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BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 132

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

INSIDE

Bulldogs win third straight district baseball crown

Page 1B



Big Spring Art Association members D.W. Overman and Jean Money work on a mural depicting the landscape of Big Spring for a railroad exhibit at the Heritage Museum. The new exhibit will feature a model train and a history of the railroad in Big Spring.

HERALD Photo/Andraia Medlin

All aboard!

Art association lends its brushes as Doc Hardy exhibit moves to museum

By ANDREIA MEDLIN
Staff Writer

The Heritage Museum is getting a new addition to the family. A new exhibit on the second floor of the museum is currently under way and will feature a model railroad with landscaping indigenous to Big Spring and West Texas.

The Doc Hardy Railroad Museum, formerly a part of Big Spring Main Street, has found a new home and is being given a facelift.

"We looked at railroad exhibits at other museums to get an idea of what we wanted to do," explained museum director Nancy Raney. "We wanted to make it bigger and better," said Tammy



Raney

Schreengost museum curator.

The H.O. scale model will feature a round house and terrain inspired by local geography.

phy.

A mural designed and created by the Big Spring Art Association will serve as a backdrop to give the exhibit a feeling of realism.

Jean Money, Linda Rupurd-Irvin, D.W. Overman and Belle Schooler have each taken different aspects of Big Spring such as South Mountain, the Big Spring, the Settles Hotel and the

See MUSEUM, Page 3A

VA Task Force is lauded for 'amazing job'

City council handles routine business. See Page 3A.

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A job well done. That was the message Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen delivered Tuesday during a special reception for the men and women of the VA Task Force at the city council chambers.

The task force, which was formed shortly after the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced the Big Spring VA Medical Center was going on the government's chopping block

approximately three years ago, played a major role in efforts to keep the facility open, according to McEwen.

"It is an amazing thing that we're doing today. Thursday we found out our VA Medical Center is staying open," said McEwen, as the audience burst into applause. "And beyond that, it's going to grow, which is truly amazing."

"The truly amazing thing that happened was that the recommendation to the Secretary of the VA

See TASK FORCE, Page 3A



McEwen



Joe Conclenne, chairman for the VA Task Force responsible for recommending increased domiciliary care at the Big Spring VA Medical Center, thanks the men and women that volunteered with the group. The entire task force was honored by the Big Spring City Council Tuesday, which held a reception for the group following its regular meeting.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Fox host Tony Snow named White House spokesman

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Wednesday named conservative commentator Tony Snow as White House press secretary, putting a new face on a troubled administration.

Snow, a Fox news pundit and former speechwriter in the White House under Bush's father, replaced Scott McClellan who resigned in a personnel shuffle intended to re-energize

the Bush White House and lift the president's record-low approval ratings.

"My job is to make decisions and his job is to help explain those decisions to the press corps and the American people," Bush said, with Snow and McClellan at his side in the White House briefing room.

Snow's appointment is notable in a White House that has a reputation for not suffering criti-



Snow

domestic who has

cism. He has had some harsh things to say about President Bush.

Snow called Bush "something of an embarrassment," a leader who has "lost control of the federal budget," the architect of a "listless policy" and a man "a habit of singing

from the political correctness hymnal."

Bush said he asked Snow about the critical remarks. "He said, 'You should have heard what I said about the other guy.'"

Snow thanked Bush for the job and told reporters, "Believe it or not, I want to work with you."

Bush also addressed reporters directly: "Tony already knows

most of you and he's agreed to take the job anyway."

Snow, in an Associated Press interview Tuesday, didn't dispute that he's been a tough critic of Bush. "It's public record," he said. "I've written some critical stuff. When you're a columnist, you're going to criticize and you're going to praise."

A liberal think tank, the

See SNOW, Page 7A

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PRISON IDEA GOES BUST

SAN ANGELO (AP) — Tom Green County commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to end negotiations to build a faith-based prison after 17 months of talks.

The long-running discussion over the proposal by Corrections Concepts Inc. to build such a facility ended quickly and without discussion from commissioners. The action had been expected after last week's announcement that three local people had resigned from the Dallas-based company's board of directors.

Critics pointed to safety and water use concerns, and said the prison wouldn't bring a positive economic benefit.

RABIES CLINIC SLATED

A rabies clinic will be held at the Forsan Fire Station from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday. The clinic is being held under the sponsorship of Debra Hill, DVM, Western Hills.

Prices are as follows:
Rabies, \$6.
Booster, \$12.
Bordetella, \$13.
Parvo, \$8.
DM, \$6.
Feline CVR, \$11.
Feline CVR and Leukemia, \$20.

The fire station is on Main Street in Forsan.

EASTERTIDE OFFERINGS

St. Mary's Episcopal Church will hold two brief concerts in celebration of the Easter season. The first will be at 12:05 p.m. Thursday and will feature the Big Spring High School Honor Band under the direction of Rocky Harris. The band will play some selections from its upcoming Carnegie Hall performance.

At 12:05 p.m. Thursday, May 4, the concert will feature Joyce Bradley, Joseph Dawes, Linda Hill, Scott McLaughlin, Gloria Steelman, Villia Walter and the Bauer Magnet Elementary School Fourth grade Choir, directed by Susan Dawes. A light lunch will be provided after each 30-minute concert. No admission fee.

Obituaries

L.B. "Pop" Lane



L.B. "Pop" Lane, 82, of Brushy Community near Columbus, formerly of Brazoria, passed away April 24, 2006, in Houston.

Born July 30, 1923, in Comanche, the son of Joe N. and Elizabeth Lane., L.B. served in the U.S. Army Air Corp during WW II and was a retired building contractor.

He is survived by his wife, Minnie Ola Baldock Lane of Brushy Community near Columbus; daughters, Mae Cox and husband, J.R. of LaGrange and Judy Bailey and husband, Charles of Brushy Community; grandchildren, Rhonda Mae Niblack and husband, Wayne, Tami Bailey Williams and husband, Billy T. and Justin Bailey and wife, Olivia; and great-grandchildren, Bailey Kay Williams and Lane Braxton Williams.

Funeral services will be held at Frelsburg Baptist Church in Frelsburg, Thursday April 27, 2006, at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Gary Henneke and the Rev. Clayton Wallin officiating. Burial is in Kaiser Cemetery in Brushy Community.

Pallbearers are Justin Bailey, Billy T. Williams, Wayne Niblack, Mike Bailey, Oliver Hargrove and F.J. Hoffman. Honorary pallbearers are all the men of the Frelsburg Baptist Church.

Memorials may be given to Frelsburg Baptist Church, P.O. Box 221, New Ulm 78950.

Arrangements are under the direction of Henneke Funeral Home in Columbus.

Paid obituary

Ramon N. "Tito" Holguin Jr.



Ramon N. "Tito" Holguin Jr., 69, died Monday, April 24, 2006, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Vigil Service is 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass is 10 a.m. Friday, April 28, 2006, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born April 9, 1937, in Big Spring to Amelia and Nonato Holguin Sr. He worked as a cook at Webb Air Force Base, in the cafeteria at Howard College and also worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad as a foreman. He married Elodia "Tokie" Zubiate in Big Spring in 1954. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and was a lifetime resident of Big Spring.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by one daughter, Cruz Holguin, two brothers, Ismael Holguin and David Holguin and three sisters, Maria Arispe, Cruz Martinez and Angelita Holguin.

He is survived by two daughters, Debbie Wise and her husband, Andrew of Phoenix and Chrisy Duggan and her husband, David of Glendale, Ariz.; four sons, Red Holguin, Henry Holguin and Paul John Holguin, all of Big Spring and Ismael Holguin of Phoenix; three grandchildren; five sisters, Esperanza Mendoza, Anita Valles and her husband, Zeke, Libby Uribe and her husband, Arnold and Elma Flores and her husband, Alex, all of Big Spring and Alicia Fierro and her husband, Felix E. of Milwaukee, Wis.; one brother, David Holguin and his wife, Susanna of Peoria, Ariz.; and several nieces and nephews.

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

Donald Edward Myrick



Donald Edward Myrick, 51, of Big Spring died Tuesday, April 25, 2006, in a local nursing home. Memorial services are 1 p.m. Friday, April 28, 2006, at the Salvation Army Chapel with Captains Russ and Linda Keeney officiating.

He was born Oct. 23, 1954, in Big Spring and married Debra McNew June 7, 1974, in Big Spring. He was a lifelong resident of Big Spring and had worked as a bodyman for William McNew Body Shop for many years.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Debra Myrick of Big Spring; one daughter, Samantha Myrick of Big Spring; a son and daughter-in-law, Christopher and Kelly Myrick of Big Spring; two brothers, Roy Myrick of Big Spring and James Myrick of Hattlesville; three grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Mozelle Saunders Sparkman

Mozelle Saunders Sparkman, 96, of Oklahoma City, formerly of Stanton, died Tuesday, April 25, 2006, at her residence. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

Charles Davis

Charles Davis, 47, of Oklahoma City, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, April 24, 2006, at Oklahoma University Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

* NINE PUPPIES IN COAHOMA NEED RESCUING. Mother is homeless and all are in need of a good home. Call 267-7387.

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

SATURDAY
* Hangar 25 Air Museum Silver Wings Ball at 6 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
* Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY, MAY 1
* Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
* The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.

Police blotter

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

- DAVID LEE HELM, 32, of 803 Anna, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of no driver's license.
MYRELL SIMPSON, 32, of 2610 Fairchild, was arrested Tuesday on two local citations and a charge of driving while license invalid.
SUSIE LEDESMA, 20, of 501 N.E. Eighth Street, was arrested Wednesday on 10 local warrants.
THEFT was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.
ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported in the 1900 block of U.S. Highway 87.
ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported:
- in the 1800 block of Scurry.
- in the 1500 block of Kentucky Way.

Sheriff's report

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

- GILBERT VASQUEZ RODRIGUEZ, 38, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of burglary of a vehicle.
MIRANDA NICOLE HOLDMAN, 22, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft by check.
KATRINA LOUISE SUDDERTHY, 27, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
RUBEN LEE TREVINO, 28, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and driving while license invalid.
DAVID OLAGUE YANEZ SR., 56, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.
DONALD RAY ALSBAUGH, 45, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.
MARTIN KING NORWOOD, 23, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Wasson Road. Service was refused.
TRAUMA was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
MEDICAL was reported in the 1500 block of Kentucky Way. Service was refused.
MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Avondale. One person was transported to SMMC.
MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Ent. One person was transported to SMMC.
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of FM 700 and Wasson Road. Service was refused.
MEDICAL was reported in the 100 block of East Second Street. Service was refused.
MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
STRUCTURE FIRE was reported in the 1100 block of Mulberry. Fire was extinguished.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. Southeast winds around 10 mph.
Thursday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph. The chance of rain is 20 percent.
Thursday night...Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 60. Southeast winds 15 to 25 mph. The chance of rain is 30 percent.

Lottery

There was no top winner in the latest \$20 million Mega Millions drawing, lottery officials said Wednesday.
The numbers drawn Tuesday night were 1, 20, 32, 37, 39 and Mega Ball 9.
Friday's jackpot is estimated at \$30 million.
The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery: 11-13-17-26-34
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-0-0

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

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

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
RSVP Volunteer Appreciation Banquet begins at 6 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Community Center.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m.

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COST:
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Big Spring City Council handles routine items

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council reviewed a number of routine business matters during its Tuesday meeting, approving all but one.

Among the matters discussed and approved by the council during the meeting were:

• Final reading of a resolution seeking approval

to auction Howard County trustee properties to the highest bidder for cash without reservation.

• Final reading of a resolution accepting a deed from State National Bank to the city of Big Spring and authorizing and directing the mayor to execute a deed conveying the same property from the city to the Crossroads Housing Corp.

• Approval of late home-

stead exemption refunds, along with acceptance of minutes from the Convention and Visitors Bureau Committee and Howard County Appraisal District.

• First reading of an ordinance providing for a 20 percent penalty to defray the cost of collecting delinquent taxes.

• First reading of an ordinance granting a partial residence homestead

exemption, over-65 exemption and disabled exemption.

• The council re-appointed Jim Purcell and Cliff Talbot to the Colorado River Municipal Water District board of directors.

The only matter before the council that did not receive approval was a request by local resident Jessica Moreno to keep a half-dozen roosters at an

unoccupied home located at 800 Creighton.

"After inspecting the residence and finding there is no water or sanitation service at the residence, it's my recommendation that the permit not be granted," Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith told the council.

Smith said 25 letters were sent out to residents located within 200 feet of 800 Creighton. Seven let-

ters did not object to the roosters, while only one voiced opposition to the permit.

The council voted unanimously to deny the permit in its first reading.

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

TASK FORCE

Continued from Page 1A

was almost identical to the proposal the committee came up with. They looked at data, they looked at facilities and they looked at the needs of the community and of our veterans, and came up with a plan that was proactive. They did an amazing job."

One of the many local residents and task force volunteers McEwen took time to thank during the reception, which was held immediately following the council's regularly scheduled meeting, was Joe Concienne, who chaired the group and led the effort.

"He (Concienne) took the reigns of this committee and did an incredible job," said McEwen. "He took it as his own, and pushed this particular project forward. And I know he spent countless hours of his own time making sure it was done right. Joe, we're indebted to you for your service in this endeavor."

Concienne said his work with the task force was much easier than he expected, due largely to the hard work and willing attitudes of the men and women who volunteered so many hours to the project.

"This group is living proof if you have people that don't have any time for a committee, they will make the time," said Concienne. "The group met at 7 a.m., that was our meeting time because everyone here had so many things to do."

"I can say it was truly a pleasure. This group was personally dedicated. Every one of them knew the importance of what we were doing. You didn't have to ask for anything. And for me, it was a pleasure to work with this group."

"I don't think we'll ever know exactly how what we did as a group played into the final decision," he added. "The one thing I know we did was give the people that were on our side and a few that were on the fence a chance to get behind

"They looked at data, they looked at facilities and they looked at the needs of the community and of our veterans, and came up with a plan that was proactive. They did an amazing job."

something."

McEwen also extended thanks to Shelley Smith and Cindy Smith, who were largely responsible for putting together the recommendation that was submitted to PricewaterhouseCoopers.

"What she (Cindy Smith) did was beyond comprehension. The document she put together and was taken to PriceWaterhouse I know had them saying, 'Holy cow!' And I know they would have liked to have done a document as good as what Cindy did," said McEwen. "You did a superb job that everyone in Big Spring can be proud of."

"The presentation Shelly Smith made at the Local Advisory Panel meeting was one that was so professional and so well done. So incredibly professional, and you really made our community look good."

Until Thursday, the fate of the Big Spring facility had been uncertain since December of 2002, when the CARES commission was established to realign the DAV's health care system.

