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HERALD

TUESDAY

MAY 8, 2007



VOLUME 102, NUMBER 139

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Early voting ends today

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

With less than a day to go in this year's municipal and school district elections, Howard County election officials say the number of ballots cast has already topped 1,000.

According to Saundra Bloom, election administrator, totals posted at noon Monday have the number of ballots cast at the county courthouse at 880, with more than 100 ballots collected at the poll in Coahoma and 35 via the mail.

"We've collected more than 1,010 ballots during early voting," said Bloom.

Bloom said she expects to break the 2,000 ballot mark, which was reached in the last mayoral election, thanks to the number of school district elections also on the ballot.

"With the contests in Forsan and Coahoma, I'm expecting to top the final tally posted in the last mayoral election," said Bloom. "As of Monday afternoon, we've more than 1,000 ballots — 880 at the Howard County courthouse, 35 from mail-ins and 100 from voting in Coahoma — so we're right on mark at this point."

And, as early voting prepares to come to a close today at 5 p.m., Bloom said she and her staff are preparing for Saturday's election.

"We're getting everything in line for Saturday when the polls will open," said Bloom. "We have a lot to get done, but we'll get there."



Local resident Margarita Durand-Hollis, right, signs in with election clerks Peggy Hodnett and Deanna Foresyth during early voting at the Howard County Courthouse. Early voting is being held on the third floor of the courthouse in the former district courtroom.

HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday.

In the city of Big Spring, a three-way race for the mayoral seat is in full gear, as incumbent Russ McEwen is defending his seat against challengers Shannon Thomason and James "Jim" Hicks.

The District 5 seat on the Big Spring City Council also has a

trio of candidates, as Troy Tompkins, Woody Jumper and David Scott vie for the position. Long-time District 5 representative Joann Knox is not running for re-election.

In the city of Coahoma, all three incumbents — David Elmore, Ricky Stone and Mayor Bill Read — are running for re-election. Read is being chal-

lenged by Billy Sullivan, while Odis Franklin filed his candidacy for one of the two at-large seats on the council.

Howard College is also part of this year's election effort, but not in the form of trustee seats. The junior college has a bond issue on the May 12 ballot totaling \$21.6 million in hopes of funding numerous repairs to

On the ballot

• **City Government**
Big Spring
 Mayor: James "Jim" Hicks, Russ McEwen (I), Shannon Thomason
 District 5: Woody Jumper, David Scott, Troy Tompkins

• **Coahoma**
 Mayor: Bill Read (I), Billy Sullivan
 Two at-large council seats: David Elmore (I), Odis Franklin, Ricky Stone (I)

• **School Boards**
Big Spring ISD
 District 5: Mike Dawson (I), Terri Myrick
 District 6: Jeff Broman, Tom Ralston, Ricky Robertson (I)
 District 7: Phil Furqueron (I)

• **Coahoma ISD**
 Two at-large seats: Sissy Franklin (I), Danny Martin, James White (I)

• **Forsan ISD**
 Two at-large seats: Chris Evans, Glenn Graves, Tom Bill Kuykendall (I), Nancy Raney

• **Stanton ISD**
 District 1: Daniel Ramos
 District 5: Darren Patrick, Dr. Pablo Teveni

• **Howard College Bond Issue**
 • **Constitutional Amendment**

the campus and its structures and infrastructure.

Big Spring, Coahoma, Forsan and Stanton school districts are also holding contested elections this year.

In Big Spring, two of the three See **VOTE**, Page 3A

Salvation Army gearing up for summer camp program

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Area parents looking for something for their children to do this summer need look no further, as the Big Spring Salvation Army gets ready to launch the second year of its Boys and Girls Club of America summer camp



Keeney

program. "We really wanted to do something that would get the kids off the street," said local Salvation Army Capt. Russ Keeney. "We wanted to make sure they had some-

where to go and something constructive to do, not just wander the streets and get into trouble.

"The summer camp program is multi-denominational, and although it's a faith-based camp, we're not going to try to shove

See **CAMP**, Page 3A

TxDOT kicks off Click It or Ticket

Special to the Herald

Texas is mounting its most ambitious campaign ever to remind drivers and passengers to buckle up or pay the consequences.

Over the past week and a half, larger-than-life Click It or Ticket messages have popped up on landmarks from one end of Texas to the other, including Amarillo's Cadillac Ranch, the Fort Worth Stockyards and the Rose Garden in Tyler.

Today, state officials launched the annual effort by buckling up a giant



safety belt at what is perhaps the state's most revered icon — the Alamo.

See **CLICK IT**, Page 3A

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www.bigspringherald.com

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



House passes filtered smoking ban

By **JIM VERTUNO**

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — A bill meant to snuff out smoking in most bars and restaurants in Texas tentatively passed the House on Monday, but not before opponents drastically weakened it, leaving its future in doubt.

Supporters say the bill is needed to protect workers and customers from potentially deadly secondhand

smoke. But opponents successfully badgered it until they could force a key exemption for business property owners who want to allow smoking.

The smoking ban seemed to have recovered from a near-defeat Friday but staggered further Monday before it passed 91-48.

Now in its weakened state, the bill still needs a final House vote before it goes to the Senate, where it faces an

uphill battle to survive.

Myra Crownover, the Lake Dallas Republican pushing the measure, said the ban is needed to protect workers and other people regularly exposed to secondhand smoke.

"Our attempt is to save lives. Secondhand smoke kills," Crownover said, vowing to try to get the bill back to its original, stronger form. "Nothing is ever finished until it signed by the gover-

nor."

The biggest fight came over an attempt to exempt bars, which Crownover argued would have defeated the purpose of the bill. The bar exemption had been placed in the bill Friday, but was removed after negotiations over the weekend.

But Crownover later accepted an amendment that allows property owners —

See **SMOKING**, Page 3A

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

IN BRIEF

Area playoff schedule announced

All area softball and baseball teams still in the playoffs have now officially announced this week's schedule.

Coaoma's Bulldogs will play Blanco in a best-of-three series starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday in San Angelo. Game 2 will start at 10 a.m. Saturday.

The Bulldogettes will match up against Alpine's Lady Bucks in a best-of-three series that begins 6 p.m. Friday in Odessa at OHF Field in Ratliff Complex. Game 2 starts at noon Saturday.

Forsan's Buffaloes will also be involved in a best-of-three series. They'll be playing Hamlin's Pied Pipers starting at 5 p.m. Friday in Snyder and continuing at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

The Lady Buffaloes will play a one-game playoff against Trent at 6 p.m. Wednesday in Snyder.

Magers-Powell camp scheduled

Rose Magers-Powell, the Big Spring High School Hall of Fame volleyball star and 1984 Olympian, will again be conducting a volleyball camp at BSHS this summer.

The camp is scheduled for July 30-Aug. 1 with sessions for middle school playres from 9 a.m. to noon and the high school players' session from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The fee will be \$125 per player.

Players can register online and get additional information on the camp by going to Magers-Powell's website, www.gotrosevolleyballcamps.com.

Relay for Life ragball tournament slated

The Relay for Life Ragball Tournament has been scheduled for Saturday and Sunday 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.

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.

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 abil-

See BRIEFS, page 2B

It's chemistry: Lady Steers pull together

By JONATHAN HULL
Sports Writer

Things looked grim for the Big Spring Lady Steers softball team Saturday. They were in the first inning of Game 2 in their best-of-three series with El Paso Chapin's Lady Huskies, trailing 1-0.

The Lady Steers had just experienced another tough inning defensively, much like they did for most of Game 1. Big Spring dropped the first game to the Lady Huskies, 6-3, thanks largely to mental errors.

"We could've just stayed tense, given up and accepted defeat," said Lady Steers head coach Jennifer Reyes. "We could've believed that El Paso was the better team and that we couldn't win."

That's not what the Lady Steers did, though.

Instead, they rallied together and pulled off a Saturday sweep to advance to the regional quarterfinals of the Class 4A state

softball playoffs.

Reyes credits her team's late season success to the team's chemistry on the field along with the team's camaraderie off the field.

"These girls like to do things together," explained Reyes. "They spend time together as a whole team. Not as a bunch of cliques that make up a team."

The Lady Steers have several team traditions that are used to boost morale and team chemistry. One of these traditions that the team has carried on this season is to all wear the same color of hair ribbon during games.

It doesn't sound strange at first, until one notices that the ribbons usually don't come close to matching the players' uniforms. The different ribbons used this season are displayed on each girl's softball bag.

Another team tradition is to have a team night every night

See BSHS, page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Lady Steers freshman Linzee Yarbar takes batting practice Monday at the Lady Steers Softball Park. Yarbar and her teammates kick off a best-of-three playoff series with Pampa Friday.



Khampha Bouaphanh/Fort Worth Star-Telegram/MCT

Texas Rangers' Michael Young, right, is congratulated by teammate Sammy Sosa after scoring off of Mark Teixeira's two run double in the sixth inning against the Toronto Blue Jays, Saturday in Arlington.

Will sweep turn around Texas' season?

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Michael Young and Mark Teixeira emerged from early hitting slumps, and the Texas Rangers posted their first series sweep of the season.

It's certainly no coincidence that they happened at the same time.

But will the hitting stars and three victories over Toronto prove to be a catalyst for the Rangers after a tough first month under new manager Ron Washington?

"That's what we're hoping for. ... We really responded these three games. We just want to keep it going," Young said. "It was definitely time to kick it in gear."

The Rangers (13-18) had a day off Monday after the weekend sweep of the Blue Jays that ended with consecutive victories over front-line pitchers

See TEXAS, page 2B

Jazz hold off Warriors to take series opener

By DOUG ALDEN

AP Sports Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Carlos Boozer put back an offensive rebound with 17 seconds left to break a tie and Matt Harpring added two free throws 10 seconds later, giving the Utah Jazz a 116-112 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Monday night in the opener of the Western Conference semifinals.

Boozer scored 17 points and pulled down 20 rebounds, getting his last after Mehmet Okur's 3-pointer bounced off the rim to Boozer in the lane for the go-ahead basket and a 114-112 advantage.

Stephen Jackson tried to put the Warriors back ahead with a 3-pointer, but it was short and Harpring ended up with the rebound after a scrum in the lane. Harpring made both shots and the Warriors didn't have time to make up the deficit.

Deron Williams finished with 31 points and eight assists and Okur had 21 points and 11 rebounds for Utah, which outrebounded the Warriors 54-36. Andrei Kirilenko had seven blocked shots for the Jazz, who host Game 2 on Wednesday.

"We fought a lot over the last series, showed we can fight and

NBA PLAYOFFS

stay with anyone in this league," Williams said. "We showed a lot of composure, down 2-0 last series and got over that."

Baron Davis led Golden State with 24 points and seven assists. Jason Richardson scored 10 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, but no other Warrior had more than five points over the final period.

Al Harrington also scored 21 — 15 more points than the rest of the Warriors' reserves.

Golden State led at halftime and the end of the third quarter, but was 8-for-20 in the fourth quarter and couldn't hold off the Jazz, who had enough stamina to rally just two nights after beating Houston in Game 7 of the opening round.

Utah played without guard Derek Fisher, who was excused from the game because of a health problem with one of his children. The Jazz won without their most experienced player, who was traded to Utah from the Warriors last summer.

Williams and rookie Dee Brown handled the backcourt and Williams carried the Jazz despite getting his fifth foul with

about 6 minutes left. Williams sat for a few minutes, then converted a three-point play that put Utah up 112-110.

Richardson tied it again — for the 20th time in the game — on two free throws after grabbing a turnover and getting fouled by Kirilenko under the basket with 33 seconds left.

Okur, who struggled from 3-point range in the first round of the playoffs, went for it from beyond the arc. Boozer grabbed the rebound in the lane and put it back in to give Utah the lead for good.

It was the 20th offensive rebound of the game for the Jazz. Kirilenko finished with 13 points, seven rebounds, four assists and flustered the Warriors with his gangly arms blocking shot after shot.

After Williams had just put Utah up 108-107 with a 21-foot jumper, Jackson tried to get the lead back for Golden State with a layup but couldn't get it over Kirilenko's long reach.

Andris Biedrins couldn't put back the rebound as Jackson furiously picked himself off the floor, pumping his fist toward the official who did not call a foul on the play.

It unraveled Jackson, but not

his teammates. Matt Barnes made a free throw to get Golden State within 109-108, then scored on a layup that put the Warriors ahead for the last time with 1:24 left in the game.

Williams answered with a layup while drawing a foul by Jackson and made the free throw to put the Jazz up 112-110.

