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BIG SPRING

HERALD

THURSDAY
MARCH 27, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 101

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Coming March 30

Look at

at the Crossroads of West Texas

Profiles Edition

Shots fired; 1 injured

Victim refuses to cooperate in investigation, police say

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The onslaught of gang activity in Big Spring continued Wednesday night, as investigators with the Big Spring Police Department attempt to piece together a pair of shootings

that left at least one person injured.

According to Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the BSPD, a report of a gunshot wound was called in to dispatchers at approximately 5:26 p.m.

"The call was in reference to a gunshot victim located at the 7-Eleven convenience store at Highway 80 and Willia," said Everett. "Upon arrival, officers found that a subject in a red Camaro had been shot. He was immediately transported by

ambulance to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center."

Everett said that was as far as the wounded subject would cooperate with officers.

See **SHOTS**, Page 3A

City asks TxDOT for help on FM 700

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

With two traffic fatalities to its credit in the past year, the stretch of FM 700 near the rear entrance to Scenic Mountain Medical Center has the city of Big Spring asking the Texas Department of Transportation for more safety measures.



Darden

The Big Spring City Council approved a resolution Tuesday night requesting that TxDOT — which is responsible for the thoroughfare — provide additional street lamps and a three-way hazard light for the location.

"It's very poorly lighted and right after a curve in the road," said Todd Darden, assistant city manager. "TxDOT lighting ends at about Dr. Myers office (1702 W. FM 700). We visited with them (TxDOT) about the problem and suggested

See **SAFETY**, Page 3A



A participant leads his own cheers during the 2007 Hoops, Dreams and Goals Basketball Tournament. This year's tournament begins at 9 a.m. Friday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Hoops, Dreams and Goals event planned Friday

Special to the Herald

Basketball teams from around the region are gearing up for Friday's annual Hoops, Dreams and Goals Basketball Tournament at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

Six teams from around the area — the Big Spring Heat, Seminole Pink Panthers, Ballinger Longhorns, Sweetwater Red Rattlers, Snyder Wildkatz and Monahans Warriors — complete with their own cheerleading squads, will compete in games and special events at the home of the Howard College Hawks and Lady Hawks.

It's West Texas Centers

for MHMR's own version of March Madness when the eight teams tip off at 9 a.m. Friday.

The tournament is also a time for the consumers of West Texas Centers for MHMR to exercise in an energized environment and celebrate March as Mental Retardation Month, West Texas Centers CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW, said.

"This is the fourth year West Texas Centers has sponsored the tournament," Smith said. "And every year is more successful and more fun than the last."

Big Spring Mayor Russ McEwen, along with State

See **HOOPS**, Page 3A

Texas hottest growth state in the nation

By **PAUL J. WEBER**
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Four Texas metropolitan areas were among the biggest population gainers as Americans continued their trend of moving to the Sun Belt in 2006 and 2007, according to

Census Bureau estimates to be released today.

Dallas-Fort Worth added more than 162,000 residents between July 2006 and July 2007, more than any other metro area. Three other Texas areas — Houston, Austin and San

Antonio — also cracked the top 10.

Atlanta saw the second-largest population jump with just over 151,000 new residents. Phoenix was third with more than 132,000, and was followed by Houston, Riverside, Calif.,

Charlotte, N.C., Chicago, Austin, Las Vegas and San Antonio.

Of the 50 fastest-growing metro areas, 27 were in the South and 20 were in the West. Two were in the Midwest, one —

See **GROWTH**, Page 3A

INDEX

Classified 5-7 B

Features 5A

Obituaries 2A

Opinion 4A

Sports 1-4B

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Focused on moving forward

Maj. John A. Meyer helps injured soldiers recover

By **PHYLLIS HANSON**
Special to the Herald

SAN ANTONIO — They say "time heals all wounds," but for injured soldiers returning home from war, it takes a great deal more than that — it takes the help of an army.

For the son of a Big Spring woman, helping these wounded heroes to heal and transi-

tion is priority number one. Who better to understand the pains that a wounded soldier suffers and the triumphs of rehabilitation than a soldier whose boots have gone down that same combat-beaten path?

Army National Guard Maj. John A. Meyer, the son of Joan Meyer of Big Spring, is

part of a Warriors in Transition Battalion that for the past year has been helping wounded soldiers recover both physically and mentally. Meyer works in a recovery setting unlike any the Army had yet to date offered.

Meyer is an operations offi-

See **MEYER**, Page 3A



Maj. Meyer

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Sports

BIG SPRING HERALD

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

Page 1B
Thursday, March 27, 2008

IN BRIEF

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

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.

SATURDAY

Big Spring softball at Frenship, 1 p.m.
Coahoma softball at Monahans, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY

Big Spring baseball vs. Frenship, 4:30 p.m.
Big Spring softball at San Angelo Lake View, 4 p.m.
Coahoma baseball at Colorado City, 7 p.m.
Coahoma softball at Colorado City, 7 p.m.
Forsan softball vs. Miles, 5 p.m.
Forsan baseball at Menard, 4:30 p.m.

Big Spring Country Club hosting 3-person scramble

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

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

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

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

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

Call the Pro Shop at 267-5354 for details.

Crossroads of West Texas Golf Classic scheduled

The Big Spring Chamber of Commerce and ATMOS Energy are sponsoring the Crossroads of West Texas Golf 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. The fee includes access to the ATMOS Energy hospitality tent, free beverages, a barbecue lunch for both days, an afternoon shootout on May 16 and a golf goodie bag.

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

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

Young becomes face of Rangers

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

SURPRISE, Ariz. — When last season was over, Michael Young had 200 hits again and had been to another All-Star game.

Another routine year for the Texas Rangers shortstop, the kind of performance his team has come to expect.

"There's no doubt he has great ability," Rangers hitting coach Rudy Jaramillo said. "Really to me, he doesn't get enough credit. This kid's a superstar in my mind."

But that kind of status and repeated standout seasons weren't really what the Rangers expected when Young was still a minor leaguer and the secondary player they got with pitcher Darwin Cubillan in a 2000 trade that sent right-hander Esteban Loaiza to Toronto.

