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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

TUESDAY

March 23, 2004

WEATHER

Tonight:



PARTLY CLOUDY

TONIGHT TOMORROW
60°-61° 77°-79°

INSIDE



Lewis resigns as HC basketball coach

Not unexpectedly, Jim Lewis has resigned as men's basketball coach at Howard College.

BRIEFLY

'Night of Iguana' takes stage Tuesday

"The Night of the Iguana," Big Spring High School's One-Act Play, will take the stage for the public at 7 p.m. today in the high school auditorium, 707 11th Place. Admission is \$2.

Entries accepted for 'Razzmatazz'

Entries are being accepted for the Relay Rascal Razzmatazz, a children's pageant hosted by Big Spring State Hospital's Relay for Life team, "Mind, Body and Soul."

Money raised during the April 17 pageant will go towards the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fund-raising drive.

The age groups are 0-12 months, 13-23 months, 2-3 years, 4-5 years, 6-8 years and 9-12 years of age. Entry forms are due April 2, with an entry fee of \$10 per child. Forms are available from the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third Street.

For more information, call (432) 268-7399 or (432) 268-7833.

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www.bigspringherald.com

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U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, shakes the hand of Ryan Beall, who was appointed to the United States Naval Academy last week. Neugebauer was in Big Spring Monday night to officially announce his campaign for his re-election to Congress.

Neugebauer tells group he will preserve 'conservative values'

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, wrapped up a five-city tour in Big Spring Monday night, officially announcing his intent to seek re-election.

The announcement was anticlimactic, since he won the Republican nomination earlier this month.

"Big Spring is home for us," Neugebauer said to the small crowd gathered at the Dora

"We get to make sure that your conservative values that are so important to us are made known in Washington, D.C."

Roberts Community Center. "This community means a lot to us. I came here 15 months ago and stood in this very room and said I'm Randy

Neugebauer, and I want to be your next United States Congressman."

"Well, I'm Randy Neugebauer and I'm asking your help to reelect me to the United States Congress."

Neugebauer, who ran unopposed, secured the Republican nomination in the primary on March 9.

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, Howard County Commissioner Bill Crocker

See NEUGEBAUER, Page 3A

Howard College signs transfer deal with UTPB

By LYNDEL MOODY

Staff Writer

Howard College inked a deal with the University of Texas of the Permian Basin Monday to bring the two higher education entities into a closer relationship.

"We've had a very good working relationship with UTPB for several years and we believe we are ready to take this to the next level," Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks informed trustees.

Through the agreement, Howard College students can take advantage of the UTPB "Direct Connect" program which allows special opportunities for admission and transfer of credit toward a degree completion at UTPB.

Students will have access

to integrated academic advising and coordinating support from financial aid offices, and those who complete the program are assured admission to UTPB.

"This will provide additional advising to your students and help to make sure your students are not loaded down with classes that will not be transferable," added UTPB President David Watts.

In response to a shortage of people in the welding field, trustees approved the addition of Welding I course on the SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf campus for the fall semester.

"There is a need in the Permian Basin as well as across the state for a weld-

See COLLEGE, Page 3A



Howard College inked a deal with the University of Texas of the Permian Basin Monday to bring the two higher education entities into a closer working relationship. Pictured are Howard College President Dr. Cheryl Sparks, left, Howard College students Brian Patterson, Amber Ybarra and UTPB President Dr. David Watts.

Ag Expo, Luncheon tickets need to be picked up

By BILL MCCLELLAN

Herald News Editor

Agriculture? Gardening? Thursday, area farmers, ranchers and the general public will be able to take part in those activities without even having to get their hands dirty.

It's time again for the annual Ag Expo and Appreciation Luncheon at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. An added attraction this year will be a garden show.

Highlighting the day-long expo is the luncheon, which is free to all area farmers and ranchers. Guest speaker for the lunch, which begins at noon, will be state Sen. Kel Seliger. Also in attendance will be state Rep. Pete Laney.

Also during the event, the producer of the

year and agri-business of the year will be named.

While tickets are free for those in the ag industry, they must be picked up prior to the luncheon at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I think because of the really good weather we've been having lately, farmers are out in the field, and that's great news," said Liz Adamson, chamber executive assistant. "We do need them to come by soon to pick up their tickets. We still have some to get away. Unfortunately, we won't have any at the door on Thursday."

The general public is also invited, and can

See EXPO, page 3A

Lightning strike prevents Herald from updating Web site, retrieving e-mail

A lightning strike Saturday evening at Crestar Communications has prevented a number of the company's DSL customers — including the Herald — from accessing the Internet. Therefore, the Herald has not been able to update its Web site, www.bigspringherald.com, nor receive e-mail. Crestar officials are working to correct the problem and say it could be repaired by mid-afternoon today.

Bush, Clinton aides set for 9/11 hearing

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal panel reviewing the Sept. 11 attacks says a two-day hearing will focus on the Bush and Clinton administrations' failed response to the threat from al-Qaida amid new allegations that Bush officials didn't do enough to prevent the tragedy.

Timothy Roemer, a former Democratic congressman from Indiana, said officials from both administrations will face tough questions about why the government didn't consider a stronger military option sooner, particularly after U.S. intelligence received repeated warnings in early 2001 of a possible attack.

"One of the key issues in all of the hearings is going to be the question of accountability," Roemer said. "While the commission has been reluctant to name names, as we get more revealing and intriguing information, it will become more obvious to the general public. That's why these hearings are so important."

Scheduled to testify Tuesday were Secretary of State Colin Powell and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, as well as their counterparts in the Clinton administration, William Cohen and Madeleine Albright. They are appearing as part

See WARNINGS, Page 5A

Obituaries

Melvin "Mel" Prather



Melvin "Mel" Prather, 56, of Big Spring died on Saturday, March 20, 2004, in Abilene. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, 2004, at the First Baptist Church, Big Spring. Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 25, at Mount Vernon Cemetery in Mount Vernon.

Mel was born on Aug. 3, 1947, in Mount Vernon to Roy Earl and Alice Marie Jumper Prather. He attended a number of schools as a youngster and earned his GED. He gained admittance to the University of Texas at Austin where he majored in journalism and communications.

He moved to Big Spring in 1975 to become director of marketing and public relations for Webb Federal Credit Union at Webb Air Force Base, and despite many opportunities to leave Big Spring and West Texas, he made his home here until his death.

At the time of his death, Mel was the owner of Arts and Crafts Shows Inc. and produced more than 40 arts and crafts shows in West Texas, southeast New Mexico and south central Oklahoma annually. His shows were known for their quality and wide variety of merchandise as well as there was never a charge to park or for admission.

A former "Man of the Year" as named by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Mel worked tirelessly for the community and its citizens. He served as a chamber vice-president for several years, was a founding member of the Friends of the Settles and Ambassador's Club and served on the board that revived the Howard-Glasscock Old Settler Reunion.

He also served on the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Governmental Affairs Committee, Transportation Committee and worked to help make Big Spring a better community.

Mel supported the communities where he produced shows, making free booth space available to non-profit organizations so that they might be able to raise funds for their respective projects.

In 1999, Mel saw a need to help clothe the less fortunate as cold weather approached and collected nearly 900 coats for distribution throughout the community.

Mel loved his community and participated in many projects to help improve the quality of life in the community. He was a long-time participant of the Wednesday Morning Roundtable at Herman's Restaurant where community members gathered and discussed issues of importance to the community.

A man of tremendous talents, Mel passed his time hand-stitching quilts for friends and family and often had several quilts under way at one time. He was also an accomplished writer and had written a number of children's books.

Mel's home was always open to his friends, and he would rather "throw something together" than go out to eat, always adding "it's no big deal." There was seldom a time when friends weren't gathered in the kitchen or came together in his courtyard to visit, solve the problems of the world and listen to the birds he loved so much.

He was not a man of wealth, but he was always willing to share.

Big Spring is a better community because Mel chose to call it home, and all who come in contact with him are richer for that experience.

Survivors include one brother, Ron Prather of Mount Vernon; one sister, Linda Waters of Mount Vernon; one sister-in-law, Diana Prather of Mount Vernon; four nieces, Katherine Prather, Jennifer Prather, Candace Prather and Cassandra Prather, all of Mount Vernon; one nephew, Scott Moss of Indianapolis, Ind.; and two great-nephews, Alex and Hunter Moss, both of Indianapolis, Ind. He is also survived by "his little buddy," Evely Richardson of Big Spring and many, many friends in Big Spring as well as the communities where he produced shows.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother.

Pallbearers are Jerry Grimes, Jerry Groves, Ben Bancroft, Tommy Churchwell, John Walker, Todd Richardson and Duane Walker. Honorary pallbearers include Friends of the Settles, Vietnam Memorial Committee, Ambassadors Club, Arts and Crafts Shows vendors, Wade Choate, Bill Crooker, Judge Ben Lockhart, Bob Scott and John Moseley.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

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

Paid obituary

Faustino Rios

Faustino Rios, 71, passed away on Monday, March 22, 2004, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

For all of your news, sports and local information

BIG SPRING HERALD

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Police blotter

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

- **JAMES WALTER USSERY JR.**, 44, of 1203 Harding, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **JAQUIE WATERS**, 48, of 1310 Lindburgh, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.
- **KIM CARSON**, 18, of 2521 Chanute, was arrested Monday on six capias warrants and five local warrants.
- **MICHAEL DEAX**, 26, of 4405 Elder, was arrested Monday on six capias warrants and four local warrants.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Birdwell.
 - in the 1900 block of 11th Place.
 - in the 900 block of Willia.
 - in the 1800 block of Gregg.
 - in the 2400 block of South Gregg.
 - in the 300 block of Owens.
 - in the 3200 block of Cornell.
- **FORGERY OF A CHECK/CREDIT CARD** was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.

