BIG SPRING HERALD

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Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

50 CENTS DAILY/$1.25 WEEKEND

WEDNESDAY

February 16, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 34°-36° TOMORROW 47-49°

BRIEFLY

Chamber luncheon slated March 1; tickets are on sale

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce Community Luncheon is set to begin at 11:45 a.m. March 1 in the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, hosted by the Big Spring Rotary clubs.

The luncheon will feature the State of the City Address by Mayor Russ McEwen. Catered by Great Western Dining, the tickets are $10 if purchased by Feb. 23 and $15 until Feb. 25.

No tickets or reservations will be accepted after Feb. 25. Purchase tickets at the chamber office, 215 W. Third, or call 263-7641.

COMING THIS WEEKEND



Cover Story: Some of today's young American farmers and ranchers are computer savvy, college-bound and enrolled scientists and engineers on the cutting edge of technological innovation, leading the way in the application of biotechnology and genetic engineering.

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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.

Commissioners updated on pending lawsuits

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A pair of lawsuits against the Howard County Sheriff's Office took center stage with county commissioners during a closed session Monday morning, as attorneys brought the court up to speed on proceedings in separate cases.

A civil lawsuit was filed in October against the sheriff's office and several individuals by the family of a 41-year-old man who died while in custody at the county jail on Jan. 25, 2004.

The lawsuit alleges the defendants, which include Howard County, Howard County Sheriff's Office, Chief Jailer Mike Smith, Deputy Sheriff Adam Dunlap, Sheriff Dale Walker and Department of Public Safety Trooper Weldon Jones, contributed to the death of Richard Dunn Allen, whose last known place of residence prior to his death was a motel in Midland.

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said the closed session was simply a chance for attorneys to bring the court up to speed on the proceedings.

"They went through the different motions that have been filed and let us know where everything goes from this point," said Kilgore. "Right now they are just working on getting the lawsuit dismissed."

According to Sheriff's Department reports, jailers discovered Allen, who was arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated and possession of marijuana — less than two ounces, hanging by his neck in his cell during a security check. Allen, who was in the process of moving from Oregon to Austin, reportedly used an article of jail-issued clothing to hang himself.

Jailers immediately cut Allen down, notified Big Spring EMS and began administering CPR, according to a press release issued by the Sheriff's Office. Attempts to resuscitate Allen were unsuccessful.

The lawsuit alleges Allen was mentally ill and represented a

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A



KRT photo/Danielle P. Richards, The Record

Dr. David Arnit, right, with patient Frank Dudlo is concerned about the controversy surrounding pain medications such as Vioxx, Celebrex and Aleve.

Are painkillers safe?

FDA opens hearing on popular arthritis drugs

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration promised prompt action today on recommendations from advisory committees probing the safety of popular painkillers, but urged the advisers to balance the risks and benefits of the drugs.

Vioxx was pulled from the market Sept. 30 after a long-term clinical trial indicated some patients suffered heart attacks or strokes. Similar safety questions have risen concerning the related drugs Celebrex and Bextra.

The advisory committees are hearing from government officials, physicians, researchers and the public in three days of meetings before voting on recommendations for these prescription drugs, known as Cox-2 inhibitors.

A drug that has a positive risk-benefit balance for the population as a whole may still cause serious problems for some individuals.

Dr. Steven Galson, acting director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, said the agency will act rapidly on the committee recommendations. The FDA is not required to accept such recommendations, but generally does.

Galson reminded the group that the drugs in question are important painkillers widely used by people in chronic pain. It is important to balance the risks of drugs with their benefits, he said.

A drug that has a positive risk-benefit balance for the population as a whole, Galson added, may still cause serious problems for some individuals.

See **SAFE**, Page 7A

Stop crime

Police ask for public's help in solving crimes

HERALD Staff Report

Big Spring Area Crimestoppers is asking for the community's help in capturing a federal fugitive and solving a break-in that took place in downtown Big Spring in mid-2004.



Ovalle

Local law enforcement is searching for 31-year-old Mario Robert Ovalle, who is wanted locally on a charge of theft by check — more than $500 and a U.S. Marshals Service warrant for a probation violation.

According to investigators, Ovalle is believed to be in the Big Spring area and may be staying with family.

He is reportedly 5 feet, 6 inches tall, and weighs 170 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. He also has extensive tattooing.

Anyone with information concerning the whereabouts of Ovalle is encouraged to contact the Big Spring Police Department, U.S. Marshals Service or local Crimestoppers. Callers may qualify for a reward up to $1,000 for the capture of Ovalle.

Crimestoppers is also asking for help in solving the burglary of a downtown bar and grill that occurred July 13, 2004.

See **CRIME**, Page 5A

BSISD trustees to receive last of 'Robin Hood' funds; set meeting for Thursday

❑ Board to convene at 5:15 p.m. in the high school boardroom.

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Independent School District will receive what may be the last of its "Robin Hood" financing this week.

Under the "Robin Hood" school financing plan, which was recently ruled unconstitutional, so-called "rich" school districts distribute funding to poorer districts in an attempt to equalize school financing.

By that arrangement, BSISD — one of the "poor" districts — will receive a check this week in excess of $9 million from Austin ISD, Big Spring superintendent Michael Downes said.

Details of this funding source will be among the items discussed when BSISD trustees meet at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

Austin ISD purchases attendance credits from Big Spring as part of the Robin Hood plan, Downes said.

A good portion of this money will be refunded to the Texas Education Agency, but when all matters are settled, Big Spring should realize a net gain of more than $400,000. That figure, which is not reflected in the school budget, is earmarked for technology and alternative education

See **BSISD**, Page 5A

Ex-nurse's murder trial moved to San Angelo

Jury selection to begin in March

SAN ANGELO (AP) — The capital murder trial of a former North Texas nurse accused of injecting 10 elderly patients with lethal drug doses has been set for next month in San Angelo, attorneys said Tuesday.

State District Judge Roger Towery made the decision Tuesday after he traveled to Tom Green County and was told there was a courtroom available for more than a month and a large jury pool, said Bruce Martin, a defense attorney for Vickie Dawn Jackson. Jury selection will be the second week of March, and opening statements will be March 14.

Jackson, 39, will be tried in two of the 10 deaths in late 2000 and early 2001 at the 38-bed Nocona General Hospital in rural Montague County, southeast of Wichita Falls. She also is charged with attempted murder after an incident involving an 11th patient.



Jackson

Jackson, who maintains her innocence, faces up to life in prison if convicted. Prosecutors are not seeking the death penalty.

Last year, Jackson's trial was moved to Archer City, about 50 miles west of Nocona, because of pretrial publicity and the likelihood that many in the jury pool

See **NURSE**, Page 5A

Support groups

THURSDAY

❑ Narcotics Anonymous, non-smoking discussion meeting, 8- 9 p.m., at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1001 Goliad.

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

❑ The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center beginning in January. Call 263-8273 for more information.

❑ Alzheimers Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at The Texas State Veterans Home, 1809 N. Hwy 87. For more information call Orand Carroll 268-8387.

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

❑ West Texas Gluten-Free Support Group (Celiacs Helping celiacs) meet from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Odessa Regional Hospital. For more information, conact Barbara at 432-694-3614 days, or 432-520-2119 evenings.

SUNDAY

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

MONDAY

❑ Encourager's Support Group — All widows and widowers are invited to the meeting beginning at 6 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church, Seventh and Runnels streets. Bring a covered dish and a valentine card (no gifts.) For more information call 398-5522.

Police blotter

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

• **MARKQUIN EARL HARRIS,** 18, of 2615 Chanute, was arrested Tuesday on a warrant from the Texas Youth Commission.

• **MARCELINO RAMIREZ JR.,** 21, of 2529 Langley, was arrested Tuesday on two local warrants.

• **LAZMINDA VILLAREAL,** 29, of 1602 Sycamore, was arrested Tuesday on eight local warrants.

• **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 400 block of Birdwell.
- in the 1100 block of Lamesa.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported:
- in the 1400 block of Robin.
- in the 2900 block of Highway 80.
- in the 200 block of Galveston.

• **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 700 block of Washington.

Sheriff's report

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

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 1500 block of Eubanks Road.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of Craigmont at 9:49 a.m. Tuesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of Highway 87 at 1:21 p.m. Tuesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 3000 block of Highway 87 at 12:54 p.m. Tuesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **TRAUMA** was reported in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20 at 1:47 p.m. Tuesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2600 block of Chapperal at 8:16 p.m. Tuesday. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take note

❑ **WEST TEXAS OPPORTUNITIES IS GIVING AWAY PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION DISCOUNT CARDS** from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Thursday at the office, 4005 E. I-20. Call 267-9636 for more information.

❑ **VFW POST No. 2013 ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER** is set for 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at the post, 500 Driver Road. Dinner, including chili, beans, cornbread and desert, is $6 for adults and $3 for children under 12. Open to the public. Call 393-5715 for more information.

❑ **BIG SPRING WOMEN'S CLUB** will sponsor a free seminar for parents whose children will be participating in the TASK Abstinence program through the high schools in the area from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Monday in the Trinity Baptist Church annex building, 810 11th Place. Parents with students of any age will benefit from the information at the seminar. Students are welcome whether alone or with their parents.

❑ **THE BIG SPRING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON** is set to begin at 11:45 a.m. March 1 in the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The luncheon will feature the State of the City Address by Mayor Russ McEwen. Catered by Great Western Dining, the tickets are $10 if a ticket is purchased by Feb. 23 and $15 until Feb. 25. No tickets or reservations will be accepted after Feb. 25. Purchase tickets at the chamber office, 215 W. Third or call 263-7641.

❑ **HOWARD COUNTY A&M CLUB SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2005-2006** are being accepted. Applications may be obtained from Mike or Jeane Niklasch at 1409 E. Highway 350 or by calling the club president, Dr. Tom Dawson at 267-7911, ext. 216. Application deadline is April 15.

❑ **DEREK CHURCHWELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** has been established at Howard College. Donations may be made to the Howard College Foundation in care of Jan Foresyth, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Designate the Derek Churchwell Scholarship Fund.

❑ **YOUNGLIFE ROUNDUP BANQUET** is set for Feb. 28 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.

❑ **HOWARD COUNTY CHILD WELFARE BOARD** is seeking financial donations to provide support for children in Howard County who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect. Contact Patti Richard at 432-559-6953 or mail donations to HCCWB P.O. Box 3101 Big Spring, 79721.

❑ **LEGAL AID OF NORTHWEST TEXAS** is accepting appointments for 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

❑ **HERITAGE MUSEUM** is also accepting donations of costumes to be used with the new theme party area opening in May. Call the museum at 267-8255.

❑ **FRIENDS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY LIBRARY** have scheduled a used book sale from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Thursday in the new building across from the White Ford Motor Company, near the post office. The sale benefis the restoration of a library building. For more information contact Bud Lindsey at 756-2306.

❑ **A FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR 6-WEEK-OLD MAGGIE VASQUEZ TO ASSIST WITH THE EXPENSES OF A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT.** She is the daughter of Susan Vasquez and Steve Nail of Big Spring. Maggie was born prematurely and suffers from kidney failure. She remains in Dallas Children's Hospital undergoing daily dialysis treatment until the transplant match is found and the surgery performed. The account number at the bank is 9013091. For more information, contact Parks Convienent Store at 263-4498 or Denise 816-1539.

❑ **RELAY RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ** is 10 a.m. Saturday in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, sponsored by Big Spring State Hospital's Relay for Life Team. Entry forms are available at the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third and KBST 608 Johnson. Entry deadline is Feb. 8, 2005. Any boy or girl between the ages of 1 day old to 11 years may participate.

❑ **THE FAR WEST BOYS HOME** is in need of donations of household, office and recreational items to benefit boys 5-17 who are unable to live with their families due to abuse or neglect. Items needed include dressers, bunk beds, mattresses, cookware, recreational and exercise equipment, and a maintenance pickup, can or car. Cash donations to purchase these items are also appreciated. Far West is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. To arrange pick up of items or for more information, call 432-353-4464.

❑ **AN ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE FAMILY OF CHRIS RIVERA, 26, A FORMER COSDEN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION MEMBER,** who died Dec. 28, 2004. The fund is to assist his wife, Natasha Rivera and his four children, all younger than 6, with funeral expenses. The account no. is 760221. To donate contact the credit union at 264-2600.

❑ **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY CHURCH** is looking for infant cars seats to be given to needy families. Call Karen at 263-3517 or the church at 263-5683.

❑ **A BENEFIT FUND HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED** at Cosden Federal Credit Union for Jeremiah Best, to help with the cost of his cancer treatment. Contributions and prayers are appreciated.

❑ **AN ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT TRISTIN RANGEL,** son of Ione and Tim Rangel, has been set up at the Big Spring Government Employees Federal Credit Union, 2204 Gregg St., account No. 529903, to help with medical expenses. He has been diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia and is in a Lubbock hospital.

❑ **A SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO BENEFIT LOVE FROM HOME** has been established at Citizen's Federal Credit Union. Love From Home is a local effort to provide personal items needed by the soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Contact the credit union at 267-6373 to contribute funds to offset the cost of postage for the packages mailed to the soldiers.

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

• Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels.

• American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.

• Masonic Lodge 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

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

• AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.

• Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

• American Legion Post No. 506 fish fry from noon until 3 p.m. Delivery available from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. $7 per plate. Carry out available. 3203 W. Highway 80. Call 263-2084.

• Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Goliad and First streets for a meal with a meeting to follow.

• Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

• Big Spring Squares. Call 267-7043 or 263-6305 for more information.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 12-19-21-29-35.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: $36,604.
Winning tickets sold in: Houston.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Wednesday night.

•••

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-8-5

Weather

Tonight – Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Lows In the mid 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday – Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain. Highs in the upper 40s. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.
Thursday night – Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of rain. Lows In the upper 30s. East winds around 10 mph in the evening Becoming light and variable.
Friday – Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Highs In the mid 50s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon.
Friday night – Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Lows in the lower 40s.
Saturday – Mostly cloudy with slight chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.
Saturday night – Mostly cloudy with slight chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 40s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.
Sunday – Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.
Sunday night – Partly cloudy. Lows around 40.
Presidents Day – Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.
Monday night – Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.
Tuesday – Partly cloudy. Highs around 60.

