

City agrees to pact with Siemens

Energy conservation expected to save Big Spring \$5.6 million

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council put its unanimous stamp of approval on a \$5.6 million energy conservation project with Siemens Building Technologies

Tuesday evening, giving the company the green light to begin work.

Siemens Account Executive Chad Nobles, who made the initial presentation to the city council in 2005, said he expects

the project to begin moving forward soon.

"We've talked about a year-long construction process," said Nobles. "Obviously, we'll sit down with the city and come up with a implementation schedule and a construction schedule, and based on the city's preferences, we'll get the process and all the changes moving."

The council had given its go-



Nobles

ahead for an in-depth energy audit last September. It was the first phase of the program, which allows the city to make improvements based solely on money saved through energy and utility conservation.

According to Nobles, that

audit confirmed what Siemens officials already believed: That the city can save more than \$500,000 a year by simply making its facilities more energy-friendly.

"This allows the city to improve its buildings — meaning lighting, air conditioning and water meters — without the need to increase capital or

See CITY, Page 3A

Yee haw!

Stick Horse Rodeo to come riding out of chutes Thursday

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Rodeo enthusiasts in Coahoma will strap on their chaps, shape-up their hats and polish their spurs this week to do battle with some of the toughest, meanest adversaries in the cowboy world.

Of course, the livestock isn't exactly living, but you'll never convince kindergarten students at Coahoma Elementary of that fact as the 27th annual Coahoma Kindergarten Stick Horse Rodeo gets ready to get under way Thursday in the school's elementary gym.

Approximately 50 young cowboys and cowgirls from four different kindergarten classes will show off their riding and racing skills at the event,

which is considered one of the oldest of its kind in Texas.

Nationally acclaimed — and slightly retired — rodeo clown turned Justice of the Peace Quail Dobbs said he plans to be on hand for the event, just as he has for several years.

"It's a great time for everyone," said Dobbs. "Probably the best greatest thing ... is the grand entry — watching all those kids running around on their stick horses. We try to make it just like a professional rodeo."

Dobbs won't be the only rodeo veteran in attendance Thursday, as rodeo clown Leon Coffee will help with all the "horsing around." Professional

See RODEO, Page 3A



Courtesy photo

The Coahoma Kindergarten Stick Horse Rodeo will be held Thursday in the elementary school gym. Grand entry will begin at 9 a.m. Fifty young cowboys and cowgirls will participate in the 27th presentation of the rodeo, a Howard County tradition. The public is invited.

Runoffs: Early voting begins next week

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Area voters will get the chance to go to the polls and have the final say in several state runoff elections next week, as early voting for the primary run off elections get under way at the Howard County Courthouse.

According to Sandra Bloom, election administrator for the county, runoff elections will be held in the Democratic races for U.S. State Senator and the Lt. Governor's Office, as well as the Republican race for the Place 8 bench on the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Early voting begins Monday and will continue through

Friday, April 7, at the courthouse. Election day for the runoff has been set for April 11 with all polling places having been consolidated to the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The Democratic runoffs will feature Barbara Ann Radnofsky and Gene Kelly in a bid for U.S. Senator. Radnofsky drew 215,556 ballots in the primary, while Kelly took 191,524 votes. Of the more than 12 million registered voters in the state, only an estimated 3.93 percent actually cast a ballot in the race, according to the Texas State Secretary's Office.

Also on the Democratic ticket, Maria Luisa Alvarado will face Benjamin Z. Grant in the runoff

for the office of Lt. Governor. In the March primary, Alvarado came out ahead with 207,798 ballots in her favor, while Benjamin Z. Grant took 200,628 ballots.

Voter turnout for this race was estimated at 4.10 percent.

On the Republican ticket, the nomination for the Place 8 seat on the Court of Criminal Appeals is also expected to be decided in April.

Incumbent Charles Holcomb took 237,516 ballots in the March primary, while opponent Terry Keel drew 162,054 ballots. The race drew only 4.14 percent of registered voters in Texas during the March primary.

Bloom said it's important for

area voters to remember which primary they voted in if they cast a ballot in March.

"If you voted in the primary, you are aligned with that party for the runoff as well," said Bloom. "If you didn't vote in either party's primary in March, you can vote in either one during the runoff election. For example, if you voted in the Republican primary in March, you can't vote in the Democratic runoff elections. You can only vote in the Republican runoff election."

"There have also been inquiries about signing a petition for an independent candi-

See VOTE, Page 3A

Runoffs

Democratic Primary

U.S. Senator: Barbara Ann Radnofsky, Gene Kelly

Lt. Governor: Maria Luisa Alvarado, Benjamin Z. Grant

Republican Primary

Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 8: Charles Holcomb, Terry Keel

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

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Big Spring one-act play advances

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Features Editor

More than 100 hours of rehearsal paid off for the cast of Big Spring High School's "Les Liaisons Dangerueuses" Tuesday as it was one of two plays selected to advance to area one-act play competition.

"We are ecstatic. Competition was harder this year and we still stood out at the top. I am just so amazed

by these kids and I am so proud of them for all the hard work they've done. They worked hard — this was not easy and this is just amazing," said Tracie Lindsey, director.

Senior Jessi New was selected best actress and senior Josh Acuff won best actor in the district contest. Junior Nick Ross and senior LeAnn Brumley were selected for the honorable mention all star cast.

"Because we received the top two acting awards, best actor and actress, to be fair to the other schools, their cast got all star cast, so the awards were spread out. She didn't have to do that, but it's good sportsmanship and good for the other schools," Lindsey said.

Co-directed by Pat Barrera, the BSHS performance includes 13 actors, two alternates and four crew members.

The University Interscholastic League judge, Dawn Swearingen from Abilene Christian University, complimented the crew on its use of sound, as well as gave critique to the performers.

"Your use of asides to the audience shows you made some bold choices and they worked really well," Swearingen said to New.

See PLAY, Page 3A

Obituaries

Lonnie Evans



Lonnie Evans, 93, of Stanton died Tuesday, March 28, 2006, in a Stanton care facility. Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 31, 2006, at the First United Methodist Church in Stanton with the Rev. Daniel Armstrong officiating. Interment follows at Resthaven Memorial Park in Midland.

The family will receive friends and relatives Thursday from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

He was born June 14, 1912, in Guymon, Okla., and married Imogene Ledbetter Sept. 27, 1980, in Stanton. Lonnie lived in Stanton for 25 years worked as a salesman, retiring at age 65. He was a member of Christian church.

Survivors include his wife, Imogene Evans of Stanton; three sons, Daniel Evans of Arkansas, Robert Evans of Allen and Lon Evans of Austin; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters and three brothers.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Florine 'Pete' Cobb



Florine "Pete" Cobb, 87, of Big Spring died Monday, March 27, 2006, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Graveside services are 11 a.m. Thursday, March 30, 2006, at Trinity Memorial Park with the Rev. David Ring, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, officiating. The family will receive friends from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born Sept. 8, 1918, in Lakeview to Gracie and Milford Potts and married Will Alf Cobb Jan. 13, 1940, in Clovis, N.M. He preceded her in death Nov. 1, 1978. She had been a resident of Big Spring since 1941. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by three sisters and one grandson.

She is survived by three daughters, Martha Henry and her husband, Roger of Antioch, Calif., Janice Cearley and her husband, Jim of Big Spring and Donna Laster and her husband, Bill of Seguin; four sons, Ken Cobb and his wife, Shirley of Big Spring, Will Alf Cobb Jr., and his wife, Claudia of Owasso, Okla., Doug Walker and his wife, Sharla of Needville and Jody Dawdy of Amarillo; one brother, James Potts of Hedley; 16 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to Dora Roberts Cardiac Rehab, 306 W. Third St., Big Spring 79720, The Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, Box 1890, Amarillo 79174-0001 or other favorite charity.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com.

Take note

• **A BRISKET DINNER BENEFIT** for Willie Mendoza to help defray medical costs associated with a liver transplant starts at 2 p.m. Sunday. Plates are \$5 and may be ordered by calling Nora Valles at La Vedula, 267-2200; Mike Sanchez at 263-3589; or Manuel Ramirez at 263-0897.

• **HOWARD COLLEGE SPRING FLING** presents the USAF Band of the West "Top Flight" at 1 p.m. April 5 in the Dora Roberts Student Union Building. For more information, call 264-5011.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM PRESENTS JOHNIE LOU AVERY** at 6 p.m. Thursday at the museum. In honor of Women's History Month, Avery will speak about the achievements of women in the development of aviation and World War II. For more information, call the museum at 264-1999.

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

• **A CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN MUSIC: GEORGE GERSHWIN'S "PORGY AND BESS"** with the Big Spring Symphony Chorus 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.

• **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.patton@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.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1986 20th REUNION** needs addresses and contact information for classmates. Call Kelly at 816-4540.

• **FORSAN EX-STUDENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ALL-CLASS REUNION** is Aug. 5. Names, addresses

Police blotter

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

- **EDDIE MULANAX**, 31, of Sweetwater, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **DENNIS RICHARDSON**, 21, of 1708 Owens, was arrested Tuesday on two local warrants.
- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 1100 block of Fourth Street.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported:
 - in the 4200 block of Bilger.
 - in the 2100 block of Allendale.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported:
 - in the 1400 block of Dixie.
 - in the 300 block of Settles.
 - in the 1400 block of Owens.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1100 block of 12th Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **MIGUEL ENRIQUE JUAREZ**, 17, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **RAFAEL HINOJOSA**, 46, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - third or more offense.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of Dogwood. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Hunter. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 300 block of Tulane. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **DUMPSTER FIRE** was reported in the 2300 block of Main Street.

Support groups

WEDNESDAY

• **RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group** meets at 213 Circle. Call Tena at 267-1883 or Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

es and class years for Forsan exes are needed. Submit information or pictures for a newsletter before June 15 to Ida Lou Raney, 5216 Dawson Dr., Big Spring or call 432 267-2414, Jimmy Anderson at 432 267-6143 or Opal Stout at 325 574-2150, or e-mail hiraney@crcom.net.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1977** is gathering addresses for the 30th reunion. Mail contact information to Emily Boyd, 10817 Sandpiper Lane, Dallas or e-mail emilyboyd1@aol.com.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

• **HOME HOSPICE HAS COOKBOOKS** with nearly 500 recipes on sale for \$18 with proceeds to benefit Hospice House. Recipes submitted by volunteers, coordinators and owners of Home Hospice. Call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599 for more information.

• **ODYSSEY HOSPICE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** to work in the office and perform patient services. For more information or to volunteer, call 263-5999.

• **THE MOBILE MEALS PROGRAM** that delivers meals to the elderly and homebound needs volunteers to deliver meals. If you can spare one hour per week to deliver eight or 10 meals, you are needed. About 85 to 90 meals are prepared, packaged and delivered to recipients within the city limits of Big Spring. If you can volunteer, please call 263-4016 before 3 p.m.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

• **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected. For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

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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 in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center at the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

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.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

FRIDAY March 31

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 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 senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

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

Around Town

• **HERITAGE MUSEUM** is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

• **POTTON HOUSE**, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into Heritage Museum, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may be severe. Lows in the upper 50s. South winds 15 to 25 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows around 50.

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

Saturday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.

Lottery

The jackpot in the multistate Mega Millions lottery drawing grew to \$117 million Wednesday.

None of the tickets sold for Tuesday's \$96 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: 14, 18, 35, 39 and 49. The Mega Ball number was 14.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 9-10-14-16-30.

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: 0-3-4

BIG SPRING HERALD

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PLAY

Continued from Page

She also told Ad role believable. "I love, I believed it to do," she said.

The play is a love and betrayal. The cast was all period costumes.

"They are b Swearingin.

A competition April 7, where th six other school second play that the District 4-4 rival Andrews H its performance.

Also attending petition in the B was Lubbock Emperor's N

CITY

Continued from Pa

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RODEO

Continued from Pa

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And while the to be plenty of " around" during Dobbs said it do there.

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VOTE

Continued from Pa

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Early voting a help from 8 a.