Sheriff's report

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

- **TRACY LYNN STURGILL**, 34, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a sentence for driving while intoxicated-second offense.
- **ERICA MORENO OCHOA**, 24, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and bailman off of bond for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
- **HERMAN TORRES HERNANDEZ**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **JANET DARLENE ALLRED**, 46, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the West Texas Narcotics Task Force on charges of forgery of a financial instrument and theft.
- **PATTY PANTOJA**, 30, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **JANEY BELL MCCORMICK**, 52, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of issuance of a bad check.
- **JAMES WALTER USSERY JR.**, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.

Take note

□ **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP** is requesting donations of any household items, furniture, appliances, linens, cookware and dishes to be distributed to the needy in Big Spring. Items will be picked up. Please call 263-5683 and leave a message.

□ **LIFETIME BIG SPRING** resident Mary Lancaster has been diagnosed with cancer, and is in need of several scans that are not covered by her health insurance. Lancaster's family is asking for donations to cover the cost of the scans, which range in the thousands of dollars. Donations can be made at Wood Forest National Bank, located in Wal-Mart, in the name of Mary Lancaster.

□ **BIG SPRING AND SURROUNDING** counties are in critical need of foster families. Foster parents are the caretakers for the children in the community who have been abused or neglected.

For more information on becoming foster parents or adoptive families, call the Children's Protective Services office at 263-9669.

□ **A FUND HAS BEEN** established at the First Bank of West Texas, 1810 FM 700, to help with the medical expenses of 30-year-old Misty McCullum Wilson, who was diagnosed with cancer more than two months ago. Wilson, who went to Coahoma High School before moving to Lubbock, requires radiation treatments expected to cost \$10,000 per visit.

□ **SPRING TABERNACLE CHURCH**, 1209 Wright, has free food for the area needy. Distribution is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon every Thursday.

Weather

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Winds 10-20 mph. Lows in the lower 60s.
Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Winds 10-20 mph. Highs in the upper 70s. Lows in the upper 50s.
Thursday...Partly cloudy. Winds 10-20 mph. Highs in the lower 80s. Lows in the upper 50s.
Friday...Partly cloudy. Winds 10-20 mph. Highs in the upper 70s. Lows in the lower 60s.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Winds 10-20 mph. Highs in the upper 70s. Lows in the mid 50s.

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Bulletin board

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

- TODAY**
- Intermediate Line dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Senior Citizens Center. 267-1628.
 - Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.

- WEDNESDAY**
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.
 - Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Senior Citizen Center at the Industrial Park.
 - Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
 - Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
 - Senior Circle meets at 10 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone.

- THURSDAY**
- Masonic Lodge 598 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 219 Main St.
 - Arts, Crafts and Quilting Club meets at 6 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main at 500 S. Main St.
 - "Life After Loss," a grief support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one, meets from 6-8 p.m. for the next six weeks at Home Hospice, 600 S. Gregg St. Registration is required. For more information contact Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.
 - Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
 - Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
 - Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.

- FRIDAY**
- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
 - Spring City Senior Citizen's Country and Western Dance from 7:30-10:30 p.m. All area seniors are invited.
 - AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
 - Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.

- SATURDAY**
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
 - Potton House, 200 Gregg, a restored historic home, is open from 1-5 p.m. Admission fee is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children and senior citizens.
 - Heritage Museum, 510 Scurry, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Hangar 25 Air Museum, located at the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark, is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 1:30-4 p.m.

Support groups

THURSDAY
□ Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; Women's meeting; 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Non-Smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

□ The Fibromyalgia Autoimmune Disease Support Group will meet only on the second Thursday of the month at noon at the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center. The group will no longer meet weekly.

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

FRIDAY
□ AA open discussion meeting from noon to 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Noon Open Big Book Study Meeting, 8 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY
□ Open Discussion Meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open Podium/Speakers Meeting 615 Settles 8 to 9 p.m. Open Birthday Night, No Smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

BIG SPRING HERALD
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Reflecting A Proud Community

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Dr. David College College closer w

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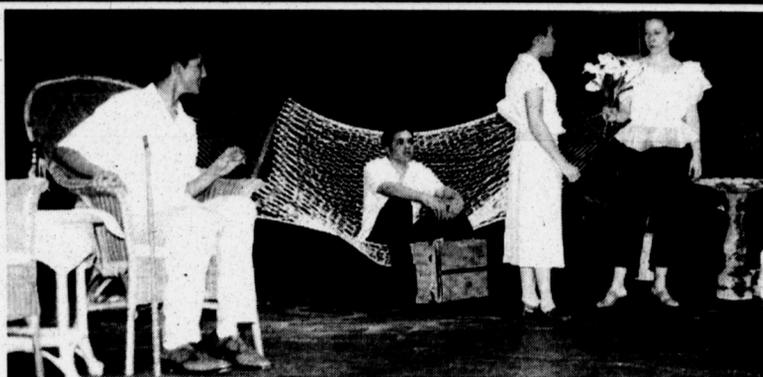
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HERALD photo/Lyndel Moody
Dr. David Watts, University of Texas of the Permian Basin, shakes the hand of Howard College student Brian Patterson while fellow student Amber Ybarra looks on. Howard College inked a deal with UTPB Monday to bring the two higher education entities into a closer working relationship.



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Big Spring High School Juniors Corey Green, left, and Tapley Holguin and seniors Gaby Sifuentes and Reina Cisneros rehearse a scene in Tennessee Williams' "The Night of the Iguana." The cast and crew of the one-act play will hold a public performance at 7 p.m. today in the high school auditorium, 707 11th Place. Admission is \$2.

COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1A

ing problem," Sparks said.

According to SWCID pro-vost Ron Brasel, those who finish the course will gain the basic knowledge of the welding skills.

Other course changes included the addition of an anthropology class in the Howard College core

EXPO

Continued from Page 1A

have lunch for \$10 each. Again, tickets are available at the Chamber office.

"We encourage people to come out and support our local farmers and ranchers," said Adamson.

Meanwhile, the Ag Committee is working with the Howard County Master Gardeners, the Spade and Hoe Garden Club and Keep Big Spring Beautiful to play host to a garden show. Booths spaces are still available for \$100 for any business that would like to set up displays.

There is no charge to attend the Expo, which will begin at 8 a.m. and

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curriculum and the deletion of a music interpretation course.

In other business, trustees authorized:

The administration to sign an electricity inter-local agreement with the Texas Association of School Boards and an estimated \$19,900 bid from Tyco Health Care for a ventilator to be used as a teaching tool on the San Angelo campus.

A new vocational program at the Federal Correctional Institute — Big Spring. The Ornamental Horticulture program will be added to the 10 other vocations programs the college helps provide at the prison.

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

continue into the afternoon. In addition to agricultural and gardening booths, demonstrations will include such topics as "West Texas Landscape Design," "Composting" and "How to Xeorscape," along with others.

"Whether you are an active gardening enthusi-

ast or a beginner 'green thumb' — there will be something for you," said Debbye ValVerde, Chamber executive director.

Anyone interested in having a booth at the Ag Expo/Garden Show, is asked to call the Chamber office for a registration form, 263-7641.

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Heart of the City Park
(across from the courthouse)
Big Spring, Texas
Free to the Public
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NEUGEBAUER

Continued from Page 1A

and World War II veteran Leo Welch all took turns introducing the congressman.

"When I think of Randy Neugebauer, I smile," McEwen said. "I know he'll be a great representative in the new district. We're lucky he is still our representative."

The freshman congressman called his past nine months of service in public office an honor and touted his commitment to conservative values.

"We get to make sure that your conservative values that are so important to us are made known in Washington, D.C.," he said.

The nation's future is at a pivotal point, Neugebauer said, from those who want to "erode the precious liberties and treasured values all of us share."

Both he and President George W. Bush hope to protect many of the same concerns and values, he said.

"Values, we believe, like a marriage is between a man and a woman," he said. "I am

committed to permanently repealing the death tax in America. Death should not be a taxable event in our country."

Neugebauer reaffirmed his commitment to foster an environment for successful small businesses, protect water resources, the Farm Bill and the security of the country.

Career politicians in Washington, D.C. should be replaced by problem-solvers who will serve as catalysts for change, Neugebauer said, and called on Christian businessmen and women to step up to the call of public service.

Neugebauer also reaffirmed his commitment to the fight to keep the Big Spring VA Medical Center open.

The hospital was recommended for a feasibility study on the possibility of closing services as part of a plan to realign the Department of Veteran's Affairs medical services.

"Nobody is working any harder to make sure this hospital stays here than Randy Neugebauer, and I will continue to work with your leadership until we get the right answer and that is the veterans continue to get the quality care that they

need at the Big Spring hospital," he said.

Neugebauer said he is a champion of Big Spring and the Big Country.

"I'm standing before you asking to be your next congressman," he ended.

Neugebauer will be opposed in the November election by Charles Stenholm, D-Abilene, who for many years served as Howard County's U.S. congressman.

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

MYERS & SMITH
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24th & Johnson 267-8288

Jesse Murray Looney, 78, died Friday. Services are 10:00 AM today at Myers & Smith chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

R.G. (Glenn) Click, 77, died Saturday. Services will be 3:00 PM today at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

Faustino Rios, 77, died Monday. Services are pending.

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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.