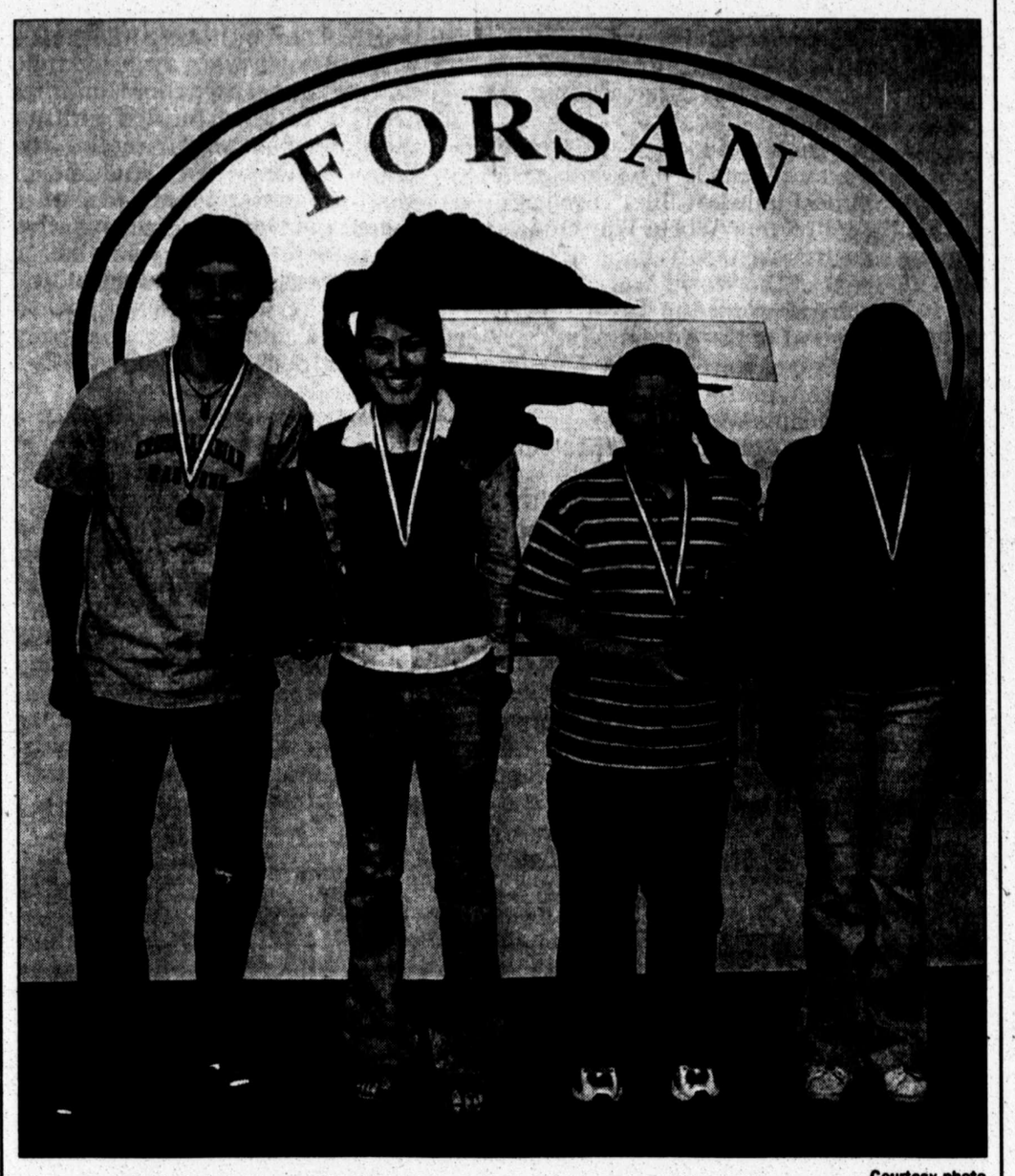
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TOPS IN DEBATE



Courtesy photo
Forsan High School swept the top two places at the District Debate Tournament held in Winters. From left, Jarrod Price and Dani Borel placed first, while Clint Lockhart and Rachel Wheeler placed second. Both teams will advance to state March 14-15 in Austin.

BSHS debate team sweeps district; will head for state CX competition

Special to the Herald

Big Spring High School dominated the field in district cross-examination debate competition last week in Andrews.

"We were really excited and nervous this year," speech coach Jennifer Adams said, "But, we knew that the students had the talent to take both teams to state."

Seniors James Clark and Logan Churchwell finished in first place and Tapley Holgin and Corey Green took second, Adams reported.

BSHS students also competing were freshman Rebekah Horton and junior Logan Wright, who placed fifth.

"We've been working for this for four years now," Churchwell said. "I'm glad that we were able to do it my senior year."

The sweep by BSHS marked the first time in 19 years the Andrews speech team will not have a representative at the University Interscholastic League cross-examination debate state meet, Adams said.

The CX state competition will be held March 17-19 on the University of Texas campus.

Forsan, Coahoma academic teams fare well at respective tournaments

Herald Staff Report

Coahoma and Forsan academic teams had successful weekends at their respective meets.

The Forsan High School math team had a very successful weekend at the Monahans meet, in which it competed against 1A to 4A schools.

In number sense, Levi Johnson won first place in the 12th grade division, while Audrey Montgomery was second in the 11th grade division, Courtney Holdampf third in the 10th grade division, and Caitlan Jones sixth in the 9th grade division.

The number sense team won second place overall.

In calculators, Levi Johnson won first place and Emilee Trammell was sixth in the senior division, while Eric Ellis was fourth in the sophomore division.

The calculator team won second place.

The mathematics team came in third, with Levi Johnson placing seventh in the senior division, Audrey Montgomery finishing seventh in the junior division and Caitlan Jones winning second in the freshman division.

Audrey Montgomery also placed fourth in accounting and Eric Ellis won a sixth place in social studies.

The Coahoma High School University Interscholastic League team competed against 46 schools at Abilene Wylie Feb. 5.

Eric Barton placed first in prose reading, while Logan Stone finished fifth in headline writing.

Also participating for CHS at the meet were Sarah Dunn, Stephen Ewing, Taylor Haile, LaTisha McCartney, Tabitha Medina, Colter Morgan, Taylor Rainey, William Reilly, Adriana Rodriguez, Megan Salazar, Simon Storlarczyk, Trey Thorton and Lauren Yeater.

Superintendent search to highlight Coahoma ISD meeting

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

COAHOMA — The search for a new school superintendent is about to shift into higher gear.

The search process will be the main item of business when Coahoma school trustees meet in regular session at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the administration building board room.

The superintendent position became vacant when Dr. Bill Kingston resigned in early January.

Trustees subsequently hired Russell Marshall, a superintendent in Mabank, to head the search for Kingston's replacement. Dr. Marshall is expected to hold a lengthy meeting with trustees Thursday night.

"We don't have a definite timeline (on the search) yet. That's something that we'll have to address," said Wayne Mitchell, who is serving as interim superintendent in Coahoma. "As far as (any candidates for the job) being announced, I doubt very seriously that'll happen."

In other business, trustees will:

• Officially order the May 7 school board election. At-large seats currently held by Dale Coates and John Wayne Metcalf are up for election. Mike Blissard recently filed for the election, CISD secretary Judy Dobbs said.

• Consider contracts for Principals, Assistant Principals and Counselors.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

suicide risk upon his arrest, a risk the plaintiffs believe wasn't properly managed by the jail's staff. The plaintiff's case is currently being handled by Shaw and Associates, a law firm in Gun Barrel City.

Damages represented within the lawsuit list a loss of income totaling more than $2 million and ask for punitive damages to be assessed against each of the defendants.

"We're hoping to see this lawsuit dismissed in a summary judgment," said Kilgore, who declined to comment on the particulars of the ongoing proceedings.

Commissioners also discussed a complaint that has been filed against the sheriff's office in the April death of an Austin man who also died while in the custody of deputies.

According to attorneys with Shaw and Associates, the law firm handling the plaintiff's side of the matter, the complaint is a procedural requirement before an actual lawsuit can be filed.

"No lawsuit has been filed as of yet, but we're fully expecting one," said Kilgore.

Miklyn Dobbs, 37, stopped breathing approximately 10 minutes after deputies took him to the Scenic Mountain Medical Center emergency room. Deputies spent more than 45 minutes trying to subdue him after family members reported he was out of control, .

Texas Rangers were brought in to investigate the death and later released a report clearing the HCSO of any wrong doing, as did a Howard County grand jury in early October.

Debra Bonner, an associate with Professional Claims Handlers of Lubbock, confirmed that her firm is handling the county's side of the matter, and as of yet no lawsuit has been filed in the case.

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

Symphony to perform here Feb. 26

The Big Spring Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Keith Graumann, presents, "An Encore Performance" at 8 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Municipal Auditorium.

Cynthia Bauhof-Williams is the returned guest pianist. She performed with the orchestra in December 2002.

Tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for seniors and $5 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the *Big Spring Herald*, Blum's Jewelers, the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Faye's Flowers, First Bank of West Texas, Heritage Museum, the symphony office, 808 Scurry or at the door.

For more information, visit the Web site, www.bigspringsymphony.com or e-mail bssa@bigspringsymphony.com.

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In Sunday's
Big Spring Herald



The young faces of farming's future

Today, our views of traditional agriculture are being expanded by young farmers who are using and developing the new farming technologies of the 21st century. Plus, sewing for kids and chocolate eclairs.

American Profile
Celebrating Hometown Life

Concert
DR. KEITH GRAUMANN, CONDUCTOR
The Big Spring 432-264-7233
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



PIANIST CYNTHIA BAUHOF-WILLIAMS
RETURNS TO BIG SPRING FOR:
"AN ENCORE PERFORMANCE"

Program includes:
Grieg: Piano Concerto in A minor
Beethoven: Egmont Overture
and much more

Feb 26, 2005 8 PM
CITY AUDITORIUM

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11519

EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Foundation still needing our support

While reports that the Big Spring Area Community Foundation has almost doubled its assets and was able to issue its first three grants in 2004 was good news, there's little doubt the foundation is still in need of financial support from the community..

Charles Beil, who first envisioned establishing the local foundation and served as president of the organization's board of directors last year, announced that the foundation doubled its assets to almost $120,000 last year and was able to issue grants to Keep Big Spring Beautiful, the Festival of Lights and the Big Spring Symphony.

That's exactly what Beil and others who first formed the tax-exempt public charity envisioned — an organization that allows individuals, corporations and other organizations to make gifts or bequests that can be used as a permanent endowment.

Income from that endowment allows the foundation to respond to emerging problems and opportunities, as well as plan for the future.

And it is the future that is still the foundation board's focus.

While last year's increase in assets is to be applauded, the foundations is still short of its initial goal of having $1 million endowed.

As a result, the foundation is still in need of those willing to participate in its "Associates Program."

The Associates Program is designed to provide the foundation with seed money that will allow the board to seek support of the foundation by providing operational funding.

The foundation is requesting a minimum tax deductible donation of $100 from Associates.

To our way of thinking, every person in this community would want to be a participant, but we do not live in anything resembling a perfect world.

However, we believe strongly in the community foundation concept and want to encourage all those who can to take advantage of becoming an Associate of the foundation.

Those wishing to become an Associate can mail their donation of $100 or more to the Big Spring Area Community Foundation, 401 Austin, Suite 103,, Big Spring 79720.

As we have noted in the past, taking part as an Associate will not only mean you're helping put the foundation on a solid foundation financially, but making a commitment to the long-term betterment of Big Spring.

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.

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

SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

You reign Your blessings down from Your heavens for us, Lord, when we trust in You.

Amen

Book Honors Texas medal winners

When Charles Neal of Houston was in graduate school, he wanted to write a thesis on Texas Medal of Honor winners. His adviser advised against it. Charles made a hobby of that topic and researched it for more than thirty years. Then he wrote a book, Valor Across the Lone Star.



TUMBLEWEED SMITH

"The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest award granted by the United States government for military valor," says Charles. "It was signed into law by Abraham Lincoln in July of 1861. It has become probably the most renowned award for military bravery in the world.

"Out of the 40 million plus men and women who have served in the US military forces since the beginning of our country, only 3,459 individuals have merited being awarded the Medal of Honor. Ninety-three of those are Texans.

"When you look at the record of Texans in modern wars, it's almost unbelievable. Three percent of your World War One awards went to Texans. Five percent of the World War Two awards were presented to Texans. Five percent of the Korean War awardees were Texans. Fourteen percent of the Viet Nam War recipients were Texans.

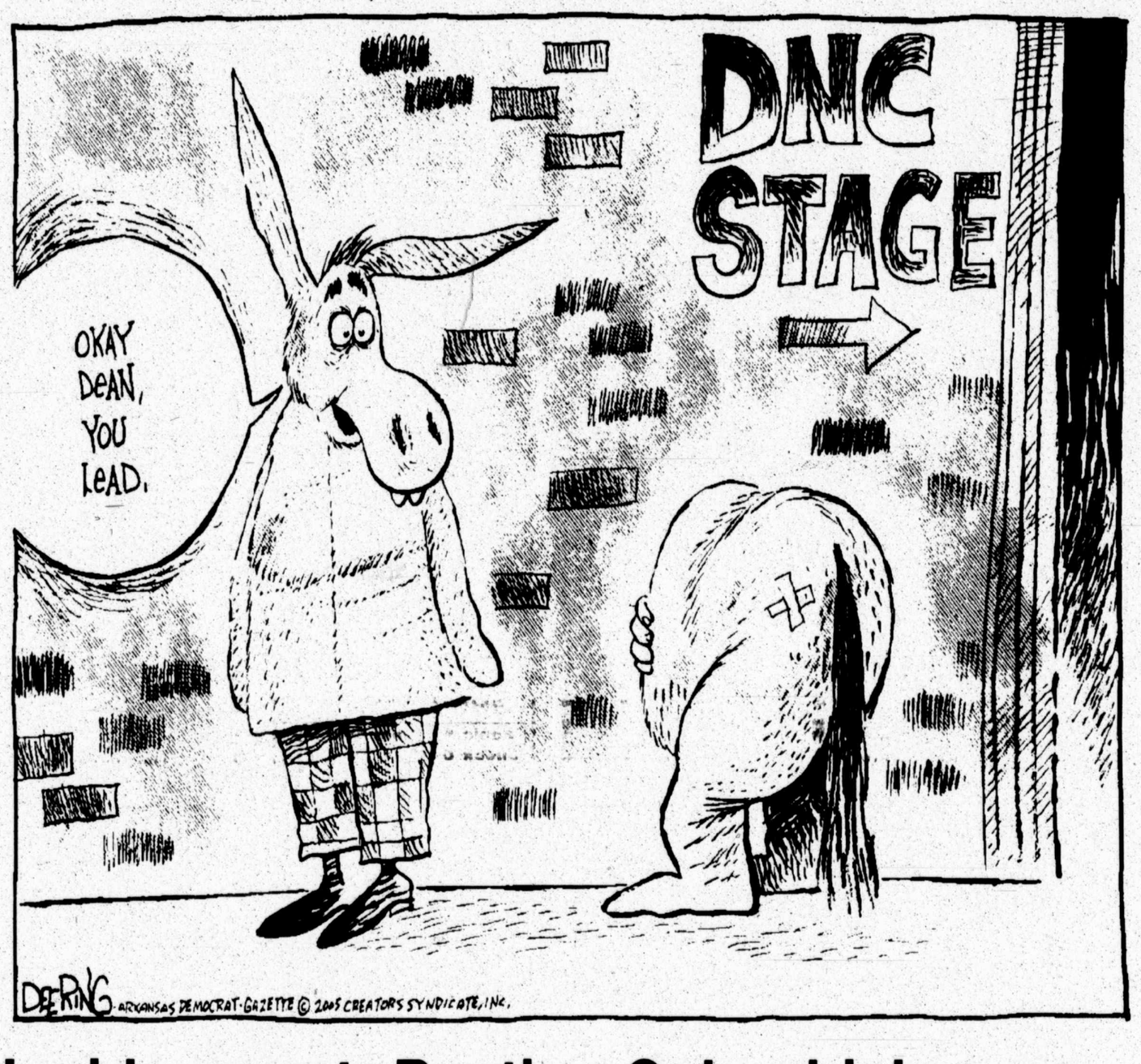
"Texas produced the most highly decorated soldier of World War One, the most highly decorated soldier of World War Two, Audie Murphy, and the most highly decorated sailor of World War Two, Commander Samuel Dealey of Dallas. Texas has provided some outstanding military heroes."

