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BIG SPRING

HERALD

TUESDAY
MARCH 11, 2008



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Bracelet test gets thumbs up



Pre-trial Bonding Coordinator Melissa Kukoly checks the coordinates of an ankle bracelet at the Howard County Courthouse. The bracelets, which allows county officials to monitor the whereabouts of its wearer through global positioning satellite, are expected to go into use in a few weeks.

County plans to begin utilizing devices soon

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Preliminary tests of a new ankle-bracelet monitoring system for Howard County's pre-trial bonding program got rave reviews Monday morning, as coordinators prepare to implement the devices in a few weeks.

Pre-trial Bonding Director Mike Welling and coordinator Melissa Kukoly explained the program to commissioners during the court's meeting, saying the use of the global positioning satellite system could help alleviate costs connected with the county jail's female inmates.

"We gave one of the bracelets to County Judge Mark Barr, who was taking a trip to the Dallas area, this weekend. We had the bracelet set on a 15 minute interval, mean-

ing it pinged his location every 15 minutes," said Kukoly, showing the court a list of the locations the judge had visited. "As you can see, it gives us the exact address where he was staying."

And although he was unable to "trick" the system, Barr said it wasn't for a lack of trying. "I tried everything I could think of," said Barr with a laugh. "I even went so far as to wrap the thing in tin foil to see if that would keep the signal from going out. Nothing I tried worked, however."

While Barr had the luxury of carrying the bracelet in his pocket, Kukoly said inmates in the program won't be so lucky.

"The large rubber strap that holds the unit on



Jail progress: 'No glitches, no hitches'

Commissioners approve replacing two aging pickups; hold off on fuel request

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

No glitches, no hitches. That's the report delivered to the Howard County Commissioners Court Monday morning by County Judge Mark Barr regarding ongoing efforts to construct a new 96-bed jail, authorized by voters in November.

"There have been no glitches and no hitches," Barr told the



Barr (Heffelfinger, project architect). After that, we'll be able to start construction."

court. "The work to remove the asbestos from the last of the buildings on the site should be completed in a few days and we expect to award the contract bid in about three weeks, according to Jeff (Heffelfinger, project architect). After that, we'll be able to start construction."

The 96-bed jail, part of a \$11.57

million bond approved by voters following several years of research and development, is set to be constructed in the 3600 and 3700 block of U.S. Highway 80, near the McMahon-Wrinkle Airpark.

While commissioners received positive news concerning the jail project, County Road and Bridge Administrator Eddy Jameson said his department is in need of new vehicles.

"We have two pickups we

need to replace. We're spending time nearly every day trying to make repairs to them and when you're doing that to something that really has no value, it's not good," Jameson told the court. "Both of these pickups were purchased at the same time as the other two we got rid of a few years ago, and after spending so much time behind those graters, they're worn out."

Jameson estimated replacing the pair of 3/4-ton pickups

would cost the county approximately \$34,000 if they use a state vehicle purchasing option.

The court voted unanimously to allow Jameson to make the purchase. Jameson's problems didn't end with the pair of pickups, however.

"I'm not sure how the current contract is set up, but we need to look at a way to line up a backup fuel supply," said

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

Wall Street moves sharply higher

By **JOE BEL BRUNO**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street rebounded sharply Tuesday after the Federal Reserve and other central banks said they will pump \$200 billion into the financial markets to help ease the strain from the credit crisis.

The Dow Jones industrials surged nearly 250 points.

The program is part of a worldwide effort to help struggling banks and mortgage providers. The Fed — acting in concert with the European Central Bank, the Bank of Canada and the Swiss National Bank —

agreed to loan banks money in exchange for debt that includes slumping mortgage-backed securities.

The Fed's latest move was seen as a direct boost to struggling banks by avoiding having to dramatically slash interest rates when the central bank's policymaking

Open Market Committee meets next week. Economists continued to be concerned about the unrelenting rise in oil prices and the dollar's weakness, which contribute to inflation — and cutting rates only add to these pres-

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Sports

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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
Tuesday, March 11, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

TODAY

Big Spring softball at Greenwood, TBA.

Big Spring baseball at Fort Stockton, 6 p.m.

Forsan baseball at McCamey, 5 p.m.

Forsan softball at Sonora, 6 p.m.

Coahoma baseball at Haskell, 4:30 p.m.

Coahoma softball at Haskell, 7 p.m.

THURS. - SAT.

Big Spring softball at San Marcos Tournament.

Big Spring baseball at Greenwood Tournament.

Forsan softball at Sonora, 6 p.m.

Coahoma baseball at Haskell, 4:30 p.m.

Coahoma softball at Haskell, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Forsan baseball at Colorado City, 6:30 p.m.

Forsan softball at Winters, 5 p.m.

Coahoma softball vs. Hawley, 7 p.m.

Coahoma baseball vs. Hawley, 7 p.m.

MARCH 17

Coahoma softball vs. Merkel, 7 p.m.

MARCH 18

Big Spring softball vs. Fort Stockton, Noon.

Coahoma baseball at Stamford, 4:30 p.m.

Coahoma softball at Stamford, 7 p.m.

MARCH 20

Big Spring baseball vs. Chickasha, Okla. 1 p.m.

Big Spring softball at Hobbs, N.M., TBA

Coahoma baseball vs. Merkel, 7 p.m.

MARCH 21

Big Spring softball at Brownwood, TBA

Forsan baseball at Morton Tournament through March 22.

Big Spring Country Club hosting 3-person scramble

The Big Spring Country Club is hosting a 3-person scramble April 5 and 6 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start on both days.

Entry fee is \$60 per player plus a golf cart, however, private carts are welcome.

Entry includes a barbecue lunch on the course for the first day of the tournament.

The field will be flighted by first-round score and the number of flights will be determined by the number of entries.

An optional cash players pool will be available for both rounds.

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

Rangers' pitchers bit by injury bug

The Associated Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Rangers starter Brandon McCarthy likely will start the season on the disabled list because of inflammation in his forearm.

While an initial MRI showed no ligament damage, McCarthy is expected to be sidelined 4-6 weeks because of the problem that has bothered him throughout spring training and cut short his only appearance. The 6-foot-7 right-hander apparently won't need surgery.

Also Monday, expected opening day starter Kevin Millwood

(strained right hamstring) threw more than 50 pitches in a simulated game. Reliever Joaquin Benoit, who is not injured but still trying to build strength in his arm after not playing winter ball for the first time, threw 16 pitches.

Rookie right-hander Luis Mendoza could replace McCarthy in the rotation. Mendoza, who was 1-0 with a 2.25 ERA in three September starts and three relief appearances for the Rangers, as to start Thursday's spring training game against Colorado.

Another option could be 31-year-old right-hander Sidney

Ponson, who agreed to a minor league contract Sunday and was in camp for the first time Monday. Ponson last pitched in the major leagues May 12 for Minnesota before being released. Since winning a combined 17 games for Baltimore and San Francisco in 2003, Ponson is 24-36 with a 5.86 ERA.

McCarthy threw only one inning after Jason Jennings in Friday's game against Milwaukee. McCarthy finished his inning, though he felt more pain in the muscle near his elbow after throwing a curveball. "We thought he was healthy

and all of a sudden, he felt it again," manager Ron Washington said.

Texas had already scratched McCarthy from two spring training starts.

"This is definitely something that is kind of depressing," McCarthy said. "I felt like I put in the work to come in healthy and only have to worry about pitching, and not have to worry about how everything felt. To be going through this again is definitely tough."

See **MLB**, Page 2B

Still soaring: Rockets win 19th

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Tracy McGrady pulled the towel over his shoulders, leaned back in his seat on the bench and smiled. The Houston Rockets' 19th consecutive victory was a laugh.

McGrady scored 19 points in less than three quarters and the Rockets routed cold-shooting New Jersey 91-73 on Monday night to match the third-longest winning streak in NBA history.

Houston won its 10th straight game by double digits, tying an NBA record last set by the Nets in 2004. The Rockets also won their 13th straight at the Toyota Center, the franchise's longest home-court streak since the 1985-86 team won 20 consecutive games at The Summit.

Most importantly, the Rockets closed within one game of the Los Angeles Lakers and San Antonio Spurs for the top seed in the Western Conference. The Lakers play in Houston on Sunday, but the hype for that showdown can wait.

Houston can match the second-longest victory streak in NBA history with a win in Atlanta on Wednesday night. The Milwaukee Bucks won 20 in a row during the 1970-71 season.

The Rockets held the Nets to 30 percent shooting (24-of-79) to match the league's longest winning streak since the 1999-2000 Lakers won 19 in a row on their way to the first of three straight championships with Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal.

Rafer Alston and Luis Scola had 12 points apiece for the Rockets, who've won 23 of their last 24 games and 28 of their last 31. Houston also improved to 7-0 since Yao Ming's season-ending foot injury.

McGrady's only 3-pointer came in the final minute of the third quarter put Houston up 70-45. He sat out the entire fourth quarter, joking and cheering with Dikembe Mutombo.

Vince Carter scored 13 and Richard Jefferson had 12 for the Nets, who've lost six in a row and nine of their last 12. The Nets shot 9-for-43 (21 percent) in the first half.

