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# BIG SPRING HERALD

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Hawks rout NMJC to remain undefeated in WJCAC  
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VOLUME 102, NUMBER 70 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2006 COPYRIGHT 2006 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND

## Jail location survey OK'd

*But county commissioners fail to reach agreement on local study committee*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners agreed to study building a jail facility west of the courthouse during Monday's meeting, otherwise making little progress on a situation that's drawn a 90-day ultimatum from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

The court gave the go-ahead for the study following an offer to do the assessment for "gratas" from Edward Spooner, justice director for the HOK Group, which was hired by the commissioner's court more than a year ago to design and consult on the jail matter.

"We're willing to do the study for *gratis* just to get the court moving on the matter," Spooner

**"If you all can't make a decision as elected officials — if you can't even bring a motion to the floor — why not just get a group of citizens from the community to look at the deal?"**

Moore

told a packed courtroom Monday afternoon. "If this will help the court make a decision,

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## FOR A SWEETHEART



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Donna Daylong, a florist at Faye's Flowers, prepares some roses during this morning's Valentines Day rush.

## Pre-trial bonding program gains approval

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Howard County Commissioners Court gave the go-ahead to create a county-run pre-trial bonding program Monday morning, a program commissioners hope will help alleviate overcrowding problems at the county jail.

The decision came following a

presentation from county employee Mike Welling, who currently runs the entity's delinquent fine collection program.

"We started looking at the prisoners in the jail starting on Jan. 24," said Welling. "We looked at it day by day, deciding whether or not they met the criteria. Some of them were eligible to be released with the

ankle monitors, and some of them could be bonded without them.

"Through the program, we would have been able to save 197 days in the Dickens County facility and 426 days at our own jail. We could have eliminated approximately 623 days through this program. That comes up to \$7,584.50 savings for the ones we've farmed out,

and \$17,040 for the ones we've housed here in Howard County. That's a total of \$24,624.50."

The program, which was first pitched to county officials Dec. 20 by Midland County's Pre-trial Bonding Administrator Tim Long and a pair of Midland district judges, would offer prisoners a "second chance" to bond-out, hopefully taking a bite out of the jail population.

Welling, who will be in charge of the program, told the court the study was done without considering any prisoners who are incarcerated for violent crimes.

"This doesn't reflect any violent crime or sex offenders, or anyone who has a felony revocation of probation," said

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HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins  
Jerry Kilgore, left, the incumbent candidate for Howard County Commissioner Precinct 2, talks about the March primaries with his challenger, Kathy Lusk, during Monday night's candidate forum at the Big Spring Junior High School. The forum, which was followed by a chance for area residents to meet the candidates in several state and local races, was a presentation of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

## Meet 'n' greet

*Jail among topics candidates discuss during Monday forum*

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

Nearly two dozen candidates preparing for the March primaries took the stage at Big Spring Junior High School Monday night in a special "Meet the Candidates" forum hosted by the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

And while a number of issues were brought to the podium throughout the night — from education to public school finance — the issue local candidates seemed

**Coming up...**

*The Big Spring Herald* candidate special edition will be published Feb. 19.

focused on was the need for a new Howard County Jail.

"A lot of people want to know where I stand on the jail issue," Mark Barr, Democratic candidate for county judge, told the audience. "I'm opposed to a \$12 million jail on FM 700. I think it's

a waste of the taxpayer's money and would increase our taxes by 25 percent. That's a lot of money folks, and we just can't afford it.

"I'd like to drive a Corvette, but I can't afford it and it's not practical for me. So I drive a Ford pickup. What I do propose — and I'm very open minded — is a smaller, more efficient jail closer to the courthouse."

And while most candidates acknowledged the

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**To reach us:**  
Please call 263-7331. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you miss your paper, please call (432) 263-7335 before 7 p.m. weekdays and noon Sunday.

## FISD applies for start date waiver

**By STEVE REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

**FORSAN** — School trustees in Forsan voted to start next school year a week earlier than state mandates at their regular board meeting Monday night.

The Texas Education Agency recommends that public schools in the state start the school year during the week of Aug. 21, but it

allows districts to requests waivers to the start date.

As Big Spring ISD trustees did earlier this month, Forsan will request a waiver to begin the 2006-07 school year Aug. 14.

Forsan Superintendent Randy Johnson said his district is hardly the exception

when it comes to early start dates.

"It sure looks like a large majority of communities in our region are looking at an early start date to next year," Johnson said.

The waiver should be approved by TEA within 30 days.

With the start date nailed down, school officials can begin finalizing plans for the 2006-07 calendar. Johnson

said he hopes to have that issue before the board when it meets in March.

Also Monday, trustees officially ordered the school board election for May 18.

At-large seats currently held by Misty Rhoten and Lewis Boeker, both of whom have filed their candidacies, will be up for election. Both terms are for three years.

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## Obituaries

### Jose Lopez



Jose Lopez, 95, of Big Spring died Sunday, Feb. 12, 2006, at his residence. Vigil services are 7:30 p.m. today at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. James Plagens, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow in Mount Olive Memorial Park.

He was born April 25, 1910, in El Paso and married Juanita Chavez Oct. 31, 1928, in Big Spring. She preceded him in death March 12, 1990. He came to Big Spring as a young boy from El Paso and worked for Texas and Pacific Railroad for 40 years, retiring in 1974. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He was also preceded in death by one son, Jose Lopez Jr., Nov. 16, 1995.

Survivors include four sons, Raymond C. Lopez of Big Spring, Marcos C. Lopez of Dallas, Manuel C. Lopez of Grand Prairie and Albert C. Lopez of Cresco, Iowa; five daughters, Erlinda L. Fierro of San Antonio, Luz L. Aleman, Josefina L. Hernandez and Amparo L. Tijerina, all of Big Spring, and Beatriz L. Rodriguez of Greeley, Colo.; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

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

### Alfaro Hernandez Lopez



Alfaro Hernandez Lopez, 73, of Big Spring died Feb. 9, 2006, in Lubbock. A chapel service is scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, 2006, in the Del Rio Funeral Home Chapel in Del Rio with the Rev. Efrain Santana officiating. Burial will follow in San Felipe Cemetery.

He was born Jan. 30, 1933, in Purisima, Coahuila, Mexico and married Celia T. Lopez March 6, 1956, in Acuna, Coahuila, Mexico. They had lived in Big Spring for the past 29 years. He worked as a ranch hand at Loma Alta Ranch for 17 years.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jacinto Barrera Lopez, his mother, Maria de la Luz Lopez, a brother, Marcos Lopez and a nephew, Eduardo Lopez Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Celia T. Lopez; nine children, Maria de Jesus Ramirez, Francis Magallanes, José Alfaro Lopez, Maria de los Angeles Lopez, Santos Lopez, Arturo Lopez, Richard Lopez, Marybell Contreras and Johnny Lopez, all of Big Spring; six brothers, Benito Lopez of Eagle Pass, Velen Lopez of Big Spring, Eduardo Lopez, Jacinto Lopez, Juan Lopez and Santos Javier Lopez, all of Del Rio; seven sisters, Lorenza Gutierrez of Ozona, Elvira Pena of Muskegon, Mich., Rosita Munoz of Del Rio, Guadalupe Torres of Del Rio, Josefa Patino of Del Rio, Lydia Sifuentes of Plainview and Blanca Riojas of Peoria, Ariz.; and 24 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are under the direction of Del Rio Funeral Home.

### Robbie Geraldine Roberds

Robbie Geraldine Roberds, 87, died Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006, at her residence in Odessa. No services are scheduled at this time.

She was born Feb. 16, 1918, to Hartsell and Anna Geneva Holladay in Waldron, Ark. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Harvey C. Hooser, her parents, a son, Danny Hooser, two sisters, Racheal Hopkins and Lillian Oliver and two brothers, Drexell and Duell Holladay.

Survivors include her daughters, Pat Gammons of Big Spring and Leanna Hernandez of Odessa; and her son, Gary Hooser of Seattle, Wash.

Arrangements are under the direction of Hubbard-Kelly Funeral Home in Odessa.

## Take Note

• **ISAIAH 58 FOOD DISTRIBUTION** is at the old West Texas Food Bank building, 1208 E. Third St., today from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. When the road in front of the Isaiah 58 building, 107 Runnels, has been repaved, operations will resume at that location. For more information, call 268-1270.

• **FOURTH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ** is 10 a.m. Saturday in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium.

• **A BLOOD DRIVE IS SCHEDULED AT MOUNTAIN VIEW LODGE** from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Friday at 2009 Virginia Ave. To sign up for the blood drive, call Jessica Paredez, director of marketing and admissions for Mountain View Lodge, at 263-1271.

• **CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH FAIR** featuring Dora the Explorer at Howard College is 10 a.m. until noon Saturday in the Horace Garrett building. Door prizes, balloons, goodie bags, games popcorn and a toothbrush exchange are planned. Call 264-5065 for more information.

• **AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY** is 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday. Dine in or carry out available. \$7 per plate. The legion is located at 3203 W. Highway 80. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• **BLOOD DRIVE AT SCENIC MOUNTAIN MEDICAL CENTER** is set for Feb. 20, starting at 9 a.m. This is sponsored by the SMMC volunteers. Call 263-1211 for more information.

• **YOUNGLIFE ROUNDUP BANQUET** is 7 p.m. Feb. 27 in the Dora Roberts Community Center. Call 432-213-4819 for more information.

## Police blotter

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

• **BILLY PATTERSON**, 51, of Midland, was arrested Monday on a charge of criminal trespass.

• **RACHEL SAVALA**, 20, of Lubbock, was arrested Monday and held for the HCSO.

• **KORI SHEA JOHNSON**, 23, of 1400 Tucson, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• **EDWARD FARIAS**, 41, of Laredo, was arrested Monday on a charge of criminal trespass.

• **BRYON PAYNE**, 20, of 1509 Stadium, was arrested Monday on a Howard County warrant and a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

• **KORI LEWIS**, 23, of 904 E. 12th Street, was arrested Tuesday on charges of failure to identify, possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and possession of a controlled substance.

• **EDWARD HURRINGTON**, 51, of 4100 Dixon, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and possession of a controlled substance.

• **THEFT** was reported in the 2000 block of Gregg Street.

• **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 1700 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

• **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 1700 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

• **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION** was reported in the 1700 block of Martin Luther King Boulevard.

• **CRIMINAL TRESPASS** was reported:

- in the 200 block of Marcy.

- in the 700 block of Interstate Highway 20.

- in the 500 block of Lamesa.

• **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported:

- in the 300 block of Tulane.

- in the 2900 block of Highway 80.

• **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 3600 block of Dixon.

## Sheriff's report

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

• **NATHAN HOUSTON CAHOON**, 44, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• **ANTHONY DAVID FRENZEL**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of no liability insurance, violation of a promise to appear, motion to revoke probation for driving while license suspended/invalid, failure to identify as a fugitive from justice, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, driving while intoxicated - open container, driving while license invalid with a previous conviction and theft.

• **JAMES WILLIAM HALE**, 53, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• **RACHEL FRANCES SAVALA**, 20, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a sentence/judgment for possession of a controlled substance.

## Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 100 block of Vicky Road. One person was transported to SMMC.

• **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.

## Around Town

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

• **VALENTINE'S DAY CAKES** available from the Relay For Life Yellow Dog Dare Devils team. Delivery available. Eight-inch cakes are \$5 and 5-inch cakes are \$3.50. Call Angel Sosa at 264-4108 or Georgia Torres at 267-1312.

• **PLANNING MEETING FOR THE WEST TEXAS PRODUCER'S AND FARMERS MARKET** is set for 6 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

• **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON AND SEMINAR "CASHING IN ON BUSINESS,"** sponsored by the Big Spring Rotary Club and the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce is 11:30 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. Feb. 28 in the East Room of the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Tickets are \$10, available at the chamber until Feb. 24. Call 263-7641 for more information.

• **AARP TAX PREPARATION** will be available at the Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon. The AARP program will wrap-up for the year April 10. Electronic filing will be available. For more information on the program, contact Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733.



**RE-ELECT Ben Lockhart**  
Republican Candidate For  
**COUNTY JUDGE**  
Howard County

Early Voting Feb. 21 - March 3, 2006  
**ELECTION DAY MARCH 7, 2006**

Pol. Adv. by Ben Lockhart, 300 Main, Big Spring, TX

## Bulletin Board

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

### TODAY

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.

• Big Spring Shrine Club meets at 6:30 p.m. for dinner with a meeting to follow at First and Goliad streets. All Masons are welcome to attend.

• Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.

• Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

### WEDNESDAY

• Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.

• Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

• Line dancing begins at 1 p.m. in the Spring City Senior Citizen's Center in the Industrial Park. Call 267-6966 or 267-1628.

• Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.

• Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

### 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, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

• Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association meets at 5:30 p.m. in the RSVP office at 501 Runnels.

• American Legion Post 506 meets at 6 p.m. Call 263-2084 for more information.

• Rackley-Swords 379, Vietnam Veterans of America meets at 7 p.m. in the Sparenburg Building, 309 S. Main St.

## Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Much colder. Lows in the mid 20s.

Friday...Mostly cloudy. Much colder. Highs in the mid 30s.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light freezing drizzle or snow. Lows in the upper 20s.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light freezing drizzle or snow. Highs in the upper 20s.

Saturday night...Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light freezing drizzle or snow. Lows in the mid 20s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 40s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Presidents day...Partly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the mid 60s.

## Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-11-15-23-32.

Number matching five of five: none.

Next Cash 5 drawing: Tuesday night.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 5-6-27-31. Bonus Ball: 3.

Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

Estimated jackpot for Thursday night drawing: \$325,000.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-0-7

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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# Alon USA to sell Amdel and White Oil pipelines

Special to the Herald

Alon USA Energy, Inc. (NYSE: ALJ) announced Monday it has entered into an agreement to sell its Amdel and White Oil pipelines to an affiliate of Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P. for \$68 million. The transaction is expected to be completed before the end of the first quarter of 2006. Upon closing, the company will recognize a one-time pre-tax gain on the disposition of the Pipelines of approximately \$53 million. In conjunction with the sale

of the Pipelines, Alon and Sunoco Logistics will enter into a 10-year pipeline throughput and deficiency agreement, which will allow Alon to maintain its physically integrated system by retaining crude oil transportation rights on the pipelines from the Gulf Coast for an initial term of 10 years. Pursuant to this agreement, Alon will commit to ship a minimum of 15,000 barrels per day on the pipelines. Alon also has the option to extend the agreement by four additional 30-month periods. "This transaction gives us



increased flexibility in our ability to source crude oil and further strengthens our balance sheet," said Jeff Morris, Alon's president and CEO. "As we move forward, we will continue to redeploy capital into areas where we have proven expertise, including integrated refining, asphalt production and

retail operations. In light of the recent developments regarding the Mesa Pipeline System, Sunoco Logistics has also agreed to provide Alon up to 40,000 BPD of shipping capacity of crude from Midland or Nederland to the Big Spring Refinery. We are pleased to have such a strong partner to provide long-term crude pipeline capabilities to Alon." The startup of the Amdel pipeline is scheduled for June 1. Alon will be able to originate crude oil from either Sunoco Logistics' Nederland terminal or other terminals in Midland.

