

BIG SPRING

HERALD

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Big Sky — Big Heart — Big Spring

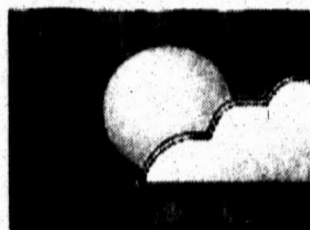
50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

FRIDAY

January 14, 2005

WEATHER

Tonight:



TONIGHT 24°-26° TOMORROW 47°-49°

BRIEFLY

Herald online poll addresses WMD

Last week's online poll question, "Should it be against the law for the driver of a vehicle to use a hand-held cell phone in that vehicle while it is moving, except for emergencies?" drew 46 responses. Thirty one, or 67 percent of you, voted yes; 15, or 33 percent, voted no.

This week's question is "Does it matter to you that weapons inspectors say there were no weapons of mass destruction or plans to begin making them when the U.S. invaded Iraq?"

Voice your opinion on www.bigspringherald.com

Legion sets fish fry for Saturday

American Legion Post 506, located at 3204 W. Highway 80, will hold a fish fry Saturday from noon until 3 p.m. Delivery will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Carry-outs are available. For orders, call 263-2084.

COMING

THIS WEEKEND



Cover Story: The top-rated PBS series "Antiques Road Show" has become a national phenomenon as people flock to the show's appraisers to determine if their keepsake is trash or treasure.

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Find us online at: www.bigspringherald.com

To reach us, please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday.

BSISD trying to heal software ills

Trustee elections to be on faster track this year... Page 3A.

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

The Big Spring Independent School District's frustration over continuing software problems has increased almost exponentially.

Its patience with the software provider, however, is decreasing at almost the same rate.

After months of wrangling with Chancery Systems to correct record-keeping problems with its Student Management System software package, the board of trustees has reached the point where its looking at ways to side-step the balky software.

"We're directing the administration to consult with Chancery to see if we can transfer data from SMS to (another program)," Board President Phil Furqueron said after Thursday's meeting of trustees.

"It might be possible to convert to another program, but then you go into training issues. So, to the question — is there an easy solution to the problem? — the answer's no."

—Michael Downes, BSISD superintendent



If that is feasible, the district will then be able to avoid the records logjam while Chancery fixes the bugs in the SMS package.

With only four months remain-

ing in the school year, however, "quick fix" solutions may be impossible.

Realistically, the only thing

See **SOFTWARE**, Page 3A

Living in fear

Tubbs resident wants county to take action against dog 'pack' before someone gets injured

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The Howard County Sheriff's Office is waiting on the completion of a report to determine what action to take against a county resident whose dogs allegedly attacked and killed a family pet Wednesday night.

According to county resident Ricky Brown, who lives in the 9600 block of Jay Road in the Tubbs Addition, a pack of dogs allegedly owned by a neighbor attacked his 12-year-old daughter's pet, a heeler-mix named "Cinch."

"I still can't get over how much blood there was. It was just everywhere," said Brown.

"My wife wanted to go out the front door and try to help the dog, but my God... if she had, she would have been torn apart as well. The worst part was my daughter saw it all."

—Ricky Brown, county resident

"There were about 10 dogs — all kinds of different breeds — and they just tore that poor dog apart, right on our front

See **DOGS**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison greets a patient during her tour of the Big Spring VA Medical Center this morning. Hutchison reiterated her support for keeping the local VA facility. Later, she autographed copies of her book, "American Heroines: The Women Who Shaped Our Country," at The Master's Touch.

Family tradition

A way of life for Schuette bunch

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

For some families the annual Martin County Junior Livestock Show is a chance to show off this year's animals — for the Schuette family, it's part of a family tradition.

Terry Schuette may seem a little more serious than most about the swine he and his son, Geoffrey, and family friend Jace Dornier are showing at the annual competition. The looks of determination as they scoot their enormous swine toward the weigh-in station may seem a little more weighty than most.

That's because Schuette sees the

See **MARTIN CO.**, Page 5A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Geoffrey Schuette, an eighth-grade student at Grady ISD, and his friend and stock show partner Jace Dornier, a sixth-grade student at Greenwood Intermediate, get a pig ready for weigh-in during the Martin County Junior Livestock Show. The show continues through Saturday, when the prizes will be awarded to the students.

City, county offices to close Monday

Herald Staff Report

If you need to conduct business with the city or county, you'll have to wrap it up today or put it off until Tuesday. Offices for those entities and several others will be closed Monday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

County buildings to be closed Monday include the courthouse, courthouse annex, library and Spring City Senior Center. The district court building will also be closed.

Big Spring Post Office employees will put mail in boxes Monday but no mail will be delivered.

Students at Forsan and Elbow will get a day off, but all other Crossroads

See **CLOSE**, Page 3A

Blue Ribbon Belles form to say 'thanks' to buyers

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

You'll be able to recognize them by their flamboyant hats and giving hearts at this year's Howard County Junior Livestock Show.

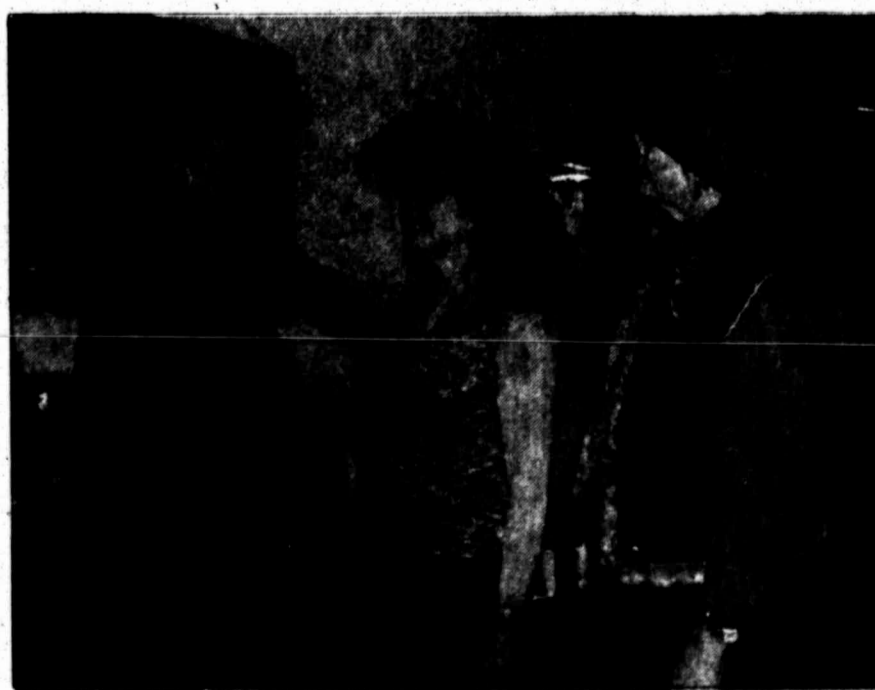
The recently formed Blue Ribbon Belles, an organization made up of mothers and grandmothers whose children have participated over the years in the annual Howard County Junior Livestock Show, will put a special focus on an often forgotten part of the annual event — the buyers that reward the 4-H and Future Farmers of America members' hard work with cold,

hard cash.
See **first-day stock show results**, Page 3A

Sheree Moates, one of the Belles' founding members, said she got together with several other mothers involved in the show after she saw a decline in the "appreciation" being shown to local businesses that purchase the bulk of the show animals each year.

"There were several of us that had children who were in the 4-H

See **BELLES**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Blue Ribbon Belles Mildred Buchanan, left, Janie Hunt and Don Nell Luc get their "Belle hats" ready for the Howard County Junior Livestock Show.

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Obituaries

Kathaleen Underwood Elliot



Kathaleen Underwood Elliott, 81, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 13, 2005, at her son's residence in Lubbock. Interment services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Memorial Park. Memorial services will follow at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Dr. Dave Ring, pastor of First United Methodist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

She was born Feb. 11, 1923, in Mexia. She worked as a secretary for Big Spring Independent School District for 23 years and was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Kathaleen was a devoted mother and loyal friend. She was an inspiration to her family and many who knew her. Her laughter, sparkling sense of humor and joy for life will be missed.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Rick and Stacy Elliott of Lubbock; two brothers, Forrest Underwood and James Underwood, both of Midland; two grandchildren, Lee and Carly Elliott of Lubbock; two nieces, Linda Woolley of Lubbock and Judy Frye of Austin; and four nephews, Jim Hinds of Austin, Gary Hinds of Prosper, Steve Underwood of Helotes and Lee Underwood of Highland Ranch, Colo.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Laura Belle Hinds.

The family suggests memorials to Hospice of Lubbock, 1102 Slide Road, Suite 3, Lubbock 79416; The American Cancer Society Memorial Program, in care of Lucy Bonner, P.O. Box 2121, Big Spring 79721 or the Texas Kidney Foundation, 1525 W. Mockingbird Lane, Dallas 75235.

The family is appreciative to all those who cared for her. Special thanks to Hospice of Lubbock, Dr. Joe Rizzo and staff of Lubbock Heart Hospital and Dr. Paul Anderson and staff of Joe Arrington Cancer Center in Lubbock.

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

Paid obituary

John E. Varley

John E. Varley, 79, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 13, 2005, at his residence. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take note

THE FIRST MASTER GARDENER'S CLASS is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in room C-13 at the back of the Big Spring Mall. Cost for the course that meets once a week from mid-January to mid-May is \$75 and two scholarships are available. For more information, contact Kathy Lusk at the Big Spring Mall, 267-3853 or the Howard County Cooperative Extension office, 264-2236.

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

THE 16TH ANNUAL BOSS HOGG CHILI COOK-OFF all at the Harley-Davidson Shop, 908 W. Third Street is set for Saturday. Sampling by the public begins at noon and cooking begins at 8 a.m.

THE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MARCH BEGINS at 6 p.m. Monday at the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard. The public is invited.

THE HARLEM AMBASSADORS BASKETBALL TEAM has an exhibition game set for 7 p.m. Jan. 21 in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum as a Rotary Club of Big Spring fund-raiser. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and \$1 for children with an adult. Children younger than 5 are free. To purchase a ticket contact the YMCA, 267-8234 or the coliseum at 264-5040.

A ONE-DAY SEMINAR, "CREATION: FROM THE BEGINNING — A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE ORIGINS OF A DEFIANT CULTURE," is set for 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Jan. 22 in the St. Paul Lutheran Church parish hall. The event is free and open to the public and lunch and child care will be provided at no charge.

RELAY RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ is 10 a.m. Feb. 19, 2005, in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium, sponsored by Big Spring State Hospital's Relay for Life Team. Entry forms are available at the Big Spring Chamber of Commerce, 215 W. Third and KBST 608 Johnson. Entry deadline is Feb. 8, 2005. Any boy or girl between the ages of 1 day old to 11 years may participate.

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

Police blotter

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

- **BELINDA GARCIA CHAVARRIA**, 26, of 3609 Hamilton, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **KHRISTY ANNE MCMAHAN**, 37, of 1429 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Thursday on a Howard County warrant.
- **SUSIE LOPEZ MAGALLANES**, 23, of 111 E. 16th Street, was arrested Thursday on charges of no insurance, no driver's license and a fictitious registration.
- **LAURA ANN MARQUEZ**, 24, of 1406 Tucson, was arrested Friday on local warrants.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 2300 block of Wasson.
 - in the 1200 block of E. 11th Place.
 - in the 1700 block of FM 700.
- **FORGERY** was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1800 block of Owens.
- **ASSAULT/CLASS C** was reported in the 400 block of Runnels.

Sheriff's report

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

- **DOUGLAS EDWARD BAILEY JR.**, 37, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended/invalid enhanced.
- **JOHNNY LEE CHRISTOPHER SANCHEZ**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a coin operated/collection machine.
- **ERIC WAYNE CRAWFORD**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **MICHAEL DEAN NALL**, 26, was arrested Thursday on a capias warrants for theft and driving while license suspended.

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **TRAUMA** in the 1400 block of E. Highway 350 at 2:53 p.m. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** in the 500 block of W. 17th Street at 11:38 a.m. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** in the 2300 block of Wasson Road at 1:50 p.m. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** in the 3700 block of Wright at 7:41 p.m. One person was transported to the Big Spring VA Medical Center.
- **TRAUMA** in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87 at 4:16 p.m. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 2-11-24-30-32.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$37,477.
Winning tickets sold in: Longview.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Friday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-7-16-20. Bonus Ball: 4.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Prize: \$200,000.
Number matching four of four: 5. Prize: \$2,120.
Number matching three of four, plus Bonus Ball: 24.
Prize: \$54.
Number matching three of four: 916. Prize: \$19.
Number matching two of four, plus Bonus Ball: 578.
Prize: \$20.
Number matching one of four, plus Bonus Ball: 3,775.
Prize: \$7.
Estimated jackpot for Monday night drawing: \$200,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-5-8

Weather

Tonight... Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday... Mostly cloudy. Highs near 50. South winds 10 to 15 mph in the morning becoming light and variable in the afternoon.

