



Commissioners terminate Leonard as senior center director

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners voted 3-2 Monday morning to terminate the employment of Bobbie Leonard, director of the Spring City Senior Citizens Center.

Commissioner Bill Crooker, who made the motion to terminate Leonard's employment, was joined by Commissioner Jerry Kilgore in the effort to have the long-time director removed. Commissioners

Emma Brown and Gary Simer voted against the measure, pushing the motion to 2-2, with County Judge Ben Lockhart delivering the tie-breaking vote.

"That puts the vote on me," said Lockhart. "Because of all of the turmoil we've had and everything else, I'm going to vote for it (termination). We'll prepare the letter and have it presented to her."

According to the motion, Leonard's termination became effective at 5 p.m. on Monday,

with a letter to be delivered to her that day. She was given two weeks severance pay, based on her current salary.

Commissioners declined to comment directly on Leonard's termination, having deliberated less than an hour in executive session on the matter. They did, however, release a statement later Monday afternoon.

"We feel it is time for the county to go in a different direction in order to better serve our senior citizens," the statement reads. "There was

nothing personal about the decision to replace the executive director (Leonard). We appreciate Mrs. Leonard's years of service."

Leonard wasn't present for the meeting.

Problems with the center began to surface earlier this year when it failed several health and safety inspections, prompting commissioners to appoint a board of directors for the facility.

Including in a report issued by Perry J. Williams, inspector

with the Texas Department of State Health Services, questionable food temperatures for both prepared and stored foods came under fire, as well as a sink that was draining into an open pit and lack of hot water in food preparation areas and rest rooms.

The presence of "numerous fresh rodent excreta pellets in storage areas" was also addressed in the report.

Bebe McCasland, chairperson

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Dusty Choate, of Choate Well Service, checks the water flow from a well pump at the Comanche Trail Golf Course Monday afternoon. According to Choate, the well that provides irrigation for the entire course went down Monday morning.

Simer wants halt on plans for new jail

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The design of a joint law enforcement center for Howard County may come to a quick halt if one county commissioner gets what he wants.

Commissioner Gary Simer said he'd like to see the architectural design of the proposed facility, which has been in a "tweaking" stage for more than a month as local law enforcement officials hammer out the layout of the building, stopped.

"Last time we went through this we spent \$400,000 on the architect and we never got a jail out of it," said Simer.

"They have a ballpark figure of what the jail is going to cost, so I'd like to shut the architect part down and take it to a vote by the public, and see what happens before we spend any more money."

Simer said the county has already paid \$32,500 to the project architect, Phil Furqueron, for the current floor plans still in the design process.

Commissioners voted in January to retain Furqueron's architectural firm, along with HOK (Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum) Justice of Dallas and Park-Hill-Smith and Cooper of Lubbock and Midland, to begin a five-step process to construct a new jail.

Simer said he'd like to see the firms explore a second idea — the construction of a jail facility that doesn't include new offices for the Howard County Sheriff's office and Big Spring Police Department.

"Someone suggested we build a jail right across the street from the court-

house, where the old Leonard's Pharmacy and part of the courthouse is," said Simer. "That way they could get to the courthouse and to the district court. We could also leave the Sheriff's Department right where it's at."

Simer said he'd like voters, who will ultimately be responsible for a bond issue expected to exceed more than \$10 million with the current designs, have a choice.

"I'd like to see that idea put on the ballot, so voters have three options," said Simer. "They can vote for a joint law enforcement center, just a jail or nothing at all. I really want to see those things on the ballot."

While the remaining commissioners made little or no comment on Simer's suggestion, Furqueron said stopping the design process for a joint law enforcement center could lead to a failed bond issue.

"I think you have to educate the public on this, and part of that is giving them the graphics — the pictures and designs — to make a choice on," said Furqueron. "I think if you stop now, before you have those graphics, it could seriously hurt the chances of this bond election succeeding."

Furqueron told commissioners his firm will continue working on the current phase of the process, but will stop and look to the court for approval before moving into the next phase.

Simer said he'd like to see the project shift gears now, and look at the possibility of building a jail-only facility.

See JAIL, Page 3A

Agreement opens the way for votes on judges, avoids epic Senate battle

By JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — It won't be business as usual in the United States Senate, say lawmakers who negotiated a deal to avert a procedural and constitutional showdown over the judicial filibuster. It was a fight that captivated the chamber but not the public's imagination.

Thanks to an accommodation arranged by a handful of senators of both the Democratic and Republican parties, embattled federal appellate court nominee Priscilla Owen was get-

ting a floor vote that she had been awaiting for more than four years.

The Senate was voting to end debate on Owen, currently a Texas Supreme Court justice, clearing the way for her to gain a seat on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in New Orleans. With the threat of a filibuster by Democrats removed, she was nearly certain then to get the simple majority vote needed to give her the seat that long has eluded her, perhaps as early as Tuesday.

The agreement, crafted over the past several weeks by seven

Republicans and seven Democrats, also opened the way for yes-or-no votes on two other of President Bush's judicial picks who have been in nomination limbo for more than two years — William H. Pryor Jr. for the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and Janice Rogers Brown for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The agreement, which applies to Supreme Court nominees, said future judicial nominations should "only be filibustered under extraordinary circumstances," with

each Democratic senator holding the discretion to decide when those conditions had been met.

But of greater import, the deal on the rights of the minority party to filibuster judicial nominees avoids a showdown that could have shaken the traditions of the Senate, weakened the powers of the minority and threatened the comity the Senate needs to function.

And there were other political implications, as well, including the shape of the Supreme Court, the midterm election in 2006, Bush's legislative agenda

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VOUCHERS BILL DIES

After five hours of emotional House floor debate, legislation that would have allowed limited state-funded private school vouchers collapsed Monday night with little hope of resurrection.

The voucher proposal would have had the state pay for some urban public school students to attend private school. The voucher plan, which supporters have been pushing since the early 1990s when President Bush was governor, looks to be dead for the next two years.

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AMERICAN PROFILE



Memorial Day is a special occasion in Waterloo, N.Y. (pop. 7,866), where residents as far back as 1866 have closed their businesses and decorated the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers and flags. The town, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson in 1966, has become known as the Birthplace of Memorial Day — a title that residents proudly accept.

BLOOD DRIVES

Thursday, May 26
— Big Spring VA Hospital, 300 Veterans Blvd., Room 219, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. To register, call Iva Jo Hanslik at 264-7135.



Friday, May 27
Big Spring State Hospital Health Fair, 1901 N. U.S. Highway 97, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. To sign up, call Melvin at 268-7372.

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Obituaries

John I. Knox



John I. Knox, 82, of Big Spring died at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, May 22, 2005, at his home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2005, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Elwin Colom officiating. Burial with Military Honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. today at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

He was born Sept. 4, 1922, in Graham to Myrtle and Daniel Knox. He graduated from Big Spring High School in 1941. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in World War II from Dec. 21, 1942, until Oct. 11, 1945. He was a 1st Sergeant. His combat included the Battle of the Bulge.

He was awarded the Purple Heart and was honored with several other medals. He married Ruby Prescott in 1947, and she preceded him in death Feb. 8, 2001. John retired from the T&P Railroad, having worked there from 1947 until 1987.

John loved fishing, hunting, bingo and was a big fan of the Big Spring baseball and football teams.

He is survived by two sons, Timothy Knox Sr. and his wife, Annette and Burl Knox and his wife, Shirleen, all of Big Spring; three daughters, Iris Dodd Knox of Dallas, Jennifer Cababie and her husband, Jacob of Sunny Isles, Fla., and Pam Crawford of Midland; one brother, Delano "Dee" Knox; 13 grandchildren; and 29 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers, David, Daniel, Perry and Tim Knox and one sister, Katie Knox.

Pallbearers will be Timothy Knox Jr. Chris Roberts, Keith Robinson, Bobby Sharp, Apollo Dunlap, Chad Reynolds, Donald Ray Dodd and Burl Knox II. Honorary pallbearers will be Burl Moore, Linns Tucker, David Ayers, Bobby Doe, Kirk McKnight, Coach Phillips and present and past baseball players and Big Spring Hospice staff.

On behalf of the entire Knox family, special thanks go to all of the hospice care, John's "other family."

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

Paid obituary

Arthur Monroe Gafford



Arthur Monroe Gafford, 92, of Bastrop, formerly of Big Spring, died Monday, May 23, 2005, in an Elgin nursing home. Graveside funeral services with Masonic Rites are 10 a.m. Thursday, May 26, 2005, at the Trinity Memorial Park in Big Spring with the Rev. Bob Hopkins, associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Midland, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

He was born May 8, 1913, in Wellington County and married Mary Clyde McCullough May 18, 1933. Mr. Gafford moved to Big Spring in 1937. He owned and operated the Universal Body Works for 35 years, retiring in 1981. He was a member of East Fourth Street Baptist Church and a charter member of Baptist Temple Church before joining First Baptist Church where he served as a deacon for many years.

Survivors include wife, Mary Clyde Gafford of Bastrop; one son and daughter-in-law, Ken and Jeananne Gafford of Bastrop; one daughter and son-in-law, Gwen and Roy Carley of Houston; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one brother, B. F. Gafford of Center.

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

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 1-13-28-33-35.
Number matching five of five: 0.
Next Cash 5 drawing: Tonight.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-3-6-33. Bonus Ball: 3.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$425,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night, in order: 4-1-7

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday afternoon, in order: 2-5-2

Take note

• **ODYSSEY HEALTH CARE HOSPICE** care giver dinner is at 6:30 p.m. today at Christ's Community Church, 1008 Birdwell Lane. All past and current care givers are invited to this free dinner. Call Sadie Watkins at 263-5999.

• **ROAD TO RECOVERY**, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call LaWanda Hamm at 263-7827.

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Police blotter

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

- **ESTABAN VILLA**, 22, of 538 Westover Road apt. 135, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.
- **JETTLEY WALKER**, 19, of 2004 Merrily Drive, was arrested Monday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- **JOSHUA WILSON**, 19, of 2106 Loop Road, was arrested Monday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- **FRANCISCO NIETO**, 26, of 1901 Hilltop, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **LORITA SCHULZE**, 18, of 1107 Lloyd, was arrested Tuesday on two local warrants.
- **ABEL GOMEZ SILVA**, 28, of 606 State, was arrested Tuesday on two local warrants and a charge of driving while license suspended.
- **GREGORY MARTINEZ**, 24, of 1606 Oriole, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **PAMELA HUITT**, 36, of 5405 Opal Lane, was arrested Tuesday and held for the HCSO.
- **THEFT** was reported:
- in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- in the 300 block of Owens.
- in the 400 block of Birdwell Lane.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1500 block of Lancaster.
- **AGGRAVATED ROBBERY** was reported in the 1400 block of 19th Street.

Sheriff's report

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

- **CRUZ JESUS CASTILLO**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to appear.
- **DUSTIN SOWELL**, 25, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **LELDON TAYLOR JENKINS**, 21, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of theft and perjury.
- **PAMELA GAIL HUITT**, 36, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of attempting to take a weapon from an officer and resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- **ALAN CATON POWELL**, 31, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault - family violence.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 2400 block of Gatesville Road.
- **DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE** was reported in the 5400 block of Opal Lane.

