



SPORTS

MC Basketball

No. 19 Lady Chaparrals, backed by a record eight 3-pointers from Julie Rampley, bombed away at Clarendon College for a 110-43 victory./1C



R&P

Mr. Ripley

In his latest film, Matt Damon is "The Talented Mr. Ripley." He went beyond the call of duty to submerge himself into the dark role./1B

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High court takes new look at rights of abortion protesters

By Rick McLaughlin
Staff Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court is taking a new look at the free speech rights of anti-abortion demonstrators, studying what limits can be placed on their "sidewalk counseling" outside clinics, like the Planned Parenthood of West Texas in the 300 block of East Texas Avenue in Midland.

The anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision always prompts protests, though a group of protesters spends every Friday morning across the street from the Midland clinic.

There are more than 900 abortions performed at the Midland Clinic each year, said Carla Holva, vice president of community affairs for Planned Parenthood of West Texas.

The case currently being argued before the U.S. Supreme Court involves a Colorado law that requires protesters to stay at least eight feet away from people entering health care clinics, unless someone agrees to closer contact to talk or take a leaflet. The court's decision is expected by July.

"I have no fault with (the eight-foot distance between patients and protesters)," said Ed Smead, past board member of Problem Pregnancy, a pro-life organization. "We have no quarrel with that at all. If they want to limit it that's fine."

Please see ABORTION/4A



Adam Martin recites the rosary in front of the Planned Parenthood clinic.



Bishop Michael Pfeifer of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo is in Midland today to lead a pro-life service at the Midland Center.



Rebecca Eger, above, holds up a poster of the Virgin Mary outside of Planned Parenthood of West Texas Inc. MRT File Photos

Jury indicts new suspects in drug sting

By Rick McLaughlin
Staff Writer

Five new suspects were indicted by a federal grand jury in Midland federal District Court Thursday and additional drug-related charges have been brought against 18 previously named suspects in the latest chapter of the biggest drug investigation in West Texas history.

The grand jury's decision Thursday brings the number of suspects indicted in connection with the narcotics organization to 37, said Lt. Robert E. Ralls of the Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Division. "Some of those people are facing as many as 32 separate counts that allege their involvement in or direction of the narcotics trafficking organization."

The investigation, which began more than two years ago, triggered the first major round of indictments and arrests Dec. 9.

Court documents reveal several new angles in the government's allegations that former and current employees of The Herrera Law Firm and some Herrera family members operated an illegal drug operation and that much of the alleged operation was run out of the firm's offices in Midland, Odessa, and other offices, some of which are now closed.

The firm's principal partner, Jesse Herrera, has not returned telephone calls from the Reporter-Telegram. Herrera has not been charged with anything at this time, officials said.

Among the newly indicted are Veronica Ronquillo, 23, of Odessa, said in court documents to be the girlfriend of Louis Renteria, who is suspected of being one of the key leaders in what the government is calling the Aranda-Renteria operation.

Ms. Ronquillo was indicted on conspiracy charges, but she has not been arrested. She is sister of Sara Ronquillo Aranda, who is the wife of Elizardo Aranda, the other key figure in the operation's leadership, according to court documents. Veronica Ronquillo is also the brother of Rafael Ronquillo, another indicted conspirator. They have all been previously indicted as part of the conspiracy, except for Veronica Ronquillo, who was indicted yesterday.

Another suspect indicted was Maria Teresa Castillo, 31, of Midland, who was indicted and arrested Thursday by DPS and Drug Enforcement Agency officers and U.S. marshals.

Jaime Joshua Salazar was indicted and was already in federal custody.

Robert Acosta-Flores, 30, of Odessawas also indicted.

Pete Gamboa, 32, of Odessa, was also indicted and he is suspected of being an associate of Elizardo Aranda, a leading suspect in the organization's leadership, according to court documents. Gamboa is accused of having worked under the direction of Elizardo Aranda in the distribution of marijuana.

Among earlier suspects, additional charges have been brought against Elizardo "Lizard" Aranda and Louis Alf-

Please see DRUGS/4A

Midland County, school district hold planning meetings

County officials set goals for the coming year, measure '99 success

By Ed Todd
Staff Writer

At noon today, Midland County's elected officials are going to delve into a "Leadership and Goal-Setting" workshop, by evaluating the county's performance and setting new goals.

The officials are "looking at what we did right and what we didn't do the best job on" last year in view of the county's five-year goals adopted in 1999, County Judge Bill Morrow said.

The workshop will be held in the Midland County Courthouse's fourth-floor 238th District Courtroom.

Among questions to be answered in the workshop is "What progress did we make on

our five-year goals?" and a discussion of how the county fared in striving toward those goals, Morrow said.

Those goals, which were recommended at a county government retreat in Fort Davis in December 1998 when Morrow was the county judge-elect, include:

- ◆ A financially sound county government
- ◆ County government working as a team
- ◆ Quality services for county residents
- ◆ The safest county in West Texas

"I think we made some progress," said Morrow, who noted that harmony within the county's 425-member workforce has been heightened by people "talking to one another more."

Please see COUNTY/4A

'You always start with the positive: What did we do right? Maybe it's not what did we do wrong but, what did we not do well enough?'

— Bill Morrow, county judge

MISD to gather for a budget retreat

By Jeff Stevens
Staff Writer

The Midland Independent School District board of trustees will meet Saturday for a board room budget retreat at the administration building at 615 W. Missouri.

"We're going to be talking about the budget in general," said Executive Director of Business Services Art Martin.

Trustee Martha Manulik added that the board will be discussing priority issues of where district funds will be spent.

"Basically because it's so complicated, we try to get an idea of where we're going to concentrate our funds," said Ms. Manulik. "We try to look at our goals and how we are spending our budget to accommodate that."

Martin is scheduled to discuss development

activities for the 1999-2000 budget and Superintendent Joseph Baressi Jr. will discuss "other budget issues."

Additionally, Executive Director of Administrative Services Joe Cummins will present and discuss the MISD long-range plan for 2000-2005. The long-range planning committee has chosen to continue the district's emphasis on improving the reading, writing and math programs. The plan also calls for continued efforts in the area of technical training and improving secondary facilities.

"All of these ideas are going to have to compete with the regular budget, but the fact that they have been prioritized in the long-range plan gives them a higher level of importance," said Cummins.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 8:30 a.m. and is expected to last until 2 p.m.

Painter gets top billing in GOP sheriff's race

By Ed Todd
Staff Writer

Drawings were held Thursday to determine ballot placement for the upcoming March 14 primary elections. Midland County Sheriff Gary Painter got the No. 1 ballot position over two contenders in the GOP primary, while Josie Ramirez got the top slot on the Democratic ballot in a five-way battle to replace Louisa Valencia as Precinct 3 county commissioner.

Sheriff's Deputy Sgt. Mike Hall claimed the second position on the Republican ballot, and District Attorney's Investigator Pat Bostick took third place in their quest to oust the 52-year-old Painter, who is seeking his fifth four-year term.

Also by luck of the draw in Thursday's drawings at the Midland County Republican Party headquarters, Texas Gov. George W. Bush's got the third position in a seven-way race for the Republican Party nomination for president of the United States.

In each contested race, the candidates or their representatives first drew the order of drawing

and then drew for their vertical positioning on the ballot.

"I think most of the people in Midland know who they want to vote for," said Brian Carney, a Midland attorney who is the county's Republican Party chairman. "And they will know why by the time the (March 14) primary (election) comes around."

Of any advantage to the first name on the ballot in a contested race, Carney surmised that "an inexperienced voter" or perhaps "the uneducated voter" might be influenced by the first name on the ballot "if that is as far as they go down the ballot."

On the Democratic ballot following Mrs. Ramirez's name in the county commissioner race will be those of Carolyn Palmer, 55; Mariano "J.R." Rendon Jr., 29; Julius Brooks, 60, and Max Cuellar, 39.

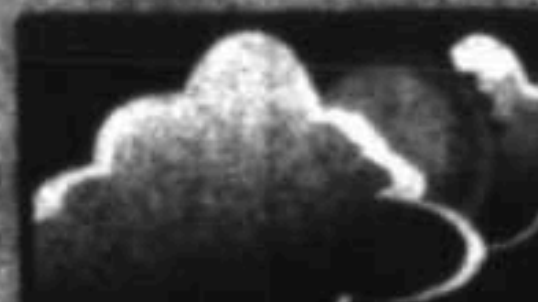
"I hope that means I will be No. 1 — the successor" to retiring Democratic Midland County Commissioner Louisa Valencia, said Mrs. Ramirez. "I think she has done an excellent job."

Please see BALLOTS/4A

A look inside

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Opinion	8A
Sports	1C
TV Schedule	7B
Weather	4A



TODAY

Partly cloudy with high in mid-50s. Weather on 4A

Winter Whiteout

Writer delivered his first major whiteout to parts of the East on Thursday, tangling air and ground traffic, closing scores of schools and dropping blankets of snow on roads that until now hadn't seen a dusting./8A



On the wire

◆ National Archives starts selling Nixon's once-secret tapes./8A
◆ Investigators still think Egyptian crash was deliberate./10A

Candidates

Republican Party

Midland County Sheriff
Gary Painter
Mike Hall
Pat Bostick

Democratic Party

Precinct 3
Josie Ramirez
Carolyn Palmer
Mariano "J.R." Rendon Jr.
Julius Brooks
Max Cuellar

Presidential

George W. Bush
Al Gore
Ross Perot
Pat Buchanan
Dick Cheney
Steve Forbes
Rick Warren
Gary Bauer
John McCain
Alan Keyes
Bob Dole
Pat Buchanan
Dick Cheney
Steve Forbes
Rick Warren
Gary Bauer
John McCain
Alan Keyes
Bob Dole

OBITUARIES



Ruben Sansom

Ruben Sansom, 65, died Monday, January 18, 2000 at a local hospital.

Ruben's life began September 27, 1934 in Alvarado, Texas to the parentage of Timothy and Cordie Sansom.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Margaret Sansom; two sisters, Amanda Brown and Altha Lee Sansom; and a brother, Earnest Sansom.

Ruben and his sisters and brothers were raised in Alvarado, Texas and later moved to Plainview in 1949. Ruben moved to Midland in 1964. He was employed for 25 years, until his retirement in 1989. Cliff

Rowe was a good friend of Ruben's, as well as his boss. Ruben was known to most of his friends as "Farmhand", there just wasn't much of anything that he couldn't do.

Love found Ruben and Margaret and the two were united. God blessed this union with 3 wonderful children.

He leaves to mourn his memory three children, Ruben D. Sansom, Pamela Woodruff and Rickey Lee, all of Midland, Texas. Ruben also had three other children, Robert A. Sansom of Plainview, Texas, Gregory Spence Jones of Detroit, Michigan, and Patricia R. Sansom of Redding, California. Other survivors include two brothers, Timothy Sansom Jr. and R. T. Sansom; one twin sister, Ruth Storey of Plainview, Texas; 12 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, a host of nieces and nephews, and numerous friends.

Services will be held Saturday, January 22, 2000, at Goodwill Baptist Church at 2 p.m. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Thomas Funeral Home.

Roger Van Bramer

Roger P. Van Bramer, 91, of Odessa, died Thursday, January 20, 2000 at Medical Center Hospital. He was born October 6, 1908 in Vandalia, Illinois. He married Ava L. Munn July 7,

1991 in Lovington, NM and moved to Odessa in 1995 from Jal. He retired as Eastern Area Plant Superintendent for El Paso Natural Gas Company in 1972 after 40 years. He had lived in Jal for 65 years, where he was the treasurer for First Baptist Church for 25 years, served on the city council for 4 years, served on the school board for 13 years, and 8 years as school board president. In Odessa he was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Ava Van Bramer of Odessa; daughters, Camilla Thompson of Houston and Jo Rita Olliff of Odessa; son, David Van Bramer and his wife, Kay of Lake Buchanan; stepsons, Don Brownlee and his wife, Pat of Hallsville, and Max Brownlee and his wife, Cindi of Tampa, FL. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday, January 22, 2000 at First Baptist Church with Rev. Dr. Earnest Easley officiating. Arrangements are by Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

If desired, memorials may be made to a charity of your choice.

Martha Dearen

Martha Lee Dearen, 86, of Sterling City, died Thursday morning, January 20, 2000, in Sterling County Nursing Home. Services will be at 11 a.m. Sat-

urday, January 22, at First United Methodist Church in Sterling City with the Rev. Shane Barnes and Ben Ramon officiating. Burial will follow at Miles Cemetery in Rannels County under the direction of Ross Funeral Directors in Sterling City.

She was born August 2, 1913 in Lorena, Texas.

She worked for many years at the former Cactus Hotel in San Angelo, and later at a San Angelo school cafeteria.

She was a Baptist. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Alton B. Roach, on June 1, 1971.

She married Delbert Dearen on August 6, 1982 in San Angelo. He preceded her in death on September 16, 1998.

Survivors include a stepson, Patrick Dearen, and his wife, Mary, of Midland; a grandson, Wesley Dearen of Midland; and several nieces and nephews.

Mary Swafford

Mary Jane Swafford, age 81, of Wink, Texas, died January 20, 2000 at Winkler County Memorial Hospital in Kermit, Texas. She was born November 29, 1918 in La Crosse, Wisconsin to Peter and Ida Hovind. She attended La Crosse State Teachers College.

She married Cleave Swafford in 1943 in La Crosse, Wisconsin. She had lived in Wink since 1945.

Mrs. Swafford was a member of the First Baptist Church of Wink, joining it in 1946. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother.

She was a member of the Kermit Chapter #895 Order of the Eastern Star.

Funeral services will be held at the First Baptist Church in Wink, Texas, Saturday, January 22, 2000, at 2 p.m. Burial will follow at the Kermit Cemetery. Reverend Gary Redwine will be officiating.

Survivors include her two daughters, Julie Purcell of Kermit and Sue Adams of Wink; five grandchildren, Cory and Coby Purcell of Midland, Texas, Frank Purcell of Aloha, Oregon, John Adams of New York City, and Jennifer Adams of Wink; and one great-grandson, Noah Franklin Purcell of Aloha, Oregon.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Cleave Swafford on December 29, 1998. She was also preceded by her parents, Peter and Ida Hovind; her sisters, Lucille Hovind and Pernella Kopacek; and her brother, Millard Hovind.

Pallbearers will be Cory Purcell, Coby Purcell, Jerry Purcell, James Smith, Larry McCallister, and Phil Parks.

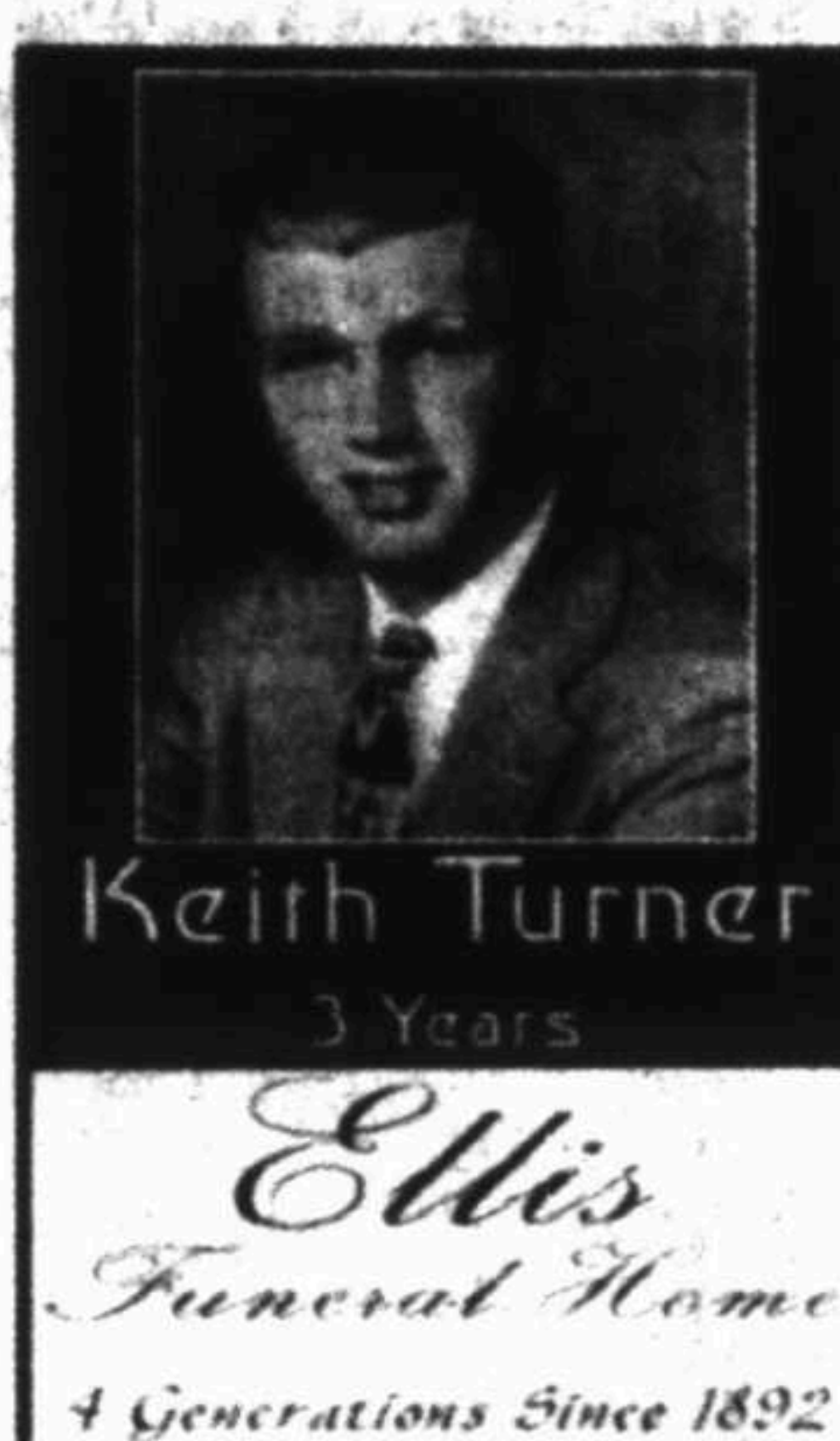
Funeral arrangements are by Cooper Funeral Chapel, Inc., Kermit, Texas.

Obituary & Death Notice policy

There is no charge for death notices of residents or former residents of Midland or for those who have Midland relatives. We also publish death notices for residents of the surrounding West Texas area.

Free death notices include date and place of death, service and burial information, funeral home handling arrangements, date and place of birth, brief biography, survivors and memorials. A longer, more detailed obituary is available for a charge. It may include tributes, expanded biography, organizational associations, notes of appreciation, pallbearers, honorary pallbearers and a photo.

Deadline for both free death notices and paid obituaries is 3:30 p.m. and information must be either received from or verified by a funeral home.



Report: Woman's death ruled as cocaine overdose

By Ed Todd
Staff Writer

The toxicology report following the December 1999 autopsy on Janet Duncan indicated that the 51-year-old Midland woman had cocaine and antidepressants in her blood.

"It was a cocaine overdose," Midland County Justice of the Peace Michael Wallace said Thursday of the woman's death.

The report, supplied to Wallace by Lubbock County Medical Examiner Dr. Glen Groben, also said that the woman's blood-alcohol level was 0.01 percent, which is far below the Texas minimal legal intoxication level of 0.08

percent. However, the report said the ethyl alcohol in her system may have been due to decomposition.

The woman's body was discovered by a private security guard on Sunday, Dec. 19, reclining in the front passenger seat of a silver 1986 four-door Nissan sedan on the south side parking lot of Westwood Medical Center off Andrews Highway.

On each week day, between 28,000 and 30,000 motor vehicles travel along Andrews Highway near the hospital, making it one of the busiest roadways in Midland, according to the city's traffic engineering department.

The woman, who had lived in rural Midland County, had been dead for several days before security personnel found her. According to Midland police, she had not been reported missing.

The toxicology testing was done by a laboratory in Midland. The autopsy in Lubbock determined "no significant medical disease" and no injuries, Wallace said.

The car was registered in the woman's name, according to Midland Police Department spokeswoman Tina Jauz.

TODAY'S AGENDA

For information on checking out books, library hours and how to get a library card, call the Midland County Library at 688-8991.

Myrtle-Tree ministries, Women's Bible Studies, noon, 312 W. Illinois, 683-1370, 683-5670.

Overseers Anonymous, noon, 408 S. G. St. 694-4166, 580-7545, 684-8726, or 699-5563.

Recreation lessons for those with mental retardation, 882-9771.

Tall City Road Riders, dinner ride, 7 p.m., leave from

Texas Am. Bank, 684-5310.
American Legion bingo, 8 p.m., 501 Air Park Road, 682-5511 (license: 1-75-6035782-8)
Compulsive Eaters Anonymous, noon, First United Methodist Church, 694-2860.

Area briefs

Masonic tacos

The Midland Chapter #253 O.E.S. is holding a Taco dinner on Jan. 22, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, 1900 W. Wall.

\$8 adults, \$3 children under 12.

For more information call:

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Conversion Of The Small And Great
The news is buzzing with the reported spiritual conversion to Christ by mega star of the screen, Jane Fonda. Her great talents as an actress have been overshadowed in the past by militant stands in Vietnam days, and activist protests for various causes. Recent years include her marriage to business magnate Ted Turner, and their power and money. But does any of those reflections separate her from Jesus Christ and His love? Absolutely not. Small and Great will appear before God in that final day. Revelation 20:12. We all need His grace.
So, how do we find it? Many say, "just call upon the name of the Lord, and accept Jesus as your personal Savior." Romans 10:13. Then you are born again! Yet Jesus says, "unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." John 3:5. The call of the gospel, as per Mark 16:16, is "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Only then are we raised to walk in the new life. Romans 6:1-6.
I realize that many today minimize baptism and fail to recognize that it is the answer of faith in God's command, not the water, that saves us. 1 Peter 3:21. If not, why send Saul to Ananias in Acts 22:16? Or stop the chariot in Acts 8? My prayer is that Jane is truly born again!
Study each Sunday with Mack Lyon "In Search of the Lord's Way" 7:30 a.m., KPEJ Ch 24, Cable Ch 5

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~ What happens when we die?
~ What relevance does Jesus have for our lives?
~ How do we deal with guilt?

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St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
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Meetings are 6 to 9 p.m. (with a catered meal)
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"Alpha" ... a practical introduction to the Christian faith!

DEATH N
Raymon
Jenkins

Raymond Jenkins, 81, died Thursday, Jan. 20, at a local hospital. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 22, at 2 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Wink, Texas. Burial will follow at the Kermit Cemetery. Reverend Gary Redwine will be officiating.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret Jenkins; two sons, Ray and John; and a daughter, Ruth R. Jenkins. He was born in 1919 in Wink, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Ida Hovind; his sisters, Lucille Hovind and Pernella Kopacek; and his brother, Millard Hovind.

Sybil G

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DEATH NOTICES

Raymond Jenkins

Raymond Jenkins died Thursday, Jan. 20, at a local hospital. Funeral services are to be 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at Golf Course Road Church of Christ. Burial is to follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. Visitation will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, at Ellis Funeral Home.

He was born Oct. 4, 1920 in Coleman. He owned Jenkins Jewelry since 1947.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth R. Jenkins of Midland; three sons, Raymond C. Jenkins of Midland, Roy D. Jenkins of Plano, and Bryan T. Jenkins of Abilene; a daughter, Helen R. Chambers of Whitehouse; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Sybil Glaze

PLAINVIEW—Sybil Glaze, 81, mother of Midlander Susan Hanson, died Tuesday, Jan. 18, at a local hospital.

Funeral services are to be 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at First Assembly of God Church in Plainview with the Revs. Neil Unwin and Justin Unwin officiating. Burial is to be 5 p.m. at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Odessa under the direction of Lemons Funeral Home of Plainview.

She was born Jan. 10, 1919 in Stamford. She was a licensed vocational nurse who managed nursing homes in Lamesa, Brownfield, Lockney and Tulia, before retiring. She was a member of First Assembly of God Church in Plainview. Other survivors include two sons, Robert Kropp of Carrollton and James Kropp of Oxnard, Calif.; seven grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Assembly of God Church, 1300 N. I-27, Plainview 79072; or the

Roaring Springs Youth Camp.

Ollen Mayo Jr.

BIG SPRING—Ollen Mayo Jr., 41, died Wednesday, Jan. 19, at his residence.

Funeral services are to be 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at Berea Baptist Church with the Rev. Monroe Teeters officiating. Burial is to follow at Trinity Memorial Park under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

He was born March 7, 1958 in Denison. He moved to Big Spring at the age of 13. He was an engineer for Union Pacific Railroad. He was a member of Berea Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by two daughters, Latasha Rae Mayo and Chastity Ann Mayo; a step-grandfather, Melvin Edward Osborne; and his maternal grandparents. Survivors include his

wife, Dianne Diez Mayo; three daughters, Brandie L. Mayo, Misty M. Mayo and Christi R. Mayo; a son, Jason R. Mayo; his mother and stepfather, Mozelle and James M. Osborne, all of Big Spring; his father, Ollen Mayo of Georgia; two brothers, Johnny W. Mayo of Wasilla, Alaska and John M. Osborne of Big Spring; a sister, Natalie K. Shaeffer of Memphis, Tenn.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Martha Harp

COLORADO CITY — Martha Harp, 88, died Wednesday, Jan. 9, at a Colorado City Hospital.

Graveside services are to be 2 p.m. Friday at Mount Olive Memorial Park under the direction of Myers and Smith Funeral Home. She was born Nov. 30, 1911 in Milam County. She was a Baptist. She was formerly a Big Spring resident. Survivors include

a sister-in-law, Mary Edmonson of Colorado City and several nieces and nephews.

Jim Taylor

MONAHANS—Jim Taylor, 91, father of Midlander Muriel Gibson, died Wednesday, Jan. 19, at a local hospital.

Graveside services are to be 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at the Monahans Memorial Cemetery

with the Rev. Rachael Mull officiating under the direction of Harkey Funeral Home.

He was born Dec. 25, 1908 in Olney. He moved to Monahans in 1952. He was a member of the First Christian Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene Taylor on Feb. 16, 1992. Other survivors include two sons, Don Taylor of Monahans and Keith Taylor of Graford; a sister, Joree Laney, of

Weatherford; 12 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Yater

BIG SPRING—Dorothy Jean Yater, 72, died Thursday, Jan. 20, at her residence. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home.

Continued on 5A

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JAN 21 2000

WEATHER

Midland forecast

3-day forecast



Today
Partly cloudy
High 70
Low 40

Saturday
Partly cloudy
High 66
Low 35

Sunday
Partly cloudy
High 67
Low 40

Friday's forecast calls for partly cloudy skies with a high of 65-70. Friday night will be partly cloudy with a low around 40. Saturday will be partly cloudy with a high around 65-70. Sunday and Monday will be partly cloudy with lows in the low 30s and highs around 60.

After an overnight low of 38, Wednesday's high was 57, compared to the old record high for that date of 79, set in 1999. The record low of 11 was set in 1985.

Yesterday's precipitation
Rainfall Wednesday 0.00 in.
Rainfall Thursday 0.00 in.
Total for month 0.60 in.
Total for year 0.60 in.
Normal total 0.19 in.
(year to date)

Yesterday's temperatures
High 57
Low 38
Normal high 56
Normal low 29

Pollen count
Trees: n/a Weeds: n/a
Grass: n/a Molds: n/a
Dust: n/a
Courtesy: John D. Bray, MD.

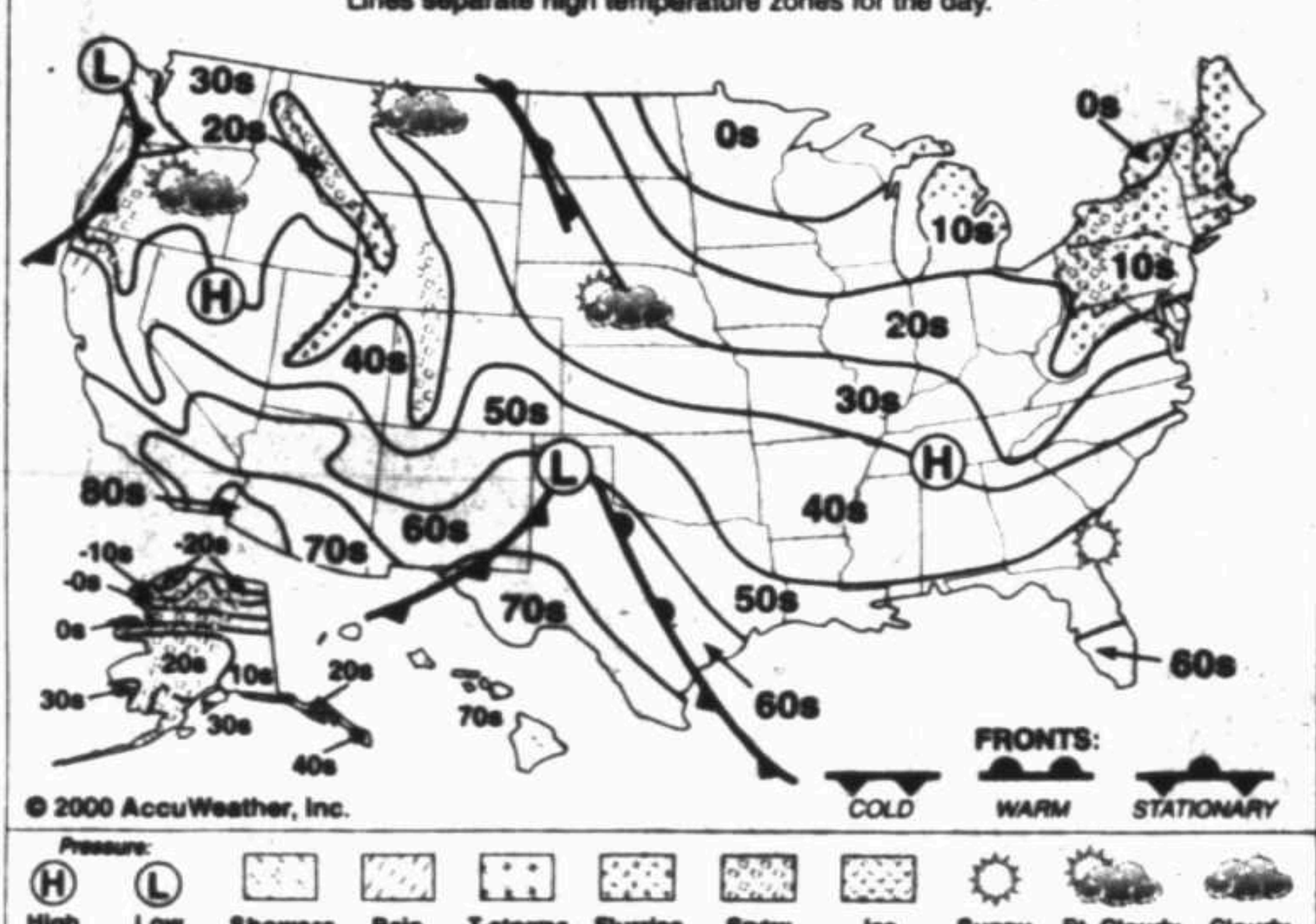
Sunrise ... 7:40 a.m.
Sunset ... 6:12 p.m.

National forecast

National weather

The AccuWeather® forecast for noon, Friday, Jan. 21.

Lines separate high temperature zones for the day.



United States temperatures

City	High	Low	Pre	Out	City	High	Low	Pre	Out
Albany, N.Y.	21	4	02	PCldy	Jacksonville	71	53		
Albuquerque	55	40	02	PCldy	Jessieville	33	29		
Anchorage	53	26	07	Cldy	Kansas City	28	11		
Asheville	32	29	07	Snow	Las Vegas	67	54		
Atlanta	45	40	13	Cldy	Little Rock	43	34		
Atlanta City	32	16	07	Cldy	Los Angeles	71	59		
Austin	60	53	01	Cldy	Louisville	31	31		
Baltimore	42	35	26	Cldy	Lubbock	52	31		
Birmingham	31	16	01	Cldy	Memphis	38	34		
Bismarck	18	0	01	PCldy	Miami Beach	78	63		
Boise	30	17	01	Snow	Midland-Odessa	57	42		
Boston	22	13	01	Cldy	Milwaukee	12	9		
Brownsville	83	58	01	Cldy	Minneapolis	12	9		
Buffalo	25	22	13	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	8	-11		
Burlington, Vt.	25	22	13	Cldy	Nashville	35	26		
Casper	50	17	01	Snow	New Orleans	64	57		
Charleston, S.C.	58	43	18	Cldy	New York City	28	25		
Charleston, W.Va.	32	29	09	PCldy	Norfolk, Va.	42	31		
Charlotte, N.C.	48	37	19	Cldy	North Platte	18	4		
Chester, N.C.	50	20	01	Cldy	Oklahoma City	42	26		
Chicago	13	11	14	Cldy	Omaha	32	5		
Cincinnati	28	27	15	Cldy	Orlando	76	59		
Cleveland	25	23	07	Snow	Pasadena	35	26		
Columbia, S.C.	53	42	15	Cldy	Philadelphia	31	25		
Columbus, Ohio	26	23	25	Cldy	Phoenix	77	54		
Concord, N.H.	18	6	01	Cldy	Pittsburgh	27	24		
Dallas-Ft. Worth	42	37	19	Cldy	Portland, Me.	18	4		
Dayton	26	23	22	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	43	35		
Denver	57	21	01	PCldy	Providence	23	8		
Des Moines	18	0	01	Snow	Raleigh-Durham	45	31		
Detroit	22	10	02	Cldy	Rapid City	36	7		
El Paso	69	40	01	PCldy	Richmond	42	31		
Evansville	26	26	02	PCldy	Sacramento	58	47		
Fairbanks	29	17	05	Cldy	St. Louis	25	16		
Fargo	1	-12	08	Snow	St. Louis	25	16		
Flagstaff	56	25	01	Cldy	San Antonio	66	57		
Grand Rapids	21	15	01	PCldy	San Diego	70	59		
Great Falls	39	3	01	Cldy	San Francisco	57	51		
Greensboro, N.C.	43	32	21	Cldy	Santa Fe	54	28		
Hartford, Conn.	18	2	01	Cldy	St. Joseph	5	-7		
Helena	29	14	05	Cldy	Seattle	47	36		
Honolulu	75	65	75	Rain	Shreveport	52	48		
Houston	65	55	75	Rain	Spokane	28	13		
Indianapolis	61	20	13	Cldy	Syracuse	23	15		
Jackson, Miss.	49	45	01	PCldy	Tampa-St. Petersburg	74	63		
					Tucson	77	50		
					Tulsa	36	22		
					Washington, D.C.	35	31		

TxDOT officials begin talks on area mass transit system

By Ian Heald
Staff Writer

In Odessa Thursday, two Texas Department of Transportation officials discussed funding possibilities for a mass transit system in both Midland and Odessa.

The key to a successful mass transit system, said Karen Dunlap, planning director of the Public Transportation Division of TxDOT, is finding what works for the Midland/Odessa area as a whole.

The primary goal was not to have two separate systems in Midland and Odessa doing the same thing, said TxDOT Director of the Public Transportation Division Margot Massey.

"I would prefer not to see Odessa and Midland have separate transportation systems," said Ms. Massey. "A regional system that covers both (is preferable)."

Officials from both cities weren't sure what TxDOT's stance was on a dual city system until Thursday. Midland's Director of Engineering and Development Marcus Johnston was pleased knowing they preferred one system for the two cities.

Ms. Massey emphasized that a public transportation system wouldn't be implemented to replace private transportation. "There are ways to incorporate those services or allow them to be (the contractors). This is a very big tent ... The key is making it as efficient and effective as possible so it serves the citizens."

willing to work with you to put in place anything you want."

Odessa TxDOT District Engineer Loren Garduno said both cities needed to look at all options available because there had been movements in the past for mass transit that failed to materialize.

Under federal funding structures, Midland/Odessa would compete for Federal Transportation Agency dollars with cities 50,000 to 200,000 in population. Federal dollars fund capital, planning and administration costs associated with mass transit. Currently, there are 22 Texas cities using the \$21 million in federal funds allotted to Texas. There is no money set aside for each city, only one lump sum that cities apply for with TxDOT.

For the year 2000 there are no federal funds left, says Ms. Dunlap. In 2001, \$439,000 is yet unaccounted for, which Midland/Odessa could have a shot at. For 2002-2003 there may be as much as \$1.5 million available for Midland/Odessa.

State funds are awarded every two years, says Ms. Dunlap. New state funds won't be available until 2002. After 2002 there's no predicting how much money will be available, she said. Therefore, with time to spare, Midland and Odessa can plan a mass transit approach before applying for funds.

"We don't have to step off a cliff today and make a decision," said Garduno.

Ms. Dunlap and Ms. Massey will host another TxDOT meeting today at 9:30 a.m. at Midland International Airport at 2910 La Force to discuss mass transit possibilities for the Permian Basin and to field questions from the public.

BALLOTS: Bush is third on presidential ticket

(From 1A)

If I do get into office, I hope that I will continue to represent the community as well as she has."

To Brooks, a Midland City Councilman, "Numbers are not that important. It's the candidate." Midland County Democratic Party Chairman Michael Higgins said that "No. 1 is definitely the preferable position" on the ballot. "Many voters tend to vote for the first position."

Mrs. Valencia, who first was elected commissioner in 1988, said, "I'm glad a lot of people are taking interest (in politics). I hope that they are sincere and are in there (political office) to work for the people — not just for our precinct — not just for our ethnic group but the whole county."

In noting that he got the first pick in the Republican race for sheriff, Painter, 52, said that his drawing the No. 1 slot suggested that he is the "No. 1" candidate. "I drew first and got No. 1."

Hall, 52, said that though he will be "No. 2 on the ballot," he will be "No. 1 in the race."

The positioning "doesn't impact me at all," Hall said. "People will vote for whom they want."

"What we are offering the voters is change," Hall said. "And it is time for a change. We are going to initiate programs for the

youth of Midland, Texas. We are going to bring law enforcement back into Midland County."

Bostick, 42, was not present for the drawing.

Painter said that he would bring to the Sheriff's Office the "continuation of common-sense law enforcement, law enforcement that works, and to be fair and honest with everybody."

"The Sheriff's Office doesn't belong to me. It's doesn't belong to any group of people. It belongs to all the citizens," Painter said. "That's how I run the office. My door is always open, and everyone is treated the same."

In the five-way race for Precinct 1 commissioner to succeed ailing Commissioner Henry Goulet, 78, Republican contender Melvin "Mac" McEwen, 66, got first place on the ballot. He was not present for the drawing.

Jimmy Smith, 52, came in second in positioning on the ballot. "I hope when I get the real votes, I'll go to No. 1," Smith said.

Candidates Rob Van Stavern, 55, Jim Daniels, 45, and Lin Rice, 43, took, respectively, third, fourth and fifth places on the ballot.

In the Republican two-way race for Precinct 3 commissioner, a post currently held by Democrat Louisa Valencia, who at 67 is retiring from office, Fred Michna, 69, took top billing to oppo-

nent Lynn Yarbrough, 55. Neither candidate was at the drawing.

And neither County Attorney Russell Malm, 38, nor opponent Bobby Sanders, 60, showed up for the drawing. Malm got the top pick for billing on the county attorney's race.

In the race for Justice Court Precinct 1 constable, Mitchell Swan, 30, got first place on the ballot. James E. "Gene" Smith, 42, got second billing.

For Precinct 2 constable, Mayford "Gene" Mathes Jr., 29, won first place on the ballot. Constable Charles "Choc" Harris, 47, took second.

"I don't think it (placement on the ballot) has that much effect," Harris said. "It (voting) is through name recognition and 'doing your job.'"

In the Precinct 4 constable race, Charles Hall, a 42-year-old former policeman and currently a reserve deputy sheriff, got the top pick. Constable Jack Swan, 65, came in second.

"I don't think it will hurt," Hall said. "It's hard to say. I hope they look at the candidate. I'm the only person in the race who has a Texas peace officer's license."

Swan, a retired federal probation officer and a retired State Bar of Texas investigator who is working on his law enforcement certification, said that he is "not

bothered by the (ballot) positioning. What I've offered them (citizens) in the past is just hard work — doing my job."

In the Republican presidential race in Midland County, Alan Keyes got top billing followed by John McCain, Bush, Steve Forbes, Gary Bauer, Orrin Hatch and Charles Bass Urban.

In the three-way race for the Democratic Party presidential nomination, Lyndon LaRouche got top billing on the Midland County March 14 ballot. Contenders Bill Bradley and Vice President Al Gore placed, respectively, second and third on the ballot.

In the five-way March 14 primary race for the Democratic Party's nomination for United States senator to contest unopposed Republican Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison in the Nov. 7 general election, candidate Charles Gandy took top billing. Down the line are candidates H. Gerald Bintliff, Gene Kelly, Don Clark, and Bobby Wightman-Cervantes.