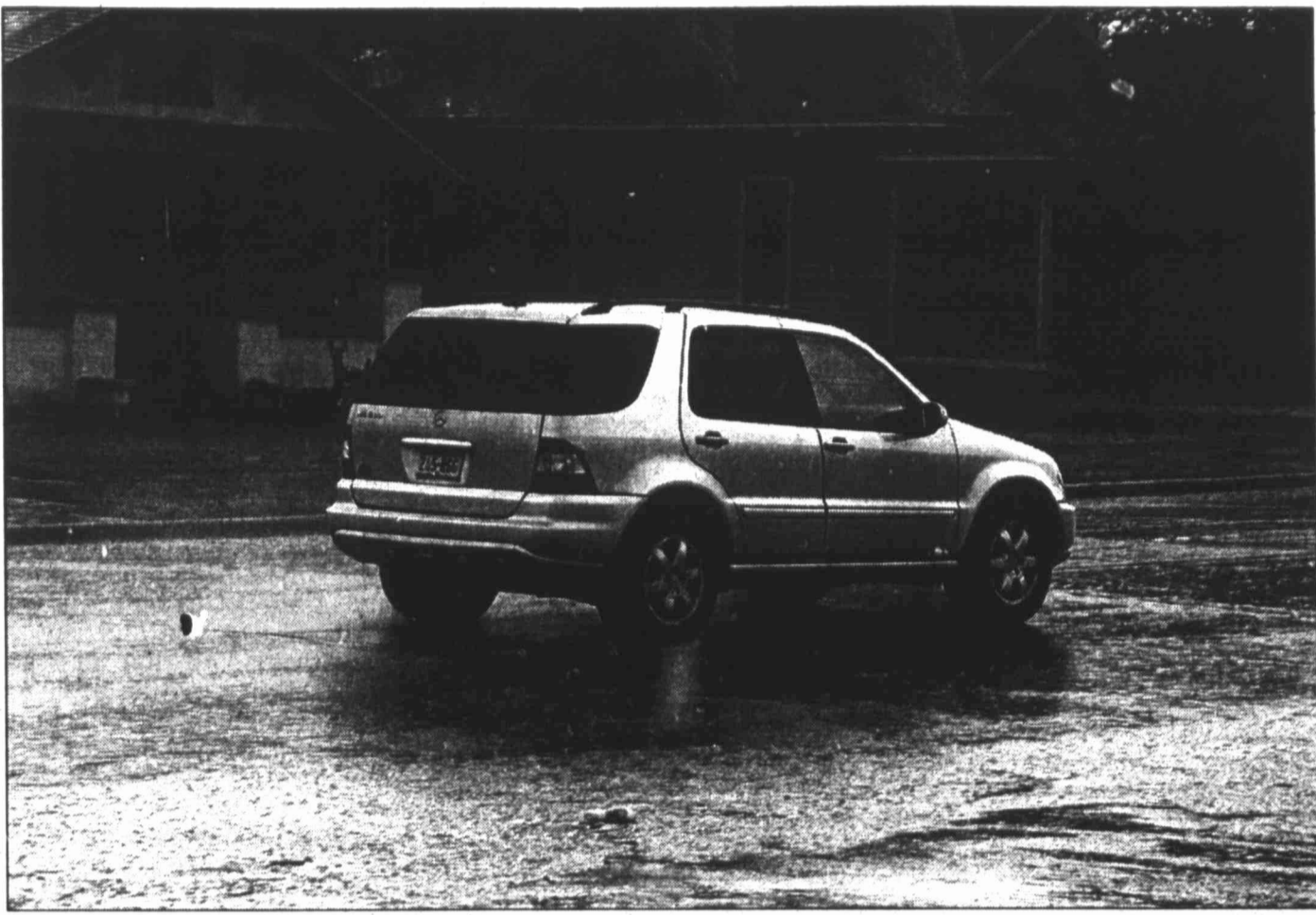
Teenage Alert!! Tee



HAPPY 13TH BIRTHDAY BROOK

YOU ARE OFFER A TEENAGER

WE LOVE Dad, Mom, & Devon



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
This vehicle was just one of many Tuesday afternoon that spent time avoiding mud puddles, as the Big Spring area received .95 inches of rain before press time this morning, according to National Weather Service officials.

PLAY

Continued from Page 1A

She also told Acuff he made his role believable. "When you fell in love, I believed it and that is hard to do," she said.
The play is a tale of forbidden love and betrayal set in the 1700s. The cast was also praised for its period costumes.
"They are beautiful," said Swearingen.
A competition is set for Snyder April 7, where the cast will meet six other schools, including the second play that advanced from the District 4-4A competition, rival Andrews High School with its performance of "Terra Nova."
Also attending Tuesday's competition in the BSHS auditorium was Lubbock Estacado, "The Emperor's New Clothes;"

Plainview, "Into the Woods;" Frenship, "The Terezin Promise;" and San Angelo Lake View, "What I Did Last Summer."
The BSHS one-act play cast includes New and Acuff in lead roles, as well as junior Jessica Barker, junior Sydnie Robertson, sophomore Maurice Africh, junior Julian Garcia, junior Loveita Raymond, sophomore Cassandra Bazaldua, sophomore Geoffrey Treece and freshmen Jimmy Watson and Thad Loftis. Crew members are sophomore Macee Gonzales, junior Brandon Pierce, junior Cody Carnes and freshman Josh Wilson. Alternates are sophomore Miguel Zermeo and junior Jason Worthington.
Contact Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331.

Former Big Spring man is indicted in Lubbock

Herald Staff Report

A former Big Spring man was indicted by a Lubbock grand jury this week and could face up to four years in prison if convicted.
Richard Scott Underwood, 41, formerly of Big Spring and now residing at 8408 County Road 6930 in Lubbock County, was indicted Tuesday on two counts of forgery and a single count of perjury.
If convicted on the forgery charges, Underwood could face a minimum of 180 days to a maximum of two years in a state prison for each count, as well as a fine not to exceed \$10,000.
Underwood also faces up to one year in county jail if convicted on the perjury charge.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

budget. Without having to raise tax rates, raise water rates. We're doing it all out of your current operating budget," said Nobles. "The beauty of the process is we guarantee you, as a city, the results. If we don't make those savings that we promised here today then we have to cut the city a check for the difference."
"The biggest part of the

savings will come from the improvements made to the city's water system, which includes the automatic meter reading system. Approximately 60 percent of the savings we've projected will come from this system at an annual rate of approximately \$397,000 a year. This is accomplished through more accurate meter reading."
Those savings will also mean more accurate meter readings, according to Nobles, which means area water customers who

might have been enjoying free water will have to start paying — as they should have already been doing.
"It's not going to be a huge, dramatic effect on anyone's water bill," said Nobles. "As meters age, they typically lose their accuracy rating. We've identified meters within the city of Big Spring that aren't as accurate as they need to be. Therefore, the city is losing revenue from this process and citizens have been enjoying the free water for a while."

"All we're going to do is make sure all citizens are equally charged for everything they are using and the city gets the revenue that they're due."
Nobles said he and his staff are excited to begin work on the project, and even more excited to see what sort of positive impacts it can have on the city.
"I'm really excited about the program," said Nobles. "Just because of the city's benefit in this, I think it's good for everyone."

RODEO

Continued from Page 1A

barrel man and rodeo clown Jim Bob Feller will also be helping out, according to Dobbs.
And while there's sure to be plenty of "clowning around" during the rodeo, Dobbs said it doesn't stop there.
"Wacey Cathey and Jody Nix will also be

there. Both of them are Coahoma graduates," said Dobbs. "Cathey was a bull rider and went to the national finals about 14 or 15 times. He's retired now."
Howard College rodeo coaches Greg Kernick and Jennifer Driver are also expected to help out with the event, which will feature everything from bareback riding to roping, bull riding to barrel rac-

ing.
"It will all get started at 9 a.m. with the grand entry, and it's not something you want to miss," said Dobbs. "It's a lot of fun for the kids, but the adults get to have fun and enjoy themselves too."
For more information, contact Coahoma Elementary at 394-4323.
Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

date. Only those that did not vote in the March primary election are eligible to sign an independent candidate's petition.
Early voting will be help from 8 a.m. until 5

p.m. Monday through Friday, April 7, at the Howard County Courthouse.
For more information, contact Bloom at 264-2273.
Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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Alon to acquire Good Time Stores

Alon USA Energy announced Tuesday it will purchase up to 55 Good Time Stores in El Paso.
The purchase price for all 55 stores would include approximately \$30 million in cash and \$7.0 million in assumed debt.
Of the 55 stores, 49 are leased and six are owned. Alon, which currently operates 49 stores in El Paso, expects to convert the acquired stores to the 7-Eleven and Fina brands and to supply motor fuels to them through its long term pipeline capacity connecting Alon's Big Spring Refinery directly to the El Paso market.
Alon anticipates that closing of the acquisition will occur in the second quarter.
Good Time Stores,

founded in 1978, is the largest convenience store retailer in the El Paso metropolitan market, operating 56 convenience stores with gasoline. GTS carries a broad assortment of traditional convenience store fill-in products as well as a wide selection of ready-to-go La Cocina burritos and sandwiches.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Florine "Pete" Cobb, 87, died Monday. Graveside services will be at 11:00 AM Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 6:30 until 8:00 PM today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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From:
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ANNOUNCEMENT:
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MINDEE FLIPPIN, M.D., FACC
BOARD CERTIFIED INTERNAL MEDICINE
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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

YOUR VIEWS

Thanks, Scenic Mountain

TO THE EDITOR,
I was a recent patient at the Scenic Mountain Medical Center for an extended period of time and would like to offer my observations on the quality of care received at this facility.

I was admitted with a ruptured appendix and received emergency surgery from Dr. Abel. A few days later, Dr. Preciadio performed another emergency surgery to free a bowel obstruction. Following the surgeries, I was comatose and on a ventilator for almost two weeks in the intensive care unit. Then I recovered another week in ICU before being transferred to a rehabilitation unit for a week. **During all this time I was under the general care of Dr. Cezary Kuprianowicz.**

The skill and dedication of the two surgeons literally saved my life. They followed up continuously and thoroughly during my entire stay. Both were absolutely fantastic and Big Spring is indeed fortunate to have such talented

medical professionals available. "Dr. Kup" is something else again! I've never met a more knowledgeable, thorough, and considerate physician. He is a real gem. Scenic Mountain could not have a better director of emergency medicine.

The nurses in ICU were extremely skilled and treated me pleasantly and patiently. Even the days I was not able to speak, they figured out my needs. They were constantly at my disposal and provided wonderful care for me around the clock. The rehab people in the "swing bed" program, particularly Pete and Jimmy, persecuted me four to six hours a day as they retrained me. I had to relearn how to eat, walk, climb stairs, strengthen my muscles and "putter" around.

Sorry I can't mention each caregiver individually. All I can say is "Thanks to All!"

You're very lucky, Big Spring, to have such a facility with such competent, dedicated personnel.

F.A. O'HARA
BIG SPRING

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

Our future is bright, Lord, with You as our hope.

Amen

The day a deer hitched a ride

Wayne Jones of Big Lake has made a living as a mechanic most of his life. He has some old vehicles that demonstrate his talent and ability. He has a 64 Fairlane Ford his parents bought brand new. It has 62,000 actual miles on it. He is now restoring a 1972 Volkswagen Beetle. His pride and joy is his 1936 Torch Red Ford pickup that he completely rebuilt and restored from the ground up. He put a 302 V-8 Ford engine in it, along with an automatic over-drive transmission, power steering, custom air conditioning and heating and a modern sound system. Wayne says it's highway ready.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

Wayne bought his first motorcycle when he was 13 years old and he has had one ever since.

"My brother and I and our wives have been to 48 of the United States on motorcycles," says Wayne.

"We've ridden them through three provinces in Canada. We started out with small trips and they kept getting longer and longer. We used to take all our vacations on motorcycles. I guess I've ridden a motorcycle half a million miles."

He has about thirty thousand dollars tied up in his present motorcycle, a fancy Harley with all the bells and whistles.

One time Wayne had an incident with a deer.

"Yeah, I had one that wanted to ride with me."

One Saturday morning in July he and his grandson were riding their motorcycles around Utopia and Vanderpool in the Hill Country.

"I was going down the highway and a dadgum deer jumped off a cliff and landed right on top of me."

It happened as he was going through an area where a hill had been cut through to make the highway. There were cliffs about 10 feet high on either side of the road. Wayne was traveling at 65 or 70 miles an hour.

"That deer was going in the same direction I was going and he decided he wanted off that cliff, so he

just bailed off and hitched a ride with me. It was a very short ride. You can imagine how much pavement rash I wound up with. I got a broken nose, broken shoulder, broken rib and had to have 14 stitches in my mouth. I remember seeing the deer airborne when it was coming at me, and feeling helpless. That's all I remember until I came to, sitting in the middle of the highway."

Wayne's grandson was riding behind his grandfather and saw it all happen.

"It scared him plumb to death," says Wayne. "I tore my billfold up and scattered money and credit cards all over the highway. After he gathering all that up, I got on the back of his bike to ride into town. We met a guy working for Bandera Electric Co-op and flagged him down. Of course he had a two-way radio and called an ambulance. It took me into Kerrville and I spent two weeks in the hospital getting healed up."

Wayne couldn't wait to get back on his motorcycle and go riding again.

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The next step for immigration

Thirty-eight years ago, I first arrived in America owning nothing but a dream.

