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BIG SPRING

HERALD

THURSDAY
MARCH 13, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 90

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Spring seems to have arrived in the Crossroads. At least that's the idea one would get from this sight of a bee busy at its task of gathering nectar from early blooming plants. Officially, the first day of spring is March 20.

Courtesy photo/Carolyn Colley

Fernandez seeks council post

Officials to cancel city elections in Coahoma, Forsan

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

The cities of Coahoma and Forsan will make it through 2008 without the need for municipal elections, while Big Spring voters

will be asked to weigh in on a pair of contests. The District 1 seat on the Big Spring City Council got a last-minute candidate last week, as Marcus Fernandez, a unit manager with Cornell Correction's Cedar Hill Unit, filing his candidacy. Fernandez said he was approached by several citizens in



Fernandez

the district who encouraged him to run for the office. "They felt like I could help them," said Fernandez. "And that's a big part of the job for a council member, to listen to the concerns of the people and vote according to how they feel. I feel like if I'm elected, I can do that. I can help voice their beliefs." Fernandez said he isn't entering

See CITY, Page 3A

Building permits on rise

Valuations total \$2.4 mil so far in 2008 figures show

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer

While the city of Big Spring is a far cry from topping building permit valuations from a year ago, officials say the municipality is on course to have a very productive year.



Davis

According to Kenny Davis, director of the city's code enforcement division, Big Spring has already had permits applied for totaling \$2.4 million in valuations, but thanks to growth experienced by Cornell Corrections in 2007, is having a hard time keeping up.

"Last year at this time we had \$11 million in valuations for the permits applied for," said Davis. "That included four new

single family homes, which we haven't seen any this year, and \$7.5 million in construction at one of Cornell Correction's prison units. There was also another \$1.5 million in plumbing for that same project, so it's really hard to compare totals from last year to this year."

Without the Cornell project, Davis said this year's total — which does not include a number of high-dollar projects currently in the works — would actually be ahead of last year by approximately \$400,000.

"And that's not counting a number of projects that have already made their way across my desk," said Davis. "There is a new tractor supply house planned for the Interstate Highway 20 N.

See PERMITS, Page 3A

Refinery explosion rocks BSISD attendance figures

By STEVE REAGAN
Staff Writer

Just as students who don't attend classes can get into trouble, school districts that don't submit proper attendance records can find themselves in a spot of bother.

When an explosion occurred

at the Alon Refinery the morning of Feb. 18, Big Spring Independent School District officials quickly decided to dismiss classes for the rest of the day.

This decision was done in the interest of student safety, but it had one unintended side-effect — attendance figures for that

day were unofficial. This was a problem for two reasons, Superintendent Michael Downes said.

For starters, state financial aid to local school districts is tied directly to attendance figures. Simply put, the higher the attendance, the more state aid a district receives.

Downes was quick to downplay the economic effect.

"Obviously, the safety of our students came first," he said. "The decision to release school early that day was not based on funding, but on safety."

A bigger problem, however, is that without official attendance figures for the day, it is as if the

district did not hold classes, Downes said.

State education officials mandate that local districts hold 180 days of classroom instruction per school year — no more, no less. As a result of the early dismissal, therefore, BSISD is

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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.



No rattlesnake roundup this year

By BILL MCCLELLAN
News Editor

It was announced a year ago, but it case you missed it, the Big Spring AMBUCS Rattlesnake Roundup, normally held the fourth weekend in March, will be hibernating this time around. There will be no local show in 2008.

AMBUCS — the American Business Club — knows there is always a lot going on

in March, but Easter is a holiday which takes precedence.

"It's difficult to do on an Easter weekend," said Dennis Burns. "It's hard to get vendors to come to a show that weekend and you don't get many spectators. People just want to be with their families."

The club announced the news last year, during the 44th edition of the popular show. However, as the fourth weekend of the month

approaches, more and more people are asking "When's the show?"

It will return next year, Burns assured.

"Oh yeah, it will happen in 2009, no problem. We're looking forward to it," he said.

The show, billed as both fun and educational, allows spectators to view the reptiles up close in a safe environment. They can watch snakehandlers in "thrill" exhibits, in which profes-

sionals crawl into sleeping bags full of the poisonous creatures or hold bunches of the reptiles in their mouths. Spectators also learn about skinning, how snakes are milked and what the venom is used for.

Burns said that while there will be no show this year, the club will still purchase rattlesnakes from snake hunters in the area. Call him at 263-3409 for more information.

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Thursday, March 13, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

TODAY - SAT.

Big Spring softball at San Marcos Tournament.

Big Spring baseball at Greenwood Tournament.

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.

MONDAY

Coahoma softball vs. Merkel, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY

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.

Area high school golf teams place at C-City tourney

Stanton placed first, while Forsan finished second and Coahoma third in last weekend's Colorado City Golf Tournament.

Stanton won with a low combined score of 346. Forsan posted a 369 and Coahoma had a 372.

Forsan's Jake Moore won the tournament individually, shooting a 78. Brantly Cahoon shot an 89 to compliment Moore.

Coahoma's Jake Owens placed third with an 86. Mikey Mendoza was just two strokes behind his teammate with an 88.

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.

Newton perfect again

Coahoma ace throws second perfect game in five-day period

Herald Staff Report

HASKELL — Perfection is becoming a habit for Coahoma's Heather Newton and that doesn't bode well for the rest of District 5-2A.

The Bulldogettes' ace pitcher threw her second perfect game in five days, leading Coahoma past Haskell's Maidens, 13-0.

Newton struck out 13 of the 21 batters she faced and finished the game throwing a mere 21 pitches.

The Bulldogettes did all they could to complement Newton, scoring 13 runs on 16 hits and eight Haskell fielding errors. Coahoma had six extra-base hits, including a home run by Breanna Conner. Although, the Bulldogettes did strike out nine times.

Coahoma held a slim 2-0 lead after the third inning, but exploded in the fourth for four runs. The game lasted through seven innings as the Bulldogettes didn't acquire a 10-run lead until the top of the final frame when they pushed another four scores

across the plate.

Leading Coahoma at the plate was catcher Janice Gonzales, who went 2-for-5 with a triple and three RBIs. Christie Rich was 2-for-5 with a double and two RBIs and Conner finished 2-for-4 with a double and a solo home run.

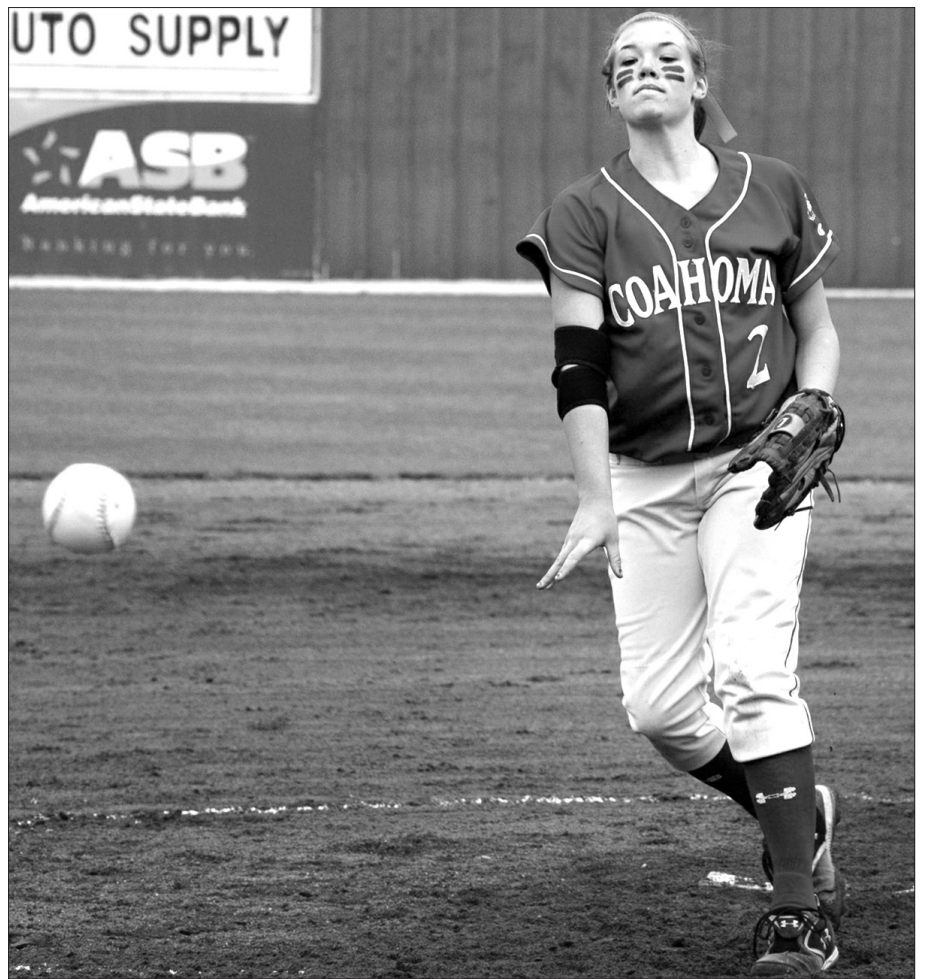
The Bulldogettes host Hawley at 7 p.m. Friday. Last season, the Lady Bearcats handed Coahoma its first loss in District 5-2A play. The two rivals also battled for the 2007 Class 2A, Region I title.

Coahoma prevailed, needing all three games of the series to advance to the state tournament.

