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BIG SPRING

HERALD

THURSDAY
JANUARY 31, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 53

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HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Miles J. Dean, right, is joined by his assistant, Karen Trowers, and his horse, Sankofa, during a stop in Big Spring Wednesday. Dean is crossing the country on horseback to raise awareness of African-American contributions to cowboy culture.



5 jailed on drug charges

More arrests are expected, police say

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A three-month undercover narcotics investigation yielded five arrests on multiple counts of delivering drugs Tuesday with more expected, according to officials with the Big Spring Police Department.

Arrests included:

- Alfonso Barreras, 31, of 2109 S. Johnson, delivery of a controlled substance (five counts) and delivery of marijuana (four counts).
- Amber Dawn Long, 23, of 1004 Sycamore, delivery of marijuana.
- Jessica Garza, 25, of 908 W. Fourth Street, delivery of a controlled substance and delivery of marijuana (three counts).
- Benjamin Munoz, 27, of 1311 Mulberry, delivery of a controlled substance.
- Samantha Payne, 24, of Big Spring, delivery of a controlled substance.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the

BSPD, all of the suspects were arrested in Big Spring, except for Payne, who was taken into custody in Midland.

"Each of the suspects was taken into custody at different locations," said Everett. "Everything went smoothly and there were no injuries or anything of that nature as a result of the arrests."

Everett said these arrests are just the first of several that are expected as a result of the narcotics unit's investigation.

"A total of 11 warrants were issued as a result of the investigation," said Everett. "So we still have six arrest warrants left to serve in this. We'll just have to catch them as we find them from here out."

Everett declined to comment on the details of the narcotics investigation, citing that it is ongoing.

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

Long-distance trail ride

Promoting awareness of the African American cowboy

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Like many young men before him, Miles J. Dean felt the call of the cowboy way of life.

Not many have answered in quite this way, though.

Dean, a New Jersey school-teacher, is fulfilling a lifelong dream and hoping to raise awareness as he travels across the country on horseback.

He began his journey in New York on Sept. 22 and hopes to reach Los Angeles in time to celebrate Black History Month in February.

Following the cowboy way of life is rewarding enough for Dean, but the main purpose behind his "ultimate long-distance trail ride" is education — calling attention to the contributions African

"... when we know more about each other's untold history, I think that may bring about more harmony among ethnic cultures and more respect among the African American himself."

—Miles J. Dean, school teacher

American horsemen and cowboys have made.

"This journey helps take a look at some African American contributions between the 1500s and late 1800s that aren't in the public education textbooks," Dean said. "I believe that everyone and every culture ... when we know more

about each other's untold history, I think that may bring about more harmony among ethnic cultures and more respect among the African American himself."

As a youth growing up in New York, Dean found himself drawn to TV and movie westerns. One in particular, though — the 1972 film "Buck and the Preacher," starring Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte — led him to question the authenticity of existing cowboy history, and the role of the African American in established western culture.

And it lit the spark of a dream that would consume him for the better part of a lifetime. After a 22-year career teaching in New York and New Jersey, he decided the

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BIKE? WHAT BIKE?

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Cody Young parked his bike in the wrong place at the Goodwill store, where the rule is that anything on the floor goes.

He didn't have a lock, but friends said they had parked inside the store before. On Sunday, though, the black BMX bike was sold.

But the 13-year-old is going to get his bicycle back, Goodwill officials said, after the buyer saw a newspaper story about the mix-up and called to make things right.

The buyer got the bike for just \$6.99 but will get a \$100 gift certificate from Goodwill for coming forth.

VETERAN OF THE MONTH

Dean Thomas has been named Veteran of the Month for January by the Hangar 25 Air Museum.

Thomas served in the Army from 1966 to 1969 as a combat medic and lab technician.

A reception in his honor will be held at 6:30 p.m. today in the Briefing Room at the museum.

The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.


Hangar 25 Air Museum is located at 1911 Apron in the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

For more information about the Veteran of the Month program, call 264-1999.

STANDOUT STUDENT

Big Spring High School student Hannah Weber recently placed third in the state-wide Voice of Democracy essay/speech contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Weber qualified for the state contest, which was held Saturday in Austin, by placing first in both local and district VFW contests.



See Page 6A

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Thursday, January 31, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

District play for most girls basketball squads ends Feb. 5.

FRIDAY

Big Spring girls basketball at Lubbock Estacado, 6 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball at Lubbock Estacado, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball vs. Rotan, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball vs. Rotan, 8 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball at Haskell, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball at Haskell, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Big Spring girls basketball vs. San Angelo Lake View, 6 p.m.

Big Spring boys basketball vs. San Angelo Lake View, 7:30 p.m.

Forsan girls basketball at Hamlin, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan boys basketball at Hamlin, 8 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball at Anson, 6:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball at Anson, 8 p.m.

FEB. 8

Big Spring boys basketball vs. Plainview, 7:30 p.m.

Coahoma boys basketball at Colorado City, 7:30 p.m.

FEB. 12

Coahoma boys basketball vs. Stamford, 7:30 p.m.

Big Spring QB Club electing officers Feb. 11 at ATC

The Big Spring High School Quarterback Club is holding a meeting to elect new officers for the 2008 football season at 6 p.m. Monday Feb. 11 at the Athletic Training Center.

Any parent of a child planning to play football in the seventh through 12th grades are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Denise Carillo at 816-1685.

BSHS Baseball Booster Club meeting Feb. 11

The Big Spring High School Baseball Booster Club is meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday Feb. 11 at the Athletic Training Center.

All parents of high school baseball players are encouraged to attend.

Contact Denise Carillo at 816-1685 with any questions.

HC women face Midland College tonight

By ERIC RODEWALD

Special to the Herald

Each game is a big game, but tonight's Howard College vs. Midland College women's basketball game might be the biggest of the year the Hawks.

Howard fell 64-60 Nov. 29th in Midland to begin conference play and hope to start the second round of conference play with an upset victory over the No. 10 Chaparrals tonight at the

Dorothy Garrett Coliseum beginning at 5:30 p.m.

According to Howard Head Coach Earl Diddle, the Hawks will need to play better than in the previous meeting.

"We need to keep them off the boards, don't let them get easy baskets, and don't let them hurt us inside," Diddle said.

Midland sports more height than the Hawks with Tori Slusher at 6-3 and Sylwia Zabielewicz at 6-5, but Howard

hopes to counter that with tough defense and the sharp shooting of all-conference guards Candace Lambert and Kandace Griffin.

Currently, Howard has the nation's top defense in regards to points per game, allowing 47 points per contest to counter Midland's offensive average of 78.5 points per game.

The second half of the Western Junior College Athletic Conference begins tonight with conference leader and NJCAA

No. 6 South Plains College (18-2, 7-0 in WJCAC) hosting Frank Phillips College (16-5, 3-4). Midland is currently second in the conference, while Howard is fourth.

Third-place Western Texas College (12-10, 5-2) travels to sixth-place Clarendon College (11-10, 2-5), while seventh-place New Mexico Junior College (3-19, 1-6) plays host to eighth-place Odessa College (4-18, 0-7).

Hawks host defending national champs tonight

Howard College counting on sharp shooters to upset Midland College

By ERIC C. RODEWALD

Special to the Herald

The Howard College men's basketball team will rely on their sharp shooters tonight to knock off Midland College at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Chaparrals are No. 8 in the nation, but are currently tied with the Hawks for third place in the Western Junior College Athletic Conference.

Howard is the third best shooting team in the nation from the field, making nearly 60 percent of their shots. The Hawks are fifth, according to the NJCAA, beyond the arc, connecting on 43.65 percent of their 3-point attempts.

Individually, Howard is led by the dynamic duo of Sean Watson and Corey Allmond. The sophomore guards are 15th and 31st respectively in points per game in the nation with Watson scoring 22.3 points per game and Allmond at 20.3. Allmond is also one of the top 3-point shooters in the nation, making 47.86 percent (67-for-140) of his treys.

According to Howard Head Coach Mark Adams, his sophomores will need to step up to defeat a very talented Midland team.

"Sean and Corey are ready to go and we'll need big games from both of those guys if we expect to win," Adams stated.

Another important factor to determine the outcome of the game will be Howard's ability to keep Midland from getting offensive rebounds.

"The biggest key for us is to keep Midland off the glass," Adams said. "Midland's one of the best rebounding teams in the conference and we need to block out."

Another key for the Hawks, according to Adams, is defensive transition. Currently Howard is without the services of point guard Denzel Barnes and defensive stopper, who averages 2.6 steals per game. Barnes is out with a hand injury for an unspecified amount of time.

The second half of the conference season begins tonight with some key match-ups. Tied atop the conference leaderboard are No. 13 Odessa College (20-2, 7-1 in WJCAC) and No. 6 South Plains College (19-1, 7-1). Odessa travels to Hobbs, NM to play New Mexico Junior College (10-12, 3-5) while South Plains hosts Frank Phillips College (14-8, 3-5). The other WJCAC game has Western Texas College (13-8, 3-5) at Clarendon College (10-11, 1-7).



Howard College's Sean Watson will be a key component in Hawks' chances of upsetting No. 8 Midland College tonight at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Why a Cowboys' fan is cheering for the Giants

What a conundrum. With the Super Bowl just days away, I find myself asking "Why?"

Why am I — a die-hard Dallas Cowboys fan — being forced to make these type of decisions? And why must I feel like a traitor to my blue and silver loyalties with the decision I came to?

When you grow up a Cowboys fan, a natural distaste for the Philadelphia Eagles, Washington Redskins and New York Giants is injected into your blood. At times, a proper Cowboys fan would wish for a natural disaster to take out the stadium one of those three teams are playing in rather than witnessing a meaningful victory. That holds even more true when the game in question is the Super Bowl.

So, why do I suddenly find myself cheering for the Giants?

Simply because this year's version of the New England Patriots have become the most hated team in the history of sports.

I never hated the Patriots before this season. I didn't mind them at all, actually. I had a ton of respect for what they had accomplished and the coaching abilities of Bill Belichick.

I even cheered for the Patriots to win the last two Super Bowls they were involved in against the Carolina Panthers and Philadelphia Eagles. However, that all changed this season.

Before the assumptions for my new found hate begin, this has

nothing to do with Spygate. I could care less that Belichick and the Patriots were stealing signs. Every team in the NFL would do it if they could get away with it.

If a coach is dumb enough to not change his signs the second time he faces the Patriots or any other NFL team, then he shouldn't be head coach much longer. The only thing offensive about Spygate was that the Pats used a video camera to get those signs. This wouldn't have been a big deal at all had they gone about it the old fashioned way.

My sudden lack of love for the Pats stems from the way they have played this season — without anything closely resembling class.

There are unwritten rules in the NFL and the biggest is to play — and particularly coach — the game with a certain level of class. The Patriots have allowed that rule to fall by the wayside.