The current Amdel pipeline capacity is 27,000 BPD from Nederland to Alon's Big Spring Refinery and 40,000 BPD from Midland to the refinery. Sunoco Logistics is expected to expand the capacity of the entire system to 40,000 BPD by year-end. The startup of the Amdel pipeline should provide the Big Spring Refinery with more flexibility regarding crude slate optimization, Morris said. Alon's excess sulfur capacity and advanced asphalt capabilities should allow Alon to refine additional heavy and sour grades of crude.

## CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 1A

jail issue as being at the top of the county agenda, fellow Democratic candidate Woody Jumper said he doesn't feel it's the "big issue."

"As far as a \$12 million jail is concerned... I don't think the Howard County Commissioner's Court is looking at a \$12 million jail," said Jumper. "That's a fact. The jail situation is moving. The judge and the commissioners are working on it, they were working on it today, as a matter of fact. So I really don't think that's the big issue other than what will our situation be and what will our options be. And they, of course, are the people that decide that."

Not all candidates for county judge addressed the jail issue Monday night, as the third Democratic candidate, Ron "Smurf" Sawyers, decided to

take what he described as an "unconventional" approach to the forum.

"I'm a little more unconventional," said Sawyers. "I've lived here for 25 years and this is my home. I love it here. I tried to do this four years ago and I got talked out of it. I decided I'm going to do it this time because my heart is in it. You have some politicians out there. I've been a mechanic for 35 years and it takes a lot of 'politicking' to be a mechanic... I really think I can do this job and I'm going into it with an open mind. I'm not on these peoples' side, and I'm not on those peoples' sides. I'm right here in the middle and I can do this job."

Republican county judge candidate Mark Morgan said he hopes to bring a new level of positive thinking to the office if elected.

"A lot of people ask me why I want to be county judge," said Morgan. "About half the time the question is 'Have you lost

your mind?' And it's kind of a sad thing when I get asked that because Big Spring is such a great place. We are probably the best community in West Texas. We've probably got more going for us than anyone else in the area, yet we doubt ourselves all the time.

"When I first came to Big Spring I couldn't believe how much doubt there was about the community. I am very positive about Big Spring. I see a lot of things we can do and will do. Throughout the campaign we've heard a lot of 'we can't' and 'we can't.' I'm not made of 'can'ts.' I am made of 'why not.'"

Incumbent Ben Lockhart, who is running on the Republican ticket, said county commissioners' decision Monday during their regular meeting to study a downtown location for the jail was a step in the right direction, but feels it should ultimately be up to the voters.

"There's the issue of a new

jail," said Lockhart. "And I stand for a new jail. We do need a new jail, and I think it would be well served if we can find the space and size we need to put one downtown. Today we took a step toward that."

"We have the architects studying how to put one somewhere downtown. I feel that when a decision is made, we probably need more than one decision. We need to let the people vote on it. We need to let them vote on whether or not they want a large one or a smaller one downtown, or whatever it takes."

Also speaking during the forum were U.S. House District 19 candidates Robert Ricketts, D-Lubbock, and Fred Jones, Libertarian. Incumbent Randy Neugebauer, R-Lubbock, was unable to attend, with Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen speaking on his behalf.

Texas House District 85 candidates Jim Landtroop, R-Plainview, Drew Mouton, R-Big Spring, Gerald "Jerry" Lee

Middleton, R-Abilene, and Joe Heflin, D-Crosbyton, also addressed the audience.

Republican candidates for County Commissioner Precinct 2 of Jerry Kilgore and Kathy Lusk also took part in the forum. Candidates for County Commissioner Precinct 4 included Roy D. Beauchamp and Walter H. Brumley Jr., who are running on the Republican ticket, and incumbent Gary Simer, who will run as a Democrat.

Candidates running for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Place 2 included Republicans Kathryn Wiseman, Laura Jeanne Wilson and Robert G. "Bob" Smith. Local resident Bobby Roever was the lone speaker for the Democratic party in that race.

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

## BOND

Continued from Page 1A

Welling. "Some of those, depending on how the judges feel about them, could be eligible for the program as well."

Commissioner Gary Simer said he felt the

study pointed in a clear and concise direction.

"I think if you look at this, you come to the same conclusion we have," said Simer. "It's a good program."

And while Simer said he sees the program as a major boon for the county, he doesn't expect it to eliminate the need for a

new county jail facility.

"It's a good program," said Simer. "There are other counties that are doing it and it has helped their jail population and saved tons of money. However, it's not the answer to a new jail. It will help us for a while with the population part of the problem, but it's

not the answer. We'll have to do something eventually. I don't think it will have to be anything huge because of this program, which I think will be in place even after we get a new jail."

Starting the program should carry a minimal price tag, according to county officials, with all

of the funding for the project already in the budget through the county's delinquent fine collections department.

"We'll have to hire a secretary, but that money has already been budgeted through the position that was eliminated in that office," said County Auditor Jackie Olson.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the new program.

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

## JAIL

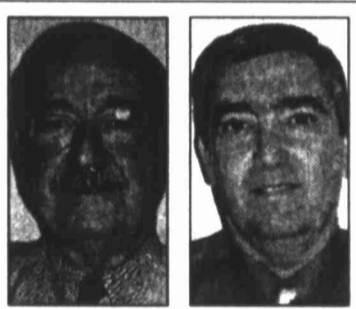
Continued from Page 1A

we're willing to help."

Commissioners also looked at the possibility of appointing a new committee — made up of two commissioners, Sheriff Dale Walker, County Auditor Jackie Olson, Big Spring Police Chief Lonnie Smith and a pair of city council members — to find a consultant group to come in and give an assessment on where a new jail should be located and how large it should be.

However, commissioners failed to take action in forming the committee following a debate concerning who should sit on the group — local government officials or citizens.

"Instead of putting the fox in charge of the hen house, why don't you get some citizens (for the committee)," said Robert H. Moore, 118th District Court Judge. "If you all can't make a decision as elected officials — if you can't even bring a motion to the floor — why not just get a group of citizens from the community to look at the deal?.. If you're going to be real objective about it, you have to look first at whether we need a jail, and if so, how big does the jail need to be and where are we going to put



Crooker Kilgore

it?" Commissioner Bill Crooker said the idea of having a community-driven committee looks good on the outside, but can quickly backfire.

"It sounds good on the surface. It sounds very flowery," said Crooker. "However, finding objective people can be a real problem."

Commissioner Jerry Kilgore said he's hesitant to make any decisions between a jail facility and a joint law enforcement center — a plan that would put the Howard County Sheriff's Department and the Big Spring Police Department in the same building — before knowing how committed the city is in the matter.

"I would want a commitment from the city before we went ahead with a joint law enforcement center," Kilgore told the court. "I want to know they are going to be a player in this."

And while many local officials at the meeting shied away from the idea

of having the two law enforcement agencies under the same roof, Crooker took it a step further.

"At some point in time — maybe not in any of our lifetimes, but at some point — I feel we can have one law enforcement body," said Crooker. "A combination of the sheriff's office and the police department. And it will save us money to prepare for this by joining with the city on this."

Walker said despite accusations early in the meeting that he is pushing for a joint law enforcement facility to accompany the jail, he is not pushing one way or the other on the issue.

"We're proud we have been able to sit down with the city in open discussions and agree to work together. That's the first time this county has ever seen that, I believe," said Walker. "I'm still willing to do it, and I hope the city is."

"I'm for a jail. It's your (commissioners) decision to make on a joint law enforcement center... We have a jail problem, and you're just sticking your head in the sand if you think we don't."

County Judge Ben Lockhart said he felt the project was moving forward following the meeting.

"I think we managed to take one step forward

without taking any steps back," said Lockhart.

And as commissioners struggle with the issues, the clock is ticking. Commissioner Kilgore said a recent meeting between commissioners and the Texas Commission on Jail Standards made the fact that time is running out very clear.

"They told us to come back to them in 90 days, and if we haven't made some significant progress in addressing the problems with the facility, they will shut us down," said Kilgore firmly. "They aren't bluffing about this. We got the distinct feeling they are very serious about what they said."

Jail problems that have been granted waivers include not having at least two unobstructed exits from the jail; inadequate fire suppression

equipment; no reliable means of remotely unlocking and locking of cells; exit doors that swing against traffic; and corridors that are too narrow.

And while the problems may seem new to some, Walker said they certainly aren't.

"In 1978, Sheriff Standard filed a request for a variance concerning the width of the walk ways," Walker told the court. "In 1980, variances were filed for exit doors that swing the wrong way."

No date was given for the delivery of the feasibility study concerning property located west of the courthouse on Scurry Street during the meeting.

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

## FISD

Continued from Page 1A

Johnson said early voting will be held at the Howard County Courthouse, while polling places will be open at the high school and Elbow Elementary for the May 13 election.

In other business Monday, trustees extended contracts for Elbow Principal Steve Osborn,

Junior High/High School Keith Stone and Assistant Principal Madge Patterson. In addition, contracts for Technology Director Bob Fishback and Counselors Ashley Glass and Keith Bagnall were extended, Johnson said.

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

## Blood drive coming Friday

Mountain View Lodge is having a blood drive through United Blood Services from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Friday at, 2009 Virginia Ave.

Donors must be at least 17 years old, in good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, know names of all medications currently being taken and have valid identification, such as driver's or donor ID.

Call UBS at 561-5539 for qualifications. To sign up for the blood drive, call Jessica Paredes, director of marketing and admissions for Mountain View Lodge, at 263-1271.

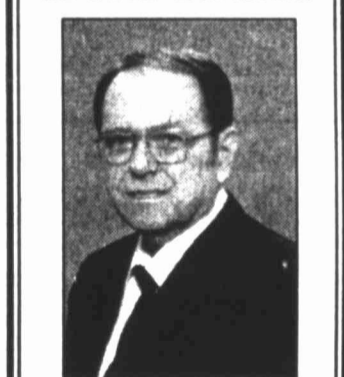
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Paid political ad by citizens to elect Gerald Middleton Congressman for the 85th District.



## EDITORIAL

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

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Susanne Reed  
Publisher

John A. Moseley  
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

## Let those you love know it

It's Valentine's Day. Just the mention of this holiday devoted to romance conjures up certain images — roses, chocolate, intimate dinners by candlelight, a quiet evening alone letting the one person we love the most know just how special they are to us.

Valentine's Day means different things to different people. It becomes as individual as each of us.

For some, it's a time to go full bore. To spend freely. Shower the one we love with one lavish gift after another.

Others adopt a more reserved tone. A whispered sentiment. A simple card.

All those varied methods mean the same thing, however.

That message is simple: I love you.

No three words are more warming to the human soul.

Perhaps nothing is more desperately sought by each of us. And certainly, nothing is more difficult to find.

That's because love isn't something you can purchase, regardless of how much you spend.

Love can't be summoned on demand. It's something given freely from the heart.

Love is shared and should be nurtured — not just today, but every day. Better yet, every moment.

So, on this Valentine's Day, we hope each of you takes the time to do just that. Regardless of the manner you choose, let those you love the most know they fill a special place in your heart and your life.

Their lives will be enriched, as will yours.

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Grant us appreciation for those we do not always understand, dear Lord.

Amen

## How To CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

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

## LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
- Sign your letter.
- Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
- We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
- We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
- Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

## The opposite of intelligence

If anyone can show me that the National Security Agency, under order from President Bush or top aides, eavesdropped on Hillary Clinton or Ted Kennedy or some prominent partisan critic, I'll change my tune and see what this administration is doing as a threat to civil liberties. Until then, I can only see the attacks on an NSA surveillance program — last Monday the Senate Judiciary Committee grilled Attorney General Alberto Gonzales over the program that allowed officials to data-mine information from international phone calls and the Internet — as ill-conceived, partisan and dangerous.

Ill-conceived? The Sept. 11 commission's purpose was to figure out why authorities did not connect the dots and prevent those deadly terrorist attacks. Now, Washington is scolding the NSA for using state-of-the-art technology to try to connect more dots.

Partisan? Yes, there are Republicans who have questioned the NSA program. Still, most Democrats won't give the Bushies the same break they'd hand to a Democratic administration in a heartbeat.

After all, the Clinton administration conducted warrantless searches in an American's home. His name was Aldrich Ames, and he later pleaded guilty to spying for the former Soviet Union while working for the CIA. As *The Washington Post* reported in 1994, "government officials decided in the Ames case that no warrant was required because the searches were conducted for 'foreign intelligence purposes.'" There was no huge outcry that Clintonia should have obtained a warrant.

Former Clinton Justice official Jamie Gorelick contended in a letter to the Judiciary Committee

that the president had "the inherent authority to authorize foreign intelligence physical searches" — but that, after Ames, the administration later sought to change the FISA law to include physical searches because "it would be better" to have congressional and judicial oversight of those searches.

It would be better? That's it? Gorelick won't say that the Bush NSA program is illegal, as some senators charge, but only that her testimony for the FISA change in 1994 "does not address that question." That should tell you that the legality of the NSA program is, at worst, debatable.

Dangerous? Actually, it's only dangerous if Washington manages to bury vital intelligence information that allows a terrorist attack which might have been thwarted to occur.

Critics ask: Why didn't the NSA simply seek warrants retroactively? They're as easy to get as candy. Why, the FISA courts only rejected four out of tens of thousands.

The answer is clear. As *The Washington Post* reported Sunday, much of the NSA data-mining produced leads that led nowhere. They didn't provide probable cause for a warrant.

Even in cases where a FISA warrant would seem to be a sure thing — as when FBI agents wanted to get into (now admitted al-Qaida terrorist) Zacarias Moussaoui's laptop — it was not.

This is straight from the Sept. 11 panel report: Even though an FBI agent had figured out that admitted terrorist Moussaoui was "an Islamic extremist preparing for some future act in furtherance of radical fundamentalist goals," even though Moussaoui drew suspicion taking lessons for flying the Boeing 747 without the requisite background, even though Moussaoui had \$32,000 in the

bank but no plausible explanation why, "the case agent did not have sufficient information to connect Moussaoui to a 'foreign power'" — which was a "statutory requirement for a FISA warrant."

