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BIG SPRING HERALD

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 27, 2008



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Soldier's body brought home

Residents line streets in show of appreciation

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Hundreds of local residents lined the streets in tribute as the body of U.S. Army Sgt. Conrad Alvarez returned home to Big Spring Tuesday. An honor guard of soldiers with the Army's 1st Cavalry Division was joined by Big Spring Police Department officers and members of the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle group as they escorted the hearse carrying Sgt. Alvarez's casket from the Big Spring Airport to Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Along the route, hundreds of Big Spring residents, many carrying U.S. flags or messages of support, lined the streets in silent tribute to Alvarez, who was killed in action in Iraq last week. Alvarez, 22, assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, was killed along with two other soldiers Feb. 19 in Baghdad after their vehicle was struck by a bomb, a Department

of Defense news release stated. He is the fifth Howard County resident and the second member of his family to die in that war-torn country since President George W. Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq in 2003. His brother-in-law, Army Pfc. Kristian Menchaca, was kidnapped and later executed by extremists in 2006.

See **SOLDIER**, Page 3A



U.S. Army Sgt. Conrad Alvarez's casket is unloaded at the Big Spring Airport with the help of an honor guard from the Army's 1st Cavalry Division while the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle group stands at attention. Big Spring police and the motorcyclists escorted the family and the hearse carrying the soldier's body to Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Hundreds of people lined the route to pay tribute to the fallen soldier and his family.

HERALD photos/
Lyndel Moody and Steve Reagan

Bids sought for city animal shelter

\$350,000 facility should open in early to mid-2009, officials say

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council got the ball rolling Tuesday evening on the second big project authorized by voters in the 2007 bond election. The council voted unanimously to advertise for bids to construct a new animal shelter adjacent to the current facility

on the 11th Place extension. The city has already issued more than \$400,000 in certificates of obligation to cover construction of the 2,000-square-foot facility, funds that should prove to be more than enough to cover expenses, City Finance Director Peggy Walker said. Architect Phil Fuqueron of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper

estimated construction costs for the facility to be around \$350,000. The additional money will cover related expenses such as engineering fees and equipment for the new facility, Walker said. Assistant City Manager Todd Darden said the council will review bids in March, with the 12-month construction project

starting within weeks after the winning bid is accepted. If all goes well, Darden said, the new animal shelter should be up and running by early or mid-2009. Also Tuesday, the council tentatively approved two zoning changes that will allow additional businesses to open shop in Big Spring.

The first, which passed unanimously, will change the zoning designation of property located at 100 E. 18th from single family to neighborhood services. Darden said the action will give the go-ahead for construction of an interior decorating business at that location.

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Rotary celebrates 80 years

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

For 80 years, they've been singing "Vive Le Rotary" in Big Spring. Local Rotarians celebrated the 80th anniversary of the club's founding here during a ceremony Tuesday at Howard College. Chartered with Rotary International Feb. 23, 1928, the Rotary Club of Big Spring was the first civic organization of its kind in

Big Spring. There are now two Rotary clubs that meet

See **ROTARY**, Page 3A

HERALD photo/Steve Reagan
Michael Graves, left, district governor of Rotary International, presents a plaque to local Rotary Club President Pete Thiry commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Big Spring organization during a ceremony Tuesday afternoon.



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Page 1B
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar THURS.-SAT.

Big Spring baseball at Monahans Tournament.

Big Spring softball at Killeen Tournament.

Forsan baseball at Wall Tournament.

Forsan softball at Snyder Tournament.

Coahoma baseball at Sweetwater Tournament.

Coahoma softball at Lubbock tournament.

Lady Steers falter, Midland High runs away with 11-0 win

Big Spring's Lady Steers kept up with Midland High's Lady Bulldogs for five innings, but unraveled in the sixth for an 11-0 defeat in Midland.

Big Spring trailed 4-0 at the end of the fifth inning, surrendering just four hits and committing just two errors at that point.

Momentum swung heavily into Midland's favor in the sixth with the Lady Steers' fielding deficiencies providing the Lady Bulldogs with ample opportunities.

In the end, the Lady Steers committed seven errors and allowed seven runs in the sixth inning alone. The game was then called due to the 10-run mercy rule.

Big Spring travels to Killeen for a tournament beginning Thursday.

Lady Buffs torch Colorado City's Lady Wolves, 17-10

Forsan's Lady Buffaloes improved their record to 4-4 Tuesday in Colorado City, outslugging the Colorado Lady Wolves, 17-10.

Forsan scored eight runs in the first inning with three batters — Shelby Jones, Kaela Strickland and Kelsey Jones — hitting twice in the inning.

The Lady Wolves cut Forsan's lead in half in the third, scoring four runs on six hits.

The Lady Buffs added two more runs in the bottom of the fourth on two fielder's choice hits by Alyx Pappajohn and Keyv O'Brien.

Leading 10-5 heading into the fifth, the Lady Buffs proceeded to outscore Colorado City 7-5 over the last three innings.

Forsan plays in the Snyder Tournament, starting Thursday.

Last chance for Big Spring Girls Softball registration

The Big Spring Girls Softball Association has its last day for registering 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.

Buffaloes open season with win over McCamey

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

FORSAN — Some high school baseball teams struggle to make the transition from the hardwood of a basketball court to the diamond.

Forsan's Buffaloes made the change of scenery appear simple Tuesday in their season opener. The Buffs played a solid all-around game, defeating McCamey, 7-3.

The Buffs played it smart on the mound as Head Coach Jason Phillips used the guys who didn't have to make a change in what sport they were focused on. Ray Martinez earned the win, striking out eight batters and giving up three runs — one earned —

on four hits in six innings of work. Dylan Lowery retired the final three batters of the game in the seventh, striking out two.

"The two guys we used on the mound today have been out here everyday, so their arms are in the best shape right now," Phillips said. "Both guys were great for a season opener."

McCamey scored one unearned run in the top of the first inning, but didn't register another hit until the sixth as Martinez allowed just one base runner from the second inning to the fifth.

The Buffs, meanwhile, showed both patience and power at the

See FORSAN, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull
Forsan Buffaloes pitcher Ray Martinez winds up in the Buffs' season opener 7-3 win over McCamey Tuesday in Forsan. Martinez struck out eight batters in six innings of work.



