

BIG SPRING

HERALD

TUESDAY

MAY 1, 2007



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Mexican druglords smuggling migrants

By **OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ**

Associated Press Writer

SASABE, Mexico (AP) — Mexican druglords are taking over the business of smuggling migrants into the United States, using them as human decoys to divert authorities from billions of dollars in cocaine shipments across the same border.

U.S. and Mexican law enforcement officials told The Associated Press that drug traffickers, in response to a U.S. border crackdown, have seized control of the routes they once shared with human smugglers and in the process are transforming themselves into more diversified crime syndicates.

The drug gangs get protection money from the migrants and then effectively use them to clear the trail for the flow of drugs.

Undocumented aliens are used "to maneuver where they want us or don't want us to be," said Alonzo Pena, chief of investigations for

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BLOOMING BOUNTY



Courtesy photo
Big Spring State Hospital therapist and greenhouse manager Raymond Ontiveros grooms potted plants at the hospital's greenhouse. Patients grow the plants from seed and plugs and use them in the hospital landscaping.

County to settle with Furqueron

Dismissed architect will receive \$20,000

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Howard County commissioners voted unanimously Monday morning to approve a \$20,000 settlement with local architect Phil Furqueron, as the court opted to avoid costly arbitration surrounding the premature termination of his contract.

Furqueron, represented by local attorney Tim Yeats, filed for arbitration of approximately \$32,000 the local architect claimed the county owed him in termination fees that were a part of his contract.

Howard County commissioners voted 3-2 in early March to go ahead

"Since it looks like we owe him \$17,000, and arbitration would cost another \$4,000, I think we should probably settle for the \$20,000."



Thomas

with a arbitrary counter-suit against Furqueron for more than \$187,000. Commissioners Gary Simer and Emma Brown, as well as Barr, voted in

See **COUNTY**, Page 3A

Luminarias glow with memories of loved ones during Relay For Life

By **NANCY KOGER**

Special to the Herald

The word "luminaria" makes many think of decorations at Christmas but for anyone who has been to an American Cancer Society Relay For Life, that candle inside a paper bag weighted with sand means much more.

The illuminated sacks that line the Blankenship Field track beginning at 10 p.m. May 18 will shine with the memory of those lost to cancer and hope for those who have survived.

Carolyn Brooks and Lucy Griffith, assisted by Donna Pettit, Donita Lee, Joyce Johnson, Debra Thompson, Susan Lewis, Lynn Nell Ray and Joy Hester, make up the committee that takes dona-



tions and prepares the luminarias for the ceremony. People wishing to name or decorate a luminaria in honor or in memory of someone may use the application blank that has been in the *Herald* or contact them at 394-4537 or 263-0965. This committee strives to keep up with orders as they come in during the months preceding Relay, and its members are happy to give donors the opportunity to prepare their own

luminarias during the event, as well.

Art classes at Big Spring High School taught by Judy Tereletsky have devoted some of their talent to decorating luminarias. The student artists were told about the vision of Relay For Life to light the way to a cure for cancer and they used individual inspiration to adorn the bags.

"When I examined the bags they had done, I was completely in awe of the thought and meaning they had conveyed in simple colors and symbols," said Brooks.

The Luminaria Ceremony, donated and produced by Tumbleweed Smith, begins with the lighting of the luminarias around the track and

extinguishing of the lights. The lighted symbols of HOPE and CURE and the candle, which have been dedicated in previous years, are displayed. A 12-minute program of music and words of hope and inspiration will be concluded with the dedication of a lighted sun, moon, and stars, this year's addition to the ceremony. These symbols, reflecting the overnight aspect of the event, are underwritten by the Worthy family, represented by Roy Worthy. The public, whether otherwise involved in Relay or not, is urged to attend this meaningful, Friday night ceremony.

Every Relay For Life event has a candlelight ceremony. When



Courtesy photo
Luminarias are one of the ways family and friends can celebrate the memory of a cancer victim during Relay For Life. This year's Relay is May 18-19 at Blankenship Field.

American Cancer Society representatives from across the state went to Austin in February to lobby for funds, they had a luminaria ceremony on the capitol steps. Barbi Jones, ACS community manager from Midland,

said that as workers were coming out of the capitol building, she noticed a young man who slowed his pace and began to walk along, looking at the lighted sacks. No one was

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www.bigspringherald.com

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Cinco de Mayo promises good food, great music

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Good food, great music and plenty of fun are on their way to the Heart of the City Park, as the annual Big Spring Cinco de Mayo Festival gets under way May 4-5.

According to coordinator Kelly Zant, the festival — which begins Friday at 6 p.m. and continues through midnight — will have some-

"What we're trying to do is bring about a cultural unity, to bring the people in our area together to celebrate our community. We want to uplift everyone and give them a place to take their families and just celebrate being from Big Spring".



Zant

thing for everyone in the family.

"We have more vendors this year than ever before,"

said Zant. "When everything is set up, it's going to look like a total extravaganza at the Heart of the City Park. I

just got through talking to one of the vendors, and she has four tents with nothing but high quality T-shirts, so people are definitely going to want to save up their nickels."

Zant said another focus of the annual event — cuisine of every conceivable smell and taste — will also be ramped up during this year's offering.

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

Page 1B
Tuesday, May 1, 2007

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

IN BRIEF

Forsan reschedules its all-sports banquet

Forsan High School's All-Sports Banquet has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, May 21, at the high school.

School officials moved the event's date to accommodate tennis players who will be playing at the state tennis tournament on the originally scheduled date of May 7. Tickets, priced at \$10 each, are available at the high school office and must now be purchased by Wednesday, May 16.

For more information, contact Debbie Burton at 457-2223.

Relay for Life ragball tournament slated

The Relay for Life Ragball Tournament has been scheduled for May 12-13 at Big Spring High School's Lady Steers Softball Field.

Teams will consist of five male and five female players. Entry fees are \$10 per player.

Registration is set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, with the first game of the tournament set to start at 11 that morning.

Guys & Gals Tourney scheduled at BSCC

A Guys & Gals Couples Tournament has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at the Big Spring Country Club.

Entry fees for the two-person scramble are \$130 per couple, plus \$40 cart fee per team.

To enter, call the country club at 267-53-54.

Texas Tech schedules summer sports camps

Texas Tech University has scheduled several sports camps for this summer.

The Tim Siegel Tennis Camps are set for June 2-6 and June 17-21. The overnight camps are for players 8 to 17 of all ability levels.

For more information, call Siegel at 806-742-3355, ext. 277.

The Texas Tech Golf Camp for boys and girls ages 11 to 18 will be June 8-11.

For information on that camp, call 806-742-3355, ext. 272.

The Texas Tech High Altitude Cross Country Camp will be Aug. 6-10 at Cloudcroft, N.M.

For information, call Jon Murray at 806-742-3355, ext. 287.

The Wes Kittley Caampions Track and Field Camp for boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 will be June 17-20.

For information call Joe Walker at 806-742-3355, ext. 249.

Information on all the Tech camps is available at www.texastech.com.

Howard to host Region V tourney

Howard College's Foundation Field will be site for the NJCAA Region V Softball Tournament to be held this weekend.

The top four teams from the WJCAC will qualify for double elimination tournament play, with the winner advancing to the NJCAA National Tournament in Plant City, Fla., May 17-19.

Lady Steers looking for a little payback

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Writer

Big Spring's Lady Steers (18-18) had their share of struggles during the regular season, as evidenced by their record, but have pulled together in order to make a late season run that pushed them into the UIL softball playoffs as District 4-4A's second seed.

This run included victories over top teams like District 4-4A champion Frenship, considered

one of the better teams in the state. Big Spring also swept a great Hereford team in bi-district play. The Lady Steers were responsible for all three of Hereford's losses this season.

They hope to keep this late season run going when they face District 1-4A champion El Paso Chapin (21-3-1) this weekend in Artesia, N.M.

It was at this point of the post-season that the Lady Huskies cut the Lady Steers playoff run short a year ago. As a result, the Lady

Steers would like nothing better for a little bit of payback this time around.

"They are a very beatable team," Lady Steers head coach Jennifer Reyes. "We just didn't play the best we could last year."

Reyes credits the Lady Steers' run into the playoffs to team cohesiveness.

"We've been shooting from day one to not have a lot of groups or cliches or a lot of the 'girl problems' that we've had in the past," Reyes said. "This year they've

done a good job of getting beyond that to become a team of 12. It helps out and shows up on the field. When one person makes an error they make sure to pick her up."

The Lady Steers are led offensively and defensively by senior shortstop Amber Sides, but find their vocal leaders on the corners of the infield in junior third baseman Desiree Yanez and first baseman Brenna Phernetton.

See REVENGE, Page 2B

Cavs finish off Washington, 97-90

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — Down by three points with 5 1/2 minutes left in Game 4, the Cleveland Cavaliers needed someone to put the Washington Wizards away.

Time to turn to LeBron James, right? Not exactly. Actually, Larry Hughes and Zdrunas Ilgauskas combined for Cleveland's next 18 points, and James didn't have a basket the rest of the way Monday night, when the Cavaliers beat the Wizards 97-90 to complete the franchise's first playoff sweep.