Among its recommendations was a feasibility study to see if the Big

Spring VAMC should be closed and services moved to the Midland-Odessa area. That study led to another and eventually PricewaterhouseCoopers was contracted to review all information and make a recommendation.

In May of 2005, the process began with a series of public hearings. A decision was expected by year's end or early 2006

With such a dire situation officially behind the city, McEwen expressed his thanks to the citizens of Big Spring, as well.

"I want to say thank you to the citizens of Big Spring. You didn't give up," said McEwen. "You were optimistic, and a great deal of prayer went into this. And I feel like we were blessed."

"There were also some skeptics. There were some people out there that said there was no way that this hospital was

going to stay open. Now we know, however, and I've had a little bit of fun with a few of those people this past week, saying, 'I told you so.'"

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Ramon N. "Tito" Holguin, Jr., 69, died Monday. Vigil Service will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.
Charles Davis, 47, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

MUSEUM

Continued from Page 1A

windmills south of town and are incorporating them into the mural.

"The terrain is so accurate," said Schrecengost. "We're very happy with it."

The trains that will be on display are part of a vast collection donated to the museum by Walford (Doc) Hardy and include engines and cabooses from different eras, grain cars and passenger cars.

Plans to make the exhibit interactive are in the works along with a separate exhibit that will describe the history of the railroad in Big Spring.

"We think it will be of interest to everyone," said Schrecengost. "Even if you are not interested in trains it will really grab your attention."

Creating the exhibit is a tremendous undertaking and has proven to be a learning experience for the museum employees as Raney explained, "We have actually had to learn about train models and we would welcome any help building the model from volunteers."

While the model had been on display at the downtown location under the management of Hardy and Jack Harrison it's potential wasn't fully met according to Raney and Schrecengost.

"We wanted to completely revamp it," said Schrecengost. "We want to make it a permanent part of the museum and it will be dedicated to Walford (Doc) Hardy, Jack Harrison and Lee Young."

The exhibit is tentatively scheduled to open in the late summer or early fall.

For more information on the project or to volunteer help, call Raney or Schrecengost at the Heritage Museum, 267-8255. The museum is located at 510 Scurry.

To contact Andrea Medlin call the Herald at 263-7331 or e-mail newsdesk@bigspringherald.com

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

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Keep Big Spring Beautiful

2nd Annual Spring Clean Community-wide Flea Market

May 6, 2006*

Come join us at the east end of the Big Spring Mall for an exciting fundraiser. Learn more about our community while making money and meeting friends.

Bring your gifts, crafts and recycled items to the Big Spring Mall Parking lot, Saturday, May 6, 2006. Flea Market hours are 7:00am - 4:00pm.

Space availability is limited. Booth prices are:
• 10X10 - \$25 • 12X12 - \$45 • 24X12 - \$65

For an application, please mail your stamped, self-addressed envelope to Keep Big Spring Beautiful (KBSB), P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring, TX 79721 or you may complete the application in your Big Spring Herald and mail with your check or money order to KBSB, P.O. Box 1350, Big Spring, TX 79721. You may also pick up an application at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce or the Big Spring Mall office.

*Rain Date May 13, 2006

Keep Big Spring Beautiful

2nd Annual Spring Clean Community-wide Flea Market
May 6, 2006*

I understand there will be no sale or display of pornography, firearms, tobacco, alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia

I plan to display for sale _____

I understand that I am responsible for any set up/take down which includes all tables, chairs, umbrellas, canopies, etc.

I understand that I am responsible for the complete clean up of the area assigned to me for my use.

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Forsan High School's one-act play cast and crew had a successful season. Pictured bottom to top are, Samantha Charlton, Samantha Flores, Tessa Kendrick, Alex Newsom, Clint Lockhart, Cayley Eggleston, Crystal McNew, Hayley Lewis, Director Jim Rhodes, Kyle Bailey, Kaleb Willey, Jonathan Moore, Tim Ballard and Jessica Ballard.

FHS one-act cast, crew have successful spring

Special to the Herald

Forsan High School one-act play cast and crew took some top zone and district awards this spring.

Zone competition for District 10-A was held at Sterling City High School March 23. Forsan High School's production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" advanced to district. Cayley Eggleston, Alex Newsom and Jessica

Ballard were named to the all-star cast while Tessa Kendrick was named outstanding crew member. Tim Ballard received honorable mention all-star cast.

District one-act play was held at Sterling City High School. Forsan placed as the alternate and did not advance. However, several students took home awards. Crystal McNew was named best actress and

Hayley Lewis was named outstanding crew member. Ballard was named to the all-star cast and Jessica Ballard and Jonathan Moore received honorable mention.

Director of the Forsan play was Jim Rhodes. Menard High School's production of "You Can't Take It With You" and Miles High School's production of "Into The Woods" advanced to area competition.

Police investigating hit-and-run accident

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Police Department is investigating a hit and run accident that occurred Tuesday afternoon near the intersection of Wasson Road and FM 700.

According to police reports, the accident was reported at 5:45 p.m. after the driver of a tan 1982 Buick LeSabre plowed into a pair of vehicles and fled the scene.

"The driver of a maroon Chevrolet Suburban was at the yield sign at Wasson and FM 700, attempting to turn onto FM 700," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public informa-

tion officer for the BSPD. "The LeSabre struck the Suburban from behind. Then, the driver of the LeSabre threw the vehicle into reverse in an attempt to flee the scene, hitting a 2001 Dodge pickup."

Everett said the vehicle then fled the scene on Wasson Road.

"Officers located the LeSabre in the 3000 block of Cactus," said Everett. "The accident is still under investigation and no arrests have been made at this time. We're still trying to determine who was driving the vehicle at the time of the accident."

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Sweet sweep

Forsan High School band takes home trophy with 'Firsts' in marching and sightreading

Special to the Herald

Two firsts add up to eight — at least that's math the Forsan High School band way.

A First Division earlier this month at the Class A University Interscholastic League Concert & Sightreading Contest at Crane High School, coupled with a First Division at the marching contest in October, has earned the highly-touted band its eighth consecutive Sweepstakes Trophy.

At its most recent competition, the band performed "Pursuit



The Forsan High School band has earned its eighth consecutive Sweepstakes Trophy. To claim the prize, the band received a First Division during marching contest in October, and another First Division in concert and sightreading this month. Pictured are Bobby Roy, Tim Ballard, Eric Ellis, and Jim Rhodes, band director.

Courtesy photo

Squadron March" by King, "Canto" by Mcbeth, and "Steppes of Russia" by Del Borgo. The group is directed by Jim Rhodes and Emmanuel Madrid. "Receiving the Sweepstakes Trophy is what every band strives for each year," said Rhodes. "It sets the bar for excellence in your program. I am extremely happy for the band and the seniors to have won this award again."

Lynn Walling named 2006 professor emeritus at HC

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Former Howard College professor Lynn Walling was named the 2006 professor emeritus for the district during the college board of trustees meeting Monday afternoon.

Professors emeriti are usually retired instructors at a college or university who are honored for their long careers at the institutions by retaining the professor title, HC President Dr. Cheryl Sparks noted.

Walling, who was a professor at the college for 22 years before retiring several years ago, was not present for the presentation.

Sparks said there were currently seven or eight professors emeriti on the district's rolls.

To qualify for the honorary title at Howard, the person must be retired from the faculty, served as a faculty member for at least 20 years and be retired from the district.

The honoree must be recommended by at least three current faculty members. Final recommendation to trustees was made by Sparks Monday, with the board accepting the recommendation unanimously.

Trustees also approved:

- Resolutions honoring retiring nursing instructor Velma Clay and work done on campus by inmates at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Wallace and Ware units.

- A congressional resolution sponsored by U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer honoring the men's basketball team for its recent regional championship.

- A memorandum of understanding between the college and the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf Foundation.

- Contract renewal for 125 full-time instructors.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

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 ♥ A Q
 ♦ A
 ♣ Q 9 6 3

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EAST
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 ♦ J 9 4
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SOUTH
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The bidding:
 South West North East
 1♥ Pass 1♦ Pass
 2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

Opening lead — two of clubs.
One of the keys to winning at bridge is to press every advantage offered you by the cards.
Take this deal played in a rubber bridge tournament many years ago. East won the club lead with the ace and decided that his best hope of defeating the contract lay in assuming that his partner had the doubleton ace of spades.
Accordingly, he returned a low

spade at trick two. West won with the ace and returned the jack, at which point declarer made the excellent play of a low spade from dummy rather than covering with the queen. But East, avidly pursuing his plan of attack, overtook the jack with the king and played a third round of spades.
It is hard to blame South for ruffing this trick high. From his viewpoint, he had the contract made if the trumps were divided normally — that is, 3-2 — while ruffing with the eight would mean instant defeat if West had either the nine or ten. So South ruffed with the jack, and East later scored a trump trick to put the hand down one.
East's line of defense created a situation that gave his side a chance to beat the contract that had not existed naturally at the start of play. True, South could have saved the day by ruffing the third spade with the eight, but this play was much easier to make looking at all four hands rather than just two.
Actually, had West's singleton trump been the eight instead of the deuce, East's method of defense would have been the only way to put the contract completely out of reach.

Tomorrow: Better safe than sorry.
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- **Water, Water, Inc.**
1509 E. FM 700
- **Wireless Depot**
Big Spring Mall

Clues will be available each weekday at each sponsoring business named above and new clues will be at one business each day. Each business has different clues.

RULES and REGULATIONS:

1. No trespassing on private property or violation of traffic or other laws are allowed. Anyone in violation of state, county or city laws while hunting for the "treasure chest" will be disqualified.
2. Contest begins Wednesday, April 19.
3. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult to hunt and win. You must be at least 16 to ask for a clue. You must ask for a clue in person. No phone calls to sponsors allowed.
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8. Employees, carriers and their families of the *Big Spring Herald* and KBYG are not eligible.
9. In cases of dispute, the decision of the judges is final.

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In Sunday's Big Spring Herald

Modern-day homesteading

In a number of small towns in Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming, modern-day homesteaders are taking advantage of free land to build new lives for their families. Plus, Our Picks and gypsy round layer cake.

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BSHS bands turn in impressive performances

HERALD Staff Report

Big Spring bands turned in impressive performances this month in University Interscholastic League contests in Midland and Crane — earning sweepstakes awards in both high school varsity and junior high varsity competitions.

It marked the first time that two Big Spring bands have received sweepstakes awards in UIL competition during the same year.

In addition, all five of the Big Spring bands which took part in competition received at least one Division I ranking by a judge.

BSHS Band Director Rocky Harris could not have been happier with his charges' accomplishments.

"We have lots of students doing great work in band at our schools," Harris noted. "My directors — Mr. Hale, Mr. Chance and Mrs. Chance — are doing some great teaching. I just want to thank the school district and the community for their unending support of our bands in Big Spring."

The Big Spring High School varsity band, which is preparing to perform at New York's fabled Carnegie Hall in June, won a sweepstakes award with Division I ratings in concert,

sightreading and marching at the contest held April 10 at Midland Lee High School.

The Steer band's non-varsity received a Division I in sightreading and a Division II in concert, while the sub non-varsity performers received a Division II in concert and a Division III rating in sightreading.

The varsity band received glowing comments from judges. "The band plays with great technical proficiency," Judge Richard Herrera said of the concert performance. "It plays very musical and mature."

The concert performance drew even bigger raves from

Judge Lynne Jackson, who noted, "Overall articulation of the band is awesome. Great musicianship and attention to phrases, dynamics, balance and effects. I really like it."

Sightreading Judge Joe Pruitt said, "I really like the sounds you make. Fundamentals are being developed in the Big Spring Band at a very high level. Wow!"

The Big Spring Junior High band went to UIL contest April 13 at Crane High School and the varsity band won its first ever sweepstakes award with Division I ratings in both concert and sightreading. The non-varsity group received a

Division I in sightreading and a Division II in concert.

The BSJHS varsity band's concert performance impressed Judge Kelly Glaze, who heaped praise. "Wow, what an outstanding, well-taught band you are," Glaze said, adding that the band is a credit to the school. "It is obvious that you enjoy playing and you do so in a way that is mature beyond your years."

Sightreading Judge Ray Lashaway lauded the junior high band, saying "excellent musical flow to the melodies in this group shows solid preparation."

News briefs

Iraqis condemn al-Zarqawi video

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqis on Wednesday condemned terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi as a foreigner determined to destroy their country, saying his new video promising more attacks may have surfaced in response to the breakthrough in the formation of a unity government.

Al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian-born head of al-Qaida in Iraq, made a dramatic and unprecedented appearance on a video Tuesday, dismissing the new Iraqi government as an American "stooge" and a "poisoned dagger" in the heart of the Muslim world. He also warned of more attacks to come.

Sheik Khalid al-Attayah, the Iraqi parliament's newly appointed first deputy speaker, said the video shows that al-Zarqawi remains determined "to inflame a civil war" in Iraq. But al-Attayah said it also indicates the insurgent leader, an outsider to many Iraqis, fears the country's new government will unify Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds.

Shock contributed to Taser victim's death, police say

LUBBOCK (AP) — A medical examiner's report released Tuesday says an electric shock from a Taser stun gun, a blow to the head and alcohol killed a domestic violence suspect.

Juan Manuel Nunez III died April 16 after Lubbock police Officer Matt Doherty used the stun gun to bring him under control. The shock caused Nunez to fall and hit his head, according to the Lubbock County Medical Examiner's Office.

"It's a combination of the intoxication reacting with the brain injury, which was a result of the Taser," chief investigator Robert Byers said in Wednesday editions of the Lubbock Avalanche-

Journal.

The medical examiner's office did not release Nunez's blood alcohol content.

Lubbock police are investigating Nunez's death, which has been classified as a homicide, Lt. Roy Bassett said. The department has also notified the Texas Attorney General's Office.

Doherty was responding to a 911 hang-up call and reported a domestic dispute between Nunez and his family, police said. Doherty is back on full duty after being placed on temporary leave, Bassett said.

It appeared Doherty followed the department's Taser policy, Bassett said.

"If at any point in any of the investigation that turns out not to be true ... then we will address those issues at that time," he said.

The department has used Tasers for about five years.

"I think it's very important to note that the Taser alone was not responsible for this death," Bassett said.

Two charged in mens' deaths

AMARILLO (AP) — Authorities investigating last week's shooting deaths of a 74-year-old man and his employee west of this Panhandle city have charged two men with capital murder.

Allen Hazlewood, 51, and Claude Robertson, 74, died of gunshot wounds. A preliminary autopsy showed Hazlewood was shot four times. Robertson was shot once, court records show.

Michael Edward Ryan and Jason Michael Williams, both 29, are accused of killing the men April 18 near where one of the victims lived along Interstate 40. Ryan and Williams were charged Monday.