In the Democratic congressional race for District 23 representative, Joe Sullivan got top billing over Isidro Garza Jr. Republican Rep. Henry Bonilla is unopposed in the Republican primary race for nomination for re-election in the Nov. 7 general election.

ABORTION: The Clinton administration and 18 states are backing the Colorado court's decision

(From 1A)

Smead said his group protests indirectly during the Friday vigils. "We stand across the street here. We abide by the law and we simply pray," he said.

The local pro-choice faction has different concerns.

It was called "the bubble zone case," by Carolyn D. Thurmond, a Midland attorney and member of the board of directors of Planned Parenthood. "They wanted less than an eight-foot barrier," she said of the anti-abortion plaintiffs in the case.

"I am not going to comment on that specific case," she said Thursday, "but we are more concerned about the Supreme Court taking another look at Roe vs. Wade. It is our hope that the Supreme Court will affirm the right to privacy and the right of a woman and her doctor to discuss the full range of options she has open to her if she is pregnant and that those options remain legal."

Anti-abortion protesters have used First Amendment freedom of speech arguments in the pursuit of their case against the eight-foot barriers. Thurmond said that is not an issue as far as she is concerned.

"We do support an individual's right to free speech," Thurmond said, adding that it is her understanding that, under the Colorado law, if the individual going into the clinic wants to hear the right-to-life speakers, that individual

can talk to them.

"But there are persons going into a clinic who prefer not to be bothered," she said. "The right-to-life people have their right to free speech, but the person attempting to enter the clinic has the right to enter unbothered."

It's not just abortion rights, Thurmond said. "These women's clinics don't just perform abortions, they provide other services. Even men go in, not just to hold hands with their wives or girlfriends, but the clinics are the best place in the world to learn about male birth control methods."

A state court in Colorado has upheld the protest limitations law, a ruling lawyers for three anti-abortion demonstrators say was a "stunning strike" against freedom of expression.

"Distributing leaflets, displaying signs and orally educating, counseling or protesting are paradigms of protected forms of expression," the lawyers have told the justices in court papers.

The state's lawyers have countered that the law does not limit free speech but "provides a patient a few arms' lengths of space between her and a hostile mob of demonstrators."

Their written briefs say, "The only avenue of communication restricted is nose-to-nose harangues of an unwilling listener."

The Clinton administration and 18 states are backing Colorado. Justice Department

lawyers said the law aims to convey their message across an eight-foot distance.

The demonstrators are being supported by, among others, the AFL-CIO and the American Civil Liberties Union. The AFL-CIO's brief said its member unions have "vital interest" in citizens' free speech right to express their views on the public streets by picketing and leafletting.

The ACLU's brief said that while protecting the right of women to seek medical treatment is a significant goal, the law goes too far by barring speech — such as handing out a leaflet — that would not obstruct someone entering or leaving a clinic.

The Supreme Court has addressed the abortion-protest issue twice before.

In 1994, the justices upheld a 36-foot demonstration-free zone around a Florida Clinic. And in a 1997 case, they upheld a 15-foot buffer zone around abortion clinic entrances.

But in that case they struck down a judge's order for a "floating buffer zone" requiring protesters to stay 15 feet away from patients or staff members as they entered or left the clinics.

The 1993 Colorado law, affecting protests within 100 feet of clinics, was enacted in response to what the state's lawyers called "a history of obstructive demonstrations" outside abortion clinics. The state's lawyers said protesters in effect

blocked clinics by grabbing, surrounding and yelling at patients.

The law was challenged by Leila Jeanne Hill, Audrey Himmelmann and Everett Simpson Jr., who said they merely advised women of alternatives to abortion.

After Colorado courts upheld the law, the Supreme Court again upheld the state law last year, saying an eight-foot buffer zone, unlike a 15-foot one, "allows for normal conversational tones."

While Smead and his organization don't have objections to an eight-foot barrier, they are no less resolved. "We are doing everything we can to get the legislature to make a change and get the Supreme Court to change abortion laws. There are 1.6 million babies aborted each year in the United States alone. That is contrary to the Christian position of life and no one has a right to destroy life inside the womb. Life comes from God," said Smead.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Knights host bishop, pro-life service

By Rick McLaughlin
Staff Writer

Bishop Michael Pfeifer of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo will lead a pro-life service at the Midland Center at 105 North Main in Midland today at 7 p.m. The service, part of a series of activities called "Jubilee 2000," is hosted by the Knights of Columbus of Midland and Odessa.

Vic Munding, pro-life chairman for the Knights of Columbus

Council 3071, said the event is

"just a quiet ecumenical prayer service with a choir, reading scripture, prayer for the aborted babies and the mothers and generally supporting each other."

Saturday is the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade, which made abortion legal in the United States. "The bishop tries to draw attention to it every day," noted Munding. "All people, regardless of their religious beliefs, are

welcome to attend this pro-life service," he added.

"Bishop Pfeifer is inviting all Catholics and other Christians to this prayer service to show support for human life from conception until its natural ending as determined by God," said Munding.

"This pro-life service has an extra significance this year," said Munding, "as we are about to enter a new century and millennium and celebrate the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ."

being "honest and

Gambino, former MOSO concertmaster, dead at 80

From staff reports

Services for former Midlander James Gambino will be at 1 p.m. today in Dallas at Embree Hall, at First Baptist Church, 1707 San Jacinto St.

Gambino, an accomplished musician, lived in Midland in the 1970s. He was concertmaster of the Midland-Odessa Symphony, director of the Midland Summer Symphony, founder of the Candlelight Concerts given at the Midland Woman's Club, director of the strings program in the Midland public school system and a

solo violinist.

"He was very active in the artistic community," said Marcia Ingram. "I do remember distinctly, he was the fiddler in 'Fiddler on the Roof.' He would have parties at his house, he'd bring out his violin, and he'd play. Oh, everybody had such a wonderful time."

Gambino, 80, died earlier this month at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dallas. Gambino was born on June 15, 1919, in Summit, N.J., and raised on a dairy farm. His father, a violin shop apprentice, began teaching him to play the

violin when he was 3 years old. Gambino graduated from Summit High School, received a four-year scholarship and his bachelor's degree in 1942 from Ithaca College, Ithaca, N.Y. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. In 1960, he received his master's degree in music from the University of Texas at Austin.

During his career, Gambino performed in cities worldwide, including Jerusalem, Vienna, London and Salzburg, Austria. He performed under renowned conductors, such as Jose Iturbi, Andre

Kostelanetz and Igor Stravinsky, and in symphonies in San Antonio, Austin and San Angelo. He also was the founding conductor of the Garland Symphony.

Gambino is survived by nine children, a sister, three brothers, 23 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Memorials in his memory may be made to his church, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 500 S. Galloway, Mesquite, Texas 75149, or the American Diabetes Association, 12850 Spurling Drive, Suite 100, Dallas 75230.

DEATH NOTICES

(From 3A)

Jocelipn Solomon

Jocelipn Solomon, 80, died Friday, Jan. 14, at his residence.

Funeral services are to be 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, with the Rev. Robert E. Lathan officiating. Burial is to follow at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Reyes-Garcia Funeral Home.

He was born Jan. 30, 1919 in Barnes, Cuba. He worked on the police force in Jamaica, and was a general contractor here. He was a deacon and member of Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, president of the Brotherhood and sang in the choir.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Christine Solomon; a son, Albert Roy Solomon; a daughter, Janice Dorn; three brothers, Hiram, Joe and Ashley Solomon; and a sister, Carmenita Williams. Survivors include four sons, Kendrick Solomon of Jamaica, Russell Solomon and Randy Solomon, both of Midland and Rickey Solomon of Denver, Colo.; two daughters, Lola Burnett and Dana Sparkman, both of Midland; two sisters, Kathleen Lewis of Midland and Lena Medley of Jamaica; 15 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and numerous nephews and nieces.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Midland, P. O. Box 2621, Midland, Texas 79702.

Evangeline Richman

Evangeline Richman died Tuesday, Jan. 18, at a local hospital.

Funeral services are to be 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, in the Ellis Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Kenneth Davis officiating. Burial is to follow at Resthaven Memorial Park.

She was born Sept. 18, 1912 in Montague County. She moved to Midland in 1928. She was a Red Cross and County Extension volunteer, served on the school board at the Seventh Day Adventist School, and was instrumental in bringing 3ABN/Channel 31 to this area, donating the use of her property for the facilities. She was a charter member of Seventh Day Adventist Church of Midland.

She was preceded in death by her husband, W. E. Richman on

May 12, 1990. Survivors include a son, J. W. Richman of College Place, Wash.; three daughters, Kathryn Qualls and Ann Gearhart, both of Midland, and Sharron Miller of McAlpin, Fla.; 10 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Grady Gaskins

BIG SPRING—Grady Gaskins, 77, died Thursday, Jan. 20, at a Big Spring hospital. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Alta Ringener

STANTON—Alta Mae Ringener, 73, died Wednesday, Jan.

19, at a local nursing home.

Funeral services are to be 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22, at the Downtown Church of Christ in Stanton. Burial is to follow at Evergreen Cemetery. Visitation will be 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at Gilbreath Funeral Home.

She was born Sept. 30, 1926 in Covington. She was a member of Downtown Church of Christ. She moved to Stanton in Nov. 1945. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, William Bryant and Norris Bryant. Survivors include her husband, William A. Ringener of Stanton; three daughters, Reba M. Long of Austin, and Rita F. Moore and Brenda K. Kendall, both of Stanton; a brother, James

T. Bryant of Covington; a sister, Ozella Scales of Gonzales; seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

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JAN 21 2000

Elian's plight a gift for Cuba's propaganda machine

HAVANA (AP) — In Cuba, it's all Elian, all the time.

From the moment people turn on their radios in the morning until they switch off their televisions at night, Cubans are bombarded with news and comment about Elian Gonzalez and demands that the 6-year-old be returned from the United States.

Elian's face peers from the front page of every newspaper, hundreds of billboards and posters, hundreds of thousands of T-shirts.

Every night experts debate the boy's future for hours on live prime-time television broadcasts, often with President Fidel Castro present. Clips of those shows are repeated throughout the following day.

For the communist state's for-

midable propaganda machine, the boy has been a gift, the flash point for one of the major national crusades of recent Cuban history.

The campaign for Elian's return has prompted international news coverage and a level of organized demonstrations that Cubans say is unprecedented in the past decade — perhaps since the 1980 Mariel exile crisis led the government to rally mass support in the streets.

Dozens of times over the past six weeks, people have been given time off work to march in the streets, sometimes by the hundreds of thousands.

On Thursday, news about Elian covered almost half of the only daily newspaper in the country, Granma. Radio commentary

Dozens of times over the past six weeks, people have been given time off work to march in the streets, sometimes by the hundreds of thousands.

throughout the day denounced the "mafia" holding the child in Miami.

Elian quickly became a political symbol for both sides after he was found Nov. 25 clinging to an inner tube off the Florida coast. His mother and stepfather were among 11 people who drowned in an apparent attempt to immigrate illegally to the United States. He has been staying with his relatives in Miami — including a great-uncle — since then.

On both sides, the debate has

sometimes been surreal.

In Miami, some have compared Elian to Winston Churchill. Others have portrayed him as a child chosen by God to remain in Florida.

In Havana on Wednesday night, the Brazilian theologian Frei Betto suggested that U.S. culture denigrates fathers and exalts uncles: He cited examples such as Uncle Sam and Donald Duck, who is accompanied by nephews rather than sons.

"The Cuban exiles have hand-

ed Cuba a win-win situation," said Nelson Valdes, a University of New Mexico sociologist who specializes in Cuba.

If Elian is returned to Cuba, it would be a victory for Castro.

"If indeed the child is not returned," it is because "the Cuban-Americans in Miami are willing to take children away from Cuban parents in Cuba," said Valdes, who was one of thousands of Cuban children sent to the United States between 1961 and 1964 to live in foster homes or orphanages under a U.S. government operation named "Peter Pan."

The issue also puts Castro in the role of defending families.

"There is no other issue that could be more useful (for the Cuban government) than the

defense of the family," Valdes said.

"I cannot recollect anything of this nature which has resonated with the people as this has," said Susan Eckstein, a Cuba specialist at Boston University. She said that while there have been other rallies over other issues, this is very different because it focuses on families. "I think it's because it gets at very deep values that Cubans have."

In recent years, Cuba has suffered economic hardship and has seen a slippage of the ideological passion that charged many on the island after the 1959 revolution led by Castro.

"At a time when it is hard to get people to rally for the party, to rally for anything, this works," Eckstein said.

Excavation of bodies ends at Juarez ranch

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican and U.S. officials have ended their excavations of mass grave sites along the countries' border after turning up only nine bodies, Mexican prosecutors announced Thursday.

Officials began digging at four ranches near Ciudad Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, Texas, this fall. At the time, one official cited an informant as saying drug smugglers might have buried as many as 100 bodies at the ranches.

The digging was called off Wednesday, Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said. He said investigators were interviewing more witnesses to drug slayings, but that no specific locations had been identified for more digging.

Seven of the nine bodies have been tentatively identified, and the identifications indicate they were killed by a drug-smuggling gang headed by the Carrillo Fuentes family, said Jose Larrieta Carrasco, head of the Mexican attorney general's organized crime unit. Madrazo said five people have been detained in the case, but he gave no details.

"What we have developed in this investigation will lead to very interesting things," Larrieta said. "We will find the people responsible."

Madrazo said all the victims were men, four in their late 30s and five more than 50 years old. He said six of the remains had been bound with duct tape and the others appeared to have been blindfolded. Four were shot to death. The cause of death of the other five is still under investigation.

Neither of the officials would give the victims' identities, saying they have yet to be confirmed. They also didn't say whether any of the victims were Americans.

Madrazo also said a building on one of the ranches was a drug laboratory, and that agents found chemicals and equipment used to process cocaine there.

The announcement of the graves' existence in late November set off a massive operation, with hundreds of soldiers, federal police and FBI forensic experts poring over the digging sites.

At the time, an FBI agent who asked not to be identified told the AP that an informant had said as many as 100 bodies could be found on the ranches. But Larrieta denied that any informant ever told that to either Mexican or U.S. authorities.

"There is testimony that there were these graves, and we were investigating more than 100 disappearances," he said. "At no time did we say that in these places we would find more than 100 bodies."

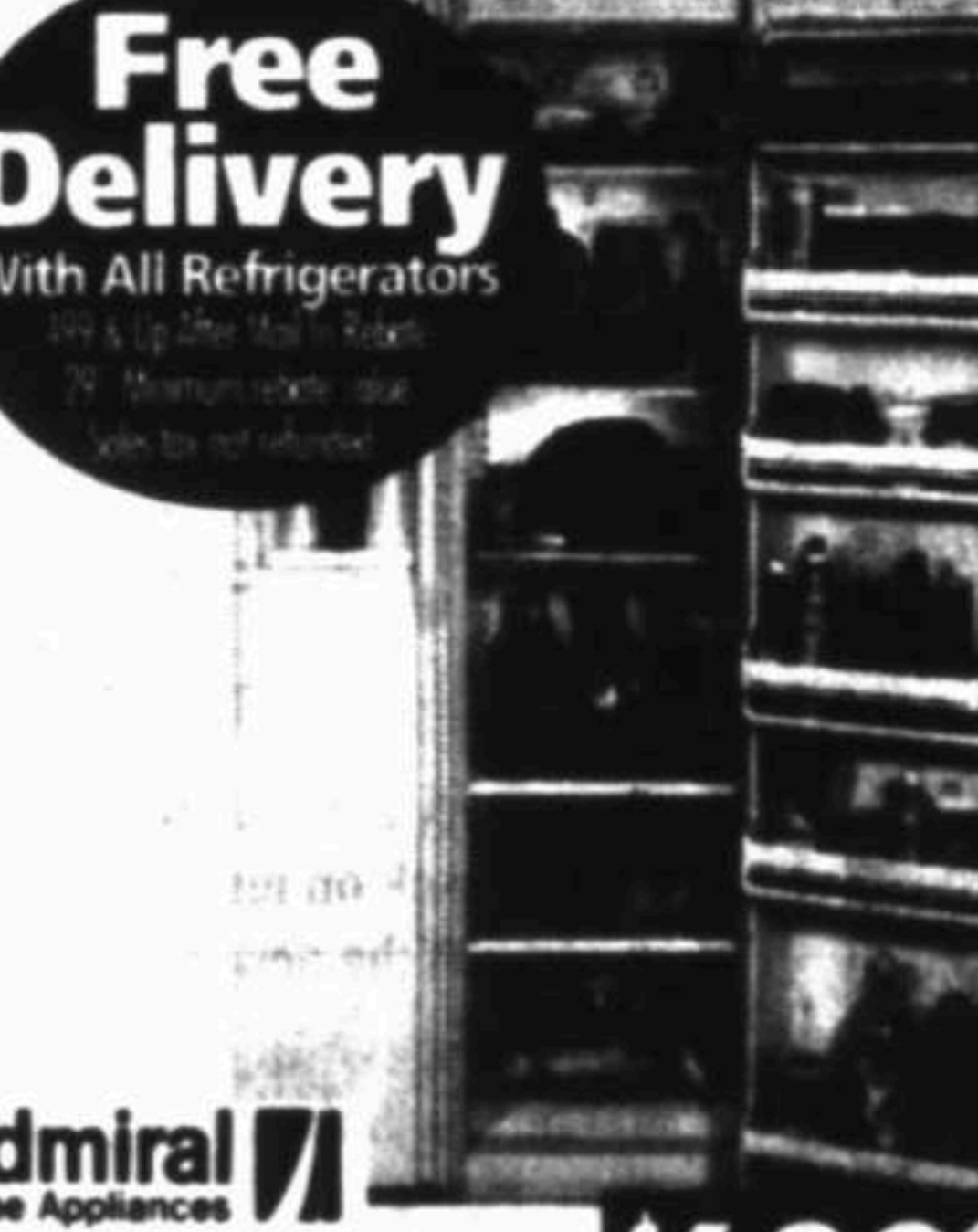
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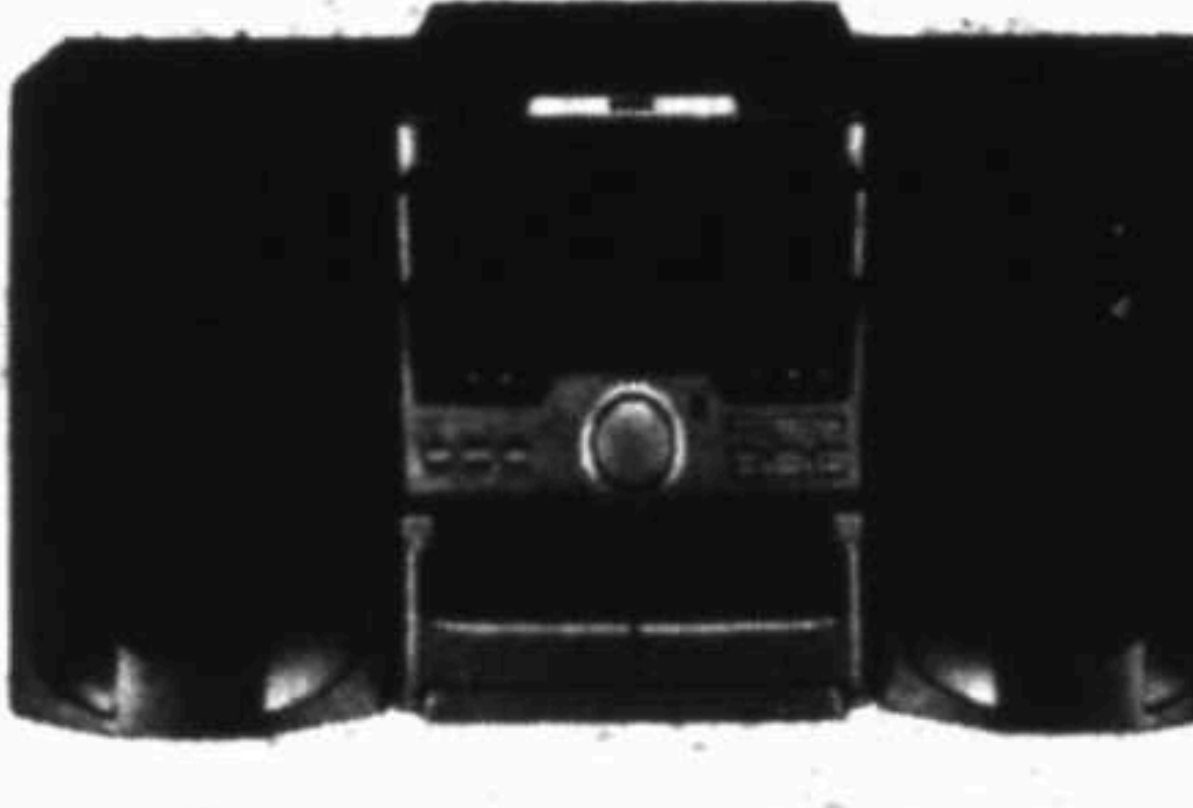
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JERUSALEM — Weizman stands to resign Israel Thursday — launched a criminal case into his relationship with a millionaire and openly discussed. In a national conference, Weizman's resignation is innocent of all imprudence. In the presidential counterattacks, both cited Weizman's past and challenged his information to open.

Last U.S.

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — A U.S. military plane carrying a lone soldier was shot down Thursday, marking the end to a mission that began in 1994. The U.S. military restored the plane to the Caribbean Sea. "We're conducting a mission," said a U.S. official. "We're not a mission." Without fanfare, crews used a hydraulic lift, gear, and equipment to recover the plane. The U.S. military's extension of 20,000 troops to Haiti in 1994 was sent to Haiti in 1994. Jean-Bertrand Aristide's bloody three-year rule. Unlike the international humanitarian aid,

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Authorities order criminal investigation of Israeli president

JERUSALEM (AP) — Ezer Weizman steadfastly refused calls to resign Israel's presidency on Thursday — even as police launched a criminal investigation into his relationship with a French millionaire and some supporters openly discussed successors.

In a nationally televised news conference, Weizman's lawyer, Yaakov Weinroth, said the president "is innocent, spotless, and free of all impropriety."

In the president's most aggressive counterattack to date, Weinroth cited Weizman's war hero past and challenged those he accused of feeding reporters information to come out into the open.

"The president does not intend to resign," Weinroth said. "He is under no obligation to sacrifice his head in order to satisfy the urges of others, whether stated explicitly or disguised under the cloak of so-called 'justice.'"

The sharp tone reflected the stakes: the 75-year-old Weizman's reputation as an outspoken straight-shooter, cultivated over a lifetime as a blue blood descended from pioneer stock, a war hero, a champion of the underclass and a seeker of peace.

The news conference came hours after Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein ordered a formal police investigation of the president, citing newly found

evidence of business links between Weizman and the millionaire.

Even Weizman's most persistent critics acknowledged the solemnity of the occasion.

"This is a sad day for the country," Yoav Yitzhak, the journalist whose revelations led to the filing of criminal charges and who was the first to call on the president to step down last month. "The man has contributed much."

Yitzhak produced documents that allegedly show that Weizman once accepted nearly half a million dollars in gifts from Edouard Sarousi between 1988-1993. Weizman acknowledged the gifts,

but said the amount was lower — he would not say by how much — and noted that he accepted them before he became president in 1993.

Police launched a preliminary check on Sunday. Investigations Commander Yossi Sedbon said his team did not believe at first that it would lead to a criminal investigation — until it discovered a business relationship between Weizman and Sarousi that suggested the gifts might be bribes.

"As a result of these discoveries, the state prosecutor decided to open a police investigation," Sedbon said.

Rubinstein described the busi-

ness relationship, which police say continued during Weizman's 1988-90 tenure as science minister, as "very, very relevant."

Weinroth said the business relationship existed well before that period, when Weizman was not involved in politics, and involved advice given to a Sarousi-owned factory in a third, unidentified country.

The lawyer hinted information about other political leaders who had committed improprieties — a suggestion Weizman would not go down quietly.

"The president has never accepted a penny for lectures, has never used his position to obtain any personal benefit," Weinroth

said, prefacing the statement with "those who understand, will understand."

Citing the prophet Samuel, Weinroth challenged Weizman's accusers to come forward. "Whose ox have I taken? Or whose ass have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes to it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you," he quoted.

The defiance fell on mostly deaf ears. Even those who weeks ago expressed support for the president now openly called on him to at least step aside while the investigation is under way.

Last U.S. military plane leaves Haiti, marking end of permanent mission

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A U.S. Air Force C-141 carrying a lone soldier and 15,000 pounds of equipment left Haiti on Thursday, marking a symbolic end to a mission that began with the 1994 U.S.-led invasion and restored elected government in this Caribbean nation.

"We're concluding our permanent mission here in Port-au-Prince," said Army Lt. Col. Ray Duncan. Without ceremony or fanfare, crews nearby loaded a hydraulic lift, generator and other equipment onto the plane.

The U.S. Support Group was the extension of a contingent of 20,000 troops President Clinton sent to Haiti in 1994 to restore the elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide after a bloody three-year military dictatorship.

Unlike the invasion force, the Support Group's mission was humanitarian — building roads,

bridges and schools, drilling wells and giving health care to the poorest of Haitians.

Few deny that the presence of uniformed Americans had a calming effect on Port-au-Prince, and some Haitians fear the pull-out will increase the risk of unrest as Haiti prepares for legislative elections on March 19. A police training mission run by the United Nations ends March 15, when an unarmed U.N. training mission takes over.

But U.S. officials say Haiti has largely policed itself since a local police force was deployed under U.N. supervision in 1995.

Duncan, the Support Group commander, stressed that the U.S. military was not abandoning Haiti, but rather relocating. Washington is now sending units of between 150 and 200 non-combat reserve troops — engineers and medics — on temporary humanitarian missions.

The first "New Horizons" mission began Saturday near the northern city of Cap-Haitien and runs until March 31. A second, from May to October, will operate near the south coast town of Jacmel.

The temporary deployments will save \$20 million a year, said Duncan, who along with a three-member "rear unit" will leave Haiti Jan. 31 on a civilian flight.

Critics in the U.S. Congress say the Support Group mission didn't promote democracy in Haiti, where no elections have been held since a fraud-marred 1997 vote. Many Haitian politicians demanded the withdrawal of the troops, saying their presence was an affront to sovereignty — although Haiti did approve the "New Horizons" missions last week.

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- Take a journey with him as he returns to his roots in the United Kingdom and travels to the mountains of Guatemala to visit his World Vision sponsored family.
- Join Thomas Kinkade on a "Walk of Light" of his 10 most recent images!
- Witness the unveiling of Thomas Kinkade's latest painting!
- Also during the broadcast, Thomas Kinkade will narrate footage of the creation of his original Artist's Study Piccadilly Circus, London, filmed on location during his most recent trip to England. This 12"x16" Artist's Study will be made available to guests during the event and is limited to JUST ONE DAY!

Don't miss this great opportunity to join us as we celebrate and welcome the Millennium of Light with Thomas Kinkade. For more information on this exciting event, please contact our gallery today at 682-9911.

Date: January 22nd, 2000
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Location: Yucca Theatre, Downtown Midland

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Thirsty county residents asking for city water

The impact of the ongoing drought gripping this region hit home for a number of Midland County residents earlier this week when they filed a petition with the Midland City Council to gain access to city water.

Essentially the problem is that the county residents' wells are getting dangerously low of water, and they are hoping their Northwest Midland County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1 can purchase water from the City of Midland.

City officials certainly should attempt to meet the water needs of these county residents, although those residents should be charged a higher rate for their water than regular city residents. After all, they chose to live outside the city for whatever reason and in so doing, gave up the assurance of city utilities such as water and sewer service. Gaining those services now should cost them more because if the city provides the service, it will have to lay lines and maintain them in an area it may never have anticipated doing so.

City Manager Rick Manchaca said the water line installation could cost the county water district \$1.2 million with water billed at 1.5 times the rate paid by city residents. Still, if this drought continues even water at that rate could be viewed as a bargain if it was assured.

It's entirely feasible, in fact, that if the drought does not end other county water districts could find themselves in a similar dilemma and come to the City of Midland seeking water services. The city government should fulfill as many of those requests as possible. After all, that is the role of government.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, Jan. 21, the 21st day of 2000. There are 345 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
 On Jan. 21, 1950, former State Department official Alger Hiss, accused of being part of a Communist spy ring, was found guilty in New York of lying to a grand jury. Hiss, who always maintained his innocence, was sentenced to five years in prison; he served less than four.

On this date:
 In 1793, during the French Revolution, King Louis XVI was sent to the guillotine for treason.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and four other Southerners resigned from the U.S. Senate.

In 1915, the first Kiwanis Club was founded in Detroit.

In 1924, Russian revolutionary Vladimir Ilyich Lenin died at age 54.

In 1950, George Orwell, author of "1984" died in London.

In 1954, the first atomic submarine, the USS Nautilus, was launched at Groton, Conn.

In 1976, the supersonic Concorde jet was put into service by Britain and France.

In 1977, President Carter pardoned almost all Vietnam War draft evaders.

In 1997, Speaker Newt Gingrich was reprimanded and fined as the House voted for the first time in history to discipline its leader for ethical misconduct.

In 1998, President Clinton angrily denied reports of an affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and that he had tried to get her to lie about it.

Ten years ago: In the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, mutinous military cadets fired on troops patrolling the capital during a crackdown on a nationalist uprising.

Five years ago: President Clinton, addressing the Democratic National Committee, implored members to "bear down and go forward" despite results of the 1994 elections.

One year ago: Former Sen. Dale Bumpers, an Arkansas Democrat, told the Senate impeachment trial of Bill Clinton the president was guilty of a "terrible moral lapse" but not of conduct warranting or even permitting his removal from office. Raul Salinas de Gortari, brother of a former Mexican president, was convicted of masterminding the murder of rival Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu and sentenced to 50 years.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Paul Scofield is 78. Actor Steve Reeves is 74. Actress Ann Wedgeworth is 65. Blues singer-musician Snooks Eaglin is 64. Golfer Jack Nicklaus is 60. Opera singer Placido Domingo is 59. Singer Richie Havens is 59. Singer Mac Davis is 58.

JACK ANDERSON & DOUGLAS COHN

Anti-Catholic bias emerges from House GOP

WASHINGTON — The chaplain in the House of Representatives is retiring after 21 years, and the battle to name his successor has provoked cries of anti-Catholic bias. A Catholic has never served in the post, and there is a widespread feeling that 40 years after the country elected its first Catholic president, it's time for the same breakthrough on Capitol Hill.

The House leadership traditionally names the new chaplain, but religious issues have become more entwined with politics in the two decades since Speaker Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill appointed the now retiring chaplain. Christian evangelicals are a major constituency within the Republican party, and Catholic voters are a swing group whose support both parties need to win. Republicans lost the Catholic vote in the 1998 congressional elections. With control of the House at stake, the Democrats are prepared to seize anything that could give them partisan advantage with this key group.



Anderson

Mindful of the tricky political terrain, House Speaker Dennis Hastert sought bureaucratic cover. He created a 16-member bipartisan committee that included representatives of several religious denominations, including three Catholics. The committee interviewed 40 candidates before settling on three finalists, whose names they forwarded to Hastert. Of the three, Father Tim O'Brien had the most support. In one tally where members placed checkmarks next to their three favorite contenders, O'Brien received 14 votes while the two runner-ups got 10.5 and 9.5.

Here's where it gets murky. According to his spokesman, Hastert purposefully did not want to know how the committee ranked the three finalists. He wanted to decide based on the personal interview that each finalist would have with the Republican leaders. After the interviews, Hastert announced that the Rev. Charles Wright, a Presbyterian minister, was his choice for chaplain. Wright had received the fewest votes of the three from the 16-member committee. A lot of people cried foul, including Father O'Brien, who said publicly that he believed he was passed over because he is a Catholic.

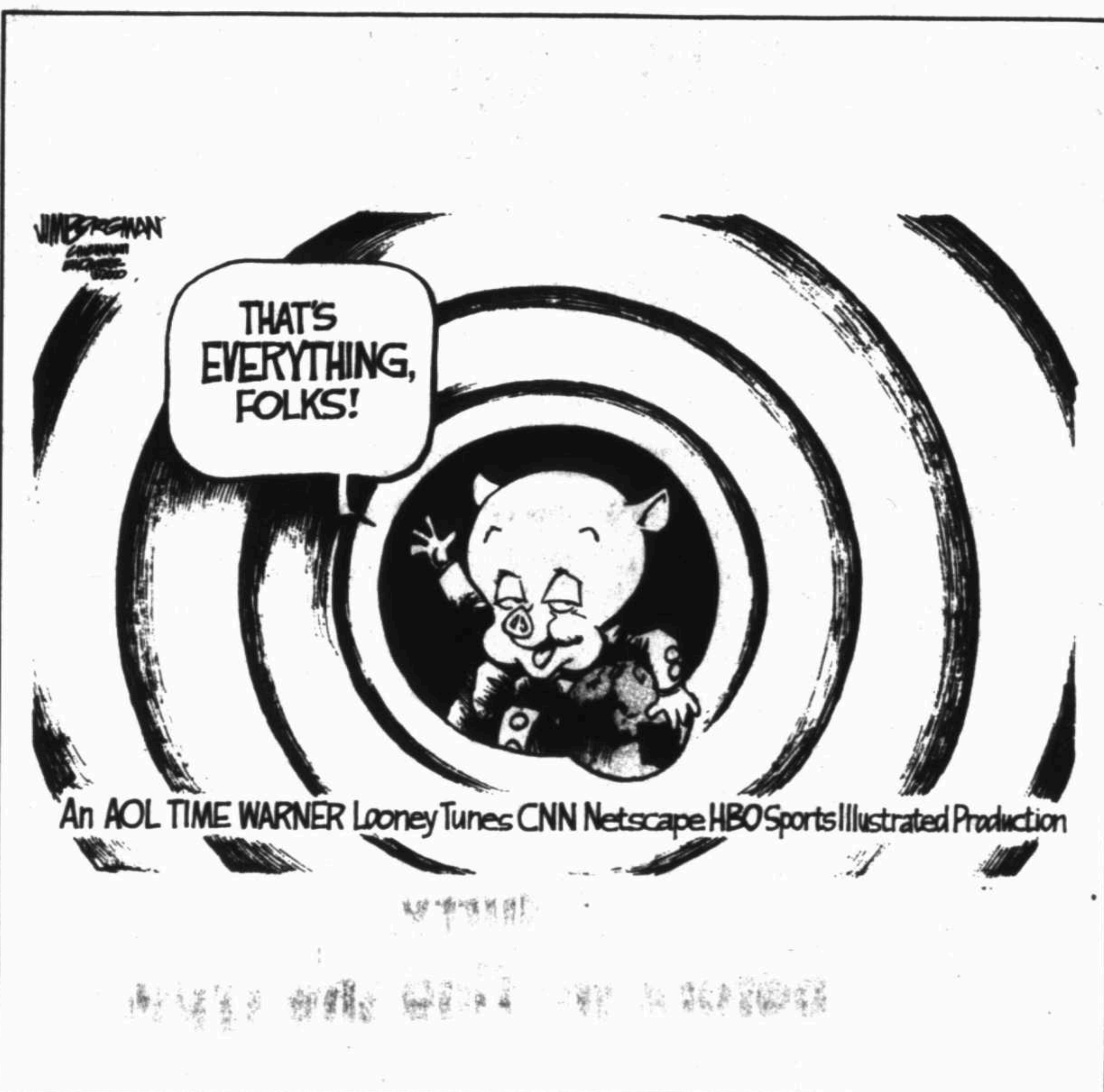
That's a serious charge, and without a window

into Hastert's heart, hard to prove. Republicans say they decided against O'Brien based on his interview. "He wasn't warm, he wasn't commanding, and he talked about fund raising," says a Republican aide. O'Brien's apparent error was to commiserate with the Republicans about their fund-raising needs instead of discussing "pastoral concerns."

There were no details leaked about Rev. Wright's interview, but he is a regular on the prayer-breakfast circuit frequented by the GOP leaders, and therefore no stranger. As charges of favoritism mushroomed into darker accusations of anti-Catholic bias, the Republican leadership postponed the vote to confirm Wright. The House chaplain is typically installed by acclamation from both parties. Republicans don't want to risk a contentious floor fight that would catapult this internal fight into a national embarrassment.

In the meantime, Wright's pastoral skills will be tested. If he can't convince Democrats to back his candidacy, he is expected to withdraw his name.

Jack Anderson's and Doug Cohn's column is distributed by United Feature Syndicate.



CHARLIE REESE

Peace for Israel, Syria will be costly for U.S.

Why should we pay for peace between Israel and Syria? The Israelis have indicated that, if they sign a peace deal with Syria, they expect the U.S. taxpayers to ante up about \$17 billion.

Excuse me? What's in it for us? Frankly, it's no skin off our nose if the Israelis and Syrians don't make peace. Israel invaded Syria and, since 1967, has occupied Syrian territory on the Golan Heights. For that reason, though a cease-fire is in place, the two countries remain in a state of war. It seems to me that it's entirely in the self-interest of the two countries to make peace. But why should U.S. taxpayers pay for it?

American taxpayers paid for the Camp David peace treaty and the Wye River agreement. Altogether, Israel has tapped American taxpayers for amounts approaching \$100 billion if you throw in the annual bribe to Egypt that was apparently part of the deal for the Camp David peace treaty.

Now Israel has put the United States on notice that peace with Syria will cost at least \$17 billion, more money than the U.S. space program gets annually. Don't you think it's about time for the American people to put their representatives and senators on notice that they are not willing to pay for other people's peace treaties? After all, at the end of all of America's wars, no third country ever showed up and said, "Hey, guys, if you make peace, we'll pay you umpteen billions."

As I recall, we paid for our own wars and our own peace treaties, and, most of the time, we ended up repairing the country we had whipped. We paid for our own security measures.

I was under the impression that Israel was a sovereign, independent country, but apparently it is a ward of the American taxpayers. Or maybe it's us, the Americans, who are not independent and are under the sovereignty of Israel. After all, Israel seems to have

far more influence in Washington than the American people. Try squeezing \$100 billion out of the federal treasury for your state and see how far you get.

Neither Israel nor the rest of the Middle East has any strategic value for the United States. We even import only a small fraction of our oil imports from the Gulf States. The plain fact is that Israel is a strategic liability. Israel modifies and then sells arms and U.S. military technology in competition with the United States, even selling technology to America's potential enemies, such as China. It spies on the U.S. government and, according to the CIA, commits industrial espionage against American businesses. It blew up American diplomatic facilities in Cairo in a covert scheme to queer U.S. and Egyptian relations. In 1967, it attacked an American Navy ship in international waters, killing 34 and wounding 171.

Yet, so powerful is the Israeli lobby's grip on the U.S. Congress that, for 33 years, the pleas of the Navy survivors of that ship for a congressional hearing have gone unheeded. In the meantime, these loyal American servicemen have been attacked as "anti-Semitic" simply because they have demanded a public hearing that they are entitled to. As columnist Joe Sobran recently wrote, in America, you are anti-Semitic not if you hate Jews but if Jews hate you.

But that's not all. The Arab world had no quarrel with the United States until the United States began to one-sidedly support Israel, even when it was in the wrong. Every American who has died — and those who will die — at the hands of a Middle East terrorist can thank the Israeli lobby for it. I don't think that you will find anywhere in world history where a great power has so surrendered its foreign policy to the lobby of so small a country.

Some day, of course, the American people will wake up to the fact that they have been played for suckers, but that's probably several billions of dollars and several hundreds of American lives down the road.

Charley Reese's column is distributed by King Features Syndicate.

ANOTHER VIEW

Arguments support ban on cockfighting

Louisiana, New Mexico and Oklahoma are the last bastions of a barbaric tradition: cockfighting. But at least in Oklahoma, public opinion is moving against this bloodsport and may even force an election to ban it.

That's a development that Louisiana should watch. A survey of Oklahomans shows that 62 percent of those polled believe cockfighting gives

their state a backward image. Even more, 76 percent said cockfighting is cruel and 80 percent think that it fosters other illegal activities.

That pretty much sums up the arguments that cockfighting opponents make here in Louisiana. The sport is brutal, it diminishes us in the eyes of the nation and it is frequently accompanied by unsavory and illegal

activity.

Those are powerful arguments in favor of a ban, and it's unfortunate that lawmakers in Louisiana, as well as those in Oklahoma and New Mexico, haven't been persuaded by them.

The Times-Picayune New Orleans, La.

WILLIAM MURCHISON

Content isn't changing, only the delivery

There are those who think technology drives life, and, by golly, lots of them work in my own profession, the media. Since AOL and Time Warner clinched their merger deal, we have been treated to endless disquisitions on how life has changed ... forever.

Nothing, ya better realize, is ever to be the same again. We won't read the same way, we won't communicate the same way.

Never have I read such indecipherable blather, and, baby, I've read it all. Hoping for enlightenment about Ultimate Meanings, I plowed for days through everything The Wall Street Journal had to say about the merger. I plowed for days through everything the New York Times had to say on the same subject. I found much less than meets the eye.

