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BIG SPRING
HERALD

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 14, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 65 COPYRIGHT 2008 50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Oasis residents oppose Kemper plans

"The only source of water we have is well water, and we're very much concerned this could cause a problem..."



By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer
 Just say no. That's what several county residents are asking the Howard County Commissioners Court to do, as an

oil company has filed paperwork necessary to use an abandoned oil well north of Big Spring to store salt water used in well injections.
 Roy

Beauchamp, a resident of nearby Oasis Road, told commissioners this week that Kemper Operating Company's plans could endanger the drinking water for residents in the area.
 Don

"It's been about two weeks since we've received this certified letter," said Beauchamp. "There's a list of everyone they sent the letters to and the county is on that

list twice. There are quite a few of us here that live out in that area.
 "It's an old, abandoned oil well. They
 See **OASIS**, Page 3A

Best at the Bee

Goliad student school district's top speller

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Brianna Kight said she wasn't very nervous during this year's Big Spring Independent School District Spelling Bee.

She probably didn't have time. In one of the quickest bees in recent memory, Kight was the last speller standing at the annual bee, held Wednesday afternoon at Big Spring Junior High School.

Spellers fell fast and furious at this year's bee — after two rounds, only Kight, representing Goliad Intermediate School, and the eventual runner-up Julie Jimenez of the junior high remained.



Big Spring Independent School District Spelling Bee champion Brianna Kight, left, and runner-up Julie Jimenez, center, talk with bee coordinator Robin Ritchey after the conclusion of the contest Wednesday afternoon.

One more round passed before matters quickly became settled. Jimenez misspelled "misfortune," opening the way for Kight.

"I was kind of excited then," Kight said. "But I didn't want to get cocky, because if I misspelled the word then, I'd have been really disappointed."

She then correctly spelled "gentle" and "scalp" to claim the championship.

Kight had competed in the bee two years earlier and said that experience helped better prepare her for what to expect.

"I think I learned from some of my mistakes last time and it motivated me this year," she said. "I really can't believe I won."

Kight will represent BSISD in the regional spelling bee scheduled for March 1 at Lubbock Christian University to compete for a chance to

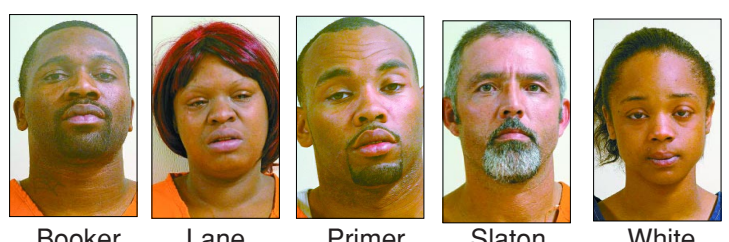
advance to the national bee later this year in Washington D.C.

Asked what she would do to prepare for the regional bee, Kight hoisted the dictionary she won Wednesday and said: "I'm probably going to read this thing."

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

Busted!

Five jailed on drug charges at local motel



Booker Lane Primer Slaton White

By THOMAS JENKINS
 Staff Writer

A Big Spring man and four Arlington residents were arrested at the Delux Inn Tuesday night as the narcotics division of the Big Spring Police Department executed a pair of search warrants.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the BSPD, law enforcement officers recovered illegal drugs and a sizable amount of cash from a pair of rooms at the local hotel, located at 400 N. Gregg Street.

"This bust is the result of a month-long investigation involving the sale of crack cocaine at the Delux Inn," said Everett.

"A search warrant was executed at Room 21 at approximately 10:24 p.m. That lead to a second search warrant being issued for Room 36.

"Officers recovered an ounce of marijuana, 69 dosage units of ecstasy, just under one pound of crack cocaine and \$12,991.60 in U.S. currency."

Arrested as a result of the investigation were:

- Leonard Shane Slaton, 42, of Big Spring, possession of a controlled substance — less than one gram.
- Katavius Booker, 26, of Arlington, possession of a

See **BUSTED**, Page 3A

United Way results disappointing; officials anticipating brighter future

By STEVE REAGAN
 Staff Writer

Local United Way officials do not mask the fact that results from their 2007 campaign were disappointing. However, they see hope for a rebound in the future.

A disappointing campaign led to sharply reduced allocations to agencies served by the United Way, officials disclosed at a luncheon Wednesday.

Total 2007 allocations are \$121,771, little more than half of 2006 figures. That means that the 15 agencies who depend on funds from the United Way will have to make do with less this year.

"It seems like every year is a challenge, and this year was no different," departing UW President Franklin Weber said. "We completed the 2007 campaign far short of our goal of



Mendoza

\$238,000. It wasn't what we wanted, but everybody connected with the campaign did the best they could."

Jesse Mendoza, who will take the president's reins from Weber, said that despite the disappointing numbers, there were a few bright spots in the 2007 effort.

Mendoza singled out businesses such as the Alon Refinery, Cornell Corrections, Pollard Chevrolet, Power Resources and First Bank of West Texas that met or exceeded stated goals in 2007.

"A lot of hard work and effort was put into this campaign," Mendoza said. "We may have fallen short, but as far as sheer effort goes, we didn't fall short."

See **UW**, Page 3A

United Way allocations

| Agency | 2006 | 2007 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| American Red Cross | \$10,662 | \$5,865 |
| Boy's Club | \$17,842 | \$9,446 |
| Boy Scouts | \$13,128 | \$7,942 |
| Humane Society | \$4,307 | \$3,009 |
| CASA of West Texas | \$13,790 | \$7,955 |
| Dora Roberts Rehab. Ctr. | \$22,172 | \$11,027 |
| Girl Scouts | \$3,118 | \$2,075 |
| HC Council on Aging | \$7,569 | \$3,588 |
| Isaiah 58 | \$15,082 | \$10,850 |
| Northside Comm. Center | \$17,579 | \$11,955 |
| Salvation Army | \$19,578 | \$12,366 |
| Victim Services | \$18,715 | \$11,955 |
| Westside Comm. Center | \$7,161 | \$5,271 |
| Westside Daycare Center | \$20,301 | \$11,427 |
| YMCA | \$11,253 | \$7,830 |
| Outside agencies | \$11,253 | n/a |
| Total | \$216,365 | \$121,771 |

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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, February 14, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

FRIDAY

Big Spring softball at Lubbock Cooper, 4 p.m.

Coahoma girls basketball vs. Alpine in Crane, 8 p.m.

Grady girls basketball vs. Paducah at Lubbock Christian University, 6 p.m.

Garden City girls basketball vs. Rankin at Midland Christian, 6 p.m.

Sands girls basketball vs. Petersburg in Smyer, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY

Big Spring baseball at San Angelo Central, 4 p.m.

Coahoma baseball vs. Kermit, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY

Big Spring softball vs. Midland Lee, 5:30 p.m.

Forsan softball vs. Grape Creek, 4 p.m.

Coahoma softball vs. Midland High, 7 p.m.

FEB. 21

Big Spring softball, Forsan softball and Coahoma softball at West Texas Classic in Midland in tournament play through Feb. 23.

Coahoma baseball at Sonora Tournament through Feb. 23.

Big Spring Girls Softball registration held every Saturday

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association begins registration for the 2008 youth softball season Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall across from Merle Norman.

Girls ages 4 to 14 as of Jan. 1 are eligible to play.

Subsequent sign-up dates will be Feb. 23 and March 1.

Fee is \$45 with a \$5 discount for a second child.

Anyone with questions can call Luci Ramirez at 466-3670 or Rodney Jones at 213-3750.

Big Spring Country Club schedules 4-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club has scheduled a 4-person scramble for Feb. 23-24.

Entry fee is \$75 per player, plus golf cart fees, and includes a barbecue lunch on the course both days. Private carts are welcome.

Practice rounds are available Friday. The Field will be flighted by first-round score and the number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for more information or to enter a team.

Mavs' trade for Kidd held up by George

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Devean George won three rings playing alongside Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. He joined the Dallas Mavericks before last season thinking he might add to his collection playing alongside Dirk Nowitzki.

Now the Mavs have a chance to get Jason Kidd, too. George might be pretty excited — if he wasn't among the players being offered for the superstar point guard.