Courtesy photo/James Schwartz
Garden City Bearkats guard Cole Schwartz dribbles up the court after stealing the ball from a Fort Davis defender in the Bearkats' win Tuesday night in a Class A, Division II regional quarterfinal playoff game in Monahans.

Bearkats advance to regional tourney

By EVAN JANSA

Special to the Herald

Interstate 20 will again be lined with a convoy of vehicles headed east from Glasscock County Thursday and Friday.

The No. 17 Garden City Bearkats basketball team compete for a shot at the state tournament in the Class A, Division II, Region II Tournament in Fort Worth Friday. This comes after the Lady Bearkats played in the same tournament this past weekend.

A third gold basketball was added to the 2008 trophy collection by the Kats Tuesday night. Garden City (22-8) defeated a familiar foe — the Fort Davis Indians — 49-34 at the Jerry

Larned Sports Complex in Monahans.

Fort Davis surprised the ranked Bearkats during the first period, outscoring them 10-4. A tenacious trapping defense coupled with tremendous hustle caused the 'Kats to commit four turnovers in the opening stanza. "We just came out flat," Garden City Head Coach Koby Abney said. "All we could do was tell the kids to not get too up or down emotionally."

The second period was an exhibition of the mantra Garden City has lived and died by the entire season — defense.

Down 19-11, Cole Schwartz scored on two consecutive possessions. His second basket was

a layup created by a sneaky steal by the junior guard.

"Cole is the kind of player that doesn't get a whole lot of attention," Abney said. "He makes all the plays that don't show up on a stat sheet."

Schwartz put the clamps on Fort Davis' top scorer Joe Ramos, holding him to only 10 points.

"Coming in I knew he was a good shooter," Schwartz said of Ramos, "but I also got great defensive help from my teammates."

Garden City outscored the Indians 15-11 in the second frame, but still trailed 21-19 at

See BEARKATS, Page 4B

Panthers pound Big Spring

Herald Staff Report

ODESSA — After starting the season with two dominant wins over San Angelo Central and Sweetwater, the Big Spring Steers baseball team was brought back down to earth Tuesday.

The Steers gave up nine runs in the first two innings and suffered a 12-2 loss at the hands of their ungracious host, the Odessa Permian Panthers.

"It's a wake up call," said Steers Head Coach Burt Otto. "We struggled to find the strike zone and walked a few batters. Everytime we'd walk one or two, Permian would get a hit and knock them in."

Big Spring led after its part of the first inning with leadoff hitter Martin Yanez, who reached base after being hit by a pitch, was knocked in courtesy of a single from starting pitcher Cade Hollandsworth to center field.

However, Hollandsworth's hit was only one of three obtained by the Steers.

Meanwhile, the junior hurler continued to struggle on the mound and the Steers' missed on opportunities to stop the bleeding in the second inning.

After giving up four runs in the first, Big Spring had already surrendered two in the second with only one out. The Steers had a chance to end the inning with a double-play ball, but instead committed an error and eventually allowed three more runs to score.

See STEERS, Page 4B

Wylie rallies late, beats Bulldogettes

By BRANDON HALLFORD

Special to the Herald

COAHOMA —The Coahoma Bulldogettes (3-4) came into their home opener with the Abilene Wylie Lady Bulldogs having only logged three full practices since switching over from basketball season.

The Bulldogettes looked as if they had made the transition to the diamond for three innings, fashioning a 1-0 lead when a Berkley Iden bunt single followed by an Abilene Wylie errant throw allowed Joanna Gonzales to scoot around from second base in the second inning.

However, Wylie caught up to Newton and took advantage of Coahoma errors to win, 7-3.

The Lady Bulldogs pulled even in the top of the fourth after second baseman Karesten Davis singled to right. Davis scored two batters later when Breanna Fowlkes lofted a fly ball to center

for the sacrifice.

The Bulldogettes, however, were able to get out of the inning without further damage when catcher Janice Gonzales quickly fired a throw to third nailing a Lady Bulldog runner who was trying to advance on the throw home.

Things remained the same until the top of the fifth, when the wheels fell off for the Bulldogettes.

After a Davis single put runners on first and second with two out, the Lady Bulldogs' number three hitter Kelly Wheeler drove the third pitch she saw off of the left field wall for a double.

The Lady Bulldogs were far from done, however, as Fowlkes followed up the Wheeler shot with one of her own to gather up the RBI.

Fowlkes made the score 5-1, motoring around from second when a throwing error by the

See COAHOMA, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull
Coahoma's Joanna Gonzales hits an infield single in the Bulldogettes' 7-3 loss to Abilene Wylie Tuesday in Coahoma's home opener.



Courtesy photo
These Coahoma High School students recently won first division medals for their vocal solos at Region 6 Solo and Ensemble contest held at Odessa College. They are Kyla Clark, junior; Megan Parrish, sophomore; Teryn Bibb, senior; and Hayli McCullough, sophomore. All received their medals for Class II solos except for Teryn, who sang a Class I solo and will advance to Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest in San Marcos in May.

Take Note

• Members of the Staked Plains Masonic Lodge 598 will present Paul Smith with the Golden Trowel — the group's most distinguished award — Thursday following a meal slated for 6:30 p.m. at 519 Main Street. All of Paul's friends are invited to attend. For more information, contact Jerry Barker at 263-1054.

• The Howard County Youth Horseman Club is sponsoring an equine shot clinic from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at the HCYHC arena on the Garden City Highway. Brock Veterinarian Clinic of Lamesa is providing the services. You do not have to be a member to participate. Call (432) 599-2934 if you have questions.

• Big Spring High School will be offering the Exit Level TAKS Retest, March 3-7, 2008. Please report to the High School Library at 8 a.m. Bring a picture I.D.

Dates are, March 3, Social Studies; March 5, English Language Arts; March 6, Math; March 7, Science.

• A fund has been established to help pay expenses for Sean Bailey, 25, who was injured in an oil-field 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.

• 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.

