

MONDAY

January 5, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 33°-35° TOMORROW 62°-64°

INSIDE

Your health

Characterized by intense pain in the groin and abdomen, hernias are an unwelcome health problem. However, hernias are easily mended with a simple surgical procedure.

In fact, hernia repair is one of the most common surgeries in the United States, as more than 500,000 people receive this surgery each year.

Dr. Alan E. Abel, a surgeon practicing in Big Spring, discusses procedures for healing the disorder.

Page 6A

COMING SUNDAY



Bernard Lafayette, a civil rights worker who worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr., has dedicated his life to building peace.

Hometown Hero: Bringing joy into the lives of terminally ill children is not an easy task, but for the past 15 years it has been a way of life for Kandi and Mark Bailey of North Platte, Neb. (pop. 23,878). After they lost their young son to a brain tumor in 1986, the Baileys found strength and healing through their volunteer efforts with the North Platte chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

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Vol. 100, No. 41

Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

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

Time to start thinking about paying property taxes

By BILL McCLELLAN News Editor

Howard County residents who haven't paid their property taxes have a little more than three weeks to do so if they want to avoid a penalty.

"The deadline is Jan. 31. The 7 percent penalty begins Feb. 1," said Kathy Sayles, Howard County tax assessor-collector.

Taxpayers have the option of bringing their payment to her office in the county courthouse, or mailing it in.

"Remember, we go by the postmark, so if you are unable to bring the payment to us, it will be considered on time as long as it is postmarked no later than Dec. 31," Sayles



SAYLES TOOMIRE

said. Anyone having any questions about their bill or anyone who did not receive a property tax bill should call the tax assessor's office.

"If you are not sure of the amount or did not receive a statement, give us a call. We will be glad to give you that information so that you can send in your payment," Sayles said.

Beginning in February, the penalty on an unpaid tax bill will be 7 percent. It rises 2 percent each month — up to 9 percent in

March, 11 percent in April, 13 percent in May and 15 percent in June. In July, the penalty is 18 percent, plus a 15 percent additional fee.

Sayles said it's too early to calculate whether most residents are paying their bills on time.

"This is our biggest collection month," said Sayles, "but some people paid them earlier. Their bookkeeping system usually dictates when they pay."

The tax collector's office will work with taxpayers to make sure that the taxes are recorded in a timely manner.

See TAXES, Page 3A



Local paintball enthusiast Dominick Boiles unloads on adversaries Sunday afternoon at an up-and-coming paintball course in Big Spring. Boiles is part of a local paintball team known as Team Rustic Circle, who have joined in the growing popularity of paintball in the Howard County area.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

A day or a week, RSVP tours offer something for everyone

By LYNDEL MOODY Staff Writer

From a tour of Holland, Belgium and France to a day-trip to watch the Texas Rangers play, the Retired Service Volunteer Program and Bilbrey Tours will unveil the 2004 tour schedule during their showcase Thursday.

"Last year, we had 96 people travel on at least one trip with us," said Nancy Jones of RSVP, a-city of Big Spring-sponsored



JONES

senior organization which provides volunteer services for the community.

Almost 30 different trips are scheduled this year, from day-long outings to Dallas and Fredricksberg for shopping to a 13-day, 12-night Alaskan cruise.

"At the showcase Lena Bilbrey will review each trip and answer questions," Jones said.

"This also gives someone who is thinking about taking a trip an opportunity to sign up early. Trips fill up quickly," she explained.

The approximately two-hour-long showcase will begin at 2 p.m. in the Dora Robert Community Center. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.

For anyone who is unable to attend the meeting, a schedule of the 2004 tours will be mailed.

RSVP receives a portion of all trips booked through the organization.

The money is a substantial part of the civic organization's funding.

For more information, contact the RSVP office at 501 Rannels from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 264-2397, or Bilbrey Tours at 1-888-692-1308.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

Police investigate drive-by shooting, vehicle burglary turned assault case

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Big Spring police are investigating a drive-by shooting that occurred Sunday evening in the 1500 block of Wood Street.

According to police Lt. Terry Chamness, no one was injured in the shooting, which took place at approximately 6:30 p.m.

"No injuries were reported by the victim," said Chamness. "The victim was in his car at the time of the shooting, and some damage was reported to the vehicle, however."

Chamness said the motive of the shooting is still unclear at this time.

"The investigation is ongoing at this time, so I can't really comment on the specifics," he said.

"We haven't established a motive for the shooting at this point. It appears the victim was in his car when another vehicle, occupied by three males, approached. Two of the passengers in the vehicle opened fire with what we believe to be rifles."

Chamness said a search warrant for a home in the 1500 block of Sycamore was executed shortly after the shooting, but the results of the search cannot be released at this point in the investigation.

Also reported over the weekend was a burglary in the 1600 block of Nolan. Chamness said the charge will most likely be reduced to attempted theft, however, due to the circumstances of the incident.

"It appears the suspect was trying to break into a car in the carport of the victim's home," said Chamness. "The victim heard noises outside and went to investigate. They discovered the suspect trying to break into the car and tried to detain them. The suspect then slung them to the ground and ran."

Chamness said the suspect in the case could face assault charges in addition to the attempted theft.

"The victim had a bruise on their arm following the altercation," he explained. "Other than that they were unharmed."

The suspect is described as a Hispanic man between 15 and 25

See POLICE, Page 3A

BACK TO CLASS

Teachers receiving pointers on poverty stricken students

By LYNDEL MOODY Staff Writer

Big Spring teachers are back in the classroom in the role of students today to learn strategies on how to effectively teach children in poverty.

"The workshop will focus on how to create successful lessons for students who live in poverty," said Big Spring Independent School District Curriculum Director Richard Light.

Paul Slocumb was to address fifth- through 12th-grade teachers from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Big Spring High School cafeteria, 707 11th Place. Freta Parks was speaking to kindergarten through fourth-grade teachers during the same hours at the Big Spring Junior High School cafeteria, 624 E Sixth Street.

Light said research has shown poverty is often cyclical and, in order to break out, students need to have six of eight types of support systems.

"One support system is having a mother and a dad," Light said. "One is attending church on regular basis. If you don't have six of the eight support structures, you mostly like don't get out of poverty and that's based on research."

Big Spring schools resume classes on Tuesday.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

Eagles Lodge slating benefit chili cookoff

By VALERIE AVERY

Special to the Herald The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3188 will host their Second Annual Chili Cookoff Saturday benefiting the West Texas Centers for MHMR-Children-in-Need fund.

The teams will start stoking their pits at 8 a.m. Judging and sampling kicks off at 1 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles building, 703 W. Third St.

Each cooking team chips in \$10, and people who want to do taste tests pay \$5 a head.

This is the second year the Fraternal Order of Eagles has

See COOKOFF, Page 3A

JAN 05 2004

Obituaries

Homer Chestine Dunn



Homer Chestine Dunn, 78, of Coahoma, died on Friday, Jan. 2, 2004, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2004, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel in Big Spring with the Rev. Jim Binnix officiating. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, 2004, at the Fairview Cemetery in Pampa with the Rev. Chris Webb officiating. Graveside arrangements under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

He was born on September 29, 1925, in Ringling, Okla., and married Colleen Hatfield on July 12, 1947, in Wheeler.

Mr. Dunn was raised in Lefors. He served in the United States Navy during World War II. He worked for Texaco and retired as senior production supervisor from the Vealmoor production office in December 1988.

He was a member of Midway Baptist Church and a member of the McLean Masonic Lodge.

A loving husband to Colleen for 56 years, he adored his children and worshipped his granddaughters.

He is survived by his wife, Colleen Dunn of Coahoma; three sons, Dennis Dunn and wife, Janice, of Lefors and Michael Dunn and wife, Amy, and Terry Dunn, all of Coahoma; one daughter, Jonetta Sweatt and husband, Roger, of Big Spring; one brother, Bob Dunn and wife, Clarice, of Pampa; one sister, Geraldine McPherson and husband, J.M., of Snyder; and four granddaughters, Lori Polhemus and Cindy Dunn, both of Odessa, and Sarah Dunn and Katie Dunn, both of Coahoma.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Henry "Sonny" Dunn. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8 tonight, Monday, Jan. 5, 2004, at the funeral home.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Paid obituary

Irene Foster



Irene Foster, 64, of Big Spring died Friday morning, Jan. 2, 2004, at her home. Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2004, at Markley Cemetery in Markley with the Rev. Tommy Bragg, pastor of The First Baptist Church of Lakeside City, officiating. The family received friends Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home and a memorial service will be conducted at 6 tonight, Monday, Jan. 5, 2004, by Big Spring Chapter 67, The Order of Eastern Star.

She was born on Jan. 13, 1939, in Graham. She married Roger Foster on May 25, 1957, in Markley. She worked at the Big Spring State Hospital until retirement. She had been a resident of Big Spring for 30 years. She was a Baptist and a member of Big Spring Chapter 67 of the Order of the Eastern Star.

She is survived by her husband, Roger Foster of Big Spring; two daughters, Leslie Imler and her husband, K.W., of Big Spring and Ramona Mancha and her husband, Ben, of Big Spring; one son, Curtis Foster of Big Spring; her mother, Beulah Ledbetter of Wichita Falls; one sister, Lucille Preston of Amarillo; three brothers, Garland Ledbetter of Oklahoma City, Stephen Ledbetter of Rockford, Mich., and Tommy Ledbetter of Wichita Falls; and six grandchildren, Michael Steelman, Dakota Steelman, Aaron Valle, Kasey Foster, Meagan Mancha and Benjamin Mancha.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ruben Ledbetter, and a brother-in-law, Bob Preston.

Pallbearers will be Ben Mancha, Curtis Foster, K.W. Imler, Stephen Ledbetter, Garland Ledbetter and Tommy Ledbetter.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Paid obituary

B.J. Watkins

B.J. Watkins, 75, of Colorado City, formerly of Big Spring, died at 5:05 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Graveside services will be at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2004, at the Ross Cemetery in Baird with the Rev. Jeff Janca, pastor of Forsan Baptist Church, officiating. The family will receive friends from 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2004, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born on Oct. 1, 1928, in Tishomingo, Okla. He was the son of Alex Enox Watkins and Vera Eddy Muckleroy Watkins. He married Jo Lofton on Aug. 26, 1978. He was a veteran of the Navy having served in World War II. He was a diesel mechanic. He worked for Halliburton for 29 years and later Union Carbide and Big Spring Instrument. He was an avid bowler. He

had lived at the lake at Colorado City for the last 11 years, moving from Big Spring.