But George doesn't want to go,

and he doesn't have to because of a virtual no-trade clause known as "early Bird rights."

So, for now at least, the deal is off.

"I've got to do what's best for me," George said late Wednesday, after going 0-for-11 with zero points in 33 minutes of Dallas' 96-76 victory over Portland. "My agent wants me to wait until he can talk to me and explain what the risks are ... instead of just jumping the gun."

His agent, Mark Bartelstein, said: "We're not trying to hold things up or be difficult, but just like teams make tough decisions

all the time — about cutting players or making trades — they do what's best for their team, and it's my obligation to do what's best for Devean. You don't want to stop teams from doing their business, but we don't feel like it makes sense at this time."

Whether this is a setback or a deal-breaker will be determined in the coming days. The trade deadline is next Thursday.

The deal was supposed to be George, emerging point guard Devin Harris, veteran Jerry Stackhouse and reserves DeSagana Diop and Maurice Ager going to New Jersey and

Kidd, Malik Allen and Antoine Wright going to Dallas, according to a league source who spoke on condition of anonymity because it wasn't finalized.

Stackhouse said he's only part of the trade "to make the numbers work." He indicated the Nets would buy out his contract, enabling him to re-sign with Dallas in a month.

"Getting bought out, if that happens, my first choice would be to come back to Dallas. I'm settled in, just bought a house," he said.

See **KIDD**, Page 2B

Hawks split doubleheader with Midland

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

MIDLAND — There was only one thing consistent between the two games of a Western Junior College Athletic Conference softball doubleheader played by Howard College and Midland College Wednesday — the wind.

While the gusts consistently reached upwards of 20 miles per hour throughout the two contests, Howard and Midland found it difficult to find any groove at all in the field.

The Hawks knocked off the 14th-ranked Lady Chaparrals 8-6 in Game 1, holding on after jumping out to a 6-0 lead in the second inning. The role was reversed in Game 2 as Midland took a commanding 7-0 lead in the first inning only to see Howard equal that run production in the second inning. However, Midland never slowed down and added seven more runs for a 14-8 win.

Howard's offensive prowess was powered by sophomore shortstop Jessica Moreno in the first and second innings. Moreno knocked a solo shot over the center field fence in the first inning and then cracked a 2-run homer to right field in the second.

Her second home run delivered the last two scores of a 5-run inning for the Hawks, putting them ahead 6-0. However, a Midland pitching change slowed Howard's production down.

Alex Reideman relieved Mindy Scott with two outs in the second. Reideman struck out eight Howard batters in 5 1/3 innings.

While a fresh pitcher patrolled the mound, the Lady Chaps chiseled away at Howard's lead at the plate. Hawks' pitcher Kendra

Corbin lasted all seven innings for the win, but surrendered six runs, five earned, in the process.

However, it was Corbin's abilities on the basepaths that allowed her to play the role of hero.

After a two-run homer by Midland's Nina Cabales in the bottom of the sixth inning tied the game at 6, Corbin led off the top of the seventh with a single. The Hawks' pitcher was moved to second courtesy of a sacrifice bunt by Misti Lindamood and advanced to third after a Moreno single.

With runners on first and third, Ashley Calles laid down a bunt along the third base line, allowing Corbin to score from third on the suicide squeeze play. Calles' clutch hit gave Howard a 7-6 advantage. Celia Padilla pulled off a pinch-hit RBI single to bring in Moreno for an extra insurance run.

Corbin shut down Midland in the bottom of the seventh, forcing the Lady Chaps lineup to go three up, three down. The win brought Howard's record to 5-5, but the Hawks weren't able to eclipse the .500 mark.

Howard committed four errors in the first inning of Game 2, helping Midland score seven runs. The Lady Chaps had scored six times before Howard recorded the first out of the frame.

"We had a tough time fielding the ball," Howard Head Coach Kelly Raines said. "We couldn't make a play. Our pitcher struggled in the first and had to be relieved. You can't make that many mistakes and expect to come close to winning a game."

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College Hawks first baseman Kristy Leal throws a runner out in Game 2 of the Hawks' doubleheader with Midland College Wednesday in Midland. Howard took Game 1, 8-6, with Midland winning Game 2, 14-8.

Congress split over truths in Clemens case

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Sports Writers

WASHINGTON — Roger Clemens was told he didn't sound believable. Brian McNamee was branded a "drug dealer" and reminded of past lies.

With Congress apparently split over which man's version of events is true, it could be up to the Justice Department to decide.

Clemens and McNamee, the accused and his accuser, traded contradictory stories under oath Wednesday before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform about whether the star pitcher was injected with steroids and human growth hormone by his former personal trainer.

And while many baseball fans are turning their attention to Florida and Arizona for the first official workouts of spring training Thursday — ready for cries of "Play ball!" instead of talk about foul play — there is sure to be more discussion of Clemens and McNamee in the nation's capital.

"It's just sad," Clemens'

former manager with the New York Yankees, Joe Torre, said in Vero Beach, Fla., on the eve of his first camp with the Los Angeles Dodgers. "I'd just like to see baseball move on right now."

After the 400-page Mitchell Report, which contained the first public airing of McNamee's allegations about Clemens, and a 4-hour House hearing about their he-said, he-said, little is settled.

"They don't disagree on a phone call or one meeting," committee chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., said during the hearing. "If Mr. McNamee is lying, he has acted inexcusably, and he has made Mr. Clemens an innocent victim. If Mr. Clemens isn't telling the truth, then he is acting shamefully and has smeared Mr. McNamee. I don't think there is anything in between."

Yet, afterward, Waxman told reporters: "I haven't reached any conclusions at this point" as to whether a criminal investigation is warranted.

Several congressmen said a referral from the committee isn't needed to trigger a Justice



AP photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais

Former New York Yankees baseball pitcher Roger Clemens, center, listens as his attorney's Rusty Hardin, left, and Lanny Breuer, right, try to address members questions during testimony in Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday before the House Oversight and Government Reform committee hearing on drug use in baseball.

Department inquiry if prosecutors believe either man made false statements.

Sitting in the second row Wednesday was IRS Special Agent Jeff Novitzky, a key member of the team prosecuting Barry Bonds. Bonds, baseball's home run king, was indicted in November on

charges of perjury and obstruction of justice stemming from his 2003 testimony to a grand jury in which he denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs.

It was Novitzky who last month collected used needles and bloody gauze pads that McNamee's camp turned over for test-

ing. The trainer's lawyers call the items evidence that contains performance-enhancing drugs and Clemens' DNA. Clemens' side call the items "manufactured."

Either way, the Justice Department has them.

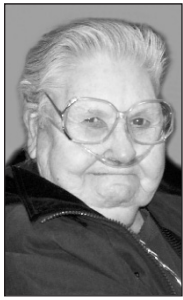
See **STEROIDS**, Page 2B

Obituaries

Police blotter

Sheriff's report

Geniece Marie Smith



Geniece Marie Smith, 76, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Jeff Davidson and the Rev. Bill Fee officiating. Private burial will be at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. A memorial service will also be held at 1:45 p.m. Sunday at East Side Baptist Church with the Rev. Doug Shelley, pastor, officiating.

Geniece was born Oct. 29, 1931, in Big Rock, Ark., to Vera and Ocie Stovall. She kept the nursery at East Side Baptist Church for a number of years. She had been a resident of Howard County for over 60 years and was a member of East Side Baptist Church. Geniece loved laughing and was always smiling. Her hobbies were reading, cross stitching and collecting salt and pepper shakers.

She is survived by her extended family, BeeBe and Vernon Permenter, Donna Dugger, Ann Young, Angela and Larry Hein, Duncan and Beatrice Sanchez, and Ken and Mary Lou Baker, all of Big Spring; 11 children that she considered her grandchildren; and 16 children that she considered to be her great grandchildren. All of these children thought of her as a loving grandmother.

She was preceded in death by two husbands, Gilbert Lee Myers and Bob Smith; and a son, Gilbert Lee Myers Jr. in 1984.

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

Paid obituary

Katie Jo Cook

Katie Jo Cook, infant daughter of Keith and Jana Cook of Stanton, died Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008. Her services are pending with Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton.

