



BIG SPRING

HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 126

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

INSIDE

Coahoma
falls to
Midland
Christian in
preparation
for playoffs
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Volunteers able to contain wildfire

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Howard County Volunteer Firefighters managed to avert disaster west of Big Spring Tuesday afternoon, containing a grass fire that promised to be much worse than it was.

"This one could have been a lot worse," said Tommy Sullivan, department chief. "However, we were able to get the trucks and firefighters out there quick and kept

it to just about 10 acres."

Sullivan said he hasn't been able to nail down the cause of the fire, but the location it came from is no secret.

"Whatever caused the fire, it came from the railroad tracks nearby," said Sullivan. "However, exactly what caused it is still a mystery. It could have been something from the hot box on the train, or even a transient onboard flicking a cigarette out. It's really hard to tell."

Tuesday's fire is just one of many the volunteer fire department has responded to over the last few weeks.

The group has battled blazing grass fires near the city of Forsan, in which an estimated 4,000 acres were lost, and west of the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, which consumed more than 300 acres.

According to Sullivan, the recent rash

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"Their dedication to the job, along with training and a good knowledge-base, helps prevent major losses like you see in other parts of the state."



Sullivan

HC salutes top scholars

Presidential Award goes to Chapman; Dr. Allen is outstanding educator

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Howard College celebrated its best and brightest Tuesday night during its annual awards convocation at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

More than 250 students were recognized for the leading roles they played in the classroom and in their respective organizations.

"With leaders like you, I feel very good about the future of our world," Dean of Students Javier Flores told the students.

The most prestigious award of the night, the Presidential Award for Outstanding Student of the Year, was presented to Howard College sophomore Layne Chapman.

College President Cheryl Sparks, who presented the award, said it is given to the student based on academic excellence, participation in student life, leadership qualities and overall college spirit.

Chapman, a 2004 graduate of Vernon High School, is a member of the Student Government Association, the ag live-

stock judging team and is an Intern for Congressman Randy Neugebauer.

Chapman, who will attend either Texas Tech University or Oklahoma State University, was recently selected to the 2005-06 Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges.

"As an officer of SGA, Layne has been instrumental in the development of many student activities this past year," Sparks said. "If a task needs to be completed, you can rest assure that Layne will get the job done."

Earlier in the evening, Chapman himself was a presenter, naming Dr. Nancy Allen as Outstanding Educator of the Year.

Dr. Allen, who teaches in the college's science department, is a native of Big Spring and has four degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, the most recent a doctorate in science in 1995.

"She has positively influenced hundreds and

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Layne Chapman, right, is congratulated by a friend after winning the Presidential Award for Outstanding Student of the Year at Howard College's Awards Convocation Tuesday night in Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Herald photo/Steve Reagan

Failure no option in Iraq, Bush says

By TERENCE HUNT

AP Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush said today he didn't expect to get universal support at home for the decision to invade Iraq and said failure there "is not an option."

Talking to reporters on the White House South Lawn after a meeting with a group of governors who have returned from a visit to Iraq and Afghanistan, Bush said he thanked the state chief executives for "sending a message from home that we care ... we appreciate the fact that people are willing to make sacrifices."

"I assured them that our goal in Afghanistan and Iraq is victory and there will be a victory" when those two countries are able to sustain themselves and defend themselves," he said. "I assured the governors that the United States will complete the mission."

"I fully recognize that the Iraqis must step up and form a unity government so that those who went to the polls will recognize" that they'll have a government that responds to their needs, he said.

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Gary W. Dunwoody

Imperial Potentate paying visit to Big Spring

By STEVE REAGAN

Staff Writer

Big Spring Shriners are rolling out the red carpet for the first-ever visit from the chief national officer of the fraternal organization.

Gary W. Dunwoody, Imperial Potentate of the North American Shriners, and his wife Wanda will visit Big Spring for three days starting tonight, said John Keller of the local Shrine club.

This marks the first time that the top officer of the national organization has visited Big Spring, and will be one of a few visits by Dunwoody to Texas this year.

"This is a big deal for us," Keller said. "For him to take time out of his schedule and visit us is a great honor."

As the "Imperial Sir" of the North American Shrine organization, Dunwoody is responsible for 191 Shrine Centers and 22

Shrine hospitals. The annual budget for the hospitals alone is \$649 million, Keller said.

"You might say he's the CEO of the Shrine Centers, as well as being on the board of directors for the Shrine hospitals," Keller said. "Clearly, he's a very, very busy man."

Dunwoody's visit coincides with the organization's Spring Ceremonial, a time when new members are installed.

After a welcoming dinner

tonight, Dunwoody will spend much of Thursday touring Big Spring. Scheduled stops include Hangar 25 Air Museum, the wind turbine farm south of town, Heritage Museum, the spring and other points, Keller said.

Later that evening, the Shriners will hold a celebration dinner at Dora Roberts Community Center. While

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PRESS SECRETARY RESIGNS

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House press secretary Scott McClellan said today he is resigning, continuing a shake-up in President Bush's administration that has already yielded a new chief of staff and could lead to a change in the Cabinet.

Appearing with Bush on the White House South Lawn just before the president boarded a helicopter at the start a trip to Alabama, McClellan, who has parried especially fiercely with reporters on Iraq and on intelligence issues, told Bush: "I have given it my all sir and I have given you my all sir, and I will continue to do so as we transition to a new press secretary."

HOMELESS, NOT HONORLESS

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A homeless man searching through garbage bins for recyclable cans found a missing wallet and had it returned to its owner.

Kim Bogue, who works as a janitor in the city's government buildings, realized that her wallet was missing last week and doubted she'd ever get back the \$900 and credit cards inside, she said.

"I prayed that night and asked God to help me," said Bogue.

Days later, a homeless man found the wallet wrapped in a plastic bag in a trash bin, where Bogue had accidentally thrown it away. "He has a very good heart," said Bogue, who gave the man a \$100 reward.

WATER INCONVENIENCE

The Water Utilities Department with the city of Big Spring will be replacing water valves on 16th Street Saturday, with work set to begin at 10 p.m. and continue until service is restored.

Residents in the following areas may experience no or low water pressure:
- 16th Street from Johnson to Lancaster;
- Runnels from 16th Street to 13th Street;
- Sheppard from 16th Street to 18th Street;
- Main from 16th Street to 18th Street;
- Scurry from 15th Street to 16th Street.
For more information, call 264-2392 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Obituaries

Sarah Barton

Sarah Barton, 72, of Big Spring died Monday, April 17, 2006, at Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Veterans Home. Private family services will be held at a later date.

She was born Jan. 27, 1934, in Roanoke, Va. She married Robert "Bob" Barton Aug. 22, 1950, in Maryland. They came to Big Spring in August of 1970 and she was a homemaker.

She is survived by her husband, Robert "Bob" Barton of Big Spring; two sons, Robert M. Barton and Mike Barton, both of Big Spring; one daughter, Sarah Brewster of Anson; one sister, Mary Ricco of Baltimore, Md.; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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

Support groups

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets at the Spanish Inn on Northwest Third Street at 6 p.m. today. For more information, call 398-5522.

TUESDAY

• The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 6 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1005 Birdwell Lane. The next meeting is March 28. Call Tracey at 263-4948 for more information.

Lunch Bunch meets

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

Take note

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

• FORSAN ELBOW ELEMENTARY pre-kindergarten and kindergarten pre-registration continues through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Elbow elementary. Call 398-5444 for more information.

• AN ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT CITIZENS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION for 21-month-old Madysyn Hillger, in care of her grandmother, Debra Hillger. Madysyn has been diagnosed with a rare neurological-genetic disorder, Rett Syndrome. Donations will be applied to travel, medical and lodging expenses. For more information, call 264-7340 or 816-1024.

• HOWARD COLLEGE STUDENT ART SPRING SHOWCASE continues with a reception from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m. Thursday. For more information, call Stacy Slaten at 264-5115.

• WEST TEXAS OPPORTUNITIES HANDS-ON ENERGY WORKSHOP is 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. April 25 downstairs in the Howard County Library.

• KEEP BIG SPRING BEAUTIFUL FLEA MARKET is 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. May 6 in the Big Spring Mall parking lot and booth space is available. Applications are available at the mall office or the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 263-9231.

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

• BIG SPRING HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1996 10th YEAR REUNION needs addresses and contact

Police blotter

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

- REBECCA TERRY, 42, transient, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ROSENDO RODRIGUEZ, 36, of 804 Lancaster, was arrested Tuesday on six local warrants, a Howard County warrant and a charge of public intoxication.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1800 block of FM 700.
 - in the 1300 block of Tucson.
- POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE was reported in the 600 block of Sixth Street.
- ASSAULT/CLASS C was reported in the 1500 block of Fourth Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- TIMMY WAYNE ROGERS, 26, was arrested Tuesday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated sexual assault.
- THEFT was reported in the 6100 block of East Midway Road.
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS was reported in the 6100 block of East Midway Road.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION was reported in the 4500 block of East Interstate Highway 20.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 900 block of West Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 5200 block of Sterling Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 700 block of Douglas. Service was refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 1700 block of Morrison. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 400 block of Westover Road. Service was refused.
- TRAUMA was reported near the intersection of 15th Street and Goliad. Service was refused.
- GRASS FIRE was reported in the 2600 block of Carleton. The fire was extinguished.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2500 block of Lynn. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT was reported near the intersection of 15th Street and Goliad. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of West 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

information for classmates. Call Mindy at 267-6524 or 267-7631.

• FORSAN EX-STUDENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL ALL-CLASS REUNION is Aug. 5. Names, addresses and class years for Forsan exes are needed. Submit information or pictures for a newsletter before June 15 to Ida Lou Raney, 5216 Dawson Dr., Big Spring or call 432-267-2414, Jimmy Anderson at 432-267-6143 or Opal Stout at 325-574-2150, or e-mail hiraney@crcom.net.

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

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

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

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

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

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, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- 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.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels.
- LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 6 p.m. in the board room of the YMCA. Agenda items include Cinco de Mayo preparations. For more information, contact Raul Marquez at 267-0203 or e-mail lulac_jennifer@cox.net.
- American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.
- Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- 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.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Scattered showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Lows in the mid 50s. East winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable. The chance of rain is 30 percent.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy. Chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may be severe with large hail and damaging winds in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 70s. East winds 10 to 20 mph. The chance of rain is 40 percent.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening...Then mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Some thunderstorms may be severe with large hail and damaging winds in the evening. Lows in the mid 50s. East winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northeast after midnight. The chance of rain is 40 percent.

Friday...Decreasing clouds. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. North winds around 10 mph in the morning becoming light and variable.

Lottery

A single ticket has won the grand prize from the latest Mega Millions lotto drawing.