Pistons 108, Bulls 87

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Tayshaun Prince scored 25 points on an array of mid-range shots, a dunk in traffic and 3-pointers to help Detroit take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Game 3 is Thursday in Chicago, giving the Bulls time to figure something out after being dominated in consecutive games.

Richard Hamilton had 24 points, Chris Webber scored 22, and Chauncey Billups had 14 points and 10 rebounds. Rasheed Wallace added 10 points.

Chicago's Tyrus Thomas scored 12 of his 18 points in the final quarter. Luol Deng scored 16 on 4-of-12 shooting, Ben Gordon and Ben Wallace each scored 13 and Kirk Hinrich was held to two points on 0-for-7 shooting.

Obituaries

Billie K. Horrell

Billie Kitching Horrell of Corpus Christi, formerly of Big Spring, died April 5, 2007, following a lengthy battle with cancer. Funeral services were held Monday, April 9, 2007, in Corpus Christi. Interment was at memory Gardens Cemetery.

She was born May 15, 1946, in Elida, N.M. She attended Big Spring schools, was a lifelong Methodist and attended Wesley United Methodist Church during her years in Big Spring. She was retired from the city of Corpus Christi Risk Management Department.

She married Tony Horrell, also formerly of Big Spring, in 1966, and he preceded her in death in 1996. She was also preceded in death by her father, Joe B. Kitching Sr.

Survivors include her mother, Maggie Beth (Becky) Kitching of Corpus Christi; three children, Ralph Horrell and his wife, Greer, of San Antonio, Randy Horrell and his wife, Wendi, of Corpus Christi and Robyn Grime and her husband, Jon, of Valley View; four grandchildren; two brothers, Joe B. Kitching Jr. and his wife, Jacque, of Bowie and John T. Kitching and his wife, Sue, of Byron, Calif.; two sisters, Becky Moeller of Austin and Sue Dobbs and her husband, Terry, of Corpus Christi; and numerous nieces, nephews and other family members. Local survivors include an aunt, Mildred Sevey, and six cousins.

Willis "W.G." Berry



Willis "W.G." Berry, 79, passed away peacefully at home Monday, May 7, 2007. Funeral services are set for 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at the First United Methodist Church of Keller, with interment to follow at Bourland Cemetery in Keller. The family will receive friends Tuesday, May 8, 2007, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Lucas Funeral Home in Keller.

W.G. was born in Smithfield and lived in the Keller area all of his life. He was a member of the Keller Lions Club and a founding board member of the Keller State Bank.

Survivors include his wife of 15 years, Elaine Berry; a son, Ernest Glenn Berry and wife Linda; a daughter, Karla McGilvray and husband Jesse; a brother, Wendell Berry; a sister, Ruth Walker; two grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Vesta Berry; his first wife, Johnnie Berry; and two sisters, Norma Jean Huddleston and Jessica Malone.

Funeral arrangements under the direction of Lucas Funeral Home.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy with showers and thunderstorms likely. Some thunderstorms may produce heavy rainfall. Lows in the mid 50s. Northeast winds around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Wednesday...Mostly cloudy with showers and thunderstorms likely. Some thunderstorms may produce heavy rainfall. Locally heavy rainfall possible. Highs around 70. North winds around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. East winds around 10 mph in the evening becoming light and variable.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms in the morning. Warmer. Highs in the lower 80s. Light and variable winds becoming north around 10 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s.

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

Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s.

Take Note

• **COAHOMA CHOIR KIDS** spring concert will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in the school cafeteria. Admission is free.

• **NATIONAL PET WEEK** is May 7-11. During this week, male cats that are current on vaccinations will be neutered free of charge at Western Hills Animal Clinic. Call 267-5721 for more information.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM YOUNG EAGLES FLIGHT** will be held from 8:30 a.m. until noon, Saturday, weather permitting. Hangar 25 Air Museum, with the assistance of McMahon-Wrinkle Airport and Industrial Park, will be supporting the EAA Young Eagles program to offer area children age 8 to 17 the opportunity to experience free of charge the thrill of flight. Each Young Eagles flight takes place in an FFA registered airplane flown by a licensed pilot. Children must be accompanied by their parent or a legal guardian to register. Limited seats are available. Register at the air museum, 1911 Apron Dr. For more information, call 264-1999.

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Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 10 a.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. today:

- **REYMUNDO E. RAMIREZ**, 48, of 1503 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **MEJIA JOSE RIVAS**, 42, transient, was arrested Monday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1000 block of 21st Street.

Sheriff's report

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

Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 54 inmates at the time of this report.

- **RANDY RAY MIER**, 29, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a dangerous drug.
- **JACOB ORION DAILY**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of probation violation - possession of a controlled substance.
- **CARLTON KEITH SPIVEY**, 29, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of assault - family violence.
- **STEPHANIE ANNE YANEZ**, 29, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft of service.
- **MARY GUTHRIE NELSON**, 45, was arrested Monday on a judgment/sentence for credit card abuse.
- **ANN MARIE GODINA**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid and injury to a child/elderly/disabled by an individual - criminal negligence (two counts).
- **DARNICE CHRYDE VALENTINE**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice - giving false information (two counts), possession of alcohol by a minor, failure to appear and minor in consumption of alcohol.
- **TRACI HOLDEN MYRICK**, 36, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated with a child passenger.
- **ENRIQUE RAYMUNDO RAMIREZ**, 48, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
- **JOSEPH ALTON MURLEY**, 28, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for theft of property and failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.
- **JOSHUA ABRAHAM EDWARDS**, 34, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of Colorado in Sand Springs. Service refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1000 block of N. Gregg. Service refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of Westover Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 800 block of W. Marcy. One person was transported to SMMC.

Lottery

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

Winning numbers drawn: 2-7-12-20-30.

Number matching five of five: 0.

...

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

Winning numbers drawn: 17-26-28-33. Bonus Ball: 18.


Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.

Prize: \$600,000

Winning ticket sold in: Bellmead.

...

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-4-0.




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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

• The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

• Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.

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

• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.

• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.

• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.

• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.

• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.

• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340 or Doyle and Virginia McClain at 263-8407.

• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

• Staked Plains Lodge No. 598 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 221 Main. Meal served. Meeting at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

• Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.

• 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 Citizen's Center country and western dance from 7:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. featuring Monroe Casey and the Prowlers. All area senior citizens are invited.

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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Oswalt tops Cincinnati — again

CINCINNATI (AP) — Who can explain this?
Roy Oswalt got his 19th career victory against the Cincinnati Reds on Monday night, leading the Houston Astros to a 5-4 victory that left everybody amazed by one of baseball's most mind-boggling marks.

How could any pitcher go 19-1 against a team?
"I have no idea," said Oswalt (5-2), who gave up a pair of solo homers in seven innings. "The good thing is every time I pitch against them, I get run support. I hope it doesn't change."

Luke Scott provided the big hit this time, a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth off reliever Todd Coffey that left the Astros 5-1 against the Reds this season.

Oswalt's success against the Reds is unprecedented. The right-hander won his first 15 decisions against them, and improved to 19-1 career on Monday.

Explain that?
"Have you see Roy pitch?" Houston's Lance Berkman said. "I wouldn't be surprised if he's 19-1 against anybody. He's the best in the game, as far as I'm concerned."

He'll get no argument from the Reds, who thought they had Oswalt in trouble after Adam Dunn and Alex Gonzalez hit back-to-back homers in the second inning — only the second time in Oswalt's 22 career starts against the Reds that he gave up two homers.

After giving up the two homers, Oswalt was determined to stop the Reds from getting any more runs.

"Coming out of the bullpen, I felt better than I did in a long time," Oswalt said. "The ball was jumping out of my hand. My curve was great. I thought I might go seven or eight innings without giving up a hit."

Dan Wheeler gave up Gonzalez's two-run homer in the ninth before getting his sixth save in seven chances.

Kyle Lohse (1-3) matched Oswalt until the eighth, when Craig Biggio led off with a single. After Mike Stanton walked Berkman, Coffey sprinted from the bullpen to the mound and gave up Scott's homer to right field on a full-count changeup that was right down the middle.

It was the latest meltdown by a bullpen that has just one save since

April 15.

"I was going after him," Coffey said. "I was thinking, I've got him right here. Let's get him out."

Before the game, Reds manager Jerry Narron explained how a pitcher like Oswalt could do so well against one team.

The Astros tied it at 2 in a wacky fourth inning that should have produced a lot more. The inning started with something familiar — Berkman's leadoff homer, his 13th at Great American Ball Park, the most by any opponent. Berkman has 36 career homers and 104 RBIs against Cincinnati, his highest totals against any team.

The odd followed.
Carlos Lee doubled and Scott walked. Hunter Pence then doubled to center, but Lee held up to make sure Josh Hamilton couldn't get to the ball. By that time, Scott was only a couple steps behind Lee and shadowed the lumbering outfielder all the way home.

Lee slid in before catcher Javier Valentin's tag, but Scott was out when he went in feet-first an instant later. Scott got up smiling at the way the bizarre play unfolded.

BRIEFS

Continued from page 1B

ity 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 Cloudercroft, N.M.

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

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

Teenage baseball league to begin

The Big Spring Teen Baseball league is now looking for coaches or anyone willing to help with the league this sea-

son.
If interested, call Randy Phillips at 264-6600 or 517-0399.

Baseball umpires needed for season

The Big Spring Umpires Association is looking for individuals interested in umpiring baseball for the 2007 Little League season.

If interested, call Bradley Garrison at 213-1300.

WBU slates baseball tryouts

The Wayland Baptist University baseball staff is holding a tryout camp for graduating high school seniors and college players with remaining eligibility interested in becoming a part of the Pioneer baseball program. The camp is scheduled for Saturday, May 26 at David and Myrt Wilder field, located on the WBU campus in Plainview.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. with the tryouts to follow at 9:00. There is no cost.

BSHS

Continued from page 1B

before a game. It's simply a time for the team to relax and get together away from the softball field.

The Lady Steers held one of these nights after their Game 1 loss to Chapin. All the details of the event were not given, but whatever was done or said Friday night worked wonders Saturday morning.

"We had a really good team night Friday where we just relaxed, joked around and didn't think about the loss," Reyes said. "When they came out Saturday they were completely relaxed."

A game only becomes harder to win when an individual or a team is pressing too much to win it, Reyes said.

This is one reason why the Lady Steers are now Area champions and are headed to the regional quarterfinals round of the Class 4A state softball

playoffs to take on Pampa's Lady Harvesters. Becoming a team wasn't something that happened from day one. Despite having six seniors, there are a lot of new faces on the Lady Steers including three freshmen.

"What I felt was important to accomplish at the beginning of the year was to become a team," said Reyes. "If we were the team we are now at the beginning of the year then we wouldn't have lost so many games early in the year."

Reyes said the team showed its true colors in Game 3.

The 5-1 victory in Game 2 put them on a high. However, the start of Game 3, which was very similar to the start of Game 2, could've easily brought doubt back into the Lady Steers' minds.

"We could've just rolled over after El Paso went up by two in the first inning of the last game," said Reyes. "The girls could've just been happy they pushed El Paso to a Game 3."

The Lady Steers weren't satisfied though. The team rallied again to earn a decisive victory over the Lady Huskies, 8-2.

"If we could just get out of the first inning without teams scoring on us then we'd be OK," joked Reyes. "That's what I love about this team. They're the 'comeback girls.'"

The Lady Steers hope to continue their playoff run in a best-of-three series with Pampa that kicks off at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Plainview. Game 2 of the series is slated for a 1

p.m. Saturday start with a third game, if necessary, scheduled to begin 30 minutes after the completion of the second game.

The Lady Harvesters will bring a 27-4-2 overall record into the series. They dominated their series with El Paso Riverside last weekend 10-0 and 12-0. Both games were called in the fifth inning due to the 10-run mercy rule.

Contact Sports Writer Jonathan Hull by calling him at 263-7331, ext. 237.

TEXAS

Continued from page 1B

Roy Halladay and A.J. Burnett.

"It's important. We haven't been playing well," Teixeira said. "It's good for our confidence. It's early to say must-wins in May, but at the same time, we can't dig ourselves in too big of a hole."

Despite a slow start that included a five-game losing streak when they managed a total of only 10 runs, the Rangers are within 3 1/2 games of the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels.

Starting Tuesday, the Rangers are scheduled to play 16 straight days, the first three at the New York Yankees, who swept three games in Texas last week.

"Things didn't go right. But then we came out against Toronto and things fell together," Washington said. "We pitched, we hit, we caught the ball, we ran the bases. "You always like when you sweep. Of course, they needed it. But one thing about it, we earned it."

The series against the Blue Jays began the day

after a doubleheader loss to the Yankees that prompted a players-only meeting.

