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BIG SPRING

# HERALD

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 29, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 79

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HERALD photos/Steve Reagan  
 Clockwise, from top left, the Patriot Guard Riders lead the funeral procession for Sgt. Conrad Alvarez Thursday; an Army officer presents U.S. flags to Alvarez's widow, Maira, and other family members; an Army bugler plays "Taps;" Hector Castaneda watches the funeral procession approach Mount Olive Memorial Park; and an Army honor guard carries Alvarez's casket to its final resting place.

## Soldier recalled as 'tough, loyal, fearless and intense'

By STEVE REAGAN  
 Staff Writer

Sgt. Conrad Alvarez was remembered as a good athlete, friend, husband, father and soldier as he was laid to rest Thursday.



Alvarez

Hundreds of mourners jammed into Myers & Smith Chapel to hear speakers extol the virtues of the 22-year-old soldier who was killed last week in Iraq.

Alvarez, along with two other U.S. soldiers, died when their vehicle was struck by a bomb Feb. 19 in Baghdad.

Wes Williams, Alvarez's former football and track mentor at Roscoe High School, remembered the younger man as a dedicated athlete who was a

dream to coach.

"He was tough, loyal, fearless and intense," Williams said. "He carried a sense of pride with him that you just don't see every day."

One episode that illustrated Alvarez's unique nature occurred when he broke his arm in a "seven-on-seven" football tournament in Sweetwater.

"It was four or five hours before the doctor was able to get there ... All that time, Conrad never complained. He never wanted anyone to worry about him."

Williams also described Alvarez as a loyal, dedicated young man who



would "do whatever it took to help make the team successful."

"In coaching ... all the wins put together are not as important as when an ex-student drops by ... and expresses appreciation for the impact you had in their lives," he said.

"I was very proud to know Conrad," Williams concluded. "He definitely touched my life and many others, as well."

Those sterling qualities were echoed in comments made by Sgt. Drew Wroblewski, a friend who served with Alvarez at their home base in Fort

Campbell, Ky. Wroblewski called his friend "the strongest person I ever met in my life," a dedicated sergeant who constantly looked out for his fellow soldiers' well-being.

"When you're a Shadow Soldier, you've got to be strong, you've got to be loyal, you have to love your fellow soldiers and you've got to be able to do anything for them," Wroblewski said. "Conrad was just like that."

When Alvarez was preparing to leave for duty in Iraq, he had a talk with his friend.

"He made me promise that if anything happened, I would take care of his family," Wroblewski said. "I want them to know how strong

See **ALVAREZ**, Page 3A

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Find us online at:  
 www.bigspringherald.com

## Preparations coming together for 'miracle' celebration

By JOHN A. MOSELEY

Managing Editor

Volunteers have been lining up for Sunday's communitywide "Refinery Miracle Thanksgiving Service" at the First Baptist Church of Big Spring.

"The miracles that people witnessed at the refinery last Monday, are continuing through the coordination of volunteers, resources and relationships as we prepare for Sunday's events," said Everett Bender, one of the coordinators of the event. "God is clearly still working among us in this community!"

*"It's going to be a celebration, not a worship service with a sermon. It's simply going to be a time we can all come together and share our gratitude for the blessings that have been bestowed on us."*



—Everett Bender, event organizer

The service will begin at 8 p.m. in the church's sanctuary. An hour and a half earlier, at 6:30 p.m., a dinner will be held for refinery workers, first responders and their families. The dinner will be served in the

church's gymnasium. "This is really a community-wide event and we're encouraging everyone in the community to come out and join us in thanking God for providing the absolute miracle we experienced

last Monday," said Everett Bender, one of several people involved in coordinating the service.

"It's going to be a celebration, not a worship service with a sermon," Bender added. "It's simply going to be a time we can all come together and share our gratitude for the blessings that have been bestowed on us."

"We aren't going to be preaching to people and we're not going to have a bunch of politicians making speeches," he added. "What will be happening is sev-

See **CELEBRATE**, Page 3A



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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  
Friday, February 29, 2008

## IN BRIEF

### Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar TODAY-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.

### TODAY

Garden City vs. May at the Class A, Division II, Region II regional tournament in Fort Worth, 4 p.m.

### Big Spring Little League signups begin Saturday

Big Spring Little League baseball starts signups for the 2008 season Saturday at 10 a.m. and last through 5 p.m. at the Big Spring Mall.

Registration continues throughout the week at the following times:

Monday through March 7, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

March 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Howard College athletics updates and calendar

Women's Basketball (24-6, third in WJCAC 10-4) fell to #9 South Plains College 58-40 Monday night to finish the regular season. The Hawks travel to Belton to play in the Region V Tournament Friday, March 7. Opponent and game time is yet to be determined.

Men's Basketball (23-7, third in WJCAC 12-4) won 75-70 over South Plains College Monday night to finish the regular season. The Hawks play at the Region V Tournament in Belton Thursday, March 6. Game time and opponent is yet to be determined.

Softball (11-6, 5-1 in WJCAC) travel to take on El Paso Community College today.

Baseball (14-0) plays host to New Mexico Junior College in a doubleheader today to open conference play beginning at 1 p.m. They'll travel to NMJC for another doubleheader Saturday. The undefeated Hawks are ranked 22nd in the latest Baseball America JUCO poll.

### 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.

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

# Steers beat Pecos, tie Presidio

## Herald Staff Report

MONAHANS — Seventh-inning rallies was Thursday's theme for the Big Spring Steers.

Big Spring High School's baseball team has gotten off to a strong start in the 2008 season, winning two of its first three games. The Steers' next challenge came in the form of the Sandhills Tournament in Monahans.

Big Spring had an early start in bracket play, playing the first game of the tournament at 8 a.m. against Pecos. The Steers scored two runs in the bottom of the

seventh, earning the 5-4 win over the Eagles.

Big Spring turned right around and took the field against Presidio with the game reaching the time limit allotted for each contest with the score tied at 3-3. However, Presidio got the win based on the tiebreaker by having three runners stranded on third while Big Spring only had one.

The Steers were trailing Presidio 3-2 heading into the seventh inning, but managed to find another last-ditch effort to at least tie the game.

"It's nice to see the team not give up and to keep fighting," Steers Head Coach Burt Otto said. "We were playing two very good teams and it would've been very easy to just throw in the towel when we were down."

In Game 1 of the day, the Steers jumped out to a 3-0 lead by the third inning, but witnessed Pecos fight back and tie the game in the top of the fifth, then take a 1-run lead in the sixth.

Apparently the pressure of holding onto the narrow lead was tougher for Pecos than the burden of mounting a comeback was

for the Steers.

John Benavides led off the bottom of the seventh with a single for Big Spring and Rance Terry laid a bunt down the third-base line in an attempt to move his teammate over. However, Pecos' third baseman threw the ball into right field trying to get Terry out at first, allowing Benavides to score and Terry to advance to third base.

The unearned run tied the game at 4. Martin Yanez followed with a deep fly ball to center

See **TOURNEYS**, Page 2B

# Spurs edge Mavs for seventh-straight win

## By ELIZABETH WHITE

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Against a team that has a new look and new marquee player, the San Antonio Spurs kept up their winning ways Thursday by sticking to basics — namely, their own franchise player.

Tim Duncan, called the "backbone" of the team by coach Gregg Popovich, led the Spurs with 31 points and 15 rebounds in a 97-94 victory over the made-over Dallas Mavericks on Thursday night.

"Offense, the ball goes through him. On defense, he's our defender, our rebounder," Popovich said. "Everybody rotates off him. He's just really special. We don't get anything done without him."

It was the Spurs' seventh straight win and put them a game ahead of New Orleans in a tight Southwest Division, where Dallas is third and only 2½ games separates San Antonio from fourth-place Houston.

The loss snapped a three-game winning streak for the Mavericks and dropped them to 3-2 since acquiring guard Jason Kidd from New Jersey.

"I thought we had some good looks, maybe a foul here or there," said Kidd, who had 10 assists and seven points. "But at the end of the game we had our chances."

Manu Ginobili added 17 points for San Antonio and Michael Finley had 16.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 28 points for the Mavericks. Josh Howard



AP photo/Eric Gay

Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki lies on the floor after he collided with a teammate during the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs in San Antonio, Thursday. San Antonio knocked out the Mavs, 97-94.

and reserve Brandon Bass each added 16.

"Every time we come down here it's a highly contested game," Dallas coach Avery Johnson said. "It's a big time rivalry. Hopefully next time when we play ... we can finish with one more point."

The Mavericks will get their chance next month, when they host the Spurs.

"This game didn't mean much, we'll see them again," Dallas guard Jason Terry said. "We're

still a work in progress."

The Spurs were up by one, 73-72, heading into the fourth quarter. With the game tied at 94, Erick Dampier fouled Duncan, who sank both shots from the line to put San Antonio up 96-94 with 34.5 seconds to go.

