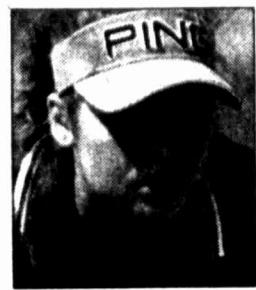


BIG SPRING HERALD



INSIDE
Stanton wins 4-2A golf tournament, aided by Smith's top finish
Page 1B

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 119

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

Motion to build 96-bed jail tabled

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners tabled a motion to construct a 96-bed jail facility adjacent to

"I think it's a dishonor to sit here and let this happen... I think we absolutely need a 144-bed jail."



Crooker

the district courthouse during their Monday morning meeting, following heated debate among the court regarding its direction on the issue.

Commissioner Gary Simer made the motion, which would utilize the northeast corner of the block located at Scurry and Third Street.

"I move that the commissioner's court purchase the property from owners willing to sell at reasonable prices on the block west of the (county) courthouse; direct the architect to plan a 96-bed jail only on such property

as we are able to acquire; commence negotiations with the city so they may begin closing their jail; 4) and we place a bond proposal for the voter's approval on the November 2006 election," Simer told the court, reading from a prepared statement.

Commissioner Emma Brown seconded the motion.

Moments after Simer's motion, fellow commissioner Jerry Kilgore voiced his opposition to the size of the facility, which, according to officials with the Texas Commission on

Jail Standards, will not meet the needs of Howard County.

"It's actually too small, and all the things that I know about and the people that have built jails and made mistakes, it's a big mistake on size," Kilgore said. "There's no room for expansion, no parking... it's going to be very costly. I can see a couple of million dollars to purchase that property and get it prepared."

Simer countered Kilgore's concerns on cost by saying he has already talked to the property owners in that area, all of



Lockhart

"I don't oppose a 144-bed jail, but halfway to Stanton's not the answer."

which are willing to sell at a reasonable cost — except one.

Larry Knight, owner and operator of the Downtown Barber Shop, which is located

See **JAIL**, Page 3A

RUNOFF POLLS OPEN UNTIL 7 P.M.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Election officials Roberta Baird, left, and Shana McGee go through the list of registered voters at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum this morning as the runoff elections for the Democratic and Republican parties got under way. In the Democratic runoff for Lt. Governor, Maria Luisa Alvarado is facing Benjamin Z. Grant. 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. The only voting site in Howard County is the coliseum and polls are open until 7 p.m.

Howard County to mull funding for code officer

Cost estimated at about \$10,000.

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County may get its own code enforcement officer soon, as county commissioners agreed to look into adding new duties to those currently provided by County Constable Bill Holden.

Commissioners agreed to explore the idea of adding code enforcement duties to those already held by Holden, who has already been serving in the pseudo-position, helping eliminate some of the "eyesores" in the county.

"I've been doing this and working on it with Mike Thomas as far as what I'm doing and how I'm doing it," Holden told commissioners Monday morning. "I'm approaching it on the basis where I'm respectful with these

people, but firm. I'm giving them a little bit of time, not going in and saying it has to be done over night. However, a lot of this has been going on for an awful long time and needs to be cleaned up."

County Attorney Mike Thomas said his office has been supplementing Holden's expenses. However, if the county wants to make Holden's duties official, there are procedures that need to be followed.

"We've been funding this out of the hot check fund," said Thomas. "Expenses, like the radio and things of that nature. I think the complaints that you heard when we had the contract with the city, I don't think you'll find with Bill. He's approached it very well and the people — after he explains everything —

See **CODE**, Page 3A

Clay ranch recognized at conservation banquet

Student poster winners also honored in annual event.

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The H.R. Clay ranch received top honors at Monday's annual Howard Soil and Water Conservation District Awards Banquet.

The great-grandchildren of H.R. Clay were honored as conservation ranchers of the year during the banquet, held at La Posada Restaurant.

James and Lee Clay, along with Virginia Dorman, were honored for an "aggressive" conservation program at the ranch, which was purchased by H.R.

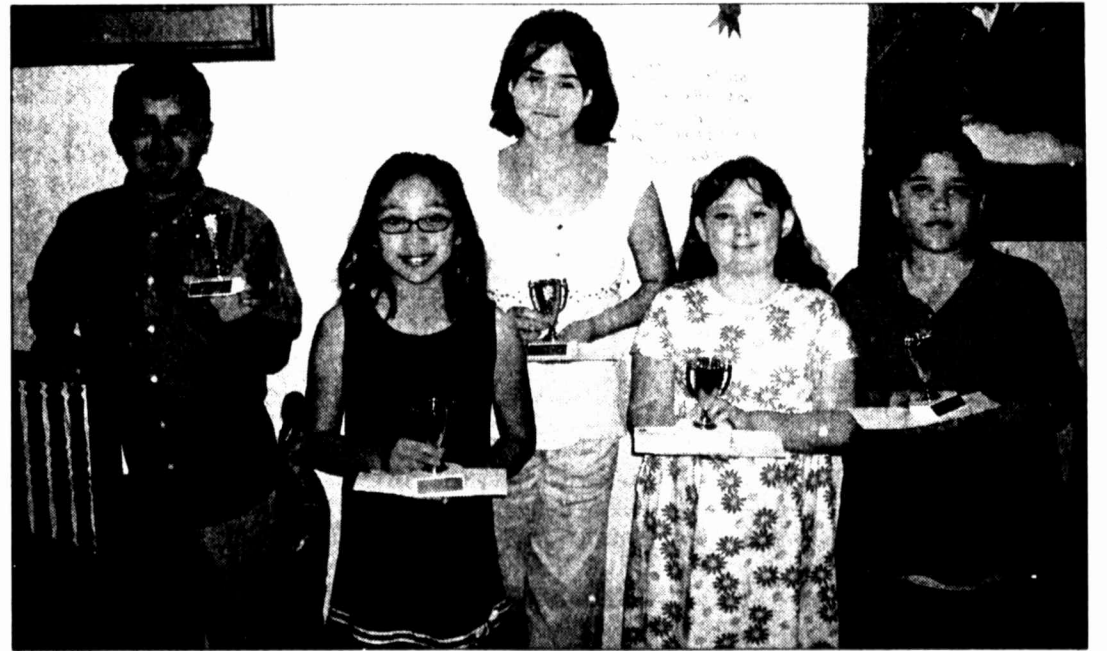
Clay in 1916.

"Their goal was to create a better habitat for wildlife and improve grazing for cattle, and they have done an outstanding job of improving the natural resources of their ranch," said conservation district board member John Wayne Metcalf in presenting the award.

That program included the removal of oil field junk, grubbing of mesquite trees, range seeding, aerial spraying of prickly pear and construction of stock tanks and crossfences, Metcalf said.

James Clay is a retired veterinarian currently living in Parker. Lee Clay, a retired accountant, splits time between Fort Worth and his ranch near

See **BANQUET**, Page 3A



Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Local students were honored Monday evening as winners of the Howard Soil and Water Conservation District poster contest. They are, from left, Gabriel Lopez, Kristina Tubera, Tonia Arista, Amy Winters and Daron Esquivel.

BSHS one-act denied return trip to state

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring High School Drama Department was denied in its try for a return trip to the state one-act play contest.

The local thespians were left out of the running at Saturday's Area University Interscholastic League One-Act Play Contest at Snyder High School.

Aledo and Stephenville



Lindsey

high schools were awarded the top two spots and will advance to the regional UIL contest later this month in San Angelo. The top two plays at that level advance to the state contest in Austin.

Big Spring, which made its third straight appearance at area competition, did garner recognition for its cast.

Seniors Josh Acuff and Jessi New were named to the all-star cast, while senior LeAnn Brumley and junior Sydnie Robertson received honorable mention recognition.

BSHS presented "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," the play that inspired the films "Dangerous Liaisons" and "Valmont."

Despite being very disappointed at Saturday's results, drama teacher Tracie Lindsey was still proud of

her students' efforts. "It's been a fantastic year," she said. "Our show was just phenomenal, and we should have gone on (to regional) ... These kids are just extremely talented."

A public performance of the drama department's UIL effort will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the high school auditorium. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students,

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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.

Obituaries

Dortha Dyer Adams Carpenter



Dortha Dyer Adams Carpenter, 91, of Big Spring died Sunday, April 9, 2006, in a local nursing home. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Thursday, April 13, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Patrick officiating. Interment follows in Trinity Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

She was born May 3, 1914, in Rush Springs, Okla., and married Raymond R. "Kent" Carpenter Jan. 6, 1956, in Culbertson County. He preceded in death Nov. 12, 2002. A Big Spring High School graduate, she work for 21 years as a cosmetic representative and worked beside her husband on the farm-ranch operation in Mitchell County. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, Andy and Velma Dyer, infant twin brothers, two stepfathers, Jack Cain and W.A. Waller, a sister and brother-in-law, Vera and Bill Coyle, two brothers and sisters-in-law, Elmer and Eugenia Dyer and Bill and Abby Dyer, and a sister, Marie Horton.

Survivors include her son, Joe Edward Adams III of Dallas; and Big Spring and a special brother-in-law, T.F. Horton of Big Spring.

The family suggests memorials to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater West Texas Chapter, 4400 N. Big Spring, Suite C-32, Midland 79705 or Home Hospice, 111 E. Seventh Street, Suite A, Big Spring 79720.

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

George Vincent Raef

George Vincent Raef, 87, of Big Spring, formerly of Amarillo, died Saturday, April 8, 2006, at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Big Spring. Funeral Mass was 2 p.m. today, April 11, 2006, at St. Francis Catholic Church with burial at St. Francis Cemetery.

He was born July 11, 1918, in St. Francis to Nellie and Frank Raef. He was a lifetime member of the St. Francis community. He farmed and ranched there all of his life.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Betty in 1997, five brothers and five sisters.

He is survived by one daughter, Paula Raef of Amarillo; one sister, Florence Hatfield of Amarillo; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to St. Jude's Childrens Fund, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn., 38105.

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

Alvina Hernandez

Alvina Hernandez, 71, of Coahoma died Monday, April 10, 2006, in a Fort Worth hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

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.

Easter Egg Hunt

• **LAMUN-LUSK-SANCHEZ COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT** is 2 p.m. Friday. Donations of candy are being accepted. Call Tony Cruz at 268-8387.

Take note

• **AN ACCOUNT FOR JACK HANSON** has been established at T&P Credit Union for donations to assist with expenses related to his heart surgery. Call 399-4562 or 399-4770 for more information.

• **BLOOD DRIVE AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, 400 Scurry, in the Youth Hall, from 9 a.m. until noon Friday. Call 267-6394 for information or to sign-up to donate blood.