Susanne Reed
PublisherJohn A. Moseley
Managing EditorBill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Get tickets now
for Thursday's
ag luncheon here

Calling all farmers and ranchers: Tickets for your luncheon are ready to be picked up at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

That's right, the annual Ag Expo and Appreciation Luncheon is just a couple of days away — Thursday, in fact. The luncheon is held as a tribute to those men and women who make their living off the land. As a result, area ranchers and farmers are treated to a meal, and the producer of the year and agri-businesses of the year are recognized.

Each year, between 350 and 400 farmers and ranchers are fed at the event, which costs around \$4,000. Anyone else can attend for \$10 each. And that's where the rest of us come in. Your \$10 ticket helps pay for your meal and helps offset the overall cost of this very worthwhile event. Guest speaker for the luncheon will be state Sen. Kel Seliger.

Of course, the luncheon is not the only activity going on at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on Thursday. Free to the public, the Ag Expo and Garden Show will be held at the same time. Doors open at 8 a.m. Expo-goers can visit various ag and gardening related booths, and the Spade and Hoe Garden Club, Keep Spring Beautiful and the Howard Master Gardeners will be on hand to give free presentations on a variety of topics.

By the way, it's still not too late to set up a booth at the Expo. Call Liz Adamson at 263-7641 to make reservations for that.

It all sounds like a wonderful time, and a great salute to our hard-working ranchers and farmers.

Don't forget, pick up your free or paid tickets at the Chamber quickly. There won't be any available at the event itself.

We'll see you there.

Presidential campaign caught in vicious cycle

The George W. Bush and John Kerry campaigns are now caught up in a vicious cycle of attack and respond.

While each knows it needs to build a positive image for its candidate, each also believes it must use precious time and resources to respond to attacks from the other side and to launch its own attacks, forcing the other side to respond.

Because Kerry has fewer resources and is less well known than Bush, he may suffer from this kind of competition.

But the Bush campaign is clearly worried, if not downright frightened. It has used its greatest resource, the president himself, very early in the campaign to launch attacks not only at political events but from the Oval Office itself.

There are certain benefits an incumbent president gets by remaining above the fray, by staying non-political as long as possible and by doing the public's business before he does his own political business.

But clearly the Bush campaign was concerned with polling that showed if Bush remained on a presidential pedestal, Kerry might open up too large a lead.

So now we have two candidates bashing each other very early. Why? Michael Dukakis and 1988, that's why.

The lesson that Democrats take away from that campaign is that Dukakis did not defend himself early and vigorously enough from the Bush attacks on Willie Horton and other issues.

Just this week, George Stephanopoulos of ABC News said the "Kerry campaign remembers 1988, feeling that Michael Dukakis didn't fight back strongly enough against the first campaign by President Bush."

The lesson that Republicans take away from that campaign is that it pays to attack often and early.

In case you were not around, Willie Horton was a convicted murderer who was granted 10 weekend furloughs from prison in Massachusetts under the administration of Gov. Michael Dukakis. Nine times, Horton returned to his cell. The tenth time, he fled to Maryland, broke into a home, repeatedly slashed a man with a knife, and beat and raped a woman. Horton was caught and sentenced to two consecutive life terms plus 85 years in a Maryland prison.

The sentencing judge refused to return Horton to Massachusetts, saying, "I'm not prepared to take the chance that Mr. Horton might again be furloughed or otherwise released."

But Dukakis was sure the Horton affair could not be used

against him. When Al Gore raised the issue in a New York primary debate, the Democratic crowd booed Gore and applauded Dukakis when Dukakis explained the "facts":

Under Dukakis, Massachusetts had one of the lowest crime and incarceration rates of any industrialized state in the country. Furloughs were cost-effective. They were progressive. They were sensible. Michael Dukakis understood that kind of thing. His life revolved around that kind of thing. Government was based on sense. And furloughs made sense.

But Bush's campaign manager, Lee Atwater, knew that politics often had little to do with sense and much more to do with fear. "The Horton case is one of those gut issues that are value issues, particularly in the South," Atwater said. "And if we hammer at these over and over, we are going to win."

Nobody had to ask what Atwater meant by "particularly in the South." Photographs of Horton showed a frightening-looking black man, and Atwater knew the media could not resist running that picture.

And the media could not. Every time George Bush raised the Horton issue, the media ran the Horton picture. Later, a group acting in support of the Bush campaign also ran Horton's picture in a television commercial. And the Bush campaign ran an ad that featured both white and black "prisoners" going through a revolving door.

Today, the use of Willie Horton almost certainly would be denounced fairly or not as racism, but Dukakis did not want to do that. His campaign was going after "Bubba" and "Joe Six Pack" voters, too. So Dukakis' campaign manager, Susan Estrich, was told to stay away from raising the race issue. "I am not proud of our silence," she said later.

But it was not as if Dukakis did not attack Bush at all. By July, Dukakis was already hitting back at Bush in his speeches. And he had always been tough on Bush. He had said Bush "made deals with foreign drug-runners" and was secretly planning to cut Social Security benefits. He said Bush had lied about the Iran-Contra affair.

And the polls were showing Dukakis well ahead in July. So why screw around with a winning game? Besides, what was he going to say about Willie Horton that the public would buy?

This was best demonstrated at the time by a senior Dukakis aide who disgustingly pushed a piece of paper across a table at me and said: "OK, you write our response to Willie Horton. You write the catchy phrase. You come up with the 30-second spot. You come up with the jingle. What are we supposed to say? That Horton wasn't let out of prison and that he didn't

rape that woman? What the hell are we supposed to say?"

So instead of responding to Horton directly, Dukakis tried to exploit public disgust at the whole nature of the campaign. Dukakis ran a commercial in late October called "Counterpunch," in which he is watching a Bush negative ad on TV.

Dukakis snaps off the set in disgust and turns to the camera and says: "I'm fed up with it. Haven't seen anything like it in 25 years of public life. George Bush's negative TV ads: distorting my record, full of lies, and he knows it."

But the ad was judged not very effective, so Dukakis took the final step. There is an old saying that you should never get down in the mud with a pig because all that will happen is you will get dirty and the pig will like it.

But with the Angel Medrano ad, Mike Dukakis got down in the mud with George Bush.

"George Bush talks a lot about prison furloughs," the Dukakis ad said. "But he won't tell you that the Massachusetts program was started by a Republican governor and stopped by Mike Dukakis. And Bush won't talk about the thousands of drug kingpins furloughed from federal prisons while he led the war on drugs."

Then the photo of Angel Medrano, a convicted heroin dealer, appears on the screen.

"Bush won't talk about this drug pusher — one of his furloughed heroin dealers — who raped and murdered Patsy Pedrin, pregnant mother of two."

The picture of Patsy Pedrin being carried away in a body bag flashes on the screen.

"The real story about furloughs," the ad concludes, "is that George Bush has taken a furlough from the truth."

The Bush campaign felt that Dukakis had given up any moral superiority by running that ad. After all, the Bush campaign had never "officially" used a picture of a black man, while the Dukakis campaign had "officially" used the picture of a Hispanic.

"What about their ad about the halfway house?" Bush told reporters whenever they brought up Willie Horton. "Is that racism against Hispanics? That's what I think."

Mike Dukakis was sure that the voters would see through Bush's attacks. "The American people can smell the garbage," Dukakis said.

But by the end of the campaign, neither side was exactly smelling like a rose.

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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ROGER SIMON

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

The freshman class at Big Spring High School would like to thank the people who made contributions to the freshman float during Homecoming 2003. These people either contributed time, money, energy or supplies to get the float made and presented in the Homecoming 2003 Parade.

We apologize to these people/business for the tardiness of this 'thank you'. Your kindness did not go unnoticed. Thank you.

NICK ROSS
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

I wanted to share some dog stories, in response to the letter to the editor concerning a dog attack.

Some years ago, I lost one of my four-legged friends, the aged, blind Annie who had slipped out of our fenced yard, to an attack by two loose dogs. These dogs were Australian Cattle Dogs, or heelers. When out riding my horse one day, we were attacked by another loose dog, who happened to be a black Labrador Retriever. We chased the dog back to his home, and he decided to leave us alone after that.

The one thing these two stories have in common with the story from that letter is obviously not the breed of the dogs, but the lack of responsibility of the dogs' owners.

One of my newer four-legged friends, named Sebastian, and I have attended an absolutely wonderful program offered by the American Kennel Club, a course for dogs and owners to learn good manners and proper ways of handling our pets. This is the Canine Good Citizen program.

One of the requisites for enrollment and graduation is that the owner signs the Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge. And on that pledge is the promise to keep one's dog in a fenced area, for the safety of the dog and of his neighbors.

In my opinion, if the owners of the dogs mentioned here and in the letter cared one whit about their pets, they would have kept the animals from running loose. It's not the breed of the dog that causes the trouble, it's the breeding of the owners.

Please don't condemn a whole breed of dog based on horror stories that have come about due to mishandling by those dogs' irresponsible owners. I know it sounds trite, but these stories come from no fault of the dogs, regardless of their breeds.

I can think of so many breeds of dog who've gone through periods of bad press over the years, such as German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers, Chows and Great Danes, and are all dogs that became very popular and then were mishandled by irresponsible owners.

That's another facet of responsible dog ownership — learn about the different breeds and their traits and whether those traits will match yours. Don't take on a certain breed of dog just because it's currently popular. They have all weathered their storms, and so will the pit bulls. Please read the breed literature about these dogs and get to know them in the hands of loving, caring, knowledgeable owners. They're not bad dogs.

And, while I'm on my soapbox, may I mention that in one year's report of 300 fatal dog attacks, none of those attacks

were perpetrated by neutered dogs. Now, we're back to responsible dog ownership again.