Nowitzki missed two shots with less than 30 seconds on the clock, and Terry's shot was blocked by Bruce Bowen with 3.9 seconds left. The Spurs got the ball back with 3.3 seconds to go, and Dampier fouled Finley with

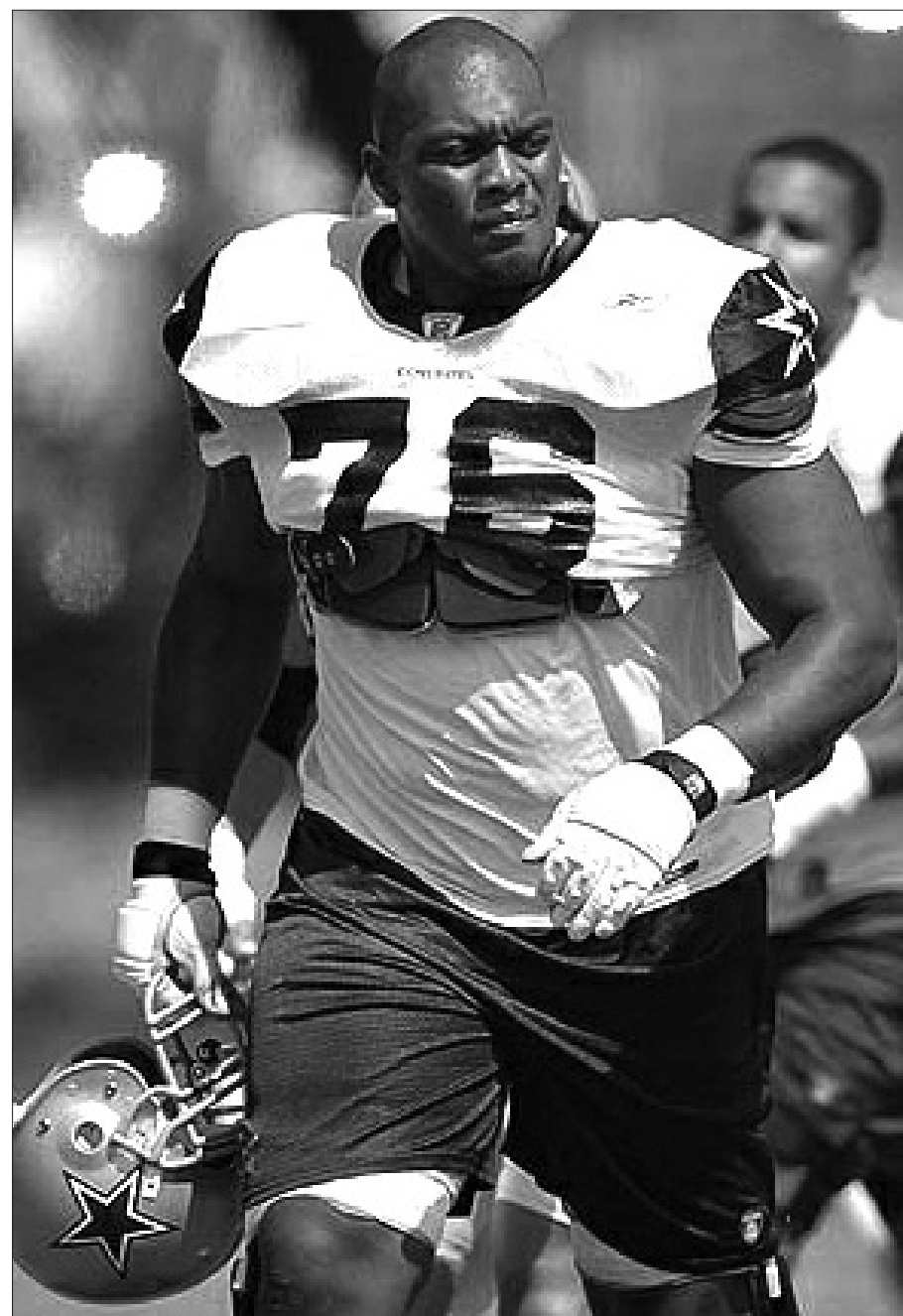
0.4 left. Finley hit the first of two from the line.

"The effort was huge for both sides," Ginobili said. "When you play a game like this, you know the effort is going to be there."

Kidd came out for the last 30 seconds, but said he supported the decision.

"They've been together down the stretch," Kidd said. "I understand what play they're looking for, so I'm over here cheering for

See **NBA**, Page 2B



AP photo

The Dallas Cowboys re-signed unrestricted free agent Flozell Adams late Thursday, keeping the Pro Bowl left tackle from joining another team. Flozell signed a six-year deal worth \$42 million.

# Flozell re-ups with Cowboys

## By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Tony Romo won't have to worry about who is blocking his blind side. His faith will remain in Flozell Adams.

The Dallas Cowboys re-signed the four-time Pro Bowl left tackle Thursday afternoon, hours before he would've hit the open market in free agency. Terms were not immediately available, but the team called it a long-term agreement that likely guarantees Adams will finish his career in Dallas.

"I'm just really happy to be here," Adams told the team's Web site. Asked if he considered leaving Dallas, he added, "Nope. Not at all."

Also Thursday, the Cowboys moved to keep three of their restricted free agents, putting tenders on Pro Bowl running back Marion Barber (\$2.56 million, the highest), defensive end Chris Canty (\$2.017 million) and guard Joe Berger (\$927,000).

Running back Tyson Thompson, who lost his job as a kick returner late in the season, was not tendered, freeing him to sign wherever he wants.

Barber and Canty can still look around for better deals, but a team would have to give Dallas

its first- and third-round picks to get Barber and a first-rounder for Canty. Dallas also would first have a week to match any offer.

In another move Thursday, the Cowboys formally announced the signing of linebacker Zach Thomas, whose \$3.3 million, one-year deal was agreed to last week. Fullback Oliver Hoyte, who gave Thomas a concussion when he was with Miami last season, was released.

Adams joined the Cowboys as a second-round pick in 1998. He and linebacker Greg Ellis are the team's longest-tenured players.

The 6-foot-7, 340-pounder has been a stalwart at left tackle his entire career. His ability to fend off blockers has been credited with helping Romo develop into one of the NFL's top passers in only 1½ seasons, and helped Dallas set all sorts of club records for yards and scoring last year.

Adams, who turns 33 in May, made the Pro Bowl in four of the last five seasons, missing only in 2005 when a knee injury cost him 10 games. Those are the only games he's missed in his 10-year career.

Adams just finished a five-year, \$25 million deal. Had he become

See **ADAMS**, Page 2B



## Obituaries

## Dora Paul (Mema) Willbanks



Dora Paul (Mema) Willbanks passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, at Christus Santa Rosa Hospital in New Braunfels. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 1, 2008, at Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Royce Clay officiating. Interment will follow at the Colorado City Cemetery.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday.

She was 91 years young, born Aug. 10, 1916, in Colorado City. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Snively. On May 26, 1946, she married Maberry Willbanks of Rotan. They were married for 57 years and had two children, Robert and Rhonda.

Before having her children, Dora Paul was a service representative of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. She loved being a homemaker and teaching Sunday School at the Colorado City Church of Christ. She was also a talented seamstress, painter and cook. Her love of arts and crafts was passed along to her daughter and granddaughters. In 1968, a job transfer moved Dora Paul and her family to Big Spring where the family was active in the 14th & Main Church of Christ. In 2001, Maberry and Dora Paul moved to Oaktree Assisted Living in New Braunfels. After moving to New Braunfels, she delighted in being closer to her daughter and two granddaughters. She enjoyed making new friends and was joined in many games of bingo by her granddaughter Michelle.

She is survived by her daughter, Rhonda Ester and husband, Mike, of New Braunfels; two granddaughters, Stacy and Michelle; one sister, Anna Don Hardison of Houston; one sister-in-law, Mary Jo White and husband, Glenn, of Abilene; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Maberry Willbanks, who died Jan. 13, 2004. Also preceding her in death were her son, Robert Willbanks; brothers, Laurence and R.C. Snively; and her parents.

The family wishes to extend their thanks to Dr. William Reeves and the nurses of Christus Santa Rosa Hospital, who provided care and comfort in her final week; all of the caregivers and residents at Oaktree Assisted Living, who made the last few years of her life so fulfilling; and the members of the New Braunfels Church of Christ, who offered comfort and prayers for Dora Paul and her family.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at: [www.npwelch.com](http://www.npwelch.com).

*Paid obituary*

## Xavier Joel Gonzales

Xavier Joel Gonzales, infant, died Monday, Feb. 25, 2008, at a Lubbock hospital.

Graveside services will be 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, at the Miles Cemetery with Deacon Arturo Casarez officiating. Arrangements are by Robert Massie Funeral Home.

Xavier is survived by his father and mother, Abraham and Jennifer Gonzales, his brother, A.J. Gonzales, and his sister, Jocelyn Gonzales, all of Big Spring; his maternal grandparents, Joe and Hortensia Jacobo of San Angelo; his paternal grandmother, Becky Rivera, and his paternal grandfather, Max Gonzales, and his paternal great-grandmother and great-grandfather, Olga and Fidencio Rivera, all of Uvalde; his maternal great-grandmother, Julia T. Jacobo of Big Lake; and his maternal great-grandfather, Salvador H. Martinez of San Angelo.

Honorary pallbearers will be Abraham Gonzales and A.J. Gonzales.

The family would like to thank all the family and friends for all their prayers, donations and generosity. Our precious angel is very lucky to have had such great spiritual support from all of you. We also would like to thank Lakeside Covenant in Lubbock for having such a wonderful and compassionate staff of caregivers. May God bless each and every one of you.

*Paid obituary*

## Linda Coskey

Linda Coskey, 59, of Big Spring died Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, in a local hospital. Her services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Rev. George R. Harrington

The Rev. George R. Harrington, 99, of Big Spring died Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008, at Scenic Mountain Medical Center. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

## Guadalupe V. Urias

Guadalupe V. Urias, 80, of Big Spring died Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, in a Midland hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

## Support Groups

## FRIDAY

• AA open discussion meeting from noon until 1 p.m. at 605 Settles. Open Big Book study meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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## Police blotter

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

- **BILLY C. MCGEE**, 45, of 1008 E. 15th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **TERIE L. NALL**, 50, of 507 E. 17th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license suspended - enhanced.
- **SHARON M. GARRETT**, 37, of 1303 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **AMANDA C. WINKLER**, 46, of 502 S. Young, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- **JERRY D. DUFFER**, 20, of 2506 Hunter, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.
- **ANDREW GARZA**, 33, of 2217 Lynn Drive, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of driving while license invalid - enhanced.
- **JEREMIAH ROBERTS**, 29, of 4717 Storey, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of failure to identify.
- **ROYCE C. AUSBIE**, 48, of 1407 Johnson, was arrested Wednesday on four local capias warrants.
- **DENNIS E. AUSBIE**, 47, of 903 Sgt. Paredez, was arrested Wednesday on two local warrants.
- **THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of Marcy.
- **DEADLY CONDUCT - DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM** was reported in the 800 block of Cherry.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 1800 block of Gregg Street.

## Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 43 inmates at the time of this report.
- **SHANE THOMAS ESTES**, 25, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of theft.
  - **JOSUE ROSAS**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
  - **STEVEN OCHOTORENA CHAVEZ**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
  - **KASEY CHARLES HUCKABEE**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
  - **JOSE HIGUERA-PERALTA**, 32, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear.
  - **JAMES RYAN VILLANUEVA JR.**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
  - **JOSE LUIS RIVERA**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
  - **TROY BLAKE JAMES**, 18, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - more than four ounces less than five pounds and tampering with physical evidence.
  - **JOSE ALFREDO MELENDEZ**, 24, was arrested Thursday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid with a previous conviction.

## Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Marcy. Service refused.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported near the intersection of Goliad and FM 700. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2200 block of Cecilia. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 1800 block of Scurry.

## Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 4-5-6-18-32

Number matching five of five: 2.

Prize per winner: \$13,624.

Winning tickets sold in: Kilgore and Spring.

...

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Thursday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 1-7-23-33. Bonus Ball: 11.

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

Winning ticket sold in: Arlington.

...

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 2-7-1-3. Sum It Up: 13.

...

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-9-9. Sum It Up: 22.

## Bulletin Board

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

## TODAY

• 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

• Keep Big Spring Beautiful meets at noon in the Cactus Room at Howard College.

• District Committee Lone Star of Big Spring meets at noon at 610 Scurry.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 263-1758 213-3598.

• Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.

• Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.

• Howard County ARC meets at 806 E. Third in the Bingo Hall. Call 264-0674 for more information.

• The Big Spring Cruisers club meeting at 7 p.m. in the Texas RV Park meeting room.

• Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

• Big Spring Chapter No. 178 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

## TUESDAY

• Coahoma Senior Citizen luncheon is set for 11 a.m. in the Coahoma Community Center.

• Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.

## Weather

Tonight...Increasing clouds. Lows in the mid 40s. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. South winds around 10 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday night...Increasing clouds. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 30s.

Monday...Mostly cloudy. Highs around 50..Monday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s.

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

Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Wednesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

## Correction

In the Monday edition of the Big Spring Herald, the following arrest was reported by the Howard County Sheriff's Office:

Nicole Jean Winters, 25, was arrested Saturday by DPS on charges of driving while intoxicated, failure to identify as a fugitive - giving false information and driving while license invalid.

According to HCSO officials, Winters was not arrested. Instead, Latasha Lucero, 25, who was arrested on the same charges, was posing as Winters at the time of her arrest.

Lucero's identity was not discovered in time to make the necessary changes to the law enforcement agency's records, according to HCSO officials.



## BIG SPRING HERALD

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**Stand Up For You**



**Vote James (Dick) Dubose**

Pd. Pol. Adv. By James Dubose



**TOURNEYS**

Continued from Page 1B

field, allowing Terry to easily score from third and winning the game for Big Spring.

Matt Ritchey (2-0) picked up the win, allowing four runs — three earned — on six hits and one walk while recording three strikeouts in seven innings.

Winning the first game of the day was the most important part of the day to Otto.

“Beating Pecos guaranteed us three more games,” he said. “Right now, we just need to get on the field. We need at bats. We need to work on our fielding. We need to overcome adversity like we did today. We just need to play and to learn how to play in good and bad situations.”

Some of the adversity Big Spring overcame was in the first inning, when Pecos loaded the bases with just one out. However, Ritchey was able to get the next batter to hit a grounder to short-stop Nathan Doporto, who converted a double play by stepping on second, then throwing the batter out at first.

“That play was big,” raved Otto. “There we were having to get up early to play this game and right off the bus we’ve got the bases loaded against us. Getting out of that changed the game for us.”

“Pecos is a very good team, too,” he continued. “We beat a very good ball club. They were undefeated coming into this game and had beaten a ranked Snyder team last week. Both of the teams we played today were very good and we were right

there with them. That says a lot about this team.”

The Steers came just one run short of sweeping the day’s games, but instead find themselves in a strange situation. The tiebreaker loss to Presidio put them in the loser’s bracket, despite not really losing a game.

The Steers had taken the lead in the top of the fourth inning, scoring a run for a 2-1 advantage. However, Presidio responded in the bottom of the fifth, hitting three consecutive doubles and scoring two runs for a 3-2 lead.

With the pressure on again, Doporto, who started this game at pitcher, led off with a single and immediately stole second. Cade Hollandsworth belted a double to knock in Doporto, tying the game at 3-all.

Unfortunately, the game couldn’t go into extra innings after the seventh because of the time limit being reached.

Doporto pitched five innings, allowing three runs — two earned — on seven hits and two walks while recording five strikeouts.

Lance Gross pitched the last two innings, striking out four and giving up two hits.

It hadn’t been determined who the Steers would play next in the bracket, but they played at 3:30 p.m. today.

**Pecos** 000 031 0—4 6 6  
**Big Spring** 021 000 2—5 7 1  
W - Matt Ritchey (2-0), L - Leos.  
2B: Pecos - Onteveros; Big Spring - Ritchey, Jeremy Solis. 3B: Pecos - Reyes.

**Big Spring** 001 100 1—3  
**Presidio** 100 020 0—3  
No winning or losing pitcher.  
2B: Big Spring - Cade Hollandsworth, Solis; Presidio - Anaya, Barron, Valenzeula, Zenagas.

**Coronado 5, Coahoma 2**  
LUBBOCK — For the second time already this season, Coahoma’s Bulldogettes faced Lubbock Coronado in a tournament Thursday. This time around it was the Prairie Dog Classic held in Lubbock.

While the game was closer than the 7-0 loss suffered by the Bulldogettes the first time the two squads met in Midland at the West Texas Classic, the result was ultimately the same with Coronado winning 5-2.

Coahoma scored both of its runs in the first inning and then was shut out over the final six. Coronado never trailed, scoring three in the top of the first and one each in the fourth and fifth.

**Coronado** 300 110 0 - 5 9 0  
**Coahoma** 200 000 0 - 2 7 2  
W-Rodgers (8-0), L-Newton (3-4).  
2B: Coronado - Granado, Rodgers, Natal; Coahoma - Christie Rich. Records: Coronado 11-0, Coahoma 3-5.

**Bulldogs 8, Post 7**  
SWEETWATER

Coahoma’s Bulldogs opened the Wood Bat Classic in Sweetwater Thursday, playing a game that started at 8 a.m.

Neither the Bulldogs or Post were suffering from the early start, though, as a combined 12 runs were scored in the game’s first three innings.

Coahoma held an 8-4 lead after three and held that advantage until the bottom of the seventh. As has been typical for the Bulldogs, their opponent made a last-inning rally that fell just one run short.

Five of Coahoma’s six games this season have been decided by one run with the Bulldogs holding a 4-1 record in those contests.

Chance Hart picked up the win for the Bulldogs, who are 6-1 on the season.

**Coahoma** 323 00 - 8 6 3  
**Post** 310 03 - 7 5 5

**NBA**

Continued from Page 1B

my guys to knock down a 2 or a 3.”

The game was tied four times in the fourth quarter as the teams traded baskets and neither took

a lead of more than five points in the period.

In the first half, Kidd, who has brought a passing mentality to the Mavericks since his return to the team that drafted him No. 2 overall in 1994, accounted for seven of the team’s 11 assists.

**ADAMS**

Continued from Page 1B

a free agent, the Cowboys may have faced competition from the Miami Dolphins, who are coached by former Dallas line coach Tony Sparano, whose arrival sparked Adams’ career. Bill Parcells was coaching the Cowboys then, and he’s now running Miami’s front office.

While offensive coordinator Jason Garrett likely will be as happy as Romo that this deal is done, spe-

cial teams coaches can celebrate, too — Adams has blocked a club-record four extra points in his career. He’s also blocked three field goals.

Dallas has four other players headed to free agency: Running back Julius Jones, safety Keith Davis and cornerbacks Jacques Reeves and Nate Jones. The Cowboys also will try working out a new deal with safety Ken Hamlin, who they’ve guaranteed to keep around by designating him as their franchise player.

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**Monday March 3, 5:30 - 7:30pm**  
**Tuesday March 4, 5:30 - 7:30pm**  
**Wednesday March 5, 5:30 - 7:30pm**  
**Thursday March 6, 5:30 - 7:30pm**  
**Friday March 7, 5:30 - 7:30pm**  
**Saturday, March 8, 10am - 5pm**

**CHILDREN 5-16** Who live within Big Spring Little League Boundaries are eligible to enroll. Registration required even if child played previously, at least one parent or legal guardian must be present and an original or state-certified copy of child’s birth certificate is required.



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**Garage Sales**

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**3 FAMILY Sale:** Furniture, full bed, futon, TV, swingset, magazines, collectibles and craft items, toys, videos, weight bench, and lots more. Saturday Only 8:00-Noon. 1211 Wilson Road, off Midway Road in Sand Springs.

