



**BIG
SPRING**

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At the Crossroads of West Texas

50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

TUESDAY

March 9, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT TOMORROW
42°-44° 66°-68°

BRIEFLY

Grady to play for state title Thursday

The Grady Wildcats will try and become the first Crossroads area basketball team to capture a state championship Thursday morning when they face Neches at 8:30 a.m. at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin.

The Wildcats, 34-1, earned a spot in the state finals by downing Rising Star, 62-46, Saturday in a Region I Semi-State playoff bout at the Texas Dome in Levelland.

Should Grady win the Division II state crown, the Wildcats will play in the Texas Cup matchup Saturday morning. The Texas Cup matches the state's two Class A state champions.

Normangee and Moulton play for the Class A Division I title Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Erwin Center.

55 Alive to start

The Spring City Senior Center and the American Association of Retired Persons have scheduled a driver safety Program course from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 11-12.

This course was developed as a refresher for drivers age 50 and older. It will be taught by a trained volunteer and in addition to reviewing the rules of the road, will teach how to compensate for age related declines in physical and perceptual ability.

Those who attend both days will receive a certificate good for an automobile insurance discount. There is a \$10 fee for material. To enroll, go by the Senior Center or call the center at 267-1628. Class size is limit to 35.

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Comics 6B

Elections 5A

Obituaries 2A

Opinion 4A

Sports 1-2B

Texas 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Howard Co. voters to cast ballots in primaries

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Area voters will have until 7 p.m. this evening to cast their ballots in the Republican and Democratic primaries.

Polling places for the primary elections will be very similar to those used in the recent special and runoff elections, with a few slight changes for voters in precincts 101-115 and 202-205.

The Democratic Primary polling places are as follows:

- Precincts 101-115, North Side Fire Station, 100 N.E. Eighth

Street.
• Precincts 202-205, Washington Place School, 1201 S. Birdwell Lane.

- Precincts 207, 409, Coahoma Community Center, 300 N. Avenue, Coahoma.
- Precinct 208, Forsan School.

- Precincts 302-305, Goliad Middle School Library, 2000 Goliad Street.

- Precincts 401-410, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum foyer, Birdwell Lane and Kentucky Way.



RANGEL



WALKER

The polling places for the Republican Primary are as follows:

- Precincts 101-115, 202-205, Washington Place School, 1201 S. Birdwell Lane.

- Precincts 207, 409, Coahoma Community Center, 300 N. Avenue, Coahoma.

- Precinct 208, Forsan School.

- Precincts 302-305, Goliad Middle School Library, 2000 Goliad Street.

- Precincts 401-410, Dorothy Garrett Coliseum foyer, Birdwell

Lane and Kentucky Way.

In contested races on the local Democratic ballot, voters will have the chance to vote in the sheriff's race, with incumbent Dale Walker facing off against Willie Rangel Jr.; county commissioner, Precinct 1, which involves incumbent Emma Puga Brown and challenger Yolanda Mendoza; and Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1, between Donna Gamboa and Phil Bustamante.

In contested races on the local

See **VOTE**, Page 5A



Big Spring High School freshmen Alyssa Newton, left, and Chris Salazar view Newton's sculpture of rock star Freddie Mercury. The two young artists qualified works for the Texas Art Education Association Visual Arts Scholastic Exhibition at a regional competition held Saturday, Feb. 28.

HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody

Master Pieces

Newton, Salazar qualify for '04 state art competition in Houston

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

Two Big Spring High School freshmen will be taking their artistic works to the state Texas Art Education Association Visual Arts Scholastic Exhibition (VASE) in Houston.

Alyssa Newton and Chris Salazar qualified pieces for the state contest at the VASE regional competition held Saturday, Feb. 28.

To qualify, the two artist had to received superior ratings at the regional level and again at the area level, which is held at the same event.

"I'm surprised, but I'm real pleased," said high school art teacher Judy Terelesky. "I give Art I students under my program a splattering of techniques. I teach them all the principals and elements of art and all the different media to work with from clay to drawings to setting up still life.

"The first year they do a lot of work that doesn't qualify for competition because it's not really as original as it could be and that's why I was so pleased with the ceramics that they turned out," she continued.

Both Newton, the daughter of



Courtesy photo

This vase created by Big Spring High School freshman Chris Salazar will be displayed in the Texas Art Education Association state Visual Arts Scholastic Exhibition (VASE) in Houston.

Melissa and Gary Newton, and Salazar, the son of Rosalinda

Salazar, have had an interest in art from an early age and plan to turn their talents into a career.

Newton hopes to become a professional artist and Salazar plans to become an architect.

Forty-one works created by Big Spring High School students were entered in the show. At the regional level, 25 pieces received superior ratings which earned the artist a medal and 16 works were ranked excellent.

Newton and Salazar both received medals at the regional and area level.

Results from the contest are: Collin Carroll received two superior ratings ratings; Alicia Correa received a superior rating and an excellent rating; Joel Flores, two excellent ratings; Gerardo Garcia, a superior rating and an excellent rating; Felix Lugo, excellent rating; Gabriela Lugo, a superior rating and an excellent rating.

Also, Nick McMahan, a superior rating and an excellent rating; Rochelle McMeans, two superior ratings; Kristina Moorhead, a superior rating and an excellent rating; David Morales, a superior rating and an excellent rating; Alyssa

See **ART**, Page 3A

Commissioners approve \$15,000 ammendment to sheriff's budget

By **LYNDEL MOODY**
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners approved a \$15,000 budget ammendment Monday to the sheriff's department's medicine account to cover unexpected expenses resulting from an injury to a prisoner.

According to Sheriff Dale L.

Walker, a female prisoner broke her right arm as a result from a fall off a bunk at the city jail where she was temporarily housed.

Because the inmate did not have an application with the county's indigent health care program at the time of the accident, the program could not pay

for the those expenses and the cost fell, instead, on the sheriff's department.

In other business, commissioners learned that the Howard County Criminal Collections Office continues to make a dent into delinquent fines owed to the county.

According to Court Collector

Bobby Roeber, as of March 2, the office has collected \$66,501.65 in cash, jail credit or community service hours of the original \$129,771.25 outstanding.

Commissioners also heard from County Librarian Hollis McCright about the successful Read Across America event on

See **HCCC**, Page 6A



Courtesy photo/Carol Scott

Pink Flamingos decorate the home of Carol and Bob Scott of 3107 Mountain Shadow Drive as a fund-raiser for the Big Spring State Hospital. Volunteers for the Denim and Diamond event, the hospital's largest fund-raiser of the year, placed the plastic birds on lawns of last year's contributors in hopes of enticing them to contribute to this year's event. For more information, call the volunteer office at 268-7535.

El Paso utility OKs negotiation to buy acreage for water farm

EL PASO (AP) — Facing a possible water shortfall in the coming decades, city leaders approved negotiations Monday for the purchase of about 25,000 acres near Dell City that would be used as a water farm.

