

BIG SPRING HERALD

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

MARCH 10, 2000

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY
TONIGHT WEDNESDAY
43°-46° 73°-77°

Senior Center plans 55 Alive driving classes

55 Alive/Mature Driving Class will be at the Senior Citizens Center on March 21 and 22, and begins at 8 a.m.

This is a defensive driving class taught by state certified instructors.

Those who participate must attend both classes in order to receive a three-year discount from their insurance company.

Call 267-1628 or 263-1491 for more information.

WHAT'S UP...

WEDNESDAY

□ Optimist Club, 7 a.m., Howard College Cactus Room.

□ Senior Circle Big Spring Mall walkers meet 9:15 a.m. in front of movie theater box office.

□ Big Spring Downtown Lions Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

□ Line dancing, 1 p.m., Senior Citizens Center, Industrial Park.

□ Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third.

THURSDAY

□ Gideons International, Big Spring Camp No. U42060, Hermans, 7 a.m.

□ Big Spring Senior Citizens Center Art Classes, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for 55 and older.

□ Kiwanis Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

□ Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association, 5:30 p.m., RSVP offices, 501 Runnels.

□ American Legion Post 506, 6 p.m., call 263-2084.

□ Rackley-Swords Chp. 379, Vietnam Veterans of America, 7 p.m., 124 Jonesboro Road.

□ Masonic Lodge No. 1340, 7:30 p.m., 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

□ The Greater Big Spring Rotary Club, noon, Howard College Cactus Room.

□ AMBUCS, noon, Brandin' Iron Restaurant.

□ Spring City Senior Citizens country/western dance, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. All seniors invited.

SATURDAY

□ Big Spring Shriners, 6:30 p.m. dinner and meeting to follow.

□ Eagles Lodge Pot Luck Supper, 7 p.m., Eagles Lodge, 704 West Third.

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Vol. 97, No. 119

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. on weekdays and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Polls close at 7 p.m. tonight in primaries

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

Polls in the Democratic and Republican party primaries are open until 7 p.m. tonight at various locations around Howard County.

Early numbers haven't indicated much voter interest, however.

Slightly more than 9 percent of the county's 18,863 registered voters took the time to cast a ballot during the early balloting



WRIGHT

period, which ended Friday.

Secretary of State Elton Bomer is projecting an 18.7 percent turnout statewide — or 2.2 million of the state's 11.6 million registered voters.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. today and turnout through mid-morning was described as "light."

"I'd like to encourage everyone who hasn't voted to take the time to cast a ballot," said Howard County Clerk Donna Wright. "Some people think their vote doesn't count, but it does count."

One reason for the apparent voter apathy may be that there is only one county-wide contested race. That's the Republican Party nomination for Howard

County sheriff, and features incumbent Bill Jennings battling a challenge from police detective Dave Mohn.

There is no Democratic candidate for sheriff. That party's candidate, former police officer Javier Becerra, disqualified himself last week by voting in the Republican Primary. Election laws forbid a candidate from one party voting in another party's election.

Howard County Democratic Party Chairman Rey Villarreal said the party will likely appoint someone to oppose the Republican nominee for the November election.

See ELECTIONS, Page 2

Blood drive slated Wednesday at Coahoma Community Center

HERALD Staff Report

United Blood Services will hold a blood drive from 4 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Coahoma Community Center.

Donors must be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. All donors must bring identification with them and know the name of any medications they have taken within the past 30 days.

"We have had a tough time getting donors into blood drives," said Gary Karschner,

community relations representative for United Blood Services in San Angelo. "I think we have finally passed these flu and upper respiratory conditions the folks have had since December."

UBS provides blood and blood products to 12 area hospitals. Those who can donate are asked to call 394-4277 and make an appointment.

"Coahoma has always helped us with our blood drives," said Karschner. "We really need the blood now. If you are well and would like to donate, please make an appointment."



Construction on the State Veterans Home on U.S. Highway 87 is continuing. According to bricklayer Charles Johnson of Mark Young Masonry, the company will lay around 140,000 bricks for the home, which is due completion in October or November.

Rural issues

Select committee to convene in Big Spring Wednesday to hear from experts, citizens

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

State legislators, speakers from state and area associations and Crossroads Area citizens will get together Wednesday to talk about issues that impact West Texans.

"This is a great opportunity for West Texans to express their concerns to the Legislature," said State Rep. David Counts, who will be among the legislators present at the meeting, set for 10 a.m. in the East Room at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The legislators, who are members of the Texas House of Representatives Select Committee on Rural Development, will hear testimony from invited speakers and the public on several key natural resources concerns. Among those concerns are water rights, groundwater regulation, water conservation and drinking water systems.

Wednesday's agenda includes speakers from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Rural Water Association, the Texas A&M Real Estate Center, the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District, the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District and Colorado River Municipal Water District (CRMWD).

John Grant, CRMWD general manager, will be one of those addressing the committee.

"I'll be discussing some of the history of the water district, the issues we have faced in devel-

oping water supplies, the challenges we have faced, the obstacles we have overcome," said Grant.

"And I'll talk about the drought and how that has impacted water supply. Then there will be some suggestions we have to make life a little easier and simpler for us," he added.

Rep. Counts, D-Knox City, said that while the focus will be on natural resources, the public will not be limited to those topics.

"This is an opportunity to come and talk to the legislators about problems they see that concern rural Texas," he said. "If they want to talk about telecommunications in rural Texas, or transportation in rural Texas, or delivery of health care in rural Texas, that's fine. And hopefully they'll have some suggestions as to how we might make things better."

The Select Committee on Rural Development was created by House Speaker Pete Laney to study issues impacting rural Texans. State representatives who have been appointed to the committee include Chairman Barry Telford (D-DeKalb), Clyde Alexander (D-Athens), Warren Chisum (R-Pampa), Judy Hawley (D-Portland), Jim Keffer (R-Eastland), Tracy O. King (R-Weatherford), Jim McReynolds (D-Lufkin), Tom Ramsay (D-Mt. Vernon), Irma Rangel ((D-Kingsville) and David Swinford (R-Dumas).

The committee has been instructed to develop plans to maintain and improve the economic, social and cultural life of rural citizens.

The committee will later issue a report recommending both short-term changes and long-term changes in state policy, rules and regulations concerning rural areas.

Optional indigent health care services, grant for library computer lab reviewed

By GINA GARZA
Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners Court on Monday approved optional services for the county's indigent health care program.

"The state mandates we provide mandatory services such as doctor visits, in-patient hospital stays, outpatient (such as the emergency room), and lab and X-ray," said Irene Dominguez, director for the Howard County Indigent Health Care.

She said the state is widening

the scope to provide optional services.

"We can now utilize advanced practice nurses, ambulatory surgical center, certified registered nurse anesthetist, home and community health care and physician assistants," said Dominguez. "By using these options, we can save the county money."

Dominguez said these new services would go into effect April 1.

Howard County Library was awarded a grant in the amount of \$42,042 by the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board (TIF), said Loraine Redman, librarian.

"The grant will allow us to build a computer lab and training center for the purpose of training employees and patrons on how to access and search the

Internet," Redman told commissioners.

The lab will be located in the basement along with the children's department and community room.

"The grant money will purchase 10 workstations and one file server as well as a network laser printer and a digital camera," she added.

Redman said the library has applied for an E-Rate discount grant.

