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# BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 115

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



INSIDE

Howard comes from behind to beat ACU in twinbill

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## Health screenings, information available Saturday

Herald Staff Report

All types of screenings and information on your well being will be available Saturday during the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce-sponsored health fair.

The event is set from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

This year's fair — "Don't Gamble with Your Health" — will offer free screenings, give-

aways and demonstrations from many health care providers and community organizations.

Here are some of the offerings by corporate sponsors:

- Adult Protective Services Advisory Board will disseminate information concerning the organization. Social Security will also educate the public on Medicare Part D.

- Big Spring Physical Therapy and Warren Chiropractic

will offer spinal analysis and vibration.

- Caring Hearts will provide blood pressure checks

- Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home will provide information on the home.

- Parkplace Retirement Living will be giving away popcorn and information and provide chances at the slot machine and roulette wheel.

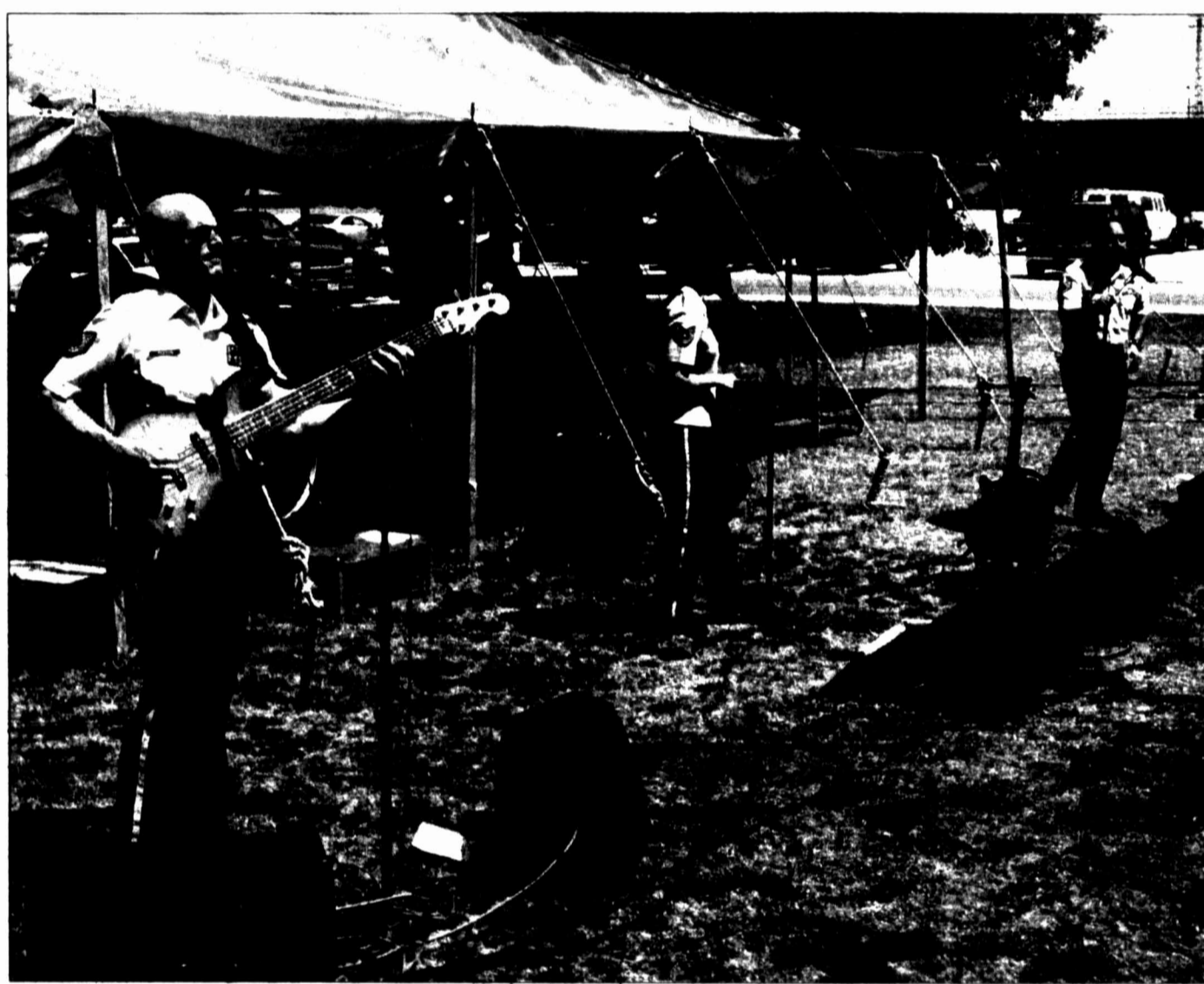
- Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will con-

duct blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol checks. Fasting is required prior to the test.

- Scenic Mountain Medical Center will spotlight Dr. Kimberly Saenz, a new pediatrician located at Family Medical Center, 2301 South Gregg St. Children will receive free stickers from Dr. Saenz and welcome her into the Big

See HEALTH, Page 3A

**Health Fair**  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
**Dorothy Garrett Coliseum**  
free admission



Air Force TSgt. Jon Packard, left, and members of Top Flight, a band that tours colleges and high school across the country, performs at Howard College Wednesday afternoon.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

## Doin' the Air Force bop

Top Flight takes military recruiting to a new level

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Apparently, even military personnel like to rock out every now and then.

Top Flight, an offshoot of the U.S. Air Force Band of the West, was at Howard College Wednesday

afternoon, entertaining the audience with a combination of current pop hits and golden oldies.

The six-member band, led by bassist-vocalist TSgt. Jon Packard, is in the midst of a tour that will see them play 200 concerts this year.

"We play everything from 1950s-

60s Motown hits to music you hear today on the radio," Packard said. "We'll play well over 175 (concerts) this year."

Touring high school and college campuses, along with other venues, gives the band the oppor-

See BAND, Page 3A

## Go vote?

Runoff elections spur scant interest locally

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

As local officials get ready to wrap-up early voting in several state runoff elections Friday, the lack of big-name political hopefuls in the primary races may lead to a rather dreary turnout.

As of Wednesday afternoon, only 26 ballots had been cast in-person during early voting, with another 29 mail-in ballots bringing the grand total to 55 cast in Howard County.

"The low turnout really isn't surprising at all," said Sandra Bloom, election administrator for the county. "There aren't any high-profile names in these runoff elections, and without the name recognition you really don't expect to see many voters in a race like this."

On the Democratic ticket, Maria Luisa Alvarado is facing Benjamin Z. Grant in the runoff for the office of Lt. Governor. Also on the Democratic ticket, Barbara Ann Radnofsky and Gene Kelly are competing for U.S. Senator.

On the Republican ticket, the nomination for the Place 8 seat on the Court of Criminal Appeals features incumbent Charles Holcomb Terry Keel.

Election day for the runoff is Tuesday from 7

On the ballot

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

a.m. until 7 p.m., with all polling places consolidated to the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

"I was hoping for at least 100 ballots on election day," said Bloom. "However, now I'm just hoping for 100 ballots overall."

Bloom said it's important for area voters to remember which political party's primary they voted in if they voted 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

See VOTE, Page 3A

## Vets' home has eggs, needs candy to fill them

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Features Editor

With the Easter holiday on the horizon, the Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home is preparing for its annual community Easter egg hunt, scheduled for 2 p.m. Good Friday, April 14.

Donations are needed to make

the event that attracts more than 400 veterans, parents, family and children a continued success.

"We need donations of candy that we'll put into the plastic eggs. We have quite a few of the eggs, but we are needing the candy," said administrator Ben Mazzara.

A self-proclaimed group of 'dis-organized' ladies, all part of a local Red Hat Society, gathered recently and donated candy and plastic eggs to the veterans home.

"We wanted to do this to encourage others to donate to the Easter egg hunt, too," said Ann Russell, a member of the

Spring City Red Hats.

Along with the traditional egg hunt on the grounds of the veterans home, there are also plans to have the large, inflatable attractions for children, as well as entertainment, clowns and refreshments.

Odyssey Healthcare is donating hamburgers and hot dogs

for the event, which will free to those attending.

"We offer this Easter egg hunt each year as a way of uniting the generations. The veterans enjoy this event, whether they take part of just watch," said Mazzara.

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www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us:

Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

### ONE-ACT SET SATURDAY

Big Spring High School Theatre Department competes in the University Interscholastic League Area One-Act Play contest Saturday about 2:45 p.m. on the Snyder High School campus.

Admission to see the performance is \$2 for students and \$5 for adults. Those planning to attend should arrive at Worsham Auditorium about 30 minutes early because the doors to the theater will be locked about 15 minutes before a performance begins.

Big Spring won the District 4-4A contest with its performance of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," March 28.

### SCHEIBER VET OF MONTH

Donald Scheiber has been named the Hangar 25 Air Museum Veteran of the Month for April.

The public is invited to take part in honoring Scheiber at 6 p.m. April 13 in the museum's Briefing Room at the McMahan-Wrinkle Airpark.

Refreshments will be served. Scheiber, who served in both the Army and the Marines from 1950-1964, will speak briefly about his experiences.

To honor their service, the museum profiles one veteran each month. For more information, call the museum at 264-1999.

### KILGORE'S ONE-MAN BAND

Local singer/songwriter J. Gale Kilgore and his one man "kountry" band will perform in front of the Wal-Mart Supercenter beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday to raise funds for veterans' families in the Big Spring Area.

There is no charge; donations will be accepted.

Checks may be made to "Veterans Families" and can be dropped off during the event or may be mailed to P.O. Box 3358, Big Spring 79721-3358.

Those who attend the concert are invited to bring a lawnchair and wear a hat.

## Obituaries

### William T. 'Bill' Shockley

William T. "Bill" Shockley, 87, of Sundown, formerly of Big Spring, died Tuesday, April 4, 2006, in a Lubbock hospital. Graveside funeral services are 2 p.m. Friday, April 7, 2006, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Joey Pierce, minister of the Eastside Church of Christ in Morton, officiating.

