

Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker, left, looks on as Chief Jailer Mike Averette describes the amount of time his jailers are spending on Texas highways transporting prisoners to and from other county facilities since the local jail was closed in November. Out-of-county housing cost the government entity more than \$75,000 in January, according to Walker.

Day in Austin participants to make plans now

Hotel reservations, shirt orders are due, chamber of commerce advises

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

For area residents planning to travel to the state capitol for the 2007 Big Spring Day in Austin, the focus over the next two days should be shirts and hotel rooms.

That's the message from the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, as the local organization begins the countdown to the March 7 event designed to increase awareness of the Crossroads area in the state legislature.

Debbie ValVerde, executive director of the local Chamber, said the dress code for the day will be the usual denim Big Spring shirts and khaki pants.

"Special denim shirts with the Big Spring logo are available in varied sizes at the Chamber and Moore Development Offices. If your size is not available, we will be ordering shirts for anyone who orders and pre-pays for one," said ValVerde.

"The deadline to order and prepay is today. We will not be ordering extra shirts."

ValVerde said a second deadline for specially reserved hotel rooms for those planning to travel to Austin the day before the event is also this week.

"The committee was informed that a music festival event will be in

"The deadline to order and prepay is today. We will not be ordering extra shirts."



ValVerde

progress when we make our trip, so hotel reservations need to be made as soon as possible," said ValVerde. "Vickie Purcell with Moore Development has blocked rooms at the Double Tree Hotel for those who wish to go the day before. The Chamber and Moore Development has information if you would like to reserve your room. The sheet provides you with a phone number and a code so you can make your reservation. The deadline to reserve rooms is Wednesday.

"The Chamber will be chartering a bus for the trip, and a special \$40 trip rate includes round-trip transportation and lunch at the capitol. This is a great way to go because it alleviates the worry of driving. Everyone going on the bus will need to bring their own breakfast, and any food on the bus must be in closed containers. All drinks must have a twist-on top. On the trip back to Big

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Sheriff: Cost of housing inmates out of county eclipses \$75,000 for January

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

"Those who believed it would be cheaper to close the existing county jail and just house inmates in other counties may want to reconsider their statements."

Those were the words of Howard County Sheriff Dale Walker, as he informed the commissioner's court the cost attributed to the closure of the jail facility topped \$75,000 — for

the month of January alone.

Walker told commissioners Monday morning that during January his office traveled more than 11,300 miles to transport prisoners to other county jail facilities, putting a 585-gallon dent in the government agency's fuel bill for 2007.

"We spent 259 hours on the road, transporting prisoners in January," Walker told the court.

"Those are just the hours that our

office was on the road. That's not manhours, and it doesn't take into consideration most trips are made with two employees in the vehicle.

"In January we paid \$7,300 to Glasscock County, \$57,000 to Dickens County, \$2,318 to Bailey County, \$950 to Lamb County and \$840 to Winkler County. That's more than \$68,000 for inmate hous-

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Commissioners to discuss proposed jail Wednesday

Meeting set for 10 a.m. on third floor of county courthouse.

By THOMAS JENKINS Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners hope to move forward with the possible design or renovation of a new jail facility

Wednesday, as the court prepares to hold a special meeting.

At the center of attention is expected to be Jeffrey Heffelfinger, an architect with Fort Worth-based Southwest Architects Inc., the company commissioners agreed to hire for the task on a 3-2 vote in January.

"He (Heffelfinger) was here



Barr

to city hall to look at several

last week and had about five people with him," said County Judge Mark Barr.

"They were measuring the old jail and determining how we could best look at that, and then he went down

sites we had presented him with to see what would be suitable.

"We found out one of the sites we have been looking at, half of it is in a flood plain. So that kind of nixes that deal. But we're still looking at things. We took them out on the west side of town to look at some sites out there as well."

The location eliminated from considerations — the lot adjacent to the district courthouse — had been the topic of much discussion during efforts to design a new jail in 2006.

"This is why we want him (Heffelfinger) to look at these locations," said Barr. "We need

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SUCH CHIVALRY!

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prince Frederic von Anhalt said he plans to file a paternity challenge to gain custody of Anna Nicole Smith's infant daughter, even if it costs him his marriage to Zsa Zsa Gabor.

"If the court rules in my favor, I will go and pick up the child," he said. Smith's companion Howard K. Stern and her former boyfriend, Larry Birkhead, also have claimed paternity of 5-month-old Daniellynn. Alexander Denk, who had worked as a bodyguard for Smith, told "Extra" that he had an affair with Smith, and that it's possible he is the father. The baby stands to potentially inherit a fortune from Smith's late husband.

DOG SAVES FAMILY

KENTON, Ohio (AP) — A man in western Ohio said the family dog likely saved him and his fiancée from a weekend fire at their home.

The dog, Katie Bell, was sleeping near the couple after they went to bed in an upstairs room. She woke them around 4 a.m. Sunday by whining and acting restless, said Greg Weaver.

When Weaver tried to let the dog out of the bedroom, she tried to stop him by blocking the doorway. When he did open the door, he was greeted by black smoke.

Weaver and Misty Parker escaped the fire by climbing out a window and jumping into the bed of Weaver's truck below.

17 MEN INDICTED

HOUSTON (AP) — Seventeen Houston area men whom officials say are members of a prison-based Texas gang have been indicted on charges of murder, armed robbery and drug trafficking.

The indictment accuses the men, nine of whom were already in prison, of three murders, two attempted murders, conspiracy to commit murder, five aggravated robberies, trafficking in cocaine and marijuana and of racketeering from August 1999 through February 2006 as members of the Texas Syndicate.

Fourteen defendants are charged with conspiracy to violate the racketeer statute, and face up to life in prison if convicted.

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Obituaries

Levona McNeese



Levona McNeese, 82, of Big Spring, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, at a local nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007 at the Trinity Memorial Park Peace Chapel with Dr. Randy Cotton, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, officiating.

The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

She was born March 7, 1924, in Jones County and married E.O. McNeese Oct. 15, 1941, in Big Spring. He preceded her in death Feb. 5, 1999.

Mrs. McNeese retired from the Big Spring State Hospital as a direct care worker in 1987. She was a homemaker. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church and was very active in church as a former Sunday School teacher.

Survivors include a daughter, Tina Neel of Big Spring; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by one daughter, Edna Carolyn McNeese in 1944 and one son, Preston McNeese in 1984.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Trinity Baptist Church Building Fund, 810 E. 11th Place, Big Spring 79720.

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

Paid obituary

Christine 'Christina' Heredia



Christine 'Christina' Heredia, 64, of Odessa passed away Feb. 9, 2007, at Medical Center Hospital. She was born Jan. 27, 1943, in Big Spring to parents, Frank Mendoza and Louisa Santiago.

Mrs. Heredia was a barber and owner of Jaime's Barber Shop. She was a Catholic.

She is survived by her special friend of 12 years, Saul R. Carrillo of Odessa; daughter, Jaime Lynn Hernandez and

husband, Gabriel of Odessa; brothers, Frank Mendoza, David Mendoza, Richard Mendoza and Robert Mendoza all of Midland, Raymond Mendoza of Oregon and Albert Mendoza of Tulsa, Okla.; sisters, Elvira Hammond of Owego, N.Y. and Louisa Navarette of Midland; three grandchildren, John A. Chavez, Jasmine Johnson and Jackie Johnson Jr., all of Odessa. The family would like to thank everyone who donated towards her medical and funeral expenses. God bless you all.

Visitation for Mrs. Heredia will be held Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. with a rosary being said at 7 p.m. at the funeral home. Funeral services will be held Wednesday Feb. 14, 2007, at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Father Joe Uecker officiating. Burial will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Martinez-Smith Funeral Chapels & Crematory.

Paid obituary

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Colder. Lows in the lower 20s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...Then a chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow. Lows in the lower 20s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday...Cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the morning...Then a chance of snow and slight chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 30s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph in the morning becoming light and variable. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. Friday...Mostly sunny. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 50s.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Sunday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows around 40. Presidents day...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

Donald E. Spence



Donald E. Spence, 76, of Big Spring, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, at his residence. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. David Harp, pastor of First Baptist Church of Stanton, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.

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

He was born Dec. 31, 1930, in Little York, Ill., to Lewis Henry Spence and Ines Gordon Spence. He married Nellie Garrett Aug. 5, 1955, in Wabash, Ind.

Don served in the United States Air Force from 1950-1973. He had been a loan officer at Big Spring Education Employees Federal Credit Union for a number of years. He was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Nellie Spence of Big Spring; two sons, David L. Spence of Chandler, Ariz., and Paul E. Spence and wife, Beth of Big Spring; one sister, Wanda Tomlinson of Indianapolis; one brother-in-law, Bob King and wife, Sue of Wabash, Ind.; three granddaughters; one grandson; one great-granddaughter; seven nephews; and four nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Hospice House of Odessa, 903 N. Sam Houston, Odessa 79761.

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

Rosalind Ann Davis

Rosalind Ann Davis, 54, of Big Spring died Monday at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Maria 'Cookie' Larez

Maria 'Cookie' Larez, 53, of Big Spring, died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, in a Midland hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today:

- EDGAR ALLEN MORENO, 22, of 2636 Langley, was arrested Monday on a charge of purchasing alcohol for a minor.
- MEGAN RENE HUGHES, 18, of 3313 E. 11th Place, was arrested Monday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- THEFT was reported:
 - in the 1400 block of Princeton.
 - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
 - in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.
- PURCHASING/FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO A MINOR was reported in the 300 block of Third Street.
- FORGERY OF A FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF was reported in the 1800 block of 11th Place.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE was reported in the 1300 block of Tucson.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 2600 block of E. 24th Street. Service refused.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-4-14-15-32.
Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-17-23-35. Bonus Ball: 28.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 45 inmates at the time of this report.