"The E-Rate discount is a telecommunications grant which is overseen by the Schools and Libraries Corp. for the purpose of assisting libraries and schools on the cost of connecting to the Internet," she said.

"We qualified for an 80 per-

See LIBRARY, Page 2

Census takers still needed throughout Crossroads area

By CARL GRAHAM
Staff Writer

For about a week after the Census 2000 kickoff in Howard County, people were coming

into the Texas Workforce Commission to apply for the temporary full-time and part-time positions being offered. But according to area census supervisor Gene Quigley, the numbers have begun to dwindle.

"We have filled about 75 percent of the vacancies in Howard and Martin counties and we are about 50 percent filled in Borden County," said Quigley.

"We have about 12 in Borden County that have made applications but we usually only figure on about half of those that apply

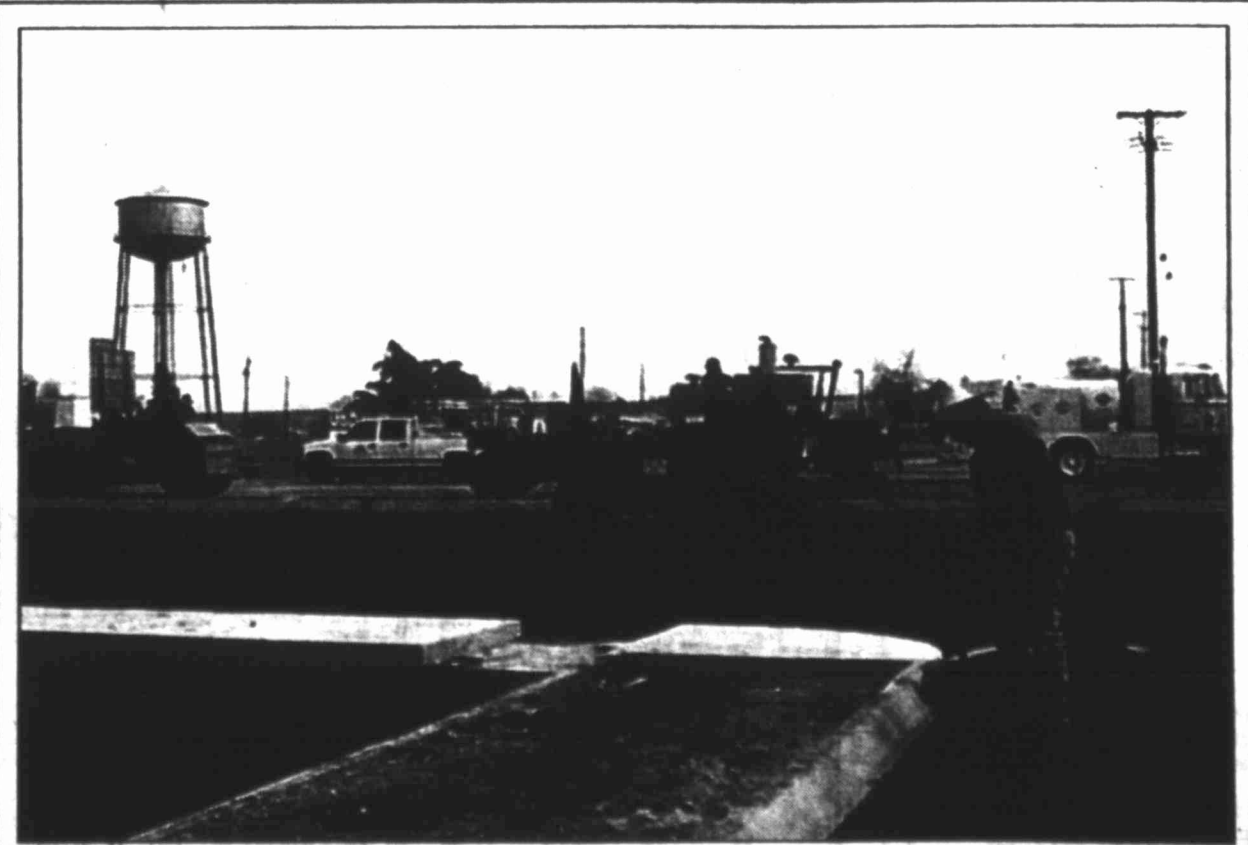
actually are hired and come to work for us."

The temporary jobs pay \$9.75 an hour for enumerators. Crew leaders start at \$11.25 an hour. In addition to the hourly wage, individuals will also be paid mileage.

"We had pretty good response the first week after the kickoff back in February but we need to continually let the people know that we still have positions open and the pay isn't that bad for this area," said Quigley. "We will probably hire four or five crew leaders from Howard County and the rest will be enumerators."

Quigley is available at the Texas Workforce Commission on a daily basis from 9 a.m. until about 11:30 a.m. and he is in Stanton every Wednesday evening from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Quigley works the Borden County area every other

See CENSUS, Page 2A



Jones Company paved the USDA Research Center's new parking lot Monday. Pictured is employee Francisco Escontrias. The expanded parking lot is part of a larger project that will see the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service move into the refurbished facility this summer.

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OBITUARIES

Olveyne Hayes

Service for Olveyne Thompson Hayes, 71, Snyder, will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, 2000, at Bell-Cypert-Seale Chapel in Snyder with the Rev. Lloyd Stice and the Rev. James Merrell officiating. Burial will be in Millside Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be at the funeral home from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Mrs. Hayes died on March 12, at Cogdell Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

She was born in Lamesa, on May 15, 1928, to Lloyd and Blanche Thompson. She graduated from Lamesa High School in 1946 and was a telephone operator for General Telephone Company for several years. She married David C. Hayes on Jan. 1, 1951, in Lamesa, and they made their home in Snyder, where she was a housewife.

Mrs. Hayes was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, and was past Worthy Matron of Snyder Chapter No. 450, Order of the Eastern Star, and Hermleigh Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was also a member of Big Spring Assembly No. 211, Social Order of the Beauceant.

She is survived by: her husband, David C. Hayes of Snyder; one son, Van Hayes of Abilene; and two sisters, Lloyd Ola Bearden, and LaVera Ann Mitchell, both of Big Spring.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home of Snyder.

ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1

In the only other contested race of a "local" nature, Boyce Hale and Joseph "Butch" Lesuer are both seeking the Precinct 3 constable's post on the Republican ticket. Voting in that race is limited to residents in the Tubbs Addition and those living south into and past Forsan. There is no Democratic candidate.

There are, however, a number of other contested races on both ballots of a state and national nature, including the office of president.

Wright said a number of factors, including some relatively inexperienced election judges this year and voter turnout — the number of ballots which have to be counted — make predicting a time for the final tally to be calculated tonight impossible.

"It's just something you can't know, there are too many factors. We've been through by 8:30 p.m. and then again it could take until 9:30 p.m.," she said.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1

cent discount on the cost of the T-1 line and our Internet service provider fees. The total amount of this discount is over \$7,000," added Redman.

Tracy Tarter, local CPA, reported that the annual finan-

cial report was good. "It was a clean report and a good strong year," said Tarter. "All offices are doing their jobs really well."

CENSUS

Continued from Page 1

Saturday, seeing prospective employers.

"We really appreciate all the help from the newspapers and radio in getting out the word about our job needs," said Quigley. "We want this to be a very successful census and the only way we can do it is with everyone working together."

