

Moore scrutiny sought

City council to take closer look at oversight of economic development entity

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Discussion concerning a possible increase in oversight by the city over Moore Development tops the agenda for Tuesday's meeting of the Big Spring City Council, as city leaders take a closer look at the

economic development agency.

The topic, which was approached by the council during its Feb. 27 meeting, stems from the corporation's involvement in the renovation of the historic Settles Hotel, according to city officials.

"Councilwoman (JoAnn) Staulcup asked that we look at

Moore Board and its expenditures and see if we should be

more actively involved in that particular issue," said Mayor Russ McEwen. "Our city attorney is looking at that very thing and we just need to have a more firm position on what we can and can not do, and what we must and must not

do."

Moore Development for Big Spring Inc. directors voted unanimously Dec. 8 to provide up to \$3 million to help Brint Ryan — manager of the Dallas company and the founder and CEO of Ryan & Company — renovate the Settles Hotel, which he agreed to purchase

for \$75,000 from the city of Big Spring.

According to city officials, Ryan has not yet fulfilled the contract by paying the \$75,000 agreed upon, despite initial reports the tab would be paid by the end of December.

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POWWOW

Native American culture to be celebrated at event

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Native American heritage will be the focus at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum Saturday and Sunday, as the third annual Big Spring Powwow opens to the sounds of drums and war cries.

According to event spokesperson Connie Lesser, who also serves as secretary for the committee that holds the annual event, everything gets going at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 17, with gourd dancing, followed by the Grand Entry, where all the dancers enter.

"The Southern Drum host this year is Otter Trail from Oklahoma," said

See POWWOW, Page 3A

Schedule of Events

Saturday, March 17

10 a.m. Gourd Dancing
11 a.m. Grand Entry
Contest Dancing
5 p.m. Diner Break
6:30 p.m. Gourd Dancing
7 p.m. Grand Entry
Contest Dancing
10 p.m. Close

Sunday, March 18

9:30 a.m. Christian Worship Service
11 a.m. Gourd Dancing
12 a.m. Grand Entry
Contest Dancing
5 p.m. Closing



It's just about time for the Big Spring Powwow, celebrating Native American heritage. The event is set next Saturday and Sunday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

HERALD file photo

County wants in pilot program

By THOMAS JENKINS

Staff Writer

Voting — or at least knowing where to go to vote — could get much easier in Howard County, as local elections administrator Sandra Bloom attempts to make the area part of a statewide pilot program.

Bloom said she hopes to add Howard County to the list of Texas counties participating in a program that would allow the centralization of polling places.

"It was a pilot program that was in effect during 2006," said Bloom. "However, Lubbock County was the only county that participated in it. There is currently a bill that allows the extension of that pilot program. I'm hoping they will allow any county that wants to participate

See POLLS, Page 3A

Newborn kidnapped from Lubbock hospital returned

By BETSY BLANEY

Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK — A newborn kidnapped from a Lubbock hospital by a woman wearing hospital scrubs and a hooded jacket was found safe Sunday in New Mexico and returned to her mother.

Four-day-old Mychael Darthard-

Dawodu was found in a home in Clovis, N.M., by police following up on tips, a day after she was taken from Covenant Lakeside Hospital.

"It's a joyous time," Gwen Stafford, senior vice president of Covenant Health System, said at a news conference Sunday. "This has been a roller coaster of emotions. Today there's not

many happy stories; this is certainly one in Lubbock, Texas."

Rayshaun Parson, 21, of Clovis, was arrested on suspicion of kidnapping and jailed in Curry County, N.M., where she had been interviewed by Lubbock and FBI investigators, authorities said. Federal charges also could be pursued, Lubbock police Lt. Scott Hudgens said.

Phone numbers at Parson's address were disconnected Sunday.

Before being flown back to Texas and her parents, Caisha Darthard and Michael A. Dawodu, Mychael was checked at Plains Regional Medical Center in Clovis and found to be in good

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SCAVENGER HUNT NIXED

LAREDO (AP) — A scavenger hunt turned sour for 40 high school students when Laredo police learned of it and arrested them on felony charges of theft and engaging in organized criminal activity.

Police accused the students — most of them Laredo high school seniors — of swiping up to five truckloads of loot from across town. The list included items such as city traffic signs and pinatas.

Officers first uncovered the escapade when a group of five students was pulled over for speeding. Their car contained stolen stop signs, a garden hose and other items, police said.

NEW LONDON REUNION

NEW LONDON (AP) — Survivors of a 1937 gas explosion that claimed the lives of about 300 students and faculty at a school in this small East Texas town will gather next weekend for a reunion marking the 70th anniversary of the disaster.

While the reunion is for all alumni of the New London School and what has become the West Rusk Independent School District, much of the focus will be on remembering those who died and survived, said Jean Davidson, secretary-treasurer of the school's alumni association.

Events for the three-day reunion will be held in Longview and at the school auditorium in New London.