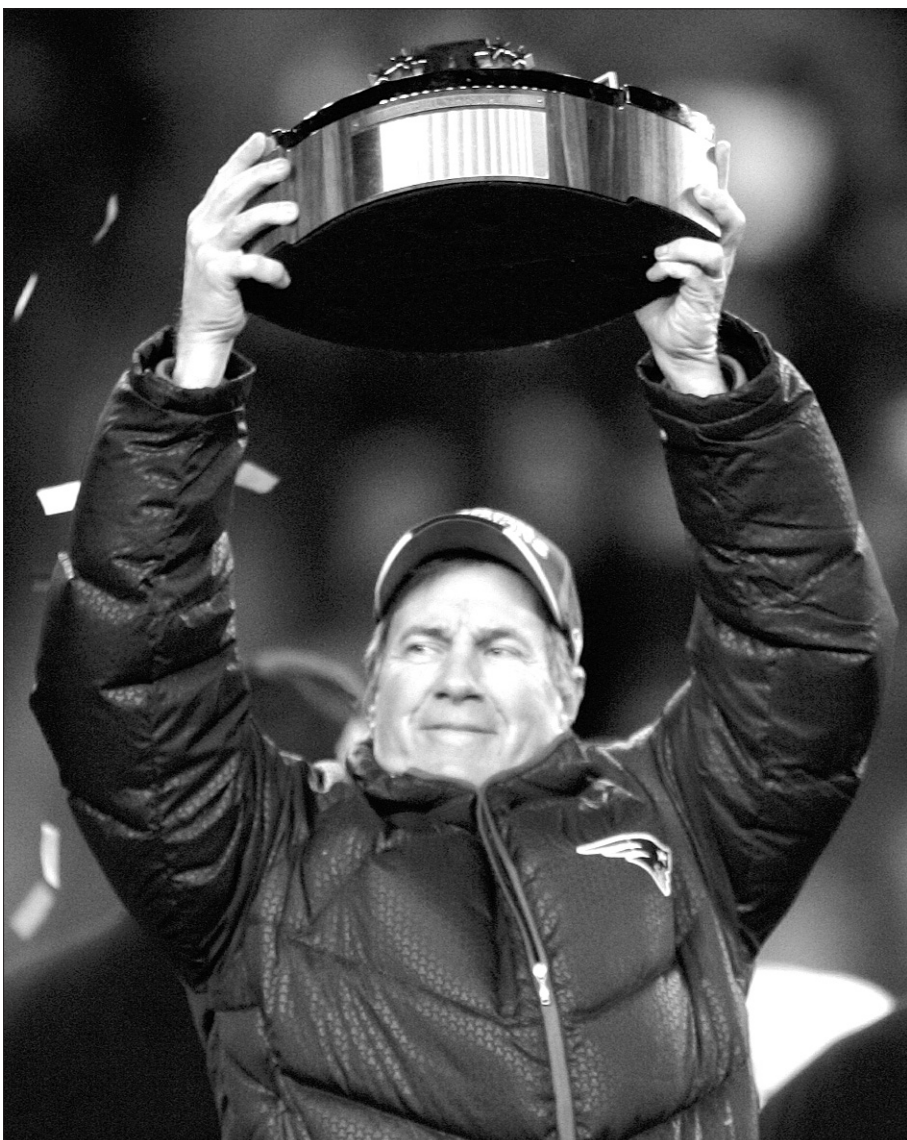
Instead, New England has set out to absolutely humiliate opponents this season.

Apparently, it ticked off Belichick so much that he was caught recording signals that he's decided to take it out on the rest of the NFL by running up the score once a game was already decided and over with.

I have no problem with a team scoring in the fourth quarter when they hold a 20-plus point lead.

An offense is not put on the field with 14 minutes left in a game to go three and out. My issue with New England scoring late comes from two obvious examples of running up the score up.

One of these occurrences happens to be against the Cowboys. New England held 41-27 advan-



New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick hoists the Lamar Hunt trophy after his team defeated the San Diego Chargers 21-12 to win the AFC Championship in Foxborough, Mass., Jan. 20 and advance to the Super Bowl. Herald Sports Editor Jonathan Hull hopes Belichick won't be receiving anymore trophies this season. AP photo/Michael Dwyer

tage with 19 seconds left in the game and had a fourth and goal on the Cowboys' 1-yard line. Instead of kicking a field goal or just taking a knee, Belichick gives the ball to Kyle Eckel, who carries it in for a touchdown.

What's the point of scoring there? Why couldn't the Pats have taken a knee? It's not like Dallas would have driven 99 yards for a touchdown, recovered an onside kick and scored

See WHY, Page 2B

Obituaries

Caitano Tano Chavarria



Caitano Tano Chavarria, 59, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with Deacon Johnny Arguello officiating. Burial will be at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Vigil services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

He was born Dec. 20, 1948, in Loraine to Josephina and Jesus Chavarria. He was a lifetime resident of Big Spring. He was a veteran of the U. S. Army, having served in Vietnam. He spent a lifetime in the automotive repair business, and owned C&L Garage in Big Spring. He was a member of the Chicano Golf Association and was a Catholic.

He is survived by three sons, Pat Chavarria and Marcus Caitano Chavarria, both of Austin, and Tano Christopher Handova of Big Spring; one brother, Ricardo Chavarria of California; and three sisters, Ynes Chavarria of Big Spring, Rosa Ramirez of Fort Worth, and Esperanza Hilario of San Angelo.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by eight brothers and sisters.

The family suggests memorials to the Chicano Golf Association, in care of Sammy Reyna, 1311 Kindle, Big Spring 79720.

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

Rosalinda Rodriguez

Rosalinda Rodriguez, 68, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Ida Watkins

Ida Watkins, 91, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008, in a local nursing home. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Jackie Free King

Jackie Free King, 60, of Coahoma, died Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008, in a Big Spring hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Support Groups

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) TX. 21, weight loss support group meets at Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third St. at 5 p.m. TOPS provides members with information, motivation and fellowship in attaining and maintaining their physician-prescribed weight goals. For more information, call 263-6819 or 263-1758. Leave a message.

TUESDAY

• The Path, faith-based addiction recovery, meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Tabernacle Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.

• Dual Recovery Anonymous meetings have been canceled. They will no longer take place at the Howard County Library. If you have questions, call Deidra F. at (432) 816-3033.

• Life Recovery, a non-denominational Christian group of recovering alcoholics and addicts, meets at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall.

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

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

WEDNESDAY

• RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 3-4-9-23-31-50 Number matching six of six: none.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 6-8-15-23-33 Number matching five of five: 1. Prize: \$24,997. Winning ticket sold in: Houston.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-4-1-8. Sum It Up: 22.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 0-9-2. Sum It Up: 11.

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Police blotter

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

- **MANUEL BAEZA**, 26, of 700 Galveston, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant.
- **ADERLA DEANDA**, 39, of 1103 W. Seventh Street, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant.
- **RAUL MENDEZ**, 28, of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd., was arrested Wednesday on three local warrants and two local capias warrants.
- **JAMES WILLIAMS**, 21, of 106 Lockhart, was arrested Wednesday on seven local capias warrants.
- **CHARITY ROCHA**, 33, of 601 W. 15th Street, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- **RANDELL HERNANDEZ**, 33, of 1614 E. 17th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant.
- **SAMANTHA PAYNE**, 24, of 1509 Stadium, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 800 block of Interstate Highway 20.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 100 block of Lockhart.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 50 inmates at the time of this report.
- **RICHARD ANTHONY LOPEZ**, 20, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bail jumping - failure to appear and New Mexico bench warrants for burglary and larceny.
- **SUSAN DIANE HILLIARD**, 37, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of public intoxication.
- **WILLIAM RYAN LOCKE**, 33, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of assault causing bodily injury - family violence.
- **DONNI KAY ROBERTSON**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of theft.
- **JESSICA GARZA**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of delivery of marijuana (three counts) and delivery of a controlled substance.
- **ADELA PEREZ DEANDA**, 39, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief - impairing public communications.
- **BENJAMIN ISAAC MUNOZ**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of delivery of cocaine.
- **KELLEIGH JAY SMITH**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of speeding, failure to appear and forgery.

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.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3100 block of Cactus. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of E. Fourth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of Lamar. Service refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **STRUCTURE FIRE** was reported in the 600 block of McEwen.

Take Note

• The Senior Adult Valentine Banquet, a city wide event, will be held at 6:30 p.m. today at College Baptist Church. All seniors are invited to a great evening of fun. Featured guest will be David Garrett, who led the music during the city wide crusade. Meat will be provided for the banquet. Bring a vegetable, salad or dessert ... and a friend!

• Cross stitchers are needed to complete one or more blocks of this year's Howard County Fair quilt. All supplies are provided. Blocks may be picked up from Posey Cotton Office, 601 Scurry, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. For information, call 263-1267 or 263-4980. This year's quilt theme is "Wildflowers of Texas." All proceeds from the sale of tickets for the quilt are used to defray the expenses of the Fair. The quilt will be awarded the last night of the fair.

• Pediatric flu vaccinations for children ages 6 months to 35 months are now available at the Texas Department of State Health Services clinic in College Park Shopping Center. Cost is \$10, although no one will be turned away for inability to pay. For more information, call 263-9775.

• St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-

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Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.
- 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.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281 for more information.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

MONDAY

- Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.
- District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 1-800-392-8677 or 263-0391 or 263-1758.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffet.
- Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.
- The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.
- Big Spring Chapter No. 178 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

TUESDAY

- Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.
- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- VFW Post 2013 meets at 7 p.m. in the VFW Hall, 500 Driver Road.
- Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. in the clubhouse on the Andrews Highway.
- Alzheimer's Association, the Greater West Texas Chapter meets at 2 p.m. in the Howard County Library conference room, 500 S. Main.
- Gospel Singing in the Kentwood Activity Center at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- The Howard County Sheriff's Posse meets at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Posse building on the Andrews Highway. For more information, call Bert Sheppard at 263-4483.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.
Friday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.
Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.
Saturday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.
Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.
Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.
Monday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.
Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.
Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.
Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.

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Aggies back on track with win over Texas

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M's confidence was sagging after a tough start to Big 12 play.

Nothing like a win over archrival Texas to get things back on track.

Josh Carter scored 19 points and No. 23 Texas A&M cruised to an easy 80-63 win over No. 10 Texas on Wednesday night.

Carter, who had 10 rebounds, has scored at least 10 points in 15 straight games. He helped A&M break a three-game winning streak for Texas (16-4, 3-2 Big 12) and continue a four-year tradition of the home team winning in this series.

"This helps a lot," Carter said of the win. "I think some of us lost some confidence with the losses."

