



Council expected to OK Cox Cable assignment

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to put its final stamp of approval on assignment of the cable television franchise in Big Spring during its Tuesday evening meeting, giving the go-ahead for Cox Communications to sell its Big Spring operation to St. Louis-based Cebridge Connections Inc.

The agreement — which also includes cable television systems in Lubbock, Midland, Amarillo, San Angelo and Abilene areas — recently came

under fire from the city council, which authorized an audit of the cable provider's records prior to approving the franchise change.

According to City Attorney Jean Shotts, who commented on the matter following the council's decision to perform the audit in January, the procedure was just a final chance for municipal customers to make sure Cox Communications has paid all of its bills before "leaving town."

"The city of Big Spring — along with all of the other cities served by Cox Communications — were given notice of the sale

in December," said Shotts. "Prior to that sale being completed, we wanted to make sure all of the cities have been paid all of the franchise fees that they are due."

City officials are expected to release the amount of the settlement with Cox during Tuesday's meeting.

Pete Abel, spokesperson for Cequel III — the telecommunications management firm handling Cebridge — said he expects the transition to go smoothly. Cebridge is also expected to keep the current Cox employees in the affected markets, according to Abel.

"Our No. 1 goal when we officially take over is going to be to maintain continuity," said Abel. "We want the transition to be seamless for the customers. The most significant change they will see is a change of the name on their bill."

Abel said there are no changes planned for the channel line-up currently in place. However, Cebridge is looking at making some improvements to the Internet broadband services Cox has established in the market.

"We will probably look at boosting the top download speeds," said Abel. "This is a

very competitive market, so we're always looking for ways to provide faster speeds for the customers."

Also on Tuesday's agenda:
 • Final reading of a resolution granting authority to the mayor to approve the assignment of the cable television franchise.
 • Final reading of a resolution authorizing an application for a STEP Wave grant from the Texas Department of Transportation.

• Final reading of a resolution authorizing the support of expansion for the Hangar 25

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3A

HCVFD crews challenged again

Tank battery malfunction starts blaze

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

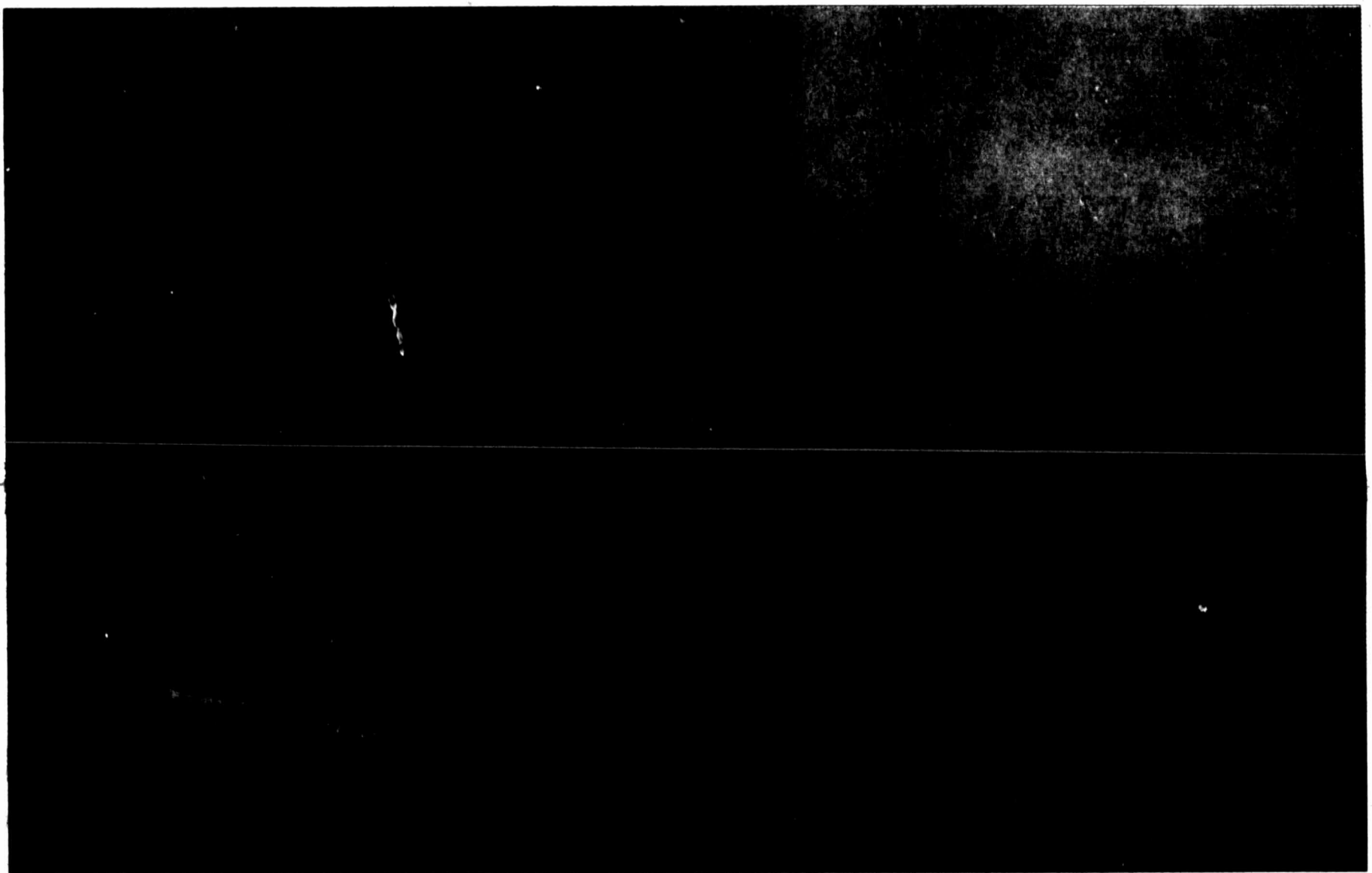
Howard County volunteer firefighters battled a second blaze in less than four days Sunday afternoon, as quick moving grass and brush fires west of Big Spring threatened several homes.

The fire, which was caused by an electrical malfunction at an oil tank battery near Bates and Cauble roads, destroyed more than 320 acres, but spared several homes in the area, according to Howard County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tommy Sullivan.

"We dodged the bullet again," said a very weary Sullivan, who, along with his men, fought the fire through Monday morning. "We managed to keep the homes in the area from being damaged, so we're pretty pleased."

"The fire was over a mile and quarter long and about a half-mile wide," Sullivan noted. "There is still some smoldering toward the center of the fire this morning, but we have the perimeter looking good."

Just Thursday, Sullivan



This brush fire creeps up on the banks of a stream west of Big Spring late Sunday afternoon. The second major grass fire in the area, more than 320 acres were burned during the blaze, according to Howard County Volunteer Fire Chief Tommy Sullivan.

and his crew battled a pair of brush and grass fires that destroyed an estimated 4,000 acres in the Forsan area.

"The guys handled it really well," said Sullivan. "Two major fires like this in less than four days can really take

its toll on people, but they were very professional and did their jobs well. We also had a lot of support from the community

with people sending food out to us and things like that, which helps a lot." No injuries were reported as a result of the fire.

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

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

New Family and Consumer Science agent joins local staff

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The Howard County Extension Office has a new face for its Family and Consumer Science effort, as Louisiana native Kori Myers recently signed on to head up the department.

Myers, who came to Howard County from Jennings, La., said she decided to see what the Lone Star State had to



MYERS

offer after she graduated from college. "I was born and raised there," said Myers. "I worked with the Extension previously, in Louisiana, and then I went to graduate school. I have history with Extension-type activities, such as 4-H. I finished graduate school in

December and I wanted to work for an Extension office, but the entire state of Louisiana is under a hiring freeze. So I applied to work in Texas."

Myers said the idea to check out the opportunities to the West came from a source that might not surprise area residents — a friendly Texan.

"I had a friend I worked with in Louisiana that was from Texas, and he talked very highly of the

state's Extension services," said Myers. "So I applied and went through about two or three phone interviews for this particular position, and then I was invited here for an in-person interview. Tommy Yeater, our agricultural agent, took me on a county tour for a little more than three hours."

"We went all over Howard County and were looking at the area, and Tommy told me a lot

about the people and the programs that Howard County has. The people that I met while I was here interviewing gave me a really good feeling, and this town is similar in size and people to the town where I grew up. I felt like it was a really good fit for me and for Howard County."

And while the sheer size of her service region might seem daunting at first glance, Myers said

she likes the way Texas handles and organizes its Extension offices.

"It's a lot bigger here in Texas," said Myers with a laugh. "However, you have a lot more support. It's organized a little different here. There's more help for us on the regional level. Instead of having to contact someone at the state office, we can contact our regional program

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To reach us:

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Denim and Diamonds deadline is Friday

By **VALERIE AVERY**
 Special to the Herald

The deadline for receiving proper recognition on the Big Spring State Hospital Volunteer Services Council's 20th Annual Denim and Diamonds fund-raiser is Friday.

First letters were mailed this month for the June 3 gala. The gala is the council's most profitable fund-raiser, which generates money for the hospital's patients.

The Volunteer Services Council generates funds for the patients, providing items and goods beyond the state's resources.

The 200-bed hospital serves people with mental illness in a 58-county area of West Texas and the Texas Panhandle.

"Last year's location worked out so well, we decided to do it again," she said. "But this time, we moved it to a Saturday night. We think

hosting it on Saturday instead of Friday will make it easier for our donors to attend.

Last year's gala attracted 300 people and raised \$21,106 for the patients of Big Spring State Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Barr and Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Cole will host the gala at their homes, 600 and 606 Mathews, said Billie Christie-Morgan, the hospital's director of community relations. Leslie

Elrod and Mary Kay and Scott McLaughlin also will serve as hosts in addition to the Barr and Cole families.

Volunteer Services Council Chairman Doris Huibregtse and Mark and Stacy Barr will serve as 2006 Gala chairpersons.

"It is by far our most profitable fund-raiser and also, the most fun," Christie-Morgan said.

Past Denim and Diamonds

See **DEADLINE**, Page 3A

Obituaries

M.A. 'Shorty' Lilly



M.A. "Shorty" Lilly, 83, of Midland, formerly of Big Spring, died Sunday, April 9, 2006, in a Midland hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 11, 2006, at the Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with Eric Dickey, Church of Christ minister, officiating.
He was born May 3, 1922, in Elbert and married Vernell Coble Aug. 9, 1942, in Snyder.

