BIG SPRING HERALD

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Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

50 CENTS DAILY/$1.25 WEEKEND

MONDAY

February 28, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 34°-37° TOMORROW 67°-69°

BRIEFLY

Kiwamis Club to host pancake feed

The Big Spring Kiwanis Club's 60th Pancake Supper will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday in the Howard College cafeteria.

The all-you-can-eat meal includes pancakes, sausage, bacon and a drink for $5 per person.

Senior driver course offered

A senior citizen driver safety course will be taught at the Big Spring Senior Center March 2-3.

The course will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. each day with a half-our lunch break.

There is a $10 fee for books. Most auto insurance companies give a discount on insurance premiums when the course is completed. To register, call the Senior Center at 267-1628. Class size is limited to 35.

The course is the nation's first and largest classroom refresher for motorists age 50 and older.

Cook-off slated to help FHS band

A benefit barbecue cook-off for the Forsan band trip to Washington D.C. is set for March 12 at 703 W. Third. Categories are brisket, pork ribs, chicken halves, sausage and jackpot beans.

Cooking will begin early that morning and judging will be at 1 p.m. Dining begins at 1 p.m. also.

Registration is $10 per category and plates are $5 per person. Cooks may register now by calling 263-6862.

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To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday.

Weather spotter school open to everyone

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer



Chamness

With the severe weather season set to begin in less than a week, how sharp are your weather spotting skills?

That's the question the National Weather Service is asking local residents, as it gets ready to hold weather spotting classes March 10 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.. at the Big Spring City Council Chambers.

"The Weather Spotter School is put on by the National Weather Service to train people in the community on how to look at the clouds and conditions and tell what's going on," said Terry Chamness. "It's very intense. It's very good training and it's only a two-hour class.

"They will also have information on how to go online to the National Weather Service Web site and track the weather on their radar sites. That way they can see what's coming up."

Chamness said the course will cover the most common severe weather situations for the Howard County area in hopes of preparing area residents for the worst-case scenario.

"It's really a lot of good information for people to have," said Chamness. "It gives people a basic knowledge of what severe weather is like in our area. Since we're getting ready to head into the severe weather season March 1, which lasts until October, this is really important information to have. Springtime is when we really get a lot of the severe weather — things like hail and

See **SPOTTERS**, Page 3A

BRIEFLY SPEAKING...

What: National Weather Service Weather Spotter School.

Where: Big Spring City Council Chambers.

When: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 10.

Cost: Free.

Gem dandy!

Rockhounds get ready for annual show at fair barns

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Prospector's Club will be polishing and cutting the rocks and gems to perfection this week, as they get ready to present the 36th Annual Gem and Mineral Show Saturday and Sunday.

Prospectors Club Secretary-Treasurer Lola Lamb has been helping to coordinate the event for many years now, and said there will be something for everyone in the family at the show, which will be held at the Howard County Fair Barn.



"A lot of people probably don't realize what can be inside what appears to be an ugly old rock."

—Lola Lamb

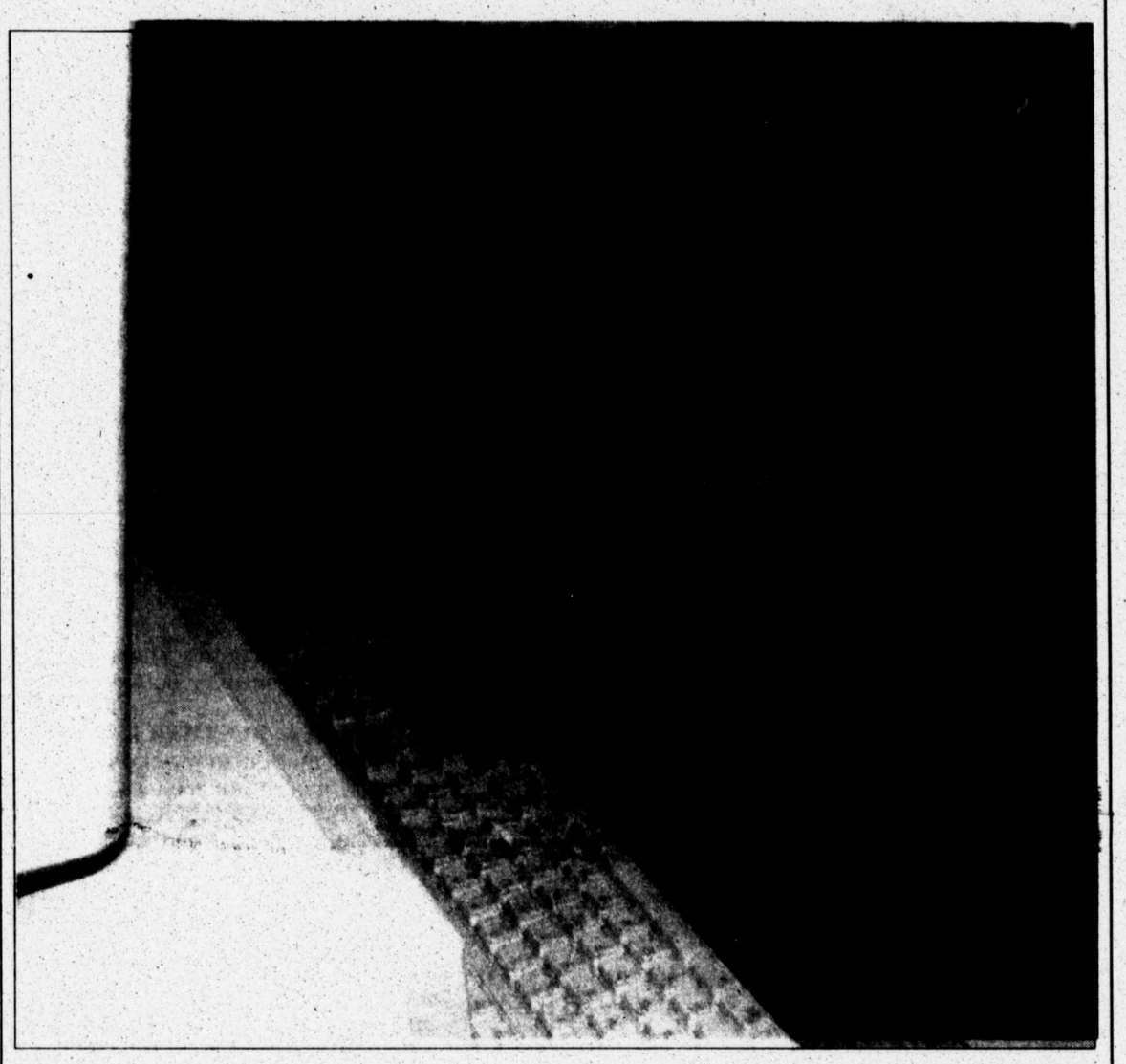
"Admission is free," said Lamb. "We'll have dealers and demonstrations and the spinning wheel will also be there for the children. We'll also have a snack bar and plenty of displays of work done by people locally, as well as some of the vendors.

"A lot of people probably don't realize what can be inside what appears to be an ugly old rock. There will be plenty of displays showing what is actually inside a rock, and how it's worked into jewelry. Several people at the show will be working with the stones so people can see the process they go through first hand."

Lamb said demonstrations are a major part of the Gem and Mineral Show, which is slated for 9 a.m. until 5

See **SHOW**, Page 3A

RAINY DAY FUN



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Rainy weather didn't take the fun out of 6-year-old Rene Villa's day, as he plays a computer game at the Boys Club Friday afternoon. Villa attends kindergarten classes at Bauer-Magnet School. The Big Spring Boys Club is open to all boys currently attending school for a $3 annual fee. For more information, call 263-1822.

Personal incomes drop sharp 2.3 percent

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Personal incomes which had been bolstered by a large stock dividend payment in December plunged 2.3 percent in January, the sharpest decline in more than a decade. Consumer spending was flat, the government reported Monday.

The Commerce Department said the sharp January drop in incomes followed a record 3.7 percent jump in incomes in December with both months heavily influenced by a $3 per share dividend payment that computer software giant Microsoft made on Dec. 2.

The number of new single-family homes sold in January fell 9.2 percent, the agency said in a second report.

The worse-than-expected performance pushed new home sales down to 1.11 million units at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in January compared to a revised December rate of 1.22 million units. Last week, the National Association of Realtors reported that sales of existing homes and condominiums had fallen as well in January, dipping a slight 0.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.8 million units.

Both sales of new and existing homes set all-time highs in 2004 for the fourth consecutive year. Economists are forecasting a retreat from those highs this year as mortgage rates are expected to start rising.

Without the huge $32 billion dividend payment by Microsoft, personal incomes would have shown steadier gains of 0.6 percent in December and 0.5 percent in January.

Personal spending was unchanged in January after having risen by 0.8 percent in December. This reflected the fact that demand for autos sagged last month as dealers removed attractive incentive offers they had used to spur end-of-the-year sales.

Consumer spending is expected to post solid gains again this year, bolstered by continued improvements in employment, but not quite up to the pace in 2004. Last year,

See **ECONOMY**, Page 3A

Lawsuit over 2002 election spending goes to trial

By JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Republicans swept to complete power in state government in 2002 when the GOP seized majority control of the Texas House for the first time since the 1870s.

But just below the din of Republican celebrations, Democrats cried foul with allegations that the election was hijacked by illegal campaign spending of corporate donations to influence the outcome.

Today, a civil lawsuit filed by five Democrats who lost elections will reach a courtroom. The trial before state District Judge Joe Hart is expected to last a week.

The Democrats allege Bill Ceverha, a former state House Republican who is now treasurer of the Texans for a Republican Majority political action committee, or TRMPAC, conspired to illegally collect and spend about $600,000 in corporate contributions that targeted them in their races.

Texas law bans the use of corporate money to influence the outcome of an election but allows its use for administrative costs for political committees, such as rent or utility bills.

The Democrats also allege that corporate contributions were not properly reported to the Texas Ethics Commission.

"The question in this case is whether secret, undisclosed corporations are going to control the political process through large campaign contributions," said Cris Feldman, one of the attorneys for the five Democrats.

Evidence that may emerge in this week's civil trial could affect an ongoing criminal investigation into 2002 legislative election spending. That investigation has resulted in indictments against three top fund-raisers for U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Texans for a Republican Majority, created by DeLay, is an offshoot of his national fund-raising committee, Americans for a Republican Majority. DeLay has not been accused of any wrongdoing. He has not been subpoenaed in the civil case and has congressional immunity from being forced to testify in a lawsuit.

Ceverha's attorney, Terry Scarborough, said TRMPAC did make campaign contributions to several candidates but the money came from funds collected by individuals and entities other than corporations. He said all those donations were properly reported both by the political committee and the receiving can-

See **TRIAL**, Page 3A

FEB 28 2005

Obituaries

Louise Curry

Louise Curry, 80, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 27, 2005, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Nellie Ida Alexander

Nellie Ida Alexander, 97, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 28, 2005, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Mattie Boling

Mattie Boling, 87, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 27, 2005, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Mary Bartlett

Mary Bartlett, 63, of Big Spring died Monday, Feb. 28, 2005, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the in the 3000 block of Sherrod Road. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1600 block of Harding. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of Terry Road. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2700 block of North Birdwell. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Gregg. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of East 15th St. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 2500 block of Gregg. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 5700 block of Cedar. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of East 11th. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3000 block of South Anderson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2500 block of Gregg. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VA Medical Center.
- **A STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 4700 block of North Highway 87. The fire was extinguished.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 8, 13, 21, 23, 24 Bonus Ball: 14.

Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: None.

Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: $15 million.

•••

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 11-14-17-19-33.

Number matching five of five: None.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon: 0-4-6

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 5-5-4

Take note

❑ **YOUNGLIFE ROUNDUP BANQUET** is set for today at 6:30 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Community Center. Round-Up provides community members an opportunity to enjoy a catered barbecue dinner while learning about the activities that take place during YoungLife club. For more information or to contribute to YoungLife, call leader Shelly Warren at 264-1234.

❑ **BOOK FAIR AT KENTWOOD ELEMENTARY TODAY THROUGH FRIDAY** with an Open House from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served for $3 each. Call the school at 264-4130 for more information.

❑ **COAHOMA LIONS CLUB PANCAKE SUPPER** from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Coahoma Elementary cafetorium. All you can eat tickets are $3.50. Preschool children are free. For more information, call 394-4437 or Qualid Dobbs at 394-4000.