On Friday, investigators got a break when they found jewelry allegedly taken from Robertson's home at a Amarillo pawn shop, reports show.

Court records show that Ryan pawned two gold rings belonging to Robertson's wife and got about \$850.

Ryan also faces a charge of theft from \$1,500 to \$20,000 for allegedly pawning stolen jewelry from Robertson's home. Police went to Ryan's home Friday to

arrest him but he tried to flee out a window, police said. Officers used a Taser gun to take him into custody, police said.



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SNOW

Continued from Page 1A

Center for American Progress, circulated a sampling of Snow's opinions, restricting the observations to those critical of the president. For example, it quoted Snow in September as writing, "No president has looked this impotent this long when it comes to defending presidential powers and prerogatives."

Snow is a smooth-talking Washington insider in a White House led by Texans proud of their outsider status. He is a familiar face to White House reporters and is known as a conservative partisan.

McClellan had served as Bush's chief spokesman — the most prominent public figure in the White House after Bush — for nearly three years.

One factor in Snow's decision was that he had his colon removed last year and underwent six months of chemotherapy after being diagnosed with cancer. He had a CAT scan last week and delayed a decision while he consulted with his doctors.

Snow has been the host of the "Tony Snow Show" on Fox News Radio and "Weekend Live with Tony Snow" on the Fox News

Channel. He served in the first Bush administration and later as a deputy assistant to the president as speechwriting director for media affairs.

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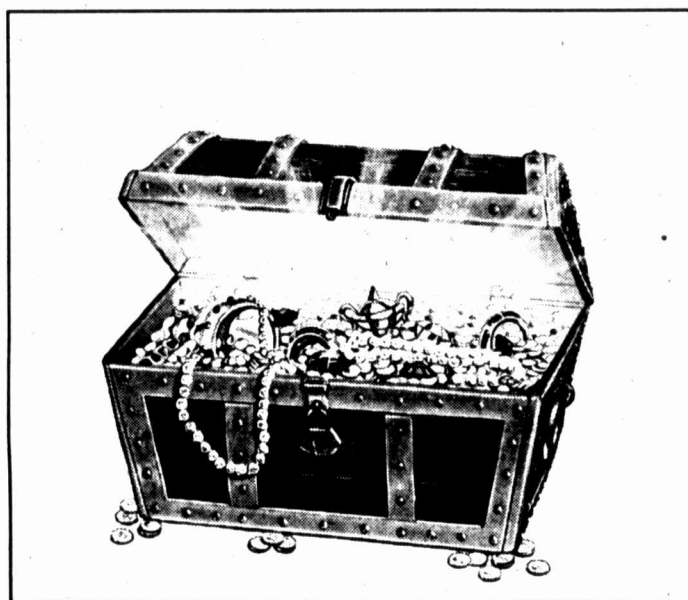
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Page 1B
Wednesday, April 26, 2006

BRIEF

Howard College rodeo
Howard College rodeo team announced its annual rodeo will take place Saturday at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl at 2 p.m. Howard College rodeo action takes place.

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

Forsan's athletic banquet date set for early May

The Forsan all-sports banquet will take place May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the high school cafeteria. Tickets for the banquet are \$10 and can be purchased in the high school office, but must be purchased by Thursday, April 27.

BSHS volleyball meeting announced

Big Spring head volleyball coach Jason McAden will be holding a parent-player meeting Thursday in the Athletic Training Center at 6:30 p.m.

Anyone who wants to play volleyball and is entering seventh through 12th grade should attend.

For more info, contact McAden at (325) 207-4987.

BSCC sets 'cancer' scramble tourney

The Big Spring Country Club has announced a 'cancer' scramble for Saturday and Sunday.

All proceeds of the four-person scramble will be given to the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

The teams can be made up or be made for you and the field will be flighted by first-round score.

Prizes in the form of BSCC Golf Shop Gift Certificates will be given to the top three teams in each flight.

There will also be prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin.

The entry fee is \$75 per player plus a \$20 cart fee, but private carts are welcome. Checks can be made payable to the Big Spring Country Club.

For more information, contact the Big Spring Country Club at 287-5354.

HC sets annual sports banquet

Howard College's annual sports banquet will take place Sunday at the Howard College Rodeo Bowl.

HC's Burgess named NJCAA's Player of Year

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

After guiding the Howard College men's basketball team to a 35-2 record and a fifth place finish at the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament in Hutchinson, Kan., sophomore combo guard Charles Burgess was named national player of the year recently.

"It feels good," said Burgess. "I am used to winning so its great. Its a big honor and I thank the coaches, teammates and fans for their support this season."

"I'm proud of the coaching staff because I am a product of them. Without them, none of this would have been possible."

Burgess averaged 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists per game

this season for the Hawks and averaged a double-double at the national tournament. He was a two-time all-conference and all-region selection at Howard after averaging 14.5 points, six rebounds and five assists per game in his two years.

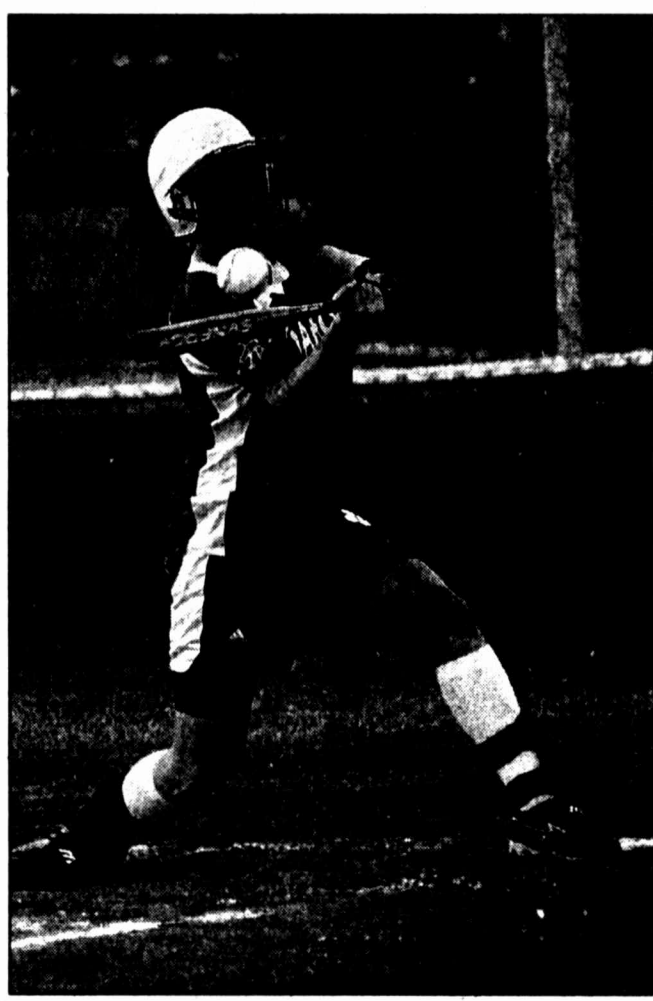
"Not too many people can say they were national player of the year," said Burgess. "I'm excited."

Burgess scored 1,070 career points while at Howard College. He will attend Texas Tech next season and play for legendary head coach Bobby Knight. And with all his accomplishments at Howard, Burgess still knows he has lots of work to do.

"I can't go up there thinking its going to be easy," said the Harlem native. "I need to keep

playing and working hard here before I go up there and then I need to begin my adjustment to the Big 12 style of play. I am just glad I get the opportunity to show what I can do."

"I want thank my mother Colleen Burgess, my father Charles Barrow, the rest of my family, my friends, my teammates, my coaches and God for giving me the ability to play basketball."



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma senior Kall Roberts smashes a hit to the outfield during the Bulldogettes' 9-3 loss to Lubbock Coronado Tuesday. Roberts had two hits in the game.

Three straight

• Bulldogs take down Anson, win third straight league title

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

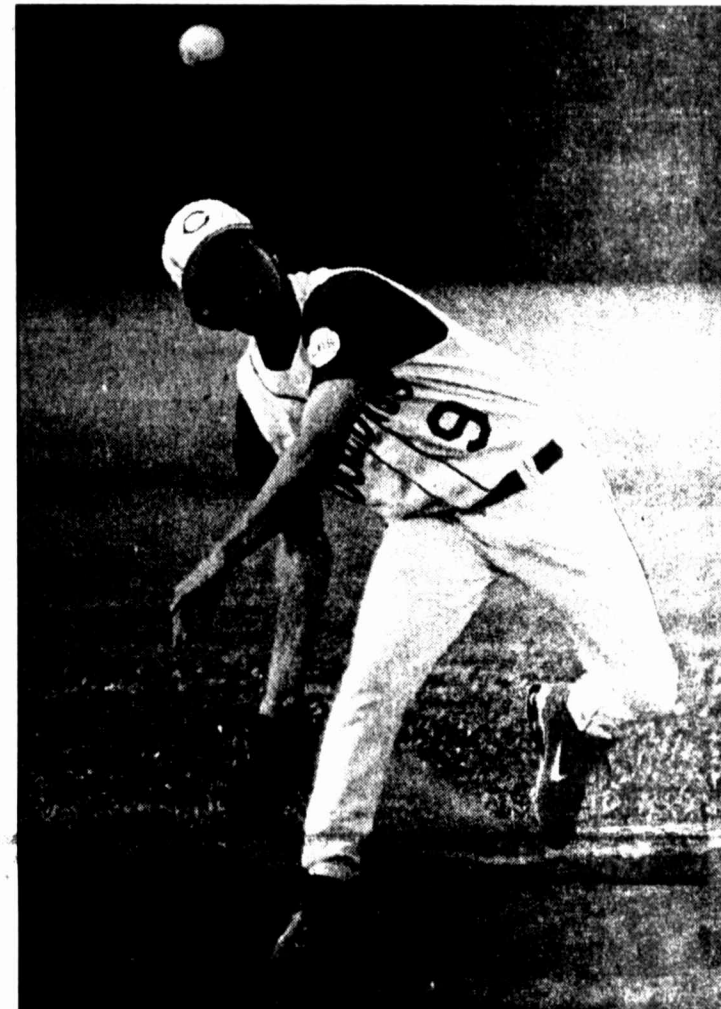
COAHOMA — The Coahoma Bulldogs are District 4-2A champions for the third straight year after putting a disappointing loss behind them and blowing out rival Anson Tuesday at home.

The Bulldogs got eight runs in the first two innings and cruised to a 13-3 victory in six innings. The game ended in the sixth due to the 10-run mercy rule.

"We responded well after Saturday's letdown," said Coahoma head coach Brad Harman, who has won the district title at Coahoma in each of his first three years as head coach. "The guys just decided they didn't want to share the title and we put Anson away early and got the job done."

Coahoma scored four runs in each of the first two innings. Seniors Tad White and Kacee Coberly walked to start the first inning and then junior Blaine Kerby knocked them both in with a two-run single. Freshman Donnie Garcia added an RBI double and David Hughes had an RBI groundout in the inning.

White was hit by a pitch in the second inning and later scored on a two-run single by Garcia. Kerby reached on an error and also scored on Garcia's hit. Griffith reached on a fielder's choice and both he and Garcia scored



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma senior Kacee Coberly delivers a pitch to the plate against Anson Tuesday night. The Bulldogs defeated Anson, 13-3, and clinched their third straight District 4-2A title.

later in the inning after junior Collin McMillan delivered a two-run single.

"We had a much better night at the plate and we worked the counts a lot better, too," said Harman.

Coahoma was retired in order in the third, but got two more runs in the fourth. White and Coberly both singled to start the inning. White later scored on a throwing error and Coberly crossed homeplate on an RBI ground out by Kerby.

Anson got all three of its runs in the fifth inning. Coberly started on the mound and cruised along until the fifth. He issued five walks in the inning and only one hit.

Coberly got the win on the mound in the end as he gave up three runs on five hits and struck out six while walking five.

"Kacee threw great until he had trouble with control," said Harman. "I think he got a little frus-

See COAHOMA, Page 2B

Bulldogettes fall to Lubbock Coronado

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

COAHOMA — Things didn't go the Bulldogettes' way Tuesday at home against Class 5A Lubbock Coronado. Coahoma had more errors (6) than hits (5) in the game, gave up five runs in one inning and lost, 9-3, to end the regular season.

"Hopefully we got this out of our system because we didn't execute very well and just played poorly," said Coahoma head coach Robby Dickenson. "We made way too many errors and a team like Coronado will kill you if you do that. They are a good team."

Each team scored one run in the first inning. Coronado got two singles in the first off senior starter Sarah Dunn, but both hits were misplayed in the outfield, which allowed the runners to advance on the bases.

Coahoma came back to tie the game in its half of the first inning. Junior Ami Martinez reached on an error and then later scored on a wild pitch. Senior Ashle New also singled and senior Kall Roberts reached on an error in the inning.

"We had our chances, but just didn't get things done," said Dickenson. "The game meant nothing to both teams, but I would have liked to have played better."

Coronado scored five runs in the fourth to take a 6-1 lead. It got

three hits and Coahoma committed two of its six errors in the inning.

"Sarah pitched a good game, but we just didn't help her out in the field or at the plate," said Dickenson.

Coronado added two runs in the fifth and one run in the seventh. Coahoma scored one run each in the fifth and seventh innings.