The merger doesn't create new content — contrary to what you might have surmised from the cooing and gushing. The merger creates, or, more exactly, opens up, new possibilities for delivery. Kind of like Federal Express, whose ability to get something to you the next day doesn't mean that what gets to you is in any way more illuminating or life-changing than what would have reached you via the U.S. mail.

We are all awitwitter, it seems to me, over ... well, not quite nothing but not necessarily a huge, unimaginable something either.

Some will be amazed to learn I don't speak as a hater of technology. What's the point of such a hatred? Like it or not, technology is.

Suppose you refuse to drive an automobile — as did the late Southwestern historian Wayne Gard, back when I knew him in the '70s and '80s. All it means is you ride the bus a lot, as Wayne did. Similarly, Wayne refused to install air-conditioning at his home in sweltering Dallas. I am not aware that his home was celebrated as a summer salon and meeting place.

The AOL-Time Warner merger has excited no end of speculation about how we'll receive information — and almost no speculation about what kind of information we're to receive. The most common answer to the question is, all kinds of information: everything, all the time.

Well, is that what we want? And do we want it spread on a glass screen — even a tiny screen we can carry around? Fine, if so. It's a free country. But that ducks the central question: Information of what quality? Organized how? With what skill and luminosity? Just "information" doesn't begin to tell the story.

The obsession of the communications industry with the means of communications and the spread of communications is the industry's blind spot. We think it's wonderful and exciting just to put information out there, especially in some entertaining new form, and wait for the customers to lay down big bucks. We don't ask what kind of information it is — how deep is the need for it, what information it obscures or even whether it's true or false. There it is, folks. This is the Matt Drudge Age. Ask and it shall be given. Surf the Net and ye shall find.

So what are you reading here anyway, a pitch for censorship? For thought control? How about just for thought — for the public display of coherent ideas?

Time was when Time magazine — one of the delivery vehicles, I guess we'd call them, for AOL Time Warner information — was deeply serious about ideas. Nowadays Time has a 29-year-old entertainment columnist who recently regaled readers with accounts of what it's like living with body hair. The managing editor of Time calmly affirmed the entertainment value of essays on body hair.

Oh, it's going to be a great age for communications; technology galore and e-mails out the kazoo. Honest-to-goodness, intermittently useful ideas? Look quickly. Try not to blink.

William Murchison's column is distributed by Creators Syndicate.

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WASHINGTON

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Infamous Nixon tapes released to public for examination

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hear Richard Nixon like you've never heard him before.

The National Archives on Friday begins distributing cassettes of the president's once-secret tapes—at \$18 a pop. Warning: The government has determined that these tapes contain language some people might find offensive.

For years, Americans have read transcripts of the Nixon tapes—salty language and all.

But unless they traveled to the archives in College Park, Md., they couldn't listen to the tapes. Copying was prohibited. So, besides a few bootleg tapes illegally broadcast years ago and snippets of recordings played in court, the Nixon tapes have not been publicly aired.

Now, 26 years after Nixon resigned, the public will hear Nixon's baritone voice on television and radio. Students will listen to him in class. Historians, Nixon buffs, journalists and writers around the nation will play and replay their own Nixon tapes at home, or maybe in the car.

They'll hear the famous "smoking gun" conversation about Watergate that led to Nixon's resignation. They'll listen to the infamous tape erasure—a full 18 1/2 minutes of buzzes and clicks. They'll hear the chat between Nixon and former White

House counsel John Dean, who tells the president: "We have a cancer—within—close to the presidency that's growing."

"I certainly think the American public has a right to hear this material. Those tapes are what resulted in Richard Nixon resigning from office. And while they know the content, they really sound much different than they read," said Dean, now an investment banker in Beverly Hills, Calif.

"Nixon kinda growls," he said.

Dean's voice also can be heard on tape.

"Obviously, there's some stuff on there that I find embarrassing with hindsight," said Dean, who was in his 30s during Watergate.

"I was young, awed by the presidency for a long time and I would approach it much differently today than I did back then."

Nixon secretly recorded 3,700 hours of tape. So far, 264 hours of Watergate and so-called "abuse of government power" tapes can be purchased. These contain conversations about the break-in and bugging of the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate in 1972, subsequent cover-up and wrongdoing by the White House.

The archives began taking

'Obviously there's some stuff on there that I find embarrassing with hindsight... and I would approach it much differently today than I did back then.'

— John Dean, former Nixon White House counsel

orders early this month. On Friday, the government is distributing the first batch—12 1/2 hours of tapes played in court in the mid-1970s.

The tapes cost \$18 for each 30-minute recording. All 264 hours cost \$702. Prices are set to cover the cost of copying and packaging tapes. The archives will not profit from the sale.

ABC News bought a complete set and plans to begin airing them Friday on "Nightline," said producer Jon Ebinger. C-SPAN, which in February 1998 began airing President Johnson's White House tapes on the radio and its

web site, is waiting to assess the quality of the Nixon tapes before deciding how to use them, said history producer Maura Pierce.

"Nixon spoke in a low monotone which makes him hard to understand," said Christopher Beam, director of the Edmund S. Muskie Archives at Bates College in Maine who plans to play segments of the tapes for students in a history class he's teaching at the University of Southern Maine.

Sale of copies of the recordings is governed by a 1996 legal settlement reached by the archives, Stanley Kutler and the Nixon estate that requires the

government to make these tapes publicly available this month.

"While the tapes are not the whole of the Nixon record, they are the most readily identifiable part of it by the general public," said Kutler, a historian and author of a book of Nixon tape transcripts. "In fairness to Nixon, they have to be heard in totality—for a more complete public record."

The Nixon estate has often criticized the government for releasing Watergate tapes before making all the conversations available

in chronological order. Ultimately, there should be less focus on Watergate and more on the Democratic Congress' decisions during the communist takeover of South Vietnam, said John Taylor, director of the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation in Yorba Linda, Calif.

"That is the real scandal of the Vietnam and Watergate era," he said. "When the (baby) boomers move on and stop celebrating their great anti-war achievements, history will look anew at the era and it won't matter what order the materials were released."

Powerful snowstorms in East cause cancellations, confusion

The Associated Press

Winter delivered its first major wallop to parts of the East on Thursday, tangling air and ground traffic, closing scores of schools and dropping blankets of snow on roads that until now hadn't seen a dusting.

The powerful, blustery storm blew through the eastern half of the nation like a freezing pendulum, swinging down from the upper Midwest, crossing the Appalachians and then scooting up the coast.

The thick, white coating it left behind—ranging from 9 inches that fell in Minnesota on Wednesday to 5 inches in Baltimore by Thursday afternoon—closed schools and caused countless fender-benders.

"The only complaint I have is that people don't know how to drive in it," said Lisa DeCicco of Philadelphia. "It took me two hours to get to work today, and that's really aggravating when there's almost nothing on the ground."

Philadelphia expected up to four inches by day's end, but coastal communities to the north braced for near nor'easter conditions, with potential gale-force winds swirling the snow and blurring visibility.

"There'll be some coastal flooding and that sort of thing, but it's not expected to last long enough to become a real nor'easter," said Kipp Hogan, a National Weather Service meteorologist.

Airline passengers throughout the region had to cope with delays and cancellations. At Logan International Airport in Boston, U.S. Airways canceled half its remaining flights after 3 p.m. The airline also warned that some of Friday flights could be affected.

The New York City area's three major airports—LaGuardia, Kennedy and Newark—reported up to one-hour delays and some cancellations. Port Authority spokesman Bill Cahill said most were due to bad weather elsewhere.

On nearby Long Island, a sick-out by state Department of Transportation workers left local authorities struggling to keep streets clear. At least 300 of a scheduled 440 drivers, snow plow operators, warehouse workers and mechanics called in sick, and only 40 to 50 of the usual 200 snowplows were on the road.

The job action, prompted by contract talks stalled since April, was "completely irresponsible," said state DOT spokesman Michael Fleischer. "The workers have put the health and safety of Long Island motorists in jeopardy."

Near Washington, about a third of the flights out of Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport were canceled Thursday.

All of the city's public schools were closed, and the federal government announced that non-essential employees could take a day off instead of trying to make it to the office.

Elsewhere in the mid-Atlantic region, Delaware Gov. Thomas Carper canceled his State of the State address, and schools were closed across Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland.

"It just seems like it's unusual because it's been so warm, so far, for the first part of the winter," meteorologist Andy Pace said of conditions in Maryland. "It's not unusual to have a couple of storms of this magnitude during this part of the winter."

A mass of bitter, arctic air fol-

lowed the storm from Canada all the way to North Carolina, where the overnight wind chill in Raleigh was expected to drop to 10 degrees below zero.

The storm first brought treacherous driving to the Midwest where the weather was blamed for three traffic deaths in Iowa and one in Michigan on Wednesday.

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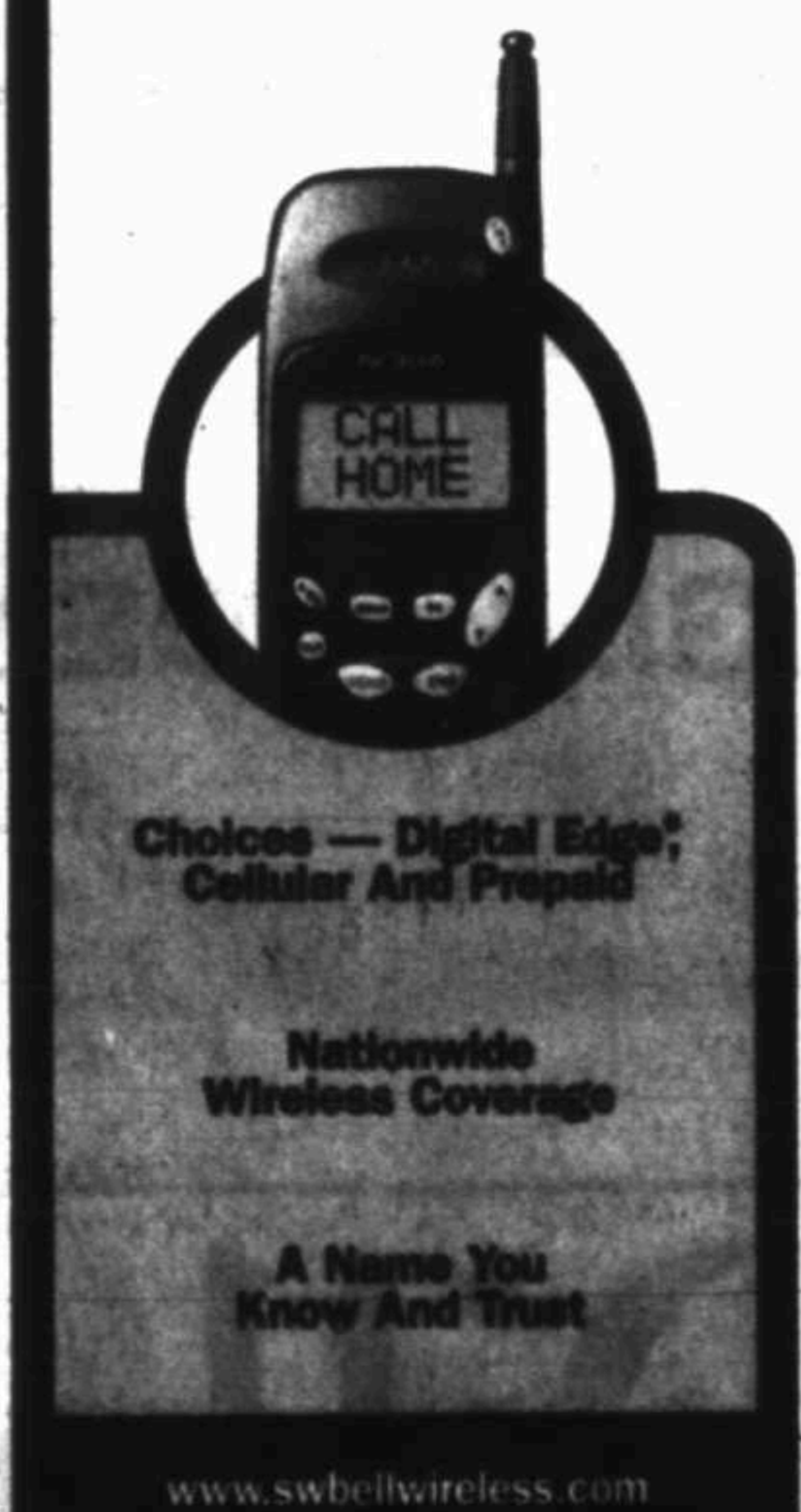
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Southwestern Bell reminds you to use your phone safely while driving.

Authorities say all signs indicate EgyptAir crash was deliberate

By David Rising
Associated Press

NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. — Weeks after the last pile of debris from EgyptAir 990 was pulled from the sea, investigators say they are more convinced than ever of their original theory: The jet was crashed deliberately.

The examination of the shattered Boeing 767, some 70 percent of which was recovered from the ocean floor, has revealed no signs of a mechanical failure that would have caused the plane to plummet 40 minutes into its 11-hour flight, according to three officials close to the investigation who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Everything leads everyone to believe that the plane was

mechanically sound and it was doing what it was supposed to," one government official told The Associated Press. "There's just no smoking gun" to indicate mechanical failure.

The National Transportation Safety Board has said there are no plans to reconstruct the aircraft, which speaks volumes about the investigation, experts said.

"I think they're fairly convinced they know what happened based on the radar data, flight data and voice data," said Barry Schiff, a TWA pilot for 34 years who instructed trainees on the Boeing 767 and now serves as an aviation safety consultant.

Investigators have said the cockpit voice recorder contained some utterance, perhaps a prayer, before the plane went into its fatal

The FBI has been involved from the start and has uncovered no evidence of terrorism or conspiracy, according to one of the federal officials.

plunge. But Schiff said the flight and radar data alone make it clear someone forced the aircraft down Oct. 31 off the Massachusetts island of Nantucket, killing all 217 aboard.

"My feelings and conclusions are based on the factual data made available through various sources, and to me it seems rather compelling that is what happened," Schiff said.

The NTSB's working theory remains the plane was sent into a

nose dive by relief co-pilot Gamil El-Batouty, who took control of the aircraft shortly after takeoff from New York's Kennedy Airport, according to two officials close to the investigation.

The FBI has been involved from the start and has uncovered no evidence of terrorism or conspiracy, according to one of the federal officials.

EgyptAir and El-Batouty's family have angrily rejected the theory of an intentional crash.

"If the pilots were American, would they dare to say the same things?" El Batouty's nephew, Walid El-Batouty, told The Associated Press in an interview last week in Egypt. "We've been shattered, humiliated and accused."

EgyptAir chairman Mohamed Fahim Rayan said in Cairo that the plane's nearly sonic-speed descent was the result of "something happening" in the tail apparatus.

Jim Danaher, who retired as an NTSB supervisor in 1998 after 28 years, said recovering debris from the crash was important to rule out any other possibilities. But he said that reassembling the plane is unnecessary given the other evidence.

"You can take all sorts of odd-

ball hypotheses to make the scenario different than the one that is pretty obvious," Danaher said. "I think that is contributing to the board's lack of need to gather up and assemble every piece of the thing — the pieces won't tell you anything to counter that theory."

The families of the victims have been told to expect an update from the NTSB in mid-February.

Capt. Walid Morad, chairman of the Egyptian Airline Pilots Association, said he would not reach any conclusions until U.S. investigators — aided by Egyptian experts — issue a final report.

"We will only consider documents like the final report of this accident," Morad said. "Something that is proven. ... There should be evidence."

FCC plan could mean hundreds of new stations

WASHINGTON (AP) — By summer, hundreds of new low-power radio stations could crop up on the FM dial, giving voice to community groups, churches and even novice disc jockeys.

The Federal Communications Commission adopted rules Thursday to support the creation of at least 1,000 low-power stations to better serve the needs of local communities. Officials said they envisioned a wide range of interests — from foreign languages to regional music — getting representation on the airwaves.

"Every day it seems we read about more and more consolidation in the broadcast area," said FCC Chairman Bill Kennard, the driving force behind the plan. "What low-power FM radio will do is create an important new outlet."

The commission hopes that by May it will begin awarding the noncommercial, educational licenses to groups that want to operate 100-watt and 10-watt stations — far less than the 6,000 watts to 100,000 watts at which most FM stations now operate.

This would give broadcasters between 4 miles and 7 miles of coverage area. Also, they could set up shop for much lower costs because in many cases they can mount their antennas atop a building rather than constructing a tower.

In the nation's largest radio markets — New York, Chicago and Los Angeles — there will be no room for 100-watt stations, according to the FCC. Cities like the District of Columbia could accommodate 3 100-watt stations, while Miami has room for 4. Less dense parts of the country have room for dozens of stations, according to the commission.

The plan, approved by a 4-1 vote, still could face a legal challenge from the nation's commercial broadcasters. They say that adding hundreds of new stations to the FM channel will mean more interference for existing stations.

"It's a sad day for radio listeners," declared Edward Fritts, president of the National Association of Broadcasters. He said the group "will review every option to undo the damage caused by low-power radio."

Several lawmakers, including Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., chairman of the House Commerce subcommittee on telecommunications, said they had the same reservations. Even some FCC officials admitted they were uncertain about the effects.

"I must confess that I have no clear idea as to whether or not existing broadcasters will suffer intolerable interference," said FCC Commissioner Michael Powell, who voted for the overall plan but dissented from parts of it.

He also raised the possibility that new low-power stations would siphon away listeners from existing small broadcasters, making it harder for those commercial stations to get ad revenue to survive.

That could translate into "lost opportunity for a minority or women to share in the fruits of the broadcasting business," Powell said.

Opposing the plan was Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth, who also expressed concerns about possible interference with existing FM stations.

The FCC rules place some requirements on applicants. To hold a license during the first two years, groups must show that they are headquartered in or have three-quarters of their members residing within 10 miles of the proposed station.

No group can own more than one low-power station nationwide during the first two years. The licenses will be valid for 8-year, renewable terms and must broadcast at least 36 hours per week.

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Damon goes beyond call of duty to get into role of Ripley

By Bob Strauss
N.Y. Times News Service

Apparently, Matt Damon will do anything to be a movie star.

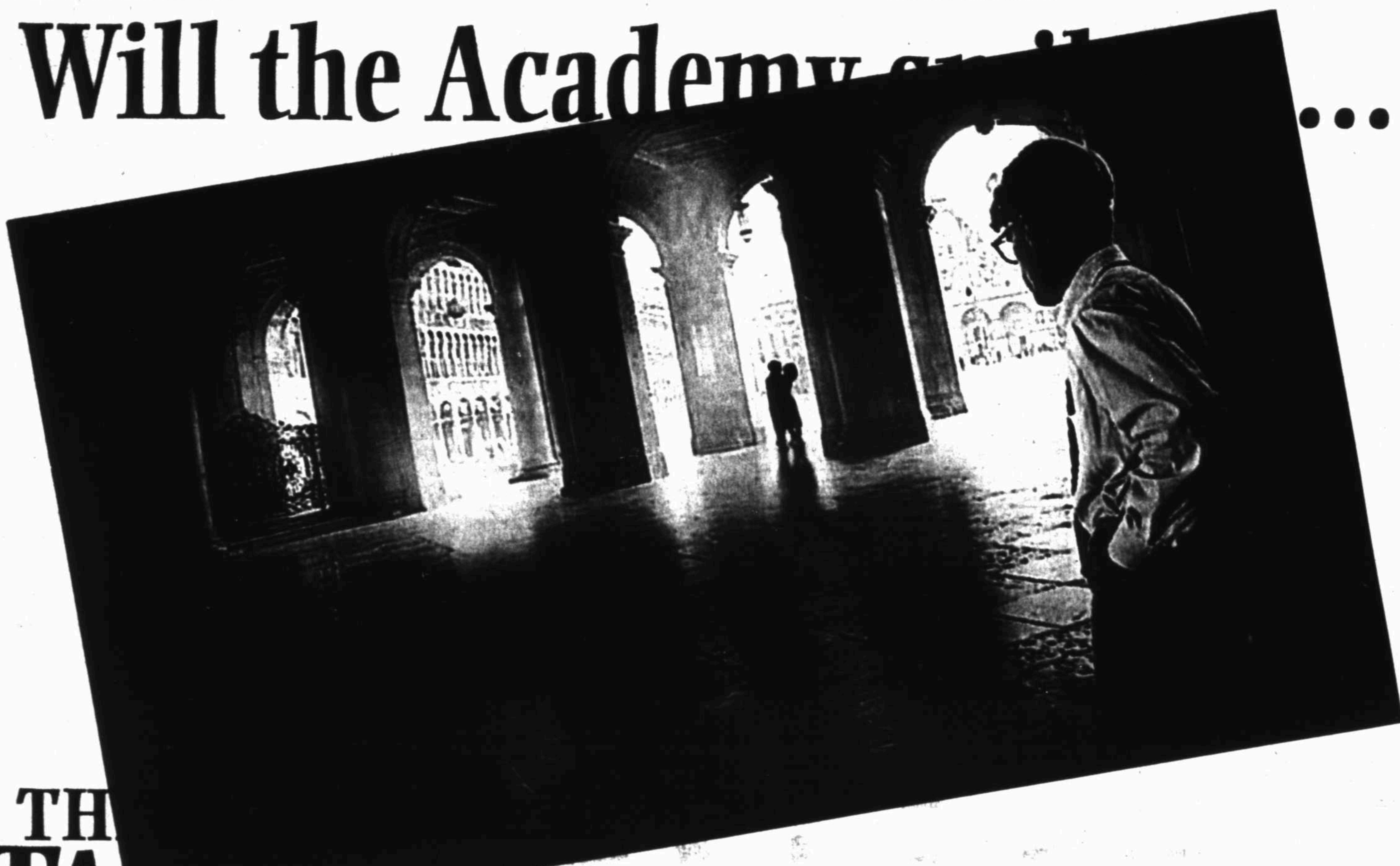
We already sort of knew that. The 29-year-old, Boston-bred actor is justly famous for co-writing the Oscar-winning screenplay "Good Will Hunting," with his high school buddy Ben Affleck and insisting on starring in the subsequent hit movie. Before that, during the struggling-actor years, he starved himself to what resembled living death for a small but memorable role as a drug addict in "Courage Under Fire." But for his latest, Golden Globe Award-nominated title performance as "The Talented Mr. Ripley," Damon went beyond the call of duty. The diet this

time took off 25 pounds; not as severe as that "Courage" crash, except that he had to maintain it in, of all the tempting places on earth, Italy. "Oh my God, poor Matt," says Gwyneth Paltrow, the actor's friend and "Ripley" co-star. "You don't understand, it was so sad. Matt is on this diet and we're all in Italy eating pizza and pasta and bruschetta and, like, all this stuff. All he has is a steamed chicken breast and vegetables every night, and that's it."

But that wasn't all. "We made merciless fun of him for the three days that we shot the first beach scene," Paltrow reveals. "Not only was Matt so skinny and in a wool, lime-green Speedo, but they had painted his body this grayish-white. We all looked so tan and healthy. I just said, 'Matt, you are the bravest person I have ever seen in my life!' He was just, 'I was sort of the golden boy, I had this great career and now, this is

Please see DAMON/2B

Will the Academy ...



THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY



What's next for Mr. Ripley?

By Georgia Temple

Moviegoers who have seen Matt Damon's latest film register surprise upon discovering that the talented Mr. Ripley — an accomplished murderer and skilled impersonator — has not met an untimely death or suffered imprisonment but instead has a fashionable residence in the French countryside, a beautiful and mega-wealthy wife and an art collection worthy of a connoisseur.

"Oh, my gosh," said Carla Holeva when she heard about Mr. Ripley's future. The film "almost left you wondering, 'What in the world would happen to him?' So, there's more adventures awaiting us. This makes you want to go see the next movie."

At this moment, there is no sequel in film. Based upon Patricia Highsmith's 1955 novel by the same name, "The Talented Mr. Ripley" has four book sequels, the last of which, "Ripley Under Water," was published in 1991.

A chance viewing of Oprah Winfrey with guests Matt Damon and Gwyneth Paltrow peaked movie fan JoAnn Huguen's interest in the film. "Oprah was raving about the movie and said, 'Very seldom do I go all out and recommend a movie, but this, folks, is worth the money you'll spend on it,'" Ms. Huguen said. "That made me curious."

When Ms. Huguen discovered the film is based on the first book in a series featuring the deadly Mr. Ripley as the main character, she said, "It makes you wonder if they've left the door open for more movies."

Please see FILM/2B



Design by Missy Hallmark



Matt Damon is 'The Talented Mr. Ripley'



Gwyneth Paltrow as Marge Sherwood in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."



Jude Law as Dickie Greenleaf in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."



Cate Blanchett as Meredith Longue in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."



Philip Seymour Hoffman as Freddie Miles in "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

JAN 21 2000

So, there's nothing to do in Midland?

Friday, Jan. 21

The Bar: today (9 p.m.) and Sat. (9:30 p.m.), Grindstone, 606 W. Missouri Ave. No cover Fri. Cover Sat.: \$5. Call: 685-1757.

Blakemore Planetarium Sky Show: Are We Alone? 8 p.m. Cost: \$3 adults, \$2 children, members, free. Sun. shows: Are We Alone? 2:30 & 4 p.m. Understanding the Universe, 4 p.m. Call: 683-2882.

Jazz: today & Sat. (10 p.m.): Toast, Thurs.: Razz, 2215 N. Midland Drive. Up charge on menu items. Call: 689-7777.

Riley's Bar & Grill: today & Sat.: Clockwork Orange. Call for cover. Sunday: Steak & Bake. Cost: \$5 plate. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 3421 W. Wall. Call: 520-0006.

Your Place: today: Johnny Blaine, 3704 W. Wall. No cover. Call: 689-3022.

Odessa

Chelsea Street Pub: today & Sat.: Karaoke with Rocky Richardson, 9 p.m. Mon.-Sat.: Music City Mall. Call: (915) 368-0949. No cover. Outside entrance after mall hours.

Incredibles: today & Sat.: Checkpoint. Cover: \$5. Wed. & Thurs.: Karaoke with Bennie & Dendy. No cover, 600 N. Grandview Ave. Call: (915) 332-1812.

Opening: "The Hurricane," "Play It To The Bone" & "Next Friday." Wallace Hollywood Theaters Tall City 10

Saturday, Jan. 22

Gallery 1114: opening reception for artists Robert Green of Abilene, Becki Smith of Odessa, and Janet Whitman of Midland. 7-9 p.m. 1114 N. Big Spring St. Free. Call: 685-9944.

Lindsay String Quartet. 8 p.m. St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3011 W. Kansas Ave. & 2 p.m. Sun., Ellen Noel Art Museum, 4909 E. University, Odessa. Admission charged. Call: 563-0921.

West Texas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Organ Odyssey 2000. 9 a.m.-noon. First United Methodist Church. Free workshop for students 3rd-12th grades. Free public recital 11:40 a.m. Call: 687-1688.

ODESSA — Brand New Opree: Mingus Family, Shane Keys, Amy Hale, Jerry Hart, Richie Taylor, Permian Basin Music Co. 7-10 p.m. Globe Theatre, 2308 Shakespeare Road. Call for admission charges: (915) 332-1586, 580-3177.

Sunday, Jan. 23

ODESSA — West Texas Jazz Society's annual meeting & "Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon" presents Dave Alexander of Dallas. 2 to 5 p.m. Zucchi's Restaurant, 1541 JBS Parkway. Admission free. Call: 563-1701, 682-4124. Sponsored by the Abell-Hanger Foundation.

Monday, Jan. 24

Permian Basin Petroleum Museum: Scaling Up, traveling exhibit opening. Through April 1. Admission: \$5 for adults/\$4 seniors 65 and over and students ages 12 to 17/\$3 ages 6-11/free under 6. Call: 683-4403. 1500 I-20 West.

Tuesday, Jan. 25

45 Plus Dance Club: country western band, Midland Downtown Lions Center. non-smoking/non-alcoholic. 7:30-10 p.m. Cost: \$4. Guest: \$5. Guest welcome without member. Call: 694-8442.

Wednesday, Jan. 26

Seniors Over 50 Dance Group: 8-10:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, 501 Air Park Road. Country western. Professional bands. Admission: \$4. Call: 682-5511, 694-3236, 687-1633.

Thursday, Jan. 27

Petroleum Museum: Family Night. Discover "Soll to Oil." 6:30-8 p.m. 1500 I-20 West. Free. Call: 683-4403.

To be listed in this column, please send name of performers or show, location, date, time, admission price and contact number to Reviews & Previews, Midland Reporter-Telegram, 201 E. Illinois Ave., Midland, Texas 79701. Fax: Reviews & Previews, 570-7650, or email: mhal@basinlink.com. The information must be in the Reporter-Telegram office on Monday to run in Friday's listing.

DAMON: Actor's career seems more secure than ever

(From 1B)

Not hardly. With Oscar buzz about "Ripley" and two prestigious items in the can for the new year (Billy Bob Thornton's adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's acclaimed "All the Pretty Horses" and Robert Redford's period golf parable "The Legend of Bagge Vance," with Will Smith), Damon's career seems more secure than ever.

But playing the deceptively waifish, eager-to-please Ripley — a poor young man who falls in with a crowd of wealthy American expatriates in 1950s Italy and proves capable of lying, changing identities and much worse in order to maintain his new-found status — was, according to Damon, a humbling reality check.

"It's certainly a feeling of having your nose pressed against the window, or going to the park and just watching all of the other kids play," he says, comparing Ripley's desire for the good life to his own pre-stardom experience. "That's a tough time, and it's

something that hundreds of thousands of people are out there doing today, feeling that their talent is not being recognized by the industry, having all of this creative energy and nowhere to put it."

While Damon has capitalized on his window of opportunity to work nonstop for the last several years in one exciting film project after another (Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan," "Rounders" with Edward Norton, the controversial and surprisingly popular religious satire "Dogma"), Ripley applies his new-found talent for elaborate deception and split-second cover-up tactics to much more nefarious ends.

But Damon's substantial accomplishment in the film, which was adapted and directed by "The English Patient's" Oscar-winning Anthony Minghella from a classic crime novel by Patricia Highsmith, is to keep the calculating sociopath both vulnerable and sympathetic.

"Being constantly aware of what Ripley knows, and what he knows other people know,

was the real meat of the thing," Damon says. "You can see the wheels turning, and that's the fun of watching him do this juggling act. Yet he feels remorse at the same time for what's happened and, I guess, the way this kind of purgatory is imminent for him. I think the audience can see where he's heading sooner than he can."

"I always felt that if Anthony put the camera in the right place, then the audience would understand why Ripley is doing what he's doing. Then the power of it becomes implicating the audience at the end, like watching them go, 'Oh man, I was really rooting for that guy. What does that say about me?' That's really what you want people to come away with, along with the basic argument of self-annihilation: At what cost does it come to put on somebody else's skin?"

While acknowledging the parallels between his own, self-made Cinderella success and Ripley's, Damon is quick to point out a key difference.

"Thank God, in terms of getting wherever I've gotten,

that I didn't do it at somebody else's expense," he says. "That would be the most terrifying thing, and it's not at all hard to do in this business. There are certainly people who, in some pursuit of something that they project happiness onto, end up just stepping on people to get there. I can't imagine the emptiness of the moment when it's achieved that way."

To help keep the surreal effect of burgeoning superstardom manageable, Damon stays closely connected to longtime friends and family, and nurtures the bond with Affleck, the pal he knows best who is going through essentially the same thing he is. They recently produced their first film together, a romantic comedy starring Denise Richards called "The Third Wheel." Damon has also done a pretty effective job of keeping his two-year romance with actress Winona Ryder out of the media spotlight; an uncharacteristic but necessary step, he's found.

"I still talk, obviously, about my personal life with the people who I'm close with and I

trust," explains Damon, whose breakup with "Good Will" co-star Minnie Driver became a tabloid circus. "It was a quick change; I realized, once that happened a couple of years ago, how not to go about it."

While some changes have been made, and the nonstop process of wearing someone else's skin in a breakless work pattern could conceivably prove unhealthy, Damon isn't all that different now from the kid who would do anything to get into the movie game. The actor's motivation, in fact, remains exactly the same.

"All of my drive comes from my love of movies," he says. "I knew it wasn't easy from the first time I worked on one. I knew that the hours were long and that it was this hard, strange orchestration of 100 different people doing 20 different jobs with 20 different visions coming together to make one. It seems incredible that any movie's good, but I've just always loved them and I don't mind working hard on them. It's what I enjoy doing about this."

FILM: 'The Talented Mr. Ripley' has four book sequels

(From 1B)

Certainly, the material is there. A novelist of the first water as far as the 20th-century crime novel is concerned, Miss Highsmith won the French Grand Prix de Littérature Policière in 1957 and a Silver Dagger in 1964 from the British Crime Writers Association.

A native of Fort Worth, her name at birth on Jan. 21, 1921, was Mary Patricia Plangman. Her parents, both commercial artists, divorced before she was born. Raised by her grandparents, who taught her to read when she was 2 years old, she joined her mother and her stepfather, Stanley Highsmith, in Greenwich Village, N.Y., when she was 6.

She is quoted in "Contemporary Literary Criticism" as having said that she had an unhappy childhood and youth and was not close to her mother. In 1963, she moved permanently to Europe. Her last years (until her death on Feb. 4, 1995) were spent in an isolated house near Locarno on the Swiss-Italian border.

A 1942 graduate of Bernard College, Miss Highsmith made her novel debut in 1950 with the swamping-murders plot in "Strangers on a Train." The novel and the subsequent Alfred Hitchcock film are considered classics.

Graham Greene dubbed her "the poet of apprehension," and her books have been called "peerlessly disturbing" by The New Yorker.

Creepy is the word that comes to Mrs. Holeva's mind. She recalled a conversation she had with her husband, Danny

Holeva, after they had seen the film. "I called it creepy. And he asked, 'Did you like it?' And I said, 'I liked it real well. That makes it even creepier.'"

"It was totally amazing to me how someone could become someone else so completely and that they would risk killing — they would risk anything — to maintain that."

The film is, Mrs. Holeva said, "Not what you are expecting. It just gets deeper and deeper and deeper until there's no way out. I think people will be very surprised."

The portrayals of Damon and Jude Law, who plays Dickie Greenleaf, were "wonderful," Mrs. Holeva said. "It's the best thing I've seen Matt Damon in so far. Maybe because you have no idea when you first meet this little, nerdy guy at the beginning that he would become such a dark, troubled person."

"Superb" was the word Ms. Hughen used to describe the acting from the principals and the supporting cast. "One of these days Matt Damon is going to come through and get a big award for his acting. We all know he's an up-and-comer."

As for the plot, Ms. Hughen said, "It was not pleasant material, but if you're in the mood for that kind of movie, I thought it was well done. It's not what you would want to go see if you're looking for something that makes you feel good."

The story is "sad," said Danny Holeva. "Ripley was sort of an outsider looking in and wanting to be inside. Like the reviews say, he'd rather be somebody else than a nobody."

For somebody who was so intelligent and talented, it was so sad because he didn't do anything positive with it ... He just made bad choices.

"And Dickie Greenleaf was kind of a stereotype — the rich boy living off his father's money. Spoiled. You start thinking about the film and none of the characters were these real quality people. They were very flawed."

What Holeva most enjoyed about the film was the location and the time period.

"It was very picturesque — the 1950s in Italy. The images and the scenery, the city and the coastline. The apartment that they had, the beach house, just looked like a different era."

"Danny and I decided that would be the life," Mrs. Holeva said. "Live in a little villa. Danny could paint all day. I could shop. Life would be good. You'd just have to stay away from the Mr. Ripleys out there."

The movie now showing is the second film version of this story. The first, "Purple Noon," by French producer Robert

Hakim and his late brother, Raymond, was released in 1960. Directed by Rene Clement, the film starred Alain Delon.

The novel is described as a "real tour de force" by author Maddy Van Herbruggen, online on Ed's Internet Book Review. In her review, Ms. Herbruggen said of Tom Ripley, "What's truly scary is that he is very much a character of the '90s, even though this book was conceived over 40 years ago."

Anthony Minghella, who received an Academy Award as Best Director for "The English Patient," directed and wrote the screenplay for "The Talented Mr. Ripley." In the production notes, he recalled his first impression of the novel and his purpose in filming the work: "I felt such a queasy recognition when I first read the disturbing story of Tom Ripley. Ripley — to the manner, but not to the manor born; his nose pressed up against the window of a world he yearns for, but from which he feels disqualified — touched a nerve in me, just as he has done with

thousands of readers over the past half-century.

"I think we have all known what it's like to feel on the outside of things. We might even have pretended to be someone we're not in order to succeed or be accepted. It's one of the things which makes us human and recognizing that makes us see Ripley as human. This unsettling connection to Tom Ripley, one of the most fascinatingly flawed characters in fiction, and the anxiety that what happens to him is familiar, at least in nightmares, prompted me to make this film. In it, I've tried to explore the traps we set for ourselves, through our pretenses and deception; to acknowledge that this is where we might end up without the reassuringly tight belt of morality cinched around our waists."

Editor's Note: The information in this article came from local interviews, Paramount Pictures production notes, Ed's Internet Book Review: Mystery/Suspense/Thriller, and "Contemporary Literary Criticism, Vol. 102."

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What we're watching

TOP RENTALS

1. "American Pie"
2. "The General's Daughter"
3. "The Matrix"
4. "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me"
5. "Summer of Sam"
6. "Entrapment"
7. "South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut"
8. "Dick"
9. "Notting Hill"
10. "Run Lola Run"

TOP VIDEO SALES

1. "Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me"
2. "The Matrix"
3. "Big Daddy"
4. "Saving Private Ryan"

5. "The Iron Giant"
6. "Metallica: S&M"
7. "Playboy 2000 — Video Playmate Calendar"
8. "Yellow Submarine"
9. "Slipknot: Welcome to Our Neighborhood"
10. "Shakespeare in Love"

UPCOMING

- Tuesday: "Runaway Bride," "My Life So Far," "My Son the Fanatic," "Black Cat White Cat," "Lucie Aubrac."
- Feb. 1: "Stir of Echoes," "Tarzan," "The Winslow Boy," "The Swindle," "Love Stinks."

Compiled by N.Y. Times News Service

Box office

Top weekend movies

Weekend of Jan. 14-16, 2000		
All dollar figures in millions		
Gross to date, week in release, number of screens	Weekend gross	
1. Next Friday \$19.1, one week, 1,103 screens	\$14.6	
2. Stuart Little \$10.8, five weeks, 3,092 screens	\$9.7	
3. The Hurricane \$14.7, three weeks, 1,454 screens	\$9.1	
4. Girl, Interrupted \$9.0, four weeks, 1,902 screens	\$8.2	
5. The Green Mile \$10.1, six weeks, 2,676 screens	\$7.5	
6. Galaxy Quest \$44.8, four weeks, 2,450 screens	\$6.6	
7. The Talented Mr. Ripley \$65.6, four weeks, 2,393 screens	\$6.0	
8. Supremacy \$5.7, one week, 2,280 screens	\$5.7	
9. Toy Story 2 \$22.9, nine weeks, 2,326 screens	\$5.6	
10. Any Given Sunday \$66.2, four weeks, 2,505 screens	\$4.8	

Source: Exhibitor Relations Co.

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Holly

By David Germ Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Goers will get "sh and see Tom Cru another impossible first, a little quiet

Before the sum hit, including "M sible 2" and a 1970s detective "Shaft." Hollyw traditional winter

For the next few movies will roll compared with the dash of late last ye the industry's sl there is some star p in the mix, with Leonardo DiC Roberts, Madonna Bruce Willis — Pooh and Eeyore.

The first four m amounted to a buil first "Star Wars" years. The film in until "Phantom debuted in May a launch a record y office.

The blockbuster tle less certain th Cruise's "Mission sequel, due out ar al Day, is a safe "Shaft," starrin Jackson, here's so that may lead th parade:

■ "Battlefield John Travolta, Ba Forrest Whitaker in of L. Ron Hubbab bat tale.

■ "Dinosaur," historic adventure puter animated r live-action backd

■ "Me, Myse starring Jim Carre two personalities

"The Hurricane zel Washington a rican" Carter, a fighter wrongly ac victed of murder, York and L.A. ju of last year and is the Century Thea

DAVID: This sents a high po Washington's car Cruise's perform nolia," Washing mane leaps off t a ferocity that f feel Carter's pain survival and acq eventual release once thrived on. Washington final ial that is up to h ents.

TIM: I agree w that it is good to se thy of Denzel Wa ent. Although he ognized with a Su for "Glory," his v cane" will make h contender for Best When voting for you think of the team could no without. When this movie, you realize would not have be without him.

DAVID: You'r Washington's pe movie would be a routine, if well about racism in A times, hard to fo between times in

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Hollywood's quiet season still offers some star turns

By David Germain
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Moviegoers will get "shafted" in 2000 and see Tom Cruise accomplish another impossible mission. But first, a little quiet time.

Before the summer spectacles hit, including "Mission: Impossible 2" and an update of the 1970s detective franchise "Shaft," Hollywood enters its traditional winter hibernation.