"He's a better player than we thought," said Milwaukee general manager Doug Melvin, the Rangers GM at the time. "There were a lot of the intangibles that we didn't know about."

Since Alex Rodriguez was traded four years ago, Young has

become a clubhouse leader and the face of the Texas franchise. Young is signed through 2013 after getting an \$80 million contract extension last spring.

Young has been to four All-Star games since switching from second base after A-Rod's departure. Young also has five consecutive 200-hit seasons, a streak surpassed only by the seven in a row by Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki and Hall of Famer Wade Boggs. He led the AL with a .331 average in 2005 and has a .302 career average.

Texas had two minor league

infielders to choose from in that 2000 deal, and took Young because he could play both middle infield spots. The other was Brent Abernathy, who was back in the minors the past two years after 232 games for three major league teams from 2001-05.

Young started 102 games as a rookie second baseman after being called up in May 2001. But Melvin was fired after that season, and then-manager Jerry Narron had to fight to keep Young on the roster and in the

See **YOUNG**, Page 4B

T-Mac leads Rockets past T-Wolves

By **CHRIS DUNCAN**

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — With seven of their final 10 games on the road, the Houston Rockets couldn't afford to slip up against the lowly Minnesota Timberwolves.

Tracy McGrady and Luis Scola made sure they didn't.

McGrady scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter and Scola had 18 points and a career-high 18 rebounds in the Rockets' 97-86 victory Wednesday night.

"The fourth quarter, usually the best player has got to step up and lead the team," McGrady said. "I just couldn't afford for us to lose this game, so I had to impose my will on it."

McGrady also had 11 rebounds and nine assists to help the Rockets keep pace in the tight Western Conference race.

McGrady, wearing a bandage on his left shoulder after spraining it late in Monday night's win over Sacramento, was 4-for-15 from the field after three quarters. He made three straight jumpers in a 2-minute span in the last quarter as the Rockets opened a double-digit lead and finally put away the Timberwolves.

"I got a little rhythm going," McGrady said, "and I took over the ballgame."

The Rockets outrebounded the Wolves 58-38 and scored 14 second-chance points to win for the 19th time in their last 21 home games.

Al Jefferson had 21 and 10 rebounds for Minnesota, which had won four of its last six games.

See **ROCKETS**, Page 4B



AP photo/Pat Sullivan

Houston Rockets point guard Rafer Alston (12) drives to the basket while defended by Minnesota Timberwolves guards Marko Jaric, left, and Randy Foye (4) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday in Houston. The Rockets won 96-87.

Spurs withstand rally, defeat Clippers 97-88

By **ELIZABETH WHITE**

Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Every game is important now for the San Antonio Spurs, who are in a tight playoff race in the Western Conference.

The Los Angeles Clippers also played with a sense of urgency Wednesday night, even though they won't be in the postseason.

The Spurs withstood a late Clippers rally before they racked up their fifth straight win with a 97-88 victory.

"It was just great focus," said guard Tony Parker, who scored 15 points. "Even when we were down five it was like, 'Come on.' We knew that with the standings, we can't afford to lose the game."

The win gave San Antonio a 17-game lead over the sixth-place Phoenix Suns in the West, where the standings change nearly every night.

Tim Duncan led the Spurs with 26 points and 12 rebounds to close out the last of six back-to-backs the team played this month. They went 4-2 on the second night of the back-to-backs.

"I'm real proud of the effort they put out and the focus they showed at the end of the game tonight," Spurs coach Gregg

Popovich said. "Now we'll take a well-deserved day off."

Corey Maggette scored 22 points for Los Angeles, which has lost nine in a row and is out of playoff contention. Al Thornton added 21 points and nine rebounds and Chris Kaman, back after a nine-game absence with a sore lower back, scored 16.

"We just wanted to play well," Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy said. "And we've been playing a lot of good games. But we play a lot of guys a lot of minutes because we've been short-handed. It catches up to you a little bit. Tonight our guys were tired. We had good, open looks. We just didn't finish."

The return of Kaman, who had been relatively quiet for the first three quarters and played limited minutes, proved crucial to the Clippers in the fourth quarter. He and Maggette keyed an 11-0 run by the Clippers, and his basket with 7:23 to play gave them their first lead — 80-79 — since they were up 3-2 early.

The Clippers went up by five before the Spurs answered with a 10-0 run — highlighted by a 3 from the team's resident sparkplug, Manu Ginobili — that put

See **NBA**, Page 3B



AP photo/Delcia Lopez

San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan, center, is defended by Los Angeles Clippers center Chris Kaman, right, during the second quarter of a NBA basketball game in San Antonio, Wednesday. The Spurs defeated the Clippers, 97-88.

Obituaries

Betty Brumley

Betty Brumley, 78, died Thursday, March 27, 2008, in a local hospital. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Georgia Luce

Georgia Luce, 88, of Big Spring, died Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at Parkview Nursing and Rehab. Services are pending with Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Take Note

- Mobile Meals needs volunteers to deliver meals Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The organization delivers approximately 70 meals each day and needs drivers to donate just one hour per week. Mobile Meals also needs back-up volunteers to fill in when regular drivers can't make it. For more information, contact Macaria Cantu at 263-4016.

- 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.

- New Life Ministries Church of God In Christ is holding a soup kitchen every second and fourth Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 204 N.W. 10th. The meal is free. Call 264-0771 for more information.

- The Pet Patrol helps locate lost pets and owners of found pets. To volunteer or for more information, call Melanie Gambrell at 267-PETS (7387).

- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas is accepting appointments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of each month. Individuals seeking legal advice for matters concerning family law, divorce, custody and child support issues, social security cases, employment and housing may contact the office to schedule an appointment. Criminal cases are not accepted. Anyone recently served with legal documents should call the office immediately at 800-926-5630 or 432-686-0647.