SOLDIER

Continued from Page 1A

Alvarez was born in Sweetwater and raised in Roscoe before moving to Big Spring in 2004. He enlisted in the Army in

2005 and was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq at the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife, Maira, of Oakgrove, Ky., two daughters, Alyssa and Celeste, his mother and step-father, Belinda and Pete Garcia

of Big Spring, sister Christina Menchaca, brother Timothy Alcalá, plus an aunt and nephew.

A vigil service for Alvarez will be held at 7 p.m. today in Myers & Smith Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services will be

held at 11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home, followed by burial with full military honors at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

Public viewing of the casket will be held until Thursday's services, said Bill Myers, director of Myers & Smith.

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

ROTARY

Continued from Page 1A

weekly and members from both groups were on hand for Tuesday's ceremony.

Michael Graves, district governor for Rotary International, presented local club president Pete Thiry with a plaque com-

memorating the anniversary.

Both clubs collaborate on community service projects that include the Rotary Park located downtown and efforts to encourage literacy by distributing dictionaries to all third grade students in the Big Spring Independent School District at

Christmastime. "The Big Spring Rotarians have a long tradition of service to their communities," Graves said.

A look at the local membership is like reading a Who's Who list of Big Spring leaders, Thiry said.

"The quality of its members is what I like best

about being in Rotary," he said. "Leaders of the community are Rotarians ... and they go out and perform the Rotary motto, which is 'Service Above Self.'"

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

The second zoning change proved to be a bit more contentious, as the council voted by a 5-2 margin — with Mayor Russ McEwen and Councilman Greg Biddison dissenting — to switch the designation of almost all property on the 1500 block of E. FM 700 from office and retail use to light commercial.

Richard Wright, owner of Water, Water, wants to construct a car wash at 1515 E. FM 700, which would be adjacent to his store, but cannot without the zoning change.

McEwen expressed concern about the action because it would result in commercial-use property bumping up against residential areas and could result in "spot-zoning" —

the block would be entirely zoned for light commercial use, with the exception of the lot occupied by Slaton Insurance, which is designated as office use only.

The council will consider giving final approval to both zoning changes when it next meets on March 11.

In other business, the council approved final readings of resolutions that will:

- Authorize the design and bidding for the construction of an 11-inch

deep concrete runway at the Big Spring Airport

- Update the Code of Ordinances to reflect changes in international building and electrical codes.

- Call for a municipal election on May 10.

- Update the list of city personnel authorized to transmit and withdraw money from the Texpool fund.

- Authorize the fire chief to reimburse new or recently hired employees who have paid their own fire academy tuition and

fees.

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Marge Kolden, 79, died Thursday. Memorial Services were at 10:00 AM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Sgt. Conrad Alvarez, 22, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 11:00 AM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Vigil Services will be at 7:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel.

Linda Vaughn, 62, died Tuesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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Red hot Rockets lose Yao for season

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — All-Star center Yao Ming is out for the season with a stress fracture in his left foot, a stunning blow to the surging Houston Rockets.

General manager Daryl Morey made the announcement Tuesday, hours before the Rockets put their 12-game winning streak on the line against the Washington Wizards.

Yao was having a terrific season, averaging 22 points and 10.8 rebounds per game.

"It is not an injury we feel he can play with," Rockets team doctor Tom Clanton said. "I've made the recommendation that it be treated surgically and we are working with him to get other opinions just to be certain that that is indeed what should be done."

If Yao chooses surgery, Clanton said, it would involve placing screws across the bone to hold it together. The second option would be to treat it with

a cast and crutches. Both options involve a healing time of about four months.

Clanton would not say when Yao could play again, but said he doesn't expect the center to miss the Beijing Olympics in August.

That possibility is weighing heavily on him though.

"If I cannot play in the Olympics for my country this time, it will be the biggest loss in my career to right now," he said.

He doesn't even want to think about how his absence in the game would affect his fans in China.

"I don't want to try, actually and I don't want to know either," he said.

Coach Rick Adelman and Morey told the team before Tuesday's shootaround. Yao said it was a difficult day for him from the moment he walked into the building.

"When coach tells everybody I am out for the season, every-

body is like quiet," he said. "That kind of quietness makes me feel kind of scared, it was quiet like nobody was there and you just feel alone."

Morey said he doesn't believe the injury compromises Houston's playoff hopes. The Rockets were 36-20 entering Tuesday's game.

"We've been playing exceptional ball and Yao's been a huge part of that," Morey said. "We feel very confident about our playoff push. We've managed to step up and play well without Yao in the past and coaches and players feel confident that we're going to continue to play well and make the playoffs this year."

Morey acknowledged that it was difficult news to receive when the team has been playing so well.

"It's a pretty big swing from a high to a low, with how we were playing," Morey said. "We feel like our supporting cast is superior to when we played

without Yao in the past. We remain ready for the challenge ahead."

Clanton said there was no specific event that led to the injury, but rather an "accumulation of stresses on the bone. Yao first experienced soreness and pain in his ankle before the All-Star game and tests were done Monday when the situation didn't improve.

This is Yao's fourth major injury in the last two years. He missed 32 games last season with a fracture in his right leg and 21 games in late 2006 with a toe infection that required surgery. He missed four games in April 2006 after breaking his foot.

Houston went 20-12 when Yao was injured last season.

The Rockets, who remain in seventh place in the tough Western Conference despite their winning streak, will now have to rely heavily on 41-year-old Dikembe Mutombo. The 17-year veteran has been averag-

ing just eight minutes per game.

"I really feel bad for Yao," Adelman said. "It's just such a shocker. Yesterday morning he was OK and then four hours later, he wasn't. It's tough on everybody, but we've got to move on."

Yao said he took Tracy McGrady aside after speaking to the team and told him the success of the team is up to him now.

"We're in a good situation right now," he said he told McGrady. "Right now is your time."

On Tuesday, the Rockets signed Bobby Jones to a 10-day contract and released Adam Haluska.

While it took more than two weeks to discover Yao's injury, Clanton said it sometimes takes months to diagnose.

"This is something that can be treated," he said. "We are catching this at a very early stage."

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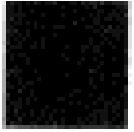
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"Se Habla Espanol"

Canyon coach Lombard can get win No. 1,000 with 3A title

By JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — In Texas girls basketball, two things seem almost inevitable: A Joe Lombard-coached team will make the state tournament and will very likely win it.