If the negotiations are successful, water from wells on the land would be desalinated and pumped about 90 miles west through a pipeline to El Paso. The water farm could provide up to 60,000 acre-feet a year, which is about half of El Paso's current annual usage, said Ed Archuleta, El Paso Water Utilities General Manager.

El Paso now uses about 115,000 acre-feet of water annually. An acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons,

enough to cover an acre 1 foot deep.

"This will be one of the most significant water supply acquisitions this board could ever make," Archuleta told the El Paso Public Service Board, which approved the negotiations. "In my opinion, this will give us (adequate) water for about 100 years or more."

Land, rights of way, design, engineering and construction of the project are estimated to cost between \$400 million and \$500 million, Archuleta said. No timeline has been established.

"The Dell Valley area (is) important because the aquifers are rechargeable and renewable," Archuleta said.

The Public Service

Board will negotiate the purchase with the Dell Valley Water Rights Owners, a group that owns about 40 percent of the permitted water acres in the valley. About 30 farmers and ranchers own the remainder.

The amount of water exported would be limited to 2.8 acre-feet of water per acre per year, Archuleta said, a number set in the rules of the Hudspeth County Underground Water Conservation District No. 1.

The limit is expected to keep enough water in the aquifer, even with water being exported, to allow sustainable agriculture in the valley for the foreseeable future, said Bill Miller, president of C.L. Land Co.

Ambassador: Critics now want U.S. to succeed

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations on Monday defended the American military action in Iraq and believes some nations initially critical of the war have come to accept it as beneficial.

"I think what's interesting since then is how everybody seems to have turned the page and basically said: 'Look, there are disagreements about what happened in the run-up to the conflict,'" John Negroponte told an audience at Texas A&M

University. "But no one, none of these countries, wants our policies in Iraq to fail."

"They want our policies to succeed."

Negroponte said Iraqi leaders in the time before the war "acted guilty."

VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

Republican ticket, the battle for the State Senate District 31 seat will continue between recently elected State Sen. Kel Seliger, R-Amarillo, and challenger Kirk Edwards, R-Odessa. Former candidates Jesse Quackenbush, R-Amarillo; Bob Barnes, R-Odessa; Don Sparks, R-Midland; and Lee Gibson, R-Dumas, will still appear on the ballot, but all have officially dropped out of the race.

Also on the local Republican ticket will be the county commissioner seat for Precinct 3, which is a contest between incumbent Bill Crooker and challenger Kathy Lusk.

Local candidates running unopposed in the Republican Primary include Kent Sharp, who is vying for the District 85 State Representative seat. Sharp's Democratic opponent in the November

election, incumbent James "Pete" Laney of Hale Center, is also running unopposed.

Also running unopposed on the Republican ticket are 118th District Court District Attorney Hardy Wilkerson; County Tax Assessor/Collector Kathy Sayles; County commissioner, Precinct 1, candidate Don Taylor; Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1, Bennie Green; and Constable, Precinct 1, Boyce Hayle.

Candidates unopposed in the Democratic Primary include State Senate District 31 candidate Elaine King Miller; County Commissioner, Precinct 3, candidate James "Dick" Dubose; Constable, Precinct 1,

candidate T.E. "Junior" Trevino Jr.; and Constable, Precinct 2, Mark Winn.

Also on the Democratic ballot are two resolutions. The first is for or against any efforts to end or privatize Social Security and Medicare programs. The

Today's election ballots

Democratic Primary

President
Dick Gephardt
Randy Crow
Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr.
Dennis J. Kucinich
Al Sharpton
Howard Dean
John Edwards
Joe Lieberman
John F. Kerry
Wesley K. Clark

U.S. Rep., District 19
Charles W. Stenholm

Railroad Commissioner
Bob Scarborough

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 9
David Van Os

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 6
J.R. Molina

State Senator, District 31
Elaine King Miller

State Rep. District 85
James E. "Pete" Laney

Sheriff
Willie Rangel Jr.
Dale L. Walker

County Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Emma Puga Brown
Yolanda Mendoza

County Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
James (Dick) Dubose

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1
Donna K. Gamboa
Phil Bustamante

Constable, Precinct 1
T.E. (Junior) Trevino Jr.

Constable, Precinct 2
Mark Winn

County Chairman
Wayne Burns

Resolutions:

For or against any efforts to end or privatize Social Security and Medicare programs.

For
Against

For or against a constitutional amendment protecting taxpayers by prohibiting state mandates that require local property tax increases.

For
Against

Republican Primary

Presidential
George W. Bush

U.S. Rep. District 19
Randy Neugebauer

Railroad Commissioner
Douglas G. Deffenbaugh
Victor G. Carrillo
Robert Butler
K. Dale Henry

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 3
Harriet O'Neill

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 5
Steven Wayne Smith
Paul Green

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 9
Scott Brister

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2
Lawrence "Larry" Meyers

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 5
Patricia Noble
Cheryl Johnson

Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 6
Michael E. Keasler
Steven M. Porter

State Senator District 31
Bob Barnes
Kirk Edwards

Jesse Quackenbush
Kel Seliger
Don Sparks
Lee Gibson

State Rep. District 85
Kent Sharp

District Attorney, 118th Judicial District
Hardy L. Wilkerson

County Attorney
C.E. (Mike) Thomas III

County Sheriff
Ronald Allen

County Tax Assessor-Collector
Kathy A. Sayles

County Commissioner, Precinct 1
Don Taylor

County Commissioner, Precinct 3
Kathy Lusk
W.B. "Bill" Crooker

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1
Bennie J. Green

Constable, Precinct 1
Boyce Hayle

County Chairman
Margarita Durand-Hollis



A GREEN BALLOON



The little green balloon sat on the store shelf. All his friends were bright red shiny balloons.

Little boys and girls always came into the store but never picked the little green balloon to take home to share their birthday parties. They always picked the beautiful red balloons.

The little green balloon always felt so sad. He sat in the store all day trying to look happy so the little kids would choose him. But at night, when the store was closed and no one was around, the little green balloon would cry himself to sleep.

The next day, when the store opened again, the little green balloon would try to put a smile on his face. But it was very hard. The owner of the store looked at the poor green balloon and said, "No one is ever going to buy you, so I guess I will just put you on a shelf in the back of the store." The little green balloon thought, "At least it will be dark back there so no one will see me crying!"

One day a lady came into the store and said, "I want a lot of balloons for my son's birthday." The storeowner said, "Okay, I'll go to the back of the store and get a big box to put them in."

It was so dark in the back of the store that the owner didn't notice when he bumped into the shelf and knocked the little green balloon into the box. The little green balloon worried about what was going to happen to him!

The storeowner filled the box with red balloons and handed them to the lady, never knowing that the little green balloon was in there and very scared!

That night the lady started blowing up all the balloons. Then she came upon the green balloon. "Well, how did you get in there?" she asked. "Oh well, you are so cute that I'll just blow you up, too!"

The little green balloon just rolled into a corner and hid. He was so different!

All of the kids came to the birthday party and were having fun with the red balloons. The little green balloon sat in the corner and listened to all of the fun, wishing he could join them. But he was different and scared!

