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**BIG SPRING HERALD**

**THURSDAY**  
 MAY 1, 2008



VOLUME 103, NUMBER 130

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 SUNDAY

# HC students 'give back' to Doctor P.W. Malone

## 'Musical Memories' performances set Friday through Sunday at Hall Center

By **STEVE REAGAN**

Staff Writer

Longtime trustee Dr. P.W. Malone gave Howard College the gift of music. This weekend, the college gives back.

Students from Howard College's Fine Arts Department will pay homage to the Malone's gift when they host "Musical Memories With Malone" at the Hall Center for the Arts Friday through Sunday.

Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m.



McIntosh

which will feature music and dance from several Broadway plays, including "My Fair Lady" and "South Pacific."

"Dr. Malone donated a large collection of music to the college some years back and we wanted to

commemorate that donation," said Eulaine McIntosh, dancing instructor at the college.

Almost every HC student involved in fine arts is contributing to the production, down to movie posters painted by art students, McIntosh said.

"This is the second collaboration," McIntosh said. "We were looking for a way to get our dance classes involved, but we didn't have enough dance students to put on a strictly dance program, so we

See **MEMORIES**, Page 3A



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan

Stacy Slaten of Howard College reproduces a poster from the Broadway musical "Oklahoma" at the Hall Center for the Arts on the HC campus Wednesday. The college's Fine Arts Department will present "Musical Memories with Malone" Friday through Sunday at the center.

# Fires scorch pasture land

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

Any reprieve to the string of grass fires that plagued Howard County last month is most likely over, according to local fire officials, as a pair of blazes west of Big Spring Wednesday afternoon consumed more than 500 acres.

According to Tommy Sullivan, Howard County Volunteer Fire Department chief, two unrelated fires near the Howard and Martin county line on Interstate Highway 20 had him and his firefighters in the trenches once again.

"The first fire was reported near Cauble Road at approximately 2:30 p.m.,"

sumed more than 500 acres.

See **FIRES**, Page 3A



Sullivan



HERALD photo/Ron Midkiff

Firefighters with the Howard County Volunteer Fire Department battle a pair of blazes west of Big Spring Wednesday afternoon. The fires — located on Cauble Road and FM 818 — were unrelated, according to fire department officials, who warn more wildfires could threaten the Howard County area if much-needed rain is not received.



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# Man arrested for sexual assault of a child

## Local woman jailed, charged with robbery

By **THOMAS JENKINS**

Staff Writer

A Big Spring man was arrested this week and charged with aggravated sexual assault of a child stem-

ming from an offense report dating back to mid-2007.

Joel Adrian Flores, 26, was arrested this week at a residence in the 2500 block of Langley and charged with aggravated sexual assault of a child, according to police officials.

"The case this charge comes from was reported in August 2007," said Sgt. Tony Everett, public information officer with the Big Spring Police

Department. "The assault involved a girl under the age of 14 years and happened in the east part of the city. He was arrested without incident."

Flores was transferred from the Big Spring City Jail to the Howard County Jail Wednesday, according to law enforcement reports.

Everett declined to comment on the details of the ongoing investigation.

A Big Spring woman was also arrested this week after police officials say a simple theft turned violent.

Morgan F. Lopez, 20, of 2501 Barksdale, was arrested and charged with robbery shortly after 1 a.m. today at the Wal-Mart Supercenter, located in the 200 block of Marcy.

"She would have been charged with simple theft,"

See **ARRESTS**, Page 3A

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### IN BRIEF

#### Local high school baseball and softball playoffs schedule

**FRIDAY AREA**  
Big Spring softball vs. El Paso Canutillo in a best-of-three series in Artesia N.M. (around a 3 1/2 hour drive). Game 1 is at 6 p.m. (5 p.m. in N.M.) Friday. Game 2 is at Noon (11 a.m. in N.M.) Saturday with a third game, if needed, to be played 30 minutes following the completion of Game 2.

Forsan softball vs. Hamlin in a one-game playoff at Western Texas College in Snyder, 5 p.m.

Coahoma softball vs. Blanco in a one-game playoff in Coleman, 6 p.m.

**BI-DISTRICT**  
Coahoma baseball vs. Ballinger in a best-of-three series in Snyder. Game 1 is at 4:30 p.m. Friday. Game 2 is at 4 p.m. Saturday with a third game, if needed, to be played 30 minutes following the completion of Game 2.

#### Howard seeded third at Region V West softball tournament

The Howard College Softball Team is the No. 3 seeded team in the 2008 NJCAA Region V West Fast Pitch Softball Tournament taking place at Ulmer Park - Freddie Ezell Complex in Midland Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday, Howard plays second-seeded Odessa College at 1:00 p.m. in the first round. With a win the Hawks play at 5 p.m. A loss puts Howard in the 3 p.m. game.

Midland College is the No. 1 seed, while Western Texas College is seeded fourth and they start the tournament with an 11 a.m. game.

#### Relay for Life tennis tournament set for Saturday

The Yellow Dogs are sponsoring a Relay For Life Tennis Tournament Saturday at the Figure 7 Tennis Center in Comanche Trail Park.

There will be a singles, doubles and mixed doubles bracket with a \$5 per person entry fee for each event.

Contact Angel Sosa at 264-4108 or Tish Baucham at 816-3851 with any questions.

#### Relay for Life ragball tourney scheduled May 10-11

The Yellow Dogs are sponsoring a Relay For Life Ragball Tournament at Lady Steer Softball Field May 10-11.

Registration is Friday at 7 p.m. at the field. The first game will be played at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Cost is \$10 a person with teams made up of five girls and five boys.

For more information, call Angel at 264-4108.

See BRIEFS, Page 2B

# Bulldogettes begin state title quest

By JONATHAN HULL  
Herald Sports Editor

COAHOMA — Everything seems the same in Coahoma right now. After all, the Bulldogettes' storied softball program is beginning yet another quest for a Class 2A state title.

The Bulldogettes (25-8, 12-0) head into the 2008 version of the playoffs ranked fourth in the state, according to the Texas Girls Coaches Association, and are fresh off a dominant District 5-2A season, surrendering just one run in 12 league games and giving Coahoma its 15th consecutive district title.

Last season, the Bulldogettes returned to the state tournament for the ninth time and are looking to break their own record with a 10th trip to Austin and to achieve their top goal for this season — winning a state

championship. "Our goal is to win state," Bulldogettes Tracy Tadlock said at the beginning of the season. "We got there last year and all of that team except for one is back this season. We've got the talent to win it all."

Much like last season, a large part of the Bulldogettes' success is dependent upon ace pitcher Heather Newton. Newton helped lead Coahoma to state as a freshman, but has been a stronger force on the mound in her sophomore campaign. Her earned run average is a mere 1.29 and she's struck out 229 batters in 26 starts, giving her an 18-8 record.

Newton is also one of the Bulldogettes' top hitters this season, batting in the leadoff spot and hitting for a .455 average. Outfielder Krista Kerby has proven to be Coahoma's top hitter, though. Kerby leads the team with a .473 batting aver-

age and is third with 27 RBIs. Catcher Janice Gonzales has a team-high 40 RBIs and second baseman Laci Sterling has been the Bulldogettes' top power hitter, leading the squad with 15 doubles and three home runs for 32 RBIs.

Coahoma's 2008 playoff run starts much like 2007's did. The Bulldogettes, coming off a first-round bye, play Blanco's Lady Panthers Friday in a one-game playoff in Coleman. Last season, the Bulldogettes swept Blanco in a best-of-three series, 4-1 and 3-0.

Blanco was the runner-up in District 8-2A and defeated Ozona, 17-3, in the bi-district round of the playoffs last week.

First pitch is set for 6 p.m. with the winner advancing to the regional quarterfinals to face the winner between Kermit and Coleman.



HERALD Photo/Jonathan Hull  
Coahoma Bulldogettes pitcher Heather Newton throws a strike in softball action from earlier this season. The Bulldogettes, champions of District 5-2A, begin their playoff run Friday in Coleman against Blanco.



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull  
Big Spring Lady Steers second baseman Valerie Ross hits a double in softball action against San Angelo Lake View from earlier this season. The Lady Steers play Canutillo's Lady Eagles in a best-of-three series beginning at 6 p.m. MST Friday in Artesia, N.M., in a Class 4A area playoff game.

## Lady Steers search for more magic in Artesia

By JONATHAN HULL  
Herald Sports Editor

Playoffs for any sport can seem magical. There's always talk of underdogs and Cinderellas even in the high school softball playoffs.

Last season, Big Spring's Lady Steers found some magic in Artesia, N.M. After dropping the opening game of a best-of-three series to highly ranked El Paso Chapin, 6-3, the underdog Lady Steers rallied and defeated Chapin in a doubleheader the next day, 5-1 and 8-2.

While this weekend's opponent might be different, the situation is eerily the same. Big Spring returns to Artesia Friday to begin a best-of-three Class 4A area playoff series with Canutillo's Lady Eagles, who finished the season ranked 17th in the state, according to the Texas Girls Coaches Association softball poll.

Game 1 is set for 7 p.m. (6 p.m. in Artesia) Friday. Game 2 will be played at noon (11 a.m. in Artesia) Saturday with a third game, if needed, to be played 30 minutes following the completion of the second game.

"Chapin was a good team last year. We got beat the first game and had to come from behind to win the next two," Lady Steers Head Coach Jennifer Reyes said. "I never overlooked Chapin and I'm not overlooking this team either. We've got to show up to play and be ready for them."