Lombard, whose Canyon girls annually rumble out of the High Plains to claim trophy after trophy, is on his way back to Austin this week with a personal goal at stake.

If Canyon can get to Saturday's Class 3A state final and win it, Lombard will reach career win No. 1,000.

"We're trying to keep that low key," Lombard half-whispered during a telephone interview so as not to brag about it in front of his team. "(But) I can't believe the timing. It's kind of amazing."

The Eagles (30-3) play Navasota (36-3) on Thursday in the semifinals.

Just as amazing as the number of Lombard's victories is how few games he lost. Lombard is likely to get to career win No. 1,000 before he gets career loss 100. His career record in 30 seasons at Nazareth and Canyon is 998-92.

"He could lose every game for the next 20 years and still be above .500," Canyon Athletic Director Todd Howey said.

The Indiana native has built a resume of stunning success with 13 state titles, four in the last five years, and his teams have never won fewer than 25 games in a season.

His 2002-2003 Canyon team that featured McDonald's All-Americans Brooke Baughman and Kalee Carey was ranked No. 1 in the country by USA Today.

Lombard estimates he's sent 90 players to college on scholarship. His first head coaching job was taking over a successful Nazareth program in 1978-79.

The Swiftettes had won back-to-back titles and Lombard promptly led them to another. It was the first of four straight championship seasons for Lombard and Nazareth.

Starting in 1983, he coached the Nazareth boys for two years — while he was still coaching the girls — leading the boys to state runner-up finishes both times. Oh yeah, he still managed to win the girls' titles those two years.

In 1985, he moved to Canyon and its rugged terrain and ranchlands about 15 miles south of Amarillo, not far from the Palo Duro Canyon.

He won his first title with the Eagles in 1992 and they've been a dominating force ever since.

"It's not that our season is defined by making the state tournament, but I think in the back of our mind we expect to get to Austin every year," Lombard said.

Garden City will face the May Tigers Friday in the Region II semifinal in Fort Worth. Tip-off is set for 4 p.m. at the Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center, a venue the Kats are familiar with, having played two games in the building last year.

"We know what to expect in Fort Worth," Cole Schwartz said. "There aren't any easy wins left."

Garden City 4 15 16 14-49
Fort Davis 10 11 7 6-34

Garden City: Wade Jansa 26, Eric Hirt 8, Cole Schwartz 6, Jake Schwartz 4, Bo Eggemeyer 3, Nick Sanchez 2

Fort Davis: Adrian Hernandez 10, Joe Ramos 10, Jeffrey Alvarado 5, Marcus Hartnett 5, Dustin Brito 2, Charles Granado 2

BEARKATS

Continued from Page 1B

halftime.

After the half, the Kats came out energized and, more importantly, composed. Senior point guard Bo Eggemeyer orchestrated the 'Kats offense impeccably in the third quarter. Garden City dissected the Fort Davis defense with set plays and finished the frame on a 5-0 run.

With a comfortable 35-28 lead at the start of the fourth quarter, the 'Kats' big men took control of the game. Defensively, the 'Kats were lead by Jake Schwartz whose block with 1:57 remaining in the fourth proved to be the dagger for the Indians. Senior Wade Jansa tallied 10 of his game high 26 points in the final frame.

"We would definitely rather go inside offensively," Abney said. "We're not going to win a three-point shooting contest with anyone."

The journey to their regional quarterfinal triumph for the 'Kats was anything but normal. Abney, suffering from pneumonia, was hospitalized Monday and was not released until 2:30 on Tuesday. Assistant coach Alonzo Garcia and Lady Bearkats assistant Mickey Baker conducted Monday's preparation for the playoff contest. While Abney was on the sideline, it was Garcia who communicated instruction to the players.

"I can't say enough about the work Coach Garcia and Coach Baker did," Abney said. "I also credit the kids for not letting the circumstances affect their play."

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STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

"We didn't commit a lot of errors, but we had some inopportune ones," Otto said. "We made mistakes and Permian took advantage of them."

The Steers didn't cross the plate again until the fourth inning when they

were already trailing, 9-1. Nathan Doport scored from third while the Permian fielders were distracted, trying to tag out Matt Ritchey, who was caught in a run down between first and second.

Unfortunately, that's all the runs Big Spring could manage. Permian added two more in the bottom of the fourth and one in the

fifth before the game was called via the 10-run mercy rule.

Hollandsworth took the loss and finished the game 2-for-3 at the plate with an RBI and Doport collected the Steers' only other hit.

Big Spring takes part in the Monahans Tournament, playing Pecos at 8 a.m. Thursday.

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Troop Salute: Sisters Rita and Janet

"Hi Dad, this is a surprise from your two daughters in Iraq, Rita and Janet!" "Rita" is Spc. Rita Fleckenstein, serving in the Army Military Police in Rustamiyah, Iraq. "Janet" is SSgt. Janet Hudson, serving as an Army Transportation Coordinator in Balad, Iraq.

"Dad" is Richard Fleckenstein, who has long been a resident of Big Spring. He was once DJ at KBYG. Janet sent the information for this column, by e-mail. She wrote, "I would like my father to open the paper and smile when he sees us looking at him."

Her dad sends copies to her of these Troop Salutes. In one article in particular, Laura Lewis, who is stationed in Balad where Janet is stationed, sent a greeting to her family and Janet wanted to do the same.

Janet joined the Army in 1983 when she graduated from Big Spring High School, and served 15 years as a food service specialist until the Army drawdown in 1999. She immediately joined the National Guard and was allowed to go back on active duty again in January 2007.

Rita also joined the Army after graduation from Big Spring High School in 1984 and served

until 1988. When Janet told Rita that she was going on active duty, Rita re-enlisted in September 2006, going three months before Janet was processed into active duty in January 2007.

Rita was then sent to Iraq in May 2007, and Janet arrived there two months later. The following month, Aug. 1, Janet was allowed to fly from Balad to Mosul to pin the insignia of Rita's promotion on her uniform. This was very meaningful to both of them.