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**Garage Sales**

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**Next Auction:** March 15th No Auction (Spring Break) March 30th Sunday 1:00 p.m. **Antique & Collectible Auction** **Crossroads Auction Co.** Located at 6607 N. I-20 Service Rd., Two Miles east of Refinery on North Service Road at Exit 184. Big Spring, TX. **David LeVeuer-Auctioneer Lic. #13251** (432) 264-9900 7447

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**2000 KEYSTONE** Sprinter 275 RK Model, 5th wheel travel trailer. \$10,000.00 OBO. Call 432-935-6679 or 806-681-2769.

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**Lost and Found**  
**LOST:** 3 yr old female Husky. Last seen on 2-24-08 on Duke Ave. and Baylor. Has no tags, blue eyes, white w/blk/coat. Please call 432-213-0480.

**LOST:** VICINITY of Duke Ave. and Baylor on 2/24/08, 3 yr. old female Husky, mostly white with grey/blk., blue eyes. If found call 432-213-0480.

**REWARD \$250.00:** Papillion (white with blond trim), wearing a black spike collar. Last seen Sunday night/Monday morning in Highland area around Oak Lynn & Goliad. Call 432-268-3738 or 267-8169.

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**Real Estate for Sale**  
**6-1/2 ACRES** CIRD, with water well, duplex rentals. Call 432-517-0642 for more info.

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**Legals**  
Coahoma ISD will receive sealed bids for the removal of material from the bank of Wildhorse Creek. Bids will be received in the Administration Office, 600 N. Main or at PO Box 110 Coahoma, TX 79511 until 2:00 pm March 6, 2008. The District reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. #5697 February 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2008

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT** Whiting Petroleum Corporation, 400 W. Illinois St., Ste. 1300, Midland, Texas 79701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil or gas. The applicant proposes to inject fluid into the Clearfork Formation, Guitar Consolidated Lease Well Numbers 1301, 1402, and 1412. The proposed injection wells are located approximately 4 miles northwest of Big Spring, Texas, in the Would Have Field, in Sections 13 and 14, Block A, Bauer & Cockrell Survey in Howard County. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth interval from 5634 to 5746.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:** Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within fifteen (15) days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792). #5700 February 29, 2008

**Tomorrow's Horoscope**

**BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**  
Happy leap year! The practice of adding an extra day to February approximately once every four years began with the design of the Gregorian calendar to keep Easter consistent with the vernal equinox, or the first day of spring. As the Earth's revolution around the sun is 365.25 days, not 365, this extra day keeps our world turning smoothly.



**HOLIDAY MATHIS**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Get on with life! It is better to risk emotionally now than to play it safe in limbo for another month. An uninformed party (perhaps a Libra) is invaluable for working out problems.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Money is attracted to confidence. Whether it comes in the form of a better salary, a killer deal or a dollar bill floating in the wind, one thing is certain — this is no accident. It's coming to you for a reason.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). It's a fabulous time to check in and notice what's working and what's not. Be analytical and removed from problems, but don't be mean to yourself. You can always do better the next chance you get.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). You're a model of excellent behavior. Of course, it has been said that as a rule that well-behaved people rarely make history. Consider an area of your life in which you might allow yourself to cut loose.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You're inspired by friends who are undertaking a similar pursuit to yours. A little competition is healthy, but being overly competitive could cause a blowout. Read the signals so you will know when to back off.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Wondering who the perfect person might be for you? What qualities will this one possess? In real life, the laundry list goes out the window — it's more about chemistry and compatible lifestyles. Have faith in your intuition.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In your effort to be honest, you may be too transparent. Remember that keeping your inner world private is always your prerogative. Loved ones respect you more when you reveal less.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Someone as driven as you requires a break once in a while — like now! However, if you can't seem to get one, don't worry. Generous acts that you think will take your energy actually renew it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't need to do anything attention-getting, grand or expensive in order to fit in. The opposite is true, though. Keep it simple, and focus on really connecting with those around you. How likeable is that?

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Contrary to popular opinion, happiness isn't getting

what you want — rather, it's giving yourself to a worthy purpose. Today brings new insight into what that purpose is for you.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People around you feel they must protect you. And that's why someone close to you would love to make every decision for you — and if you let that person, he or she will. Yikes! Scary thought!

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Brainstorm! Expect many bad, even disturbing, ideas to be part of your creative tirade. Not all art can be sunshine and roses, can it? When you accept the creative process, it favors you.

**WEEKEND LOVE FORECAST:** **ARIES:** Your leadership generates trust and the affection of loved ones. Join people with information and things really happen. **TAURUS:** A higher power is at work in your relationships. Your inspiration inspires others. **GEMINI:** A relationship changes, but you stay centered by dividing your time among several people. **CANCER:** Being ready for love is a combination of preparedness and opportunity, and you're on the up and up. **LEO:** Whether it's with minor tweaking or major mending, you have the determination and energy to improve your partnership. **VIRGO:** Celebrate a victory by exchanging tokens of appreciation and gratitude with supportive people. **LIBRA:** True love isn't for the meek-hearted. You're strong enough to examine your assumptions and willing to change your mind. **SCORPIO:** The larger part of loving is finding the courage to name your fears and hopes. **SAGITTARIUS:** Taking a loose, easy approach to love has a balancing affect on you both. **CAPRICORN:** You power through outmoded beliefs about love and clear your heart in the process. **AQUARIUS:** You're not just exchanging thoughts — you're sharing your soul. **PISCES:** Sometimes, developing the discipline to take care of you is the most loving thing you can do for another.

**COUPLE OF THE WEEKEND:** While the sun is in Pisces, the fishes swim with the current, shimmering closer toward their desires. Of all her mutable companions (Gemini, Sagittarius and Virgo), sidling up to Sagittarius feels familiar and cozy, though the day-to-day takes ongoing work. Both are flexible and freedom-loving, so building consistency into their relationship creates a stable raft. When they do, love is buoyant.

*Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com) and click on "Write the Author" on the Holiday Mathis page, or you may send her a postcard in the mail. To find out more about Holiday Mathis and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).*

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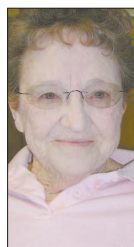
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# Gem and Mineral Show offers fun, education... and it's free!

**By THOMAS JENKINS**  
Staff Writer

It's time to rock and roll for the Big Spring Prospectors Club, as the group prepares to host its annual Gem and Mineral Show Saturday and Sunday at the Howard County Fairbarn.



Lamb

Prospectors Club spokeswoman Lola Lamb said the show — which is slated for 9 a.m. until 5

p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sunday — has something for everyone in the family, especially the rockhounds.

"Admission is free. We'll have dealers and demonstrations, and the spinning wheel will also be there for the children," said Lamb, a longtime Prospectors Club member. "We have a lot of new items for the wheel, and we'll also have a snack bar and plenty of displays of work done by people locally, as well as some of the vendors."

"A lot of people proba-

bly don't realize what can be inside what appears to be an ugly old rock. There will be plenty of displays showing what is actually inside a rock, and how it's worked into jewelry. Several people at the show will be working with the stones so people can see the process they go through first hand."

And while there will be plenty of displays and gem-related items to buy and look at, Lamb said the show can also be a learning experience.

"You take just an ordinary rock and you slab

it," she explained. "Then you put it into jewelry. That's just one of the processes people will get to see at the show. We'll also have another gentleman here from Plainview who makes the spheres, so we'll get a chance to see how that's done. There will also be demonstrations in faceting, beads, silver work and other things."

Shoppers will get the chance to sate their rock and gem appetites as well, thanks to a number of vendors from Texas and abroad.

"We have vendors coming from all over the state, and a few from out of state," said Lamb.

Lamb, who has been a member of the Prospectors Club for many years and a self-proclaimed rockhound even longer, said the show is an excellent chance for area residents to learn more about the hobby.

"My favorite part of the club is the collecting and the mystery of it. Sawing a rock in half and seeing what's inside is quite an experience, because you can't tell what a rock

looks like just by the outside of it. It's fascinating to see how pretty it is on the inside sometimes. On the other hand, sometimes it's nothing, but you just never know. You kick a rock, or throw it, and you never really think about what kind of beauty might be inside of it."

For more information on the show, contact Lamb at 263-3340.

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331 ext. 232 or by e-mail at [citydesk@bigspringherald.com](mailto:citydesk@bigspringherald.com)

## SCOUTING FOR FOOD



Courtesy photo

Scouts from across the area will be Scouting For Food Saturday in Big Spring, Coahoma, Sand Springs and Forsan. Residents are encouraged to leave bagged, non-perishable food items on their porch within easy view for the Scouts to collect. From left, front row, Eric Martinez, Noel Martinez and Billy Johnson, and back row, Case Ingram, Adam Lloyd, David Sikes and Aric Rutledge show some items collected already.

## CELEBRATE

Continued from Page 1A

eral people — refinery employees and emergency personnel will share their experiences from last week's explosion and fire at the Alon Refinery."

Sunday's undertaking involves hundreds, if not thousands of people, and requires many volunteers to handle set-up, meal preparation, serving and clean-up.

"So many have helped, so sacrificially, in so many ways because they want to express the appreciation they feel in their hearts for what the Lord, the first responders, the refinery workers and all of their families have done for the quality of life in our community," Bender noted. "It's truly 'Big Sky, Big Heart, Big Spring!'"

However, Bender said there's still considerable need for volunteers in a number of areas, but especially for those willing to sing in the choir during Sunday night's

service.

"We want anyone who's interested in singing in the choir to be in the First Baptist Church's choir room by 7:45 p.m.," he explained. "We'll have ushers on hand to direct them to the choir room. There won't be a rehearsal. The choir will be singing three familiar songs, plus the national anthem."