Is the Bush administration doing everything right? Hell, no. The Bushies' argument that Congress essentially authorized these wiretaps when it authorized the use of military force after the Sept. 11 attacks is disingenuous and infuriating.

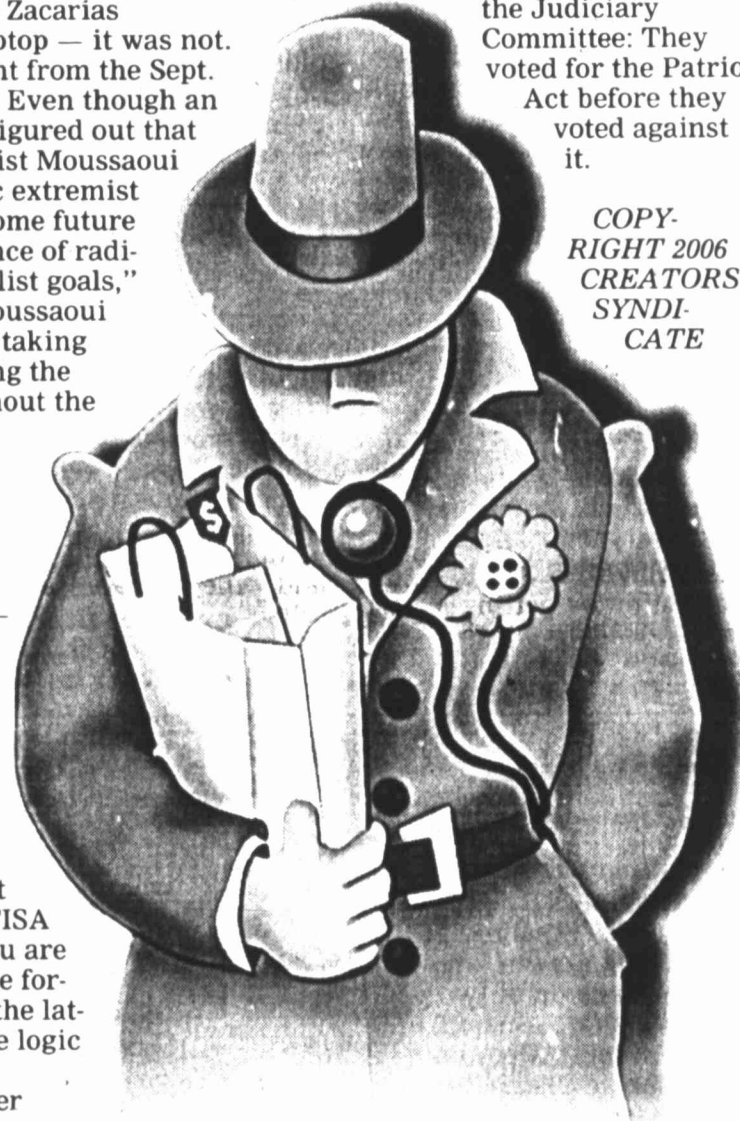
Lucky for Dubya, the Senate Judiciary Committee is filled with the most bombastic windbags in America — they are more irritating saying absolutely nothing than Gonzales is saying next to nothing.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., the committee chair, has pushed for the administration to ask the FISA court to review the NSA program. "You think you're right, but there are a lot of people who think you're wrong," Specter told Gonzales. "What do you have to lose if you're right?"

The question should be: What does America have to lose? If FISA found against the NSA program, one would hope Congress would pass laws designed to give intelligence officials what they need — as long as there's oversight to prevent abuses. But that may be asking too much.

The best way to define the most irritating senators on the Judiciary Committee: They voted for the Patriot Act before they voted against it.

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## Left without an explanation

Poor Alberto Gonzales. He is not nearly as stupid a man as he sounded in last week's hearings. But he was given an impossible task. The legal argument he brought to Congress is a sham, which is what is so troubling — and ultimately so dangerous — about the exercise. It doesn't make it better that the underlying cause is a just one. It only makes it more difficult to understand why they didn't do it the right way.

Let's be clear at the outset: The law passed by Congress, now known to everyone as FISA (the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act), to regulate surveillance on American soil makes perfectly clear that it is the "exclusive" regulation in this area. Exclusive. No exceptions. It sets up emergency, secret courts — FISA courts — for instances that Congress imagined to the best of its ability to be just like this. The obvious thing to do if you need broader authority is to ask Congress to fashion a new law, or simply go to the court to fashion a new procedure and broader order. Given that you're dealing with al-Qaida, there would have only been one answer. Whatever you need.

So what gave the administration the authority to ignore the exclusive regulation in this area, bypass the FISA courts and set up its own program of domestic surveillance?

Two things, related. First, the authorization to use force to fight terrorism passed by Congress in 2001, in the wake of 9-11. And second, if that didn't include surveillance, the president has inherent authority as commander in chief.

This is where Gonzales started to face problems. How is it that surveillance was never mentioned in the 9-11 resolution, whereas it

was the explicit subject of the FISA Act, and yet you are arguing that the former overrides the latter? What is the logic of that?

If all the power resides in the executive to regulate surveillance, does that mean Congress lacks the power to regulate in this area? Is FISA itself unconstitutional by your theory (actually, there is Justice Department literature that does suggest that it may "impermissibly" interfere with administration programs).

The Supreme Court had held that the force resolution applied to battlefield detentions, but how do you extend a battlefield detention abroad to a domestic conversation? Exactly what are the limits on a president's inherent authority as commander in chief, he was asked repeatedly. Where do you draw the line?

Forget about strict construction. Did anyone say conservative? What is a battlefield commander to do if he gets conflicting orders from the executive and Congress on the subject of torture, say. Who takes precedence? Then, there was the limitation of the program to surveillance in which one party to the conversation is abroad. Why draw the line there? If it's lawful for the president to eavesdrop on a one-party call, why not when two al-Qaida members are talking in the United States? Shouldn't we be listening? Even Gonzales seemed stumped there.

It wasn't just Democrats testing Gonzales. South Carolina Republican Lindsey Graham was clear that he hadn't considered surveillance one bit when he voted for the 2001 use of force resolution and pointed out that it would be "harder for the next president to get a force resolution if we take this too far."

Chairman Arlen Specter responded to Gonzales' argument

that the 2001 law could be read as "complement(ing)" FISA: "Well, that just defies logic and plain English."

Gonzales refuses to offer any operational details of the program, lest the enemy be watching, but the senators themselves went out of their way to make clear that their argument was a legal and not a situational one. No one questioned the justice of the cause. Indeed, it is reported that Republicans may be gleeful at the whole exercise, legal stumbling notwithstanding, because of its supposed affirmation of what Karl Rove has deemed Democrats' "pre-9-11 mentality."

And yet it is the very ease with which the administration could have gotten what it wanted, from Congress or the courts, that makes its failure to do so all the more troubling. Democracy, as we have come to see so painfully in the Palestinian elections, involves more than the tyranny of the majority. It is not simply or even primarily about voting, but about the rule of law and the checks and balances that protect it.

It is precisely during wartime, when emotions are heightened, that it is necessary to pay special heed to those rules. As Graham put it: "When the nation's at war, I would argue ... you need checks and balances more than ever, because within the law we put a whole group of people in jail who just looked like the enemy."

Gonzales knows that case. But his boss left him without a way to explain it away.

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By STEVE

Staff Writer  
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# Howard College incumbents stake claim in trustee election

By STEVE REAGAN  
Staff Writer

Candidates are few and far between in the first few days of filings for area school board elections.

All area schools, including Howard College, have scheduled elections for May 13, but few candidates have declared since filing opened Monday.

Long-time college trustees Harold Davis and Don McKinney have both filed for re-election, officials said today.

Davis (District 3) and McKinney (District 4) have a combined 69 years of experience on the college board.

Davis, the retired chairman and chief executive officer of Gamco Industries, has served on the college board since 1971.

He said he believes his years of experience on the board give him a solid background to serve the district's needs.

"I have been a part of the college for many years, which has given me the opportunity to watch it grow from one building at the former bombardier school to the outstanding facility we now have on Birdwell Lane, plus SWCID and Howard College at San Angelo," Davis said. "I love Howard College and would be honored to serve the people of Howard County for another term."

McKinney, a life-long resident of Howard County, has served on the college board for 34 years.

He farms in the Centerpoint area and is a retired electrical foreman for Cosden Oil and Chemical Co.

Persons interested in filing for either of the six-year terms may do so at the college administration building during normal business hours between now and March 13, officials said.

Forsan ISD incumbents Misty Rhoten and Lewis Boeker have both filed for the upcoming election, said Judy Park, administration secretary. Both seats are at-large and for three years, she added.

Filing deadline for Forsan — as well as other area school districts — is March 13.

No other school districts have reported candidate filings for the May 13 elections.

Big Spring ISD has two seats open for election. Seats currently held by Maria Padilla (District 2) and Tony Kennedy will be up for grabs, officials said.

Both Padilla and Kennedy recently announced their intentions to run for re-election.

Candidate filing will be held at the district business office on 11th Place across from the high school, said James McFarland, assistant business manager.

Filing for the Coahoma ISD board can be accomplished at the admin-

istration building. At-large seats currently held by Jody Reid, James White and John Wayne Metcalf are up for election this year, said Judy Dobbs, administration secretary.

Early voting for Howard College, Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan will be held beginning May 1 at the Howard County Courthouse.

Three spots on the Stanton ISD board will be decided in May: At-large seats currently held by Pinky Jones and Danny Ireton and the Place 2 chair currently held by Ramiro Reyes. All terms are for three years.

Candidates may file at the administration building. Early voting will be held beginning May 1 at the Martin County Clerk's office.

Sands Consolidated Independent School District voters will select three trustees this year, Superintendent Wayne Blount said.

At-large seats currently held by Tommy Staggs, Steve Blagrove and Amy Parker are up for election, he said.

Candidate filing will be held at the school administration office.

Grady ISD voters will select trustees this year. Single-member seats held by Roy Cooper (District 6) and Jody Yates (District 5) are up for election. Both terms are for three years.

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

## Judge grants temporary restraining order, allows religious Valentine's

KATY (AP) — A judge granted a temporary restraining order Monday against the Katy school district, clearing the way for religious-themed Valentine's favors during classroom parties on the holiday.

A lawsuit was filed Monday by five families accusing the district of banning religious expression.

"Kids are being told they can't mention God," said Kelly Shackelford, chief legal counsel for the Plano-based Liberty Legal Institute, a legal organization specializing in religious freedom and First Amendment cases that is representing the families in the lawsuit.

He said that the lawsuit is asking for a permanent injunction to stop any discrimination against a student because of religious expression.

In a statement Monday, the district said that it was "never the intent of the schools in question to limit what messages their students could exchange at tomorrow's parties."

"At no time has it been the official policy of Katy ISD to suppress a student's right of freedom of speech or religious expression, nor has it ever been the intent of the district to suppress such expression," the district said in the statement.

## Sharp's prize Labrador gives birth on the road in Abilene

ABILENE (AP) — Former Texas Comptroller John Sharp won't soon forget his trip to Abilene for a hearing on tax reform. He's got five newborn puppies — one named Abby for Abilene and another Taylor for the county — to remind him.

Sharp's prize Labrador retriever, Belle, gave birth by Caesarean section Monday.

Sharp, who chairs the Texas Tax Reform Commission, brought the 8-year-old Belle along for his trip to Abilene from Austin because she would have been left home alone.

"She gets real anxious when we leave her that close to her due date," Sharp said.

After a morning public hearing, Sharp found Belle in the pickup truck with one newborn pup.

Then, with the help of Susan King, an Abilene school board member and State House candidate, Sharp drove around Abilene trying to find a veterinary clinic open for the lunch hour.

Belle ended up at the Dearing Veterinary Clinic, where her litter amounted to one boy and four girls. Sharp said he would name two of the dogs for the city and county.

The new family returned to Austin Monday night.

## Two air marshals accused of smuggling

HOUSTON (AP) — Two U.S. air marshals face federal drug charges after being accused of using their positions to smuggle narcotics through airport security and onto planes for transport, officials with the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

Shawn Ray Nguyen, 38, and Burlie L. Sholar III, 32, both from Houston, were ordered during their first court appearance Monday to remain in federal custody until a bond hearing on Thursday.

Both men were arrested Thursday after an informant had delivered 15 kilograms of cocaine and \$15,000 to Nguyen's Houston home.

"We expect and demand that our law enforcement officials will themselves abide by the laws that they are sworn to uphold," said First Assistant U.S. Attorney Don DeGabielle. "The abuse of the badge will not be tolerated."

Kent Schaffer, Nguyen's attorney, said he could not say much about the charges because he doesn't know enough about the government's case at this point. But Schaffer questioned the motivation of the informant that worked with authorities.

## Suspect caught after shooting at Fort Hood

FORT HOOD (AP) — Fort Hood soldiers scattered early Monday when a man trying to reconcile with his wife pulled a gun and began firing, authorities said.

David Leon Jones Jr., 23, was charged with attempted murder after officials said he fired three rounds during an argument with his wife inside the military post. No one was hurt.

The woman, a soldier who was not identified, had recently talked about getting a divorce, FBI spokesman Rene Salinas said.

"He tried to console her, and it wasn't going his way," Salinas said.

Salinas said Jones, who had driven from Alabama, put the gun to his head at one point. Salinas said investigators aren't sure if Jones was aiming or randomly firing.

# Advocates push to get children belted in back seats

By KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — With 8- to 12-year-olds dying at a rate of more than one a day in automobile crashes, safety groups are pushing for more youngsters to remain belted in the back seat.

In the past, safety experts have focused their attention on getting younger children into child safety seats and booster seats to keep them secure and protect them in crashes.

But a report released today by the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety raises questions about how frequently "tweens" — children between ages 8 and 12 — are wearing their seat belts and whether they're sitting snugly in the back seat.

Conducting pilot projects in Dallas and Joplin, Mo., the nonprofit group,

whose members include several automakers, found that about one-third of the children surveyed — and half of the 12-year-olds — sat in the front seat.

In Joplin, about 63 percent of the children said they always wear their seat belts while about 53 percent of the Dallas children said they were always belted.

Safety experts said the findings were troubling because the belt use falls well below the national use rate of 82 percent. It also highlights an underlying problem: in 2004, 417 children between the ages of 8 and 12 died in traffic crashes, an average of more than one per day.