Police blotter

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

- **REGINALD JAMES**, 38, of 1000 W. Fourth Street Apt. 214, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child.
- **ARNULFO CHAVERA**, 27, of 2401 S. Main, was arrested Wednesday on six local warrants and a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **THEODORE E. RIOS**, 37, of 3206 W. Eighth Street, was arrested Thursday on a charge of disorderly conduct - fighting.
- **TIMOTHY JOHN RIOS**, 30, of 702 Lorilla, was arrested Thursday on a charge of disorderly conduct - fighting.
- **JESSIE DELGADO JR.**, 22, of 1900 Martin Luther King Blvd., was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 200 block of FM 700.
 - in the 1100 block of Lamesa.
- **POSSESSION OF A DANGEROUS DRUG** was reported in the 700 block of 11th Place.
- **DEADLY CONDUCT/DISCHARGE OF FIREARM** was reported in the 3200 block of Eighth Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 2100 block of Swords.
- **AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON** was reported:
 - in the 800 block of Wyoming.
 - in the 900 block of Willia.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 40 inmates at the time of this report.
- **LINDA THIBODEAU**, 53, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of theft by check.
 - **EDDIE MONTEMAYOR**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
 - **CLIFFORD LEON ANGLIN**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of possession of marijuana - two ounces or less and tampering with/fabricating physical evidence.
 - **BERNARDO FRAUSTO PEREZ JR.**, 43, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of assault causing bodily injury.
 - **DAVID ARTHUR WITTEIN**, 28, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of bail jumping/failure to appear.
 - **CHRISTIAN DAVON GORDON**, 25, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 2000 block of Albrook. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1700 block of Yale. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the area of N.E. Seventh Street.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the area of E. Fifth Street.
- **AUTOMOBILE FIRE** was reported in the 1900 block of Wasson Road.

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

• Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 11 a.m. to noon at 615 Settles. Open meeting 5 p.m. until 6 p.m.

MONDAY

• Encourager's Support Group for all widows and widowers meets the first and third Monday of the month. For more information, call Nancy Hale at 398-5239.

TEXASTONE QUARRIES SUPPORTS RELAY FOR LIFE!



TexaStone Rockers were top fundraisers in 2007 for the Howard-Glasscock County Relay for Life. So come see us on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for our Stone and Scrap Sale, all proceeds go to AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY.

Call for Details 432-354-2569.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY

- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.

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.

MONDAY

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.
- Prospector's Club work night begins at 7 p.m. at 606 E. Third.

Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 40s. West winds 10 to 15 mph.

Friday...Partly cloudy. Much cooler. Highs in the upper 60s. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s. East winds around 10 mph.

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

Sunday...Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s. Sunday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s.

Monday...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s.

Monday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Cooler. Lows in the mid 40s.

Tuesday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Tuesday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 50s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.

Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 12-25-27-40-43-47. Number matching six of six: 0.

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery: 21-23-25-26-32

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 6-1-4-7. Sum It Up: 18.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-2-2. Sum It Up: 11

Support Groups

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) No. 21 meets at 5 p.m. at the First Christian Church at 10th and Goliad for weigh-in. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Call 213-1342 or 263-6819.

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.

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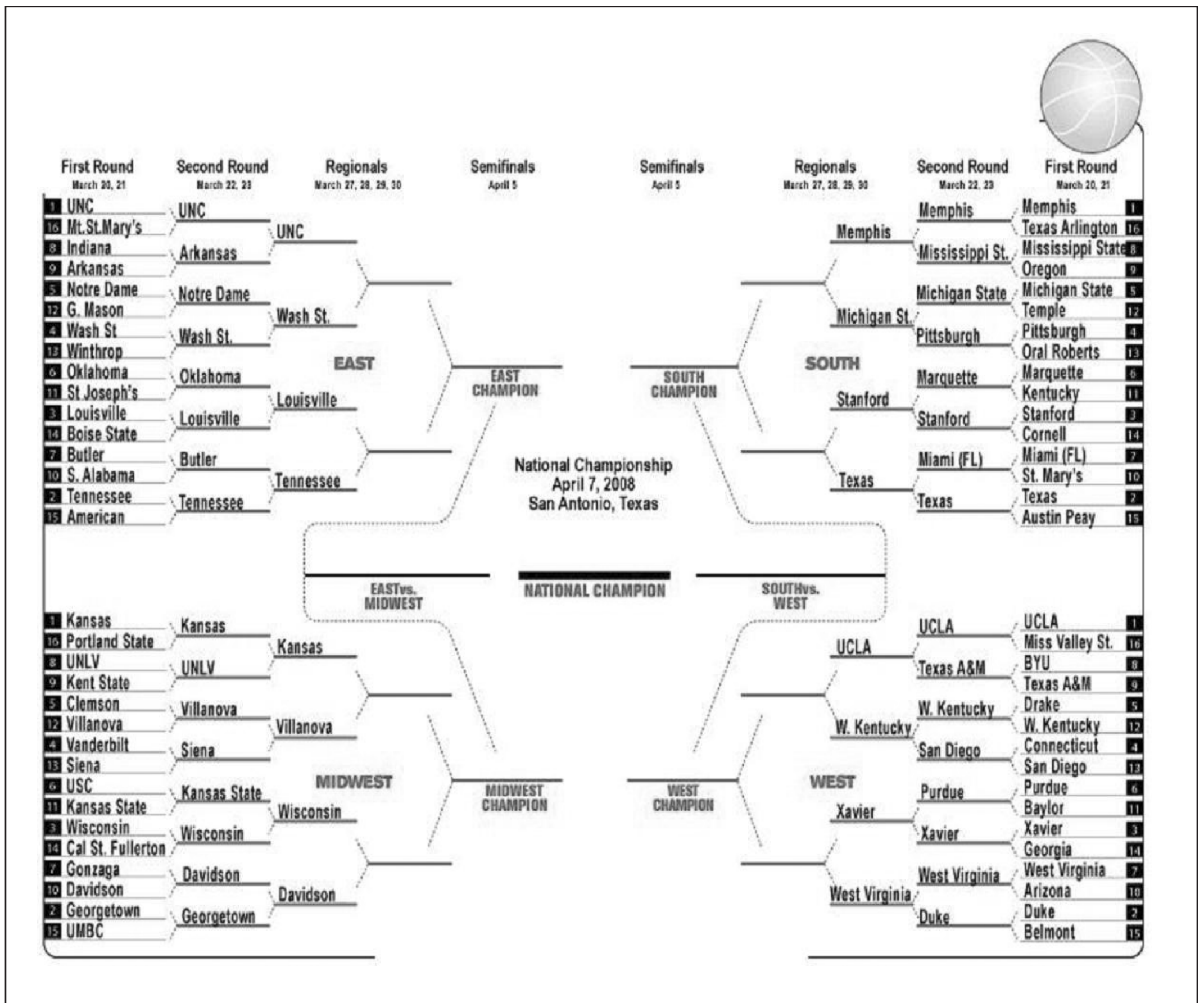
TEXASTONE QUARRIES SUPPORTS RELAY FOR LIFE!