• **COAHOMA KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP** is 6 p.m. today 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,

Police blotter

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

- **KENNETH CASBEER**, 28, of 7109 Centerpoint Road, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **STACI LLOYD**, 28, of 1801 Settles, was arrested Monday on five local warrants.
- **RODNEY TUBBS**, 22, of 1322 Wright, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **STERLING MCINTOSH**, 23, of 1110 E. 16th Street, was arrested Monday on a local capias warrant.
- **MATHEW L. STEIN**, 27, of Pennsylvania, was arrested Monday on two local citations.
- **JUSTIN BOBBITT**, 20, of Virginia, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **ZABRINA FREEMAN**, 19, of 1302 Tucson, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **BENITA VANDERPOOL**, 21, of Colorado City, was arrested Monday on a Scurry County warrant.
- **RICARDO DELOSRIOS**, 45, of 1317 Kindle, was arrested Tuesday on three local warrants and a local citation.
- **SHEILA EISENBACH**, 22, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported:
 - in the 1000 block of Stadium.
 - in the 100 block of Airbase Road.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 1300 block of Wright.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 500 block of Third Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **NOELIA CARRILLO**, 33, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of issuance of a bad check and theft of services.
- **ADAM RODRIQUEZ CANALES**, 38, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger under the age of 15 years.
- **DAVID MATTHEW COBB**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
- **ADRIAN ESCOVEDO YANEZ**, 17, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to attend school.
- **JOHN DEE ROMAN**, 36, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **TRACY LYNN GONZALES**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of displaying a fictitious or counterfeit inspection/insurance document.
- **RHONDA SUE EMERSON**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear.
- **RODNEY WAYNE TUBBS**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **FRANK LEE JACKSON**, 47, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault/family violence.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Douglas and Martin Luther King Boulevard. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Second Street and Benton. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of West Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of South Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1400 block of Johnson. One person was transported to SMMC.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY
• 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.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. Southwest winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light and variable.
Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 60s. South winds around 10 mph.
Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-10-15-22-35.
Number matching five of five: 2.
Prize per winner: \$15,714.
Winning tickets sold in: El Paso and Killeen.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 8-19-22-26. Bonus Ball: 4.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$2 million.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-0-6

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring

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Continued

Stephen... who lives... has own... several b... career.

Feature... Monday's... Eddy Spu... the lo... Resource... Service o... Spurgin... brigadier... Texas... Guard, ... force's ... recent... efforts in... ricanes K... Along ... Texas... Spurgin ... shortly... struck ... area in la... Primar... ties for th... air arm... helicopte... and resc... Orleans a... "The i... that re... were ... pilots." "Army... rescued ... ple in th... operation... Ground... formed a...

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BANQUET

Continued from Page 1A

Stephenville. Dorman, who lives in Fort Worth, has owned and operated several businesses in her career.

Featured speaker at Monday's banquet was Eddy Spurgin, who heads the local Natural Resource Conservation Service office.

Spurgin, who is a brigadier general in the Texas Army National Guard, discussed that force's performance in recent disaster relief efforts in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Along with 1,700 other Texas Guardsmen, Spurgin was in Louisiana shortly after Katrina struck the Gulf Coast area in late August.

Primary responsibilities for the Texas Guard's air arm of Blackhawk helicopters was search and rescue in the New Orleans area.

"The initial heroes of that rescue operation were the helicopter pilots," Spurgin said. "Army Guard aviation rescued about 17,000 people in the first week of operations."

Ground troops performed a variety of tasks,

including water-borne rescue, clearing roads and providing medical support services.

After three weeks in Louisiana, the Texas Guard was hurriedly pulled back home to prepare relief efforts for Hurricane Rita.

That storm, which struck the far west section of the Texas Gulf Coast area, disrupted power and other utility services for people living in 19 counties.

National Guard personnel provided food and other supplies as well as medical and communication support for two weeks in the stricken areas, Spurgin said.

Other honorees at Monday's banquet include:

• Craig Ingram was given a five-year pin in honor of his service as a member of the conservation district board of directors.

• The annual poster contest winners were announced. They were:

- Gabrial Lopez (Coahoma Elementary), Tonia Arista (Goliad Intermediate), Kristina Tubera (Kentwood Elementary), Daron Esquivel (Marcy Elementary) and Amy Winters (Moss Elementary).



Cast and crew of the Big Spring High School One Act Play, "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," along with co-director Tracie Lindsey competed in Snyder Saturday for a bid at regional advancement. The production was also directed by Pat Barrera.

PLAY

Continued from Page 1A

Lindsey said.

The BSHS one-act play cast also

includes junior Jessica Barker, sophomore Maurice Africh, junior Julian Garcia, junior Nick Ross, junior Loveita Raymond, sophomore Cassandra Bazaldua, sophomore Geoffrey Treece and freshmen Jimmy Watson and Thad

Loftis. Crew members are sophomore Macee Gonzales, junior Brandon Pierce, junior Cody Carnes and freshman Josh Wilson. Alternates are sophomore Miguel Zermeno and junior Jason Worthington.

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

in the quarter-block currently being eyed by commissioners for the proposed jail facility, said money is not a question for him.

"I was here a couple of weeks ago, and expressed my intent on keeping my building and staying in business," said Knight. "The next day, Gary Simer called me and asked me if I was throwing a fit just to drive the cost of my building up. I guess he thought that was my intent. I told him that wasn't my intent and that I wanted to stay there. I've been there more than 30 years, and I thought I should be the one to decide to retire, not him."

"We don't intend to buy your barbershop," Simer interrupted. "We intend to leave it right there. We intend to build around it."

Simer also sparred back and forth with commissioner Bill Crooker, who also opposes a proposed 96-bed facility.

"I think it's a dishonor to sit here and let this happen... I think we absolutely need a 144-bed jail," said Crooker. "But it's going to take more than one block to do it (downtown). If we want to provide adequate parking space, it's going to take as much as four city blocks."

However, according to County Judge Ben Lockhart, the location the court previously considered for the 144-bed design — near the inter-

section of Martin Luther King Boulevard and FM 700 — doesn't make sense.

"I still don't understand wanting to have it out there that far," said Lockhart. "I don't oppose a 144-bed jail, but halfway to Stanton's not the answer."

"There's no room for expansion, no parking... it's going to be very costly. I can see a couple of million dollars to purchase that property and get it prepared."



Moments later, Simer once again surprised the court, saying the city was no longer interested in the joint law enforcement center design the county previously considered at the FM 700 location.

"I might add that the mayor (Russ McEwen) has indicated that he's not interested in a joint law enforcement center," said Simer, drawing curious looks from commissioners and the audience alike.

"I really wish the mayor were here, because I don't think that's a fact," said Crooker. "He's the one who sat here and gave us a 10-minute talk on the value of the city and the county going together. Where does your information come from? Is it coming from him, directly?"

Did he tell this to you?" "It's coming from (District Judge) Robert Moore and Mr. (Frank) Parker," Simer told the court. "They said that he could think of several other things he could spend several million dollars on for the city."

Regardless of where or who the information is coming from, McEwen said late Monday afternoon the idea he and the city of Big Spring are no longer interested in a joint law enforcement center is false.

"We've been interested in looking at this all along," said McEwen. "However, at this point, we simply don't have enough information in front of us to say, 'Yes, we want a joint law enforcement center,' or, 'No, that's just too much money.' That's a decision we can't make until we have the costs in front of us."

"Whatever the commissioner's court decision is, we should back it. It's certainly a good idea to look at a joint law enforcement center, but our main interest is in getting the city out of the jail business. If the court decides not to build a joint law enforcement center, you won't hear me gripe about it."

Lockhart pulled the plug on the issue moments later, tabling the issue until some of the claims made by both sides could be explored further.

"We're going to table this vote until the next meeting," said Lockhart. "We're gonna have a bunch more people here so we can argue some

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

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

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

The next meeting of the commissioner's court is currently set for April 24.

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



Herald photo/Steve Reagan Texas Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Eddy Spurgin, the head of the local Natural Resources Conservation Service office, speaks during Monday's Howard Soil and Water Conservation District banquet. Spurgin and 1,700 other National Guardsmen from Texas provided disaster relief efforts in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

CODE

Continued from Page 1A

seem to be working very well.

"The bottom line, however, is if we're going to have code enforcement, I've got to have someone who is willing to go out there. There are certain procedures you have to

follow, and we're going to have to have someone trained. Bill is willing to sit down and learn those procedures, and he does a good job."

Holder, who has been a Texas peace officer for more than 20 years, presented commissioners with what he described as a rough estimate of what the added duties would cost to fund, a little more

than \$10,000.

"This is the very minimum this would take," Holden told commissioners. "I'm having to use my car and tear it up, my gas. I'm taking the pictures and having them developed and all of these other things. This is a cost list I think should be budgeted."

Commissioners agreed to review the proposal.

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The Following Schedule For
GOOD FRIDAY

Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union Closed	Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union Open
Wells Fargo Bank Open	Western National Bank Open
Citizens Federal Credit Union Open	The Electric Utilities Credit Union Closed

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8288
George Vincent Raef, 87, died Saturday. Funeral Mass was at 2:00 PM Tuesday at St. Francis Catholic Church with burial at St. Francis Cemetery.

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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

Donations still needed to fill eggs for hunt

With Easter rapidly approaching, the annual community Easter egg hunt at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home is even closer at hand and organizers are still in need of donations of candy to fill some 7,000 plastic Easter eggs.

Scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday, the event that attracts more than 400 veterans, parents, family and children annually and has grown with each successive year.

The first year, veterans home employees hid 10,000 eggs and doubled that to 20,000 a year ago. This year they plan to hide 25,000 eggs, but have not yet received enough candy to fill all of the eggs and ensure continued success for the hunt.

While Red Hat Society members gathered recently and donated candy and plastic eggs, Veterans home staff and residents are now waiting on additional donations to fill the final 7,000 eggs.

Along with the traditional egg hunt on the grounds of the veterans home, there are plans to have 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 be served free of charge to those attending the hunt.

According to Tony Cruz, director of activities at the facility, the home's staff and residents are always trying to make the hunt better each year for the community.

"We want folks will come out and have a good time," he said.

Some of the eggs will not have candy inside. Instead, they will have gift certificates for items donated by local businesses.

With just a couple of days left, we encourage our readers and other businesses to make donations. Simply call Cruz at 268-8387 to get involved in the effort.

And don't forget to take your children and grandchildren out Friday afternoon for the hunt. They'll thank you for it, and we're willing to bet you'll be thanking yourselves.

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 settle comfortably into Your love, Lord.

Amen

Detractors ready to take down Katie

Watch out, Katie. The knives are out big-time. The first woman to anchor network news solo is not going to have an easy time of it.