A&M's Big 12 performance before Wednesday included a 21-point loss to then unranked Kansas State and a tough five overtime home defeat by Baylor a week ago. The Aggies squeaked by Oklahoma State on Saturday before coming home to face the Longhorns.

"I couldn't be more proud of our team," Texas A&M coach Mark Turgeon said. "To think where we were a week ago, the world was coming to the end. It was good to bounce back."

The Longhorns played the Aggies even in the second half but it wasn't enough to overcome a poor first half where Texas made just 9-of-30 shots and at times seemed off-balance and confused. Texas A&M (17-4, 3-3) shot 64 percent in the first half to make the Longhorns' lackluster offensive start even more difficult to

overcome.

Texas never led in this one, trailed by as many as 22 points in the first half and shot 34 percent.

The Aggies led 46-28 at halftime.

"There was no point in time that I think we guarded them," Texas coach Rick Barnes said. "We didn't deserve to win that one in any shape, form or fashion."

D.J. Augustin's 3-point-er with about nine minutes left got Texas within 59-48 before this fast-paced game was slowed down by a wild series of events on the next possession.

The already emotionally charged rivalry got even more amped up on a play that began with Augustin being knocked to the floor when he ran into a screen by Bryan Davis and ended when Alexis Wangmene threw an elbow into the back of DeAndre Jordan while the pair fought for a rebound. Wangmene then crashed to the court into a group of cameramen.

Wangmene was given a flagrant technical foul for the hit and ejected from the game. When the replay was shown on the Jumbotron, the record crowd of 13,555 began to boo and hiss menacingly. After his ejection, Wangmene sat at the end of the bench, causing the referees to approach the bench and make him leave the court with a police escort.

Barnes said he didn't see the hit.

"I don't know," he said. "I think both teams were playing hard."

Turgeon downplayed the incident.

"I don't know if it was as bad as it seemed," he said. "These kind of games it's going to be testy and I thought we handled it well."

Texas cut the lead to 11 points two times after that, but would get no closer and the Aggies got the redeeming win.

Joseph Jones and Dominique Kirk scored 14 points each.

A&M led by 22 points with 1:06 left when Turgeon sat all his starters, drawing a standing ovation from the crowd.

Dexter Pittman and Augustin lead the Longhorns with 14 points apiece.

The Longhorns opened the second half with an 8-2 run to get within 48-35 with about 16 minutes left. The Aggies had soon pushed the lead back to 17 points after a layup by Kirk with about 11 minutes left.

Jordan was dazzling offensively as usual with his crowd pleasing dunks, but on this night he was also solid on defense. He took a charge by Pittman with about 12 minutes left in the second half that gave Pittman his fourth foul. Teammate Davis was so excited about it he affectionately slapped him on the head several times, finally drawing a funny look and a 'that hurt' from the freshman 7-footer.

Jordan had 10 points and Davis finished with nine.

The Longhorns made just two of their first 13 shots and had five turnovers in the first 10 minutes to help the Aggies build a 29-7 lead. Carter made three 3-pointers in that span to lead Texas A&M.

"They came out hot and made a lot of shots and we didn't play very good defense," Augustin said. "That was the key of the game. We didn't play defense, so you're not going to win like that."



AP photo/Paul Zoeller

Texas A&M's Joseph Jones (30) shoots as Texas' Clint Chapman (53) defends during the second half of the Aggies' 80-63 victory Wednesday in College Station.

Brady not buying Burress' prediction

By BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

PHOENIX — 23-17.

Just 17 points for the potent Patriots.

A certain MVP quarterback thinks that's a Super-sized diss.

Tom Brady scoffed when told Wednesday that New York Giants receiver Plaxico Burress guaranteed New York will beat Brady's undefeated New England team in Sunday's Super Bowl.

"We're only going to score 17 points?" Brady said before chuckling about it. "OK. Is Plax playing defense? I wish he had said 45-42 and gave us a little credit for scoring more points."

Considering the Patriots set an NFL record by scoring 589 points, Brady's 50 touchdown passes were the most ever for one season, and Randy Moss broke Jerry Rice's mark with 23 TD catches, Burress might have been a bit chintzy.

The last time the Patriots played the Giants, in the season finale, New England rallied from 12 points down in the third quarter to win 38-35. The Patriots have not scored fewer than 20 points in their 18 victo-

ries, and the last time they put up only 17 was Dec. 10, 2006 — a 21-0 loss at Miami in their last regular-season defeat.

Even if the Giants' defense performs at its peak, it's still doubtful New England will score only 17 points.

"I know they have confidence. They should have confidence," Brady said. "They are the NFC champions."

"I learned a lesson early in my career: No matter what you say during the week — and God knows we say a lot this week — we're going to be focused on going out and winning this game. We're confident, but I don't think we share our thoughts with everybody."

Burress did. And when he showed up 33 minutes late for the Giants' media session Wednesday morning, there was speculation the wide receiver was trying to avoid the spotlight.

Turns out Burress was spending time with his 1-year-old son and family at breakfast, claiming he was unaware so many people wanted to interrogate him about his prediction.

Nor was he aware, he said, that a hefty fine comes with

missing a Super Bowl week media session.

"I don't understand what the fuss is about," Burress said, surrounded by at least as many TV cameras, microphones and notepads as Brady was two hours earlier. "Nobody wants to lose."

"All this is entertainment," added Burress, who was held out of practice Wednesday because of an ankle injury that has plagued him all season. "It's sports, and sports are entertainment. So 23-17 is the prediction I made, but the game still has to be played."

Told about Brady's reaction to that score, Burress said he wasn't disrespecting anyone.

"I'm not taking anything away from what those guys accomplished," he said. "They set all the records you could possibly imagine. They have a great quarterback, the MVP, who threw for a record (50) touchdowns. Randy set a TD record for catches. They had two receivers with over 100 catches."

"The numbers don't lie about what they have done."

Nor do the numbers 23-17 lie about what Burress thinks.

"Hey, look how much fun everybody is having with it," he said. "It makes national, international headlines. But the game still has to be played."

Giants coach Tom Coughlin couldn't have been pleased with Burress, but declined to say very much about him.

"I will speak with Plaxico in a private way, and that's where it will remain," he said.

New England played two games this season that were preceded by an opposing player's prediction. Pittsburgh's Anthony Smith guaranteed a win in Week 13 at Foxborough; the Patriots routed the Steelers 34-13. And after Brady threw an early TD pass over Smith, he verbally confronted the Steelers safety.

Days before the AFC title game, San Diego defensive end Igor Olshansky said the Chargers were unstoppable. New England stopped them, 21-12.

"We don't make predictions. We just let our play do the talking," Brady said matter-of-factly.

"Plaxico is a hell of a player. If he feels that way, I think that's great. I'd hate for him to

think he's going to lose this game. It's obvious nobody does."

Burress was entitled to his opinion, Moss said, "but the only thing about a prediction is that you have got to make it happen."

"I think the pressure is more on them now, since they've guaranteed this victory. We've prepared very hard for the last week and a half, and we still have got a couple more days to get out there and tone some things up. But making a prediction that you are going to go out there and make it happen are very tough words to back up."

Not that Burress is backing down. He's done his Joe Namath impersonation off the field, and now he has to come through in similar fashion to what Namath and the New York Jets achieved in 1969: the biggest upset in Super Bowl history.

"Well, 23-17 was the first thing that came to my head," Burress said.

Then Burress looked at the numbered placard at the table where he was holding court.

"No. 23," he said. "How do you like that?"

WHY

Continued from Page 1B

another touchdown with less than 20 seconds remaining. What the Patriots did there was insulting and classless and it's not even the most offensive example of New England running up the score this season.

The Patriots held a 42-10 lead entering the fourth quarter against the Buffalo Bills just three weeks later. Apparently, the 32-point lead wasn't enough

for Belichick and company. He needed more so he had his offense go for it on fourth down twice in the Patriots last two drives on offense. Is that really necessary?

"Coach says he puts you out there to score when you touch it," Tom Brady said after the game. "He doesn't put you out there to punt."

Brady is right. An offense should try to score when it's on the field. However, if you're forced into a fourth down with a 32-point lead, there is no reason to humiliate an inferior

opponent.

That's classless and it's the reason I am forced to do something I thought I would never do — cheer for the New York Giants.

The sad part is that it's not the first time this season I've found myself in this situation with the Patriots.

In the regular season, I cheered for these same Giants to upset New England in the final week before the playoffs started. Just four weeks earlier, I was cheering for the Philadelphia Eagles, who I

probably dislike more than the G-men, to pull off a similar upset.

I am to the point where I can't stand New England. I hate the Patriots more than the Yankees right now. Yes, it's that bad.

Once the playoffs started, I was extremely hopeful that the Pats would go ahead and make the Super Bowl.

I want them to be on the cusp of making history just to have it snatched out of their grasps.

For once, I'm actually hoping

to see Mercury Morris and the rest of the 1972 Dolphins — the only team to finish a season undefeated in NFL history — pop open that traditional bottle of champagne.

Heck, I might even be willing to spring for the champagne myself if the Giants can pull off the upset.

Dom Perignon anyone?

Contact Sports Editor Jonathan Hull by calling 263-7331, ext. 237, or by e-mailing hullm@bigspringherald.com.

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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Sagittarius moon and Aquarian sun combo relishes in the diversity of life. Life resembles a foreign market, bursting with new experiences to be had, tastes to try — an invitation to dive right in. Not only do we make new friends by getting curious, any new experience frames our own lives from an uncommonly different vantage point.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Just when you get comfortable with your status in a relationship, everything changes. Keep up your trend of giving. Show your social savvy by thinking ahead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When the matriarch

Tomorrow's Horoscope

of your family is happy, everyone is happy. If said matriarch is you, now's the time to spoil yourself silly. If not, an affectionate display aimed at "mama" will be uplifting to all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Usually a modest person, you find it embarrassing to have to sell yourself. The trouble is, only you know what you can do. Letting others know your capabilities isn't boastful, just good communication.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a time to extend your arms and a time to retract them, hugging your own soul. You're comforted by pulling back — delve deeper into your own reality and you'll find the elation you're seeking through external means.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Seriousness has a time and place — this isn't it. Planets show you determined to be uplifted by your life. If one person disappoints you, move on to the next — or, better yet, to a book.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll wonder whether or not you can really trust a certain person. Past experience tells you one thing, but Pollyanna-wishing paints an alternate picture. Somewhere in the middle is the truth.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a balance between effort and ease, and you strike it beautifully now, making all you do look like a graceful dance. Your impressive concentration helps you to finish a project with finesse.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You were gifted with psychic intuition, and

now you can use it in life changing, time saving ways — maybe to avoid getting involved with a person who will be a bad influence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're a witness. You didn't mean to be, but now you are. What to do with your accidental knowledge is the question. Turning it into a secret and carrying it around is only one option. Consider others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are numerous benefits to be had by doing absolutely nothing. So make it your aim to do nothing passionately, almost actively. Doing nothing with a friend is even more fulfilling.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your brand of optimism isn't blind — it's better than 20/20 vision. It allows you to see more than others do in a situation. Make choices based on the assumption that everything is going to work out, and it will.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You would love to spend the day in dreamland, but the practical part of you thinks this is a waste of time. Be assured it's not! Fantasies fortify your desire to succeed and keep you motivated.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My birthday is May 3, 1981, and I was born at 6:13 p.m. in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. I've dated people here and there but haven't had anything meaningful for a few years now. Does my chart suggest I might not find somebody? How about my career — is there something long-

term for me?"