• TERRY D. SPEARS, 39, was arrested Friday by DPS on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession/delivery of drug paraphernalia.

• JUAN ANGEL MADRID, 21, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charges of bail jumping (two counts) and failure to appear (two counts).

• PABLO MORENO, 29, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on charge of bondsman off bond for racing on highway.

• DANIEL LORENZO TORRES, 24, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• DAVID WARD SAUSMAN, 42, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• JOSE DELOSSANTOS JR., 27, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.

• DALLAS INEZ JORDAN, 36, was arrested Friday by the HCSO on judgment/sentence for driving while license invalid and a motion to revoke probation for driving while license invalid.

• RICHARD EDWARD HAMANN, 53, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.

• JOE ADRIAN FLORES, 24, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of duty on striking fixture or landscape.

• CYNTHIA GALE BULLARD, 46, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on a charge of robbery.

• FRANK HERNANDEZ, 36, was transferred to the county jail Friday by the BSPD on charges of ride not secured by a safety belt and motion to revoke community supervision.

• GAVINO JOSE ORTIZ, 40, was arrested Saturday by DPS on an Ector County warrant for parole violation.

• CHAVELLO YANEZ LORADO, 51, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• MARISSA LEE TEICHMAN, 25, was arrested Saturday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

• ALEJANDRO VALENCIA JR., 17, was arrested Saturday by the HCSO on a charge of evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.

• JOSHUA KENT BECK, 24, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while license invalid.

• JEREMY RYAN MINTER, 27, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of burglary of a habitation.

• TRAVIS ALLEN MELTON III, 26, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for false report to police, bondsman off bond for driving while license invalid, no insurance, bondsman off bond for expired motor vehicle inspection certificate and theft.

• SAVAS THOMAS CHAPA, 40, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid, driving while intoxicated - third or more offense and a motion to revoke probation for driving while under the influence.

• FREDDY CANO RODRIGUEZ JR., 19, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.

• CRYSTAL COBLE, 19, was transferred to the county jail Saturday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone.

• VANESSA JEAN RANEY, 18, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.

• REYMUNDO SOLIS PADRON, 49, was arrested Sunday by DPS on charges of no driver's license, expired registration, speeding and no insurance.

• LISA ZUNIGA CANTU, 36, was arrested Sunday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.

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Ronnie Cupstid Publisher... Ext. 250
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Rick Nunez Advertising Manager... Ext. 229
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Officials: Fire may have been caused by heater, faulty wiring

RICHMOND (AP) — Space heaters, overloaded electrical circuits and a hazardous web of extension cords may have caused a fire that killed four people, officials said Monday, but the blaze erased any definitive proof of the source.

"There's no way we're going to be able to determine that, due to the severity of the structure itself," said Fort Bend County Fire Marshal's Office senior investigator Robert Baker at a news conference.

The wood-frame house in rural Fresno, southwest of Houston, was enveloped by flames early Sunday.

Three children, who were at the house visiting their grandfather, died while they shared a small cot in the house's living room, where the fire originated. They were siblings Kayla Davis, 4; Kaylyne Davis, 3; and Cedric Davis Jr., who was two months shy of turning 2.

A 26-year-old relative, Elisha Davis, who lived near-

by, also died while trying to rescue the children. He did not die while holding one of the children in his arms, contrary to earlier reports, Baker said. Elisha Davis was found in a back corner of the house, near a door that was nailed shut.

County officials described witness accounts of how Davis ran into the house twice, the second time while flames poured out the front door.

"He made an effort to save them all," said sheriff's Detective Bruce Campbell.

El Paso gets BRAC grant

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has awarded nearly \$1 million to the city of El Paso to help prepare for the arrival of thousands of new troops at Fort Bliss.

The grant for \$936,500 was announced Monday by Democratic Rep. Silvestre Reyes, House Intelligence Committee chairman.

The money will help pay for housing, utilities, education, public safety, health and social services, Reyes of El Paso said in a news release.

The award from the Defense Department's Office of Economic Adjustment comes as Congress is fighting a Thursday deadline to pass a spending bill to keep the federal government operating.

The bill has been under debate amid Republican complaints that the legislation doesn't include enough money for Base Closing and Realignment work this year. The bill provides \$2.5 billion for that work, but some Republicans want more.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, is pushing an amendment for another \$3.1 billion to be added to the spending bill for BRAC.

But Democratic leaders say Republicans failed to fund BRAC when they adjourned Congress last year without passing most of the appropriations bills.

AUSTIN

Continued from Page 1A

Spring, we will stop for dinner at Cooper's BBQ in Llano, which will be Dutch treat."

ValVerde said the dead-

line to reserve a seat and pay for the bus trip is Feb. 27. The bus is expected to leave Big Spring at 4:30 a.m. and return at 10 p.m.

Among the activities planned for the visit to the capitol are:

— Reading of a resolution on the floor of House and Senate proclaiming March 7 "Big Spring Day" in Austin.

— The Howard County School Choir to perform in the Rotunda.

— Box lunch to be

served on the east grounds of the Capitol.

— Coca-Cola and Blue Bell Ice Cream reception on east grounds of the Capitol.

— Group photo on the steps of the Capitol with legislators.

"Everyone who plans to attend, whether going by chartered bus or their own vehicle, needs to register at the Chamber by Feb. 27," said ValVerde. "If they plan to join us for lunch on the capitol grounds they will also

need to pay \$9 when they register."

For more information on Big Spring Area Day in Austin, call the Big Spring Chamber at 263-7641 or Moore Development at 264-6032.

INMATES

Continued from Page 1A

ing alone. Our jailers logged more than 300 hours of overtime, which accounted for 83 percent of the overtime budgeted for the jail."

And while the one-month price tag may have commissioners shaking in their fiscal boots, Walker said it will get worse.

"We're going to really be in trouble toward Spring Break and the summer months," said Walker. "These numbers are actually on the low side right now. It's going to get a lot worse then."

Commissioners did receive some good news during the meeting, as Commissioner Bill Crooker reported efforts to bring the jail into state compliance are moving forward.

"Weather permitting, the tap for the standpipe is expected to be completed this week," Crooker told the court. "So work on the standpipe can begin. The smoke evacuation system is now in the hands of Anthony Mechanical of Lubbock. They are pricing the equipment and looking at the physical aspect of the project."

"They want to mount the fans on the outside of the building, so they have to make sure they can get them up to the jail and out the necessary windows. If they won't fit, they will have to bring in equipment to take them up the side of the building. I expect they will have a price for us during the next meeting Wednesday."

Commissioners are hoping the price of the equipment will come in below the state mandated cost that would require

putting the project out for bids, slowing down the court's efforts. The cost of electrical wiring for the smoke evacuation system has been estimated at \$24,600.

"We're going as fast as we can on this project," said Commissioner Jerry Kilgore, citing mounting costs for housing inmates out-of-county as the motivating factor.

In the midst of attempts to bring the jail within state standards, efforts to design or possibly renovate an existing structure for a new county jail are ongoing.

County Judge Mark Barr said Jeffrey Heffelfinger, an architect with Fort Worth-based Southwest Architects Inc., the company heading up the project, will

make a presentation during Wednesday's meeting. However, Walker said his exposure to Heffelfinger and his firm has been less than encouraging at this point in the process.

"I seem to have been left behind on this jail issue," Walker told the court. "The only contact I've had with Heffelfinger has been a five-minute consultation on the jail. I'm very concerned with how this

process is going." Wednesday's meeting is set for 10 a.m. in the commissioners' courtroom.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Rosalind Ann Davis, 54, died Monday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

to know if they are even possibilities before we sink a bunch of time and money into them."

Barr said the court has directed Heffelfinger to also look at some existing buildings he feels could be renovated to house inmates.

"We have a lot of different locations we're looking at right now, including the old K-Mart building," said Barr. "We just want to find the best way to do this. We may have to build a brand new jail from the ground up, or we may be able to renovate something. We just have to wait and see what happens at this point."

Southwest Architects Inc. was given the go-ahead to begin phase-one of the jail project in late January, when commissioners began contract negotiations with the firm.

Other locations that have been considered by the court in the past include lots near the intersection of U.S. Highway 87 and Interstate Highway 20 in northern Big Spring and a location near the intersection of

FM 700 and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

Heffelfinger is also expected to report to the court on the viability of renovating the existing jail facility, located in the Howard County Courthouse.

Wednesday's meeting will get under way at 10 a.m. in the commissioners' courtroom, located on the second floor of the county courthouse.

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♦10 6 5

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Consider filing to serve your school or city

Filing periods are under way for anyone contemplating whether they would like to serve as a public school trustee, council member or mayor. There is still plenty of time to think it over. The final date for filing throughout the Crossroads area in the May 12 elections is still about a month away — Monday, March 12.

There are plenty of positions up for election, including seats on area school boards, the Big Spring, Forsan and Coahoma city councils and the Coahoma mayor's seat.

Our purpose here, however, is not to encourage involvement simply for the sake of having contested races.

No, as we have noted in this space many times, the decision to seek one of these positions is one that should only be made after a lot of thought.