Shorty attended Fluvanna Schools, where he played football. He worked at Cosden from 1941 until retiring in 1982 and was a member of the Cosden 25 Year Club. He was a member of the Sand Springs Scout Committee and served as a board member of the Midway School. He served as a reserve deputy for the Howard County Sheriff's Office and taught Sunday school classes at Sand Springs Church of Christ, where he also served as an Elder.

Shorty loved fishing, gardening and enjoyed playing practical jokes. He also enjoyed being a "tinkering engineer" and could construct anything. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather - known to grandchildren as "PawPaw."

He was a member of the Westside Church of Christ of Midland.

Survivors include his wife, Vernell Lilly of Midland; one son and daughter-in-law, Don and Geri Lilly of Midland; one daughter and son-in-law, Janis "Cherry Jan" and Brice Willborn of Brownwood; two sisters, Elaine Hocker of Saratoga, Calif., and Iris Conner of Robert Lee; seven grandchildren, Greg Willborn of Brownwood, Janna Inge, Jeffery Lilly, Joe Don Lilly, Myra Szalay and Celina Jeansonne, all of Midland and Kimberly Frenzel of Orange; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, J.B. and Myrtle Lilly and four brothers, Frank Hughes, Oliver Hughes, J.D. Hughes and Emmitt Lilly.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Heart Association, 3205 W. Cuthbert, Suite A-5, Midland 79701.

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

Paid obituary

Dortha Dyer Carpenter

Dortha Dyer Carpenter, 91, of Big Spring died Sunday, April 9, 2006, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

George Vincent Raef

George Vincent Raef, 87, of Big Spring, formerly of Amarillo, died Saturday, April 8, 2006, at the Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Weather

Today — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tuesday — Decreasing clouds. Highs in the mid 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Thursday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s.

Thursday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Friday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s.

Friday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Saturday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Sunday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s.

Take note

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

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM VETERAN OF THE MONTH RECEPTION**, honoring the April veteran, Donald Scheiber, is 6 p.m. Thursday at the museum. For more information, call 264-1999.

• **BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS** "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the high school auditorium. This is the performance that earned the BSHS theatre students a District 4-4A win. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. For more information, call 264-3641.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM ART CONTEST** deadline for submissions is Friday. Open to children 5-18, the winner's entry will become the art work for a new Hangar 25 T-shirt. For rules or more information, call the museum at 264-1999.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 10 a.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. today:

- **TERI NALL**, 48, of 105 W. Eighth Street, was arrested Saturday on three local warrants.
- **CHANCE HANSON**, 18, of 3300 Fordham, was arrested Sunday on two local warrants.
- **LISA AGUERO**, 36, of 1001 E. 15th Street, was arrested Sunday on two local capias warrants.
- **DAVID MATTHEW COBB**, 27, of Amarillo, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
 - in the 200 block of Marcy.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1900 block of Main Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1900 block of Main Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1000 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported:
 - in the 700 block of Edwards.
 - in the 1900 block of Main Street.
 - in the 800 block of FM 700.

Sheriff's report

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

- **JOE MICHAEL CANALES**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft of services.
- **ERIC MONTELONGO**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **KENNEY JANA KRUEGER**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft by check.
- **RICHARD VELA SALAZAR**, 54, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for contempt of court - child support.
- **DERRICK DRAKE**, 20, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for criminal trespass.
- **ADOLPH LEON LABBE JR.**, 31, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid and possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- **BRANDON LEON RAMEY**, 26, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.
- **SAMUEL VASQUEZ**, 20, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid, failure to stop and render aid and abandonment/endangerment of a child without intent to return.
- **STEVEN RAY EVANS**, 17, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of assault - family violence.
- **DONALD DARELL KARAVATOS**, 44, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **BRANDY MARIE WRIGHT**, 23, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of theft of services, driving while intoxicated - open container (second offense) and driving while license invalid.
- **DAVID LYNN DOW**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of violation of a protective order, resisting arrest, search or transportation and criminal mischief.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 6100 block of Walter Road.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 3500 block of East Interstate Highway 20.

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 700 block of Baylor. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of FM 700 and Highway 350. Three people were transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Scurry. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2500 block of March. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of East 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Benton. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-9-12-40-43. Bonus Ball: 26. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$27 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-19-21-23-24. Number matching five of five: 1. Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night, in order: 3-4-0

Bulletin board

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

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

- THURSDAY**
- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
 - Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
 - Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
 - Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
 - American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
 - The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.
 - Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.
 - Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

- FRIDAY**
- Good Friday.
 - Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
 - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
 - Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

- SATURDAY**
- Free eye glasses are available from 9 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. in the Event Center, 1607 E. Third.
 - Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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FIGHTING SUNDAY'S BLAZE



A firefighter with the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department "flares" an area near a group of homes during Sunday afternoon's fire west of Big Spring. According to fire officials, the method is used to help create burnt-out fire breaks in an effort to protect areas ahead of a fast moving brush fire.



The flames leap this portion of a grass and brush fire burns west of Big Spring Sunday afternoon. The fire destroyed more than 320 acres of land near Bates and Cauble roads.

Schools staff wet to benefit from district's new program

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

A healthy staff is an effective staff, local school officials believe.

To promote better health among its employees, Big Spring Independent School District officials have started a "wellness program" that offers a variety of exercise activities to the more than 200 people employed by the district.

Food Service Director Joann Knox, who coordinates the wellness program for the district, said the program began as a suggestion from Edwards Risk Management, BSISD's provider for worker's compensation insurance.

Soon after that, a task force comprised of Knox and 14 other district officials began exploring ideas on how to promote the program.

"We started brainstorming about ways to improve wellness among the employees," Knox said. "At the same time, we hope the programs will help reduce insurance costs, as well."

The task force surveyed employees to determine their views, and learned that they would "like more physical-type activities and more nutritional-type activities offered," Knox said.

Athletic Director Tim Holt, also a member of the task force, developed an exercise circuit at the Athletic Training Center that employees can use

when the equipment is not in use by students.

Regular circuit hours are at 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Knox said.

Another program open to BSISD employees is twice-weekly aerobic classes at the high school physical education gym.

"And individual campuses are offering their own activities as incentives for employees to start exercising," Knox added.

Although the effort to cut insurance costs to the district is a driving force behind the programs, BSISD Superintendent Michael Downes said there were other benefits as well.

"The most notable benefit is the opportunity for our staff to work out in fellowship together," Downes said. "It contributes to the development of a team aspect."

Future plans call for the development of nutrition-awareness classes, as well as program held in conjunction with other local agencies, Knox said.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
George Vincent Raef, 87, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

AGENT

Continued from Page 1A

manager. The way the Extension agencies are organized here in Texas, it was very attractive to come and work here."

Having taken over the local department in mid-March, Myers said she's

found plenty to do and has plenty of plans for the Howard County area.

"My role is to bring the area of family consumer sciences to the people of the community," said Myers. "I will be doing programming at the Big Spring Workforce Network related to stretching your food dol-

ars and nutrition. I'll also be working on healthy cooking for the veterans program and shopping on a budget for the Choices Program.

"I'll also be working on some health-related topics for the local welfare office. I also want to work out at the Spring City Senior Citizens Center

and bring this type of programming to them on a bi-weekly basis."

For more information on the Howard County Extension Office and the Family and Consumer Sciences Department, contact Myers at 264-2236.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1A

Air Museum and to guarantee funding needs to match any funds awarded by TxDOT through the Transportation Enhancement Program.

• Final reading of an ordinance declaring the unopposed candidates in the May 13, 2006, general election.

• Final reading of a res-

olution extending time to hold property deeded in lieu of tax foreclosure.

• Final reading of a resolution releasing property subject to the paving assessment dated June 10, 1926.

• Final reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement with the Big Spring YMCA.

• Award bids for wedge-water panels for the waste water plant drying beds.

• First reading of a resolution seeking approval to auction Howard County trustee properties to the highest bidder for cash without reservation.

• Acceptance of the proposed budget for Howard County Tax Assessor/Collector for 2006-2007.

• First reading of a resolution accepting a deed from State National Bank to the city of Big Spring and authorizing and

directing the mayor to execute a deed conveying the same property from the city to the Crossroads Housing Corp.

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

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

DEADLINE

Continued from Page 1A

galas have funded the Animal Assisted Therapy Building, Multi-Sensory Room, the greenhouse, a walking track, three courtyard areas, and a passenger tram.

This year's Denim and Diamonds \$20,000 goal

will fund an internet cafe for the patients and a second on-campus passenger tram to transport patients to on-campus appointments and classes.

Scott McLaughlin and Friends, also known as "The Full House" band will provide background music with 40s and 50s tunes during the 7 p.m. barbecue. A street dance

will follow from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. with Lamesa's "Sulfur Draw."

Complimentary valet parking will be provided.

If you did not receive a letter and would like to attend or make a donation, please contact the Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Office at 268-7535. Or you can mail your donation to

Big Spring State Hospital Community Relations Office, 1901 N. Highway 87, Big Spring 79720.

To be listed on the donor card, correspondence must be received by April 14. Donor categories are: Benefactor \$1,000 and above; Patron, \$500 to \$999; Sponsor, \$200 to \$499; Friend \$100 to \$199; and Donor \$50 to \$99.

Urgent news for people who took

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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

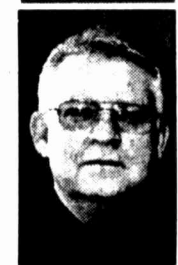
John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

America's newspapers help freedom

In the early days of our country, the founding fathers recognized that a viable democracy required an informed citizenry. One of the first agencies created by the Continental Congress was the Post Office Department and one of the most important reasons was to create a means for delivering the news.

Freedom of the press is a cornerstone of our democracy and an important reason why the United States is a beacon of freedom to the world. The Postal Service is proud to be a partner in helping America's newspapers deliver the word.



GARY CRITTENDEN

Today's community newspapers can proudly trace their heritage to Benjamin Franklin's *The Pennsylvania Gazette* and other colonial newspapers. Today, as then, these publications provide information on a wide range of local issues that are important to all of us.

In 1879, Congress formalized this service and created a new class of mail — now called "periodicals" — to disseminate news and educational information across the nation and "bind the nation together."

Originally, Congress authorized the carrying of newspapers and periodical publications in the mail at no charge. Today, with nearly 10 billion newspapers, magazine and other publications delivered each year, we no longer can provide free delivery. However, postage rates for periodicals are generally the lowest offered by the Postal Service and rank among the lowest in the industrialized world.

After all these years, the Postal Service and America's community newspapers still strive to "bind the nation together" by delivering news, opinions and information that keep us informed — and help to keep us free.

Gary Crittenden is Big Spring's postmaster. His weekly column are designed to inform the residents of Big Spring about the history of the Postal Service and to explain different services it offers.

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 be compassionate and a friend to others, showing Your love, Lord.