So, please, all dog owners, have proper facilities for your dogs, respect your dogs and your neighbors, get your pets neutered and get training for yourself and your four-legged friend. It's not difficult. The training is fun! Sebastian and I had a wonderful time, and he wears his CGC tag proudly.

Oh, by the way, Sebastian, who shares a large fenced yard with three other dogs, is a neutered American Staffordshire Terrier, aka "pit bull."

J.L. LUSK
BIG SPRINGVELMA REID
COAHOMA

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm writing in regard to a column on Feb. 28-29 By Debra Saunders concerning the Corporate Welfare Bonanza and the Farm Bill.

In my opinion she is misinformed. Agriculture is not a welfare recipient but a big contributor to our economy.

Ask the local merchants how agriculture affects the local economy.

When agriculture thrives, businesses prosper.

Agriculture provides food and fiber for this and other countries.

The producers are also taxpayers that help pay for other projects.

In the past ten years, many farmers have gone out of business, due to low prices, the drought, high cost of equipment and fuel costs.

The Farm Bill is not a budget buster but takes only a small portion of it. Part of this goes to food stamps and other pro-

grams.

Billions have been spent on the war in Iraq. More is asked for to rebuild and help their people who hate Americans. Our soldiers have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and others. The people in the U.S. should be the first priority.

Agriculture has drawn a lot of criticism due to bad publicity concerning the Farm Bill. I believe that credit is due because of the contribution it makes.

When you eat, think of where your food comes from and be thankful that we live in a land of plenty with the cheapest food in the world.

TO THE EDITOR:

The Big Spring Prospectors Club would like to thank the Big Spring Herald for its news coverage before, during and following our Gem and Mineral Show held on March 6-7.

We would also like to thank radios stations, KBST, KBYG, KVMC and KGEE for public service announcements about our show, as well as KWES, Channel 9, TV for its coverage of our show.

Our attendance was very good this year, in part due to the publicity we had before the show.

A very special thank you goes out to all the area businesses whose ads appeared in our show book. Because of their generosity with their advertising, we were able to have free admission to the show.

LOLA LAMB
BIG SPRING

Commissioners OK resolution, purchase of firetruck

By MARSHA STURDIVANT
Features Editor

Howard County commissioners on Monday approved the purchase of a \$223,000 fire truck for the volunteer fire department, approved a resolution regarding the sale of groundwater from state lands, and agreed to go out on bid for renovations to the annex building counter.

"The volunteers raised the 10 percent matching funds for the new fire truck and \$200,000 of the funds was a grant, so this truck didn't cost us a cent,"

said Commissioner Bill Crooker.

The resolution for the sale of groundwater is actually a resolution against selling underground water. Commissioners voted unanimously for the resolution to prevent the privatized sale of groundwater.

A renovation of the counter in the Courthouse Annex building in the tax assessor/collector's offices received an estimate of \$33,900 from Phil Furqueron, construction administrator.

"We'll have to bid this out," said Crooker.

Commissioner Kilgore said the renovations are needed to bring the counter into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as provide privacy for the voter registration area.

Howard County Road Commissioner Eddy Jameson received approval from commissioners to bid for aggregate and asphalt road materials. Each precinct should receive up to five miles of road work.

Sheriff Dale Walker presented his yearly profiling report, telling commissioners, "We've

had zero complaints of racial profiling in Howard County for last year and this year."

A county jail inspection is scheduled for today, and Walker said the painting and refurbishment are complete.

"We're ready," he said. A continuing telephone system upgrade for the courthouse was approved, as were hiring three part-time employees and a full-time clerk.

The audit by Kenneth Booth gave the county a pat on the back, and Hollis McCright, Howard County librarian,

expressed concern over the continuing flooding problem in the basement of the library.

"This has been a millstone hanging around our neck for a long time now," Crooker said of the flooding problem.

Furqueron said drainage pipes were removed during the library's renovation. He is attempting to locate a sheet metal worker to create new drain pipes.

McCright said she hopes the problem may be fixed before the summer reading program begins June 1.

WARNINGS

Continued from Page 1A

of the panel's review of failures in diplomatic and military strategy.

Commissioners say questions for Clinton officials include why the administration reverted to a nonmilitary approach despite knowledge that al-Qaida terrorists had planned attacks to coincide with the Dec. 31, 1999, millennium festivities and particularly after the October 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in 1998, Clinton had ordered cruise missile attacks on al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan and a factory in Sudan in retaliation for al-Qaida's suspected role in the bombing of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Osama bin Laden is thought to have narrowly escaped the attacks in Afghanistan.

Bush officials, meanwhile, should expect scrutiny about their counterterrorism strategy after taking office in January 2001 and whether officials downplayed the al-Qaida threat despite warnings from Clinton officials as well as growing intelligence chatter about a possible strike during the summer of 2001.

"We will focus on the leadup to 9-11 and the extraordinary informa-

tion that was being collected during the summer of 2001 and how that information was or was not disseminated to the appropriate agencies," said Richard Ben-Veniste, a Democratic commissioner and former Watergate prosecutor.

The hearing comes as President Bush's re-election campaign is showcasing his role as a wartime president. And it follows explosive allegations in a book released Monday by Richard A. Clarke, Bush's former counterterrorism coordinator and a holdover from the Clinton administration.

Clarke said he warned Bush officials in a January 2001 memo, just as they were taking office, about the growing al-Qaida threat after the Cole attack but was put off by national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, who "gave me the impression she had never heard the term before."

Rice responded in a series of morning talk show interviews Monday that she asked Clarke to come back with a more comprehensive strategy to eliminate al-Qaida, including military options rather than "pin-prick strikes against training camps that had already been abandoned."

Clarke resigned his White House job 13 months ago, after holding senior posts under

Presidents Reagan and Clinton and the first President Bush.

In his book, "Against All Enemies," Clarke wrote that the current president "launched an unnecessary and costly war in Iraq that strengthened the fundamentalist, radical Islamic terrorist movement worldwide."

Vice President Dick Cheney said Monday of Clarke's assertions, "I fundamentally disagree with his assessment both of recent history, but also in terms of how to deal with the problem" of global terrorism.

Clarke "wasn't in the loop, frankly, on a lot of this stuff," Cheney said in a telephone interview with radio commentator Rush Limbaugh.

Clarke was scheduled to testify Wednesday, along with CIA Director George Tenet; Clinton national security adviser Sandy Berger, who was Rice's predecessor, and Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

The 10-member commission has invited Rice to testify, but she has declined on the advice of the White House, which cited separation of power concerns involving its staff appearing before a legislative body.

Rice did meet privately with commission members for four hours on Feb. 7 in what Ben-Veniste termed a "very useful interview" in which he found her " candid and forthcoming."

Running nose, itchy skin, sore or tickly throat, watery eyes, wheezing, indigestion, fatigue, headaches, diarrhea/constipation, canker sores, frequent urination...

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HOMA JR., THE CONDOR

Homa Jr. was a condor who lived on a cliff in the mountains far, far away. Now Homa Jr. was a really, really big bird! All of the other birds thought Homa Jr. wasn't very smart because he was so big. They would tease him all the time. They would ask him, "What is two plus two?" Homa Jr. would answer, "Five!" He knew that the right answer was "four," but that was his way of teasing them!

The treetops would be full of birds singing their sweet melodies. You could hear them from far away. Their songs were so pleasant to hear. Even the trees seemed to love their music. They would sway back and forth with the help of the breeze as they were listening to the sweet songs.

Homa Jr. would fly up to the treetops to join in the singing, but when he landed on a branch, it would break because he was so big! Even when he perched on a big rock and tried to sing, it was awful! His voice was so deep that it sounded like a locomotive with something missing. He couldn't sing even low notes! And high notes were out of the question.

Some days the other birds would play games. One of their favorites was flying in between small trees, zig-zagging their way through, howling with laughter, missing each tree within inches!

Whenever Homa Jr. tried this, why, he was so big that he broke the tree branches and sometimes even broke the trees themselves!

Homa Jr. was just too big to play these games! He couldn't hold a twig to build a nest like most birds do because his talons were so big. He had to live in a cave on the mountaintop. But the cave was a large one, so Homa Jr. felt very comfortable there. He had actually made a nice home with everything that he needed right there.

One day the other birds wanted to play hide and seek, but Homa Jr. was so big that he couldn't find a place to hide. So he decided to just go home. "They will never play with me," he thought. Poor Homa Jr.!

Months and months passed with Homa Jr. having no one to play with. Then, one morning, all the birds and animals smelled something that they all dreaded to smell! It was smoke from a forest fire! The fire spread quickly and came closer and closer. "What are we going to do?" said all of the birds and animals. The animals said, "We can't fly like birds, so we are scared!"

The little birds said, "We can't fly high enough to get above the fire and smoke, so we are scared, too!" Homa Jr. was sitting high up on the mountainside, and he could see everything. He saw the fire and smoke!

Now, Homa Jr. was used to flying high. He could even fly as high as the clouds if he wanted to. He thought about all of the little birds and animals down there in all of that danger and knew that he had to do something to help them. So he took off flying straight down into the forest where his friends were!

"Quickly," he shouted, "As many of you as possible jump on my back and hold on! I can fly you out of here!" Trip after trip, Homa Jr. carried the birds and animals to a safe place across a river that ran down from the mountains. He didn't stop until everyone was safe! "Thank goodness Homa Jr. is so big and strong," everyone said.

"I'm glad he was here," said the armadillo. "Me, too," said the opossum. "Me, too," said the raccoon.

"Me, too," said all of the other birds and animals.

At the end of the day, Homa Jr. flew back to his home feeling tired but also feeling pretty good about himself. He was glad that he could help his friends. And you know what? All of the birds and animals were feeling pretty good about Homa Jr., too!