The Bulldogettes (13-7) will also play two games over spring break next week, hosting Merkel Monday and visiting Stamford Tuesday.

Coahoma 011 412 4—13 16 0
Haskell 000 000 0—0 0 8

W - Heather Newton (9-6). L - Wheatley.
2B: CHS - Breanna Conner, Shelbi Paige, Christie Rich, Laci Sterling. 3B: CHS - Janice Gonzales. HR: CHS - Conner. RBI: CHS - Gonzales 3, Rich 2, Newton, Conner, Paige. SB: CHS - Krista Kerby, Sterling, Alex Moore, Newton, Gonzales.



HERALD file photo
Coahoma's Heather Newton hurls a pitch in this Herald file photo from May 19, 2007. Newton threw her second perfect game in five days Tuesday in a 13-0 Coahoma win over Haskell.

Howard sweeps doubleheader from LCU JV

By ERIC RODEWALD

Special to the Herald

The Howard College baseball team earned a sweep over Lubbock Christian University's junior varsity Wednesday at Jack Barber Field to improve to 22-2 on the season while winning their sixth straight game.

Despite sweeping LCU's JV 13-2 and 14-2, Howard Head Coach Britt Smith felt his team wasn't as sharp as they needed to be.

"A big part of the game is being able to play at a championship level every day," Smith said. "Sure the games weren't close, but our approach at the plate wasn't very good. Our swings were long with the guys trying to hit it out of the yard. It's something you have to fight continually and we will go back to work at it."

After a perfect 16-0 February, including a sweep of conference champion and national runner-up New Mexico Junior College on the final day of February, the Hawks have hit a speed bump of sorts in terms of

getting on the field against junior college competition. Howard dropped a pair at New Mexico JC to begin March and since then have three doubleheader sweeps over junior varsity teams due to a conference scheduling snafu.

"The only reason we are playing them (JV's) is that we have back-to-back bye weeks in the conference and there is nobody to play from Arizona to Nebraska to Florida," Smith said. "Everybody is playing conference right now so our options are don't play for two weeks or play games like this."

According to Smith, luckily the Hawks were able to schedule a doubleheader with McLennan Community College for Saturday at Waco.

"The parks going to set up different, the air is different and the wind is going to be blowing in," Smith said. "We have been getting ready for that environment and preparing for the short game. Things that we don't normally have to do."

Smith was referring to the fact that McLennan,

similar to a lot of the teams in the Northern conference, play small ball, looking to manufacture runs with the bunt and have solid pitching as well.

Game 1 Howard College 13, LCU JV 2

In Game 1, the Hawks ended the contest early with freshman right-handed pitcher Evan Blakely earning the victory as Howard utilized the 10-run rule to help Blakely improve to 2-0 on the season.

At the plate, Miles Hamblin led the charge with a home run, a double and a single. Sophomore shortstop Tyler Ladendorf had a pair of doubles and a single.

Game 2 Howard College 14, LCU JV 2

The Hawks jumped out to a 4-0 lead after one inning, but LCU's JV cut the lead in half in the top of the second. Howard cruised from there as James Alvarado improved to 4-0 on the season.

See **HAWKS**, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

Howard College Hawks shortstop Tyler Ladendorf hits a RBI-double in the fourth inning of Game 2 of a doubleheader against Lubbock Christian University's junior varsity. The Hawks swept the two-game series, winning by the 10-run mercy rule in both contests.

BHS track teams show massive improvement

Steers' experience key to success

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

One of the more underrated and overlooked facets of sports is experience. The more time you've spent playing a particular sport, then the more lessons you have learned about competing on that field of play.

Track is no exception and the Big Spring High School boys' track team is proof of this.

"We've been very young for two years and we're starting to come of age," Big Spring Track Coach Mitchell Woodard said about the 2008 Steers track team. "The kids are growing up and figuring out what it takes for them to compete."

The Steers have competed in three track meets this season and have placed first as a team in two of them. In its last competition, Big Spring finished second at the Tall City Relays in Midland,

trailing only Midland High by 14 points. It's the best results the Steers have seen as a team in almost a decade.

Probably most encouraging about these meets is the Steers are competing against their district rivals and are besting them by a large number of points.

"We're probably the favorite to win the district right now," Woodard said. "I think we've got a good chance of winning it. Remember, a lot of points are being kept off the board from those other teams that they'll get back at a district meet. That changes things a lot."

The competition is about to get stiffer for the Steers, though. Starting Friday, Big Spring takes part in the West Texas Relays in Odessa that continue through Saturday. Big Spring could be the only Class 4A school at the

See **STEERS**, Page 2B

Youthful Lady Steers show promise

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

Last season, the Big Spring High School girls track team struggled to make a splash in any of the meets they competed in. However, that's changed in 2008.

The Lady Steers have done a 180-degree turn from previous seasons and now find that first-place finishes in individual events don't have to seem out of the ordinary.

"There's a will to win and a strong work ethic," Lady Steers Head Coach Nick Roberson said. "We're very young. There's only three seniors, two juniors and a load of freshmen and sophomores. They're just wanting to compete right now. They can see they're in the hunt for district and they're just running with a lot of pride and heart."

Most of Big Spring's production has come from the field events

where Iesha Simpson, Desiree Anderson, Leslie Leal and Macy Graves have all turned in first and second-place performances this year.

"We're very athletic and coachable," Roberson said. "That makes us very strong in the field events. We have a sophomore on the top of her game throwing the shot and disc in Leslie. Desiree is just a freshman and is winning the long jump and triple jump. She placed second in the 100. We've got a lot of ability on this team and it shows with the diversity of events we're placing in."

Anderson has been the Lady Steers' top performer to date, claiming gold in the long jump and triple jump and then winning silver in the 100 at every meet. However, the freshman is being pushed by her own teammate Iesha Simpson, giving the

See **BSHS**, Page 2B

Obituaries

Opal Whiteside



Opal A. Whiteside, 87, of Big Spring, formerly of Rankin, died Monday, March 10, 2008, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 14, 2008, at the First United Methodist Church of Rankin with the Rev. Jennifer Kelley, pastor, officiating. Interment will be Monday, March 17, 2008, at 1 p.m. at Evergreen Home Cemetery in Beatrice, Neb.

She was born Oct. 10, 1920, in Plymouth, Neb., and married Kenneth Howard Whiteside May 11, 1941, in Beatrice, Neb. He preceded her in death on March 17, 1988.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Rankin. She was active in church work, the Garden Club, a program for the needy known as "A hand up for Rankin" and has served as secretary to the Women's Society for many years. Opal had been an Avon representative in Rankin for 50 years and had received many exclusive awards for sales during that time.

Survivors include three sons, Kirk Whiteside and wife, Jean of Novato, Calif., Keith Whiteside and wife, Debbie of Big Spring, and Larry Whiteside of Durango, Colo.; one sister, Darlene Rehm and husband, Dale of Plymouth, Neb.; two brothers, Wayne Meirath, Raytown, Mo., and Donald Meirath, Grand Island, Neb.; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Judith Meirath, and two brothers, Marvin Meirath and Reiferd Meirath.

The family request no flowers. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 512, Rankin, 79778.

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

Paid obituary

Kyle Yater



Kyle Yater, 39, of Midland, died Tuesday, March 11, 2008, in a Lubbock hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, March 14, 2008, at the First Baptist Church of Stanton with the Rev. David Harp, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Stanton.

He was born Dec. 5, 1968, in Big Spring. He lived in Stanton most of his life, attended Stanton schools and graduated from Stanton High School. He attended Midland College and also received a certificate from San Antonio College as a computer programmer.

He had lived in Midland for the past five years. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Stanton and was a member of the Midland Masonic Lodge No. 623 A.F. & A.M.

Survivors include his father and step mother, Carrol and Lyn Yater of Stanton; his mother, Bonnie Yater of Midland; a sister and brother-in-law, Tobie Jean and John Maldonado of Midland; his longtime caregiver, Paula Heredia of Midland; one nephew; and one niece.

The family suggests memorials be made to a charity of one's choice.

Arrangements are under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at: www.npwelch.com

Patricia Joplin

Patricia Ann Joplin, 82, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 11, 2008, in Midland. Private family services will be held at a later date.

She was born March 17, 1925, at Wilson, Okla., to Hettie and James Leming. She had been a waitress prior to retirement.

She is survived by a daughter, Sandra Ann Capuano of Port Orchard, Wash.; and a sister, Mary Bishop of Big Spring.

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

Kelby Cox

Kelby Cox, infant son of Kevin and Jennifer Cox, of Big Spring, died Thursday, March 13, 2008, in a Lubbock hospital. His services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Kimberly Barber

Kimberly Moore Barber, 47, of Big Spring died Thursday, March 13, 2008, at her residence. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- **CHRIS GONZALES**, 33, of 303 S. Adams, was arrested Wednesday on four local warrants.
- **RAUL MARTINEZ**, 51, of 1510 Oriole, was arrested Wednesday on a pedestrian violation.
- **POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - TWO OUNCES OR LESS IN A DRUG FREE ZONE** was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 400 block of Abrams.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1400 block of Sixth Street.
- **ASSAULT CAUSING BODILY INJURY/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 400 block of Abrams.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported:
 - in the 400 block of Fourth Street.
 - in the 200 block of Airbase.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 40 inmates at the time of this report.
- **ALLISON REDDING EDMONDSON**, 36, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for theft and a charge of theft by check.
- **JOSEPHINE SOLIS SANTANA**, 47, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- **ROBERT LEOS LOPEZ**, 31, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of driving while license invalid, no liability insurance and violation of a promise to appear.
- **ADRIAN ESCOVEDO YANEZ**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- **SHERRIE ANN THOMPSON**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of bondsman off bond for evading arrest or detention and possession of a dangerous drug.
- **BILLY JOHN LAMAR**, 31, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of evading arrest or detention, possession of a controlled substance and a parole violation.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 500 block of W. 17th Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 400 block of E. FM 700. Service refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 1500 block of E. 11th Place. Service refused.