GOOD, HEALTHY FUN



Washington Elementary students Jump Rope for Heart

See photos, Page 5A

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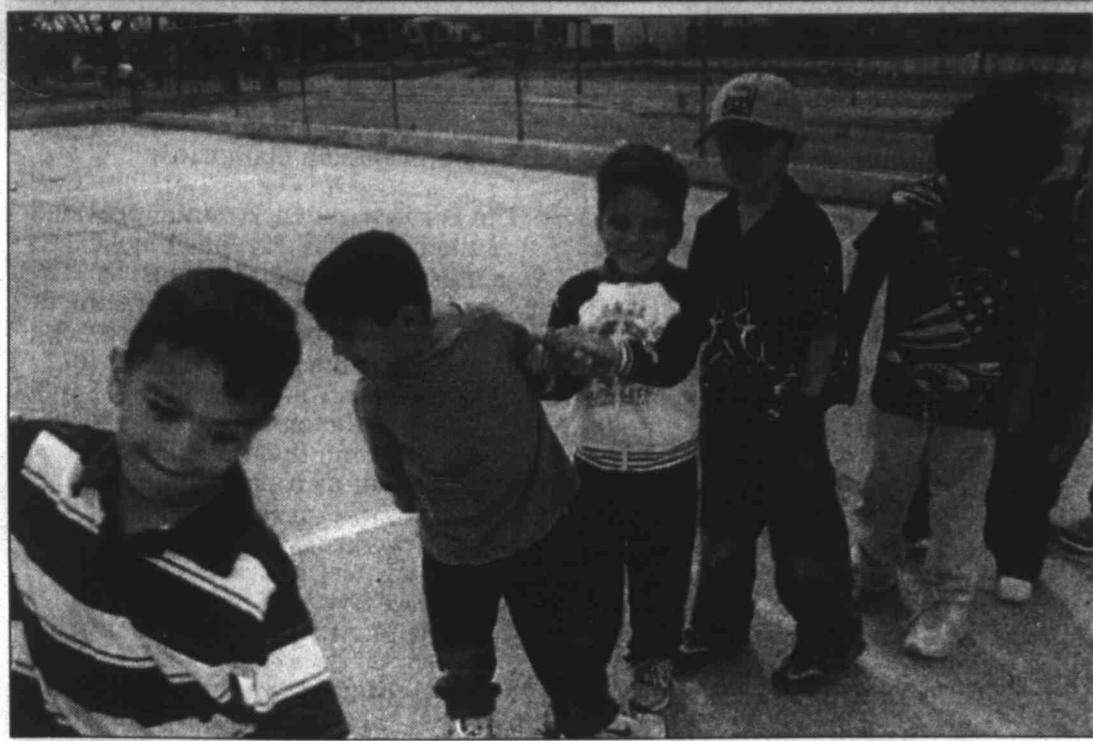
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Washington Elementary School students held a Jump-a-thon on Thursday March. The event was for the Jump Rope for Heart. Amy Meadors coordinated the efforts for healthier hearts and minds at Washington.

Courtesy photos



Protect yourself from surprise medical bills, physicians advise

Physicians have new advice for patients: Protect yourself against unexpected bills for medical care in spite of having health insurance.

Too often a patient receives medical care in a hospital covered by his or her health insurance plan but is later shocked to receive an additional bill for care.

Patients who receive medical care in a hospital often discover many of the physician specialists who work in hospitals, such as emergency medicine physicians, anesthesiologists, or pathologists, are not included in their health plan. Unfortunately, most patients do not find out until they receive a bill.

"They're appalled," said Michael Speer, MD, member of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) board of trustees. "Quite properly; I would be appalled, too. How many people can you think of who can just reach in their pocket and pay thousands of dollars?"

How can this happen? Employers and patients pay health insurance premiums expecting a large list of all types of physician specialties to be accessible to care for them. This list is called an "adequate network" and should consist of primary care physicians, surgical and medical specialists, hospitals and hospital-based physicians such as radiologists, pathologists and emergency room physicians. When health plans do not provide adequate networks, patients are stuck with expensive insurance premiums and unexpected medical expenses if they receive care from a physician who is not a member of the network.

Hospitals and physicians each must decide whether to join a health plan's network. Just because a hospital is included in a patient's health plan does not mean every physician working in the hospital is in the network. Unfortunately, most people are under the mistaken impression that if a hospital is covered by their health insurance, so are the physicians.

For example, a woman having a baby enters a hospital covered by her

health plan. In the course of her hospital stay, her obstetrician-gynecologist treats her, and depending upon the delivery, she might receive anesthesia from an anesthesiologist, a blood test examined by a pathologist, and an x-ray analysis by a radiologist, all of whom may or may not be in her health plan network.

"Those patients who are in the hospital often don't feel well. They expect to be cared for, and they expect they've paid their money to provide that insurance coverage so that they don't have a lot of out-of-pocket expenses," reasoned Dr. Speer.

What can patients do? Dr. Speer suggests patients educate themselves ahead of time. "They need to ask questions of their health insurer and their employer's human resource department. Learn what the patient will and will not be responsible for," Dr. Speer advised. "Is there a high deductible? Does it cover the physician within the hospital? Does it cover accidents? Does it cover newborn care?"

TMA physicians suggest patients do the homework now so they can make informed decisions in the event of an unexpected emergency.

Dr. Speer, a Houston neonatologist, sees many tiny patients transferred to the hospital where he works. He cares for premature newborn babies who need intensive care. If the hospital has space for the patient, it must accept the baby without prior discussion of payment. Fragile babies born as many as 12 weeks early often require a 10- to 12-week hospital stay.

Often several weeks into the baby's stay, the insurer announces the hospital is outside of the plan's network and demands action.

"The insurer wants that baby transferred as soon as possible to an in-network hospital," Dr. Speer said. "The insurer will put pressure on the family, saying, 'You now are responsible for all the costs if the baby stays in this out-of-network hospital.'" In addition to being jarring to the parents, the situation can be more difficult if the baby is not healthy enough for transfer.

"That is a bit of a shock for the parents," described Dr. Speer. "They paid for insurance, they thought their baby was covered, but they may be responsible for all of the costs of that baby's care from that

point forward." Physicians would like insurers to inform patients about which hospitals and physicians are in or out of the network of coverage. Meanwhile, they advise patients to be diligent in asking questions.

"They should hold their insurer's feet to the fire," said Dr. Speer. He adds that TMA is working with legislators to require health insurers to disclose accurate, current, and honest information to employers and employees on health plan networks, as well as copays and deductibles. TMA believes patients must have that information available when they need it, at the time of medical services.