Forget the fact that plenty of men have gone before her, and failed. They all had something she didn't.

Relative anonymity. They looked alike. If they failed, they failed for themselves.

If she fails, she fails for all of us. If her numbers go down, they'll say America wasn't ready for a woman.

Could anything be more ridiculous?

Katie Couric is obviously an extremely talented person. She helped make the "Today" show the most popular morning show on network television and earned millions of dollars every year for the network. She's decided to do what men do every day, which is make a career move. Because she's in the television business, and because it's a very visible job, her decision is getting a lot of attention. Fair enough.

But does anyone doubt that she's getting more attention than Ken Couric would be if he were making the same move? That's the benefit of being the first woman. It will be reflected in the ratings

in the first weeks or month or so. They should go up, if for no other reason than curiosity.

But then the real test begins. That's the flip side of the first woman conundrum. The numbers may hold, or they may go down. It may turn out, as many of the men are already beginning to speculate, that her "perky personality" is not perfectly suited to reading 22 minutes or less of news every night. It may turn out that her skills as an interviewer are not well-utilized in that format. It may turn out that if the guys keep saying that and writing that over and over, enough times, between now and then, people will start believing it no matter what she does.

Predicting that she will fail could be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Am I a little paranoid? Absolutely. Is there reason? For sure. I read the reviews every day for someone who hasn't even signed a contract yet. Even paranoids have real enemies. Could there be a touch of jealousy out there?

Need I point out that Katie has paid her dues, worked her way up, taken her share of heat and then some, and lived through real tragedy in her personal life — and yet she has continued to carry on as the true professional she is. That doesn't mean you have to like her. It just means she deserves her shot.

When Bob Woodruff was injured in Iraq, the buzz was that if it had been the other way around, if his co-anchor, Elizabeth Vargas, had

been injured instead of him, he would be anchoring alone. Whether true or not, it told you where women stand. It's what makes the Katie news so momentous.

I look forward to the day when women can be judged just like everybody else, whether they're anchoring the news or running for president, when their success or failure belongs to them alone, and isn't seen as a judgment about the rest of us. But that day just hasn't come yet. If Katie succeeds, it will be taken as a judgment that, yes, the country was ready. And if she doesn't, all the guys who write the pieces and opine on television will tell us that it was just too soon, that even Katie wasn't up to it, just like they'll tell us that America wasn't ready for a woman president, just not yet.

There are lots of people who think that nightly news is a dinosaur. To be honest, I tend to agree. After all, I work for Fox. But when Katie takes the chair, I'll be watching. If people are going to judge women by whether she succeeds, I know what side I'm on. Go, girl. I'm with you.

To find out more about Susan Estrich, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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SUSAN
ESTRICH



The 'Delay House' discovers rules

Tom DeLay couldn't leave the U.S. House of Representatives fast enough, as far as I'm concerned. As a GOP House leader, he betrayed the trust of voters and conservatives.

DeLay told *Time Magazine* that he had done nothing wrong and was proud of his accomplishments. He even said he "was very proud of the fact that I play golf." Talk about your low threshold for HIGH self-esteem.

DeLay also told *Time* that he had done nothing unethical in Congress. Yes, he found it "incredibly disappointing" that two people formerly on his staff broke the law.

Former DeLay Deputy Chief of Staff Tony Rudy pleaded guilty last week to conducting a criminal enterprise out of "The Hammer's" office. Former DeLay spokesman Michael Scanlon pleaded guilty to defrauding clients with seedy lobbyist Jack Abramoff (who also has pleaded guilty to political sins). As DeLay sees it, he has hired "hundreds of people," and it's no reflection on him if there were two bad apples.

Well, maybe, but DeLay had more than two bad apples working for him. According to Rudy's plea-bargain agreement, Rudy lobbied DeLay staffers in violation of a federal law that prohibits former aides from lobbying colleagues for the first year they're off the con-

gressional payroll. Thus, Team DeLay had to know they were breaking the law by talking to Rudy. The law obviously didn't mean much to them.

Rudy's plea bargain aptly states that his crime was "a scheme and artifice to defraud and deprive" American citizens of their right "to the honest services" of House staffers, as Rudy corruptly accepted cash and gifts as a staffer, then corrupted other officials as a lobbyist. DeLay says he has broken no laws, and I'll assume that is true. Nonetheless, DeLay's conduct and demeanor have deprived Americans of the "honest services" that citizens have every right to expect from a House leader.

"DeLay was very astute at pushing legislation that was advantageous to people who would give him money," Public Citizen's Joan Claybrook observed during a conference call last Tuesday.

In his quest for lobbyist dollars, DeLay — now known as "Representative 2" in the Rudy plea agreement — and his minions worked to undermine an anti-gambling bill, to the benefit of gambling interests. DeLay also failed to stop so-called conservative activists Lou Sheldon and Ralph Reed, who were greased by Abramoff, from going after social conservatives who, unlike Reed and Sheldon, had stuck to their principles.

DeLay has said he didn't know Team Abramoff had gained to bankroll a posh trip to Scotland. But the very fact that DeLay accepted the first-class travel

shows how power corrupted him. When leaders of either party think their position entitles them to lavish living, they've lost touch with their constituents.

In 2004, the House Ethics Committee chastised DeLay three times for unethical behavior, including offering a political favor to a lawmaker in exchange for his support on a prescription-drug bill and getting too chummy with an energy company as the House was looking at an energy bill. DeLay was unbowed. The GOP leadership later responded by neutering the committee.

Last week, DeLay told conservative publication Human Events that he is considering filing an ethics complaint against Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., for striking a Capitol Police officer. Now, McKinney is a race-baiting loudmouth who deserves a good scolding from the House ethics committee. Still, it is precious that, when he is on the way out and after years of scoffing at those who believe members of Congress should behave with a respect for the institution, DeLay has discovered the ethics committee. I believe the term is "born-again."

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@schronicle.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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Immigration supporters march throughout Texas

By JUAN A. LOZANO

Associated Press Writers
HOUSTON — A crowd of 50,000 people marched, rallied and waved mainly U.S. flags Monday as part of a nationwide series of demonstrations demanding that Congress clear a path to legal status for an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants.

Smaller rallies were held in other Texas cities, including El Paso, Austin and Tyler.

In Houston, event organizers estimated 50,000 gathered at Guadalupe Park on the city's largely Hispanic Eastside to march toward Allen's Landing, the spot where Houston's founding fathers first arrived.

They held signs that read, in English, "Fix immigration, don't eliminate it," and "Proud American — I'm here to work."

The illegal immigrants among the protesters were unusually forthcoming about giving full names to reporters, apparently feeling emboldened by the large numbers.

Augustin De La Vega has lived illegally in the United States for 13 years.

A large American flag flew from the stroller of his 4-month-old son, Kevin.

"We come here to do the tough work," said the 36-year-old plumber from Guanajuato,

Mexico.

"We don't mind, but I think all of us should have an opportunity to live here."

Pablo Rocha, who runs a taco stand and is sending some of his five children to college, has lived illegally in Houston for 12 years.

"Our lives are here now," said Rocha, from Michoacan, Mexico. "It would be very hard for us to return to our country."

About 300 people marched along a border highway from City Hall in Sunland Park, N.M., toward downtown El Paso.

They, like others in rallies around the country, chanted, "Si, se puede," or "Yes we can."

And unlike earlier immigration rallies, the demonstrators waved mostly American flags, hoping to undo some negative publicity for promoting the Mexican flag at earlier events.

"It's an American issue," said Frank Lopez, 44, marching in El Paso. "People ... have really distorted that, but we represent peace and solidarity with immigrants."

Third-generation American Angie Torres, 37, held a sign that read in Spanish, "Today we march, tomorrow we vote."

The group from New Mexico planned to meet up with two other groups for a large-scale

protest later Monday. About 200 people marched from the Chamizal National Memorial along the Texas-Mexico border to the main plaza in downtown El Paso, where several hundred people had already gathered.

The march from New Mexico was led by Sunland Park Mayor Ruben Segura and Texas state Sen. Eliot Shapleigh.

Many of the marchers wore matching T-shirts emblazoned with the words "We are not criminals, We are part of the solution."

"I want freedom for everybody in this country," said 17-year-old Selena Ibaare, a Santa Teresa High School junior. "It's not fair what the government is trying to do."

Another student, 12-year-old Jose Garranza, said in Spanish "we want peace and legalization."

The marchers clogged traffic for about an hour along a main artery from Sunland Park to Interstate 10 and downtown El Paso, with escort assistance from the city of El Paso.

The plaza crowd, estimated at a peak of 2,000 by organizers, was mostly peaceful, but protesters and counter-protesters shouted at each other.

Jose Rodriguez, an El Paso man who served in the U.S. Army Rangers in Panama, said

immigrants need to "come through the door, not the window."

"If I break a law there are consequences. There should be the same consequences for illegal immigrants," he said.

The fountain in the middle of the plaza, a downtown landmark known for its decorative alligators, was fenced off by authorities. Two weeks ago it was the focal point for thousands of immigration protesters.

About 1,200 college and high school students in Austin walked out of class for a rally at the University of Texas and planned a 1 1/2-mile march to the state Capitol for a rally.

In the small city of Tyler, an estimated 2,000 people showed up for a morning rally Monday.

In Dallas, where Sunday's march drew between 350,000 and 500,000 people, activists were urging immigrants to showcase their spending power by not buying anything during an economic boycott.

On a busy intersection in a Hispanic neighborhood in East Dallas, few shoppers were seen at a normally busy strip mall.

Francisco Cuevas, 24, sat behind the counter at Borja's Western Wear, which also sells music, movies and financial services. He said he had made

one \$10 sale Monday, when normally he would have sold more than \$100.

He said he was happy because he supports the boycott.

"This is about Latinos," he said. "It helps them feel important in society."

The Sunday rally in Dallas also drew counter-demonstrators, but no violence was reported.

On Monday, a small plane carrying an anti-immigration banner made a precautionary landing south of Dallas because of engine trouble, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. No one was hurt. Television footage showed the banner to read "USA: LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT."

An overhaul of immigration law is stalled in Congress. But activists say the Senate's decision last week not to push a bill that would have given many illegal immigrants a chance at citizenship offers them a chance to regroup.

The protests have been supported by popular Spanish-language disc jockeys, who quickly merged their local events into national plans after hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in dozens of cities last month, culminating March 25 with a 500,000-strong rally in Los Angeles.

STATE BRIEFS

Two die while saving 5 children from fire

ELGIN (AP) — With fire blocking the only doorway, two adults died in a duplex fire after they saved five young children by pushing them out of a window.