Brandon McCarthy, who hadn't made it past the third inning in any of his four previous starts, allowed two hits and a run over six innings of a 7-1 win in the series opener. Vicente Padilla, resigned to a three-year deal in the offseason, finally got his first victory Saturday when Texas had nine runs and 12 hits off Halladay. Five days earlier, Halladay beat the Rangers 6-1 with a five-hitter.

Kenny Lofton, Young and Teixeira all hit first-pitch solo homers in the Rangers' 3-2 victory over Burnett on Sunday. Kameron Loe allowed one run over 6 2-3 innings in only his fourth start.

Young's homer in the eighth inning was the difference and finished an 8-for-13 series for the three-time All-Star shortstop after he went 0-for-13 against the Yankees.

"We just need to see how long we can all maintain it, and how long we can all swing the bats together," said second baseman Ian Kinsler, leading the team with nine homers and 24 RBIs.

While Young raised his

average from .192 to .233, that is still a paltry number after hitting a combined .316 over his last four straight 200-hit seasons. But it's much better than the .162 average he had in mid-April.

Teixeira, the switch-hitting slugger, was 6-for-12 with five RBIs in the Toronto series and pushed his average to .265 — after dipping as low as .192 last month. He had only seven RBIs the first 28 games.

"Sometimes it just takes a while to get going," said Teixeira, who last season

hit 24 of his 33 home runs after the All-Star break.

That's been the case for most of the Rangers, who are hitting a combined .241 (25th in the majors) even though their 38 homers are tied for the most. Utilityman Matt Kata (.353 in 16 games) is the only player hitting better than Kinsler's .276.

Sammy Sosa has seven homers in his 27 games to get within five of the 600th in his career. But he is hitting .240 and is 0-for-9 in two games — the only starter without a hit against Halladay — since

being hit in the helmet by a 94 mph fastball against the Yankees.

"As far as I'm concerned, when we played the Yankees, we hit rock bottom," Washington said. "You've got nothing else to do but go up. Hopefully, this is our way up."

Even though the Yankees are next on the schedule, the Rangers

aren't going to New York with a sense of revenge on their minds.

"It's important to continue, but it has nothing to do with what happened last week," Young said. "We want to win games for the sake of winning games. We definitely want to carry this into New York, but what happened last time is the least of our concerns."

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	9		5		2	6	1	
3	8				1		2	9
6			4					
2	5		4		7			1
		3				5		
4			2		5		3	8
				2				7
1	3		9				8	6
	6	2	8		3			9

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Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker

The Timing Factor

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 7
♥ K 6
♦ A Q J 3 2
♣ 9 6 5

WEST
♠ A 10 8
♥ 10 5 4
♦ 9 7 4
♣ K Q J 8

EAST
♠ J 9 5 4 2
♥ 8 3
♦ K 10 6
♣ 10 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 6 3
♥ A Q J 9 7 2
♦ 8 5
♣ A 7 4

The bidding:
South 1♥ West 2♦ North 2♥ East 2♥
Opening lead — king of clubs.

This hand was played in a three-table duplicate. The final contract of four hearts and the opening lead of the king of clubs were the same at each table.

At the first table, declarer won the club lead with the ace, cashed the K-A-Q of trumps and took a diamond finesse. East won with the king and returned a club, whereupon West cashed two clubs and the spade ace to set the contract one trick.

At the second table, South took the club ace, drew three rounds of trumps, then led a spade, hoping West would take the ace if he had it. But West played low, dummy's queen winning, and declarer exited from dummy with a club. West won, cashed another club and shifted to a diamond. South had to finesse, and after the jack lost, East's spade return again produced a one-trick set.

Essentially, as the hand was played at these two tables, South had to find West with the king of diamonds to make the contract. Barring a defensive lapse, they were each headed for defeat if East had that card.

At the third table, South timed his plays so that he would succeed if either the king of diamonds or the ace of spades was favorably placed. He thus gave himself two chances to make the contract instead of just one.

Upon winning the club lead, South immediately led a spade. After West played low and the queen held, South cashed three top trumps and led another spade. West took his ace (otherwise, he would have lost it), and then cashed his Q-J of clubs. When West next shifted to a diamond, declarer went up with the ace and discarded his diamond loser on the spade king to make the contract.

Tomorrow: It's easy to self-destruct.
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Announcements

WITNESSES TO ACCIDENT AT HWY. 87 AND WAL-MART ENTRANCE, SATURDAY APRIL 28TH. PLEASE CONTACT ME AT 432-935-6538.

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CEMETERY LOTS. Payout plans available. No interest or carrying charges. \$50.00 down. The Little Red Barn across from Mt. Olive Cemetery. 432-264-7722.

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Help Wanted

A GROWING home health agency is in need of a RN Case Manager, employer paid insurance, paid time off, competitive salary. Please send resumes or come by the office and feel out an application at 1714 Gregg Street. Sign on Bonus 4,000. EOE.

ACCOUNTING CLERK- Established local business seeks individual with 3 years accounting experience. Duties will include AP/AR, cashiering and data entry. Pay based on experience and ability. Apply in person at Pollard Chevrolet 1501 East 4th.

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Help Wanted

DRIVERS WANTED. Find out why our average length of driver employment is 9 years. Reagent Chemical, a family owned company is dedicated to providing great service to our customers and taking care of our employees, is currently hiring professional drivers. Requirements include Class A CDL with Tank and Hazmat endorsements. Minimum of 2 years driving or 1 year tanker experience. Paid weekly by check or direct deposit. Benefits include family health & dental insurance with no premium contribution by the employee. 401K with company match plus profit sharing. Company paid life and disability is available thru group coverage. Up to 10 days vacation starting first year plus 10 paid holidays. Uniforms provided. Call 432-458-3446 or 432-661-4079.

ELECTRICIANS & Digger Operator Needed. Top Pay, 401K, Medical Insurance, Sign on bonus. Please call 432-756-2201 (Stanton) and 432-263-0633 (Big Spring). Pick up application at 3217 E. FM 700 in Big Spring, and I-20 & Hwy. 137 in Stanton.

GARTMAN REFRIGERATION need air conditioning installer. Apply in person, 3206 E. FM 700.

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NEED MECHANIC and/or machine maintenance person with hydraulic, gasoline, diesel, and electric engine experience. Must also work with schematics. Competitive salary and benefits. Fax resume to 432-354-2669, TexaStone Quarries.

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NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

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NOW HIRING Applications are being accepted for Teller positions at all branch locations. Big Spring & Midland. Please mail resume to: Human Resources, Citizens Federal Credit Union, PO Box 425, Big Spring, TX 79721.

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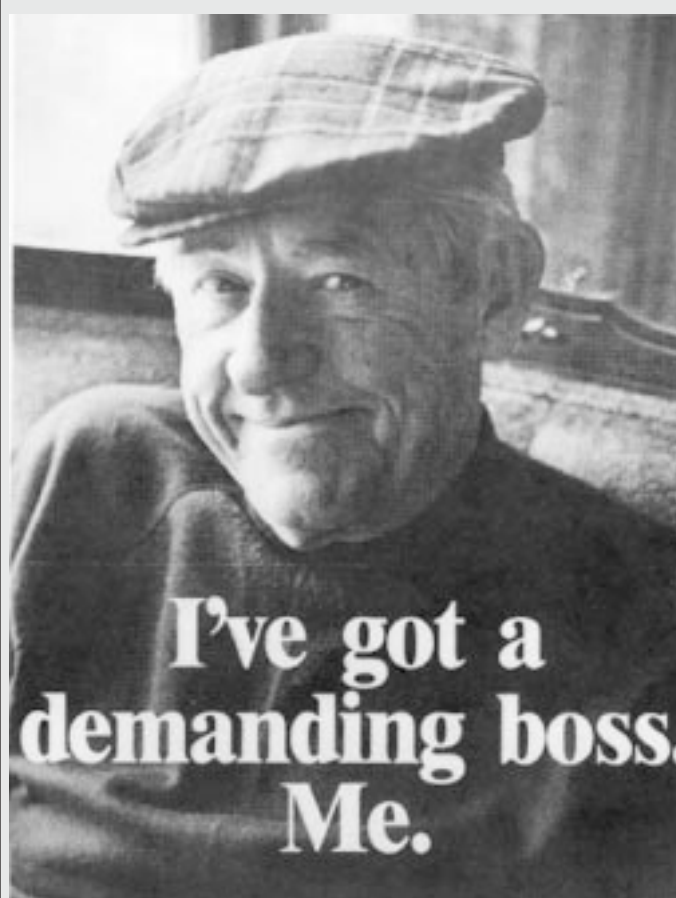
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"It Pays To Read Big Spring Herald Classifieds"

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2710 CAROL Drive - 4 Bedroom, 3 bath, 2 car garage. CH/A, fenced yard. Open floor plan. Kentwood ISD area. Call 432-816-1213.

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OWNER FINANCED Houses for Sale. 1600 Canary, 1413 Sycamore, 605 Abrams and 4115 Muir. Easy Terms. Call Reagan at 432-634-6818.

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3 BEDROOM, 1 bath, 2 living area. Brick home with new carpet, paint, and vinyl flooring. Owner will pay closing costs. \$60,000. 432-889-6402.

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7	9	4	5	8	2	6	1	3
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6	2	1	3	4	9	8	7	5
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8	4	9	1	2	6	3	5	7
1	3	7	9	5	4	2	8	6
5	6	2	8	7	3	1	9	4

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
Big Spring Independent School District has contracted with Spring City Auction to sell the district's surplus property. The district's surplus property is sold at the following location throughout the year:
Spring City Auction
501 Birdwell Lane, Unit #1
Big Spring, TX 79720
You may check with Spring City Auction for the designed auction dates and times.
#5222 February 6, May 8, August 7 and November 6, 2007

PUBLIC NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals until 4:00 P.M., May 23, 2007, on the following:
Baseball Supplies
Softball Supplies
Boys Track Supplies
Girls Track Supplies
Golf Supplies
Tennis Supplies
Training Room Supplies
Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office located at 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on June 11, 2007, at 5:15 P.M. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
#5361 May 8 & 15, 2007

PUBLIC NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Big Spring Independent School District shall receive sealed bid proposals for the **Food Service Department** until 4:00 P.M., May 23, 2007, on the following:
Bread Products
Milk
Chemical Supplies
Specifications and bid documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720-4648, phone number (432)264-3620. Bids will be publicly open and read immediately following the deadline for receiving the bids in the Business Office of the Big Spring Independent School District. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. Bids received after the opening date and time will be returned unopened. Bids will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on June 11, 2007, at 5:15 P.M. at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
#5362 May 8 & 15, 2007

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS
Venus dons her nursemaid outfit as she enters Cancer today. Venus practices *cura*, the Latin word for care of the soul. We give this to each other with our attention, devotion and unconditional love. Pour a cup of tea for a friend, and pull up a chair for a compassionate listen.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Think about adorning your home with the same accoutrements you'd give a loved one. Maybe a new leopard print divan or chintz curtains, depending on your taste.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's as though someone gave you jasmine-scented oxygen and you're inhaling life on a whole new level. Breathe in whom and what you encounter with all the relish of a first breath.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're invigorated and a little loopy, commanding the team with bubbly enthusiasm. Acting with decisiveness inspires the group's confidence in you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some associate the moon with madness, others romance. It drives humans wild and causes oceans to swell. Your beauty has the magnetic power of the moon today. How heavenly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A partnership changes the way you look at yourself, but that's nothing to be afraid of. It's delightful, and it's what you've wanted. Blending the best in each other is thrilling synergy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Stubbornness isn't a liability when it's called persistence. Artists persistently plug away at their craft, even when it feels like trying to squeeze blood from a turnip. Keep on plugging.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Learn to relax, you busy butterfly! Instead of spreading yourself too thin, concentrate on one task and one person at a time. Your intensity of focus will produce impressive results.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Just when things were getting too heavy, you discovered that you can create more upward force by rebalancing the weighty stuff with the light stuff. Buoyancy is a virtue.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Practice makes perfect, and you're getting to a spot where what you do well happens so naturally, you're doing it in your sleep. The reward for having been there, done that is the way it makes you feel.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're entering a month-long period in your relationship where your wish is their command. There are those who want to — no, live to — make you happy. Find them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A partner sends a surprise to your checking account. Good. You're burning through money faster than you can make it. Distinguish between the things you can keep and the things that float through your fingers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You know those come-hither looks you've been throwing to that adorable someone? They've noticed all along. You can bat your eyes innocently as if to say, "Who, me?" but the jig is up.