The Big Spring Fire Department reported the following activity:

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of N. Highway 87 at 6:19 a.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported 26 miles south of Big Spring on S. Highway 87 at 8:04 a.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Virginia at 9:19 a.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street at 7:01 p.m. Monday. One person was transported to SMMC.

Weather

Today - Partly cloudy and hot. Highs around 105. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight - Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday - Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 90s. Southeast winds around 10 mph shifting to the northeast in the afternoon.

Wednesday night - Increasing clouds. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cooler. Lows in the lower 60s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Not as warm. Highs near 80. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday night - Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Friday - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s.

Friday night - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

Saturday - Partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s.

Saturday night - Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. The chance of rain is 20 percent.

Sunday - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s.

Sunday night - Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 60s.

Memorial Day - Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s.

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Bulletin board

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

TODAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- A Stitchin' Time Club meets at 3:30 p.m. at Primitive Baptist Church, 201 E. 24th St. Everyone is invited to learn and share sewing skills, and portable sewing machines are welcome. Call Kay Sikes at 394-4835 for more information.
- The Multiple Sclerosis Support Group meets at 7 p.m. in the College Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 1105 Birdwell Lane. For more information, call Tracey Pounds at 268-4948.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- 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.
- 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.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Coffee Club meets at 10 a.m. in Gale's Sweet Shoppe.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room. Call 267-6479.
- Forsan High School graduation. Call Forsan ISD at 457-2223 for more information.
- Coahoma High School graduation in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Call Coahoma ISD at 394-4290 for more information.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Members bring their own lunch. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Big Spring High School graduation in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Call Big Spring ISD at 264-3600 for more information.
- Spring City Senior Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

SATURDAY

- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY

- Memorial Day holiday.

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.
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BIG SPRING HERALD

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By BRANDI
Associated F

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JUDGE

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JAIL

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Limited school voucher bill dies on House floor

By BRANDI GRISSOM
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — After five hours of emotional House floor debate, legislation that would have allowed limited state-funded private school vouchers collapsed Monday night with little hope of resurrection.

The voucher proposal would have had the state pay for some urban public school students to attend private school. The voucher plan, which supporters have been pushing since the early 1990s when President Bush was governor, looks to be dead for the next two years.

"I don't know at this late stage of the session there is a great deal of hope" for passing vouchers, said Rep. Kent Grusendorf, R-Arlington, the bill's sponsor.

After several votes that showed slim support for the measure, Grusendorf attempted to postpone further debate until Tuesday, the last day the House can pass bills. The legislative session ends May 30.

Before Grusendorf could save his bill, one of seven technical errors in the bill pointed out by Rep. Jim Dunnam, D-Waco, killed it.

It was already struggling. Before debate ended, lawmakers had approved amendments that significantly weakened the voucher pilot project.

The future of the Texas Education Agency reauthorization bill to which the voucher measure was attached was precarious even before House debate began. The Senate sponsor of the legislation had vowed to block the legislation's passage rather than accept the voucher pilot program.

The measure would have provided state scholarships to attend private schools for at-risk students in at least seven school districts in five urban counties.

A change made on the floor would have allowed vouchers only for students to transfer from one public school to another, not to private schools.

Originally, the plans was to provide vouchers only in urban school districts

of Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio.

One change proposed by Rep. Charlie Geren, R-Fort Worth, replaced the Fort Worth and Dallas school districts with Irving and Arlington. The districts are the hometowns of the two most vocal voucher supporters, Rep. Linda Harper-Brown, R-Irving, and Grusendorf.

Proponents of the voucher pilot program argued it would give Texas parents a choice about their children's education and would allow the state to determine whether increased competition could improve education in Texas.

"We can put in place choice and at the same time improve our public schools," Grusendorf said.

Harper-Brown said the voucher plan was about giving parents the ability to get their students out of failing urban schools.

Critics said it would siphon money from already ailing Texas schools. Many lawmakers who opposed the measure wore bright red stop sign-shaped pins emblazoned with "STOP VOUCHERS".

"This is a proposal that would drain millions of dollars from public school budgets at a time when we can't even come up with enough money to fund textbooks we've already promised to the kids," said Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston.

In a display of the divisiveness of the issue, Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick cast several votes to keep the issue alive. Craddick rarely votes, but has said he supports a trial program for school vouchers.

The bill's Senate sponsor, Sen. Mike Jackson, R-La Porte, said without the reauthorization bill, the education agency's functions will continue. But the reauthorization review would have to be repeated for the 2007 legislative session. It would also delay implementation of reform measures included in the bill that would tighten standards for charter schools and improve accountability for public schools.

"It's kind of a waste of resources when you have to go through that again," Jackson said.

JUDGES

Continued from Page 1A

and the next presidential race, especially the prospects for Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee and potential GOP rival Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Asked Tuesday how senators would determine what "extraordinary circumstances" might warrant a filibuster threat in the future, McCain indicated on ABC's "Good Morning America" that the bipartisan group of senators who worked out the compromise would

retain sufficient leverage to make such a determination.

"We're not asking all 100 senators to make that determination," he said. "We have 14 of us who are together and I am confident we will act in a way that if the circumstances are extraordinary, everyone will agree to that."

Earlier, McCain, who led the compromise effort with Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., said, "We tried to avert a crisis in the United States Senate and pull the institution back from a precipice."

Frist, who had joined with party conservatives in pressing for an end to

judicial filibusters, stressed that he was not a party to the agreement. He said he hoped it would end a "miserable chapter in the history of the Senate," but said that what he called the "constitutional option" was still on the table. He said he "will monitor this agreement closely."

Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who had threatened to bog down Senate business if Republicans took away the filibuster authority, was more receptive, saying the Senate could now get back to work on the needs of the nation. He said he was willing to

work with Bush on his agenda, "but he should have a little more humility."

"In light of the spirit and continuing commitments made in this agreement," Republicans said they would oppose any attempt to make changes in the application of filibuster rules. But Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, said the agreement was conditional on Democrats upholding their end of the deal.

The White House said the agreement was a positive development.

"Many of these nominees have waited for quite some time to have an up

or down vote and now they are going to get one. That's progress," press secretary Scott McClellan said.

A battle over judicial nominations that began in Bush's first term had been headed toward a climactic conclusion Tuesday with Frist planning to employ what both sides came to call the "nuclear option" because of its potentially disruptive effects.

Had the Democrats used

their filibuster powers again to stop Owen, Frist would have sought a ruling from the chair, approvable by a simple majority, that filibusters should not be allowed.

FIRING

Continued from Page 1A

of the Spring City Senior Center Board of Directors, addressed commissioners in March concerning the health and safety violations, citing state reports as well as a report from Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray, which listed several safety issues, including exit lights and

emergency lighting that were not functioning properly, out-of-date fire extinguishers and several improper or unsafe electrical wiring conditions.

McCasland went on to describe the state inspector's reaction to the number and severity of infractions discovered at the center, which were categorized in his report as "high risk."

"Near the end of the health review, the inspector told me that if the cen-

ter was a restaurant in Big Spring, it would receive a warning letter from the state," said McCasland. "He told me it was the worst he had ever seen it."

Assistant director Yolanda Mendoza was named temporary director for the center during Monday's meeting.

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

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL
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John I. Knox, 82, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial with Military Honors will be at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.
Roger Lee Evans, 63, died Saturday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

"I'd like to see them stop what they're doing now (working on the joint law enforcement center) and start looking at this other idea," said Simer.

Commissioners are expected to meet in a special session next week to discuss these and other issues surrounding the design of the facility.

Consideration of a new jail facility began more than a year ago when commissioners identified

jail overcrowding and non-compliance with state jail laws as an ongoing problem.

According to information previously provided by commissioner Bill Crooker, the county spent \$108,000 on housing female inmates at other facilities in 2002-2003, while housing male inmates tacked \$187,000 on the budget because of jail overcrowding.

In a facility needs analysis from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, the state agency projects an

approximate increase in population of 3,000 residents by the year 2020, with only a .03 percent increase in the rate of incarceration. In that time, the Howard County Jail population is expected to grow from 92 inmates to 102 inmates.

The study recommended a 144-bed facility based on current conditions, as well as those projected 15 years from now.

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.

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OUR VIEWS

Teacher retirement system's problem needs fixing now

State Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, Rep. Craig Eiland, D-Galveston, and Rep. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, have taken on a thankless job this session: trying to put the \$91 billion Teacher Retirement System on sounder financial footing. Their legislation deserves passage.

The job is thankless because all eyes glaze over at any discussion that begins with worries about "sound actuarial principles," and because there's no way to be the hero to anyone except, maybe, an actuary.

What Duncan got through the Senate on a 20-10 vote last week was a major reform bill that would, in the long run, require more from Texas teachers before they can retire. In general, teachers just starting their careers would have to wait until they are 60 rather than 55 to retire. Though older, experienced teachers would be excluded, the proposal also would base a teacher's pension on the average of his or her best five years of pay, not three. School districts could no longer offer teachers incentives to retire early (except in cases of staff reductions), and teachers would have to pay more about \$7 a month for their health insurance. Some of these changes are also in legislation by Kolkhorst.

The goal is to reduce demand on the Teachers Retirement System. The system is healthy in the short term, but it is \$12 billion short of having enough money to pay all promised benefits in the long run to 1 million active and retired employees. Otherwise, Duncan warned, "our retirement system will have to be drastically changed in the future, and . . . the (health) insurance program will be so expensive we cannot afford it."

Teachers' groups strongly oppose the measure, while retired teachers favor it they have no hope of getting an increase in their pension checks unless the system's financial health improves. Democratic senators rightly pointed out that the Legislature ought to put much more money into the retirement system itself than the \$57 million proposed in Duncan's plan.

But the fact is, the Legislature won't do that now, and Duncan is right to face that reality and not let the problem compound, year after year, into disaster for state taxpayers and retirees.

Duncan's Senate Bill 1691 now is in the House, where the same changes, in a bill by Eiland, were killed recently on a technical ruling during floor debate.

Even if the Duncan measure doesn't survive, the retirement system's problem will. A rising stock market might help or the problem could get much worse much faster if the market falls.

It's a gamble.

If this sounds familiar, it is. The Social Security system is sound for now, but has long-term problems. Many major American companies have shed their old-style private pension programs in favor of plans funded mostly by employees. The Bush administration is attempting to require private employers to put more into their underfunded plans and has run into fierce resistance.

Compared to other states, Texas' retirement system for teachers is in relatively good shape. But Duncan, Eiland and Kolkhorst are right to confront the problem now.

THE AMERICAN-STATESMAN
AUSTIN

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Problems can become solutions, Lord, through You.

Amen

The Empire meets middle age

For me, the "Star Wars" saga faded with "Episode VI: Return of the Jedi." It wasn't the cutesy Ewoks, although the teddy-bear warriors were irritating beyond belief. No, the big problem was the fact that Darth Vader, who had killed countless souls without hesitation and destroyed an entire planet just to make a point, nonetheless wholly redeemed himself by refusing to kill his own son. Thus Vader won a coveted spot in the afterlife sitting by the eternal campfire with Jedi good guys Obi-Wan Kenobi and Yoda.