For the next few months, new movies will roll out in a trickle compared with the mad Oscar dash of late last year. Though it's the industry's slowest period, there is some star power sprinkled in the mix, with films featuring Leonardo DiCaprio, Julia Roberts, Madonna, Meg Ryan, Bruce Willis — and Tiger, Pooh and Eeyore.

The first four months of 1999 amounted to a buildup toward the first "Star Wars" movie in 16 years. The film industry slumped until "Phantom Menace" debuted in May and went on to launch a record year at the box office.

The blockbuster picture is a little less certain this year, though Cruise's "Mission: Impossible" sequel, due out around Memorial Day, is a safe bet. Besides "Shaft," starring Samuel L. Jackson, here's some other films that may lead the summer hit parade:

■ "Battlefield Earth," with John Travolta, Barry Pepper and Forrest Whitaker in the adaptation of L. Ron Hubbard's sci-fi combat tale.

■ "Dinosaur," Disney's prehistoric adventure that sets computer animated reptiles against live-action backdrops.

■ "Me, Myself and Irene," starring Jim Carrey as a cop with two personalities, both in love

with the same woman, played by Renee Zellweger. From Peter and Bobby Farrelly, makers of "There's Something About Mary."

■ "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle" brings the beloved moose-and-squirrel team out of retirement in a comedy combining animation and live action and starring Robert De Niro, Jason Alexander and Renee Russo.

■ "Nuttie 2: The Klumps," Eddie Murphy's sequel to "The Nutty Professor," co-stars Janet Jackson.

The year's first new movie, "Fantasia/2000," opened New Year's Day for a four-month run at big-screen lmax theaters before moving to regular cinemas this summer. A few other movies debuted the first two weeks of the year, including Ice Cube's "Next Friday" and the sci-fi tale "Supernova."

Here are some film highlights among the pre-summer movies. Release dates are subject to change, and some films play in limited release or open in major cities before expanding nationally.

DOWN TO YOU: Freddie Prinze Jr. and Julia Stiles are young lovers on a New York City college campus. Jan. 21.

ISNT SHE GREAT: Bette Midler, Nathan Lane, Stockard Channing and John Cleeve in a comedy about "Valley of the Dolls" author Jacqueline Susann. Jan. 28.

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER: "Double Jeopardy" star Ashley Judd this time puts others in danger as a femme fatale being trailed by a government agent (Ewan McGregor). Jan. 28.

THE BIG TEASE: A Scottish hairdresser (Craig Ferguson) heads to southern California for the world freestyle hairdressing contest. Jan. 28.

SCREAM 3: The final chapter of the horror franchise has Neve

Campbell, Courtney Cox and David Arquette terrorized on a movie set. Feb. 4.

GUN SHY: This dark comedy produced by Sandra Bullock stars Liam Neeson as a drug agent who turns to therapy to cure a sudden case of clay feet. Co-stars Bullock and Oliver Platt. Feb. 4.

THE BEACH: Leonardo DiCaprio stars as a backpacker in Thailand on a quest for paradise after he inherits a map to an idyllic, unspoiled beach. Feb. 11.

THE TIGER MOVIE: The animated Winnie the Pooh tale features Eeyore, Piglet, Rabbit and Tigger, who embarks on a journey to find his tiger kin. Feb. 11.

SNOW DAY: A day off in snowy Syracuse results in comic bedlam. With Chevy Chase, Chris Elliott, Jean Smart, Pam Grier and Iggy Pop. Feb. 11.

HANGING UP: Meg Ryan, Diane Keaton and Lisa Kudrow star as three very different sisters dealing with their aging father (Walter Matthau). Directed by Keaton. Feb. 11.

THE WHOLE NINE YARDS: Bruce Willis stars as a hit man hiding in suburban Montreal, where he and a neighbor (Matthew Perry) become the target of hired guns. Feb. 18.

WONDER BOYS: Michael Douglas is a writer and professor with a 2,600-page manuscript and a few too many campus entanglements. Frances McDormand and Tobey Maguire co-star. Feb. 18.

THE SKULLS: Joshua Jackson of "Dawson's Creek" plays an Ivy League student who uncovers a sinister secret society on campus. Feb. 18.

REINDEER GAMES: An ex-con (Ben Affleck) is unwillingly involved in a casino heist. Directed by John Frankenheimer and co-starring Charlize Theron and Gary Sinise. Feb. 25.

3 STRIKES: Twice-convicted Brian Hooks is framed for a third felony, setting him off on a romp to clear his name and avoid 25 years in the big house. Feb. 25.

THE NEXT BEST THING: Madonna and Rupert Everett are unlikely parents in the latest from

director John Schlesinger. March 3.

WHAT PLANET ARE YOU FROM?: Gary Shandling plays an alien sent to mate with an Earth woman (Annette Bening) in this comedy co-written by Shandling and directed by Mike Nichols. March 3.

DROWNING MONA: Offbeat tale of a sheriff (Danny DeVito) investigating the death of local meanie Mona Dearly (Bette Midler), who drives her Yugo into a lake. March 3.

MISSION TO MARS: Gary Sinise, Tim Robbins, Kim Delaney and Jerry O'Connell in the space tale about a recovery crew sent to investigate a doomed mission to the red planet. March 10.

ERIN BROCKOVICH: Julia Roberts follows up a string of hits with a canny dramatic turn as a divorcee who leads a class-action lawsuit over tainted water. Steven Soderbergh directs the film, based on a true story. March 17.

FINAL DESTINATION: Death comes calling for teens who had been fated to die in a plane explosion. March 17.

WAKING THE DEAD: A young attorney discovers the love of his life, believed killed in a car bombing, may be alive. Billy Crudup and Jennifer Connelly star. March 24.

THE FILTH AND THE FURY: Julien Temple, who made a 1980 documentary about the Sex Pistols, has another go at the explosive punk band. March 29.

PRICE OF GLORY: Jimmy Smits stars as a father trying to achieve his broken boxing dreams through his sons. March 31.

THE ROAD TO EL DORADO: An animated film featuring the voices of Kevin Kline and Kenneth Branagh as men who obtain a map to a legendary city of gold. March 31.

HERE ON EARTH: Jealousy and adversity complicate this rich boy-poor girl romance starring Lelee Sobieski. March 31.

TIME CODE 2000: An experiment in improvisation by director Mike Figgis, shot with hand-held digital video cameras without a script. March 31.

RETURN TO ME: David Duchovny and Minnie Driver in a

romance that co-stars Bonnie Hunt, James Belushi and Carroll O'Connor. April 7.

HEAD OVER HEELS: Love could take a death toll on Monica Potter, who plays an art restorer who may have fallen for a killer (Freddie Prinze Jr.). April 7.

JOE GOULD'S SECRET: Stanley Tucci directs and stars in the story of a writer for The New Yorker who chronicles the life of a street scholar played by Ian Holm. April 7.

BLACK AND WHITE: A criminal tries to go straight and become a hip hop impresario. Features Brooke Shields, Robert Downey Jr., Ben Stiller and Claudia Schiffer.

28 DAYS: A party-hearty writer (Sandra Bullock) gets a rude awakening when her excesses land her in rehab. Directed by Betty Thomas and co-starring Steve Buscemi and Diane Ladd. April 14.

WHERE THE MONEY IS: Paul Newman plays a bank robber who fakes a stroke to get out of prison only to find a new warden, his caretaker (Linda Fiorentino) at a nursing home. April 14.

LOVE AND BASKETBALL: Spike Lee co-produces a romantic tale of two hoopsters, played by Omar Epps and Sanaa Lathan. April 21.

U-571: Matthew McConaughey, Bill Paxton and Harvey Keitel in a World War II spy caper aboard an American submarine. April 21.

THINGS YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HER: Five interweaving plots follow a group of women played by Cameron Diaz, Glenn Close, Calista Flockhart, Holly Hunter, Amy Brenneman and Kathy Baker. April 28.

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS: Abandoned by her boyfriend, a pregnant teen (Natalie Portman) finds refuge in an Oklahoma Walmart. Co-stars Ashley Judd, Stockard Channing and Sally Field. April 28.

COMMITTED: Heather Graham is a jilted wife who sets out with an odd cast of road buddies to track down her errant hubby. April 28.

THE YARDS: Mark Wahlberg in a crime thriller set amid New York City's sprawling subway yards. James Caan, Joaquin Phoenix and Faye Dunaway co-star. April release.

I DREAMED OF AFRICA: Kim

Basinger in the real-life story of a woman transplanted from a cushy life in Italy to the wilds of Africa. May 5.

GLADIATOR: Director Ridley Scott re-creates the glories that was ancient Rome, starring Russell Crowe as a fallen general who becomes a gladiator. May 5.

UP AT THE VILLA: Sean Penn, Kristin Scott Thomas and Anne Bancroft in a W. Somerset Maugham adaptation about British and American expatriates amid growing fascism in Tuscany, 1938. May 5.

HAMLET: The suits do Shakespeare as the Bard's play is set amid the white-collar intrigue of the Denmark Corp. Ethan Hawke, Kyle MacLachlan, Bill Murray and Llew Schreiber star. May 12.

THE FLINTSTONES IN VIVA ROCK VEGAS: Fred & Wilma & Barney & Betty, the early, courtship years. Starring Mark Addy, Kristen Johnston, Stephen Baldwin and Jane Krakowski. May 12.

HIGH FIDELITY: John Cusack plays a vinyl junkie whose record shop and love life are in equally sad shape. From director Stephen Frears and co-starring Lisa Bonet, Joan Cusack, Sara Gilbert and Lili Taylor. Spring release.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT: A war hero (Samuel L. Jackson) is put on trial for a failed rescue mission, defended by an old Marine buddy (Tommy Lee Jones). William Friedkin directs. Spring release.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT IN SUBURBIA: This loose interpretation of Dostoyevsky's novel stars Monica Kenna, Vincent Kartheiser and Ellen Barkin. Spring release.

KEEPING THE FAITH: A religious love triangle develops when two clergymen (Edward Norton and Ben Stiller) fall for their childhood buddy (Jenna Elfman). Norton directs. Spring release.

BLESS THE CHILD: Kim Basinger and Jimmy Smits battle the forces of evil over a young girl's soul. Spring release.

DUETS: Bruce Paltrow directs daughter Gwyneth, Andre Braugher and Huey Lewis in a road flick about karaoke lovers. Spring release.

"The Hurricane," starring Denzel Washington as Ruben "Hurricane" Carter, a champion prize fighter wrongly accused and convicted of murder, opened in New York and L.A. just before the end of last year and is now playing at the Century Theatre in Odessa.

DAVID: This movie represents a high point in Denzel Washington's career. Like Tom Cruise's performance in "Magnolia," Washington's performance leaps off the screen with a ferocity that makes you truly feel Carter's pain, his fight for survival and acquittal, and his eventual release of the hate he once thrived on. It is great to see Washington finally given material that is up to his immense talents.

TIM: I agree with you, David, that it is good to see material worthy of Denzel Washington's talent. Although he has been recognized with a Supporting Oscar for "Glory," his work in "Hurricane" will make him the leading contender for Best Actor this year. When voting for the team MVP, you think of the one person that the team could not have survived without. When thinking about this movie, you realize that this movie would not have been half as good without him.

DAVID: You're right, without Washington's performance, the movie would be little more than a routine, if well meant, drama about racism in America. It is, at times, hard to follow as it jerks between times in Carter's life.

One moment he is winning a fight in 1963, the next fending off an attack on his home in 1966, and the next winning a fight in 1964. Until the movie settled down and began to flow in a fairly straightforward chronology, we are often lost. Likewise, the performances by most of the cast are lackluster. Vicellous Reon Shannon as Lesro, the teen-ager who drives the effort to free Carter and who is our window into the movie, does very well. It is too bad that director Norman Jewison all but cuts him out of the film once the legal ball gets rolling, robbing Shannon of the ability to complete the character's growth.

TIM: I have to disagree with you about the movie being hard to follow. Actually, I feel that Norman Jewison, the director, did an excellent job in weaving the various timelines together. It helps the audience to quickly absorb themselves into the middle of his world, and make us more empathetic to his situation and plight. Because this movie is based on a book that Ruben Carter wrote, the facts are obviously tilted to a completely black and white world — on the one side, Carter was never wrong and on the other, the world was out to get him. In the end, though, "Hurricane" is a compelling story that will have you rooting for the protagonist.

DAVID: Although "The Hurricane" has some weaknesses and contains some very strong language, the Oscar caliber per-

THE MOVIE GUYS' Black Gold Review

A gusher: good to excellent Dry well: Fair to poor

formance turned in by Denzel Washington is more than worth the price of admission and a trip to Odessa. Don't miss this gusher.

TIM: Definitely, a gusher in a weak winter movie season. Drive over to Odessa to see this



By David R. Allen, MC drama instructor, and Tim Jensen, MCT executive director

movie, or call the Hollywood Theatre in Midland to request this movie and others like "Angela's Ashes," "The Cradle Will Rock" and "Cider House Rules" before the summer movie season.

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PLAY IT TO THE BONE PG (1:15 4:15 7:15 9:15)
STUART LITTLE PG (1:15 4:15 7:15 9:15)
GALAXY QUEST PG (1:15 4:15 7:15 9:15)
ARMY AND THE CORP PG-13 (1:15 4:15 7:15 9:15)
ART OVER SUNDAY PG (1:15 4:15 7:15 9:15)
BICENTENNIAL MAN PG (1:15 4:15 7:15 9:15)
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JAN 21 2000

AROUND TOWN

Heritage Museum in Big Spring will host its "Around the World in 80 Days" fund-raiser Jan. 29 at the museum, 30 Scurry in Big Spring.

Interested "chefs" may prepare recipes from any country, serving small "bites" to guests at the fund-raiser. Festival guests will vote on who is the choice for the "World's Greatest Chef."

The event opens at 5:30 p.m. with food served until 7 p.m. The event has been scheduled to coincide with the performance of "Danza Hispana" presented by the Big Spring Symphony. Guests will have plenty of time to enjoy the food and then reach the Municipal Auditorium, six blocks away, in time for the 8 p.m. symphony performance.

The fund-raiser helps maintain exhibits and provide programs at the museum throughout the year. Tickets are on sale at the museum's front desk. Prices are \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for children, or \$13 for a combo ticket for both events. Chefs receive a free pass and two additional free tickets.

"Great chefs" and those who would like to be should reserve a spot by Jan. 22 by calling 267-8255.

MIDLAND PI Beta Phi Alumnae Club will meet 11:30 a.m. Jan. 28 at Toddy Cafe as guests of the new restaurant at a trial run.

Alumnae new to the area are invited to attend. For reservations call 686-8328 by Jan. 24.

As part of Pi Phi Philanthropy Month, the local club will support Pi Phi's national Links to Literacy program by collecting books and donating them to local non-profit organizations. Each member is asked to bring at least one new or used book to the meeting for this project. For more information call 687-5549.

PERMIAN BASIN Legal Secretaries Association will meet at noon Feb. 8 in Conference Room 215 of the Arco Building. Terry Allbright, family counselor, will be the speaker. Cost of \$9 per person includes lunch. For reservations call 683-5501 by 5 p.m. Feb. 4. No cancellations after Feb. 7.

VAN, Serving the Visually Impaired, has two weekly group meetings.

The men's support group will meet 10-11 a.m. Jan. 25 at the VAN House, 2908 W. Ohio. All men with visual impairment are invited to attend. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

The women's group will meet for a craft-making session 10 a.m.-noon Jan. 26 at the VAN House. Those attending are invited to bring back tushes. All interested people are invited to attend. For more information about either group call 694-2648.

WEST TEXAS Jazz Society will host its annual meeting and jazz on a Sunday Afternoon 2-5 p.m. Jan. 23 at Zucchi's Restaurant, 1541 JBS Parkway in Odessa. Dave Alexander of Dallas will perform vocals and trumpet with the Society's Jazz Combo. Admission will be free. The event is sponsored by Abell-Hanger Foundation. For more information call 563-1701 or 682-4124.

PETROLEUM MUSEUM will host its Family Night 6:30-8 p.m. Jan. 27 at the museum, 1500 I-20 West in Midland. Themed "Soil to Oil," the event will feature more than 25 discovery stations. Admission will be free. Refreshments will be served and the gift shop will be open.

TRINITY HIGH School's choir will host a spaghetti dinner fundraising event, featuring songs from Les Miserables, on Feb. 5. Seatings will be 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students, and may be purchased or reserved by calling 699-0332 or 694-0167. Proceeds will benefit the choir's trip to Europe in March.

FAMILY MATTERS

Woman discovers that meeting suitable singles can be difficult

By Jim May, Ph.D.

DEAR FAMILY: I am a 28-year-old, college-educated woman who has been divorced for over a year now, and I want to know if you have any ideas about where you go to meet decent men. I've tried the bar scene and the single's groups, and it's just a bunch of desperate people trying to find a man. There aren't any men worth having there, just a bunch of old guys looking to score. Most of my girlfriends feel the same way.

I was really hoping that when my company reorganized, I would get a transfer to (a larger city), but that didn't happen. Now I'm stuck here. I need some ideas to keep from being bored to death. **STUCK IN THE DESERT**



May

DEAR STUCK: I agree that the bar/singles scene can be a matter of "looking for love in all the wrong places." I believe Midland is home to a large group of very nice, appropriate single men and women. However, as you and your friends have discovered, finding each other can be difficult.

Start by visiting singles groups at the various churches around town. Several of the larger churches have active singles groups for people to meet, study and socialize in a Christian environment. Some of the churches offer divorce recovery workshops and follow-up support groups that you may want to consider.

Unfortunately for many singles, the times in life when it is easiest to date are usually high school and college years and shortly after college. Once a person has married and divorced — depending on the length of the marriage — he or she usually finds fewer available opportunities to meet and date potential suitors. The available "desirable" pool gets smaller and the opportunities become less.

You can improve your chances of meeting appropriate people by "casting your net on the other side of the boat." Get involved in church and community activities. Volunteer to help others. You are more likely to meet people who enjoy the same things you do when you are doing the things that interest you. Dr. Harville Hendrix's book, "Keeping the Love You Find," can be most illuminating on the dating process and self-awareness through the process.

Many good single people — men and women — live in Midland. Make the effort to look in the "right places" for them.

DEAR FAMILY: We have a 2-year-old baby, and my husband thinks that I should find a babysitter for her so we can go out. I don't think that it's a good idea to leave a baby with someone you don't know these days, even for an evening. I'm opposed to doing this and he's getting angry because I won't do it. Don't you think it's dangerous to leave

your baby with a babysitter until she can really talk and tell you if there is a problem? I think it is. **NO BABYSITTER**

DEAR NO: Certainly leaving a baby with someone you don't know is dangerous. However, both the parents and the child benefit from being apart occasionally. The parents have the opportunity to renew their relationship and the child has the opportunity to develop courage and confidence that she can handle the situation.

Ask your friends about potential babysitters. Invite the potential babysitter over to meet your daughter and "interview" them. Get to know and become comfortable with them.

At first you might be more comfortable leaving your daughter with a babysitter for a short time during the day on a weekend. As you gain more confidence, you can leave her for longer periods of time, and then in the evening.

Also consider placing your daughter in a good Mother's Day Out program once or twice a week. This will give her the opportunity to meet other children and develop her social skills in a safe environment while you have time to yourself. Consider leaving your daughter with a trusted neighbor or relative for short periods.

Give yourself time to find a program and a babysitter you like, but do take action.

THE FOLLOWING TIPS ON "HELPING YOUR CHILDREN DEVELOP STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY" ARE OFFERED BY THE CENTERS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

■ Set goals for the things they want to accomplish and list them.

■ Make plans for their time day-by-day and week-by-week, and then set priorities to make sure that the important things get done.

■ Keep track of school assignments and have a daily study plan and be able to tell you what it is.

■ Have a step-by-step method for studying for tests and be able to tell you what those steps are.

■ Know how to find the main ideas in what they read and be able to tell you how they do it.

■ Have all the tools they need to do their school work — dictionary, pencils, pens, paper, scissors, thesaurus, etc.

■ Know how to get ready ahead of time — school work completed in time to check it over again before turning it in, clothes ready for the next day before going to bed, school material set out ready for the next day, etc.

■ Spend at least as much time reading for fun as they do watching television.

(The Parent Institute, 1995)

Jim May is the director of the Family Wellness Center.

Questions for this column should be addressed to Family Matters, P.O. Box 51638, Midland, 79710-1638.

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DEAR ABBY

Double-dealing wife cheats twice

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: You have helped so many people, I hope you can help me. I have been married more than 20 years, and we have two lovely daughters. Everything was fine until my wife started to work as a secretary for a bank branch manager.



Van Buren

When I found out they had been having an affair for nearly two years, it crushed me. I asked my wife if she wanted a divorce, and she said, "No." I didn't either for the sake of the children and, strange as it sounds, I still loved her.

She agreed to quit working there, and about the same time the branch manager got transferred to a branch in another city, so I thought everything was all right. She then took a job as a secretary to an attorney in a law firm. I became suspicious when I would call her at the office at 2 or 3 in the afternoon and was told, "She and Mr. Jones" went to lunch and then to see a client to take a deposition." A private detective discovered that the "deposition" was taking place in a motel! When I confronted her, she admitted that she and her boss were having an affair.

We saw a counselor and our pastor, but my wife insisted it was no big deal and everyone was doing it. She still doesn't want a divorce and assured me it was over as far as her cheating goes.

She now works in an office with only women, so I'm hopeful her cheating is a thing of the past.

Abby, how do I cope with the second infidelity, since it, too, lasted more than a year? I want to save our marriage because of the kids. I saw a psychiatrist, but he didn't help much. Any advice, Abby? I'm really hurting. — **CAN'T FORGET IN THE MIDWEST**

respect you for wanting to save your marriage for the sake of the children, but one person can't do it alone. A successful marriage takes the effort of two people working together.

I also admire the fact that you sought professional help in order to put these traumas behind you. However, I am troubled by your wife's attempt to excuse her infidelity by claiming, "It's no big deal and everyone is doing it." That is far from the truth, and a lame excuse at best.

If the marriage is to be healed, your wife must agree to marriage counseling to work on the issues that caused the infidelities in the first place. You have done everything you can; now the ball is in her court.

DEAR ABBY: I was always taught that when a girl marries, she drops her middle name and her last name, and then becomes her first name, maiden name, married name. My daughter is being married soon, and she tells me that her friends say I am wrong. She says she has been told that the girl's name would be: first name, middle name, married name.

Would you please settle this argument for us? Thank you. — **SHIRLEY B., ROSWELL, N.M.**

DEAR SHIRLEY B.: According to "The New Emily Post's Etiquette," by Elizabeth L. Post (Punk and Wagnalls, New York): "A woman's legal name consists of her given name, her maiden name and her husband's name."

However, time marches on, and during the last 15 years or so, many women have chosen to hyphenate their maiden names and married names: given name, middle name, maiden name-married name (Mary Margaret Jones-Smith).

DEAR ABBY: I was invited to

share Christmas with a group of friends and family. We had a wonderful time. After dinner, gifts were exchanged, and the hostess made sure that each guest had a gift.

As we sat talking over coffee, I was appalled when one of the women reached into a kitchen drawer, pulled out some plastic bags and proceeded to fill them with food to take home. Have things changed this much? When I was raised, people didn't help themselves to anything in another person's house. It was my understanding that if you brought a gift or a dish to the party, it was the property of the hostess to serve or not as she saw fit.

I actually saw one lady put an entire loaf of bread into her bag. The hostess had almost nothing left. I overheard her husband ask, "What happened to the bread we had for dinner? I'd like a sandwich!" Imagine, not enough left for a sandwich!

When you bring a dish to a party, do you scoop it up and take whatever is left home with you? Do you fix yourself a "doggie bag" without the hostess's permission, knowledge or consent? Abby, isn't what goes into a hostess's house hers to do with as she wishes? — **STUMPED IN NEBRASKA**

DEAR STUMPED: When a guest brings food to a dinner party, it is considered a gift for the hostess. She is not obligated to serve it as part of the meal, and is within her rights to pop it into the freezer to enjoy at another time if she chooses. Well-mannered guests do not remove anything from the house without being invited to do so by their host or hostess.

Abigail Van Buren's column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

Techno 'hermit' living online

By Eric Celeste

N.Y. Times News Service

FORT WORTH — There's no question I wanted to hate him. How could you not? You hear the story: a Dallasite gives up his techie job to live in a house for a year, legally changes his name to DotComGuy, never leaves the property, lives exclusively off the Internet — and you think, "Hello, dork."

Even when the details are explained — he'll make almost a hundred grand from corporate sponsors, his every move will be Webcasted by 18 cameras, with only a 20-second delay between his "Truman Show" — like real life and what you see on the Net — you alter your opinion only slightly: "Hello, market-savvy dork."

Multiply that by a Cynicism Factor of 9 (the result of spending your days around bitter, PR-hating journalists) and you have my hatred level, achieved before ever meeting Mr. ComGuy. I decided that we needed a article that mercilessly mocked DCG.

"It's like Christmas every day around here," DCG said as I walk into his north Dallas living room. (For security reasons, everyone entering the house takes a Scout's Honor pledge not to give any hints as to its location — not hard for me, since I circled the area lost for 25 minutes.) Because he started with nothing except a laptop in his abode, he's had to order everything online, so all the stuff is new, from his couch (tan) to his shoes (Nike cross-trainers) to his desktop Gateway computer system (\$7K-plus), which is easier to purchase when you're spending against your corporate salary. (Which he makes in full if he lasts the year.)

Or when you've got Melissa, an exec from Mall.com, sitting in your living room, helping you spend \$1,231.35 on even more goodies. She plays Net hostess, showing me what I look like on a Webcast (bald and fat), and pulls up the DotComGuy chat room where tens of thousands of "viewers" worldwide go to chat about all things DCG. The viewers can hear me, since anyone who enters the Dotcompound (argh ... the pun!) has a microphone attached. The biggest question of the moment, of course, is "Who's the bald fat guy?"

We move to the patio. Leaves fall into the creek, a woodpecker taps an oak tree. DotComGuy sips a glass of grapefruit juice. "I feel great," he says. "Last night was the first eight consecutive hours of sleep since I've been here."

HE STARTED Jan. 1, of course, and sees little chance of going stir-crazy by December. "This is going to be a fun year," he says. If the media attention and surprise-guest drop-bys continue — Philadelphia Eagles cornerback Troy Vincent stopped by, as did a live band and local comedians for a party — you believe he's right. But having fun isn't what this was about, right? It's a ridiculous marketing gimmick.

DCG says he understands why people would think that this noevent event was concocted by an evil marketing focus group, but says it started out simply as an argument with him during the holidays. "It was just a joke," he says about his December '98 argument. "I told my brothers that you can buy everything (you need) online. They didn't believe me. Finally, I said I could live for a whole year without leaving the house."

He says he forgot the moment until 10 months later — Oct. 3 — when he had to spend the entire day shopping with his parents. "I said, 'This entire day was so ridiculous. We could've bought all this stuff online.'" Dad, 74, and Mom, 64, didn't believe techie son, 26. DotComGuy said, OK, looks like I need to put up or shut up. A week later, after communing with techie friends, he formulated plans, prepared news releases, targeted online sponsorships. The rest is not yet history.

In fact, DotComGuy says that one of the benefits of his online house-sitting is that his community of "users and viewers" makes modern market testing seem silly. "We're not just promoting e-commerce, we've created a community of people who actually use the products," then immediately get online and discuss what sites are doing right or wrong. "You won't have to rely on research studies or focus groups (for your product) — you get immediate feedback."

We take a tour inside, checking out some of the cool toys he's purchased ("Those are from Neiman's; everyone thinks I just buy from sponsors, but they're not a sponsor. I just liked the stuff.") and play a quick game of Hide From the Cameras. We end up downstairs, where Melissa has been chatting online with users/viewers. DCG says, "Anyone have a question for the Star-Telegram?" After about 30 seconds, questions start scrolling up the screen. I don't get to answer all of them — although I should say to "Julie99," yes, I am cute — but I have to admit it's pretty neat having people from all over the world asking your take on new media and adding your paper's Web site to their bookmarks so they can remember to read the story.

AFTER AN HOUR, I leave DotComGuy to his cyber dungeon, feeling a bit wimpy. I was so confrontational, so unlike a capital-J Journalist. Still, he's not doing anything, but so what? Like politicians do? Like editors do? And his desire for this project to be family-oriented is touching in an old-school, late-20th-century sort of way.

Of course, my conversion brings up another point. It took meeting him face-to-face to overcome my doubts. In other words, it's still easier to meet halfway if I'm not sitting by myself, watching DCG on a computer screen. There's a deep thought there somewhere. Send me an e-mail if you figure it out.

Eric Celeste writes for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

PRIME

Casa de Amigos

Activities include:

■ Monday: 9 a.m. crafts; 11:15 a.m. 1

■ Tuesday: 9 a.m. sing-a-long; 11:15

■ Wednesday: 9

■ Thursday: 9 a

■ Friday: 9 a.m.

p.m. Bible study.

Midland YMCA

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■ Low impact a

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■ YMCARDIA

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■ Senior water

■ Water aerobics

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■ Friday: 9 a.m.

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■ Midland Senior

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■ Monday: 9 a

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Call 688-3999 for

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PRIME TIME

PRIME TIME CALENDAR

CASA DE AMIGOS

Casa de Amigos is located at 1101 E. Garden Lane. Call 682-9701.

Activities include:

- Monday: 9 a.m. billiards/bowling; 9:45 a.m. exercise; 10:15 a.m. crafts; 11:15 a.m. lunch; 12:15 p.m. games.
- Tuesday: 9 a.m. billiards; 9:45 a.m. gem and mineral; 10:15 a.m. sing-a-long; 11:15 a.m. lunch; 12:15 p.m. bingo.
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. billiards; 9:45 a.m. exercise; 10:15 a.m. advisory meeting; 11:15 a.m. lunch; 12:15 p.m. table games.
- Thursday: 9 a.m. billiards; 9:45 a.m. adult classes; 11:15 a.m. lunch; 12:15 p.m. games.
- Friday: 9 a.m. billiards; 10:15 a.m. crafts; 11:15 a.m. lunch; 12:15 p.m. Bible study.

MIDLAND YMCA

Midland YMCA has many activities scheduled for Prime Time adults. Contact Central YMCA 682-2551. Scheduled activities are:

- Low impact aerobics: 8:15 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 6 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.
- YMCARDIAC (YCT) Therapy, call for appointment before beginning class.
- Senior water aerobics, 8-8:45 a.m. Monday through Friday.
- Water arthritis classes, 10:15 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- Deep water aerobics, 6:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.
- Hydro-fit and water aerobics, 9 a.m. Monday through Saturday.
- Hydro-fit aerobics, 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.
- Lap swim/water walking, 5:30-8 a.m. and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday; 6-8:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 10 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Saturday; and 1:15-4 p.m. Sunday. Certified lifeguard is on duty during lap/open swim times and water classes. Weights and exercise equipment available during hours of operation.

SOUTHEAST SENIOR CENTER

Southeast Senior Center, 1803 E. Indiana, is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Call 685-7231. Activities include:

- Monday: 9:30 a.m. singing; 9:45 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. ceramics, needlework and billiards; 11:15 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. table games.
- Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. singing; 9:45 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. quilting, crafts and billiards; 11:15 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. table games.
- Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. singing; 9:45 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. ceramics, choir and billiards; 11:15 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. table games.
- Thursday: 9:30 a.m. singing; 9:45 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. ceramics and table games; 11:15 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. table games.
- Friday: 9 a.m. singing; 9:45 a.m. exercise; 10 a.m. Bible class and table games; 11:15 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. movie and center bingo.

MIDLAND SENIOR CENTER

Midland Senior Center is located in Kingsway Mall, 3303 W. Illinois, Space #18. Call 681-7636. Activities for Jan. 24-28 include:

- Monday: 9 a.m. billiards, exercise, cards and dominoes; 9:30 a.m. art class; 10 a.m. Kitchenettes; 11:30 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. bridge, cards and dominoes.
- Tuesday: 9 a.m. billiards, exercise, cards, dominoes and ceramics; 9:30 a.m. blood pressure test and line dancing for fun; 11:30 a.m. lunch; 12:30 p.m. art class; 1 p.m. bridge, dominoes and cards; 7 p.m. Gospel singing.
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. billiards, cards, dominoes, ceramics class and exercise; 10 a.m. Gospel singing; 11:30 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. bridge, dominoes and cards.
- Thursday: 9 a.m. billiards, exercise, cards, dominoes; 9:30 a.m. country and western dancing and Tall City Dancers; 11:30 a.m. lunch; 12:30 p.m. art for fun; 1 p.m. bridge, cards and dominoes.
- Friday: 9 a.m. billiards, exercise, cards, dominoes; 11:30 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. bridge, cards, dominoes.

MISSION ADULT DAY CARE CENTER

Mission Adult Day Care Center of Midland is open 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 5212 Sinclair. The center is closed for major holidays. Call 522-1221. Weekday schedule includes:

- 8 a.m. light breakfast or snacks; 9 a.m. visitation, special events; 10 a.m. exercise, R.O.M., singing or live music; noon lunch; 12:30 p.m. rest period; 2:30 p.m. snacks.
- Activities include visits from Gospel groups, line dancers and country groups, and golfing.
- Skilled nursing services with registered nurse director and certified activity director. Medicaid licensed, with adequate, caring skilled staff and transportation available.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul assists Midland's poor with rent, utilities, food and clothing. Volunteers are needed to work one to four hours each week in the agency's Thrift Store, 701 N. Fort Worth. Store hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Call 687-2343. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at St. Ann's Catholic Church parish office, Texas at M Streets. Call 688-3999 for more information.

COM AQUATICS SENIORS AND THERAPEUTIC EXERCISE

City of Midland Aquatics has programs of water exercise for seniors. The schedule is:

- Monday: 7:30-11:30 a.m. water walking; 10:15-11 a.m. therapeutic aerobics (deep pool); noon-12:45 p.m. and 1-1:45 p.m. arthritis exercise.
- Tuesday: 7:30-9:30 a.m. water walking; 9:30-10:30 a.m. arthritis plus; 12:15-1 p.m. therapeutic aerobics (deep pool); 12:30-1:30 p.m. arthritis plus.
- Wednesday: 7:30-11:30 a.m. water walking; 10:15-11 a.m. therapeutic aerobics (deep pool); noon-12:45 p.m. and 1-1:45 p.m. arthritis exercise.
- Thursday: 7:30-9:30 a.m. water walking; 9:30-10:30 a.m. arthritis plus; 12:15-1 p.m. therapeutic aerobics (deep pool); 12:30-1:30 p.m. arthritis plus.
- Friday: 7:30-11:30 a.m. water walking; 10:15-11 a.m. therapeutic aerobics (deep pool); noon-12:45 p.m. and 1-1:45 p.m. arthritis exercise.
- Saturday: 10:30 a.m.-noon water walking.

CITY OF MIDLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY

Recreation and leisure activities at Hillcrest Manor, Langtry Village and Parker Place are managed by City of Midland Housing Authority and coordinated through Community and Senior Services. The schedule is:

- Tuesday: 10 a.m. exercise at Parker Place; 2 p.m. exercise at Hillcrest Manor; 2:30 p.m. exercise at Langtry Village.
- Wednesday: 10 a.m. crafts at Parker Place; 2 p.m. bingo at Hillcrest Manor; 3 p.m. crafts at Langtry Village.
- Thursday: 10 a.m. exercise at Parker Place; 2 p.m. exercise at Hillcrest Manor; 2:30 p.m. exercise at Langtry Village; 3 p.m. bingo at Langtry Village.

RSVP

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is recruiting people 55 years and older to volunteer with non-profit agencies. RSVP will match volunteers' skills and interests to community agencies' needs. The program is sponsored by Community and Senior Services, 3301 Sinclair. Call 689-6693. Current opportunities include:

- Alzheimer's Association needs an office volunteer. Shift is noon-1 p.m. Monday. Special instructions and staff support provided.
- Area Agency on Aging Ombudsman Program needs volunteers to become ombudsmen, visiting senior residents in local nursing homes, helping provide assistance to residents in terms of their rights and serving as their voice. Required training and special instructions on procedures provided.
- Eagle Charter School needs volunteer reading helpers/tutors. Duties include helping students improve reading skills and reading comprehension. Shifts are two hours, one day weekly. Training on videophones program provided.

By Ricky George
Associated Press

AMARILLO — Plain-paged scrapbooks bulging with Old Cub Scout merit badges and yellowed newspaper clips of elementary school triumphs have faded from prominence like that certificate for winning the third-grade spelling bee. Scrapbook pages now are often themed, on colorful stationery and loaded into a binder to allow easy revision.

"Today there is huge interest in documenting one's history, searching for roots and capturing life and life's moments and the important things as you go along," Hallmark spokesman Rachel Bolton said in a telephone interview.

"It's become a rapidly growing hobby." Local stores cater to those hobbyists with sections devoted to brightly-colored paper, stickers and other materials.

Scrapbooks tend to be theme-oriented, Judy's Card Cottage owner Judy Click said. Books following a child's first few years, holidays and school events such as graduation are the most common themes, according to Click and Norma Collums, operations manager at JoAnn Fabrics and Crafts.

Parents also get scrapbooks to trace a child's participation in sports, Click said.

Thirty percent of scrapbooks are bought to document vacations, according to Hallmark statistics.

Scrapbooks also become gifts. Click said some customers make one for a couple celebrating an anniversary or a close friend having a birthday.

Scrapbooks' popularity really took off about two and a half years ago, Click said. "The whole stationery industry really boomed about five years ago," she said.

THE FACE of the scrapbooker is Mom's.

Hallmark's profile of the average scrapbooker is 38 years old with young children at home and a part-time job outside the home or a full-time mom.

Moms with school-age children are the most frequent customers along with some young adults buying scrapbooks for baby pictures, Collums said.

While parents may create a large share of scrapbooks, older women are involved as well, Click said. They may have boxes of photos accumulated over the years and want to organize them.

Parents often try to capture an infant's first one or two years, from first steps, taking a nap with Daddy, or those horrendous bath photos that crop up periodically for the rest of the child's life.

To augment the pictures, scrapbookers can buy pages with pockets to hold souvenirs.

The photo of a child's first haircut could be accompanied by a lock of hair, Click said.

At first, Judy's was selling kits, but customers found them pricey and full of material they couldn't use, Click said. Soon the customers were making the scrapbooks themselves, and the store needed more stationery and stickers.

JoAnn still sells some kits, but most people buy an album to do themselves. The store is planning to organize classes on scrapbooking, Collums said.

As the hobby gained in popularity, how-to books and magazines cropped up, Click said.

Two scrapbooking magazines started since 1997 with circulation exceeding 150,000 and more than 20 Web sites offer ideas and tips for hobbyists, Hallmark reports stated.

People sometimes work on their scrapbooks in groups similar to a sewing circle, Click said.

Working with others allows people to share supplies as well as their family photos, she said. "It does take lot of work."

Someone who wants to make a scrapbook first should organize the photos they want to use and ask themselves an important question, Click said.

"What story are they telling," she said. "Every book tells a story."

Collums said the store sells a lot of themed paper for the scrapbooks. Scrapbook enthusiasts use the paper as a background or cut out and glue to another page. The paper can border cropped photos to accent the picture.

Two sizes of paper are prevalent, 12 inches by 12 inches and 8.5 inches by 11 inches. The 8.5 by 11 has the most vari-

Hallmark offers these suggestions for preserving a scrapbook:

- Keep scrapbooks in a cool, dry environment: 60-65 degrees and 35 to 40 percent humidity.
- Do not store scrapbooks in a damp basement or attic where extremes in temperature and humidity can occur.
- Do not store or display scrapbooks in direct light (near a window, under a lamp on the coffee table, in the sun, etc.)
- Avoid storing scrapbooks or elements to be used in scrapbooks in acidic envelopes or boxes or in plastic jackets made of PVC.
- When shipping a scrapbook, place it in a waterproof container such as a sealed plastic bag, pack it and package it securely. Be sure to remove the packaging within a few days after shipping.

— Ricky George

ety since stationery companies have made the paper more flexible, Click said. The same paper can be used for party invitations as well as for scrapbooks.

Using binders gained popularity because people could add pages easily, Click said.

Both Hallmark and Click recommended that all material (paper, glue, tape, etc.) used for compiling a scrapbook be acid-free. Acid can damage photos. Click said.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

AARP program can help with tax preparation

By Alexandria L. Rose

It is time to think about those once-a-year taxes that must be paid to our astute and awesome government! No matter what we think about the country's leaders, the fact that April 15 is the deadline for filing income taxes has not changed.

Many people can figure their own taxes or pay to get the help they need. But many people who need help cannot afford to pay for that help, especially when it might cost more than the amount

of their taxes due. Where do these people get help?

Tax counseling is available for those seniors who need help in filling out income tax forms or who need someone to check what they have done to see if it is correct.

Under the directorship of Bill Beasley, district coordinator for the AARP Tax-Aide Program, people who have financial backgrounds are given special training to help complete income tax returns. Jackie Shires is the local coordinator of this program, which is staffed by seven trained volunteers in Midland.