Pablo Leza, 26, perished in the fire after re-entering the burning duplex to help Lenora Goddard, 28, remove the children. Goddard also died.

Firefighters said they were still investigating the cause of the Sunday fire in Elgin, about 25 miles east of Austin.

Elgin Volunteer Fire Chief Larry Foehner said an autopsy performed at the Travis County Medical Examiner's office Monday revealed that Leza and Goddard died of asphyxiation.

The two rescued 2-month-old Alexia, 4-month-old Joshua, 20-month-old Cassandra, 2-year-old C.J. and 5-year-old Tyler.

Goddard was the mother of C.J. and Joshua. The children called Leza "Uncle Pablo" but it was unclear if he was actually related to the family, said Naomi Taylor, a friend and neighbor who witnessed the fire.

The three-bedroom duplex was home to a group of five adults and six children who had moved in only a few days before the fire, according to fire officials.

When Leza realized the children were still in the burning duplex, he went back in without hesitating, Taylor said.

He then broke a 2-foot-by-2-foot window located high on the wall of the one-story building and handed the children out to another resident standing outside. Goddard, meanwhile, tried to shield the children from the fire.

"They died saving five babies," Taylor said. "We would be going to five little coffin funerals if it wasn't for them."

Couple accused of caging child in pet crate

McALLEN (AP) — A South Texas couple was jailed on child abuse charges for allegedly placing the woman's 10-year-old son in a pet cage as punishment for stealing and later binding his hands and feet to a pole.

Alfredo Hernandez Jr., 29, and Veronica Pintor Marcos, 32, were being held Monday night in the Hidalgo County jail on \$130,000 bond each. They're charged with felony injury to a child, child endangerment and unlawful restraint.

The 10-year-old escaped from his McAllen house Friday and reported the alleged abuse by his mother

and stepfather to his neighbors, who notified police.

Child Protective Services has placed the couple's four children, also including a 5-year-old boy and two girls ages 3 and 12, in foster care, *The (McAllen) Monitor* reported in its Tuesday editions.

A jail official did not have a listing of lawyers for the defendants, and he would not allow either of them speak to a reporter on the telephone when contacted by *The Associated Press*.

McAllen police say Hernandez, with the consent of his wife, placed the boy in a dog kennel for about eight hours to punish him for stealing.

They also accuse Hernandez of using tape to bind the boy's hands and feet to a bamboo pole behind his back, and then leaving him facedown in a laundry room. The boy told police that he managed to free his feet three times, and each time Hernandez taped them again. On the fourth time, the boy escaped the house.

"They accused the boy of stealing something and they were trying to punish him for that, but of course the punishment doesn't fit," McAllen police Sgt. Joel Morales told the newspaper.

Surgeon guilty of intoxication assault

HOUSTON (AP) — A plastic surgeon was convicted of intoxication assault Monday for running over two British women then driving away in his Mercedes Benz as they lay bleeding on the roadside.

The sentencing phase of Mark Douglas Gilliland's trial began Monday and will continue Tuesday. He faces up to 10 years in prison on the two charges.

Joanna Moore died at the scene but was brought back to life by paramedics. She was tossed into the air, her skull was fractured and her face was so swollen her father couldn't recognize her. The other woman, Amanda Holland, testified that her last memory of the March 2005 accident was seeing the headlights of Gilliland's car. Holland's jaw and ankle were broken.

Both sides agreed Gilliland had alcohol, the prescription sleep aid Ambien, a diet drug and an anti-depressant in his system at the time of the accident.

Prosecutor Warren Diepraam said Gilliland didn't stop to help the women because he knew he was too intoxicated to be driving.

Defense attorney Dick DeGuerin said the women looked the wrong way — as they would in England, where cars drive on the left side of the street — and stepped into Gilliland's path. DeGuerin said the accident was unavoidable.

Tax committee set to study proposal

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — With less than a week before the start of a special session on public school funding, legislative leaders continued Monday to withhold support for a \$6 billion tax-swap proposal endorsed by Republican Gov. Rick Perry.

House Speaker Tom Craddick continued to meet privately with members of the House, gauging their support for the tax plan that would allow school districts to lower property taxes by one-third. Craddick spokesman Chris Cutrone said it was still too early to know what kind of reception the plan would get in the House.

Rep. Jim Keffer, chair-

man of the House tax-writing committee, said most of the lawmakers he's talked to "are very positive about what they're hearing." Still he questioned whether the plan would be the silver bullet they need.

A spokesman for Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who has cast doubt on the proposed business tax structure, said the Senate would consider legislation sent from the House. Any tax plan must originate in the House, under Texas law.

The bill, which contains a restructured state business tax and an increased cigarette tax, was designed by a special task force made up of Perry-appointed state business leaders and led by former Comptroller John Sharp. On Monday, Sharp out-

lined the 92-page bill and answered questions from Keffer's Ways and Means Committee.

Sharp also plans to address the 150-member chamber on the first day of the session, April 17.

"Everybody has to roll up their sleeves and get on board and start rowing the boat instead of figuring out all of the negatives," Keffer said.

Perry and Sharp hope the plan will answer a Texas Supreme Court ruling last fall that declared the state's dependence on property taxes illegal. The court gave Texas lawmakers until June 1 to fix the system.

A handful of representatives have said they'll propose using all of the state's budget surplus to buy down property tax rates.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Science of Evasion

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ 7 6 2
♥ A J 7
♦ 10 7 3
♠ J 8 5 4

WEST

♦ A 9 5
♥ 10 8 5 4 3
♦ J 9 6 2
♠ 6

EAST

♦ Q J 10 4 3
♥ 9 2
♦ Q 8 5
♠ Q 10 2

SOUTH

♦ K 8
♥ K Q 6
♦ A K 4
♠ A K 9 7 3

The bidding:

South West North East

2 NT Pass 3 NT All Pass

Opening lead — four of hearts.

There are many sound contracts that cannot be made due to an unfavorable lie of the cards and where nothing declarer can do will alter the outcome. But there are also other sound contracts where declarer runs into bad luck and can nevertheless prevail by playing his cards correctly.

Take this case where South won the opening heart lead in his hand, cashed the A-K of clubs and played a third club. East won and returned the queen of spades, and declarer went down two.

There is no doubt that South was unlucky to find East with three clubs

Tomorrow: You have to do a little work.

to the queen and West with the ace of spades. But since he could have made the contract regardless of how the adverse cards were divided, bad luck was not a good excuse for the unhappy outcome.

Declarer's downfall came as a direct result of the way he handled the clubs. He had seven sure tricks — three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs — when play started, and all he had to do to make nine was to score two extra club tricks before the opponents could collect five tricks of their own.

South should therefore have played his clubs in such a way that if he had to lose a club trick, it would not be to East. He should have won the heart opening with dummy's jack and led the club eight, planning to let it ride if East played low. If West won the trick, four tricks in the suit would then be assured.

If East plays the ten on the eight, South wins, returns to dummy with the heart ace and leads another club, again prepared to lose a finesse to West.

Of course, if East shows out on the first club, declarer takes the ace and leads a club toward dummy's jack, once more guaranteeing four club tricks.

In the actual case, because East held both the queen and ten of clubs, South would have reaped an unexpected bonus by making the contract with an overtrick.



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Henry Backes



TAR

Christy's Quill

"Only do the fruit," she said with a panicked voice.

It was the voice of a faithful volunteer for a state park. She's been working the fun run event since its inception and last Saturday, in a surprise move, she ended up with a marker in her hand to record the times of those going across the finish line.

As she made little circles around my dancing moves, I offered to trade places with her.

"Do you usually mark the times or read the clock?" I asked.

That's when she said, "I only do the fruit."

This lovely volunteer has been doing the fruit for this event over the past 10 years!

She chops, arranges and beautifully displays the trays of produce for the 50-80 participants in the race.

She graciously hosts and offers encouragement just by her longevity as a worker.

But, this year, she was completely caught off guard when the permanent brand-name marker was slipped into her hand.

We were both so nervous about making a mistake.

What if a ton of runners came in at

the same time? What if we wrote down the wrong thing.

And she was thinking, 'I only do the fruit!'

Fortunately for us, a calm teenager took over the job as clock reader.

Very methodically, with no fanfare, she called out times.

The sweet volunteer and I trembled during the first 10 runners. Then, the participants started coming faster and faster.

Others wedding markers began flying around, helping take the little ticket stubs off the entrant's numbered tags.

It got hectic. My friend reminded me again, "I only do the fruit."

What fun we had, though.

As people, we get into a routine and we only do the fruit or that thing we are comfortable doing. And, then, an unexpected curve is thrown our way.

In the end, this precious lady and I were surprised that we'd made it through an entire hour and some odd minutes of time-recording.

Even though she'd "only done the fruit," she turned out to be quite a record keeper as well.

She was a real trooper. What a special volunteer!



CHRISTY ALTON

I've been learning a lot! Since I was hired as a tutor at a local elementary, I go into the classrooms and

sit in on instruction, then help children with their math or other subjects.

I had a good education while growing up, but I just wanted it to be finished.

Now, that I'm older, I can't believe how much I love learning. And I'm learning from the best.

Just this past few weeks, I've listened to quality lessons from the perspective of several different teachers.

Combined, these educators have well over 100 years of classroom experience. Their presentation is clear, kind and interesting.

They draw the students (and me) in with their unique styles and visuals.

In one class, the teacher was doing a math problem that had to do with direction. (north, south, east, west stuff ... very confusing for me.)

She drew a road on the board and quickly got a toy car out and began demonstrating the route on the board.

I couldn't believe it! For the first time in my life, I was able to grasp what direction the car was going by seeing it in action. It was totally cool.

Another teacher was having a discussion about a story. She was so positive and encouraging that she made the words come alive.

Every single kid was tuned in. That's not an easy feat!

Other teachers use music, songs, games and centers to enhance learning.

In one room, there are several different math centers the teacher has instat-

ed. The children work in groups on fractions, facts of division, addition, subtraction and multiplication.

The centers encourage teamwork and positive competition. I even get to participate when someone doesn't have a partner.

The activities make me wish I could have had them in my elementary math classes. Even though they are working hard, the children can't seem to wait until it's time to get out the "fun" packets.

Not only do these teachers love working with the children, they truly care about each other. They offer encouraging words to each other throughout the day.

They make a great team. The wonderful thing is that this great classroom climate isn't just at my school.

I've subbed all over. Predominately, the good teachers rule.

The staff I've encountered are devoted to their students and their profession.

Teachers are an important resource to our community. Our children are with them six to eight hours of each day.

From what I've witnessed, they're in good hands!

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

Bird Poop

The cook had just ignited the grill when he heard something. He turned it off.