Anyone interested in helping in any way should get to the group's Web site at [www.hcchurch.org](http://www.hcchurch.org) and let organizers know their

contact information. Those who do not have internet access can contact Pat Simmons directly at 263-4607.

Additionally, all local church pastors and ministers, as well as chaplains are invited to be available following the service to listen, comfort, counsel and encourage people who are looking for help.

Contact Managing Editor John A. Moseley at 263-7331, ext. 230, or by e-mail at [editor@bigspringherald.com](mailto:editor@bigspringherald.com)

## ALVAREZ

Continued from Page 1A

he was and what a good soldier he was."

Following the service, Big Spring police and

Howard County sheriff's deputies joined with the Patriot Guard Riders motorcycle group to escort the hearse carrying Alvarez's casket to Mount Olive Memorial Park, where he was buried with full military honors.

Contact Staff Writer Steve Reagan at 263-7331, ext. 234 or by e-mail at [reporter@bigspringherald.com](mailto:reporter@bigspringherald.com)

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Linda Vaughn, 62, died Tuesday. Funeral Services will be at 10:00 AM Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel.  
Rev. George R. Harrington, 99, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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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

## We salute:

*Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.*

*We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play*

*This week we salute:*

- Alon USA workers, for their hard work under difficult conditions.

- Local Rotarians, and they celebrated 80 years in Big Spring this week. Their many projects — from delivering meals to home-bound individuals to helping students and educators — goes a long way in improving the quality of life in our community.

- Everyone who has voted so far in the March party primaries. According to the Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom, the number of ballots cast so far during the early voting period has surpassed 2004 presidential election numbers. That's great! The early voting period ends at 5 p.m. today at the courthouse. If you haven't voted and can't do so by 5 o'clock, remember to cast your ballot between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. election day, Tuesday.

- The Garden City High School robotics team of Hayden Halfmann, Brittany Schniers and Laura Halfmann, who won first place in the Texas Computer Education Association Robotics Inventions Advanced Class. That's impressive!

- Paul Smith, who received the Golden Trowel award Thursday at Staked Plains Masonic Lodge 598, the highest award presented to a mason. Congratulations, Mr. Smith.

*Is there an individual or organization in our community that you feel should be saluted? If so, please send us their name and why you think they should be recognized. We must have your name and telephone number and you must provide it in writing.*

## 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

*May we trust in you completely, Lord.*

*Amen*

## What it's like to be a dandy

**M**y incredible grandfather used to have a saying about people he liked. In his Texan accent he would smile and say, "I like him. He's a dandy."

Sometimes I find myself repeating my Papa but didn't know what I was actually saying until recently. A dandy, the dictionary says, is a man who places particular importance upon physical appearance, refined language and the cultivation of leisurely hobbies.

"Woop-T-Do" is another thing Papa would say. A dandy is an old school term for people living aristocratic lifestyles. When people refined themselves and hung out with the upper class they were known as a Dandy.

In our work to feed and reach out to the poor all over the world, I can't say that I could call most people I am in contact with, a dandy. My travels have, however, landed me in places where I could at least breathe the same air as super affluent people.

Several years ago my wife and I stayed on the club level at the Ritz Carlton in San Francisco. A couple of friends had gotten together and purchased a getaway for the two of us for our 10th anniversary. It was fabulous!

I wore out every amenity possible. I took three-hour baths in the giant tub. I made friends with the whole staff. I choked down caviar and pretended I liked it. I even pretended like I was rich and walked amongst the privileged in the exclusive lounge on our floor. There I was, a yahoo from Johnson County, Texas, in an

eclectic mix of hipsters, surgeons, jetsetters, lawyers and swanksters. I had finally arrived.

Now I couldn't let people know I was a preacher. If you let people know that you are a pastor while having a good time or among luxurious facilities they assume you stole the price of your room from a blue-haired retirement fund. So the first time I was asked what I did for a living I perked, "I'm a writer." But then they had to probe. "I'm a Christian writer of books and a newspaper column."

"You're a Christian writer and you stay at the Ritz?" He asked while emphasizing the word "Christian." He had sniffed me out by his dandy detector. With impugning disdain he loaded his self-righteousness accusation of hypocrisy with a raised left eyebrow and waited for my timid response.

The Brewer is the wrong person to do that to. In a flash I fought back starting off my answer with, "Just out of curiosity, are your parents siblings?"

Instead I gained my composure and said "I wonder how many times Stephen King gets asked the same question? You are a horror writer and you stay at the Ritz? I wonder if anybody has ever asked Larry McMurtry. You're a Western writer and you stay at the Ritz."

Trying to crawfish from my response, he retorted, "Well I guess it's not about being a Christian, it's about how you make your money."

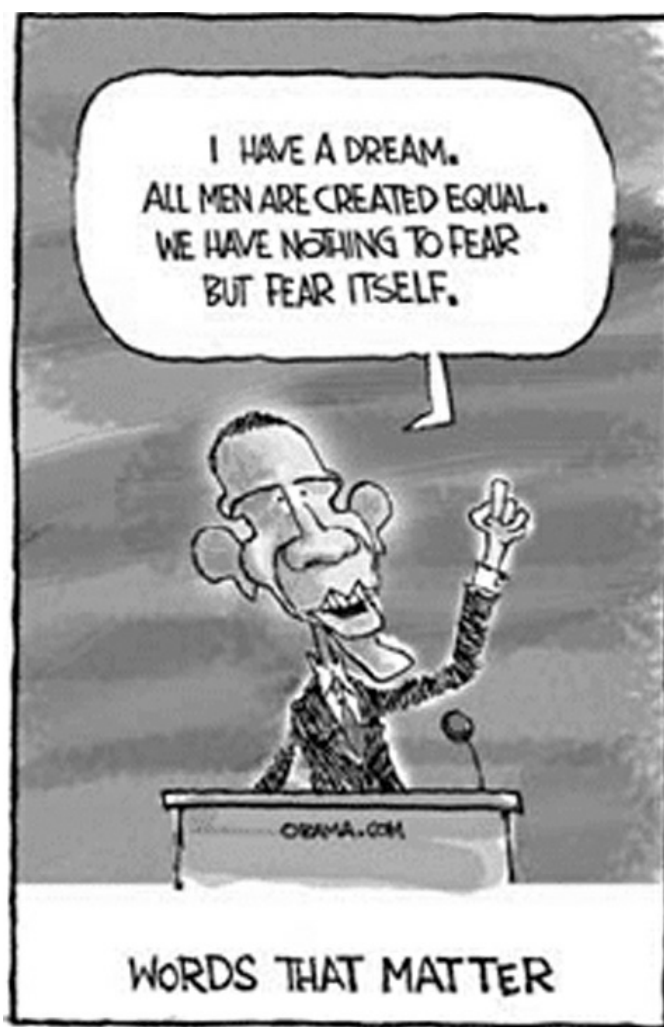
"That's not what you said." I corrected.

"You were implying I couldn't be a writer that wrote about Christ and keep my Christianity while staying at the Ritz."

He denied it and then tried to change the subject.



TROY  
BREWER



## Election won't change anything

**D**espite our faltering economy, the endless war in Iraq and the home mortgage crisis, Americans still want to maintain the status quo in Washington. While we argue over which established politician gets to be president, too few of us question whether simply passing the presidency between lifelong political insiders really benefits the nation.

Whether John McCain, Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama ultimately takes the White House, I expect the country to run in pretty much the same way it has. All three of the finalists for the presidency represent slight variations on the same theme. They might argue over taxes, abortion and other issues, but none of them wants to blow up the system and create real change.

A senator brought up through the two party system and beholden to maintaining that system cannot effect real change. When Obama, a sitting senator and a devoted party line Democrat can push himself as the "change" candidate, you know that no hope for actual change

exists.

Obama portrays himself as an outsider, but his actual credentials show that he's as inside as they come. This isn't some maverick beholden to nobody. Obama is a Democrat-for-life who gave a speech at the at the 2004 party convention nominating the ultimate party hack, John Kerry, for president.

Most people, the voting public included, like talking about change and hearing speeches about it a lot more than they like actually making changes. That's why after nearly two years, millions of dollars and countless votes being cast we're going to end up with a presidential race involving two well-established senators from the two well-established political parties.

We could have picked an experienced businessman, demanded a true outsider or begged someone whose life does not revolve around maintaining the power structure in Washington to run, but we did not. Instead, we sorted through the usual assortment of senators and governors, ending up with more of the same.

Basically, we looked at the nation with all its problems and said, "you know who can fix this? The same people who haven't been

"I can see I've offended you." He smirked, still accusing me of hypocrisy.

"No sir, you just expected me to be quiet while you talked long enough in hopes of saying something intelligent. It just didn't work out for you." I took a sip of my sparkling Perrier and said "Awkward." With that he got up and left.

I was a lot bigger than him and so was my mouth. So the next day when someone different asked me how I made my living, I told them I was a mule for the Columbian drug cartel. They were fine with that.

I didn't have a lot of money then, nor do I now, but I would be lying if I said I don't have hopes and dreams that require a lot of money.

So excuse me for being a Christian while hoping one of my books will sell or a song will hit or my column will be syndicated and bring in revenue streams. As sure as shooting, when I do have money, there will be critics. The Brewer is prepared to take the advice of the late Liberace and cry all the way to the bank.

I think some people are rich, others are blessed and some are richly blessed. The financial motto of every Christian ought to be, "Blessed to be blessing." If that had been the case with other rich Christians, we wouldn't be raising so many eyebrows when we are not dirt poor.

3 John 1:2

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

*The Rev. Troy Brewer welcomes your comments by e-mail at FFTB@OpenDoorMinistries.org or by phone at 817-297-6911.*

able to fix it before."