The wonderful thing about this assistance is that appointments are not necessary, and the cost is reasonable — in fact, there is no fee! You can't beat a deal like that! The hours are 1-4 p.m.

every Tuesday and Thursday from February until April 15 at Midland Senior Center, 3303 W. Illinois St. Midland Senior Center's telephone number is 681-7636, if you need more information.

In order to get the best assistance for you, bring your 1998 income tax return with you along with your W-2 forms and tax return forms for 1999.

To sum up, AARP Tax-Aide is:

- A free, quality service supported by friendly people in your neighborhood;
- A confidential service;
- A charitable, non-profit program;
- Available to all taxpayers with middle and low income, with special attention to those age 60 and older;

A service that prepares tax returns and answers tax questions;

32,000 dedicated IRS-trained certified volunteers; and

An AARP Foundation program (the AARP Foundation is an affiliated 501(c)(3) non-partisan charitable organization) and part of the National Community Service Programs Group.

This is just one of the many programs of people helping people made possible through AARP. If you have not joined this organization on a national and local level, it is time you did. The discounts alone more than pay for the cost of membership. For application forms call 687-2588.

Alexandria L. "Alex" Rose is district coordinator for the American Association of Retired Persons.

Quiet winter weekend ideal for roast dinner

By Ann Heller
N.Y. Times News Service

DAYTON, Ohio — A winter weekend at home is a time to cherish. No, I'm not kidding.

The golfers and gardeners and grill cooks can take a rest from their obsessions. Shoppers can put away their credit cards. They can all spend the afternoon curled up in front of the fire — or at least nested in a big chair — and read a book, garden catalog or chatter on the phone.

And do what no one seems to have time to do anymore — cook an old-fashioned roast.

The Sunday roast is traditional to its very bone. But contemporary homemakers have virtually abandoned these big cuts in favor of quicker-cooking pieces, from chicken breasts to pork tenderloin. Those may be fine for weekdays, but they don't whet the appetite with wonderful aromas that fill the house.

For that you need meat and vegetables that roast for an hour or more. Turn a page and lift your head; your nose will tell you what's going on in the oven.

Dinner can be oh-so-easy with a roast. As the saying goes, just pop it in the oven. Cooks may have to rouse themselves once to add vegetables to the pan. But after that you don't even have to look up from the book until it's done.

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FOR BETTER OR WORSE



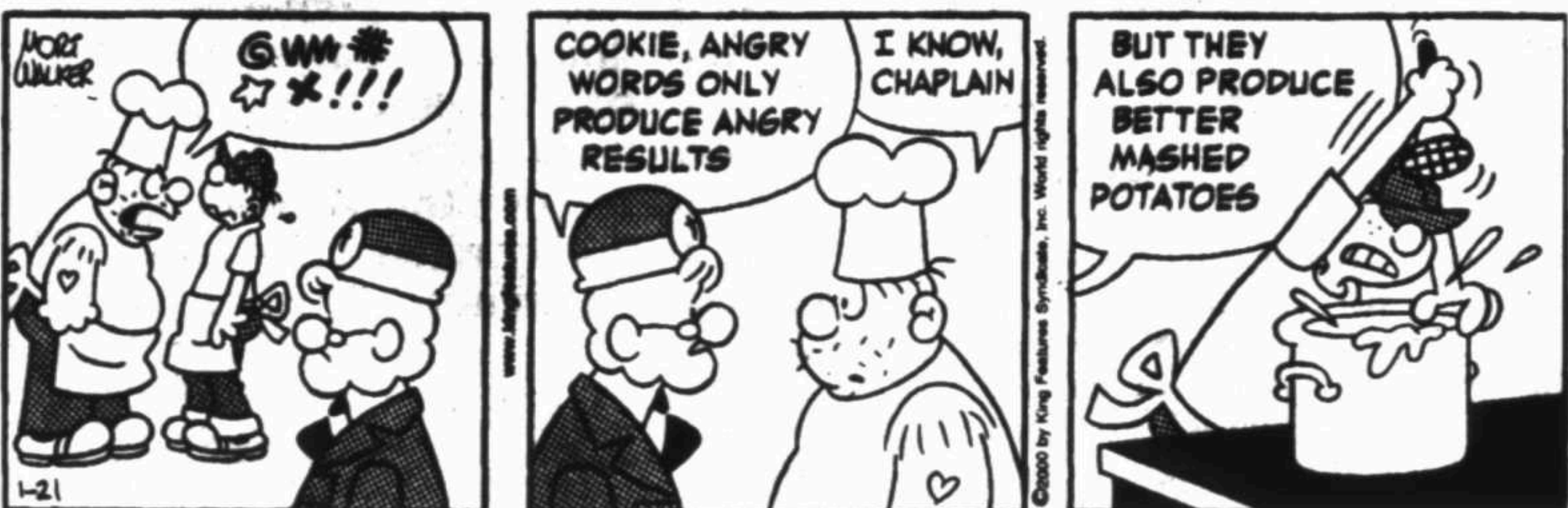
FUNKY WINKERBEAN



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GARFIELD



CATHY



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



LUANN



MARY WORTH



JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Jan. 21, 2000:
Be as clear as possible in all forms of communication this year. You will see confusion erupt more often than in previous years. Others don't seem to speak the same language as you. Don't be hard on family or yourself. Recognize that you have unusually high expectations. If you are single, your ability to draw others remains your strong suit. A friendship could become a lot more. If you are attached, you clearly enjoy each other's company. Your mate or significant other could be changing. Be willing to adapt. You have a lot of fun together. LEO often challenges you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your imagination takes you in many directions. You could be confused by what a friend offers. Verify plans. Make sure everyone is on the same page. Make long-distance calls; another is clearly delighted to hear from you. Tonight: Kick up your heels!
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Take care of basics. There is much confusion and a lot of misunderstanding. You feel trapped in a pressure cooker. Ask a partner for help and feedback. Together you break patterns. Trust your instincts. Tonight: The party is close to home.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Confirm plans. Reiterate what you expect from another. You might not be speaking the same language. A friend or associate chips in and helps you clear out problems. Good news happens naturally. Just go for what you want. Tonight: Let your hair down

and enjoy.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Deal with financial matters head-on if you don't want chaos hitting your wallet. Be more direct in chasing your desires. Put in 100 percent at work. Bosses appreciate your enthusiasm and ideas. Learn new techniques, but don't be rebellious. Tonight: Your treat.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your personality sparkles, even when pressure from others builds. You have expectations, as do others. Somehow, none of you are clear about what the others want. A relationship heats up. Your flirtatious ways can get you in trouble! Tonight: Your high magnetism speaks.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Know when to take a back seat. Another means well but causes you trouble by not listening completely. Be understanding, yet verify that your words have been received. Family might need to be put on the back burner until you finish work. Tonight: Let a loved one coax you out the door.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Invite friends over. Make and return calls. You have many choices, but you need to be clear with a loved one. A close tie is simply confused, not trying to create uproar. Communication opens a door. Popularity grows. Tonight: Reach out for another.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Listen carefully to those in charge about a get-together or work-related matter. Your ability to concentrate and get to the essence of a problem separates you from others. Let the good times happen — don't hold back. Tonight: First join co-workers,

then go with the flow.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You are on communication overload. You might not be able to put a halt on the present chaos. Verify news. Another could confuse you. Plunge into living, not thinking. A child or loved one lets you know how important you are to him. Tonight: Play out your perfect Friday night.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Build on your relationships with others. Work as a team. You might question another about a money matter. If you receive an odd reaction, don't be surprised. You certainly head in a new direction. Your optimism helps everyone come to an agreement. Tonight: Togetherness counts.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You clearly think differently than most. Don't minimize what is going on. Allow others to give you feedback. Be willing to work with others. Give up eccentricity for the moment. Friends help you turn a dream into reality. Tonight: Hook up with the gang.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might need to verify plans concerning work. Another simply doesn't think like you do. Spending needs to be tamed, even though you want to add to the quality of your life. Design a strong budget and vow to keep it. Accept another's help. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

BORN TODAY
Singer Placido Domingo (1941), basketball player Hakeem Olajuwon (1963), actress Geena Davis (1957)

GOREN BRIDGE

With Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Simple and Safe

Both vulnerable. South deals.

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♥ Q 10 8 2
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♣ 9 4
SOUTH
♠ Q 2
♥ A J 7 6
♦ A K 4 3
♣ K Q 5

The bidding:
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2NT Pass 3NT Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠
This hand is the finesser's joy and agony wrapped into one. It is also a Counting Course 101 in the textbook on play of the hand.

The bidding is straightforward. South showed a balanced 19-20 points by jumping to two no-trump, and North had no reason to suppose that a four-spade contract would be any better than three no-trump, hence the raise rather than checking back for three-card spade support.

West led the fourth-best club and declarer won in hand to lead the queen of spades, covered by the king.

Impressed with the success of the finesse, declarer rose with the ace and started running the spades. Unfortunately for South, the suit broke according to the probabilities, and declarer could come to only eight tricks when the defense did not falter.

Before playing to the first trick, declarer should pause to take stock. Once the ace of clubs is forced out, declar-

er has five tricks outside dummy's long suit, so the spades need only produce four tricks to land the game. That can be acquired by the simple expedient of allowing the king of spades to win the first trick in the suit. If the defender perseveres with clubs, that sets up the ninth trick, and a shift to hearts cannot possibly bother declarer.



ZITS



DENNIS



"DAD SAID SHOULD B"

FAMILY C



"Dad"

PEO Joh

ATLANTA pitcher John... himself over... minorities a... "He's just... er vice chair... of the 25-ye... "I think he... He's apologi... him forever... commit a cri... Baseball... Bud Selig h... whether he... fine Rocker... In an inte... Illustrated l... er said he w... for a New Y... he didn't w... "next to so... AIDS." He a... a very big fa...

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Geffen re... breach of co... Erlandson, th... ing the group... agreement.

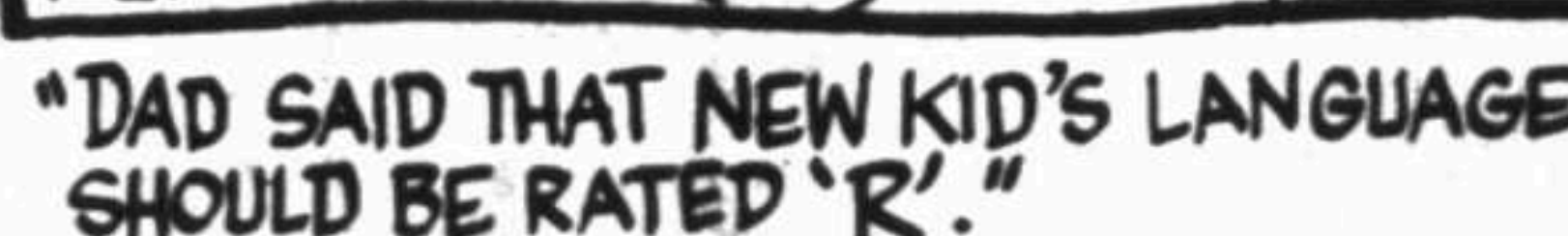
The Super... Doll Head in... vices of Ms... based on a C... contracts to... Geffen con... services ag... amendment

The suit s... barring the b... A telephon... licist wasn't

SAN ANTO... Austin was r...



BABY BLUES



"Daddy, what did YOU trade for lunch today?"

January 21, 2000

**For Complete Information
Please Check Movie Listings**

Broadcast	C	B	6PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
3	KMD	2 3 2	News 173	Wheel of Fortune 215	Boy Scouts of America	Old Man Out	Sabrina, Tennessee Waltz	The Highways	20/20 8470	News 8700008	Nightline (16:35)	Politically Incorrect	Cher's (11:35)	
4	KPEJ	3 4 5	Home Improvement	Judge Judy 78429	Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction? 88112	Costly 2112	Good: The Series 78808	Mad About You 96353	The Nanny 94828	Jerry Springer 80711	Letterman (10:35)	Unsubtly Ever After		
7	KOSA	7 7 7	News 2978	Entertainment Tonight	Older/Deer/Deer	Cooby 2112	News and Again 85808	Mad About You 96353	The Nanny 94828	News 2800247	Late Show With David Letterman (10:35)	Unsubtly Ever After		
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By Thomas W. Schler
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1/21/00



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- **Thick, Juicy & Taste Like They Just Came Off The Grill!**

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Thick'N Juicy Burgers
8 Ct., 4 Oz. Burgers

\$6.99
Ea.

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H-E-B Fully Cooked Junior Burgers,
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Shoulder Roast
U.S.D.A.
Select Beef
Limit-2



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16 Oz. Jar
Mild, Medium Or Hot



\$2.99
Lb. H-E-B Fully Cooked
Pot Roast With Gravy
Or Au Jus

- **Old Fashioned Homestyle Flavor With Natural Juices Or Hearty Gravy**
- **Microwaveable, Ready In Minutes**

\$2.99
Lb. H-E-B Fully Cooked
Beef Brisket

- **Fresh • Pit Smoked For 18 Hours**
- **Just Heat & It's Ready To Serve In Just One Hour**
- **For Grill Or Oven**

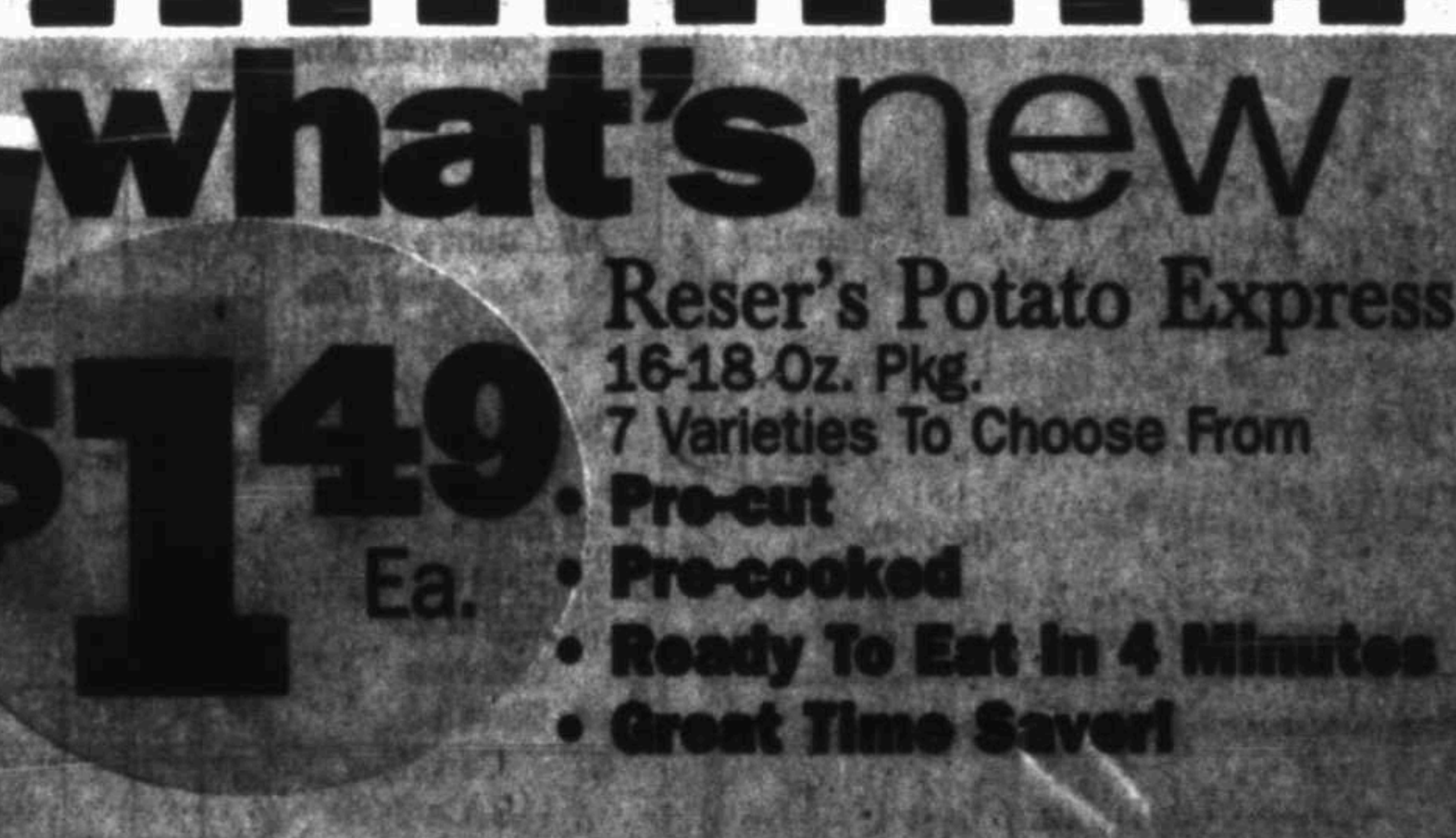


2 \$5
For Coffee Cake
Rings
Choose From
German Chocolate,
Pineapple Cheese,
Apple Or Strawberry



49¢
Ea. Sylvania
Soft White
Light Bulbs
4-Pack, 40W, 60W, 75W
Or 100W

50¢ Off
Sylvania Soft White Light Bulbs
4 Pack, 40, 60, 75 Or 100 Watt



\$1.49
Ea. Reser's Potato Express
16-18 Oz. Pkg.
7 Varieties To Choose From

- **Pre-cut**
- **Pre-cooked**
- **Ready To Eat In 4 Minutes**
- **Great Time Saver!**

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Due To The Popularity Of Our Low Prices Every Day, We Reserve The Right To Limit Quantities.
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Section C
Midland
Friday, J

**Rebo
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By Terry Williams
Sports Editor

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By Oscar Williams
Sports Writer

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Rebels' votes for MVP vary from writers' picks

By Terry Williamson
Sports Editor

The Midland Lee football banquet came up with a couple of major surprises Thursday night at the Holiday Inn Convention Center while celebrating its second consecutive state championship.

When postseason awards came from around the state nation, Lee running back Cedric Benson and linebacker Joe Norman hauled in enough trophies to fill a case.

Benson was named Texas High School Player of the Year by USA



Glover



Rogers

Today and Gatorade and was named as Texas' offensive MVP by both The

Please see LEE/2C

Top Honors at Banquets

LEE

Lee Rebels
■ Defensive MVP: DB T.J. Glover.
■ Offensive MVP: QB Jon Rogers.

M

MHS Bulldogs
■ Team MVP: Running back and linebacker Jimmy Smith.

Bulldogs' do-everything Smith claims top award

By Stewart Doreen
Assistant Sports Editor

Running back Jimmy Smith was named Midland High's Most Valuable Football Player at the Midland Center Thursday night during MHS' annual banquet.

Smith collected the night's top honor after a season where he did just about everything — offense, defense and special teams.

Smith, one of the team's two 1999 captains, ranked among the best on the District 4-5A rushing list, totaling



Smith

1,233 yards and 18 touchdowns on the ground. He added another TD pass receiving to give him 19 for the season.

His 102 total points ranked third in 4-5A. Smith was also the only running back to outgain Midland Lee's Cedric Benson in a game this season. Those numbers

Please see MHS/2C

MIDLAND COLLEGE VS. CLARENDON COLLEGE

MC clobbers Clarendon

Lady Chaps win by 67, men by 35

By Oscar LeRoy
Sports Writer

Thursday just wasn't Clarendon College's day at Chaparral Center. It was downright ugly for the Bulldog basketball teams but very sweet for the Midland College squads.



Julie Rampley
...nails eight treys for school record

First, the No. 19 Lady Chaparrals, backed by a school record eight 3-pointers from Julie Rampley, bombed away at Clarendon for a 110-43 victory. It didn't get much more thrilling in the men's game as the Chaparrals pounced on Clarendon, 106-71, to remain undefeated in Western Junior College Athletic Conference play.

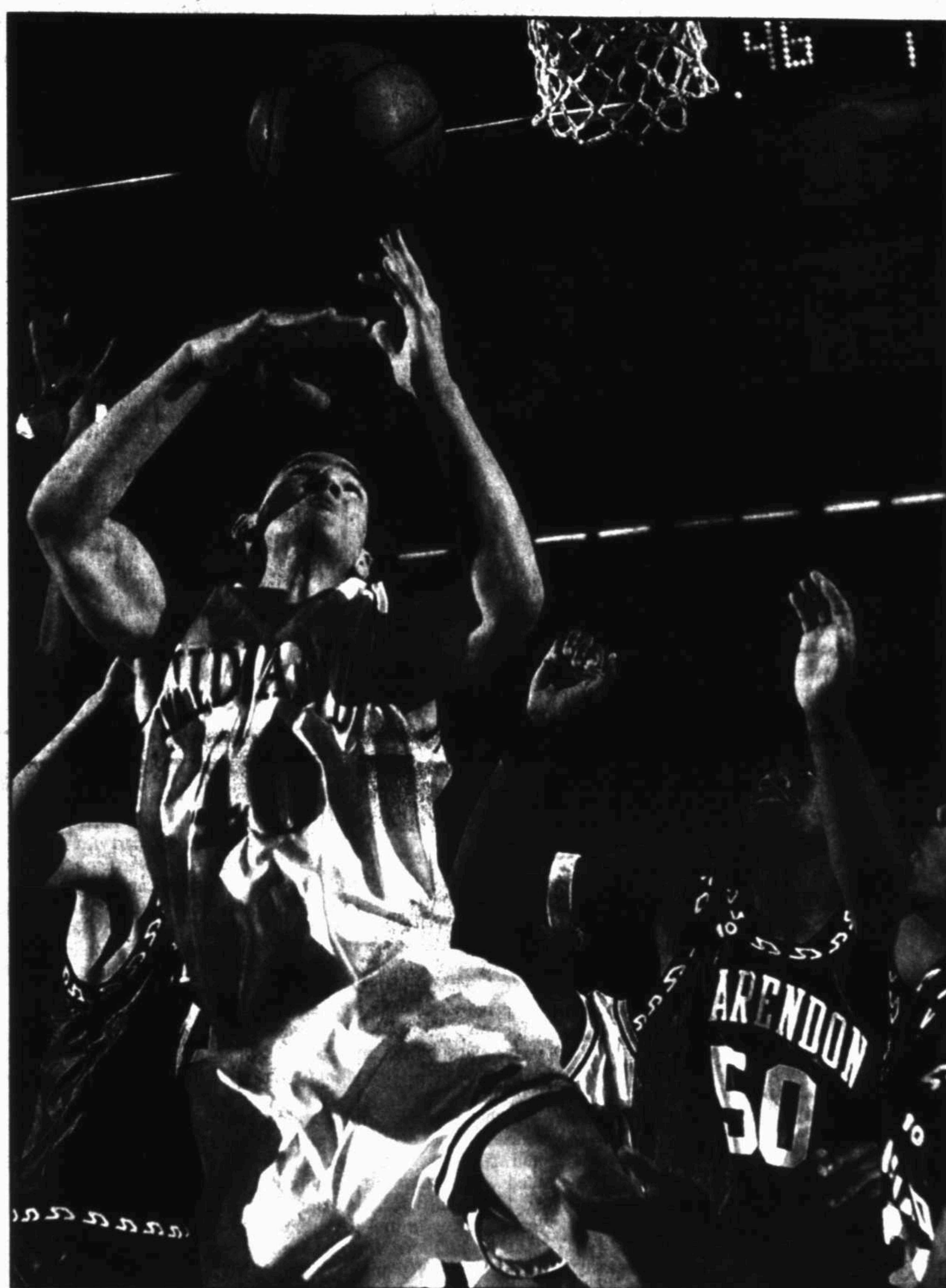
Ever since the loss to Howard a little more than a week ago, the Lady Chaparrals have been on a rampage through the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

The latest victim was Clarendon as the Lady Chaps continued their impressive play of basketball with a 67-point thrashing of the Lady Bulldogs. On Monday, MC walked away from Odessa College with a 98-56 win.

"I think we got off to a quick start and everything kind of snowballed from there," said MC coach Ron Jones. "Sometimes there's games like that."

Lately, the Lady Chaps (15-5 overall, 3-1 in WJCAC) are putting together some of their most complete performances of the year. Sure, there have been some lapses here and there but no one can deny the Lady Chaps have a reborn mission to their season.

"Sometimes a team gets comfortable where they are and I think we were at that point," Jones said about his team's latest resurgence on the court after the 67-64 upset loss to Howard a week ago. "There's too many teams that want to beat us and there are too many teams that are trying to win the conference championship. Howard is certainly trying to do that and they're in first place. "We just need to stay focused and



Midland College's Adrian Martin leaps for a rebound in front of Clarendon College's Zack Hopkins (50) during the Chaps' 106-71 win Thursday at Chaparral Center.

understand that we need to stay focused every night and understand that we need to keep improving."

Igniting the recent rampage has been Rampley, who followed her 27-point performance with another 27-point show Thursday night. Of the sophomore's 27, 24 came from beyond the 3-point arc. The eight treys set a new single-game record surpassing former Lady Chap Shannon Jordan and teammate Nicole Villarreal, who each had seven apiece in one game.

Rampley said she doesn't know what's behind her recent hot streak but says she's lately been shooting the ball with more confidence.

"I'm shooting the ball really well, I've been very confident and that makes a big difference," Rampley said. "This is the most confident I've been shooting the ball and I hope it keeps going."

Jones said that Rampley's opportunities have come with not having Heidi Lange and Nicole Villarreal in the lineup the past two nights.

"She's shot more because usually those shots are spread out," Jones said.

Thursday's game was over almost as instantly after it began. MC ran off the first eight points of the game and for awhile — 13 minutes in fact — allowed just one Lady Bulldog to score as Roni Henderson gave Clarendon (9-8, 1-3) any hopes of staying within respectable striking distance. Henderson's friends showed up but they did little to qui-

Please see MC/10C

Mills plans to decide after visit

By Stewart Doreen
Assistant Sports Editor

ODESSA — Some time today we will know if Sealy's T.J. Mills will be the next head football coach at Odessa Permian.

Mills, who is one of the hottest coaching commodities in the state, is flying into the Permian Basin with his family to give Odessa and Permian High School one final look before making a decision.

Ector County Independent School District athletic director Don Wright said Mills would give his decision on becoming the ninth head football coach in the program's history.

"We are getting excited to see what he is going to do," Wright said. "He will give us an answer tomorrow afternoon."

Mills became the lone finalist after Grand Prairie coach Jerry Bomar withdrew his name Wednesday from the two-man finalist list.

"I was honored to hear I was in the top five," Mills said. "I was excited when they offered me the job."

Does that mean this is a done deal? No. "We are open minded," Mills said. "We will take a look and then make a decision."

This will be Mills' second time to visit Odessa in two weeks. The first came during an interview last Wednesday. However, this time he will bring his wife, Becky, and two of his three daughters, Kelly (16) and Casey (9) — will be joining him. Also making the trip will be two assistant coaches and their wives.

The Permian job is not the first that Mills has been offered this offseason. Mills already has turned down the Dickinson job, which offered \$80,000 a

Please see MOJO/2C

Woods swings commitment to Texas Tech

By Lee Passmore
Sports Writer

In the end, Jeremy Woods not only changed his mind, but ended up changing his position as well.

For the last few weeks, the Andrews High football standout looked as if he was bound for Texas A&M, where he appeared destined to play fullback. That seemed like an ideal position for the 6-foot-3, 230-pound Woods, who was a king-sized tailback for the Mustangs last season.

But Woods also has ideal size for a college linebacker, and that's what interested Texas Tech. After visiting Lubbock last weekend, Woods came to the conclusion Thursday afternoon that Tech, and not A&M, would be his home for the next four years, and that linebacker.

Please see WOODS/5C



Woods

TERRY WILLIAMSON

San Angelo's Lady Bobcats end long streak of futility

While walking through the land of District 4-5A basketball. Major Win: This victory won't get the San Angelo Central girls anywhere close to a state playoff berth, but Central's 58-56 win in overtime over Abilene High Tuesday

was huge. The victory ended the Lady Bobcats' 21-game district losing streak. And it may play a huge role in determining who goes to the playoffs. AHS' loss to the Lady Bobcats dropped the Lady Eagles out of a three-way tie for second place, leaving Abilene Cooper (5-1), Midland High (5-2) and Odessa High (5-2) alone at the top.

First Half Wire: In the boys race, there has already been some separation from the field as the first half comes to a close. MHS (5-1), San Angelo Central (4-1) and Abilene Cooper (4-1) are in good position to take the three playoff berths, but those positions were not earned easily.

It Could Be Different: MHS is sitting pretty, but the Bulldogs can't take it too easy down the stretch. MHS had narrow wins over Lee, Permian and Cooper. They also had to come from 14

points down to Odessa High. Cooper beat Lee and Permian by a total of four points. Central owns that big win over Midland High, but has escaped losses in narrow fashion on other fronts.

It Could Be Different II: Lee (2-3) has lost two games by four points, Permian (2-3), which has lost three in a row, has lost three games by nine points. Those two teams easily could be among the top three, but the bottom line is that both these teams need to put some wins on a string.

That Sinking Feeling: The Odessa High girls are now 0-2 since the loss of Lindsey Casey after a 5-0 start to league play. The OHS girls are now trying to limp to the playoff finish line when they were once thought to be the class team of the loop.

Last Chance: Today's 7:30 p.m. game at the Chap between the Lee and San Angelo boys carries great importance for the Rebels. It might be the last chance for Lee to stay in the playoff hunt. Should Lee lose, the Rebels will have to make up three games on the field in the six-game second half. That's a tough chore.

Worst Time: The Lee girls (3-4) probably face the Lady Bobcats (6 p.m. tonight at the Chap) at the worst possible time. The Lady Bobcats (1-6) are coming off their only district win of the season and the confidence level is now high. Lee can stay in the race with a win, needing to make up two games in the last four.



Williamson

Big Outing: Lee's Chris Packer scored 29 points in Lee's win over Odessa High Tuesday. He has been one of the major scoring surprises of the league this year.

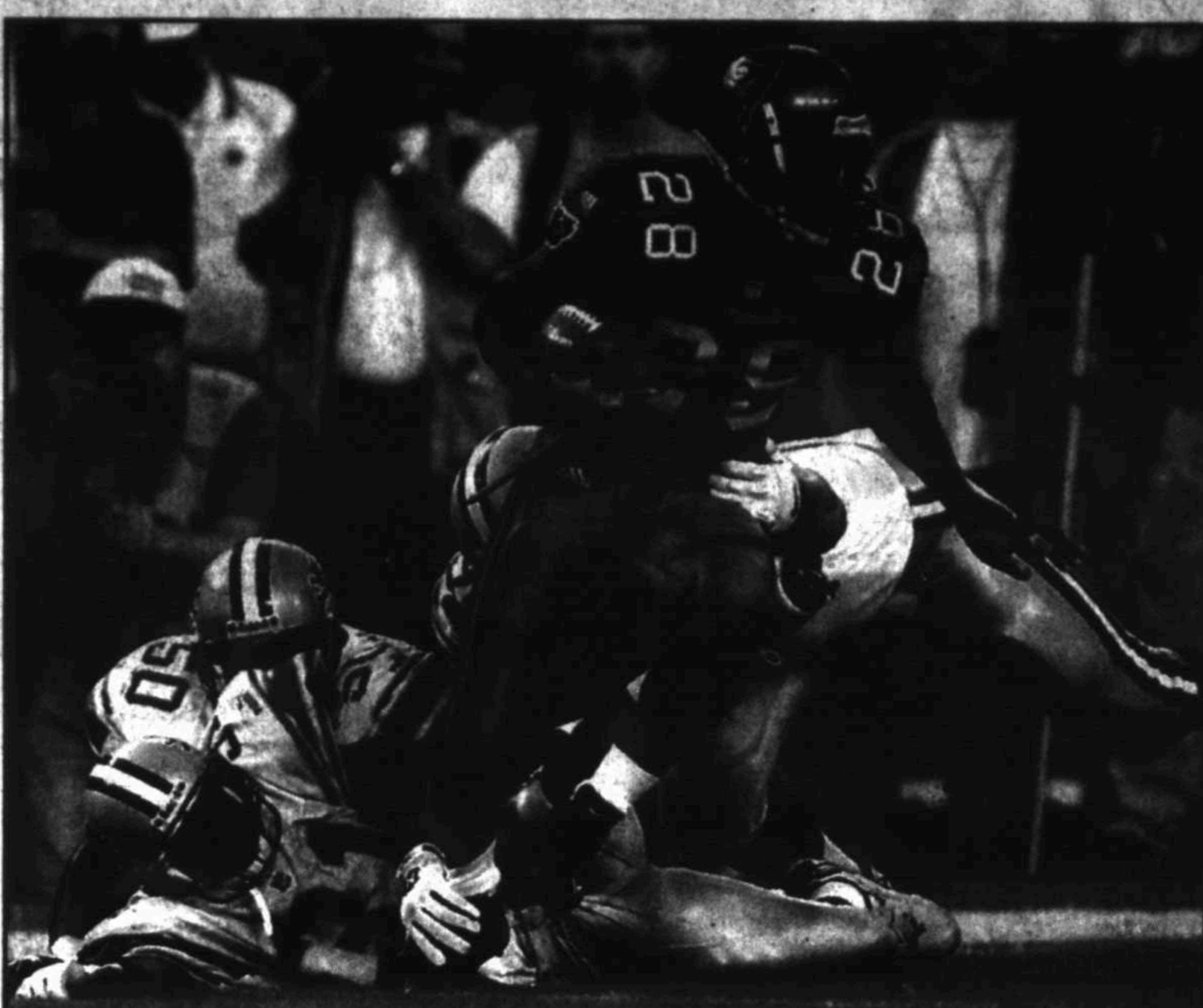
Feeling Relaxed: Both the MHS boys and girls are open tonight, which means they don't have to put anything on the line. They also have time to now prepare for Midland Lee. The two teams meet Tuesday at the Chap and that should be a fun night.

Off on Off: MHS coach Jack Stephenson gets to see his son, Jon, play once a year and that comes during the Bulldogs' first half open date. Jon plays for Howard Payne. It's just that Jack has to travel to Iowa this year, which he will do this weekend.

Best Quote of the Week: After a 60-55 loss to Midland High, Odessa Permian coach Gary Bridges noted that everyone felt that any team could win on any given night in this district, but added, "We're just waiting for that any given night to be our turn."

Not So Close Now: Midland teams owned a 3-3 mark against Odessa teams going into Tuesday's play, but a 4-0 sweep by Midland moved the mark to 7-3 in favor of the Tall City.

Terry Williamson is sports editor of the Reporter Telegram



Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Warrick Dunn (28), shown eluding three Detroit Lions defenders in a December game, is one of three excellent running backs who will be featured in the NFC Championship game.

NFC championship game features intriguing running back matchup

By Barry Wilner
AP Football Writer

ST. LOUIS — Two against one doesn't seem quite fair. Except when the one is Marshall Faulk. In Mike Alstott and Warrick Dunn, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have a nice running back rotation. Alstott is the 250-pound battering ram, and Dunn is the speedy outside guy.

All the St. Louis Rams have is Faulk. All, as in, he does it all. Faulk was the NFL Offensive Player of the Year, setting a record with 2,429 yards of total offense. He became just the second player to gain 1,000 yards rushing and 1,000 yards receiving.

So two against one doesn't seem to be a problem for St. Louis for Sunday's NFC championship game.

"Having a guy like Marshall who can do everything is something a lot of teams wish they had," said league Most Valuable Player Kurt Warner. "We've been getting some big plays and getting deep, but a lot of our best plays have been just dumping it to Marshall and having him go with it."

When Faulk gets the ball against the Bucs, he can expect to draw lots of attention.

"It will take all 11 of us to keep him under control," said defensive tackle Warren Sapp, the Defensive Player of the Year. "If

we eliminate the big plays, we will be fine."

The best way to limit Faulk's contributions is to not let the St. Louis offense, which led the league, onto the field. And the best way to do that, of course, is for Alstott and Dunn to have big days.

Alstott, like Faulk an All-Pro, has become as much a feature back as a fullback. He gets most of his yardage inside, but has displayed an ability to adjust on the run.

"Tampa Bay is known for pounding the ball with Alstott and mixing it up with Dunn," Rams cornerback Dre' Bly said. "If we can stop the running game, that has to be any team's game plan against the Bucs. Stop the running game and force Shaun King to throw. He's a rookie back there, so we want to try to mix it up on defense and put him in unfamiliar situations."

"The thing to watch for is like what Alstott did last week (against Washington). If he can't get anywhere inside, he can bounce it outside and get something."

Alstott got 942 yards rushing this season and played far more in running situations than Dunn. But Dunn led the team with 64 receptions and was particularly important to the offense once the inexperienced King took over at quarterback with five games to go.

"We changed our scheme a little bit," Dunn said. "I was more

involved in the passing game and I think it has helped this team and we are in the NFC championship game."

They are there with a rather vanilla offense that tries not to make errors. The Bucs prefer for their third-ranked defense to control games.

"I don't think anyone is concerned about what is being said about our offense," Dunn said. "I don't think anyone is going to worry about the skeptics."

If there were any skeptics concerning the Rams offense, they were silenced long ago — greatly due to Faulk, who was acquired last April for a second-round and a fifth-round pick. That might have been the NFL steal of the 20th century. And the 21st.

Faulk fits perfectly with coordinator Mike Martz's attack-first offense. His versatility, speed and elusiveness make him the ideal back for the Rams.

So much so that Faulk touched the ball 340 times this season and the other backs combined for 158 touches. In fact, Faulk probably would have had the ball much more often if the Rams weren't blowing out opponents practically every week.

"He's the most elusive back in a long time," Rams safety Keith Lyle said. "I can't think of one back who can run and catch and do as many things as he can."

Or two backs, either.

Vikes' Moss draws \$40,000 fine

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Randy Moss is appealing a \$40,000 fine from the NFL for squirting an official with a liquid believed to be water.

"Our position is that the fine is excessive and that we are in the process of appealing it," agent Dante DiTrapano said Thursday.

The penalty was assessed for the action of Minnesota's Pro Bowl receiver last Sunday, when the Vikings lost 49-37 to the St. Louis Rams in an NFC divisional playoff game.

The league also confirmed Thursday that it fined Moss \$10,000 earlier this season for excessive verbal abuse. DiTrapano said that penalty also is being appealed.

The NFL said Moss, standing near the Minnesota bench during the fourth quarter at the Trans World Dome in St. Louis, squirted liquid from a plastic

bottle at field judge Jim Saracino following an incomplete pass intended for the receiver. Vikings spokesman Bob Hagan said the bottle probably contained water.

Moss acknowledged the squirting after the game, but has said little about it. It happened after there was contact on a long pass, and Moss unsuccessfully lobbied for a defensive interference penalty.

"There were some things going on," Moss said after the game. "I don't really want to talk about it."

DiTrapano said Thursday that Moss would have no further comment.

The NFL said St. Louis game fine was so high because it was the second violation this season against Moss for abuse of game officials.

LEE: Howard takes Dillon honor

(From 1C)

Associated Press Sports Editors and the Texas Sports Writers Association.

Norman was named the state's defensive MVP of the year by both the APSE and-TSWA. And both Benson and Norman were named District 4-5A's two MVP players.

But with the Lee players making the choices for MVP honors for the banquet, quarterback Jon Rogers was given the offensive MVP honors while T.J. Glover was given the defensive MVP award.

It really shouldn't come as much of a surprise. When a team wins back-to-back state championships, there has to be several players who contribute in a big time way.

Rogers was 30-1 as a quarterback at Lee and no quarterback has posted that kind of record while at Lee. He owns the career passing mark at Lee as well as single season and career touchdown passes.

Glover had nine interceptions, one short of the school record, but had three in a critical playoff game against Waco, which tied a school record. He also had two interceptions in the state championship game against Aldine Eisenhower. Glover was also

named as the team's outstanding defensive back, doubling his honors.

Benson and Norman, however, were not ignored. Benson was named as the team's outstanding back. Benson is the first District 4-5A player to rush for more than 3,000 yards in one season. He had four 300-yard games, including a single game district rushing mark of 353 yards against Odessa Permian. He is already 4-5A's all-time leading rusher with over 5,000 yards and produced the fourth most single season yardage in state history.

Norman, who had 28 tackles in one game against Abilene Cooper, was named as the team's top linebacker. He moved from defensive end, where he played in 1998, to middle linebacker this year and was tabbed as the best in the state at what he did there.

The Special Teams award went to senior Clint McNutt, who played eight different positions during the year. Andy Brewster, another senior, was named as the outstanding lineman while Andy Greenleaf was the outstanding receiver as voted on by the players.

Domingo Magana, a senior, was named as the outstanding defensive lineman to complete the list.

Two other special awards were given out. Senior Brooks Stevens

won the Lena Douglas Award, going to the top student-athlete. Stevens is vice president of the National Honor Society, a member of the student council and a member of Who's Who. He also won the Bausch and Lomb Science Award. He played both football and basketball. And that's the short list.

Blake Howard, another senior, was given the Bob Dillon Memorial Fighting Heart Award, which goes annually to the player that best displays the character of what it takes to be a Lee Rebel. Howard played at center, tight end and on special teams this year.