To everything, there is a season. You know this slogan better than anyone, patient Taurus. Try as we might, we can't rush love. Well, turns out you've been patient long enough — your love life is about to bloom! First, Jupiter in Capricorn is sending lucky vibes to your relationship sector right now (January through mid-February). You'll be talking and connecting to more people and encountering new faces. Some of these people even want to help you professionally, so stay open to offers of all kinds. In early March, Neptune enters your house of true love, and this is fabulous news. Can you say "swept off my feet"?

Someone beguiling may enter your life, so if you find yourself feverish, you're under the spell of a very enchanting love bug! As April begins, an alluring connection from Uranus to your Venus increases your personal pizzazz, and a change to your appearance could generate love interests.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Lisa Marie Presley might be a glamorous Aquarian, yet she shares a common insecurity with her sun-sign friends: She wants to be liked by everyone. Yet, she comes off as coolly confident. It's the Aquarian paradox, notably independent yet so dependent upon others' opinions. Her natural ally, Uranus, in serviceable Virgo focuses Lisa on helping others — increasing her confidence.

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Annie's Mailbox®

Dear Annie: I am engaged to a wonderful man whom I have known since high school. "Chad" and I began dating three years ago and became engaged last April. We are supposed to marry in May and I am having second thoughts.

I don't know how to tell Chad that I am not ready for this commitment after we have worked so hard to plan our wedding. I already tried calling off the wedding once before, but he made me feel so guilty, I changed my mind and we kept on planning. Now I feel stuck.

I don't know how to broach the subject. It's not that I don't love Chad, because I do, but I am not ready to marry him. How do I tell him I don't want a wedding without hurting him? — Confused in Virginia

Dear Confused: It's not possible. He's going to take it personally and it will hurt him. That doesn't mean you should keep quiet, however. Try to analyze your motives and figure out what's holding you back. If you love Chad and want to spend the rest of your life with him, this might just be cold feet and will pass. However, if you truly aren't ready to settle down, you should call it off. In spite of the hurt, you will be doing him a favor. Marrying the man you love shouldn't require a guilt trip.

In a calm, private moment, tell Chad you love him, but are not ready to marry. If you wish to remain engaged, let him know you will take responsibility for calling your parents, the church, the caterer, etc., and canceling all plans for May, leaving the wedding date open — and



KATHY MITCHELL MARCY SUGAR

do it. Then arrange couples counseling. Otherwise, you must return the ring and set him free.

Dear Annie: I'm part of a very small, close group of 50-something women. We get together on a monthly basis to eat out, shop and, of course, talk about our relationships.

One of the women in our group has never been married. "Karen" has always been financially independent and recently came into a sizeable inheritance. Suddenly, a married man she has known for 12 years is after her.

This guy is already on marriage No. 3. Karen is convinced he wants to marry her, but is waiting until his daughter graduates high school in two years so as not to disturb the girl's studies and chances of getting into a good college. Karen thinks this is admirable. Casanova claims he and his wife have a distant marriage, that she's often out all night (and that's when he and Karen rendezvous). I happen to know he and his wife socialize plenty.

Casanova has given Karen a pitiful little commitment ring. Since she has more money, she decided to purchase her

own ring and matching wedding band for him to give her when the divorce is final. She also has started buying him expensive gifts.

We love Karen, but something just isn't right about this relationship. She's so happy, though, we hate to rain on her parade or alienate her by disapproving. What can we do? — Something Stinks in the South

Dear South: Not too much. You can say something seems "off" about Casanova and you are worried about her. You can gently raise questions in her mind by asking if it bothers her to be with a man who cheats on his wife, or if she's certain he isn't attracted to her money. But when she bristles at you (and she will), you have to back down immediately. Let's hope she isn't making a horrible mistake, but if so, you'll just have to let her learn the hard way.

Dear Annie: I've enjoyed the comments men make about losing their hair. My husband always said, "I'm not getting bald! I just have a little more face to wash than most people." I loved that. — Widow in Nevada

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

World news in brief

Romney accuses McCain of resorting to 'dirty tricks' over Iraq timetable issue in debate

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — Republican Mitt Romney accused John McCain of using dirty tricks by suggesting the former Massachusetts governor wanted a deadline for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq, in a spirited debate Wednesday night that underscored the intensity of their presidential rivalry.

Coming 24 hours after McCain defeated him in Florida, Romney vented his frustrations over the Arizona senator's claims from last weekend.

"I have never, ever supported a specific timetable" for withdrawing troops, Romney said. McCain's accusation on the eve of Tuesday's primary, he said, "sort of falls into the dirty tricks that I think Ronald Reagan would have found reprehensible."

The debate was held in the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., six days before more than 20 states hold primaries or caucuses that could determine who succeeds President Bush as the party's standard-bearer.

McCain stuck to his guns, saying, "of course he said he wanted a timetable" for a withdrawal. McCain had made the allegation in Florida as he tried to shift the debate from the ailing economy, a stronger issue for Romney, a former venture capitalist and businessman.

Senate economic plan would add jobless aid, rebates for high earners, seniors, disabled vets

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is set to begin voting on dueling economic aid proposals, as senators rush to add jobless benefits and tax rebates for high earners, the elderly, and disabled veterans to a House-passed package.

Senate Democrats and some Republicans are teaming up to tack \$32 billion onto the House measure with a bill that would send rebates of \$500-\$1,000 to all but the richest taxpayers. Families also would get \$300 for each child. Senators could begin voting as early as Thursday in hopes of completing the package by week's end.

Provided that President Bush quickly signs the legislation, Americans could start receiving rebate checks in May, with the bulk expected to arrive in June.

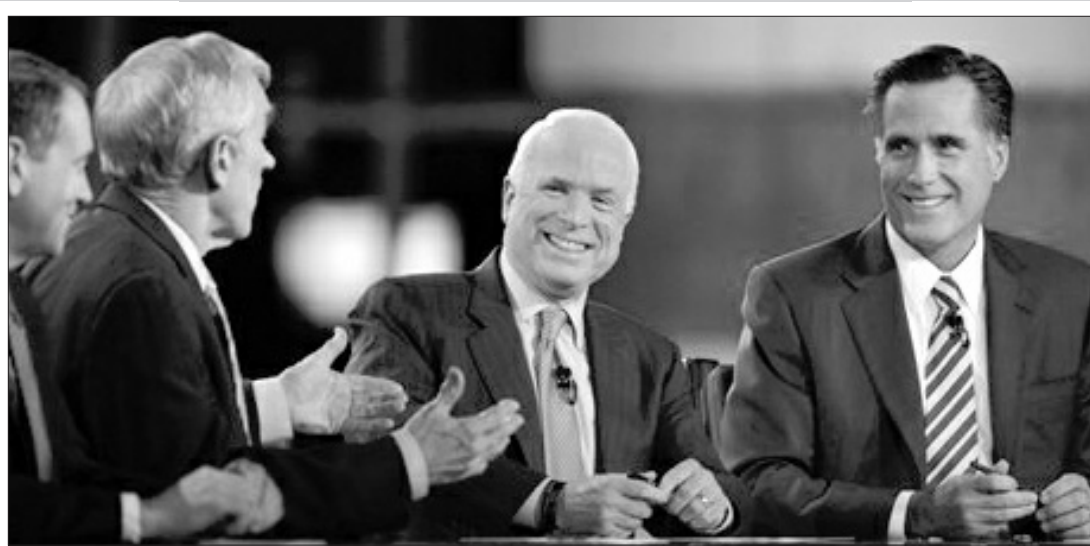
The measure would make individuals with annual incomes of up to \$150,000 and couples with incomes up to \$300,000 eligible for the rebates — limits twice as high as the plan the House passed on Tuesday.

It also would expand rebate eligibility to 20 million older Americans on Social Security and to disabled veterans, and provide an unemployment extension for those whose benefits have run out.

Investigators say veterans with possible brain injury may not be getting adequate VA care

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of Iraq war veterans who could have suffered traumatic brain injury may be getting unnecessary or inadequate health care because Veterans Affairs officials have yet to determine whether their initial screening tests are reliable, investigators say.

A draft report by the Government Accountability Office, obtained this week by The Associated Press, highlights the Bush administration's continuing difficulties in treating traumatic brain injury, a leading problem among



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., center, smiles as Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, second left, answers a question during a Republican presidential debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., Wednesday. Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, far left, and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney listen.

soldiers struck by roadside bombs in the Iraq war. It also comes as a provocative military study this week found that symptoms of memory loss and irritability that have been tied to brain injury might be more accurately attributed to post-traumatic stress and depression.

The GAO review of nine VA medical centers found that months after former VA Secretary Jim Nicholson in April promoted new screenings for brain injury and pledged personal responsibility in seeing them through, the department was still struggling to determine how to best gauge the clinical accuracy of its screenings.

In the report, the VA also acknowledged problems with follow-up appointments after veterans initially tested positive under the VA's screening tool. One medical center reported 27 cases in which their doctors failed to notify patients for additional evaluation because of glitches in the computerized program.

The department has since put in place safeguards to help track whether such patients are given follow-up appointments, but it was not immediately clear how many other veterans who might have needed care were missed at dozens of other VA centers around the country, the report said.

Judge dismisses Katrina flooding lawsuit against Army Corps of Engineers, but rebukes agency

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Saying his hands were tied by law, a federal judge dismissed a class-action lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over levee breaches after Hurricane Katrina, but rebuked the agency for failing to protect the city.

U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval ruled Wednesday that the Corps should be held immune over failures in drainage canals that caused much of the flooding of New Orleans in August 2005. He cited the Flood Control Act of 1928, which protects the federal government from lawsuits when flood control projects like levees break.

The lawsuit led to about 489,000 claims by businesses, government entities and residents, seeking trillions of dollars in damages against the Corps.

The fate of many of those claims was pinned to the suit and a similar one filed over flooding from a navigation channel in St. Bernard Parish. It was unclear how many claims could still move forward.

Kathy Gibbs, a Corps spokeswoman, said "the Corps agrees with the dismissal of the case" but declined further comment because other lawsuits over

Katrina damage are pending.

Pop star Britney Spears taken from home in ambulance

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Britney Spears was taken from her house by ambulance early Thursday, police told The Associated Press.

