter



Herald photo/Bruce Schooler  
Big Spring shortstop Krista Chesworth, left, field a grounder during the Lady Steers' game with Andrews Tuesday afternoon. In the background is Big Spring second baseman Amber Sidez.

### Walker, defense pave way for Lady Steers against biggest rival

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

There's no iron-clad rule that states Big Spring's softball games with Andrews must go down to the final out, but there might as well be.

In just the latest example of that trend, the Lady Steers rode the pitching of Mandy Walker and clutch defense to a 2-1 victory over Andrews in District 4-4A softball action Tuesday at the Big Spring ISD Softball Complex.

Walker wasn't overpowering — collecting just four strikeouts — but showed good control, walking just one and allowing only four hits.

Her teammates, meanwhile, committed three errors in the field but were flawless when it counted the most, turning key double plays in the last two innings to help preserve the Lady Steers' tenuous lead.

For Big Spring Head Coach Jennifer Reyes, the end result was just a typical Big Spring-Andrews

softball game.

"We knew Andrews was going to be tough," said the first-year coach. "I think that's why the girls might have had a case of nerves at first ... But we'll definitely take the win."

Big Spring (15-7 overall, 2-0 in district play) did all their offensive damage in the first two innings.

In the first inning, Courtney Rodriguez drew a two-out walk, then hurried home on Shethi Stewart's double to deep left-center.

After Andrews' 4-1-1 overall, 1-1 in district play) tied the game in the top of the second by plating an unearned run, the Lady Steers regained the lead in the bottom of the frame, this time for good.

Leadoff hitter Katy Abner reached on an error, advanced to third on a Megan Watton single and another error, then scored on a bunt single by Katy Watton.

Walker and the Lady Steers' defense took over from there, overrunning a

See BSBS, page 2B

## Hawks take two over Barton CC

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

After over-powering Barton Community College in the first game of their doubleheader Tuesday, the Howard College Hawks decided to try the finesse approach in the nightcap.

You can't argue with the results. The Hawks blasted Barton 12-5 in the opener of their two-game set at Jack Barber Field Tuesday, then rallied late to take a 3-2 victory in the second game.

With the sweep, Howard improves to 18-8 for the season, while Barton's record fell to 11-11.

"We swung the bats really well in the first game ... but in the second game, (Barton's) pitcher just had us over-loaded," said Howard Coach Britt Smith. "The kids who came through for us in the second game had been struggling lately, and that's just the way it seems to have gone for us this year. Someone picks up the slack for us."

### First Game Howard 12 Barton 5

The Hawks took control of the opener with a four-run third inning, then coasted to the easy win.

Howard's bats were simply too much for the visiting Cougars, blasting 16 hits off of three Barton pitchers.

The Hawks grabbed the lead in the second with two runs when Daman Aaron and Jeff Storms both scored on an error by Barton left fielder Austin Holt, but it was in the next inning that Howard assumed control of the game.

David Fonseca and Darby Brown led off with consecutive singles and Barret Lowenstein reached on an error, scoring Fonseca. The big hit of the inning, however, was by Dustin Dallas, who doubled to right-center field, scoring Lowenstein and Will Basom.

Howard starter Scottie Moore, meanwhile, was cruising through

the first three innings, allowing only one hit, before a recurring shoulder problem sent him to the dugout early.

"Scottie had been out for about three weeks with shoulder stiffness, and it acted up again in the third," Smith said. "It may be awhile before we get him back."

Parker Sisk relieved Moore on the mound and pitched the remaining four innings to pick up the victory.

### Second game Howard 3 Barton 2

In contrast to the first game, the nightcap was a pitchers' duel, with Barton's Logan Smith holding the upper hand for most of the contest.

The Cougars built a 2-0 lead through five innings, thanks to RBI singles by Wade Gubbles and Tyler Rzepka, before Howard rallied for three runs in the bottom of the sixth.

See HAWKS, page 2B

## Bulldogs take down Stamford

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

STAMFORD — In all, the Coahoma Bulldogs couldn't have asked for a better way to start District 4-2A play.

Two pitchers combined for a no-hitter and the Bulldogs exploded for 14 hits on offense as Coahoma took a 14-0 victory over Stamford Tuesday night in a game called after five innings because of the mercy rule.

"It was just a great district opener for us," said Coahoma head coach Brad Harman. "I was very pleased with the results."

Everything went right for the Bulldogs.

On the mound, Tad White and Kacey O'Leary were literally combining, combining for 14 strikeouts while not allowing a hit.

And on offense, the Bulldogs shared the limelight.

Blaine Kirby was perfect 3-for-3 at the plate, with two doubles and three RBIs, while Adam McMillan was 2-for-3 with two RBIs.

In addition, Ronnie Garcia was 2-for-2 with a home run, and P.J. Daylong added two hits and four RBIs.

Harman credits a challenging non-district schedule with preparing his team for the district battles.

"Our pre-district schedule was tough, and I think it definitely helped us prepared (for league games)," Harman said. "The guys came out and were mentally and physically ready to go."

The Bulldogs (9-6 overall) return to action Friday when they travel to Colorado City. Game time is 7 p.m.

## Mavericks shut down Ming, Rockets, 88-72

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — About the only thing the Houston Rockets have had going for them lately was the strong play of Yao Ming.

So the main thing the Dallas Mavericks focused on Tuesday night was making him work for everything he got.

Yao wound up being pestered into his worst game in a month, scoring only four points by half-time then taking only one shot in the third quarter of an 88-72 victory by the Mavericks.

"Every time he tried to get to the post, we fought him," Dallas center DeSagana Diop said. "We didn't want to give him anything easy."

Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points, including six during a 12-2 spurt that broke the game open in the

challenged again, easily capping a season sweep over a team that took them to seven games in the first round of last year's playoffs.

Dallas won for the fourth time in five games to remain a half-game behind San Antonio for the best record in the Western Conference. Houston lost its sixth straight since a four-game winning streak.

