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BIG SPRING

HERALD

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 9, 2008



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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

City OKs use permit for RV park

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council approved first reading of specific use permit for J.T. Land Development Inc. Tuesday evening, giving its initial nod to the construction of a travel trailer RV park in the 4100 block of W. Highway 80.

According to Assistant City Manager Todd



Darden

Darden, 46 notices were sent out to land owners within 200 feet of the proposed park, with only five of them returned to the city.

"All five notices we received back were not opposed to the permit," Darden told the council. "This permit will allow for several exceptions to site development regulations, including the use of two acres instead of the required five acres and the hours of operation. The zoning board recom-

See **CITY**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins
Architect Jeff Heffelfinger, right, meets with Howard County Chief Jailer Mike Averette, Big Spring Fire Marshal Carl Condray and Sheriff Dale Walker to discuss the floor plans for the new county jail facility. Commissioners approved the plans Tuesday, with construction on the jail expected to begin as early as May 9.

Commissioners sign off on floor plans for lockup

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

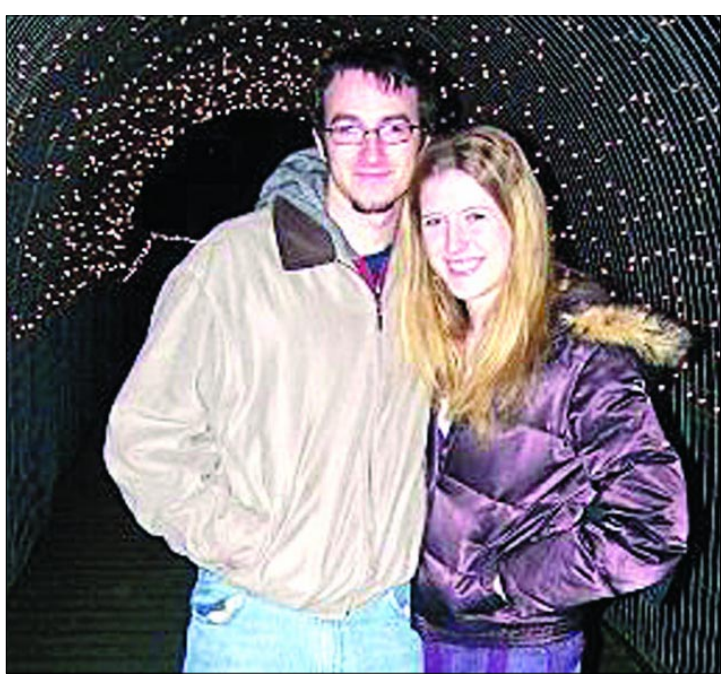
Construction on the new Howard County Jail could begin as early as May 9 according to project officials. County commissioners approved the floor plans for the

facility Tuesday afternoon. Commissioners — minus Bill Crooker, who was having a surgical heart procedure according to officials — approved the plans unanimously.

"The plans are done," architect Jeff Heffelfinger told commission-

ers. "We're ready to submit them to the Texas Jail Commission and the city of Big Spring for permitting. This will also give us the go-ahead to bid the project out, which the construction manager

See **JAIL**, Page 6A



Courtesy photo

April Farris and her husband, Ben, are shown during a trip to Comanche Trail Park during the Festival of Lights in December. April, a Big Spring native, is currently in her second year at Harvard Law School.

Big Spring to Boston

A conservative goes to Harvard

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

It's a long way — in more ways than one — from Big Spring to Boston.

Just ask April Farris.

Farris, a Big Spring native, has always been something of an over-achiever, but even she admits her latest undertaking has been one for the books.

The law books, that is.

The daughter of Dr. David and Ann Ward has traded the plains of West Texas for the hustle and bustle of Boston as a second-year student at Harvard Law School.

Moving from rural Big Spring to cosmopolitan

See **BOSTON**, Page 6A

Trustees to discuss Downes investigation

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big Spring Independent School District officials will discuss the ongoing investigation against Superintendent Michael Downes when trustees hold their monthly meeting at 5:15 p.m. Thursday in the high school board room.

The state agency responsible for certifying educators has been

investigating Downes since a complaint was filed against him in 2007. Although the direct nature of the complaint has never been released, it is believed to contain allegations of inappropriate relationships with students during earlier stops

in Downes' career. Discussion Thursday will serve to bring trustees up to speed on the status of the investigation, School Board President Alan Partee said.

"(Downes) has a stipulation in his contract that requires him to inform us about the status of the

See **BSISD**, Page 7A

Health Fair will offer screenings, giveaways

By **VALERIE AVERY**
Special to the Herald

The Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce will host its yearly health fair — "A Gold Medal for Good Health" — Saturday at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum.

The event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 8 a.m. The event is expected to end at

1 p.m. Free screenings, giveaways and information will be available to the public, said Debbye ValVerde, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce.

"This is one of my favorite events all year," she said. "It is always well-attended and appre-

See **HEALTH**, Page 3A

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Sports

**BIG
SPRING**

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
Wednesday, April 9, 2008

IN BRIEF

Coahoma wraps up final round of district golf tourney

Coahoma's boys golf team ended up in fifth in District 5-2A's golf tournament after shooting a combined 366 as a team in the final round played at Shady Oaks Golf Club in Baird.

Mikey Mendoza finished 10th in the medalist standings with a two-round total of 170.

Other two-round scores for the Bulldogs were Jake Owens, 172; Matt Taylor, 177; Jared Ringener, 185; and Dusty Salmon, 218. Kevin Kirkland shot a 239 as an individual and Reagan Reid finished with a 248.

Only Hayli McCullough competed for the Bulldogettes, finishing with a two-round total of 237.

Stanton's boys placed sixth overall, just 13 strokes behind Coahoma at 717.

Stephen Reyes led the Buffs with a 175 total over two rounds. Other team contributors were Justin Hinojosa, 177; Sean Smith, 178; Eric Garza, 187; and Randell Koonce, 202. Individual competitors for the Buffs were Aaron Hardin, 229; Cody Holt, 218; and Michael Church, 230.

Four Lady Buffs also competed individually with Brittany Garza finishing with the best score at 203. Michelle Graves was just two strokes behind her at 205 and Krista Sanchez shot a 241.

Garza's total was the third best of the event and she'll be advancing to the regional round.

Grady sends 13 tennis players to regional tourney

Grady's girls and boys tennis team had a monumental day at the District 6-A tennis tournament, sending 13 individuals to the regional tournament held at South Plains College in Levelland April 23-24.

Here is a list of qualifiers and what division they'll be competing in:

Boys singles: Santos Montoya, first place; Geoffrey Schuette, second place.

Girls singles: Linsey Chavez, first; Julie Montoya, alternate.

Boys doubles: Matt Webb/Anibal Medina, first; Tyler Matthews/Christian Medina, second.

Girls doubles: Maegan Blocker/Julia Schuelke, first.

Mixed doubles: Ericka Medina/Guillermo Medina, first; Kandace Schuelke/Justin Tubb, second.

Crossroads high school varsity sports calendar

FRIDAY
Big Spring baseball at Plainview, 6:30 p.m.

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

Forsan softball at Eldorado, 5 p.m.

Coahoma baseball vs. Stamford, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Big Spring softball vs. Wolfforth Frenship, 1 p.m.

See **BRIEFS**, Page 3B

Lady Steers' can't overcome errors

Herald Staff Report

PLAINVIEW — Winning 35-0 like the Big Spring Lady Steers softball team did Saturday over Lubbock Estacado can have one of two effects on the squad. Either, the momentum gained from the win can carry over for the rest of the season or an over-confidence can be formed, causing the club to have a letdown.

Unfortunately for Big Spring, the latter happened, according to the Lady Steers Assistant Coach John Sparks.

"That win disrupted our men-

tal focus a bit," Sparks said. "We can't believe that every game will come that easy."

The letdown came quickly as the Lady Steers fell to Plainview's Lady Bulldogs, 13-4, Tuesday in Plainview. Big Spring's focus was obviously off as Plainview took advantage of eight Lady Steers' fielding errors to score nine unearned runs.

Big Spring actually held a 2-1 lead after its half of the third inning. Starting pitcher Kelly Sage reached base on a single to right field and was replaced on

the base paths by Whitney Gonzales. Yarbar moved Gonzales over to third with a double, putting two runners in scoring position for Jillian Valle. Valle changed positions on the bases with Yarbar as she doubled to right, scoring both base runners.

The Lady Steers remained competitive through the top of the fourth. After surrendering the lead in the home half of the third, 4-2, Big Spring pulled back within one run after Mirella Torres, who reached base on an

error and moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Jacklyn Porras, scored on a double by Kenzie Hunt.

That's as close as Big Spring would get, though, as the fielding miscues started, taking their toll and Plainview scored nine runs over the next two innings. The Lady Steers could only score once more during that time when Valle singled to right, driving in Yarbar, who led off the inning with a triple.

See **BSHS**, Page 3B



Big Spring Steers third baseman Jeremy Solis makes a play in the field in action from earlier this baseball season at Steer Field. Solis hit a three-run homer in Big Spring's 18-12 loss to San Angelo Lake View Tuesday, dropping the Steers to 0-4 in District 4-4A play.

Steers lose slugfest to Chiefs, 18-12

By JONATHAN HULL

Herald Sports Editor

SAN ANGELO — On paper, the final score between the Big Spring Steers and San Angelo Lake View Chiefs looks like the two schools played a football game.

However, it's spring not fall and it was the baseball clubs on the field, taking part in a District 4-4A slugfest.

Both squads entered the game winless in district play, meaning something had to give. In the end, it was Lake View coming out on top, 18-12.

Big Spring witnessed leads of a 6-2 and 11-9 dissipate as the Steers' bats finally cooled off in the fifth inning after scoring 11 runs in the first four frames.

Unfortunately for Big Spring, the Chiefs remained hot at the

plate, scoring nine runs in their last three at-bats.

"Lake View just had too much fire power," Big Spring Head Coach Burt Otto said. "They never cooled off. It seemed like everything they hit was bouncing off the outfield fence. We played hard, battled back and never really hurt ourselves with errors. We

See **STEERS**, Page 3B

Bulldogettes blank Hawley for eighth shutout in district play

Herald Staff Report

HAWLEY — Coahoma's Bulldogettes received its toughest challenge of the District 5-2A season Tuesday and still didn't surrender a run.

The Bulldogettes improved to 8-0 in district play — 20-8 overall — with all eight wins coming via shutouts in a 2-0 win over the league's second-place Hawley Lady Bearcats.

Coahoma pitcher Heather Newton threw her ninth shutout of the season, giving up just one hit over seven innings of work while striking out 11 Hawley batters.

Coahoma's only two runs in the contest came

in the third inning, when the Bulldogettes' battery made up of Newton and catcher Janice Gonzales both crossed the plate courtesy of a two-RBI double by Laci Sterling. Other than that, Coahoma managed just six hits and drew one walk in the game.

Beating Hawley becomes a bigger deal after last season, when the Lady Bearcats handed Coahoma its only district loss in the softball program's history. The Bearcats also gave the Bulldogettes their biggest challenge within Region I, taking Coahoma to its limit in a three-game series in the regional

final that determined who would advance to the state tournament in 2007.

"This is a big rivalry," commented Bulldogettes Head Coach Tracy Tadlock. "It doesn't take much to get the girls up for this one."

However, it was a different presence on the mound that baffled Coahoma's bats Tuesday. For the past two seasons, the Bulldogettes always had to overcome Hawley's ace PeeWee Burton. Instead, Becca Barbee managed the pitcher's circle for the Lady Bearcats, holding Coahoma to just six hits and two runs

See **CHS**, Page 2B

Amaro's homer lifts Bulldogs over Bearcats

Herald Staff Report

HAWLEY — Some baseball players will go their entire career without hitting a game-winning home run.

Coahoma's Adrian Amaro hit two in as many games for the Bulldogs.

After hitting a two-run shot over the left field fence in Coahoma Friday to give the Bulldogs a 14-4 run-rule shortened victory over Haskell, Amaro delivered an encore performance Tuesday, but in a much more dramatic setting.

The Bulldogs surrendered a 9-2 lead over Hawley's Bearcats in the fifth and sixth innings, sending the game into an extra frame tied at nine. That's when Amaro put on a cape and played hero, hitting a two-run homer in the top of the eighth that scored himself and Chance Hart.

From there, Hart pitched his second shutout inning of relief, giving Coahoma an important 11-9 win.

"This game means a lot to us. Not just because it keeps us in the district race, but also because of the way we won it," Bulldogs Head Coach Brad Harman said. "We blew a lead, but still came through in a very high pressure situation. This win can pay huge dividends down the line, especially in the playoffs."

Hart replaced Donnie Garcia on the mound with two outs in the sixth inning. He pitched his way out of a bases loaded situation in the bottom of the seventh in order to get the game into extra innings.

Garcia surrendered nine runs, but only three were earned. The Bulldogs committed only two errors, but their miscues proved to be very costly.

Coahoma had two outs in the bottom of the fifth with a 9-3 advantage. A routine ground ball to third base appeared to be the final out of the inning, but an untimely throwing error prolonged the frame. Hawley's next batter Zane Masavage hit a three-run homer, igniting a Bearcats' rally that lasted into the next inning.

Hawley held onto the momentum, scoring another three runs in the sixth to tie the game at nine. The Bearcats' sudden tenacity at the plate almost won the game for them in the seventh, but they couldn't take advan-

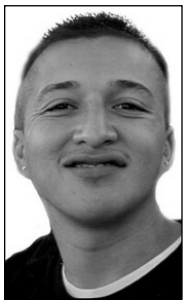
See **BULLDOGS**, Page 2B



Coahoma Bulldogettes pitcher Heather Newton follows through on a throw in action from earlier this season. Newton pitched her ninth shutout Tuesday in a 2-0 win over Hawley.

Obituaries

Alfredo Ledesma III



Alfredo "Pelon" Ledesma III, 25, of Big Spring, died Monday, April 7, 2008. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, April 11, 2008 at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with Nick Portocarrero of Christ Community Church officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. A prayer service will be Thursday at 7 p.m. at Nalley-Pickle and Welch Rosewood Chapel.

He was born on May 23, 1982, in Big Spring. He enjoyed painting, drawing, basketball and music. He was a hard worker and loved family activities and spending time with his nieces and nephews.