Lottery officials said the winning ticket from Tuesday night's drawing — worth \$265 million — was sold in Cincinnati.

In addition to the grand prize winner, 21 players matched all five numbers but not the Mega Ball number. They will receive second prizes of \$250,000 each.

The winning numbers from Tuesday night's drawing were: 13, 14, 25, 34 and 50. The Mega Ball number was 6.

...

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-9-19-26-32.

Number matching five of five: 1.

Prize per winner: \$29,288.

Winning tickets sold in: DFW Airport.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-5-6

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Texas briefs

Judges: Allstate charging too much

AUSTIN (AP) — Two judges have ruled that Allstate charges excessive rates for homeowners insurance and should reduce them.

State insurance regulators want the company to reduce its homeowners rates by 10 percent and refund its customers for rates dating to Dec. 30, 2004.

"The decision supports our contention that Allstate has been using excessive rates in Texas," said Jim Hurley, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Insurance.

Allstate, which has 800,000 customers in Texas, said it will file objections to the judges' decision.

"We maintain that our rates are competitive and reasonable and appropriate for the risk in Texas," Allstate spokesman Joe McCormick said.

District stops payments under share-the-wealth school plan

BOERNE (AP) — Directors of the Boerne Independent School District have decided to withhold so-called "Robin Hood" payments from the state while they ask the Texas Attorney General's Office whether the payments are legal.

Labeled a rich district under the state's share-the-wealth school finance system, Boerne owes the state \$2.3 million by August.

The Texas Supreme Court ruled last fall that the state's method of funding schools is unconstitutional and set a June 1 deadline to repair the system. Lawmakers convened Monday in Austin to address the issue.

The court did not throw out the state's system of redistributing money from rich districts to poor ones. But Boerne school board President Joe Davis said the court's decision

undermines the entire system.

"If the attorney general determines that continuing to make our payments is illegal, the district may have the funds necessary to avoid cuts to personnel and programs during the next school year, particularly in the event that the state does not provide adequate funding," Davis said.

The board voted Monday to put the \$2.3 million in an "interest bearing account."

Debbie Ratcliffe, a spokeswoman for the Texas Education Agency, said this is the first time a district has refused to make payments. She said the district risks being divided or consolidated if the money isn't paid by the fall.

The court's ruling didn't nullify a contract Boerne officials signed last year obligating it to pay \$4.1 million in "recapture funds" to the state this year, Ratcliffe said.

Police investigate Taser use in suspect's death

LUBBOCK (AP) — Authorities are investigating the death of a domestic violence suspect after an officer used a stun gun to bring him under control.

A Lubbock police officer responding to a domestic dispute on Sunday used a Taser stun gun to control Juan Manuel Nunez III, 27, who was acting violently, Lt. Chris Powe said.

Nunez fell to the ground and appeared to be in distress, which prompted the officer to call medics. Nunez died at a Lubbock hospital.

The cause of death has not been determined, Lubbock police Sgt. Neal Barron said Tuesday.

Barron said the officer, whom police have not identified, was placed on paid administrative leave, which is standard procedure when a death occurs.

Powe said police are waiting for the results

of a toxicology report to determine if Nunez had alcohol or drugs in his system when the death occurred.

The state Attorney General's Office and the Lubbock County District Attorney will both investigate the case, Powe said.

Lubbock police are also conducting an internal investigation to determine whether the officer followed department policy. The department allows Taser use if an officer feels threatened.

A report released last month by Amnesty International cataloged 156 cases nationwide in the past five years when people died after being shocked while in police custody.

Senator files bill to prohibit funeral protests

AUSTIN (AP) — Funeral protests by members of an anti-gay church in Kansas would be illegal under legislation proposed Tuesday by state Sen. Robert Duncan.

The legislation, which is not included in the call for the special legislative session that began Monday, doesn't specifically mention the protests of Westboro Baptist Church but was designed with them in mind.

Duncan's proposal would make it a Class B misdemeanor to protest within 500 feet of the site of a funeral service from one hour before to one hour after a site is used for a service.

The Topeka, Kan., church group, which claims that God is killing U.S. soldiers who fight for a country that tolerates homosexuality, protests at military funerals.

Governors in Oklahoma and Iowa have signed legislation making such protests illegal.

The proposal by Duncan, R-Lubbock, would prohibit protests on "social, economic, political or religious questions."



Duncan

FIRES

Continued from Page 1A

of fires has taken its toll. "The team's hanging in there," said Sullivan. "However, we're having trouble with equipment breaking down right now. We've had a truck down since the Forsan fires. These types of fires really tax your equipment, and ours is starting to feel the pressure."

Sullivan said no injuries or major property damage was reported as a result of Tuesday's fire.

"We were able to keep it to just a few fence posts," said Sullivan. "I'm really proud of the way our team handled themselves out there. Their dedication to the job, along with training and a good knowledge-base, helps prevent major losses like you see in other parts of the state."

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

Supreme Court considers test of insanity defense

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eric Clark thought he was being pursued by aliens before he shot and killed an Arizona police officer nearly five years ago.

Clark, a 17-year-old schizophrenic, was found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. His lawyer argued that he was

"guilty except insane" and should instead be sent to a psychiatric facility.

The Supreme Court was reviewing Clark's appeal on Wednesday, in what may become a significant test of state insanity laws.

All but four states — Idaho, Kansas, Montana and Utah —

allow insanity defenses, but the ruling in Clark's case could force legislatures to change their laws.

Arizona allows defendants to claim they were insane at the time of a crime, but Clark's lawyer David Goldberg said the standard to prove it is almost impossible, violating the constitutional rights of mentally ill

defendants.

State lawyers said that their system guarantees that defendants are held responsible for crimes, if they are not insane, and argues that the Supreme Court should not use this case to declare for the first time a constitutional right to an insanity defense.

BUSH

Continued from Page 1A

"We understand very well that the political process in Iraq must occur very soon," the

president added. "I don't expect everybody to agree with my decision to go into Iraq. But I want the American people to understand that failure in Iraq is not an option" and that success there will "begin to lay the founda-

tion for a peace" that will last for generations.

Gov. Mitch Daniels of Indiana said he was heartened by what he saw there, and said that "every thing that can be

done is being done a daily basis" by U.S. forces in Iraq.

Daniels said the commitment to the mission in Iraq "is unanimous. They believe they're doing

something important."

West Va. Gov. Joe Machin said the troops there are "committed to getting the job done ... It was so good to see them in high spirits."

SHRINERS

Continued from Page 1A

Mayor Russ McEwen will issue a proclamation honoring Dunwoody's visit, Keller said the evening will mostly be devoted to entertainment.

"We're just going to talk and eat and visit with each other," he said.

"We're just going to have a good time."

On Friday, Dunwoody's visit will conclude with golf at the city municipal course, Keller said.

Dunwoody, of Little Rock, Ark., is the 171st Imperial Potentate of the Shrine of North America.

AWARDS

Continued from Page 1A

thousands of students in the State of Texas while employed by Texas A&M, the University of Texas, Austin Community College, Burnet Independent School District and now Howard College," Chapman said.

Other awards presented Thursday night included:

- Outstanding Workforce Education Student — Rosa Canales.
- USA Today All-Academic Team — Gracie Acosta and April Collins.
- American Legion Citizenship Award — Ricahrd Villa and Andrea Torres.

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Community of Hope

RELAY FOR LIFE

On May 19 and 20, many of your friends and neighbors will run or walk on a track for 24 hours at Blankenship Field in an effort to put cancer on the run. At 10 p.m. on Friday, May 19, there will be a chance for you to participate in a candle lighting ceremony to honor special people in your life who have battled cancer or are undergoing treatment now.

Luminaries may be purchased for a donation either by filling out and returning the form below or at the event preceding the ceremony.

Please Print

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Please write the following message on my luminary: _____

Purchased by: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to: ACS / Relay for Life

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Coahoma, TX 79511

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Big Spring, TX 79720

For more information: Call 267-6286

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

The horror of Hamas

The horror of Monday's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, which killed the bomber and nine other people and wounded scores more, presented Hamas with an opportunity to break from its history as a supporter of terrorism. Instead, a spokesman for Hamas, which formed a Palestinian parliamentary government last month, described the attack carried out by another group, Islamic Jihad, as an act of self-defense.

If there was any lingering doubt that the U.S. and Europe were right to ostracize the Hamas government and cut off economic aid, it has been dramatically dispelled.

That doesn't mean Israel should respond to the attack with self-defeating actions, such as a wholesale reoccupation of the Gaza Strip. It does mean that Israel has cause to crack down anew on Islamic Jihad and institute stronger security measures along the "Green Line" separating Israel and the West Bank — even if that means injuring and inconveniencing innocent Palestinians.

In the past, when the Palestinian Authority was controlled by the late Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, Israelis and the United States often complained that Palestinian denunciations of terrorism were not accompanied by measures on the ground to prevent such attacks. Hamas was incapable of even a rhetorical condemnation of Monday's atrocity.

Instead, Hamas spokesman Sami abu Zuhri said the attack outside a fast-food shop was "the natural result of continued Israeli aggression and escalation and can only be considered a form of self-defense." Morally repellent in themselves, these sentiments raise the question of whether Hamas' own cessation of terrorist attacks is a temporary expedient or an unnecessary one — because its allies will continue to kill and maim Israelis.

It is small consolation to Israelis that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned Monday's attack or that Abbas insists that Palestinian security forces are under his control, not Hamas'. Still, even though his influence has been waning, he remains a voice for the two-state solution that even Ariel Sharon came to recognize as the way out of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In reacting, as it must, to the attack, Israel must be careful not to marginalize Abbas further.

The Los Angeles Times

How To Contact Us

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Planes, babies and moms

At airports I see young mothers traveling with a baby and a 3-year-old toddler. It is an amazing sight.

The mother is pushing a baby carriage about the size of a Volkswagen. It has large wheels, pockets, shelves, brakes, a sun visor and windshield.

Built-in snap-on compartments hold everything from baby bottles to pacifiers.

The mother is pushing the stroller while carrying half a dozen bags strapped over her shoulders. Her toddler is wearing a backpack filled mostly with toys and books.

The mother seems calm, cool and collected.

She apparently has done this before and doesn't consider it to be anything out of the ordinary. No big deal.

I think young mothers traveling by air with a couple of youngsters

are courageous individuals.

They are certainly organized. When they stop to get a bite to eat at an airport walk-up restaurant, they serenely stand in line, wait their turn and order their food.

The young mom now has more to carry and does it with all the class and style of a model walking down a runway at a fashion show. It is a ballet of calculated movement and skill.

The toddler helps, usually carrying a small drink the mother has just purchased.