He was born May 24, 1918, and married Roxie Fay Puckett Sept. 1, 1945, in Ackerly. She preceded him in death on June 21, 2000. He farmed in the Knott Community for many years, retiring in the early 1980s. He moved to Sundown in 1992 and was a member of Eastside Church of Christ in Morton. He served in the United States Army during World War II and survived the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Survivors include three daughters and two sons-in-law, Judith and Charles Burnett of Sundown and Roxie and Harry Kennedy and Ethel Richardson, all of Morton; four grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a grandson, Billy Burnett, three brothers and four sisters.

The family suggests memorials to the donor's favorite charity.

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

### Julio Barrera Jr.

Julio Barrera Jr., 53, of Fort Worth, formerly of Big Spring, died March 31, 2006. Memorial services are 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 8, 2006, at the Grace Episcopal Church in Mesquite.

He was born Dec. 31, 1952, in Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Julio Barrera Sr., and Inez Moncada and sister, Precilla Barrera Reyna.

He is survived by his sisters, Benina Barrera Valdez and Bertha Barrera Reyna; his children, Gabriel Julio Barrera and Andrea N. Luciana Barrera; two grandchildren, seven nephews; six nieces; and 23 grand-nephews and nieces.

Arrangements are under the direction of Lucas Funeral Home.

### Danny Weir

Danny Weir, 52, of Big Spring died Thursday, April 6, 2006, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Support groups

#### THURSDAY

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

#### FRIDAY

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

#### SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

## Take note

• **HOWARD COLLEGE STUDENT ART SPRING SHOWCASE** opens today in the Howard College Library. Show closes April 20 with a reception from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Stacy Slaten at 264-5115.

• **RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM CAPTAINS MEETING** is 5:30 p.m. today in the Kentwood Activity Center. Teams are still forming for the relay, which is set for May 19-20 at Blankenship Field. For more information, call Vickie Stewart at 432-213-1069 or Jenny Sayles at 466-0088.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL BAND BAKE SALE AND CAR WASH FUND-RAISER FOR THE CARNAGE HALL TRIP** is Saturday at the Wal-Mart Supercenter near the garden center doors on the west end of the building.

• **AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY** begins at noon Saturday. Delivery is available from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday. Dine in or carry out available. \$7 per plate. The legion is located at 3203 W. Highway 80. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• **BIG SPRING BASS CLUB BENEFIT FISH FRY** from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday at the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St., to help with medical expenses of Debbie Spivey, who has suffered from juvenile diabetes for more than 35 years. Plates are \$6 at the door. Call 263-6862 for more information.

• **COAHOMA KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP** is 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Coahoma Elementary School cafeteria. Call Sherrie at 394-4323 for any other information.

• **FORSAN ELBOW ELEMENTARY** pre-kindergarten and kindergarten pre-registration is April 17-21 from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Elbow elementary. Call 398-5444 for more information.

• **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:**

## Police blotter

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

- **GARY SMALE**, 31, of 2525 Hunter, was arrested Wednesday on a Guadalupe County warrant.
- **RAUL MARTINEZ**, 49, of 806 S. Lancaster, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- **RESISTING ARREST, SEARCH OR TRANSPORTATION** was reported in the 1500 block of Scurry.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 4100 block of Parkway.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 3300 block of Highway 80.
- **ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 1900 block of Johnson.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT** was reported:
  - in the 300 block of 19th Street.
  - in the 3300 block of Highway 80.

## Sheriff's report

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

- **IRENE JIMENEZ HINOJOSA**, 40, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for driving while intoxicated, bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana - more than two ounces less than four ounces and bondsman off bond for felony possession of a controlled substance.
- **THOMAS ROLAND PAYNE**, 41, was arrested Wednesday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **ALESHA PACE**, 31, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
- **SHANNON ELEANOR LANG**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of credit card abuse and theft (two counts).
- **EDGAR DALE WHITT**, 48, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of interfering with an emergency phone call.
- **LANCE GREGORY NEWELL**, 34, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- **DEREK TARVER MOFFETT**, 26, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of injury to a child/elderly/disabled person.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 500 block of East 10th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1900 block of Johnson. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Hearn. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3800 block of Piper Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of East Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

**GEORGE GERSHWIN'S "PORGY AND BESS"** with the Big Spring Symphony Chorus is scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday in the Municipal Auditorium. For more information, contact Dr. Keith Graumann, symphony conductor, at 267-1626 or e-mail [Graumann@cox.net](mailto: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.

• **LAMUN-LUSK-SANCHEZ COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT** is 2 p.m. April 14.

• **VA MEDICAL CENTER EASTER EGG HUNT** is 10 a.m. April 15.

• **FIFTH ANNUAL CITYWIDE EASTER EGG HUNT** is set for noon April 15 at the Birdwell 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](mailto:jennifer.patton@kbyg.net).

• **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy. Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

• **ACKERLY LUNCH BUNCH** meets at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 29 at Gale's Sweet Shoppe 1200 E. Fourth St. Lunch will be served at noon; cost is \$7.25 including drink and dessert. RSVP to Betty Pitts 267-1449 or Sissy Jones 213-4452.

## 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.

## Bulletin board

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

#### TODAY

- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

#### FRIDAY

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

#### SATURDAY, April 8

- Health Fair, sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is set for 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.
- Master the Mountain Fun Run at Scenic Mountain.
- Big Spring Symphony and Chorus at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Auditorium.
- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

#### MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Big Spring High School band hall.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Coahoma Lions Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Coahoma Community Center at 306 North Ave.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.
- Archeology Society for Howard and Borden counties meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library Community Room in the basement. Call 270-2615 for more information.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Society of the Order of Beacieants meets at 6:30 p.m. for a meal with meeting that begins at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.
- Big Spring Commandry meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

#### TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

#### WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

## Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 8-20-29-41-43. Bonus Ball: 1. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 8-10-18-32-37. Number matching five of five: 1.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-2-7

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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# Group ranks Texas 4th in pork projects

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Texas congressional delegation brought home the fourth-largest amount of federal funding for special projects last year, according to a spending watchdog group.

Citizens Against Government Waste presented its annual Congressional Pig Book Wednesday to call attention to what it deems irresponsible "pork-barrel" spending.

The group detailed a record-high \$29 billion in congressional pork projects for 2005. That included \$403 million for 262 projects in Texas.

"Pork" means homestate and home district projects specially set aside in congressional spending measures.

Four Texas projects identified in the report were \$6.8 million for a

Fort Hood physical fitness center when the post already has six others; \$1 million for the University of Texas Flywheel Bus and Truck Program; \$250,000 for the renovation of the Globe Theater in Odessa; and, \$200,000 for the renovation of the Fredonia Hotel and Convention Center in Nacogdoches.

"Pork-barrel spending illustrates and contributes to the meltdown of spending restraint in Washington," group president Tom Schatz said. "Instead of averting an impending fiscal crisis, members of Congress are grabbing the spoils to support their own re-election."

The group ranked Texas 47th in the nation when it came to per-capita pork spending. The state received an average of \$17.65 per

person.

The group judges pork-barrel projects based on seven criteria, including contract awards not based on the lowest price or anything not specifically requested by President Bush.

The Fort Hood physical fitness center was part of about \$18 million that Rep. John Carter, R-Round Rock, earmarked for the Central Texas Army base.

Carter said the spending is not pork because of the nation's need for a strong military.

"I am not ashamed of any of my earmarks," he said. Lawmakers' names should "be on everything they do, and they ought to take the flak if they ask for pork projects."

California ranked first in pork spending at \$734 million, according to the group

# Extension to host beef cattle conference here

The Texas Cooperative Extension has scheduled a beef cattle conference for 10 a.m. Friday at the Big Spring Livestock Auction, located at 500 N. Birdwell Lane.

Speakers and their topics are:

— Economic Study of Keeping Replacement Heifers; Leases, and Current Market Trends; Dr. Jason Johnson, Extension economist, San Angelo;

— Herd Bull Evaluation, Dr. Bruce Carpenter, Extension livestock specialist, Fort Stockton;

— Animal Health, Kevin Johnson, sales rep-

resentative, Fort Dodge Animal Health, Abilene, and

— Animal/Premise ID, Carpenter.

The program will conclude with a catered lunch courtesy of Fort Dodge Animal Health.

There will be two Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units offered in the "general" category.

Reservations should be made by as soon as possible so an accurate meal count can be made.

For more information and to RSVP, call the Extension office in Howard County at (432) 264-2236.

## News briefs

### Senate set for test vote over immigration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two political parties, two rival plans to deal with the nation's burgeoning illegal immigrant population.

And barring a breakthrough, no guarantee that either of them can pass a Senate riven by election-year partisanship.

"This is a vote that for millions of Americans is a question about whose side you're on," Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois said Wednesday in advance of a test vote on legislation offering legal status and eventual citizenship to many of the 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

Democrats, led by Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, needed 60 votes to advance the measure. They seemed unlikely to prevail, especially since one-time Republican allies melted away to support a GOP alternative instead.

If so, that would clear the way for a similar 60-vote showdown on the competing Republican measure that Majority Leader Bill Frist unveiled late Wednesday.

### Moussaoui trial to move into next phase

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Jurors deciding the fate of Zacarias Moussaoui are being exposed to some emotionally jarring testimony as the al-Qaida terrorist's death-penalty trial moves into a second phase.

On Wednesday, prosecutors received the judge's approval to play cockpit voice recordings from United Flight 93, the plane that crashed into a western Pennsylvania field on Sept. 11, 2001, after passengers fought back against the hijackers.

The tape has never been aired publicly, although relatives of the Flight 93 passengers have been permitted to hear it. When family members heard the 30-minute recording in April 2002, the government had grief counselors on hand and warned the families that

graphic details would be audible.

While the recording will be played for the jury and the courtroom gallery, it is unclear whether it will be publicly released. Most court exhibits are being made available to the public, but U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema is giving Flight 93 family members until Tuesday to request that the recording be kept under wraps.

Moussaoui, 37, is the only person charged in this country in connection with the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. On Monday, a jury concluded that Moussaoui was directly responsible for at least one death on that day and is therefore eligible for execution.

### Israel arrests Hamas Cabinet minister

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Israeli police today detained a Cabinet minister in the Palestinians' new Hamas-led government, Palestinian and Israeli officials said.

Khaled Abu Arafah, minister of Jerusalem affairs, was detained along with his bodyguard on his way to Izzariya, a West Bank suburb of Jerusalem, where he was to sign off on furniture and office equipment from his predecessor, Ziad Abu Zayyad, a moderate.