The men and women who serve on these boards help shape the future of our schools and our communities. Their decisions affect each one of us in some way, whether it is the amount of taxes we pay, the services we receive or the quality of education that our children and grandchildren get in the classroom.

They don't teach, coach or put in water lines or fill potholes, but their decisions determine how funds should be allocated to accomplish those tasks.

We've also mentioned before — and won't hesitate to add again — that these individuals serve as role models for our communities and schools, representing us not only on the boards they serve, but many times on a broader scale, such as regional service centers and councils of governments.

And finally, before deciding to seek office, a potential representative of the school district or city must decide to work for the good of the entire community. They must be willing to study all sides of an issue and not rush to judgment.

Because of these responsibilities, the decision to seek office as a school board trustee, councilperson or mayor is one that should be made carefully.

Good luck in your decision.

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With You, Lord, our life is never under-rated.

Amen

Known by company they keep?

Memo to the national Democratic Party: Having a reputedly Hezbollah-supporting imam lead you in a Muslim-based spiritual and political prayer does not support your contentions that your values better reflect true Christianity than those of Republicans and that you support the troops.

Democrats invited Imam Husham Al-Husainy of the Karbalaa Islamic Education Center in Dearborn, Mich., to pray at their annual winter meeting in Washington. Columnist Debbie Schlusel has reported that last summer this same imam led "almost-daily protests of thousands of Hezbollah supporters on the streets of Dearborn and Detroit, swarming with swastikas and anti-Semitic, anti-American signs."

Though other commentators have also addressed this, I am surprised it hasn't drawn more attention, and, frankly, more outrage. It is beyond belief that one of the two major parties in the United States would embrace a person who has openly rooted for terrorists and condemned Jews and America.

To the untrained ear or the Democrat apologist, Al-Husainy's prayer might have sounded inclusive and innocuous.

Husainy's prayer included these words, "We thank you, God, to send us your messages through our father Abraham and Moses and Jesus and Mohammed. Through you, God, we unite. So guide us to the right path. The path of the people you bless, not the path of the people you doom. Help us, God, to liberate and fill this earth with justice and peace and love and equality. And help us to stop the war and violence, and

oppression and occupation. Amen."

Democratic commentator Geraldine Ferraro and Fox News' Alan Colmes seemed determined to characterize these words as completely inoffensive and the type that might have been delivered at any Catholic Church on Sunday morning.

But according to some with a bit more background in these matters, like author Robert Spencer, the words were hardly inclusive or tolerant. As Spencer, and Cal Thomas have noted, Al-Husainy was surely expressing the Muslim belief that Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed were all Muslim prophets "and that the followers of Moses and Jesus corrupted their teachings to create Judaism and Christianity."

I am certainly not offended by a Muslim imam promoting the exclusive truth claims of the religion he practices. I would expect him to believe in the superiority of the creeds of his religion. Contrary to the commonly accepted nostrums of political correctness, almost all religions — and several non-religious worldviews — have exclusive truth claims.

But I do believe it is noteworthy that many secular liberal Democrats selectively decry the Christians' exclusive truth claims as intolerant and exclusive, while giving the proponents of other religions and worldviews a pass. And they wonder why they have difficulty attracting "values voters."

How about the political implications of the imam's prayer? Ferraro copped the intellectually indefensible position that the imam could have been referring to any war or any oppression. "He may have been talking about Darfur. He might be talking about Afghanistan. Talk about oppression? He may have

been talking about China and Korea."

Since many Democrats have referred to Americans as "occupiers" in Iraq or the Israelis as occupiers of Palestine, perhaps they were not uncomfortable with the imam's words. But one thing is for sure: The former Democratic vice presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro knows that in referring to "the war" the imam was not talking about Darfur. In referring to "oppression and occupation" he was either talking about America, Israel or both.

The upshot of this is that Democrats were joined in prayer with a Muslim spiritual leader who at the very least sympathizes with the terrorist group "Hezbollah," who was characterizing the United States or its ally, Israel, or both, as an oppressor and occupier, and who, evidently, was affirming the Muslims' exclusive truth claims. Was the imam not — right in front of the Democrats' noses — rooting for our enemies?

Were Democrats not bothered upon realizing they had given this imam a platform to seek guidance from Allah to follow "the path of the people you bless, not the path of the people you doom?" Any guesses as to which groups are blessed and which are doomed under this formulation?

Is this the type of spiritual message with which Democrats want to identify?

Can you imagine what kind of hell there would be to pay if a Christian pastor were invited to a Republican meeting and delivered a similarly pointed spiritual and political prayer? We'd hear about it for weeks.

To find out more about David Limbaugh, please visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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DAVID
LIMBAUGH

ADDRESSES

• GEORGE W. BUSH

President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• JOHN CORNYN

U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

U.S. Representative

19th Cong. District

1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

• RICK PERRY

Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• JOE HEFLIN

State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0604

• KEL SELIGER

State Senator

401 Austin, Suite 101
Big Spring, 79720
(432) 268-9909

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GLORIA McDONALD —

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JOANN KNOX — Home: 816-
9083; Work (BSISD): 264-
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COMMISSIONERS

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— Home and Office: 264-
2202.

EMMA BROWN — Home:
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BILL CROOKER — Home:
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GARY SIMER — Home: 263-
0260.

Edwards gets blogged down

Some of John Edwards' helpers have been busy, busy, busy insulting about 44 percent of the American electorate. The Democratic presidential candidate should have fired the two bloggers who trashed Christian conservatives in general and Catholics in particular, but didn't. Democrats have to get real tough with these people.

The former senator from North Carolina understandably wants a big presence on the blogs. They attract lots of young people who don't subscribe to Newsweek but would probably vote for Democrats, if they voted. So it seems good strategy to throw raucous online parties for this often politically disengaged group. The wise candidate will come as a guest, however, not the host.

Edwards seemed too smart to let loose-cannon bloggers muck up his campaign. But he hired as his Netroots coordinator Melissa McEwan, who thought it a good idea to tar Christian conservatives as "Christofascists" on her personal blog, Shakespeare's Sister. Another blogger on the payroll, Amanda Marcotte, wrote on the Pandagon Website that the Catholic Church opposed birth control "to force women to bear more tithing Catholics."

The Edwards campaign should have put McEwan and Marcotte on the next bus home. Instead, it

issued an apology on their behalf and told them to soldier on. Perhaps Edwards feared dissing the youthful blogosphere community, which prides itself on uncensored discourse. Perhaps he figured that his ability to deliver a populist message in a Southern accent would cancel any offense. Still.

And Republicans have their blogging big mouths. John McCain's campaign employs Patrick J. Hynes, who insists on declaring that the United States is a "Christian nation." After the Arizona senator hired him, Hynes put a picture of Rep. Henry Waxman, Democrat of California, on his Website and asked readers to provide nicknames. Several responded with anti-Semitic slurs, which Hynes dutifully let pass.

To run a netroots campaign is to slog into a politically dangerous place. Many online communities are sealed worlds in which everyone uses the same expletives and shares the same radical thoughts. Some blogmasters may think that their large number of hits represents like-minded followers, when it's just tourists gawking at an outrageous show.

Like members of any self-contained group, the Website activists may start thinking they're the norm. In the past, their crazy talk would have stayed in the drunken confines of late-night partying. Now it can be examined by anyone with an Internet connection.

(There's also a lot of double-agentry going on. Bloggers intending harm sometimes pose as allies.

They say awful things that sound supportive but actually make enemies in the outside world. So-called journalists find this stuff and quote it as representative of a politician's followers.)

Ned Lamont was very much a political moderate, but his message couldn't break free of the lefty bloggers who helped launch his campaign. Shortly after his stunning Connecticut primary victory over the Democratic incumbent, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Lamont ran ads that prominently showcased Markos Moulitsas, founder of DailyKos.

I asked Lamont whether he would put distance between himself and the leftist blogs, and he responded: "I think they're a great neighborhood to be in. It's like an enormous bulletin board." He also conceded that he was new to the blogosphere culture.

Lamont wasn't even paying Moulitsas, yet the Lieberman campaign managed to link him to the profane language and radical politics of DailyKos. That may partly account for Lamont's failure to pick up enough independent votes to win.

Once a campaign starts stroking checks to bloggers, they're sharing a bed. So while the blogs remain great hunting grounds for Democratic voters, candidates must choose their online partners with great care.

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FROMA
HARROP

Northern Harriers are quick to determine their prey

"Ma'am," the caller began, "it's a big bird. Hawk, most likely. But its face resembles an owl." He had found it on the grounds north of the maintenance building. Since the bird could only elevate one to two feet above the ground, and its forward movement was limited, he sensed something was wrong. Knowing a coyote or fox could easily come on the hospital grounds during the night, the man decided the bird deserved more than being a meal. He captured the raptor by covering it with his coat.



BEBE McCASLAND

When we entered the state hospital grounds, it was easy to see the attraction for birds of prey. To the north and west were open fields with mesquites and grasses. Rabbits, mice and rats could easily hide in the dense growth. Their sojourns on to the campus were a dual blessing. Owls would feast at night, and by day, hawks could easily capture any rodents wandering the grounds.

Meeting us at the entrance to the shop, the man added to his story of the bird.

"Didn't realize it, but that hawk was greasy. My coat's a mess."

As he led us into the building, we could see the bird perched on top of some equipment. It seemed quite at ease in watching the men work.