The dead Darth-turned-Anakin looks happy, too. You can imagine him turning to his old chums, and saying, "Sorry about Alderaan. Have a nice day."

If only Hitler had sired a son. Then, after the Blitzkrieg and the Holocaust, Hitler might have had that redefining moment that would have gotten him in touch with his paternal inner self, and taken up gardening. Or origami.

The problem is, George Lucas has written a saga about evil, featuring the most infamous villain in film history, but he doesn't understand evil. As evidenced in the new release of "Episode III: Revenge of the Sith," Lucas may not even know what "really bad" is.

Think of Lucas as one of those muddled liberals who think George Bush is evil, while Saddam Hussein is a piker. In an act that should be, but isn't, campy self-parody, the left-wing fanatics at Moveon.org have produced a new TV spot that depicts Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist "as a hooded villain who seeks absolute power over our courts." (Need I

remind you, gentle reader, that if conservatives compared blocking the filibuster for appellate court nominees to mass annihilation, talking heads in tweed coats would be dismissing the analogy as dangerously over the top?) To round things out, let me add that Lucas' view on the very bad is analogous to conservatives whose darkest fear isn't Osama bin Laden, but Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Reviewers have been quick to note the nexus between President Bush's statement, "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists," to Anakin Skywalker's pronouncement, "If you're not with me, you're my enemy." A coy Lucas told an audience in Cannes that he started writing "Star Wars" when Richard Nixon was president, and he sees strong "parallels" between Vietnam and Iraq.

Let me credit Lucas with this much. "The Phantom Menace" produced complaints that he engaged in facile racial stereotypes that demeaned Asians, Arabs and Africans. Since then, it is clear, Lucas learned that there is only one facile stereotype that is safe in Hollywood: Republican equals evil. Bush bad.

Fine by me. If Lucas wants to take the mantle of the Bush critics, be it understood that he spent jillions of dollars and made six epic — and let me add, very watchable — movies, just to make the point that a man can wipe out entire civilizations, and still have a germ of cuddly goodness in him. What's more, that germ of goodness means more, at movies' end, than the countless children he has killed, the void with which he replaced entire communities and the dull misery he inflicted wherever he went.

Thus, we discover, as Obi-Wan says before the final light saber duel, that the Sith are evil (despite their germ of good?), not just for

what they do, but because, "Only a Sith deals in absolutes." In Lucasworld, moral relativists are the real good guys in a universe of gore.

Which doesn't make sense because the Jedi do trade in absolutes, as does every tribe. They've got their rules, too — and they're pretty good rules, if they do become overly cumbersome, hokey and dangerous at times.

Here's a sign, early in the movie, Lucas gives moviegoers that Anakin Skywalker is drifting toward the dark side. After hacking to death every body in his path, Anakin has an evil mastermind at his feet. Kill him, the future emperor coos.

Afterward, Anakin notes it is not the Jedi way to kill an "unarmed" man. Forget that this particular villain can't be unarmed as long as he has his mind. Forget that he is the reason so many others died, and the Jedi didn't fret about their end.

Most laughable: Of course he was unarmed. Anakin had just cut off his hands.

I sigh. In younger times, Lucas had a unique and dashing vision. Among dazzling special effects and in a universe far, far away, there was a hero with the simple message, "I'm Luke Skywalker. I'm here to rescue you."

But after years of accolades, spin-off corporations and merchandising deals, the word is now, to put it politely, decidedly middle-aged: "Only a Sith deals in absolutes."

May the force be with you.
E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfnchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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• **BILL CROOKER** — Home: 263-2566.

• **GARY SIMER** — Home: 263-0269; Work (Ponderosa Nursery): 263-4441.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I loaned my scrapbook of Hawaii to Pam and Mike Stephens because they were going to Hawaii.

A few weeks later she wrote to say it was missing. It has a big picture of a red hibiscus on the cover.

If somebody finds it, please take to Canterbury.

HAZEL DUGGAN
MIDLAND

TO THE EDITOR:

Several weeks ago as I was walking into Wal-Mart, I noticed that the mayor's wife was also walking in, but as she was walking in, she was picking up trash on her way.

I have also observed many people in the community that do this on a regular basis in other areas. Thank you all for doing your part to keep our city clean.

I also applaud all the people that took part in the citywide clean-up. Thank you. The impact on how our community looks due to these efforts has been wonderful.

There are a couple of situations that I would like to bring to the attention of the community that would greatly improve the amount of trash blowing in our streets and yards.

I was purchasing gas at Murphy USA one day last week and noticed an employee from one of the local eating establishments emptying a trash can into the dumpster. The dumpster lid was already open, part of the trash she attempted to put in just blew right back out and there was no attempt to pick it up or to close the lids once she was finished.

Yes, I was surprised. This is not just one business that leaves the lids open on dumpsters, but one of the many in that particular area.

There is trash all over the underpass where U.S. Highway 87 goes

over FM 700. I want these businesses in Big Spring. I eat at them frequently. But I think that all of the business and home owners need to be more responsible in closing dumpster lids.

If the dumpsters don't have lids, call the Big Spring Sanitation Department at 264-2378 and report them. They have helped me numerous times with problems like these. I would like to thank them for getting a bigger dumpsters in the 1400 block of Tucson.

There is also an ongoing problem of leftover garage sale signs. Is this not litter also? I would like to suggest that on Monday, code enforcement or someone in authority go around the city and get the addresses off these signs still left up and write citations. Since the address is right on the sign, it will be easy to know where to deliver the citations.

VAL FULESDAY
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

On behalf of the Howard and Glasscock County Relay for Life Committee members, we want to express our appreciation to everyone involved with this year's Relay event held May 13-14 at Blankenship Field.

We raised more than \$175,000 for research and education to fight cancer through the American Cancer Society. That is quite an accomplishment for a community this size. It was a great job by our 61 team captains and 672 team participants, as well as everyone who contributed to the cause or bought raffle tickets, food and other fundraising items throughout the year. As we heard someone say recently, "Relay has become a way of life in Big Spring."

We owe a special debt of gratitude

to the businesses who so generously underwrite this event. We only wish it were possible to list each of them, as well as each of the teams and their members, along with the names of all cancer survivors and their caregivers who took the emotional first lap to kick off our Relay for Life.

We can only attribute the phenomenal success of Relay for Life to the fact that cancer has touched virtually all our lives at some point. There are very few people who don't know the pain of watching a friend or loved one battle against this potential killer. Our best defense is through continued research and education. This community does indeed have a big heart. It feels inadequate, but we sincerely say, thank you.

PHYLLIS AND JEFF TURNEY
CO-CHAIRS
2005 RELAY FOR LIFE

TO THE EDITOR:

We would like to object to any further study with Evos and the exorbitant prices they are asking for their study.

We hate to see a landmark building destroyed, too, but there are so many other things in town that the money should be used on.

With Evos' prices, our taxes would have to be raised and we're sure no one would want that any more than we do.

Aren't there federal grants to help restore landmark buildings?

Besides, there are already lots of low income rental properties and a very nice senior citizens center, as well as lots of good buildings available around town for restaurants and businesses.

MR. AND MRS. RUSSELL TIDWELL
BIG SPRING

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Barbecue
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Bank Hours
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Bank Trust
Bar
Barber Shop
Beauty Sal
Book Store
Building Su



Enter the Big Spring Herald's Reader's Choice Poll by filling out this questionnaire on who is the best in Howard County.

Drop off your completed entry form at the Big Spring Herald, 710 Scurry, or mail it to us at PO Box 1431, to be received by Monday, June 6, 2005.

The winners of each category will be revealed to the public in our upcoming special section "The Reader's Choice" to be published on Sunday, June 26, 2005.

Thank you for your participation, but please hurry! The deadline is coming soon! Only ballots clipped from the newspaper will be accepted. Please vote in as many categories as possible.

Dining/Restaurants	Businesses	Businesses
Barbecue Sandwiches _____	Car Wash _____	Tanning Salon _____
Barbecue Ribs _____	Carpet _____	Tattoo Parlor _____
Breakfast _____	Cellular Phone _____	Television Dealer _____
Buffet _____	Check Cashing _____	Tire Dealer _____
Burritos _____	Computer Repair _____	Transmission Repair _____
Catering _____	Construction _____	Used Car Dealer _____
Catfish _____	Convenience Store (which location) _____	Video Rentals _____
Chicken _____	Credit Union _____	Western Wear _____
Chile Rellenos _____	Day Care _____	
Chinese _____	Drinking Water Co. _____	
Coffee _____	Dry Cleaning _____	
Coldest Beer _____	Electronics Store _____	
Cookies _____	Farm Store _____	
Desserts _____	Fencing Company _____	Accountant _____
Donuts _____	Fitness Center _____	Architect _____
Drive Thru Window _____	Florist _____	Attorney _____
Enchiladas _____	Furniture Store _____	Auctioneer _____
Fajitas _____	Garden Center _____	Auto Insurance Agent _____
French Fries _____	Gift Shop _____	Bank Teller _____
Hamburgers _____	Hardware Store _____	Cardiologist _____
Home Cooking _____	Health Food Store _____	Cashier _____
Ice Cream _____	Heating/Cooling Service _____	Chiropractor _____
Locally Owned Restaurant _____	Home Health Care _____	City Employee _____
Margaritas _____	Home Improvement _____	Correctional Officer _____
Nachos _____	Hospice _____	County Employee _____
Pizza _____	Internet Provider _____	CNA _____
Salads _____	Janitorial Service _____	CPA _____
Service _____	Jewelry Store _____	Crop Insurance Agent _____
Steaks _____	Landscaping _____	Dentist _____
Tacos _____	Lawn Care Service _____	Electrician _____
	Local Band _____	EMT _____
	Locksmith _____	Family Doctor _____
	Lumber _____	Financial Advisor _____
	Medical Supply _____	Fire Fighter _____
	Mortgage Company _____	Gynecologist _____
	Motorcycle Repair _____	Hair Stylist _____
	Muffler Repair _____	Health Insurance Agent _____
	Museum _____	Home Insurance Agent _____
	Nail Salon _____	Hospital Volunteer _____
	New Car Dealer _____	Interior Decorator _____
	Office Supply _____	Internist _____
	Optical Center _____	Librarian _____
	Paint Dealer _____	LVN _____
	Pawn Shop _____	Massage Therapist _____
	Pest Control _____	Nail Tech _____
	Pharmacy _____	New Car Salesperson _____
	Photo Studio _____	Optometrist _____
	Plumbing Service _____	Pastor _____
	Real Estate Agency _____	Pediatrician _____
	Resale Shop _____	Pharmacist _____
	Retirement Home _____	Physical Therapist _____
	Roofing Company _____	Police Officer _____
	RV Dealer _____	Real Estate Agent _____
	Screen Printing _____	Restaurant Server _____
	Service Station _____	RN _____
	Siding Dealer _____	Sales Clerk _____
	Signs _____	Surgeon _____
	Storage Units _____	Teacher _____
	Swimming Pools/Spas _____	Used Car Salesperson _____
		Veterinarian _____

Grocery Stores

- Deli _____
- Meats _____
- Produce _____

Businesses

- Abstract/Title Co. _____
- After School Care _____
- Animal Hospital _____
- Antique Shop _____
- Apartments _____
- Appliances _____
- Auto Garage _____
- Auto Glass _____
- Auto Parts _____
- Bail Bond _____
- Bakery _____
- Bank ATM _____
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- Book Store _____
- Building Supply _____

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Haney wins 10 years in a row

By MARSHA STURDIVANT

Features Editor Sarah Haney has succeeded following the footsteps of her teacher. For the past 10 years, Haney has received a National College of Musicians Commendation during the National Piano Auditions.