ASTROLOGICAL TOPIC: Venus enters Cancer: The Love Therapist

Venus in Cancer is a love therapist, and you submit to her the way a patient presents her soul for healing. She doesn't push away your experience or try to change you, because she loves all of you unconditionally. She patiently listens to your experience and allows it to reveal the soul message. Soul is hard to define, but you can feel soul in a song on the radio — the longing in a love song or the sadness in the blues. Feeling is the key to finding soulful love. When we open our emotional antennae to our partner and feel their behavior, anxieties or moodiness, our souls touch. When this tenderness moves between us, so does a ray of understanding. Venus in Cancer knows that soul brings depth, personal substance and value to everything we do in life, including our love bonds, but we only "get it" by giving our time and attention to each other. Without a soul listener, we suffer from soul-sickness symptoms: We overeat, we cry easily. The soul's language is symbols,

Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: My problem is my son's wife. I have visited them several times in their home, and when I return, items are always missing from my handbag and my luggage.

The first time I noticed this, I was actually still in their house. I was missing a check they had given me as a Christmas gift. My daughter-in-law suggested it had been taken by a guest visiting the night before. She said she would report it to her bank and see if it could be replaced. She never mentioned it again, and neither did I.

The last two visits have left me reluctant to return. I lost a black cashmere beret that I kept folded in my coat pocket. My daughter-in-law placed the coat in the back seat of my car when I was getting ready to leave. On the last trip, I returned home missing a \$100 bill and a special case for my sunglasses, and I also "lost" a pair of



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

are judged as a couple. He does not think of himself as an alcoholic and absolutely will not cut down or stop drinking.

I've been going to Al-Anon for a few years, and it helps some, but I'm hoping if he sees this column, he'll recognize what he's doing to himself and to those who love him. — Embarrassed
Dear Embarrassed: Many beer drinkers don't believe they could be alcoholics, but if your husband cannot cut back on his beer drinking even though it is interfering with his marriage, it sounds like an addiction. You may be embarrassed, thinking you are judged by his behavior, but the truth is, most people probably feel sorry for you. If you can get your husband to talk to someone, perhaps his doctor or clergyman, it might help.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "No Name," whose husband ogles pretty women. My husband and I have been together for 11 years. We are 67 and 54. On our first date to the beach, his eyes almost fell out of their sockets looking at the women in their bikinis. He tried soooo hard not to stare that I finally had to tell the poor dear that it was OK. Hey, some gals are A-plus physically. I'm a B-minus, but as a friend, companion, lover and wife, I'm an A-plus-plus.

Now when a gorgeous guy or gal comes by, we point them out and acknowledge they'll never match what we have in each other. When you're secure and confident, you have nothing to fear. Turn your lemons into lemonade and drink in that which life has made available to you. — Tallahassee Lassie
Dear Lassie: We admire your philosophical take. Enjoy all that lemonade.

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VOTE

Continued from Page 1A

trustee seats up for election this year are contested. Terri Myrick is challenging incumbent Mike Dawson in District 5, while Jeff Brorman and Tom Ralston are contesting incumbent Ricky Robertson for the District 6 position.

Coahoma ISD has three candidates vying for two at-large positions on its school board. Danny Martin joins incumbents Sissy Franklin and James White on the ballot.

Forsan ISD voters are deciding between four candidates for two at-large positions. Incumbent Tom Bill Kuykendall is vying with Chris Evans, Nancy Raney and Glenn Graves.

Dr. Pablo Teveni and Darren Patrick are running for the

District 5 trustee position on the Stanton ISD school board.

Glasscock County and Grady school districts will not hold trustee elections until November, officials at those schools said.

Early voting for the Stanton ISD election is being held at the Martin County Courthouse.

This year's ballot will also include a proposed state constitutional amendment meant to address Texas taxpayers over the age of 65 or who are disabled and were unable to benefit from last year's state mandated reduction in school district taxes.

For more information on the election, contact Bloom at 264-2273.

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

World briefs

Car bomb explodes in Shiite holy city of Kufa, killing at least 16 people

BAGHDAD (AP) — A car bomb tore through a busy market in the Shiite holy city of Kufa on Tuesday, killing at least 16 people and wounding 70 in an attack sure to further enflame tensions between Iraq's Sunni and Shiite populations.

The bombing came a day after Iraq's Sunni vice president threatened to leave the Shiite-dominated government unless key unspecified amendments to the constitution were made by May 15.

The blast at Kufa struck about 10 a.m. in an area that also included a school and the mayor's office. The 16 killed included women and children, said Salim Naima, spokesman of the Najaf health department.

"It was a huge explosion, its force threw me a few meters away from my wife," said Hussein Abid Matrod, a 38-year old taxi driver who was shopping with his wife and suffered shrapnel wounds to his back and legs. "I saw many people on the ground as smoke mixed with dust, and the smell of the gunpowder was everywhere."

Panicked people ran through the corridors searching for their relatives at al-Furat al-Awsat hospital in nearby Najaf. Women in black abayas, traditional Islamic cloaks, pounded their chests and faces in grief.

Belfast compromise on cards as Paisley, Sinn Fein brace to share power

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Northern Ireland faced a hopeful new era Tuesday as long-warring Protestant and Catholic chieftains prepared to forge a joint government designed to consign to history decades of violence that claimed 3,700 lives.

Protestant firebrand Ian Paisley and Irish Republican Army icon Martin McGuinness, who took diametrically opposed sides in a four-decade struggle over this British territory, have pledged to lead a 12-member administration, as a 9-year-old peace accord intended.

The British and Irish prime ministers, Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, were traveling to Belfast to celebrate the moment when the Northern Ireland Assembly jointly elects Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, and McGuinness, deputy leader of the IRA-linked Sinn Fein.

Paisley and McGuinness, who was long committed to destroying Northern Ireland rather than governing it, are also being bound together by taking a common oath of office. It requires all government ministers "to uphold the rule of law based as it is on the fundamental principles of fairness, impartiality and democratic accountability, including support for policing and the courts."

Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Hain, the British minister handing over control of most

government departments Tuesday, said he was astonished that two men who had been "sworn and bitter enemies" had convincingly buried the hatchet in recent weeks.

Death toll from Kansas twister hits 9 as residents return to scour rubble

GREENSBURG, Kan. (AP) — The death toll from a tornado that nearly obliterated this farming town climbed to nine on Monday, but residents said it could have been far worse if not for a 20-minute warning that gave them time to take shelter in storm cellars and basements.

"We had plenty of warning," said Gary Goodheart, whose house was gutted with only a few walls left standing. "If people paid attention to sirens they should have been able to get to a safe place."

Cadaver dogs worked alongside residents, who were allowed back in to scour the rubble for whatever belongings could be salvaged.

A victim's body was pulled from a nearby lake on Monday. Officials reported they had found another body buried beneath rubble in the middle of town, but that turned out to be just a wig, said Sharon Watson, spokeswoman for the Kansas Emergency Management Agency.

Earlier Monday, Greensburg Mayor Lonnie McCollum said two elderly women had been rescued Sunday night from a church basement, but officials later confirmed the women had been rescued on Saturday morning.

Leading Republican senator says Iraq strategy has until fall to show results

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican Whip Trent Lott says President Bush's new strategy in Iraq has until about fall before GOP members will need to see results.

Lott's comment Monday put a fine point on what Senate Republican stalwarts have been discussing quietly for weeks.

It also echoed remarks made this weekend by House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, indicating the GOP's limited patience on the war.

"I do think this fall we have to see some significant changes on the ground, in Baghdad and other surrounding areas," Lott, R-Miss., told reporters.

Lott declined to say what he thinks should happen if Congress does not see improvement in the security situation by then. But he said lawmakers have time before they must decide.

Bush announced in January that he planned to send to Iraq 21,500 more combat troops, plus several thousand more support troops, in an attempt to tamp down violence in Baghdad and the western Anbar province. Gen. David Petraeus, the U.S. commander in Iraq, said he could give a better assessment in September of whether the strategy is working.

CLICK IT

Continued from Page 1A

"These unconventional reminders are all part of the Texas Department of Transportation's Click It or Ticket campaign to increase safety belt use in Texas and save lives," Brenda Mitchell, Abilene District traffic safety coordinator, said.

"Thanks to Click It or Ticket, 90 percent of drivers in Texas now use their safety belts," said Carlos Lopez, TxDOT's traffic operations director. "For those folks who aren't in the habit of always buckling up, we know that it often takes the threat of an expensive ticket to get them to do the right thing."

According to Mitchell, beginning May 21 to June 3, state troopers, police officers and sheriff's deputies statewide will be stepping up enforcement of the state's safety belt laws. Drivers, front seat passengers and children under 17, whether riding in the front or back seat, must be buckled up. Also, children under five years old and less than 36 inches tall must ride in child safety seats. Adults who don't use safety belts or fail to secure their children face fines up to

\$200, plus court costs.

"The number of Texans complying with state safety belt laws has steadily climbed from 76 percent to slightly more than 90 percent since the Click It or Ticket effort began five years ago," Mitchell said.

Researchers say pickup drivers and passengers and teens continue to be the least likely to buckle up. In 2005, more than half of those killed in rollover crashes in Texas were not wearing safety belts.

Safety advocates report that drivers and passengers who buckle up have a 50 percent better chance of surviving serious traffic collisions and avoiding serious injuries. Since the Click It or Ticket campaign was first launched in Texas in 2002, there have been 1,200 fewer traffic fatalities in Texas and 28,000 fewer injuries as a result of increased safety belt use.

Some of the partners joining TxDOT in the campaign are the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Texas Department of Public Safety, local law enforcement agencies across the state, the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Texas Cooperative Extension, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Texas Municipal Police Association, AAA Texas and NASCAR.

SMOKING

Continued from Page 1A

not always the bar or restaurant operator — to decide if smoking will be allowed. The owner would have to post a sign in a conspicuous place noting that smoking is permitted.

Crownover acknowledged that the exemption punches a huge hole in the ban.

"I will work very hard,"

to take it out, she said.

The bill includes other exemptions for bingo and VFW halls and bars that offer their employees health insurance. Cities could also opt out if local voters can get the issue on the May 2008 ballot.

Seventeen states, including California and New York, have comprehensive smoking bans; 13 others are considering them. Houston, Austin, El Paso and other Texas cities already have com-

prehensive smoking bans.

Smoke-Free Texas, a coalition of the American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association and Texas PTA, is pushing the measure. The groups released a poll showing that a majority of Texans favor a statewide smoking ban in public places.

Secondhand smoke causes lung cancer, heart disease, low birth rate and other chronic lung

problems and kills 53,000 Americans a year, according to Smoke-Free Texas.

Opponents railed against the measure as a violation of private property rights, bad for business and mean to smokers.

Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, tried to exempt bars from the ban but was consistently defeated on several votes.

"If you want to outlaw smoking, you ought to add (tobacco) to the con-

trolled substances list. That would be the end of it," Dutton said. "We've got to treat every bar the same."

If ultimately passed, the ban would be another major swipe at smokers in a year. Lawmakers boosted their per-pack taxes by \$1 last year to help pay for public schools.

In protest, Rep. Terri Hodge, a smoker, offered an amendment Monday to ban smoking and the sale of cigarettes in Texas. It was defeated.

"This body has made it a habit to take on the smokers like they are nonvoters ... This is a personalized attack," Hodge said. "Let's make everybody healthy in Texas."

CAMP

Continued from Page 1A

religion down the kids' throats. Jesus never tried to push his religion on anyone, and neither do we."

The camp will run throughout the summer holiday — specifically June 4 through Aug. 24 — with activities offered between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Keeney said the local Salvation Army is doing everything possible to keep the cost of the program at a minimum.

"We're charging \$12 for an entire year's membership, so it's not hard to see this isn't about the money," said Keeney. "We've got a lot of fun things planned for the camp. We've got a computer lab set up, and we'll have games, character building activities, food, field trips and even art classes. The kids will have plenty to do."

And while the summer program will target the lull between school-year academics, Keeney said there's much more to the program.

"The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club isn't

just for the summer," he said. "We'll be offering services throughout the year. During the school year we'll operate from 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday."

For more information on the program, contact

the Salvation Army at 267-8239.

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

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OTHER VIEWS

Uncle Sam isn't very adept at protecting privacy

Late on Friday, the Transportation Security Administration announced that an external computer hard drive loaded with sensitive and private information on 100,000 current and former staffers was missing, possibly stolen, from a secure area in the human resources department. This is getting ridiculous.

When it comes to safeguarding private information from the growing identity theft industry, Uncle Sam's track record is horrendous.