Take Note

- A broadcast of the Refinery Miracle Celebration held earlier this month at the First Baptist Church will air at 8 p.m. Friday and Sunday on Cable TV Channel 17. Everyone is encouraged to view the telecast.

- Big Spring Kiwanis will be holding their annual pancake supper from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the Howard College Student Union Building. Tickets are \$5 for all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, bacon and drinks.

- 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.

- 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.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.
- American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
- The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
- Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

MONDAY

- The Big Spring-Howard County Retired Teacher's Association meets in the Cactus Room at Howard College, 1001 Birdwell Lane. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 263-1758 213-3598.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 8-14-22-23-26-29. Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 2-6-10-12-19. Number matching five of five: 1. Prize per winner: \$24,404. Winning tickets sold in: El Paso.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-4-5-2. Sum It Up: 20.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-0-1. Sum It Up: 7.

Weather

Today...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. West winds 10 to 20 mph.

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Mostly sunny. Windy. Areas of blowing dust. Highs in the upper 80s. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to west 30 to 35 mph with gusts to around 50 mph in the afternoon.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Windy. Lows in the mid 40s. West winds 20 to 30 mph becoming northwest 10 to 20 mph after midnight.

Saturday...Increasing clouds. Not as warm. Highs in the mid 70s. North winds around 10 mph shifting to the east in the afternoon.

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

Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Sunday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s.

Monday...Mostly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the mid 60s.

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

Tuesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. Tuesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. Wednesday...Sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.

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STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

meet, competing against area Class 5A powers such as Odessa High and Permian, Midland High and Lee, Lubbock High, Coronado and Motterrey and some schools from Amarillo, just to name a few.

"This is going to be the best competition we've seen all year," Woodard said. "We're going in to win, though. I think we can run and jump with all the 5A schools. Our goal this weekend is like with every other track meet.

"We want to win." To do so, the Steers must continue to place high in both track and field events. That hasn't been a problem to date as Woodard notes how versatile Big Spring is this season.

"We are truly a track and field team with athletes capable of placing in both field and track events," he noted. "We're very diverse. We have distance runners getting points at every meet. Our jumpers are winning their events. Our relays are placing and our sprinters are battling as well.

"We talk about finishing strong before we get off the bus at every meet," Woodard continued. "We tell the kids to keep battling for a place higher no matter where you position is. If you're in third, then try to get second. We're running through the finish line and competing all the way through. That's leading to a lot of our success."

According to Woodard, the Steers aren't winning meets just because of the athletes that are finishing first in their respective events, but also because of the guys fighting to finish fourth, fifth and sixth.

"It's good that we're winning a lot of events and some of those guys will probably qualify to run individually at state," he said. "But the guys that are coming in and placing in the fourth to sixth range are making a big difference. Some runners quit when they see they aren't going to win the race, but finishing fourth still gets us points. So far, we haven't seen anyone just fall back and finish two places lower because they weren't winning. They've been competing to the finish line. We have to continue doing that."

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

Corey Sartor closed out the top of the fifth as LCU stranded the bases loaded to end the game via the 10-run rule in five

innings. Vukovich was a home run short of hitting for the cycle with a single, a double and a triple. Also picking up multiple hits were Shane Hopkins with a triple and a double and Andrew Collazo with a single and a double.

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

Lady Steers a solid 1-2 punch.

"Iesha and Desiree are starting to compete against each other," Roberson said. "They're really pushing each other because they don't want to be beat by their own teammate. That's going to help them compete."

As for district, the Lady Steers appear to be in the mix with Lubbock Estacado and Wolfforth Frenship providing the top competition.

"You don't rule out anybody in this district, but, looking at how everyone

has been placing in this district, Frenship probably has a slight edge right now," Roberson explained. "That can easily be overcome. We're sitting right behind them and Estacado is right there behind us. It can all change by the district meet, but we're just hoping to be in the hunt. We keep telling the girls that if they do their job and perform well in their event, then the meet will take care of itself."

According to Roberson, the future is bright for the Lady Steers and not only because of the production being put out by freshmen and sophomores on this year's varsity squad. The Lady

Steers head coach is also very excited about the emergence of several junior high athletes as well.

"Bridgette Tuitt is running just as fast as the varsity girls are right now and she's jumping further than they are," raved Roberson. "She would've won the triple jump at one of our meets. Her 100 time is good and so is her 200 and that's without anybody being on her heels. No one is pushing her on the track. We've got some good jumpers and distance runners. Cerbi Ritchey is throwing the disc about 90 feet right now.

"The future is very bright for Lady Steers'

track," he continued. "We're very excited about what is coming. The best part is that we didn't lose a single girl to grades and they have good attitudes. I'm with Coach (Mike) Ritchey in that aspect. If we can get them to perform in the classroom and not get in trouble, then they're going to compete well on the field."

The Lady Steers compete in the Concho Bell Relays in San Angelo Friday.

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

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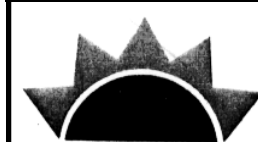
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Garage Sales

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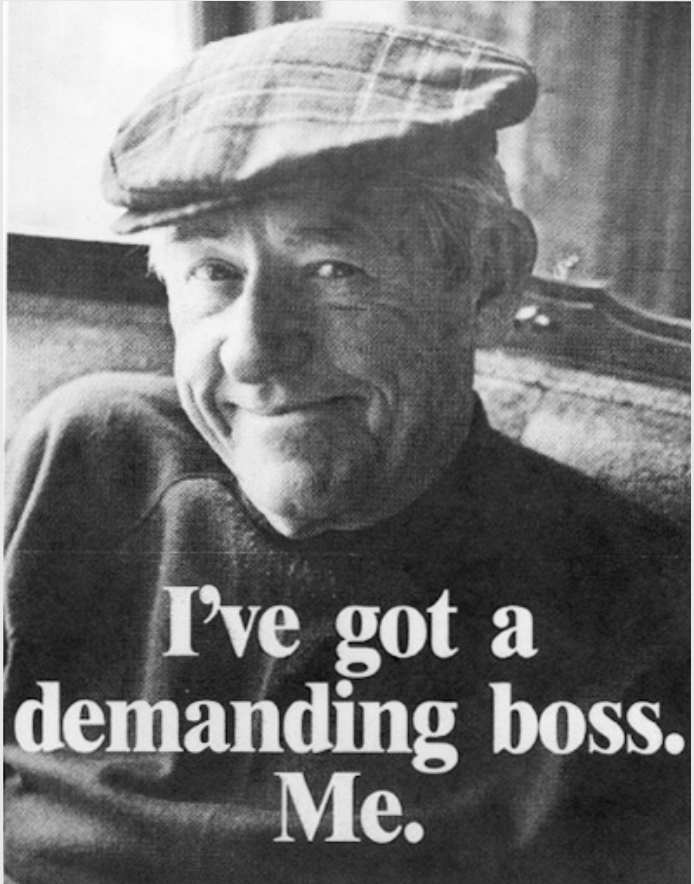
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9	7	6	5	1	4	3	8	2
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BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

If you've ever discovered a gem of a relationship amidst the most challenging circumstances, you understand the rare beauty inherent in today's meeting of Venus and Pluto. Kind of makes you wary of judging any situation as good or bad, huh? Sometimes, hearts are united in the most mysterious ways. You could even say "it was meant to be."



HOLIDAY MATHIS

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The best way to attract someone who will be great for your life now is become an expert at subconscious communication. Recognize the truth. The ideal relationship is an honest one.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You sure don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. But you can't give yourself to every project or person who wants you. On a gut level, you know the investments of energy, time or money that are right for you. Honor that.

GEMINI (May 21-June

21). You feel like someone is assessing your contributions, and you're probably right. Try not to give it too much attention though. You make the best grade when you're really into what you're doing.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Relationships deepen when they are tested. Other water signs are especially agreeable (that's Pisces and Scorpio). Couples need to do things apart from one another too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You need all the confidence you can muster to make the most of today's opportunity. So don't put yourself in a position to be criticized by anyone, especially not yourself. Give your inner critic the day off.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a fine line between following the trends and being a slave to them. Insecurity could be the impetus for many a regrettable purchase. Mull it over. You're in a better frame of mind tomorrow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's flirty fun just waiting to involve you. Check out what's going on at your local gym, YMCA, church or night school. You have an especially easy time getting to know new a

new Aries or Leo. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Organization is important. Return phone calls at your leisure; nothing is pressing enough to interrupt your time for dreaming and planning. Join the real world only when you're good and ready.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's natural to get hung up on the details. Stay easygoing and you'll easily get untangled from the prickly points that really don't matter. Tonight, a few key words from the lips of a loved one require further explanation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your inner navigation system points you in the direction of stellar bargains. Be on the lookout for the deal to end all deals. There are treasures out there just waiting for you to possess them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your body needs rest and your mind needs exercise. So think your way out of having to physically work to make your money. You're the idea-person of the zodiac now, so this shouldn't be difficult.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Friends have so many wonderful opinions! None of which

you'll care to follow — it's all about doing your own thing. Pardon those who mistakenly take your independence as a personal slight.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Sagittarius, and now that Pluto's left my sign (and given me a new lease on life!), I'm looking to cook up a new love strategy. Do you have any advice?"