Since we knew the bird could not fly, its capture was a matter of timing. Weakened from its inability to hunt, the raptor allowed me to approach it. As I eased my hand within a few inches of its legs, the bird remained calm. Quickly, with my index finger going between its legs, thumb and middle finger tightening around them on the outside, I had the bird in my grasp.

"Well, what is it?"



With a few wing strokes, the gliding flight of a northern harrier begins. Quick to detect its prey, the bird flies low over the ground and can stop suddenly to drop and catch small mammals.

Courtesy photo

asked the man. To us, it would always be called a marsh hawk. However, after decades of being called such, the species was referred to as a northern harrier. Hunting in marshes and wetlands, these birds of prey used prairies and open grasslands during migration, and as a winter home, to supply their diet of rodents, snakes, insects and small birds. Harrier, which means hunter, was certainly an appropriate name.

As I held the raptor, the men could see the white rump band where the body ends and tail begins. Even in flight, this is an identifying mark. Characteristics of the slender bird are its long tail, legs and wings. With its ability to hover for minutes and glide while hunting, it is the "ultimate mouse trap."

With the harrier glancing at everyone with its yellow eyes, I was asked, "Why does it kinda look like an owl?" As I pointed to the facial feathers that form an owl-like disc near the eyes, I explained that also like an owl is its ability to hear. Large ear openings beneath the feathers

enable the bird to detect mice rustling and squeaking in thick grasses.

Extending each wing, I readily felt the "grease" the man had described. "By the way, this is not grease on the bird. It's oil," was my next comment. Then came a familiar question, "Is it male or female?" "She is brown on top, while a male would be a pale or slate gray," I answered. "You have rescued quite a lady."

Once home, I called the game warden and asked him to search a one to two mile radius of the hospital. Since the bird could not fly, it would have had to walk to where it was found. Later that day, the phone rang. "Eight tenths of a mile away there's an uncovered pit. From your description of how light colored the oil is, that coincides with the blow-out the crew had."

Dust and grit had readily stuck to the oil as the bird traveled through acres of grasses. The wildlife center in Lubbock was notified, and greeted our charge with several baths. The volunteers were especial-

ly careful because their initial examination of the bird's wings found a hairline fracture.

With time, the northern harrier's bone would knit and strengthen. The future held a return to the open fields of West Texas. It would once again fly back and forth across ranch land and barren cotton fields as if tracing a grid in its mind. To compensate the harrier for its captivity, and the indignity of cleaning its feathers, another volunteer placed two rats in its presence. They were readily accepted.

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

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Teenage gunman kills 5, self, in Utah shopping mall

By JENNIFER DOBNER
Associated Press Writer
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A historic mall's winding hallways became a shooting gallery for an 18-year-old gunman in a trench coat who fired a shotgun randomly at customers, killing five and wounding four before being killed by police, authorities and witnesses said.

The shooter, whose name was not released, also was armed with a handgun and had several rounds of ammunition, Salt Lake City police Detective Robin Snyder said early Tuesday. No motive has yet been determined, she said.

For hours after Monday evening's rampage at the Trolley Square shopping mall, police searched stores for scared, shocked shoppers and employees who were hunkered down awaiting a safe escort.

Marie Smith, 23, a Bath & Body Works manager, saw the gunman through the store window. She watched as he raised his gun and fired at a young woman approaching him from behind.

"His expression stayed totally calm. He didn't seem upset, or like he was on a rampage," said Smith, who crawled to safety in an employee restroom to hide with others. She said the gunman looked like "an average Joe."

Killed were two 28-year-

old women, a 52-year-old man, a 24-year-old man and a 15-year-old girl, Snyder said. Four people were hospitalized — a man and a woman in critical condition and two men in serious condition, Snyder said.

Matt Lund was visiting his wife, Barbara, manager of the Secret Garden children's clothing store,

when he heard the first shots. The couple and three others hid in a storage room for about 40 minutes, isolated but still able to hear the violence.

"We heard them say, 'Police! Drop your weapon!' Then we heard shotgun fire. Then there was a barrage of gunfire," said Lund, 44. "It was hard to believe."

They say officers treated everyone like suspects — ordering those hiding in storerooms, bathrooms or under stairwells, to lie on the floor with their hands on their heads until police were sure no one posed a threat.

On the way out, Lund said, he saw a woman's body face-down at the entrance to Pottery Barn

Kids and a man's body on the floor in the mall's east-west corridor. "There were a lot of blown-out store windows and shotgun shell casings all over the floor," Lund said. "It was quite surreal."

The victims were found throughout the 239,000-square-foot shopping mall.

Outside, streets were

blocked as police swarmed the four-block scene. Dozens of people lingered on the sidewalk, many wrapped in blankets, as they talked about what they had seen inside.

The two-story mall, southeast of downtown, is a refurbished trolley barn built in 1908, with a series of winding hallways.

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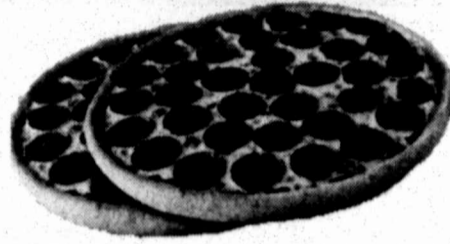
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IN BRIEF



San Diego Chargers fire head coach

San Diego coach Marty Schottenheimer was fired in a shocking move by team president Dean Spanos, who cited a "dysfunctional situation" between the coach and general manager A.J. Smith. Spanos said the exodus of assistant coaches — the two coordinators became NFL head coaches and two assistants became coordinators — contributed to a difficult situation that resulted in the coach being fired. Schottenheimer is due more than \$3 million.

Longhorns DB collects trophy

At the start of the season, Texas cornerback Aaron Ross wasn't on a watch list of 33 candidates to be named college football's best defensive back. "I was able to just go out there and play. I didn't have to live up to any expectations, knowing that I wasn't on the list from the beginning," Ross said after a luncheon to honor him. "It wasn't stressful at all. I was able to showcase my abilities."

Oklahoma Sooners address violations

Oklahoma disclosed Monday that it had received its notice of allegations from the NCAA and is scheduled to appear before the NCAA's Committee on Infractions on April 14 in Indianapolis.

See OU, Page 2B

Hawks fundraiser for rodeo is set

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, the Howard College Rodeo team will conduct a Cow Pattle Bingo fundraiser. The event will be held at 1:30 p.m. on the east grounds of the Student Union Building and all squares are \$ 10. Tickets are now available. For more information contact Coach Greg Kernick at 816-9477.

Season ends early for Bulldogettes

MIKE GRIMES
Sports Editor

CLYDE — Coahoma head coach Chris Sumrall was not prepared for the early exit from the basketball playoffs that Bulldogettes endured Monday night.

Standing outside of the locker room, trying to accept accolades for bringing a young team to the postseason, he tried to put a positive spin on the 46-39 loss to the Early Lady Longhorns.

"I thought Laci (Sterling) played exceptionally well tonight," Sumrall said. "She hit her free throws and played a lot of heart. They all did and that just makes this tough."

The Bulldogettes entered the game against the Lady 'Horns and traded baskets for the first eight minutes of action. When the horn sounded to end the first quarter the Bulldogettes held a 1-point advantage, 9-8.

It was clear that the two teams were evenly matched, but it was also obvious that despite the game being held at a neutral site, the Lady 'Horns had a definite advantage from the crowd.

Clyde officials said they believed there was a 5-to-1 fan advantage in favor of Early.

In the second quarter Coahoma pulled out to its biggest lead of the game, 5 points, when Sterling hit consecutive free throws. That would not be enough though, as the Early mounted a quick comeback behind freshman standout, Tresta Donahoo.

Donahoo led the Lady Longhorns with 10 points and when her team needed her most — she drilled 3-pointers to keep the Bulldogettes from rallying.

At the half the score was 27-22,



Berkley Iden of Coahoma makes a shot in the playoff game against Early Monday night. The Coahoma Bulldogettes were defeated by Early, 46-39. The Bulldogettes finished the season 23-10 and are returning all five starters next season.

Lady 'Horns.

"They were strong in the post and they just really outplayed us tonight," explained a disappointed Sterling.

Sterling led the Bulldogettes with a game-high 19 points and 9 rebounds.

With 6:21 to play in the third quarter the Lady Longhorns

opened up an 11-point lead and it appeared that the game would

See COAHOMA, Page 2B

Howard women drop another one at the Coliseum

ERIC RODEWALD

Special to the Herald

The Howard College women's basketball team faltered Monday night at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, falling 52-to-46 at the hands of Frank Phillips College.

With the win, FPC virtually wrapped up the fourth and final Region V tournament spot for the Western Junior College

Athletic Conference with a 6-4 conference record. The Hawks fell to 2-8 in conference play.

The Hawks led 21-13 with 7:15 remaining in the first half and maintained a 24-17 lead with four minutes until intermission. However, FPC made run heading into the locker room, cutting Howard's biggest lead of nine points down to a 31-27 halftime advantage.

Howard was outscored 16-to-6 in the first eight minutes of the second half, falling behind 43-37. Both offenses were non-existent for nearly six minutes with the exception of a Kim Gilyard free throw, leaving Howard trailing 43-38 with 6:45 to play. FPC went up 47-40, but the Hawks made one final run, capped by a Kandace Griffin 3-pointer with 31 seconds to play,

cutting the FPC lead to three, 49-46. That's as close as the Hawks would get as FPC hit three-of-four free throws to clinch the six-point victory.