His book has 491 pages and concentrates on Medal of Honor winners during frontier times.

"There are nineteen chapters of content, each one detailing the political and military situations in which 67 men were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for deeds of valor performed within the state of Texas during the Civil War, the Indian Wars and one Mexican border disturbance. It covers the chronological span from 1861to1891 and is published by the Texas State Historical Association."

Charles' father was a military man and served at various military bases.

"I learned many stories about military heroes from history. This kind of stayed in my psyche and the Medal of Honor became an impassioned hobby of mine. Sometimes our purpose in life is exposed to us in different ways. Harlandale High School in San Antonio was the only high school in the United States to have produced three Medal of Honor recipients. I graduated from Harlandale high school in 1959. I felt like this book is something I was destined to do."



Inside report: Beating Colombia's army

Ignored by Washington, the Colombian army has been taking a bloody beating at the hands of an unexpected offensive by Communist guerrillas. It is not just the death of more than 50 Colombian soldiers the past month. The FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia) has taken the initiative in the 40-year war, and the government troops look bad.



ROBERT NOVAK

The timing for President Alvaro Uribe's conservative government could not be worse. He is asking the U.S. Congress for another $700,000 tranche to spending that would bring the total cost for Plan Colombia over the $4 billion mark. Colombia, which has been depicted as a great success story, has all the earmarks of dreaded stalemate.

As President Bush seeks to spread democracy to every corner of the globe, U.S. interests are seriously imperiled in the Western Hemisphere. Across the Colombian border in Venezuela, leftist President Hugo Chavez is solidifying dictatorial power and threatening to cut off oil to the U.S. To say that this close-to-home crisis has been a low priority at the White House and in Congress is an understatement.

U.S. policymakers took at face value claims that Uribe's tough stand with a reformed army in the past two and one-half years has thrown some 20,000 guerrillas into headlong retreat. The strategy was for destruction of coca production to so limit the flow of funds from illegal narcotics that the Communist fighters would be eliminated as a serious force in Colombia.

Thus, the events of the last two weeks were totally unexpected. An army column that had penetrated the mountains of northwest Colombia was hit hard, with 19 soldiers dead and five missing — the worst single military setback of the Uribe era. A week earlier, the FARC ambushed a remote naval infantry base in the south, killing 16 marines. Earlier that week, eight soldiers were killed in a FARC bombing.

U.S. officials minimized the fighting, describing it as the last gasp of a defeated guerrilla force. But there is disagreement from non-government experts such as retired Marine Corps Maj. Gil Macklin, a fellow of the National Defense Council Foundation who has many years of experience in Colombia. "The Colombian government has overplayed its hand in saying that the FARC's military threat has been contained," Macklin told me. "This offensive shows FARC still capable of running sustained operations." Drugs continue to produce a million dollars a day for guerrillas, augmented by revenue from kidnappings.

FARC began its offensive in mid-January, and has been winning the battles. What worries Americans is the ability shown by guerrillas to chop up army units in small pieces, encircle them and then eliminate them. Despite its improvements under Uribe, the army has had no answer to these tactics.

U.S. officials in Washington, still playing down the FARC's military prowess, believe the guerrillas are combining the fighting in Colombia with a "charm offensive" to seek allies in Europe and elsewhere in South America. The guerrillas are attempting to use apparent military victories on the battlefield to win foreign pressure for negotiations between the FARC and Uribe.

In the midst of the guerrilla offensive, 20 more Colombian soldiers were killed last Thursday when a U.S.-supplied Blackhawk helicopter crashed during a nighttime anti-narcotics mission. The aircraft crashed in mountainous southwest Colombia deep in the heart of FARC country, but authorities denied it was shot down.

A crashed aircraft in Colombia nearly always produces such a denial, and that was the case on Feb. 13, 2003, when a single-engine Cessna 208 went down in Colombia. Three American contract employees, working for the CIA, were captured. Nobody knows whether they are alive or dead, but what's certain is official silence about their plight.

When I reported on this crash two years ago, I referred to Colombia as "America's forgotten war." No official talks about the war today. Roger Noriega, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, is widely criticized for that silence. The question is whether Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will address herself to Colombia now that it is clear that the war, far from being won, may even be lost.

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

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CRIME

Continued from Page 1A

According to police reports, unknown subjects made forcible entry into the San Franciscan Bar & Grill some time between 2 a.m. and 9 a.m. by shattering a window on the east side of the building. Once inside, the thieves made away with an undetermined amount of cash from a bank bag, causing a substantial amount of damage to the business in the process.

Information provided to Crimestoppers leading to the arrest and conviction of the felons responsible for this burglary could be worth up to $1,000.

Please call Crimestoppers at 263-TIPS (8477) or 264-TIPS (8477) with information on either subject. Callers remain anonymous and no caller-ID is ever used.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

purchases, Downes said.

In other business, trustees will consider:

• A report on the Student Management Systems software situation. A committee has been formed to produce solutions concerning the software package, and is due to update trustees on its progress Thursday.

SMS has become something of a nightmare for school officials, as flaws in the system have produced problems in several reporting areas, including student transcripts, attendance, and grade reporting.

Downes said the committee should finalize its recommendations in March.

• Refinancing of school bonds. Trustees are expected to give their OK to a proposal which will allow the district to take advantage of lower interest rates in connection with the 1996 bond issue that resulted in the construction of Big Spring Junior High School.

Refinancing those bonds under current interest rates is expected to save the school district about $400,000, officials said.

• Officially order the 2005 trustee elections. Seats currently held by Irene Bustamante and Alan Partee — who have both announced for re-election — will be contested.

• Consider contracts on administrators, directors and coordinators.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331 ext. 234 or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

NURSE

Continued from Page 1A

would know Jackson or any victims.

But as jury selection began last week, prosecutors and defense attorneys discovered a lack of unbiased potential jurors in Archer County. Towery then ordered a change of venue, saying more residents in West Texas may not have heard about the case. San Angelo is about 330 miles southwest of Nocona.

Internet terms that might be helpful

Are all hackers evil? That's the question one reader recently posed to me concerning the never-ending flow of viruses and worms into and around the Internet, and while it might seem like an easy question to answer, I realized it isn't.



THOMAS JENKINS

Much like the rest of the world, the community of hackers, crackers and other groups deemed "undesirable" by the government and corporations live in a very gray area, not the black and white world we all dream of.

While I've cursed hackers aloud when I get a virus on my PC, some of my best Internet-based friends are hackers. In fact, many times in the course of writing these columns I've contacted these people for advice of information.

In the end, hackers are just like any community — there are the good, the bad and the ugly. There are those that are involved in the shadowy side of the net simply for the knowledge, and those that are out to hurt other users.

Another interesting question I received concerns the Internet and hacker jargon, and how often it finds its way into my columns. I really hadn't thought about some of the terms I throw around, but after looking back on previous columns I realize some of it may look like Greek.

To perhaps correct my misgiving, I've come up with a little jargon glossary — with help from both the corporate and underground community. I hope this helps you not only peruse my columns, but find your way through the endless groups of chat rooms.

Anonymizer — A lot of information about a user can be found out once the user visits a page on the Web. Among these are browser, system, provider and the IP number in circumstances, just to name a few. The anonymizer filters off such information and inserts other information instead. One's presence in the Internet remains anonymous.

Authentication —The identity of the server or user is checked during authentication.

Backdoor — These have been built by programmers that test programs, which makes it unnecessary to give passwords all of the time.

Cookies — Text-data stored by a server about a client. Used by "warehouses" to store information on the shopping cart, for example. Generally safe and 99 percent useful for enjoyable surfing.

Cracker — A cracker is a hacker who tries to break through the security mechanisms of other systems. The word cracker was first used in the mid 80s. Crackers usually develop small programs that disable password protections or test time limits of various programs. For example, software that is offered for a 30-day trial period can be cracked, disabling the counting function of the trial days, making the program accessible without limit.

Cracking — This is the breaking of security measures in software or the breaking into computer systems. Instructions on how to crack programs are often found on hacker Web pages.

Elite — A user of the latest and greatest software. Opposite of lamer.

Firewall — This is placed before a server and watches all data transfers to and from the server. It is therefore possible to block certain Internet addresses and to allow access to the server only to particular persons.

Hacker —Hackers enjoy re-writing programs. Their aim is to continuously get better and to understand relations that are not easily identified. Hackers are very sensitive, especially if their work is entirely conjugated with illegal action. They consider themselves to be elite.

Lamer — A lamer is understood within the warez scenes as one who uses and sends older warez. Old may mean older than three to five days.

Leecher — These are users that take advantage of warez without making any input. One who downloads more than uploads is referred to as a leecher. They are not that popular within the warez community, because they slow down the distribution of warez.

Phreaking — This is the meddling with telephone systems and credit cards. It makes calling at the expense of others or for free as well as placing orders.

Remailer — Using this type of program can send anonymous e-mails that do not hold any provider identity.

Request — Some crackers offer a request folder on their FTP servers. The software being sort for can be entered here and after a short while someone else that has it uploads it.

Sniffing — Trying data. One would normally search for passwords in data packs that are uploaded by uncertain routers. Sniffers eavesdrop the entire data transfer that runs over the connected network card. Particular passwords can be filtered out in this way.

Spoofing — Falsifying IP and E-mail addresses. Name server spoofing has become very popular. This is the falsification of the IP pack sender (IP spoofing). If a complete Internet area is diverted through a separate computer, the term Web spoofing is used.

Spyware — Some providers that pay for surfing transfer data in the background that enable the compiling of profiles on the user. Identified by the security community as the biggest threat facing the Internet in 2005.

SSL — A safe connection in the Internet is achieved using an SSL protocol. All data is transferred in a coded form, making it very difficult for hackers to eavesdrop on such data. Netscape developed secure Sockets Layer.

Warez — These are cracked complete versions of commercial or shareware programs. If software has copy protection, it is discarded and the software is made available on so-called warez pages.

Warez DOOdz — There are different groups competing here. They put up software on the Internet after discarding the copy protection. The group that put up the most programs fastest, wins.

Zombies — These are computers in the net that a hacker uses to initialize his attacks. The owner of the computer usually has no idea of what is happening. It is especially advantageous during DoS attacks. The parallel use of different zombies during an attack enables overwhelming attacks that are all similar in content.

Contact Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or at citydesk@bigspringherald.com

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Library News

Happy Valentine's Day from the Howard County Library Staff. We hope you had a wonderful Valentine's Day.



JANET OSBORN

We had some very special visitors last week in the library. The Kentwood Elementary fourth-grade class, their teachers and Ms. Jeffcoat came to see us and met some wonderful people in the RSVP group.

They were working on the history of Big Spring. I do believe, a good time was had by all. The children were quite well mannered and so was the RSVP group. We were pleased to be able to help them with their project.

Another lovely group is the Wednesday morning story-time kids. Story-time is at 10 a.m. to about 10:30 a.m. in the basement of the library. We read books, act them out and sometimes get to eat cookies. Thanks to one of our grandmas.

We are still getting in new books every week. Some of the new ones include two on Martin Luther King Jr.

"The Brown Paper Teddy Bear" is a wonderful book about a little girl that wakes one night to find a mysterious toy box in her bedroom. She opens it and finds some antique toys and a teddy bear that talks.

She and the bear go on a wonderful adventure, and then come back to her bedroom.The toy box disappears, but the bear remains behind.The pages are heavy brown paper bag style. The pictures are gorgeous with gloss accents on each page. This is a real feel-good book to share with your favorite little person.

"Fairytale News" is an old story with a new twist. It's told as a current events news report complete with a real newspaper in the back of the book.

In this version, Jack and the giant become friends and enjoy the newspaper together. The three little pigs put in classified ads to sell their homes and the three billy goats gruff advertise their tours. A really cute way to present some old favorites.

"The Friend" is a book about a little girl, Belle, whose only companion is the family's housekeeper, Bea. The Belle goes everywhere with the Bea. Bea even takes Belle to her house on her day off. It is a sweet book about a very special little girl that would be extremely lonely if not for the housekeeper.

"Canaries and Criminals" is a sequel to the book "Trouble at Betts Pets." The author is Kelly Easton. The stories are about a boy named Aaron Betts who works at his family's pet store.

In the first book, Aaron compares everyone that comes into the pet store as animals. The animals are disappearing from the store and Aaron and his friends try to find out why.

In "Canaries and Criminals," we have the same characters reappearing with a few new ones as well. This time, Aaron is researching the Birdman of Alcatraz for a school report.

He meets an ex-con at the library, and finds a turtle left on his doorstep. This turtle has a detailed map painted on his shell. Then there is the carrier pigeon that has the note for Aaron about the turtle.

A zany and interesting book for sure. You can find both these books in the juvenile fiction section.

Another new book is "The Flight of a Dove," by Alexandra Day. She is also the author of the Carl books about a very special dog. "The Flight of a Dove" is based on a true story about an autistic 4-year-old child who fails to respond to anyone or anything until a dove flies up in front of her.

It is like her eyes are suddenly seeing her world for the first time. That is the major breakthrough for her education and socialization. After the dove, she begins to respond and learn slowly, but she does respond to the people and things around her.