Saturday night... Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. East winds near 10 mph.

Sunday... Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Sunday night... Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Martin Luther King Jr. Day... Mostly cloudy. Highs near 40.

Monday night... Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers or snow showers. Lows in the mid 20s.

Tuesday... Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers. Highs in the mid 40s.

Tuesday night... Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.

Wednesday... Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Wednesday night... Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.

Thursday... Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Coronado Hills Apartments

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Pool, Private Patios, Covered Parking
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2-3 Bedroom "Remember...you deserve the best!!"

Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. All area senior citizens are invited.

SATURDAY

- Howard County Scottish Rite Club meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge located at 21st and Lancaster streets. Breakfast is served.
- Free eye glasses are available from 9 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. in the Event Center, 1607 E. Third.
- The 16th annual Boss Hogg Chili Cook-Off at the Harley-Davidson Shop, 908 W. Third Street is set to begin at noon for sampling by the public. The cooking begins at 8 a.m.
- American Legion Post 506 fish fry is set for noon until 3 p.m. Carryout is available from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. \$7 per plate. The legion is located at 3203 W. Highway 80, or call 263-2084.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Senior Circle meets at 4 p.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 11th and Birdwell Lane Church of Christ. A different program is offered every week, and anyone 7 years old or older is welcome to attend. Please enter through the northwest door. Call 263-2786 for more information.
- The annual Martin Luther King Jr. March is set to begin at 6 p.m. at the corner of Martin Luther King Boulevard.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:30 p.m. in the La Posada Restaurant.
- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
- Christian Singles Fellowship meets from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Youth Hall. All singles in the community are invited for an evening of fellowship, food and table games.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Intermediate Line Dance classes begin at 9 a.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center. Call 267-1628.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- 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.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner with a meeting to follow at 1st and Goliad streets. All Masons are welcome to attend.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
- Concerned Citizens for Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Chapter 67 Order of the Eastern Star meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 219 Main St.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

BIG SPRING HERALD

www.bigspringherald.com

Reflecting A Proud Community

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By STEVE RE/
Staff Writer

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School board elections to move on faster track this year

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Candidates for school board elections will find the pace a bit quickened this year.

Because of changes instituted by the Texas Legislature in 2003, the deadline for filing school board candidacies has been moved, Big Spring Independent School District trustees learned during their

monthly meeting Thursday.

Big Spring ISD will elect two trustees this year, in places 1 and 3. The incumbents in those respective seats, Irene Bustamante and Alan Partee, both said they intend to run for re-election.

Changes caused by the legislature generally mean that candidates for school board elections must file earlier than in previous years.

The deadline for filing for a place on the ballot was moved from the 45th day to the 62nd day prior to the election, which this year will be held May 7.

According to information provided by Business Manager Sandra Waggoner, the first day a candidate can file for election is Feb. 7, while the filing deadline is March 7. Write-in candidates have until March 14 to file.

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, a registered voter and a resident of the district in which they are going to represent, the information stated.

The last day to register to vote in the board election is April 7. In other business, the board:

- Extended the contract of Superintendent Michael Downes through the 2006-07 school year.
- Voted against contributing

to the Texas Association of School Boards Legal Assistance Fund.

• Accepted a donation of three lots of real property located on Brent Street in the Kentwood area.

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

SOFTWARE

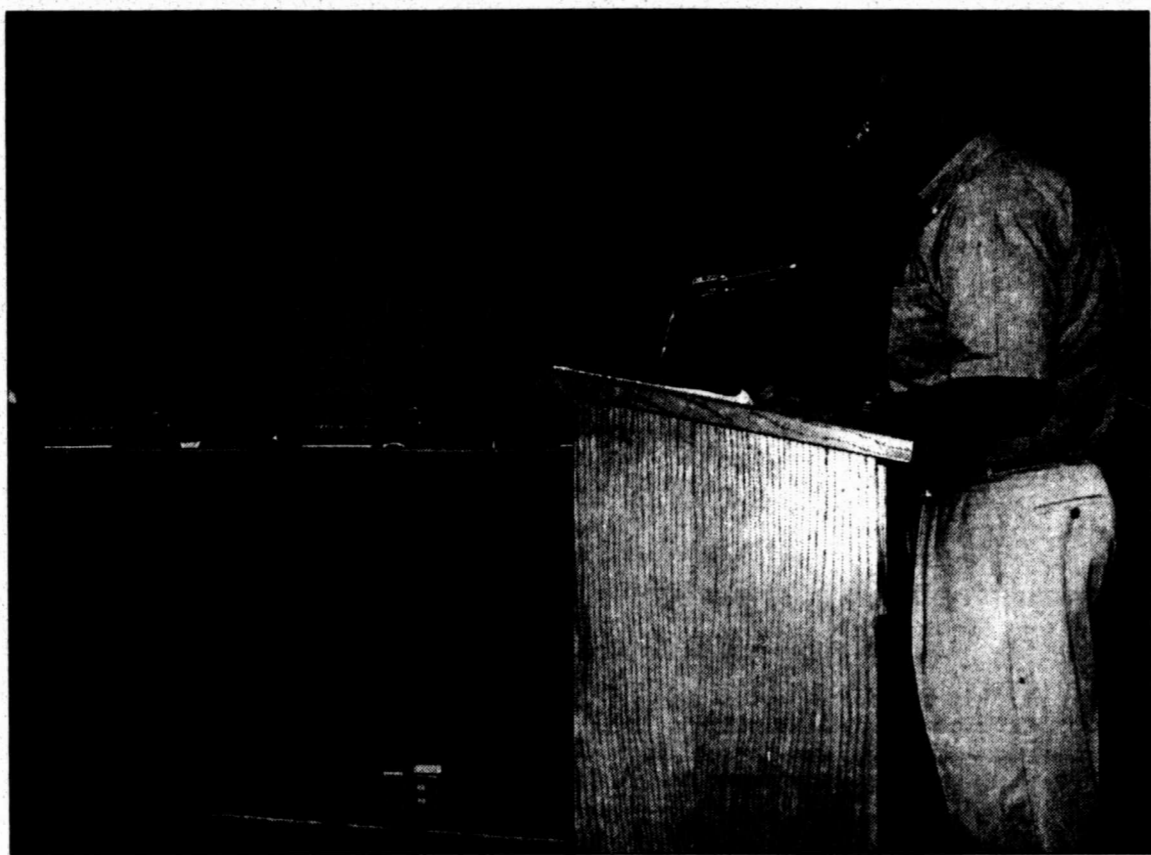
Continued from Page 1A

we can do is try to get (Chancery) to correct the problems," Superintendent Michael Downes said. "It might be possible to convert to another program, but then you go into training issues. So, to the question — is there an easy solution to the problem? — the answer's no."

Another possible solution discussed during Thursday's meeting — reverting to the software system used last year — also would be problematic, the district's technology director said.

"It's possible, but it would be very, very difficult," said Corey Wood. "Just getting the information (from SMS to the previous program) would be very time-intensive."

In front of a packed house of concerned teachers, students and parents, trustees heard even more evidence that the SMS package, designed to streamline the process of scheduling, reporting grades and student transcripts, has instead caused major problems in those areas, at least at the secondary school level.



Big Spring High School teacher Jack Tonn, right, expresses his concerns about computer software problems that have confounded school officials for the past several months. Also shown are, from left, board member Maria Padilla, Business Manager Sandra Waggoner, and Assistant Business Manager James McFarland.

Those problems have become so bad that reports cards, which will come out today, are "guaranteed" to have errors on them, Wood said. Also, high school staffers are working extra hours to ensure that grade transcripts, vitally important for high school seniors seeking admit-

tance into college, will be available on time.

One high school senior was so distraught over the problem that she began crying soon after beginning her address to the board.

"We have had it instilled in us since we were small not to procrastinate," Felicia Rios said.

"Unfortunately, we're being forced to procrastinate in trying to get into college ... The problems are affecting us tremendously."

Jack Tonn spoke for several of his fellow high school teachers when he said that problems with the software are adversely affecting his ability to do

his job. "We know we're going to get report cards out (Friday), but we don't know what kind of shape they'll be in," Tonn said.

During a break in the meeting, Tonn said teachers' frustrations with the software have only increased as the school year has gone on.

"After six or seven months, we've been patient enough," he said. "We started using this system last summer, and immediately began having major problems."

Addressing the report card issue, Big Spring ISD Director of Technology Corey Wood told trustees that some errors were inevitable.

"I can guarantee you that report cards being printed (Friday) will have mistakes on them," Wood said, adding that the only good news in that area is that the problem is confined mainly to the junior high and high school. Local elementary schools have encountered only minimal problems dealing with SMS.

Chancery has sent three software patches to the school district since December, but those have solved only minor glitches in the overall program, Wood told trustees.

Board Vice President Irene Bustamante said that the district should look very carefully at changing its software package.

"Maybe now is the time to do something different," she said. "We should put Chancery to rest, and start looking for another program."

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

23th & Johnson 267-8288

Elautiro Valencia, Jr., 96, died Tuesday. Funeral Mass were at 10:30 AM Friday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

RITZ
401 S. Main 263-7480
Movie Hot Line: 263-2479
For Showtimes For Friday

Admission Adults: \$6.00
Child, Senior & Matinee: \$4.00

FOR MOVIE SHOWTIMES CALL 263-2479 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.ritzbigspring.com

DOGS

Continued from Page 1A

porch. It was brutal.

"My wife wanted to go out the front door and try to help the dog, but my God... if she had, she would have been torn apart as well. The worst part was my daughter saw it all. It was her pet and she saw what happened."

Brown said a friend of the family managed to kill one of the attacking dogs with a firearm, but that doesn't lessen the fear that the remaining dogs may soon turn on a human victim.

"How can I send my daughter out to the bus stop at 7 a.m. when I know these dogs are running free? What if they attacked my wife while she's getting out of her car? It almost feels like you're trapped in your home," said Brown.

Sheriff Dale Walker said the attack is under inves-

tigation, but stalled due to an injury the investigating deputy, Rachel Horton, sustained while taking pictures of the attack scene.

"Deputy Horton apparently tripped over something while she was investigating the scene," said Walker. "She hurt her ankle quiet badly and had to go to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for medical attention."

"Unfortunately, because of her injury, she hasn't been able to complete her report. We'll have to have the report before we can decide what action to take."

Walker said the dogs allegedly belong to Ben Crawford, who lives at 9715 Jay Road.

"We've had numerous complaints against Mr. Crawford in the past," said Walker. "He has a number of dogs on his property, and while some of them are in pens, we've gotten many complaints about them running loose

as well. We've had to have them picked up once before and he paid to get each and every one of them from animal control."

"The only time the county can intervene in a situation like this is if the dogs are injured, sick or vicious. If the information I've received so far is accurate, then these dogs are vicious. However, without the deputy who saw the dogs, if she did in fact see them, I have no way of knowing which dogs to have picked up. We simply have to wait on the report."

Walker's appeal for patience in the matter didn't sway Brown.

"If the deputy is afraid to get out of her car because of the dogs, doesn't that tell you something?" asked Brown. "These dogs are big and they're vicious. They're dangerous, and if they can do that to a dog, imagine what they could do to a person. Isn't that enough to have them

picked up?" Crawford did not return phone messages left for him at his residence.

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

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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
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Participants in the Glasscock County Junior Livestock Show, held last weekend in Garden City as well as those in the Howard County and Mitchell County shows, which are under way right now.

- Howard County commissioners, for moving forward in their effort to build a new jail facility.

- U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison on her book, "American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country" and for her interest in helping to keep the Big Spring Veterans Hospital in Big Spring.

- And speaking of the veterans hospital, we salute you as well, for today's program honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.

McAuliffe criticized by democratic party

As political parties have declined in power, so has the importance of the party chairmen.

What a party stands for and what it aspires to, which most people pay attention to only during presidential campaigns, is not determined by the party chairman, but by the candidate for president.

So what does a modern party chairman really do? Primarily three things: raise money, be a public spokesperson for the party, and take care of sundry "housekeeping" chores to keep the party active and up-to-date.

Even though the current Democratic Party chair, Terry McAuliffe, got whacked pretty hard because the Democrats failed to win the presidency, the House or the Senate last year, much of the criticism is undeserved.

First, at a time when there was no presumptive Democratic nominee — i.e., before John Kerry started winning primaries — McAuliffe did try to make the party more inclusive and more moderate, by urging Democratic candidates to soft-pedal gun control as an issue and reach out to what we now call Red State voters.

But once it was clear Kerry was going to be the nominee, it was Kerry's job to pick an agenda and sell it to the American people, not McAuliffe's. (Similarly, is McAuliffe really to blame for the

loss of seats in the House and Senate, or the candidates themselves?)

McAuliffe is also criticized for "front-loading" the primary schedule, which led to Kerry's early coronation as the presumptive nominee. In other words, some Democrats now complain McAuliffe gave them a lame candidate.

But not only was McAuliffe universally praised for front-loading at the time, it is hard to see how drawing out the process would have changed the result. Once Kerry won Iowa, there was a stampede by Democrats in state after state to unite behind him. (Kerry lost only three primaries, one each to John Edwards, Wesley Clark and Howard Dean.)