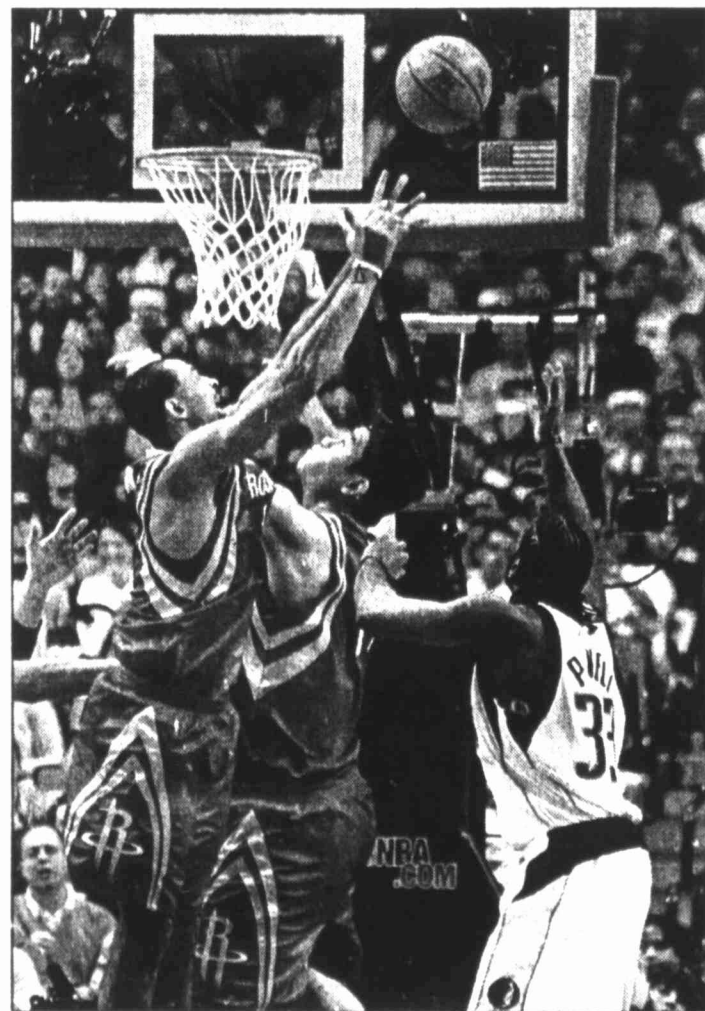
Yao finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds. It was his fewest points since scoring only six in 9 minutes against Phoenix on Feb. 16.

He'd scored at least 20 points in the 14 games between, averaging 28 over that stretch. That included a 36-point game against Dallas last week.

This time, the Mavs sent two and sometimes three defenders at Yao

Mavericks won Monday

See MAVS, page 2B



John F. Rhodes/Dallas Morning News/KRT  
Dallas Josh Powell (33) battle for a rebound with Houston center Yao Ming (16) during the first half action at the American Airlines Center in Dallas Tuesday.



## Rutgers shows TCU second-round exit

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — C. Vivian Stringer paid little attention to reaching another coaching milestone.

The Rutgers coach might be a bit more enthusiastic if she gets win No. 751 on Sunday.

The Scarlet Knights' 82-48 rout of TCU in Tuesday's second-round game set up a rematch with Tennessee, the team that has knocked them out of the NCAA tournament all four times they have faced each other.

"I think if you were a gambler and you had a million dollars, you should have gone to Las Vegas and bet a million dollars that Tennessee and Rutgers would meet in the NCAA tournament," said Stringer, whose team lost to the Lady Vols in the regional final in Philadelphia last year.

After subpar efforts in its last two games, Rutgers put it all together against TCU, which shook off the loss of leading scorer Natasha Lacy and upset No. 6 seed Texas A&M on Sunday.

There was no repeat

## NCAA Women's Tournament

Tuesday because Rutgers shot 65 percent (17-for-26) in the first half and 55 percent (31-for-56) for the game and had five players in double figures, giving Stringer her 750th victory.

Stringer said before the game she didn't even know she was within a game of becoming the third coach to reach the milestone until someone mentioned it to her a few days ago. Only Tennessee's Pat Summitt and Texas' Jody Conradt have more wins.

Kia Vaughn had 11 rebounds as Rutgers outworked the Horned Frogs 46-28. The Scarlet Knights also had 22 assists, including a career-high 13 by Matee Ajavon.

"That's as good as any team I've seen all year, and we had some pretty good teams on our schedule," TCU coach Jeff Mittie said

## A breakdown of the round of 16 matchups

By JIM O'CONNELL  
AP Basketball Writer

A look at Thursday and Friday's matchups in the NCAA tournament's round of 16 (seedings in parentheses):

### Thursday's Games

#### ATLANTA REGIONAL

Duke (1) vs. LSU (4): The Blue Devils relied heavily on senior stars J.J. Redick and Shelden Williams — they scored 58 of the 70 points — to win the opener against Southern, then had freshmen Josh McRoberts and Greg Paulus make big contributions in the victory over George Washington. There will have to be help again, this time on the boards for Williams as he faces the young frontline of Glen Davis and Tyrus Thomas. When Williams has to sit because of foul trouble, Duke just isn't the same so McRoberts and senior Lee Melchionni will have to help up front to keep him on the court. LSU outrebounded opponents by almost nine per game and Duke averages almost three less than its opponents, so this will be the statistical key.

The number that flashes in the Blue Devils' favor is that they shoot 39 percent from 3-point range — led by Redick's 42 percent — while the Tigers allow opponents to hit 35 percent from beyond the arc. This will be the ultimate inside-outside matchup.

West Virginia (6) vs. Texas (2): These teams met in November and LaMarcus Aldridge was a force inside for Texas in a 76-75 win, but the Mountaineers still think there was a foul when he blocked Mike Gansey's last-second shot. Aldridge (15.0 points, 9.0 rebounds) and P.J. Tucker (16.3 points, 9.3 rebounds) are still an impressive force inside for the Longhorns. West Virginia, on the other hand, wants to stay outside. The Mountaineers are one of the worst rebounding teams in the country at nine less per game than their opponents. They take almost as many 3-point attempts as 2s, and 6-foot-11 Kevin Pittsnogle leads the way going 86-for-218 (39.4 percent) from beyond the arc.

#### OAKLAND REGIONAL

Memphis (1) vs. Bradley (13): If this were a first-round matchup the clever remarks about how Memphis would dominate would be flying. But, Bradley's wins over Kansas and Pittsburgh suddenly have stopped that and turned the focus to the matchups on the court.