The next day, everyone decided to always play games that Homa Jr. could play, because they wanted their best friend to play with them from then on!

Good Night!

Especially for kids and their families

The Mini Page

By BETTY DEBNAM

The Natural State

Arkansas From A to Z



Arkansas is a scenic state with mountains, valleys, forests, rivers, natural springs and farmland. It offers year-round fishing sites, six national parks and 51 state parks. Farming, mining and manufacturing are important, too.

Soybean, wheat, cotton, hay, corn and rice are major crops. Livestock production includes chickens, beef cattle, hogs, dairy cows and turkeys.

Natural gas, petroleum, bromine and quartz are the top minerals produced.

Clothes, furniture, prepared foods, electrical equipment, boats and paper products are the leading manufactured products.

In 1541, a Spanish explorer named Hernando de Soto explored the land. Arkansas became a state in 1836. It is the 27th largest state in size and home to 2.76 million Arkansans.

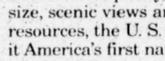


The Crater of Diamonds State Park allows its visitors to explore the mines and keep the diamonds they find.

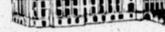


The **Apple Blossom** is the official state flower.

The **Buffalo National River** runs through the Ozark Mountains. Based on its purity, size, scenic views and natural resources, the U. S. Congress declared it America's first national river in 1972.



The state **Capital** is Little Rock, the largest city in Arkansas. The **Capitol** building is modeled after our nation's capitol.



Bill Clinton, the 42nd U.S. president, was born in Hope, Ark.

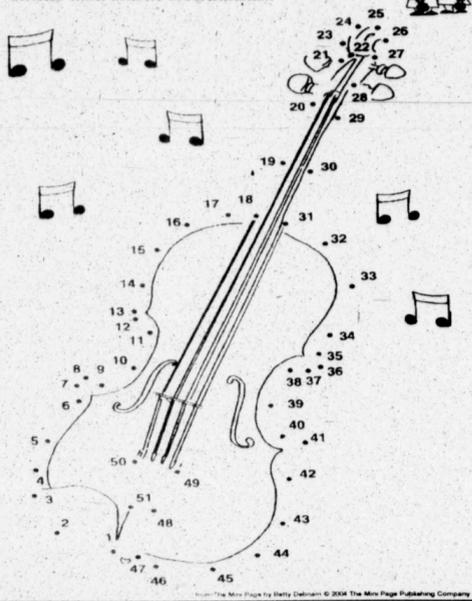
The **Diamond** is the official state gem.

The **Economy** depends on livestock, which brings in 60 percent of the state's farm income.

Farmland takes up about half the state.

Fishing is a popular sport and attracts many visitors.

Go dot to dot and color the official instrument of Arkansas.



Rookie Cookie's Recipe Dried Fruit Rice

You'll need:

- 1 (6-ounce box) long grain and wild rice, with seasoning
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup dried apricots, cut in small pieces
- 1/2 cup dried cherries

What to do:

- In a large saucepan, combine rice, seasoning and chicken broth.
- Cook according to package directions, using broth in place of water.
- Add the raisins, apricots and cherries the last five minutes of cooking time.
- Stir rice mixture a few times.
- Remove from heat and serve. Serves 4.

Note: You will need an adult to help with this recipe.



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Gus Goodsport's Report Supersport: John McDonnell

Birthdate: 7-2-1938
Hometown: County Mayo, Ireland

Just call John McDonnell the "Championship Coach." He has guided the University of Arkansas track and cross-country teams to 38 national titles, more than any other college coach in any sport. His squads also have won 71 conference crowns.

Despite his amazing success, McDonnell remains humble and is noted for instilling the right values in his athletes.

But McDonnell hadn't planned on coaching. In 1964 he came to New York City from Ireland and worked as a television cameraman. He wound up going to college at Southwestern Louisiana and becoming a track All-American. Then he began coaching.

McDonnell, married and the father of two children, also likes to spend time on his cattle ranch in Oklahoma. But he's in "hog heaven" when coaching his Razorback teams.

Meet Bobb'e J. Thompson

Bobb'e J. Thompson was born in Kansas City, Mo. He started singing at church with his family when he was just 2 years old. Bobb'e used to perform for friends and neighbors.

He was only 5 years old when he won a local talent show and the chance to compete in another kids' talent show in New York City. He won that one, too. After Bobb'e appeared on a talk show, a talent agent saw him, and his career as a young actor began.

Today, at age 8, he plays Jimmy Mitchell, the youngest son, in the comedy "The Tracy Morgan Show." He has also starred in the shows "My Wife and Kids" and "Daggy Fizzle Televizzle." Bobb'e has parts in several upcoming movies.

When not on the set, Bobb'e lives with his family in Kansas City. He is the youngest of nine sisters and brothers. He likes playing basketball.

Mighty Funny's Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Baird: What did the strawberry say to the girl who had all A's and B's on her report card?
Eve: "Berry good!"

Lillian: What would you call a duck with all A's on his report card?
Duncan: A wise quacker!

Grandpa: Joe, why did you get a C in history? I used to get all A's when I was your age.
Joe: But you had it easier! History was 50 years shorter!

Arkansas Try 'N Find

Words and names that remind us of Arkansas are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward, both up and down, and diagonally. Some letters are used twice. See if you can find: ARKANSAS, BROILERS, NATURAL, STATE, RESOURCES, RIVERS, FORESTS, MINING, BAUXITE, LITTLE, ROCK, FOLK, MUSIC, APPLE, BLOSSOM, PINE, TREE, HONEYBEE, DIAMOND, FARMS, FIDDLE, RICE, SOYBEANS.

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R D K B M A E C A T A K O L E
S R O C K F E C I S U M S B E
A N A T U R A L I S T S E R O F

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and Alpha Betty are hiking in the Ozark mountains in Arkansas. See if you can find: • man in the moon • question mark

- whale
- word MINI
- duck
- bell
- snail • cat
- mushroom
- strawberry
- two fish
- frog
- lima bean
- letter A
- pumpkin
- number 6
- heart

More About Arkansas

Geologists (scientists who study the history of rocks) say that among the great natural oddities in the world are the tree-covered hills in the middle of a flat area in eastern Arkansas, called Crowley's Ridge.

Hot Springs National Park is located at the base of Hot Springs Mountain. Forty-seven other springs flow in the area. In 1921 it became our 18th national park.

The **Honeybee** is the official state insect.

The official **Instrument** of the state is the fiddle. There are many folk festivals held in Arkansas.

Frenchmen **Louis Jolliet** and **Jacques Marquette** explored the area of the Mississippi River in their canoes in 1673.

Arkansas is a Native American word that means "south wind."

The state was part of the **Louisiana Purchase**.

The **Mockingbird** is the official state bird.

"The **Natural State**" is the official nickname because of its beauty and many natural resources.

The **Ouachita Mountains** (WASH-i-taw) reach from eastern Oklahoma to the central part of Arkansas. The area is known for its many hot springs, timber and minerals.

The **Pine tree** is the official state tree.

Paper products are the second most-manufactured product. Food products are the first most-manufactured product.

The **Quapaw** Indian tribe lived near the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers.

Rice is the most important crop to the state. Arkansas is the nation's leader in rice production.

The **Mississippi River** makes up the eastern border of Arkansas. The Great River Road is a scenic road that runs beside it.

Soybeans are the state's second most important crop. Arkansas grows more soybeans than any other state.

The **Vine Ripe Pink Tomato** is the official state fruit and vegetable.

Mountain View is the "Folk Music Capital of the World." Drama, dance and music productions are held throughout the town.

Water from springs is a popular and plentiful resource for the state. Some people believe the water has healing powers. Mammoth Spring is one of the largest springs in the country.

Bauxite is an important mineral mined in the state. It is used in making aluminum.

Raising **Young chickens** (called "broilers") is a big business. The state raises more than any other state.

The area of the **Ozark Mountains** in Arkansas is known for its beauty and its many poultry, livestock and fruit farms.

The Mini Page thanks Jay Harrod, communications manager; Sarah Harper, assistant; and Kerry Kraus, travel writer, of the Arkansas Parks and Tourism Department for help with this story.

Site to see: www.arkansas.com

Lock through the newspaper. See if you can find any of the major products or crops that might have been made or grown in Arkansas.

The Mini Page is created and edited by **Betty Debnam**

Associate Editors: Tali Denton, Lucy Lien
Staff Artist: Wendy Daley

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Do you have an interesting sports item or story idea? Call 263-7331. E-mail: results to: sports@bigspringherald.com

Page 1B
Tuesday, March 23, 2004

IN BRIEF

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.

CGA to hold 4-person event on Sunday

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

Teen League slates registration

The Big Spring Teenage Baseball League is holding registration at All District Screen Printing, 1005 E. 11th Place, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The league is open to all area youth ages 13-16, with sign-up continuing through April 16. The signing fee is \$65 and includes a team cap and shirt. For more information, contact Stan Parker at 264-2570.

Girls softball try-outs slated

Big Spring Girls Softball Association try-outs will be held on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roy Anderson Complex.

Texas Peloteros

Bash coming in April
Texas Peloteros' April Fool's Bash softball tournament will be held April 3-4 in Big Spring. Entry fee is \$125. First through third team trophies and T-shirts and a fourth place team trophy will be awarded.

For information, contact Manuel and Edna Gonzales at 263-8219 or 432-816-6159 or Pete Carrillo at 432 816-1179.

Keyshawn officially a Dallas Cowboy

IRVING (AP) — Wearing a Dallas Cowboys sweatshirt and referring to the owner as "Coach Jones," Keyshawn Johnson finally go to put Tampa Bay behind him.