TEXASTONE QUARRIES

TexaStone Rockers were top fundraisers in 2007 for the Howard-Glasscock County Relay for Life. So come see us on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for our Stone and Scrap Sale, all proceeds go to AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY.

Call for Details 432-354-2569.

2008 NCAA TOURNAMENT



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ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR

HOOPS

Continued from Page 1A

Rep. Joe Heflin, and Stefanie Wilkerson, representing State Sen. Kel Seliger, will assist with opening ceremonies.

The event, co-sponsored by The

Howard County Arc, Howard College and West Texas Centers, recognizes and honors the many individuals and families who live with mental retardation on a daily basis, Smith said.

"We play music that you find at many basketball arenas around the country and that, coupled with our spirited cheerleaders, just adds to the excitement

of the games," she said.

The teams compete for a first place trophy but everyone is declared a winner.

"I wish everyone would come out and watch the games and all of the other special events we have on this day. I can't think of any other day in my life that I look forward to more than the day we host Hoops, Dreams and Goals," said

Smith. "The tournament is the highlight of my year."

The event is free and open to the public. For more information or if you would like to volunteer, contact Rodney Jones at 263-9795 or Rodney.Jones@wtcmhmr.org

SHOTS

Continued from Page 1A

"The subject who was wounded is a known gang member and refused to cooperate," said Everett. "It appeared to officers the shooting happened on Eighth Street, between Creighton and Lorilla. The victim's injuries were not life-threatening and he refused to press charges or assist in the

investigation."

While the wounded subject's refusal to cooperate could well have been the end of the investigation, Everett said officers were once again called to the area where the shooting was believed to have occurred.

"That evening detectives with the BSPD were monitoring activity in that area," said Everett. "At about 12:18 a.m. officers heard numerous shots, and within seconds arrived at the intersection of Eighth

Street and Creighton.

"The officers were told no one was hit by bullets and the actors had run inside a home at 804 Creighton, a suspected gang party house."

Everett said law enforcement officials then called in the Special Operations Response Team (SORT).

"A search warrant was obtained for the residence," said Everett. "The police SORT team was called in and began by introducing OC (oleoresin

capsicum) gas into the residence and later entered the house and found no one inside."

Everett said the matter is still under investigation.

Wednesday's report of gunfire joins approximately 20 other reports of deadly conduct/discharge of a firearm made in the city of Big Spring since the beginning of the year, including an early-morning drive-by shooting in the 1500 block of Owens Tuesday that sent an 11-

year-old boy to the hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

According to police officials, the majority of the reports are gang related. No arrests have been made in connection with Wednesday's shooting.

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

SAFETY

Continued from Page 1A

they look at putting up a light and they talked about just going out and putting up reflective buttons. We felt that type of reflective warning wasn't enough to take care of the safety issue we have."

Darden said he hopes the resolution will help influence TxDOT's decision in the matter, but it could have little or no effect.

"It may not go any further than this," said Darden. "But this resolu-

tion says the council supports TxDOT having additional lighting for that driveway, as well as a caution lamp warning traffic going through the area that emergency vehicles do use that area to enter."

At least two traffic fatalities have taken place at the location in the past year.

Mary Hughes, 91, of Big Spring was pronounced dead at Scenic Mountain Medical Center Aug. 17, 2007, after her vehicle was struck by an automobile traveling west on the inside lane of FM 700.

Hughes was attempting to turn east on FM 700, according to law enforcement officials.

A similar crash involving a motorcycle claimed the life of 56-year-old John Turner at the same location Oct. 31, 2007. Turner, who was traveling west on FM 700, died after his motorcycle collided with a vehicle that was attempting to make a left turn onto the roadway.

McEwen said there may be a second way to help make the stretch of road safer if TxDOT balks on the city's request.

"It would be great if

they did this, but my question is would it become safer if they designated that as a slower area?" asked McEwen. "Would it help if we had a slower speed limit there? The reason I think of that is there is a stretch of Highway 71 going into Austin where numerous people have been killed because people don't observe the traffic laws. Last weekend I was there, and there were like four or five highway patrolmen giving out lots and lots of tickets. The theory I saw is people are going to start slowing down if

you hit their pocketbook.

"My concern is this is a very dangerous area because you have emergency vehicles coming in and you have people that are absolutely flying through the area," he added. "Does anybody have a problem with changing the speed limit in that area?"

Councilwoman Gloria McDonald said she's not sure if a decrease in the speed limit on the stretch of FM 700 is the answer to the problem.

"I hate to change the speed limit on an area designed to get around

from Point A to Point B," said McDonald. "For such a small area, I think it would be very hard to enforce. Of course, if you get a ticket three times right there, you will slow down."

Darden said TxDOT is expected to conduct a study of the location — including any history of traffic accidents — and report their findings to the city.

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

GROWTH

Continued from Page 1A

Fayetteville, Ark. — straddles the South and Midwest and none was in the Northeast.

Detroit lost more than three times as many people as any other metro area — its population declined more than 27,300. Other areas losing more than 5,000 people were Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Columbus, Ga., Youngstown, Ohio, and

Buffalo, N.Y.

Experts credit much of the growth in the South to relatively strong local economies and housing prices that are among the most affordable in the U.S.

"People are running away from unaffordable housing, from the economic slowdown," said Karl Eschbach, a state demographer in Texas. "I would expect Texas to stay at the top of a slowing game."

According to figures compiled by Eschbach, 16

percent of Americans who moved to other states between July 2006 and July 2007 came to Texas, which led the nation for the second straight year in that category.

Home prices continue to be a big factor. A report earlier this month by Global Insight found that housing prices in the Dallas area were undervalued by as much as 30 percent.

