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BIG SPRING

HERALD

TUESDAY
MARCH 25, 2008



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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

Dem party convention slated here Saturday

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

Howard County Dems hoping to carry their voice to the state capitol for the Texas Democratic Party Convention will get their chance Saturday, according to local party officials.

Local Democratic officials will hold a party convention on the second floor of the Howard County Courthouse Saturday at 7 p.m., in hopes of electing delegates to travel to the state convention.

"We will elect precinct chairs and delegates to represent Howard County at the state convention in Austin June 5-7," said Ro Gore, the local Democratic chairman.

While the annual convention has been going on for many years, Gore said it's fallen under the radar until recently.

"There has been a lot more interest in the convention and the caucus since President Bill Clinton got out there and started telling people to vote twice," said Gore. "When you vote in the primary, that basically counts as two-thirds of your overall vote. He's encouraging people to get involved in the whole process and the caucus, which accounts for the other third of your vote. There's been a lot of confusion over it."

And while the convention will offer local delegates a chance to be heard, Gore said those looking for comments from this year's candidates will be disappointed.

"This is about the delegates and chairs, not the candidates," said Gore. "It's very informative,

See **DEMS**, Page 3A



AP Photo/Charles Dharapak
Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., greets supporters as she campaigns at Montgomery Community College in Blue Bell, Pa., Monday.

Clinton campaign says she 'misspoke'

By **ANN SANNER**
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton's campaign said she "misspoke" last week when saying she had landed under sniper fire during a trip to Bosnia as first lady in March 1996. She later characterized the episode as a "misstatement" and a "minor blip."

The Obama campaign suggested the

statement was a deliberate exaggeration by Clinton, who often cites the goodwill trip with her daughter and several celebrities as an example of her foreign policy experience.

During a speech last Monday on Iraq, she said of the Bosnia trip: "I remember landing under sniper fire. There was supposed to be some kind

See **CLINTON**, Page 3A

Local man wanted by authorities

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
 Staff Writer

The Big Spring Police Department and local Crimestoppers are searching for a Big Spring man wanted by U.S. Marshals.

Romel Stevens, 34, formerly of 1102 Mulberry, is wanted on charges of possession of cocaine — along with a warrant from Amarillo for firearm violations — according to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD.

"On the Dec. 13, 2007, investigators with the Big Spring Police Department Narcotics Unit and Lubbock DEA Investigators executed a search warrant for Romel Stevens, residence located at 1102 Mulberry in Big Spring," said Everett. "Investigators located and seized more than a pound



of cocaine and a firearm, along with almost \$42,000 in cash. Stevens is wanted for cocaine possession and also an additional firearm violation out of Amarillo."

According to Everett, Stevens — a black male — goes by the aliases "7" or "Seven," is approximately 255 pounds and 5 feet, 7 inches tall, with black hair and brown eyes.

"If you have any information on Stevens' whereabouts, you are encouraged to call Big Spring Crime Stoppers at 432-264-TIPS (8477)," said Everett. "Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information leading to Stevens arrest. Your identity can and will remain anonymous and no caller ID is ever used."

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



AP Photo/Elise Amendola
Amanda Jacobs, of Eddie's Wheels, straps Jack, a 3-year-old pit bull mix held by his owner, Bobby Kleinau, of Watertown, Mass., into a "pet wheelchair."

More pet owners turn to custom-built wheelchairs

By **STEPHANIE REITZ**
 Associated Press Writer

SHELBURNE FALLS, Mass. (AP) — When Gary Mikus learned that an incurable nerve disease was starting to paralyze the hind legs of his German shepherd, he immediately dismissed the idea of putting the dog to sleep.

Then he spotted an ad in a pet food store: "Eddie's Wheels For Pets.

Help for Handicapped Pets." Now the dog named Bear, which has been Mikus' constant companion for a decade, has a lot of living left to do — much of it in his new pet wheelchair.

"He's healthy in every other way," Mikus said. "Until something tells me otherwise that he's failing, I'll do everything I can to keep him mobile and happy."

A growing number of pet owners are turning to custom-built wheelchairs to restore mobility to furry friends whose legs, hips or backs don't work. The owners' goals are simple: to reward their pets' unconditional love with whatever it takes for the animals to live normally.

The two-wheel carts See **PETS**, 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.

Job information to be added to Texas sex offender registry

DALLAS (AP) — Sometime in the next several months, new online features of the Texas sex offender registry will include the addition of offenders' places of employment and job titles.

The changes will also let people sign up for e-mail alerts when an offender

moves into their neighborhood.

"I'm being told spring," before it is ready, said Tela Mange, spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Public Safety, which runs the registry. "Spring runs through June."

The Web site now provides

each offender's name, date of birth, home address, a physical description and photo. It also includes the crime committed and the victim's age and gender.

While some say that offering the offenders' job information

See **OFFENDERS**, Page 3A

Coming March 30

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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 25, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar TODAY

Big Spring softball vs. Plainview, 4:30 p.m.

Big Spring baseball vs. Plainview, 6 p.m.

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

Coahoma softball vs. Midland Christian, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Big Spring baseball vs. Kermit, 4:30 p.m.

Coahoma baseball at Anson, 7 p.m.

Forsan baseball vs. Eldorado, 4:30 p.m.

Forsan softball at Menard, 5 p.m.

Forsan's Moore finishes fifth at Christoval tourney

Forsan's boys golf team competed in the Christoval Tournament at Bentwood Country Club in San Angelo Monday.

Jake Moore finished fifth out of 90 golfers, shooting an 84. Brantly Calhoun shot 105 and Josh Hatfield 107.

Forsan will compete in the first round of district competition Monday at Merkel's Tin Cup Country Club and the second round April 7 at Riverside Golf Course in San Angelo.

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 Class 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-flight-ed by a tournament committee and local golf pro.

Entry fee is \$180 per team. All entries are to be paid in advance. 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.

Forsan opens district with 8-2 win

Herald Staff Report

WINTERS — Forsan's Buffaloes felt they got a good handle on how well their pitching staff would perform over the weekend in the Morton Tournament. The Buffs went 3-1 in the round-robin tourney and Head Coach Jason Phillips said each of the six pitchers used improved over their previous outing.

Phillips' suspicion of excellence on the mound throughout

the District 2-A season was confirmed Monday as senior hurler Cameron Parker pitched the Buffs to an 8-2 win over Winters' Blizzards to open league play.

"We thought coming off the Morton Tournament that we were right where we needed to be as a ball club," Phillips said. "That strong play from Morton carried over to this game. If we continue to not walk batters and play good defense, we're going to be tough to beat."

Parker (3-1) pitched a complete game, giving up two earned runs on eight hits and just one walk in seven innings. Meanwhile, Forsan's defense, which gave up 10 errors in two games Friday in Morton, improved substantially, committing no errors.

"We played great defense behind Cameron," Phillips said. "We had 12 assists from the infield. That's a lot to have no errors. Cameron forced a lot of ground balls and we made the

plays on them. The defense is coming along very well."

Offensively, the Buffs didn't register a single extra-base hit, meaning that most of their runs were managed with singles, walks and hit-and-run situations.

"We had several steals in this game. We were aggressive on the base paths," Phillips noted. "We were patient at the plate and drew five walks and we did a

See **FORSAN**, Page 2B

Lady Buffs blast Eldorado, 22-11



Forsan Lady Buffaloes shortstop Shelby Jones gets the first of 18 Lady Buffs' hits in the first inning of a 22-11 victory for Forsan over Eldorado Monday in Forsan. Jones finished 3-for-3, scoring four runs, as the Lady Buffs improved to 2-0 in District 2-A play with the victory.

HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

FORSAN — As is typical for a West Texas Spring, the wind factors in a lot when it comes to baseball and softball season in the Crossroads area.

Monday was no exception in Forsan as the Lady Buffs overcame gusts ranging from 20 to 30 miles per hour to defeat defending District 2-A champion Eldorado, 22-11. The game was called after the top of the fifth inning due to the 10-run mercy rule.

However, one could argue the wind was the true winner of the day as it had a hand in several errors, carrying flyballs away from fielders and allowing several extra runs to score that normally wouldn't.

"I think the wind played more into our advantage for us than it did for Eldorado," Lady Buffs Head Coach Shanna Roberts said. "Beating this team is great for our confidence. I was worried how we'd react coming off of Spring Break without playing a game. I knew Eldorado was going to be a competitive team. This one helps us be more confident through the rest of the season."

The Lady Buffs only recently found their prowess at the plate, scoring 16 runs in a district-opening win over Winters and then 22 Monday for an encore performance. Both games were ended

early via the run rule and Forsan is starts district 2-0.

"We're hitting the ball well right now," Roberts said. "All nine batters were getting hits today. That hasn't been the case for most of the season. We have worked out hard on our hitting. It's been a struggle, but we did a great job today. I hope we keep scoring like we are."

The Lady Buffs took a 4-0 lead in the first inning, but committed three fielding errors and starting pitcher Amanda Longorio walked three batters and surrendered a 3-run homer to Haley Higgins, allowing the Lady Eagles to bat around in the inning and score seven runs for a 7-4 lead headed into the bottom of the second.

That's when Forsan's bats came alive. The Lady Buffs batted around in the second and third innings, scoring 16 runs over the two frames on 14 hits.

Alyx Pappajohn knocked in the first and last runs of the second inning. Pappajohn initiated the rally with a double to center field with no outs, pushing Sandi Golleher and Shelby Jones across the plate. She ended it with a bases loaded triple to right field, scoring Golleher, Jones and Haylie Burleson, and then scored herself on a throwing error.

See **LADY BUFFS**, Page 2B

Adelman gets 800th win in Rockets victory

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Rafer Alston wears the same No. 12 that Rick Adelman wore when he played for the San Diego Rockets nearly 40 years ago.

On Monday, Alston helped Adelman get a more significant number — his 800th career coaching victory.

Alston scored 28 points and Tracy McGrady added 17 as the Houston Rockets beat the Sacramento Kings 108-100, making Adelman the 13th coach to reach the milestone.

"I know that when you hit something like that, you really think about all the good things that happen to you," Adelman said. "I have been really fortunate to have three different teams that are very, very good and that's why you get wins like that."

Adelman, who won 395 games coaching the Kings from 1998-2006, is one of six active coaches with 800 wins, joining Pat Riley, Phil Jackson, Jerry Sloan, Don Nelson and George Karl.

"Impressive," Alston said. "I hope they ask the question, who was on that team that helped him win 800? Years from now, people

are going to remember my name."

Shane Battier added 15 points for the Rockets, who won for the second time in five games since the end of their 22-game winning streak last Tuesday. Houston entered Monday's action in fifth place in the Western Conference, but only one game behind New Orleans and the Los Angeles Lakers for the No. 1 spot.

Kevin Martin scored 18, and Ron Artest and Francisco Garcia had 17 apiece to lead the Kings, who've lost eight of their last nine road games. Sacramento allowed 100 points for the 17th time in 18 games as Houston shot 50 percent from the field (35-of-70).

Several Kings congratulated Adelman as he walked off the court.

"It helped him get a few of those," Sacramento center Brad Miller said. "He's a great coach to have played for."

The Rockets led by eight midway through the fourth quarter, but baskets by Quincy Douby and John Salmons cut the lead in half. Artest scored inside with 4:13 left to pull Sacramento within two at 91-89.

See **ROCKETS**, Page 2B



AP photo/David J. Phillip

Houston Rockets coach Rick Adelman gives instruction to his team during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings Monday in Houston. The Rockets won 108-100, giving Adelman his 800th career victory as an NBA head coach.

Obituaries

L.C. Underwood

L.C. Underwood, 83, of Big Spring, died Monday, March 24, 2008, in a local hospital. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Dr. Kenneth Patrick, retired Baptist minister, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

He was born Nov. 14, 1924, in Norton and married Elaine Coley Oct. 12, 1946 in Ballinger.

