



Tax rebates show 6.78 increase for Big Spring

By **BILL MCCLELLAN**
News Editor

Sales tax rebates rose slightly again this month for Big Spring, pushing rebates past the million-dollar mark for the year.

According to the Texas Comptroller's Office, Big Spring received \$297,706.46 this month, up 6.78 percent when compared to the \$278,802.70 taken in during March of 2004. For the first three months of 2005, Big Spring has collected

\$1,034,885.60, an amount ahead of last year's collections by 3.73 percent.

Most area communities received positive sales tax rebates when compared to a year ago, according to the Comptroller's Office.

That wasn't true for Coahoma, however, which has received \$12,701.95 for the year — 5.03 percent behind last year's pace. For March, Coahoma received \$3,938.98, 6.25 percent less than the

\$4,201.86 taken in for March 2004.

Forsan continued to experience a strong increase in tax rebates. Forsan received \$4,970.99 this month compared to \$3,394.67 in March 2004, an increase of 46.43 percent. For the year, Forsan has received \$18,031.99, an increase of 81.93 percent.

Rebates went up 15.47 percent for Abilene, comparing March 2005 rates of \$2,234,474.33 to March 2004 rates of

\$1,935,111.02. For the year, Abilene has received \$7,451,531.01, up 7.9 percent.

Andrews experienced an increase. The \$74,676.28 received this month is a 6.8 percent increase compared to the \$69,921.35 collected in March 2004. For the year, Andrews has collected \$244,260.86, up 13.73 percent.

Brownfield took in \$59,867.71 this month compared to \$56,425.57 a year ago, for an increase of 6.1 percent. For the

year, Brownfield has taken in \$209,195.45, an increase of 7.04 percent.

Colorado City collected \$30,089.52 for March 2005. That's a 1.24 percent decrease when compared to the \$30,467.63 the Martin County seat collected in March 2004. For the year, Colorado City has collected \$116,174.55, up 6.48 percent.

Fort Stockton was one of the

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Health Fair booths still available

Chamber extends deadline 'til Friday

Special to the Herald

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce has extended until Friday the sign-up date for renting a booth at the April 16 health fair held at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Booth fees are \$75, and health care providers and agencies are provided with the necessary amenities needed to conduct a successful presentation, said Debbye Valverde, chamber executive director.

Anyone interested in renting a booth at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Health Fair 2005 "Prevention is the Key to Good Health", should call Valverde at (432) 432.263.7641.

Her office will mail, fax or e-mail necessary information.

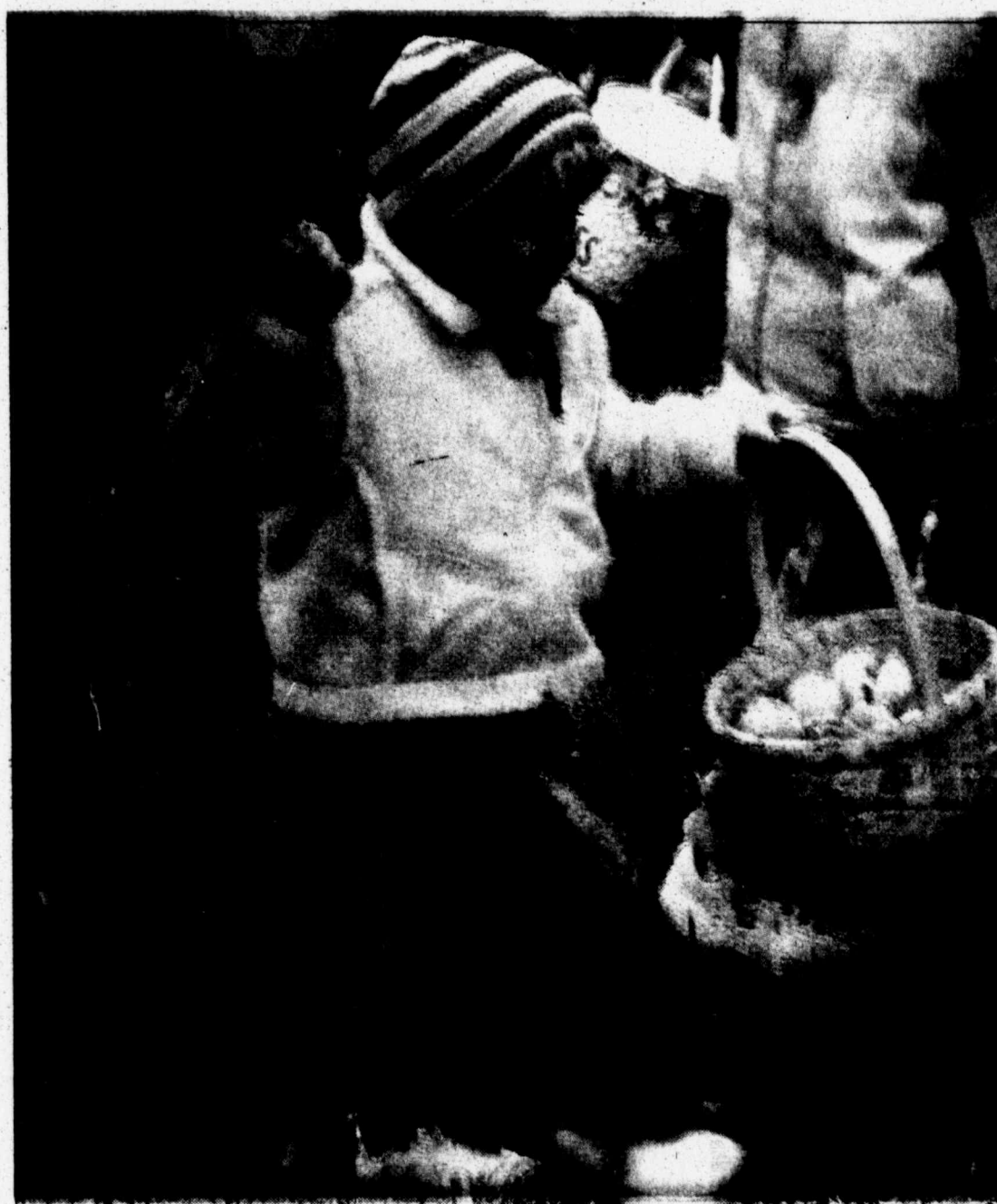
Corporate sponsors for this year's Health Fair are ALON USA, Adult Protective Services, Big Spring Physical Therapy, Caring Hearts Home Health, Express Medical Supply, HEB, KBST, KBYG, Mountain View Lodge, Paradigm Physical Therapy & Sports Science Center, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, VA Medical Center and Warren Chiropractic/Big Spring Physical Therapy.

Dimples the Clown will create balloons for the children again this year, Valverde said. United Blood Services also will conduct a blood drive. The Citizens Police Academy Association will perform interactive skits teaching children how to stay safe in their own homes, and provide information on computer and Internet safety.

More than 1,200 people attend the health fair

See **BOOTHS**, Page 3A

HAPPY HUNTING



Three-year-old Raven Rutledge makes off with some goodies after the annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday morning at the Big Spring VA Medical Center. Hundreds of children and parents attended the event despite cold, blustery weather.

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Proposed jail topic for commissioners in Tuesday meeting

□ The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the commissioner's courtroom. The public is invited.

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners will once again take up the topic of building a new jail, as the court prepares to meet in a special session Tuesday morning.

Working from a timeline developed by project architect Phil Furquerson and consultant Edward Spooner, justice director for the HOK Group, completion of the facility is projected for the first part of 2007.

However, many of the building blocks for designing such a facility, such as a study the county has requested from the Texas Jail Commission, remain in question.

"I will contact the Jail Commission, but on another project that I'm working on right now," Spooner told commissioners during a recent meeting. "We submitted some

documents for their review and I was told by an official that he's four to six weeks behind. That's before he can get to that project to review it. So I know they're backlogged right now."

Spooner also gave commissioners a solid size for the property they will need to construct the facility.

"Commissioner (Jerry) Kilgore had asked me to report back about the size of the parcel property that we would need for the jail," said Spooner. "And I took a look at that, and I think we need somewhere between 10 and 12 acres. The 12 acres assures of ample room for future expansions. The 10 acres is tight. That's for the sheriff and jail operation, with their anticipated vehicle load."

While so many details, including the overall cost of the jail, how to finance the project and just where to locate the facility, are still uncertain, commissioner's announced one solid decision during their last meeting — the

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Schiavo receives sacraments on emotional Easter

By **MARK LONG**

Associated Press Writer

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. — Terri Schiavo was given last rites and Easter communion — a drop of wine, but no bread — as relatives of the brain-damaged woman asked protesters gathered outside her hospice to tone down their behavior.

Neither Schiavo's parents nor her husband offered new, specific details on her condition, but one of the two priests who visited her hospital room said the brain-damaged woman's "death is imminent" — a devastating proclamation for those who spent Easter

Sunday praying for a woman they never knew.

"We are Terri's voice. Right now, Terri is fighting for her life," the Rev. Patrick Mahoney angrily shouted Sunday, his face reddening. He pledged to protest outside the White House on Monday.

Schiavo's mother, Mary Schindler, did not visit her daughter on Easter, emotions keeping her from the hospice for the first time since Terri's feeding tube was pulled 10 days ago, said Paul O'Donnell, a Roman Catholic Franciscan monk and a family spokesman.

"If she goes in there again, we might have to

take her to the hospital," O'Donnell said.

But the woman's parents claimed one Easter victory: Terri received communion wine after her husband allowed her to receive the sacrament.

As her brother, sister and brother-in-law looked on, the Rev. Thaddeus Malanowski held Terri's right hand as he and hospice priest Rev. Joseph Braun placed the droplet on her tongue. Malanowski also anointed her with holy oil, offered a blessing and absolved her of sin.

"She received the blood of Christ," said Malanowski, adding he could not give her a flick

of communion bread because her tongue was too dry.

By previous court order, Terri Schiavo was allowed to receive communion once more with the consent of her husband and guardian, Michael Schiavo, who has fought her parents for years about whether the woman would want to live or die. Terri received both sacraments on March 18, just before the tube was pulled.

Tensions were noticeably heightened both among the protesters and, apparently, among the closest confidants to the woman's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler. David

Gibbs III, their lead lawyer, told CBS "Face the Nation" that Schiavo has "passed where physically she would be able to recover."

"In the family's opinion, that is absolutely not true," spokesman Randall Terry said outside the hospice.

The Schindler family, also bothered by repeated arrests and heightened angst outside the hospice, pleaded with supporters to tone down their behavior. They had little success; five people were arrested and chants of "Give Terri water!" echoed for much of the day.

See **SCHIAVO**, Page 3A

Court eyes rights of foreigners in death penalty cases

By **HOPE YEN**

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is considering whether Texas and other states can execute 51 Mexicans who say they were improperly denied legal help from their consulates, a dispute testing the effect of international law in U.S. death penalty cases.

Justices were scheduled to hear arguments Monday in the case of Jose Medellin, who says he is entitled to a federal court hearing on whether his rights were violated when a Texas court tried and sentenced him to death in 1994

without giving him consular access.

The case, which has attracted worldwide attention, is seen as a test of how much weight the Supreme Court will give in domestic death penalty cases to the International Court of Justice, or ICJ, in The Hague, which ruled last year that the 51 convictions violated the 1963 Vienna Convention.

It comes amid a growing divide on the Supreme Court over the role of international opinion to support decisions interpreting the U.S. Constitution. Last month, justices ruled 5-4 to outlaw the death penalty for juvenile criminals, citing in part the weight of international

views against the practice.

In 1969, the Senate ratified the Vienna Convention, which requires consular access for Americans detained abroad and foreigners arrested in the United States. The Constitution states that U.S. treaties "shall be the supreme law of the land," but does not make clear who interprets them.

The case also pits the authority of state courts against the Bush administration, which in a surprise move last month ordered states to comply with the ICJ ruling and hold new hearings. At

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Obituaries

Gary Wayne Grice



The world lost a gentleman when Gary Wayne Grice lost a courageous battle with liver cancer Easter Sunday 2005.

Services will be held Tuesday, March 29, 2005, at 11 a.m. at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with interment at Trinity Memorial Park with military honors. Chaplain Dean Thomas of the VA Medical Center will officiate.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. today at the funeral

home.

He was the son of Lee and Ruth Grice of Hobbs, N.M. His mother died when he was but 4 years old and he was raised by his paternal grandparents on a farm near Jayton. In high school, Gary was voted "the most likely to do anything!" He soon joined the Army.

His seven-year stint included three tours of Viet Nam and one tour of Germany.

He returned to work in the oilfields of New Mexico and West Texas. This involved extensive travel in the west.

When the oilfields played out, Gary returned to school. He completed an associate's degree in science at Texas Technical College in Waco as a biomedical technician. He rose to become one of the few certified biomedical technicians in West Texas.

Gary and Lucy Gill fell in love in 1994 while she was completing dental hygiene school in Big Spring. They were married and spent the last 11 years biking down the happy road of destiny together.

Who can forget seeing Gary on his Harley? In 2000, Gary procured a prestigious bio-med tech position at the VA Medical Center in Big Spring. He was always direct, honest and unwavering in defending what was right.