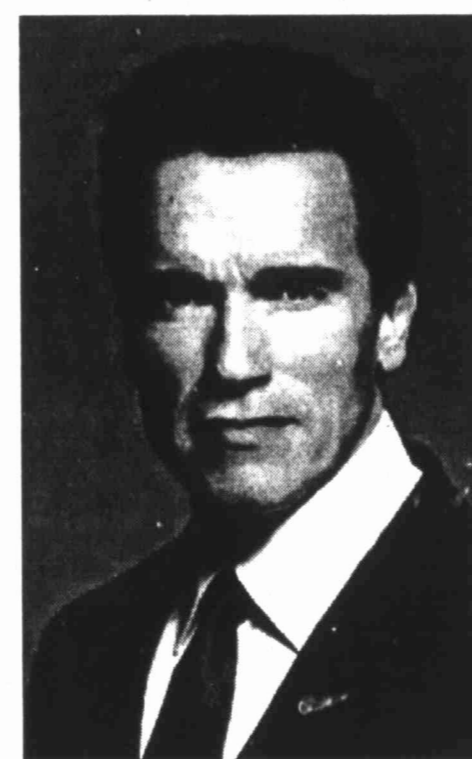
I had few friends, little money and knew even less English. But of this I was certain: Here was a land where I could go as far and as fast as my dreams and my desire would take me. Now, nearly 40 years later, my immigrant dream has come true. And thanks to my journey, I bring a unique perspective to the immigration discussion. I don't just talk about immigrants — I am an immigrant.

A few days ago, huge crowds assembled in California and proclaimed: "Aqui estamo." I say to each one of them: Yes, we are here. Now we must ask: Where do we go from here?

As our nation begins a national debate on immigration, I propose that we lower our voices and lift our sights. We need a debate that attacks the issue without attacking individuals. And we need a comprehensive new law that respects immigrants and protects our nation. Frankly, the debate in Congress thus far has focused too much on politics and too little on principles. Ever since I first ran for office, I've talked about the importance of having a comprehensive immigration policy. Now the moment has arrived.

Our goal should be to create a policy that reflects our national motto: e pluribus unum — Out of many, one. Here are the basic immigration principles that have always guided me and that I believe should guide Congress.

First, immigration is about our security. The first order of business for the federal government is to secure our borders. And Washington simply must do a better job of it. We learned on Sept. 11 that not all those who cross our borders want to share in the American dream. A few want to replace it with a nightmare. If we don't know who is coming over our borders, we won't know what they might do. And in a post-Sept. 11 world, that is a risk we cannot



Arnold Schwarzenegger is the governor of California.

umented.

We can embrace the immigrant without endorsing illegal immigration. Granting citizenship to people who are here illegally is not just amnesty ... it's anarchy. We are a country of immigrants, yes. But we are also a nation of laws. People who want to be citizens will want to do it the right way.

Finally, immigration is about our values. Too often the debate centers on what immigrants owe us. Too seldom do we ask what we owe them. Above all, we owe it to our country and our immigrants to share our values. We should talk about our history, our institutions and our beliefs. We should assimilate immigrants into the mainstream. We want immigrants to not just live in America but to live as Americans.

Marine Lance Cpl. O.J. Santa Maria is a fine example of this. He is an immigrant who was living in Daly City, Calif., when he enlisted in the Marines. During the Iraq war, he was severely wounded. Because of his military service, he was granted citizenship. When the oath of citizenship was read to him, he stood up from his wheelchair in pain and in tears. "It's for the respect," he said later when asked why he stood. "I'm taking an oath to the Constitution of the United States of America."

Lance Cpl. Santa Maria wanted to be an American, and we should be glad he became one. We are a better nation because of this immigrant Marine.

As a river gains strength and momentum from joining waters, so America is blessed and enriched by new people and new energy. But we still need a new immigration law to properly channel the flow. And we need a comprehensive approach based in reality, not rhetoric.

This is the time for a permanent solution to our broken immigration system. This is the chance to again become a country of immigrants and a nation of laws.

Arnold Schwarzenegger is the governor of California.

Tax re

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press W

AUSTIN — A pr new tax structure tax relief to all Texans, but the ri state would still biggest reductions, an analysis obtain Associated Press.

The proposal, ex announced today, restructured busin ing loopholes that most businesses to ing. The new mon used by lawmakers school property third.

A new \$1 increas rette tax wasn't inc

Teens an

BLACKSTONE, (AP) — Police a two teenagers in a tion with a break water facility an searching for a today as more th area residents wa hear if their dr water had been c nated.

Someone cut the wire around the late Monday, cut an alarm, and the aged an electrica and a vent at the 1.3-million-gallon storage tank, aut said.

A 5-gallon co with a strange o

Former

to deal

SAN ANTONIO An Atascosa Cour said he'll plead g murder for his ro ambush that kille law officers and w two.

Kenneth Vodoc 25, was set for a M on charges that he accomplish in the 1999 slaying — k one of the wor sacres of law off Texas history.

The Texas Cr Criminal Appeals overturned an murder convict death sentenc Vodochodsky. Bu cutors were prep bring him to tria when the dea reached this we time they weren't the death penalty.

"I sure don't spend the rest of in prison," the de told the San Express-News in interview. "At le way, I wouldn't."

The plea agr which still requ court's approval, a 30-year sente includes an op parole after 15 With credit fo served, Vodo could be halfwa eligibility.

Texas' highest appeals court ov Vodochodsky's conviction bec found weak evi support the jur ings that he hel mate Jeremiah E the triggerman murderous spree.

Dennis Green
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Tax relief proposal to increase cost of cigarettes

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — A proposal for a new tax structure would give tax relief to all nonsmoking Texans, but the richest in the state would still enjoy the biggest reductions, according to an analysis obtained by The Associated Press.

The proposal, expected to be announced today, includes a restructured business tax, closing loopholes that have allowed most businesses to avoid paying. The new money would be used by lawmakers to reduce school property taxes by a third.

A new \$1 increase in the cigarette tax wasn't included in the



Perry

analysis by the Legislative Budget Board, a bipartisan group. As a result, Texans who smoke would see a higher tax burden than what the study showed.

Previous tax proposals have been heavily criticized because most of the burden fell on the poorest Texans. This proposal is the first to give all income groups tax relief.

According to the analysis, Texans who make more than \$146,804 a year would see a 3.3 percent reduction in their net tax burden. Texans who make between \$14,000 and \$24,000 would see a 0.9 percent net tax

decrease.

The analysis considers property tax, sales and excise taxes and taxes on business.

Gov. Rick Perry has called the Legislature back to the Capitol on April 17 for a 30-day special session to restructure the way K-12 schools in Texas are funded. It will be their fourth special session on the issue. School funding plans also failed during the last two regular sessions.

This time, lawmakers have a June 1 deadline, mandated by the Texas Supreme Court, to fix the system that the court ruled unconstitutional.

Because the proposal gives tax relief to most Texans, it could see more support from Democratic lawmakers, former

comptroller John Sharp said. He heads the group that developed the recommendations.

Democratic Sen. Eliot Shapleigh of El Paso, a vocal opponent of tax plans that have been more burdensome on poor Texans, was noncommittal on the analysis, known as an equity note.

"We need to see the equity note for the whole package," Shapleigh said. "When property taxes go down and other taxes go up, the question to ask is who wins and who loses."

When the cigarette tax is considered, the net tax relief would probably be eliminated for the poorest Texans, Sharp said. Texans who smoke will pay higher taxes on cigarettes and

won't see property tax cuts if they don't own their homes.

After repeated legislative failures, Perry created the Texas Tax Reform Commission, appointing state business leaders to study possible tax alternatives and make recommendations to the Legislature. Those proposals will raise about \$5.9 billion from sources such as the restructured business tax, the cigarette tax increase and \$1 billion from a state budget surplus.

The new revenue would be used in public schools to replace property taxes that would be cut.

Perry and Sharp are scheduled to announce the new tax proposal today.

Teens arrested, terrorism ruled out as towns probe water supply break-in

BLACKSTONE, Mass. (AP) — Police arrested two teenagers in connection with a break-in at a water facility and were searching for a third today as more than 9,000 area residents waited to hear if their drinking water had been contaminated.

Someone cut the barbed wire around the facility late Monday, cut lines to an alarm, and then damaged an electrical panel and a vent at the top of a 1.3-million-gallon water storage tank, authorities said.

A 5-gallon container with a strange odor was

found on top of the tank, said Ed Coletta, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Blackstone Police said Wednesday that two 15-year-old boys now face felony charges and that a 15-year-old girl is also a suspect in the break-in. They had received reports about three teenagers seen running from the area that night.

The water system serves the town of Blackstone and about four dozen homes in neighboring North Smithfield, R.I., about 55 miles south of

Boston.

Authorities ruled out terrorism Tuesday, and the FBI decided not to pursue the case, said Dr. David Gifford, director of the Rhode Island Health Department.

A water ban was in effect while the water and container were being tested for biological or chemical contaminants, Gifford said. He said the test results were expected Wednesday at the earliest.

The Blackstone-Millville school district canceled today classes as a precaution, even though no illnesses had been reported, and residents stocked up

on bottled water. School officials had locked the bathrooms Tuesday, rented portable toilets and provided bottled water for students.

"I'm wondering, 'OK, how bad is it?'" said Charlene Gignac, a 40-year-old convenience store clerk who said she

had taken a shower. "I still have a pulse and I'm still kicking."

Some residents said authorities should have warned them sooner.

Lori Wadsworth, 40, of Blackstone, said people couldn't help but wonder about terrorism. Even in a small town, feelings

have changed since Sept. 11, she said.

"We wouldn't have thought twice about it. We would have thought it was mischievous kids,"

Wadsworth said. "Now you're wondering 'Could it be?' Who would come to Blackstone to terrorize the citizens here?"

Former death row inmate agrees to deal in officer shooting ambush

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — An Atascosa County man said he'll plead guilty to murder for his role in an ambush that killed three law officers and wounded two.

Keneth Vodochodsky, 25, was set for a May trial on charges that he was an accomplice in the October 1999 slaying — known as one of the worst massacres of law officers in Texas history.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in 2004 overturned an earlier murder conviction and death sentence for Vodochodsky. But prosecutors were preparing to bring him to trial again when the deal was reached this week. This time they weren't seeking the death penalty.

"I sure don't want to spend the rest of my life in prison," the defendant told the *San Antonio Express-News* in a jail interview. "At least this way, I wouldn't."

The plea agreement, which still requires the court's approval, calls for a 30-year sentence and includes an option for parole after 15 years. With credit for time served, Vodochodsky could be halfway to parole eligibility.

Texas' highest criminal appeals court overturned Vodochodsky's earlier conviction because it found weak evidence to support the jury's findings that he helped roommate Jeremiah Engleton, the triggerman in the murderous spree.

Engleton made a bogus 911 call and then opened fire on officers responding to his mobile home before turning the gun on himself. Killed were Atascosa County sheriff's Deputies Thomas Monse Jr. and Mark Stephenson and Texas State Trooper Terry Miller.

Engleton had been arrested the previous day for attacking his wife. Vodochodsky bailed him out, and the two men visited a gun store together as Engleton stocked up on ammunition. Vodochodsky left their mobile home only after Engleton placed the 911

call.

After his conviction was overturned, prosecutors continued to collect circumstantial evidence tying Vodochodsky to the crime. A former classmate of Engleton's told investigators that Engleton said he was planning to target some law officers with his best friend.

Vodochodsky said such stories are untrue, but that they showed the prosecutors' determination to keep him locked up.

The prosecutor in the case did not return phone calls.

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Library News

No offense to the city of Big Spring, but I may have a solution if you have trouble falling asleep at night. Located in the Reference Section, under call number 352.12 BIG S, is the city's annual budget for the fiscal year 2005-2006. Read and enjoy it.



HOLLIS
McCRIGHT

What do these phrases mean? Moderate, Funk Rock, Bright Rock, Moderate Disco, Moderate Bo Diddley?

These are strum patterns for guitar or maybe a keyboard. The Library has just received a replacement copy of "The Ultimate Rock Guitar Fake Book" (787.61 HAL L) from the Hal-Leonard Corporation.

A "fake book" is one that contains the lyrics, melodies and chords for hundreds of songs. For all you "wannabe" singers, this would be something to investigate.

The Library got in a really neat little book, one that I have just ordered for myself.

The title is "Watchable Birds of the Southwest" (598.072 GRA M) by Mary Taylor Gray. A variety of bird habitats, from mountains to mesas and everywhere in between, is covered in an excellent bird watcher's handbook, which examines bird behaviors as well as bird watching opportunities in the areas.

Take this along on a

visit to the Southwest. It provides plenty of color photos of birds in the wild.

Another really neat book is in. Unfortunately it is a reference book and not available for check-out.

Titled "Texas Then and Now," (REF 976.400 REY R) photographed and written by Richard Reynolds, this book is of notable locations in Texas. Utilizing old photos, he then takes a second photo to compare the two sites. We will have it on display in the reference area, over by Johnny and Vera. Do stop in and look at it.

From a review culled from an online source, "Tulia: Race, Cocaine and Corruption in a Small Texas Town," (363.450 BLA N) by Nate Blakeslee is the story of the travesty of justice that led to multiple bogus drug arrests in the small Texas town of Tulia.