For several days a strange noise had been coming from the overhead vent. Could the sound be on the mall's roof?



BEBE MCCASLAND

Perhaps the ductwork from the kitchen's venting system was loose. Once notified, the manager of the mall assured the staff of Furr's Cafeteria that they could not find anything wrong in the area where their vent stack made its exit through the roof.

It was obvious to the cook that the metal of the duct was transferring these weird sounds into his kitchen.

With a sigh, he started the preparation for the noon meal. Then he heard it. Not the scraping against metal that he had heard before, but a squeak or peep, as if it were a bird.

It couldn't be. Just as he was thinking that management would know he was crazy if he reported a noise again, two fluffy young birds dropped on to the grill.

Quickly grabbing them, he couldn't decide who was more startled, he or the birds.

The cook called to another employee to get a box. As he carefully



Courtesy photo

Killdeer consume insects as a major part of their diet. They also entertain man with their antics.

placed the babies inside, his assistant looked from him to the birds in disbelief.

"Where did they come from?" she asked. "The vent!"

Birds in the mall were common. However, baby birds in the cafeteria made us wonder what they were.

When we opened the box to see two very young killdeer, we knew we had to act promptly.

Apparently fascinated by the shiny galvanized steel of the vent stack, these inquisitive youngsters had finally managed to half jump, half fly, under the cap and into the stack.

Gravity did the rest. The fledglings would

have to be returned to the roof.

In captivity, young killdeer fail to thrive and refuse to eat. To keep them would have resulted in their deaths.

As members of the plover family, killdeer usually nest on the ground.

Making a small depression in the gravel, these birds' mother found the rooftop of the mall to be a perfect nesting place.

No predatory bird would notice her speckled eggs among the tiny rocks. No car or human would disturb the incubation.

Being precocial (independent from birth), the killdeer would stay inside the egg almost two weeks

longer than most birds and be more developed and nourished.

After they hatched, and as soon as their downy feathers dried, these babies would soon be capable of feeding themselves.

Following their parents was not only for protection, but the vital education of being a killdeer.

When we notified the mall manager of the event in the kitchen and the reasons for returning the birds to the roof, he was more than willing to help.

Climbing on to the roof, we heard the familiar "Kill-dee," "Kill-deeee."

Then we saw one of the parents doing its "broken wing" behavior. Not

knowing what had happened to its offspring, the killdeer instinctively tried to lure us across the roof of the mall.

Since her babies had last been seen near the vent stack, the mother headed west toward Montgomery Ward.

By releasing the young killdeer back in the area where they were born, we knew they had a chance to survive. In another week or two, they would have enough flight ability to leave the rooftop and flutter to the ground.

As they matured, the single breast band would change into two black stripes.

Their fuzz ball appear-

ance would change to a white breast, with brown on the top of the head, wings and back.

Always alert, the birds would learn to run, stop and listen before deciding their next move.

A variety of insects, and occasional spiders and ticks would provide their necessary diet.

Although we considered it ironic that a "shorebird" frequents our arid terrain, we knew from experience that killdeer are grateful for street drainage from someone's sprinkler, or the simplest of mud puddles.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to

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Briefly

Big Spring blood drives scheduled

- Howard County Sheriff's Office from 1:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. today. Call Jose Gonzales at 254-2244.

- First United Methodist Church in the Youth Hall from 9 a.m. until noon Friday. Call 267-6394.

- H-E-B Groceries from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. April 21. Call Carmen Colon at 263-3000.

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful Flea market at

the Big Spring Mall from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. May 6. Call Kathy Lusk at 267-3853.

- Big Spring High School from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. May 10. Call Sharon Richardson at 264-3641.

- VA Medical Center from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. May 11. Call Iva Jo Hanslik at 264-4824.

- TravelCenters of America from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. May 15. Call Sonya Bravo at 264-4444.

- Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. May 30. Call Tony Cruz at 268-8387.

Coahoma Kindergarten Round-up tonight

Coahoma Kindergarten Round-up is scheduled for 6 tonight in the Coahoma Elementary School cafeteria.

A proof of residency form, available at the

Coahoma Independent School District Administration Office must be submitted at the roundup.

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.

Call Sherrie at 394-4323 for any other information.

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BRIEF

Howard College team has won its annual baseball tournament for the 11th time. The team will take place on April 23 at Howard County Rodeo Bowl at 2 p.m. Howard College Rodeo action takes place. The price for a baseball ticket is \$10. Tickets can be purchased the day of the event or ahead of time by calling Howard head rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 432-816-9477. The Howard College rodeo will take place April 27-29.

Coahoma P.T.A. to host dodgeball tournament in April
The Coahoma P.T.A. 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 267-8660.

Pony League sets date for tryouts

The Pony League baseball tryouts will continue at the baseball complex on I-20 tonight 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 816-9494 or Jill at Ringner 816-1532.

KBSB golf tourney announced for month of April

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be host of a golf tournament April 22 at the Big Spring Country Club. For more information, contact the club at 267-5354.

Track needed for 2006 season

The Big Spring track team will be competing in the Lucas Ramirez at 466-8870.

Smith, Lady Buffs take 4-2A title at Comanche

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

Stanton senior Savannah Smith doubled her advantage during second-round action of the District 4-2A golf tournament at Comanche Trail Golf Course Monday.

Smith led by 10 strokes entering the final round and won the tournament by 20 shots after firing a 92 Monday during a very strong wind which affected the golfer's drives and putts.

Smith finished with a 182 and her Stanton team took home the 4-2A title with an 827. The Lady Buffaloes' top team blew away Colorado City, which shot a 941, but both teams qualified for the regional tournament.

Stanton's Mallory Cotton shot a two-round total of 202, while Samantha Portillo and Bonnie Kendall fired 223s. Colorado City's Sagan Everett finished third overall with a 221 and Brittany McKinney took sixth with a 227.

Coahoma's Jaci Martinez entered the second round in third place overall, but was unable to qualify for regionals as she finished seventh with a 230. Tori Paige and Bethany Shivers, both of Coahoma, fired 251 and



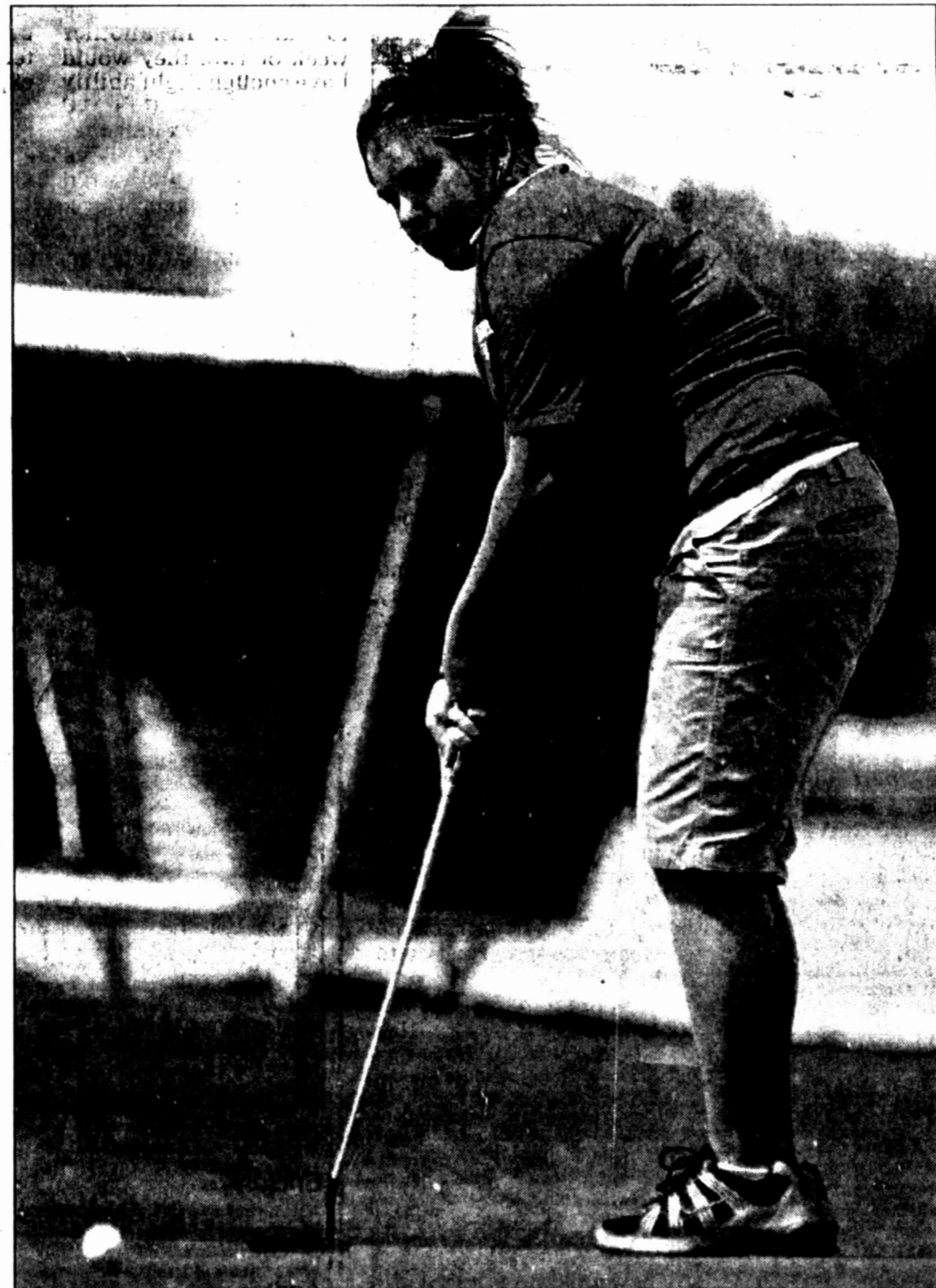
HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Stanton senior Savannah Smith watches her tee shot on No. 10 during 4-2A golf action at Comanche Trail Golf Course Monday. Smith won the girl's portion of the tourney by 20 strokes and the Lady Buffaloes' top team won the team title.

276, respectively.

Stanton's fifth golfer on its top team — Brittani Garza — shot a 237. The second team from Stanton was led by Joddi Briseno, who fired a 236.

Colorado City and Anson advanced to the regional tournament on the boy's side as they each took the top two

See GOLF, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma's Jaci Martinez attempts a putt on No. 9 during action at Comanche Trail Golf Course Monday. Martinez finished seventh overall in the 4-2A golf tourney, but missed qualifying for regionals by three strokes.

Abner leads B.S. at Crane Relays

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

CRANE — The Big Spring track team took advantage of an open week by running in Crane Saturday afternoon. The Lady Steers came home with a fourth-place finish as they

grabbed 71 points and was defeated by Kermit (77), Lamesa (108) and host Crane (208).