And for six of those 10 years, she has received instruction from Linda Lindell, Big Spring High School choir director, who also received commendations for 10 years from the Guild. "I knew I couldn't let Mrs. Lindell down,"

Herald photo/Marsha Sturdivant Sarah Haney, left, received her 10th win at the National Piano Playing auditions.

Haney said. Lindell said this was a poignant experience for her, as well as exciting, because of her own experience with the Guild. "This is my first student to receive a superior level from the Guild for 10 years. She had to receive 21 or more superior ratings, or Cs and she had 26," Lindell said. The audition required Haney to perform pieces of music from every period from Mozart to modern. She performed 10 pieces of music including works of Bach, Chopin, Debussy and Burgmueller.



Tough enough

Courtesy photo Khalid Naziruddin, starting comeback for the Texas Tech Red Raiders, recently spent a day at Elbow Elementary giving motivational speeches to students. Afterward, some fourth and fifth graders apparently decided to test Naziruddin's muscular development.



Herald photo/Steve Reagan First-grade students from Kentwood Elementary sing the Big Spring High School school song at the beginning of the Big Spring school board meeting Thursday night at the high school. Trustees, from left, Phil Furqueron, Irene Bustamante, Ricky Robertson and Maria Padilla listen to the students' effort.

Low carb, organic foods good but pricey

Low carb is out. Organic is in. From soup to nuts, butter to meat, "au naturel" is the rage. Organic goods are yummy, but a tad pricey. Four sticks of butter cost \$1.25 a piece. Yikes.



CHRISTY ALTON

Carrots and lettuce and milk are off the scale. My grandmother introduced me to organic food when I was a kid, and I just realized it this week. She had a humongous

garden in her yard. Every year she planted every kind of vegetable and then canned a divine soup. When we came for the summers, she'd break it out of the jars and I'd eat as much of it as I could. Nothing tasted better than the fresh potatoes, corn, tomatoes and peppers all stewed together, just bursting with flavor. I've never been able to duplicate that wonderful concoction. Now, it's all clear. Organic. I talked with a fellow passenger on a plane once. He was some fancy agricultural engineer whose job was to develop ideas

to keep bugs off of produce, without pesticide. That was years ago and now, organic things are popping up all over. My mom-in-law buys mostly organic items. Ordinary deli turkey suddenly becomes the most awesome tasting meat on earth. It's true. I won't deny it's wonderful. I predict that the organic craze is going to go big. Hopefully, it'll become affordable as well. Christy Alton works full time, has two children and is married to her park ranger, Ron. Her column appears in the Tuesday edition of the Big Spring Herald.



Courtesy photo Region 18 Education Service Center in Midland recently conducted a Media Fair to showcase students' technology talent. These students from Coahoma Elementary won in the PowerPoint Presentation category. They are, from left, Devin Tomason and Morgan Barker, who tied for first place, Mabelle Barr (second place) and Jason Martinez (third place).

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May 2005

May 16 • Monday
• Pot Luck & Bingo - 11:30 am
• Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)

May 17 • Tuesday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together)
• Supper Club - "China Dragon" - 5:30 pm

May 18 • Wednesday
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria)
• Meet & Greet Tea & Scones Party 2:00 pm - Hospital Classroom
• Games - 3:00 pm

May 19 • Thursday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together)
• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am

May 22 • Sunday
• "Over The Tavern" (Comedy) - Midland Community Theater - 1:00 pm

May 23 • Monday
• Lunch & Bunch & 23 Birthdays "KFC" - 11:30 AM
• Sit & Be Fit - 4:00 pm (Chair Exercise)

May 24 • Tuesday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together)
• New Mexico Casino Trip - 10:00 am

May 25 • Wednesday
• Senior Appreciation Day - 11:30 am (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria)
• Supper Club - "Red Mesa" - 5:30 pm

May 26 • Thursday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together)
• Coffee @ Gale's - 10:00 am (Eat For \$2.00 In The Hospital Cafeteria)
• Lunch-N-Learn - 11:30 am

May 30 • Monday
• Senior Circle - Office Closed Holiday

May 31 • Tuesday
• Mall Walking - 8:00 am (Meet At The Mall & Walk Together)
• Supper Club - "Cowboys" - 5:30 pm

Volunteer/Senior Circle Director
***Anita Cline • 268-4721**

Senior Circle Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Free Pregnancy Testing Every Day 9:00 am - 6:00 pm OB Department, 2nd Floor, Results In 4 Minutes Donna Mills, RN, Director Of Women's Services OB Dept., 268-4550 No Childbirth Classes In April	Road To Recovery (Transportation For Cancer Patients) LaWanda Ham, 263-7827
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IN BRIEF

Big Spring sets up 2005 black and gold tennis tournament

The 2005 Black and Gold tennis circuit will take place in Big Spring June 10 through June 11. All players may enter three events, but are limited to two divisions. All entries are due seven days before the tournaments begins.

The divisions for boy's and girl's singles are 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under and 18 and under.

There will also be an adult singles division for both men and women. The divisions for doubles competitors are the same as the singles and there will be a mixed doubles division, as well.

The cost to play one event is \$15, while two and three events are \$25 and \$35, respectively.

All matches will be two out of three sets and only a tiebreaker in set No. 3.

For more information, contact Sarah Corse, Big Spring Tournament Director, at 432-263-2275.

BSISD announces annual tennis camp

Big Spring High School has set up its annual tennis camp for June 6 through June 9 at the Figure 7 Tennis Courts inside of Comanche Trail Park.

The tournament will begin at 8 a.m. Monday and 8:30 a.m. all other days and will end at 11:30 a.m. every day.

The cost is \$100 and it includes a T-shirt.

For more information, contact Dennis Smiley at 263-3848, Sarah Corse at 263-2275 or Ted Olesen at 806-236-8901.

Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund tourney set

The Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo has announced a golf tournament to benefit the Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund.

The tournament is scheduled for Friday, June 17. The tournament costs \$50 per player and the fee includes lunch and fine prizes for top golfers.

For more information, contact Eddy Blassnigame at 263-8421.

Howard announces first of three camps

The Howard College women's basketball program will be hosting three camps this summer.

The first camp will take place June 13-16 and is for seventh-12th grade girls and is a shooting and offensive moves camp.

Registration will take place Monday, June 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. The camp goes from 9 a.m. to noon through June 16 and the cost is \$60 per person.

For more information or to pre-register, call head coach Earl Diddle at 432-264-5043 or assistant coach Eric Rodewald at 432-816-4327.

Suns faced with must-win against San Antonio

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer
PHOENIX (AP) — In the first game of the Western Conference finals, the Phoenix Suns clearly weren't themselves.

They scored just 20 points in the first quarter, their lowest total in nearly a month. The Suns used a traditional lineup of three frontcourt players and two guards for about as long as they have

all season. Shawn Marion made just one basket, Quentin Richardson just one 3-pointer.

Still, Phoenix led in the fourth quarter and only lost to the San Antonio Spurs by seven points.

So as his team prepared for Game 2 on Tuesday night, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich downplayed the notion that his team has figured out the Suns.

"Just because we won the game doesn't mean

that we got them to do all these different things," Popovich said Monday. "You win by a couple of points and everything you did was really good and everything they did wasn't. It's baloney.

The Spurs won 121-114, playing the kind of pace the Suns would be thrilled to continue the rest of the series.

The problem Sunday was that San Antonio simply did it better, espe-

cially in the fourth quarter. Although Phoenix shot 58 percent and scored 32 points in the period, the Spurs shot 73 percent and scored 43 points.

The win gave the Spurs a 1-0 series lead and swiped home-court advantage. It also made them 3-1 against Phoenix this season and 3-0 when All-Stars Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili play.

Still, Phoenix likes its

chances. The team's public relations staff even pointed out Monday that the last two NBA champions lost Game 1 of their conference finals.

"I don't think anybody can do anything to stop us," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said.

There was one good example from Game 1 of Phoenix still doing what it does best against

See GAME 2, Page 2B

Venus moves on at French Open, 2004 champ falls

By STEVE WINE

AP Sports Writer
PARIS (AP) — Dominant at the start and shaky at the finish, Justine Henin-Hardenne won her first-round match Tuesday in the French Open.

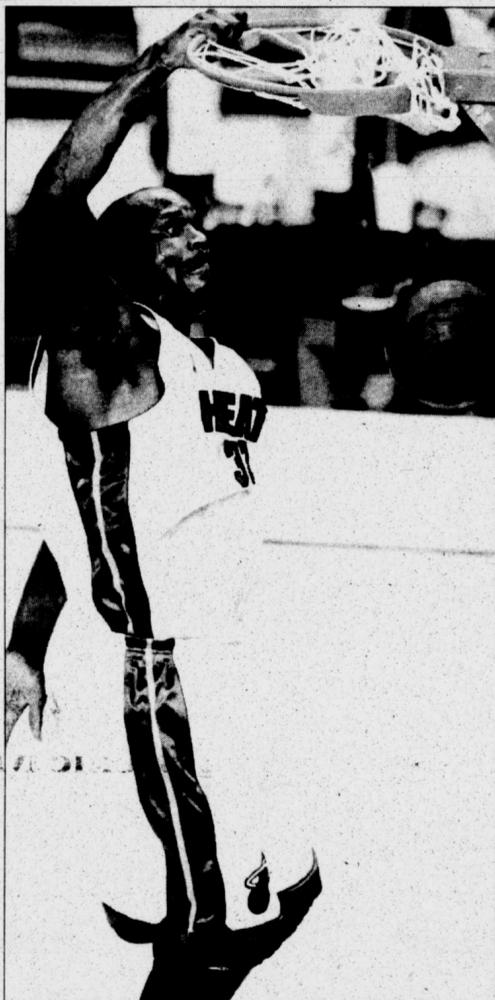
The tournament favorite and 2003 champion extended her winning streak to 18 matches, all on clay, by beating Conchita Martinez 6-0, 4-6, 6-4.

Henin-Hardenne won a lopsided first set and a 36-point game to start the second set. But she double-faulted nine times, and in the final set she nearly blew a 5-1 lead before closing out her first match in a Grand Slam event since September.

Seeded 10th but the top choice of oddsmakers, Henin-Hardenne improved to 21-1 since returning in March from a seven-month layoff due to a blood virus and knee injury.