About Rita (from Janet)

"When not in Iraq, Rita is stationed with the 54th MP Co, Fort Lewis, Wash. She has a home in Ajo, Ariz., is single and has no children. Rita was an outstanding addition to the BSHS swim team throughout her high school years. In civilian status, Rita worked with the mentally challenged adults in New York as well as Arizona. She did basic training and AIT at Fort McClellan, Ala. Upon re-entry, she did her military police training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Her service included being stationed in Stuttgart, Germany and Washington, D.C. She enjoys reading and her large doses of coffee. Rita came back in when I notified her that I was coming back in. Her awards include the Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Ribbon, Army Achievement medals, Army Accommodation medals and the Army Good Conduct medal. She



Sisters SSgt. Janet Hudson and Spc. Rita Fleckenstein.

is my hero!"

About Janet:

Janet, divorced, has a 16-year-old daughter, Brittini. Janet ran with the BSHS track and field team throughout high school. She attended basic and advanced training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Then she was stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., Camp Humphries in Korea, Fort Carson, Colo., Nurnberg, Germany, and Fort Lee, Va. She did tours in Somalia and Cuba. By 1999, the army was reducing its size and troops were encouraged to leave the service. Janet came home, but joined the National Guard, where she served until 2006. She also worked as a construction laborer and worked at a steel plant in Kentucky during this period. She was approved for re-activation in 2006 and entered in 2007. She has only four years left before retirement.

Janet wrote that information, with some description of the down side of living in Iraq, and

was accepted for air assault training, and is now air assault qualified if she is needed. Thus the pride in the wings. She didn't go for Airborne, for, as she wrote, "The jumping out of an airplane thing just didn't do it for me." I think I would have felt the same. Her home is in Clarksville, Tenn., a few blocks and a state line from Fort Campbell, Ky.

The Fleckenstein Family

Richard and Nancy Fleckenstein moved to Big Spring from Ajo, Ariz., in 1977. Here they reared the two girls and two boys, Steve and John and two other girls, Lisa and Carol. Steve still lives in Big Spring with his wife, Beth, and works as a correctional officer in Colorado City. John has a son named John Michael. Lisa has two children, Amy and Royce. Carol has one son, Ricky. Only Steve still lives in Big Spring. Nancy, their mother, is now Nancy Huber, and lives in Illinois. Both Richard and Steve are

Army veterans.

What it is like in Iraq:

"Being in Iraq really allows one to appreciate the small things that make life good. I miss real milk! I am a big 2 percent milk drinker and I can't wait to drink a whole gallon. I miss still being asleep when I get back in bed after having to use the bathroom in the middle of the night ... instead of walking a football field in freezing weather to go and lay wide awake again before going back to sleep. First and foremost of course, is being able to hug my daughter everyday. I miss hearing my dogs bark. It will be nice to have a night's sleep without helicopters flying over sounding like they are going to land on the living quarters. Showers are off limits at 10:30 p.m. (water shortage). I am proud to be here, though, and to have the feeling of serving a purpose. Oh ... I really miss my raspberry daiquiris,

See **SALUTE**, Page 6A



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Why not check this out? At the library

I appreciate the Herald for sometimes gussying up the column with cover art of some of the new books; it really looks special.

The library is considering switching over to a new cataloging/circulation system and this is one of the options. For example, when you select a certain search term and the books are displayed on screen, instead of just "numbers" you will also get a display of the cover, another tool to help find the item you want.

Sometimes when people ask for a certain book, they will say, "You know, the green (or blue or red) book."



HOLLIS
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Biographies

• **"Can't Buy Me Love: The Beatles, Britain and America"** (782.421 GOU J). Written by Jonathon Gould, this is a masterful group biography of one of the iconoclastic music groups of our times. Gould places the Beatles in the broad look at the 1960s and talks about their influence on millions of lives. He speaks of who influenced their sound, chronicles their growth as songwriters and singers as well as the advances in recording, radio and television. A pivotal look at an important group in the history of music.

• **"American Jenny: The Remarkable Life of Lady Randolph Churchill"** by Anne Sebba.

A short history lesson: Many persons may not know (or care) that Winston Churchill's mother was an American, born in Brooklyn. After a whirlwind romance, Jennie Jerome married Lord Randolph Churchill in 1847. She became one of the most talked about women in the British aristocracy. Americans speak plainly and many times she spoke out fearlessly on many things that women (of her time) weren't even supposed to know. Politically astute and a businesswoman,

SALUTE

Continued from Page 1A

too!"

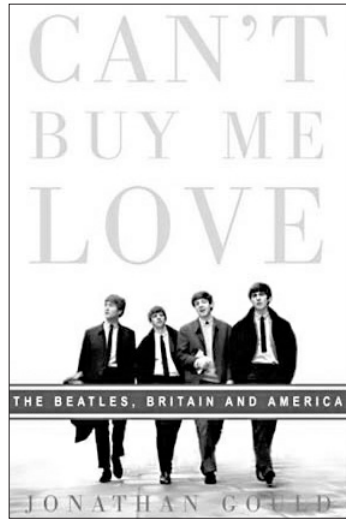
Rita's communications had been sabotaged, and I have not heard directly from her. Janet has been in some communication with her however and sends greetings from both of them to their friends and relatives at home. They miss you, and are looking forward to seeing you before the end of 2008.

Big Spring people have been generous in keeping in touch with the girls and they asked me to express their appreciation for all who have. They feel particularly grateful for the Canterbury residents and St. Mary's Church.

Do you have a story about your own family members in the military? For submissions or more information, e-mail Lane Bond at lane@bondwebs.com, call (432) 263-4033 or visit www.bondwebs.com. Leave your phone number or include it in your e-mail or letter.

she directed her energies to her husband and her son, Winston Churchill. If you like history, you must read this.

• **"Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography"** by David Michaelis. Charles Schulz was and is one of the most understood figures in American culture. He was the son of a barber, growing up in a modest home. He chose themes that had never before been attempted in a comic strip. Loneliness, melancholy, the never ending look for love — all lightened with a comic touch. Do check out "Schulz and Peanuts;" you will find eternal truths. The first one, is never let Lucy



THE BEATLES, BRITAIN AND AMERICA
JONATHAN GOULD

hold the football!