Junior Katy Abner grabbed two first-place finishes and came home with a second, as well. She won the pole vault with a 9-6 and took the

gold in the 200-meter dash with a 27.36. She scored a second-place finish in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.96 and was also a part of Big Spring's fourth-place 400-meter relay team, which also

See TRACK, Page 2B

Sanders, McKiski move to regionals

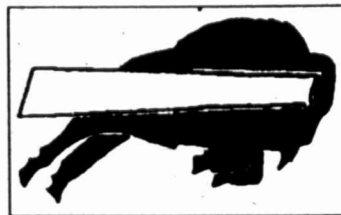
By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald
BAIRD — The Forsan boys and girls golf teams completed the second round of district golf Monday at the Shady Oaks Golf Course in Baird.

Out of 12 teams in the district, the boys team finished fourth overall.

Junior Mark McKiski led the way for the Buffaloes. He shot a two-round total of 166 and qualified for the regional tournament in Abilene. McKiski shot an 80 in the final round.

Tye Baker finished with a score of 88 on the final day.



In girls competition, senior Shiloh Sanders qualified for the regional tourney with a round of 99 and a two-day total of 196. That score was good enough to put her in third place overall for the district tournament.

Sanders and McKiski will compete in the regional tournament April 24-25 at Maxwell Municipal Golf Course in Abilene.

Newcomb wins two events at 10-A meet

• Buffaloes send several to area meet

By JEFF LANE

Special to the Herald
The Forsan boys varsity and junior varsity track teams competed in the district 10-A track and field meet last Thursday.

The varsity boys took home fourth place as a team by scoring a total of 61 points.

Wes Newcomb was crowned the district champion in the long jump with a jump of 20-3.75.

Also earning a district champion title was the sprint relay team of Newcomb, Skylier Sandridge, Justin Forshee and Jace Sandridge. The team won with a time of 45.29.

The 800-meter relay team of Skylier Sandridge, Jace Sandridge, Newcomb and Mitchell Murray placed fourth with a time of 1:37.24.

Placing third in the 110-meter high hurdles was Adam Bailey with a time of 17.55.

Other notable performances included Jace Sandridge taking fourth in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.45 seconds and Forshee running a 54.4 second 400 meter to take fourth place.

All of these participants qualified for the area meet which will be held in Roby Thursday.

Running for the junior varsity was Justin Carriger, who ran in the 100-meter dash and finished with a time of 12.07 seconds and a second-place finish.

Also participating in the 100-meter dash was Blaine Matthews. He finished in fourth place with a time of 12.36 seconds.

The JV team placed seventh overall in the meet with a total of 18 points.

Forsan JH Girl's
Also running in the district meet were the Forsan junior high girls.

The eighth grade girls ran away with the district title beating their nearest competition, Irion County, by 33 points and



scoring 153 total. Noelle McDowell took home first-place finishes in the 2,400-meter run and the 1,600-meter run with times of 12:10 and 7:09, respectively.

Tamra Wallace and Macy Briggs finished 1-2 in the 100 Hurdles. Wallace came in with a time of 19.04 and Briggs finished in 19.88.

Wallace also took top honors in the 300 hurdles with a winning time of 56.52.

Both the 400-meter and 800-meter relay teams placed second with times of 56.69 and 2:04.61, respectively.

The teams were made up of Briggs, Shelby Jones, Kelsey Jones and Belinda Strong.

The junior high girls also placed well in the field events, taking home four first-place finishes.

Amanda Longorio won the shot put with a throw of 31-3 and took the discus with a toss of 95-7.

Shelby Jones took first in the pole vault event with a 7-6 and also won the high jump, clearing the bar at 4 feet.

The seventh grade girls took second overall, scoring a total of 137 points.

Morgan Forshee took home three first-place finishes, including the 100-meter dash, which she ran in 14.17.

Forshee also won the long jump with a mark of 14 feet and the high jump with a leap of 4 feet.

Miranda Park placed second in the long jump with a distance of 13-4 and took third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 14.51.

The 400-meter relay and 800-meter relay teams both finished second with the sprint relay turning in a time of 56.81 and the 800 meter finishing with a time of 2:06.5.

The teams consisted of Park, Forshee, Ericka Garrett and Morgan Harbour.

Garrett also ran the 100 hurdles in 19.77, taking a first-place win.

In the 300 hurdles, Kay Stanley took second with a time of 64.28.

Harbour finished third in the 400 meter, clocking in at 77.30 and Shelby Clark ran the 800 meter in 3:15.79, which was good enough for third place.

GOLF

Continued from Page 1B

spots in the team standings. The Wolves won the meet with a 677, while Anson finished with a 700.

Stanton's top team came in fourth with a 742. The Buffaloes were led by Justin Hinajosa's 182. Matthew Ruiz shot a 183 and Jao Vela and Marcus Arguello shot 192 and 194, respectively.

Stanton's second team took seventh overall and was led by Joe B. Bryand's 182.

Coahoma's No. 1 team finished sixth and senior Terrell Bibb just missed advancing to regionals.

Bibb shot a second-round 91 and finished with a 174, which was good for seventh place overall.

Brik McGuffin of Colorado City shot a 173 and took sixth.

Matthew Taylor of Coahoma shot a 193, while Mikey Mendoza fired a 198. Matt Earhart led Coahoma's second team with a 203. Ryan Walker shot a 207.

Freshman Kyle Dickerson of Anson won the tournament with a 153.



Stanton's Samantha Portillo tees off on No. 10 during action at the 4-2A golf tournament at Comanche Trail Golf Course Monday. Portillo finished in the top six of the tournament and advanced to the regional meet. Stanton won the team title.

HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Rangers continue to struggle, lose to rival

Anaheim's Lackey shuts down Texas

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — John Lackey caught the struggling Texas Rangers at a great time. The way he pitched, they might not have had a chance anyway.

Lackey recorded his first victory in two starts since signing a multiyear contract extension, limiting the Rangers to four hits in seven innings in a 5-2 victory Monday night.

"They've got a lot of guys over there who can swing the bats, and it's definitely a challenge every time you face them," Lackey said. "But I was able to command pretty much all four of my pitches and I was hitting spots."

Layne Nix went 0-for-3 against the lanky right-hander and is hitless in his first 18 at-bats this season. Then there's lead-off hitter Brad Wilkerson, who has struck out 16 times in his first 36 at-bats — including his first two times up against Lackey. The Rangers' leadoff hitter fanned an average of 153.7 times during the previous four seasons with the Montreal/Washington franchise.

Lackey escaped a jam in the fourth by striking out Kevin Mench with a runner at third. Mench, who stranded another teammate at second base in the ninth, has not driven in a run in his first 31 at-bats this season. Last year, he had 73 RBIs in 150 games.

"Kevin will be fine. He's going to have a big year," Young said. "He's a good hitter. It's just a matter of getting him hot, and sometimes it takes a little longer than you'd like."

Lackey (1-1) shrugged off a two-run homer by Phil Nevin in the first inning and retired 12 of his last 13 batters. He

struck out eight and walked one. The five-year veteran, who was born in Abilene, Texas, and makes his offseason home in Dallas, is 6-6 lifetime against the Rangers with a 5.15 ERA.

"He was throwing a lot of strikes and getting ahead of us," Young said. "We haven't been swinging the bat like we're capable of the last few games, and he capitalized. He was finishing us off with fastballs, breaking balls, pretty much everything in the strike zone."

Young, last year's AL batting champ, did not hit a ball out of the infield in three at-bats against Lackey, who recorded five of his 14 wins last season after Angels defeats.

Scot Shields pitched a hitless eighth inning and Francisco Rodriguez got three outs for his fourth save and 22nd in 22 opportunities, extending his own club record.

Chone Figgins drove in the tying run in the second with a triple to right field over Mench's outstretched glove after a walk to Jose Molina. Orlando Cabrera followed with a bloop single against Kameron Loe (0-2), putting the two-time defending AL West champs ahead to stay.

Cabrera then stole second and scored when Vladimir Guerrero reached out for a pitch about a foot off the ground and looped a single into right-center. Guerrero was 2-for-4 and has hit safely in all 37 career games against Texas, the longest streak by a player against one team since divisional play began in 1969. The 2004 AL MVP is hitting .438 lifetime against the Rangers with 13 homers and 30 RBIs.

"That guy can hit anything," Lackey said.

TRACK

Continued from Page 1B

included Desiree Yanez, Whitney Lewis and Cortnee Holt.

Lewis grabbed sixth-place finishes in the long jump (14-3.5) and triple jump (31-7).

Junior Mistie Aguilar finished strong in the mile and

two mile runs.

Aguilar placed first in the 1,600-meters with a 6:00 and grabbed second in the 3,200-meters as she crossed in 13:01.32.

Leslie Leal grabbed fourth in the shot put with a throw of 31-0.

Freshman Katherine Leubner and sophomore Haley Adams placed fourth and sixth, respectively, in the 800-meter dash.

The Lady Steers will run in the District 4-4A meet in Lubbock Thursday and Friday.

Duke players' DNA comes up no match with accuser

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — The district attorney said Tuesday he will not abandon his investigation of allegations that an exotic dancer was raped and beaten at a party thrown by members of Duke University's lacrosse team.

"A lot has been said in the press that this case should go away," District Attorney Mike Nifong said at a commu-

nity forum. On Monday, attorneys representing members of the lacrosse team said DNA from 46 lacrosse players did not match evidence collected from the woman who says she was raped.

"No DNA from any young man tested was found anywhere on or about this woman," defense attorney Wade Smith said Monday.



AGUILAR



LITTLE BOY AIDEN AND BIG JOHN PILOTWANNABE

This story doesn't take place in a dream world like most bedtime stories. I think this story might be real. It is about a real boy. It is about a real helicopter. It is about a real pilot. When we finish with this story, tell me if you think it happened in a dream world, or the real world. Will you remind me to ask you? Will you promise you will tell me? I knew you would!



When Aiden was very little, he was outside playing on his swingset one bright, beautiful, sunny day. He was having so much fun swinging back and forth, higher and higher until he felt like he could touch the clouds. He even tried! He never could quite touch the clouds, but he tried each time. He wondered what it must look like way up there, higher than the clouds, above all things on earth. He wondered what was beyond those clouds. One day he would go see!

When Aiden was a bigger boy, he still wondered what was on the other side of the clouds. He never forgot. It always made him think, and think, "What was beyond those clouds?" Was there something big and mean beyond the clouds? Was it very soft, quiet, and peaceful beyond those clouds?