Police blotter

The Big Spring police Department reported the following incidents between 8 a.m. Friday and 8 a.m. today:

- **SYLVIA REYNOLDS CARDONA**, 41, of Lincoln, Neb., was arrested on a charge of public intoxication and failure to identify.
- **PATRICIA GROSSMAN**, 43, of 609 Circle, was arrested on a charge of class C assault.
- **APRIL FERN SMITH**, 23, of 1400 Wood, was arrested for traffic warrants.
- **PORFIRIO RIOS JR.**, 41, of Austin, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct/language.
- **ISABEL GONZALES LOMAS**, 39, of 806 Goliad, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.
- **JOE LOUIS SANCHEZ**, 45, of 401 Young, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.
- **ERICA KATYANN ESCAMILLA**, 23, of 210 Loop Road, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication of a minor.
- **CLASS C ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1300 block of Madison and the 500 block of Nolan.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1300 block of Lamar and the 900 block of Father Delaney Street.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF LESS THAN $50** was reported in the 2700 block of Wasson.
- **DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED** was reported in the 800 block of Fourth Street.
- **DRIVING WHILE LICENSE SUSPENDED OR INVALID** was reported in the 900 block of Goliad and the 1400 block of Airbase Road.
- **TERRORISTIC THREAT** was reported in the 2200 block of Morrison.
- **THEFT LESS THAN $50** was reported in the 400 block of Birdwell, 1100 block of Lamesa, 2300 block of Wasson, 1200 block of 11th Place and the 1700 block of FM 700.
- **CLASS C ASSAULT/THREAT** was reported in the 1500 block of Mesa.
- **ASSAULT** was reported in the 100 block of NW Third Street and the 400 block of Sunset.
- **EVADING ARREST OR DETENTION** was reported in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY** was reported in the 600 block of Interstate 20.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA LESS THAN TWO OUNCE** was reported in the 1200 block of East Third Street.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Department reported the following activity between 8 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. today:

- **LATOYA MAXWELL**, 19, was arrested on a charge of motion to revoke probation for theft/stolen property more than $50 less than $500.
- **CHANCE RAY LANG**, 19, was transferred to county by the BSPD on a charge of theft of stolen property less than $500.
- **MELISSA WILTSIE**, 30, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation on failure to identify/fugitive giving false information.
- **AGUSTIN FIERRO JR.**, 38, was transferred to county by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.
- **STEVEN PENA**, 19, was arrested in a charge of stolen property less than $1,500.
- **STEVEN RAY MCKINNEY**, 22, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces and driving while intoxicated.
- **KIM STAMBAUGH**, 45, was transferred to the county by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces.
- **JAMIE LEE ATKINSON**, 36, was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass.
- **MICKEY LYNN KENNEDY**, 45, was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.
- **ANDREA DENISE ALENDER**, 32, was arrested on a charge of possession of marijuana less than two ounces.
- **HOWARD BRANDON JOHNSON**, 32, was transferred to county jail by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **DAVID WAYNE BLEDSOE**, 23, was transferred to county by the BSPD on a charge of evading arrest or detention.
- **JOHNNY OCHOA**, 34, was arrested on a parole violation.
- **PHONE HARASSMENT** was reported in the 110 block of Miller.
- **HIT AND RUN** was reported on Highway 350.
- **DOMESTIC PROBLEM** was reported in the 2700 block of Williams Road.
- **THEFT OF SERVICE** was reported on the east bound service road.
- **LOOSE LIVESTOCK** was reported on Highway 350.

Weather

Today – Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Northwest winds around 10 mph.

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the southeast after midnight.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tuesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 60s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. The chance of rain is 30 percent.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Thursday — Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s.

Thursday night — Clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Friday — Mostly sunny. Isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s.

Friday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Saturday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s.

Saturday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in La Posada Restaurant.
- Concerned Citizens Council meets at 7 p.m. at 500 S. Main St., in the Dorothy Lamb Meeting Room of the Howard County Library. The public is welcome.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line Dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Community Luncheon sponsored by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce begins at 11:45 a.m. in the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.
- A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.
- Coahoma Lions Club pancake supper is set for 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Coahoma Elementary cafetorium.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. with special guest singers from Midland and Colorado City. Everyone is welcome.
- Concerned Citizens for Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Chapter 67, Order of the Eastern Star, meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Masonic Lodge, 219 Main St.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. at the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.
- Nancy Castelle in concert at 7 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Community Center. The event is free and open to the public.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Masonic Lodge No. 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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(Fax) 432-264-7205

Susanne Reed	Publisher/Advertising Manager.....Ext. 250
John A. Moseley	Managing Editor.....Ext. 230
Angie Worley	Circulation Manager.....Ext. 240
Tony Hernandez	Production Manager.....Ext. 256
Dianne Marquez	Business Office Manager.....Ext. 255

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By LIZ AUS

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Districts want state to direct more money toward facilities

By LIZ AUSTIN
Associated Press Writer

EL PASO — Children at Del Norte Heights Elementary School wear heavy jackets to class in the winter because the heating system frequently fails. They complain of heat-related headaches in spring and fall because the air conditioning breaks down.

Cockroaches and mold are a problem at Parkland Elementary because annual floods have kept the hallways damp for years.

Falling ceiling tiles and overloaded electrical systems at other schools in the Ysleta Independent School District create safety concerns. All told, the district says it faces a $550 million bill to replace 11 of the most dilapidated schools and conduct major repairs on many of its 50 others.

Ysleta and other Texas districts say they're paying the price for putting off maintenance so more money could be devoted to preparing for the state's increasingly difficult standardized tests.

Now the districts are asking for help. As lawmakers revamp Texas' $30 billion school finance system, public education advocates want them to devote more money to helping poor districts build and repair schools.

"I think the simple question is, 'Would they have their kids come to our schools? Would they tolerate their kids having to bring thick jackets to study math?'" said Fred Gatewood, Ysleta's executive director of facilities.

A 1998 survey of 614 of Texas' 1,037 districts conducted by the State Comptroller's office found $9.1 billion in pressing needs for repair, renovation and new schools.

Two years later, the National Education Agency pegged Texas' school repair and construction needs at $13.7 billion.

The Legislature created a program in 1997 to help poor districts finance expensive construction projects. Districts that pass construction bonds can apply for grants to help pay off their debt.

But each year, districts have asked for $25 million to $50 million more than the $50 million per fiscal year the state has allocated to the program, said Joe Wisnoski, an assistant state education commissioner.

Lawmakers provided no new funding for the 2003-04 school year, and only $20 million was available this year. As a result, only 16 of more than 300 districts that applied for aid received money under a process that awards money to the poorest districts first.

"They've shown that they're willing to tax themselves at a fairly high level to have facilities ... that are much needed for growth, and the state system let them down," said Wayne Pierce, executive director of the Austin-based Equity Center, which advocates for poor districts.

State District Judge John Dietz chided the state for underfunding the program this fall when he declared the school finance system unconstitutional.

The ruling came after poor and rich school districts sued the state arguing that Texas doesn't provide enough money to ensure all students an adequate education.

Poor districts, Dietz said, "lack all the facilities essential to providing students a learning environment in which to attain a general diffusion of knowledge."

But Jason Moore, a masonry contractor from Midland who frequently works on school buildings, said districts could build more schools if they cut down on unnecessary and costly extras — such as imported specialty materials or ornate brick designs.

For example, Moore said one district directed him to use glazed bricks that cost about $30 each, when he could have purchased plain ones for about $1 apiece.

"We could build every school in Texas out of the (gold) bars of Fort Knox and those kids aren't going to come out one IQ point smarter," Moore said.

Poor school building conditions can be harmful to student achievement, according to Virginia Tech University professor Glen Earthman.

In his testimony before Dietz, Earthman cited several studies showing students in modern buildings score higher on exams than students in older ones. One study found that any temperature over 74 degrees harms math and science scores.

"There's a formidable body of research that shows, no doubt, the conditions of a building influence the achievements of youngsters," he said.

Ysleta officials won voter approval of a $250 million bond a year ago. They plan to tackle the most serious safety problems first.

High court to consider when claims belong in federal court

By HOPE YEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said today it will use a renters' lawsuit claiming personal injury from toxic mold in apartments to clarify when plaintiffs can sue in federal or state court.

The question is a hot political topic, since consumers often pursue claims in state courts, where large payouts in class-action lawsuits tend to be made. Earlier this month, President Bush signed legislation aimed at steering big-money lawsuits to federal courts.

Under federal rules, a defendant has a right to "remove" a case from state to federal court when the two parties are citizens of different states and the claimed damages exceed $75,000.

While the case in question does not involve a class-action lawsuit, it would clarify what determines a corporation's "citizenship" in both individual and class-action suits when a company has subsidiaries in multiple states.

At issue is whether Virginia renters Christophe and Juanita Roche can sue their landlord, Lincoln Property Co., in Virginia state court over exposure to toxic mold in their apartment. The Texas-based company has a subsidiary in Virginia.

The Richmond-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the suit was permitted, on grounds Lincoln was a "citizen" of Virginia because its subsidiary conducted business in the state and thus had significant ties there.

Lincoln's appeal is supported by an array of business groups, from the International Council of Shopping Centers and the National Association of Homebuilders, who argue that the 4th Circuit's ruling would unfairly expose them to litigation in state court.

SHOW

Continued from Page 1A

p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday.

"You take just an ordinary rock and you slab it," she explained. "Then you put it into jewelry. That's just one of the processes people will get to see at the show. We'll also have another gentleman there doing wire wrapping, and if you pick out a stone or gem, he'll mount it into a ring or necklace while you're there at the show. None of it is soldered. It's all wrapped with the gold wire."

Lamb said another attraction scheduled for the show will be a special bead-making process that involves both metal and glass.

"We'll also having someone there making Venetian beads, which is glass that's melted over a copper center," she said. "One the biggest attractions, however, is always the faceting demonstrations. That's where they take gems like diamonds and cut the facets into them."

Shoppers will get the chance to sate their rock and gem appetites as well, thanks to a number of vendors from Texas and abroad.

"We have vendors coming from all over the state, and a few from out of state," said Lamb. "When you come in the front door we'll have a desk set up so we can give everyone that comes in a ticket for a door prize. We'll be having a door prize drawing every hour. There will also be tickets to vote for what you think is the best the best display case."

Lamb said the most sought after door prize during the event however, is the blue topaz.

"We'll have a blue topaz cut into the Star of Big Spring," said Lamb. "That's always been a huge draw. We've been doing the same cut for several years because of that."

And while door prizes and plenty of beautiful stones for sale is a major draw for the show each year, Lamb said she hopes are residents that have been bitten by the rock bug will use it as an opportunity to learn about her club and what they do.

"It's a hobby, but it's also an ongoing process," she said with a smile. "You learn something new everyday, not only from other club members, but also when you go to a show or you pick up the rock and gem magazine. It's a learning process, and most rockhounds like to share their knowledge with other people.

"My favorite part of the club is the collecting and the mystery of it. Sawing a rock in half and seeing what's inside is quite an experience, because you can't tell what a rock looks like just by the outside of it. It's fascinating to see how pretty it is on the inside sometimes. On the other hand, sometimes it's nothing, but you just never know. You kick a rock, or throw it, and you never really think about what kind of beauty might be inside of it."

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

ECONOMY

Continued from Page 1A

consumer spending rose by 3.8 percent, helping to push overall economic growth up by 4.4 percent last year.

Economists are looking for both overall economic growth and consumer spending to slow a bit this year as continued interest rate increases from the Federal Reserve dampen consumer demand. The Fed hiked interest rates for a sixth time in early February and a seventh quarter-point increase is expected when Fed policymakers next meet on March 22.

The report on new home sales showed weakness in every part of the country except the West, where sales rose by 5.6 percent to an annual rate of 338,000 units.

The biggest decline was a record 40.3 percent plunge in the Midwest where sales dropped to an annual rate of 145,000 units. Sales fell 17.1 percent in the Northeast to an annual rate of 63,000 units and were down 3.3 percent in the South to a rate of 560,000 units.

The drop in new home sales was accompanied by a fall in prices. The median new home price was $199,400 in January, down 13.2 percent from a median sales price of $229,700 in December. It was the lowest new home price since a median of $196,000 in December 2003.

For January, consumer spending was held back by a big drop in demand for durable goods such as cars. It was the weakest showing since a 0.3 percent decline in June of last year.

After taking account of inflation, consumer spending actually fell by 0.2 percent in January.

Disposable, or after-tax incomes, fell by 2.6 percent last month after having shot up by 4.1 percent in December, changes that were also influenced by the Microsoft stock dividend payment.

The drop in disposable incomes pushed the savings rate down to 1 percent in January. Savings had jumped to 3.6 percent of disposable income in December, bolstered by the dividend payment, after having been at 0.5 percent for three straight months before that.