Being able to capture the heart and imagination of a desirable partner is often a matter of timing. And your sexiest quality is just that — a fabulous knack for putting your finger on the "it" moment. With lucky Jupiter as your guiding planet, you often find yourself standing next to the right person and wearing the right outfit. Here's a Sagittarius-proof strategy from my new book, "Rock Your Stars: Your Astrological Guide to Getting it All": Take advantage of opportunity! What use is good luck if you don't follow through? For instance, when you hit it off with new people, be the first to call and establish the relationship beyond the original circumstance that brought you together. Channel your fiery passion into mundane tasks. You never know

whom you'll run into while washing the car or going on a daily jog. Let your inklings lead the way. The point where curiosity meets intuition usually has the potential to begin a mission. And you are sexiest when on a mission.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Pisces William H. Macy is a vast mystery. An everyman or a formidable force, it's hard to know just exactly who a Pisces is from moment to moment. Their "is" is constantly shifting. Yet, with Saturn in Virgo opposing his Pisces sun, William H. Macy is perpetually asked to define himself to the world. By so doing, he breaks the mold of the one he was asked to become — for the one he is.

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. © 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

Annie's Mailbox ®: Advice for those in need

Dear Annie: "Rupert" and I have been married nearly two years. I guess you could say the marriage was unplanned because we married when I became unexpectedly pregnant. I thought Rupert would be happy that I was having his child, since he'd told me he always wanted children. When he didn't jump for joy at the news, I assumed he was just in shock and it would pass. But it didn't. Rupert has been closed off ever since. He barely speaks to me. Worse, he has



**KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR**

started having a lot more nights out with the guys and has managed to become friends with several younger women.

I've explained to Rupert how awful this makes me feel, but it goes in one ear and out the other. I've put pleading letters in his briefcase, praying he'll read them, but nothing happens, so I cry myself to sleep. Right now, the only thing keeping me in this marriage is our daughter. My parents don't look kindly on divorce, and honestly, Annie, I really don't want to leave him, but I don't know what else to do. Can this marriage be saved? — Hopelessly Devoted in Illinois

Dear Hopeless: Only if both of you are willing to make the effort. Rupert may have wanted children, but apparently, not so soon. He feels trapped into marriage and resents it. However, he needs to grow up and accept responsibility for the life he's made. Stop putting notes in his briefcase and then crying yourself to sleep. Tell him point-blank that the marriage is in serious trouble and he needs to come with you for counseling. If he refuses, go without him so you can make the best decisions for your daughter and yourself.

Dear Annie: Over the weekend, my family had a "friendly" discussion about the proper etiquette for accessing items that are generally personal.

What is OK when it comes to checking a person's Caller ID log, looking inside someone's purse, going through pictures on a digital camera or cell phone, etc.? Arguments ranged from snoopy, boorish, disrespectful behavior to no big deal. What is acceptable? — Boston Investigator

Dear Boston: Looking inside someone's purse, wallet or tote bag is strictly off-limits. Checking their Caller ID log is rude, but people will do it because it's visible to anyone who walks by (very slowly, of course). And while many people don't mind, no one should assume it's OK to view pictures on a digital camera or cell phone unless invited to do so. But again, if these items are left out in the open and unattended, you can be sure some busybody will take the opportunity to be nosy. Cell phones and PDAs, in particular, contain personal information that should not be accessed by others. If you want such items to remain private, keep them where they are not easily perused.

Dear Annie: I'd like to pass along something that may be helpful to your readers who become stepparents. My brother's wife left him with three teenage boys. When he eventually remarried, they were concerned about what to call their new stepmother. She is a wonderful lady who had a great idea. She reassured the boys that they already had a mother and that would not change. She suggested they consider her a friend with whom they could speak candidly and not have to fear raising topics that might be difficult to discuss with a parent. She said, "Friends are called by their first name."

who says he loves me. But ever since he took a management position, his already bad temper is totally out of control. He must be civil to his co-workers, so he takes out his frustrations on our daughter and me with a lot of yelling and verbal abuse. He apologizes afterward, but still continues to do it.

This is the way my brother-in-law treated my sister for 29 years, until she had finally had enough and divorced him. I swore I would never allow myself to tolerate such treatment. I am 52 and have told my husband I can't take much more. How do I maintain my sanity? — Crying Inside

Dear Crying Inside: Your husband should not be wound so tightly that he has to let off steam by yelling at you. Worse, he is teaching his daughter that tolerating such abuse is part of marriage. Insist your husband go with you for counseling so the two of you can work on his anger problem. If he won't go, go without him.

Dear Annie: Recently, my husband and I and several relatives went out to a restaurant that promised to have a table for us in 30 minutes. At the end of the half-hour, the waitress began setting up a table, but did not seat us. When my husband asked, we were told they needed to combine the first table with a specific second table in order to have room for all of us. The party at the second table had paid their bill some time before and was chatting. We were told they'd be leaving "soon."

Fifteen minutes later, the other party still had not moved and two people in our group had to go home. Since we had walked there from another engagement, we could not easily go to another restaurant. My husband finally approached the people at the second table and asked them to leave. As you can imagine, they were not happy and lodged a complaint as they left. The hostesses were not happy, either. The manager told us it

was not their policy to ask customers to leave, no matter how long they lingered. Since we had to wait for that one table, we were being held hostage by the oblivious selfishness of the squatters and could have been there indefinitely if my husband hadn't acted. Should we have handled this differently? — Disgruntled in Denver

Dear Denver: We understand your annoyance, but diners can linger as long as they wish if that is the policy of the restaurant. No one likes to be rushed out the door if they are still enjoying the conversation. Instead of telling other patrons to leave (that's totally inappropriate), you should have requested that the wait staff find two other tables to push together in order to seat your party. If that was not possible, you should have left and told the manager why.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "All Ways a Lady," who said she is "happy, honest, hard-working, loyal and intelligent," but when men find out she is "slightly overweight" they won't give her a second look.

By "slightly overweight," does she mean 10 pounds or 50 pounds? I have seen online profiles that say the same thing, only to discover the woman is a 350-pound bruiser. We single men who are looking for a decently sized woman will be immediately turned off by huge rolls of fat. I, too, could lose about 40 pounds, but I don't try to mask that fact and would appreciate it if women did the same. — Honest in Tennessee

Dear Tennessee: Well, you are indeed honest. But grossly overweight women (and men) are caught between being honest and getting a date. When they fudge about their size, they're hoping the date will be impressed enough by their personality to overlook everything else. But we agree it doesn't usually work that way.

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State briefs

South Texas sheriff threatens to jail reporters

SAN DIEGO, Texas (AP) — When the Duval County sheriff said he would lock up reporters from local newspapers if they kept “interfering” in his business, no one took the threat lightly.

For 20 years, Sheriff Santiago Barrera Jr. had done what he pleased with no challenges to his reign. He decided who sat in his jail and when they were released. Sometimes it was before a judge got involved and other times it was after.

“I brought the sheriff’s department from nothing to what it is right now,” said the 67-year-old Barrera.

That’s why journalists are on edge about Barrera’s recent threat to an Alice Echo-News Journal reporter.

Christopher Maher wrote a front-page story about the arrest of the sheriff’s 42-year-old son Miguel Barrera on charges of public intoxication and resisting arrest. According to the newspaper, when Maher called the sheriff about another story, Barrera said, “If you guys keep interfering with my business, I’m going to have you arrested.”

Nicole Perez, managing editor of the Echo-News Journal and The Freer Press alerted the county attorney.

“I am bringing these remarks to your attention in the hope that they will remain as

such, just remarks,” Perez wrote Duval County Attorney Ricardo Carrillo. “However, considering the volatile political atmosphere in Duval County I have no doubt that Sheriff Barrera would carry out such a threat.”

Santiago Barrera confirmed he made the remarks to the reporter, and acknowledged the newspaper’s story about his son’s arrest upset him.

“To me that was bad,” Barrera told The Associated Press this week. “Of course, what can you do to them?”

The sheriff is accustomed to things being done his way in a part of South Texas where elected officials don’t easily fade into the woodwork.

One of the sheriff’s predecessors, George Parr, is widely believed to have been behind the legendary stuffed ballot box in neighboring Jim Wells County that swung a tight U.S. Senate race to Lyndon Johnson in 1948.

Even the sheriff’s threat to local reporters was mild compared with the actions of a Jim Wells deputy sheriff in 1949, who shot and killed radio reporter W.H. “Bill” Mason.

Barrera’s tough tactics extended to politics. The sheriff arranged the demotion of the commander of a tri-county drug task force to patrol officer in December after the commander, Romeo Ramirez, announced his primary campaign against Santiago Barrera for sheriff in the county of about 12,000 people.

Ramirez won last Tuesday’s primary, but Santiago Barrera has made allegations about irregularities with mail-in ballots. So far, only one incorrectly addressed ballot has been brought to the district attorney.

Asked how Barrera had managed to stay in office for 20 years, the county attorney cited the lawman’s friendliness and charisma.

“He’s a great politician and a terrible sheriff,” Carrillo said.

Man sentenced to 20 years for stabbing wife

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A 47-year-old man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison in the fatal stabbing of his wife.

Tan Nguyen also was fined \$7,000 on Wednesday. He pleaded no contest this week to murder in the death of his wife, 38-year-old Phong Nguyen.

