



SPEAK OUT!

You, too, can Speak Out! To join the discussion, call 935-7918 and leave a recorded message. You can leave your name or remain anonymous. Please spell out names. Not all messages will be printed and all will be edited. For circulation concerns and missed newspapers, call 935-2525. Remember, Speak Out! is a column of opinions.

I WOULD LIKE people who have cars and go to fast food places to keep their trash in their car. Please do not litter in Texas.

HOME HEATING OIL is supposed to be a No. 2 fuel oil, a waste product. It cannot be burned in anything else. But the environmentalists say you have to use diesel fuel, just like trucks. Every time I deliver a load, I charge from 3 percent to 6 percent extra surcharge. The consumer pays in the end. It is not altogether gas guzzlers, it also has to do with supply and demand.

WE, AS CITY, employees feel like we have been railroaded. They gave us 3 percent, saying they would like to do more, but they couldn't. Then they give the city secretary 11.5 percent and they wonder why morale is so low and why people don't care about their jobs.

CONGRATULATIONS Crystal Ballard for making R.N. We need more young people like you.

THE DEMOCRATIC candidates all stand for gay marriages and abortion rights.

THE 500 MEN and women who have died in Iraq have avenged the lives of thousands who were murdered when we were attacked on Sept. 11, 2001. My fiancé is a soldier who has been in Iraq for a year. Yes, he deeply wants to come home but he continues to serve his country willingly. See the bigger picture here. Whether you are religious, or not, I urge you to say a prayer for all of those who are defending your right to be an idiot. If I didn't offend you too much would you say a prayer for the safe return of my fiancé and all of those who are defending America.

—Kari Hunt

THE TERRORISTS ARE encouraged by the Bush haters and are stepping up activity so as to influence the election. They don't want him for a second term.

THANKS TO ROBERT Wood, our constable, for doing a wonderful job.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Joey Ratcliff.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Trey Ratcliff.

IS THERE AN organization in Marshall that would accept cellphones that we no longer need?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Jensen Jackson.

MEDCO HAS DONE a better job than they did last year. However, the measurement is not how the organization compares to itself, but how it compares to its competition, which is other cities. This is what is critical and in this comparison, MEDCO needs changes in both organization and human resources. The old adage that those who broke it can't fix it is appropriate here. Commissioner Partridge is to be commended for raising the bar for MEDCO.

ANOTHER BIG BANK merger. Competition reduced. Prices up. Jobs lost. In the end, there will be only one.

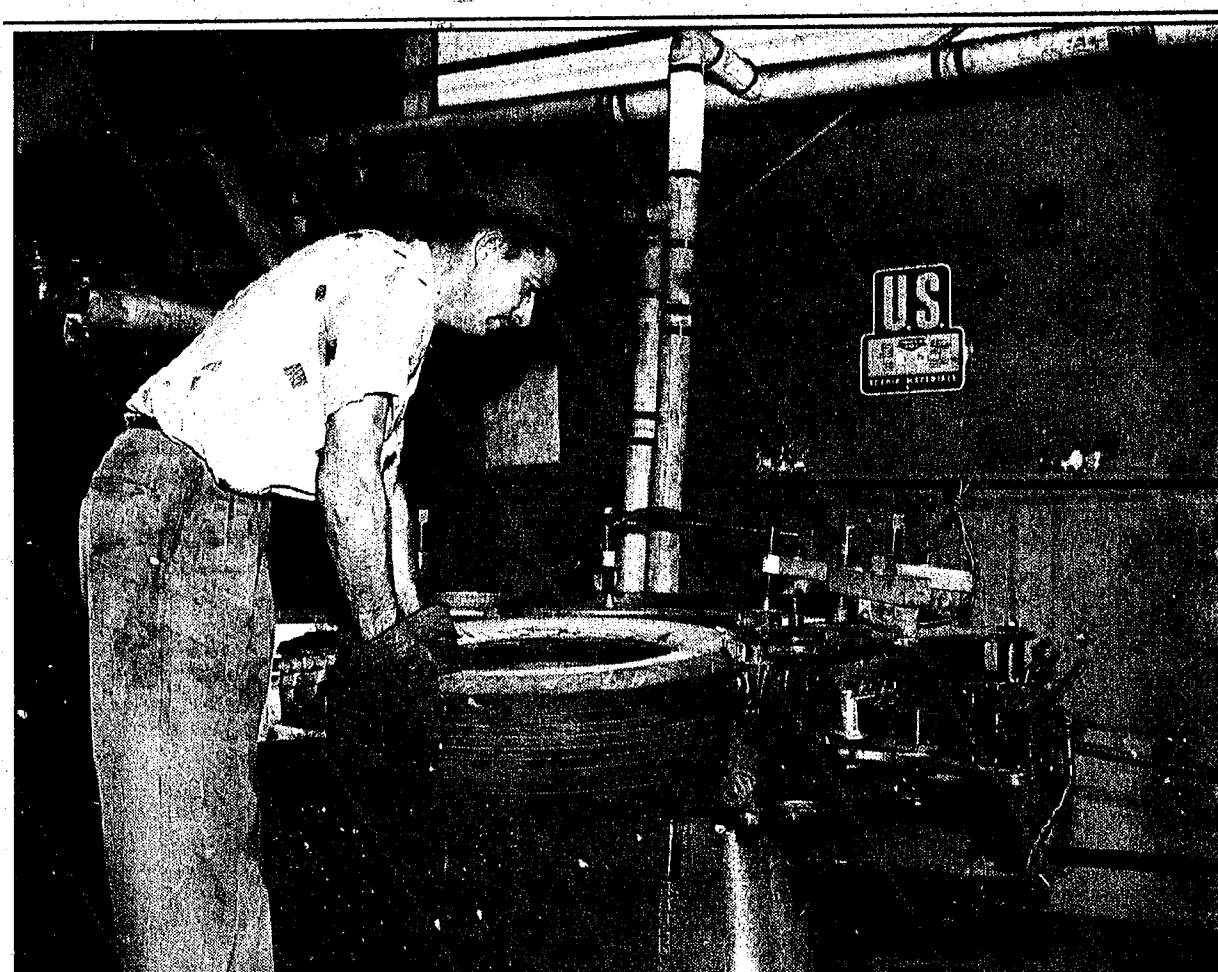
WHERE DO I APPLY for the first Mars' Star-buck's franchise? I'll call it the Hard Red Rock Cafe.

MAYBE HOWARD DEAN will find Job in Jimmy Carter's Sunday School class.

A CURSE ON ALL those thoughtless, tacky people who discard their slimy, sticky chewing gum on our sidewalks, streets and parking lots — and on their parents who never taught them any better.

DIDN'T BUSH'S TAX package also include help in the form of credits for single mothers? You liberals always leave that out of your jealousy-class arguments.

SOMETIMES THE GOOD you do doesn't do you any good at all.



HISTORY FROM OUR FILES

SAVING MOTORISTS' TIRES: Ray Faulkner, shop supervisor at Bryant's Tire Service on West Grand in 1952, operates the big mold used to weld new rubber with an old tire. One hundred and fifty pounds of pressure joins the recapping material and tire. At the same time, 70 pounds of steam pressure cooks the rubber to the tire. Each day the *Marshall News Messenger* prints a photo from its files that is at least 30 years old.

IN THE NEWS MONDAY MORNING

STATE

AUSTIN — Lawmakers searching for new ways to pay for public schools are considering state-funded video gambling, a \$1 per pack cigarette tax increase and higher property taxes for businesses than for residents. They've got two big incentives to do something by this spring — an approaching new school year and a July trial date for a lawsuit brought by school districts challenging Texas' share-the-wealth finance system.

DALLAS — Republican U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions and Democratic Rep. Martin Frost disagreed on everything from taxes to health care Sunday in their first forum since they became rivals for the same district.

HOUSTON — Two women whose husbands died in the Columbia disaster planned an afternoon news conference Sunday to reflect on the year since the space shuttle broke apart over Texas, killing all seven astronauts aboard. Evelyn Husband, the wife of shuttle commander Rick Husband, recently wrote "High Calling," a book about his life.

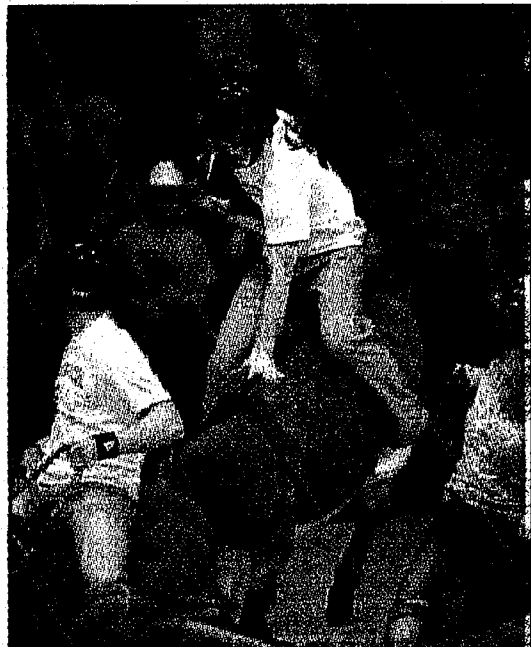
HOUSTON — Almost two years after Andrea Yates was convicted of capital murder for drowning her five children in the family's bathtub, her husband continues to assert that his mentally ill wife never should have been prosecuted. "Why do we even have insanity laws if Russell Yates said."