A Los Angeles police officer, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the matter, said the 26-year-old pop star was being taken to "get help" but did not give the

ambulance's destination.

On Jan. 3, police were called to her Studio City home when she refused to return her two young sons, Sean Preston, 2, and Jayden James, 1, to ex-husband Kevin Federline, who has custody.

Officers had paramedics haul Spears to a hospital for undisclosed reasons. She was released after a day and a half in Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Investors demand more from Federal Reserve despite 2 big rate cuts in 8 days

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, criticized last year for being too tentative in cutting interest rates, has shown he can act boldly. But the Fed's two aggressive rate cuts in the past eight days have left investors demanding still more.

That may be a sign of how much trouble the economy is facing, with many analysts contending that the country is flirting with a recession and may, in fact, already be in one.

The Fed announced Wednesday that it was cutting its federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, by a half-point, double the quarter-point cut that many economists had been expecting. That move followed on the heels of a reduction last week in the funds rate of three-quarters of a point, which had been the biggest single rate cut in more than two decades.

19-year-old arrested, charged in shooting of local resident

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

A Big Spring man has been arrested in connection with the weekend shooting of a local resident at Northcrest Apartments.

Terrence Young, 19, of Big Spring, was arrested Wednesday in Midland after the investigation into the shooting yielded an arrest warrant, according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department.

"Det. Phil Whitten, who is assigned to the case, learned that Young was in Midland," said Everett. "Midland law enforcement was notified and Young was taken into custody there. He will be held in Midland for arraignment."

Young is being held on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after allegedly shooting local resident Fred Turner, 34, following a dispute near the victim's home in the 1000 block of N. Main Street at

approximately 3:41 p.m. Saturday.

"Turner appeared to have been shot one time. The bullet grazed his chest and went through his right biceps," said Everett. "He was taken to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where he was treated and released."

"It appears Turner was allegedly involved in some type of dispute with the suspect, who threatened to retaliate. Approximately 40 minutes after the dispute, the victim saw a group of males gathered. One had a gun and fired five rounds at him, striking him once."

Everett said the group then fled the scene.

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

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Caitano Tano Chavarria, 59, died Wednesday. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Burial will be at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Rosalinda Rodriguez, 68, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Martha M. Havlena, 85, died Saturday. Memorial Service will be at 3:00 PM Friday at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

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COWBOY

Continued from Page 1A

time was finally right to live his dream, he said.

Dean is accompanied on his journey by a pair of horses — Sankofa and Southern Sun — and by Karen Trowers, who serves as horse handler and all-around logistical aide.

The low point of the ride came when Sankofa came up lame outside Lexington, Ky. The horse is once again in fine fettle — "just \$500 later and he's fine," Dean laughed.

As for good memories, there are many, he added. He said people he has met during his journey have been unfailingly friendly and helpful. The best part of the adventure, however, dovetails back to his educational career.

"I have several great memories from this ride, and they're all the same — when I get the opportunity to talk to local schoolchildren," he said.

Dean has established a Web site — www.blackheritageriders.org — to help educate people on the purpose behind his ride. Persons can also

track his progress.


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

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

There are a lot of ideas about angels. Some folks claim to have been touched by an angel; others know they are in the outfield. One person pictures angels as valiant soldiers; another believes them to be baby-like in appearance. Many people think they work with us; others think they work for us.

The Bible gives a lot of information about angels. However, it does not always give all the information we desire. Some information it offers about angels is far different from common thoughts and legends. We need to appreciate the fact that angels are not the focal point of scriptures - God is! However, learning about angels can help us to better understand and serve God.

One behalf of the Church of Christ in Coahoma, let me invite you to a series of Sunday morning sermons about angels. Throughout the month of February, we will study about the identity, presence, work and purpose of angels. We invite you to study with us!

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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.

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

VAMC growth reminds us to remain united

If anyone ever needed a reminder of what is possible when we as a community come together to get something done, all they had to do was look at the Herald's front page yesterday.

The lead story centered on expansion plans being made by the VA Medical Center.

That's right, the same VA Medical Center that less than two years ago was in danger of being closed as a result of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Capital Assessment Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) process.

Some might not remember what a difficult time it was, and newcomers can't imagine the collective sigh of relief felt when in April 2006 Under Secretary for Veterans Affairs Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Congressman Randy Neugebauer announced that the Big Spring VAMC was not going to be closed.

Instead, they announced that the facility would be growing.

And the first stage of that expansion is now under way as architects are drawing plans for a new 40-bed domiciliary to be used to house veterans in need of substance abuse treatment.

While local VA officials say it will probably be the late this year before construction actually begins on the facility and won't open until some time in 2009, we can't help take pride in the fact that the expansion's coming.

What's more, plans are being made for another clinical addition to the hospital, as well as replacement of outmoded plumbing, upgrades to the air conditioning and interior renovations to the patient care areas in the existing facility.

All told, those renovations could wind up costing \$20 million or more.

There's little doubt in our collective mind that these proposed improvements wouldn't be on the horizon had it not been for the hard work of our elected officials, the thousands of veterans here in West Texas who make their feelings known about the need to keep the facility open and the thousands of Big Spring and Howard County residents who also made their wishes known.

It was the pro-active approach our community took that made a difference. Let's not forget that in the future.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

Please, Lord, assume control of our life.

Amen

What to do about an improper ad

Contracting the flu — or any other nasty ailment, for that matter — affords the recipient some rather interesting opportunities that don't always come to the Nyquil-laden mind.

You get to stay in your pajamas all day and no one — no even the mailman — thinks you're crazy. You don't have to fight with your 8-year-old daughter over bathroom privileges. And you get to watch television as you drift in and out of consciousness.

Of course, what you watch is dictated strictly by the location of the remote and the fancy of that same 8-year-old child.

So, in the interest of keeping the ill-tempered peace between two people — one in the full grip of the flu and the other almost fully recovered — I ended up watching Cartoon Network the majority of my convalescence.

I have to admit, they have a great lineup, ranging from the newest shows like Codename: Kids Next Door and every imaginable variety of Japanese-inspired Pokemon, to the classics, like Scooby Doo.

Hey, I'm just a big kid for the most part, so cut me some slack.

It was during the commercial break for a classic episode of Scooby Doo I had my afternoon — and a great deal of my faith in the cable company — shattered.

Ever heard of Zencore?

Well, I sure have. After the extra-long commercial, I had all the information I needed on Zencore, one of the newest all-natural — that means it contains herbs and some stuff I can't pronounce — male enhancement pill making the rounds on the market.

Male enhancement. The words make me shiver to the core, not because of what the stuff supposedly does or doesn't do, but because my daughter turned to me at that moment and asked, "Daddy, what's male enhancement?"

As a single father, a great deal of explaining must be done when it comes to my fledgling, and I fail to flinch when it comes to violence, world policy or hygiene.

But when it comes to anything sexually based, I'd rather Crazy Glue my tongue to a bullet train than have to come up with an explanation.

I quickly dodged the question, asking her how her day at school had been. Lucky for me, my kid has the attention span of a ferret on a double-espresso. The old Jenkins two-step. What can I say? I learned it from years and years of listening to my parents talk.

But the question remains, what the heck is "male enhancement," and why in the world would the cable company put that advertisement on Cartoon Network?

The truth of the matter is I couldn't possibly care less what the pills do. They may turn you into He-Man, or maybe a pre-pubescent Napoleon Dynamite. That's not my concern. My concern is just why in the world are

advertisers trying to hock them to little kids watching Scooby Doo and Pokemon?

Needless to say, I'm just a wee bit angry with my cable provider over this little debacle.

Of course, there has been the big campaign from the cable companies over taking back control of the remote, monitoring what your children are watching and keeping harmful stuff — I conjure thoughts of the latest round of reality shows on MTV and shudder — away from our children.

That's all well and good, but can someone tell me how in the heck I can keep male enhancement commercials on Cartoon Network away from my kid?

We've already had to write off the idea of watching football together thanks to those stupid Viagra ads, which wouldn't be quite so bad if they didn't advise anyone with an erection lasting too long to seek medical attention.

"Daddy, what's an erection?" I'm pretty sure if I heard that, I'd have a stroke right then and there. Nothing quite like dying at halftime, right?

When I explained my dilemma, a friend of mine suggested we gather up the offspring of the people that came up with the whole "Zencore on Cartoon Network" idea and show them "Debbie Does Dallas."

Somehow, I don't think that's going to solve anything.

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



THOMAS JENKINS

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EMMA BROWN — Home: 267-2649.

JERRY KILGORE — 263-0724; Work (Jerry's Barbers): 267-5471.

BILL CROOKER — Home: 263-2566.

GARY SIMER — Home: 263-0260.

Maverick, yes, but not conservative

Many conservatives have said Sen. John McCain is not conservative enough to suit them.

Some of McCain's defenders have not only disagreed but have impugned his critics, hypocritically blaming them for divisiveness.

But intramural bickering isn't the issue. What's important is that conservatives have an intellectually honest and open discussion about GOP presidential contenders.

It's disappointing to watch good conservatives demean themselves by trying to present McCain as something he's not. No matter how much they spin, they can't fool conservatives familiar with McCain's record. McCain's detractors are not the ones having to stretch and massage the facts in order to turn McCain — overnight — into a Reagan conservative.

McCain is not only not conservative enough; he has also built a reputation as a maverick by stabbing his party in the back — not in furtherance of conservative principles but by betraying them. McCain delights in sticking it to his colleagues while winning accolades from the mainstream liberal media.

Former senator Rick Santorum, whose conservative credentials are beyond question, said, "I don't agree with (McCain) on hardly any issues." Santorum told radio host Mark Levin, "I just have to tell you, as a leader, as someone who had to put these coalitions together, it was always hard and we very rarely on domestic policy had any help from the senator from Arizona." Santorum said McCain has been damaging to conservative causes and would be no friend to conservatives in the White House.

McCain's defenders — in the McCainian spirit of chilling political speech — forbid us from criti-

cizing him because he is a war hero. That's irresponsible nonsense. Voters and analysts have an obligation to assess McCain's suitability for the presidency. To consider and verbalize the negatives is not to demean his service or sacrifice.

We can recognize and honor McCain's indescribably grueling POW experiences without taking the leap of arguing they automatically qualify him as an ideal commander in chief. His qualifications should be evaluated on the merits, not on sentimental appeals to his service.

Understandably, I suppose, pundits often glibly assert that one of McCain's many advantages is his character — a character that was molded by the hardships he endured. McCain's captivity undeniably involved more character building than anything most of us will ever experience. But to say he is a rugged, battle-tested hero does not mean he is incapable of prevarication, opportunism, demagoguery or other mischief. Nor does it immunize him from scrutiny concerning the credible claim that he lacks the temperament to be president.