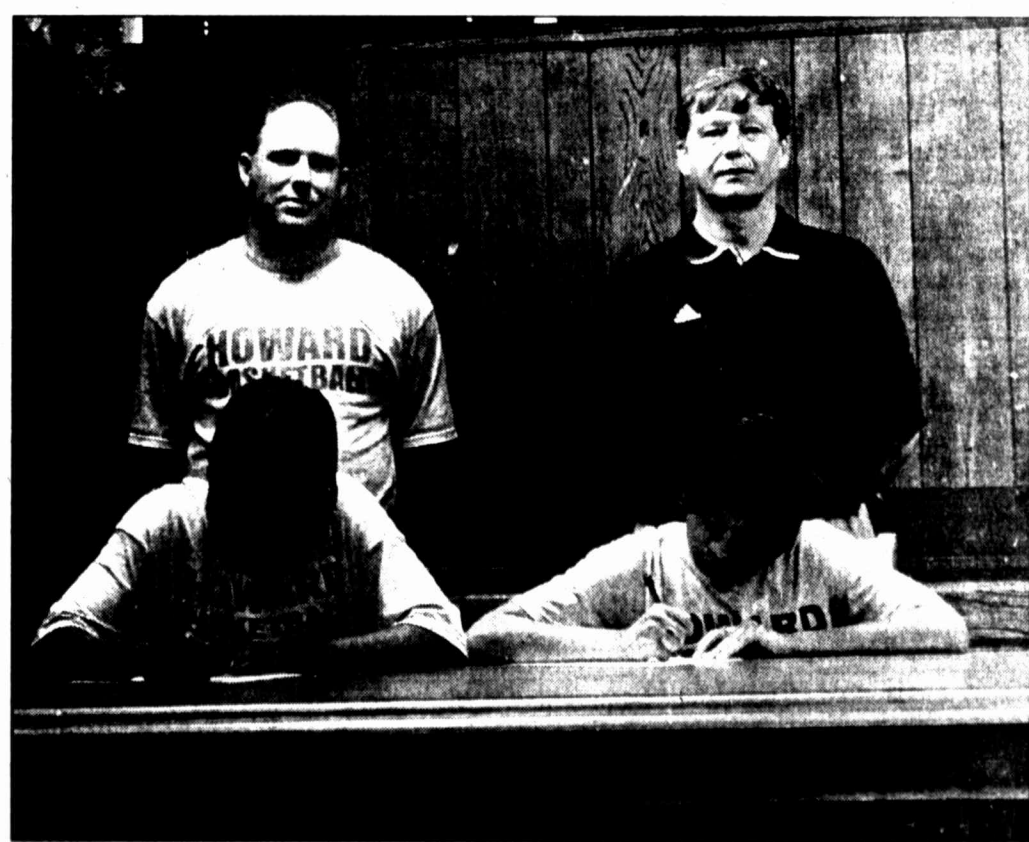
Dunn took the loss on the hill after giving up five earned runs on eight hits in five innings. She struck out three and walked one. New pitched the final two innings and gave up one run on three hits while striking out two.

New and Roberts, who did not pitch because Dickenson wanted to rest her shoulder for the playoffs, each had two hits in the game.

"Kali's got a sore shoulder, but she would have played if it was a playoff game," said Dickenson.

Dunn had a hit and scored one run. Martinez reached base in her first two at-bats and scored Coahoma's first run.

The Bulldogettes, who dropped to 21-7-2 on the season, will get another shot at Lubbock Coronado Friday as the two teams meet again in a warmup game in Lubbock at 6 p.m. Coahoma hosts Clyde in a warmup game Tuesday at 7 p.m. and then begins its run in the postseason later next week against either Grape Creek or Kermit.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
The Howard College women's basketball program announced the signings of two Pittsburgh, Penn., prospects recently. From left, front row: Monica Jones and Veronica Wilson sign on the dotted line Monday, officially becoming members of the Howard women's program. Back row: Howard assistant women's coach Eric Rodewald and head coach Earl Diddle were also present for the signing. Jones graduated from Woodland Hills High School in Pittsburgh and averaged 16 points and 11 rebounds as a senior. Wilson graduated from Schenley High School and averaged 13.5 points, 5.5 rebounds and 8.5 assists per game as a senior. Jones is 5-10 and is expected to play guard or forward at Howard, while Wilson is a 5-7 combo guard.

Howard powers past UTPB

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

ODESSA — The Howard College baseball team knocked around UTPB pitching Tuesday on the road as the Hawks recorded an easy two-game sweep against the Falcons at Falcon Field.

Sophomore Gabe Marchant had four hits and four RBIs in the team's 15-1 win in Game 1 and sophomore Darby Brown had four hits, two RBIs and added two more doubles to his school-record mark in the second game as the Hawks won 15-5.

Howard scored four runs in the second inning of Game 1 and then added three runs each in the fourth and fifth and scored five runs in the sixth. The Hawks recorded seven doubles — three by freshman Ryan Pruitt — in the game and Adrian Bermudez and Scott Stephen allowed just six UTPB hits while throwing on the mound.

Bermudez started and allowed one run on four

hits but Stephen improved to 6-1 with the win after throwing the final two innings and allowed just two hits while striking out two.

Pruitt's three doubles resulted in three runs for Howard and freshman David Fonseca had two hits and three runs as well. Jared Smallwood and Landry Odom both got a chance to hit in the game and they each went one-for-two with one run and two RBIs.

Marchant had one of the seven doubles and tied Dusty Dallas for the team lead in home runs as he crushed his ninth of the season. He also stole four bases.

Howard scored 11 of its 15 runs in Game 2 in the first two innings. Then the Hawks got one run each in the third, fifth, sixth and seventh innings.

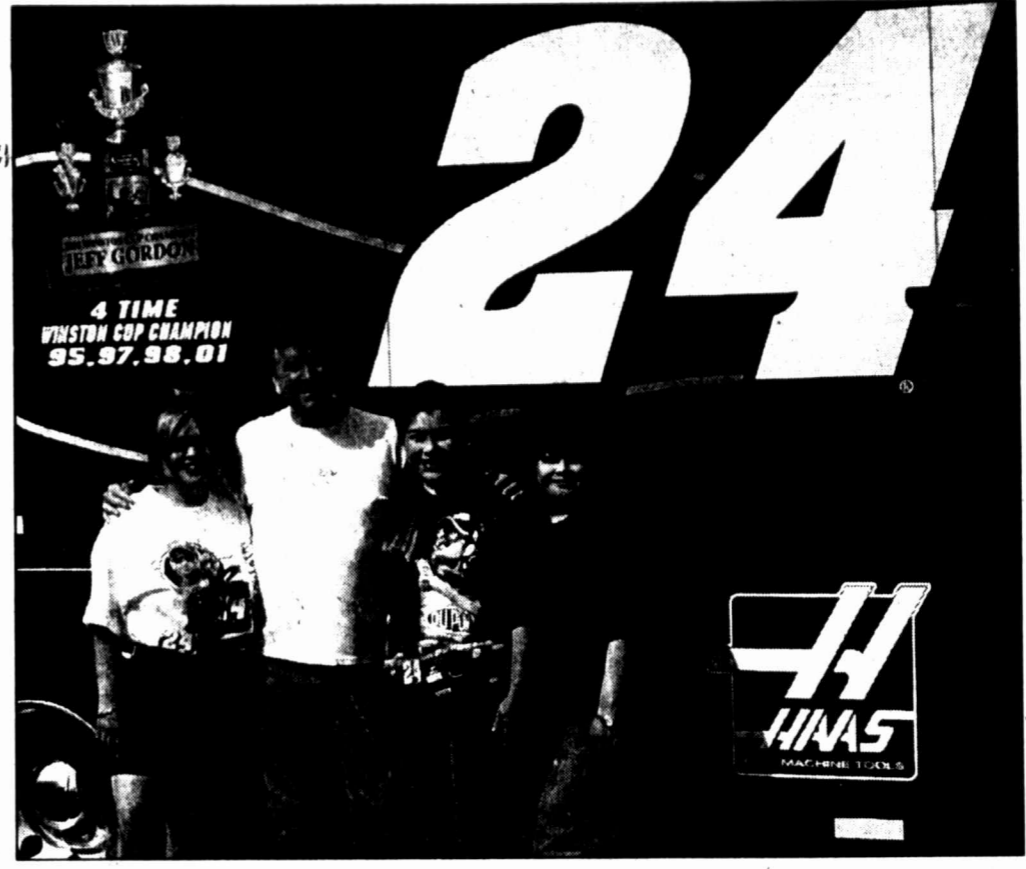
Brown had four hits, including two doubles, and now has 24 doubles on the season, which is three away from the school record he set last year.

Marchant, sophomore Jeff Storms, and Bryan Minzenmeyer each had three hits for Howard. Marchant was a home run away from the cycle but got two doubles. Storms scored three times and Minzenmeyer had two RBIs. Barrett Lowenstein had two hits, two runs and four RBIs. Sophomore Daman Aaron had two hits, two walks, two stolen bases and scored two runs.

The Hawks used four pitchers in the game, but Lance Brown (1-0) got the win in relief. He allowed no runs on two hits and struck out three as he pitched the third and fourth innings.

Bobby Gonsoulin started and allowed just two hits.

Howard will try to earn a spot in the regional tournament this weekend as it travels to Midland for two games Friday and then host the Chaps at Jack Barber Field Saturday for another doubleheader. The Hawks are 34-16 on the year and 14-10 in the conference.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
From left: Nati Rodriguez, Earl Kelly, Katie Rodriguez and Yvette Rodriguez pose in front of a semi truck owned by NASCAR racer Jeff Gordon's racing team Monday at Casa Blanca Restaurant. Kelly and Jason Young (not pictured) are a part of NASCAR's Souvenir Racing Team which supports Gordon. Kelly and Young have made Big Spring their stop on many occasions because "they can't find authentic Mexican food better than Casa Blanca" anywhere in the United States. Kelly and Young, who have been coming to Casa Blanca on their way through Texas since November 2004, are on their way to Talladega Motor Speedway in Alabama after Gordon raced this past Saturday in Phoenix. Nati, Yvette and Katie are sisters and all work at Casa Blanca. Katie is the owner of the restaurant. All three are big NASCAR fans.

Cain just misses state berth

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — Big Spring senior Chance Cain shot a second-round 75 at the Region 1-4A golf tournament Tuesday at Quicksand Golf Course, but he now wishes he shot a 73.

Cain finished with a 147 in his two rounds,

but missed qualifying for the state tournament by just one stroke as Landon Waters of Frenship and Bryce McCarthy of Fort Worth Arlington Heights grabbed the final two state berths with scores of 144 and 146, respectively.

Aledo had three of the top five individual

scores, but its whole squad will advance to state after winning the team competition by 28 strokes over second-place Plainview, which also advanced to state. Bryston Jiminez of Plainview shot a 144 and finished fourth. Michael Miller of Aledo won the tournament with a 140.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

trated with the tight zone, but it happens."

White finished the game on the mound as he struck out two and walked one in his one inning of relief.

Coahoma got another run in the fifth. Hughes singled and later scored on an RBI ground out by White. The Bulldogs finished the game in the

sixth with two more runs. Kerby singled and Griffith doubled to start the inning. Garcia walked to load the bases and an RBI sacrifice fly by McMillan to deep center-field scored Kerby and then Griffith came around to score one batter later as Hughes hit an RBI single.

The Bulldogs are now 17-8 overall and they improved to 6-2 in the district.

"Its a good feeling to

win three straight titles," said Harman. "They all mean a lot to me, but this one is probably the most special to me because this group of guys are special. There is just something about them."

The Bulldogs clinched a first-round bye in the postseason and won't begin action until the weekend of May 12-13. Harman is working on setting up a warmup game, but info was not available at press time.

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Help Wanted

ALL POSITIONS Available. Must pass drug test and background check. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylesford Street. No Phone Calls.



Meter Reading position now available.

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Immediate position available for LVN (full-time) for Homehealth in Big Spring and surrounding areas. Immediate positions available for CNAs for private duty in-home care. Apply@ Interim HealthCare 4610 N. Garfield, Ste. B-20 or fax to: 618-0307

Help Wanted

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CLINE CONSTRUCTION is taking applications for the following: Class A or B CDL Drivers and Laborers, valid drivers license required. Call (432)267-6006.

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DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY. Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

EARTHCO CONSTRUCTION has positions available for Experienced Equipment Operators. If interested please call (432)263-8456 or apply at 101 Wooten Rd.

EVENING CASHIER full time/part time at WEST-GO. Vacation and benefits available. Starting pay \$5.15 per hour. Apply in person, 1800 Gregg.

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CITY of Big Spring is taking applications for Utility Service Worker. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, 310 Nolan (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE.

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.

Help Wanted

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.

MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.

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

NATIONAL GREETING Card Company needs part-time Greeting Card Clerk. For the Big Spring Area. Must have on phone and transportation. Respond to agmechandise@yahoo.com or P.O. Box 52543, Midland, TX 79705.

NEED EXPERIENCE drillers & roughnecks for Big Spring oil company. Must be able to pass drug test. Call (432)238-3832.

NEED MECHANIC and/or Machine Maintenance person with hydraulic, gasoline, diesel, and electric engine experience. Must also work with schematics. Competitive salary and benefits. Fax resume to (432)354-2669.

NOW HIRING drivers to transport railroad crews. 25 Years old, pass a drug screen, good driving record. Retired Men and Women are encouraged to apply. (866)601-3270 Leave message with name, number and location.

OPENINGS for Cashiers & Cooks at Sky's, 1513 East FM 700. Apply in person ask for Jame.. No phone calls.

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

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Now Hiring wait Staff Must be dependable, hard working. Apply in person at 1702 Gregg St. No phone calls.

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Help Wanted

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TRANSIT MIX Concrete has an opening for a Mixer Driver at our Big Spring location. Must have a Class A or B CDL license, good driving record and verifiable work history. Full benefit package and 40 hour guarantee offered with wages starting at \$10.25 or with 6 months mixer driving experience \$10.75. Apply at Transit Mix Concrete: 605 N. Benton, Big Spring (432)267-6348. Transit Mix Concrete is an EOE/AA employer.

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Items for Sale

FOR SALE: AB Lounge 2 - \$50.00, AB Dozer - \$50.00 and 100 mile T.V. Antenna - \$25.00. Call (432)263-1248.

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WILL HAUL your items to El Paso (TX) and Tucson or Phoenix (AZ). Will be leaving Big Spring, April 27th. Call (432)816-6138 for more information.

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1995 DOUBLEWIDE on leased lot. 2 car steel carport, covered deck, large storage. \$20,000. Owner finance with \$3,000. down. Linda Leonard, Home Realtors. (432)263-1284. (432)263-7500.

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2 Thru 6 Bedroom Homes. Pool, 24 hour maintenance, Central Heat and Air, stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, furnished. Washer/ dryer connections. (432)263-3461 -Tom.

406 EAST 10th & 1701 Settles. Both are 2 Bedroom, CH/A, carport with fenced yard. No Pets. \$400 per month + deposit. Call (432)213-0820 or 263-5818.

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- Mama found the missing piece for her china set...
- Papa bought a great used car ...
- Little Brother traded his baseball cards for a guitar...
- Big Brother found an awesome set of free weights...
- Cousin Bill found a great apartment ...
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- Aunt Sue found a dining room table...

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Real Estate for Rent

620 STATE, Large 3 bedroom, 1 bath, CH/A, Large House. \$550. Month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)270-3848 for more information.

702 WEST 18TH, 3 Bedroom 2 bath. CH/A with fenced yard. \$600. month, \$300. deposit. Call (432)267-7449.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE at 421 Main for rent. Approx. 3,000 sq. ft. includes executive offices, reception area, file storage and break room. Call (432)263-7676.

GROUP OF 4-6 glider pilots seeks large furnished house for rent in Big Spring. Responsible 40 somethings. Aug 1-15-06. Call (410)295-3987.

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

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

SPECIAL DISCOUNT to qualified tenants on long term lease. 3202 Auburn, newly renovated, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, stove/refrigerator furnished, fenced yard, washer/dryer hookup. \$500.00 month. Lease to Own an Option. Call (432)270-7086.