"These findings clearly show that too many children age 12 and under are riding at risk in cars because they are not properly restrained in rear seats," said Mark

Rosenker, acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The report was based on surveys completed by more than 400 children in both locations and had a margin of error of 5 percentage points.

The government recommends that parents have any infant up to 20 pounds ride in a rear-facing child seat and any toddler weighing 20 to 40 pounds ride in a child seat with a harness. The government says a child heavier than 40 pounds but not yet 4 feet 9 inches tall should be in a booster seat.

All children are advised to ride in the back seat until age 13.

Gary MacDonald, a Dallas minister who survived a traffic crash with his family last month, said the advice is critical. He has always required

his children to wear seat belts and was relieved when his 12-year-old son, Josh, emerged from their crash with only bruises.

"We were a half-mile from our house. Josh could've been hurt terribly or worse," said MacDonald, who fractured his right knee cap in the crash. "That insistence goes a long way."

The government and several safety groups are discussing ways of improving child passenger safety this week as part of an annual campaign.

The campaign comes a week after pop star Britney Spears was photographed driving with her 4-month-old son seated on her lap instead of strapped into a car seat.

Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta said Monday that Spears' behavior was "irresponsible."

# Hurricane victims leave hotels for trailers, neighbor's couches

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Balancing three bags of clothes, Meoshia Davis stood with her 1-year-old outside a hotel, trying to figure out where to go after a federal judge allowed FEMA to stop paying directly for stays for residents displaced by last year's hurricanes.

"I got nowhere to go," said Davis, 21, one of about 12,000 families made homeless by hurricanes Katrina and Rita who began checking out of their federally funded hotel rooms around the country Monday.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency promised the evacuees that they will still receive federal rent assistance that they can put toward hotel stays or other housing. But the agency will no longer pay for their hotel rooms directly.

Although Davis had received her FEMA check, she said the only apartment the \$1,800 could rent was one that was damaged in the storm. She had hoped it would be finished by her checkout time, but it wasn't.

Earlier in the day, attorneys for the evacuees pleaded with U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval

for a last-minute reprieve.

"These people are going to be homeless. We've heard from a lot of people who are going to be sleeping in their cars," said Bill Quigley, a lawyer for the evacuees.

At a meeting of state emergency managers in Alexandria, Va., acting FEMA chief R. David Paulson told reporters the judge's ruling "recognized that we're doing the right thing for these people."

"We have caseworkers down there and most people have already received rental assistance," Paulson said. "I just gave approval to purchase 10,000 more travel trailers. We're working also

with some of the apartment owners to rehab some of the apartments down there. We are going to make sure that people are taken care of. But the judge recognized that, and recognized that the right thing to do is to get them out of hotels and into some decent housing."

About 10,500 families — 88 percent of the 12,000 homeless families — have received rent-assistance checks from FEMA, said Libby Turner, the agency's transitional housing director.

FEMA said the majority of those checking out had made arrangements for other housing. But some said they had nowhere to

go except their own cars, a relative's couch or back to a shelter.

Mary Smith looked for a bus to take her to one of the lower-income neighborhoods across the Mississippi River in suburban New Orleans, where she was told she might find a rental.

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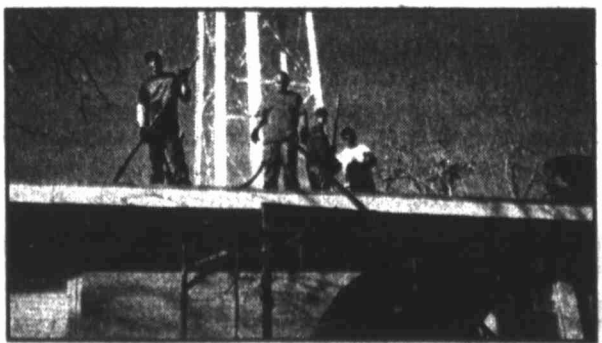
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# Bird Poop

In our hands, the small, duck-like bird mesmerized us with its delicate beauty. The luster of its soft feathers was remarkable.

Nature had to have had a sense of humor when painting a black band around the center of its short beak.

Although we had handled an eared grebe, this was our first pied-billed, which is considered one of the best swimmers among aquatic birds.

Mistaking asphalt for water as it migrated on a moonlight night, the grebe had landed on wet pavement rather than on a nearby shallow pond. With its lobed toes, the pied-billed had great difficulty moving or walking. It also had a need similar to the loon to run on a watery surface in order to become airborne.

Knowing that this bird lived, fed and courted on water, we had to return it to nature as soon as possible. To make sure it could swim, we placed it in our bathtub and watched to make sure the legs and feet were doing their job.

From one end of the tub to the other, the pied-billed paddled and seemed eager for a larger pond.

An area lake was selected for the bird's release. The aquatic insects and small fish needed for its diet would be abundant.

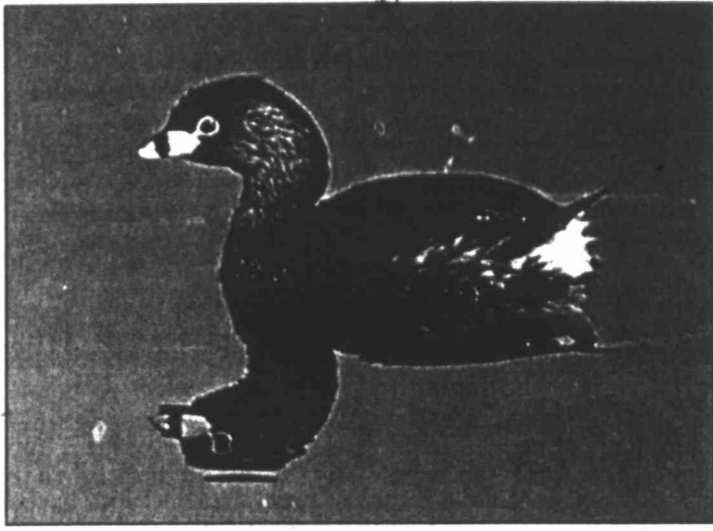
Walking along the shoreline, we searched for an area away from human activity and where the water had some depth. Placed on the surface of the water, the grebe instantly deflated and sank out of sight.

My husband asked if we had done the wrong thing. "It drowned. We drowned that bird," he lamented.

From the dusty regions of my mind, I reminded him of an article I had read about pied-billed grebes.

These unique birds, when frightened or in danger, would rapidly release air from their feathers and body, sink below the surface, and swim far enough away to resurface and continue their escape.

We waited. Almost 30 seconds elapsed.



A black band encircles the beak of a pied-billed grebe during the breeding season.

Then the surface of the lake rippled. The little grebe was with us again.

Since that day, a variety of grebes have arrived from as far away as Pecos, Odessa and Snyder, and as close as our state hospital and the refinery.

Each time we have marveled at the feet on these birds.

They may not be able to walk well, but those creatively formed lobes enable them to propel

themselves through the water with great speed.

Because of their short tails, the grebes also extend their feet behind their bodies in order to steer themselves in flight.

Although we have released many more grebes, we never again experienced one that dropped to the bottom like a rock.

Bebe McCasland is federally and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

# Texas First Lady tours 2006 Main Street cities

AUSTIN — Texas First Lady Anita Perry will join the Texas Historical Commission (THC) for the Texas Main Street Program's 2006 First Lady's Tour.

The tour celebrates the designation of the 2006 Official Texas Main Street Cities in Texarkana and Colorado City March 1 and Conroe and Beeville March 2.

This year the Texas Main Street Program is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

"Growing up in a small town, I know the vital role downtown plays in a community," said Perry. "Being a Main Street City means citizens recognize that downtown is still the heart and soul of their community."

Mrs. Perry will give the keynote address at each celebration and unveil the first architectural rendering for the downtown renovation. A reception follows a tour of the city's downtown area. The Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT) sponsors the tour.

Accompanying Mrs. Perry will be John L. Nau, III, THC chairman, Larry Oaks, THC executive director; IBAT representatives as well as THC staff, including new Texas Main Street State Coordinator Debra Farst.

"Through the years, the First Lady's Tour has become a traditional honor for the new Main Street cities," said Nau.

"The tour shines a spotlight on our cities as they begin a program that will have a positive long-term impact on their communities."

The THC's Texas Main Street Program is a revitalization program for historic downtown and neighborhood commercial districts.

Implemented in 1981, the program has assisted more than 140 communities throughout the state and is one of the most successful in the nation. The program has resulted in the private reinvestment of more than \$1 billion in Texas downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts, the creation of more than 21,000 jobs and the establishment of more than 5,500 new businesses.

For more information on the Texas Main Street Program, contact Debra Farst at 512-936-5758 or visit [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us).

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation. The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

# Policies for life! submissions, articles outlined

The Big Spring Herald accepts submissions for publication in the Friday and weekend edition.

Church and Club News that publishes Fridays should be concise and may not be written in first person.

The goal of Church News is to inform the public about upcoming church events and opportunities.

Club News is published to inform the public about meeting times and locations as well as activities.

All submissions should contain a contact name and telephone number.

Wedding, 50th anniversary, engagement and quinceañera announcements with photos are published within three months of the event.

These articles appear in

the Big Spring Herald's weekend edition at no charge.

Birth announcements, Who's Who and In the Military, with or without photos are also published free of charge.

All submissions are due by noon each Wednesday for Friday or weekend publication and will be edited for content, style and space.

Submission guidelines outlining what may be included in the wedding, engagement and anniversary announcements are available at the Herald offices.

The Herald is not responsible for any misspellings of handwritten submissions.

Call 263-7331 or submit articles to [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com).

## Obituary policy for the Big Spring Herald

The Big Spring Herald publishes obituaries daily for families with a direct Howard County connection at no cost. Obituaries are due in the office by 9 a.m. each day and must contain third-party verification.

In a free obituary, immediate family survivors are listed, as well as dates of birth and marriage and occupation of the deceased. Service and chapel services are also published at no charge.

For more information, call 263-7331 or e-mail [life@bigspringherald.com](mailto:life@bigspringherald.com).

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## Two new pitchers set to lead B.S. girls this year

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Five starters from last season's regional final appearance return this year for the Big Spring softball team as the Lady Steers open the 2006 season at home against Odessa Permian tonight.

This year's team should have no troubles through the middle of the defense as senior Courtney Rodriguez takes over

full-time duties behind the plate, while senior Krista Chesworth and junior Amber Sides cover up shortstop and second base, respectively.

"One of our strengths right now is our middle infield," said first year head coach Jennifer Reyes. "They play well with each other and the communication they have will help us."

Junior Katy Abner will take over for her older sister, Chelsea, in centerfield this year and hit from the leadoff spot in the batting order.

Katy Abner started in rightfield last year, while Chesworth played third, Sides was the shortstop

and Rodriguez did most of her playing time in the field at first base.

"We have a good group of girls returning from last year's team and they are very dedicated," said Reyes.

The question or uncertainty this season will be who is going to step into Alex Watkins and Chelsea Abner's place on the mound. Watkins was a four-year starter

at Big Spring and helped lead the Lady Steers to a regional final loss against Andrews last year. Chelsea Abner also saw significant time on the mound the past two years and her play in centerfield will be missed. The squad also lost starters Heather Vassar and Neisha Heinis to graduation.

This year's pitchers will be senior Mandy Walker and freshman Shelbi Stewart.

"I think the combination of Shelbi and Mandy will only help this team as they will push each other on a daily basis," said Reyes. "These two young ladies want to earn

the starting spot."

Reyes says the goal of this year's team right now is to get to the playoffs.

"We want to take it one game at a time and not overlook anybody," said Reyes. "We will give it everything we have to get back to the finals and I do feel added pressure to get the team back there. I do think we have the team to make it to the playoffs and win some games."

According to Reyes, a point of emphasis early in the season will be hitting as the girls are not up to speed in that category yet.

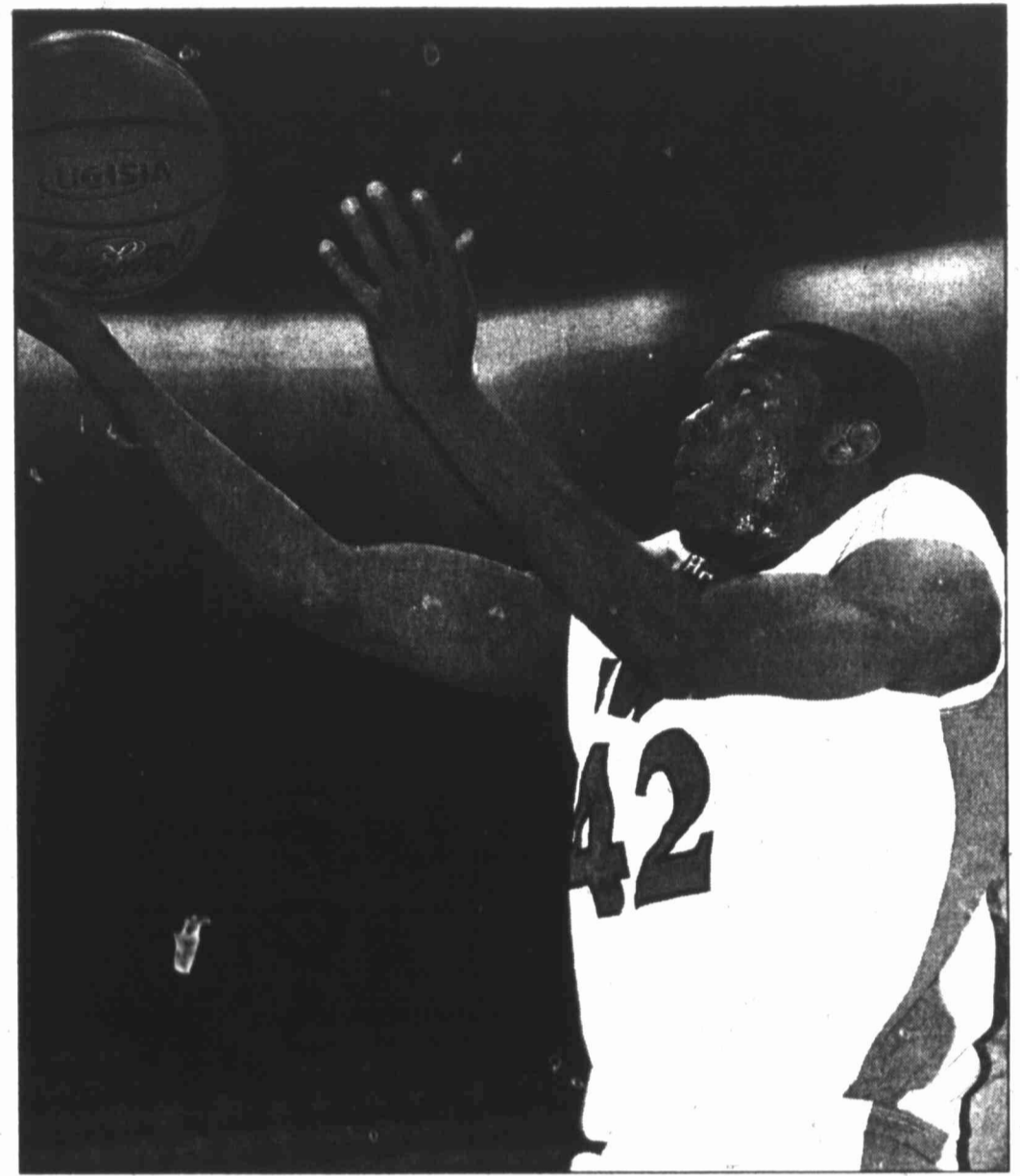
"Our weakness right now is our hitting," said Reyes. "Our defense can keep us in games, but we have to be able to score runs and our bats aren't where they need to be."