Four months after being deactivated by the Buccaneers, Johnson was officially reunited Monday with coach Bill Parcells when he joined the Dallas Cowboys in time for the start of off-season conditioning work.

"This was just a perfect fit because of the head coach, and because I believe in what the owner is talking about and what he's selling," Johnson said.

Johnson finally signed the \$20 million, four-year deal that he agreed to more than three weeks ago.

The deal, which includes a \$4 million bonus, had been held up as the Bucs negotiated a contract with Joey Galloway and completed a trade of the receivers.

Dallas gave up two first-round picks to get Galloway in 2000.

ON THE AIR

| Sports Broadcast Schedule Today | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--|
| Event, Time | Station | |
| Lady Steers at Lake View, 4:30 p.m. | 1490 | |
| Wednesday | | |
| Event, Time | Station | |
| Maencks at Indiana, 6:30 p.m. | 1490 | |
| Thursday | | |
| Event, Time | Station | |
| Spurs vs. Detroit, 7 p.m. | 1490 | |

Lady Bears reach Sweet 16 for first time ever

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Sophia Young scored 17 of her 23 points in the first half and Baylor beat Florida 91-76 in the NCAA tournament Monday night to advance to the round of 16 for the first time in school history.

Fourth-seeded Baylor (26-8) will meet top-seeded Tennessee in the Midwest Regional in Norman, Okla., next week. The Lady Vols beat DePaul 79-59 to advance to the round of 16 for the 23rd consecutive year.

With Florida's leading scorer and rebounder, Vanessa Hayden, on the bench for the last 14-1/2 minutes of the first half with two fouls, Baylor used a 16-2 run to take a 46-32 lead at halftime.

Hayden, the SEC's defensive player of the year, could only watch as Young, who also had 11 rebounds, dominated inside. Several times in the opening half Young hit layups against Hayden's replacement, sophomore Dalila Eshel.

Young scored eight points in the 16-2 spurt. Florida's Tashia Morehead ended the run with a 3-pointer with 5 seconds left in the half, her first field goal against Baylor this season. She went 0-for-15 against the Bears in a 71-54 loss at Gainesville in December and missed her first six shots Monday.

Fifth-seeded Florida (19-11) rallied once Hayden returned in the

second half. The Gators got within five points twice, the last at 67-62 with 10:46 left on two free throws by Hayden.

The 6-foot-4 Hayden scored 10 of her 15 points in the first nine minutes of the second half and had four blocks. Bernice Mosby led the Gators with 16 points, and Danielle Santos had 13.

But even with Hayden back, Baylor's offense produced points and a fatigued Florida bunch ran out of time. With Hayden and Morehead on the bench for a quick breather and Baylor up 69-62, freshman Emily Niemann and Dionne Brown hit back-to-back layups.

Another block by Hayden set

up her layup at the other end to get Florida to 73-65 with 6:53 left, but moments later Hayden fouled out, picking up two fouls in a seven-second span.

Baylor got a huge game from freshmen reserves Monique Jones and Niemann. Jones hit five of six shots for 13 points. Niemann scored 16, including four 3-pointers. Two of them came back-to-back after Florida cut the Bears' lead to nine points early in the second half.

Brown, playing in place of an injured Steffanie Blackmon, had 14 points and seven rebounds. Blackmon, the Bears' second-leading scorer, injured her left knee in the Big 12 tournament.



HERALD file photo
Jim Lewis, Howard College's athletic director and head men's basketball coach, gives his team instructions during a game this season. Lewis announced Monday that he would be stepping down as the Hawks' coach, but would remain as the college's athletic director.

Lewis staying as AD, but says he's through as interim coach

By BILL MCCLELLAN
Herald News Editor

Another year, another coach. This latest move at Howard College wasn't unexpected, though.

Jim Lewis — who took the men's basketball coaching job on an interim basis — has stepped down.

Trustees accepted Lewis' resignation on Monday. He will continue to serve as athletic director.

"We have opened up the men's basketball job and will hold it open for several weeks," Lewis said. "Hopefully, right after the NCAA Final Four in San Antonio, we will be able to have someone in place."

The college began to advertise for the job a week ago and has already received some applications.

In that regard, Lewis spent time at the NJCAA National Tournament last week to solicit applicants.

Lewis, who is in his third year as athletic director at Howard College, took over the basketball program last August after coach Chris Jans left to accept a similar position at Chipola Junior College in Florida.

"At the time, I was asked to take over the program and I did on an interim basis," Lewis explained. Now, he's giving it back. "I wanted to go ahead and do this now, in the spring, because it's a real handicap if you wait until mid-summer. Hopefully we can get some real quality applicants and give them a chance to have a team in place."

"You know, this is a nice place to play, a nice community and we have quite a bit of tradition here.

So I am hopeful we will have some quality people who are interested," added Lewis, noting that among those seeking the position is assistant coach Tony Wright.

Lewis guided the Hawks to a 14-12 record last year, despite health problems in January which kept him off the court. Six players will be eligible to return, but it's unknown if they will.

"That's up to the new coach and the players," said Lewis. "The coaches don't have to renew their scholarships and the players don't have to return."

Prior to coming to Howard, Lewis compiled a 425-215 record with stops at Pratt (Kan.) Community College and Eastern Oklahoma State University.

He also served as the he served as the athletic director/dean of students at Allen County (Kan.) Community College.

THE NBA TODAY:

By The Associated Press

San Antonio at Minnesota (8 p.m. EST). Two of the top teams in the Western Conference try to gain momentum heading into the playoffs.

On Monday:

— Yao Ming, Rockets, had 28 points and 13 rebounds in Houston's 93-85 overtime win over Portland.

— Kenny Thomas, 76ers, had

27 points and 13 rebounds in Philadelphia's 107-98 win over Dallas.

— Carmelo Anthony, Nuggets, had 22 points in Denver's 102-80 win over the LA Clippers.

BACK ON TRACK

Indiana snapped a two-game skid by beating Chicago 101-77 on Monday night.

The Eastern Conference-leading Pacers haven't lost three in a row this season.

HAWK EYES

With Monday night's 96-84 win, New York swept the season series from Atlanta for the first time since 1974-75.

STRONG IN DEFEAT

Dirk Nowitzki had 30 points in Dallas' 107-98 loss to Philadelphia on Monday night.

Stephen Jackson had 20 points in Atlanta's 96-84 loss at New York.

Predrag Drobnjak scored 24 points, the only Los Angeles player in double figures, in the Clippers' 102-80 loss to the Nuggets.

SLUMPING

Atlanta lost for the ninth time in 11 games, 96-84 to New York on Monday night.

The Clippers' loss to Denver was their fourth consecutive defeat and 12th in 14 games.

FINED

Steve Francis was fined \$25,000 by the NBA for cursing during a halftime TV interview and for criticizing officials. Francis drew his league-leading 17th technical foul, then complained about what he considered a non-call in the closing seconds of the first half of Houston's loss.

La Tech pounds Lady Raiders

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — Erica Smith-Taylor had a career-high 30 points and 11 rebounds Monday night, leading Louisiana Tech to an 81-64 victory over Texas Tech in the second round of the Mideast Regional.

Louisiana Tech plays either Duke or Marquette in the regional semifinals Sunday in Norfolk, Va.

Smith-Taylor surpassed her previous career high by one point, which she set in the first round. She made 10 of 16 shots, including four 3-pointers, and had seven assists to lead the fifth-seeded Lady Techsters (29-2) to their 20th straight win.

Amber Obaze added 14 points, Amisha Carter had 13 points and 14 rebounds, and Trina Frierson scored 13 points for Louisiana Tech.

Fourth-seeded Texas Tech (25-8) pulled to 43-39 early in the second half on a basket by Chesley Dabbs, but Frierson converted a three-point play followed by a basket. Smith-Taylor then hit a 3-pointer to put Louisiana Tech up 51-39 with 16:26 remaining.

From there, Texas Tech got no closer than 59-48 on a 3-pointer by Alesha Robertson with 12:29 remaining. Louisiana Tech led by as many as 21 points.

Texas Tech guard Erin Grant scored all 19 of her points in the first half to keep the game close, but was held to 0-of-4 shooting in the second half.

Neither team led by more than three points until Carter scored four straight points to put Louisiana Tech up 33-28 with 4:26 left in the first half.

Smith-Taylor hit back-to-back baskets, the second a 3-pointer, followed by a 3-pointer by Lakiste Barkus to put Louisiana Tech up 43-32 with 1:44 left in the half.

Grant scored three points in the final 1:16 to

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THE HOWARD County Sheriff's Office will accept applications for a part-time dispatcher, from March 18, 2004 thru March 25, 2004. Applications are available in the Sheriff's office, 1st floor of the Howard County Courthouse, 300 S. Main St. M-F 8-5 EOE.

Help Wanted

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1205 PENNSYLVANIA, 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. CH/A. \$495/mo. plus deposit. Call (432)263-6997

1314 MT. Vernon, 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. Screened porch. References Required. \$400. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)263-3535 after 6:00 pm.

1404 TUCSON, 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. No pets. Call (432)267-3841 or 517-0642

1406 YOUNG, 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. \$265. month \$150. deposit. Senior Discount. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

1506 CHICKASAW & 807 Anne, Both with 2 Bedroom, 1 bath. Stove & Refrigerator Furnished, fenced yard. \$300 month + can pro-rate deposit. Call (432)267-7380.

1605 KENTUCKY Way, 3 Bedroom, 1 bath. Garage, CH/A, fenced backyard, washer & dryer connections \$425/month, \$295/deposit. Call (432)263-8005 or 267-0833.