He was a member of the VFW, the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation, the Harley Owners Group and AFGE, the American Federation of Government Employees.

He is survived by his wife, Lucy Gill Grice of Big Spring, Pearl Hass and Larry Hass of Big Spring, Pat and Guy Prater of Coahoma, Connie and Linda Russell of San Angelo, Merlene and Johnny Barry of Denton, George Gaines and Mary Sue Gill-Gaines of San Angelo and several nieces and nephews.

He was a friend to all. We will miss him!

Inside us all there is a fire

That burns hot as a star.

We change, grow old in time

But the fire is who we are.

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

Paid obituary

Martha Lorene Cave



Martha Lorene Cave, 87, of Ackerly died Saturday, March 26, 2005, in a Lamesa hospital. Funeral services will be held at 3:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, 2005, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. L.D. Hinson, pastor of Seagraves Assembly of God, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Mrs. Cave was born May 31, 1917, in Oklahoma and married Fred Cave March 30, 1935. He preceded her in death Feb. 22, 1990. She had lived 80 years in the Flower Grove community.

She was a member of Bethel Assembly of God Church. She was a charter member of The West of 50 Camp at Roaring Springs, a senior adult group of the Assembly of God Church, and never missed a summer attending the camp. She was a fifth-generation Sunday school teacher, teaching preschoolers was her joy.

She was an avid gardener and loved to share her produce with family and friends. She enjoyed cooking, playing the mandolin and traveling, especially fishing trips to Mexico with family. She had a caring heart and was always visiting the sick.

She seemed to never meet a stranger, always visiting and showing concern for those she met. She was proud of her family and loved family gatherings, where she cooked for them. She loved her church and the Lord, always ready to serve and witness to others.

Survivors include four sons and three daughters-in-law, Jerry and Lavonda Cave, Daniel and Zada Cave, all of Ackerly, and David and Nancy Cave, who are missionaries to Mexico, and Dennis Cave of Ackerly; one sister, Imogene Hammond of Lamesa; seven grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and three sisters.

The family suggest memorials to donor's favorite charity.

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

Paid obituary

Georgia C. Thompson

Georgia C. Thompson, 80, of Big Spring died Monday, March 28, 2005, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Jack Clinkscales

Jack Clinkscales, 88, of Big Spring died Sunday, March 27, 2005. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

James A. Horton



James A. Horton, 86, of Big Spring died Sunday, March 27, 2005, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 29, 2005, at Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with the Rev. Dennis Teeters, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. today at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel.

Mr. Horton was born April 11, 1918, in Big Spring and married Wanda Lou Pearce May 11, 1940, in Big Spring.

James worked for Union Pacific Railroad for 36 years. After retirement, James still remained active, he loved the outdoors, fishing at his lake house and cooking. He enjoyed tinkering with things. His family was very important to him and he loved his kids and grandkids.

He was a member of First Baptist Church. He was a 32nd degree Mason for more than 50 years, a member of the Staked Plains Lodge and the Trainmans Association.

Survivors include his wife, Wanda Horton of Big Spring; one son and daughter-in-law, Jimmy and Samantha Horton of Big Spring; two daughters, Nora Phillips of Big Spring and JoAnn Armstrong of Austin; one brother, T.F. Horton of Big Spring; four grandchildren, Terri and Tony Flores of Big Spring, Kevin Armstrong of San Jose, Calif., Joanna and Scott Holle of Austin and Timothy Horton of Big Spring; four great-grandchildren, David and Kyle Flores and Meaghan and Elise Holle.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother and two sisters.

The family suggests memorials be made to the American Heart Association, 3205 W. Cuthbert, Suite A-5, Midland or the First Baptist Church Organ Fund, 705 W. FM 700, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Mary Paul

Mary Paul, 62, of Big Spring died Sunday, March 27, 2005. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

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

• **RODNEY WAYNE TUBBS**, 21, of 1322 Wright, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft.

• **WILLIAM ALLEN TILLEY**, 24, of 1020 Stadium, was arrested Monday on three capias warrants and held for the HCSO.

• **RAYMOND OVERTON**, 25, of 2005 Highway 176, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **WAYNE GARY ELLETT**, 25, of 1605 Bluebird, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **LELON DALE FAULTNER**, 25, of 107 Miller Road, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **MICHAEL DEAN NALL**, 25, of 104 Lockhart, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **LORITA JANEAN SHULZE**, 18, of 2620 Fairchild, was arrested Sunday on a Howard County warrant.

• **CHRISTINE MICHELLE BEAM**, 24, of 1308 E. 17th Street, was arrested Saturday on a local traffic warrant.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.

- in the 100 block of Lockhart.

- in the 200 block of Marcy.

• **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.

• **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road.

• **ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 400 block of Sunset.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:

- in the 3300 block of Highway 80.

- in the 800 block of FM 700.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 3300 block of Highway 80.

Weather

Today — Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs near 80. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tuesday — Decreasing clouds. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Sheriff's report

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

• **DOROTHY SUBLET THOMAS**, 47, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid and failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.

• **RACHAEL ELIZABETH GEE**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of racing on the highway.

• **KENNETH EDWARD STEEN**, 42, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on charges of criminal mischief and interfering with an emergency phone call.

• **ALAJI ABDUL KINGSTRO**, 23, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of assault - family violence.

• **LYNDON TRENT FRALEY**, 44, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **YOLANDA R. BOOTH**, 39, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **MICHAEL DEAN NALL**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license suspended/invalid and a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **LORITA JANEAN SCHULZE**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.

• **WILLIAM TROY HOGAN**, 38, was transferred to the county jail Sunday by the BSPD on charges of open alcoholic container, speeding and violation of a promise to appear.

• **BRANDON WILLIAM WHITE**, 21, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of assault by threat - family violence.

• **VERBAL ASSAULT** was reported in the 100 block of Jonesboro.

• **ASSAULT** was reported in the 200 block of Moore Road.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of 10th Street and Goliad at 7:45 p.m. Thursday. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway at 7:09 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87 at 4:18 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Aylesford at 9:15 a.m. Thursday. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1500 block of Stadium at 12:10 p.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of E. 15th Street at 6:18 a.m. Thursday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1200 block of E. Third Street at 11:43 a.m. Friday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 5700 block of Cedar at 2:37 p.m. Friday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 300 block of W. Fifth Street at 5:32 p.m. Friday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler at 12:21 a.m. Friday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1500 block of Johnson at 8:58 a.m. Friday. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of N. Nolan at 11:41 p.m. Friday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 700 block of Johansen at 3:41 p.m. Saturday. Four people were transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Simler at 12:21 a.m. Saturday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Lyn at 7:52 p.m. Saturday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Pettus at 3:58 p.m. Sunday. One person was transported to the VAMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Stadium at 8:04 p.m. Sunday. Service was refused.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Lincoln at 12:41 p.m. Sunday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 4200 block of Vikki at 1:01 a.m. Sunday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1500 block of Johnson at 6:11 a.m. Sunday. Service was refused.

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JAIL

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Students reveal abuse in TAKS essay answers

FORT WORTH (AP) — Each year, hundreds of students use the essay portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test to write about being abused, neglected or raped, education officials say.

Others write about being depressed, wanting to die or hurt themselves or others.

Such essays fall under the state's definition of an outcry, and school officials have a legal and ethical obligation to report the revelations to law-enforcement officials.

That a child or teen would

write about something so personal or traumatic on a state test "isn't logical at all when you look at it from the outside," said Catherine Ayoub, an associate professor at Harvard University's Medical School and Graduate School of Education.

But "this is the most anonymous way that you can tell," so it's "absolutely what you would expect," Ayoub said.

When test graders read the essays, part of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, or TAKS, they are

flagged and labeled an "outcry." The information is sent to the Texas Education Agency, where student identification numbers are converted into names, and the essays faxed to district officials.

The graders — many of them retired teachers — know nothing about the students, making it difficult to tell whether an outcry is true, said Victoria Young, director of instructional coordination in the TEA student assessment division.

The graders simply score the outcry essays as they would

any other writing assignment. Then they report the information to school districts, which contact police or Child Protective Services.

The law requires educators to notify the proper enforcement agency if a student discusses anything criminal, including child abuse, neglect and rape, or even that a child is bringing a weapon to school because he or she feels unsafe.

Texas labeled 688 essays "outcry" last year and 592 in 2003, a drop in the pool of more than a million essays.

The writing section of the 3-year-old TAKS is designed to give students flexibility — opening the door for personal essays.

"There are so many things that children are bringing to school" nowadays, said Chuck Hoffman, executive director of student and social services for the Fort Worth school district.

Students in Texas must write an essay or composition for the TAKS in grades 4, 7, 10 and 11. The TEA flags outcry essays at all grade levels, most appear at the seventh-grade level.

SCHIAVO

Continued from Page 1A

Doctors have said Terri Schiavo, 41, would probably die within a week or two once the feeding tube — which kept her alive for 15 years — was disconnected. She relied on

the tube since suffering catastrophic brain damage when her heart stopped beating and oxygen was cut off to her brain.

At Michael Schiavo's Clearwater home, protesters dropped roses and Easter lilies on his lawn — a peaceful protest inter-

rupted when sprinklers came on suddenly.

His fiancée's brother picked up the flowers and handed them to a bystander to take away. John Centonze declined to answer questions, only saying that Michael Schiavo was "very upset." Extra police officers

blocked the road in front of Schiavo's hospice. Pinellas County school officials said the elementary school next to the hospice would not open Monday. The 600 students were to be sent elsewhere.

And some protesters continued demanding Gov. Jeb Bush intervene,

but Bush said he cannot ignore numerous state and federal court rulings against intervention. "I don't have powers... that would allow me to intervene after a decision has been made," he said.

Gibbs told CBS he believed Bush has done all he could. "Gov. Bush

has been a real friend," he said.

Schiavo's parents dispute that their daughter is in a persistent vegetative state as court-ordered doctors have determined. Michael Schiavo contends his wife told him she would not want to be kept alive.

COURT

Continued from Page 1A

the same time, the administration said it was withdrawing from a section of the treaty so that the ICJ could no longer hear U.S. disputes.

Texas argues that Medellin is procedurally barred under the Constitution from federal relief because he didn't raise his claims at his state trial. As a result, it says, the state court judge

ment should stand regardless of the orders from President Bush and the ICJ.

"Whether the president has authority to issue such a broad determination is far from clear," Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said in a recent filing. Any assertion that the presidential order "is somehow sufficiently authoritative to pre-empt long-standing state criminal laws ... is utterly unprecedented," he said.

The administration,

arguing that it is a president's decision — and not the judicial branch's — to determine whether the United States should comply with international law, said it decided that new state hearings were appropriate.

"Compliance serves to protect the interest of United States citizens abroad, promotes the effective conduct of foreign relations and underscores the United States' commitment in the international community in the rule of law," acting

Solicitor General Paul Clement wrote.

Last year, the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with Texas, ruling that federal relief for Medellin was barred because he failed at trial to file objections that Mexico was not told of his arrest.

It cited a 1998 Supreme Court case that suggested treaties were subject to each country's procedural rules.

Medellin was one of five gang members sentenced

to death for raping and murdering Jennifer Ertman, 14, and Elizabeth Pena, 16, in Houston in 1993.

Justices were told that Medellin's court-appointed lawyer was suspended from practicing law for ethics violations during the case, and he failed to call any witnesses during the guilt phase of the trial. Lawyers for Mexico say the country would have made sure Medellin had a competent lawyer had it known about the 1994 trial.

BOOTHS

Continued from Page 1A

each year undergoing free screenings, picking up literature, and discussing health-related issues with people in the health care industry.

Admission is free, and doors will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This year's theme focuses on how to keep yourself and your family healthy and safe, Valverde said.

For more information, call Valverde at 432-263-7641.

REBATES

Continued from Page 1A

few cities which witnessed a drop in tax rebates. Fort Stockton collected \$105,318.67 this month, 13.48 percent more than the \$92,808.03 taken in during March 2004. For the year, Fort Stockton has received \$350,858.77, up 4.05 percent.

Kermit had a good month, comparing the \$27,486.63 received in March 2005 to the \$23,668.43 received in March 2004. That's an increase of 16.13 percent. For the year, Kermit has received \$82,969.13, up 5.23 percent compared to a year ago.

Lamesa took in \$60,726.08 this month, an scant increase of 0.56 percent when compared to the \$60,383.06 received in March of 2004. For the year, the Dawson County seat has received \$225,824.06, up 5.59 percent.

Lubbock, which increased its sales tax from 1.25 to 1.5 cents in November, saw rebates increase by 44.79 percent this month. The city received \$3,090,312.25, compared to \$2,134,330.79 in March 2004. For the year, Lubbock has received \$10,555,114.88, up 34.58 percent.

Midland collected \$1,825,215.15 this month, up 21.32 percent com-

pared to the \$1,504,380.04 collected a year ago. For the year, Midland has received \$6,263,446.36, up 13.99 percent.