Soon the kids became bored with the red balloons. A little boy saw the little green balloon and said, "Why are you hiding in this corner? Come out and play with us!"

"Oh, look! A pretty green balloon!" said all of the other kids. And they began to play with him for the rest of the party.

The birthday boy's mother asked, "Why were you hiding? Don't you know that being different makes you very special? You are the one I would have chosen to play with!"

So the little green balloon thought, "I am special and I will never have to cry again!"

Good Night!

Robert D. columns, the web n. NDICATE,

TAX

Continued from Page 1A

\$144,849.10, down 16.71 percent compared to 2003.

Brownfield received \$87,588.45, some 4.38 percent off the pace of the \$91,606.81 received in February 2003. For the year, Brownfield has taken in \$138,997.98, or 4.12 percent less than the same period a year ago.

Colorado City experienced a 3.61 percent increase, comparing February's receipts of \$49,091.62 to last February's \$47,377.74. In 2004, Colorado City has pulled in \$78,635.69 in rebates, an increase of 5.2 percent.

Fort Stockton witnessed an increase of 11.3 percent, comparing the \$145,689.61 taken in February against the \$130,890.29 received 12 months ago. This year, Fort Stockton has received \$244,389.60, an increase of 4 percent.

Kermit received \$31,776.02 in February, up 19.85 percent from the \$26,512.31 received in February 2003. For the year, Kermit has received \$55,176.26, some 3.78 percent off the pace of 2003.

Rebates were down 6.31 percent for Lamesa, comparing the \$93,795.62 received in February to the \$100,118.29 received February 2003. Rebates for 2004 total \$153,474.30, up 1.9 percent.

Lubbock experienced a 3.58 percent increase, comparing February's rebates of \$3,520,467.40 to February 2003's rebate of \$3,398,742.21. For the year, the city has received \$5,708,497.44, an increase of 5.35.

Midland took in \$2,504,623.99 in February, a 1.34 percent increase compared to February 2003's rebates of \$2,471,287.98. For the year, Midland has received \$3,990,139.74, an increase

of 2.22 percent.

Monahans witnessed a decrease of 4.32 percent in February. That compares February's proceeds of \$87,218.65 to February 2003's proceeds of \$91,157.84. For the year, Monahans has received \$151,015.51, an increase of 4.44.

Odessa, received \$1,702,528.49 in February compared to \$1,616,145.36, a difference of plus 5.34 percent. For the year, Odessa has received \$2,712,051.37, up 3.56 percent.

Pecos' proceeds were off the mark by 10.27 percent, comparing February 2004 totals of \$73,905.67 to February 2003 totals of \$86,863.36. For the year,

Pecos has received \$126,328.53, down 10.27 percent.

San Angelo enjoyed a slight increase between the two Februaries, receiving \$1,724,359.42 in February 2004 and \$1,514,513.99 in 2003. That's a difference of 13.85 percent. For the year, San Angelo has received \$2,787,150.51, up 8.84 percent.

Snyder received \$192,748.58 in February. That compares to \$190,849.48 in 2003 — a scant 0.99 percent increase for the Scurry County seat. For the year, Snyder has taken in \$329,109.73, an increase of 6.56 percent. Stanton enjoyed an

increase of 27.62 percent in February, one month after witnessing a 72.15 percent increase. The Martin County seat brought in \$14,263.77 this February compared to \$11,176.09 a year ago. For the year, Stanton has received \$23,288.85, a whopping increase of 41.84 percent.

Sweetwater fell under the mark, receiving \$202,366.27. That compares to \$235,483.39 in February of 2003, a drop of 14.06 percent. Sweetwater has received \$351,075.80 this year, down 8.92 percent.

Contact News Editor Bill McClellan at 263-7331, ext. 235, or by e-mail at newsdesk@crcom.net

HCCC

Continued from Page 1A

March 2. McCright also noted that tiles in the basement need to be replaced as a result of damage.

Also, Indigent Health

Care Director Irene Dominguez requested that commissioners change a nurse's position for auditing indigent health care bills from a contact basis to that of a part-time employee.

Commissioners also approved a proclamation

making the week of March 14-20 National Agriculture Week in Texas.

Contact Staff Writer Lyndel Moody at 263-7331, ext. 234, or by e-mail at reporter@bigspringherald.com

FBI investigates vandalism at Lubbock mosque

LUBBOCK (AP) — Windows smashed. Pro-American and anti-Muslim slogans scrawled in black marker on walls and on a computer. Chairs broken in the women's worship hall. Money and electronic equipment stolen.

"All our Quran, our holy books, have never been thrown like this,"

Muhammad Chaudhry, a member of the Islamic Center of the South Plains, said as he walked through the vandalized building Monday.

Worshippers discovered the damage — estimated to be about \$1,800 — Sunday.

The graffiti included racial epithets and what investigators said were

apparent references to the name of a gang depicted in a movie.

The FBI and local authorities believe two or more people broke into the mosque — the only one in the city and surrounding area — late Saturday or early Sunday, and have lifted fingerprints that they hope will lead them to suspects.

Congressional races overshadow presidential primary

AUSTIN (AP) — With the Democratic presidential nominee assured, the Texas primary drama turns to what many Lone Star State voters are infinitely familiar with — new congressional districts.

Candidates for Congress in Tuesday's primary are squaring off in Republican-drawn districts that received federal court approval in

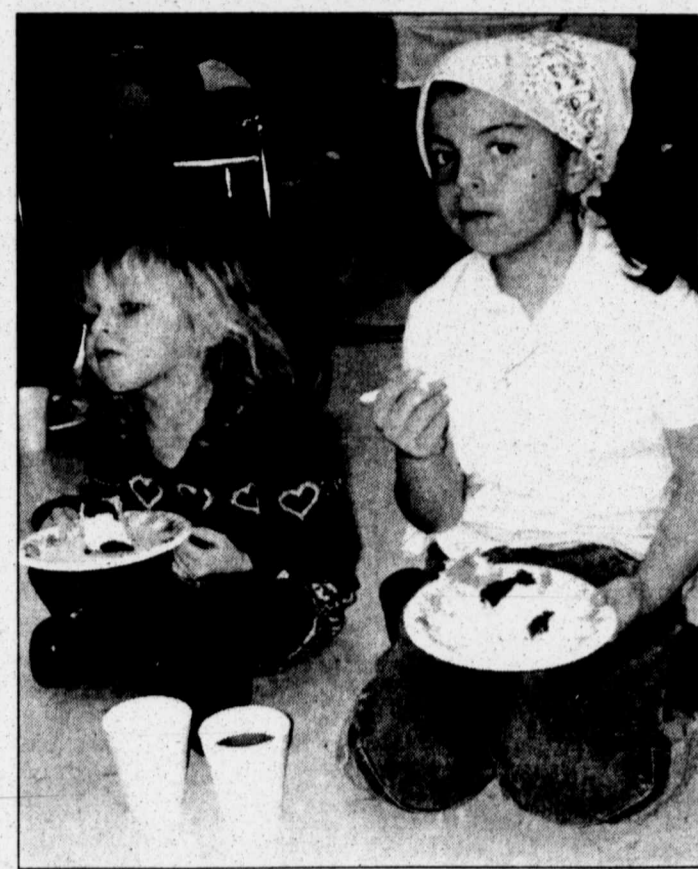
January and could give the GOP a commanding advantage in the state's 32-member congressional delegation.