Up until the TSA's major breach, the Census Bureau, the Agriculture Department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency were the latest agencies to blunder by revealing Social Security numbers. Tooling around on an Internet site maintained by the Census Bureau, a bored Illinois farmer did a search of her farm's name and found references to a loan application she filed with the USDA. There for all the world to see was her Social Security number. A review by the USDA found that the numbers of 38,700 farmers had been exposed on the site.

Over at FEMA, the fumble was printing Social Security numbers on the outside address labels for 2,300 agency personnel who were being reappointed as disaster assistance employees. To its credit, FEMA moved quickly to correct the problem, apologize to the individuals affected and offer them credit-monitoring protection.

The TSA also has apologized to its employees and offered them credit-monitoring protection. But because this is the TSA — the agency that employs airport screeners and air marshals — this is not your run-of-the-mill identity theft worry. There are security issues here, which is why the TSA was right to call in the FBI and the Secret Service to investigate.

This episode reminds us of last year's theft of the Department of Veterans Affairs laptop with information on 26.5 million people nestled in it. It was later returned with the information untouched. We can only hope for a similar outcome at the TSA.

THE WASHINGTON POST

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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 - 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

May we take a timeout with You, Lord.

Amen

Health coverage solved — right here

Sure, the rest of the world despises the United States over Iraq. How could it not? But we're also held in low esteem for our health care. The happy difference is that while the war has a malevolent impact on nearly every nation, our health care system hurts only us.

And hurt us it does. Even schoolchildren now realize that 45 million Americans have no coverage at all; that coverage for poor people is crummy; that major employers are unloading costs onto their employees; that doctors who treat the poor are poorly treated themselves; that drug companies and HMOs are serious profiteers; that many young healthy folk skip coverage altogether in order to save money; and that HMOs don't want you if you're sick.

Well, OK, maybe schoolchildren don't fathom all that just yet, but they will soon enough. And their elders fathom it now.

That's why health care runs just behind Iraq as an issue for 2008. In terms of blather, it is surely No. 1 already because most candidates are still a bit edgy about discussing the war.

It's a lot safer just to conjure up some complex health plan that sounds good and that no one will really understand. It's also important to be quite assertive in promoting it. Makes you sound like a

real leader.

Unfortunately existing health coverage remains in cynical corporate hands, or at least it will through 2008. This has forced some socially responsible states to take a crack at implementing universal insurance themselves. Massachusetts, Maine, and California, serving as laboratories of democracy, are all giving it a go. Too bad each one has a different plan.

Other less-enterprising states are also debating a universal plan this year, but the HMOs and drug companies are likely to make short work of that in the legislatures. Still it's nice, finally, to have it on the table. Fundamental progress comes in baby steps.

And we surely need a few of those steps right now. Health costs everywhere in this country are astronomical; programs for poor kids are often broken down; Medicaid is haphazard in many places; and finding reasonable coverage has become a nightmare even for the middle class.

Naturally, all this trauma mystifies Europeans, Canadians, Japanese, and other denizens of the Western World. "We always thought Americans were smart. How can they be so stupid about health care?" Hey, if you can be stupid about war, health care is a piece of cake.

All those other countries simply let government be the HMO, much like Medicare. This saves them the 25 percent of total health costs that America now squanders on our cockamamie system of

duplicative insurance companies. Other lands also put the screws to pharmaceutical companies. And having vanquished the HMOs, they've freed up countless doctors and nurses from paperwork jobs and reassigned them to patients. Worse hours, maybe, but better care. Having thus solved their health problem, EU leaders now have more time to argue over banana imports and other crises.

Those nations also have higher taxes than the United States, and so pay for most of health care out of the public treasury.

We have a different tradition. Here workers now pay into Medicare, and would surely pay into a similar federal pot with universal coverage.

Employers (often) also pay for some coverage for their workers. That would continue, but instead of paying into insurance companies, they'd pay into the federal pot as well, like Social Security. Every employer would similarly have to contribute, not just the ethical ones. Government would pay the rest.

Simple. Effective. Cheap. The politicians all know that, but they're afraid to go for it. The leeches that prosper from the present health insurance system would go ballistic.

So it seems the Euros are right — we are stupid.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn.

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WILLIAM A. COLLINS



Mules are sometimes stubborn

It was late December 1941; World War II had just begun and we were moving to a larger farm in the northwest part of the county. Daddy had always farmed with a team of six horses and mules, but now he needed a tractor to keep up with the work of a larger farm.

Daddy always kept seven mules and horses and rotated them so that one could rest every seventh day. In case one got sick with colic, he always had a full team to pull the plows.

Mr. Joiner, the local John Deere dealer, sold Daddy a Model H John Deere two-row tractor. That tractor was the most beautiful green that I had ever seen. Daddy traded six of his mules and horses as a down payment. The tractor would burn diesel or gasoline. In fact, it had a small 2-gallon gas tank and a 7-gallon diesel or kerosene tank.

Mr. Joiner sent a mule skinner out to our farm to pick up the six mules and horses. The skinner had purchased the team and was anxious to get them to a sale. Just before dark he got the team loaded in his new oak-bed truck. Daddy cautioned him about one of the mules named "Ole Pete."

That mule was the orneriest mule I'd ever seen. If the county fair had given prizes for the orneriest mule, our barn would have been covered with blue ribbons. He would watch you out of the

corner of his eye, lay his ears back, and when you got near, roll those mean eyes and bite or kick. We always had to be extremely wary around Ole Pete. The mule skinner "allowed" that he knew more about mules than any 10 farmers and that he would pit his oak-bed truck against any ornery mule.

The team was really nervous about riding in a truck so high above the ground. To tell the truth, they were just plain afraid of riding in any vehicle. As they went out the front drive, they were making noises I've never heard mules make before or since. You would have thought the skinner was sticking them with a cattle prod to produce the sounds they were making. The truck had been gone about five minutes when we heard hooves striking the strong oak rails, over and over and over. Ten minutes or so had past when the noise stopped. Daddy "allowed" that the skinner had gotten them to settle down.

Soon after dark, we heard the clip clop of hooves on the hard-packed road a half-mile or so away from the barn. We went outside; and lo-and-behold there was the team, standing at the gate, waiting to get back in the mule shed.

Daddy let them in and fed them — all the while wondering what had happened to the skinner. He didn't have to wait long. The skinner came walking up, hat in hand, and exclaiming in a low voice that "you sure knew what you were talking about Elvis. Those mules, especially Ole Pete, destroyed my new oak-bed truck."

Had the skinner listened to my dad, his truck, the delays, and the expenses would have been spared. The next day, he came back with a lower trailer with high sideboards, and the team never gave him any trouble.

Daddy farmed with that tractor for 22 years, and it never gave him a minute's trouble. Daddy used to say "I miss that team, that is all except Ole Pete."

A team of mules serves two purposes for the farmer: one, to pull his plows and wagons; and two, to teach him patience and self-control.

When I was much younger and Daddy still farmed with mules and horses, occasionally I would see an old pickup-truck stop down the road by the pasture fence. A young man would get out, and Old Pete would go over to the fence and stand and paw at the ground for awhile.

The young man would go back to the pickup, reach inside, and get something — then go back to the fence and hold it out for Ole Pete. Ole Pete would nod his head a couple of times and then chew awhile. He sometimes would shake his head and occasionally nod as if he were talking to that young man. I wonder if Leon Hale traveled our neck of the woods back then?

Naw ... I guess not.

Could be.

You never know.

Doyle Driver is a native Texan and was reared in Hardeman County. He can be reached by e-mail at doyledriver@yahoo.com.



DOYLE DRIVER

Bird Poop:

Young kestrels rescued from thoughtless stranger's wrath

Anticipating a long day, he left the city at 5 a.m. An hour and a half later, as he crossed the cattle guard, the first hint of morning arrived. From quite a distance he could see the lights were on in the barn. "Cook" would have the coffee made.



BEBE McCASLAND

After he had gathered his tools and apron from the truck, the farrier made his way past the horse stalls and equipment. Reaching his designated area, he noticed someone had piled hay nearby. Soon, he and the cook were joined by other men who would be helping with the day's chores.

Having set up, the craftsman was ready for his first customer. As the quarter horse was led

toward him, both man and horse recognized each other. Whether the farrier had fit a polo pony, or shod a Shetland, he established a lasting rapport with the animal. Over the years, owners had commented on how their horses seemed to know he was coming.

Sometime during the morning, as he cleaned another foot, he noticed a shadow moving swiftly across the barn floor. By the time he could look up, there was nothing to see. "Probably a pigeon," he thought.

By early afternoon, he decided to take a break. His arms and back were beginning to complain. Stretching and getting the kinks out, he noticed nearby some welding equipment that had been stored in the barn. He did not recognize the burly ranch hand standing next to it.

Once more, he bent beside another horse. His gentle touch allowed him to lift the horse's lower



Courtesy photo

Covered with down and emerging feathers, the young kestrels would soon have dark vertical marks on the sides of their heads. When adult, females would be larger, with rufous colored back, tail and wings, while males have distinctive blue-gray wings to brighten their rusty appearance.

See **KESTRELS**, Page 6A

Laura on Life: Our battle with a slow-running tub drain

My bathroom sink has had a slow leak for a few months now. I didn't realize that most people's bathroom sinks actually "leak" pretty fast. Ours must have been clogged with something.



LAURA SNYDER

Actually, the little doohickey that closes the drain had been pulled out and lost by one of the little ankle-biters who live in my house. This left a hole that was apparently the perfect size to throw

things into. When it stopped draining completely one day, my husband decided we needed to do something about it, but we were unwilling to pay a plumber to do it. I guess we were also a little afraid of what he might find down there. It could be embarrassing.

So, my husband poured something liquid in there that the TV commercial insisted would simply open up the drain and the water would then flow smooth as a baby's behind. It didn't work out quite that way. In fact, it didn't work at all.

My husband then took up the only other weapon he had available for this particular war: the toilet bowl plunger. He placed

it over the gaping hole and tried to "plunge" the drain into submission. He used one hand on the plunger and the other to hold the secondary drain closed. When he stopped, there were two rocks and a bicycle inner tube cap in the sink. He fished those out but the drain was still clogged.

He tried again. This time we fished out a toothpaste cap, a balloon, and one half of a rubber ball from a gumball machine. Still, the water did not go down.

Once again he plunged the drain hoping for something more substantial to come up. Although, what could be more substantial than what we had already found? We began to won-

der if the boy had somehow managed to force a Volkswagon down there.

This time, however, nothing came up. He tried three more times with no more success. My husband sat down on the edge of the bathtub, out of breath from his exertions.

"I don't know, Laura, I think we may have to call in a plumber on this one."

I would rather spend that money on a nice dinner out... or tires for the car, or a new hard drive, or ... tooth whitener, or ... I don't know, anything but a plumber. Desperate times called for desperate measures so I said, "Why don't I give it a try?" He looked skeptical, but shrugged.

I'm not as tall as he is, so I needed both hands for the plunger. "Okay, you hold the other hole closed, while I plunge." He got up, placed his hand over the hole and watched me "plunge" as if my life depended on it. The other drain made funny sucking noises every time I up-plunged. My husband was going to have a hard time explaining that hickey in the middle of his palm.

Apparently, I wasn't as good as he was because water was splashing higher and yon as I worked that plunger: up and down, up and down. "Pick up the pace," my husband said.

I blew the hair out of my face and saw the speculative look on his

face. "By God, you'd better not be enjoying this!" I said with a scowl.

"What?!" he grinned, "I'm not excited! But I think I might be in love with this other drain."

I stopped, picked up the plunger so I could beat him over the head with it, and we watched, in amazement, as the water formed a whirlpool and went right down the drain with no problem at all.

We looked at each other, eyes wide.

"Whoa, now I'm excited!" he said.

Laura Snyder can be e-mailed at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com or visit her website www.lauraonlife.com.



A SNAKE NAMED SILAS

On the edge of the woods near my house, there lived a snake. He was a black snake. He was a very good snake. He helped me in many ways. He doesn't anymore! His name was Silas.

Let me tell you how I came to know Silas. At first, I was afraid of Silas. I was afraid of all snakes. I thought all of them were dangerous. Some of them are very dangerous. None of them should ever be played with. Never try to play with any snake. Even the nice ones like to be left alone. If you ever see one in your yard, please run as fast as you can and tell your mom or dad.

I didn't know Silas at all for a very long time. One day as I was weeding my garden, something slithering in the grass caught my attention. As I looked to see what it might be, I saw the black snake. I was really scared. I tried to scare him away with a shovel I had in my hands. I didn't really want to hurt him. I just

wanted him to go away. I hit the ground just in front of the snake's head with my shovel. The snake looked startled, as if he was wondering why I would do such a thing. Then, he turned away and left my garden. I was so happy that he went away. But, my happiness didn't last very long!