The book is an interesting account of the wondrous healing powers of animals.

There are lots of other new books to see in the library, so drop in and we'll find you one.

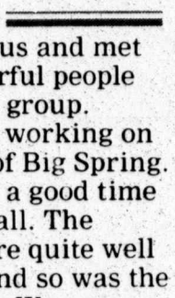
The library will be closed Monday for President's Day. We will re-open Tuesday. We will also be open Saturday before the holiday. The Howard County Library is open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday. The internet/video room closes one-half earlier than the library hour and Saturdays it is closed from noon until 1 p.m. The library is located at 500 S. Main St.; the phone number is 264-2260; the Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us; the online catalog should be working.

Janet Osborn is the Howard County children's librarian.

Prescription discount cards being given away

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Features Editor

West Texas Opportunities is giving away prescription medicine discount cards as part of the first community meeting of the year, from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Thursday at the WTO offices, 4005 E. I-20.



NEUMANN

"These cards are free to anyone who does not have insurance.

Whether the discount helps them save $5 or $10 or $15, I believe they're worth it and saving them anything will make my day," said Becky Neumann, WTO center director.

The cards will be distributed to individuals who stop by the center and sign up to receive one. There are no income limitations nor restrictions.

Also, there is no cost, no obligation, no pre-existing condition restrictions, no enrollment fee and the cards may be used by an entire family.

Neumann said the only consideration is whether an individual or a family has insurance.

"If they have insurance, the cards won't do them any good," she said.

Distributed by American Consultants Inc., a pharmacy list on the back of the card indicates participating pharmacies include Wal-Mart and the Medicine Shoppe locally.

Other pharmacies listed do not have local operations but may be found in Midland, she said.

The program is known as U-Rx and more information is available by visiting the Web site, www.2spendless.com or calling 1-800-377-0988.

For more information about the card distribution, contact Neumann at 267-9536.

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Locally

Big Spring Symphony tickets available

The Big Spring Herald has tickets to be given away for the Big Spring Symphony Orchestra's presentation of "An Encore Performance" at 8 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Municipal Auditorium.

Conducted by Dr. Keith Graumann, the concert features Cynthia Bauhof-Williams as returning guest pianist.

To receive two free tickets to the concert, call 263-7331, ext. 236 at 11 a.m. Monday-Friday and answer the question, 'when did Cynthia Bauhof-Williams last perform in Big Spring?'

Hangar 25 book signing scheduled

Hangar 25 Air Museum, in conjunction with the Scenic Mountain Medical Center's Senior Circle program, will host author Diana Thompson Dale at the Senior Circle Lunch and Learn program at the air museum Feb. 24.

Dale will speak about her book, "Finding Billy: An Internet Odyssey," and will be available to sign copies sold through the Hangar 25 Air Museum Gift Shop.

"Finding Billy" tells how Dale used the Internet to find her uncle, A P-38 fighter pilot, who disappeared on a 1944 mission over northern Italy.

In 2000, with the help of total strangers in six foreign countries, Dale did what her grandmother could not.

"Finding Billy" juxtaposes Dale's cyber search with her grandmother's tireless quest for answers to tell a story of history, mystery, discovery and loss.

Today, only about 300 of the 78,400 American servicemen listed as Missing in Action from World War II have ever been found.

"Finding Billy" tells how one person, with a lot of help from new friends, was able to beat those odds.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Teacher accused of DWI, giving alcohol to minors

PEARSALL (AP) — A junior high school teacher has been arrested on charges of providing beer and liquor to students.

The arrest of Valerie Banda, a 24-year-old Spanish teacher and a junior high coach, comes in the same week that the local school district planned an alcohol awareness program for students and faculty.

In August, another teacher was arrested after police reported finding more than 40 underage students drinking alcohol at her house. Pearsall High School teacher Sonia Ornelas has said she was sleeping in her bedroom and didn't know her son was throwing a party.

Ornelas is on administrative leave with pay and hasn't been allowed back into the classroom since her arrest. Her case has not yet come before a judge.

In the latest incident, Banda was driving on one of the city's main streets early Sunday with three high school girls in her vehicle when she was stopped for speeding, Police Chief Roland Hernandez said.

Hernandez said when the officer attempted to perform a field sobriety test on Banda, the teacher refused.

"She became uncooperative and started using profane language," Hernandez said. "Of course, she didn't realize everything is under videotape surveillance from the patrol car."

The chief said Banda was arrested on one count of driving while intoxicated and three counts of making alcohol available to a minor.

Jurors reject Zoloft defense in case of 15-year-old who killed his grandparents

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Jurors convicted a 15-year-old boy who claimed Zoloft drove him to murder his grandparents, rejecting the first defense in the United States in which a juvenile claimed the effects of an antidepressant caused him to kill.

Christopher Pittman was convicted Tuesday after jurors tried to determine whether his sense of right and wrong had been clouded by the drug four years ago.

The prosecution countered he was simply angry at his grandparents, who had disciplined him for choking a younger student on a school bus. Following the slayings, Pittman burned the couple's home and drove away in their car.

Pittman's age troubled jurors who debated whether he should be convicted as an adult on two counts of murder committed when he was 12 years old.

"If Chris Pittman had been 25 we could have come to a decision much earlier. Because of his age it was very, very difficult," said Arnold Hite, the jury foreman and a Charleston Southern University professor who said he was speaking for himself.

Pittman was sentenced to 30 years on each count. Circuit Court Judge Danny Pieper ordered the sentences to run concurrently — the minimum sentence he could give.

SAFE

Continued from Page 1A

The FDA has been criticized for being slow to recognize problems with these drugs.

Committee chairman Dr. Alistair J. Wood of Vanderbilt University stressed as he opened the session that the committee "is not here to delegate blame or revisit the past."

Vioxx was withdrawn by its manufacturer, Merck & Co. Celebrex and Bextra, made by Pfizer Inc., remain on the market.

The editor of a leading medical journal has questioned whether patients should continue using the drugs.

"Because there are well-established options for treatment of all the approved indications for these drugs, it is reasonable to ask whether the use of the drugs can now be justified," Dr. Jeffrey M. Drazen, editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, said in an editorial published online Tuesday.

In calling the advisory committee hearing Wednesday, the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research noted that many consumers and scientists have asked whether any Cox-2 drugs should be allowed to remain on sale.

The Health and Human Services Department announced Tuesday that the FDA will establish a new Drug Safety Oversight Board to monitor medicines once they're on the market and will update physicians and patients with emerging information on risks and benefits.

Dr. Mark Fendrick, an internal medicine specialist at the University of Michigan, said the decision on using the drugs "should be considered one of competing risk and benefits."

"It comes down to the individual and his or her clinician to assess the risks and make the best informed choice," Fendrick said. "Until we know for sure about the cardiological safety of the Cox-2 inhibitors, I believe they should be limited to those individuals who have a risk of stomach injury and those who are at low risk for cardiac problems."

People who have a heart risk or who take aspirin to protect the heart should consider a traditional painkiller, he said.

Many people who take the Cox-2 drugs to avoid stomach problems also take aspirin to protect the heart, he noted, which cancels the gastrointestinal protection of the Cox-2 drugs.

The advisers will also be trying to determine what it is about these drugs that could cause an increase in heart problems.

On Monday, a paper in the journal Archives of Internal Medicine reported on a new analysis that indicates Cox-2 inhibitors raise blood pressure more than conventional pain medications.

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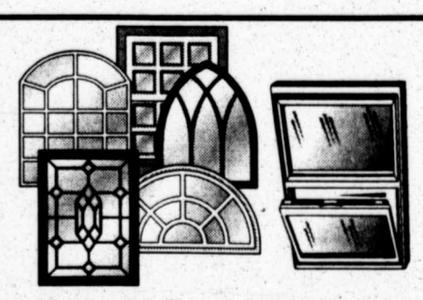
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IN BRIEF

2005 Little League to hold signups

Sign-ups for the 2005 Big Spring Little League baseball season will take place Feb. 19 through Feb. 26 at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m Monday through Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

The league is for anyone ages five through 16 that live within the Big Spring little league boundaries. Registration is required even if a player has played before, at least one parent or guardian must be present and an original or state-certified copy of child's birth certificate is required.

For more information, contact Chuck Rosenbaum at 263-1792.

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. The final day to enter the tournament will be March 9.

For more information, contact J.R. Landin at 264-1736 or Able Rios at 213-2115.

Lady Steer Booster Club meeting set

The Lady Steers Booster Club will meet Monday, Feb. 21, in the ATC at 6 p.m.

All parents of players involved in volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, track and training are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Janet Abner at 264-0023 or Kerry Rodriguez at 263-6100.

Lady Steer Softball Booster meeting set

The Lady Steers Softball Booster Club will meet Monday, Feb. 21, in the ATC at 7:30 p.m.

All parents of girls involved with the softball program are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Janet Abner at 264-0023.

Softball umpires needed for season

Anyone interested in becoming an ASA certified umpire for the upcoming softball season can obtain information from Francisco Ramirez at 466-3670.

C.G.A. sets first tourney of new year

The Chicano Golf Association has set its first tournament of the year — the membership drive tourney — for Sunday, Feb. 20, at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 11:30 a.m. and all participants must be registered by 11 a.m.

This tournament was originally scheduled for Feb. 13, but the date has been moved up.

For more information, call Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

Consecutive turnovers doom Steers at Andrews

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

ANDREWS — Twenty-three turnovers — six at which came in a crucial part of the game — plagued the Big Spring boy's basketball team Tuesday as they finalized their season with a 62-50 road loss against rival Andrews.

The Mustangs led 46-43 with about four minutes left in the game, but six straight Steer turnovers led to several points for Andrews, allowing them to pull away from Big Spring late.

"I thought we played well and were right there for most of the game," said Big Spring coach Jim Kinnear. "The game was really a lot closer than the score indicates."

Andrews jumped out to a 14-8 lead after the first quarter and then grabbed an eight point halftime lead. They pushed the advantage to 10 after three quarters before closing out the Steers in the fourth.

"The kids gave me their all, but we just came up short," said Kinnear.

Big Spring ends its season with a 7-25 overall record and a 1-9 District 4-4A mark. Kinnear's teams won two games his first year and five last year.

"Our winning percentage is going up every year," said Kinnear. "We could have easily had more wins this year, but that is just the nature of the game."

Sophomore Ryan Tannehill scored 14 points, grabbed four rebounds and had two steals to lead Big Spring. Junior Kalin Whitehead added nine points, three rebounds and three steals, while freshman Jordan Kinnear pulled down 10 rebounds and blocked four shots. Junior Matt Hilario scored eight points and had two assists.

Big Spring graduates six seniors this season as Nathan Teeters, Bobby Newton, Justin Green, Wes Parks, Brandon Gross and Brandon Boling all played in the final game of their careers.

Coahoma finds way in battle of Bulldogs

• Brewer's 13 fourth quarter points help Coahoma beat rival

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

STAMFORD — Senior Isaac Brewer scored 13 of his 15 points in the final quarter as the Coahoma boy's basketball team clinched the second seed in District 4-2A Tuesday after defeating rival Stamford (12-16, 2-8) on the road, 61-46, in a battle of Bulldogs.



ABREGO

"We played well on the road to secure outright second place in the district," said Coahoma coach Kim Nichols.

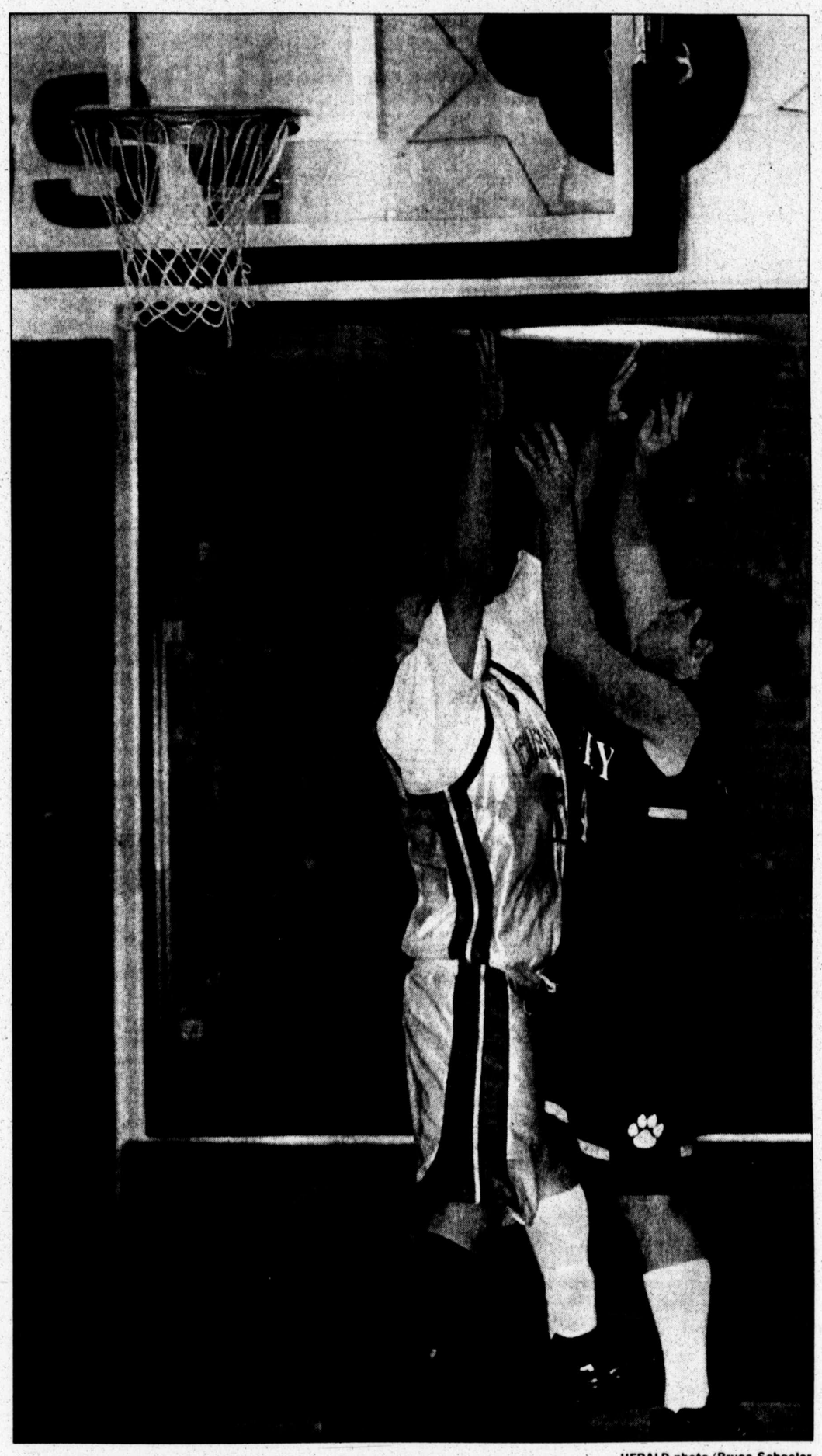
Coahoma came out strong in the first quarter and grabbed an 18-6 lead early. Stamford battled back in the second quarter and closed to within six points at the break.