New Jersey missed 11 of its first 13 shots and the Rockets built an early seven-point lead. Smothered by Jefferson early, McGrady missed his first three shots.

Sharpshooting Steve Novak came off the bench and hit a 3-pointer and McGrady sank two free throws to give Houston a 22-15 lead after one quarter. Novak finished with 11.

McGrady continued to struggle early in the second quarter. He couldn't handle an alley-oop pass from Bobby Jackson, then bounced a dribble off his foot after a steal, ruining a chance for a breakaway dunk.

After McGrady went to the bench three minutes into the second quarter, Novak swished another 3-pointer and Jackson hit a tough fadeaway to start a 19-5 run that Houston made without its seven-time All-Star.

McGrady returned after a long rest and got his first basket on a drive with 1:46 left in the half. Shane Battier swished a 3-pointer from the corner to give Houston a 46-28 lead at the break.

McGrady hit a jumper and Battier swished another 3-pointer in the first minute of the third quarter as the lead swelled over 20. Mutombo blocked a putback try by Carter and gave an

See **ROCKETS**, Page 2B



AP photo/Pat Sullivan
Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady (1) drives the ball into New Jersey Nets defender Richard Jefferson, right, during the first half of a basketball game Monday in Houston.



AP photo/Tony Gutierrez
Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Terry, left, attempts a shot as New York Knicks guard Fred Jones (2) defends in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Monday. The Mavericks won 108-79.

Mavs dominate Knicks, 108-79

By JAIME ARON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki had his back pressed to the floor, his right eye closed and a scratch puffing up around it just minutes into Monday night's game against the New York Knicks.

When Mavericks coach Avery Johnson got to his star player, he wondered whether it would take minutes or hours for Nowitzki to see again.

"We didn't know what was going to happen when he opens it back up," Johnson said.

Nowitzki turned out to be just fine. And Johnson hardly had to sweat the rest of the night.

Nowitzki scored 18 points in 22 minutes, then was among four starters who got to take the last quarter off as the Mavericks polished off a 108-79 victory over the listless Knicks.

Wins don't get much easier than this, with the Mavericks scoring 32 points in the first quarter and the Knicks scoring 31 in the first half. Dallas won its second straight and hasn't trailed in either, the kind of spark Johnson was looking for at the start of a five-game stretch against teams with losing records.

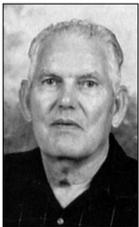
"This gives us a chance to get our feet under us," said Johnson, whose club is getting used to having Jason Kidd and being without the three rotation players traded to get him. "We need some small victories within these games we're playing now. ... It's a good time for us to lay some sort of foundation."

Johnson listed a long list of positives from this one — Kidd and Josh Howard hooking up for easy baskets, Jason Terry scoring 18 off the bench

See **NBA**, Page 2B

Obituaries

Billy E. Plew



Billy E. Plew, 79, of Big Spring died Sunday, March 9, 2008, in Lubbock. Funeral services will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

He was born May 23, 1928, in Big Spring to Cleta and Earl Plew. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in Germany from 1950 until 1952. He married Peggy Painter on June 6, 1953, in Forsan. He worked for 15 years with the Texas and Pacific Railroad and then with the Sid Richardson Carbon Company for 38 years, retiring in 1998. He then worked part time at Neighbor's Convenience Store. He was an active member of Christ's Community Church where he served as an Elder.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Plew of Big Spring; three sons, Roger Plew and Gary Plew and his wife, Kim, all of Big Spring, and Tim Plew and his wife, Paula, of Santa Fe, Texas; one daughter, Tammy Pointon and her husband, Malcolm, of Lazaro Cardenas, Michoacan, Mexico; one brother, Kenneth Plew and his wife, Betty, of Antioch, Calif.; one sister, Louise Blalack and her husband, Gary, of Boerne; 13 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

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

Ruth Rogers

Ruth Rogers, 77, of Big Spring died Friday, March 7, 2008, in Lubbock. Private family services will be held at a later date.

She was born April 10, 1930, in Paris, Texas, to Juanita and Faris Pierce. She married Frank Rogers in 1946 in Tucson, Ariz. He preceded her in death on Sept. 4, 2007. She moved to Big Spring in 1992 and she was a homemaker.

She is survived by one son, Larry Rogers and his wife, Marilyn, of Durango, Colo.; eight grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by one son, Gary Rogers on Jan. 24, 1992.

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

Ronald 'Mutt' Moore

Ronald "Mutt" Moore, 86, of Big Spring died Monday, March 10, 2008, at a local hospital. His arrangements are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

- American Legion Post 506 will hold a fish fry Saturday at 3202 W. Highway 80. Delivery is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. by calling 263-2084. Serving will be held from noon until 3 p.m. Plates are \$8 each. Carry-out is available.

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

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

- St. Mary's and friends of St. Mary's are holding a lap blanket drive to place approximately 400 lap blankets in the hands of every nursing home patient in Big Spring. Blankets can be taken to the church office, 1001 Goliad, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday or call Connie Fowler at 267-2713.

- A beginning crochet class is being held at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the church's Parish Hall.

- Bring joy and kindness to others by becoming a Compass Hospice volunteer. Help those at the end of life's journey. Make a difference in someone's life. Call 263-5999 to begin your journey.

- Christ Community Fellowship is collecting infant car seats and carriers. These are given to new mothers who cannot afford them. To donate your old or new car seats and carriers, call Karen Allen at 263-3517 or leave a message at Christ Community Fellowship, 263-love. All donations are appreciated.

- Road to Recovery, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, seeks volunteers to drive cancer patients to treatment in Midland. This requires just a few hours commitment each month. To volunteer, or to request a ride for treatment, call Nancy Koger at 267-7809.

Crab Grass Preventer Plus Lawn Food
available at
Howard County Feed & Supply
701 E. 2nd St. 267-6411

Police blotter

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

- ERNEST CHANCE**, 52, of 1200 Austin, was arrested Monday on charges of driving while license invalid - enhanced and possession of a controlled substance.
- UNATTENDED DEATH** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- MAKING A FALSE REPORT TO A POLICE OFFICER** was reported in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
- ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 2500 block of Chanute.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 39 inmates at the time of this report.
- KASEY CHARLES HUCKABEE**, 23, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
 - SCOTT RANDALL BROWN**, 27, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for theft (two counts), bail jumping and failure to appear and a Dawson County warrant for robbery.
 - HENRY CLAY HERNANDEZ**, 27, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for evading arrest or detention.
 - TIMOTHY JOE FLORES**, 32, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of possession of a controlled substance (two counts).
 - DICKIE DWAYNE DODSON**, 31, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of bond forfeiture - theft by check.

Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL** was reported in the 3600 block of Calvin. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL** was reported in the 3200 block of E. 11th Place. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Young. Service refused.
- MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of E. 16th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic pain disease), a new support and informative group meets at 213 Circle. Call Lucy at 264-1213 for more information.

THURSDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m.; women's meeting; 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Non-smoking closed discussion meeting, 8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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.

SATURDAY

- Alcoholics Anonymous open discussion meeting, 615 Settles, noon to 1 p.m. Open podium/speakers meeting 615 Settles 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. Open birthday night, no smoking meeting the last Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- The American Cancer Society meets at noon at the Home Hospice Office for lunch and its monthly meeting. For more information, call Sherry Hodnett at 264-7599.
- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Free blood pressure screenings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Salvation Army, 811 W. Fifth St., provided by InHome Care.
- Senior Circle meets at 10:30 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center for Sit and Be Fit Chair Aerobics. Those 50 years and older are invited to attend. Call 268-4721.
- Senior Circle meets at 11 a.m. at Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Call 267-6479.
- Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Wednesday...Increasing clouds. Highs in the upper 70s. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Friday...Sunny...Windy. Highs in the lower 80s.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Windy. Lows around 40.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.

Saturday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Windy. Highs in the mid 70s.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Windy. Lows in the mid 40s.

Monday...Partly cloudy. Windy. Highs in the upper 60s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 3-6-10-11-19.
Number matching five of five: 1.
Prize per winner: \$24,362.
Winning tickets sold in: Sealy.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 13-19-25-28. Bonus Ball: 30.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Prize: \$225,000
Winning ticket(s) sold in: Waxahachie.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 5-8-3-5. Sum It Up: 21.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-8-0. Sum It Up: 11

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NBA

Continued from Page 1B

and all the minutes logged by the backups.

"We've got to make the most out of these games to get better," Nowitzki said.

Only problem was, Dallas could've had tougher competition in an intrasquad scrimmage.

Even with Zach Randolph and Jamal Crawford, their top two scorers, returning to the lineup, the Knicks made only one of 13 shots to start the first quarter, then did it again to start the second quarter.

They trailed by 28 before halftime on their way to a seventh straight loss.

Afterward, New York coach Isiah Thomas couldn't stop talking about Jason Kidd.

Actually, Thomas' entire postgame news conference was answering one question about Kidd. He took off after that.