A few weeks after I had chased the snake from my garden, I saw something else moving in the grass. "Did that black snake come back to scare me again?" I thought. But, no, it was not the black snake. It was a very big rat! If there is anything that I would rather not see in my garden other than a snake, it would be a rat. I don't want rats near my garden, my home, or me. I wondered why this rat was here. I had never seen a rat in my garden before. I chased him off with my shovel. I hoped he would never come back. But he did! And brought friends with him. Now, I had rats all over my garden. Then the

mice came, too. I wonder why they came. This never happened while Silas lived nearby.

I had seen my neighbor's garden before and it was so nice. I never saw rats or mice there. I needed to go talk with her and ask how she kept the little varmints away. I decided to go the next day.

As I lay in bed that night thinking about the rats, mice, and the snake, I tried and tried to figure out just exactly what happened. Why did I have these pests now, when I didn't before. Could Silas have something to do with it? I finally fell asleep.

When morning came, I was ready and eager to go talk with my neighbor, Sue, who had such a beautiful garden, with no pests. As I walked past my garden, I saw the grasses alive with the movements of all the pests that now lived there. I wanted them to go away!

Sue was in her pretty garden as I walked closer and closer. She was very carefully pulling weeds

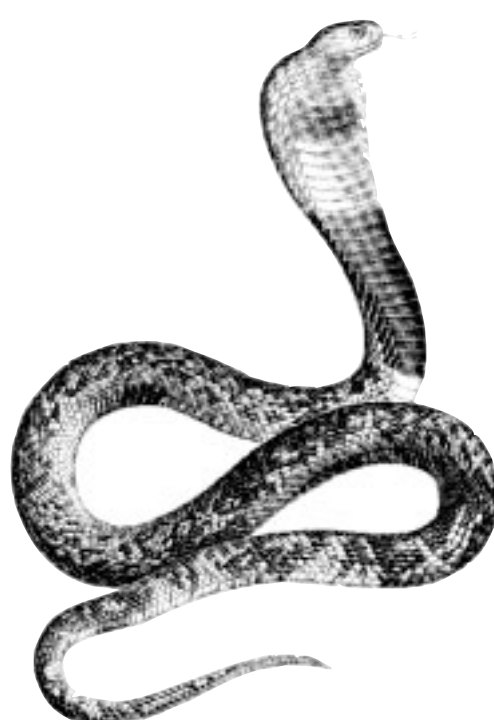


from her petunias. She heard me coming and turned to smile at me with her wonderful smile and she shook my hand and welcomed me to her garden. "It is even prettier when I am very close," I thought. We talked and talked as all good neighbors do. Then, I finally asked her, "How do you keep all of the pests out of your garden?" I wanted and needed to know very much. She smiled and me again and said, "I do nothing. My natural friends do all the work for me such as keeping rats and mice from my garden." I have one natural friend who lived near you until someone chased him from his home one day. He lives near my garden now. We are great friends. His name is Silas. There he is now! I looked

to where she was pointing and there, in the grass, was the very same black snake I had chased from my garden. He looked happy. Sue certainly was! I was sad. Sad because I did not know just what a good friend I once had.

I went home that day, promising myself that I would always think things over before I made any more decisions. I wish I

had Silas back as a friend. If another good snake comes my way, I will not bother him. I will hope he stays near my garden. I will say this one more time because it is so important. Never play with any snake. They do want to be left alone. Even Silas! Silas did tell Sue to tell me to tell you, "Good Night"



Annual band trip part of a busy time at Forsan

The Forsan High School Band leaves Thursday for the annual band trip and competition in Dallas. The annual high school band concert was held Tuesday.



Buffalo Tales

The Food Science and Nutrition Class is selling cookbooks that they have made. Books will be sold for \$10 each and contain family recipes passed down for generations. The deadline to purchase books will be May 10.

Interested parties may contact the high school office or email gmcdon-

al@esc18.net to purchase.

Caylie Eggleston and Kaylon Stanley advanced to the state tennis meet on Monday and Tuesday in girls' doubles, and Courtney Holdampf advanced in girls' singles. Holdampf finished second in the Region II,

Class 1A tournament's singles competition to earn her spot at the state tournament. Eggleston and Stanley were also runners-up at region in doubles.

Courtney Holdampf, Clint Lockhart, Alex Newsom and Jonathan Purcell were named outstanding UIL participants for the 2007 season at the UIL Banquet on April 30.

Each student scored in excess of 50 points in district and regional Events. Holdampf competed in the UIL state number sense contest on

Saturday.

The high school physics and pre-calculus classes taught by Joy Weeks and Susan Alexander, along with gifted and talented students went to Lubbock last Tuesday. They visited the Texas Tech Museum and Planetarium and then went to Science Spectrum where they saw the IMAX production "Ring of Fire."

At the regional track meet in Abilene Saturday, Tori Gauer fin-

ished 13th in the 400 meters; Amanda Longorio was 13th in discus and 10th in the shot put; and Shelby Jones placed third, winning a bronze medal in the pole vault. In boys' track, Adam Bailey finished ninth in the 100 meter hurdles.

Freshman Jake Moore finished seventh in a field of 120 golfers at the regional tournament in Abilene. He shot scores of 76 and 79 for a two-day total of 156.

The staff banquet will

be held May 17 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

The high school sports banquet will be May 21 at Forsan. Tickets are \$7 and are available from the high school office.

There will be a scholarship presentation assembly on May 22 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium, honoring those seniors who have received scholarships.

Finals are scheduled for May 22-23, followed by graduation on May 25.

Parents Corner:

Make the most of Mother's Day by remembering her

I've always loved Mother's Day, but contrary to popular belief, Mother's Day was not conceived in a conference room at the Hallmark card factory. The earliest tributes to mothers date back to the annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to Rhea, the mother of their many deities, and to the offerings ancient Romans



DARRELL RYAN

made to Cybele, the Great Mother of their gods. Christians celebrated this festival on the fourth Sunday in Lent in honor of Mary, mother of Jesus. In England it was later expanded to include all mothers and was called Mothering Sunday. In the United States, Mother's Day started nearly 150 years ago, when Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community, a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers. She called it "Mother's Work Day." In 1914, President

Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday. At first, people observed Mother's Day by attending church, writing letters to their mothers and, eventually, by sending cards, presents and flowers. Mother's Day has flourished in the United States. In fact, the second Sunday of May has become the most popular day of the year to dine out, and telephone lines record their highest traffic, as sons and daughters everywhere take advantage of this day to honor and to express

appreciation of their mothers. The reason I've always loved Mother's Day is because it gave me a special opportunity to tell my mother just how much she meant to me. I wish I had the opportunity to tell her today. She passed away in January of 1995. Now I have to rely on memories, but those memories are precious. I thought about my mom when I ran across a special document by Leonora Zearfoss a few days ago called "A Mother's Beatitude." This is a beautiful writing and so rightfully called

Beatitude. Blessed is the mother who understands her child, for she shall inherit a kingdom of memories. Blessed is the mother who knows how to comfort, for she shall possess a child's devotion. Blessed is the mother who guides by the path of righteousness, for she shall be proud of her offspring. Blessed is the mother who is never shocked, for

she shall receive confidences. Blessed is the mother who teaches respect, for she shall be respected. Blessed is the mother who emphasizes the good and minimizes the bad, for in like manner the child shall make evaluations. Blessed is the mother who treats her child as she would be treated, for

See RYAN, Page 7A

KESTRELS

Continued from Page 5A

leg. As he began to work, a loud voice behind him complained, "Messin' all over the place." Before he could turn to see what was happening, he heard scuffling and smelled dust being kicked up from the barn floor. "Umph!" cried the voice behind him as a high pitched sound of alarm echoed, "Klee, klee, klee."

As he started to rise, he heard a pole hit the ground and saw what might be a bird's nest land in the pile of hay. Turning to look at whomever was causing such a ruckus, he noticed he was not alone in staring at the stranger, who yelled, "What'd you expect me to do?" No one answered. With every face turned in his direction and making a silent judgment, the stranger stomped out of the barn. His profane analysis of the barn, everyone in it and the birds was heard until he slammed his truck door and created his own dust storm in leaving.

When the nest had landed in the hay, the horse moved backward, then forward repeatedly in terror at the stranger's shouting curses. Talking to the horse, the farrier finally managed to calm the frightened mare. Handing her reins to a worker who had come to help, he walked toward the nest that had been wrenched from the rafters. Inside were five nestlings.

Showing the downy, partially feathered youngsters to the men, the farrier recognized the birds as American kestrels. "All that guy had to do was move," said Cook. "Why'd he go and do somethin' like that!"

Two of the ranch hands had witnessed the courtship of the parents. "You should'a seen it. The daddy brought her some food while she was in that mesquite. She wouldn't take it. He

offered it again. She ignored him. Even dropped it on the ground. He picked it up, brought it back a third time and she took it. From then on, they've been together."

After the eggs hatched, the men had seen the daily trips made by the parents. Hunting in the morning and late afternoon, the birds had shrunk the thriving mice colony at the barn. The countryside provided an endless supply of grasshoppers. Accustomed to their goings and comings, the ranch hands had forgotten about the birds, until now. Asking the farrier what he planned to do with the kestrels, they were told he was going to call a "bird lady," and see if she could help. To know that something could be done for the now homeless beings was gratifying.

On his way back to the city, the farrier delivered the kestrels to us. Apparently healthy, hungry and safe after their unexpected relocation, the nestlings would soon be taken to a wildlife center. Placed with adult kestrels, they would

learn to catch and kill their prey. Release to the wild would follow when they were flight worthy.

Kestrels had often reminded us of a child holding an ice cream cone. Given a natural dexterity with their talons, they would always first position food so as to eat the most delicious part. Bites would be taken off the head, then the rest of their prey, whether they were insects, mice, lizards or small birds. Any food remaining on their talons would gingerly be picked off. Finally, just as a kid would wipe his mouth on his sleeve, they would

clean their beaks by rapidly brushing them back and forth across their perch.

The kestrels first flight had occurred as a downward spiral. When mature, their wingspread of nearly 24 inches, would enable them to hover and glide on narrow pointed wings. Someday, they might also choose a more natural setting, such as a tree cavity, or hillside outcropping when starting their own families.

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

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These Keepsakes will be published in our
"Salute To Area Graduates"
Sunday, May 20, 2007

This special section will include all area schools for
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TUESDAY

Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows (6:PM, 7:PM, 8:PM, 9:PM, 10:PM, 11:PM, 12:AM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"HELLO, HOUSEWARES? ABOUT THIS SET OF LINBREAKABLE DISHES I BOUGHT YESTERDAY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"You're lucky. I was born in September, and I'm still learning to spell it."