UNDATED — Funeral services were held over the weekend for three Texas soldiers killed in Iraq. The funeral for 26-year-old Army Staff Sgt. Roland Lee Castro, who died in Iraq on Jan. 16, was held Saturday at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in San Antonio. Castro was killed when a soldier following him into a bunker tripped and shot him accidentally, the Pentagon said. Castro was awarded the Bronze Star posthumously, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

AUSTIN — Malpractice insurance costs for Texas doctors aren't falling as quickly as expected under a recently approved constitutional amendment. The amendment, which placed a \$250,000 cap on noneconomic damage awards such as pain and suffering in medical lawsuits, was supposed to lower doctors' insurance costs. But many insurance companies are holding rates steady or have requested rate increases as high as 35 percent from the state Department of Insurance.

AUSTIN — Austin police officers used violent tactics against blacks and Hispanics at a higher rate than they did against whites between 1998 and 2003, the Austin American Statesman reported Sunday. Blacks were 100 percent more likely than whites to be met with police violence, while Hispanics were 25 percent more likely, according to the newspaper's analysis.

GALVESTON — Investigators believe a romantic breakup was the catalyst of a two-car accident that killed one and injured two others. Devina Garcia, 26, was driving westbound on state Highway 5 early Saturday when her ex-boyfriend, Arturo Irias, 39,



Ap photo

NORTH LAMAR HIGH School student Jo Kyle Varner gets bucked from his donkey Saturday during a game of Donkey Ball at Panther Gym in Paris, Texas.

begin ramming his truck against her vehicle, authorities said.

NATION

MANCHESTER, N.H. — John Kerry asks rival Howard Dean to "stop running a negative campaign" and accuses Republican critics of distorting his Senate voting record, jousting to the end of New Hampshire primary. The outcome of Tuesday's voting could make him the undisputed Democratic presidential front-runner.

WASHINGTON — U.S. intelligence agencies need to explain why their research indicated that Iraq possessed banned weapons before the American-led invasion, says the former top U.S. inspector, who now believes Saddam Hussein did not have such arms. "It's not a political issue. It's an issue of the capabilities of one's intelligence service to collect valid, truthful information," David Kay says in a radio interview.

PASADENA, Calif. — NASA begins receiving photos from the rover Opportunity just hours after it joins its twin, Spirit, on the martian surface. Scientists are astonished by images showing a landscape that is smooth and dark red in places and strewn with fragmented slabs of light bedrock in others. Bounce marks apparently left by the rover's air bags on landing are visible in the foreground.

WASHINGTON — As the centerpiece of President Bush's first domestic priority, the nation's new education law is an inviting target for the Democrats who want his job. But it's also a tricky one. Some of them voted for it and their party helped shape the legislation.

CONCORD, N.H. — The winner of Tuesday's presidential primary will move into the seven-state contest a week later with the

political wind at his back. For the losers, the nation's first primary becomes a fight for standing and survival as the Democratic campaign goes national.

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers say a confluence of events is forcing financially weak companies to pay billions of dollars more into pension plans and threatening the retirement security of millions of Americans. Business groups have joined with organized labor and Republicans have allied with Democrats behind a Senate bill to change the formula that determines pension contributions. Congress is likely to move quickly to write a bill the president can sign.

GREENVILLE, S.C. — Fire broke out in a five-story motel early Sunday while guests were asleep, killing six people and forcing others to leap from windows or climb down bed sheets to safety, authorities said. At least a dozen people were injured, including at least four being treated Sunday at a burn unit in Augusta, Ga.

LOS ANGELES — The picket lines began thinning the day after Christmas, when grocery workers saw their union strike pay cut in half. The strike and lockout affecting 70,000 Southern California grocery workers is in its third month.

WORLD

BANGKOK, Thailand — Indonesia becomes the seventh country to confirm an outbreak of bird flu, as the World Health Organization expresses concerns that the virus in people appears to be resistant to basic drugs and that a vaccine could be months away.

TRIPOLI, Libya — The site of the white jet taxiing down the tarmac left no doubt that a pariah state was coming in from the cold. The jet bore the words "United States Navy" and from it emerged seven U.S. Congress members, who heaped words of praise on the recent reforms of Col. Moammar Gadhafi during a landmark visit aimed at warming ties after the North African country renounced its nuclear weapons programs.

UNDATED — Whatever the political backlash in election-year America, the U.S. retreat on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction signals a victory in the larger fight to control the deadliest of weapons. Sanctions and inspectors, the United Nations and global teamwork appear to have worked in curbing Iraq's ambitions.

BABA GURUR, Iraq — With security guards now deployed along Iraq's export pipeline to the Mediterranean, crude from one of the country's biggest oil fields could start flowing "in a matter of days," a senior Iraqi oil official tells The Associated Press.

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Israel and Hezbollah will exchange prisoners in a two-stage deal in which the militant Lebanese group promises to obtain information about Israel's most famous missing servicemen. Israel releases Lebanon's longest-held prisoner within three months, the Hezbollah leader says.

Study: Extended tutorials offered

Continued from Page 1A

do?" Ms. Owens said. "Look at where kids need help and don't wait."

This is a method implemented as part of their professional learning community studies. The staff is looking at the data, research and what needs to be done.

"We think as a team, how do we get these done?" Ms. Owens said.

Students will be taking the TAKS English Language Arts exam Feb. 24 and math, science and social studies exams on April 27, 28 and 29. Extended Day Tutorials for Mathematics are Feb. 26, March 4, March 11, March 25 and April 1 from 3-4 p.m. Evening Tutorials for English Language Arts are Feb. 9, 10, 17 and 19 from 6-8 p.m.

As a professional learning community, all teachers in core courses have created TAKS notebooks containing TAKS lessons and activities aligning with TAKS objectives, she said. The notebooks consist of material from TEA, the district's academic coordinators and information from textbook materials.

Every teacher has the same information, which is wonderful," Ms. Owens said. Some people think they're just teaching the test, however, they don't spend a whole lot of time on the test, she said. Rather, they create a spiral effect method of teaching to "remind" students of what's being tested on TAKS.

"We decided our kids needed certain information," she said, regardless of what level they are on.

"If the kid doesn't own the information, he doesn't know it. That's what TAKS is about," she said. "Every kid has the same opportunity to get the same information."

She said in order for the school to be exemplary, the staff has to look at each individual student. Thus, they're looking at benchmark results, classroom performance and teacher recommendations.

Four teachers per core area teach TAKS tutorials. Three teachers, math teacher Faye Whitlow, writing teacher Sharon Carson and reading teacher Stacy Potter, tutor for TAKS tutorials.

Tutorials before and after school are for students who are weak in concepts and skills to receive additional instruction. Those behind in work also attend. Grades must be below a 74 to attend.

The tutorials, especially extended day, are very "prescribed," Ms. Owens said. Extended Day TAKS tutorials in core subjects, 3 p.m.-4:40 p.m. on designated days, are for 10th and 11th graders who have been recommended by teachers, have low TAKS

scores benchmark results and low classroom performance. For the rest of this month extended day tutorials in English language arts are today and Jan. 29. Transportation is provided for those tutorials.

Transportation is also provided for TAKS tutorials for those who haven't passed the TAKS test.

For students who were enrolled in tested subjects in the first semester under the accelerated block schedule and may need a "refresher," the school offers evening tutorials in core subjects on designated days from 6-8 p.m.

The school is not leaving any student needing help behind, Ms. Owens said. They have even made it feasible for athletes who are in season to attend tutorials after Monday night practices, Ms. Owens said.

"We have the most wonderful coaches when it comes to academics," she said.

Parents have also been contacted about tutorials. Ms. Owens said the school cannot mandate that students come, but they urge parents and students to "seriously consider" attending.

"We have to have kids, parents and educators working on behalf of the school," she said.

The district has made it possible for students to attend by providing transportation for extended day tutorials, which has never been available before at the high school.

"We anticipated that problem, removed that barrier and provided educators," she said. The rest is up to the students to attend, she said.

The staff has also implemented reading and writing for at least 15 minutes per class. This portion of the emphasis is referred to as RED HOTS: Reading Each Day Helps Our TAKS Scores.

"We're not just out of the blue saying we want kids to read and taking class time," she said. "We looked at the research."

Through research educators discovered test scores are 16 percent higher "because reading and writing the main ideas are incorporated in the class routinely."

Ms. Owens said they're committed in helping students. Anyone wanting to donate reading material for students to build skills, may do so, she said.

"We don't want to have things in the way of being successful," she said, adding kids have to be successful in TAKS and other curriculums. "If they want the opportunity, we want to provide it. We'll do our very best to help kids."

Contact Marshall High School at (903) 927-8800 for other tutorial dates.

Tutorials important aid to passing

Continued from Page 1A

"The main thing is getting kids who we don't see in our class to come," Robins said. "They need a little review. They need reinforcement."

In addition to tutorials, students are also getting prepped for TAKS in class.

In science, students are given benchmark tests every six weeks, Robins said. Ms. Bennett said they work on TAKS activities daily in social studies and do TAKS drills the first 15 minutes.

"We review them over five different objectives. At the end of the week we give them a quiz," she said. "We have to reinforce."

Smith said they reinforce TAKS objectives on the tests in the classroom constantly. She said it's only some of what they teach because "it's what the state is testing."

Every core curriculum department works together in teams and have a teacher who is a team leader that develops strategies to have their team utilize to help students, Ms. Bennett said. They meet together weekly to review data.

"We're moving to common assessment to clearly identify weaknesses of students," Ms. Bennett said, noting her students take a three or four benchmarks per semester.