Leading the Hawks in scoring was Griffin with 20 points, including four 3-pointers.

Candace Lambert was the only other Howard player in double figures with 10 points. Also scoring for the Hawks were:

Laryssa Hise, four points; Jessica Nez, three; Gilyard, three; Nicole Linen, two; Monica Jones, two; and Carole Bapoo, two. Jones led the Hawks with nine rebounds, while Bapoo and Linen pulled down seven rebounds apiece.

Howard (12-14, 2-8) hits the road Thursday, playing Western Texas College (14-11, 2-7) at 5:50 p.m. in Snyder.



Texas' head basketball coach Rick Barnes directs his team during the Longhorns victory earlier this season. Monday night the 'Horns upset OSU 83-54 on ESPN. In the first meeting this season the Cowboys defeated Texas in triple overtime.

Longhorns whip No. 18 Oklahoma State by 29 points

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — Defense and Kevin Durant. Put the two together and good things happen for the Texas Longhorns.

Durant scored 21 points and Texas turned in its best defensive effort of the season Monday night for an 83-54 win over No. 18 Oklahoma State.

"We're going to be dangerous," Durant said. "We just have to keep it up."

The Longhorns, whose four freshman starters looked bewildered at times in two straight losses and a tough win over Iowa State, finally put it all together for their second victory over a ranked opponent.

All five starters scored in double figures as the Longhorns shot 68 percent in the second half. Defensively, they held the Cowboys to 37 percent shooting and forced 16 turnovers that led to 22 points.

"Coach (Rick Barnes) told us to attack them," said Longhorns guard D.J. Augustin, who scored 19 points after scoring 31 against Iowa State. "They can't run with us."

A.J. Abrams broke out of a shooting slump to score 17 for the Longhorns (18-7, 8-3 Big 12) who will finish no worse than .500 in conference play.

For Oklahoma State (19-6, 5-5), the loss was the third in four games and kept the Cowboys winless on the road in the Big 12. Mario Boggan scored 16 to lead the Cowboys.

In the teams' first matchup last month, the Cowboys won a 105-103 thriller in triple overtime. They barely scored half as many points

Monday night and never held the lead.

Durant and Boggan, who each scored 37 points in the first meeting, found it much tougher going in the rematch. Covered by the Cowboy's Marcus Dove, who fouled out of the first game, Durant didn't score in the first 11 minutes and had just five points at halftime.

Then he and Abrams hit 3-pointers in a 10-3 Texas run that opened up a 31-24 Longhorns lead at halftime.

"We've never counted on Kevin to score every point," Barnes said. "We are a balanced team."

Still, Durant is the league's leading scorer and the Longhorns opened up a big lead when he started hitting shots.

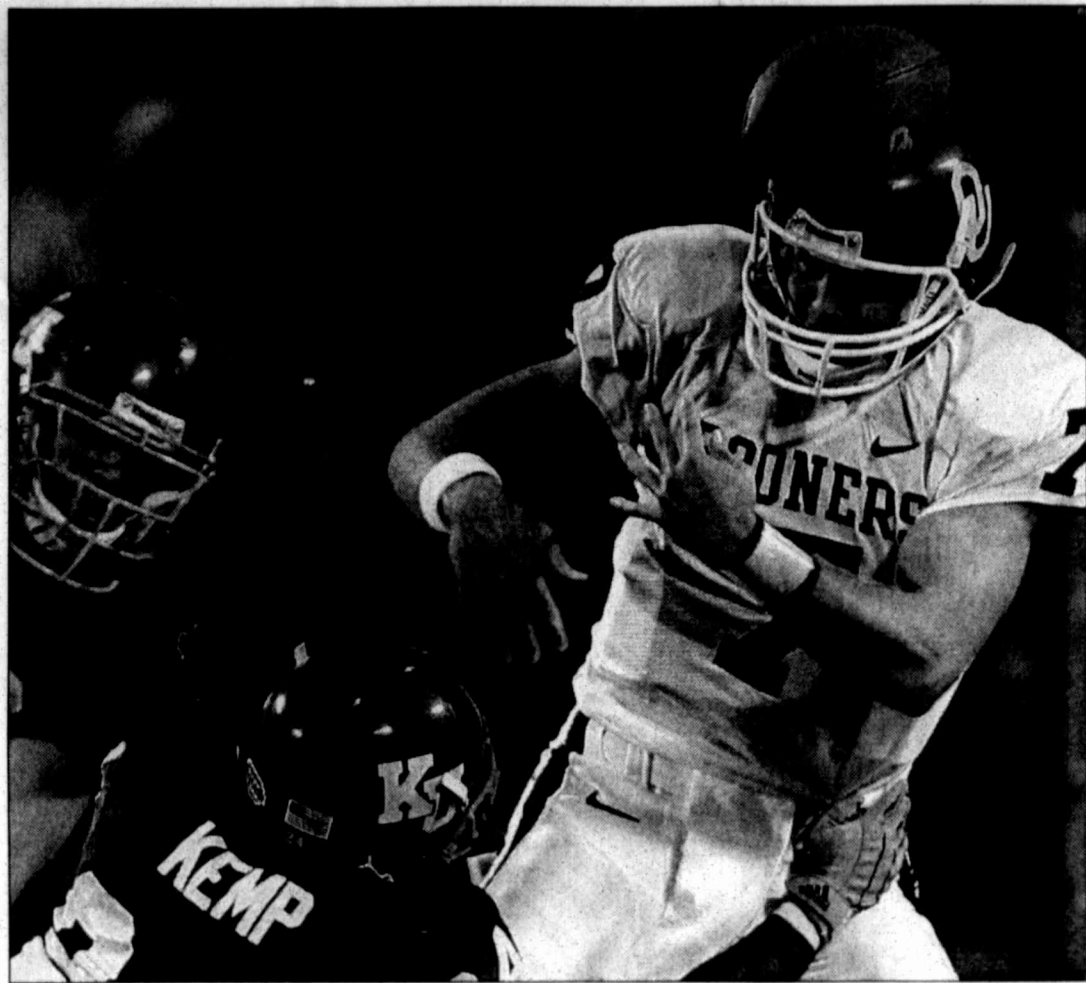
"My teammates did a great job picking me up," Durant said. "It was a team effort."

Abrams hit two more 3-pointers and Durant started a fast break with a steal, then finished a 3-point play as the Longhorns opened up a 53-39 lead with just under 12 minutes to play.

Durant made up for early shooting struggles in other ways, using his long, skinny arms to snare 12 rebounds and poke the ball away from Oklahoma State guards. He hit a 3-pointer, then followed it with another tough shot and free throw to put Texas up 59-44.

"I thought Marcus did a great job in the first half and didn't let him close to the basket," Oklahoma State Sean Sutton said. "The second half, he got going. That's why he's the best player in college basketball. He's got a gift to score points."

OU failed to monitor employment of athletes, NCAA says



Former Oklahoma quarterback Rhett Bomar (7) fumbles the ball as Kansas defensive man delivers the big hit. Bomar is currently enrolled at Sam Houston State after being dismissed from the Oklahoma football team for accepting illegal payments from a car dealership.

By JEFF LATZKE
AP Sports Writer

NORMAN, Okla. — The NCAA alleges Oklahoma failed to adequately monitor the employment of several athletes, including some football players who worked during the academic year.

The NCAA's findings came in an investigation after Oklahoma self-reported violations and dismissed starting quarterback Rhett Bomar and offensive lineman J.D. Quinn in August for taking excess pay from a Norman car dealership where they worked.

Oklahoma disclosed Monday that it had received its notice of allegations from the NCAA and is scheduled to appear before the NCAA's Committee on Infractions on April 14 in Indianapolis.

The NCAA asked athletic director Joe Castiglione and football coach Bob Stoops to attend the meeting, along with compliance officials, general counsel Joseph

Harroz and director of football operations Merv Johnson.

Oklahoma also appeared before the committee last April following an investigation into hundreds of improper recruiting phone calls by former basketball coach Kelvin Sampson's staff.

"We are eager to move forward toward the conclusion of this matter," Castiglione said in a statement.

In its notice, the NCAA claims Oklahoma didn't follow its own guidelines when it "did not collect gross earning statements for the 12 football student-athletes who notified the institution of their employment at Big Red

during the 2005 summer vacation period ... and as a result the institution did not detect the violations" it self-reported.

Oklahoma claims it did not detect the football players' employment because the players did not complete required forms. The university also claims it was transitioning duties at a time when the NCAA alleges that Oklahoma failed to collect some of its monitoring forms in a timely manner.

The NCAA points out that the failure to monitor occurred "despite receiving information that at least one student-athlete worked at Big Red during the academic year."

COAHOMA

Continued from 1B

turn into a route. Not hardly.

In a span of 4 minutes the Bulldogettes showed the heart and character that has made Coahoma students, teachers and parents proud.

After a 3-pointer by Janice Gonzales, the shooting guard stole the inbound pass and hit a reverse lay-up to cut into the deficit. Another basket by Christie Rich and the lead was down to 4 points.

"We did a really good job of fighting back and trying to get out of here with a win," Sumrall added. "We're a young team and we have ten of our twelve players returning next season, but I really wanted to make a

little run in the playoffs before we started thinking about next season. It just wasn't in the cards tonight."

In the fourth and final quarter of the season, the Bulldogettes managed to bring the score to 43-39 after another basket by Gonzales, but it was not meant to be as the Lady 'Horns took care of the ball in the final minutes and escaped with a 46-39 win.