When they get to a table, the mother puts down the food, disengages herself from the bags on her shoulders, tends to the baby in the carriage and prepares the food for the walking child.

Then she eats.

It can't possibly be an enjoyable experience because she's constantly checking on the baby and the 3 year old. But we seldom see any signs of agitation.

Although the moms must be under considerable pressure, they seem composed, appearing tranquil and unruffled.

Standing in line, I see the paraphernalia and wonder how in the

world is all that going to get on the plane. Sometimes the mom checks the carriage and a piece of luggage. Sometimes the whole shebang gets on the plane. Passengers are wonderful to help.

They see the young mom struggling with all the stuff in a small, crowded space and offer to help.

Usually the moms let them put a bag in the overhead space and hold other items while she gets seated.

On crowded planes, when the mother arrives late, passengers cooperate to make sure the mom and her toddler are able to sit together.

Babes in arms travel free if they're under 2 years old.

That means the mother has to hold the baby during the entire flight.

I usually see all this on short flights of an hour or so. The baby doesn't cry, the toddler reads a book or drinks from a sippy cup.

When the flight ends, passengers again are willing to help load up the mom with all her belongings. They appreciate her ability to not only cope, but also do so without complaining.

Way to go, girls. You're amazing.



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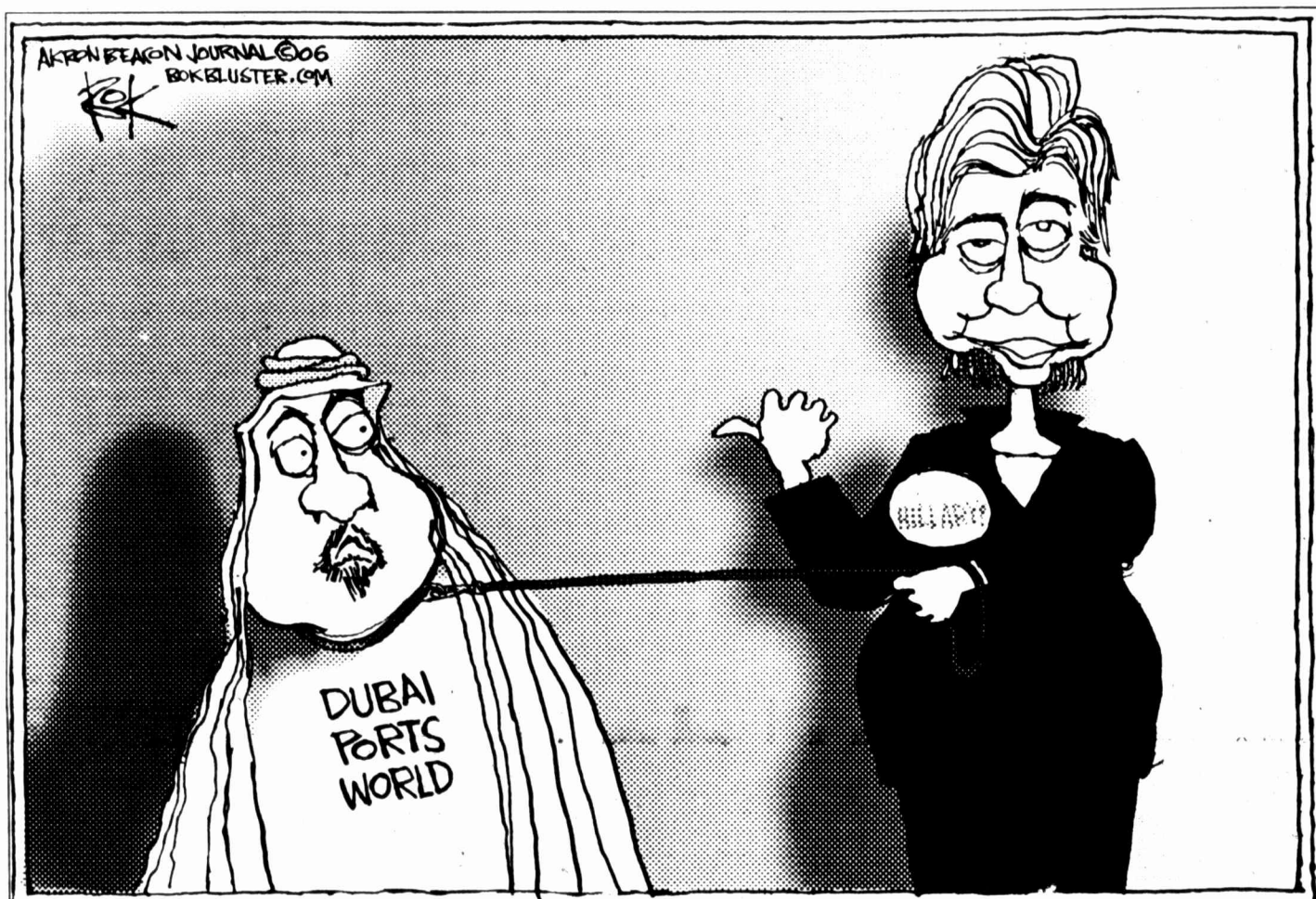


PHOTO SHOWING HUMILIATING TREATMENT OF MODERATE ARAB

Immigration: A license to be mean

They tell you that the influx of Latinos is changing American culture, that illegal immigrants are turning the United States into a third-world country, that Spanish could become the predominant language, that the boogey man is coming across the Mexican border.

And then, after expressing all their xenophobic feelings after showing how they fear that Latino immigrants are taking over, some Americans want you to believe that it is terrorism that made them this way.

After Sept. 11, they tell you — as if that day they received a license to be mean-spirited and to discard the principles that made this a great nation of immigrants.

They tell you that their problem is with illegal immigrants, and yet, they don't seem very concerned with those who come illegally across the Canadian border or those who come from Europe and overstay their visas.

Their problem is with Latinos, and not because many are coming illegally, but because they are growing in numbers. Census figures terrify them.

This is a white Anglo-Saxon nation, and they want to make sure it stays that way.

Fortunately, the people who think this way are a small minority. But unfortunately, the few who suffer from this xenophobic paranoia are the ones who are out there speaking for the many Americans who have legitimate concerns about security and terrorism.

They wrap themselves in the American flag, and they use ter-

Hispanic American see the recent war against illegal immigrants as an offensive against them. And on election day, they are going to fight back

the argument that we must secure our borders. Many immigrants, legal and illegal, are concerned about that, too.

But when that concern translates into discrimination against a people who have nothing to do with terrorism, when it turns into bigotry against Mexicans and other Latinos, that argument loses credibility.

When Latinos are falsely accused of having a hidden agenda to change the ethnic and racial makeup of the United States or to impose the Spanish language or to take back the land that was taken from Mexico, it makes them angry.

Knowing that no such agenda exists, they see there is only one explanation: Chronic xenophobia. Latinos see it as an effort to roll back the clock and take away the rights they have struggled to gain.

What American culture are they trying to save? Anglo-Saxon culture or the one that has been fluctuating ever since immigrants started to come here? And weren't the first American immigrants from Mexico and Spain?

Remember the Conquistadores? The bashers tell you that they are only trying to hold the line against only those immigrants who are illegal, that some of their best friends are Latinos. But they can't disguise their racism. It's brown people that they resent and fear.

When they tell me that some of their best friends are Latinos, I tell them that some of my best friends are bigots.

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

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Sexual Assault Awareness Month Victim Services volunteers answer crisis hotline calls

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Features Editor

Victim Services celebrated National Volunteer Week, April 24-28, with a special luncheon Wednesday for the 14 volunteers who serve on call throughout the month for the crisis hotline.

"We could not do what we do without our volunteers and I want to thank each one of you," said Linda Perez, assistant director/volunteer coordinator for the organization.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Perez said volunteers are needed now more than ever.

"Our volunteers are victim advocates. They respond to that call that may come from law enforcement, from a rape victim or from a victim of domestic violence," Perez said.

Recently, eight individuals completed the 40-hour training required to serve as a crisis volunteer.

The class learned the characteristics of victims, domestic abusers, the role of being an advocate and the difference between assisting and rescuing.

"This was the largest class we've ever had complete the training and we are thrilled to have these women and men on board," Perez said.

The classes included special sessions with Dr. Barbara Matthews and Dr. Michael Downing. Matthews works with victims and Downing often counsels with perpetrators.

Volunteers also learned about obtaining a protective order, a criminal trespass warning and

Big Spring blood drives scheduled

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

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

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

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

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

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

about resources available, including crime victims compensations.

Volunteers participated in role playing to practice answering crisis calls, toured the women's shelter in Midland and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners program at Scenic Mountain Medical Center and listened to actual case stories to familiarize themselves with some of the calls they might receive.

One area stressed throughout the training was the need to remain confidential when dealing with victims.

"Everything we do is strictly confidential. Victims may call us without any fear of us breaking their confidentiality," Perez said.

Shann Thomas, director of Victim Services, presented case notes on a call she received several years ago, explaining how she still wonders how the individual is and whether conflicts still arise.

"I always think of this person. This was the worst call I ever received and my heart just broke listening to the details. We present the worst cases to the volunteers, to steel them against what they may hear," Thomas said.

Denise Hester, victim coordinator, presented the legal documents to the volunteers, such as a protective order and crime victims compensation, including the steps she will take to protect victims.

"If I find out an abuser

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION



Victim Services recognized their volunteers with a special luncheon Tuesday at Gale's Sweet Shoppe. Eight individuals recently completed 40-hours of training to become a crisis volunteer. Attending are Maria holding her daughter, Mia, Linda Perez, Victim Services assistant director/volunteer coordinator, Renee Burleson, administrative assistant, Shann Thomas, director of Victim Services, Denise Hester, victim coordinator, Brian Patterson, an intern student from the University of Texas at the Permian Basin, and seated, volunteer Sandra, Pam and Gloria. Others not pictured who are also crisis counselors are Mary, Scott, Marci, Ruth, Barbara, Cindy, Irene, Ruth, Polly and Ellen.

is on parole or probation, you better bet I'm on the phone to their officer. They all know me," Hester said.

Renee Burleson, administrative assistant, also presented to the volunteers the logistics of operating the crisis line and being on call. Volunteers are asked to serve 48 hours each month.

"The most important thing to ask at the beginning of any crisis call is 'are you in immediate danger.' The second most important thing to ask is

'do you need medical attention,'" Burleson said.

Volunteers meet once each month to sign up on the VS calendar for the upcoming month. A cell phone is used, along with an answering service, so that no one receives a recorded message when calling the hotline.

"We do not want anyone to ever call our hotline and hear 'press one for domestic abuse or two for sexual assault.' What we do is personal and we want to keep it as personal as possible," Perez said.