TRIAL

Continued from Page 1A

didates.

Scarborough said TRMPAC spent corporate donated money on overhead that was not for the benefit of a candidate. He said there is no evidence that the money was donated as a campaign contribution and maintains those donations were not required by law to be reported.

Among the witnesses subpoenaed to testify are Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick, who was swept to power by the GOP majority, and Bill Hammond, president of the Texas Association of Business, the state's largest business lobby. Neither is a defendant in the lawsuit.

Craddick is not expected to appear in court himself. Lawyers in the case worked out a "stipulation" document in which Craddick agreed that $152,000 in campaign donation checks were sent to his Midland office in October 2002 and later redistributed by staff members to candidates. He also agreed that certain documents related to the case no longer exist, said his attorney, Roy Minton.

Craddick was in South Bend, Ind., when the money arrived at his office, Minton said.

Last week, before it was clear whether Craddick would appear in court, he said he wasn't worried about any line of questioning.

"I'm fine," Craddick said. "They subpoenaed our records and what we had, and we didn't have anything they wanted. So we've already turned over everything we had to them."

Hammond, the Texas Association of Business president, is expected to be asked about how his group assisted Texans for a Republican Majority in 2002. Hammond once boasted that his group had spent $1.9 million to support Republican candidates in 2002 legislative campaigns.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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Louise Curry, 80, died Sunday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

SPOTTERS

Continued from Page 1A

possible tornadoes."

Chamness said the course isn't just for weather or storm buffs.

"There's no charge for the classes and the public is definitely welcome to attend," said Chamness. "Those who sign up for the class will receive a certificate from the National Weather Service, and if you're in law enforcement or emergency services, you can get credit for it. But it's excellent training for anyone to have."

The class will be taught by Pat Vespers, meteorologist for the National Weather Service office for Midland-Odessa.

Similar classes are slated for Colorado City on March 14 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Colorado City Civic Center, and March 17 at the Forest Park Community Center in Lamesa, also from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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





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FEB 28 2005

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Bush's proposed power grab goes against tradition

The nation's first president, George Washington, led the Federalist Party, which favored a central government strong enough to wring national unity from the postrevolution chaos and stabilize the new nation's finances. Today, the term federalism implies limited federal government, with most matters outside defense, foreign policy and interstate commerce reserved to the states.

Today, President Bush is savoring the passage of a bill that takes most multimillion-dollar class-action suits away from state courts and gives them to the federal judiciary. Bush said the bill was needed to protect businesses from frivolous suits and keep lawyers from cashing in while their clients get next to nothing. The bill also takes long-held powers from states and gives them to federal judges with little federal consumer protection law to rule by. The suits that aren't thrown out will still be decided by state law, but by overworked judges unfamiliar with it.

Bush's federal power grab doesn't stop there. He wants to federalize asbestos litigation and medical malpractice suits. Two years ago, the Texas Legislature sharply limited malpractice damages for pain, suffering and loss of life's ordinary pleasures, and voters ratified it by approving a constitutional amendment. This year the Legislature will consider a bill to reform asbestos litigation. If Bush prevails, federal law will not only preempt the reforms Texans adopt, but also force changes on states whose residents might not want them.

Under the federalist concept, long championed by many conservatives and libertarians, the states are meant to be 50 laboratories for good government, some being better than others, preventing all from being uniformly bad. President Bush's push to make the entire nation protective of deep-pocketed big business goes against the principles of limited federal government that Ronald Reagan embraced.

Times, parties and presidents change.

THE CHRONICLE
HOUSTON

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

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- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
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LETTER POLICIES

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- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Simon says: No 3-D come back

As a general rule of thumb, the ugliest building on any college campus is the School of Design.

Call me a pessimist, but I really don't think 3-D is going to make a comeback.



ROGER SIMON

How come it's always the friendliest cab drivers who screw you the worst?

As a portrait photographer recently told me, "Good photographs aren't taken, they are given."

Do you know anyone who actually watches arena football?

A waiter should not make you feel guilty for ordering tap water instead of bottled water.

Donald Rumsfeld says he tried to resign two times? You know what they say: Third time's the charm!

Even though you think you are familiar with a city, you should consider one of those narrated bus tours.

If you actually trust the directions on MapQuest, you are more lost than you know.

Why do they sexually segregate the Oscars? Why do they put actors and actresses in separate categories?

I cannot remember the last time — or even the last year — I dealt with a bank teller.

There is a tendency to forget how talented Buddy Holly really was.

There are a number of Democratic consultants who believe that no matter what he says, Howard Dean will run for president in 2008. "He will arrange an Internet 'draft,'" one told me. "You just watch."

Anyone who says, "I'm just playing Devil's advocate," is actually saying, "I really believe this, but I don't have the guts to say so."

On July 1, San Francisco will ban smoking in parks, town squares, public gardens, beaches, etc. There are two reasons: One, nobody should have to breathe second-hand smoke, indoors or out. And, two, smokers are evil and should be punished.

Penguins are hilarious.

Does anyone still use shoe trees? And why are they called that?

Cherry Vanilla Dr. Pepper? Let me guess: The idea is to get it to taste like anything other than Dr. Pepper.

When you think back on it, almost all the exercises we did in high school gym class were bad for us.

There is nothing static about static electricity.

No, it's not your imagination: Restaurants are getting noisier and noisier.

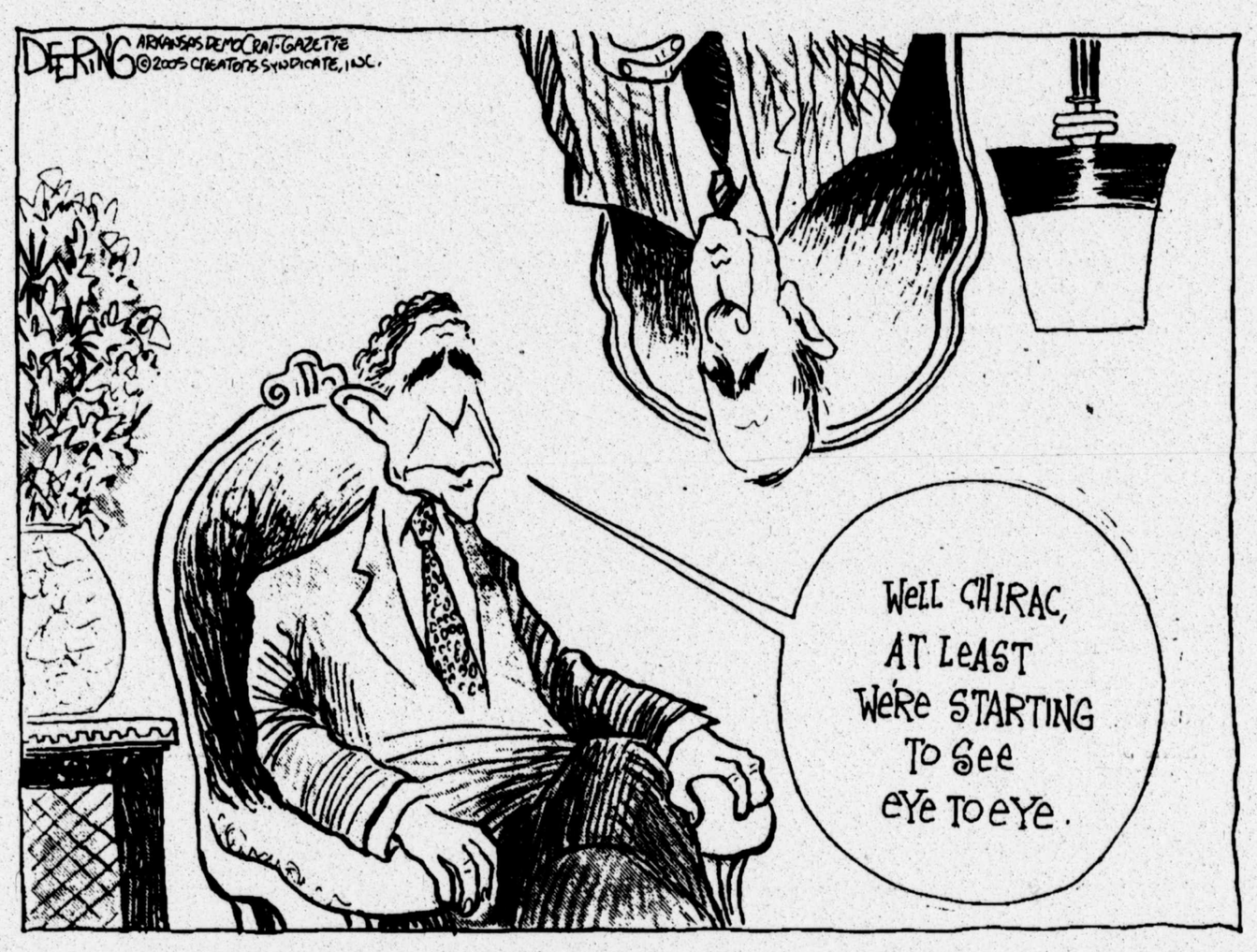
How could anybody possibly know that every snowflake is different? Is somebody keeping track? And where do they keep them all?

People who use made-up swear words like, "Oh, sugar!" are just kidding themselves.

Science has never really answered the question: Are oysters alive when you eat them?

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

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Saving indignation where needed

I have been observing the flappette over the sexist remarks of Harvard's president, Larry Summers, with some amusement. Initially, it was hard to sort out whether we had a case of an educator trying to provoke an interesting discussion, or one of those hoo-hahs where political correctness runs amok, or just another dimwitted sexist being ignorant. Turns out to be all three.



MOLLY IVINS

I would worry more about this — I so enjoy being part of our national intellectual discourse — except the Texas legislature is in session again, so I have to keep my indignation dry for the real thing. It is a source of constant wonder to me that the Lege, bad as I have known it to be all these years, is yet capable of becoming eternally worse. Among the nasty horrors awaiting us is H.B. 1212, mandating parental consent for the performance of an abortion.

We already have a parental notification requirement in Texas, so how much different can consent be? Of course you don't want your underage daughter getting an abortion without your knowledge, what parent would?

But there are those occasional horrible exceptions, which is why the judicial bypass exists. If a minor can go before a court and prove she either cannot or clearly should not notify her parents, a judge can grant her exemption from the requirement. The system barely works now, and the new bill would make it all but impossible for most girls by limiting venue to the girls' county of residence and those neighboring it, and other changes. There are 254 counties in Texas, and as surveys have shown, most of the county clerks don't even know there is such a procedure, much less how to file one ("Honey, I have no idea," is the classic response). The problems of small-town application should be apparent to all.

Please believe that you do not know what "dysfunctional family" means until you have studied applications for judicial bypass. These cases are from the files of Jane's Due Process, a Texas organization that provides lawyers for pregnant minors seeking a bypass.

Social worker for a 13-year-old: "She ran away from her foster home and was gone for eight weeks. Now she's in an emergency shelter and is pregnant. Her mother is deceased. Her father raped her when she was 8 years old and is still in prison for it. I knew her when she had to testify against him. I don't know if I can convince her to go back to court, but she definitely wants an abortion."

Boyfriend of a 15-year-old: "She can't report anything to the police about what her stepfather does to the family. He works for the department. And this is a very small town. The family seems to live in fear of him."

"My older sister got pregnant when she was 17. My mother pushed her against the wall, slapped her across the face and then grabbed her by the hair, pulled her through the living room, out the front door and threw her off the porch. We don't know where she is now." — pregnant 16-year-old.

"My little sister was raped. Our parents are somewhere in Mexico, but I don't know if I can find them." — older sister.

Grandmother of a 15-year-old: "She just told us that she was raped. We had no idea that she was pregnant. Her mother is dead, and her father is being transferred to (another prison). Is there any way we can get this done?"

Seventeen-year-old: "I called my older sister to see if she knew where my mother was. She hasn't heard from her in over six months. I've never known my father. So I went to the courthouse to file my application (for judicial bypass), and the judge came out of his office and told me that he would give me a hearing but that he didn't believe in abortion and that he would never give me the OK to have one. And he knows me. He knows my family. He already knows I'm raising a 5-month-old."

"My mother's boyfriend used to hit her and sometimes I would try to stop him, but then he'd start hitting me. I left home to live with my boyfriend when I found out I was pregnant the first time. My mother wouldn't let me have an abortion, so I knew a baby would be safer living away from her and her boyfriend. But my boyfriend started hitting me as soon as I moved in. So I got my own place, a car and two jobs. I'm pregnant again, but I can't tell my mom because she would stop me from getting an abortion." — 17-year-old high school graduate, mother of a 2-year-old daughter, father deceased.