When Aiden was even bigger, he

climbed up the highest tree in his yard, trying to see what was on the other side of the clouds. He climbed to the highest branch on that highest tree, and still could not see what was on the other side of those clouds! Just as he was near the top of that big tree, he heard a very loud, whirring noise. It came closer and closer to Aiden! "Maybe there is a big mean monster above the clouds and he is coming to get me now that I am so close to him," Aiden thought to himself!

And the noise came closer to Aiden, and closer, and closer! Then, there it was! The big mean monster was nothing more than a great big helicopter! And, it was very close to Aiden. So close that Aiden could see the pilot, and the big smile on his face. Aiden quickly waved to the smiling pilot, and the smiling pilot quickly waved back! For some reason, both the pilot and Aiden knew that they had made a new friend that day. And, these two new friends were about to meet!

Don't forget that Aiden was still in the very tip top of the highest tree in his yard. Don't forget that Aiden waved to the helicopter pilot. Don't forget that Aiden should have held on to those tree branches! Don't forget that Aiden is going to fall from that tree because he forgot to hold on to those tree branches! Don't forget that this is only a bedtime story, and no one is ever going to really get hurt!

Aiden fell! The helicopter pilot saw him fall! Aiden fell hard and fast! The helicopter pilot saw Aiden falling, but there was nothing he could do to help! Aiden finally fell all the way to the ground, being slowed in his fall by the big tree branches, who seemed to be holding out their arms to catch him.



The helicopter pilot put his big machine on the ground, landing it ever so softly, as if a cloud was underneath him. Out of the big machine he ran, towards Aiden. He was so scared that Aiden had hurt himself! Aiden was already standing up, when the pilot got to him. He was shaking off the tree leaves, and brushing off the dust and dirt. But, he was okay!

"Are you okay?" the pilot asked Aiden. "Yes, I am fine, a little scared, but fine," Aiden answered. "What were you doing up in that tree?" the pilot asked Aiden. "I was trying to see what is beyond the clouds. I have always known there was something above the clouds, but I could never see what it might be."

Then, Aiden noticed for the first time just how big this man really was, and wondered where he lives, and what his name was. And, this big man had a very beautiful smile. "My name is Aiden, what's yours?" Aiden asked. "My name is John, and people call me Big John," he



answered, "I must go now, for I have a lot of work to do, but I will be flying my helicopter over your house for many weeks to come, and I will wave to you if you will wave to me." "Wait, wait," Aiden cried, please take me for a ride in your helicopter, above the clouds. I will finally be able to see what is beyond them. I know there is something there, and I must see what it might be!

"I will take you for a ride in my helicopter one day, but not today," John said to Aiden. "There is something beyond those clouds that you cannot see from your yard, but this something is not a mean monster, but something beautiful! But, I would like for you to play in your yard, or with your friends, and hug your mom and dad, and sisters and brothers more before I take you for that ride. Then, off he went, in that big machine, up, up and away, and soon the noise and the machine were gone!

Aiden waited for Big John every day just so he could wave as he passed over his yard. He passed over the yard every day, just as he promised, and he waved each time he flew over, and he smiled! As the weeks passed, the day came when there was no more noise from those blades of the big helicopter. Big John had finished his job, and was gone!

Aiden was heartbroken. John

had promised to take him for a ride in his big helicopter so he could see what was beyond those clouds! Would he ever get to see? Would he ever get to ride in John's helicopter? Of course he would! Big John always kept every promise he ever made! Then Aiden heard it! He knew that sound! It was the noise from that big helicopter that had a big pilot named Big John! John had that same beautiful smile, and that wonderful wave of his that would warm your heart. Softly, gently, John set the big machine down on the ground.

Aiden ran as fast as he could go to see this pilot and friend named John. John ran towards Aiden too, and grabbed him, hugged him, and told him that he missed him and thought about him every day, and how he still smiles when he thinks about Aiden falling from the tree.

"Can you take me for a ride now?" Aiden asked John. "I still want to see what is beyond those clouds." "Yes, I will take you up now, and we will go higher than the clouds, and I will show you what is so beautiful that you cannot see from your yard." Aiden was so excited! Finally, he will see for himself!

Off they went! Higher and higher! Into the clouds! Over the clouds! Yes, they were over the clouds, and Aiden saw nothing! He was so disappointed! He had always thought there was something beyond those clouds, and Big John had even told him

there was something there. He looked higher and higher, but saw nothing! John had even said that there was something there and you could not see it from his yard! John saw the disappointment in Aiden's eyes. "You said there was something up here that I cannot see from my yard, and I have always known there was something up here too, but what and where is it?" Aiden was so sad!

Then the pilot, Big John, said to Aiden, "Don't look up, for you are high enough now. Look down!" Aiden looked the other way and



everything was so beautiful. Each town and city, each farm, every road, every forest, every lake and pond, seemed to be a painting that a great artist had painted and had done his best! The sight was so pretty! And, Big John was right. There was something up here that you cannot see from the ground. Aiden was always right, too. He had always known there was something up there. And all the times that Aiden had played in his yard, he had never thought that "something" might be the very high he was playing in the whole time!

Now, do you think this story happened in a dream world, or, did it really happen to a little boy named Aiden? Big John and Aiden said for me to tell you. "GOOD NIGHT!"

★ ★ ★

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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.

MARTIN COUNTY Hospital District is currently seeking an Emergency Medical Paramedic. Job requirements are High School graduate or equivalent must have a current Texas Certificate for Paramedic, ACLS and PALS certified, 1-year of 911 experience. Please contact (432)756-3345, ext. 226, Human Resources.

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Legals

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, AAA Mini Storage which is located at 3301 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX 79720 will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be at 7:00 o'clock P.M. on April 20, 2006, at 6607 North Service Road, Crossroads Auction Company, Big Spring, TX 79720. Property will be sold to highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property in each space may be sold item-by-item, in batches, or by the space. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of following tenants: Teresa Enrique Misc. household items, foosball table, children's items, appliances. Johnny Ward Misc. household appliances, children's items, collector dolls, small baseball nightstand, household items. Shane Slaton Misc. household items, children's items and toys, furniture, sport equipment. #4932 April 11 & 18, 2006.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHS The Libra moon loves teamwork, especially if the team consists of only two players. While looking for the perfect partner for each task you take on, indeed, the same individual shows up on your mental screen again and again. It's a sign to forge a multifaceted connection. This is best done through over-the-top displays of appreciation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your confidence catches others off guard. In fact, you might just startle someone into saying "yes" before they even know what they are saying "yes" to. A Leo or a Sagittarius is the perfect partner for your latest project.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's the ideal time to reconnect with your "soul" sisters and brothers. An old conversation starts right from where it left off. Thank goodness for faithful friends who understand you perfectly, no matter how much time has passed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Create a fantasy list of the people you want to know. Then, don't be surprised if a really outrageous meeting happens in the next seven weeks just because you had the guts to write it down today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you want to be, you

can be flawlessly gracious. It's in your best interest to turn on the charm at work. Your general presence makes a fantastic impression on someone important.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Among your loved ones' myriad charms, punctuality is noticeably absent. Bring something to do while you're waiting around for others. For instance, you could finally program your cell phone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone you care deeply for needs you now. Pay attention to this person as though they were the only one in the world. This kindness will be eternally remembered.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Feelings of invincibility, like the ones you experience this afternoon, simply don't come along every day - but they could. Notice what triggers the energy rush, and see if you can't re-create it again tomorrow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Does like attract like, or do opposites attract? The answer is that both are true, and the best relationship involves a delicate balance of common ground and diversity. You strike such a balance tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Business thrives when you work your contact list and also when you add to it. It's not what you know; it's whom you know, whom they know and whom they know.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're in a position to lead a confused person by the hand. Maybe you didn't even realize you were an expert until you started to teach. It's a sacred calling. You should be proud of yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You must get close to VIPs in order to be part of the action. Don't worry; you'll be accepted. What you do know is valuable. What you don't know makes you seem sweet, as long as you're not afraid to admit it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Sure, you need your peace and quiet, but do you really need this much of it? This afternoon, make an effort to reach out and get in touch. You'll come across a piece of information that helps unlock your current conundrum.

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AUCTIONS

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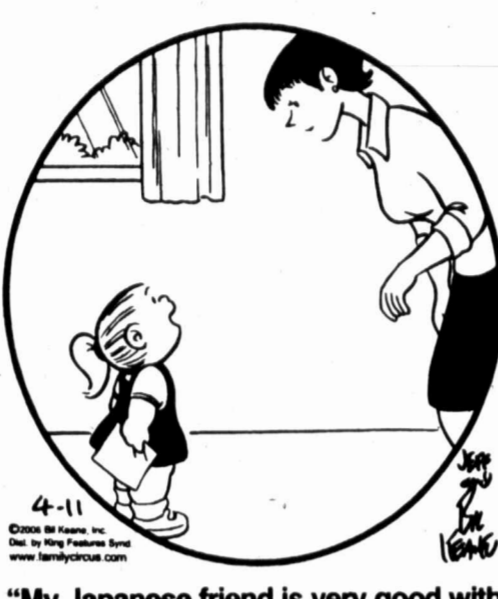
Table with 16 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLN, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCI FI) and 6 rows representing different time slots (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) listing various programs.