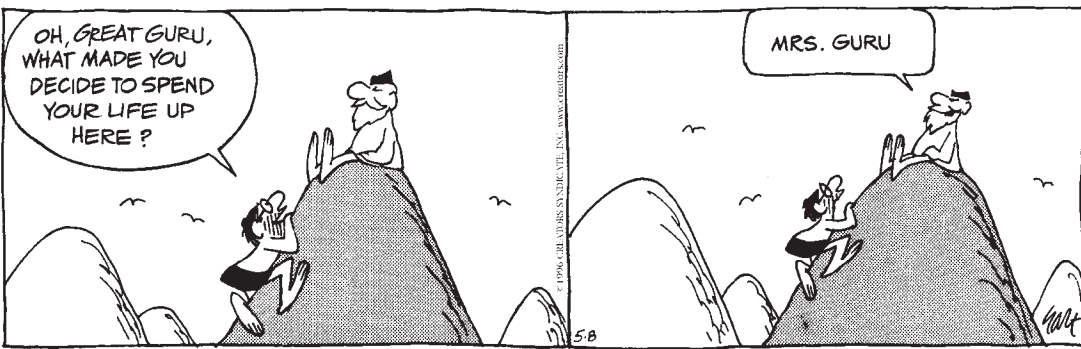
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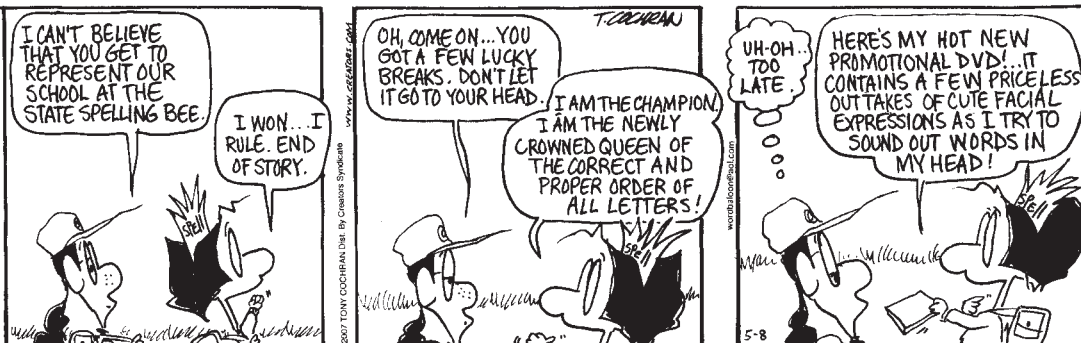
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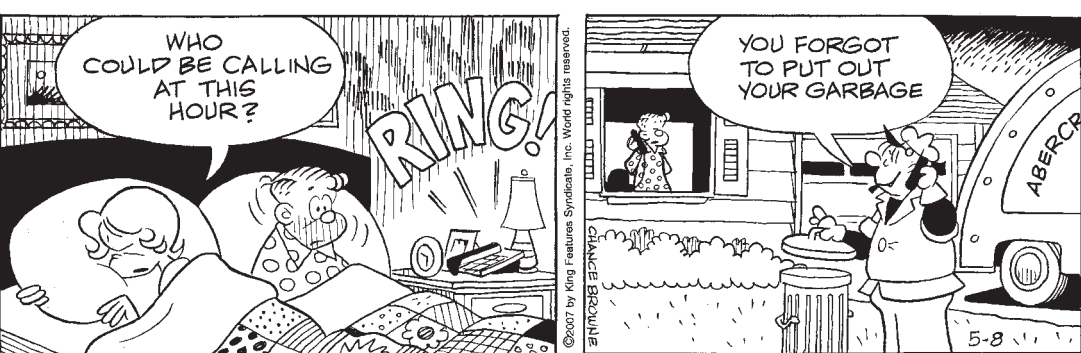
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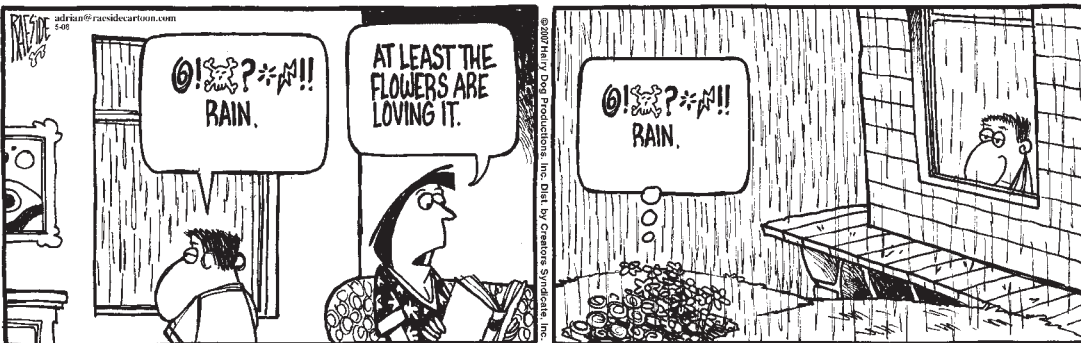
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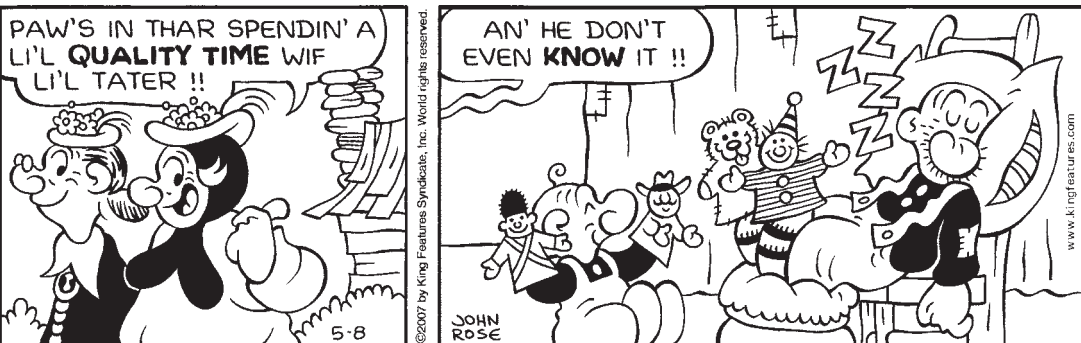
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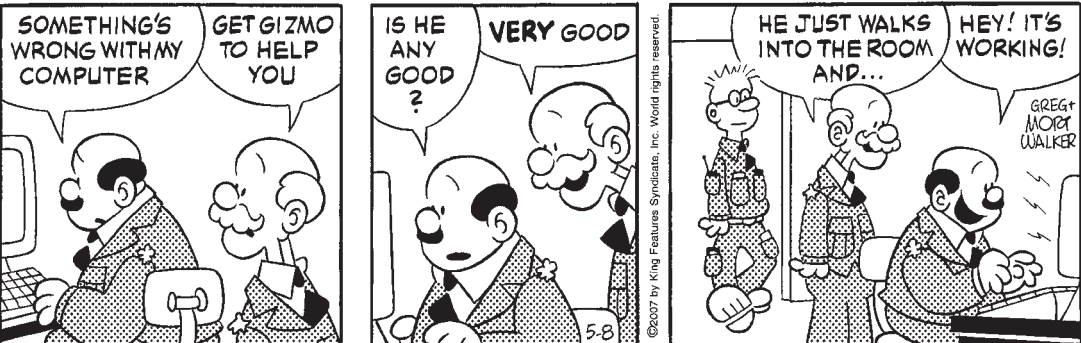
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, May 8, the 128th day of 2007. There are 237 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On May 8, 1945, President Truman announced in a radio address that World War II had ended in Europe. On this date: In 1541, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto reached the Mississippi River. In 1794, Antoine Lavoisier, the father of modern chemistry, was executed on the guillotine during France's Reign of Terror. In 1846, the first major battle of the Mexican-American War was fought at Palo Alto, Texas, with no clear victory for either side. In 1884, the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, was born near Lamar, Miss. In 1886, Atlanta pharmacist John Pemberton invented the flavor syrup for Coca-

Cola. In 1958, Vice President Richard Nixon was shoved, stoned, booed and spat upon by anti-American protesters in Lima, Peru. In 1962, the musical comedy "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" opened on Broadway. In 1970, anti-war protests took place across the United States and around the world; in New York, construction workers broke up a demonstration on Wall Street. In 1973, militant American Indians who had held the South Dakota hamlet of Wounded Knee for 10 weeks surrendered. In 1987, Gary Hart, dogged by questions about his personal life, including his relationship with Miami model Donna Rice, withdrew from the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Birthdays: Comedian Don Rickles is 81. Naturalist Sir David Attenborough is 81. Singer Toni Tennille is 67. Country singer Jack Blanchard is 65. Jazz musician Keith Jarrett is 62. Singer Philip Bailey

(Earth, Wind and Fire) is 56. Rock musician Chris Frantz (Talking Heads) is 56. Rockabilly singer Billy Burnette is 54. Rock musician Alex Van Halen is 54. Actor David Keith is 53. Actress Melissa Gilbert is 43. Rock musician Dave Rowntree (Blur) is 43. Country musician Del Gray is 39. Singer Enrique Iglesias is 32. Singer Ana Maria Lombo (Eden's Crush) is 29. Actress Julia Whelan is 22. Thought for Today: "What this country really needs is a good five-cent nickel." - Franklin P. Adams, American journalist-humorist (1881-1960).

Answer to previous puzzle. A crossword grid with words filled in: ROSE, STAB, COLTS, OREO, NONO, ALOHA, LAWN, PARTY, RIVAL, ELS, RITES, EVENT, TILE, CHEEP, GLENS, ROAR, ONE, CREST, OUT, ATOP, HOST, CHUTE, LITE, EASY, HAT, STORE, MNO, SAME, SHANE, NEARS, BEER, APPLY, AKITE, MAP, RELAY, LIST, PRICE, IRATE, ALOE, OKRA, DUNES, DONE, WEEK.

Newsday Crossword

CAPITAL IDEA by Sherry S. Lucas Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Mama's spouse, 5 Young male horse, 9 Desirable quality, 14 "Very sorry!", 15 Opera solo, 16 Intent look, 17 Midwest state capital, 20 Go in, 21 Competent, 22 Sparrow's home, 23 Gas used in store signs, 25 Cozy, 27 Fully attentive, 30 By way of, 32 Minor quake, 36 Actress Thurman, 37 Takes in some sun, 39 Prepare, as pizza cheese, 40 Midwest state capital, 43 Frogs' relatives, 44 Straight-laced, 45 Obviously embarrassed, 46 Completed, as a crossword, 48 Germane, 49 Well ventilated, 50 Auction-sale condition, 52 Annoying one, 54 Graceful bird, 57 53, in old Rome, 59 Epic tale by Homer, 63 Midwest state capital, 66 Autumn flower, 67 Major (Big Dipper), 68 Skinny, 69 The ones close by, 70 Third son of Adam, 71 Perfect scores in gymnastics, 10 "Business ends" of bees, 11 Wise person, 12 Important periods, 13 Circus structure, 18 Angry emotion, 19 Penny, 24 Roundish shape, 26 Pressed for, 27 Corrodes, as metal, 28 "Are not!" response, 29 Concerning Benedict XVI, 31 Dog originally from Japan, 33 New Zealand native, 34 Aquatic mammal, 35 All set, 37 Mass-transit vehicles, 38 Most lively, 41 Moves forward, 42 Evening, on marquees, 47 Pickle flavoring, 49 Finally, 51 Nasal cavity, 53 Title for Lancelot, 54 Chair piece, 55 What a genie might grant, 56 Poker-hand starter, 58 Concerning, in memos, 60 Aruba or Maui, 61 Similar, 62 River blockers, 64 Miner's find, 65 "___, humbug!"

A crossword grid with numbers 1-71 indicating starting positions for words.

Spanky's becoming a hot spot for quite a few teens

Abstract paintings, vanilla cappuccinos, a local celebrity, and dozens of youth. On any given weekend, Spanky's Coffee House serves as the evening's hangout for countless teens.



JORDAN HERROD

"Even if they don't drink it, everyone loves the idea of coffee," Big Spring High School junior Meredith Nieto said. "Spanky's is just a relaxing, fun environment."

According to co-owner Yolanda Perez, 40 people are in Spanky's on the average Friday night, with 30 of those being young people.

"We basically started with only teenagers," Perez said. "They're a good crowd, and we really enjoy them."

While teens do go to Spanky's to hang out, they also go to sample new things.

"Tahitian vanilla bean frappuchino is my new favorite coffee," Nieto said. "On a scale of 1-10, it's an 11."

Perez says her other job is a serious nature, but Spanky's is more about customer service and having a routine to follow.

"It's just a different atmosphere," Perez said. "I can relax, but have fun at the same time."

If the co-owner hasn't persuaded you yet, she has numerous, accidental, walking billboards for her new business.

"I would encourage people to come because it's a place where you can sit

and talk," Big Spring senior Heath Wilkerson said. "As long as you have people with new stuff and new routines this phase will last a very long time."

Several other BSHS students are Spanky's fans, as well.

"It's a fun place to hang out and just talk. And the people that work there are always really nice," Nieto said.

BSHS senior Heath Wilkerson said he's encouraged people to come to Spanky's, "because it's something to do."

"It's a place where you can sit and talk with your friends and at the same time listen to live music," he said. "It's pretty good — a lot of acoustic stuff. Mr. Bancroft really knows how to jam out. It's the only place in town with live music, I think."

Perez said Spanky's was reopened when Guy and Amy Zant wanted to open a coffee shop.

"Amy had approached me about being her partner and we agreed to it," Perez said.

"Guy liked the old Spanky's when it was here," she continued. "He liked that they sold espressos and coffees. They wanted to keep the name the same because we're at the same place doing the same thing. He just has liked the idea for a long time."

"I like the business, too. We're going to start doing lunches. We want it to be a coffee house where anyone can come in and enjoy the entertainment we provide on the weekends and the lunches."

Guy books local bands and every month the owners plan to do something fun for the

teenagers.

Perez says from her experience, teenagers enjoy the iced drinks, and virtually everyone likes being able to write on the walls.

"We planned for people to write on the walls," Perez said. "We thought it'd be cool for the kids to sign their names."