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

- **REGINALD PRIMER**, 25, of Arlington, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts).
- **LEONARD SLATON**, 42, of 1 Glenwick Cove, was arrested Tuesday on a Howard County warrant and a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **ANTWONETTE WHITE**, 21, of Arlington, was arrested Tuesday on a Dallas warrant and a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **KATAVIOUS BOOKER**, 26, of Arlington, was arrested Tuesday on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts).
- **LASHONDA LANE**, 30, of Fort Worth, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **LORI LONG**, 33, of 400 N. Gregg Street, was arrested Tuesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- **CHRISTINE CRAMER**, 32, of 1408 E. Sixth Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **JESSICA BLANCO**, 25, of 2403 S. Main Street, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants, 14 local capias warrants and a charge of driving while license invalid - enhanced.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 900 block of Willia.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS** was reported in the 1200 block of Ridgeroad.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 1900 block of Monticello.
- **ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1900 block of Monticello.

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 45 inmates at the time of this report.
- **LEONARD SHANE SLATON**, 42, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of speeding, violation of a promise to appear, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and possession of a controlled substance.
 - **LASHANDA EVETTE LANE**, 30, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
 - **KATAVIOUS BOOKER**, 26, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts).
 - **REGINALD DONTE PRIMER**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts).

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported near the 183 mile marker of Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1100 block of State. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1600 block of Donnelly. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 800 block of Aylesford. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of E. 14th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Harding. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Wright. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Runnels. One person was transported to SMMC.

Take Note

- American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry Saturday. Plates are \$8 each. Delivery will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Serving will be from noon to 3 p.m. at the post, located at 3203 W. Highway 80. Carryouts will be available.

- Canterbury, Canterbury North will host a Senior Sweetheart Dance from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. The dance will be held at 1700 Lancaster and is open to all seniors. Admission is free. Music will be provided by RC Entertainment. Refreshments will be available.

- Big Spring Symphony Chorus rehearsals begin Tuesday for "The Best of Broadway" concert featuring Renay Peters Jobert and David Corman. Songs will be from "Fiddler on the Roof," "Oklahoma," "Wizard of Oz," "West Side Story," "My Fair lady" and many others. Rehearsals will run from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the choral rehearsal room at the First United Methodist Church in Big Spring. Enter from the alley way. Everyone is welcome.

- Area voters are invited to meet the local Republican candidates Tuesday from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Places & Pleasures Travel Agency, located at 222 S. Main Street in downtown Big Spring. For more information, contact Melanie at 267-7387.

- The History of Black History, a program to celebrate Black History Month, will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21, in the Big Spring High School

Weather

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Colder. Lows in the lower 30s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph shifting to the northeast 15 to 25 mph after midnight.

Friday...Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain or light freezing rain or snow. Much colder. Highs in the upper 30s. NorthWinds 15 to 20 mph. Friday night...Cloudy with rain or freezing rain likely. Lows in the upper 20s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Saturday...Cloudy. Rain or freezing rain likely in the morning...Then showers or snow showers likely in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 30s. North winds around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers or snow showers. Lows in the lower 30s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Not as cool. Highs in the mid 50s.

Sunday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

Presidents day...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s.

Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s.

Auditorium. Some 30 students and community members will be performing through song, dance, pantomime and more. Admission is free.

- A fund has been established to help pay expenses for Sean Bailey, 25, who was injured in an oilfield accident Jan. 28. He and his wife are Tressa are currently in Lubbock, where Sean is hospitalized. Donations can be made at Citizens Federal Credit Union to account 930442 to help with expenses. Please keep them in your prayers.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 7-16-19-26-31-35
Number matching six of six: none.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 4-11-20-23-25
Number matching five of five: none.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-1-6-8. Sum It Up: 23.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-1-7. Sum It Up: 11.

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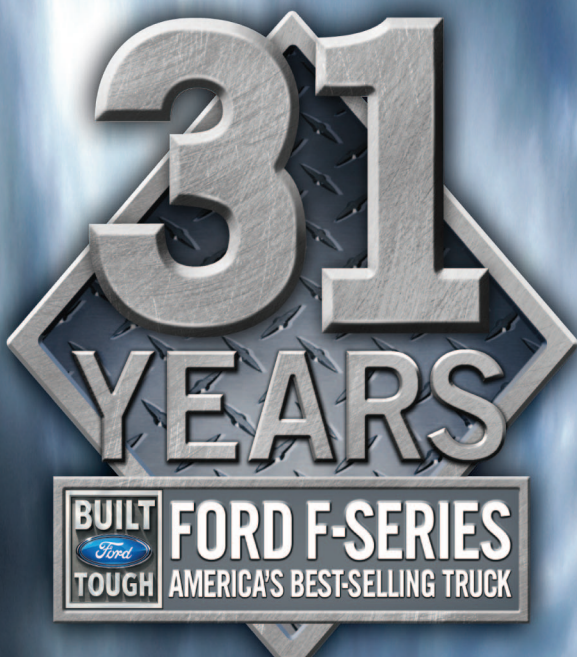
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STEROIDS

Continued from Page 1B

McNamee told baseball investigator George Mitchell he injected Clemens 16 to 21 times with performance-enhancing drugs from 1998 to 2001. On Wednesday, McNamee said those numbers are low.

Clemens' vigorous denials about using steroids or HGH drew Congress' attention, and he repeated them Wednesday.

His reputation and Hall of Fame candidacy potentially at stake — not to mention the possibility of criminal charges, should he lie — Clemens said: "I have never taken steroids or HGH. No matter what we discuss here today, I am never going to have my name restored."

Sticking out his famous right arm — the one that earned 354 major league wins, seven Cy Young Awards, \$160 million — Clemens pointed in the direction of McNamee, sitting only a

few feet away.

Without looking at a man he once considered a friend, Clemens told the panel, "I have strong disagreements with what this man says about me."

Just like their stories, Clemens' Texas drawl was in strong contrast to the clipped cadences of McNamee, a former New York police officer.

"I told the investigators I injected three people — two of whom I know confirmed my account," McNamee said. "The third is sitting at this table."

Former Clemens teammates Andy Pettitte and Chuck Knoblauch both acknowledged that McNamee was correct when he said they used performance enhancers. Both were excused from testifying, but Pettitte gave the committee a sworn affidavit in which he told the committee Clemens said nearly 10 years ago that he used HGH.

Waxman read from affidavits by Pettitte and his wife, Laura, supporting the accusations. Clemens said Pettitte "misre-

members" things.

There were other revelations. Clemens' wife, Debbie, sat in the front row behind him and listened as Waxman implicated her in HGH use, citing statements by Pettitte. Clemens testified his wife took HGH once, although according to the transcript of last week's sworn deposition, Clemens told committee lawyers he didn't know of family members taking HGH.

Waxman also said Clemens might have tried to influence statements to the committee by the pitcher's former nanny.

Clemens and McNamee, by all accounts once good friends, rarely glanced at one another. When Clemens did turn to his right, it was with the Rocket's mound glare. Seated between them was the day's third witness, Charles Scheeler, a lawyer who helped compile the report on drug use in baseball headed by former Senate majority leader George Mitchell.

"Someone is lying in spectacular fashion," said Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia, the commit-

tee's ranking Republican.

Eventually, the committee split largely along party lines, with the Democrats reserving their most pointed queries for Clemens, and the Republicans giving McNamee a rougher time.

"It's hard to believe you, sir," Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., told Clemens. "I hate to say that. You're one of my heroes. But it's hard to believe."

Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., told McNamee: "You're here under oath, and yet we have lie after lie after lie after lie."

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., repeatedly called McNamee a "drug dealer."

One of McNamee's lawyers, Earl Ward, called it a "public flogging."

The Mitchell Report itself was prompted by another hearing on steroids held by the same committee in the same wood-paneled room, on March 17, 2005. That is best remembered for having tarnished the reputations of Mark McGwire — who infamously repeated, "I'm

not here to talk about the past" — and Rafael Palmeiro — who wagged his finger and declared he never had used steroids, then failed a drug test months later.