Monahans saw rebates go up 12.34 percent, comparing this month's collections of \$66,782.78 to March 2004's \$59,446.63. For the first three months of 2005, Monahans has received \$230,034.68, an increase of 9.29 percent.

Odessa received \$1,260,321.93 this month, a 21.22 percent increase when compared to the \$1,039,690.44 received in March 2004. For the year, Odessa has received \$4,217,974.05, up 12.42 percent.

Pecos collected \$66,004.38 this month, 15.2

percent over the \$57,291.82 received in March 2004. For the year, Pecos has collected \$221,066.14, up 20.39 percent.

San Angelo managed \$1,089,193.15 in the year's third month, up 15.28 percent when compared to the \$944,819.03 received in March 2004. For the year, the Tom Green county seat has collected \$3,910,489.71, up 4.78 percent.

Snyder collected \$119,091.96 this month, 11.84 percent less than the \$135,098.708 the Scurry County seat received in March 2004. For the year, Snyder has received \$406,151.48, down 12.5 percent.

Stanton, which raised its tax from 1 cent to 1.75 cents in November, experienced a jump of 83.24 percent in sales tax. The Martin County seat collected \$16,648.11 this March compared to \$9,084.95 a year ago. For the year, Stanton has received \$62,638.33, up 93.48 percent.

Sweetwater received \$136,890.07, a 4.82 percent hike when compared to the \$130,585.52 in March 2004. The Nolan County seat has received \$546,563.21 for the year, up 13.47 percent.

Contact News Editor Bill McClellan at 263-7331 ext. 235 or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

desire to work with the city of Big Spring on developing a joint law enforcement center.

Commissioners Gary Simer and Emma Brown, along with County Judge

Ben Lockhart, all of whom previously opposed such a joint effort, said last week they are willing to look at the possibilities.

"Emma, Gary and myself have reached a consensus. We're going to agree with the others and go from there. Is that all right?" Lockhart asked

his fellow commissioners, who agreed. "Then I guess we need to discuss what we need, then we'll put it out and vote on it."

Commissioner Bill Crocker said he supports the idea of a central law enforcement facility because it presents a number of advantages for both governmental enti-

ties. "There are some things to be gained through it," he said. "There are about eight or 10 different areas. For instance, common booking is one. A common area for conferences, for training. These sort of things."

The court's meeting is expected to begin at 8:30

a.m. in the commissioner's court room, located on the second floor of the Howard County Courthouse.

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



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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
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News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Government needs to curb trade deficit

The good, the bad, and it's ugly. Like a spend-thrift with an unlimited credit card, the United States keeps falling further and further into debt when it comes to the trade deficit.

Those prone to signs and omens should take special interest in the United States' 2004 trade deficit - a record \$666 billion. Of course, 666 is the traditional "mark of the beast."

OK, so the deficit was actually \$665.9 billion; perhaps that sounds less threatening.

Although the U.S. economy seems generally to be heading in the right direction, no one can seem to get a grip on the trade deficit and even it out or reverse it.

Indeed, some say it's not necessary, that the trade deficit actually is a sign of economic strength. Daniel T. Griswold, currently director of the Cato Institute's Center for Trade Policy Studies, said in 2001 in a trade-policy analysis, "Economic theory and experience demonstrate that trade deficits are driven primarily by macroeconomic factors, in particular investment flows, and not by allegedly unfair trade barriers or declining industrial competitiveness. ... America's annual trade deficits are sustainable as long as the United States remains a safe and profitable destination for the world's savings."

On the other hand, people such as billionaire tycoon Warren Buffett are painting a much bleaker picture of the deficit. BBC News quoted Buffett making some comments in his annual letter to shareholders of his Berkshire Hathaway company.

"He warned ... against over-reliance upon foreign investment into the U.S. ... Using an analogy from the 1930s, Mr. Buffett said this meant the U.S. could be heading toward a 'sharecropper's society', meaning that a great many Americans could have to pay a large proportion of their future incomes to absent, and in this case foreign, landlords."

Who would those landlords be? China. Canada. Mexico. Trade deficits with those countries soared during 2004, and that precipitous rise shows no sign of slowing - January's trade deficit hit another record.

In simplified form, the trade deficit means that Americans are importing and buying more from other countries than they are selling and exporting to other countries.

The primary goal of most individuals and households that are in debt is to get out of debt. Maybe the U.S. government ought to adopt that basic household tenet and see what it's like living on the other side of the trade deficit for a while.

THE TIMES
EL PASO

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:

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- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
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A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we see our need for You, Lord, in our lives.

Amen

Inside report: Getting out of Iraq II

Determination high in the Bush administration to begin irreversible withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq this year is reinforced by the presence at the State Department of the most dominant secretary since Henry Kissinger three decades ago.

Condoleezza Rice is expected to support administration officials who want to leave even if what is left behind does not constitute perfection.

Amid the presidential campaign's furious debate over Iraq, I reported last Sept. 20 ("Getting Out of Iraq") about strong feeling in the policymaking apparatus to get out of Iraq in 2005 even if democracy and peace had not been achieved there. My column evoked widespread expressions of disbelief, but changes over the last six months have only strengthened the view of my Bush administration sources that the escape from Iraq should begin once a permanent government is in place in Baghdad.

The most obvious change is the improved situation on the ground in Iraq, where it is no longer preposterous to imagine local security forces in control. Subtler is the advent of Secretary of State Rice. This willowy, vulnerable-looking woman wields measurably more power than Colin Powell, the robust general who preceded her. Officials who know her well believe she favors the escape from Iraq.

"She is not controlled by the

neo-cons insisting on achieving a perfect democracy before we go," a colleague told me. That reflects not only the national consensus but also the preponderance of Republican opinion. Without debating the wisdom of military intervention in Iraq two years ago, President Bush's supporters believe it now is time to go and leave the task of subduing the insurgents to Iraqis.

In my Sept. 20 column, I speculated that Rice would replace Powell at State, that she would be replaced as national security adviser by her deputy Stephen Hadley and that Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz would succeed Secretary Donald Rumsfeld at Defense. I was correct in two out of three, because Rumsfeld is staying on at the Pentagon.

When I reported that Rice, Hadley and Wolfowitz all would opt for withdrawal, skeptics claimed that I had misrepresented Wolfowitz and ignored his neo-conservative mindset. In fact, Wolfowitz resents the neo-con label and privately regards its use as a catchword to be a form of anti-Semitism.

Nor is Rumsfeld a neo-con determined to spread democracy to every corner of the world and eager to place U.S. boots wherever needed. He is a pragmatist who views an intrusive U.S. occupation in Iraq as a political benefit for the insurgency. Rumsfeld consequently opposes the addition of more American troops, which is advocated by some supporters and by many critics of President Bush.

The central figure in shaping the policy is Rice. Not since the days of Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft has a secretary of state had the

power position of working with a former deputy at the National Security Council, as Rice does now. Furthermore, she is President Bush's closest adviser. During Bush's first term, he spent vastly more time with Rice than with Powell or Rumsfeld.

Actually, withdrawal from Iraq short of an absolute military victory seems more feasible today than it did last September. Six months ago, it appeared that U.S. officials might have to ignore a bloody secular conflict between Sunnis and Shias. Lethal though it is, the current insurgency does not rise to the level of a genuine civil war.

But how does the president rationalize an escape from Iraq with his Inaugural Address's embrace of a Wilsonian or neo-conservative dogma to spread democracy worldwide? Bush officials who want to reduce the military profile in the region argue that the grassroots democratic sentiment boiling up in Lebanon is to get rid of Syrian troops, not to welcome American troops.

Escape from Iraq for George W. Bush, however, does abandon the neo-con dream of micromanaging creation of a democratic state in Iraq. Since I wrote about this option last September amid much skepticism, 500 more U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq, bringing the toll to 1,500. That is too heavy a price to continue paying for not letting Iraqis try to make the best of their country now that we have eliminated Saddam Hussein.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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HOWARD COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

OFFICE — 264-2200.

Delavish, Deloutish, DeLayly

When you read about House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's expensive junkets — bankrolled by a lobby-enriched agent and a registered foreign agent — you wonder why DeLay didn't learn the lessons to be gleaned from the very big fall of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

The Newt resigned his speakership in 1998 after he became more of a liability than an asset for the House GOP. Alas, it is clear DeLay did learn a lesson from Gingrich's downfall, but the wrong lesson: If you're going to travel like royalty while serving as a GOP biggie, rig the ethics committee.

Three times last year, the House ethics committee admonished DeLay.

Under Chairman Joel Hefley, the committee chastised DeLay for offering a political favor to a lawmaker in exchange for his support on the Medicare prescription drug bill, for asking federal aviation workers to track a plane during a partisan squabble and for appearing at a 2002 energy-company fund-raiser that "at a minimum, created the appearance that donors were being provided with special access" to DeLay concerning pending energy legislation.

To add to his woes, a Texas grand jury indicted three of his associates for illegal fund-raising and there is speculation that DeLay is under investigation, as well.

So DeLay — known inside the Beltway as "The Hammer" — has been working to fix things so that the ethics committee won't give him trouble this year.

In cahoots with House Speaker Dennis Hastert, the GOP leadership ousted Hefley and replaced

him with Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash. Then, GOP heavies purged two Republican members and replaced them with two toadies, both of whom, The Washington Post reported, "contributed generously" to DeLay's much-needed legal-defense fund.

Oh, and the House changed the rules.

In January, GOP leaders pushed through a new rule: After 45 days, the ethics committee would throw out a complaint, even without an investigation, unless the GOP chairman and ranking Democrat agree to let it proceed. Another new rule allows members to be represented by the same attorney.

The now-deposed Hefley complained that this would make it easier for members to coordinate their stories.

In a statement, Hefley complained that these new rules threaten to undermine the committee, "not to mention the integrity of the House." Or as they say, a fish rots from the head down.

Gingrich began to falter when he decided he was so big that he could do no wrong. He traveled to London to make a speech for Atlantic Richfield — allowing the company to spend some \$40,000 flying Gingrich and his wife (first class) and two aides (coach) to London and plunking down \$12,000 for the Gingrich hotel tab. Then there was the Newt's stint as an academic lecturer — for which he raised \$300,000 to \$450,000 per semester — for his inappropriately named course "Renewing American Civilization." Now it appears DeLay has adopted The Gingrich Way. In 2001, he went to South Korea on a three-day trip. His transportation, The Washington Post reported, cost \$13,000, and \$330 went toward his lodging. Ditto Mrs. DeLay.

Three Democrats and a Republican took a similar trip in 2003.

A United Kingdom trip in 2000 cost \$70,000 for DeLay and his

entourage.

The Post followed the money and found that the nonprofit National Center for Public Policy Research received donations of \$25,000 each from two gambling interests. DeLay voted against an anti-gambling bill those interests didn't like, even though DeLay says he is anti-gambling.

House rules prohibit a member from traveling on the dime of a lobbyist or a foreign agent. Although there may be no problem if DeLay — and the other members — did not know the Korea-U.S. Exchange Council was a registered foreign agent, or if DeLay was unaware (as he says he was) of any lobbyist funding for the U.K. trip. (The National Center says there was no nexus between the gambling money and the U.K. trip.)

DeLay complains about "the partisan politics of personal destruction." He, like Gingrich, doesn't see his role in his own self-destruction. It seems clear that DeLay thinks he is too big to care how his trips look to voters. The GOP leadership apparently feels that it can adulterate the ethics committee and its rules — and get away with it.

Hefley and Rep. Chris Shays are two Republicans who support a measure to return to the old rules, while the ethics committee's five Democrats have said they won't participate in committee doings until the old rules are restored.

This renders the committee inactive.

When the House convenes in April, the ethics committee might as well have a sign out front that says, "Gone fishing."

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

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DEBRA
SAUNDERS

Community's vision: Save a young girl's sight

By ERIC CARPENTER

Orange County Register

FULLERTON, Calif. — Most of them have never met Hannah Duffin, but they've embraced her as if she were their child.

Through word-of-mouth they've heard that the 7-year-old, the only daughter of a single mother, has lost sight in one eye and could go completely blind because of a tumor attacking her optic nerve.

So they're helping any way they can.

The staff at Fullerton's Main Post Office passed around a collection jar and raised \$200.

The women on Ash Avenue who gather for weekly tea donated \$173.

When the staff of O'Neill Clothing in Irvine, Calif., heard that Hannah was in her fourth month of chemotherapy and had lost weight, they sent her a whole new wardrobe.

Recently, the community rallied around Hannah again by throwing a giant pizza party to raise money for her care.

"I've been completely blown away by the kindness of people we don't even know," said Hannah's mom, Shay Duffin, 27.

"I had Hannah when I was just 19. We're very close and we've always relied on each other," she said. "The lesson we've already learned from this is that sometimes you need to swallow your pride and let people help."

"There's a lot of love out there."

Hannah recently qualified for Medi-Cal health insurance, so most of her medical bills are covered. The money is helping Duffin pay some looming bills and set up a trust fund for Hannah.

The second-grader at Pacific Drive Elementary

"The lesson we've already learned from this is that sometimes you need to swallow your pride and let people help."

School is a little embarrassed by the fuss.

"What's the big deal?" is her frequent response.