Paramilitary police stopped Abu Arafah's car at a checkpoint at the entrance to Izzariya, said Ahmed Jalajel, a photographer for the Arabic Al-Quds daily, who was in the car with the minister when he was taken into custody.

"They asked us for ID, they said, 'Get out.' He (Abu Arafah) said, 'I am not getting out.' They opened the car and pushed him out," Jalajel told The Associated Press.

Also Thursday, Israeli President Moshe Katsav formally chose acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Thursday to form Israel's next government, and Olmert said he would quickly put together a coalition

committed to carrying out his West Bank withdrawal plan.

### Ex-judge questioned in Saddam trial

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — The former judge who sentenced 148 Shiites to death in the 1980s insisted the suspects confessed and received a fair trial as prosecutors called him back for questioning Thursday over a crucial point in the trial of Saddam Hussein.

Awad al-Bandar, one of Saddam's seven co-defendants who testified last month, appeared nervous and agitated during his second round of cross-examination over the 1984 trial of the Shiites before his Revolutionary Court.

Wearing a red checkered traditional headdress, al-Bandar stood alone in the defendants' pen. Saddam was not in the courtroom. A day earlier, the former president was cross-examined by prosecutors for six hours for the first time in the six-month trial.

After a two-hour session, the trial was adjourned until April 12.

### Grand jury to hear McKinney run-in

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal grand jury will soon begin hearing evidence about Rep. Cynthia McKinney's run-in with a Capitol Police officer, a lawyer familiar with the case said late Wednesday.

The lawyer, who declined to be identified because of grand jury secrecy, confirmed that federal prosecutors had agreed to get involved in the case in which a black lawmaker is accused of striking a white officer after he tried to stop her from entering a House office building without going through a security checkpoint.

U.S. Capitol Police Chief Terrance Gainer said McKinney turned the officer's failure to recognize her into a criminal matter when she failed to stop at his request, and then struck him.

## HEALTH

Continued from Page 1A

Spring community.

Scenic Mountain will offer free prostate-specific antigen, or PSA, tests to the first 100 men. The hospital also will provide information on the

Medicare changes regarding physical therapy. The hospital's Senior Circle will be handing out information on its 50 & Above Club. Reflections will be handing out information and educating the community on all their services.

Some other participants and what they will be

doing include:

United Blood Services will be collecting blood.

Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association will be fingerprinting and photographing children and senior adults for emergency purposes.

West Texas VA Health Care Systems will be con-

duct blood sugar, blood pressure and glaucoma testing.

In addition, demonstrations by The Dance Gallery will take place at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. And Dimples the Clown, sponsored by Outreach Health Services, will make balloon characters for children.

Booth vendor hospitality room sponsors are Walmart, Veolia Water and Sysco Foods.

For more information, call Debbye Val Verde, chamber executive director, at 432-263-7641.

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## BAND

Continued from Page 1A

tunity to spread the word about a possible career in the Air Force.

"We're mainly a recruiting tool. This is a way for us to let people know that

we're still hiring; that the Air Force still needs people," Packard said. "But we're also trying to get the message out ... to stay off drugs, to stay out of trouble. We just try to piggyback the message off of our main one, which is recruitment."

Packard spent 14 years in the U.S. Army before switching to the Air Force four years ago. He has spent his Air Force hitch as a musician with Top Flight and the Band of the West, which is stationed out of Lackland AFB in San Antonio.

He added that he enjoys the constant touring.

"As a musician, the variety of audiences is a big plus for me," he said. "When we play at schools, the kids really get into it. It's really nice to play for audiences who are appreciative of what you do."

## VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

either one during the runoff election.

"There have also been inquiries

about signing a petition for an independent candidate. Only those who did not vote in the March primary election are eligible to sign an independent candidate's petition."

Early voting will continue from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday 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](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

## EGGS

Continued from Page 1A

"We'll have 25,000 eggs and it is amazing to see those 25,000 eggs picked up in less than 5 minutes," he added.

Staff and residents of the veterans home have begun filling the plastic

eggs with the candy provided.

"This has grown each year. The first year we did 10,000 eggs, last year we did 20,000 and this year we'll have 25,000 eggs to hunt. We're trying to make this better each year for the community so folks will come out and have a good time," said

Tony Cruz, director of activities at the veterans home.

Some of the eggs will not have candy inside. Instead, they will have

gift certificates for items donated by local businesses.

To donate, call Cruz at the veterans home, 268-8387.

## GOOD NEWS!

The state of Texas Medicaid has reactivated the hearing aid program. You may be eligible for a new premium digital hearing aid. Please call at your earliest convenience to set up a time for us to review and update your file.

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## EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## Weekend's events have health focus

It has oft been noted that nothing is as important as one's health. Adages on the subject abound. And for good reason, because anything else, with the exception of one's spiritual condition, pales in comparison.

Unfortunately, far too few of us are conscientious when it comes to making sure we're in good health — we're too busy, we believe, to schedule a doctor's appointment for a check up and in some cases ignore symptoms of potentially life-threatening conditions.

That's why it's important that we all take advantage of free health screenings Saturday at Health Fair 2006.

Doors to Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to more than 50 booths supplying free screenings and information.

Among the tests offered will be blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, glaucoma, prostate-specific antigen and spinal analysis. Some booths will offer information about retirement homes, nursing and rehabilitation centers, Medicare and the like. United Blood Services will be collecting blood from those who wish to donate and the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association will be fingerprinting and photographing children and senior adults for emergency purposes.

It's designed for the entire family — Dimples the clown will be making balloon characters — and almost all of it is free.

Another event — the annual "Master the Mountain" Fun Walk/Fun Run — will be held in conjunction with the Health Fair, beginning at 9 a.m. at Big Spring State Park.

The cost is \$10, and race-day registration begins at 8 a.m.

Races will include a 5K fun-walk, a 5K fun-run race, and a 10K fun-run race. Medical personnel will be on duty throughout the runs and walks.

We encourage everyone to get involved this weekend and pay a little attention to healthy living.

It just might be the best and most important fun you've ever had.

## 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

May we exchange ideas with You, Lord, through prayer.

Amen

## Feingold's profiles in courage

I watched with disgust Chris Wallace's excellent interview of Sen. Russ Feingold on "Fox News Sunday," where Feingold indignantly defended his quixotic, yet still outrageous, motion to censure President Bush for his NSA surveillance program.

Feingold says that the president should be censured (perhaps even impeached) for violating the law. Why, it's worse than Watergate, says Feingold, because the president is thumbing his nose at the laws of this country.

This is the same senator who wasn't convinced Clinton had obstructed justice or committed perjury beyond a reasonable doubt. If Clinton wasn't thumbing his nose at the laws of this country, how would you describe what he was doing?

Feingold is also incensed that President Bush has a "preemptive doctrine of war." But did he have the courage to challenge Sen. Kerry when Kerry admitted during the presidential campaign that American presidents have always had a right of preemption to address immediate threats?

Feingold's move is not one of moral courage, but raw political ambition. In the words of Democratic senator Mark Dayton, Feingold's move is "an overreaching step by someone who is grandstanding and running for president at the expense of his own party and his own country."

But Feingold's motion is also born of frustration at being on the losing end of a power struggle. While he made the obligatory noises about President Bush's "imperial presidency," he betrayed the real source of his angst when he said, "we have this problem of

one-party rule in our system of government right now," and "we have a Republican president and two houses of Congress run by the Republicans."

Sorry, Senator, but they were elected, and it's not your call. Learn to be a better loser.

Feingold told Wallace that Bush should not be creating a "very divisive situation in our country that weakens us in the fight against terrorism internationally." What? Does Feingold think his bogus stunt to censure and humiliate the commander in chief during wartime is not divisive and will not weaken us? To advocate such a measure, Feingold must be pretty certain Bush broke the law, right? Well, a group of retired FISA judges don't agree with him. Nor, obviously, did many of Bush's predecessors who engaged in similar conduct. Has Feingold ever accused any of them of acting like King George III?

If Feingold is so sure Bush broke the law, why did he admit to Chris Wallace that "one of the reasons I decided it was time for the censure resolution [is] because it became clear that there was not going to be the kind of investigation that had to happen to find out exactly what this program is all about."

In other words, he wants to invoke this draconian remedy for the backdoor purpose of finding out what the program entailed.

That's like charging a person with a crime without sufficient evidence he committed it so you can begin a fishing expedition — under color of law and at government expense. This is precisely the type of abuse of process for which Feingold wants to censure President Bush.

Since Feingold called those who wouldn't join his censure move "cowards," one might assume he is a man of moral courage. But

were you aware that Feingold once said, "Iraq presents a genuine threat, especially in the form of weapons of mass destruction, chemical, biological, and potentially nuclear weapons. I agree that Saddam Hussein is exceptionally dangerous. But has Feingold ever displayed the "courage" to condemn those who persistently accuse Bush of lying about WMD?

Even more to the point, have you ever read the exchange between Feingold and Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., on Sept. 26, 1996, concerning proposed legislation to ban partial-birth abortion? Now there's a profile in courage.

Essentially, Feingold refused to agree that if a baby's head emerges from the birth canal accidentally, the law should prevent the doctor from killing it. Demonstrating greater cowardice than could even be imagined by those he accused of cowardice, he said, "I am not the person to be answering that question. That is a question that should be answered by a doctor, and by the woman who received advice from the doctor."

So, he's willing to grant to doctors and mothers the prerogative to murder already-born human beings, and he says he's worried about President Bush having too much power?

Sen. Feingold, perhaps because of his deathly fear of defying the pro-abortion lobby, lacked the moral courage to exercise his constitutional duty to preempt a doctor and mother from "choosing" to kill an already-born baby. Instead, he hid behind the perniciously euphemistic ruse that this was a matter concerning the mother's health that she and her doctor had to decide.

Shame on the lecturing senator.

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## It's time to quit digging the hole

On the premise that spring is too beautiful for a depressing topic like Iraq, I thought I'd take up a fun subject — global warming.

Time magazine warns us to "Be Worried. Be Very Worried." On the other hand, my sister is on the Global Warming Committee of the Unitarian Church in Albuquerque, N.M. They go around replacing old light bulbs with more energy-efficient models. My money's on my sis.