This devastating indictment of the toll taken by the war on drugs, viewed through the prism of one small community, is a masterpiece of true crime writing.

Award-winning reporter Nate Blakeslee broke the story for the Texas Observer in 2000 and has produced a definitive account, deftly weaving the history of the growth and decline of Tulia with the stories of those caught up in the racist frame by narcotics officer Tom Coleman.

The defendants, their families and their attorneys come across as three-dimensional individuals, consistently engaging the reader despite the wealth of details and the intricacies

of the appellate process. It is nearly that time to "spring forward," that is, change our clocks thereby losing an hour in the day.

"Spring Forward: The annual Madness of Daylight Saving Time," (389.17 DOW M) by Michael Downing is an amusing look at the antics performed by Congress, the clergy, movie moguls and other opportunistic players. It reads just like a soap opera.

"Kidnapped in Yemen," (364.154 QUI M) by Mary Quin is an eye-opening look at the kidnapping for political reason phenomenon. Simple tourists can become a knife at the throat of their home countries and there is no good way out. This is a

very interesting book. Other Non-Fiction books available for check out: "The Weather Makers: How Man is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth," (363.737 FLA T) by Tim Flannery; "What Jesus Meant," (232 WIL G) by Garry Wills; "The Virgin Mary Conspiracy," (232.91 PHI G) by Graham Phillips; "Mavericks of the Sky: First Daring Pilots of the U.S. Air Mail," (629.130 ROS B) by Barry Rosenberg and Catherine Macaulay; and if you are set up for moving this summer, "Moving Survival Guide," (648.9 POA M) by Martha Poage.

"Holmes on the Range," (M HOC S) by Steve Hockensmith is an amusing amalgam — Sherlock Holmes meets Ben Johnson (old-time cowboy sidekick of many, many horse operas).

When Big Red and Old Red Amlingmeyer sign on as ranch hands at the mysterious BAR VR cattle spread, they think that only hard work, bad pay and ample opportunities to enjoy Harper's Weekly series about Sherlock Holmes.

When a body appears (apparently an accidental death by cattle stampede), this gives them the perfect opportunity to employ their Holmes-inspired "deducifyin' skills."

This is a neat book by an author I haven't heretofore come across. Mystery lovers, do check

this book out.

The Library will be closed for Easter on Good Friday, April 14 and also Saturday, April 15. We will reopen April 17.

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. The catalog is online.

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian.

When our Humvee squeezes through labyrinthine streets Tall Afar late last year what immediately came was that the U.S. soldiers were living in heart-wrenching war-torn cities at the local people's contempt though we put ourselves in harm's way for a company of American GIs — to the garrison-like encampments ited elsewhere. The commander in Tall had clearly understood that success in insurgency meant more on protecting our own than on battling the enemy — and he was willing to accept that.

If smart military like these have made Tall Afar a textbook counterinsurgency case as President Bush did in his speech in Cleveland last week also underscore his exceptional Tall Afar among U.S. military operations in Iraq when the president Tall Afar as a reason having confidence in military's "clear, build" strategy, an question comes to What would it mean in terms of troops, resources and tim embrace the lesson Tall Afar and apply across Iraq? More however impressive military achievement Tall Afar are, they only part of the equation. The city's future resolving its bitter divide and building a society that will be to rely on Iraqi forces and political decisions that are outside the military's control.

The challenge Tall Afar came to the day after my a sunrise cast a light over a maze of streets. Beneath the Ottoman-era rubble of houses a telling reminder this city had become of Iraq's worst troubles. Sectarian bating — aggravated dug-in Sunni insurgents and Islamic extremists from elsewhere — brought the city 290,000 to the brink of civil war. Ironically, U.S. military was dubbed "Black Ty in the fall of 2004 hastened the city's into bedlam: A Sh commando brigade up the city in response and Sunnis saw them as an attack them, U.S. officer

In many ways, the city's turnaround attributed to the strategies of commander Col. H.R. McMaster abruptly diverted Armored Cavalry Regiment to Tall last spring. McMaster was determined to repeat earlier U.S. takes. As Capt. D. Barnard, an expert in the region, told me

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95.6% satisfaction with concern & caring by doctors

97.7% satisfaction with concern & caring by laboratory staff and x ray staff

er+ At Scenic Mountain Medical Center, we are always seeking ways to improve our hospital and it is showing in our patient survey results. Whether it's through new services, enhancing our technology or recruiting outstanding doctors, we are continually seeking to make your visits better. While we're proud of our scores, the real winners are you and your family, because with scores like these, you can count on receiving quality care — close to home.

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ER Patient responses compiled by Pro-Med (On Demand Data Management Research, Inc.). Results are for the Emergency Department only.

Pug saved

FOREST LAKE, Minn. (AP) — A little pug named Buck has been saved, thanks to dog lovers.

After the 2-year-old pug was hit by a car last week and broke three legs, its owners, Colleen and Jim Bighley, were faced with a \$3,000 surgery bill they couldn't afford.

Colleen Bighley shared

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Less

When our Humvee squeezes through labyrinthine streets Tall Afar late last year what immediately came was that the U.S. soldiers were living in heart-wrenching war-torn cities at the local people's contempt though we put ourselves in harm's way for a company of American GIs — to the garrison-like encampments ited elsewhere. The commander in Tall had clearly understood that success in insurgency meant more on protecting our own than on battling the enemy — and he was willing to accept that.



ANN SCOTT
TYSON

If smart military like these have made Tall Afar a textbook counterinsurgency case as President Bush did in his speech in Cleveland last week also underscore his exceptional Tall Afar among U.S. military operations in Iraq when the president Tall Afar as a reason having confidence in military's "clear, build" strategy, an question comes to What would it mean in terms of troops, resources and tim embrace the lesson Tall Afar and apply across Iraq? More however impressive military achievement Tall Afar are, they only part of the equation. The city's future resolving its bitter divide and building a society that will be to rely on Iraqi forces and political decisions that are outside the military's control.

The challenge Tall Afar came to the day after my a sunrise cast a light over a maze of streets. Beneath the Ottoman-era rubble of houses a telling reminder this city had become of Iraq's worst troubles. Sectarian bating — aggravated dug-in Sunni insurgents and Islamic extremists from elsewhere — brought the city 290,000 to the brink of civil war. Ironically, U.S. military was dubbed "Black Ty in the fall of 2004 hastened the city's into bedlam: A Sh commando brigade up the city in response and Sunnis saw them as an attack them, U.S. officer

In many ways, the city's turnaround attributed to the strategies of commander Col. H.R. McMaster abruptly diverted Armored Cavalry Regiment to Tall last spring. McMaster was determined to repeat earlier U.S. takes. As Capt. D. Barnard, an expert in the region, told me

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Lessons to be learned in Tall Afar

When our Humvee squeezed through the labyrinthine streets of Tall Afar late last year, what immediately struck me was that the U.S. soldiers were living in the heart of this war-scarred city among the local people. What a contrast, I thought, as we pulled up outside an ordinary home — the base for a company of American GIs — to the garrison-like encampments I'd visited elsewhere. The U.S. commander in Tall Afar had clearly understood that success in counterinsurgency meant focusing more on protecting civilians than on battling the enemy — and he was willing to accept risks to do that.

If smart military tactics like these have made Tall Afar a textbook counterinsurgency campaign, as President Bush asserted in his speech in Cleveland last week, they also underscore how exceptional Tall Afar is among U.S. military operations in Iraq. So, when the president cites Tall Afar as a reason for having confidence in the military's "clear, hold, build" strategy, another question comes to mind: What would it mean — in terms of troops, resources and time — to embrace the lessons of Tall Afar and apply them across Iraq? Moreover, however impressive the military achievements in Tall Afar are, they are only part of the equation. The city's future rests on resolving its bitter sectarian divide and building a society that will be able to rely on Iraqi forces and political decisions that are outside the U.S. military's control.

The challenge that was Tall Afar came to light the day after my arrival, as sunrise cast a pale light over a maze of streets. Beneath the hulking Ottoman-era castle, the rubble of houses was a telling reminder of how this city had become one of Iraq's worst trouble spots. Sectarian bloodletting — aggravated by a dug-in Sunni insurgency and Islamic extremists from elsewhere — had brought the city of 290,000 to the brink of civil war. Ironically, a U.S. military sweep dubbed "Black Typhoon" in the fall of 2004 had hastened the city's slide into bedlam: A Shiite commando brigade shot up the city in response, and Sunnis saw the operation as an attack on them, U.S. officers said.

In many ways, the city's turnaround can be attributed to the strategies of commanders like Col. H.R. McMaster, who abruptly diverted his 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment to Tall Afar last spring. McMaster was determined not to repeat earlier U.S. mistakes. As Capt. David Barnard, an expert on the region, told me,

McMaster agonized about how to ensure he didn't "destroy the town to save it."

The 3rd ACR, Barnard explained, adopted McMaster's methodical approach. "They didn't have what I call the culture of assault — the need to kick in doors," he explained. Instead, McMaster had required hundreds of his soldiers — one in each platoon — to learn basic Arabic in an attempt to break down barriers with Iraqi civilians. He also enlisted regional experts to piece together what amounted to an anthropological profile of feuding sectarian tribes, right down to the kinship lines of families, allowing him to grasp — and track — who fought whom and why. And one squadron commander, Lt. Col. Christopher Hickey, described how he took the bold move of reaching out to what he called the Sunni "resistance" in an attempt to split them from extremist elements. One day last summer, when Hickey rolled up in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle to the home of a Sunni tribal leader recently released from Abu Ghraib, the man seemed delighted to see him.

All this helped smooth the way for 3ACR to clear Tall Afar of fighters last September, after evacuating most residents. Only three civilians died in that attack, according to both U.S. and Iraqi officials; about 150 fighters were killed and 800 captured.

By December when I arrived, Tall Afar was awash with patrols by thousands of Iraqi and U.S. troops including a fresh battalion of 600 paratroopers that McMaster had requested to help "hold" the city. This was another anomaly in Iraq, where U.S. forces are typically

spread far thinner — too thin, some American commanders say.

Those numbers meant regular house-to-house searches were possible, making it harder for insurgents to operate and easier for Iraqis to point them out. Attacks were down from five to fewer than two a day, to the relief of residents like Nazhat Hato Baker, a mother of seven who thanked a soldier for getting rid of the "people with masks."

The ultimate test of U.S. strategy will be whether Iraqi forces alone can hold Tall Afar. Iraqi army units cruising through the city showed more discipline and confidence than a few months before, according to U.S. soldiers who trained them. But at one juncture Hickey hustled me into the back of his Bradley when gunfire erupted nearby as citizens flocked to vote on election day. (We soon found it came from a group of Iraqi soldiers, who were dancing and waving their rifles in the air, despite exhaustive security rehearsals.) The

Iraqi army also suffered from pay problems, shortages of junior officers and inadequate equipment. "AK-47s and Russian jeeps are not going to keep the peace in Northern Iraq," said on U.S. tank commander. Sectarian fears among the population also remain deep — and this hampers the new 1,700-strong Shiite and Sunni police force. During my

visit, police conducted a heavy-handed dragnet of a Sunni neighborhood where an officer had been shot the day before, rounding up nearly 100 suspects and trucking them to a tiny jail in the castle. U.S. officers were glad to see the police take the initiative, but cringed at their "investigative technique."

The next day, U.S. troops escorted police

back to the area to hand out food and try to repair their image, but distrust among Sunni residents was high. Soon after, Hickey was approached by a Sunni laborer, Fakari Wahab, who asked where his 30 tribesmen were. Hickey told him to bring a list of their names to the castle. "If I go to the castle, I'll be locked up!" Wahab protested.

It is enduring tensions like these, McMaster says, that make the city a "fragile" victory that "must be strengthened every day." And without an effective justice system, financial autonomy and the resources to alleviate unemployment, the city could revert to violence. That's why the city's mayor and a former Iraqi general, Najem Abdullah Abed, says he hopes the U.S. "lions" will stay for at least three years. Anything less, he says, would be "a great gift to terrorists."

Ann Scott Tyson, who covers defense for The Washington Post, spent 10 days in and around Tall Afar in December.



Regular house-to-house searches in Tall Afar, Iraq, made it harder for insurgents to operate. What would it mean, in terms of troops, resources and time, to embrace the lessons of Tall Afar and apply them across Iraq?

Washington Post photo/Ann Scott Tyson

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The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

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Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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IN B...

KBSB golf tournament announced
month of April
Keep Beautiful with a golf tournament April 22 at Spring Court
The tournament start at 9:00 am cost \$60 per person. The tournament person scramble. For more information contact try club at 264-1862.

Benefit scramble set at Com...
A four-man scramble golf tournament help defray expenses for Mendoza in April 2 at Trail Golf Club. Entry fee \$10 per person, which include a meal. The tournament begin with a start at 10 a.m. For more information, contact Mendoza at 264-1862 or Billy Pineda at 7116.