Duffin says she's amazed by how strong Hannah has been through months of chemotherapy, losing weight — and chunks of hair.

"Sometimes it feels like she's the adult in all of this," Duffin said.

Hannah's ordeal began just before Halloween last year when a family friend pointed out that Hannah's right eye appeared swollen.

Duffin took out the newspaper and asked Hannah to cover her left eye and read the headline.

She noticed Hannah peeking through her hand, so Duffin covered Hannah's left eye and had a friend hold up a large "A."

"What letter am I holding?" the friend asked.

Hannah's response: "Where are you?"

"My heart sank," Duffin said. "It was like every other fear I'd had in my life turned to ashes. This has been my only focus since."

What followed was six straight days of diagnosis and treatment at Children's Hospital of Orange County.

Doctors determined Hannah has optic glioma, a form of brain cancer that attacks the optic nerve. They said they couldn't operate or she would lose all her vision.

So they immediately put her on chemotherapy,



KRT photo/Hoyen Tsang, Orange County Register

Hannah Duffin, 7, plays a computer game at her home in Fullerton, Calif. Duffin is blind in one eye due to cancer that is attacking her optic nerve and she stands a chance of losing sight in her other eye as well.

hoping to stop it.

The treatment nauseated and weakened her. She's gone through periods of anger. But mostly she leans toward optimism and good humor.

"You guys have the coolest gizmos and gadgets in this place," she told the nurses.

And she was excited by the idea of getting glasses with purple frames — her favorite color.

Recently, Duffin had to pull Hannah out of school because she wasn't feeling well enough to go to class.

She gets home schooling.

And she looks forward to Wednesday night's youth group at CrossRoad Church in Fullerton. It's Hannah's chance to play

with other girls her age.

When she's home, she's usually busy reading.

For now, treatments have prevented the tumor from spreading to the left eye.

She's keeping her eye muscles strong by reading "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," playing "Donkey Kong" on her laptop computer and drawing a lot.

Hannah appreciates the good wishes. She has handed out almost 700 small glass hearts as a token of her thanks for all the good wishes.

But she can't wait until people stop paying her so much attention — a sure sign that she's well again.

"Then I can learn to ride a horse," Hannah said.

Tantrums may be a cry for help

HOUSTON — Kids who act up may be having trouble fitting in, say experts at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM).

"Behavior problems are often the first sign of an underlying developmental problem," said Dr. Sherry Vinson, an assistant professor of pediatrics at BCM.

"Before they blame it on behavior, parents should check out other possible concerns."

Behaviors that can signify devel-

opmental problems include tantrums, self-aggression, aggression toward others, destructiveness, hyperactivity, inattention, immaturity, food refusal and withdrawal.

The subtleties of learning disabilities are difficult to distinguish, said Vinson, also a developmental pediatrician at Texas Children's Hospital and a former elementary and middle school teacher.

Developmental problems range from difficulty in one area, such as

mathematics or reading, to attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or autism.

When behavioral problems appear, parents should see their pediatrician and arrange for psychoeducational testing.

This testing can be done for children 3 years old and above through the local school district and for children under 3 through the Early Childhood Intervention Program, found at www.nectas.unc.edu.

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

Authorities searching for youth swept away in San Antonio River

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A search dog led firefighters to the body of an 11-year-old boy who was swept away while trying to cross the rain-swollen San Antonio River.

Jorge Cervantes Jr.'s body was found in about 8 feet of water shortly after noon Sunday.

He had disappeared about 6 p.m. Saturday at a low-water crossing where he and two other boys were attempting to cross the river.

Fire Department District Fire Chief Patrick Zepeda said the current caught the trio. The other two, aged 12 and 17, made it safely to the river bank. Neither suffered injuries.

Searchers found Jorge's body about 500 yards downstream from where he had been swept away.

'Alternative' charter schools could be facing tougher state standards

DALLAS (AP) — A dramatic increase in the number of Texas charter schools seeking "alternative education" status has led some charter school experts to question whether so many campuses deserve to be held to a lower standard.

In the last four years, the number of Texas charter schools seeking "alternative education" status has shot up from 62 to 166. Charter schools with that designation are exempt from the state accountability standards used to evaluate every other campus in Texas.

About 60 percent of the state's charter school campuses are now exempt, even though "alternative" charters are virtually identical demographically to charters remaining in the standard accountability system.

Schools that want into the alternative system only have to fill out a form declaring that they're "dedicated" to serving disadvantaged youths.

The Texas Education Agency is considering a revised accountability system that could block many charters from receiving alternative status, according to one state charter expert. And for those schools that do qualify, the new system also would set a higher standard for ratings and accountability.

Migrant adviser's trial slated to begin in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — The Texas attorney general this week will try to convince a Dallas jury that migrant adviser Fidelina Cuevas should be barred from providing immigration advice in any capacity and should reimburse hundreds of defrauded clients.

"There seems to be a whole industry out there that targets immigrants, scamming them out of millions of dollars per year," Attorney General Greg Abbott said. "It is a serious problem and a growing problem."

The action by the state to bar Cuevas from immigration work is a civil proceeding, and she faces no criminal charges.

Cuevas has admitted making some mistakes in immigration applications but has denied deliberately defrauding customers.

Steven Yu, her attorney, said that his client wishes to return to the immigration business and hopes to work under the direction of lawyers.

Easter services offer healing Texas City blast's aftermath

TEXAS CITY (AP) — Easter Sunday services at this Gulf Coast city's largest church combined mourning and healing after 15 people died and more than 100 were injured in an explosion at a BP oil refinery last week.

"Here in Texas City this last week we had a horrible disaster take place," the Rev. Bobby Tollison told congregants at First Baptist Church. "Not a one of them really thought that day would be the day they would stand before the Lord. Folks, the point is, we just don't know when our time is going to come. No one does."

Wednesday's explosion shot flames high into the sky, blew out windows a half a mile away and showered the 1,200-acre plant grounds with blackened metal and ash.

The blast occurred in the plant's isomerization unit — which boosts the octane level of gasoline — as a portion of the unit was brought up to full production after a two-week shutdown for routine maintenance.

It was the third incident at the facility in a year. An explosion during maintenance in March 2004 forced an evacuation, but no one was injured. Two work-

ers died after superheated water released because of an open valve severely burned them in September.

UTEP's graduation rates to be scrutinized by team

EL PASO (AP) — Dismal graduation rates at the University of Texas at El Paso are prompting state leaders to recommend that University of Texas System officials to appoint a team to fix the problem.

But UT System Chancellor Mark Yudof said he didn't think a special team was needed.

"We are going to review all the options," he said. "This is not unique to UTEP. It may be that the absolute numbers are lower, but we have this problem (statewide)."

Less than 5 percent of University of Texas at El Paso students graduate in four years, and only 26 percent have obtained a degree after six years.

In 2004, about 23 percent of Texas public university graduates completed their degrees in four years or less. About 53 percent completed degrees within six years, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

State Senate Education Committee chairwoman Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, and Sen. Elliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, say UTEP leaders must make a concerted

effort to improve graduation rates.

"We need the system to intervene and to meet the challenge. We need a UTEP that graduates 50 percent of its kids in four years," said Shapleigh, who wants UTEP to reach that goal by 2015.

He wrote a letter this month to UT Regents Chairman James Huffines asking for the appointment of a special team to address UTEP's graduation rates.

UT System and UTEP officials acknowledged the problem, but they said they are already trying to fix it.

"I would tell (Shapleigh) that we don't need SWAT teams or champions," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said. "We are awarding more degrees, and those numbers will continue to grow. We are going to see students complete their degrees more efficiently. I am confident of that."

"We know what we're doing, and I can assure Senator Shapleigh and anyone else who's interested that we share the goal of improving the graduation rates because we think it's important to El Paso," she said.

Students who linger in and out of school for years before graduating put an economic burden on taxpayers and shave years of productive life from their own work careers, Shapleigh said.

Top UT System officials cautioned that improving graduation rates will take time and a cultural shift.

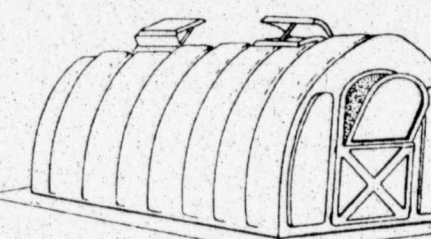
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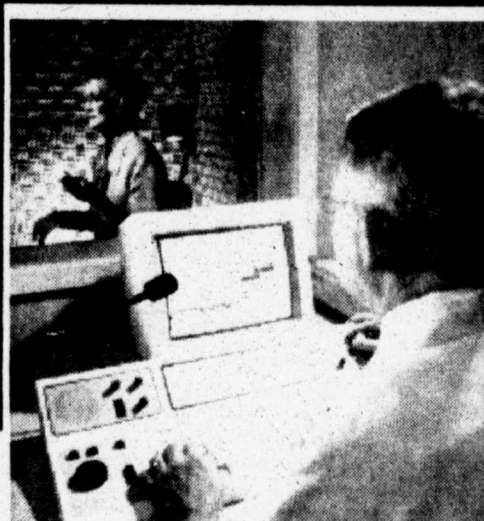
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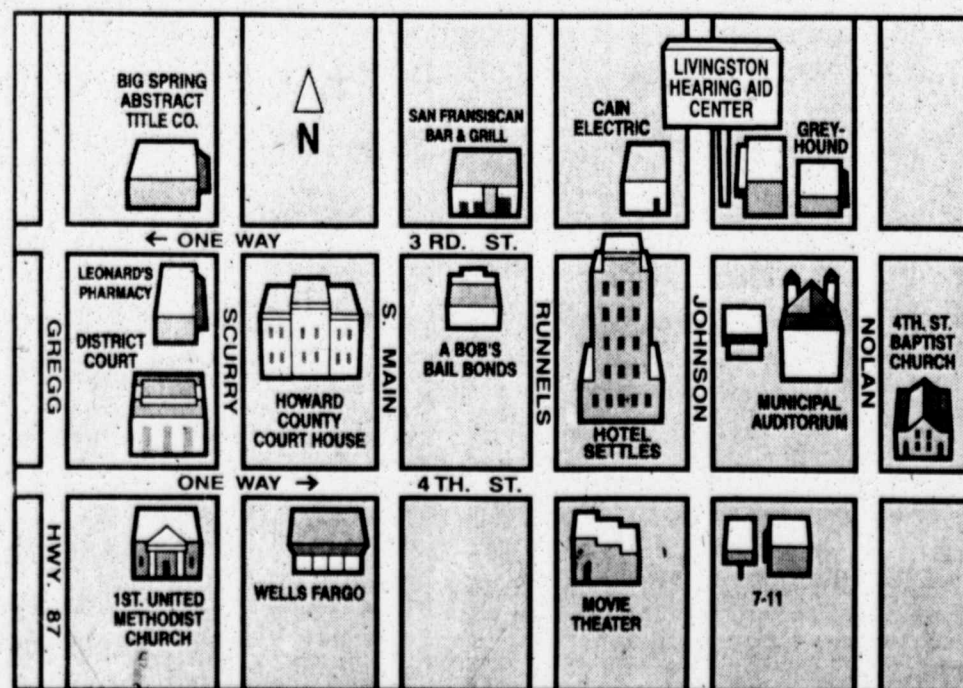
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Monday, March 28, 2005

IN BRIEF

Cornell Corrections announces softball tournament at Cotton Mize Field

Cornell Corrections is sponsoring a co-ed softball tournament benefiting Relay For Life.

The tournament will take place April 22 and 23 at Cotton Mize Field inside Comanche Trail Park.

The cost is \$10 per player and the deadline to register is Friday, April 15.

Concessions will also be available.

For more information, call 267-1911 ext 214 during the day and 267-2004 at night.

Howard rodeo team sets crawfish boil

The Howard College rodeo team will hold its annual crawfish boil April 16 at 2 p.m. at the H.C. Rodeo Bowl during Howard College's annual rodeo.

The cost is \$15, which includes ticket into rodeo. For more information, contact Howard rodeo coach Greg Kernick at 816-9477.

Dodgeball tourney benefiting Relay For Life set for April 9

Cornell Corrections has set up a co-ed dodgeball tournament for April 9 at the YMCA and the tournament will benefit Relay For Life.

The tournament costs \$10 per person and the deadline to register is April 5.

For more information, call 267-7911 ext. 214 during the day or 267-2004 at night.

Big Spring C.C. sets three-person tourney

The Big Spring Country Club will host a three-person scramble Friday and Saturday.

The entry fee is \$50 per player plus golf cart. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start each day.

The entry fee includes barbecue Saturday, as well.

For more information, call the pro shop at 267-5354.

Howard County sets 4-H tournament

The Howard County 4-H Club has set up a three-on-three basketball tournament to benefit Relay For Life.

The tournament will take place Friday and Saturday starting at 7 p.m. at the Trinity Baptist Church Gymnasium.

Teams can have up to four players and the cost of each person is \$10 and participants must be at least 16 years old.

The tournament is double elimination and will also include a 3-point contest.

T-Shirts will be awarded for first and second place teams.

The deadline to enter is March 30.