I spare you the incest cases, except to note that it is much more common than any of us would like to believe and not limited to any economic class.

Yeah, it's really terrible what the president of Harvard said.

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

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After

By TOM MAJES
Knight Ridder N

ST. PAUL, Marilyn Roger tined to dance with reddish-b used her mus and gift for moves to danc into winning ship from the music school.

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Today, more years later, th dreamed of da motionless on what experts the last tradit lung in Minn one of fewer the country. Sh nearly every n machine since and has lived and night for past 10 years.

Marilyn cann side the iron although there ern alternative been reluctant because she i tionally and dependent on quated machine

This year n 50th anniversa introduction of vaccine, which eliminated the the United Sta many other pa world. But Ma her iron lung a one of the mos ing times in public health sy

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Now 64, Maril a cluttered, wea house in the up of the Isles Minneapolis, w people take tur for her around She battles d and worries tha pany that mai ancient iron stop servicing i won't be able failing parts longer are manu

Despite these challenges, Ma sesses a wry humor and ra plains. She from high sch honors, Augsburg Coll helped enact t first legislation with disabilities

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Marilyn's 70-p lies motionless cushion held b tray that rests i iron lung, wh negative air pr expand patient allowing them t naturally throu mouths and n head — her on body part — r small folded pi ported by a steel

Her world co what she can se a large rectang ror mounted degree angle a head.

The iron lung first-floor room was the librar house inherited

After five decades, iron lung remains her life and breath

By TOM MAJESKI
Knight Ridder Newspapers

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Marilyn Rogers was destined to dance. The girl with reddish-blond curls used her muscular legs and gift for graceful moves to dance her way into winning a scholarship from the MacPhail music school.

But at 9 years old, the child who couldn't sit still for more than a few seconds developed the early symptoms of polio, the notorious paralyzing disease that was sweeping the nation in the late 1940s. Within three days, Rogers was encased in an iron lung in Minneapolis General Hospital, unable to breathe or move a muscle below her chin.

Today, more than 55 years later, the girl who dreamed of dancing lies motionless on her back in what experts believe is the last traditional iron lung in Minnesota and one of fewer than 40 in the country. She has slept nearly every night in the machine since she was 9 and has lived in it day and night for about the past 10 years.

Marilyn cannot live outside the iron lung, and although there are modern alternatives, she has been reluctant to try them because she is so emotionally and physically dependent on the antiquated machine.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the polio vaccine, which has all but eliminated the disease in the United States and in many other parts of the world. But Marilyn and her iron lung are icons of one of the most frightening times in America's public health system.

In the post-World War II era, polio was every parent's nightmare. Unsure of its cause, they tried to protect their children by keeping them out of school and off playgrounds. By the time health officials finally gained the upper hand in the mid-1950s, the virus had afflicted about 1.6 million people in the United States and more than 27,000 in Minnesota.

Now 64, Marilyn lives in a cluttered, weathered old house in the upscale Lake of the Isles area of Minneapolis, where nine people take turns caring for her around the clock. She battles depression and worries that the company that maintains the ancient iron lung will stop servicing it, and she won't be able to replace failing parts that no longer are manufactured.

Despite these Herculean challenges, Marilyn possesses a wry sense of humor and rarely complains. She graduated from high school with honors, attended Augsburg College, and helped enact the state's first legislation for people with disabilities.

She nearly married, but turned down her suitor.

Marilyn's 70-pound body lies motionless on a foam cushion held by a metal tray that rests inside her iron lung, which uses negative air pressure to expand patients' chests, allowing them to breathe naturally through their mouths and noses. Her head — her only visible body part — rests on a small folded pillow supported by a steel shelf.

Her world consists of what she can see through a large rectangular mirror mounted on a 45-degree angle above her head.

The iron lung sits in a first-floor room that once was the library of the house inherited by her stepbrother, who does not live there. Personal care attendants sleep on a small bed nearby to monitor her through the night.



KRT photo/Jean Pieri, St. Paul Pioneer Press

Much of Marilyn Rogers' world consists of what she can see through a large rectangular mirror mounted above her head.

Corked walls are plastered with assorted mementos. Spare batteries, battery chargers, ventilators, a wheelchair and other medical equipment are interspersed with household items stacked along the walls. Her health care is paid for by Medicare, Medicaid and the March of Dimes.

To prevent dehydration, Marilyn drinks water or milk through a flexible plastic straw inserted into a small glass resting next to the right side of her face. She uses her tongue and lips to maneuver the straw into her mouth whenever she wants a sip.

She talks in short sentences that only can be uttered when the machine is forcing air out of her lungs.

She spends the day running the household from her iron lung, chatting with her personal care attendants and watching some TV. Her attendants keep her up to date on current events by reading to her from the newspaper.

To help battle depression, she takes Prozac. "It helps sometimes," she says with a smile.

Her iron lung was built decades ago by the J. H. Emerson Co. of Cambridge, Mass. It consists of a large, steel cylinder that resembles a mini-submarine.

A small electric motor underneath powers a drive belt connected to a gearbox similar to those found on 1938 Chevrolets. The gearbox forces a large, leather bellows at the far end of the cylinder to pump in and out 10 times a minute.

Marilyn has ventilators that use positive pressure to force air into the lungs through a tracheotomy tube, but she uses them only on a temporary basis because they force bacteria growing in her tracheotomy tube into her lungs, increasing her risk of developing a life-threatening infection.

"The lung is her life," said Kris Lindeman, one of her personal care attendants. "If she doesn't have the lung, she's dead."

That's why Marilyn became upset in September 2003 when Respironics, the Pennsylvania company that maintains her iron lung, informed her that it was running out of spare parts and could not service the machine after March 1, 2004. A company letter advised her to look for an alternative.

According to Amy Nesbitt, a spokeswoman for Respironics, only 37 Emerson iron lungs still operate in the nation. There are other models in service, but most have more modern designs and are found primarily in health care facilities.

"We are not the original manufacturer," Nesbitt said. "We don't have the mechanical drawings, and we can't produce new parts."

The company is encouraging the few remaining iron lung-dependent patients to switch to other breathing devices, Nesbitt said, including a smaller, computerized, fiberglass version of the iron lung called a Port-A-Lung. A computer automatically adjusts vacuum pressures and cycle times to maintain optimum oxygen levels as needed when the patient is awake and asleep, in contrast to the iron lung, which requires manual adjustments.

However, Marilyn is reluctant to make the transition.

Even though the Emerson lungs are archaic, cumbersome and noisy, they are built like old farm tractors: sturdy, reliable and easy to repair.

The polio scourge, which swept through the nation during the summers following World War II, usually culminated during the hot weeks in August. Striking suddenly, the paralyzing disease caused by an orally transmitted virus triggered a severe headache, then muscle pain.

It peaked in 1952, when polio struck 53,000 people in the United States, said Larry Kohout of Edina, a spokesman for the Post Polio Awareness and Support Society.

The disease caused everything from temporary paralysis in one limb to total paralysis and death. Newspapers during that era often published photos of iron lungs lined up in long rows, with the head of a smiling youngster protruding from each machine.

Hope for an effective treatment began to mount in the early 1950s when Dr. Jonas Salk announced the development of a vaccine. When field tests conducted in 1954 confirmed its effectiveness, euphoric Americans rang church bells, sounded fire sirens, shouted, clapped and sang. Widespread vaccinations began the following year.

To this day, Marilyn does not know how she contracted the disease. But in August 1949, she developed a serious headache and an examination of her spinal fluid at Abbott Hospital in Minneapolis confirmed the worst.

"The doctor told me I had the highest cell count he ever saw," she said.

Marilyn, who could still walk at the time, was transferred to Minneapolis General Hospital because it had a polio ward. A doctor there performed some muscle tests and she remembers dancing with another patient. It was the last time she ever danced.

Two days later, she was moved into an iron lung and told to relax. Although the machine is confining, she never felt claustrophobic, she said.

Six months later, infectious meningitis was discovered on the floor and 80 patients, including Marilyn, were moved to the Sister Elizabeth Kenny Institute in Minneapolis. She was there for two years and hated every minute of it. The treatments were rigorous and she sank into a deep depression.

Months later, after surviving the acute stage of the disease, Marilyn took a look at her feet and the calluses she had worked so hard to develop as a dancer.

To her dismay, they had disappeared and her feet "looked like totally useless things to me," she said. The discovery intensified her depression.

At the time, patients dependent on iron lungs could not leave the institute.

That changed when the March of Dimes purchased the iron lungs and allowed patients to take them home. Marilyn, who was 12 at the time, weighed only 29 pounds.

Once at home and able to breathe outside the lung during the day, Marilyn was anxious to renew friendships.

"There wasn't anything there for me," she said of her first reunion meeting with her girlfriends. "They weren't anything like me. They were like little girls, and I wasn't."

Going outside was also a challenge because people would stare at her. She was wheelchair-bound with medical equipment attached to her and the chair. But Marilyn went out each morning and "tried to adjust to life on the outside."

Although she was not pregnant, Marilyn completed high school by taking advantage of a new state program designed to teach pregnant students at home because, back then, they were prohibited from attending class.

Marilyn graduated with honors and enrolled in Augsburg College. Although she came close to graduation, Marilyn quit when she grew discouraged. But leaving school triggered another problem.

"I got bored out of my mind," she said. To keep busy, she spent a lot of time with friends. Because she only needed an iron lung for sleeping, Marilyn would often stay up all night chatting to avoid going back into the machine.

In 1970, Marilyn visited her brother, John, in San Diego for six weeks after he arranged to have an iron lung brought into his home because she needed to sleep in it. While there, she discovered curb cuts and wheelchair ramps, innovative features that made navigation easier for people with disabilities.

"The curb cuts were made by individuals, not by the city," said Marilyn, who spent her days in a motorized wheelchair.

When she returned to Minneapolis, Marilyn teamed up with a friend, Audrey Benson, who was attempting to organize Minnesotans with disabilities.

They eventually formed the United Handicap Federation and, for 10 years, pushed lawmakers to adopt regulations to make Minnesota more accessible for people with handicaps. One of the group's achievements was the Metro Mobility program, which provides rides to people who use wheelchairs.

"Our goal was accessible mass transit," Benson said. "Marilyn was pretty shy, but we did get her to go to the Legislature with us and she worked on committees with us. She was very, very smart."

About 10 years ago, Marilyn began suffering the affects of post polio syndrome, a little understood phenomenon that involves a late-onset reoccurrence of the disease's symptoms. It strikes as many as 40 percent of polio patients, causing a number of problems, including increased muscle weakness and breathing difficulties.

Over time, Marilyn lost the ability to move her arms and to breathe on her own. Now when she is removed from the iron lung — for short periods and usually for doctors' visits — she must be hooked to a battery-powered ventilator. But her lungs don't work as efficiently on the ventilator as they do in the iron lung.

Even though leaving her house is a logistical challenge, Marilyn gets a kick out of visiting the State Fair. She likes to tour the animal barns, check out the butter sculptures and eat the food.

Despite the numerous challenges and limitations she's faced during the past 55 years, Marilyn says she's had an interesting and beautiful life.

"It's been a helluva life and I've done a lot of things," she said. "You have to go live your life any way you can. I have no regrets."

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Clint Eastwood's 'Million Dollar Baby' triumphs at Oscars

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — Backstage at the Academy Awards, Clint Eastwood contemplated how deserving he was to come away with his second best-picture and directing triumph, this time for the boxing tale "Million Dollar Baby."

"There's a lot of great movies that have won the Academy Award, and a lot of great movies that haven't," said Eastwood, whose film also earned Hilary Swank her second best-actress Oscar and Morgan Freeman the supporting-actor prize. Humbly, Eastwood added, "You just do the best you can."

Other acting awards Sunday night went to performers in real-life roles, Jamie Foxx as lead actor for his uncanny emulation of Ray Charles in "Ray" and Cate Blanchett for supporting actress as Katharine Hepburn, the love of Howard Hughes' life, in "The Aviator."

Eastwood's triumph meant fresh heartbreak for Martin Scorsese, whose Hughes epic "The Aviator" won the most awards with five but failed to bring him the directing Oscar that has eluded him throughout his distinguished career.

Scorsese, now a five-time loser, matched the record of Oscar futility held by a handful of legendary filmmakers such as Alfred Hitchcock and Robert Altman, who also went 0-for-5 in the directing category.

Eastwood, who directed a segment of Scorsese's music-documentary TV series "The Blues," had kind words for his rival backstage.

"I was kind of a little disappointed when they started building a competition between Marty and me," Eastwood said. "I have the greatest respect for him and all the films he's done over the years."

Blanchett echoed Eastwood's praise.