Survivors include his mother, Magdalena Hilario of San Antonio; his step-father, Camilo Rodriguez of Dallas; two brothers, Rolando Ledesma of San Angelo, and Orlando Ledesma of Big Spring; one half-brother, Alfred Garcia and one half-sister, Sofia Garcia, both of Big Spring; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

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

Patrick Rios

Patrick Rios, 37, of Big Spring, died Monday, April 7, 2008. Services are pending with Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring.

Take Note

• The Class of 2009 will be having a prom meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Big Spring High School Library. All juniors and their parents are encouraged to attend. For information, call Carrie Fox at 816-9687 or Karen Martin at 213-1388.

• "I Remember Mama," Forsan High School's one-act play, will be presented to the public at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium. Everyone is invited.

• A fund-raising dinner will be held at Shiloh House of Praise, 301 E. Second St., beginning at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. Plates will be \$7. Call 264-7959 for more information.

• 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. The second session is set for 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.

• 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.

Police blotter

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

- **DONALD G. KOERBER III**, 20, of 1605 Eubanks, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.
- **EPIFANIO HINOJOSA JR.**, 23, of 1401 Princeton, was arrested Tuesday on a local warrant.
- **CALVIN D. PARNELL**, 38, of 1410 Sycamore, was arrested Tuesday on six local capias warrants.
- **BILLY W. ALDRIDGE SR.**, 48, of 309 W. Fifth Street, was arrested Tuesday on two local warrants.
- **ANGELA A. MCGEE**, 25, transient, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant.
- **THEFT** was reported:
 - in the 3900 block of Highway 80.
 - in the 1800 block of FM 700.
- **BURGLARY OF A VEHICLE** was reported in the 1600 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.
- **ASSAULT CLASS C/FAMILY VIOLENCE** was reported in the 1500 block of Martin Luther King Blvd.

Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 44 inmates at the time of this report.
- **BRANDON JOE ROBINSON**, 22, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor.
 - **JUAN FRANCISCO ROSALES-SOTO**, 36, was arrested Tuesday by DPS on a charge of driving while license invalid.
 - **THEODORE E. RIOS**, 38, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).
 - **CASSIE CANTU**, 19, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
 - **BILLY WAYNE ALDRIDGE**, 48, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on charges of delivery of a controlled substance (two counts).
 - **DONALD G. KOERBER**, 20, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of delivery of a controlled substance.
 - **EPIFANIO HINOJOSA**, 23, was transferred to the county jail Tuesday by the BSPD on a charge of deadly conduct/dischARGE of a firearm.
 - **RAY CARL MCGEE JR.**, 31, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of delivery of a controlled substance.

Fire/EMS

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

- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 3600 block of Chanute. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Westover Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of Hillside. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 6600 block of E. Robinson. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Refinery Road. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 400 block of N.E. First Street in Coahoma. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 3600 block of Connally.

Lottery

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Tuesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 23-8-11-22-26.
Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 7-3-1-3. Sum It Up: 14.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-8-7. Sum It Up: 19.

Weather

Tonight...Partly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may produce large hail and damaging winds. Lows in the lower 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday...Partly cloudy. Very windy. Patchy blowing dust. Highs in the mid 70s. Southwest winds 30 to 40 mph with gusts to around 55 mph.

Thursday night...Mostly clear. Windy. Lows in the lower 40s. West winds 20 to 30 mph becoming northwest 10 to 15 mph after midnight.

Friday...Sunny. Highs in the mid 70s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night...Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s.

Bulletin Board

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

TODAY
• Eagles Lodge Ladies Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. in the Eagles Lodge, 703 W. Third.

THURSDAY
• Gideon International Big Spring Camp U42060 meets at 7 a.m. in Herman's Restaurant.
• Kiwanis Club meets at noon in the Howard College Cactus Room, 1001 Birdwell Lane.
• Friends of the Library meets at noon in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
• Big Spring Main Street meets at noon in the Railroad Museum located at Second and Main streets.
• League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.
• American Legion Auxiliary meets at 6 p.m. at 3203 W. Highway 80.
• The Prospector's Club meets at 7:30 p.m. at 606 E. Third St. The public is invited to these meetings. For more information contact Lola Lamb at 263-3340.
• Neighbors and Newcomers Club meets. New members are welcome. Call 263-2005 for more information.

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

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

Support Groups

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

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

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

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

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.

• 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.

BIG SPRING HERALD

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701 E. 2nd St. 267-6411

Orioles ruin Texas' home opener, 8-1

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON — Aubrey Huff and the Baltimore Orioles are certainly enjoying the new season. And surprising a lot of people.

"We've already had more fun than at anytime last year," Huff said after Baltimore's sixth straight victory, 8-1 on Tuesday to ruin the Texas Rangers' home opener.

Huff matched a career high with four hits and drove in four runs after Scott Moore and Luke Scott hit early home runs in the first road game for the Orioles (6-1), who have the American League's best record. The winning streak already equals their longest of last season.

"We had six (last year)? It didn't feel like it," said Huff, referring to the 93-loss season when they finished fourth in the AL East for the ninth time in 10 years. "We're relaxed. Everybody's written us off."

Moore led off the second with a homer, and Scott followed an inning later with a two-run shot that made it 4-0 against Jason Jennings (0-2). For the

first time this season, the Orioles never trailed in the game.

"It's a long season but you've got to like how we've started," manager Dave Trembley said.

Brian Burres (1-0) allowed only one run pitching into the seventh, when he gave up a leadoff single that turned into the only Texas run. Burres struck out three and allowed seven hits, six of them singles.

That was a stark contrast from last August in his only other appearance against the Rangers, when the left-hander allowed eight runs and eight hits, including a grand slam, and got only two outs in a 30-3 loss.

"The guy couldn't get an out on us," Rangers catcher Gerald Laird said. "Today, he pitches a gem."

The most lopsided loss in Orioles history, when Texas became the first team in 110 years to score 30 runs, came on the same day the team announced Trembley would be back this season.

Burres didn't even look at that tape when preparing for his first start of 2008.

"It makes me feel a little better about facing this team," Burres said afterward.

Jennings, who joined Hall of Famer and new team president Nolan Ryan as the only Texas natives to start a Rangers home opener, struggled to find the strike zone. The homers came after Jennings threw 16 of his first 25 pitches for balls and walked the bases loaded in the first before an inning-ending grounder on which he covered first base — then, in frustration, hurled the ball deep into the stands.

Huff thought he had his third homer of the season after rounding the bases in the sixth. It was initially ruled a homer after Huff's ball into the right-field corner hit the top of the wall. But after manager Ron Washington questioned the call, the umpires conferred and called it a ground-rule double, allowing two runs to score for a 6-0 lead.

"When I looked at it on tape, the umpires got it right," acknowledged Huff, who added a two-run single in the eighth to make it 8-1.

See **RANGERS**, Page 4B

Terry scores 22, Mavs rock Sonics

By **DAVID JIMENEZ**
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — After a rousing come-from-behind victory in their last game, the Dallas Mavericks avoided a misstep against the struggling Seattle SuperSonics.

Jason Terry scored 22 points, Josh Howard added 17, and Dallas crept closer to a playoff berth with a 99-83 victory over Seattle on Tuesday night.

Dallas rallied from a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Phoenix on Sunday. The Mavericks again responded with a late spurt Tuesday to shake the

lowly Sonics and solidify their standing in the competitive Western Conference postseason chase.

The Mavericks came into the game with a two-game lead over Denver and Golden State in the race for seventh place in the West.

"All these games are big for us," Terry said. "We can't afford to slip up, especially at home. We were playing a team with nothing to lose. You know they're going to play hard. We just have to play harder than them."

The Sonics — who lost their club-record 60th game — kept the game

close until the fourth quarter. Seattle was within six before Dallas went on an 18-4 run to put the contest out of reach.

Brandon Bass scored 13 off the bench for the Mavericks, and Dirk Nowitzki chipped in with 11 points and 12 rebounds in his fourth game since returning from knee and ankle injuries.

Mavericks point guard Jason Kidd believes his team is headed in the right direction as the season moves toward the final week.

"This is not a bad time to be playing your best

See **MAVS**, Page 4B

CHS

Continued from Page 1B

while striking out four batters.

Barbee also had Hawley's only hit of the game and a stolen base. She was just one of two base runners allowed by

Newton.

Unless a complete breakdown occurs, Coahoma has essentially wrapped up its 15th consecutive district title. The Bulldogettes have just four district games remaining on the schedule against Stamford, Merkel and Anson. Coahoma plays

Stamford in a doubleheader Saturday in Coahoma, making up for a game that was rained out earlier this season.

Coahoma 002 000 0—2 6 1
Hawley 000 000 0—0 1 1

Heather Newton and Janice Gonzales. Becca Barbee and Kassi Barbee. W - Newton (15-7). L - B. Barbee. 2B: CHS - Gonzales, Laci Sterling. RBI: CHS - Sterling 2.

BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 1B

tage of a bases loaded situation.

Fortunately for the Bulldogs, the last laugh was theirs and it came off Amaro's bat. After Hawley quickly retired the first two Coahoma batters of the inning, Hart picked up a single to left, prolonging the inning and giving Amaro a chance to shine. The Coahoma freshman took full advantage of the home run, hitting what ended up being a game-winning home run. It's Amaro's third of the season, all of which have come in the past two

weeks of play.

"Adrian started out as a stronger defensive player than offensive, but he's really worked his way into a zone lately," raved Harman. "He's coming up with some big hits in pressure situations."


Not only does the win keep Coahoma in the race for a district title, but it also avenges what was the Bulldogs' most disheartening defeat this season. Hawley blasted Coahoma 18-3 in the first contest between the two clubs March 14.

The Bulldogs (18-5, 7-2) will have an opportunity to redeem both of their district losses this week as they host Stamford Saturday, which beat

Coahoma March 20.

"We haven't been beaten like that all season so it's nice to get that one back," Harman said. "We've really got a chance to redeem ourselves this week. We beat Hawley in a big game and now we can take care of Stamford. We had too many mental mistakes in both of those losses, but we're playing a lot better right now. We've won five in a row and we're getting back into a groove."

Coahoma 403 020 02—11 12 2
Hawley 001 143 00—9 10 4
W - Chance Hart (6-0). L - Brewer. 2B: CHS - P.J. Daylong. 3B: HHS - Harris. HR: CHS - Ray Gutierrez, Adrian Amaro; HHS - Masavage. RBI: CHS - Gutierrez 3, Casey Kilpatrick 3, Amaro 2, Hart, Donnie Garcia.



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- Vaginal or rectal bleeding, pain, itching, swollen genitals, vaginal discharge; and/or
- Torn or stained underclothing.
- Copying adult sexual behavior;
- Persistent sexual play with themselves, other children, toys or pets;
- Displaying sexual knowledge, through language or behavior, that is beyond what is normal for their age;
- Unusual interest in all things of a sexual nature;
- Drawings, pictures, or stories with a strong, unusual or bizarre sexual theme;
- Seductiveness - attempts to seduce adults or other children;
- Hints, indirect comments or statements about the abuse;
- Unusual interest in or knowledge of sexual matters, expressing affection in ways inappropriate for a child of that age; and/or
- Unexplained fear of a person or an intense dislike at being left somewhere or with someone.
- Intolerance to being touched;
- Self-injuring behavior (e.g. cutting the skin, banging head);
- Unusual aggressiveness or anger;
- Inappropriate clothing (too much for season, much high-necked clothing, baby cloth
- Suicidal behavior
- Sudden drop in grades, falling asleep at school, etc;
- Vague somatic complaints (stomach aches, muscle soreness, etc);
- Changes in behavior such as withdrawal, fearfulness, crying without provocation;
- Appetite disturbances;
- Recurrent nightmares, disturbed sleep patterns, fear of the dark; and/or
- Regression to move infantile behavior such as bedwetting, thumb sucking, or excessiveness crying.

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Here are some more suggestions for handling a child's disclosure of abuse

- Tell them that you believe them.
- Assure the child that he/she did the right thing in telling.
- Tell the child they are very brave for telling someone.
- Tell the child he/she is not to blame for the abuse.
- Be supportive of the child.
- Be careful of scaring the child by exhibiting strong emotions, such as anger, in the child's presence.
- Don't be afraid to show affection toward the child.
- Find out how the child feels physically. Does his/her body hurt anywhere?
- Notify the police. Do not take the law into your own hands.
- Seek help in coping with the incident. Contact your local child abuse or rape crisis center seek support for both the child and yourself.

General Reporting Requirements in Texas:

1. The law requires that any person who believes that a child is being abused, neglected or exploited report the circumstances to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Service Hotline, 1-800-252-5400. (You do not need to have proof, only to believe it is happening.)
2. The person making a report is immune from civil or criminal liability if the report is made in good faith. The name of the person making the report is confidential.
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Volunteers to be presented with yearly awards

Special to the Herald

Big Spring State Hospital will honor its volunteers Thursday during the hospital's yearly Volunteer Awards luncheon.

The event — "Volunteers, The Heart of the Community" — will begin at noon in the Allred Building Auditorium on the hospital campus, 1901 N. Hwy. 87.

The Volunteer Services Council Awards luncheon, organized by the hospital administration and the Community Relations office, recognizes hourly milestones in volunteers' careers. Pins are awarded in hours ranging from 100 to 25,000 hours.

More than 100 volunteers donated a total of 7,000 hours this past year, Community Relations Director Billie Christie-Morgan said.

State Rep. Joe Heflin, D-Crosbyton, is the keynote speaker and is expected to give a brief overview on the history of the volunteer organization and highlight the many areas in which patients have benefited from volunteers' hands-on and financial assistance.

For example, volunteers funded the construction of a Meditation Garden and Waterfall for patients with proceeds from last year's "Cars and Stars" fund-raiser. This year's "Cars, Stars and

Handlebars" event, scheduled for April 25, is expected to fund a Family Visitation Center.

The council's most prestigious award — the Jack Y. Smith Award — will be presented Thursday to the volunteer who best exemplifies the council's commitment to serving the more than 200 hospital patients, Christie-Morgan said. Jack Y. Smith was one of Big Spring State Hospital's earliest and most ardent supporters.

"It is always the highlight of the luncheon," Christie-Morgan said. "It's especially touching because Jack's son, Steve, and widow, Edna Faye, attend and present the award."

For reservations, call the Community Relations office at 268-7535. The luncheon is free to volunteers and those who would like to volunteer. Tickets for the Cars, Stars and Handlebars fund-raiser will be available at the luncheon.