McAuliffe also fulfilled his three prime duties: He raised a ton of money, he was good on TV, and he modernized the party's computer system so at least the DNC knows how to get in touch with Democrats now.

Today, there is a scramble to replace McAuliffe. On Feb. 12, the DNC will meet and the approximately 440 members will vote. Last week, I wrote that Howard Dean was seriously considering running, though I could not figure out why.

This week, it is nearly certain that he is running — and I still can't figure out why.

If you become party chairman in 2005, you cannot run for president in 2008. (At least, Dean has pledged not to do so.) So why does Dean, who has a huge e-mail list, a proven ability to raise money on the Internet, the experience of one presidential campaign under his

belt and a loyal cadre of followers not want to run for president in 2008?

Well, I guess he believes he can transform the party. But as president, you can transform the nation and the world.

The only sensible explanation I have heard is that Dean never really wanted to be president in the first place. He didn't really want it in 2004 — he ran to increase public awareness of his issues — and he doesn't want it in the future.

OK, nothing wrong with that. But can Dean really win an election where the voters are hardcore party regulars?

Obviously, he thinks so, but there is also an emerging Anybody-But-Dean coalition within the DNC that will try to stop him.

Some prominent Democrats have approached McAuliffe about staying on in the job. I can't say with certainty that McAuliffe would win — some think it is time for big changes in the party, and changing the chairman would be the first sign of that — but he would have a better chance than some who are now running.

I am also told he is not interested in staying on, however, unless the party is hopelessly deadlocked.

Which it could be. With Democrats, anything is always possible.

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.

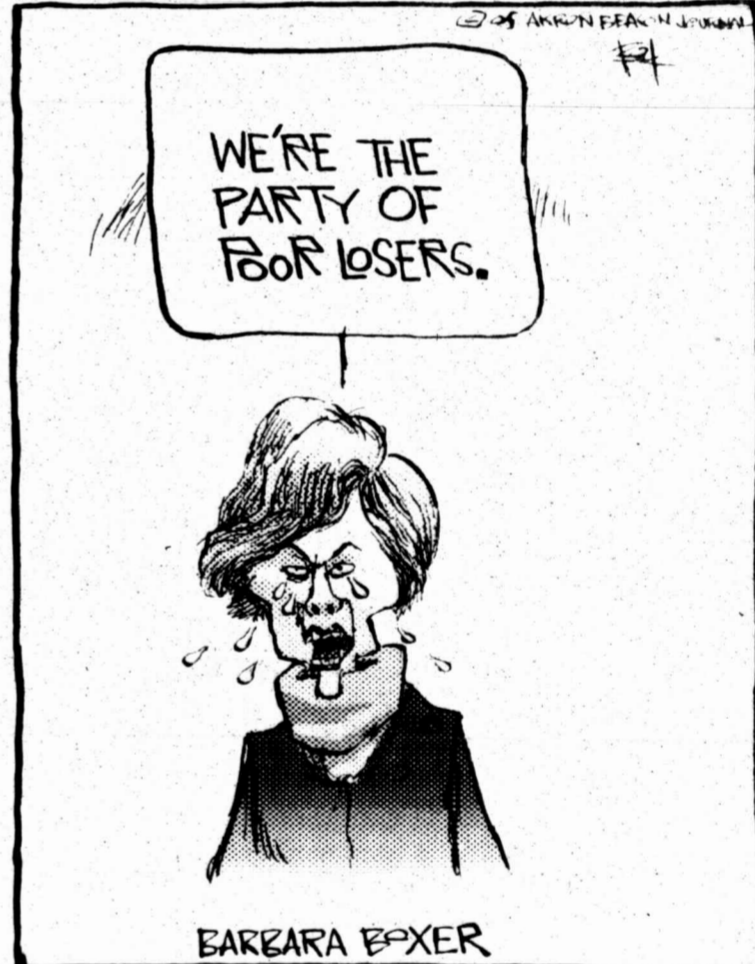
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ROGER SIMON



STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES



BARBARA BOXER

Bush crisis continues for Americans

Excuse me, but is that smoke in your ear? I wouldn't go calling anyone a liar, but as we say in our quaint Texas fashion, this administration is stuffed with people who are on a first-name basis with the bottom of the deck. They've been telling us only four out of the 18 provinces in Iraq will be too unsafe to vote in. Doesn't sound that bad, does it? Unless you happen to know that about 50 percent of the population lives in those four provinces.



MOLLY IVINS

Will someone explain to me what earthly good they expect to do by misleading us? If, God forbid, the Iraqi election turns out to be a disaster, will we be better off for not having expected it? How long are Bush and Cheney going to sit there pretending the problem is that the media won't report the "good news" out of Iraq? Be a lot more useful if (SET ITAL) they (END ITAL) paid attention to some of the bad news.

Resigned to the fact that Social Security will have to be dismantled because it's in such terrible, awful trouble, headed toward bankruptcy the day after tomorrow? Well, the \$10 trillion in unfunded liabilities they keep talking about sure sounds like a

load of trouble. Except that it's a completely phony number. Not based on what will happen in 25 years or 50 or 75, but on infinity. Forever and ever.

President Bush says "the crisis is now" and Social Security will go into the red as of 2018. Eeek, just 13 years from now — we might actually live that long. Except ... nobody else says that. The Social Security trustees, paid to be professional gloom-mongers on this subject, say it's good until 2042, and the conservative estimate by the Congressional Budget Office is 2052 — not before Social Security goes broke, but before Social Security has to dip into its trust fund. Get a grip.

Now, in addition to the regular misleading, fudging, distorting and phony statistics games, we're getting actual covert propaganda, and dammittohell, they're making us pay for it. A quarter of a million bucks to a right-wing commentator to talk up No Child Left Behind. Why? Distributing video "news" releases to television stations made and paid for by the government, but not identified as such. It's not enough that Bush has the bulkiest pulpit on earth, he has to sneak his message across with government propaganda? What the hell is this?

According to Bush, we're also having a lawsuit crisis. He got so exercised over it last week, he used the word "crisis" four times in one speech. In Texas, we have had tort deform up to

our ears. Med-mal, as medical malpractice insurance is known in legislative circles, has been tort-deformed out the wazoo here — \$250,000 award caps, the whole ball of wax. Net result? Proposed rate increases for three of the state's largest med mal carriers up 16.6 percent to 35.2 percent. In Oklahoma, up 83 percent over three years for the largest med mal provider. Ohio, 10 percent to 40 percent is the range of expected rate increases by the five major carriers, etc. Doesn't work worth a damn.

Here in the National Laboratory for Bad Government, we are happy to help out by showing everyone else how not to solve problems, but it's really annoying when Bush insists on taking what didn't work here and making it nationwide.

More fun with numbers. The Bushies are crowing that their job forecast for last year was right on target. Um, which forecast? They predicted total job growth of 3.8 million, and it was actually 2.2 million. That's the difference between the total jobs in December versus the number at the beginning of the year. They also predicted the average number of jobs to increase by 2.6 million, when in fact it turned out to be 1.3 million higher than in 2003 — that being difference between the average number of jobs in 2003 and 2004.

Too fast for you? If something goes up to eight from six, that's plus two, but the average of

eight and six is seven, up one. The Bushies took the 2.2 million they predicted for last year's average job growth and pretended it was their prediction for total job growth, then said they were right when actual growth came in at 2.6 million. In other words, they were off again. (I am entirely indebted to bloggers Brad DeLong and Kevin Drum for this mathematical distinction.)

Also in the "you can't trust a word they say" category, the Natural Resources Defense Council has just released papers showing that the Defense Department and defense contractors collaborated in a backroom campaign to manipulate a federal report on the health threat of perchlorate, a toxic rocket fuel ingredient, in the water. The National Academy of Sciences is to release the report this week. What the NRDC has is evidence that pressure was put on the Academy of Sciences. Again, what good does it do to misinform people?

Not that I'm accusing anyone of lying, of course, but these people are slicker than bus station chili. Count your change when dealing with Bushies.

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BELLES

Continued from F

program and Farmers of said Moates. "I pated in sto while our chil in school and to the stock s every year."

"There are a nesses here i support our shows and our we used to mal tel the buyers and were alwa for the buyers bought one o nals. The las went everyone quiet, and sev said we just c this. We coul ting this happe the buyers g ciated.

"Several o together and made up of grandmothers children or gra in the past ti pated in these None of the have anyone i the show r mainly beca

Howard

First-day res the Howard Co Junior Livest

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Champion F Brittnee Nix; Rachel Haggard

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Finewool Cr 2: 1. Shelby Jones 2. Meagan Kot 3. Ru 4. H.

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BELLES

Continued from Page 1A

program and Future Farmers of America," said Moates. "We participated in stock shows while our children were in school and we still go to the stock shows here every year."

"There are a lot of businesses here in town that support our local stock shows and our kids. And we used to make our kids tell the buyers thank you and were always clapping for the buyers when they bought one of the animals. The last year we went everyone was just so quiet, and several of us said we just couldn't do this. We couldn't keep letting this happen — letting these buyers go unappreciated."

"Several of us got together and the group is made up of moms and grandmothers who had children or grandchildren in the past that participated in these programs. None of the members have anyone involved in the show right now, mainly because those

mothers are too busy right now," Moates said with a laugh. "We decided to have a little bit of fun with the stock show and let these businesses know we appreciate what they do."

While many businesses allow others to do their stock show bidding for them, Moates said she hopes business owners and other buyers will be there in person this year for a taste of Blue Ribbon Belle charm.

"We'd like for them to come and let us shower them with our gifts," said Moates. "We'll be at the stock show welcoming the buyers and we'll be serving refreshments to the buyers while they are participating in the auction. All of it will be complimentary. And each time a buyer purchases something, the students will come to one of the Belles and we'll give them a special bandana to take to the buyer as a token of thanks."

"The Blue Ribbon Belles are furnishing all of the bandanas, so the kids aren't out anything for them. We raised the money ourselves, so we're

not asking anyone else for help with the project. We also raised enough money to give the buyers a few little things."

While the Belles may be doing their part to make buyers feel welcome, they'll also give them a little competition.

"We're also going to be bidding on the animals ourselves," said Moates. "We're looking for students who have had a tough year, financially or otherwise, this year. We're looking for students who have just had hard luck. We're going to be helping kids that need a little help."

"There are 31 of us in the group right now, and anyone who had kids in these programs and we weren't able to contact is welcome to be a part of this. Come join us and be part of the group. We've had a lot of fun doing this."

For more information on the Belles, contact Moates at 264-6444.

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

MARTIN CO.

Continued from Page 1A

annual competition as more than just a game.

"We're not just raising animals — we're raising kids," said Schuette. "This is a teaching project. It's almost like a father and son vacation. We have a lot of fun doing it."

"We raise our own pigs. He (Geoffrey) knows everything there is to know about the pigs — from birthing them to killing them, even making sausage. He knows how to market the sausage so we can make money. It's a family business for us."

So what does young Geoff think of the daily routine?

"We raise them from newborns, so we always have to feed them first," said Geoffrey. "One 50 pound bag of feed will usually last about two days. You have to make sure they have plenty of water, and it's really good to walk them. Of course, with me getting home around 6 p.m. it's kind of hard."

You might expect so many responsibilities, especially when they run around on four legs with an enormous appetite, would put a strain on an eighth-grade student's education, but Geoffrey said it's really just a piece of cake.

"It's pretty easy to work around my school work," said Schuette. "The school work isn't very hard, so I get it done pretty quick."

Geoffrey's not alone in his endeavors, however,

as longtime friend and show partner Dorner helps the Schuettes every step of the way. And while he may not be a "competitor" in the show, his stakes are just as high, and his rewards are just as great.

"It's a lot of fun," said Dorner.

"I get to attend all of the stock shows that they go to. Like this year, I'll get to go to San Angelo and I'm here at the Martin County show."

"I don't just get to hang out. I have to help them work out the pigs and help with everything. I can't just take the attitude that the pigs belong to Geoff and Mr. Schuette — it's my responsibility, too. I have to help feed and water them. I'll continue to help them compete as long as they stay in it."

My favorite part is being in the show and when the judges call you for the next round," he added.

"That's when you know all of your hard work has paid off."

Traveling to various

shows all over West Texas, Terry Schuette said he realizes the value of the agriculture programs every time he visits larger cities.

"I see some of the kids in other cities when we go to shows, and all I can think is thank God my kids are showing pigs and not out there on the street," said Schuette.

Animal weigh-in was held Thursday, with competition set to start today as exhibitions began at 9 a.m. with the goat show, followed immediately by the lamb show and the steer show.

The swine show wraps up the judging beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday. That evening, at 7 p.m., the awards banquet will be held in the community center.

The Martin County show is sponsored by the Martin County Championship Club.

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

Howard County Junior Livestock Show

First-day results from the Howard County Junior Livestock Show

Lambs

Finewool: 1. Brittnee Nix, HC 4-H; 2. Rachel Haggard, HC 4-H; 3. Laurel Nix, HC 4-H; 4. Reagan Haggard, HC 4-H; 5. Meagan Kothmann, HC 4-H.