"He gets them out in transition. He gets them a lot of easy baskets," Thomas said. "In that first quarter, every time we missed a shot — we came out cold — and every time that we missed a shot it was a fast-break layup, and everything was initiated by Kidd. He's a great player."

Randolph, who'd missed the last five games because of a bruised foot and personal reasons, scored 21 points. Crawford, who missed only one game because of a bruised right hand, had 13 points. David Lee had 14.

"I actually felt pretty good," Randolph said. "I felt better than I thought I would."

The Mavericks haven't trailed in either of their first two games in this soft part of their schedule. They're now 6-5 since Kidd arrived, with all six wins against teams with losing records.

Kidd was Dallas' only starter to play in the fourth quarter, and he logged only 100 seconds. He finished with eight points, nine assists and five rebounds — and his first victory over the Knicks this season.

"Every team has their problems and their ups and downs," he said. "The thing is their downs have been so publicized. They have a lot of talent. It's a matter of being healthy and playing at a high level."

Howard scored 14 points and Jerry Stackhouse had eight.

Nowitzki became Dallas' franchise scoring leader the previous game, then started padding his lead with the first two baskets of this game, a spinning bank shot and a

3-pointer in transition. The Mavericks had 17 fast-break points in the first quarter, while the Knicks had 15 total points.

Notes: Even on the road, Thomas heard a few boos when introduced before the game. ... A team of women ages 65 to 91 took the court between the first two quarters, prompting plenty of jokes about whether they might be able to beat the Knicks. ... New York is 0-12 on the road against Western Conference teams. ... The Mavs have won five straight against the Knicks and eight straight in Dallas. ... Knicks guard Nate Robinson, coming off a career-high 45 points, had five points on 2-of-14 shooting. ... New York's 31 first-half points were the lowest Dallas has allowed in any half this season. The Mavs had set their first-half low by allowing 34 to New Jersey the previous game.

Spurs 107, Nuggets 103

At San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 23 points and 18 rebounds, and the Spurs beat Denver in the second meeting between the teams in four days.

Tony Parker added 16 points and Manu Ginobili scored 13 and had a career-high 14 assists for the Spurs.

Allen Iverson led

Denver with 28 points despite a broken finger.

Magic 123, Hawks 112

At Orlando, Fla., Dwight Howard had 26 points and 16 rebounds, and Hedo Turkoglu had the second triple-double of his career with 23 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds.

Rashard Lewis added 22 points and reserve Keith Bogans had 19 as the Magic went 15-of-28 from behind the arc.

Joe Johnson scored 27 points and Mike Bibby had 23 for Atlanta, which shot 51 percent for the game, including 11-of-17 on 3-pointers, but trailed by 21 at halftime.

Clippers 99, Heat 98

At Miami, Cuttino Mobley made two free throws with 2.6 seconds left and scored 29 points for Los Angeles, hours after the Heat decided to shut Dwyane Wade down for the season.

Corey Maggette and Al Thornton each had 22 points for the Clippers, who won for just the second time in their last 10 games. It was the sixth consecutive loss for the Heat and third in a row at home.

Ricky Davis scored 27 points for Miami. Daequan Cook added a career-high 23.

MLB

Continued from Page 1B

McCarthy had two stints on the disabled list in his first season last year for Texas. He was on the DL for three weeks in June because of a blister on his finger, and nearly a month later in the season because of a stress fracture in his shoulder blade.

McCarthy was 5-10 with a 4.87 ERA in 23 games last season. He came to the Rangers in the December 2006 trade that sent first-round pick John Danks to the Chicago White Sox.

Millwood wasn't pleased with his location in the simulated game, an controlled environment where he didn't have to field his position or worry about runners. But he didn't have any health issues and could pitch in his first spring training game this weekend. He allowed two hits with five strikeouts and one walk.

Notes: The Rangers sent 11 players to their minor league camp Monday. Those optioned to the minors were SS Joaquin Arias, OF Julio Borbon, RHP Thomas Diamond and C Max Ramirez. Assigned to the minor league camp were SS Elvis Andrus, 1B Chris Davis, INF German Duran, RHP Kea Kometani, OF John Mayberry, C Chris Stewart and LHP Bill White. ... Diamond, the 2004 first-round pick, is coming back from ligament replacement surgery last year in his right elbow. He could throw a simulated game by this weekend.

Johnson returns to mound in D-Backs win

Randy Johnson took a big step in his return from back surgery.

Pitching in a game for the first time since June, Johnson lasted 1-1/3 innings Monday during Arizona's 10-9 victory over the NL champion Colorado Rockies at Tucson, Ariz.

The 44-year-old left-hander gave up three runs and four hits, including a three-run homer by Chris Iannetta. He walked one and struck out one.

"I've got a long ways to

go, but I'm just happy to be able to get out there and pitch pain-free," Johnson said. "Comparing today to the last time I pitched at Chase (Field), it's night and day. So I'm happy about that. The results will come as I pitch more."

The Big Unit was on the mound for the first time since June 28. Last summer, he underwent back surgery for the second time in less than a year, but Monday he said he felt healthy.

"I'm not looking too much at results," he said. "I'm looking to gain some endurance and stamina and work on my location and all those other little things on top of monitoring my back at the same time."

Johnson threw 20 of his 33 pitches for strikes. The five-time Cy Young Award winner left to a standing ovation from fans behind the visitors' dugout at Hi Corbett Field.

"Minus the results

today, there was a lot of positive things," he said. "But as competitive as I am, I'm still disappointed that I would pitch like that."

Johnson said he wasn't sure what to expect when he took the mound on a sunny, 67-degree afternoon.

"I was actually kind of nervous," he said. "Today, anything could have happened. I could have thrown a pitch and it could have been over. It wasn't. The point being is that I didn't know what to expect. I put a lot of hard work into it, but I can see that I still have a long ways to go to get my innings under my belt and to get where I need to be."

Johnson expects to make his next scheduled start, against the Los Angeles Angels on Saturday.

Arizona manager Bob Melvin wouldn't speculate on whether Johnson might be ready to open the season with the big league team as the

Diamondbacks defend their NL West title.

"I'm not going to rule anything out," Melvin said. "If you look at where he is compared to some of the other starters right now, it might be a stretch. I'm just not going to commit to anything along those lines yet."

ROCKETS

Continued from Page 1B

emphatic wag of his finger to the crowd.

Jefferson drove for a dunk over Mutombo and wagged his finger back at Mutombo, but referee Joe Crawford gave Jefferson a technical foul.

Jefferson pleaded about the apparent double standard to Crawford to no avail.

The Nets shot better in the third quarter and made a mild rally, cutting the deficit to 14.

McGrady hit a running jumper and his only 3-pointer in the final two minutes of the third quarter before calling it a night.

Notes: The Rockets failed to reach 100 points for just the second time in 10 games. ... New Jersey's 28 first-half points and 47 points after three quarters were season lows. The Nets' 28 first-half points were also a season low for a Rockets opponent. ... Rockets rookie F Carl Landry sat out for the second straight game with a bruised right knee.

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

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

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Score One for the Defense

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 4 2
♥ Q 7 4 2
♦ Q J 10 9 3
♣ 10 6

WEST
♠ 9 3
♥ A 10 9 8
♦ K 8 4
♣ 8 7 4 3

EAST
♠ A Q 10 8 7 6
♥ 5 3
♦ A 7 5
♣ 9 2

SOUTH
♠ K J 5
♥ K J 6
♦ 6 2
♣ A K Q J 5

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♠ Dble Pass 2 ♠
Pass 2 NT Pass 3 ♦
Pass Pass Dble

Opening lead — nine of spades.

Timing is a key element of card play. The order in which the various suits are played is critical in many deals, and this applies to both offensive and defensive play.

Take this case where West led a spade against three notrump doubled. East overtook the nine with the ten, won by South with the jack. Declarer had six tricks in plain view and could count the spade king as number seven. He had to develop two more

tricks quickly to have a chance for the contract, so at trick two he led the king of hearts.

Had West taken the king, declarer would have made the contract. But West wisely permitted the king to win. South then continued with the jack of hearts, and this time West took his ace. If he hadn't, declarer would have played another heart to acquire his ninth trick, later using the ten of clubs as an entry to dummy's heart queen.

But then, having taken the ace of hearts, West had to change his tactics to defeat the contract. Had he led another spade, he would have presented the game-going trick to South on a silver platter.

Instead, West returned the ten of hearts, realizing it was more important to establish a heart trick for himself than to establish his partner's suit by playing a spade.

South could not cope with this defense. He won the heart with the queen and led a spade from dummy to establish his ninth trick, but East was ready.

He rose with the ace, cashed the ace of diamonds — West signaling with the eight — and continued with a diamond to West's king, allowing West to score the setting trick with the nine of hearts.

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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

Why is the wise sun in Pisces the celestial savior? The fishes have always been associated with deliverance, recovery and healing — with a caveat. We must dive into the sea of emotion to find our salvation.