Ann Sekesan, a pharmacy technician, moved her family from Pennsylvania to suburban Fort Worth

last June after seeing spacious homes in Texas for under \$200,000 on a television show.

"After we saw that on TV, my husband and I looked at each other and said, 'Have you ever been to Texas?'" Sekesan said. "It's amazing the size of a home you can get down here. It's just incredible."

Among other Census Bureau findings:

• On a percentage basis, the Palm Coast, Fla., area was the fastest-growing in the nation. Population

there jumped by 7.2 percent to more than 536,000. The next areas experiencing the biggest surge in growth were St. George, Utah; Raleigh, N.C.; Gainesville, Ga.; and Austin.

• The New Orleans area, recovering from Hurricane Katrina, grew by 4 percent or nearly 40,000 people, putting it 16th in terms of raw numbers but eighth for percentage growth. During the same survey last year, the population of New

Orleans dropped by nearly 290,000 people.

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Allie Mae Moser, 93, died Tuesday. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 PM Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

Georgia Luce, 88, died Wednesday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

MEYER

Continued from Page 1A

cer for the Warrior Transition Battalion at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

"I manage all the training and tasks for the battalion and track the work program," said Meyer, who is a 1992 graduate of Texas Tech University.

The battalion is among 35 warrior transition units worldwide established in mid 2007 to better serve the severely injured soldiers' needs. The transition unit's staff focuses on a system called "triad of care," staffed by a platoon or squad leader, primary care manager and a case manager for each soldier.

Meyer and his team work together with the

wounded warriors to ensure medical and administrative needs are met and the transition from illness or injury to reintegration in the force or civilian life is as smooth as possible. The Triad maintains the warriors' records, take them to appointments, ensure their finances are in line and also help their families with issues they might be having.

"This transition battalion is in more comfort-

able environment for the soldier, so that he or she may focus on healing and moving forward," said Meyer.

The 18-year Army National Guard veteran has been assigned to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio for the majority of his career. Meyer has been deployed to Kosovo and Afghanistan. He plans to retire and continue working as a federal employee.

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AN ENCOURAGING WORD



By Eddy Pitchford

Many parts of Arkansas and Missouri are flooded because of recent rains. Some areas received no rain but are swamped by water from upstream. I believe this illustrates life in many ways.

Many children are flooded with doubt, discontent and discouragement because of choices made by parents. Many adults are sinking in life today due to choices made several years ago.

On a positive note, choices you make today can prompt love to overflow into the lives of family and friends for generations to come. Your word of kindness may be vital in keeping a marriage intact. Your note of encouragement may help a person make a wise decision. Your prayer may be the pivotal point in someone obeying the Lord. Your influence may enable a coworker to properly prioritize life.

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NBA

Continued from Page 1B

them up 89-84 with 1:43 to play. At the same time, the Clippers didn't post any points for more than 4-1/2 minutes and didn't hit a field goal for the last 5:58.

"We took the lead there and just couldn't capitalize. They got a bunch of stops in a row. We just fell apart on offense," Kaman said. "I think we panicked a little bit. ... We were up five points but we couldn't finish the game, which has been a consistent problem for us all year."

The surge gave San Antonio the lead for good, though Ginobili didn't stop and scored another basket, followed by a 3 from Michael Finley to make it 94-86 with 37 seconds to play and put the game out of reach for the Clippers.

"We missed some easy shots that were dead-on. You want to give yourself a chance in the fourth quarter, especially against a really good team. And we gave it a battle," said Cuttino Mobley, who scored 10 points for Los Angeles.

Finley added 16 points for the Spurs, and Ginobili scored 13.

The Spurs jumped out to a 27-18 lead after the opening quarter and led by as many as 13 in the first half, but eight straight Clippers points from Thornton to close the half brought Los Angeles to within 48-44.

In the third quarter, the Clippers crept close to the Spurs before finally tying it at 69 with 1:04 to play off Thornton's jumper, but they never took the lead. It was tied again at 71 before Bruce Bowen's 3-pointer, from his sweet spot in the corner, gave the Spurs a 74-71 lead with one quarter to play.

Notes: Spurs G Brent Barry, who re-signed with the team this week after a monthlong absence as part of a San



AP photo/Kevork Djanssezian

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) is ejected from the game by referee David Jones after receiving his second technical foul for kicking the ball during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Charlotte Bobcats at the Staples Center in Los Angeles Wednesday. Bobcats won 108-95.

Antonio-Seattle trade in February, was on the Spurs' bench but didn't dress. ... Clippers C-F Aaron Williams continued to sit out with a lower abdominal strain. ... Spurs F Robert Horry was still out with a bruised left knee. ... The Clippers shot 39 percent from the field.

Bobcats 108, Lakers 95

Kobe Bryant wasn't around at the finish of a bad loss, and Phil Jackson didn't stick around very long to explain what happened.

The Los Angeles Lakers' stunning 108-95 home defeat to the lowly Charlotte Bobcats on Wednesday night dropped them behind three teams in the Western Conference standings. Jason Richardson had 34 points and 10 rebounds, Raymond Felton added 13 points and 10 assists for Charlotte, and Bryant drew two technical fouls in a span of 29 seconds late in the fourth quarter and was ejected.

Bryant has 15 technicals, and one more means an automatic one-game suspension.

"Well, I may look like I'm

here to explain something, but I have nothing to explain," Jackson said of losing to a Charlotte squad that is now 7-28 on the road. "I can't explain it, so don't ask me any questions. It just looked like we were out of character, tremendously out of character, in more ways than one — irrational play at times, inconsistent at best, but just some poor judgments, poor decisions."

When a reporter asked about Bryant, Jackson smiled, stood up and left the interview room.

The loss dropped the Lakers (49-23) into a three-way tie for

second place in the West with Houston and San Antonio.

"Our defense was terrible from the start," Luke Walton said. "Every team has talented players. If you don't show up ready to play, that's what's going to happen. There's no excuse for us to come out on our home court and not take care of business."

Matt Carroll added 18 points and Gerald Wallace had 15 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for the Bobcats, who won for just the second time in eight games and snapped a six-game road losing streak.

Hornets 100, Cavaliers 99

David West's 17-foot jumper, coming on Chris Paul's 20th assist with less than a second left, gave the Hornets their fifth straight win.