Champion Finewool: Brittnee Nix; Reserve: Rachel Haggard.

Finewool Cross, Class 1: 1. Laurel Nix, HC 4-H; 2. Brittnee Nix, HC 4-H; 3. Reagan Haggard, HC 4-H.

Finewool Cross, Class 2: 1. Shelby Jones, HC 4-H; 2. Meagan Kothmann, HC 4-H; 3. Rusty Martin, HC 4-H.

Finewool Cross, Class 3: 1. Rosie Morgan, Coahoma FFA; 2. Colter Morgan, Coahoma FFA; 3. Braeson Ramey, Sands FFA.

Champion Finewool Cross: Shelby Jones; Reserve: Laurel Nix.

Southdown: 1. Sloan Robinson, Sands FFA; 2. Seth Fry, Sands FFA; 3. Seth Fry, Sands FFA; 4. Seth Fry, Sands FFA.

Champion Southdown: Sloan Robinson; Reserve: Seth Fry.

Medium Wool, Class 1: 1. Sloan Robinson, Sands

FFA; 2. Meagan Kothmann, HC 4-H; 3. Laurel Nix, HC 4-H; 4. Kelsey Jones, HC 4-H; 5. Rachel Haggard, HC 4-H; 6. Corey Ramey, Sands FFA.

Medium Wool, Class 2: 1. Brittnee Nix, HC 4-H; 2. Dee Fryar, Sands FFA; 3. Kirstyn Pulis, HC 4-H; 4. Jess Brooks, HC 4-H; 5. Kayla Holleman, Coahoma FFA.

Medium Wool, Class 3: 1. Kylee Borchardt, HC 4-H; 2. Kylee Borchardt, HC 4-H; 3. Brittnee Nix, HC 4-H; 4. Dusty Martin, HC 4-H; 5. Kayla Holleman, Coahoma FFA; 6. Rosie Morgan, Coahoma FFA.

Medium Wool, Class 4: 1. Dee Fryar, Sands FFA; 2. Rusty Martin, HC 4-H; 3. Justin Cline, Coahoma FFA; 4. Colter Morgan, Coahoma FFA; 5. Kirstyn Pulis, HC 4-H; 6. Garrett Cline, Coahoma FFA.

Champion Medium Wool: Kylee Borchardt; Reserve: Brittnee Nix.

Grand Champion Lamb: Kylee Borchardt; Reserve: Brittnee Nix.

Goats
Class 1: 1. Kaysea Spiller, Coahoma FFA; 2. Kyla Clanton, Coahoma FFA; 3. Trevor Burchett, HC 4-H; 4. Morgan Luce, Coahoma FFA; 5. Keisha Yarbar, HC 4-H; 6. Braeson Ramey, Sands FFA.

Goats

Class 1: 1. Kaysea Spiller, Coahoma FFA; 2. Kyla Clanton, Coahoma FFA; 3. Trevor Burchett, HC 4-H; 4. Morgan Luce, Coahoma FFA; 5. Keisha Yarbar, HC 4-H; 6. Braeson Ramey, Sands FFA.

Class 2: 1. Cory Clanton, Coahoma FFA; 2. Braeson Ramey, Sands FFA; 3. Judson Chevalier, HC 4-H; 4. Stephanie Duffer, HC 4-H; 5. Shelby Jones, HC 4-H; 6. Brashara Brown, HC 4-H.

Class 3: 1. Meagan Kothmann, HC 4-H; 2. Kelsey Jones, HC 4-H; 3. Grayson Wegner, Big Spring FFA; 4. Garrett Nichols, Sands FFA; 5. Braeson Ramey, Sands FFA; 6. Sean Blagrove, Sands FFA.

Class 4: 1. Logan Gaskins, HC 4-H; 2. Shelby Jones, HC 4-H; 3. Jacquelin Dannon Ramey, Sands FFA; 4. Dee Fryar, Sands FFA; 5. Braeson Ramey, Sands FFA; 6. Rusty Martin, HC 4-H.

Class 5: 1. Meagan Kothmann, HC 4-H; 2. Rusty Martin, HC 4-H; 3. Kelsey Jones, HC 4-H; 4. Garrett Nichols, Sands FFA; 5. Justin Darden, Big Spring FFA; 6. Logan Gaskins, HC 4-H.

Class 6: 1. Regan Rupard, Coahoma FFA; 2. Meagna Kothmann, HC 4-H; 3. Corey Ramey, Sands FFA; 4. Garrett Nichols, Sands FFA; 5. Kylee Borchardt, HC 4-H; 6. Dusty Martin, HC 4-H.

Grand Champion Goat: Meagan Kothmann, HC 4-H; Reserve: Reagan Rupard, Coahoma FFA.

CLOSE

Continued from Page 1A

area schools will conduct classes as usual. Those include Big Spring,

Coahoma, Garden City, Grady, Stanton and Sands school districts.

Howard College will be open for the first day of classes for the spring semester.

Saturday is dance night at the Eagles
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Dorothy Garrett Coliseum
on the Howard College Campus

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JAN 14 2005

Bush expresses second thoughts about some utterances

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush says he now sees that tough talk can have an "unintended consequence."

During a round-table interview with reporters from 14 newspapers, the president, who not long ago declined to identify any mistakes he'd made during his first term, expressed misgivings for two of his most famous expressions: "Bring 'em on," in reference to Iraqis attacking U.S. troops, and his vow to get Osama bin Laden "dead or alive."

"Sometimes, words have consequences you don't intend them to mean," Bush said Thursday. "Bring 'em on" is the classic example, when I was really trying to rally the troops and make it clear to them that I fully understood, you know, what a great job they were doing. And those words had an unintended consequence. It kind of, some interpreted it to be defiance in the face of danger. That certainly wasn't the case."

On July 2, 2003, two

months after he had declared an end to major combat in Iraq, Bush promised U.S. forces would stay until the creation of a free government there. To those who would attack U.S. forces in an attempt to deter that mission, Bush said, "My answer is, Bring 'em on."

In the week after the Sept. 11 attacks, Bush was asked if he wanted bin Laden, the terrorist leader blamed for the attacks, dead.

"I want justice," Bush said. "And there's an old

poster out West, that I recall, that said, 'Wanted, Dead or Alive.'"

Recalling that remark, Bush told the reporters: "I can remember getting back to the White House, and Laura said, 'Why did you do that for?' I said, 'Well, it was just an expression that came out. I didn't rehearse it.'"

"I don't know if you'd call it a regret, but it certainly is a lesson that a president must be mindful of, that the words that you sometimes say... I speak plainly sometimes,

but you've got to be mindful of the consequences of the words. So put that down. I don't know if you'd call that a confession, a regret, something."

During his second debate last year with presidential challenger Sen. John Kerry, Bush was asked to name three instances in which he had made a wrong decision. At the time he declined to identify any specific mistakes.

Reporters at Thursday's round-table also asked

Bush about the high price tag for his second inaugural celebration and suggestions the \$40 million gala, which is being paid for by private donations — much of it coming from lobbyists and corporations — be scaled down.

"The inauguration is a great festival of democracy," he said.

"People are going to come from all over the country who are celebrating democracy and celebrating my victory, and I'm glad to celebrate with them."

Some question propriety of high inaugural costs

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's second inauguration will cost tens of millions of dollars — \$40 million alone in private donations for the balls, parade and other invitation-only parties. With that kind of money, what could you buy?

—Two hundred armored Humvees with the best armor for troops in Iraq.

—Vaccinations and preventive health care for 22 million children in regions devastated by the tsunami.

—A down payment on the nation's deficit, which hit a record-breaking \$412 billion last year.

—Two years' salary for the Mets' new center fielder Carlos Beltran, or all of pitcher Randy Johnson's contract extension with the New York Yankees.

A big inauguration and its accompanying costs were considered a given, a historic ceremony with all the pomp, pageantry and celebrations that the nation had come to expect every four years.

But a recent confluence of events — the tsunami natural disaster, Bush's warning about Social Security finances and the \$5 billion-a-month price tag for the war in Iraq — have many Americans now wondering why spend the money the second time around.

While the Presidential Inaugural Committee hopes to raise \$40 million in private donations for the balls, parades and candlelight dinners for high-roller donors, millions of government dollars will be spent on construction of the platform and stands at the Capitol, police overtime, military personnel and the tightest security for the first post-Sept. 11 inaugural.

The questions have come from Bush supporters and opponents: Do we need to spend this money on what seems so extravagant?

New York Rep. Anthony Weiner, a Democrat, suggested inaugural parties should be scaled back, citing as a precedent Franklin D. Roosevelt's inauguration during World War II.

"President Roosevelt held his 1945 inaugural at the White House, making a short speech and serving guests cold chicken salad and plain pound cake," according to a letter from Weiner and Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash. "During World War I, President Wilson did not have any parties at his 1917 inaugural, saying that such festivities would be undignified."

NEWS BRIEFS

Israel weighs response after militants kill six in attack

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel signaled Friday it will hold off on harsh retaliation for a bombing and shooting attack by Palestinian militants that killed six Israeli workers at a Gaza cargo crossing, giving newly elected Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas a chance to rein in violent groups.

Thursday night's shooting rampage at the Karni crossing, Gaza's main lifeline, marked the militants' first major challenge to Abbas, who has spoken out against violence and has said he would try to negotiate a truce.

Three Palestinian gunmen were killed in the attack, and three armed groups claimed responsibility, including Hamas and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, which has ties to Abbas' ruling Fatah movement.

Israel and the United States have said they would judge Abbas by his actions.

However, Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni suggested Friday that Israel would give Abbas, widely known as Abu Mazen, more time to deal with the militants. "In order to try to prevent the next attack, we have to try and strengthen Abu Mazen as a leader, based on the assumption that he can control the terror groups," Livni told Israel Army Radio, adding that Israel would draw the line at endangering its security.

Refugees want foreign troops to stay, government says no way

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP) — Jordanian military doctors treat patients at a clinic inside a refugee camp, while Australian and German troops swarm around the city's main hospital making repairs. The buzz of U.S. military helicopters has become so routine it's now ignored.

Foreign troops have been a key lifeline in the tsunami relief effort — and welcomed warmly in Aceh province despite its history of resistance to outside forces. Though the government says it wants foreign soldiers to leave by March 26, refugees say they hope the troops will stay as long as needed — provided they stick to aid work and don't establish permanent bases.

"If they leave, we will starve," said Syarwan, 27, a tailor who is now crowded with some 45 relatives under a tarp at a survivor camp in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh.

North Korea, United States trying to work out differences

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Friday told a visiting U.S. congressional delegation that it would not only return to six-party nuclear

talks but also treat the United States as a "friend" if Washington doesn't slander the rule of totalitarian leader Kim Jong Il.

The unexpected overture came shortly after a bipartisan congressional delegation concluded talks with senior communist officials in Pyongyang. The U.S. leaders called the trip an "overwhelming success" and said in Seoul that North Korea appeared ready to negotiate within weeks.

"Our unanimous impression is that the DPRK is ready to rejoin the six-party process," said Rep. Curt Weldon, vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, using the acronym for the North's official name, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The North's official news agency said the communist state told American lawmakers it "would not stand against the U.S. but respect and treat it as a friend" unless the United States "slanders" the North or "interferes" in its internal affairs, KCNA said.

The United States, North and South Korea, China, Japan and Russia have struggled to arrange a new round of talks aimed at persuading the North to abandon its nuclear weapons programs.

Iraqi official estimates half of population will vote Jan. 30

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A senior election official estimates that half of Iraq's 15 million eligible voters will take part in this month's national election and says that to encourage a high turnout, those living in emergency-racked areas will be allowed to vote in safer communities.

Farid Ayar of Iraq's Independent Electoral Commission said he expected 7 to 8 million Iraqis to vote on Jan. 30 in a ballot seen as a major step toward fulfilling U.S. goals of building democracy here after decades of Saddam Hussein's tyranny.

"That won't be bad. It will be OK for Iraq at the moment," Ayar said Thursday outside his office in Baghdad's heavily protected Green Zone, home of the U.S. Embassy and Iraqi government offices.

Ayar said residents of Fallujah, a city west of Baghdad that suffered extensive destruction when U.S. troops retook it from insurgents in November, will be allowed to vote in the areas where many took refuge from the fighting. Only a fraction of Fallujah's 300,000 population is living in the city.

In Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city and the scene of increased insurgent activity since December, residents in some violent neighborhoods will be allowed to vote elsewhere.

In all cases voters will be allowed to register and vote on the same day.

There are 14 million eligible voters inside Iraq, he said, plus 1.2 million abroad allowed to vote in 14 countries including the United States, Britain,

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Four men shot to death at south Dallas apartments

DALLAS (AP) — Four men were found shot to death at a south Dallas apartment complex Thursday night, police said.

Shortly after 5:30 p.m., authorities found the body of a man in the breezeway of the complex.

The bodies of three more men were discovered after shell casings were traced to a second-floor apartment.

All the victims were shot multiple times, police said.

The men were all in their late 20s or early 30s, police homicide Lt. Mike Scoggins said. Investigators were looking into whether drugs were involved and the men were in a gunfight.