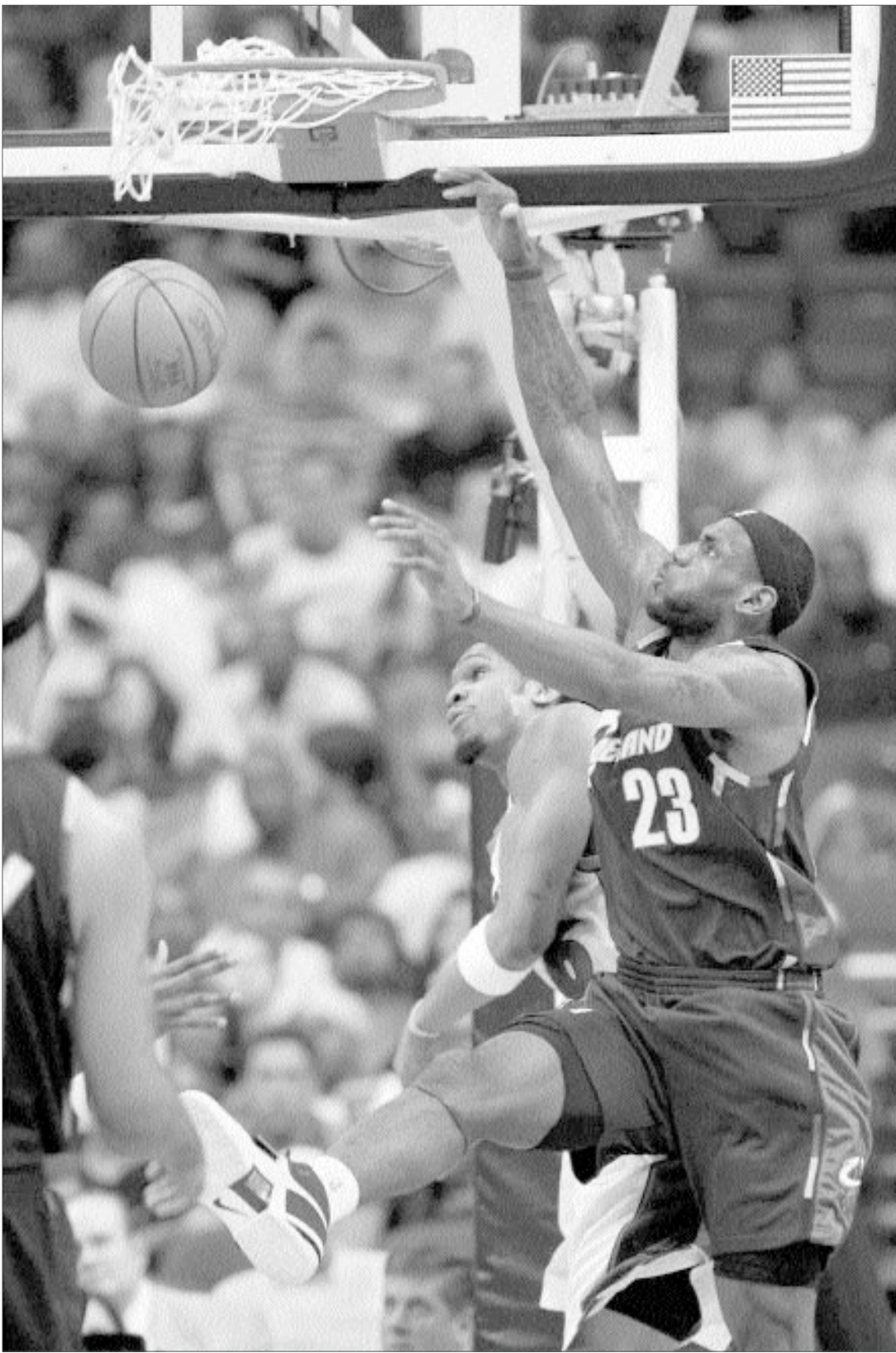
If the Wizards were known for having the "Big Three" — until, that is, Gilbert Arenas and Caron Butler went down with April injuries — it's the Cavaliers who have developed a talented trio that dominated the first-round series.

"We can't win if these guys don't play well, Z and Larry. Simple as that," said James, who finished with 31 points despite shooting 8-for-22 from the field. "I need them every game to be a factor. Us three, if we don't play well, we're not going to have a chance to win."

Win they did, if only barely, in all four games against a depleted Washington squad that led the Eastern Conference halfway through the season but never really had a chance once its two All-Stars went down.

"Gil's a strong personality. Caron's a strong personality. They're tough," Wizards coach Eddie Jordan said. "They bring more to the table than just numbers, and their numbers were huge."

In other playoff games Monday night, Houston beat Utah 96-92 and San



MCT photo/Ed Suba Jr./Akron Beacon Journal

Cleveland's LeBron James (23) dunks over Washington Wizards defender Etan Thomas during first-half action in Game 4 of the NBA playoffs' first round. The Cavaliers defeated the Wizards, 97-90, at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C., Monday.

Antonio defeated Denver 96-89.

Last season, the Cavaliers relied on James to carry them past the

Wizards in a tight first-round series that featured three games decided by one point.

Back then, Cleveland

was excited about being a postseason participant. Nowadays, James and Co.

See NBA, Page 2B



MCT photo/Mary Jo Walicki/Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

St. Louis Cardinals slugger Albert Pujols collects a single in his first trip to the plate against the Milwaukee Brewers at Miller Park in Milwaukee Monday. The Cardinals team wore a black number 32 on their arms in remembrance of their teammate, relief pitcher Josh Hancock, who died in a recent car accident.

Cardinals return to field after Hancock's death

By The Associated Press

Jeff Suppan made it look routine, even though it was anything but simple.

Suppan pitched his 16th career complete game Monday night to lead Milwaukee to a 7-1 win over St. Louis in the Cardinals' first game since reliever Josh Hancock died in a car accident.

Suppan (4-2), Hancock's teammate with the Cardinals until he signed with Milwaukee in the offseason, struck out five, walked one and allowed eight hits.

"I am not going to say it was easy," Suppan said. "I don't know how to describe it. It's tough. I am not a Cardinal anymore, so I don't know what it is like in that locker room."

For Scott Spiezio, it was too much to handle. He was overcome with emotion just before the first pitch when he saw Hancock's jersey and the black No. 32 patch the team would be wearing, and manager Tony La Russa pulled him from the starting lineup.

"I got a little caught up right before gametime," Spiezio said. "Seeing the patch, seeing the jersey. It's hard to escape, you know? Usually, you've got

stuff going on and when you get to the park, you can escape it. Here, you can't."

In other NL games, it was: Washington 3, San Diego 2; Arizona 9, Los Angeles Dodgers 1; Atlanta 5, Philadelphia 2; Florida 9, New York Mets 6; San Francisco 9, Colorado 5; and Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 2.

At Milwaukee, Kip Wells (1-5) balked in a run in the second and gave up seven runs in six innings to take the loss against the Brewers.

The 29-year-old Hancock was killed shortly after midnight Sunday when his SUV struck the rear of a flatbed tow truck on a St. Louis highway. The Cardinals' scheduled home game against Chicago on Sunday night was postponed.

The Cardinals will wear the patches on their sleeves for the rest of the season. Pitcher Tyler Johnson held one of Hancock's jerseys during the national anthem Monday and outfielder Preston Wilson draped his arm around teammate So Taguchi's shoulder in the dugout.

See NL, Page 2B

Obituaries

Lilia Garza



Lilia Garza, 81, of St. Lawrence, died Monday, April 30, 2007, at her daughter's home. A vigil service will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 2, 2007 at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church with Father Francis Njoku officiating. Interment will follow at St. Lawrence Cemetery.

She was born Oct. 8, 1925, in Mexico, and married Ramiro Garza, Sr. April 25, 1951 in Mexico.

Lilia enjoyed gardening, crocheting and cooking. She loved being with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, Ramiro R. Garza Sr. of St. Lawrence; four daughters and sons-in-law, Rosalinda and Robert Moreno of Lubbock, Julia and Frank Rosa Garza of El Paso, Blanca and Roberto Guerrero of St. Lawrence and Lucila and Pedro Trevino of Lavon; three sons and daughters-in-law, Juan and Anna Garza of San Angelo, Ramiro Jr. and Rosa Garza of St. Lawrence and Jose and Bertha Garza of Big Lake; one brother, Antonio Zuniga of Garden City; four sisters, Maria Flores, Alicia Zuniga, Isabel Olono and Refugio DeLaGarza, all of Mexico, 25 grandchildren; and 32 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; twin sons; a brother; and an uncle.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Hospice of San Angelo, 36 Twohig, Suite 1100, San Angelo 76902.

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

Robert Hansen



Robert Paul Hansen, 47, of Big Spring, died Monday, April 30, 2007 at his residence. Private family services will be at a later date.

He was born May 17, 1959, in Greenville, Michigan to Carolyn and Edward Hansen. He had worked for Hansen Trucking Company in Greenville. He moved to Big Spring three years ago from Greenville. He was a member of the Assembly of God Church.

He is survived by his mother, Carolyn Irwin of Big Spring.

He was preceded in death by his father, Edward Paul Hansen; and a sister, Rebecca Louise Hansen.

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

Jerline Wilson

Jerline Myles Wilson, 60, of Big Spring, died Sunday, April 29, 2007 at her residence. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Elder Holston Banks officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born Oct. 8, 1946, in Big Spring. She worked for more than 40 years as a certified nurse's assistant. She worked for more than 20 years for Nurses Unlimited and also at Mountain View Lodge. She had worked at the Big Spring State Hospital and had worked 15 years for the Big Spring Independent School District as a bus driver. She was a lifetime resident of Big Spring and a Baptist.

She is survived by her husband, Eugene Wilson, of Big Spring; a son, Willie Ray Myles of Big Spring; a daughter, Kelly Myles of Big Spring; one sister: Sheila Crockett of Big Spring; a special friend that was like a sister: Shirley Watson of Dallas; two grandchildren: Shamar Myles and Keith Kelley and his wife Rosemary, all of Big Spring; three great grandchildren: Latoya Kelley, Keith Kelley, Jr., and Kendrick Shamar Kelley, all of Big Spring; and several cousins.

In addition to her parents, Richie Mae Smith and Henderson Crockett, Jr., she was preceded in death by her first husband, Willie Myles; and a sister.

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

Take Note

• **COAHOMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** will begin planning for 2007-2008 kindergarten classes today. Coahoma ISD will hold kindergarten orientation at the elementary school today from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Registration and testing will take place by appointment May 14-16. A child must be 5 years old before Sept. 1, 2007, to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten. A notarized proof of residency form is required. Also needed are a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, child's original Social Security card, updated immunization record and guardian's driver's license. For more information, call 394-4323.

• **A SENIOR ADULT BIRTHDAY PARTY** will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday for seniors 55 and older at the First Baptist Church Family Life Center. Bring a vegetable or salad (no desserts, please). Cake and ice cream will be served. There will be birthday presents and fun with Dimple the Clown and maybe Mischief too. The event is free, sponsored by the Big Spring Baptist Association.

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Police blotter

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

Note: An activity log was not available due to computer problems reported by the police department.

- **JODY WAYNE DAWDY**, 43, of 1406 S. Young, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **RICHARD VELA**, 44, of 708 N. Scurry, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **LORENZO RAMIREZ**, 22, of 410 W. Eighth Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of disorderly conduct - language.
- **SHANNON L. BEELER**, 28, transient, was arrested Monday on a charge of forgery.
- **JOHN GARNER**, 32, of Alabama, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 56 inmates at the time of this report.

- **RICHARD VELA**, 44, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **HENRY HOLGUIN**, 48, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana and a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.
- **LORENZO FABIAN ONTIVEROS**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a Tom Green County warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and a charge of failure to appear - motion for enforcement.
- **BRIAN MICHAEL GARZA**, 24, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information, possession of a controlled substance and failure to appear - forgery.
- **SABRINA GUTIERREZ PEREZ**, 32, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a bench warrant issued for parent-child relationship.

Fire/EMS

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

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported on 11th and Birdwell. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of Parkway. One person was taken to SMMC.
- **FIRE** was reported in the 1600 block of Cardinal. Fire was out on arrival.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1900 block of S. Monticello. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of N.E. Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 12500 block of N. County Road 35. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3100 block of Mountain Shadow. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Mt. Vernon. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 300 block of E. Third Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. East winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs around 80. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 60. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms in the morning...Then mostly sunny in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 80s. Light and variable winds becoming southeast around 10 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s.

Friday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 60s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Sunday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- League of Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 6 p.m. in the board room of the YMCA. For more information, contact Jennifer Patton at 714-4185 or 263-6351 or 816-6962.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge at 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10th and Goliad. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Spring City Senior Citizens country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area seniors are invited.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 8-20-25-32-35.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$31,738
Winning tickets sold in: Odessa.

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-6-9-18. Bonus Ball: 18.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: none.

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-5-1.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

• The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) support group meets from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main. Anyone who has a mental illness or has a friend or family with mental illness is invited to participate. Call Felicia Talley at 268-3835 for more information.