TMA represents nearly 42,000 physician and student medical members.

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Contract Bridge

Famous Hand

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ J 4
♥ A 8
♦ Q 10 9 8
♣ J 10 9 5 2

WEST
♠ K 10 7 5
♥ 10
♦ 7 6 5 4 2
♣ K 6 3

EAST
♠ Q 9 2
♥ K 9 7 6 5 2
♦ K J
♣ 8 4

SOUTH
♠ A 8 6 3
♥ Q J 4 3
♦ A 3
♣ A Q 7

The bidding:
East 2♥ South 2NT West Pass North 3NT

Opening lead — ten of hearts.
This deal occurred in the semifinal of the 1995 Spingold Knockout team championship. It demonstrates dramatically how a slight difference in judgment can radically affect the outcome of a deal.

The auction was identical at both tables: South arrived at three notrump after East opened with a weak two-heart bid. Both Wests led the heart ten, and both declarers played the eight from dummy.

It was here that the play diverged. At one table, Mike Passell, East, elected not to take his king in order to stop declarer from scoring three heart tricks. This could have been the winning play on another layout, but on this occasion the duck proved very costly.

Declarer, Lew Stansby, won the

ten with the queen and played the A-Q-7 of clubs. West took his king on the third round and returned a low spade to East's queen, which held. The nine-of-spades return was also ducked by declarer, who still needed a ninth trick.

West won the spade with the king but found himself badly placed. He could not return a spade from the 10-7 into Stansby's A-8, so he shifted to a diamond. This helped South establish dummy's diamonds, and with the heart ace still in dummy as an entry, he had no trouble scoring nine tricks.

At the other table, East, Zia Mahmood, grabbed the heart king at trick one and continued with a second heart, dislodging dummy's ace. Declarer, Chuck Burger, led the jack of clubs to the queen, and West, Michael Rosenberg, followed low. Burger tried the ace and another club, but he was fighting a losing battle.

After taking the club king, Rosenberg returned the king of spades, ducked by declarer. A second spade was covered by the jack and queen, ducked again by South, and a third spade was taken by the ace.

Burger could do no better than cash his Q-J of hearts and exit with a spade, hoping West would win and be forced to yield a diamond entry to dummy. But with East holding the diamond K-J, declarer had no chance, and he finished down two. Plus 200 at this table combined with 600 more at the other gave Zia's team a 13-IMP pickup, and helped put them into the final.

Tomorrow: Forewarned is forearmed.

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Spring activities in full swing at Forsan High School

Forsan debate teams, consisting of Clint Lockhart and Rachael Wheeler and Alex Newsom and Michael Leal, left Sunday for the state debate tournament in Austin. The tournament is Tuesday and Wednesday.

Seth Johnson has been selected to participate in the Big Country FCA All-Star Football game in Abilene on June 2. Johnson was Forsan's male Optimist Club student of the year, an all-district team selection at quarterback and kicker, an all-district basketball selection and an academic UIL participant.

The tennis team took part in state team tennis competition in Round Rock last week. They placed third in the district team tennis competition last weekend.

Golfers finished third at the Anson Tournament on March 3. Jake Moore led Forsan with a round of 87 and



placed third in the individual medalist standings. Other team members were Josh Hatfield, Rick Bailey and Brantley Cahoon.

Freshmen Evan Burton and Shelby Jones set the pace for Forsan's fledgling baseball program last weekend with the first ever home runs for the new squad.

Burton's homer came in the game against the San Angelo Lake View

junior varsity, while Jones' blast came in the game against Cornerstone at the San Angelo tournament.

The following day, Shelby Jones hit the Lady Buff squad's first ever grand slam, followed in the same tournament by a second grand slam by twin sister Kelsey Jones.

The Lady Buffs took fifth place in their bracket in the San Angelo Tournament, beating Ozona, 25-3, and San Angelo Lake View, 12-5.

The boys' baseball team moved to a 2-2 record following a doubleheader in Ira, losing in game one, 9-6, and winning the nightcap, 11-6.

The Lady Buffs lost their first district game against Winters' Lady Blizzards Tuesday by a 12-9 score, leaving them with a 6-7 record.

Shelby Jones led the Buffs with four hits including a triple in the third inning, while Amanda Longorio had three hits with a triple in the fifth inning.

Pitching were sophomores Haylie

Burleson and Alyx Pappajohn and freshman Amanda Longorio.

The Forsan Student Council presided over the District VIII area student council convention on Wednesday. The council earned a sweepstakes rating at the convention and will receive recognition at the state convention set for April 28-29.

Courtney Holdampf received a \$500 scholarship from the district for outstanding work in student council.

The Forsan prom will be held March 24 at the Senior Citizen's Center. The after prom party will follow from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. at Forsan High School.

Following spring break, Forsan will host the Zone One Act Play Contest. Schools from Miles, Hamlin, Rotan, Roscoe and Forsan will compete. The two ranking plays will advance to the district competition which will be hosted by Forsan the following week.

Texas hit-maker doesn't let MS slow him down

By MATT CURRY
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — More than a decade after being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, country singer Clay Walker's voice sounds stronger than ever on his first new studio album in four years.

"Fall," filled with twangy honky tonk songs and ballads that test his range, is set for an April release. The CD's disturbingly funny "Fore She Was Mama," in which a 10-year-old discovers old photos of his mother's bikini-clad partying days, has already hit the singles charts.

Walker worked with singer-songwriter/producer Keith Stegall on "Fall," his eighth studio album and his first on Curb Records.

"It's exactly what I wanted," the Texan said during a recent phone interview from Nashville. "We didn't leave anything out as far as our fans."

The album includes a duet with the late Freddy Fender on his classic "Before the Next

Teardrop Falls" in which Walker croons in Spanish. He began learning the language four years ago.