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Real Estate for Sale

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

New! LAST! 20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set up for Mobile Home. 43K, \$4,000.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 29 years. No Credit Check. (817)312-6322.

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4207 DIXON. Three bedroom, one bath. Payments approximately, \$270. month, plus taxes and insurance. Call 1-800-804-7110.

Real Estate for Sale

ASSUME HOME 30kl 4 Bedroom, 2 bath. For Listing 800-749-8106 ext. F-086.

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FORSAN ISD 3/2, 2 car garage, den, fireplace, dining area, wash room, hot house, spacious kitchen on 20 acres, Ratliff Road. Ask for Marie (432)263-6400.

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Price Reduced on this beautiful family home 3 BR 2 1/2 bath den with fire place, formal living & dining area, large backyard. Priced to sell. Call Jeannie 432-270-1478.

WE BUY UNWANTED Houses. Send name, address, phone number and asking price to P.O. Box 1929, Big Spring, TX 79721-1929.

Vehicles

Several New 2005 Fords, Lincolns, Nissans Available At Huge Savings Bob Brock Ford 500 W. 10th 267-7121

*\$500! HONDAS from \$500! Police Impound. For Listing, 800-749-8104 ext. A-106.

1982 KAWASAKI 1100cc, fully dressed. \$1,600. Call (432)263-8496 ask for Walter.

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2000 COUGAR, 54,000 miles, 6 Disc. CD, auto, A/C, etc. \$7,200.00. Call (432)263-0514 or 816-6201.

2005 HARLEY Davidson Lowrider. Cobalt blue with detachable sissy bar and windshield. Forward controls. Custom grips. Low mileage; like new. \$16,000.00. Call 432-714-4680.

2005 HD 2500 crew cab. Turbo diesel. 11,000K. Asking \$32,000 or best offer. Daytime (432)263-6185, evenings (432)399-4536 ask for Dr. Riley.

2005 VW Beetle GLS Sedan. 6500 Miles. 6 speed auto-transmission, trip tronic, 2.0 liter, dark blue with cream leather interior. Much more! Call (432)267-3707.

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FOR SALE!!! 2004 Ford F-150, 5.4 V-8 Triton, Super crew FX4, 27,000 miles, leather, like new. Asking Pay-off. Please call (432)935-1658.

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Big Spring Herald Classifieds
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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
As the moon in Aries gets darker, certain emotional issues carry less weight. Maybe without realizing it, you've arrived at the door of forgiveness. On the other side of this door is the glory land of redemption. On the eve of the new moon, you couldn't find yourself in a better place. Should you walk through? As always, it's your choice.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today brings many a been-there-done-that situation. Circumstances are so common that you play them out as if from a script, but one new person in the mix will turn your world upside down. Wait and see.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You trump colleagues in new areas, but in others, you struggle to keep up. This is the prompt that winners, like you, know to immediately respond to. Do what it takes to maintain your competitive edge.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In the recent past, you wanted to make a grand effort or add your thoughtful touch in the name of friendship, but time got away, and the ideas were never implemented. Today brings another chance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you've been suffer-

Tomorrow's Horoscope

ing in a "job," you will finally start working on a "career" now. In truth, the actual work would be one in the same, but it's all in the way you think about it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Loved ones look to you to pamper and care for them because your attention is magically healing. Perhaps you'll wonder, "When is it my turn?" Don't worry, it's coming.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your intense bond with one person could trigger a jealous rivalry with another person. That's why your diplomatic skills are needed now. Be discreet about your affection. Make each person you contact feel special.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're picking and choosing your company carefully - rightly so. How someone acts in adverse situations illuminates character. Also, pay attention to how a person acts when he or she thinks no one is looking!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The day's events succinctly articulate the inner struggle between your higher and lower self. The opportunity for immediate pleasure is offered, and so is the reward for delayed gratification. The choice is, as always, yours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Overall, you're valued and appreciated, but certain friends seem to expect things that they ought not expect. Don't shortchange yourself for the sake of being polite.

Generosity begins at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Yes, everything has been done before, but not your way. There has never been, and never will be, another like you. The stars urge you to use originality to break down the barriers between you and the prosperity you desire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Negotiations are ongoing. Stay generous with your assets, but selfish with your time. An ex could play a huge part in your financial planning. Cultivating new romance takes all the focus once old issues are resolved.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your working life perks up. New ideas spark other ideas, creating momentum that can't be stopped. Also, your love life offers more varied and exciting choices than you've recently had.

ASTROLOGICAL SPECIAL PART, THREE OF FOUR: Is "What's your sign?" your pick up line? It's an old classic, to the point of being cliché - but it can still work to open the conversation. That is, if you know how to follow it up! If the answer to this question is LIBRA, you can proceed with: *Libras are usually art lovers. Have you ever fallen in love with a piece of art? Are you as diplomatic as your sign is rumored to be?*

Have you ever considered running for public office? Oh, you're supposed to have excellent taste. What's your favorite place to

shop? If the answer is SCORPIO, you can offer: *Have you experienced any fantastic luck in the last year or so? Jupiter has been transiting your sign (good through Nov. 2006). Do you like scary movies? What's your favorite one? Your sign is supposed to be good at keeping secrets. Is that true of you?* SAGITTARIUS: *Where was the last place you traveled? I've heard that your sign has an ear for languages. What languages do you speak or understand? Is it true you're impulsive? What is the most spontaneous thing you have ever done?*

CELEBRITY PROFILES: JESSICA ALBA is a Taurus ruled by Venus, the goddess of love and beauty. This year, her love life is on a serious path with beau Cash Warren. Work projects that keep them apart only serve to strengthen their connection, heightening their need to be legally bound. Alba's parents should be aware that when it comes to weddings, Taurus women demand the best (and most expensive) details.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. © 2006 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox : Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am a nurse, and work in an environment where there is an increasing number of Filipino employees, especially women. The problem is, these Filipino nurses constantly talk to one another in their native language. When there is downtime, they sit in a group and chat. Many times I am the only non-Filipino in the room and I feel ostracized, like a stranger in my own country. Also, it is exceedingly difficult to concentrate while this language thing is going on. For me, it is not a pretty language. I find myself exhausted listening to it. At staff meetings, we are told that English is the only language to be spoken in the nurses' station. I would like to politely tell these women that I understand how much easier it is for them to speak in their own language, but it is disturbing to some of us. However, I'm sure if I said that, I would be labeled a racist. And if management is not enforcing the rule to speak English, it won't help to mention it to them, either. I really do not care what they are saying to each other, but the situation is quite unpleasant. Do you have any suggestions? - English Spoken Here

Dear English: Don't you think your reaction IS a little bigoted if you object to others speaking their native tongue because it sounds harsh to you? We agree it is rude to carry on a conversation in a foreign language if others are excluded, but that rule applies only to social encounters. People can speak whatever they like if they are talking to each other privately. If your hospital has an English-only policy, it should be enforced, and your complaints should be directed there. Otherwise, you might try asking these women to teach you a few words of their language so you can show them you are interested in developing a friendship. Can't hurt, and it might alleviate your concerns.

Dear Annie: I'd like to respond to "Always Been Short," who asked how to answer people who commented on his height. My grandfather, who was the shortest of very tall, teasing brothers, had the best comeback. He said, "You measure a man from the neck up." To me, he was a giant. - Michigan Woman

Dear Michigan: Well put. Dear Annie: I have a beautiful daughter who has a lovely family and a great career. The problem is I'm afraid she is becoming an alcoholic. She thinks she has a high tolerance for alcohol and that it's OK. Would you please list the signs? - Worried



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

2. Do you wish people would mind their own business about your drinking - stop telling you what to do?

3. Have you ever switched from one kind of drink to another in the hope that this would keep you from getting drunk?

4. Have you had to have an eye-opener upon awakening during the past year?

5. Do you envy people who can drink without getting into trouble?

6. Have you had problems connected with drinking during the past year?

7. Has your drinking caused trouble at home?

8. Do you ever try to get "extra" drinks at a party because you do not get enough?

9. Do you tell yourself you can stop drinking any time you want to, even though you keep getting drunk when you don't mean to?

10. Have you missed days of work or school because of drinking?

11. Do you have "black-outs"?

12. Have you ever felt that your life would be better if you did not drink?

Did you answer YES four or more times? If so, you are probably in trouble with alcohol. Copyright by The A.A. Grapevine Inc. Reprinted from the pamphlet "Is A.A. for You?" with permission of A.A. World Services Inc. Permission to reprint this material does not mean that AAWS has reviewed and/or endorses this publication.

Dear Annie: For 20 years, my alcoholic husband and I have been together. "Roy" is a good person, hard working, considerate and generous. Early in the day, Roy is a pleasure to be with, but by 4 p.m., he is drunk and obnoxious. He argues about everything I say and staggers around using foul language and creating scenes. He tells horrid lies to our friends, saying all my relatives

are drunks and that I've been having sex with some of the neighbors.

I have adjusted to the fact that we can never go out in the evenings because it is too embarrassing, and I can't go alone or he will accuse me of cheating. We have worked hard for what we have, and if we divorced, everything would have to be sold and divided with substantial losses. Roy won't try A.A. or counseling, and I've been to Al-Anon and it didn't help.

I'm very tired of getting up every day, knowing I have nothing to look forward to except his drunken verbal abuse. Roy claims that if he can't remember what he said to me when drunk, it isn't important. I feel that he has no respect for me or for himself, otherwise he would not behave this way.

I do not intend to leave because I'm quite confident Roy eventually will drink himself to death, but the verbal abuse has depressed me to the extent that I may have to get help for my own self-preservation. I knew he was an alcoholic when I married him, but the hostile behavior in the last five years has been unbearable. Any suggestions? - Alcoholic's Spouse

Dear Spouse: We're not sure what you expect. Roy is an abusive alcoholic and has no intention of getting help. You put up with it because it would cost too much to leave, and you assume he'll die before things get too bad. What a charming arrangement. You both must be perfectly miserable.

Al-Anon will not make your husband quit. It is intended to be a source of support for family and friends. Counseling may help your depression, but it won't solve the underlying problem. You must decide if you truly want to tolerate Roy's alcoholism, because the alternatives you have chosen do not sound promising to us.

su|do|ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom
ANSWERS

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

WEDNESDAY

Table with 18 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 6 rows representing time slots from 6:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Each cell contains the channel name and the program being aired.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I DON'T CARE IF HE IS YOUR 'SHOW AND TELL' PROJECT, YOU'RE NOT TAKING RUFF TO SCHOOL!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Jeffy's gonna be a professional kickball player and I'm gonna be his agent."

HAGAR



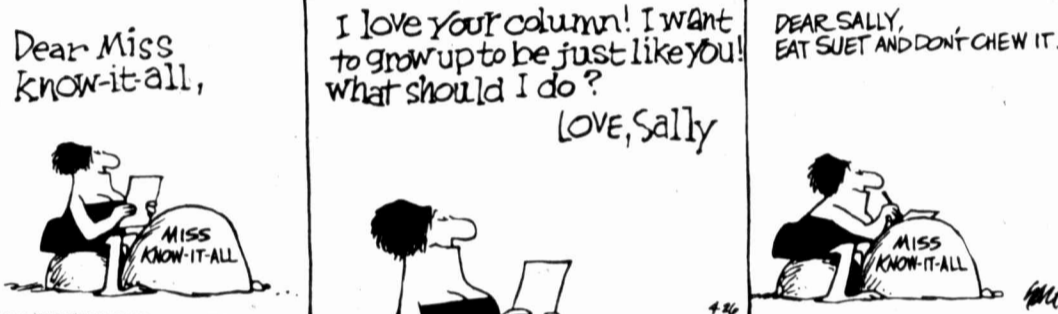
"DON'T BE SAD, DEAR! REMEMBER, THERE'S SOMEONE FOR EVERYONE IN THIS WORLD! BUT WHAT IF MY SOMEONE LIVES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD?"

BLONDIE



"WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE DOING ON THE COMPUTER, DEAR?" "TRACKING A PACKAGE THAT WAS SHIPPED TO US THE OTHER DAY." "LISTEN, I KNOW WHERE YOU'VE BEEN ALL DAY."

BC



Dear Miss Know-it-all, I love your column! I want to grow up to be just like you! What should I do? LOVE, Sally DEAR SALLY, EAT SWEET AND DON'T CHEW IT.

WIZARD OF ID



"ANY WORD FROM THE KING ON MY REPRIEVE?" "HE'S REVIEWING YOUR CASE NOW." "I HANG HIM, I HANG HIM NOT..."

AGNES



"HAPPY ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS' DAY, TROUT." "A SOLEMN DAY WHEN WE GET A BIT CHOKED UP AND PAY A QUIET TRIBUTE TO ALL WHO HAVE FALLEN SELFLESSLY IN THE ACT OF ADMINSTRATING PROFESSIONALLY." "DO YOU WANT TO HELP ME PLACE THE WREATH?" "I'M HAVING TROUBLE GETTING CHOKED UP."

HI AND LOIS



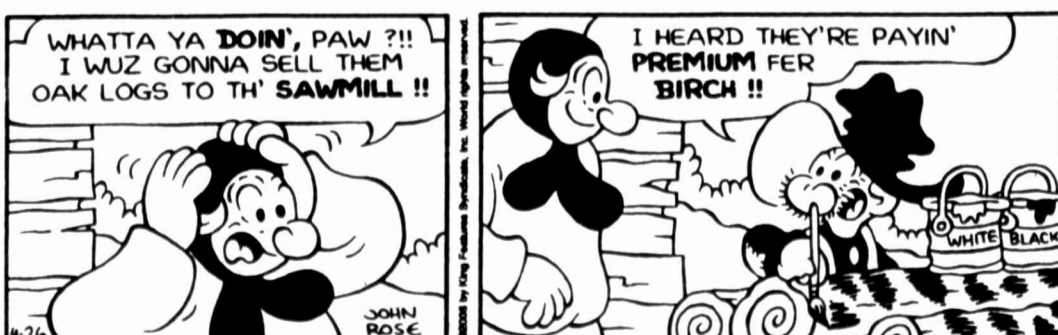
"WHO ARE YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCES ON GUITAR?" "BB KING, ERIC CLAPTON, STEVIE RAY VAUGHN, MY DAD." "YOUR DAD WAS A GREAT BLUES GUITARIST TOO?!" "NO, HE JUST GIVES ME THE BLUES."

THE OTHER COAST



"HERE I AM, SITTING ON THE OSAKA SUBWAY NEXT TO A SUMO WRESTLER!" "WOW, THAT GUY MUST WEIGH AT LEAST 300 POUNDS!" "325 POUNDS. TO BE EXACT."

SNUFFY SMITH



"WHATTA YA DOIN', PAW ??? I WUZ GONNA SELL THEM OAK LOGS TO TH' SAWMILL !!"