Coahoma (20-10, 7-3) outscored Stamford 15-13 in the third quarter before putting the game away in the fourth quarter.

Senior Tyler Fowler led Coahoma with 17 points, while senior Adrian Abrego added 10. Brewer's 13 fourth quarter points included a stretch of eight in a row.

The Bulldogs will now meet either Coleman or Ballinger in a bi-district playoff game next Monday or Tuesday.

See COAHOMA, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler

Coahoma senior Isaac Brewer battles an opponent from Hawley for the rebound in a previous game. The Bulldogs defeated rival Stamford Tuesday and maintained their second place district standing. Coahoma will take on either Coleman or Ballinger in the bi-district round of the Class 2A playoffs next Monday or Tuesday.

Errors hurt Big Spring at Permian

• Watkins' 13 K's overshadowed by several miscues

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

ODESSA — Six errors in the field doomed the Big Spring softball team Tuesday as the Lady Steers dropped their season opener to Odessa Permian, 4-3, in eight innings.

Senior Alex Watkins pitched all eight innings, struck out 13, allowed three hits and just one earned run, but was overshadowed by the miscues in the field.

"Alex hit her spots and pitched a great game," said Big Spring coach Lea Daggett. "We just made some mental mistakes and our errors probably cost us the game."

The game remained scoreless until the fourth inning when Big Spring got on the board with one run. However, Permian answered in its half of the fourth with two runs and took a one run lead.

The Lady Steers grabbed back the lead in the top of the seventh with two runs, but Permian tied the game in the bottom of the seventh before winning the game in the bottom of the eighth.

"I thought the girls did some good things," said Daggett. "The batting came alive at the end of the game and that was something that hadn't been there during our scrimmages. So that is a positive sign."

Senior Chelsea Abner and sophomore Katy Abner led the Lady Steers at the plate as both collected two hits. Chelsea Abner doubled scored a run and had one RBI, while Katy Abner had two singles and scored a run.

Watkins went one-for-three at the plate and scored a run, while senior Neisha Heinis went one-for-two and had one RBI.

Sophomore Amber Sides got the team's other hit and junior Krista Chesworth was credited with the third RBI off a fielder's choice.

"I think with more practice and time this team will be pretty good," said Daggett.

Senior Heather Vassar missed this game due to an illness.

"We missed her bat in the lineup tonight," said Daggett.

Big Spring (0-1) will travel to the Fort Worth Tournament Thursday through Saturday.

The team's home opener will take place next Tuesday against Monahans beginning at 4 p.m.

Big Spring freshman finish season strong

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Big Spring freshman boy's basketball team finished the season on a positive note Monday as the Steers recorded their second straight win, defeating rival Andrews, 42-39.

Justin Wilson recorded a season-high 15 points to lead Big Spring, while Terrance Clemons scored 12.

"Justin hit some big shots in the first quarter to keep us alive and not allow Andrews to pull away," said Big Spring freshman coach Nick Robertson.

"The whole team stepped up and played some kind of a role," said Robertson.

Big Spring held a 23-22 halftime advantage.

The Steers also defeated Lake View last Friday night at home. After leading 30-27 at halftime, Big Spring outscored the Chiefs 20-4 in the third quarter and routed its rival 64-41.

Clemons led Big Spring with 23 points, while Jason Walker added 18.

The Steers finish the season with an 11-10 overall record.

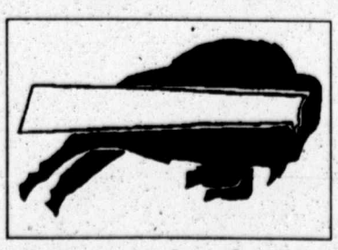
"Its a strong team that will someday do some good things for this program," said Robertson. "They played hard, but they are only as good as their offseason. They need to get stronger and pick up a basketball at some point before next season.

"The team went through a valley midway through the year, but was able to bounce back and end the season with two straight wins."

Forsan junior high boys finalize season at districts

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

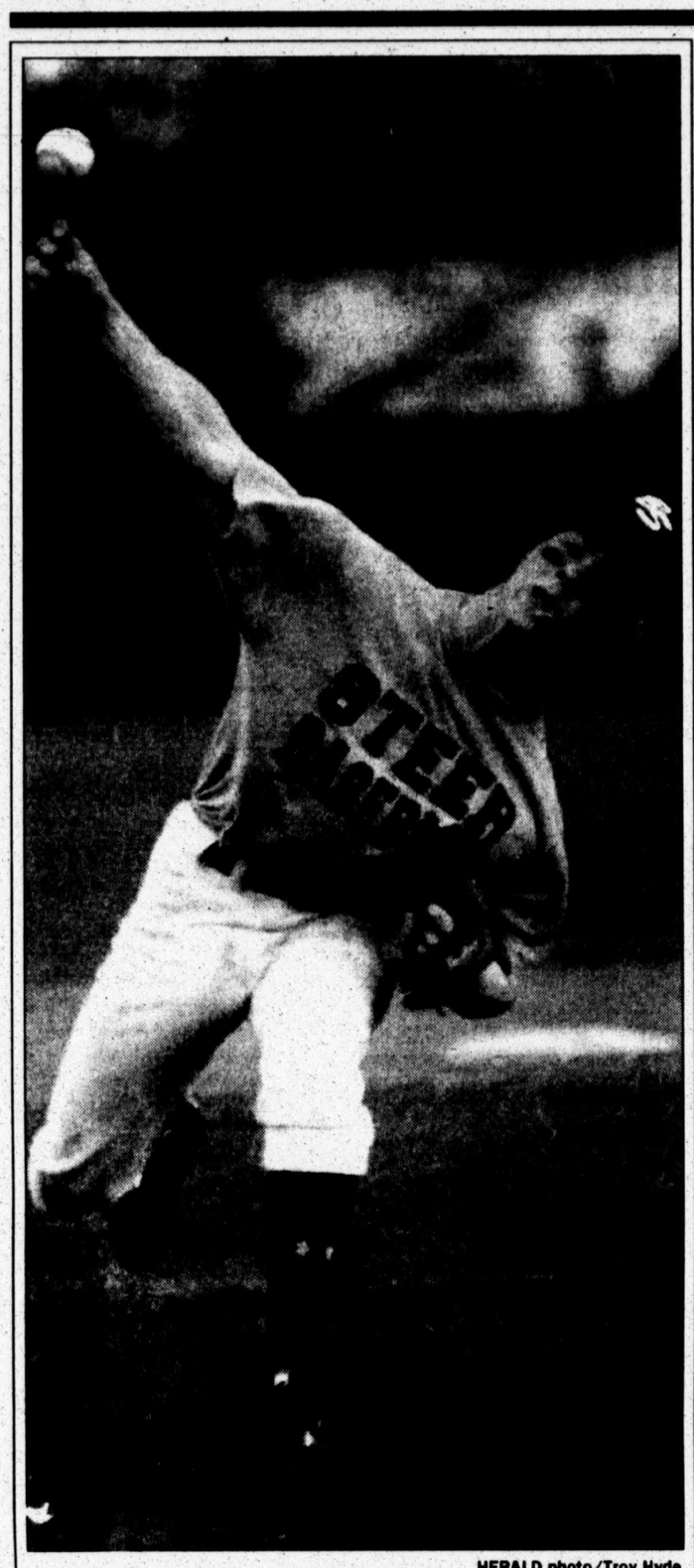
STANTON — Forsan's seventh- and eighth-grade boy's basketball team's participated in their district tournaments last weekend. The seventh-grade boys team took second and finished with an overall season record of 6-6, while the eighth-grade team went 1-1 at the tournament and finished the season 8-5.



Evan Burton scored 21 points in each of the first two games played by the seventh-grade team. The Buffaloes defeated Stanton, 28-15, in game one and beat Stamford, 35-24, in game two.

Forsan took on Coahoma in the championship game, but lost 39-19. Burton led the team with eight points.

The eighth-grade team started the tournament with a 35-30 loss to Anson as Jeremy Freitag scored 13 points. The Buffaloes bounced back in game two though and defeated Coahoma 35-32. Freitag led Forsan with 12 points, while Jeremy Robbins and Nathan Atkerson each added nine points.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde

Big Spring senior Ryan Slate delivers a pitch to the plate during the Steers' scrimmage against Midland High Tuesday. Big Spring won 7-6 after an RBI groundout by Chris Garcia late in the game. Big Spring travels to San Angelo Friday for a scrimmage against San Angelo Central before hosting the Bobcats in the season-opener Monday.

Big Spring 7th-graders finish with zero losses

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

The Big Spring seventh-grade boy's basketball teams took on district rival Andrews Monday. The 'B' team defeated the Mustangs, 38-24, while the 'A' team won, 34-25.

Matt Ritchey and Daniel Segundo led Big Spring with 10 points each, while Monte Anderson added six points and 10 rebounds. Martin Yanez had three points and four rebounds.

The 'A' team went undefeated on the year.



courtesy photo

The Sands junior high girls basketball team was crowned District 7-A champions recently after compiling a 13-1 regular season record. Front row, from left: Kayla Franco, Miranda Gutierrez, Melissa DeLeon, Ashley Guerra and Kimberly Wigington. Middle: Britni Blagrave, Tamara Nichols, Valinda Saldivar, Ashli Stockton, Isabella Cuellar and Christina Chavera. Back: coach Ben Connell, coach Johnny Pugh and manager Meagan Yarbrough. The 2004-05 Mustangs outscored their opponents by 142 points.

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

Coleman and Ballinger are currently tied for third in District 3-2A and must have a play-in game to decide which team advances to the postseason.

This is the fourth straight playoff appearance for Coahoma under Nichols.

Howard Basketball

Thursday, vs. New Mexico JC

Women: 7 p.m.
Men: 9 p.m.

Coahoma eighth-grade girls finalize season at districts

By TROY HYDE
Sports Editor

HAWLEY — The Coahoma seventh- and eighth-grade girl's basketball teams ended their seasons last weekend at the District 4-2A tournament in Hawley.

The seventh-grade team won its first two games and advanced to the championship game, but lost to Forsan, while the eighth-grade team swept its competition in all three games and brought home the district title.

The seventh-grade team defeated Anson, 32-10, in its first and were led in scoring by Kylie Gee's 10 points.

The Bulldogettes defeated Stamford in their second game, 32-15, as Gee scored 15 points.

Gee was held to just two points in the championship game as Coahoma lost to Forsan, 35-27. Jordan Martin scored nine points to lead the Bulldogettes.

The seventh-grade team finished the year with an 11-4 record.

Lacy Sterling led Coahoma in scoring during all three games of the district tournament as the Bulldogettes came away with three wins.

They defeated Stamford in the first game, 24-22, behind 15 points from Sterling and then took out Hawley in game two, 26-15.

Sterling led Coahoma in game two with 11 points.

The Bulldogettes continued to dominate in the championship game as Coahoma came away with a 52-18 victory over Forsan.

Sterling outscored the entire Lady Buffaloes team as she finished with 25 points.

Alex Moore scored eight points, as well.

The Coahoma eighth-grade team finished the season with a 15-0 record.

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Was $15,995 NOW $14,995

1999 Ford F250 Supercab XLT Powerstroke Diesel - White, all power, local one owner.
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2002 Ford Expedition XLT - Silver, cloth, all power, one owner w/31,000 miles.
Was $22,995 NOW $18,995

2002 Chevrolet Suburban L.S. - Blue w/cloth, all power, dual air, local one owner w/18,000 miles.
Was $24,995 NOW $23,995

2001 Nissan Pathfinder SE - Green, GPS, DVD, very nice, one owner w/53,000 miles.
Was $17,995 NOW $16,995

2001 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - White/tan, leather, fully loaded, dual air, 3rd seat, local one owner.
Was $19,995 NOW $18,995

2001 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - White/tan, leather, one owner.
Was $19,995 NOW $18,995

2001 Lincoln Navigator - White/tan leather, loaded, we sold it new -talk to the customer.
Was $20,995 NOW $19,995

2000 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer - Slate green/beige, leather, dual air, 3rd seat, all power, local one owner w/59,000 miles.
Was $19,995 NOW $18,995

★ ★ ★ In Stock Too Long - Our Loss Your Gain ★ ★ ★

2002 Ford Expedition XLT - Silver w/cloth, one owner w/37,000 miles.
Was $22,995 Must Go Price $17,995

2001 Toyota Sienna XLE - Tan, all power, one owner w/61,000 miles.
Was $19,995 Must Go Price $16,995

2001 Ford Explorer Sport 2-DR. 4X4 - Blue w/cloth, all power, one owner 56,000 miles.
Was $14,995 Must Go Price $11,995

2001 Ford Explorer 4-Dr. XLT - White w/cloth, one owner w/72,000 miles.
Was $15,995 Must Go Price $11,995

2001 Ford Crown Victoria - Silver w/leather, one owner w/40,000 miles.
Was $14,995 Must Go Price $10,995

2000 Ford Focus Wagon SE - Silver, all power.
Was $7,995 Must Go Price $5,995

2000 Ford Taurus SE - Red, cloth, all power, 64,000 miles.
Was $9,995 Must Go Price $6,995

2000 Volkswagen Jetta GLS - 4-DR, one owner w/60,000 miles
Was $12,995 Must Go Price $8,995

1999 Pontiac Firebird - White, V-6, T-tops, 60,000 miles.
Was $13,995 Must Go Price $7,995

1999 Ford Crown Victoria - White, all power.
Was $9,995 Must Go Price $5,995

1999 Nissan Maxima GLE - Green, all power, 69,000 miles.
Was $13,995 Must Go Price $9,995

1999 GMC Suburban LT - Tan w/leather, locally owned.
Was $17,995 Must Go Price $10,995

1996 Mercury Cougar - Green w/tan top.
Was $6,995 Must Go Price $4,995

1996 Oldsmobile 88 4-DR. - Pewter, all power.
Was $6,995 Must Go Price $4,995

1997 Chevrolet C1500 Ext. Cab - Tan, 3500-8, new tires.
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1997 Mercury Tracer GS - Green, automatic, air.
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12188

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Everything Must Go!!