For more information, call the Howard County 4-H during the day at 264-2236 or Brian Moore at night at 893-5571.

Hawks rodeo team claims two top-five finishes

• Stoney, Russell lead Howard at Odessa College competition

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
ODESSA — The Howard College rodeo team advanced seven members — the most thus far this year — to Saturday's final round at the Odessa College rodeo, but only two members managed to capture top-10 finishes.



KERNICK

"We're progressing and starting to mature," said Howard coach Greg Kernick. "I have said all along that we are young."

The best finish from the Hawks came in the women's barrel racing. Sophomore Sierra Stoney entered the short round in fifth place and, after a final run Saturday, finished fifth in the end, as well. Her short round time was clocked at 15.93.

Freshman Jeremy Russell was able to finish sixth overall in the saddle bronc competition. He entered the short round in 10th, but his 69 in the final round gave him a sixth place overall finish.



The score of 69 was the round's fourth best.

The five other competitors in the short round for Howard did not fare well, according to Kernick.

Freshmen Jed Headley and Wayne Shaffeld both competed in the steer wrestling, but everything that bad that could have happened did, said Kernick.

Juan Alcazar and Clay Hale represented the Hawks in the team roping competition, but a miss in

the short round did not allow the duo to place. They scored a 6.7 earlier in the rodeo, which allowed them to advance to Saturday's final round.

Sophomore Trent Broussard advanced to the finals in the bull riding competition with an early round 70, but ran into troubles with an overly large bull in the finals.

"That bull is about as big as any of these kids have ever seen and probably as big as I have ever seen," said Kernick. "They call him the eliminator and the name pretty much tells you that he is a tough one to ride."

Needless to say, Broussard was unsuccessful in the ride and failed to reach the eight-second requirement for a score. He did not place overall.

"We need a rally and they have only four chances left to do," said Kernick. "We are starting to figure things out though."

The Hawks will next compete in Snyder at the Western Texas College rodeo Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The home-town rodeo is set for April 14-16 at the Howard County Rodeo Bowl in Big Spring. They will compete in the West Texas A&M rodeo April 7-9, as well.

Permian scores seven late to shock Steers

• Big Spring loses lead in seventh inning as Panthers rally

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor
The Big Spring baseball team had the lead against Odessa Permian Saturday with three outs to go. Then, a huge rally by the Panthers changed the final outcome of the game in hurry.

Trailing 12-9, Permian sent nine batters to the plate and scored seven runs in the final inning and claimed a 16-12 victory over the Steers, which lost their sixth straight game and lowered their overall record to 6-10 heading into District 4-4A play Tuesday against rival Lake View.

Two Big Spring pitchers combined for four walks in the inning. Three of the seven runs were results of either a wild pitch (two) or past ball (one).

The Steers were retired in order as the Panthers defeated Big Spring for the second time this year.

Permian scored four runs early in the game to take the lead, but an eight-run second inning for Big Spring put the Steers up 8-6. Big Spring added three runs in the third to take an 11-7 advantage before adding



one more run in the fifth. Permian scored its final nine runs in the sixth and seventh innings.

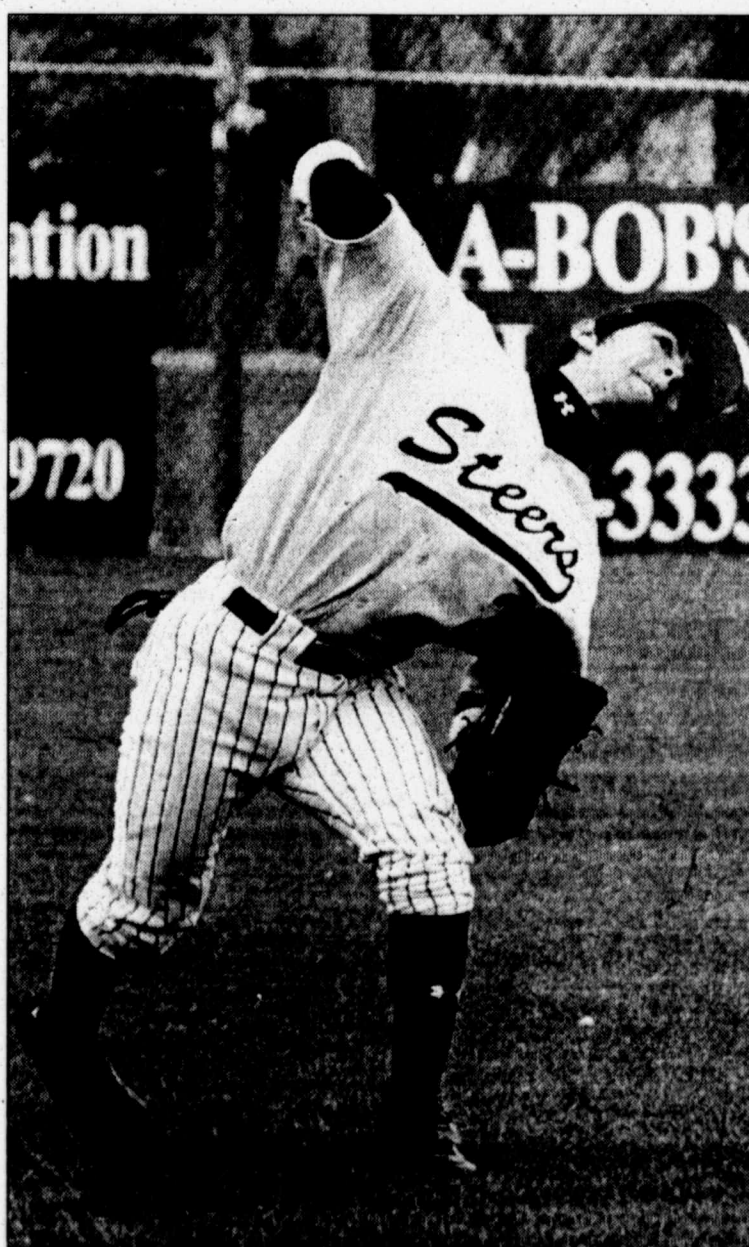
Jerry Doporto, Lance Murphy and Mark Lozano led Big Spring at the plate. Doporto had a double and scored two runs, while Murphy each had two hits and one run scored. Lozano also walked. J.W. Beauchamp added a hit, one walk and two runs scored.

The Steers used three pitchers on the day. Charles Downing started the game and pitched the first five and two-thirds innings. He gave up nine runs, but left the game as the pitcher of record for the win.

J. Rich Sparks entered the game in the sixth and pitched into the seventh. He gave up three walks, two hits and took the loss on the mound for the Steers.

Ryan Slate entered the game in the seventh with the bases loaded and no outs. He allowed one hit and two earned runs.

The home game against Lake View Tuesday will begin at 4:30 p.m.



Big Spring senior Jerry Doporto throws the ball in from left-field Saturday during the Steers' loss to Odessa Permian at home. The Steers led 12-9 heading into the seventh inning, but lost the game 16-12.



Big Spring senior J.W. Beauchamp applies the tag on a runner from Permian during the Steers' loss to the Panthers Saturday in Big Spring. The Steers lost their sixth straight game and are now 6-10 on the season. The District 4-4A season begins at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday at home against Lake View.

Hawks record big victory over rival New Mexico JC

BY ERIC C. RODEWALD
Special to the Herald

After dropping a pair of games at New Mexico Junior College Friday, the Howard College baseball team defended its homefield with a 6-3 win Saturday at Jack Barber Field in the first game of what was supposed to be a Western Junior College Athletic Conference doubleheader.

The second game made it through the top of the first inning before being postponed, because of rain. The game will be made up today with the first pitch scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

The performance of freshman right-hander Michael Robbins on the mound was a welcome sight for Howard coach Britt Smith.

"To this point, it was probably the best game we've had pitched," Smith said. "It came at a great time."

Robbins earned his first complete game victory. He allowed three runs, two of which were earned, over seven innings of work. He scattered five hits while striking out five batters. With the win, Robbins improves to 4-0 with a 2.41 earned run average (E.R.A.), which is second on the team.

At the plate, center fielder Daman Aaron carried the weight of the offense with a two-for-three performance. He hit a two-out three-run

home run in the fifth inning and had a double the prior inning.

"He has helped us out so much. He's a pitcher that is hurt and filling in the outfield for us," Smith said. "He took this game in his hands and kind of won it for us at the plate."

Aaron is one of the leaders for the Hawks with a 4-0 pitching record and a 1.29 E.R.A. He's also hitting .413 with four home runs and 26 RBIs.

Ironically, Smith felt Howard played better overall Friday, but failed to have the pitching it needed.

"We played better Friday. We just didn't pitch very good Friday," Smith said.

The Hawks lost both games Friday at New Mexico Junior College, falling 10-4 and 13-5.

The biggest factor in earning the win Saturday was making plays when the game was in doubt.

"We made the plays when the game was on the line. We silenced them in the game at big times," Smith said. "In the sixth inning the 3-6-3 double play was huge."

Smith said he was pleased with the make shift outfield defensively and offensively.

"We played with a catcher in left, a pitcher in center and a first baseman in right," Smith said. "We mixed things up and it paid off

for us."

The outfield accounted for four of the Hawks seven hits and drove in or scored five of the six runs.

"We call them our goal line offense," Smith said.

SATURDAY'S GAME

Howard 6

New Mexico JC 3

New Mexico's offense went to work in the top of the first inning after lead off batter Chris French was hit by a pitch. He moved to second on a delayed balk call. Then after a fly out to rightfield, second baseman Renny Osuna laced an RBI single to right-center scoring French.

However, Robbins retired the next two batters with a swinging strikeout and a fly out, to escape with the Hawks trailing 1-0.

In the top of the second inning with one out, right fielder Cody Fielding singled to center and stole second. Designated hitter Marc Noble reached on an error which allowed Fielding to score.

Howard second baseman Jeff Storms made amends for his error on the previous play by helping turn a 6-4-3 double play to end any further scoring threat by the Thunderbirds, which led 2-0.

In the bottom of the second, the Hawks had runners at second and

See HAWKS, Page 2B

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

third, but were caught looking for the final two outs of the inning, still trailing 2-0.

After retiring New Mexico in order in the top of the third, the Hawks cashed in on a Thunderbird error in the bottom half of the inning. With two outs, right fielder Darby Brown reached on a throwing error charged to the second baseman as the throw pulled the first baseman off the bag. Left fielder Jason Anderson drove Brown home with a triple down the right field line, cutting the New Mexico lead in half, 2-1. A groundout ended the inning.

Good defense allowed the Hawks to survive the top of the fourth. After hitting leftfielder Josh Tally — who then stole second — Robbins got first baseman Cory Zimmerman to fly out to center. A passed ball advanced Tally to third and a walk by shortstop Isaac Rincon put runners on the corners. Next, Fielding struck out, but catcher Jeff Ward lost the ball momentarily, when he found it, Rincon was caught off first base and a run down followed, resulting in the third out of the inning.

In the bottom of the fourth with one out, Aaron and Ward had back-to-back doubles, with Aaron scoring on Ward's double to tie the game, 2-2. A sacrifice bunt by Storms moved Ward to third. Next, third baseman Tanner Mattson laced a triple down the right field line, giving the Hawks a 3-2 lead.

New Mexico's offense was on the verge of erupting in the top of the fifth following a leadoff single by Noble. After a fly out to left and a ground out,



Mike Gosse ripped a single up the middle, scoring Noble to tie the game, 3-3. Then an error on the shortstop followed by a hit batsman, loaded the bases for Zimmerman. Fortunately for the Hawks, a ground ball out stranded the bases loaded to end the inning.

New Mexico pitcher Josh Giles recorded the first two outs of the fifth inning, but then ran into trouble. Both Will Basom and Johnny Joe Sanchez walked to set the table for Aaron, who crushed a three-run home run to break the tie giving Howard a 6-3 lead.

Defense was the key for the Hawks the remainder of the contest, recording a double play in both the sixth and seventh innings.

With the win, Howard improves to 19-7 overall and 2-5 in the conference. The Hawks host New Mexico Junior College today at Jack Barber Field with the first pitch at 2:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

The Hawks struggled on the road Friday, dropping a pair of conference games to New Mexico Junior College.

Howard has struggled on the mound all season, and that trend prevailed Friday, as well.

GAME ONE

A disastrous second inning was the difference in game one. The Hawks surrendered seven runs in the second after jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first. The Hawks outhit New Mexico, 10-9, but surrendered seven walks in the game, falling 10-4.

Chance Sebek started the game, but threw only

one and a third innings, suffering through the second inning before giving way to Zach Sewell. Sebek was charged with the loss, his first of the season as he fell to 2-1.

At the plate, Mattson, Femath and Brown each had a double. Also collecting hits for the Hawks were Basom and Ruiz, who each had a single and Aaron had a single and triple. Storms added three singles.

GAME TWO

Once again the Hawks jumped out to the lead, but game two witnessed the same outcome as New Mexico swept the doubleheader, winning 13-5.

The Hawks scored three runs in the top of the second inning before New Mexico scored two runs in both the second and third innings, to lead 4-3.

Howard scored one run in the fourth to tie the game at 4-4.