Quigley said about 25 percent of those hired only want part-time work, or that work that can be conducted in the evenings or on weekends.

"I just want to say to those looking for temporary work, I will make myself available to anyone and will try to work around an individual's schedule to accommodate them," Quigley said. "For those that want, we do have a practice test they can take before the actual one that helps them orientate themselves with the test."

Georgia company recalls chicken

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Georgia company is recalling 18,600 pounds of chicken breast fritters that may have been sold in packages that don't disclose that the product contains eggs, which cause allergies in some people.

The product was packaged for institutional use and was not sold in stores.

The chicken product was sold by Zartic Inc. of Rome, Ga., to distributors in 13 states: Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Kansas, Florida, Oklahoma, Arizona, Ohio, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, according to the Agriculture Department's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Each of the 18-pound cases in which it was sold has a code of "63014" on the label, and "P-703" appears inside the USDA seal of inspection.

Six automakers singled out for lack of child-seat safety programs

ATLANTA (AP) — The chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board criticized six automakers Monday for failing to establish programs to make sure children are properly secured in car safety seats.

Chairman Jim Hall scolded Volvo, Mitsubishi, Kia, Subaru, Suzuki and Isuzu in a speech at a national highway safety meeting in Atlanta.

He said the companies refused to set up "fitting stations" where parents could get advice on installing the seats. Government studies have shown that eight of 10 safety seats are installed incorrectly.

"I believe that all these car companies are run by responsible adults, and if they get the message effectively — and maybe it needs to be repeated — they will take the steps nec-

essary to address the No. 1 health problem for kids," Hall said.

Transportation officials say properly used child seats cut the risk of fatal injuries in half. Common mistakes include using the wrong size seat.

Volvo spokesman Soren Johansson said he was not sure the NTSB had even approached his company about a child-safety program. "Child safety has been on the agenda with us for years," Johansson said.

Representatives of the five other companies did not return calls for comment Monday.

Hall praised DaimlerChrysler and General Motors for their child-safety programs.

On the Net: National Safe Kids Campaign: <http://www.safekids.org>
DaimlerChrysler Fit For A Kid program: <http://www.fit-for-a-kid.org>
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://nhtsa.gov>

SUPPORT GROUPS

TUESDAY
•Support for MS and Related Diseases, 6:30 p.m. second Tuesday of each month, Canterbury South. Public invited. Call Leslie, 267-1069.

•Al-Anon, 8 p.m., 615 Settles.
•Seniors' diabetic support group, 2 p.m., Canterbury South. Call 263-1265.

•Compassionate Friends support group for parents who have experienced death of a child, 7:30 p.m. first Tuesday in February, April, June, August, October and December in the Family Life Center Building, First Baptist Church, 705 West Marcy. Enter by southeast door. Call 267-2769.

•"Most Excellent Way," an addiction support group, 3610 Dixon, call 264-9900.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. closed meeting.

•Samaritan Counseling Center of West Texas will have Dr. Ronald Meyer, D.Min., LCDC, LMFT, specializing in individual and marriage counseling, Attention Deficit Disorder and chemical dependency, available for clients in Midland. Appointments for counseling services are made by calling 1-800-329-4144.

•Narcotics Anonymous, 6 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 268-4189 (pager no.).

•Big Spring Christian Home Educators meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church. Recreation is available for the kids and net-

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working for the parents. For more information, contact Suzanne Haney at 263-7147.

•Innovators in glyconutritional are an independent group focusing on sickness prevention and management utilizing non-toxic simple saccharides to help our body heal itself. Training sessions are the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at 1909 S. Gregg. For more information call 267-3013 or 267-2424.

WEDNESDAY
•Gamblers Anonymous, 7 p.m., St. Stephen's Catholic Church, room 1, 4601 Neeley, Midland. Call 263-8920.

•Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon open meeting and 8 p.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 268-4189 (pager no.). Step study.

•Nurse Hospice and Canterbury are sponsoring a new grief support group. It will meet the second Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. in the community room at Canterbury South, 1700 Lancaster.

IF YOU HAVE A SUPPORT GROUP LISTING, PLEASE SUBMIT IT IN WRITING.

BRIEFS

THE TEXAS SILVER HAIRE Legislature is seeking qualified candidates to represent the older Texan population, ages 60 and older. Potential candidates must be 60 years or older as of Jan. 1, 2000; live in one of the 17 counties served by the Permian Basin Area Agency on Aging and be a registered voter.

Candidates are required to complete several application forms which include an official candidate petition with 25 signatures and a \$5 filing fee. All travel and associated costs will be the responsibility of the elected representative throughout their two year term in office.

Interested individuals must call Dorothy at the Permian Basin Area Agency on Aging office at 1-800-491-4636 to receive a candidate's packet. All information must be returned to the Area Agency office on or before March 31 to be placed on the official ballot. Representatives will be elected by their peers on the fourth Tuesday in May at polling booths located in most Permian Basin senior citizen centers.

THE NATIONAL ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION is giving 10 free white flowering dogwood trees to each person who joins the Foundation during March.

To become a member of the

TEXAS LOTTERY

Pick 3: 6,0,8

Cash 5: 5,9,22,32,36

Lottery numbers are unofficial until confirmed by the state lottery commission.

Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Dogwood Trees: National Arbor Day Foundation; 100 Arbor Avenue; Nebraska City, Neb.; 68410, by March 31.

FIRE/EMS

Following is a summary of Big Spring Fire Department/EMS reports:

MONDAY
9:47 a.m. — 3200 block Parkway, medical call, patient transported to Scenic Mountain Medical Center.

10:05 a.m. — SMMC, patient transferred to Midland.

12:12 p.m. — 3700 block Wright, medical call, patient transported to SMMC.

12:26 p.m. — SMMC, patient transferred to Mitchell County.

1:44 p.m. — 1700 block Lancaster, medical call, patient transported to residence.

4:45 p.m. — SMMC, patient transferred to Stanton.

6:36 p.m. — 1800 block South Main, gas leak, was extinguished.

7:39 p.m. — 3200 block Parkway, trauma call, patient transported to SMMC.

11:50 p.m. — SMMC, patient transferred to Midland.

POLICE

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activities from 8 a.m. Monday through 8 a.m. today:

•**ROGER HILARIO FIERA**, 24, of 1802 State, was arrested on a charge of criminal mischief. (BSPD)

•**JOE GALINGA CASTANEDA**, 52, of 305 W. 5th, was arrested on a charge of driving while license was suspended. (BSPD)

•**ANTANACIO GUTIERREZ**, of 602 Abrams, was arrested on a charge of driving while license suspended. (BSPD)

•**LARRY WAYNE SHARP**, 34, of Lubbock, was arrested on a charge of sexual assault of a child. (District Court)

•**MARK MOLINA**, 35, of 502 E. 11th Place, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

•**ROBERT VELA**, 42, no address given, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

•**BUDDY ATKINSON**, 24, of HC 71 Box 111, was arrested on

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a Mitchell County Warrant.
•**BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1600 block of Harding and in the 200 block of NE 12th.

•**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3600 block of E. 11th.

•**FORGERY** was reported in the 900 block of Main.

•**ASSAULT /FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1400 block of Tucson.

•**THEFT** was reported in the 1700 block of Marcy and in the 1100 block of Lamesa.

•**ASSAULT BY THREAT** was reported in the 400 block of E. 4th.