HC rodeo to annual cra...
The Howard rodeo tournament announced. H-E-B crawl will take Saturday, April 29, at the Howard Rodeo Bowl before College Road takes place. The price of a crawfish boat \$15. Ticket purchased for the event of time by Howard head coach Greg, 432-816-9477. The Howard rodeo will April 27-29.

Coahoma host dodge tournament
The Coahoma will be a dodgeball tournament as an playground on April 14. The sign-up for the event place April 14, 5 p.m. in the high gym. There are age groups team must only eight members. The event broken into different categories and through adults, 18 and over who are not through five \$5 per person each team. Each team need five players other group \$10 per person guaranteed. For more information, contact 267-8660 or 264-1862.

B.S. Country sets golf
The Big Spring Country Club up a tournament for men and Sunday. For more information, contact shop at 432-264-1862.

IN BRIEF

KBSB golf touney announced for month of April

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be hosting a golf tournament April 22 at the Big Spring Country Club. The tournament will start at 9 a.m. and cost \$60 per person. The touney is a four-person scramble.

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

Benefit scramble set at Comanche

A four-man scramble golf tournament to help defray medical expenses for Willie Mendoza is set for April 2 at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

Entry fee is \$20 per person, which will include a meal.

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Charlie Mendoza at 267-7757 or Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

HC rodeo team sets annual crawfish boil

The Howard College rodeo team has announced its annual H-E-B crawfish boil will take place Saturday, April 29, at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl at 2 p.m. before Howard College Rodeo action takes place.

The price for a crawfish boil ticket is \$15. Tickets can be purchased the day of the event or ahead of time by calling Howard head rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 432-816-9477.

The Howard College rodeo will take place April 27-29.

Coahoma PTA to host dodgeball tournament in April

The Coahoma P.T.A. will be hosting a dodgeball tournament as an elementary playground fund-raiser April 14-15.

The sign-up date for the event will take place April 14 at 6 p.m. in the junior high gym.

There are several age groups, but each team must consist of only eight to 10 players. The groups are broken into five different categories: second and third, fourth and fifth, sixth through eighth, ninth through 12th and adults, 18 and older who are not in school.

The cost for second through fifth grade is \$5 per person and each team is guaranteed five games. The other groups will pay \$10 per person and be guaranteed 10 games.

For more information, contact Laura at 267-8660 or Neasa at 264-1662.

B.S. Country Club sets golf scramble

The Big Spring Country Club has set up a three-person scramble golf tournament for Saturday and Sunday.

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

Lady Steers remain undefeated in District 4-4A

• Pitching dominates, bats remain quiet in victory over Plainview

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

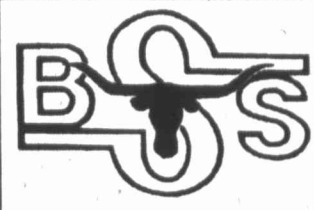
PLAINVIEW

Pitching has been the theme early on in the District 4-4A season for the Big Spring softball team and things didn't change Tuesday night in

Plainview as the Lady Steers got the shutout, but were nearly shut out at the plate.

Big Spring scored one run in three different innings and improved its district mark to 4-0. The Lady Steers took down Plainview, 3-0.

Freshman Shelbi Stewart and senior Mandy Walker combined to give up just two hits on



the mound, but the Lady Steers managed just four hits themselves at the plate.

"Mandy's been real good and Shelbi compliments

her well," said Big Spring head coach Jennifer Reyes. "They push one another to be better each time out and I think we have the best pitchers in the district.

"The hitting is just mental in my opinion. We are not adjusting to the different types of pitching right now."

Stewart started and got the win on the mound and

Walker recorded the save. Stewart allowed two hits and struck out five while walking three in five innings. Walker pitched the final two innings and did not surrender a hit and struck out two.

Senior Krista Chesworth was the lone bright spot at the plate, according to Reyes. She

See **BSHS**, Page 2B

Bulldogettes' hitting remains cold, squad goes down on road

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

MIDLAND

The Coahoma softball team's struggles at the plate continued Tuesday night on the road as the Bulldogettes lost to Midland Christian at Bill Williams Field, 7-1. The game lasted only five innings as it was called off due to rain.

"We pressed too much at the plate and are kind of in a mini slump right now," said Coahoma head coach Robby Dickenson.

And this time, Coahoma (15-5-2) could not rely on solid pitching to bail out its inept offense.

Senior Kali Roberts had her worst outing of the year and got into unfamiliar territory on the mound as she gave up six runs — only two earned runs — on nine hits. She struck out six, but was awarded the loss. Senior Sarah Dunn got the final two outs but not before giving up one run on two



hits. "(Christian) just hit the tar out of the ball and took away our rallies with some nice defensive plays," said Dickenson. "A lot of their hits were hard, too. No one has hit the ball that hard off Kali all year long. It just wasn't our night all the way around."

The Bulldogettes got just six hits at the plate. Roberts had two hits and sophomore Janice Gonzales had the only run. Coahoma scored the run in the fifth, but gave up six of Christian's seven runs in the fourth and fifth innings.

The Bulldogettes return to district play Friday at home against rival Hawley at 7 p.m.

Coahoma wins wild one against Trinity

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

COAHOMA

One of the weirdest high school baseball games in Coahoma head coach Brad Harman's coaching career ended in victory for the Bulldogs Tuesday at home.

Coahoma rallied from several runs down more than once and ended the night with a 21-17 win over Midland Trinity.

"It was the weirdest game I have ever been apart of," said Harman. "But the guys responded well to being down."

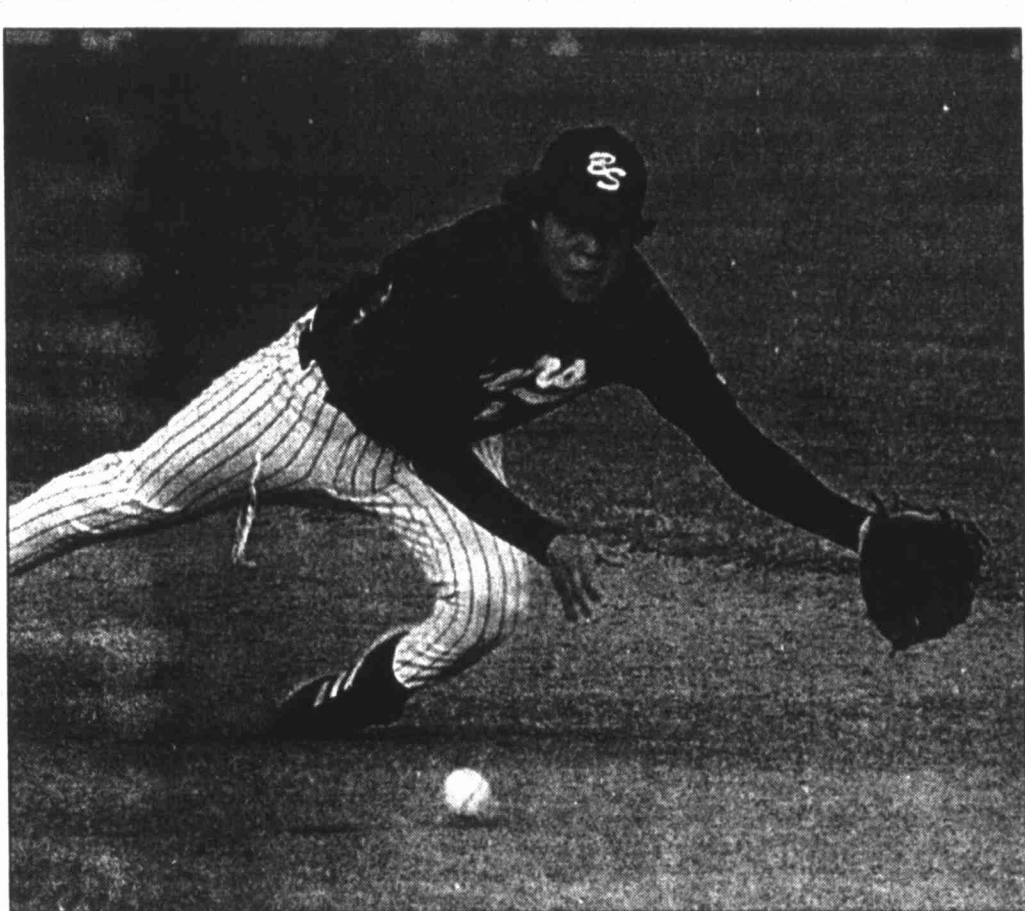
The Bulldogs got down 9-0 before they even came

to the plate, but after three big innings, led 14-13 after three frames before ending the game with seven runs in the fifth inning.

Trinity scored nine runs in the first inning and then got one and three, respectively, in the next two frames before scoring two in each of the fifth and sixth innings. Coahoma got four in the first and five each in the second and third innings.

"The guys show great character every time they play this game," said Harman. "They were able to chip away at the lead

See **BULLDOGS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring's Abel Morellon dives for a ground ball against Andrews Tuesday in Big Spring during the Steers' 4-1 loss to their arch rivals.

Andrews one hits Steers

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

After scoring first

Tuesday at home, the Big Spring baseball team dropped their first District 4-4A game of the season to arch rival Andrews, 4-1.

The Steers scored their only run in the first inning, but never saw the plate again. Big Spring struck out four times (one batter reached on a passed ball) in the inning and scored one run.

The Mustangs got two runs in the second and two more in the fourth and claimed the road victory.

Big Spring got several runners on base, but only collected one hit in the game — an infield single by freshman Nathan Doporto in the seventh inning. The Steers did, however, get enough runners

See **STEERS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Big Spring senior Andy Lasater delivers a pitch to the plate during the first inning Tuesday. Lasater threw all seven innings against Andrews and struck out 11, but the Mustangs won the game, 4-1.

Paris, Young named to women's AP all-American basketball team

By CHUCK SCHOFFNER
For The Associated Press

In her first college game, Courtney Paris broke loose for 24 points and 10 rebounds — in only 20 minutes.

As it turned out, she was just getting warmed up.

Four months and 33 double-doubles later, the Oklahoma center has become the first freshman selected for The Associated Press All-America team in women's basketball.

LSU senior Seimone Augustus was the lone unanimous choice on

the team released Tuesday, and the only first-team repeater from last year.

Also chosen were North Carolina junior Ivory Latta, Rutgers senior Cappie Pondexter and Baylor senior Sophia Young.

Augustus was a first-team pick on all 46 ballots from the national media panel that votes in the weekly Top 25, receiving the maximum 230 points.

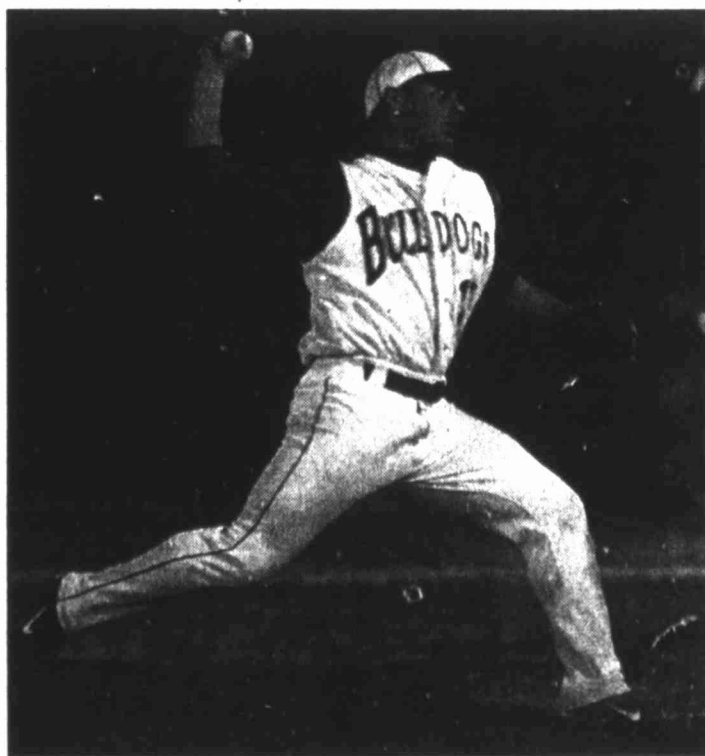
Latta had 39 first-team votes and 210 points, while Pondexter had 36 and 207, Paris 30 and 184 and Young 25 and 183.

Since the AP began selecting women's All-America teams in the 1994-95 season, four freshmen had made the second and third teams, including Augustus, a third-team pick in 2003.

A season filled with eye-popping numbers enabled the 6-foot-4 Paris — daughter of former NFL lineman Bubba Paris — to break into the first five.