"That will always be his song, but there was total magic in the studio whenever it was cut," Walker said.

"He put his hand on my shoulder and said he had been asked to do it hundreds of time but had never done it, but that he felt that this was the right moment....It was the last song he ever recorded, so I'm proud to be part of his legacy."

The duet — Walker's first — was recorded last year. Fender, who was diagnosed with lung cancer in early 2006, died in October.

Walker, whose long string of hits include "If I Could Make a Living" and "Rumor Has It," acknowledged an uncomfortable lapse of time between releases. "A Few Questions" came out on RCA in 2003. His six earlier albums were all on Giant Records.

"Yeah, I think it was too long. There was a lot of

red tape leaving one record label and going to another one. It was a process that was excruciating," he said.

The black-hatted singer, who stays active by riding cutting horses and playing basketball, said his illness has not affected his work. He boasts never missing a show due to MS (or any other reason).

"It used to be a death sentence," Walker said. "I'm living proof you can manage the disease."

Walker, 37, was diagnosed with MS in 1996 and takes a daily injection of Copaxone to keep the disease in check. MS occurs when patients' immune systems go awry and attack the fatty layer of insulation, called myelin, that protects nerve fibers in the brain and spine, thus damaging or even destroying nerves.

Some patients, including Walker, have "relapsing-remitting MS," periods of severe symptoms after which patients almost totally recover until the next attack.

"I would say, if anything else, it has inspired me to want to do more," he said.

In 2002, Walker started the nonprofit Band Against MS Foundation to raise money for research.

Last week, he presented a check for \$100,000 on behalf of the foundation to Jerry S. Wolinsky, interim dean of the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, during a performance at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

"We are delighted that Clay continues to have the confidence in our research programs in multiple sclerosis, particularly in imaging research that is leading to a better understanding of the disease," said

Wolinsky. "And I am particularly happy to see how well Clay is able to run around on stage."

Walker, who is divorced and has two daughters ages 10 and 7, grew up in southeast Texas and lives in Houston.

"I never questioned if I was going to be in political science, or a lawyer, doctor, whatever," he said. "I knew I was going to be a singer."

Like Mark Chestnutt and Tracy Byrd, Walker got his start on the honky tonk circuit before his first single on Giant, "What's It To You," hit No. 1 in 1993.

Walker, who has sold 8 million albums and had 11 No. 1 country hits, likes the sound of his latest release.

It seemingly includes

something for everyone, including the heart-tugging "It Ain't Pretty (But It's Beautiful)" written by Doug Johnson and Walker's playful "She Likes It in the Morning."

He said "Fore She Was Mama" — in which the family matriarch won't admit to having smoked marijuana — elicits a strong response on the road.

"It's great when a song can be humorous without being hokey, and the writers made a good country song without it being a novelty," he said. "Anytime we do it, it gets a huge reaction. I think a lot of moms are looking in the rearview mirror saying, 'I hope the kids aren't looking at my face right now, because I'm blushing.'"

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IN BRIEF

Comanche Trail has last hurrah

The Comanche Trail Golf Course is announcing its final day of golf by throwing a "chili ball" tournament on Sunday March 11, at 1 p.m.

It will be a shotgun start and all entries must be paid by noon Sunday. Entry fee is \$25 per player and you may sign-up in the pro shop.

Teams will be randomly chosen by the "A" player for each group.

For additional information call the Comanche Trail pro shop at 264-2366.

Tim Siegel slates Tennis Camps

Tim Siegel, the Big 12 Tennis Coach of the Year in 2005, will be conducting overnight tennis camps on June 2-6 and June 17-21.

The camp is for children ages 8 to 17 and is open to players with all ability levels.

Siegel has been Director of the TTU Tennis Camps since 1993. For additional information, contact Mr. Siegel at (806) 742-3355 ext. 277.