Courtesy photo

Here are the winners of the T-shirt art contest held at Goliad Middle School. First place went to Serena Payen (middle), while Mayna J. Ortega finished second with her Zia drawing and Danie Ortega was third with a teepee. Payen's art was used on the 2008 Big Spring PowWow youth shirts.

CITY

Continued from Page 1A

mends the council grant variances on both."

Darden said the same board also recommended several requirements J.T. Land Development has already agreed to.

"The board wants permanent utility hookups," Darden said. "This would also limit the park to 36 lots and require sound barriers be constructed where the property abuts other residential properties. There will also be a vehicle weight limit based on the roads. If the vehicles are too heavy we will certainly see a lot of wear and tear on the roadways over time. Also, if the developer wants to expand that weight limit at any time, they will have to come back to the council."

Darden told the council the park would be open 24 hours, with a night drop located across the street. A public hearing concerning the matter drew no comments from the audience or the council.

Also Tuesday, the council considered final reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to approve the articles of incorporation and bylaws of Cities Aggregation Power Project Inc. (CAPP), approving membership fee and appointing a representative to serve on behalf of the city. According to prior reports from city officials, participation in the CAPP would allow the municipality to broker better prices for electrical service.

According to City Finance Director Peggy Walker, her staff's first recommendation to approve the CAPP became a moot point since its approval on first reading two weeks ago.

"Since that time, fluctuations in the market have allowed us to lock in an

unheard of price with TXU," Walker told the council. "The contract we've negotiated is for 58 months and will lock us in at a price of 6 cents per kilowatt hour."

Walker said a sudden, sharp drop in prices, thanks in part to weather conditions during the previous two weeks — a downturn she said lasted a total of three days — allowed the city to save hundreds of thousands of dollars over the life of the contract.

"Prices have come back up since that time," said Walker. "In just three days, the contract we were able to get saved the city \$180,000 over the 58-month contract. I talked to the people with the CAPP, and they said their members were going to be upset they aren't able to get a price like that."

The council skipped the item, allowing it to die for lack of a motion.

Also during the meeting the council approved:

- Final reading of a resolution authorizing the installation of speed bumps along Whipkey Drive, within Comanche Trail Park from Highway 87 to the three-way intersection.

- Final reading of an ordinance authorizing the city manager to designate the placement and maintenance of a two-way controlled stop intersection at San Antonio and W. Seventh Street with W. Seventh traffic yielding to San Antonio Street.

- Final reading of an

ordinance authorizing the city manager to authorize the installation of No Parking signs to be erected on the east and west sides of Main Street from 100 to 104 addresses.

- Final reading of a resolution requesting that TxDOT provide additional street lamps and a three-way hazard light for the emergency entrance to Scenic Mountain Medical Center off FM 700.

- Final reading of a resolution granting recognition of Local 2922 of the International Association of Fire Fighters as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for all of non-exempt employees of the fire department as requested in a recent petition filed with the city secretary March 14, 2008, and determining the city may meet and confer with the association.

- Presentation of the annual audit for the year ended Sept. 30, 2007.

- Approval of the 2008-2009 proposed budget for the Howard County Tax Assessor/Collector's office.

- First reading of an ordinance approving the preliminary/final plat of the Howard County Law Enforcement Center Subdivision, a 6.54 acre tract out of Section 2, Block 33, T-1-S, T&P RR Co. Survey.

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

Long narrowly wins GOP bid for Precinct 3

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

Local political hopeful Jimmie Long's bid for the Precinct 3 seat on the Howard County Commissioners Court will extend to the November election, as he took a narrow victory against his runoff opponent Tuesday night.

Long, who managed to draw 232 ballots, won the Republican nomination by besting Paschal Odom, who drew 207.

During the March 4 political party primaries, neither Long or Odom was able to garner the required 50 percent of the vote to avoid the runoff election, forcing the runoff. Long finished ahead of the pack for the party's nomination with 310 ballots — 39.64 percent of the vote — while Odom had 197 ballots, accounting for 25.19 percent.

Long said his decision to run has been many years in the making, and if elected he hopes to be able to use his background in business to help the residents of Precinct 3 and the rest of



Long

the county.

"I've been following county politics very closely the past 15 months, but I've been interested in it for more than 20 years," said

Long, who is co-owner of Faith Builders and vice president of Fort Worth-based Alemat Corporation.

Long said Tuesday's victory reflected the hard work he and his supporters have done.

"My friends and family, I couldn't have done this without them," said Long. "I just want to thank each and every one of them for all their help, and thank all the voters who took the time to get out and vote in this runoff. I can't thank them enough."

Elections Administrator Sandra Bloom said she was pleased with the turnout.

"I was hoping to get 450 ballots in the local race and we came in with 439 ballots," said Bloom.

Long will have to get by at least one more candidate if he is to claim the

Precinct 3 seat, however, as he will face Democratic nominee Dick Dubose — who won his party's nomination unopposed — in the November contest.

While the Republican contest — the only runoff involving a local candidate — drew more than 400 voters to the polls, the Democratic runoff wasn't so fortunate.

Voters participating in the Democratic runoff were asked to choose between Railroad Commission candidates Dale Henry (Austin) and Mark Thompson (Hamilton), bringing in just 58 ballots in Howard County. Locally, Thompson had the bigger draw, bringing in 34 ballots to Henry's 24.

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

Legal aid available

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.

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STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

didn't beat ourselves. They just beat us up with their bats."

Big Spring drew first blood, taking a 3-0 lead after the first inning, but Lake View quickly caught up with Steers' ace Matt Ritchey in the second, pulling within one run thanks to a two-run homer by Darius Flowers.

Big Spring had an answer, though, and it came off the bat of Jeremy Solis, who cracked a three-run homer over the right field fence, giving the Steers a 6-2 advantage.

The slugfest was only begin-

ning, however, as Lake View sent 10 batters to the plate in the bottom of the third, scoring seven runs for a 9-6 lead.

Big Spring answered with another five runs in the top of the fourth, scoring three of their five runs on Lake View throwing errors.

First baseman Cade Hollandsworth accounted for the other two scores in the frame, knocking in Nathan Doporto with a triple and then later crossing the plate himself.

Down 11-9, Lake View sent another 10 batters to the plate in the home half of the fourth, scoring another four runs and taking the lead for good at 13-11.

Big Spring starting pitcher

Matt Ritchey was relieved by Lance Gross in the midst of Lake View's seven-run third inning. Gross finished the final three innings of the game, taking the loss.

A pitching change worked much better for Lake View as Chris Rivas took over on the mound for starter Rodney Akers in the fourth inning, surrendering only one run while keeping the Big Spring batters off balance with an array of off-speed and breaking ball pitches.

The loss drops Big Spring to 0-4 after the first half of district play and 12-14 overall. Otto is quick to note that the Steers aren't out of the playoff hunt

yet, despite the winless league record.

"Throw the records out. A team can win on any given day in baseball," he said. "We've been close and competitive in every game this season. We had chances to beat Lubbock Estacado and Frenship. Both of them are at the top of the district."

"We're going to need a lot of breaks," admitted Otto. "We've just got to keep coming out and competing. We're frustrated, but once we get a win I think we can get on track and start winning several more games."

Big Spring travels to Plainview Friday in search of its first district victory. The

Steers lost to Plainview, 12-7, March 25 to open the 4-4A season. Since then, Big Spring has lost three consecutive games, leading to a four-game losing streak.

Big Spring 303 501 0—12 15 2
Lake View 027 405 x—18 16 6

Matt Ritchey, Lance Gross (3) and Rance Terry. Rodney Akers, Chris Rivas (4) and Ethan Reid. W - Rivas. L - Gross. 2B: BSBS - Nathan Doporto; LVHS - John David Baker, Rivas. 3B: BSBS - Hollandsworth, Ritchey; LVHS - Jace Stovall. HR: BSBS - Jeremy Solis; LVHS - Darius Flowers.

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

BSHS

Continued from Page 1B

Kelly Sage took the loss, giving up all 13 runs of which only four were

earned. She finished with four strikeouts. Valle had three RBIs to lead the Lady Steers at the plate.

The loss drops the Lady Steers into a tie with Plainview for third place with both teams at 2-3 in

the district standings. Frenship leads 4-4A and Lake View currently sits in second.

The first-place Frenship Lady Tigers visit Big Spring at 1 p.m. Saturday. Sparks says it's a matter

of refocusing to get the Lady Steers back on the winning track.

"We made some adjustments in our defensive lineup before the district season, but now we're thinking we need to go

back to the way things were," he explained. "Our infield killed us with mistakes against Plainview. We need to get players back into positions they're most comfortable in."

Big Spring 002 110 0—4 11 8
Plainview 013 540 x—13 10 4

W - Ortiz. L - Kelly Sage. 2B: BSBS - Linzee Yarbar, Jillian Valle, Kenzie Hunt; PHS - Sayla, Lauren, Lindsey, Tiffany. 3B: BSBS - Yarbar; PHS - Veronica. RBI: BSBS - Valle 3, Hunt.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

Coahoma softball vs. Stamford, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY
Big Spring softball vs. San Angelo Lake View, 4 p.m.

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

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

Forsan softball vs. Menard, 5 p.m.

Coahoma softball vs. Midland High, 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 17

Big Spring track regional qualifiers in San Angelo through April 18.

Amigos Washer Club holding tournament April 12 at La Vadera

The Amigos Washer Club is holding a washer tournament at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the La Vadera Club.

Registration deadline is at 1 p.m. and cost is \$20 per team.

First-, second- and third-

place trophies will be awarded plus a cash prize.

For more information, contact Larry Lara at 264-6060 or Richard Villa at 268-9590.

Crossroads of West Texas Golf Classic scheduled

The Big Spring

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

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

A handicap is required

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

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

golf goodie bag.

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

Call Sports Editor Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, ext. 237, to submit a sports brief or e-mail him at sports@bigspringherald.com.

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

Contract Bridge
By Steve Becker
Trump Rich

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 5 4 2
♥ —
♦ K 5 4 3
♣ K 9 7 6 2

WEST
♠ —
♥ K J 9 7 5 3 2
♦ Q J 9 6
♣ Q 10

EAST
♠ A K Q 10 8 3
♥ —
♦ 10 8 2
♣ J 5 4 3

SOUTH
♠ J 7 6
♥ A Q 10 8 6 4
♦ A 7
♣ A 8

The bidding:
East South West North
3♠ 4♥ Dble All Pass
Opening lead — Queen of diamonds.
Declarer normally makes a survey of his winners and/or losers when he starts to play a hand. If he is in a suit contract, he counts his losers; in notrump, he counts his winners.

However, this approach has its exceptions, especially in suit play, when there are ruffs available in one or both hands. In such cases, declarer might find it more convenient to count winners in estimating his prospects.

Thus, in the present case, if South counted only his losers, he would point to three in spades and (assuming he saw West's cards) as many as five trump tricks. This would amount to a 1,400-point setback.

But the fact is that South need not lose eight tricks. Indeed, if he exercises no more than a reasonable degree of care, he can hold his losses to only three tricks and make the contract despite West's formidable array of trumps!

He wins the diamond lead with the ace and embarks on a campaign to score as many of his low trumps as he can. He returns a diamond to the king and ruffs a diamond, then cashes the A-K of clubs and ruffs another diamond.

South has now won six tricks — two diamonds, two clubs and two diamond ruffs — and still has the J-7-6 of spades and A-Q-10-8 of hearts. West has the seven trumps he started with.

Declarer leads a spade, forcing West to ruff and return a trump to hand South his seventh trick. Declarer plays another spade, forcing West to ruff and lead another trump, handing South his eighth trick.

Finally, when declarer leads his last spade, West must ruff once more and return a trump to South's A-Q to hand declarer his ninth and 10th tricks. Altogether, West is endplayed in trumps three times!

Tomorrow: Sylvia strikes a telling blow.
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In **Sunday's** Big Spring Herald

American Profile
Let's Dance
The new dance craze
Men and women of all ages, from teenagers to baby boomers, are lining up all across America to learn the newest dance craze. But this new craze is actually not new at all. It's ballroom dancing. Plus, planning a reunion and butter-milk brownie cake.

American Profile

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

OTHER VIEWS

The truth about jobs

Hillary Clinton probably should have booted Mark Penn from his lofty position in her presidential campaign long before now. There had been ample evidence that his strategy was a loser. Barack Obama leads in primaries won, delegates gained and cash collected.

But to focus on Penn's demotion only as it pertains to the horse race is shortsighted. People need to also consider the issue that put him in the dog house — free trade, which has become a convenient whipping boy for pandering presidential candidates seeking blue-collar votes.

Candidates spit NAFTA out of their mouths as if the acronym were a synonym for the Antichrist.

Penn got into trouble, deservedly, for trying to serve Clinton at the same time the public relations company he runs was promoting a U.S. trade agreement with Colombia. It was the height of hypocrisy.

Only weeks ago, Clinton had derided Obama for criticizing the North American Free Trade Agreement even as one of his top aides was assuring Canadian officials that they need not worry about NAFTA's future.

Also troubling are contracts Penn's PR company has with trigger-happy security firm Blackwater Worldwide and subprime mortgage lender Countrywide. But Clinton is keeping him aboard as a pollster.

An important lesson from the Penn episode is that trade agreements must be considered individually and outside the protectionist rhetoric being spewed by presidential aspirants who claim they want to save American jobs.

Scuttling some trade agreements could have the opposite effect.

The proposed pact with Colombia, for example, would remove tariffs as high as 35 percent on U.S. goods, further opening up that market to American companies selling tractors, fabricated metal products and agricultural goods.

Exports to Colombia could increase by more than \$1 billion if Congress approves the agreement. Increasing U.S. exports means more jobs for American workers.

Furthermore, a trade agreement would help bolster Colombia's fight against narcotics-dealing insurgents backed by Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez.

U.S. union officials rightly point out that Colombian President Alvaro Uribe needs to do more to protect labor organizers in his country, some of whom have been murdered. But the trade pact can help steer Uribe toward further reforms.

Uribe has already agreed to stronger labor and environmental rules similar to those in the Peru trade pact Congress has approved. But Democratic congressional leaders, taking their cue from Obama and Clinton, don't want to give Colombia the same deal.

Many in this nation support free trade. NAFTA, pushed into existence by President Clinton in 1993, has created thousands of U.S. jobs. It also has helped guarantee access to oil from Canada, now our No. 1 supplier, reducing our dependency on the Middle East for fuel.