Teachers also have TAKS checklists to make sure they are staying within TAKS objectives, she said.

Robins said helping

Water deposit break considered for dual locations

By CHARLENE DRAPER

Marshall residents who have more than one water bill in their name could get a break on paying deposits for the additional water service.

Commissioner Ed Carille asked city commissioners to give consideration to customers who are paying deposits for an added location.

According to Richard Turner, city public works director, the deposit for water service in the city is \$80. Currently if a customer requests service at another location they will pay an \$80 deposit at that location also. The deposit is supposed to cover the average water bill for a two month period.

Turner said he doubts the \$80 deposit cover that cost because of recent city water rate increases.

Carille said he would "like to make the city a little more user friendly" and cut those customer's additional deposits in half.

During the commissioner's discussion Carille said he is only talking about those customers who have a 12 month history of paying on time with the city. He also said that he wanted to limit the courtesy to four units.

Turner presented his concerns about the changes in a memo to the commission.

"I am concerned that we will be making this change for a select few customers — basically only people that have rental property," Turner said. "While I know we need to be responsive to all customers we have only had one recent complaint in this area."

He said in the cases where the water bills will be transferred into the renters' name there is already an unwritten

policy of turning on rental property meters for the owners for a period not to exceed 30 days in order for them to clean and make the apartment/house ready to rent. Under most cases this time is sufficient to allow them to do their work and to rent the property.

The water service is then transferred to the renter, Turner said.

Local rental property owner Thomas Green told commissioners he has 36 units at his apartment complex and the \$80 per unit places a burden on him. He said even though he has a master meter for the units he still pays individual deposits for each unit.

Carille said the exposure for loss is much greater "when you are dealing with the big commercial properties that's why I think we should start small and see how it works first," he said.

Turner gave commissioners a report on what the losses were in 2003 because of customers not paying their bills.

"The charge off amount is less than 0.5 percent but still accounts for \$42,607.71," Turner said. "We did turn the bad pay customers over to a collection agency but only collected about \$3,200."

He said the deposit is based on water usage and there is not much else the city can do to collect on the bad debt.

The city increased the deposit in 2002 because of concerns about the deposits not covering the losses, Turner said.

Mayor Ed Smith said he has rental property in Waco and he was not sure how they dealt with the issue. But he thinks it could place "an undue burden" on commercial rental

property owners.

Commissioner Jack Hester echoed the concerns expressed by Smith.

The commissioners asked Turner to determine, if possible, what portion of the charge

off was residential and what is commercial.

Commissioner Bryan Partridge asked the staff to look at the feasibility of charging a flat rate deposit to commercial property owners.

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Health News

Help for Autism

by Stanley Jones, R.Ph.



In her book *Children with Starving Brains*, Inagelynn McCandless, M.D., reports successful use of transdermal thiamine tetrahydrofurfuryl disulfide (TTFD, also known as fursultiamine) to treat her pediatric patients with autistic spectrum disorder.

TTFD is a synthetic disulfide derivative of allithiamine which occurs naturally as an active component of garlic. The only side effects noted have been minor irritation at the site of application and a garlicky "skunky" odor. As adjunctive therapy, Dr. McCandless routinely tries to elevate each child's level of reduced glutathione (GSH) through the use of amino-acid precursor compounds, and oral and transdermal GSH. The hypothesis that TTFD might have a beneficial effect on autistic spectrum disease was suggested in studies reporting sulfur depletion in the plasma of autistic children and abnormal concentrations of sulfur in their urine. TTFD may be an effective metal chelator. Ten autistic children with highly varied behavior and speech symptomatology were studied, and following treatment with TTFD, eight children improved. The most severely affected patients had the most significant response.

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"This article is intended to provide information on health-related matters. The advice expressed cannot be used to diagnose or treat individual health problems and should not be taken as medical advice or endorsement. We urge you to consult a health professional before taking any action based upon the information contained in this article."

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Names in the news

CANNES, France (AP) — Madonna accepted a career award from Britney Spears at a French music awards show this weekend — but this time, no kissing.

Madonna, wearing a demure green polka-dot dress, gave Spears a chaste peck on the cheek as she received the award at NRJ radio station's ceremony Saturday and got a standing ovation.

The pop diva's failure to exchange an open-mouthed kiss, unlike at the MTV Video Music Awards in August, prompted inevitable cracks from French presenters later in the show.

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Stone Temple Pilots lead singer Scott Weiland was ordered to return to a live-in drug detoxification center after leaving early, officials said.

Weiland, 36, was ordered to report to the facility last October after pleading no contest to possession of heroin. A Superior Court judge learned Friday that he had walked out or was discharged after only a month and ordered him to return, said Jane Robinson, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

Weiland reported back to the facility Friday afternoon.

NEW YORK (AP) — A revival of "Jumpers," Tom Stoppard's metaphysical murder mystery with laughs, is bouncing back to Broadway.

The production, imported from England's National Theatre, stars Simon Russell Beale and Easie Davis and opens April 25 at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre. Preview performances begin April 6.

First seen in London in 1972 and then in New York in 1974, "Jumpers" concerns a debate about the existence of God, the mysterious death of a Chinese acrobat and a fading musical-comedy star's extramarital affair.

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Hair stylist Christine Muckle lost her struggle with \$30,000 in credit card debt. Now she faces bankruptcy. Photos by RENEE HANNANS / Cox News Service

Burned by economy, consumed by debt

By MICHAEL E. KANELL
Cox News Service

Atlanta
A couple, a child, two jobs and \$30,000 in credit card debt.

It is the story of household finances stumbling, slipping and finally careening out of control. Like a record number of other American stories, this one is about to start a chapter called bankruptcy.

"I will have an ugly stain on my credit," said Christine Muckle, 29, of Atlanta, a hairstylist for a decade. "There's nothing I'm going to be able to do about the deal. My credit is going to be bad for seven years."

As for many, it was a familiar formula — the sum of bad luck and bad choices — that landed Muckle in financial trouble.

She and her husband, Patrick, already had debt from four credit cards and were making the payments. Then, a year ago, her husband's hours at an auto parts plant were cut 25 percent. At the same time, the hairstyling business struggled in an anemic economy.

The household income fell by nearly half, but Muckle confesses: She did not adapt her lifestyle.

"We put ourselves in this situation," she said. "I know we could have lived below where we did, but I like to shop and have nice things."

No minis. No Mercedes. But purchases added up fast. "Luxury for me is a nice Coach bag, and I like jewelry," Muckle said. "A nice pair of shoes on sale — so they might be \$80 instead of more than \$100. But \$80 is still a lot of money."

In the two years since the recession officially ended in November 2001, consumers like Muckle have dropped up the economy. But they have taken on considerable debt in the process. The average credit card holder carries about \$8,500 in such debt and pays about \$1,000 a year in interest charges.

Retailers have urged consumers on. Fear of an economic free fall after the terrorist attacks of 2001 incited low-interest financing on automobiles and other big-ticket items. Credit card companies, too, continued to aggressively market by mail.

Usually when the economy weakens and layoffs mount, consumers back off the plastic. Not this time.

Spurred by low-rate come-ons, Americans signed up for millions of cards and used them. The proportion of income going to monthly payments rose to an all-time high of 13.6 percent at the end of 2001.

That tab has declined only slightly. In the second quarter of

But millions of Americans, keep spending and now face the 'ugly stain' of bankruptcy



"We put ourselves in this situation. I know we could have lived below where we did, but I like to shop and have nice things."

CHRISTINE MUCKLE
hairstylist

2003, monthly payments were eating up 13.3 percent of disposable income, according to the Federal Reserve.

By last November, consumer credit was nearly \$2 trillion. Most of the growth came on auto purchases, while credit card balances declined slightly.

Worriers have been warning of the danger each time debt has spiked since the 1980s. But Americans seem blasé, taking on more debt and debt payments even as the economy bunched through its most recent rough patch.

It's not even the amount of debt that they are thinking about, said Paul Kasriel, chief economist at Northern Trust. "I think we've got a what's-my-monthly-payment kind of society."

Americans often do not run into trouble with debt until the

equation changes. Sudden medical costs, the loss of a paycheck and a family crisis like a divorce are the most common reasons for bankruptcies.

That is the great peril. Roughly 2.4 million jobs have been lost since early 2001. Recent job gain has been feeble. And while inflation has been weak, wages are barely keeping up.

"People think that if they can make the minimum payment they are OK," said Suzanne Boas, president of Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Greater Atlanta. "Well, it depends on what you mean by OK. There is a very significant proportion of the American population that lives on a paycheck away from disaster — when they lose a job it is a very serious, immediate problem."

Credit card delinquencies

climbed to a record 4.09 percent of all accounts during the third quarter of last year, according to the American Bankers Association.

Personal bankruptcies, too, have been climbing. In the year ending Sept. 30, 1.66 million bankruptcies were filed — up 7.4 percent from the year before, according to the administrative office of the federal judiciary.

Muckle had three platinum cards. The limit on one was \$12,000, a second \$8,000 and a third \$6,000. Her husband had a fourth card with a \$4,000 balance.

When money got tight, Muckle kept current with mortgage and car payments by paying them with her credit cards, she said. Before long, she'd hit her cards' limits.

"It drove my bills way up," she said. "We hit the wall."

Combined minimum payments on the credit cards were \$500 or more a month. Some months the couple didn't make it. With late fees and interest, the total they owed ballooned. They gave up trying.

"It has been about eight months since I paid a credit card bill," Muckle said.