Republican legislators pushed through the new districts last year, despite boycotts by Democrats.

Also before the voters are a race for Texas Railroad Commission and contests for the Texas Supreme Court, Texas

Court of Criminal Appeals, State Board of Education and Texas Legislature.

"As Texans and Americans, we should remember that democracy is dependent on a single act — the act of voting. There are plenty of reasons to go to the polls on March 9th," Texas Secretary of State Geoff Connor said.



HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Three-year-old Jori Harlan, left, and 7-year-old Angela Garza enjoy birthday cake in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the late Dr. Seuss' birthday. The Howard County Library held the event March 2. More than 200 people attended.

Texas defector likely last party switcher for a while

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas Democrat Ralph Hall's defection to the Republicans in January was hardly a shock considering he'd voted like one for years. But it may be a while before GOP leaders find another Democratic congressman willing to switch sides.

Those Democrats who now hold the "most conservative" mantle, including a good portion from the South, insist they have no plans of defecting, largely because their differences with the party aren't quite as stark as Hall's or numerous other party-switchers who preceded him.

They didn't switch as the once-solid Democratic South trended for Republicans. They didn't switch when Newt

Gingrich and a new crop of GOP freshmen took hold of the U.S. House a decade ago. They didn't switch after the election of President Bush, or the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, or the war in Iraq.

So if they haven't switched by now, when will they? Never, predict some analysts who contend it's not that these lawmakers aren't conservative, it's that they aren't conservative enough.

"Their voting records are not as vastly opposed as one would think," said Bruce Oppenheimer, a Vanderbilt University political scientist. "There's almost nobody left who votes more often with Republicans than Democrats now that Ralph Hall is gone."



"I've Got Good News!" — Kurt Kiser
Hearing Computer
Unnoticed in Ears

Free Demonstrations—2 Days Only—March 11 & 12

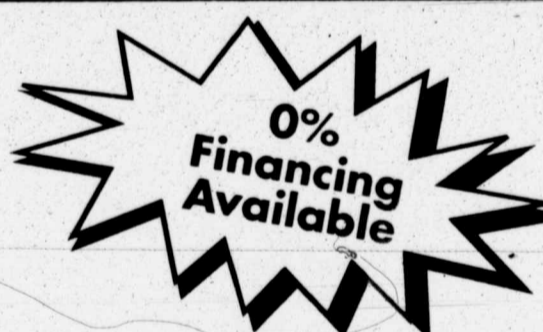
Imagine a hearing aid that automatically adapts to your surroundings and reflects your specific lifestyle. Imagine a hearing aid that is so pleasant to wear that

ON SPECIAL SALE NOW!
it gives a new meaning to the phrase "customer satisfaction." Well, imagine no more — With this breakthrough technology from STARKEY, the world's largest hearing aid manufac-

turer, comes the first hearing aid ever developed to address your most important needs. Not only does it fit your individual hearing loss, it fits the

way you live. If you hear, but are having trouble understanding conversation, you owe it to yourself to take advantage of the free

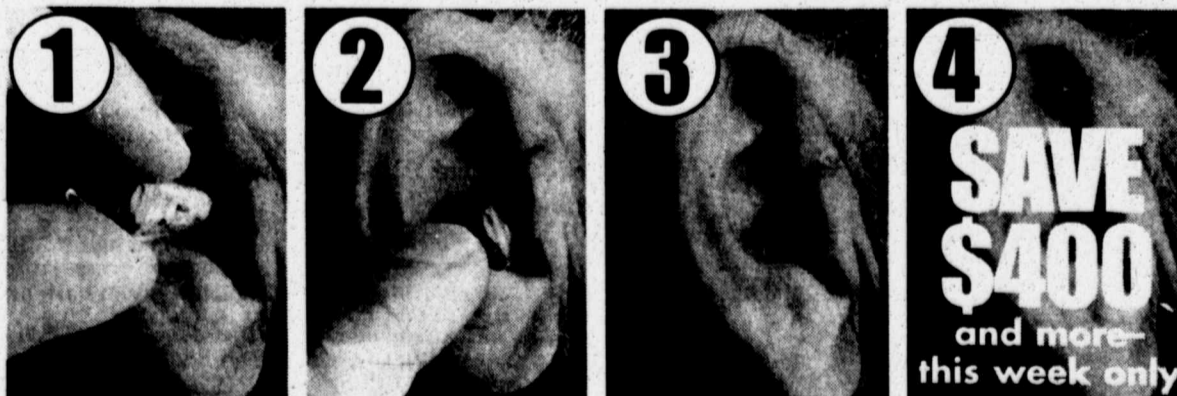
demonstrations offered this week. Call Livingston Hearing Center today for a no-obligation appointment.



"Bring in the talk-- screen down the noise"



Come meet Patrick McCarty and Gregg Lindly. Patrick and Gregg specialize in helping people with nerve type hearing loss. During this two-day event, they will be demonstrating the newest in hearing aid technology. Call to schedule a no-obligation hearing check-up and free demonstration of this new technology: 432-276-7052.



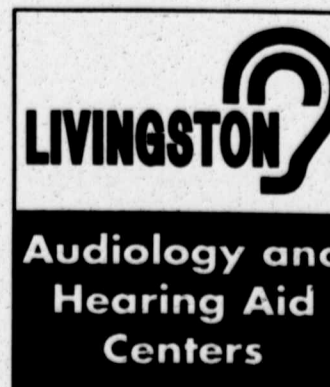
1 The Hearing Computer is fully automatic. 2 Just slip it in. 3 It is hidden inside and hearing is easy. 4 Save \$400 and more on digital systems.



Low Price Guarantee

If you find a lower advertised price on an identical hearing aid at any local retail competitor, we will beat their price by 10% when you buy from us. Just bring us the competitor's current ad, or we'll call to verify the item's price that you have found. Competitor's remanufactured, discontinued, and used hearing aids are excluded from this offer.

432-267-7052
1-800-687-5593
211 Johnson St.
in Big Spring



IN Hawk Wayla The Hawk start action Wayla Unive at Jac The will b Umpi upcor The Softba curren vidua umpir Part umpir tact F at (43: Longi 'Wan The ball t ing t Year Tourr 20-21 Dea enter Entry team. For conta 393-55 Hilar Lady to pl The Steer action they to (Arlin Big all, h previ ment son. Brew Fort West week Swin in ra RA (AP) hunc Idita Race his while the r foref Col inju terec comi Pass mile A 1 incl char ing race worl race is m San Car SA — C was the after Nati Dev Th Car Notr train New sign CG/ eve TT Ass its Driv 28 i Goll TT to p C Event Sourc Event Grady

IN BRIEF

Hawks to face Wayland Baptist

The Howard College Hawks, off to a 15-6 start (8-4 in WJCAC action) will face Wayland Baptist University on March 13 at Jack Barber Field. The doubleheader will begin at 1 p.m.