Amen

Some in Congress must 'prove it'

Members of Congress who support an immigration bill that would include a guest worker program and what Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., called a "pathway to legal status" for illegal immigrants insist that they want to discourage further illegal immigration. If so, they can prove it.

All they have to do is pass a law that allows for that legal pathway only after the number of illegal immigrants shrinks in America from some 12 million today to 8 million, or another number that represents a true reduction in illegal immigrants.

When the number of illegal immigrants dips below 8 million, a trigger would allow the federal government to start proceedings to enable those illegal immigrants who otherwise have followed the rules to become legal residents, and eventually citizens. If the number of illegal residents rises above 8 million, the government then can suspend the process until the number falls below 8 million again.

I propose the above because it is both humane and effective. Advocates for undocumented workers argue that people who come here, work hard and establish families should have a pathway to citizenship. Let them become citizens, and they will have a stake in America's future

as they enjoy the welcome embrace that naturalized citizenship confers.

The problem is: Amnesty begets more illegal immigration. If Washington required a true reduction of illegal immigration, however, today's immigrants also would have a stake in reducing the ranks of illegal newcomers.

As Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies noted, when President Ronald Reagan signed amnesty legislation in 1986, there were 5 million illegal immigrants, 2.7 million of whom were made legal. Then, "the enforcement promises were pretty much abandoned once the amnesty stuff was out of the way."

Now there are some 12 million illegal immigrants in America. "Every illegal alien who got a green card was replaced by a new illegal alien within 10 years," Krikorian noted.

So why should Americans support another bill that promises to get tough on illegal immigration even as Washington rewards illegal immigrants? Krikorian believes members of Congress are promising tougher enforcement, but "they have no intention of enforcing the immigration laws, period."

Political analysts observe that immigration is splitting the GOP. In fact, the issue is splitting the country because it is so complex. I feel conflicted. I want to welcome immigrants in America. I have met people who came here illegally and worked hard, long hours in their pursuit of the American dream. I want them to join the

American family. I also know that America can absorb only so many people. The influx of illegal immigration has depressed wages for low-skilled workers. That's not good for America's poor.

It also can't be good when illegal immigrants have so much contempt for a country's immigration laws that they apparently feel not only that they have a right to break those laws — but also that they can break U.S. law, and deserve to be rewarded with citizenship.

Washington can respond to this schism in one of two ways: with honest compromise or dishonest legislation. Today, dishonesty is winning. President Bush says he wants a "comprehensive bill" that strengthens enforcement and provides workers for the jobs he says Americans won't take. But the result won't be comprehensive. It will be more cheap labor and more dollars thrown at border enforcement, but to little effect.

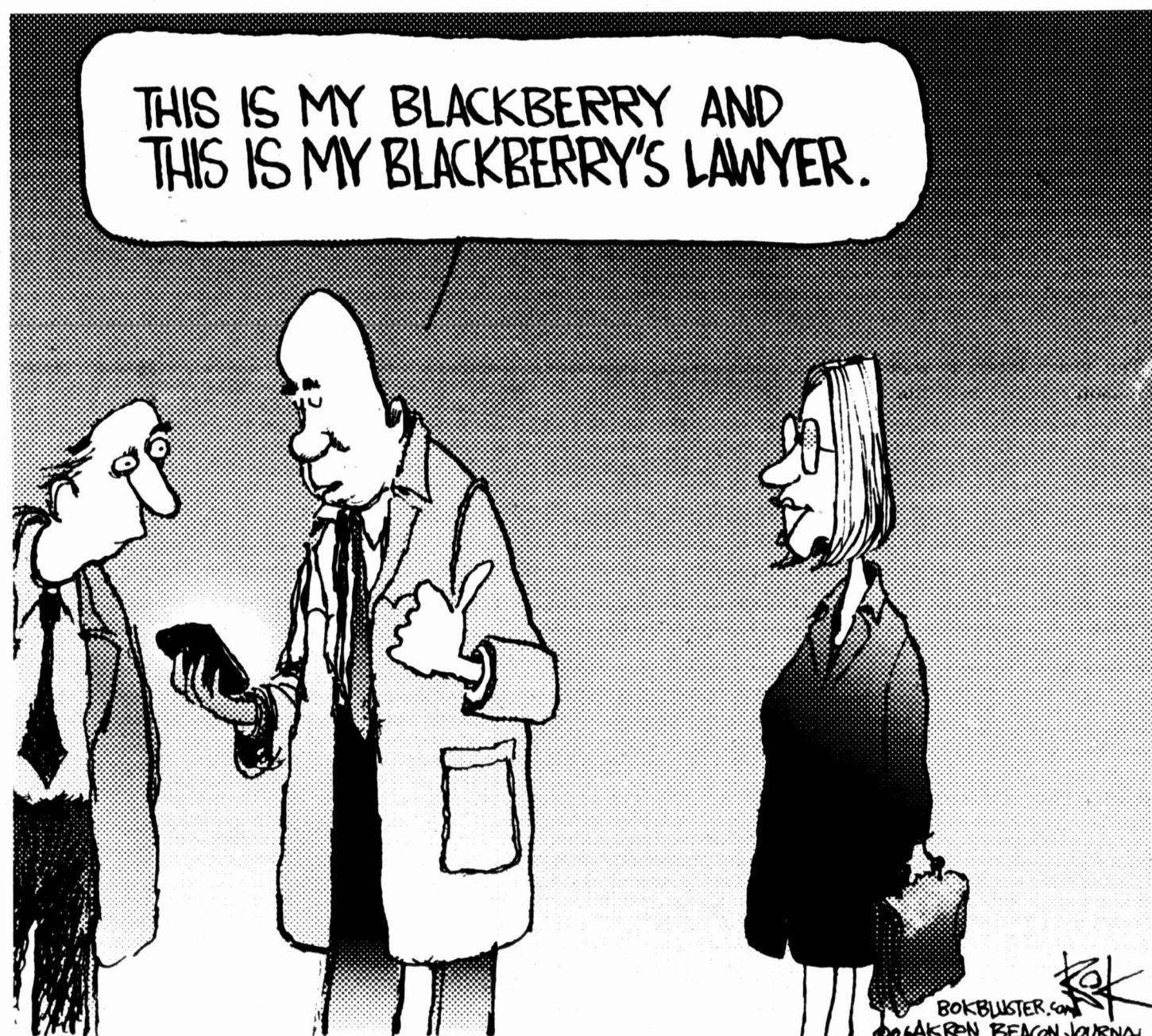
If a new law required a reduction in illegal immigration before legalization, then Washington would have an incentive to reduce the number of undocumented workers — perhaps for the first time in years.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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DEBRA SAUNDERS



Bush puts 'pol' in 'pollute'

What do you give the polluter who has everything? If you're the Bush administration, that's a tough call. After all, you've already given heavy industry the chance to emit more mercury and arsenic. You've rolled back the "roadless rule" that protected 58.5 million acres of national forest. You've pooh-poohed global warming and allowed the gas and oil companies to pretty much pen the nation's energy policy. Finding new goodies for this group is harder than buying a baby gift for Barron Trump.

ait! Inspiration: Why not give polluters who were forced to clean up in the '90s a chance to backslide? And — because every present needs a bow — why not make sure the guy in charge of overseeing them is on their side?

Yes, the Bush administration must be thinking: This is the perfect gift. And now it is attempting

to deliver. Enter William Wehrum, the industry-coddling cog President Bush hopes to install as air pollution czar at the Environmental Protection Agency. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee could vote on his appointment before the end of the month.

"Based on his background, I have serious concerns," says Sen. Hillary Clinton, who is on the committee. Not only was Wehrum once a lobbyist for the very industries he will oversee (this seems to be a requirement for Bush appointees), he also has spent the past five years at the regulation-reversing EPA. Most recently, he drafted a proposal that would allow companies that had reduced their toxic emissions to drop out of the very program that made them clean up.

This nifty exemption is not a reward for a job well done, says John Walke at the Natural Resources Defense Council, it's a free pass for those companies to go back to their bad old ways.

"If you're deregulated, you get out from everything," says Walke. Laws passed in the 1990s forced

companies to reduce their toxic emissions by sometimes up to 95 percent. Lift those laws and polluters will be free to start spewing a good portion of their crud again.

That prospect is so appalling that seven out of 10 of the EPA's own regional offices just sent a memo to Wehrum protesting his proposal. They also protested his contention that the industries will police themselves out of fear of bad publicity.

Ha. Bad publicity never stopped those companies from polluting before. Laws did.

The environment has been under siege ever since Bush came into office. The last thing we need is a pollution czar who's blowing smoke.

Lenore Skenazy is a columnist at *The New York Daily News* (Lskenazy@nydailynews.com). To find out more about her, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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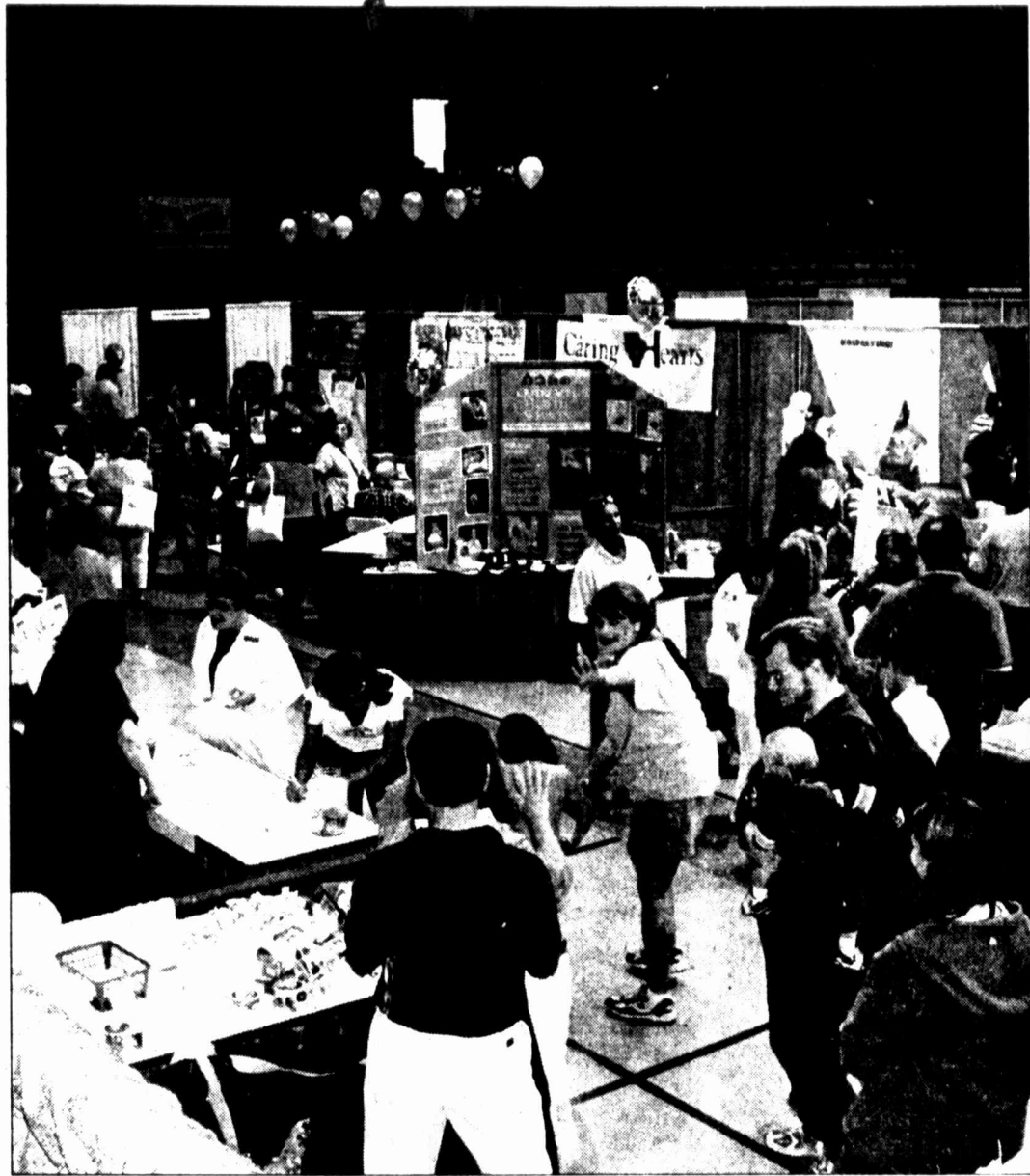
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HEALTH FAIR 2006