He is survived by his wife, Jo Watkins of Colorado City; two sons, Joe Watkins of Sand Springs, Okla., and Steve Watkins of Bristow, Okla.; three daughters, Christine Whitbeck of Stillwater, Okla., Jline Watkins of Pauls Valley, Okla., and Brenda Seachris of Depew, Okla.; two step-daughters, Paula Henry of Big Spring and Lana Henderson of Fort Gibson, Okla.; 17 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Ann Armstrong

Ann Armstrong, 81, of Big Spring died Thursday morning, Jan. 1, 2004, at her residence. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2004, at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7 until 8 tonight, Monday, Jan. 5, 2004, at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

She was born on July 22, 1922, at Oglesby. She married Ed Armstrong in 1948. They came to Big Spring in 1949 from Roscoe. Mr. Armstrong died in 1979. She was a retired beautician.

She is survived by one son, Wayne Wendeborn of Thoreau, N.M.; two daughters, Shirley Barrett of Irving and Sue Saling of Dallas; 10 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by 12 brothers and sisters.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at www.myersandsmith.com

Gary Cagle

Gary Cagle, 66, of Big Spring died Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004, in a Midland hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Sheriff's report

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

• **GINA RENE NORRED**, 46, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on Friday on charges of driving while license suspended/invalid and theft.

• **RICHARD LUJAN DELGADO**, 58, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on Friday on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **CALEB ROBERTSON**, 27, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on Friday on charges of possession of a controlled substance and a motion to revoke probation.

• **DAVID HILARIO FIERRO**, 31, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on Friday on charges of unlawful restraint, terroristic threats, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice and intentionally giving false information.

• **ROBERT ADAM PRICE**, 41, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of driving while intoxicated-third or more offense, judgment/sentence.

• **BLAKE MICHAEL GEE**, 21, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• **ENOCH GERALD KENNEDY**, 66, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of violation of a protective order.

• **PHILLIP LEON SCHUMPERT**, 44, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on Friday on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

• **PAUL MORENO JR.**, 31, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on Friday on a charge of burglary of a habitation.

• **SANDYE DAWN WHITE**, 25, was transferred to the county jail by the BSPD on Friday on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid.

• **FREEMAN LEO STOVER**, 75, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the area of the Stampede. Contact was made and offense report was taken.

• **INTOXICATED PERSON** was reported in the 6500 block of the Interstate Highway 20 South Service Road.

• **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 5400 block of Opal Lane. Contact was made and parties separated.

• **ASSAULT** was reported in the 5100 block of Sterling. Contact was made, report to follow.

• **ASSAULT** was reported in the area of Buffalo Country Fina. Contact was made, report to follow.

• **ASSAULT** was reported in the 300 block of S. Main Street. Contact was made, report to follow.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1000 block of Jeffery Road. Contact was made, report to follow.

• **GRASS FIRE** was reported near FM 1584. Fire was extinguished.

Police blotter

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

• **VALENTIN GONZALES**, 45, of Big Spring, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.

• **JOHNNIE WILLIAMS**, 23, of 5700 Sierra Road, was arrested Friday on two local traffic warrants.

• **LARRY LEE**, 27, of 2612 Fairchild, was arrested Friday on four local traffic warrants.

• **JUAN DELOSSANTOS**, 38, of 405 N.W. Ninth Street, was arrested Sunday on a charge of driving while license suspended.

• **MELANIE HENDERSON**, 20, of 207 Moss Lake Road, was arrested Sunday on two capias warrants and two local traffic warrants.

• **BOBBY MASTERS**, 42, of San Angelo, was arrested Sunday on a Howard County warrant for perjury.

• **SANDYE DAWN WHITE**, 25, of 1507 Stadium, was arrested Sunday on a Howard County warrant for driving while license suspended.

• **ASSAULT** was reported:

- in the 1300 block of Fourth Street.

- in the 1100 block of Barnes.

- in the 1500 block of Runnels.

• **THEFT** was reported:

- in the 1200 block of 11th Place.

- in the 900 block of Willia.

- in the 1000 block of Gregg Street.

- in the 200 block of FM 700.

- in the 1100 block of I nesa.

• **DEADLY CONDITION DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM** was reported in the 1500 block of Wood.

• **ASSAULT/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:

- in the 200 block of Marcy.

- in the 600 block of Johnson.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported in the 1200 block of 11th Place.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS WARNING** was reported in the 1000 block of Goliad.

• **ROBBERY** was reported in the 1600 block of Nolan.

• **PURCHASING ALCOHOL FOR A MINOR** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.

Weather

Today — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Lows around 20. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.

Tuesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s. East winds 5 to 15 mph.

Tuesday night — Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday — Mostly cloudy. Warmer. Highs in the upper 50s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.

Thursday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Thursday night and Friday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Lows in the mid 30s.

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

Saturday through Sunday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Lows in the mid 30s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 5-7-22-24-32. Bonus Ball: 35. Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0. Estimated jackpot for Wednesday night drawing: \$39 million.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Saturday night: Winning numbers drawn: 9-11-15-31-37.

Number matching five of five: 0.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday night: 1-3-2

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday afternoon: 8-5-2

Take note

□ **A FUND HAS BEEN** established at the First Bank of West Texas, 1810 FM 700, to help with the medical expenses for 14-year-old Destini Solis. Solis is suffering from a rare liver disease.

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.bigspringherald.com

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BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: Evenings and Sunday, \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount for yearly).

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties, \$13.25 elsewhere.



BirthPlace Tour: Monday, January 5 at 7:00 pm

For over fifty years, little Midlanders and their families have counted on Midland Memorial Hospital... for life.

Meet us at the first floor lobby to take part in our special BirthPlace Tour. Visit our Postpartum, Labor, Delivery, Nursery, and our new Breast Feeding Shoppe, *Beautiful Beginnings*. Meet our outstanding staff and find out what to expect when your special time arrives.

The smallest details matter most to us. Labor, Delivery, Recovery, and *Beautiful Beginnings* in The BirthPlace at Midland Memorial Hospital West Campus.

MIDLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
WEST CAMPUS
Count On Us. For Life.

4214 Andrews Highway 432-522-3260
www.midland-memorial.com

TEXAS

A&M official

COLLEGE

University off last year adm from the fami who would not

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TEXAS NEWS BRIEFS

A&M officials defending legacy admissions

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Texas A&M University officials are defending a program that last year admitted more than 300 white freshmen from the families of A&M graduates — freshmen who would not have been admitted otherwise.

Critics say the university, which last month announced it wouldn't consider race in its admissions process, is perpetuating class distinction and white advantage through a program which seems to contradict a call by A&M to attract more minority students.

Students admitted under the program are known as "legacy admits" because they reward the grandchildren, children or siblings of A&M graduates.

While nearly all selective private universities and some public universities around the country have some sort of legacy program to boost alumni support, A&M is the state's only public school with one.

Typically, anywhere from 1,650 to more than 2,000 A&M applicants a year receive legacy points, usually 4 points on a 100-point scale that also takes into account such factors as class rank, test scores, extracurricular activities and community service.

Bird count reaches into South Texas

LAREDO (AP) — South Texans who were among volunteers in a nationwide bird count have benefited from clear skies in their weekend quest, which resulted in identifications of more than 100 different species.

The count, which began Saturday, was an effort to identify and monitor bird species within a 15-mile radius, charting population numbers and migration patterns, said Jim Hailey, president of the Audubon Society's Monte Mucho chapter.

Twelve volunteers were on the count led by Hailey. After birds were observed throughout a circular trek, Hailey made chirping sounds that attracted numerous birds.

"Birds are very curious, so they'll respond to the sounds," Hailey told the Laredo Morning Times in Monday's online edition.

A team of three people, including Hailey, chapter member Raul Delgado and United Water Operations Manager Charlie Bardonner, explored a brushy area at the Shiloh water-treatment plant in search of different bird species.

Victoria man sets flying record

VICTORIA (AP) — Diabetes didn't ground a retiree's efforts to take his vintage aircraft to the skies and set a new U.S. transcontinental air speed record for small planes.

Last October, 71-year-old Fred Coon, a retired business owner from Victoria, along with his co-pilot, flew a red, white and blue 1976 Grumman Cheetah airplane from California to North Carolina in just under 15 hours.

That's the fastest anyone has ever flown from the Pacific to the Atlantic in one of the small, piston-engine aircraft typical of the kind favored by weekend pilots. The National Aeronautic Association approved the new record on Dec. 17.

"We flew wide open all the way," Coon told the Victoria Advocate for its Sunday editions.

Coon's accomplishment takes on greater significance after considering he had lost his pilot's license in 1990 because of diabetes. Through hard work and new medicine he was able to get it back seven years later.

Reservists going active to help bury veterans

Sylvia Valdez used to spend her days caring for her four young children. Now she spends them among the grieving relatives of dead veterans.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Valdez is one of dozens of Navy reservists voluntarily recalled to active duty to work as honor guards at military funerals — a job much in demand as the thousands of veterans who die each day are guaranteed two honor guards at their military funerals.

"It's something that takes a lot of respect and dedication to be able to do," said Valdez, a 32-year-old former homemaker from San Antonio who for nine months has been folding U.S. flags and presenting them to survivors at South Texas cemeteries.

While nearly 160,000 reservists have been called up for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Navy has on a much smaller scale recalled some 65 reservists to help bury its veterans.

Other military branches also have boosted honor guards but haven't asked reservists to return in this role. Hundreds of full-time honor guards serve in each military branch.

Teacher who helped integrate SAISD dies

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A woman who helped integrate a San Antonio-area school system in 1964 by becoming its first black teacher at a white elementary school has died.

Doris Rayford Scott was 88.

The retired teacher died on Thursday, the San Antonio Express-News reported in Sunday's editions. She had spoken with her son's family shortly after midnight to wish them a happy new year, then was found dead later in the day, family told the newspaper.

Her son, St. Mary's University adjunct professor Samuel T. Scott Jr., said he believes his mother died of a heart attack.

U.S. fingerprinting, photographing foreign visitors at U.S. airports

By MARK NIESSE

Associated Press Writer
ATLANTA

Authorities began scanning fingerprints and taking photographs of arriving foreigners Monday as part of a new program that Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said will make borders "open to travelers but closed to terrorists."