Volunteers are key listeners, she said. In fact, just listening to the caller is 98 percent of the assignment, she said.

"Our volunteers give callers choices and options. We're not judges or juries — we're here to listen and offer resources available," Perez said.

For more information, call Victim Services at 263-3312.

Contact Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331 or e-mail life@bigspringherald.com.

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

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Howard College art show concludes with reception

The Howard College Student Spring Art Showcase in the campus library concludes Thursday with a reception for the artists from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

About 60 entries were submitted to the show, including work in ceramic, china marker and computer-enhanced graphic designs.

The art department is under the direction of art professor Stacy Slaten.

Pictured are, top left, "Sand Bowl," by LaDonna Parker; "My sweet puppy," by Nancy Garrett; Untitled by Gabriel Ramirez; and right, "Caliburne," by David Gonzalez. Watch for more art work in the life! weekend edition.

Herald photos/Marsha Sturdivant



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A Case of Self-Delusion

East dealer.
East-West vulnerable.
NORTH
♦ 8 5 4
♥ 9 3
♦ Q J 9 3
♣ A K 5 4

WEST
♦ Q J 2
♥ K Q 10 8 7
♦ K 4
♣ 9 3 2

SOUTH
♦ A 6 3
♥ A J 5
♦ A 10 7
♣ Q J 7 6

The bidding:
East South West North
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — king of hearts.
Some plays are so well known that when the opportunity to use one of them arises, there is a tendency to make the play automatically, without pause for thought. This is a somewhat dangerous practice, since what is right on most occasions might easily be wrong on a particular deal.

Consider this case where West led the king of hearts against three notrump. Recognizing the chance for a Bath Coup, declarer allowed West's king to hold the trick, hoping West would continue with a heart into the

A-J. Unfortunately, this was a case where the cure proved worse than the disease.

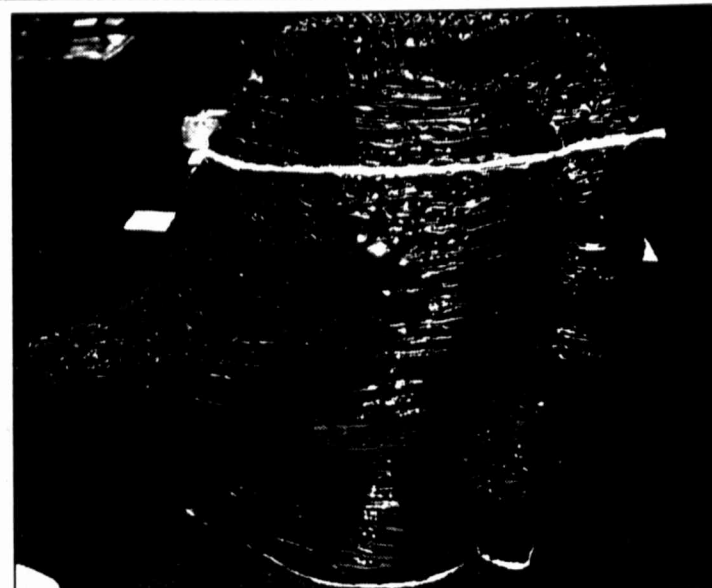
Cautioned against a heart continuation by partner's discouraging deuce, West switched to the spade queen. South ducked, but when West continued with the jack, covered by East with the king, declarer was well on his way to irreversible defeat. If he ducked the king, East would return a heart through the A-J, while if he won the trick, the defenders would eventually finish with three spades, a heart and the diamond king for down one.

South should have realized that ducking the heart king was wrong for two reasons: First, West was very likely to shift to a spade; and second, South was in a position to guarantee a minimum of nine tricks if he took the first trick with the ace. He would then cross to dummy with a club and lead the diamond queen.

If East had the king and did not cover, the finesse could be repeated to yield at least three diamond tricks. If the finesse lost to West, declarer would have nine ironclad tricks consisting of three diamonds, four clubs and the two major-suit aces.

All of which goes to prove that a little knowledge can sometimes be a dangerous thing.

Tomorrow: Sylvia strikes again.
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IN SUNDAY'S BIG SPRING HERALD



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Library News

Recently donated to the Library, "Complete Book of Embroidery," (746.44 COS M0) by Melinda Coss is wonderful for any embroiderer. It shows in excellent detail how each stitch is made.

Color photos and diagrams make this book easy to use. You'll come back to it over and over again. It is wonderfully laid out and categorized. A must for any needle crafter's library.

Although this book is a wonderful reference for stitches, it is not a good pattern book. The patterns given in this book are more for examples of how to use many of the stitches.

Noted Lincoln historian James L. Swanson pens a historical novel in the genre of Jeff Shaara. In "Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer," (364.152 SWA J) Swanson not only takes you there, he places you in the mind and soul of John Wilkes Booth, those who hid him and those who tracked him.

Though surely a page turner, this is no quick read, weighing in at well over 400 pages. However,

if you love history, mystery and detective stories, then Swanson has woven them all into "Manhunt."

Even readers with a love for the Civil War will find the account of these 12 days filled with never learned or frequently forgotten details. "Manhunt" is well worth reading, both for its historical depth and its psychological awareness.

When visiting my mother, she always grabs the section of the paper that contains the obituaries. When I visit my sister in San Antonio, I always read the obituaries.

This is not a morbid pastime, but a discovery of lives that have been lived to their fullest. Marilyn Johnson's "The Dead Beat" (070.449 JOH M) is a funny and touching book that has expanded my knowledge of an unsung yet immensely popular literary form.

This book isn't about the paid obituaries by friends and relatives of the deceased. It's about the life (and death) stories written by newspaper staff writers. They are tributes to celebrities, ordinary folks and those who had a peripheral role in a historic or social context of their day.

Besides presenting the story of a life, they are history as it is happening.

Cheryl Strayed's first novel is "Torch" (F STR

C). Teresa Rae Wood is famous in her small town of Midden, Minn., for hosting Modern Pioneers, a local radio program that gives tips on living off the land.

At the age of 38, she is diagnosed with a virulent form of cancer and dies within months. Her common-law husband, Bruce and her children, 20-year-old Claire and 18-year-old Josh, are left reeling.

Bruce abruptly marries his next-door neighbor, Josh becomes heavily involved in dealing speed and Claire single-mindedly devotes herself to keeping her mother's memory alive.

What they learn about grief over the succeeding months gives each of them the strength to both ask for help and respect each other's vastly different coping methods.

Daniel Silva has composed a complex character in Gabriel Allon. Allon is an art restorer who is also deeply enmeshed as an agent for the Israeli security department, Mossad.

The Library has just received two of his books "The Confessor" and "A Death in Vienna." (look for them in the Fiction area) If you are a "series" person, then you should read "The Confessor" first.

They are good and a complex story line links three of the books together.

er. The "Kill Artist" is first in the series and we do have it.

"The Last Supper" (B SIE J) is Javier Sierra's first book that has been translated into English. It revolves around a papal inquisitor's investigation into Leonardo da Vinci's alleged heresies and offers a new way of interpreting The Last Supper.

After receiving a series of cryptic messages from "the Soothsayer," who warns the 15th century church that "art can be employed as a weapon," the Secretariat of Keys of the Papal States dispatches Father Agostino Leyre on a twofold mission to Milan: identify the Soothsayer and discover what, if any, messages da Vinci is hiding in the

painting.

Leyre, who narrates, views the in-progress Last Supper at the Santa Maria delle Grazie and becomes fascinated. He makes a series of sometimes muddled discoveries about the painting, leading up to his interpretation of the painting's true meaning (not revealed until the last line of the last page).

Those not well versed in Catholic history may have trouble following the many subplots involving factionalism and dissent within the church. The combination of code breaking, secrecy and chicanery within the Catholic Church and a certain artist is by now a familiar one, but Sierra's book, already a bestseller

in Europe, is a fresh contribution to the da Vinci industry. This review is from Booklist.

The Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. The Internet/video room closes one-half hour earlier and is closed from noon until 1 p.m. Saturdays. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. The phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us. The catalog is online.

Hollis McCright is the Howard County librarian. E-mail her at hollise@hotmail.com.

Elbow pre-registration set

Forsan Elbow Elementary pre-kindergarten and kindergarten registration is set for 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. through Friday at the school.

Children who are 4 years old or who will be on or before Sept. 1 are eligible for pre-kindergarten. Students 5 years old or who will be 5 on or before Sept. 1 should enroll in kindergarten.

Parents should bring their child's birth certificate, Social Security card, immunization records, proof of residency, such as a utility bill and proof of income such as a pay check stub to the school to register.

For more information, call the school at 398-5444.

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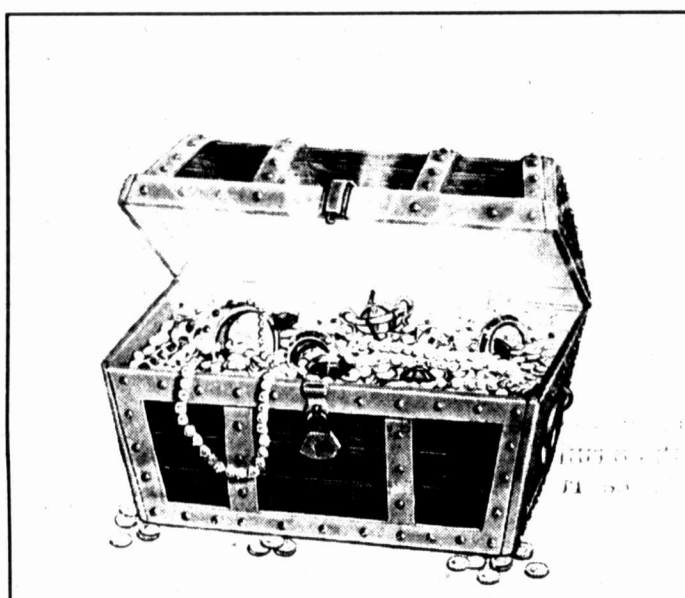
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RULES and REGULATIONS:

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, 2006.
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.
4. The "treasure chest" will be hidden on public property. It is not necessary to dig or move anything to find it. The *Big Spring Herald*, KBVG and sponsors cannot be responsible for acts of God (wind, rain, animals, etc.), but will monitor the hiding place.
5. To be declared the winner of the \$250, any finder of the "treasure chest" must present it to the *Big Spring Herald*, 710 Scurry, Big Spring. You must have at least one clue from one of the sponsors, and must not have been disqualified by the judges.
6. The *Big Spring Herald* and KBVG reserve the right to stop the contest or change contest rules effective immediately upon publication in the *Big Spring Herald* and/or announcement on KBVG.
7. By presentation of the "treasure chest" you agree to allow the use of your name and photograph by the *Big Spring Herald* and KBVG in future promotions.
8. Employees, carriers and their families of the *Big Spring Herald* and KBVG are not eligible.
9. In cases of dispute, the decision of the judges is final.