In a reference to that day, Rep. Mark Souder, R-Ind., cautioned Clemens and McNamee: "It's better not to talk about the past than to lie about the past."

At times, Clemens struggled to find the right words as he was pressed by lawmakers. Toward the end, he raised his voice to interrupt Waxman's closing remarks. The chairman pounded his gavel and said, "Excuse me, but this is not your time to argue with me."

When it was over, Clemens shook hands with Davis, then left through a back door.

Clemens later told reporters: "I'm very thankful and very grateful for this day to come. I'm glad for the opportunity finally. And, you know, I hope I get — and I know I will have — the opportunity to come here to Washington again under different terms."

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

However, the Hawks did answer following a livid speech from Raines in-between the first and second innings.

Howard batted around in the second, scoring seven runs of its own to tie the game. The Hawks' first five batters reached base with Ashleigh Thompson and Amanda Benavides each hitting RBI singles.

With one out in the inning and bases loaded, Corbin decided to help

Howard produce multiple runs with a 3-RBI triple, cutting Midland's lead to 7-5. She scored after a Midland fielding error on a Lindamood hit. Lindamood eventually scored Howard's seventh run of the inning on another Lady Chaps' error.

"It's big to come back and tie the game up," Raines said. "They played like we did in the first inning. They kept going, though, while we faded out."

Impatience on the basepaths might have caused Howard to miss

out on adding two or three more runs to its total. The second inning ended with Moreno and Leal being caught stealing.

Howard had runners on second and third in the third and fourth innings, but weren't able to cross the plate. In the fourth, Lindamood was thrown out at home while trying to score on a Moreno double. Moreno was then caught in a run down between second and third, ending the promising frame with no runs.

Midland retook the lead in the second after Cabales crossed the plate after hitting a fly ball to right field that was mishandled by Thompson,

who had hurt her throwing hand in the first inning. Thompson struggled to get the ball in play, turning the mistake into a four-base error.

The Lady Chaps added a run in the third and fourth innings and scored four in the bottom of the sixth. Howard managed just one more score in the game with Corbin crossing the plate in the sixth, courtesy of a Moreno double.

Corbin finished the day a combined 4-for-8, scoring four runs and knocking in four RBIs. Moreno finished 5-for-8 with two home runs, three RBIs and three runs. Leal was 4-for-7, hitting a home run and two doubles, but man-

aging just one RBI.

Ami Martinez took over for Diana Espinosa with two outs in the first inning of Game 2. Espinosa surrendered seven runs, four earned, on five hits. Martinez took the loss, giving up seven runs, only two earned, on eight hits. Neither pitcher recorded a strikeout.

Howard (5-6, 1-1) won't be playing in the Cowtown Classic in Fort Worth as scheduled because it has been canceled due to expected inclement weather. The Hawks return to action Wednesday, hosting Ranger College for a doubleheader set to start at 1 p.m.

Howard 150 000 2—8 11 2
Midland 022 002 0—6 13 1

W — Kendra Corbin. L — Reideman. 2B — HC: Kristy Leal 2; MC: Becca Gawlista, Brooke Hernandez, Dessie Farmer. HR — HC: Jessica Moreno 2, Leal. MC: Nina Cabales, Logan Zamora. RBI — Moreno 3, Kendra Corbin, Ashleigh Calles, Leal, Celia Padilla.

Howard 070 001 0—8 11 8
Midland 711 104 x—14 12 3

W — Mindy Scott. L — Ami Martinez. 2B — HC: Jessica Moreno 2, Misti Lindamood, Celia Padilla. MC: Lindsay Robillard, Dina Ortiz. 3B — HC: Kendra Corbin; MC: Becca Gawlista. HR — MC: Dessie Farmer. RBI — HC: Corbin 3, Lindamood 1, Ashleigh Thompson 1, Amanda Benavides 1. MC: Nina Cabales 2, Amber Kamaka, Brooke Hernandez, Ortiz, Scott, Logan Zamora, Farmer.

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KIDD

Continued from Page 1B

George's "early Bird rights," which come from being on his second one-year deal, mainly give him a chance to sign his next contract for more than the salary cap allows. However, he's unlikely to command that much anyway. Another benefit is the veto power that's also part of those rights, as per the NBA's collective bargaining agreement.

Thus, while Kidd is the centerpiece of the deal, George is the linchpin.

Word that George blocked the trade apparently spread throughout the arena Wednesday night because George said he heard fans hollering things like, "C'mon, what are you doing?" and, "Stop it, you're holding things up." Other lines included, "Quit being self-

ish," and "We want Kidd."

"All the finger-pointing is at me," he said. "I'm the bad guy. I'll take that."

Judging by homemade signs at Wednesday night's game in Dallas, fans were against the deal. One wrote "No Trade, No Kidding," and a section over, there were signs saying "Keep Harris," with a heart dotting the i; another read, "Stop KIDD'n around Cuban!" with faces of three players Dallas would deal below it. Under one basket, though, a poster read, "Welcome Back Kidd."

Kidd, Allen and Wright were inactive for New Jersey. George and Diop played, while Harris, Stackhouse and Ager were inactive; Harris and Stackhouse are hurt and Ager is in the NBDL.

Nets coach Lawrence Frank talked about life without his All-Star point

guard prior to his team's 109-91 loss in Toronto.

"I love him. He's a very special person, but it's time for both him and the organization to part ways," Frank said. "We're giving up a Hall of Fame point guard and some good role players. If this deal goes through, we'll be receiving some very good players as well and a new era of Nets basketball will start because Jason is that significant a player."

A move for Kidd is an indication the Mavs are in a win-now mode. He is 10 years older than the 24-year-old Harris. Dallas has been close in recent years, losing in the NBA finals in 2006, then winning 67 games last season before flaming out in the first round.

"He would bring great leadership," Mavericks guard Jason Terry said. "He's a Hall of Fame point guard who knows how to win and how to

lead. He's played in the Finals. He's a guy we could learn from. If it happens, it would be great for the organization."

Mavs officials have been reluctant to shake up their roster, but a recent slump and the moves by conference rivals may have helped change their minds. The Lakers got things going by plucking Pau Gasol from Memphis, then last week Phoenix traded for Shaquille O'Neal. San Antonio also has added point guard Damon Stoudamire to its rotation.

"It's been kind of stagnant all season," Stackhouse said. "I think you just try to find the right piece. Maybe this is the right piece that really helps our team, that gets our scorers easy opportunities. Getting Pau or Shaq wouldn't have helped that case."

Kidd broke into the league in 1994-95 when Dallas made him the third overall pick. He was voted co-Rookie of the Year, but the club was such a mess it was better known as the Mav-wrecks.

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Bulletin Board

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.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

- Signal Mountain Quilting Guild meets from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at 1019 Nolan St. Call 267-1037 or 267-7281.
- AMBUCS meet at noon in La Posada Restaurant.
- Greater Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Dance at the Senior Center, 1901 Simler, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.

MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- 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.

County to lease ankle bracelet monitors for female offenders

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

How far can you run in 60 seconds?

That's a question certain inmates in the county's Pre-Trial Bonding program may have to consider in the future, as Howard County commissioners voted Monday to lease 10 ankle bracelet monitors that will allow law enforcement to place offenders on house-arrest.

Commissioners gave the go-ahead for Mike Welling, director of the county's pre-trial bonding program, to lease 10 of the units in hopes of staving off ongoing problems centered around female offenders.

"Other counties simply won't take these females because they are pregnant or have medical problems, and it's allowing them to just snub their nose at us," said County Judge Mark Barr. "They look at me and just laugh because they know we can't send them to jail and this has got to stop."

"We've talked to other

counties that use the ankle monitors and they are having a great deal of success with them. I think it would be irresponsible for us not to consider something like this."

According to Welling, the ankle monitors are extremely accurate.

"These monitors ping off every 60 seconds, so we know where these people are every minute," said Welling. "I'm told they are so accurate they can tell you if the person even steps outside their door or travels down a road that's not authorized. This way, we can keep them in the community working, instead of in the jail costing the county \$45 a day."

"Is this an absolute answer to our problems? No. But it's a tool. It's a very efficient tool."