The size advantage goes to

Bradley with 7-foot sophomore Patrick O'Bryant a sudden national star after getting 28 points and seven rebounds in the second-round win over Pittsburgh and its 7-footer Aaron Gray, who had 12 points and four rebounds. There is a lot more to the Braves than O'Bryant, one of four starters who average in double figures. Memphis is one of the most athletic teams in the country and the Tigers average 81 points per game, 10 more than Bradley, but if the game goes halfcourt they can win that way, too, as they did several times late in the season. Still, Memphis wants to step up the pace and that will be up to sophomore point guard Darius Washington Jr.

Gonzaga (3) vs. UCLA (2): Adam Morrison, the nation's leading scorer with a 28.6 average, had 35 points in leading Gonzaga to a nail-biting opening win over Xavier, then the rest of the Bulldogs picked him up when he had 14 in the second-round victory over Indiana. They will need that kind of balance against UCLA which has become one of the better defensive teams in the country as the season has gone on. It has been nine straight games since anybody got more than 60 points against UCLA.

### Friday's Games

#### WASHINGTON REGIONAL

Connecticut (1) vs. Washington (5): These teams are so close in most statistical categories that it makes sense they share the nickname Huskies as well. Connecticut is considered the most talented team in the field but it certainly hasn't looked that way in two less-than-impressive wins over Albany and Kentucky. Connecticut has six players averaging between 15.2 and 9.6 points per game. The Huskies lead the country in blocked shots and rebounding margin and are second in field goal percentage defense and scoring margin. That's what everybody is waiting for.

Washington relies heavily on Pac-10 player of the year Brandon Roy, a versatile guard who leads the Huskies in almost every category. It will be up to the frontcourt to give Roy a chance to showcase his skills and 6-7 freshman Jon Brockman could be the key to that. These schools met in this same round in 1998 and Connecticut won 75-74 on a buzzer-beater by Richard Hamilton.

George Mason (11) vs. Wichita State (7): This is the "Bracket Buster" game for two reasons. Obviously, there weren't many peo-

ple who had these two moving deep into the tournament when they filled out the bracket sheet. And, these teams met Feb. 18, in one of ESPN's Bracket Buster games and George Mason won 70-67 at Wichita State. George Mason's NCAA path is the more impressive with wins over Michigan State and North Carolina, half of last year's Final Four. The Patriots are a very good defensive team and they beat defending national champion North Carolina by going to a seldom-used zone defense. All five starters average between 13.8 and 10.7 points and the Patriots shoot a gaudy 48.4 percent, showing their patience when they have the ball.

#### MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL

Villanova (1) vs. Boston College (4): No names tags are necessary for this one considering they were both Big East powers in recent years until Boston College left after last season for the Atlantic Coast Conference. This will be a meeting of contrasting styles with Villanova's four guards going against the inside power of Boston College.

Randy Foye and Allan Ray are the scorers for Villanova but the Wildcats have to get contributions from the other guards, Mike Nardi and Kyle Lowry. The four combine for 61 of the Wildcats' 75 points per game. Will Sheridan has come on all season as the lone big man and he gets a lot of help rebounding from Foye and Lowry. Craig Smith, at 6-7 and 250 pounds, controls down low for the Eagles, averaging 17.7 points and 9.3 rebounds. Forward Jared Dudley is second in both categories (16.7, 6.7) and Boston College gets a big boost off the bench from 6-10 sophomore Sean Williams, a ferocious shot blocker. Villanova doesn't back down from bigger teams so this one should be decided in the paint.

Florida (3) vs. Georgetown (7): Florida, a team dominated by sophomores, should try to win this game by trying to run to get points before the Hoyas have a chance to set up their defense and use their size advantage. The Gators average almost 80 points per game, shoot 51 percent from the field and have two players (Taurean Green and Corey Brewer) who have hit more than 80 3-pointers this season. Al Horford (7.3) and Joakim Noah (6.1) will have to come up big on the boards. Georgetown's frontline is anchored by 7-2 Roy Hibbert and what makes him even more productive is the Hoyas' offense.

## BSHS

Continued from page 1B

couple of late scares to seal the victory.

"Our defense was awesome," Walker said of her teammates' play. "They were right behind me the whole way. They made a lot of great plays."

Shortstop Krista Chesworth snuffed out a potential Andrews rally in the sixth by snagging a liner off the bat of Lacey King, then firing to first base to double off Hailey Harris to end the inning.

Then, with one on with one out in the seventh,

Big Spring's defense rose to the occasion again. Walker gloved a grounder from Cara Hogan and threw to Stewart to first for the out. Stewart then fired a perfect throw to third baseman Desiree Yanez, who tagged out Jacy Welborn.

"(Chesworth) is just a dedicated athlete. Anything that comes near her, she gets," Reyes said. "Our defense was a little rocky, a little rough around the edges, but they made the plays when they counted."

The Lady Steers return to action Friday when they host Frenship at 6 p.m.

## Hawks

Continued from page 1B

With two outs and nobody on, Lowenstein doubled, Basom was hit by a pitch and the duo advanced to second and third on a wild pitch.

Then, facing a 3-0 count, Ryan Pruitt was given the green light to swing away, and responded with a two-run double to left field, tying the game. Pruitt then scored the

winning run of the game when he came home on a single by Aaron.

Adrian Bermudez scattered five hits over six innings to take the win, while Matt Shepherd pitched a 1-2-3 seventh inning to earn the save.

The Hawks' return to action Friday when they resume Western Junior College Athletic Conference action with a doubleheader against New Mexico Junior College beginning at 1 p.m. at Barber Field.

## Mavs

Continued from page 1B

to pass the ball to an open teammate. He did quite often, they just didn't hold up their end of the deal.

The Rockets never scored on more than two straight possessions and barely surpassed their season low of 70 points, yet another example of how badly they miss the injured Tracy McGrady.

"We've got to make the shots when they double-team Yao," said forward Keith Bogans, who was one of the prime offenders by making only one of six shots. "That's what it comes down to."

Yao scored 27 in the first half of his previous game against the Mavericks. They switched to this same strategy in the second half of that game, then picked up where they left off from the opening tip.