He was a member of First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Elaine Underwood of Big Spring; two daughters and sons-in-law, Carolyn and Kenneth Puckett of Garland and Susan and Mark Guellette of Mt. Juliet, Tenn.; and one brother and sister-in-law, Loyd and Pat Underwood of Luther.

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

Take Note

- The SMMC/FMC Relay For Life team is hosting a scrub sale. The vendor will be selling in the hospital's first floor classroom on Wednesday, March 26 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a percentage of the proceeds going to Relay For Life.

- The Howard County Pachyderms will have their monthly meeting Thursday, March 27, at noon at the Big Spring Country Club. Speakers will be runoff candidates W. Paschal Odom and Jimmie Long for County Commissioner Precinct 3. Everyone is invited to hear them speak. People who live in Precinct 3 are encouraged to come and meet their candidates. Lunch is available for a nominal fee. For more information, contact the country club at 267-8241 or Melanie Gambrell at 267-7387.

- American Red Cross Lifeguarding and CPR classes will be held in two sessions this year, March 31-April 5 and April 14-19. Cost will be \$125. Those interested can sign up with Coach Randall Shaw at rshaw3535@hotmail.com or at the Big Spring YMCA. Times of the class will be given at the time of registration. Spots are limited and fees must be paid at registration. Individuals who register must be present for all classes. After the first day of class, no refunds will be given.

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

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

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

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

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

- All creatures Sanctuary and Rescue has an account set up with Big Spring Salvage at 3608 N. Hwy. 87 for all types of metals and aluminum cans. Please tell them that your donations are for All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is also still taking weight circles off of all Purina brand dog foods. Send your Purina Weight Circles, to A.C.S. & R. at P.O. 871, Coahoma 79511. All Creatures Sanctuary and Rescue is still accepting old and used cell phones and ink jet cartridges, for drop off locations in Big Spring and Coahoma, Call Melanie at 267-7387.

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

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

Police blotter

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

- SALOME A. RIOS**, 33, of 3304 W. Highway 80, was arrested Sunday on a local warrant.
- MAGDALENE LOPEZ**, 26, of 4116 Muir, was arrested Sunday on three local warrants.
- JOEL A. FLORES**, 25, of 1007 W. Sixth Street, was arrested Sunday on two local warrants and two local capias warrants.
- KYLE L. BROWNFIELD**, 17, of 2700 Adams, was arrested Sunday on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and minor in possession of tobacco.
- CASEY L. FRALEY**, 17, of 1021 Stadium, was arrested Sunday on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less in a drug free zone, minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage and minor in possession of tobacco.
- TONY MAGALLANES**, 22, of 1206 E. 15th Street, was arrested Monday on two local warrants.
- BRYSON O. VANDERBILT**, 23, of 1605 Oriole, was arrested Monday on two local capias warrants.
- UNATTENDED DEATH** was reported in the 2900 block of Melrose.
- THEFT** was reported in the 200 block of FM 700.
- DEADLY CONDUCT - DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM** was reported in the 2300 block of Grace.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF** was reported in the 800 block of Settles.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 39 inmates at the time of this report.
- BILLY HALLFORD**, 33, was arrested Monday by the Howard County Attorney's Office on a judgment/sentence for driving while intoxicated - second offense (sentenced to three days in jail, given three days credit).
- SHAWNA GRAYSON**, 36, was arrested Monday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for theft (two counts).
- CASEY LYNN FRALEY**, 17, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less.
- SALOME ADOLPH RIOS**, 33, was transferred to the county jail Monday by the BSPD on a charge of Class C assault - family violence.
- DEREK TARVER MOFFETT**, 28, was arrested Monday by DPS on a Midland County warrant for driving while license invalid and failure to appear.

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 1700 block of Lancaster. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL** was reported in the 1300 block of Boykin. Service refused.
- MEDICAL** was reported in the 2300 block of Wasson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA** was reported in the 1600 block of S. Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA** was reported in the 900 block of Dallas. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 1600 block of Gregg Street. Service refused.

Support Groups

TUESDAY

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- The Powwow Committee of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church annex, 809 Scurry, or the fellowship hall at 810 Scurry. Call Robert Downing at 263-3255 for information.

WEDNESDAY

- Optimist Club meets at 7 a.m. in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- 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.
- Downtown Lions Club meets at noon at the Howard College Cactus Room.
- Duplicate Bridge Club meets at 1 p.m. in the Big Spring Country Club.
- Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY

- Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
- Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room.
- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

FRIDAY

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

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.

Wednesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Thursday...Sunny. Highs in the mid 80s. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Thursday night...Mostly clear. Lows around 50.

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

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.

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

Saturday night...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the upper 50s.

Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 13-17-18-26-27.
Number matching five of five: 0.

Results of the Texas Two Step drawing Monday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 22-23-32-34 Bonus Ball: 22.
Number matching four of four, plus Bonus Ball: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 3-2-9-3. Sum It Up: 17

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Monday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 9-0-5. Sum It Up: 14

Correction

West Texas Centers for MHMR's Hoops, Dreams and Goals annual basketball tournament is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Friday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum and not Saturday or Sunday as has been reported earlier. The public is encouraged to attend this free event, which features a number of area teams and cheerleaders.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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ROCKETS

Continued from Page 1B

Rookie Carl Landry answered with a basket inside and Alston then hit two free throws and flipped in a one-handed shot from the baseline as the Rockets took control for good.

"Rafer's been playing well," McGrady said. "We needed all those points that he gave us."

Houston kept Sacramento at bay by going 9-of-12 from the free-throw line in the final 1:38. The Rockets went 33-for-42 from the free-throw line overall, setting season highs in both makes and attempts.

Houston came in shooting only 72 percent from the line.

"It's going to come down in games, especially in the playoffs, where you've got to make foul shots," said McGrady, who was 7-for-9 on free throws. "Tonight, we did a better job of concentrating on going up there and knocking them down."

McGrady said he sprained his left shoulder fighting through a screen late in the game. It was

wrapped in ice afterward, but McGrady didn't expect to miss Wednesday's game against Minnesota.

McGrady twisted his left ankle less than five minutes in and scored only two points in the first quarter. Alston picked up the slack, scoring 12 in the quarter, and Houston led 26-24.

Chuck Hayes threw in a hook and McGrady sank a baseline jumper at the start of a 9-0 Rockets spurt that broke a 37-37 tie.

Artest and Garcia swished 3-pointers in the last 1:10 of the half to trim Houston's lead to 53-49 by the break.

Both teams shot over 50 percent from the field in the first half and the Kings also went 6-for-7 from 3-point range.

The Kings missed seven of their first 10 shots out of the break and Houston stretched its lead to 65-55. Garcia scored seven points in the last 2:16 of the third quarter as Sacramento cut the deficit to 77-72 heading to the fourth.

McGrady was resting on the bench as the final quarter began. He

returned with 9:01 left and the Rockets leading 83-79. He hit two mid-range jumpers and sank a pair of free throws to push Houston's lead to 91-83.

"It was tough to overcome their free-throw shooting," Sacramento coach Reggie Theus said. "We had some runs, but then they went to the free-throw line and it was a rally killer."

The Rockets improved to 15-2 when scoring 100 points or more at home this season. Sacramento has dropped seven of its last 11 games overall, and eight of the last 11 meetings with Houston.

Notes: Salmons scored 15 for the Kings. ... Point guard Beno Udrih, who missed the last three games with a back strain, played 10 minutes in the first half, then sat out the rest of the night. Theus said Udrih aggravated the injury and was now day-to-day. ... McGrady finished 5-for-16 from the field. ... Mikki Moore had a career-high six assists for the Kings.

Lakers 123, Warriors 119
The Los Angeles Lakers

and Golden State Warriors got an exciting taste of how competitive their potential playoff matchup might be.

Lamar Odom made the go-ahead layup with 9.1 seconds left in overtime, and Los Angeles shook off Golden State's frantic regulation rally to hang on for a 123-119 victory Monday night, avenging its four-point loss one night earlier.

Bryant scored 23 of his 30 points after halftime while playing with a gash under his left eye, and Odom had 23 points and 21 rebounds as the Lakers reclaimed the Western Conference's top spot and avenged Sunday night's 115-111 defeat.

The Warriors are in eighth place in the conference, which means the teams would meet in the first round of the playoffs if they hang on to their spots.

In other NBA games, it was: Detroit 110, Phoenix 105 in overtime; Houston 108, Sacramento 100; Miami 78, Milwaukee 73; New Jersey 106, New York 91; Philadelphia 95, Boston 90; Denver 120, Memphis 106; and Seattle 97, Portland 84.

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

nice job moving guys around with hit and runs."

Adam Bailey led Forsan at the plate, knocking in three runs.

Ryan Flores, Spencer Briggs and Zach Dykes each had a RBI along with Parker, who helped his own cause by driving in a run.

The Buffs, who tied Miles for the district

championship last season after having a baseball program for just two years, continue district play, hosting Eldorado Friday in Forsan.

The Eagles gave the Buffs some trouble last season.

"Eldorado is a young, scrappy team," Phillips said. "They beat us at home by a couple runs last season and kept giving us a hard time at their place, even though we beat them. It's not a team we can take lightly."

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The Agony and the Ecstasy

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH
♠ Q 9 6 5 3 2
♥ K 9 7 3
♦ 4
♣ 7 2
WEST
♠ 10 8 4
♥ Q J 8 5 4
♦ 10 8 6 2
♣ 3
EAST
♠ J 7
♥ 10 6 2
♦ 5
♣ K Q J 10 9 6 5
SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ A
♦ A K Q J 9 7 3
♣ A 8 4

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass 4♣ 6♦
Opening lead — three of clubs.

Improvisation unquestionably has its place in bridge, but the opportunities for its use are actually few and far between.

Consider this deal from a high-class rubber-bridge game many years ago. South's dramatic leap to six diamonds was certainly well-reasoned, even though he lacked 100 percent assurance of success. But the odds heavily favored finding his partner with a singleton or void in clubs, or the ten of diamonds plus the spade queen or heart king.

As it happened, though, North showed up with a doubleton club and a singleton low trump, so the contract was in distinct jeopardy. Nevertheless, declarer quickly devised a scheme that gave him a very good chance to make the slam.

He won the opening club lead with the ace and cashed the A-K-Q of trumps. He planned to play the ace of hearts and A-K of spades next before intentionally conceding a trump to West's ten.

Declarer's willingness to lose a trump trick unnecessarily was surely worth the price, since he would get back two tricks in exchange after West's forced return of either a spade or a heart to dummy's only two high cards. These would in turn provide a parking place for South's two club losers.

But unfortunately for declarer, he was facing a foe man fully worthy of his steel. West had anticipated exactly what South was planning to do, so, when declarer played the A-K-Q of trumps early in the hand, he shrewdly followed with the 6-8-10, retaining the deuce.

As a result of West's remarkable foresight, there was now no way for declarer to put him on lead, so the deal ended with South eventually being forced to concede two club tricks to East for down one.

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LADY BUFFS

Continued from Page 1B

Forsan led 14-7 after two and Longorio held Eldorado to one run in the third. The Lady Buffs continued to tear through the Lady Eagles' pitching and defense in the home half of the inning, scoring another six runs as they batted around again. Three of Forsan's six hits went for extra bases, including a 3-RBI triple by Golleher.

Leading 20-8 headed into the fourth inning, Pappajohn relieved Longorio in the pitcher's circle and gave up three runs — only one

earned — on four hits, while striking out three. Longorio finished with five strikeouts over three innings, surrendering 11 runs with only one of them being earned. Forsan was guilty of eight fielding errors.