Candidates trashing all trade agreements either don't believe what they're saying or are talking without thinking. Either way, it's a sorry commentary on politics.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

With You, Lord, everything is a possibility.

Amen

Cuba's 'changes' amount to nada

Well, just as America's "useful fools" were beginning to buy the smoke and mirror changes that appear to be taking place in Cuba, out comes a new report condemning the communist island for multiple human rights violations.

The changes are purely cosmetic. Under Raul Castro, who officially replaced his brother Fidel as the island's dictator in February, Cubans are being given access to things they should have always had — from cell phones to hotel rooms — but still can't afford.

Yet this is still the same regime that "created a permanent panorama of breached basic rights for the Cuban citizenry," according to a report by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission, which is the human rights arm of the Organization of American States (OAS), also noted that Cuba still has no independent courts or free elections, and still restricts freedom of expression by jailing more dissidents and journalists than any other country in the Americas.

The report covered human rights violations that occurred in 2007. But that's one area where no changes have occurred in Cuba. Regardless of which of the two Castro brothers is in command, Cuba still has one of the most repressive regimes in the world.

Yet a few meaningless "changes" by the Castro regime is apparently enough to sway some American "useful fools" — especially in the U.S. Congress — into thinking that this is some sort of aperture,

and that the Cuban fist of repression is no longer clinched.

"Useful fools" is the term traditionally used by communists to describe gullible people who fall for the romantic appeal of leftist rebels. And they are still around. They want to sing "Kumbaya" and smoke peace pipes with the Castro brothers, even though these bloody tyrants are only utilizing them.

In fact, the so-called Cuban apartheid, which kept most Cubans from enjoying the luxuries reserved for tourists, will still exist. What good is access to modern necessities and luxuries if the Cubans cannot afford them?

What we now see on TV reports from Havana are the sad images of Cubans gawking through appliance stores that had been inaccessible to them and realizing that 21st century items are totally out of reach for 19th century wage earners.

The Cuban peso, which was once at par with U.S. dollar, is now worth less than an American nickel. You hear them explaining that it would take six months of their salary to buy a microwave or a DVD player.

Such is the "success" of the Cuban Revolution. Since the average Cuban earns 408 pesos (\$17 U.S.) per month, what modern appliance can they afford to buy? What hotel room (starting at \$60 per day) can they rent?

The only thing that has changed in Cuba is that the new Castro regime is trying to fool us into believing that things are actually changing there.

And it's not just Americans they want to fool. These so-called changes by Raul Castro are particularly meant to fool Cuban-Americans. After all, it is Cubans in exile who will supply the cash for their relatives to go shopping

in Cuba.

While many Cuban-Americans call on the U.S. government to enforce the economic embargo against the island, many other Cuban-Americans are the first to break the embargo, by constantly traveling to Cuba and sending huge amounts of money to their relatives. It has been that way for years, and they are partially responsible for keeping the Cuban economy afloat and prolonging the life of the dictatorship.

What we are witnessing now is another gasp for air by the suffocating Castro brothers, a new technique for draining more money from Cuban-Americans, who will now visit Havana and invite their relatives to stay in fancy hotels and go shopping.

Such are the ironic contradictions of the Cuban Revolution: Among 11 million people, the only Cubans who can afford a decent living are the ones who have relatives who fled.

Nevertheless, U.S. government officials, and particularly presidential candidates, need to be aware that Cuba is seeking economic changes to save communism and its repression — and not to begin a peaceful transition toward democracy.

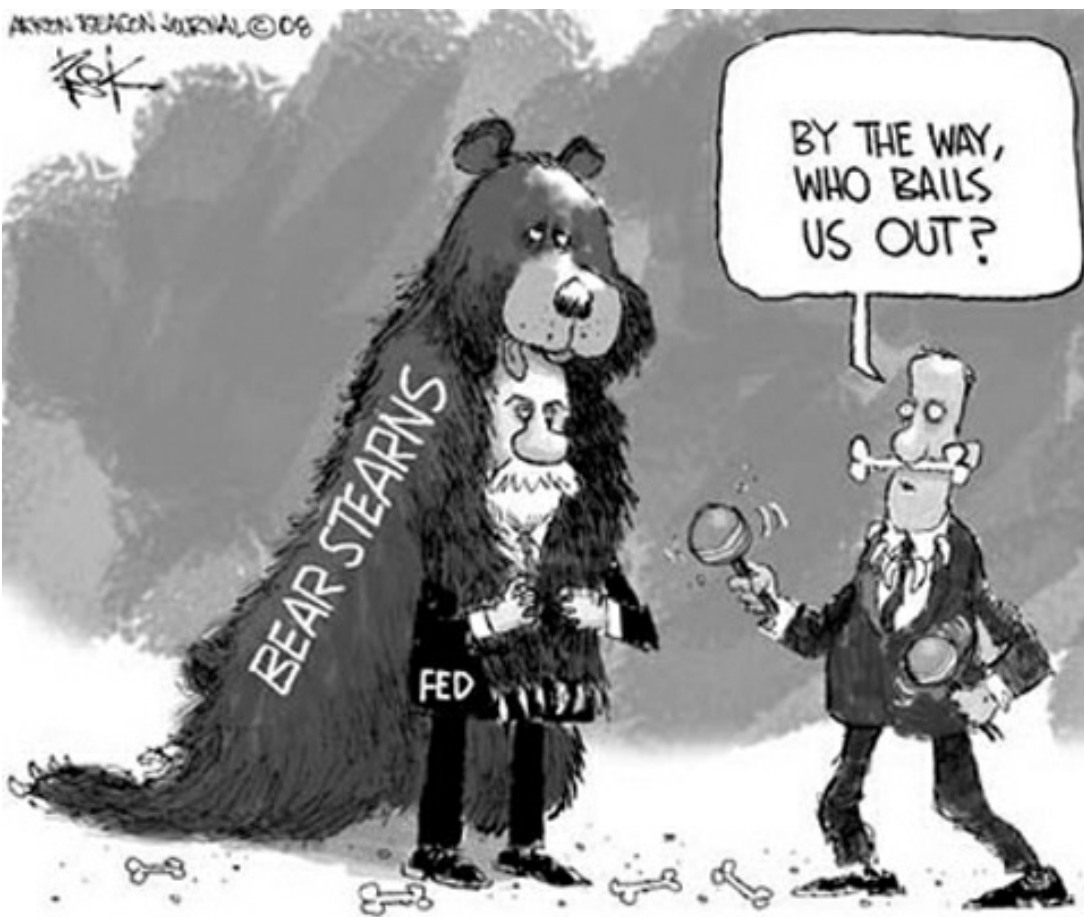
Although at least one presidential candidate — Sen. Barack Obama — has already said he would meet with Raul Castro "without preconditions," — showing troubling naivete — what our leaders need to do is stand firm for freedom in Cuba.

We cannot allow Cuba to turn into another trading partner such as China, a Communist country where the economy has been freed, but the people are still denied the most basic human rights.

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MIGUEL PEREZ



ADDRESSES

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- **GEORGE W. BUSH**
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- **RANDY NEUGEBAUER**
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Rejection simply a fact of life

It was more than 30 years ago that I came home from school to find the stack of skinny envelopes, and the one fat one. We all knew what that meant. A skinny envelope meant a rejection, a "have a good life, we don't want you, no enclosures necessary." A fat envelope was a yes.

I had a pile of skinnies from all the places I'd dreamt about — Harvard, especially, but also Yale and Princeton, then in their first years of accepting women, and Pembroke, which was the girls' college at Brown in those days. I think I got on the waiting list at Jackson, which was the girls' Tufts, but it didn't matter. The fat envelope was from Wellesley, my last choice, the only "women's college" on the list, the school my mother made me apply to. They accepted me and gave me a very generous scholarship, and that, as they say, was that.

The New York Times reported April 1 that American colleges and universities received a record number of applications this year, meaning the acceptance rates reached record lows. I should've known. The year I had my daugh-

ter, I remember reading that more babies were born that year than in any since the baby boom. At the time, I thought of all the advantages, culturally speaking, of being part of a "boom generation," as I was. I didn't think of college acceptance rates 18 years down the road.

I'm not writing about my daughter here, both to protect her privacy and because she will be fine. The thin envelopes have been replaced by e-mail messages and holding your breath while you link to the decision. And while yesterday was not a dream come true, she has good choices. Most kids do, even if they don't realize it right now.

Today's message is for the kids who are heartbroken by having their dreams dashed, and especially for their parents — all the rest of you who had your kids in the wrong year and worry that somehow you did something wrong. I remember when my kids were younger, believing that if I worked hard enough and made enough money and had enough famous people's cell phones in my rolodex I could somehow protect my children from all the pain I have faced in my life. Of course, that was never true.

As I have learned, as every parent has to learn, we cannot protect our children from life. We can

only help them to grow the skin that will allow them to absorb the blows, endure the pain and go forward. Rejection is one of them. It requires a thick skin to deal with thin envelopes, or their Internet equivalent, but it is the sort of thick skin that, once grown, stands you in good stead.

I would like to tell you I loved Wellesley, that they were the happiest years of my life, that I ended up happy that Harvard hadn't taken me, but that wouldn't be true.

I had many hard days at Wellesley. We used to joke that the only man we saw for months on end was the janitor, and while that wasn't really true, it wasn't as far off as I wished. I formed great work habits, developed confidence in my academic abilities and made lifelong friends — all important things. But I always wished I'd gotten into Harvard.

So it goes. I always wished I was born with a fast metabolism, a gift for tennis and a signing voice that stayed in tune. No so. Life is less about the hand you're dealt than how you play it. For some kids and, yes, for some of us parents, it starts with those thin envelopes and learning to be grateful for the fat one in the bunch.

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MAVS

Continued from Page 2B

basketball with the playoffs right around the corner," Kidd said. "We've had our tough spells. But we've bent but didn't break. We're getting confident and playing at a high level."

Earl Watson had 22 points and eight assists for Seattle. Kevin Durant added 16 points, and Jeff Green and Nick Collison each had 11.

Seattle scored 151 points in a double-overtime win against Denver on Sunday. But the Sonics shot 38 percent from the floor and failed to generate a consistent offensive attack against the Mavericks.

"I just didn't think we played very smart," Sonics coach P.J. Carlesimo said. "It was more of

the offensive shot selection. We had too many possessions where we didn't get good shots. That hurt us more than anything else."

Watson hit a jumper that brought Seattle within 73-67 early in the fourth quarter. But Nowitzki started Dallas' fourth-quarter surge with a 3-pointer and a jumper to extend the lead to 78-67.

The Sonics inched within 80-71 when Watson connected on an another jumper before the Mavericks scored the next 11 points.

Terry capped the run with a pair of layups as the Mavericks beat the Sonics for the 13th straight time, dating to Dec. 9, 2004.

"Once we got our defense rolling, we were able to get in transition for some easy baskets," Terry said.

Terry, who shot 9-of-11, scored 12 points in the first half as the Mavericks led 46-44 at halftime. The Sonics got within one early in the second half before the Mavericks started building their lead.

Howard's three-point play gave the Mavericks a 70-60 cushion before Durant answered with one of his own to cut the lead to seven after three quarters.

Notes: Mavericks coach Avery Johnson expects F Jerry Stackhouse (right groin strain) to return to full-contact practice by the end of the week. Stackhouse participated in the team shootaround Tuesday morning and has had some non-contact practice. "He did OK," Johnson said. "I hope he can return to full-contact by Friday." Dallas was also without F Malik Allen (back

spasms), who missed his second straight game. ... Seattle F Donyell Marshall (right knee soreness) missed the game. He had an MRI Tuesday, and Carlesimo said Marshall's status is day-to-day. ... Seattle's previous record for losses in a season was 59 its inaugural campaign, 1967-68.

Trail Blazers 112, Lakers 103

Brandon Roy scored 23 points and matched his career high with 12 assists, LaMarcus Aldridge and Channing Frye each added 22 points, and Portland snapped a five-game losing streak.

Kobe Bryant finished with 34 points for Los Angeles, which had its four-game winning streak snapped. Pau Gasol had 21 points and 13 rebounds in the Lakers' sixth straight loss

at the Rose Garden.

Celtics 107, Bucks 104, OT

After sitting out their previous game, Boston's Big Three returned in Milwaukee to help the Celtics win their seventh straight.

Kevin Garnett scored 21 points, Ray Allen had 11 and Paul Pierce, who returned to the team after the birth of his daughter, had 14.

Suns 127, Grizzlies 113

Amare Stoudemire had 28 points and 11 rebounds, and Phoenix beat Memphis for the eighth straight time despite playing without Shaquille O'Neal, who had a right hip contusion.

Rudy Gay matched his career high with 36 points for the hosts.

RANGERS

Continued from Page 2B

Scott, teammates with Jennings in Houston last season, went 2-for-4 and has nine hits his last 14 at-bats.

Jennings, the former first-round pick and 2002 NL Rookie of the Year with Colorado, signed as a free agent after a miserable season (2-9, 6.45 ERA)

with the Astros that ended with surgery in August to repair a torn flexor tendon in his right elbow.

He pitched a team-high 17 innings during spring with a 2.12 ERA, but has allowed eight runs and four homers in two regular season starts.

Pitching for the first time ever at Rangers Ballpark, 29-year-old Dallas native Jennings struck out one and walked four in 4 2-3 innings and retired

Baltimore in order only once.

"It's a day I'll always remember, a day I was looking forward to," Jennings said. "But it wasn't the result I was looking for. ... I was amped up at the beginning, and that didn't help."

Notes: Milton Bradley was 2-for-4 in his first home game for Texas, but was easily thrown out trying to score on a pitch in the dirt that only went a few feet behind the catcher. He was

originally supposed to play right field, but was switched to designated hitter because of the threat of rain that never came. The Rangers are still being cautious with Bradley recovering from knee surgery. ... Texas is 18-19 in home openers, and 6-9 at Rangers Ballpark. ... This is Baltimore's best start since going 7-1 in 1998. ... Rangers owner Tom Hicks, who also owns the Liverpool soccer team, followed Liverpool's

game against Arsenal in the European Champions League on television.

He was able to catch parts of that game on TVs by his field-level seats and in his owner's suite upstairs while with clients, friends and long-time season ticket holders at the Rangers game. Hicks watched the start and end of the Rangers game from his seats in the first row.



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Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE. 1801 Alabama. Friday 12am-5pm & Saturday 8am-? All size men, women's, kids clothes and shoes. Knick-knacks, glassware, antiques. Lots more.