Scoggins said the slayings resulted from "a disturbance that got out of hand."

Tina Jemerson, who lives nearby with her daughter, said she was watching television when her 10-year-old told her, "Momma, momma, I heard gunshots."

MINUTES OF COUNTY FINANCES TREASURER'S REPORT
IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY FINANCES IN THE HANDS OF TERESA THOMAS TREASURER OF HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS.

COMMISSIONER'S COURT HOWARD COUNTY, TEXAS IN REGULAR SESSION OCTOBER TERM 2004
IN ACCORDANCE with Section 114.026, Local Government Code, we, the undersigned constituting the entire Commissioners Court of said County, certify that on the 10th day of January, 2005, at the Regular term of Court, we compared and examined the monthly report of TERESA THOMAS, Treasurer of Howard County, Texas, for December, 2004, and finding the same correct, entered an order in the Minutes approving said Report, which states total cash and other assets on hand as \$4,664,989.61.

Ben Lockhart, County Judge
Emma Brown, Commissioner Pct. 1
Jerry Kilgore, Commissioner Pct. 2
W.B. "Bill" Crooker, Commissioner Pct. 3
Gary Simer, Commissioner Pct. 4

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME, by Ben Lockhart, County Judge, and County Commissioners of said Howard County, each respectively, on this the 10th day of January, A.D., 2005.
Attest: Donna Wright, County Clerk

FILED FOR RECORD THIS 10TH DAY OF January, A.D. 2005, and recorded on the 10th day of January, A.D. 2005.

Donna Wright
County Clerk and
Ex Officio Clerk of the Commissioners
Court in and for Howard County, Texas.

By: Brent Zitterkopf, Deputy

HOWARD COLLEGE
Continuing Education

Nurse Aide
Designed to provide basic nursing skills, emphasizing long-term elderly care facilities. Includes physical and psychological needs, safety, infection control, and resident rights. Applicants must read, write and comprehend English on an eight-grade level. Scrubs required for clinical. Tuition includes \$10.00 malpractice insurance and \$76.00 nurse aid exam (NURA 1001, 89 hours, 8.9 CEUs).
Cost: \$338.50

Day Courses
JAN 17 - MARCH 2
MWF 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Night Courses
JAN 17 - FEB 21
MTTH 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Medication Aide Certification
Medication Aides may now administer medications in nursing homes and state correctional facilities. They must hold a permit issued by the Texas Department of Health. A permit holder must function under the direct supervision of a Licensed Nurse on duty or on call by the facility. Medication aides are a cost effective option now open to Medicare Skilled Nursing facilities as well as Medicaid Nursing facilities. Medication Aides must also comply with certain Nurse Aide requirements. Prerequisites: Must be a Certified Nurse Aide. (NURA 1013, 156 hours, 15.6 CEUs)
Cost: \$485.00

JAN 19 - AUG 12
Wednesday 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Fridays 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

For more information on other CE courses, look for **Continuing Education Spring Schedule** in this Sunday's paper.

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www.howardcollege.edu
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First United Methodist Church
Sunday is Ecumenical Sunday. The Rev. Dave Ring's sermon titled "ONE."
The scripture John 17:20-21 Ecumenical Sunday celebration with Christian unity.
Worship service 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school meet at 9:45 a.m.
Chancel Choir is at 2 p.m. and Night is from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Monday evening the Open Door Club a Fun Night in Hall.
Everyone is invited to come and play games.
Kid's Club meets Tuesday after school.
Kid's Club is through fourth grade.
To enroll a child in the Club, contact the office.
Photographs of Living Christmas are now available.
Greenhouse Plant for viewing and purchase at www.stmch.com/ghp.
First United Methodist Church is located at Scurry. For more information on any programs at the church call 267-6394.

Friends of United Methodist Church
The Rev. J. comes over from Church of West Odessa Tuesday evening us in being invited in our invitation with power through Holy Spirit. The tentacles for the open gathering are noon and 5 p.m.
Regular Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church
The members of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church encourage you to visit them at Birdwell Lane.
Visitors are always welcome.
Church believe in reaching out to the lost and building a believing. This is a friendly church where you can become friends and family.
Sunday Worship services are at 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Midweek services are on Wednesday.
For information call 267-7157 or 267-8300.

First Baptist Church
First Baptist would like to welcome you to our community to Stamps Quarter cert Jan. 22 at tickets will be \$5. Love offering taken. Gather friends and neighbors bring them with you hear a great gospel music.
Included with our regularly scheduled Sunday, there is a luncheon sponsored by...

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810 11TH PLACE
You will find life in so many ways you will want to stay away from...
Sunday 11:00 Service broadcast over KBYG 14 on your dial.

Church News

First United Methodist Church

Sunday is Ecumenical Sunday. The Rev. Dr. Dave Ring's sermon is titled "ONE."

The scripture text is John 17:20-26. On Ecumenical Sunday, we celebrate worldwide Christian unity.

Worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sunday school classes meet at 9:45 a.m.

Chancel Choir rehearsal is at 2 p.m. and Kid's Fun Night is from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Monday evening at 7, the Open Door Class hosts a Fun Night in Garrett Hall.

Everyone is invited to come and play games.

Kid's Club meets every Tuesday after school. Kid's Club is for first-through-fourth graders. To enroll a child in Kid's Club, contact the church office.

Photographs of the Living Christmas Tree are now available from Greenhouse Photography for viewing and purchase at www.studiologin.com/ghp.

First United Methodist Church is located at 400 Scurry. For more information on any of the programs at the church, call 267-6394.

Friends of Unity

The Rev. Jim, who comes over from Unity Church of West Texas in Odessa Tuesday, is guiding us in being strengthened in our inner being with power through the Holy Spirit. These opportunities for growth are open gatherings. Times are noon and 5 p.m.

Regular Sunday meetings begin at 1 p.m.

Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

The membership of Birdwell Lane Baptist Church encourages you to visit them at 1512 Birdwell Lane.

Visitors are always welcome.

Church members believe in reaching the lost and building the believer. This is a friendly church where visitors become friends and friends become family.

Sunday Worship services are at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Midweek prayer services are at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

For information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

First Baptist Church

First Baptist Church would like to invite the community to hear "The Stamps Quartet" in concert Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. No tickets will be sold, but a love offering will be taken. Gather up your friends and neighbors and bring them with you to hear a great evening of gospel music.

Included with the regularly scheduled activities Sunday, there will be a luncheon sponsored by

the Royal Ambassadors. These young men study missions around the world each Wednesday evening.

This luncheon's profits will be used to offset the cost of their summer camp. You are invited to come to Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., attend morning worship which begins at 10:50 a.m., and stay for the meal immediately following the service. The meal will be in the Family Life Center. The price is a donation.

Sunday Night Live begins at 4:30 p.m. with activities for every age. Children will be involved with Bible Buddies or Bible Drill; youth have choir; college has Bible study; and the adults have three studies from which to choose. Evening worship begins at 6.

First Baptist Church invites anyone who is not currently involved in a body of Christ to come and worship Him with us. If you need more information concerning our church, please call 267-8223. May the Lord bless you during this new year.

First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Matthew Miles, minister, will speak on scripture taken from John 1:20-42 in the morning worship service. Ordination and installation of elders will also be held at that time. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. and Take 10 begins at 10:35.

Opportunities for the week include the Encouragers group which meets Monday at 6 p.m. Also Monday is the Session meeting. Tuesday, the Presbyterian Women will meet for a luncheon at noon. On Wednesday at 7 a.m. the men of the church meet for breakfast and at 6 p.m. there is choir practice.

Please join us for any of the previously mentioned activities. Everyone is always welcome at First Presbyterian Church, located on Runnels between Seventh and Eighth streets.

Coahoma United Methodist Church

Sunday is United Methodist Women Sunday at Coahoma United Methodist Church. Please come worship with us and learn more about this organization and how it works for missions around the world, as well as in the local community.

We are located at 401 N. Main in Coahoma. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. and worship service is at 11 a.m.

We would also like to extend an invitation at this time for people to meet our new pastor, Donita Leal.

Life Church

Life Church will be hosting guest speaker John Ragsdale today at 7

p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. John is the co-worship leader with Randy Phillips of "The Awakening," a live praise and worship television program that is broadcast worldwide. John has traveled extensively ministering in word and music.

Children's Ministry is available tonight for children ages 0-3 and Sunday for ages 0-10. We welcome you to attend these special meetings that are sure to energize you for the new year.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Everyone is invited to attend worship services at St. Mary's this Sunday. Holy Communion will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will have its monthly meeting and breakfast Saturday at 8 a.m. in the chapel.

The Episcopal Church Women will meet Sunday at 11:45 a.m. in the church library.

For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit our Web site at www.stmarysbst.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

East Side Baptist Church

The Friday Night Singing is set for 7 p.m.

Jan. 28. Everyone is invited to join the church members for worship.

February 13, the Anderson Family will be singing in both the morning and evening service.

East Side Baptist Church is located at 1108 E. Sixth St. Call 267-1915 with any questions. Leave a message on the answering machine and the call will be returned.

Cornerstone Church

Church members have coupon books with \$125 worth of offers from local merchants available for \$5, with all proceeds going to the church building fund. Contact 816-3082 for more information.

Cornerstone Church, a Morning Star International Church, invites children entering kindergarten through fourth grade to a new fall program, "Looking At the Pieces," at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, featuring different stories of the Old Testament. This month the children will be learning about an extraordinary boy, Jesus. A Sunday school class for preschoolers is also available.

Cornerstone, located at the corner of 12th and Owens streets, offers a family atmosphere of praise and worship. Morning worship begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday worship is at 7 p.m. Childcare is available for newborns through preschool. Call Pastor

Craig or Cherise Felty at 263-3072 with any questions.

Calvary Baptist Church

Calvary Baptist Church welcomes all those who are looking for a place to worship. Calvary Baptist Church is located at 1200 W. Fourth Street. Preaching services are at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday Bible study is at 5 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dr. Alan Abel is beginning a new Bible study class Sunday mornings in the Annex after church based on the book, "The Screwtape Letters," by C.S. Lewis. Dr. Abel is a great communicator and this promises to be lots of fun. Call 267-7163 for more information and to provide a count so books may be ordered. Bring a friend, this will be great.

The Wednesday noon ladies Bible study group began a new study Wednesday. The study group is reading and discussing "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancey. All are welcome. For more information or to enroll in the class, call the church office at 267-7163.

Big Spring ... a great home town, St. Paul ... a great home church!

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

Opportunities for Christian growth and service this week include 9:45 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m. morning worship; 4:45 p.m. youth, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, Mission Friends and Mission Babies; 5 p.m. choir practice; and 6 p.m. evening worship.

Wednesday 7 p.m. Bible study and prayer meeting and youth. A vision meeting is at 6 p.m. Jan. 30.

The church is located at 401 E. Fourth St. Call 267-2291 for more information.

One-day seminar

A one-day seminar, "Creation: From the Beginning - A Biblical View of the Origins of a Defiant Culture," is set for 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Jan. 22 in the St. Paul Lutheran Church parish hall.

The event is free and open to the public and lunch and child care will be provided at no charge.

This seminar is conducted by the Rev. Steven Misch, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Borger. He has done extensive research into the Biblical creation of the earth.

Call the church office to make arrangements for child care or with any other questions at 267-7163.

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 Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
 Evangelistic Service....6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Service.....7:00p.m.

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Club News

Keep Big Spring Beautiful

Keep Big Spring Beautiful met Monday in the La Posada Restaurant. There were 25 in attendance. Pat Simmons reported great success for the Festival of Lights. Attendance was wonderful and included many visitors from other towns and countries.

Perry Hall asked who would be interested in attending the Waste in Place workshop. We will be attempting to interest schools in using the materials to encourage students to recycle and pick up litter.

Pam Welch told about plans to seek corporate and business members. Wilda Ledford announced that the ways and means committee is considering holding a spring community garage sale.

Loyce Phillips reported the education committee will be planning several youth-involved activities.

Basic training courses will be offered at no charge by Keep Texas Beautiful Feb. 2, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. in Midland. They will also present a forum Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. This will include grant writing and corporate involvement.

The public is urged to take aluminum cans to Big Spring Salvage on North Highway 87, asking the money earned be credited to Keep Big Spring Beautiful to help in our future projects.

TOPS TX 21

Co-leader Carol Smith presided when Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) TX 21 met Monday at 5:30 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third.

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Hughetta Roberts, followed by both the TOPS and Keep Off Pounds Sensibly (KOPS) pledges. The group then joined in singing the fellowship song.

A reading was given by Carol Smith titled, "Be Your Best in 2005." Minutes of the previous meeting was read by secretary Gladys Russell.

Assistant weight recorder Hughetta Roberts called the roll. Eight TOPS weighed in with Olnee Menges being the best loser of the week. Of the four KOPS present, Gladys Russell was the best loser. Each one received the best loser award and a certificate.

For the program, the members joined in a general discussion of problems of the week and each one gave a suggestion of things that might help during the coming week. It was a lively discussion and many helpful hints were provided.