She and her husband sought credit counseling. But their debt credit cards, car lease payments and other bills brought the balance to \$53,000 — rivaled their income. It was too late to avoid bankruptcy.

Consumer Credit Counseling Services, a nonprofit agency, held 4,376 introductory sessions with consumers seeking help last year. The vast majority of debtors were able to set up a payment schedule with creditors, Boas said.

The agency sent 3,356 — about 8 percent — to find a bankruptcy attorney.

The economy benefits from consumer debt, because credit amplifies every household's purchasing power.

But that reliance can strain the economy, particularly if millions of households are struggling to stay afloat financially.

About 18 percent of all U.S. personal consumption expenditures are made on bank credit cards, according to CardWeb, a research firm tracking the payment card industry. If retail and debit cards are included, the figure rises to 24 percent.

The average household pays interest charges of \$1,000 a year, according to CardWeb. Add in fees of various kinds for those who carry a balance and companies are making an average of \$1,700 a year per household, said Robert Manning, professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology and author of "Credit Card Nation."

Falling dollar may strongly affect tourism, U.S. economy

By SHELLEY EMLING
Cox News Service

London
Like most American tourists visiting London these days, Greg Morago suffered sticker shock as he shelled out the equivalent of \$13 for a glass of wine at a trendy bar in the theater district.

"I actually spent more for one night in a hotel room here than I did for the plane ride over," lamented Morago, 44, a writer from Hartford, Conn., who paid about \$250 for a round-trip ticket from New York to London on British Airways.

He fondly remembers 1985, when the value of the pound fell below \$1.06. The British currency was trading around \$1.84 last week.

"Travelers may get a steal on airfares, but they will pay dearly once they get to London," said Morago, who vacations here at least once a year. "Still, the high prices won't stop me from coming back."

With the greenback weak against the British pound and at record lows against the euro, the common currency of the European Union, lots of American tourists in Europe are grumbling.

But the weakening dollar is doing more than making travel abroad more expensive. It also is affecting the United States economically, putting upward pressure on inflation and interest rates and stimulating export industries.

Analysts attribute the dollar's decline to concerns over the massive U.S. trade and budget deficits, coupled with the difficulty of attracting foreign capital when U.S. interest rates are low.

Whether the trend continues is anybody's guess, but analysts are hoping some guidance might emerge when finance ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations meet in Boca Raton, Fla., beginning Feb. 6.

The decline is a mixed blessing that affects different workers and sectors in different ways. While the Bush administration continues to express its support for a "strong dollar," most analysts agree that a gradual decline in the dollar's value can actually be beneficial for the U.S. economy.

It should help boost the bottom line of U.S. companies by making computers and other domestic products less costly overseas.

The weak dollar does boost U.S. company sales overseas and will eventually increase U.S. jobs," said Jack Strauss, an economics professor at St. Louis University.

The dollar's slide helped U.S. exporters raise their prices in 2003 by 2.2 percent, the fastest rate in eight years, according to Labor Department figures released recently.

The U.S. tourism industry also likely will benefit as more Europeans make plans to travel to the United States, where they can make their currency stretch further.

"The pound might soon be worth \$2, so that's a real incentive for people to travel to America," said Frances Duke, a spokeswoman for the Association of British Travel Agents. "People know that the hotels, jeans, food, CDs, and all the souvenirs are a really good deal."

She said the destination most likely to benefit from the travel surge is Florida.

With its theme parks, Florida is always the top destination, and it will continue to be so," she said. "I think that this summer will be really good for travel."

A SURGING EURO

Value in dollars on the last trading day of the month

Jan. 14, 2004	1.2726
Dec 2003	1.2597
Nov 2003	1.1995
Oct 2003	1.1609
Sep 2003	1.1650
Aug 2003	1.0986
Jul 2003	1.1231
Jun 2003	1.1502
May 2003	1.1766
Apr 2003	1.1180
Mar 2003	1.0900
Feb 2003	1.0779
Jan 2003	1.0739
Dec 2002	1.0485
Nov 2002	0.9932
Oct 2002	0.9881
Sep 2002	0.9879
Aug 2002	0.9806
Jul 2002	0.9796
Jun 2002	0.9856
May 2002	0.9339
Apr 2002	0.9002
Mar 2002	0.8717
Feb 2002	0.8658
Jan 2002	0.8594

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

But on the down side, experts say the weak dollar could raise the cost of imported goods, heating up inflation, and push gasoline costs and mortgage rates higher this year.

"Oil is priced in dollars, and because of the dollar's decline against the euro and other currencies, the price of oil in euros is actually falling," said Marcus Noland, a senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics in Washington. "OPEC may increase the dollar-denominated price of oil in order to stabilize its price across the markets in which it is consumed, he said."

When it comes to mortgage rates, he said the Federal Reserve might hike interest rates later this year in order to defend the dollar.

As for the dollar's value, there will be a tendency for interest rates to rise in the United States," Noland said.

But other analysts say the Federal Reserve is unlikely to raise rates so long as the U.S. job market remains solid.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan expressed little concern in remarks Tuesday about America's ability to deal with a record trade deficit.

Although U.S. government officials don't appear to be overly alarmed about a sliding dollar, European authorities have expressed unease over the future of the euro.

Some analysts assert that the euro could be worth as much as \$1.35 early this year, which could alarm Europe's economic growth.

"The dollar's rapid decline has primarily been against the European currencies, such as the pound and euro, and economists expect Europe's trade surplus and companies' earnings to decline against the United States in 2004," said Strauss at St. Louis University. "At the same time, U.S. exports to Europe and U.S. company profits should increase."

He emphasized that many European and Japanese companies are planning to move to the United States, meaning they don't raise their prices there when the dollar falls, but instead largely absorb the loss in terms of company earnings.

Dowell's not waiting for 'his ship to come in'

Continued from Page 1A

work. They actually help you," he said.

Dowell, son of Felicia Butler, plans to attend either the University of Texas in Austin or University of Houston and major in computer technology.

He considers himself a "computer whiz."

"I'm going to go to a big city like Dallas and educate people about computers," he said. "I just love computers and seeing what makes them work."

While sports became an interest at age 11, computers did as well. Since he learned how to type at age 11, his fascination escalated from playing the computer game Organ Trail to finding out all about computers.

Dowell, who received a sports award for going to state for the shot put in track last

year, also loves volunteering in youth activities. He volunteers with his church youth group at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Jefferson. In the summer, he volunteers with the National Youth Sports Program at Wiley College.

He's also an athletic aide at school helping junior high kids with football and basketball skills.

"I like working and interacting with kids," Dowell, who also received a district football award, said. "I like the way they look up to me."

Although he doesn't consider himself a role model, he does think he's a leader because he doesn't follow anyone else, but makes sure the things he does are right.

The "computer whiz" said his role model is his

grandmother, Charlesetta Millard because she's a strong person.

"My grandfather died Dec. 4 on my birthday. I never saw her shed a tear. She's strong," he said.

Dowell said he also admires his aunt Dianne Hodge, who has always been there for him. Although he will miss his high school friends, Dowell said he's looking forward to college and becoming successful.

He's always lived by the motto, "don't wait for your ship to come in, go out and swim to it."

And, he's swimming.

"You just can't wait for your goals to come to you," Dowell said. "You have to go pursue them. Don't wait. Do them now."

A renovating mode takes hold at City Hall

Continued from Page 1A

estimates," Johnson said. He said after the information is gathered then an approach for seeking funds for the project can be developed.

According to Johnson, the NTHP has a grant program that will assist with analysis cost.

The deadline for applying for the grant is Feb. 1. The maximum grant is \$5,000 of the city required to match 50 percent.

"The maximum estimated cost for the consultant service is \$6,937," Johnson said. "The local commitment would be \$3,268."

He said the city would seek funds from other grant

sources. If those efforts were unsuccessful the city would have to pay from the general fund. The commissioners on Thursday gave approval to seek funds from NTHP.

Johnson said the ultimate reason for considering renovation of the building is the auditorium.

He said the biggest challenge with the building is going to be the rest rooms. "We don't have rest rooms that are accessible or usable in the building."

"We would like to see the community theater use the facility for plays and things like that," Johnson said. "We would hope that the Marshall

Regional Arts Council would use it too."

He said the 250 seat auditorium would be better for certain groups than the 1,600 seat capacity Marshall Civic Center.

There are also some offices in the old building. Johnson said the Main Street Project office is there, the Historic Preservation Office and Court-house Preservation office have located there.

The Wonderland of Lights used the building during Wonderland festivities and they store the lights there, officials said. Other events like the Fire Ant Festival and Stagecoach Days use the facility.

When animals go wild in Marshall — it hurts

Staff Reports

Lately animals have been attacking and it doesn't matter who or where.

Police responded to several animal bites over the weekend, according to Marshall Police Department reports and Harrison County Sheriff's Office reports.

In the blocks of FM 1968 and Crockett Cemetery Road, a man and his brother had come into town to feed their cows when they were attacked by a stray dog, sheriff's reports indicate.

The animal bite report was taken Saturday.

Usually a neighbor's place is a safe haven, but that wasn't so for a young boy in the 1800 block of Dee Dee Road in Longview. At that location, a woman said her teenage son was bitten by a neighbor's dog, sheriff's reports indicate.

The animal bite report was also taken Friday.

Dogs weren't the only ones sinking their teeth into people. Cats got in on the action as well.

In the 900 block of Yanez St., a woman said her 8-year-old granddaughter was bitten by a cat on the foot. The animal bite report was taken at 4:05 p.m. Saturday.