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IN BRIEF

HC rodeo team sets annual crawfish bowl

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

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

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

KBSB golf touney set for Saturday

Keep Big Spring Beautiful will be hosting a golf tournament Saturday at the Big Spring Country Club.

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

BSHS volleyball meeting announced

Big Spring head volleyball coach Jason McAden will be holding a parent-player meeting April 27 in the Athletic Training Center at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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.

Ragball touney set to benefit Relay For Life

A Relay For Life ragball tournament will take place at the Big Spring ISD Softball Field Saturday and Sunday.

Registration for the tournament will take place Saturday at 10 a.m. and teams must consist of five men and five women.

The cost of the tournament will be \$10 per player.

For more information or to sign up a team, call Angel at the Big Spring Bus Barn at 264-4108.

Softball touney set at Cotton Mize

The first-ever Spring Classic softball tournament will take place at Cotton Mize Field, inside Comanche Trail Park Saturday and Sunday.

Bulldogettes can't find clutch hits in defeat

• Coahoma strands 15 on bases, Roberts fans 10 in defeat

By TROY HYDE

SPORTS EDITOR
COAHOMA — The Bulldogettes did enough at the plate to win Tuesday night at home, but stranded 15 runners on the bases and lost to Class 5A Midland Christian, 3-0, in a nondistrict game which was used to get ready for the postseason.

No. 5 Coahoma collected nine hits and walked five times but stranded the bases loaded in the second, third and seventh innings. They also stranded two runners on base more than once.

"It's frustrating," said Coahoma head coach Robby Dickenson. "We couldn't get the clutch hits when we had runners on base. We would either wait until we had two outs to get runners on or we would put them on early in the inning and couldn't get them in."

Midland Christian stranded eight runners on base in the game and struck out 10 times against all-state pitcher Kali Roberts, but was able to score three runs in the fourth inning.

Roberts, who only had one 1-2-3 inning in the game, gave up a single to start the inning and then Midland Christian put two on with another single.

Roberts walked the fourth hitter of the inning, struck out the fifth batter for the second out, but then walked in the first run of the game on a close pitch which

could have been called a strike. A strikeout would have ended the inning and left the bases loaded for Midland Christian.

"(The ump) had a lot of guts to call that pitch a ball because it looked awfully close to me," said Dickenson. "We had our chances to win so I am not blaming the umpire for anything."

The next Midland Christian batter hit a two-run single to the wall to make the game 3-0. A ground out ended the inning, but the damage had been done.

"Midland Christian put the ball in play against Kali again, but that was really the only inning that hurt us," said Dickenson. "They took advantage of having runners on base and we didn't and that was the difference."

The Bulldogettes got three straight singles by freshman Shelbi Paige, sophomore Christie Rich and senior Drew Wells in the second inning to load the bases with two outs.

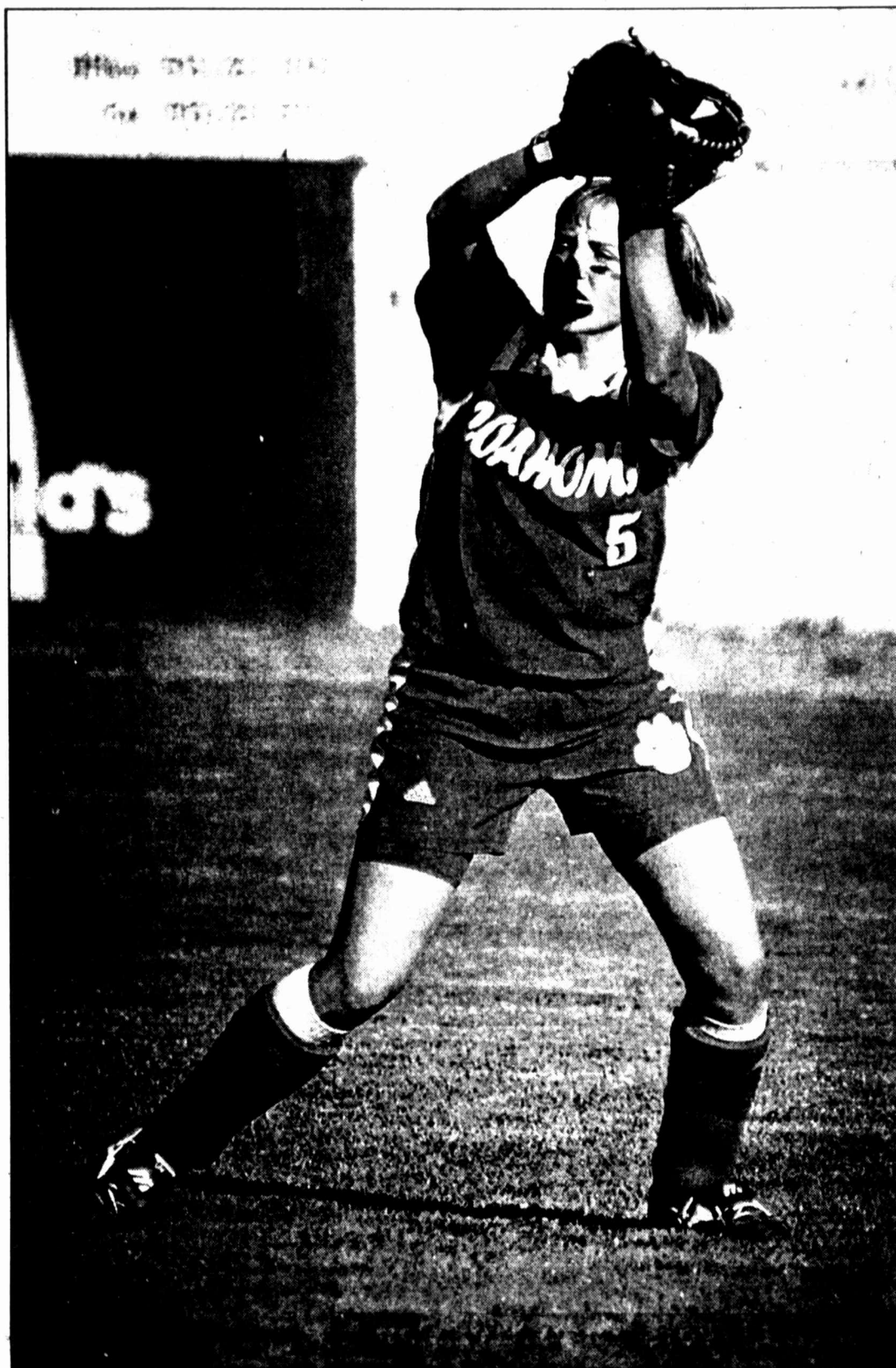
With two outs in the third, Roberts walked, senior Sarah Dunn singled and senior Liz Conley singled to again load them up.

Roberts began the seventh inning with a single and then Dunn reached on an infield single. Conley moved the runners over with a sacrifice bunt and Paige walked to load the bases once again.

All three times, the Bulldogettes came away with no runs.

"Three runs shouldn't have beaten us tonight," said Dickenson. "We

See COAHOMA, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Coahoma sophomore Krista Kerby catches a fly ball in right field Tuesday night during the Bulldogettes' loss to Class 5A Midland Christian. Coahoma lost the game, 3-0, and dropped to 19-6-2 on the year.

Rangers rough up rookie starter

• Two early homers leads Texas past AL West rival Mariners

By GREGG BELL

AP Sports Writer
SEATTLE — Early Tuesday, the Venezuela sports daily Meridiano hailed seven countrymen pitching on the same day as "the seven wonders of the world." Late in the day, Seattle was wondering about one of those seven.

Felix Hernandez allowed early two-run home runs to Phil Nevin and Brad Wilkerson in the Mariners' 7-4 loss to the Texas Rangers on Tuesday night.

Hernandez (0-2), the hard-throwing 20-year-old right-hander, struck out nine and walked one. But he allowed four runs and six hits, leaving him with a 6.14 ERA. He threw 100 pitches — his third straight start with triple

figures in pitches. He hasn't lasted past five innings in any of them.

"I'm fine," Hernandez said through an interpreter when asked if he was concerned. "I don't feel any kind of pressure. I was just a little bit off with my command."

He has given up four homers in 10 2-3 innings — he surrendered only five in 84 1-3 innings during his impressive, two-month debut last season.

The crowd of 17,927 — the smallest at Safeco Field, which opened in July, 1999 — seemed more surprised than disappointed. Hernandez seemed frustrated. He often shook his head. He fidgeted and smirked as catcher Kenji Johjima and then pitching coach Rafael Chaves visited him on the mound.

"I was just frustrated with myself," Hernandez said. "I was trying to keep my team in the game."

Texas starter John Koronka (2-1) was also off with his command. But he got his second AL win by holding the Mariners to one run in five innings. Koronka, acquired from the Chicago Cubs on March 31, allowed five hits and four walks but held Seattle batters to 1-for-7 with runners in scoring position.

Seattle loaded the bases in the first before Carl Everett grounded out. Willie Bloomquist hit an RBI single in the fourth, and the Mariners had runners on second and third with one out before Yuniesky Betancourt popped out and Ichiro Suzuki flied out to keep the Texas lead 4-1.

Suzuki was 0-for-4. He has two hits in his last 24 at-bats and is batting .177.

Hernandez largely abandoned his after Nevin homered in the first on a

See RANGERS, Page 2B

Astros' win moves franchise to .500

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer
HOUSTON — For the first time since its first month of play, Houston has a .500 franchise record.

Morgan Ensberg hit two home runs, Adam Everett had four RBIs and the Astros held on for a 13-12 win over the Milwaukee Brewers on Tuesday night.

The win, Houston's fourth straight, puts the franchise at .500 for the first time since the Colt-45s, as the team was known, were 6-6 before a

2-1 loss to the Milwaukee Braves on April 27, 1962. The franchise record is 3,507-3,507, making Houston the 13th team in the majors with a record of .500 or better.

"Considering that it's been since the 12th game of the franchise this is a pretty amazing event," Astros general manager Tim Lincecum said. "Forty-four years is a long time, but just look where we have come from in the last 12 or 13 years. Since Drayton (McLane) owned the club we have just continued to pump out win-

ning seasons and that's why we've made up so much of the ground."

Houston roughed up Doug Davis (0-1) for nine runs and eight hits in just 2 2-3 innings.

Ensberg, who has homered in a career-high four straight games, had a solo shot in the first and a two-run drive in the sixth off Chris Demaria. Biggio was three-for-five with a leadoff home run and a three RBIs.