"Artesia was definitely where I wanted to play after winning there last year," Reyes continued. "We found some magic in Artesia. I think the girls that were there last year remember it well. Knowing what we did could give us a lot of confidence."

Confidence has been Big Spring's biggest Achilles' heel this season. The Lady Steers have flashed moments of being a great team, particularly late in District 4-4A play when Big Spring almost upset unbeaten Frenship, then pummeled the league's second-seeded squad, San Angelo Lake View. Thus, the Lady Steers have compiled the worst record in the program's history at 13-23 overall and 4-4 in district.

However, Reyes is quick to point out the youth and inexperience the Lady

Steers have, saying the team is simply yet to realize its abilities.

"We have more talent than we did last year, but we don't have the confidence yet," Reyes said. "Last year, we didn't have all the talent in the world, but the got on a roll in the middle of district and kept it steady the rest of the season. With this team, it's been a little rocky. I'm hoping we're on our roll right now. We played really good in the last couple games. of district and had played our best of the season last week."

This is the ninth consecutive year Big Spring has advanced to the playoffs. Since 1997, the Lady Steers' softball team has missed the playoffs just once, in 1999. The team has advanced this far into the postseason each time with the 2006 campaign being the shortest as the Lady Steers were knocked out in the area round by Chapin.

Reyes says the Lady Steers have no intent on having a short run in the post-season this year.

See LADY STEERS, Page 2B

## Forsan takes on Hamlin

By BRANDON HALLFORD  
Special to the Herald

FORSAN — Forsan's Lady Buffaloes ended last season at the hands of the Seymour in the Class 1A softball tournament in the regional semifinals.

This year's edition of the Lady Buffs quest to advance further in the playoffs begins Friday afternoon as Forsan travels to the campus of Western Texas Junior College in Snyder for an area matchup against the Lady Pied Pipers of Hamlin. First pitch for the one-game playoff is scheduled for 5 p.m.

"We really don't know a whole lot about Hamlin." Lady Buffs Head Coach Shanna Roberts said. "We are expecting them to have a good team. They went through their district undefeated so we will have to be ready for whatever they throw us."

Forsan finds itself in this position after grabbing the second seed out of District 16-A. The Lady Buffs finished the district season with a 7-1 mark, forcing a playoff game against the Eldorado Lady Eagles — a team that they had split their two games with earlier in the district season for the No. 1 seed. Unfortunately for the Lady Buffs, the game didn't go as planned with the Lady Eagles squeaking by with the 5-4 victory.

"We were a little down after the Eldorado game," Roberts said, "but we know that we have to forget about that and concentrate on the job in front of us and that is Hamlin."

One of the strengths Roberts is counting on is the one-two punch from the pitching circle with Amanda Longorio and Alex Pappajohn.

See FORSAN, Page 2B

## Bulldogs rely on pitching for deep postseason run

By JONATHAN HULL  
Herald Sports Editor

COAHOMA — It's been a season of missed opportunities for the Coahoma Bulldogs baseball team.

The Bulldogs have at times looked like an easy favorite in District 5-2A, but a lapse in concentration in the field has cost Coahoma some key games and forced them to fight for playoff positioning.

After beating Merkel in a one-game playoff, giving Coahoma (22-6, 9-3) the second seed out of District 5-2A, the Bulldogs earn a best-of-three bi-district matchup with Ballinger's Bearcats, who come into the Class 2A baseball playoffs as the third seed out of District 6-2A.

Game 1 will be played at 4:30 p.m. Friday at Towle Park in Snyder. Game 2 is set for 4 p.m. at the same location with a third game, if needed, occurring approximately 30 minutes after the completion of the second matchup.

Achieving a best-of-three series was a victory in itself for Coahoma and took a little luck on the Bulldogs' part.

"Ballinger wanted it to be just one game, but we won the flip," Coahoma Head Coach Brad Harman said of the upcoming series. "I think that one of the keys for us in the playoffs is going to be our pitching depth. You have to be two or three pitchers deep in the playoffs if you are going to win and I think we have that here."

Coahoma boasts four quality pitchers Harman believes can be put on the mound to start playoff games. Donnie Garcia has the most playoff experience of any Bulldogs' pitcher and shined last year in the postseason. Chance Hart has the best record of any pitcher with no blemishes in the loss column this season.

Harman feels Rey Gutierrez has been one of Coahoma's most consistent

See BULLDOGS, Page 2B



HERALD photo/Jonathan Hull  
Coahoma's Chance Hart pitches in action from earlier this baseball season. The Bulldogs begin postseason play as the second seed from District 5-2A with a best-of-three series against Ballinger Friday and Saturday in Snyder.

## Obituaries

### Patricia Ann McIntire

Patricia Ann McIntire, 51, of Big Spring, died Saturday, April 26, 2008, at her residence. Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 1, 2008, at the Spring Creek Fellowship Church.

She was born Sept. 14, 1956, in Mississippi and married Terry McIntire. He preceded her in death in 1983.

She was a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Neal Shook of Quantico, Va.; one son and daughter-in-law, Chad and Ginger Lyons of San Antonio; three brothers, William Lyons of Alaska, John Lyons and wife, Andrea of Big Spring, and Richard Lyons of Las Vegas, Nev.; one sister and brother-in-law, Helen and John Gibson of Corpus Christi; and four grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by one sister, Lisa Lyons.

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

### Cynthia Smith

Cynthia Smith, 55, of Big Spring, died Monday, April 28, 2008, in a local hospital. Graveside funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, May 2, 2008, at the Mount Olive Memorial Park with the Rev. Wayne Frost, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, officiating. The family will receive friends Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

She was born Dec. 16, 1952, in Big Spring. She was a member of East Fourth Baptist Church.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Crystal Partlow of Nashua, N.H.; one daughter and son-in-law, Krystal and Jerry Currie of Big Spring; her father, Kenneth Howell of Big Spring; her mother and step father, Fran and David Jansch of Big Spring; two sisters, Judith Cook of Denton and Diane Jonas of Fredricksburg, Va.; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Michael and Kathy Pruitt of Caddo, Okla., and Tracy and Pat Pruitt of Pasadena; and six grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Cameron Ray Smith and Jeremy Ryan Smith and her grandparents D.P. and Nellie Thompson.

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

## Take Note

- Be a Hero Blood Drive will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday at Coahoma Elementary, in the United Blood Services Bloodmobile. Contact the office at 394-4772 to schedule a time. Walk-ins are welcome.

- Tickets for the Big Spring High School Prom will be on sale at the high school from noon until 1:30 p.m. each Friday leading up to the prom. Tickets cost \$20 each and must be paid for in cash. For more information, call Carrie Fox at 816-9687 or Karen Martin at 213-1388.

- 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.

- Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring Volunteers will meet at 1 p.m. for singing and fellowship Saturday, May 10, at Marcy House. If you are interested, call Gina at 517-4073.

- 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.

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

- The purpose of life is a life of purpose. Join Nurses' Hospice of Big Spring volunteer program and become an "Angel" or "Teen Angel" in someone's life today. Come by 1008 E. Third St. or call (432) 517-4073 to register.

- 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.

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## Police blotter

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

- ROBERT M. CARSON, 40, of 2705 Ann Drive, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of public intoxication.
- ALLEN F. PERRY, 45, of 1405 E. 11th Street, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- PRISCILLA HERNANDEZ, 27, of 1400 Wood, was arrested Wednesday on a local warrant and a charge of possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- TERESA L. CHRISTON, 45, of 1316 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on charges of driving while license invalid and possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
- JAMEY JOHNSON, 45, of 2621 Chanute, was arrested Wednesday on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- DAVID G. MORALES, 32, of 1215 Sycamore, was arrested Wednesday on charges of evading arrest and unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.
- MORGAN F. LOPEZ, 20, of 2501 Barksdale, was arrested Thursday on a charge of robbery.
- THEFT was reported in the 1800 block of FM 700; and the 1300 block of 11th Street.
- ASSAULT BY CONTACT was reported in the 1900 block of Highway 87.

## Sheriff's report

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

- Note — Officials with the Howard County Jail reported having 50 inmates at the time of this report.
- ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ, 29, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of criminal mischief.
  - ADOLPH LEON LABBE JR., 33, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on charges of manufacture/delivery of a controlled substance and bondsman off bond for possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone.
  - ADRIAN VANDERPOOL, 27, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated and a charge of failure to appear/evading arrest or detention with a vehicle.
  - BERNARDO JACINTO HILARIO, 21, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on charges of bondsman off bond for evading arrest or detention (two counts), bondsman off bond for possession of marijuana – two ounces or less and bondsman off bond for resisting arrest, search or transportation.
  - ANSELMO HERNADEZ HILARIO, 53, was arrested Wednesday by the HCSO on a charge of disorderly conduct – threats.
  - MARK KIRBY, 34, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of bondsman off bond for failure to identify – giving false information.
  - JOEL ADRIAN FLORES, 26, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child.
  - DAVID ERROL MCGRUDER, 60, was transferred to the county jail Wednesday by the BSPD on a motion to revoke probation for possession of a controlled substance.

## Fire/EMS

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

- MEDICAL was reported in the 1600 block of Gregg Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of N.W. Eighth Street. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 500 block of Union. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the 200 block of Merrily. One person was transported to SMMC.
- TRAUMA was reported in the area of Eighth Street and Nolan. Service refused.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Caylor. One person was transported to SMMC.
- MEDICAL was reported in the 600 block of Caylor. One person was transported to SMMC.