The final award of the night, the J.C. Gotcher Rebel for Life Award, went to Tinker Taylor. Taylor is a past president of the Lee Football Booster Club, who still keeps an active interest in the Rebel football program.

Lee posted its first undefeated season with a 15-0 record and has a current winning streak of 23 games. Lee also became the first school to ever win back-to-back titles in different divisions. Lee won the Class 5A Small School state title in 1998 and the Class 5A Big School title in 1999.

One of the banquet highlights was a film presentation of the season put together by Lee assistants Mike Meeks and Ronnie Reeger.

Struggles of Jaguars, Titans pay off with AFC title berth

By Dave Goldberg
AP Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — After four years of wandering, all the Tennessee Titans needed was a coliseum to call their own, a rookie dubbed "The Freak" and more than a touch of overdue good luck.

The Jacksonville Jaguars were so successful an expansion team that they've spent the last three years trying to overcome a reputation as underachievers.

So while a trip to the Super Bowl is at stake when they meet Sunday in the AFC title game, so is a lot of pride, particularly for the Jaguars, who made it this far in 1996, their second season but haven't been back since.

For while Tennessee has already had an unexpectedly successful season, 15-3 and two playoff wins, Jacksonville, at 15-2, still thinks it has a lot to prove. In the two seasons after they upset Buffalo and Denver to come within a game of the Super Bowl, the Jaguars went 1-2 in the playoffs and didn't advance past the divisional round. Then came this year.

"We were there a little sooner than we thought and the reality of us being just a moment away from being in The Game that soon has had a significant bearing on us," says Michael Huyghue, the Jaguars' senior vice president for football operations.

"Since then, we've been mindful of how precious it is to be in this situation and the significance of having advanced this far."

This year, in a way, was worse.

The Jaguars entered the season as the AFC favorite and went 14-2. But it was, as one team official put it, "an uncomfortable 14-2," drawing criticism in print, on the air and from the ubiquitous callers on talk radio.

The only team the Jaguars played with a winning record was Tennessee, and they lost twice, making this game even more pivotal.

Tennessee's problems have been playing on the road for three seasons, even when they were nominally at home. So even despite a solid nucleus of talent, they were 8-8 for three straight seasons.

In 1996 they were the lame-duck Houston Oilers, drawing less than 20,000 to most of their home games and going 6-2 on the road and 2-6 at home. The next year, their stadium in Nashville still under construction, they played in the Liberty Bowl in Memphis, averaged about 30,000 per home game and again went 8-8.

And last season, when Adelphia Coliseum remained under construction, they played in Vanderbilt's stadium where for some reason the Nashville fans gave them only a lukewarm reception. Again, they were 8-8 and considered underachievers.



Jacksonville quarterback Mark Brunell

This year?

The fans in their new home are among the loudest in the NFL and they finished 13-3 and won their first two playoff games, one at home — "the Music City Miracle" decided on a last-second lateral-kick-off return, then in Indianapolis last week.

"For three years we were lame duck teams," says running back Eddie George, whose 68-yard touchdown run was the key play in the win over the Colts. "The organization was in disarray at the time. It wasn't easy for us to get organized and it wasn't easy to win."

Best of all, they got Jevon Kearse — "the Freak" — with the 16th overall pick in the draft. He had 14.5 sacks, forced 10 fumbles and allowed the Titans to play the conservative style preferred by coach Jeff Fisher — running, defense, and field position.

"It's rare that you come across a rookie like him," Leon Searcy, Jacksonville's right tackle who has shut down Kearse pretty well in their two meetings, said Thursday.

"You don't see this much talent combined with his feel for the game in a player so young. 'The Freak' is a good title for him."

Still, the Jaguars seem confident.

"We have every psychological edge except one — that they beat us twice," says Jaguars coach Tom Coughlin.

"But we have the big one — we're at home."

MHS: Hicks claims Gill award

(From 1C)

made him a lock as an All-District selection.

The Audrey Gill Fighting Bulldog Award, which goes to the player who exhibits the overall spirit of what it means to be a Bulldog, went to linebacker Chris Hicks, another senior. Hicks fought through injuries this season to be a big part of the Bulldog defense.

Senior Cotey-Joe Cswaykus earned the nod as the Outstanding Offensive Lineman. Cswaykus was a first-team 4-5A performer and has committed to play football at Rice University.

Senior Corneil Ellis was selected as the Outstanding Offensive Lineman. Ellis, a three-year starter, was a force on the line as evidenced by his selection to the All-District team.

Lamar Hickey, a junior, burst onto the 4-5A scene this season and fittingly was named the team's Outstanding Receiver. Hickey was, by far, the district's leading receiver in 4-5A games.

Of his 505 receiving yards on the season, 406 came in the district games. His four touchdown catches in 4-5A games was also tops in the league. He was a second-team all-district selection.

Senior Mike Neu earned the honor as the Outstanding Linebacker. Neu led 4-5A in regular season tackles with 121. No one else in 4-5A finished with 100 or more in the regular season. Neu was also a first-team all-district selection.

Neu, the other MHS captain, was a double award winner as he was given the Theresa Klapproth Award for carrying the highest GPA. Neu carries a 5.29 GPA.

Colter Lange, a junior, was selected as the team's Outstanding Defensive Back. Lange, another first-team selection, led 4-5A in regular season interceptions (6).

Senior Justin Smith was an obvious choice for the team's Outstanding Special Teams Player. Smith, who has committed to play college football at the University of Texas, was the team's punter and kicker. Smith averaged 41.6 yards a punt (second in 4-5A) and led 4-5A kickers in district field goals (5) and district points (28).

Senior Laynce Nix was selected as the team's Outstanding Back. Nix, Midland's best baseball player, showed he is also a heck of a gridiron star, throwing

for 900 yards and rushing for an additional 178 as a double threat for MHS.

Other honors given out included the Coaches' Award, which was given to senior Kurt Bowden. It was a big year for Midland High, which took another rebuilding step en route to a 7-3 record. The Bulldogs posted their second best record in the last 27 years, played for a playoff spot in the final week of the season for the second straight year, had the No. 1 defense and No. 3 offense in the district, defeated three playoff teams on their schedule and won the first overtime game in the program's history.

Also, the Bulldogs beat Permian for the first time since 1973 and gave Lee its toughest test all year in one of the best games played in Midland in quite some time.

Texas Christian University coach Dennis Franchione was the guest speaker. Franchione, whose Horned Frogs have won bowl games the last two years, entertained the crowd with some amusing stories.

The night ended with a 40-minute video, which showed highlights of the 1999 season.

MOJO: Sealy coach will visit Odessa

(From 1C)

year. That is \$2,000 more than Permian is offering Mills.

If Mills accepts the job, he will make \$78,000. That is \$7,000 more than Randy Mayes earned last year. His assistants will make \$57,000, according to Wright.

"We were told that wouldn't change, but anything is possible," Wright said.

Mills' stock around the state is up these days. He has turned the Tigers into a Class 3A powerhouse, becoming the first team to win four straight UIL state championships (1994-97). He is 148-27

(.845 winning percentage) in 15 years at Sealy.

"Finally, things are starting to pop up for us (the coaching staff)," Mills said of the job opportunities. "It is something that we have been striving for for years. We went many years without creating any interest at all."

Permian is looking for a coach to replace Mayes, who was reassigned in December. Mayes coached at Permian for six years. His teams were 45-25-1 during that time and went to the playoffs four times. However, the Panthers suffered through losing seasons in two of the last three years, and ECISD decided that a change was needed.

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TEXAS	
PREVIEW TCU 19-15, 1-3 UTEP 10-14, 1-2 UTSA 17-10, 1-1 UTRGV 10-14, 1-2 UTD 10-14, 1-2 UTM 10-14, 1-2 UTP 10-14, 1-2 UTW 10-14, 1-2 UTY 10-14, 1-2 UTZ 10-14, 1-2 UTAA 10-14, 1-2 UTAB 10-14, 1-2 UTAC 10-14, 1-2 UTAD 10-14, 1-2 UTAE 10-14, 1-2 UTAF 10-14, 1-2 UTAG 10-14, 1-2 UTAH 10-14, 1-2 UTAI 10-14, 1-2 UTAJ 10-14, 1-2 UTAK 10-14, 1-2 UTAL 10-14, 1-2 UTAM 10-14, 1-2 UTAN 10-14, 1-2 UTAO 10-14, 1-2 UTAP 10-14, 1-2 UTAQ 10-14, 1-2 UTAR 10-14, 1-2 UTAS 10-14, 1-2 UTAT 10-14, 1-2 UTAU 10-14, 1-2 UTAV 10-14, 1-2 UTAW 10-14, 1-2 UTAX 10-14, 1-2 UTAY 10-14, 1-2 UTAZ 10-14, 1-2 UTBA 10-14, 1-2 UTBB 10-14, 1-2 UTBC 10-14, 1-2 UTBD 10-14, 1-2 UTBE 10-14, 1-2 UTBF 10-14, 1-2 UTBG 10-14, 1-2 UTBH 10-14, 1-2 UTBI 10-14, 1-2 UTBJ 10-14, 1-2 UTBK 10-14, 1-2 UTBL 10-14, 1-2 UTBM 10-14, 1-2 UTBN 10-14, 1-2 UTBO 10-14, 1-2 UTBP 10-14, 1-2 UTBQ 10-14, 1-2 UTBR 10-14, 1-2 UTBS 10-14, 1-2 UTBT 10-14, 1-2 UTBU 10-14, 1-2 UTBV 10-14, 1-2 UTBW 10-14, 1-2 UTBX 10-14, 1-2 UTBY 10-14, 1-2 UTBZ 10-14, 1-2	UTEP 10-14, 1-2 UTSA 17-10, 1-1 UTRGV 10-14, 1-2 UTD 10-14, 1-2 UTM 10-14, 1-2 UTP 10-14, 1-2 UTW 10-14, 1-2 UTY 10-14, 1-2 UTZ 10-14, 1-2 UTAA 10-14, 1-2 UTAB 10-14, 1-2 UTAC 10-14, 1-2 UTAD 10-14, 1-2 UTAE 10-14, 1-2 UTAF 10-14, 1-2 UTAG 10-14, 1-2 UTAH 10-14, 1-2 UTAI 10-14, 1-2 UTAJ 10-14, 1-2 UTAK 10-14, 1-2 UTAL 10-14, 1-2 UTAM 10-14, 1-2 UTAN 10-14, 1-2 UTAO 10-14, 1-2 UTAP 10-14, 1-2 UTAQ 10-14, 1-2 UTAR 10-14, 1-2 UTAS 10-14, 1-2 UTAT 10-14, 1-2 UTAU 10-14, 1-2 UTAV 10-14, 1-2 UTAW 10-14, 1-2 UTAX 10-14, 1-2 UTAY 10-14, 1-2 UTAZ 10-14, 1-2 UTBA 10-14, 1-2 UTBB 10-14, 1-2 UTBC 10-14, 1-2 UTBD 10-14, 1-2 UTBE 10-14, 1-2 UTBF 10-14, 1-2 UTBG 10-14, 1-2 UTBH 10-14, 1-2 UTBI 10-14, 1-2 UTBJ 10-14, 1-2 UTBK 10-14, 1-2 UTBL 10-14, 1-2 UTBM 10-14, 1-2 UTBN 10-14, 1-2 UTBO 10-14, 1-2 UTBP 10-14, 1-2 UTBQ 10-14, 1-2 UTBR 10-14, 1-2 UTBS 10-14, 1-2 UTBT 10-14, 1-2 UTBU 10-14, 1-2 UTBV 10-14, 1-2 UTBW 10-14, 1-2 UTBX 10-14, 1-2 UTBY 10-14, 1-2 UTBZ 10-14, 1-2

LOCAL BASKETBALL TODAY

Boys

San Angelo Central vs. Midland Lee
Where: Chaparral Center.
When: 7:30 p.m.

Records: Lee is 11-13 overall and 2-3 in District 4-5A. Central is 19-7 and 4-1 in district.

4-5A Significance: There's plenty riding on the final game of the first half of district play. Lee needs a win to finish the first half at even in district, and could get as close as a game out of a playoff spot. Central will finish the first half at no worse than tied for the lead if it wins.

Notes: The Rebels are coming off a key road win, having won 74-64 at Odessa High Tuesday night. Except for a 16-point loss to Odessa Permian, Lee has been close in every one of its district games. A big reason for that competitiveness in district is senior Chris Packer, who has raised the level of his game since the turn of the century. Packer had 29 points, including seven 3-pointers, in the victory over OHS, and leads the Rebels with 15.8 points a game... Central has perhaps been a mid surprise, and the Bobcats hold the distinction of being the only team to win a district game on the court against Midland High for nearly four years, having beaten the Bulldogs 81-70 last week. Sophomore Brian Young has emerged as one of the district's best players, and he led the Bobcats with 25 points in a 76-54 win over Abilene High Tuesday.

Next: Lee begins the second half of district Tuesday night by resuming its crosstown rivalry with Midland High at 7:30 p.m. at Chaparral Center.

Midland Lee Boys Statistics (11-13, 2-3)									
Player	G	FG	FT	Pts.	Reb.	Ass.	Stl.	Blk.	Avg.
Chris Packer	24	144	52	379	15.8				
Wendell Smith	24	127	40	332	13.8				
Cory Simmons	24	69	24	196	8.2				
Kyle Shultz	24	68	38	187	7.8				
Eric Winston	12	37	18	92	7.7				
Kevin Trout	24	50	34	137	5.7				
Paul Logan	11	13	3	29	2.6				
Cornell Hunt	23	17	10	48	2.0				
T. J. Glover	7	7	0	14	2.0				
Brooks Stevens	7	7	2	18	2.0				
Justin Simpson	23	13	7	37	1.8				
Ryan Vinson	13	6	6	19	1.5				
David Saigold	14	5	0	10	0.7				
Isaac Washington	4	0	0	0	0.0				

Girls

San Angelo Central vs. Midland Lee
Where: Chaparral Center.
When: 6 p.m.

Records: Lee is 13-10 overall and 3-4 in District 4-5A. Central is 8-15 and 1-6 overall.

4-5A Significance: Lee needs a win to stay within shouting distance in the district playoff race and to get back to .500 in 4-5A. Central is simply looking to maintain respectability in district after picking up its first 4-5A win Tuesday.

Notes: The Lady Rebels are coming off their biggest district win of the season, having won at Odessa High 51-45 Tuesday. It wasn't a great offensive showcase for either team, with OHS missing leading scorer Lindsey Casey and Lee freshman and leading scorer Adrienne Ross scoring only eight points. Senior Andrea Long came through with one of the biggest games of her career, leading the Lady Rebels with 14 points, including four 3-pointers... Lee and Central have already played in the first half of district, with the Lady Rebels winning 64-53 in San Angelo. Ross led Lee with 18 points in that game... Central finally picked up a district win by surprising Abilene High 58-56 in overtime Tuesday. Nichole Ayana led the Lady Bobcats with 19 points.

Next: Lee resumes its district scheduled with a much anticipated matchup with crosstown rival Midland High Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Chaparral Center.

Midland Lee Girls Statistics (13-10, 3-4)									
Player	G	FG	FT	Pts.	Reb.	Ass.	Stl.	Blk.	Avg.
Adrienne Ross	23	147	75	398	17.3				
Shamara Bryson	23	82	44	222	9.7				
Rochelle Warren	21	80	28	189	9.0				
Andrea Long	23	114	14	142	6.2				
Danielle Dickey	23	44	35	129	5.6				
Julie Jay	23	32	24	88	3.8				
Shandi Neatherton	22	23	27	73	3.3				
Michelle Keverly	22	20	19	59	2.7				
Michelle Byrd	20	15	1	36	1.8				
Jade Jones	22	5	5	15	0.7				
Kim Strambler	2	0	0	0	0.0				
Three-Point Goals: Paces 28, Long 22, Dickey 6, Byrd 5, Bryson 4, Warren 1.									

Cuban seals deal for Mavericks

Associated Press

DALLAS — Ross Perot Jr. originally had no intention of selling the Dallas Mavericks. Mark Cuban changed his mind.

Perot, admittedly unsavvy about basketball when he bought controlling interest in the NBA franchise less than four years ago, has learned a lot over the years. That's why when he finally decided to sell the club earlier this month, it was to Cuban, a longtime Mavericks fan.

"I wasn't interested in selling until I started being around Mark Cuban," said Perot, who consummated the deal with a hug during a news conference Thursday at the site of the Mavericks' future arena. "It wasn't a question of money. It's the person. I was not going to sell this team to someone who didn't love this city and love this team. Mark Cuban is the perfect owner."

Cuban's purchase of majority share and controlling interest in the team for \$280 million had been public since Jan. 4, but Thursday was the first formal announcement of the deal. Official transfer of ownership awaits approval by the rest of the NBA's owners, which is expected to occur sometime in mid-February.

Cuban came to Dallas in 1982 and a year later started MicroSolutions, which became



Ross Perot Jr., left, handed over the Dallas Mavericks NBA franchise to Mark Cuban Thursday in Dallas.

one of the nation's leading systems integration firms.

In 1995 Cuban started Broadcast.com, which developed a way for followers of vir-

tually any college or pro team to pick up their broadcasts over the Internet. Yahoo bought Broadcast.com last summer for about \$6 billion. The Wall Street Journal estimated Cuban's stake at \$1.5 billion.

Since word of the Mavericks sale, Cuban has created a buzz around the team and Reunion Arena with his unbridled enthusiasm. An avid fan since 1982, Cuban's main goal as owner is to turn the team with the NBA's worst winning percentage in the 1990s into a championship-caliber team in the next millennium.

"This shows that dreams can come true," said Cuban, a Mavericks' season ticket-holder before buying the team. "I've been through the ups, I've been through the downs, I've been through the Reunion 'Rowdies' and I've been through being just one of the few people in the crowd. I will give every ounce of the energy I possess to turn this team into a winning team."

Cuban said his exact stake in the team has not been set and will be determined by how much the remaining minority owners keep. Perot will remain a part of the ownership group and estimated his stake will be 5-15 percent.

Perot bought the franchise from founder Donald Carter for \$125 million in 1996. He will continue to lead development and construction of the new arena.

Teenaged Mav admits trying suicide

By Jaime Aron
AP Sports Writer

Leon Smith, whose bid to go from high school star to NBA rookie has been a disaster, said problems with the Dallas Mavericks and a former girlfriend led him to try committing suicide.

"The truth is I was trying to end my life," Smith, who swallowed 250 aspirin on Nov. 14, told KRIV-TV in Houston on Thursday. "I was trying to get rid of the pain. That was the only way I knew how to do it."

"There are plenty of ways to commit suicide, but I thought that would be the least painful because I was already in pain from the inside. There was no need to have it from the outside."

The 19-year-old, who never played or even practiced with the Mavericks after being signed Nov. 2, said he wasn't sure what to think when he awoke in a hospital.

"Part of me was like, 'I should've died, I should've gone, I don't belong here,' and part of

me was like, 'Well, God gave you another chance, so make the best of it,'" he said.

But he didn't. Smith returned to Chicago, his hometown, in early December and got into trouble with police on consecutive days.

He allegedly threatened the ex-girlfriend with a gun, then got out of jail and allegedly rammed a car belonging to the ex-girlfriend's mother and smashed out all the windows. He's facing a Feb. 3 court date for two counts of criminal damage.

"I'm not afraid to admit I was in love and that added on to a lot of things that were going on," he said. "It drove me crazy. It got the anger to start building up inside of me."

The NBA player's association stepped in shortly after and placed Smith in psychiatric care. "I belonged there because I needed to find myself," he said. "I didn't want to hurt anybody or me."

Smith has been living in Houston for about two weeks and is

under the watchful eye of Purvis Short, a former NBA player who is now director of player programs for the players' union.

"Basketball will take care of itself, but you have to learn to live day to day. That's what we're helping him with," Short said. "Leon is doing tremendous. We're all very proud of him."

Smith is living in an apartment and working out at the same gym where the Houston Rockets train.

"I want to play," Smith said. "I'm really ready to take on responsibility now."

Union chief Billy Hunter is negotiating for Smith to be released from his three-year, \$1.45 million contract with the Mavericks, which would make him a free agent.

"Hopefully within the next week we should have an agreement in place," Short said.

San Antonio made the 6-foot-10, 235-pound forward the final pick in the first round, then traded him to Dallas. The two sides squabbled from the beginning.

The Mavericks wanted Smith to start in a developmental league, but he refused and later forced them to sign him on opening day. His troubles erupted less than two weeks later. He was suspended indefinitely in December.

Critics have accused the team of not doing enough to ease the transition into the NBA for Smith, who was raised as a ward of Illinois after being estranged from his parents at age 5.

Smith said he's not angry with the Mavericks.

"I don't think they handled certain situations right," he said, "but I don't blame them because I couldn't handle myself back then."

Smith said he still would consider playing for the Mavericks because "that's the team that traded for me."

"I've sinned a lot and I'm struggling every day to get better," Smith said. "I want to be able to just play ball and really get away from all the other stuff."

Rebels win on 1st day of Arlington tourney

Staff Report

ARLINGTON — The Midland Lee boys soccer team went into enemy territory Thursday and came out unscathed.

Dominating the action, the Rebels jumped on Arlington Lamar early and never let up, rolling to a 3-1 victory in the first round of the Arlington Tournament.

Eric Mora led the way offensively for the Rebels. Mora scored the only goal of the first half on a penalty kick, then provided the only cushion Lee would need with a goal in the second half off an

assist from Colter Marcum.

"We played great," said Lee coach Shane Barden, whose team outshot Lamar 24-7. "We had the ball the whole game. Our formations we kind of messed with tonight and they worked. We attacked the whole time."

Lamar's only goal against Lee keeper Trey Lawson came on a penalty kick in the second half to cut the lead to 2-1. The Rebels (2-1-1) attained the final margin on an unassisted goal by Aurelio Munoz.

Lee will play again tonight against Arlington Bowie at 8 p.m.

Jackalopes drop 2nd straight game on road

Staff Report

EL PASO — The Odessa Jackalopes are having a tough time trying to kick it into gear following the WPHL all-star break.

The Jacks lost their second straight on the road Thursday night since resuming league play, falling to the El Paso Buzzards 7-2. On Tuesday night, the Jacks lost to New Mexico 4-1.

Odessa never led against El Paso, which took a 3-0 lead at the end of the first period. The Jacks got back in the game midway through the second period when Jason Heywood scored on a goal down low off an assist from Jacques Rodrigue to cut it to 3-1.

But that was as good as it got for the Jacks. The Buzzards gave themselves a cushion when

David Bernier scored with 19 seconds left in the second period to extend the lead to 4-1. That sapped the Jacks' spirit.

Bernier then scored again to begin a three-goal barrage in the final five minutes to make the score look worse than it really was. Martin Menard was a major offensive contributor for El Paso, scoring a goal and two assists.

John Bossio scored for the Jacks with eight seconds remaining to make the score look slightly more respectable.

The best news for the Jacks is that they return home for the next two nights. They get a chance to exact revenge on El Paso tonight at 7:11 at the Ector County Coliseum then face Amarillo in the same building Saturday at the same time.

Anderson's 26 help Rockets over Nugs

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets needed their 48-minute man to beat the Denver Nuggets.

Shandon Anderson played the entire game and had 26 points and 13 rebounds as the Houston Rockets won their season-high fifth straight with a 122-115 victory Thursday night.

Anderson was one short of his career-high, rookie Steve Francis added 22 points and seven assists and Kenny Thomas had 13 points and 10 rebounds. Cuttino Mobley had 17 points.

"The shots were there for me tonight, I got a lot of open looks early and when you get open shots you've got to take them," Anderson said. "Our offense got some easy layups early in the game. That got us putting points on the board and got us into our offense."

Anderson went 4-for-5 from 3-point range.

"Shannon took advantage of the situation tonight," Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "He was making his 3s when he

got the open looks. It was his day. He played with a lot of energy, so I gave him some extra minutes."

The Rockets' offense Antonio McDyess' season-high 40 points, six short of his career high. Nick Van Exel added 31 points and 11 assists, and Ron Mercer had 22 points for the Nuggets, who lost their season-high fifth straight.

"It would have been a different game if we'd played defense," McDyess said. "We didn't play defense at all. It was a lack of effort and a lack of confidence."

The Rockets, who beat the Nuggets for the 11th straight time, didn't take command until midway in the fourth quarter when a 9-0 run gave them a 99-91 lead with 9:36 to play.

Mobley scored at the third-quarter buzzer to give the Rockets a 90-89 lead. His two free throws early in the fourth period started the Rockets' 9-0 run.

Anderson got the Rockets off to a fast start with 17 points in the first quarter and he had 20 at half-time.

Jordan attends practice — in slacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — He did not practice. He wore casual slacks instead of shorts, and he stood on the sideline.

Michael Jordan looked more like an assistant coach Thursday during the first hour of the Washington Wizards workout.

"It was real weird, just Michael being here," rookie guard Richard Hamilton said. "That's unbelievable."

A horde of reporters attended the Thursday morning practice, the day after Jordan became the team's part-owner and president of basketball operations. Only the last half-hour was open to reporters, so Jordan was gone by the time the cameras and notebooks arrived.

"It was unreal at first," Hamilton said. "All you can do is sit back and listen. But it's reality. And he's come here to help turn this basketball team around."

One floor up, at the MCI Center's ticket booths, Dwayne Curtis and his 8-year-old son were flipping through a Wizards schedule to choose an upcoming game to attend — only because of Jordan's arrival in town.

"He likes Michael," Curtis, looking at his son with a smile, said.

The Wizards wasted no time marketing their new asset. TV commercials featuring Jordan aired within hours of Wednesday's announcement, and a season-ticket flier at the box office had Jordan's smiling mug at the top. "Sign up to see how Michael Jordan helps shape the Wizards" was right in the middle.

"The phones are ringing steadily," spokesman Matt Williams said. The number of tickets sold Thursday was not immediately available.

At the practice, following

Wednesday night's 104-86 embarrassing loss to the Dallas Mavericks, coach Gar Heard was emphasizing weak-side defense.

Jordan, a former defensive player of the year as well as a five-time MVP, naturally had plenty of tips.

"It was just more like, 'If your man goes here, you be here,' giving us pointers more than anything," Hamilton said.

Jordan then met with general manager Wes Unseld for several hours, no doubt discussing the woes of one of the NBA's worst teams. The Wizards (12-28) have lost five straight and are in last place in the Atlantic Division.

"There's going to be some tough times," guard Mitch Richmond said. "I think he knows what's ahead of him. It's going to be a tough road."

Heard admitted as much. Having Jordan walk through the door may create some excitement, but

it does not automatically mean victories.

"We still have the same team," Heard said. "The only impact that he could have right away is if he were to step on the court and play. But I think his influence around the players is going to make a difference."

Jordan said Wednesday he envisions practicing with the team to evaluate talent, but NBA ownership rules prohibit him from playing in a game. Heard said he anticipates Jordan putting on a practice jersey "maybe next week."

Describing his challenge to revive the Wizards, Jordan said that "everyone's disposable," essentially putting Heard, Unseld and everyone else on notice.

"I don't feel undermined," Heard said. "Believe me, we need all the help we can get right now, and I can't think of a guy that's better suited for it than Michael."

Lauries call off plan to buy Grizzlies

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Bill and Nancy Laurie, a billionaire couple that purchased the NHL's St. Louis Blues in September, on Thursday called off their efforts to buy the NBA's Vancouver Grizzlies and move the team to St. Louis.

The Lauries, from Columbia, Mo., announced in a statement that they had terminated their agreement and would "explore other methods" of bringing an NBA team to the city.

"That remains our objective, and we intend to explore all options, including the possibility of securing an NBA expansion franchise," Bill Laurie said.

The Lauries signed a contract

to buy the Grizzlies for \$200 million in September, about three weeks after they bought the Blues. The deal was contingent on relocating the team, which would have given the Lauries two tenants in the 5-year-old Kiel Center, but was met with resistance from NBA owners.

Laurie said others in the league felt Vancouver hadn't been given an "adequate opportunity to demonstrate their support for the Grizzlies."

The Kiel Center was included in the Lauries' \$100 million purchase of the Blues.

Nancy Laurie is an heir to the Wal-Mart fortune. Bill Laurie is a former point guard at Memphis.

In April, the Lauries bid \$400 million to buy the Colorado Avalanche of the NHL, the Denver Nuggets of the NBA and Denver's new Pepsi Center, but

lost to a rival group that bid \$461 million.

St. Louis has not had an NBA team since the Hawks left in 1968.

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Sam
esca
fromBy Steve Wil
AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE
Pete Sampras, five-setter, escapes down

Sampras ran abandoned caution against inspired Black to reach of the Australia 7 (9), 3-6, 6-3, Friday.

Sampras is like again when he plays Zimbabwe next month, and any indication may be in for Harare.

The third-se who is pursuing Grand Slam titles have an oddity in major tournaments came against No. 148 at the

Even with the closed roof because sprinkles, Sampras to cope with Black and surprisingly Sampras tried early and often, the first-set tiebreak dropping the switched tactics more.

Sampras also aces even on serve he produced 25 final three sets.

to 4-3 in the fifth to love-40 after then two point forehand return volleyed long. S. yild held serve for broke Black's serve close out the match.

Sampras owns records in five-sets era, 28-10, and from 0-2 five times Italian Open, S. five-setters.

Sampras began inauspiciously, on the first point ish with 10 doubt caught some luck hand at 40-15 clipped over for

Black didn't though, and he served points in the six winning it with a when Sampras Black's serve for the match, pouncing on break point, the third, there he might find a again. Sampras slapped a volley.

Yet Black kept him throughout the yielding in the

Kraft

BERMUDA
Kraft doesn't need Bob Hope Class go before the wi

He at least stay er chance at his finishing his second staked day in the 36 holes.

Kraft, who led the Colonial last times, played a

WOC

(From 1C)

and not fullback home on the field

It also didn't saw several faces Basin faces during visit, including f teammate Shaud

"The fact that used to the player said 'Woods, who national letter of Tech on Feb. 2, day. "Of course and I recognized Hunt, (Midland Antwan Alexander

man. They're go want to play with

Up until this Woods looked as playing against He had said

Sampras escapes from hole

By Steve Wilstein
AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Pete Sampras, the master of the five-setter, escaped from two sets down once again.

Sampras ran up 36 aces as he abandoned caution under pressure against inspired qualifier Wayne Black to reach the fourth round of the Australian Open with a 6-7 (9), 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 victory Friday.

Sampras is likely to face Black again when the United States plays Zimbabwe in Davis Cup next month, and if this match was any indication the Americans may be in for a hard time in Harare.

The third-seeded Sampras, who is pursuing a record 13th Grand Slam title, always seems to have an oddly troublesome match in major tournaments and this one came against an opponent ranked No. 148 at the end of 1999.

Even with the benefit of a closed roof because of on-and-off sprinkles, Sampras found it tough to cope with Black's passing shots and surprisingly difficult serves. Sampras tried attacking the net early and often, but after losing the first-set tiebreaker 11-9, and dropping the second set, he switched tactics a little and rallied more.

Sampras also began aiming for aces even on second serves, and he produced 25 of his aces in the final three sets. He broke Black to 4-3 in the fifth set, when he got to love-40 after a brilliant rally, then two points later drilled a forehand return that Black volleyed long. Sampras then easily held serve for a 5-3 lead, and broke Black's serve once more to close out the match.

Sampras owns one of the best records in five-setters in the open era, 28-10, and has come back from 0-2 five times. In the Australian Open, Sampras is 8-0 in five-setters.

Sampras began the third set inauspiciously, double-faulting on the first point. He would finish with 10 double-faults. But he caught some luck when his backhand at 40-15 clipped the net and popped over for a winner.

Black didn't go down easily, though, and he saved three break points in the sixth game before winning it with an ace for 3-3. But when Sampras finally broke Black's serve for the first time in the match, pounding an overhead on break point, to make it 5-3 in the third, there was a sense that he might find a way out of a jam again. Sampras served out the set, slapping a volley on set point.

Yet Black kept the pressure on him throughout the fourth set until yielding in the 11th game in

More Sports/10C



Australian Lleyton Hewitt returns a shot during his 6-0, 6-0, 6-1 thrashing of Spaniard Alex Corretja Thursday at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia.

superb rallies that gave Sampras the break point, the game and the chance to serve out the second with his 29th and 30th aces. In that set alone, Sampras served a dozen aces.

In the only other matches completed by the time Sampras finished, the women's No. 4 seed, Mary Pierce, beat Miriam Oremans 6-2, 6-4; No. 11 Anna Kournikova downed Kveta Hrdlickova 2-6, 6-3, 6-4; Jennifer Capriati beat Yi Jingqian 6-4, 6-4; and Patty Schnyder downed Nadejda Petrova 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-2.

One of the raps against Lleyton Hewitt, the hottest player in tennis, is that he burns too much energy on court and is bound to flame out.

They used to say that about a fiery kid named Jimmy Connors.

Hewitt's detractors, among them Sampras and Andre Agassi, also like to point out that he possesses no "big weapons" — no booming serve, no killer return, no crushing groundstrokes.

Sort of like Bjorn Borg, the pre-eminent human backboard.

Then there are the stodgy critics who take offense at Hewitt's cockiness, his challenges of line calls, even the backward baseball cap that hides his long blond hair.

Compared to John McEnroe, Hewitt is a veritable choir boy.

At 18, Lleyton Hewitt is a slim, 5-foot-11 Australian who doesn't volley like Patrick Rafter and doesn't whack aces like Mark Philippoussis. All he does is win, whittling down opponents stubbornly and tirelessly like a boy cutting down trees with a pocket knife.

Hewitt won a tournament in his hometown of Adelaide two weeks ago, then won another in Sydney. On Thursday, in the sec-

ond round of the Australian Open, he ran his winning streak to 12 matches with a masterful 6-0, 6-0, 6-1 performance against Alex Corretja.

Triple bagels in tennis are as rare as perfect games in baseball. In the 32 years of the open era, only five have been recorded, the last by Sergi Bruguera against Thierry Champion en route to the French Open title in 1993. No one in the 95-year history of the Australian Open had ever done it.

Against Corretja, who is certainly no slouch and who prides himself on his professionalism, Hewitt came as close to perfection as possible, yielding only at 4-0 in the third set when Corretja finally held serve.

It was characteristic of Hewitt that he was disappointed that he gave up even that much, and that he kept pumping his fist right down to match point.

"I'm out there for every point," said Hewitt, who was ranked No. 22 at the end of 1999. "I'm not the type of player to hold back on anything. I'm out there to win every game and give 100 percent."

Connors used to say the same thing.

That is not to suggest that Hewitt's career will rocket along the same trajectory as Connors, Borg or McEnroe. He still has to prove he can win one major trophy, much less a collection of them. And the criticisms of his game are valid, especially that he hasn't learned to shorten points by going to the net when he has a chance.

But Hewitt possesses what few other players do: the speed and spirit of a champion, and a willingness to fling his body all over the court in pursuit of every point.

Baseball owners restore power to commissioner

By Ronald Blum
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX — If baseball owners go to war with their players again in two years, Bud Selig will have unprecedented power — maybe enough to win the salary cap many teams want.

Or, if he wants to avoid a war, he'll have the power to negotiate an extension of baseball's labor contract.

"The developments of the last two days in any historical context are staggering, inconceivable 10 or 12 years ago," Selig said Thursday after a two-day meeting reversed years of erosion of the commissioner's authority. "I don't think people understand the significance of what's happened here in the last 24 hours."

Owners voted Thursday to give all their Internet rights — including radio broadcasts and video when technology becomes available — to the commissioner's office.

A day earlier, they gave Selig power "without limitation" to ensure "there is an appropriate level of long-term competitive balance among the clubs" and told him to use it.

He can override all of baseball's rules — even blocking trades — and attempt to impose a salary cap if he thinks bargaining with players after the 2001 season has reached an impasse.

"It will strengthen the position of major league baseball," Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane said. "He's had best-interests power over the integrity of the game. Now he has best-interests power over the economics of the game."

Baseball, which has had eight work stoppages since 1972, is still recovering from the last one, a 232-day strike in 1994-95 that wiped out the World Series for the first time in 90 years.

The sport's labor contract runs through this season, but the players' association is expected to exercise its right to a one-year extension.

Then, barring an extension, it's back to the bargaining table, and many teams want a salary cap that will allow them to compete with the large markets. While the New York Yankees had baseball's highest payroll last year — \$92 million — Florida spent less than one-sixth of that, \$15.15 million.

Under the current contract, approval of the players' association is needed for any revenue-sharing changes, one of the reasons large-market teams didn't object to Selig's new power, several high-level baseball and team officials said on the condition they not be identified.

They think the union wouldn't approve radical change because it would take money away from baseball's biggest spenders, who raise the top salaries, the officials said.

Selig has also gained the power to ignore the ownership hawks who want a salary cap at all costs. He could negotiate the best extension he can get with the union and say it's in baseball's best interests to avoid another work stoppage.

Union head Donald Fehr wouldn't comment extensively on Selig's increased power, other than to say the players' association had a duty to ensure that "the collective-bargaining process and our agreements are adhered to."

Selig, while not saying what he would do, agreed with commissioner Bowie Kuhn's June 1976 decision to stop Oakland owner Charlie Finley from selling pitcher Rollie Fingers and outfielder Joe Rudi to Boston for \$2 million and pitcher Vida Blue to the Yankees for \$1.5 million.

"In his mind, at that time, he was protecting the best interests of the game," Selig said. "In the end, I was supportive of Bowie's decision."

Selig said he would await the report of baseball's latest economic study committee, expected by opening day, before using his new power.

"I will do it very judiciously, but I will do it with great determination," he said. "I will do it as situations come up."

With the elimination of the league offices, baseball's staff, including umpires, will be centralized under Selig. However, Selig doesn't expect the biggest distinction between the leagues — the designated hitter — to be resolved any time soon.

"The American League still likes the designated hitter," he said, adding "it will take some type of catalytic event like realignment" to cause its adoption by the National League or to eliminate it. The union would fight the end of the DH, which allows older, high-salaried players to remain active.

Sanders signs minor league deal with Reds, gets spring invitation

CINCINNATI (AP) — Deion Sanders has signed a non-guaranteed minor league contract with the Cincinnati Reds and has been invited to spring training.

"Deion hasn't played baseball in two years," general manager Jim Bowden said Thursday. "We don't know where his baseball skills are, but in spring training we want to give him the opportunity to compete for a roster spot."

Sanders last played baseball in 1997 when he batted .273 and

stole 56 bases in 115 games with the Reds. At that time, he said he was quitting baseball to devote full time to playing cornerback with the Dallas Cowboys.

Sanders has a .266 lifetime average and 183 stolen bases in 609 major league games. He played for the New York Yankees in 1989-90, Atlanta Braves in 1991-93, split the season with the Braves and Reds in 1994, split 1995 with Cincinnati and San Francisco, and spent 1997 with the Reds after sitting out a year.

The Reds also signed right-handed pitchers Mark Portugal and Johnny Ruffin to minor league contracts.

Portugal, 37, was 7-12 with a 5.51 ERA for Boston last season. He was released by the Red Sox after dropping his final four decisions.

Portugal is 109-95 in his major league career. He was traded from San Francisco to the Reds on July 21, 1995, in a multi-player deal that sent Sanders to the Giants.

Kraft has Hope after another 65

BERMUDA DUNES, Calif. (AP) — Greg Kraft doesn't need a five-round tournament like the Bob Hope Classic to realize there's a long way to go before the winner's check is cut.

He at least stayed in position Thursday for another chance at his first official PGA Tour victory, posting his second straight 7-under 65 on another sun-baked day in the desert for a one-stroke lead through 36 holes.

Kraft, who led in the final round at Doral and in the Colonial last year only to finish second both times, played a bogey-free round at Indian Wells

and was at 14-under 130.

"I know 14-under is not going to win," Kraft said. "I have to keep making birdies. I need to play to my strengths and practice on my weaknesses, wait until Sunday and see what I can do and what can happen."

In the Hope Classic, sponsored by Chrysler, that can mean just about anything — like a 59, which is what David Duval rung up last year to win on the final day. Despite calm conditions, no one has come close to that.

At least not yet.

WOODS: Mustang picks Tech

(From 1C)

and not fullback would be his home on the field.

It also didn't hurt that Woods saw several familiar Permian Basin faces during his recruiting visit, including former Andrews teammate Shaud Williams.

"The fact that I'm going to be used to the players helped a lot," said Woods, who will sign his national letter of intent to play at Tech on Feb. 2, national signing day. "Of course I know Shaud, and I recognized guys like Aaron Hunt, (Midland Lee products) Antwan Alexander and John Norman. They're good friends and I want to play with them."

Up until this past weekend, Woods looked as if he would be playing against them next season. He had said that he was the most interested in Texas A&M after visiting there along with Purdue.

But over the next couple of weeks, Woods felt less and less comfortable with the possibility of committing to become an Aggie. The pressure from within his family and A&M's insistence on using him at fullback combined to start turning him away from College Station.