Mavericks streak to 17 straight wins

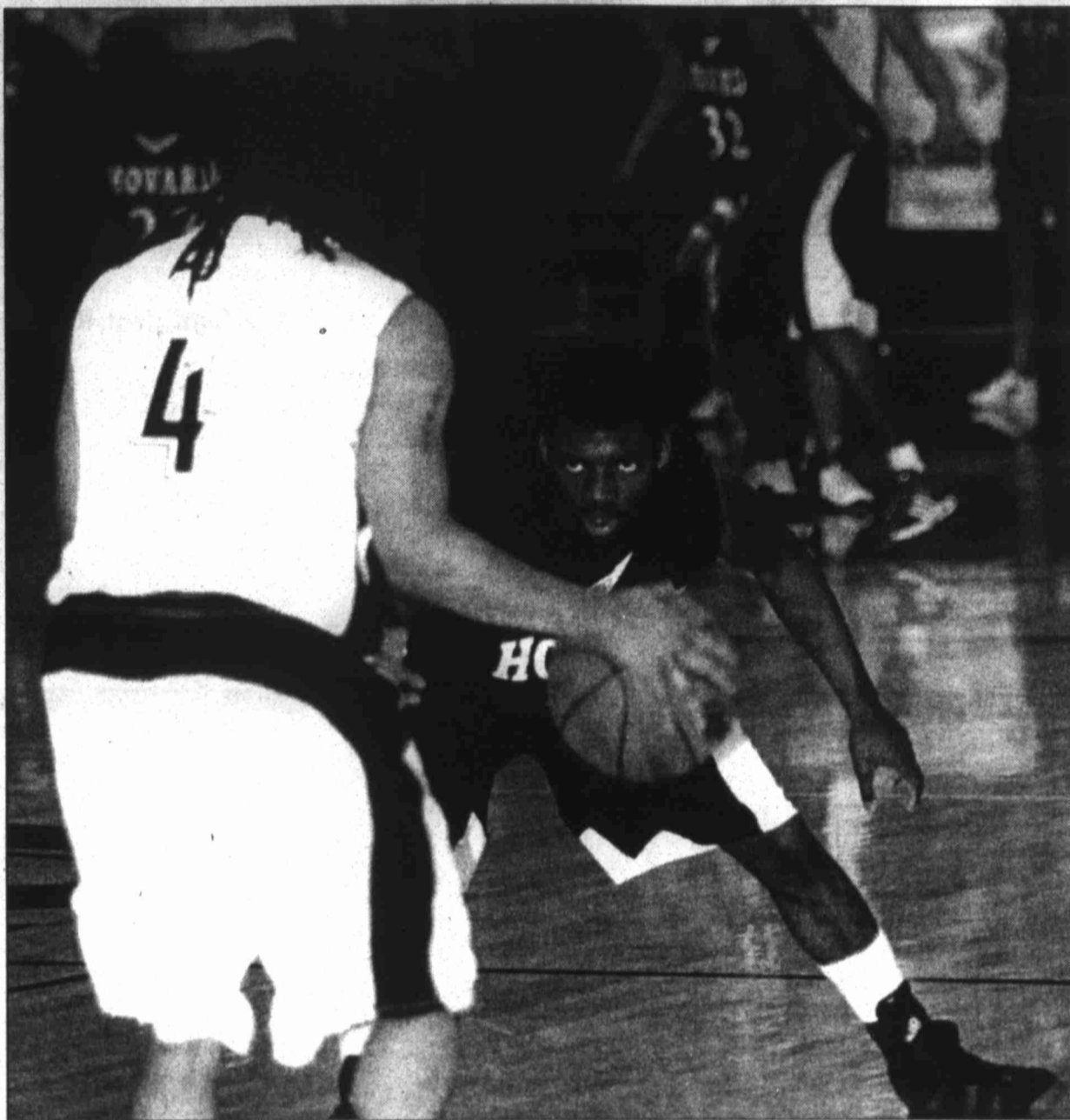
The Dallas Mavericks are rolling, playing the best ball in team history.

The Los Angeles Lakers are nearing the other end of the spectrum, but help might soon be on the way.

Josh Howard scored 24 points, Dirk Nowitzki added 19, and the Mavericks took control early in humiliating the Lakers 108-72 Sunday night to extend their franchise-record winning streak to 17 games and match the longest winning streak in the NBA this season.

"We've been able to do a lot of good things with our defense," said Jerry Stackhouse, who had 13 points for the Mavericks. "Something we learned from the playoffs last year is we have to finish. Momentum's what we're trying to build now, build up enough momentum during the regular season to steam through the playoffs."

Hawks shot down by Texans



Howard guard Corey Almond plays man-to-man defense against All American Steve Harley of the South Plains Texans. Harley scored 21 points and led the Texans past the Hawks, 55-46, Saturday night in Belton.

South Plains 55, Howard College 46

MIKE GRIMES

Sports Editor

BELTON — Saturday the Howard Hawks had no answer for All-American guard Steve Harley and the South Plains Texans, as they lost 55-46 in the Region V Basketball Tournament.

Unlike the previous two meetings, which were tight games down the stretch and ended on last second shots, this one didn't come down to a buzzer-beater. It was decided in the first 10 minutes of the second half when the Hawks struggled to find the basket.

The Texans (26-6), trailing Howard for the entire first half of the elimination game, held the Hawks offense to only five points during the first 10 minutes of the second half and went from down four points, to by 10, 40-30.

Benson Akpan, who left the game early in the second half with the Hawks up six, finished as the game's leading rebounder with eight boards. He made 3-of-6 from the floor and finished with nine points and a game-high four blocked shots, but in his absence the Texans went on a 19-3 run to open a lead they would not relinquish.

Howard (25-7) had its season come to an end just one night after knocking out the Northern Texas Junior college Athletic Conference No. 1 seed Temple 81-72 the night before.

"It's disappointing when you don't play your best," Howard coach Mark Adams said after the loss. "You have to give South Plains some of the credit, but we had such an emotional game yesterday and then trying to turn around and come

See HAWKS, page 2B

Kansas nips Texas to capture Big 12 crown and No. 1 seed

By JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — After surviving two scares from Texas' Kevin Durant in a week, Kansas coach Bill Self was looking forward to facing anyone else in the NCAA tournament.

"There's some opponents we could play in the early rounds that have guys that can go for big numbers," Self said. "But we are not going to see another one like this."

Durant, the Big 12 player of the year, matched his career high with 37 points but didn't score in overtime as Kansas escaped with an 88-84 win and its second straight Big 12 tournament championship on Sunday.

Sherron Collins scored 20 points, and Brandon Rush and Julian Wright each added 19 points to help Kansas rally from a 22-point, first half deficit built mostly by Durant, the Longhorns' national player of the year contender.

"I don't want to play him again," Self said.

The only chance for another rematch would be in the NCAA championship game, with Kansas a No. 1 seed on one half of the bracket and Texas a No. 4 seed on the opposite side. The Jayhawks have lost in the tournament's first round each of the past two seasons, but head in on a season-best 11-game winning streak.



Kansas guard Sherron Collins (4) drives and reverses between Texas defenders A.J. Abrams (3) and Damion James (5) late in the Big 12 Tournament Championship game. Kansas defeated Texas, 88-84, at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City, Sunday.

"Our confidence level is pretty high right now," Kansas guard Brandon Rush said. "Just making big plays at the right time."

Russell Robinson hit a jumper

from the left wing to put Kansas (30-4) on top 83-81 with 2:19 left in the extra period, and Wright added a free throw to push the lead to three. D.J. Augustin had

a 3-point attempt and a runner in the lane blocked on consecutive Texas possessions, and Darnell Jackson's two free throws extended Kansas' lead to 86-81.