Umpires needed for upcoming season

The Big Spring Girls' Softball Association is currently seeking individuals interested in umpiring games.

Parties interested in umpiring should contact Francisco Ramirez at (432) 466-3670.

Longhorns to host 'Warm up Tourney'

The Longhorns softball team will be hosting the "First of the Year Warm-Up Tournament" on March 20-21 at Stanton Park.

Deadline for teams to enter is March 17. Entry fee is \$120 per team.

For more information contact Sally Grant at 393-5237 or Mike Hilario at 267-6619.

Lady Steers to travel to play in Arlington

The Big Spring Lady Steers will return to action Thursday when they travel to Arlington to compete in the Arlington Invitational.

Big Spring, 16-1 overall, has won both of its previous two tournament outings this season. The team won the Brewer Invitational in Fort Worth and the West Texas Classic last week in Midland.

Swingley early leader in race to Nome

RAINY PASS, Alaska (AP) — More than 200 hundred miles into the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Bill Cotter gave his team a long rest while he mulled over the nasty bump on his forehead.

Cotter said he got the injury when he encountered a log on the trail coming into the Rainy Pass checkpoint, 224 miles from Anchorage.

A record 87 mushers, including five former champions, are competing in the 1,100-mile race to Nome, the world's longest sled dog race. This year's purse is more than \$700,000.

San Antonio signs Carroll to contract

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Guard Matt Carroll was signed Monday by the San Antonio Spurs after playing in the National Basketball Development League.

The 6-6, 212-pound Carroll, who played at Notre Dame, was in training camp with the New York Knicks, then signed with Portland.

CGA to hold 4-person event on March 28

The Chicano Gold Association will hold its 4-Person Select Drive event on March 28 at Comanche Trail Golf Course.

The public is invited to participate.

ON THE AIR

Sports Broadcast Schedule	
March 30	
Event, Time	Station
Spurs vs. Clippers, 7 p.m.	1490
March 31	
Event, Time	Station
Grady vs. Neches, 8:15 a.m.	1490

Saint Joseph's climbs to No. 1 for first time

Tiny Saint Joseph's and its ever-flapping Hawk have soared to the top of the basketball world.

The Philadelphia school with an enrollment of 3,400 and not much recent sports history to brag about was No. 1 in the AP men's college basketball poll Monday for the first time.

"It's a dream come true," Hawks senior guard Jameer Nelson said. "At the same time, we have to take care of business these last few games. We'll still approach each game and practice the same way."

The Hawks (27-0) are the only unbeaten team in Division I, now that previously top-ranked Stanford was upset by

Washington. Saint Joseph's needs three victories in the Atlantic 10 tournament to become the first team since UNLV in 1991 to enter the NCAA tournament without a loss.

"All along, we have discussed the idea of having a great program," Saint Joseph's coach Phil Martelli said. "Obviously, we have a great team, and now we can talk about a great program, and this can be a springboard."

With help from the Hawk, of course. The mascot never stops flapping its wings during games.

A national basketball power in the 1960s, the Hawks were ranked in the Top 10 consistent-

ly. They made their only Final Four appearance in 1961, then reached No. 2 in the rankings twice in December 1965.

"It's a significant feat for the longtime followers of this program," Martelli said. "Schools like ours have been overlooked for years by things like the BCS and the football powers."

The coach doesn't think he has to worry about his team looking past the conference tournament and thinking ahead to a probable No. 1 seeding in the NCAA tournament field.

The A-10 tournament starts Wednesday in Dayton, Ohio.

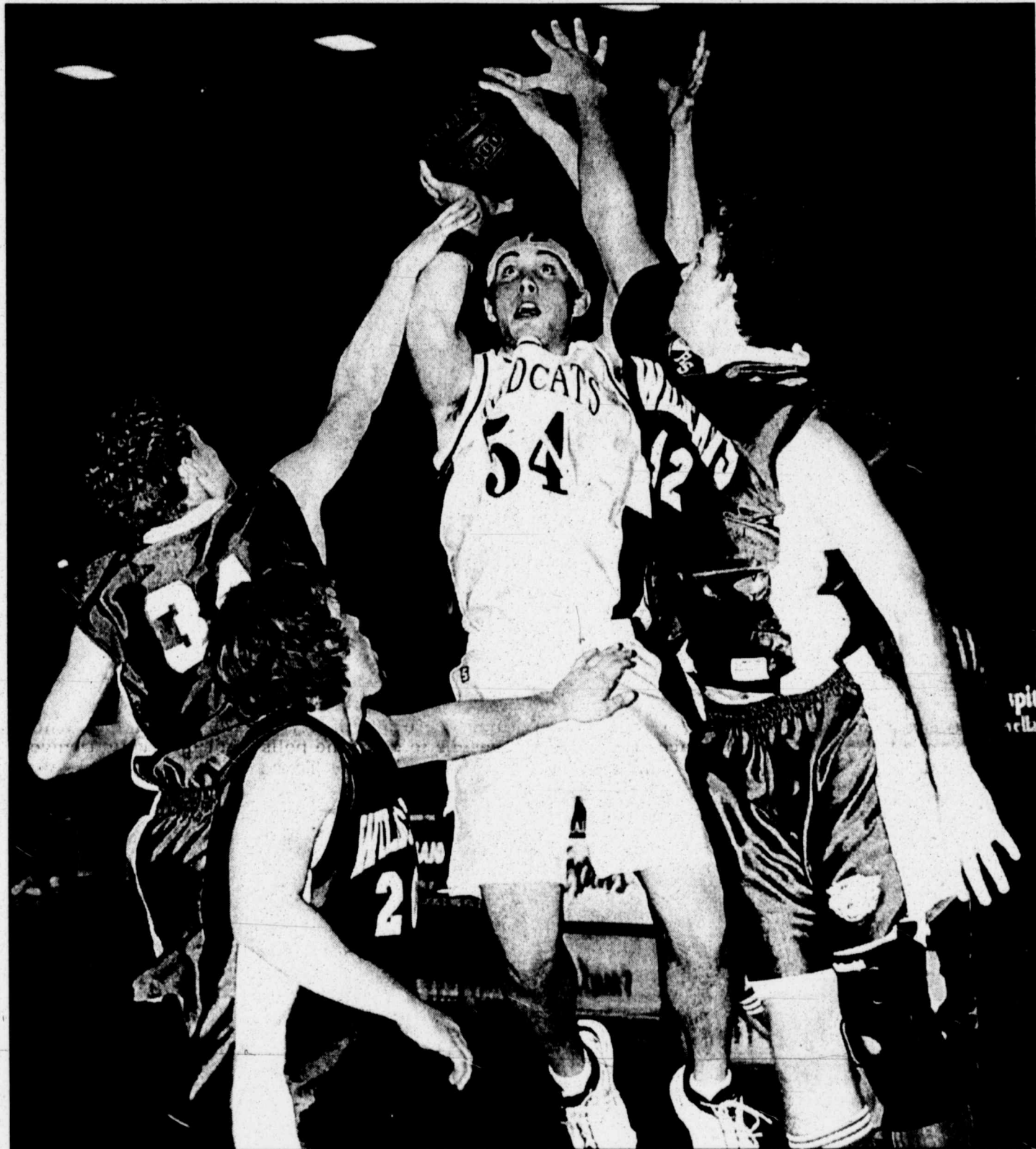
"We're going there to fight," Martelli said.