• Al-Anon, 615 Settles for family members and friends of alcoholics meets at 8 p.m.

• Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. and closed discussion meeting 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

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Blue Jays' Halladay takes care of Rangers in a hurry

TORONTO (AP) — Roy Halladay got into a rhythm and retired the Texas Rangers in a hurry.

Halladay threw a five-hitter, Aaron Hill hit a two-run homer and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Rangers 6-1 Monday night.

At just 2 hours and 2 minutes, it was the quickest game of the season for both teams. That kind of fast pace suits Halladay just fine.

"It's easier to stay aggressive when you're working quickly," Halladay said. "I'm always conscious of tempo and trying to keep it at a quick pace. When things are going good and you're getting ahead, I like working as quickly as I can."

Opposing batters often have little time to catch their breath between Halladay's pitches.

"When he starts pumping strikes it feels like it's going so quick," Rangers catcher Gerald Laird said. "When he gets in a rhythm it's kind of tough to break it."

Halladay (4-0) struck out eight and walked none in his second complete game of the season. He went 10 innings in his first one, leading Toronto to a 2-1 victory over Detroit on April 13.

"He's a security blanket," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "You usually win and that's big. He saves bullpens, he continues winning

streaks, he stops losing streaks."

Troy Glaus and rookie Adam Lind also homered for the Blue Jays (13-12), who secured their third straight winning April with the victory.

Halladay has worked at least seven innings in each of his last five starts. He retired eight in a row between the first and fourth and 11 straight between the fourth and the eighth against the Rangers.

"When you get him the lead he rushes to the finish line and that's what he did tonight," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "He was nasty. That's why he's Roy Halladay, Cy Young winner."

Toronto got to Vicente Padilla (0-4) for three runs in the second. Glaus led off with his third homer, Matt Stairs followed with a single and Hill homered into the second deck in left, his fifth. Padilla then retired three in a row to get out of the inning.

"Once they got to three, Halladay just shut us down," Washington said.

Lind hit a two-out solo drive to right in the seventh, his third. All three of Lind's homers have come in the past four days.

Padilla gave up four runs and six hits over seven innings. He walked four and struck out four.

"We really haven't supported him," Washington said. "We've made some mistakes behind him that cost him some innings that were big."

Toronto added two more in the eighth off reliever Scott Feldman. Frank Thomas doubled and was replaced by pinch-runner Jason Smith, who scored on a single by Glaus. Stairs doubled and Hill followed with a sacrifice fly to center.

Glaus went 2-for-4 with two RBIs and Hill finished 1-for-3 with three RBIs.

The Rangers got their only run in the first when Kenny Lofton singled, stole second and third and scored on a two-out double by Sammy Sosa.

NL

Continued from Page 1B

Nationals 3, Padres 2

At San Diego, Washington's John Patterson allowed one run in six innings to outpitch Jake Peavy and get his first win in more than a year.

Austin Kearns and Kory Casto drove in runs against Peavy (3-1), who was coming off a 16-strikeout, seven-inning performance in his last outing, a no-decision at Arizona on Wednesday.

Peavy had 10 strikeouts against Washington,

allowing three runs and six hits in seven innings.

Patterson (1-4) won for the first time since April 15, 2006. He made eight starts last season due to forearm trouble that landed him on the disabled list twice and required surgery in July.

Chad Cordero pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save in seven chances.

Diamondbacks 9, Dodgers 1

At Los Angeles, Brandon Webb allowed one run over seven innings and Chris Young hit two solo homers for Arizona in its sixth

straight victory.

Webb gave up four hits and walked three. The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner has allowed four earned runs in 23 innings over his last three starts.

Dodgers starter Randy Wolf (3-3) was charged with six runs, 10 hits and four walks over 5 2-3 innings.

Braves 5, Phillies 2

Andrew Jones hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning for Atlanta.

Pitching with a "JH" on the front of his jersey, Braves starter Tim

Hudson allowed only four hits over eight innings but didn't get a decision. Hudson was good friends with Hancock after the two played together at Auburn in 1997 and led the Tigers to the College World Series.

In the ninth, Kelly Johnson led off with a single, Chipper Jones walked and Andruw Jones hit a towering drive into the left-field seats off Antonio Alfonseca (1-1).

Marlins 9, Mets 6

Hanley Ramirez homered, Miguel Cabrera drove in two runs and Florida chased emergency

New York starter Chan Ho Park early.

Alfredo Amezaga also homered and Josh Willingham had a two-run single during visiting Florida's five-run rally in the third inning, which started with a two-out single by pitcher Scott Olsen (3-1), who gave up four runs — two earned — and 10 hits in six-plus innings.

Giants 9, Rockies 5

Pedro Feliz hit a three-run homer and San Francisco's Noah Lowry beat Colorado for the first time in more than two years.

Rich Aurilia hit two doubles, drove in a run and scored twice as San Francisco opened a season-long 10-game homestand by ending a three-game losing streak.

Lowry (3-2) won his third straight, ending a six-start winless stretch and four-game losing streak to the Rockies dating to a victory over Colorado on April 15, 2005. He lasted only five innings, marking just the fifth time this year that a Giants starter failed to go six.

Troy Tulowitzki matched his career high with four hits for the Rockies.

NBA

Continued from Page 1b

— seeded No. 2 in the Eastern Conference — want to make some noise.

"Last year, going into the playoffs, it was all about making the playoffs," James said. "I hadn't been there in my NBA career, and Z hadn't been there since his rookie season, so that was our main focus: Let's make the playoffs. Let's make the playoffs. But we've got bigger and better things now. It's about winning a championship, and we're one step closer."

The Cavaliers will take on the New Jersey Nets or the Toronto Raptors — who are playing the East's only first-round series that wasn't a sweep. Cleveland joined Chicago (which knocked off defending champion Miami) and Detroit (which eliminated Orlando) as teams that beat Southeast Division foes 4-0.

"It's going to be a long and stressful and 'fatigueful' postseason for us,"

James said, "so the more rest we can get, us taking care of business tonight, it's going to add to us being able to recover and mentally let us refocus."

James had 11 rebounds and seven assists, including three down the stretch, when Ilgauskas (20 points, 19 rebounds) and Hughes (19 points) were scoring.

"When you have different guys step up at different times," Cavaliers coach Mike Brown said, "it takes the burden off of our team and our leading scorer, LeBron James — who, by the way, had a terrific game."

Without Arenas or Butler, the Wizards again were left to rely on Antawn Jamison, who scored 31 points Monday and averaged 32 for the series. He also dribbled the ball off his foot and out of bounds with 51 seconds left and Washington down 91-88.

Cleveland's scores on either side of that turnover? Baskets by Ilgauskas on assists by James.

"It was basically the same story in all four

games: When you go out there, your job is to put yourself in position to win the game, and I think we did that," said Wizards guard Antonio Daniels, who had 13 points and 12 assists. "We just didn't hit our shots down the stretch, and they did."

Rockets 96, Jazz 92

Tracy McGrady had 26 points and a career-high 16 assists, and Yao Ming had 21 points and 15 rebounds for the Rockets, who took a 3-2 lead with their third home win. Yao sealed the victory with two free throws with 11 seconds left.

Back home after two lethargic losses in Utah, the Rockets rediscovered their shooting touch, going 35-for-75 from the field (47 percent) and 12-for-24 from 3-point range. They also outrebounded Utah 42-39.

The Rockets can clinch their first postseason series victory since 1997 in Game 6 in Utah on Thursday.

Carlos Boozer of Utah scored 26 points but had

only eight rebounds, denied a double-double for the first time in the series. Derek Fisher added 17 points and Williams had 13 for the Jazz, who have lost three straight Game 6s.

Spurs 96, Nuggets 89

Robert Horry, known for hitting big shots at the end of playoff games, nailed a 3-pointer with 30 seconds left to seal the win that gave visiting San Antonio a 3-1 lead in the first-round series.

The Spurs can close out the best-of-seven series at home Wednesday night.

The Nuggets, who led by 10 points in the second half, pulled to 90-89 on Steve Blake's jumper which looked like a 3 but his toe was on the line. Following a timeout, Tony Parker took the inbounds pass, penetrated the lane and kicked out to Horry all alone in the right corner. It was just the second basket of the night for Horry.

Tim Duncan led the Spurs with 22 points, while Manu Ginobili added 18.

REVENGE

Continued from Page 1B

The Lady Steers are a senior laden team, but also have felt a strong impact from a couple of freshman this season.

Not the least of those impacts is that made by freshman pitcher Kelli Sage, who will be the

starting pitcher when Big Spring steps onto the field at 4:30 p.m. Friday for Game 1 of the best-of-three series against the Lady Huskies.

In fact, Sage figures to be the starter for Game 2 as well. The second game of the series will be played at 11 a.m. Saturday, with a third game, if necessary, starting 30 minutes following the conclusion of Game 2.

Reyes said she would lean toward starting Yanez if Game 3 is necessary.

Freshman Kenzie Hunt is also available to pitch this weekend in a relief role if needed. However, the Lady Steers prefer to have Sage on the mound because it allows them to field their best team defensively.

Reyes, who has taken Big Spring to the playoffs

both seasons she has been head coach of the team, expresses great confidence in her team's chances of continuing their playoff run.

"This team, when they show up to play, can beat anybody," she said.

To contact Jonathan Hull, call 263-7331, ext. 237, or e-mail him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

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Pictures Starting @ 6:00 p.m.

ATTENTION
The Lady Steer Booster Club is requesting photos of Lady Steer Athletes participating in the following sports during the 2006-2007 Season: Basketball, Track, Power Lifting, Softball and/or Cheerleading.
Please transfer photos to disc and contact Leslie Whitten at 816-6764 by 5-4-07

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Iran tops U.S. list of state terror sponsors as Rice considers meeting Iranian official

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department has once again designated Iran as the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, accusing the Islamic Republic of aiding extremists throughout the Middle East, particularly in Iraq.

Although the designation is not new, the release of the department's annual global survey of terrorism comes at a delicate moment — just days ahead of a possible meeting between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Iran's top diplomat.

Rice could meet Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki when they both attend a weekend conference of Iraq's neighbors aimed at boosting stability in a nation where the report says terrorist attacks, some backed by Iran, killed more than 13,000 civilians in 2006.

"Should the foreign minister of Iran bump into Condi Rice, Condi won't be rude," President Bush said Monday. "She's not a rude person. I'm sure she'll be polite."

Such a meeting on the sidelines of the conference in Egypt would be the highest-level contact between Iran and the United States since 2004.

Olmert defies calls to resign after harsh criticism in Lebanon war inquiry report

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Ehud Olmert faced an onslaught of calls for his resignation and the first cracks in his coalition Tuesday following a government probe's harsh criticism of his handling of last summer's Lebanon war.

Olmert defiantly declared after the report's release Monday that he would not quit, despite the inquiry's conclusion that he showed flawed judgment in ordering and directing the conflict.

But newspaper editorials and commentators demanded that he step down, saying he had lost the confidence of the Israeli people. The report "contains not even one lenient word to which the prime minister could cling in order to prolong his term," the Haaretz newspaper said in an editorial.