"It changed with some issues with my mother," said Woods. "She didn't really want me to go to A&M. Even so, I really didn't want to play fullback. I remem-

ber my sophomore year (at Andrews) all I did was block and I really didn't enjoy it."

Woods didn't have much of a choice but to be a blocker in Andrews' offense as a sophomore, since the tailback was Williams, who merely had one of the best careers of any running back in Texas Class 4A history. The next season, with Williams still ensconced at tailback, Woods moved to linebacker, where he became an impact player.

After Williams graduated, Woods found himself back on the other side of the ball, this time as the featured back in the Mustangs offense. He showed he was up to the task by running for 1,514 yards in the regular season.

As much as Woods excelled carrying the ball, he felt his football future lied in chasing down ballcarriers, something Tech wanted him for.

"I don't know if I'm going to get a chance as freshman to start, but I know I'm going to try," said Woods. "It just depends on how hard I work. It's just like Shaud had to work hard for his chance."

Williams played as a true freshman and didn't have to worry about redshirting. Woods said that it's a possibility he'll be redshirted, but he's not planning on it.

The retirement of Tech coach Spike Dykes and the arrival of

new coach Mike Leach didn't bother Woods. He feels this staff will accommodate his desires at linebacker.

"I feel that it's going to be very exciting for me," said Woods. "I think that with the new Tech coaches I can get accustomed to their style of play."

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Blue chips fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Blue-chip stocks fell steeply Thursday amid worries that rising interest rates will ultimately cut into corporate earnings, while signs of strong growth from leading technology companies boosted the Nasdaq further into record territory.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 138.06 to close at 11,351.30. The Dow pitched wildly during the session, rising as much as 68 points in early trading and plunging as much as 214 at midday.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 38.22 to 4,189.51, extending the record high reached just Wednesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 fell 10.33 to 1,445.57.

Gold falls

LONDON (AP) — The U.S. dollar fell against most other major currencies in European trading today. Gold fell.

The euro was quoted at \$1.0130 in late European trading, up from \$1.0110 Wednesday. Later, in midday trading in New York, the euro traded at \$1.0160.

Other dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Wednesday, included 105.35 Japanese yen, down from 105.94; 1.5908 Swiss francs, down from 1.5944; 1.4467 Canadian dollars, down from 1.4509.

The British pound was quoted at \$1.6546, up from \$1.6376.

In midday trading in New York, the dollar bought 105.42 yen, and the pound was worth \$1.6556.

Currencies of the 11 countries participating in the euro are no longer traded separately, though they remain in use. Based on euro rates, the dollar is worth: 1.9303 German marks, down from 1.9338; 6.4741 French francs, down from 6.4863; 2.1741 Dutch guilders, down from 2.1791; 1,910.29 Italian lire, down from 1,914.63.

Gold closed in London at \$288.00 bid per troy ounce, down from \$288.75 on Wednesday. In Zurich the bid price was \$288.12, down from \$288.98. Gold fell \$2.20 in Hong Kong to close at \$287.85.

Silver closed in London at \$5.20 bid per troy ounce, up from \$5.12.

Commodities

Heating oil prices raced 7 percent higher Thursday as the first big dose of cold and snow to hit the eastern United States this winter further squeezed shrinking energy supplies.

Natural gas futures were right behind in the energy price chase, surging 5 percent. Crude oil slipped back, however, after stopping its ascent just short of \$30 a barrel.

In other markets, pork bellies hit their highest level since the summer of 1997 and soybeans rose to a three-month high.

Heating oil extended a stunning rally that has raised the price of the near-term contract 17 percent in three days. The snowstorm that pounded parts of the East and Midwest and sent temperatures hurtling toward zero also helped send the February heating oil contract up 6.43 cents to 88.46 cents a gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Adding to the price frenzy was an outage at a Suncor Inc. refinery in Marcus Hook, Pa., at a time when the heating market is already under tremendous pressure due to this week's weather.

Airlines move to recover fuel costs

By Mella McEwen
Staff Writer

That flight out of Midland International Airport got more expensive this week.

Citing surging jet fuel costs, five of the nation's largest airlines added \$10 each way fuel surcharges, adding \$20 to a round trip airline ticket.

The move was begun by Continental Airlines, which operates Continental Express at Midland International. American Airlines, whose subsidiary operates American Eagle at Midland International then implemented a fuel surcharge, followed by United Airlines, Delta Airlines and Northwest Airlines.

Southwest Airlines is not looking at adding a fuel surcharge, said Spokeswoman Kristin Nelson.

"We look at the competitive landscape and we look at what's best for our passengers and the airline," she said.

In announcing its fourth quarter earnings, Southwest said that a 54.5 percent increase in jet fuel costs in the fourth quarter over the same quarter in 1998 caused its operating income to fall 3.3 percent.

Patty Nowack, a spokeswoman for America West, said the airline is still studying the issue.

America West Holdings used a fuel hedging program to reduce the expense of jet fuel, which the company reported rose 28.2 percent to \$63 million in the fourth quarter, driven by a 21.8 percent increase in average fuel cost per gallon. The airline estimated the fuel hedging program saved it \$11 million.

In its fourth quarter and 1999 earnings report, Continental said that aircraft fuel costs rose 49.7 percent for the quarter and 6.1 percent for the year.

"Fuel costs are increasing each quarter," said Catherine Stengel, a spokeswoman for the airline, adding that she believes passengers would understand the airline's need to cope with the surging fuel costs.

"That's why it's broken out on the ticket as a fuel surcharge," she said.

Chris Chiamas, a spokesman for American Airlines, said "It's no secret fuel prices have risen sharply. Each one cent increase in the price of a gallon of jet fuel increases our costs \$30 million a year and with crude at \$30 a barrel right now, our fuel costs are growing tremendously. The fuel surcharge is a way to recover those costs."

AMR Corp., the airline's parent company, blamed higher fuel costs in large part for a 37 percent drop in fourth quarter earnings, to \$105 million from \$167 million for the same quarter 1998.

Chiamas said he expected American's passengers would understand the airline's plight because "our passengers have been experiencing higher fuel costs themselves."

Wendy Ragan, co-owner of Adventure Travel, said that the rising fuel costs are good for the area's energy-based economy and already her agency is seeing more business.

"Business is about 50 percent better this year than

last year at this time," she estimated. "We're seeing more oil companies travel and more family vacations."

Bob Landreth, owner of National Travel System, formerly Carlson Wagonlit Envoy, said that the airlines have been gradually raising rates in the last year, but are now adding the surcharge on top of those increases.

"Last year, when fuel prices were low, with the real low oil prices, they didn't really cut their fares, so they're using any excuse to raise fares," he said.

Even though Southwest has also been raising fares, he said it is still seen as a good value, a reputation that could be enhanced by its refusal to follow the other airlines in adding a fuel surcharge.

"The higher fares go, the more people look at alternative sources of transportation," he observed.

Still, he said, he doesn't expect the fuel surcharge to have much impact on passenger loads.

"As long as the economy is doing well and people want to travel, it won't impact the carriers as much as we would like," he said.

Ms. Ragan agreed that the impact won't be too great. "Airline profits are fairly thin, and higher fuel costs do impact them and they have to pass those on," she said.

"On vacation packages, it adds about \$5-10 per person and that's not significant, not enough for someone to cancel their vacation plans."

And, she pointed out, any good travel agent can find a passenger the best fares to help offset the fuel surcharge.

Ad spells splat on two levels



A 1998 commercial for Outpost.com portrays a garb being shot from a cannon. The commercial triggered a brief increase in visits to the website, but failed to increase sales. Robert Bowman, of Outpost.com says the commercial failed to explain what the company did.

Pizza Hut, CDnow will try giveaway during Super Bowl

By David Koenig
Associated Press

DALLAS — Pizza Hut is betting that the combination of pizza, pigskin and pop music will boost sales on Super Bowl Sunday, traditionally its second-biggest day of the year.

The Dallas-based company will team up with CDnow to let buyers of its "Big New Yorker" pizza go to the Internet and order a custom-made CD of six songs from a list of 180 by artists ranging from Britney Spears and 'N Sync to David Bowie and B.B. King.

"This is a cool thing with a new technology," Randy Gier, Pizza Hut's vice president for marketing, said of the pop-and-pizza alliance. "We're hoping to sell a lot of pizza, and they're hoping to draw a lot of people to their Internet site."

The Super Bowl ad — a 30-second spot just before kickoff on Jan. 30 — is part of a \$15 million promotional campaign by the pizza maker and the CD press that will begin next week and run through Feb. 20.

Pizza Hut says when customers order one of the special pizzas, they'll get a CD sleeve and a number they can use on CDnow's Web site to order a six-song disc. The CD company promises to press each customer's order and mail the product to them in 10 days.

Jason Olim, CDnow's chief executive, believes the tie-in with Pizza Hut and with 180 artists — each of whom had to give permission — will boost his company above the competition in the nascent "custom-compilation" CD industry.

"It shows that the Internet is as mainstream as pizza," Olim said. "Both of us have a younger, hipper audience."

CDnow could use the boost — its stock has fallen by half in six months. The New York-based retailer of CDs, T-shirts and other items has agreed to be

acquired by Columbia House.

Neither Pizza Hut nor CDnow would discuss terms of their deal. Pizza Hut says it sold about 1.5 million pizzas last Super Bowl Sunday, including its more popular pan version — only the day before Thanksgiving is bigger to pizza makers.

CDnow charges \$19.95 for a 12-song custom disc. But the production cost of the six-song free discs could exceed half that of the regular CDs because the company will tap higher-profile artists who command higher royalties.

A marketing expert said the giveaway commercial fit the pattern of advertisers — who are reportedly paying an average of \$2 million for a 30-second ad during the game — trying anything to stand out from the Super Bowl crowd.

Last Super Bowl, Pizza Hut, a unit of Louisville, Ky.-based Tricon Global Restaurants Inc., used celebrities including Donald Trump to pitch its pies.

IEA: Oil shortage looming due to strong demand

By Bruce Stanley
Associated Press

LONDON — Global demand for oil increased much faster than supplies at the end of last year, pinching inventories and driving up prices as buyers hoarded crude ahead of feared Y2K-related disruptions, a respected industry study said Thursday.

"The numbers show markets that are tight and getting tighter," said the monthly report by the International Energy Agency.

Signs that OPEC will extend its production cuts in output beyond March has added to upward pressure. Prices for the benchmark oils of Europe and the United States rose by more than 4 percent in December and surged further this week. West Texas Intermediate crude in the U.S. was flirting with \$30 a barrel, a level not seen since the January 1991 outbreak of the Gulf War.

"The market needs more oil now. But non-OPEC supply is growing only slowly in response to the price rises of the last nine months," the report warned.

World demand for oil swelled to "an extremely strong" 77.3 million barrels per day in the last three months of 1999, exceeding available stockpiles by 3.1 million barrels daily.

The Paris-based IEA is part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a group of the world's richest countries.

Demand should ease slightly this month, it said, as buyers work through inventories they built up as a precaution against Y2K-related supply interruptions. And economic growth seems to be offsetting the economic impact of higher oil prices in much of the world.

"I don't think we're near a crisis stage," said Peter Gignoux, head of the petroleum desk at Salomon Smith Barney Citibank. "They're raising a flag and saying, 'Watch out, this market is getting short of oil.'"

A recent cold snap in the northeastern United States has helped underpin prices.

Oil refiners, meanwhile, have seen profit margins squeezed as crude prices more than doubled in the past year while prices have increased at a slower pace for gasoline and heating oil.

U.S. gasoline prices rose to a 3 1/2-year high of almost \$1.35 a gallon in early December before slipping back 2 cents in early January, according to the Lundberg Survey of 10,000 stations.

INVESTORS' GUIDE

It may be time to dump a lagging mutual fund

By Eric Tyson

Q: I have been an investor through my 401(k) plan with Vanguard for 18 years. I'm an aggressive, long-term investor and have participated in Windsor II since its inception. Over the past year I have seen this fund's value drop. Why? Do you think it's time to jump ship? The rest of my portfolio is made up of the 500 Index Fund, Primecap and my company's stock.

A: Windsor II invests primarily in large U.S. "value" stocks. Such stocks haven't been in vogue of late.

To assess Windsor II's performance, it's important that you compare that fund's performance to a relevant index. As Windsor II focuses on larger and mid-size company value stocks, the Russell 1000 value stock index is probably the best index to compare its performance with.

For 1999 (through the end of November), Windsor II has underperformed the Russell 1000 value index by 10.6 percent and has produced a total return of negative 3.7 percent. During a year in which the major market indexes have produced large positive gains having a negative performance is frustrating.

However, a large part of Windsor II's low returns were due to the fact that value stocks did relatively poorly during 1999. Underperforming its comparative index by more than 10 percent didn't help. This was caused by some poor stock picks, including investments in companies such as Waste Management and Sears, which got hammered due to earnings problems.

James Barrow, the portfolio manager of Windsor II, has a solid long-term track record as a value stock investor. While his 1999 performance leaves a lot to be desired, I wouldn't abandon the fund because of one year's performance. Many top money managers including the

likes of Peter Lynch and Warren Buffett, have had off years — sometimes even two or three in a row.

If you don't want the risk that your funds will underperform major market indexes, you do have an alternative. Index funds, which track major market indexes, ensure that you'll match a given index's return (after subtracting what should be low expenses).

Q: I bought Rite Aid in a Roth IRA. With their recent troubles and financial situation, is it time to take my losses? Also, is a loss a write-off in a Roth IRA since you paid taxes on the money going in?

A: Buying risky stocks inside in an IRA can be problematic from a tax-loss standpoint. When you lose money on an investment inside a retirement account, you aren't able to take that loss when realized as a deduction on your current year's tax return.

With a Roth IRA, the investment earnings aren't taxed upon withdrawal. Therefore, why invest your Roth IRA money into something risky that may not

produce any return that you can take tax-free from your account in the future?

I don't have an opinion as to the long-term prospects of Rite Aid, but clearly the stock has taken a beating this past year. Do some reading of the company's most recent quarterly reports and check out the current Value Line and Hoover's stock reports for the company.

Should you feel that the company has reasonable long-term prospects, you might as well hold on. Selling now will cause you to realize a loss that provides you no tax benefit. You've been in the stock a short time, so remind yourself that you're investing this money for decades, not months or years.

Write Eric Tyson, author of the best sellers "Investing for Dummies" and "Personal Finance for Dummies" (IDG Books), in care of King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017 or e-mail: eric@tyson.com.

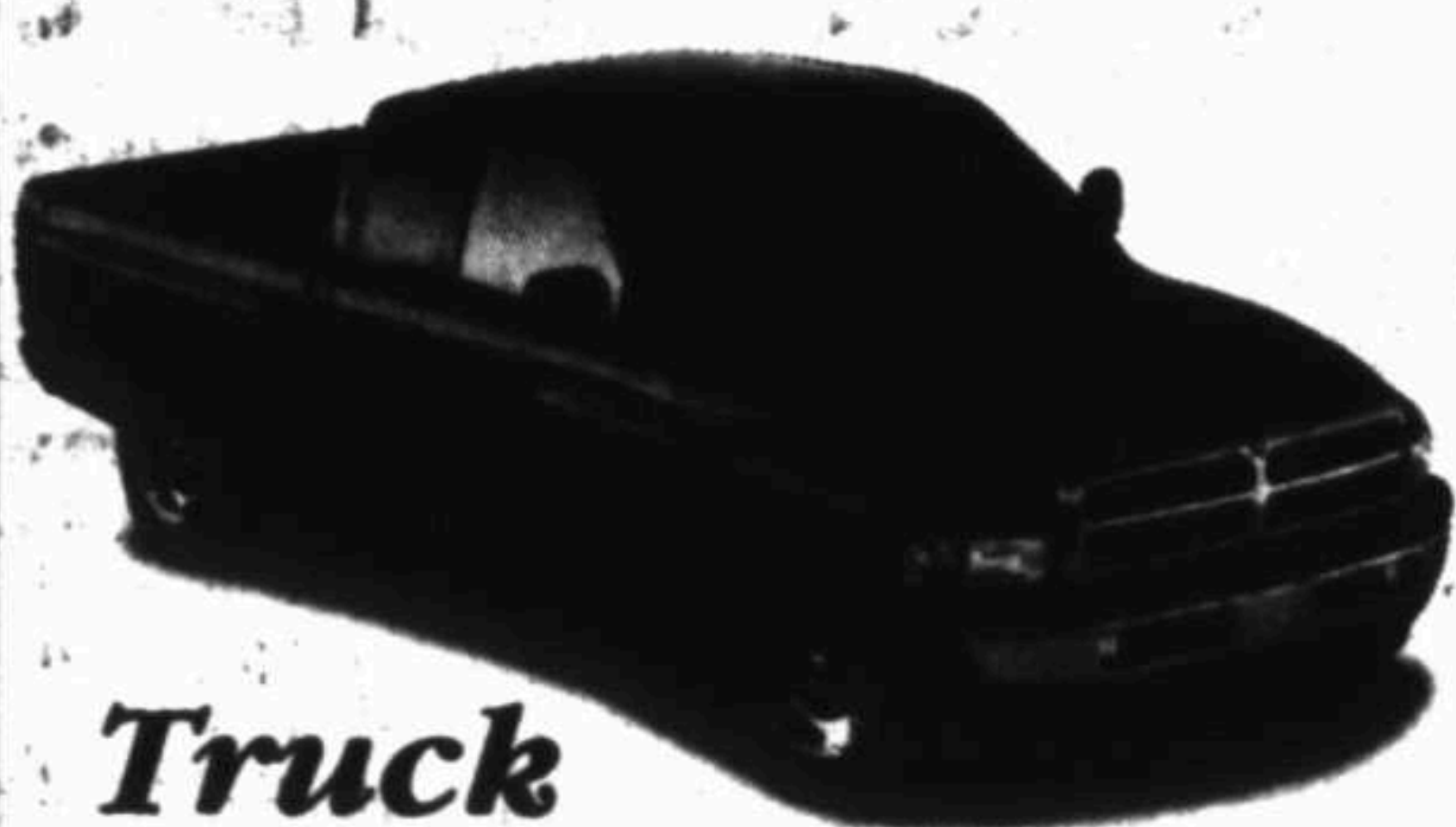
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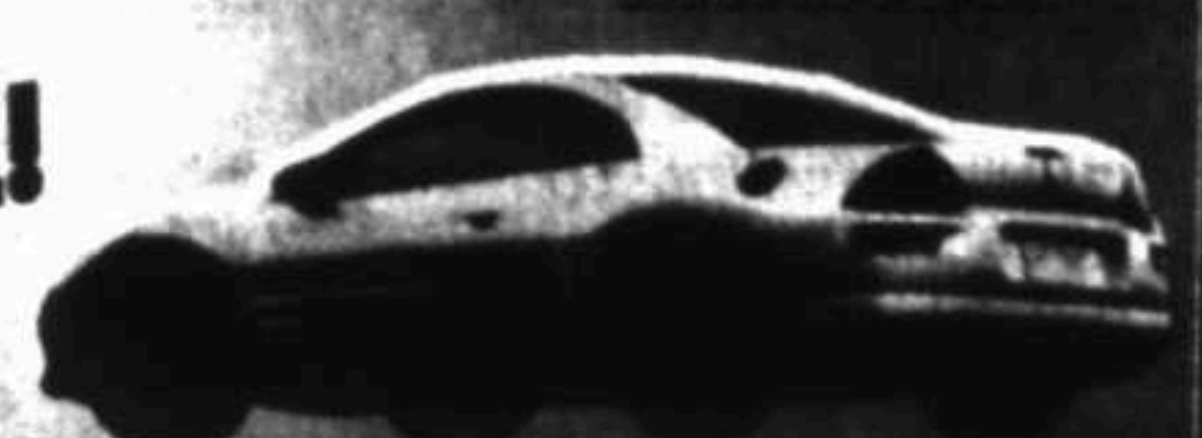
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U. Frank Williams Jr./Reporter-Telegram
Midland College's Loren Mostacilla tries to pull the ball away from Clarendon College's Kristen Hohenesse during the Lady Chaps' 110-43 win Thursday at Chap Center.

MC: Teams defeat Clarendon by 102 points combined

(From 1C)

et the Lady Chaps, who took a 67-20 lead at the half.

To go with Rampley's 27, five other Lady Chaps finished in double figures. Fatime Ndiaye had 22, Chanovia Rhodes added 16, Mia Battle had 12 and both Nikki Maloney and Shekinah Brazzle finished with 11 apiece.

Lady Chaps Notes: The record seven 3-pointers by Jordan was set during the 1994-95 season against New Mexico Junior College. Villarreal's seven treys came against Westark, Ark., earlier this season... The Lady Chaps were without two players on Thursday. Lange sat out her second straight game with a sprained knee. Jones said she should be able to play Monday at South Plains. Villarreal sat out her second straight game due to Coach Jones' decision.

MC Men improve to 4-0 in conference

The Midland College men set up Monday's big showdown for the WJAC lead against South Plains with a convincing win over the Bulldogs.

South Plains also remained undefeated in conference play with an 82-71 victory over New Mexico Military Institute.

On Thursday, the Chaps (17-3 overall, 4-0 in WJAC) took care of business at home unlike last year when the Bulldogs escaped Chaparral Center with a 68-64 win, although at times in the second half, there was some play that was reminiscent of last year's debacle against Clarendon, which didn't please Midland College's first-year coach Junsie Cotten.

"Clarendon's a better team since they've been in the past, but we came out, did some things and once we got a 20-25-point lead it kind of hurt us a little," said Cotten about his team's sluggish play in the final eight minutes of the game. "We started to play the scoreboard and not defend and rebound — those are two ingredients that we must have to help us win. I thought we started to practice bad habits which is not uncommon with a big lead."

It was about 30 minutes of great play by the Chaparrals that propelled MC to the big lead. The Chaps took a 61-33 advantage at the half and extended it by as many as 87-54 on a 3-pointer by Macklin Thornton, who finished with a season-high 17 points.

The Chap attack was pretty well-balanced as all but one player who entered the game scored. Four finished in double figures led by Teohn Conner with 23 points and 12 rebounds.

Eugene Costello, who's been averaging 24 points per contest, finished with a quiet 19 points. Alvin Brooks added 12. "I was happy to get some guys playing time," Cotten said. "I was disappointed that we didn't finish this team off the proper way. We started showboating a little and that's not what we're about."

This win, however, was the easiest conference game for the Chaps as the three previous wins were by a combined 17 points. The big test may come against SPC at the Texas Dome in Levelland.

"They're playing the best in the conference right now," said Cotten about the Texans. "They really struggled in the pre-season but they're undefeated in conference right now. We haven't had much success in Levelland but hopefully we can regroup and regain our intensity back and go a get a huge conference win."

Women

Midland College 110, Clarendon 43
Clarendon College (7-4, 1-3): Tiffany Martinson 0-2 0-0 0, Kristen Hohenesse 1-3 0-0 3, Shantia Ochsoms 0-1 3-5 3, Wendy Russ 1-3 0-0 3, Michele Cork 1-3 0-1 2, Chabris Lee 0-8 0-0 0, Lacy Lee 0-2 0-0 0, Dana Davis 3-4 0-0 7, Roni Henderson 9-15 2-4 20, Tameisha Manley 2-2 0-0 5. Totals: 17-40 8-10 43.

Midland College (18-5, 3-1): Tynesha Gregory 1-1 0-0 3, Loren Mostacilla 0-5 1-2 1, Jennifer Rosenthal 0-3 0-0 0, Melika Bailey 0-1 0-1 0, Shatosh Brazzle 4-10 1-2 11, Kanadria Wilson 2-6 2-2 7, Nikki Maloney 3-7 3-4 11, Julie Rampley 9-15 1-2 27, Mia Battle 5-6 2-2 12, Fatime Ndiaye 11-20 0-22, Chanovia Rhodes 5-11 6-7 16. Totals: 40-87 16-34 110.
Hofheim: MC 67, CC 20. 3-point goals: CC 4-9 (Hohenesse 1-3, Russ 1-3, Davis 1-1, Manley 1-1), MC 14-31 (Gregory 1-1, Rosenthal 0-2, Brazzle 2-5, Wilson 1-6, Maloney 2-5, Rampley 4-12). Total Fouls: CC 18, MC 14. Fouled Out: None. Turnovers: CC 32, MC 9. Rebounds: CC 20 (Hohenesse 4), MC 44 (Ndiaye 9).

Men

Midland College 106, Clarendon College 71
Clarendon College (8-4, 1-3): Brandon Martinson 0-5 0-5 5, Jason Moreland 1-2 0-0 2, Nick Yates 4-8 5-5 14, Omar Duren 2-5 0-0 6, Joey Ramirez 2-8 2-4 7, Kevin Thomas 0-1 0-0 0, Damien Tashy 3-8 3-4 9, Jorge Quintana 0-1 0-0 0, Allan Moore 1-1 0-0 2, Roper Ballew 0-1 0-0 0, Byron Dixon 6-10 2-4 14, Zach Hopkins 1-2 0-1 2, Marlon Lewis 4-5 1-2 1. Totals: 24-48 19-39 71.

Midland College (17-3, 4-0): Alvin Brooks 4-10 0-1 12, Eugene Costello 7-13 4-7 19, Arnon Whitaker 1-3 0-0 2, Teohn Conner 10-16 0-0 23, Arnon Tilton 3-6 2-5 8, Macklin Thornton 7-12 1-1 17, Ricky Duff 1-3 2-4 4, Quannas White 1-1 0-1 2, Adrian Martin 2-5 1-2 5, Jason Williams 3-6 0-0 6, C.J. Young 0-0 0-0 0, Jerome Beasley 4-7 0-0 8. Totals: 43-84 10-23 105.
Hofheim: MC 61, CC 33. 3-point goals: CC 4-14 (Campbell 0-2, Yates 1-2, Duren 2-4, Ramirez 1-5, Ballew 0-1), MC 10-19 (Brooks 4-9, Costello 1-1, Conner 3-5, Tilton 0-1, Thornton 2-3). Total Fouls: CC 17, MC 25. Fouled Out: None. Turnovers: CC 30, MC 18. Rebounds: CC 28 (Dixon 8), MC 52 (Conner 12).

LOCAL SPORTS

Basketball

Individual statistics are points unless otherwise noted.

BOYS

Midland White 75, Hood 64. For White: Cedric Johnson, 24; Ryan Roland, 10, 11 rebounds; Audrey Lee, 10; Lewis Martin, 11 rebounds; Ryan Owens, 10 rebounds.

Borita 70, Midland Purple 64. For Purple: A.J. Lawrence, 25, 11 rebounds; Ota Pita, 10, 10 rebounds; Anthony Jackson, 15.

SEVENTH GRADE

Midland Christian 49, Lubbock Christian 21. For MCHS (10-0): Jordan Fresh, 14; Joe Bob Rattall, 11.

GIRLS

San Jacinto White 52, Hood 54. For S.J. White: Tracy Mayfield, 14; Clair Williamson, 12.

Crookland 91, Abilene 55. For Abilene: Christa Pearson, 14; Hollie H.

men, 11, 18 rebounds; Megan Rhodes, 10. Abilene White 48, Goddard Black 47. For Abilene: Timelya Howard, 20, made winning free throw with four seconds left. For Goddard: Lindsey Moore, 15.

Seventh grade
Goddard Purple 25, San Jacinto White 19. For Goddard (1-1): Kyril Zepeda, 5. For S.J.: Kelli Taylor, 6.

Midland Christian 53, Lubbock Christian 13. For MC: Julie Jacobena, 6. San Jacinto Gold 47, Goddard Red 17. For S.J. Gold (2-0): Jennifer Kruetz, 12; Brittany King, 10; Melika Robinson, 8; Stephanie Mundy, 6. For Goddard Red: Lindsey Ewing.

Abilene Silver 28, Abilene Maroon 6. For Abilene (2-0): Rachel Redman, 28; Linda Kana, 11.

Abilene Red 22, Abilene Maroon 20. For Abilene: Stormi Salinas, 8; Goddard White 43, San Jacinto Purple 25.

Abilene White 24, Abilene Gray 16. For Abilene: Megan Waggoner, 10; For Abilene: Courtney Norris, 7.

Abilene Blue 32, Abilene White 7. For Abilene: Heather Kruetz, 12, 4 steals; Kristina Lott, 4 steals.

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Legal Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that the original Letters of Co-Administration for the Estate of William Hobby LeMay, Deceased, were issued on January 7, 2000, in Cause No. P12-962, pending in the County Court of Midland County, Texas, to: Sheila Hopper & Kenneth LeMay.

The Address of the Co-Administrators in this Cause is:

c/o George E. Patton
Attorney at Law
201 W. Wall, Suite 603
Midland, Texas
79701-4529

All persons having claims against this Estate which are currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED this 17th day of January, 2000.

George E. Patton
Attorney for the Estate of William Hobby LeMay
State Bar No.: 15627500

THE CITY COUNCIL of the City of Midland, Texas will hold a public hearing, at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, February 8, 2000 in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 300 N. Lorraine, on a request by **Alamosa, PCS, LLC, for a Specific Use Permit Without Term, for a Wireless Communication System, on Lot 1, Block 6, Polo Park, Section III, City and County of Midland, Texas.** (Generally located near the corner of the intersection of W. Loop 250 North and N. Garland Street). The meeting facility is accessible to disabled persons. A wheelchair ramp is located at the southeast entrance to City Hall. A parking space designated for use by disabled persons is available near the southeast entrance doors. Any disabled person needing special accommodations or hearing impaired persons wishing to have an interpreter should request services through the Administrative Services Department at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting by contacting David Hunter, Compliance Coordinator for the City of Midland, at (915)685-7250. If communication via TDD is required, please call 1-800-735-2989.

Sealed Proposals will be accepted by the County Purchasing Agent, First Floor, Suite 107 of the Midland County Courthouse, 200 W. Wall, Midland, Texas 79701 until 4:00 P.M. Local Time, on February 15, 2000. The responses will be opened and the names of submitter read aloud at 4:15 P.M. on February 15, 2000.

The Commissioners Court will select the primary vendor, following a review of the responses by all interested County officials, and award the contract. The Commissioners Court selection will be made within 30 days. Interested parties are invited to attend the bid opening and the Commissioners Court meeting.

Proposals must be received by the County no later than February 15, 2000, at 4:00 P.M. to be considered.

RFP 00MC229
Inmate Phone System

Midland County reserves the right to reject any or all of the responses, to waive all formalities, and to withdraw the RFP at any time.

RFP information may be obtained from the County Purchasing Agent's Office.

Paul M. Thompson
County Purchasing Agent

PUBLIC MEETING to describe and discuss local implications of the risk management plan including a summary of the off-site consequences analysis, submitted by LG&E Natural Gathering and Processing Company for the Sale Ranch Processing Plant located at Section 23, Bk 37, T-1N of Martin County, Texas pursuant to section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act. The meeting will be conducted on Wednesday, January 26, 2000 from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 noon at the Holiday Inn in Midland, Texas located off of Highway 80.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Baker Petrolite Corporation (BPC) welcomes our neighbors to attend our public meeting at Building A, Baker Petrolite Corporation on January 26, 2000 at 8:00 a.m. BPC would greatly appreciate our neighbors' input as a service to the oil and gas industry, our commitment to the safety of employees and the community, and our responsibility to protect the environment.

The purpose is to inform our neighbors that Baker Petrolite Corporation is committed to enhancing the community by support-

ing community efforts, continuous improvements in protecting the public and the environment, and meeting our local customer's needs. Seating may be limited. Please RSVP by 01/24/00 by calling the number listed below. For further information, contact D'Ann Wilkinson @ 495-7213 Baker Petrolite, Health Safety, Environmental Contact.

LEGAL NOTICE
Sealed Proposals will be accepted by the County Purchasing Agent, First Floor, Suite 107 of the Midland County Courthouse, 200 W. Wall, Midland, Texas 79701 until 4:00 P.M. Local Time, on February 15, 2000. The responses will be opened and the names of submitter read aloud at 4:15 P.M. on February 15, 2000.

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Paul M. Thompson
County Purchasing Agent

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300 Job Services
310 General Help
311 Medical Help
312 Professional Help
314 Clerical Help
316 Sales Help
318 Mgmt. Help
319 US Industry Help
323 Skilled Trade
330 Employment Wanted
335 Adult Care Needed
340 Child Care Needed
341 Child Care Prev.
350 Bus. Opps.
400 Auctions

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210 Autos/Foreign
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220 Trucks & Van
230 Commercial Vehicles
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240 Motorcycles
245 Trailers
250 Rec. Vehicles
255 Boats & Motors
270 Appliances
280 Auto Services
290 Parts/Accessories

RENTALS
200 Autos/Boats
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99 FORD RANGER XLT SUPERCAB FLARESIDE
13K Miles, Tilt, Cruise, 3.0 V-6, Cassette, Chrome Wheels
\$15,944

99 FORD RANGER XLT 4DR
3.0 V-6, PW, PL, 18,000 Miles, Supercab
\$15,995

98 GMC C-1500 SUB
Black, 14K Miles, Auto, Tilt, Cruise, Cassette, One Owner
\$16,988

97 DODGE JAM 1500 EXT. CAB
37,000 Miles, PL, PW, Cassette, Auto Trans., AC, One Owner.
\$17,488

98 EXPLORER XLT 4X4
Auto, AC, PL, PW, Factory Warranty, Blue, Only 28,000 Miles.
\$20,998

99 EXPLORER XLT 4 DR.
2 WD, AC, PL, PW, PS, Cassette, V6, Harvest Gold, 18,000 Miles.
\$23,193

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. - 6:30 P.M. • SATURDAY 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. • CLOSED SUNDAY

CREDIT PROBLEMS?
WE CAN HELP!
CALL 915-681-3299

Armando Sanchez, Mgr. John Weldon. Pete Cordova.

So Teles Express

220 Trucks

FORD 1999 F150 XLT, Quadcab, V8, 30K, CD, tinted windows, many extras \$19,500. 563-0993.

3-1997 F-150 Style Side, 2-1998 F-150 Style Side Pickups for sale. Mileages from 39,693 to 62,204. Call 688-0672 between 9 am and 5 pm Monday through Friday for details.

CHEVROLET 1993 SILVERADO 3/4 ton, 5 speed, very clean, drives great. \$7,500. 684-4017.

CHEVROLET 1996 Half-Ton Pickup. Original re-built 216 engine. New battery, near perfect body, no rust. \$4,000. 684-0150.

CHEVROLET 1994 Silverado C-1500 Ext. cab. 109K. Bedliner. Good condition. V-8. \$12,500. 520-8613.

CHEVROLET 1996 Extended cab, step-side only 44K, power windows/locks, bed liner, ready for a good home. Please call Phil at 697-3293.

CHEVROLET 1996 Extended cab. V-8, automatic, Silverado. 58,000 Miles. Super nice!! 2219 8th Street, Odessa. 580-0111 or 337-6700.

CHEVROLET 1997 C-1500. Sport side, 35K miles. \$13,988.

498-0200

SEWELL of Midland

CHEVROLET 1998 Extended cab Silverado, all power, with CD and cassette. Priced to sell. Please call Phil at 697-3293.

CHEVROLET 1999 Extended cab, "midnight black", power windows/locks, 10K miles, still under factory warranty. Please call Ken, 697-3293.

CHEVROLET 1999 Extended cab, silver metallic, all power, V8 Vortec, need to sell. Please call Baldo, 697-3293.

DODGE 1985 Ram. Red pickup, long, wide. Good condition. New paint/tires, chrome wheels. AM/FM CD. \$4,500. 697-2169. 681-9090.

DODGE 1991 DAKOTA SLT, club-cab. One owner less than 54K miles, V8 auto, \$6,000. 697-6881.

DODGE 1995 1500SLT-Ram, V8, long bed, loaded, bedliner, moped hitch, 88K miles, dark green, extra clean. \$8,995. 694-6844 MFP.

DODGE 1996 Ram 2500. Extended Cab, V8, 40K miles, white, Bed rails, running board, bed liner. \$23,000. Good condition. 561-2219.

DODGE 1998 Ram 1500 extended cab, all power, light silver, great truck. Please call Ken at 697-3293.

FORD 1986 F250, four wheel drive, supercab, low miles. 1989 Western Wilderness 9' camper fully equipped. \$8,000. Best offer. 689-0447.

FORD 1993 F350XLTDiesel. Clean, all power, automatic, am/fm cassette, external fuel tank. \$12,500. Call evenings 684-8682.

FORD 1996 F150 Eddie Bauer, power windows/locks, cassette, Tu-tone paint, 36K, 14,252. 694-7945.

ROGERS FORD NORTH

FORD 1986 F150-Regul-car cab, high mileage, CD player, good condition. \$5,500. Call 694-5295

FORD 1987 BRONCO-74K Miles. \$5,500. Call 684-8682 or 684-8683

FORD 1995 F250-Power windows, 3 speed manual, 58K miles, 150K miles. \$18,000. Call 681-8639.

GEO 1992 TRACKER-Hard top, bikini top, high. Great ride. 52K miles. auto owned. \$5,000. Call 686-0534 after 5p.m.

GMC 1999 Yukon 4x4 4 Door SLE. 350 V8, automatic. Priced thousands below book price! Call Ted. 580-0111 or 337-6700.

JEEP 1976 CJ-5, 6 cylinder, 3 speed manual, 35K miles. \$4,000. Call 689-6185

TOYOTA 1994 Land Cruiser. Excellent condition, leather, CD changer, sun roof. \$19,250. 685-3227.

FORD 1977 WINCH-truck. With Ramsey winch. Can pick up big trees. Asking \$1,850. 570-1955.

KENWORTH 1983 CAB-over-engine. Runs great, paint, look sharp. 35 steel in-dump trailer included. Work ready! \$20,500. Call 425-2677

FORD 1977 WINCH-truck. With Ramsey winch. Can pick up big trees. Asking \$1,850. 570-1955.

230 Commercial Vehicles

1996 HONDA GOLDWING Aspencade, red, 21K miles, side running lights, extra chrome, CB radio, lots more. Excellent condition. \$11,500. 684-8641.

1997 ROADKING-FOR-EST Green, 21K miles, 1000 miles on factory authorized rebuilt engine. Excellent shape with many extras \$16,900. 685-0517

MAX IV: four person amphibious 6 wheel drive. ATV. Like new condition. \$2,900. 689-6892. Serious inquiries only.

1991 HARLEY DAVIDSON/FLHTCUL Blue, real nice, will sell for \$12,900. Please call 915-683-6468 between 11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.

1996 HARLEY DAVIDSON Heritage Softail. Factory custom color, mango champagne, many extras. 14,000 miles. \$16,900. Call 570-9564.

YAMAHA 1984 VENTURE 1200 Tour bike. New paint job, good chrome, well maintained. 39K miles, matching helmets/intercom. \$3,500. 499-0259

YAMAHA 1996 V-MAX. 1200 CC, 145 HP. Shaft-drive. 9K. Excellent condition, very fast. Many extras. Asking \$6,950. 687-1530.

4X8 ENCLOSED TRAILER. Excellent condition. \$2,687-0707 or 528-8309.

1996 SCAMPER, 29' vacation trailer. Nice condition. 4213. Ram Hwy. Midland 570-9320.

1993 WILDERNESS-Firm wheel 27' long. Excellent condition, maver. Intercom. \$8,900. Call 915-268-1353

1997 TERRY 25' 1/2 Fifth Wheel camper. Slide out, microwave, sleeps six, excellent condition. \$16,300. Call 699-7593.

1988 STARCRAFT Pop-up. Excellent condition, loaded, 4213. Ram Hwy. Midland 570-9320.

2000 33' Grandeur. 17 slide out room, sleeps 9, microwave, washer/dryer. Recently washed, must see! \$15,000. Best offer. 699-1689.

36" 1999 SPINNAKER. Fifth wheel, all fiberglass, fully loaded. Excellent condition, originally \$50K. Will sacrifice low \$40's. Consider trade. 699-4107.

FOURWINDS 1993 26' Traveler. 2 Bedroom, full size power slide out, load. Used. 2 weeks. \$18,900. Best offer. (512)641-0655.

CASITA 1995 FREEDOM-DeLuxe 16', fully equipped, recreational vehicle, good condition, has awning. TV connection. \$6,500. Call Dan Spalding 915-684-7049.

1995 35' FIFTH WHEEL Road Ranger, stereo, microwave, excellent condition. Asking wholesale price \$18,200. 570-5767.

1995 COUNTRY AIRE Motorhome. 38' 12' slide, 16K, loaded, list on record. \$69,995 firm. 689-3374.

VERY NICE Motor home. 1985 34' SouthWind. New Dual air, new tires, rides on air bags. 50K. \$17,500. 915-687-2190.

1982 HONDA Goldwing Interstate. Road ready, loaded, ready to load. \$2,950. 699-0226.

1985 HONDA SHADOW. 11,800 Miles. Candy Apple Red. Excellent condition. \$1,500. 685-1361.

1998 KX 100. Runs great. Modified. race ready. \$2,000. Call after 5 688-9529.

1998 HARLEY Davidson Heritage Springer, 20K miles, owner. \$16,750. 687-4590 leave message.

KAWASAKI 1993 250-3 Wheeler, good condition, needs minor work. \$800. Call 688-2378.