It's a good thing the phrase "the tipping point" became a cliché just in time to help us describe global warming. Just a few years ago, we were more or less cruising along on global warming, with maybe 50 years or so to Do Something about it. Suddenly, the only question is how soon to push the panic button, and 10 minutes ago appears to be the right answer.

People in journalism are the worst criers of "Wolf!" imaginable. We are always setting off alarms about Ebola, or avian flu, or the impending water shortage, or the Social Security crisis, or killer bees, or the pine bark beetle, or anorexia among teenagers (surpassed only by obesity among teenagers). Boy, if we can't sell you a scare with a few headlines and some mashed facts, no one can.

Naturally, having listened to the media set off endless alarms, the public is inclined to discount them, not to mention that global climate catastrophe is not an inviting topic. We're somewhere

between "Don't Panic Yet" and "Panic Now!" — edging toward "Now!"

What is happening is not just what climatologists told us would happen, but global warming turns out to reinforce itself by a number of feedback mechanisms. For example, when the polar icecaps start melting, there's less blinding bright ice to reflect heat back into the atmosphere — over 90 percent of sunlight simply bounces off ice and back into space. Whereas the dark water left behind by melted ice does the opposite, pulling in more warmth and accelerating the process.

The political fight over global warming is over, except for the Bush administration, which has some weird problem with science in general. I'm still not sure what's behind that: I recall Rush Limbaugh and the radio right taking great glee in poo-hooing the Kyoto treaty and the whole idea of global warming. Maybe they associated global warming with Canadians or something equally awful.

You might think some premise like, "The whole world is getting hotter, and disastrous consequences will ensue," would be more persuasive than, "I don't like Canadians, they're wusses," but I suspect part of the fun of being Rush Limbaugh is never having to say the word "responsible."

The shame for journalism is that it has always been so easy to expose those few "scientific" voices claiming there is nothing to global warming. When the money for "scientific research" on such a subject comes from oil companies, skepticism is required.

Instead, many "journalists" let the bullies on the right cow us with the "liberal media" nonsense

and reported there was "a debate" over global warming. There was no debate. The only question is how fast it's happening. And the answer that keeps coming up is "faster than we thought. And still faster."

Time magazine, in its warm and fuzzy way, proposes that capitalism can solve much of the problem of global warming — Henry Luce would be so proud. Can't you see it now? Boy, I'll bet those titans can hardly wait to cut into next quarter's profits. The insurance industry, for obvious reasons of its own, has long taken global warming seriously. By simply refusing to insure housing or enterprises near low shores, insurance can make quite a difference.

It's true the United States could make a good thing out of specializing in green energy and green technology — but we are still living with an administration that subsidizes the oil industry. The question is where the political leadership is going to come from before we reach the Panic Point, before Miami Beach sinks underwater, before Wall Street needs a seawall.

Al Gore is all we've got, and the right wing is still prepared to dismiss him with contempt and ridicule, not because he's wrong but because they'd rather talk about the time he was supposedly advised to wear earth tones.

As the Earth drifts toward crisis, our president does not yet seem capable of grasping even the First Rule of Holes. We're in one, and it is time to quit digging.

At the very least, it is time to replace those old light bulbs. Get busy, team.

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DAVID LIMBAUGH



MOLLY IVINS

# Make 'M Smile!

## Welcome Spring With Hippety Hoppety Treats



### Bunny's Delight

Preparation and baking time: 75 minutes  
Decoration time: 20 minutes  
Makes 12 servings

#### Cake

- 1 bag Starburst Jellybeans Original Fruit
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups lightly packed shredded carrots (about 5 or 6) or 1 (10-ounce) bag pre-shredded carrots
- 2 (16-ounce) cans vanilla frosting
- Green and orange food coloring

#### Filling

- 1 bag Snickers Minis for Easter
- 1/4 cup heavy cream

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line 9 x 13 pan with wax paper.
2. In medium bowl stir together flour, baking soda, pumpkin pie spice, baking powder and salt.
3. In large bowl, with mixer at medium speed, beat together eggs and both sugars until well blended. Slowly add oil, milk and vanilla. Reduce speed to low. Add flour mixture to bowl, a third at a time, and beat until smooth. Fold in shredded carrots.
4. Spoon batter evenly into prepared pan. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven, transfer to wire rack and let cool completely.
5. Cut cake once across 9-inch width to create a 9 x 10- and a 9 x 3-inch section (refer to diagram/template at [www.brightideas.com/easter/pop\\_1631.shtml](http://www.brightideas.com/easter/pop_1631.shtml))
  - a. For 9 x 10 piece: Place small dot of frosting in center of top and bottom 9-inch edges. Then, place dot on left and right edges, 1 inch down from top edge. Carefully make 4 cuts through cake, from dot on top edge to dots on left and right, then from dots on left and right to dot on bottom edge. Discard 2 small triangles of cake resulting beside top dot.
  - b. For 9 x 3 piece: Carefully cut diagonally from top left corner to bottom right. Notch out short sides of resulting triangles to create "carrot tops" (2 stems/leaves). Discard notched-out pieces.
6. Roughly chop Minis for Easter, place in microwave-safe container and add heavy cream. Microwave 60 seconds. Remove and stir mixture until blended. To melt on stove, place ingredients in top half of double boiler. Place over medium high heat and slowly melt, stirring occasionally.
7. Arrange 4-sided piece of cake from step 5a on serving platter. Cover top surface with melted chocolate mixture. Gently flip 2 large triangles from step 5a and arrange side-by-side on chocolate surface, aligning edges with 4-sided cake layer below. Arrange 2 "carrot tops" from step 5b on serving platter above 2-layer "carrot" (see photo). Refrigerate 15 minutes.
8. Meanwhile, tint 1 cup vanilla frosting green and 2 cups orange. Remove cake from refrigerator and spread with very thin layer of green frosting on "stems and leaves" and orange frosting on carrot. Return to refrigerator for 10 minutes. Frost cake with another layer of orange and green icing. Decorate with yellow, orange and green jellybeans.

#### FAMILY FEATURES

**It's spring!** Free your imagination and create sweet treats to surprise and delight the people you love best. Making bright and sunny cupcakes, a cake shaped like a carrot or a fancy Easter egg cookie is a great way to celebrate the new season. Even the youngest child can lend a hand — and get the giggles — when baby chick, lamb, duckling and piglet cupcakes have all kinds of hippety, hoppety adventures. Bees buzz, butterflies hover and is that Peter Rabbit hiding a basket of colorful eggs (with a surprise inside) in the carrot patch?

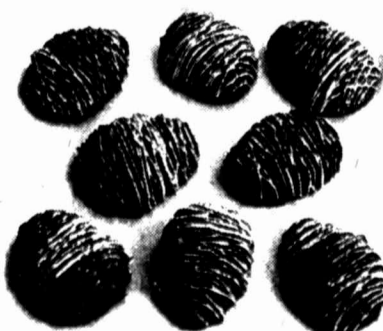
Welcome spring and make your family smile this Easter with fun and easy recipes using your favorite chocolates and colorful jellybeans. Be sure to stock up on seasonal pastel and other candies while they're available. Besides helping to fill Easter baskets, you'll want them to dress up desserts for all kinds of spring gatherings, from showers and graduations to garden parties.

For more spring and Easter recipes, decorating, gift ideas and activities for family fun, visit [brightideas.com](http://brightideas.com).

### Surprise-Inside Egg Treats

Preparation and baking time: 30 minutes  
Decoration time: 10 minutes  
Makes 28 eggs

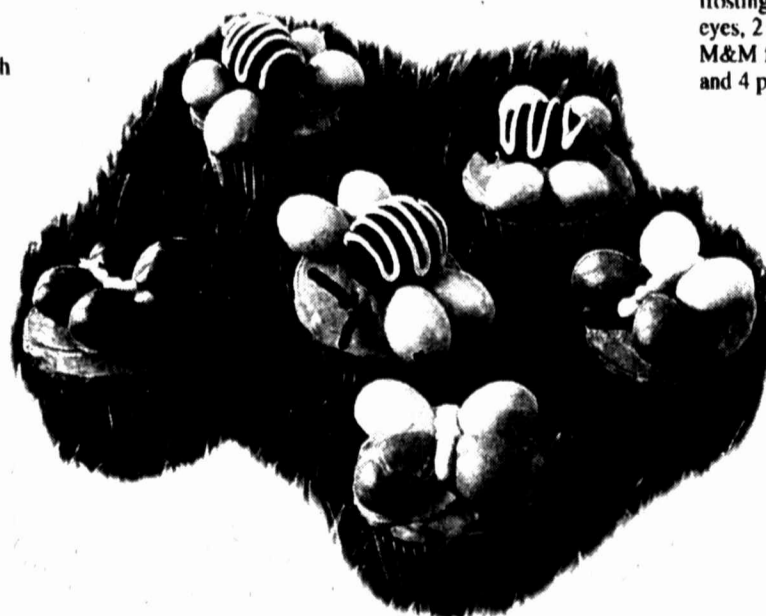
- 1 bag Snickers Minis for Easter
  - 2 cups all-purpose flour
  - 1 teaspoon baking soda
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 2 cups quick oats
  - 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, softened
  - 1/2 cup brown sugar
  - 1/2 cup sugar
  - 2 eggs
  - 1 cup vanilla frosting
  - Red, green, yellow and purple food coloring
1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper.
  2. In mixing bowl, combine flour, baking soda, salt and oats; set aside.
  3. In second bowl, cream butter and both sugars until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Slowly add flour-oat mixture, thoroughly mixing into batter. Divide batter in half, wrap in plastic, and chill 1 hour.
  4. To make each cookie, scoop off generous tablespoon of dough. Flatten slightly, and place an unwrapped Mini for Easter in center of each piece of dough, wrapping dough completely around. Shape cookie in palm of your hand, molding to resemble an oval. Transfer cookies to cookie sheet.
  5. Bake until golden brown (about 15 to 17 minutes). Remove from oven, transfer to wire rack and let cool completely.
  6. Divide frosting into quarters, and tint each a pastel color. Spoon frostings into resealable plastic bags. Cut 1 tiny, pinprick snip from corner of each bag for thin drizzle. Heat each bag 5 seconds in microwave until frosting softens slightly. Then, drizzle frosting on top of cookies in decorative pattern.