LeBron James' 75-foot heave at the horn bounced off the 24-second clock at the other end. He had 21 points.

Peja Stojakovic scored 25 points — 18 on 3-pointers — and West added 20 points for the Hornets.

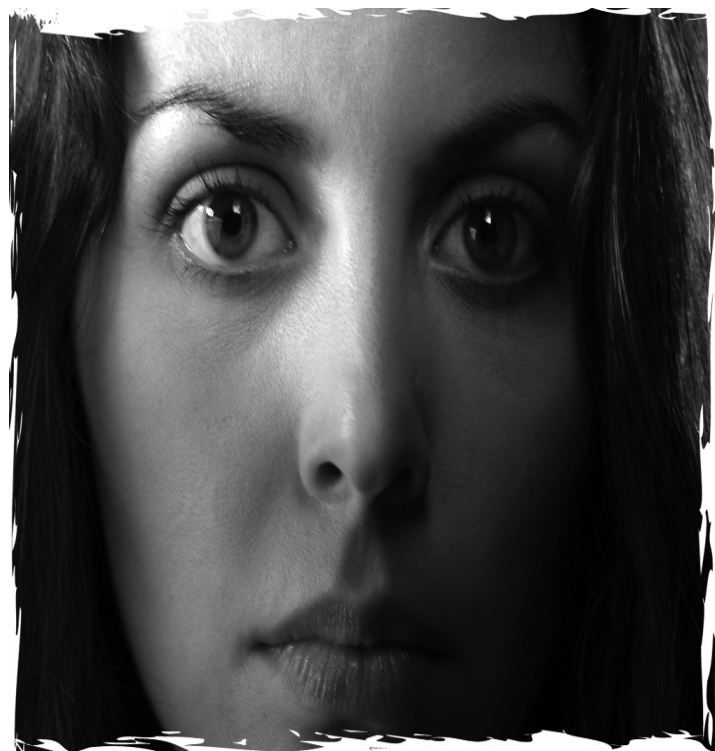
Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored a season-high 29 points with 15 rebounds for Cleveland, which had its nine-game home winning streak end.

Celtics 117, Suns 97

At Boston, Kevin Garnett scored 30 points, sinking the final two to an "M-V-P!" chant echoing through the new Boston Garden, and Paul Pierce had 12 of his 27 in the fourth quarter.

Rajon Rondo scored 14 points with six rebounds and six assists while frustrating Shaquille O'Neal into a technical foul as Boston turned a tie game into a double-digit lead in the third quarter.

Amare Stoudemire scored 32 and O'Neal had 16 with seven rebounds for the Suns.



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1-Series arrives

BMW's 128i Convertible spirited, fun in the sun ride

I grew up an army brat and went to high school in Germany (actually, it was West Germany back then).

Wanting to make a little pocket change, I had a car washing business after school and had built up a pretty good list of steady clients.

Two of my best customers both drove BMW 2002 models — for those not familiar with BMW, 2002 is the name of the car, not the year.

I absolutely loved that car. In addition to letting me wash and detail their prized 2002 models, they would often give me a ride, which frequently included a spin on the Autobahn so they could show off the prowess of this phenomenal rear-wheel drive performance driving machine.

A couple of times, one of the owners — who also happened to be one of my teachers — let me drive his car around the empty parking lot after I had finished detailing it out.

Like other red blooded American teens, I still drooled over the muscle cars of that era, but I made no bones over the fact that my "dream car" was a BMW 2002.

I've never forgotten that experience. To me, that car was as close as you could come to engineering mechanical perfection. It was simple to operate yet an absolute blast.

This week, I had the opportunity to drive the new 2008 128i Convertible, part of the new 1 Series lineup and just released for delivery in North America.

The 1-Series follows in the iconic tradition of the 2002 sedan.

While it has its own distinctive styling, it does have a lot of resemblance to the 2002.

When I walked out into the parking lot, my first reaction was that it was a 2002. I had to walk around back and check the badge just to make sure.

Available in coupe or convertible body styles, the 1-Series is available in two models — the 128i and 135i.

The 128i is powered by a 230 horsepower in-line six-cylinder engine gen-

erating 200 lbs.-ft. of torque and featuring Valvetronic valvetrain management and aluminum/magnesium cylinder block construction.

The 135i is powered by a 300 horsepower/300 lbs.-ft. torque twin turbocharged version of the same engine.

And yes, this rear-wheel drive machine is well engineered driving perfection.

It corners like it's on a rail and acceleration is absolutely

top notch.

The premium interior is classy, comfortable and absolutely loaded.

I especially like the keyless entry/start function. All you have to do is have the key fob on your person, touch the door handle and the doors unlock. Climb in, put your foot on the brake and push the button to start the car.

While the weather wasn't very cooperative to put the top down this week, the convertible roof raises and lowers in 22 seconds. I didn't test this out, but according to BMW, you can even raise or lower the top on the move while driving at speeds up to 25 mph.

Now I do have one beef about the 1-Series.

It goes along with my recent love-hate relationship with many of today's BMW models. While I think all BMWs are mechanical masterpieces truly designed, engineered and manufactured for the driver, I don't understand why



The 2008 BMW 128i Convertible

BMW over-engineers assessor components — like the radio — that in my view are way too complicated to operate.

What happened to "Keep It Simple?"

While I absolutely love driving the 128i, I am completely frustrated with BMW's iDrive system and how complicated they've made it to do something as simple as changing the radio station.

What's wrong with having two dials — one to change the station and one to adjust the volume? It's worked fine for years.

I don't want to use a mouse to scroll through a menu bar on a screen located in the center of the dash.

It doesn't make me feel "cool" or techno-savvy. It makes me feel frustrated.

Don't get me wrong, I love automotive technology. I'm a techno-junkie. But new technology should be seamless, easy to use and make the driving experience safer, more convenient and add to the overall experience, not detract from it.

I do love driving the car, though.

With a base price starting below \$34,000 for the 128i Convertible, it is an absolute must test drive for those in the market for a convertible.

One test drive and you will want to own it. It is that good.

I just wish changing the radio station didn't require a PhD in engineering — or a great deal of patience.

Neal White has been covering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedailylight.com.