RECORDS

Monday's high 72
Monday's low 47
Average high 68
Average low 39
Record high 93 in 1916
Record low 18 in 1954
Precip. Monday 0.00
Month to date 0.14
Month's normal 0.86
Year to date 1.19
Normal for the year 1.57
Sunrise Wednesday 6:56 a.m.
Sunset Wednesday 6:54 p.m.
**Statistics not available

SHERIFF

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activities from 8 a.m. Saturday through 8 a.m. today:

•**ROGER HILARIO FIERA**, 24, of 1802 State, was arrested on a charge of criminal mischief. (BSPD)

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FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
24th & Johnson 267-8248

NALLEY-PICKLE & WELCH
Funeral Home
Trinity Memorial Park and Crematory
906 Gregg St.
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Eulene Jackson Jones, 70, died Saturday. Graveside services will be 4:00 PM today at Trinity Memorial Park.

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Richards

WASHINGTON (AP) — could see a repeat of p bility problems in a r tricity industry are n Secretary Bill Richard Addressing a group officials on Monday, R they help convince Co lation that would req bility standards for v ducers.

"While demand for ... the reliability of o times faltering, main ers haven't kept pace the electric utility in said.

He released an Ener that concluded the tra competition has strain distribution lines, and to focus on competing costs and maximizin assuring that power is

The report examin and electricity price during high electrici mer and how to pre

Wal-Mart

TYLER (AP) — Wal not retreat from its eliminate meat cutti ments at 180 stores, d threat of legal action union, a company woman said.

The United Fo Commercial Work asked the Nationa Relations Board to go court for an injuncti the world's biggest re injunction would a union to continue see port from Wal-Mart

United

WASHINGTON (AP) two years of fighting Clinton administrat how to distribute sca ed organs, the netw runs the nation's trans tem has agreed to dev tem aimed at gettin ers to the sickest pati

The United Netw Organ Sharing said I would expand the g areas that guide alloca tions, allowing a don to travel farther "th

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Richardson warns of potential summer power woes

WASHINGTON (AP) — This summer could see a repeat of power outages if reliability problems in a rapidly changing electricity industry are not addressed, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson warned.

Addressing a group of mayors and local officials on Monday, Richardson urged that they help convince Congress to enact legislation that would require mandatory reliability standards for wholesale power producers.

"While demand for electricity is soaring ... the reliability of our electric grid is at times faltering, mainly because policy makers haven't kept pace with rapid changes in the electric utility industry," Richardson said.

He released an Energy Department report that concluded the transition to electricity competition has strained transmission and distribution lines, and caused some utilities to focus on competing for markets, cutting costs and maximizing prices, instead of assuring that power is kept flowing.

The report examined power disruptions and electricity price spikes that occurred during high electricity demand last summer and how to prevent a repeat of the

same problems this summer.

The incidents included outages in Chicago, New York City, Long Island, New Jersey, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana as well as some non-outage electricity grid disturbances in New England and the mid-Atlantic states.

A draft of the report, including its key findings, was made public as an interim document in January.

But Richardson, speaking to the National League of Cities, used the analysis to reiterate his call for Congress to pass legislation governing the new, more competitive electricity industry or risk "more long, hot summers of outages in America's cities."

For several years, lawmakers have been trying to craft legislation that would establish a national program of electricity industry deregulation, ending the historic monopolies utilities have had in their local service areas.

Twenty-four states already are well along to a competitive electricity market and in some states such as California and Pennsylvania people can choose their electricity supplier, although the actual power still comes over the same local distribution

systems.

But a national electricity deregulation bill has been stymied by disagreements among various segments of the \$200 billion electric power industry, and opposition from some states where electricity already is cheap.

There also has been controversy over what role the federal government should play as opposed to the states, which traditionally have regulated electric utilities, and whether a federal law should require an openly competitive market, or allow states to make that decision.

Citing power disruptions last summer, Richardson told a cities' conference that "without action (on the federal level) things could get worse before they get better."

Last week, Richardson told a conference of state regulators that the system of voluntary reliability rules, established by the industry itself, is inadequate in the current competitive market system.

"We need mandatory reliability standards for (wholesale) power providers," Richardson reiterated Monday.

Richardson also has raised concerns about large power providers manipulating prices.

White House and NRA keep elbows flying on gun control

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton says he's "just trying to keep more people alive" as he and the National Rifle Association keep throwing elbows on the sensitive election-year topic of gun control.

Neither the White House nor the NRA was backing off from a war of words that included an accusation from NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre that Clinton was "willing to accept a certain level of killing to further his political agenda and his vice president too."

The back-and-forth seemed sure to continue, as the White House tries to train an unflattering light on the NRA and its mostly Republican backers in Congress as Vice President Al Gore campaigns to replace Clinton and Democrats hope to regain a majority in the House in November.

"I'm not trying to pick a fight with anybody," Clinton said Monday night. "I'm just trying to keep more people alive."

Clinton has issued a challenge to Congress to pass what he calls "common-sense gun control" before the April 20 anniversary of the Columbine High School shootings in Colorado, although his plan failed in Congress last year.

He wants to impose background checks on sales at gun shows that could take as long as 72 hours.

Many congressional Republicans, like the NRA, want any such checks to be instant or at least no longer than 24 hours. Clinton also wants trigger locks to be required on new guns and a ban on the import of large-capacity ammunition clips.

Even in the face of Columbine and the shooting death of a 6-year-old by a first-grade classmate, Clinton said, the NRA is set in its opposition.

"I want you to see what we're up against whenever we try to change here," Clinton said.

LaPierre, who made his original charge Sunday, held his ground on Monday. He said it is Clinton who owes the parents of children killed by guns an explanation of why federal gun laws are being so poorly enforced.

"I think he should look them in the eye and explain why he won't enforce the laws against crack dealers with guns and take them off the street," he said in an interview.

What began the exchange Sunday is a new campaign in which NRA President Charlton Heston implies in television ads that Clinton lied when he characterized the NRA as stubbornly resistant to reasonable gun-control laws.

"When what you say is wrong, that's a mistake," Heston says in several of them. "When you know it's wrong, that's a lie."

Wal-Mart vows to go forward with plans to eliminate butchers

TYLER (AP) — Wal-Mart will not retreat from its plans to eliminate meat cutting departments at 180 stores, despite the threat of legal action from a union, a company spokeswoman said.

The United Food and Commercial Workers have asked the National Labor Relations Board to go to federal court for an injunction against the world's biggest retailer. An injunction would allow the union to continue seeking support from Wal-Mart workers

nationwide while preserving the butchers' jobs.

Union leaders argue Wal-Mart's plans to switch to prepackaged meats are in retaliation for butchers joining the union at one of the stores.

But Wal-Mart spokeswoman Jessica Moser said the idea of eliminating meat departments has been under consideration for nearly a year in response to consumer preference.

"We intend to move forward," Moser said. "We know this is the direction for our company

to be going and the best for our customers."

The decision to get rid of meat cutters came just weeks after the butchers at the Jacksonville Wal-Mart voted 7-3 to join the UFCW, the first successful union vote in the country at a Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart denies the decision to replace butchers at 180 of its Supercenters in six states had to do with the pro-union vote — or pending elections and organizing drives in Texas and Florida.

The union, however, argues federal law requires Wal-Mart to negotiate before eliminating the jobs in Jacksonville.

Moser said the company will not bargain.