## Lottery

Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 14-26-31-39-42-48. Number matching six of six: 0.

Results of the Cash 5 drawing Wednesday night: Winning numbers drawn: 20-21-22-35-36. Number matching five of five: 0.

The winning Daily 4 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 4-8-9-8. Sum It Up: 29.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 8-0-5. Sum It Up: 13.



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## Bulletin Board

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

### TODAY

- League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC Chapter 4791 meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact John Ybarra at 264-1628. The public is invited.
- Genealogy Society of Big Spring meets at 7 p.m. in the Howard County Library, 500 S. Main.
- Big Spring Masonic Lodge No. 1340 meets at 7:30 p.m. at 2101 Lancaster.

### FRIDAY

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

### SATURDAY

- Big Spring Cruisers cruise Gregg Street and at the Sonic Drive-In beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Eagles Lodge Dance at 8:30 p.m. at 703 W. Third.
- Big Spring Squares. Call 263-6305 for more information.

## Weather

Tonight...Mostly clear. Windy...Cooler. Lows in the upper 40s.

Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph becoming northwest 10 to 20 mph after midnight.

Friday...Sunny. Not as warm. Highs around 80. West winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday...Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

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

Sunday...Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s.

Sunday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 50s.

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

Monday night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 60.

Tuesday...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

Tuesday night...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s.

Wednesday...Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s.

## Support Groups

### 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 Ministeries, 1209 Wright St.

## BIG SPRING HERALD

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BCS rejects proposal for FBS playoff system

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer
HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — As it turns out, the Big Ten and the Pac-10 weren't the only conferences standing in the way of a major college football playoff.

Conference commissioner Mike Slive during five hours of meetings all said they were concerned a shift to that model would lead the BCS down a slippery slope.

The BCS format, like it or not, will remain the same until at least the 2014 season. Slive's plan called for matching the No. 1 team in the nation against No. 4 and 2 vs. 3 in the marquee bowl games.

"There's no such thing as standing pat. I think we've done a service. We owed the fans and media an explanation as to why we're not moving ahead."
"I can't say I'm surprised."
The issue never came to a vote. The BCS needs a consensus among its members to make a change, and that clearly wasn't there.

the regular season are matched in the national title game.
The idea behind the plus-one is to alleviate some of the controversy that arises almost annually by sending four teams into the postseason with a chance to win the national championship.



Courtesy photo/Bob Fishback

Forsan's Shelby Jones connects at the plate in action from the Lady Buffs' 5-4 loss to Eldorado earlier this season. The Lady Buffs begin their playoff run Friday against Hamlin at Western Texas College in Snyder.

FORSAN

Continued from Page 1B

"We have used them both quite a bit this year," Roberts confessed. "I think that with either of them on the mound we have a good chance of winning."
Longorio is as much a threat at the plate as she is in the circle as the sophomore anchors the Lady Buffs batting order from the four spot, but Roberts notes she's not the only girls swinging a powerful stick in the Forsan lineup.

Mavs fire Johnson

By JAIME ARON
AP Sports Writer

DALLAS — From the start, Avery Johnson was a perfect fit as coach of the Dallas Mavericks.
At the end, it was pretty obvious he wasn't. Johnson lost his job Wednesday, a move the team referred to as "relieving him of his duties." The softer tone made sense considering that in three-plus seasons Johnson guided the Mavericks to the finals for the first time and to a club-record 67 wins the following season.

roster and mortgaged some of its future to acquire Jason Kidd.
Over those three straight postseason wipeouts, the Mavericks lost 12 of 15 games, including all nine on the road.
"Was it time for a change? I guess," said Dirk Nowitzki, who became the league MVP under Johnson's watch. "I think this franchise, we owe him a lot. Unfortunately it's just one of those situations where everybody's got to move on."
The final mark during Johnson's tenure: 194-70 in the regular season, 23-24 in the playoffs.
Johnson got the news during a meeting at his condominium Wednesday morning. Donnie Nelson, the team's president of basketball operations, was there, while team owner Mark Cuban joined via cell phone from Chicago.

Johnson flew to Houston soon after because his son had an accident at school. He will meet with reporters Thursday, but called in to the local ESPN affiliate, KESN, to talk about his dismissal.
"This is something that needed to happen," Johnson said. "There's no animosity or bitterness. We all still really care about each other, but it was time to go in a different direction. ... We didn't win the championship, but if you look at the whole body of work that we put together over the last 3 1/2 years ... we'll put it up against anybody."
Johnson might not be unemployed very long. The New York Knicks and Chicago Bulls are among the teams needing coaches, and both might want a young, proven coach who preaches defense and discipline.

LADY STEERS

Continued from Page 1B

"If you ask the girls right now, they're talking about getting to state. I don't

think they realize how many games we have to win to get there, but that's a good thing," she said.
An area championship this weekend could net the Lady Steers a third showdown with district-rival

Frenship in the regional quarterfinals. The Lady Steers lost to Frenship 4-0 and 5-4 in the regular season, playing the Lady Tigers closer than any other team in the district did.

"I don't think the girls even know that we would play Frenship in the next round," Reyes said. "The coaches know it, but the girls just don't seem to realize it. If we do get to see Frenship, then it's

going to be a battle. It's more of a motivation for me and the coaches because we feel like we can beat them. We've got to concentrate on getting there first. The team's focus right now is this

weekend and advancing as far as possible no matter who the opponent is."
If both Big Spring and Frenship win their area contests, then the two squads would meet in either Snyder or Andrews.

BULLDOGS

Continued from Page 1B

options on the mound. The Bulldogs' skipper also has confidence in Casey Kilpatrick's arm as a starter, but is sometimes reluctant to use him due to the

solid defense Kilpatrick provides at first base. Third baseman P.J. Daylong has proven to also be a top relief option for the Bulldogs.
More important than the pitching staff, Harman is hopeful that some of the struggles faced by the Bulldogs at times during the season will evaporate.

"Our defense has been a problem for us at times," Harman said. "We've lost some games because of errors. We let Hawley surprise us once as well as Stamford and Merkel. Defensive errors have hurt us a lot. That's the biggest piece missing for us. Our pitching has been solid. We hit the ball as well as anyone,

but our defense is biting us. We've got to improve there if we want to make any sort of deep run into the playoffs."
The winner of this game will play Blanco's Panthers — winners in District 8-2A — in the area round of the playoffs. Last season, the Bulldogs bowed out to Blanco

terfinals.
The Panthers swept the Bulldogs, 16-2 and 11-10, with the second game lasting into 11 innings.
Earlier this season, Coahoma exacted a little revenge over the Panthers, defeating them in a tournament game.

BRIEFS

Continued from Page 1B

Forsan High School All-Sports Banquet set for May 12

Forsan High School has scheduled its annual All-Sports Banquet for 7 p.m. May 12th at the Dora Roberts Community Center. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in the high school office. High school athletes do not require a ticket.

Pictures of Steers' spring sports needed for banquet

Anyone with pictures from the 2008 Big Spring High School spring sports season willing to temporarily donate them for use in a slide show for the 2008 Spring Sports Banquet scheduled for May 22.

Anyone with pictures please contact Denise Carillo at 816-1685

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 shoot-out on May 16 and a golf goodie bag. Call the country club's

pro shop at 267-5354 or the Chamber of Commerce at 263-7641 for more information.

Amigos Washer Club holding Cinco De Mayo tournament

The Amigos Washer Club is holding a tournament at 2 p.m. Saturday in celebration of Cinco De Mayo.

The tourney starts at 2 p.m. and the entry team with \$30 per team. The registration deadline is an hour before the beginning of the contest. First-, second- and third-place trophies will be

awarded. Call Larry Lara at 264-6060 with questions or visit the website at amigoswasherclub.com.

Call Sports Editor Jonathan Hull at 263-7331, ext. 237, to submit a sports brief or by e-mailing sports@big-springherald.

Sudoku puzzle titled 'su | do | ku' with a 9x9 grid and instructions to fill it so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

Bridge article titled 'Contract Bridge' by Steve Becker with 'South Eats Humble Pie' sub-headline. It includes card hands for West, East, and South, bidding information, and a conclusion that South made a grand slam.

Advertisement for 'QUICK CASH REBATES' titled 'The Quick Way to Payday'. It offers to cash personal checks in minutes with a 1-4% discount, requiring verification of income and a recent checking statement.



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## Coahoma Elementary sets kindergarten pre-registration

Coahoma Elementary School is offering parents the opportunity to pre-register children for kindergarten.

Kindergarten orientation for 2008-2009 classes will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 7 in the elementary cafeteria, Ramsey Street entrance, Door 21. To be eligible, a child must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2008. The district provides full-day kindergarten.

Children and parents will tour the school, take a school bus ride, have a snack in the cafeteria, receive a school supply list and meet with teachers to learn about the multi-age program. Parents will also sign up for a registration/student testing appointment for the following week.

To register the following week at your appointment, parents must provide the school with the following items:

— A state certified copy of the child's birth certificate which can be obtained from the Howard County Courthouse or state your child was born in. A hospital issue certificate of birth is not a legal document. Copies are not legal documents.

— An updated, valid immunization record (shot record).

— A Social Security card for each child. Copies are not legal documents.