Interested in TOPS? Call 1-800-302-8677 or locally 263-0391 or 263-1758 for more information.

Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teachers Association

The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teachers Association will meet Monday, in the Cactus Room at Howard College. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Superintendent Michael Downes will present an update on Big Spring Independent School District.

Members are reminded to turn in their volunteer hours for the past year.

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Psalm 23: 1

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Hillcrest Baptist Church



SUNDAY
Sunday School.....9:30 A.M.
Morning Celebration Worship.....11:00 A.M.
Evening Celebration Worship.....6:30 A.M.

WEDNESDAY
Worship Celebration.....6:45 A.M.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study.....7:00 P.M.

Kevin Parker, Pastor

Tim Snowden,

Associate Pastor For Worship Ministry

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267-1639

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BAPTIST TEMPLE
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FIRST BAPTIST
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Sand Springs 393-5565
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Pastor, Jeff Janca
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CHURCH OF CHRIST
Green & Anderson 263-2075
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God: for in thee do
I put my trust.
Psalm 16:1

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for, the evidence of
things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Friday, January 14, 2005

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IN BRIEF

Lady Steers Booster Club meetings set

The Lady Steers Booster Club will be meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday at the ATC, which is a change from its original date.

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

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

The Lady Steers Softball Booster Club will also meet Thursday. This meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at the ATC.

All parents of girls involved in softball are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Abner at 264-0023 or Veronda Vassar at 267-4657.

Ambassadors to play at Dorothy Garrett

The Harlem Ambassadors basketball team will play an exhibition game in Big Spring at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum at Howard College Friday, Jan. 21, beginning at 7 p.m.

The cost will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and \$1 for youth accompanied by an adult and youth under the age of five are free when accompanied by an adult. Tickets can be purchased at the Big Spring YMCA, KBST, the B.S. Herald and at the coliseum during the night of the game.

The game is a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Big Spring.

Chicano Golf sets group meeting

The Chicano Golf Association has scheduled an organizational meeting for 6:45 p.m. Monday.

The meeting will take place at the Jimmy Marin Exxon.

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

15-year-old Wie still alive for PGA dream

HONOLULU (AP) — Michelle Wie scrambled to salvage a 5-over 75, finishing ahead of 15 men on a blustery day at Waialae Country Club.

But the 15-year-old was nine shots behind Stewart Cink, Brett Quigley, Tom Byrum and Hank Kuehne.

Her dream is to become the first female to make the cut since the Babe Zaharias in the 1945 Tucson Open.

Woods gives money to tsunami efforts

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The Tiger Woods Foundation is giving \$100,000 to tsunami relief efforts in Asia, and the PGA Tour is matching that amount.

Woods' foundation and the tour are donating the money to Give2Asia.

ON THE AIR

MLB helps integrity, cracks down on steroids issue

By BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer
SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Saying it wanted to restore confidence in the game, baseball rolled out a tougher steroid-testing program Thursday that includes penalties for first-time offenders and random, year-round checks.

"I've been saying for some time my goal for this industry is zero tolerance toward steroids," baseball commissioner

Bud Selig said.

A first positive test would result in a suspension of up to 10 days, a second positive test a 30-day ban, a third positive a 60-day penalty, and a fourth positive test a one-year ban.

Under the previous agreement, a first positive test resulted only in treatment, and a second positive test was subject to a 15-day suspension. Only with a fifth positive test was a player subject to a

one-year ban under the old plan.

Since the old agreement was reached in 2002, the sport has come under increased scrutiny about steroids. Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield testified before a federal grand jury investigating a California lab, and President Bush brought up the steroids issue in a State of the Union address.

"We're acting today to help restore the confi-

dence of our fans," Selig said.

In addition to the one mandatory test of each player each season, players will randomly be selected for additional tests, with no maximum number of checks. In addition, players will randomly be selected for testing during the offseason.

This new agreement runs until December 2008.

"I will be surprised if over time this doesn't

take care of the problem virtually completely," union head Donald Fehr said.

Human Growth Hormone was added to the list of banned substances; amphetamines were not.

"We had a problem and we dealt with the problem," Selig said. "I regarded this as not only a health issue, but certainly you could say it was an integrity issue in this sport."

Colts-Pats highlight NFL playoff weekend

By DAVE GOLDBERG

AP Football Writer

Is there any NFL playoff game this weekend other than the one in New England?

You wouldn't know it from the buzz surrounding Sunday's contest in Foxboro featuring MVP Peyton Manning and the Colts against the Patriots, winners of two of the last three Super Bowls and five straight games over the record-breaking quarterback.

Yes, there are eight teams left in the playoffs and three other games this weekend. They are outside the spotlight, though.

"We just worry about us," says Atlanta coach Jim Mora, whose Falcons (11-5) are the NFC's second-seeded team and face visiting St. Louis on Saturday.

"Eventually we will be a blip on the radar screen. We certainly want to make sure we're on the radar screen for the right reasons if we ever do get above ground."

True enough. If there's a second game gaining attention, it's not for the right reasons. It's because Randy Moss pretended to moon Green Bay fans after scoring a touchdown last week for the Vikings, who play at Philadelphia in Sunday's early game.

Even Pittsburgh — which had the NFL's best record at 15-1 and unveiled the most successful rookie quarterback ever in Ben Roethlisberger — has been carrying a low profile as it waits for the Jets in the opening game of the weekend.

Those games build up to late Sunday afternoon for Colts-Patriots.

The rematch of last year's AFC title game pits Manning, who broke Dan Marino's single-season record for touchdown passes with 49, against Tom Brady, who doesn't have great statistics but has two Super Bowl rings.

The comparisons: Manning is Marino, who set tons records but never won a Super Bowl. Brady is Joe Montana, who was so cool and collected and won four championships.

But that's a bit deceptive — Manning is only 28 and has plenty of time to accumulate hardware.

"I still consider myself to be a young quarterback, believe it or not, even though quarterback years are kind of like dog years," he says. "I'm in my seventh year and I'm known as kind of an old man as far as quarterbacks go in the NFL."

All four quarterfinals are rematches of regular-season games, and all are at the same venue as the

first contests.

AFC

Indianapolis (13-4) at New England (14-2)

Manning threw 32 of his 49 TD passes indoors — 26 at home in the RCA Dome and six more at Detroit's Ford Field. The temperature in Foxboro on Sunday is likely to be in the 20s.

"People make a big deal of that," he says. "I think it just depends on who plays the best, whether you're at home or away in a dome or in weather or whatnot."

"Whatnot" in this case might be the Patriots' crowd and New England's 19-game winning streak in Foxboro.

The Pats also are one of only three teams to finish 14-2 for two straight seasons.

The crowd? Manning calls more plays at the line of scrimmage than any quarterback in the NFL.

"It's always a huge advantage for us playing at home," Brady says. "I know going on the road, it's real tough when it's loud. From an opposing team's view, it's awfully tough when the other crowd is very loud — and our fans are loud."

Previous meeting: Patriots 27-24, Sept. 9.

New York Jets (11-6) at Pittsburgh (15-1)

Like the Falcons, the Steelers seem content to be ignored. And Roethlisberger, 13-0 as a starting quarterback in the NFL, seems content to let Manning, Brady, Daunte Culpepper, Donovan McNabb and the other high-profile quarterbacks take the spotlight.

"There's a little bit of pressure out there, obviously, because you lose, you go home," he said after some relaxed horseplay in the locker room this week. "But I don't want to go out there and have too much pressure and stress on me."

The Jets' Chad Pennington, whose sore shoulder seemed healed in last week's overtime win in San Diego, had a virus infection this week. Coach Herman Edwards, who had a touch of the same, looked at that as a potential positive.

"Generally when guys get sick they have good games," Edwards said. "I thought one time Michael Jordan got sick and he had, what, 100 points or something like that? Maybe that's a good sign when guys get sick."

Previous meeting: Steelers 17-6, Dec. 12.

NFC

St. Louis (9-8) at Atlanta

(11-5)

The Rams were the first 8-8 team to advance in the playoffs, and the Vikings became the second the next day, demonstrating how weak the NFC is this season.

The Falcons also are a bit of a question mark, although with Michael Vick back from injury and Mora as the coach, they have reversed last season's record. They also had wins over two AFC playoff teams, San Diego and Denver, and Vick on a fast track makes them extremely dangerous from anywhere on the field.

The Rams, of course, love an artificial indoor surface, although they would prefer to be in their own dome.

They also have won three straight games and believe they are returning to the elite status they enjoyed for most of the last five years. Coach Mike Martz now says Marc Bulger might be better than Kurt Warner was from 1999-01, when he won two MVP awards.

The defense is coming on, helped by the emergence of tackle Jimmy Kennedy, who played little as a first-round draft choice last season, then missed seven games with a broken foot this season.

Previous meeting: Falcons 34-17, Sept. 19.

Minnesota (9-8) at Philadelphia (13-3)

The Eagles are also a bit out of the spotlight, in part because they tanked their last two games after clinching home-field advantage, and in part because they were off last week while Moss shared top billing with Manning and the Colts.

Philadelphia also has been downgraded because Terrell Owens is out with a leg injury and won't be back unless the Eagles make the Super Bowl — and maybe not even then.

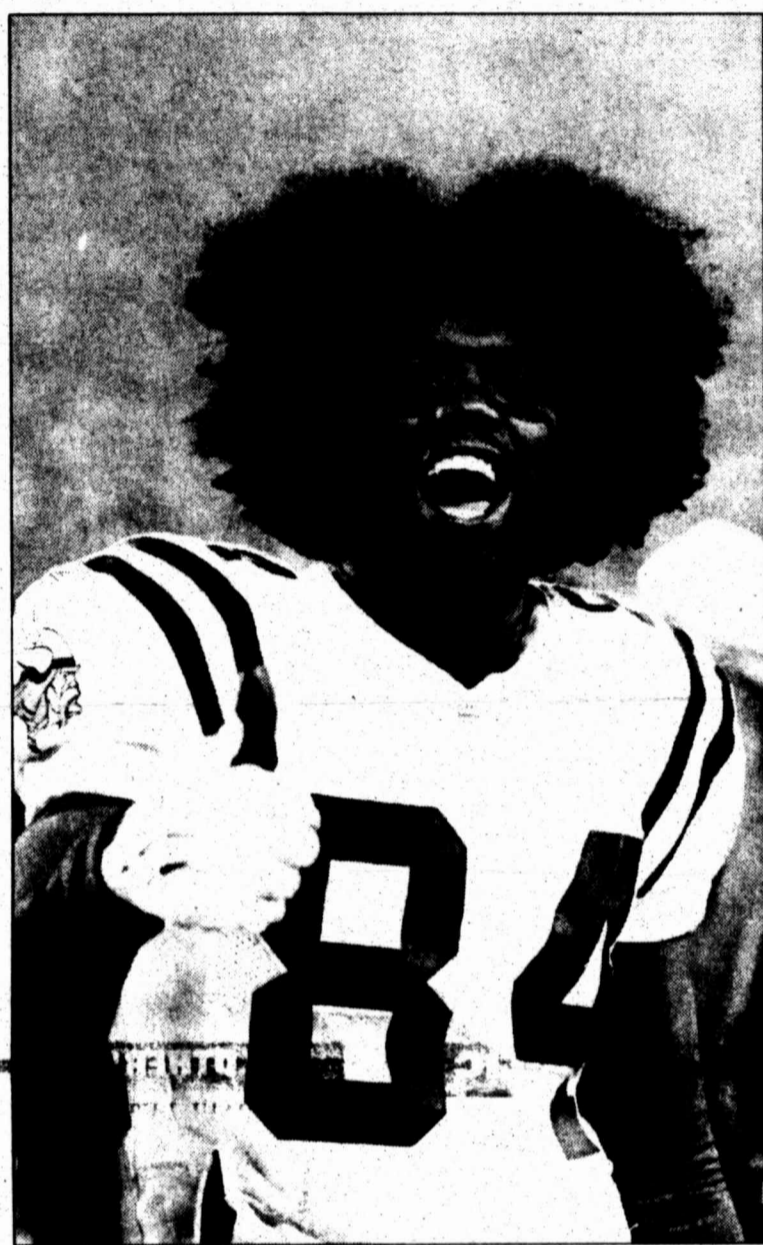
But they do have Brian Westbrook, the other playmaker, whose absence from the playoffs last season was probably why they lost their third straight NFC title game.

Moss, whose two touchdown catches in Green Bay were overshadowed by his antics, was limping this week on a sprained ankle after being hobbled for much of the season by hamstring problems. But he will play.

Even Minnesota owner Red McCombs got into the act by demanding that Fox Sports remove play-by-play announcer Joe Buck from the telecast for denouncing Moss' antics.

Fox declined.

Previous meeting: Eagles 27-16, Sept. 20.



KRT photo/Todd Buchanan, St. Paul Pioneer Press

The Vikings' Randy Moss celebrates his team's victory over the Packers in the closing minutes of their NFL playoff game at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Sunday. Moss was fined \$10,000 Thursday for pretending to moon the Green Bay fans. The Vikings travel to Philadelphia Sunday to take on the Eagles in the divisional round.