In addition, the Library has received **"Escape"** by Carolyn Jessop and finally a baseball book for the upcoming season, **"I Live For This: Baseball's Last True Believer"** by Bill Plaschke with Tommy Lasorda.

New fiction
Ursula Hegi newest is **"The Worst**

Thing I've Done." Her first book was **"Stones From the River."** Robert Harris has written **"The Ghost."** The premise of this particular book is that the now retired prime minister of Great Britain is writing his memoirs. The first ghost-writer winds up dead. The second "ghost" is

wary of involvement but becomes fascinated by the PM's charisma. It does take a lot of the story line from today's headlines and would be a good "read." Prior books he has written (and the library has) are **"Fatherland," "Imperium," "Pompeii"** and **"Archangel."**

Americas was like before the Europeans crashed the party.

Among the revelations: The first Americans may not have come over the Bering land bridge around 12,000 B.C. but by boat along the Pacific coast 10 or even 20 thousand years earlier; the Americas were a far more urban, more populated, and more technologically advanced region than generally assumed; and the Indians, rather than living in static harmony with nature, radically engineered the land-

scape across the continents, to the point that even "timeless" natural features like the Amazon rainforest can be seen as products of human intervention.

This book was brought to my attention by someone who heard him speak at Jamestown's 400th year celebration. — *Review is taken from Amazon.COM.*

Remember, every Monday, the AARP sponsored tax preparing service is here at the

See **LIBRARY**, Page 7A



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Teen Dating Violence

No relationship is perfect. However, watch for some of the warning signs of a violent relationship.

- Do you feel powerless in the relationship?
- Are you afraid of your partner's temper?
- Are you afraid to disagree?
- Are you being told what to do?
- Are you forced or pressured to have sex?
- Are you afraid to break up?
- Is your partner jealous or possessive?
- Does your partner try to control you?
- Does your partner hit, kick, shove you or throw things at you?

KEEP SAFE IN DATING SITUATIONS:

Know thyself - Have alone time explore your own interests, desires and beliefs

Consider Expectations and boundaries - Decide what to expect and what behaviors you will not tolerate.

Communicate expectations - Talk things out regarding sexual issues. Miscommunication, guessing or making assumptions can be dangerous and extremely hurtful. Avoid these situations by talking things out.

Pay attention to your feelings - If a situation feels wrong or scary, you may be in **Danger**, trust your feelings and get out of that situation.

Notice changes in your relationship - If someone stops respecting you and your boundaries, this person may end up taking advantage of you. Believe that it can happen to you.

TRUE LOVE / HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP means

- No threatening behavior
- Gender equality
- Respect
- Honesty and Accountability
- Trust and support

GET HELP

Get help immediate - Talk to someone you trust like a parent, teacher, school principal, counsel or nurse.

Adults are mandate reporters - This means they are legally required to report neglect or abuse to someone else such as police or child protective services.

If you want help deciding whom to talk to call our national crime victim helpline at 1-880-FYI-CALL OR LOCALLY CALL Victim Services of Big Spring at 263-3312.

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 <p>2003 Lincoln Navigator Jet Black, All Options. \$16,950</p>	 <p>2005 F350 Powerstroke 4X4 Lariat Package \$24,950</p>
 <p>2004 Nissan Maxima Sunroof, 61K, Like New. \$15,950</p>	 <p>2008 F250 Powerstroke Lariat 4X4 9,000 Miles, Full Factory Warranty \$43,950</p>

111 Gregg • 267-8787

203 Gregg • 714-4787

210 Gregg • 263-2382

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 6A

library. Hours of service are 8 a.m. until noon. The event takes place in the basement; you enter at the glass door to the right of the main entrance. There is an elevator for those who need to take it down to the basement.

Howard County Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The library will be closed Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22 for the Easter holiday.

The Internet/Video room is closed from noon until 2 p.m. Monday to Friday and it will close 12 hour before closing. The library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260. The Web site is www.howard-county.lib.tx.us.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.



Courtesy photo
 Local AARP program coordinator and longtime volunteer Gloria Hopkins, center, accepts the Masonic Community Builders Award from Staked Plains Lodge 598 representatives Paul Smith, Lodge Master Jerry Barker, and past Lodge Masters Bob Noyes and Lane "Bo" Clawson. Hopkins received the award in recognition of her tireless years of volunteerism in Howard County.

Contact the Herald at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com



Courtesy photo
 Local businessman Mike Abusaab took steps toward making a college education a reality for more Howard County students as he made a \$3,000 contribution to the scholarship fund at Howard College. Abusaab delivered the check to Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, Howard College president.

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Southwest Convenience Stores / 7-Eleven, along with Alon USA and The Big Spring Refinery would like to thank Big Spring and the surrounding communities for all their support over the past week.

Southwest Convenience Stores/ 7-Eleven would like to take this opportunity to show our support of our sister company, The Big Spring Refinery as well as the Big Spring community.

Please visit us at any of the 7 Big Spring 7-Eleven locations for a FREE Big Gulp, 28-Oz. Slurpee or 20-Oz. cup of coffee.

Saturday, March 1, 2008
12:00 p.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.

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Inside The Big Spring Mall Mon-Sat. - 10-7 pm
Sun. - 1 pm - 5 pm 263-4444

WEDNESDAY

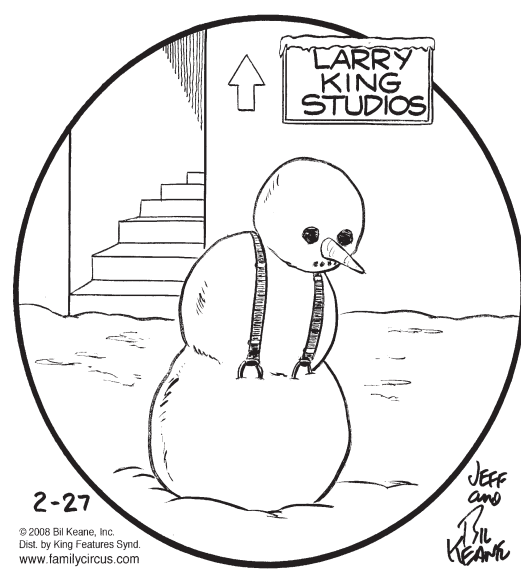
Table with 24 columns representing different TV channels and their respective programming for Wednesday. Columns include WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN28, ESPN, and SCIFI.