She was stabbed with a kitchen knife on the chest and arms after returning from a trip to Vietnam. Police found her lying face up on the couple’s bed with the knife still stuck in her chest.

One of the couples’ daughters testified that Phong Nguyen had been unfaithful and wanted a divorce.

Jurors found sudden passion factored into the slaying, dropping Tan Nguyen’s punishment to two to 20 years in prison. He had faced five to 99 years or life.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

currently a day short of state requirements, Downes said.

To remedy the situation, district officials will request a waiver from the Texas Education Agency allowing the district to “get by” this year with only 179 instruction days.

Downes is confident the district will receive the waiver. However, if TEA nixes the idea, officials will have to find an extra day of classroom instruction between now and the end of the school year.

If that comes to pass, BSISD students would likely be called to class on May 5, which is now scheduled as bad-weather day, Downes added.

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

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

into the race lightly and knows there are several key challenges facing the city of Big Spring in the coming years.

“Budgetary constraints are a major concern for me. We have to do a good job of controlling expenditures and keeping taxes as low as we can for the citizens,” said Fernandez. Limiting terms on gov-

ernmental bodies is another concern Fernandez said he will take with him to the office.

“The length of terms is a very real concern for me,” he said. “If elected, I will not run for more than two terms. I feel like that’s very important to keep the flow of new blood and new ideas on the council, and if I reach two terms, my career will be over.”

Fernandez will face off

against long time council woman Stephanie Horton in May. Horton filed to run for re-election near the end of February.

Horton isn’t the only council member having her office challenged, as local resident John “Huck” Huckabee — owner of Huck’s Automotive — has filed to challenge incumbent Jo Ann Staulcup for the District 3 seat on the city council.

Election day for the Big

Spring contest will be May 10, with early voting set to be held at the Howard County Courthouse April 28 through May 6.

And while polls in Big Spring will be active in May, the city of Forsan will be able to cancel its election as the three seats up for election drew only filings from incumbents.

At-large council members Rusty Baker and Allie Lansford will be re-elected by default, as will

Mayor Roger Hudgins.

The Coahoma City Council — which has three at-large seats up for election — drew just three candidates during filing, with city officials saying their election will also be canceled.

Seats currently held by Ronnie Dodson, Paulette Lindsey and Dan Shelburne will be filled by Lindsey, who filed to run for re-election, R.L. Coates and Linda Luce.

According to Coahoma officials, Dodson — who was expected to file his candidacy — filed to run for re-election, but withdrew his application.

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

PERMITS

Continued from Page 1A

Service Road, near the Roy Anderson Park.

“We have also received the civil plans for a Hampton Inn, which is expected to go up near N. San Antonio Street. We’re expecting that structure — a four story, 84 unit hotel — to begin going up the first part of June. We’re also expecting another hotel — a two story, 48 unit facility — to be going up west of the Best Western on Interstate Highway 20.”

Davis said none of these new projects have been figured into the current valuations, which span Jan. 1 to March 12.

Permits have also been issued for the following residential projects:

— Residential re-roof, 18 permits (\$510 in fees) with work valued at \$54,150.

— Residential electric, 28 permits (\$526.86 in fees) with work valued at \$31,987.

— Residential plumbing, 23 permits (\$601 in fees) with work valued at \$16,187.

— Residential heating and air, 10 permits (\$275 in fees) with work valued at \$37,550.

— Residential gas, 40 permits (\$1,060 in fees) with work valued at \$23,610.

— Residential water taps, three permits (\$2,729 in fees) with work valued at \$2,729.

— Residential sewer taps, four permits (\$1,568 in fees) with work valued at \$1,568.

— Residential additions and alterations, 24 permits (\$820 in fees) with work valued at \$101,552.84.

Permits have also been issued for the following commercial projects:

— Commercial water tap, two permits (\$2,702 in fees) with work valued at \$2,642.

— Commercial sewer tap, one permit (\$611 in fees) with work valued at \$611.

— Commercial sprinkler system, one permit (\$20.75 in fees) with work valued at \$8,000.

— Commercial re-roof, six permits (\$205 in fees) with work valued at \$27,050.

— Commercial electric, 39 permits (\$2,092 in fees) with work valued at \$15,740.

— Commercial plumbing, nine permits (\$331 in fees) with work valued at \$43,400.

— Commercial heating and air, six permits (\$288

in fees) with work valued at \$84,100.

— Commercial gas, one permit (\$32 in fees) with work valued at \$1,000.

— Other non-residential buildings, six permits (\$641 in fees) with work valued at \$123,400.

— Structures other than buildings, 20 permits (\$450 in fees) with work valued at \$31,075.

— Non-residential and non-housekeeping additions and alterations, four permits (\$5,150 in fees) with work valued at \$1.79 million.

— Signs, three permits (\$90 in fees) with work valued at \$8,951.

— Demolition of single family homes, one permit (\$25 in fees) with work valued at \$1.

— Demolition of all other buildings, five permits (\$325 in fees) with

work valued at \$13,401.

Since Jan. 1 the city has recorded 255 projects and collected \$21,127.61 in fees.

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

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MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

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Patricia Ann Joplin, 82, died Tuesday. Private family services will be held at a later date.

Kimberly Moore Barber, 47, died Thursday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

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NOTICE

If as a result of the incident at the Alon Refinery on Monday, February 18th, you suffered any damages, you must report your claim to the following number by no later than **Saturday, March 15th.**

1-800-451-4527

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BIG SPRING HERALD

AN ENCOURAGING WORD

By Eddy Pitchford

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, a spontaneous parade occurred. People cried out, “Hosanna” and used palm branches to give a “red carpet” welcome. Less than a week later, this same Jesus was crucified.

Prior to His triumphant entry, Jesus had told his disciples that he would be crucified and resurrected when they got to Jerusalem. (Matthew 20:17-19) Even as the welcome mat was rolled out, Jesus knew praise would give way to rejection. He understood commitment triumphs over convenience and that purpose supercedes popularity.

It is easier to welcome Jesus with palm branches than it is to respond to His death and resurrection. “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23).

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Sunday Worship.....6:00 PM
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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Best weapon against gangs a brave public

It's a shame ... a downright shame. There's no other way to describe our reaction to the fact that our lead story on the front page of Wednesday's edition of the *Herald* dealt with a gang-related shooting in Big Spring — a shooting that sent a local 19-year-old man to the hospital Tuesday afternoon.

Police reports showed the victim and another man were sitting in a vehicle in the 1300 block of Utah Street early Tuesday afternoon when another vehicle pulled up next to them and opened fire on them with three blasts from a 12-gauge shotgun. According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, officers responded to a report of shots fired in the 1300 block of Utah in Big Spring's west side at 1:47 p.m.

While Big Spring police say gangs are not a "big problem" in our community, they do exist in Big Spring. Therefore, they are, by nature, a problem.

"They're small in numbers, but when they live that kind of life and they're not shy about it, they're obviously a problem," explained Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer for the Big Spring Police Department. "You have lots of towns that don't even want to admit they have a problem with gangs, but they do. We're not going to do that, we're trying to deal with them head-on."

Everett noted that one gang, the so-called Latin Kings, "have got one little neighborhood on the Westside. Everyone there knows who they are and what they are."

Clearly, what they are is a brand of organized crime. Gangs prey on society. They mean drugs, weapons, violence, and in many cases, living off other people's fear — all the things most of us simply do not want in our community.

And it is our sense of community that is the best weapon available in defeating gangs.

Gang members openly flaunt themselves, convinced that people will be too afraid to let police know what they're doing.

But when people step up and defy their bullying, terroristic threats and other illegal activities and work with law enforcement authorities to be aggressive and treat them like the threat they are to our community, life will be better for us all.

How To Contact Us

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

We have the ability to move past worldly focus, Lord, when we walk with You.

Amen

Looking at GOP's winning issues

When it comes to national security, Democrats are serving up softballs for John McCain. But he better be getting a lot of batting practice so he can knock it out of the park once the general-election campaign gets in full swing.

Democrats downplay the scope of terrorist threat and constantly obstruct our efforts to pursue this "overblown" enemy.

Having run out of all other excuses to oppose extending the bill that permits warrantless monitoring of international conversations between terrorists, they have settled on the specious argument that the private telecoms don't deserve immunity from frivolous lawsuits commandeered by the trial bar.

It doesn't matter to Democrats that these companies patriotically responded to the president's call to assist with surveillance and relied on his assurances that they would be acting legally.

What matters is that trial lawyers are among the biggest contributors to the Democratic Party — the party that supposedly eschews special-interest politics. The trial bar must be paid back whenever possible, even if it means telecoms will not cooperate in the future for fear of stepping into a malicious litigation trap.

Democrats say they'd allow the legislation to pass if Republicans would agree to sever the immunity provisions from the bill for later treatment. But everyone knows — except voters the Democrats are trying to dupe — that if you carve out that portion of the bill, Democrats will try to prevent it from ever coming to the floor.

Democrats duplicitously claim the GOP just wants to protect another group of evil corporations. But can they point to one real victim who the telecoms have abused while assisting the government in saving American lives? Can they point to a real motive the telecoms would have in harming such nonexistent victims? Enough is enough.

Also, Democrats passed a bill — which the president then vetoed — to prohibit the United States from performing any interrogation techniques not described in the Army Field Manual. National Review Online's editors praised the president's veto, pointing to the recklessness of this bill because it would telegraph to the enemy all available interrogation techniques and enable the enemy to train to resist those methods.