No. 6-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova beat Mathilde Johansson 6-1, 6-1. Two seeded women lost: No. 23 Ai Sugiyama and No. 26

See FRENCH, Page 2B



KRT photo/Jared Lazarus, Miami Herald
Miami's Shaquille O'Neal slams the ball against Detroit in the first half Monday in Miami. The Pistons defeated the Heat 90-81.

Shaq returns, Miami still struggles against defending champions

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer
MIAMI (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal was back and productive, often barreling his way past the Detroit Pistons. Yet, the end result almost seemed to mirror last year's NBA Finals.

O'Neal did his thing, and it ultimately didn't matter.

Rasheed Wallace shot 4-for-5 from 3-point range and scored 20 points, Chauncey Billups had eight of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, and Ben Wallace had 13 points and 13 rebounds as the Pistons beat the Miami Heat 90-81 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals Monday night.

"It's a big win," Billups said. "Not having home-court advantage sometimes is an advantage for us because we play with that chip on our shoulder from Game 1."

O'Neal — who's still bothered by a bruised thigh — had 20 points in 33 minutes on 9-of-14 shooting.

"I think he will continue to be effective in the series," Heat coach Stan Van Gundy said. "We've just got to get some better

performances out of other people."

Eddie Jones led the Heat with 22 points, but Dwyane Wade was held to 16 on 7-for-25 shooting.

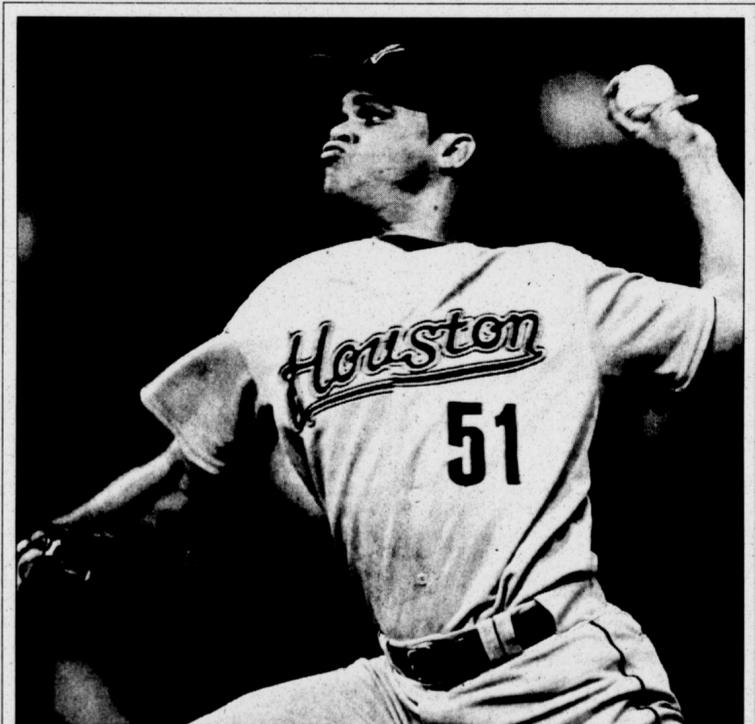
Game 2 of the series is Wednesday in Miami, where O'Neal will try to begin an improbable quest he's pulled off three times before — winning a series when dropping the opening game. He's 24-0 when winning Game 1 of a playoff series, 3-8 when his team loses the opener.

No matter what happens in Miami the rest of the way, if Detroit wins out on its home floor, it's headed back to the NBA Finals — where, a year ago, it conceded averages of 26.6 points and 10.8 rebounds to O'Neal, but beat his Los Angeles Lakers in five games.

Richard Hamilton had 16 points, Tayshaun Prince had 13 and Antonio McDyess added 10 for Detroit, which only had six players score.

"We really executed down the stretch, used the clock good, never gave them much opportunities other than that one brief moment," Pistons

See GAME 1, Page 2B



KRT photo/Nuccio Dinuzzo, Chicago Tribune
Houston's Wandy Rodriguez pitches against Chicago Monday during the Astros' 4-1 loss to the Cubs. Rodriguez was pitching in his first-ever major league game.

Mavericks' Finley set for offseason surgery

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer
DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks swingman Michael Finley expects to have surgery within a month to clean up a bone chip in his right ankle that bothered him most of the season.

Finley said Monday he never wanted the ankle injury to be an excuse for any struggles he had this season. He left the Mavericks' fifth game in November with what the team called a sprained ankle and missed 15 games before returning Dec. 9.

The two-time All-Star had some of the lowest averages in his 12 NBA seasons, scoring 15.7 points per game and shooting 42.7 percent from the field. He averaged a career-low 4.1 rebounds and was chastised by former coach Don Nelson for poor

rebounding during a game.

"It's been tough on me physically because I've been unable to do the things that I'm capable of doing ... unable to be the explosive guy that the fans have grown to love, that the team has gotten accustomed to," Finley said.

When Finley was hurt in November, he said he opted against surgery and missing even more time because the team was having other injury problems. He felt he could contribute without being healthy, and he knew he couldn't further damage his ankle.

Finley said his recovery from surgery won't last longer than six weeks, and he expects to be healthy for training camp. He even plans to have time to play golf.

Finley told reporters about the expected surgery as he left the American Airlines Center after the team's season-ending meeting.

The Mavericks, who won 58 games during the regular season, were eliminated from the playoffs by a 130-126 overtime loss to the Phoenix Suns in Game 6 of the Western Conference semifinals Friday night.

Big Spring Playoff Softball

Class 4A Regional Final

No. 3 Big Spring (27-2) vs. Andrews (24-7)

8 p.m. Thursday at Mugs Field inside the Freddie Ezell Softball Complex in Midland

Regional Semifinal results:

Big Spring defeated Cleburne, 2-1
Andrews defeated White Settlement Brewer, 2-1

Coahoma Playoff Softball

Class 2A Regional Final

No. 6 Coahoma (23-11) vs. Tuscola Jim Ned best-of-three series

Game 1: Friday, noon at Snyder
Game 2: Saturday, 5 p.m. at Snyder
Game 3 (if needed) will be played 30 minutes after Game 2.

Regional Quarterfinal results:

Coahoma defeated Holiday, Jim Ned defeated Seymour.

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IN BRIEF

C.G.A. sets annual scholarship tourney

The Chicano Golf Association has announced its 15th annual scholarship golf tournament will take place Saturday, June 11, through Sunday, June 12, at the Big Spring Country Club (Saturday) and Comanche Trail Park (Sunday).

The tournament will be a two person pick your partner scramble and it costs \$75 per person. The proceeds will be used to help send local high school students to college.

There will be free food for the players and prizes for closest to the pin on four different holes.

For more information, contact Willie Mendoza at 267-7977 or Billy Pineda at 264-7116.

B.S. Country Club announces parent-child tournament

The Big Spring Country Club will host a parent-child golf tournament June 4 through June 5.

There will be a trophy division and an open division for the two person scramble. There will be a shotgun start both days as the tournament will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday and at 1 p.m. Sunday.

The entry fee is \$80 for the trophy division and \$30 for the open division plus the cost of a golf cart (private carts are welcome).

The age breakdown in the trophy division is 5-11, 12-15 and 16-18 and a parent may play with more than one child with the second team's entry fee coming at half price.

For more information, call 267-5354.

GAME 1

Continued from Page 1B

coach Larry Brown said. "So, good win for us."

Detroit opened the second half on an 8-0 run to build a nine-point lead, and stretched the margin to 64-50 when Hamilton hit a jumper with 5:08 left in the third quarter.

Slowly, the Heat chipped away and eventually clawed back.

Miami scored 50 points in the first 29 minutes; it put up 30 in the next 12 minutes, a 9-0 run tying it at 80 on Udonis Haslem's 17-foot jumper with 5:11 left.

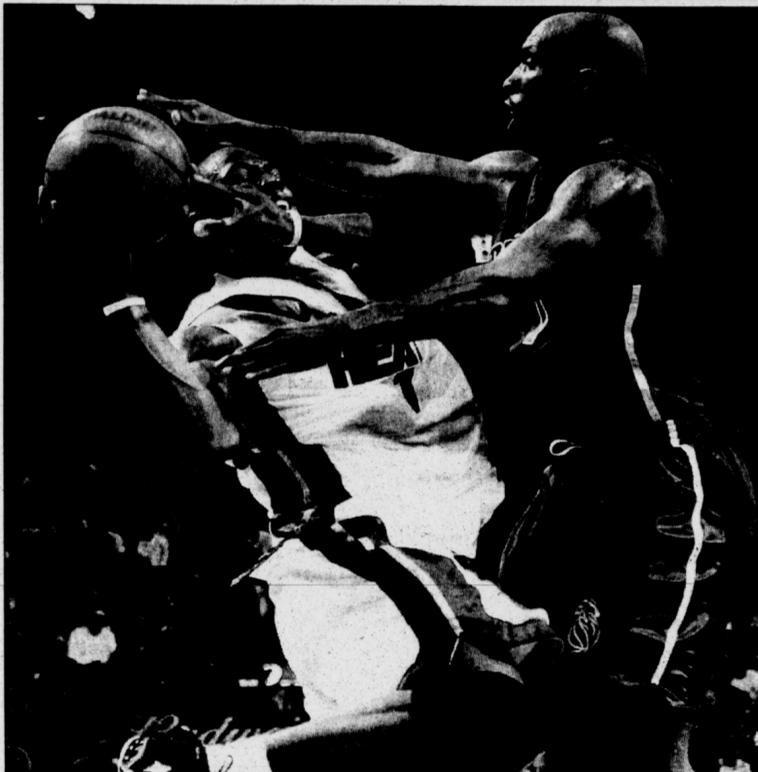
After a jumper by Billups and one free throw by O'Neal, Miami got a stop and was poised to take the lead. But Wade missed a 20-footer from the right wing with 4:01 left, the first of eight straight Heat misses to end the game.

"I'll look at the film tomorrow, see what I have to do different, see what I have to do to help my team win," Wade said.

True, but the Heat now face long odds.

Since 1990, only three teams — the 1993 Chicago Bulls, 2003 San Antonio Spurs and 2004 Pistons — have overcome 1-0 deficits to win their respective conference championship series. Each of those teams went on to win NBA titles.

O'Neal's status was a mystery until just before tip-off. The sold-out arena erupted when he and the Heat took the floor for warmups at 7:58 p.m.,



Miami's Dwyane Wade is fouled by Detroit's Chauncey Billups in the first half Monday in Miami. The Heat lost to the Pistons, 90-81.

although the overhead scoreboard still listed Mourning as Miami's starter at center.

Not only did O'Neal start, he wasted little time in asserting himself.

O'Neal scored the game's first points on a turnaround 20 seconds in and was 4-for-4 in the first 4:11, helping the Heat to an early 13-10 lead. Much like last year in the Finals, he faced largely one-on-one coverage from

the Pistons, and O'Neal had success overpowering Ben Wallace and Rasheed Wallace down low.

But even with O'Neal producing, Detroit still led 44-43 at halftime — in large part because of the way it helped Shaq's superstar running mate, Wade, in check.

Wade missed 10 of his first 12 shots, including eight straight in the second quarter, and finished the half 3-for-13. His only

make of the second quarter was a runner in the lane with 15.3 seconds left that gave Miami a one-point lead, but Ben Wallace answered with a putback 7.9 seconds later to put Detroit back on top.