Spanky's currently has a "happy hour" from 7

p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The coffee house is open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday and every day from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Jordan Herrod is a junior at Big Spring High School. His column centers on the activities teenagers in our community enjoy.

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Woman, 83, was forced to smoke crack

NEW PORT RICHEY, Fla. (AP) — A woman forced an 83-year-old housemate to smoke crack cocaine so she could steal personal information to get a credit card and run up more than \$3,000 in charges, authorities said.

Pasco County sheriff's investigators accused Theresa M. Stanley-Morgan, 41, of getting the older woman to smoke the drug at least twice to make it easier to exploit her financially.

Stanley-Morgan was arrested April 28. She admitted to investigators that she used Shirley Hathaway's name, birth date and Social Security number to open the

account, a sheriff's report said.

Hathaway and a witness told investigators that Stanley-Morgan forced Hathaway to smoke a lit crack pipe, the report said.

Stanley-Morgan was in jail Monday on \$23,000 bail, charged with criminal use of personal identification, use of another person's ID without permission and retail theft, according to jail records. Records did not indicate if she had a lawyer.

The sheriff's office said more charges were pending and asked the court not to reduce her bail.

Man trapped under toppled tombstone

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A man found trapped unconscious beneath a 1,000-pound

tombstone in a cemetery faces charges and might have to pay for damages, police said.

Michael David Schreiber's legs were broken by the stone, and the family name on the gravestone left the letter "V" imprinted on his thigh, Merrillville Officer Ray Smith said.

He said it took five officers to remove the headstone from Schreiber's body Sunday morning at Calumet Park Cemetery.

Schreiber, 22, of Merrillville faces charges of criminal trespassing, criminal mischief and public intoxication, police said. He also might be ordered to pay for damage to 14 headstones, Police Chief Nicholas Bravos said. Estimated damage totaled about \$8,400, Bravos said.

RYAN

Continued from Page 6A

her home shall be filled with happiness.

Blessed is the mother who answers the startling questions in simple fashion, for she shall always be trusted.

Blessed is the mother who has character strong enough to withstand the thoughtless remarks and resentments of the growing child, for again, in due time, she shall be honored.

Mothers are so special. If your mother is living today, be thankful and try to make this Mother's Day the most wonderful day of her life! Show her you care if only by telling her you love her.

Take her out to eat, take her flowers, but show up on Mother's Day, if possible.

You will never know how much this helps Mother to realize her family still cares.

Sometimes we get busy doing the usual things in life, and lose sight of the most important aspects — loving our family. And

Mother happens to be where that "family" began. Without Mother, there would never have been a family. And you can keep Dad in the circle by telling him that you are so happy that he chose Mother to be his wife. Tell him that he made a smart move and that will make his eyes light up!

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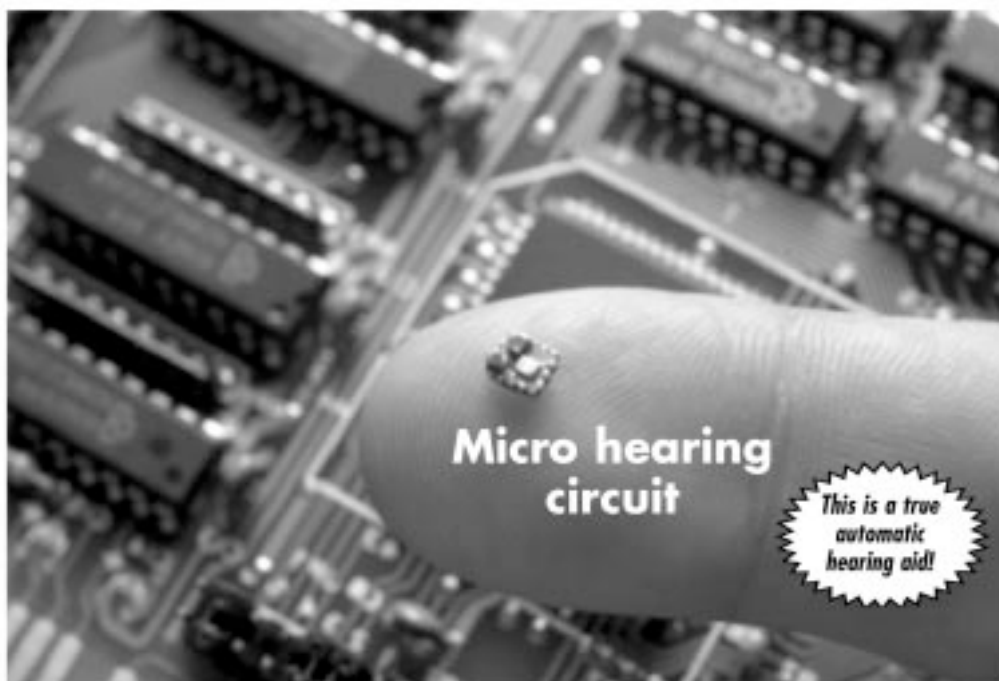
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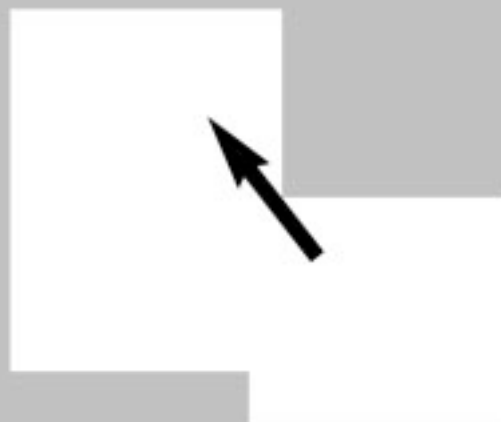
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House gives tentative OK to border security legislation

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN — A sweeping border security measure aimed at beefing up law enforcement agencies along the border overwhelmingly won preliminary approval in the Texas House late Monday. The measure details how a proposed \$100 million requested by Gov. Rick Perry for border security would be allocated. The money has been earmarked for more resources to help patrol the state's border with

Mexico. The House voted 140-5 in favor of the measure. It's expected to receive final approval Tuesday and would then be eligible for consideration in the Senate. "Mexican cartels take advantage of our porous border with Mexico to traffic drugs and other criminal activity throughout Texas and the rest of the United States," said Rep. David Swinford, a Dumas Republican who sponsored the bill. "Portions of our border

with Mexico are controlled by drug lords where murder and crime is skyrocketing. We must take control of our border, and this legislation will get us closer to that goal." The legislation would establish a border security council, appointed by the governor, that will decide how state and federal grants are divvied up among law enforcement entities. Under the bill, the governor must develop a statewide strategy for

dealing with homeland security threats and emergencies. "Today, we denied the state level law enforcement, the DPS, its ability to do the fullest job that it possibly could on the border," said Democratic Rep. Jessica Farrar of Houston, who voted against the bill. "We are ... setting up a political patronage system instead of basing law enforcement decisions on law enforcement criteria. We risk continuing the dismal results obtained thus far." The House also voted to

Critics have complained that Perry has too much sway over the state's homeland security efforts. Lawmakers voted to remove from the governor's office a database containing personal information that has been culled by law enforcement agencies and homeland security officials. That information would be maintained by the Department of Public Safety, under an amendment added to the legislation on Monday.

remove the director of homeland security from the governor's staff, instead making it an appointed position subject to Senate approval. A Perry spokesman applauded the bill. "House members have affirmed that the proper place for homeland and border security coordination is in the office of the state's chief executive and that Texas homeland security efforts are a model for the nation," Perry spokesman Robert Black said.

House votes to overturn speaker's ruling

By APRIL CASTRO

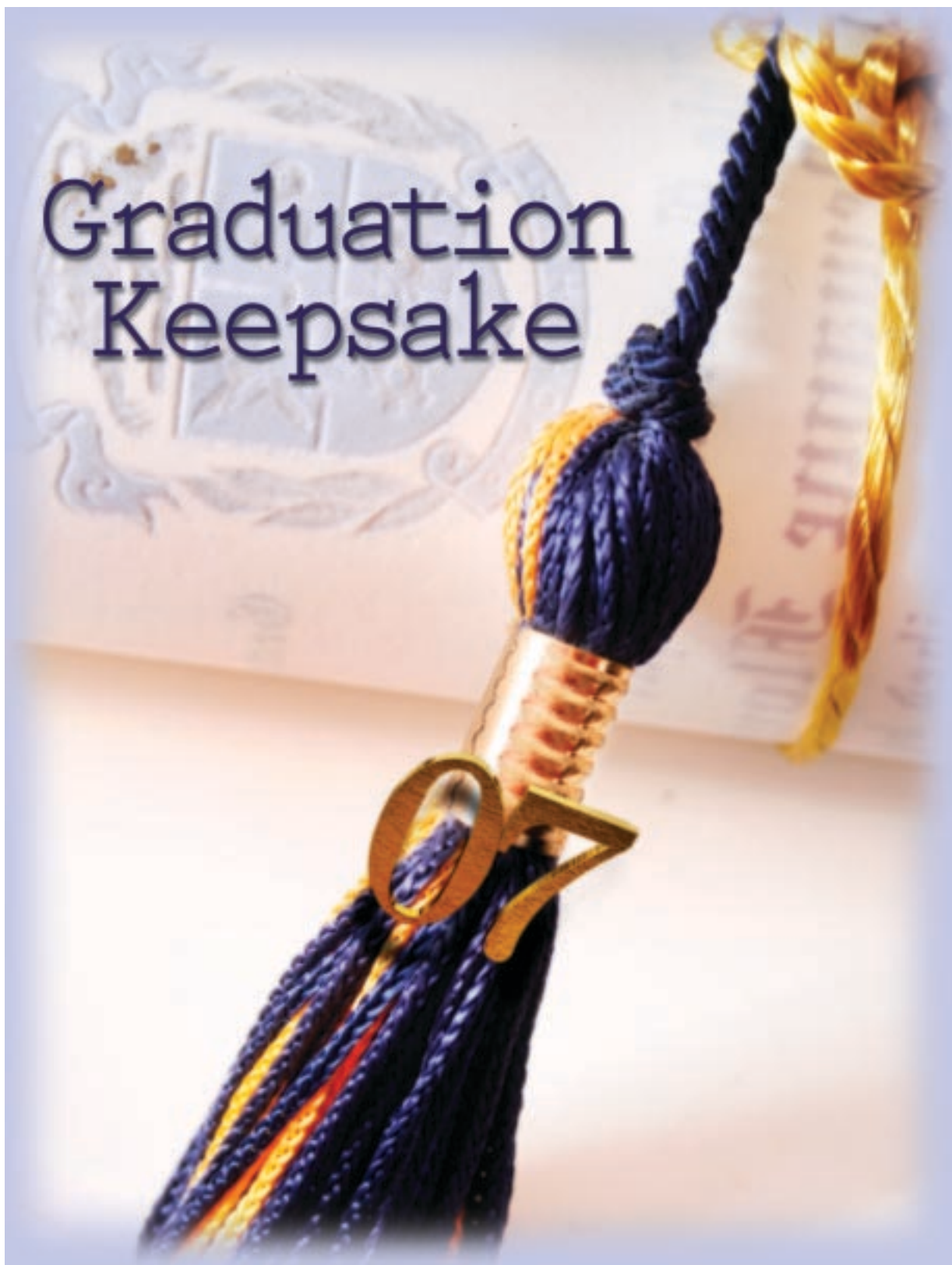
Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN — Powerful House Speaker Tom Craddick, the first Republican to lead the chamber since Reconstruction, suffered a rare rebuke early Tuesday from a bipartisan group of lawmakers who said obeying the rules was more important than loyalty at all costs. The rare decision to oppose Craddick's parliamentary ruling, related to which bills can be heard and when, demonstrated the unrest in the House that Craddick once ruled with an iron fist. Craddick seemed visibly shaken as his allies rose to announce they simply could not go along with the man they have returned to power three times. "We're worn out and we're tired," said Republican Rep. Dan Gattis of Georgetown, a usual Craddick loyalist who voted to overturn his ruling. "This

has not been a fun session to me ... and we're weary and now we're starting to kill each other on our local bills and in some cases for no reason at all other than personality." Craddick, who said he gave his top lieutenants the go-ahead to vote against him, later said he believed the House had already recovered. "They asked for it and I said do whatever you want to do," Craddick said. "They thought it was better for the House and we don't want the conflict in the House." The challenge was led by Rep. Robert Talton, a Pasadena Republican who joined with House Democrats earlier this year in a bid to replace Craddick as the chamber's presiding officer. Talton has been an anti-Craddick force since, regularly shooting down legislation on technical violations.



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