"It's pretty weird to think that last year you're in high school, and now you get to college a few months later

See **WOMEN**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler
Coahoma freshman pitcher Donnie Garcia sends a pitch to the plate against Midland Trinity Tuesday in Coahoma. Garcia relieved Kacee Coberly and got the win on the mound for the Bulldogs as they won the game, 21-17.

STEERS

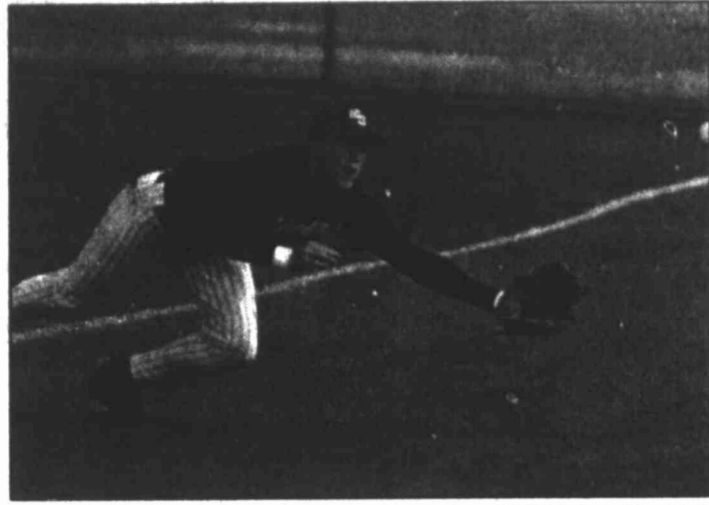
Continued from Page 1B

on to strand eight men on the bases, but also struck out nine times.

Senior Andy Lasater, who pitched the complete game on the mound for Big Spring, got on base three times and did not get a hit.

Lasater walked twice, was hit by a pitch and scored the team's only run while also recording three steals.

Senior Kyle Piercefield, junior Ryan Tannehill and Whit Bryant all walked once in the game, while Abel Morelion was hit by a pitch.



Big Spring senior Kaian Whitehead dives for a foul ball during the Steers' loss to Andrews Tuesday.

Also reaching base was Charles Downing as he and Doporto both reached on errors.

Lasater took the loss,

but got several outs by way of the strikeout. He gave up four runs on eight hits and walked four, but struck out 11.

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

went one-for-three, had one RBI and scored two of the team's three runs. Junior Amber Sides singled and scored a run. Stewart and Magen Watton also had a hit.

"We had to stay tough mentally in this game because it was close

throughout," said Reyes. "They responded well, but just didn't hit as well as I would have liked."

The game was only 1-0 after five innings and Big Spring scored the run in the first inning.

The Lady Steers managed to score one each in the sixth and the seventh to get some breathing room and then Walker held off Plainview and

took away any hope of a Lady Bulldog comeback.

Big Spring improved to 17-7 overall. The team will finish up the first run through of district with a game on the road against Lubbock Estacado Friday beginning at 6 p.m.

The Lady Steers played the Lady Matadors earlier this year in the Midland Tournament and won 21-0.



Coahoma senior Cody Griffith makes contact with a pitch Tuesday during the Bulldogs' wild win against Midland Trinity.

BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 1B

and realized it was just a bad inning. The game was far from over and the guys played like that."

Junior Blaine Kerby and freshman P.J. Daylong each had three hits to lead Coahoma at the plate. Kerby added five RBIs and three runs, while Daylong knocked in four and scored twice.

Freshman Donnie Garcia went two-for-four with two RBIs and four runs and junior Dakota Teaff added two hits, three RBIs, three runs and two stolen bases.

Senior Kacee Coberly started on the mound but did not get out of the first inning.

Coberly gave up nine runs — four earned — on seven hits.

Garcia finished the final 6.1 innings and got the win after allowing seven earned runs on 11 hits. He also struck out

six and walked one.

Junior Collin McMillan made an unbelievable diving catch at second base to end the game for Coahoma. According to Harman, it should have been a hit, but McMillan got to it and made the play to end the game.

The Bulldogs return to district action Friday at home against rival Hawley at 7 p.m. Coahoma improved to 11-6 with the win Tuesday.

WOMEN

Continued from Page 1B

and you get to be with Ivory and all these other guys," Paris said. "It's humbling to be considered in the same group."

Tennessee's freshman sensation, Candace Parker, was voted to the second team, along with Duke's Monique Currie, Ohio State's Jessica Davenport, Stanford's Candice Wiggins and Maryland's Crystal Langhorne.

The third team included LSU's Sylvia Fowles, Georgia's Tasha Humphrey, DePaul's Khara Smith, Utah's Kim Smith and Temple's Candice Dupree.

Paris showed up at Oklahoma with her twin sister, Ashley, and their impact was stunning. After finishing 17-13 last season and barely making

the Sooners became the first team to go 16-0 in the Big 12 and were 31-5 overall.

"Without a doubt, she's changed the complexion of everything," Oklahoma coach Sherri Coale said.

During the regular season, Paris averaged 21.4 points, led the nation in rebounding (15.1) and made 61 percent of her shots. She reached double figures in points and rebounds in all but three games and became the first NCAA women's player with 700 points, 500 rebounds and 100 blocks in a season.

Paris also broke a 21-year-old NCAA record with her 539 rebounds.

"Courtney's consistency has been uncanny," Coale said. "There's no other way to describe it. We've come to learn that one way or another, she's going to get it done."

Augustus has played so well and so consistently

everyone's All-American. She was a unanimous selection last season, when she was the national player of the year, and was unanimous on the preseason team last November.

Her 23-point regular-season average led the nation and she shot 57.8 percent, including 51.5 percent from 3-point range.

"I feel good about it," Augustus said. "I think I've worked hard enough to be deserving of this. It's just a joy being able to go into other states and have people know who you are and appreciate what you're doing for the women's game."

Latta, North Carolina's effervescent 5-6 point guard, averaged 18.4 points and five assists in leading the Tar Heels to the ACC regular-season and tournament championships and their first

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Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, (AP) — The Detroit Pistons enjoyed by Dallas so much that they want a chance to win again.

"I told Avery (John) like to see him more times, starting about three months ago," Pistons coach Saunders said.

If the Pistons (56-1) Mavericks (54-17) do in June's NBA Finals, Detroit's 97-90 victory Tuesday might play a role in determining who gets the home-court advantage.

"Obviously, this is very disappointing," Johnson said. "We didn't give ourselves a chance to win, we didn't execute down the stretch."

With the win, Pistons split the series with the Mavericks, and moved 1/2 game ahead of the league's record.

"This is a very big but we won't know how big for a while."

Carolina

NEW YORK (AP) Renaldo Balkman scored 23 points and Carolina earned a chance to defend its NIT championship with a 78-67 win over Louisville in the semifinals Tuesday.

The Gamecocks beat St. Joseph's in the final last year to become the second team to win consecutive crowns with a win in Michigan on Thursday.

Tarence Kinsey scored 21 points and Wallace scored 19 for the Gamecocks (22-15).

Trailing 42-32 at halftime, Louisville got within 48-41 in the second half as man Terrence Wallace scored seven points, but Carolina answered.

Parker

Spurs guard Tony Parker scored 18 points and a right shin Sunday against SuperSonics.

LOS ANGELES (AP) Tony Parker, the Antonio Spurs' leading scorer, missed his game of the Tuesday night because of a bruised right shin. Parker was injured during a 106-102 loss to Seattle Sunday.

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Pistons even series with Mavs

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — The Detroit Pistons enjoyed beating Dallas so much that they want a chance to do it again.

"I told Avery (Johnson) after the game that I'd like to see him seven more times, starting in about three months," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said.

If the Pistons (56-14) and Mavericks (54-17) do meet in June's NBA Finals, Detroit's 97-90 victory Tuesday might play a crucial role in determining who gets the home-court advantage.

"Obviously, this is a very disappointing loss," Johnson said. "We definitely gave ourselves a chance to win, we just didn't execute down the stretch."

With the win, the Pistons split the season series with the Mavericks, and moved 2 1/2 games ahead of them for the league's best record.

"This is a very big win, but we won't know just how big for a while," said

Chauncey Billups, who scored eight of his 31 points in the final three minutes. "It might be huge, or it might just end up as another victory."

The win avenged Detroit's worst loss of the season, a 119-82 rout in Dallas on Nov. 19. The Pistons trailed 40-16 after one quarter of that game, and Billups wanted to make sure there wasn't a repeat.

"Dallas and Phoenix are the two teams that really make an effort to jump on you early, so I knew I had to be aggressive tonight," he said. "I think the team plays better when I'm aggressive."

Rasheed Wallace added 21 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit, while Richard Hamilton scored 14 points.

"It's a lot of fun to play games like this," Wallace said. "Especially when you are going up against one of the NBA's best teams, like we were tonight."

Dirk Nowitzki and former Piston Jerry Stackhouse each had 25

for Dallas.

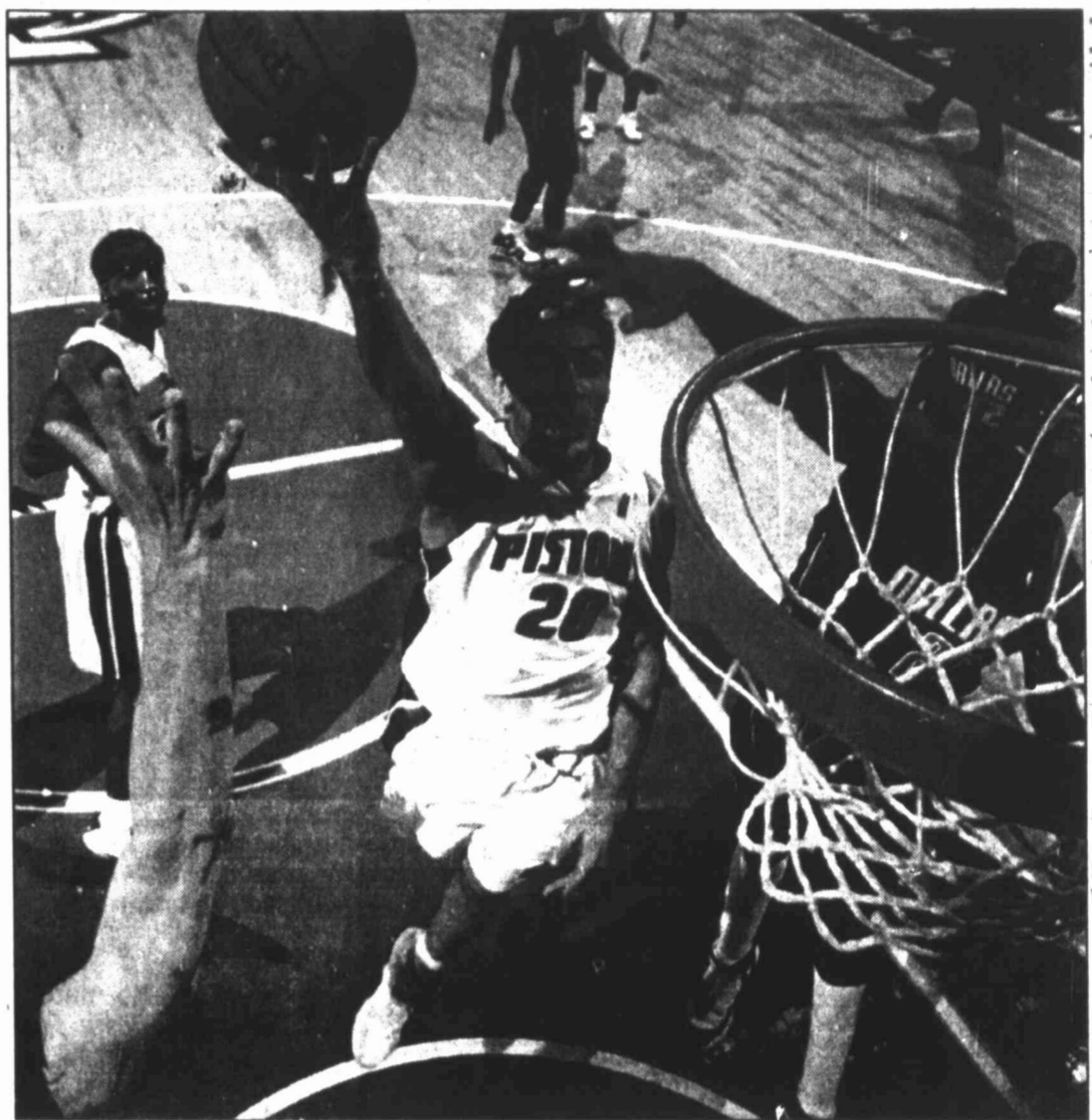
"That's as good as it gets in this league," Stackhouse said. "But we're going to look at this film, and we're all going to be (mad), because we had the game. We didn't play smart, and that cost us the game."

Stackhouse, who still holds the Pistons' single-game scoring record, had nine points in the third quarter, but the Mavericks needed Keith Van Horn's late 3-pointer to stay within 72-69 at quarter's end.