Despite the fact the we have terrifyingly high oil prices, rapidly falling home values and an economy that's stumbling like Paris Hilton on a Saturday night, people still voted for exactly what we currently have. The hairstyles might be slightly different as is the rhetoric but anyone who believes Obama, McCain or Clinton will truly shake things up is deluding himself.

The only way to truly fix what's broken would be to have a president who owes no political favors and has no Washington connection. To overhaul our bloated, inefficient system, we would need a person able to make enemies without having to worry about the politics.

Basically, we should be demanding a president who actually represents the people instead of one who gives pretty speeches while campaigning then ignores us. America deserves better, but if we don't demand better, we'll be stuck with yet another empty suit working more for his political cronies than the American public.

*Daniel B. Kline's work appears in over 100 papers weekly. He can be reached by e-mail at dan@notastep.com.*



**Church News**

**College Baptist Church**

Wear your flip flops and come join us Sunday morning for Flip Flop Sunday. The times for Sunday school and the worship service will be reversed. We will meet in the auditorium for church at 9:45 a.m. and then have Sunday school at 11 a.m.

An informative and interesting program is scheduled for Three G's Thursday, March 13, at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Kristi Beauchamp from Parkview Nursing and Rehab Center will discuss information all seniors should know about nursing homes. A question and answer session will follow. Seniors in the community are invited to join us for a potluck supper and the program.

The Stretch and Tone class meets every Monday and Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the church. Ladies are invited to join the class, which is led by Cheryl New.

**Holy Trinity Catholic Parish**

Sunday marks a very special celebration for the Big Spring Catholic Community.

At 10:30 a.m., the installation mass for our new pastor, Father Bernard Gully and our parochial

vicar, Father Ariel Lagunilla, will be held at the Big Spring High School auditorium.

Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, will be joining us to officiate at this celebration.

The mass will be the only Sunday celebration of the Eucharist for the Big Spring community. There will be a 5 p.m. mass Saturday at Sacred Heart Church for those who are unable to attend the installation of the new pastors of Holy Trinity Catholic Parish.

Please joins us at the high school auditorium Sunday.

For safety reasons, due to the overwhelming attendance at the 11:30 a.m. mass for the Big Spring Catholic Faith community, mass had to be moved to a larger location.

The 11:30 a.m. mass will now be held at Sacred Heart with the 7:30 a.m. Spanish mass being held at St. Thomas. These changes will take place beginning March 9.

**First Presbyterian Church, Coahoma**

The session will hold its regular meeting at the church at 5:57 p.m. Thursday, March 6.

The annual "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering will be received on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

The lectionary for the fourth Sunday in Lent is I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41. We welcome anyone to join us in worship at 11 a.m. every Sunday.

**First Presbyterian Church, Big Spring**

Presbyterian Women Bible Study met at 2 p.m. Tuesday for a continuation of their study on the books of Jonah and Ruth.

Weekly Bible study was at 5:17 p.m., youth group at 6 p.m. and choir practice at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Gary Holloman, youth director, and the youth of the church express their appreciation to Ellen and Donald Austin, Jamie Walker, Marj Carpenter, Lucy and Paschal Odom, and Katie and Jerry Grimes for providing "Meals for the Youth" in January.

The youth are in charge of selling Easter lilies to be placed in the sanctuary Easter Sunday. These may be designated in honor or in memory of loved ones. There will be order forms in each Sunday bulletin or you may call the church office at 263-4211.

Gregg Hagelstein, commissioned lay pastor from

First Presbyterian in Odessa, will preach March 2, which will be our regular Communion Sunday and the fourth Sunday in Lent. In keeping with the lectionary psalm for the day, the choir will present "Brother James' Air" a setting of the 23rd Psalm.

Lectionary for Sunday is I Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41.

**First United Methodist Church**

Dr. Jim Smith, interim pastor, will deliver his fourth Lenten sermon based on Jesus' Last Lessons.

Trust God from John 14:1-31 will be the basis of his sermon text. Services of worship are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. and this Sunday Holy Communion will be observed.

The Children's Choir will practice at 4 p.m. in youth hall, preparing for their presentation of "The Rockin' Trial of Simon Peter," which will be featured Sunday, April 27. Don't miss this one, Miz Stacy says.

The entire community is invited to take part in the Thanksgiving for Alon prayer service at

First Baptist Church Sunday evening at 8 p.m. God truly blessed us on that terrible Monday and we have much for which to be thankful.

It is time to order Easter lilies.

The order blanks can be found inside the bulletin on Sunday or you may order by contacting the office at 267-5394. Donors will be listed in a special insert in the bulletin Easter Sunday.

Our congregation is delighted to announce that come June we will have a new senior pastor. The Rev. Sharon Weise has been chosen to fill our vacancy and we await her arrival here with great excitement and optimism for our church's future under her very able leadership.

Our church buildings are located in the heart of downtown Big Spring at Fourth and Scurry streets. We have Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. and our mid-week service is at noon in Garrett Hall complete with lunch.

Come visit us.

**Salem Baptist Church**

Salem Baptist Church invites you to join us this Sunday for Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning worship and children's church at 11 a.m. and evening service at 6 p.m. Nursery service is available for all Sunday services.

Wednesday evening prayer meeting is held at Parkplace at 6 p.m.

Salem is located at the corner of Old Colorado City Highway and Salem Road and is pastored by Bro. Monroe Teeters. For further information, call 394-4655.

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

Worship services and Holy Communion using the new Lutheran Service Book form are at 9 a.m. Sunday school and adult Bible classes are at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday evening services are from 6:45 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday

See **CHURCH**, Page 7A

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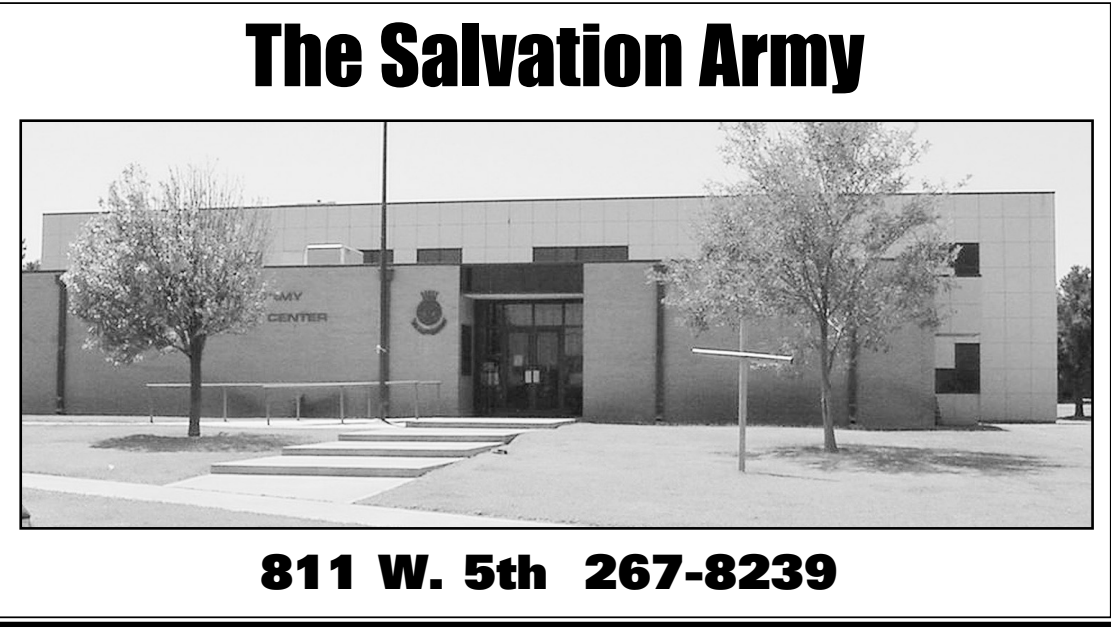
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John 6:35 NIV

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Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unending love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.  
Psalm 107: 8-9 NIV

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For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.  
Ephesians 2:10

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FRIDAY

	WFAA (2) Dallas	KMID (3) Midland	UNI (4) Spanish	KPEJ (5) Odessa	KOSA (7) Odessa	KTLE (8) Telemundo	KWES (9) Midland	WTBS (11) Atlanta	KMLM (12) Odessa	KPBT (13) Odessa	DISC (20) Discovery	AMC (21) Classics	SPIKE (22) Spike TV	TNT (23) Atlanta	BET (26) Black Ent.	DISN (27) Disney	ESPN2 (28) Sports	ESPN (29) Sports	SCIFI (64) Science Fic.
6:PM :30	News (CC) Entertainment	Jeopardy! Wheel-Fortune	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons Two/Half Men	News Entertainment	12 Corazones	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond Raymond	John Hagee	News-Lehrer	How It's Made How It's Made		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live (CC) Hell Date	Phineas-Ferb Phineas-Ferb	NFL Live Arena Football	NBA	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
7:PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Al Diablo con Los Guapos	Bones (CC)	Price Is Right Spectacular	La Traicion	AnneSa (CC)	Raymond Raymond	Update Review Alan Granger	Wash. Week NOW on PBS	Man vs. Wild (CC)	Movie: The Matrix (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Movie: Sleepy Hollow (CC)	Movie: Glory (CC)	:15 Movie: Freaky Friday	Preview Boxing	NBA Basketball:	Chuck (CC)
8:PM :30			Pasion	House (CC)	Ghost Whisperer	Victoria	Dateline NBC (CC)	Movie: Wedding	Light of the Southwest	Bill Moyers Journal (CC)	Survorman (CC)		When Animals Attack III				Boxing: Friday Night Fights	Washington Wizards at	Stargate Atlantis (CC)
9:PM :30			Nuestra Belleza Latina	TMZ (CC) Raymond	NUMB3RS (CC)	Pecados Ajenos		Crashers (CC)		In Search of Shakespeare	Fight Quest		Most Amazing Videos	Movie: Sleepy Hollow (CC)		That's-Raven Life Derek		Chicago Bulls NBA	Stargate Atlantis (CC)
10:PM :30	News (CC) Nightline	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticiero Univ.	Two/Half Men Raymond	News Late Show-	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City	J.R. Church Rico Courts	Charlie Rose (CC)	Fight Quest	Movie: Gothika (CC)	Disorderly Con.		Malcolm-Eddie Han, Montana	Zack & Cody Han, Montana	SportsCenter (CC)	Basketball: Clippers at	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
11:PM :30	The Insider Jimmy Kimmel	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Fabrica de Risas	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Letterman Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Sex and-City Movie: Steel	In Touch-Dr	Tavis Smiley Tavis Smiley	Man vs. Wild (CC)	MXC MXC	Movie: The Breed (CC)	Jamie Foxx Jamie Foxx	Replacements Kim Possible	NFL Live College	Nuggets	Stargate Atlantis (CC)	
12:AM :30	Live (CC) News (CC)	Extra (CC) Lighthouse	Salome (SS)	Reno 911! George Lopez	The Insider	Programa	Conan O'Brien News	Magnolias (CC)	Update Review CCM Ministries	Sign Off	Survorman (CC)	Movie: Pinata: Survival Island	GameTrailers GameTrailers	Movie: Glory (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn	Gamenight NASCAR Now	SportsCenter (CC)	Stargate SG-1 (CC)	