Senior Heather Policky (left field), Bridgette Rodriguez (second base) and Magen Watton and Katy Watton, two sisters who transferred in from the Houston area, are expected to be in the starting lineup tonight against Permian. Magen Watton will play first base, while Katy Watton will be in right field. Sides suffered an injury during this weekend's scrimmages, but will still bat in the lineup.

See BSHS, Page 2B

Big Spring softball  
Tonight's starting lineup

1. Katy Abner, centerfield
2. Shelbi Stewart, pitcher
3. Krista Chesworth, shortstop
4. Courtney Rodriguez, catcher
5. Heather Policky, leftfield
6. Katy Watton, rightfield
7. Mandy Walker, third base
8. Magen Watton, first base
9. Bridgette Rodriguez, second base



Howard sophomore Charles Burgess scores two points inside during action Monday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. Burgess led the top-ranked Hawks with 30 points as Howard extended its winning streak to 25 games after an easy win.

## Hawks set up showdown with easy win over NMJC

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Even playing short-handed did not slow down the top-ranked Howard College men Thursday as the Hawks played much of the game with just six players, but still blew out visiting New Mexico at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, 89-55.

Howard extended its winning streak to 25 games as it improved to 9-0 in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

Sophomore Louis Rodgers did not play again for Howard and has been suspended indefinitely. Freshman Phil Murphy also did not play due to a one-game suspension for violating team rules. Sophomore Dezmon Harris missed the game due to an ankle injury. Murphy is expected to play in Thursday's showdown against arch rival Midland, while

Harris' return is questionable.

On the court, sophomore Charles Burgess made up for the missing Hawks as he scored a season-high 30 points. He scored 11 points in the first five minutes of the game and finished with 18 at the break.

The Hawks defeated New Mexico by 34 points, but all Burgess wanted to talk to about after the game was Midland.

"This was just preparation for Midland," said Burgess. "It is all about Midland. The next game could be for the conference championship. They are in our way to Hutch and the game will be tough. We need to throw them first victories out the window because they mean nothing at this point."

The Hawks never had trouble with New Mexico as they grabbed an early 19-4 lead and never looked back.

"Coach always tell us

we have to throw the first punch and it was a knockout punch tonight," said Burgess, who scored 11 of the team's first 19 points. "They didn't get up very well."

Howard led by as many as 22 points in the first half. Forbes, who scored 15 points in the first 20 minutes, put the Hawks up 51-29 with a basket inside the lane. They led by 18 at halftime.

Burgess maintained the hot hand in the second half. Forbes started the half with a layup and then Burgess scored 10 of the team's next 12 points and extended Howard's lead to 68-43 on a breakaway jam.

"The coaches preached defense at halftime because we gave up way too many points," said Burgess. "We were able to step it up and keep them below 60."

See HAWKS, Page 2B

## Howard women get back into WJCAC playoff race after win

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

Another game went down to the wire for the Howard College women's basketball team and the Hawks won their second straight victory in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

Four Howard players scored in double figures and another scored nine points as the Hawks survived at home against New Mexico Junior College Monday, 69-65.

"Our tough schedule this year kind of took its toll on our confidence, but I have never lost faith in this team," said Howard head coach Earl Diddle. "They practice well. We need to be able to get better and we are."

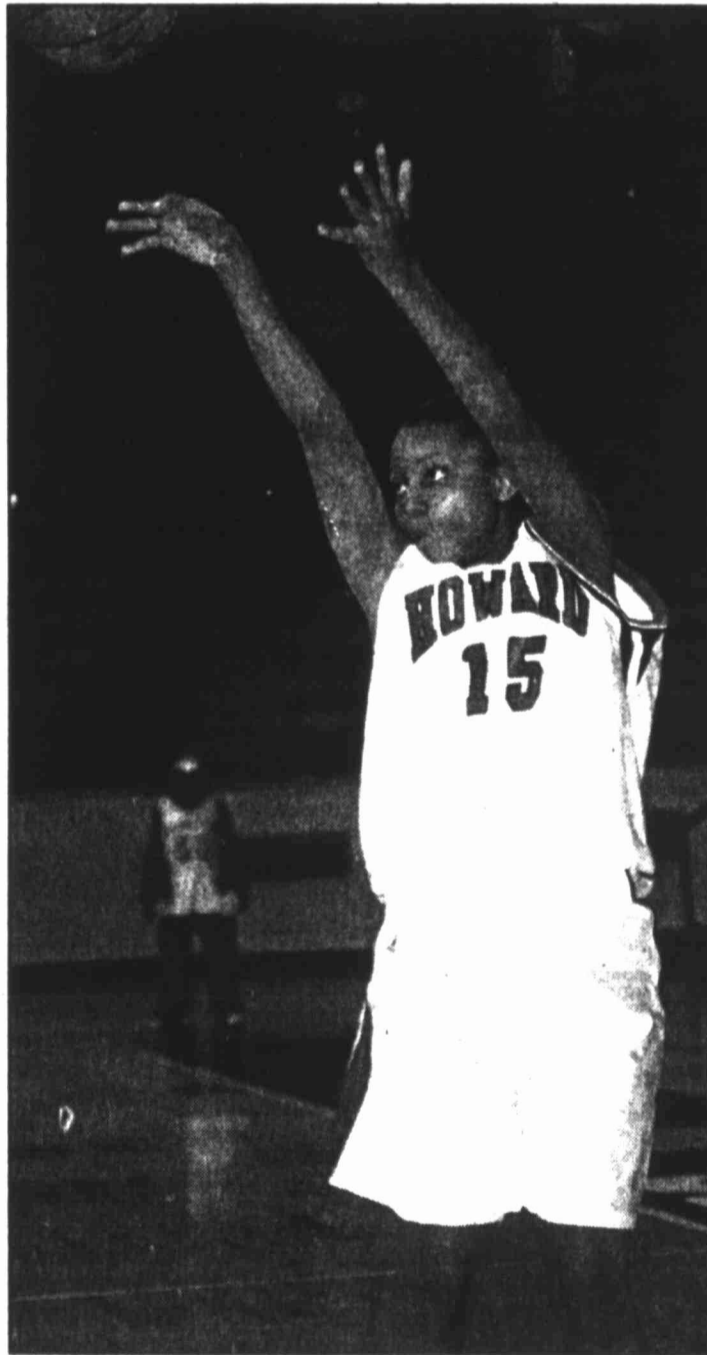
Howard led by eight with three minutes to go after a jumper by sophomore Jennifer Pena and then New Mexico rolled off six straight points to close to within two. Freshman Chanel Jones-Delas hit a free throw late to push the lead to three. The Lady T-Birds had a chance to tie with under six seconds to go, but a 3-point try bounced off the rim. Sophomore Latoya Fairley was fouled with less than a second to go and made one of two free throws to seal the win.

"The girls executed the final minute well," said Diddle.

Both teams blew big leads in the game. Howard led by as many as 13 points in the first half. The Lady T-Birds got back into the game with a 10-0 run.

"I thought the first 10 minutes were good, but I don't know what happened during the second 10 minutes," said Diddle.

The Hawks eventually lost the lead with 3:22 to



Howard freshman Chanel Jones-Delas puts up a jumper during the Hawk women's second straight WJCAC victory Monday night. Jones-Delas finished with 16 points as the Hawks defeated New Mexico JC, 69-65.

go until the break. Freshman Kim Gilyard hit the final basket of the first half, but Howard still trailed by two at halftime.

New Mexico started the second half with nine straight points and it led by 11. That lead would also be short-lived as the Hawks scored 12 of the

game's next 14 points and trimmed their deficit down to one after back-to-back baskets by Gilyard.

"We started moving and getting the ball inside and you could tell the girls were playing with a little bit more confidence," said Diddle. "The only

See HOWARD, Page 2B

## Howard softball team splits with Ranger

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

RANGER — When the Howard softball team doesn't make mistakes in the field it is pretty tough to beat.

Ranger College was able to take advantage of four miscues by the Hawks in Game 1 Monday and defeated Howard 7-6. The second game of the doubleheader was all Howard as the Hawks committed just two errors and won 13-0 in five innings.

Howard jumped out early in the first game with three runs in the first inning, but Ranger tied the score in the second inning with three runs of its own. The Hawks had the lead, 6-5, through five innings, but Ranger came away with a run in each of the final two innings to escape with the home win.

Freshman Kendra

Corbin started on the mound, but got the no decision as she threw five innings, gave up six runs and struck out three, while walking three.

Freshman Jennifer Oso entered the game in the sixth inning, gave up just one hit, but was responsible for the final run and took the loss.

The Hawks had a chance to score runs in the seventh inning. Howard started off the inning with a triple and had its three, four and five hitters coming up to the plate with no outs, but failed to get anyone across the plate.

"We left too many runners on base and didn't come through at the plate enough," said Howard head coach Kelly Raines. "The four errors were crucial, too."

Freshmen Jessica Garcia and Honda

Rodriguez and sophomore Amanda Kuramata all had two hits at the plate for the Hawks. Garcia had two RBIs and scored a run, while Rodriguez crossed the plate two times.

The Hawks had no trouble in Game 2 as they rolled off nine hits and shut down Ranger. Howard scored three runs in the first inning and scored five runs in each of the final two innings and ended the game in the fifth due to the 10-run mercy rule.

"I can't figure out why we don't play this way the whole time," said Raines.

Sophomore Nicole Dickson got the win on the mound and improved to 4-1 on the year. She threw all five innings, gave up just two hits and struck out three.

See SOFTBALL, Page 2B



**HAWKS**

Continued from Page 1B

Freshman Russell Lewis extended the lead to 26 points with 5:28 to go with a layup and the harm, but he missed the free throw. Then the Hawks went on a 12-0 run to close out the game. Konate, who heated up in the second half, scored six of those points on two 3-pointers.

Burgess finished 19-19 from the floor and added seven rebounds and four assists to go along with his 30 points. Forbes finished with 19 points, while Konate added 17 points and went five-for-six from downtown. Akpan scored 10 points, grabbed a team-high nine rebounds and added three blocks.

Freshman Benny Valentine suffered his second straight subpar game as he scored nine points on just four of 14 shooting. He made just one 3-pointer for the second straight game, but delivered six assists and had several steals.

Charles Prescott led New Mexico (13-12) with 18 points as he hit five 3-pointers. The T-Birds connected on nine 3-pointers in the game.

The Hawks will tipoff against Midland at 7:50 p.m. Thursday. Howard has won both meetings against Midland this year.

It won the first game by nine at the Odessa College Tournament in November, but needed a buzzer-beater by Harris at home back in January.



HERALD photo/Bruce Schooler  
Coahoma junior Blaine Kerby, left, puts up a shot inside against Stamford Monday night.

**Bulldogs close out season with victory**

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor  
COAHOMA — The Coahoma boy's basketball team finished its season Monday night in a positive way as the Bulldogs knocked off district rival Stamford, 68-62, at home.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 21-9 lead after the first quarter and led 36-20 at halftime before letting Stamford back in the game in the third period. Stamford outscored Coahoma 24-9 in the third frame, but

regrouped in the fourth with a 23-18 advantage.

Kamrun Green had his best effort of the season with 23 points and 11 rebounds. Blaine Kerby added 12 points, while Jason Gonzales scored 11.

The Bulldogs finished 10-20 overall this season and ended up 3-7 in District 4-2A play.

The Coahoma boy's JV team defeated Stamford, 95-45, Monday night, capping off an undefeated 10-0 season in the district for the Bulldogs.

**HOWARD**

Continued from Page 1B

time the press hurt us was late in the game. When they come get us we have to match their intensity."

Freshman Kim Garcia put the Hawks back up by one with a 3-point play with 11:31 to go in the game and the contest would go back-and-forth the rest of the way.

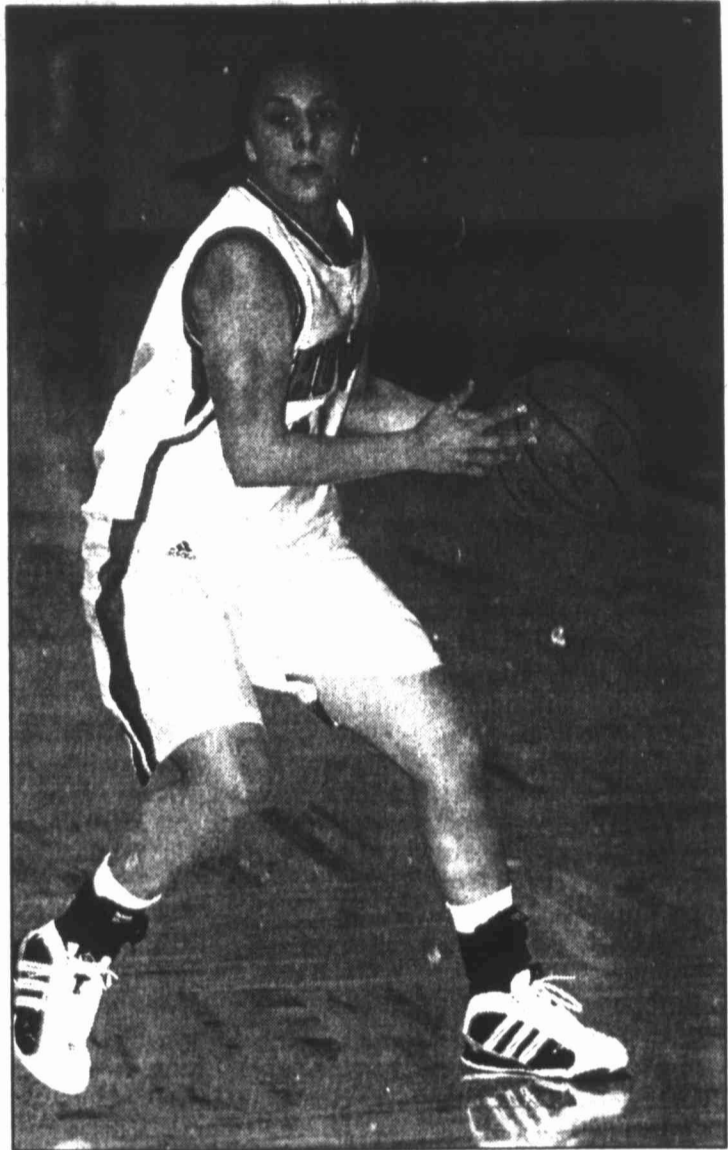
Jones-Delas scored the Hawks' next eight points to push their advantage to five with 6:56 to go. It stayed five until two straight baskets by New Mexico made it 60-59 with 5:37 to play. The Hawks grabbed an eight-point lead after Fairley hit a putback and a 3-point play and Pena hit a jumper.