"A lot of those looks that he's used to getting were a little tougher," Billups said. "They had a hand in his face. And once he got by Tayshaun, he met our second line of defense."

FRENCH

Continued from Page 1B

Paola Suarez, a semifinalist last year.

No. 3 Marat Safin, the reigning Australian Open champion, opened a bid for his first Roland Garros title by beating Raemon Sluiter 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. No. 32 Juan Carlos Ferrero, the French Open champ two years ago,

defeated Karol Beck 6-4, 6-3, 6-3. No. 12 Nikolay Davydenko swept Sasa Tuksar 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.

In a women's field featuring plenty of contenders, Venus Williams has won the most major championships — four.

That makes her a threat at Roland Garros, even if she's seeded 11th. She beat Marta Marrero 6-3, 6-2 Monday.

Williams lost the first

two games to Marrero, then began whacking winners. She hit 38, including four aces, to seven for Marrero.

It was the sort of overpowering performance that made Williams the game's dominant player in 2000-01, winning Wimbledon and the U.S. Open both years, before she was overtaken by her younger sister.

Serena Williams with-

drew last week with a lingering ankle injury. Defending champion Anastasia Myskina was upset Monday by Maria Sanchez Lorenzo, 6-4, 4-6, 6-0, potentially clearing a path to the semifinals for Venus.

She said she's unfazed by those who discount her title chances.

"I try not to listen to the talk," Williams said. "Everyone can talk."



BRONCO BIDDY

Way back a long time ago in the wild, wild west, there lived a family of chickens. It was a very huge family. There was the father chicken, and the mother chicken, and a whole lot of biddies. Did you say that you didn't know what a biddy is? It is a little girl chicken. That sounds funny, doesn't it? They didn't live in a bunkhouse like cowboys do. They lived in a coop, like chickens do. The smallest chicken had always wanted to ride wild horses, and lasso cattle just like the real cowboys do. But, they are chickens, and chickens just don't do that! At least I didn't think so! But, I am getting ahead of myself with this story. Let's go back to where it all started. Do you want to? I was going through my attic just the other day,

cleaning it out and getting rid of all the junk that seems to just show up there, when I noticed it! It was a very old book that had belonged to my grandfather. The name of the book was "Bronco Biddy"! After I had stopped laughing at the name of the book, I then started reading it. And I couldn't stop reading it! It started off like this. Once upon a time, in the wild west, there lived a family of chickens. And the little girl chicken wanted to be a cowgirl—I mean cowchicken! That is all she had ever wanted. She loved to watch the cowboys and cowgirls working at the ranch. They got to play with little cows. They got to ride big horses. They got to be outside all day long. They even got to camp out most of the time, watching the moon and stars as they twinkled. And then they would pull out their bedrolls and sleep on the ground, out in the open prairie, dreaming only pleasant thoughts! The little bitty biddy watched very carefully, learning something new

every day. She watched as the cowboys and cowgirls saddled their horses and soon she knew how. She watched



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for the winter, because it was going to get very cold very soon. The snowstorm came as a surprise to everyone, even the little biddy! It snowed and snowed, and pretty soon no one could tell where anything was because the snow had covered it all up. The little biddy could hear the cows mooing and they were pretty scared and cold. But they did not know which way the barn was.

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The little biddy knew what she had to do! She put a saddle on the biggest horse in

the corral because he had the longest legs and could hold her up high above the snow so they could see the cows. Then they took off running just as fast as they could. The horse seemed to know that the cows were in trouble, too. And he wanted to help! Together, the horse and the little biddy found the cold cows, still mooing, and ready to find their way to the warm barn. "Follow us," the little bitty biddy said, "And we will show you the way to the barn!" Off they went, one by one, following each other closely, with the big horse and the little biddy right up in front, leading the way. They made it to the barn safely that night and it was all because of one little biddy. The cowboys and the



GAME 2

Continued from Page 1B

the Spurs: Center Amare Stoudemire scored 41 points and it was only a few more than he averaged against them in the regular season.

"We just got to be up," he said. "Keep a lot stronger in the last quarter and we will be all right."

D'Antoni and point guard Steve Nash said the Suns struggled with fatigue, physically and mentally. There was a short turnaround between a tough series against Dallas ending on the road in overtime late Friday night and this series starting midday Sunday.

The thought of heading to San Antonio trailing 0-2 also might provide the jolt the Suns need. They also could be awakened by facing their first series deficit of the post-season.

"We feel like we can keep improving," Nash said. "This is a team that's young and getting better. Once we figure it out, get a win under our belts, everything will change."

Three off days before Game 3 Saturday night in San Antonio should help both teams.

Phoenix is hoping that layoff will be enough time for guard Joe Johnson to return. He hasn't played since breaking a bone near his left eye May 11. He hasn't practiced since and is still having trouble getting a good fit on his protective mask because the swelling in his cheek keeps going down. He's been ruled out of Game 2.

Duncan also could use some rest. He played a team-high 40 minutes Sunday partly because he was afraid his left ankle would stiffen if he sat very long. He even soaked it in a whirlpool during halftime.

"I'm fine," he said Monday. "I am in for the rest of the way."

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Help Wanted

BUSY OFFICE needs full-time office clerk, 40 hours a week, requires Saturday work. Ten-key by touch, Excel, Word, and other basic office skills desired (filing, copying, etc.). Professional telephone skills are necessary. Salary will depend on experience. Please fill out an application at Blue Bell Creameries 401 East I-20 Big Spring, Texas 79720

College Students/ HS Grads
SUMMER WORK

GREAT PAY! Flex. hours Sales/service. No exp. nec. Work in Big Spring, apply in Midland. conditions apply All ages 17+ (432)699-6782

EXPERIENCED TRUCK Mechanic needed to work on cummings & catapillar engines. Apply at Price Construction 2701 N. Hwy 350, Big Spring, Tx 79720. No Phone Calls. EOE.

FIELD SERVICEMAN needed for Lube & Oil on Heavy machinery at job sites. CDL with Hazmat required. Apply at Price Construction, 2701 N. Hwy 350 Big Spring, Tx 79720. No Phone Calls. EOE.

FULL-TIME OUTREACH Coordinator needed for local service agency to work with all age groups. 40 Hours a week, benefits, local travel required. Must have dependable transportation, outgoing personality and be self-motivated. Salary plus travel reimbursement, background check required. Send resume c/o: P.O. Box 1431-102, Big Spring, Texas 79721.

GREAT PAY!
Good Benefits!

A Great Career Opportunity. Now Hiring Drivers for: Pump Trucks, Transports, Mechanic, Vacuum Trucks. Requirements: Valid CDL, 21 years of age, Clean MVR. Must pass drug screen. No experience necessary. Call 432-756-2875. Apply in person at Key Energy, West I-20 South Service Road, Stanton, TX.

NIGHT FREIGHT DELIVERY
DRIVER NEEDED

Fortune 500 company has driver position available part time or possible full time. Must have Class A/CDL. Excellent pay. Please fax resume to Kassie at (972)285-8488 or call (972)288-7614 for more details.

PIZZA INN accepting applications for qualified people to join our **Management Team**. Looking for individual with management and food experience. Apply in person with resume, 1702 Gregg Street.

SALESPERSON NEEDED. Experience preferred, but not a must. Looking for aggressive, dedicated salesperson for automotive sales. Contact Randy Gee @ Bob Brock Ford, Lincoln, Mercury & Nissan, 500 West 4th.

UNLIMITED BONUS POTENTIAL with above average base pay as Manager at Coahoma DQ. Looking for friendly, customer service leader. Holiday and vacation pay. Smoke and drug free work environment. Drug test and background check required. Call District Manager, Joana Wuest (325)650-2196.

WAREHOUSE/ DELIVERY Wanted for local Rental Store. Benefits include paid vacation, retirement & health insurance. Requirements are background check, drug screening, good driving record and be at least 21 years old. Apply in person, Credit World, 1611 Gregg.



WELL SERVICE
Vacuum Truck Drivers needed. Top pay and benefits. Contact Matt at (432)664-2321.

Help Wanted

WORKING KNOWLEDGE of mfg and machinery a plus. Benefit package includes medical, life insurance and paid vacation. American Limestone Co., 2515 Apron Drive, Big Spring.

Items for Sale



1998 JAYCO Eagle Model #263RKS 5th wheel travel trailer. Very clean. 29' Rear kitchen super slide, queen bed. Lots of storage. \$10,500.00. Call (432)263-8987.

KDX 450 dirt bike. \$850.00 Call (432)398-5523.

Lost and Found

LOST RUBY & diamond earring. Reward! Call (432)213-2862.

Miscellaneous

CAKES: Wedding, Anniversaries, Quinceanarios. 10% Discount on Arches, Candelabras, florals w/cake order. Grishams (432)267-8191.

ORLANDO DISNEY Area! 7 days family vacation (good for one year). Paid \$600. Sell for \$199!! (432)499-0132.

TEXAS TECH STUDENTS: Pre-Lease 3/3/2 Townhouse. All appliances plus washer and dryer, 5 minutes to Tech. \$950.00 month. Call (432)264-8576.

Mobile Homes

2001 PALM Harbor Double Wide 58x28; 4 Bedroom, 2 bath; on 1/2 acre in Coahoma ISD. Midway area; assumable loan. By appointment (432)816-9549.

Pets

6 BASSET Pund Puppies. Have first Shots. Parents on premises. \$100.00 each. Call (432)354-2466 or 270-8030.

GERMAN SHORT haired Pointer puppies. \$300. & \$350. Call (432)264-0961.

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Broadway

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2 Car Garage
w/remote
Storage Bldg.
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remodeled, new
carpet, new paint,
new appliances,
w/d connections,
ceiling fans,
fenced backyard.

Call Mary @
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BEAUTIFUL LARGE

One bedroom Apts.
Private patios
Large swimming pool
24 hr. laundry facility
Move-in \$199.00 plus deposit
Coronado Hills Apartments
801 W. Marcy
Big Spring, Tx. 79720
(432)267-6500

NEWLY REMODELED Duplex: 706 13th St., 2 bedroom, 1 bath, central air/heat, washer/dryer connections, fenced backyard, newly painted, new carpet, refrigerator/gas stove. No pets. \$350.00 month, \$200.00 deposit. Call (432)267-6516.

Real Estate for Rent

LOVELY
NEIGHBORHOOD
COMPLEX

Swimming Pool
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Senior Citizen
Discounts,
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1 or 2 Baths
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KENTWOOD
APARTMENTS

1904 East 25th Street
267-5444
263-5000

1104 NOLAN

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

1205 LLOYD

2 Bedroom 1 bath. HUD approved. \$350.00 Month \$300.00 Deposit. Call (432)213-3864.

1402 HARDING

3 Bedroom, 2 bath. CH/A, carport, washer, dryer, stove & refrigerator. HUD accepted. \$450.00 Month \$250.00 deposit. Call (432)267-2177, 270-4349.