In the first half, Yao made only two of 10 shots and never made it to the foul line. After going 1-

for-1 in third quarter, he took the first shot of the fourth quarter and had it blocked by Dallas center Erick Dampier.

"They put a lot of pressure on me," Yao said.

Rockets rookie Luther Head scored 16 points, Rafer Alston had 13 and Juwan Howard scored 11.

Nowitzki, who tied his season high with 37 points Sunday, already was leading the Mavs with 16 points through three quarters, then scored their first 12 points of the final period. They didn't get a point from anyone else until Jerry Stackhouse hit a pair of free throws with 4:04 left.

Stackhouse had 16 points and five assists, and Jason Terry scored 12. Dampier had nine points and nine rebounds.

Dallas followed a season-low 10-point first quarter Sunday in New Jersey with 20 points in the opening period, then grabbed control with a 12-2 run in the second quarter. Stackhouse closed the half with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer.

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Help Wanted

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

**HIRING FOR 2006! AVERAGE POSTAL EMPLOYEE EARNS \$57,000/YR.** Minimum starting pay \$18.00/hr. benefits/paid training and vacations. No experience needed. 1-800-584-1775 ref#P6901.

Help Wanted

**FULL TIME RN**  
We are looking for caring and dependable RNs to cover the Big Spring, Midland and Odessa Area. We Offer competitive salaries and benefits. Contact Beckie (817)360-4354 or send resume via email to: hinzeb@fms-regional.com. You can also come by our office at 810 N. Dixie Ste 202A, Odessa, Tx to fill out an application, or call (432)335-5699. Sign-On Bonus Available for Qualified Candidates. It is an Honor to serve our patients.

**ROUTE SALESPERSON**  
Ab-Tex Beverage Ltd. requires individual to complete a drug screen and work assessment test. Possess or able to obtain a Class A CDL. Beverage sales experience a plus. Comprehensive benefit program. Please apply in person: Ab-Tex Beverage Ltd. 3611 Hwy 87 North Big Spring, Tx 79720 EEO/AA Employer

Help Wanted

**FIELD OPERATIONS COORDINATOR**  
F/T salaried position, excellent benefit pkg. Experience Works, Inc. is seeking a qualified candidate to serve as primary coordinator of services to older workers, training sites, and their communities in a 21-county area in West Central Texas. Must reside in local area or willing to relocate. Recruits, determines eligibility, develops jobs for older worker employment/training program. Obtains ancillary services that enhance the employability to workers. Develops, maintains positive working relationship with partnering programs/agencies, business community, and media. Acts as an advocate for older workers. Extensive daily, some overnight travel required. Must possess valid driver's license, acceptable driving record, auto liability insurance, and reliable transportation. Should demonstrate excellent paperwork, computer literacy. Education above the high school level, proven supervisory skills, and experience with community services, aging issues, or employment counseling preferred. Submit resume and cover letter postmarked by March 28, 2006, to: Becky Scott, 936 Front Street, Slot 4, Cottonport, LA 71327. Attention: TX FOC Position. Experience Works is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer M/F/D/V

**LOCAL PERSONAL Assistance**  
Company seeking part-time employee to help with Activities of Daily for elderly. Must work well with little supervision. Flexible hours. Please pick up application at 501 W. 17th. Office is located inside Park Place Retirement.

Help Wanted

**MARKETING DIRECTOR** for Caring Hearts Home Health. If you are self-motivated, outgoing, energetic, and have good time management skills apply at 1510 Scurry, Ste C. Must have good transportation. No experience is necessary.

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

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**NEED MAINTENANCE person** with plumbing experience. Apply within, 2501 Fairchild, or call (432)263-3461.

**NOW HIRING drivers** to transport railroad crews. 25 Years old, pass a drug screen, good driving record. Retired Men and Women are encouraged to apply. (866)303-4100 Leave message with name, number and location.

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

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**CITY OF Big Spring** is taking applications for Plant Operator/Wastewater, and Heavy Equipment Operator/ Sanitation, and for Administrative Assistant/Airpark. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, 310 Nolan (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

**PRIVATELY OWNED** group home looking for two people to fill evening slot, providing assistance to developmentally disabled individuals. Applicant must be dependable, have 3 references, personal transportation and exhibit high level of maturity. Will train right candidate. Must be drug free with high school diploma or GED. Willing to work weekends. Serious inquiries only. Contact Teresa @ 263-1408 for more info.

**SNYDER OAK Care Center** in Snyder, Texas is now taking applications for Director of Nursing. Call Ray Turner, (325)573-9377 or apply in person at 210 East 37th St. Must be an RN. Some long term care experience is preferred, but will train the right person.

**TAKING APPLICATIONS** for Class A or B CDL Driver. Experience with line work a plus but not necessary. Call (432)267-6006.

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imately 5,000 sq. ft. \$600.  
Month + deposit. Call WESTEX  
Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

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

**FOR RENT,** 2 Bedroom house.  
Stove & Refrigerator furnished.  
Call (432)267-6179.

**HEIGHTS APARTMENTS**  
1 Bedroom furnished  
\$450. month  
\$200. deposit.  
All Bills Paid  
403 East 8th  
Call (432)267-2771

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT.**  
408 E. FM 700 \$500.00 Mon.  
Elec, gas, and water paid. 650  
square feet. For more info call  
(432) 267-9455

**SEVERAL OFFICES** available.  
Call (432)263-6514, 517-0038,  
(432)770-5656.

Real Estate for Sale

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

**Don't  
LAST!**  
**20 ACRES** on Hwy 176. Set  
up for Mobile Home. 43K.  
\$4,000.00 Down, assume  
\$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for  
29 years. No Credit Check.  
(817)312-6322.

**4207 DIXON.** Three bedroom,  
one bath. \$34,750. Call  
1-800-804-7110.

**ABSOLUTE AUCTION.** The  
former Dollar General building  
in McCamey, Texas is being  
auctioned March 25 at 10 a.m.  
Request information regarding  
this property. Call  
1-866-323-3111 or e-mail  
ptaylor@rt66.com.  
www.ranchline.com.