**Wednesday, May 7,  
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
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— Legal guardian's state driver's license or state issued identification card.

— Completed registration packet you receive at kindergarten orientation.

— A proof of residency.

If you do not have a student attending Coahoma Schools at this time, go by Coahoma Independent School District Administration Office and get a Proof of Residency Form. You will need to take one of the following items with you: Receipts for tax or utility bill/deposit; deed /mortgage/lease papers; or a notarized letter confirming residency when living with another household.

Students currently enrolled in the district's pre-kindergarten program are automatically registered for kindergarten. The student's permanent folder, which contains the student's birth certificate and immunization record will be moved to the next grade level. Therefore, there is no need for parents of current pre-kindergartners to attend the kindergarten registration May 7. Pre-kindergarten registration will take place the week before school starts. For additional information regarding registra-

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## MEMORIES

Continued from Page 1A

collaborated with the other departments.

"The administration liked it so much they encouraged us to do it again this year," she added.

The production has been described as "a series of mini-musicals" by Theater Department head Kirk Davidson. It will feature vignettes from "My Fair Lady," "Oklahoma," "South Pacific," "42nd Street" and other stage plays.

"We're doing four num-

bers from each of those musicals and I choreographed dance numbers for each," McIntosh said. "It is kind of a sampling of each musical."

Staging musical numbers from such diverse plays has put a strain on the costumers, McIntosh admitted.

"We're making costumes to reflect Victorian times, the American West during cowboy times and the (1940s)," she said, "which means costuming for this is gargantuan."

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

## FIRES

Continued from Page 1A

said Sullivan. "That fire was caused by a downed power line. While we were fighting that fire, a call came in that a second fire had started near FM 818. That fire was caused by a train which had derailed. It hadn't overturned or anything like that, but a set of wheels had come off, sending sparks flying everywhere. That fire was reported at approximately 3:22 a.m."

Sullivan said more than 250 acres were lost in the Cauble Road fire, while more than 300 acres were consumed by the fires near FM 818.

"We had units working

at both fires. We also had the Forest Service and Martin County Fire Department assisting us," said Sullivan. "The FM 818 fire was extinguished at about 5:30 p.m., and we had guys working on the Cauble Road fire until about 8 p.m."

Sullivan said no structures were damaged by the fires, and only minimal damage to power lines near the Cauble Road fire was reported.

No injuries were reported as a result of the fire, a fact Sullivan attributes to a higher power.

"Any time we can fight a fire of that magnitude and everyone comes home in one piece, you're thankful," said Sullivan, who — along with his volunteer firefighters — have been

ferred only minor wounds and was not transported to the hospital."

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

## ARRESTS

Continued from Page 1A

said Everett, "however, when an employee approached her in the parking lot she swung at them. The employee suf-



In this image released by PBS, Bill Moyers, left, interviews the Rev. Jeremiah Wright in his first television interview with a journalist since he became embroiled in a controversy for his remarks and his relationship with Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama. Wright, Obama's former pastor, said that publicizing sound bites of sermons in which he condemned U.S. policies was "unfair" and "devious," and done by people who know nothing about his church, according to excerpts of the PBS interview.

# Obama tries to put controversy to rest

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrat Barack Obama and his wife said Thursday the public is tired of hearing about incendiary remarks by their former pastor, as they sought to put the controversy that has rocked his presidential campaign to rest.

"We hear time and time again voters are tired of this," Michelle Obama said in an interview the couple gave to NBC's "Today" show.

"They don't want to hear about this division, they want to know what are we going to do to move beyond these issues," she said. "And what made me feel proud of Barack in this situation is that he is trying to move us as a nation beyond these conversations that divide."

Barack Obama said he initially tried to give the Rev. Jeremiah Wright the benefit of the doubt when film clips first surfaced on the Internet of fiery ser-

mons the pastor gave at their Chicago church — a series of haranguing declarations from the pulpit in which he damned the United States for racial oppression and accusing the government of deliberately spreading the HIV virus to harm black people.

"When the first snippets came out, I thought it was important to give him the benefit of the doubt because if I had wanted to be politically expedient I would have distanced myself and denounced him right away, right? That would have been the easy thing to do," said Obama. This week he denounced Wright's comments as "giving comfort to those who prey on hate."

In speeches and interviews over the past week, Wright has said that criticism surrounding his sermons is an attack on the black church. He dismissed Obama's widely-

praised speech last month in Philadelphia — which sought to put Wright's sermons in the context of the black experience in the United States — as political posturing.

Wright had been Obama's pastor for more than 20 years. Wright brought Obama to Christianity, inspired the title of his book "The Audacity of Hope," officiated at his wedding and baptized his daughters.

Barack Obama acknowledged the Wright controversy, as well as his own remarks about voters clinging to guns and religion in economically-depressed Pennsylvania towns, have hurt his campaign and the damage is beginning to show in polls.

"I think it's pretty clear what has happened," he said. "We've had — what — two months now, or a month and a half, in which you've had the Reverend

Wright controversy, you've had the issue of my comments in San Francisco that have been magnified pretty heavily — that's been a pretty full dose."

In a separate interview with CNN taped Wednesday, Michelle Obama said her husband's denunciation of Wright's comments was "a tough thing for him to do."

"Yes, it was painful. Yes, it's been difficult, but I think that the more difficult thing that this country is facing is trying to move politics into conversations around problems and problem-solving, and that's what we're going to be pretty determined to do," she said. "I think that this is about all I'm going to say on this issue, and I think we're going to close this chapter and move into the next phase of this election. With that, I'm hoping that we'll talk about something else."

working almost non-stop putting out grass fires since the first part of the year. "We're blessed, there's no other way to explain it."

While Sullivan is optimistic concerning the wellbeing of his firefighters, the fire chief's optimism doesn't extend to any break in the number of fires the HCVFD will be responding to in the near future.

"Up until we got some rain a few weeks back, we were responding to one, sometimes two or three fires a day," said Sullivan.

"And while that inch of rain helped, we haven't received any more significant rain since then, so

we're looking at the same sort of situation we were in last month. Things have greened up a little, but it's not enough, and if we don't get some more rain soon, that new vegetation is just going to die out and add to the fuel load. It doesn't look very promising at all."

While no one can predict a wildfire, Sullivan said local residents can take measures to help firefighters if their home becomes endangered.

"I really can't stress this enough, but it's vital our citizens be very careful right now," said Sullivan. "One of the most important measures people can take right now is to make

sure they have a 75 feet to 100 feet fire break around their home. Get rid of brush and other items that could burn. That can really help firefighters if their home becomes threatened."

Contact Staff Writer Thomas Jenkins at 263-7331

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• LEATHERHEADS (PG-13) 4:30 PM 7:00 PM  
• PROM NIGHT (PG-13) 5:00 PM 7:30 PM  
• STEP UP 2 THE STREETS (PG-13) 7:20 PM  
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Jessie Little, 87, died Sunday. Funeral Service will be at 1:30 PM Thursday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.  
Octavian Tavarus Smith, 2 months, died Friday. Graveside Services will be at 10:30 AM Thursday at Trinity Memorial Park.

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**AN ENCOURAGING WORD**  
  
By Eddy Pitchford

When selecting a building contractor, it is important to verify his credentials. Walk through and examine houses he has already built. Speak with his previous customers and find out if they are satisfied. Check with the Better Business Bureau to see if complaints have been reported.

The world of today has many churches with many different builders. It is of utmost concern that you choose the right builder. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised to build His church and in Acts 2 fulfilled that promise as His church began in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. Inasmuch as Christ's church is part of God's eternal purpose (Ephesians 3:11) and bought by His blood (Acts 20:28), it certainly has the right builder. Indeed, the church is called His body (Ephesians 1:22-23) and His bride (Ephesians 5:22-32).

What are the credentials of this builder? He is "...the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16).

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# EDITORIAL

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

-FIRST AMENDMENT

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

**Ron Midkiff**  
Publisher

**John A. Moseley**  
Managing Editor

**Bill McClellan**  
News Editor

## OUR VIEWS

# Cinco de Mayo a perfect time to celebrate

Are you ready to have a little fun? We most certainly are, and luckily for us, this weekend has been set aside for our community's fifth annual Cinco de Mayo Festival — two days of food, fun and music at Heart of the City Park in downtown Big Spring.

We feel it is necessary, as we have done in the past, to make sure people know what it is we'll be celebrating this weekend.

Many people mistakenly believe Cinco de Mayo is Mexican Independence Day. That, however, is actually Diez y Sies de Septiembre (the 16th of September, not the 5th of May).

Cinco de Mayo is a holiday for Mexican Americans because it commemorates the day in 1862 — some 52 years following Mexico having declared its independence — that a badly outnumbered force of Mexican soldiers defeated a force of French and Mexican army traitors in a battle at Puebla.

Oh, yes, the Mexican army that pulled off that victory was led by Texas-born Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza.

Big Spring, like many Texas cities our size, has a sizable Hispanic population. We're not talking about illegal aliens, either. Of course we're not naive enough to say there are no illegal immigrants in our community, but for the most part, our Hispanic community is made up of American citizens. Why more than half of the Herald's staff is made up of Spanish surnamed employees and we doubt we're the only business in Big Spring that can say that.

These are our neighbors and co-workers. We attend church with them. Our children go to school with their children and play youth sports with them. We revel in their successes and they in ours.