More than 1,000 people turned out Saturday to attend the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

HERALD photo, Steve Reagan

Study: Daily low-dose aspirin can help protect women's hearts

Brought to you by Scenic Mountain Medical Center

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of American women of all ages and claims the lives of nearly 367,000 women every year. But a new study suggests that taking low-dose, or 81-milligram, aspirin once a day may help prevent heart attacks in women by preventing platelet-clumping, a known cause of heart attack and stroke.

The study findings appear in the Journal of American Medical Association and are significant because the study is believed to be the first direct comparison of both men and women — and it challenges earlier research that reported women received little benefit from aspirin therapy. The new study suggests that “women are clearly benefiting from taking aspirin and should continue to take it to improve their cardiovascular health.” Armed with this information, physicians and their female patients may now decide to discuss the heart health benefits of a daily low-dose, or baby, aspirin.

In addition to aspirin therapy, women can take other steps to help mitigate their risk of heart attack.

Primary risk factors linked to heart attacks and cardiovascular disease include high cholesterol, obesity, stress and heredity. Exercising, eating healthfully and not smoking can help women maintain their heart health. Excess weight causes the heart to work harder, increases blood pressure, triglycerides and bad cholesterol — and decreases good cholesterol.

One major risk factor women cannot change is heredity. A heart attack in a sibling increases risk three to four

times. A heart attack in a parent increases risk 1.5 times. However, women with this family history can reduce their risk by making the following lifestyle changes.

— Diet: Eat foods high in fiber, low in fat and cholesterol. Include plenty of fruits, vegetables and whole grains. This is one step to curbing obesity, which is more common in women than in men.

— Exercise: Women who are physically active have a much lower risk of heart attacks than those who are sedentary. Exercise doesn't have to necessarily be strenuous. Walking up steps, doing housework, and a gentle stroll around the block can add up to increase fitness levels.

— Stop smoking immediately. Quitting the habit today will reap cardiovascular benefits even if you have been smoking for years. For women on the pill, smoking, especially after the age of 35, increases the risk of heart disease significantly.

Talk to your doctor about whether you are a candidate for aspirin therapy, especially in light of the recent Johns Hopkins study.

Make regular visits to your doctor — even if you seem healthy, always get checkups. The key to staying in good health is preventing problems before they start.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding heart health for women, talk with your physician

Kindness in the doctor's kit, too

By DAWN FALLIK

Knight Ridder Newspapers

When Karl Jackson learned that his mother had cancer almost 15 years ago, it was a cold, hard discussion, with little room for emotion and lots of plans for surgery.

Ten years later, it was Jackson's turn. His doctor sat down next to him, said the blood work was in and asked if he was ready to hear the results. It turned out to be multiple myeloma, an incurable but treatable cancer of the plasma cell.

“Every time he explained something, he asked if I had a question for him — I really felt like he cared,” Jackson said.

That kind of bad news is repeated thousands of times a day at bedsides, across desktops and over the phone, turning lives upside down. But as recently as a decade ago, those giving the news received no training in how to handle the “talk,” often leaving both doctor and patient feeling even worse.

Now a majority of the medical schools at least address the issue, says a spokeswoman from the Association of American Medical Schools.

Philadelphia's four medical schools not only teach it but require students to practice their communication skills. The University of Pennsylvania Medical School started a program in 1999. Temple University School of Medicine did the same three years ago. And Drexel now makes training videos of “bad news” conversations for medical school students nationwide.

Even seasoned doctors — many of whom explicitly remember their first “talk” — are being asked to revisit their technique.

“I learned how to give bad news by making mistakes, and I said a lot of things that I regretted later,” says Dennis Novack, associate dean of medical education at Drexel University College of Medicine. “There was one patient who asked

me, ‘Am I dying?’ and I just said, ‘Yes.’ I would never say that now.”

Part of the problem, professors say, is that mentors are often not open to talking about emotional connections to patients.

One 2005 study looked at third-year medical students whose patients died while on their internal medicine rotation. In a majority of the cases, there was no discussion of the death at all by the student's medical team, and when it was mentioned, the attending physician focused solely on the medical technicalities. Doctors brought up emotional issues in only six out of 27 deaths.

“On these rare occasions when the attending physician discussed the emotional aspects of the death with the team, the medical students thought it was helpful and expressed appreciation,” said the study, based partly out of the University of Pittsburgh.

So when students sit down for the talk, they make mistakes. Mostly, they talk too much, spewing out medical facts and babbling about how sorry they are and not focusing the conversation on the patient, says Ellen Tedaldi, a professor at Temple and director of the school's HIV Program.

In 1992, Robert Buckman, then a medical oncologist at the University of Toronto, wrote “How to Break Bad News: A Guide for Healthcare Professionals,” considered the landmark book on the practice.

In it, he describes six steps to giving bad news, from getting started in a quiet place to making plans for the next treatment, and how to handle



KRT photo/Tom Gralish, Philadelphia Inquirer

Dr. Muriel Gillick walks off the set during a filming of mock bad news scenarios for Drexel's Doc.com program.

things when the patient's family says, “Don't tell.” The goal is to give the patient room to ask questions and be upset, doctors say.

Novack, along with Drexel professor Christof Daetwyler, received a \$200,000 grant to create a series of 40 downloadable videos for both students and experienced medical professionals. It's called “Doc.com” in which experts re-create scenarios with patient-actors, stopping along the way to explain why they did what they did.

Used by several medical schools, including Yale and Stanford, the most downloaded scene is “Dealing With the Difficult Patient,” Novack says.

In March they taped Timothy Quill and Muriel Gillick, palliative-care specialists from the University of Rochester

doctors let the patient cry, ask questions — or not — if she wasn't ready, and finished with a plan for future contact.

“When you're getting bad news, even if it's done very well, it's bad,” says Quill, who says he received the “call from hell” when his brother was seriously injured in a bicycling accident years ago.

Doctors have mixed feelings about giving bad news over the phone, he says, because “if things go sour, you're not there to pick up the pieces and help the patient.”

Students say that they may not remember everything given in the sessions, but they make an impression.

Scott Campbell is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. At the school, students are required to take a “doctoring” class, which includes a session specifically on giving bad news and how to handle it as a physician.

At age 26, Campbell had never been on the other side of the bad news scenario, so when he told a 20-year-old she had hepatitis C, he paused.

“I said, ‘I need to let you

know that the test came back positive,’” Campbell said. “She started crying and wailing.”

“We just let her get it all out and helped her refocus and reassured her that it wasn't a death sentence and about the options she had.”

But doctors say that no matter how seasoned, some reactions can't be anticipated.

“My colleague told a family that their mother was very sick, and the son had a heart attack in her office,” says David Muller, dean of Mount Sinai Medical School in New York.

After 20 years as a doctor and “thousands” of bad news conversations, Muller said there's a definite art to reading what patients can hear and handling how they respond.

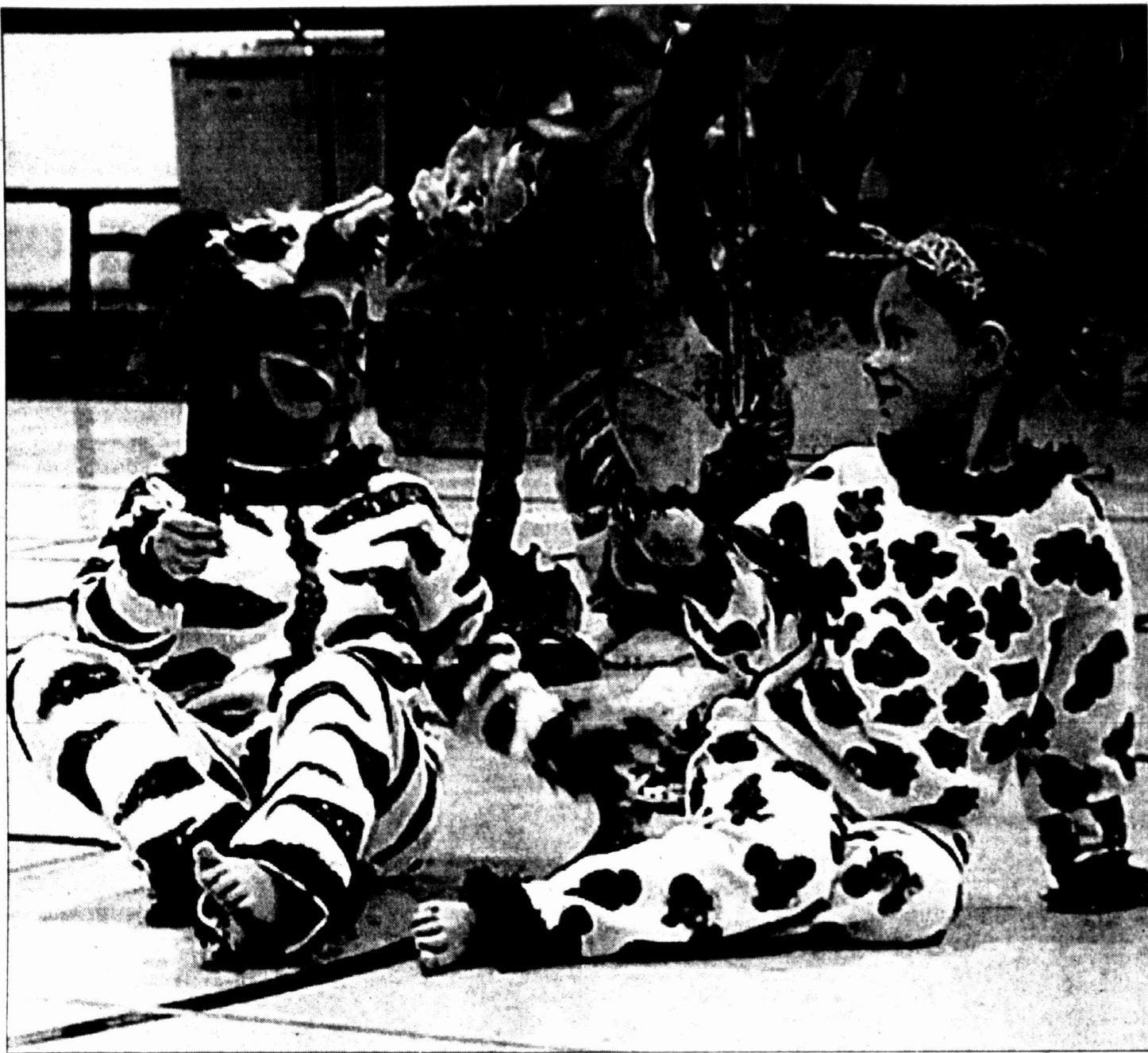
But there are still times when he's at a loss. Right now he has a patient in her 80s who “you fall in love with the first time you see her.”