GARAGE SALE: Saturday 9-2, 1704 Morrison. Stove, freezer, lawn & garden, mini fridge, plumbing supplies, Hoshizahi ice side-by-side refrigerator, furniture, Lg. P.A. speakers w/horn, poker table w/chips.

GARAGE SALE: Saturday 9-?, 301 East Second Street (Shiloh House of Praise).

MULTI FAMILY Highland South Garage Sale: 803 & 809 Highland Drive, Friday & Saturday 8:00-1:00. Too much to list. No Early Sales Please.

Help Wanted

\$9.00/HR. CHILDCARE POSITION. Apply Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

Help Wanted



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is accepting applications for
**Vacuum Truck Drivers
Pump Truck Drivers
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Competitive Wages & Benefits
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Attn: Maxine Roberts, RN

InHome Care, Inc.
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Big Spring, Tx
79720

Help Wanted

AFTERNOON STAFF- 5:30p.m.-12:00a.m., \$9.00 DOE. Apply at Jack & Jill, 1708 Nolan.

ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE TECH needed at Cimarron Place. Own tools a plus. Company benefits included. Apply in person, 4136 E. 52nd St, Odessa. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

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Testing April 17th & 18th
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City of Big Spring, Texas
Phone: (432)264-2346
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For more details go to
www.ci.big-spring.tx.us
EOE

BLUE SKY Services is looking for an Experienced Backhoe Operator for the Big Spring area. If interested please call 432-580-7332.

BLUE SKY Services is looking for a Journeyman Electrician. If interested please call 432-580-7332.

CDL DRIVERS and Equipment Operators needed. Good Pay, Insurance, and lots of hours. Job located in the Coahoma, Texas area. Must have dependable transportation and pass a drug test. Apply in person at 9400 South Service Road I-20, Coahoma, TX.

CDL DRIVERS needed. Vacuum truck. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Must pass drug test. Call (432)466-3838.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for part-time Laundry attendant. Work 7 days- 7 days off. Must have own car. Apply 1208 Gregg Street or 208 11th Place.

Help Wanted

COAHOMA ISD is accepting applications for two positions: Lead Custodian and Groundskeeper. Applications are available at the Administration Office, 600 N Main, Coahoma. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Coahoma ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER/Foreman. We are looking for Wind Farm help, experience preferred, filling all positions. Please call 901-270-1204 or fax resume to dbradley@barnhartcrane.com Drivers

\$500 SIGN-ON BONUS

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EXPERIENCED TRUCK Technician own tools required, A/C experience preferred. Full benefit and unlimited income potential. Apply at Travel Centers of America Shop 704 West I-20 or fax resume to 432-267-4262.

Help Wanted

DUNCAN DISPOSAL - Now hiring a driver for the Coahoma area. Need at least a Class B CDL. Experience Preferred for a driver's position. Must be able to pass mandatory DOT and corporate drug testing requirements. No phone calls please. The job includes 40+ hours weekly Mon- Fri., with some Sat. mornings. An hourly rate with benefits package is available. Equal Opportunity Employer. Please Call Arthur 432-770-3966.

EXPERIENCED PAINTER for trucks and heavy equipment. Salary DOE, Health Insurance, and 401k plan. Apply at Price Construction, 2701 N. HWY 350, Big Spring, TX 79720 or fax resume to 432-236-6012. EOE.

FARM HAND Wanted! Experience only apply. Call after 7:00 p.m. (432)684-5418.

MATURE CHRISTIAN person to work with Pre-K students. M-F, full-time. Apply in person at New Hope Christian School, 118 Cedar Road.

Help Wanted

Food Service - Great People - Real Opportunities SUPERVISORS

3-Day Work Week with Full Time Pay in Big Spring, TX! Compass Group, the world's largest contract food service company, is now hiring several motivated individuals for our food service operation @ the Big Spring Correctional Complex. Great career opportunity, wages for qualified food service people start @ \$12.50. after 6 months, \$14.50. Outstanding company. Paid benefits, paid training, supplied uniforms. Unlimited advancement in a global company. Food service background not required. Must pass drug test, background check & have a clean or repairable credit record.

Opportunity is a call away!
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EOE & AA Employer M/F/D/V

HONEST HARDWORKING lawn and office maintenance person. 5 flexible hours per week. Equipment on site. Character references required. Great for a student. Call 432-263-5217.

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Prefer an RN and HCA with 1 year Home Health experience. Please call our office at: 432-264-1164 Fax: 432-264-1304 Email: Scott.Myers@FMS-Regional.com

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Between the hours of 8am and 4pm
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Dentist



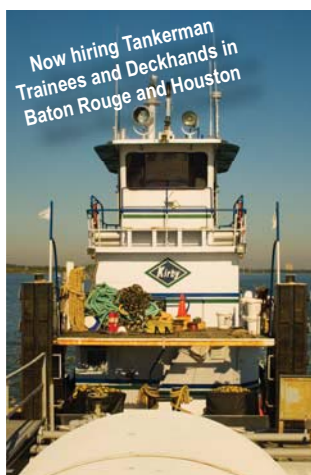
Incumbent serves as a general dental practitioner responsible for diagnosis and treatment of difficult dental problems in a correctional environment. Provides comprehensive dental care to the inmate population, who may have behavior and communication problems. Assists in the coordination the dental program, providing input regarding proposed modifications to operating procedures. Incumbent is required to meet suitability as well as qualification requirements to be selected for this position. Applications and more information can be obtained from www.usajob.opm.gov. Questions regarding this position can be directed to Michael Cross, Employee Services Manager, mcross@bop.gov, (432) 466-2402, or Aramis Martinez, Health Services Administrator, axmartinez@bop.gov, 432-466-2438. The BOP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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Entry level applicant must:

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- Possess a valid driver's license
- Produce an original birth certificate or certified copy
- Have a social security card
- Be a U.S. citizen or possess a valid resident card
- Be able to read and comprehend the English language
- Not have more than two speeding tickets in the past three years
- Not have a DWI in the past three years
- Not be on probation, parole or have charges pending
- Pass a drug and alcohol screen

An equal opportunity employer



Pharmacist

The incumbent serves as the Chief Pharmacist at a Federal Bureau of Prisons' correctional facility and has responsibility for complete pharmacy services at the institution clinic. He/she is responsible for all aspects of pharmacy operations including dispensing, pharmaceutical care, clinical and community relations, and accreditation compliance.

Incumbent is required to meet suitability as well as qualification requirements to be selected for this position. Applications and more information can be obtained from www.usajob.opm.gov. Questions regarding this position can be directed to Michael Cross, Employee Services Manager, mcross@bop.gov, (432) 466-2402, or Aramis Martinez, Health Services Administrator, axmartinez@bop.gov, 432-466-2438. The BOP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Help Wanted

HANGAR 25 Air Museum is seeking a part-time Maintenance/Janitor. 16 hours a week. \$5.85 an hour. Duties include cleaning and event set up as well as all other duties assigned. Interested parties please call or come by and fill out an application.

OILFIELD ELECTRICAL construction and maintenance company located in Midland, Texas is seeking a Supervisor for Oilfield electrical work. Will meet with customers, estimate jobs, and oversee installation. Must have a current Master or Journeyman Electrician's License. Salary is DOE. Please fax resume and salary requirements to (432)684-7607.

Help Wanted



HELP WANTED!
UP TO \$8.00 HOURLY
for qualified applicants. DQ of Coahoma, 108 N. Broadway, is now hiring daytime help. Need to love working with people, meeting new faces drug and smoke-free environments. Apply with Manager JoAnn Abrego

P/T MOBILE Home Inspector. Internet and digital Camera required. Email name, phone number, city and state to fscorp@fieldservices.com.

Help Wanted

PART-TIME: THE National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (A Fair Opportunity Employer) needs survey interviewers in Martin, Midland and Howard counties. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and access to a pick-up truck or automobile. Starting pay is \$9.35 per hour including training time, plus 50.5 cents per mile for travel. A farm background is desirable, but not essential. If you are interested, please contact:
Joe Rowe
HCR 74 Box 89
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
432-426-3089
432-249-0300

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REGIS HAIR Salon Big Spring Marketplace, now hiring a full time Hair Stylist. Benefits include guaranteed wage or commission whichever is greater. Incentive program, 401K, stock purchase plan, medical insurance, and advanced training. All tool supplies furnished except shears. Call now for an opportunity to join our team ask for Diane Arsiaga, 432-263-1111.

OPENING FOR Administrative Assistant for Canterbury. Desired skills include: Work, Excel, Publisher, reception skills and organizational skills. Salary DOE. Benefit package available, send resume to 1700 Lancaster Street.

Help Wanted

PARKPLACE RETIREMENT Living is seeking an evening Resident Clerk. This position is shift work from 4:30pm to 12:30am; week ends required (guaranteed 40 hours a week). Duties include facilitating activities, light housekeeping, assisting in during meal times, etc. Must be able to multitask and be active. Apply in person at 501 W. 17th Street.



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Help Wanted

APPLY NOW

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Health has a great opportunity for a Director of Nurses: We are an established, reputable & successful home health company that has been in business for 15 years. We will soon be opening a parent location in Big Spring, and have a unique opportunity to start a location from the ground floor up! Position includes a competitive base salary & benefits package plus a \$25,000 bonus for achieving goals. To apply, please send your resume along with salary requirements to the attention of Angela Carter, HR Manager
resumes@txhmg.com
or fax it to (817)310-4990.

LAUNDRY AID needed with experience. Very fast pasted environment. Competitive pay and paid holidays & vacation. Pick up application at Holiday Inn Express, 1109 N. Aylesford Street.

LICENSED PLUMBERS and apprentices, helpers, and HVAC technicians, apprentices, helpers. Doing commercial work in Midland and Big Spring. Insurance and retirement. Good wages, growing company looking for long term employees. Call (432)699-7747.

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MAINTENANCE TECH needed, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. Experience preferred but not required. Must pass criminal and credit check. Fax resume to 432-264-1761 or call 432-264-1735. EOE

NEEDED L.V.N. for very busy adult practice willing to be trained for multiple procedures and treatments done in clinical setting. Please send resume c/o P.O. Box 1431/177, Big Spring, TX 79721-1431.

NEIGHBORS CONVENIENCE Store now hiring cooks, cashiers, stockers. All Shifts. Apply at 3315 E. FM 700.

NOW HIRING all positions. Apply in person at 802 West I-20 between the Exxon & Advantage Inn Motel.

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P.H.I.C. - John Deere Dealer of Big Spring, TX in need of Service Technicians. Pay is based on exp. Fax resume: Attn: Justin Parker, Serv., Mngr. (432)267-2757 or call (432)263-8344 Benefits include: Health Ins., 401K; Pd. Vacation.

PORTER HENDERSON Implement Co. is looking for a full and part time parts clerk. Farming knowledge a plus. Must have a valid driver's license. Apply in person at 3011 N. Hwy. 87.

RELEASE OF Information Clerk in Big Spring area. Experience in a Medical Records Department or Doctor's Office a must. Fax resume to 417-777-8459 or call 800-873-1831.

SECURITY OFFICERS Needed to Guard Federal Inmates in Local Hospitals. Must be able to pass State and Federal background checks and credit check requirements. Full and part-time positions available. Starting pay \$12.50 per hr. Apply at Workforce Center in Big Spring or call 432-520-1573.

WOODFOREST NATIONAL Bank is now hiring for Assistant Branch Manager at our Big Spring location. Please apply online at www.woodforest.com. EOE m/f/v/d

Help Wanted

WESTEX AUTO Parts is growing and in need of an auto parts puller and/or auto dismantler. Mechanical experience and own tools are required. Please submit your application to Lucy at Westex Auto Parts @ 1511 N. Hwy 350 in Big Spring.

WHITTEN INN now hiring the following positions: **Housekeepers, Maintenance, Desk Clerks. Apply in person, on I-20 next to TA Truck Stop.**

YOUTH DIRECTOR needed for small Christian Church. Must be a positive role model and able to get along well with parents. Must be good at organizing events for youth and at giving reports to the board. Please contact First Christian Church at 432-517-4821.

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BRAND NAME queen pillowtop mattress set. New in plastic. Factory warranty. \$145. 432-664-8980.

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GE SIDE-BY-SIDE refrigerator (black) and 16 foot fiberglass boat including motor w/trailer. Call 432-264-9900.

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QUEEN ORTHOPEDIC mattress set. Factory sealed with warranty. "New" \$130.00. Call 432-664-8980.

TEMPUR-PUDIC TYPE memory foam mattress set. New in plastic. Retail \$1800 Must sell for \$550. Call 432-664-8980.

WASHER AND DRYER, Both for \$75.00 or \$40.00 each. Baldwin Overture with two keyboards and floor stand with pedals. Different Rhythms, \$200.00. Call 432-267-9842.

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CHERRY dining table, chairs, china cabinet, mirror finish, ALL NEW. \$700. 806-549-3110.

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1999 JAYCO Designer Camper, 37' with 3 slides, fiberglass. \$19,500.00. Call (432)263-6948 for more information.

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BIG RECLINER, Sofa, and loveseat, BRAND NEW, list #3330, sell \$990.....
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QUITE NEIGHBORHOOD: 710 Johnson. 1 bedroom/ 1 bath house, CH/A, Appliances provided including washer/dryer. Utility paid by Renter. \$400mo/ \$400 deposit. Covered Parking in back. Prefer no pets/ smoking. Credit check required. Call 432-213-1496 if interested.

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OWNER FINANCED Houses for Sale. 510 State, 1609 Canary, 1114 Mulberry and 603 Circle. Easy Terms. Call Reagan at 432-634-6818.

