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BIG SPRING

HERALD

TUESDAY
MARCH 18, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 94

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Alleged shooter turns self in

Big Spring police say they are ready to take case to the district attorney

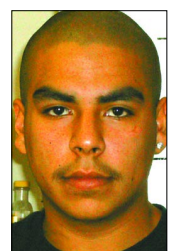
By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

A suspect wanted in connection with the March 11 shooting of a Big Spring man has been arrested, according to local law enforcement officials, who say they are ready to turn the case over to the district attorney's office.

Tony Martinez Jr., 18, of 706

N. Goliad, turned himself in to the Howard County Sheriff's Office Friday and was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with



Martinez

the Big Spring Police Department, law enforcement officers have been searching for Martinez since he was identified as a suspect in the case. "Apparently, Mr. Martinez turned himself in to the sheriff's office," said Everett. "We haven't been able to question him, and I'm not sure that we will. However, we're ready to turn the case and the evidence

over to the district attorney's office. An arrest warrant was issued for Martinez for the shooting of 19-year-old Edward Lopez, according to Everett. "Officers arrived on the scene to find Edward Lopez, 19, had been wounded," said Everett. "Lopez had a wound behind his ear and one on his shoulder. He was transported to the emer-

gency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center, where he was treated for non life-threatening injuries." According to Everett, Lopez and another male subject were sitting in a vehicle near the residence when a second vehicle stopped in front of the home. "A subject in the second vehi-

See **SHOOTING**, Page 3A

Hoops Dreams coming March 28

West Texas Centers to host annual event

West Texas Centers for MHMR will host its fourth annual "Hoops, Dreams and Goals" basketball tournament Friday, March 28, in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The tournament is a time for the consumers of West Texas Centers for MHMR to participate in their own version of the Final Four and celebrate March as Mental Retardation Month.

The event, co-sponsored by The Howard County Arc, Howard College and West Texas Centers, is a premier event that recognizes and honors the many individuals and families that live with mental retardation on a daily basis.

Basketball teams, complete with their own cheerleading squads, will compete in games and special events at the home of the Howard College Hawks and Lady Hawks.



AP Photo/Ron Edmonds

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson speaks to the morning news shows this morning in the press room at the White House in Washington.

Fed poised to cut rates aggressively as it combats weak economy and credit crisis

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve is expected to aggressively lower interest rates in its intensified battle against the credit crisis and spreading economic weakness. The question is whether all of the effort will turn the tide.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues have already been working overtime, employing a variety of novel approaches to keep the economy out of a recession or at least moderate the impact of any downturn.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson made the rounds of the morning TV shows today to underscore the administration's commitment to keeping turmoil in the financial markets from worsening a struggling economy.

"The priority we have is a stable, orderly financial" market, he said on CBS' "The Early Show."

He said the focus of policymakers "is reducing the spillover into the real economy from the turbulence and disruptions in our financial markets."

To those who would complain that

See **CRISIS**, Page 3A

Compliance with ADA on special agenda

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council is expected to approve a contract with engineering firm Parkhill, Smith & Cooper during a special meeting Wednesday evening, in hopes of correcting some of the municipality's shortcomings with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The council will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, located at 307 E. Fourth St.

According to city officials, the need for the study has become apparent over the past several months, as the council has received several complaints about ADA deficient facilities in the city, including the municipal auditorium.

"We just want to make sure we're in compliance with ADA regulations," said Mayor Russ McEwen. "We want to be in a position to make everything as accessible as possible. The entire council feels very strong-

"When a complaint is made, the federal government sends us a notification, which we have to answer. We either have to contest the complaint, or we have to tell the government what we're going to do to fix it."



McEwen

ly about this." McEwen said complaints made by citizens have been answered, and Wednesday's meeting and contract with the engineering firm is the first step in making corrections.

"When a complaint is made, the federal government sends us a notification, which we have to answer," said McEwen. "We either

See **ADA**, Page 3A

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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.

LOUSY FOOTWORK

NEW YORK (AP) — A businessman claims in a lawsuit that he was injured when a stripper giving him a lap dance swiveled and smacked him in the face with the heel of her shoe.

Stephen Chang, a securities trader, said in court papers filed Friday that he was at the Hot Lap Dance Club near Madison Square Garden and was getting a paid lap dance when the accident occurred early Nov. 2, 2007.

According to the lawsuit, as the dancer swung around, the heel of her shoe hit him in the eye, causing him "serious injuries."

ONLY ON EBAY

CHICAGO (AP) — Sounds a little flaky, but someone has offered more than \$50 on eBay for a piece of breakfast cereal that is touted as a lookalike to the state of Illinois.

Two sisters listed "The Great Illinois Corn Flake" on the online auction site, promising it has undergone no alterations. Emily McIntire, a 15-year-old sophomore in high school from Chesapeake, Va., said she was grabbing fistfuls of cereal on her way to class when she found the flake.

Her 23-year-old sister, Melissa, said their parents suggested selling it for fun. They're offering free shipping to Illinois.

UN-BEE-LIEVABLE

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Millions of swarming honey bees are on the loose after a truck carrying crates of the insects flipped over on a California highway.

The California Highway Patrol says 8-to-12 million bees escaped Sunday from the crates in which they were stored and swarmed over an area of Highway 99 and stung officers, firefighters and tow truck drivers trying to clear the accident.

CHP Officer Michael Bradley says a tractor trailer flipped over while entering the highway on its way to Yakima, Wash. The flatbed was carrying bee crates each filled with up to 30,000 bees.

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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
Tuesday, March 18, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

TUESDAY

Big Spring softball vs. Fort Stockton, Noon.

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

Coahoma softball at Stamford, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

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

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

Coahoma baseball vs. Merkel, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

Big Spring softball at Brownwood, TBA

Forsan baseball at Morton Tournament through Saturday.

MONDAY

Forsan baseball at Winters, 4:30 p.m.

Forsan softball vs. Eldorado, 5 p.m.

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 details.

Crossroads of West Texas Golf Classic scheduled

The Big Spring Chamber of Commerce and ATMOS Energy are sponsoring the Crossroads of West Texas Golf Classic to be held at the Big Spring Country Club May 17 and 18.

The tournament is limited to the first 100 paid teams with a two-man scramble format being used.

A handicap is required and the tourney will be pre-flighted by a tournament committee and local golf pro.

Entry fee is \$180 per team. All entries are to be paid in advance. The fee includes access to the ATMOS Energy hospitality tent, free beverages, a barbecue lunch for both days, an afternoon shootout on May 16 and a golf goodie bag.

Winners may receive pro shop merchandise at 100 percent or may take 70 percent of winnings.

Call the country club's Pro Shop at 267-5354 or the Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641 for more information.

Bulldogettes shut out Merkel



By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

COAHOMA — It might not have been pretty, but a win is a win.

The Coahoma Bulldogettes struck out eight times to Merkel Lady Badgers pitcher Sarah Leggett, but capitalized on several Merkel fielding mistakes, winning their third district game, 4-0.

Bulldogettes pitcher Heather Newton recorded her fourth consecutive shut out and sixth in her past seven appearances. Coahoma Head Coach Tracy Tadlock felt Newton was one of the few bright spots on the night for Coahoma.

"We didn't play well tonight," Tadlock said. "We didn't hit well. We didn't play good defense. Heather pitched pretty good, but that's it. I don't understand how we could hit (Hawley Bearcats pitcher) PeeWee (Burton) as well as we did a few days ago and then strike out eight times tonight against Merkel's pitcher.

"Sometimes it's just hard to get up for games where you feel like you should win," he continued. "Stuff like that happens. We're going to have to concentrate more so we don't play like this again."

All four of Coahoma's runs were unearned and only second baseman Laci Sterling registered a RBI.

Newton helped her own cause in the first inning, drawing a walk with one out in the inning. She stole second on Leggett's next pitch and Merkel catcher Kelsey Green's throw was off tar-

get and landed in center field, allowing Newton to advance to third.

Coahoma's ace later scored on a wild pitch. However, Leggett struck out three Bulldogettes in the inning.

Another Merkel throwing error in the third inning put Berkley Iden on third base after she laid down a bunt along the first base line. Three batters later, Sterling drilled a pitch to the left field wall for a two-out RBI double.

Leading 2-0 heading into the bottom of the sixth, the Bulldogettes appeared to have caught up to Leggett. Christie Rich led off the inning with a single to left and Breanna Conner drew a walk, putting runners on first and second. JoAnna Gonzales laid down a bunt that forced another Merkel throwing error, allowing Rich to score and Conner to advance to third, while Gonzales ended up on second.

After Conner was tagged out between third and home for the first out of the inning on a fielder's choice ball hit by Shelbi Paige, the Lady Badgers committed their fourth throwing error of the game, allowing Gonzales to score from second. However, Paige was thrown out by Merkel's left fielder, who also recorded the final out of the inning, throwing out Iden at home.

Newton preserved the shut out, despite giving up a double to lead off the seventh to Merkel's Casey Dixon, striking out two Lady Badgers in the process.

See **COAHOMA**, Page 2B

HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull
Coahoma's Heather Newton pitches in a 4-0 shutout victory over District 5-2A rival Merkel Monday in Coahoma. Newton recorded 11 strikeouts in the win as the Bulldogettes remained perfect in district play at 3-0.

Kansas has the horses, clear path to win it all

The first sign that this year's NCAA selection committee didn't lack for confidence came even before the brackets were announced.

Some 90 minutes before revealing the rest of the field, it told Coppin State and Mount St. Mary to head to Dayton, Ohio, for what the NCAA insists on calling the "opening-round" game, and the rest of us still stubbornly refer to as the "play-in" game.

Chairman Tom O'Connor explained that once committee members were comfortable with their choices, "we committed to releasing the information so the two teams can begin their travel plans and scouting that much sooner."

From the look and sound of things, the committee didn't struggle much more filling out the remainder of its bracket and got most of that right, too.

So maybe the top seeds — North Carolina, UCLA,

Memphis and Kansas — should go ahead and book flights and hotels in San Antonio. All four No. 1s have never made it to a Final Four, but this could be the year. In any case, we'll take it a step further and advise the Jayhawks to schedule a return flight early enough on the Tuesday after to squeeze in a championship parade. But more on that in a moment.

First, though, give the committee its due. In contrast to previous years, there was so little complaining about either the top seeds or the last few teams let in that O'Connor may pick up the phone for a conference call — read: gripe session — scheduled for Monday afternoon and find out there's nobody on the other end.