New Mexico broke the tie in the bottom of the fourth with two more runs, taking a 6-4 lead.

In the top of the fifth, Howard pulled within one run, but that was as close as they would get. New Mexico tacked on two runs in the sixth and ended the game in the eighth with five runs. The game was called on the eight-run rule.

The Hawks scored its five runs on eight hits. Ward had a triple and single, while Anderson had a double. Femath had two singles and Mattson, Aaron and Ruiz added a single apiece.

Justin Thompson suffered the loss, allowing eight runs, six earned, off 11 hits and one walk. He recorded three strikeouts in six innings of work.

Matthew Shepherd pitched the final inning and a third, allowing five runs on three hits and three walks, while striking out one.

Michigan State knocks off Kentucky in two overtimes

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN (AP) — A 3-point prayer, answered. One overtime, then another. And when the dust settled on the most breathtaking finish of an astonishing weekend, Michigan State was holding the last ticket to the Final Four.

Patrick Sparks' desperation 3 at the end of regulation danced oh-so softly on the rim, bouncing four times before falling through for Kentucky. But wait — was his right toe on the line?

Five minutes of tension passed while the referees reviewed the replay over and over at the scorer's table. It was a 3-pointer, all right, forcing overtime.

Yet even with the wind knocked out of them, the Spartans refused to fold. As the final seconds of the first overtime ticked away, Kelvin Torbert stood near halfcourt, smiled at his teammates and screamed, "Let's go!" — and they did, not even allowing a last shot.

Then the Spartans took over in the second overtime, pulling away for a 94-88 victory and capping a weekend filled with heart-stopping finishes. Michigan State is headed to its fourth Final Four in seven years, and will face North Carolina Saturday.

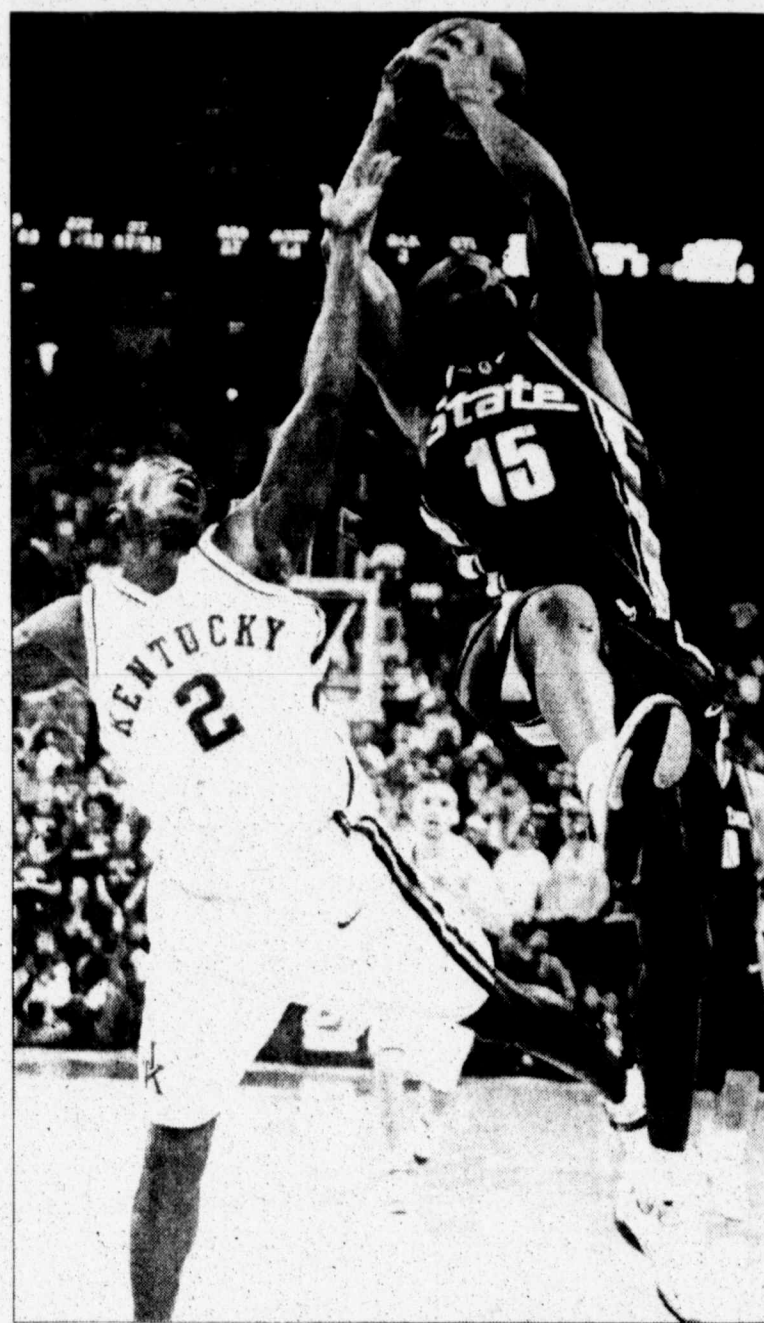
The trip to St. Louis will be sweet vindication for the Spartans' upperclassmen, a group that's been chided for being soft, weak and underachieving. Torbert, Alan Anderson and Chris Hill — seniors who were so close to breaking the chain of Final Fours begun by their predecessors from 1999-2001 — simply wouldn't let it happen.

Torbert went 5-of-6 from the foul line in the second overtime and Anderson was 4-of-4, keeping Kentucky from ever leading again.

Fueled by Sparks' long ball at the end of regulation, the second-seeded Wildcats jumped to a 79-75 lead at the start of the first extra period. But they never led again and Smith remains without a trip back to the Final Four since winning it all in 1998.

The loss also deprived the Bluegrass state of having two teams in the Final Four; only Louisville will be there now.

Instead, there's the chance for a title-game matchup between a different set of regional rivals: Michigan State and Illinois, the only team



KRT photo/David P. Gilkey, Detroit Free Press
Michigan State's Alan Anderson (15) grabs the inbound pass and draws a foul against Kentucky's Ravi Moss (2) to seal the game in the second overtime in the 2005 NCAA Division 1 Men's Basketball Regional Championships Sunday in Austin. The win advances them to the Final Four in St. Louis to play North Carolina Saturday.

that finished ahead of the Spartans (26-6) in the Big Ten this season.

With 5:25 left in regulation, fifth-seeded Michigan State seemed poised to advance easily. Torbert followed a block on defense with a basket on the other end, putting the Spartans up 70-62.

But Ravi Moss hit a 3-pointer with 1:55 left and Kelenna Azubuike made another with 1:06 left, making it a one-point game. Shannon Brown upped it to 75-72 by hitting two free throws with 19.8 seconds left.

What followed is a play that was scrutinized courtside for more than five minutes, but it seemed like an eternity to everyone holding their breath inside the Erwin Center.

Sparks missed a 3-point er, then Azubuike got the

rebound and dribbled to the right corner, only to miss another. The rebound went all the way to Sparks near the top of the key and his shot hung on the rim and then fell in.

As officials reviewed whether the ball was shot in time (it clearly was) and whether the tip of his right blue-and-white sneaker was touching the line, Michigan State coach Tom Izzo was holding a clipboard and a pen, ready to diagram plays.

Referee James Burr said he wasn't worried about the clock, strictly Sparks' feet. He said he felt comfortable with the decision after asking CBS to zoom in.

Michigan State was led by sophomore Shannon Brown's 24 points on 8-of-10 shooting with five 3-pointers.

UNC holds off feisty Badgers

By KEITH PARSONS

AP Sports Writer

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — No one sacrificed more than Rashad McCants to make sure North Carolina got back to the Final Four. So it was only fitting that he made the plays when the Tar Heels needed him most.

The star guard, no longer the team's leading scorer this year while accepting a more team-oriented role, swished a clutch 3-pointer and had two huge defensive stops down the stretch, leading top-seeded North Carolina past Wisconsin 88-82 Sunday in the final of the Syracuse Regional.

Sean May led the Tar Heels (31-4) with 29 points and 12 rebounds, and Raymond Felton added 17 points — including four free throws in the final minute to seal it. But it was McCants who did the most to end a marvelous run by the sixth-seeded Badgers (25-9) and send the Tar Heels to the Final Four for the first time since 2000.

They will play Michigan State, which beat Kentucky 94-88 in double overtime, next Saturday in St. Louis.

With North Carolina clinging to a three-point lead, McCants jumped high to swat away a 3 by Clayton Hanson with about 2 minutes left. Hanson's only miss of the second half from beyond the arc. Later, when Kammron Taylor drove to

the basket, McCants again was there to stop him.

Wisconsin closed within three again on an alley-oop dunk by Alando Tucker before McCants made his 3-pointer, coming off a screen by Marvin Williams to give North Carolina an 81-75 lead. He finished with 21 points.

That proved to be enough, and when the final buzzer sounded, McCants and Felton spent several seconds embracing in the lane while teammates quickly donned hats that read "Syracuse Regional Champions."

Coach Roy Williams advanced to the Final Four for the fifth time in his career; after four trips with Kansas, he's taking his alma mater in only his second season there.

"It's special, there's no question about it," Williams said. "I loved 15 years at Kansas. I loved those four times there. But I did go to school here, my wife went to school here, my son went to school here and my daughter went to school here. It is special."

One by one, he sent his players up a ladder to cut down nets on both ends of the court.

No one could blame him

this time.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," May said. "It just didn't seem real. The emotions were indescribable. You have to go through it yourself."

Tucker scored 25 points for the Badgers, who — despite their reputation for steady and methodical offense — never once tried to slow the pace. They scored more than 80 points for only the third time this season and the first since Dec. 27.

Still, they stayed close throughout, led by Tucker and the shooting of Hanson, a former walk-on. He scored 15 points — all on 3s — after averaging only 6.2 coming into the regional.

Hanson's final points came with 8:48 left, nailing a jumper after Mike Wilkinson passed out of a double team.

That cut the Tar Heels' lead to 68-67, and although Wisconsin never led down the stretch, the margin never was greater than five until the final seconds.

Meanwhile, May has become the No. 1 offensive option.

The burly center certainly was that in this victory, shooting 13-of-19 to reach double figures for the 19th straight game.

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bath w/2 car detached garage.
Tile, hardwood, carpet floors.
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shed. Nice quite neighborhood.
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2 STORY House in great con-
dition. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 liv-
ing areas, office, fireplace. 2
large storage buildings, large
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up for Mobile Home. 45K,
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& shop. Coahoma District.
Fenced 1 acre. \$55,000.00.
Owner will consider financing
10% down. Call
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COAHOMA REBUILT Home, 3
bedroom, 2 full baths. New
Ref. air, new dishwasher, new
oak cabinets, new carpet. All
insulated windows. New paint
inside & out. 412 South 2nd.
\$45,000.00. No Owner Fi-
nance. Call Kenny Thompson
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Priced to Sell! Newly remod-
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McEwen. Two bedroom, one
bath, two living areas, CH/A,
fenced yard, storage building.
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FOR SALE by Owner: Owner
financing provided. Low down
payment, will work with income
tax refund, low monthly, 3 bed-
room, 1 bath, 1001 N. Gregg.
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FOR SALE by Owner: Owner
financing provided. Low down
payment, will work with income
tax refund, low monthly, 3 bed-
room, 1 bath. 1500 Kentucky
Way. Call Kelly 432-425-9994.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

This Scorpio moon highlights a mothering relationship. Examine the role that feminine energy plays in our lives.

With so much of Aries, the warrior, activating our drive, it's important to acknowledge that not every battle is won by aggression, force and opportunism. Sometimes all we have to do is ask for what we want and it's willingly given.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Whatever it is you're selling, people are buying it! When you "testify," you can make the faithless man believe. Meditate and get centered this morning so as not to squander or scatter your powers.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Group dynamics are

so high school today! People pair off, whisper and scheme. Cliquishness doesn't bother you because you fit in with everyone. But be sensitive to more insecure souls.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you're supposed to be there, show up! You are desperately needed. Some fill a room with sadness. Luckily, you are there to counteract the negativity and fill the room with joy instead.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's transition time. Hope and excitement bubble up on the inside. Some of you experience love "on the outs." A last-ditch attempt is sort of pathetic. Song reference: Carole King's "It's Too Late."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Strangely, you feel more yourself with a certain someone than you do when you're by yourself. Make arrangements to do more together. Capricorn will become the memory you can't erase.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Structure is attrac-

tive. So many people need it, but you're the rare one who makes the effort to create it and uphold it. This is especially true in your rules for social conduct. If only everyone would follow them!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It only takes one interruption, and suddenly, events fly wildly off track from your plan. Once you've voiced your preferences, all you can do is relax. When you stop resisting, miracles can occur.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When someone is on your side, they act like they are on your side. Pay attention to deeds, not words. You can do better financially. It's the perfect time to get quotes, shop for deals or change your bank.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can't help but feel superior, especially when certain people around you are big-time slackers! How can you relate to the person with no ambition? Dig down deep for your compassion — the world

needs it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're so used to going for the goal with all your body, soul and mind that you think others are the same way. Not! Recognize the difference between a passing fancy and an all-consuming desire.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Generosity is your finest virtue now. However, some people think life is for the taking ... and taking and taking. Avoid those people! Friendship can turn to love, but you've got to really want it first.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Certain influential folks only need to look at you with those big, watery eyes, and suddenly, you're weak in the knees, willing to give whatever they ask for. Realize your weakness, and avoid temptation.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I am a Libra in a relationship with a Sagittarius. I possess a burning emotional desire for a (perfect) partner to

reach emotional fulfillment. About seven months ago, I let my emotional self succumb to the love of another. Now, I feel as if I have come to an internal crossroad that I struggle to pass. While the intellectual and physical aspects of my relationship with the Sagittarius are quite fulfilling, the emotional aspect has been left void. I am still questioning whether his love for me is as strong as my love is for him."