Arrests by Marshall Police Department
Tanya Cullum Baker, 35, 1003 Richmond, driving while

license suspended, 11:15 a.m. Sunday.
Charles Smith, 47, 1014 FM 2625 E., driving while license suspended, 2:19 p.m. Saturday.

Dessie Gaynor Petties, 56, 1100 Singleton, MPD Class A Assault, 4:13 a.m. Saturday.

Thomas Womack, 44, 989 Lakeview Drive, Jefferson, possession of drug paraphernalia, 4:44 a.m. Sunday.

Incidents Reported to Marshall Police Department
Forgery: 1800 block of Victory Drive. A man with short hair was trying to pass counterfeit money at Pump-N-Pantry, reported at 11:55 p.m. Saturday.

Burglary of vehicle: 1100 block of E. Fannin St. A stereo was stolen out of the vehicle, reported at 10:04 a.m. Saturday.

Disturbance: 300 block of N. Allen Blvd. A man was causing problems and refusing to leave, reported at 10:39 a.m. Saturday.

Arrests by Harrison County Sheriff's Office
Marcus Gray, 28, 500 Deatur Road, parole violation, 8:45 a.m. Saturday.

Donald Ray Fields, 45, 16942 PM 31, assaulting the elderly by contact, evading detention, assault on public servant, 4:45 p.m. Saturday.

Incidents Reported to Harrison County Sheriff's Office

Animal cruelty: 800 block of Private Road 1340. Horses were allegedly being starved, reported at 1:25 p.m. Saturday.

Criminal mischief: 600 block of Jewel Goch Road. A barn was painted by a trespasser, reported at 11:07 a.m. Sunday.

Burglary of a building: 600 block of South Central, Hallsville. A 2003 Acura four-wheeler valued at \$6,050 was stolen from a shop, reported at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Jail Population
As of 6:13 p.m. Sunday, there were 137 inmates in the Harrison County Jail.

Marshall Fire Department

The following incidents were reported between 5 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. Sunday:

Emergency Medical Calls: 5

Transfers: 3

No Transports: 3

EMS Assists: 3

Rescue Calls: 1

Weighty Support Group will meet at First Baptist Church in Jefferson. Weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. Call 903-665-3393.

Panola College board of trustees will meet at 7 p.m. in the Martha Miller Administration Building, Magnolia Room. W.O.W. (Winning over

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Obituaries



ALTHEA JARROTT LESLIE

Althea Jarrott Leslie

Sullivan Funeral Home

Althea Jarrott Leslie passed away on Saturday, Jan. 24 in Longview. She was born in the Grange Hall community near Marshall on Jan. 12, 1917, the daughter of Arch Adams Jarrott and Nora Sanders Jarrott.

She attended Marshall Public Schools and graduated from Marshall High School. She also attended the College of Marshall. She retired from Marshall Public Schools in 1985 where she had served as bookkeeper for the School Food Service. With her husband, she also established and operated the first One Hour Martinizing in Marshall. She was a long-time member of The First United Methodist Church and was a founder of the Mary Martha Sunday School Class. She was also active in United Methodist Women Circle No. 3, Young at Heart, Christian Women's Club, Retired Teachers and other church and civic groups.

She was preceded in death by her son, Thomas Arthur Leslie Jr.; her parents and her brother, Arch A. Jarrott Jr. She is survived by her husband, Thomas Arthur Leslie; daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Kenneth Ramsey; son and daughter-in-law, Arch and Priscilla Leslie; granddaughter, Leslie Anne Ramsey; uncle, Lester A. Sanders; aunt, Thekla Faggard and a number of cousins, nieces, nephews and many friends.

She was a wonderful mother, "Grandmom" and wife. Her family and many friends will remember and miss her for her optimism, generous

spirit, kindness and love of people.

Funeral services will be at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2004 at Sullivan Funeral Home, Travis Street Chapel with burial at Grange Hall Cemetery. Visitation will be Monday, Jan. 26, 2004 from 6-8 p.m. at the 100 East Travis Street location. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to First United Methodist Church at

What to do in February to make your garden grow

By RANDY REEVES
CEA-Agriculture

The following list includes items that you might want to check on, in and around the home landscape and garden areas. It seems that spring is just around the corner, but there are a few things that you might want to address now—like use of dormant oils in fruit and nut trees, as well as shrubs that you might have had a scale problem with. Also, it's time to prune those peach and plum trees, if you have not already done so, during the dormant season.

• Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly, the first year.

• When buying plants, the biggest is not always the best, especially with bare-rooted plants. The medium to small sized (4 to 6 feet) usually become established faster and will become effective in the landscape more quickly than the large sizes.

• Complete the bare-root planting of woody landscape plants this month. Container and ball-and-burlapped plants are in good supply and can be set out most any time. Winter and early spring planting provides an opportunity for good establishment before hot weather comes.

• Prune roses during February. Use good shears that will make clean cuts. Remove dead, dying, and weak canes. Leave four to eight healthy canes and remove approximately one-half of the top growth along the height of the plant.

• Now is an excellent time to select and plant container-grown roses to fill in bare spots in your rose garden.

• Wait until after they finish flowering before pruning spring-flowering shrubs, such as quince, azalea, forsythia and spiraea.

• When pruning shrubs, follow these steps: (1) prune out any dead or damaged branches; (2) thin out by removing about one-third of the canes or stems at ground level, removing the oldest canes only; (3) shape the rest of the plant but do not cut everything back to the same height.

• Plant dahlias tubers in late February and early March.

• Plant gladioli corns;

space planting dates at two-week intervals to extend flowering season.

• Fertilize pansies once again for continued flowering. Don't forget to water when needed.

• Now is the time to start planning for that late February or early March application of a good quality pre-emerge herbicide to those turf areas that you had annual weed problems like crabgrass and/or goosegrass. Be sure and read the label directions on this or any other pesticide product.

• A potted plant, tree, shrub, or cut flowers make excellent Valentine gifts for loved ones and shut-ins.

Turfgrass conference set for Feb. 5

Just a reminder that the Annual East Texas Turfgrass Conference will be held Thursday, Feb. 5, at the Research and Extension Center in Overton. Registration forms are available from the Extension office, most of the feed and farm supply stores in the area, or you can go on-line and print the registration information and program agenda at the following web address: <http://tcaa.tamu.edu/turfconf.pdf>. Registration will also be taken at the door that morning.

Four (4) credit hours toward any of the TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture) will also be available for those needing credit hours, (1 IPM and 3 General).

Result demonstration cooperators wanted

We will be working with PBI/Gordon Chemical Company this year on trying a new herbicide for the control of Bahiagrass in lawns. There are products that have been around for several years that do a fair to good job of controlling bahiagrass, but could not be used on a lot of different types or varieties of turf, until now.

We are looking for some folks with residential yards that have San Augustine or Centipede grass in them, mixed with bahiagrass for some treatments, we have the new chemical for the trials.

If you are interested, give us a call at 903-935-8413 or send me a e-mail at dr-reeves@tamu.edu.

Annual crop production statistics

The end-of-year crop estimates for 2003 released by Texas Agricultural Statistics Service show production numbers were down for cotton, corn, peanuts, rice, soybeans and hay. The exception was grain sorghum which increased. Most of the decrease can be attributed to acreage reductions or abandonment, and small yields in some parts of the state.

Upland cotton crop totaled 4.25 million bales, 16 percent below 2002. An estimated 4.4 million acres were harvested, 2 percent less than in 2002. Planted cotton acreage totaled 5.6 million acres, unchanged from 2002. Harvested acreage produced a yield of 464 pounds per acre, compared with a yield of 538 pounds last year.

Corn production was estimated at 195 million bushels, down 5 percent from 2002. Statewide yield was estimated at 118 bushels per acre, 5 bushels more than in 2002. Harvested acreage was estimated at 1.65 million acres, down 9 percent from 2002.

Texas peanut production was estimated at 810 million pounds, down 7 percent from 2002. Statewide yield, at 3,000

pounds per acre, was 100 pounds below 2002.

Sorghum production was estimated at 86.2 million hundredweight (cwt), up 18 percent from 2002. Harvested acreage was estimated at 2.85 million acres, up 12 percent from the previous year. Yield, at 3,024 pounds per acre, was 168 pounds more than in 2002.

Rice production totaled 11.9 million cwt, 19 percent less than the previous year. Statewide yield averaged 5,600 pounds per acre, down 500 pounds from the yield in 2002.

The 2003 Texas soybean crop was estimated at 5.04 million bushels, down 12 percent from the previous year. Harvested acreage was estimated at 180,000 acres, down 12 percent, and yield was estimated at 28.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from 2002.

Production of all hay was estimated at 12.4 million tons, down 11 percent the previous year. Harvested acreage decreased 1 percent, and yield was estimated at 2.56 tons, compared with 2.46 tons in 2002.



TALK SHOW HOST Oprah Winfrey shows her joy after a jury ruled in her favor in Amarillo, Texas, Thursday, Feb. 26, 1998. Winfrey had been sued by Texas cattlemen for allegedly defaming the beef industry in one of her shows. The cattlemen were suing Winfrey, her production company and vegetarian activist Howard Lyman, saying the April 16, 1996, episode caused the cattle market to plunge to 10-year lows and cost the plaintiffs \$11 million.

Beef industry upset again

State: Figure in Oprah case outrages ranchers

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — The central figure in Oprah Winfrey's legal fight with cattle ranchers outraged many in beef country six years ago with his prediction that sloppy meat production practices all but guaranteed mad cow's arrival in the United States.