She's dying, her liver riddled with cancer.

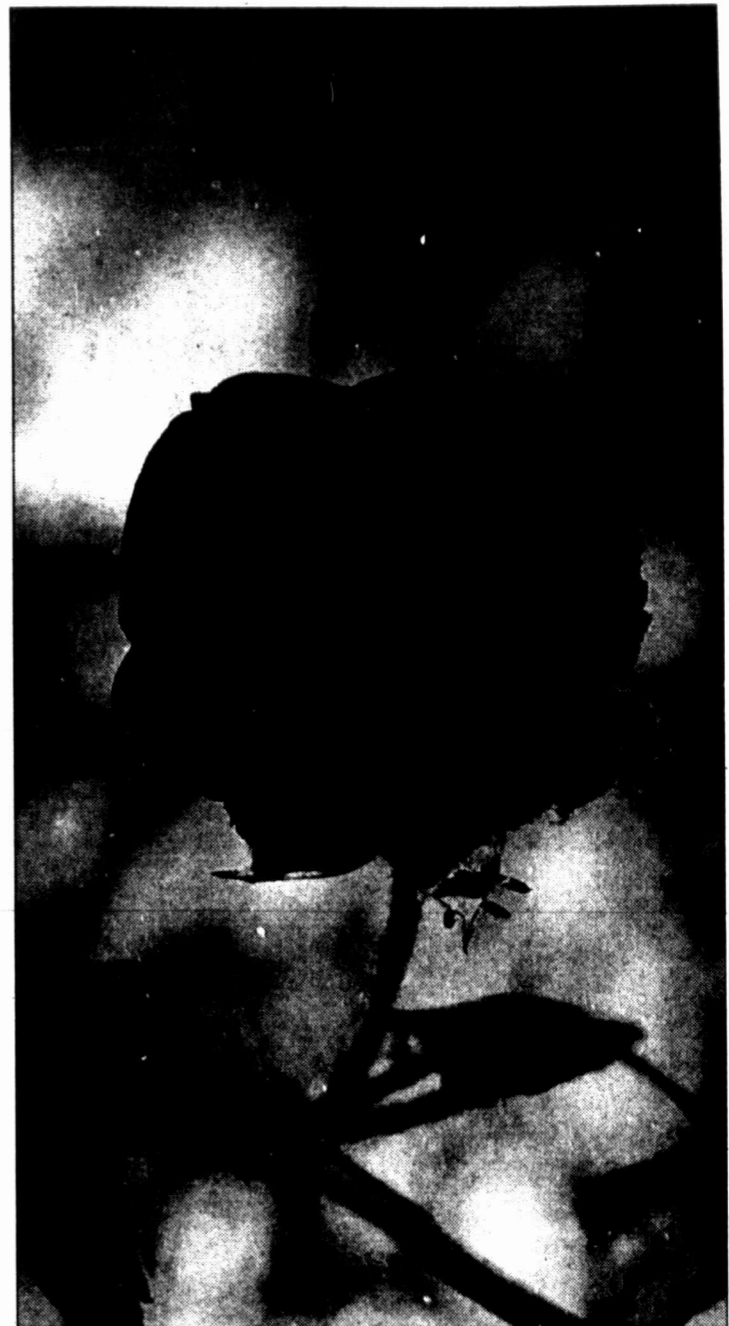
“Her caregiver said, ‘She's so forgetful; if you told her, you'd have to tell her again tomorrow,’” Muller said. “I don't know if I'm going to tell her.”

Happy Birthday
Stan Partee
50 And Hiding

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"Stripes" (Salge Stallings), at left, and "Spots" (Hope Howell) search for the secret to happiness during "It's A Jungle Out There," a musical performed by Elbow Elementary's kindergarten class Friday afternoon.



This rose bloom in the 800 block of E. 13th Street is just one of the many signs spring is in the air.



Children from several kindergarten classes at Washington Elementary perform a rendition of "Twinkle Little Star" during a program at the school Thursday evening.

Coahoma Kindergarten Round-up is Tuesday

HERALD Staff Report

COAHOMA — THE Coahoma Kindergarten Round-up is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Coahoma Elementary School cafeteria. Kindergarten students must be 5 before Sept. 1, 2006, in order to enroll in the 2006-2007 school year.

A proof of residency form, available at the Coahoma Independent School District Administration Office must be submitted at the roundup. Show a utility bill that has a physical address to prove residency. This form should be submitted the night of the roundup.

At the event, children and parents will tour school with teachers, take a ride on the school bus, have a cookie and milk snack and be given a school supply list.

Parents will receive a registration packet to take home and fill out. When packet is completed and ready to turn in, the school will need to see a current shot record, the child's social security

card, child's original birth certificate and parent's driver's license.

The county courthouse can help with birth certificates. The Social Security office on FM 700

will help parents obtain a Social Security card. Doctor's offices help with lost shot records.

After all forms are complete, return the registration packet and forms to

the elementary school office. Call Sherrie at 394-4323 for any other information.

Pre-Kindergarten registration will be done in the fall before school starts.

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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

3	6		2		4	8	
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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.
North-South partscore of 40.
East-West partscore of 60.

NORTH
 ♠ J 10 6
 ♥ 8 5 3
 ♦ K Q 10 6 2
 ♣ 8 7

WEST
 ♠ A K Q 9 8 3
 ♥ —
 ♦ J 7 3
 ♣ K J 9 4

EAST
 ♠ 7 5 2
 ♥ 6
 ♦ A 9 8 5
 ♣ A Q 10 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ 4
 ♥ A K Q J 10 9 7 4 2
 ♦ 4
 ♣ 6 5

The bidding:
 South NT 2♣ Pass North Pass East Pass
 3♥ 3♣ Pass Pass
 4♥ Pass Pass 4♣
 4NT Pass Pass Dble
 5♥ Dble

Opening lead — king of spades.

This deal from a rubber bridge game was reported by the distinguished French writer Jose Le Dentu. With everybody vulnerable and on score, South started with a whimsical notrump bid.

The bidding proceeded at a merry pace until it died at five hearts doubled. West was apparently taken in by all the pyrotechnics, as evidenced by his double of five hearts. East-

West could have made six spades.

West led the spade king and continued with the queen. Declarer saw he was faced with a two-trick defeat, since he had a spade, a diamond and two clubs to lose. But he also saw there was no harm in trying to steal the hand, so he discarded his diamond on the queen of spades. West, failing to appreciate the significance of this play, led another spade, and the fat was now in the fire.

Declarer ruffed with the nine of hearts, led the seven of trumps to the eight and played the king of diamonds, covered by East with the ace. South ruffed high and led the four of hearts to dummy's five. He then discarded a club on the queen of diamonds and trumped a diamond high again, felling West's jack and establishing dummy's 10-6. The heart deuce to dummy's three then allowed South to discard his remaining club loser on the diamond ten, and the contract was made.

We hold no brief for West's failure to shift to a club at trick three. He should have known what was going on and discontinued spades. Obviously, declarer had to have a singleton diamond, because it would have made no sense for him to discard a diamond if he held two, three or more diamonds. But a full measure of praise is bestowed on South, who gave West a chance to go wrong and reaped the maximum reward for his effort.

Tomorrow: The science of evasion.
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BRIEF

Star Booster
The Howard College Star Booster Club will meet tonight in the Training Center (ATC) at 8 p.m. Presentations of girls involved in volleyball, softball, cheerleading and trainers are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Carol Pelicky at 432-267-6126.

HC rodeo team sets annual crawfish boil

The Howard College rodeo team has announced its annual H-E-B crawfish boil will take place Saturday, April 29, at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl at 2 p.m. before Howard College Rodeo action takes place. The price for a crawfish boil ticket is \$15. Tickets can be purchased the day of the event or ahead of time by calling Howard head rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 432-916-9477. The Howard College rodeo will take place April 27-29.

Coahoma PTA will host weekend dodgeball tournament

The Coahoma PTA will be hosting a dodgeball tournament as an elementary playground fund-raiser Friday and Saturday. The sign-up date for the event will take place Friday at 6 p.m. in the junior high gym. There are several age groups, but each team must consist of only eight to 10 players. The groups are broken into five different categories: second and third, fourth and fifth, sixth through eighth, ninth through 12th and adults, 18 and older who are not in school. The cost for second through fifth grade is \$5 per person and each team is guaranteed five games. The other groups will pay \$10 per person and be guaranteed 10 games. For more information, contact Laura at 267-8680.

Pony League sets date for tryouts

The Pony League baseball tryouts will be held at the baseball complex on 120 tonight and Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. All late sign-ups will take place until Monday for ages 13-15 and the fee is \$90.00. For more information or for interest in coaching, call Chuck Rosenbaum at 816-9984 or Jill at Ringener 816-1532.