DENNIS THE MENACE



"I COULDN'T DECIDE WHICH FRIEND TO INVITE FOR DINNER, SO I ASKED 'EM ALL!"

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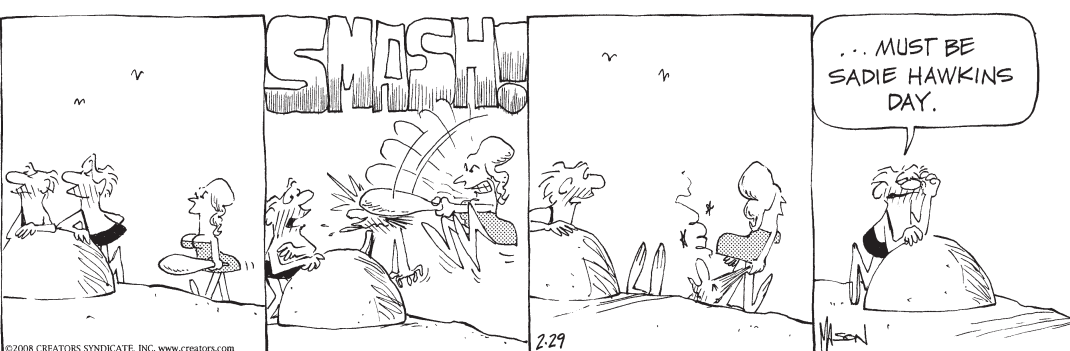
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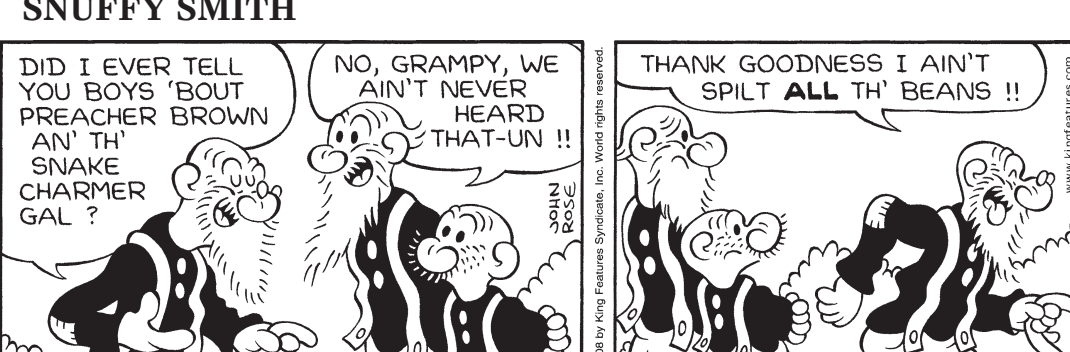
HI AND LOIS



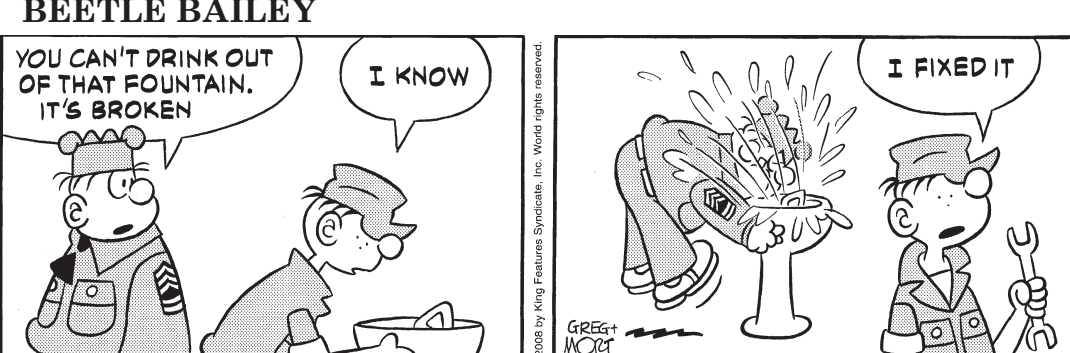
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Feb. 29, the 60th day of 2008. There are 306 days left in the year. This is Leap Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 29, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (also known as the Kerner Commission) warned that racism was causing America to move "toward two societies, one black, one white, — separate and unequal."

On this date:

In 1504, Christopher Columbus, stranded in Jamaica during his fourth voyage to the West, used a correctly predicted lunar eclipse to frighten hostile natives into providing food for his crew.

In 1792, composer Gioachino Antonio Rossini was born in Pesaro, Italy.

In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt appoint-

ed a seven-member commission to facilitate completion of the Panama Canal.

In 1908, the artist known as Balthus was born in Paris.

In 1940, "Gone with the Wind" won eight Academy Awards, including best picture of 1939.

In 1956, President Eisenhower announced he would seek a second term of office.

In 1960, the first Playboy Club, featuring waitresses clad in "bunny" outfits, opened in Chicago.

In 1968, the discovery of the first pulsar, a star which emits regular radio waves, was announced by Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell in Cambridge, England.

In 1968, at the Grammy Awards, the 5th Dimension's "Up, Up and Away" won record of the year for 1967, while album of the year honors went to The Beatles for "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

In 1984, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau announced he was stepping down after more than 15 combined years in

power.

Four years ago: Facing rebellion, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigned and left for exile in the Central African Republic.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Michele Morgan is 88. Actor James Mitchell is 88. Actor Joss Ackland is 80. Actor Alex Rocco is 72. Former space shuttle astronaut Jack Lousma is 72. Actor Dennis Farina is 64. Actress Phyllis Frelich is 64. Actor Antonio Sabato Jr. is 36. Rapper Ja Rule is 32.

Thought for Today: "A single day is enough to make us a little larger." — Paul Klee, Swiss-German artist (1879-1940).

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Answer to previous puzzle

NOAH	PEAR	AMPLE
ABRA	LODE	REAIR
GOING	UNDER	COVER
SEADOG	SLO	WEDS
BEUD	EXAM	
FURGUNDY	WINES	
BALL	LEO	EXALT
ORO	SYSTEMS	IKE
SLOPE	IRE	RASP
COMING	UNGLUED	
EDEN	SLRS	
AJAR	NCR	OGLALA
CONCEALED	WEAPON	
TATER	ALOE	TENT
SNIDE	DYED	EXES

Newsday Crossword

CINEMATIC SHADES by Merle Baker

- Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com
- |                                      |                               |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                        | <b>63</b> Beatles film of '68 | <b>9</b> Mideast initials        |
| <b>1</b> Understand                  | <b>66</b> Change-of-mind word | <b>10</b> Beach acquisition      |
| <b>6</b> Part of a process           | <b>67</b> LP player           | <b>11</b> Bond                   |
| <b>10</b> Salad ingredient           | <b>68</b> Teen exams          | <b>12</b> Things to avoid        |
| <b>14</b> Nerve parts                | <b>69</b> Magnavox rival      | <b>13</b> Uneasy feeling         |
| <b>15</b> Fling                      | <b>70</b> Blockheads          | <b>18</b> Real bore              |
| <b>16</b> Quote-book abbr.           | <b>71</b> Amazon.com founder  | <b>19</b> Singular               |
| <b>17</b> Richard Thomas film of '71 |                               | <b>24</b> Space starter          |
| <b>20</b> Connery, for one           |                               | <b>25</b> Supermarket section    |
| <b>21</b> Watercolor color           |                               | <b>26</b> Trash holder           |
| <b>22</b> Choir members              |                               | <b>27</b> "Mother of Presidents" |
| <b>23</b> Course deviation           |                               | <b>28</b> Tarzan trademark       |
| <b>25</b> Least interesting          |                               | <b>29</b> Something special      |
| <b>26</b> Heston film of '73         |                               | <b>30</b> It means "causing"     |
| <b>32</b> Brighten                   |                               | <b>31</b> Connect with           |
| <b>33</b> Film segment               |                               | <b>35</b> Two-master             |
| <b>34</b> Spotted                    |                               |                                  |
| <b>38</b> Giant discovery            |                               |                                  |
| <b>39</b> Like the Hollywood Bowl    |                               |                                  |
| <b>42</b> Hard-rock center           |                               |                                  |
| <b>43</b> Rapacious person           |                               |                                  |
| <b>45</b> Temporal                   |                               |                                  |
| <b>46</b> Davenport dweller          |                               |                                  |
| <b>48</b> Shelley Winters Oscar film |                               |                                  |
| <b>51</b> Trash holder               |                               |                                  |
| <b>54</b> Increase, with "up"        |                               |                                  |
| <b>55</b> Scarlett's accumulation    |                               |                                  |
| <b>56</b> A lot, at times            |                               |                                  |
| <b>59</b> Go over the books          |                               |                                  |

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
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69							70					71			



## Robotics team wins TCEA contest

Garden City High School's robotics team won first place in the Ninth Annual Texas Computer Education Association Robotics Inventions Advanced Contest.