Kaela Strickland and Britney Roemer capped Forsan's scoring in the fourth inning, adding a pair of unearned runs. Pappajohn finished 2-for-3 with a double and a triple for five RBIs. Golleher was 3-for-4 with three RBIs and scored three runs. Jones scored four runs on 3-for-3 hitting and knocked in two runs.

As a team, the Lady Buffs from 18-for-33 at the plate for a .545 batting average. Every player in the

lineup scored at least once.

Forsan continues district play at 5 p.m. Friday, paying a visit to the Menard Lady Yellow Jackets.

Eldorado 071 21—11 5 5
Forsan 4(10)6 2x—22 18 8
W - Amanda Longorio. L - Amy Alvizo.
2B: FHS - Shelby Jones 2, Alyx Pappajohn, Kelsey Jones. 3B: EHS - Allyson Jarrett; FHS - Pappajohn, Sandi Golleher. HR: EHS - Haley Higgins. RBI: EHS - Higgins 3, Amika Gonzales 2; FHS - Pappajohn 5, Golleher 3, Amanda Longorio 2, Britney Roemer 2, Haylie Burleson 2, S. Jones, Kevy O'Brien.

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

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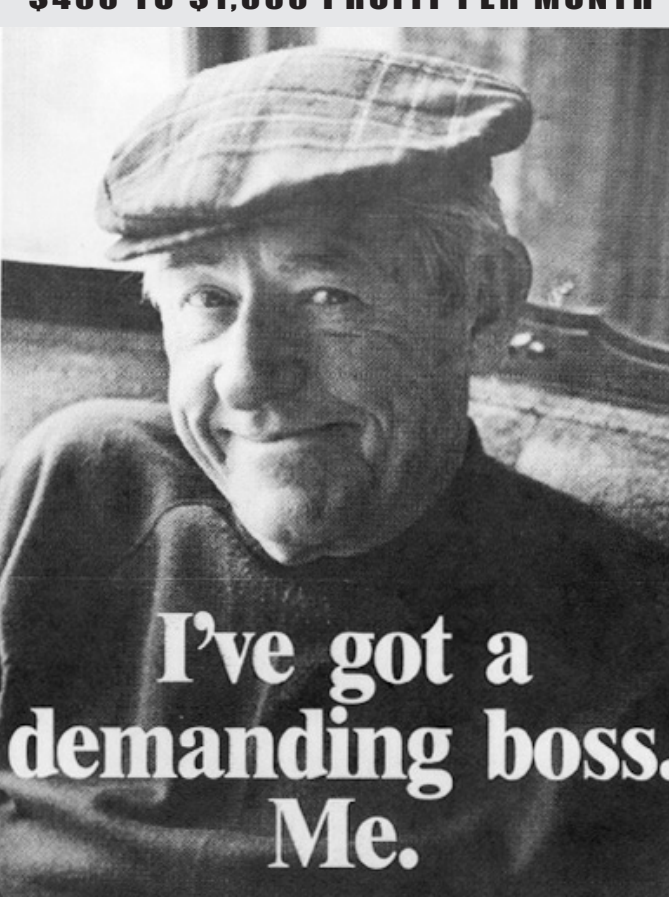
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Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS

The Scorpio moon and Aries sun combination carries the psychic vigilante energy of this day. Like your favorite action hero, with invisible powers, our sixth sense acts as a pair of X-ray glasses might, ferreting out vital information and dead on impressions — courtesy of human behavior. It's amazing what we can pick up on by simply noticing.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Human relations could get frustrating if you choose to feel responsible for things that are not your responsibility. Listen when others tell their stories, and don't worry about how you'll solve the problems.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's not enough to admit your mistakes.

Legals

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

DESCRIPTION: The Big Spring Independent School District will receive sealed proposals for compaction grouting beneath the Big Spring Junior High School building foundation. **BASIS OF PROPOSALS:** Big Spring Independent School District will be utilizing the competitive sealed proposals procurement method as authorized by the Texas Legislature in Senate Bill 1 and further defined by Senate Bill 583 and Texas Education Code, Chapter 44, Subchapter B. Selection of the Contractor will be based on a combination of the listed selection criteria determined to provide the best value to the school district. Address to: Big Spring Independent School District 708 E. 11th Place Big Spring, Texas 79720 Attn: Debbie Green Proposal Opening Location: Big Spring Independent School District Business Office 708 E. 11th Place Big Spring, Texas 79720 Proposal Date: April 8, 2008 Proposal Time: 3:00 pm Local Time Proposal Documents will be available beginning March 25, 2008. Project Manual and Specifications documents may be secured from the school district's Business Office, 708 East 11th Place, Big Spring, Texas 79720, phone number (432)264-3620. A proposal will be presented for consideration to the Board of Trustees on April 10, 2008 at 5:15 pm at their regularly scheduled board meeting. The Big Spring Independent School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. #5728 March 25 & April 1, 2008

You have the ability to profit from them! Every time your plan doesn't work out, you get one step closer to coming up with a genius plot.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Let go of old baggage, and be rid of it immediately. There's no time to auction it on the Internet or put it in your next garage sale. Just drop it and kick it to the curb.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The prize goes to the one who doesn't give up, and today, that's you. You may complain or even temporarily despair, but you will not let go of the issue until you have a happy resolution.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your personable attitude attracts the needy ones, though the needs are not obvious. Observe closely. If you're dating, tonight, here's the recipe for perfection: Chill out. Dine in. Find escape in a story.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are so focused now that everything you take on will bring you closer to the person you want to be. Consider this and suddenly the mundane tasks, like weeding the garden or paying a bill, are amazingly pleasurable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are certain requirements that must be met in order for you to do your job properly. You seize control of the situation to make sure that what's needed is delivered, and in a timely manner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your world may have changed quite a while ago, and now awareness catches up as you recognize that a behavior you've been repeating makes no sense in the present context of your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's tempting to say that you are lost. You're not lost. You have wound up in exactly the place where your attention has taken you. All you have to do now is place your attention on home and you'll soon be back there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you're going to commit yourself to exert a great amount of energy, you need a reason. You need a prize. Contests and any situations with high stakes will appeal to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Do you have the feeling that you ought to be making a living doing something other than what you're doing? No matter how foggy this concept may seem to you now, spend time with it. Write down your thoughts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Every living thing has a force field around it. Today, yours is remarkably balanced and bright. Others sense this, evidenced by the surge of interest you're now getting for yourself and your work.

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Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My father passed away suddenly of complications following surgery. We are all very upset, but my mother is suffering most of all. She and Dad did everything together. They were best friends and never wavered in their love for each other throughout their 42 years.

I have one sibling, a 36-year-old brother who is an alcoholic and recovering heroin addict. He is on methadone. While Dad was in the hospital, my brother and I had a terrible fight. I can honestly say he started it. He is bipolar and not taking his medication and flies off the handle at the drop of a hat.

Today, my brother asked Mom if he could move back in with her. He says he'll live in a camper in her yard, even though he'll have no running water or other basic necessities. I object to this because he is not going to make Mom's life easier.

He will disrupt things just like he did when he was younger. My mom's television would not be hers, her kitchen would not stay clean, and she'd have more laundry and headaches to deal with.

Am I wrong to object? Dad would not allow my brother to live there and I think Mom should honor Dad's intentions. I'm looking like the bad guy here. — Trying To Protect Mom

Dear Trying: You are right to be worried, but ultimately, this is not your decision to make. Although he may indeed become a burden, your brother also is company at a time when Mom is lonely and vulnerable to his request to move in. Discuss your concerns lovingly with your mother, and see if she is fearful of your brother and needs your help to keep him away. If not, you will have to let her make up her own mind and try to accept the

result graciously. (And please resist the urge to say "I told you so" when things go south. She'll need your support.)

Dear Annie: I've been married for 29 years and my husband is an alcoholic. His company went out of business five years ago. After three years of being unemployed, he got a menial job, but quit after two months. At his next job, he called in sick so often, the boss told him he was on probation. So he quit.

Now he sits on the couch all day and night staring at the TV. He will occasionally wash a load of laundry, but otherwise does nothing around the house. He does not help pay any bills. He will not go to the doctor. I've made appointments and he cancels them. He tried counseling a few years ago, but decided he was smarter than they were and stopped. He absolutely refuses to look for a job.

My family and friends wonder why I don't leave him. The answer is, I think he would end his life and I couldn't live with the guilt. But I fear by not doing anything I'm somehow making it worse. He is not a danger to himself or anyone else — he is just existing. I need to know what to do. — Need Help

Dear Need Help: You are not responsible for what your husband chooses to do with his life. However, we understand your fear that he may not survive and we can tell that you still care about him. Your husband sounds severely depressed — which is not uncommon with alcoholics, who often use liquor to self-medicate. Keep encouraging him to talk to his doctor, and also contact Al-Anon (al-anon.alateen.org) at 1-888-4-AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) and ask for help.

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

Musharraf swears in Pakistani Prime Minister Gilani as US envoys meet new leaders

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — President Pervez Musharraf swore in a loyalist of slain ex-leader Benazir Bhutto as prime minister Tuesday, while two top American envoys held talks with Pakistan's old and new leaders in what some viewed as an ill-timed visit.

Yousaf Raza Gilani, who will front a new government vowing to cut back the U.S.-backed president's powers, took the oath from Musharraf at a stiff ceremony in Islamabad.

Seated side-by-side on a raised dais and flanked by two honor guards with white and gold-braided uniform, Gilani followed the president's lead in reading the oath of office.

Members of Gilani's party chanted "Long Live

Bhutto!" after the formalities were complete.

Musharraf betrayed no emotion during the ceremony but gave Gilani a firm handshake and chatted amiably with him as they headed for refreshments in the presidential palace.

Social Security and Medicare trustees providing update on finances of benefit programs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The trustees of Social Security and Medicare are certain to kick off a fierce round of debate when they release their annual assessment of the fiscal health of the government's two biggest benefit programs.

The battle will be waged not only between the Democratic-controlled Congress and President Bush but also in this year's presidential campaign, where the issue is expected to attract a lot of attention in

light of the looming retirement of 78 million baby boomers.

All sides will try to use Tuesday's report to score political points, but that is probably as far as the debate will go — at least until a new president takes office next year.

Bush, who had vowed to make overhauling Social Security a top priority of his second term, will almost certainly leave office with that goal unfulfilled given that Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, his point person on the issue, has not made any headway with Democrats in Congress in finding a compromise to resolve the pension program's fiscal problems.

Democrats contend that Bush lost valuable time after his 2004 re-election pushing a plan to allow younger workers to direct their payroll tax contributions into private accounts, an idea that went nowhere in Congress.

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1A

of a greeting ceremony at the airport, but instead we just ran with our heads down to get into the vehicles to get to our base."

According to an *Associated Press* story at the time, Clinton was placed under no extraordinary risks on the trip. And one of her companions, comedian Sinbad, told *The Washington Post* he has no recollection either of the threat or reality of gunfire.

When asked Monday about the New York senator's remarks about the trip, Clinton spokesman Howard Wolfson pointed to Clinton's written account of it in her book, "Living History," in which she described a shortened welcoming ceremony at Tuzla Air Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Due to reports of snipers in the hills around the airstrip, we were forced to cut short an event on the tarmac with local children, though we did have time

to meet them and their teachers and to learn how hard they had worked during the war to continue classes in any safe spot they could find," Clinton wrote.

"That is what she wrote in her book," Wolfson said. "That is what she has said many, many times and on one occasion she misspoke."

Asked about the issue during a meeting with the *Philadelphia Daily News'* editorial board on Monday, Clinton said she "misspoke."

"I went to 80 countries, you know. I gave contemporaneous accounts, I

wrote about a lot of this in my book. You know, I think that, a minor blip, you know, if I said something that, you know, I say a lot of things — millions of words a day — so if I misspoke, that was just a misstatement," she said.