The program, aimed at letting Customs officials instantly check an immigrant or visitor's criminal background, targets foreigners entering the 115 U.S. airports that handle international flights, as well as 14 major seaports. The only exceptions will be visitors from 28 countries whose citizens are allowed to come to the United States for up to 90 days without visas.

Ridge was at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to meet with some of the first foreign passengers to go through the new system.

He described the move as "part of a comprehensive program to make sure our borders remain open to travelers but closed to terrorists."

"It's easy for travelers to use but hard for terrorists to avoid," Ridge said Monday.

In a pilot program at Hartsfield-Jackson that preceded Monday's nationwide implementation, authorities turned up 21 people on the FBI's criminal watch list for such crimes as drug offenses, rape and visa fraud, Ridge said.

Foreigners also will be

The program, aimed at letting Customs officials instantly check an immigrant or visitor's criminal background, targets foreigners entering the 115 U.S. airports that handle international flights, as well as 14 major seaports. The only exceptions will be visitors from 28 countries whose citizens are allowed to come to the United States for up to 90 days without visas.

checked as they leave the country as an extra security measure and to ensure they complied with visa limitations.

Some passengers said they supported the extra scrutiny of foreign visitors.

"I don't have any real ethical problems with it, just the inconvenience of having to wait a little bit longer. But it's not a big deal," said Bradley Oakley-Brown, who was changing planes at Atlanta en route from South Africa to Wisconsin.

Called US-VISIT, or U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology, the program will check an estimated 24 million foreigners each year, though some will be repeat visitors.

Inless fingerprints will be taken and checked instantly against the national digital database for criminal backgrounds

and any terrorist lists.

Homeland Security spokesman Bill Strassberger said that once screeners become proficient, the extra security will take only 10 to 15 seconds per person. Foreign travelers also will continue to pass through regular Customs points and answer questions.

Photographs will be used to help create a database for law enforcement. The travel data is supposed to be securely stored and made available only to authorized officials on a need-to-know basis.

A similar program is to be installed at 50 land border crossings by the end of next year, Strassberger said.

Brazil's Foreign Ministry has requested that Brazilians be removed from the U.S. list, and police started fingerprinting and pho-

tographing Americans arriving at Sao Paulo's airport last week in response to the new U.S. regulations.

"At first, most of the Americans were angered at having to go through all this, but they were usually more understanding once they learned that Brazilians are subjected to the same treatment in the U.S.," Brazilian police spokesman Wagner Castilho said last week.

The U.S. system consists of a small box that digitally scans fingerprints and a spherical computer camera. It will gradually replace a paper-based system that Congress ordered to be modernized following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

A person whose fingerprints or photos raise questions would not be turned away automatically. The visa holder would be sent to secondary inspection for further questions and checks. Officials have said false hits on the system have been less than 0.1 percent in trial runs.

The system was scheduled to begin operation New Year's Day but was delayed to avoid the busy holiday travel period.

On the Net:
<http://www.dhs.gov/us-visit>

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Ann Armstrong, 82, died Thursday. Funeral Services will be 11:00 AM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 7:00 until 8:00 PM Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Irene Foster, 64, died Friday. Graveside services will be 2:00 PM Wednesday at Markley Cemetery, Markley, Texas.

B. J. Watkins, 75, died Saturday. Graveside Services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at the Ross Cemetery, Baird, Texas. The family will receive friends from 7:30 until 8:30 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

COOKOFF

Continued from Page 1A

sponsored a benefit for West Texas Centers for MHMR's Children-in-need fund. Last year's barbecue cook-off netted

\$1,550 for the fund.

The fund is used when West Texas Centers for MHMR can find no other avenue to pay for a child's unexpected need, which isn't covered by government aid.

West Texas Centers doesn't solicit funds for

the program.

West Texas Centers for MHMR serves 2,200 children and adults with mental illness and mental retardation in 23 rural West Texas counties.

For more information on the chili cook-off, call 432-263-6862.

POLICE

Continued from Page 1A

years old, 5 foot 7 inches tall and approximately 130 to 135 pounds.

According to the victim's account, the suspect was wearing a tan jacket, blue jeans and a dark colored toboggan.

If you have information on these or any other

crimes, contact the Big Spring Police Department at 264-2550.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at newsdesk@ccrom.net

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

Taxpayers older than 65 qualify for a senior citizen exemption and Howard County Chief Appraiser Keith Toomire urges those who have not applied for that exemption to do so if they qualify.

Taxpayers who are not 65 or older may apply for a homestead exemption, if their house is also their residence, Toomire said.

"If they bought it before Jan. 1, 2004," they need to call us," he said.

Like Sayles, Toomire said it's important to check your tax bill soon.

"Look at your tax bill before the end of the month. "If you open it and have a problem, you

may need to talk with us (the appraisal district) as well. You do have to come through this office to get the homestead exemption," Toomire stressed.

Howard County tax assessor/collector "is responsible for bills and collections of taxes for nine taxing entities.

These are Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma cities, along with those school districts. Howard County, Howard College and Permian Basin Water District taxes are also collected through Sayles' office.

Both the tax assessor/collector's office and appraisal officer are located in the county annex on Main Street, across from the courthouse. The tax office phone number is 264-2232;

the appraisal district number is 263-8301.

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OTHER VIEWS

Take advantage of special election early voting period

Early voting in the State Senate District 31 special election begins today and we'd encourage readers to cast their ballots soon. Polls will be open at the Howard County Courthouse from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. weekdays. The early period ends Jan. 16. Election day is Jan. 20.

There are plenty of reasons for voting early, not the least of which is the unpredictability of our West Texas weather — particularly during this warm-one-day, cold-the-next winter season.

Another reason to cast your ballot in the next few days is human nature. It's just a fact, the longer we put things off, the less likely we are to ever get them accomplished. Too many other things come up, and suddenly we find ourselves out of time.

There is just one race in this election, but it is a very important one for Big Spring and the Crossroads area.

This election is being held to fill the vacancy left by Sen. Teel Bivins, who announced in December that he will be resigning on Jan. 12. On the ballot are seven candidates. The lone Democratic candidate is Elaine King Miller of Amarillo. Republican candidates are Bob Barnes and Kirk Edwards of Odessa, Lee Gibson of Dumas, Kel Seliger and Jesse Quackenbush of Amarillo and Don Sparks of Midland.

We hope you will take time to study the candidates, then make your choice at the polls. But don't put it off. Your voice needs to be heard.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions.

In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail to Managing Editor John Moseley at jmoseley@crcom.net or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@crcom.net.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

The Herald welcomes letters to the editor. Please:

- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- 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.
- We do not acknowledge receipt of letters.
- Letters from our circulation area will be given preference.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to jmoseley@crcom.net

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With you, Lord, we can accomplish everything.

Amen

Florida's juvenile justice system

In 2001, a Florida court sentenced Lionel Tate to life without parole for the 1999 brutal murder of 6-year-old playmate Tiffany Eunick when he was 12. Critics regarded the sentence as an example of America's law-and-order mentality run amok. It was outrageous for prosecutor Ken Padowitz to try Tate as an adult, they charged, when the boy could have been charged under the more lenient juvenile system. It was wrong to try Tate for first-degree murder, when he was too young to understand the crime. Groups such as Amnesty International and the U.N. Human Rights Commission protested that Florida law was draconian and violated international law.

Afterward, Tate's mother, Kathleen Gossett-Tate, trotted the globe to meet with activists who dutifully denounced the practice of trying minors as adults. These activists either didn't know or didn't care that Tate, heeding his mother and his then-attorney, turned down a plea bargain that, if accepted, would have freed him from juvenile prison months ago.

Now, the 4th District Court of Appeal in West Palm Beach, Fla., has overturned the conviction and the sentence based on the argument by Tate's new lawyer that if Tate had been competent to participate in his defense, he never would have rejected the generous plea-bargain offer.

So much for the Euro-view that Floridian prosecutors were blood-thirsty. Even Tate's attorney

argues that the offer was too good to turn down.

Today, critics should realize that Florida law didn't hurt Tate nearly as much as his mother and his defense lawyer hurt him. At the time that the offer was rejected, Gossett-Tate explained: "How do you accept a plea for second-degree murder when your child was just playing?"

Just playing? Tiffany Eunick died of a lacerated liver, a cracked skull, a cracked rib and internal hemorrhaging. Experts testified that the girl's injuries could not have been the result of an accident but were consistent with a beating.

Still, with the overturning of the verdict, prosecutors once again are offering Tate a three-year sentence (which essentially amounts to time served), followed by one year of house arrest with counseling and 10 years of probation. In return, Tate has to plead guilty to second-degree murder. His mother is reported to be hesitating because she prefers that her son plead guilty to manslaughter. But Tate's attorney, Richard Rosenbaum, has told the press that his client, who will turn 17 this month, is likely to accept the offer.

Tate should jump at the chance. If there is a retrial, Tate is not likely to impress a jury — not after he has changed his story three times.

At first, Tate told the police that he accidentally hit the girl's head on a table and that he accidentally threw her against the stairs. Then, his lawyer said the boy was mimicking television wrestling shows and that "Lionel Tate was replicating what he saw being done by Sting, Hulk Hogan, the Rock —

familiar names to professional wrestling aficionados." (This claim spawned numerous newspaper stories in the United States and abroad about the negative effects on children of televised wrestling.) In March, Tate announced that he accidentally killed the girl when he jumped on top of her as she lay at the bottom of the stairs; so much for blaming the TV wrestling.

After a jury found Tate guilty of first-degree murder, then-prosecutor Ken Padowitz explained to me that he tried Tate as an adult because the law was too soft on minors. If convicted as a child, Tate likely would have served a mere six to nine months for the brutal murder of a defenseless young girl. If anything, juvenile sentences should be toughened so that prosecutors don't feel bound to resort to the adult venue.

Now, Tate may walk free into a world that is anxious to make excuses for his brutal crime. His mother's attorney, Henry Hunter, told The Washington Post that he is negotiating to make sure the plea agreement "won't tattoo (Tate) for the rest of his life."

It's too late. Tate's actions should haunt him for the rest of his life. Prosecutors may be ready to give Tate a second chance, but they can't erase the violent death-blow he delivered to 6-year-old Tiffany Eunick.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfcchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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Cures for those holiday hangovers

As usual, I am presenting my list of holiday hangover cures. I do not know why. When you need this, you probably won't even be able to read it. Your eyes will be two pink dots, your teeth will itch, and your mouth will feel as if an army has marched through it.

Actually, I have no sympathy for people who awake with crushing hangovers. A hangover is God's way of telling you that you are still alive.