DENNIS THE MENACE



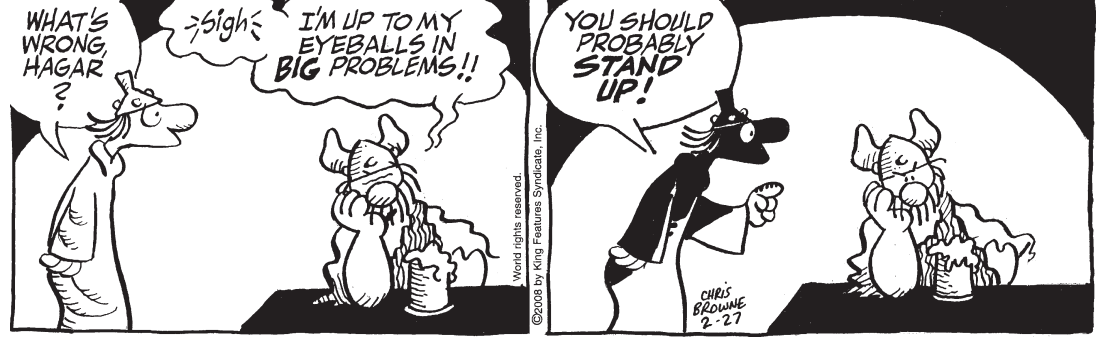
"I'M NOT BEIN' DIFFICULT... I'M BEIN' MYSELF!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

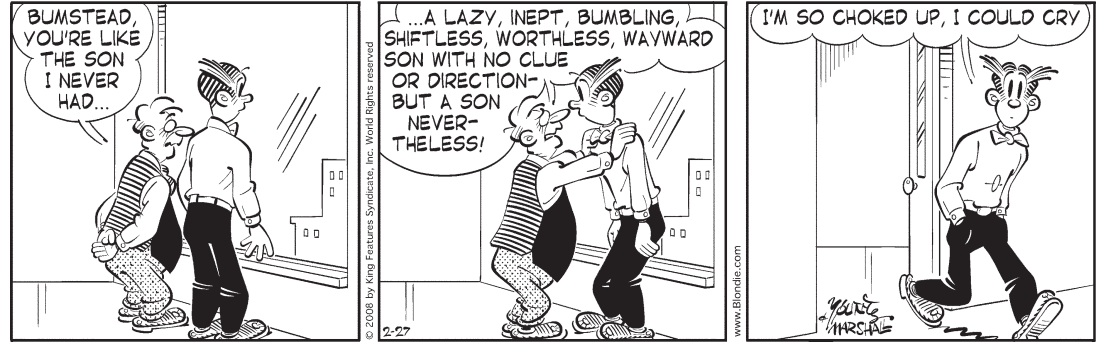


Suggested by our family, we present another of their cool friends.

HAGAR



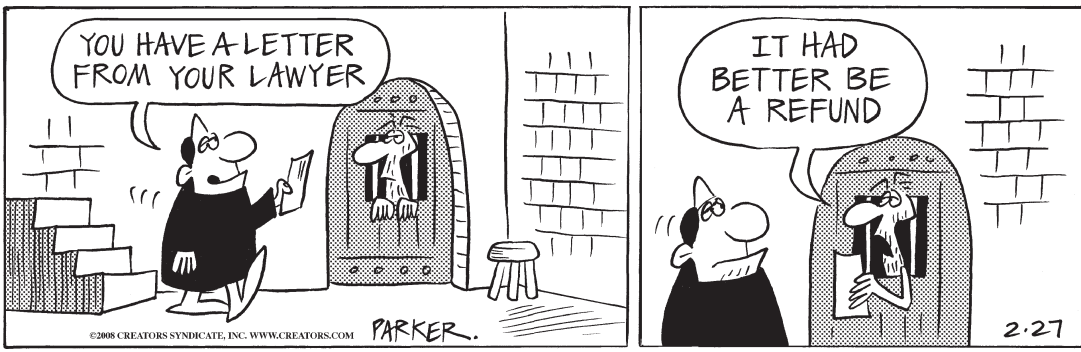
BLONDIE



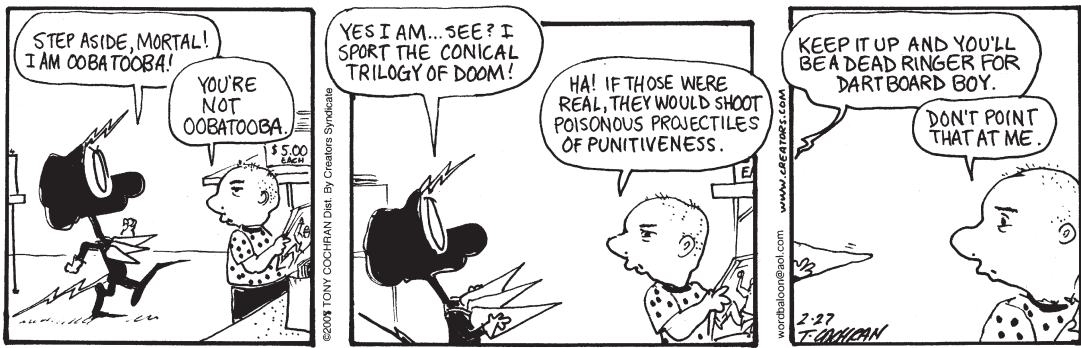
BC



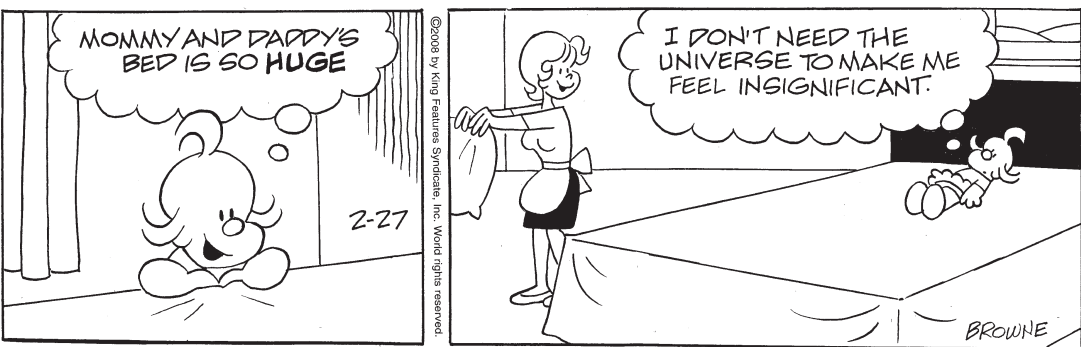
WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