Of course, we've also made those points many times before in this space, but they are still the reason why we need to make sure this weekend's Cinco de Mayo celebration is true family fun for all of us.

We're looking forward to combining great food, great Tejano music and maybe even trying a dance or two.

The festival will get under way at 6 p.m. Friday and continue until midnight. Saturday's schedule calls for activities to begin at 11 a.m. and again continue until midnight.

We look forward to seeing all of you there.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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

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

## LETTER POLICIES

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

## A SMALL PRAYER

by K. Rae Anderson

When we feel pressured, Lord, may we stop and turn it all over to You.

Amen

# Wright just can't help himself

When it comes to the connection between Barack Obama and his former pastor, Jeremiah Wright — or to John McCain's various positions on whether criticizing Obama for his relationship with Wright is fair game — my head is spinning.

At first, the Obama defenders said Jeremiah Wright doesn't speak for Obama. Not only have Obama's ill-wishers taken Wright's statements out of context but they have unfairly imputed those statements to Obama.

Next, we witnessed the beginning of the Jeremiah Wright rehabilitation tour. He appeared on Bill Moyers' show, endeavoring to present himself as a calm, reasonable person whose statements had been twisted against him.

Then he spoke at the Detroit NAACP dinner. Forgive me if I have a different take than most Wright critics, but I read the transcript of the Detroit speech in its entirety and did not detect too much, if any, incendiary language.

Wright presented a rather innocuous talk about the differences in human beings and how our differences do not mean certain groups are deficient — "just different." His theme seemed to be that we should strive to overlook people's differences and work toward reconciliation because we are all made in God's image. Bravo. Who could object to that?

In his speech the next morning at the National Press Club, Wright continued with that theme, which was fine as far as it went. But alas, he couldn't help dipping his foot a little further into the waters of controversy.

He touched on black liberation theology, revealing, inadvertently or not, that his religious views are formed through a racially tinted prism. He strategically characterized the recent scrutiny of his sermons as "not an attack on Jeremiah Wright," but "an attack on the black church." And he huffed that his congregation has sent dozens of kids to fight in this nation's wars, while those who have called him unpatriotic have sent "4,000 American boys and girls of every race to die over a lie."

But these subjects were tame compared to his responses to the moderator's questions following the speech, where Wright reverted — full bore — to the offensive themes to which we've been exposed recently.

In so doing, he undid the undoing of the damage he tried to undo with his two "reconciliation" speeches. In front of a large audience, he fatally undermined his recent protest that Obama's opponents have taken his sermon utterances grossly out of context.

Among the highlights, Wright said, "In biblical history, there's not one word written in the Bible between Genesis and Revelations that was not written under one of six different kinds of oppression." This, I suppose, is part of his justification for black liberation theology's presumed reading of the Bible through the lens of race and oppression.

He also clarified his thoughts on reconciliation, plainly articulating that our "country's leaders have refused to apologize" for slavery and "until racism and slavery are confessed and asked for forgiveness," there can't be reconciliation. He mentioned nothing, of course, about the Civil War. He also indignantly stood by his statement "God damn America," saying, "God damns some practices."

When given an opportunity to retract or soften his statement that

the government lied about inventing HIV as a means of genocide against African-Americans, he said, "I believe our government is capable of doing anything." And he strongly refused to denounce Louis Farrakhan, saying, "Louis Farrakhan is not my enemy. He did not put me in chains."

In view of Wright's elucidations, I find it difficult to understand how the candidacy of Barack Obama cannot be mortally wounded by his longtime, voluntary and intimate association with this man. How can Obama possibly preach national harmony, reconciliation and bipartisanship coming from this type of church culture — which Wright appears to say harbors an unforgiving spirit? Where else, if not from his church, are we to assume Obama gets his ideas on reconciliation?

But in the interest of that spirit of bipartisanship to which Obama claims to aspire, let me also confess that I can't begin to comprehend John McCain's regrettable condemnation of North Carolina Republicans for reasonably raising the Wright issue — which, by the way, is bigger than John McCain or his candidacy. Nor can I understand McCain's belated halfhearted about-face on this subject.

The Rev. Wright is certainly entitled to his opinions, and he is certainly entitled to deliver them from his pulpit — tax questions aside. And John McCain is certainly entitled to continually bite the hand that feeds him.

But voters also have rights — and duties. Among them is their duty to decide whether they want to elevate to the presidency a man who can't plausibly separate himself from the disturbing, toxic views of his own pastor.

*David Limbaugh is a writer, author and attorney.*

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# Long is good — well, maybe

Hillary Clinton's 9.4 percent win in Pennsylvania shows that she was right to stay in the race.

Considering Obama's inability to win a big state even though he has been leading the delegate count, I wouldn't count Clinton out yet. Besides, conventional wisdom notwithstanding, a long primary just might serve the Democrats well.

Whoever wins the Democratic primary will be a giant slayer. In the meantime, the longer the primary lasts, the more the victor will have enjoyed weeks of copious news coverage, while GOP primary survivor John McCain serves as the official national afterthought. I'm starting to forget what he looks like.

Not everyone agrees that long is good, and only time will tell whether the long primary will hurt or help the Dems' eventual nominee. On the other side, Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, observed that he used to think that being out of the media spotlight was damaging, but now, "I don't buy that one iota. People have less

time to get sick of you. There will be fewer reporters investigating you." Sometimes invisible is good.

On the other hand, Sabato noted, the long campaign is "toughening up Obama, who was and is the least experienced potential presidential nominee in modern American history."

RealClearPolitics.com HorseRace blogger Jay Cost likewise observed that the prolonged primary has helped both Democrats by highlighting early their systemic problems — for her, "pro-Clinton myopia" and "mismanaging Bill," for him, "elitism" and buddies like former radical Weather Underground member Bill Ayers.

It's not all good. Rush Limbaugh has been urging conservatives to register as Democrats and vote for Hillary Clinton in order to prolong the primary and stoke Democratic rancor. How much of Clinton's 9.4 percent lead came from Limbaugh listeners? No telling.

In an e-mail, Limbaugh noted that one in ten voters in the Pennsylvania Democratic primary were newly registered Democrats. While Limbaugh noted that there is no way to tell how many crossovers were volunteers participating in his "Operation Chaos," he continued, "Ten percent of the vote? That's huge. That would be five times the past high for a crossover

vote, and with a closed primary. And most did so in the last three days before the deadline, when I was really pushing it."

Also on the downside, as the contest has dragged on, Clinton and Obama have been pandering in overdrive. In the recent ABC debate, both Democrats said they would pull U.S. troops out of Iraq — even if generals on the ground advised otherwise. (Remember when Dems used to hit President Bush for not heeding dissenting brass?) Obama pledged not to raise taxes on workers earning below \$200,000. Clinton pledged, "I am absolutely committed to not raising a single tax on middle-class Americans, people making less than \$250,000 a year."

\$250,000 is middle class? If a Republican had said that, the media vultures would have pounced at the out-of-touch rich guy. By definition, after all, a group that earns in the top two percent cannot be middle class.

But when a Clinton says that, pundits think a Democrat is being savvy. And with the two Clintons bringing home \$35 mil in 2006 and 2007, it almost makes sense.

Maybe this silly season has gone on too long.

*E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsanders@sfchronicle.com.*



DEBRA SAUNDERS

# Chevy Aveo

*Economical subcompact offers big car features*

**I** admit it; being on the Auto Tour has its perks — like receiving a new vehicle every week to test drive. Most of the vehicles in the media fleet are fully loaded with all the options — just so the auto writers have a chance to test them out and include a mention in our reviews.

I've really enjoyed covering the new developments in automotive technology. Many of today's model include sophisticated, high-tech features that literally park the car for you, voice-activated commands for placing phone calls and changing the radio station and keyless entry/start systems that allow you to enter and start the vehicle without having to take the key out of your pocket.

Yes, I've gotten spoiled because I looked like an idiot this week standing in the parking lot pushing on the key in an attempt to unlock the door to this week's test vehicle.

Then I realized there were no buttons to push — it was just a key. For a split-second, I actually had to think about how to unlock the door with just a key. I know, bring out the violins. But everyone at the office got a big chuckle out of it. I mention this to not only bring a laugh at my expense, but to help highlight the extraordinary value of the 2008 Chevrolet Aveo subcompact.

Honestly, I'm glad Chevrolet provided me with the chance to test-drive a base model with very few optional features (the only optional feature

was the four-speed automatic transmission).

I have to say, I was extremely impressed with this front-wheel drive, five-passenger sedan (the Aveo is also available in a hatchback body style) that has a base price starting below \$13,000.

For a small car, it has a lot of big car attributes — although I would recommend adding the optional remote keyless entry feature.

Manufactured in South Korea, the Aveo is powered by a peppy 1.6-liter I-4 engine that delivers solid performance and impressive fuel economy numbers.

Requiring regular unleaded gasoline, the Aveo has an EPA fuel economy rating of 24 mpg city, 34 mpg highway for models equipped with the five-speed manual transmission (23 city, 32 highway when equipped with automatic).

Ride and handling char-

acteristics are equally impressive. I found my Aveo sedan test vehicle a nimble, responsive and practical, economical mode of transportation for budget-minded consumers.

Remote keyless entry aside, it's also loaded with a lot of standard features, such as: intermittent wipers, dual-stage front airbags and seat-mounted side-impact airbags, basic stereo with auxiliary jack for iPods, tilt steering wheel, front head restraints, rear window defogger, sunglass holder, remote fuel door and trunk release and air conditioning with cabin filtration system.