The Hawks moved up from No. 2 thanks to the loss by Stanford (26-1) Saturday. That ended the Cardinal's three-week run atop the AP poll.

Saint Joseph's received 67 first-place votes and 1,795 points from the national media panel. Second-ranked Stanford was No. 1 on two ballots and had 1,648 points.

Gonzaga (26-2) moved up one spot to No. 3, the highest ranking in school history, and received one first-place vote. Mississippi State (25-2) moved up one place to fourth, switching positions with Duke (25-4), which was No. 1 on two ballots after losing to

See POLL, Page 2B



Grady senior Jason Pribyla shoots between three Rising Star defenders in the Wildcats' 62-46 win in the Class A Division II Semi-State playoff at the Texan Dome in Levelland. Grady, 34-1, will play Neches Thursday morning for the Division II state title at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin.

Mavericks snap 3-game road slide against Suns

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks did what they do best to recover from a winless three-game road trip. They took care of business at home.

Dallas, which has the league's best home record at 29-4, beat the Phoenix Suns 103-90 on Monday night behind Dirk Nowitzki's 26 points.

The Mavericks, whose 11-19 road record could prove to be a liability in the playoffs, had lost to Houston, San Antonio and Minnesota, dropping from third to fifth in the Western Conference.

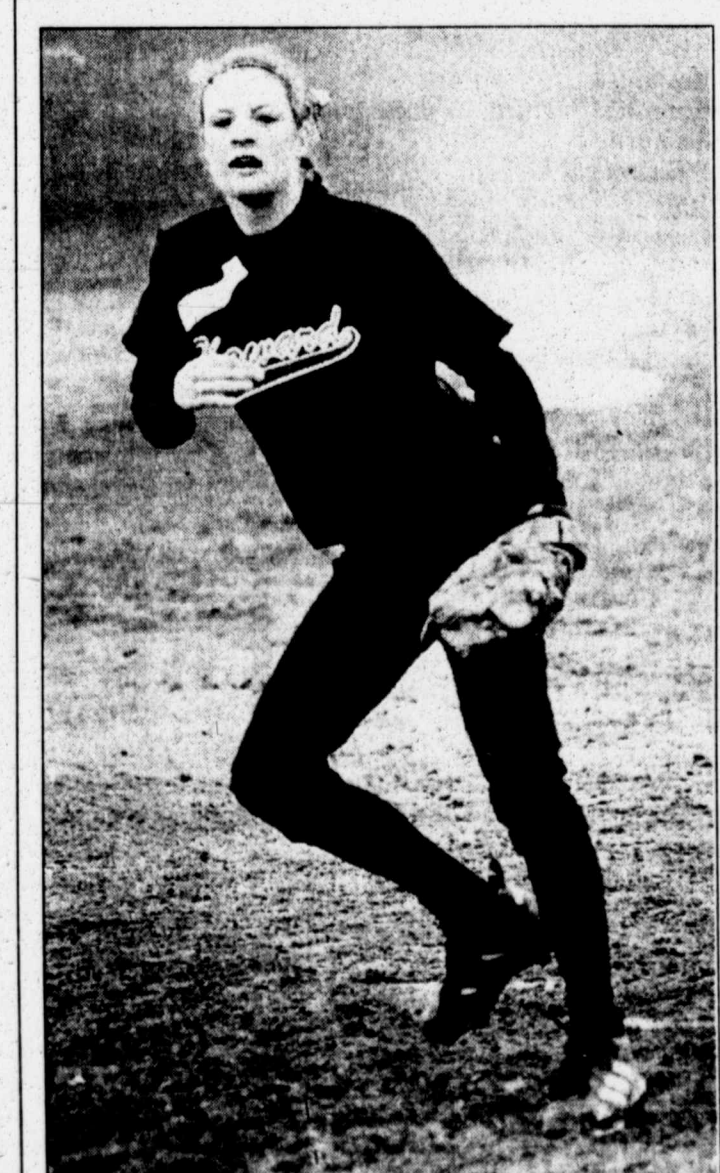
"The 0-3 trip was brutal," Nowitzki said. "We can only look forward from here. It can't get any worse."

Nowitzki scored 18 points in the first half, and the Mavericks

Softball sign-ups to start Saturday

Registration for the 2004 Big Spring Girls Softball Association will continue Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

Women and girls of all ages are encouraged to



Howard College's Nicole Chesworth delivers a pitch to the plate during the Lady Hawks' recent out at home. Howard College will return to play this weekend when they host Odessa College at Foundation Field.

Stars acquire Philly's Therien

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Stars acquired defenseman Chris Therien from the Philadelphia Flyers for two draft picks on Monday, then added veteran offensive winger Valeri Bure from the Florida Panthers later in the day in exchange for one draft pick and a prospect.

For the trade to be finalized, Bure must pass a medical exam by the Stars on Tuesday, the NHL trade deadline.

"Valeri Bure is a skilled winger that we feel will bring some offensive punch to our team," said Stars general manager Doug Armstrong.

The 5-10, 180-pound right wing currently leads Florida in scoring with 20 goals and 25 assists for 45 points in 55 games with 20 penalty minutes.

Bure, 29, who is playing in his 10th NHL season, comes in exchange for Dallas' compensatory draft pick in the 2004 NHL entry draft, awarded to the Stars for Derian Hatcher's free agent signing with Detroit last summer, and defenseman prospect Drew Bagnall, the Stars' sixth round selection in the 2003 draft.

For Therien, the Flyers get an eighth-round selection in the 2004 entry draft and a third-round choice in 2005.

The deal will be finalized as long as Therien, 32, passes a physical Tuesday.

"Chris Therien is a veteran player who will add depth, experience to our defensive corps," Armstrong said.

Steers rip Monahans

Jerry Doportto cranked out three hits, including a grand slam home run, Monday afternoon and helped the Big Spring Steers pound out an 11-4 win over the Monahans Lobos at Steer Park.

With the win, Big Spring improved to 4-2 for the year and avenged last week's loss to the Lobos in the Monahans tournament.

Doportto finished the game with four runs batted in and two stolen bases.

Lee Gillihan also had three hits.

Big Spring will play in the Greenwood Invitational beginning Thursday at Christensen Stadium in Midland.

Soriano drives in two in Rangers' 4-2 win over San Diego

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Alfonso Soriano had two hits and two RBIs, lifting the Texas Rangers to a 4-2 victory over the San Diego Padres on Monday.

Soriano, who had a double, a single and a walk, has hit safely in all four games he's played with the Rangers after being acquired from the New York Yankees for AL MVP Alex Rodriguez.