I respectfully reject that McCain's honorable and sacrificial character-building experiences or his self-description as a "straight talker" place his veracity above question. I remember him sidling up to the media by falsely claiming George Bush didn't level with the American people about how long the Iraq war could take. I remember him blaming dirty campaign tricks on Bush in South Carolina in 2000, when investigations revealed there was no evidence Bush was behind it. I remember him joining liberals in slandering the truth-telling Swift Boat veterans as "dishonest and dishonorable." I remember his disingenuous derision of the across-the-board Bush tax cuts as being only for the rich. I witnessed him changing his position on immigration to shore up support in South Carolina, then after that primary arrogantly denying

to Sean Hannity that he'd flip-flopped. People can assess for themselves whether McCain is always straight, but hopefully they'll base their decision on the evidence and not his hero status.

I seriously doubt McCain will win the GOP nomination, precisely because of his infidelity to conservative principles.

Consider: He crusades against Guantanamo, favors constitutional rights for terrorists but opposes tough interrogation techniques, was the ringleader of the Gang of 14, which legitimized the filibustering of judicial nominees, and is the godfather of political speech-suppressing and Democrat-favoring campaign-finance reform legislation.

He has displayed contempt for conservative evangelicals, opposed Bush's pro-growth tax cuts for reasons other than he says (spending), has engaged in other class-warfare rhetoric like demonizing oil and drug companies, co-sponsored the abominable McCain-Kennedy illegal immigrant-forgiveness/open-borders/Social Security zapping bill, and even voted for the Specter amendment, which could have conferred consulting rights on Mexico concerning the erection of a southern border fence.

He sold out on global warming, opportunistically opposed drilling in ANWR, favors re-importation of drugs from Canada, and promoted the McCain-Kennedy-Edwards patients bill of rights. Even his pro-life credentials are not as pristine as we're told: He opposes reversal of Roe vs. Wade and sided with anti-political speech zealots in filing an amicus brief against Wisconsin Right to Life.

Vote for McCain if you wish, but please don't insult conservatives by suggesting he's one of us.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney. To find out more about him, visit his Web site at www.davidlimbaugh.com.

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Hyundai Santa Fe

2008 model turns up the volume on equipment options

For the 2008 model year Hyundai's mid-size crossover builds on the momentum generated last year when the all-new Santa Fe hit dealer showrooms.

There's lots of new features now available on an already impressive platform available in either front- or all-wheel drive configurations.

Powered by a choice of two V-6 engines, the Santa Fe is available in three distinct trim lines — GLS, SE and the luxury-oriented Limited.

Buyers also have the option of five- or seven-passenger seating configuration with the optional third row seat.

Styling and appointments are very impressive — I would even say the upscale Limited test vehicle I drove this week is on par with many of the premium luxury models I've driven this year.

It's that nice. On the safety front, the Santa Fe has earned the

National Highway Safety Administration's top five-star crash test rating for both front and side impacts. It's also earned the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's "Top Safety Pick" honor, which was only awarded to 21 new vehicles in that model year.

Standard safety features include electronic stability control, anti-lock brakes with electronic brake force distribution, six airbags (which include side air curtains for all three rows of available seating), front-seat active head restraints and tire pressure monitoring system.

The Santa Fe is a very solid vehicle. While I was impressed with its ride, handling and performance, I also think it's important to point out that I felt safe and secure driving this vehicle — including my trip to take my daughter to the airport in rush hour Dallas-Fort Worth traffic.

With a base price starting around \$18,000, the GLS is powered by a 2.7-liter V-6 engine (185



The 2008 Hyundai Santa Fe

horsepower/183 lbs.-ft. torque) and mated to either a five-speed manual or a four-speed automatic transmission with Shiftronic. Using regular unleaded gasoline, it has an EPA fuel economy rating of 18 mpg city, 24 mpg highway. All-wheel drive models (equipped with automatic transmission) have a fuel economy rating of 17 mpg city, 23 mpg highway.

SE and Limited models are powered 3.3-liter V-6 (242 horsepower/226 lbs.-ft. torque) and mated to a five-speed automatic transmission with Shiftronic. For both front- and all-wheel drive configurations, these models have an EPA fuel economy rating of 17 mpg city, 24 mpg highway.

For 2008 models, a new 605-watt Infinity Logic 7 CD changer audio system with 10 speakers is now standard on the Limited trim line, as well as a power tilt-and-slide sunroof.

For the first time,

Santa Fe Limited buyers will also have the option of navigation system.

Being a crossover vehicle, Hyundai has built a lot of flexibility into the cabin. The Santa Fe offers 34.2 cubic feet of cargo room behind the second row seat (10 cubic feet behind the third row seat). With the second (and third) row seats folded flat, the Santa Fe provides more than 78 cubic feet of room for cargo storage.

I was very impressed with this vehicle as it scored well on a number of my "hot list" criteria: affordability, safety, performance and style.

Backed by a 5-year/60,000-mile bumper-to-bumper warranty with roadside assistance and a 10-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty, it's reassuring to know that Hyundai stands behind its products.

For those in the market for a mid-size crossover, the Santa Fe is well worth a test drive.

Neal White has been

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2008 Hyundai Santa Fe 5- or 7-seat crossover
Front-; all-wheel drive
Trim packages:
GLS, SE, Limited
PRICE RANGE:
\$18,000-\$31,000
ENGINE:
2.7-L V6 (185 hp/183 torque)
3.3-L V6 (242 hp/226 torque)
TRANSMISSION:
5-speed manual
4-speed auto w/Shiftronic
5-speed auto w/Shiftronic
EPA: 17 mpg city, 24 mpg highway

FUEL: Regular unleaded
TRACTION CONTROL:
Electronic stability control
BRAKES: ABS
LENGTH: 184.1 inches
WHEELBASE: 106.3 inches
WIDTH: 74.4 inches
HEIGHT: 67.9 inches
WEIGHT: 3,727-4,121 lbs.
TRACK: 63.6/63.8 (front/rear)
FUEL TANK: 19.8 gallons
TIRES: 16-, or 18-inch
MADE AT: Hyundai's Montgomery (Ala.) facility.

covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and

the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedailylight.com.

News in brief

State historical association moving from Austin to Denton

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas State Historical Association, publisher of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly and the Handbook of Texas Online, is moving from The University of Texas to The University of North Texas, officials said.

The nonprofit group has been based at temporary quarters in Austin since leaving the UT campus in November in a dispute over whether its workers should be university employees.

"I think this is the best thing that could have happened to us," said Frank de la Teja, president of the association and a professor of history at Texas State University-San Marcos. "It's going to broaden the way we reach out to the Texas public."

Judge to weigh contempt charges against prosecutor

HOUSTON (AP) — The e-mail scandal engulfing one of Texas' most powerful prosecutors will come to life in a courtroom as a federal judge tries to

decide whether he should be punished for deleting more than 2,500 messages after he was ordered to produce them.

Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal could be fined or jailed if U.S. District Judge Kenneth Hoyt finds him in contempt of court after Thursday's hearing.

Among the hundreds of e-mails Rosenthal has handed over are dozens of pornographic, racist and political messages, along with love notes between the married prosecutor and his secretary.

The Republican district attorney has been forced to abort his re-election bid and has faced almost daily calls to resign since those notes were made public.

Rosenthal has said in court documents he thought the e-mails were backed up elsewhere and has called the decision to erase them an error in judgment.

Feds sue more landowners over border fence

McALLEN (AP) — The Justice Department has sued more Cameron County property owners who have not volunteered access to their land for a

survey of the border.

The federal government sued six more landowners in U.S. District Court in Brownsville on Tuesday, bringing the total to 18 condemnation lawsuits in the county. The Department of Homeland Security is requesting temporary, 180-day access so contractors can survey and prepare for siting the fence.

Brownsville residents, including Mayor Pat Ahumada, have been among the most vocal critics of the planned 700 miles of steel and virtual

fence along the Mexican border, which President Bush and Congress have ordered built to stop illegal immigration and smuggling.

Ahumada denied surveyors access to city-owned land, noting early plans showed the fence cutting through downtown.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen ordered 10 property owners to give access earlier this week. The government said it was close to negotiated access with two other landowners.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means no number is repeated in any row, column or box. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Sylvia Plays Duplicate Bridge

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9
♥ AK 4
♦ AQJ 9 4
♣ AQ 4 3

WEST
♠ A 10 8 5 4 2
♥ 10 7
♦ 8 7
♣ J 8 5

EAST
♠ K J
♥ J 9 6 3
♦ K 3 2
♣ 10 9 7 2

SOUTH
♠ Q 7 6 3
♥ Q 8 5 2
♦ 10 6 5
♣ K 6

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 NT Pass
Opening lead — five of spades.

Sylvia never did like duplicate bridge. What she enjoyed most was playing rubber bridge with the experts at the club, even though she realized she was outclassed.

She felt that the level of skill in the duplicate game did not present her with as much of a challenge — not to mention the chance to improve her game — as did the experts' rubber-bridge game.

This deal occurred on a night when Sylvia made one of her rare appearances at the club duplicate. At each of the 12 tables, South became declarer at three notrump.

At 11 tables, South made four notrump after a spade was led to the king and East returned the jack. Declarer ducked and later finished with 10 tricks after losing a diamond finesse to East.

But at Sylvia's table, South went down two. West led a spade, and Sylvia (East) played the jack instead of the king! South did not dare refuse to take the jack, since it appeared certain that West had the A-K. So he won with the queen and staked his all on the diamond finesse.

Unfortunately, the finesse failed. Sylvia won the ten with the king and returned the king of spades. West overtook with the ace and cashed his spades, and declarer wound up down two.

There was not much point to asking Sylvia to explain her jack play, because everyone knew how reluctant she always was to part with a king. In fact, had anyone asked, Sylvia no doubt would have been surprised to learn that any play other than the jack could even be contemplated.

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Weber places third in state VFW speech contest

Herald Staff Report

Big Spring High School student Hannah Weber recently placed third in the state-wide Voice of Democracy essay/speech contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Weber qualified for the state contest, which was held Saturday in Austin, by placing first in both local and district VFW contests.

"I was really nervous," Weber said of her experience in Austin. "We had a chance to look at the other speeches ... and they were really good, so I was surprised when I placed third."

As the third-place winner, she received a \$3,000 college scholarship.

Following is the text of the speech Weber entered in the state VFW contest:

"My Role in Honoring America's Veterans"

By Hannah Weber

"From the Halls of Montezuma

*To the Shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles*

In the air, on land and sea;

First to fight for right and freedom

And to keep our honor clean;

We are proud to claim the title of United States Marine."

I looked up into the crowd on July 4 and saw all of the Marine veterans rising when their hymn was played by the band.

I was standing at the very bottom of the amphitheater in my Scout Venturing uniform holding a flag in my hands.