Even fully loaded with all the options, the Aveo still comes in below \$15,000.

For those in the market for a small car, the 2008 Chevrolet Aveo is worthy of a test drive.

Neal White has been cov-



The 2008 Chevrolet Aveo sedan.

## ON THE ROAD



By Neal White

## THE NUTS AND BOLTS



**SUSPENSION:** MacPherson struts with offset coil springs and 17mm stabilizer bar (front); semi-independent torsion beam axle with coil springs (rear)  
**BRAKES:** Vented front disc, rear drum; ABS optional.  
**LENGTH:** 169.7 inches\*  
**WHEELBASE:** 97.6 inches  
**WIDTH:** 67.3

**MODEL:** 2008 Chevrolet Aveo 5-seat sedan or hatchback  
**Front-wheel drive**  
**Trim packages:** LS, LT  
**PRICE RANGE:** \$13,000-\$15,000  
**ENGINE:** 1.6-L I-4 (103 hp/104 torque)  
**TRANSMISSION:** 5-speed manual 4-speed automatic  
**EPA:** 24/23 mpg city, 34/32 mpg highway (manual/auto)  
**FUEL:** Regular unleaded

**HEIGHT:** 59.2 inches\*  
**WEIGHT:** 2,542-2,531 lbs.\*  
**TRACK:** 57.1/56.3 (front/rear)\*  
**FUEL TANK:** 11.9 gallons  
**TIRES:** 14-, or 15-inch  
\*-Denotes sedan specs.  
**SAFETY:** Dual-stage frontal airbags and passenger sensing system, seat-mounted side-impact airbags, tire pressure monitoring system, LATCH anchors, et. al.

ering the automotive industry for more than 15 years and is affiliated with the Texas Auto Writers Association and the

Midwest Automotive Media Association. Comments may be sent to Neal at neal.white@waxahachiedailylight.com.

## Bike-a-thon goes well for first year, organizers say

Herald Staff Report

The first of what could be an annual event went well Saturday, organizers said this week, offering fun for participants and funds that will go to the Howard-Glasscock Relay For Life effort.

"Our bike-a-thon went really well for our first year of trying it," said Cadet Bryant, one of the organizers of the event, held on the Howard College campus. The event was sponsored by the Relay Riders, a Relay For Life group at the college.

"Of course, we had a slim turnout for our first year, but interestingly enough, we managed to attract several people from outside the Big Spring area.

"About a dozen riders showed up at the starting line and we had a pack of serious road riders show up, as well as a group of seriously energetic kids. We had several people from the community show up to simply donate money to the event and even some people who were participating in the Susan G. Komen Memory Walk that same morning stopped by, as their route passed right by the college," he added.

"Everyone who came out had a really great time and they thoroughly enjoyed the scenic route around the campus. The course followed the sidewalks and one lap around was just shy of one mile."

Results from the bike-a-thon:

### MOST LAPS

1. First place in the Kid's Division and overall winner of most laps done — Heston Henry of Snyder, a sixth grader, rode a total of 40 laps and won a free movie pass and free ice cream.
2. First place in the Adult Division for most laps — Doug Randel of Big Spring rode 33 laps and won a free massage.
3. Gaylon Knowlton of Big Spring — 31 laps
4. Linda Randel of Big Spring — 30 laps
5. Kenneth Priest of Forsan — 11 laps
6. Joseph Ortega of Big Spring — 10 laps

### POKER RIDE EVENT

1. Mike Mathis of Midland, who won a free meal at a local restaurant.

"We are very appreciative to all of the businesses who donated prizes and heavily discounted products for the bike-a-thon," said Bryant. "The businesses who donated and everyone who came out to our event Saturday directly benefited Relay For Life. And, we truly appreciate Howard College, Dr. Cheryl Sparks and Terry Hansen in particular, for allowing us to borrow their sidewalks for the weekend and for giving us the opportunity to have this event to begin with."



HERALD photo/Steve Reagan  
**Mike Mathis, left, and Gaylon Knowlton, center, pick up a card while participating in the poker run portion of the Howard College Relay for Life team's bike-a-thon fundraiser on the college campus Saturday morning.**

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## Texas briefs

### Hundreds turn up for motorcade carrying fallen Texas soldier

ALVIN (AP) — Hundreds of people holding American flags lined a highway in Southeast Texas on Wednesday to show their respect for a Texas soldier who died last week in Iraq.

The body of 1st Lt. Timothy Cunningham, 26, traveled by motorcade through Southeast Texas accompanied by police officers and Patriot Guard Riders, who are motorcyclists who attend funerals of fallen soldiers. Funeral services are scheduled for Thursday in suburban Houston.

Cunningham died last week when his vehicle rolled over into a canal in Golden Hills, Iraq. The U.S. Military Academy graduate had a degree in nuclear engineering and had completed U.S. Army Ranger school.

He is survived by his wife, Samantha Cunningham, and his 1-year-old daughter, Abigail Cunningham.

Bert Dawson, an 86-year-old veteran of World War II, sat in a lawn chair along the road to catch a glimpse of the motorcade.

"We're brothers, but we're just wars apart," Dawson told The Facts in Brazoria County. "We got to stand behind the people who put themselves in harm's way."

Meanwhile Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Defense said Sgt. Mark A. Stone, 22, of Buchanan Dam, Texas, died Monday of indirect fire in Baghdad. Stone was assigned to the 94th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) at Fort Polk, La.

### Woman dead, 2 children wounded in shooting at family home

MESQUITE (AP) — A suburban Dallas mother was killed and two of her children were hospitalized Wednesday after a shooting at their home, police said.

A man believed to be the woman's husband or ex-husband was taken into custody when he drove up to the

house as paramedics were working the scene, said Mesquite police Lt. Steve Callarman.

Callarman said authorities expected to file capital murder charges against 29-year-old Michael Ray Turner, believed to be the father of at least one of the children.

The woman, 31-year-old Moniqueudushi Sheppard Turner, died at a hospital about an hour and a half after the 6:30 a.m. shooting, Callarman said.

Her 7-year-old daughter, Najye Heath, and 11-year-old son, Michael Turner Jr., were out of surgery and in stable condition Wednesday afternoon, Callarman said.

It wasn't immediately clear what led to the shooting, Callarman said.

An infant also in the house during the shooting wasn't injured, according to Dallas-Fort Worth television station KTVT.

### Authorities investigate after spike in dialysis deaths

LUFKIN (AP) — State and local authorities are investigating after an East Texas dialysis center reported a spike in deaths and life-threatening complications.

The Lufkin DaVita Dialysis Center voluntarily closed Monday evening. The Texas Department of State Health Services and the Lufkin police are investigating the deaths and complications over a 30-day period.

Lufkin police Lt. David Young said that at this point, there aren't any signs of criminal activity. He said the investigation includes processes, personnel and equipment.

He would not release the number of deaths in the 30-day period.

"Right now, it would be irresponsible to speculate beyond the facts we have and we will remain focused on our patients and the care they need," said Stephanie Horn, a spokeswoman for California-based DaVita.

DaVita has more than 1,300 outpatient facilities across the United States.

### Perry appoints transportation commissioners

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry appointed former aide Deirdre Delisi of Austin to chair the Texas Transportation Commission and named tollway official William Meadows, of Fort Worth, to another seat on the panel Wednesday.

Delisi, who worked as Perry's chief of staff before stepping down last year, has held assorted jobs in state government and politics, including working as Perry's gubernatorial campaign manager in 2002.

She is replacing Hope Andrade on the board.

Delisi also fills a role left behind by the late Ric Williamson, the commission chairman who died suddenly in December. Williamson, like Delisi, was a close ally of Perry. He helped carry out the early stages of the Republican governor's proposed Trans Texas Corridor highway system.

The vast network of privately funded toll roads has drawn criticism in some parts of the state and has led to animosity toward the Texas Department of Transportation.

Delisi said in chairing the commission she will work to promote transparency at the agency.

"What happens at TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) in the financial issues that the agency deals with on a daily basis need to be conveyed to the public in a very open way," Delisi said.

Meadows is chairman of Hub International Rigg and vice chairman of the North Texas Tollway Authority. He's filling the seat left vacant by Williamson's death.

Perry said Texas continues to face serious challenges in building roads to keep up with the state's rapid growth and to combat traffic congestion.

He said in a prepared statement that he is confident Delisi and Meadows "will maintain the momentum of the late Commissioner Ric Williamson's pioneering vision."

## Nation/World briefs

### Consumers may get benefits in terms of lower gas and food costs

WASHINGTON (AP) — While the Federal Reserve's aggressive drive to lower interest rates appears to be over, there could be benefits for consumers in other places — like some relief from soaring gasoline and food costs.

"With the Fed on hold and the dollar firming, oil and gasoline and food prices may all top out some time in the next few months," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com.

On Wednesday, the Fed cut interest rates for a seventh straight time. But the reduction was a much smaller quarter-point move — not the half-point and three-fourths-point moves of earlier this year. It pushed the federal funds rate down to 2 percent.

Commercial banks immediately followed suit by cutting the prime lending rate, the benchmark for millions of consumer and business loans, to 5 percent, the lowest level since late 2004.

That may be as low as consumer rates go during this Fed easing cycle because the central bank sent a number of signals that it believed it may have done enough to keep the economic slowdown from deepening into a severe recession.

mareeb, about 300 miles north of Mogadishu. Six more people were wounded, two of whom later died, said resident Abdullahi Nor.