But I know you expect aid and comfort from me, and so I will once again share with you my collection of expert cures for this hangover season:

1. **DR. PHILIP THOREK**, a surgeon with an interest in nutrition and drinking: "Boy, alcohol really knocks the hell out of your liver. And the liver is a marvelous organ. But what do we do to it? We go out and kill off a fifth and turn into bibulous slob."

"The only real cure for a hangover is what I call the Tincture of Time. You have to wait hours and hours for your body to metabolize and destroy the alcohol. And it is not just the alcohol, but the impurities. The fusel oils! The congeners! The aldehydes!"

"A hangover is a form of poisoning. There is no doubt about this. Now, eating fatty foods, bread or cheese will help absorb some of the alcohol. But this doesn't mean you can go and drink more. That's crazy. Moderation, moderation. This is what we must learn."

"A glass of wine is a good tranquilizer. But you must remember temperance. Not abstinence, but

temperance. But what do we do? We go out and drink triple martinis, wake up with a terrible hangover and blame the olives!"

2. **ROBERTO SURO**, famous journalist: "Here is what they do in South America. One takes the rawest of fish. The fish is placed in lemon juice and raw onions. Hot sauce is added. The fish is then soaked for two days. No less. This is eaten with popcorn and beer. Yes, they have popcorn in South America."

"This cure is known as tratamiento de choque. In North America, you would know it as the 'shock treatment.'"

"I also hear that among unsavory elements at some American places of higher education, a certain type of cigarette is smoked immediately upon awakening to remove all sense of pain. It is my understanding that this is not strictly legal, and therefore, I have never tried this myself. Also, I hear Valium is good."

"There is also a ritual to be followed. We do this every New Year's at my mother's. As the clock gongs midnight, a grape must be eaten upon each gong. Of course, with clocks with no gongs, this becomes difficult. In that case, just eat 12 grapes quickly."

"Then a raw egg is cracked into a glass of water. One carefully watches the shape of the egg white. From this, the future may be predicted."

3. **THE GUILT CURE**: Look in the mirror, and read this in the voice of your spouse: "You slob. You absolute pig. Look at yourself. I can't stand the sight of you. You do this every year. I hope you're pleased with yourself. You look awful. If you ever do this again, I'm throwing you out of this house. You make me sick. You ought to be ashamed."

4. **THE TRADITIONAL CURE**:

Chicken soup cures anything. You can drink it. You can soak your head in it. You can wash your face in it. You can take the spots out of your tie with it. You can even mix it with white wine and soda and make a chicken soup spritzer. Even if it doesn't help your hangover, it will remind you of your mother.

5. **LORD BYRON'S CURE**: "Let us have wine and women, mirth and laughter. Sermons and soda water the day after."

6. **ANOTHER MEDICAL CURE**: Drinking causes dehydration and the contraction of the blood vessels. To cure this, drink water or fruit juices, and take aspirin. Unfortunately, another shot of booze might also swell the blood vessels and relieve the pain. But this just starts the whole thing over again.

7. **ZAY SMITH**, newsman and former bartender: "People would come into the tavern in very bad shape and ask me for something to stop the pain. The only thing I knew about was Worcestershire sauce on a lemon wedge."

"You just close your eyes and bite the lemon wedge. It helps if you are standing up while doing this. Actually, this is not a cure for hangovers. It is a cure for hiccups. But these guys were so drunk, they didn't know the difference."

"I'd ask them if they felt better, and they'd say: 'Huh? Where am I?'"

"So I guess it works."

Roger Simon can be e-mailed at WriteRoger@aol.com. To find out more about Roger Simon and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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It's that time when people m... tions. You kno... Clean out th... keep in bette... friends and fa... money.

But there health and fit... tions that cou... life, accordin... Commissioner... Eduardo Sanc...

"If people wo... ber to do just... they could li... healthier lives... said.

The five are:
• Eat smart;
• Get fit;
• Get shots;
• Get checku... screens; and
• Don't smok...

Each of the tions alone i... anyone to... Sanchez said... er they provi... plan to help a... healthy and... way.

First, more t... cent of peopl... are overweight... Preliminary a... the Texas Dep... Health (TDH)... overweight or... an estimated 3... in 2001 in Tex...

Healthy ben... nutritionists... ple eat five to... ings of fruit... bles a day. C... choices inclu... whole grai... smaller porti... ing lean mea... poultry; and... eliminating... foods, sugar a...

Ring

This year, i... be different. All... How many... you said that... at the beginni... year? This y... lose 10 pound... right and exe... You'll start... again. You'll s... This year, it... ferent.

Well, this y... different. All... a personal go... ment to that... encouragement... way. Why no... your choleste...

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Include better health among your new year's resolutions

It's that time of the year when people make resolutions. You know the vows: Clean out the garage, keep in better touch with friends and family, save money.

But there are some health and fitness resolutions that could say your life, according to Texas Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez, M.D.

"If people would remember to do just five things, they could live longer, healthier lives," Sanchez said.

The five are:

- Eat smart;
- Get fit;
- Get shots;
- Get checkups and screens; and
- Don't smoke.

Each of these suggestions alone is good for anyone to consider, Sanchez said. But together they provide a solid plan to help a person get healthy and stay that way.

First, more than 60 percent of people in Texas are overweight or obese. Preliminary analysis by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) suggest that overweight or obesity cost an estimated \$10.2 billion in 2001 in Texas.

Healthy benefits come, nutritionists say, if people eat five to nine servings of fruit and vegetables a day. Other good choices include eating whole grains; taking smaller portions; selecting lean meat, fish and poultry; and reducing or eliminating fat, fried foods, sugar and salt.

In addition to an improved immune system, people who eat smart may avoid or delay problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and triglycerides (fats in the blood) that can lead to heart disease and stroke.

Next, are you having trouble getting moving? You are not alone. Urban sprawl means more time

completely cover all strains circulating, it does provide protection, and is especially important for those at risk of serious complications or death.

"Check with your health care provider about what shots are recommended and when," Sanchez said. "Most adults should get vaccinated against pneumonia and flu, especially those over age 65."

Or when is the last time you had a tetanus shot? The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends adults get a booster every 10 years.

Fourth on the list is getting checkups and screens. Many people don't visit a doctor until a problem occurs. The procrastination can be deadly.

Pap smears, mammograms and colorectal exams can detect cancerous activity early when treatment is most effective. Tests for cholesterol, triglyceride levels and blood pressure, along with a family history, can indicate if you are at risk for heart disease. People at risk of developing diabetes can prevent serious complications or death if the disease is diagnosed and managed.

And finally, it's been repeated often; but, again, smoking is bad for your health. Tobacco use can lead to deadly diseases such as lung cancer, emphysema and stroke. When quitting, ask your doctor if nicotine replacement products are a good

idea, get a friend to remind you of all the benefits of being smoke-free, and be patient-many people quit several times before they kick the habit for good.

"Make 2004 a year for positive behavioral change," Sanchez said. "You just may save your life."

Tips for Eating Smart

• Reduce portion size. If you eat out, order smaller portions or divide your entree and take half home.

• Drink fewer sodas. Over a year's time, one can of regular cola a day at 150 calories equals more than 15 pounds worth of calories.

• Write down what you eat. You may be surprised by incidental calories-a bag of chips here, some candy there, really add up.

• Add fruit and vegetables. Substitute dried fruit for candy, add vegetables to soups, pasta, stir-fry dishes or casseroles.

• Limit snack foods, foods high in fat or sugar and processed foods since they have more calories and fewer nutrients.

Tips for getting fit

• Take a step in the right direction, walking 10,000 steps a day (about 5 miles) helps to maintain a healthy weight. A pedometer will help you determine your steps.

• Go it on foot. Take the stairs instead of elevators, park farther from your

destination and walk. Encourage your children to walk to school where feasible, walk or ride a bicycle for short trips instead of taking the car. It all adds up.

Start small. Incorporate 10 minutes of exercise a day at first, then gradually build to half an hour a day to maintain weight or an hour a day to lose weight.

The more television a child watches, the more likely he or she is to be obese.

Consider activities as a family such as going to the zoo or park, playing catch or skating.

Tips for quitting smoking

• For some people drinking coffee, smoking or watching TV triggers a desire to smoke. Identify triggers for smoking and avoid or modify behaviors.

• Choose healthy alternatives such as drinking water, taking a walk, going to the public library when smoking is not allowed.

• Be patient. Most people make several attempts before they are able to quit permanently.

• Seek out a support friend or family member or call the American Cancer Society's Quitline at 1-877-455-3211 for help.

"Make 2004 a year for positive behavioral change. You just may save your life."



Eduardo Sanchez, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

in the car for many and busy schedules make getting fit a challenge.

Think about ways you can start slowly and build your activity level. Just 30 minutes of moderate to brisk exercise daily can strengthen your heart.

"Make it a family activity," Sanchez said. "Try fun runs, walks and other activities that can include family members of all ages."

Third, getting shots is something many adults don't think about; but pneumonia, one of the most serious infections for seniors, is easily prevented with a vaccine. While an influenza vaccine can't always com-

Ring in the new year with a healthy heart

This year, it's going to be different.

How many times have you said that to yourself at the beginning of a new year? This year, you'll lose 10 pounds. You'll eat right and exercise more. You'll start running again. You'll skip dessert. This year, it will be different.

Well, this year can be different. All you need is a personal goal, commitment to that goal, and encouragement along the way. Why not start with your cholesterol?

High cholesterol is one of the four major risk factors for developing heart disease. Around half of American adults have high cholesterol. Like high blood pressure, obesity and smoking, however, it is a risk that is largely preventable and can often be controlled. There are no visible warning signs or symptoms - the only way to find out if you have high cholesterol is by having a blood test. And by lowering your cholesterol levels, you can reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease.

The Cholesterol Low Down is the American Heart Association's free national educational initiative sponsored by Pfizer Inc.

The online program provides basic information on high cholesterol, including a comprehensive guide and biannual newsletter, and free cholesterol-management tools and heart-healthy recipes. It also provides a plan of action and checklist for your physician. This year's goal for The Cholesterol Low Down is to teach families what they can do to prevent or manage heart disease.

What is cholesterol?

What can lower high cholesterol?

Start with what you eat. Eating the right foods can help. These quick tips are a good place to start.