KBSB golf tournament announced for month of April

Keep Big Spring in the spotlight will be both the golf tournament and the Big Spring Country Club. For more information, contact the country club at 267-5354.

HC cowboys finish strong at Frank Phillips rodeo



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College freshman Kendra Watt rides around a barrel during rodeo action in Snyder earlier this year. Watt reached the finals of goat tying at the Frank Phillips rodeo this past weekend and placed fourth in the average.

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Howard College rodeo took home five top-five finishes this weekend at the Frank Phillips rodeo. "It felt to good to do well as the season winds down," said Howard head coach Greg Kernick. "We need to be hot early or late and since it wasn't early hopefully it will be late." Clay Hale and brother Trey Hale, who is a former HC rodeo member now with Angelo State, had the highest finish among Hawks. The Hale brothers competed in team roping and finished fourth in the short round

and second in the average with a 15.2 on two runs. Dustin Specht entered the short round of calf roping in ninth, but ran a 10.1 in the finals and finished with a 20.7 on two. The other competitor in the calf roping was Luke Pulham, but he scored a no time in the finals and did not place. Wayne Schaffeld competed in steer wrestling. He split second and third in the final round with 4.5 and his 10.4 on two was good for fourth. Cody Heiner also competed in steer wrestling and his 13.6 on two average placed him seventh. The other fourth place finish came in goat tying as Kendra Watt's short round run of 8.5 placed her third in the round. She got fourth with a two-run average of 17.2. Shelly Combs continued to score points in barrel racing. She entered the event in seventh with a 17.03 in the first round. She placed fifth in the finals with a 17.09 and her two-run time of 34.1 was also good for fifth. The Hawks are off this week, but will compete at Tarleton State April 20-22 and then host their hometown rodeo April 27-29 at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl. "We have two rodeos left and there's still chances out there to score some points," said Kernick.

Howard blows out Clarendon

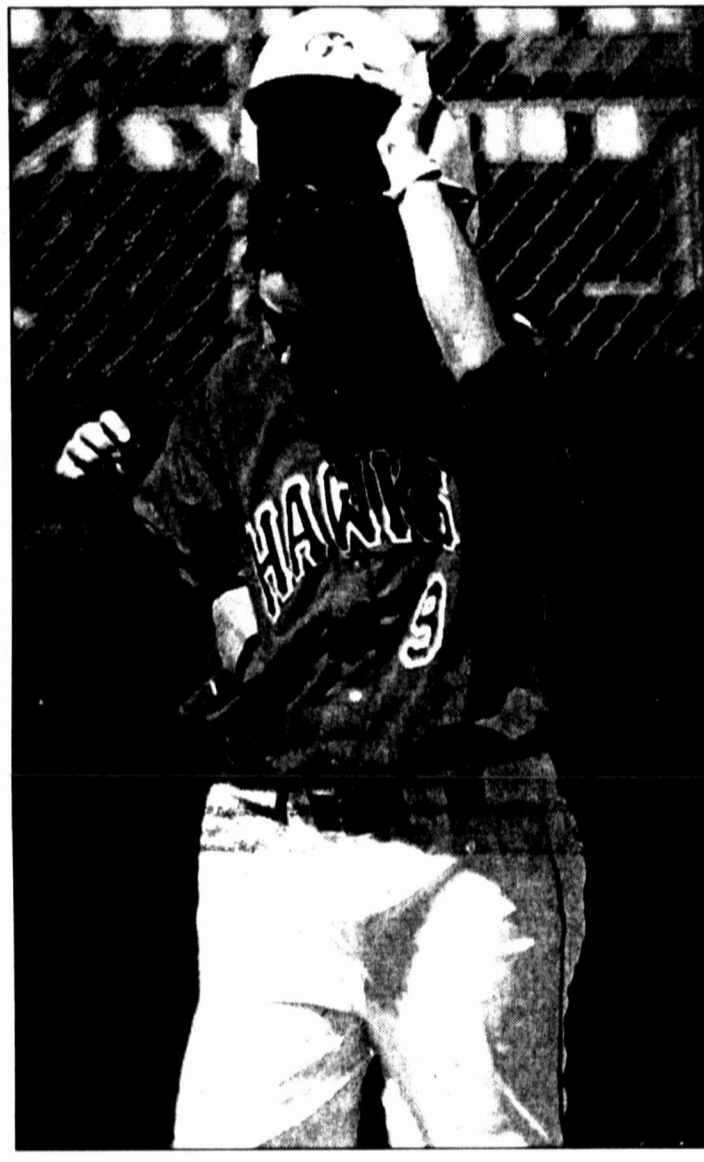
• Hawks complete four-game sweep at Jack Barber Field

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

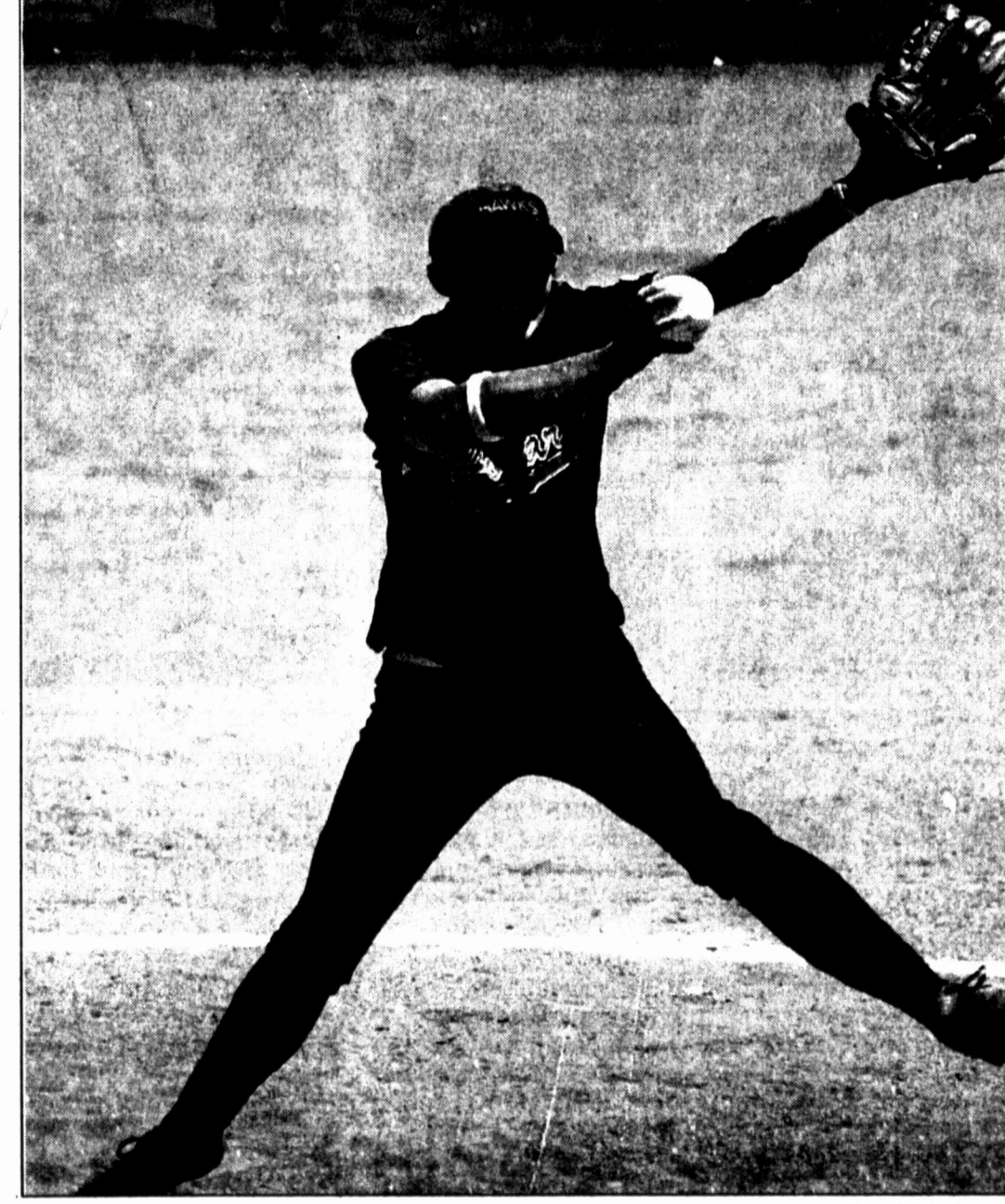
The Howard baseball team got back into the Western Junior College Athletic Conference race with four wins this past weekend over rival Clarendon. The Hawks took two more Saturday and both games ended by way of the 10-run mercy rule. Howard got two very good pitching performances and the offense was solid as usual as the Hawks won Game 1, 11-1, in five innings and took Game 2, 12-2, in six innings. They are now 28-12 overall and 10-6 in the league. "We played real clean this weekend and that to me is more important than the wins," said Howard head coach Britt Smith. "We competed at the plate, took good at-bats and pitched really well." The first game was scoreless through two innings, but Howard broke the game open in the third inning with five runs. It added three each

in the fourth and fifth innings to end the game early. Clarendon scored its only run in the fifth inning. Howard starter Bobby Gonsoulin, who got the complete game win on the mound, through 16 straight balls to walk in the lone run, but the damage was minimal and the Hawks still won. Gonsoulin improved to 4-4 as he gave up one run on two hits and struck out three. "This is how we wanted to play when the season began and this is how we know the guys can play from here on out," said Smith. The offense in the first game was led by sophomore Gabe Marchant, who had three hits, including a triple, and added two runs and two RBIs. "He has now decided to take a different approach at the plate and it is working to his advantage," said Smith. "He was trying to hit a home run every time from the leadoff spot, but we need him to be a leadoff hitter." The Hawks had nine

hits in the game. Sophomore Darby Brown had one hit and scored twice. Freshman Barrett Lowenstein and freshman David Fonseca each had one hit, two RBIs, one walk and one run. Bobby Scott took the loss for Clarendon in the first game. He gave up six earned runs on eight hits. Ronald Melo and Eric Oxio each had a hit and Collin Fanning walked twice. Freshman Scott Stephen countered Gonsoulin's complete game with a complete game of his own. He threw all six innings in Game 2 and allowed one earned run on seven hits, while striking out five and walking two. He is now 4-1 on the season. Howard scored at least one run in every inning, but got three in the second and five in the fifth. Freshman Dusty Dallas had one hit in the game, but it was a three-run, home run in the second inning. He now leads the team with seven dingers on the season. "He has always hit for



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College sophomore Dusty Dallas removes his helmet after crossing the plate following his three-run home run in the second inning of Game 2 against Clarendon at Jack Barber Field Saturday. The Hawks won both games against the Bulldogs. Dallas leads the team in homers with seven.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard sophomore Nicole Dickson winds up and delivers a pitch to the plate during Game 1 of the Hawks' two-game split with Odessa College at Foundation Field Saturday. Dickson improved to 14-2 on the year after leading her team to a 2-0. She defeated Lady Wrangler ace Kelly Ninemire, who had only lost one game in conference play prior to Saturday.