Even on Iraq, Democrats have a losing position if Republicans will just make their case. First, McCain can point to the success of the surge and his early support for it. If Obama and other Democrats had gotten their way, we might be well on our way to losing in Iraq.

But Democrats say we should never have attacked and that al-Qaeda wouldn't be there if we hadn't. We should have finished the job in Afghanistan, they say, because that's where al-Qaeda trained to attack us on 9/11.

But has anyone ever challenged the Democrats on the absurdity of this position? If we were justified in attacking al-Qaeda in Afghanistan because they trained there to attack us, then why aren't we justified in fighting them in Iraq since they are attacking us there?

Besides, we have the right and duty to attack them wherever they are. They are the enemy.

A strong case has been made that al-Qaeda's presence in Iraq preceded our attack. But irrespec-

tive of that, they attacked us and provoked sectarian violence there in furtherance of their own evil purposes.

Whether we had a right to attack Iraq, which we did for a multitude of reasons already exhaustively discussed, is a completely separate question from whether we have a right to fight al-Qaeda there.

The Democrats' untenable position is that since we didn't find stockpiles of WMD in Iraq, we have no business fighting or defeating al-Qaeda there. They conveniently ignore that we had removed Saddam Hussein from power and were trying to establish order when al-Qaeda joined with Iraqi insurgents to prevent that from occurring. Democrats need to get this through their heads: Al-Qaeda is the aggressor in Iraq, not the United States.

Democrats pretend that if we will just withdraw from Iraq, al-Qaeda will forgive us and leave us alone. They will never leave us alone as long as they are capable of fighting us, no matter when we leave. But if we do leave before completing the job, al-Qaeda will be emboldened and become an even fiercer enemy, which will increase Middle East instability and invite further attacks against our interests abroad and at home.

I don't care how charismatic, nice, eloquent or brilliant Obama is.

If he were to pursue precipitous withdrawal and the other terrorist-friendly policies he and Democrats support, our national security will be exponentially imperiled.

It's time for Republicans to quit being on the defensive on these issues and take this fight to the public.

David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.
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ADDRESSES

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Buckley: Able man, faulty goals

Let me be clear about one thing: I come here not to bash William Buckley. I am willing to stipulate that he was a boon companion, a good husband, a terrific father and able to brush after every meal. He was also good on television.

And even if I were a Buckley-basher, this is hardly the time. The poor man is hardly in his grave. He died last week at the age of 82.

But all of this post-mortem talk of him being a towering intellectual and a great thinker... Give me a break.

Yes, he was the Godfather of the modern conservative movement and yes, his magazine, *The National Review*, became an influential journal of the Right and yes, he inspired many young people to become conservatives.

People say that as though those were good things. Not really. The fact is that he and his magazine and the conservative movement they spawned have been wrong about nearly everything, right from the beginning.

He founded the magazine, in part, to provide opposition to the "modern Republicanism" of Dwight Eisenhower. (You remember that Republicanism, don't you? The one that made some sense?)

In due course he defended the anti-Communist witch-hunt of Sen. Joe McCarthy, lionized the Spanish dictator Francisco Franco, opposed the civil rights movement, flirted with White

supremacy and did his best to undermine the social safety net erected by Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

For this President Ronald Reagan awarded him the Medal of Freedom. That's like naming Britney Spears Mother of the Year.

The fact that he became so influential is yet another black mark on our educational system. He wasn't even that good a writer. He used big words to show he was better than the rest of us but as he became increasingly occupied with outside projects his columns became slapdash to the point of incoherence.

I'll give him this: the man had style.

The Catholic son of a nouveau riche oilman, he lived life with the upper-class panache of a wealthy WASP aristocrat — limousines, yachts, "Tennis anyone?" — the whole nine yards. But he also worked hard. He published 50 books, more than 5,000 newspaper columns and his magazine, at its zenith, reached 150,000 subscribers. One weeps to think of the trees that gave up their lives for that man. He did make some good calls. He rejected the support of the anti-Semitic John Birch Society, he called for President Richard Nixon's resignation after Watergate blew up and he came to oppose the war in Iraq. On his PBS television show, "Firing Line," he engaged some of the most prominent figures of his time and made the resulting conversations vastly entertaining.

He also, rather curiously, endorsed the legalization of marijuana, although I suppose he was

led there by his libertarian streak. But an intellectual giant? I don't think so. We'd be better off if he'd gone into the oil business with his old man.

May he rest in peace. As Mr. Buckley left the scene, another old face reappeared. Ralph Nader.

Yes, he's running for President again. What was that you said? "Oh no, not again. He's already given us Bush and Cheney. What's he selling this time, Asian Bird Flu?" I used to feel that way myself but then I saw the documentary, "An Unreasonable Man," and I changed my mind. The film convinced me that Nader's got every right, constitutionally and morally, to run. If people want to vote for him, they have to accept the consequences. It called democracy.

Besides, he didn't cost Al Gore the election in 2000. Nader was a crucial factor only because it was so close an election. It shouldn't have been.

Gore was a sitting Vice-president in an administration that had given us 8 years of relative peace and prosperity. He was running against a know-nothing, do-nothing Texas governor with virtually no accomplishments to go with his famous name. It should have been a landslide.

Al Gore cost Gore the election.

Donald Kaul is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Washington correspondent who, by his own account, is right more than he's wrong. E-mail him at dkaul1@verizon.net.

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News in brief

41 Taliban militants killed in battle, airstrikes in southern Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — A provincial governor in Kandahar says Afghan and international forces have killed 41 Taliban militants in a battle in southern Afghanistan.

Nimroz Gov. Ghulam Dastagir Azad said the insurgents were traveling Wednesday through neighboring Helmand province when the joint forces attacked them.

Azad says the troops employed airstrikes during the four-hour battle in Helmand province, killing 41 militants.

He says 17 of the dead were from Nimroz, including a commander named Mullah Tor Jan. Their bodies have been transferred to the province.

Call girl at center of Spitzer case identified

NEW YORK (AP) — The call girl at the center of the prostitution scandal that prompted Gov. Eliot Spitzer to resign in disgrace has been identified as a 22-year-old aspiring musician who struggled in a broken home as a child.

The New York Times reported that the real name of the woman — identified as “Kristen” in court papers alleging that Spitzer paid thousands of dollars for her services — is Ashley Alexandra Dupre.

Don D. Buchwald, a New York lawyer, confirmed to The Associated Press that he represents Dupre, but he wouldn't comment further.

Law enforcement officials have said Spitzer had a Feb. 13 tryst with Kristen and paid her \$4,300, according to court papers. Spitzer said Wednesday that he's resigning.

Dupre briefly spoke to the Times about the Spitzer scandal but didn't offer details on her involvement in it.

US soldiers shoot, kill young girl north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — U.S. soldiers fired a warning shot near a woman who “appeared to be signaling to someone” along a dangerous stretch of road north of Baghdad, but the bullet killed a young Iraqi girl, a military official said early Thursday.

The shooting took place Wednesday where several roadside bombs had recently been found in the volatile Diyala province. An exact location was not given in a military statement.

The girl appeared to be “around 10 years old,” said Maj. Brad Leighton, a military spokesman.

There has been an increase in the use of women as suicide bombers in Iraq. But Leighton said preliminary reports indicated that soldiers didn't believe the woman posed a threat of being a bomber. Rather “they were afraid she was signaling to someone that the convoy was going by.”

In its statement, the military said that “coalition forces fired a warning shot into a berm near a suspicious woman who appeared to be signaling to someone while the soldiers were in the area. A young girl was found behind the berm suffering from a gunshot wound.”

President Bush searches for new wartime commander

WASHINGTON (AP) — The abrupt departure of the four-star general in charge of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has set off a scramble within the Bush administration to fill a job that requires vast combat experience, deft diplomatic skills, and the ability to handle the prickly question of what to do about Iran.

While President Bush may pick a sur-

prise candidate to replace Adm. William Fallon, who resigned after just one year as leader of U.S. Central Command, he's expected to choose a senior Army general who can see the big picture and doesn't need a lot of time to become familiar with the political dynamics of the volatile Middle East.

“He's looking for a guy who'll be a quick study,” said retired Army Maj. Gen. Robert Scales, former commandant of the Army War College. “He's also looking for someone who can take a strategic view of radical Islam rather than just focusing on the tactical fight. And he needs to be a person who's trusted in the region.”

Each of the military branches will propose candidates to succeed Fallon at Central Command.

Candidates return for budget votes that offer campaign preview

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presidential candidates John McCain, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton interrupted their campaign schedules to return to the Senate for votes on taxes and spending likely to become key points of contention in the race for the White House.

Votes on tax cuts and on a one-year ban on pet projects topped the Senate's agenda before an expected late-night vote Thursday to pass a \$3 trillion Democratic budget blueprint. The non-binding plan predicts a balanced budget in four years and promises generous increases for many domestic programs, but achieves those goals only by assuming major tax increases when President Bush's tax cuts expire in about three years.

Obama, D-Ill., and Clinton, D-N.Y.,

both promise to reverse Bush's tax cuts for wealthier taxpayers, but the Democratic budget they'll be voting for would allow income tax rates to go up on individuals making as little as \$31,850 and couples earning \$63,700 or more.

Across the Capitol, the House was to vote on a companion Democratic measure predicting larger surpluses while allowing \$683 billion worth of tax increases over five years with the expiration of Bush's tax cuts.

Astronauts at space station start work on building giant robot

HOUSTON (AP) — After linking up with the international space station, Endeavour's astronauts got right to work Thursday unloading the parts they'll need to build a giant robot that will help maintain the orbiting outpost.