Houston led 11-2 after six innings but

See ASTROS, Page 2B



Courtesy photo
Thirteen year old Jared Ringener, center, son of Phillip and Jill Ringener of Coahoma, recently bowled a 741 series consisting of games of 268, 246 and 227. Ringener received his USBC shirt for bowling a 700 series. Don Cunningham, left, and J.M. Ringener, Jared's grandfathers, also posed for the picture.

This Week's Local Schedule

Thursday

HC rodeo @Tarleton State University, 7 p.m.

Friday

HC baseball DH @Odessa College, noon
HC softball DH vs. Frank Phillips, 1 p.m./ 3 p.m.
Big Spring softball vs. Lubbock Estacado, 4 p.m.
Coahoma baseball @Hawley, 4:30 p.m.
Big Spring baseball vs. Lubbock Estacado, 5 p.m.
Coahoma softball @Hawley, 7 p.m.
HC rodeo @Tarleton State University, 7 p.m.

Saturday

HC baseball DH vs. Odessa College, noon
HC softball DH vs. Frank Phillips, 1 p.m./ 3 p.m.
Coahoma softball vs. Anson, 1 p.m.
Forsan baseball vs. Colorado City, 2 p.m.
HC rodeo @Tarleton State University, 7 p.m.

Monday

Coahoma baseball vs. Anson, 7 p.m.

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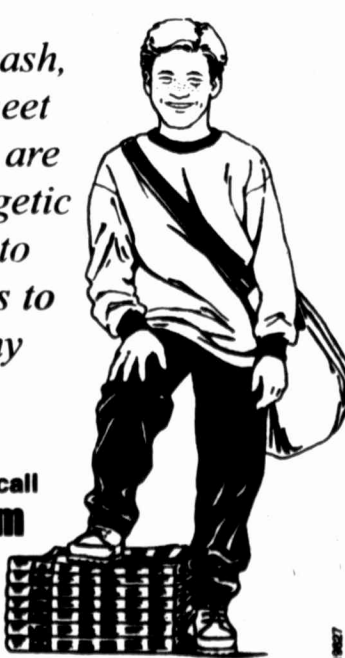
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THE MARTIN COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT OF STANTON IS SEEKING FULL TIME RN's FOR NIGHT SHIFT 7P-7A. \$1000.00 SIGN ON BONUS!! PLEASE CONTACT JEFF VIDAL, DON AT 610 N. SAINT PETER, STANTON, TEXAS OR CALL (432)756-3345 EXT. 228.

WANTED FLATBED drivers with Class A CDL, two years over the road and one year flatbed experience. Free Medical Insurance and Paid Vacation. Call 888-246-3485.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are back ground check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.

Instructional

PIANO & VOICE LESSONS

Beginners through Advance. Years of teaching experience. 2607 Rebecca. Call (432)263-3367

Items for Sale

DISPLAY 5 to 6 Person Hot-Tub, Full Warranty, \$74.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

HUGE SAVINGS on Furniture, Electronics and Appliances. Come by 501 E. Birdwell Lane #14 or call (432)263-0076.

ORDERED BY Mistake- 12'x32' Red Barn with Porch. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

WHY PAY Rent? 10'x16' Storage Buildings \$59.00 a month. Delivery/Financing. 432-563-3108.

Lost and Found

FOUND in Edwards Heights Addition small black and white husky puppy. Call (432)263-7801 to identify.

Miscellaneous

26 FEET 5th Wheel Travel Trailer. Come by 2615 Central Drive or Call (432)263-4536.

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. Arches, Candelabras and florals. FREE DELIVERY. Call Grishams (432)267-8191.

DAMAGED- MUST Sell! 14'x24' Garage/Workshop. Will Deliver. 432-563-3108.

Miscellaneous

KING SIZE waterbed with 12 drawers and lighted headboard. \$250 OBO. Call (432)263-6297 leave message.

PB MASTER

Gardners Native Plant Sale Saturday, April 22nd. Horseshore Facility, Midland, I-20, exit 134.

SALE from 10:00-2:00 Demo's, Exhibits, Debbie Frost at 9:00 More plants than before! Info: (432)498-4071.

SPECIAL PURCHASE- 8'x12' Storage Buildings \$37.00 a month. Delivery/Financing Available 432-563-3108.

Mobile Homes

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.

National Ads

1000 ENVELOPES= \$5000. Receive \$5 for every Envelope stuffed with our sales material. Guaranteed! Free information: 24 hour recording 1-800-785-7076.

261+ ACRES Paint Mare Ranch- 100 miles west of Del Rio. Whitetail Deer, Dove, Quail and Javelina. \$295/Acre w/ 5% Down 1-210-844-3546 www.RanchEnterprisesLTD.com

ADULT HIGH School Diploma at home Fast! Nationally accredited. \$399. Easy payment plan. Free brochure. 1-800-470-4723 ext.100. www.diplomaathome.com

BE DEBT FREE in just 12 months! Eliminate \$5K or more in credit card & medical debt! Call 1-866-835-0919 TODAY!

EARN EXTRA income assembling CD cases from any location. Start Immediately No Experience Necessary. www.easywork-greatpay.com 1-800-267-3944 Ext. 1026.

GAS PRICES GOT YA? Get the computer, jewelry, TV you want at a price you can afford. FINANCING ALTERNATIVES. WE SAY YES. 1-800-620-7108 www.myfai.com

GAS PRICES GOT YA? Get the computer, jewelry, TV you want at a price you can afford. FINANCING ALTERNATIVES. WE SAY YES! 1-800-620-7097 www.myfai.com

LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER? Train In Heavy Equipment. 3 Week Course. Certification. Job Placement Assistance. CALL TODAY! 1-800-294-4043.

National Ads

OVER \$500.00 this year? Ground Floor Opportunity w/fast paced team! It has the backing of a Multi-Million dollar Company. Looking for leaders! Call 1-618-355-1681.

OWN A Computer? Put it to Work! Up to \$1500-\$7500 PT/FT. FREE Booklet. Call Now Toll Free 1-888-449-5756 www.ForeverChecks.com Independent Income Opportunity.

STEEL BUILDINGS: 4 Only 25x30, 30x40, 45x80, 80x150. Must Move Now! Selling For Balance Owed! 1-800-211-9594 x66.

UPSCALE STORE FIXTURE LIQUIDATION: Display Tables; Wood/Glass Display Shelving; Garment Racks; Mannequins; Shoe/Storage Shelving; MORE! MIDWEST CITY: 6609 E. Reno Ave. Call CELL #616 560-7893. (800)613-6865, www.nrel.com 10% Buyers Premium.

WANT TO WORK AT HOME? Earn \$300.00 a week making Christmas Ornaments. No experience necessary! For information call: 1-407-381-0236 or visit: www.merrycreations.net

Pets

JACK RUSSELL Puppies, 2 males. \$125.00 each. Call (432)263-3255 after 5pm.

Real Estate for Rent

1508 WOOD. Four bedroom, two bath. \$400. month, \$200. deposit. Purchase plan available. Call (432)264-6611.

#2 BENNETT Circle, 3 Bedroom, 2 bath w/2 car garage. Available 4/20/06. Four Month Lease Required, \$800.00 month plus deposit. Call (432)268-4800 or 816-3545.

611 GREGG. Retail office. References required. \$750. Call (432)213-2319.

BARCELONA APARTMENTS

\$299 MOVE IN SPECIAL + APPLICATION & SECURITY DEP. ALL BILLS PAID
538 Westover 263-1252 1-866-265-4104
Housing Assistance Accepted

PONDEROSA APARTMENTS

- All Bills Paid
- Covered Parking
- Largest Living Areas In Big Spring
- Laundry Room
- 2-Swimming Pools
- Pets Allowed
- Covered Parking

1425 E. 6th Street
(432) 263-6319

TRUCK MONTH - PART II

That's Right - We Are Overstocked
So We Will Extend **TRUCK MONTH**

OVER 100 TRUCKS & SUV'S

Example of Savings:



2006 F150 Flareside Regular Cab
V8 - Automatic - STX Pkg. - Cruise - Fog Lamp - 6 CD - Trailer Tow - Tubular Running Boards
(3 At This Price)

TBD.....\$27,095
Pkg. Discount.....\$525
MSRP.....\$26,570
Customer Cash.....\$3,000
*Perfect Match Cash..\$1,000
Dealer Discount.....\$2,575

Sale Price
+TTL

\$19,995



2006 F150 4X4 Supercab
XLT - CD - Trailer Tow - V8 - Satellite Radio Running Boards
(6 At This Price)

TBD.....\$34,725
Customer Cash.....\$3,000
*Perfect Match Cash..\$1,000
Dealer Discount.....\$3,130

Sale Price
+TTL

\$27,595



Bob Brock Ford Lincoln Mercury Nissan
500 W. 4th 267-7121

Big Sp

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Real

804 W. bedroom, yard, wood \$550/mo (509)961 15th.

EXECUT Main for sq. ft. offices, re age and (432)263

OFFICE 408 E. Elec, gas square ft (432) 26

SEVERA Call (43 (432)770

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WE Houses phone price to Spring.

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1994 4-WD, mint c \$3,500. (254)20

1996 C motor 4 new brake j guard-steps. (432)20

2005 H diesel. \$32.00 (432)20 (432)30 Riley.

2005 6500 auto-tri 2.0 lite leather Call (4

91 NIS nder, 88900 Firm. C

FOR F-150, crew leather off. Ple

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Real Estate for Rent

804 W. 17th Street, Cute 2/3 bedroom, 1 bath home. Fenced yard, central air/heat, hardwood floors throughout. \$550/mo \$250/deposit. Call (509)961-4714. Available May 15th.

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.

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.

THREE BEDROOM, two bath. Fireplace, CH/A, CISD. \$600. Month, \$400. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

VERY CLEAN, two bedroom, refrigerated air. No Pets. References. Water paid. \$400. month. Call (432) 213-2319.

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.

2502 CHEYENNE. Owner Financing. \$2100 Down, Buy for \$412.00 or Rent \$500.00 month. Call (432)264-9907.

FOR SALE Or Lease. Really nice 3/2 brick house. 2 miles north on Birdwell Lane. One acre. Great water & neighbors. For appointment call (325)728-4234.

GREAT INVESTMENT Four - 1 Bedroom, bath units. Owner Financing. Best Cash Offer. Call (432)264-9907.

I'M MAD... AT BANKS WHO DON'T GIVE HOUSE LOANS BECAUSE OF BAD CREDIT, PROBLEMS OR NEW EMPLOYMENT. I DO, CALL L.D. KIRK, HOMELAND MORTGAGES, (877)947-3975 TOLL FREE.