HOLIDAY MATHIS

As the sun transits through the fishes, by facing the shadows of our emotions, we can escape any peril caused by the outside world.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You tell people how to see you, and they choose you based on the message you subliminally send. You now make the subconscious conscious in order to empower yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your dream of success is real. It exists. It's just waiting for you to join it. Keep trying to find the right entrance. Push on all the doors until you find the one that yields easily to your touch.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Whatever seems complicated doesn't have to be. All that's necessary is a little distance from the problem so you can see the simple truth. Friendship and love follow simple rules. You get what you put into it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you don't have the abilities you think you need, don't beat yourself up. Relax. You're terrific at being a beginner, open to learning the way children do — duplicating actions without over-thinking things.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are able to convey your thoughts clearly. Even if the words aren't right, the emotion says it all. Your willingness to communicate even when you feel awkward will create more love in your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can expect to be seized by a fierce case of deja vu. But this is the last time you'll visit the situation in quite this way. A flash of insight into your own behavior will break a pattern for good.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Hidden feelings are aired, and someone is bound to surprise you. If you feel the same, congratulations. If not, an honest discussion will restore the balance and bring agreement.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Courage and creativity are the two most attractive qualities you can cultivate. Unlike beauty and cash, courage and creativity can build, instead of fade, over time.

SAGITARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Daunting prospects ahead produce a strong reaction from you — maybe even a tantrum worthy of a 3 year old. Parent your inner child by giving yourself a little time out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Give your all,

but don't give more than your all. When you overdo, you deplete your resources and work against yourself. Instead, just do your best. Your best is enough.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are known for your vivid imagination, which you use to both solve problems, and create them. Either way, you fascinate the people around you, and they delight in the quandaries or solutions you weave.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You deserve to have what you want — not approximately but exactly. Be as specific as possible, and stand back in amazement at how precisely the universe was listening to you.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "My girlfriend is a Taurus. Her family drives us nuts. They'll have yet another drama, and she'll drop everything for them, including me. I know everyone's family has its issues, but — help!"

A Taurus woman doesn't need to open her mouth or her ears to know that her mom is in a bad mood, her kid is hiding something or her bro is about to hit her up for 20 bucks. Taurus women can sum up the family scene in one glance, even before the first sip of morning coffee. Understand that she is the go-to gal, the rock of the family — if rocks had credit cards, that is. They know they can count on her for a variety of needs, from babysitting to driving to emotional problem-solving to borrowing money. My advice? When you can't beat 'em, join in. She likes being the rock, and that's what you've signed up for.

Share her "family needs help must go" trips, lend an ear when she needs to vent, offer your insights about their crazy ways. (Learn more about Taureans in my book "Rock Your Stars: Your Astrological Guide to Getting it All.")

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Pisces Sharon Stone's desire to take on emotionally dynamic roles, dramatically different from past ones, may be attributed to the planet of awakening, Uranus, hovering over her Pisces sun. Her new choices showcase the smartly defiant and oft inappropriately spunky spirit she's channeling. I bet those who know Sharon intimately have observed her interests change with her evolving identity.

Holiday Mathis is the author of "Rock Your Stars." If you would like to write to her, please go to 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.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Endeavour launches longest mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Shuttle Endeavour and a crew of seven blasted into orbit Tuesday on what was to be the longest space station mission ever, a 16-day voyage to build a gangly robot and add a new room that will serve as a closet for a future lab.

The space shuttle roared from its seaside pad at 2:28 a.m., lighting up the sky for miles around as it took off on a multinational flight involving Canada and Japan.

It was a rare treat: The last time NASA launched a shuttle at nighttime was in 2006.

Only about a quarter of shuttle flights have begun in darkness.

"Good luck and Godspeed, and we'll see you back here in 16 days," launch director Mike Leinbach radioed to the astronauts right before liftoff.

"Banzai," replied Endeavour's commander, Dominic Gorie, using a Japanese exclamation of joy. "God truly has blessed us with a beautiful night here, Mike, to launch, so let's light them up and give Him a show."

They did. The shuttle took flight with a flash of light, giving a peach-yellow glow to the low clouds just offshore before disappearing into the darkness.

Madonna, Mellencamp lead hall inductees

NEW YORK (AP) — Madonna, pop music's quick-change artist, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Monday and paid tribute to people who encouraged her and even critics who panned her for helping drive her career.

Heartland hitmaker John Mellencamp, with his son Speck playing guitar and his parents watching from a balcony above the Waldorf Astoria Hotel ballroom, joined the rock-kicking with a rumbling version of "Authority Song."

Philly soul producers Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, literate songwriter Leonard Cohen, British rockers the Dave Clark Five, and surf instrumentalists the Ventures were among the other inductees.

BRACELET

Continued from Page 1A

their ankle has a sensor in it," said Kukoly. "If that band is cut or broken, the sensor immediately detects it and reports it. And while the bracelet Judge Barr took with him was set on 15 minute intervals, the ones we'll be using on inmates will be set at one-minute intervals. So if anything happens, we'll know almost immediately."

As for accuracy, Welling said the system depends mainly on cellular telephone towers.

"It uses those towers to triangulate the signal,"

Welling told the court. "So it all depends on that. Sometimes, on the report, it will show several addresses at one time. Others, such as when Judge Barr was where he was staying this weekend, it nailed it down to a single address."

Welling said the program doesn't come without cost, however.

"The daily cost of the bracelet and monitoring system depends on the intervals in which it pings, so we're looking at between \$5 to \$10 a day," Welling told the court. "That cost would be paid for by the inmate and is part of a contract they have to sign. However,

when you compare \$10 a day to the \$45 a day it's costing to keep them in jail, I believe it's very effective."

Kukoly said the idea of "house arrest" can also save the county money on other items that must be provided in jail.

"If they are under house arrest, they have to provide their own medical services," said Kukoly. "They also have to provide their food, and this will allow them to keep working, which is a big plus."

The county's Pre-Trial Bonding program offers low-interest bonding to county jail inmates awaiting trial for non-violent

offenses and who are unable to bond out using a commercial agency.

Commissioners approved the use of the monitoring program — and 10 ankle bracelets — in February.

According to Barr, the same type of program has flourished in Ector County.

"Odessa managed to save \$3 million using this program," said Barr. "And while this is being used for pre-trial bonding, it could later be used for post-trial."

Welling said he has already signed one female inmate to the program, which should be up and running in a few weeks.

COUNTY

Continued from Page 1A

Jameson. "We've actually run out of fuel before our current supplier could deliver. The contract calls for them to deliver within 48 hours of us calling, and its been four and five days at times."

Jameson suggested the court consider setting up a separate contract with Parks Fuels, an idea commissioners said would

have to be further investigated.

"We need to have Mike (Thomas, county attorney) look at the current contract and see what we can do," said Barr. "If we need to break our current contract and then go with Parks, he should be able to tell us."

While the court works on getting fuel delivered in a timely fashion, commissioners also gave the go ahead on a tasty matter Barr said employees at the courthouse are vastly

in favor of.

"For all you old hands who remember, many years ago we had a snack bar in the first-floor lobby of the courthouse," said Barr.

"We've been approached by a couple who are interested in reopening it. We've gotten a very favorable response from county employees in the building, and to get the ball rolling we have to go out on bids for it."

"We'll also have to look at how the space will be rented out. Mind you, this

isn't going to be a money-maker for the county by any means, but it's a real convenience for the employees. They are talking about soups, sandwiches and things like that. Nothing that would require a lot of cooking."

The court voted unanimously to go out for bids on the matter.

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

WALL STREET

Continued from Page 1A

sures.

"The big problem has been the financials, and this helps supply money directly to the banks and may take some of the need for aggressive rate cutting off the table," said Peter Dunay, chief investment strategist at Meridian Equity Partners. "The Fed is basically going to take the bad loans off the banks' books, and the market seems to be loving that idea."

The Dow rose 248.63, or 2.12 percent, to 11,988.78. The index is still down more than 2,100 points from its October 2007 record high.

Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 26.46, or 2.08 percent, at 1,299.93, while the Nasdaq composite index added 45.27, or 2.09 percent, to 2,214.61.

Government bond

prices fell as stocks rallied. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.57 percent from 3.46 percent late Monday.

Oil prices rose as high as \$109.72 in premarket trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange before falling back to \$107.22, down 68 cents. Speculation that rising prices for oil and other commodities will offset the falling dollar has driven oil's rally from \$87 a barrel in January.

Gold prices were higher, and the dollar was mixed against other major currencies.

The Fed's announcement overshadowed a report from the Commerce Department that showed the United

States' trade deficit grew larger in January. The latest snapshot of the economy showed that the trade gap increased to \$58.2 billion — the highest since November.

In corporate news, WellPoint Inc. fell after Goldman Sachs trimmed its ratings in the managed care sector to neutral from attractive. The investment bank singled out WellPoint's performance amid pricing pressures. The stock plunged \$17.67, or 27 percent, to \$48.22.

Texas Instruments Inc., which makes chips used in about half the world's cell phones, lowered its profit projections late Monday due to a key customer's decision to cut orders. The company did not identify the customer

other than to say it is a maker of wireless phones, and shares fell 71 cents to \$28.94.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 16.89, or 2.62 percent, to 660.86.

Stocks rebounded.

Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average rose 1.01 percent, while Hong Kong's market closed up 1.28 percent higher. In afternoon trading, Britain's FTSE-100

rose 2.3 percent, Germany was up 2.33 percent, and France added 2.24 percent.

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Ruth Rogers, 77, died Friday. Private family services will be held at a later date.

Billy Plew, 79, died Sunday. Funeral Services will be at 4:00 PM Wednesday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

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EDITORIAL

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-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

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OUR VIEWS

Hangar 25's contest wants children's art

Parents, the call has gone out from the Hangar 25 Air Museum that it again needs your children's artwork. That's right, in part of its effort to get the youth in Big Spring and Howard County excited about the museum and its exhibits, it is conducting an art contest that deserves attention.

The museum is sponsoring its Second Annual Kid's Klub Art Contest for youth between 7 years and 18 years of age, touting the theme "Honoring All Veterans from the Past to the Present."

It's an effort that museum officials hope will address two goals with one project — to not only encourage art, but to also help educate the community about the Hangar 25 Air Museum."

The contest is open to young people in three different age groups — 7 to 10 years, the Junior Cadet's Division; 11 to 14 years, the Cadet's Division; and 15 to 18 years, the Captain's Division.

Artwork submitted for the contest needs to be on a piece of 8-1/2 x 11 sheet of paper. No entries depicting violence will be accepted and must follow the theme of the contest.

The name, age and contact information (telephone number and address) for the artist must be written in pencil on the back of the entry, and must be turned in or mailed to the Hangar 25 Air Museum 1911 Apron Drive, Big Spring 79720. Entries will be accepted April 1-30, so there's plenty of time to plan and work on the project.

First, second and third places in all three age divisions will receive prizes. All entries will be displayed at Hangar 25 for the month. The overall "Best In Show" winner, however, will have his or her design placed on the Kid's Klub Summer Workshop T-shirt. And awards reception is scheduled for 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 9.

For more information on the museum or the contest, call 264-1999.

We here at the *Herald* hope parents in our community will encourage their children to enter the Hangar 25 contest.

Furthermore, if you haven't taken your children to visit the museum — or worse still, haven't visited it yourself — now is the perfect time to plan a trip to Hangar 25.

The museum is not simply geared toward the older veterans in our community. It's a glimpse at an important part of this community's history, as well as an eye toward the future.

We really think you and your family should check it out.

How To Contact Us

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

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

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- 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

Everything is good when we walk with You, Lord.
Amen

Drug laws' absence of justice

When Attorney General Michael Mukasey was working to persuade Congress to stop a U.S. Sentencing Commission decision to allow federal judges to reduce the sentences of some 19,500 federal inmates serving time for crack cocaine offenses, he told the Fraternal Order of Police that federal crack offenders "are some of the most serious and violent offenders in the federal system."



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Drug lords, rejoice. If your average crack offender represents the most dangerous convicts in the federal system, then a lot of small-time hoods and mid-level lackeys who don't pack heat are warming prison beds that should be meant for kingpins and their armed henchmen.

You've probably read about the disparity in federal mandatory minimum sentences before. The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 mandated a five-year minimum sentence for possession of 5 grams of crack cocaine or 500 grams of powdered cocaine. Civil rights groups have attacked the 100-1 volume disparity on racial grounds. The U.S. Sentencing Commission found that more than 80 percent of crack offenders are black, while some 80 percent of powdered cocaine offenders are white.

Over the years, the sentencing commission has recommended narrowing the crack-powder gap.

In May, the commission also called for a repeal of mandatory minimum sentences for simple possession of cocaine in either form, in the belief that federal law enforcement should concentrate on big-volume dealers. Congress has failed to act.

Last year, the sentencing commission made a modest reduction in crack sentences and also allowed inmates to petition for reduced sentences starting March 3. Since Congress did not stop the change, more than 1,500 inmates are eligible to apply this year. The average sentence reduction, according to the commission, is expected to be 27 months.

If this rules change meant that violent career criminals would be running wild and free, I'd be leading the charge in protest. It's true, federal statistics show that 27 percent of powder and 43 percent of crack offenses in 2005 were broadly defined as involving weapons — but that definition can apply to "any participant" of a deal in which someone else has a knife or a gun.

When the commission looked for crimes that involved injury, death, or threats of injury or death, it found that 90 percent of crack offenses "did not have violence associated with them." So if these are the most violent offenders, as Mukasey says, the feds are going after sissies.

What is more, the commission found in 2002 that that largest portion of crack offenders — 55 percent — were street-level dealers, while the largest group of powder cocaine offenders — 33 percent —

were couriers and mules. I'm not saying they shouldn't go to prison, but that the feds should focus on putting dangerous criminals behind bars, not these losers.

Eric Sterling, who as a congressional staffer helped write the draconian 1986 drug-abuse law and later started the Criminal Justice Policy Foundation as penance, noted that the downside to critics focusing on the crack-powder disparity as a "civil rights complaint" is that they neglect the larger problem — cocaine prosecutions too often target small-time criminals when "the feds should be going after high-level people, the multi-kilo multi-ton traffickers" — the thugs who have private armies, launder barrels of money and generally endanger all of society.

As a former federal judge, Mukasey should have more faith in his erstwhile brethren. As Sterling noted, "Judges aren't going to just let dangerous people out" — not when they can turn down petitions filed by the rare drug lord who comes before their bench.

"What passes for a drug kingpin in 99 percent of the cases is nothing more than a young man who can't even afford a lawyer when he's hauled into court," a frustrated U.S. District Court Judge Patrick Murphy of East St. Louis told "60 Minutes" in 2004. "I've seen very few drug kings."

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

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What would 'universal' be like?

I live in New Mexico, where every other person is running for political office, thanks to the fruit-basket-like turnover created by the retirement of Republican Senator Pete Domenici, who's been aging in place on Capitol Hill since 1973. The debate between Republican aspirants for the Senate — both current members of the U.S. House — is already heating up. In their first encounter, they predictably tried to "out-conservative" each other. Heather Wilson, representing urban Albuquerque, labeled herself a "commonsense" conservative. She attacked Steve Pearce, a downstater with more rural constituents, for his vote against expanding children's health insurance. Pearce countered that he is the "true" conservative, and said giving poor kids insurance would be "Hillary Care Lite . . . the beginning of socialized medicine."



MARTHA BURK

W-a-a-i-t a minute. Socialized medicine? With that remark, Pearce shows he's clueless about medical care and so are lot of other candidates. Not to mention conservative Rush Limbaugh clones who are out of control in the blogosphere, raving about the government controlling your private medical decisions. Maybe they need a little lesson on what "socialized medicine" is — and is not. And maybe they'd be surprised to learn that the United States already has one form of socialized medicine. But I'm jumping ahead.

Many people, including Pearce, evidently equate "universal cover-

age," which Hillary Clinton does advocate, with the dreaded "socialized medicine." Universal coverage means just that — everyone would have health insurance. Some would have it through employers, some through privately purchased plans, and some through government-subsidized programs if they're too poor to foot the full bill. Universal coverage does not mean the government would provide health care as a "welfare" or "entitlement" benefit to everyone, regardless of income or employment status.

Though having insurance would be mandatory, type of coverage would be up to the individual. Choice of doctors and hospitals under universal coverage would remain much as it is now — controlled by the type of plan the individual is covered under — and in no small part dictated by insurance companies. In some scenarios, insurance companies would be required to cover pre-existing conditions, stopping the practice of "cherry-picking" only the healthiest patients for inclusion in their plans.

Another term we hear a lot about is "single payer." Single payer means a system of health care that provides universal and comprehensive coverage, with the government as the insurer issuing the payments. Everyone's health care would be paid for out of one publicly administered trust fund (paid for by taxes on both individuals and businesses) which would replace our current multi-payer insurance company system and its premiums. In single payer, the government would not be the primary provider of health care. It would just be the primary payer. There would still be freedom to choose doctors and other health

care professionals, facilities and services.

Doctors would remain in private practice and be paid on a fee-for-service basis from government funds, just as they're paid now by insurance companies. The government would not own or manage medical practices or hospitals. Single payer is what we have now with traditional Medicare. Insurance companies are eliminated — no more hassles with gatekeepers, denied coverage and trying to find doctors "in network." As any senior who has been liberated from HMO hell and you'll see how easy and popular single payer would be if everyone had it.

If "socialized medicine" is none of these — just what the heck is it? Simple. It's a system of health care in which all health facilities are owned by the government. Doctors and other health care personnel work for the government and draw their salaries from the government. This is the model used in the U.S. Veterans Administration and the armed services, where the government owns the hospitals, and medical professionals are government employees. It works pretty well for vets, but red-hot rhetoric notwithstanding, none of the candidates — nor either political party — advocates socializing the entire medical system of the United States.

So the next time you hear a candidate hurling "socialized medicine" around like a flame-thrower, ask them if they have any idea what they're talking about.

Martha Burk is author of "Your Money and Your Life: What's at stake for women in 2008 and beyond."

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Bird Poop: Ticklish start with game warden

When she called about the birds, the woman could never know how complicated my day would become. Concerned because of their treatment, she was desperate to help the two. Telling her it might take me a day or so, I asked that she continue to keep watch on their situation.