A spokesman for rival Barack Obama's campaign questioned whether Clinton misspoke, saying her comments came in what appeared to be prepared remarks for the Iraq speech. His campaign's statement included a link to the speech on Clinton's campaign Web site with her account of

running to the cars. Clinton's campaign said what is on the Web site is not the prepared text, but a transcript of her remarks, including comments before the speech in which she talked about the trip to Bosnia.

Obama spokesman Tommy Vietor said in a written statement that Clinton's Bosnia story "joins a growing list of instances in which Senator Clinton has exaggerated her role in foreign and domestic policymaking."

The Obama campaign statement also links to a CBS News video of the

Bosnia trip posted on YouTube, which shows Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, walking across the tarmac from a large cargo plane, smiling and waving, and stopping to shake hands with Bosnia's acting president and greet an 8-year-old girl.

"This is something that the Obama campaign wants to push 'cause they have nothing positive to say about their candidate," Wolfson said Monday.

Clinton's written account contradicts her comments last Monday about the welcoming cere-

mony. Just after the speech, Clinton reaffirmed the account of running from the plane to the cars when she was asked about it during a news conference. She said she was moved into the cockpit of the C-17 cargo plane as they were flying into Tuzla Air Base.

"Everyone else was told to sit on their bulletproof vests," Clinton said. "And we came in, in an evasive maneuver. ... There was no greeting ceremony, and we basically were told to run to our cars. Now, that is what happened."

PETS

Continued from Page 1A

support the dog's midsection with a padded saddle, and are secured with a shoulder yoke and chest strap. Most dogs have rear-wheel carts to compensate for lame hind legs, though a growing number of front-wheel carts are being ordered for animals with front-leg problems.

Donna Blain's 7-year-old Maltese named Gizmo hopped and hobbled on his deformed front legs before she adopted him a year ago. She ordered his cart after learning the odd gait had damaged his spine and would have required surgery.

Now he wheels himself around for hours on sidewalks, in parks and anywhere he can find treats and praise.

"He's into everything," said Blain, of Woodstock, Conn. "He just wants to live, after all those years of really hobbling and not

being able to get where he wanted to be."

Eddie and Leslie Grinnell, founders of Eddie's Wheels, built their first pet wheelchair in 1989 when their 10-year-old Doberman, Buddha, lost the use of her rear legs because of disc disease and spinal problems.

Their veterinarian, impressed by Buddha's revived mobility and vitality, started referring others to the Grinnells. In 1998, they started their own business.

Similar wheelchair makers can be found in Montana, Maryland, Oregon, Washington and elsewhere. Most dog carts start around \$250 and can exceed \$500 based on the size of the dog, while the cost of wheelchairs for other animals can vary depending on the type and size of animal.

Since launching the business, Eddie's Wheels has shipped carts worldwide — the largest to a 220-pound Saint Bernard in Great Britain — and

has made wheelchairs for several cats, a ferret, alpacas, goats, sheep, a rabbit and a possum.

They even keep a supply of tiny wheels on hand for a gerbil or hamster.

Veterinarian Derek Fox, a University of Missouri professor specializing in orthopedic surgery for dogs, cats and other small animals, said pets that once would have been irreversibly crippled are benefiting from a variety of advancements: improved hip and joint replacements, better physical therapy and wheelchairs.

"Even if a treatment is expensive, these are people who say they'll do anything to keep their pet moving, to keep them happy, to keep their quality of life up," he said.

Many of the dogs who need the chairs become disabled from degenerative myelopathy, a neurological disease common in German shepherds, golden retrievers, Labradors and other large sporting breeds. Others,

like Corgis and Daschunds, are vulnerable to disc and spine problems that eventually leave them lame.

"Dogs don't understand why this is going on, but they're very accepting: 'Oh, this is the way I am today.' So when we put them in the cart, they're like: 'Oh, now I'm back to normal. I can go where I want,'" Leslie Grinnell said.

That was the case with Max, an 8-year-old German shepherd whose owners, Gordon and Linda Landry of Granby,

said his degenerative myelopathy left him dejected and hobbling behind their other dog, Molly.

As he tried his new cart for the first time, the dog whimpered at the door to go outside and promptly wheeled his way down the walkway, around the parking lot and past Molly as she peered at him from the Landrys' truck.

"This just amazes me," Linda Landry said as she watched him, laughing at his vigor. "We never get to see him like this anymore. It's like having a younger Max back."

DEMS

Continued from Page 1A

but you're not going to hear any campaign speeches from the candidates who are running for office."

For more information on the local convention, contact Gore at 264-7805.

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

OFFENDERS

Continued from Page 1A

will be an additional crime-fighting tool, others worry that making places of employment easily accessible could harm offenders who are trying to succeed.

"The more information people have about who may potentially have access to their children, the better that is," Mange said.

State Attorney General Greg Abbott has said employment status and location for registered sex offenders are public information.

Helga Dill, chairwoman of Texas Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants, said that posting specific information about jobs could be potentially "devastating."

She said that convicted felons already have difficulty finding jobs, but

when the information is public, "these employers are not going to even look at the capability of this offender."

Rebecca Bernhardt, director of policy development for the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, said the fundamental issue is whether providing employment information "makes us more safe or less safe."

"If it leads to offenders losing their jobs, that's destabilizing — even in anybody's life. And if we're concerned about the risk of folks re-offending, being less connected, not

having gainful employment, not having a roof over your head — these are things that put people in a more vulnerable position if they're susceptible to having run-ins with the law."

But in the North Texas town of Mansfield near Fort Worth, some residents said they're glad they'll be able to keep a closer eye on a registered sex offender in their neighborhood.

"The guy comes and goes at very odd hours," said Steve Kyle, a father of two who helped organize a recent neighbor-

hood meeting about the sex offender. "In our community, we'd at least be able to know if he's working, and if we knew where he was working, it might give you some indication of when he would be coming and going."

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EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

Ron Midkiff
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

March Madness coming to town in MHMR event

Seems like virtually everyone develops a case of March Madness to some degree or another when the NCAA's Road to the Final Four gets under way each year. And while the Road to the Final Four doesn't lead through Dorothy Garrett Coliseum, but the home of the Howard College's Hawk programs will be the site for lots of basketball Friday during a day-long tournament sponsored by The Howard County Association for Retarded Citizens, Howard College and West Texas Centers for MHMR.

But it will be much more than just a basketball tournament. That's why the coliseum will be filled with some of the most enthusiastic fans anyone has seen at a local basketball event in years.

"It's not just a basketball tournament," said WTCMHMR CEO Shelley Smith. "The tournament is just a backdrop for the many accomplishments set on such a grand stage for the athletes, cheerleaders and coaches."

The Fourth Annual "Hoops, Dreams and Goals" will boast a field of eight teams from the region playing competitive basketball as well as other special events.

Tip-off is set for 9 a.m. at center court when four teams start off their own version of March Madness. Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, State Rep. Joe Heflin and Stefanie Wilkerson, representing State Sen. Kel Seliger, will be on hand to assist in the event's opening ceremonies.

Teams competing include many returning from last year's field: the Sweetwater Rattlers, Snyder Wildkat, Seminole Pink Panthers, Ballinger Longhorns, Monahans Warriors and Big Spring Heat.

But more is at stake than bragging rights. There will be lots of plain, old-fashioned fun with cheerleaders, coaches, managers and spectators.

Anyone who would more information or who would like to volunteer should contact Rodney Jones at 263-9795 or e-mail him at Rodney.Jones@wtcmhmr.org.

The event is one way West Texas Center's celebrates Mental Retardation Awareness Month.

Smith says she just wishes everyone would come out and watch the games.

We'll echo that sentiment.

One doesn't have to spend the full day, but be warned, all that fun and excitement is infectious.

In fact, it's down right addictive.

Just ask Smith. She calls the event the "highlight of her year."

In other words, you won't be disappointed.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

LETTER POLICIES

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

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

May we take charge and run with the ball to Your end, Lord.

Amen

Why preparedness won't work

Homeland Security's latest list of cities eligible for anti-terrorism disaster funding just came out. In municipal circles, it was like the Oscars, only with more money. To be included, as our city mysteriously was, means but one thing to local officials - pork. It's a chance to buy up communications, computer and transportation equipment that the local finance board would otherwise never swallow.



WILLIAM A. COLLINS

Ever since 9/11, arm-wrestling over which towns get to share the swag has become a major part of disaster planning. Other than the largest cities, no town really expects to be hit, and they're right. So, they figure, why not just go for the bucks?

Nature's disasters present a different slant. We do know they'll occur; we just don't know where. So how much is worth preparing for? It's plain that tornados will obliterate a certain number of towns and trailer parks each year. But will a state's citizens be game to pony up for a stockpile of trailers, portable classrooms, or mobile kitchens ahead of time, or to pay on-call construction workers afterwards to put things quickly back to rights? No way. We'll continue to muddle through just as we always have, thank you.

And what about hurricanes? They're bigger. Well, when one devastates suburbia we figure that neighboring police, fire, and National Guard units can save the necessary lives and the Red Cross can feed and tent the victims. Insurance companies will eventually pay for home repairs. And builders will swoop in from surrounding states to grab up the work. FEMA, with luck, will pay to repair or replace at least some of the public structures. Sure, it's a hassle if your home is gone, but it all sort of works out. At any rate, the system reinforces the value of staying on good terms with your extended family, especially the ones who live on high ground.

Then there's Katrina. The disaster shouldn't have been that bad, but being poor and black, New Orleans never had a chance. First priority was always a clear shipping channel for Midwestern grain and Gulf oil. Barrier islands were sacrificed, levee protection was sacrificed, and in the end, the whole low-income part of the city was sacrificed. Indeed, in the trade, it's called an "urban sacrifice zone."

But mostly you don't get sacrificed unless you're poor. The hotels and casinos in New Orleans are being rebuilt lickety-split. So are the spiffy residential areas. No need to sacrifice them. But public housing is finished. Over 4,500 units are being torn down as we

speak, with no serious plan for replacement. This means that the Katrina diaspora that scattered displacees to the winds, is now permanent. While the middle class may get trailers to start life anew, the poor are now Texans, Mississippians, Tennesseans and the like. Great news for the Louisiana Republican Party.

The same rules apply worldwide. Whether tsunamis in Aceh, cyclones in Bangladesh, floods in China, or landslides in Pakistan, there is no will to gather up money ahead of time to prepare. And since the poor will always be the chief victims, who cares? Aid will pour in from international agencies to feed those they can. God bless them. But "developing" nations themselves have bigger fish to fry than their own disaster victims.

Thus disasters are pretty much the same everywhere. If there's advance money to be had, everybody wants to grab some for their own purposes. If there are limits on cash to rebuild, let's stiff the poor.

If preparing properly means raising taxes, forget it. One way or another, the world will survive, but no one wants to pay for it.

Columnist William A. Collins is a former state representative and a former mayor of Norwalk, Conn. DISTRIBUTED BY MINUTEMANMEDIA.ORG.



Everyman's mortgage crisis

Oddly, Washington politicians are talking less about confronting the pending entitlement crisis now - after the "silver tsunami" has begun and the first baby boomer filed for Social Security benefits - than they did 15 and 20 years ago.



DEBRA SAUNDERS

The Concord Coalition, the bipartisan fiscal watchdog group, used to keep a scorecard that rated members of Congress on votes that addressed America's federal budget problems. The Concord Coalition's executive director, Robert Bixby, told The Chronicle's editorial board last week that his outfit eventually had to give it up. "We couldn't find enough votes," Bixby explained.

Comptroller General David Walker estimates that Washington has promised \$53 trillion in Social Security and Medicare benefits without funding them. In real dollars, that means every American - this means you - owns a \$175,000 share of the federal debt. It's as if you have a second mortgage - for a home you don't own.