Padres slugger Phil Nevin had an MRI in San Diego that revealed a strained left shoulder. He is expected to miss about four weeks, a timetable that could have him back by opening day.

The first baseman was hurt diving for a liner against Anaheim on Sunday night, a year to the day he dislocated the same shoulder, which kept him sidelined until July 23 last season.

The Padres tied the game in the second, touching starter Mickey Callaway for two runs.

Designated hitter Miguel Ojeda hit a run-scoring double and scored on a single by Rey Ordonez, who went 2-for-3.

Texas center fielder Laynce Nix made his first game of the spring a memorable one by driving in the go-ahead run with a double that scored Fullmer, who walked.

Double-A Frisco to the big club for 53 games last season, is being given every opportunity to win the starting center field job this spring. He missed the first five games of the spring with flulike symptoms.

Young also extended a four-game hitting streak as Texas got seven extra-base hits. The Rangers averaged 10 hits in their first five spring games, and 27 of their 60 hits went for extra bases.

Munson's HR sparks Tigers past Astros

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — Eric Munson homered and Nate Cornejo pitched three scoreless innings to lead the Detroit Tigers to an 8-4 victory over the Houston Astros on Monday.

Houston right-hander Wade Miller has been a historically slow starter in spring training, and this outing was no different.

Making his first start of the spring, Miller gave up five runs and four hits in three innings.

"It wasn't as bad as it looked," said Miller, who led the Astros with 33 starts, 187 1-3 innings and 131 strikeouts last year. "I felt fine. I had a few location pitches that got me in trouble, and that's about it."

Miller retired the Tigers in order in the first before allowing five runs in the second. Munson led off with a homer to right, and Miller gave up doubles to Warren Morris and Jason Smith.

Miller pitched a scoreless third and threw 50 pitches in all, 28 for strikes. More important, he showed no signs of the arm and shoulder pain that bothered him last season.

"This time of year I usually never start out good

in spring training, but everything feels fine," Miller said. "I just have to tune into some location. My arm strength is there, I just need to fine-tune some pitches."

Cornejo started and threw only 25 pitches. He retired his last nine batters after Craig Biggio reached on an error to start the game.

The right-hander also used his split-finger fastball in a game for the second time in his career. He struck out Jeff Kent in the first inning with the splitter.

After he was done, Cornejo threw 15 pitches on the side to finish his day's work.

"I never pitch good in the spring, even in the minors," said Cornejo, one of four pitchers with a spot in the rotation locked up.

He set down all six batters he faced in two innings March 4.

"Nate Cornejo is outstanding," Tigers manager Alan Trammell said. "That's two good outings for him. I'm very happy about him. He deserves a lot of credit already."

Detroit committed six errors, giving the Tigers 17 in five games and 11 in the last two.

"It's kind of ugly right now," Trammell said.

teams were Arizona, Utah State, Memphis, Southern Illinois and Air Force.

Louisville (19-8) fell out from 25th after being ranked for the last 12 weeks, reaching No. 4. The Cardinals lost 81-80 at Marquette on Saturday, their seventh loss in 10 games.

Saint Joseph's is the sixth team to reach No. 1 this season, joining Connecticut, Kansas, Florida, Duke and Stanford.

"Being ranked No. 1 is a sign of steady improvement and the hard work we've put in all season," Saint Joseph's junior forward Pat Carroll said.

The NCAA "tournament will prove who really is the No. 1 team in the nation, but right now, it's a good feeling to have that ranking in front of us."

MAVS

Continued from Page 1B

assists from Shawn Marion, 19 points from Amare Stoudemire, and 17 from Joe Johnson.

Stoudemire had at least 20 points and led the Suns in scoring in 11 consecutive games. He fell one game short of matching the club record for leading the team in scoring set by Charlie Scott in 1974-75.

Stoudemire drew the most defensive attention from the Mavericks, who switched to a zone in the first quarter after Phoenix shredded Dallas' man-to-man early.

"We didn't want him to

get in the flow of the game," Jamison said. "He's one of those guys who's deadly when he gets the ball in the low post."

Nowitzki made his first eight shots before missing a 15-foot fallaway with 3:48 left in the third quarter. He finished 11-for-13 from the floor and added six rebounds.

Mavericks starting forward Antoine Walker had six points and eight rebounds in a season-low 18 minutes.

"I'm not going to make an issue of it," said Walker, 2-for-9 from the field. "I'm going to continue to work hard. But I can't give you anything in 18 minutes."

NBA STANDINGS

Table with columns for NBA Standings, Eastern Conference, Central Division, Western Conference, Midwest Division, Pacific Division, Monday's Games, and Wednesday's Games.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Sunday's Games, Monday's Games, Today's Games, Wednesday's Games, and NCAA Top 25.

PRCA LEADERS

Table with columns for Money Leaders, Steer Wrestling, Barrelback Riding, Team Roping (Heading), and Saddle Bronc Riding.

NHL STANDINGS

Table with columns for NHL Standings, Eastern Conference, Central Division, Northwest Division, Pacific Division, Western Conference, and Monday's Games.

COLLEGE SCORES

Table with columns for Colonial Athletic Association, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Mid-American Conference, Mid-Continent Conference, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, Missouri Valley Conference, Southland Conference, and Sun Belt Conference.

POLL

Continued from Page 1B

Georgia Tech and beating North Carolina.

Air Force moved into the Top 25 for the first time in school history. The Falcons (22-5), the No. 1 defensive team in the country, won the Mountain West regular season title.

Pittsburgh, Oklahoma State, Kentucky and Connecticut held sixth through ninth from last week, while Wisconsin moved up six places to No. 10, its highest ranking of the season.

Texas was No. 11, followed by Illinois, Cincinnati, Georgia Tech, Wake Forest, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Kansas, Syracuse and Providence.

The last five ranked

Public Announcement: Miracle-Ear is coming to you!

Miracle-Ear advertisement: Are you concerned about your hearing? Free hearing test, complete line of digital hearing aids.

Large advertisement for Miracle-Ear hearing aids, including contact information for The Choate Co. Building.

Residential advertisement: OUR RESIDENTS TELL US THEY LIKE: Space and design of homes, Rental Rates.

Coronado Hills Apartments advertisement: 801 W. Marcy • 267-6500

Tax & Financial Services advertisement: Let These Businesses & Services Help You Process Your Taxes Quickly & Easily.

Heath Hughes, CPA advertisement: Specializing in Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, Payroll And Tax Planning.

H&R BLOCK advertisement: tax, mortgage and financial services. 1512 S. Gregg Big Spring, TX 79720

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Helen Keller North Carolina woman wounded

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Vertical advertisement strip on the right edge of the page.

TUESDAY

Table of TV programs for Tuesday, March 9, 2004. Columns include channel and call letters (e.g., WFAA, KMYD, UNI), time slot, and program name.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"MR. WILSON SAYS 'MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES,' BUT I KNEW THAT... IT COMES FROM ATMs."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"I'm not sure I want you to associate with that kind of doll."

HAGAR



"HAGAR SAYS 'A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN THE HOME...'"