BEEBLE BAILEY



"WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT WITH ME, MISS BUXLEY?" "WHEN, ZERO?" "RIGHT NOW." "I WANTED YOU TO SEE THIS SUNSET!"

This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, April 26, the 116th day of 2006. There are 249 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: Twenty years ago, on April 26, 1986, the world's worst nuclear accident occurred at the Chernobyl plant in the Soviet Union. An explosion and fire killed at least 31 people and sent radioactivity into the atmosphere. On this date: In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln, was surrounded by federal troops near Bowling Green, Va., and killed. In 1937, planes from Nazi Germany raided the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War. In 1945, Marshal Henri Philippe Petain, the head of France's Vichy government during World War II, was arrested. In 1964, the African nations of Tanganyika and

Zanzibar merged to form Tanzania. In 1968, the United States exploded beneath the Nevada desert a 1-megaton nuclear device called "Boxcar." In 1980, following an unsuccessful attempt by the United States to rescue the U.S. Embassy hostages in Iran, the Tehran government announced the captives were being scattered to thwart any future rescue effort. In 1994, a Taiwanese jetliner crashed in Nagoya, Japan, killing 264 people. In 2000, Vermont Gov. Howard Dean signed the nation's first bill allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions. Birthdays: Actress-comedian Carol Burnett is 73. Rhythm-and-blues singer Maurice Williams is 68. Songwriter-musician Duane Eddy is 68. Singer Bobby Rydell is 64. Actress Claudine Auger is 64. Rock musician Gary Wright is 63. Actor Giancarlo Esposito is 48. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Duran Duran) is 46. Actress Joan Chen is 45. Rock musician Chris Mars is 45. Actor-

singer Michael Damian is 44. Actor Jet Li is 43. Actor-comedian Kevin James is 41. Country musician Joe Cocker (Yankee Grey) is 38. Rapper T-Boz (TLC) is 36. Country musician Jay DeMarcus (Rascal Flatts) is 35. Country musician (Pinmonkey) is 34. Rock musician Jose Pasillas (Incubus) is 30. Actor Tom Welling is 29. Actress Jordana Brewster is 26. Actress Marnette Patterson is 26. Actor Aaron Weeks is 20. Thought for Today: "For those who do not think, it is best at least to rearrange their prejudices once in a while." - Luther Burbank, American horticulturist (1849-1926).

Answer to previous puzzle. A crossword grid with words filled in: BRAIN, SUMO, STAB, ROTOM, HOTEL, VIAL, ATOM, IRAIE, VIAL, GETTO, FIT, THEGROUND, BURRO, ROMAN, PPS, UNEASY, MAR, THRU, STAYSUP, IN, THEAIR, HITS, LET, SEANCE, YET, DENSE, ASTER, EMU, XLV, COMEDOWN, TOW, EARTH, ALPS, LACES, LEIA, METS, DIANE, DART, POSY, STAT, APES.

Newsday Crossword

CONTAIN YOURSELF by Rose Baum

ACROSS: 1 Mary's pet, 5 Lobby for, 9 Pays attention to, 14 Cantata melody, 15 Ogden Nash, for one, 16 Hardy's nickname, 17 Feeling of hunger, 18 Kind of dolphin, 20 Treeless plains, 22 Checked for accuracy, 23 Feeling cross, 25 "Smoking or ___?", 26 Stovetop device, 29 Flowering tree, 33 Things for sale, 34 Become edible, 35 Not square, 37 Dr. Frankenstein's assistant, 38 Tiny particles, 39 Hay unit, 40 Precious thing, 41 Neil or Carly, 42 Cruise stops, 43 Sort of snake, 45 Least demanding, 46 Stashed away, 47 Participate in a bee, 49 Banded words, 53 Accident-prone, 57 Touchy situation. DOWN: 8 Jazzy singer, 9 Square-dance event, 10 Warm ocean current, 11 "Thanks ___!", 12 Gain altitude, 13 Acom, essentially, 19 Charges ahead, 21 NFL players, 24 Manuscript fixers, 26 Branchlet, 27 Showing enthusiasm, 28 Cooking product, 30 Store sign, 31 Chicago hub, 32 Bodybuilder's pride, 34 Forum site, 36 Genuine nuisance, 38 Humidity problem, 39 Meal brought from home, 41 Cook in a wok, 42 Lose interest, 44 Place for a frog, 45 Frame inserts, 48 Some shoes, 49 Word to a feline, 50 Lacking color, 51 Aardvark snacks, 52 Wharf, 54 Italian lake, 55 McDonald's founder, 56 American, to a Brit, 58 King, in Quebec.

CONSUMER HOW-TO GUIDE

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Choose a Bank.....	2
Choose a New Car.....	4
Choose a College.....	6
Choose a Hospital.....	8
Choose an Internet provider.....	10
Choose a Jeweler.....	12
Choose a Realtor.....	14

BIG SPRING

HERALD

HOW TO CHOOSE

A Bank

Selecting the right bank can be intimidating and confusing. It is important to weigh all the factors carefully just as when making any large purchase.

For example, when you buy a home, you don't simply stop at the first "For Sale" sign you see and purchase that house. Several steps are involved in selecting a home.

Considering your banking needs also involves several steps. Ask yourself these important questions:

1. Do you need personal banking, commercial or both? Are your account needs simple or complex? Specialty accounts offer a variety of services for one fee, while simple accounts offer a minimum of features for a much lower rate. The size of your account can determine what will best suit your needs.

2. Do you plan to apply for a loan in the future? Consider what loan services are available. If you plan to purchase a home or automobile, you will want to find a bank that offers great loans for homes and automobiles. Farmers will be looking for a bank with a strong agricultural loan department while businessmen will be looking for a bank that has a good commercial loan department.

3. Do you plan to save for a big expense or toward your child's future education? Look at the different types of savings plans offered. Many banks are now offering uninsured investments such as mutual funds, as well as traditional insured deposit accounts.

4. Do you require the conveniences of automated teller machines and other types of electronic services, such as banking through your personal computer? If you travel extensively, a bank with an extensive branch network or ATMs and PC banking may be a necessity for you.

MORE CONSIDERATIONS

Once you have established your basic needs and start looking for the bank which meets your needs, you will have new criteria to consider:

Convenience: Are the hours and location convenient for me to conduct my banking business? While hours and location are usually not as critical in small towns as in larger cities, it can still be an important factor.

Bank size: Banks are measured by total assets. Large national banks have total assets in the \$100 billion-plus range. Regional banks generally fall somewhere between \$1 billion and \$25 billion. Small banks for "community banks" are generally in the \$1 billion or less range.

This is relevant for two reasons. First, the smaller the bank, the more local the decision-making process is likely to be. However, that is not always the case. Some of the larger banks have tailored their business to be more compatible with local needs.

Second, size can determine the sophistication of services offered. Larger banks have a competitive advantage and can usually offer a much more comprehensive variety of services. Smaller banks may offer little more than loan and deposit services, but you can be surprised at the services some smaller banks offer.

Financial stability: Before you choose a bank, you will want to consider its financial stability. Find out how long the bank has been in existence, whether or not it is profitable and how strong its capital base is. You can obtain this information for an annual report from the bank.

Talk to your accountant, attorney, business associates, friends and even competitors about the different banks you are considering.

Service: Banking is a service industry. If you don't find good people to deliver those services to you and your business, the relationship can sour quickly.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Here's what you should look for when making your banking decision:

1. **Friendliness** — Are the tellers, customer service representatives and loan officers cordial or unfriendly?

2. **Professionalism** — Do bank employees keep the work environment orderly and demonstrate proper respect?

3. **Knowledge** — Are the customer contact people able to answer your questions? If not, do they know where to get the answer?

4. **Promptness** — Do bank personnel and officers return your calls in a timely manner? Is the response on loan requests reasonable?

5. **Community involvement** — Do you see bank employees involved in community organizations and activities?

6. **Turnover** — Do you see a lot of new faces? Do the employees seem to enjoy their jobs?

PICK BASED ON YOUR NEEDS

When it comes to choosing a bank, everyone has different needs. Some want more customer service, others prefer wider access to ATMs.

For some people, a nearby bank branch is a must, while others may be more interested in online banking. There are many options and you will find that financial institutions are aggressively competing for your business. Use this to your advantage as you begin your search.

The simple solution may be to choose the bank that keeps things simple and listens.

Online Bill Pay

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bills from
one location.

No stamps required.

banking

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for **you**

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www.statenb.com

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*Bill Pay has certain restrictions including but not limited to: payees located within the United States; payments may not be remitted to: government & tax authorities, securities companies for stock or trade taxing authorities, or for court directed payments.

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HOW TO CHOOSE A NEW CAR

A New Car

A car is one of the most important purchases you may make. If you prepare yourself and do your research in advance, you can make the buying process much easier.

One of the first steps to take is to evaluate your finances.

Some people may be able to pay cash for a car; however, most people must finance the purchase. Take a careful look at your budget to

determine how much you can afford to spend as a down payment on a car, how much you can spend on monthly payments and insurance.

GENERAL FEATURES AND OPTIONS

After you have determined how much you can spend, evaluate your lifestyle to determine what type of vehicle best suits your needs. Do you have frequently have passengers?

Perhaps this may sway you to consider a four door car over a two door car. Does your lifestyle include hauling groceries, golf clubs, or suitcases? Then you need to look into storage to make sure you have enough room.

Make an itemized list of what optional features you would like. If you travel often, you may want to make sure your new car has cruise control. Other features to consider are air conditioning, the many stereo options, power windows, power door locks, sunroof, tilt steering column, etc. After determining what you would like, rate them on importance. On some new cars the options you want are standard features and on other cars they may be features you can purchase. Some cars may offer the feature you wish in a "package" deal with other features.

Carefully consider how important these extra features are before you invest. Decide ahead of time what features you want in a car to avoid being swayed by package deals which may add to the price, but not to the car's usefulness.

SAFETY

Consider the safety features offered in a car. In addition, driver's

side and front passenger's side air bags, other optional safety features to consider include built-in child safety seats and anti-lock brakes. The U.S. Department of Transportation runs a crash test program, comparing how well each vehicle protects the driver and front-seat passenger in a frontal crash at a speed of 35 mph. The results of these tests can be used to compare cars within weight classes.

CHOOSE YOUR NEW CAR

Now that you have determined your financial needs and the features your lifestyle requires, you are ready to shop. Do not narrow down your choice to one car, choose three or four that suit your needs and your wallet. One of the biggest mistakes new car shoppers make is being too set on buying a certain type of car.

You can make a much wiser decision about purchasing a car if you do your homework first. Start by asking your friends who have recently bought cars about their experience with local dealerships. Ask them about their impression of the sales people, the service department and the management. Another source to contact is your local Better Business Bureau; ask for a reliability report on the dealership.

TAKE A TEST DRIVE

Take a test drive checklist with you to examine the important characteristics of the car. Items to include on the checklist are:

- Visibility - Can you see the end of the hood and the trunk? Does any part of the car block your vision? Can you easily see all the mirrors?
- Steering Wheel Placement - Are you comfortable behind the wheel? Is it easy to adjust the steering wheel, the seat, and mirrors?
- Entry / Exit - Is it easy to get in and out of the car from each position?
- Seating - Does each passenger have plenty of head and leg room?

Check rear seats and in all positions, check the fit of each seat belt.

- Instrument and Panel Controls - While driving, can you quickly and easily check the speedometer and gauges? Try the windshield wipers, light, turn signals, and other functions to see how easy they are to operate. Check the climate controls.
- Trunk - Is there enough space in the trunk or cargo area? Is it easy to get to the spare tire?
- Engine - Does it accelerate smoothly? Does it have "passing power"?
- Transmission - For automatic transmission, does it shift smoothly between speeds? If it is a manual, check the feel of the clutch and the ease of the shifting gears.
- Ride - Is the ride smooth? Does it offer responsive handling that makes you feel comfortable in all road conditions?
- Noise Levels - With windows closed, listen to the noise level. Listen for engine noises when accelerating. At lower speeds, listen for road noises and tire sounds. At highway speeds, listen for wind whistling outside the windows.
- Exterior - Is the car's finish glossy and even? Check for evenly aligned body panels and secure trim.

NEGOTIATING THE PURCHASE PRICE

There are different negotiating steps in the showroom: Getting the best price on a particular car; selling or trading in the car you own now; considering warranties and other extras; and arranging financing. When you are in a car dealership, it is important to keep each of these stages separate. Negotiating at each stage should be done separately so you will know exactly how much the car is costing you.

Remember to take your list of comparison prices of different cars so you will know how much negotiating room you will have.

2005 Che
Was \$11.9
2005 Pon
Was \$12.9
2004 He
Was \$13.9
2005 Pon
Was \$14.4
2005 Pon
Was \$15.9
2005 Che
Was \$15.9
2005 Che
Was \$16.4
2004 Che
E296 & P
Was \$19.9
2003 Niss
Was \$18.9

JOIN THE 30 AND UP CROWD.



Vehicles That Have EPA Highway Estimates Of At Least 30 Miles Per Gallon

2006 Chevrolet Aveo LS 4-Door

Medium Gray • Charcoal Interior • Cruise Control
Keyless Entry • Power Door Locks • CD/MP3 Player

EPA Estimates!
26 City / 34 Hwy.



Stk# 61094C

Sale Priced!
\$12,825

\$13,925 / MSRP - \$500 / Factory Rebate - \$600 / Dealer Discount

2006 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Sedan

Summit White • Neutral Interior • Cruise Control

EPA Estimates!
24 City / 34 Hwy.



Stk# 61093C

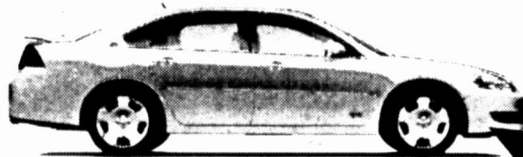
Sale Priced!
\$13,495

\$15,695 / MSRP - \$500 / Factory Rebate / \$1,200 - Dealer Discount
*Trade Your '99 or Newer And Get \$500 Additional Off

2006 Chevrolet Impala LS Sedan

Amber Bronze Metallic • Neutral Interior
Power Windows, Locks & Mirrors • Tilt/Cruise

EPA Estimates!
21 City / 32 Hwy.



Stk# 63221C

Sale Priced!
\$19,490

\$20,990 / MSRP - \$500 / Factory Rebate - \$500 / Dealer Discount - \$500 / Bonus Trade Assistance

2006 Chevrolet Malibu Sedan 2LT

Sandstone Metallic • Cashmere Interior • Power Adjustable
Pedals • Heated Front Seats • Luxury Convenience Package
6 Disc CD • XM Radio • Rear Spoiler

EPA Estimates!
22 City / 32 Hwy.