"Certainly, working with Martin Scorsese was an absolute minute-by-minute education without him ever being grandiose about it," Blanchett said.

The wins by Freeman and Foxx followed Denzel Washington and Halle Berry's triumph three years ago for "Training Day" and "Monster's Ball," the only other time blacks took two acting Oscars.

"In our music, in our everyday life, there are so many negative things," said Foxx, who throughout awards season has praised Washington and Berry as ambassadors for black actors. "Why not have something positive and stamp it with blackness?"

Producers of Sunday's show hoped the presence of first-time host Chris Rock might boost ratings, particularly among younger viewers who may label the Oscars as too staid an affair. Rock had mocked the Oscars a bit beforehand, calling awards shows "idiotic," but he was on his best behavior.

He chided some celebrities by name and included one mild three-letter word, but his routine was fairly clean for the comedian known for a foul mouth in his standup act.

It was the second straight year an Eastwood film won two of the four acting Oscars, Swank as a tenacious fighter who rises to champion status before her life takes a cruel twist, Freeman as a worldly wise ex-boxer.

Last year, Eastwood's dark morality play "Mystic River" earned the lead-actor prize for Sean Penn and the supporting-actor award for Tim Robbins.

Freeman, who costarred in Eastwood's 1992 film "Unforgiven," said he is the sort of director who gives actors the freedom to cut loose and perform their own way. The Western was Eastwood's first Oscar win for best-picture and director.

"If he hires you, he hires you because he feels like you know what to do," Freeman said. "And he's very, very largely out of the way. He directs the picture, you do the acting. I love that, and I think that most of the people that he works with love that."

Swank once again beat out main rival Annette Bening, nominated for the theater farce "Being Julia." Bening had been the front-runner for "American Beauty" five years ago but lost to Swank.

With unremarkable career results since her first win, Swank had been in danger of becoming one of those actresses who fades from view after an Oscar success.

"The truth is, after 'Boys Don't Cry,' I realized how few and far between the great roles are," Swank said. "I am beyond thankful for finding 'Million Dollar Baby.'"

Eastwood, whose first credited screen role came in the 1955 Francis the Talking Mule flick "Francis in the Navy," has climbed in the ensuing half-century to the ranks of Billy Wilder, David Lean, Robert Wise and Steven Spielberg, other filmmakers who have won two or more directing Oscars.

Oscar winners

Picture: "Million Dollar Baby."
Actor: Jamie Foxx, "Ray."
Actress: Hilary Swank, "Million Dollar Baby."
Supporting Actor: Morgan Freeman, "Million Dollar Baby."
Supporting Actress: Cate Blanchett, "The Aviator."
Director: Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby."
Adapted Screenplay: Alexander Payne and Jim Taylor, "Sideways."
Original Screenplay: Charlie Kaufman, Michel Gondry and Pierre Bismuth, "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."
Art Direction: "The Aviator."
Cinematography: "The Aviator."
Film Editing: "The Aviator."
Visual Effects: "Spider-Man 2."
Sound Mixing: "Ray."
Sound Editing: "The Incredibles."
Original Score: "Finding Neverland."
Original Song: "Al Otro Lado Del Rio" from "The Motorcycle Diaries."
Costume: "The Aviator."
Makeup: "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events."
Foreign Film: "The Sea Inside" (Spain).
Animated Feature: "The Incredibles."
Animated Short: "Ryan."
Documentary Feature: "Born Into Brothels."
Documentary Short: "Mighty Times: The Children's March."
Live Action Short: "Wasp."



KRT photo/Kevin Sullivan/Orange County Register

Kate Blanchet, Morgan Freeman, Hilary Swank and Jamie Foxx celebrate their Oscars at the 77th Annual Academy Awards in Hollywood Sunday night.

GOOD NEWS FOR BIG SPRING

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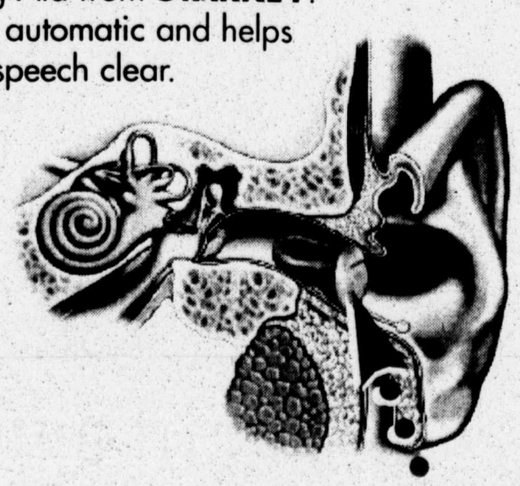
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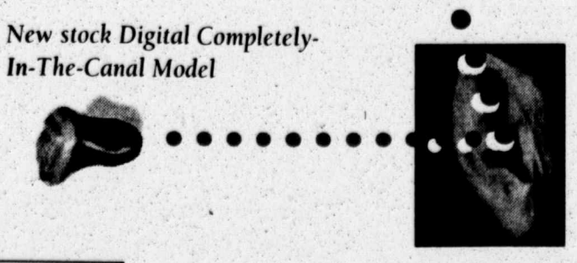


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IN BRIEF

Class of 2005 to host fund-raiser

The Big Spring class of 2005 will be holding a softball fund-raiser at Cotton Mize Field March 11 and 12.

The entry fee will be $125 and prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams.

For more information, contact J.R. Landin at 264-1256 or Able Rios at 213-2115.

Baseball camp set for middle of March

The Mickey Owen Baseball School will take place Saturday, March 19, at the National League Little League Field off South Highway 87.

The camp is broken into two sessions as the first one takes place from 9:30 a.m. to noon and the second one goes from 12:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Each session is broken down into instruction, practice and play.

One session costs $40, but participants can get both camps for $60. Participants can save $10 if registered by March 10.

The first session will cover general instruction on hitting, fielding and throwing, while session two is position instruction involving catchers, pitchers, infielders and outfielders.

The camp is for anyone ages six through 12 and enrollment is limited.

The camp advises athletes to bring their own glove, cap, baseball pants, baseball shoes and gym shoes.

For more information, contact the Mickey Owen Baseball School at 1-800-999-8369.

Howard red brings free Hawk admission

The Howard College Hawks will host Midland College Thursday in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Game times are 5:50 pm for the women and 8 pm for the men.

This is our last home basketball game of the season and officials are pushing for a large crowd.

In an attempt to pack the coliseum, Howard College will be offering a "Wear Red and get in Free" promotion.

For more information, contact the college athletic department at 264-4050.

No. 8 Kansas downs No. 4 OSU in thriller

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Wayne Simien had a career-high 32 points and Aaron Miles hit a running layup for the go-ahead basket with 37 seconds to go for the Jayhawks, who took over first place in the Big 12 with an 81-79 win over No. 4 Oklahoma State.

Kansas (21-4, 11-3) shot 66 percent from the field while ending a three-game losing streak. Oklahoma State (20-5, 10-4) shot 59 percent in losing its second straight.

Simien had 12 rebounds and was 10-of-16 from the field.

Hughey gets top-10 finish at state

• 400 freestyle relay team grabs 15th after consolation final

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

AUSTIN — Three-time state qualifier Jessica Hughey maintained her top-10 status Saturday at the UIL State Swimming and Diving Championships in Austin.



THOMAS

She captured 10th overall after recording a personal best time, while the Steers 400 freestyle relay team of Junior Daniel Pike, senior Scott Thomas, senior Todd Seber and sophomore Ryan Hughey matched Friday's 15th place preliminary finish with an identical placing Saturday.

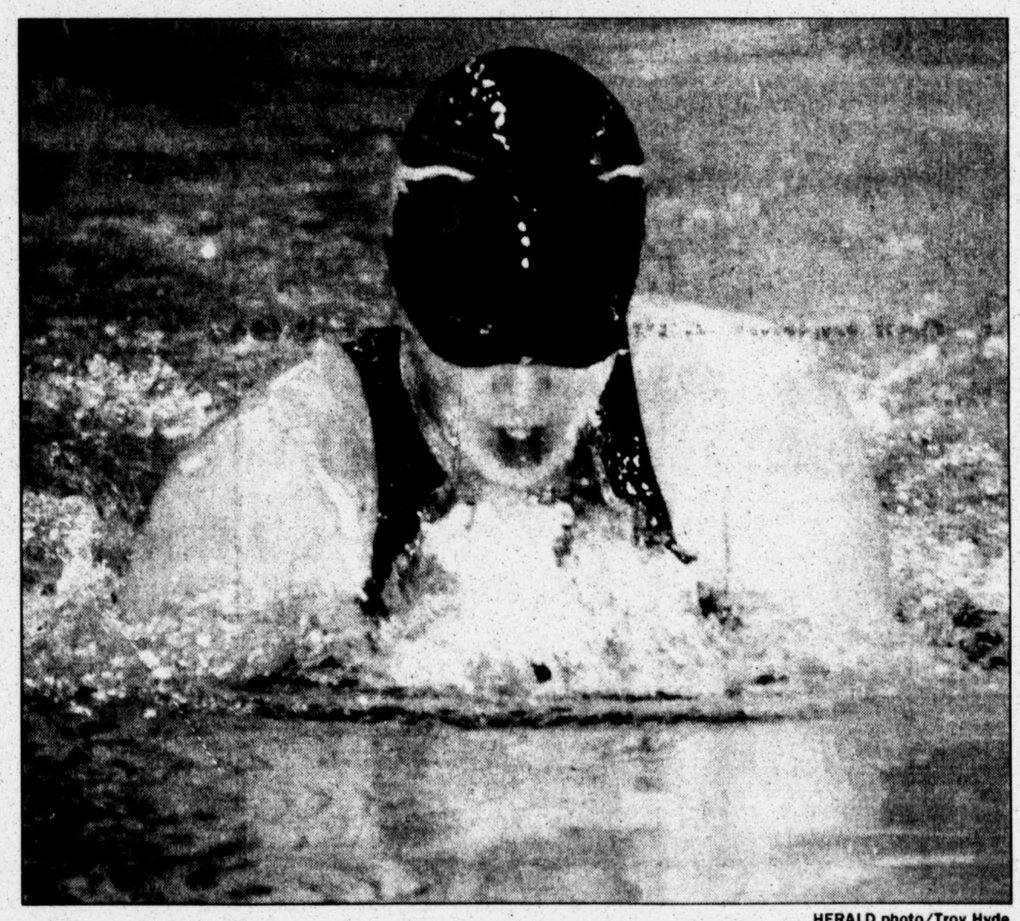
"The effort was stupendous," said Thomas. "There were some technicalities about the relay, but I don't have any

See **STATE**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring senior Todd Seber takes a breath during his 100 meter freestyle swim Saturday. Seber — along with teammates Daniel Pike, Scott Thomas and Ryan Hughey — competed in the 400 freestyle relay at the UIL State Swimming and Diving Championships in Austin Friday and Saturday. The Steers relay squad took 15th overall. The race consists of each swimmer going 100 meters.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring senior swimmer Jessica Hughey competes in the 100 meter breastroke during consolation final action at the UIL State Swimming and Diving Championships Saturday at the Texas Swimming Center in Austin. Hughey — a three-time state qualifier — finished 10th overall in the breastroke after recording a personal best time of 1:11.26.