Sometimes two people don't have to love each other with equal intensity for the relationship to work. I think you'll be happier if you stop having emotional expectations of this Sagittarius that he cannot fulfill. My advice is to release yourself from the guilt of cheating. And consider that you may be able to fill your emotional void in another way — perhaps through learning, providing service to others and generally doing things that increase your sense of self-worth.

Ultimately, only you decide how you feel about you. Don't give anyone else that power!

CELEBRITY PROFILES: The beautiful Julia Stiles is born under the sign of the ingenue. Springtime Aries babies are the zodiac's firstborn, representing innocence and promise. However, Stiles has a Capricorn moon, indicating that she's emotionally controlled, mature and responsible. Perhaps it's the complexity of these vastly different influences that makes her so compelling to watch on the big screen.

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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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: I am writing in hopes of saving others from the tragedy that befell my son, Jonathan, and our family. Jon was a sophomore in college. Following an alcohol-related incident the last week of his freshman year, we pulled Jon from school. He worked hard that summer at two jobs to pay for the consequences of his misbehavior and tested clean for alcohol and drugs at the end of summer. Jon returned to school in August, re-energized and intent on doing well.

I spoke to him two nights before Halloween. He had finished his midterms, was participating in athletics, and working hard toward a business degree so he could join me in the company I had recently purchased. Because he had lost his driving privileges, I cautioned him about riding with anyone who had been drinking. He replied, "Trust me, Dad, I know better."

On Halloween, Jon and his friends attended a party. Jon took a ride with a student he hardly knew, who was incredibly drunk. The driver lost control at high speed and crashed head-on into a car driven by a professor at Jon's school.

The drunk student driver, the professor and Jon all were instantly killed. A friend of Jon's who was in the back seat survived, but suffered broken bones and internal injuries, lost part of his foot and an eye, and sustained serious brain injuries. His dreams and aspirations are gone forever.

A few weeks following the crash, Jon's best friend took his own life. Another close friend of Jon's dropped out of school, blaming herself for allowing Jon to get into the car with the drunk driver. Two other friends suffered serious depression. Our family will never be the same.

We must prevent what happened to Jon from happening to others. That is why I'd like everyone to know about National Alcohol Screening Day on April 7. Facilities across the country are offering free screenings for those with alcohol problems, and education about alcohol, health and safety. I urge anyone who drinks to take advantage of this program. Your readers can find a screening site by



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

NationalAlcoholScreeningDay.org or calling 1-800-697-6700.

Please participate in this event and help avoid the tragic consequences suffered by my son. — Jeff Levy, President, Virginia College Parents, Virginia Public Policy Liaison, Mothers Against Drunk Driving; National Spokesperson, International Institute for Alcohol Awareness†

Dear Jeff Levy: Our hearts go out to you. We appreciate your giving us the opportunity to once again mention National Alcohol Screening Day on April 7. Alcohol-related crashes account for 41 percent of all fatal car accidents. Fourteen hundred college students

and between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol-related unintentional injuries, including

motor vehicle crashes. More than 600,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted each year by another student who has been drinking.

Women are more vulnerable than men. Adolescent girls who consume even moderate amounts of alcohol may experience disrupted growth and puberty. Heavy drinking in adult women can disrupt normal menstrual cycling and reproductive functions. Alcohol abuse and alcoholism can cause women to suffer from infertility, increased risk for spontaneous abortion, and impaired fetal growth and development. Older drinkers are not exempt. Heavy alcohol consumption may increase the risk for Alzheimer's disease in both genders, and in women in particular.

Please, dear readers, if you or anyone you know may have an alcohol problem, call for a confidential screening. The lines are open now.

Dear Annie: My sister-in-law, "Diane," recently started a small business, and my mother-in-law, "Annette," has been helping her. They agreed to split the profits. Business was slow at first, and there were no profits after the bills were paid. Annette complained to everyone who would lis-

ten that she wasn't making any money.

One day, Annette confessed to me that if a customer pays in cash, she just pockets it. I was appalled, but my husband said to keep quiet. Six weeks later, Diane called me, frantic, because money and inventory were missing. She asked for my help, and I told her what I knew about Annette. Diane was horrified and furious.

Three weeks ago, when the books were off again, Diane confronted her mother, who then said all kinds of vicious things about me. In retaliation, I spilled the beans to Diane about the nasty things Annette had said about her — and there were plenty.

Diane trusts me and knows I am telling the truth. Annette is taking her anger out on the grandchildren, and bad-mouthing my husband and me to whoever will listen. But this month, the books were right on.

My mother-in-law has a long history of lying and rotten behavior, but everyone writes it off as a personality disorder. I cannot fathom stealing from my own child and am outraged by her subsequent hostility. Should I confront her? — And You Think Your Mother-in-Law Is Bad?

Dear AYTAMILIB: What

are you hoping to accomplish? Annette sounds as if she isn't playing with a full deck, and unless she is willing to seek professional help to readjust her behavior, nothing will change. You do not have to maintain contact if she is mean to your children, but please don't add fuel to the fire. Let your husband deal with his mother as he wishes, but you should steer clear.

Dear Annie: I am in my early 50s, and my boyfriend, "Wallace," is 10 years younger. We've been together for two years. Wallace seems to suffer from low self-esteem. Every time I compliment him, he has trouble accepting my words. Last night, I told him he had beautiful eyes (he really does), and he replied, "No, I don't."

This happens every time I comment positively about him. I love him very much, and it frustrates me that he questions my sincerity. How can I handle his negativity and lack of self-esteem? — New Jersey

Dear N.J.: Wallace isn't questioning your sincerity. He simply doesn't know how to receive a compliment. So teach him. Next time you compliment him and he responds negatively, look him in the eye and say, "Wallace, I want you to say only the words 'thank

you.' Try it." It might take some practice and many reminders, but this simple form of behavior modification can work.

Dear Annie: I am responding to "Furious Niece in Redding, Calif.," who complained that the minister who officiated at her uncle's funeral knew nothing about the deceased or the family.

Ministers often are called on to perform funerals for people they never knew. This can happen if the deceased was not a member or rarely attended church. It also can happen when the deceased lived elsewhere and was brought home for burial.

Most experienced ministers can find tactful ways to avoid awkward situations, but perhaps this particular family hadn't provided the minister with enough information and he had to improvise in order to conduct a service that lasted longer than five minutes. — Roanoke, Va.

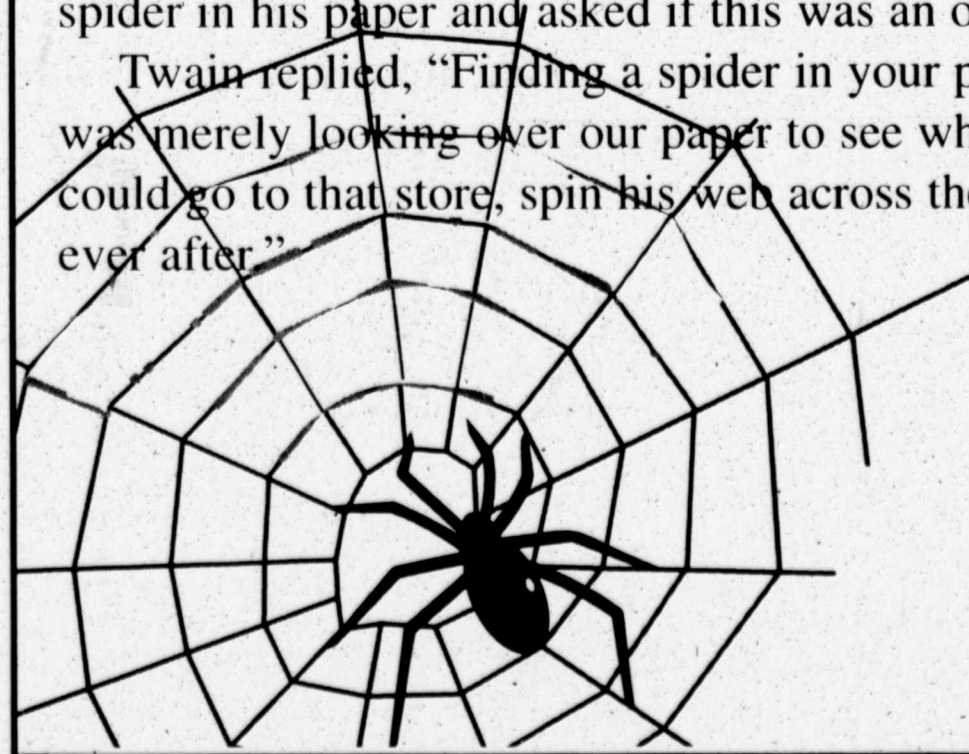
Dear Roanoke: You have made some good points. However, funerals are times of grief for the family members, and they often aren't thinking about such details. We would hope that a conscientious minister who is unfamiliar with the deceased would make a greater effort to get the necessary information.

The Spider

During Mark Twain's days as a newspaperman, he was the editor of a small Missouri paper.

One day, he received a letter from a subscriber stating that he had found a spider in his paper and asked if this was an omen of good or bad luck.

Twain replied, "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good nor bad luck. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever after."



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MONDAY

MAR. 28

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	TMC (250)
	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odessa	Odessa	Telemundo	Midland	Atlanta	Odessa	Odessa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	ESPN2	ESPN	TMC
6	News (CC)	News	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid. Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Amia No Te Rajes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Jesse Lee Pe John Hagee	News-Lehrer	American Chopper	(CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET.com	That's Raven	Dream Job 2005	Women's College	Thoughts (CC)
7	How'd They Do That?	How'd They Do That?	Aquesta por un Amor	Nanny 911 (CC)	Still Standing Listen Up	La Mujer en el Espejo	Fear Factor (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Antiques Roadshow	Hot Rod Build-Off (CC)	Movie: The Breakfast Club	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Prison Song	Movie: The Luck of the Irish (CC)	Tennis: NASDAQ-100	Basketball	Movie: The Cotton Club
8	The Bachelor (CC)	The Bachelor (CC)	La Madrastra	24 (CC)	Raymond Two-Half Men	Los Plateados	Las Vegas (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	Monster Garage (CC)	Movie: Sixteen Candles	WWE Raw (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Club Comic View	Sister, Sister Even Stevens	PBA Bowling: Banquet Open	Basketball	15 Movie: The Shawshank Redemption
9	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laura	News Tonight Show	Movie: Money Talks (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Hot Rod Build-Off (CC)	Sign Off	Movie: The Breakfast Club	Widest Police Videos	Midnight Love (CC)	Proud Family Kim Possible	NBA Fastbreak Arm Wrestling	SportsCenter (CC)	Shawshank Redemption
10	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo	Late Night	Booker: Survivor	Booker: Survivor	Sign Off	Monster Garage (CC)	Movie: The Breakfast Club	Widest Police Videos	NYPD Blue (CC)	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie McGuire	Arm Wrestling	SportsCenter (CC)	45 Movie: The Return of the Living
11	Live (CC) News (CC)	Live (CC) Paid Program	Alma Rebelde	Spin City Dharma-Greg	Show The Insider	Conan O'Brien Fraser (CC)	Movie: Fair Game (CC)	Update/Israel How Can I			American Chopper								
12																			

DENNIS THE MENACE

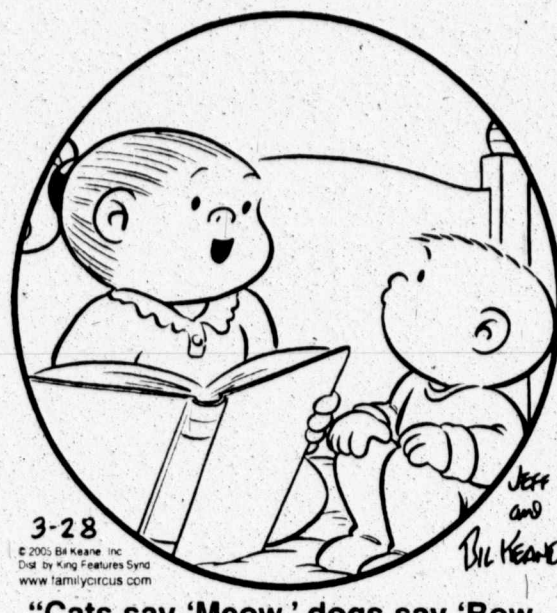


"YOU HAD JUST BETTER BEHAVE YOURSELF, DENNIS MITCHELL!"