BEBE
MCCASLAND

Since I had been listed on Midge Erskine's federal license for nine years, I placed a call to her at the wildlife center in Midland. "What do I do now?" was my first question. "According to the Sheriff's Department, we have no game warden in the county," I continued. "Can't seem to keep one longer than six months." Promising to call U.S. Fish & Wildlife, she said she'd contact me later. "Use local law enforcement," came her encouraging suggestion later in the day. Next, I called someone I knew at our police department with the inquiry, "Will you enforce federal and state law regarding migratory birds if I bring you a copy?" I was answered by a crisp, "Yes." When the chief of police had thoroughly read the statute, we decided on a time of arrival.

As I parked in front of the shotgun frame building, a squad car pulled up beside me. Inside, the woman officer finished her conversation, repositioned the answering device and opened the door.

Having told her one of the birds was inside, the other in the long, narrow cage outside, I entered the used furniture store with the officer. After we explained briefly to the owner that the colorful falcon he called a sparrow hawk, and the bird outside, were being possessed illegally, he resentfully said, "Go ahead and take 'em."

As I approached the cage, the American kestrel started screaming "Killy, killy, killy" and flew from one side of the cage to the other. Although its behavior was to be expected toward a stranger, it seemed to aggravate the patience of the owner who was standing behind the officer and me. The situation was becoming tense. Reaching inside the cage, I grabbed the little falcon and quickly felt its biting capabilities. As I removed the bird, I noticed broken feathers due to hunger. Other feathers had evidence of the stress marks that result from an improper diet.

Placing the protesting falcon in a box, I heard a jangling sound as something hit the wooden floor. What I did not know was as the officer bent over to help me

with the lid, the owner knocked her key ring from her belt. Picking up the keys, she positioned herself between the man and me as we moved toward the door. Once outside, and not knowing if someone might break a window to get the bird, I locked the box in the trunk of my car.

Noticing the officer replacing something on her belt, I walked to the outdoor cage. Standing inside at the end of the long, rusty enclosure was the largest raven I had ever seen. The cage was so narrow that the only way the bird could extend its wings was to turn sideways. Guessing the pen might have been used for rabbits, I knew only a small child could climb through its one opening and crawl the length.

To get the raven to come toward me and the wire door, I had brought raw beef in case I needed to tempt it. Interested, the bird would come about half way, then walk back to the opposite end. After it had done this several times, from behind me I heard, "Lady, I'll help you." Just as a young man walked into view and headed for the other end of the cage, we heard the crunching of vehicles on the gravel parking area in front of the store.

Four squad cars arrived at the same time. The male officers left their vehicles and walked toward their fellow officer. Not knowing what

might happen, I looked back at the young man, who by this time had grabbed a hoe. By placing the handle through the wires of the cage, he prodded the large bird toward me. Unable to go back to the far end, the raven was slowly inching forward as the man kept changing the hoe handle to keep the bird moving.

Grabbing a chunk of meat from my fingers, the raven quickly swallowed it and looked for more. To control this bird, I had to grab its beak. Another bite of food, and it started pecking at my empty hand. Although its nips were painful, I used one of its lunges at the back of my hand to grasp its bill.

Whether bird or human was surprised the most was questionable. While the raven could not get free from my right hand, I was amazed at the strength of its resistance. Its feet were kicking brackish green water from the bowl that had been placed at the entrance to its cage. Pulling it through the doorway, I wrapped my left arm around its wings while its feet and nails were tearing at my clothing. Thanking the young man for his help, I hurried toward my car and another box. After placing the irate raven in the trunk, where it continued taking its anger out on the interior of its container, I could finally let my heartbeat come back



Courtesy photo
Although the kestrel (top) and raven differ in size, weight and coloration, they share in common the ability to hover. Their adaptability in accepting available food is a must in arid country.

Parent's Corner:

Remembering that today is a gift

Why do people do what they do? This question is pondered many times throughout our lives and often we do not understand the other person's actions until years later.



DARRELL
RYAN

I read a story recently that emphasizes this point. Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help

drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the only window in the room. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation.

Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window. The man in the other bed began to live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the

activity and color of the world outside.

The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while chil-

See **RYAN**, Page 6A

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Turmoil in Gaza

What can the world, what can Israel do to restore order?

About two years ago, yielding to the pressure of "world opinion," Israel decided to abandon Gaza and to withdraw the about 8,000 Israelis who had lived there for generations and who had created flourishing agriculture and successful industry.

What are the facts?
Israel's trial balloon. For Israelis, the abandonment of Gaza was also a trial balloon to assess what the relationship with a nascent Palestinian state would be. They got a quick and decisive answer. Almost from the very first day of their "liberation," the Gazans launched daily rocket attacks on Israel. Fortunately, so far "only" about fifteen people have been killed and "only" about 300 injured by those relatively unsophisticated weapons. But it is only a matter of time until one of those rockets - whose range and effectiveness are being constantly improved - hits a school, a large housing complex or a hospital.

In the meantime, Israel responds with pinpoint volleys on the launching pads of those rockets. But they are easily movable and purposely located in heavily populated neighborhoods. It is thanks only to Israeli respect for human life that tens of thousands of Gazans have not perished in Israel's response to those barrages. We must ask ourselves what our country would do if Mexico were to launch thousands of rockets into San Diego. The answer is perfectly clear: We would retaliate in full force.

A wall forms the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. It is lightly guarded by Egyptian troops. The terrorist Hamas government decided to breach this wall and tens of thousands of Gazans burst into the Egyptian Sinai. The wall has now been rebuilt and most of the Gazans have been returned to their territory. Some, however, are still roaming the Sinai and have committed suicide attacks on Israeli citizens.

Gaza in misery. The situation in Gaza is indeed miserable. That is not the fault of the Israelis, but the fault of the Gazans/Palestinians themselves. In 1948, the UN proposed that "Palestine" be divided into an Arab and into a Jewish sector, with Jerusalem becoming an "internationalized" city. The Jews reluctantly accepted this partition plan. The Arabs rejected it out of hand and invaded the newly-born Jewish state with the armies of six nations. Had the Arabs accepted the partition plan or any of the many Israeli offers of conciliation, they would now have had their own state for sixty years and would enjoy prosperity and economic success just as Israel. Instead, focused exclusively on the destruction of Israel and the killing of the hated Jews, Gazans are living in misery, totally depending on the dole of Israel and on the support of the world.

Rather than bombing Gaza in response to the daily barrages of rockets, Israel has responded and is so far continuing to respond by selectively withholding economic support for Gaza. Although Israel allows the importation of essential foods and medical supplies, it has curtailed the importation of gasoline, diesel fuel and electricity. The world is outraged, but it is as humane a response as possible to the incessant shelling of Israeli cities.

Constant smuggling of arms. Even under the supposedly watchful eyes of the Egyptians, scores of tunnels from Egypt into Gaza have been constructed. High-power explosives and advanced weapons are daily smuggled through these tunnels into Gaza. They are supplied and paid for primarily by Iran, which is closely allied to Gaza's Hamas terrorist government. One wonders why these tunnels are not being used to import food, fuel, medicine and clothing, rather than weapons. Also, why should Israel be responsible for the supplying of Gaza? There are no good answers to these questions.

When the Jews evacuated Gaza, they left hundreds of beautiful homes behind. The Gazans destroyed them. They were going to build highrises instead. In the more than two years since the Israelis left, not a single brick has been laid. The Gazans destroyed and plundered the sophisticated and fully computerized greenhouse installations that the Jews had left behind. They were worth millions of dollars, could have produced food for the residents and millions of dollars in yearly revenue for the impoverished territory.

It is said that one of the reasons for Gaza's misery is that it is so densely populated. Yet, Singapore, for instance, and Hong Kong are much more densely populated than Gaza. But the comparison to Singapore is significant. It, too, is densely populated, is bordered by an unfriendly neighbor, and has been devastated by war. Today, Singapore is an oasis of prosperity, a bustling center of financial and economic activity. Gaza, with the unstinting help of Israel and with the billions of dollars that the world community has poured into it, could also be such an oasis of peace and prosperity instead of the hovel of misery and decay and the cauldron of violence that it is today.

The withdrawal-from-Gaza experiment did not work. Gazans destroyed the infrastructure and the basis for prosperity that Israel left in the territory. If, instead of being singlemindedly focused on lobbing rockets into Israel, it would have concentrated on peace and on sound development, Gaza could today be on the road to being another Singapore. But Gazans threw away that opportunity. What is more, having had the very bad experience with Gaza, Israel will think more than twice before turning Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") over to the Palestinians. Israel - its people, its cities, its airports and its industrial and military infrastructure - would be under the guns of those who are sworn to destroy it.

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Couple recharges Mineral Wells dude ranch into artists' retreat

By PAIGE PHELPS

The Dallas Morning News

MINERAL WELLS — At first it doesn't seem sensible that anyone would elect to take on a 90-minute commute each morning, but to Jimmy Baldwin it's a no-brainer.

An art director for the Richards Group, a marketing, public relations and advertising agency located in central Dallas, he's out the door and on the road at 5:30 a.m. from his home in Mineral Wells. And at the end of each day, Baldwin heads back to the ranch.