Arizona State coach Herb Sendek might be tempted to dial in, since his team beat Arizona in the Pac-10 conference race and twice in head-to-head matchups on the court, but somehow still lost the competition inside the Indianapolis hotel room where the committee met.

"We've been involved in situations before today that were very difficult to swallow,"



JIM LITKE



AP photo/Charlie Riedel
Kansas coach Bill Self celebrates after beating Texas 84-74 to win the championship game of the Big 12 men's basketball tournament in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday. According to AP sports columnist Jim Litke, that shouldn't be the final time Self rejoices after a tournament championship this season.

Sendek said Sunday. "Today's like the final big gulp."

A few other possible gripes: Duke got an easy ride to the Elite Eight and its No. 2 seed was probably a gift, especially after Wisconsin had to settle for a No. 3 despite winning the Big Ten's regular-season and conference tournament titles. The Big

East somehow got twice as many teams in as the Atlantic Coast Conference, eight to four, and maybe the last No. 1 slot that went to Kansas should have gone to Tennessee, which now finds itself in the East bracket with overall top seed North

See **KANSAS**, Page 2B

Texas starts dance in unfriendly confines

By JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN — Listen up Arkansas: Texas coach Rick Barnes says you'd better be nice to his Longhorns or he won't bring his team back to play the Razorbacks next season.

Texas (28-6), the No. 2 seed in the South Region, plays No. 15 Austin Peay (24-10) on Friday in North Little Rock, Ark., in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

And while the game is close enough for Texas fans to travel, the Longhorns should expect to be greeted by a hostile crowd fueled by the old Southwest Conference Arkansas-Texas border rivalry that burns genera-

tions deep.

Barnes suggested on a Monday conference call that if his team gets the same rowdy treatment Arkansas received in Austin in tournaments past, he won't come back to play anytime soon. Texas is supposed to travel to Arkansas for a game in Fayetteville next season.

"If the fans don't treat us well, we're not going to come. You can put that out there," Barnes said. "I'm serious. We've got enough money here, we can buy our way out of it. They'd better be good to us."

A funny line, but Arkansas-Texas is serious business to fans in those two states.

Just ask former Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson what it

can be like to play on a supposedly neutral floor. His teams barely survived games in Austin in 1990 and 1995 in front of crowds that lustily booed the Razorbacks.

"Everybody was against us," Richardson said. "It was fun for me."

In 1990, Arkansas beat Princeton 68-64 and Dayton 86-84, then got its payback by beating Texas in Dallas to get to the Final Four. In 1995, the defending national champion Razorbacks were back again and barely survived close wins over Texas Southern (79-78) and Syracuse (96-94).

"They booed us, they did everything," Richardson said. "When things start rocking and momen-

tum changes, you'd better make a shot. That's the only way to keep the fans out of the game."

The 1990 Austin crowds had been whipped up by a game just a few weeks earlier that earned Richardson his "Strollin' Nolan" nickname.

In a wild Arkansas win over Texas in overtime, Richardson was so upset by the officiating that he left the Razorbacks' bench for the locker room with 14 seconds left in regulation, then returned for the overtime. Incensed fans in Austin let his team have it when they came back to town for the first and second rounds of the NCAA tournament.

See **TEXAS**, Page 2B

Obituaries

Hughey C. Warner



Hughey C. Warner, 91, of Big Spring died Monday, March 17, 2008, in a Midland nursing home. Graveside funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at the Peace Chapel at Trinity Memorial Park with Brother Cal Westerhof officiating.

He was born Oct. 7, 1916, in Colorado City.

The son of Cordelia and Lee Castle, he grew up in Martin County and was a lifetime resident of Martin and Howard counties. He worked in the construction business most of his life as a blade operator. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include his foster brother, Floyd Martin and wife, Mary Frances, of Tarzan and a number of cousins.

The family suggests memorials be made to a favorite charity.

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

Mary Lee Loudamy



Mary Lee Loudamy, 88, died Saturday, March 15, 2008, in a local nursing home. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at 10 a.m. at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Funeral Home in Big Spring. Interment will follow at the Miles Cemetery in Miles.

She was born July 9, 1919, in Miles to Fielding Evans and Annie Lee Reeder Combs. She married Leo Murrel Loudamy Feb. 25, 1940 in Miles.

She resided in Miles, where she was very active in the community, until 1958, when she moved to Big Spring, then moved to Del Rio in 1978.

She taught Sunday School for 24 years at the First Baptist Church in Del Rio.

She enjoyed gardening, was an avid rock hound and painted. She and her husband enjoyed outdoor activities and traveled extensively in the United States.

She is survived by her husband, Murrel Loudamy; one daughter, Pat Low of Big Spring; two granddaughters; two great-granddaughters; and three great-great grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater West Texas Chapter, 4400 N. Big Spring, Suite C-32, Midland 79705.

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

Johnie Dickerson Wright

Johnie Dickerson Wright 73, of San Angelo died Monday, March 17, 2008, at his residence.

Funeral mass will be 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, 2008, in Holy Angels Catholic Church with the Rev. Charles Greenwell as celebrant. Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery.

Mr. Wright was born March 30, 1934, in Elbon, Texas, to Johnie Hatler Wright and Rosa Nell Stephens Wright. He married Ray Syl Morton May 22, 1954, in Big Lake. She preceded him in death in 1999.

He was employed by Fina in Big Spring for 34 years, retiring as superintendent of oil movements and storage in 1993. Mr. Wright was a member of Holy Angels Catholic Church.

Survivors include four sons, Johnie Ray Wright and wife, Kimberly, James Thomas "Jim" Wright and wife, Cecilia, Joe Wright and wife, Jodie, and Don Wright, all of Big Spring; a daughter, Denette Moore of Fort Worth; two brothers, Jimmy Wright of Austin and Tommy Wright of Colorado City; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a special friend, Tom Evans of Lake Ivie.

Ruby Lee Simms

Funeral services for Ruby Lee Simms, 85, of Winnsboro were held at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 29, 2008, at Tranquil Baptist Church in Winnsboro with the Rev. Tommie F. Shelton officiating. Burial was at the McGee Cemetery in Wood County.

Ms. Simms died Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2008, in Winnsboro.

She was born March 13, 1922, in Pickton to Tommy and Darnetta Templeton Simms. She attended Dunbar Elementary School in Winnsboro and graduated from Booker T. Washington in Marlin. She attended Paul Quinn College in Waco and received her bachelor and master's degrees from Texas College in Tyler. She retired as a third-grade bilingual teacher from the Big Spring Independent School District in 1986.

She joined Tranquil Baptist Church at an early age and was an active member, choir member, teacher and youth leader.

Survivors include a sister, Ernestine Starling, and a nephew, William Starling.

Ricardo Chavez

Ricardo Chavez, 90, of Big Spring died Tuesday, March 18, 2008, in Midland. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Police blotter

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

- **JULIE BLOOM**, 48, transient, was arrested Sunday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **LINDA GUSMAN**, 20, of 607 Linda, was arrested Monday on two local citations.
- **RONALD BAKLEY**, 33, of 2412 Runnels, was arrested Monday on two local citations.
- **MARIAN DAVIS**, 38, of 2005 S. Monticello, was arrested Sunday on a local citation.
- **BARRON WARDWELL**, 31, of 2620 Albrook, was arrested Monday on a Mitchell County warrant.
- **LINDA FOSTER**, 30, of 705 E. 13th Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- **KIRSTEN LEWIS**, 23, of 300 S. Settles, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- **ANGELINE MARTINEZ**, 18, of 807 Wyoming, was arrested Monday on a Bee County warrant and charges of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone and failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.
- **JONATHON WILBON**, 36, of 705 E. 13th Street, was arrested Monday on charges of possession of a controlled substance and failure to identify.
- **MARKISHA JORDAN**, 19, of 705 E. 13th Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **TANDI BARBEE**, 25, of 5822 Ranch Road 33, was arrested Monday on a charge of theft.
- **JIMI PARADEZ**, 21, of 614 N.E. Ninth Street, was arrested Monday on a charge of hindering an officer's duties.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 200 block of Marcy.
 - in the 700 block of Runnels.
- **CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 3600 block of Hamilton.
- **BURGLARY OF A HABITATION** was reported in the 1300 block of Tucson.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1000 block of Main Street.
- **ASSAULT BY CONTACT** was reported in the 2900 block of Grady.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 45 inmates at the time of this report.
- **GARY LESLIE HOSEY**, 47, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of unsafe lane change and violation of a promise to appear.
 - **JOHN MICHEAL CRUM JR.**, 27, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of driving while intoxicated - second offense.
 - **SALENA MARIE TAYLOR**, 28, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
 - **KEVIN JAMES BELCHER**, 23, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on a judgment/sentence for possession of a controlled substance (six months state jail) and a revocation of probation for possession of a controlled substance.
 - **TIMOTHY RAY LUCIO**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of failure to identify - giving false information.
 - **JAMES ROBERT BLEDSOE**, 27, was arrested Monday by DPS on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
 - **DANIEL LYNN CREEL**, 27, was arrested Monday by DPS on charges of driving while license invalid, no driver's license and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1800 block of N. Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 600 block of N. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 700 block of W. Interstate Highway 20. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of N. Main Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported near the intersection of N. Ninth Street and Runnels.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 1200 block of E. 16th Street.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 263-1758 213-3598.
- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. TX 1756 meets in the First Christian Church of Big Spring, 911 Goliad. A different program is offered every week. Enter through the south side door off 10th Street. Call 213-1342 for more information. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m.; meetings begin at 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Lions Club meets at 6:45 p.m. at Dragon China Buffett.
- DAV and Auxiliary Chapter 47 meets at 6:30 p.m. at 610 Abrams St.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

TUESDAY

- Big Spring Rotary Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Big Spring Band Boosters meets at 5:30 p.m. in the high school band hall. All band parents are invited to attend.
- Big Spring Art Association meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library. All working artists and those interested in art are invited to attend.
- Order of the Eastern Star No. 67 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 221 Main.

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. in the Scenic Mountain Medical Center classroom for Stretch and Tone. Call 268-4721.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third St.

Weather

Tonight...Decreasing clouds. A 20 percent chance of showers. Colder. Lows in the mid 30s. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph decreasing to 10 to 15 mph after midnight.

Wednesday...Sunny. Not as cool. Highs in the upper 60s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s. SouthWinds around 10 mph.

Thursday...Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday night...Mostly clear. Windy. Lows in the upper 40s.