The contest was held Feb. 2 at Manor High School near Austin. Team members included Hayden Halfmann, Brittany Schniers and Laura Halfmann.

Participation in the contest was at an all-time high and outgrew the convention center venue. Some 169 teams from elementary and secondary schools participated by designing, collaborating, programming and competing with robots in a prescribed problem contest and an open-ended invention contest.

The students used LEGO Mindstorms robots and were allowed to compete with either RCX or the newer NXT versions.

Robotics Advanced includes high school students and Intermediate includes upper elementary and middle school students.

## CHURCH

Continued from Page 5A

Lenten service is at 7 p.m.

Small group Bible studies Law and Gospel, the Lutheran Difference are at 6:30 p.m. at 2204 Edgemere on Monday.

Wednesday noon, Beth Moore on Daniel in the Parish Hall.

Friday at 6 a.m. Forty Days of Just Words at Greg's Grill in the mall.

Sunday, 5:30 p.m., Sermon on the Mount at Brumleys, 2712 Ann.

Prayers are continually needed for the many members and relatives who are ill, have cancer, have lost loved ones, are in the military and, most of all, for all the blessings Alon and the whole town of Big Spring received this past week during and after the explosion. We continue to be blessed since Alon is planning to rebuild.

February On Going Support care package items are: Individual serving size fruit, gallon size Ziploc freezer bags and disposable razors. You can also donate to the AT&T phone card fund.

### North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church

Angel Food delivery day is Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Orders will also be taken for the

March 29 delivery. Please bring a large box to pick up your food articles.

As you place your order, your name is placed in a basket and a drawing is held the week before delivery day to receive a free food box. The winner for February is Sue Williams.

We wish to thank Paula and Pat Smith for the successful Senior Defensive Driving class held this past Saturday. Hats off, also, to the women of the church for a delicious meal served at noon.

The employees and leadership of Alon are still in our prayers. The community of Big Spring is truly blessed by this business and their employees and the strength they have shown during this disaster. God bless all of you.

Don't forget, Tuesday is election day and we as citizens of a great country, need to exercise our right to have a say in the running of our country. So go vote.

Worship services are held each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship and Sunday school immediately following worship. Night services are held at 5 p.m. Lay pastor Jacque Mauch leads the services. Bible study is held the first and third Wednesday

at 6:30 p.m. at the Church and the United Methodist Women meet the second and fourth Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at 503 E. 16th.

We invite all persons wishing to share in the Christian love shown by our congregation to join us for any of the services offered.

North Birdwell United Methodist Church is located at 2702 N. Birdwell. For more information, please call 267-3241 or 267-2203.

### East Fourth Street Baptist Church

The youth will be selling brisket burritos again this Saturday starting at 10 a.m. in front of Wal-Mart.

A clean up day at the church is scheduled for March 8. Any member wanting to help that day should contact Raford Dunagan.

Women's Seminar "Heart Call" will be held in the fellowship hall March 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Registration is \$20. This covers lunch and materials. Your registration needs to be turned in to the church office, 410 E. Third St. as soon as possible.

Come worship with us

at East Fourth, 410 E. Fourth St. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:45 a.m. Morning worship is at 11 a.m. Mission classes begin at 5 p.m. and evening worship is at 6 p.m.

Wednesday activities begin at 7 p.m. with adult prayer meeting, youth Bible study/music and children's (ages 6-12) Bible study/music.

Men's Bible study is at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Matthew 24:42.

### Birdwell Lane Baptist Church

Greetings to you and your family. If you are looking for a church home please visit us at 1512 Birdwell Lane. Sunday worship services are 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. This Sunday, though, our evening service will be at 4 p.m. at Canterbury. Once every three months we have services with the retired elderly at Canterbury.

We have Children's

Church during Sunday morning worship for ages 4-9 years. Midweek services are at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The youth are planning a lock-in sometime in the near future.

For further information or a ride to church, call 264-9924 or 267-7157.

### Chapel of Faith

Chapel of Faith Church, located at 14th and Goliad, has worship service each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. You are invited to attend and share this time with us as we learn more about God and His love.

Work is still being done to upgrade the building. Some carpentry work will be done Saturday morning and the nursery will be painted. We are looking for a public address system and some more furnishings for the nursery/playroom. If you know where we might locate any of these items, call 267-4082.

Remember to continue to thank God for His mercy and His love.

### The Big Spring Prospector Club 39th Annual

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**Inside Big Spring Pack and Ship**



► News briefs

**Everything is bigger in Texas, including its presidential contest with a primary and caucus**

AUSTIN (AP) — People here like to say everything is bigger in Texas, and their oversized presidential contest is no different with not just a primary election, but a caucus added on, too.

The unique combination pits Barack Obama's skill in caucus organizing against Hillary Rodham Clinton's success in big-state primary campaigns.

Their different strengths have created the remarkably close race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Obama was able to keep pace and eventually collect more convention delegates than Clinton in part by building wins in the smaller caucuses in places like North Dakota, Idaho and Minnesota. He's won 13 caucuses to her two.

Those are votes that Clinton's campaign often overlooked in pursuit of a more traditional campaign focused on racking up big primary victories in places like California, New Jersey and her home state of New York. Obama has won more primaries overall, 14 to her nine, but she won four of the five biggest prizes so far.

**Iraqi presidency endorses execution of Hussein's cousin known 'Chemical Ali'**

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's presidential council has endorsed the execution within a month of Saddam Hussein's cousin, known as "Chemical Ali," for his role in the 1980s scorched-earth campaign against Kurds, officials said Friday. But it spared the life of two other officials amid Sunni protests that they were only following orders.

The approval by Iraq's President Jalal Talabani and two vice presidents was the final step clearing the way for Ali Hassan al-Majid's execution by hanging. It could now be carried out at any time, a government adviser and a prosecutor said.

Al-Majid was one of three former Saddam officials sentenced to death in June after being convicted by an Iraqi court of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity for their part in the Operation Anfal crackdown that killed nearly 200,000 Kurdish civilians and guerrillas.

The officials said the three-member presidential council agreed to al-Majid's execution, but did not approve death sentences against the other two — Hussein Rashid Mohammed, an ex-deputy director of operations for the Iraqi armed forces, and former defense minister Sultan Hashim al-Taie.

**Food service manager training course offered**

Statistics indicate that foodborne illness continues to be a health issue in the United States. Each year, one in four Americans will become sick, one in 1,000 will become hospitalized and 5,000 will die due to a foodborne illness.



During a past legislative session, a statute was amended that allowed the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to require each food establishment to have one certified food manager.

Recently, the Texas Board of Health adopted rules to implement this statute. Many of you have already received a letter from the Texas Department of State Health Services regarding this. Under these new rules, each food establishment permitted by the Texas Department of State Health Services must have one certified

food manager. New food manager certificates will be valid for six years.

Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service in Howard County is offering a food manager certification training course. This program will be offered for \$89 March 11 and 12 at the Howard County Library, 500 South Main Street in Big Spring. Cost includes training, materials and the state food manager certification examination. The deadline to register is March 5.

This program is designed to not only prepare foodservice managers to pass the certification examination; it will provide valuable education regarding the safe handling of food. Almost 50 cents of every dollar Americans spend on food is spent on meals prepared away from home. Therefore, careful attention to food safety will help keep customers safe and satisfied.

Foodborne illnesses are estimated to cost thousands of dollars in lost

wages, insurance and medical bills. With these statistics, knowledge of how to prevent foodborne illness is essential. The benefits of improved food safety include:

- Increased customer satisfaction;
  - Improved relationships with health officials;
  - Prevention of bad publicity and law suits due to foodborne illness;
- By attending the course, foodservice managers will learn about:

- Identifying potentially hazardous foods and common errors in food handling;
  - Preventing contamination and cross-contamination of food;
  - Teaching and encouraging personal hygiene for employees;
  - Complying with government regulations;
  - Maintaining clean utensils, equipment and surroundings;
  - Controlling pests.
- Foodborne illnesses can be prevented by following

simple food safety practices. For more information about the Food Manager Certification Training Course of the Texas AgriLIFE

Extension Service, called "Food Safety: It's Our Business," call Kandy K. McWhorter at (432) 264-2237.

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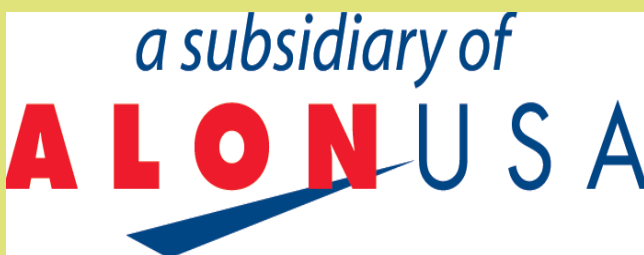
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Southwest Convenience Stores/ 7-Eleven would like to take this opportunity to show our support of our sister company, The Big Spring Refinery as well as the Big Spring community.

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.**