"Our brother martyr Aden Hashi, has received what he was looking for — death for the sake of Allah — at the hands of the United States," Robow told The Associated Press by phone.

U.S. Central Command spokesman Bob Prucha said the U.S. military attacked al-Qaida militants but would not confirm whether it was an airstrike and would not say specifically who the attack targeted.

### DNC chairman under Bill Clinton urges Democrats to unite behind Obama

WASHINGTON (AP) — A leader of the Democratic Party under Bill Clinton has switched his allegiance to Barack Obama and is encouraging fellow Democrats to "heal the rift in our party" and unite behind the Illinois senator.

Joe Andrew, who was Democratic National Committee chairman from 1999-2001, planned a news conference Thursday in his hometown of Indianapolis to urge other Hoosiers to support Obama in Tuesday's primary, perhaps the most important contest left in the White House race. He also has written a lengthy letter explaining

his decision that he plans to send to other superdelegates.

"I am convinced that the primary process has devolved to the point that it's now bad for the Democratic Party," Andrew said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

Bill Clinton appointed Andrew chairman of the DNC near the end of his presidency, and Andrew endorsed the former first lady last year on the day she declared her candidacy for the White House.

Andrew said in his letter that he is switching his support because "a vote for Hillary Clinton is a vote to continue this process, and a vote to continue this process is a vote that assists (Republican) John McCain."

### Officials: Militants with al-Qaida links behind plot to kill Afghan president

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The weekend plot to kill Afghan President Hamid Karzai was masterminded by militants with links to al-Qaida members who reside in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas, an Afghan intelligence official said Thursday.

Saeed Ansari, a spokesman for the Afghan intelligence service, said that one of those killed during a raid on a militant hideout in Kabul on Wednesday was also linked to a deadly suicide attack on the city's

luxurious Serena Hotel in January. Ansari identified him as Humayun.

After the Serena attack, in which eight people died, intelligence officials said Humayun had links to a network led by a militant leader Siraj Haqqani.

Haqqani's network is believed to have links with al-Qaida members who operate from Pakistan's tribal areas, where Afghan officials say Haqqani is also based. The U.S. military has a \$200,000 bounty out on him, according to published reports.

Intelligence chief Amrullah Saleh has said those killed in the raid Wednesday and three other gunmen who tried to assassinate Karzai on Sunday, were in contact with militants inside Pakistan's tribal regions.

### Pentagon to allow troops to get security clearances without disclosing counseling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Advocates of better mental health care for troops say a new Pentagon policy aimed at reducing the stigma of getting psychiatric counseling could be a small but important step.

Under the new policy, troops won't have to reveal past job-related therapy when they apply for security clearances. The change was prompted partly by the finding that many don't get treatment because they fear acknowledging a mental problem could cost them their security clearance, harm their careers and embarrass them before commanders and comrades.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates planned to announce the policy Thursday at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he was visiting a center for troops recovering from post-traumatic stress disorder, several officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of the announcement.

"I think it will help," said Paul Riechoff, executive director of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "This needs to be followed by a mental health campaign — not just for service members but for their families as well. But I really do think it's a significant evolution."

A survey released Wednesday by the American Psychiatric Association found that about three in five service members think seeking help for

### Insurgent group: Alleged head of al-Qaida in Somalia killed in US airstrike

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — The U.S. military said Thursday it launched an attack against an al-Qaida target in Somalia, and an Islamic insurgent group said the head of the terror network in the African country was killed in an overnight American airstrike.

The spokesman for the Islamic al-Shabab militia, Sheik Muqtar Robow, said the strike killed Aden Hashi Ayro, another commander and seven others at his house in the central Somali town of Dusa-

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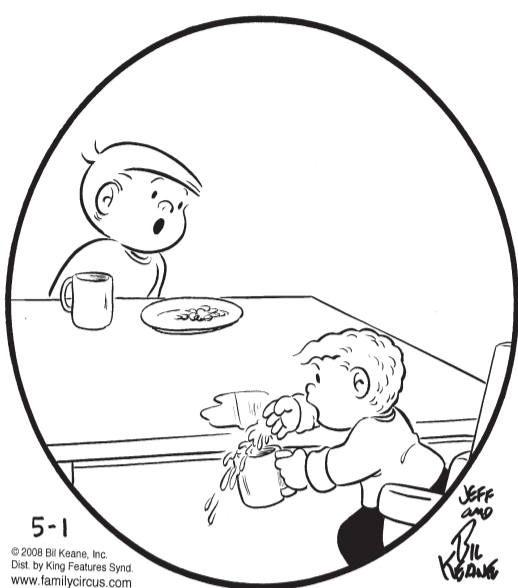
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5 :PM :30	News ABC	News ABC	Locura King-Hill	Simpsons King-Hill	News CBS	Noticias NBC	News NBC	Friends Raymond	Granger Brad	News Business	Cash Cab Cash Cab	'Em High, Ed Begley	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Wizards Wizards	NASCAR Soccer	SportsCenter
6 :PM :30	News Entertain	Fortune Ugly Betty	Yo Amo a Juan	Simpsons Two Men	To Be An- nounced	12 Cora- zones	Millionaire Raymond	News Raymond	Sanchez Hagee	News-Lehrer Made	Made	CSI: Crime Scn	Law & Order	Blk Car	Montana Suite Life	MLS Soccer: Red Bull at Toronto	NFL Live	Boxing
7 :PM :30	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Fuego en la Sangre	Don't Forget Smarter?	Survivor: Micro	La Traicion	Name Scrubs	Friends Friends	Israel Sprma	Quiz Group	Expedition Alaska	Movie: In the Line of Fire, Rene Russo	CSI: Crime Scn	NBA Basketball: First Round -- Teams TBA.	Movie: The Playas Ball	College Volleyball: NCAA Semi- final	Boxing	Boxing
8 :PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Two Men Raymond	News Noticias	News Noticias	News Noticias	Sex & Dr.	Israel Van Impe	Charlie Rose Made	Made	Movie: The Octagon, Lee Van Cleef	The Ultimate Fighter	NBA Basketball: First Round -- Teams TBA.	Malcolm Malcolm	Strongest	SportsCenter	SportsCenter
9 :PM :30	News Insider	News Insider	El Pantera	Law Order: CI	Late Show Late Show	Mas Vale Tarde	Tonight Show Sex & Dr.	My Best Friend's Wedding	Swallow Israel	Smiley Smiley	Expedition Alaska	(45) Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul	I Bet You Amazing Video	Inside the NBA	Replace Hell Date	College Volleyball: NCAA Semi- final	Baseball Tonight	Baseball Tonight
10 :PM :30	News Nightline	News Nightline	Impacto Noticiero	Two Men Raymond	News Noticias	News Noticias	News Noticias	Sex & Dr.	Israel Van Impe	Charlie Rose Made	Made	Movie: The Octagon, Lee Van Cleef	The Ultimate Fighter	NBA Basketball: First Round -- Teams TBA.	Malcolm Malcolm	Strongest	SportsCenter	SportsCenter
11 :PM :30	News Insider	News Insider	El Pantera	Law Order: CI	Late Show Late Show	Mas Vale Tarde	Tonight Show Sex & Dr.	My Best Friend's Wedding	Swallow Israel	Smiley Smiley	Expedition Alaska	(45) Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul	I Bet You Amazing Video	Inside the NBA	Replace Hell Date	College Volleyball: NCAA Semi- final	Baseball Tonight	Baseball Tonight
12 :AM :30	News Paid	News Paid	Clasicos Reno 911!	Law Order: CI	Late Show Late Show	Mas Vale Tarde	Tonight Show Sex & Dr.	My Best Friend's Wedding	Swallow Israel	Smiley Smiley	Expedition Alaska	(45) Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul	I Bet You Amazing Video	Inside the NBA	Replace Hell Date	College Volleyball: NCAA Semi- final	Baseball Tonight	Baseball Tonight
1 :AM :30	News Paid	News Paid	Clasicos Reno 911!	Law Order: CI	Late Show Late Show	Mas Vale Tarde	Tonight Show Sex & Dr.	My Best Friend's Wedding	Swallow Israel	Smiley Smiley	Expedition Alaska	(45) Movie: Christine, Alexandra Paul	I Bet You Amazing Video	Inside the NBA	Replace Hell Date	College Volleyball: NCAA Semi- final	Baseball Tonight	Baseball Tonight

DENNIS THE MENACE



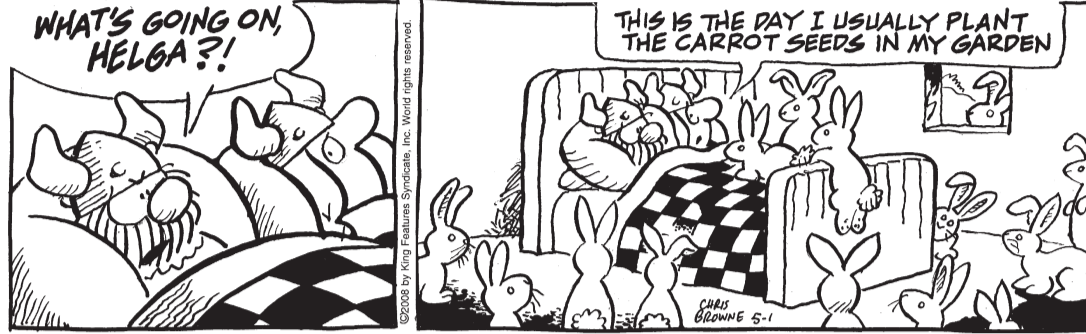
"DAD MUST'VE READ HIMSELF A BEDTIME STORY!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