Friday...Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s.

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

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

Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 30s.

Monday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 2-7-9-15-25.
Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 7-13-19-27. Bonus Ball: 14.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 1.
Prize: \$225,000
Winning ticket sold in: Richmond.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-8-2-8. Sum It Up: 26

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-7-6. Sum It Up: 21

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The Big Spring Herald is a member of The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, Texas Press Association, West Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Newspaper Association, The Associated Press.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, TX 79721. Periodicals postage paid at Big Spring, Texas.

USPS 1431-48 USPS 0055-940 ISSN 0746-6811
BY THE MONTH HOME DELIVERY: \$8.65 monthly; \$93.42 yearly (includes 10% discount). MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$12.50 monthly Howard & Martin Counties; \$13.25 elsewhere.

NCAA Tournament First Round

Play-in Game Today

Coppin State (16-20) vs. Mount St. Mary's, Md. (18-14), 7:30 p.m.

EAST REGIONAL

First Round

Thursday, March 20

At The Pepsi Center

Denver

Washington State (24-8) vs. Winthrop (22-11), 7:20 p.m.

Notre Dame (24-7) vs. George Mason (23-10), 30 minutes following

Friday, March 21

At The RBC Center

Raleigh, N.C.

North Carolina (32-2) vs. Coppin State-Mount St. Mary's, Md. winner, 7:10 p.m.

Indiana (25-7) vs. Arkansas (22-11), 30 minutes following

At BJCC Arena

Birmingham, Ala.

Tennessee (29-4) vs. American (21-11), 12:15 p.m.

Butler (29-3) vs. South Alabama (26-6), 30 minutes following

Oklahoma (22-11) vs. Saint Joseph's (21-12), 7:10 p.m.

Louisville (24-8) vs. Boise State (25-8), 30 minutes following

SOUTH REGIONAL

First Round

Thursday, March 20

At The Pepsi Center

Denver

Michigan State (25-8) vs. Temple (21-12), 12:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh (26-9) vs. Oral Roberts (24-8), 30 minutes following

At The Honda Center

Anaheim, Calif.

Marquette (24-9) vs. Kentucky (18-12), 2:30 p.m.

Stanford (26-7) vs. Cornell (22-5), 25 minutes following

Friday, March 21

At Alltel Arena

North Little Rock, Ark.

Miami (22-10) vs. Saint Mary's, Calif. (25-6), 12:30 p.m.

Texas (28-6) vs. Austin Peay (24-10), 30 minutes following

Mississippi State (22-10) vs. Oregon (18-13), 7:25 p.m.

Memphis (33-1) vs. Texas-Arlington (21-11), 30 minutes following

MIDWEST REGIONAL

First Round

Thursday, March 20

At Qwest Center Omaha

Omaha, Neb.

Kansas (31-3) vs. Portland State (23-9), 12:25 p.m.

UNLV (26-7) vs. Kent State (28-6), 30 minutes following

Southern Cal (21-11) vs. Kansas State (20-11), 7:10 p.m.

Wisconsin (29-4) vs. Cal State Fullerton (24-8), 30 minutes following

Friday, March 21

At The RBC Center

Raleigh, N.C.

Gonzaga (25-7) vs. Davidson (26-6), 12:25 p.m.

Georgetown (27-5) vs. Maryland-Baltimore County (24-8), 30 minutes following

At The St. Pete Times Forum

Tampa, Fla.

Vanderbilt (26-7) vs. Siena (22-10), 7:20 p.m.

Clemson (24-9) vs. Villanova (20-12), 30 minutes following

WEST REGIONAL

First Round

Thursday, March 20

At The Verizon Center

Washington

Xavier (27-6) vs. Georgia (17-16), 12:20 p.m.

Purdue (24-8) vs. Baylor (21-10), 30 minutes following

Duke (27-5) vs. Belmont (25-8), 7:10 p.m.

West Virginia (24-10) vs. Arizona (19-14), 30 minutes following

At The Honda Center

Anaheim, Calif.

BYU (27-7) vs. Texas A&M (24-10), 7:25 p.m.

UCLA (31-3) vs. Mississippi Valley State (17-15), 25 minutes following

Friday, March 21

At The St. Pete Times Forum

Tampa, Fla.

Drake (28-4) vs. Western Kentucky (27-6), 12:30 p.m.

Connecticut (24-8) vs. San Diego (21-13), 30 minutes following

KANSAS

Continued from Page 1B

Carolina.

"We're disappointed by being on the No. 2 line because of the body of work," Volunteers coach Bruce Pearl said. "But I'll tell you what — it's really not a different road going to the Final Four."

O'Connor said much the same thing.

"The first eight teams in the country were really strong teams, and we looked at them as teams that could win the national championship. We're projecting and seeing any of them going to the Final Four," he said. "We tried to balance the top four lines in each region, and it made geographic sense to have Tennessee in Charlotte."

However, that same "geographic sense" should be the reason North Carolina prevails in the East bracket. The Tar Heels have the toughest opposition — besides Tennessee, there's Louisville and Washington State — but they're 5-1 playing in their first round game, and 7-0 in Charlotte, N.C. where the regional final will be played.

Ditto for UCLA. The Bruins open just down

the interstate in Anaheim, Calif., made the Final Four the past two years without ever leaving the state of California for the regionals, and figures to do so again.

Kansas, likewise, won't have to go far for its first game in Omaha and then, closely tracing another of the Jayhawks' steps on the road to their 1988 national championship, the regional final would bring them to Detroit.

"We actually told our team about that today," coach Bill Self said.

Memphis, the final No. 1 seed, opens in Little Rock Ark.. but the guess here is that the Tigers, unbeaten and top-ranked for much of the regular season, won't even make it to the regional final after consecutive Elite Eight appearances. Their spot will be claimed by fourth-seeded Pittsburgh, which is too physical for Memphis and happens to be peaking at the right time.

That means three No. 1s in the Final Four, something that last happened in 1993.

UCLA guard Darren Collison will prove too experienced for Pitt's defense, and assuming both Kevin Love, the Bruins sensational freshman and Pac-10 player of the year, and forward

Luc Richard Mbah a Moute are healthy, the Panthers run ends right there.

North Carolina beat Kansas en route to a title in 1993, but the recent history between the two schools is way more interesting.

Tar Heels coach Roy Williams left Lawrence for Chapel Hill in 2003 — T-shirts reading "Benedict Williams" sold like hotcakes at the time — and was replaced soon after by Self.

But this one will play out on the floor instead of store shelves and Kansas' stars, balance and depth will be the deciding factor. The Jayhawks are tough to match up with on either end of the court and they're deep enough that seven different players have topped the scoring and rebounding lines during the season.

That balance is also why Self, after taking three different teams to the Elite Eight four times — Tulsa (2000), Illinois (2001), and Kansas twice (2004 and 2007) — will beat UCLA and finally take home the piece of hardware that will validate all the others in his trophy case.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org

TEXAS

Continued from Page 1B

In 1995, the Austin American-Statesman reported that many Razorbacks, including Richardson, made inverted "Hook'em Horns" signs, considered in Austin a show of disrespect.

One thing that could help Texas is that Arkansas plays Friday night in the East Region. Razorbacks fans may be paying too much attention to their team to care much about Texas.

But Richardson said the Longhorns should expect an "anybody but Texas" treatment in North Little Rock. If Texas wins Friday, it plays Sunday

against the winner of Friday's Miami-St. Mary's matchup.

"They're going to hear it," from Arkansas fans. "Go ahead and buckle your seat belt."

The Texas-Arkansas rivalry goes back to 1894 when the schools first met on the football field, and the bitter feelings across the border fueled a hoops rivalry as well with colorful coaches and wild games. A riot nearly erupted after a physical game at Arkansas in 1982 when Razorbacks fans blocked the ramp to the Texas locker room and players and fans started shoving and punches were thrown.

Barnes said all that history will be lost on his current team. The rivalry pretty much fizzled out

after Arkansas left the old Southwest Conference after the 1990-91 season.

"Our guys don't know the rivalry that existed between Texas and Arkansas," Barnes said.

Chances are they'll learn real fast. If the Longhorns can win two games in Arkansas, they'll get to play in Houston, where huge pro-Texas crowds could make it a home away from home much like San Antonio was in 2003, the last time Texas made the Final Four.

"(The) coaches have already told us that we're going for the big picture now," Texas guard A.J. Abrams said. "We can't think that far in advance. We have to just worry about this game coming up."

COAHOMA

Continued from Page 1B

Newton finished with 11 strikeouts in seven innings pitched and gave up three hits. She is yet to allow a run in District 5-2A play, where Coahoma

improves to 3-0 and 15-7 overall. Newton is now 12-6 on the season.

Coahoma continues district play today with a visit to Stamford.

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W - Heather Newton (11-6). L - Sarah Leggett.

2B: MHS - Casey Dixon; CHS -

Laci Sterling, Breanna Conner. RBI: CHS - Sterling. SB: MHS - Cassidy Taft; CHS - Newton 2, Janice Gonzales, Berkley Iden.

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In brief

Dalai Lama says he will step down as political leader if Tibet violence spirals out of control

DHARMSALA, India (AP) — The Dalai Lama threatened Tuesday to step down as leader of Tibet's government-in-exile if violence committed by Tibetans in his homeland spirals out of control.

Demonstrations in Tibet turned increasingly violent last week, and the Dalai Lama, speaking to reporters, urged his countrymen to show restraint.

He said that "if things become out of control" his "only option is to completely resign."

While much of the violence in Tibet has been directed against protesters, there have also been reports of Tibetan demonstrators attacking shops and burning cars.

Later, one of his top aides clarified the Dalai Lama's comments.

Putin, Medvedev set positive tone as U.S.-Russia prepare for talks on defense

MOSCOW (AP) — The top U.S. and Russian national security ministers pledged cooperation Tuesday as the two nations aired disagreements over a planned U.S. missile shield in Eastern Europe that has angered Russia.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said she hoped a day of joint discussions she and Defense Secretary Robert Gates were holding with their Russian counterparts would "strengthen our partnership and perhaps overcome some of our differences."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia would do what it could to keep relations with the United States on an even keel as Russian President Vladimir Putin steps down this spring.

Rice made a point of scheduling one meeting that spotlights a main example of U.S.-Russia tension — American disappointment over Putin's consolidation of political and economic power in the Kremlin. She and Gates had breakfast with leaders outside government, including a banker and a political opposition figure.