"We are still contesting the validity of the election and will appeal the vote and will not participate in any negotiation until that is resolved," she said.

Wal-Mart leaders accuse union and labor relations board employees of improper conduct before the Feb. 15 vote. A hearing is scheduled for March 28.

United Network for Organ Sharing agrees to formulate new liver policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — After two years of fighting with the Clinton administration over how to distribute scarce donated organs, the network that runs the nation's transplant system has agreed to develop a system aimed at getting more livers to the sickest patients.

The United Network for Organ Sharing said Monday it would expand the geographic areas that guide allocation decisions, allowing a donated liver to travel farther in order to

reach a sicker patient.

It also agreed to develop a better system for ranking patients on the transplant waiting list, so that those in most urgent need of transplants rise faster to the top of the list.

Currently, patients in some parts of the country get transplants much quicker than those in other areas. That's partly because donated livers are distributed to local patients first, even if a sicker patient needs one in a neighboring communi-

ty or region.

More than 4,800 people died in 1998 waiting for transplants. More than 68,000 patients are waiting now, including almost 15,000 waiting for livers.

Hoping to create a fairer system, the Department of Health and Human Services issued rules ordering the network to create a new system to send more of the scarce organs to the sickest patients.

After the rules were issued nearly two years ago, the net-

work and many transplant centers complained they would jeopardize small programs that might lose locally donated organs to larger hospitals in other communities with more of the sickest patients. Anyway, many said, HHS lacked authority to wield final say over policy decisions.

Congress stepped in and put the rules on hold several times. But the last moratorium is about to expire, and the rules can take effect Thursday.

Once it became clear that Congress would not delay the rules again, the network's board met in special session in Dallas and approved its new plan for submission by Thursday.

"We're pleased. There's no question about that," said John Nelson, who oversees the transplant program for HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration.

The network already had edged a step closer to what HHS wanted, requiring that the very

sickest patients get first chance at donated livers within each of 11 regions.

Monday's action moves the network even closer to the HHS, but the network's president, Dr. William Payne, noted that HHS has compromised as well. In October, the agency revised the regulation to make clarifications — organs need not be shipped coast to coast, for instance, and should not be transplanted into dying patients too sick to benefit.



individual.



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MEDICAL CENTER**
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Women's health care that's as multifaceted as most women.

How many hats do you wear every day? Many, if you're like most women. And somehow, as busy as you are taking care of others, your own health is the thing you might overlook.

Which is why you should know that Scenic Mountain Medical Center has invested more than \$1 million in enhancing our OB/Women's Services. Time and money dedicated toward making health a convenient, more efficient investment for you.

With a new accredited, FDA-certified mammography unit. Skilled technologists who have been trained and registered in performing mammography procedures. Cozy, comfy exam rooms with recliners. Plus, comprehensive Gynecology and Cardiology services for women of all ages. For more information on all that Scenic Mountain has to offer women, please call us.

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.

John H. Walker
Publisher

Debbie Jensen
Features Editor

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Moss Lake
cleanup worth
the cost, effort

If you haven't been out to Moss Creek Lake lately, take the time to go. The city has spent a fair sum of money — approximately \$20,000 — and a heap of manhours at the small recreational lake east of Big Spring.

The result is a nicer, brighter place to spend a leisurely afternoon or weekend. Docks and campsites are more accessible and in good repair. Roads have been graded, debris hauled off and some of the overgrown brush trimmed back.

In addition, the city has moved some paddleboats and canoes out to the lake. Whether those will be a hit with the public remains to be seen, but during the facility's re-opening a couple of Saturdays ago, they were being grabbed up almost as fast as the free hot dogs.

Swings, slides and other apparatus in bright colors dot the newly enhanced play area. It's an attraction sure to be popular with children.

Another greatly improved feature is the RV park, which we noticed was already getting some overnight campers during the re-opening. Water, sewer and electrical hookups are available now, and there are three large pavilion areas for group picnicking.

Fees are reasonable, too — \$3 a carload to get in and another \$3 per group to stay overnight. RV camping is \$10 or \$15 a night, depending on the type of hookup desired.

We'd be remiss if we did mention a few words about the Wilderness Camp inmates, who provided most of the labor for the five-month cleanup, fix-up project. Once again, that program has proved its worth in thousands of dollars in savings to Big Spring.

Our accolades go out, too, to the Big Spring Parks and Recreation Department, city officials and city council members.

Take the time to go out to Moss Creek Lake. If you were out there last year, you'll find some welcomed changes. If it's your first visit, you'll discover a nice place for a family picnic, an overnight camp out, fishing, swimming or canoeing. Give it a try.

OTHER VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

The definition of the words "stop" and "slow." Am I crazy or is the law different in Big Spring, Texas, than in other cities and towns?

There are 20 definitions in my dictionary for the word stop. (1) To stop a car, (2) To cease moving, (3) Stop payment on check, (4) To halt military command of law enforcement officers. It does not say slow.

Why am I seeing car after car only slowing and proceeding across intersections, or not even slowing whatsoever? If there is no car in sight, the law says come to a complete stop. It cost me \$20 in Galveston and in Houston to learn my lesson in this matter.

The last time I checked, when the amber light comes

on, it means the light is turning red, not to speed up and try to outrun the light.

Evidently, this is not the law in Big Spring. Every day I see slowing at stop signs and running red lights. We take our life in our hands when we proceed when the light is red or a car is coming in the cross street.

We stop, then it is our time. I hope the wise thing is to wait and see if the other car is going to stop.

This town is due a terrible episode here. Accidents do not happen. They are caused. These are the things that hurt people, even kills them.

In closing, don't forget speed. Sixty miles per hour does not mean 80.

Let us pray.

J.W. ABERNATHY
BIG SPRING

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

Please:

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- Letters of a political nature will not be published.
- We reserve the right to edit letters 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 for publication.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
- Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721.

Needed: A supply side energy policy for U.S.

"Price of Crude Oil Exceeds \$30 Barrel, Highest Since '91," read a recent Wall Street Journal headline. The effects are everywhere: high prices at the gas pump and a crisis for low-income homeowners in the Northeast who face rising heating oil prices during a very cold winter.

The cause is as obvious as it was avoidable: we are dangerously and increasingly dependent on foreign sources of energy. Today, we import 55 percent of the oil we use. When the Arab oil embargo struck in 1973, we imported 36 percent. This has created a situation Americans won't tolerate for very long: we do not control our own destiny. Instead, the United States is at the whim of international markets dominated by foreign state-owned producers who, to say the least, don't have America's best interests at heart.

Unfortunately, we had ample warning for the current crisis. Little more than a year ago, the Wall Street Journal told a very different tale: "Oil Strippers in West Texas Close Up Shop For Good." In 1998 and into 1999, crude oil prices hit their lowest point in decades. Low prices were a boon to motorists and economists pointed to them as a major element of keeping inflation under control. Those drastically low prices, though, led to the permanent loss of U.S. production capability.

Hundreds of thousands of small wells shut down and thousands of jobs were lost, making us even more vulnerable at these times of high prices. We've ignored this cycle since the oil price shock of the 1970s, greatly increasing our foreign energy dependence.