Johnson makes it three straight in Vegas

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

LAS VEGAS — A new track configuration and hard tires that made it difficult to drive. A pit road penalty and a brush against the wall.

Jimmie Johnson faced all of it Sunday, and came out on top yet again at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

The defending series champion beat teammate Jeff Gordon to win his third straight Nextel Cup race at Las Vegas — only this one came under extremely different conditions.

"It was obviously a good day for us — we had some issues," said Johnson. "To overcome the adversity this weekend of com-

ing back on a new tire and not having any experience on it, and working through all the issues we did, it was a very good weekend."

Oh yes it was. Johnson, who led Gordon across the finish line for a 1-2 finish that gave Hendrick Motorsports its 150th NASCAR victory, navigated his way around a track that was under intense scrutiny all weekend because of changes owner Bruton Smith made to the 1.5-mile speedway.

The changes included an increase in the banking from 12 degrees to 20, and a curved pit lane unlike anything the drivers had seen before. Because the new surface produced such fast

speeds, Goodyear had to bring a very hard left-side tire that was capable of withstanding the loads.

It created a perfect storm of slick asphalt, little grip and a garage full of grumbling drivers.

"I felt like I was on ice from lap one until the last one," said Gordon, the four-time series champion. "There is no reason for us to show up at racetracks and be at a white-knuckle experience for an entire weekend."

That sentiment was echoed over and over as drivers climbed from their cars.

"It was out of control pretty much all day," Clint Bowyer said.

"It was the poorest race I've ever been in. It wasn't fun to

drive," David Stremme said. "You couldn't run side-by-side. When you got alongside of somebody, you were scared to death you were going to wreck," Matt Kenseth said.

The race was marred by nine cautions, most of them products of the new configuration and tough tire. David Ragan spun on the opening lap, and Casey Mears, Robby Gordon and Ward Burton were in a three-car accident 10 laps in.

Joe Nemechek and Dave Blaney wrecked eight laps after that.

"There's just no grip at all," said Mears, who blamed Gordon for the accident. "Everybody is having a hard time getting a hold of their cars."

Big schools hold ground for NCAA

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer
INDIANAPOLIS — The nation's mid-major schools had hoped this would be their year. Instead, they were nearly as surprised as Syracuse when the selection committee announced the NCAA men's basketball tournament field.

"I think it's the shock of the country," said Syracuse athletic director Daryl Gross, whose team was excluded despite 22 victories and a 10-6 Big East conference record.

Sunday, it seemed the 10-member NCAA selection committee was forced to defend everything from game sites to selections. Even Tuesday's play-in game, between Florida A&M and Niagara, drew complaints.

"Nothing makes sense to me," said Niagara coach Joe Mihalich, whose team is 22-11 and has won 11 straight. "Let me be diplomatic here — I'm confused."

Chairman Gary Walters had acknowledged for weeks that deciphering the maze at the top of the brackets would be nearly as difficult as picking the final teams.

"It's not an easy decision," Walters said. "Every year you have three or four teams who have a strong argument that can be made about their inclusion. I understand the disappointments; it disappoints the heck out of us. But we have a 65-team field."

But when Florida, Ohio State, North Carolina and Kansas all won, the No. 1 seed were set.

2007 NCAA March Madness Bracket



HAWKS

Continued from 1B

back to play a team we beat a couple of weeks ago was tough. I think it was difficult for us to get physically, emotionally and mentally ready to play a team like South Plains after the Temple game. And I just don't think we were playing at the top of our game.

"I'm not taking anything away from South Plains — they are a really good team and they played a good game tonight, but I'm disappointed that we didn't play our best. That's a tough way to end the season."

Harley, the Texans' sharp-shooting guard heading to the University of Nebraska next season, was the game's leading scorer with 21 points. He was 9-of-14 from the field

and connected on 3-of-5 from the free throw line to lead his team into the championship game.

"Howard was a team that everyone was definitely scared of coming into this tournament," Harley admitted. "I just love to play against Howard and everyone knows they are one of the best teams in the country. They always bring out the best in me and this has been the best rivalry we've had over the last couple of years. They are a good team and I am glad we don't have to face them again."

For the Hawks, Sean Watson led the team in scoring with 12 points and Brandon Sampay added 11 more in the losing effort.

"I'm not sure what happened tonight," Terrence Hill, who went 0-for-6 from the 3-point line, said

as he left the court. "This was just a tough night shooting and that happens — it's just part of the game, but this was the wrong time to go cold."

Hill finished with four points, three assists and one steal.

"This was a tough loss and not the way I wanted my last game at Howard to end," Sampay said. "It has been fun out here in the Big and I really think its been cool to spend a couple of years here. I like the teachers, the coaches and the people here. I really appreciate all the support the last two seasons and I want to thank the college for giving me the opportunity to come here and play."

On Sunday afternoon the Midland Chaparrals upset South Plains 90-82, to punch a ticket to the NJCAA National Tournament.