The cost of each ankle bracelet is \$1,500, according to Welling, but leasing the units can help ease the cost to the county.

"If a unit is destroyed, it costs \$1,500 to replace,"

Welling told the court. "However, that's a cost that would be charged back to the person who destroyed it. With this lease program, it would cost us \$5 to \$10 a day, per unit. There are some other costs we may see down the road, such as a new laptop to monitor them, but that's something we can look at later."

"There's a 10-day set up period, and after that, the county will be charged per day for each unit, whether it's on a prisoner or sitting on the shelf. I think 10 units is a good way to start and if we need more later, we can always get more."

The pre-trial bonding program offers low interest bonding to county jail inmates awaiting trial for non-violent offenses and are unable to bond out using a commercial agency.

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

Soup cook-off set to benefit historic convent

Special to the Herald

STANTON — Good soup for a good cause will be highlighted Saturday when the 19th Annual Great Texas Soup Cook-off will be held to benefit restoration efforts at the 1885 Convent.

It all takes place from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the Stanton Community Center.

About 20 soup cooks are expected to vie for one of three prizes.

Admission is free, but to cast a vote for the soup of your choice, a \$5 donation is required. Doing so will get you a judge's badge, a chance to taste all the various soups and cast five votes. Extra votes are available for \$1 each.

The cooks annually put their best feet forward to come up with tasty and unusual concoctions, said A.L. "Bud" Lindsey, one of the event's organizers. One past entry of note, dill pickle soup, did not win, but was certainly of interest, Lindsey said.

Most of the cooks will go to no ends to win a vote from a taster. Bribes are offered and promises given — anything for a vote, he said.

A plaque is also given for the best decorated table.

After the close of the soup contest a dessert auction will be held.

For more information, contact Lindsey at 746-2306.

BUSTED

Continued from Page 1A

controlled substance — more than four grams, less than 200 grams; and

possession of a controlled substance — more than 200 grams.

- Reginald Primer, 25, of Arlington, possession of a controlled substance — more than four grams,

less than 200 grams; and possession of a controlled substance — more than 200 grams.

- Lashanda Lane, 30, of Arlington, possession of a controlled substance —

more than four grams, less than 200 grams.

- Antwonette White, 21, of Arlington, possession of a controlled substance — more than four grams, less than 200 grams.

Everett said the suspects were arraigned by Municipal Judge Tim Green and remain in custody. Bond was set at \$2,500 for Slaton, \$17,000 for Booker and Primer,

and \$7,000 for Lane and White.

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

OASIS

Continued from Page 1A

are wanting to put some tanks up close to the intersection of Highway 350, FM 700 and Oasis Road. ... The only source of water we have is well water, and we're very much concerned this could cause a problem with our water. They are wanting to pump this salt water — from what I can understand from the letter — probably a half-mile into this abandoned well."

Beauchamp said residents of the area are also concerned about the increased traffic in the area.

"Right there at that corner, people from Big Spring and Coahoma pick

up their kids from the school buses," said Beauchamp. "We're not really sure how much of Oasis Road they are going to be on, but with the number of trucks they say they are going to haul in there it could damage the roads. However, our main concern is what kind of damage this could do to our water."

According to Beauchamp, he and other residents of the area have contacted state officials and are asking for a hearing on the matter.

"We have written a letter and sent it back to these people by certified mail, as well as the Texas Railroad Commission, requesting a hearing to see if we can put a halt to this," said Beauchamp. "To my knowledge, they

have still not received permission from the state and highway department. We just wanted to make the commissioners court aware that we're against it ... and we're asking that you join forces with us and see if we can put a stop to this."

County Judge Mark Barr said he sympathizes with the residents, but the matter is well outside of the county's control.

"I talked to Drew Mouton a little bit about this," said Barr. "And it's outside of our jurisdiction, as I imagine you all know. It's totally with the Railroad Commission. I'm certainly sympathetic with you and I've been in the same situation, so I understand. But as far as doing anything other than what can be done with the

roads and traffic, I just don't see where we have any jurisdiction in this matter."

Beauchamp said he and other concerned residents are asking for the commissioners court to stand behind them on the matter.

"They did send you guys (the county) some letters," said Beauchamp. "We're just asking the

commissioners court, if it gets down to it, to say no to this also. We're just trying to let you guys know what's going on and ask for your support, even if that just means you signing a letter. We're just asking for support from you guys."

The court took no action on the matter. A representative for Kemper Operating was not pre-

sent at the meeting and attempts to contact the firm by phone were unsuccessful.

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

UW

Continued from Page 1A

Tim Yeats, who will serve as UW campaign chairman in 2008, said there were reasons for future optimism.

"It was like the mayor

said in his State of the City address (Tuesday), there's a lot of good things going on in Big Spring," Yeats said. "The economy seems to be doing well here and there seems to be a lot of optimism. When people are optimistic about their

community and the economy, there is hope that translates into more charitable contributions."

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

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Ben Gomez


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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Romance is in the news. Flowers, dinner, lingerie, chocolate, cards, cologne, jewelry, poetry, music...modern hallmarks of marketing for Valentine's Day. The need for romance in marriage is real but be careful. Do not confuse splash and flash with committed love

"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..." (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).

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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

Make this a very special holiday for loved ones

It's Valentine's Day. Just the mention of this holiday devoted to romance conjures up certain images — roses, chocolate, intimate dinners by candlelight, a quiet evening alone letting the one person we love the most know just how special they are to us.

Valentine's Day mean's different things to different people. It becomes as individual as each of us.

For some, it's a time to go full bore. To spend freely and literally shower the one we love with one lavish gift after another.

Others adopt a more reserved tone. A whispered sentiment. A simple card.

All those varied methods mean the same thing, however.

The message is simple: I love you.

No three words are more warming to the human soul.

Perhaps nothing is more desperately sought by each of us. And certainly, nothing is more difficult to find.

That's because love isn't something you can purchase, regardless of how much you spend.

Love can't be summoned on demand. That's because it's something given freely from the heart.

Love is shared and should be nurtured — not just today, but every day.

Better yet, it should be cherished and cultured every moment.

So, on this Valentine's Day, we hope each of you takes the time to do just that.

Regardless of the manner you choose, let those you love the most know they fill a special place in your heart and your life.

Their lives will be enriched, as will yours.

YOUR VIEWS

TO THE EDITOR:

I am the aunt of Monica Jones, one of the leading players on the Howard College women's basketball team.

Since we (Monica's family) are unable to attend her games, we stay connected on the happenings

through the *Big Spring Herald*.

On behalf of my family here in Pittsburgh, I say thank you Jonathan Hull. Keep up the great reporting. Go Lady Hawks!

Kim Moten
Pittsburgh, Pa.

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

Ultimately we will be better off with You, Lord.

Amen

Time to stop dating violence

Valentine's Day is an opportunity to show our loved ones just how much we care for them.

Sometimes we express our love with a card, flowers or kind words. This year I hope Texas parents will expand their Valentine's Day activities to include talking with their teens about what real love should look like in a dating relationship.

We need to spread the word across our state that abuse in teen dating relationships must stop. That effort must start with education and awareness.

A week before today's holiday, I spoke at a news conference held to raise awareness about teen dating violence. Among the speakers were two teenagers, Nabil Gomez and Manuel Veloz from Reagan County High School, who bravely stood at the podium to spread the word of the dangers of dating violence to parents, the media and most impressively their peers. "Control is not love" was the strong message printed on the poster standing behind them.

Nabil and Manuel are part of a Students Taking Action for Respect (or STAR) Team. STAR is a growing community of more than 400 youth leaders across the state carrying the message of teen dating violence prevention to their

classmates and community groups. The first program of its kind in the nation, STAR has reached more than 13,000 students in 150 Texas communities since its inception.

I'm so proud of Nabil and Manuel and the hundreds of other youth around the state who lend their strong voices to the growing chorus combating the dangers of dating violence. I am proud of them because sometimes it's hardest to confront a friend, more than anyone else, with the message that how they are being treated by a girlfriend or boyfriend is just not right. As much as we adults hope that our message is heard, teens often listen best to their peers.

Unfortunately, relationship abuse among teenagers is all too common, partly because many don't understand what constitutes inappropriate behavior.