**EIGHT LOTS** Moss Lake  
Road, 4.89 acres @ \$14,900.  
City water, electricity, phone,  
fireplugs. Coahoma School.  
Call Joe Hughes @ Home  
Realtors (432)263-1284 Cell  
270-7877 Home 353-4751.

**FOR SALE,** Extra Clean 2  
Bedroom, 2 bath Brick Home  
near College. Den w/fireplace,  
util. room, single garage, new  
carpet. Call (432)263-6887 or  
270-1743.

**MANY LOTS-** Some Double.  
Monticello Addition, Pickens,  
Graffa & Blackmon \$750.  
North Monticello \$1250-\$2250.  
Barnes \$1250-\$1750., Michael  
\$1250-\$1500. Call  
(432)213-0099

**TIME SHARE** Condo at "The  
Ridge" on Lake Granbury,  
Granbury Tx. For information  
call (432)263-3173.

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Capricorn moon  
can be laboriously puri-  
tanical! The virtue of hard  
work cannot



be underesti-  
mated dur-  
ing this  
moon, and  
yet some-  
times, the  
hardest  
work of all is  
to let things  
unfold by  
themselves  
(in other  
words, to  
restrain ones-  
elf from try-  
ing to control what is  
already in motion). Trust  
that the nature of healthy  
things is to grow.

**ARIES** (March 21-April  
19). Remain free! No com-  
mitments are necessary  
today. It's a time for try-  
ing things out. Ask to bor-  
row items before you  
decide to buy them on  
your own. Make no prom-  
ises in love.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May  
20). People have strange  
reactions to your success.  
Someone may actually be  
angry with you for mak-  
ing more money than he  
or she does. For this rea-  
son, keep sensitive infor-  
mation close to the vest.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June  
21). When ideas strike, it's  
the one time you don't  
mind being "hit"! Write  
down as much as you can  
about the notion when it  
comes. Can you believe  
some people hardly ever  
have new ideas? This one  
is golden!

**CANCER** (June 22-July  
22). Work is like play — a

Tomorrow's Horoscope

complete pleasure. You're  
on a roll, too, so let noth-  
ing stop you. Keep mov-  
ing and trouble doesn't  
have a chance of catching  
up.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22).  
"Stopping to smell the  
flowers" means more than  
slowing down to appreci-  
ate life. To smell a flower  
is to experience the  
moment and essence of  
creation. If you could  
spend the whole day sniff-  
ing flowers, life would  
improve in a bound.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept.  
22). You make the most  
interesting mistakes! Just  
for today, could you stop  
punishing yourself for  
them? Maybe "wrong" is  
"right." Who knows? It's  
still too early to tell.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).  
You can't help but draw  
fans! You're so well  
thought of now that you  
may be patted on the back  
for something you didn't  
do. Speak up about this,  
or later, it could become  
an awkward subject.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov.  
21). A love interest has  
unusual ways of pursuing  
you. This might not be to  
your liking (or even to  
your understanding), but  
award points for effort.  
Ultimately, whom you  
end up with is a matter of  
chemistry.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-  
Dec. 21). You're feeling  
sassy and couldn't care  
less about what people  
think of you. This allows  
you to ask for things you  
don't even want and cer-  
tainly for things you do.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-

Jan. 19). The stars high-  
light a hyperactive mind.  
So remember that you are  
not your thoughts. They  
chatter away knowingly  
but may have little to do  
with what is true. Your  
best bet is to find ways to  
relax profoundly, thor-  
oughly and often.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb.  
18). In business, if you  
refuse to compromise,  
you can get your way  
completely. In your per-  
sonal life, it's more com-  
plicated. Know when to  
cut your losses.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March  
20). Relationship matters  
require you to be more  
objective than you have  
been. You may be uncon-  
sciously creating barriers  
for yourself in love, but  
this won't truly keep oth-  
ers from loving you.

**ASTROLOGICAL QUES-  
TIONS:** "I feel as though I  
am on the verge of begin-  
ning to live, but wonder if  
I will be greeted with  
more delays. I am an  
Aries, born March 31,  
1972, about to graduate  
law school and take the  
bar. I have never been  
married and have wasted  
too many years on a  
Pisces, born March 6,  
1971. I worry that my  
faith that all will work  
out with my career, love,  
marriage, children is an  
unrealistic expectation.  
After wishing on many a  
star, can you tell me if  
they have any good news  
to report about future  
career success? If you  
happen to see a  
Cinderella-type ending in  
sight for marriage, I'll

treasure any good news!"  
Oh, Aries! You sweet,  
young soul! You're forget-  
ting a valuable step on the  
road to attaining your  
goals. That step is to CEL-  
EBRATE! You're so busy  
worrying about what will  
happen next that you're  
missing the point — ut-  
terly. So, stop being on the  
verge of life and throw  
yourself a big graduation  
party. Invite the Pisces  
even! Your relationship is  
not wasted time, it's  
learning, just like your  
schooling. By the way,  
this is your life! The best  
way to make sure it will  
be wonderful is to claim it  
as "wonderful" right now!

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:**  
A fashion and beauty icon  
who can actually act? If  
you're Sarah Jessica  
Parker, absolutely. An  
Aries craves constant new  
experiences and chal-  
enges, which is why  
Parker's 20-plus-year  
career has been such a  
raging success. This year,  
she will finally get that  
once-in-a-lifetime role  
that will almost surely  
guarantee that once-in-a-  
lifetime Academy Award.

*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

Dear Annie: My  
boyfriend, "Ned," and I  
are both divorced, in our  
early 50s, and have been  
dating for over six years.  
Ned lives and works 75  
miles from my home but  
doesn't mind driving, so  
he stays with me every  
weekend.



**KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR**

Ned has a very small,  
sparse condo, while my  
home is much larger and  
in a beautiful neighbor-  
hood. Our incomes are  
just as disproportionate.  
He makes a good six fig-  
ures while I make about  
half that. Ned treats me to  
an occasional dinner (we  
usually split them), and  
he does have the expense

Vehicles

**2004 TOYOTA** Camry Solara,  
4 cylinder, 30,000 miles,  
power & air, CD, alloy wheels,  
tilt wheel, cruise. Excellent con-  
dition, economical \$16,500.  
(432)263-3723 After 6:00 p.m.