"SO WHAT AM I DOING OUT IN THE BACKYARD?"

BLONDIE



"WE HAVE A NEW COMPUTER GURU AT WORK WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING ALL OUR COMPUTERS PROBLEM-FREE"

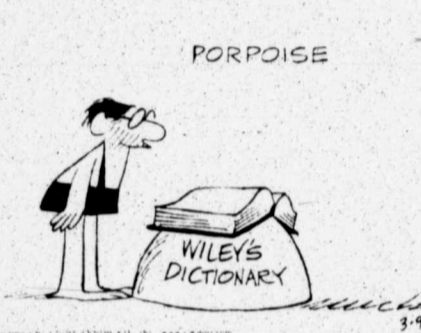


"I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO WORK OUT VERY WELL, THOUGH"

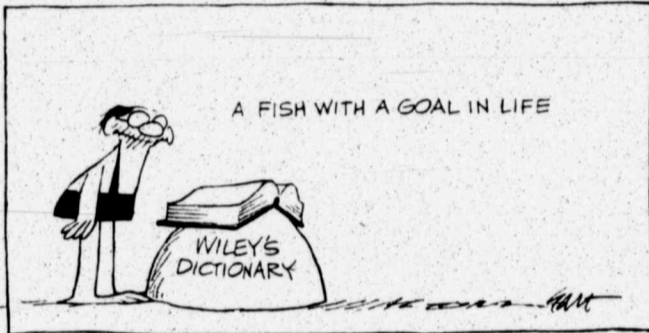


"HIS MOTHER CAN'T DROP HIM OFF TILL ALMOST 4 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON"

BC



"PORPOISE... A FISH WITH A GOAL IN LIFE"



"WILEY'S DICTIONARY... A FISH WITH A GOAL IN LIFE"

WIZARD OF ID



"DID YOU KNOW THE AVERAGE HUMAN HEAD WEIGHS FIFTEEN POUNDS?"



"HECK OF A WAY TO LOSE WEIGHT"

AGNES



"YOU'RE LIMPING! DID YOU HURT YOUR FOOT?"



"WOW! PRACTICING LIMPING SURE KICKS UP A LOT OF DUST!"

HI AND LOIS



"MY CAR IS MAKING STRANGE NOISES... WHAT DOES IT SOUND LIKE?"



"TRADE ME IN, TRADE ME IN"

THE OTHER COAST



"I BOUGHT A ROTOTILLER TO PREPARE OUR GARDEN... BUT ALL IT DOES IS STRIP OFF THE TOPSOIL."



"YOU BOUGHT A SNOWBLOWER."

SNUFFY SMITH



"WHAR'D YA GIT TH' CRIB, LOWEEZY? MY SISTER ZONEY!! I THINK I'M GONNA PUT HIM BACK IN HIS CRADLE, THOUGH!!"



"HE LOOKS TOO MUCH LIKE HIS PAW IN THAR!!"

BETTER BAILEY



"THEY SAY YOU CAN FIX STUFF... COSMO'S CORNER... I CAN FIX ANYTHING! HAVE A SEAT... LOTTO TICKETS"



"WATCH THAT CHAIR. IT KEEPS FALLING APART."

This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 9, the 69th day of 2004. There are 297 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Fifty years ago, on March 9, 1954, CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's anti-Communism campaign on an episode of "See It Now."

On this date: In 1661, Cardinal Jules Mazarin, the chief minister of France, died, leaving King Louis XIV in full control.

In 1796, the future emperor of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, married Josephine de Beauharnais. (The couple divorced in 1809.)

In 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclads Monitor

and Virginia (formerly Merrimack) clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Va.

In 1916, Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, N.M., killing more than a dozen people.

In 1933, Congress, called into special session by President Franklin Roosevelt, began its "hundred days" of enacting New Deal legislation.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers launched incendiary bomb attacks against Japan.

In 1964, the Supreme Court, in its New York Times v. Sullivan decision, ruled that public officials who charged libel could not recover damages for defamatory statements related to their official duties unless they proved actual malice on the part of the news organization.

In 1975, work began on the Alaskan oil pipeline.

In 1977, about a dozen armed Hanafi Muslims invaded three buildings in Washington, D.C., killing

one person and taking more than 130 hostages. The siege ended two days later.

Today's Birthdays: Author Mickey Spillane is 86. Singer-actress Keely Smith is 72. Singer Lloyd Price is 71. Actress Joyce Van Patten is 70. Actor-comedian Marty Ingels is 68. Country singer Mickey Gilley is 68. Singer Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere and the Raiders) is 62. TV personality Charles Gibson is 61. Chess player Bobby Fischer is 61. Actress Trish Van Devere is 59. Rock musician Robin Trower is 59. Singer Jeffrey Osborne is 56. Actress Jaime Lyn Bauer is 55.

Answer to previous puzzle grid with words like ABBR, MODES, SANK, MERE, TURNA, CHIN, ELEMENTARY, RANI, NADIA, STAS, ABET, TRAP, GNAI, ACT, PIECEOFCAKE, NERO, MNO, THREE, NLERS, TAS, SEGAL, ALACK, SHH, DONE, NOTHINGTOIT, NED, EMIR, VEIL, FIBS, EAVE, EAGLE, EDIT, CHILDSPLAY, REAR, EASED, SOME, NASA, SMART, EWES

Newsday Crossword

4-H CLUB by Lee Weaver

Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS: 1 Adventurous, 5 Caf  patron, 10 Skater, 14 Carpet's coverage, 15 Singer Judd, 16 Leave the thruway, 17 Sweetie, 19 As well, 20 Not as loud, 21 Scoreboard nos., 22 Elk relative, 23 Baffle, 25 Ruby Dee's hubby, 26 Chicken king, 29 Cleverly skillful, 31 Most luxurious, 35 Islamic salutations, 39 Mortified, 40 Like some teas, 41 Go back in, 43 Feed and protect, 44 Modest, 46 Slugger Williams, 47 Quiz answer, 50 Naval recruit, 54 Show the way, 55 Beast of burden, 56 Eaves hanging, 60 Beetle Bailey dog, 61 Fitness center, 63 From square one, 64 Distribute by portions, 65 Metric measure, 66 Mountain lake, 67 Consecrate, 68 Whirled, 12 Japanese-American, 13 Emporium, 18 Holiday in Vietnam, 24 Gym pad, 25 Former Houston footballer, 26 On with (equal to), 27 Theater section, 28 Arthur of tennis, 30 Honolulu's island, 32 Easy, as a victory, 33 Mary Kay rival, 34 Flower stalk, 36 Share a border, 37 Foal's mom, 38 Musher's vehicle, 42 Crow of Gladiator, 43 Teacher's org., 45 Thrift-shop transaction, 47 Parade vehicle, 48 MetLife rival, 49 After a while, 51 Baseball gloves, 52 Ludwig's lament, 53 Minor scratches, 55 Moby Dick captain, 57 Remove, as a coupon, 58 Dilly, 59 Black, to a bard, 62 Angeles

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 68 indicating starting positions for words.

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