The Hawks improved 2-5 in the league and 8-17 overall despite giving up several second-chance points and running the offense deep into the shot clock on several different occasions.

"The offensive rebounds hurt us," said Diddle. "We needed to move and separate better. We were playing too deep into the shot clock."

Fairley and Jones-Delas each scored 16 points to lead the way for Howard. They had seven and five rebounds, respectively, as well.

Pena finished with 13 points and six assists, while Gilyard added 10 points and freshman Tomisha Martin scored nine points and grabbed seven rebounds. Garcia finished with a team-high



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde  
Howard sophomore Jennifer Pena looks for a teammate Thursday during the Hawks' four-point win over New Mexico. Pena finished with 13 points and six assists.

eight rebounds.

"Latoya's our focus when it comes to offense, but she is an unselfish player and we were able to get more people involved tonight," said Diddle.

New Mexico was led by Maggie Smith-Davidson's 20 points and eight rebounds. Rebecca Miles added 15 points and seven rebounds.

The Hawks shot 44 per-

cent from the field and only had 15 turnovers.

Howard moved ahead of Frank Phillips in the conference standings and is now only a half-game behind New Mexico for fifth place. Midland and Clarendon are tied for the fourth and final playoff spot with 4-4 records.

The Hawks travel to Midland Thursday to take on the Lady Chaps at 5:50 p.m.

**SOFTBALL**

Continued from Page 1B

Corbin went two for three at the plate, scored three runs and had two RBIs. Freshman Laura Lopez also had two hits and added four RBIs. Rodriguez and sopho-

more Paige Ruiz scored three and two runs, respectively.

Howard, which moved to 9-4 on the season, starts conference play Wednesday against Western Texas College in Snyder. The Hawks will play two games with the first game beginning at 2 p.m.

**BSHS**

Continued from Page 1B

Reyes is a graduate of Midland High. She played softball at Hill College and was the starting shortstop and team captain for both years. She played one year at Tarleton before an arm injury forced her to hang

up her glove. She spent four years at Tarleton as an assistant coach, then coached the JV team at Midland High before becoming the head-coach at Bangs, a small Class 2A school near Brownwood.

The game against Permian tonight will begin at 4 p.m.

The JV game will begin at around 5:30 p.m.

**Today's Area Lineup**

- Big Spring baseball scrimmage @ Midland High, 4 p.m.
- Big Spring softball vs. Odessa Permian, 4 p.m.
- Garden City girls playoff basketball game vs. Knox City @ Trent, 6:30 p.m.
- Coahoma girls playoff basketball game vs. Coleman @ Sweetwater, 7:30 p.m.
- Big Spring boys basketball @ Andrews, 7:30 p.m.



**ROVER, THE COW?**

The little old farmer sat by his pond and watched the cow in his pasture. He really loved his cow, but he always wanted a dog. He never did have a dog, even when he was a little boy. His mom and dad just didn't want any pets. Do you have a pet? Do you have a pet that might be a kitten? Do you have a pet that might be a goldfish? Do you have a pet that might be a dog? What is your pet's name? Is it Rover? That is a very nice name for a dog, isn't it? Rover is what the little farmer named his cow! That must have been really embarrassing for the cow. Her name should have been Elsie!



Rover always knew that her name should have been different. She knew that Rover was a dog's name. And she certainly wasn't a dog. She was a cow! All of the other cows laughed at her when she was a little calf. They thought her name was really

funny. I do too! Don't you? No one names a cow Rover! No one but the little old farmer!

Rover did have a big, nice pasture to roam around in, and there was always lots of green grass for her to eat. She even had her own pond to drink water from, and take baths in. Wait a minute! Do cows even take baths? They always look very clean, don't they? Maybe they do take baths! Do they use washcloths? Do they use soap? If you ever see a cow that can talk, ask her for me, would you?

One bright, sunny day, Rover was in the pasture eating away at the beautiful green grass. Oh, it tasted good to her! She ate and ate. She ate some more! She was so full of grass that she began to feel just a little bit lazy. And what do you and I do when we feel just a little bit lazy? We sometimes take a nap, don't we? That is just what Rover did! She laid down on some of the lush green grass, under a great big old shady oak tree. The shade from the oak tree started feeling mighty good. Too good!

Rover fell fast asleep, on that grass, under that tree! The little old farmer was still sitting by his pond. He was also sitting down in some pretty green grass. Old Man Winter



had just left, and the birds were back again, chirping and singing beautiful melodies. The warm

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sun felt so good on the little old farmer that he became lazy too! And the songs the birds were singing seemed to be just for him. He listened to the birds, felt the warm sunshine on his face, and he too, fell fast asleep! The sudden clap of thunder woke them both at the same instant! The little old farmer ran towards his house to find shelter from the rain. Rover ran towards the little doggy door that was built for a dog. The little old farmer shouted to Rover, "Come on in, boy. Come on in and get out of that rain." The little old farmer thought that Rover was a dog! The funny part of this story is that Rover thought she was a dog, too!

Rover ducked down and lowered her head, and still could not fit into the little doggy door! She pushed and shoved, wiggled and wriggled, even jiggled, twisted and shouted, but nothing would make her small enough to fit into that doggy door! How was she going to get into the house? The little farmer ran to his

barn, getting soaking wet on the way. He found his ax. He grabbed his ax. He ran back outside in the pouring rain, getting even wetter than before! He tripped on a stone, and cut his toe! When he hit the ground, he fell right on his shovel, and cut his finger. He wasn't hurt very badly, so he got up once again and ran to the door. He took the ax, and with all his strength, chopped down his door. Finally, Rover could come inside where it was nice and dry. But, not for long! The wind started blowing, and blowing very hard. It blew all of the pouring rain right into the big hole where the farmer's door used to be. The little old farmer, yep, got wet again!

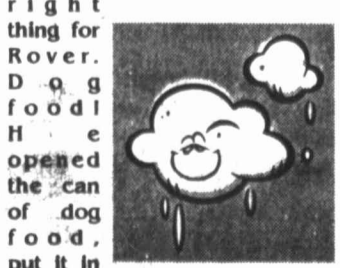
The Medicine Shoppe  
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He stayed wet all day, and night! Finally the rain stopped and that was very good because the little old farmer had no dry clothes or towels left. Everything was wet! Even his home! "I know things will get much better now," he thought, as he looked for band-aids, many band-aids, to cover all his nicks and bruises. Do you think things will get better for the little old farmer? Do you think things could get any worse for the little

old farmer? Of course they



could! And did! Rover and the little old farmer were getting mighty hungry by now. The little old farmer found some wet bread, some wet peanut butter, and made a wet sandwich. But what about Rover? She was hungry, too! The little old farmer looked in his cupboard and found just the right thing for Rover. Dog food! He opened the can of dog food, and



also had rain water in it, by the way. Rover wagged her tail, ran over to the dish that was sitting on the floor, filled with wet dog food. The smell of that dog food was so bad that no cow would eat it. Dogs maybe! But not cows! Rover turned and started running towards the hole

in the wall where the door used to be. She slipped on the still wet floor. She slid into the couch, pushed it into the tv, and crushed them both! What a time those two had been through!

Then, another clap of thunder! Rover woke up from her nap. That's right! She had been sleeping and dreaming the whole thing. The clap of thunder woke the little old farmer from his nap, too. He too, had been having the same dream. It must have been a dream. He looked at his hands. There were no band-aids. He looked towards his home. There was no big hole where his door was supposed to be. There was only a door there! It was all a big dream.

One good thing about the dream was that the little old farmer never did want Rover to be his dog again. Oh, he loved Rover, but she was a cow. She didn't belong in his home. She belonged outside, with her beautiful green grass, and her great big oak trees. Rover knew this was where she belonged, too.

And they lived happily ever after, until that day the little stray puppy came wandering up the path! The little farmer and Rover named him Elsie! All three said to tell you, "Good Night!"

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THE BIG SPRING HERALD APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS

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

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**ACKERLY/KNOTT**  
Do you live in Ackerly or Knott and work in Big Spring? Help pay your gasoline bill by delivering the Big Spring Herald in Ackerly and/or Knott.  
For more info call Duane McCollum  
BIG SPRING HERALD  
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**BIG SPRING HERALD**

THIS NEWSPAPER is not responsible for the specific content of the National Classified ads. Before investing money in a business/employment opportunity with which you are unfamiliar, please call the National Better Business Bureau at 703-276-0100 or visit www.bbb.org

**Cemetery Lots**

**CEMETERY LOT** at Trinity Memorial Park, Garden of Sharon. \$900.00. Call Bobby Thurman toll-free (866)608-9302.

**Help Wanted**

**BEST HOME Care** is seeking qualified individual to fill position of community liaison. Excellent salary with chance to earn bonus pay. Apply at 111 E. 7th, Suite C.

**DRIVERS BE HOME DAILY.** Coastal Transport is a leader in transport of LPG Asphalt & Petroleum Products. Coastal serves high profile accounts & needs dedicated professionals to join our growing team in Big Spring. Qualify 23 with class A & One year driving experience. Call Jay at 888-527-7221.

**EXPERIENCED PART-TIME** morning Cook and evening Counter Help. Apply in person Dairy Queen, 1506 E. 4th St., Big Spring. No Phone Calls.

**EXPERIENCED TRUCK** mechanic needed to work on Cummins & Caterpillar engines. Salary DOE, health insurance, 401K plan. Apply at Price Construction, 2701 N. Hwy. 350, Big Spring, Tx 79720 or fax resume to 4320263-6012. EOE

**FULL TIME RN Case Manager** needed in Big Spring and surrounding areas with a fast growing home health agency. Apply @: Interim HealthCare, 4610 N. Garfield, Ste. B-20 or fax to: (432)618-0307.

**H.E.B. IS** taking applications for the position of Hourly Experienced Cake Decorator for the Big Spring store. Stop by 2000 South Gregg for an application. No phone calls, please.

**Help Wanted**

**Assistant Manager/Collector** Security Finance is now taking applications. We offer benefits, competitive pay and advancement opportunities. Apply in person at 501 E. 3rd.

**BEST HOME Care** has full time RN position available. Great working hours with competitive pay and sign on bonus. Apply at 111 E. 7th, Suite C, or call 263-3851.

**CNAS NEEDED** for 2pm-10pm and 10pm-6am shift. Contact Paula Lawrence, (325)378-2134. Sterling County Nursing Home.

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**HOME CARE RN**

Are you a patient advocate and looking for a job where people value your expertise? We are looking for a caring, qualified and dependable RN who would love to work in home care. If interested, send resume to Alicia Anderson of Accolade Home Care at 810 N. Dixie Ste 202A, Midland, Tx to fill out an application, or call (432)335-5699 or come by.

**IMMEDIATE OPENING** for a Physical Therapy Tech/ Assistant at Big Spring Physical Therapy. Experience preferred but will train a self-motivated, eager person. Fax resumes to (432)267-3581 or come by 1707 Lancaster for an application.

**TRANSIT MIX Concrete** has an opening for a Aggregate Truck Driver at our Big Spring location. Must have a Class A CDL license, good driving record and verifiable work history. Full benefit package and 35 hour guarantee offered. Apply at Transit Mix Concrete: 605 North Benton, Big Spring, TX (432)267-8348. Transit Mix Concrete is an EOE/AA employer.

**Help Wanted**

**LIQUID PLANT ASSISTANT** Helena Chemical Company, a national agricultural-chemical company, has an immediate opening for a Liquid Plant Assistant. This position includes loading and unloading liquid and dry fertilizer, weighing trucks, fertilizer spreaders, and general warehouse duties. Requires high school diploma or equivalent. We offer an excellent working environment and outstanding compensation and benefits package. For consideration, please apply in person: Helena Chemical Company 100 S. St. Peter Stanton, Tx 79782 Pre-employment drug screen required. EOE M/F/V/H

**LOOKING FOR (3) Part-time** Personal Banker/Teller. Experience preferred but not required. Apply at www.woodforest.com

**MAINTENANCE POSITION AVAILABLE**

The Colorado River Municipal Water District has an opening for a Maintenance Worker for the Lake Thomas area. A CDL license and mechanical experience are helpful. District benefits include paid vacation and holidays, sick leave, retirement plan, and group insurance. The District is an equal opportunity employer. Applications are required to be considered for employment and are available at the District's office, 400 East 24th Street, Big Spring, Texas.

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For Tree Trimming  
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Help Wanted

**MARTIN CO.** Hospital Home Health is looking for a full-time RN and a PRN to join their energetic staff. Must be willing to travel to surrounding areas. Bilingual preferred and salary DOE. Interested parties may call Allison @ (432)756-3259 or fax resume to (432)756-4510.

MIDWESTERN SERVICES, Inc.

Tank Cleaners needed. In & out of state travel & work 60+ hrs. per week. Transportation to and from job site. Hotel paid & \$175 a week per diem. Hourly wage & bonuses. 100% drug free. EOE. Apply at 749 South County Rd. 221, Snyder, Texas.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

Big Spring Area Routes Midland Reporter-Telegram The Midland Reporter-Telegram has delivery positions available in the Big Spring Area for both Home Delivery and Retail Outlet distribution. General knowledge of the Big Spring area, good organization for customer tracking, a reliable vehicle and a dependable commitment to early morning deliveries ranging from 2:00am-6:00 am. If interested please call 432-687-9002.