Astronauts Robert Behnken and Gregory Johnson were using the station's robotic arm to pull a pallet containing the Canadian robot, named Dextre, from Endeavour's cargo bay and install it temporarily on a station girder.

Dextre — short for dexterous and pronounced like Dexter — is designed to assist spacewalking astronauts and, ultimately, to take over some of their dangerous outdoor work.

Spacewalkers Richard Linnehan and Garrett Reisman will begin assembling the robot late Thursday night during the first of five outings planned for Endeavour's busy 16-day mission.

Before pulling up to the space station, Endeavour's commander, Dominic Gorie, guided the shuttle through a 360-degree backflip to allow for full photographic surveillance.

**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.

CALL TODAY @ 1-866-764-0412

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Teen alleges being held captive, sexually abused

JACINTO CITY, Texas (AP) — Police tracked cell phone calls to find a teenage girl who reported being smuggled into the country, held captive in a padlocked room and sexually abused.

A mother and son were charged with aggravated sexual assault of a child and aggravated kidnapping in the case. Gregoria Salgado Vazquez, 58, and her son, David Salazar, 27, were being held in the Harris County Jail in lieu of a \$400,000 bond for each, authorities said Wednesday.

Police say a 16-year-old girl from Mexico first called 911 on Feb. 25, using her captor's cell phone but was unable to tell police where she was being held. Cell phone coordinates from the February calls led police to canvass several blocks of a street but they didn't find the teenager.

"We've been receiving calls on 911 from a young lady stating that she was being held against her will and that they had her locked up," Jacinto City Police

Chief Joe Ayala said. "She was able to get access to a cell phone but would call and hang up when someone was coming."

The girl called again three times between 2:30 and 4 a.m. Friday. Police were able to trace the cell phone coordinates to a home on the same street officers had earlier canvassed.

Officers checked the home Salgado and Salazar shared. They found the teen in Salazar's bedroom.

"At first the people there said they were the only two people there and that no one else was there," Ayala said. "Then they said, 'well, there is someone else is here.'"

After she was removed from the home, the teenager told one officer she was sexually abused, whipped with a belt and held captive. She had being smuggled within the last two months without her family's knowledge, Ayala said.

"She was sexually abused several times by different people at the home

and at different locations for money," he said.

The girl was apparently kept in a room padlocked from the outside. Burglar bars were on all the windows of the home and three large dogs were in the backyard. The teen alleged Salgado wouldn't let her leave, Ayala said.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has taken custody of the girl and placed her in foster care, said Estella Olguin, a Child Protective Services spokeswoman.

13 taken to hospital after school bus accident

DALLAS (AP) — Ten children and two adults were taken to Dallas hospitals as a precaution after their school bus collided with another vehicle.

The bus was taking students to Jean Massieu Academy in Arlington when the 7 a.m. accident happened on a Loop 12 frontage road, near Mountain Creek Lake. The academy is a charter school for hearing-impaired students.

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SKATE PARTY!!!

The family of Emma Grace Cottingham, 2 year old survivor of prematurity, has formed a family team and will be participating in the March of Dimes "March for Babies 2008".

Team "Miracle of the Moment" along with SKATELAND, is supporting the March of Dimes by hosting a skating party FOR CHILDREN 15 AND UNDER!

Thursday, March 20, 2008
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
SKATELAND
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COST: \$5

For more information call Cheryl Shults at (432) 263-6636
ALL proceeds will go to the March of Dimes for research and education.

7787



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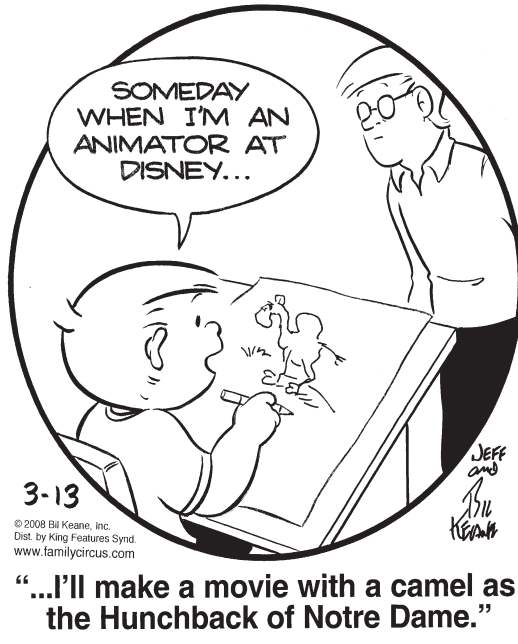
THURSDAY

Table with 15 columns for TV channels (WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 5 rows for time slots (6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30, 12:30) listing various programs.

DENNIS THE MENACE



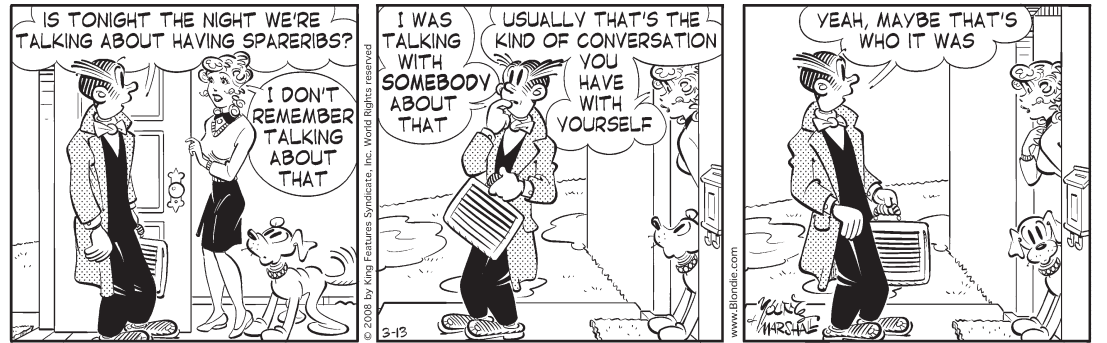
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



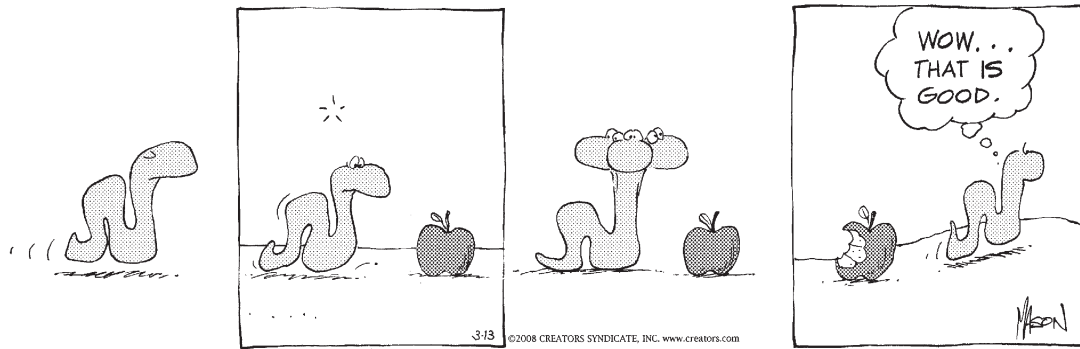
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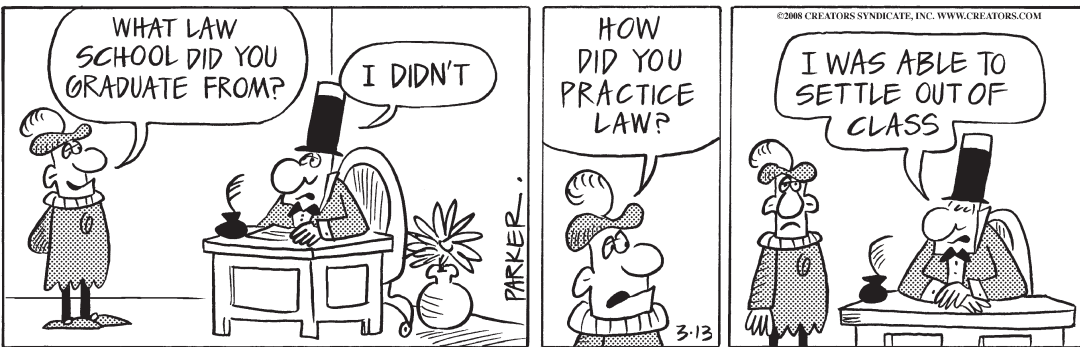
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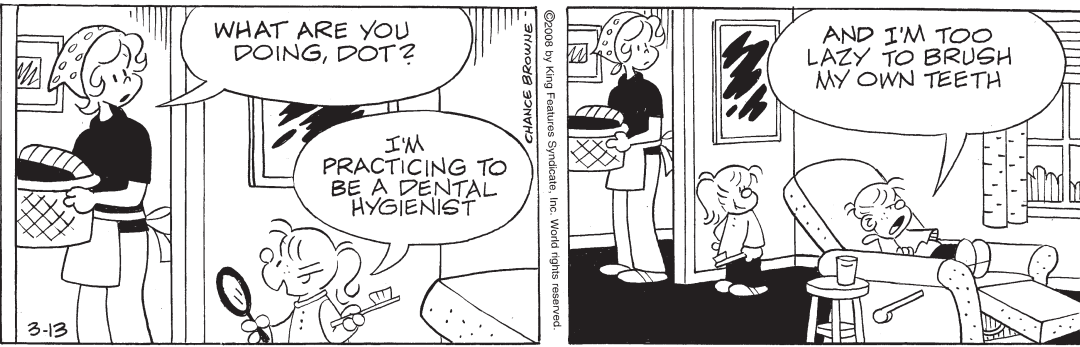
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BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 13, the 73rd day of 2008. There are 293 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On March 13, 1933, banks began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. On this date: In 1781, the planet Uranus was discovered by Sir William Herschel. In 1884, Congress officially adopted Eastern Standard Time for the District of Columbia. In 1908, American billionaire, publisher and diplomat Walter Annenberg was born in Milwaukee. In 1925, a law went into effect in Tennessee prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution. In 1928, hundreds of people died when the San Francisco Valley in California was inundated with water after the St. Francis Dam burst just before midnight the evening of March 12.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Roy Haynes is 83. Country singer Jan Howard is 78. Songwriter Mike Stoller is 75. Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka is 69. Actor William H. Macy is 58. Actress Deborah Raffin is 55. Comedian Robin Duke is 54. Actress Glenna Headly is 53. Actress Dana Delany is 52. Rock musician Adam Clayton (U2) is 48. Jazz musician Terence Blanchard is 46. Actor Christopher Collet is 40. Actress Annabeth Gish is 37. Actress Tracy Wells is 37. Rapper Common is 36. Rapper Khujo (Goodie Mob, The Lumberjacks) is 36.