1404 Stadium

3 bedroom, one bath, CH/A. \$400. month, \$200. deposit. 446-A Armstrong. 4 bedroom, 1 bath, 4435. month, \$150. deposit. Water & gas paid. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

1418 Stadium

3 bedroom, 1 bath, \$335. month, \$150. deposit. 2002 Johnson. 3 bedroom, 1 bath, \$335. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

FOR RENT

large 1 bedroom, 1503 Scurry. All bills paid. \$375. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

1809 Johnson

2/1 bath, washer, dryer connections, new paint & carpet. \$525. month, \$275. deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

2 BEDROOM

2 bath, fenced yard. No pets. Call (432)263-7259.

2001 JOHNSON

Newly remodeled, 2 Bedroom 1 bath. Garage, fenced yard and refrigerated air. \$365.00 month \$295.00 deposit. Call (432)263-8005 or 816-1330.

3 Bedroom, 2 bath

Trailer in Coahoma ISD. \$375. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

3 BEDROOM

2 bath. CH/A, New carpet & fresh paint. Stove & refrigerator furnished. Carport, fenced yard, storage building. \$550 Month, \$250.00 deposit. Call (432)213-0661.

603 George

3/1 bath. Washer & dryer connections, 1 car garage. \$625. month, \$325. deposit. All have CH/A. Call (432)267-2296.

605 EAST 15TH

Two bedroom, one bath, CH/A. \$350. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)263-3375 or 816-6992.

616 DALLAS

Home for rent. Remodeled. Quiet neighborhood, fenced yard. \$575. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

800 1/2 NOLAN

1 Bedroom, 1 bath. Utilities included. \$400.00 month, \$300.00 deposit. Call (432)264-9907.

801 East 18TH

3 Bedroom. 2904 Cherokee. 2 Bedroom. Both have CH/A. No HUD. No Pets. Call (432)263-5818 or 213-0820.

BUILDING FOR LEASE

on 1308 North HWY 350, \$200.00 month plus \$200.00 deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts at (432)263-5000.

HEIGHTS APARTMENTS

\$200. Move-In Special \$200. deposit. All Bills Paid 403 East 8th Call (432)267-2771

Real Estate for Rent

ELEGANT, Older, Modern,

one bedroom, spacious apartment. Central Air, covered parking, W/D connections. \$285.. Non Smoking. Optional furnishings. McDonald (432)263-4835.

Midway Area

- Small 3 Bdrm mobile home. Stove & refrigerator, washer & dryer. CH/A. \$350.00 month \$150.00 deposit. HUD approved. Call 432-393-5585 or 270-3928.

NICE BRICK

office or retail business building...great location...behind the Medicine Shoppe on Gregg Street. \$325.00 Per month. Call (432)263-1281.

Nice house, good neighborhood.

1304 Tucson, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Central heat/air, washer/dryer connections, fenced backyard. Several nice extras. Rent \$450.00, deposit \$200.00. Call (432)267-2112 leave message.

SEALED BIDS-

317 acres surface only in CRP, Rockhouse Rd., Howard County. Taking bids till June 1st.. Mail bids to: Dunagan Farm, 2741 Oak Mountain Trail, San Angelo, Tx 76904 for more Information Call (325)944-0285.

SUNSET RIDGE
APARTMENTS

2 BR. apt. Now Ready \$99 Move in Special On-site Mgr. & Maint. 24 Hour Laundry Facility No Water or Cable Bills! Call Melinda @ (432)263-2292

TWO BEDROOM

one bath, with carport, secluded neighborhood, washer/ dryer connections, CH/A. No Pets. \$375. month, \$250. deposit. Call (432)267-9442.

Real Estate for Sale

\$1,000 TOTAL

Move in Cost. On 1306 Marijo, New 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage home. Reasonably good credit required, lower interest rates to Qualified Buyer. Call now (432)520-9848 Cameo Investments Inc.

2 STORY

House in great condition. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas, office, fireplace. 2 large storage buildings, large gazebo, 2150 sq. ft., 3/4 acre. Beautiful yard. Low property taxes. Asking \$105,000. (432)263-4080.

20 ACRES

on Hwy 176. Set up for Mobile Home. 45K, \$6,500.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 30 years. No Credit Check. (817)312-6322.

6107 E. Midway Rd.

4 Bedroom, 2 bath Brick. 2 Living areas, pantry, fireplace. New roof, on 1.01 acres. Coahoma School District. \$70's. (432)263-2801, 263-7653.

COUNTRY LIVING-

4.89 acre lots with city water, fire hydrants, electricity, phone, cable, good restrictions. Moss Lake Road in Coahoma School District. Owner financing. (432)393-5872.

FOR LEASE OR SALE:

Commercial Building, 7000 sq. ft. warehouse. Approx. 600 ft. office space. 4.81 acres located on North Lamesa Highway. Good for any type Oilfield Service, Trucking, Storage or other use. Will be available July 1st. Call (432)523-2730.

FOUR BEDROOM

2-1/2 bath home on 20 acres. Forsan ISD. All offers considered. Call (432)816-1868.

WILL PAY

Cash for Houses up to \$25,000.00. Call Kelly (432)425-9994.

Real Estate for Sale

HOME OWNERS, Investors or Realtors.

Three lots with homes on them will sell together or separate. Will finance. Call for more information (361)449-2577 cell (361)449-7393.

NO DOWN

Payment on 2 thru 6 Bedroom Brick Homes. Owner Financing. Bad Credit OK. We can adjust your monthly payments to fit your Budget. Call Maria (432)263-3461.

NORTH OF College

- 1723 Purdue 3/2/1 brick home. Credit check & references required. New loan or 20% down. Below appraisal. Call (432)268-8353 Cell (325)699-1042.

REDUCED!

Brick 3-4 Bedroom, 2 bath, huge den/living area, double carport w/storage, fenced backyard, cellar and storage. 108 West Crockett, Lorraine. Mid 40's. (325)737-2601, 436-9278.

Vehicles

95 CHRYSLER

New Yorker. Very Clean inter.. Great work or school car. \$2,200.00. Call (432)263-7825.

1985 PONTIAC

Fiero. \$1,900.00 OBO and a 1981 Chevy half ton pickup. Rebuilt motor and transmission. New tires and wheels. \$2,500.00. Call (432)268-9430.

1993 Ford

Ranger Reg. Cab., 4 cylinder standard and AM/FM cassette. \$1500.00 Down.

1996 Ford

Explorer. Eddie Bauer, white/tan leather seats, power windows, door locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette and luggage rack.

2000 Ford

Taurus SE (White). Power windows, power doors, locks, tilt and cruise..

Jimmy Hopper

1607 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX. 79720 (432)267-5588 In House Financing

2000 Chevy

Blazer LS, Pewter. Power windows, power door locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM & CD player, luggage rack, 78,000 miles. Asking \$7950.00

2001 Chevy

Tahoe LT trim Red. Leather seats, aluminum wheel, CD player, luggage rack, running board, 63,900 miles. Asking \$18,900.00

2001 Dodge

Dakota SLT. Trim, 4 door, all wheel drive, aluminum wheel, CD player, cruise, tilt, power windows- door & locks, V8 engine, 4x4, 86,800 miles. Asking \$13,900.00.

Jimmy Hopper

1607 E. FM 700 Big Spring, TX. 79720 (432)267-5588 In House Financing

2000 DODGE

Grand Caravan. Excellent Condition inside/out. New tires Dec. 2004. Asking \$7495.00. Call (432)816-4052, 816-4059 leave message (432)267-6093 after 7:30 p.m. ask for Jerry.

2003 TOYOTA

Avalon. Silver Spruce, 43k miles, new tires. \$24,500.00. 2002 Chevy Monte Carlo. Black, sporty and loaded, 55k miles. \$12,000.00. Call (432)238-9001 before 9:00 p.m..

Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Venus squares Mars, and it's boys versus girls, aggression versus passion and poetry versus motion. Nobody wins, but it sure is fun to watch 'em duke it out. Venus opposes Pluto, adding emphasis on the important points. You may as well figure out what is worth fighting for in your own life and get in the ring. It's use it or lose it time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

A recent change has people looking at you in a different way. And difference is good. Others are generally more receptive to your ideas and are likely to seek your guidance. Use this as an opportunity to advance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

A long-outstanding issue has magically resolved itself. Revel in this easily-won conquest, but keep in mind it was luck, not skill, that got you out of this one. Open communication will help you to resolve future conflict with little effort.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Cosmically speaking, you're in a prime position to make a change in your living situation. Roommate you can't stand? Kick 'em to the curb. House too small? Find something more accommodating. Options are numerous.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You wake up with a bawdy attitude and could surprise even yourself! You're ready to take on anyone about anything. This rebellious spirit attracts new passion into your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Energy is high. You are able to complete tasks in a fraction of the time it would normally take. Physical exertion is a great mood enhancer this evening, too. The best exercise buddy is an Aries.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Relationship breakthrough: A loved one will finally feel heard by you. You've been there all along, of course, but some issues take their sweet time getting sorted out. All is well that ends well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

There's a fine line between taking action and acting prematurely. Call on your most mature self to guide you. It's best to ignore hot-headed friends now. If you do what they say, there will only be problems later on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Your wild spirit needs the chance to howl! You're also intellectual enough to know what's too much. Tonight, learn something new about a loved one you've known for years. The stars help you rekindle the initial excitement.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Someone important to you helps you reorder your priorities. Stress is a naturally occurring part of life, but you cope so gracefully that everything thrown your way seems rather minor -- and so it is!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Everything takes longer than you think, but that means you're doing it right. Praise your mate. Find reasons to say "You're the best." The stars help you create much needed playful moments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You can ask the all-important question "why" but aren't likely to get an answer you're happy with. Better to sort things out for yourself. Your logic and instinct will help you advance in all areas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

You like a challenge, but why make things unnecessarily difficult? Say "no" often, and life gets simple. A sparkling opportunity to indulge your creativity emerges. Deep down you're really an artist.

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TUES

6	PM	New
7	PM	My 1
8	PM	Geo
9	PM	Acc
10	PM	Blind
11	PM	Ent
12	AM	Live

TUESDAY

Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming for Tuesday, May 24, 2005.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"OKAY, MOM! YOU CAN VACUUM MY ROOM NOW!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"You ought to win a gold glove for baking, Mommy."

HAGAR

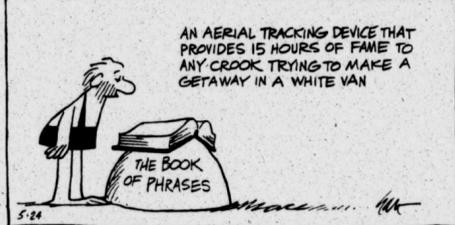
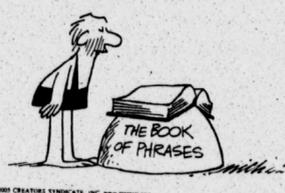


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BC

"CABLE COPTER"



WIZARD OF ID



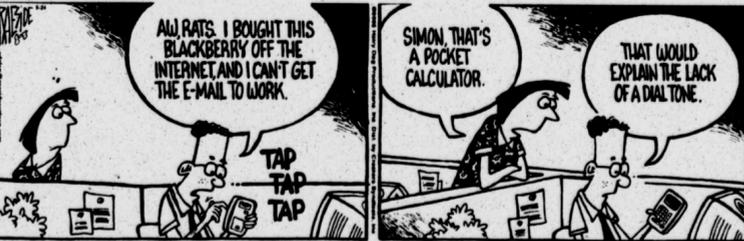
AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

By The Associated Press
Today's Highlight in History:
On May 24, 1844, Samuel F.B. Morse transmitted the message, "What hath God wrought!" from Washington to Baltimore as he formally opened America's first telegraph line.