With the first domestic occurrence of mad cow disease in December, Howard Lyman is again upsetting the beef industry.

Lyman, a former Montana rancher-farmer turned vegetarian, said the discovery validated his concerns about how cattle are raised and slaughtered to produce tons of meat each year. His comments on Winfrey's show in 1996 prompted a lawsuit by Texas cattlemen, who lost.

"I wish it had never happened, but you see somebody driving toward a cliff at 200 mph and they won't stop on the brake, you can pretty well figure out what they're going to do," said Lyman, who now lives in Alexandria, Va.

Industry officials dismiss Lyman's prediction that more mad cow cases are imminent and vow that the nation's meat supply is safe. They also stress that the diseased cow found in Washington state wasn't from a U.S. herd.

"All I can say is the cow came from Canada," said Kevin Crooks, 40, who raises about 7,500 head of cattle in West Texas. "That's where the problem all came from. I think that's what's going to save the United States cattle industry."

Paul Engler, the rancher and feedlot owner who initially brought the suit against Oprah, agrees that the Canadian link undermines Lyman's claim.

"If the cow originated in the United States, I'd say yes, I'd

have the same concerns. But it didn't," Engler said.

Lyman's clash with the beef industry started when he went on Winfrey's show and said that processed livestock was being fed to cattle—a practice he said could spread mad cow disease in the United States. Winfrey responded by saying she'd never eat another hamburger.

The beef industry sued under Texas' little-used "veggie libel" law that forbids false and disparaging remarks about agriculture products, claiming the nationally televised comments caused beef prices to tumble and cost ranchers millions of dollars.

Winfrey spent six weeks in Amarillo during the trial, drawing mixed reviews. Some critics wore hats and sported bumper stickers that read "The only mad cow in Texas is Oprah," but many wore "Amarillo Loves Oprah" buttons, caps and T-shirts.

Jurors sided with Winfrey and Lyman in 1999, and an appeals court upheld the verdict. A second lawsuit against Winfrey filed shortly after the first trial lingered until its dismissal in 2002.

Winfrey declined to talk to The Associated Press for this story, but Chip Babcock, one of the First Amendment attorneys who represented her in the lawsuit, said Lyman's comments were prophetic.

"It turns out the man who was saying we should be prepared for this and it very well could turn up here, that opinion has been vindicated," Babcock said.

Mad cow disease, also called bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE, is a threat because scientists say humans can develop a brain-wasting illness, a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease,

from consuming contaminated beef products. But that link has been challenged, and experts say the risk to individual consumers is minuscule.

While 153 people worldwide have contracted that illness, most in Britain, it has never been diagnosed in an American.

Lyman said he's certain the mad cow case reported in Washington won't be the last in the United States.

"If you think there's only one, you're smoking the No. 1 crop out of California," he said.

But those in the beef industry say they're conducting tests and taking other measures to ensure a safe product.

"I sure can't speculate on whether we'll find anymore or not, nor, I think, can anyone else," said Burt Rutherford, spokesman for the Texas Cattle Feeders Association in Amarillo. "But I can tell you that we are going to very aggressively look for it."

For many in the industry, a vegetarian's predictions are the least of their concerns. They're still suffering since cattle prices have fallen and layoffs have been reported since beef exports have been restricted. Ten percent of the nation's meat is exported.

But they're certain beef is still safe.

"American ranchers and American producers strive to create a safe product because we love to eat it too," said Crooks, the West Texas cattleman. "We wouldn't want to be eating it if it was bad for us."

On the Net: National Cattleman's Beef Association: www.beef.org

Howard Lyman: www.madcowboy.com

Texas Cattle Feeders Association: www.tcfca.org

The Oprah Winfrey Show: www.oprah.com

Minorities face more police violence

AUSTIN (AP) — Austin police officers used violent tactics against blacks and Hispanics at a higher rate than they did against whites between 1998 and 2003, the Austin American-Statesman reported Sunday.

Blacks were 100 percent more likely than whites to be met with police violence, while Hispanics were 25 percent more likely, according to the newspaper's analysis.

The newspaper looked at 6,447 "use of force" reports Austin police officers are required to file, as well as more than 1.3 million crime database records, court testimony, surveillance video, 911 tapes and police reports.

The newspaper found that whites were met with police force 3.7 of every 1,000 times they came into contact with police. The rate for Hispanics was 4.6 of 1,000 contacts and for blacks, 7.4 of every 1,000 contacts.

Whites in Austin were involved in 22 violent crimes for every 1,000 reported crimes, compared with 31 for Hispanics and 31 for blacks, according to records of police calls.

Austin police Chief Stan Knease said he would have analyzed use of force rates differently, but he did not contest the findings.

"It's disappointing. I wish it weren't so," he said. "We look at things using a different base, but it doesn't matter. The end result, these numbers and the numbers that we look at, is that we need to do a better job giving our people better training and better equipment in order to decrease the likelihood that use of force will be employed."

Between October 1998 and May 2003, 11 people died in violent encounters with police. All but one were minorities.

In the same period, more than 99 percent of police incidents ended without a violent physical confrontation. In 4,280 instances, however, officers reported using force, ranging from punches and kicks to gunshots, as they attempted to arrest suspects.

In 1999, the latest year for which the national statistics are available, Justice Department statistics showed that the national use of force rate was 11.5 for every 1,000 police contacts, while Austin's rate was 2.1 per thousand. During the past six years, the Austin rate was 4.9 per thousand.

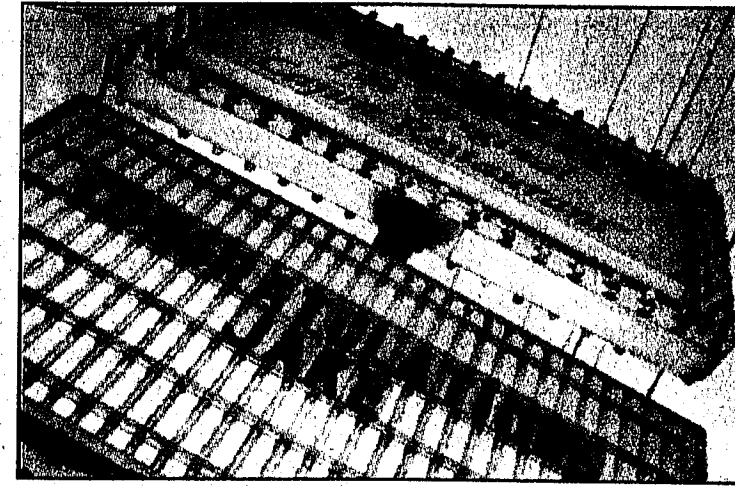
David Klingler, a criminologist and associate professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said the national statistics show Austin police are behaving well.

"I think it would behoove the citizens of Austin to try to reframe their understanding of the Police Department and say, wait a minute, we have a low rate of force," he said. "Officer-involved shootings are rare. Are there some officers that are doing the wrong thing? Probably, but that's a different thing. That's an anomaly."

The Marshall News Messenger
Monday, January 26, 2004

Rally around the hometown boy

Panthers: In Cajun country, Delhomme delirium is in full swing



THE MESSAGE SIGN at Mulate's Cajun restaurant shows the town's support for Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme, in Breau Bridge, La. Delhomme's rise from local kingfish to national star is the biggest thing to hit Breau Bridge since Ali Landry won the 1996 Miss USA contest.



LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE in the Delhomme family, raising race horses is a family affair. Jeff Delhomme, Jake's brother walks one of their horses, Ruthie Red, in the field beside Jake's home, a small wood-frame house that belonged to his grandfather, in Breau Bridges, La. Carolina Panthers quarterback Jake Delhomme's rise from local kingfish to national star is the biggest thing to hit Breau Bridge since Ali Landry won the 1996 Miss USA contest.

Everybody's talking about the Panthers, Ronald Latolais, who works for the mayor, says with a strong Cajun French accent. "People that wasn't concerned about football at all—they're now glued to that TV waiting to see Jake."

Latolais works a Panthers hat as he walked into the office of his boss and longtime friend, Mayor Jack Dale Delhomme. The mayor is the father's ranch, where the family now prepares thoroughbreds for races at nearby Evangeline Downs.

"We have no one in our family that has gone far away," says Jerry Delhomme, who was born in a house Jake restored. "When he's no longer playing ball, he'll be

still live in Breau Bridge, although Jake is rarely home during the season. All three homes are within sight of each other, along a highway that passes by cattle ranches, sugar cane fields and the occasional oil rig.

Jake lives in a modest one-story cottage that belonged to his grandfather, who trained and raced quarter horses. Jake, a horse trainer himself, moved the home onto his father's ranch, where the family now prepares thoroughbreds for races at nearby Evangeline Downs.

"We have no one in our family that has gone far away," says Jerry Delhomme, who was born in a house Jake restored. "When he's no longer playing ball, he'll be

Mickelson wins Hope Classic playoff to end victory drought

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — Phil Mickelson showed he's back on his game after a disappointing year, beating Skip Kendall on the first playoff hole Sunday in the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic.

The victory ended an 18-month winless streak for Mickelson, who dropped from second to 16th in the world rankings.

He rolled a 3-foot birdie putt into the center of the cup to win the Hope, his second victory in the tournament in two years.

Kendall was left still looking for his first tour win. He was runner-up for the fourth time in his career, losing three times in playoffs.

Mickelson, making his 2004 debut, closed with a 4-under 68 to match Kendall (65) at 30-under 330 in the 90-hole tournament.