### Friendly Flyers

Preparation and baking time: 30 minutes  
Decoration time: 30 minutes  
Makes 36 flyers

- 1 bag Snickers Minis for Easter
  - 1 bag M&M'S Peanut or Almond Chocolate Candies for Easter
  - 1 bag Dove Smooth Milk Chocolate Eggs
  - 1 (18.25-ounce) box yellow cake mix
  - 1 (16-ounce) can vanilla frosting
  - Green and yellow food coloring
  - Black licorice laces
1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line 3 (12-cup) mini cupcake pans with paper liners.
  2. Roughly chop 2 cups Minis for Easter. Prepare cake mix according to package directions and fold chopped candy bars into the batter.
  3. Divide batter evenly between prepared cupcake pans. Bake 15 to 18 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven, transfer to wire rack and let cool completely.
  4. Meanwhile, spoon 1/4 cup white frosting into resealable bag. Tint 1/4 cup vanilla frosting yellow and spoon into resealable bag. Tint remaining frosting green and use to cover cupcakes.
  5. Use photograph as decorating guide for cupcakes:
- Butterflies:** Arrange 4 Peanut or Almond Chocolate Candies for Easter, as photo shows. Pipe white frosting body in center and use licorice for antennae.
- Bees:** Place 1 Smooth Milk Chocolate Egg in center for body with 4 M&M'S for wings. Pipe zigzag line with yellow frosting over chocolate egg and use licorice for antennae.



### Barnyard Buddies

Preparation and baking time: 40 minutes  
Decoration time: 10 minutes for each buddy

Makes 12 buddies

- 8 boxes Snickers Eggs 3-Pack
  - 1 bag Dove Smooth Milk Chocolate Eggs
  - 1 bag M&M'S Milk Chocolate Candies for Easter
  - 1 bag M&M'S Minis Milk Chocolate Candies Mini Packs for Easter
  - 1 (18.25-ounce) box favorite cake mix
  - 2 (16-ounce) cans vanilla frosting
  - Red, yellow and green food coloring
  - 1 tube chocolate decorating frosting
  - Marshmallows (mini and regular)
1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line 12-cup jumbo cupcake pan with paper liners.
  2. Prepare cake mix according to package instructions. Divide batter evenly into prepared pan and bake 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from oven, transfer to wire rack and let cool completely.
  3. Fit one resealable bag with star tip. Divide frosting into 5 cups. Tint 4 cups: 1 green, 1 red, 1 yellow, 1 pink. Spoon green frosting into bag fitted with star tip. Spoon remaining colors into other resealable plastic bags. Snip 1 corner from each bag. Pipe frostings on top of all cupcakes and spread smooth.
  4. Sandwich 2 unwrapped chocolate eggs together with dab of vanilla frosting, creating complete egg. Make 1 complete egg for each cupcake and place on top. Use photograph as guide to decorate animals.
- Bunny:** Dot entire egg with pink frosting. Cut marshmallow in half and flatten slightly. Sprinkle pink decorator sugar on sticky area of marshmallow. Arrange on top of egg as ears. Add 2 blue M&M'S for eyes, 1 red M&M'S for nose and 2 pink M&M'S for feet.
- Piggie:** Dot entire egg with pink frosting. Arrange 2 blue M&M'S for eyes, 2 pink M&M'S for ears, 1 pink M&M'S for snout, 1 pink M&M'S for tail and 4 pink M&M'S for feet.
- Chickie:** Dot entire egg with yellow frosting. Arrange 3 red M&M'S for comb, 2 dark M&M'S for eyes, 1 orange M&M'S for beak and 4 orange M&M'S for feet.
- Lamby:** Dot entire lamb with white frosting. Arrange 1 Dove Chocolate Egg for face with 2 M&M'S minis for eyes. Arrange 4 M&M'S for feet. Place 2 mini marshmallow for ears.

# Luxury with a low-price

2006 Acura RSX fits bill better than any other car in America

By ANN M. JOB

For The Associated Press

All you young hot rods take note: Acura's 2006 RSX is the lowest-priced luxury-branded car in America — a powerful two-door coupe that has sporty and spunky written all over it.

Acura marks its 20th anniversary this year with an RSX that gives buyers more than a low, starting manufacturer's suggested retail price, including delivery charge, of \$20,940. The four-passenger car has quick-response steering and four-cylinder engine technology that provides horsepower akin to that of some V6s.

The RSX also comes standard with some luxury amenities, such as power moonroof, side airbags, six-disc, in-dash CD changer and automatic — not manual — climate control with air filtration system. Among the perks: a lengthy, six-year/70,000-mile limited powertrain warranty in addition to a comprehensive, bumper-to-bumper warranty of four years/50,000 miles, whichever comes first.

The next lowest-priced luxury-branded car is the 2006 Saab 9-2X, which starts at \$23,710 and is basically a rebadged Subaru Impreza WRX.

Other RSX competitors are a diverse lot. Among luxury brands, BMW's lowest-priced coupe is the 2006 326Ci and Infiniti's is the 2006 G35 coupe. But both start around \$33,000, which is some \$12,000 above the RSX price.

Coups from non-luxury brands include the 2006 Scion tC, which has a starting MSRP, including destination charge, of \$16,840, and the 2006 Ford Mustang, which starts at \$19,935. But these models have shorter warranties

than the RSX.

And you can take pride in knowing the RSX ranks in Consumer Reports' "Best Vehicles for \$25,000 or Less" list, which was released this month. Its reliability is rated at "very good."

The RSX replaced the long-lived Acura Integra small car earlier this decade, and even though sales quickly peaked in calendar 2002, the RSX retained a loyal following.

Import tuners — guys who like to customize their vehicles with eye-catching wheels, lowered suspensions and engine enhancements — have taken a special interest in this car.

But the RSX is an impressive performer without modifications, too.

For 2006, it's available in two versions: A 155-horsepower with choice of five-speed manual or five-speed automatic transmission with shift-it-yourself SportShift, and a higher-performance, 201-horsepower Type-S with six-speed manual that was the test car.

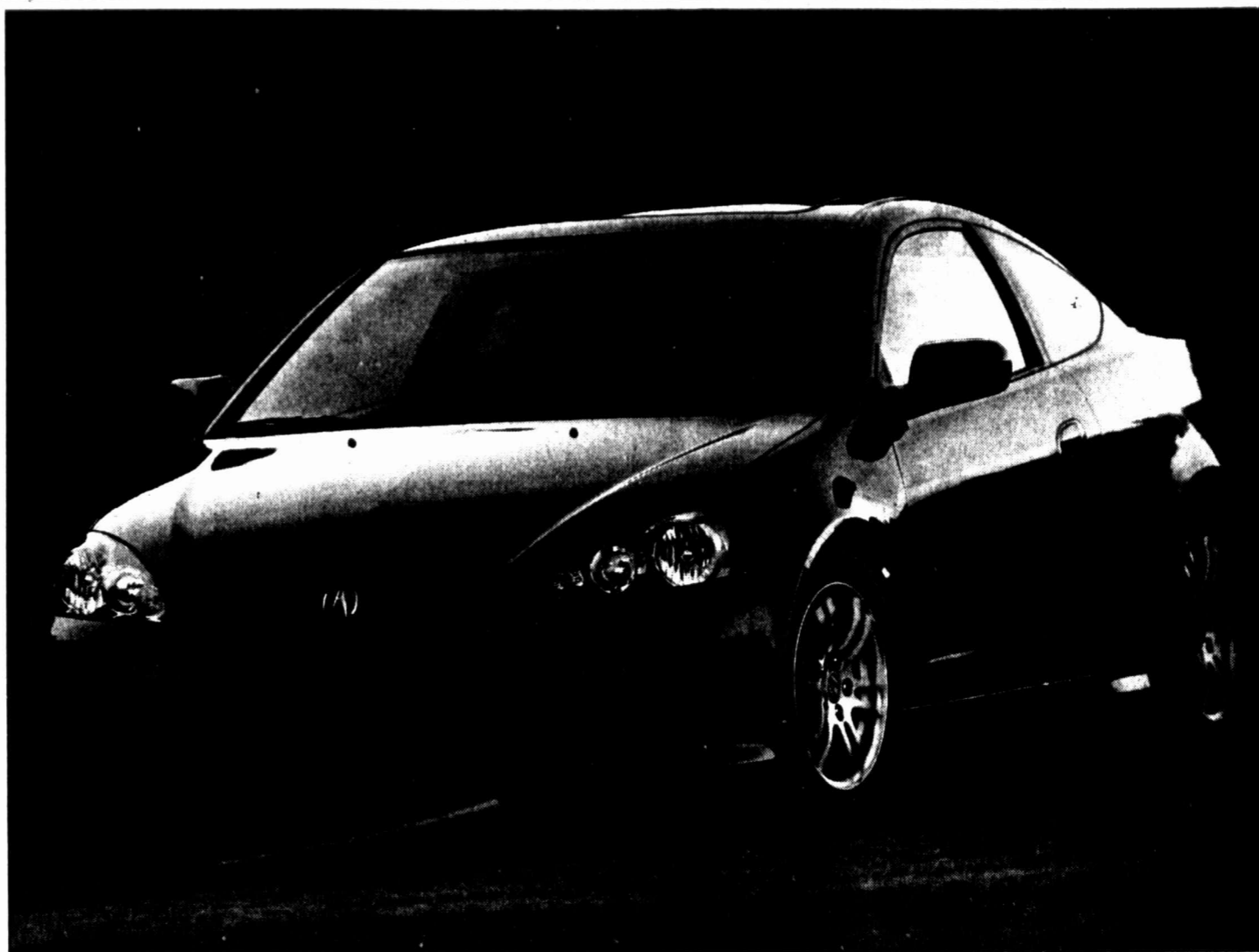
The base model has 16-inch, all-season, high-performance tires, while the Type-S wears 17-inch rubber.

Passengers sit low to the floor in all RSX models. I dropped down into the seats, for example, as I entered and looked up at the trunks of bigger cars in the traffic ahead.

At least the sporty, bucket seat for the driver in the Type-S tester had manual height and lumbar adjustments.

These features aren't available for the front passenger.

Riders in the two small back seats can feel cramped. Rear windows don't open, and I found my hair was brushing the ceiling. I liked that the rear-seat floor was flat,



The 2006 Acura RSX

though.

It's obvious that the driver has the preferred seat in the RSX, and it gets better when the car is turned on.