"HEY, MOM! MARGARET IS TRYIN' TO TAKE YOUR JOB!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Cats say 'Meow,' dogs say 'Bow-wow,' and bunnies say 'Thump-thump.'"

HAGAR



"I'M OFF TO ENGLAND... ..TO FIND MY PLACE IN THE SUN!"



"HE'S GOING TO ENGLAND DURING THE RAINY SEASON..."



"...TO FIND HIS PLACE IN THE SUN!!"



"DOCTOR'S ORDERS!"

BLONDIE



"HOW'D YOUR APPOINTMENT GO TODAY?"



"DR. AUSTIN TOLD ME TO START TAKING SHORT WALKS AFTER DINNER."

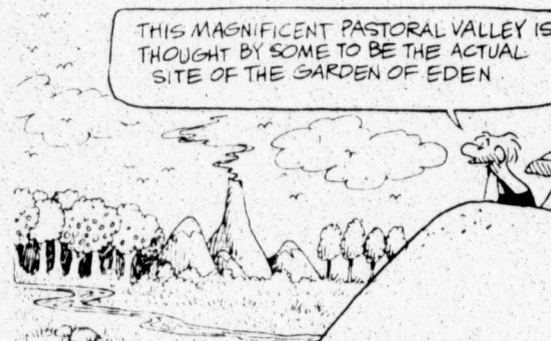


"SO I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHORT WALK TO THE SOFA."



"DOCTOR'S ORDERS!"

BC



"THIS MAGNIFICENT PASTORAL VALLEY IS THOUGHT BY SOME TO BE THE ACTUAL SITE OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN."



"I DOUBT THAT VERY MUCH."

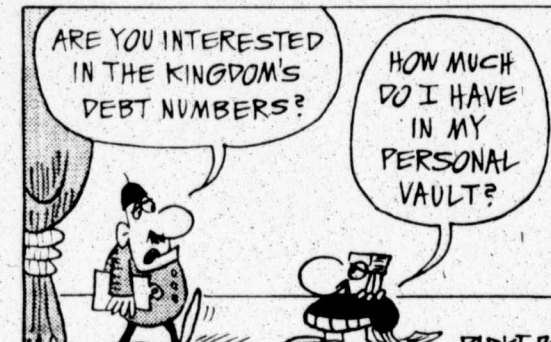


"WHY?"



"NO SOUVENIR STANDS."

WIZARD OF ID



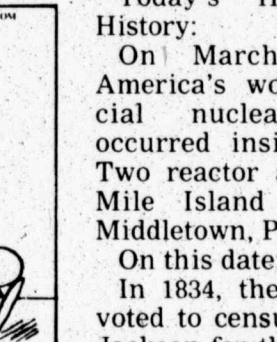
"ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE KINGDOM'S DEBT NUMBERS?"



"HOW MUCH DO I HAVE IN MY PERSONAL VAULT?"



"IT'S OVERFLOWING."



"NO."

AGNES



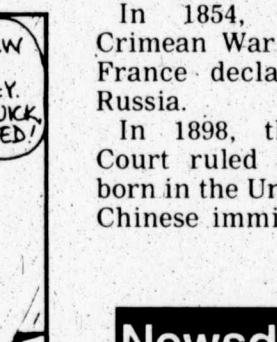
"OHNO! IT'S RAINING! THE EARTH WILL SPEW FORTH ITS WORMS!"



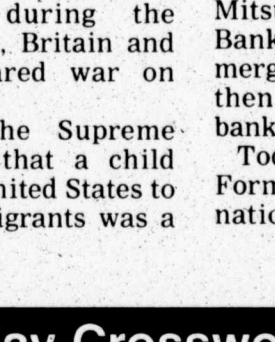
"SO?"



"WORMS STALK THE EARTH HOLES OF MANKIND! THERE'S NEVER BEEN A WORM THAT COULD SAY NO TO AN INVITING EARTH HOLE!"



"I'M GONNA COVER MY EARS TIGHT!"



"BETTER PARK A FEW FINGERS IN THAT HONKER, TOO, HONEY. THEY'RE NOT ONLY QUICK, BUT NEARSIGHTED!"

HI AND LOIS



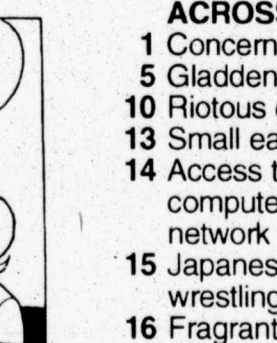
"THE BOSS SAYS THERE'S NO MONEY TO SPARE FOR A BONUS ON COMPLETING THE BIG SPRING 'ROLL-OUT,' SO WE MAY STRIKE."



"BROWNE 3-28"



"DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?"



"SOMETHING ABOUT BOWLING?"

THE OTHER COAST



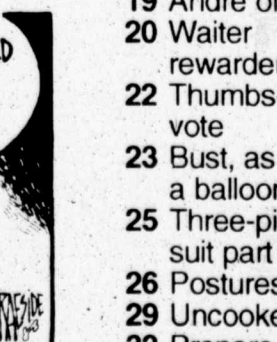
"EVERY YEAR, I LOAD UP MY BASKET WITH CHOCOLATE EGGS..."



"THEN BUST MY TAIL DELIVERING GOODIES TO KIDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, ALL IN ONE DAY!"



"BUT DO YOU THINK JUST ONE KID WOULD LEAVE ME EVEN ONE LOUSY COOKIE?"



"MAYBE YOU SHOULD MEET WITH MY PUBLISHER."

SNUFFY SMITH



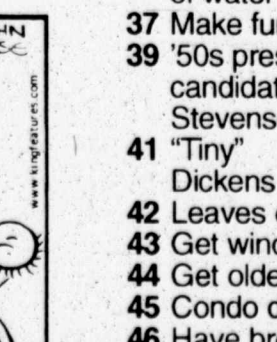
"TATER'S GITTIN' SO BIG!! I MISS HAVIN' A LIL' ONE 'ROUND!!"



"YUP!! COME MIDNIGHT, THAR'S NUFFIN' CUTER 'N A 'CRYIN' BABY WIF DIRTY DIAPERS!!"



"NEVERMIND!!"



"I KNEW HE WAS GETTING HIS TECHNIQUES FROM SOMEONE"

BEETLE BAILEY



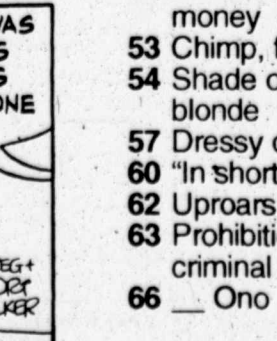
"I'LL BE BARNED! LOOK BEHIND THE WAREHOUSE!"



"I KNEW HE WAS GETTING HIS TECHNIQUES FROM SOMEONE"



"SPLAT!"



"I KNEW HE WAS GETTING HIS TECHNIQUES FROM SOMEONE"

This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 28, the 87th day of 2005. There are 278 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 28, 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred inside the Unit Two reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pa.

On this date: In 1834, the U.S. Senate voted to censure President Jackson for the removal of federal deposits from the Bank of the United States.

In 1854, during the Crimean War, Britain and France declared war on Russia.

In 1898, the Supreme Court ruled that a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrants was a

U.S. citizen.

In 1930, the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed to Istanbul and Ankara.

In 1939, the Spanish Civil War ended as Madrid fell to the forces of Francisco Franco.

In 1941, novelist and critic Virginia Woolf died in Lewes, England.

In 1942, during World War II, British naval forces raided the Nazi-occupied French port of St. Nazaire.

In 1953, athlete Jim Thorpe died in Lomita, Calif.

In 1969, the 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, died in Washington at age 78.

In 1994, playwright Eugene Ionesco died in Paris at age 81.

Ten years ago: In Japan, Mitsubishi Bank and the Bank of Tokyo agreed to a merger to create what was then the world's largest bank.

Today's Birthdays: Former White House national security adviser

Zbigniew Brzezinski is 77.

Alaska Gov. Frank Murkowski is 72. Country musician Charlie McCoy is 64. Movie director Mike Newell is 63. Actress Conchata Ferrell is 62.

Actor Ken Howard is 61. Actress Dianne Wiest is 57.

R&B musician Milan Williams is 57. Country singer Reba McEntire is 50.

Actress Tracey Needham is 38. Actor Max Perlich is 37.

Country singer Rodney Atkins is 36. Rapper Salt (Salt-N-Pepa) is 36.

Actor Vince Vaughn is 35. Rapper Mr. Cheeks (Lost Boyz) is 34.

Actor Ken L. is 32. Actress Julia Stiles is 24.

Answer to previous puzzle

DECLAIM ROMPERS
ENHANCE EPAULET
BRAGGED TERRACE
TAR EDITOR EPEE
OGLER COLAS SIL
REIN FIND MAEVE
DESTINE TENSER
URGE ARLO
MELES EGOTISM
ELIDE PAID NEAP
NEB SMART STATE
AGEE ALPACA BIL
CARMINE TOURIST
ENTICES ENDORSE
STYLIST SKIDDED

Newsday Crossword

SOMETHING'S AFOOT by Gail Grabowski

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

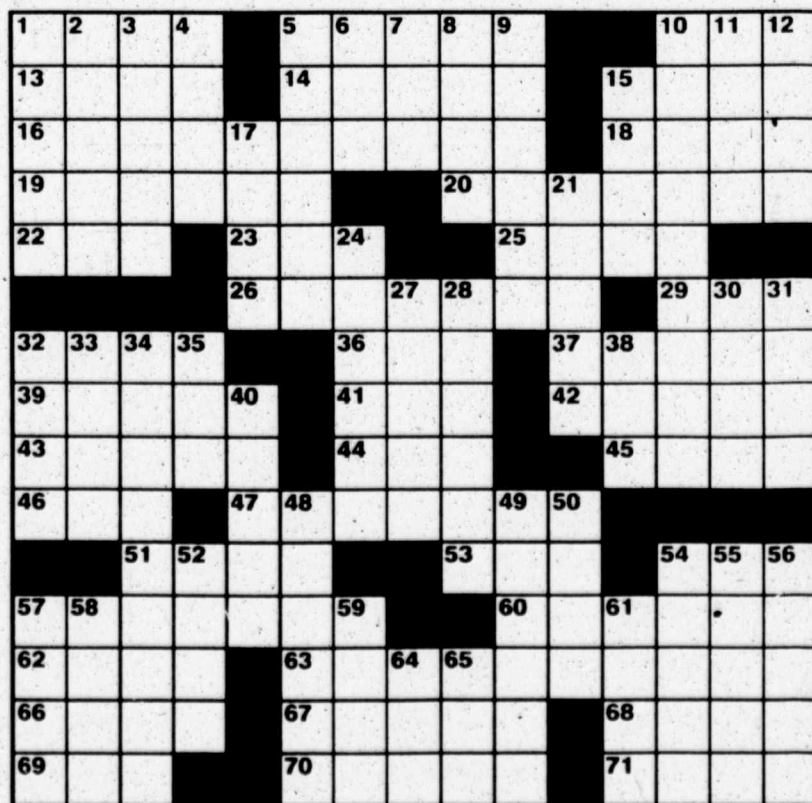
- 1 Concerning
5 Gladden
10 Riotous crowd
13 Small earring
14 Access the computer network
15 Japanese wrestling
16 Fragrant evergreen
18 "That's too bad!"
19 Andre of tennis
20 Waiter
22 Thumbs-up vote
23 Bust, as a balloon
25 Three-piece suit part
26 Postures
29 Uncooked
32 Prepare flour
36 Large body of water
37 Make fun of
39 '50s presidential candidate Stevenson
41 "Tiny" Dickens boy
42 Leaves out
43 Get wind of
44 Get older
45 Condo division
46 Have breakfast
47 Kitchen cloth
51 Get-out-of-jail money
53 Chimp, for one
54 Shade of blonde
57 Dressy dresses
60 "In short order!"
62 Uproars
63 Prohibition-era criminal
66 Ono

- 67 Tennessee
68 Emulate Pisa's tower
69 Before, to Longfellow
70 Most high-school students
71 Lodge members

DOWN

- 1 Ore analysis
2 Performer's platform
3 Albacore and yellowfin
4 Racetrack postings
5 Mama Cass
6 Ceiling-fan setting
7 In the past
8 Horn sound
9 Salad vegetable
10 Pack-animal lineup
11 Actor Sharif
12 Head of the business
15 Tree fluids
17 Nile snakes
21 Sauce made with basil
24 Rigatoni and ravioli
27 Horse sound
28 Photographer's need
30 Italian wine center
31 Toward the sunset
32 Bargain hunter's delight
33 Creative thought
34 Penniless
35 Paving material

- 38 Australian bird
40 Calcutta's home
48 Remark of the unconvinced
49 Fruits for the teacher
50 Richard of Runaway Bride
52 "Are not!" response
54 Christmas tree-top ornament
55 Porterhouse, e.g.
56 Antlers
57 Actress Dunaway
58 Scent
59 Feeling achy
61 Make eyes at
64 Small bill
65 Kitchen foil material



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