Gonzales and Rich finished the game with 8 and

6 points.

"We all gave our very best tonight," Sterling said, as she fought to hold back her emotions. "Early just played a great game. I am proud to be on this team and I am proud of our season. We wouldn't be here without Coach Sumrall and come tomorrow — I'll start thinking about next season."

The Coahoma Bulldogettes finished the season 23-10.

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Bedtime Stories

HEY EWE

Ellie Ewe was a very pretty sheep. Did you know that a girl sheep is called a Ewe? What do you call a boy sheep? Did you say, "A boy sheep is called a Ram?" I thought you did. There was a boy sheep who lived in the same pasture. His name was Ramsey Ram. All of his friends called him Ram Ram. So, in this story we have two sheep, Ellie Ewe and Ram Ram. Are you laughing at their names? What do you call them when you have only one sheep to talk about? One sheep is also called a sheep. You can laugh at that,



too. Ellie Ewe had a problem. Each year, the farmer who took very good care of Ellie and Ramsey would call them to the barn. Then he would give both of them a haircut. Are you laughing again? Okay, he would shear them instead. Do you know what it means when a sheep is sheared? It means that the farmer would cut off most of their hair. They like for us to call it wool. We like to make clothes from it. Have you ever worn a wool sweater? They are nice and cozy and warm, aren't they?

Ellie did not like being sheared because then she had no wool to keep herself warm. She always felt very cold after being sheared. Her wool would grow right back, but in the meantime, she was cold! It was time for her haircut, I mean shearing, again. Ellie had awakened that morning feeling very warm because of all her wool. The farmer came out to the barn, shears in hand, and called out to Ellie first. "Hey Ewe," he cried. Ellie thought at first that the farmer was calling her to give her a nice treat for being such a good sheep all year. But when she saw the shears in his hands, she ran and hid. The barn or



pasture would have been a very good place to hide except the farmer knew all of the hiding places, too! He soon found her. Off came the wool again. Poor Ellie Ewe. She would be cold again until her wool grew back. Ramsey was next. The farmer found him, too. Off came his wool. He too, would be cold until his wool grew back. The farmer gathered up all of the new wool and started toward his house with his new bundle that would keep everyone warm,

except Ellie and Ramsey. But he turned around when he heard Ellie saying, "Baa, Baaaaaa." He knew that this was not the usual sounds Ellie made, but instead, it sounded like crying sounds. "What is wrong, Ellie," he asked, "It sounds as if you are very unhappy." Ellie started shivering from being so cold. The farmer saw her shivering and knew right away what was wrong. "You and Ram have always been such good sheep," he said, "I think I know how I can help you." Off he went into his home. When he came back to the barn, he found both Ellie and Ram, huddled together, trying to get warm. He had some funny looking things in his hands. One of the

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funny looking things the farmer plugged into a wall. It soon started glowing, and throwing off some very warm, welcome heat. Then, he put a blanket over Ellie. He did the same for Ram. The blankets were made of wool. They were very warm. Neither Ellie Ewe nor Ramsey Ram ever got cold again. They were so happy that they couldn't wait for their next haircut. The farmer was happy, too. Ellie Ewe said to tell you, "Baa, Baa." In sheep talk, that means, "Good Night."

Wacky Facts

■ The first president to speak from the White House on TV was Harry S. Truman, in 1947.
■ In 1944, Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first president to fly in an airplane while in office. His plane was called "Sacred Cow."
— World Almanac for Kids

KID NEWS

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Chatter Box

"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand."
— Harry S. Truman, on brainyquote.com



In The News



Michelle Kwan carries the American flag during a victory lap after winning the 2003 World Figure Skating Championships.

Skater represents the U.S. off the ice

Figure skater Michelle Kwan is used to earning high marks for her jumps and spins. In January, while visiting schools in China, she received glowing reviews for her work as a diplomat.

"She pretty, she's very outgoing and very nice for a person who is such a star," said Zhang Min, a student at Renmin University high school in Beijing.

Last November, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice appointed Kwan America's first "Public Diplomacy Envoy." Her job is to try to improve the way people in other countries view the United States. Kwan, a five-time world champion and Olympic silver and bronze medal winner, believes 12 years of international competitions prepared her well for the position.

Her only misstep occurred outside the school in Renmin, where she slipped and almost fell. "That's typical of me," she said. "Off the ice, I'm the biggest klutz."

TIME FOR KIDS



DEAN RUTZ/MCT

— Nelida Gonzalez Cutler

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Foster families

Families today come in all shapes and sizes. Many kids live with both parents. Many other kids live with either just Mom or just Dad. Some kids might go back and forth between their parents' houses. Others might live with a grandparent or another relative, or they might be a part of a foster family. Keep reading to get all the facts about foster parents and foster families.

WHO ARE FOSTER PARENTS?

The word "foster" means to help someone (or something) grow and develop. It also means to take care of someone's needs. Foster parents are people who provide a safe place for kids to be cared for by taking them into their homes.

Not just any adult can be a foster parent, though. It takes someone very special to do this job. A foster parent needs many qualities like patience, firmness and a lot of love. Foster parents are also given special training to help them understand and work with the kids who come to live with them.

WHY DO KIDS LIVE WITH FOSTER FAMILIES?

Sometimes a family has so many problems that it's not wise or safe for the children to stay with their parents. When this happens, people who work for the state government have to step in to look out for the kids. These people might decide that the children need to be in foster care for a while, until it's OK to go back to their parents.

Most often, a parent's problems are caused by drugs or alcohol. Other times, a parent may be very sick, in jail or have some other trouble. The parents may need so much help with their own problems that they aren't able to focus on what the kids need, like good food to eat, clean clothes to wear and supplies for school. Sadly, kids may be abused or neglected as a result of the pressures the parents are under.

The idea behind foster care is kind of like a time-out for parents and kids. While the parents are getting help for their problems, the kids are living with people who can properly care for them. The goal is to get the family back together again, but only if the children will be safe and taken care of.

HOW DO KIDS FEEL IN FOSTER CARE?

Even when children have been abused or neglected, it can be hard for them to leave their parents. Family ties are very strong. And to make things more difficult, if a kid has sisters and brothers, they may have to be split up. Not many foster families are able to take in a whole group of kids at one time.

So right away, going to live with a new family can be difficult. The foster parents have to act like Mom and Dad but they aren't the kid's actual parents. There may be other children in the family, but they're not the kid's actual brothers and sisters. And many times, kids live in more than one foster home. That

means they may have another family to adjust to later on.

Living with a foster family may mean going to a new school. This can be tough for anyone, but if a kid in foster care is dealing with a new home life too, it's even harder. New classmates, teachers, rules — so many things can be different all at once!

It's no wonder, then, that kids in foster care have to deal with a lot of emotions. They can feel happy and secure when they're in a loving foster family, but also sad and worried about their birth parents. They might feel afraid, wondering what will happen next, or angry about the whole situation. All this can make for a lot of stress.

To help kids in foster care adjust, every child is assigned a social worker. This person is sometimes also called a caseworker. His or her job is to make up a plan for each child. The plan describes what kind of help the family needs so that they can be together again. The social worker checks on how everyone is doing, and arranges visits between brothers, sisters and parents.

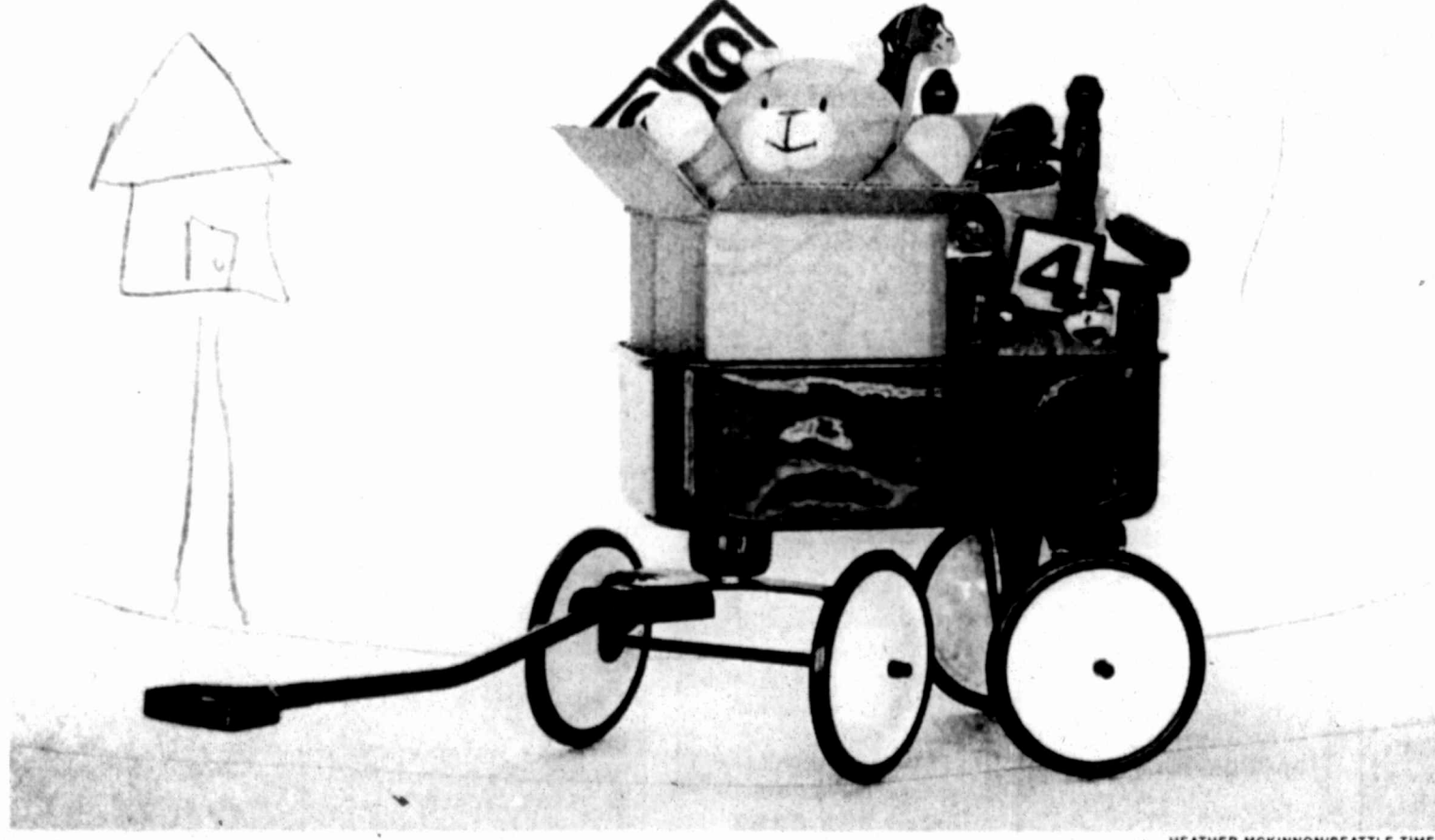
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The social workers, the courts and other state agencies must decide what is best for the child. They look at how well the parents are doing at solving their own problems, and whether it's safe for the kids to return home. They also pay attention to any problems there might be in the foster home. Even foster parents aren't perfect, and that's why caseworkers encourage kids in foster care to tell them if anything is making them uncomfortable.