Less saturated fats. Cut back on foods high in saturated (i.e. animal) fats. Substitute non-fat milks and low-fat dairy products for whole milk and cheese. More healthy oils. Use canola or olive oil. These oils help you to control your total cholesterol much better than butter, shortening and stick margarine.

More Fiber. Eat whole-grain breads and whole-grain cereals. Try to eat five servings of fruit and vegetables a day.

Eat a lot of vegetables, especially the brightly colored ones. Steam them, or eat them raw.

Eat less meat. Select lean cuts of red meat. Cut or drain fat from ground meat and remove skin from chicken. Substitute dishes such as brown rice and beans for meat.

More Exercise. Get in motion. Check with your doctor first. Find out what is right for you. Go for a walk.

Cholesterol is made by the liver but also supplied in the diet through animal products.

Although cholesterol is needed to form nerves and certain hormones, our bodies make enough cholesterol to accomplish this - we don't need additional dietary cholesterol found in meats, poultry, fish and dairy products.

What's so dangerous about high cholesterol?

When there is too much cholesterol in the blood, it

builds up in the walls of the arteries and forms plaques.

Over time, this build-up narrows the arteries, which can reduce blood flow to the heart. If blood clots form at these narrowings, they can completely cut off the blood supply to the heart, resulting in a heart attack.

What can you do? Cholesterol levels are impacted by different factors. A diet high in satu-

rated (i.e. animal) fat can lead to high cholesterol. Being overweight and physically inactive can also affect cholesterol. So can smoking.

The American Heart Association recommends that everyone age 20 years and older should have their cholesterol levels measured at least once every five years. To enroll in The Cholesterol Low Down, log onto our Web site at www.americanheart.org/cld.

This year, make a difference.

BIG SPRING AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

What We Do

We Receive Funds
People give through, not to, the Foundation. The Foundation honors donor's wishes and ensures the gifts it receives endure for generations to come.

We Invest Funds
Under the stewardship of the Foundation's Finance and Investment Committee, we invest assets in a diverse portfolio intended to produce asset growth, security of principal, and funds for grantmaking. We scrutinize investment returns and have Foundation fees added each year. Our audit is available to the public.

We Distribute Funds
An abundant variety of grants will be made from the income of the endowment fund as the growth of the fund permits. These grants will be determined by the Grants Committee to improve the quality of life in our community. Also, we listen to our donor's recommendations when considering distributions, as they perspective adds an additional dimension to the grantmaking process.

We Know Our Community
The Foundation remains current on issues facing our ever-changing community. We specialize in understanding opportunities and needs in Big Spring and our region so that grants may be targeted where they will do the most good.

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Hernias: Healing an unwelcome health problem

Characterized by intense pain in the groin and abdomen, hernias are an unwelcome health problem. However, hernias are easily mended with a simple surgical procedure. In fact, hernia repair is one of the most common surgeries in the United States, as more than 500,000 people receive this surgery each year.

Hernias occur when the intestines protrude through a weakened area in the abdominal muscles. This often causes a soft bulge to appear where the upper thigh and the abdomen meet. The bulge will be most apparent when bending over or while coughing. Pain also becomes more intense while in these positions; thus, lying down helps ease the pain. The bulge may contain tissue that lines the

inside of the abdomen, fatty tissue, fluid and possibly a bit of intestine. When the intestine becomes caught in the bulge, known as strangulation, blood flow may be cut off from the intestine. If this occurs, immediate surgery is necessary. Be sure to call your physician immediately if, in addition to the bulge, you experience vomiting, nausea, a fever or severe cramping, as these symptoms often indicate a strangulated intestine. Consult your physician if you have a tender bulge around the groin and discomfort in that area. Although these symptoms are not as severe, a hernia might have developed.

Depending on the severity of the hernia, surgery may not be immediate, though surgery is the only way to treat the condition. Typically performed in day surgery clinics, hernia

repair surgery takes only 45 to 90 minutes. This allows patients to go home the same day of their surgery and resume their normal life. However, heavy lifting must be avoided for a few weeks after the surgery.

Although the causes of hernias are often unknown, some conditions and activities increase abdominal pressure that may lead to a hernia. Being overweight, chronic coughing and lifting weights too heavy for your body size puts extra strain on the abdominal area. When this occurs, the abdominal muscles weaken allowing the intestines to protrude. Some factors that may increase the hernia risk cannot be controlled, including being male, muscle weakness from birth, muscle weakness from aging and a past history of hernias. Although most her-

nia cannot be prevented, here are some suggestions to decrease the likelihood of developing a hernia:

- Exercise. Aerobic exercise including walking, running, swimming or biking will help keep muscles strong.
- Monitor weight. People 10 to 15 percent above their ideal weight (by height) have a greater chance of developing a hernia. Shedding a few pounds will help lower your risk.
- Avoid rapid weight loss. Some weight loss programs encourage diets low in protein and vitamins necessary for developing strong muscles.
- Stop smoking. In addition to causing myriad other health problems, smoking may contribute to hernia development. Chronic coughing associated with smoking doubles the risk of getting a hernia.
- Don't strain during bowel

movements. Straining during urination and bowel movements places pressure on the abdomen and increases hernia risk.

- Practice safe lifting. Use proper body mechanics when lifting heavy objects. Remember to lift with your legs instead of your back. Despite the pain associated with hernias, they can be easily remedied. Following the suggestions above will help lower the chances of a hernia. However, if you do get a hernia, recognizing the signs and symptoms of this condition will help pave the way to a fast recovery.

Dr. Alan E. Abel, M.D., F.A.C.S., is board certified in general surgery. He can be reached at 1501 W. 11th Place, Big Spring 79720, or by calling 263-6018.

Gastric bypass increasingly popular among El Paso Hispanics

By CHRIS ROBERTS

Associated Press Writer

EL PASO — Rene Reyes' eyes lie to him.

When he shops, he is drawn to clothes that droop over his 202-pound frame. When he fills his plate, he takes portions so big he couldn't possibly finish them. It's all part of adjusting to his significantly smaller body after gastric bypass surgery.

"I still want to go and look at big sizes," said Reyes, 46, who has shed 145 pounds in eight months since the surgery. "I see the (size) 38 and I think, 'That's not going to fit.' I still have the eyes. I still have that mentality."

Reyes is among the growing number of Hispanics in El Paso who have opted for the increasingly popular procedure, which shrinks the stomach from about the size of a football to the size of a golf ball.

There were 63,100 gastric bypasses nationally in 2002, up from 23,100 in 1997, according to the American Society for Bariatric Surgery.

And more Hispanics in Texas should consider the

procedure, said Dr. Manuel Castro, who performed Reyes' surgery and recently discussed the benefits for Hispanics at a hospital fashion show where Reyes and others showed off their new physiques.

According to a Texas Department of Health study released in 2002, Texas Hispanics are significantly more likely than Hispanics nationally to be obese — 31 percent compared to 22 percent. Within Texas, the highest rate of adult obesity is among Hispanics.

"It's dietary," said Dr. Bruce Applebaum, who performs the surgeries in El Paso along with Castro. "Too much vitamin T — tacos, tostadas, tortillas."

Hispanics make up more than 70 percent of El Paso's population. Applebaum said about 35 percent of El Paso County's 700,000 people are overweight and about 10 percent — or 70,000 — are morbidly obese.

Karen Jacqueline Coleman, a researcher with the Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences

Graduate School of Public Health at San Diego State University, recently completed a study of Hispanics in El Paso.

"Inactivity and poor nutrition are factors contributing to the 'obesity epidemic' across the country," Coleman said in her report. "Mexican-American families, however, may be particularly susceptible to obesity with a diet high in simple sugars and starches such as bread and tortillas, a lack of regular exercise outside of work, and parenting styles that are less restrictive of children's intake."

That has a familiar ring to Reyes, who has for years enjoyed traditional Mexican meals. Beans, rice and tortillas — most often cooked in lard — are served with everything. "I still eat the chile relleno," Reyes said. "But when I was able to eat four or five of them before, now I have one. I eat one with no rice and beans because now I'm full."

The surgery has its dangers. The mortality rate is about 0.5 percent, slightly

higher than for other common procedures.

"They told me I was high risk," Reyes said. "But I think me not doing anything, it's the same risk."

Obesity is the No. 2 cause of preventable death and related health care costs amount to more than \$200 billion nationally each year, according to the American Society for Bariatric Surgery.

Even so, doctors and patients say surgery isn't an easy way out.

Because there is less intestine to absorb nutrients, most who have had the surgery must take protein and vitamin supplements. They must avoid sugar and watch their diets. If they eat too fast, they throw up.

"At first I didn't know when I was full. It was a new feeling," Reyes said. "Now I feel normal because I know what it's like to be full. ... Before, I

would eat until I was miserable."

Applebaum said it is possible to "cheat the operation" by eating frequent small meals and making poor food choices. In some cases, the stomach can be stretched to the point where the person regains all the lost weight.

"And of course their medical problems come back," he said.

But, unlike diets, most people who have the surgery are keeping the weight off.

A group of about 600 patients have been followed for 16 years and have kept off more than 50 percent of their excess weight, said Dr. Neil Hutcher, a Virginia doctor who has performed gastric bypasses since 1972 and is a member of the American Obesity Association's advisory board.

Many insurance compa-

nies are paying for gastric bypass, which costs about \$20,000, because recipients make fewer health claims, Castro said. The number of hospital visits generally drops by about two-thirds after the surgery, he said.

That's been Reyes' experience. Sleep apnea and pain in his legs from carrying so much weight have disappeared, as has his high blood pressure and borderline diabetes. "It's like being reborn," said Reyes, who expects to lose about 15 more pounds. "Things you were not able to do before, now you want to do everything. ... It's just amazing how much energy I have developed. Now if I sit down and watch TV, I feel like I am wasting time."

On The Net:
American Society for Bariatric Surgery:
www.asbs.org

Doctor says flu-related deaths no reason for public to panic

By KRISTEN HAYS

Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — The deaths of two Houston-area toddlers from flu-related complications are not cause for panic, an infectious diseases doctor said last week.

"This was the unusual occurrence," said Dr. Sheldon Kaplan, chief of infectious disease at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

The children died in October and November from bacterial infections that took hold after they got the flu.

"It was always something that could happen," Kaplan said. "We know going back into the 1920s and before that that bacterial complications of influenza occur."

At least 45 states have reported widespread influenza cases this year, and at least 42 children have died from it, mostly in Western states, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control.