Ahead of Monday's report, the embattled Israeli leader had been working hard in recent weeks to shore up support within his coalition government.

In a sign of trouble, a junior Labor Party minister, Eitan Cabel, announced through a spokesman that he intended to resign later in the day to protest the government's failures in the war.

Gonzales gave firing authority to top aides, Justice Department order says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales gave two top aides authority to hire and fire political appointees other than U.S. attorneys, according to a Justice Department order obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

The March 2006 order gave Gonzales' then-Chief of Staff Kyle Sampson and later White House liaison Monica Goodling authority to hire and fire about 135 politically appointed Justice Department employees who did not require Senate confirmation.

Labeled "Internal Order," the document bestowed "the authority, with the approval of the attorney general, to take final action in matters pertaining to the appointment, employment, pay separation and general administration" of non-civil service employees.

Police investigate pepper spray attacks on Baylor students

WACO (AP) — Police are looking for the teenagers behind two attacks on Baylor University students in which the victims' eyes were doused with pepper spray.

Baylor Department of Public Safety Chief Jim Doak said the attacks occurred within a couple of hours Saturday night on the school's campus.

"We're angry, the students are angry," he said. "This is just pure evil. We're just amazed at how low someone will stoop."

Jordan Belt, 22, said he was driving with his window down when he came upon two boys acting like they "owned the street." He stopped to let the teens pass but was suddenly sprayed in the eyes.

FESTIVAL

Continued from Page 1A

"We also have more food vendors than ever before," said Zant. "It's just a wonderful thing, because you walk down the street and there are just so many different delicious smells floating around. We'll have some of the area's best Mexican food and barbecue. Many other food and drink booths will be on hand, providing a menu to please every hungry festival guest."

Zant said the festival will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 4, and continue through midnight.

"The following day, Saturday, May 5, we'll get things started at 11 a.m. with a menudo cookoff," said Zant. "There will be

so much to do, you're going to want to give yourself plenty of time to see everything."

The festival will wrap up at midnight.

"This is a multi-cultural event. It's a family event... What we're trying to do is bring about a cultural unity, to bring the people in our area together to celebrate our community. We want to uplift everyone and give them a place to take their families and just celebrate being from Big Spring. There just aren't enough opportunities to celebrate who we are, and this is a big part of who we are as a community."

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



Luminaria committee members decorate bags for luminarias. From left to right are, seated, Carolyn Brooks, Debra Thompson, Lun Nell Ray, Lucy Griffith and Joy Hester. Standing are JoAnne Forrest and Donita Lea. Bags for luminarias are decorated with cutout or original artwork and calligraphy designating "in memory of" or "in honor of."

RELAY

Continued from Page 1A

talking to him. He stopped in front of one with a name on it. Ms.

Jones asked if it was for someone he knew.

"It's my grandfather," he said, "only a few weeks ago."

Without thinking, she hugged the fellow, saying, "I lost my grandfather to

cancer 30 years ago. No matter how long ago, it still hurts."

He nodded, tears running down his cheeks. "Thanks for caring," he replied.

She felt the whole day

was worthwhile if that young man found comfort and hope from the light of Relay For Life.

The 2007 Howard Glasscock Relay For Life is May 18 and 19.

DRUGLORDS

Continued from Page 1A

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Arizona.

Gustavo Soto, a spokesman for the U.S.

Border Patrol in Tucson, Ariz., said smugglers are carrying drugs along paths once used primarily by migrants. New fences and National Guard troops have helped seal the usual drug routes, and vehicle barriers are forcing traffickers to send

more drugs north on the backs of cartel foot soldiers, he said.

"We have been able to seal many of the drug routes by adding technology and more agents," Soto said. "We're seeing a tremendous amount of drugs being seized."

The advent of drug-trafficking extortionists along the border may also be responsible for much of the drop in illegal immigration that U.S. officials have attributed more directly to better enforcement, Mexican officials and analysts say.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

favor of the countersuit — which was expected to cost the county approximately \$5,000 in fees and arbitration deposits — while commissioners Jerry Kilgore and Bill Crooker opposed the move.

However, after consulting with another law firm on the matter, County Attorney Mike Thomas said the countersuit might be harder to prove than initially believed.

"Our (current) architect suggested I talk to a firm that specializes in these kinds of contracts. So I sent everything in our packet to Bickerstaff, the firm, and they evaluated the contract," said Thomas. "They said that based on their reading of the contract, since we had changed the scope, we didn't have a claim for reimbursement of the architect fees and that we should pay a 10 percent termination fee, which came out to about \$14,000. Phil also presented some

reimbursable expenses for about \$3,000, so based on their reading of the contract we owed Phil about \$17,000.

"This firm specializes in these types of contracts, and this is the first time I've ever dealt with an architectural contract," he added. "I hate to say I'm smarter than a firm that specializes in architectural contracts. Based on their opinion to me, I'm going to recommend we settle. If you don't settle, this thing will go to arbitration and I'll present the claim for reimbursement."

Thomas said negotiations between himself and local attorney Tim Yeats, who is representing Furqueron in the proceedings, brought them to the \$20,000 figure.

"I spoke to Mr. Yeats about this. He agreed that was probably the correct reading of the contract, but they wanted some reimbursement on their fees for the arbitration and also to Mr. Yeats, so they offered to settle for \$20,000," said Thomas. "Since it looks like we

owe him \$17,000, and arbitration would cost another \$4,000, I think we should probably settle for the \$20,000. That's my recommendation to the court, that we settle for \$20,000.

"We've paid about \$1,000 for arbitration so far, and I don't know if any of that is reimbursable. There is currently a bill due for \$4,000, and if we settle we don't have to pay that one."

As for the opinion from the Bickerstaff firm, Thomas said they left little room for doubt in their opinion on the matter.

"When you spoke to the firm, did they expressly say there wasn't a very good chance of winning?" asked Barr.

"Based on their reading (of the contract), there's no question that the coun-

ty owes him \$17,000," Thomas told the court.

Also during the meeting, the court adopted a county road map and approved the renaming of voting precincts in Howard County.

"This doesn't change anyone's precinct," said Barr. "It simply makes it easier for voters to tell what precinct or city district they are in."

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Odie Thompson, 102, died Saturday. Funeral Services will be at 1:00 PM Tuesday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Trinity Memorial Park.

Jerline Myles Wilson, 60, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 10:30 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

Robert Hansen, 47, died Monday. Private family services will be at a later date.

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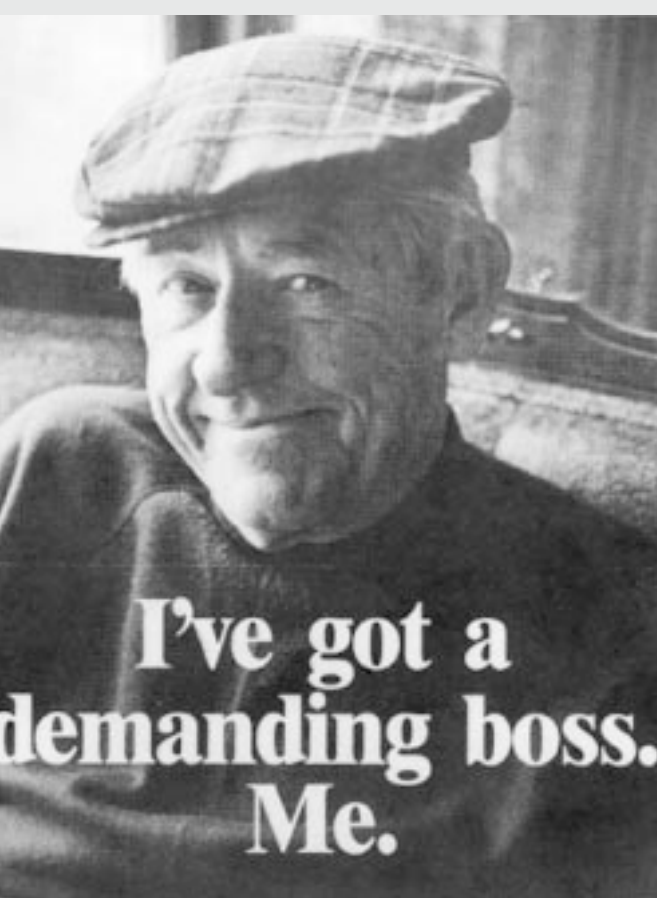
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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I want to use this opportunity to publicly support the re-election of our incumbent mayor, Russ McEwen, and encourage each of you to vote either in early voting or on election day. Do not give up your right to have a voice in our local government.

Throughout Mayor McEwen's service to our city he has faced very difficult situations and decisions. He has weathered the storms with style, grace and composure. With his leadership and through the hard work of many individuals, the VA Medical Center remains in Big Spring and is stronger than ever. The Big Spring State Hospital has expanded instead of closing; Cornell Corrections has grown and employs more of our citizens than ever and; Solitaire Homes returned to our city.

Mayor McEwen supported and was instrumental in passing a comprehensive smoking ban in our city for the protection and good health of our residents.

With his support, our city entered into a \$3,000,000 renovation to the golf course without a property tax increase; a merit pay plan was implemented for city employees which makes it easier to attract skilled workers and there has been approximately 36 miles of water line replacement during his term in office.

Among his most recent accomplishments are the passage of bond packages for street/landscaping improvements and the youth sports complex. Russ continues to fight for the renovation of downtown Big Spring and our city's financial well being.

In short, Russ McEwen has used his term in office to move our city forward and simply put, he is the best man for the job.

VIVIAN GORDON
BIG SPRING

TO THE EDITOR:

When receiving news from any source these days, I find myself having to filter out bias. In effect "reading between the lines" to discover the truth behind the news. While reading "Board Member Should Resign," I found myself doing just that.

This article, written by Thomas Jenkins in Thursday's paper, attempted to paint mayoral candidate Shannon Thomason as a misguided, hateful person. But let us read between the lines and seek the truth in this article.

The first truth is that Mr. Marquez has been the focus of more than one lawsuit brought by the city of Big Spring for unpaid property taxes. The second truth is that Mr. Marquez, for whatever reason, placed himself in a position to be sued by the city. Truth three, this is evidence of Mr. Marquez's lack of good judgment and/or understanding of basic business practices.

So why, with these truths, does the article disparage Shannon Thomason? Well, lets look at the other players interviewed.

Drew Mouton, though a very capable attorney, is highly motivated to downplay the seriousness of Mr. Marquez's poor judgment. The city is his customer. In an effort to

See **LETTERS**, Page 6A

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

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- 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

Dear Lord, we make a difference in this life when we walk with You.

Amen

There are lies, and then there are lies

As someone who has criticized the Bush Administration for not fighting back enough against relentless Democrat attacks and disinformation, I was delighted by Vice President Cheney's overdue dress-down of the Peter-principled and unprincipled Senate majority leader, Harry Reid.

If the mainstream media (MSM) gave as much credence to stories of real deception by Democrats as they do to phony allegations of Republican deception, the political landscape would look dramatically different. But no, I'm not holding my



DAVID LIMBAUGH

breath. The MSM dutifully reports as fact the Democrats' false allegation that Bush lied about Iraqi WMD, when at worst it was a mistake, since Bush was properly relying on the virtually unanimous opinion of all major intelligence agencies in the United States and the world. To lie is to say something you know at the time to be false.