If the price of water suffered such boom-or-bust cycles, Americans would be rightly outraged. Yet oil is just as precious a commodity to our industrial economy, and we purport to be helpless to the ravages of the marketplace. But we are not. We could develop an energy security policy that helps sustain domestic production through the busts, ensuring greater price stability. The first step toward breaking this cycle is a simple one: understanding that cold Vermont household and out-of-work Texas wildcatters are the two sides of the same energy independence coin.

To address this, a bipartisan coalition of energy state legislators had developed the U.S. Energy Economic Growth Act. Among other ideas, our legislation provides tax incentives on smaller producers who operate marginal wells that are so small that, once closed, are never reopened. These are wells producing 15 barrels a day or less. While that doesn't sound like much, there are close to 500,000 such wells across the U.S. that together have the capacity to produce 20 percent of America's oil. This is roughly the same amount of oil the U.S. imports from Saudi Arabia. During last year's oil price plummet, more than a quarter of these wells closed, most of them for good.

Marginal well production has a multiplier effect. In 1997, these low-volume wells generated \$314 million in taxes paid annually to state governments.

Such revenues are used for state and local school, highways and other state-funded projects and services.

The U.S. Energy Economic Growth Act provides concrete incentives that will help keep America's small producers online. A safety net in the form of a tax credit can offset the cost of keeping marginal wells operating at a time of low prices and preserve hundreds of thousands of wells and thousands of American jobs. Our proposal would help producers maintain production only when prices plummet to below break-even levels, as they did just a year ago. If they can survive such times, then they will still be in business to offset the impact when the OPEC cartel tries to manipulate prices as it is now. As prices rose, the credits would be phased out.

Another critical element of our plan is to restart inactive wells by offering producers a tax exemption for the costs of doing so.

In addition to ensuring greater domestic energy production, this provision would increase revenues paid by oil producers to the federal government in two ways. First, producers will still pay federal taxes on income generated from the recovered well. Second, because the legislation will increase the number of service-related jobs, there will be more workers paying taxes on their wages and earnings.

In Texas, a program similar to this has met with considerable success. Over 6,000 wells have been returned to production, injecting approximately \$1.65 billion into the Texas economy each year. This remarkable success can be applied nationwide and will encourage wise use of our resources.

Repeating that program on

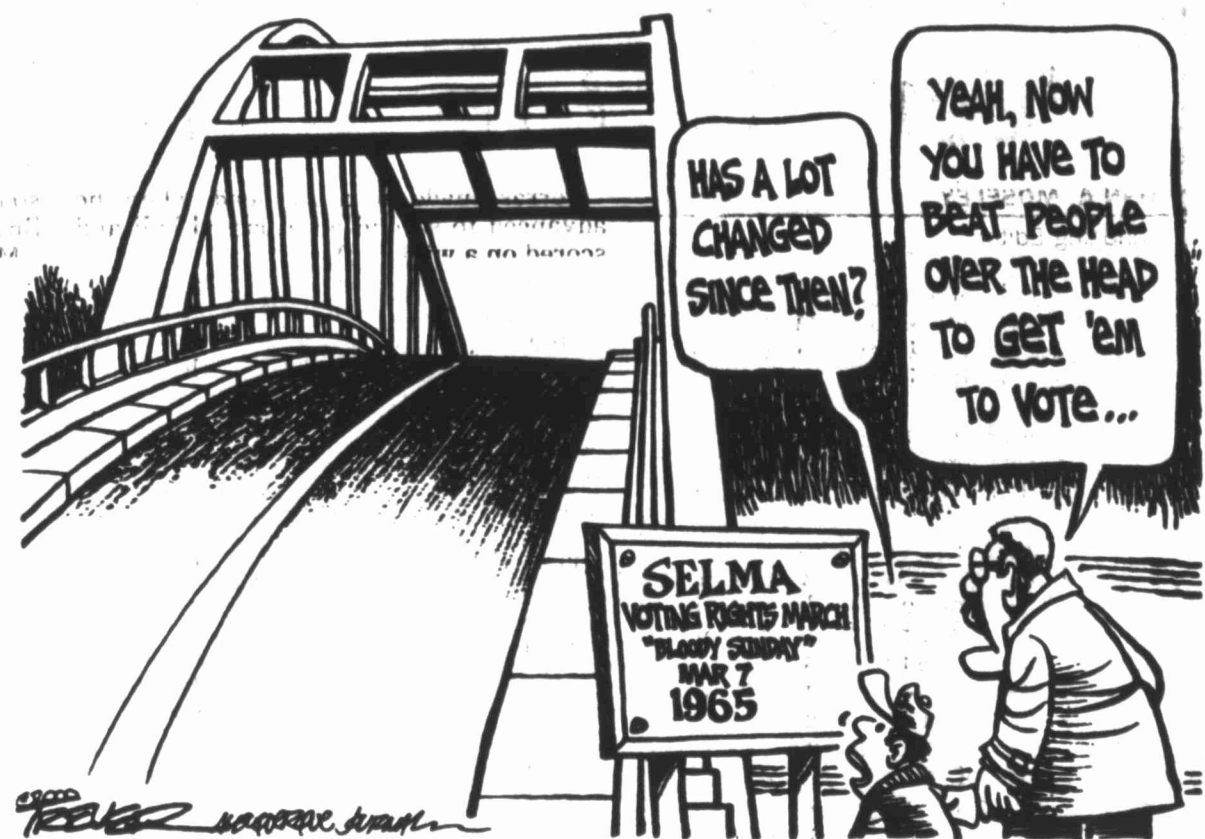
national level to restore domestic production would have a long-term net effect of increasing revenues to the federal government. This is quite different from many of the programs being considered to resolve the current crisis, which include spending more federal dollars to help the needy pay their home heating bills. This may be necessary, but it is a band-aid that we will be forced to apply again and again if we don't seize this opportunity to develop a cure.

There are other ideas worth considering, but a quick word on one that is not. There has been much discussion about releasing oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to help bring prices down. The sentiment is understandable, but such a proposal would get the federal government into the business of manipulating markets through direct supply distortions. Further, SPR access is restricted by law for a national security emergency, when dependence on foreign sources could endanger our very way of life.

Rather than attempting to manipulate the market itself, government should focus its policies in a more legitimate fashion: creating the conditions for a viable market. Present law encourages technological research and development through tax credits for innovation.

Present law encourages home ownership through mortgage interest deduction. Future law can encourage energy independence if we are bold enough to seize this moment and pass the U.S. Energy Economic Growth Act.

Kay Bailey Hutchison is a Republican Senator from Texas and co-chair of the Congressional Oil and Gas Caucus.



Taking a quantum leap in America's defense

As the Battle of Waterloo was, according to the Duke of Wellington, "won on the playing fields of Eton," the Battle for Kuwait was won on a desert at Fort Irwin, Calif., in the scientific laboratories of the maligned defense industry, in the halls of a much maligned Congress and in the mind of even more maligned presidents.

A couple of years ago in this space several presidents were acknowledged for their most significant contributions to the country, and Ronald Reagan was given plaudits from this corner for one very important initiative: SDI, the Strategic

Defense Initiative, dubbed "Star Wars."

What could possibly be wrong with the idea of a defensive shield? Critics said 1) it was impractical, and therefore a waste of money and 2) it could provoke the Soviet Union into a preemptive strike for fear of losing the deterrent capability of their nuclear arsenal.