However, death usually comes from complications of the flu when a patient's immune system is weakened and vulnerable to bacterial infections. The bacteria that led to the children's deaths has been resistant to antibiotics regularly used to battle flu complications, but other antibiotics can quell it, Kaplan said.

The bacteria — methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MSRA — used to be common only with infections acquired in hospitals. But in the past three years it has been popping up in communities, Kaplan said.

MSRA generally lives on the skin and in the nose and commonly causes easily treatable skin and soft tissue infections when a break in the skin allows it to enter the bloodstream, he said. Lungs weakened by influenza also give the germ a chance to pounce.

But few flu patients experience serious problems because of it, he added.

"This is a rare complication. We're a big hospital. There must have been thousands and thousands of people

and kids in the Houston area who had influenza, and we're talking about a handful of complicated cases," Kaplan said.

Emily Palmer, spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Health, said flu was considered widespread in Texas two weeks ago but appears to be waning.

"While we have heard there have been some deaths, and we think there probably have been some, there are deaths from flu every year," Palmer said. "It's hard to determine at this point if there's anything vastly different than what has been in the past."

Influenza is a viral respiratory illness marked by the sudden onset of fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches.

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KURT KISER

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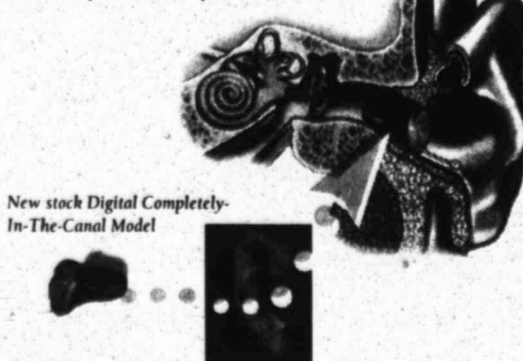
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Baseball boosters hold meeting

The Big Spring Baseball Boosters will hold a meeting tonight in the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of ball boosters are to attend the meeting which will be held at 7 p.m.

Lady Steers t non-district s

The Big Spring Steers will compete in their 2003-2004 district basketball tournament Tuesday night in a bout against Coronado.

The BSHS girls overall, are scheduled to play Coronado at 7:30 p.m. Dorothy Coliseum. The teams will start at 7 p.m.

Big Spring District 4-4A Friday.

Former Lady be enshrined

Former Big High School Rose Mager will be inducted into the Huntsville County Athletic Hall of Fame.

Magers-Powell will be inducted on April 19.

WJCAC to mo baseball tou

The Howard Hawks will face longer road travel when they travel to Western Junior Athletic Co Baseball Tournament.

WJCAC announced recent 2004 baseball tournament would be held from Midland to Big Spring. The tournament is scheduled for Feb. 22-24.

BSHS swim 4-4A meet on

Big Spring School swim team will compete in District 4-4A swim meet on Jan. 23. The team travels to Stockton.

NCAA may try format in '04

NEW ORLEANS — Conceding "a mistake," the NCAA said a basketball tournament style committee will become part of the selection process — reducing the possibility of national championship in football.

Big East commissioner Mike Truong Sunday several will be discussed coming months including eliminating computers from the selection process — reducing the possibility of national championship in football.

The BCS can't survive an intense critical season when ranked No. 1 media and the was bypassed Sunday night Bowl. The Trojans expected to remain in The Associated Press poll after a win over Rose Bowl.

Oklahoma was invited to Sugar Bowl, winner assured by the top coaches' poll.

Sports

BIG
SPRING HERALD

Page 1B
Monday, January 5, 2004

Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call Tommy Wells, at 263-7331, Ext. 237. Email results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

IN BRIEF

Baseball boosters to hold meeting today

The Big Spring Steers Baseball Booster Club will hold a meeting tonight in the BSHS Athletic Training Complex.

All parents and baseball boosters are urged to attend the meeting, which will begin at 6 p.m.

Lady Steers to close non-district slate

The Big Spring Lady Steers will close out their 2003-2004 non-district basketball schedule Tuesday night with a bout against Lubbock Coronado.

The BSHS girls, 5-11 overall, are scheduled to play Coronado beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The JV teams will start at 6 p.m.

Big Spring opens District 4-4A play on Friday.

Former Lady Steer to be enshrined in Hall

Former Big Spring High School standout Rose Magers-Powell will be inducted into the Huntsville Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame.

Magers-Powell is slated to be inducted on April 19.

WJCAC to move baseball tournament

The Howard College Hawks will face a little longer road trip this year when time for the Western Junior College Athletic Conference Baseball Tournament rolls around.

WJCAC officials announced recently the 2004 baseball tournament would be shifting from Midland to El Paso. The tournament is scheduled for April 22-24.

BSHS swimmers face 4-4A meet on Jan. 23

Big Spring High School swim team will try and nail down the District 4-4A swimming title on Jan. 23 when it travels to Fort Stockton.

NCAA may try new format in '04 season

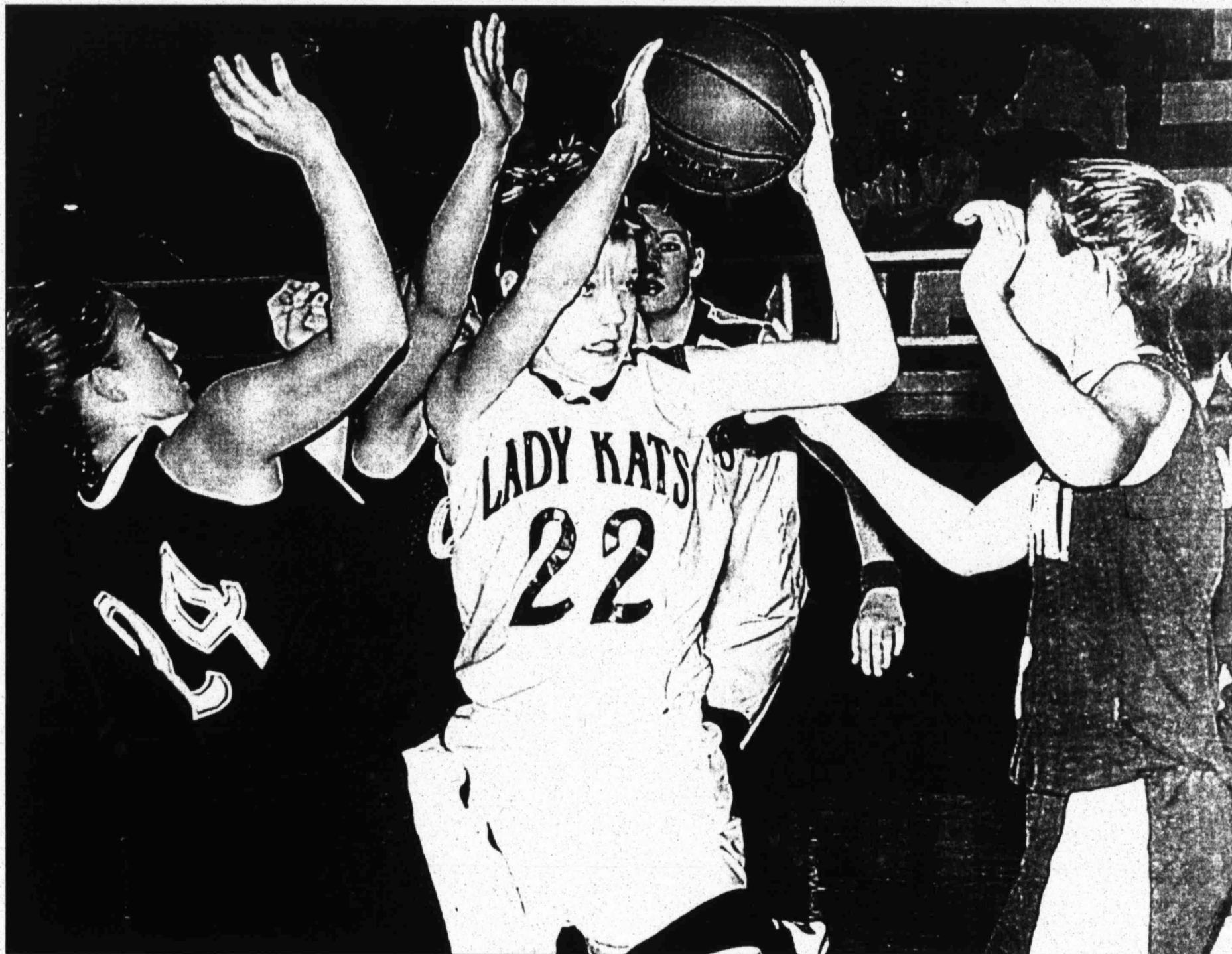
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Conceding "we made a mistake," the head of the BCS said an NCAA basketball tournament-style committee might become part of the selection process next season — reducing the possibility of a split national championship in football.

Big East commissioner Mike Tranchese said Sunday several issues will be discussed in the coming months, including eliminating computers from the selection process and adding an extra BCS game.

The BCS came under intense criticism this season when USC, ranked No. 1 by the media and the coaches, was bypassed for Sunday night's Sugar Bowl. The Trojans were expected to remain first in *The Associated Press* poll after a win in the Rose Bowl.

Oklahoma and LSU were invited to the Sugar Bowl, with the winner assured of getting the top spot in the coaches' poll.

SOMETHING TO PROVE



Garden City's Laura Plagens drives toward the basket during the Lady Kats' recent game with Coahoma. Plagens and the members of the GCHS girls' basketball team are hoping to make a return to the state playoffs this season after seeing their 9-year playoff run end last year.

Lady Kats looking for a little chicken soup for the ego

By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

GARDEN CITY — By most schools' standards, the Garden City Lady Kats' 2003 season was a success. The team won 20 games and found itself in the playoff mix until the very last second of a three-team district playoff.

Garden City isn't most schools. Basketball tradition runs deep in the small Glasscock County school. With more than 500 wins in its history and a string of nine consecutive playoff berths to their credit, winning isn't something the Lady Kats basketball program wants to do. It's something they expect to do.

So what happens when a team falls short of those expectations? Teams throughout West Texas are finding out. All will agree it isn't pretty and it's more than a little painful.

One season after seeing its string of playoff berths come to an end despite finishing the 2003 district race in a three-way tie for first with McCamey and Iraan, Garden City looks to have bounced back with a vengeance. The Lady Kats head into Tuesday's non-district finale against the Grady Lady Cats

sporting a 14-3 record — and, more importantly, a huge chip on their shoulder.