In fairness, though, it was not President Bush's mistake, but the intelligence agencies. If you insist on saying Bush made a mistake, so did the Democrats who voted along with him — with access to the same intelligence, though they've lied in denying that as well.

Though Bush clearly hadn't lied, we wondered why Democrats were all of a sudden bothered by lying, since they habitually defended a habitual liar of their party who previously occupied the Oval Office.

That's simple, they said. Clinton was lying only about sex. If you lie about sex, even under oath, you should come nearer receiving a Nobel Peace Prize than being

punished for it. Of course, Clinton lied about much more than sex, but I digress.

President Bush, they say, lied us into war — about decisions that would affect lives and our national security. I certainly agree that for a public official *actually to lie* about such grave matters is inexcusable, which brings us to Dick Cheney's verbal laceration of Harry Reid.

Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi, the rest of the Democratic leadership and their MSM echo-puppets are portraying Cheney's remarks as petty partisan politics. In the words of Reid, Cheney is the administration's "attack dog." It's more accurate to say that he has been one of the Democrats' favorite scapegoats.

But here we go again. When Democrats assassinate Cheney's character with absurd lies, like "war for oil," the MSM reports it matter of factly as "VP under fire." When Cheney hits Democratic leader Reid squarely in the eye with truthful charges of his lies and inconsistencies, Cheney is portrayed as a vicious partisan hit man. All the while, the sober and self-evident truth of those allegations is downplayed or ignored. But we must not miss the substance of Cheney's pointed remarks.

The occasion for Cheney's statement on Reid was the Senate majority leader's regrettable declaration that we have lost the war in Iraq. Cheney decided to set the record straight on Reid's opportunistic oscillation on Iraq.

Cheney noted that in just five months Reid has taken three distinctly different positions on the war: "from pledging full funding for the military, then full funding but with conditions, and then a cutoff of funding — on the most important foreign policy question facing the nation and our troops." Are you with me on this?

We're not talking about sex here, but "the most important foreign policy question facing the nation and our troops." Reid has not only changed his position on the pivotal issue of Iraq, but flagrantly lied about it — and Cheney caught him dead to rights.

Cheney pointed out that Reid falsely stated the troop surge was against the recommendations of the Iraq Surrender Group (ISG), which is "plainly false." The ISG report "was explicitly favorable toward a troop surge to secure Baghdad." This surge, in the opinion of the general in command, is critical to our victory in Iraq, and Reid is lying about the ISG's recommendation on it. So this lie conceivably could affect the very outcome of the war and, thus, our national security.

Cheney said that Reid chided Bush for not participating in a regional conference on Iraq, yet we're scheduled to participate in one next week.

Reid said Democrats aren't given the opportunity for real substantive meetings with the White House.

But just last week, said Cheney, Reid emerged from a meeting at the White House and said, "It was a good exchange; everyone voiced their considered opinion about the war in Iraq."

Checkmate! If Reid is going to continue this pattern of prevarication, he is going to have to cover his tracks better.

Call Cheney a counterattack dog if you wish. But at least he's counterattacking on behalf of truth and America's national security.

More power to him.

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

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Going from Mike to Christine

It is the most e-mailed story in my local newspaper. My guess is you'll hear about it wherever you live, and not only by reading this column.

Mike is becoming Christine.

Mike Penner has been a sportswriter at the Los Angeles Times for 23 years. While a lot of us know about his affection for soccer, he's covered almost every sport as a reporter, columnist and essayist, and knows as much as anyone about football and baseball.

Which doesn't necessarily make him a man.

Friday morning, Mike came out to his readers, detailing his struggles for more than 40 years trying to live as a man while identifying as a woman, and his fear of telling people his secret. "When you reach the point when one gender causes heartache and unbearable discomfort, and the other brings more joy and fulfillment than you ever imagined possible," he wrote, "it shouldn't take two tons of bricks to fall in order to know what to do."

But Penner, like most transsexuals, was more afraid of how people would respond than of anything else. "For more years than I care to count, I was scared to death over the prospect of writing a story such as this one. It was the

most frightening of all the towering mountains of fear I somehow had to confront and struggle to scale."

With reason. Penner's poignant column announcing that he would be going on vacation, that on this vacation he would undergo reassignment surgery, and that he would return to his job as a sportswriter as Christine Daniels generated many positive and supportive responses.

And some very ugly ones. How dare he use the sports pages to unburden himself, a number of people have argued, on the paper's own website and on others that focus on sports. Weird, others said, in comments that can't be repeated here. Many of them came from men. As one person noted, the women were so much kinder than the men that you couldn't help thinking that Penner had chosen the better sex.

But bias against transsexuals and transgender men and women is no laughing matter. In most states, there is simply no legal protection for those who don't fit neatly on one side of the Male/Female dichotomy. It's not a question of which bathroom they use, but whether they can be fired, evicted and denied medically necessary treatment because they make some of us feel uncomfortable.

The answer, too often, is yes.

I've never understood why people who are secure in their own gender identity give a darn about

anyone else's. I'm a woman. If you want to be one, that's your decision. If you don't, it has nothing to do with me. Is that so hard to see?

No one knows for sure how many transsexuals or transgender men and women there are in this country. These umbrella terms encompass a wide range of individuals, including cross dressers, those who choose to live as the opposite gender without any physical adjustments, as well as those like Mike Penner, who seek a surgical solution. On the Internet, you can find estimates of the incidence of transsexuality that range from 1 in 100 to 1 in 20, which would mean a whole lot of people are keeping a whole lot of secrets. So long as discrimination is rampant and transsexuals are stigmatized, it's impossible to get an accurate count. But so what? Discrimination doesn't become more acceptable because of the number of people being victimized.

Mike Penner took a big step this morning, not only for himself, but also for others who may see him as a role model. His description of the supportive responses he received — from co-workers, friends, his barber — may convince others that bias is not as big a problem as they feared. I hope that's right.

It certainly should be.

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Bird Poop: Wrestling with a night heron

“You’d better let me take you out there, ’cause you’ll never find it by yourself,” was the game warden’s advice. An hour later, we headed north into the countryside. Leaving U.S. Highway 87 behind, we traveled at least two more miles before coming to a caliche road. As we headed east, the barren acres of cotton fields had no sign of wildlife until we spotted a badger. When the varmint noticed our slowing truck, it slunk until its belly dragged the bottom of a furrow. It kept going.



BEBE McCASLAND

Turning into the driveway, we stopped at a warm and inviting farm house. Greeted by a chorus of dogs, and the owner, we felt welcome.

“It was sittin’ up there in the peach tree,” said the farmer. “After it sailed to the ground, it couldn’t take off again. It just can’t fly,” he continued. “Com’on, I’ll show you where it is.”

On the north side of the house was a long, narrow cage. To get to the short-necked, stocky bird at the opposite end meant crawling on my knees, hunched over, with little room to spare.

“Good thing it’s you and not me,” the game warden said with a chuckle.

It was obvious to all of us that he would never have been able to get in the cage.

“When I tried to get that bird out of that thing, it just held on with its feet. ‘Fraid it’d hurt itself if I kept at it,” offered the farmer.

When I had first seen the bird, I knew I’d have to be very careful. Aggressive toward members of its own family of birds, it would be dangerous to approach.

Eighteen inches wide, 24

inches tall, the 6-foot-long cage made me wonder about its use. As I squeezed into the entrance, the wire mesh on the bottom bit into my knees. It was going to be a long crawl.

Carrying my burnt orange beach towel, I hoped to present a curtain between the bird and me. About two feet from it, I felt the first of many strikes by its sharp-pointed bill. To lower the towel slightly in order to see the position of the bird would make my eyes an easy target. Since the bird’s only choice was to confront me, it did.

The first blow glanced off the right side of my forehead.

As I tried to parry each forward thrust, the bird had the advantage. Ducking down to look around the edge of the towel resulted in the tip of the beak hitting the right lens of my glasses. With plastic lenses becoming the vogue, I had held on to my old, heavy safety-glass pair, which now bore the scratch intended for me.

The lunge that hit my knee was my opportunity to grab the bird’s bill. As it struggled against my grasp, I wrapped the towel securely around the bird, and started backing out of the cage.

Nearly out of breath from the one-sided fencing match, I slowly removed the towel. The striking black cap, red eyes, lush white underparts, yellow legs, and soft gray wings and tail, were the prominent colors of a black-crowned night heron. Extending from the back of its head were three long, narrow, white nuptial plumes that graced this handsome water bird.

“What’s it doin’ here?” asked the farmer.

While most herons at sunset would be flying toward a nightly roost, the black-crowned had left its daytime perch to feed. From dusk until sunrise, the bird could avoid competition from other herons. While heading north, the heron,



Courtesy photo

An expert at still fishing, the black-crowned night heron stands motionless until thrusting its bill into shallow water to catch fish.

whose natural habitat would include wetlands, rivers and marshes, had sought any bodies of water for its food. Over land devoted to agriculture, the bird had foraged for mice, insects and earthworms. The farmer’s peach tree had offered the migrating heron a safe roost for the day. Unfortunately, it must have bruised or fractured a wing as it landed.

Once at our home, the night heron continued his surly behavior. His nearly four-foot wingspan, chunky body and thick black pointed bill demanded respect. Since we did not have any frogs, fish, bird eggs, or snakes on hand, we offered mice.

Because he refused to eat, we had to force feed him for a few days. The serrated beak was nature’s excellent way for the bird to capture and hold its prey while shaking it into submission or death.

For us, it was a challenge to nourish the heron without having our hands cut to shreds.

Having made arrangements with the wildlife center, I took the heron to

work with me the next day so that I could leave as soon as possible. During the morning, my employer arrived and was interested in the bird.

“What does it eat?” he asked.

Hearing of the diet prompted another comment. “How does it eat?”

When I told him the bird would swallow its food whole, he gasped.

“You mean it doesn’t have any teeth?”

Resisting the urge to laugh, I showed him the bird’s large gaping mouth, and the razor sharp edges of its mandibles. Ashen, my boss slowly backed away from the now wiggling bird.

The good news from the wildlife center was no fractures of any bones. With time, the bird would fully recover. Once again, with strong, swift wing beats, head sunken in line with its back, legs trailing behind, the black-crowned night heron would be silhouetted against a darkening sky.

Bebe McCasland is federal-ly and state licensed to rehabilitate wild birds.

Hangar 25 joins others in observance of May Day, National Preservation Week

Archives, libraries, museums and historic preservation organizations across America are setting aside May 1 to participate in May Day, a national effort to protect collections from disasters.

The program promotes “One Thing You Can Do” for emergency preparedness. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma provided a wake-up call, reminding us of the importance of disaster preparedness. Ironically, the Heritage Health Index released soon after the hurricanes, reported that few institutions have disaster plans, and for some of those that do, the plan is dated.

Given human nature, it’s easy to put off disaster planning. This is why Hangar 25 Air Museum is following the recommendation of the Heritage Emergency Task Force. Today, the Museum will set aside some time to do at least one thing to get more prepared to respond to a disaster. Concentration will be on review and further development of its Emergency Preparedness Plan, focusing on response time and methods for a variety of possible scenarios.