Most kids in foster care do return to their birth families sooner or later. But there are other things that can happen, too. The state might decide that having the kids live with relatives is the best choice. Sometimes, it's better to have the kids stay in foster care a while longer. This might mean remaining with the foster parents or moving to a group home for a longer stay.

Finally, some kids in foster care are adopted. Adoption is a legal process that makes a child a permanent part of a family, just as if he or she were born into it. The people who adopt a child become the new parents. Kids in foster care might be adopted by their foster parents. Other times, a different family or even a single adult will adopt a child. But whatever decision is made, someone will be there to take care of the kids.

— KidsHealth.org

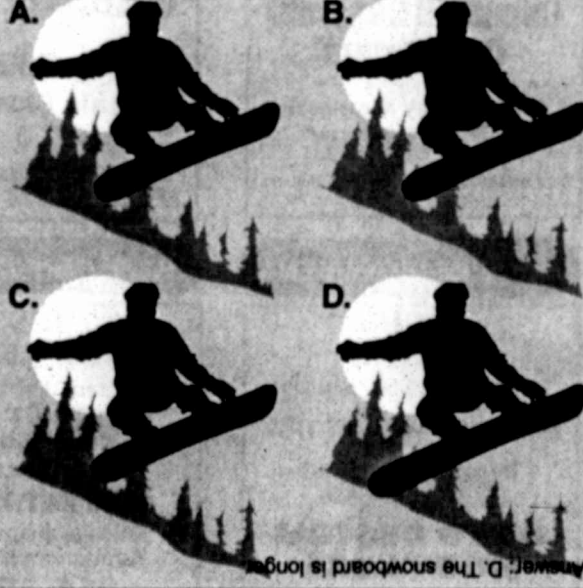


HEATHER MCKINNON/SEATTLE TIMES

Puzzle Play

Snowboard puzzler

One of these pictures is a little different from the others. Can you find the oddball?



MARTY WESTMAN/MCT

Reading Rack

Colonial creations

Take an educational yet fun approach to history, add simple directions for homemade crafts and toys, and what do you get? "Great Colonial American Projects You Can Build Yourself!" by Kris Bordessa (Nomad Press, \$15).

While you read about daily life in Colonial times, you can also experience it (practically first-hand) by making johnnycakes, clay marbles and even a straw tick (an old-fashioned mattress).
— FamilyFun magazine



Help!

She's addicted to the Internet

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: I'm on the Internet all the time. I've noticed a big change in my grades at school. Should I get rid of my instant messaging and fun on the computer for good? — Cyber Freak

Computers are fun, but it's easy to lose track of how much time you're spending online. Have you tried setting limits on your computer time? Make rules for yourself, such as no computer time until after homework is done, and only have an hour of computer time on week-nights. Set a timer so you know when time's up. If you find you're cheating on your rules, talk to your parents. It might be easier to avoid the computer altogether until your grades improve.

DEAR AMERICAN GIRL: When I come home from school, I charge right to the TV. Sometimes I even feel hypnotized by it. What should I do? — TV Queen

Once you start watching TV, it's really hard to stop. The trick is to not turn it on in the first place. To break your habit, do something else to relax right after school. Play with your pet, put on some music, talk to a friend, read a magazine or just hang out in your room for a while. Try a different idea every day. It's OK to watch a little bit of TV, but you just might find you're having more fun without it. Visit americangirl.com to get or give advice.

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Laugh Lines

Why did George Washington have trouble sleeping? Because he couldn't lie!

How did George Washington speak to his army? In general terms!

What do you call George Washington's false teeth? Presidentures!

Teacher: John, do you know Lincoln's Gettysburg Address?
Student: No, Miss Frump. I thought he lived in Washington!

— JOKES.NET

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A USER'S GUIDE TO THE BIG SPRING HERALD

Each day. The *Big Spring Herald* receives calls from readers - just like you - who have important questions about how the newspaper works and the services it offers. For your information and convenience, we have compiled this page of answers to readers' most frequently asked questions.

Save this page for future reference

HOW TO

REPORT THE SCORE

You can report your sports results between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 263-7331, faxing 264-7205 or drop your results at the *Big Spring Herald* office at 710 Scurry, Big Spring.

HOW TO

SUBMIT NEWS INFORMATION

To announce activities or events, mail or bring by the office a typed news release or fact sheet to Editor John Moseley as far in advance as possible. The release should include the who, what, why, when, and where of the event, and the name and telephone number of a contact person. If you have a timely news item, call John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

LOCATE A SPECIFIC STORY

If you are unable to locate an article, call 263-7331, or come by the *Big Spring Herald* at 710 Scurry, and we will try to assist you. Remember, we can only provide information that appeared in the *Big Spring Herald*.

HOW

OBITUARIES ARE HANDLED

Obituaries, whether paid or non-paid, are provided to the *Big Spring Herald* by funeral homes. Non-paid obits follow a standard form, while paid obits can include virtually anything the deceased's family requests. Any questions should be directed to the Editor John Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230.

HOW TO

GET DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME

Call our office at 263-7335 or come by 710 Scurry. Our subscription rate is \$93.42 per year or \$8.65 per month.

HOW TO

OBTAIN BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the *Big Spring Herald* are kept on file for one year and may be purchased during regular business hours. However, some back issues sell out quickly and we cannot guarantee that any given issue will be available. You may also check with the Howard County Library reference department at 264-2262.

HOW TO

SUBMIT MARRIAGE, ENGAGEMENT OR BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit engagement, wedding, or birth announcements come by our office at 710 Scurry and pick up a form. You may also download a form from our website at www.bigspringherald.com. If you have questions regarding the guidelines for these announcements, discuss them at 263-7331, ext. 236.

HOW TO

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 or come by 710 Scurry. Ads can be placed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HOW TO

PLACE A DISPLAY AD

Phone our office at 263-7331 and ask for a retail advertising sales representative or visit our office at 710 Scurry. Telephone lines are open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Submit your information
by fax at 432-264-7205
Call us at 432-263-7331
Come visit us at
710 Scurry Street
www.bigspringherald.com

TUESDAY

Table with 18 columns representing different TV channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 12 rows representing different time slots (6:30 AM to 12:30 AM) with program listings.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU DON'T HAVTA WORRY ABOUT SHARIN' IT." "I ALREADY ATE MY HALF."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"How come Disney made a movie about cars, but hasn't made one about trikes?"

HAGAR



I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR HUSBAND LATELY, MRS. SVENSON! THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S BEEN FORCED TO WORK THREE DIFFERENT JOBS! IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT HAS HE FALLEN BEHIND IN HIS HOUSE PAYMENTS OR IS HE ILL? NO, HE BOUGHT A LARGER BOAT.

BLONDIE



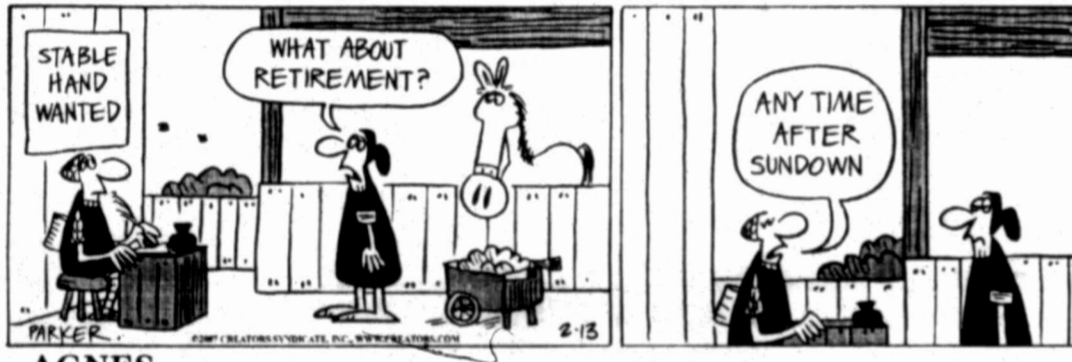
BRRR, IT'S FREEZING! I NEED A BOWL OF LOU'S EXTRA-HOT CHILI! HERE, THIS ICE CREAM WILL COOL YOU DOWN AFTER ALL THAT HOT CHILI YOU ATE. BRRR, THAT DARN ICE CREAM PUT ME RIGHT BACK TO SQUARE ONE!