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|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6 PM | News (CC) | News Wheel-Fortune | Duho de Pasiones | King of the Hill The Simpsons | News Entertainment | Dame Chocolate | News Be a Millionaire | Raymond | Van Impe Pres John Hagee | News-Lehrer | Mega Builders | | CSI: Crime Scene Investig. | Charmed | Live (CC) Hotwired | Phil of Future Zack & Cody | Arena Football: Los Angeles | | Star Trek: Enterprise |
| 7 PM | Wife Swap (CC) | Wife Swap (CC) | La Fia Mas Bella | House (CC) | Old Christine | Marina | Deal or No Deal (CC) | Friends (CC) | Update/Israel Charles Scott | Antiques Roadshow | Dirty Jobs | Movie: Splash | CSI: Crime Scene Investig. | Charmed | Movie: Prison Song (CC) | Movie: Seventeen | Avengers at Orlando | NCAA Women's Selection | Star Trek: Enterprise |
| 8 PM | Supernanny (CC) | Supernanny (CC) | Mundo de Fieras | 24 (CC) | Two-Half Men Engagement | Zorro - La Espada y la | | Friends (CC) | Light of the Southwest | Buildings-Other | Futureweapons | | Movie: Drop Zone | Law & Order (CC) (DVS) | | Again (CC) | Predators | College GameNight | Star Trek: Enterprise |
| 9 PM | What About Brian (CC) | What About Brian (CC) | Cristina | Becker (CC) Friends (CC) | CSI: Miami | Rosa | The Black Donnellys | Family Guy | | A Hot Dog Program | Stunt Junkies | Movie: | Law & Order (CC) (DVS) | Soul Food (CC) | Life Derek Phil of Future | Strongest Man | Strongest Man | Strongest Man | Star Trek: Enterprise |
| 10 PM | News (CC) Nightline | News Nightline | Primer Impacto Noticias Univ. | 70s Show Raymond | News Late Show | Noticias 12 Corazonas | News Tonight Show | Seinfeld (CC) Seinfeld (CC) | The Hour of Healing | Charlie Rose | MythBusters (CC) | Romancing the Stone | Whacked Out | Law & Order (CC) (DVS) | Jamie Foxx That's-Raven | Zack & Cody | Strongest Man | SportsCenter (CC) | The Dresden Files (CC) |
| 11 PM | The Insider Jimmy Kimmel | Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC) | La Hora de la Risa | King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid. | Letterman Late Late | ¡Al Rojo Vivo! | Late Night | Movie: Spy (CC) | N. McBride Scriver | Sign Off | Dirty Jobs | Movie: Splash | CSI: Crime Scene Investig. | Law & Order (CC) (DVS) | In Living Color | Phil of Future Kim Possible | NASCAR Now 2006 World | NBA Fastbreak | The Outer Limits (CC) |
| 12 AM | Live (CC) News (CC) | Extra (CC) Mercury Media | El Privilegio de Amar | Malcolm-Mid. My Wife-Kids | Show The Insider | Pagado | Conan O'Brien Apex | | Update/Israel Curt Landry | | Futureweapons | | Star Trek: Voyager | Law & Order (CC) (DVS) | Comicview (CC) | Proud Family Sister, Sister | Series of Poker 2006 World | SportsCenter (CC) | Twilight Zone |

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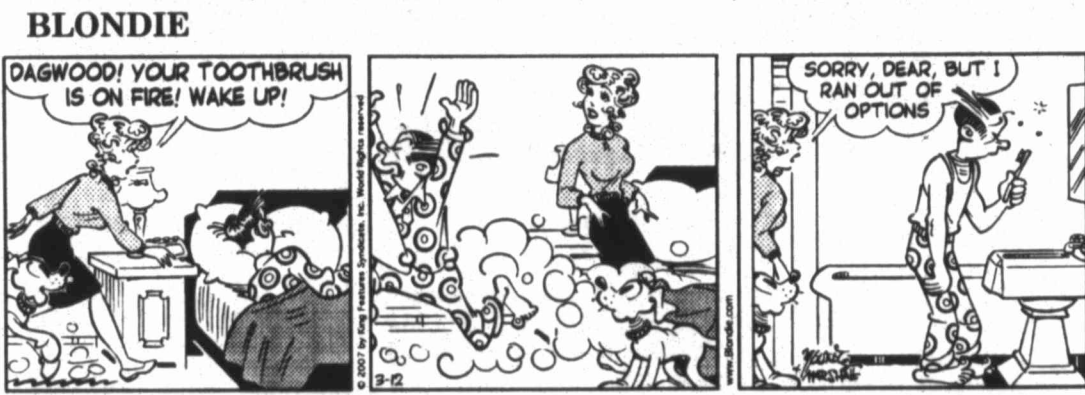
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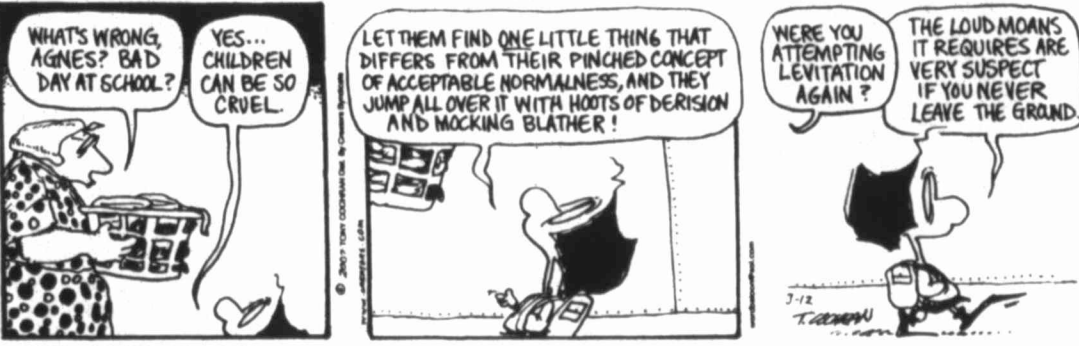
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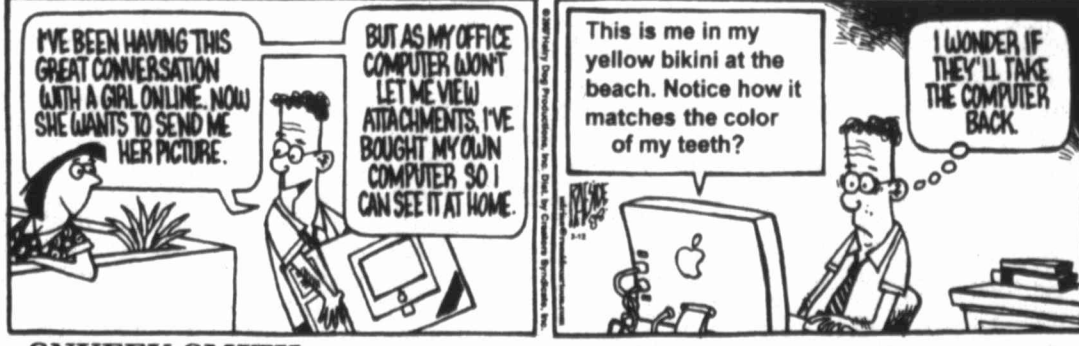
AGNES