I nearly started to cry as I saw an older man having a hard time standing up when he heard his hymn. When he got up he



Courtesy photo

Hannah Weber, left, of Big Spring, placed third in the Texas Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy speech contest, held Saturday in Austin. She is shown with David Bennett, VFW District 25 commander.

stood tall and proud. A sense of pride rushed over me when I looked into that man's eyes and he smiled. I was proud to be there; proud to do my duty to honor our veterans.

But as I watched the old warrior slowly sink into his seat, as I noticed his once proud posture melt into the feeble form of a man ravaged by war wounds and time, I wondered if I had really honored this man and his "Band of Brothers" adequately.

Did I really show how much I valued the freedoms these veterans had fought to ensure each and every one of us? Was I doing my best to honor the veterans and the

members of our armed services?

I pondered these questions and concluded that there must be better ways to honor the war veterans of the past and the troops of the present.

(U.S. Congressman) Nick Lampson ... once said, "I believe we should do more than sing the praises of the bravery and patriotism that our veterans have embodied in the past. We should take this opportunity to re-evaluate how we are treating our veterans in the present."

I agree with the congressman. I think that we, the people of the United States, need to reconsider how we honor past and present troops.

We have too often hon-

ored veterans by doing the easy feel-good tasks such as attending public memorials, buying poppies to show our support or giving a veteran our thanks when they speak at school.

Along with these easy displays of gratitude, we must strive to perform more difficult tasks that come from our heart.

There are plenty of ways to give veterans what they truly need from us; it might be something that takes less than 10 minutes.

For example, a few years ago, my dad and I were flagged down by a man who wanted a ride to the interstate so he could hitchhike home.

The man told us he was

a Vietnam veteran who was being treated for cancer at the VA Hospital. He wanted to get home, but did not have any money. We took him to the bus station and bought him a ticket to his home town. We also offered him food, but he was so sick from the chemotherapy that he could not eat.

This man did not need our thanks and praises as much as he needed our help.

We can also befriend veterans. By getting to know them we can learn their life story. We can learn about the hardships they faced in battle and the joys they experienced in life. Their stories can teach us, and generations of the future, history

through the eyes of our national heroes.

These histories are unlike those found in any history book. These stories come from the men that lived them, not the academics that second-guess them.

When I was younger I volunteered at the Texas Veteran's Home and made a special connection with one of the World War II veterans. I nicknamed him Cowboy.

He used to tell me stories, not about war, but about happier times in his life. Cowboy loved everything western; he once told me that he had even met the great western writer Zane Gray.

One day when I came to visit, I checked in at the front desk, and they told me Cowboy had passed away. I do not think Cowboy needed my thanks and praise, he needed my friendship.

My future role in honoring America's veterans will still include some of the easy things, simple things, like attending Veteran's Day speeches or placing a bumper sticker on my car that says something to the effect of "Support Our Troops."

My role will also include the heartfelt actions — things like visiting a man who lived through war but may be dying from cancer many years later, or visiting a disabled veteran.

I will continue to honor them by using rights they have guaranteed us.

I will exercise my right to worship God in the manner I choose, to speak on matters I find important, and vote when I turn 18.

I will do all of these things as a proud and humble American, an American who does, and will always honor veterans and troops of the United States of America.

Tougher identification rules requiring proof of citizenship to take effect at U.S. border

By ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — New rules for the types of identification U.S. or Canadian citizens must present to cross into the country shouldn't cause significant delays and won't be strictly enforced at first, a senior federal official said.

Under the rules going into effect Thursday, people will no longer be allowed to simply declare to immigration officers at border crossings that they are citizens, said Jayson Ahern, deputy commissioner with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Instead, those 19 and older will have to show proof of citizenship — a passport, trusted traveler card or a birth certificate and government-issued ID such as a driver's license. "We'll be asking those who cross our borders to present to us secure, more reliable documents to prove citizenship and to confirm their identity," said Ahern, who is heading a national effort to call attention to the changes.

Officers at the ports will have latitude to admit people who are unaware of the changes once their identities are confirmed,

Ahern said. Ron Smith, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Detroit, which has the busiest northern border crossing, said the agency will provide a grace period for travelers without the extra ID, and will hand out fliers explaining the changes.

"The first couple of days, weeks maybe, could add a few seconds to the inspection process. But once people become aware of these requirements, and we're getting the word out to them ... those minor delays should disappear," Smith said.

Casino Windsor, across the Detroit River from the United States, is buying

radio ads to inform its American customers that they can still visit without passports. Casino spokeswoman Holly Ward said any changes to border requirements risk driving away business.

Smith said few people have crossed the northern border by just declaring their nationality since the 2001 terrorist attacks, because officers have always had the discretion to request documents.

Congress approved the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative in 2004, which requires verified citizenship and identification of all those entering the country from Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

The passport requirement for land and sea crossings has been delayed until June 2009.

Mexican citizens will continue to have to present valid passports and visas.

Canadian citizens previously were not required to show a passport, but will need one after next year.

Last week, Mexican tourism officials in Tijuana introduced a "Get Your Passport" campaign that gives U.S. passport holders discounts at restaurants and shops.

Quincy Epperson of San Diego said he will stop going to Mexico until he replaces his birth certificate.

He has an old photocopy

but worries it won't pass muster with inspectors.

"I don't want to take the chance," said Epperson, 31, as he returned Tuesday from one of his weekly visits to Tijuana's sports betting parlors.

If he wins his Super Bowl bet on the Giants, Epperson will send a friend to Tijuana collect his money.

Head Hunter
welcomes
Brittany Landis
Call or come by
for an appointment
267-1861
1310 S. Austin St.



Big Spring Symphony Orchestra
Keith Graumann, Music Director & Director



Dvorak
The New World
Symphony No. 9
&
Cello Concerto
Jeffrey Lastrapes
Returns to the Permian Basin

Saturday, February 9
8:00 pm
Big Spring Municipal Auditorium
corner of E. Third & Nolan Streets

ADMISSION		TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
Adult	\$15	AND AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
Senior Citizen	\$10	Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce
Student	\$5	Faye's Flowers
		First Bank of West Texas (all branches)
		Blum's Jewelers
		Big Spring Herald

For additional information call 432-264-7223 or visit www.bigspringsymphony.com

The Big Spring Herald will be publishing the 2008 Profile Edition
"Look At Us At The Crossroads Of West Texas"
This Section featuring stories about your friends, neighbors, and Business Associates
Publish Date Is Sunday, March 30
Don't Be Left Out Of This Informative Section
CALL IN TODAY TO PLACE YOUR AD • (432) 263-7331

THURSDAY

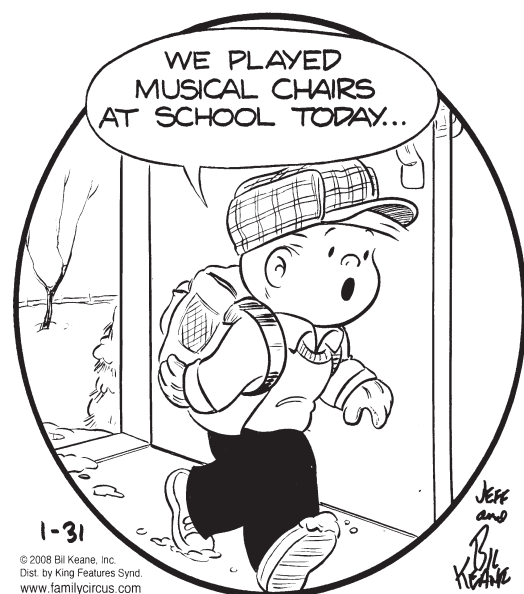
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6:30 PM	News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy! Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons Two-Half Men	News Entertainment	12 Corazones	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	Joe McGee John Hagee	News-Lehrer	How It's Made How It's Made	Cradle of Life (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	NBA Pregame (CC)	Live (CC) Black Carpet	Han. Montana Zack & Cody	College Basketball:	College Basketball:	Movie: Pumpkinhead:
7:30 PM	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Al Diablo con Los Guapos	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?	CSI: NY (CC)	Madre Luna	Name Is Earl The Office	Friends (CC) Friends (CC)	Update Israel Sid Roth	TX Mnthly Talk TX Mnthly Talk	Smash Lab	Movie: Top Gun (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	NBA Basketball:	Movie: Lockdown	Movie: Minutemen	Providence at Notre Dame	BC at UNC	Ashes to Ashes
8:30 PM	Lost (CC)	Lost (CC)	Pasion	Don't Forget the Lyrics!	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Victoria	The Celebrity Apprentice	Movie: My Big Fat Greek	Light of the Southwest	Antiques Roadshow	Smash Lab (CC)	"	TNA IMPACT!	Dallas Mavericks at	(CC)	"	College Basketball:	College Basketball:	Movie: Ghost Voyage
9:30 PM	Eli Stone (CC)	Eli Stone (CC)	Amas de Casa Desesperadas	TMZ (CC) Raymond	Without a Trace (CC)	Pecados Ajenos	(CC)	Wedding (CC)	"	Soundstage (CC)	Smash Lab	Breaking Bad	"	Boston Celtics NBA	Top 25 Fabu- lous Freaks	That's-Raven Life Derek	North Carolina State at Duke	Indiana at Wisconsin	"
10:30 PM	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ	Two-Half Men Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Mas Vale	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City Sex and-City	Update Israel Jack Van Impe	Charlie Rose (CC)	MyHusters (CC)	(CC) Movie: Top	Pros vs. Joes	Basketball: San Antonio	Hell Date Hell Date	Zack & Cody Han. Montana	Hey Rookie, Welcome-NFL	SportsCenter (CC)	Movie: Stir of Echoes
11:30 PM	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	Law & Order (CC)	Letterman Late Late	Tarde Decisiones de	Late Night	My Big Fat Greek	Betty Swann Y. Saizama	Tavis Smiley Tavis Smiley	Smash Lab	Gun (CC)	MANswers Whacked Out	Spurs at Phoenix Suns	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	Super Bowl Super Bowl	NFL Live SportsCenter	"
12:30 AM	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Lighthouse	Salome (SS)	Feno 9111 George Lopez	Show The Insider	Famosos Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Wedding	Update Israel Light-World	Sign Off	Smash Lab (CC)	"	Action Sports Championships	Inside the NBA (CC)	Comicview (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn	2007 World Series of Poker	SportsCenter (CC)	Twilight Zone Twilight Zone

DENNIS THE MENACE



"DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR SON DID?" "WHY IS HE MY SON ONLY WHEN HE MISBEHAVES?"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

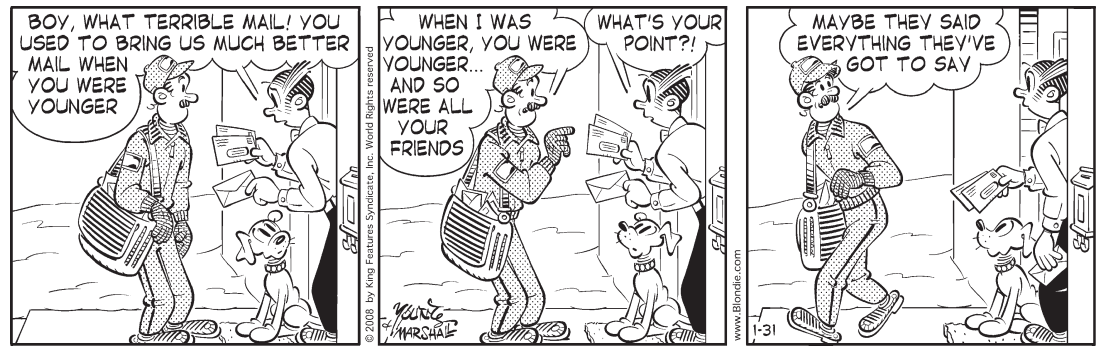


"And I was penalized for unnecessary roughness."