Tomorrow's Horoscope

BY HOLIDAY MATHIS Think, and then think again. Today's Gemini moon promotes cross-pollination of fresh ideas from flower to flower, thinker to thinker, along with our tendency to unthinkingly jump from thought to speech, brain to mouth. Oops! Yet, somewhere in the data exchange, we learn more about what we think — and why we think the way we do.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You see so much to like in people that you feel like giving a bonanza of compliments. However, if you lay a big one on your sweetie or your boss, you'll be suspected of having ulterior motives.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Revisit and revive projects. You are more experienced than you were when you first thought, "I can do that!" and now you have the skills and judgment that were missing before. You actually CAN do that.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're currently giving more than you can afford, perhaps in an attempt to impress someone or be very well liked. You'll make more money soon enough, and your efforts are effective to boot.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When you get stuck, don't give in. Being stuck is a signal to look around and find a new way. Fast. Be like the martial artist in movies, using the resources around you to escape from, surprise or conquer the opponent.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're in new territory. There is no precedent for what you are doing. You can ask friends and teachers for advice, and they won't have any that applies. Let your own instincts about right and wrong to guide you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To know when to stop and when to persist is a talent in and of itself. You possess this gift. You won't stop short of a victory, nor will you continue down paths that lead nowhere.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Learning requires that you drop your defenses. What you do as a reaction to protect your sense of self will only keep you the same. Once you give up the old you, the new you will emerge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're passionate about the people, places and activities you spend your time and energy on. It's this passion that moves a minor mountain in your world. Capricorn, in particular, is touched by the emotion you show.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll hear through the grapevine how much you are appreciated. It feels good, but you're not sure if you should believe it. The person who speaks well of you behind your back is truly your friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Say what's on your mind, even if it's an idea that's still half-baked. Don't be shy. Tonight, if you happen to be getting too much attention from /someone who's usually not so

interested, it's time to ask, "What do you want?"

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). For every opinion you share with loved ones, there seems to be an equal and opposite opinion to keep you arguing into the night. That's fine with you. Loved ones who are in a contrary mood help you hone your ideas.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's not official, but if you were to take a poll, you would see that your approval rating is up, way up! There's no stopping your popularity as you laugh and share your mojo with everyone you meet now.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm madly in love with a Capricorn girl born on Christmas. Her ex left her, and she is having a hard time getting over him. We dated for six months, and she now wants time off to get over her feelings for the other man. I'm a Gemini. Do you see us getting back together?"

Sorry, Gemini. She's a Capricorn woman, and she has already made up her mind. Lyle Lovett even wrote a song called "She's Already Made Up Her Mind" that explains it all: "There is nothing so unwavering as a Capricorn woman/When she's already made up her mind." OK, I may have added the Capricorn part. But don't give up just yet. There is hope. Use your Gemini charm — on another woman.

Yes! Capricorn gals are fiercely competitive, and she'll probably fight to get you back. Don't lead this other woman on, though. That's not only bad karma — it's just plain bad manners. (For more love advice questions answered, check out my book, "Rock Your Stars.")

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ANSWERS

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

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: A friend of mine has a major milestone birthday coming up this summer. A group of his teammates from a sports league wants to surprise him by renting a house in a resort town 800 miles away. They plan to split the birthday guy's share of the rental and expect those of us who do not go to the resort to pay for his airfare and travel money.

This trip would take place the weekend of his birthday. I and other friends are somewhat miffed that we are asked to contribute to a special event that many of us are not financially able to attend. (His teammates earn roughly twice what we do.) We had planned to pool our money to take the birthday boy on a cocktail cruise in our own city, but now he will be out of town.

We realize this is not about us, and I know the trip would mean a lot to him. Should we contribute as asked or politely decline? Should we make a token contribution and then proceed with our own plans later? — Left in the Lurch

Dear Lurch: That birthday boy is lucky to have so many friends eager to celebrate with him. You do not have to contribute to a "gift" you cannot afford, didn't choose and won't be able to enjoy. The resort trip should be a present from his teammates. You and your other friends can celebrate however you like, and it doesn't have to be on the same day. The previous or following weekend would be equally appreciated. Dear Annie: Like "No



KATHY MITCHELL
MARCY SUGAR

Name, No City," I discovered my husband is a compulsive gambler after we married. He blew \$50,000, and I forgave him and worked hard to get his debt under control. He promised to stop, and did — until the next time.

Tell "Clark's" wife to file for divorce now. He will never stop gambling and will ruin her financially. It may even be possible that he targeted her for marriage because he was out of funds with which to gamble. — Been There in Pennsylvania

Dear Pennsylvania: Thanks for telling your side. Gambling is addictive and needs to be worked on by someone truly committed to quitting.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, P.O. Box 118190, Chicago, IL 60611. To find out more about Annie's Mailbox, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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Monday is the last day that Gloria Hopkins and her AARP Tax "posse" will be preparing tax returns. Even if you do not usually file a return, you must file a return this year in order to take advantage of the tax rebate that President Bush has ordered. Hours are 8 a.m. until noon. You enter at the glass door to the right of the main entrance. There is an elevator available for downstairs access.



HOLLIS
MCCRIGHT

New Books Fiction

Rett McPherson's character Torie O'Shea is a historian, genealogist and sometime amateur detective. In the 10th novel, "Died in the Wool," featuring Torie, she is looking into a house that recently went on the market that she would like to turn it into a museum. In doing so, Torie winds up trying to solve an eight-decade-old crime. This is an immensely likable series with a sturdy, engaging protagonist. Many cozy fans will have already discovered the O'Shea novels, but those who haven't should remedy the oversight in a hurry. — *Review from Booklist, written by David Pitt.*

The Library has just received "The Blood Ballad" and "In Sheep's Clothing" and we have others to fill out the list.

Another well-crafted mystery is "Mausoleum" by Justin Scott (we also have "Stone Dust"). Realtor Ben Abbott is not a happy camper. Newcomer Brian Grose's tall, ostentatious mausoleum destroyed the serenity and peacefulness of the 300-year old cemetery in Newbury, Conn. And while Brian expected to occupy the "McTomb," no one expected him to show up dead in the mausoleum. Suffice it to say, suspects abound and it is up to Ben to find out "who done it."

Other mysteries just in are: "Knitting Bones" by Monica Ferris; "Rumpole Misbehaves" by John Mortimer; "Bones to Ashes" by Kathy Reichs and J.D. Robb's "Creation in Death" featuring hard-boiled Eve Dallas as a futuristic cop in New York.

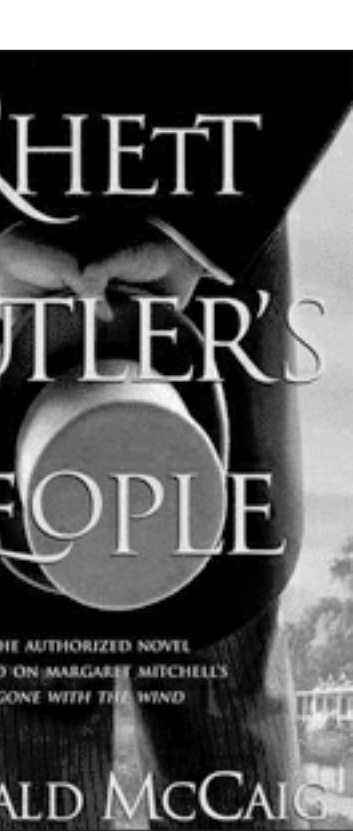
John Grisham departed from his usual haunts in "Playing for Pizza." While not a new book, we have just processed another copy. Third-string Cleveland Browns quarterback Rick Dockery becomes the greatest goat ever by throwing three interceptions in the closing minutes of the AFC champi-

onship game. Fleeing vengeful fans, he finds refuge in the grungiest corner of professional football, the Italian National Football League as quarterback of the inept but full-of-heart Parma Panthers. What ensues is a winsome football fable, replete with team bonding and character-building as the underdog

a nation torn apart by war, is by all accounts epic — so much so that it feels untouchable. Yet McCaig's take on what many would consider a sacred cow of 20th-century American literature is a worthy suitor for Mitchell's many ardent fans, for reasons that may not be altogether obvious. It would be easy to look at "Gone With the

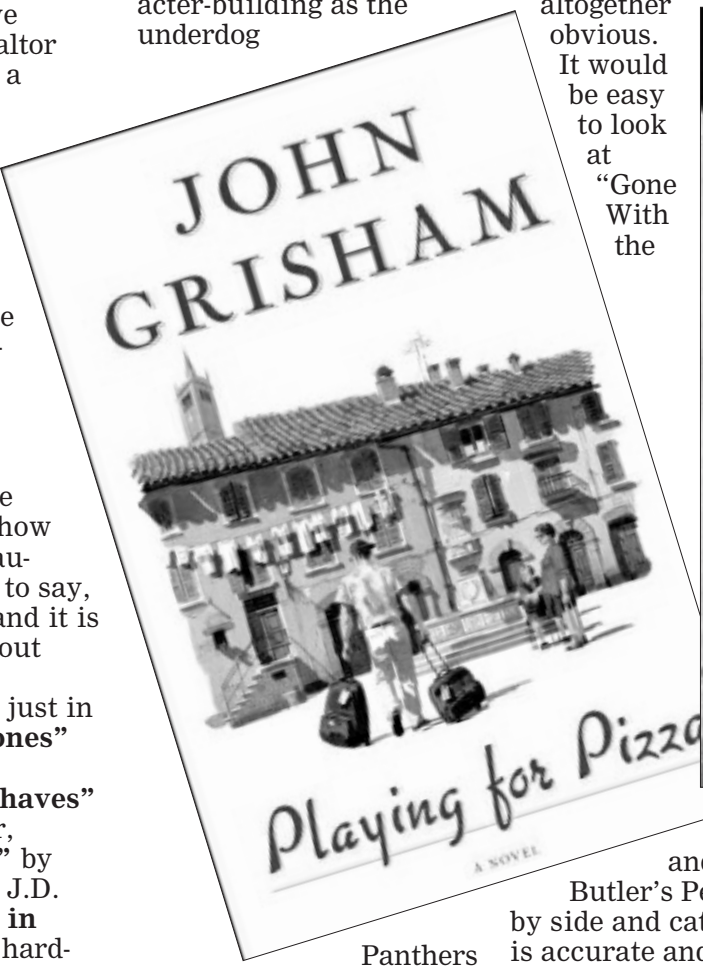
Wind" and "Rhett Butler's People" side by side and catalog what is accurate and what isn't and tally up the score. In doing so, however, the fan is apt to miss out on the best part of this whole book: Rhett Butler himself.

McCaig's Rhett is thoroughly modern, both a product of his Charleston plantation and an



Scarlett's love, but it is entirely amazing to love him as he rescues Belle Watling, mentors her bright young son Tazewell, adores his sister Rosemary, dotes on dear Bonnie Blue and defends his best friend Tunis Bonneau to the very end.

To pluck a character from a beloved book and recalibrate the story's point of view isn't an



Panthers challenge the powerhouse Bergamo Lions for a shot at the Italian Superbowl. It really is a cute book.

"Rhett Butler's People." Anne Bartholomew writes in a review from Amazon.com that Margaret Mitchell's story of Scarlett O'Hara's and Rhett Butler's beguiling, twisted love for each other, set against the gruesome background of

easy thing to do. Ultimately, the new must ring true with the old, and this is where Rhett Butler's People succeeds beyond measure. In the spirit of Mitchell's masterpiece, McCaig never questions that love — of family, lover, land, or country — is the tie that binds these characters to life, for better or worse.

More Fiction: Carole Mathew's "The Chocolate Lover's Club;" "Quatico" by Greg Bear; "The Final Warning: Maximum Ride" by James Patterson; "A Long and Winding Road" by Win Blevins and "The Reserve" by Russell Banks.

Remember that far more books come than I can write about. Be sure and look at the New Book Binder located at the circulation desk.

April is National Poetry Month and Johnny has prepared a display of various kinds of poetry. Be sure and check that out.

Howard County Library hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday. The Internet/Video room is closed from noon until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and it will close 12 hour before closing. The Library is located at 500 S. Main St. Our phone number is 264-2260.

Hollis McCright is director of the Howard County Library.

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Man's death ruled suicide

Foul play not indicated, officials say

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer
Foul play is not suspected in the Monday suicide death of a 25-year-old Big Spring man, officials say. Alfredo Ledesma III, of Big Spring, was found at his home between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Monday, the victim of an apparent suicide, according to Big Spring Police Department officials.

"The body was found at the victim's residence at 1610 Benton," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public

information officer with the BSPD. "He had hung himself. Justice of the Peace Katherine Wiseman was called to the scene and pronounced the victim dead and ordered an autopsy."

According to Wiseman, no foul play is suspected.

"The home was locked and secure — doors and windows — when the body was found," said Wiseman, "so foul play is not suspected in his death. No suicide note was found at the scene. I did order an autopsy, but

that's just standard procedure in a matter such as this."

Wiseman said Ledesma was last seen alive by his brothers.

"He had gone out Saturday night drinking with his brothers," said Wiseman. "They last saw him at his house at approximately 4 a.m. Sunday."

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

BOSTON

Continued from Page 1A

Boston brought on quite a case of culture shock, she admitted.

"It's about as different as you can get," Farris said. "Boston is a nice city and a really fun environment, but the culture here is very different."

"You meet a lot of amazing people ... but at the same time, it's not as friendly place as West Texas," she added. "That, and it's freezing cold six months out of the year."

Farris was accepted to Harvard Law School after graduating with honors from Abilene Christian University in 2006.

"Basically I was interested in a lot of political issues and knew the best way to be effective in that field was to go to a great institution, get a good education and go and do great things," she said. "So, yes, I guess you can say I aimed high."

Making the grade at such a prestigious institution has required Farris' maximum effort.

"In college (at Abilene Christian University), I thought if I had more

than two or three hours of homework a week, that was rough," she said. "Here, I basically have to study five or six hours a night ... the library is definitely my second home, now."

Studying even crowded into her honeymoon.

"I married Ben in December 2006, which was two weeks before my first law school finals," she said. "So I ended up taking my books with me to Cancun."

But the experience has been second to none, she quickly added.

Farris, an avowed conservative, admits she's in the minority at Harvard. But it's a vocal minority, she added.

"I think this experience made me more confident in some of the ideas I held before I came up here,"

she said. "It's a very, very different world up here. You talk with people with very different perspectives (and) there's a very healthy level of dialog here at Harvard, but they need more conservatives up here."

And she hopes to support conservative causes once she graduates from law school.

"I want to do work in litigation or have an appellate practice," she said. "Eventually, I want to do that sort of work for non-profit agencies that support issues such as religious liberty or right to life."

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

JAIL

Continued from Page 1A

(Dinosaur Valley Construction) will handle."

Heffelfinger said a lot of different considerations will go into the bidding process, and while he expects the construction manager to look out for county coffers, cost is not the most important aspect of the process ahead.

"Cost is always a concern. However, we're not looking for the cheapest contractors with these bids, we're looking for the most qualified," said Heffelfinger. "If someone bids and they have a history of not fulfilling their contractual obligations on time, the CM (construction manager) can toss them out. If the CM has had a bad experience with that company in the past, its up to his discretion."