As we now know, it was not a waste of money, which is why the Clinton administration has pressed forward with the concept. Rather, SDI has proven to be the quantum leap that pulled other technological advances forward. From the Patriot missile, which SDI experts consider a very basic system, to laser-guided bombs and Stealth technology, the lofty goals of SDI have given the U.S. defense industry the impetus to jump a weapons generation ahead of any other country. And the threat of a pre-emptive strike never really existed for the simple reason

that deterrence — which such a strike would seek to preserve — continued to work. That is it deterred.

Furthermore, let us not forget that Congress funded this and other high-tech research and weaponry. And while it would not have done so absent Reagan's proposals, Congress nonetheless deserves much credit. After all, what other legislative body in the world, facing mounting budget deficits, showed the will and foresight to do so?

Even so, all would have been for naught had not the military been willing to adapt its doctrine and embrace the new technology.

While such might seem an obvious course today, American history is replete with examples to the contrary. Between the two world wars, for example, Gen. Billy Mitchell was court-martialed as an outgrowth of his advocacy of that new contraption, the airplane. He had the gall to

believe that a plane could sink a ship.

And always there has been the claim that we prepare for the previous war. Not this time.

At Fort Irwin, desert warfare was honed, weapons systems were tested and units were initiated into the high-tech, high-speed environment — an environment unlike any military environment previously known to man.

Indeed, America's military-industrial complex has been so successful that it is possible to overlook its weak link, the absence of a draft. Enlistments in the all-volunteer armed forces seemed to fall off in direct proportion to the likelihood of hostilities. Duty and citizenship cannot, in a free country, be dissociated. So we can only hope that Congress, which has shown such courage and foresight in military technology, does likewise in the realm of military manpower.

Mallard Fillmore
by
BRUCE TINSLEY



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ESPN, Ch. 30.

IN BRIEF

**Buff thinclads compete
at Eldorado track meet**

Adam Dunlap and Furillo Subia led the way for Forsan's Buffs during Saturday's Eldorado Invitational track meet.

Subia was Forsan's high-point man for the meet, finishing third in the long jump and fifth in the 110-meter high hurdles.

Dunlap added a fifth-place finish in the 3,200 meters and was sixth in the 1,600, while J.D. Newton was fifth in the 800 meters.

In the junior varsity division, Forsan got fourth and sixth places from Ross Rhoten in the 3,200 and 1,600, respectively.

In addition, the Buff JV's 400-meter relay team finished sixth.

**YMCA swim team inviting
new members to join**

The Big Spring YMCA Swim Team is inviting anyone interested in swimming to join the team.

Practices for the spring season begin at 6:30 p.m. Monday.

Boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 14 who can swim one length of the pool are eligible to join the team.

The fee is \$20 per month for members of the YMCA and \$27 per month for non-members.

For more information, call the YMCA at 267-8234 or Kim Hughey at 267-2819.

**Volunteer firefighters set
golf tourney for Saturday**

The Howard County Volunteer Fire Department will hold its first ever benefit golf tournament for Saturday at the Big Spring Country Club.

Entry fees will be \$200 per team for the four-man scramble which will be limited to 36 teams. Registration ends today.

For more information, call Tommy Sullivan at 393-5853 or Richard Willadsen at 267-7857.

**YMCA begins registration
for roller hockey program**

Youngsters between the ages of 8 and 17 interested in playing roller hockey this spring can now register at the Big Spring Family YMCA.

The deadline for early registration is Saturday, March 11.

Players must provide their own equipment and practices begin on March 20. A six-game league schedule is slated to begin the week of April 3.

Registration will be \$25 for non-members and \$20 for basic program members.

For more information, call Pete Thiry at 267-8234.

**UGSA schedules sign-ups
for Saturdays this month**

Big Spring's United Girls Softball Association has begun registering players each Saturday in March at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 25 will be the final day to sign up.

The fee will be \$30 per player and applicants must have a copy of their birth certificate.

For more information, call 267-7466, 267-2208 or 267-4947.

AREA GAMES

**TODAY
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL**

5 p.m. — Plains Cowboys at Coahoma Bulldogs.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

4:30 p.m. — Monahans Lady Lobos at Big Spring Lady Steers.
• Miles Lady Bulldogs at Coahoma Bulldogettes.

ON THE AIR

Television

NBA
7 p.m. — Houston Rockets at New York Knicks, TNT, Ch. 28.
7:30 p.m. — Indiana Pacers at Dallas Mavericks, FXS, Ch. 29.
9:30 p.m. — Sacramento Kings at Portland Trail Blazers, TNT, Ch. 28.
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
7 p.m. — Anaheim Mighty Ducks at Colorado Avalanche, ESPN, Ch. 30.

Rangers' Mateo eager to really prove himself in outfield

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (AP) — If Ruben Mateo lives up to the hype that has preceded him, the Texas Rangers won't mourn the loss of Juan Gonzalez very long.

Mateo made his major league debut last season and started 31 games in center field for injured Tom Gooden. This year, the job is Mateo's and he intends to stay the full season and beyond.

Although at times he might seem too confident, no one doubts his potential.

"Ruben has the most talent on this club," said first baseman Rafael Palmeiro. "He's a five-tool guy. He can do it all and do it well. He's just rough, very young and very confident, which sometimes can get in the way. As long as he doesn't lack confidence he'll be OK."

After dominating Triple-A pitching at Oklahoma, Mateo hit .238 with five home runs and 18 RBIs with the Rangers, but he was dogged by injuries that put him on the disabled list twice and he missed the final two months of the season.

Wiser, and still confident, Mateo says he's ready to go to work.

"This is my second time in spring training," Mateo said. "Last year, I was trying to make the club, this time, I have a job and that makes me more comfortable."

Still, it wasn't a smooth transition. Mateo homered for his first major league hit and became the first Ranger player to do that since Rusty Greer in 1994. He was hitting .188 when he was placed on the disabled list the first time with a

groin pull.

Mateo returned and had a 10-game streak where he hit .341 but then he slumped again before he was sidelined for the season on Aug. 4 with a broken hamate bone in his left wrist.

"This year, I know what I have to do and that makes me more comfortable," Mateo said. "I need to work on everything. I have to work on my offense and my defense, everything. I am trying to work hard to be the best I can be."

Hitting coach Rudy Jaramillo is working to give Mateo more discipline at the plate.

"He shows his confidence with a lot of body language," Jaramillo said. "I'm glad he's cocky; I want him to be cocky. But there comes a point in time when

you have to back up the way you act and the next stage for Ruben is to put the numbers up."

Manager Johnny Oates is trying to get the most out of his potential super star. "You don't get as good as he is without confidence," Oates said. "Sometimes you have to bring them back to reality a little bit. I think Ruben can handle it. He's going to have a long career."

"He has to realize it's not all roses. He needs to know he's not a horse's rear end because he went 0-for-4. He'll be a goat a few times but he'll be the hero a lot more."

Mateo will get plenty of help from veteran Rangers. His locker in beside Palmeiro's and close to shortstop Royce Clayton.



Big Spring's Jason Choate (12) slides into second base on a steal attempt in the first inning, as the throw from Monahans catcher Josh Swarb gets past shortstop Lucas Ramos and second baseman Robert Ramos. Choate would move to third on the play, but was stranded there, as the Steers suffered a 7-4 loss in Tuesday's non-district game.

Steers fall to Monahans, 7-4

JOHN A. MOSELEY
Managing Editor

Big Spring's Steers proved to be their own worst enemy Monday afternoon, as they suffered a 7-4 loss to Monahans' Lobos in non-district baseball action at Steer Park.