Garage Sales

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(432)268-4959 fax

GET PAID
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Help Wanted

CITY of Big Spring is taking applications for Animal Control Officer. Apply at the Personnel Department, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, Tx 79720 or call (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE. Applications may also be obtained from website:
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

LOOKING FOR Friendly Professional front desk sales agent also have openings for housekeeping positions. Apply in person @ 2900 E. I-20, Comfort Inn.

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Prefer at least 1 year maintenance experience and must be able to take after hours and weekend calls; must have valid TX drivers license and liability insurance.
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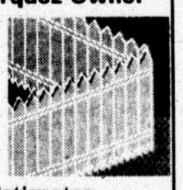
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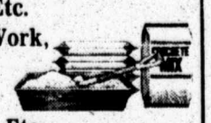
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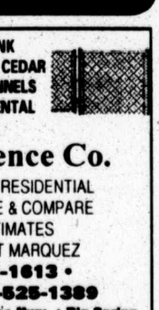
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Help Wanted

CJ's Wireless Warehouse New Hire
CJ's Wireless Warehouse is now hiring for Cellular Account Executives in the Big Spring area. CJ's is a Cellular One authorized dealer that is interested in individuals that are self-motivated, goal-oriented and willing to work hard for aggressive compensation. CJ's has become one of the markets top-producing dealers by being dedicatd to their employees training needs and striving to help their employees hit their daily goals. Sales experience is preferred but not a must. CJ's Wireless Warehouse is an aggressive, yet team-oriented company that provides a healthy and productive sales environment for its employees. For more information please contact CJ's Wireless Warehouse at (432)264-9774.

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DANCER/ COCKTAIL waitress needed. Must be 18 yrs. old. Call San Franciscan Bar & Grill (432)267-1767 leave message.

DOMINOS PIZZA Drivers needed. Hourly + mileage + tips. Competition says better commission, but you can't make commission doing dishes for the sit down lobby. Go by 2111 S. Gregg or call (432)267-4111.

FARM HAND Wanted. Experienced Only. Call (432)684-5418.

FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC
The City of Big Spring is conducting a civil service entrance exam for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic on Saturday March 12, 2005. Qualified applicants must be at least 18 but under 36 years of age and must have a High School Diploma or Equivalent. To apply and obtain further information contact The Personnel Department at 310 Nolan St., Big Spring, Tx 79720 or call (432)264-2346. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 pm Wednesday March 9, 2005. Preference will be given to applicants certifiable in Fire/EMS. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HOWARD COUNTY Sheriff's Office accepting applications until February 25, 2005 for deputy. Street experience and bi-lingual preferred. Applications can be picked up at the Sheriff's Office, 300 S. Main, Big Spring, TX between 8:00-5:00, M-F.

JOHN WESLEY'S Pick Pocket Billiards looking for help. Apply in person at 102 E. 3rd Street. Must be 21 yrs. old. No Phone Calls.

LOVE TO Shop?
Mystery Shoppers needed in your local area. Flexible hours, training provided. Must have internet access. Call Toll Free 800-342-3405.

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NEED OIL Field Supply/Pump Hand. Experienced or entry level position available. Full benefits. Send resume to: PO Box 2234, Big Spring, TX 79721.

NEED SECRETARY for data, processing, filing, inside sales, answering telephone, etc. Full benefits. Send resume to: PO Box 2234, Big Spring, TX 79721.

NEEDED LVN'S/ RN's for Pediatric hourly case in Big Spring. Full time/ part time positions available. Benefits and competitive pay. Complete Home Health Care, (432)570-8899 or come by 2402 West Wall, Midland.

Help Wanted

SHARP PERSON I am looking for an ambitious individual to learn my business. High earning potential. Call to hear recorded info 1-888-310-8114.

SOLID COMPANY NEEDS DRIVERS. Competitive hourly pay, lots of overtime! Paid travel, per diem, and motel. Home one week every month! Oil field labor along with driving. Medical and life insurance! Requires 2 years Class A CDL experience and good driving record. Call 1-800-588-2669.

SURGERY CENTER in Midland/Odessa area is looking for an Administrator. RN preferred w/management experience in the OR setting required. No Call and no weekends. Competitive Pay & Excellent Benefits. Send resume: c/o P.O. Box 1431/114, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

Travel Centers of America, Now Hiring for all positions. Apply in Person @ Hwy. 87 & I-20. No phone calls. Must pass drug screening.

Truck Driver position available, apply at **Laredo Paving**, 2701 N. Hwy. 350, Big Spring. Must have current CDL, clear driving record & Medical Card. No phone calls. EOE.

Wanted: Experienced, Licensed, Oilfield Electrician. Apply at Colorado City Electric, 120 New Street, Colorado City.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY person needed to move furniture. Must be motivated. Good driving record required. Must be 21. Paid vacation & holidays. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg. No Phone Calls!

VAN
WELL SERVICE
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FREE 4-ROOM DIRECTV SYSTEM including standard installation. 3 MONTHS FREE HBO & Cinemax! Access to over 225 channels! Limited time offer. S&H, restrictions apply. 1-800-889-3319.

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Both have CH/A.
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FOR RENT one bedroom house, Full time rent & exchange for part time baby-sitting for 3 year old. Seeking a Christian elderly person or couple. Call (432)267-1689 or leave message.

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HEIGHTS APARTMENTS, 403 E. 8th Street. Spacious 1 Bedroom's. Furnished & Unfurnished. All bills paid. $400.00 month, $200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-2771.

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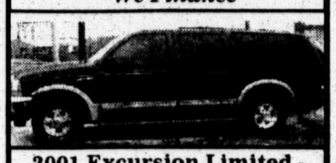
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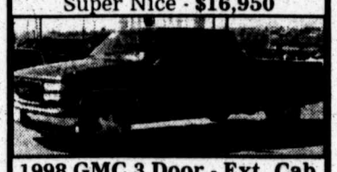
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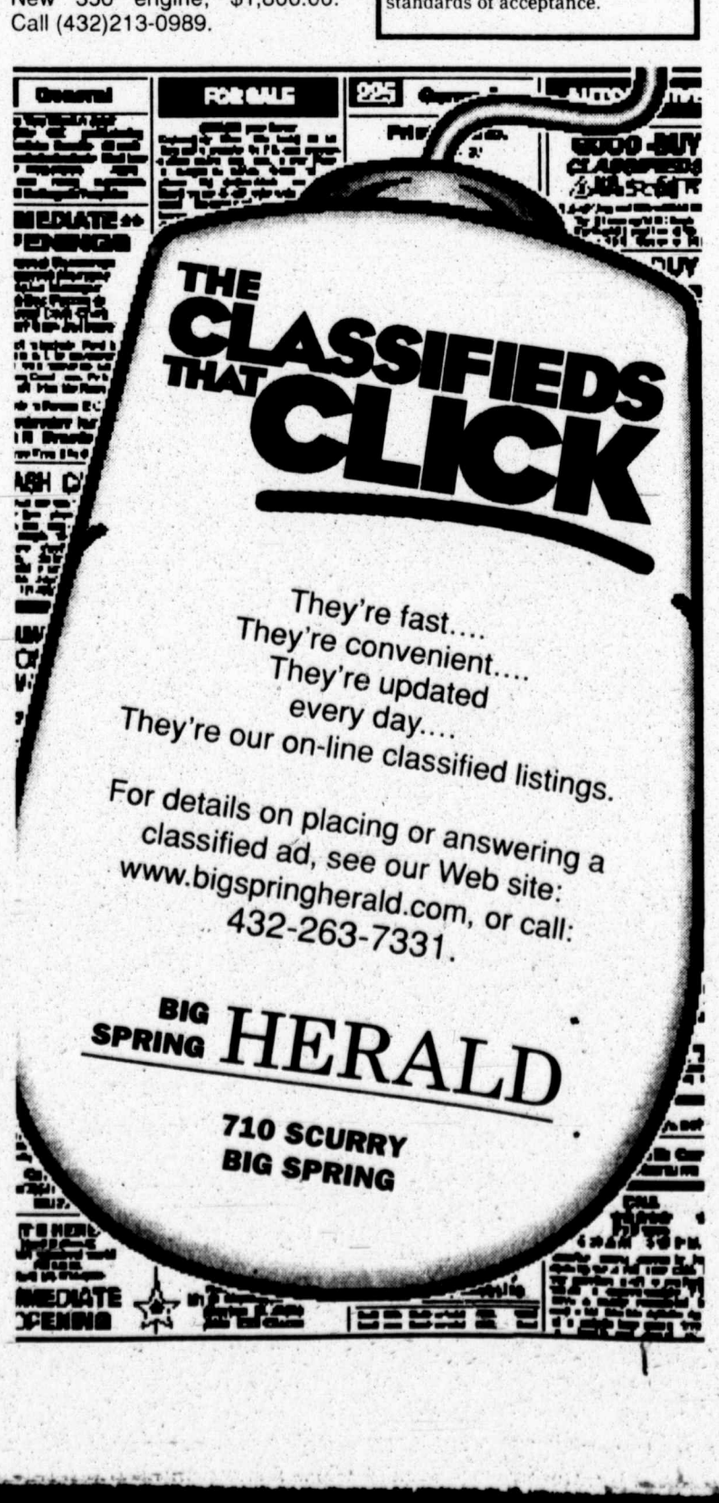
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We Finance

87 Auto Sales
111 Gregg 267-8787 — 210 Gregg 263-2382
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Mercury energy turns inward as the planet of communication enters Pisces. The transit, which continues until March 4, is like a song playing inside the body, sometimes melancholic, sometimes uplifting and always profound. The next three weeks bring the opportunity to fully connect with our feelings, no longer denying the difficult ones.


HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're viewing a large commitment in a different light. You may feel like the commitment is running you and that you are no longer in a position of choice. You always have a choice. Make one today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In your heart, a great, new affection is developing slowly and completely. This building affinity has you humming through the day, even though you may not consciously realize the source of your happy vibration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Friends may not come through for you with what they say they will, but they come through with something else. Try not to be exasperated. The new item may be just as helpful — maintain an open mind.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The Japanese have an officially recognized condition called karoshi — death from stress caused by too much work. You give it all at work, but when was the last time you bent over backward for fun?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have a vision of yourself in an alternate reality of sorts, with a different job or in a new social setting with a different love. The land of could-have-been is intriguing, but don't dwell there.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's music under your skin. Be a dancer. Dance vigorously to shake off the cords of embarrassment and the shackles of needing to fit in. You are accepted just as you are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The usual routine you engage in to keep from spinning into unknown territory now seems a hollow series of actions without meaning. And the unknown territory doesn't seem so frightening anymore. So venture out!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You handle problems in the moment they are presented. It's so hard to fathom people who can't do this, and you'll find yourself in toe-tapping mode a few times today, thinking, "Right now, please!"

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being more conscious and less automatic gives you power. For instance, there are a million benefits to your present situation. Make a list of those perks. Then, you'll realize why you've chosen your current road.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Honor your need for reflection and self-assessment. Recent events, though they may have seemed inconvenient at the time, have freed you. Liberty is not having to say what you don't mean.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). These can be seen as positive events: Something you thought was true is not. Something you weren't aware of has nonetheless been going on. Something you neglected has grown on in its own way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The hours slide fast when you're with that arresting person. Your attention is completely wrapped up in him or her — and yes, others are jealous. Make an attempt to spread your attention more evenly tonight.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Libra, and here's the scenario: I met a Taurus to whom I was immediately attracted on the Fourth of July weekend of 2004. We have continued to speak twice a week, he being the primary party contacting me, and have gone out with friends on a few occasions as well. The mystery is, why hasn't he asked me out on a date? His relationship of two and a half years ended back in May 2004; they were living together. Does he still pine for his ex, and am I merely someone who's a source of entertainment? Do I have a chance with this individual?"

You're not "a source of entertainment" but a real friend to this Taurus — and that's all. He likes you, and it's up to you to decide if you're really getting anything (aside from false hopes) from investing your time and energy in this friendship. In other words, would you still talk to him twice a week if you knew that nothing would ever come of it? Since you are a Libra driven to find a romantic partner to spend your life with, perhaps this relationship is too much of a distraction to your real romantic goals.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Hip-hop artist and former Army soldier Ice-T is an Aquarius who laid the groundwork for subsequent hip-hop artists with his multidimensional career path. He has more acting, composing and producing credits than CD releases! Aquarius people are artistically stimulated by variation. One kind of art only enhances appreciation for other kinds, and the result is often an eclectic career.

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

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Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need


KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Dear Annie: When I married back in the '60s, I was a workaholic. I had little time for family, and after 14 years, my marriage ended in a very bitter divorce. The real victims of this split were our two children, "Gary" and "Sue."

After the divorce, I seldom saw either of my children outside of special occasions and holidays. My ex-wife dealt with being a single parent by climbing inside a bottle. When Gary was 15, he attempted suicide. Things were miserable.

Over the years, Sue, now age 35, has grown closer, but my relationship with Gary is still tentative. Five years ago, he wrote me a disturbing letter saying he was tired of me running his life, although I can't imagine why he thought so since I rarely saw him. A few months after that, Sue told me Gary had stopped returning her calls. We then discovered Gary had broken off relationships with his entire family, including his mother and grandparents.

Recently, Sue made contact with Gary and learned he has been married for several years. She told me he seemed very angry and extremely self-involved. She also said he believes he knows everything, to the point where he seemed delusional. Sue said the only thing holding him together is his wife, "Sara," a nurturing type.

Gary has a pilot's license, and I am scared to death that he might attempt suicide again. I think he should be examined by a mental health expert. Yes, I know it sounds as if I am meddling, but Gary has a son (my grandson) whom he frequently flies with. I fear for the child's safety. — Panicked in Pittsburgh

Dear Panicked: We understand your concern, but you might not know Gary well enough these days to make any assumptions about his mental health. The fact that he is distant and self-involved does not mean he is suicidal.

The best thing you can do is maintain some kind of contact, even if that means the conduit is Sue and she talks mostly to Sara. At least you will be kept abreast of the situation, and it will enable you to attempt to reconnect with your son.

Dear Annie: My best friend leaves the price tag on all the gifts she gives me, with the excuse that she wants me to be able to take the items back if they don't fit or I don't like them. I was raised to remove price tags before giving a gift. Which is proper etiquette? — Baffled Friend

Dear Friend: It is proper to remove anything that mentions the cost of an item given as a gift. If requested, most stores happily provide gift receipts, which enable the recipient to return the item without revealing the price. Either your friend is uninformed or she wants you to know exactly how much she spent. It's your call what you want to do about it. We say, consider it a quirk and ignore it.