Real Estate for Rent

Real Estate for Rent

2004 SCURRY, Newly rmdl. office, CH/A, fenced backyard. Perfect for single/couple. References. \$300/mo., \$275/dpst. Call (432)267-5629

2210 LYNN 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CHA, garage fenced yard. One year lease required. No indoor pets. \$595. month, \$400 deposit. Call 432-263-6514 Owner/Broker.

407 1/2 E. 8th, 1 Bdrm Apartment. Recently remodeled. New counter tops. CH/A. \$275/mo. + deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296

806 EAST 12TH, 1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Water Paid. Stove & Refrigerator Furnished. \$235/mo. \$150/dep. Call (432)263-1792 or 816-9984.

900 SCURRY, 3/1 Apartment. CH/A, washer, dryer hookups. Appliances furnished. Call (432)213-2681

AVAILABLE APRIL 1st. By appointment only! 1106 Birdwell Lane. Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath, CH/A, huge laundry room, fenced yard. Close to school. \$585. month, \$500. deposit. Call 432-263-1792, 816-9984

BRICK, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, central air, fenced, trees, covered patio, panoramic view. Sharp!! Non-smoker, no pets. Credit quality. \$350. Agent, 432-263-1234, 263-4835.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR RENT: SUITABLE FOR A VARIETY OF BUSINESSES. 2601 Wasson Road (next to The Design Place). Call Bill D. Brooks (432)263-2900 or (432)267-3251.

DALLAS ST., 2 Bedroom 1 bath, 2 car garage. CH/A, Stove, Refrigerator, Washer and Dryer. \$600. Month, \$300. deposit. No pets. References required. Call (432)213-2319.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES for rent- 1,500 sq. ft. office bldg. on courthouse square for rent. 3 Executive offices, 3 secretarial areas plus reception, conf. room, file storage, break room, 2 restrooms, phone system installed, wired for computer network, many, many built-ins. Call (432)263-7676.

EXTRA NICE 3 bedroom, 2 bath with basement. Fenced yard. \$400. month + deposit. Call (432)816-1052 or (512)732-3177.

FOR RENT or Sale, 3 Bdrm 1 bath. \$500/mo. \$400/deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

FOR RENT, two bedroom, new carpet, fresh paint, carport, fenced yard. Near Wal-Mart. Call 432-268-1272.

FOR RENT: 4 Bedroom, 2 bath. Call for more INFO (432)270-3848.

GOOD LOCATION. Nice 1 bedroom, furnished or unfurnished. \$225 month. Call weekends and after 6:00 pm (432)268-1888

HOUSE FOR Sale or Rent. Three bedroom, one bath, CHA. Call 432-263-5818 or 213-0820.

LARGE 1 Bedroom Duplex. All bills paid. Real nice. \$350/month, \$200/deposit. 1503 Scurry. Call (432)264-6611.

NEW OWNERSHIP 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartment homes. Reasonably Priced. Management on site 24/7. ADVANTUS PL. APTS. 3304 W. HWY. 80 Call Sandra, (432)264-7641.

OFFICE/ SHOWROOM. 1800 sq. ft. 1307 B. Gregg St., \$400/month + deposit. Call Westex Auto Parts @ (432)263-5000.

STILL UNDER Remodeling but cant wait. Beautiful 2 Bedroom Duplex. All bills paid. \$400/month \$250/deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

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NEW CONSTRUCTION Open House. Sat-Sun. 1-6 pm. or any time by appt. 1306 Marijo. Call (432)520-0048.

Real Estate for Rent

Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL Move in Cost. On each remaining 3 New homes on 1300 Block of Marijo. Reasonably good credit required, Down payment assistance and lowered interest rates to Qualified Buyer. No Payments till April 2004. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

2303 ROBERTS, 3 Bedroom 2 bath, Brick, attached garage, covered patio, work shop, water well, city sewage, CH/A. Excellent Condition. Worth Peeler. \$55,000. Call (432)264-0199.

3.26 ACRES, 3 miles south of city limits, corner of Garden City/Elbow Rd. Residential or commercial. \$14,670. Owner will finance with \$500/down. \$145.84/month. 1-361-877-2563

705 S. Lancaster. Cheaper than a storage building! Cash Price \$4,900. or \$500 down, \$94/mo. for 84 mos. Call (512)826-2553.

ANDA EN busca de una casa? Si, no tiene credito o mal credito hablame al numero (432)413-0549 Annette Sanchez. Tengo una casa de 2 recamaras y 1 baño 705 S Lancaster Y otra de 1 recamara y 1 baño 1811 State St.

BY OWNER, 3-2, 2 car carport, large living area, inground pool, CHA, new patio. Coahoma School District. 69K. Must See! Call after 5:00 432-394-4037.

COAHOMA 3 Bedroom, 2 bath Beautiful master bath with walk-in closet, appliances, Handicapped porch. Like new MF Home. Land & Home \$42,000. 803 Atlantic. Call (432)661-5552

NEED A home? I can help, no credit, bad credit, I will finance your home with a low down/payment. Please call Annette Sanchez @ (432)413-0549 1811 State 1 Bdrm 1 bath & 705 Lancaster 2 Bdrm 1 bath.

VERY CLEAN 3 Bedroom 2 bath Manufactured Home on one acre. Lots of extra's asking \$65,000 or make me an offer. Great Investment property. Located in Forsan. Call 1-800-699-4039 or (817)456-3353 ask for Sandy Vosefski.

Why Rent when you can Own? 3 Bedroom 1 bath, CH/A. **608 Drake**. \$29,900. With as little as \$9000 *down. Payments \$311/month for 15 yrs. Easy qualifying. Easy financing. Call Roy Guerra (432)413-5404 or (432)445-1863.

Vehicles

Great Selection of 03's with up to **\$6500 Rebates**
BOB BROCK FORD
500 W. 11th 267-7121

1987 Crown Victoria. 5.0 liter engine, 57k original miles. \$2500.00. Call (432)263-6922.

1995 FORD XLT Ext. Cab. Green & Gray Interior. \$5,000. For INFO Call (432)399-4470.

1997 TRAVEL Trailer ALJO. Like New. 21 feet. \$6900. Call (432)394-4481.

1999 GMC 4WD Suburban, loaded, leather seats, rear control AC, heated seats, CD & cassette, 80K, \$13,000. Call (432)263-7676.

2003 FORD F-250 XLT, Super Duty, supercab, long-bed, white exterior, gray cloth interior. 7K. Like New! Paid \$31,000. Asking \$24,315. Call 432-263 3959.

FOR SALE, 17 Ft. Bass Tracker boat, 50 hp Merc, Dilly trailer, loaded. Lake ready! \$3,100. Call 432-263-2254.

FOR SALE, red 2003 Ford F-250, 4x4, 29,000 miles. Reduce for quick sale, \$24,500. Located 600 Main. Call 432-267-3126, from 8:00-5:00, 432-267-7648 after 5:00.

Wife's car 1994 Mercury Marquis LS, white, maroon interior, loaded. 105K miles. \$2200. firm. David Hodnett, 432-263-7434, 270-3213

Real Estate for Rent

ATTENTION

THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

Here are some helpful tips and information that will help you when placing your ad. After your ad has been published the first day we suggest you check the ad for mistakes and if errors have been made we will gladly correct the ad and run it again for you at no additional charge. If your ad is inadvertently not printed advance payment will cheerfully be refunded and the newspaper's liability will be for only the amount received for publication of the advertisement. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad for publication that does not meet our standards of acceptance.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY JOYCE JILLSON
ARIES (March 21-April 19). You might have to bring your high-pitched emotional tone down a few notches in order to communicate with a less enthusiastic but well-meaning individual. Relating well to others will bring about your ultimate success.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). How you feel affects your prospects. You'll find terrific playmates right after you decide what game you are playing. Move up by being willing to defer to an authority figure's wishes. Share the glory, and it reflects beautifully on you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Love flows, energy is at a peak, and you can't help but do the work you're passionate about. Frustration ends, thanks to a logical solution. Tonight, intellectual juices are flowing. You're attracted to a witty thinker — an Aquarius?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll end up different from the way you started out this morning. Expectations are silly; be fluid, flexible and willing to roll with what life tosses your way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your job is not the source of your money, merely one channel for abundance. You would do well in any number of situations. Brainstorm a few just for fun. You're gearing up to make a major change.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Spring fever has many people frolicking and generally messing around — not you! You work while others play so your career gathers momentum. Do something spontaneous tonight to avoid becoming that "dull boy."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've got the ideas, but others have more authority. Playing second fiddle is more rewarding than you think it will be. A sweetheart seeks your approval tonight, so why not give it readily? Singles snag an elusive romantic prospect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can get a better deal on something you've been wanting. A change in your appearance attracts the attention of someone you

used to have a crush on! Spend time with a family member who has been distant lately.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll get unexpected bursts of powerful energy. Be quick on your feet, and you can use the momentum of these surprises to progress a new love affair or make headway on an important project.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Work feels like awfully foreign territory. Roll up your sleeves, and plunge right in. Colleagues teach you about yourself whether or not you want to know — in the end, what a gift this is! Romance progresses naturally.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Lost in thoughts of the future? Your active mind achieves great heights, so dream on! If you're in a relationship, discuss with your partner what your aims are collectively and independently.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The morning produces a multitude of wonderful longings and deep reverence for the sensual nature of life. Tonight pushes you into the social world and helps you find new friends who share your appreciation.