**NOW HIRING** Full time Driver. No experience necessary will train. Please apply in person, 912 East 4th Street, Big Spring.

**NURSES UNLIMITED, Inc.** Needs Attendants to assist with Personal Care, Meal Prep. and Light Housekeeping. Part time basis. Please call 1-800-458-3257 M-F; 8A-5P EOE.

**PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation** We are now increasing our Certified Nurse Aid staff. Qualified person will be a friendly, compassionate team player. If this sounds like you, please apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway.

**PARKVIEW NURSING & Rehabilitation** Now Hiring for Janitorial position. Experience preferred. Great working environment. Please apply in person at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation, 3200 Parkway.

**PRICE CONSTRUCTION** is now hiring for the following positions:

1. Contract Administrator
  2. Administrative Assistant
  3. Safety/Hr Officer
  4. Estimator
- Resumes can be faxed to (432)267-1694 or apply in person at 2701 N. Highway 252, Big Spring, TX 79720. EOE Employer

**RECEPTIONIST NEEDED.** 10-key, basic office skills, medical insurance experience. Salary D.O.E. Apply at Texas Workforce Network.

**STERLING COUNTY** Nursing Home is looking for Relief Cook/Dishwasher. Call and ask for Diann Nelson (325)378-2134.

**TAKING APPLICATIONS** for the following positions: Backhoe operators, Bucket truck operators, CDL Class A or B Dump truck drivers, General Laborers, GOOD DRIVERS LICENSE REQUIRED or come by 1807 N. FM 700.

**THE SAN Angelo** Standard Times is seeking a mature individual for home delivery of newspapers in Big Spring. Make approximate \$650.00 per month. Running your own business. Must like working early morning hours. Call today 1-(800)588-1884 ext. 8294.

Help Wanted

**THE DEPARTMENT** of State Health Services, WIC Program Clerk II Position. Seeking a person with clerical experience to work in the Big Spring WIC Clinic. Will be responsible for assisting in eligibility screening, physical assessment of clients, data entry of client information, issuing program benefits, preparing monthly reports, teaching group classes and outreach activities. Must enjoy working with the public. Bilingual/Biliterate (English/Spanish) required. For Complete Job Description and state application please access the State of Texas Web Site at <https://hhsjobs.hhs.state.tx.us> Reference Job Posting #20331. State applications must be completed and received by 02/17/06. FAX 866-245-3646 or apply online.

**TRUCK DRIVERS \$500 SIGN-ON BONUS** Drivers earn up to \$50 thousand per year plus a \$500 sign-on bonus. Benefits include: Medical, Life and Dental Insurance and paid vacation. Applicants should have 3 years driving experience. Oilfield driving experience hauling sand, dry cement, or other equipment operating experience helpful. Class A CDL, good driving record, DOT drug & alcohol testing required. Call 432-563-0722 M-F from 8am-5pm to schedule interview.

**WAITRESSES NEEDED** Split Shift Must be 18 Monday-Saturday Apply in person, Red Mesa Grill 2401 Gregg

**WANTED QUALIFIED** High Speed Mechanic at Natural Gas Processing Plant, North East of Big Spring. Fax resume to (432)399-4290 or e-mail [bnucej@crcom.net](mailto:bnucej@crcom.net)

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

Items for Sale

**HUGE SAVINGS** on Furniture, Electronics and Appliances. Come by 501 E. Birdwell Lane #14 or call (432)263-0076.

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**Lost and Found** SMALL DOG found on Coronado Plaza parking lot. Call (432)816-1592 to identify.

Miscellaneous

**42" WHITE** Westinghouse double electric oven. \$200.00 Call (432)263-0087.

**A MATTRESS,** Queen set, PILLOWTOP, New in plastic, factory warranty. \$199.00. Call (806)549-3110.

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**FREE PALLETS.** Good for do it yourself wood projects. Pick up behind the Big Spring Herald's office at 710 Scurry.

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**SALE: 12'X16'** Metal insulated portable building on skids, with bathroom and 2 windows. \$8500.00 or Best Offer! Call (432)756-2888.

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**ROUND BALES** of Hay Grazing. Saint Lawrence, Texas. Call (432)268-3084 or 268-3083.

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**Now Leasing!**  
Brand New  
1, 2 & 3 Bdr. Apts  
\$385 - \$520 monthly  
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HUD Accepted

**1010 EAST 20th** three bedroom, Call (432)267-517-0642.

**106 EAST 24th.** 3/2. CHA. Washer/dryer connections. New stove & refrigerator. This is a Nice House in a Good Location. References will be required and Checked. Please No Losers Need Call. \$625. Month \$200. deposit. (432)263-0703, 263-0703 after 5:00 pm.

**1111 MULBERRY.** Clean 2 bedroom, 1 bath, CHA, washer/ dryer connections. \$425. month, \$200. deposit. Call (432)264-6611.

**1406 YOUNG.** 1 bedroom, 1 bath. \$235. month, \$100. deposit. 448 Armstrong. Large 4 bedroom, 1 bath, CHA. HUD approved. Call (432)263-1792, 816-9984.

**1408 DONLEY.** Extra Clean, Furnished 1 bedroom 1 bath Apartment. Water & Gas Paid. \$325. month, \$150. deposit. Sorry No Pets. (432)263-4922.

Real Estate for Rent

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**2600 CARLTON:** 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, CHA. Nice neighborhood and carpet. \$485. Month, \$500. deposit. No HUD. Call (432)213-2681.

**3005 CACTUS.** 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Unfurnished. Call Mary, (432)213-0828. 9:00-7:00 p.m.

**407-1/2 East 8th- 1/1 bath.** Stove & refrigerator. \$275. month, \$175. deposit. CH/A. No HUD and no pets. No Bills Paid. Call (432)267-2296.

**706-B GOLIAD.** Clean one bedroom house. Stove & refrigerator furnished, fenced yard. \$225. month, \$150. deposit. Call (432)267-1543.

**712 GOLIAD.** 2 or 3 Bedroom. Stove and refrigerator furnished. CH/A. \$500. month, \$275. deposit. No HUD. Call (432)267-2296.

**BUILDING FOR LEASE** for retail or office. 1712 Gregg. Approximately 5,000 sq. ft. \$600. monthly +deposit. Call WESTEX Auto Parts (432)263-5000.

**FOR LEASE** 1515 Hwy. 350. Building with overhead door. On one acre of fenced land. \$350. Month, \$350. deposit. Call (432)263-5000.

**HEIGHTS APARTMENTS** 1 Bedroom - \$400. month \$200. deposit. All Bills Paid 403 East 8th Call (432)267-2771

**SUNSET RIDGE APTS** Family Friendly Free Cable TV Playground! No Water Bill Paragon Security 24 Hour Laundry On-Site Mgr & Maint 2 Bdrm \$345 1 Bdrm \$255 (432)263-2292

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**1150 SQ. ft.** brick home, 2 bedroom, one bath, 2 car garage. Total electric, on two acres, with large barn, three water wells. 8-1/2 miles northwest of Big Spring. Call (432)816-6042.

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**What's LAST!** 20 ACRES on Hwy 176. Set up for Mobile Home. 43K, \$4,000.00 Down, assume \$270.00 monthly @ 7.4% for 29 years. No Credit Check. (817)312-6322.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**  
Venus, the planet of love, gives a wink to Jupiter on this day of hearts —

does her flirting qualify as a legitimate "pass"? The Virgo moon has us carefully analyzing the goings on in our personal life, perhaps putting too much focus on the tiny details of Valentine's Day gestures. Many people take a practical approach to the holiday.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You've done time in the romantic trenches, and now you can reap the reward of your hard work. The planets offer you a permission slip (in the shape of a Valentine) to take a flight of fancy!  
**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Some think love is a game, others think it is a dance — lately, you see it as an equation to be solved. Your analytical look at love seems to give you more options.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Dating is simply an opportunity to personally interact one to one. It's not a test for you to pass or a game for you to win. Take the pressure off of yourself so you can go have fun.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Just as you can open your eyes and seek to fill them with beautiful sights, you can open your heart and seek ecstatic feelings. Being around that certain person helps.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). The planets emphasize vulnerability. Love requires this, and it usually winds up breaking your heart. However, as the sign that rules hearts, you know not to be afraid. Scar tissue is stronger.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're ready to share more of your life with someone. This applies even to those who have been part of a couple for what seems like forever. Everyone has separate and secret parts of themselves. You're ready to reveal one more.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Why do they say "All's fair in love" when it's obviously *not* the case? Fair is fair, in or out of love. You'll hold loved ones to the highest ethics, and they expect the same of you.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Relationships that look good on paper but don't "click" are about as valuable as the piece of paper they supposedly

look good on. Chemistry, instinct and heart are where it's at. Everything else is secondary.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are most powerful when in love. Believe it! Those you love only add to your personal strength, mission and dynamism. That is, unless you believe that love makes you helpless.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't worry about romance. Celebrate its coming. No matter how far off that feels to you right now, it's not. Romance is a destination you create and arrive at with your choices.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's a most surprising day. The people you expect to give to you are not the only ones who will. You are appreciated beyond your scope of awareness.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Working with a partner is lucky. Romantic vibes kick in just as soon as the brainstorming session is underway. Tonight, singles looking for love discover that libraries and bookstores trump nightspots.

**VALENTINES DAY GIFT GUIDE:** What does your sweetheart want? **ARIES:** Diamonds, of course. And displays of mad passion. **TAURUS:** Whatever it is, Taurus wants to be sure it was expensive. **GEMINI:** The hottest ticket in town — what events are going on in your area? **CANCER:** Homey items — a beautiful blanket, romantic stemware, a home-cooked meal. **LEO:** Anything heart-shaped or golden. **Leo** rules the heart and will respond well to whatever truly comes from yours. **VIRGO:** Under the Virgo moon, practical presents are a hit, believe it or not! As long as you give what is truly useful to your love. **LIBRA:** Hours of hugging, snuggling and expressing innocent affection. **SCORPIO:** Gifts that are anything but ordinary — scintillating, exciting and/or taboo. **SAGITTARIUS:** A trip out of town or dinner in a restaurant where your sweetheart has never been before. **CAPRICORN:** The traditional flowers and cards go a long way, especially with the addition of a page or two of handwritten sentiment from your heart. **AQUARIUS:** This sweetheart is happy when you make him or her the star today, with your undivided attention. **PISCES:** The details matter so much to Pisces now — wrap the present beautifully, and present it theatrically. Play romantic music, and burn a candle.

**CELEBRITY PROFILES:** No "American Idiot," Green Day front man Billie Joe Armstrong is an ambitious activist Aquarian who has never feared stirring things up with his loud music and outspoken vocals. Aquarius artists find inspiration in humanitarian causes. Armstrong's penchant for meaningful words will result not only in more chart-topping CDs, but I predict a bestselling book of poetry as well.

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TUESDAY

	WFAA(2)	KMID(3)	UNI(4)	KPEJ(5)	KOBA(7)	KTLE(8)	KWES(9)	WTBS(11)	KMLM(12)	KOCV(13)	DISC(20)	AMC(21)	SPIKE(22)	TNT(23)	BET(26)	DISN(27)	ESPN2(28)	ESPN(29)	SCIFI(30)		
Time	Dallas	Midland	Spanish	Odeasa	Odeasa	Telamonta	Midland	Atlanta	Odeasa	Odeasa	Discovery	Classics	Spike TV	Atlanta	Black Ent.	Disney	ESPN2	ESPN	SCIFI		
6:30	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Plaf de Oloro	My Wife-Kids Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	La Yomanta	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Booker John Hagee	News-Labour	Discovery (CC)	Classics	Spike TV	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET com	That's Raven	ESPN2	ESPN	SCIFI		
7:30	Ent. Tonight	Charlie Brown Rodney (CC)	Comis Viento y Marea	American Idol (CC)	Price is Right Spectacular	B Cuspo del Odeaso	XX Olympic Water Games (CC)	Friends (CC)	Update/Alfred Jimmy Philips	News (CC) (DVS)	MyBusters (CC)	Movie: Diamonds Are Forever (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Ultimate Hunter	My Date With the President's Daughter	ESPN2	ESPN	SCIFI		
8:30	Commander in Chief (CC)	Commander in Chief (CC)	Alborada	House (CC)	Dr. Phil Prime-time Special	Corazon Part Decisiones	Sex and-City Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	Independent Lane (CC)	Charlie Rose (CC)	Deadliest Catch (CC)	Movie: The King of Vegas	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Ultimate Hunter	Top 25 Hottest Black Couples	American Dgn Sister, Sister	ESPN2	ESPN	SCIFI	
9:30	News (CC)	News (CC)	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show	Noticias Laum	News	The Hour of Healing	Sign Off	Charlie Rose (CC)	Deadliest Catch (CC)	Movie: The King of Vegas	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Ultimate Hunter	Cold Case (CC)	In Living Color (CC)	ESPN2	ESPN	SCIFI	
10:30	Ent. Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora Darte	Becker (CC) Malcolm-Mid.	Al Rojo Vivo	The Olympic Tonight Show	Joe McGee Rabbit Richman	Sign Off	Charlie Rose (CC)	Deadliest Catch (CC)	Movie: The King of Vegas	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Ultimate Hunter	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Phil of Future Kim Possible	ESPN2	ESPN	SCIFI	
11:30	Live (CC)	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Amigas y Rivales (BS)	Becker (CC) King of the Hill	The Insider	XX Olympic	XX Olympic	Update/Alfred John Hagee	Sign Off	Charlie Rose (CC)	Deadliest Catch (CC)	Movie: The King of Vegas	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	The Ultimate Hunter	ComiView	Movie: 3	ESPN2	ESPN	SCIFI	
12:30	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)	News (CC)

DENNIS THE MENACE



"THE DINNER AND FLOWERS WERE DAD'S IDEA, BUT I PICKED OUT THE CARD."