"I'm very much looking forward to your thoughts about the political situation where and how the transition in this country is taking place," she said at the beginning of the private breakfast. Rice also said she wanted to know what the United States could do to "make this a more open and participatory political system" and encourage economic and entrepreneurial development.

New New York Gov. David Paterson begins his term by admitting past affair to newspaper

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — With his predecessor's term doomed by a sex scandal, brand-new Gov. David Paterson tried to come clean about his own skeletons just hours after assuming office by acknowledging a years-old affair.

Paterson was sworn in almost exactly a week after allegations first surfaced that former Gov. Eliot Spitzer was "Client 9" of a high-priced call girl service. Responding to rumors circulating in Albany, Paterson and his wife, Michelle, told the Daily News of New York City that both had affairs during a rough patch in their marriage several years ago.

"This was a marriage that appeared to be going sour at one point," Paterson told the Daily News. "But I went to counseling and we decided we wanted to make it work. Michelle is well aware of what went on."

Paterson told the newspaper that he maintained a relationship with another woman from 1999 until 2001.

ADA

Continued from Page 1A

have to contest the complaint, or we have to tell the government what we're going to do to fix it. We've answered those complaints, and this study from Parkhill Smith & Cooper is the first step in correcting those issues."

The contract requires Parkhill Smith & Cooper to assist the city and city attorney in responding to specific allegations that ADA standards are not being met, as well as update the city's 1992 Feasibility Study — which involves site review of public facilities — and assist the city's ADA Committee with a study of issues involving the public through various forums and meetings.

The engineering firm will also be under contract to assist the ADA Committee in developing a transition plan for the changes. According to the contract, Parkhill

Smith & Cooper will charge no more than \$30,000 for the study.

The council is also expected to take care of some routine items during the meeting, including:

- Final reading of an ordinance approving a preliminary/final plat of Gerald Lee Harris Jr. Subdivision, located in the NE/4 of Section 26, Block 33, T-1-N, T&P RR Co. Survey.

- Approve an agreement with Cornell Corrections of Texas Inc. regarding Big Spring Correctional Center and authorizing the mayor to execute an agreement with the company.

Council members are also expected to confer with City Attorney Linda Sjogren in executive session regarding issues surrounding meeting and conferring.

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

CRISIS

Continued from Page 1A

the administration is more interested in bailing out Wall Street than struggling homeowners, Paulson said the thousands of Bear Stearns employees likely to lose their jobs and life savings, and thousands of shareholders who have lost billions because of the company's collapse, probably do not feel like they have been bailed out.

More relief is expected Tuesday when the central bank is expected to cut a key interest rate by one-half to a full percentage point.

"There is no reason for the Fed not to be aggressive," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "The economy is in a recession, the financial system is in disarray and inflation is low."

However, a report today showed that wholesale prices rose by 0.3 percent in February, driven higher by rising energy costs.

Outside of food and energy, core inflation jumped by 0.5 percent, the biggest increase in 15 months and a possible sign that the relentless increase over the past two years in energy costs is making its presence felt in other sectors of the

economy.

At the moment, Fed officials have said they are more concerned about weak growth than inflation. Another report showed that problems in the housing industry continue, with construction of new homes falling by a bigger-than-expected 0.6 percent and applications for new building permits dropping to the lowest level in 16 years.

The Fed's target for the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other on overnight loans, currently stands at 3 percent, down from 4.25 percent at the beginning of this year. That was before global market turmoil in January prompted an emergency three-quarter-point cut on Jan. 22 and a half-point move eight days later, the biggest reductions in a single month in more than a quarter-century.

Many economists believe the Fed will deliver another three-quarter-point cut or perhaps even a full one-point reduction at today's meetings because Fed officials will not want to disappoint fragile financial markets, which have been on a rollercoaster ride in recent days as they have watched Bear Stearns Cos., the nation's fifth largest investment house, suddenly be brought down by the equivalent of

a run on the bank.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. stepped in to announce it was purchasing Bear Stearns at a fire-sale price on Sunday in a deal helped along with a pledge that the Fed would supply a \$30 billion line of credit to back up Bear Stearns' assets.

That offer over the weekend was the latest move by a central bank that has been pulling out all of the stops, including using Depression-era procedures, to pump cash into the financial system. Analysts, who faulted Bernanke for being slow to recognize the gravity of the situation last year, now give him high praise for bringing all the Fed's powers to bear.

"The Fed is doing what it can to come to rescue an economy that faces potentially a huge meltdown in financial markets," said Lyle Gramley, a former Fed governor and now an analyst with Stanford Financial Group. "The Fed is acting as a lender of last resort and being very aggressive and innovative."

In addition to providing support for the Bear Stearns sale, the Fed also announced Sunday one of the broadest expansions of its lending authority

since the 1930s, saying it would allow securities dealers for at least the next six months to borrow directly from the Fed. That privilege, until now, had been confined to commercial banks.

At the same time, the Fed announced it was cutting the interest rate on those direct loans from the Fed, through a facility known as the Fed's discount window, by a quarter-point to 3.25 percent.

In other moves, the Fed last week announced that it would lend up to \$200 billion of Treasury securities that it owns to investment banks starting March 27 for a period of up to 28 days in return for a like amount of the investment banks' shunned mortgage-backed securities. The Fed also announced recently that it was boosting the size of special loans it has been making since December to commercial banks.

The scale of these actions underscored the threat facing the economy from a severe credit squeeze that began with a wave of defaults on subprime mortgages last year but has now spread to other parts of the credit

markets, triggering multi-billion-dollar losses by some of the country's largest financial institutions.

The rapid decline of Bear Stearns stock — which had a market value of about \$20 billion in January, only to collapse to a sales price of \$2 per share, or about \$236 million, this past weekend —

has given investors the chills.

"The Fed is trying very hard to figure out how to calm the markets down, but so far it hasn't been very successful," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York. "Markets are worried that there might be another Bear Stearns out there."

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Never Relax

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

Hand diagram showing North, West, South, and East cards.

The bidding: East South West North Pass 1NT Pass 3NT Opening lead — six of spades.

Habits acquired in the course of long experience cannot easily be broken on the spur of the moment. Today's hand, which occurred in a duplicate game, provides a case in point.

The deal was played at 13 tables, and at each table the final contract was three notrump with South the declarer.

with the A-Q of spades and then shifted to a heart. Declarer won and drove out the ace of diamonds, whereupon West cashed the spade king to hold South to nine tricks.

Three notrump can be defeated if West overtakes the queen of spades with the king at trick two and returns the nine of spades. This gives declarer a spade trick he could not otherwise get, but this small gain is more than offset by the subsequent loss of the contract. West cannot be stopped from scoring the ace of diamonds and two more spades before South can make his game.

It is true that if East started with the A-Q-x of spades, West will look foolish after overtaking the queen with the king, allowing South to score an undeserved trick with the ten. But with the contract hanging in the balance, West should conclude that the overtaking play is a strong favorite to work out best in the long run.

He should reason that if his partner did start with the A-Q alone, failing to overtake will allow declarer to make the contract. Furthermore, even if South started with just 10-x-x, presenting him with a spade trick may not necessarily prove fatal to the defense, as declarer is unlikely to be able to score nine tricks without utilizing the diamond suit.

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SHOOTING

Continued from Page 1A

cle fired at least three rounds from a 12 gauge shotgun," said Everett. "The rounds struck Lopez, as well as the vehicle he was in. The other occupant of the vehicle was not injured."

While the motive for the shooting is still unclear, Everett said officers investigating the shooting have received information the incident was gang-related.

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

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PLANT EXPLOSION Foundation Engineer Inspectors advertisement for Bedrock Engineering, LLC.

The Big Spring Herald will be publishing the 2008 Profile Edition "Look At Us At The Crossroads Of West Texas" advertisement.

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.

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Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

Deadline to get Health Fair 2008 booths nearing

Almost all of us agree that nothing is as important as one's health. Unfortunately, far too many of us fall woefully short of being conscientious when it comes to making sure we're in good health.

Some of us tell ourselves we're too busy, to schedule a doctor's appointment for a check up. Even worse, sometimes we ignore symptoms of potentially life-threatening conditions.

That's why it's important that we all make plans to take advantage of free health screenings that will be offered on April 12 at Health Fair 2008.

Doors to Howard College's Dorothy Garrett Coliseum will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day and there will be numerous booths supplying free screenings and information.

The theme for this year's fair is "A Gold Medal for Good Health." Booth spaces are now available, but the deadline for reservations is drawing near. The 10x10 booths are \$80, if reserved by Thursday. After that date, the booths are \$100. However, no reservations will be taken after Friday, March 28.

Corporate sponsorships for this, the 26th annual edition of the Health Fair are also still available.

Corporate sponsors for the fair to date include Air-Evac Lifeteam, Alon USA, H-E-B, KBST, KBYG, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home, Parkplace Retirement/Parkview Nursing and Rehab, Scenic Mountain Medical Center, Warren Chiropractic Center, West Texas Centers for MHMR and West Texas VA Health Care Systems.

To reserve a booth or lock in a corporate sponsorship, contact Debbye Valverde, executive director of the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce, at 263-7641.

The partial list of screenings that will be available include: glaucoma, blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, PSAs, Pulse/Ox testing and weight. United Blood Services will have its Blood Mobile there as well.

In addition, Dimple the Clown will again make an appearance at the fair and will provide fun for children of all ages and the Big Spring Fire Department will have its Fire Safety House available.

We encourage everyone — from our community's healthcare professionals to the average man, woman or child on the street — to make plans to be involved that weekend and pay a little attention to healthy living.

There's little doubt in our minds it just might be the best and most important fun you'll ever have.

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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- Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we keep in mind what You want us to do, Lord.
Amen

Let's take a look at Emperor's wife

Just once, I'd like to see a politician caught with his pants down (so to speak) not trot out his wronged wife to stand beside him as he issues his mea culpa. I'd like to have been spared the spectacle of watching New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer announce that he had strayed from his own standards with wife Silda at his side.

Or if we have to see the wife, couldn't it be as she is throwing his suits, socks and golf clubs on the sidewalk while invoking the name of a ruthless divorce attorney?

I should think that behind the scenes, there has been sobbing, screaming and recriminations — all well deserved. Yet for reasons beyond my ken, the political wife must show the public that she can bury what any cheated-on wife must feel. She must act as if she is unfazed by betrayal.