"I realized people do this in Chicago and New York, and they don't even live in a place like this," Baldwin says.

The "this" he's referring to is his historic Dilbeck-designed dude ranch called the Double J Hacienda & Art Ranch that he and his wife, Jane, bought in 2004. They've given up the city life to live in what they call "the North Texas Hill Country."

The minute a visitor steps inside the Double J's front gate and spies the Spanish tile, Brazos River views and rustic cedar posts supporting the courtyard's colonnade, Baldwin's three hours back and forth seem plausible.

Built in 1939 for Elmer and Dorothee Seybold, the

Double J was originally known as the Seybold Ranch, a dude ranch with guest rooms, trail rides, chuck wagons and a steak house. This is not a ranch-style house; this is a ranch-style motel.

"When I first saw the place I was like, 'Oh yeah, it's just about four times too big,'" Jane Baldwin remembers. But neither she nor her husband is known to shy away from a challenge.

On top of his day job, Jimmy Baldwin also is a singer-songwriter. His album "Somebody's Nobody" made it to the Top 40 Americana chart last year. Jane Baldwin is a yoga therapist, poet and columnist for two children's magazines, including North Texas Kids, under the pseudonym "Jungle Jane," a name referring to her years as an anthropologist studying the Maya in Belize.

But the ranch's original owners, the Seybolds, would have matched the Baldwins' quirky resumes.

Dorothee Seybold was a former fashion model and the daughter of a U.S. ambassador to Mexico; Elmer Seybold was a jack-of-all-trades: blacksmith, hide-tanner and famous sharpshooter. His most famous gun trick — something to do with a mirror, an axe and splitting bullets — landed him a guest spot



Charity Cornelius, left, and Barbara Cohen work on a project at the Double J Hacienda & Art Ranch near Mineral Wells. The ranch house was built in 1939 and was originally known as the Seybold Ranch, a dude ranch with guest rooms, trail rides, chuck wagons and a steak house.

AP photo/Natalie Caudill/Dallas Morning News

on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson.

"He was like Davy Crockett," says Jimmy Baldwin. "This whole place, he built. He blacksmithed all the hinges and lamps."

Lucky for the Baldwins, most of Seybold's hand-wrought fittings survived, and the furniture in the main meeting hall is orig-

inal. No one had touched the place in 20 years.

After a Seybold Ranch heyday, hosting guests including John Wayne, Bette Davis and Ronald Reagan, the era of the dude ranch lost favor. Around that time, Mineral Wells, once known as a luxurious resort city where "America drinks its way

to health" due to the mineral water, became too expensive for families suffering through the Depression. The final blow to the area came when the glamorous 14-story, 450-room spa hotel in downtown Mineral Wells, the Baker, closed in the 1960s.

In 2003 when the Baldwins stumbled upon

it, the ranch was decayed and forgotten; in fact, many locals didn't even know it existed. Baldwin happened to be in the area scouting for a location to shoot his music video when a friend pointed him toward the old Seybold place.

"What we needed was a

See RANCH, Page 8A

RYAN

Continued from Page 5A

dren sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amid flowers of every color and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine this picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band, he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Days, weeks and months passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the

switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. To his amazement he found that it faced a blank wall. The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased room-

mate to have described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Grief,

when shared, is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled.

If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy. And remember that today is a gift. Maybe that's why it is

called the "present."

And a "by the way" story: Just as a graveside service had terminated, there was a tremendous burst of thunder accompanied by a distant lightning bolt and more rumbling thunder. The little

old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, "Well, she's there."

Darrell Ryan is director of federal programs for the Big Spring Independent School District.

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ALON ENERGY REFINERY EXPLOSION

INFORMAL PUBLIC MEETING

The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC is *hosting* an informal public meeting for individuals wanting to learn more about their rights regarding the explosion that occurred at the ALON Energy Refinery. If you were injured in any way, you need to be at this meeting. Injuries may range from physical trauma to mental anguish to property damage.

Mr. Pinkerton will speak briefly and answer any questions or concerns you may have about this incident. This will be followed by an opportunity for guests to meet one-on-one with an attorney.

IMPORTANT MEETING DETAILS

Dates:

Friday, March 14th from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 15th from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Where:

Dora Roberts Community Center

100 Whipkey (inside Comanche Trail Park-Classroom of community center)

Big Spring, Texas 79720

Notes:

Come any time during the scheduled sessions

Appointments are not necessary

Open to the public

Meet one-on-one with an attorney

Brief question and answer sessions at 1 & 4 daily

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public a chance to gain educational insight into their legal rights regarding this incident. There is no obligation from you—it is simply an opportunity to learn about your legal rights.

The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC would like to take this time to *welcome* you in advance and we look forward to meeting you very soon.

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TUESDAY

Table with 16 columns (WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 7 rows (6:30 PM to 12:30 AM) listing program schedules.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"GUESS WHAT. I BEAT THE SUN UP AGAIN."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Know what I need for my room? A bigger toy box!"

HAGAR



BLONDIE



BC



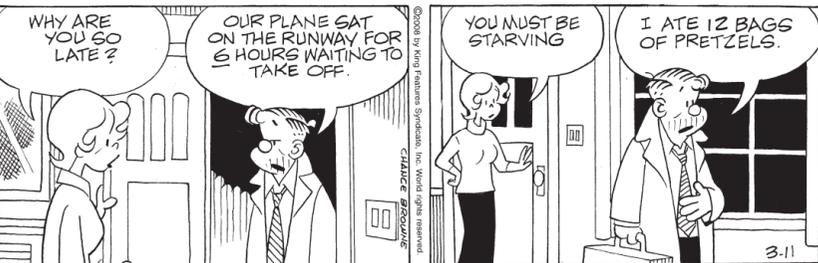
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AGNES



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This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 11, the 71st day of 2008. There are 295 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 11, 1942, as Japanese forces continued to advance in the Pacific during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia.

In 1810, Emperor Napoleon I of France was married by proxy to Archduchess Marie Louise of Austria. In 1861, the Confederate convention in Montgomery, Ala., adopted a constitution. In 1888, the famous "Blizzard of '88" began its sweep through the north-eastern United States, resulting in some 400 deaths.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Lend-Lease Bill, providing war supplies to countries fighting the Axis.

In 1957, Charles Van Doren's 14-week run on the rigged NBC game show "Twenty-One" ended as he was defeated by attorney Vivienne Nearing; Van Doren's take was \$129,000. He later acknowledged that he had been given answers by the show's producers.

In 1965, the Rev. James J. Reeb, a white minister from Boston, died after being beaten by whites during civil rights disturbances in Selma, Ala.

In 1978, 37 Israelis were killed as Palestinian guerrillas went on a rampage on the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway.

In 1985, Mikhail S. Gorbachev was chosen to succeed the late Soviet President Konstantin U. Chernenko.

In 2004, 10 bombs exploded in quick succession across the commuter rail network in Madrid, Spain, killing 191 people in an attack linked to al-Qaida.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Terence Alexander is 85. Media mogul Rupert Murdoch is 77. ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson is 74. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia is 72. Musician Flaco Jimenez is 69. Actress Tricia O'Neil is 63. Actor Mark Metcalf is 62. Rock singer-musician Mark Stein (Vanilla Fudge) is 61. Singer Bobby McFerrin is 58. Movie director Jerry Zucker is 58.

Thought for Today: "Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are." - Bertholt Brecht, German poet and dramatist (1898-1956).

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Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like SODA, MOTH, SATIN, LAOS, EPEE, TWICE, ATNO, MEAL, ELDER, THUNDERCLAP, ADD, STERN, HOTOIL, ETC, ANSWER, AIM, SOAPED, LAVA, TRIPS, RAG, SEVEN, MILE, SPLASH, EST, SKATE, DIET, STEADY, NERVE, ASH, STRONGPOINT, LEAST, ADES, ODDS, PEKOE, MEAT, PEEP, SPEND, ALTO, SODS.

Newsday Crossword

RISE AND SHINE by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Make a trade, 5 Thick slice, 9 Retired fast planes: Abbr., 13 Odometer unit, 14 Mexican snack, 15 Nary a soul, 17 Air-freshener target, 18 24-hr. cash sources, 19 Church instrument, 20 Become brave somehow, 23 Regret, 24 Pig's home, 25 Changed into, 29 One-stripe soldiers: Abbr., 31 Get married, 34 Uplift, 35 Diva's solo, 36 California wine valley, 37 "My mistake", 40 Profound, 41 Some nest eggs: Abbr., 42 Evaluated, 43 Newspaper execs., 44 Supermarket-checkout unit, 45 Bold and loud, 46 Industrious insect, 47 Egg ___ yung, 48 Be mentally agile, 57 Escape from, 58 Be worthy of, 59 Convertible or coupe, 60 Look of contempt, 61 Dressed, 62 Tehran's country, 63 All ___, 64 Door openers, 65 Part to play, 16 Compass pt. opposite WSW, 21 Sales-promotion experts, 22 Film award, 25 "I do" sayer, 26 Made more bearable, 27 Gives as an example, 28 PDQ relative, 29 Type of golf tournament, 30 Evergreen trees, 31 Light-bulb units, 32 Fencing swords, 33 Papa, 35 Land measure, 36 College sports org., 38 "Me too!", 39 Mistake, 44 Print-shop employees, 45 Out of ___, (forbidden), 46 Rage, 47 Quick raid, 48 NFL six-pointers, 49 Sharpen, 50 Creative flash, 51 Thin part of a bottle, 52 Connecticut Ivy League school, 53 Clear-skies forecast, 54 Money in Madrid, 55 And others: Abbr., 56 Voice quality

Newsday crossword grid with numbers 1-65 indicating starting positions for the clues.