Steers linksters 16th at Tall City Invitational

• Steers improve 22 strokes from Friday, still finish in 16th

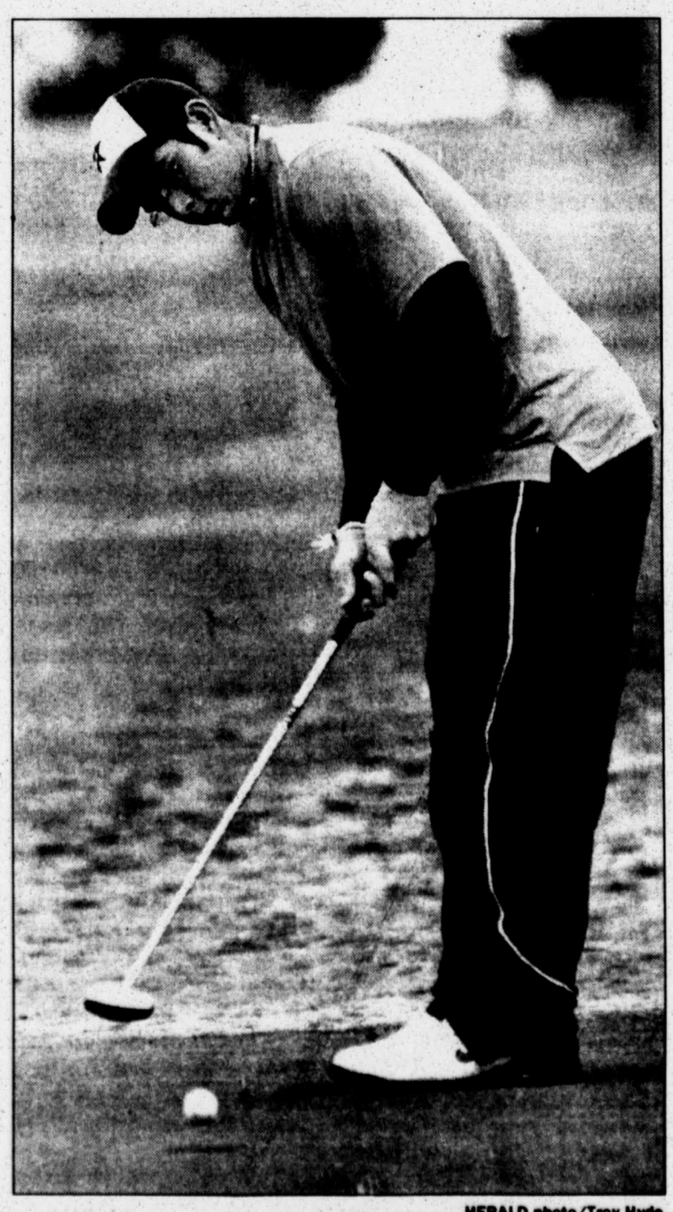
By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — The Big Spring boy's golf team shot 22 strokes better Saturday than the squad did Friday, but the Steers still settled for 16th place as a team at the Tall City Invitational in Midland over the weekend.

TANNEHILL

Midland Lee II won the team title with a score of 587, while Big Spring's district rival Frenship came in fourth with a 609. Big Spring shot a second round 348 after shooting a 370 Friday and finished with a 718.

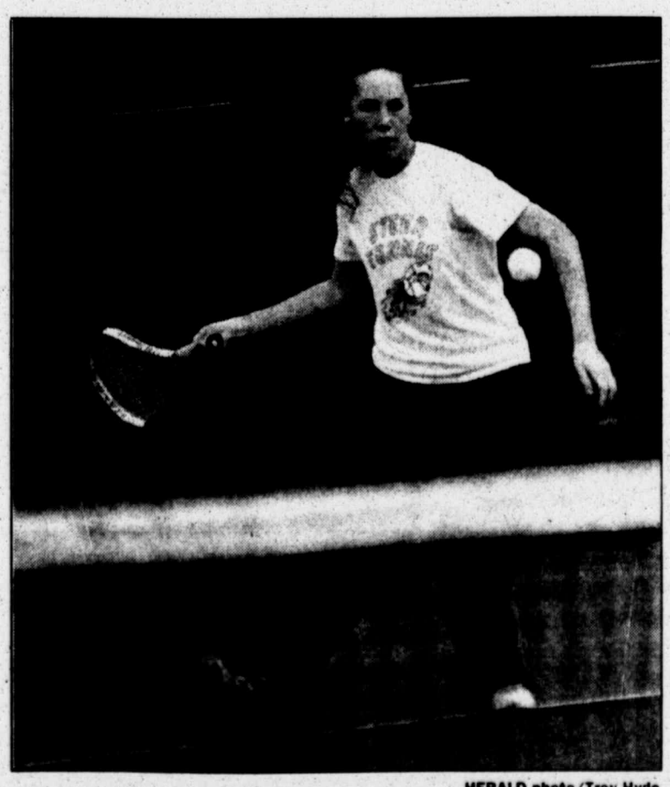
Junior Chance Cain led all Steers with a second round 79. His two day total was 157. Senior Wesley Parks improved his round one total by 14 strokes Saturday and finished with a two day total of 183. Sophomore Ryan Tannehill also got better from day one to day two. He turned in a 92 Saturday after shooting a 96 Friday and finished with a 188.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring junior Chance Cain taps in a shot on the ninth green at Comanche Trail Golf Course earlier this month. Cain led Big Spring this weekend at the Tall City Invitational after shooting a two-round total of 157.

Big Spring netters compete in rain-shortened invitational



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring senior Alex Garlepy sends over a shot earlier this month at the Big Spring Invite. Garlepy and Big Spring participated in a rain-shortened tournament this weekend in Midland. Garlepy won her first-round match in three sets 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

MIDLAND — Big Spring seniors Nick Paredez and Nick Rivera reached the finals of the boy's doubles 'A' bracket Saturday at the Third Annual Tall City Classic in Midland, but rain did not allow the tournament to be finished.

Rain postponed all of Friday's matches, which made it difficult to finish the tournament Saturday.

Paredez and Rivera coasted into the finals. They won their quarterfinal match 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 before cruising in straight sets in the semifinals 6-1, 6-2.

The only other doubles team to hit the courts Saturday was senior Jason Vela and sophomore Bryan Juan, who competed in the 'B' bracket. They played twice and lost both

See **TENNIS**, Page 2B

FEB 28 2005

STATE

Continued from Page 1B

regrets."

Seber agrees with Thomas about the team's effort.

"The effort was good from all four of us, but we didn't have the technique we needed to do better," said Seber. "The experience here was awesome though. It gives you the feeling you have been a part of something big."

Jessica Hughey's final swim at Big Spring was clocked at a personal best 1:11.26, beating out her previous best of 1:11.80 set Friday during the preliminaries.

"She had the career swim we wanted her to have," said Big Spring first year coach Casey Pacheco. "She had good finishes, good turns and good touches."

She took second in the consolation heat, finishing behind Boerne freshman Caroline Kabbe, who recorded a 1:10.41. However, both Jessica Hughey and Kabbe bettered two swimmers in Saturday's championship final.

"Jessica led by example and is going out with a bang, but I just wish we had one more race," said Pacheco.

Dallas Highland Park's Brittany Sacco won the 100 breastroke for the fourth straight year. She turned in a time of 1:06.11.

Big Spring's 400 freestyle relay squad bettered 16th place Alice Saturday, but swam slower than Friday's preliminary time. They finished with a 3:36.75 Saturday after swimming a 3:35.72 Friday.

"It was a good swim," said Pacheco. "The guys gave me 100 percent and I can't ask for anything more."

Texarkana won the 400 freestyle relay in entertaining fashion as they edged out Frisco by .61 seconds. Texarkana's winning time was 3:15.33.

"This group at state gives us a good start for next season," said Pacheco, who is already excited for next season. "They gave us the icing on the cake."

Seber thinks the program will continue to excel under Pacheco.

"Everything is there for next year's team," said Seber. "They need to get the drive and determination and they will be OK."



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring junior Daniel Pike swims in the 400 freestyle relay at the UIL State Swimming and Diving Championships Saturday at the Texas Swimming Center in Austin. The relay, which is started by Pike, took 15th overall.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring sophomore Ryan Hughey swims his portion of the 400 freestyle relay at the state swim meet in Austin Saturday. Hughey, the anchor of the race, and his teammates took 15th overall.

TENNIS

Continued from Page 1B

matches in three sets. They lost the first-round match 4-6, 6-4, 3-6 before falling in a consolation match 6-4, 3-6, 4-6.



SHROFF

Big Spring had two players take the courts in singles action. Senior Alex Gariepy won her 'B' bracket first round match over Midland High's Lauryn Wells 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, while sophomore Roshan Shroff lost his 'A' bracket match 6-2, 6-3.

The Steers will take about a month off from competition.

Big Spring's next tournament will take place March 24-25 in Lubbock.

Howard College basketball

Tonight — @ South Plains
women: 6 p.m.
men: 8 p.m.

Biffle earns victory, holds of Johnson

By MIKE HARRIS
AP Motorsports Writer

FONTANA, Calif. (AP) — Greg Biffle hit the right combination Sunday in the first test of NASCAR's new Nextel Cup aerodynamic rules, winning the Auto Club 500 at California Speedway.

Biffle, who won the 2004 season finale in November, ran strong throughout the 250-lap race on California's 2-mile oval, taking the lead for good on lap 228 and building a big enough advantage to hold off a last-ditch efforts by runner-up Jimmie Johnson in the second race of the season.

"I lost all the rear grip there with three (laps) to go," Biffle said, grinning. "I just barely touched, skinned it, two or three times there at the end and I was just able to keep it under me."

Roush Racing had a great day, with reigning Nextel Cup champion Kurt Busch finishing third, Carl Edwards fifth and Mark Martin seventh. Matt Kenseth also ran in the top 10 most of the day, but fell off the lead lap with a flat tire and wound up 26th.

The key came on lap 218 when Busch, running second, and Biffle, in fifth, stayed on track while most of the other leaders pitted during the last of seven caution periods. Busch, who faked toward the pits before, driving back onto the track, took the lead, with Biffle just behind, but Biffle was able to drive into the top spot seven laps after the green flag waved for the final time.

Johnson was one of several drivers who pitted for four new tires on the last stop and he charged back from 10th, passing Busch on the final lap and finishing just 0.230 seconds — about six car-lengths — behind the winning Ford Taurus.

"We should have been able to win that race," Johnson said. "I got tangled up with some slower cars and it knocked me up in the marbles and I lost too much ground."

Jamie McMurray finished fourth, followed by Edwards and Kevin Harvick.

This was the first race in which the Cup cars ran with shortened rear spoilers and softer tires, an effort by NASCAR to make the racing more competitive and allow more passing by taking away downforce and putting more responsibility in the hands of the drivers.

It also was the first time that the teams have had to start the race with NASCAR holding the cars from the end of qualifying Saturday until Sunday morning and allowing only minor adjustments.

Busch moved into the series lead by five points over Johnson, with Martin 39 behind the leader.

Joe Nemechek appeared to have the strongest car for much of the race, leading a race-high 63 laps before his engine blew.

Jeff Gordon, who won the race last year was still in contention when he lost a cylinder late in the race. Gordon wound up finishing 30th.

Jazz end four game losing streak

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Matt Harpring, Raja Bell and the Utah Jazz are the latest team to bury the Houston Rockets in the fourth quarter.

Harpring scored 28 points and Bell added 21 to lead the Jazz to a 99-92 win over the Rockets Sunday, snapping a four-game losing streak.

"We got on a roll on offense in the fourth quarter," said Harpring, who had 10 points in the fourth. "We had the right plays and we executed."

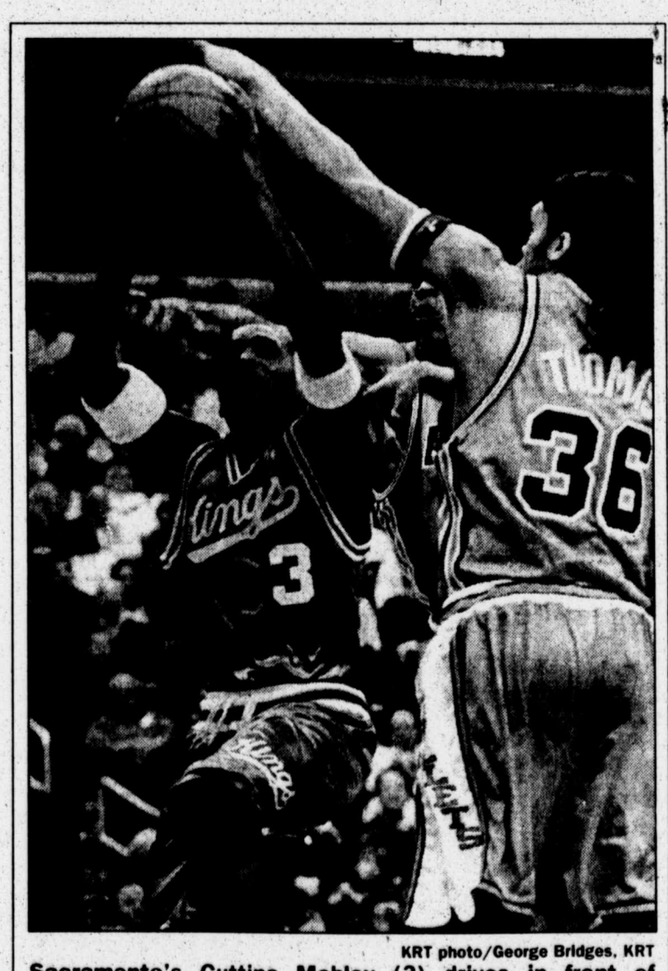
Houston, which led by as many as 10 points in the first half, has dropped three straight after winning eight in a row. The Rockets have been outscored by 27 points in the fourth quarter during the skid, which also includes losses to Seattle and San Antonio.

"We just haven't been prepared going into the fourth quarter to finish the game," Yao Ming said. "Our opponents have been better prepared and tougher in the fourth."