While physical and sexual abuse are the obvious offenses, verbal and emotional attacks can also frighten and control a person in a dating relationship.

We must also recognize that this abuse victimizes young men as well as young women.

According to the Texas Council on Family Violence, 75 percent of young people ages 16 to 24 report personally experiencing some form of abuse in their dating relationships or knowing someone who has.

Think about it, if you have four children, teen dating violence will personally touch three of them. As

a mother of a son and a daughter, I find that statistic heartbreaking. We must do all we can to protect Texas children from this kind of abusive behavior.

That's why I am pleased that our state continues to lead on the issue of teen dating prevention efforts. Just last year, Texas passed legislation that requires every school district in the state to create a dating violence policy. We are only the second state to require such a policy in the place children spend most of their time — in school. There is now a National Helpline for teen dating violence, managed in Texas by the Texas Council on Family Violence.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts by educators, lawmakers and the entire Texas Dating Violence and Prevention Team, Texas continues to make the necessary strides to end teen dating violence.

During this season, I urge you to go beyond the usual cards and flowers and show your love for your sister, son or friend by speaking honestly with them. If they are in a hurtful relationship, show your concern and support by listening, encouraging them to get out of the abusive situation and seek help.

Together we can move one step closer to the end of dating violence and make a safer Texas for our youth.

Anita Perry is the First Lady of Texas.



ANITA PERRY



Bondage in the name of tolerance

Rowan Williams, the archbishop of Canterbury, endorsed adopting some aspects of Sharia law for Muslims, lest, he told the BBC, British Muslims be forced to choose between "the stark alternatives of culture loyalty and state loyalty."

Williams' remarks followed a report in the London Telegraph that the British government has made official the practice of paying welfare benefits for multiple wives in polygamous marriages.

The paper reports there are an estimated 1,000 polygamous marriages in the United Kingdom, although no one is sure how accurate that number is.

Polygamy is illegal in the United Kingdom. Yet the British government rewards polygamous families who had married outside the United Kingdom — not with deportation to countries that recognize polygamy, which would make sense — but with extra welfare payments for extra wives.

Great Britain prides itself in its multiculturalism and inclusion. But when the British government subsidizes polygamy and the Anglican leader promotes Sharia, they risk conferring upon extremist Muslim men special status, while relegating Muslim women to

second-class status.

Western democracies function because all citizens are deemed to be equal.

Polygamy is inherently unequal for women. Period. Yet in the name of tolerance, in a bid to make sure they will not be seen as Islamophobic, they enable discrimination.

The timing of the archbishop's comments couldn't be worse. While Williams is enraptured with the rich theological disputes of Muslim scholars, he fails to note that British women are suffering as radical Islamists have been beating up on mainstream Islam.

A new report, "Crimes of the Community, Honor-Based Violence in the U.K." by the Centre for Social Cohesion, catalogs the horror of forced marriages — often after unwitting girls are sent abroad for a "vacation" — female genital mutilation, domestic abuse and an estimated 10 to 12 honor killings in the United Kingdom each year.

The archbishop tried to soften his position by explaining that he does not want to see "extreme" Sharia punishments (especially against women) endorsed by the British legal system. The Islamic Sharia Council already augments divorce settlements — although the honor-violence report suggests that these panels often short-change women and try to pressure them into returning to life-threatening marriages.

It's not only Our Betters in

Europe who, in the name of political correctness, become apologists for polygamists. In 2005, then-Canada Prime Minister Paul Martin commissioned a \$150,000 study to debunk the notion that same-sex marriages could lead to legalized polygamy — only to watch the three law professors on the panel recommend that Canada repeal its anti-polygamy law. Because: "The parties most likely to suffer from this rule are the left-behind wives."

If secular Western nations had bedrock values, maybe there would be no need to worry about Values Creep. But when, as the honor-violence report noted, even women's activists defend female genital mutilation, it's clear that the only absolute in liberal societies is doubt.

Up against fanatics with barbaric ideologies, we are outgunned. We don't even care if they want to hurt us.

"If you had a map of the U.K. showing the location of Islamist groups — or terrorist cells — and you had another map showing the incidence of honor-based violence and you overlaid them, you would find that they were a mirror," noted Nazir Afzal, the Crown prosecutor on honor-based violence.

It makes you wonder if Western nations have a death wish.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@schronicle.com.
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Honda CR-V

Peppy crossover loaded with premium style

Automotive consumers today have more choices than ever before.

Not only do they a variety of products to select from, the quality of vehicles being produced today are absolutely outstanding. These vehicles are safer, cleaner, better equipped and in many cases, more powerful than at any time since Henry Ford cranked up the first automotive assembly line.

One of the hottest segments right now is the crossover market with manufacturers designing and producing vehicles that combine attributes from a number of segments into one vehicle.

This week I had the opportunity to test drive the 2008 Honda CR-V crossover utility, which provides sedan-like handling and fuel economy, yet with the functionality of a five-passenger SUV.

Achieving a five-star crash safety rating by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety for both frontal and side impacts, the CR-V is engineered to be a safety leader in the segment.

While I was well versed in the CR-V's numerous safety features — which includes vehicle stability assist, anti-lock brakes with brake assist and electronic brake distribution, tire pressure monitoring system and

six airbags including side-curtain airbags with rollover sensor — what struck a cord with me before I even sat behind the wheel was the styling.

The 2008

CR-V is an extremely sharp, sporty-looking vehicle. This is a far, far cry from the "box on wheels" styling that seemed to be a popular theme among SUV models as that segment started building steam in the 1990s.

I was even more impressed as I opened the door to find elegant styling throughout the cabin.

While vehicles are meant to carry people and/or cargo from 'Point A' to 'Point B,' how you feel about the vehicle — and more importantly how the vehicle makes you feel — is an important factor when it comes to vehicle ownership.

Next to the purchase of a home, for most of us, our second largest pur-



The 2008 Honda CR-V crossover.

chase is a vehicle.

I have to say, driving around in the CR-V felt pretty darn good.

Ride and handling impressions were higher than expected and I was extremely impressed with the CR-V's performance.

Powered by a 2.4-liter I-4 engine (166 horsepower/161 lbs.-ft of torque) and mated to a five-speed automatic transmission, the 2008 CR-V is available in front- or four-wheel drive configurations. Rated as an Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle and requiring regular unleaded gasoline, it has an EPA fuel economy rating of 20 mpg city, 27 mpg highway (26 mpg highway for 4WD models).

With a base price starting below \$21,000, the CR-V is available in three trim lines: LX, EX and

EX-L (which is also available with the Honda Satellite-Linked Navigation System package).

For the '08 model year, the EX-L trim line has been upgraded with additional features, such as a new dual-zone climate control system and a driver's seat with eight-way power adjustment and a new premium audio system. For consumers in the market for a compact crossover, the 2008 CR-V should be on the test drive list.

Neal White has been 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.

ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2008 Honda CR-V
5-seat compact crossover
Front-; four-wheel drive
Trim packages:
LX, EX, EX-L
PRICE RANGE:
\$21,000-\$30,000
ENGINE:
2.4-L I-4 (166 hp/161 torque)
TRANSMISSION:
5-speed automatic
EPA: 20 mpg city, 27/26 mpg highway (FWD/4WD)
FUEL: Regular unleaded
SUSPENSION: Unibody construction with MacPherson strut front suspension and multi-link rear suspension with front

and rear stabilizer bars.
BRAKES: ABS with electronic brake distribution and brake assist; vehicle stability assist.

LENGTH: 177.9 in.
WHEELBASE: 103.1 inches
WIDTH: 71.6 inches
HEIGHT: 66.1 in.
WEIGHT: 3,389-3,549 lbs.
TRACK: 61.6/61.6 (front/rear)
FUEL TANK: 15.3 gallons
TIRES: 17-inch
TOW CAPACITY: 1,500 lbs.

CARGO: 35.7/72.9 cubic feet (rear seat up/down)

SAFETY: Advanced Compatibility Engineering body structure, pedestrian safety design, vehicle stability assist, side-curtain airbags with rollover sensor, front side airbags with passenger-side occupant position detection system, active front head restraints, dual front airbags, ABS, tire pressure monitoring system.