KAWASAKI 1997 Ninja. Red and ready to go! Low miles. \$4,000. 570-0859, leave message.

240 Motorcycles

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KAWASAKI 1997 Ninja. Red and ready to go! Low miles. \$4,000. 570-0859, leave message.

260 Boats & Motors

1975 INVADER-with 1975 Chrysler 120 horsepower motor. Needs work \$500 or best offer. Call 522-2093 after 5 p.m.

1990 SKEETER 18.05 Bass Boat 150 HP Yamaha Pro-V Motor. Motor guide, trolling motor. Excellent condition. \$9,500. 570-4131. pager 620-3062.

1995 20' SKEETER 200ZXD Bass Boat. 200 Mercury, tandem trailer. \$15,500. 915/570-6281 days, 915/699-4928 evenings.

MACGREGOR-26 1992-SAILBOAT Trailerable, water ballast, 8 horsepower outboard, excellent shape, all the extras. Good family boat sleeps 6. \$11,975. 689-9377.

1998 LARSON SKI-Wake Board boat, 6' wake board pole, been to lake 6X, mint condition. \$11,500. 689-4113, 495-2638 pager.

1991 CAJUN 20 Fish & ski bass boat. 200 Johnson motor, loaded. \$8,500. Call 683-7939 or cell 664-8353.

1976 QUACHITA, 18' fiberglass, Fish-N-Ski, inboard/outboard, 140 HP, trolling motor, tandem trailer. \$1,850. Call 682-9007.

1996 SPRINT 17' fiberglass, 150 HP Johnson Fast Track, 2 depth finder, 2 fish finders, 200 Johnson motor, loaded. \$8,500. Call 683-7939 or cell 664-8353.

1994 CAJUN 18 11' fish/ski combination, loaded, 120 Johnson, one owner, well cared for and maintained. \$8,400. Call 699-2451.

CESSNA 150 1973- Pretty in and out. Leaseback available. Fly and make money at the same time. Call 915-682-5722.

BAMBOO GARDEN hiring for Cashier, Waitstaff, Bussers & Kitchen help. Apply in person 4400 N. Midland Drive. 699-4081.

BLIND BOX REPLIES When replying to a blind box number listed in an advertisement, address your reply to:

BOX Z-01 Midland Reporter-Telegram P.O. Box 1650 Midland, TX 79702

Readers who are interested in a position offered, but do not want their resume to go to certain companies, can simply address the reply to the specific box number and place it in another envelope addressed to "Classified Supervisor" & the address above. Include a list of the companies that you do not want your resume to reach. If the advertiser is anyone on your list, we will shred your resume without opening it. If you have any questions please call 682-2622.

We do not open or screen COMMERCIAL METALS Company, a leader in the scrap metal industry, is seeking experienced persons in plant dismantling, salvage, and demolition work in the West Texas area. Pay with full benefits. (915)337-1513.

COOK/CARETAKER needed full time for small Assisted Living Facility. Cook and care for eight elderly ladies and gentlemen. 687-2503.

CRUDE OIL DRIVER wanted. Must have Class A CDL with all endorsements. 2 years experience preferred. Call 683-5002.

CUSTOMER SERVICE Representative Needed- Large Internet company has an opening for a customer service representative. Must have professional appearance and good computer skills. Excellent pay + benefits. Please fax resume to: 570-5033. Attn: Management.

DELIVER DRIVERS needed. Will pay \$5.25 per hour plus \$1 per hour. Must have good driving record and be 18 years old. All applicants must apply in person with Amy. Mr. Gatti's, 614 W. Wadley.

FULL TIME Position open for general labor for nursery. Call 520-2144.

BEST TIPS IN TOWN-The Bar, downtown Midland, accepting applications for Waitstaff. Apply in person only. 605 W. Missouri between 8 am-10 am / 2-4 Monday thru Thursday. No phone calls please.

1956 CHRIS CRAFT, 17 foot Sportsman, inboard. Beautiful mahogany boat in perfect condition. \$15,000 or trade for Suburban. 682-1704.

280 Boats & Motors

1987 Phantom Bass Boat 18' 4", 88 horse power. Evinrude, trolling fish finder, two wet wells, lake ready. \$4,400. 687-0744.

CREST III 29' Pontoon Boat. New carpet, captain's chairs/stand, 85 horsepower Ford motor, custom 3 axle trailer. \$12,500. 683-8350.

1956 CHRIS CRAFT, 17 foot Sportsman, inboard. Beautiful mahogany boat in perfect condition. \$15,000 or trade for Suburban. 682-1704.

290 Boats & Motors

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300 Boats & Motors

1987 Phantom Bass Boat 18' 4", 88 horse power. Evinrude, trolling fish finder, two wet wells, lake ready. \$4,400. 687-0744.

CREST III 29' Pontoon Boat. New carpet, captain's chairs/stand, 85 horsepower Ford motor, custom 3 axle trailer. \$12,500. 683-8350.

1956 CHRIS CRAFT, 17 foot Sportsman, inboard. Beautiful mahogany boat in perfect condition. \$15,000 or trade for Suburban. 682-1704.

310 General Help Wanted

NEED EXTRA CASH? Earn full time money working part time while kids are in school. Ideal for homemakers and others. No sales experience required. Call Bill 687-8886

Attention Readers: See other opportunities under Classification and Instruction.

320 General Help Wanted

NEW CAREER!! MARKETING COMPANY HAVE 15 POSITIONS TO BE FILLED IMMEDIATELY. No experience necessary. Paid training for qualified applicants. CALL AMANDA 682-2335

330 General Help Wanted

GOOD VALUE • GREAT PEOPLE

COME EXPERIENCE THE TOWN & COUNTRY DIFFERENCE

• HEALTH INSURANCE

• FREE LIFE INSURANCE

• PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNTS

• TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

• DENTAL INSURANCE

• PERSONAL LEAVE

• MANAGER TRAINEE PROGRAM

95% OR MORE OF ALL SHIFTS HAVE TWO PEOPLE OR MORE ON DUTY, APPLY AT ANY TOWN & COUNTRY FOOD STORE LOCATION OR AT 7100 W. HWY. 80, MIDLAND OR FAX AT 915/563-2706

Nursing Career Fair

Nurses interested in part-time or full-time employment in the Dallas/Fort Worth area are invited to attend a FREE career fair January 26-27 (Wed./Thurs.) at the Garden Inn of Abilene (formerly Holiday Inn) 1625 State Hwy 351 at Interstate 20. A representative will be available 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to discuss nursing opportunities offering excellent compensation, benefits, bonus programs, and sign-on bonuses. Please call (800) 784-2116 to R.S.V.P.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in changing careers? Established growing company looking for enthusiastic, energetic candidates to manage impeccably maintained residential community for active senior adults. No experience necessary, background in property management helpful. Candidate must possess the following qualifications: enjoy senior adults, ability to provide leadership to 25 team members, computer skills helpful, high energy and positive attitude. Competitive salary with great benefits: health insurance, flexible spending option, profit sharing & 401(k), vacation & holidays. Career opportunity is located in Big Spring, TX. Fax resume to Tim Talman at (261)648-5367.

RANCH HAND/ GUIDE

housekeeping livin' positions available on a large hunting ranch. Call 915-448-4348.

REPRESENTATIVES

Needed: sell Avon part-time full time. Great earnings. Call Verna 520-0119, independent Rep.

SAFE PLACE has an opening for substitute support staff. Starts at \$5.40 per hour. Must be at least 23 years old. Must have a clean driving record and be available midnights to 8:00 am and holidays. Call 570-1465 for an application.

Schlitzky's Deli has openings for both day and night shifts. Work in a clean, grease-free environment. Apply in person at 1109 Andrews Hwy, Monday-Friday 8am-10pm or 2pm-4pm.

TAMPOCO SPANISH Inn is currently hiring kitchen staff. Please apply in person. 2411 West Wall, ask for Robert or J.R.

TEACHERS AIDE for home schooling Mom. Job requires office skills, baby sitting and some travel. References needed. Call 685-3439.

Telemarketing phone work. Talk on the phone? Easy. Easy. Easy! \$8-\$16/ hour. Full-time or Part-time. Days or evening. Hourly Commission plus Bonuses daily. No experience necessary. Will train! Call today. Start Tomorrow! Delivery Drivers Also Needed! Call Now! 685-7395.

TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT: Help needed to distribute special event brochures. Must have valid drivers license and liability insurance. Please call 522-2077, Monday-Friday, 9-5.

CITY OF MIDLAND
CASHIER/RECORDS CLERK
MUNICIPAL COURT

Accepts payment for Municipal Court violations. Data enters records into computerized system. Assists in creating and maintaining payment accounts. Monitors juvenile case files. Answers inquiries from the public regarding court procedures. Must have skill in the operation of various office machines including a computer, typewriter and calculator. Requires a high school diploma or equivalent. One to three years of experience in a clerical or cashier position preferred. Must pass a typing test with a minimum of 40 wpm. Closing date: 01/21/00. Wages & Hours: \$1,424.00/month, Monday-Wednesday and Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm, Rotating Thursday 8:00am-7:00pm. Applications accepted at: City of Midland, 300 N. Loraine, Room 120, EOE.

WANTED
Customer Service/
Purchasing Person

Applicant must have excellent people and phone skills. Job requires a working knowledge of purchasing and inventory control and a desire to do what it takes to keep the customer happy. Duties include invoicing and filing and record keeping. Excel and Word skills necessary. Benefits include insurance and 401K. Salary is commensurate upon experience. Send resume and salary requirements to: Box N-4189, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

DO YOU NEED A JOB?
WE NEED YOU!!

Please call DP Personnel for the following permanent positions:
Administrative Assistants • Receptionists
Secretarial & Clerical • Bank Teller
Accounting AP/AR/Collections
Legal Assistant • Computer Technician
Please call Ashley at 682-0033
DP Personnel • NEVER A FEE!

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING
ACCEPTED FOR CHARGE
NURSE (RN). Full time. You will like what you see when you apply in person. At spacious, clean, Midland Skilled Nursing Facility, 3201 Sage.

BONUSES! BONUSES! Nor Hiring PRN RNs: up to \$37.50. *LVNs up to \$30.00. NURSEFINDERS, 550-9399.

DENTAL: Experienced chairside assistant needed to add to our growing practice. Must have radiation certification and ability to assist with all phases of restorative and cosmetic dentistry. Requires self-starter, great communications skills, positive and caring attitude. We know you are out there! Please bring resume by Dr. Lou Ann Gray's office at 3000 N. Garland, Suite 220, Midland, TX 79704.

DOCTOR'S OFFICE: Nurse, full-time Monday-Friday. Previous medical office experience. Salary DOE, send resume to: PO Box 4911, Midland, TX 79704.

HOME HEALTH Aides/Staff: We will train and certify caring hard working people in these challenging positions. Excellent pay. Call 570-7587, Rhonda Grissom, for an appointment today.

OTR/COTA/PT/PTA/SLP: ONR is seeking skilled Therapists to join our teams in Odessa & Big Spring. Weekday/Weekend PRN offering competitive salaries & 401K. Additional Opportunities throughout TX & other states... ONR, Inc. Toll Free: 1-877-967-2415 Fax: 916-797-9705

NURSE NEEDED FOR busy Doctors Office. Full or part time. Please bring resume to 3620 N. Big Spring Street, Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.

INHOME CARE, INC. RN's & LVN's needed: Bilingual and home health experience preferred. Please come by 806 W. Indiana, Midland for more information. No phone calls please.

STUDENTS/
YOUNG PEOPLE
And Others
Ages 14 and Up
NEED
CASH?

Guys & Gals
Take This Job And
Love It!!!

You can earn \$25-\$150 commission per week working some evenings and weekends getting new subscribers for the Midland Reporter-Telegram. We have exciting programs for neat and dependable Jr. High, High School students and other interested persons to earn good money. Transportation from your home and return is available. No newspaper delivery is involved. No experience necessary. Parents welcome at interview.

Call Bill, 915-687-8886
(All messages will be returned)

Investment Representative

Essex Corporation, the country's largest third party marketing firm of financial products for banks, is currently seeking a highly motivated, sales driven, and energetic individual to market a complete line of mutual fund and annuity products for Ameritex Investment Group. Ameritex is located at First American Bank TX, SSB, retail bank branches throughout Texas. This specific opening is in Midland.

Applicant must possess current Group I insurance license and/or NASD series 6 or 7. Attractive benefits package includes health, dental, 401(K), and vacation. Mail or fax resume and salary history to:

Ameritex Investment Group
Located at First American Bank TX, SSB
Brett Giles - Program Director
3409 South 14th, Suite 200A
Abilene, TX 79605
Fax #915-695-1347
Phone #915-695-7010

MED TECH Ambulance is currently accepting applications for Paramedics, EMT-1 and EMT-2, in Midland and Odessa. Full time, Part-time and PRN. Call 580-5282.

MEDIAL/CLERICAL Full and part time positions available. Flexible hours, billing background helpful. \$9-\$13/hour DOE. Call (915)683-1129 or 800-582-9561.

MEDICAL FACILITY has positions open for prevention oriented LVN and RN. Registered Dietitian and a Certified Physical Therapist. Please send resumes to: PO Box 4186, Midland, TX 79704

TERRACE WEST Nursing Center, has contract openings for LVN/RN on 6-2 & 10-6 shift. If interested, please apply in person at: 2800 North Midland Drive, Midland, Texas, 79707.

LEASE SPACE for a Hairdresser or Nail Tech or both. Low lease. Call 694-4161 between 10am and 4pm, after 5pm 694-2471, ask for Pat.

MUD ENGINEERS

WANTED: Mud Engineers with 10 years minimum Permian Basin experience. Excellent benefits. Please submit resume. Responses held in strictest confidence. Joe Henderson, Newpark Drilling Fluids, Inc., P.O. Box 11245, Midland, TX 79702.

LOGGING
ENGINEER

An established California-based water and environmental company seeks a qualified engineer to operate our Arizona office. Prefer Q.H. experience, but will consider a C.H. engineer. Prefer NIMS equipment experience. Full benefits. Fax resume to: 681-634-2550.

BUCKNER CHILDREN & Family Services, Inc. is seeking Part Time Foster Care Developer to office in Midland. Must have Masters Degree in a Human Service field & 2 years child placing experience. Fax resume to (915) 689-2210 or mail to 1030 Andrews Hwy, Suite 113, Midland, TX 79701. EOE.

CPA FIRM requires Tax Preparer for tax season. Minimum 3 years experience. Salary commensurate with experience. Reply to: Box J-5005, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702.

GROWTH ORIENTED CPA Firm. We need experienced, self-motivated professional accountants with income tax related ground to participate in our growth. Contact Teresa Nunley, Trott & Company, L.L.P., 1101 Marlenfield, Suite 500, Midland, TX 79701. EOE.

HIGH SKY CHILDREN'S Ranch-Sky Together: Immediate opening in Midland. Bachelor's Degree and one year working with children or families required. One year related experience may be substituted for one year of college. Spanish/bilingual preferred. Reimbursement travel within 14 county area, serving families in their home. Salary \$1,908. EOE. Call for application (915) 699-1466.

WANTED: CERTIFIED Pharmacy Technician for independent practice. Good hours and benefits. Apply in person. Service Drug, North A and Schurbaugh Drive.

UPSCALE Salon and day spa hiring licensed manicurist and Esthetician. Guaranteed insurance and 401K. Please contact Ric 682-8299.

LEASE SPACE for a Hairdresser or Nail Tech or both. Low lease. Call 694-4161 between 10am and 4pm, after 5pm 694-2471, ask for Pat.

PLAINTIFF'S LAW Office seeks legal secretary. Knowledge of personal injury, salary negotiable, bilingual a must. Fax resume to: 915-570-0080, Midland, Texas.

EXCELLENT Opportunities available for self-motivated Journeyman plumber in service department. Full benefits, bring resume to 3009 Garden City Hwy, Midland.

CLASSIFIED CAN!

PART TIME
MEDICAL

Very busy Medical Office needs part time medical Receptionist for 6 weeks. Bilingual, helpful. Some computer input. Call 684-0627 for appointment or fax resume to 684-0636. No Fee.

TEMPORARY
RESOURCES
1601 W. TEXAS

PRODUCTION CLERK: Small independent oil company seeking experienced Texas & New Mexico production clerk. Job requires working knowledge of all RRC & NMOCOC reports & fittings. Resumes directed to Permian Resources, Inc. Robert Marshall, P.O. Box 590, Midland, TX 79702 or call 685-0113.

LOCKSMITH: Lubbock Lock & Key, a 30 year old full service locksmith company is seeking experienced inside and outside service technicians. We offer salary, bonuses, overtime, commission, vacation and holidays. Larry, (806)795-7117.

MACHINIST NEEDED for oil field Job Shop. Experience on lathes and mills required. Send resumes or applications to: Personnel, P.O. Box 1007, Big Spring, TX 79720.

MAINTENANCE: Midland/Odessa Apartment Communities have openings for SERVICE TECHNICIANS and GROUNDSKEEPERS. Competitive wages, great benefits, and an opportunity to excel in your career. If you take great pride in your ability and are a team player, please apply in person at Weldner Regional Office, 6 Delta Drive, Suite 1550, Midland, Texas 79705 or fax resume to 915-570-1686. EOE.

\$ LOOK \$ My Resume: 2 Years with a national bank. 5 Years with a Fortune 500 company. I made \$75,000 last year selling manufactured homes. Two positions open. Bilingual a plus. Call 520-2177.

SALES PROFESSIONAL: EOE. Easy sale, great income. Full or part time. 915/651-6875.

Now Hiring CNC Machine Shop Foreman. 10 Years machining experience required. 5 Years Foreman required. Knowledge of CNC Fadal Mill and CNC Hitachi Saiti Lathe Knowledge of Hardinge Screw machine helpful. Quality Control also an important part of the job. Excellent Pay and Benefits Call for an appointment or send in resume if calling after 5:00 PM. 915-363-8185 Attn: Danny Cox. If mailing resume: PO Box 4781, Odessa, TX 79760. Attn: Danny Cox

PLUMBER, licensed, good working and driving record. Personalized individual for service work. Drug test. Ken's Plumbing, 683-3224.

RAINBOW PLUMBING: Now taking applications for a licensed service plumber. Apply at 2009 Kern Highway, Odessa, 334-0508.

ROTO ROOTER is accepting applications for licensed plumber. Apply in person, 1410 Carter.

ENERGIZE YOUR FUTURE! Red Simpson, Inc., the largest Power Line Contractor in the South Central United States, is seeking a full time experienced Lineman for electrical pole line construction. We offer vacations, insurance, 401K, bonuses paid quarterly. Must have or be eligible for CDL. For information Call (915)721-0435.

EXCELLENT Opportunities available for self-motivated Journeyman plumber in service department. Full benefits, bring resume to 3009 Garden City Hwy, Midland.

NEW TODAY: 2. AKC CHIHUAHUA male puppy, seven weeks old. Please call 694-8149 for more information.

ADULT ENGLISH SITTTER bird dog, \$100-\$1200. English Cocker Spaniel puppies \$500. Call 580-4786.

1991 BRUTON Gosenock 3 horse start load trailer, \$3,900 or best offer. Excellent condition. (\$12,000 new). 398-5478/263-9498 leave message.

TO GOOD HOMES: Three adult cats, house trained, 2 female, 1 male. Call 570-1452.

FREE CATS: One male, one female, vaccinated, fixed, declawed. Very friendly. Moving/ cannot take. 684-4661.

LARGE Male Dog, brown with white covering, unusual markings. 699-5815/699-6457.

FREE FEMALE abandoned puppy, approximately 3-4 months. German Shepherd mix. 520-8599.

TO GOOD HOME: Moly & Moe, less than six month old kittens. Very sweet. 683-3873.

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MARTY'S MARKETPLACE

Leading you to the best bargains in Midland and the area!

Do you need to get rid of some of your extra goodies around the house? Don't want to spend a lot of cash? *Marty's Weekday Special 3 Line Ad 1 Item Priced \$300 or Less Monday through Thursday ONLY \$4.00 Call or Fax Classifieds today to schedule your special Marketplace ad!

682-6222 Fax 682-6999

*Private Party merchandise ads only. 1 item per ad. Price must be in ad to qualify. Other restrictions may apply, ask consultant for details.

3 PIECE Ecu colored sectional. Good condition. \$300. 682-6831 days. 520-2373 evenings.

SUPER SINGLE waterbed, headboard, 6 drawers, heater, mattress, rails, 500-1148.

BLACK TURNABLE TV stand. \$75 or best offer. 682-7885.

OAK CHILDCRAFT Baby bed, and matching dresser chest, \$300. Call 697-3308 after 6 p.m.

QUEEN SLEEPER sofa, excellent condition, light blue and brown plaid, \$275. Please call 699-5926.

2 TWIN NAVY Blue leather recliners and one large occasional chair, like new. Call xxx-xxxx.

MATCHING BROYHILL sofa, 93" length, light brown/white/beige. Excellent condition, 653-3300.

25" STEREO, COLOR-TV, Magnavox with remote. \$200 Call 620-0003 Leave message.

HUNTER GREEN wicker love seat, rocker, chair, table, with cushions, \$195. 503-1894 days, 698-8468 evenings.

REDECORATING. Light-blue contemporary Lazy Boy sofa and love seat. Perfect condition \$350. Call XXX-XXXX.

WASHER & DRYER. \$185 for set. Works good. Delivery available. Call after noon 683-7040.

4158 Miscellaneous Items
WANTED TO Buy: bird cages, CD players, boomboxes, baby walkers, high chairs, baby beds, Sega & Super Nintendo games. Call 682-6756 leave message.

429 Good Things To Eat
GARDENIALE PECANS. Shelling, selling and buying pecans. FM 554 and Gardendale 550-7809.

482 Household Furniture
3 PIECE Ecu colored sectional. Good condition. \$300. 682-6831 days. 520-2373 evenings.

483 Household Furniture
SUPER SINGLE waterbed, headboard, 6 drawers, heater, mattress, rails, 500-1148.

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GARAGE SALES

Hidden treasures? Junk?
Recycle your unwanted items!
Call 682-6222 today. A friendly Classified Consultant will help you create an ad that gets results!

79701
1600 WEST CARTER; Sofa bed, waterbed, full/ twin beds, microwave, TV, dining/ coffee/ end tables, Tykes, baby items, antique furniture, dinette, bikes, tools. 10 until 4! Miscellaneous!

MEME'S COLLECTION
3205 W. Cuthbert
915-520-0055

Quitting Business Sale!

Complete Inventory
(Antiques, Collectibles & New)
Plus Wonderful Displays & Window Treatments. Many Wonderful Items!
Don't Miss!!
Thursday 1/20 thru Wednesday 1/26- 10-6.
Sunday 1/23- 1-6.
Visa, M/C, American Express Accepted.

Habitat for Humanity Warehouse Sale!

1610 GRIFFIN
Saturday Only 8:00am-1:00pm
Go South on Big Spring (Rankin Hwy) then turn right on Griffin.

Building supplies, carpet, windows, wooden blinds, wallpaper, screens, ovens, cabinets, fluorescent lights, storm doors,ouvered doors, grout, thin set, offset printer, paint... even kitchen sinks!

ESTATE SALE

2205 BEDFORD
Fri.- Sat. 9 - 6

Tiffany Crystal candlestick, Etched crystal, French bowl, cup and saucer collection, Imperial, Italian, Blenko, Norman Rockwell, Mexican pottery, Mexican silver fishing trophies, Fire King, Cake stand, Set of antique dining chairs, Ranch Oak gun or china cabinet, Drexel bedroom set, Antique oak dresser, Breakfast set, vintage refrigerator, TV, recliner, King size bed, sewing machine and misc., Christmas, prints and water colors, minks, vintage record player and records, Samsonite chairs, books on Texas, Cast iron, antique tools, fishing equipment, mounted Sword Fish, plants and too much more to mention. Services provided by:
The Cats Meow
Visa - MC - AMEX

The Deadline for our Saturday Garage Sale Section is Noon Friday. Call 682-6222 to place your ad today.



Garage Sale

ZIP CODES

CO. RD. 60

LOOP 250 W.

WADLEY

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3003 MICHIGAN FRIDAY & Saturday
7:30 to 7 Adult and childrens clothes, toys, Ford Ranger truck parts, dirt bike (10X-500). Furniture, and lots of miscellaneous.

79703
4411 W. ILLINOIS, Suite A6. Book Store Going Out of Business. Paperbacks at 10% of original cover price; Hard Backs 99¢. Lots of children's books. 694-0761.

3301 PRINCETON. 8 to 3. Three Families! High chair, stroller, Home Interiors, clothes, toys, miscellaneous.

600 CANYON DRIVE: Friday only. Computers/ software, gym set, storm door, microscope set with slides and miscellaneous.

4000 MONTY: Friday- 9:00- 2:00! Avon, clothes- childrens- 3 to 8, adults- all sizes, glassware, material, cassettes, video tapes, microwave, toys, bed frames, jewelry, odds and ends! Come and see!

4504 LEDDY DRIVE: Saturday- 9:00- 7. Lots of miscellaneous items!

79705

★1603 SEABOARD: Saturday only.

Between "I" St and "L" St. in alley. Furniture, clothes, kitchenware, miscellaneous. No early birds please. 8am-4pm Saturday only.

3106 NEELY: Saturday only- Antiques close out sale! No reasonable offer refused. 557-5416.

The Deadline to place an Ad in our Saturday Garage Sale Section is Noon Friday. Call 682-6222 to place your ad today.

→ NEW TODAY ←

MOVING SALE- Something for Everyone! Beds, kitchen items, clothes, shoes, computer and desk, BBQ smoker, knick knacks and more. Friday and Saturday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. In alley behind 2406 Stutz place.

→ NEW TODAY ←

MOVING SALE 1502 Neely. Furniture, clothing, Igloo dog house, linens, and much more. Saturday only! 8 a.m. to Noon. Absolutely no earlybirds.

4107 IRVIN (East on Loop 250, right on Todd, right on Shanks, right on Irvin): Moving sale, couch, coffee/ end table, 2 oak tables, highchair, miscellaneous baby items/ toys, clothes. Saturday 8:00am- 3:00pm.

79705
5002 BELLGROVE (north on Garfield, left on Keswick, right on Bellgrove). Large Garage Sale! Thursday- Saturday 8:30 to 5. Two twin beds, dresser with mirror, several chests, desk, shop vac, pet carriers and cage, computer desk, 36" inlaid glass door, antique piano, John Wayne framed pictures, restaurant dishes, books, records, jewelry, lots of toys. Seated massage chair. Handled by Floy Maberry.

5138 ASHDOWN PLACE; 684-5209.

Saturday- 8:00 until 12:00! (May call Friday). Lots of furniture, computer, word processor, desk, artificial trees, lamps, bi-fold doors, bicycles, etc. Great stuff- like new!

79706

2840 RANKIN HIGHWAY: Giant yard sale. Friday only. Won't start until 11am due to large amount of items. We have lots of good clothes- like jeans, shoes, coats, etc. Prices start at 25¢, nothing over \$2.00. Plus miscellaneous items.

79707

★3716 HUMBLE: Multifamily, Saturday

7:30am. Clothes, housewares, toys, decorative items, 2 garage doors with hardware 8x7, wooden and full glass doors- 36", miscellaneous items.

4013 Baybrook Drive
Mockingbird Heights
SATURDAY 8A-11A
Garage- Alley entrance

DESIGNER ACCESSORIES
GREAT FURNITURE AND ART
CLOTHING, DESIGN BOOKS, CRAFT KITS
FABRIC, HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS, CHINA
WORTH YOUR TIME!

5480 CYPRESS COURT (Greentree): Saturday only 9:00am- 3:00pm. Color TV, VCR, dishes, clothes, much more.

4749 BOULDER (alley): Multifamily. Furniture, appliances, blinds, lots of miscellaneous. Saturday only 8:00am- 1:00pm.

GARAGE SALE SERVICES

DON'T MISS OUT!
The deadline for a Saturday Garage Sale ad is Friday at Noon.
Please be sure to call 682-6222, before noon, to ensure your ad will be in Saturday's paper.

\$20.50 \$20.50 \$20.50 \$20.50
GARAGE SALE AD PACKAGE
\$20.50

- ★ 7 Lines (approx. 28-35 words)
- ★ 2 Days
- ★ Stand Out Emblem
- ★ Garage Sale Kit (includes Signs, Stakes, Marker, Balloons, Helpful Hints, \$6 Value!)
- ★ Package of Flavored Drink Mix (for the Kids to Open a Drink Stand!)
- ★ \$3 Off Classified Coupon (Place an ad to sell those left-over garage sale items & get \$3 off!)

Or Get 3 Days for Only \$24.50!

Call 682-6222 Today!

\$20.50 \$20.50 \$20.50 \$20.50

Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year

Millennium Specials!

LIMITED TIME ONLY

\$99.00

TOTAL MOVE-IN

Register For Jet Ski
Ask for details

1 BEDROOM BATH	1 Large BEDROOM BATH
\$289	\$299
2 BEDROOM BATH	3 BEDROOM 2 BATH
\$399	\$599

Remote Access Garages
\$50.00
5x10 Storage Units
\$15.00

4405 N. GARFIELD 682-1659

Happy New Year Happy New Year Happy New Year

510 Apartments

UNFURNISHED APARTMENT- Good condition, \$400/ month, 501 West Scarborough Drive Unit 8 687-6325.

CEDAR ELM Apartments: 2 Bedroom Townhouses and studio apartments. All bills paid including basic cable. 570-4611.

Enjoy your New Home at
HUMBLE RIDGE
with affordable rent. Free Rent-1st Month. 1 Bedroom. Call about our new specials Today!!!
520-0023
4201 Andrews Hwy Midland, TX

THE BEST KEPT Secret in Midland! Regency Townhomes, 721 Dangle. Extra large 2 bedrooms, fireplaces, trash compactors. 563-4550.

GOLDEN PARK Duplexes- 3100 Kansas. 2 Bedrooms \$199 Move in Special. 520-0133.

TIERED OF ELEPHANTS walking above you, move in to Courtyard For \$99 this month with no application fee! Call 682-3631.

NEW TODAY!
LARGE 2 BEDROOM, 1 bath, washer and dryer connections. \$295 monthly. 4409 B. Crockett Street. Call 699-4182

SUTTON PLACE
TOWNHOME Garden setting. Tired of closet size bedrooms and wall to wall beds? Don't settle for 550 square feet, our smallest unit is 1,050 square feet. Enjoy Sutton Place spacious living. A Midland tradition. Assigned covered parking. Call about our move in special! 682-2423.

SAGEWOOD CONDO, 1999 Move in Special! 1 & 2 Bedrooms, 3300 Caldera Blvd. 699-1693.

LAS COLINAS, Midland's foremost townhouses, 1, 2 & 3 bedrooms, \$495 to \$695. Open 3-6 pm except Sundays. Leisure Estates 682-5622.

OVERSIZED 1 and 2 bedroom apartments, for as low as \$200 monthly. Pinhurst Apartments, 681-3999.

GARAGES, 1, 2, & 3 Bedrooms, \$399 to \$599. Open 3-6 except Sundays. Leisure Estates 682-5622.

SAGEWOOD CONDOS, 1 bedroom apartment available, covered parking, pool and club house. Call 570-4884.

Vacuum Cleaners, \$20 and up. New, used and rebuilt. Large selection, all brands. Kirby, Rainbow, Hoover, Oreck- you name it! Repair all makes. 1005 North Midland, 520-6464.

LOWEST RATES EVER! Call for information at The Clusters Apartments, 4415 Northcrest Drive. 699-7941.

VILLA TRIESTE Apartments, 4331 Dangle. Quiet living in pleasant atmosphere. 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms available. \$50 discount through February, \$100 Deposit. \$20 application fee, refundable if applicant qualified. No deposit/ application fee for Senior Citizens. For appointment call 694-9311.

LARGE ONE bedroom in covered brick- you see basic cable. \$295 monthly. 1/2 Off the first month's rent! American Realty, 520-7577.

Forty-Four Hundred Has Just What Your Looking For-

- * Beautiful Landscaping * Fireplaces
 - * Professional Management
 - * 5 Spacious Floorplans
 - * Washer & Dryer Connections
 - * Membership To Worlds Gym
- Apartments Starting As Low As \$340**
We Just Look Expensive

The Move's On Us
ASK FOR DETAILS

Forty-Four Hundred

4400 Andrews Hwy. 697-7973

FLASHBACK TO THE 70's

\$79 MOVES YOU IN

Check out these amenities:

- Super Clubhouse
 - Groovy Tennis Courts
 - Way Cool Pool
 - Far Out Landscaping
 - Way Hot Burning Fireplaces
 - Washer/Dryer Connections
 - Tubular Large, Spacious Closets
 - Cool Private Patio or Balcony
 - White-Knights Auto Assistance
 - 24-Hr. Maintenance Guarantee
- 873 Square Feet**
One Bedroom/Den/One Bath
Selected units/Limited Time

WILDFLOWER APARTMENTS

4301 Raleigh Court • Midland, Texas 79707
Phone (915) 699-5570 • Fax (915) 699-1705

610 Apartments Unfurnished

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330 Stalled Trucks

THE HANOVER Company is seeking Field Service Mechanics to service natural gas engines and compressors in Gillette, Wyoming. Minimum 2 years experience. Must have own hand tools. Company truck provided. Competitive wages, 401K and insurance. Relocation allowance. Submit resume to the Hanover Company, P.O. Box 1599, Gillette, Wyoming 82717.

330 Child Care Providers

MS. DEBBIE'S Playroom has openings for Little Tikes. State registered home. Call 520-6239.

330 Business Opportunities

→ NEW TODAY ←
DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED: Ground floor opportunity. Patented medical breakthrough. Training and Support by medical doctors. Low investment. High return. Call 800-480-9613 for product information, then call 800-925-5772 for distributor information.

330 Adult Care Providers

IN HOME CARE provides care for almost any situation, at affordable rates. For more information or questions, call (915) 570-1475.

330 Child Care Needed

WANTED: NANNY to care for children. Educational, light cleaning and some cooking. Part time and possibly full time position available. Apply within 3416 W. Wall, Suite 101, Midland, Texas 79701.

330 Child Care Providers

MOTHER OF TWO will care for your children in my home. Dependable, excellent references, great rates and quality care. M/F please call for more information, 694-1970.

1 BABYSIT. Monday- Friday. 2pm- midnight.

Please call 699-2314.

SCHOOL TEACHER

turned "stay at home mom" to care for your child. Fun Activities, Learning, Down 694-6805.

341 Child Care Providers

MS. DEBBIE'S Playroom has openings for Little Tikes. State registered home. Call 520-6239.

350 Business Opportunities

→ NEW TODAY ←
DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED: Ground floor opportunity. Patented medical breakthrough. Training and Support by medical doctors. Low investment. High return. Call 800-480-9613 for product information, then call 800-925-5772 for distributor information.

350 Auctions

PUBLIC AUCTION: Saturday January 22, 2000. 10:00 a.m. 3201 West Wall, Midland TX: 14 Offices: Nice office furniture and equipment. Executive desks sets, file cabinets, copier, faxes, plants, accounting tables, decorator items, hall trees, bronze, artwork, computers, phone systems, office supplies, all types of chairs, postage machine, typewriters, work tables and much, much more. 915-570-9599. Call or fax: 915-570-9599. Call or fax: 915-570-9599.

Attention Readers

Occasionally, ads found in this section come from distant points & the Midland Reporter-Telegram cannot always know the merits of the offers. We suggest when you are in doubt that you call the Better Business Bureau before signing any contract/ or giving out your credit card or bank information.

OPPORTUNITY For Local Artists

Looking for artists with an emphasis on Pottery, like colors. Wild, loud and bold. Mediums including but not limited to: Pottery, canvas, sculpture, rugs, quilts, candles, soaps, clothes, needle work, basket weaving, pillows, furniture, metal art. Anything unusual and colorful. Please call Cathie Rae 915-570-0991. Monday- Friday 9:00 to 5:00 for a unique opportunity.

LOCAL VENDING Route

for sale. Machine already placed. Make your own hours. 688-3143 after 5.

350 Business Opportunities

FISHING RESORT on Lake Fork. 90 trailer hook ups, boat storage, launch ramp. 19 piers, mobile home for office and home, tractor and back-hoe. Send inquiries to: Resort, Box 32, Alba, TX 75410.

400 Auctions

Get your Real Estate license quickly, short day, weekend, evening classes. Southwest College 697-7277

600 For Rent

ALL real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such discrimination, limitation or restriction. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on equal opportunity basis.

600 For Rent

Residential rental locations are required to be licensed by the Texas Real Estate Commission (P.O. Box 12188, Austin, TX 78711. 1-800-250-8732 or 512-465-3980).

600 For Rent

WIDOW WILL share nice home with Lady. Furnished bedroom or more available. 689-0571

600 Apartments

1210 COLLEGE. Efficiency. \$275. 1 Bedroom. \$350. \$500 Deposit. Bills paid. Inquire real estate agent.

AVAILABLE NOW- 1 or 2 bedrooms, pool, laundry, carports, all utilities paid.

Imperial Apartments, 405 Sunset. 694-9978.

ALL BILLS Paid. Furnished, 1 & 2 Bedroom, downtown, quiet complex. To see apartments call 682-3589.

600 For Rent

600 Rooms for Rent
601 Hotel Rooms
602 Roommates Wanted
603 Want to Rent
604 Apts. Furnished
605 Apts. Unfurnished
606 Houses Unfurnished
607 Condo/Townhome
608 Condo/Townhome
609 Mobile Home
610 Mobile Home Space for Rent
611 Business Office
612 Property for Rent
613 Comm'l Prop
614 Warehouse/Storage
615 Rec./Pleasure
616 Out of Town
617 Hunting Leases
618 Oil/Gas Leases
619 Other Miscellaneous

RENTALS 600

600 Rooms for Rent
601 Hotel Rooms
602 Roommates Wanted
603 Want to Rent
604 Apts. Furnished
605 Apts. Unfurnished
606 Houses Unfurnished
607 Condo/Townhome
608 Condo/Townhome
609 Mobile Home
610 Mobile Home Space for Rent
611 Business Office
612 Property for Rent
613 Comm'l Prop
614 Warehouse/Storage
615 Rec./Pleasure
616 Out of Town
617 Hunting Leases
618 Oil/Gas Leases
619 Other Miscellaneous

★ LARGE TWO bedroom, one bath, washer/dryer connections. Newly redecorated. \$295. 3013 West Michigan, 520-0118.

★ LARGE EXCEPT

TIONALLY nice two bedroom, two bath, large closets, patio, covered parking, free basic cable, free laundry facility. \$475 monthly. Located in beautiful, quiet Whispering Oaks 1904 North Midland Drive. 694-4001.

BENCHMARK Leasing. 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms. \$199 Move in Special! 522-2151.

1006 W. INDIANA, APT. #2 & 3. 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. No pets, water paid. \$175 monthly. \$100/ deposit. 682-1808 leave message.

THORNWOOD Apartments

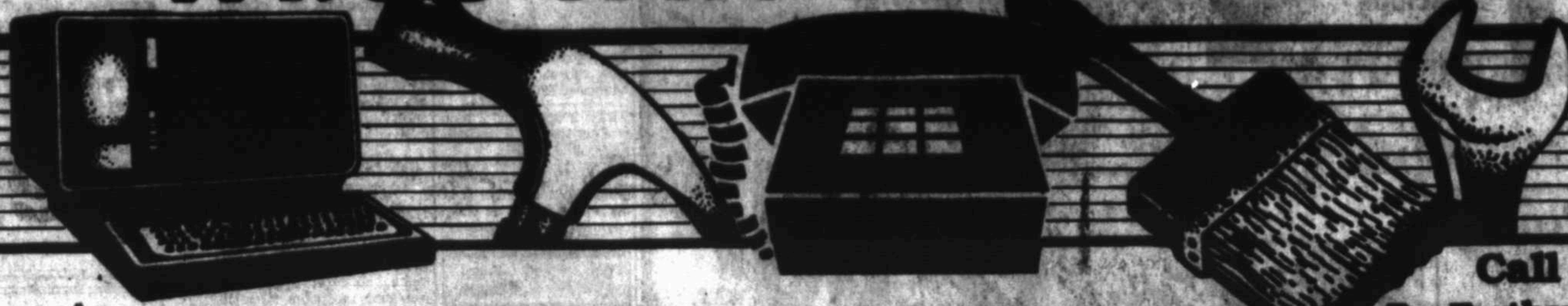
Great Great prices, 1, 2, & 3 Bedrooms, Free Cable. Senior discounts. 682-5381.

SANTA FE APARTMENTS

\$99 Total Move in Special. Call for details 694-1349

Too many treasures cluttering up the garage? Give someone else the chance to enjoy them! Call for info on our **Garage Sale Specials** 682-6222

Who's Who For Service



Call 682-6222

For Further Information

You can advertise your business in Who's Who For Service for as little as \$49.55 monthly

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