Tracy McGrady led the Rockets with 23 points and Mike James, in his first game with the Rockets, added 19. He started after being traded from Milwaukee last week.

Houston got just 12 points and four rebounds from Yao, who averages 18.7 points. He got in foul trouble early and struggled throughout, missing at least three baskets from right under the basket.

Bell's 3-pointer with 8:51 remaining capped five straight points by the Jazz and put Utah ahead 78-73. Utah used an 8-2 run that ended with Bell's tip-in basket with 4:40 remaining to extend the lead to 88-78.



KRT photo/George Bridges, KRT

Sacramento's Cuttino Mobley (3) drives in front of Washington's Etan Thomas (36) in the second half of Sacramento's victory Sunday.

Bell was perfect from 3-point range, going 3-of-3, all in the second half.

James' 3 with 1:10 left got Houston to 96-89, but the Rockets would get no closer. He added another 3 with 11 seconds left.

Harpring scored eight points for the Jazz in the last 4 minutes to ensure the win.

"Matt was big inside," said Utah coach Jerry Sloan. "He got the big shots for us in the fourth quarter."

"We made the shots and got in a rhythm. We got the ball to them in a rhythm so they didn't have to stand around and wait for it."

The game was tied at 42-all at halftime and again at 69 after three quarters.

The Rockets haven't won since starting point guard Bob Sura's back injury flared up on Feb. 22. He will be sidelined until at least March 5.

Utah outrebounded the Rockets 39-31, including 17-9 on the offensive end, holding Houston to a season low.

"Our rebounding is atrocious," Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "We got outworked and they don't even realize it. It was easy for Utah today."

Mehmet Okur added 14 points and had nine rebounds for the Jazz, and Andrei Kirilenko had 13 points.

GOOD NEIGHBORS,
Yours, Mine and Ours

Profile, 2005
Sunday, March 27

This special edition will feature profiles of our good neighbors in Howard County.

If you have a good neighbor, whether personal or work related, and you'd like to share their praises, nominate them using the form below. We'll pick as many as we can, interview them and write a feature story about them.

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THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Business Opportunity

FOR SALE: Well established Screen Printing / Embroidery business. Located in Big Spring. Serious inquiries only. For appointment call 432-213-0372 10:00-5:00pm.

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FOUR SPACES at Trinity Memorial Park. Choice lots, Garden of Olivett. Value $1,380 each. Sell all for $5,000. Call (325)653-5160 or 325-944-0813.

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COME JOIN OUR TEAM! Comanche Trail Nursing Center, is accepting applications for a Certified Nurse Aid and Dietary Personnel. Benefits include: paid vacation, 401K plan, health insurance. Please apply in person at 3200 Parkway, Big Spring, TX 79720.

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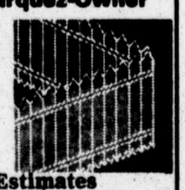

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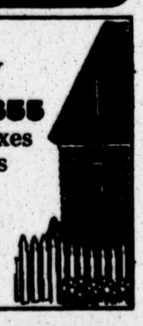
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Legals

ATTENTION COX COMMUNICATIONS SUBSCRIBERS
Beginning March 29th, 2005, Cox Communications will make the following changes in the Big Spring franchise area: Telefutura will be added to Channel 56 on the Analog Expanded Basic Lineup and on Channel 412 on the Paquete Latino tier on Cox Digital Cable lineup. Inquiries concerning this change or any other cable-related issue can be made at Cox Communications, 2006 Birdwell Ln, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Call 432-267-3821.
#4474 February 28 & March 1 & 2, 2005

ATTENTION COX COMMUNICATIONS SUBSCRIBERS
Beginning March 28th, 2005, Cox Communications will make the following changes in the Big Spring franchise area: Starz Theater will be renamed Starz Edge. Black Starz will be renamed Starz in Black. Starz Family will be renamed Starz Kids & Family. Encore Love Stories will be renamed Encore Love and Encore True Stories will be renamed Encore Drama. Inquiries concerning these changes or any other cable-related issue can be made at Cox Communications, 2006 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, TX 79720 or Call 432-267-3821.
#4475 February 28, 2005

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1988 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination."
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

PRODUCTION FOREMAN

Energen Resources Corporation has an immediate opening for a **Production Foreman** in its Westbrook, Texas office. Responsibilities include:

- Guiding and directing lease operators in the daily operations of assigned areas
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The sensitivity dial is turned to "high." A slight irritation could become a full-blown rash as the stars hand us just the thing we show resistance toward. Venus and Jupiter get high and mighty with one another, and the Scorpio moon escalates their argument. But the good news is, the upset brings out the truth—and the truth always sets us free.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A Japanese proverb states, "The nail that sticks up gets hammered down." Decide now whether you'd like to conform or not. If not, avoid the hammer by thinking of a clever way to conceal the fact that you are "sticking up."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Perhaps your outrageous aim has a better chance of being realized than a mundane one. Space stations house communities in the sky, not because of an accidental discovery but because mankind set "conquer space" as a goal.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Persistence and experimentation go hand in hand. Approach that relationship issue from at least three different directions before you write it off as "his or her problem." Brainstorming with a Pisces is lucky.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). "Trust" is a word that gets thrown around without comprehension of what it means. Maybe you can never know the secret heart of your loved one, but at least you can accept that he or she has a right to it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're impressionable now, so remember, garbage in, garbage out. Feed your mind, body and soul with nutritious "food." Watch out tonight: You're in the mood to go out and get into some trouble!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Give yourself credit—other people do. Someone looks at what you're doing and says, "Wow, I've always wanted to do that." If you really look, you'll find plenty of reasons to feel good about yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The resolution of a tense situation brings a combination of relief and letdown. What will you possibly do with your extra time and energy now that this "hole" has been plugged? You'll find something quick.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The hard questions are the ones that will set you free. What was learned from a bad situation? What came out of it that you can be grateful for? Use the introspective Pisces solar energy to find answers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Surrender to your desire. When you really risk your feelings, you will be rewarded for your courage in some manner. And what a rush! It feels as though your heart is riding on someone else's wings!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Everyone has done something to be ashamed of at some point in life. Where there is true forgiveness, bad karma can be erased. Grant yourself the grace to let go of what happened. It's over now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're walking a delicate line now. The difference between going with the flow and being passive is something you know in your heart. One has to do with timing, and the other has to do with fear.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People who look up to you are heavily influenced by your judgments, but that's a power you don't want right now. Be careful not to intentionally dictate what your child, employee, friend or sibling should do.

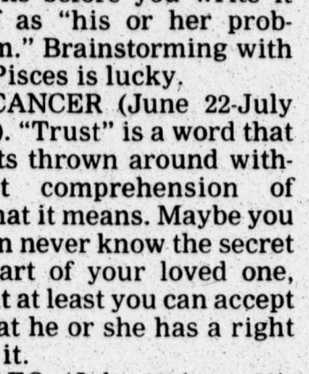
ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Capricorn, and my husband is an Aquarius. We have been together for a little over eight years and have two beautiful children. We also have gone through some hard times and made it through all of them! I love him very much, but there is a lack of romance, and it's always been that way. I have told him what I want, and he has reminded me that I married him and that he's not planning on changing. In the meantime, another man pursues. He says all the right things and does some of the most romantic things for me. He is a Taurus! What should I do?"

There is a visceral connection between you and this Taurus, and it's very sexy. But for you as a Capricorn woman, raising your children with your husband in a traditionally based home is going to contribute far more to your long-term happiness than the fleeting (though totally hot) romance you would experience with this Taurus. Since Aquarius is short on romance, you'll have to provide the missing element in your love life. But you might be surprised what you can pull out of your husband once you stop trying to get him to be romantic and take the onus completely on yourself to create romance in the relationship.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: I see theatrical training in the future of rapper Jeffrey "Ja Rule" Atkins. His Pisces sun and moon make him a natural actor, and he's already had many film roles. But I see him striving to be a serious thespian who follows in the footsteps of fellow rapper/producer/actor Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, who took to the Broadway stage to hone his craft.

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

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: I've been with "Ryan" for five years. We both were married before, and we each have a child from those marriages.

Ryan's 15-year-old daughter, "Beth," comes to visit every other weekend and for the entire summer. During her visits, she never leaves his side. Beth has her own room, but during her weekend visits, she sleeps in our bed. Over the summer, Beth demands that we not close our bedroom door at night. On top of that, she stays up until it is time for all of us to go to sleep, so we never have a moment without her.

Beth needs to know where we are every second. If she takes a shower, as soon as she gets out, she asks what we were doing while she was out of the room. Due to all this interference, sex is nonexistent. We are never alone, and with the bedroom door open, we can't be intimate because Ryan thinks she will hear.

Beth is a very mature 15-year-old, and I think there should be rules for her to follow, as there are for my child, and that Ryan should put his foot down when she makes these unreasonable demands. I have expressed my concern, but he says she is here only a short time and we should put up with it. What do you say? — His Partner

Dear Partner: Ryan is allowing Beth to control your relationship, and she is doing everything in her power to prevent you from having sex. Of course, Ryan should set some rules, and the first one is that you are entitled to some privacy. More importantly, no 15-year-old girl should be sleeping in her father's bed. No matter what else Ryan is willing to tolerate, that should end immediately.

If Beth won't accept your relationship, and Ryan refuses to set rules, you have some choices to make: You can put up with it, let Ryan stay home with her this summer while you take a trip somewhere fun and relaxing, or rethink your relationship. The problem is not going to disappear.

Dear Annie: My husband finally agreed to have his hearing checked and was diagnosed with profound hearing loss. He now has two hearing aids, but he doesn't like to wear them. Instead, he cranks up the sound on the TV so loud that it's uncomfortable for anyone else in the room. He says it's his home and he can adjust the sound as he pleases. Well, it's my home, too. What do I do? — Lady Lake Florida

Dear Lady Lake: First, tell your husband to see his doctor and make sure the hearing aids fit properly. If he still won't wear them, it might be worthwhile to invest in a set of wireless TV headphones that will allow him to turn up the volume to his heart's content, while the rest of you can listen with less racket.

Dear Annie: I'm still mad, so I guess I'll write. I'm talking about the woman who was so sanctimonious about mothers changing their babies' diapers on the plane seat. Where would she like me to do it?

There is no changing station in the bathroom. The options are to place your infant on the bacteria-laden, flimsy toilet lid or, if you are a gymnast, sit on the lid and place the baby on your outstretched legs. If this woman thinks she can birth a baby that will politely hold its bladder until the trip is over, she is welcome to try. — Jet-Lagged Mom

Dear Jet-Lagged: Agreed, it is difficult to properly care for an infant on an airplane, but you still need to have some consideration for the passenger next to the seat with the dirty diaper. Some mothers bring a portable, washable changing pad so they can lay the child on the floor.

At the very least, apologize to your fellow passenger before submitting him/her to this unpleasantness. It will go a long way toward easing hard feelings. (We think the airlines are missing the boat by not providing changing stations on flights.)

Dear Annie: Two years ago, I met a man with a 16-year-old daughter, "Josie." At the time, my son was 13. "Bob" proposed after we had known each other about a year, and he and Josie moved in with us a few months before we were to marry.

Not long after, I had to tell Bob that I couldn't marry him because of his daughter. Josie is pompous, spoiled, sarcastic and self-absorbed (her dad agrees). Bob said if Josie was still a problem after we married, he would send her to live with her mother across town. I accepted those terms, and we married.

Things immediately went from bad to worse. A few months ago, I suggested it was time for Josie to live with her mother, as he had originally offered. However, Bob now claims he cannot recall our conversation and that I must be mistaken.

I am furious with Bob. He refuses to have Josie move out, and I feel he manipulated me into this mess. My health is suffering, and I don't want my son in this turbulent situation. What should I do? — Trusting Your Judgment

Dear Trusting: Yes, Bob manipulated you. He should not have made any promises he was unwilling to keep.

Josie should be 18 by now. If she is planning to attend college, we strongly recommend you check out the dorms. If she is not going to continue her education, she should get a job and pay rent on her own apartment. If Bob refuses to encourage Josie to move out, insist on counseling so he understands what is at stake.

Dear Annie: I laughed out loud when I read the responses you printed several months ago to the question, "When are you going to have kids?"

As a young mother of four, I often am asked, "When are you going to STOP having kids?" I know we live in a society where American families have an average of 2.2 kids, but my husband and I dearly love all our children and work hard to raise them right. We think of each one as a blessing.

I would love to have some witty remarks to use when people ask us that rude question. — Mama of Four, San Francisco Bay Area

Dear Mama of Four: As long as you can support them, you are entitled to have as many children as you want. However, since our readers enjoy putting in their two cents' worth, we will print the best responses to your question.