HC women split two at home against OC

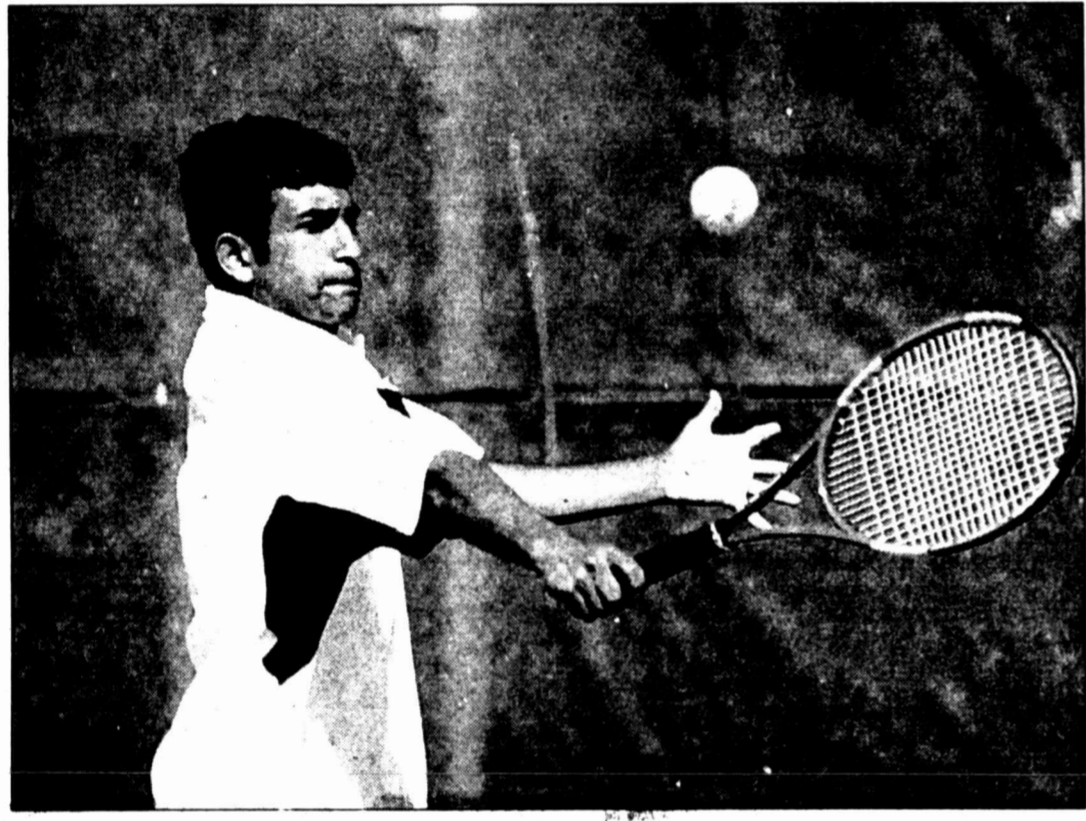
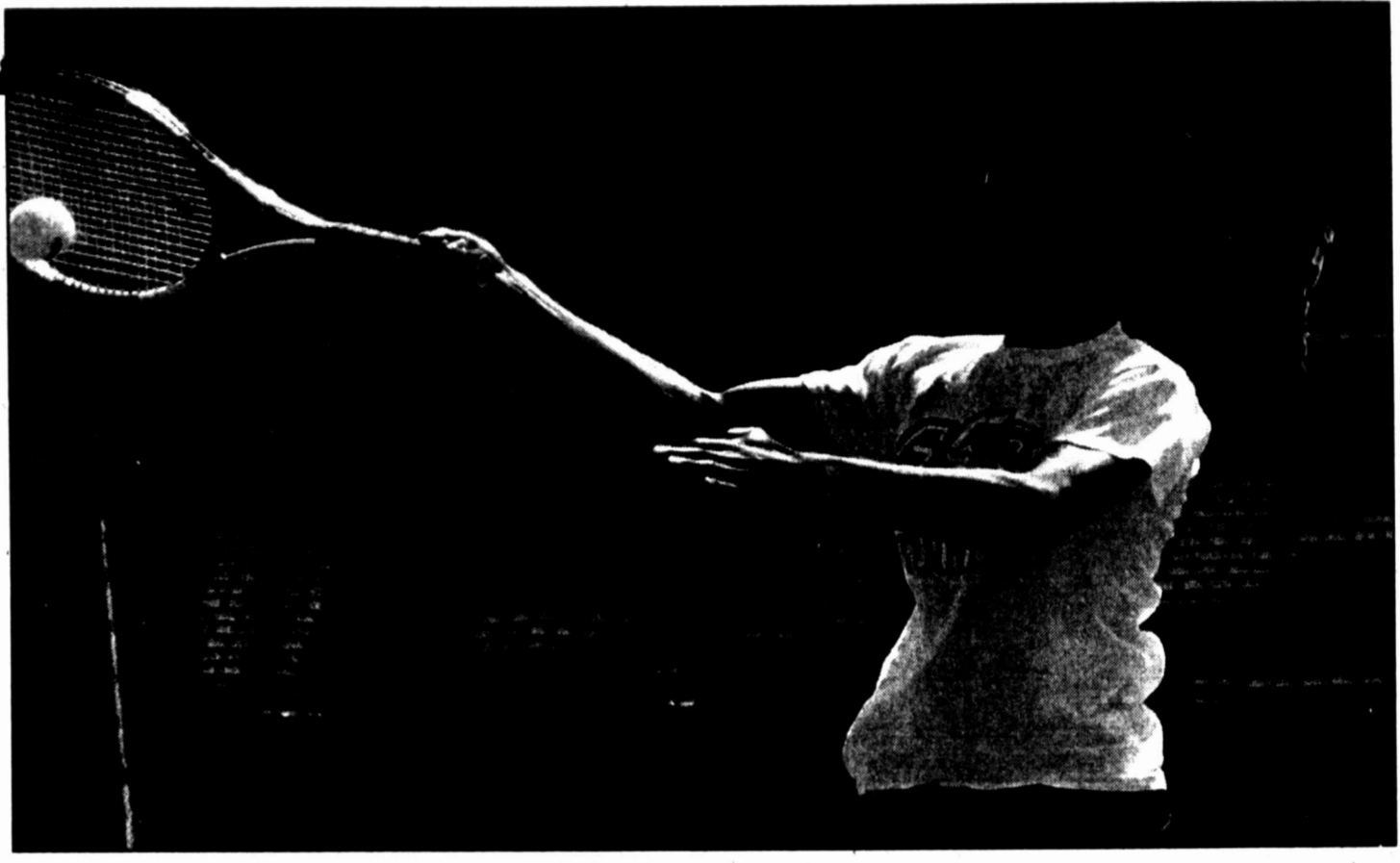
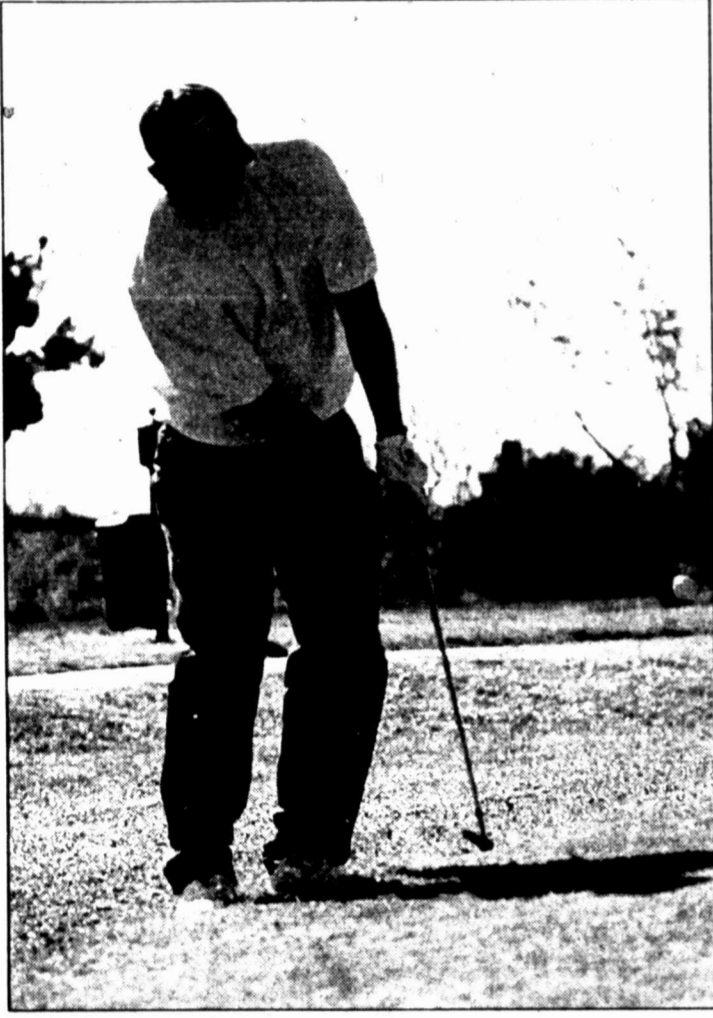
By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Odessa College took three games from the HC softball team this past weekend as the Hawks split two games at Foundation Field Saturday. Howard won the first game against OC ace Kelly Ninemire, 2-0, but was defeated in Game 2, 8-4. "We have to learn from this experience this weekend," said Howard head coach Kelly Raines. "We need to get better and have a long ways to go before we get to the regional tournament. These are the type of teams we want to play and we need to be able to beat them." The Hawks played both games without Paige Ruiz, who sat out with an ankle injury. Sophomore Nicole Dickson pitched the first game and got the win on the mound as she improved to 14-2. She shut down the Lady Wranglers and handed Ninemire one of her only losses in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play. "Nicki pitched a great

game for us," said Raines. The Hawks scored their only two runs in the fourth inning in Game 1's win. Both runs came on suicide squeeze bunts executed by sophomore Amanda Kuramata and freshman Kendra Corbin. Freshmen Alisha Rams and Laura Lopez scored the runs. Odessa jumped out to a 4-0 lead in Game 2 with a two-run home run in the first inning and took advantage of two Howard errors. Zapora Gatson started on the mound for Howard, went five innings, gave up the first-inning home run, but did not pitch bad in all. "The two errors hurt us, but Zapora didn't pitch bad," said Raines. "She just ran out of gas." Howard stranded two runners in the second inning and then went down in order in the third before stranding two more runners in the fourth. The Hawks did get on the board in the fourth. Kuramata got a single and then Corbin followed with a double and then an error by Odessa on a hit by fresh

See HOWARD, Page 2B

DISTRICT 4-4A GOLF-TENNIS



HERALD photos/Troy Hyde
Big Spring hosted the District 4-4A tournaments in golf and tennis this past weekend. Clockwise from bottom left: 1) Tommy Billalba; 2) Blaze Carroll; 3) Roshan Shroff; 4) Chance Cain; 5) Bryan Juan; 6) Rosie Alcantar; 7) Billalba; 8) Jeremy Landin. Cain is leading the 4-4A golf tourney after two rounds, while Shroff won the 4-4A boy's singles tennis title.