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Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword grid with words like SPAM, CORE, BRIBE, CODE, OVAL, LOREN, ALAS, RENE, USAGE, RAGSTORICHES, PREYON, TEM, FOE, MALT, FOULUP, MAMA, SOUPTONUTS, AMASS, ALA, NITRO, NINETOFIVE, TEEM, INLAID, PEST, COY, MOO, SORROW, SURFACTOIR, ERROL, FERN, MINE, SNAFU, ERIC, ASKS, TAPAS, ROBE, NEST.

Newsday Crossword

IN A WAY by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Chuckleheads, 6 Invitations, 10 Slide sideways, 14 Shiraz resident, 15 Without delay, 16 Spacious, 17 Basted, perhaps, 18 Jingle award, 19 Poetic adverb, 20 In a disdainful way, 23 Where K2 is, 24 Prime-time time, 25 Sore, 28 Darkroom fixture, 30 Sponsorship, 35 Prefix for foil, 36 Two-purpose, 37 Pride of Philip II, 38 In a secretive way, 41 Sea swirls, 42 Consider, with "on", 43 Louvre Pyramid designer, 44 Famous fabulist, 45 Baker's shovel-like device, 46 Aide, in brief, 47 Audio receiver, 49 Web journal, 51 In a categorical way, 59 Dutch master, 60 Actor Epps, 61 Send forth, 62 Face shape, 63 Pull apart, 64 Japan's second city, 65 Shot, for short, 66 Work units, 67 Marquee times, 11 Double-decker checker, 12 Megastar, 13 Refuse to accept, 21 Abs-building routines, 22 Linear, 25 Completely confused, 26 Needing refinement, 27 Bunches of bison, 29 Albee title character, 31 Ostrich kin, 32 Sounds frightened, 33 Does nothing, 34 "Talk!", 36 Become more complicated, 37 Danny of Moonstruck, 39 Carnival city, 40 Hitchcock film of '63, 45 Grade-school text, 46 Pro tennis retiree of '06, 48 Venerate, 50 Bagel topping, 51 Expression of concern, 52 Dark blue, 53 Bit of thunder, 54 Peace Prize city, 55 Gustatory kick, 56 Exam for future JDs, 57 Gospel writer, 58 Roll-call count

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 67 indicating starting positions for words.

Sport Trac

New technology, standard features available for 2008 Ford truck

I've been a fan of the Sport Trac since it was first introduced for the 2001 model year.

To me, it is the perfect size.

I know, this is Texas, the state where "bigger is always better" and if a truck doesn't take up two parking spaces at the grocery store it's not considered a "real" truck.

But then again, I've always been one to buck the trend.

With rare exceptions, I've never found myself in need of a full-size pickup.

Since its introduction, I've always thought the

Ford Explorer Sport Trac was the perfect size.

Based on the Explorer sport utility vehicle platform, the four-door Sport Trac provides comfortable seating for

five passengers, a 4.5-foot cargo bed and outstanding handling.

I can actually go to the grocery store and easily



The 2008 Ford Explorer Sport Trac

ON THE ROAD



By NEAL WHITE

park it in a single stall without having to do one of those 42-point parking maneuvers that drives my wife absolutely nuts when I'm test driving a Texas-size truck.

I like that about the Sport Trac truck.

For the 2008 model year, more standard features and new technology features have been added.

Ford Sync, the hands-free, in-car communica-

tion and entertainment system is now available on the Sport Trac.

If you haven't seen a demonstration for this new feature — available on a number of Ford, Lincoln and Mercury vehicles — it's well worth stopping by your neighborhood Ford dealership.

If you have a

Bluetooth-enabled cell phone, it takes less than 30 seconds to sync your phone with the vehicle. From that point on, if you want to make a call, push the button on the steering wheel, say "phone," followed by either the number you want to call or a name from your phone's address book. Sync auto-

matically dials the number for you and you have the conversation via the vehicle's audio speakers and a microphone mounted near the visor.

It works the same for controlling the audio and climate systems. Just push a button and tell the car what you want it

See **TRUCK**, Page 8A

ALON ENERGY REFINERY EXPLOSION

The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC recently resolved over 150 personal injury claims related to the BP explosion that occurred in Texas City, Texas, with clients recovering extraordinary monetary awards and/or settlements. The Pinkerton Law Firm, PLLC has the experience and track record to prosecute your claim to the maximum extent possible under the law.

If you were there, you may have a claim for physical and/or emotional injuries. Time is of the essence to preserve your claim.

Dear New Client:

I am an experienced attorney in the area of industrial accidents. I have recovered millions of dollars for my clients who were injured in incidents similar to that for which your community has recently endured. My track record is impeccable. I believe that I understand what your particular community is going through right now. I am a resident of Houston, Texas, and felt the emotional trauma caused by the BP explosion that occurred in my community in March of 2005. Although I live in Houston, Texas, I pride myself on being a West Texan. I spent much of my youth on my grandfather's farm in Hedley, Texas. Growing up on the farm, I was taught the values you live by. Because of that, I too live by those values today. Those values include being self-sufficient, hard-working, honorable and trustworthy. In addition, those values sometimes include being non-litigious, a value I understand and respect, but also have found to be detrimental under certain circumstances.

If you were injured by this blast, our system of law has but one remedy—money damages. That is how our system works and it has worked for hundreds of years. It is your absolute, sovereign right to bring a lawsuit to protect your interests if you were injured in this explosion. You may have been injured by the direct impact of the blast or flames. You may have been emotionally traumatized by the events of that tragic day. You may have been injured escaping from the disaster area in an attempt to save your life. You may have been injured trying to rescue others. For any of these injuries, and many others, you may have a claim for money damages. I contend that it is your duty to yourself, your family and your community to bring your claim into our justice system—and allow the system to work for you, your family, and your community. I would respectfully suggest to you that it is in your best interest to contact an attorney who has the experience, know-how, and wherewithal to handle a claim like this. I believe that person is me. But, even if you do not contact me, contact someone. As always, I remain,

Very truly yours,
Chad Pinkerton

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TRUCK

Continued from Page 7A

to do. It even works with your iPod. Just connect it to the auxiliary port, push the Sync button and give the command to play the artist and track you want. It's easy to use and enhances driver safety at the same time because you never have to take your eyes off the road. Other new features on the '08 model include a drop-in storage bin with power points, Ford's

Safety Canopy side curtain airbags and the power rear window — as well as several new colors. Available in rear- or four-wheel drive, the Explorer Sport Trac is offered with two available engines. Buyers have their choice of a 4.0-liter V-6 engine (210 horsepower) mated to a five-speed automatic transmission or a 4.6-liter V-8 engine (292 horsepower) mated to a six-speed automatic transmission. When properly equipped, the V-6 can tow up to 5,310 pounds; the V-8 6,800 pounds.

Both power plants require regular unleaded gasoline and are certified as Low Emission Vehicles. For drivers looking for utility and flexibility in an easy to drive pickup, the Explorer Sport Trac is highly recommended for a test drive. *Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedailylight.com.*

THE NUTS AND BOLTS



MODEL:
2008 Ford Expl. Sport Trac
5-seat sport utility truck
Rear-; four-wheel drive
Trim packages:
XLT, Limited

PRICE RANGE:
\$25,000-\$32,000
ENGINE:
4.0-L V6 (210 hp/254 torque)
4.6-L V8 (292 hp/300 torque)
TRANSMISSION:

5-speed automatic
6-speed automatic
EPA: 14/13 mpg city, 20 mpg highway (RWD V6/V8)
FUEL: Regular unleaded
TRACTION CONTROL:
Four-channel StabiliTrak with brake assist
BRAKES: ABS with AdvanceTrac and Roll Stability Control
LENGTH: 210.2 inches
WHEELBASE: 130.5 inches
WIDTH: 73.7 inches
HEIGHT: 72.5 inches
WEIGHT: 4,579-4,830 lbs.
TRACK: 60.8/61.8 (front/rear)
FUEL TANK: 22.5 gallons
TIRES: 16-, 17- or 18-inch
TOW CAP.: 5,310 lbs. (V6) 6,800 lbs. (V8)

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