Disaster plans are not just beneficial to cultural institutions, such as museums, but to all businesses and homes. Some of the suggestions provided by the task force include: Development of a disaster plan. Make sure everyone knows the plan. Practice evacuation drills such as fire, tornado and even hostage situations. Ask how you can improve current plans. Make sure safety systems are in place. Perform checks on items such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. Have a buddy system. And, finally, if disaster should occur, learn from mistakes.

Individuals can make a difference with the small steps, and for places like Hangar 25 Air Museum when these precautions are taken the safer the preservation of our heritage becomes.

On another note, the board of directors, staff and volunteers of Hangar 25 would like to encourage individuals to recognize National Preservation Week, May 5-9. Support your cultural institutions by visiting during this time. Individuals can take steps at home and develop family projects to preserve their memories through scrapbooks, memory boxes or photo albums.

For questions or to volunteer in a preservation project, contact Hangar 25 Air Museum at 264-1999. Remember, when preservation starts in the home, the community benefits.

Heather Wallace is director of the Hangar 25 Air Museum.



HEATHER WALLACE



MISTAKES

What is a mistake? Do you know? Let’s talk about it for a moment. I think a mistake is saying something or doing something that you did not really want to say or do. Saying something unkind to a friend can be a mistake. The mistake may hurt someone’s feelings. Your friend may be so hurt that he or she will not want to play with you again, for a very long time. Playing with a toy the wrong way can be a mistake. And, a mistake can take a very long time to fix, or make it right again.

Have you ever made a mistake? I have! Lots of them! I try not to make them, but I do. I don’t want to make mistakes, do you? No matter how hard we try, we will always make mistakes. We just have to try our very hardest not to make them. Making mistakes is not much fun.

What are some of the biggest mistakes you have ever made? I hope the list isn’t very long. Let me tell you about some of my mistakes. Listen very carefully so you won’t make the same mistakes I did. Are you listening? I am glad that you are paying close attention. That means you don’t like making mistakes, either.

When I was just a little boy, I made the mistake of not telling my mother and father “Good Night” when they tucked me into bed. I always love them, but I just forgot to tell them one night. My mother and father were very sad for a long time after that. I would never make that mistake again! I love my mother and father and I never wanted to hurt them.

When I was a little older,

I made the mistake of riding my bicycle in a place that my father had told me was very dangerous. I thought it would be



okay to ride my bike there. I fell off my bike because of all the loose rocks that covered the ground there. I cut my knee. I cut my hands on the sharp rocks, too. I skinned my nose. My

father came running and picked me up. He fixed all the hurt and cuts. He never scolded me even though I had ridden my bike where he had asked me not to ride. He knew it would be dangerous. That’s why he asked me to stay away from that place. I never made that mistake again.

I finally became a young man. I should never make mistakes again. But I did! I still do! As a young man, I wanted a dirt bike. I thought my father would buy the bike for me. He said that I was old enough to work and pay for my own bike. He was right! I never made the mistake of asking my father to buy something for me again. Oh, he would have bought things for me if I really needed them. But, when I wanted some special things, I would have to pay for them myself. I will do the same things for my children. I will try not

to make any mistakes with them. But I will!

You see, we all make mistakes. We try really hard not to, but we do. We think that the only people who do not make mistakes are the people who do nothing. That is wrong. They make the biggest mistake of all. Their mistake IS doing NOTHING! They never get the great feeling we get then we do something great or make something beautiful. So, don’t be afraid to try. Even if you try hard, make a mistake, and fail. Try just a little harder next time. Trying harder is not a mistake!

Were you listening to this whole story? Do you remember the first mistake I told you about? Please don’t make that mistake tonight. Be sure to tell your mother or father, or whomever is reading this story to you, “Good Night!”

★★★

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Legals

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Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.
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Dist/Div: Abilene
Contract 6159-91-001 for SAFETY LIGHTING INSTALLATION in SHACKELFORD County, etc will be opened on May 24, 2007 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$299,818.00

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor.
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Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540
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Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
#5354 April 30 & May 1, 2007

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS!

VOTE!

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
It's May Day under the Aquarius moon. Less celebrated traditions such as the old ring and-run could make a comeback. (Flowers are left on the doorstep and the giver rings the doorbell and makes a clean getaway.)
Aquarius lunar vibes love friendly gestures, especially anonymous ones. The Taurus sun makes suregifts are appreciated.
ARIES (March 21-April 19). The hard knocks of life can't be avoided, but it's how you react to them that makes you special. Enthusiasm lifts you up along with anyone in your presence. (If you think nobody is watching, you're wrong!)
TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Time to spoil



HOLIDAY MATHIS

yourself. If you can't do it just for the heck of it, then do it because you can prevent illness by taking excellent care of yourself. There's romance in tonight's sunset.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've got a sixth sense about other people's business. You're right, but you've got to make the other person believe it, too, or it does neither of you any good. Work on your powers of persuasion.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Love plays the starring role. There are more questions than answers. You're having second thoughts about the very thing you were gung-ho for last week. Be slow to commit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Roses are red, violets are blue ... wait — both actually come in a variety of colors. Stop over-analyzing and enjoy the scenery.

A conversation with a nutty friend helps put life in

Tomorrow's Horoscope

perspective.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Factory seconds aren't your style. The offcolor thread on those towels would drive you crazy. But the label says imperfections will not affect performance. Remember this when dealing with family tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You forgave a friend years ago, "no hard feelings" style. But for some reason you're still resentful. Since the past slight is in no way relevant to the present, it's time to truly let go. It's one less thing to worry about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). To the rest of the world, yours is a perfect relationship. If only you were as confident in it. Despite your insecurities, your partner is with you for all the right reasons, love being first on a long list.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). "Don't go

changing to try please me. You never let me down before." Well, your partner might not have said it as eloquently as Billy Joel, but the meaning is the same. You're solid as is. Revel in it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The worst insult you've heard of late is that you're too nice. Interestingly enough, this is coming from someone you helped recently. A roll of the eyes is warranted, but secretly you love being the nice guy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Ground yourself. Independent thinking and action are favored, but relationships will sweep up your energy and scatter it to the wind if you're not careful!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You frequently find yourself torn between what you want and what you need. Occasionally, this dilemma is easily solved. You need to eat.

You want pasta. Order Italian for dinner, and stop stressing.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: George Clooney is a confirmed bachelor who lives the lifestyle to its fullest! Taurus men in general need a lot of convincing to tie the knot — they invented the term "cold feet." And Taurus men who have no shortage of female offers are nearly impossible to nail down. However, once committed, this sign is true blue and ready to fight for the relationship if that's what it takes.

If you would like to write to Holiday Mathis, please go to www.creators.com and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: My wife's parents are both alcoholics, and I have a real problem with them, especially when my mother-in-law comes over to drink. I have put my foot down, so it doesn't happen often, but when it does, my mother-in-law will walk in with an open beer, expecting my wife to supply her with more — and she does. In fact, my wife offers it openly

and loudly, just to spite me.

I have talked with my wife about this, but it usually ends up in a fight. It's reached the point where I hate her mother so much, the sight of her makes my blood boil. My wife insists she can't change her mother, so why not drink with her? I say she should not encourage this behavior and that it bothers me, but my wife doesn't care how I feel.

I think my wife's behavior is childish and wrong. She says the opposite. And if I say anything bad about her mother, she will buy the woman liquor just to get even with me. What should I do? — Fed Up in the Midwest

Dear Fed Up: As the child of an alcoholic, your wife has developed her own dysfunctional methods of dealing with her mother, which, unfortunately, encourage Mom to drink and also create tension in your home. Contact Adult Children of Alcoholics (adultchildren.org), P.O. Box 3216, Torrance, CA 90510, and then make an appointment with a marriage counselor.

Dear Annie: I'm a 17-year-old junior in high school. This year has been very hard for me. I've taken on a massive workload at school, with AP courses, community service, music, sports and, recently, the SATs. There hasn't been a day when I haven't felt stressed to the point of exhaustion. On weekends, I sleep up to 12 hours, and almost every other day, I have short fits of crying both in school and out.

I'm afraid I might be depressed. I feel terrible and inadequate so much of the time. I have the complete support of my parents, so really the problem is my high expectations of myself. I don't know how to deal with this. I've been trying to get it together all year. — A Very Tired Girl

Dear Tired Girl: You may be more stressed than depressed, but one can lead to the other, so you need to get a handle on this. High school these days is very demanding. AP courses, volunteer work and extracurricular activities look good on your college applications, but the schedule can be



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

overwhelming. Find one thing to cut from this juggling act, and talk to your school counselor along with your parents. You need a break.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "At a Loss," about her adult daughter's messy room. I agreed with your answer completely, but I bristled at your last sentence when you suggested it was time the daughter moved out.

Please don't look down your nose at adults still at home. At 35, I live with my mother. However, my mother is a widow and the sole caregiver of my sister, who, at 34, has the mental capacity of a 2-year-old. My sister is a joy to care for, but, like any 2-year-old, needs 24-hour care. I stay at home because they both need help, and I'm welcome here.

I spent a couple of years in my own place, only to come back home every weekend so my mom could go shopping or keep doctors' appointments. Please don't assume that adults living at home should leave the nest. Perhaps the nest needs their presence. — No Name

Dear No Name: We admire those who act as caregivers to parents or siblings, although this isn't the case with "At a Loss." Able-bodied adult children who live with their parents because it's cheap and comfortable, and for no other reason, are simply delaying adulthood. In your case, obviously, circumstances dictate otherwise.

Dear Annie: Five years ago, my mother-in-law moved in with us after my father-in-law died. Mom was capable and strong then, but over the last few years, she has lost her short-term memory and can no longer do

much for herself. She's become very dependent on us. My husband works long hours, and he often has to leave work early to go with Mom to her doctors' appointments. Someone has to stay with her, because she can't remember what the doctor says. This is starting to become a strain.

Mom has four other kids, but the burden has fallen on us. Two daughters live in our city. One invites Mom for dinner about three times a year. The other daughter does absolutely nothing. The older son and his wife live only 30 minutes away, but they see Mom only a few times a year. The youngest sibling is so filled with self-pity that she cannot help anyone, and worse, she continually puts more strain on her 80-year-old mother.

The siblings all speak to Mom over the phone, but not one of them has ever asked us how things are going or offered to help. Of course, they would be the first to stick their noses in if we didn't do something right. How do we get them to see that Mom is slipping fast and we need their help? — Left Holding the Bag in New York

Dear N.Y.: It often happens that one child takes on the major caregiving responsibilities, and unfortunately, you cannot force your husband's siblings to do more. He should ask them to pitch in, and give them concrete suggestions, such as a schedule where each sibling gets Mom one weekend a month, or which doctors' appointments So-and-So will handle. If they are unwilling to do this, ask if they will provide financial help so you can hire a nurse's aide or have Mom attend a senior day care program once or twice a week. You will need more help as Mom's situation changes, so it would be a good idea to work on this now.

Dear Annie: Just how far does a person have to go to right a wrong? The "wrong" was a squabble over a card game. We were equally at fault. I have apologized over and over, but the other person cannot forgive or forget. I've tried phoning her repeatedly, and she hangs up on me. I have also written.