These days, there has been much finger-pointing at a system that allowed lenders to issue mortgages

that violated the basic tenets of fiscal responsibility. How is it, people now ask, that banks could issue so many loans to buyers for homes they could not afford?

How indeed? Washington continues to authorize retirement and medical benefits without putting aside the money to pay for them. Editorials and think tanks sound the alert. Yet you hear little public complaint about the situation. Even in a presidential election year, voters are not demanding that White House hopefuls promise to balance the books.

If the sky falls, will Americans then ask why they were not warned? Every year of inaction adds another \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion to the tab, noted Alison Acosta Fraser of the right-leaning Heritage Foundation.

Alice Rivlin of the left-leaning Brookings Institution is the fourth member of the Concord Coalition's "Fiscal Wake-Up Tour." Asked what presidential hopefuls Hillary Rodham Clinton, Barack Obama and John McCain propose to do about the pending crisis, Rivlin answered that essentially "they're ignoring it almost completely."

"It's easy to give away ice cream," noted Walker, who is resigning on March 12 so that he can campaign on this moral issue. Entitlement spending reform is spinach. In the 1980s, then-House Speaker

Tip O'Neill pronounced Social Security as the "third rail" of American politics - as any politician who touched the dicey issue risked death.

Today, unfunded entitlements are the invisible rabbit of American politics; only a few fey folk see them. If there were a partisan angle to the controversy, no doubt one party would embrace reform. But because any solution will require both spending cuts and tax increases, entitlement reform is not a winning issue. Real reform would break the new American compact between politicians and their partisans - which is that only adherents to the other party will have to compromise.

That's how Washington dug this hole. No spending cuts. No tax hikes. Debt on autopilot, compounded annually. Walker warns that unless the next president takes on the entitlement problem from Day One, "We're in trouble." We are in trouble. Today, you hear more about unfunded federal liabilities than you heard about the pending mortgage crisis two years ago. But Washington is not acting. And if this story reaches critical mass, then everyone will be in default.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@schronicle.com. COPYRIGHT 2008 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.

Bird Poop:

Refinery's health reflected in birds that call it home



Courtesy photo

Enjoying its home in the pipe support of the wet gas compressor at the cat cracker, a rock dove watches the numerous trucks and workmen that arrived after the explosion. Its typical blue gray coloration is enhanced by iridescent neck feathers, black wing bars and a band across its tail.

When the windows, house and we shook in unison, the outcome was inevitable. It had to be the refinery. Rising dark smoke confirmed our suspicion.

As we drove to an outlook from which to view the fire, we knew the damage would be extensive. Art's 34 years in the engineering department had prompted both of us to leave without breakfast, even our coffee, in order to see the effects to "our refinery."

From a hill that gave an uncluttered view of the entire facility, we saw more than the billowing darkness that announced a massive failure. While Art was mentally assessing the different areas involved, I watched for the familiar signs of life.

As the helicopters circled the plant, I finally found the ever present fluttering I had hoped to see. Pesky as tumbleweeds, the resilient rock doves had not only survived the blast, but were looking for another roosting sight.

Between occasional bursts of conversation as we passed the binoculars back and forth, I thought back to the various birds we had handled from the confines of the refinery. Drenched in crude oil, a cattle egret had been the impetus for our long involvement with avian populations. An open pit had been its fatal attraction.

Our introduction to the American kestrel, commonly known as a sparrow hawk, had been from the fledglings wandering through the alkylolation unit. Towers had provided not only an

acceptable elevation but a safe environment for the mother bird and her nestlings. Jumping from the structures during their first attempts at flight, the youngsters had rested on the ground and strayed in spite of their parent's prodding.

Leaving the hillside to grab a quick brunch, we returned to our vantage point. Even with the fires under control, we still wanted to be there. More memories surfaced, especially of the water birds that had mistaken slick, wet slabs of concrete for a pond's surface. Grebes and teals had quickly been referred to us.

When an employee had told us about yet another water bird, he started by saying, "Now, it's not a duck. Not a goose. But it's fat and short." Asking him about color and its beak, he answered, "That bird is dark, dark gray, with a black head. Has a short white beak. It's an old....uh, old..." "Coot," I replied. "Yeah, an old coot!"

Found at the storm water pond, the American coot was on a pipe spanning the catchall. When approached, it went into the water. Refinery personnel had drained the pond to reach the bird. Diving into the oily sludge at the bottom, the coot was a mess to say the least.

Late one evening, another water bird had needed attention. Found with oil on its feathers, the shift crew had taken the duck to a kitchen area in the maintenance barn. Bathing the bird numerous times, they dried it as much as they could with a stack of rags. After heating the oven to a low temperature, they placed a non-flammable material on the opened door. On top of



BEBE MCCASLAND

See BIRDS, Page 6A

Parent's Corner:

The changes brought on by a stranger in the house

I received a very intriguing story the other day that I would like to share with you.

It went like this: A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small Texas town.

From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family.

The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were my instructors: Mom taught me good from evil and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger, he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future!

He took my family to the first major league ball game.

He made me laugh and he made me cry.

The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind. Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral

convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them.

Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home, not from us, our friends or any visitors.

Our longtime visitor, however, got away with every word imaginable, and some four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush.

My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive and generally embarrassing.

I now know that my early concepts about rela-

tionships were influenced strongly by the stranger.

Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked and never asked to leave.

More than 50 years have passed since the stranger moved in with

our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first.

Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him

talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name, well we just call him, "TV."

He now has a partner whom we call

"Computer." It appears that she will change our lives just as he has.

Makes us think just how much our lives have been touched by these strangers, huh?

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



DARRELL RYAN

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Citizens in death

Posthumous citizenship for U.S. troops killed in Iraq brings conflicted feelings for families

By HELEN O'NEILL

AP Special Correspondent

A young, ambitious immigrant from Guatemala who dreamed of becoming an architect. A Nigerian medic. A soldier from China who boasted he would one day become an American general. An Indian native whose headstone displays the first Khanda, emblem of the Sikh faith, to appear in Arlington National Cemetery.

These were among more than 100 foreign-born members of the U.S. military who earned American citizenship by dying in Iraq.

Jose Gutierrez was one of the first to fall, killed by friendly fire in the dust of Umm Qasr in the opening hours of the invasion.

In death, the young Marine was showered with honors his family could only have dreamed of in life. His sister was flown in from Guatemala for his memorial service, where a Roman Catholic cardinal presided and top military officials saluted his flag-draped coffin.

And yet, his foster mother agonized as she accompanied his body back for burial in Guatemala City: Why did Jose have to die for America in order to truly belong?

Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, who oversaw Gutierrez's service, put it differently.

"There is something terribly wrong with our immigration policies if it takes death on the battle-

field in order to earn citizenship," Mahony wrote to President Bush in April 2003. He urged the president to grant immediate citizenship to all immigrants who sign up for military service in wartime.

"They should not have to wait until they are brought home in a casket," Mahony said.

But as the war continues, more and more immigrants are becoming citizens in death — and more and more families are grappling with deeply conflicting feelings about exactly what the honor means.

Gutierrez's citizenship certificate — dated to his death on March 21, 2003, — was presented during a memorial service in Lomita, Calif., to Nora Mosquera, who took in the orphaned teen after he had trekked through Central America, hopping freight trains through Mexico before illegally sneaking into the U.S.

"On the one hand I felt that citizenship was too late for him," Mosquera said. "But I also felt grateful and very proud of him. I knew it would open doors for us as a family."

"What use is a piece of paper?" cried Fredelinda Pena after another emotional naturalization ceremony, this one in New York City where her brother's framed citizenship certificate was handed to his distraught mother. Next to her, the infant daughter he had never met dozed in his fiancée's arms.

Cpl. Juan Alcantara, 22, a native of the Dominican Republic, was killed Aug. 6, 2007, by an explosive in Baqouba. He was buried by a cardinal and eulogized by a congressman but to his sister, those tributes seemed as hollow as citizenship.

"He can't take the oath from a coffin," she sobbed.

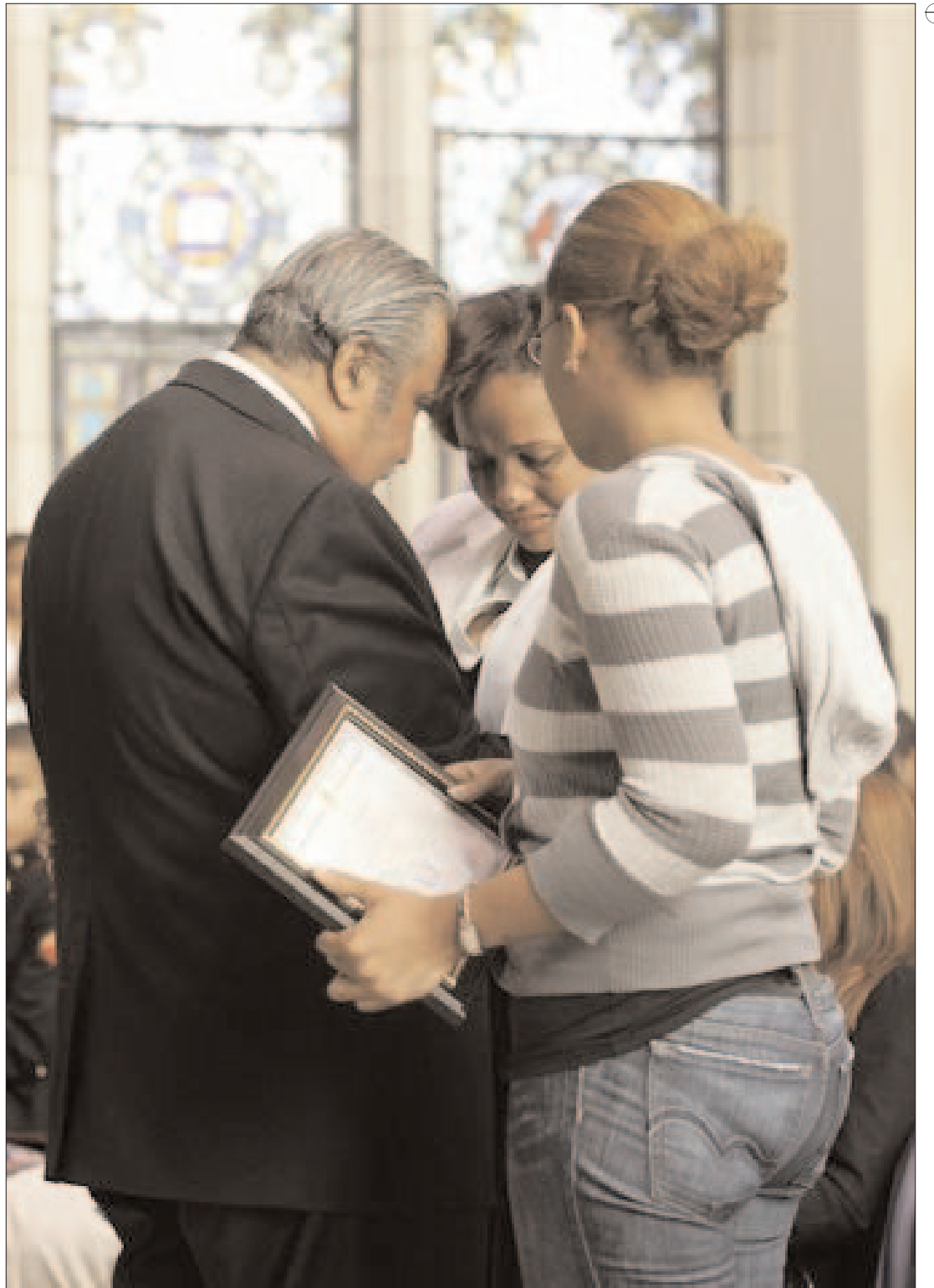
There are tens of thousands of foreign-born members in the U.S. armed forces. Many have been naturalized, but more than 20,000 are not U.S. citizens.