"Stack did his thing tonight," said Wallace, a close friend of Stackhouse's since their days at North Carolina. "I just wish he would have done it against someone else."

The teams traded the advantage for most of the fourth, and the game was tied with 3 minutes to play.

That's when Billups hit a free throw after a defensive three-second violation, then added a 3-point



KRT photo/Julian H. Gonzalez, Detroit Free Press
Detroit Pistons' Carlos Delfino (20) drives by Dallas Mavericks' Erik Dampier, right, for a basket in the second half during the Pistons 97-90 win over the Mavericks at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Mich., Tuesday.

See MAVS, Page 4B

Carolina, Michigan reach NIT final

NEW YORK (AP) — Renaldo Balkman scored 23 points and South Carolina earned a chance to defend its NIT championship with a 78-63 win over Louisville in the semifinals Tuesday night.

The Gamecocks, who beat St. Joseph's in the final last year, can become the second team to win consecutive NIT crowns with a win over Michigan on Thursday night.

Tarence Kinsey added 21 points and Brandon Wallace 19 for the Gamecocks (22-15).

Trailing 42-32 at half-time, Louisville (21-13) got within 48-41 early in the second half as freshman Terrence Williams scored seven straight points, but South Carolina answered with a

10-1 run to take a 58-42 lead with 11:35 to play. Balkman and Wallace had acrobatic dunks during the spurt.

Louisville scored the next eight points to close the gap to 58-50, but Balkman scored six straight to put it away.

South Carolina shot a blistering 60 percent from the field with most of its baskets coming on layups and dunks.

Taquan Dean scored 21 points for Louisville and finished 12th on the school's all-time scoring list with 1,649 points. Williams added 16 for the Cardinals, who fell to 0-3 at Madison Square Garden this season.

Michigan 66, Old Dominion 43
NEW YORK (AP) —

Courtney Sims scored 18 points to help Michigan reach the NIT championship game for the second time in three years.

Michigan (22-10) ended the run of one of the two Colonial Athletic Association teams that were still playing in the postseason.

George Mason is in the Final Four of the NCAA tournament and will face Florida Saturday.

Trailing 21-14 with 12:14 left in the first half, Michigan held the Monarchs without a field goal for the rest of the half.

The Wolverines outscored the Monarchs 19-3 over that stretch, highlighted by Sims' two-handed dunk that made it 31-24. Sims scored eight points during the run.

Parker misses first game

• Spurs guard injured right shin Sunday against Superonics

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tony Parker, the San Antonio Spurs' leading scorer, missed his first game of the season Tuesday night because of a bruised right shin.

Parker was injured during a 106-102 loss at Seattle Sunday night

when he was accidentally kicked, and was inactive for the game against the Los Angeles Clippers.

"It's really sore," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said before the game. "He can't push off or put any weight on it."

Popovich said Parker thought he was going to be able to play until attending the team's

See PARKER, Page 4B



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Detroit Pistons' Chauncey Billups, center right, dishes off to Rasheed Wallace, left, after running into traffic as Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki and teammates defend in the second half during the Pistons 97-90 win over the Mavericks at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Mich., Tuesday.

Bowen gets fined for kick

LOS ANGELES (AP) — San Antonio Spurs forward Bruce Bowen was fined \$10,000 by the NBA for kicking Seattle's Ray Allen in the back during a 106-102 loss to the SuperSonics Sunday night.

The fine was announced Tuesday by Stu Jackson, the NBA's senior vice president of basketball operations.

"It is what it is. I was wrong for what I did," Bowen said before the Spurs played the Los Angeles Clippers on

Tuesday night. "The league has a decision on that. I have to deal with the consequences of my actions, and I do. I accept the consequences that come."

Bowen kicked Allen in the back while the two were laying on the floor. Bowen was called for a technical, while Allen had to be restrained by Seattle's Robert Swift and San Antonio's Nazr Mohammed.

"It's just dirty basketball. It's plain, outright, dirty basketball," Allen

said following the game. "You guys have chronicled our battles over the last couple of years and I don't mind the competition, someone going at me on both ends of the floor."

... But when guys start throwing elbows and kick you when you're down, that's dirty basketball and I don't respect guys like that."

Afterward, Bowen was apologetic, admitting it was a mistake.

"I did what I did and I'm sorry for that," he said.

PARKER

Continued from Page 3B

shootaround earlier in the day, realizing at that

point that he wouldn't be ready.

Popovich said Parker could miss two or three games, but might be back as soon as Thursday night, when the Spurs

play the Los Angeles Lakers.

Parker is averaging 19.1 points and 5.9 assists.

Despite missing Parker, the Spurs still defeated the Clippers Tuesday.

MAVS

Continued from Page 3B

er to give the Pistons a 92-88 lead.

Nowitzki hit a jumper at the other end, but

Tayshaun Prince blocked his attempt at a tying shot moments later and Billups iced the game with a 3-pointer.

"We battled, we fought — this was a playoff atmosphere," Johnson said. "We wish we would

have been able to match their intensity down the stretch, but we didn't."

The Pistons trailed for most of the first half, but Billups scored seven points in the final 2 minutes to put them ahead 52-50 at the break.

Indiana lures away OU's Sampson

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS

Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson and Indiana were finalizing contract details Tuesday that would make him the Hoosiers' next basketball coach, a person close to the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The deal was expected to be announced shortly, according to the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because talks were not complete.

The Sampson-to-Indiana story was first reported by ESPN earlier in the day.

Oklahoma officials declined to comment. Telephone messages left for Indiana athletic director Rick Greenspan and spokesman Pete Rhoda were not immediately returned.

Indiana alumni association president Ken Beckley said he was told Sampson had planned to meet soon with Sooners athletic director Joe Castiglione and his play-

ers.

Sampson would replace Mike Davis, who announced Feb. 16 he was resigning at the end of the season after six years. Davis replaced Bob Knight at one of the nation's most storied programs.

The Hoosiers went 19-12 this season and lost to Gonzaga in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Sampson's name surfaced late last week after the Sooners lost in the first round of the tourney.

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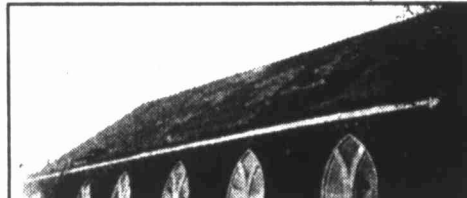
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Howard baseball DH @ El Paso CC, 1 p.m.

Big Spring softball/baseball @ Estacado, 4:30 p.m./ 7 p.m.

Coahoma softball/baseball vs. Hawley, 7 p.m.

Howard rodeo @ Snyder (Western Texas), 7 p.m.

Big Spring tennis @ Abilene Tournament, TBA

Coahoma tennis @ Garden City, TBA

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BIG SALE: 5326 Wasson Road. Saturday 8-12. End tables, computer desk, metal bunk bed w/chair & desk, student desk, basketball goal, trampoline parts, lamps, stuffed animals, WIN98 comp games, Game Boy, complete N64 setup, boys clothes 12-16, lots of toys and games, small appliances, bedding, beanie babies.

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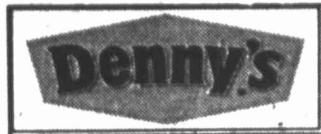
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Real Estate for Sale

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3/1, 2 car garage, stucco home. 1401 Princeton. Owner will finance, bad credit okay! Rachelle, (432)213-2145.

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

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PRICE: \$29,900 Newly remodeled Duplex: 706 13th St. Each side: 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, central air/heat, washer/dryer connections, new paint/carpet, gas stoves. Fenced backyard. Great investment property. Call (432)935-6163.

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Bob Brock Ford
500 W. 4th 267-7424

1994 PONTIAC Sunbird SE V6, 148,000 miles, red, sporty, standard. \$2300.00. Call (432)263-1964.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Today features a total eclipse of the sun in Aries. When our cosmic "father" is obscured, uprisings can be expected.

The new moon in Aries is a wild one, too! The rebel spirit is stirred. We're late teenagers skipping school at home while the parents are at work. Figuratively speaking, try to let off steam without burning down the house.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Recent inquiries, pitches and presentations do not get the response you want. You will think this proves you were wrong, but wait and see. Wrong sometimes takes a very long time to be proven.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your primary job is to take care of yourself. Sometimes this is best done by involving yourself in the welfare of others, but not today. Do something nice for you and only you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There will be noise and excitement to contend with. You finish your work in spite of it or maybe because you can't wait to get involved. As usual, you thrive when you're at the center of the buzz.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're about to make a giant leap into a new phase of life. It's a good one — hard won and well worth all your sincere effort. Don't force it. Let it roll over you in a big, warm wave.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Put your sensors out in the cosmic energy field. The ideas that come will seem outrageous but, if applied, will definitely improve your life. Tonight brings the perfect environment for sorting out a relationship issue.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Listen to some favorite music or make your own. Your creative juices flow freely. Laughter comes easily and feels natural. The stars show money activity in the coming weeks. Prosperity is richly deserved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll miss subtle innuendos around you — secret opinions, relationships, etc. Later, you'll think, "How'd I miss that?" You're no worse off in your oblivion. It's called being focused, and that's what it takes to win!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's the perfect day for immersing yourself in your passion. Out of this involvement come new relationships with people who become increasingly interesting the more you get to know them!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The happiest people are those who enjoy what they already have. Gratitude is a powerful statement. Use

tonight to recharge batteries and reconnect with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may be feeling rather paranoid about something you said in confidence. What are the consequences if this secret gets out? Think it through, then let it go. Dwelling on the possibility gives it power.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The one who listens attentively to your musings is a gem — a diamond among lumps of coal. Do not take this person for granted. In fact, consider keeping this person forever.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In Hollywood, there's a saying that "You're only as good as your last picture." This seems to apply to life today, as you feel like you're being assessed at every juncture.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am a Cancer who just fell in love with another Cancer. Can we have a good relationship?"

Yes! The key to loving a Cancer is tapping into the very nature of true love — that it is unconditional. Cancer people like to test their relationships and sometimes go to great lengths to make sure that the other person still loves them. This could include punishing the other person for the slightest infraction of trust. By punishing their loved one, they are asking, "Will you still love me if I'm not nice to you?"

"Will you still love me if I'm surly and sour?" This can get tedious, but anyone who is in love with a Cancer should remember that, once the test is passed, the reward is a tidal wave of loyal affection. Since you are a Cancer, too, I caution you to choose your battles. You both can't be mad at the same time, or this is going to be very complicated. Always try and be the bigger person — easy-going, quick to forgive. Otherwise, this love affair will be more trouble than pleasure. A Cancer couple has luck getting married in the beginning of July.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Elle Macpherson is one supermodel who enjoys being known as a pretty face but works extremely hard to accomplish more than that. An accomplished actress, lingerie designer and mother, Macpherson is a classic Aries — unafraid of following her many big dreams. I see her pursuing another long-term goal within the upcoming year — hosting her own TV show.

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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HOLIDAY MATHIS

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: My letter is actually a complaint. Recently, my husband needed to see a local surgeon. Since the health insurance policy is in my name, the office worker stated she needed my Social Security number as well as my insurance card.

I was very reluctant to give out this number, but the office worker told me our claim would be rejected by the insurance company unless the Social Security number was on the claim. Not wanting the claim to be held up, I gave her the number.

Today I called my insurance company, and they unequivocally stated they did NOT need my Social Security number in order to process a claim. The customer service representative went on to explain that, as a means of thwarting identity theft, the company changed all the subscriber numbers so that the Social Security numbers would not be on the cards.

I am so annoyed that I submitted to pressure and gave out this number to the doctor's office. I hate being lied to. I'm sure the office staff knew my Social Security number wasn't required, so they invented a scenario to force me to divulge this information.

There must be many instances where people are duped into giving out this number. Please warn your readers. — C.T. in N.Y.

Dear C.T.: We will warn them, but we are going to let the office worker off the hook. She may not

he wants the audience to believe he is too important and harried to finish dressing. We haven't noticed it to the degree you have, but we're certain the readers will now.

Dear Annie: I wanted to tell you my story about Valentines for Vets. Several years ago, I sent a valentine from my home in Pennsylvania, and it ended up at a veteran's hospital in Texas, on the tray of a man whose wife was visiting that day. She read my card and decided to write me back.

That was 15 years ago, and we have written, e-mailed and talked on the phone many times since. We have traveled down life's journeys together — new babies, great-grandchildren (for her), great-niece and great-nephew (for me), the death of her husband, my father and others, our move to our first new home and hers to a senior high-rise and then a nursing facility. We spoke last evening when I told her my brother-in-law passed away. She had been praying for him.

I thought your readers might be interested in what can happen. — R.N. in Pennsylvania

Dear R.N.: We love stories about how people connect with each other through kindness. Thanks so much for taking the time to write.