**Several New 2005  
Fords, Lincolns,  
Nissans Available  
At Huge Savings**  
**Bob Brock Ford**  
500 W. 4th 267-7124

Legals

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The Howard County Auditor will ac-  
cept sealed bids until 10:00 a.m. on  
APRIL 7, 2006 for the following:  
**ASPHALT** used for paving and  
seal coating  
**AGGREGATE** used for paving and  
seal coating  
Specifications may be obtained in  
the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main  
Street, No. 202, Big Spring, Tx. or  
by calling 432-264-2210.  
Bids will be presented to the Com-  
missioner's Court at 10:00 a.m. on  
APRIL 10, 2006, for their consid-  
eration.  
The Court reserves the right to re-  
ject any or all bids  
Jackie Olson - Howard County  
Auditor  
#4907 March 22 & 31, 2006

**INVITATION TO BID**  
The Howard County Auditor will ac-  
cept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M.  
on April 7, 2006 for  
Two (2) New Diesel Powered Tan-  
dem Drive Motorgrader  
to be used for maintenance of  
County Roads.  
Bids may be mailed to the Howard  
County Auditor, at P.O. Box 1949,  
Big Spring, Tx. 79721-1949 or de-  
livered to the Auditor's Office,  
Room 202, County Courthouse,  
Mark Sealed Envelope "Motor-  
grader Bid".  
Bids will be presented to the Com-  
missioner's Court on April 10, 2006  
10:00 A.M. for their consideration.  
The court reserves the right to re-  
ject any or all bids.  
Jackie Olson, County Auditor  
#4911 March 22 & 31, 2006.

of driving to my house,  
but other than that, I buy  
all the food and house-  
hold supplies, pay for the  
utilities, etc. We even  
drive my car while he's  
here.

I think Ned should con-  
tribute a small amount  
toward my expenses. He  
disagrees, saying that my  
costs wouldn't change  
that much if he weren't  
here. But I feel as if I am  
paying to have a compan-  
ion.

We've talked about  
moving in together, and  
we would probably split  
the expenses, but he says,  
"The time isn't right." I  
think he's reluctant  
because, well, why should  
he buy the cow when he  
gets the milk for free?  
What do you think? —  
Mooring in Pennsylvania

Dear Mooring: Anyone  
who eats meals and uses  
your shower every week-  
end should help defray  
the costs. An occasional  
dinner would be OK if he  
stayed once a month, but  
otherwise, that doesn't  
really cover it. He may  
spend \$30 on gas, but  
what do you spend on  
groceries, utilities and  
the use of your car all  
weekend?

By the way, if Ned  
makes twice your salary,  
lives in a "small, sparse  
condo," and recoils at the  
thought of contributing a  
dime to the expense of  
housing him eight days a  
month, we wonder if per-  
haps his frugality borders  
on stinginess.

Dear Annie: You recent-  
ly printed a letter from  
"Sober by Choice in  
Montana," who attended  
many cocktail parties as

part of her husband's  
business. She was con-  
stantly being asked why  
she didn't drink and if  
she had "a bun in the  
oven." You told her to  
hold a drink that looked  
like alcohol, which would  
stop the questions, or tell  
people she was the desig-  
nated driver.

Why must she pretend?  
If rude questions are  
asked, she ought to say,  
"I'm avoiding alcohol  
because I choose to do so.  
I'm surprised you would  
ask." — Arizona Reader

Dear Arizona: The prob-  
lem with being so forth-  
right is that it could be  
considered rude to her  
husband's business asso-  
ciates, and it doesn't  
solve the problem of peo-  
ple assuming she is preg-  
nant. Holding a nonalco-  
holic drink is the easiest  
way to avoid being asked  
any questions at all, and  
most of our readers  
agreed with that advice.  
Here are some who had  
other suggestions.

From California: Saying  
"I'm the designated driver"  
may be interpreted as  
"My husband drinks too  
much." All she needs to  
do is hold up her nonalco-  
holic drink and say, "I'm  
fine, thanks."

Midwest: An AA friend  
of mind offered these sug-  
gestions. "No thanks, I've  
had enough." Or, "I am  
allergic to alcohol." If  
asked how, say, "I break  
out in spots." You do not  
have to add, "In places  
like Chicago, Miami and  
San Francisco."

New York: She should  
simply say, "I don't like  
it." That'll stop 'em. I  
know. I say it. Some  
drinkers may be baffled  
beyond measure, but  
that's their problem.

Florida: When pushed, I  
reply, with a conspirator-  
ial smile, "I can't, I'm  
the designated blackmailer.  
It's a rotten job, but some-  
one has to do it."

Mississippi: I tell people  
I want to stay sober so I  
can watch all the drunks  
make fools of themselves.  
Dear Annie: My hus-  
band, "Ted," and I are  
having a serious problem.  
Ted never touches or  
kisses me. We had sex  
only twice last year, and

both of those times hap-  
pened when we were  
away on vacation.

"Ted" is a healthy 42-  
year-old man who would  
rather have sex with him-  
self than with me. I have  
asked him if he was hav-  
ing an affair. He said no.  
I asked him if he was just  
trying to drive me to get a  
divorce. He said he does-  
n't want a divorce.

One day, I phoned him  
at work and said I missed  
him. He said he missed  
me, too, and that we  
would get together that  
night. At 7 p.m., I sug-  
gestively told him, "I'm  
going into the bedroom  
now." I waited two hours.  
When Ted finally came  
up, he was carrying the  
newspaper. He said, "I  
thought I'd read for a  
while."

Since then, he has slept  
in the guest room. We've  
gone for marriage coun-  
seling in the past, but it  
hasn't worked. I am cur-  
rently seeing a counselor  
alone because of the  
depression and loneli-  
ness.

I am an attractive  
woman in my 40s, and I  
don't understand this. If I  
don't have sex soon, I'm  
going to explode. What  
are my options?

Significantly Not Getting  
Any in Central Alabama  
Dear Alabama: You  
could try taking more  
vacations, but that doesn't  
seem practical. Ted  
apparently is not asexual,  
since he is having sex —  
although not with you.  
You asked him if he was  
having an affair, but you  
didn't ask if he was gay,  
looking at pornography  
or sexually interested in  
something other than  
adult females, any of  
which could explain his  
lack of interest in you.