"Green card soldiers," they are often called, and early in the war, Bush signed an executive order making them eligible to apply for citizenship as soon as they enlist. Previously, legal residents in the military had to wait three years.

Since Bush's order, nearly 37,000 soldiers have been naturalized. And 109 who lost their lives have been granted posthumous citizenship.

They are buried with purple hearts and other decorations, and their names are engraved on tombstones in Arlington as well as in Mexico and India and Guatemala.

Among them:
• Marine Cpl. Armando Ariel Gonzalez, 25, who fled Cuba on a raft with his father and brother in 1995 and dreamed of becoming an American firefighter. He was crushed by a refueling tank in southern Iraq on April 14, 2003.
• Army Spc. Justin



AP photo/Mary Altaffer

Congressman Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., left, presents Cpl. Juan Alcantara's mother Maria Alcantara, center, and sister Fredelinda Pena, his Certificate of Naturalization during a special Citizenship Day naturalization ceremony in this Sept. 17, 2007, file photo in New York. Alcantara died Aug. 6 in Baqubah, Iraq, of wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device.

Onwordi, a 28-year-old Nigerian medic whose heart seemed as big as his smiling 6-foot-4 frame and who left behind a wife and baby boy. He died when his vehicle was

blown up in Baghdad on Aug. 2, 2004.
• Army Pfc. Ming Sun, 20, of China who loved the

U.S. military so much he planned to make a career
See CITIZENS, Page 7A

BIRDS

Continued from Page 5A

that the duck was placed so her feathers could dry completely. By the time we arrived, the female had an audience of men on their break. Enjoying the warmth, she seemed perfectly contented to spend the night.

After having run some errands, we returned once again to the hill. Through the binoculars, the flight of the rock doves indicated that although temporarily homeless, they would be persistent in their intent to reside within the refinery. While some birds sought lofty abodes, others water, the feral

pigeons were descendants of the first birds to be domesticated around 4,500 B.C. In the early 1600s, their ancestors had been introduced to this country. They felt empowered.

With food readily available from the grains hauled by passing trains and seeds from surrounding fields, the pigeons sustained their existence and population by the seemingly endless number of open pipe supports for nesting.

When a plant manager had asked me how to go about relocating the birds, any recommendation I offered came with a large price tag. Closing every pipe, or metal barriers for a plant that size

presented a prohibitive cost. Poisons were eliminated because hawks and owls would readily take available prey.

Later that evening, thought was given to the refinery and its wildlife. Over the years, pits had been netted or covered, non-functioning towers removed, and the plant had become cleaner and safer. Ironically, it seemed that out of bad came good. Whether through planned improvements or untimely explosions, the refinery grew in safety and

production.

Retirement offered generations of men and women a rest, while others accepted the challenges. Despite the noise and aromas, birds were always there. As long as there were pipes to perch on, towers, available food and water, feathered friends would co-exist. The health of the refinery seemed to be reflected in the birds that persisted in calling it home.

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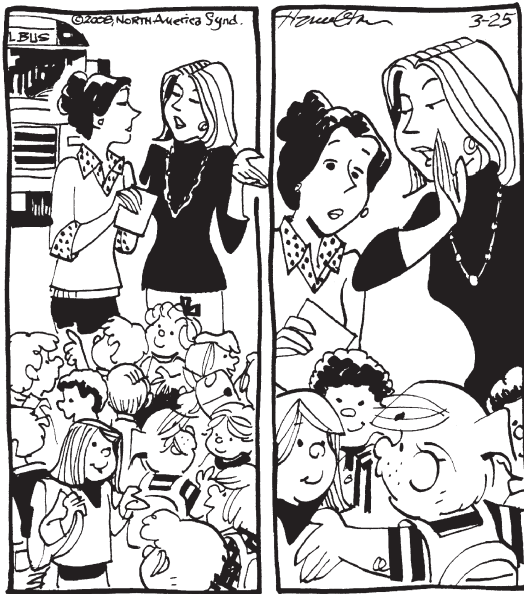
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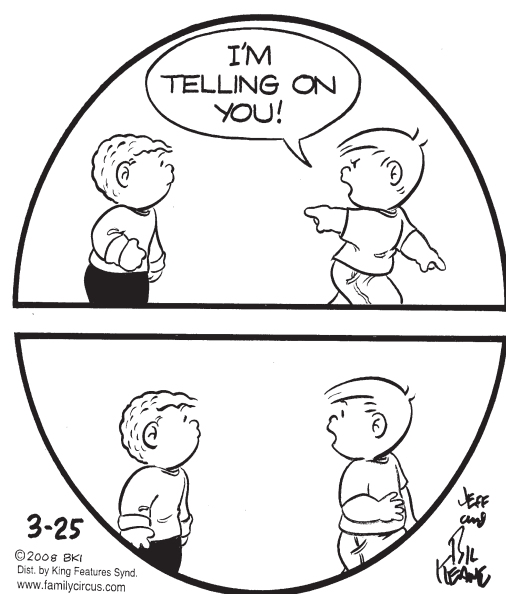
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6:PM	News (CC)	Jeopardy!	Yo Amo a Juan	The Simpsons	News Entertainment	12 Corazones	News Be a Millionaire	Raymond	Dr. Young	News-Lehrer	How It's Made		CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	Live (CC)	Han, Montana	Women's College	College Basketball	Scary But True
7:PM	Dancing-Stars	Dancing-Stars	Al Diablo con Los Guapos	American Idol	NCIS (CC)	La Traicion	The Biggest Loser: Couples	Family Guy	Update Israel	Nova (CC)	Dirty Jobs	Movie: Silverado	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	Movie: Hood Rat (CC)	Movie: Now You See It...	Basketball: NCAA Tourn.	NIT Quarterfinal	Scariest Places on Earth
8:PM	Dancing With the Stars	Dancing With the Stars	Pasion	Til Death	Big Brother: 'Til Death	Victoria	(CC)	Family Guy	Light of the Southwest	Frontline (CC)	Dirty Jobs (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Law & Order	(CC)	(CC)	That's-Raven	Women's College	College Basketball	Scariest Places on Earth
9:PM	Primetime: What Would	Primetime: What Would	Aqui y Ahora	TMZ (CC)	Jericho (CC)	Pecados Ajenos	Law & Order: SVU	The Office	Update Israel	(CC)	How It's Made	CSI: Crime Scene	Bones (CC)	College Hill	That's-Raven	Life Derek	Basketball: NCAA Tourn.	NIT Quarterfinal	ECW
10:PM	News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto	Two-Half Men	News Late Show-	Noticias Titulares y Mas	News Tonight Show	Sex and-City	Charlie Rose (CC)	MythBusters (CC)	Movie: The Comancheros	CSI: NY (CC)	Cold Case (CC)	Iron Ring	Zack & Cody	Second Round	SportsCenter (CC)	Destination Truth (CC)	
11:PM	The Insider	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	La Hora de la Risa	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Letterman Late Late	Decisiones	Late Night	Movie: The Wedding	Ministerio Nueva Vida	Tavis Smiley (CC)	Dirty Jobs (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene	Without a Trace (CC)	Movie: Hood Rat (CC)	Replacements	Basketball Mix Tape Tour	NFL Live College Gmday	Ripley's Believe It or Not!	
12:AM	Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Nina Amada	Pleno 9111	George Lopez	Conan O'Brien	Planner (CC)	Update Israel	Sign Off	Dirty Jobs (CC)	Movie: Star Trek: Voyager	Without a Trace (CC)	Emperor New American Drgn						

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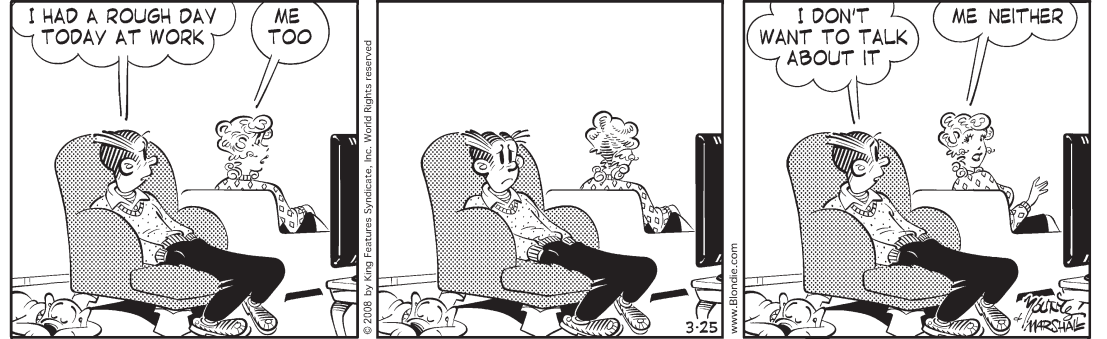
"I'M TELLING ON YOU!"
"What was it you did again?"

HAGAR



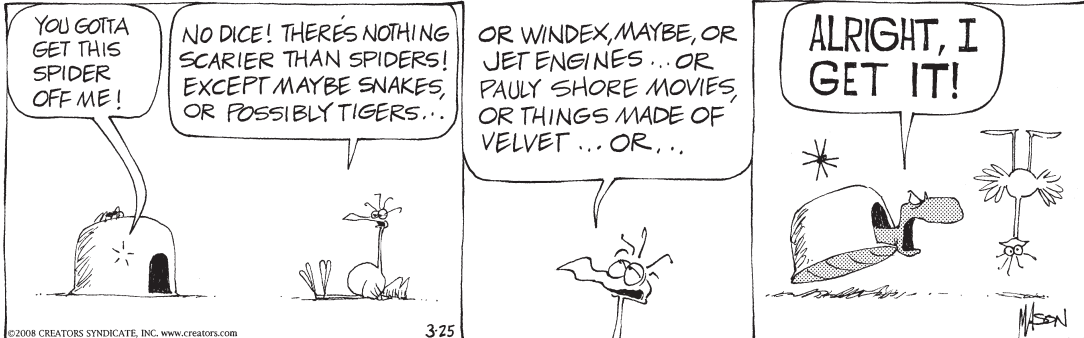
AS YOU KNOW, WE CAN'T SAIL BECAUSE OUR MAST BROKE...
THEREFORE, UNTIL WE CAN GET A NEW ONE, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF ONE OF OUR CREW MEMBERS...

BLONDIE



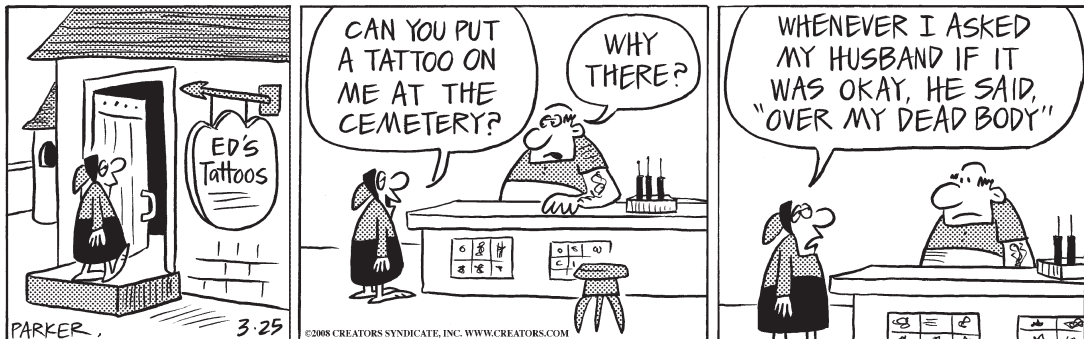
I HAD A ROUGH DAY TODAY AT WORK. ME TOO.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. ME NEITHER.