The Lady Kats missed the playoffs after dropping their final two games to McCamey and Iraan in a special district playoff tournament.

"We're not going to lie, we've talked about it," said senior Amanda Henson. "We'll never forget how it felt to lose. It left a bad taste in our mouth."

"We remember how it feels and use that to our advantage," said guard Leslie Jansa. "We are very determined to not let that happen again. We've been fired up and ready from the beginning."

The Lady Kats' desire to wash away the memories of last year's woes has been evident. Garden City has cruised through its first 17 games in grand fashion, pounding out a 14-3 record and winning two tournaments.

"We want to win," said Jessica Hoch. "It's very important to us to win and get back (to the playoffs). That's been our goal from the first day."

"We don't really pay that much attention to the numbers, we just go out to win. We feel like we have something to prove to ourselves," said Hoch, who helped

carry the Lady Kats to the area round of the state playoffs in 2001 and 2002.

How successful have the Lady Kats' been in "proving" themselves this fall? Consider this: Despite having just eight healthy players and facing a schedule dotted with large opponents, Garden City has won by an average of more than 10 points a night. In the recent, Reagan County Invitational, the Lady Kats used solid efforts from senior Anna Flores, Krystal Sullivan and junior standout Megan Niehues to blast Class 4A Lake View by a 50-40 margin.

Niehues, one of four underclassmen on the team, leads the team in scoring this fall, averaging more than 14 points a night.

The season hasn't been without its tough times, however. The Lady Kats saw starting guard Erin Hirt sidelined in their first game with an ACL injury. Two losses to close rival Reagan County have also tempered the team's mood.

Those trials may have only served to make the team closer, Jansa says.

"The chemistry on this team is very good," said the GCHS point guard. "Everyone on this team

shares the passion to win, but we also take care of each other."

"You see a lot of teams that seem to play for themselves. Once the game is over, they go their own ways. I don't think we're like that at all. We're pretty close off the court, too."

Hoch, who averaged more than 14 points a game last season as a junior, agreed.

"We all get along really well and care about each other."

Over the Christmas holidays, Hoch lived up to her words. When Jansa came down ill, Hoch and her teammates prepared food and soup for their teammate.

"I think that makes us a better team on the court," said Jansa. "We're not out there playing for ourselves. No one really cares who scores what or when. It's all about us as a team."

It's also about winning — and adding to the Lady Kats' tradition.

"We know Garden City's basketball tradition has always been strong," said Hoch, whose older sister Michelle was on the GCHS squad that advanced to the Region I-1A finals in 1997. "We know we have standards to live up to. We'd like to raise them a notch for the next group."

Hawks clip CV in return

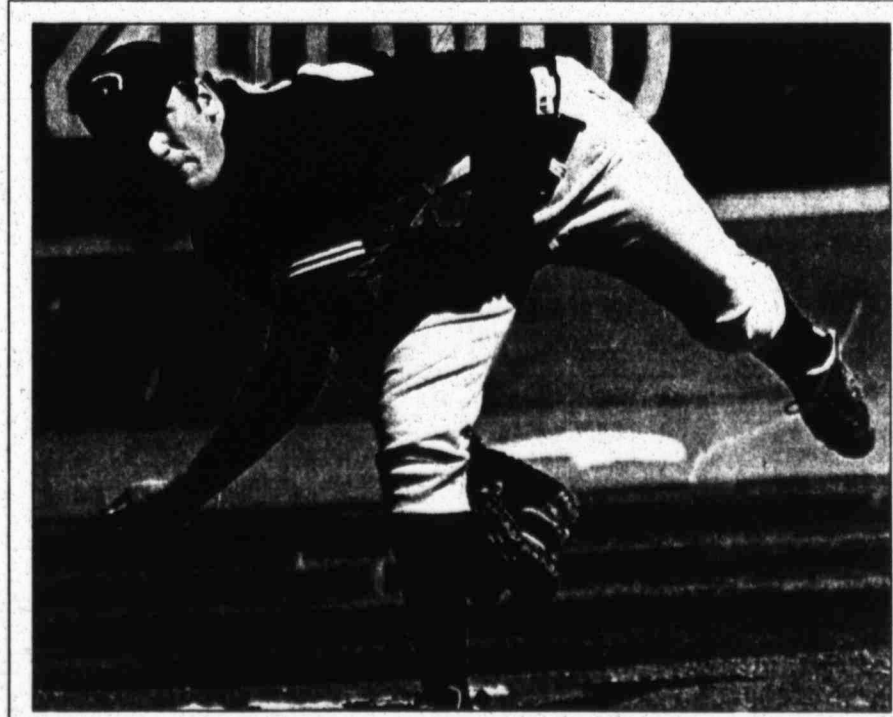
By TOMMY WELLS
Sports Editor

LANCASTER — The Howard College Hawks opened the second half of their basketball season on a high note Saturday afternoon by downing Cedar Valley College by an 85-78 margin.

With the victory, the Hawks ran their season record to 8-2 heading into tonight's final non-conference road game with Hill College in Cleburne.

Sophomore guard Steve Goff led Howard College offensively. He pumped in a team-high 13 points in the contest. Johnny Jones also reached double-digits with 12.

The Hawks will close out their non-conference slate Wednesday at home against North Lake College.



The 2004 Howard College baseball season will get under way later this month. The Hawks will host

Grady girls slide past New Home

The Grady Lady Cats got back on the winning track Saturday afternoon by downing the New Home Lady Leopards, 30-25.

Despite the win, Grady head coach Lin Fink said the team was still struggling to regain its form following the holiday break.

"It was not a good game for either team," said Fink. "We're not playing well offensively and we turned the ball over a few too many times."

Defensively, the Lady Cats were solid. Grady held New Home to less than 10 points in each quarter.

After falling behind by a 9-8 margin in the first, Kelsey Tubb and the GHS girls reeled off a 22-16 effort over the final 24 minutes to seal the win.

Grady improved to 13-4 overall.

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Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG & petroleum products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Quality 25 with class A & one year driving experience. **Call Bill at 888-524-0287**

DRIVERS WANTED East Texas Petroleum Co., Inc.

Needs drivers for transporting fuel in Big Spring and Surrounding Area.

Requirements:
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Class "A" CDL
Haz/Mat/Tanker
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For Employee Retirement Plan
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Rip Griffin's is now taking applications for cashier's in all areas. Experience preferred but will train. Excellent Benefits- 401k, vacation, major medical. Please apply in person.

HELP WANTED

Warehousing/Transportation

Stop in at 710 Scurry, Big Spring to apply or send resume to:
Susanne Reed
PO Box 1431
Big Spring, TX 79721

By fax to 432-264-7205, or email to: advertising@bigspringherald.com

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New home Construction Room Additions Carports
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Wallpaper Hanging
Ceramic Tile Installation & Repair
All remodel needs of any room in your home.
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Will Clean Your Home or Office.
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Roofing Help Palacios Roofing Home Improvement temporary openings 3/01/04 to 12/15/04. 7 am to 3 pm. \$6.50 OT \$9.75/hr. To carry and hold built materials, tools, supplies, clean to equipment, material work areas. Apply at Texas Workforce Commission, Spring, Texas or resume to 1117 Trir Room 424T, Aus Texas 78701. #TX1697410. Ad paid an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Int'l firm expanding Big Spring Area. Seeks sales/mgmt work from Home. SIX FIGURE potential plus Car prog. Call 888-697-5718

City of Big Spring taking applications Communications Officer. This position responsible receiving calls from public for assistance and dispatch appropriate public safety personnel. For further information contact Personnel Department at City Hall, 310 No Big Spring, TX 79721 call 432-264-2346. City of Big Spring EOE.

Medical Technologist

The West Texas Healthcare System, Spring, TX is accepting applications for a Temporary Medical Technologist. Salary range is \$31,831-\$50,617 per ann. Excellent Life, Health Retirement bene. This is a 71 oper beds facility. I provides long-term intermediate care, medical, ICU, outpatient care, more informal contact Erlinda R Human Resource Specialist 1-800-472-1365, 7017 or (432) 264-48

Pharmacist

The West Texas Healthcare System, Spring, TX is accepting applications for a Time Staff Pharmacy Salary range is \$68,581,667 per ann. Excellent Life, Health Retirement bene. **Recruitment Bonus** offer. This is a operating beds facility that provides long-land intermediate care, medical, ICU, outpatient care, more informal contact Erlinda R Human Resource Specialist 1-800-472-1365, 7017 or (432) 264-48

Wanted: Sun Morning Nurse

Worker for Bird Lane Baptist Church. References Requested. Call 432-267-8214

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Leit Operator needed operate wells in Kerr Tx. area. Call Terry 512-995-3900

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Found a young wearing a flea collar. Found on courtch lawn. If this is you call 816-9207

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SALES/MARKETING Int'l firm expanding in Big Spring Area. Seeks sales/mgmt to work from home. SIX FIGURE potential plus Car program. Call 888-697-5718

Medical Technologist

The West Texas VA Healthcare System, Big Spring, TX is accepting applications for a FT Temporary Medical Technologist. Salary range is \$31,830 - \$50,617 per annum. Excellent Life, health & Retirement benefits. This is a 71 operating beds facility that provides long-term and intermediate care, medical, ICU, and outpatient care. For more information contact Erlinda Rios, Human Resources Specialist at 1-800-472-1365, Ext. 7017 or (432) 264-4822

Pharmacist

The West Texas VA Healthcare System, Big Spring, TX is accepting applications for a Full Time Staff Pharmacist. Salary range is \$68,770-\$81,667 per annum. Excellent Life, health & Retirement benefits. Recruitment Bonus offer. This is a 71 operating beds facility that provides long-term and intermediate care, medical, ICU, and outpatient care. For more information contact Erlinda Rios, Human Resources Specialist at 1-800-472-1365, Ext. 7017 or (432) 264-4822

Wanted: Sunday Morning Nursery Worker for Birdwell Lane Baptist Church. References Required. Call 432-267-8214

Contract Lease Operator needed to operate wells in Knott, TX. area. Call Terry @ 512-995-3900

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1218 E. 16th. 3 or 4 BR, 1 bath. CH/A. Washer/dryer connections. 1 car garage. \$500/mo. plus dep. 1 yr. lease. No HUD. Call 432-267-2296.