Simply put, Big Spring pitching allowed too many bases on balls and Steers defenders committed too many errors to have a chance.

Except they did. But Lobos ace Brady Hawkins managed to pitch his way out of trouble in the first, third, fourth and sixth innings by allowing just a pair of Big Spring runs.

And Monahans made sure Hawkins would have a generous lead going into the Steers' final at-bat, scoring three insurance runs in the top of the seventh inning.

Those three runs proved to be the margin of victory, as the Steers mounted a two-run rally in the bottom of the seventh.

Those three runs, only one of them earned, were charged to Big Spring reliever Jason Choate.

The loss, however, belonged to Steers starter Clint Bamert, who fell victim to his teammate's errors in the third inning when Monahans broke open a scoreless game with three runs and never looked back.

Right fielder Scott Moore, the ninth batter in the Lobos' order, led off the rally with the game's first hit, a single up the middle, and scored moments later when Oved Porras ripped a double to the fence in left-center field.

Porras made it a 2-0 lead when he advanced to second on a passed ball and scored on a wild pitch.

Chad Eubanks, who reached base on the only walk Bamert would issue, scored a little later, thanks to errors charged to Steers first baseman Mike Smith and third baseman Jay Kuykendall.

Bamert would finally get out of the inning, striking out Eric Avila — his third of the inning — and would move to first when Choate took over mound duties in the top of the fourth.

The right-hander had allowed just one earned run on two hits and a walk while striking out eight.

But the Steers, who'd stranded a runner at third in the first inning, could answer with just a single run in the bottom of the inning.

Kuykendall led off the Steers' third by drawing a walk, one of just three Hawkins would issue, swiped second and scored when Choate came up with Big Spring's first hit of the game, an RBI single to left.

An two-base error charged to shortstop Lucas Ramos allowed Steers right fielder Jose Carnero to reach base, putting runners at second and third, but Hawkins avoided additional damage by striking out designated hitter Daniel Beauchamp.

Another Steers rally fizzled in the bottom of the fourth when catcher Bowe Butler and left fielder Ricky Solis hit back-to-back, one-out singles and moved into scoring position when Hawkins was charged with a balk and uncorked a wild pitch.

But Jay Kuykendall's sacrifice fly to center provided the Steers' only run of the inning, as Hawkins escaped the jam by

striking out Big Spring reserve Jason Birmelin.

Monahans added another unearned run in the top of the sixth inning, as Moore — who had two of the Lobos' four hits — slapped a one-out offering from Choate for a single to right.

Carnero overran the ball in right field, allowing Moore to reach second.

A passed ball charged to Butler and a wild pitch allowed Moore to score, padding the Lobos' lead to 4-2.

But the real killer came in the top of the seventh when Eubanks led off the top of the inning by reaching base on an error. Back-to-back walks loaded the bases and prompted Big Spring head coach Pat Loter to call on sophomore Justin Belcher to replace Choate.

Belcher promptly issued a run-scoring walk to Josh Melius. Robert Ramos added a one-out RBI single to right.

Monahans' final run came on the Steers' sixth error of the game when second baseman Willis Morrison misplayed a ground ball off the bat of Porras.

The Lobos were anything but perfect in the field, as well.

In fact, Monahans players committed seven errors, three of them allowing the Steers' Choate and Carnero to score in the bottom of the seventh.

Choate scored Big Spring's third run on a passed ball and Carnero scored on a sacrifice fly to center by James Clements, but Hawkins quelled the riot by striking out reserve catcher Ricky Yanez.

The loss left the Steers dropping below the .500 mark at 5-6 going into this weekend's tournament in Artesia, N.M.

Cincinnati's injured Martin leads AP All-America team

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cincinnati center Kenyon Martin, whose season was ended just before the NCAA tournament by a broken leg, was still the leading vote-getter on the Associated Press All-America basketball team.

Iowa State forward Marcus Fizer was second in the balloting Monday, and he and Martin were joined on the first team by Indiana guard A.J. Guyton, Texas center Chris Mihm and Notre Dame forward Troy Murphy.

Martin, just one vote shy of being a unanimous selection, was the Conference USA player of the year after averaging 14.9 points, 9.7 rebounds and 3.4 blocked shots. The 6-foot-8 senior broke his leg three minutes into the Bearcats' tournament quarterfinal matchup with Saint Louis.

The loss caused Cincinnati, ranked No. 1 at the time, to be selected as a second seed for the NCAA tournament.

"I'm very happy to receive this honor," said Martin, a three-time defensive player of the year in the conference. "It's one that I have to share with my coaches and teammates. They've done so much for me and my career and they have been so

Catchings tops women's squad

The ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tamika Catchings, who inherited the Tennessee leadership role once held by Chamique Holdsclaw, filled it well enough to receive more votes than anyone on The Associated Press women's All-America basketball team.

Catchings, also a first-team pick last year, was joined on the top unit by Georgia's Kelly Miller, Notre Dame's Ruth Riley and Connecticut's Shea Ralph and Svetlana Abrosimova. All five are juniors.

Only Catchings and Miller were named on all 44 ballots cast by a national media panel. But 23 players received at least one first-team vote.

Catchings, a slick 6-foot-1 star who can play on the perimeter or inside, was

supportive with my injury."

Martin was selected to the first team on all but one of the ballots from the 68-member national media panel, and had 336 points in the 5-3-1 system.

Fizer, the Big 12 player of the year and

voted to the first team on 35 ballots and received 200 total points. She has averaged 15.5 points, 7.5 rebounds and 2.6 steals in helping the second-ranked Lady Vols to a 28-3 record.

Playing alongside her twin, Coco, Miller directs a potent offense at Georgia and leads the Lady Bulldogs in scoring (15.4) and assists (4.7). She gets high marks from coach Andy Landers for doing what the team needs at that moment.

Miller was picked for the first team on 30 ballots and had 189 points.

The 6-5 Riley, a third-team pick last year, has developed into an imposing inside presence with a nice touch around the basket. She's fifth nationally in blocks (2.7) and averages 16.2 points while shooting 61 percent.

The conference's leading scorer the last two seasons, led the Cyclones to their first league title since 1945 and is their first All-American since Gary Thompson in 1957.

The 6-8 junior averaged 23.2 points and

7.5 rebounds while shooting 57 percent from the field, including 43 percent from 3-point range. He received 57 first-team votes and 313 points.

Guyton, the Big Ten player of the year and the fourth-leading scorer in Indiana history with 2,097 points, was on 33 first-team ballots and had 226 points.

The 6-1 senior averaged 20.3 points this season while shooting 42 percent from 3-point range. He is Indiana's career leader with 280 3-pointers, and was the first Hoosier to be on the All-America team since Calbert Cheaney in 1993.

Mihm received just 17 first-team votes, but his 200 points were one more than Murphy.

Mihm, a 7-foot junior, averaged 17.9 points, 10.6 rebounds and 2.4 blocks while shooting 53 percent for the Longhorns. He is Texas' first All-American since the AP began selecting a team in 1948. In 1935, Jack Gray was a consensus All-America selection.

Mihm had 19 double-doubles this season, giving him 35 in his last 52 games. He had 11 in his previous 42.

Murphy, the Big East player of the year, was the first player to lead the conference in scoring and rebounding in the same season.

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