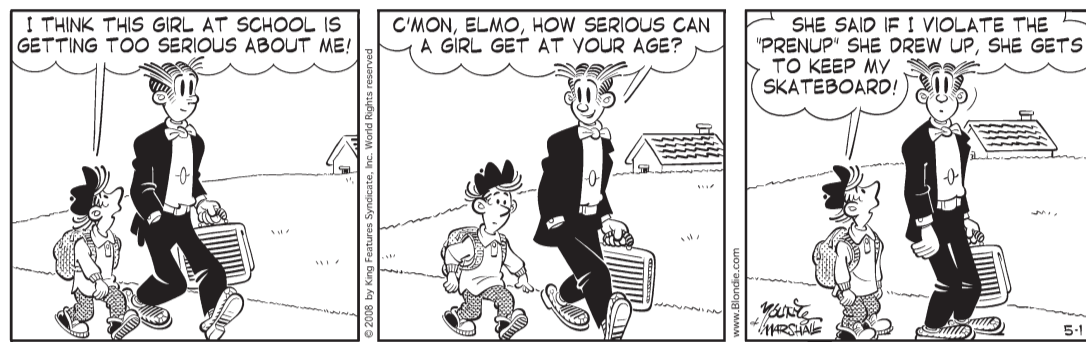


"Forget it, Jeffy. You can't unspill milk."

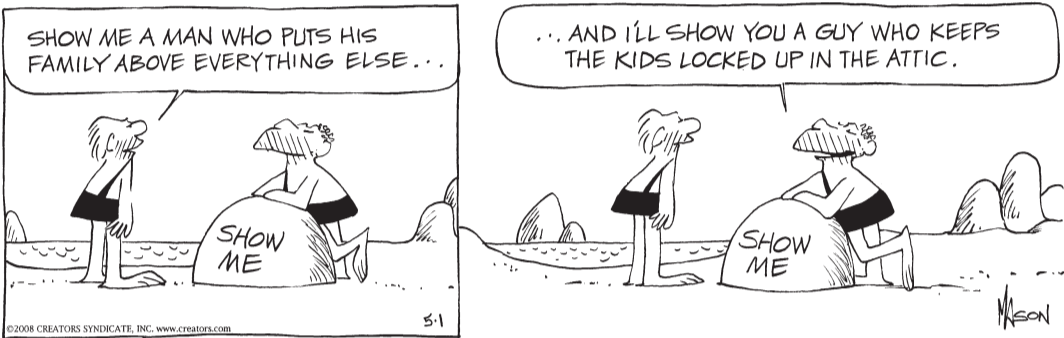
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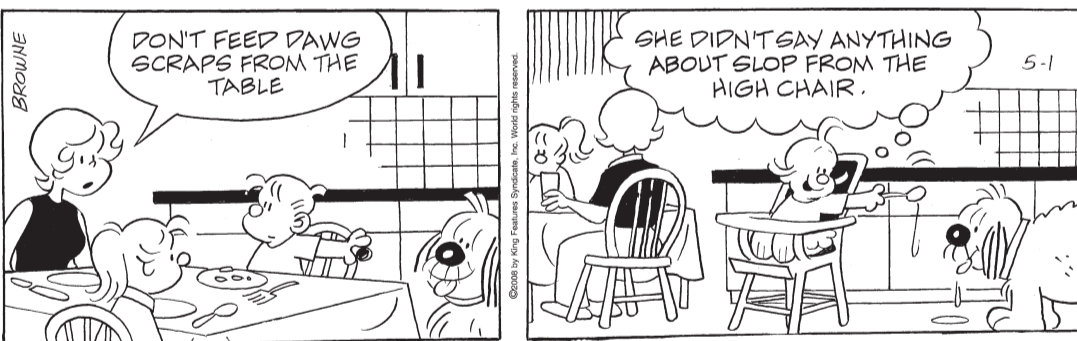
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AGNES



HI AND LOIS



THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



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This Date In History

Today is Thursday, May 1, the 122nd day of 2008. There are 244 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 1, 1898, Commodore George Dewey gave the command, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley," as an American naval force destroyed a Spanish squadron in Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War.

On this date:

In 1707, the Kingdom of Great Britain was created as a treaty merging England and Scotland took effect.

In 1893, the World's Columbian Exposition opened to the public in Chicago.

In 1931, New York's 102-story Empire State Building was dedicated.

In 1945, a day after Adolf Hitler committed suicide, Adm. Karl Doenitz effectively became sole leader of the Third Reich with the suicide of Hitler's propaganda minister, Josef Goebbels.

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnais-

sance plane near Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

In 1963, James W. Whittaker became the first American to conquer Mount Everest as he and a Sherpa guide reached the summit.

In 1967, Elvis Presley married Priscilla Beaulieu in Las Vegas. (They divorced in 1973.)

In 1978, Ernest Morial was inaugurated as the first black mayor of New Orleans.

In 1982, the 1982 World's Fair opened in Knoxville, Tenn.

Five years ago: President Bush, flying aboard an S-3B Viking, landed on the deck of the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln off the Southern California coast. With a banner strung across the bridge of the ship proclaiming "Mission Accomplished," the president declared major combat in Iraq over, but also said "difficult work" remained ahead. A magnitude 6.4 earthquake killed 177 people in Turkey.

One year ago: In only his second veto, President Bush rejected legislation to pull U.S. troops out of Iraq in a showdown with Congress over whether the war should end or escalate. Thousands of people protested across the country to demand a path to citizenship for an estimated 12 million illegal

immigrants.

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Scott Carpenter is 83. Country singer Sonny James is 79. Singer Judy Collins is 69. Actor Stephen Macht is 66. Singer Rita Coolidge is 63. Actor-director Douglas Barr is 59. Singer-songwriter Ray Parker Jr. is 54. Hall of Fame jockey Steve Cauthen is 48. Actress Maia Morgenstern is 46. Country singer Wayne Hancock is 43. Rock musician Johnny Colt is 42. Actor Charlie Schlatter is 42. Country singer Tim McGraw is 41. Rock musician D'Arcy is 40. Movie director Wes Anderson is 39. Country singer Cory Morrow is 36. Actor Darius McCrary is 32.

Thought for Today: "Think much, speak little, and write less."

— Italian proverb.

Answer to previous puzzle

STAB	LIZA	FOUND
LODE	ABIT	IBSEN
IDOL	BETH	GENOA
CABLER	AIRLWAY	
EYE	GAM	EARSHOT
	AGT	STILO
ASTRO	DAIS	ALEX
STRIN	GORCHE	STRA
PROD	RUGS	LISTS
GOO	GIBE	ALA
APPAREL	ERE	OLE
	WIREFRANSFER	
AMMAN	DOER	AFAR
CONIC	INCA	NEVE
TOOTH	PITT	DRED

Newsday Crossword

I'M BACK by Fred Piscop  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bursts
  - 5 Shoppers' aids
  - 10 Way out there
  - 14 Venetian-blind part
  - 15 Earth tone
  - 16 Not naughty
  - 17 Exec's asst.
  - 18 Legendary big spender's nickname
  - 20 Work hard
  - 21 Setting stone
  - 22 Dry as dust
  - 23 Tooting musician
  - 25 Bouquet holder
  - 27 Grabbed
  - 29 Capulet rival
  - 33 Rainbow-shaped
  - 34 Big name in oil
  - 35 Olympics chant
  - 36 Cowpoke's pal
  - 37 Cobbler's supply
  - 38 Gets mellow
  - 39 Air-pump initials
  - 40 Web-footed mammal
  - 41 State one's case
  - 42 San'a resident
  - 44 Chimney cleaners
  - 45 Aloe
  - 46 La Scala's locale
  - 47 Wild time
  - 49 Scot's topper
  - 50 Lip-balm target
  - 53 Success-vs.-failure choice
- DOWN**
- 1 Furtive attention-getter
  - 2 Table spread
  - 3 Japan's region
  - 4 Creatively designed
  - 5 Stayed at a motel
  - 6 Not so congenial
  - 7 Fraud
  - 8 President pro
  - 9 Stage sellout sign
  - 10 Tenor Bocelli
  - 11 Suva's country
  - 12 Corrosive chemical
  - 13 Sleep acronym
  - 19 Not at all nice
  - 24 G-man or T-man
  - 25 Ballot caster
  - 26 Aardvark's meal
  - 27 Overly sentimental
  - 28 Wipe clean
  - 29 Free-for-all
  - 30 Big Apple art museum
  - 31 Run out of
  - 32 Abates
  - 34 "\_\_\_ run!"
  - 37 Mix together
  - 38 800, e.g.
  - 40 \_\_\_ a customer
  - 41 Hole puncher
  - 43 Conjured up
  - 44 Not quite boil
  - 46 The only one-syllable state name
  - 47 Tilt-A-Whirl, for example
  - 48 Picnic playwright
  - 49 "Terrible" age
  - 51 Opposed to
  - 52 Place to trade
  - 53 Make zigzags, say
  - 54 Eminem's genre
  - 55 Highway warning