International News Service.
In 1962, astronaut Scott Carpenter became the second American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Aurora Seven.
In 1977, in a surprise move, the Kremlin ousted Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny from the Communist Party's ruling Politburo.

Monica Lewinsky's testimony.
One year ago: President Bush sought to reassure Americans in a prime-time address that he had a plan to pull Iraq out of the violence and chaos that had marked the year since he declared an end to major combat.

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like PIER, OTTO, STEER, ANNE, IRAN, TELLY, NOTE, LIPS, RAISE, GUESTSPEAKER, STREAK, LEA, SAW, MASH, NAH, MICKEYMOUSE, ALTO, TAP, RUIER, CLAWS, KEG, SPRY, HALL, MONITOR, ONE, CONTROL, TOWER, TRAIT, POPE, LANE, EARTH, ABET, FREE, ANTES, YEMS, SEWS.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Attach, as a patch
6 Dog's snarl
9 Current fashion
13 British biscuit
14 Walked on
15 Eden inhabitant
16 Disposable items
18 Jump into a pool
19 "You'll be a man, my ___"
20 Film excerpt
21 Publicity device
22 Hunting dog
25 Antic
29 Union payment
30 Solo for Scotto
31 Vended to a third party
34 Lyric poem
37 Reassurance provider
40 Is in possession of
41 Earth colours
42 In addition
43 ___ Raton, FL
44 Dry cleaner's challenge
45 Rural gathering
51 Last of the Mohicans
52 Astronaut-Shepard
53 Not well-behaved
56 Scored 100 on
57 Magazine feature
60 Nastase of tennis

KEEPING WARM by Shirley Soloway

- 10 "Farewell!"
11 MacLeod of The Love Boat
12 Alter, as text
14 Branchlet
17 TV alien
21 Bara of the silents
23 Southwestern brick
24 Cancels
25 Money
26 Rug coverage
27 Photos
28 ___ de Cologne
31 Actress Christina
32 Fictional Frome
33 Neighbor of Isr.
34 Neighbor of Tex.

12x12 crossword grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting positions for clues.

MAY 24 2005

Wacky Facts

■ The World Solar Challenge in Australia runs 1,800 miles. First held in 1987, it is the oldest solar car race. In 2001, a Dutch team won, setting a record of 32 hours, 39 minutes, with an average speed of 57 miles per hour — all without a single gallon of gas.
— *World Almanac for Kids*

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"I unicycle. I started out when I was really bored as a kid. I rode around my garage just the other day!"

— Actor Wilmer Valderrama ("That '70s Show"), in *Twist* magazine.



Extreme sports

BY EMILIE LE BEAU
Chicago Tribune

Rock climbing has given Tori A. some big wins — and some big fingers.

"I stunted the growth plates in my fingers," says Tori, 16, of Indianapolis. "I can hold my body weight and a half. That's what makes me a strong climber."

Tori climbs indoor walls for competitions and outdoors on real rocks for fun. She first started climbing when she lived in West Africa with her missionary parents and pet monkey, Georgie. The monkey was Tori's climbing partner, and it hung onto her while she climbed trees.

Tori traded trees for a climbing wall when her family moved from Africa to Indiana. She first competed when she was 10 years old, and began taking on adults by the time she was 12. Her biggest win was a gold medal in speed climbing at the 2003 X Games.

"Extreme" or "alternative" sports such as rock climbing, bicycle motocross (BMX) racing, skateboarding and snowboarding are moving into the mainstream. The televised X Games attract viewers worldwide, and BMX racing has been added to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Participation in these sports is increasing. About 21 million Americans inline skate, 13 million skateboard, 7 million wall climb and 4 million ride BMX, reports the Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association International.

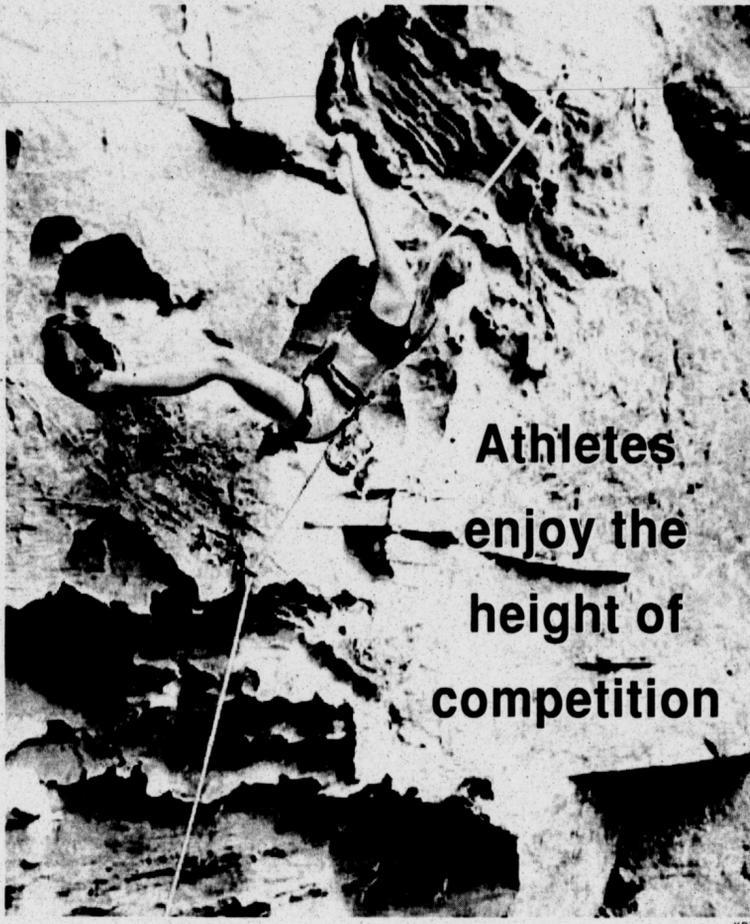


Dave Mirra shows his moves from the BMX circuit.

Advertisers have begun to catch on to the trend, and now many ads use extreme sports imagery to sell products. This is partly because athletes who participate in extreme sports are considered fun, says Jack Watson, an assistant professor in sports psychology at West Virginia University at Morgantown, W.Va.

"I think most adults view [extreme sports] as a form of rebellion," he says. "Other young adults look up to people who do it."

People who do extreme sports tend to be sensation-seekers, Watson says. Besides a sense of adventure,



Athletes enjoy the height of competition

extreme athletes also need a huge dose of dedication. Joey B., 15, of Monterey, Calif., is a BMX racer who trains every day.

Joey hopes to compete in Beijing in 2008. "If you want to be at the top, you really have to work hard and be dedicated," he says.

Being able to conquer the fear factor also can affect an athlete's success. Joey says he's broken his collarbone, wrist and several ribs. "I've been lucky," he says.

Falling can mean a hurt body and a broken ego. Just ask Molly L., 9, of Crystal Lake, Ill., who participates in inline skating competitions. "It's scary when you fall. I've almost broken my arm two times falling," she says.

At competitions, kids take a tumble when they trip over cones or knock a skate into the wall. Like speed skating on ice, inline skaters try to get around the track in the fastest time.

Inline skating is where Molly says she's found her place in sports. She tried golf and gymnastics but says she never felt "sure" about either. Tori also played team sports but wanted an individual experience.

"I prefer to have all the pressure on me," she says. "With climbing, either you climb higher than the other girl or you don't."



MIKE HANSELL/KRT
Garrett E. performs tricks on his skateboard.

THAT'S A PAIN

Playing an extreme sport doesn't guarantee extreme injuries. But these new sports do bring new types of risk for injury. Inline skaters, for example, can reach speeds of 17 miles per hour. Breaking a fall with your body can cause some nasty pain, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. So with all extreme sports, don a helmet and pads to avoid these gross injuries:

Big bruises: Fall the wrong way off your bike and you might experience a contusion. It's a blow that causes blood to pool around the injured spot and discolor the skin.

Nasty cuts: Skid across the cement and your skin could get lacerated. A laceration is torn skin or a ragged wound.

Loss of consciousness: Concussions are head injuries and can happen in any sport, from football to motocross. It's usually temporary but can cause unconsciousness.

Painful sprains: Many skateboarders complain of sprained or "rolled ankles." A sprain is a tissue tear.

Throbbing digits: Climbers can get hand injuries if they push their bodies too hard. One common ache happens to over-used finger tissues. The tissue develops a knot that swells, causes pain and makes a gross popping sound.

In The News

Bad behavior can take fun out of sports

Bang! My teammate tumbles to the ground as one of the players on the other team knocks him down. The referee pulls the aggressive player aside and gives him a penalty. My teammate does not respond or overreact. This is a scene that plays out many times on the soccer field in my town.

I play on a traveling soccer team in Westfield, N.J. Everyone on my team, including parents and coaches, has signed a pledge called S.A.G.E.,

TIME
FOR KIDS



RICK NEASE/KRT

which stands for Set a Good Example. We have promised to act positively toward players, referees and coaches, control our emotions and practice good sportsmanship.

Jack Rickles, 11, also plays on a traveling soccer team. My coach believes S.A.G.E. helps to remind parents and coaches how to be good sports, too. "A lot of coaches push winning far too hard and make it a higher priority than they should," he says.

Some coaches, parents and athletes believe that too many restrictions can take the fun out of the game. They say competition is not bad.

ARE KIDS' SPORTS TOO COMPETITIVE?

Cal Ripken Jr.: YES! The pressure put on kids to win at all costs has become a real negative. I've had parents tell me that they treat baseball like homework. They make a child practice every day.

They say, "He doesn't like it, but he'll thank me later."

When kids are discovering the joys of sports, they should be encouraged to play whatever they want at a level that suits them.

That way, they will learn what sports they enjoy and will become well-rounded. Playing multiple sports helps develop overall athleticism. As kids mature, they will be able to decide which sports to focus on. Sports teach kids so much. We need to let kids choose and explore.

Retired baseball player Cal Ripken Jr. runs a foundation that promotes youth sports.

Jim Thompson: NO! The problem is not competition. A professional sports mentality is polluting youth sports. Pro sports is a business focused on making money. Youth sports is about athletes learning lessons that will help them succeed in life.

Competition is part of life, and there is no better place than on the playing field to compete in a way that honors the game, as Cal Ripken Jr. always did. To win graciously and play by the rules are lessons best taught through sports.

When athletes have coaches who want to win while pursuing the more important goal of using sports to teach life lessons, competition is healthy, beneficial and enjoyable.

Jim Thompson is the executive director of the Positive Coaching Alliance.

— Ross Workman, 11

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