Dear Annie: I am 21 years old. My grandfather helped me find a wonderful job in his state, so I moved in with him. My grandma died about six months ago, so I felt I would be helping Grandpa out, and moving up the career ladder in the process.

Although I love Grandpa and am extremely grateful for his help, he is very stubborn. He absolutely will not take any of my money to help with rent or other expenses. He also won't let me do much work around the house other than light cleaning, some cooking and laundry.

Grandpa is in good health and is retired. I know he loves having me here, but he is hard to live with. The place is never heated or air-conditioned to my liking, and I don't feel comfortable doing anything without his permission. Also, what happens if I invite a guy over? I really want my own place, but I worry about leaving Grandpa alone with no one but his dog for company. Still, I'd only be 10 minutes away. Please help me make the right decision. — Unsure in Wyoming

Dear Unsure: Dogs make great companions, and if you promise to stop by Grandpa's often and call daily to check up on him, we think you should go ahead and find your own place. Don't let guilt push you into doing something you resent.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Big Sister found a great new job..
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MONDAY

		WFAA 8 Dallas	KMID 2 Midland	UNI 3 Spanish	KPEJ 4 Odessa	KOSA 7 Odessa	KTLE 9 Telemundo	KWES 2 Midland	WTBS 17 Atlanta	KMLM 11 Odessa	KOCV 16 Odessa	DISC 24 Discovery	AMC 25 Classics	SPIKE 31 Spike TV	TNT 30 Atlanta	BET Black Ent.	DISN 33 Disney	ESPN2 34 Sports	ESPN 35 Sports	SCIFI 39 Science Fic.
6	PM :30	News (CC) Wheel-	News Wheel-	La Mujer de Madera	Malcolm-Mid. Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Anita No Te Rajes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Jesse Lee Pe.	News-Lehrer "	American Chopper	" "	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Cousin Jeff	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Billiards: UPA Pro	College Basketball:	Stargate SG-1
7	PM :30	The Bachelorette	The Bachelorette	Rubi "	American Idol	Still Standing Listen Up	La Mujer en el	Fear Factor (CC)	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update/Israel Biblical Israel	Antiques Roadshow	Power Tool Drag Racing	Movie: The Color of	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Club Comic View	The Color of Friendship	Billiards: UPA Pro	Pittsburgh at Boston	Stargate SG-1
8	PM :30	(CC) "	(CC) "	Amor Real "	24 (CC) "	Raymond Two/Half Men	Gitanas "	" "	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Experience	Monster Garage	Money (CC) "	WWE Raw (CC)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Movie: Book of	" Sister, Sister	Billiards: UPA Pro	College Basketball:	Stargate SG-1
9	PM :30	The Bachelorette	The Bachelorette	Cristina "	Malcolm-Mid. '70s Show	CSI: Miami (CC)	Te Voy a Ensenar a	Medium (CC) "	Family Guy Family Guy	" "	Rockies by Rail (CC)	American Chopper	" Movie:	" "	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	" "	Sister, Sister Even Stevens	Figure Skating:	Oklahoma at Texas (CC)	Stargate SG-1
10	PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	'70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Laura	News Tonight	National Lampoon's	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Power Tool Drag Racing	Nighthawks "	The Ultimate Fighter	Without a Trace (CC)	Nightly News Grown Folks	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Continents Championship	SportsCenter (CC)	Battlestar Galactica
11	PM :30	Ent. Tonight Jimmy	Extra (CC) Jimmy	La Hora Derbez	Becker (CC) Becker (CC)	Letterman Late Late	" Al Rojo Vivo-	" Late Night-	Vacation "	Booker Scrivner	Sign Off "	Monster Garage	:45 Movie:	Wildest Police	NYPD Blue (CC)	Midnight Love	Proud Family Kim Possible	Streetball NBA	College Basketball:	The Outer Limits (CC)
12	AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Live (CC) Paid Program	Alma Rebelde	Spin City Dharma-Greg	Show The Insider	Maria Celeste Programa	Conan O'Brien	Movie: Summer	Update/Israel How Can I	" "	American Chopper	The Killing Fields	Blind Date Shipmates	NYPD Blue (CC)	Club Comic View	Boy World Lizzie	SportsCenter (CC)	New Mexico at	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



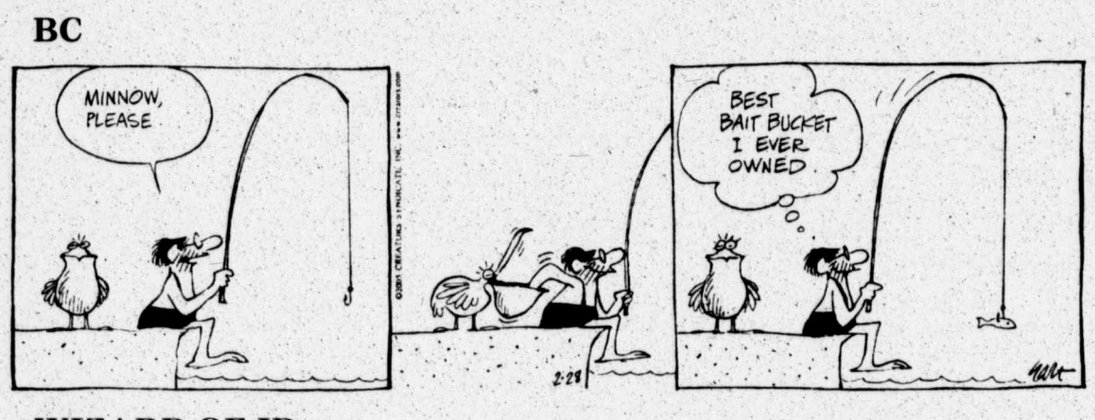
HAGAR



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BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 28, the 59th day of 2005. There are 306 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 28, 1849, the ship "California" arrived at San Francisco, carrying the first of the gold-seekers.

On this date:

In 1827, the first U.S. railroad chartered to carry passengers and freight, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, was incorporated.

In 1844, a 12-inch gun aboard the USS Princeton exploded, killing Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Navy Secretary Thomas W. Gilmer and several others.

In 1861, the Territory of Colorado was organized.

In 1953, scientists James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule that contains the human genes.

In 1974, the United States and Egypt re-established diplomatic relations after a seven-year break.

In 1975, more than 40 people were killed in London's Underground when a subway train smashed into the end of a tunnel.

In 1986, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was shot to death in central Stockholm.

In 1993, a gun battle erupted at a compound near Waco, Texas, when Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents tried to serve warrants on the Branch Davidians; four agents and six Davidians were killed as a 51-day standoff began.

In 1996, Britain's Princess Diana agreed to divorce Prince Charles.

Ten years ago: U.S. Marines swept ashore in Somalia to protect retreating U.N. peacekeepers. Denver International Airport opened after 16 months of delays and $3.2 billion in budget overruns.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Charles Durning is 82. Svetlana Alliluyeva, daughter of Josef Stalin, is 79. Actor Gavin MacLeod is 74. Actor Don Francks is 73. Actor-director-dancer Tommy Tune is 66. Auto racer Mario Andretti is 65. Singer Joe South is 65. Actor Frank Bonner is 63. Mercedes Ruehl is 57.

Answer to previous puzzle

O	P	P	R	E	S	S		H	O	L	L	A	N	D
C	O	R	O	N	E	T		E	L	E	A	N	O	R
U	T	I	L	I	T	Y		D	E	S	P	I	T	E
L	O	V	E	D		L	A	G	O	S		M	A	S
A	M	A	S		B	I	D	E	S		D	A	S	S
R	A	T		R	I	S	E	R		T	I	T	L	E
	C	E	M	E	N	T		S	U	R	V	E	Y	S
		E	G	G				B	I	O				
I	M	P	L	I	E	S		D	O	C	T	O	R	
N	E	E	D	S		K	A	Y	A	K		V	I	R
J	A	R	S		D	A	U	N	T		P	E	P	E
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C	U	I	S	I	N	E		M	A	L	T	E	S	E
T	R	A	I	N	E	R		I	M	I	T	A	T	E
S	E	N	D	E	R	S		C	O	A	S	T	E	D

Newsday Crossword

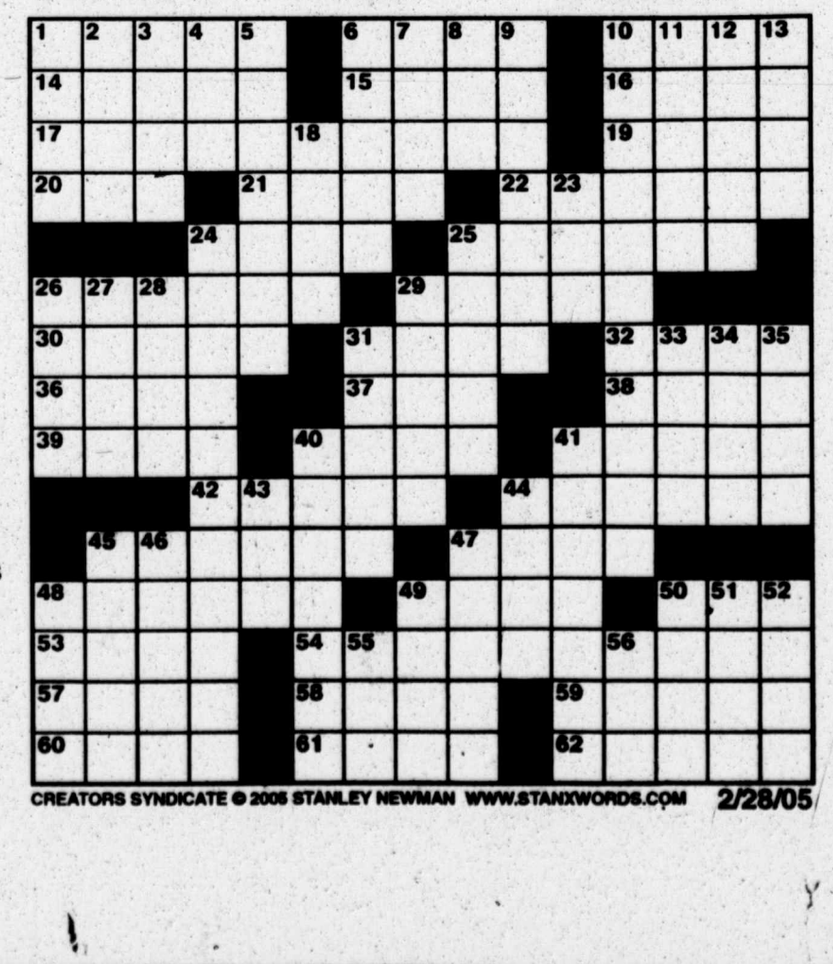
IN THE KITCHEN by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Hauled away, as a car
6 Short-term worker
10 Cooling devices
14 Do figure eights
15 60 minutes
16 Fan-club favorite
17 Buyer's maximum-to-minimum
19 Frequent ballad subject
20 Took a chair
21 Feline feet
22 Looked closely
24 Makes a wager
25 Package
26 Cool and calm
29 Yogi of baseball
30 Beseech
31 Finish second
32 Shower alternative
36 Economist Greenspan
37 Hill-building insect
38 Tennis great Nastase
39 Skin-powder ingredient
40 Black-and-white cookie
41 Trapper's trap
42 Pigpen sounds
44 Truck fuel
45 Pasta toppers
47 Rhyme writer
48 Glistens
49 Bullring shouts
50 Perform on stage
53 Endure
54 Arithmetic student's memorization
57 Doing nothing
58 Saudi citizen
59 Map collection
60 Elk relative
61 Unusual
62 Leaks slowly

DOWN

1 Sugar amts.
2 Cajun vegetable
3 "Hold on!"
4 And so forth: Abbr.
5 Swimming pool section
6 Defrosts
7 Years and years
8 Beer holder
9 Get set
10 Office furniture
11 Like a lot
12 Work of fiction
13 Toboggan
18 Fixed charge
23 Mess up
24 Accountant, jocularly
25 Pasta topper
26 Petty quarrel
27 Singer Fitzgerald
28 Authentic
29 Femur and fibula
31 Escapades
33 "What a pity!"
34 Air-filled wheel
35 Part of a sock
40 Low film rating
41 Acapulco naps
43 Soda cooler
44 Performs
45 What trees provide
46 Airliner walkway
47 West Point freshman
48 Lost traction
49 Sharif of film
50 __-bodied (physically fit)
51 Applaud
52 Thomas Hardy heroine
55 Keogh relative
56 Had dinner



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