Ask your husband to try  
counseling again, but if  
he refuses, or if it doesn't  
help, you need to decide  
whether you want to con-  
tinue like this, finding  
sexual release some other  
way. The counselor you  
are currently seeing  
should help you work  
through your choices.

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WEDNESDAY

	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 (34)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Tetamundo	Odessa	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent	Disney	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (34)
6:30	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Paragina	My Wife-Kids	News	La Tormento	Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Baby Swann	News-Lairer	Extreme Engineering	(CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Access	Phil of Future	College Basketball	NBA	Science Fic.
7:30	George Lopez	George Lopez	Barrera de Amor	Bones (CC)	Out of Practice	Tierra de Pasiones	Deal or No Deal (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel	National Geographic	Everything You Need to Know	Movie: Uncommon Valor (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Parkers	Movie: Twitches	NIT Quarterfinal	NBA Basketball	Ghost Hunters (CC)
8:30	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Alborada	American Idol	Criminal Minds (CC)	Corazon Part	Law & Order (CC)	Raymond	Light of the Southwest	Exploring Space: The	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: Pushing	Movie: O Brother, Where	Girlfriends	Comcview	Life Derek	College Basketball	Miami Heat at Detroit Pistons (CC)	Ghost Hunters (CC)
9:30	The Evidence (CC)	The Evidence (CC)	Don Francisco	My Wife-Kids	CSI: NY (CC)	Decisiones	Heat (CC)	Raymond	Sex and-City	Quest for Life (CC)	Everything You Need to Know	15 Movie: The Big Red	Art Thou? (CC)	Comcview	Life Derek	NIT Second Round	NBA	Ghost Hunters (CC)	
10:30	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias Futbol	News Tonight Show	Raymond	15 Movie: Sex and-City	The Hour of Healing	Dirty Jobs (CC)	One (CC)	Movie: O Brother, Where	In Living Color	Zack & Cody	Quite Frankly	Basketball: Spurs at	Movie: Flatliners	
11:30	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la Risa	Becker (CC)	Lettiman Late Late	Estados Unidos vs. Late Night	Raymond	15 Movie: The Birdcage (CC)	Dr. Swallow	Everything You Need to Know	Hustle (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Art Thou? (CC)	Jamie Foxx	Phil of Future	GameDay	Nuggets	(CC)
12:30	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Amigas y Rivales (SS)	Becker (CC)	Show	Alemania	Conan O'Brien	45 Movie:	Update/Israel	Sign Off	Everything You Need to Know	MythBusters (CC)	Real TV (CC)	Alias (CC)	BET After Dark	Lizze McGuire	Timeless	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



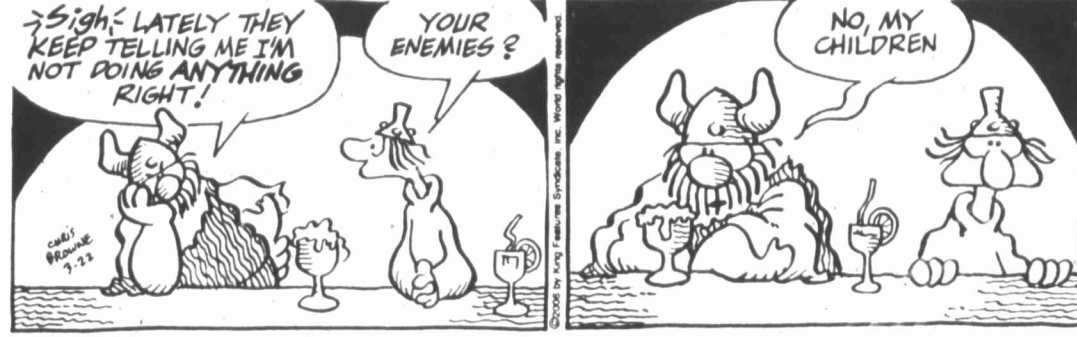
"YUCK! DON'T CARROTS COME IN ANY OTHER FLAVORS?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Kittykat's asleep, so skip the part where the dog barks."

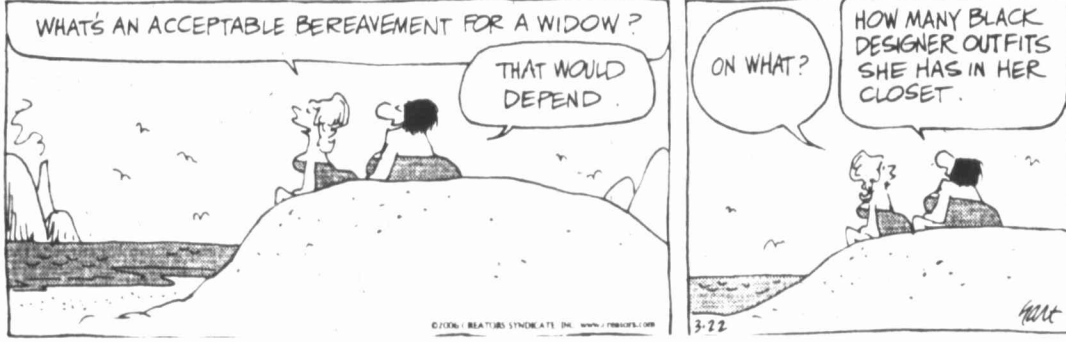
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



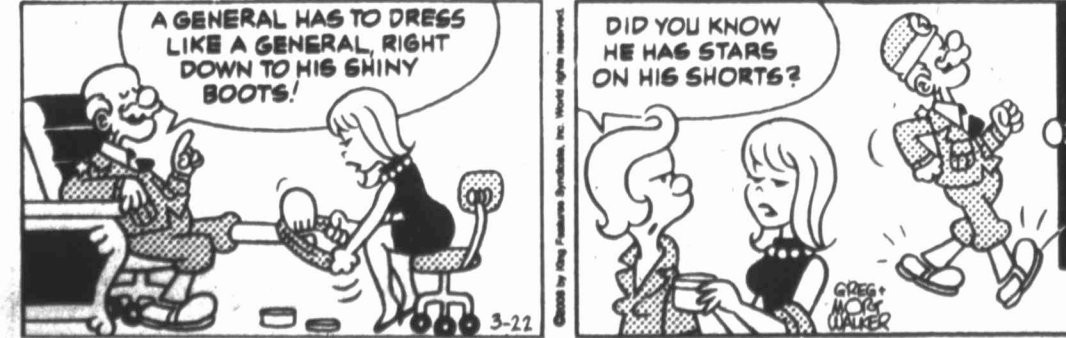
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 22, the 81st day of 2006. There are 284 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 22, 1765, Britain enacted the Stamp Act to raise money from the American colonies. (The Act was repealed the following year.)