After each birdied the final hole, they returned to the 18th tee to begin the playoff. Both hit their drives down the center, then Kendall pulled his second shot into the left rough beside the green on the 543-yard par 5. Mickelson's second shot went into the rough on the other side, but considerably closer to the hole.

Kendall chipped onto the putting surface, then missed

his 20-foot birdie try. Mickelson's chip left him the short putt, and he confidently stroked it in to wrap up a day when he had some problems on the green.

Jay Haas, 50, the 1988 tournament champion and runner-up to Mike Weir a year ago, finished third with a 67 that left him one shot behind Mickelson and Kendall.

Jonathan Kaye shot a 64 to finish fourth at 332.

Kirk Triplett, who was tied with Mickelson going into the final round and hadn't had a bogey in the tournament, had four bogeys and a double bogey in a 74 that left him six strokes back.

Kendall, playing in the group in front of Mickelson, and Mickelson matched similar birdies on No. 18 to force the playoff.

Both players hit their second shots about pin-high in the rough adjacent to the green, then pitched within some 18 inches of the hole.

Kendall, who had been the co-leader after the first round but hadn't been atop the leaderboard since, moved one shot ahead of Mickelson with a short birdie putt on No. 16 to go to 30 under, while Mickelson bogeyed No. 15.

Kendall gave it back on the 16th and the tour record for a



SKIP KENDALL urges on a chip shot from the desert fringe of the 17th Sunday at the PGA West in La Quinta, Calif., during the final round of the Bob Hope Chrysler tournament. Kendall finished second after losing in a playoff to Phil Mickelson.

next hole, when he missed a 10-foot par putt after pushing his tee shot to the right of the green.

After tinkering with his mechanics last year, Mickelson spent this winter trying to regain the form that had carried him to 21 victories and made him the world's second-ranked player.

That's 22 victories now, including an impressive 6-1 record in playoffs.

The town was named for the Breau family that built a bridge over the Bayou Teche river—about 145 years ago. The downtown, situated at the edge of a bridge, is just a couple blocks of two-story brick buildings and balcony-shaded sidewalks.

Gary Breau, a descendant of the founding family, points out that the Panthers' QB is not the only town celebrity. Miss USA 1996 Ali Landry and Houston Texans running back Dominick Davis came from Breau Bridge, as do three players on LSU's 2003 college football national championship team.

About 125 miles west of New Orleans, the town is known for its crawfish festival. Restaurants serve grilled catfish fillet topped with shrimp etouffee (a stew) or crawfish au gratin. A waiter might check on restaurant patrons with a quick, "C'est bon?"

The Corner Bar is housed in a 110-year-old, handsome cypress building of high ceilings. It was a general store and later a dance hall. A message board says, "Wow, Jake!" and "We told U Haslett," a shot at Saints coach Jim Haslett.

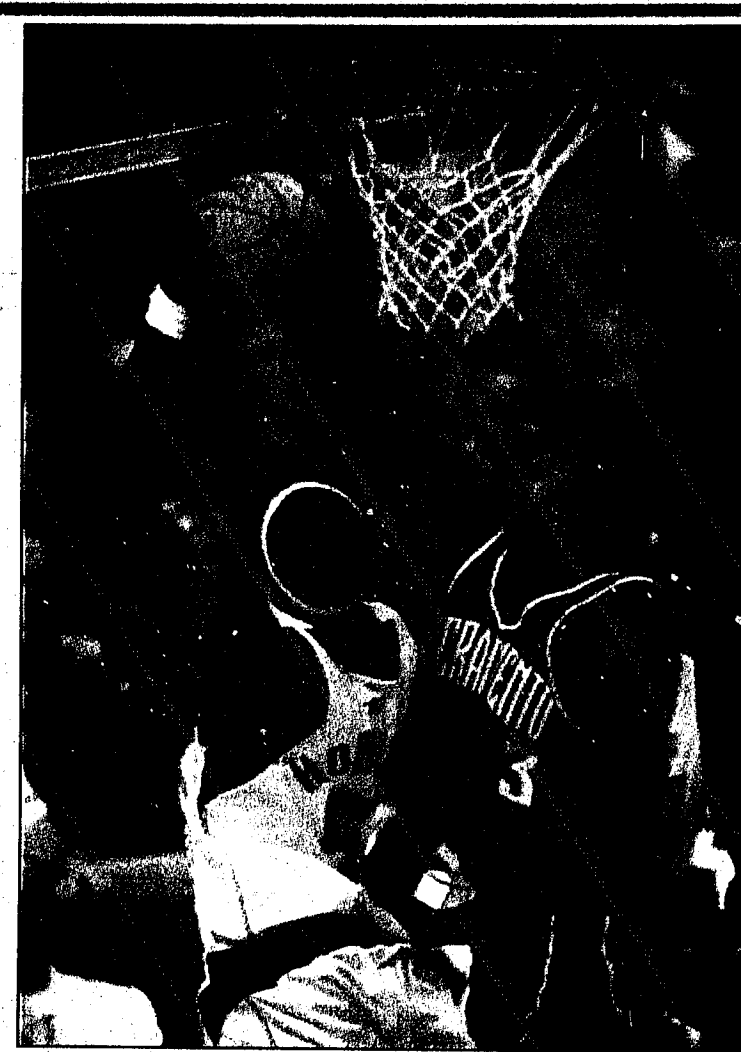
"We knew what he could do because we had seen what he had since high school," bar owner Earl "Boogi" Hebert said, patting the area over his heart.

Now just about everyone who visits Mayor Delhomme wants to share in the hoopla. Many drop off memorabilia in hopes the mayor can get Jake to sign it.

"I pinch myself," Jerry Delhomme said. "When he was with the Saints, when we saw a jersey, with Jake's number, we went bananas—and nine times out of 10, it was a cousin."

With the Super Bowl only four hours west on Interstate 10, a Cajun contingent is expected at the stadium. It doesn't matter if there are no tickets.

"We'll put up a sign that says, 'Breau Bridge, La., hometown of Jake Delhomme, have some crawfish and barbecue or something, and afterward go to a motel room to watch it on TV,'" says Randy "Crip" Cormier, the town's parks director. "You never know, we might get in."



SACRAMENTO KINGS' Gerald Wallace (3) blocks a layup attempt by Dallas Mavericks' Josh Howard in the first half Sunday in Dallas. The Mavericks stretched their winning streak to eight games with a 108-99 win over the Kings.

Mavs extend streak to eight with 108-99 win over Sacramento

DALLAS (AP) — The longest winning streak of the season really means something now for the Dallas Mavericks.

Their eighth straight victory didn't come against another struggling team or the injured-riddled Los Angeles Lakers. This time, the Mavericks beat the team that came in with the Western Conference's best record.

Michael Finley scored 23 points, including the go-ahead 18-footer with 1:58 left Sunday, and the Mavericks beat the Sacramento Kings 108-99.

"We've had a good streak and that feels good," Mavericks guard Steve Nash said. "It always feels better to justify it against a good team. ... It's very vindicating and rewarding to beat a team with the best record."

The last seven wins have come since Mavericks owner Mark Cuban met with Don Nelson to clear the air about rumors concerning the coach's future.

"We struggled early and a lot of people wrote us and the coaching staff off," Finley said. "That brought us closer together to overcome adversity."

Before the winning streak, the Mavericks had lost 16 of their first 36 games with only six players back from last season. They didn't lose No. 16 until the 64th game last year, when they won a franchise-best 60 games and made it to the Western Conference finals.

"They went through their down period and now they have confidence and some momentum," Sacramento coach Rick Adelman said.

Sacramento (30-12) fought back from a 10-point deficit to tie the game at 97 on Mike Bibby's 3-pointer with 2:14 left. The Mavericks then scored nine straight points to clinch the victory.

Finley's shot put the Mavericks ahead, and after a Kings miss, Nash passed to Dirk Nowitzki for a layup and a free throw to put Dallas over 100 points with 1:28 to go.

Nash had 21 points and a season-high 13 assists, with just one turnover. Nowitzki had 20 points and 12 rebounds. "We were strong," Nelson said. "Everybody didn't play great all the time, but they certainly played hard all the time. We needed to take care of the ball, and we did that."

The Mavericks (28-16) still had 14 turnovers, after

For The record

NBA

National Basketball Association

Conference Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W L Pct GB

Indiana 33 17 .677 0

Detroit 25 19 .568 3

New Orleans 24 19 .558 7

Milwaukee 22 20 .524 9

New Jersey 22 20 .524 9

Boston 22 20 .524 9

Toronto 22 20 .524 9

Philadelphia 22 20 .524 9

Miami 22 20 .524 9

Cleveland 22 20 .524 9

Washington 22 20 .524 9

Atlanta 22 20 .524 9

Chicago 22 20 .524 9

Orlando 22 20 .524 9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W L Pct GB

Minnesota 30 12 .714 0

Sacramento 29 16 .644 2 1/2

San Antonio 28 16 .636 3

Dallas 28 16 .636 3

Houston 25 18 .585 5

Memphis 25 18 .585 5

Denver 25 18 .585 5

Seattle 22 20 .524 9

Utah 22 20 .524 9

LA Clippers 18 23 .439 11 1/2

Portland 18 23 .439 11 1/2

Phoenix 18 23 .439 11 1/2

Saturday's Games

Golden State 105, Portland 87

Washington 107, Indiana 86

Miami 85, New York 77

Cleveland 85, Philadelphia 87

New Orleans 88, San Antonio 86

LA Lakers 93, Utah 86

Seattle 102, LA Clippers 97

Dallas 108, Sacramento 99

New Jersey 110, Boston 91

Chicago 86, Toronto 85

Phoenix 99, Phoenix 99

Memphis 106, Denver 88

Houston at Orlando, 5 p.m.