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News in brief

Justice Department says for first time that waterboarding is not now legal

WASHINGTON (AP) — A senior Justice Department official says laws and other limits enacted since three terrorism suspects were waterboarded has eliminated the technique from what is now legally allowed, going a step beyond what CIA Director Michael Hayden has said.

"The set of interrogation methods authorized for current use is narrower than before, and it does not today include waterboarding," Steven G. Bradbury, acting head of the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, says in remarks prepared for his appearance Thursday before the House Judiciary Constitution subcommittee.

"There has been no determination by the Justice Department that the use of waterboarding, under any circumstances, would be lawful under current law," he said. It is the first time the department has expressed such an opinion publicly.

Bradbury in 2005 signed two secret legal memos that authorized the CIA to use head slaps, freezing temperatures and waterboarding when questioning terror detainees. Because of that, Senate Democrats have opposed his nomination by President Bush to formally head the legal counsel's office.

Bradbury's testimony comes as majority Democrats in Congress try to clamp down on interrogation methods that can be used on terrorism suspects.

Clinton defeats show margins with whites, women, older voters slipping

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton's crushing losses in Maryland and Virginia highlight an erosion in what had been solid advantages among women, whites and older and working-class voters. While this week's results can be explained by those states' relatively large numbers of blacks and well-educated residents — who tend to be Barack Obama supporters — her presidential campaign could be doomed if the trends continue.

Clinton is holding onto some of her supporters who are largely defined by race and often by level of education, such as low-income white workers and older white women, exit polls of voters show. She's been los-

ing other blocs, again stamped by personal characteristics, such as blacks, men and young people both black and white, and better-educated whites.

The latest defeats have slowed the one-time favorite's political momentum at a bad time. With Obama winning eight straight contests and easily outdistancing her in money raising, she must now endure three weeks until primaries in Texas and Ohio that she hopes will resurrect her campaign.

Officials cite plot by al-Qaida-linked militants to assassinate Philippine President Arroyo

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Authorities have uncovered alleged plots by al-Qaida-linked militants to assassinate the Philippine president and bomb foreign embassies, officials said Thursday.

Military chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said the assassination plot allegedly was hatched by the extremist Abu Sayyaf group and its Indonesia-based ally, Jemaah Islamiyah.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Prestoza, head of the Presidential Security Group said police uncovered the plot last week.

"It's not only the president who is the target, but also other people ... and embassies," he said without offering specifics.

The reports followed an announcement by security forces that they were going on high alert over an alleged communist rebel plan to infiltrate protests to demand Arroyo's resignation over corruption charges.

Astronauts work on setting up new Columbus lab after NASA extends Atlantis' mission

HOUSTON (AP) — With two of their three spacewalks completed, the astronauts aboard the linked shuttle-station complex focused Thursday on getting the new Columbus lab up and running.

NASA extended Atlantis' mission by a day on Wednesday to give the crew more time to work on the lab, Europe's main contribution to the international space station.

The activation process has been running a little behind because of computer problems, but flight directors believe they've fixed the glitch.

The crew woke up Thursday to "Consider Yourself"

from the musical "Oliver!" Astronaut Stanley Love thanked his wife, children and extended family, who he joked "may be feeling there's one fewer Love on Earth this Valentine's Day."

"I'd like to assure them that it's great to be up here, and I'll be home soon," he said.

Police say tests indicate Georgian opposition figure died of natural causes

LONDON (AP) — British police said Thursday that interim tests indicate Georgian billionaire Badri Patarkatsishvili, a presidential candidate in the ex-Soviet republic who claimed he was targeted for assassination, had died of natural causes.

Patarkatsishvili, 52, died Tuesday night in his mansion near London less than two months after making the claim that he was being targeted for killing for his role in a protest movement against Georgia's government.

Though the initial autopsy results did not point to foul play, police said they were still waiting for the results of toxicological tests.

"Following initial inquiries and the post mortem carried out last night, Surrey Police can confirm that at this stage there is no indication that the sudden death of Badri Patarkatsishvili was from anything other than natural causes," the department said in a statement.

Ben Bernanke, Henry Paulson will give lawmakers update on flagging economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fighting to keep the U.S. economy afloat, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson will give Congress fresh insights into economic and financial conditions greatly strained by the one-two punch of the housing and credit crises.

The troubles in the housing and credit markets threaten to push the economy into its first recession since 2001 — if it hasn't fallen into one already.

Bernanke, Paulson and Christopher Cox, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, were scheduled to discuss the state of the economy and the nation's financial markets at a Senate Banking Committee Hearing on Thursday.

Six grand jurors filing suit to disclose evidence in case

HOUSTON (AP) — Six members of the grand jury that indicted a Texas Supreme Court justice and his wife over a house fire have filed a lawsuit so they can speak about evidence in the case.

By law, grand jury proceedings are secret.

But the grand jury members say they want to disclose details they heard to a new grand jury. They also want defend themselves from accusations alleging they were a "runaway grand jury," said Jeffrey Dorrell, an attorney who served as the group's assistant foreman.

"The other members of the grand jury felt that our grand jury had been abused and insulted by both the district attorney's office and the defense attorneys in the case," said Dorrell, who filed the suit.

The group is not seeking money or attorney fees.

They were part of a grand jury that last month indicted Texas Supreme Court Justice David Medina on a charge of tampering with a document and his wife Francisca Medina on an arson charge. The charges are related to a June 28 fire that destroyed the Medina's house in the Houston suburb of Spring.

Hours after the indictment, Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal dismissed the charges, citing "insufficient evidence."

Dorrell said he didn't believe the district attorney's office planned to properly investigate the case. Grand jurors had

asked the prosecutor in the case to bring witnesses and evidence to them but that never happened, Dorrell said.

"If he wouldn't do the investigation that we told him to do while we were authorized and empowered to issue those orders, I don't know why he would do it now," Dorrell said. "To be blunt, we don't believe him."

Assistant District Attorney Vic Wisner has said he continues to investigate the circumstances of the fire so he

can have enough evidence to win a case.

"Thinking somebody did something is one thing. Proving somebody did something is another thing," Wisner said.

Wisner said he didn't think a judge would allow the grand jurors suing to disclose details of the evidence they heard behind closed doors.

David Medina's attorney, Terry Yates, said the lawsuit was frivolous.

"There's no basis for it in fact or law," Yates said.

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THURSDAY

Table with 20 columns representing different channels (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN, ESPN, SCIFI) and 10 rows representing different time slots (6:30 PM, 7:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 9:30 PM, 10:30 PM, 11:30 PM, 12:30 AM).