ON THE ROAD



BY NEAL WHITE

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Bush confronts Chinese leader over Tibet crackdown

By **TERENCE HUNT**

AP White House Correspondent
WASHINGTON — President Bush sharply confronted China's President Hu Jintao on Wednesday about Beijing's harsh crackdown in Tibet, joining an international chorus of alarm just months before the U.S. and the rest of the world parade to China for the Olympics.

In a telephone call with Hu, Bush "pushed very hard" about violence in Tibet, a necessity for restraint and a need for China to consult with representatives of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet, the White House said.

After days of silence by Bush as other world leaders raised

their voices, it marked a rare, direct protest from one president to another. As if to underscore how pointed Bush was, the White House said he used the call to "speak very clearly and frankly."

At the same time, Bush was forced to address an embarrassing blunder by the United States — the shipment of nuclear missile fuses to Taiwan and the failure to discover the error for more than 18 months. "It came up very briefly," National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley told reporters.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice had previously registered concern about China's actions in Tibet, but Bush's call raised the protest to the highest level of the U.S. gov-

ernment. On the world stage, French President Nicolas Sarkozy notably has suggested a boycott of the Olympics opening ceremony in Beijing in August.

The United States and Britain have ruled out a boycott, and Bush has said he will attend. He has taken the position that the Olympics are about athletic competition, not politics.

China has defended its use of force against anti-Chinese protesters in Tibet, describing demonstrations that broke out in the capital city of Lhasa on March 14 as riots and violent crimes.

"No responsible government would sit by and watch when faced with this kind of violent crime, which gravely violated

human rights, seriously disrupted social order and seriously endangered the safety of public life and property," Hu told Bush, according to an account by Xinhua news agency.

China's crackdown in response to the most sustained uprising against Chinese rule in almost two decades has put Beijing's human rights record in the international spotlight, embarrassing and frustrating a Communist leadership that had hoped for a smooth run-up to the Olympic Games.

China on Wednesday showed some signs of relenting, allowing the first group of foreign journalists to visit Lhasa since the violence began. The reporters were taken to Potala Square, below the Potala

Palace, the traditional seat of Tibetan rulers, which reopened Wednesday for the first time since March 14. Then reporters were taken a few blocks away where many shops had been burned out during the violence.

Hadley said Bush pressed for a resumption of now-suspended consultations between China and representatives of the Dalai Lama, and that there was an encouraging response from Hu.

"It was interesting that the government was willing to continue contacts and consultations with the Dalai Lama as long as ... there's an abandonment of Tibetan independence and stopping activities that involve crimes and the use of violence," Hadley said.



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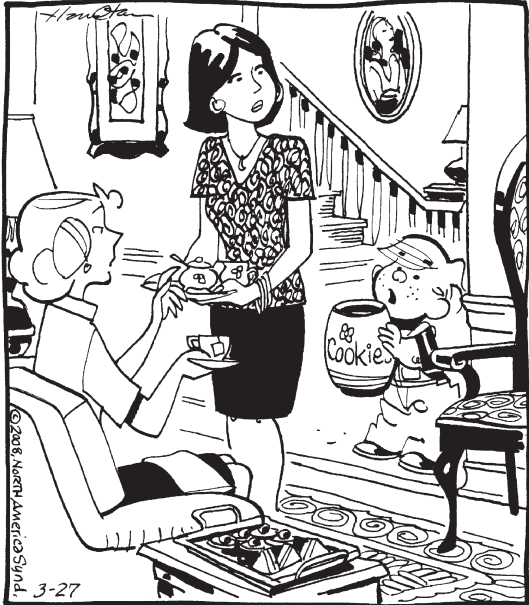
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THURSDAY

Table with 20 columns (WFAA, KMYD, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 6 rows (6:30 PM, 7:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 9:30 PM, 10:30 PM, 11:30 PM, 12:30 AM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