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Grandma, for Valentine's Day let's have heart-shaped pancakes."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



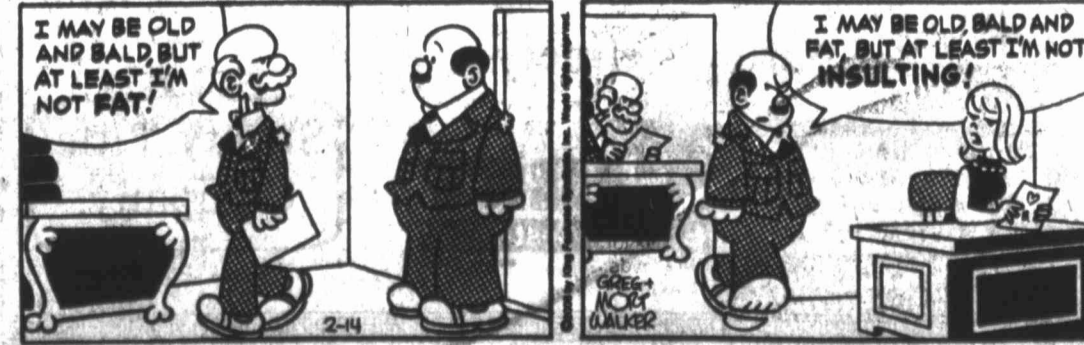
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2006. There are 320 days left in the year. This is Valentine's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 14, 1929, the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

On this date: In 1778, the American ship Ranger carried the recently adopted Star and Stripes to a foreign port for the first time as it arrived in France.

In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the Union as the 33rd state.

In 1894, comedian Jack Benny was born Benjamin Kubelsky in Waukegan, Ill.

In 1895, Oscar Wilde's final play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," opened at the St. James's Theatre in London.

In 1903, the Department of Commerce and Labor was established. (It was divided into separate departments of

Commerce and Labor in 1913.)

In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union.

In 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago; its first president was Maude Wood Park.

In 1945, Peru, Paraguay, Chile and Ecuador joined the United Nations.

In 1979, Adolph Dubs, the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, was kidnapped in Kabul by Muslim extremists and killed in a shootout between his abductors and police.

In 1989, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel condemned as blasphemous.

One year ago: Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was assassinated.

Today's Birthdays: TV personality Hugh Downs is 85. Actress-singer Florence Henderson is 72. Country singer Razyzy Bailey is 67. Jazz musician Maceo Parker is 63. Movie director Alan Parker is 62. Journalist Carl Bernstein is 62. Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg, R-

N.H., is 59. TV personality Pat O'Brien is 58. Magician Teller (Penn and Teller) is 58. Cajun singer-musician Michael Doucet (Beausoleil) is 55. Actor Ken Wahl is 49. Opera singer Renee Fleming is 47. Actress Meg Tilly is 46. Actor Zach Galligan is 42. Rock musician Ricky Wolk (The Nixons) is 40. Tennis player Manuela Maleeva is 39. Rock musician Kevin Baldes (Lit) is 34. Rock singer Rob Thomas (Matchbox Twenty) is 34. Actor Freddie Highmore ("Finding Neverland") is 14.

Thought for Today: "Age is strictly a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." — Jack Benny (1894-1974).

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Answer to previous puzzle

ROPE	RAM	PASTA
ACID	WAGE	ASHEN
LATE	ANON	PAINT
PLANE	FIGURE	PTS
HASSLE	ORBS	
AROMAS	UNOH	
SCOOT	NAGS	TARA
HORSE	ERA	STPAT
ALDA	DAIS	HEELS
WEEK	ELAPSE	
RATS	EAGLES	
OAF	WINDOW	FRAME
PROVE	AIDE	ABBA
EERIE	PAID	POEM
NAMED	ALE	ERRS

Newsday Crossword

CAPITAL B by Sally R. Stein

Edited by Stanley Newman

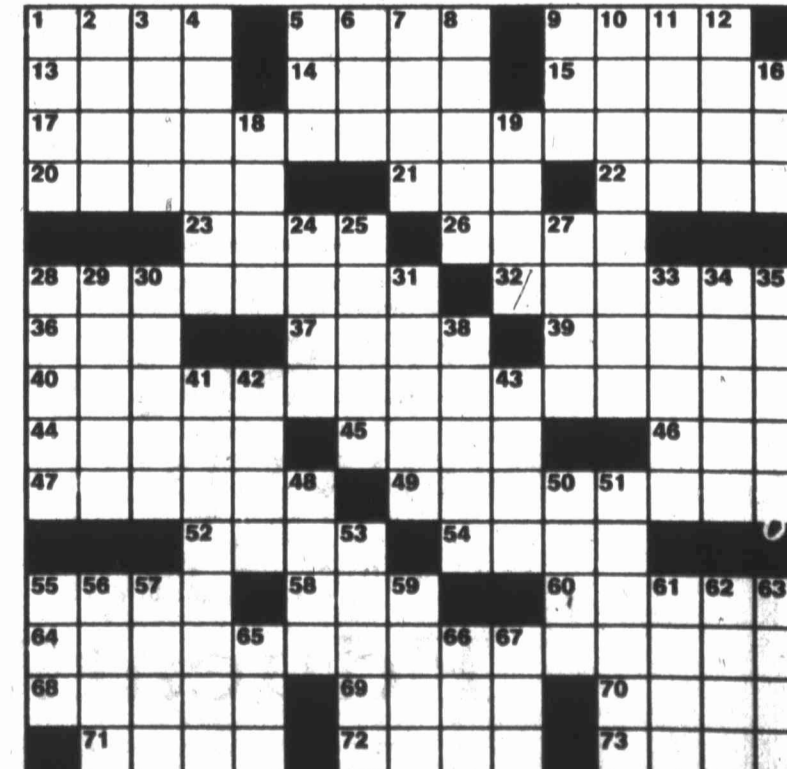
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Arizona Indian
- 5 Prepare, as potatoes
- 9 Recedes
- 13 Major kitchen appliance
- 14 Best-selling cookie
- 15 Of the moon
- 17 Asian capital
- 20 \_\_\_ days (time long past)
- 21 Addition result
- 22 Untruths
- 23 By oneself
- 26 Make angry
- 28 Computer games, for example
- 32 Placed in order
- 36 Ages \_\_\_ (time long past)
- 37 Astronauts' org.
- 39 Largest artery
- 40 European capital
- 44 Actress Zellweger
- 45 Percolate
- 46 Fruity drink
- 47 High regard
- 49 Church tops
- 52 Don't include
- 54 Stamp of approval
- 55 Take a crack \_\_\_ (try)
- 58 \_\_\_ Vegas
- 60 King or emperor
- 64 European capital

DOWN

- 1 "King of the road"
- 2 Elliptical shape
- 3 Remain unsettled
- 4 Swallow
- 5 Cow comment
- 6 Noah creation
- 7 Solidifies
- 8 Sound of a yawn
- 9 Inventor Whitney
- 10 Large croaker
- 11 \_\_\_ B'rith
- 12 Of sound mind
- 16 Highways: Abbr.
- 18 Be sure of
- 19 French friends
- 24 Bowling place
- 25 Graduate-school exams
- 27 Young horse
- 28 British sword
- 29 Mean ones
- 30 Wellspring
- 31 Slalom curves
- 33 Courtroom activity
- 34 Piano piece
- 35 Knights' female equivalents
- 38 Assists in wrongdoing
- 41 Be dazed





Wacky Facts

■ Feb. 20 is Presidents Day.  
■ President John Tyler had 15 children (with two wives), more than any other president.  
■ Abraham Lincoln was the tallest U.S. president at 6 feet 4 inches. At 5 feet 4 inches, James Madison was the shortest. — *World Almanac for Kids*

# KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"He was one of the few great rulers whose wisdom increased with his power, and whose spirit grew gentler and tenderer as his triumphs were multiplied."  
— President James A. Garfield, talking about President Abraham Lincoln, on [www.quoteagarden.com](http://www.quoteagarden.com)



A MIRROR ON SOCIETY? NO! NOT YET!

## Most entertainment is not very diverse

When Jasleen S. used to play with dolls, she had a hard time finding one that looked like her. Her father is from India, and her mother is white.

So the family improvised with Teresa, a brown-haired doll who is known as Barbie's Hispanic friend.

"Usually, we just went with regular Barbies because that was the most (the toy stores) had," says Jasleen, 13. "We also had the Teresa doll, because she had brown hair."

Now that Jasleen is older, she still is having trouble finding people who look like her. She wishes there were more Indians in entertainment, from movies to music. "It kind of makes me feel like because I'm Indian, I could never be on TV if I wanted to, because I never see Indian people on TV unless it's an Indian channel," she says.

And when they are on TV, people of several ethnic groups aren't always depicted as upstanding citizens. For example, 46 percent of Middle-Eastern characters were portrayed as criminals during prime-time television, according to a diversity study by kids' advocacy group Children Now.

Latinos and Middle Easterners on television were more likely to be portrayed as criminals than other races, the study found. Latinos were four times more likely than other races to be portrayed as domestic workers, such as maids or lawn-care workers. Only 35 percent of the characters were female, and there were no Native American characters in prime time.

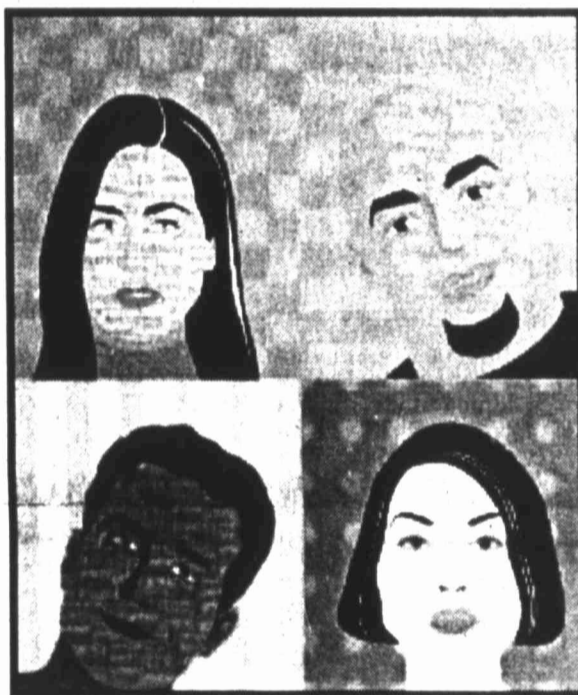
Sitcoms are all about stereotypes, says Robert J. Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University in New York.

And so is reality television. "The 'Real World' has the angry woman," he says. "There was a while when 'Survivor' kept

choosing African-American men who were portrayed as lazy, not doing their work and laying in the hammock."

But compared with television a few decades ago, lots of progress has been made, Thompson says. "If you were watching television in the 1950s or '60s, there was virtually no diversity," he says.

BY EMILIE LE BEAU / CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Diversity in entertainment is important to Sydnei J., 13. She is black and says she feels good when she sees diverse models in magazines or advertisements. "It makes me feel like we are being much more welcomed by society and that we can do much more," she says.

But she feels the entertainment industry could do a lot more too. "I would like to see more kinds of different people represented," she says. "Not just African-Americans, but a lot more Asians, a lot more Latinos."

Nicole N.-C., 13, also wonders why minorities are often stereotyped negatively. Her father is Mexican and Comanche and her mother is of Irish descent. Growing up, her mom banned movies such as "Peter Pan" because of the way the cartoon depicted Native Americans.

"A lot of times in cartoons, you see stereotypes for Native Americans," she says.

She worries stereotypes will give some kids the wrong impression of different cultures. "We could be exposed to a lot more cultures and religions, and we're not. That's kind of puzzling," she says.

Children's programming tends to be more diverse than prime-time shows, Thompson says. Kids growing up with diversity have a good chance of becoming open-minded adults. "Hopefully, this generation will become network executives," he says.



Thomas Sangster and Eliza Bennett play Simon and Tora, the eldest Brown children in "Nanny McPhee."

In The News

## Eliza Bennett, a nanny's nightmare

Prank-playing children out of control? It looks like a job for Nanny McPhee!

In the new film "Nanny McPhee," based on Christianna Brand's Nurse Matilda books, the Brown children go so far as pretending to eat the baby to scare away the nannies hired by their father after their mother dies.



The seven mischievous siblings have chased off 17 so far ... and then they meet their match. Nanny McPhee, with her hideous snaggle tooth, bulbous nose and two hairy warts, is clearly no Mary Poppins. With a little bit of magic on her side, this no-nonsense nanny (played by Emma Thompson) achieves something that no other before her has ever been able to accomplish — she gets the naughty bunch to do as they're told.

Time For Kids sat down with 13-year-old Eliza Bennett, who plays Tora, the second oldest of the Brown children, to find out what it was like on this whimsical set.

**TFK:** How was it working with Emma Thompson while she was all dressed up in that frightful Nanny costume?

**BENNETT:** She's so down to earth in real life, and she's such a lovely person. It was kind of a shock when we first saw her dressed as Nanny McPhee, obviously, with the warts and everything.

**TFK:** How would you describe your character?

**BENNETT:** Tora's a very good-hearted girl. Most of the time, she doesn't particularly want to join in with the tricks because she knows it's going to torment her father. Her father can't control any of them. And obviously since they don't have a mum, Tora feels like she has to take responsibility and look after the young ones. ... But she ends up joining in the tricks because she loves her siblings and her family so much. She feels like she needs to follow what they do.

**TFK:** Why do you think the children are so misbehaved?

**BENNETT:** I think it's really because their mum has died and they feel like the nannies are trying to replace their mum's position. And therefore, they feel like they can drive them away with tricks and play up on them by leaving frogs in their beds and putting worms in their sandwiches. They don't really want anyone to replace their mum because they don't want to lose the memory of their old mum.

**TFK:** If you had a magic walking stick like Nanny McPhee, what would you make happen?

**BENNETT:** I'd make really healthy stuff like vegetables taste like chocolate and chocolate taste like something really disgusting. That way you could eat chocolate without feeling guilty.

— Vickie An

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## A closer look at diversity in Hollywood

Children's entertainment is among some of the most diverse. Here are some shows and books we like:



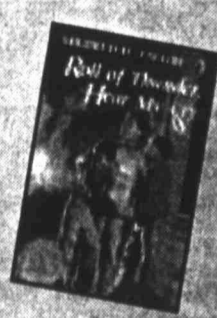
**TV**  
■ **"That's So Raven."** Raven-Symone plays a wacky, slightly psychic teen in this sitcom that features a diverse cast (Disney Channel).  
■ **"Sagwa."** This cartoon about Sagwa, a Siamese cat, is set in ancient China (PBS).

■ **"Maya and Miguel."** Animated twins Maya and Miguel share adventures with a large group of friends (PBS).



■ **"Grandfather Counts."** by Andrea Chung (\$6.95, Lee & Low Books). Helen's grandfather moves from China to live with her family in the United States.

■ **"Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry,"** by Mildred D. Taylor (\$6.99, Puffin Modern Classics). The story of a black family living in the South during the 1930s.



**BOOKS**  
■ **"Rattlesnake Mesa: Stories from a Native American Childhood"** (\$18.95, Lee & Low Books). The true story of EdNah New Rider Weber, who grew up Pawnee in the 1920s.

— Emilie Le Beau

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