Engine power in the Type-S came on so readily, I squealed the tires on the car at startup one morning when the pavement was wet.

The uplevel, 2-liter, double overhead cam four cylinder with Honda's "intelligent" valve-control system known as i-VTEC has a high redline of 8,100 rpm. And there's plenty of quick, pulling power for acceleration in second and third gears.

The Type-S feels zippy, responsive, and torque peaks at 140 foot-pounds at 7,000 rpm while maximum horsepower is 201. Factor in that the RSX weighs less than 2,900 pounds — versus the more than 3,300 for a Mustang with base V6 engine — and you can begin to understand why the RSX feels lightweight and spirited.

But be aware that unleaded premium gasoline is the recommended fuel for the Type-S. According to the owner's manual, using lower than 91 octane fuel "can cause occasional metallic knocking noises in the engine."

The RSX ride isn't quiet. I heard road noise on nearly all surfaces, except on fresh, smooth asphalt, and there's also a good amount of engine noise when the revs get above 4,000 rpm.

The basic suspension is the same on all models. It's independent, MacPherson strut up front and a double-wishbone independent rear.

But the Type-S model wears larger stabilizer bars, besides the larger tires.

Thus, the test Type-S rode so firmly it was almost jouncy over moderate to large road bumps.

The RSX stuck to the road stubbornly in curves and turns but understeered at the limits, as is typical with front-drive cars.

Watch when backing out of parking spaces, because the large pillars around the RSX rear lift-back can block views. The cargo area also requires a big lift up and over the car bumper and body.

I appreciated that the rear seatbacks fold down in two individual pieces to expand the cargo space, though the owner's manual warned not to put anything really heavy atop the folded-down seatbacks.

The 2006 RSX earned

five out of five stars for driver and front-passenger protection in frontal crash testing. It won four out of five stars for front-seat passenger protection in side crash tests and for its rollover rating by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

## Young auto techs like big, American vehicles

By RICK POPELY

Chicago Tribune

Conventional wisdom in the auto industry says young people don't want the same type of vehicles their parents drove, but the new-car buyers of tomorrow may not be all that different from today's.

Take Tony Ambrose, an 18-year-old senior at Downers Grove South High School, whose wish list includes a sport-utility vehicle or pickup with lots of power.

"I like the thrill of going fast and the versatility of a truck," said Ambrose, echoing many baby boomers. After all, light trucks pulled ahead of passenger cars in sales a few years ago.

Kristina Pszotka, a senior at Glenbard West High School, drives a Chevrolet Cavalier but likewise sees herself behind the wheel of an SUV or pickup, preferably a fuel-saving hybrid.

"The Cavalier is so small, and I've always wanted to drive bigger vehicles," she said, also sounding like her parents' generation.

Pszotka and Ambrose

were among several students from DuPage County, Ill., who toured the Chicago Auto Show in a visit sponsored by Automotive Youth Educational Systems, a national program to recruit and train young people for careers in automotive technology.

All spend part of their school day taking auto technician classes at the Technology Center of DuPage, a career training facility in Addison, Ill.,

and all have strong opinions about the vehicles they saw at McCormick Place.

Among the surprises is that they sound willing to give domestic brands a shot. Another is that car-makers who think hatchbacks are a good way to

hook young buyers may be headed down the wrong road.

Tony Kryger, a senior at Glenbard North, owns a 2001 Dodge Dakota pickup but sees himself behind the wheel of a BMW — and owning a BMW dealership.

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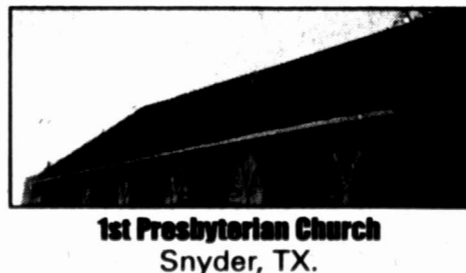
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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

**Contract Bridge**

By Steve Becker

**From Bad to Worse**

South dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♦9 7 5  
♥K J 9  
♦A J 8 5 2  
♣6 3

**WEST**  
♦A K J 10 6 4 3  
♥—  
♦Q 7  
♣A 9 8 4

**EAST**  
♦Q 8 2  
♥7 5  
♦10 6 4  
♣K Q J 10 5

**SOUTH**  
♦—  
♥A Q 10 8 6 4 3 2  
♦K 9 3  
♥7 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
4♥ 4♦ 5♥ 5♠  
6♥ 6♣ Pass Pass  
7♥ Pass Pass Dble

Opening lead — ace of spades.

This deal occurred in a team-of-four match. Maybe what happened shouldn't have happened, but the fact is that it did.

At the first table, where Team A held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown. South had no good reason to think that six spades could be defeated, so he bid seven hearts, not expecting to make it but entirely willing to suffer a small loss in order to avoid the possibility of a much greater one.

To his surprise, however, South wound up making the grand slam after West made the abominably bad lead of the ace of spades instead of the ace of clubs. This allowed declarer to get rid of both of his club losers on dummy's diamonds to rack up a score of 2,470 points.

This outcome was surely bad enough from Team B's viewpoint, but matters got infinitely worse at the second table, where the bidding went:

South West North East  
4♥ 4♣ 5♥ 5♠  
6♥ 6♣ Dble

This time Team A's East-West pair got to six spades and again came out on top when North chose the king of hearts as his opening lead. Declarer ruffed, drew trumps, cashed his clubs, and so lost only a diamond trick to tack on an additional 1,660 points. Team A thus gained the incredible total of 4,130 points on this one deal!

Of course, North could have stopped six spades by leading a diamond instead of a heart, but his team would still have lost 2,270 points on the deal. Then too, had the defense at each table found the winning lead, Team B would have finished with a 700-point gain. As it was, though, the total swing came to an astounding 4,830 points!

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.  
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# Sports

### Howard sweeps ACU in Abilene

• Hawks rally back after early deficits

By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

ABILENE — Despite falling behind in the first inning of two games against Abilene Christian University Tuesday, the Howard College baseball team was able to gain a little momentum for this weekend's big four-game series against Clarendon as the Hawks won 12-10 and 7-3.



SHEPHERD

Howard trailed 7-0 after the first inning in Game 1 as Matt Hennig gave up six earned runs in his first start of the year. The Hawks slowly chipped away at the lead and tied the game at 7-7 in the fifth inning. Both teams scored two runs in the sixth inning and Howard won the game with a three-run seventh inning.

Hennig did not get out of the first inning, but sophomore Matt Shepherd picked him up as he got the win on the mound. Shepherd threw 5.1 innings of relief and gave up just two runs on five hits and struck out four. Freshman Adrian Bermudez threw the seventh inning and got his second save of the year after allowing one run on one hit.

Sophomore Darby Brown had three hits and three RBIs at the plate to lead Howard. Freshman David Fonseca had three hits, two runs and two RBIs, while sophomore Gabe Marchant went two-for-three with two runs and two RBIs.

Sophomore Jeff Storms, who continued to bat in the lead-off spot, was two-for-four with a double, three runs and one RBI. Sophomore Dusty Dallas also had two hits and two runs. The Hawks stole six bases in the game, including two by Brown.

The Hawks used only two pitchers in Game 2 as Lance Brown and Parker Sisk were effective on the mound.

Brown started and went the first four innings and allowed three runs on six hits. Sisk finished the game and improved to 4-1 after the victory as he gave up just one hit in 2.2 innings and had five strikeouts.

Abilene Christian scored two runs in the first inning to again start the game on top, but Howard answered with three runs in the second inning.

ACU tied the game after three, but the Hawks scored two runs in the fifth and got one each in the sixth and seventh to get the sweep.

Howard had nine hits at the plate and Marchant, sophomore Daman Aaron and freshman Ryan Pruitt all had two each. Aaron scored two runs and Pruitt had an RBI. Fonseca went one-for-four with a three-run home run in the second inning. He now has four home runs on the year.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring senior Chance Cain watches a tee shot earlier this year at the Big Spring Invitational. Cain is currently in fourth place of the District 4-4A golf meet with two rounds to play. The second round will take place at the Big Spring Country Club Friday beginning at 9 a.m.

### Hawk ball teams return home for weekend series'

• Hawk women battle Odessa, men take on Clarendon in B.S.

By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

The Howard College softball and baseball teams return home beginning this weekend as both teams have doubleheaders Friday and Saturday against teams inside the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

The softball team plays four games against third-place Odessa College in what should prove to be a huge series with postseason implications involved, and the baseball team will try to improve on its 6-6 league mark with four games against Clarendon College.

Howard softball vs. Odessa

The Hawk women split with the Lady Wranglers in their first series in Odessa, mainly because of the pitching of Kelly Ninemire, who no-hit Howard's tough hitting squad. Howard sophomore Paige Ruiz also threw a no hitter, but she surrendered eight walks and lost 3-0 before sophomore Nicole Dickson got the win in Game 2 as the Hawks rebounded to win 4-1.

"Their pitcher dominated us and she is in our heads a bit," said Howard head coach Kelly Raines. "All we did this week was hit, hit and hit so we can try to change that. (Ninemire) is great though and you can't take anything away from her. We just have to have confidence and hit her mistakes."

Howard enters the series with an 18-2 conference mark and Odessa is 18-4 with three losses coming to first-place Midland, which is currently tied with Howard in the loss column at 20-2.

Raines said she would like to get at least three from Odessa this weekend, but would love nothing more than to take four at the friendly confines of Foundation Field where the Hawks are undefeated this year.

"It doesn't get any bigger than this really as far as these games this weekend and the four games next weekend with Midland," said Raines. "You have to play four games each against the best teams in the conference. It's always going to be tough."

"Playing at home is big and it will help us, but we couldn't hit this girl the first time through so unless we fix that it won't matter where we play."

Ruiz injured her ankle this past weekend against El Paso, but was expected to throw for the first time since the injury Wednesday. She is walking and hitting and is expected at this point to pitch the first game both days, said Raines.

Howard (28-6) is being led offensively this season by freshmen Honda Rodriguez and Laura Lopez. Rodriguez is hitting .410 and has six home runs, while Lopez is hitting .395 and is leading in home runs with seven and RBIs with 43. Freshman Alisha Rams is hitting .404, while Jessica



Garcia is hitting .359 with three home runs, five triples and 14 doubles.