BC



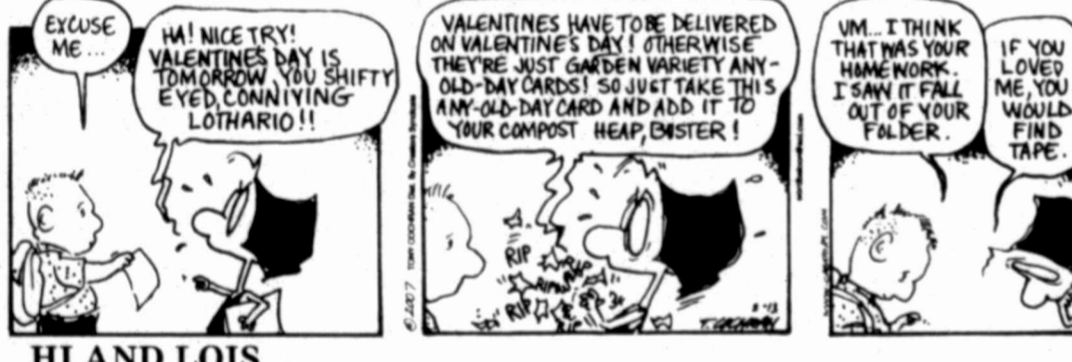
WHO INVENTED THE CONCEPT OF THE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET DINNERS? YES, JOHNNY? HEIMLICH MANEUVER...

WIZARD OF ID



STABLE HAND WANTED. WHAT ABOUT RETIREMENT? ANY TIME AFTER SUNDOWN.

AGNES



EXCUSE ME... HA! NICE TRY! VALENTINE'S DAY IS TOMORROW, YOU SHIFTY EYED, CONNING, LOATHARIO!! VALENTINES HAVE TO BE DELIVERED ON VALENTINE'S DAY! OTHERWISE THEY'RE JUST GARDEN VARIETY ANY-OLD-DAY CARDS! SO JUST TAKE THIS ANY-OLD-DAY CARD AND ADD IT TO YOUR COMPOST HEAP, BUSTER! UM... I THINK THAT WAS YOUR HOMEWORK. I SAW IT FALL OUT OF YOUR FOLDER. IF YOU LOVED ME, YOU WOULD FIND TAPE.

HI AND LOIS



IT'S A NEW SUPERHERO I INVENTED. "THE PROCRASTINATOR" PUTS OFF SAVING THE PLANET FOR ANOTHER DAY.

THE OTHER COAST



Y'KNOW, DONNA, I'M THINKING OF DRAWING UP A LIVING WILL- INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT TO DO IF I FALL INTO A VEGETATIVE STATE, UNABLE TO FUNCTION AS A NORMAL HUMAN BEING. YOU'RE ASSUMING I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE? I CAN ONLY HOPE SARCASM HAS BEEN OUTLAWED IN THE HEREAFTER.

SNUFFY SMITH



HOT DOG, JAMEY!! THIS IS JEST TH' BOOK WE'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FER!! BODACIOUS!! NOW WE CAN FIGGER OUT GALS!!

BETLE BAILEY



WELL, I'M OFF TO BATTLE. "THOSE WHO LIVE BY THE SWORD, DIE BY THE SWORD." THAT'S WHY WE USE GUNS!

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 13, the 44th day of 2007. There are 321 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 13, 1935, a jury in Flemington, N.J., found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of the son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.) On this date: In 1542, the fifth wife of England's King Henry VIII, Catherine Howard, was executed for adultery. In 1795, the University of North Carolina became the first U.S. state university to admit students with the arrival of Hinton James, who was the only student on campus for two weeks. In 1920, the League of Nations recognized the perpetual neutrality of Switzerland. In 1945, during World War

II, the Soviets captured Budapest, Hungary, from the Germans. In 1945, Allied planes began bombing the German city of Dresden. In 1960, France exploded its first atomic bomb, in the Sahara Desert. In 1980, opening ceremonies were held in Lake Placid, N.Y., for the 13th Winter Olympics. In 1984, Konstantin Chernenko was chosen to be general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, succeeding the late Yuri Andropov. In 1988, the 15th winter Olympics opened in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Today's Birthdays: Former test pilot Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager is 84. Actress Kim Novak is 74. Actor George Segal is 73. Actor Bo Svenson is 66. Actress Carol Lynley is 65. Singer-musician Peter Dinklage is 65. Actress Stockard Channing is 63. Talk show host Jerry Springer is 63. Singer Peter Gabriel is 57. Actor David Naughton is 56. Rock musician Peter Hook is 51. Actor

Matt Salinger is 47. Singer Henry Rollins is 46. Actor Neal McDonough is 41. Singer Freedom Williams is 41. Actress Kelly Hu is 39. Rock musician Todd Harrell (3 Doors Down) is 35. Singer Robbie Williams is 33. Rhythm-and-blues performer Natalie Stewart (Floetry) is 28. Actress Mena Suvari is 28. Thought for Today: "The world has no sympathy with any but positive griefs; it will pity you for what you lose, but never for what you lack." - Anne Sophie Swetchine, Russian-French author (1782-1857).

Answer to previous puzzle. A crossword grid with words filled in: TESTS, ALPS, SEAL, RANAT, LEAN, TUNE, AGAPE, SAGA, AREA, SLIER, OVERCROWD, HELPER, ERLE, LOAD, SASSED, ALDA, WEPT, STAVE, SEEYA, ERE, EATIN, PALER, POLE, GELS, SPIRES, LACE, SOAP, RECAPS, WINDOWFAN, LOCAL, ASEA, HIRE, LAURA, SLAM, ARKS, OCTET, HERS, TEAS, SHEDS.

Newsday Crossword

YOU'RE THE TOP by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Hits head-on, 5 Long story, 9 Dug up minerals, 14 Support in a crime, 15 Stage accessory, 16 Atlantic, for one, 17 One of Columbus' ships, 18 Nevada city, 19 Royal headpiece, 20 Climactic moments, 23 Santa __, CA, 24 Visibility problem, 25 Least common, 29 Lima or garbanzo, 31 Brown shade, 34 Drama with music, 35 Hereditary ruler, 36 Art Deco artist, 37 Asian mystic dancer, 40 Annoying noises, 41 Cow sounds, 42 Western film, 43 Golf-course lengths: Abbr., 44 Schoolbook, 45 Capital of Alaska, 46 Boston __ Party, 47 Brain-scan letters, 48 Yam-making device of yore, 55 Mix together, 56 Stallion's mate, 57 Divulge a secret, 59 Money spent, 60 Brother of Cain, 61 Ruination, 62 "Envious" color, 63 Grounded jet planes: Abbr., 64 Snow vehicle, 11 Orderly, 12 All __ (attentive), 13 Genetic identifier, 21 Twangy-sounding, 22 Old enough, 25 Rambunctious, 26 Plant pest, 27 Horse straps, 28 Makes a mistake, 29 Archie Bunker type, 30 Remnants, 31 Overused, as expressions, 32 In between ports, 33 India's first prime minister, 35 Fort where gold is kept, 36 Author Hunter, 38 "That is to say..." 39 Like sandpaper, 44 Muscle-bone connector, 45 19 Across features, 46 Bit of color, 47 Marsh bird, 48 Speak unclearly, 49 Sampras of tennis, 50 "__ corny as Kansas..." 51 Captures, 52 Fades away, 53 Israeli airline, 54 Narrow street, 55 Cranberry patch, 58 Cot or convertible.

A crossword grid with numbers 1 through 62 indicating starting points for the clues.

By TH... Staff... Wor... family... Baghd... grippe... new... Shipm... and ra... city... How... ity m... Shipm... Ca... fili... to... By ST... Staff... The... rush... for... electi... Only... school... trustee... report... filing... aftern... Big... Forsa... Sands... will... electi... Glass... Grady... their... Nover... Incu... Rober... Furqu... candi... for th... trustee... Seat... Rober... Mike... and F... 7) are... BSISI... positi... years... At-l... held... and T... are u... Forsa... Both... filed... cials... No... ings... Tuesd... Oth... races... May 1... Co... See R... IN... Class... Featu... Obitu... Opini... Sport... To r... Pleas... a.m... If yo... 263-7... noon... Yo... At... on... wi... 15to... 18to... 19to... 20to... 21to... 22to... 23to... 24to... 25to... 26to... 27to... 28to... 29to... 30to... 31to... 32to... 33to... 34to... 35to... 36to... 37to... 38to... 39to... 40to... 41to... 42to... 43to... 44to... 45to... 46to... 47to... 48to... 49to... 50to... 51to... 52to... 53to... 54to... 55to... 56to... 57to... 58to... 59to... 60to... 61to... 62to... CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2007 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/13/07