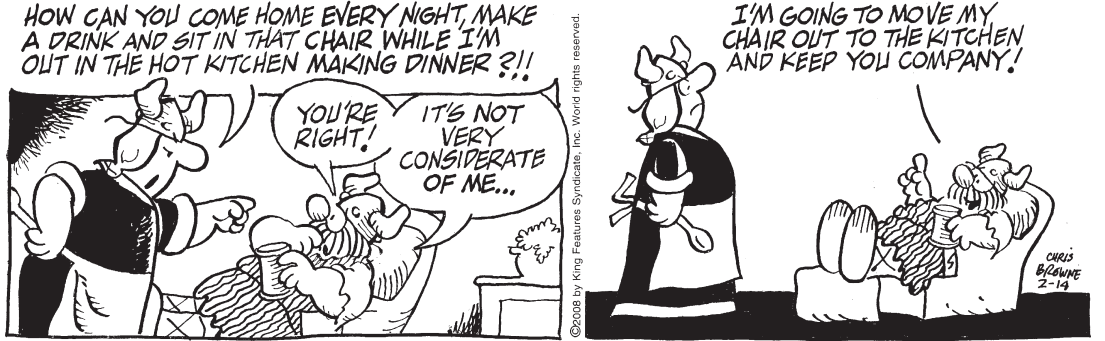
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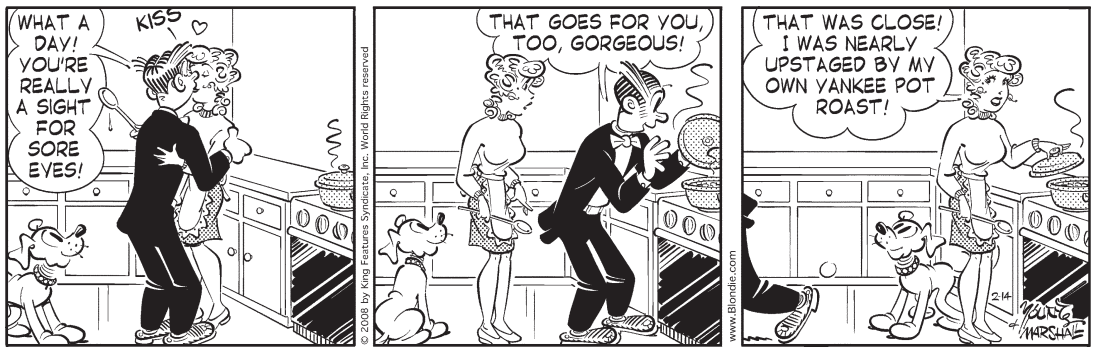
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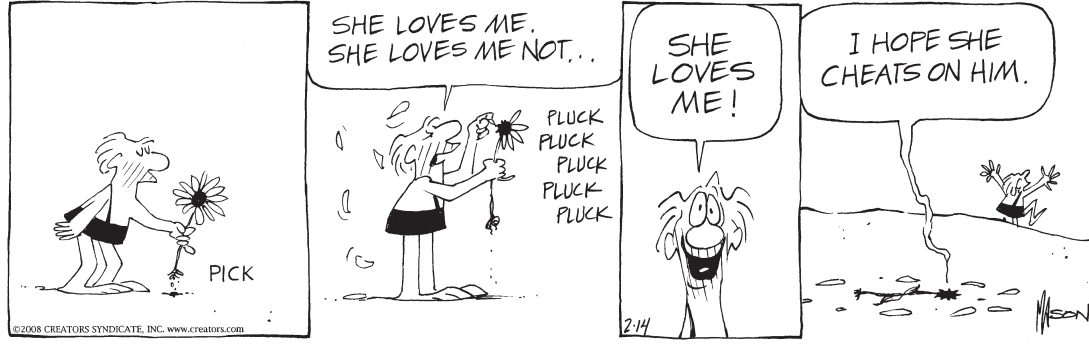
HAGAR



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BC



WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2008. There are 321 days left in the year. This is Valentine's Day. Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 14, 1929, the 'St. Valentine's Day Massacre' took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone's gang were gunned down.

into separate departments of Commerce and Labor in 1913. In 1912, Arizona became the 48th state of the Union. In 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago; its first president was Maud Wood Park.

Actress Meg Tilly is 48. Singer-producer Dwayne Wiggins is 47. Actor Enrico Colantoni is 45. Actor Zach Galligan is 44. Actor Valente Rodriguez is 44. Rock musician Ricky Wolkling (The Nixons) is 42. Tennis player Manuela Maleeva is 41. Rock musician Kevin Baldes (Lit) is 36. Rock singer Rob Thomas (Matchbox Twenty) is 36. Actor Freddie Highmore is 16.

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with letters filled in.

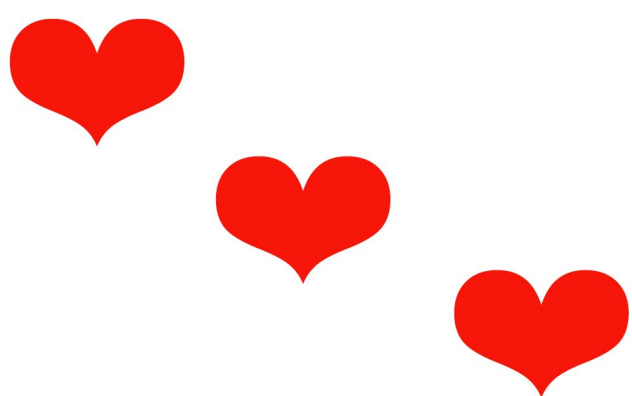
Newsday Crossword

HAIR CARE by Doug Peterson Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

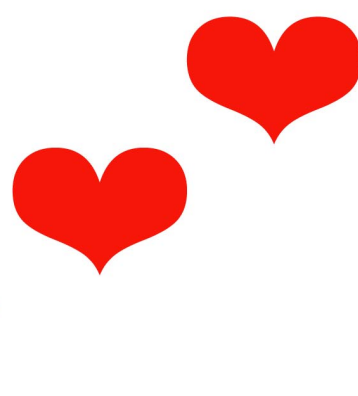
- ACROSS 1 Unreliable source 5 Cribbage counters 9 Molly of classic radio 14 Hairspray mom 15 Auditorium sign 16 Aircraft tracker 17 Gobs and gobs 18 Surrealist Magritte 19 Mazda model 20 Exchanged goodbyes 23 1992 Wimbledon champ 24 Droop 25 Les (Broadway musical, briefly) 28 Sound of disapproval 29 Brand 32 Sharp cheese 34 Sweater material 36 Easily improvised costume 39 Prefix for sphere 40 Inheritance of a sort 41 Ignored 46 Add zest to 47 Chihuahua coin 48 Omega precursor 51 favor 52 Puppy's bite 54 Sports-bar fixtures 56 Uncompromising 60 Hands over 62 Prepare for a closeup

7 Johnny, in Torino 8 Holds back 9 Nearsighted 10 Biblical brother 11 Sydney salutation 12 Tuck in 13 Stat for hurlers 21 Petro-Canada competitor 22 Recreation area in Rouen 26 Hip to 27 Defined area 30 Tucked in 31 Summarize 33 Part of GNMA 34 Mama of pop music 35 Prescribed quantity 36 Culinary meas. 37 Three-layer snack 38 Four-legged protector 42 Admirable quality 43 Oklahoma city 44 Good place for a canal 45 Did a jackknife 48 Illinois River city 49 Impassive ones 50 Lands in a lake 53 Parlor purchase 55 Searched, as for bugs 57 Informal assents 58 "Verb" or "adjective" 59 Snitched 60 18-wheeler section 61 www.usc.

Valentine's Greetings And Expressions Of Love On Valentine's Day!



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Valentine's
Day
Jayden

Love
Granna & Grandpa
Green

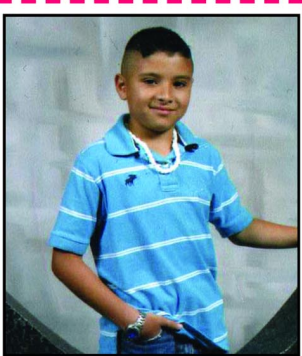


Hayley Jenkins,
Happy
Valentine's Day
from
Daddy!
Love ya!



To: Caitlynn
Happy
Valentine's
Day

Love,
Your Family



Happy
Valentine's
Day
Jeremy

Love
Mom And Dad



Love You!

Grandpa
Pete

&

Grandma
Martha

Happy
Valentine's
Day!
Michael,
Megan, Ryan
& Ethan



Happy
Valentine's
Day
Jeb Worthy

Love
Mama



Happy Valentine's
Day!
DIXIE McCLELLAN

Love,
Bill, Skeeter
& Chase



To The
Loves Of My
Life
Happy
Valentine's
Day!

Love,
Mama



Happy Valentine's Day!

To Jason's Family
& Anita's Family

Love Jason Porter &
Anita Gonzalez



Tessa,
Happy
Valentine's
Day.

Love
Mom And Dad



Happy Valentine's
Day!
Stormi

We Love You, We Are
Proud Of You ...

Mom & Dad



To Our Very Special Valentine



Pat Nunez

Love,
Rick, Ricky,
Chris & Lucky



Happy Valentine's
Day!
Reba

We Love You, We Are
Proud Of You ...

Mom & Dad



Happy Valentine's Day!



Love,
Tony



Happy Valentine's Day!

"Wera"

My One & Only Valentine!
Gilbert



Happy
Valentine's
Day
Grandma Janie

We Love You,
Kloe, Mikayla, Audrie & Gabby



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Mom And Dad
&
Nana & Papa



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