If his apparent ties with a prostitution ring really were a "private matter," as Spitzer claimed Monday, then couldn't he have left his wife to deal with the news in private? Instead, the Democrat followed the lead of GOP Sens. Larry Craig and David Vitter — and former Democratic New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey — and subjected his wife to an extra helping of gruel on a public podium.

I guess the point of the exercise is to show voters that Spitzer is not such a creep that his wife

won't stand by him. Problem is, by dragging his wife before the public, Client-9 shows himself to be an even bigger creep.

The Emperors Club VIP. Ha. The escort service's name says it all. Deep down, the reformer didn't want to be the Sheriff of Wall Street — he wanted to be Nero.

For her part, Silda Spitzer exhibited the good sense not to put a happy face on her situation. She looked completely shocked. She has her own future and three daughters to consider — and deserves the time and space needed to decide where she wants to go from here, and whether her marriage is worth saving.

As a role model for girls, I hope she will think about what feminism has wrought. There was a time in America when husbands cheated on wives and wives stayed with their husbands because they were economically bound to them. Feminism, and the career track it spawned, was supposed to liberate women from unequal marriages. Clearly, it hasn't.

Spitzer is a Harvard Law School graduate, who once worked as a corporate lawyer for Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. She likely has never earned the hourly rate an Emperors Club charges for its escorts' services.

Hillary Clinton is a Yale law school graduate and former corporate lawyer, who like Tammy Wynette chose to stand by her man after he very publicly and repeatedly stepped out on her.

What's the point? Are these women tigers in the boardroom who settle for leftovers at home?

Did they become high-achievers in their careers only to allow themselves to become support staff in their own marriages?

Former Democratic presidential running mate Geraldine Ferraro has been taking heat this week for telling the Los Angeles Daily Breeze that if Barack Obama "was a white man, he would not be in this position. And if he was a woman (of any color) he would not be in this position. He happens to be very lucky to be who he is." Camp Obama called Ferraro's remarks "divisive."

Look at it from another angle. Hillary Clinton is lucky she is not a white man, or man of any color. If a male senator stood by his publicly unfaithful wife, he would not be among the top two Democratic contenders. This country may be ready to put a woman in the White House, but I don't think Americans are ready to put a male cuckold in the Oval Office.

As the cigarette ad used to say: You've come a long way, baby. Look at the cream of the crop of my generation's feminists. They fought hard to win workplace equality with men, and in many corners, women have achieved parity or come close to parity.

Sort of. Look at today's political marriages among this first wave of widespread American feminism, and you see that in some marriages women are equal to men, but their men will always be dogs.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfchronicle.com.

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ADDRESSES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

• GEORGE W. BUSH

President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

U.S. Senator
703 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5922

• JOHN CORNYN

U.S. Senator
517 Hart Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER

U.S. Representative
19th Cong. District
1510 Scurry
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• RICK PERRY

Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711
Phone: (512) 463-2000

• JOE HEFLIN

State Representative
Texas 85th District
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, 78768
Phone: (432) 213-2897 or
(512) 463-0604

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State Senator
Texas 31st District
401 Austin, Suite 101
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Media's role in national politics

The major media plays a much bigger role in the formation of our national politics than most people realize. The media helps define and choose the issues, and acts as gatekeeper in setting the limits for political discussion and sometimes even candidacies for public office.

The most media-savvy candidates know how to play within the media's rules, and use them to their advantage. Barack Obama is a good example of such a candidate — more on that later.

The media can also veto candidates, as in the case of John Edwards. He was not by definition a "marginal" candidate: a U.S. senator and vice-presidential candidate in the last election, at various junctures he polled better against potential Republican contenders than the other Democratic candidates. He led his rivals in introducing a serious health care plan and arguably transformed the contest in his appeal to the Democratic base on that and other issues. But the media rejected Edwards, by a combination of ignoring him and subjecting him to much more negative reporting than the other major contenders. The same was true in 2004 for Howard Dean, who rallied the Democratic base but found himself with five or six times as many negative articles in the media as his major democratic primary opponents.

The media does much more than directly influence the opinion of voters. Most donors, politicians, institutions and other important political participants will not waste resources on a candidate that they think is unlikely to win. They often look at how the media treats a candidate in order to make this decision. If the media

does not take a candidate seriously or is obviously hostile to him or her, these potential supporters will look elsewhere. That's not to say that Edwards would have won if the media had not rejected him; most likely he would have lost anyway. But he would have been a more serious contender.

On the other hand, Obama knew how to define his candidacy within the limits of the media's constraints and still have a mass appeal. From the beginning of his campaign he mostly avoided challenging powerful interests, and talked about "getting all sides to the table" and overcoming "decades of bitter partisanship." The media and punditocracy lap this stuff up like honey. At the same time he was able to tap into the voters' deep desire for change, with inspirational speeches, transcendental narratives, and celebrity-studded videos.

Obama showed his political genius in knowing when to jump the fence and break out of the media corral. In Iowa and New Hampshire, and even the Super-Tuesday primaries he was winning the independent and upper-income voters while losing the traditional Democratic base, including union members and the majority of Americans who do not have a college degree. He had to switch to a more populist tune or risk losing the whole game to Hillary Clinton. He did so, just in time to trounce her among almost all demographic groups (notwithstanding Saturday Night Live's joke about her majority among white women over 80) in the Wisconsin primary. One of his best applause lines in that contest was his response to Hillary Clinton's remark that "speeches don't put food on the table."

Obama's reply: "You know what? NAFTA didn't put food on the table, either."

Of course, there's nothing the chattering class hates more than "populism," which they seem to

define roughly as appealing to voters on the basis of their real interests, without regard to what rich people or corporate moguls think. For this, Obama has provoked some media backlash: for example, the Washington Post editorial board accused Obama of delivering an "angrier, and intellectually sloppier, message . . . of class warfare and populism," for complaining about the negative impact of trade deals such as NAFTA.

But it's a bit late for the media to reinvent Obama, after affirming his image as a post-partisan, non-ideological, charismatic uniter. If he can clinch the nomination, as seems increasingly likely, he will probably drop the populist rhetoric and once again hew closer to the media boundaries on their "sensitive" issues such as trade. In a different time and place this could risk alienating his base and suppressing turnout, but with the economy going down the tubes and — no matter what the likely Republican nominee Senator John McCain thinks? an unpopular war, this election should be the Democrat's to lose. The gulf between Obama and McCain on these and other major issues is sufficiently large, and Obama has the intelligence, knowledge, political skills, and mass appeal to capitalize on these differences.

There will be many battles ahead, and Obama can expect a dirty, even racist campaign from various Republican groups that McCain will try to distance himself from. This campaign will make any previous comments from the Clinton campaign or photos of Obama in a turban look mild by comparison.

But Obama has played the media like a violin, and unless he stumbles, it should carry him all the way to the White House.

Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C.

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MARK WEISBROT



DEBRA SAUNDERS

Bird Poop: Hawk pays ultimate price for catching jack rabbit

Gliding over the prickly pear and through the mesquites, the hungry bird sought its elusive prey. As it swooped over a rocky outcropping, it noticed movement ahead. With several strong wing beats it closed the distance as it rapidly descended.

When almost upon its quarry, the bird suddenly pulled the leading edges of its wings backward and the bottom tips of the feathers forward. While braking its forward momentum, it extended its rusty colored legs with opened feet just before hitting its prey.

"Found 'em on the ground. It's still alive," advised the caller. Not knowing whether his lifting the bird might cause further damage, the man asked if we would come.

The drive to his ranch was over varied terrain. Flat, open land turned to rocky mesas. Tall grasses gave way to juniper and scrub oak. Not only did nature provide an array of plants, but varying colors of soil. Small rocks soon turned to boulders as we neared ranch headquarters.

Taking us to the bird, the rancher commented, "It must have been one hell of a battle."

To me, it was *deja vu*.

As we approached the pair, the Harris's hawk lay atop a jack rabbit. Thinking maybe the bird had died

before we could get to it, I noticed it was still breathing. After gently laying the raptor on its back, we detected a fracture in one of its wings. On the same side of its body, its foot appeared to be crippled.

Placing the hawk inside our carrier, we were interested in examining the rabbit. Bloody spots on the fur indicated the raptor had closed its feet on the spinal column. Since the hare far outweighed the bird, it would have struggled to free itself from the pain exerted by the talons.

During the rabbit's fight to get away from the hawk, the bird had repositioned its feet. Apparently, the raptor had been successful in piercing a major vessel or the heart. A quick death had spared the hare from further agony. Spent from its battle not only for food but its own survival, the hawk had collapsed upon its prey.

Since the Harris's hawk was shocky, we decided that once home we should administer a supplement to stabilize the bird. The liquid would be absorbed rapidly.

After preparing the dosage, I sat in a chair and placed the raptor against my chest. Holding it upright, I tubed it. Soon I had the uncomfortable feeling that the my khakis were becoming damp. After looking at my lap, I called for Art. "My pants are wet. The hawk's leaking!"

Handing him the bird, I realized that what had soaked my slacks was not waste but the clear fluid I had just administered. It could have only come from one area of the hawk.



Courtesy photo
In pursuit of its prey, the Harris's hawk is often thwarted by a rabbit's skill in avoiding capture. While the raptor is an integral factor in the control of rodents, it will also take water fowl.

Below its neck, the breast and belly of this bird appeared normal, with nothing out of place. However, carefully separating the numerous feathers and getting to its skin, we found a long, neat slash inflicted by one of the rabbit's nails. Penetration of the crop

and below had allowed the unexpected drainage.

Considering the damage to the wing, foot and chest, we called veterinarian Scott Burt. After looking at the chest

See **HAWK**, Page 6A

Parent's Corner: The people in our lives are more important than things

When I was considering moving to Big Spring a friend called and highly impressed me with his comment. He said, "I have been all over the country participating in dog shows and I want to tell you that Big Spring is, without question, the friendliest city I have ever visited."

Since I have lived here I have discovered his comment to be true. The people of Big Spring are a pleasure.

I was thinking about this when I ran across the following story:

As two friends were walking through the desert they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who was slapped was hurt, but without saying a word he stopped, picked up a stick and wrote in the sand: "Today my best

friend slapped me in the face."

They continued walking with no word being spoken of what had happened. After a while they found an oasis. Since it was hot and they were both exhausted, they decided to wade out into the water. The one who had been slapped got

stuck in the mire and started to sink but the friend saved him.

Soon afterward, upon finding a stone, the man carved in the stone: "Today my best friend saved my life."

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I slapped you, you

wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?"

The friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of

forgiveness can erase it away, but when someone does something good for us we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it!"

We must learn to write

our hurts in the sand and to carve our benefits in the stone.

They say it takes a minute to find a special

See **RYAN**, Page 6A



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'Idol' contestant Jason Castro comes from a musical family

By JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press Writer

ROWLETT — When Jason Castro tried out for "American Idol," it raised his number of public singing appearances from a handful to a handful-plus-one.

The soft-spoken 20-year-old Texan with long dreadlocks is padding his singing resume now. As one of 11 contestants still in the running for the "Idol" title, Castro is winning fans with his laid-back style and musical talent.

Part of a close-knit musical family, Castro has played drums since he was young. While attending Texas A&M, the construction science major decided to try playing the guitar and singing as well.

His aunt, Jennefer Brawley, said her nephew first sang at a family jam session only a couple of years ago. Her reaction was instant: "Oh, Jason. Man, you can sing, too."

Former bandmate Micah Kinard said he was floored when he heard Castro sing on "Idol."

"He got so good so fast, it was ridiculous," Kinard said.

"I think he's doing awesome," said Kinard, 22. "He's got his own style and he's sticking with it, and I think that's what's winning over the judges. He's got down solid the whole mellow, chill, heartfelt aspect."

While still in high school, Castro played drums in the Dallas-area band Keeping Lions, which has since broken up. Kinard, who played bass in the band, said while his friend may have more experience drumming in the background, he seems to be enjoying the spotlight.

"He loves it and he's doing good," said Kinard, who is now lead singer in the Fort Worth-based group Oh, Sleeper.

"Idol" isn't Castro's first brush with reality-show fame. He has also appeared on the MTV show "Cheyenne," which followed fellow North Texan Cheyenne Kimball as she pursued her singing career.

But those who know him say he's remained humble, and a bit shy.

"Jason's just easygoing," Brawley said.

Art teacher Lynn Wilkinson said that Castro, who graduated from Rowlett High School in 2005, was a good student who had a talent for drawing. She also noticed that he had "an inward confidence in himself."

And while she knew he played drums in a band, she didn't know how talented he was.

"He didn't brag about himself," she said. "It's just something that he did. He's like, 'Yeah, I'm in a band.'"

The son of Colombian immigrants, Castro has a



AP photo/Frank Micelotta/FOX

In this image released by FOX, American Idol contestant Jason Castro performs March 4, in Los Angeles.

younger brother and sister. He grew up in Rowlett, but his family recently moved to nearby Rockwall. In an "Idol" interview, Castro talked about occasionally working with his father, who designs and builds swimming pools.

Brawley said that when their musically inclined

family gathers, musical instruments soon come out.

Wes Hamilton, a teaching pastor at Lake Pointe Church in Rockwall, said Castro is a popular singer when he performs at the end of services.

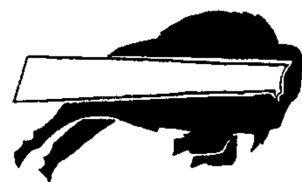
"Jason's just an amaz-

ing performer," Hamilton said. See **CASTRO**, Page 7A

Forsan debaters reach quarterfinals at state

Teams of Alex Newsom and Clint Lockhart and Rachael Wheeler and Michael Leal medaled after advancing to the quarterfinal round at the State Debate Contest in Austin. Both teams will be eligible to apply for UIL scholarships as a result of their success. The group is sponsored by Jan Sims.

Newsom received the highest speaker honor by being presented with the Golden Gavel Award which goes to the highest-ranking speaker in



Buffalo Tales

the Class 1A division. He was first in a field of 106 speakers. Leal received a third-place ranking in the same division.

...

The Forsan Student Council received sweepstakes honors at the district convention held in

See **TALES**, Page 7A

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HAWK

Continued from Page 5A

injury, he felt there probably were more internal problems resulting from the battle with the rabbit. We all agreed

ethanasia was appropriate.

On the way home, and later in my phone call to the rancher, I mentioned this was not the first time we had handled birds injured during their pursuit of prey. Several years before,

another incident involving a Harris's hawk and a rabbit had convinced us of how precise and exacting is nature.

The slightest mistake could have drastic consequences. To live to another day, both predator and prey, sometimes through

luck, but mostly experience, learned quickly the brutal, unrelenting outcome of carelessness. In this instance, there were no winners.

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

RYAN

Continued from Page 5A

person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire lifetime to forget them. Such as with the story that I heard many years ago, that really touched my heart.

It was about a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year-old brother, who had miraculously sur-

vived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness.

The doctor explained the situation to the little brother and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. The doctor noticed that the youngster hesitated for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled as he saw the color returning to his sis-

ter's cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor. He thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her and he was ready to give his life for her.

This story is a great example that we should not value the things we have in our lives, but we should value the people we have in our lives! I

just appreciate the opportunity to share my life right here in Big Spring.

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

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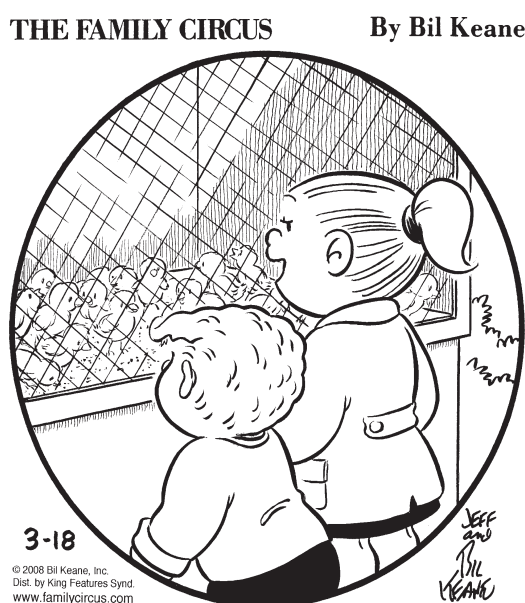
Table with 29 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLE, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 6 rows (6:30 PM to 12:30 AM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



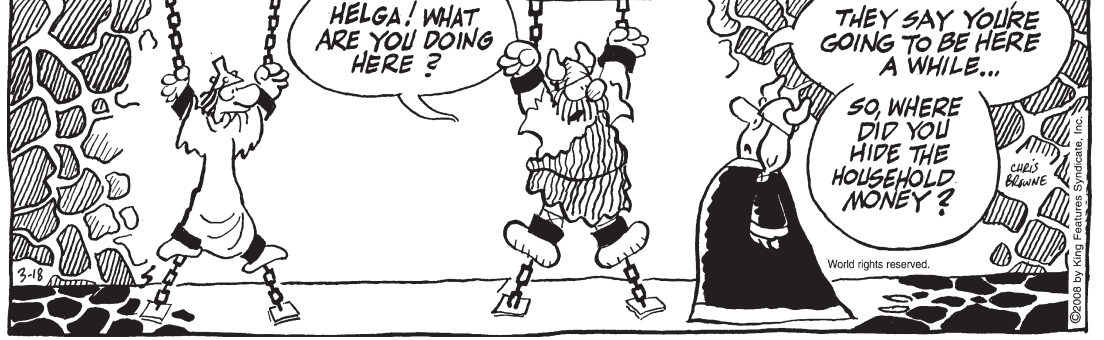
"I HOPE YOU HAVE SOMETHIN' GOOD TODAY, MOM. THREW OUT EVERYTHING YOU BROUGHT YESTERDAY."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Look at all the little chicklets!"