Heffelfinger told commissioners his office is

already receiving calls from interested bidders that have seen advertisements in publications in Big Spring, Midland, Odessa and elsewhere.

Commissioners went over a multitude of aspects concerning the construction of the jail with Heffelfinger Tuesday, including the inmate visitation system, which will put the facility on the cutting edge of technology.


"This system utilizes eight units — including one portable one — that will connect to other units by way of video," explained Heffelfinger. "The inmate never has to leave the facility, which eliminates the chances of contraband getting into the jail. Those video units will connect to one at the courthouse, and eventually I believe we'll see similar units at the municipal court, district court and the offices of the justice of the peace. Inmates can

get their visitation, as well as their meetings with their attorneys, without ever leaving the jail."

The \$11.57 million, 96-bed facility was approved by voters in a 2007 bond election.

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

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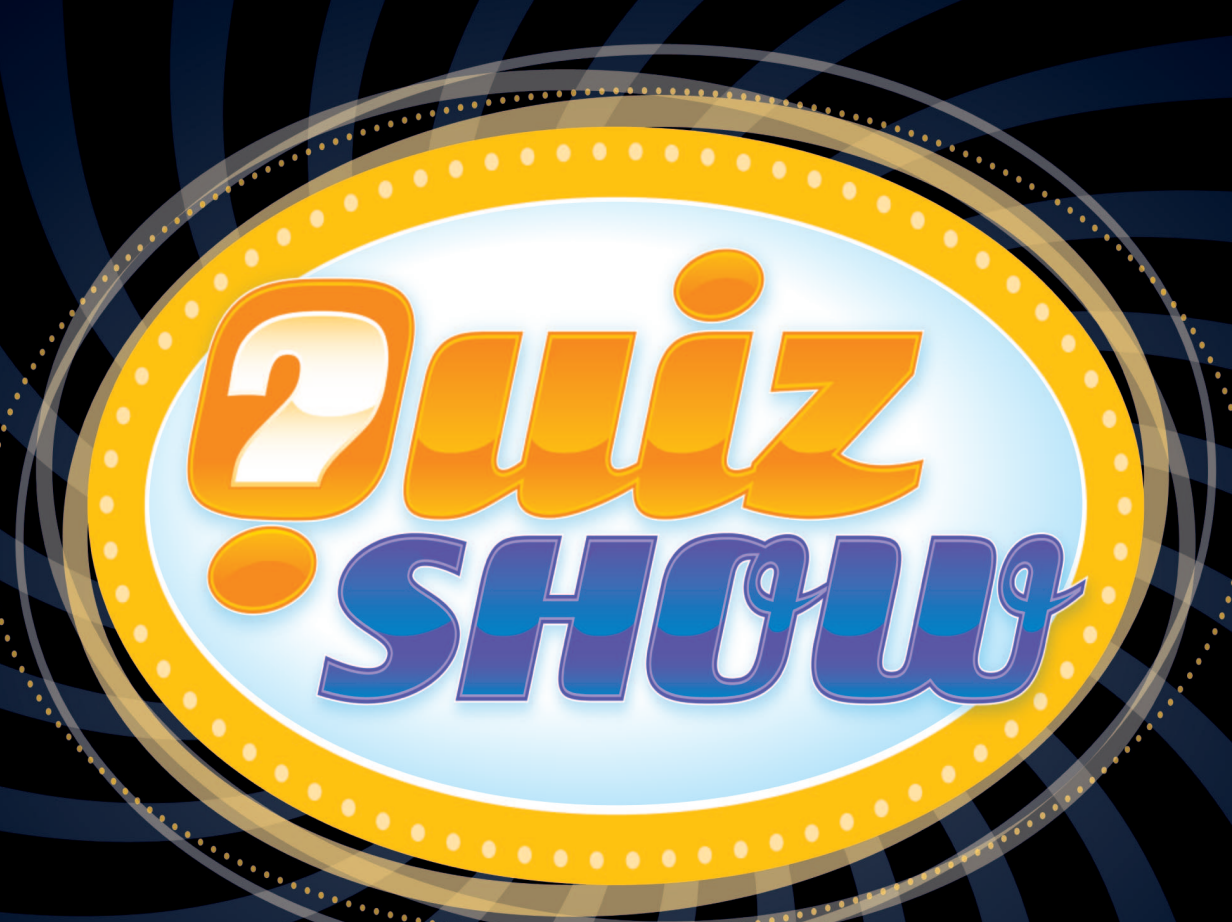
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Police say 2-year-old died after mom's boyfriend beat her with game controller



Two-year-old Darisabel Baez was severely beaten with a video game controller by her mother's boyfriend and died from her injuries.

YORK, Pa. (AP) — A 2-year-old girl died after being beaten with a video game controller by her mother's boyfriend, police said Tuesday.

Darisabel Baez's mother overheard the beating Sunday but did nothing until she realized the girl was unconscious, police said. The girl was pronounced dead late Monday at Hershey Medical Center, police Lt. Ron Camacho said.

Homicide was added to the list of charges against Harve

L. Johnson on Tuesday; he was already in jail on counts including aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.

The girl's mother, Neida E. Baez, was charged with endangering the welfare of a child.

It was clear from the bruises and other injuries on the little girl's body that Sunday was not the first time she had been abused, Dauphin County coroner Graham Hetrick told WGAL-TV. He said it was one of the worst cases of child

abuse he has ever seen.

Baez, 19, called for an ambulance Sunday and said Johnson had brought the unconscious child to her, limp and wet from an attempt to revive her in a bathtub, a police affidavit said.

Johnson, 26, acknowledged beating the girl with a video game controller but did not say why, police said. Baez said Johnson had abused the girl in the past and that she heard the girl scream after Johnson beat her Sunday,

according to the affidavit.

Detective Dana Ward said Baez was charged because she did not intervene or try to get help for Darisabel.

Johnson and Baez remained in custody Tuesday. His bail was set at \$200,000; hers was \$25,000.

Through police, family members declined requests for interviews Tuesday. Court officials said they did not know whether Johnson and Baez had lawyers to speak for them.

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1A

ciated by the public and our sponsors."

Scenic Mountain Medical Center will offer a free PSA screening to the first 50 men, she said.

Screenings for cholesterol, glaucoma, nutrition, glucose and oxygen saturation will be conducted as well as an assessment of vital signs, and blood pressure checks.

Howard College's Dental Hygiene Department will provide fluoride varnishes, she said. "They were very popular last year."

Big Spring's Citizens Police Academy will fingerprint kids and provide CD Identification for children and Senior Citizens.

"This is a way for a parent or caregiver to have updated pictures in case of an emergency," ValVerde said.

Parents or caregivers who have had a CD made in the past may bring it to

the Health Fair so they can get the information updated, she said.

The Fire Safety House also will be on-site for attendees to walk through locating potential fire hazards. They also are able to practice simple methods of eliminating potentially dangerous situations, ValVerde said.

"They touch and feel a 'hot door' and locate an emergency escape route. At the conclusion of the tour, the children exit via an escape ladder or via

the back door as the safety house fills with nontoxic 'smoke' (water fog). All of the activities are conducted under the supervision of local fire officials and school staff."

The Fire Safety House is a very effective tool for teaching children kitchen safety, exit drills and proper safety procedures in the event of a fire.

United Blood Services, using its Blood Mobile as

a base of operations will be collecting blood on-site, Val Verde said. "Their goal is to collect 16 pints of blood. Right now they are in are in critical need of O blood type."

H-E Buddy will also make an appearance and greet children at the Health Fair.

Corporate sponsors are: Air-Evac Lifeteam; Alon USA - Big Spring Refinery; Big Spring

Herald; Caring Hearts Home Health; HEB; KBST; KBYG; Lamun Lusk Sanchez Texas State Veterans Home;

Parkplace Retirement / Parkview Nursing & Rehab; Scenic Mountain Medical Center; Warren Chiropractic Center; West Texas Centers for MHMR; and West Texas VA Health Care Systems.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

investigation," Partee said. "This will be a good opportunity for us to discuss the situation, get his input on the situation and give him our input."

No action is expected to be taken as a result of these discussions, which will occur in closed session.

Also Thursday, trustees will hear preliminary results on students' scores on the state's Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test.

The Texas Education Agency recently released preliminary scores on the TAKS reading test for stu-

dents in grades 3, 5 and 8 that show 82 percent of students district-wide have passed the reading test.

These scores are particularly important because students in these grades must pass their reading test before they can advance to the next grade level.

Kentwood third graders had a 95 percent passage rate, while Washington students passed at a 90 percent rate. Eighth graders at the junior high also passed at a 90 percent clip.

Downes cautioned not to read too much into these figures just yet. Students have two more chances to pass the TAKS before the end of the school year, so final passage rates should

likely be higher.

"Having said that, I'm very pleased with our overall reading results," Downes said. "I'm extremely proud of student performance at the junior high."

In other business, trustees will consider:

- Personnel matters.
- Bids for lighting at BSISD softball and baseball fields.
- Bids and budget amendments for compaction grouting at the junior high.
- Textbook recommendations for elementary mathematics books.

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

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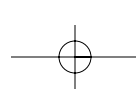
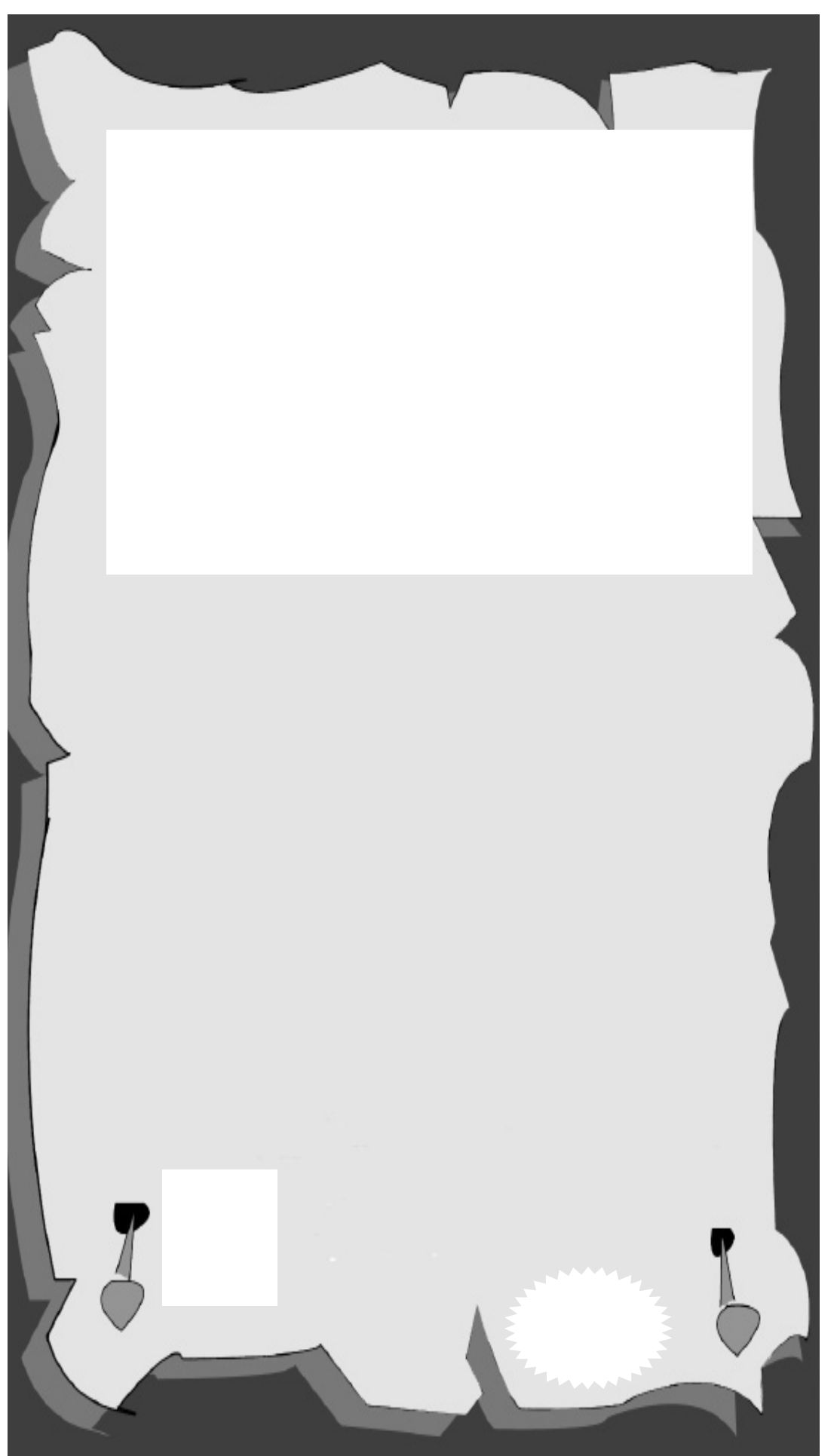
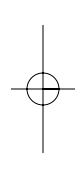
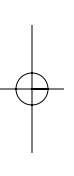
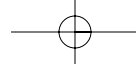
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A new 'World' for autistic children

By CYNTHIA HUBERT

McClatchy Newspapers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Not long ago, Zachary Ballard was a boy in his own world.

For hours, he stared blankly at television images. He never spoke. He amused himself by sitting in a corner of his family's home, spinning the wheels of his toy cars or banging two spoons together.

Zachary is 5 years old and autistic.

But three years after his diagnosis, he's no longer tuned out to the world around him. He attends kindergarten. Dances with his big sister, Makenna. Giggles with friends.

"I have my son back," says his mother, Deanna Ballard.

One of the keys to his turnaround, she believes, is a series of educational DVDs that she and a friend created for Zachary out of frustration and desperation. Ballard's "My World Learning" videos have captured the attention of parents around the country and earned praise from specialists in learning delays.

Ballard, who has a background in psychology, stresses that the DVDs are not a "cure" for autism. Ballard and her husband, Rob, attribute Zachary's progress to a wide range of things, including countless hours of behavioral therapy, medical treatments and changes in his diet. But the videos, she says, have played an important role in bringing "the joy of childhood" back to Zachary, and helped put him on a path toward a normal life.

"The first time I popped in the video, he started laughing and dancing with his sister," Ballard says. "He started pairing the word 'red' with red objects. He was connecting with the world. It was incredible, and I thought, 'I've got to share this with other families.'"