Dear Annie: My husband had an affair. After she dumped him, he got scabies. He said he couldn't have gotten them from her because it's been months since he had sex with her (or so he claims). "Roy" is blaming our dog for giving him scabies. It's my understanding that dogs cannot give humans scabies. Who is right? — Asking in New York

Dear New York: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pets cannot give scabies to humans, although a pet's mites can get under your skin, causing itching and irritation. Symptoms of scabies can

take four to six weeks to appear, so if your husband's affair ended within that period, he may be telling you the truth about his fidelity. Either way, we recommend both of you seek medical treatment.

Dear Annie: That letter from "No Sex for Me" made me do a double take. For a minute I thought I had written it. All these years, I assumed I was the only woman in the world married to a guy who wasn't interested in sex. My husband is the kindest, gentlest person I know. I am fortunate to have been able to be a stay-at-home mom for our three kids. He's a great dad and my best friend. But when it comes to sex, I've heard every excuse imaginable. After many years of being told, "Not tonight, honey," I decided to wait until he was in the mood. It's been three years. He seems as happy and content as can be.

All I ever hear is men whining about why their wives never meet THEIR needs. Now I know there is a flip side. Menopause hasn't dampened MY desire any. I just don't have anyone to share my energy. — None for Me, Either

Dear None for You: Please ask your husband to see his doctor to make sure there is no physical reason (such as low testosterone) for his lack of interest. If nothing can be done, we hope you can find sexual release on your own. Sorry.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

su | do | ku

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ANSWERS

9	4	6	1	3	7	8	5	2
1	5	7	6	2	8	3	9	4
3	8	2	9	4	5	1	6	7
5	2	4	7	9	1	6	8	3
7	6	3	5	8	2	4	1	9
8	1	9	3	6	4	2	7	5
2	9	8	4	7	6	5	3	1
4	7	5	8	1	3	9	2	6
6	3	1	2	5	9	7	4	8

WEDNESDAY

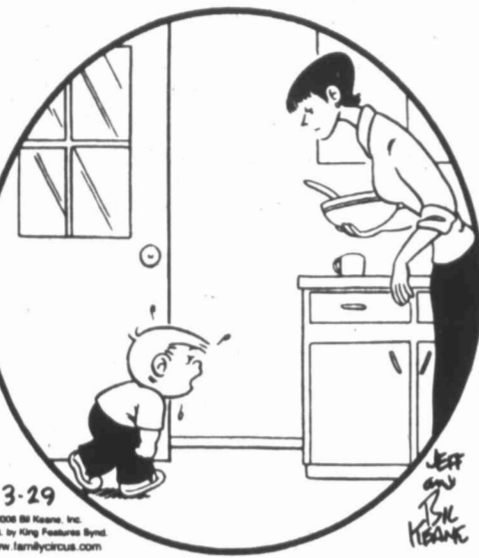
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6:30	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Spanish	My Wife-Kids	News	La Tomerita	News	Raymond	Booker	News-Lahr	Discovery	Classics	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	Phil of Future	Tennis: NASDAQ-100	NBA	Dark Kingdom: The Dragon King (CC)
7:30	George Lopez	George Lopez	Barrera de Amor	Bones (CC)	Out of Practice	Pasiones	Deal or No Deal (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel	Study of 1	Everything You Need to Know	Movie: Cahill	CSI: Crime	Movie: Pretty Woman (CC)	The Parkers	Movie: Cow Belles	Open-Quarterfinals	Basketball: Detroit Pistons	Ghost Hunters (CC)
8:30	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Alborada	American Idol	Criminal Minds	Futbol	Law & Order	Raymond	Light of the Southwest	The New Medicine	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: Young Guns II	Movie: Young Guns II	Movie: Young Guns II	Griffen's Griffen's	Griffen's	Knight School	at Philadelphia 76ers (CC)	Psychic-Large
9:30	The Evidence (CC)	The Evidence (CC)	Don Francisco	My Wife-Kids	CSI: NY (CC)	Medio vs. Paraguay	Heat (CC)	Sex and-City	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	15 Movie: Backlash	Movie: Pretty Woman (CC)	Movie: Pretty Woman (CC)	Comicview	Life Derek	NBA Basketball	High School Basketball	Psychic-Large
10:30	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto	70s Show	News	Noticias	News	10 Movie: The Bodyguard (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Sign Off	Everything You Need to Know	Hustle (CC)	CSI: Crime	Movie: Six Days, Seven	In Living Color	Zack & Cody	Utah Jazz at Denver	All-American Game	Psychic-Large
11:30	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora de la Risa	Becker (CC)	Lettman	Late Show-	Late Night-	Conan O'Brien	N. McBride	Everything You Need to Know	Hustle (CC)	CSI: Crime	Real TV (CC)	Movie: Six Days, Seven	Jamie Foxx	Phil of Future	Nuggets	High School Basketball	Psychic-Large
12:30	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Amigas y Rivales (SS)	Becker (CC)	Show	The Insider	King of the Hill	Update/Israel	Booker	MythBusters (CC)	Myrtle: Super Troopers	Real TV (CC)	Movie: Six Days, Seven	BET After Dark	Lizzie McGuire	With Smith: Timeless	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone	

DENNIS THE MENACE



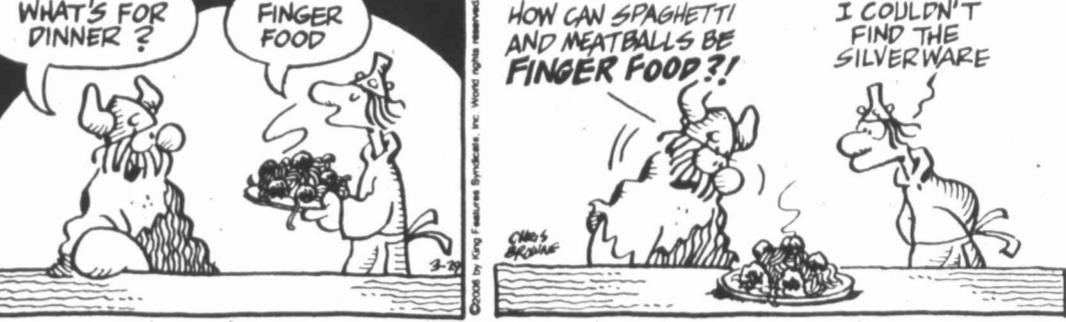
"THIS RAIN SHOULD KEEP DENNIS AND HIS PALS AWAY FOR A WHILE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Food! Food! Fill 'er up, Mommy! I'm running on empty."

HAGAR



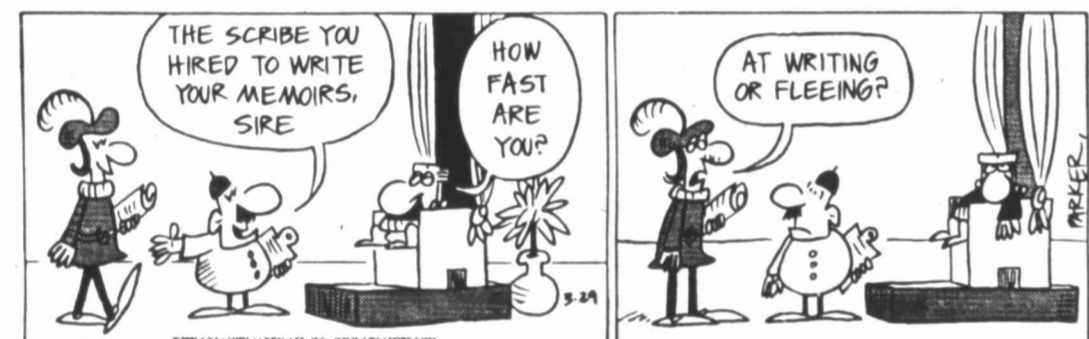
BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, March 29, the 88th day of 2006. There are 277 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 29, 1973, the last United States combat troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War.

On this date: In 1638, Swedish colonists settled in present-day Delaware.

In 1847, victorious forces led by Gen. Winfield Scott occupied the city of Vera Cruz after Mexican defenders capitulated.

In 1867, the British Parliament passed the North America Act to create the Dominion of Canada.

In 1882, the Knights of Columbus was chartered in Connecticut.

In 1943, World War II meat, butter and cheese rationing began.

In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of

conspiracy to commit espionage. (They were executed in June 1953.)

In 1971, Army Lt. William L. Calley Jr. was convicted of murdering at least 22 Vietnamese civilians in the My Lai massacre. (Calley ended up spending three years under house arrest.)

In 1974, eight Ohio National Guardsmen were indicted on charges stemming from the shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University. (The guardsmen were later acquitted.)

Five years ago: James Kopp, the fugitive wanted in the 1998 slaying of Dr. Barnett Slepian, a Buffalo, N.Y., abortion provider, was captured in France. (Kopp was convicted in 2003 of killing Slepian and is serving a sentence of 25 years to life.)

One year ago: As Terri Schiavo entered her 12th full day without food or water, the Rev. Jesse Jackson prayed with her parents and joined conservatives in calling for Florida lawmakers to order her feeding tube reinserted.

Today's Birthdays: Political commentator John McLaughlin is 79. Author

Judith Guest is 70. Former British Prime Minister John Major is 63. Composer Vangelis is 63. Singer Bobby Kimball (Toto) is 59. Olympic gymnast Kurt Thomas is 50. Actor Christopher Lambert is 49. Rock singer Perry Farrell (Porno for Pyros; Jane's Addiction) is 47. Model Elle Macpherson is 43. Rock singer-musician John Popper (Blues Traveler) is 39. Actress Lucy Lawless is 38. Country singer Brady Seals is 37. Tennis player Jennifer Capriati is 30.

Thought for Today: "The fate of love is that it always seems too little or too much." — Amelia Edith Barr, American author and journalist (1831-1919).

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Answer to previous puzzle

A	M	E	B	A
C	A	M	E	L
T	R	I	L	L
S	C	R	A	T
O	U	T	S	O
B	A	B	B	L
L	L	O	Y	D
T	A	R	A	B
S	N	O	W	B
H	A	Z	E	
R	O	B	I	N
E	X	E	S	
B	I	L	K	
I	D	L	E	
D	E	E	R	

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Move stealthily
- 6 Invigorates, with "up"
- 10 Common rhyme scheme
- 14 Grand National Park
- 15 Earth Day subj.
- 16 Detective's job
- 17 Battleship blast
- 18 Twistable cookie
- 19 HS math course
- 20 Light hair color
- 23 Take a stab at a map
- 25 Wee-hours flight
- 29 Argentina neighbor
- 32 Clickable picture
- 33 Pension-legislation acronym
- 34 Smidgen
- 37 Executive perk
- 41 Industrious bug
- 42 Pass off
- 43 Black, to bards
- 44 Get rid of
- 45 Like saunas
- 47 Be of use
- 50 Frankster's ammo
- 51 Seniors' workout program
- 58 "Merry old" king
- 59 School on the Thames

DOWN

- 1 Holy ones: Abbr.
- 2 Clear a hurdle
- 3 "___ never fly!"
- 4 Bright star
- 5 Like some pines
- 6 Indiana's state flower
- 7 Hosiery shade
- 8 Limerick, e.g.
- 9 Mess maker
- 10 Play opener
- 11 Farm structures
- 12 In reserve
- 13 Sire, Biblically
- 21 Ill temper
- 22 Purple shade
- 25 Latvia's capital
- 26 Business-school subj.
- 27 Knucklehead
- 28 Wrap up
- 29 Computer mishap
- 30 Trumpeter Al
- 31 "This ___ test"
- 33 Long tale
- 34 Hefty horn
- 35 Electron's locale
- 36 Declare false

PRECIOUS FEW by Fred Piscop

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- 38 Cyber-send to the IRS
- 39 Part of NIMBY
- 40 Bray starter
- 44 Sell off
- 45 Where the buoys are
- 46 Start, as a hobby
- 47 Composers' org.
- 48 Cello's cousin
- 49 Burns partner
- 50 Postal-card cost, once
- 52 San ___, Italy
- 53 Where to get off
- 54 Former queen of Jordan
- 55 Author Ferber
- 56 Frees (of)
- 57 "Leave it in"
- 61 Mexican Mrs.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
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58							59				60			61
62							63				64			
65							66				67			

Citizen

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

It's time to talk to... Or, more to the point, pick it up as Keep Beautiful and and churches and will join thousand groups across the State Saturday for Don't Mess With Off.

Local organizer



This dump truck... The pile of material... fire Saturday at 7

Coaching their

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The city of Co... brate the success... effort to tear d... structures Satur... area residents an... teers gather to v... work go up in sm... Literally... "All of the ma... buildings we've... been put into a b... fire," said Mayor... pile is about 100...

Hoops

Special to the Her...

West Texas C... MHMR will host... annual Hoops, 1... Goals basketball... Friday in the Dor... Coliseum.

The tournament... the consumers of... Centers for MHM... pate in their own... Final Four and cel...

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