BC



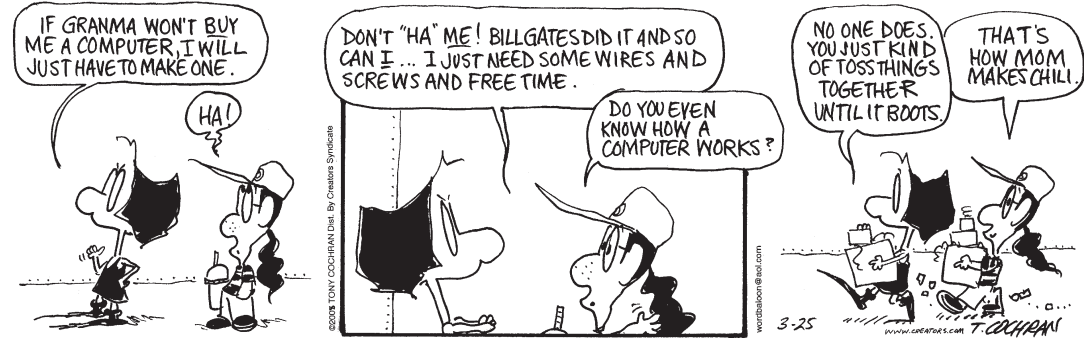
YOU GOTTA GET THIS SPIDER OFF ME!
NO DICE! THERE'S NOTHING SCARIER THAN SPIDERS! EXCEPT MAYBE SNAKES, OR POSSIBLY TIGERS...
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ALRIGHT, I GET IT!

WIZARD OF ID



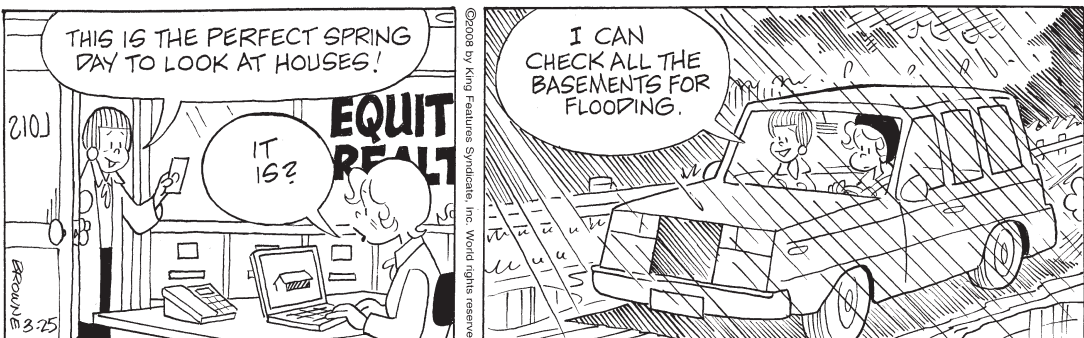
CAN YOU PUT A TATTOO ON ME AT THE CEMETERY?
WHY THERE?
WHENEVER I ASKED MY HUSBAND IF IT WAS OKAY, HE SAID, "OVER MY DEAD BODY"

AGNES



IF GRANMA WON'T BUY ME A COMPUTER, I WILL JUST HAVE TO MAKE ONE.
DON'T "HA" ME! BILLGATES DID IT AND SO CAN I... I JUST NEED SOME WIRES AND SCREWS AND FREE TIME.
NO ONE DOES, YOU JUST KIND OF TOSSTHINGS TOGETHER UNTIL IT BOOTS.
THAT'S HOW MOM MAKES CHILI.

HI AND LOIS



THIS IS THE PERFECT SPRING DAY TO LOOK AT HOUSES!
I CAN CHECK ALL THE BASEMENTS FOR FLOOPIING.

THE OTHER COAST



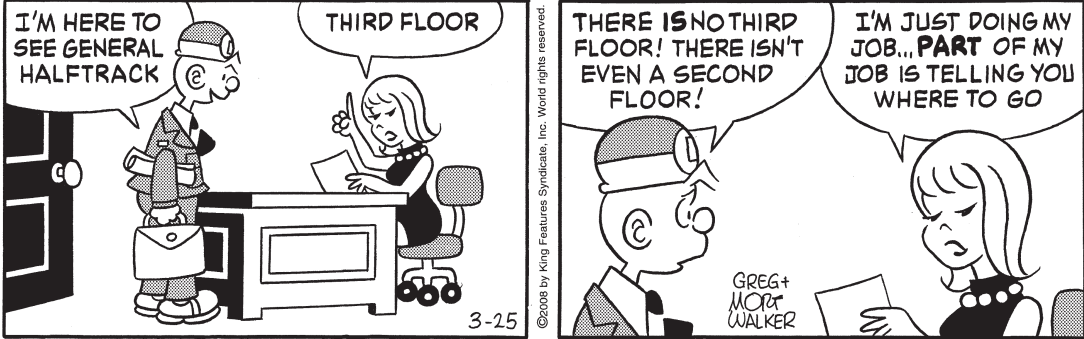
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT IN CASE OF A GLOBAL CATASTROPHE, THIS CAVE IN THE ARCTIC CONTAINS SEEDS FROM EVERY TYPE OF FOOD ON THE PLANET?
EXCEPT BROCCOLI.

SNUFFY SMITH



I'VE DECIDED LIFE'S TOO SHORT TO WASTE MY TIME ON RUMORS AN' HEARSAY, ELVINEY !!
SO JEST GIMME TH' JUICY STUFF YA KNOW TO BE TRUE !!

BEETLE BAILEY



I'M HERE TO SEE GENERAL HALFRACK
THIRD FLOOR
THERE IS NO THIRD FLOOR! THERE ISN'T EVEN A SECOND FLOOR!
I'M JUST PART OF MY JOB... PART OF MY JOB IS TELLING YOU WHERE TO GO

This Date In History

Today is Tuesday, March 25, the 85th day of 2008. There are 281 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 25, 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 marchers to the state capitol in Montgomery, Ala., to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks.

On this date: In 1634, English colonists sent by Lord Baltimore arrived in present-day Maryland.

In 1865, during the Civil War, Confederate forces attacked Fort Stedman in Virginia, but were forced to withdraw by counterattacking Union troops.

In 1894, Jacob S. Coxey began leading an "army" of unemployed from Massillon, Ohio, to Washington to demand help from the federal government.

In 1908, movie director

David Lean ("Brief Encounter," "The Bridge on the River Kwai," "Lawrence of Arabia," "Doctor Zhivago") was born in Croydon, England.

In 1911, 146 people, mostly female immigrants, were killed when fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York.

In 1947, a coal mine explosion in Centralia, Ill., claimed 111 lives.

In 1975, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was shot to death by a nephew with a history of mental illness. (The nephew was beheaded in June 1975.)

In 1988, in New York City's so-called "Preppie Killer" case, Robert Chambers Jr. pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in the death of 18-year-old Jennifer Levin. (Chambers received a sentence of 5 to 15 years in prison; he was released in February 2003.)

In 1990, 87 people, most of them Honduran and Dominican immigrants, were killed when fire raced through an illegal social club in New York City.

Birthdays

Today's Birthdays: Modeling agency founder Eileen Ford is 86. Former astronaut James Lovell is 80. Movie reviewer Gene Shalit is 76. Feminist activist and author Gloria Steinem is 74. Singer Anita Bryant is 68. Singer Aretha Franklin is 66. Actor Paul Michael Glaser is 65. Singer Elton John is 61. Actress Bonnie Bedelia is 60. Actress-comedian Mary Gross is 55. Actor James McDaniel is 50. Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., is 50. Rock musician Steve Norman (Spandau Ballet) is 48. Actress Brenda Strong is 48. Actor Fred Goss is 47.

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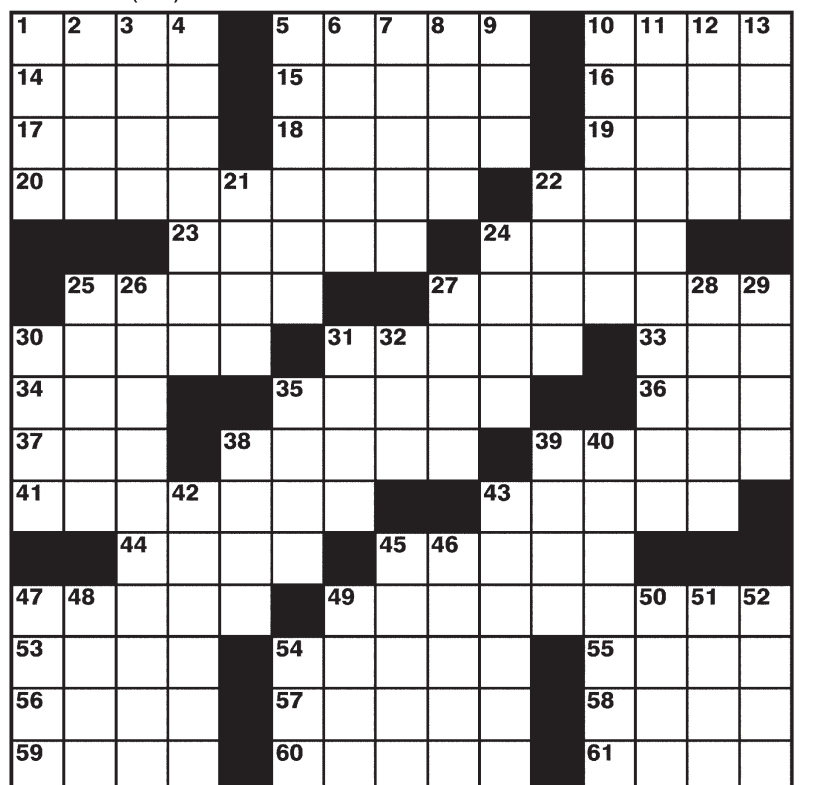
Answer to previous puzzle

ALAS	SLUR	SLAM
GAGA	CARE	PETAL
ONETHING	AT	TIME
GENIE	DECK	ATAD
STRAW	HOWL	
EPICS	SHOALS	
AIL	NAPE	INDIA
TWOEGGS	OVER	EASY
MOGUL	HOER	MTS
SINORED	FRAME	
ONUS	SANDY	
ASAP	ALOE	ITEMS
THREE	LEGGED	TRACE
LILAC	PROM	ALAN
NONO	TEST	PISIT

Newsday Crossword

WRITTEN RECORD by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Bygone days | 1 Verse writer |
| 5 Road-map distances | 2 Prefix for freeze |
| 10 Computer image | 3 Baseball-card info |
| 14 Aware of | 4 Turnpike barrier |
| 15 Like very much | 5 Noisy bird |
| 16 Cincinnati's state | 6 Creative thoughts |
| 17 List-ending abbr. | 7 Pines (for) |
| 18 Aladdin's helpful friend | 8 One of the Great Lakes |
| 19 Magician's stick | 9 Take notice of |
| 20 Place for a book's name | 10 Des Moines natives |
| 22 Picnic sites | 11 Large for-rent vehicle |
| 23 Seventh heaven | 12 Pigpen sound |
| 24 Fender-bender result | 13 Silent answers |
| 25 Picture holder | 14 Shade trees |
| 27 China-shop purchases | 15 Potpie veggies |
| 30 Foamy brews | 16 Cozy rooms |
| 31 Nickels and dimes | 17 Gal's guy |
| 33 Caviar | 18 Bring an answer (to) |
| 34 Swiss peak | 19 Wedding-cake layer |
| 35 Copenhagen natives | 20 Breakfast bread |
| 36 Forbid | 21 Mailed out |
| 37 -mo replay | 22 Military installation |
| 38 Break off | 23 Underground chamber |
| 39 Have confidence in | 24 Place for a bit of jewelry |
| 41 Place for a bit of jewelry | 25 Belt location |
| 43 Belt location | 26 Horn sound |
| 44 Horn sound | 27 Loved ones |
| 45 Loved ones | 28 Facing the pitcher |
| 47 Facing the pitcher | 29 Self-control |
| 49 Self-control | 30 Babysitter's challenge |
| 53 Babysitter's challenge | |



Laura on Life: Recognizing that you are fashion-blind

I was blessed with many wonderful things in my life, not the least of which is my family. One thing that I am sadly lacking in, however, is fashion sense. I am reminded of this lack each time I go to a mall and realize that any outfit that is displayed on those creepy mannequins is not one that I would find myself wearing, unless I did it accidentally.