Friday's games will begin at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and action Saturday begins at noon.

Howard baseball vs. Clarendon

The Hawks will take on rival Clarendon this weekend at Jack Barber Field. Both teams enter the game with very potent offenses and struggling pitching staffs.

Howard, which comes into the weekend with 24-12 overall record, and Clarendon both come into the four-game series with identical 6-6 conference records and whichever team comes out on top could move into the final playoff spot all alone as Howard, Clarendon and Odessa are all tied for fourth at the present time.

"Like it usually does with our team, it is going to come down to pitching," said Howard head coach Britt Smith. "We can hit with them, but we'll just have to see how it goes."

The Bulldogs are hitting .385 as a team so far this year, which is second in the conference behind first-place New Mexico. They are led by Ronald Melo and Collin Fanning, who are hitting .454 and .452, respectively.

Fanning is second in the conference in runs and hits and is tied for third in triples with six. The team also has the conference's leader in home runs and RBIs.

Clarendon's pitching staff is led by Marcus White and Max Grocki. White is 3-3 with a 3.72 ERA, while Grocki is 4-0 with a 4.18 ERA. The Bulldogs' ERA as a team, however, is the league's second worst at 8.42.

Howard's team batting average ranks in the middle of the conference and its pitching ERA is currently ranked fourth at 6.57.

Sophomore Daman Aaron leads the offense with a .429 average and he has four home runs and 33 RBIs on the season. Sophomore Darby Brown is ninth in the conference in hits with 50 and he is boasting a .421 batting average.

Sophomore Jeff Storms is fourth in doubles with 14 and sophomore Gabe Marchant is among the league leaders in home runs, stolen bases and runs scored.

Freshman pitcher Ryan Robinson, who is expected to start Game 2 Friday after missing a week with an arm injury, is 10th in the league in innngs with 43.2.

The Hawks are 11-1 at Jack Barber Field this year and are coming into the game winners of five out of their last six games, including three out of four against El Paso last weekend. Howard begins doubleheader action both days starting at noon.

### B.S. girls hold onto fifth after Round 2

By TROY HYDE  
Sports Editor

LUBBOCK — Big Spring golfers Amber Miller and Megan McCormick fired an 82 and an 83, respectively, in Lubbock Tuesday night to help the Lady Steers' golf team maintain their fifth place standing in District 4-4A after two of three rounds.

McCormick is one shot ahead of Miller in the individual standings and is sitting tied with Kelsey Deterding for 10th place overall with a two-round score of 175. Miller is in 12th with a 176.

Cassie Guinn shot an 88 in Round 2 and is third on the team with a 186, while Joy Seay improved on her first round score after firing a 95 in Round 2. Seay has a 204 after two rounds and Porscha Knowlton has a 206. Big Spring also had three medalists perform in Round 2. Hollis Bancroft shot a 105, while Sophia Gonzales fired a 110 and C.C. Acosta fired a 121.

The Lady Steers have a score of 738 after two rounds and trail fourth-place Frenship by six shots. Plainview is in third with a 687 and Andrews' two teams are leading the way. The Lady Mustangs' top team has a score of 657, while its second team is 19 strokes back.

Addison Long of Andrews 'A' is leading the individual competition with a 156. She shot 79 in Round 2. Kaylan Brownlee of Andrews 'B' is in second with a 161 and Ali Williams of Plainview is in third with a 164. Andrews also has the fourth place shooter and has three golfers tied for fifth. Plainview holds down spots eight and nine, as well.

McCormick is just two strokes behind ninth place as Julea Street of Plainview has a 173.

The third and final round of the District 4-4A girls' golf tournament will take place in San Angelo this coming Tuesday.

### Friday's local schedule

- Boys' golf tourney, Round 2 @ the Big Spring C.C., shotgun start at 9 a.m.
- Tennis tournament, @ Figure 7 Tennis Center, 9:30 a.m.
- Baseball DH vs. Clarendon, noon
- Softball DH vs. Odessa, noon
- Midland Lee Gray, 4:30 p.m.
- Stamford, 4:30 p.m.
- Stamford, 5 p.m.
- Andrews, 5 p.m.
- Plainview, 6 p.m.

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...rodeo team sets...  
...annual crawfish boil...  
...Howard College...  
...team has...  
...announced its annual...  
...crawfish boil...  
...will take place...  
...Saturday, April 29, at...  
...the Howard County...  
...Rodeo Bowl at 2 p.m...  
...before Howard...  
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...takes place...  
...The price for a...  
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...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...  
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...The Coahoma P.T.A...  
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...dodgeball tournament...  
...for elementary...  
...playground fund-raiser...  
...April 14-15...  
...The sign-up date for...  
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...The cost for second...  
...through fifth grade is...  
...\$5 per person and...  
...each team is guaran...  
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...other groups will pay...  
...\$10 per person and be...  
...guaranteed 10 games...  
...For more informa...  
...tion, contact Laura at...  
...267-8860...

...Local softball team...  
...sets fund-raiser...  
...The Coahoma soft...  
...ball team will be hold...  
...ing a tail-gate party at...  
...Big Spring Mall...  
...Saturday from 10 a.m...  
...to 1 p.m...  
...The team will be...  
...selling hamburgers...  
...and hot dogs as part...  
...of the fund-raiser...

...League sets...  
...tryouts...  
...Boys' League...  
...tryouts will...  
...be held at the baseball...  
...field...  
...The tryouts will...  
...begin at 5 p.m...  
...on Friday, April 14...  
...at the baseball field...  
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**GARAGE SALE** Friday & Saturday, April 7th & 8th. from 7:30-till? at 6405 N. Service Rd. Lots of miscellaneous! Cheap Prices!

**GARAGE SALE,** Saturday, 503 Todd. 1958 Chevrolet Delray, bathroom fixtures, children's clothing, double stroller, bedspreads, curtains.

**Garage Sales**

**MOVING SALE:** 2510 Cindy, Friday & Saturday 7:00-12:00. Exercise equipment, kids stuff and lot more.

**MOVING SALE:** 1 Village Rd., Friday & Saturday 9:00-? Lots of household items, trampoline, clothes. No Early Sales.

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**It is an Honor to serve our patients.**

**FULL TIME** trainees needed for insurance office. Duties starting out will be receptionist/file clerk. Experience with computers and other office equipment required. Pay will be based on experience. Licensed CSR a plus. Apply at Andrew J Pickle Ins. Agency, 505 Scurry St., Big Spring, Tx. Call (432)267-5053 for an appointment.

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**CITY OF Big Spring** is taking applications for temporary Maintenance Worker/Parks. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, 310 Nolan (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

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

**MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.**  
Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & \$175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas.

**NEED AUTO Detail Person** with experience working in a full service car wash. Apply in person, Downtown Car Wash, 1301 East 4th, Bill Crane, (432)213-0426.

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**2500 CARLETON,** 3 Bedroom, 2 bath. CHA, fireplace. \$595/mo. + plus deposit. Call (432)263-6997.

**Real Estate for Rent**  
**608 BELL Street** 2 bedroom, 1 bath. New CHA. Remodeled inside/Outside. \$350.00 Month, \$250.00 deposit. No Pets. Come by to see.

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Real Estate for Sale

1003 E. 14th. By Owner. \$8,500. Cash. Great Rental Property. For more information call (806)759-6093, (806)59-7093. Open House, Saturday, April 11th, 10:00 A.M. - 2 P.M.

1612 BLUEBIRD. Owner Financing. Buy for \$277.00 month or Rent \$375.00 month. Call (432)264-9907.

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

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BRICK 4 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas with CH/A. Call (432)267-2132 ask for Carlos.

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Several New 2005 Fords, Lincolns, Nissans Available At Huge Savings  
Bob Brock Ford  
500 W. 4th 267-7424

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

1995 JEEP Wrangler Sahara, hard top, auto, 66,000 original miles - adult driven never off road. Excellent condition. \$8,700.00 OBO. Call (432)935-2500.

2002 AMERICAN Ironhorse Tejas Motorcycle. Beautiful bike with custom paint, garage kept, 240 rear tire, 107 C.I., dual exhaust, detachable sissy seat. One Owner New rear tire, breaks & belt. \$14,500.00 OBO. Call (432)264-7891.

91 NISSAN Maxima SE, 6 cylinder, automatic, sun roof, 88900 actual miles, \$3650.00 Firm. Call (432)935-2312.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Venus, the love goddess of the galaxy, will traipse the realm of Pisces through May 3. Soul connections are the goal with this transit, but that's not to say that temporal attractions won't significantly affect our choices for love. Now that the moon is in Leo, attention is lavished onto family. There'll be plenty of time for romance this weekend.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though results don't come as fast as you want them to, keep at it. Faith is a muscle that needs to be exercised just like any other muscle in your body. In your love life, you'll get the confirmation you've been wanting. TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You feel super — as though you've tapped into an energy field and are being compelled not by your own volition, but by the very force that fuels the spinning of the planets. In fact, this is true!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Years ago, you may have decided to live with a certain problem, but these days, such a decision will only wear you down. The stars suggest this is the perfect day to solve the issue and put it behind you for good.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Talking about what you don't want will only serve to disconnect you from all you need to make something you do want occur. Concentrate exclusively on your desire.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're sensitive to how you're being received and may even be brazen enough to ask, "How am I doing?" This is bold and charming, and ultimately, you are irresistible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). An element of madness makes for unexpected happenings. It's quite a day of extremes, too! Focus on that which you can control. As for the rest, take delight in the spontaneity of it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Bumps in the road take a humorous bent — you amuse yourself! Refusing to be serious, even when that seems to be what is called for, is your most

attractive quality. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). With so much competing for your interest, it's easy to pass up the thing that obviously requires it. Someone who interrupts you consistently or at particularly annoying junctures is in desperate need of your attention.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're truly gifted, but it doesn't mean you should expect yourself to get things right the first time with no practice at all. Today's best results are born of tenacity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). That fluttery feeling in your tummy is love — or something like it. With relationship issues so high on the agenda, you're going against the flow when you try to think of anything else.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Gratefulness is not only something you show, it's something you embody. Practice coming

from the place of appreciation in everything you do. Magic is guaranteed to happen.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My son (born May 11, 1942) has always had trouble finding work, but he works hard when he's got the job. That's why I'm so concerned now. He just lost another job (he's a software programmer), and no one is hiring now in his area. He sounds very depressed on the phone. Will his wife stand by him?"