Cowboys bring back Smith

• Dallas re-signs sixth-round draft pick

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys are giving another chance to receiver Zuriel Smith, a sixth-round pick in 2003 who had modest success as a rookie but was out of football last season.

Smith, who signed a 2005 contract Thursday, caught the eye of coach Bill Parcells because of his dazzling success as a punt returner at Division I-AA Hampton. That led to Dallas drafting him and to him opening 2003 as the primary kick returner.

He started out strong, perhaps most notably on a ball he didn't return —

a last-minute kickoff against the New York Giants that he let go out of bounds, giving the Cowboys good field position to start a rally that turned into an overtime victory.

It was Dallas' first win under Parcells and it led to a five-game winning streak that propelled the Cowboys to a 10-6 season and playoff berth.

Smith averaged 21.5 yards on 23 kickoff returns and 7.1 yards on 30 punt returns, but lost the job later in the season. He caught just three passes for 46 yards in nine games.

This past season, the Cowboys cut him a week before the opener.

RIVALRY WEEKEND

High School Basketball

Tonight's district matchups

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girls: 6 p.m. boys: 7:30 p.m.

Stanton @ Coahoma
girls: 6:30 p.m. boys: 8 p.m.

Sands @ Garden City
girls: 6:30 p.m. boys: 8 p.m.

Iraan @ Forsan
girls: 6:30 p.m. boys: 8 p.m.

Klondike @ Grady
girls: 6:30 p.m. boys: 8 p.m.

Small text at the bottom left of the page, likely a publication or subscription notice.

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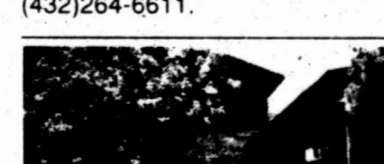
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The influence of Capricorn planets can be transforming — not in a caterpillar-turned-butterfly way but more in a rebellious-youth-turned-soldier way. There's boot camp involved.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

Capricorn is a tough-love energy for certain, but it works brilliantly to push people, situations and projects to the next level. Your hard work is changing you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some activities that should fall under the category of success don't make you feel successful. Consider that success may mean something different to you than it does to others. Enjoying your creativity is key.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It seems safer to be floating in outer space than to get mixed up in certain relationship turmoil. But don't be fooled. Outer space has its dangers, too, what with the black suns, neutron storms, radiation and the like. Come back to Earth.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll take an action that has no other purpose but to make someone crazy. And to you, this falls under the category of "fun." That's the beautiful thing about you — you're a provocateur. Never change.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll learn enough about your fellow man to be glad for your own good fortunes — and your misfortunes, actually. Your complaints about life are so much more appealing and interesting than anyone else's!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Once again, there's proof that intellect is wasted if one isn't also people smart. A concept explored in the first season of "The Apprentice" applies: There's little correlation

between a high IQ and success in lemonade sales.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're ready to go it alone. Then, loved ones surprise you by wanting to be involved in more of your life's activities than you thought would interest them. Chalk it up to the fact that you're just cool.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Though it may seem strategic to play the freshman, eager for his upper-classman's counsel, this doesn't serve your long-term purpose. You already know more than you think you know. Trust that, and dive into your project.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your status in the game isn't determined by a solitary winning move or a single losing move. Taking steps forward and backward is to be expected. Cheer yourself on no matter what, and others will follow suit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You define your goals and targets, but then, when you get going, it doesn't feel like work. It feels like you're just being really silly. That's how you know you're on the right path.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Whether negative or positive, you put your attention on things for a reason. Regarding your arch nemesis. It's obvious to the rest of the world that you really care for this person, but you may still be too stubborn to admit it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're so over being heavy and serious. Doting on someone who doesn't particularly deserve it — take your pampered pet, for instance — puts you in a lighthearted, frivolous and exceptionally attractive mood.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You actually add hours to your life when you put a seal on one of your time drains. Perhaps stop watching a certain TV show, stop talking to a long-winded person or stop going into that store where the lines are so long.

WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST: Loving Venus has taken residence in the structured, traditional sign of Capricorn. Loved ones want the assurances that a formal commitment can provide. **ARIES:** Put a little James Bond into your romance. Play it classy, detached, cool and on the defensive. **TAURUS:** Your reaction to a loved one's advances are quite different from what they were last week. Expect raised eyebrows. **GEMINI:** The more sass and moxie you muster, the more attractive you become. **CANCER:** The best is yet to come, but what unfolds this weekend lays the groundwork for a solid romance. **LEO:** Relax! Relationship demands are too scary for that light-hearted good-time prospect. **VIRGO:** The very thought of you sends a thrill down a certain person's spine — it's not who you think. **LIBRA:** Lose the safety net. Decide to trust someone, and then, do it. **SCORPIO:** There's still potential in a relationship that you don't see. **SAGITTARIUS:** You need freedom in order to feel loving. **CAPRICORN:** Give loved ones proper priority on your list. First slot is a good choice. **AQUARIUS:** Your crush is obvious. Confess! **PISCES:** Cynicism only blocks you from love, so resolve to be optimistic — you have good reason to be.

BIG SPRING HERALD
Friday, January 14

FRIDAY

Time	Program	Channel
6:30	News (CC)	WFAA (2) K
7:30	Wheel Fortune	W
8:30	Simple Rules	8
9:30	Complete Sav.	8
10:30	Hope & Faith	16
11:30	Less-Perfect	16
12:30	20/20 (CC)	20
1:30	News (CC)	Ni
2:30	Nightline	Ni
3:30	Ent. Tonight	E
4:30	Jimmy Kimmel	F
5:30	Live (CC)	H
6:30	News (CC)	XI

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My fiancée, "Catherine," has told me that I am overly sensitive. As you might expect, I disagree with her, so I am asking you.

Catherine is friends with "John" and Geraldine," whose company I do not particularly care to keep. This couple was married two years ago — immediately after John divorced his first wife. Prior to pursuing Geraldine, however, John expressed a strong interest in Catherine. This doesn't surprise me, as Catherine is a very attractive woman.



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

What bothers me is that over dinner one recent evening, Catherine lamented about having not married John herself, so that she could have traveled with him to Hawaii, Cancun, etc., as John and Geraldine have done since their wedding.

Am I being overly sensitive to object to Catherine's continued relationship with John? Should I consider asking her for an apology? — Dazed and Confused

Dear Dazed: Sorry to tell you, but you are a little over-sensitive on this issue. Catherine is not carrying a torch for John. She is carrying one for Hawaii. She envies the traveling that John and his wife have been able to afford. We will say, however, that she expressed it rather insensitively, considering that you take these things to heart.

Tell her, gently, that it hurts when she makes it sound as if she would rather be engaged to John instead of you. Then let her make it up to you.

Dear Annie: Our office staff often hosts meetings for small groups in our conference room. This past week, we were the hosts for a meeting, and a

young woman who was attending offered to bring refreshments for the participants. We were very grateful to her, as we usually provide only coffee and water.

The young woman in question brought cookies, and after the meeting, she took the remaining cookies with her. Is this appropriate behavior, or should she have left the cookies for the hosts?

Some of our staff has likened this to bringing a bottle of wine to a dinner party and asking that the unused portion be returned to you. Another group feels she is entitled to the leftover cookies, since she brought them. What do you say? — Wondering in Wyoming

Dear Wondering: This was not a social event, like a dinner party. She was bringing the cookies for the participants. Although it would have been nice for her to share the extra calories with your office staff, she no doubt assumed she had to clean up after the meeting and took the cookies with her. No faux pas intended.

Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611.

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Legals

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The Howard County Auditor will accept sealed bids until 10:00 A.M. on January 21, 2005 for the following:
The purchase of one (1) new pick-up and three (3) new cars for the Sheriff's Office.
Specifications may be obtained in the Auditor's Office, 300 S. Main, Room 203, Big Spring, TX or by calling (432)264-2210.
Bids will be presented to the Commissioners' Court at 10:00 A.M. on January 24, 2005 for their consideration.
The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
Drew Lopez, Asst. Auditor
#4422 January 6 & 14, 2005

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FRIDAY

JAN. 14

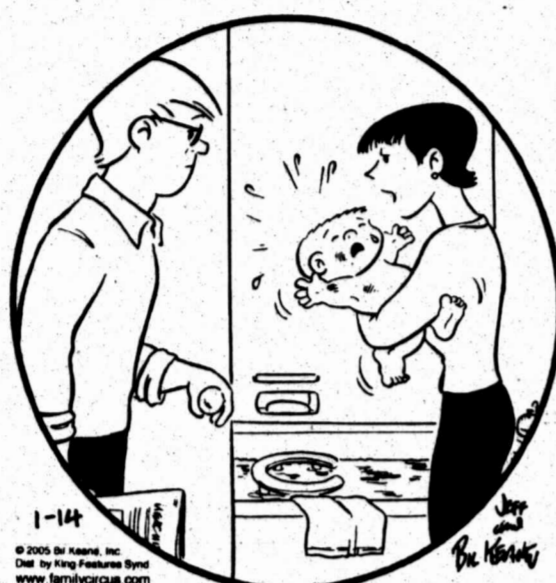
Table with 23 columns (WFAA, KMD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KOCV, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, TMC) and 6 rows (6-12 PM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"GINA CAN DO A FIGURE EIGHT, BUT JOEY'S STILL LEARNIN' FIGURE ONE."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you think this is loud, wait till you hear him when I take him OUT of the tub!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



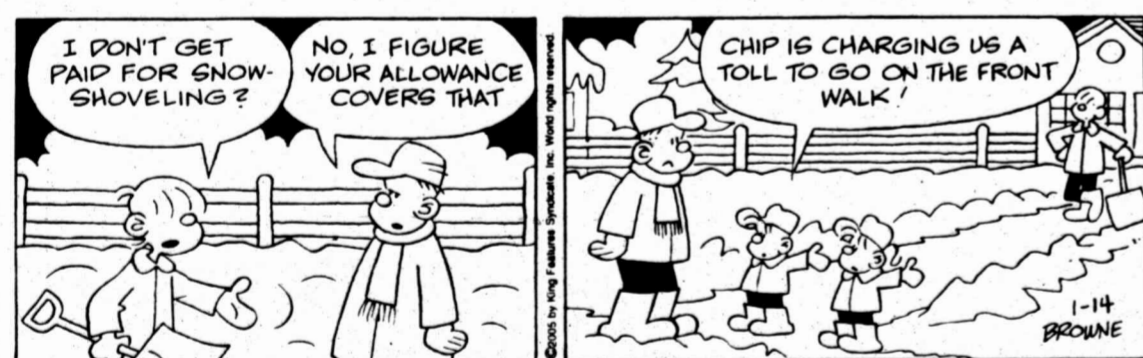
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THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By the Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 14, the 14th day of 2005. There are 351 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 14, 1784, the United States ratified a peace treaty with England, ending the Revolutionary War. On this date: In 1639, the first constitution of Connecticut - the "Fundamental Orders" - was adopted. In 1858, French emperor Napoleon III escaped an attempt on his life. In 1900, Puccini's opera "Tosca" received a mixed reception at its world premiere in Rome. In 1914, Ford Motor Company greatly improved its assembly-line operation by employing a chain to pull each chassis along.

In 1943, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill opened a wartime conference in Casablanca. In 1952, NBC's "Today" show premiered, with Dave Garroway as the host, or "communicator," as he was officially known. In 1953, Josip Broz Tito was elected president of Yugoslavia by the country's Parliament. In 1963, George C. Wallace was sworn in as governor of Alabama with a pledge of "segregation forever." In 1969, 25 crew members of the U.S. aircraft carrier Enterprise were killed in an explosion that ripped through the ship off Hawaii. In 1970, Diana Ross and the Supremes performed their last concert together, at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas. Today's Birthdays: CBS commentator Andy Rooney is 86. Former CBS newsmen George Herman is 85. Country singer Billy Walker is 76. Blues singer Clarence Carter is 69. Country singer Billie Jo Spears is 68. Singer Jack Jones is 67. Singer-songwriter Allen Toussaint is 67. NAACP Chairman Julian Bond is 65. Actress Faye Dunaway is 64. Actress Holland Taylor is 62. Actor Carl Weathers is 57. Singer-producer T-Bone Burnett is 57. Movie writer-director Lawrence Kasdan is 56. Rock singer Geoff Tate (Queensryche) is 46. Movie writer-director Steven Soderbergh is 42. Actor Mark Addy is 41. Rapper Slick Rick is 40. Actor Dan Schneider is 39. Actress Emily Watson is 38.

Answer to previous puzzle: L A W N C L A S P M A C H O P I E Y A L T A E S A U G A R D E N P L O T T I R E I C E R I D O R C H A R D C E D R I C S L O M O H E I S T L O G G E D W A R Y S H A G N A I V E E X A M M E L E E C L E F A L I E N D E N Y T A R T R E D S E A S E E T O C A B O T S H R I K E H I G H T O P P I E G E L I D L E D E S I G N P L A W T E E M E R I C H B O N E S I A I N E S A D A I T T O U S

Newsday Crossword

HOW EASY IS IT? by Richard Silvestri Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a grid with numbers 1-70 and a list of clues.