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HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

power, but we have want-

ed him to be more consistent," said Smith. "He has been a lot more consistent lately."

Freshman Kenny Smalley had three hits in

the game to lead the Hawks. He doubled, scored two runs and had three RBIs. Sophomore Jeff Storms went two-for-three and scored once

from the No. 2 spot in the lineup. Brown had one hit, one RBI, one run and walked once. Sophomore Daman Aaron did not get a hit, but walked twice

and scored twice. Will Kerr took the loss for Clarendon as he gave up 10 earned runs on eight hits and threw four innings. J.R. Goodman

and Melo had two hits each to lead the offense. They both scored the team's only runs.

Howard plays Western Texas this weekend.

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

man Jennifer Oso allowed Kuramata to cross the plate.

Gatson had walk and a hit by a pitch in inning five and then Odessa scored three runs on a single and a two-run dou-

ble. The runs made it to 8-1.

The Hawks went down in order in the fourth and fifth innings before making a run late in the game in their final at-bat.

Oso relieved Gatson in the sixth inning and allowed two hits and hit one batter. She allowed no runs and stayed away from further damage.

"She did a good job for us," said Raines.

Corbin and Oso started off the seventh with singles and then freshman Honda Rodriguez and Rams both walked before Lopez collected an RBI. Corbin scored on a passed ball and Oso scored on Lopez' hit to make it 8-3 and then Dickson was hit by a pitch with the bases

loaded and Rodriguez scored to make it 8-4.

The final out of the game was recorded at first base as Kuramata grounded out.

However, the first baseman bobbled the ball more than once and the umpire still called the Howard runner out and the game ended with the bases loaded.

The Hawks did strike out looking way too many times and that had Raines shaking her head.

"I have no idea where that's from because we haven't done that all year," said Raines. "You can't strike out looking. That's unacceptable."

Raines is still unsure about Ruiz' injury but said she is day-to-day

right now.

The Hawks dropped to 29-9 overall and 19-5 in the conference with the three weekend losses. Another big series looms this weekend as Howard takes on first-place Midland. That series will be played at Founders Saturday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. both days.

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MONDAY

APR. 10

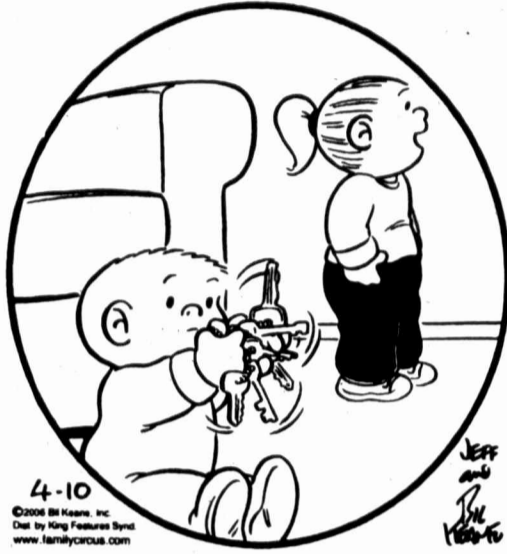
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DENNIS THE MENACE



"THE CHANNEL MAY NOT BE CHANGIN', BUT YOUR GARAGE DOOR'S GOIN' CRAZY!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Know what we should buy for PJ? A bunch of keyholes."

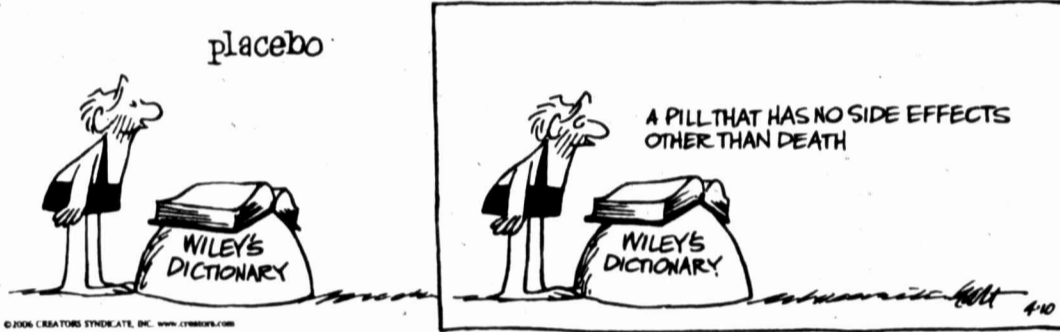
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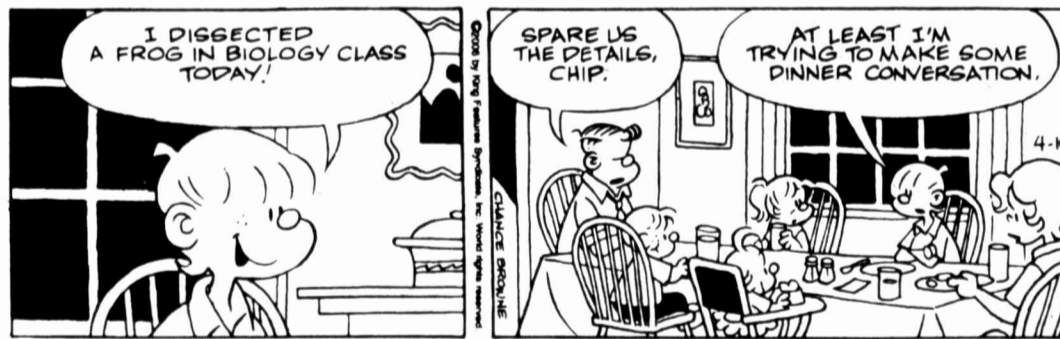
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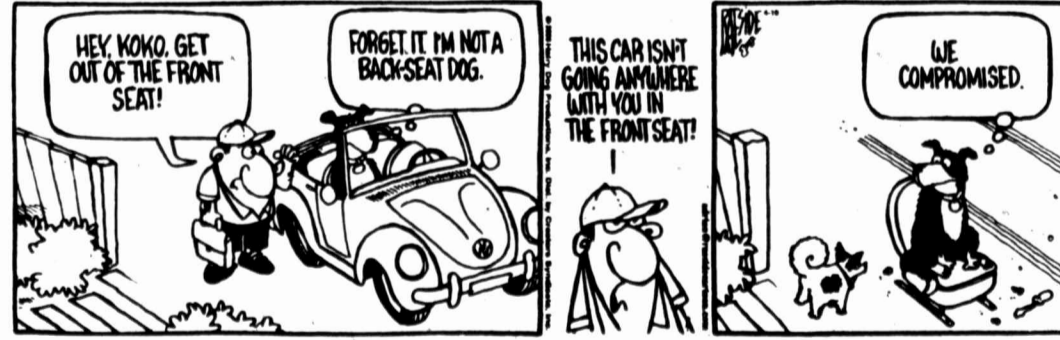
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HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Monday, April 10, the 100th day of 2006. There are 265 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 10, 1912, the RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, on its ill-fated maiden voyage.

On this date: In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was incorporated.

In 1925, the novel "The Great Gatsby," by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was first published.

In 1932, German president Paul Von Hindenburg was re-elected, with Adolf Hitler coming in second.

In 1953, the three-dimensional horror movie "House of Wax," produced by Warner Brothers and starring Vincent Price, premiered in New York.

In 1963, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Thresher failed to surface off Cape Cod, Mass., in a disaster that claimed 129 lives.

In 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union joined some 70 nations in signing an agreement banning biological warfare.

In 1974, Golda Meir announced her resignation as prime minister of Israel.

In 1981, imprisoned IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands won election to the British Parliament.

In 1981, the long-awaited maiden launch of the space shuttle Columbia was scrubbed because of a computer malfunction.

In 1998, the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators reached a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Harry Morgan is 91. Actor Max von Sydow is 77. Actress Liz Sheridan is 77. Actor Omar Sharif is 74. Author David Halberstam is 72. Sportscaster John Madden is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bobbie Smith (The Spinners) is 70. Sportscaster Don Meredith is 68. Reggae artist Bunny Wailer is 59. Actor Steven Seagal is 55. Folk-pop singer Terre Roche (The Roches) is 53. Actor Peter MacNicol is

52. Rock musician Steven Gustafson (10,000 Maniacs) is 49. Singer-producer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds is 48. Rock singer-musician Brian Setzer is 47. Rapper Afrika Bambaataa is 46. Rock singer Katrina Leskanich is 46. Actor Jeb Adams is 45. Olympic gold medal speedskater Cathy Turner is 44. Singer Kenny Lattimore is 36. Actress Chylar Leigh is 24. Actor Ryan Merriman is 23. Singer Mandy Moore is 22. Actor Haley Joel Osment is 18.

Thought for Today: "What is more unwise than to mistake uncertainty for certainty, falsehood for truth?" - Cicero, Roman orator, statesman and philosopher (106-43 B.C.)

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Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers.

Newsday Crossword

SOMEWHAT SASSY by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers for 'SOMEWHAT SASSY'.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'BIG SPRING', 'VOLUME', 'M', 'By THOM', 'Staff Wri', 'Howar', 'ers table', 'a 96-bed', '"I think', 'dishon', 'here an', 'happen', 'we abs', 'need a', 'jail.', 'Electio', 'Collec', 'Democ', 'Barbar', 'In How', 'Cl', 'at', 'Stuc', 'honore', 'By STE', 'Staff W', 'The h', 'ors at', 'and V', 'Awards', 'The g', 'were h', 'of the y', 'La Poss', 'James', 'Virgini', 'aggres', 'the ran', 'INC', 'Classif', 'Featur', 'Obitua', 'Opinio', 'Sports', 'To re', 'Please', 'a.m. t', 'If you', '263-73', 'noon I'.