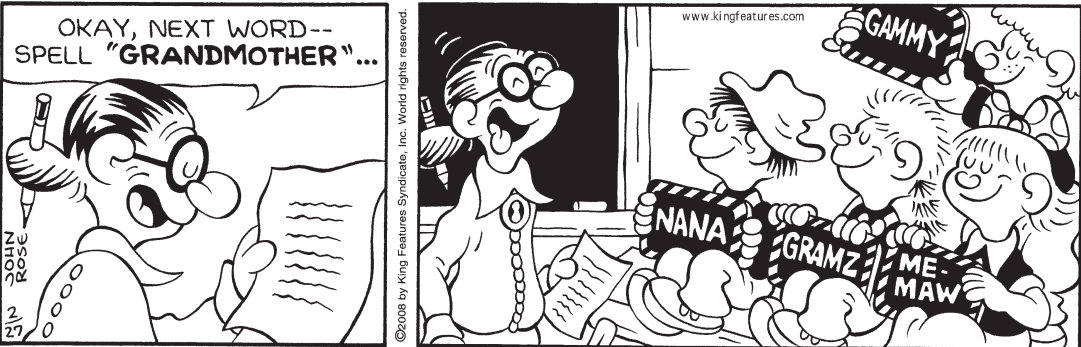
HI AND LOIS



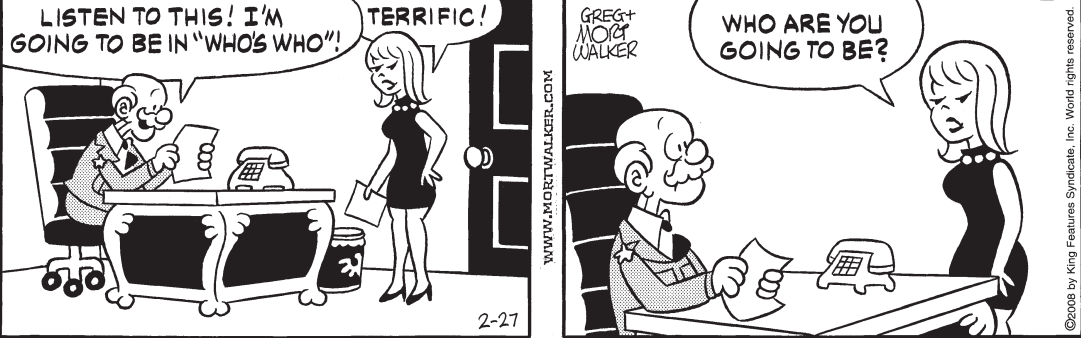
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BEETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2008. There are 308 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 27, 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag, was gutted by fire.

On this date: In 1801, the District of Columbia was placed under the jurisdiction of Congress.

In 1807, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was born in Portland, Maine.

In 1861, in Warsaw, Russian troops fired on a crowd protesting Russian rule over Poland; five marchers were killed.

In 1922, the Supreme Court, in Leser v. Garnett, unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the

Constitution that guaranteed the right of women to vote.

In 1939, the Supreme Court, in National Labor Relations Board v. Fansteel Metallurgical Corp., outlawed sit-down strikes.

In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms of office, was ratified.

In 1960, the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets, 3-2, at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, Calif. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. (The occupation lasted until May.)

In 1979, Jane M. Byrne confounded Chicago's Democratic political machine as she upset Mayor Michael A. Bilandic to win their party's mayoral primary. (Byrne went on to win the election.)

In 1991, President George

H.W. Bush declared that "Kuwait is liberated, Iraq's army is defeated," and announced that the allies would suspend combat operations at midnight, Eastern time.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Joanne Woodward is 78. Actress Elizabeth Taylor is 76. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader is 74. Actress Barbara Babcock is 71. Actor Howard Hesseman is 68. Actress Debra Monk is 59. Rock singer-musician Neal Schon (Journey) is 54. Rock musician Adrian Smith (Iron Maiden) is 51. Actor Timothy Spall is 51.

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Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words filled in.

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Backpack part
6 Setters and pointers
10 Corp. bigwigs
14 Fight site
15 Diabolical
16 Handful of hair
17 Bit of piano practice
19 Toledo's lake
20 Explorer de León
21 Film role for O'Toole
23 Mess up
25 Good thing
26 Ozymoronic load of cash
33 How some get lunch
34 Beauty's beloved
35 Cape __, MA
38 Very top
39 Karate awards
40 Twist the arm of
41 Part of B&B
42 Jeweler's weight
43 Sponge opening
44 Navy noncom
47 Shakespearean forest
50 Dressing ingredient
51 Some house sellers
55 Sign of fall
59 Quick note
60 Home of the Clinton Presidential Center

TRIVIAL PURSUIT by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- 11 Works hard for
12 Chilling, perhaps
13 Airborne target
18 Feudal laborer
22 Talk wildly
24 Poet Browning
26 Wild guess
27 Wear a frown
28 Ripened
29 Bagel stuffer
30 Baton-passing race
31 Body art
32 Battleship letters
35 Gator's cousin
36 Cruel one
37 Bucks or does
39 Cricket need
40 News org.
42 Euro fraction
44 Speaker of the House
45 Satisfy, as requests
46 Handbills
47 Fortified
48 '70s Superman
49 Titled women
52 Designer Cassini
53 Go by bike
54 Recipe step
56 Witch's concoction
57 Tiresome learning
58 Plot unit
61 President pro __
62 Keystone lawman

Newsday Crossword grid with numbers 1-62 indicating starting positions for clues.