Freebies

TO GIVE away Free Computers. Call (432)264-0910.

Real Estate for Sale

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. 4th 267-7121

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

1994 FORD Explorer, red, 4-WD, 4-door, leather, loaded, mint condition inside & out. \$3,500. o.b.o. Call Dee, (254)205-0702, Big Spring.

1996 GMC Z71 Pick-up rebuilt motor w/less than 5000 miles, 4 new tires & new shocks, brake job, chrome tool box-grill guard- bed protector & side steps. \$8,500.00 Call (432)267-8704, 270-4015.

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.

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

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.

Legals

ADVERTISEMENT AND INVITATIONS FOR BIDS

The City of Coahoma, Texas will receive bids for Sewer Improvement Project until 5:00 P.M., Local Time, May 16, 2006 at Coahoma City Hall, P.O. Box L, 122 N. 1st St., Coahoma, Texas 79511.

The Principal items of work for this project are set forth in specific detail in each proposal section of the specifications. However, the principal work items may be generally described as follows: PROPOSAL A: Furnish and install approximately 619 feet of 8" and 10" gravity sewer, 262 feet of Jack and Bore welded steel casing, 646 feet of Trench Safety, four 48" fiberglass manholes, reconnection to existing manhole, pavement repair and appurtenances; PROPOSAL B: Rehab 48" manhole, furnish and install fiberglass insert into existing 48" manhole and rehabing the manhole.

Immediately following the closing time for receipt of bids, proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at the 7:00 P.M. Council Meeting at City Hall. Any bid received after closing time will be returned unopened. Bids will be tabulated and presented to the City Council for award at a later date. Bidders must submit a Cashier's or Certified Check issued by a bank satisfactory to the Owner, or a Proposal Bond from a reliable Surety Company, payable without recourse to the order of the City of Coahoma, Texas, in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid submitted as a guaranty that the Bidder will enter into a contract and execute bonds in the forms provided within fifteen (15) days after notice of award of contract to him. Bids without the required check or Proposal Bond will not be considered.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each in the amount of the contract, written by a responsible Surety Company, authorized to do business in the State of Texas, and satisfactory to the Owner, as required by Article 5160, V.A.T.C.S., as amended by H.B. 344, passed by the 56th Legislature, Regular Session 1959. Bidders are expected to inspect the site of the work and to inform themselves regarding all local conditions.

Information for bidders, proposals forms, specifications and plans are on file in the office of the Mayor, City Hall, City of Coahoma, Texas, and at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 5030 E. University, Ste. C-104, Odessa, TX 79762.

Copies of the plans, specifications and contract documents may be secured at the office of Parkhill, Smith & Cooper, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 5030 E. University, Ste. C-104, Odessa, TX 79762 (Phone (432)520-2110) for a price of THIRTY DOLLARS (\$30.00) for each set of plans and specifications. The deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon) wage rate, as issued by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and contained in the contract documents must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Bids may be held by the City of Coahoma, Texas for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the Bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The City of Coahoma, Texas reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

All contractors/subcontractors which debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

CITY OF COAHOOMA
Bill Read, Mayor
#4933 April 12 & 19, 2006.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Advertisement for Bids
The Howard County Junior College District is now accepting bids for the following:

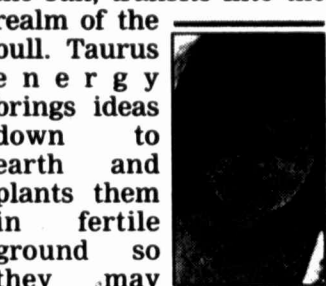
RFB# 06-017
Annual Contract Service for Carpet Installation

Specifications may be obtained from Mr. Dennis Churchwell, Director of Purchasing, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167, e-mail: dchurchwell@howardcollege.edu. Sealed bids will be accepted through 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2006, in the Administrative Conference Room 108, Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. The bids will then be tabulated and final determination of bid award will be made at a future board meeting. All questions are to be directed to Dennis Churchwell, Director of Purchasing, 1001 Birdwell, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)264-5167, e-mail: dchurchwell@howardcollege.edu. Howard County Junior College District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
#4936 April 20 & 21, 2006.

NOBODY ASKS FOR IT
Help STOP Sexual Assaults
Call 263-3312
Rape Crisis Services/Big Spring

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The cosmos trumpet a welcome as his highness, the sun, transits into the realm of the bull. Taurus energy brings ideas down to earth and plants them in fertile ground so they may grow. Think in baby steps.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Taurus likes to take things slow, laying the groundwork correctly, giving your heart's desire the best chance at thriving.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're faced with the daunting task of putting a square peg into a round hole. This is very easy to accomplish. You either scale down the peg or scale up the hole. You can make anything work!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The coincidence you experience now is no coincidence at all. It's an indication to keep following the path you're on. RSVP to the invitation of the planets by taking the next step.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When those two strong-willed people in your life get into it, your world rocks in the manner of continental plates colliding. Since environment is everything to your peace of mind now, maybe you should avoid these folks.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The wolves are out.

There is much glossing over of matters regarding integrity, ethics and the like. You're such a charismatic person, however, you could lead the flock to the very underrated conditions of gratitude and love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Many an explosive silence is lobbed between you and a partner now. You've finally gone to the level of telepathy and can load so much into a glance that words are hardly necessary.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You have given your whole self to another. Sometimes, you wonder whether the gift was appreciated, but that's not the point. Nothing will rival the role this person plays in your awakening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You delight in daily pleasures, like food. Instead of asking, "What can I cram down my throat for sustenance?" You could be asking, "What would be ecstatic on the taste buds?"

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're not easily impressed, but someone will awe you with his or her talent, profound words or grand gesture, because it's authentic. In your book, that's paramount.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a position to judge others or yourself — you take this responsibility quite seriously, as you should. Make process as important as product. Give high marks for creativity.



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

contact with him. What do you say? — Mixed Up in the Midwest

Dear Mixed Up: We really hate when people assume you know what you did, when in fact, you have no idea. Unless you can get Don to explain the "event" so it can be resolved, we have to agree with your wife that the friendship is over.

Dear Annie: My roommate, "Patty," is paralyzed with fear. She is in her mid-50s, and although a native of the city, she is afraid to drive anyplace she's never been before. Patty also suffers from low self-esteem. She recently lost her job of seven years, but won't pursue a more challenging or financially rewarding position because she doesn't believe she is worth more than \$8 an hour. She actually hangs her head and laments, "No one wants me."

Patty's attitude is both pathetic and frustrating. I am forever trying to encourage her and be supportive, but she constantly pushes me away and goes back to her defeatist persona. It's getting old. Our mutual friends have suggested she see a doctor for anti-anxiety medication, but she gets angry and defensive and goes back into her bedroom and sulks.

How can we get Patty to move forward and feel good about herself? She genuinely has a lot to offer, but refuses to acknowledge it. — At Wits' End in Los Angeles
Dear L.A.: It sounds as

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have made your choice — no regrets, no remorse. Now, you not only stand in your resolution, but you "work it!" Commitment is the essence of style.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sounds trigger emotions. Listening will open your heart. Take moments to hear the music in the soothing rumble of traffic, the solemn drops of rain hitting the windowpane or the busy hum of a hard drive.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Clothes inhibit or engender your self-expression. If what you're wearing or what you're buying is so comfortable you could boogie, embrace or flirt in it, it can't be wrong.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am a Virgo female (born Sept. 13, 1985) who's been dating a Gemini man (born June 13, 1985) for a year now. Every astrological outlet I've consulted insists that Gemini and Virgo are not compatible, but we have a pretty good relationship. I was just wondering if you could tell me more about our compatibility that might be positive, and whether the future holds anything for us."

I don't think the best use of astrology is to limit your choices by telling you who you are not compatible with. What is compatibility anyway? Each relationship we have teaches us different things about ourselves

and helps us grow in different ways. I find it's helpful to use astrology as a tool of getting to know your partner's tendencies and needs so that you can better choose how you will react to them. Gemini keeps Virgo guessing, and this is a very creative match. Gemini introduces Virgo to hip and trendy things, while Virgo helps Gemini work toward a goal in a way that will bring success. I see you going into some kind of land venture together. I also see a supportive religious group around the two of you, helping you move up in some way.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The sun enters Aries at a slightly different time every year. On the courageous cusp of Aries and Taurus, lithe and gorgeous movie starlet Kate Hudson is actually an Aries with a sociable Aquarius moon. I predict she will take a bit of a break from the Hollywood juggernaut to focus more on her marriage and family this upcoming year, resulting in the birth of a sibling for her son, Ryder.

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

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if you've done everything you can. The rest is up to Patty. We recommend you check out the Anxiety Disorders Association of America (www.adaa.org) at 8730 Georgia Ave., Suite 600, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Someone there may be able to make suggestions for you and, hopefully, convince Patty to get help.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Always Been Short," who wanted to know what to say to people who remark about his lack of height. I tell people that I was 6 feet 2 before I was involved in an elevator accident. The doctors say not to worry, I could spring back at any moment. — Keeping My Tall Clothes Handy

Dear Keeping: We love your attitude.

Dear Annie: Every week, I go out with three friends for dinner and drinks. One of them, "Susie," is a smoker. When Susie lost her job a few months ago, she started smoking a lot more. She is now employed again, but she still is smoking excessively.

Susie's smoke didn't really bother any of us before. However, it's gotten so bad that we are trying to find excuses not to go out with her. She averages about four cigarettes an hour, and we usually are sitting and talking for at least four or five hours. That means I am inhaling close to 20 cigarettes when I'm with her.

I've tried to drop subtle hints to Susie that her smoking really bothers me, and so have the other women, but she either doesn't notice or doesn't care. When the smoke comes near us, we blow or push it away, and she sees this, but nothing changes. The only time she isn't smoking is when she's eating.

I love Susie, and she's a great person. I don't want to lose her as a friend, but I don't want my lungs to suffer, either. We'd rather not go out than breathe in this much secondhand smoke. Is there a way to

let Susie know her smoking has become excessive? — Too Much Smoke in Pennsylvania

Dear Too Much: Most smokers are quite considerate of their friends, and Susie probably has no idea that her increased smoking is so annoying, since you never complained before. There is absolutely nothing wrong with telling her that it's starting to bother you. Ask if she can cut back when she is with you, or step outside if she needs more cigarettes than you can handle.

Dear Annie: My wife and I have been invited to her nephew's very posh wedding out of state. Including airfare, hotel (the rooms where the hosts suggested we stay start at \$245) and gift, we are looking at over \$1,000.

We just found out that we will not be invited to the rehearsal dinner because the bride wants it to be just for the wedding party. I always thought out-of-town guests are invited to the rehearsal dinner so that they don't have to search for a restaurant and will have more time to visit with other distant family members. These days, we seem to get together only for funerals and weddings.