Your confidence in your son matters much to him. So try not to show him how worried you are. You didn't give his wife's sign, but if she would leave simply because he is out of work, it's no big love lost to him. Of course, he will work again. He is a Taurus with his moon in Aries. Be reassured that when he makes up his mind to carry out his purposes, he will nearly always succeed. On the personality level, he is strong and has a tendency to be impulsive and rather too dogmatic, though very responsible in handling duties. He must be careful to guard against gaining a reputa-

tion as someone who can't get along with others — a problem I suspect was part of the reason his last employer let him go. This week is perfect for rebuilding references or repairing damaged work relationships.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Acting. Music. Fatherhood. Aries bad-boy Russell Crowe takes on many roles with debonair grace — that is, until he loses his cool. Aries is a fire sign, and most Aries people have a hot temper that explodes when the right trigger is tripped. Crowe will remind us why he made our heads turn in "Gladiator" and "A Beautiful Mind" when he returns to the big screen later this year.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to [www.creators.com](http://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](http://www.creators.com).

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Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need



KATHY MITCHELL  
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: My wife and I are friends with "Jim and Mary," whom we see regularly, but only on a limited basis. They can be quite enjoyable, but we once tried vacationing with them, and after 24 hours, my wife and I were stressed from Jim's negative attitude and complaints, Mary's compulsive behavior and the inability of either to make the simplest of decisions. They say it was their best vacation ever, but my wife and I call it the Vacation From Hell.

Since then, Jim and Mary constantly question us about our travel plans and continually invite themselves to join us. We all are retirees, and my wife and I travel often. We have done everything from ignoring their comments to telling them how much we prefer to travel alone, all of which falls on deaf ears.

Jim and Mary complain that other people don't always treat them nicely, but we happen to know it is because they invite

themselves to parties, trips, events, etc., taking the hosts by surprise. Jim and Mary think they have many friends because they are part of all these activities, but these friends are biting their tongues.

Mary never hesitates to ask personal questions or look through our mail, books, shopping bags or whatever. If our phone rings, she asks who's calling. If she sees a gift, she wants to know who sent it. Jim and Mary are not senile, nor do they have a medical condition that would account for their rudeness. It's been going on for years. They can be very nice, but this behavior is exhausting and they never stop. What can we do without completely losing the friendship? — Desperate To Travel Alone

Dear Desperate: We're wondering why you care about maintaining a friendship with rude, nosy people whom you don't want to be around for any length of time. What's the worst that could happen if you were honest? Tell them nicely, "Sorry, but we won't disclose our travel plans, since we prefer to travel alone." Say, "We really don't like it when you go through our mail. Please put it down." If they are

offended and avoid you, it sounds like a pretty good deal to us.

Dear Annie: You have printed many columns about weddings. What catches my attention is the fact that the first thing couples do is pick a date and rent a hall for the reception. As a pastor, I see this quite often, but for some reason, couples fail to check with the church and pastor first. They then are indignant and sometimes downright angry when I'm not available due to another commitment.

I've also seen an increase in the number of people who are not connected to my congregation, yet expect to be married in my church. This causes problems, also. Please tell your readers to take into consideration the clergy involved and make them part of the planning first — not last. — Midwest Pastor

Dear Pastor: Couples often assume their local church (and clergy) will be at their disposal and forget there is a real possibility of conflicting commitments. For those who plan to marry in church or who will have clergy officiating, please put them first on your checklist. Weddings are stressful enough.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Adoptee's Wife," whose husband died from inherited causes, but the parents still will not reveal what they know of his biological parents. Now "Wife" is worried about her children.

Please tell her that children of adoptees can often find information about the birth parents through the Vital Statistics department of the state in which the adopted person was born. I hope this is helpful. — Edilma R. Him Osorio, Supervisor, Vital Records, Lincoln, Neb.

Dear Edilma Osorio: Thank you for reminding our readers of this resource. We hope "Wife" can at least get the state of birth from her in-laws so she can do further research.

Dear Annie: Please print this letter. If it helps even one person who is addicted to pornography, it will be worth it. My husband and I retired several years ago, and we have five wonderful children who are grown and raising fami-

lies of their own. While raising the children, we both tried to instill high moral values. We went to church each Sunday, and my husband even sang in the choir. Everyone thought we were a good, Christian family.

However, my husband had a deep, dark secret. He is homosexual and was addicted to gay pornography. He would pretend to be at club meetings when he actually was at an adult bookstore four or five hours each day. A couple of times I confronted him, and he just hung his head and told me he was trying to stop. I didn't want the family to know because he had been a devoted father, and the children and grandchildren loved him very much.

Unfortunately, he was alone in a booth at the adult bookstore when he suffered a severe stroke. No one knew how long he had been in there. When I received the call from the hospital, I was devastated. We all gathered in the emergency room, and when the children started asking questions, I confided in my son-in-law, a minister, and he helped me tell the family the horrible truth. There are no words to describe how awful this was. The family was crushed.

We all suffered because of his addiction. If anyone out there is struggling with this, please get help before you hurt the ones you love the most. — No Name, No City

Dear No Name: This was obviously a terrible ordeal for your family. Your husband's need to disguise his sexual orientation must have made him unhappy for years, and he apparently turned to porn to satisfy what couldn't be reconciled in his marriage. We hope others who are hiding addictions and other problems will keep this scenario in mind and get whatever help they need.

Dear Annie: While visiting Punta del Este, a beautiful beach city in Uruguay, I became aware of a local custom that I'd like to pass along.

While at the beach, I heard people clapping and asked why. A friend explained that when a child becomes separated from the family, the child begins to clap. The first person who notices claps, too. Everyone then

becomes aware and starts doing the same until the family reunites with their lost child.

I thought this would be very useful. You may want to teach your children to clap their hands if they get separated from you. It is very rewarding seeing that such a small act can help ease a parent's nightmare. Also — no one will dare go far with someone else's child when all eyes are focused on them clapping. — C-Smart

Dear C-Smart: An interesting idea, but unless everyone knows what it means, most people will think the clapping is for some kind of performance. Any community that wants to promote this idea, however, could find it quite helpful, and in time, who knows? It could catch on. Thanks.

Dear Annie: I'm writing in response to a letter from the woman whose grandchild called her "Gram-Cracker." I think it's endearing and shows just how much love they have for one another.

My 5-year-old granddaughter gave me a nickname, and I wouldn't change it for the world. She calls me "Gramma Snacks." I think it's because she knows which cupboard to head for when she gets there. She has named her step-grandma "Grandma Cindy Noodles" and her great-grandma is "Grandma Rocking Chair." What a delight she is. — Gramma Snacks in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Dear Gramma: Your granddaughter sounds creative and imaginative — and utterly charming.

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](mailto: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](http://www.creators.com). © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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THURSDAY

Table with 13 columns (WFAA, KMIH, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 13 rows (6-12) listing TV programs and channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I THREW THEM AWAY 'CAUSE I NEEDED ROOM FOR AN ACTION FIGURES MORE THAN I NEEDED THOSE SOCKS."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"But on the box it says, 'Open here'."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, April 6, the 96th day of 2006. There are 269 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 6, 1909, explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson became the first men to reach the North Pole...

on CBS' "See It Now" in which he charged that Murrow had, in the past, "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes." In 1965, the United States launched the Early Bird communications satellite. In 1985, William J. Schroeder became the first artificial heart recipient to be discharged from the hospital as he moved into an apartment in Louisville, Ky.

Levinson is 64. Actor John Ratzenberger is 59. Actress Marilu Henner is 54. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Janet Lynn is 53. Actor Michael Rooker is 51. Rock singer-musician Frank Black is 41. Author Vince Flynn is 40. Actress Ari Meyers is 37. Actor Paul Rudd is 37. Actor Jason Hervery is 34. Rock musician Markku Lappalainen (Hoobastank) is 33. Actor Zach Braff is 31. Actress Candace Cameron is 30. Actor Bret Harrison is 24.

Answer to previous puzzle: DARNIS MIST CAP ELIOT AREA PAUL CADDYSHACK ENDO ASSENT STEINWAY ERA SUFFERS STEW ARS USH AURA PETIT OUST UNIT NAM USTA LANE MARAT SEAM RHO EGO EDGE SEASONS ENG WISHBONE INASEC ODIE COPACABANA REDD LOIS RIGOR ERE ETCH LEAST

Newsday Crossword

LEARNING EXPERIENCE by R.J. Hartman Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 tai, 4 Declares, 9 Tokyo cartoon, 14 Javelin's path, 15 Fragrant shrub, 16 Divas' vehicles, 17 Dundee denial, 18 A Bell for, 19 Spreadsheet entries, 20 Kid's riding aid, 23 Shakespearean bad guy, 24 Nationality suffix, 25 "Equal" start, 27 One of Washington's generals, 31 Jeff Gordon org., 34 Les -Unis, 37 Junior's transport, briefly, 38 Michael Caine film of '83, 42 Walk stealthily, 43 Muscat resident, 44 Fake drakes, 46 Cautious, 51 "That's disgusting!", 52 Psi preceder, 55 Architect Saarinen, 56 Certain graduate student, 62 About, 63 English estate, 64 Diesel of XXX, 65 Keats and Yeats, 66 TV studio sign, 67 The Name of the Rose author, 68 Actress MacDowell, 69 Doles out, 70 Karate ranking, 10 Half of a golf course, 11 Hinted at, 12 Entrée with eggplant, 13 Harford hrs., 21 Chit, 22 Roost, 2 Genes, landing place, 26 Galena or bauxite, 28 Tom Sawyer's girlfriend, 29 SFO stat, 30 Alliance headquartered in Brussels, 32 Some courtyards, 33 Lanka, 35 Director Burton vessels, 36 Slowdown, 38 Board-choosing activity, 39 Horse-traded, 40 Card game, 41 African antelope, 42 Star Wars initials, 45 MIT, e.g., 47 Bro or sis, 48 Investigated, with "into", 49 Beethoven's Third, 50 Hostile to, 53 TV greeting, 54 Foolish, 57 Start of a play, 58 Laptop holder, 59 Black fly, 60 Pâté de gras, 61 Blows it, 62 Schedule C expert