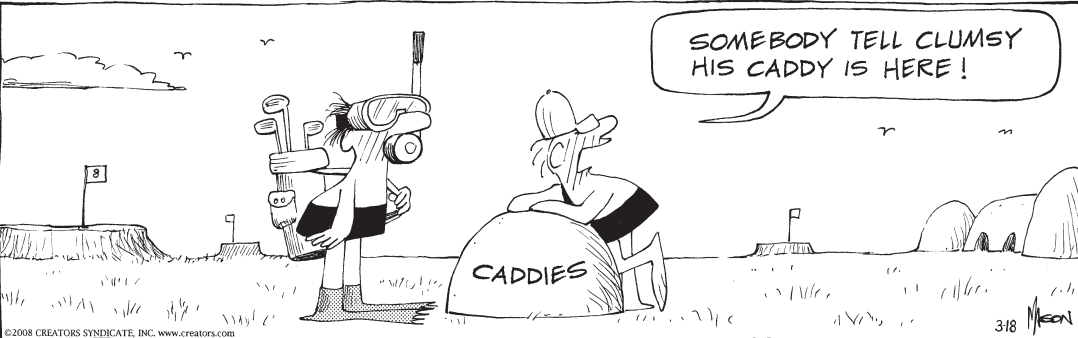
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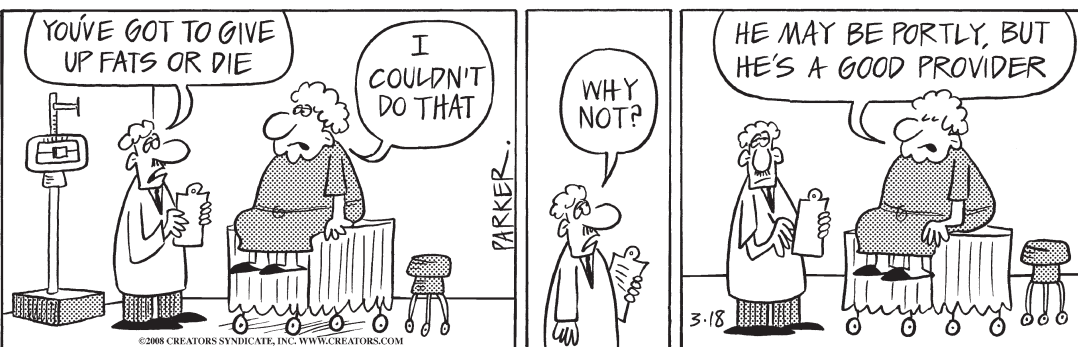
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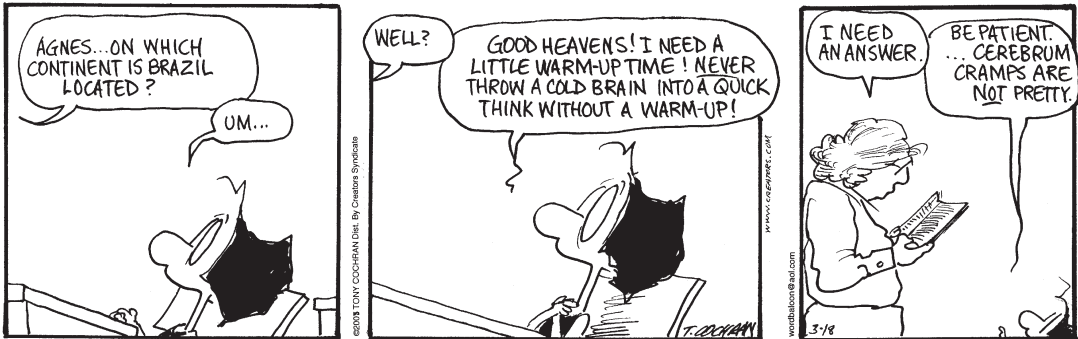
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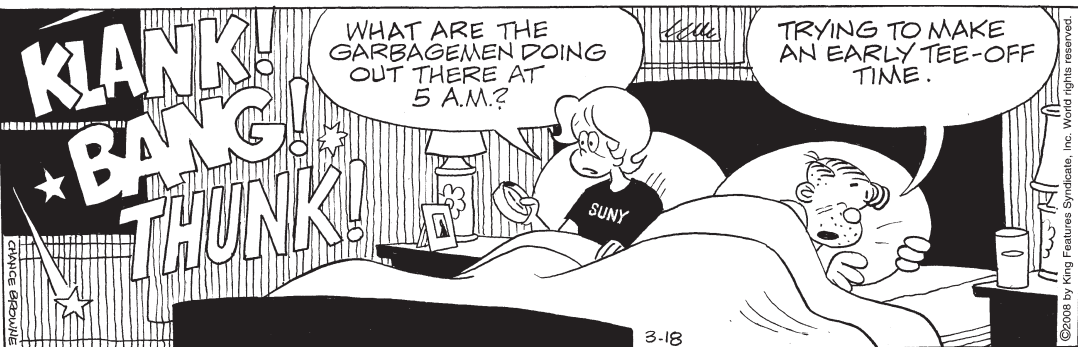
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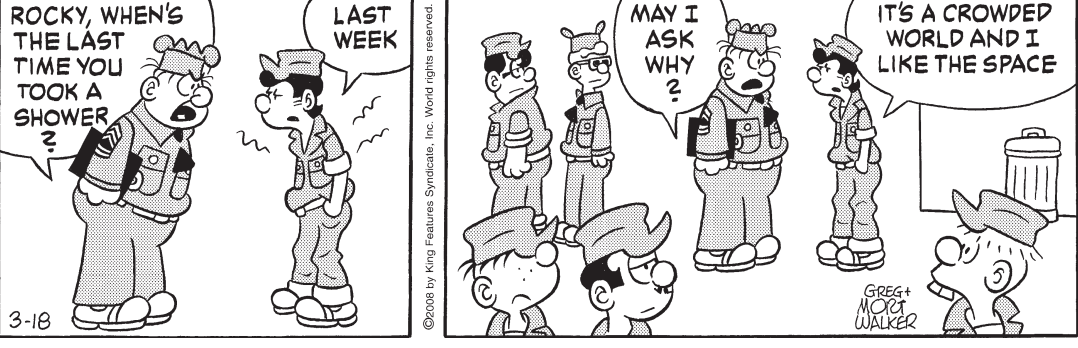
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 18, the 78th day of 2008. There are 288 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 18, 1858, German mechanical engineer Rudolf Diesel, the inventor of the diesel engine, was born in Paris. On this date: In 1766, Britain repealed the Stamp Act of 1765. In 1837, Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, was born in Caldwell, N.J. In 1922, Mohandas K. Gandhi was sentenced in India to six years' imprisonment for civil disobedience. (He was released after serving two years.) In 1937, some 300 people, mostly children, were killed in a gas explosion at a school in New London, Texas. In 1938, Mexican President

Lazaro Cardenas nationalized his country's petroleum reserves and took control of foreign-owned oil facilities.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner Pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain.

In 1959, President Eisenhower signed the Hawaii statehood bill. (Hawaii became a state on Aug. 21, 1959.)

In 1962, France and Algerian rebels signed a cease-fire agreement, which took effect the next day.

In 1965, the first spacewalk took place as Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov went outside his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether.

In 1974, most of the Arab oil-producing nations ended their embargo against the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Graves is 82. Composer John Kander ("Chicago") is 81. Author John Updike is 76. Nobel peace laureate and former South African president F.W. de Klerk is 72. Country singer Charley Pride is 70.

Actor Kevin Dobson is 65. Actor Brad Dourif is 58. Jazz musician Bill Frisell is 57. Singer Irene Cara is 49. Actor Thomas Ian Griffith is 46. Singer James McMurtry is 46. Singer-actress Vanessa Williams is 45. Olympic gold medal speedskater Bonnie Blair is 44. Country musician Scott Saunders (Sons of the Desert) is 42. Rock musician Jerry Cantrell (Alice in Chains) is 42. Rock singer-musician Miki Berenyi is 41. Rapper-actress-talk show host Queen Latifah is 38. Actor-comedian Dane Cook is 36. Rock musician Stuart Zender is 34. Singer Devin Lima (LFO) is 31. R

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Answer to previous puzzle: A crossword puzzle grid with letters filled in.

Newsday Crossword

SEA CREW by Gail Grabowski Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS: 1 Pigeon sounds of Plymouth, 5 Take a bite of, 10 High point, 14 Football kick, 15 External, 16 Hammer, for one, 17 First part of a play, 18 Dried plum, 19 List-ending abbr., 20 Stenographer's skill, 22 Light-bulb units, 23 Dinner entree, 24 Fair-to-middling, 25 Most angry, 28 Babysitters' employers, 31 Clumsy ones, 32 Hunger for, 34 "No talking!", 35 Commotion, 36 Spaghetti topping, 37 Very small, 38 Ump's relative, 39 Shopping binge, 40 Picture border, 42 Made quick scissor cuts, 44 Sandwich with sauerkraut, 45 Drug-fighting cop, 46 Rhyme writers, 48 Fashionably loose-fitting, 50 Shaker contents, 54 Poker payment, 55 Kayak kin, 56 Wide-spouted pitcher, 57 Leading actor, 58 Pilgrim John of Plymouth, 59 Sound quality, 60 Lancelot and Galahad, for example, 61 Use dynamite, 62 Gin flavoring, DOWN: 1 IRS-form experts, 2 "That stings!", 3 Aware of, 4 Mixed together, 5 Formal headgear, 6 Mystical glows, 7 Daredevil's feat, 8 Take care of, 9 Before, poetically, 10 "Relax, soldier!", 11 Ear cleaner, 12 Castle protection, 13 Kays' followers, 21 Prepare, as a salad, 22 Had on, 24 Rescue, 25 Lasting aftereffects, 26 Bygone, 27 House-top coating, 28 Walk back and forth, 29 Main idea, 30 Luster, 32 Ace or deuce, 33 Regret, 36 Blueprint detail, briefly, 39 Agile, 40 Lavish celebration, 41 Everyday potatoes, 43 Clip-on communicators, 44 Give in, 46 Bearlike beast, 47 Woodwind instruments, 48 Male choir member, 49 Prefix meaning "against", 50 Like skyscrapers, 51 Military no-show, briefly, 52 Late-night TV host, 53 Family-history diagram, 55 Taxi

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 62 indicating starting positions for the clues.

New London students learn about community tragedy

By **ADAM RUSSELL**

Tyler Morning Telegraph

NEW LONDON, Texas — Some school lessons are forgotten soon after the final bell rings. Some life lessons are etched so deeply in the individual, family or community they are never forgotten.

On Friday, New London history teacher Jerry Vinson took his seventh-grade class across the street to tour the New London Museum and educate a new generation about a community tragedy that stunned the world.

Built among the pine trees deep in East Texas 12 miles south of Kilgore on State Highway 42, the memorial and museum stand in tribute to the worst school disaster in the nation's history.

For seventh-grader Dustie Guinn, the day's tour, her first, holds special interest and meaning. She is linked to the New London school explosion that killed more than 296 students, teachers and staff on March 18, 1937. Her grandfather's cousin, Tom Howard Guinn, an eighth-grader at the time, died in the disaster.

"It's just sad," she said.

"It makes me sad that he died and that all of those innocent children died."

Most of the children killed in the explosion were in grades five through 12. Half of the students who died were fifth- and sixth-graders, according to museum tour guide John Davidson.

Guinn, like most students from her school, knew very little about the explosion before they learned about it in class. Guinn's parents were reluctant to talk about the explosion with her before she began asking questions because of her history classes, she said.

While looking through the photo album of the victims, page after page of youthful faces, she locat-

ed her lost relative. His wavy curls instantly identified him to Guinn. They are just like her grandfather's, she said.

The museum brought reality to Vinson's week-long lesson on the tragedy, giving the students names and faces, photographs and keepsakes to meld with what he had taught them. It can be overwhelming for some students, he said. It was for a few on Friday.

"We talk about it all week in class," he said. "But it doesn't hit them until they see the pictures."

Vinson, like many in the community, has ties to the tragedy.

He had cousins who perished that day but learned very little about what

happened growing up because it just wasn't talked about, he said. What he did learn came from his father and his second-grade teacher, Mrs. Evans. His father was one of the first rescuers to arrive and search for survivors in the twisted steel and crumbled brick and concrete. He would rarely speak of that day and usually could not finish a story without breaking down, decades after the explosion, Vinson said.

Evans witnessed the explosion, he said, and talked about the tragedy with students, sharing what others found too difficult to discuss. Evans instilled a curiosity about that day in Vinson and he is trying to do the same

for his seventh-grade class. This is his third year to take students on a tour as part of the curriculum.

"It's amazing how many kids over there (the school) that don't know about it," he said. "This is a part of history, a part of their history, and they need to know about it."

Davidson is happy to see Vinson and his students. As a tour guide and brother to one of the victims, Davidson sees it as an opportunity to share his knowledge about the disaster, the dead and a memory that should never die.

Fewer and fewer survivors are living, he said, and it worries him that their stories and the memory of that day will

be lost with time.

He lost a sister he never knew on that day. Born three years after the death of his sister, Ardyth, his memories of her were shared by her best friend. He said the tours by Vinson's class and other area schools give him hope that she and the other victims will never be forgotten.

"We can't physically bring those kids back," Davidson said. "But we can keep their memory alive in our hearts."