Stk# 612148C

Sale Priced!
\$20,745

\$23,470 / MSRP - \$750 / Factory Rebate - \$1,475 / Dealer Discount - \$500 / Bonus Trade Assistance

Great Selection Of Used Vehicles In Stock Now!

CARS

- 2005 Chevrolet Cavalier - Stk# F081
Was \$11,995.....**NOW \$10,995**
- 2005 Pontiac Sunfire Coupe 2D - Stk# F062.
Was \$12,995.....**NOW \$11,995**
- 2004 Honda Civic EX - Stk# F006.
Was \$13,995.....**SOLD**
- 2005 Pontiac Grand AM SE - Stk# F065, F066.
2 To Choose From!
Was \$14,495.....**NOW \$13,495**
- 2005 Pontiac Vibe - Stk# E293, 11K Miles!
Was \$15,995.....**NOW \$14,495**
- 2005 Chevrolet Impala - Stk# F068, F070 & F071.
3 To Choose From!
Was \$15,995.....**NOW \$14,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet Malibu LS - Stk# E295 & F061.
2 To Choose From!
Was \$16,495.....**NOW \$15,495**
- 2004 Chevrolet Impala LS - Stk#s E211,
E296 & F001.
3 To Choose From!
Was \$19,905.....**NOW \$16,995**
- 2003 Nissan Altima - Stk# E309, 28K Miles!
Was \$18,995.....**NOW \$17,995**

- 2003 Nissan Altima - Stk# F043.
Was \$19,995.....**SOLD**
- 2004 Honda Accord EX - Stk# F012A.
Was \$21,995.....**NOW \$20,995**
- 2006 Pontiac G6 - Stk# F016, 1K Miles!
Was \$22,495.....**SOLD**
- 2005 Cadillac DeVille - Stk# F036 & F064.
Was \$29,995.....**NOW \$26,995**

SPORT UTILITY

- 1999 Chevrolet Tahoe - Stk# F055.
Was \$10,995.....**NOW \$9,995**
- 1999 Jeep Wrangler - Stk# F077
Was \$13,995.....**NOW \$12,995**
- 2002 Chevrolet TrailBlazer - Stk# F078
Was \$15,495.....**NOW \$14,495**
- 2005 Buick Rendezvous CX - Stk# F060
Was \$18,995.....**NOW \$17,995**
- 2006 Buick Rainier CXL - Stk# F037
Was \$23,995.....**SOLD**
- 2005 Chevrolet TrailBlazer - Stk# F059 & F063.
Was \$23,995.....**NOW \$22,995**
- 2003 Ford Expedition - Stk# F056
Was \$26,495.....**NOW \$25,495**
- 2003 Buick Rainier CXL - Stk# F080.
Was \$27,995.....**NOW \$26,995**

- 2004 GMC Yukon - Stk# F067
Was \$29,995.....**NOW \$28,995**

PICKUPS

- 2001 DODGE 1500 SB - Stk# E294A.
Was \$10,495.....**NOW \$9,495**
- 1999 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab - Stk# F057.
Was \$13,495.....**NOW \$12,495**
- 1999 GMC Sierra 1500 - Stk# F039A.
Was \$15,995.....**SOLD**
- 2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 - Stk# F018,
37K Miles!
Was \$16,495.....**NOW \$15,495**
- 2004 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab -
Stk# F031A.
Was \$18,995.....**NOW \$17,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 - Stk# F038A.
Was \$18,995.....**NOW \$17,995**
- 2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab -
Stk# E334A, 42K Miles.
Was \$19,495.....**NOW \$18,495**
- 2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab -
Stk# F051, 32K Miles.
Was \$21,495.....**NOW \$20,495**

- 2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab -
Stk# F053, 33K Miles.
Was \$21,995.....**NOW \$20,995**
- 2003 Dodge Ram 2500 Quad Laramie -
Stk# F033.
Was \$23,995.....**NOW \$22,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab - Stk# F058,
Was \$24,495.....**NOW \$23,495**
- 2005 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Crew Cab -
Stk# F082
Was \$26,995.....**NOW \$25,995**
- 2005 Chevrolet 1500 Crew Cab HD - Stk# F073.
Was \$26,995.....**NOW \$25,995**
- 2004 Ford F150 Crew Cab - Stk# F074,
Was \$28,995.....**NOW \$27,995**
- 2004 Dodge 2500 Quad Cab - Stk# F048, 43K Miles!
Was \$33,495.....**NOW \$30,995**

MOTORCYCLE

- 2002 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail - Stk# E282
Was \$16,995.....**NOW \$14,495**

MINI VANS

- 2003 Chevrolet Venture LS - Stk# E335.
Was \$14,995.....**NOW \$13,995**

POLLARD
Chevrolet - Buick - Cadillac



1501 E. 4th

267-7421

HOW TO CHOOSE!

A COLLEGE

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

Choices, choices, choices! With hundreds of options, this task can seem overwhelming. Just remember that the decision is yours and there is no wrong choice, except the one that is not your own.

DO RESEARCH ON THE WEB

- ACT CollegeNet – College search link
- Campus Tours – virtual tours and more
- The College Board – SAT information and a great college search program
- Local Colleges – in depth information
- Peterson's Collegequest – includes a personal organizer, practice tests and discussion groups
- Princeton Review – the student perspective about schools
- US News – ranks colleges on a range of criteria

ESTABLISHING WHICH SCHOOLS ARE RIGHT FOR YOU: SCHOLASTIC LEVEL

- * How do you fit in academically?
- * Will you be challenged, bored, or overwhelmed?

TYPE OF EDUCATION

- * Are you looking for a pre-professional or liberal arts education?
- * Would you prefer to have required courses, or choose your own path?
- * Do you know what you want to do when you graduate or will you choose a major later?

LIFESTYLE

- * Attend several classes and spend time on campus.
- * Walk around.
- * Check out any campus events of functions.
- * Are the students and staff friendly?

SETTING

- * Do you dream of ivy-covered, Gothic

buildings?

- * ...long, winding paths in a secluded, rural campus?
- * ...or would you rather be in the heart of a big city, with its culture, activities, and noise?
- * What kind of weather do you prefer?
- * Are you an avid skier? A dedicated surfer?
- * Where do you feel safe and secure?

COST

- * Can you afford it?
- * Should you apply for financial aid?
- * Have you and your parents worked out a plan to manage payment?
- * What scholarship programs does each school offer?
- * Categorize Your Picks

Now, make a list of target schools. Some of these schools should be "reaches" - the more prestigious institutions that may pose more of an admissions challenge. Along with your top choices, you should include schools which you feel you have a good chance of getting into. And finally, include at least one "safety" - a school you and your guidance counselor feel is a safe bet. All of them should be a relatively good match for you.

THE BOTTOM LINE

All of this is important because the school you attend affects the rest of your life. Yes I know, it's cliché; but it's true. Your choice will influence your ability to develop academic and social skills, your circle of friendships and acquaintances, and your chances of getting into a competitive grad school or landing an attractive job.

...will
...right
...college

...will
...the college
...experience

- Take a "Values Assessment"
- Do a "Self-Assessment" survey
- Pick a major or academic focus, then visit the learning center or enrollment office for more information
- Find schools that fit necessary criteria. It may be necessary to make choices among conflicting criteria.

Education . . . For Learning. For Earning. For Life!

Howard College is a two-year community college that offers a variety of educational opportunities, from academic transfer courses to specific one and two-year degree and certificate programs.

Howard College provides a variety of workforce education programs for students who want to develop specific job skills and enter the workforce.

Howard College has campuses located in Big Spring, Lamesa, and San Angelo. The 120 acre Big Spring campus includes 14 buildings, baseball field, softball field, a 4,000 seat multipurpose coliseum and a newly completed childcare center. The new Performing Arts building will house degree programs in art, music, and theater.



We offer plenty of help to ensure your success - financial aid, tutoring, academic advising, career counseling, computer labs and more!

You'll pay less in tuition and fees than you would at a four-year college.

Workers with an Associate's Degree earned nearly 25% more than those with just a high school diploma . . . in ten years that could be another \$80,000.

HOWARD COLLEGE



**The Student Assistance Center
is ready to help you.**

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www.howardcollege.edu

Statistics show that when a student begins their college career at a community college they are more likely to succeed in a university.

HOW TO CHOOSE

A HOSPITAL

Choosing a Hospital

How can you choose the best quality hospital for the care you need? It is important to consider quality, because research shows that some hospitals simply do a better job than others. For example, we know that hospitals that do a greater number of the same surgeries have better outcomes for their patients.

Quick Check for Quality

Look for a hospital that:

- * Is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.
- * Is rated highly by State or consumer or other groups.
- * Is one where your doctor has privileges, if that is important to you.
- * Is covered by your health plan.
- * Has experience with your condition.
- * Has had success with your condition.
- * Checks and works to improve its own quality of care.

Does the hospital meet national quality standards?

Hospitals can choose to be surveyed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) to make sure they meet certain quality standards. The standards address the quality of staff and equipment, and-most recently-the hospital's success in treating and curing patients. If a hospital meets those standards, it becomes accredited (gets a "seal of approval"). Reviews are done at least every 3 years. Most hospitals participate in this program.

The JCAHO prepares a performance report on each hospital that it surveys. The report lists:

- * Accreditation status (six levels-from the lowest, "Not Accredited," to the highest, "Accredited with Commendation").
- * Date of the survey.
- * Evaluation of the key areas reviewed during the survey.
- * Results of any followup activity.
- * Areas needing improvement.
- * Comparison with national results.

You can order JCAHO's performance reports free of charge by calling 630-792-5800. Or, check the JCAHO's Web site at <http://www.jcaho.org> for a hospital's performance report or for its accreditation status.

One important way to learn about hospital quality is to look at hospital report cards developed by States and consumer groups. A recent study about such reports found that besides helping consumers make informed choices, they also encourage hospitals to improve their quality of care. This is a very good reason to look for and use consumer information about hospitals. Here are some ways to find such information:

- * Some States-for example, Pennsylvania, California, and Ohio-have laws that require hospitals to report data on the quality of their care. The information is then given to the public so consumers can compare hospitals. Visit the Indiana Hospital and Health Association at www.inhha.org.

- * Consumer groups publish guides to hospitals and other health care choices in various cities. Find out what kind of information is available where you live by calling your State department of health, health care council, or hospital association. Also, ask your doctor what he or she thinks about the hospital.

If going to a certain hospital is important to you, keep that in mind when choosing a doctor and/or health plan. In general, you will go to the hospital where your doctor has "privileges."

Experience with specific conditions

For example, "general" hospitals handle a wide range of routine conditions, such as hernias and pneumonia. "Specialty" hospitals have a lot of experience with certain conditions (such as cancer) or certain groups (such as children). You may be able to choose General Hospital "X" for gallbladder surgery, Specialty Hospital "Y" if you need care for a heart condition, and Specialty Hospital "Z" for your

children. In many cases, it is in your interest to choose the hospital that provides the widest range of services in the most convenient location.

Research shows that hospitals that do many of the same types of procedures tend to have better success with them. In other words, "practice makes perfect." Ask your doctor or the hospital if there is information on:

- * How often the procedure is done there.
- * How often the doctor does the procedure.
- * The patient outcomes (how well the patients do).

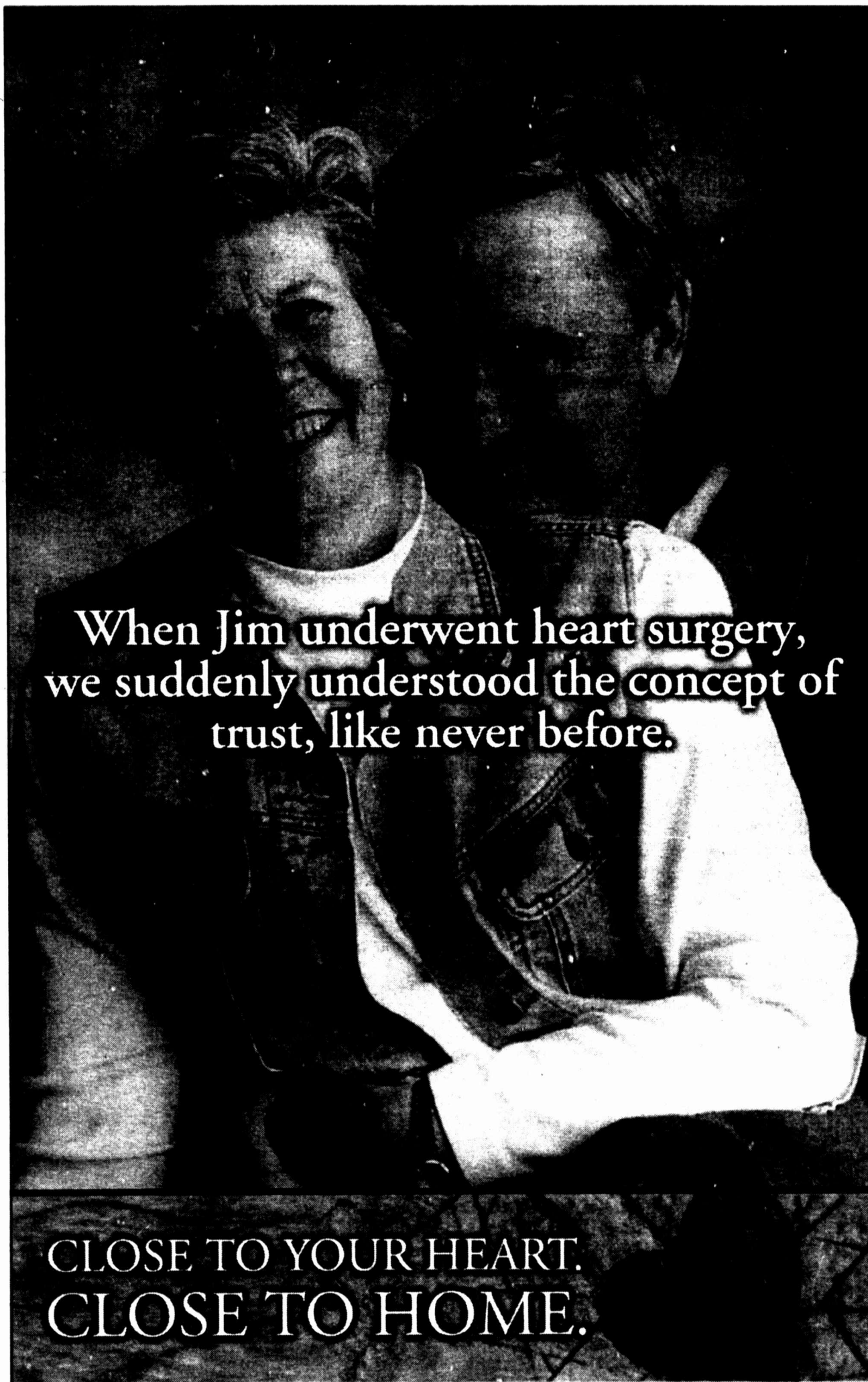
Also, some health departments and others publish reports on "outcomes studies" about certain procedures. These studies show, for example, how well patients do after having heart bypass surgery. Such studies can help you compare which hospitals and surgeons have had the most success with a procedure.