More than a year has

passed, and it makes me sad that she must be working hard at this grudge in order to continue to treat me the way she does. Why would she do this? — Florida Fan

Dear Florida: Your ex-friend is nursing a grudge because it gives her satisfaction to do so. Some people like being victims because it makes them feel important. If she is happy to stay angry over something so trivial, the friendship is not worth grieving over any longer. You've done all you can.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Sissy's Mom," whose son played with dolls.

My son was a great deal like hers. He played with his older sister's dolls and wheeled around a pink stroller, just like she did. Some of my husband's friends questioned this activity, and I admit I wondered myself, but we just let him be himself. He is now in college and a total "babe magnet." I believe this is because he knows and likes women and women recognize this in him. It all stems from his early close relationship with his sister. Thanks. — What a Doll

Dear Doll: Thanks for the words of encouragement. We received hundreds of responses to this letter, and quite a few recommended the book "William's Doll," by Charlotte Zolotow, written in 1972. It's the story of a boy who wanted a doll. When his grandmother finally asked him why, the boy replied, "So I can learn to be a father." Amen to that.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Texas news in brief

Perry wants handgun regulations expanded

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican Gov. Rick Perry, pondering how to stop the kind of mass killing that left 33 dead at Virginia Tech, said Monday he believes Texans should be allowed to carry their concealed handguns anywhere.

Under current law, secured airport areas, hospitals, courthouses, bars, churches and schools are among the places where weapons can be banned, even if someone has a state license to carry a concealed handgun, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Perry said he opposes any restrictions. Perry made the remarks at a news conference after meeting with U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt to discuss ways to prevent mass shootings and enhance school safety. The discussion stems from President Bush's drive to find solutions to such tragedies in the wake of the carnage at Virginia Tech.

Slain Galveston soldier was determined to serve

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — Family members of a Galveston soldier who died in Iraq said the 21-year-old was determined to join the military and serve in the war despite their concerns about his safety.

Army Spc. Eddie Daniel Tamez was killed Friday in Fallujah when an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle, U.S. military officials

said Monday.

He is survived by his wife, 20-year-old Keyris Sanchez Tamez.

Tamez had recently committed to three more years in the Army and told his family he felt an obligation to serve his country in Iraq.

"We were trying to protect him, but he said it was what he wanted to do," said his brother, Francisco Dunn, 31, of Houston.

Tamez joined the Army at age 18 in the summer of 2004, just one month after graduating from Ball High School.

TSU board chairwoman defends her actions

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Southern University's board chairwoman said Monday she is obligated by state law to continue performing her duties until she is replaced, despite Gov. Rick Perry's request that the board resign and cease activity.

TSU Regents chairwoman Belinda Griffin defended her decision to call a board meeting Monday, citing a provision in the Texas Constitution. The meeting, however, was canceled because only three of the nine voting regents attended, short of the five needed for a quorum.

Griffin said some of the regents may have been confused about their role after she submitted their resignations to Perry on Friday. None of the regents returned phone messages from The Associated Press on Monday.

Perry spokesman Ted Royer said it

was inappropriate for the board to meet and make decisions while the governor and Legislature was attempting to address TSU's future.

In mid-April, Perry called for the board's resignation and proposed installing a conservatorship to institute reforms at the historically black university, which has been rocked by financial scandal over the past year.

TXU CEO received \$17.12 million in compensation for 2006

DALLAS (AP) — The chief executive of electric utility TXU Corp. received 2006 compensation valued at \$17.12 million, mostly in stock awards, according to an analysis of a regulatory filing

Monday.

C. John Wilder could also get \$64.6 million if the pending \$32 billion sale of TXU to private investors goes through and he resigns within six months, TXU said in a filing with the SEC.

Four other executives would get severance packages worth a combined \$79 million if they left after the company is sold, according to the filing. The payoffs for Wilder and the others would be mostly long-term stock compensation.

TXU gave Wilder stock awards in 2006 that were valued at \$13.68 million on the date they were granted. Wilder, who is also chairman of the Dallas-based company, got a salary of \$1.25 million, a non-stock incentive payment of \$1.65 million.

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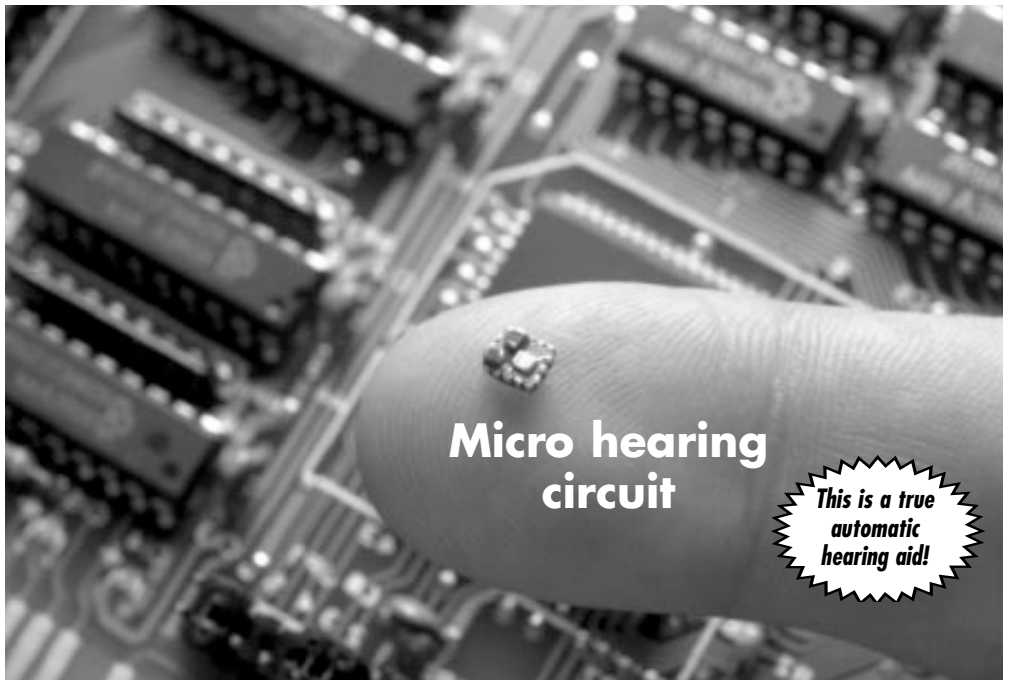
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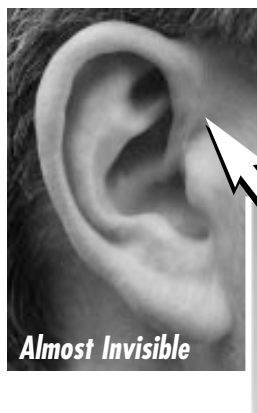
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LETTERS

Continued from Page 4A

please his customer, Mr. Mouton is helping the mayor's friend. He states in the article that Marquez has done the honorable thing. Well, far be it for me to supercede an attorney's definition of honorable, but the honorable thing would have been for Marquez to not have forced the city to repeatedly bring suit against him.

Is it any surprise that the mayor also defends Marquez? It is obvious, to anyone who has taken the time and effort to be informed, that Marquez has neither the experience nor acumen to understand the complex matters before the Moore Board. This being the case, why does the mayor champion his inclusion on this most important board? You can draw your own conclusions.

The mayor states in the article that Shannon Thomason "doesn't have the facts" and that his claims are "an unfounded accusation" when neither is true. Last time I checked, when someone says something that is not true, it's a lie.

As for Mr. Marquez, he is a public figure and actively campaigning for the mayor in an effort to

help his friend. He states in the article "the situation concerning my appointment was taken care of a long time ago." And that Shannon Thomason is "simply trying to bring it up again." Well, Mr. Marquez, we can all see how your situation was "taken care of" and thank goodness it was brought up again for us all to see.

When I read between the lines I see Shannon Thomason bravely exhibiting leadership through public activism. I see favoritism, subtle manipulation and coer-

cion exhibited by this administration, by this mayor. I see now very clearly that Marquez was appointed to the Moore Board for a reason. And I see that the reason is not because he's the most capable person for the job. Thank you Shannon Thomason, for this rare insight into the inner workings of our city government. You've won my vote.

Now, what do you see when you read between the lines?

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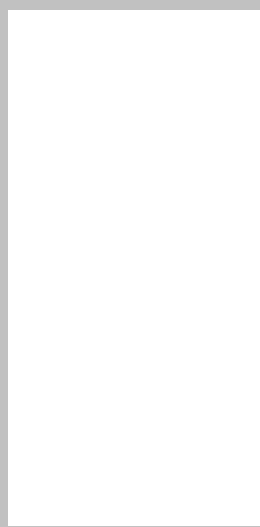
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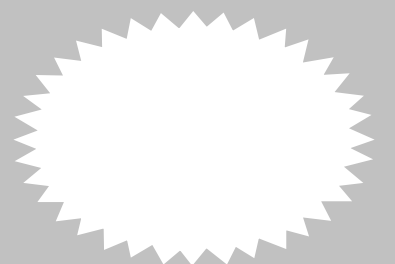
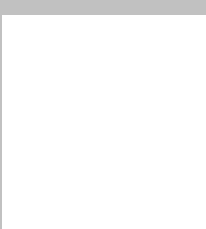
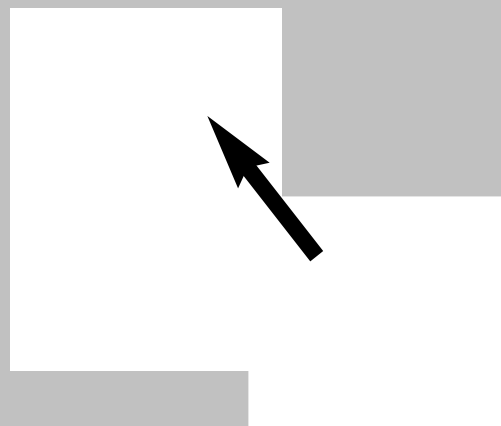
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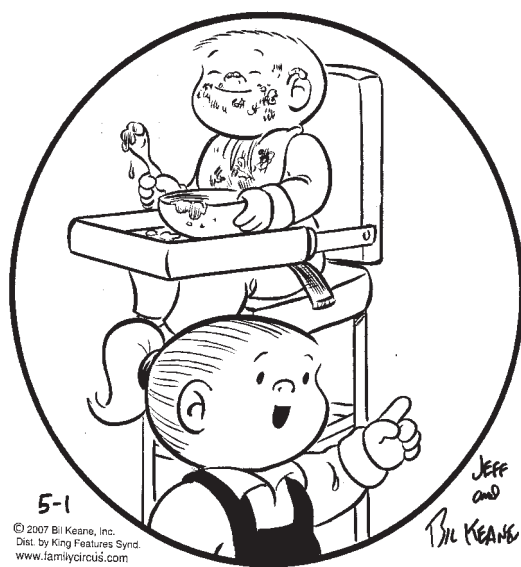
	WFDA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6:PM	News (CC)	News Wheel-Fortune	Duelo de Pasiones	King of the Hill The Simpsons	News Entertainment	Dame Chocolate	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Dr. Young John Hagee	News-Lehrer	Deadliest Catch (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) College Hill	Han. Montana Zack & Cody	Interruption Arm Wrestling	NFL Live	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
7:PM	George Lopez	George Lopez	La Fea Mas Bella	American Idol (CC)	NCIS (CC)	Marina	Dateline NBC (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Update/Israel Booker	Nova (CC) (DVS)	Deadliest Catch	Movie: Dances With Wolves	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	NBA Basketball	Movie: Next Friday (CC)	Movie: Up, Up and Away	Arm Wrestling	SportsCenter Special (CC)	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
8:PM	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	Destilando Amor	House (CC)	The Unit (CC)	Zorro - La Espada y la Rosa	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Sex and-City	Light of the Southwest	The Mormons (CC) (DVS)	Deadliest Catch		UFC Unleashed	First Round -- Teams TBA		(CC) That's-Raven	Arm Wrestling	Contender Challenge	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
9:PM	Boston Legal (CC)	Boston Legal (CC)	Nuestra Belleza Latina	Becker (CC) Friends (CC)	CSI: NY (CC)	Sin Verguenza	Law & Order: SVU	Friends (CC)			Man vs. Wild (CC)		Bullrun	(CC) College Hill Run's House	Life Derek Phil of Future	Arm Wrestling	Baseball Tonight	ECW	
10:PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias 12 Corazones	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City	The Hour of Healing	To Be Announced	MythBusters (CC)		The Ultimate Fighter	Basketball: First Round -- Teams TBA	Jamie Foxx That's-Raven	Contender Challenge	SportsCenter (CC)	Painkiller Jane (CC)	
11:PM	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	King of the Hill Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	IAI Rojo Vivo!	Late Night-	Movie: Murder at 1600 (CC)	Joe McGee Biblical Israel	Sign Off	Deadliest Catch	Movie: No Way	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Teams TBA (CC)	In Living Color In Living Color	Han. Montana Kim Possible	NASCAR Now 2006 World	NBA Fastbreak Baseball	Dark Angel (CC)
12:AM	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Basco	El Privilegio de Amar	Malcolm-Mid. My Wife-Kids	Show The Insider	Pagado	Conan O'Brien Apex		Update/Israel J.R. Church		Deadliest Catch		Star Trek: Voyager	Inside the NBA (CC)	Comicview Proud Family Sister, Sister	Series of Poker 2006 World	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone	