Dear Annie: This is in response to the letter from "Kingston, N.Y.," who was diagnosed with an intestinal parasite. Ten years ago, I was diagnosed with irritable bowel syndrome. The symptoms became so severe that nothing could control the diarrhea. Finally, my family doctor suggested I be tested for parasites, and he was astounded to find three different kinds in my system. He thought I had traveled to third-world countries. One week of treatment cured me completely.

I have never been to a foreign country and do not know where I picked up these critters. Thanks for writing about this. — Torrance, Calif.

Dear Torrance: We spoke with Dr. Marshall Sparberg, an expert at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago. Dr. Sparberg says the most common indication of a parasitic infection is diarrhea. He also said a stool analysis in a good lab is essential to properly diagnose the problem. Anyone concerned should see an internist or a gastroenterologist.

Dear Annie: I am 65 years old and in a rather unusual position. My wife, "Lisa," works at an office three hours away. In order to spend less time on the road, Lisa rented an apartment near her office and began to commute home on the weekends. That was eight years ago, and little by little, things reached the point where Lisa comes home only for holidays or social engagements.

However, when she does come home, it ushers in a whole new load of issues. Lisa is in a high-ranking position at work and used to having control over everyone. She tells me what to eat, how to properly care for the dog and what to fix around the house. The worst is how she treats our housekeeper. Lisa makes a list of all the dirty spots the housekeeper has to clean the next time she comes. It's become so intolerable that we have shouting matches in front of our grandchildren.

Should I just make our separation legal? Is therapy in order here? — Fed Up in the Southeast

Dear Fed Up: We would never eschew therapy, although it would be best if it included Lisa. Chances are, your wife is asserting her authority with such belligerence because she feels guilty and is trying to make up for her absence. Also, she fears losing her position in the family and wants to make sure you remember.

Instead of shouting, try calmly explaining to Lisa why her take-charge attitude is causing a problem. You also might ask her to re-evaluate the importance of her job versus your marriage. Sounds like one of them is going to lose out.

Dear Annie: I'm writing in response to "Not Only a Boys' Team Anymore," whose daughter, "Lanie," is the only girl on her baseball team.

When I was 8 years old, I also played on a boys' baseball team, and at first, everyone was weird about me being the only girl. But after I showed them that their remarks didn't bother me and only made me want to be better, they were on my side.

Thanks to all that, I started playing girls' fast-pitch softball in middle school, then varsity fast pitch in high school. I just finished my first year of collegiate softball. To Lanie, I say, don't let their remarks burn you up. Be strong, and show the boys that baseball isn't just a boys' sport anymore. Best of luck. — Arizona Softball

Dear Arizona: Good for you. Your words of encouragement will inspire Lanie and all girls in her position. Here's one more:

Dear Annie: I was a Little League coach and I, too, had a girl on my team and a boy who was a bully, with a father to match. Every time the bully would say hurtful things, I would make him apologize and then run laps. His father didn't like this and had words with me. I informed Dad that there is no "I" in "team," and if he did not like my discipline, he could take his son home and not come back.

I also told the father that if he continued to give his two cents' to my players, I would remove his son from the team and have him banned from the league. We had no more problems from the father after that, and his son was in tip-top shape from all the laps he ran. — Coach in Corona, Calif.

Dear Annie: Thank you for straightening out that 25-year-old woman who wants "the works" for her wedding because "that's what daddies and grandparents are for." And thank you for all your other attempts to bring a little common sense to weddings. Please continue to chastise those who believe a wedding reception is the place for bratty children, drunks, dirty jokes, bouquet wrestlers and cake face-smashers. As you said, "Once a new custom is perpetuated, everyone believes it is acceptable. It isn't." Please repeat that loudly and often. — Not a Curmudgeon

Dear Not: We'll do our best. Thanks for the back-up.

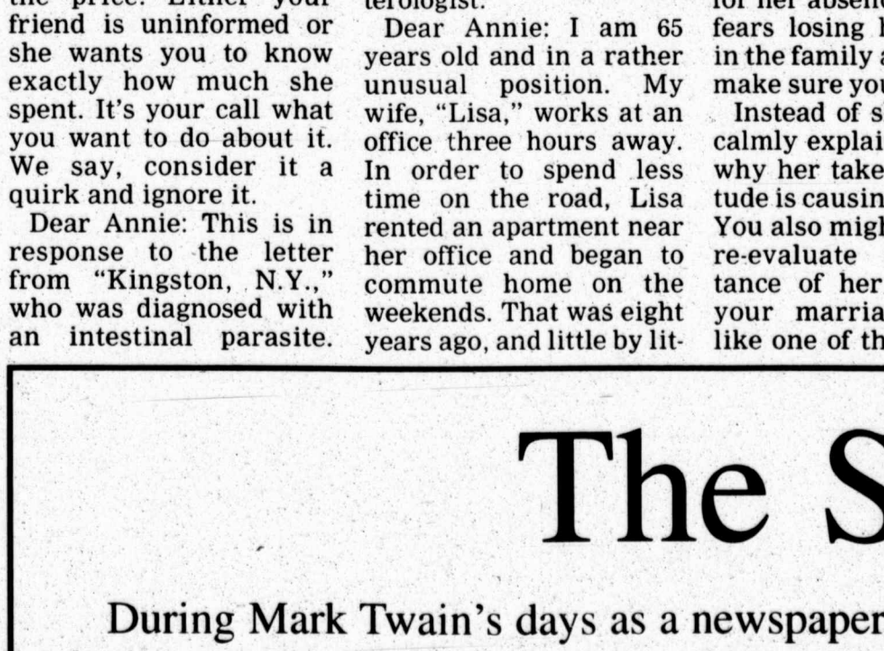
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net.

The Spider

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

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

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



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WEDNESDAY FEB. 16

		WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	TMC (250) Premium
6	:PM	News (CC)	News	La Mujer de	Malcolm-Mid.	News	Anita,No Te	News	Raymond	Sam Peak	News-Lehrer	American	(CC)	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	Live	That's-Raven	College	College	(CC)
	:30	Wheel-Fortune	Wheel-Fortune	Madera	Raymond	Ent. Tonight	Rajes	Seinfeld (CC)	Raymond	John Hagee	"	Chopper	"	Scene Invstgtn.	(CC) (DVS)	Ciara	That's-Raven	Basketball:	Basketball:	"
7	:PM	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Rubi	'70s Show	60 Minutes	La Mujer en el	Medium (CC)	Raymond	Update/Israel	Antiques Rd.	Life of Grime	Movie:	CSI: Crime	Law & Order	The Parkers	Movie: Zenon:	So. Miss. at	Virginia at	Movie: Hudson
	:30	"	"	"	Simple Life	Wednesday	Espejo	"	Raymond	Biblical Israel	Sci. Frontiers	"	Smokey	Scene Invstgtn.	(CC) (DVS)	Girlfriends	Girl of the 21st	Cincinnati	North Carolina	Hawk (CC)
8	:PM	Alias (CC)	Alias (CC)	Amor Real	Amercan Idol	King	Gitanas	The West Wing	Seinfeld (CC)	Light of the	Slavery and	MythBusters	"	2005 SI Swim-	Law & Order	Coming to the	Century (CC)	College	NBA	"
	:30	"	"	"	(CC)	Yes, Dear	"	(CC)	Seinfeld (CC)	Southwest	the Making of	(CC)	"	suit Special	(CC) (DVS)	Stage	"	Basketball:	Basketball:	Leprechaun:
9	:PM	Wife Swap	Wife Swap	Don Francisco	Malcolm-Mid.	CSI: NY	Te Voy a En-	Law & Order	Sex and-City	"	America	It Takes a	Movie: The	The Hoop Life	Movie:	Club Comic	Sister, Sister	Nebraska at	Golden State	Back 2 tha
	:30	(CC)	(CC)	Presenta	'70s Show	(CC)	senar a Querer	(CC)	Sex and-City	"	(CC)	Thief	Golden Child	(CC)	Turbulence	View	Even Stevens	Oklahoma	Warriors at	Hood
10	:PM	News (CC)	News	Primer Impacto	'70s Show	News	Noticias	News	:05 Movie:	The Hour of	Charlie Rose	Life of Grime	"	MXC	"	Nightly News	That's-Raven	Tilt (CC)	Seattle Sonics	:15 Movie:
	:30	Nightline	Nightline	Noticiero Univ.	Raymond	Late Show-	Laura	Tonight Show	Three to	Healing	(CC)	"	"	MXC	"	Music Special	That's-Raven	"	SportsCenter	China Moon
11	:PM	Ent. Tonight	Extra (CC)	La Hora	Becker (CC)	Letterman	"	"	Tango (CC)	N. McBride	Sign Off	MythBusters	Movie:	Wildest Police	The X-Files	Midnight Love	Proud Family	NBA Fastbreak	(CC)	"
	:30	Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel	Derbez	Becker (CC)	Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo-	Late Night-	"	Joseph Good	"	(CC)	Smokey	Videos	(CC)	"	Kim Possible	Gamenight	Outside-Lines	"
12	:AM	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Alma Rebelde	Spin City	Show	Maria Celeste	Conan O'Brien	12:05 Movie:	Update/Israel	"	It Takes a	"	Blind Date	The X-Files	Club Comic	Boy World	Basketball	SportsCenter	Movie: The
	:30	News (CC)	Paid Program	"	Dharma-Greg	The Insider	Programa	Frasier (CC)	Lost & Found	Van Impe Pres	"	Thief	"	Shipmates	(CC)	View	Lizzie McGuire	Streetball	(CC)	Last Seduction

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU GOT ANY BOWLS THAT NEED LICKIN'?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Gee, you hafta use a deck of cards? Grandma plays solitaire on the computer."

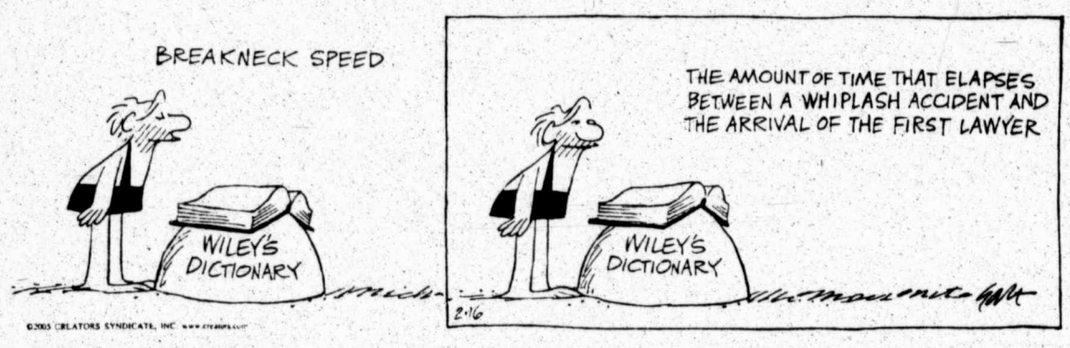
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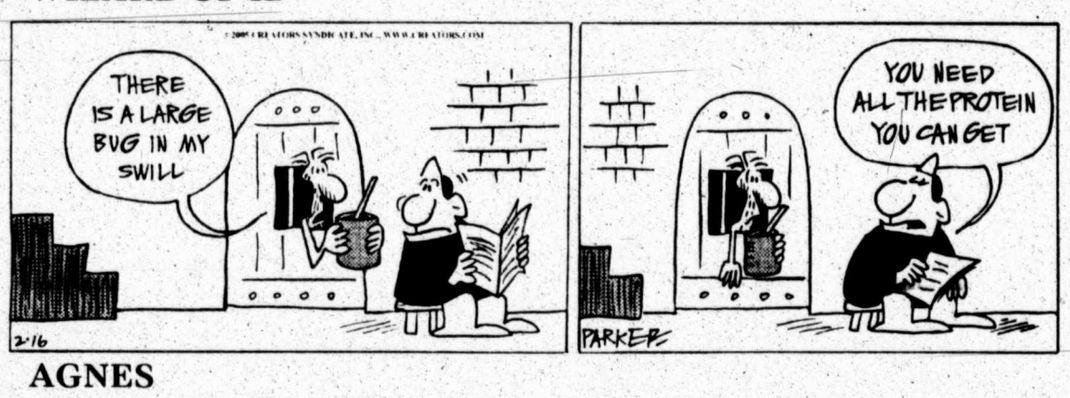
BLONDIE



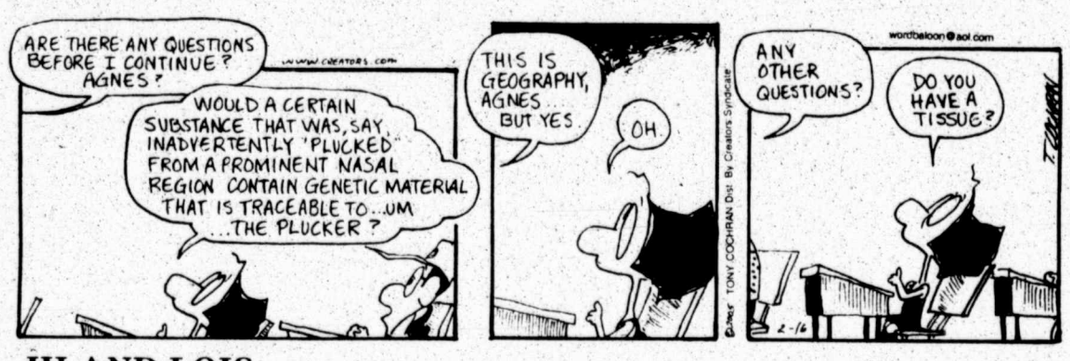
BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH

BEETLE BAILEY

This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 16, the 47th day of 2005. There are 318 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 16, 1945, American troops landed on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines during World War II.

On this date:

In 1804, Lt. Stephen Decatur led a successful raid into Tripoli Harbor to burn the U.S. Navy frigate Philadelphia, which had fallen into the hands of pirates.

In 1862, during the Civil War, some 14,000 Confederate soldiers surrendered at Fort Donelson, Tenn. (Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's victory earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant.")

In 1868, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was organized in New York City.

In 1918, Lithuania proclaimed its independence.

In 1923, the burial chamber of King Tutankhamen's recently unearthed tomb was unsealed in Egypt.

In 1959, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba after the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1968, the nation's first 911 emergency telephone system was inaugurated, in Haleyville, Ala.

In 1977, Janani Luwum, the Anglican archbishop of Uganda, and two other men were killed in what Ugandan authorities said was an automobile accident.

In 1994, at least 217 people were killed when a powerful earthquake shook Indonesia's Sumatra island.

In 1998, a China Airlines Airbus trying to land in fog near Taipei, Taiwan, crashed, killing all 196 people on board and six people on the ground.