On this date: In 1638, religious dissident Anne Hutchinson was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

In 1882, Congress outlawed polygamy. In 1933, during Prohibition, President Roosevelt signed a measure to make wine and beer containing up to 3.2 percent alcohol legal.

In 1941, the Grand Coulee Dam in Washington state went into operation. In 1945, the Arab League was formed with the adoption of a charter in Cairo, Egypt.

In 1946, the British man-

date in Transjordan came to an end.

In 1972, Congress sent the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification. (It fell three states short of the 38 needed for approval.)

In 1978, Karl Wallenda, the 73-year-old patriarch of "The Flying Wallendas" high-wire act, fell to his death while attempting to walk a cable strung between two hotels in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

In 1986, world financier Michele Sindona died two days after ingesting cyanide in his Italian prison cell in what authorities later ruled a suicide.

One year ago: Terri Schiavo's parents begged a federal appeals court to order the severely brain-damaged woman's feeding tube reinserted after their emergency request was turned down by a federal judge in Tampa, Fla.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Karl Malden is 94. Pantomimist Marcel Marceau is 83. USA Today founder Allen H. Neuharth is 82. Composer-lyricist Stephen Sondheim is 76. Actor William Shatner is 75. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, is

72. Actor M. Emmet Walsh is 71. Singer-guitarist George Benson is 63. CNN newscaster Wolf Blitzer is 58. Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber is 58. Actress Fanny Ardant is 57. Sportscaster Bob Costas is 54. Country singer James House is 51. Actress Lena Olin is 51. Singer-actress Stephanie Mills is 49. Actor Matthew Modine is 47. Actor Cole Hauser is 31. Actress Kellie Williams is 30. Actress Reese Witherspoon is 30. Rock musician John Otto (Limp Bizkit) is 29.

Thought for Today: "I do not get my ideas from people on the street. If you look at faces on the street, what do you see? Nothing. Just boredom." — Marcel Marceau.

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Answer to previous puzzle

ERRS	CLIMB	MINI
REAP	LATER	IRIS
MEIR	ASTRO	LOLL
AFTER	SHOCK	KNEE
STEEP	YEAS	
	DENT	SHARE
ASST	DUET	PARIS
STAIR	TEE	SKIMP
HELLO	SNAG	EASYS
EPEES	SMOG	
	FEAR	BETTE
ETAL	LITTLE	ROCK
ARLO	ADORE	EYRE
REDO	MERIT	MOUN
PEAR	OREOS	DUST

Newsday Crossword

WORKING IT OUT by Shirley Soloway

Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

1 Shoe part  
5 Restaurant chain: Abbr.  
9 Tasty  
14 Related by blood  
15 Lion hair  
16 Run off together  
17 Sloop pole  
18 Legal claim  
19 Get extra mileage out of  
20 Somehow  
23 Agreement  
24 Ill-intentioned  
25 Vietnamese holiday  
27 *Rides Again* (James Stewart film)  
32 Do a tailor's job  
36 Parka attachment  
39 *Fidelio* feature  
40 Somehow  
43 Moran of *Happy Days*  
44 Proof word  
45 Talks wildly  
46 Stretching muscle  
48 Female sheep  
50 Seafood selection  
53 Texas city  
58 Somehow  
63 Orient Express terminus  
64 Major defeat  
65 Catering establishment  
66 English-class topic  
67 Bell sound  
68 Women's magazine  
69 Impertinent

**DOWN**

1 Latin dance  
2 Gives approval for  
3 Shoppers' compilations  
4      nous (confidentially)  
5 White Rabbit's cry  
6 Signal, as a taxi  
7 Night owl's time  
8 Type of pasta  
9 Unruffled  
10 Oriole or Angel  
11 Rain cats and dogs  
12      facto  
13 Antelope's playmate  
21 Emcee's text  
22      Warbucks  
26 Norse thunder god  
28 Poet Teasdale  
29 Disney sci-fi film  
30 Mob scene  
31 Talks and talks and...  
32 Help feloniously  
33 Harp relative  
34 Tissuelike  
35 Major time periods  
37 Nonprofit's URL suffix  
38 Orchestral reed  
41 County in Ireland  
42 Statement of belief  
47 Irish playwright  
49 Refuses to leave  
51 Main artery  
52 One way to cook  
54 Lucy's landlady  
55 Oil source  
56 Does business in  
57 French city  
58 Literary work  
59 Shuttle org.  
60 Major time periods  
61 *La Cage aux Folles* props  
62 Reunion attendee

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					15				16			
14					18				19			
17												
20				21				22				
23							24					
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32	33	34	35		36	37	38		39			
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BIG SPRING

VOLUME 102, NUMBER

Poinsettia

ISD manufacturer classes a success  
Moore director

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

Area investors in product to manufacture want to perk up officials with the

Hitting high

BSHS Band of funding excursion

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Despite some uned expenses, official still optimistic that Big Spring High Band will raise the sary funds to m planned trip to Ca Hall this summer.

BSHS Band Director Rocky Harris said rent-related expenses close to being accounted for, but ancillary costs such as transportation musical instrument New York — have the final price tag higher.

To date, Harris mates that the band raised \$120,000 for trip, which still the group about short of its goal.

With the Carnegie

Howard County Convention

All area Republicans who voted in the primary are invited to Howard County Republican Convention be held on Saturday 9:30 a.m. in Judge Moore III's courtroom the 118th District Building.

Tax-Aid

Free tax assistance conclude

By THOMAS JENKINS  
Staff Writer

AARP will begin its annual Tax-Aid

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To reach us: Please call 263-7330 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday. If you miss your page 263-7335 before 7 noon Sunday.