DENNIS THE MENACE



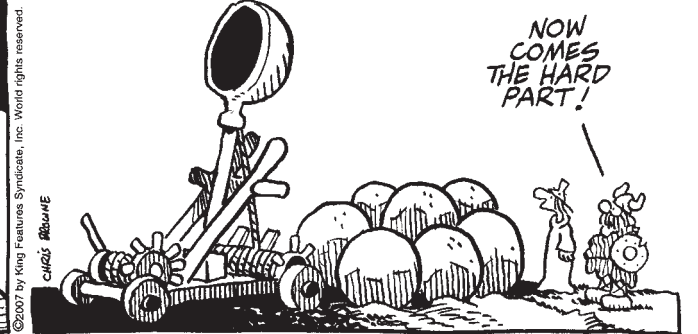
"ME AN' GRAMPA ARE RESTIN' OUR WEARY BONES."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

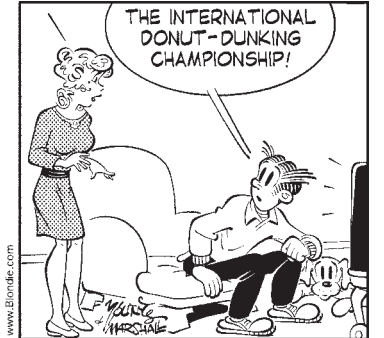
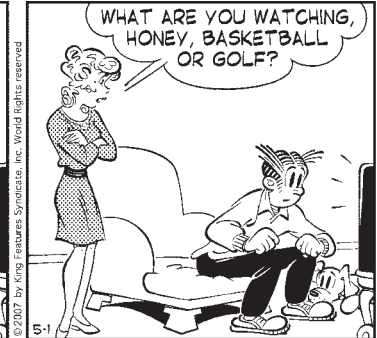


"I just remembered. At the school fair they're having a face painting contest."

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



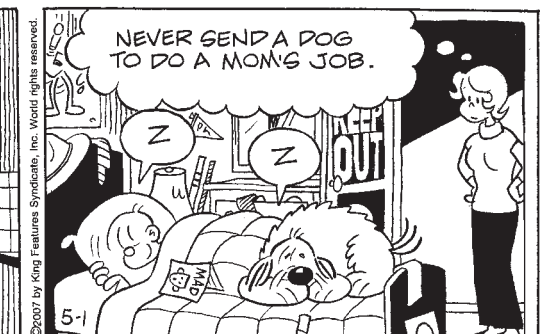
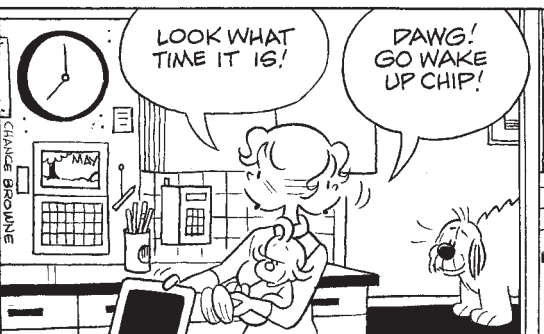
WIZARD OF ID



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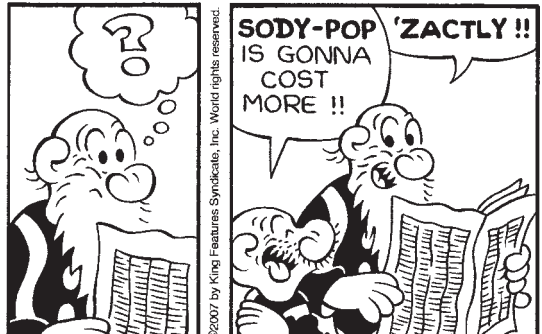
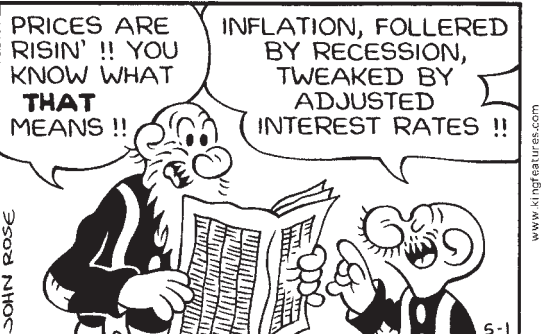
HI AND LOIS



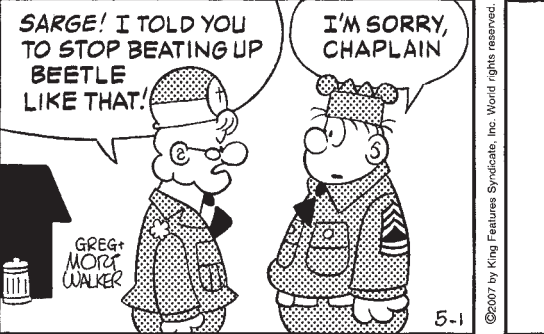
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, May 1, the 121st day of 2007. There are 244 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 1, 1898, Commodore George Dewey gave the command, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley," as an American naval force destroyed a Spanish fleet in Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War.

On this date:

In 1707, the Kingdom of Great Britain was created as a treaty merging England and Scotland took effect.

In 1786, Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro" premiered in Vienna, Austria.

In 1893, the World's Columbian Exposition opened to the public in Chicago.

In 1907, singer Kate Smith was born in Washington, D.C.

In 1931, New York's 102-story Empire State Building was dedicated.

In 1945, a day after Adolf Hitler committed suicide, Admiral Karl Doenitz effectively became sole leader of the Third Reich with the suicide of Hitler's propaganda minister, Josef Goebbels.

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane near Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

In 1967, Elvis Presley married Priscilla Beaulieu in Las Vegas. (They divorced in 1973.)

In 1967, Anastasio Somoza Debayle became president of Nicaragua.

In 1982, the 1982 World's Fair opened in Knoxville, Tenn.

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Scott Carpenter is 82. Country singer Sonny James is 78. Singer Judy Collins is 68. Actor Stephen Macht is 65. Singer Rita Coolidge is 62. Actor-director Douglas Barr is 58. Actor Dann Florek is 56. Singer-songwriter Ray Parker Jr. is 53. Hall of Fame jockey Steve Cauthen is 47. Actress

Maia Morgenstern is 45. Country singer Wayne Hancock is 42. Rock musician Johnny Colt is 41. Actor Charlie Schlatter is 41. Country singer Tim McGraw is 40. Rock musician D'Arcy is 39. Movie director Wes Anderson is 38. Country singer Cory Morrow is 35. Actor Darius McCrary is 31.

Thought for Today: "Any man who has the brains to think and the nerve to act for the benefit of the people of the country is considered a radical by those who are content with stagnation and willing to endure disaster." - William Randolph Hearst, American newspaper publisher (1863-1951).

Answer to previous puzzle

MESA	LEIS	CB	APER
ERAS	ALSO	ABODE	
LIGHT	BULB	ROWED	
TEE	BODES	EVENS	
	BORE	TATER	
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Newsday Crossword

PATRIOTIC FISH by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Cookie's chocolate morsel | 1 Hold tightly |
| 5 Unsuccessful film | 2 "___ la vista!" |
| 9 D sharp's alias | 3 Urge forward |
| 14 The Dalai ___ | 4 Ziti or spaghetti separator |
| 15 Eve's second son | 5 Large beer container |
| 16 Portion of pizza | 6 Woodwind instrument |
| 17 African snakes | 7 Card-game grouping |
| 18 Acting job | 8 Sanctify |
| 19 Sentence-clauses separator | 9 Make a getaway |
| 20 Proofreading notation | 10 Unsuccessful film |
| 21 Popular seafood selection | 11 Like a wet dishrag |
| 23 King's residence | 12 High point |
| 25 Have an evening meal | 13 Rip |
| 26 Lotion additive | 22 Hospital professional |
| 29 Use the microwave, maybe | 24 Acting group |
| 34 British nobles | 27 Honolulu's locale |
| 38 "That's too bad!" | 28 Privileged group |
| 40 Opera solo | 30 "Very funny!" |
| 41 Jaws menace | 31 Historical periods |
| 44 Hidden valley | 32 Ventilates |
| 45 Sedan or station wagon | 33 Subtract, with "away" |
| 46 No longer in fashion | 34 Henhouse products |
| 47 Very serious | 35 Singer Guthrie |
| 49 Poet Pound | 36 Fishing-line holder |
| 51 An hour after noon | 37 Narrow street |
| 53 Zealous | |
| 58 Large sport fish | |
| 64 Sandwich-cookie name | |
| 65 Airplane walkway | |
| 66 Take a chance with | |
| 67 Type of vaccine | |
| 68 Varnish ingredient | |

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