I know it's up to the bride and groom, but not including us seems awfully chilly to me. I am thinking of not going, but my wife wants to keep the peace. What do you think? — Wedding Guest

Dear Wedding Guest: Yes, positively, absolutely, out-of-town guests should be invited to the rehearsal dinner. We suspect it is an issue of ignorance rather than an intentional slight, so please forgive them for not knowing any better.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

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ANSWERS

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9	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	King of the Hill	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight
10	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	King of the Hill	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight
11	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	King of the Hill	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight
12	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	King of the Hill	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight

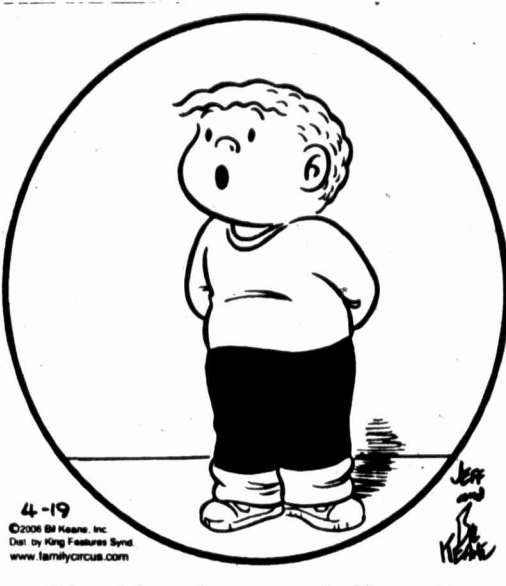
DENNIS THE MENACE



"LEMONS MIGHT MAKE GREAT PIES, BUT THEY TASTE TERRIBLE IN PERSON!"

BC

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

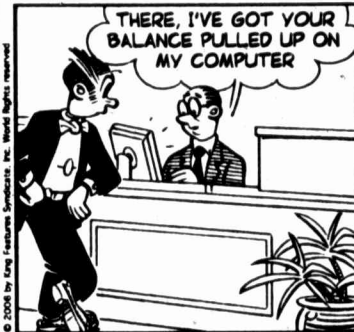


"Am I handsome yet, Mommy, or am I still just cute?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE

This Date
In History

Today is Wednesday, April 19, the 109th day of 2005. There are 256 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 19, 1775, the American Revolutionary War began with the battles of Lexington and Concord.

On this date: In 1782, the Netherlands recognized American independence.

In 1933, the United States went off the gold standard.

In 1943, during World War II, tens of thousands of Jews living in the Warsaw Ghetto began a valiant but futile battle against Nazi forces.

In 1951, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, relieved of his Far East command by President Truman, bid farewell to Congress, quoting a line from a ballad: "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

In 1975, India announced it had launched its first satellite, from the Soviet Union atop a Soviet rocket.

In 1989, 47 sailors were killed when a gun turret exploded aboard the USS Iowa.

In 1993, the 51-day siege at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas, ended as fire destroyed the structure after federal agents began smashing their way in; dozens of people, including David Koresh, were killed.

In 1995, a truck bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people and injuring hundreds. (Timothy McVeigh was later convicted of federal murder charges and executed.)

Five years ago: Pharmaceutical giants dropped a lawsuit against a South African law that could provide cheaper, generic AIDS drugs to millions of Africans — ending an international battle over patent rights and profit.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Hugh O'Brian is 81. Actress Elinor Donahue is 69. Actor Tim Curry is 60. Pop singer Mark "Flo" Volman (The Turtles; Flo and Eddie) is 59. Tennis player Sue Barker is 50. Recording executive

Suge Knight is 41. Singer-songwriter Dar Williams is 39. Actress Ashley Judd is 38. Singer Bekka Bramlett is 38. Latin pop singer Luis Miguel is 36. Actor James Franco is 28. Actress Kate Hudson is 27. Actor Hayden Christensen is 25. Actress Catalina Sandino Moreno is 25. Actor Courtland Mead is 19.

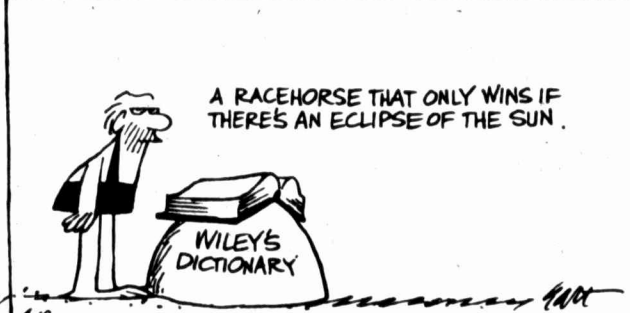
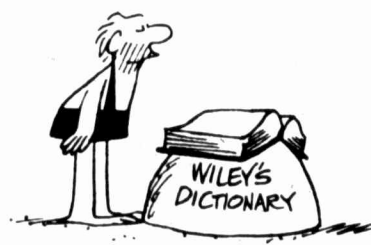
Thought for Today: "The charm, one might say the genius of memory, is that it is choosy, chancy and temperamental: it rejects the edifying cathedral and indelibly photographs the small boy outside, chewing a hunk of melon in the dust." — Elizabeth Bowen, Irish-born author (1899-1973).

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Answer to previous puzzle

DECOY YORE APTS
ATONE EWES ITRY
STRESSANDSTRAIN
NEED CORSOALTSME
INKEDANKAACHE
DON LAGO MAILER
ELECTRONICBRAIN
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ESPY TAPS BLURS

nightmare.



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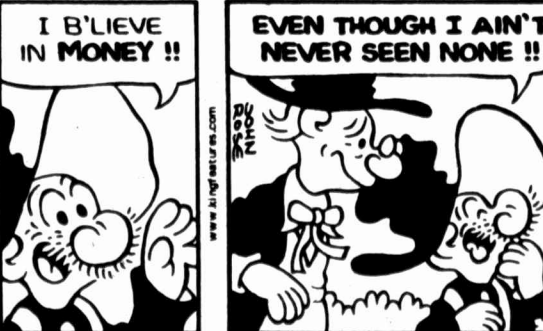
HI AND LOIS



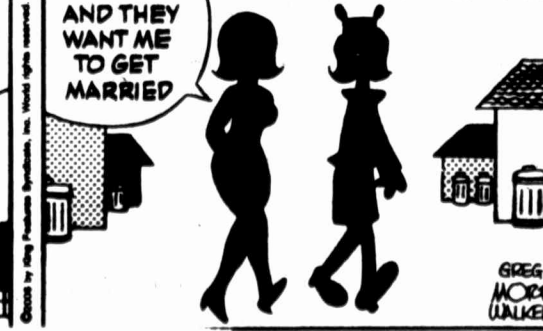
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



Newsday Crossword

3 ON 66 by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

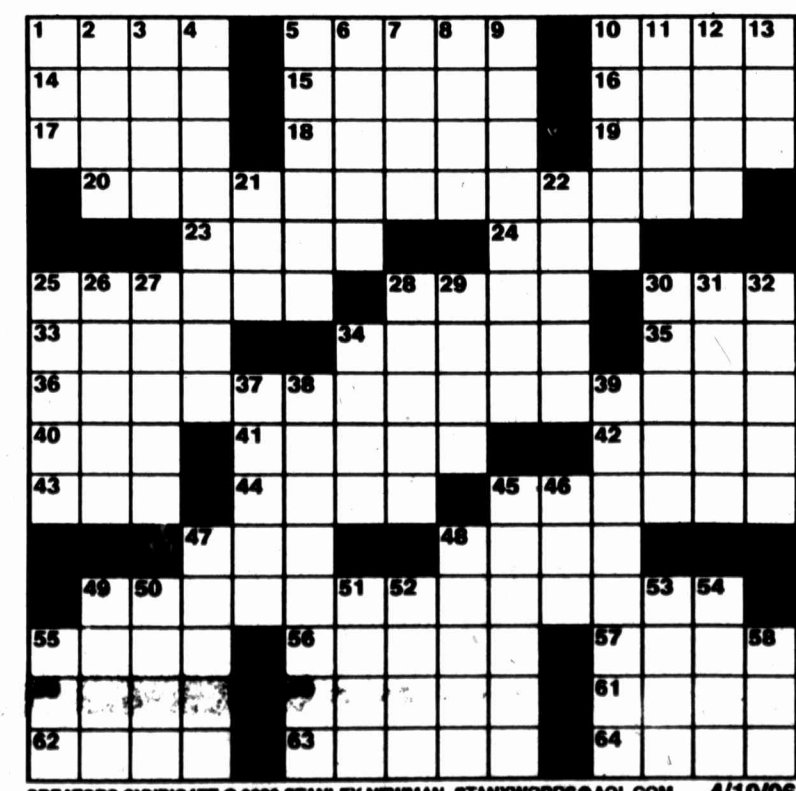
- 1 Cornfield cries
- 5 Transplant, as a plant
- 10 Grabbed the tab
- 14 Oater challenge
- 15 Bring a smile to
- 16 Pumpkin
- 17 Paddock parent
- 18 Moon valley
- 19 Oscar role for Julia
- 20 City on Route 66
- 23 Assign stars to
- 24 Farm food
- 25 Messy place
- 28 Fighter pilots
- 30 Many MDs
- 33 Art sch. class
- 34 Be wild about
- 35 Gullible sort
- 36 City on Route 66
- 40 Business card abbr.
- 41 Slow critter
- 42 Greet the day
- 43 Start of MGM's motto
- 44 NFL 2Night network
- 45 Like some aspirin
- 47 Ante-kin
- 48 Oodles
- 49 City on Route 66
- 55 Ardor
- 56 Thick carpets

DOWN

- 8 Scandinavian capital
- 9 Ring chewers
- 10 Veep's superior
- 11 Subtle glow
- 12 Hieroglyphics bird
- 13 Cozy room
- 21 Squealer
- 22 Lets up
- 25 Rice alternative
- 26 ICBM part
- 27 Exasperates
- 28 Mgmt.
- 29 Phone-cord shape
- 30 Astronaut's garb
- 31 Analyze grammatically

EMULATED

- 32 Emulated moles
- 34 "Make it fast!"
- 37 Tech support callers
- 38 Available now
- 39 "Messiah," for one
- 45 Necklace fasteners
- 46 Cry of delight
- 47 Argue (for)
- 48 Computer language
- 49 Use a plow
- 50 Prod on
- 51 "This can't be!"
- 52 Actress Winslet
- 53 ___ turtle soup
- 54 Cupid alias
- 55 Watch pocket
- 58 Santa __, CA



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The U.S. Veterans removed VA Medical facilities, veterans for almost

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By STEV

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