HAGAR



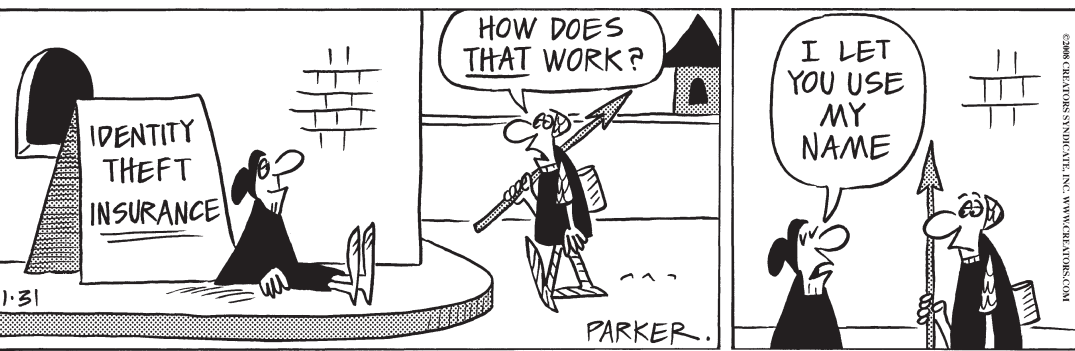
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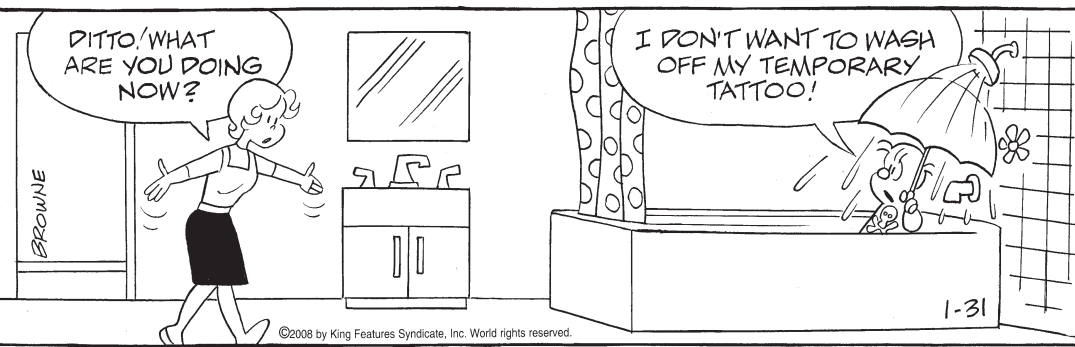
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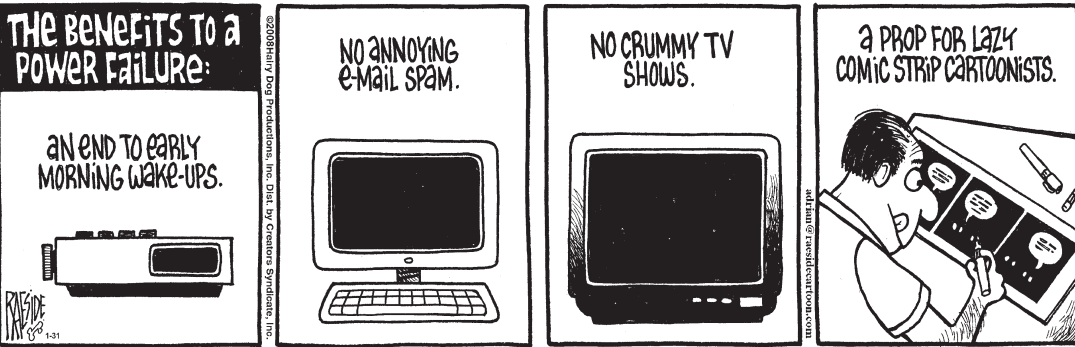
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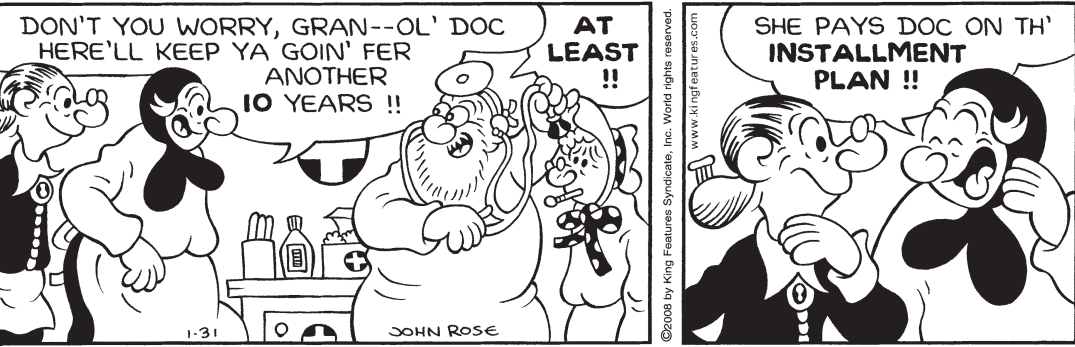
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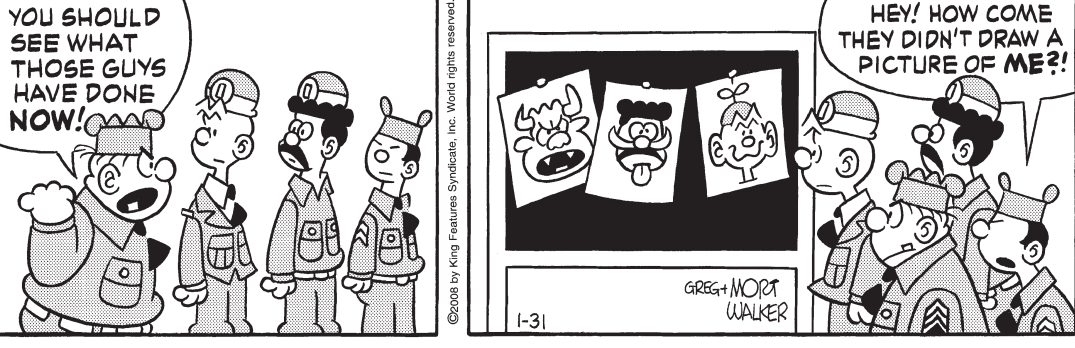
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2008. There are 335 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Fifty years ago, on Jan. 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with its first successful launch of a satellite into orbit, Explorer I.

On this date:

In 1606, Guy Fawkes, convicted of treason for his part in the "Gunpowder Plot" against the English Parliament and King James I, was executed.

In 1797, composer Franz Schubert was born in Vienna, Austria.

In 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee was named General-in-Chief of all the Confederate armies.

In 1917, during World War I, Germany served notice it was beginning a policy of unrestricted submarine war-

fare.

In 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt devalued the dollar in relation to gold.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. forces began a successful invasion of Kwajalein Atoll and other parts of the Japanese-held Marshall Islands.

In 1945, Private Eddie Slovik, 24, became the first U.S. soldier since the Civil War to be executed for desertion as he was shot by an American firing squad in France.

In 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard Jr., Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.

In 2000, an Alaska Airlines jet plummeted into the Pacific Ocean, killing all 88 people aboard.

In 2006, Coretta Scott King, the widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died in Rosarito Beach, Mexico, at age 78.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Carol Channing is 87. Actress Jean Simmons is 79. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Ernie Banks is 77. Composer Philip Glass is 71. Actor

Stuart Margolin is 68. Former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., is 67. Blues singer-musician Charlie Musselwhite is 64. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Nolan Ryan is 61. Singer-musician KC (KC and the Sunshine Band) is 57. Rock singer Johnny Rotten is 52. Actress Kelly Lynch is 49. Actor Anthony LaPaglia is 49. Singer-musician Lloyd Cole is 47. Actor John Dye is 45. Rock musician Jeff Hanneman (Slayer) is 44. Rock musician Al Jawsorki (Jesus Jones) is 42. Actress Minnie Driver is 38. Actress Portia de Rossi is 35. Singer Justin Timberlake is 27.

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Answer to previous puzzle

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Newsday Crossword

GETTING THE HOOK by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Mell Lazarus comic strip | 1 GI cops |
| 6 Go-fish category | 2 Norwegian saint |
| 10 Basic building block | 3 Island east of Lanai |
| 14 Sans toppings | 4 Capital of Belarus |
| 15 Jumble | 5 Ducks' city |
| 16 Philbin sidekick | 6 God of thunder |
| 17 Steamy spot | 7 Friendly |
| 18 Aquatic mammal | 8 Aim for a star |
| 19 Grew mellow | 9 Rock-revival group |
| 20 Nautical knot | 10 Steed breed |
| 23 Mauna _____ | 11 Oceanic predator |
| 24 Actress Charlotte | 12 Not close-minded about |
| 25 Postal abbr. | 13 Drive bananas name |
| 26 Not working | 21 OK Corral name |
| 29 Perturbs | 22 Clairvoyant |
| 32 Seraphim Falls star | 26 Wagering site, for short |
| 34 Monumental gateway | 27 Feel the heat |
| 37 Farewells | 28 Indoor sports venue |
| 38 Matey's assent | 30 Mongol ruler |
| 39 Air alternative | 31 "C'mon, talk!" |
| 42 Graphical look at progress | 33 Oyster color |
| 47 Tot in a tam | 35 Played for a sap |
| 49 Hit the road | 36 Nighttime notable |
| 50 Suds dispenser | |
| 51 Ordinal suffix | |
| 52 Videocassette successor | |
| 54 Minor misstatement | |
| 56 Made an untimely remark | |
| 62 Swing around | |
| 63 Insightful | |
| 64 Scouting unit | |

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