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This Date In History

Today is Monday, March 12, the 71st day of 2007. There are 294 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On March 12, 1933, President Roosevelt delivered the first of his radio "fireside chats," telling Americans what was being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis.
On this date:
In 1664, England's King Charles II granted land in the New World known as New Netherland to his brother James, the Duke of York.
In 1857, the opera "Simon Boccanegra," by Giuseppe Verdi, premiered in Venice,

Italy.
In 1864, Ulysses S. Grant became commander in chief of the Union armies in the Civil War.
In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Guides, which later became the Girl Scouts of America.
In 1930, Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi began a 200-mile march to protest a British tax on salt.
In 1938, the Anschluss took place as German troops entered Austria.
In 1947, President Truman established what became known as the "Truman Doctrine" to help Greece and Turkey resist Communism.
In 1951, "Dennis the Menace," created by cartoonist Hank Ketcham, made its syndicated debut in 16 newspapers.
In 1980, a Chicago jury

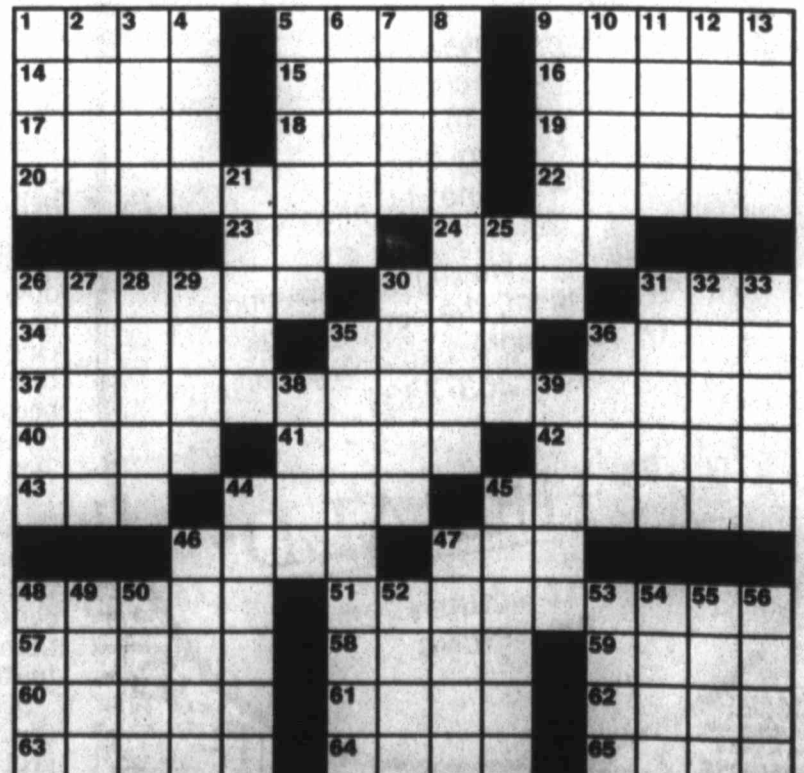
found John Wayne Gacy Jr. guilty of the murders of 33 men and boys. (The next day, Gacy was sentenced to death; after years on death row, he was executed in May 1994.)
In 1987, the musical play "Les Miserables" opened on Broadway.
Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Wally Schirra is 84. Playwright Edward Albee is 79. Former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young is 75.
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Newsday Crossword

MARCHING ALONG by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
1 Poisonous snakes
5 Showy display
9 Pursue
14 What "X" may mark
15 Imitative one
16 Sharpened
17 Auction, for one
18 Solemn ceremony
19 Started a poker pot
20 Marching-band instruments
22 All disheveled
23 Pub serving
24 Take notice of
26 Garb
30 Cave-dwelling fliers
31 Energy
34 Fancy pancake
35 San (Silicon Valley city)
36 California wine region
37 Marching-band instruments
40 Took off the shelf
41 Sign of the future
42 South American mountains
43 Vancouver clock setting: Abbr.
44 Enemies
45 Sergeant's command
46 Sets (down)
47 Whole pizza
48 Luster
51 Marching-band instruments
57 Burdened

- DOWN**
1 Helper: Abbr.
2 Practice for a bout
3 Game on horseback
4 Flower support
5 Inmate's early release
6 State one's views
7 Parcel (out)
8 Spring-training period
9 Tourney victors
10 Beehive product
11 Hill-building bugs
12 Takes notice of
13 Whirlpool
21 Less decorated
25 Escalator part
26 Misbehave
27 Lock of hair
28 Principle
29 Digital music player
30 Cereal holders
31 Bearlike mammal
32 Fencing swords
33 No longer in vogue
35 Ian Fleming's spy
36 ___ of the above
38 Chimney dirt
39 Detested
44 Cyclone's shape
45 Airplane walkways
46 Annoyance
47 Biblical song
48 Shut loudly
49 Symbol of saintliness
50 Touch up, as a manuscript
52 Opera solo
53 Dustcloths
54 Great Salt Lake state
55 "Out of my way!"
56 Went quickly



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