The school building had been completed in 1932. As the richest rural school district in the country because of oil and gas revenue taxes, the New London school build-

See **TRAGEDY**, Page 8A

TALES

Continued from Page 6A

Midland on Wednesday. It had superior ratings in safety and energy education and the pride and patriotism category. As a result, it was named the Outstanding Student Council in its division. This is its 18th straight sweepstakes award. The group is advised by Jan Sims

Clint Lockhart was chosen Outstanding Boy Student Council Member from the 90-school district and received a \$500 scholarship award.

Forsan's One-Act Play advanced to the district contest to be held at Forsan on March 27.

All-Star Cast Members were Alex Newsom and Evan Burton. Clint Lockhart, Laura Spence and Jessica Ballard received honorable mention awards and Aaron Johnson received the technical award. The play is directed by Jim Rhodes and Misty Hoelscher.

Plays advancing to district level were Forsan, Roscoe, Eldorado and Miles.

Forsan will be out of school all week for Spring Break and will return March 24. UIL Academic Competition will be March 25 in Christoval and March 26 in Rotan.

CASTRO

Continued from Page 6A

ing Christian kid," Brawley said.

At Rowlett High School, excitement is building.

"I think they must know him through other kids," said Tiffany Karns, a psychology and sociology teacher at Rowlett High School. "The students are really excited and there are signs all over the building."

At a recent watch party, many sported black T-shirts featuring "Vote for Jason Castro" in yellow and a drawing of him, head bent over a guitar.

No matter what happens on the Fox network's "Idol," Kinard said Castro has everything it takes to make it big.

"He's going to do something great," Kinard said.



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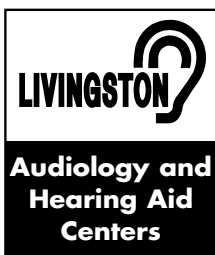
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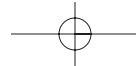
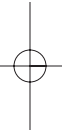
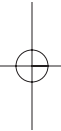
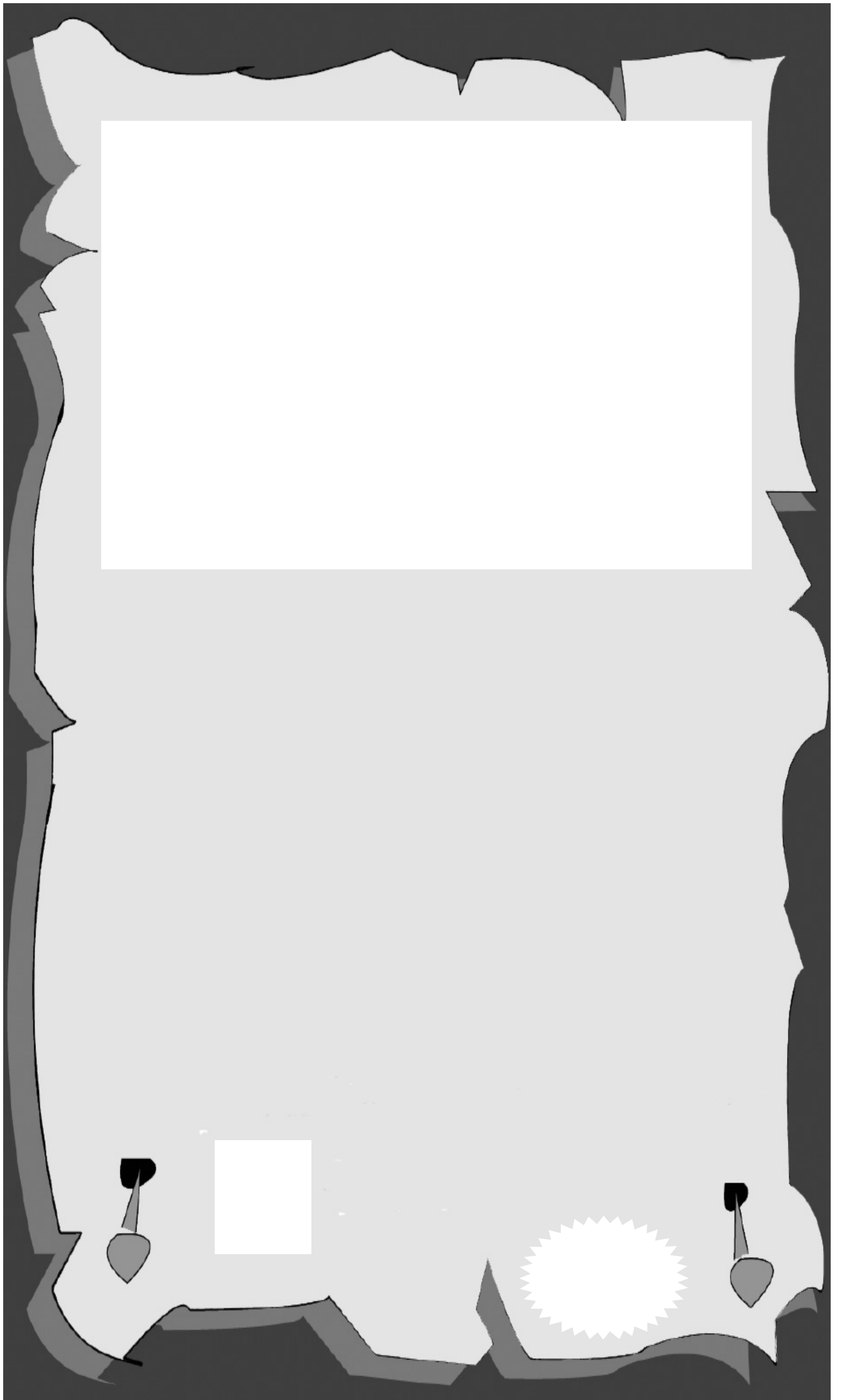
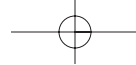
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News in brief

Divinity school still plans to honor Obama pastor

FORT WORTH (AP) — Controversy surrounding the longtime minister of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is not deterring a Texas divinity school from honoring the Rev. Jeremiah Wright at a ceremony later this month.

But Texas Christian University, the campus where Brite Divinity School is located, issued a statement Monday opposing that decision in light of video that shows Wright delivering racially tinged sermons and him railing against the United States.

Wright is to be honored March 29 at the Black Church Summit and Awards Banquet, a \$125-per-person banquet at the divinity school. Despite being on the TCU campus, Brite is a separate school with its own officers and board.

In a statement on its Web site, Brite said the school affirmed its decision after "understanding the sincere concern" in response to media coverage of Wright's comments.

"Contrary to media claims that Wright preaches racial hatred, church leaders who have observed his ministry describe him as a faithful preacher of the gospel who has ministered in a context radically different from that of many middle class Americans," the statement reads.

Obama has denounced the inflammatory remarks from his pastor, whose comments have included that blacks continue to be mistreated by whites and a suggestion that U.S. "terrorism" helped bring on the Sept. 11 attacks.

TCU chancellor Victor J. Boschini said that while the university supports the right of free

speech even when the opinions are controversial, "giving an award is another matter."

"In light of Reverend Wright's recently discovered remarks, TCU would not give such an award," he said.

Brite president Newell Williams said he spent part of last weekend reviewing texts and audio of Wright's remarks after the controversy made national headlines. After that review, he and other administrators decided to stick with their plans.

"Of course there are people who have expressed in e-mail messages their displeasure," Williams said.

"There also have been people who have written to say we're so pleased with the decision you've made."

2 men accused of holding singer at gunpoint indicted

DALLAS (AP) — Two fired Dallas police officers accused of holding country music singer Steve Holy and a friend at gunpoint during a game of foosball have been indicted by a grand jury.

Randy Anderson and Paul Loughridge, who face up to 20 years in

prison if convicted, were allegedly drinking at the Holy's home in December when the singer said an argument began about his identity.

Known for his 2006 hit "Brand New Girlfriend," Holy told police the officers eventually pointed their guns at he and a friend and ordered them on the ground. The four men had gone to the house after meeting at a bar.

Anderson, 26, and Loughridge, 48, were both indicted on one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Anderson was also indicted on one count of kidnapping.

Although he declined to discuss specifics, Loughridge said he believed he would be exonerated. Anderson could not be reached for comment.

"I've had faith all along in the criminal justice system, and that faith continues," Loughridge said.

Judge rejects settlement in TYC civil rights case

McALLEN (AP) — The Texas Youth Commission must again try to settle a Justice Department lawsuit over inmate safety in

one its juvenile prisons after a judge rejected a proposed agreement reached last month.

U.S. District Judge Ricardo Hinojosa said Monday the tentative settlement lacked a specific timeline for suggested reforms at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center, which federal prosecutors began probing in 2006 after numerous reports of abuse.

Hinojosa also urged both sides to come up with criteria for evaluating progress at the Evins facility, where problems have also generated several lawsuits filed by former inmates and staff members.

"This is a discussion between the federal government and the state government with this court in the middle," Hinojosa said.

He added that the court "is the least equipped to manage a prison system."

Hinojosa urged both sides to try again outside of his purview or return to court next month with a more detailed plan.

Under the rejected proposal, the TYC and federal prosecutors had agreed to give a federal judge oversight over reform efforts for three years. But Hinojosa said the proposal failed to adequately

address what would happen if the Justice Department's demands went unmet.

The settlement stipulated that staff members could only use restraint to

maintain security, and not as means to punish inmates.

It also required the facility to provide adequate staffing levels to protect youth from harm.

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

Continued from Page 7A

ing was state of the art, Davidson said. The school board chose not to use a steam boiler system to heat the school and instead had 72 gas heaters installed throughout the building. One of the heaters was taken out and capped, but may have been tampered with by numerous children at play, he said. Under the front of the school, a 64,000 cubic foot crawl space began filling with, then, odorless, natural gas. At 3:25 p.m., moments before school was to be let out, the building erupted from the explosion and crumpled to the ground.

The Texas Legislature passed a law on May 17, 1937, requiring a malodorant be put in all natural gas, giving it an odor, to avoid another calamity. That practice soon spread worldwide, saving countless lives. The law and the change is New London's lesson and legacy, Davidson said.

The most telling documented piece from the school in Davidson's mind is a chalkboard replicated to match one destroyed in a classroom that day. While teaching the children about the school's prosperity and vitality a teacher wrote: "Oil and natural gas are East Texas' greatest mineral blessings. Without them this school would not be here and none of us would be here learning our lesson."



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