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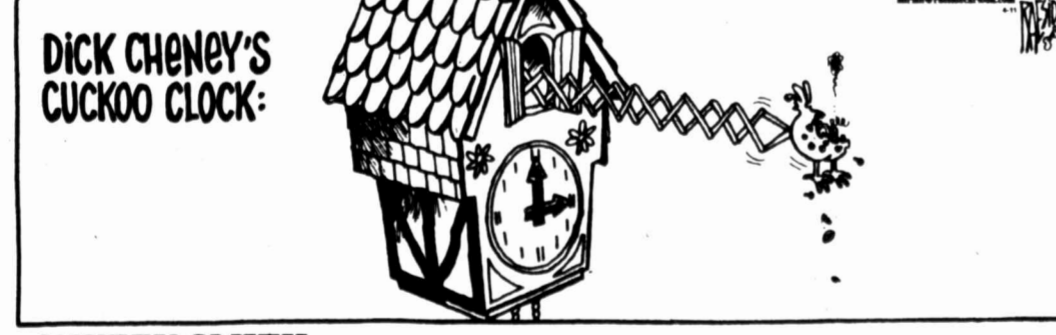
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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, April 11, the 101st day of 2006. There are 264 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 11, 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the notorious Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald in Germany. On this date: In 1689, William III and Mary II were crowned as joint sovereigns of Britain. In 1814, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated as emperor of France and was banished to the island of Elba. In 1898, President McKinley asked Congress for a declaration of war against Spain. In 1899, the treaty ending the Spanish-American War was declared in effect. In 1951, President Truman relieved Gen. Douglas MacArthur of his commands in the Far East. In 1953, Oveta Culp Hobby became the first Secretary of

Health, Education and Welfare. In 1968, President Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1968, a week after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. In 1970, Apollo 13 blasted off on its ill-fated mission to the moon. (The astronauts managed to return safely). In 1979, Idi Amin was deposed as president of Uganda as rebels and exiles backed by Tanzanian forces seized control. In 1981, President Reagan returned to the White House from the hospital, 12 days after he was wounded in an assassination attempt. Five years ago: A stampede at a packed soccer stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, killed 43 people. One year ago: Miss North Carolina Chelsea Cooley was crowned Miss USA. Today's Birthdays: Former New York State Gov. Hugh Carey is 87. Ethel Kennedy is 78. Actor Johnny Sheffield is 75. Actor Joel Grey is 74. Actress Louise Lasser is 67. Syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman is 65. Movie writer-director John Milius is 62. Actor Peter Riegert is

59. Actor Meshach Taylor is 59. Movie director Carl Franklin is 56. Country singer-songwriter Jim Lauderdale is 49. Songwriter-producer Daryl Simmons is 49. Actor Lucky Vanous is 45. Country singer Steve Azar is 42. Singer Lisa Stansfield is 40. Rock musician Dylan Keefe (Marcy Playground) is 36. Actor Johnny Messner is 36. Singer Joss Stone is 19. Thought for Today: "The only thing I regret about my past life is the length of it. If I had my past life over again I'd make all the same mistakes - only sooner." - Tallulah Bankhead, American actress (1903-1968).

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words filled in.

Newsday Crossword

SWEET TALK by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Parcel out, 6 "Terrible" infant stage, 10 Tavern, 13 Freak out, 14 Nary a soul, 15 Fuss, 16 Roof overhangs, 17 Marsh bird, 18 Waiter's reward, 19 Shrewd one, 21 Garden tool, 22 Sailor's assent, 23 Cunning quality, 25 Racetrack circuits, 28 Poorly lit, 31 Summer zodiac sign, 32 Urban thoroughfare: Abbr., 33 Receded, 35 Sneaker bottoms, 39 Chances are, 42 Toil, so to speak, 43 Short putt, 44 Mural, for example, 45 President pro, 47 Suffix for book, 48 Club member's payment, 49 Three or four, 53 Also, 55 Bullfight cheer, 56 Something easy, 62 Repair, 63 Nostalgic tune, 64 Seiko competitor, 65 Devoured, 66 Copier paper size, 67 Run off to wed, 68 American flag color, 69 Black-and-white cookie, 70 Homes for robins, 8 Playwright Eugene, 9 Look at, 10 Get into a tub, 11 Felipe's farewell, 12 Learning the (getting trained), 14 Prefix meaning "recent", 20 Aromatic tree, 24 Middy, 25 Young fellows, 26 Give testimony, 27 Brazilian soccer great, 29 "Meet Me ___ Louis", 30 Tin or titanium, 33 Aquatic sport, 34 Knucklehead, 36 Waikiki feast, 37 Raison d'_, 38 Retired airplanes: Abbr., 40 Past due, 41 "Me too!", 46 One sending a letter, 48 Mild-mannered, 49 Up to now, 50 Exclusive group, 51 Annoyed, 52 Window projection, 54 Frequently, 57 Giuseppe's goodbye, 58 Electrified fish, 59 Singer Tori, 60 Retained, 61 Former spouses

Newsday crossword grid with numbers 1-70 indicating starting positions for the clues.

Wacky Facts

- Iceland, which has many active volcanoes and hot springs, uses lots of geothermal energy. About 85 percent of homes there are heated this way.
 - Energy from the sun is expected to run for some 5 billion years.
- World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

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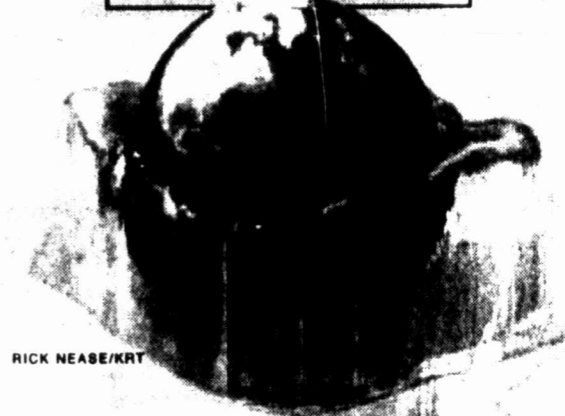
Chatter Box

"You will always be able to help. So do it. Make peace where it is precious. Help plant trees. Help embrace diversity and celebrate differences. Help stop gridlock."
— Tom Hanks, in a Vassar College commencement speech in May 2005.



The Moores collect recyclables from the customers on their paper route.

In The News



Melting ice caps threaten sea levels

As spring arrives in the Arctic, new research suggests average temperatures are rising and ice caps are quickly melting. The melting ice threatens to shrink glaciers. The shrinking could raise sea levels around the world.



RISING WATERS

The new research on the polar ice caps in the Arctic and Antarctic is outlined in a recent issue of the journal Science. What happens at the polar ice caps could affect the entire globe, said Bette Otto-Bleisner of the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

A large amount of polluting gases are produced when people burn fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, to produce power for cities, factories and cars, and to heat homes.

According to the studies, an increase in the release of these gases could raise Arctic temperatures by 5 to 8 degrees within the next 100 years. That warmth could melt ice caps. The melting ice could then raise sea levels one to three feet over the next 100 to 150 years.

MELTING GLACIERS

Another study reports an increase in earthquakes caused by melting glaciers. The number of glacial earthquakes in Greenland's polar region has more than doubled since 2002.

"People often think of glaciers as ... slow moving, but in fact then can also move rather quickly," researcher Goeran Ekstroem of Harvard University said.

Some glaciers are as large as Manhattan and as tall as the Empire State Building! How do warming temperatures contribute to earthquakes? As glaciers melt, flowing water eases their path. This can cause sudden movement, which makes the ground shake.

— Jill Egan

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Rips & Raves

Eco-Angels to the rescue



When Karen Palmer was a little girl growing up in Massachusetts, she would walk along the beach and pick up garbage that other people had tossed on the sand. Today, Palmer lives in Solvang, Calif., with her husband, David, and their 9-year-old daughter, Marissa, but she continues her ecological crusade. Her tool of choice is Let's Save Our Earth, a board game she created and sells. She also formed Eco-Angel Enterprises, a nonprofit organization that works to donate the game to schools.

The goal of the game is to earn tree-shaped playing pieces, which players do by answering ecological questions and working their way through a land populated by Eco-Angels (the good guys) and Schmutzies (the bad guys). "I want children to see that we're all both Eco-Angels and Schmutzies," Palmer says. "I try to instill in them the idea that we all make choices every day that hurt or help the planet and that they can make a difference."

To order Let's Save Our Earth (\$22 plus shipping and handling), go to www.eco-angel.org or call toll-free (877) 355-2142.

— FamilyFun maga

GOODGREENFUN

Families share smart ideas for making every day Earth Day

BY FREDERICK G. LEVINE
FamilyFun magazine

Meet some families that have made an eco-friendly lifestyle both educational and fun. Whether you're passionate about recycling and preserving natural resources or just need help cleaning up the neighborhood, here are some ways to make a difference.

DOOR-TO-DOOR RECYCLING

The Moore Family, Yakima, Wash.
When Jennifer Moore and her two sons, Brandon, 13, and Nathan, 10, began their family paper route about three years ago, they saw a great opportunity for recycling. The boys let their customers know that they would collect their old papers and other recyclables each morning when they made their newspaper deliveries.

"This way, our customers only have to walk as far as the front porch (instead of making a trip to the town landfill)," Moore says. Recycling really pays in Yakima, where the boys make about \$40 a month total from returned newspapers, plastic containers and aluminum cans. Plus, Nathan and Brandon have extended their service to friends and family not on their paper route.

Moore says her sons have come to appreciate the value of recycling and have matured as a result of their entrepreneurial endeavor. Brandon likes running his own business. "He even keeps the books, recording their collections by which type of recyclable item it is," Moore says. "It's hands-on learning, and I think kids learn best that way."

For more recycling ideas, go to www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/index.htm.

Other family strategies that put trash in its place

■ The Kurmins of Marshfield, Mass., bring extra trash bags when they visit the beach. "The only trash that we love is the sea glass," says Marie, mother of three.

■ The Lafonds, avid hikers from Sweet Home, Ore., were also "fed up" with all the refuse they saw outdoors. They decided that "picking it up was more constructive than complaining about it," says mom Laurie. The Lafonds bring empty bags on hikes, collect trash, then spend the money from the returnable bottles on a family treat, such as ice cream.

TEST THE WATERS

The Parenti Family, Titusville, Fla.
Conventional wisdom has it that bathing uses more water than showering, something the Parenti family decided to put to a test. Nicole, now 15, and her sister, Courtney, now 13, each took a bath and measured the water level. Then they took showers with the drain closed and measured the water level again. Surprise! Courtney was using a lot more water showering than bathing. Her solution? "I turn the water down so I don't

use as much. I also save water by turning off the faucet when I brush my teeth."

As for Nicole, she used more water in the bath and decided to conserve by switching to mostly showers. "I thought the experiment was a cool idea, and I thought I could beat my sister at using the least water," Nicole says. Both girls like to play CDs in the bathroom so their mom, Terry, came up with a goal — be out of the shower by the time the third song ends. As far as Terry is concerned, the water-level experiment was an eye-opener. "If you take a shower and you can't see (how much water you use), it's water down the drain — and money, too."

To find out more about water conservation, go to www.waterinfo.org/fundcnsvr.html or www.h2cuse.org.

CASH IN ON THIS FAMILY'S IDEA

The Slater Family, Allegheny Township, Pa.
There may not be a parent alive who hasn't nagged the kids to turn off the lights when they leave a room. Linda and Dennis Slater came up with an alternative. They challenged their son, Jacob, 12, to conserve electricity with the incentive that a portion of the savings would be added to his allowance.

"When we get our electric bill each month, we look at how many kilowatts we used and compare it to the previous year's bill for that month," Linda says. (Many electric companies include the previous year's consumption right on the bill.) The family then calculates how much electricity they saved, and Jacob gets to keep half the total, which sometimes amounts to as much as \$20 a month.

"Jacob used to turn on the lights in every room he walked into and leave them on," Linda says. "Now he realizes how much electricity we waste."

To find out what different appliances cost to run, go to www.powerhousestv.com (search for "appliance calculator").



The Parenti sisters each took a bath and a shower to measure their water use.

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