The DVDs, available online and soon in stores, feature children from the Sacramento area, as well as animated figures created by Ballard and her business partner, TV production specialist Todd Wise. Moving at a far slower pace and with more repetition than the typical Disney or "Baby Einstein" DVDs, they meticulously introduce children with autism and other learning disorders to concepts such as colors and emotions.

Autism, one of the most common developmental disorders in youngsters, affects communication and interaction with others. A study by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last year found that it affects 1 in every 150 children and almost 1 in 94 boys, a rate far higher than researchers anticipated.

Parents of these youngsters are desperate for educational and entertaining tools, says Auburn speech and language therapist Brodi Wetherbee, who works with Zachary and other autistic children. But most videos designed for "neurotypical" kids, she says, hold no interest for those with autism and related conditions.

"Much of children's programming today is very fast-paced, very flashy and brilliant. The scenes change quickly," Wetherbee points out. "Children with autism get overstimulated by these things. They can't stay



Zachary Ballard, 5, was diagnosed with autism in 2005 and his mother Deanna has developed DVD's to help other children with Autism.

Sacramento Bee photo/Renee C. Byer

with them. They can't connect."

Wetherbee has recommended the "My World Learning" DVDs to parents of children with learning delays, and even bought one for her infant son to give him a "jump start" toward learning language.

"I'm very impressed with them, especially for speech development," she says. "They allow children with speech delays to practice, because the words are slowed down and repeated, over and over. They're engaging, and they're also educational."

Jessica Davis, a Pennsylvania mother of an autistic son, Owen, discovered the "My World Learning" videos while surfing the Internet.

"Owen watched 'Baby Einsteins' but didn't really learn anything from them," Davis says. "He couldn't watch 'Nemo.' He didn't understand it."

"Once he got 'My World Learning,' everything changed."

Watching the DVD titled "Shapes," Owen began pronouncing "circle, square, triangle," Davis recalls. "It got him started. He said his first words while watching these videos. They have made a huge difference."

Zachary Ballard has advanced beyond the

three DVDs that his mom has produced so far, but still enjoys watching them.

"He's mad!" Zachary declares on a recent day, pointing to the TV and a frowning "My World Learning" character called Mr. Cranky Pants. "He's mad, mad, mad!"

Deanna Ballard smiles at her son. "It's still a daily battle to keep him on par," she says. "But he's come a long way."

Dr. Sudhir Gupta, chief of immunology at the University of California, Irvine, agrees. Gupta, who has been treating Zachary with intravenous therapy for the past two years for an immune deficiency that has been linked to autism, says the boy's progress is striking.

"When I first saw him, he had very few words" and his behavior was "very typical" of autistic children, Gupta says. Today, "you look at him and he's almost a normal kid. It's a pleasure to see him now. It's quite a remarkable improvement."

For the first 15 months of his life, Zachary was a "bubbly, flirty, typical" baby, his mother says. He began to tune out the day after receiving vaccinations, she says. He stopped babbling. He became lethargic. When his parents called out his

would talk again, specialists refused to speculate.

"I was gearing myself up for it, but it's still a shock to hear the diagnosis," Deanna Ballard says. "You can never really prepare yourself. It's devastating."

The Ballards "gave ourselves about a week to grieve," she says, "and then we got to work toward giving Zachary the best life he could possibly have."

They contacted autism support groups, started reading books about the condition and enrolled Zachary in occupational, speech and behavioral therapy programs. They changed his diet, put him on nutritional supplements and sought treatment for his immune disorder. And, with Wise's help, Deanna Ballard started creating the "My World Learning" program.

Besides encouraging Zachary to start speaking, the DVDs also kept him occupied and entertained, allowing his mother to

break away for a few minutes for household chores, cooking or rest.

"That's huge," Ballard says.

Within seven months of Zachary's diagnosis, Ballard and Wise were selling the videos online. "The response was overwhelming," she says. "We had trouble keeping up with demand."

Though "My World Learning" has yet to break even, hundreds of the DVDs have sold for about \$20 apiece. They are expected to be available in stores in Sacramento by next month, and later, nationwide. Ballard and Wise hope to donate a percentage of their profits to organizations that help families with children who have learning delays.

"My child has a voice now, and we want to spread the word to as many families as we can," Ballard says. "We try not to project into the future, but now we have hope. We want other parents of kids with autism to have it, too."



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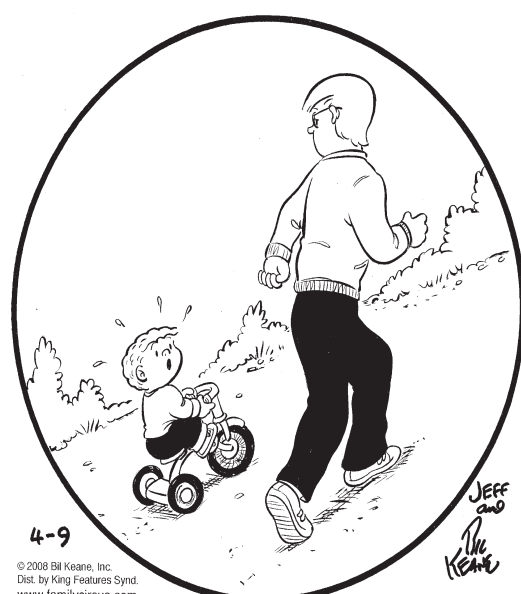
Table with 17 columns (WFAA, KMID, UNI, KPEJ, KOSA, KTLT, KWES, WTBS, KMLM, KPBT, DISC, AMC, SPIKE, TNT, BET, DISN, ESPN2, ESPN, SCIFI) and 12 rows (6:30 PM to 12:30 AM) listing various TV programs and their channels.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"YOU'RE GONNA NEED BACKUP TO BLOW OUT ALL THOSE CANDLES, GRAMPA."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

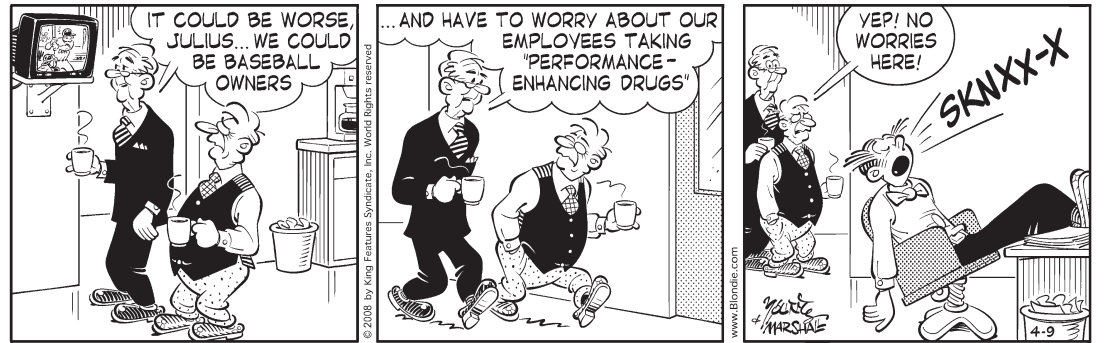


"I need a MOUNTAIN tricycle, Daddy!"

HAGAR



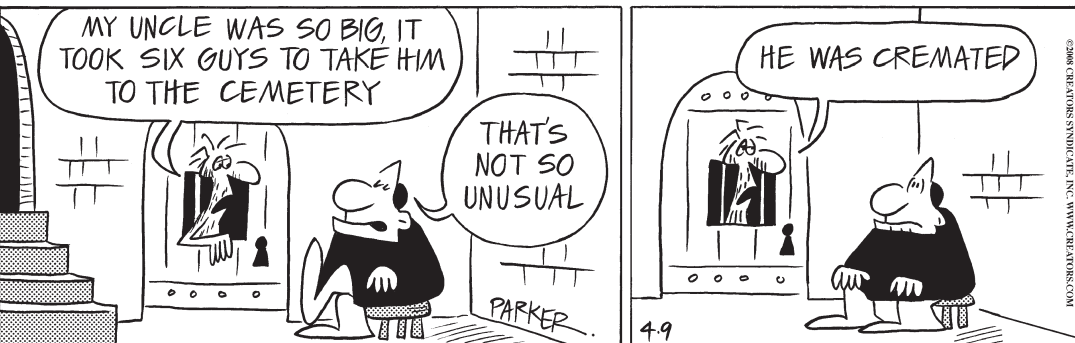
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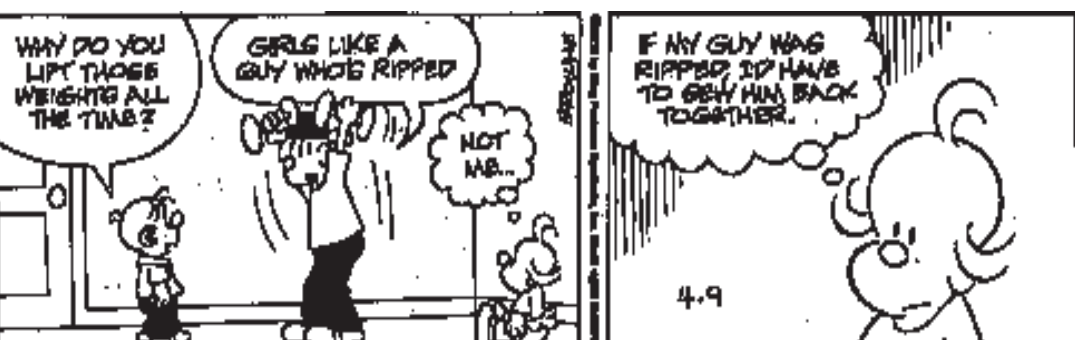
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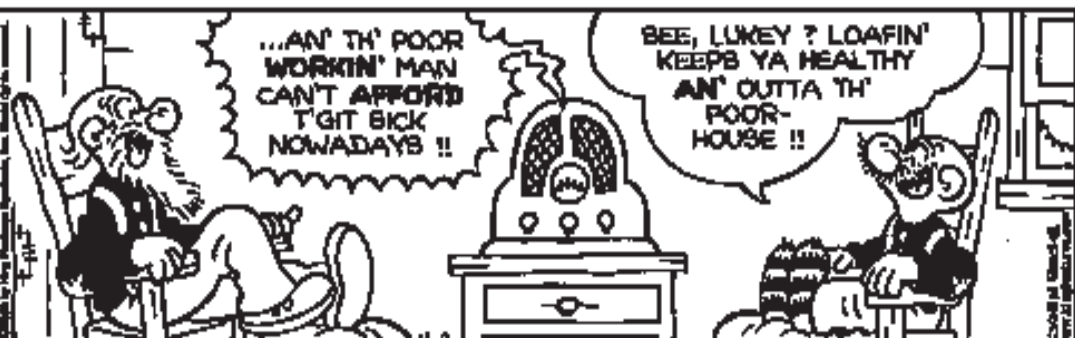
HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Wednesday, April 9, the 100th day of 2008. There are 266 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On April 9, 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. In 1682, French explorer Robert de La Salle claimed the Mississippi River Basin for France. In 1939, singer Marian Anderson performed a concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington after she was denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 1940, during World War II, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway. In 1942, American and Philippine defenders on Bataan capitulated to Japanese forces; the surrender was followed by the notorious Bataan Death March which claimed thousands of lives. In 1947, a series of tornadoes in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas claimed 181 lives. In 1959, NASA announced the selection of America's first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton. In 1965, the newly built Astrodome in Houston featured its first baseball game, an exhibition between the Astros and the New York Yankees. (The Astros won, 2-1, in 12 innings.) In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger ended its first mission with a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California. In 1988, pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim hijackers who had seized a Kuwait Airways jetliner on April 5 killed one of their hostages as the plane sat on the ground in Larnaca, Cyprus. In 2005, Britain's Prince Charles married longtime love Camilla Parker Bowles, who took the title Duchess of Cornwall.

Birthdays: Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner is 82. Naturalist Jim Fowler is 86. Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo is 75. Actress Michael Learned is 69. Country singer Margo Smith is 66. Country singer Hal Ketchum is 55. Actor Dennis Quaid is 54. Humorist Jimmy Tingle is 53. Golfer Severiano Ballesteros is 51. Country musician Dave Innis (Restless Heart) is 49. Actress-sports reporter Lisa Guerrero is 44. Actress-model Paulina Porizkova is 43.

Answer to previous puzzle: B A L E S A D O S G U S H A L I V E L I L Y I N T O C O M E T P O E M R T E S H E A R T T H R O B L I R E T E E H E E V A L O R A L T O E B A Y R I P E N P L A N E U S E D E L T A E A S E L R E S T N U T S Y A R N S R E D S E A S T A B L E P O D P E R U S W E E T I E P I E A M I N H A M S B L A D E S P E C I N I T L I N E M E S H P E T S E S S A Y

Newsday Crossword

ON THE FIELD by David W. Cromer Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Shadow box, 5 Takes care of, 10 Actress Olivia of The Wonder Years, 14 Fashion magazine, 15 Humphrey successor, 16 Brown shade, 17 Daily delivery, 18 Locomotive attachment, 20 Buys bonds, perhaps, 22 Good-luck charms, 23 Commit larceny, 24 Ambitious and aggressive, 25 Cosmetician's milieu, 28 Move furtively, 32 Baker's concoction, 37 Cat comment, 38 Pigment, 39 Mind the tykes, 40 June honoree, 42 Candle count, 43 News article, 45 Wile E.'s nemesis, 48 From the Arctic, 50 Laughing carnivore, 51 Olay alternative, 54 Corn holders, 58 Faucet part, 61 Breastbone, 63 Horse-drawn conveyance, 65 Big hairdo, 66 Sound quality, 67 Ike's two-time opponent, 68 Nomad's abode, 69 Calligrapher's supply, 70 Get trained, 71 Art Deco artist, 10 Orate, 11 Charley horse, 12 Writer Harte, 13 Yours and mine, 19 Calendar abbr., 21 Beefy slices, 24 Explosive initials, 26 Hidey hole, 27 Simpsons bus driver, 29 Campus official, 30 Theater section, 31 Decorative pitcher, 32 Silicon Valley product, 33 Coupe, for one, 34 Dry-dock sight, 35 Whirlpool, 36 Steak order, 41 Ninny, 44 Gets by, 46 "Gotcha!", 47 Tell tales, 49 Ceremonial act, 52 Outspoken, 53 Wear away, 55 Derive by reasoning, 56 Way beyond well-done, 57 Struck down, in the Bible, 58 Italian wine region, 59 British prep school, 60 Social position, 61 Lion King villain, 62 Weed out, 64 _ carte