More and more hospitals are trying to improve the quality of their care. One way is to keep track of patient outcomes for certain procedures. Another way is to keep track of patient injuries and infections that occur in the hospital. By finding out what works and what doesn't, the hospital can improve the way it treats patients.

Ask the hospital quality management (or assurance) department how it monitors and improves the hospital's quality of care. Also, ask for any patient satisfaction surveys the hospital has done. These will tell you how other patients have rated the quality of their care.

A Patient's Bill of Rights

Available from the American Hospital Association. Free. Telephone: (312) 422-3000. Web site: <http://www.aha.org> (Click on Resource Center; go to Search at bottom of page; type in Patient's Bill of Rights.) Also available from Fax on Demand, at (312) 422-2020; document number 471124.



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HOW TO CHOOSE

An Internet Provider

GETTING STARTED

The first step is to figure out how you will want to use the Internet in your home or in your business: E-mail, virtual gaming, on-line banking, large file downloads, information searches, streaming video/audio, all or some of the above?

The next step is to decide how much you want to spend on installation and monthly charges. You will also need to ask yourself how often you will be online. Some dial-up packages have a set number of hours and anything over is extra.

Keep in mind, those with a high-speed connection, while actually spending less time downloading, spend more time on the internet than those with dial-up. This is mainly due to the fact that with a high-speed connection the Internet becomes a quicker, more convenient tool, and is a lot more fun to use.

WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Dial-Up

The normal speeds for dial-up are 14 kilobits per second (kbps) to 56 kbps. This type of Internet connection is most common today, but is also the slowest. Web sites with moving pictures and lots of graphics may have trouble downloading at anything less than 28.8 kbps.

Because dial-up modems run over standard telephone lines, they supply Internet access to almost everyone. While you're connected, though, your phone line is engaged and unable to receive calls; some people install a second line for their computer, which adds onto the monthly cost.

Your internet service provider (ISP) will give you a telephone number to use for connecting to their service in your area, the settings you need, and the software on CD-ROM to set up on your computer. Not every provider will have a local access number.

To avoid long distance charges this is something that should be asked up front.

Digital Subscriber Line

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) uses your standard copper pair wiring that

exists in almost every home and office. It operates over normal telephone lines and can be used at the same time with the telephone so only one phone line is needed and there's no boundary on how long you're connected. DSL also has the convenience of an always-on connection, making disconnects and dial-in busy signals a thing of the past.

DSL can increase your access speed by as much as ten times as compared to a standard dial-up modem. Average speeds range from 200 kbps to 1,000 kbps, depending on the type of DSL you choose. It gives you full advantage of graphics and enhanced streaming audio, video, gaming, and multimedia.

Some DSL providers offer the convenience of self-installation for quicker activation times making a technician visit unnecessary.

Broadband Cable

Cable modems link you to the Internet through your cable TV line. Many cable companies now offer Internet as well as TV service. This gives you faster Internet than dial-up and better streaming audio, video, and multimedia.

Like DSL, you're connected all the time making it unnecessary to dial in and it doesn't affect your phone line. Average speeds range from 600 kbps to 1,000 kbps download. This is much faster than dial-up and good for multifaceted Web sites.

Satellite Broadband

Two-way satellite broadband connection transmits high-speed information via satellite to a dish receiver at your home. With one-way satellite, you needed a conventional modem and telephone link to an ISP for uploads, but the newer two-way satellite systems allow you to download and upload through your satellite dish.

It's usually higher-priced than other Internet connections but may be the only fast option for people who are beyond the service area of DSL or cable providers. A clear line of sight to the south is necessary to aim the satellite dish. Speeds average about 400 kbps download.

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

The number one thing you'll need in an ISP (Internet Service Provider), especially if you're just beginning on the Web, is high quality service and support. This means both a dependable company that uses the newest technology and, just as importantly, patient and knowledgeable technical support that will answer your questions or walk you through any problems that may come up when you and your family are online.

TOP 10 QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK:

1. Which speed is right for you?
2. What is the final cost per month?
3. Is there extra equipment required?
4. Is local access available?
5. Is all software provided?
6. What are the activation costs?
7. How many e-mails are included?
8. Is technical support available?
9. Is a contract necessary?
10. What extra options are available?

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HOW TO CHOOSE!

A JEWELER

Visiting a jeweler can be an overwhelming experience because most shoppers simply don't know enough about the intricacies of gemstones and precious metals to make their choices easily. That's why finding a reputable and competent jeweler is so important.

Any jeweler should be willing and able to show customers a variety of gemstones and jewelry in different shapes, sizes and qualities and should stock a broad selection of ring styles to enable you to decide which best fits your pocket book.

Your jeweler also should be able to help you learn to see with your own eyes why some diamonds of similar size differ greatly in value, or from a practical perspective — how you might reasonably select from a variety of different sizes, all priced similarly to fit your budget.

All of us like to feel that we receive a good value when we make a major purchase.

Take time to find what you want and where you want to buy it. Diamonds, for instance, can be confusing. Even if two diamonds are the same size, color and clarity, differences in the way they were cut, their finish and fluorescence can cause one to be worth much more than the other.

BUYING GEMSTONES

Gemstones have been sought after and treasured throughout history. They have been found in ruins dating back several thousand years. They are valued as gifts symbolizing love. Generally, the price of any gemstone is determined by size, cut, quality — which includes color, clarity and treatments — and type.

Here are some simple questions to ask about quality:

- Has it been heat treated?
- Is the stone natural or

synthetic?

- Are there any noticeable scratches, chips or inclusions?
- Is the color even throughout the stone?
- How strong is the color? Is it vivid?
- If you are buying the stones for earrings or cufflinks, are the stones well-matched?

ADVICE TO PROTECT JEWELRY

Try to protect any jewelry from scratches, sharp blows, harsh chemicals, extreme temperatures and sunlight.

Here's some advice about how to keep your jewelry in good condition:

- Store jewelry separately so it doesn't scratch other jewelry.
- When doing household tasks such as gardening and cleaning, be certain to remove rings.
- Put your jewelry on after washing or bathing and applying any makeup or hair spray.
- Never wear jewelry while swimming in a swimming pool. The chlorine can cause damage to various gemstones and gold.
- Avoid storing your jewelry next to a heating vent, window sill or on a car's dashboard. Store jewelry away from sunlight (the sun may fade the gemstones).
- Always store bead necklaces (such as lapis, pearls, etc.) flat; silk stretches over time. Do not store pearls in plastic bags.
- Gemstones may become loose in their settings (and possibly fall out). Be certain that stones mounted in rings are not loose and don't rattle. The prongs of a ring can and do wear down. If the prongs wear down too much or break, you can lose the stone. Prongs are easily "retripped" by most jewelers to keep the stone secure.
- Most jewelers will restring

necklaces or reset stones (for a fee).

- Sterling silver will polish up by rubbing or buffing it with a soft cotton cloth.
- Store silver in plastic bags with an interlocking seal to make it less prone to tarnish.

Remember, also, that the hardness of stones plays into how they can be treated.

Hardness is based on a gem-trade standard called the Mohs Scale. The higher the Mohs Scale number, the harder the stone. The highest Mohs Scale rating is 10, for diamonds. Anything rated less than 7 on the scale can be easily scratched — coral, lapis lazuli, opal, pearl, turquoise, for instance. Gold, silver and platinum are at the soft end of the scale.

KEYS TO A FINE JEWELER


When you're searching for a jeweler, remember that you may spend thousands of dollars over time at this business. It's imperative to find someone you feel comfortable with and someone who is willing to work with you when you have questions about jewelry, repairs or perhaps special orders

Find a store where the owner is the jeweler, someone actively involved in the store's operation who knows his clientele and the business.


Your chosen store should be able to design and create fine jewelry. The staff should be happy to spend time with customers to educate them about jewelry and what's currently available on the market. Work should be done on the premises. After all, you've chosen your jeweler because of his or her expertise.

Look for well-known jewelry and watch lines while you're shopping. Your jeweler should offer free gift wrapping, intown delivery and above all superb customer service combined with an expert staff.

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HOW TO CHOOSE

A REALTOR

WHO IS A REALTOR®?

The terms sales associate, broker and REALTOR® are often used interchangeably, but have very different meanings. For example, not all sales associate or brokers are REALTORS®. Learn who is a REALTOR® and the reasons why you should use one. As a prerequisite to selling real estate, a person must be licensed by the state in which they work, either as an salesperson or as a broker. Before a license is issued, minimum standards for education, examinations and experience, which are determined on a state by state basis, must be met.

After receiving a real estate license, most sales associate go on to join their local association of REALTORS® and the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, the world's largest professional trade association. They can then call themselves REALTORS®. The term "REALTOR®" is a registered collective membership mark that identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribes to its strict Code of Ethics (which in many cases goes beyond state law).

It is the REALTOR® who shares information on the homes they are marketing, through a Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Working with a REALTOR® who belongs to an MLS will give you access to the greatest number of homes.

The following are important questions to ask a potential agent:

- Are you a REALTOR®?
- Do you have an active real estate license in good standing? To find this information, you can check with your state's governing agency.
- Do you belong to the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) and/or a reliable online home buyer's search service? Multiple Listing services are cooperative information networks of REALTORS® that provide descriptions of most of the

houses for sale in a particular region. If there's on nearby MLS, how often do you cooperate with other local brokers on a sale? • What have you listed or sold in this neighborhood lately?

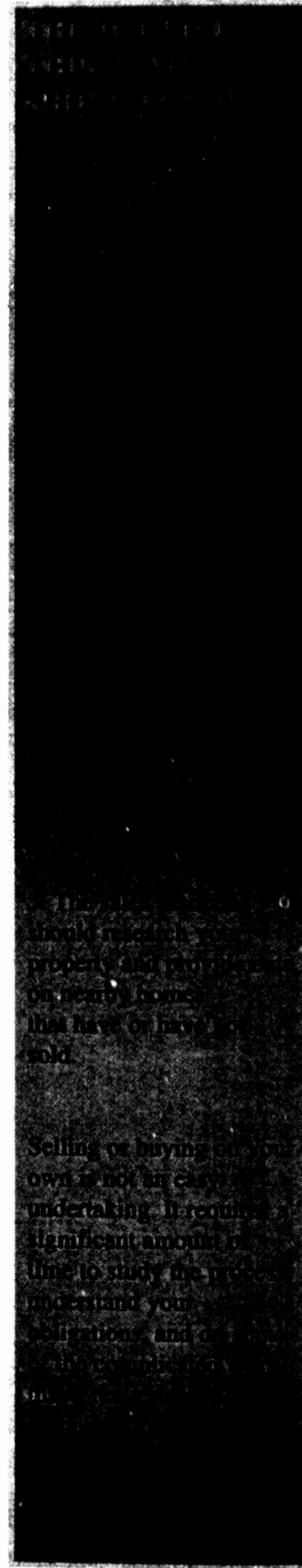
- Do you cooperate with buyer's brokers?
- What share of the commission will you offer a cooperating broker who finds the buyer?

And in addition to the criteria mentioned above, there are a number of very important reasons you will typically prefer to work with a REALTOR®. Among them is the fact that they

adhere to the NAR's highest standards of ethical conduct and professional training. **WHAT A REALTOR® WILL DO FOR YOU**

Some of the duties your REALTORS® will perform for you include:

- Walk through the process of selling your home from beginning to end.
- Provide comparable information about the prices for which other properties have sold and analyzing data for you to gain a true comparison.
- Supply information regarding local customs and regulations you may want to consider.
- Share information about your home through the Multiple Listing service and on the Internet.
- Place advertisements for your home.
- Field phone calls.
- "Qualify" potential buyers to make sure they would be financially able to buy your property.
- Prepare and present a sales contract.
- Alert you to potential risks.
- Comply with the disclosures required by law.
- Provide you with an estimate of the closing costs you will incur.
- Help you prepare for a smooth closing of the transaction.



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HOME REALTORS

Big Spring, TX 79720



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110 W. Marcy



Joe Hughes.....	353-4751	Charles Smith.....	263-1713
Linda Leonard.....	263-7500	Shirley Burgess.....	263-8729
Leah Hughes.....	267-2700	Clovis Shannon.....	263-2108
Doris Huibregtse.....	263-6525	Leslie Elrod.....	267-2442
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Kay Moore, CRS, CRI Broker/Owner

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For All Of Your Real Estate Needs**

A USER'S GUIDE TO

THE

BIG SPRING HERALD

Each day. The *Big Spring Herald* receives calls from readers - just like you - who have important questions about how the newspaper works and the services it offers. For your information and convenience, we have compiled this page of answers to readers' most frequently asked questions.

HOW TO

REPORT THE SCORE

You can report your sports results between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 263-7331, faxing 264-7205 or drop your results at the *Big Spring Herald* office at 710 Scurry, Big Spring.

HOW TO

SUBMIT NEWS INFORMATION

To announce activities or events, mail or bring by the office a typed news release or fact sheet to Editor John Moseley as far in advance as possible. The release should include the who, what, why, when, and where of the event, and the name and telephone number of a contact person. If you have a timely news item, call John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

LOCATE A SPECIFIC STORY

If you are unable to locate an article, call 263-7331, or come by the *Big Spring Herald* at 710 Scurry, and we will try to assist you. Remember, we can only provide information that appeared in the *Big Spring Herald*.

HOW

OBITUARIES ARE HANDLED

Obituaries, whether paid or non-paid, are provided to the *Big Spring Herald* by funeral homes. Non-paid obits follow a standard form, while paid obits can include virtually anything the deceased's family requests. Any questions should be directed to the Editor John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

OBTAIN BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the *Big Spring Herald* are kept on file for one year and may be purchased during regular business hours. However, some back issues sell out quickly and we cannot guarantee that any given issue will be available. You may also check with the Howard County Library reference department at 264-2262.

HOW TO

SUBMIT MARRIAGE, ENGAGEMENT OR BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit engagement, wedding, or birth announcements come by our office at 710 Scurry and pick up a form. You may also download a form from our website at www.bigspringherald.com. If you have questions regarding the guidelines for these announcements, discuss them with Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331, ext. 236.

HOW TO

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 or come by 710 Scurry. Ads can be placed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HOW TO

PLACE A DISPLAY AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 and ask for a retail advertising sales representative or visit our office at 710 Scurry. Telephone lines are open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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