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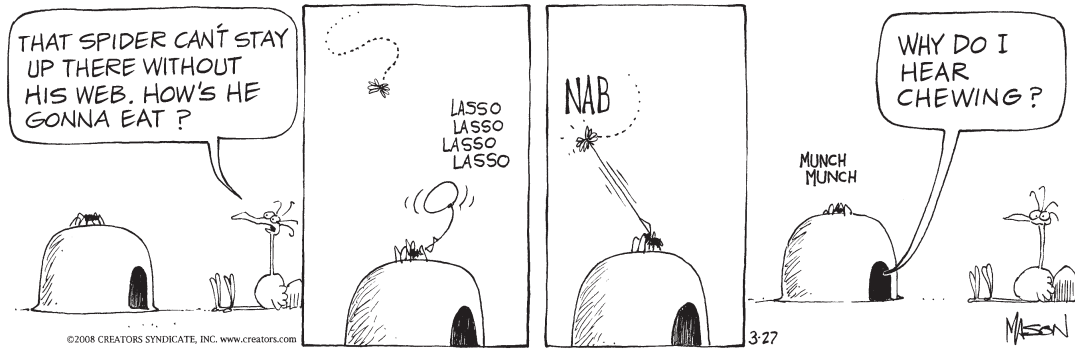
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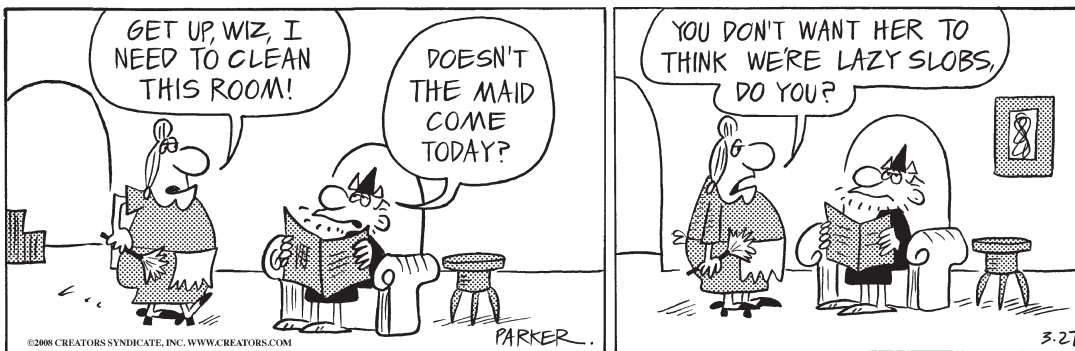
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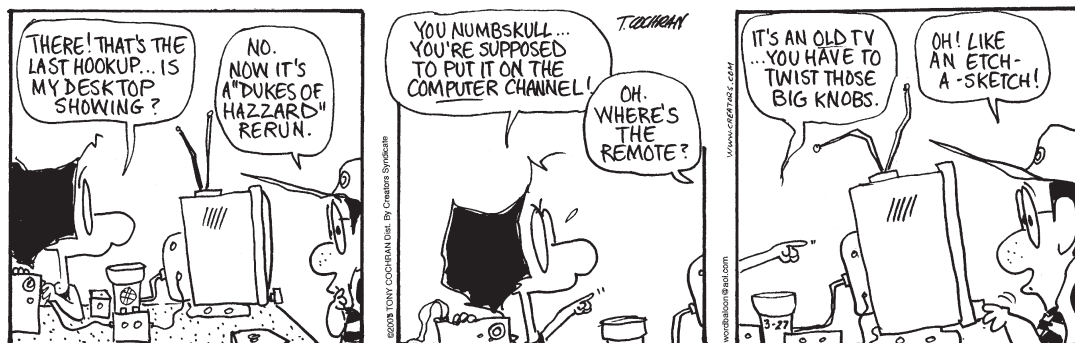
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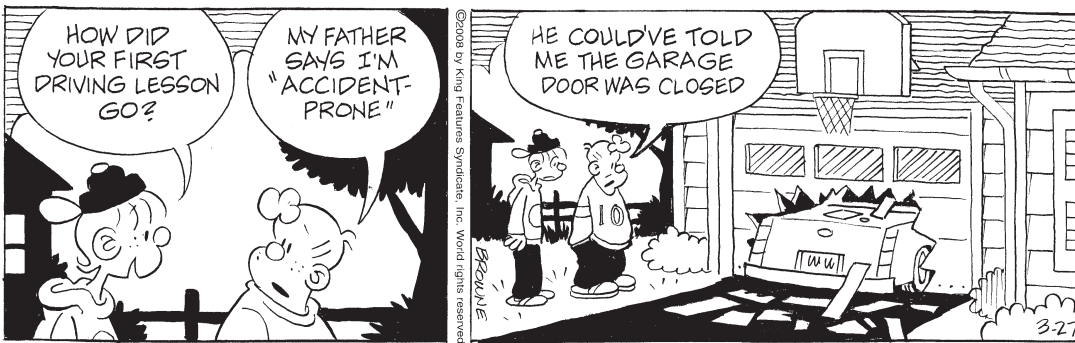
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THE OTHER COAST



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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, March 27, the 87th day of 2008. There are 279 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On March 27, 1977, 583 people were killed when a KLM Boeing 747, attempting to take off, crashed into a Pan Am 747 on the Canary Island of Tenerife.

on the Western Front had been broken. In 1958, Nikita Khrushchev became Soviet premier in addition to First Secretary of the Communist Party. In 1964, Alaska was hit by a powerful earthquake and tsunamis that killed about 130 people.

(Genesis) is 58. Actress Maria Schneider is 56. Rock musician Andrew Farriss (INXS) is 49. Movie director Quentin Tarantino is 45. Rock musician Derrick McKenzie (Jamiroquai) is 44. Actress Talisa Soto is 41. Actress Pauley Perrette is 39. Singer Mariah Carey is 38. Rock musician Brendan Hill (Blues Traveler) is 38. Actress Elizabeth Mitchell is 38. Hip-hop singer Fergie (Black Eyed Peas) is 33. Actress Taylor Atelian is 13.

Thought for Today: "Only when we are no longer afraid do we begin to live." - Dorothy Thompson, American journalist (1894-1961).

Answer to previous puzzle crossword grid with words like ACME, MOVIE, BLTS, FRAU, ARENT, REAL, LAIR, RANCH, EASY, GLOW, IN THE DARK, PROG, LET, ALBEE, ESS, CHAMP, SOLACE, PUN, CAR, TWINKLE, IN THE EYE, REN, MEN, HUXLEY, ODDLY, KEG, LIARS, LES, ACCT, FLASH, IN THE PAN, GUAM, OMAHA, ORCA, USNA, WIDEN, LION, MEDS, START, LAST.

Newsday Crossword

SOLID STATE by Shirley Soloway Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS 1 With 35 Down, South African-born diplomat 5 3-D 10 Up to it 14 Internet diary 15 Battery terminal 16 December song 17 Volcano part 18 Ruin 19 Hoops maneuver 20 Wiltshire attraction 22 Henry Ford contemporary 23 Butler's last word 24 Poet 26 Dojo course 29 Circumspect 33 Sgts., for instance 34 Marsh plant 36 Before it's needed 37 List ender 38 Fred and Wilma's kid 40 Decline 41 ___ shot (fast) 43 "Up and ___!" 44 Leo's Aviator costar 45 They live the high life 47 Pointed the finger at 49 Grad student's challenge 50 Not friendly 51 Italian wine center 53 Beach find 59 Odium 59 Odium 60 Video-game name 61 Fish dish 62 Ancestor of Noah 63 Fishing craft 64 Hot spot 65 Grp. in charge 66 Yellow cheeses 67 On deck 7 Blessing 8 "Got it" 9 E! subjects 10 Pyrenees land 11 Part of the Arizona/ Nevada border 12 Furnish for a time 13 Antlered animals 21 Erode 25 Tip-top 26 Proposed, perhaps 27 Last part of Cats 28 Nadir 29 Red ink 30 Inactive 31 Upper class 32 Worked at a keyboard 35 See 1 Across 38 ___-cake 39 Typifies 42 Most strange 44 Asks for help from 46 Strasbourg's region 48 Card game 50 Storage medium 51 Throat-clearing sound 52 Spilled the beans 54 Minimally 55 Wendy's dog 56 Troubadour topic 57 The A in A-Rod 58 Housing fee

13x13 crossword grid with numbers 1-67 indicating starting positions for words.