Ten years ago: Four people were killed when tornadoes tore through rural north Alabama.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Patty Andrews is 87. Kim Jong Il, the president of North Korea, is 63. Actor Jeremy Bulloch is 59. Actor Pete Postlethwaite is 59. Actor William Katt is 54. Actor James Ingram is 49. Actor LeVar Burton is 48. Actor-rapper Ice-T is 47. Actress Lisa Loring is 47. Tennis Hall of Fame player John McEnroe is 46. Rock musician Andy Taylor (Duran Duran) is 44. Rock musician Taylor Hawkins (Foofighters) is 33. Singer Sam Salter is 27.

Answer to previous puzzle

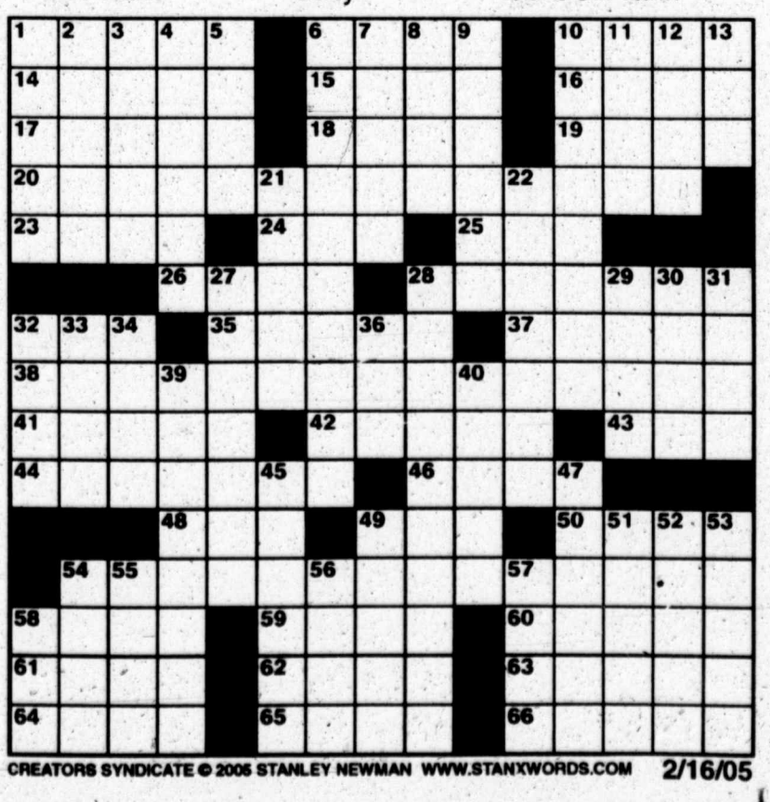
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Newsday Crossword

GEOMETRY LESSON by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Forum language
6 Transcript figs.
10 Guitarist Hendrix
14 Dunne or Cara
15 Verdi title character
16 PC operator
17 Gettysburg victor
18 Goblet part
19 Forest females
20 Not relevant
23 Cassini of fashion
24 Shout out
25 Director Jean-__ Godard
26 Scandinavian capital
28 Strong suits
32 Toward the rudder
35 *Cold Case Files* network
37 Oregon's capital
38 Speaks candidly
41 Wall art
42 Taj __
43 Fr. holy woman
44 Instructive comparison
46 Quite unpleasant
48 Before, to poets
49 Clean __ whistle
50 Kuwaiti ruler
54 747, e.g.
58 Supermarket roller
59 Caesar conquest
60 Similarly
61 Gyro bread
62 On the Aegean
63 Catches some z's
64 Quartz variety
65 Clean up
66 Alfred Nobel, for one

DOWN
1 Under-the-bar dance
2 Staggering
3 Poke fun at
4 Blue dye
5 Can't do without
6 Culinary art
7 Short and sweet
8 "Zip-__-Doo-Dah"
9 Pollster's subset
10 Of courts of law
11 "Help __ the way!"
12 Athletic event
13 Treasury Dept. bureau
21 Brilliance
22 Peddle more than
27 Clipper's crew
28 Symbol of longevity
29 New Haven collegians
30 Monopoly payment
31 Hook's henchman
32 __ mater
33 Pointy-eared deity
34 Supermodel Banks
36 Genetic-code letters
39 Invoice add-on
40 Viking of comics
45 Bauble
47 Common cab color
49 Feverish symptoms
51 Indian corn
52 Affixed one's John Hancock
53 Pee Wee of baseball
54 Aspirin target
55 Bohemian
56 Cape Canaveral org.
57 Football gear
58 USN rank



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HOWARD COUNTY BUYERS' GUIDE

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(432)268-4959 fax

CITY of Big Spring is taking applications for Animal Control Officer. Apply at the Personnel Department, 310 Nolan, Big Spring, Tx 79720 or call (432)264-2346. The City of Big Spring is EOE. Applications may also be obtained from website:
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us

FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC
The City of Big Spring is conducting a civil service entrance exam for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic on Saturday March 12, 2005. Qualified applicants must be at least 18 but under 36 years of age and must have a High School Diploma or Equivalent. To apply and obtain further information contact The Personnel Department at 310 Nolan St., Big Spring, Tx 79720 or call (432)264-2346. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 pm Wednesday March 9, 2005. Preference will be given to applicants certifiable in Fire/EMS. The City of Big Spring is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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CJ's Wireless Warehouse is now hiring for Cellular Account Executives in the Big Spring area. CJ's is a Cellular One authorized dealer that is interested in individuals that are self-motivated, goal-oriented and willing to work hard for aggressive compensation. CJ's has become one of the markets top-producing dealers by being dedicatd to their employees training needs and striving to help their employees hit their daily goals. Sales experience is preferred but not a must. CJ's Wireless Warehouse is an aggressive, yet team-oriented company that provides a healthy and productive sales environment for its employees. For more information please contact CJ's Wireless Warehouse at (432)264-9774.

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Howard County Courthouse
300 Main St. Room 207
Big Spring, TX 79720
Applications must be submitted by 5PM on
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FARM HAND Wanted. Experienced Only. Call (432)684-5418.

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WANTED: INDIVIDUAL with CDL for position of truck driver & general maintenance at natural gas plant, northeast of Big Spring. Send resume to: Plant Supervisor, 11703 E. FM 846, Coahoma, TX 79511 or fax 432-399-4290.

WAREHOUSE & Yard Assistant. Maintain drip irrigation inventory and physical plant. Functions include load and unload delivery trucks, labeling and stocking inventory, assisting customers, all aspects of yard maintenance. Ability to lift heavy items, some travel within West Texas service area, posses and maintain valid Texas Driver License. Irrigation, farming, mechanical or computer experience a plus, but will train. Send Resume to Eco-Drip Irrigation, PO Box 126, Garden City, TX 79739 or call (432)354-2339 for more information.

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Slaton Coop Gin Yard is located south side of Slaton at intersection of US Hwy 84 and FM Hwy 400
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1 - 1974 John Deere 4430 Diesel Tractor
1 - 1969 John Deere 4020 Diesel Tractor W.F.
1 - John Deere 158 Hyd. Front End Loader
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1 - Large lot P.V.C. gated irr. pipe
1 - Large aluminum pipe

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1 - 1998 John Deere 7455 Diesel
1 - 1996 John Deere 7450 Diesel Self Propelled Cotton Stripper
2 - Big 12 Cotton Module Builders
1 - Sam Stevens Cotton Boll Buggy
1 - Caldwell Crustbuster Cotton Boll Buggy Packer

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1 - 3pt 200 gal. Spray rig - pump

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1 - John Deere 965 - 6 bottom switch plow
1 - John Deere, 9 row 3 pt. lister
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Those "Palestinian Refugees"

Who are they, what is the real story?

The major and perhaps only sticking point in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians is that of the "return of the Palestinian refugees." It sank the Camp David conference that President Clinton had arranged, even though Mr. Barak had made unprecedented concessions for the sake of peace. The new man, Mahmoud Abbas, who routinely refers to Israel as the "Zionist enemy," also insists that the "right of return" is not negotiable, and that there can be no peace unless those "refugees" are allowed to "return" to Israel.

What are the facts?

650,000 "refugees" swell to 5 million. You have heard about those "Palestinian refugees," who claim "right of return" to Israel. Of course, virtually none of them ever lived in Israel -- they are the children and mostly grandchildren of those who fled in 1948. The total number of those who fled in 1948 is estimated to have been about 650,000. Now the number who wish to return has swollen to almost five million!

How did this exodus come about? In 1948, on the day of the proclamation of the State of Israel, five Arab armies invaded the new country from all sides. In frightful radio broadcasts, they urged the Arabs living there to leave, so that the invading armies could operate without interference. They could return after the expected quick victory in that "holy war," get their property back — and that of the Jews. Things turned out differently. The invading armies were defeated. Those who had left became refugees — people without a country. Those who stayed, and their children, are full-fledged citizens of the State of Israel.

> "The Arabs are committed not to allow any 'non-believers' to be in control of any part of the Middle East. That is the real cause of the 'Palestinian refugee problem.'"

These so-called "Palestinian refugees" have not been allowed to settle in the "indivisible Arab nation." They have been supported in camps since 1948. So far, over $2.0 billion has been spent on their maintenance. No end is in sight. Who pays for that? You guessed it: Through UNWRA Relief, the United States contributes more than 60% of the total cost.

The Arab countries, among them some of the richest in the world, who fritter away their enormous fortunes on frivolous luxuries, are satisfied to leave their Arab brethren in those miserable camps. They have never contributed a penny to their maintenance.

Another side of the "refugee" story. But there is another side to the "refugee" story. Little is heard of the 800,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries, who fled those countries to settle in the newly formed Jewish State of Israel. Every one of these refugees was immediately accepted, resettled, taken care of, and given full citizenship by the fledgling, impoverished, and embattled Jewish State. There never has been, and there certainly is not now, a Jewish "refugee" camp in Israel or anywhere else.

The Arab "refugees" who fled Israel left little wealth and little history, since most of them had not come to "Palestine" until Jewish settlers opened economic opportunities in what had been a desolate country for centuries. But the Jews of Arab lands have a history going back thousands of years. When forced to flee, they left behind land, wealth, and a long history. They arrived in Israel, quite literally only "with their shirts on their backs." They now make up almost 60% of the vibrant and productive population of Israel. What have the Arabs, the richest people in the world, done with *their* "refugees" in more than 50 years? They have kept them in misery, on the dole of the world, and have taught their hopeless youth the "skills" of suicide missions and of slaughtering defenseless and unarmed men, women, and children.

If the Arab nations truly decided to make peace with Israel and to put an end to the century-long strife, they could easily accomplish it by accepting the "Palestinian refugees" in their countries and, just as Israel did with Jewish refugees from Arab countries, integrating them into their societies and making useful citizens of them. In fact, acceptance in their countries might also be offered to the Israeli Arabs, who, despite enjoying a higher standard of living, education, and health than Arabs in any of the surrounding countries and despite having the same civil rights as Israeli Jews, are not happy to live in a Jewish state.

Population transfers are common, especially in the wake of wars. They have been practiced throughout history. In 1923, Greece and Turkey agreed to the resettlement of 2 million Greeks and 800,000 Turks; in 1945, the resettlement of 3 million Germans from Poland and Czechoslovakia was arranged. Following the collapse of its North African Empire, France accepted close to 1.5 million people. More than 12 million(!) Muslims and Hindus were exchanged between India and Pakistan. Israel has recognized this historical necessity. The "Arab Nation," with its enormous wealth and vast under-populated lands, has stubbornly refused to face facts.

It is clear that the "Palestinian refugee problem" is a red herring, kept alive by the Arab nations for their political purposes, and with cynical disregard for the great number of impoverished people who live in these camps. It is being kept alive and is being used as a "non-negotiable" bargaining chip, for the purpose of destroying the State of Israel — a feat that the Arabs have attempted several times by military means, but which has always ended in disastrous failure. Apart from the unsolvable social problems it would create, the introduction of, say, even one-half of the 5 million who claim to be "refugees" would, with one stroke, dramatically alter the demographic makeup of the country and would inevitably destroy the Jewish State. That is of course the whole idea behind the demand for the "return of the refugees". If the Arab nations were willing to solve the "refugee problem," the legitimacy of Israel could no longer be questioned. But that is not acceptable to the Arabs. They are firmly committed not to allow Israel or any "non-believers" to be in control of any part of the Middle East. It is that, and that alone, which is the real cause of the "Palestinian refugee problem."

This ad has been published and paid for by

FLAME

Facts and Logic About the Middle East
P.O. Box 590359 ■ San Francisco, CA 94159
Gerardo Joffe, President

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A USER'S GUIDE TO THE BIG SPRING HERALD

Each day. The ***Big Spring Herald*** receives calls from readers - just like you - who have important questions about how the newspaper works and the services it offers. For your information and convenience, we have compiled this page of answers to readers' most frequently asked questions.

Save this page for future reference

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HOW TO

SUBMIT NEWS INFORMATION

To announce activities or events, mail or bring by the office a typed news release or fact sheet to Editior John Moseley as far in advance as possible. The release should include the who, what, why, when, and where of the event, and the name and telephone number of a contact person. If you have a timely news item, call John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

LOCATE A SPECIFIC STORY

If you are unable to locate an article, call 263-7331, or come by the *Big Spring Herald* at 710 Scurry, and we will try to assist you. Remember, we can only provide information that appeared in the *Big Spring Herald.*

HOW

OBITUARIES ARE HANDLED

Obituaries, whether paid or non-paid, are provided to the *Big Spring Herald* by funeral homes. Non-paid obits follow a standard form, while paid obits can include virtually anything the deceased's family requests. Any questions should be directed to the Editor John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

GET DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME

Call our office at 263-7335 or come by 710 Scurry. Our subscription rate is $93.42 per year or $8.65 per month.

HOW TO

OBTAIN BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the *Big Spring Herald* are kept on file for one year and may be purchased during regular business hours. However, some back issues sell out quickly and we cannot guarantee that any given issue will be available. You may also check with the Howard County Library reference department at 264-2262.

HOW TO

SUBMIT MARRIAGE, ENGAGEMENT OR BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit engagement, wedding, or birth announcements come by our office at 710 Scurry and pick up a form. You may also download a form from our website at www.bigspringherald.com. If you have questions regarding the guidelines for these announcements, discuss them with Marsha Sturdivant at 263-7331, ext. 236.

HOW TO

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 or come by 710 Scurry. Ads can be placed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HOW TO

PLACE A DISPLAY AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 and ask for a retail advertising sales representative or visit our office at 710 Scurry. Telephone lines are open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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