Texan second woman since WWII to earn Silver Star

19-year-old Lake Jackson medic to receive nation's third-highest medal for valor later this month

By **FISNIK ABRASHI**

Associated Press Writer

CAMP SALERNO, Afghanistan — A 19-year-old medic from Texas will become the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest medal for valor.

Army Spc. Monica Lin Brown saved the lives of fellow soldiers after a roadside bomb tore through a convoy of Humvees in the eastern Paktia province in April 2007, the military said.

After the explosion, which wounded five soldiers in her unit, Brown ran through insurgent gunfire and used her body to shield wounded comrades as mortars fell less than 100 yards away, the military said.

"I did not really think about anything except for getting the guys to a safer location and getting them taken care of and getting them out of there," Brown told The Associated Press on Saturday at a U.S. base in the eastern province of Khost.

Brown, of Lake Jackson, is scheduled to receive the Silver Star later this month. She was part of a four-vehicle convoy patrolling near Jani Kheil in the eastern province of Paktia on April 25, 2007, when a bomb struck one of the Humvees.

"We stopped the convoy. I opened up my door and grabbed my aid bag," Brown said.

She started running toward the burning vehicle as insurgents opened fire. All five wounded soldiers had scrambled out.

"I assessed the patients to see how bad they were. We tried to move them to a safer location because we were still receiving incoming fire," Brown said.

Pentagon policy prohibits women from serving in front-line combat roles — in the infantry, armor or artillery, for example. But the nature of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, with no real front lines, has seen women soldiers take part in close-quarters combat more than previous conflicts.

Four Army nurses in World War II were the first women to receive the Silver Star, though three nurses serving in World War I were awarded the medal posthumously last year, according to the Army's Web site.

Brown, of the 4th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, said ammunition going off inside the burning Humvee was sending shrapnel in all directions. She said they were sitting in a dangerous spot.

"So we dragged them for 100 or 200 meters, got them away from the Humvee a little bit," she said. "I was in a kind of a robot-mode, did not think about much but getting the guys taken care of."

For Brown, who knew all five wounded soldiers,



AP photo/Rafiq Maqbool
Spc. Monica Lin Brown from Lake Jackson of the 82nd Airborne stands guard at a forward operating base in Khost, Afghanistan, Saturday. Brown will be the second female soldier awarded the Silver Star since World War II for her role in Afghanistan.

it became a race to get them all to a safer location. Eventually, they moved the wounded some 500 yards away and treated them on site before putting them on a helicopter for evacuation.

"I did not really have

time to be scared," Brown said. "Running back to the vehicle, I was nervous (since) I did not know how badly the guys were injured. That was scary."

The military said Brown's "bravery, unselfish actions and

medical aid rendered under fire saved the lives of her comrades and represents the finest traditions of heroism in combat."

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, of Nashville, Tenn., received the Silver Star in

2005 for gallantry during an insurgent ambush on a convoy in Iraq.

Two men from her unit, the 617th Military Police Company of Richmond, Ky., also received the Silver Star for their roles in the same action.

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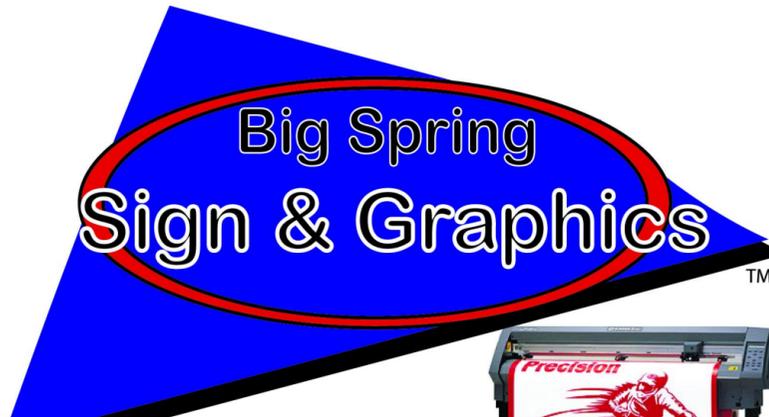
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Inside Big Spring Pack and Ship

RANCH

Continued from Page 6A

house that was falling down. That was this place," Baldwin says. "And when we finished shooting, my friend said, 'I think this guy needs to sell this place fast.'"

And then things started clicking. Around this time, the Baldwins realized they were looking for more than a weekend getaway house, and they hatched an idea. They decided to create an "outpost where we and others can come together and rejuvenate, to be inspired and to create," Jane Baldwin says.

"This intention was and still is our main motivation for the move and the

life we are creating here."

From that moment forward, the Baldwins say serendipity has been with them. The same week they learned they could buy the ranch, they also were told about the possibility of adopting a baby. About six months later, the same day they closed on the ranch, they officially adopted daughter Ruby, now 4.

"We got the Double J the same day she became a Baldwin," says Ruby's father.

Since then, the couple has slowly been working toward their goal. The 75,000-gallon pool was filled in; guest bathrooms updated and modernized; a labyrinth for meditation and prayer has been constructed. Jane Baldwin teaches yoga in a small

studio above the front gate, and an art gallery with several shows a year is adjacent to the entrance. They held their first retreat almost a year ago.

In the future, the Double J also will have a small pool for Watsu and aquatic body work, a full-size yoga center and a recording studio, among other ongoing projects.

"This is a place where you can get grounded and relax," says Jane Baldwin.

Yet the Double J is not a bed and breakfast. The facility is rented as a retreat site only to art- or therapy-related groups, in advance.

"This is what works best for what we want to do here at the ranch," Jane Baldwin says via e-



AP photo/Natalie Caudill/Dallas Morning News

A view at the Double J Hacienda & Art Ranch showing guest rooms near Mineral Wells.

mail. "We found that when people rent the space out for their retreats, they prefer to

rent the whole space to keep the group cohesive."

The Double J is open infrequently to the public

for music and literary events. On those occasions individual rooms may be booked.

BIRDS

Continued from Page 5A

to normal.

By this time, the officers and the business owner had seemed to reach a common agreement. After the man went back inside the store, I asked the woman officer what had happened.

In the event that anything out of the norm occurred on this call, she had been told to call for backup immediately. The four cars had been close by if needed.

Driving several blocks away from the location, I stopped to put the birds on the back seat of my car. On our way to Midland I would have the time to tell Art what had happened at the furniture store.

At the wildlife center, we learned that the kestrel would be held for at least a year until a molt replaced the broken feathers. Its rusty back, slate blue wings and rufous tail edged with a broad black band tipped in white, made the small falcon outstanding in appearance. Black spots on its pale buff underside and blue-gray, rufous patch on the top of its head were typical markings. Wearing the characteristic black stripes of its species on the sides of

its head, the handsome kestrel would some day be free again.

Having been in captivity for two to three years, the common raven would have to remain at the sanctuary. Its confinement had limited the extension of its wings. Perhaps with time, it might improve. After a molt, its glossy black wings and tail would once again radiate a greenish-purplish hue. The bird's flight ability to dive, tumble, twist and roll over sideways, however, was in jeopardy. Soaring in great circles on long, pointed wings, its primaries resembling fingers, the raven was now grounded.

A call the next day from the wildlife center had my attention. "Your game warden called."

"What game warden?" I asked.

Telling me she had received a call asking about the delivery of the birds, the rehaber said he was asking if I were a little old lady in tennis shoes with a butterfly net. Local law enforcement did not know that he was in the process of moving into a house while we were taking the birds. The warden had not had time to notify anyone of his presence in the community. "You need to call him," was her closing remark.

When I phoned the warden, my introduction was greeted by an incensed comment. "What did you think you were doing?"

Are you one of those environmentalists? You just ruined a darned good bust for me." After relating the prior day's events, and adding that I was included on a federal license, he advised that I get my own. If we were

going to work together, he wanted both state and federal licenses in my name only. It was for his protection.

As the conversation continued, I promised him both licenses would be sought and I looked forward to working with him in the future. "Hmmpphh!" was muttered under his breath, but at least we were talk-

ing. "Call you when I get them," was my closing comment.

Looking back now, I wish the store owner could have known what he avoided by my coming rather than having the game warden. No citations. When the warden retired this year, I was grateful for the 25 years we have worked together. Although our introduc-

tion had been rough around the edges, he was exemplary at enforcing state and federal law. Expressing the thoughts of many, an agent with U.S. Fish & Wildlife covered it well. "He was the best game warden I've ever known."

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

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