LAURA SNYDER

a disaster!

not answer the one question I use to determine whether I should wear one of them: "How do I keep the 'girls' from falling out of that?" A simple misstep while bending over to pick up a two-liter of soda that fell off my grocery cart could be

Therefore, I must assume that the women who wear the current trends never pick up anything or they are not as heavily endowed in the north as I am. Too much freedom for my northerly assets is likely to result in them straying from the fold, so to speak.

I learned that lesson years ago when I allowed them to wander and they decided to go out on the town without me. It wouldn't have bothered me so much, but they had a curfew of 1 a.m. and they never called

to tell me they'd be late. I worried about them all night.

OK, then ... getting back to the point: I wouldn't know fashion if it slapped me in the face with her perfectly manicured hand.

My 10-year-old daughter probably has more fashion sense than I do. Unfortunately, I don't really know if she does or not. When she appears before me every morning wearing her latest clothing concoction, I don't know whether to applaud her unorthodox style

or send her back to her room to try again. In my mind, if it's uncomfortable, it's probably fashionable, so that's how I judge.

"Isn't that uncomfortable, honey?"
"No...it's not."
"Well then, you'd better go change."

It's not so much of a problem with the boys in my family. After all, they wear mostly jeans and a t-shirt with some

See **LAURA**, Page 8A

CITIZENS

Continued from Page 6A

out of it, boasting that he would rise to the rank of general. He was killed in a firefight in Ramadi on Jan. 9, 2007.

• Army Spc. Uday Singh, 21, of India, killed when his patrol was attacked in Habbaniyah on Dec. 1, 2003. Singh was the first Sikh to die in battle as a U.S. soldier, and it is his headstone at Arlington that displays the Khanda.

• Marine Lance Cpl. Patrick O'Day from Scotland, buried in the California rain as bagpipes played and his 19-year-old pregnant wife told mourners how honored her 20-year-old husband had felt to fight for the country he loved.

"He left us in the most honorable way a man could," Shauna O'Day said at the March 2003 Santa Rosa service. "I'm proud to say my husband is a Marine. I'm proud to say my husband fought for our country. I'm proud to say he is a hero, my hero."

Not all surviving family members feel so sure. Some parents blame themselves for bringing their child to the U.S. in the first place. Others face confusion and resentment when they try to bury their child back home.

At Lance Cpl. Juan Lopez's July 4, 2004, funeral in the central Mexican town of San Luis de la Paz, Mexican soldiers demanded that the U.S. Marine honor guard surrender their arms, even though the rifles were ceremonial. Earlier, the Mexican Defense Department had denied the Marines' request to conduct the traditional 21-gun salute, saying foreign troops were not permitted to bear arms on Mexican soil.

And so mourners, many deeply opposed to the war, witnessed an extraordinary 45-minute stand-off that disrupted the funeral even as Lopez's weeping widow was handed his posthumous citizenship by a U.S. embassy official.

The same swirl of conflicting emotions and messages often overshadows the military funerals of posthumous citizens in the U.S.

Smuggled across the Mexican border in his mother's arms when he was 2 months old, Jose Garibay was just 21 when he died in Nasiriyah. The Costa Mesa police department made him an honorary police officer, something he had hoped one day to become. America made him a citizen.

But his mother, Simona Garibay, couldn't conceal her bewilderment and pain. It seemed, she said in interviews after the funeral, that more value was being placed on her son's death than on his life.

Immigrant advocates have similar mixed feelings about military service. Non-citizens cannot become officers or serve

in high-security jobs, they note, and yet the benefits of citizenship are regularly pitched by recruiters, and some recruitment programs specifically target colleges and high schools with predominantly Latino students.

"Immigrants are lured into service and then used as political pawns or cannon fodder," said Dan Kesselbrenner, executive director of the National Immigration Project, a program of the National Lawyers Guild. "It is sad thing to see people so desperate to get status in this country that they are prepared to die for it."

Others question whether non-citizens should even be permitted to serve. Mark Krikorian of the conservative Center for Immigration Studies, argues that defending America should be the job of Americans, not non-citizens whose loyalty might be suspect. In granting special benefits, including fast-track citizenship, Krikorian says, there is a danger that soldiering will eventually become yet another job that Americans won't do.

And yet, immigrants have always fought — and died — in America's wars.

During the Civil War, the Union army recruited Irish and German immigrants off the boat. Alfred Rascon, an illegal immigrant from Mexico, received the Medal of Honor for acts of bravery during the Vietnam war. In the 1990s, Gen. John Shalikashvili, born in Poland after his family fled the occupied Republic of Georgia, became chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After the Iraq invasion, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico fielded hundreds of requests from Mexicans offering to fight in exchange for citizenship. They mistakenly believed that Bush's order also applied to nonresidents.

The right to become an American is not automatic for those who die in combat. Families must formally apply for citizen-

ship within two years of the soldier's death, and not all choose to do so.

"He's Italian, better to leave it like that," Saveria Romeo says of her 23-year-old son, Army Staff Sgt. Vincenzo Romeo, who was born in Calabria, died in Iraq and is buried in New Jersey. A miniature Italian flag marks his grave, next to an American one.

"What good would it do?" she says. "It won't bring back my son."

But it would allow her to apply for citizenship for herself, a benefit only recently offered to surviving parents and spouses. Until 2003 posthumous citizenship was granted only through an act of Congress and was purely symbolic. There were no benefits for next of kin.

Romeo says she has no desire to apply. She says she couldn't bear to benefit in any way from her son's death. And besides, she feels Italian, not American.

Fernando Suarez del Solar just feels angry — angry at what he considers the futility of a war that claimed his only son, angry at the military recruiters he says courted young Jesus relentlessly even when the family still lived in Tijuana.

His son was just 13, Suarez del Solar said, when he was first dazzled by Marine recruiters in a California mall. For the next two years Jesus begged the family to emigrate and eventually they did, settling in Escondido, Calif., where the teen signed up for the Marines before he left high school.

Lance Cpl. Jesus Suarez Del Solar was 20 when he was killed by a bomb in the first week of the war. He left behind a wife and baby and parents so bitter about his death that they eventually divorced.

Today, his 52-year-old father has become an outspoken peace activist who travels the country organizing anti-war marches,

giving speeches and working with counter-recruitment groups to dissuade young Latinos from joining the U.S. military.

"There is nothing in my life now but saving these young people," he says. "It is just something I feel have to do."

But first he had to jour-

ney to Iraq. He had to see for himself the dusty stretch of wasteland where his son became an American.

In tears, he planted a small wooden cross. And he prayed for his son — and for all the other immigrants who became citizens in death.



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Electricity, diesel, fertilizer prices tough on farmers

By **BETSY BLANEY**

AP Agriculture Writer

LUBBOCK — South Plains cotton producer Don Langston is eager for a “big rain.”

Without it he'll have to keep irrigation pumps running to water thousands of acres of dusty, parched land so there's enough moisture to plant this year's crop in a couple of months.

He figures he'll spend as much as \$50 more an acre than he did last year, when rainfall was plentiful, even by West Texas standards.

“We're going to have to have a good crop just to break even,” Langston said. “I'm OK. Just need a big rain.”

But for Langston and other agriculture producers across the U.S., electricity costs aren't the only concern. Diesel fuel and fertilizer prices are also weighing on them.

Last year, a farmer could buy a ton of fertilizer for about \$450; the price tag is now closer to

\$1,000, American Farm Bureau Federation chief economist Bob Young said.

And when farmers and ranchers start up their machinery, their wallets will feel lighter.

Last year, 500 gallons of diesel cost between \$500 and \$800. This year it will cost about \$1,500 to fill that same tank.

Most of the hikes in agriculture — as in other sectors — involve higher energy costs. Fertilizer is made from natural gas, for which prices have increased sharply.

“It's pretty difficult to figure out when it's going to stop,” said Colorado City cotton producer Woody Anderson, a former chairman of the National Cotton Council.

“Who knows when things are going to level off?”

Corn producers in West Texas also are feeling the pinch. Billy Bob Brown, who will grow corn and cotton near the town of Panhandle, 30 miles northeast of Amarillo, said it's going to cost him 46 percent more to plant 700 acres of corn.

Most of that is fertilizer, he said.

By his calculations he'll get \$1.98 back for every dollar he puts into his corn crop. That's up from the \$1.33 he made last year for every buck he spent.

“You can see we're not making quite as much money as people think,” the 69-year-old said. “The need for a risk management is extremely impor-

tant because of our high inputs.”

Langston said his electricity costs will go up again during the growing season as utility companies add a surcharge using pump engines' horsepower — during their peak usage months.

That's why early rain is critical.

“We could very well see a dry start which means producers will have to start watering from the time they plant, instead of having that bank of moisture,” said Shawn Wade, spokesman for the Plains Cotton Growers, which serves 41 counties on the South Plain, the world's largest contiguous growing patch.

Brown's emphasis on risk management

includes weather that's typical in West Texas during spring.

“If a fellow were to catch a hail storm and lose a crop you'd have one heck of a financial loss,” Brown said.

Portions of Texas, the nation's leading cotton producing state, have moved back into drought conditions, in part because of a La Nina weather pattern that brings warmer and drier weather patterns.

A two-year dry period in Texas ended in 2007, the seventh wettest year on record and 10 inches over the normal average rainfall. Lubbock is currently about .75 inches behind normal, compared to 2.5 inches above normal this time last year.

The state was expected to plant half (4.8 million acres) of the nation's forecast 9.5 million acres. Texas' tally is a drop of 2.3 percent from last year; the U.S. number is a 12 percent decrease from 2007.

Producers also are wondering whether they'll see a completed farm bill any time soon. The cotton industry is pushing for safety net similar to one in the bill that officially expired in the fall.

Congress voted to extend that to April 18, and there has been talk of extending it another year.

“That's the big question mark in all of our minds,” Anderson said. “The uncertainty of not having a farm bill certainly adds to the anxiety.”

LAURA

Continued from Page 7A

smart aleck comment on it. Although, I have come to the realization that the amount of jean material touching the floor and the subsequent lack of jean material covering their behind is, in fact, a fashion issue. They pull the jeans down, we pull them up. Down. Up. Down. Up. It's like constantly adjusting a set of mini-blinds.

Other than that, fashion for boys is not as difficult a terrain to traverse as girls' fashion. Thank goodness for that, because three of my boys are color blind. There are times, however, when they use this handicap as a convenient excuse for a fashion faux pas. Years ago, one of them wore a plaid bathing suit with a striped t-shirt. This look has probably been in fashion at some point in history — in fact it may be “in” now and I wouldn't know it — but at the time, it hurt my eyes. So I told him that stripes don't go with plaid. He retorted indignantly, “Well, how was I supposed to know that, I'm color blind!” Apparently, he was also temporarily pattern blind.

Of course, I know there are fashion rules that concern the popularity of a certain name displayed on an article of clothing and the sticker price of a pair of sneakers. However, these are rules that I blatantly ignore...on purpose; which is why the fashion police have a warrant out for my arrest. They want to give me a frontal lobotomy, dress me in Vera Wang and install me in a Macy's display window. That should answer your questions as to whether those creepy store mannequins are real or not.

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