1405 1/2 Settles. Clean 1 bdr., stove & refrigerator. \$150/mo. non-refundable. Call 432-267-1543

1408 Donley Extra clean furn. 1 bdr. apt. Water & Gas paid. \$300/mo. \$150/dep. Sorry no pets. 432-263-4922.

1818 Benton. 3 BR 2 bath. CH/A. \$450/mo. \$250 deposit. Call 432-263-3375 or 270-8665

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2605 Cindy Ln. 3 Bdrm 2 bath, large living room, CH/A. \$550/mo. + deposit. Call 432-264-8813 leave message

2BR, 1 bath Mobile Home. 6304 Walter Rd. Call 432-267-3841 or 270-7309

\$50 MOVE-IN SPECIAL One and Two Bedroom Apartment home available. Starting from \$335.00 per month

*FREE CABLE *On site Laundry Facilities *Covered Picnic area with BBQ Grills *Playground for the Kids *Central Air & Heat

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Two bedroom, one bath, newly remodeled, CHA. Call 270-3848.

Very Nice Spanish Style Home on corner lot. 2 /1 - stove, W/D furn. All utilities paid. Marty 432-264-7931

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Executive 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, 2 car garage. Great location. \$850/mo. Call 432-263-2382

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TOO LATES NEW CARPET, PAINT & vinyl in this Brick Home. Also features an inground pool, a must see. \$50's. Charles S. Smith, agent 432-466-1613 or Home Realtors 432-263-1284

2BR, 1 bath 1104 (Rear) Nolan. Call 432-267-3841 or 270-7309

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INJURED? LAWSUIT DRAGGING? Need Cash Now? We can Help! Low rates starting at 3.99%/month. No credit check. Call 800-568-8321

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON This is the last day of Mercury's retrograde period and a good time to take pause and consider how much of our lives is affected by the way we communicate. The words we choose distinguish us, define our role and affect how well we're getting along in the world. Listen in on your own talk, and be aware of the words you choose.

A R I E S (March 21-April 19). You may decide that the outrageous lies in the media are unbearable - entertainment value notwithstanding - and write some letters to give your opinion voice. Little ones are watching

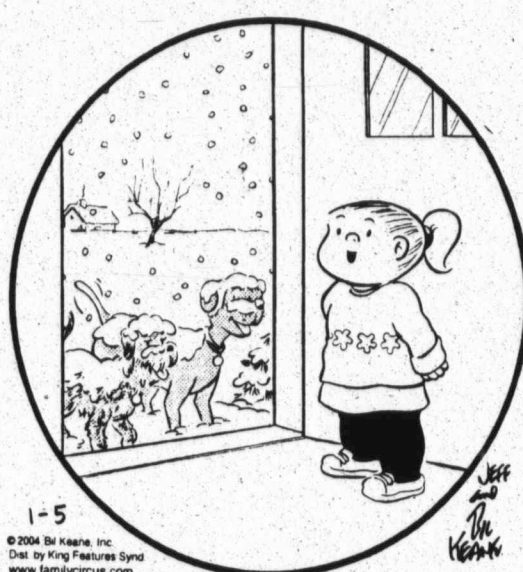
	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KOCV (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	USA (30) New York	TMC (250) Premium	
6:PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Amar Otra Vez	King of the Hill Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	Pasion de Gavilanes	News Seinfeld (CC)	Seinfeld (CC) Friends (CC)	Joseph Good John Hagee	News-Laher	MythBusters (CC)		Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live Movie: Waiting to Exhale	Sister, Sister Lizzie McGuire	NFL Live	College Basketball	JAG (CC)	Rhapsody (CC)	
7:PM	Movie: Cast Away (CC)	Movie: Cast Away (CC)	Velo de Nova	Movie: Billy Madison (CC)	Yes, Dear Still Standing	Amor Descarado	Fear Factor (CC)	Movie: Love Potion No. 9	Update/Israel Sam Peak	Antiques Roadshow	American Chopper	Movie: Jaws 2	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)		Movie: D3: The Mighty Ducks	NFL Hockey: Minnesota Wild at St. Louis Blues (CC)	Texas at Providence	Law & Order: Special Victims	Movie: com for Murder (CC)	
8:PM			Te Amare en Silencio	Raymond El Alma Herida (CC)	Las Vegas (CC)	Light of the Southwest	American Chopper	American Chopper	American Chopper	American Chopper	American Chopper	Movie: Jaws 2	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Comicview	Sister, Sister Boy World	NHL 2Night	Kansas at Colorado	Movie: Dante's Peak (CC)	Disturbance	
9:PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	70s Show Raymond	CSI: Miami Greg	La Presencia de Anita	Average Joe: Hawaii (CC)	10 Movie: Betsy's	Wedding (CC)	Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	American Chopper	Beneath the Planet of the Apes	X-Files (CC)	Midnight Love	Even Stevens Sister, Sister	NFL Pop Warner	SportsCenter (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims	15 Movie: Eureka
10:PM	Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel	Extra (CC) Jimmy Kimmel	En las Mejores Familias	Becker (CC) Spin City	Late Late	Al Rojo Vivo- Mana Celeste Corte-Familia	Late Night (CC) Fraser (CC)	20 Movie: Update/Israel N. McBride	Rev. J. Hansen Tommie-Corner	Sign Off	American Chopper	Apes	Movie: Jaws 2	X-Files (CC)	Comicview	Boy World Recess (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	Pepperdine at Utah (CC)	Nash Bridges (CC)	Movie: Wicked
11:PM	Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Live (CC) Oprah Winfrey	Angela	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date	Blind Date

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DON'T WORRY, JOEY. MY PARENTS DON'T PLAY TENNIS WHEN THERE'S SNOW ON THE GROUND."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

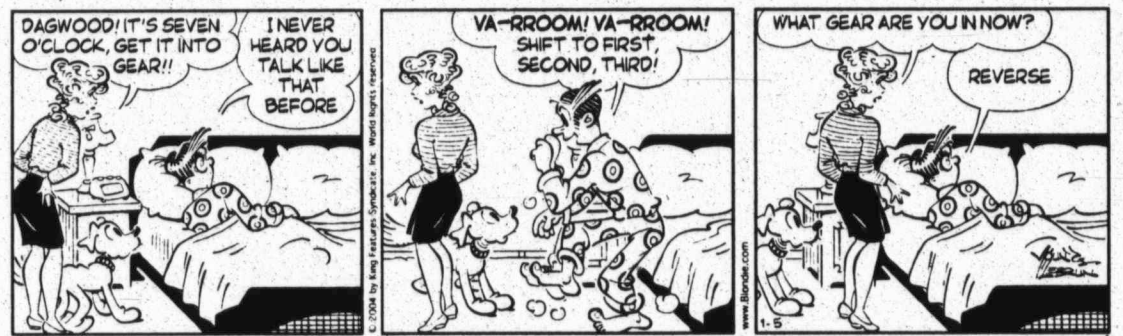


"Mommy, do we know any all-white dogs?"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



MR. HOUSEWIFE



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2004. There are 361 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 5, 1896, an Austrian newspaper ("Wiener Presse") reported the discovery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen of a type of radiation that came to be known as X-rays.
On this date:
In 1589, Catherine de Medici of France died at age 69.
In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Va.
In 1895, French Captain Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.)
In 1925, Nellie T. Ross succeeded her late husband as governor of Wyoming,

becoming the first female governor in U.S. history.
In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Mass., at age 60.
In 1943, educator and scientist George Washington Carver died in Tuskegee, Ala., at age 81.
In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Truman labeled his administration the "Fair Deal."
In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was found killed with his wife and daughter at their Clarksville, Pa., home.
UMWA President Anthony Boyle and three others were convicted of the murders.
In 1993, the state of Washington executed Westley Allan Dodd, an admitted child sex killer, in America's first legal hanging since 1965.
In 1998, Sonny Bono, the 1960's pop star-turned-politician, was killed when he struck a tree while skiing

Answer to previous puzzle

TRAPPISTS	IBET
HAVEITOUT	GNOME
INESSENCE	ORBIT
STREAMICE	BASTE
BEAT SAINTED	
EDGAR	ELIJAH
ESE	LAVALIERE
MAJ DIETARY	AIM
PROFITEER	USN
STEERS	PARDO
REALIGN	VEER
AZTEC	ARROGANCE
BURNT	DIESELLOIL
BLOGS	ASTEROIDS
AUDI	SHADETREE

Newsday Crossword

TIMELY SENTIMENT by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Fifty percent | 1 Hems and |
| 5 Second Greek letters | 2 Vicinity |
| 10 Has lunch | 3 Suburban grass |
| 14 Jordanian, for example | 4 J. Edgar Hoover's agency |
| 15 Poet T.S. | 5 Running late |
| 16 Unappetizing food | 6 Make happy |
| 17 Start of a timely sentiment | 7 Ceramic square |
| 20 Francisco | 8 Big e-mail company |
| 21 Wind-borne toy | 9 Ancient period |
| 22 Condo prohibition, perhaps | 10 Where Cairo is |
| 23 Queue | 11 Spiny houseplant |
| 24 Fender flaw | 12 Recommend |
| 25 Go to a show | 13 Exercise centers |
| 28 Urge on | 18 Like Olive Oyl |
| 29 Subway alternative | 19 Enamored (of) |
| 32 William Jennings | 23 Jumps |
| 33 Ballad or anthem | 24 Hawaiian entertainer |
| 34 Rose plant | 25 Can't stand |
| 35 Middle of sentiment | 26 Swap |
| 38 Byron poems | 27 A positive and AB negative |
| 39 Fly alone | 28 Pious |
| 40 Stopover near an interstate | 29 Montana city |
| 41 Scale notes | 30 Theater employee |
| 42 Commuter's road: Abbr. | 31 In a timid way |
| 43 Trickster's forte | |
| 44 Leaves the premises | |
| 45 Daut | |
| 46 Radio commentator Charles | |
| 49 Nastase of tennis | |
| 50 Birthday-present holder | 33 Comes down in flakes |
| 53 End of sentiment | 34 British fellow |
| 56 Small pie | 36 Sought to date |
| 57 Darkened | 37 Flabbergasted |
| 58 Poet Pound | 42 Winnie-the- |
| 59 Draft rating | 43 Swoons |
| 60 Stadium levels | 44 Must, slangily |
| 61 Like a snoop | 45 Special talent |
| | 46 Director |
| | 47 Reminger |
| | 48 Graceful bird |
| | 49 Quayle successor |
| | 50 Martinique or Maui |
| | 51 TV clown |
| | 52 Something we share |
| | 53 MRI alternative |
| | 54 Prefix meaning "one" |
| | 55 Swampland |