WHY YOU ARE EXTRAORDINARY (PART TWO OF THREE): Each sign has gifts that make it extraordinary. LEO has an extraordinarily generous heart. Whether it's making people laugh and sing, or simply handing out presents, this sign is finds incredible pleasure in giving. VIRGO is extraordinarily nurturing, like a special kind of cosmic Miracle Grow. Whether it's tending a plant, raising a child or building a business, this sign intuitively knows what care is needed. LIBRA is extraordinarily true — as in true-blue friendship, true love and true colors. It's partly because this sign is able to put others first. SCORPIO has extraordinary magnetism. Scorpio uses desire to lock onto what it wants — and then practically changes the molecular structure of the desired thing in such a way as to irresistibly draw it to hand.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can get a better deal on something you've been wanting. A change in your appearance attracts the attention of someone you

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Legals

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that by authority of a Judgment dated December 15, 2003, in Cause No. 43,111 in the District Court of Howard County, Texas, 118th Judicial District, styled Barbara A. Brumley and Jon L. McLeod v. Michael Robey and Susan Robey, I will sell at public auction the property which was the subject of said lawsuit, described as the surface estate in a tract or parcel of land containing approximately one half acre of land out of the East One-Half (E/2) of Section No. Forty-three (43) in Block No. Thirty-one (31), T-1-N T&P RR Co. Survey in Howard County, Texas, on the 6th day of April, 2004, at 11 o'clock a.m., at

the North door of the Courthouse of Howard County, Texas. Such property is more fully described in a deed date September 29, 1981, from Truman Lee Mason, a single man, to Lloyd R. McLeod and wife, Vera McLeod, recorded in Volume 512, page 429 of the Deed of Records of Howard County, Texas. The property is located at the corner of W. Robinson Road and the South service road of Interstate Highway 20 in Howard County in Howard County, Texas and is most generally known as the former location of Lou's Antiques. Dale Walker, Sheriff of Howard County. By: D. Restelli, Deputy #4154 March 9 & 16, 23, 2004

Legals

NOTICE OF RATE REVIEW, RATE CHANGE REQUEST AND STATEMENT OF INTENT

Notice is hereby that Cap Rock Energy Corporation ("Cap Rock") intends to change rates for electric utility service effective March 30, 2004, or as soon thereafter as permitted by law. Based upon a test year ending September 30, 2003, the increase requested over adjusted test year revenues is \$10,202,700 or 14.45%. The changes are applicable to all areas, all customer classes, and all customers served by the Cap Rock. On October 24, 2003, the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) filed a petition to inquire into the reasonableness of the rates being charged by Cap Rock. That proceeding has been designated as Docket No. 28813. Although Staff contends that some of Cap Rock's rates are too high, the inquiry could reveal that rates for some customer classes or some service areas need to be increased. Therefore, the Staff inquiry could result in increased or decreased rates for some customers. Affected persons may intervene in this proceeding, as detailed below, to address the rates being charged by Cap Rock.

The specific rates that Cap Rock proposes to charge, the proposed tariff revisions, and a copy of the rate filing package may be reviewed during normal business hours at Cap Rock's offices at (1) 500 West Wall Street, Suite 400, Midland, Texas 79701 (Cap Rock's Headquarters); (2) 1400 W. Business Interstate 20, Stanton, Texas 79782 (the Stanton Division); (3) 1825 South Highway 208, Colorado City, Texas 79512 (the Lone Wolf Division); (4) Highway 69 South, Celeste, Texas 75423 (the Hunt-Collin Division); and (5) 326 E. U.S. Highway 190, Brady, Texas 76825 (the McCulloch Division). Additionally, copies may be viewed at the Commission's offices in Austin, Texas.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326 and should reference the specific Docket No. involved. Docket No. 28813 will address whether Cap Rock's current rates are reasonable; whether they should be revised; and whether Cap Rock's proposed tariff changes should be approved or modified. Further information about this proceeding may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission's Public Information Office at (512)936-7120, or (888)782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512)936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is April 9, 2004, 45 days after the date Cap Rock's statement of intent was filed with the Commission. #4156 March 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2004

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TUESDAY

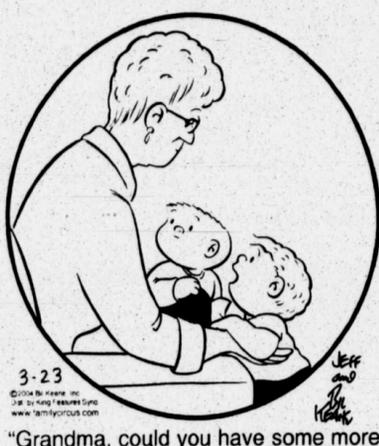
Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLN, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, USA, TMC) and 12 rows (6 PM to 12 AM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"How about something with a little more action, Dad? This one is putting me to sleep!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Grandma, could you have some more grandchildren for us to play with?"

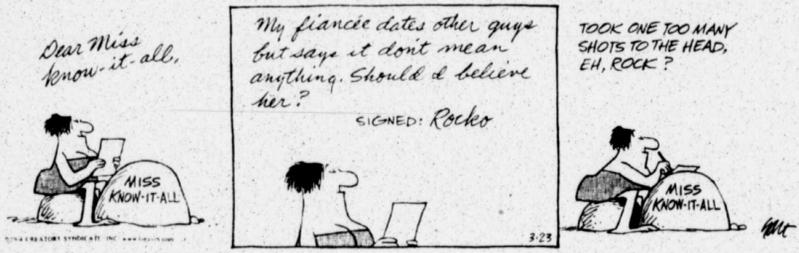
HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 23, the 83rd day of 2004. There are 283 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry made his famous call for American independence from Britain, telling the Virginia Provincial Convention, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

On this date:

In 1792, Joseph Haydn's Symphony No. 94 in G Major (the "Surprise" symphony) was performed publicly for the first time, in London.

In 1806, explorers Lewis and Clark, having reached the Pacific coast, began their journey back east.

In 1919, Benito Mussolini founded his Fascist political movement in Milan, Italy.

In 1933, the German Reichstag adopted the Enabling Act, which effectively granted Adolf Hitler dictatorial legislative powers.

In 1942, during World War II, the U.S. government began evacuating Japanese-Americans from their West Coast homes to detention centers.

In 1956, Pakistan became an independent republic within the British Commonwealth.

In 1965, America's first two-person space flight began as Gemini III blasted off from Cape Kennedy with astronauts Virgil I. Grissom and John W. Young aboard.

In 1983, President Reagan first proposed developing technology to intercept enemy missiles, a proposal that came to be known as the Strategic Defense Initiative, as well as "Star Wars."

In 1983, Dr. Barney Clark, recipient of a permanent artificial heart, died at the University of Utah Medical Center after 112 days with the device.

Birthdays: Comedian Marty Allen is 82. Movie director Mark Rydell is 70. Singer-producer Ric Ocasek is 55. Singer Chaka Khan is 51. Actress Amanda Plummer is 47. Actress Hope Davis is 40. Comedian John Pinnett is 40. Actor Richard Grieco is 39. Country musician Kevin Griffin (Yankee Grey) is 39. Rock singer-musician Damon Albarn (Blur) is 36. Actress-singer Melissa Errico is 34. Rock musician John Humphrey (The Nixons) is 34. Actress Keri Russell is 28. Actress Nicholle Tom is 26.

Answer to previous puzzle: SATAN, ADMEN, SIST, ASIDE, CAIRO, THY, CHAIRPERSON, OAK, EVA, TEDS, OWE, VICTOR, RETELLS, IDO, URGE, SOUP, STU, SORER, PRISM, TACT, TIRES, OGLE, AGHAS, NIMED, EON, PLAT, EBAL, OPS, LOOKFOR, CORNEA, ANY, ELIS, ORE, TEA, BENCHWATER, TAT, EDGAR, WATEY, ELO, TOONS, ANGLE

Newsday Crossword

HMMM ... by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman

- ACROSS: 1 Mountains of Austria, 5 Playwright George Bernard..., 9 Dexterous, 14 Boxing match, 15 Snack, 16 Submarine detector, 17 Contemplator's phrase, 20 Long look, 21 Brazilian soccer star, 22 Goller's shout, 23 European alliance, 25 Make simpler, 27 %: Abbr., 30 Catcher's glove, 32 Sale-item attachment, 36 Mata, 38 Doctor Zhivago heroine, 40 French river, 41 Contemplator's phrase, 44 Leaves out, 45 Capital of Norway, 46 Worry, 47 Mogul's home, 49 Medium or extra-large, 51 Fuss, 52 Rainy-day infield covering, 54 Barbershop call, 56 Hawaiian island, 59 Diver Louganis, 61 Gets ready, for short, 65 Contemplator's phrase, 68 For days (continuously), 69 Designer Christian, 70 Method, 71 Hatchlings' homes, 72 Eyeglasses glass, 73 "Hey, you!", 11 Data, for short, 12 Wild animal's home, 13 Art Deco artist, 18 Packers or Phillies, 19 Close by, 24 Lean to one side, 26 Person's nature, 27 56 Down's crescent, e.g., 28 Wine barrels, 29 Characteristic, 31 Lock of hair, 33 Diamond headpiece, 34 Traveled a curved path, 35 Reach, 37 Pacing the floor, perhaps, 39 City on the Potomac, 42 Thin Man dog, 43 Seep slowly, 48 Therefore, 50 Montreal baseballer, 53 Automatic-transmission letters, 55 Declaration in bridge, 56 Natural satellite, 57 Author Rice, 58 Puts to work, 60 Singer Adams, 62 Parts of the psyche, 63 Profs.' degrees, often, 64 Manuscript marking, 66 Digital music sources: Abbr., 67 Day divs.