JAN 14 2005

Golf Insider

By T.J. TOMASI

BIRDIES AND BOGEYS

Super shot of '04

Phil Mickelson's 18-foot putt for birdie on the 72nd hole of the Masters, to win by one stroke over Ernie Els, was the super shot of 2004. It completed a back nine of 31, it was Mickelson's fifth birdie in seven holes, and it got rid of the "best player to never win a major" label that Mickelson had carried for years. For added drama, the putt even teetered on the left edge before curling in.

"One-putt Utt"

In the category of "it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy" is the new-found fame of Stan Utley, tour player and short-game guru.

Utley, never a big winner on tour, is becoming a sought-after putting and chipping instructor. He holds the record for putts for nine holes in a PGA Tour event with 6, and led the tour in the putts-per-round category in 2003 with 27.6.

He espouses arc putting — opening and closing the club face like a door on a hinge — a la Ben Crenshaw and Brad Faxon (not bad putters themselves). Utley has coached Jay Haas so well that Haas is postponing his full-time entrance onto the Champions Tour even though he has passed the magic qualifying age of 50.

Utley was one of the presenters at the recent PGA Teaching and Coaching Summit and joked that, "Maybe it (his success) was God's way of saying, 'Wow, you need a job after playing bad all those years.'" Note that players seek him out for the short game, not the full swing.

GOLF BY THE NUMBERS

562

The number of putts PGA Tour professional John Cook made from 3 feet or less during the 2004 season without a miss.

0

The number of top-25 finishes Rich Beem had in 2004. Beem finished 183 on the PGA Tour money list in 2004, but is exempt through 2007 by virtue of his 2002 PGA Championship win — no matter how badly he plays.

232

The length in yards of the longest hole-in-one on the PGA Tour in 2004. Justin Rose did it on the 17th hole at Greensboro. He used a 3-iron!



ROSE

1,031

The number of fairways out of 1,335 drives that Scott Verplank hit in 2004, a drop of 168 places from 2003, when he finished first.

169

John Huston ranked 169th in putting average on the PGA Tour in 2004, a drop of 168 places from 2003, when he finished first.

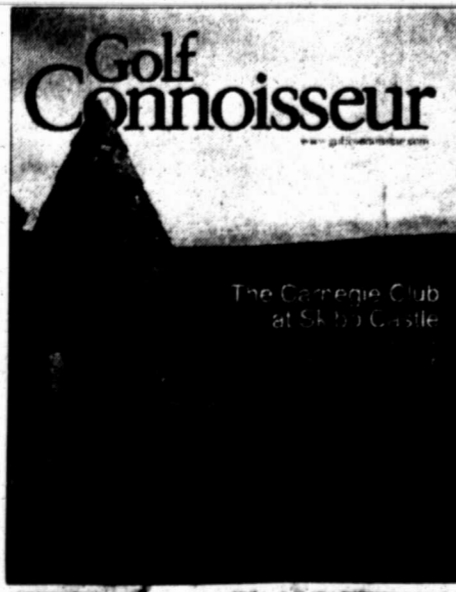
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The number of cuts David Duval made in his last three starts of 2004 (including a respectable T-13 at Deutsche Bank).

DON'T MISS IT

Elite golf

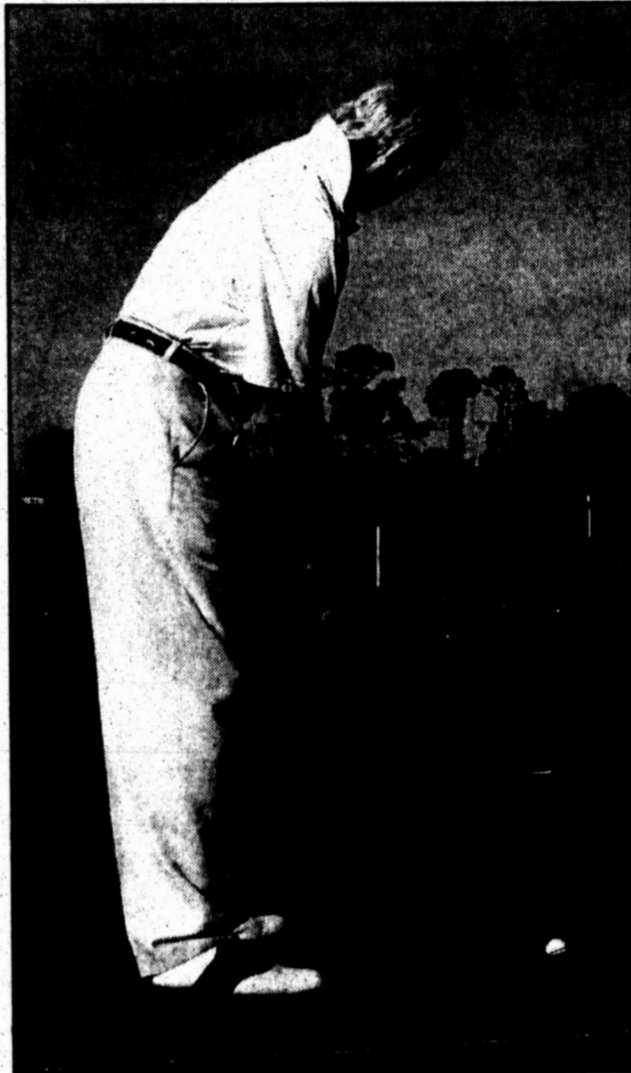
Self-described as "the new elite golf men's lifestyle magazine," Golf Connoisseur promises to introduce you to the professionals, business leaders and celebrities who love the game; to acquaint you with their favorite getaway spots; to take you inside the top clubs, onto the famous fairways and to every aspect of the good life. The magazine outlines the "pleasures that drive successful men"; all for \$19.99 for five issues. If you're interested, log on to www.golfconnoisseur.com. The intro alone has some beautiful golf photos.



IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME



Placing a 7-iron behind my back, I warm up my "coil muscles" by swinging back and through in a gentle, constant motion.



I'm practicing hitting to a target, so my entire focus is on the flag. I'm thinking about where I want the ball to go, not how to get it there.

Practice with a purpose

The secret to golf for a professional player is found "in the dirt," a quaint way of saying that to be good you've got to practice.

Pros spend most of the day on the practice tee because golf is their job. But if you're like most golfers, your life simply doesn't allow such large chunks of practice time. You must find a way to use what practice time you have wisely.

A decent swing is within your grasp if you can do two things: (1) steal the odd 30 minutes now and again for practice, and (2) have a definite goal in mind for those 30 minutes.

It does you no good to simply dump a bucket of balls on the ground and fire away. When you're not engaged in a goal-directed activity, your mind wanders, making it much too easy to tinker yourself right out of a good golf swing.

There are four basic goals for any practice session, and you can use them in any combination, depending on how much time you have or what type of mood you're in. Just make sure to use at least one goal per session.

ABOUT THE WRITER



Dr. T.J. Tomasi is director of instruction at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, Conn. To ask him a question about golf, e-mail him at: TJInsider@aol.com.

The four goals are:

• **1. Warming Up:** Never swing full throttle unless you've done some stretching and hit a few balls at half-speed.

In the first photo above, I've placed a 7-iron behind my back to warm up my "coil muscles." In this position, I'll swing back and through four or five times in a constant motion — gently.

• **2. Fundamental Practice:** Every golfer has to work on the fundamentals, such as grip, stance, posture, aim and alignment. Even experts like Tiger Woods need to hone the fundamentals at the start of every season to make sure that no

imperfections have crept into their form.

• **3. Target Practice:** The third goal is focusing exclusively on hitting to a target. Prior to striking any ball in this type of practice, you should work through your entire pre-shot routine, including the very powerful element of visualization. This type of practice is the vital link that helps you take your game from the range to the course.

The rule of thumb is that when you're practicing mechanics, no target; when you're practicing target, no mechanics. In the second photo, I'm practicing hitting to a target, so my entire focus is on the flag. I'm thinking about where I want the ball to go, not how I'm going to get it there.

• **4. Practice Playing.** You actually play a round of golf right there on the practice range, using your imagination to lay out the course, going through your pre-shot routine, and hitting the shots required given the situations you create in your mind. More than a few tour players do this prior to teeing it up in a competitive round.

THE GOLF DOCTOR

Be the master of your swing

When you're trying to build a swing, you can't let the ball be your master. This is what happens when you make changes in your swing based on the ball flight of your last shot.

When the ball is your master you make random alterations, changing something that's wrong to something that's right and vice versa, never knowing the difference. The cycle continues

on ad infinitum, condemning you to tinker with your swing forever.

Instead of this constant tinkering, you should establish a model swing, break it up into manageable chunks or tasks and learn your swing one chunk at a time. Your evaluation system then must be based on how well you match the model, not on how well you're hitting the ball.

This attention to task performance is the hallmark of a good learner. It's also

why lessons are so important. The instructor can rate you on how well you perform a particular task so you won't be controlled by the ball flight.

Once you've built your swing, then the ball flight becomes the teacher, i.e. the ball flight allows you to diagnose what's right and wrong with your swing. But while you're learning, ignore the ball flight and work on the task. It's hard to do, but you'll learn much more effectively.

TEERING OFF

A good teacher isn't hard to find

There are many good golf teachers who are happy to help you hone your game. Finding one is not difficult, but it does take a bit of research.

Before you take a lesson, you should verify your potential teacher's professional status; for example, is he or she a member of any organizations that certify teachers, such as the PGA, LPGA or USGTF (U.S. Golf Teachers Federation)?

Beyond the credential, you should interview your teacher before jumping in with both feet. Find out how many years he has been giving lessons and how often he teaches. Does he have experience teaching a student at your level, and does he have a certain method of instruction that can be easily explained?

If you do schedule a lesson, ask what his plan is for improving your swing — short term and long term. Any instructor worth his or her salt will be glad to share this type of information with you.

In addition, ask if video will be used in the lessons. Teachers who use video do a much better job of instructing than those who trust the naked eye. There may be some teachers who are just as good with or without video, but I haven't found them yet.

If your teacher tells you that he doesn't need all these new-fangled "bells and whistles," find a new teacher, just as you would a ditch a doctor who made fun of MRI technology. It's not that your instructor needs to use video at every lesson, but he should have it available when he needs it.

When you finish your session, be sure to ask how long an incubation period there will be before you see positive results. Of course, this time frame will depend on several factors, such as how much time you have to practice between sessions and what kind of change you're working on.

In any event, the teacher should be able to give you some sort of meaningful time frame for your learning. And then, based on the results (or lack thereof) within the allotted time, you can make another decision: Should you stick with this teacher? Remember the definition of insanity — finding something that doesn't work and sticking to it.

ASK THE PRO

Q: Whenever I play, my back hurts, especially on the back nine. I'm 65 years old and in good shape except for my disc problem. Is there anything I can do? — **George, from the Web**

A: It's no fun playing golf with a bad back, but depending on your problem there are ways to swing around it. The key is to avoid the reverse-C position where your back is bent backward through impact.

A 12-ounce club swung at 100 miles an hour has an effective weight of about 30 pounds. Bending backward while swinging such a heavy weight can pull a muscle or squeeze a disc until it herniates — and that spells pain.

It's better for your back if you swing into your follow-through with a more upright spine angle. Swing more around your spine with arms that never rise above your shoulders.

Let your arms and hands stay close to your body and feel as if you are approaching the ball from inside the target line, with level hips so your trail side doesn't dip or tilt as you come through the golf ball.

As always, before you try any of the above, consult your physician.

LPGA's Votaw decides he will move on

Cox News Service

Ty Votaw left out one important piece of information in his State of the LPGA speech two months ago: He was thinking about stepping down as the LPGA's commissioner.

Votaw made that announcement last week, saying he'll leave after the end of the 2005 season. While that move surprised many golf observers because the LPGA is enjoying more success than ever, those closest to him weren't caught off guard by the news. "I had a sense that some-

thing was coming," said Heather Daly-Donofrio, who just took over as president of the LPGA. "I knew he didn't want to be commissioner for the rest of his career."

Votaw, 42, said he had been thinking about leaving the job for a while. His two children are nearing teenage years and the divorced father wants to spend more time with them.

"This is a great time for me to leave because the LPGA is doing so well," said Votaw, who joined the tour in 1991 as general counsel and has been commissioner for seven years.



Under Ty Votaw, the average purse has grown from \$840,000 to \$1.4 million.

SCHEDULE

PGA TOUR

Sony Open in Hawaii

- Site: Honolulu.
- Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
- Course: Waialae Country Club (7,060 yards, par 70).
- Purse: \$4.8 million. Winner's share: \$864,000.
- Television: ESPN (Thursday 6:30 p.m.; Friday 7:30 p.m.; Saturday 7:10:30 p.m.; Sunday 7:30-10 p.m.).
- Notes: Michelle Wie is making her second straight appearance in the event. The 15-year-old Honolulu student missed the cut by a stroke last year, shooting 72-68. ... Tiger Woods is skipping the tournament. He will return next week for the Quick Invitational in San Diego.