Atlanta at Detroit, 5 p.m.

Monday's Games

Orlando at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.

Phoenix at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.

San Antonio at New York, 6:30 p.m.

Dallas at Seattle, 9 p.m.

Chicago at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

New Jersey at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.

Phoenix at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.

San Antonio at New York, 6:30 p.m.

Dallas at Seattle, 9 p.m.

Chicago at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

New Jersey at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.

Phoenix at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.

San Antonio at New York, 6:30 p.m.

Dallas at Seattle, 9 p.m.

Chicago at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday's Games

New Jersey at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.

Phoenix at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.

San Antonio at New York, 6:30 p.m.

Dallas at Seattle, 9 p.m.

Chicago at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

New Jersey at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.

Phoenix at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.

San Antonio at New York, 6:30 p.m.

Dallas at Seattle, 9 p.m.

Chicago at LA Clippers, 9:30 p.m.

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National Hockey League

NHL—Suspended Detroit D Jiri Fischer one game for a head-butting

LOS ANGELES KINGS—Activated RW Dustin Brown from injured reserve

PHOENIX COYOTES—Acquired D Nick Cammarata from Pittsburgh for a second-round pick

ATLANTIC CITY BOARDWALK BULLIES—Announced C Jim Herenka was assigned to the team from Worcester of the AHL

CINCINNATI CYCLOPS—Acquired D Nick Cammarata from Pittsburgh for a second-round pick

LAS VEGAS WRANGLERS—Announced F Justin Kelly has been recalled

WHEELING NAILERS—Announced F Jason Jeffery has been recalled

ARIZONA—Agreed to terms with Mike Stoops, football coach, on a five-year contract, through Dec. 31, 2008.

COLLEGE

Men's College Basketball Scores

SOUTHWEST

Southwestern, Texas 66, Dallas 57

Arizona 90, Oregon 64

Midwest

Buffalo 55, Illinois 51

DePaul 94, Georgetown 72

Kent 85, Colorado 57

Kentucky 71, Notre Dame 63

Oakland City 84, Indiana-Northwest 76

Purdue 76, Michigan 70

New Orleans 88, San Antonio 86

Seattle 102, LA Clippers 97

Dallas 108, Sacramento 99

New Jersey 110, Boston 91

Chicago 86, Toronto 85

Phoenix 99, Phoenix 99

Memphis 106, Denver 88

Houston at Orlando, 5 p.m.

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Make it 10 straight Kentucky

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP)—Chuck Hayes scored 21 points and Gerald Fitch added 15 to No. 9 Kentucky, which beat Notre Dame 74-63 Sunday, its 10th straight win over the Irish.

The Wildcats (13-2) opened a double-digit lead early and then held on for the victory. Notre Dame (9-6), which trailed by as many as 15 points in the first half, used a 7-0 run to cut the lead to 66-63 when Chris Quinn made two free throws with 37 seconds left. But the Irish missed their final two shots and Kentucky scored the final five points.

Kalenna Azubuike added 14 points for the Wildcats, who shot 53 percent.

Torrian Jones and Chris Thomas each had 16 points for the Irish, who have lost three of their last four, all to ranked teams.

Florida St. 75
No. 10 Wake Forest 70

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Tim Pickett scored all 18 of his points in the second half and Florida State made six straight free throws over the final 45 seconds to hand Wake Forest its fourth straight loss.

No. 12 Kansas 78
Colorado 57

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP)—Wayne Simien had 20 points, and 15 rebounds to lead Kansas to its 21st straight victory over the Buffaloes in Allen Fieldhouse.

Keith Langford and J.R. Giddens each added 13 points for Kansas (12-3, 4-0 Big 12), which led 41-21 at halftime and outscored the cold-shooting Buffaloes 20-7 in the first 9 minutes of the second half.

Lamar Harris was 13-for-14 from the line and had a season-high 21 points for Colorado (10-6, 2-3).

No. 14 Arizona 90
Oregon 68

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)—Texas had to overcome 22 turnovers and guard Toccara Williams to beat Texas A&M.

Tiffany Jackson had 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Heather Schreiber made the go-ahead free throw and a 3-pointer in the closing minutes, helping the Lady Longhorns hold off Texas A&M 64-62 Sunday.

Texas (17-2, 5-1 Big 12) got off to a slow start and need a charge to take a 32-30 halftime lead over the Aggies (7-10, 0-6), who tied the game at 56 with 4 minutes to play.

Schreiber's free throw with 3:59 left put the Lady Longhorns ahead to stay at 57-56 and her 3-pointer 30 seconds later made it 60-56.

"Heather hit some really clutch 'shots' for us," Texas coach Jody Conradt said. "She struggled early and we depend on her so much. Our opponents try to keep her out of the game. A lot of energy was expended doing that, but she hit some big shots down the

stretch and that gave us some energy and momentum."

Schreiber had more chances late in the game.

"In the second half, they were having to key on Tiffany and rotate people down on her and that helped open me up," Schreiber said. "We just had to get it out and make the plays down the stretch."

Williams became just the fourth player in NCAA history to have 1,000 points, 600 assists and 400 steals.

She scored 24 points and had nine of A&M's 16 steals. Her steals were the most against Texas this season.

"I know people were counting us out, but we got out there played hard and executed," Williams said. "They just made some key shots down the stretch. Tiffany Jackson was coming out of nowhere blocking shots. She is a handful."

Nina Norman added 12 points for the Lady Longhorns, and Jamie Carey and Schreiber each had 11.

Tamea Scales had 12 points and nine rebounds for A&M.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Germany's Marcel Siem made a 10-foot birdie putt on the third playoff hole to beat France's Raphael Jacquelin and Gregory Havret and win the Dunhill Championship on Sunday.

Siem shot a final-round 6-under-par 66 and finished tied with Jacquelin (67) and Havret (67) at 22-under 266 at Houghton Golf Club.

The playoff took place on the par-5 18th, and after the players parred the first extra hole, Havret made par on the second, and was eliminated when Siem and Jacquelin made birdie.

On the third extra hole, Jacquelin had a par, and the

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The win was the second in four days over a Top Ten team for the Seminoles (14-5, 3-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), who beat No. 7 North Carolina 90-81 in overtime on Thursday.

Freshman Chris Paul had 17 points for Wake Forest (11-4, 2-3), which lost to Texas, Duke and Georgia Tech.

No. 12 Kansas 78
Colorado 57

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP)—Wayne Simien had 20 points, and 15 rebounds to lead Kansas to its 21st straight victory over the Buffaloes in Allen Fieldhouse.

Keith Langford and J.R. Giddens each added 13 points for Kansas (12-3, 4-0 Big 12), which led 41-21 at halftime and outscored the cold-shooting Buffaloes 20-7 in the first 9 minutes of the second half.

Lamar Harris was 13-for-14 from the line and had a season-high 21 points for Colorado (10-6, 2-3).

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BLONDIE

BLONDIE

MARVIN

PEANUTS

ZITS

BC

GARFIELD

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DOONESBURY

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

Monday, January 26, 2004 B5

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Want to Rent 8110

Family of 4 looking for nice 3BR/2BA home in Marshall. Needed at the end of February. Call 903-679-4361

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COMMERCIAL LOT, on East End Blvd. So. '150 mo. 903-938-8947

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Lots 9050

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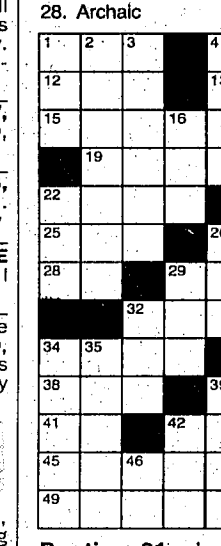
By Douglas Cooper

ACROSS

- Dry
- Bishop's jurisdiction
- Duchess of York
- Southern constellation
- Reckon
- Good luck object
- Hurry
- Exclamation
- Anchor tackle
- And not
- Swallow quickly
- Study
- Memorandum
- Land measure
- Hide
- Archaic

DOWN

- Maintain
- Perform
- Vobbles
- By
- Absent
- Some
- Expense
- Wash for gold
- Illuminated
- Throw
- Near
- Front
- Lockheed
- Aircraft
- Forgiveness
- Black cuckoo
- Deal with
- Small child
- Permit



Par time 21 minutes AP Newsfeatures 1/26



Saturday's Solution

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Casablanca | 9. Sun god |
| 2. Delation | 10. One of the Musketeers |
| 3. Chess piece | 11. Core |
| 4. Barge | 12. Diocesan office |
| 5. Dine | 13. Satisfied |
| 6. Urban railroad | 14. Nothing |
| 7. Diamonds or hearts | 15. Includes |
| 8. Mum | 16. Youth |
| | 17. Refuse wool |
| | 18. Existence |
| | 19. Modest |
| | 20. Predeter- |
| | 21. Worthless scrap |
| | 22. Dress |
| | 23. Leather |
| | 24. Mailing card |
| | 25. Separate |
| | 26. Irigate |
| | 27. Balloon basket |
| | 28. Final |
| | 29. Jargon |
| | 30. By way of |
| | 31. Sound of cattle |
| | 32. Annual basketball competition: abbr. |
| | 33. Myself |
| | 34. That thing |

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